



Historic Area : **Colliers -
Harmon Creek**

ITINERARY

Meet at Colliers Methodist Church Parking Lot at 4 p.m. Park cars and unload to hear first speaker, Phyllis Copenhaver Aria. She will relate the history of the center of town, including the churches, the schools, the stores, the hotel, fire hall, Odd Fellows, and homes in the vicinity. Nearly all may be seen from one spot, the parking lot.

Load into as few cars as possible for ride to ruins of the old station, Ryland's Mill, more stores, and more stories by speakers, Doran and Robert Daugherty, who live on the Ryland property. Park wherever space is available, but away from thru traffic along Harmon Creek. The walking is at a minimum.

Load into cars and follow the lead car back through town, toward Weirton, to the old David Snyder brick house. Shirley Truax Petrella, who, with her husband, Henry, owns the two-hundred-year-old structure, will speak concerning some of its history. June Campbell Grossman, a descendant of David Snyder, will speak on the old roads, the streams, and the boundaries of many of the large land-holders of this Harmon Creek area.

The next stop will be at what was once the largest coal mining operation in Brooke County. George Samakis will tell of the history of this area, which was called "Logrow," and of its hundreds of inhabitants when the mine was working full time, the schools for blacks and immigrants, the movie house, the tipple, and other related mine history.

The last leg of the ride will be back to the Methodist Church for parking. The final place to be visited is the Robinson family atop the hill above the church. Those able to walk the wooded path that winds around the hill should do so. Those unable, may drive up "Robinson Hill" from the bridge at the foot of Mechling Hill. Either way, the visitors will be greeted not only by Don and Shirley, but by the breathtaking sight of thousands of daffodils in bloom.

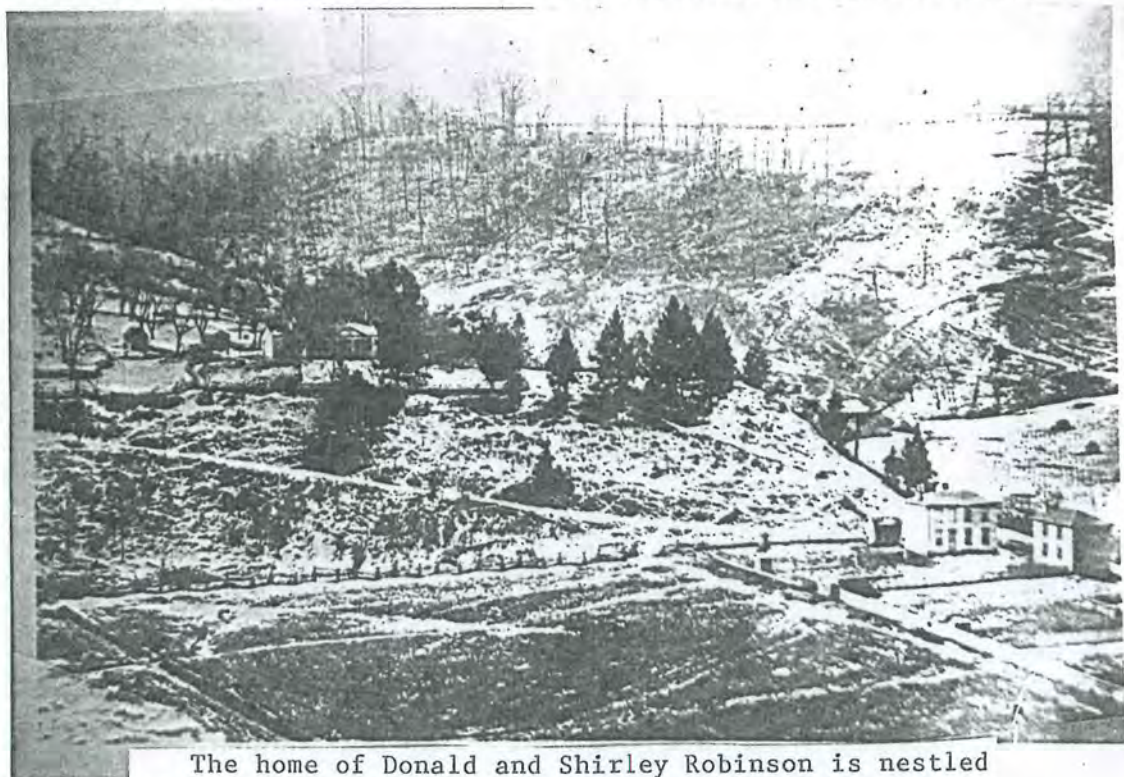
Following this delightful experience, everyone will return to the church, where food, prepared by "The Chain" Sunday School Class, will be for sale. It is hoped that everyone will keep together and follow the time schedule along the route, and be ready for lots of enjoyable conversation over the food at the end of the tour. Some will be coming from a distance, and everyone is urged to mingle and visit, make new friends and renew old acquaintances. We are delighted that you could join us.



"We will guide you through Colliers."



WHEN THE TRAINS OF THE PANHANDLE RAILROAD WERE PROMINENT IN COLLIERS
The "turn-around" for the engines may be seen to the left.
The Methodist Church is right, center. The Christian Church is front,
center. The Catholic Church is between the other two. It was moved
in 1949 to the rear of the Christian Church to become Fellowship Hall.



The home of Donald and Shirley Robinson is nestled
among the pines on the hillside high above Colliers,
which was in its infancy when this picture was taken.



A very early overall view of the spot that would become Colliers. Center, right, on hillside, Donald Robinson home. Foreground, left, on the flat, Beatty homestead. House on right, Hunter home, Open flat land, center, cornfield. Long open space, foreground, hayfield.

COLLIERS - BUSY RAILROAD HUB

ESTABLISHED 1834

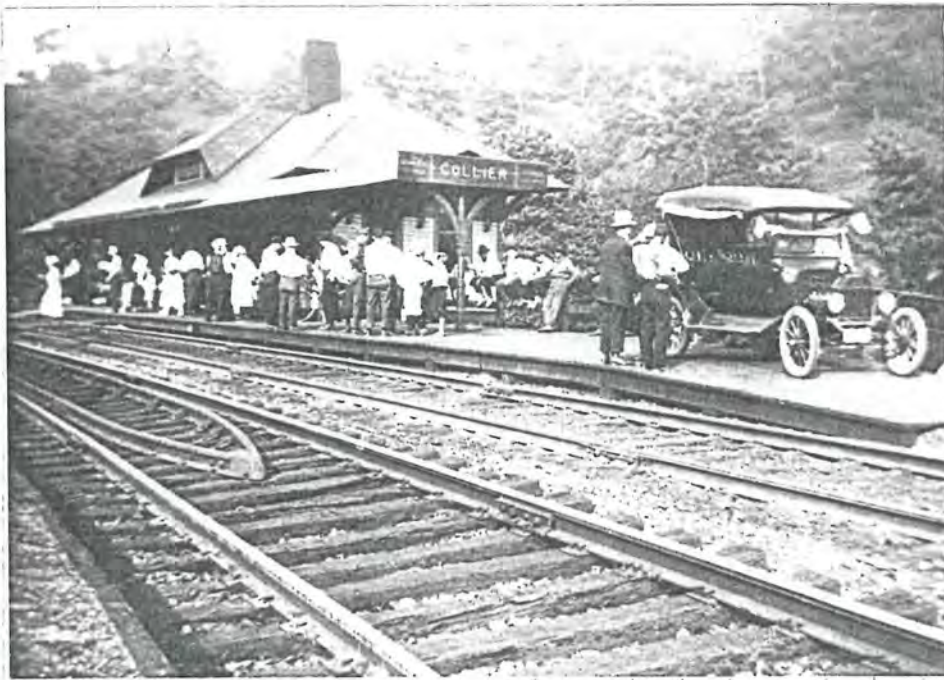
Colliers was a booming town around the turn of the 20th century. The railroad station was the hub of activity at this time.

Using an old photograph as a model, Virginia Snyder Herd, artist, now deceased, painted this beautiful rendition of the station, using water colors and a varnish preservative.

Mrs. Herd could recall when the old rail yard had trains shifting and switching on the tracks 24 hours a day. Eight or nine passenger trains stopped at the station daily. Her husband, the late Reynolds Herd, was telegraph operator.

The railroad was first built through Colliers in 1860. Colliers Station was built in 1886.





WAITING AT THE STATION

Storekeeper Carson closed his Clover Farm Store so that everyone could meet the Greaser at the Station. The World War was over for Bert Snyder, and he was coming home!



A KISS FOR SISTER

Bert Snyder did not waste any time after his arrival home from the War. His sister, Margaret Snyder, got one of the first kisses!

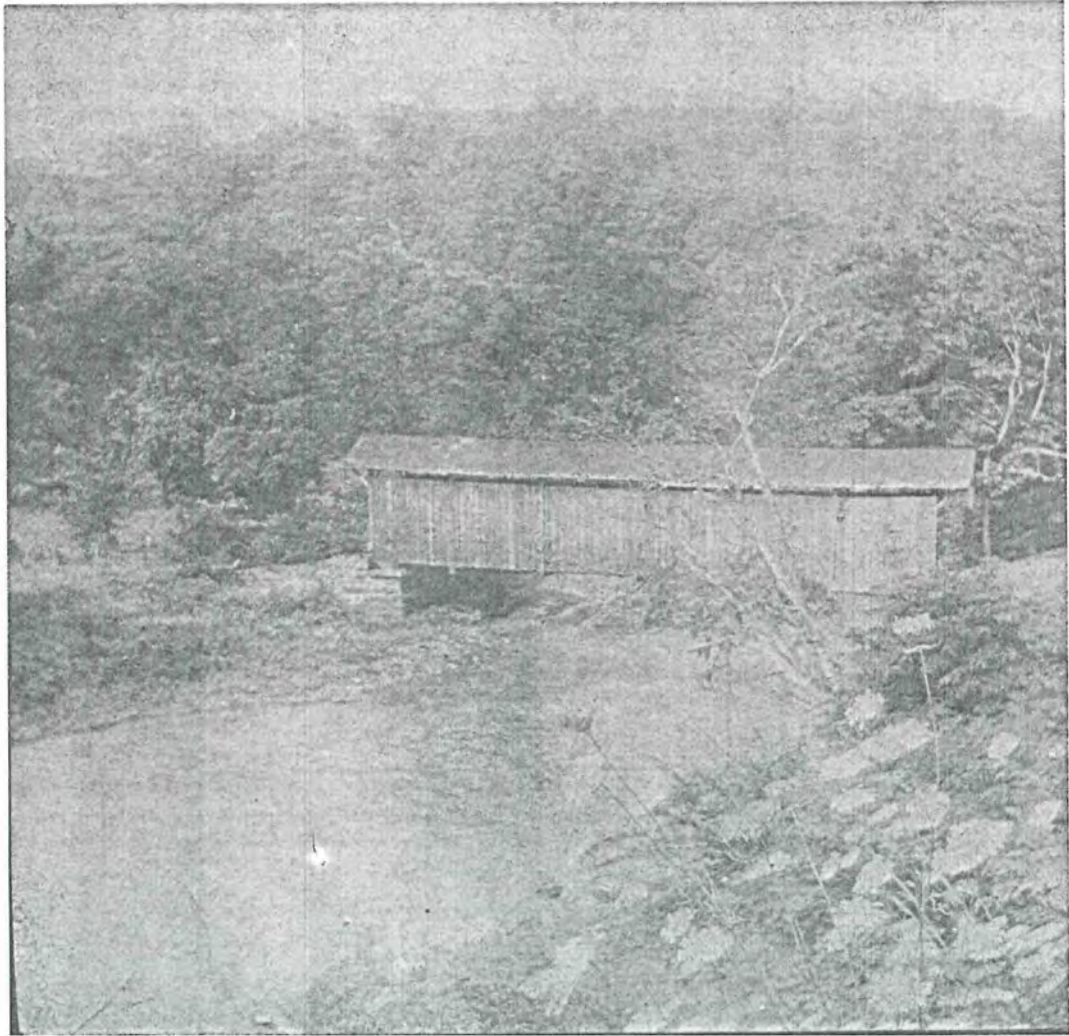
COLLIERS TIDBITS

Milk was brought to the Colliers Station every day for many years by farmers of the surrounding communities. It was shipped to either Pittsburgh or Steubenville.

The railroad passes over Harmon Creek just past the station site. It also passes over the Colliers Road as it leaves town at its eastern end. This forms a double arch, one for the road, one for the water. It is remembered by some that it was necessary to "dig down under" the tracks in order for vehicles to pass through. Some folks remember the day the bus "got stuck" in the underpass!

By looking at the area where American Recycling is located on the road to Weirton, it is nearly impossible to imagine the life and work and the bustle of activity that once took place at this spot called, "Mine Hill," at Logrow. Logrow was an entity of its own, separate from Colliers. It received its name by shortening the original name, "Locust Grove" Mine.

Residents of early days built "shops" in their backyards in which to do jobs of various sorts. Some of these may be seen in the full-page picture that also shows the corn fields and the hay fields. These buildings look like houses, but are indeed just extra space where the families could carry on the work or trade that interested them.



THE COVERED BRIDGE AT RYLAND'S MILL WASHED AWAY IN THE 1912 FLOOD



Coming from the East into Colliers, railroad passengers saw the Station on the right, the early Ryland House in the center, and the old Ryland Mill on their left.



Pictured above are Margaret Hooker Sanders and her husband, Byron Johnson Sanders. Byron's mother was Mary Ann Ryland and it was his uncle Hugh Ryland who owned and operated the mill which is pictured on the next page.

The old Ryland Mill was once the center of much activity in upper Colliers. Its owner, Hugh Ryland, was the son of Freedus and Elizabeth Ewing Ryland of Cecil County, Maryland. Hugh and his wife, Jane Urie Ryland, were staunch Methodists and are buried in the Tucker Cemetery, Hanover Township, Washington County, PA. Hugh's sister, Martha Ann Ryland, married Benjamin Davis Sanders, a strong southern sympathizer during the days of the Civil War, who was once taken to prison for six weeks for his beliefs. Benjamin and Martha are buried on Cross Creek in the old Pfister Graveyard. The children of Benjamin and Martha married into other prominent Brooke and Washington County families and have many descendants living in the area today.

Among their children were: Fredus, who married Melissa Freshwater; Mary, who married James Clark Gardner; John Davis, who married Kate Hindman; and Byron (pictured above) who married Margaret Hooker. Byron and Margaret's daughter, Mary Sanders, was the first wife of Brown David Latimer, and their son, William Sanders, married Elsie Boles of Eldersville.



Ryland's Mill stood on the banks of Harmon Creek near the eastern end of Colliers. Historian, Boyd Crumrine wrote that Ryland's Mill was built by Samuel Cresswell (Crisswell), who "also built Kidd's Mill on Scott's Run." What Crumrine failed to say was that a Charles Scott had built a mill on Scott's Run before 1825, sold it to Samuel Cresswell, "who built a larger mill in 1852." Source: A.D. White.

Ryland's Mill ceased business many years ago. The only memory today's older citizens have of the building is that it was used as a feed store.

On April 30, 1858, Historian, James Simpson, recorded in his "Daily Journals" that he had taken grain to Ryland's Mill. On July 4, the previous year, 1857, he had his grain ground at Cresswell's Mill. James Simpson, who lived near Cross Creek Village, in Pennsylvania, made these trips with horses and wagons.

His journals also tell of his patronizing Collens Mill, 1859; Hanlin Mill, 1860; Buchanan's Mill in 1865, and Burgett's Mill in Burgettstown, in 1867. Cresswell's Mill was later bought by Robert Kidd, and became known to this day as Kidd's Mill.

These facts reveal the importance of gristmills in this area during the years previous to the introduction of modern machinery.

RYAN-GOSS BARE KNUCKLE BOUT

The ravine shown here as the home of William and Catherine Brown in the early 1900's, gained distinctive fame in the wide circles of the boxing world. The fast and furious bare-knuckle fight between two pugilists, Goss and Ryan, was staged here on June 1, 1880, while thousands of fans cheered from their make-shift grandstand seats on the hillsides.

Special excursion trains were run to the inconspicuous Colliers Station, from Pittsburgh and Wheeling, bringing fight fans from through-



Home of William & Catherine Brown
Early 1900's

out the tri-state to the match that was scheduled to begin at six o'clock in the morning.

Records say that this fight was without a doubt the most brutal and bloody event in the realm of sports. The battle was staged as a fight to the finish, each knock-down being considered a round.

When the bell tolled for Round One, both men entered the ring and eyed each other up, with little activity. They clinched in Round Two and fell, with Ryan on top when the bell rang. By Round Three, blood was flowing freely. At times the fight was so furious, one fighter would fall in order to escape punishment. Or in a rush by one, the other would sidestep him, leading to a fall to the floor. The odds changed rapidly and money changed hands.

When the bell rang for the eighty-eighth round, Goss's second stood him up, but he fell down before Ryan could hit him. Ryan was thus declared the winner.



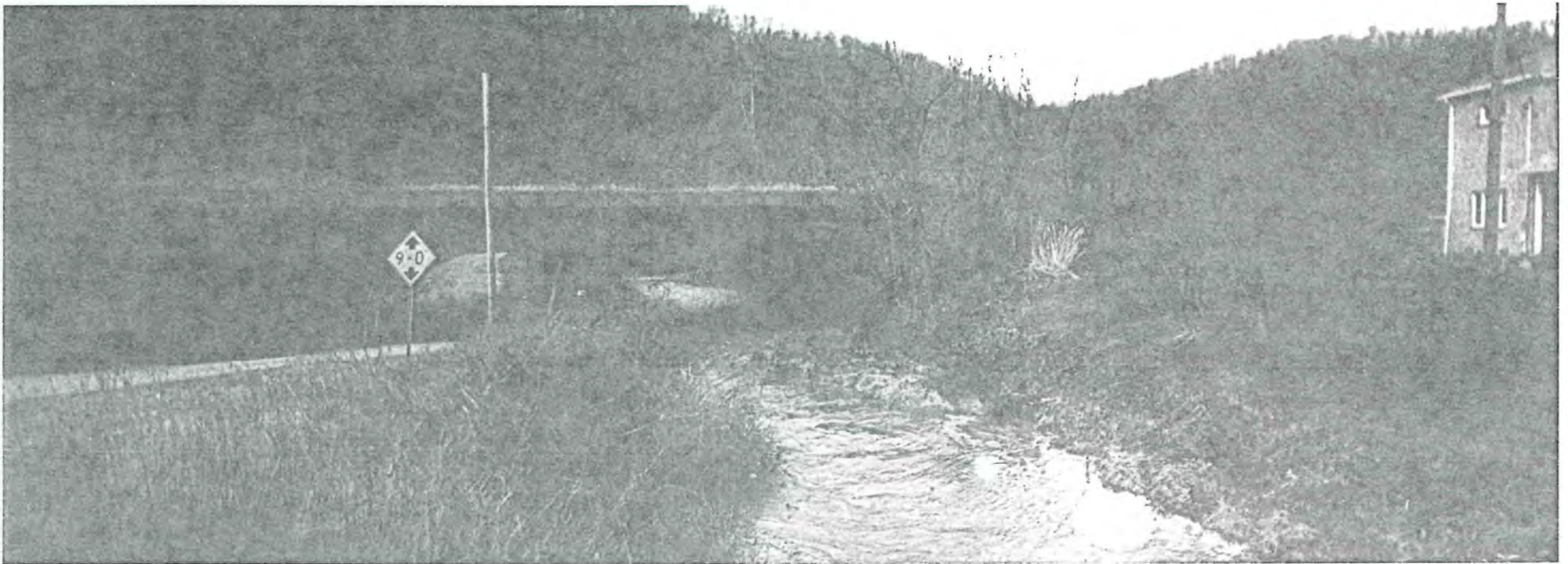
This house was probably best known in more recent years as the home of Margaret Coates. It stood on what is now the parking lot of the Methodist Church.



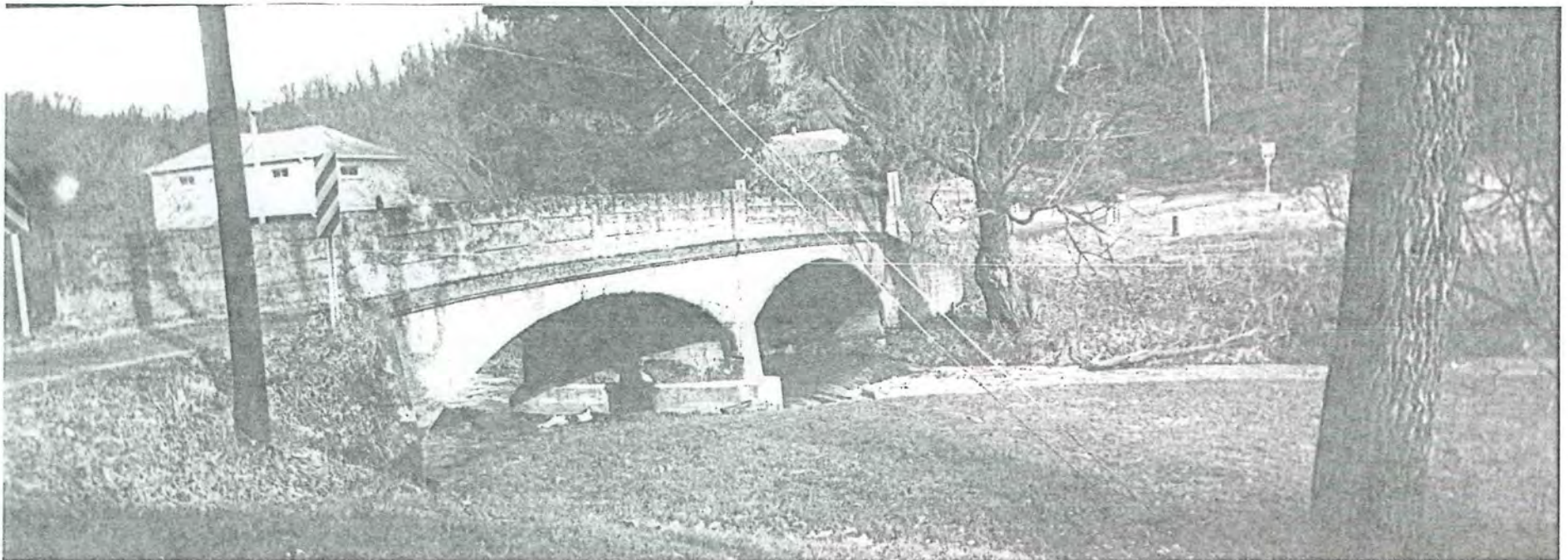
BERNARD FORESTER
With group near Emma
Thompson's Grocery Store



THE RYLAND HOUSE AS IT LOOKED BEFORE REMODELING BY DORAN DAUGHERTY



THE RAILROAD CROSSES OVER HARMON CREEK AT THE EAST END OF COLLIERS.
Colliers Road passes under the arch on the left.
Corner of Doran Daugherty house, right, once the old Ryland home.



Hall's Road passes over this bridge, and Harmon Creek flows under it.
The old covered bridge stood here. Doran and Bob Daugherty homes beyond.



COLLIERS METHODIST CHURCH ORCHESTRA - REV. WYKE, CONDUCTOR - 1926 - 1927 - 1928
 Rear, 1 to r. Elmer Truax, Alva R. Robinson, George Stephens, Archie Seaton, ? Thompson, John Thompson, William Thompson, Walter Brown, ? ? Emma Thompson, Louella Robinson.
 Second row from rear, Blaine Pannett, Clara Wright, June Gamble, Nell Sullivan, Floyd Snyder, Clyde Stephens, Clifford Stephens, Alice Hunter, Ida Brown, Lee Hunter, Margaret Coates, Dorothy Beatty, ? .
 Third row from rear, ? Elizabeth Warren, Florence Beatty, Anna Copenhaver, ? Alice Wright, Marjorie Warren, Leslie Beatty, Mrs. Wyke, Ruth Beatty, Anna Jane Snyder, Bessie Gossett, ? .
 Front row, Rev. Wyke, Wanda Brown (?), W.Y. (Butch) McPhail



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF COLLIERS, W. VA.



METHODIST CHURCH OF COLLIERS W. VA.



A well-known family in the Colliers area in the early days was that of Elisha Stansbury who came to Brooke County before 1820. In 1834 he donated the land on which the first Methodist Church in the vicinity was built. Early meetings had been held in the home of Harmon Greathouse who had settled in 1771 and built a log house on the present day Cove Road. John Robinson, son of the pioneer, Elijah Robinson II, helped build the church on the Stansbury land. It was known locally as "The Olde Chapel" but the Methodist Conference records called it "Harmon Creek" where it was part of the Florence Circuit comprised of Kings Creek, Tucker, Florence, and Harmon Creek churches. The Olde Chapel eventually deteriorated and the present Colliers Methodist Church was constructed on land donated by Elijah N. Robinson in the 1880's. Part of the Stansbury land was later bought by the Thompson family and a house, still standing in 1997, was built on the foundation of The Olde Chapel.

It was on land owned by John Stansbury, son of Elisha, that the famous Colliers Bare-Knuckle Fight of 1880 was held.

Elisha, his wife, Ruth Ensor Stansbury, son John, and others of the Stansbury connection are buried in the Stansbury private graveyard on the top of the hill above Colliers, not far from the Weirton Medical Center.



ABOVE
THE STANSBURY
"HOME ON THE HILL"

The Stansbury Burial Plot

A lone figure leans against a tree in the midst of some of the stones that stand awry and half-fallen among the tangled brush. Picture taken March 26, 1994.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Colliers Church of the Nazarene was organized September 21, 1958, by District Superintendent, Dr. Harvey Hendershot. He was assisted by Earl Hissom, Jr., of the Weirton Church of the Nazarene.

The cement block building was constructed shortly before this time, with services being held before it was completed. Two lots were donated by Mary Clara Petrelli Mills for the church which she herself led in its early days. Being a local minister, Mary Mills filled the pulpit until a pastor could be found who would take over the responsibilities of the ministry. About a year later, DeLloyd Barkley became the church's first pastor.

Following Mr. Barkley were Kenneth Heaton, Ray Warren, James Hall and Archie Fetty, who is the present minister.

Another who filled in at various times was Wallace Mills, who became the pastor of the Hooverson Heights Church of the Nazarene and has served there for more than twenty years. Wallace is the son of Mary Mills.

Wallace Mills and Julia Boyce were married nearly fifty years ago in the Colliers Methodist Church by Rev. Merrill Stone, who was pastor there and at Eldersville. Julia's father, F.P. Boyce, was at one time the pastor at Tucker Methodist Church.

From a small charter membership, the congregation has grown to 74 members. (1997)

Highlights of the building are the lighted crosses in the bell tower. The bell was donated by Bill Barkley.

THE BANQUET HALL

Fireman Brian Brown tells what happened to the large flat field at the lower end of Colliers, where, for a week each summer, music and hilarity were the order of the day. Food was sold, games were played, and rides were enjoyed by young and old alike. It was carnival time for Colliers and the surrounding areas.

A few years ago, firemen decided that it might be more profitable to build a banquet hall, where all events could be held indoors. In 1994, this dream became a reality to the tune of a half million dollars. On ground that at one time was the salvage yard of the late Carl Gooseman, was built the 150' by 75' building where can be held just about any event that will bring in funds for the firemen.

Last year, a Community Day was successful. Another is planned for some time in August, 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Shirley Petrelli Howard Standish
Brian Brown Harry Liggett
Wallace & Julia Mills
(Shirley Petrelli's name was
mis-spelled on another page.)



Mary Mills stands beside the church
for which she donated the land.



Snyder Reunion about 1913 at the John Snyder stone house on Harmon Creek near Paris Crossing on the Panhandle Railroad



Beatty Homestead, house still standing, at the foot of Mechling Hill Road, Colliers. Picture taken between 1907 and 1922, the years of existence of school, seen on the right.

Ladies are Eva May Snyder Beatty and Sarah Ellen Gibson Beatty.

THE ELIJAH ROBINSON FAMILY

One of Harmon Creek area's most prominent families is that of Elijah Robinson II. Elijah's father came from Maryland in the late 1790's and settled in what is now Jefferson Township, Washington County, PA, near the present Bethel Methodist Church. Elijah I received a patent for 330 acres known as "Remainder" in what came to be known as "The Shades of Death". There he raised his family of three sons and two daughters and is buried in the old Bethel graveyard.

Elijah's son, Samuel, received the home place while Abel became a minister and took up residence in the West. Elijah II, in 1803, bought 150 acres in the Colliers-Harmon Creek area of what is now Brooke County, West Virginia. He married Elizabeth Chapman and to them were born three sons and four daughters. Upon coming to Brooke County, he built his log house on the location of the present (1997) home of Robert Wiegmann. It is said that this house burned while he was gone to California during the Gold Rush. Elijah II's grandson, Elijah N. Robinson, who was born 7 Sept. 1830, built the present beautiful Robinson home in 1852, high on the hill above the south side of Harmon Creek. It commands a breath-taking view of the Village of Colliers, the stream of Harmon Creek, and the Pan-Handle Railroad.

Elijah N. was first married to Sarah Freshwater by whom he had five children. After her death, he was secondly married to Rachel McFeaters in 1874. To this second union were born three children: Calvin, who died in infancy; Emma, who married John N Thompson and served as Post Mistress of Colliers and general store keeper for a great number of years; and Alva K. Robinson. (In the front view of the Robinson house pictured on the next page are Elijah N., Rachel, Emma, and Alva.)

Alva's marriage to Louella Forester resulted in the present (1997) generation of Robinsons in the area: Mrs. Robert (Forrestine) Wiegmann, Mrs. Richard (Delois) Williams, Wesley, and Donald. Donald is the current proud owner of the old Robinson homestead which he and his wife, Shirley Bilderback Robinson, have lovingly restored. The thousands of daffodils which bloom in profusion on the Robinson hills each spring are a mute but powerful tribute to the love of the land inherent in this old pioneer family.



ELIJAH N. & RACHEL MCFEATERS ROBINSON



STANSBURY REUNION

STANSBURY REUNION, DATE UNKNOWN



EARLY DAYS OF THE ROBINSON HOME ON THE HILL
(Note the flag above the porch)

THE BILDERBACKS

Among the most well-known families of the Harmon Creek area from an historical standpoint is that of the Bilderbacks. Captain Charles Bilderback in 1777 led the men from Fort Holliday in Hollidays Cove to Fort Henry (present day Wheeling) when the Indians made their famous attack there. It is impossible for us to conceive of the hardships of that trek to the south. The Ohio River at that time was bordered with giant sycamore trees having vines like ropes hanging from them which would impede the progress of any one so daring as to attempt the journey. Wolves, panthers, bear, and snakes were in abundance to further add to the hardships. It is said that Charles Bilderback also accompanied Col. Williamson on his famous expedition and was with William Crawford on the trip to Gnadenhutten where Crawford was burned at the stake.

Thomas Bilderback, who patented 250 acres of land in Hanover Township near Warriar's Point in 1809, is the triple great grandfather of most of the present day generation of the family. He is buried in the old King's Creek graveyard near Purdy Road where the forerunner of the Presbyterian Church at Florence once stood. One of his grandsons, Andrew Bruce Bilderback and his wife Amanda Pyles, had five sons who served as telegraphers on the Pennsylvania Railroad: Joshua, Gabriel, Harry, Thomas, and William. Andrew Bruce himself worked for the same company as a lampman. He died in 1917, but he, along with his sons and grandsons had a total cumulative service to the railroad company of two hundred years.

Among the present descendants of this family are Arthur Bilderback of Police Lodge Road, Shirley Bilderback Robinson of Colliers, and Harry Liggitt of Akron, Ohio.

Bilderbacks Claim Unique Service Record With Six Members of Family Telegraphers

Top row, left to right—JOSHUA P. BILDERRACK, GABRIEL E. BILDERBACK, HARRY J. BILDERBACK.
Bottom row, left to right—ALVIN B. BILDERBACK, THOMAS O. BILDERBACK, FRANK B. BILDERBACK, all telegraph operators.



MY EARLY MEMORIES OF COLLIER'S - by Delois Robinson Williams

My earliest memories are about people and events in the 1920's. My father, Alva Robinson, was a self-educated man whose love for nature he relayed to his children, Delois, Forestine, Wesley and Donald. We had a large orchard area where apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and raspberries grew. My mother, Louella, was an industrious homemaker who, besides caring for four children, baked, cooked, gardened, and preserved hundreds of jars of fruits, vegetables, jellies, jams, etc. each season.

I remember learning my alphabet and letter sounds at an early age. My father was a patient teacher. I started school at the almost new Collier School. When my first grade teacher was absent, Mrs. Elza Scott was substitute. She quickly ascertained what I knew and took me upstairs to Mr. Elza Scott's office. He asked me to say the alphabet in reverse. I was then sent to the 1-A class.

There were three active churches in Colliers. My family were Methodists. Mrs. Emma Hunter resided at the foot of Robinson Hill and was my first Sunday School teacher.

Colliers had four stores during this time. Truax's store, owned by Elmer Truax was located near the bridge over the "run." He was a large, heavy-set man with white hair and moustache.

Thompson's store was owned by John Thompson, who later became my uncle when he married my Aunt Emma Robinson. This store was located across from the Methodist Church.

Beside the I.O.O.F. Hall was Carson's store, owned by Lee Carson. His store had an attractive fresh meat counter since Mr. Carson was a butcher.

A mile east, across from the railway station was Matthews' store. This was a dry goods general store. I remember it sold coal buckets, hardware, shoes and boots. My father took me there to be fitted for my first "four-buckle Arctics."

The railroad station was a busy place. Mr. Webster and the big four-wheeled wooden wagon took baggage and mail to and from the trains. Those large steam engines were intimidating when they let off steam. I knew everyone in town, "East End," and many from Logrow and Mine Hill areas. Everyone was "poor" by today's standards, but really were wealthy in love and care.

Aunt Emma, my father's sister, was the postmistress for many years. The Post Office was a small wooden building across from the I.O.O.F. Hall. It was heated by a pot-bellied stove.

I remember riding on our "spring wagon" up to Ryland's Mill. Here, I watched while the corn, wheat or buckwheat Daddy brought was ground into flour or meal by the large stone wheels powered by water through a large water wheel. It was a slow, noisy process but the results were wonderful cornmeal mush, buckwheat cakes or whole wheat bread or muffins. How lucky we were!

(Continued from Bilderback story, previous page)

My father, who died Feb 11, 1983, left a journal telling about his early married life in Colliers, WV. - Harry Liggett, Akron, Ohio, descendant of the Bilderbacks.

Colliers was a small town but the large RR yards and coal mine brought many people in and out. There was never any reason to have a law officer as everyone looked out for one another's welfare and protection. In the four years that I lived there I never heard of any trouble of any kind. The people joined together and had good times. The younger people played jokes on one another but never harmed the three of us. I came to Dennison on Dec. 19, 1919. H.D. Liggett Journal

SCHOOLS OF COLLIERS

The building to the left has undergone several changes in appearance since it was built in 1879 on land owned by Elijah and Rachael Robinson. It was then known as Number 13 School. It became home to the Snyder family after it was no longer needed as a school. The picture was taken in 1928. Underneath the aluminum siding are wood clapboards and many crude initials.

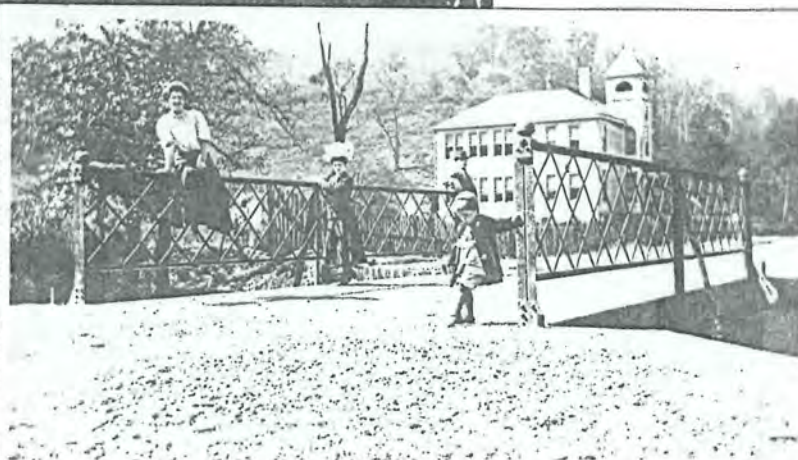
An earlier school was Number 2, located at the west end of Colliers, across Harmon Creek and the railroad, at the foot of the hill leading to Weirton Medical Center. Many Immigrant children from Logrow attended this school. Their parents had come here to work the mines.

A Pool Hall in Logrow supplied an upstairs room for a school, the room also serving as a church.

The two-story white frame building, center, was built in 1907. For some unknown reason this building was torn down in 1922 and a two-story, red brick building took its place.

Principal during the last years of the white school and the first years of the red school was Professor Elza Scott, noted Jefferson Township educator and historian.

The picture below shows the school in relation to the old iron bridge that spans Bonham Run before it flows into Harmon Creek a few hundred feet to the north. Bonham Run parallels the Mechling Hill Road.



COLLIERS SCHOOL MEMORIES

by Sarah Dear Forester

(Sarah Dear Forester arrived in Colliers, from the state of Mississippi, December 30, 1945.)

"I started to teach in the Collier Elementary school in September, 1946.

"The first day, one of my girls went home and told her family that she liked her teacher, but that she must be from a foreign country. How was THAT for my southern drawl?

"There were only eight teachers and eight grades in 1946. The Principal, Mr. Cecil Garrison, was one of them. When I was moved to Follansbee Middle School in 1969, there were twelve teachers and only six grades. The Principal, Mr. Edward Schupbach was not a teacher.

"The addition to Colliers School was certainly welcome as two classrooms were added, a stage, an enlarged lunchroom and kitchen.

"Seventeen years I had the third grade. I was so smart that I could skip fourth grade and go to the fifth, which I had for six years!"



The faculty of Collier Elementary School in 1946-1947.

Cecil Garrison, Sarah Forester, Lucy Patterson, Delois Robinson, Bertie McLaughlin, Virginia Turley, Georgia Hubbs, Emaline Tucci.

A SOLDIER'S LETTER FROM FRANCE - November 14, 1918

by Bert Snyder, shared by Sarah Forester

Dear Mother,

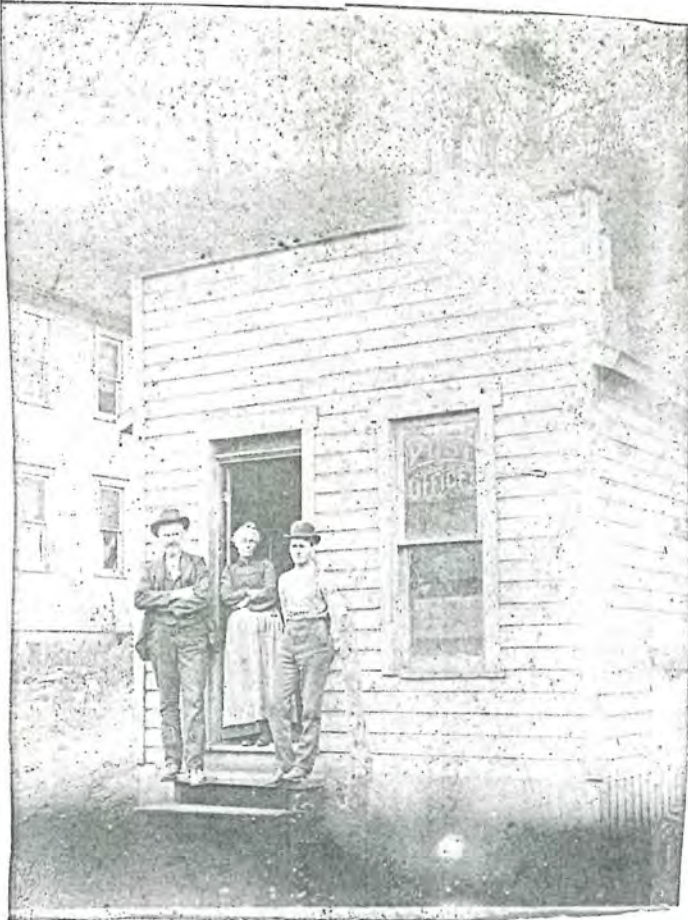
....I have had several letters from you and they sure touched the spot. Some arrived the very afternoon that we lined up to march to the front...It is impossible to write while you are in a chase, and it is hard to get candles which afford light to write by at night.

...It is a very beautiful night. The moon is shining brightly through the frosty air, and the same stars can be seen that I saw one night as we marched to the front to one of the hottest battles that I ever fought. I noticed the Big Dipper that night and we seemed to be following in direction toward it. It reminded me of the beautiful nights I used to be out while back home. And to look at it once more, three experiences of different times flashed through my mind. One, of lovely experiences back home. Another, a past experience of marching to a terrible battle, and another, of the present time, when every soldier has a smile on his face, and is filled with song because of their victory in the great American offensive and peace seems to be sure to come. As we marched from the front every soldier we met along the muddy road smiled as they said, "The war is over," that being the first we heard of peace. It was too good to be true. The march we were in would be the last....It was terrible, and a hard struggle to have accomplished what we did....

France is filled with happy people, especially the Yankees are glad because the war is said to be won...We have to fight no more...No matter how I try, no one could explain just how things were. No one could draw a picture of a blood-stained battlefield, nor imitate the roar of cannon, and the whizzing sounds of rugged pieces of shrapnel and machine gun bullets....

But we have many things to be thankful for. Peace is to come soon and there are thousands of boys left who can return home to loved ones. Many a time we have had a very narrow escape and it seemed a miracle of God that we got through safely, especially the morning we went over the top when the Germans put up a terrible artillery and machine gun barrage before us. Some were killed but the amount of men that were there amidst the shower of shrapnel, it is hard to understand how so many escaped. It revealed to me plainly that the Supreme Being was on our side....Tell all I send my love, and I hope to see them just as they were when I left home.

Your loving son, Bert T. Snyder



COLLIERS POST OFFICE - A CENTURY AGO

Hudson Robinson Stansbury, left, was appointed Postmaster August 11, 1897. Standing next to him are Hannah Criss Stansbury and Benjamin Smith Snyder.



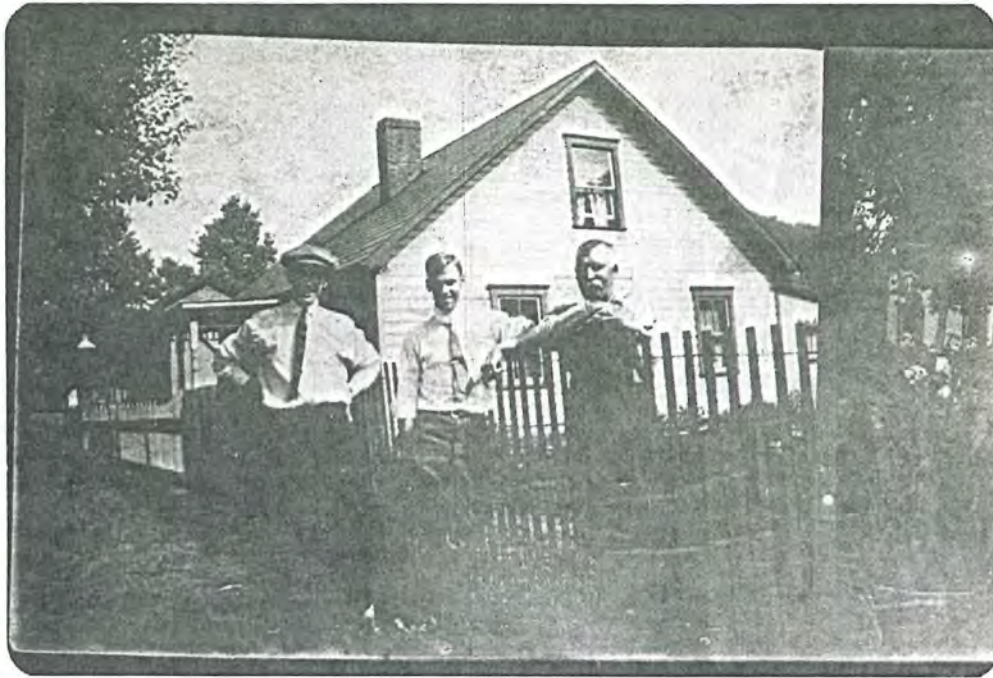
Mabel Howell, prominent Colliers citizen, on her last day of "keeping store" at the Clover Farm location. The store closed upon her retirement.



Carson's Clover Farm Store stood next to the Odd Fellows Hall. Grocery Delivery Service was available. The building is now gone.



Elmer Truax was proprietor of this store around the early 1900's.



The Will Snyder homestead near Harmon Creek, to the rear of the present "Mom & Pop" Store, 1997. _____ Snyder, Charles Snyder, Father, Will Snyder.

COLLIERS TIDBITS

Correction on the story under the picture of Elijah N. and Rachael McFeaters Robinson, on another page. It was Elijah N. Robinson who went to California during the Gold Rush, not Elijah II. Also, Alva Robinson's middle initial should be R, not K. John Robinson was the father of Elijah N.

A large hotel at one time stood to the rear of the present fire house.

The railroad yard was across Harmon Creek from the main part of town. It was here that repair work was done on the cars, in the shop built for that purpose.



Clara and Alice Hunter. The house is gone, but stood to the rear of the maroon-colored house at the foot of Mechling Hill.

COLLIERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Ground was purchased on May 14, 1898 from S.C. Beatty, by William Long and David Snyder, for the building of the proposed Christian Church at Colliers. Funds were raised by members through ladies' groups and others. Having met in the schoolhouse for preaching, the congregation, by the end of that year, held the first services in the new building, with Brother Charles Watson, pastor at Hollidays Cove, in charge.

Other ministers followed, and the church grew. The Flood of 1912 hit hard, setting back the congregation with a ruined piano, damaged furniture, and destroyed records. But reconstruction work was begun, and with the help of many dedicated Christians, services resumed on February 2, 1913.

By 1931, deaths, loss of interest, moving of the people of the community, and general lack of attendance forced the church to close its doors, a condition that remained for ten years. During this time, the beautiful stained glass window in the front was vandalized.

By 1940, it was decided to consider re-opening for services. Russell Strain led the move. With the help of ministers such as Allen Fields and Jessie Clark, services resumed in 1941. A Christian Endeavor Society was organized by Rev. Fields and Emma Richardson.

In March, 1949, Rev. Fields was authorized to purchase the Colliers Catholic church building. It was moved on February 3, 1950, and annexed to the rear of the main building, becoming a Fellowship Hall for the congregation.

A new baptistry was built in 1962-63 by Pastor Hilton Woods and Roy Torrence. The large and colorful backdrop mural was painted by Dean Gardei.

The church has been sustained throughout the years by many faithful men and women, among them Mabel Howell, who served as pianist for sixty years.

COLLIERS STEEL

It was more than a half century ago that plans were announced by Guarantee Specialty Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, for the construction of a stamping plant at Logrow. The plant was to be built on five acres of ground transferred from the West Virginia - Pittsburgh Coal Company.

A spur from the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad was constructed at Logrow, running to the newly acquired

property, which was formerly used as a ball field.

Before the plant opened, Superintendent Frank Pringle was asked what kind of products would be turned out. He replied, "Anything we can get an order for."

The plant employed both men and women until very recently, turning out products of a wide variety.





COLLIERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

When fire broke out in town in the early days, the "Bucket Brigade" was activated. Everyone pitched in with buckets and other containers and carried water from the nearest source to the fire. In the case of Colliers, this was Harmon Creek, that runs the full length of town from East to West.

By the time the action got organized, there were usually enough neighbors involved so that instead of each carrying a bucket, it was passed from person to person on a continuous basis.

Other volunteers would carry out furniture and valuables, at times saving the entire contents of a burning building.

Firefighters finally decided that there must be a better way. So by the mid 1950's, under the capable leadership of Pete Reitter, the Colliers Volunteer Fire Department was organized.

In a Weirton Daily Times newspaper dated Tuesday, November 16, 1954, a picture of the first firetruck to arrive in Colliers appeared. Pictured here with their pride and joy are some of the firemen.

Left to right: Lyn Fowler, Pete Reitter, Bob Masters, Credis Nicely, Patrick Ensminger, Glen Ensminger, Wesley Robinson and Harry Reitter.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS - REBEKAH LODGE FOR WOMEN

by Emma Richardson

The first question usually asked by those not familiar with the Odd Fellows Lodge is, "Why the name, Odd Fellows?" The name itself signifies something different, out of the ordinary, and unmatched. It was originally given to those unusual people who believed in helping others.

Brother Thomas Wildey was born in England January 15, 1782. He was placed in a parish school at five years of age and remained there until he was fourteen. He was then apprenticed to a spring carriage maker. After seven years, he graduated into the blacksmith trade. It was in 1804 that he observed for the first time the mysteries of a Lodge of the Odd Fellows. He was initiated into Lodge # 17 of Bath, England. After three years, and with great zeal for Odd Fellowship, he organized Morning Star Lodge # 38.

In 1817 he married and emigrated to the United States, settling in Baltimore, Maryland. He met another Englishman, John Welch, and was delighted to find that he was also a Past Grand of a Lodge in England. They worked together and slowly Lodges were organized in Pennsylvania and New York, with the Grand Lodge of the United States being organized soon after. Since then, the Grand Lodge of the World has come into being.

In the meantime, another Odd Fellow, Schuyler Colfax, initiated plans to get wives and daughters into the organization. By 1850, it was still "no place for women!" But by 1860, Grand Lodge was granted authority to institute Degree Lodges for the Daughters of Rebekah.

Since that time, many benevolent programs have been carried out by the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. Many students have been educated through the Education Foundation set up in 1921, with three million dollars. The endowment of Chair of Research at Johns Hopkins Hospital with one million dollars was made possible through the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Many others could be mentioned.

Schuyler Colfax, recognized as founder of the Rebekahs, died of a heart attack January 13, 1885, in Mankato, Minnesota. He had carried his suitcase three-quarters of a mile to the train in thirty degrees below zero weather. His body was carried to South Bend in a special railroad car with banners on each side, paying him tribute.

Colliers Odd Fellows Lodge was formed in 1888, of men from the Eldersville Cynosure and Brooke Lodge, of Wellsburg. The first candidate with a petition for membership was G.W. Freshwater. Names of those charter members are familiar yet today - J.C. Amspoker, Elisha Criss, Dell Donovan, W.P. Hindman, Albert Hunter, W.E. Truax, E.N. Robinson, David Snyder, A.D. Stansbury, and others.

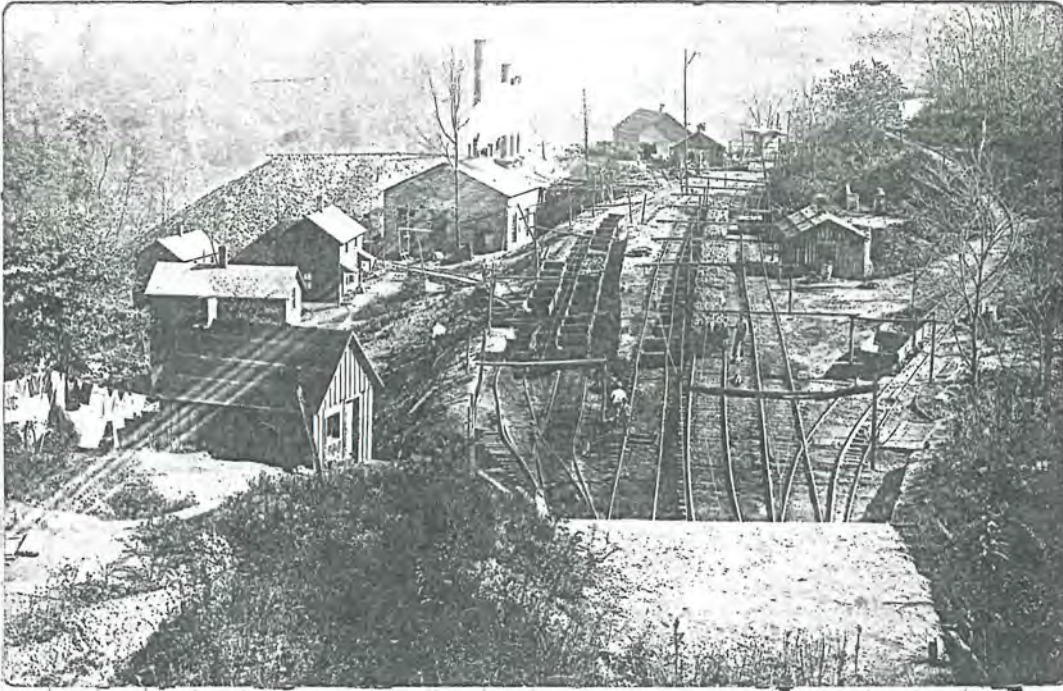
On November 19, 1888, a resolution was introduced that there be no tobacco used in the lodge room. Motion carried. Another resolution - that spittoons be taken out of the lodge room. Motion lost.

On April 5, 1890, six brothers were appointed to nurse M.E. Stansbury for the next week. Concerning the reference to establishing an I.O.O.F home, the question was asked, "What sum will this lodge contribute?" The answer was, "Nothing." "Will every member contribute weekly or monthly?" "No."

Colliers Lodge received its charter October 25, 1888. The 100th Anniversary was celebrated in 1988, with the help of the Rebekahs. Members recalled events of the past such as Christmas parties, turkey suppers, and others.

Present officers of the Rebekahs are: Noble Grand, Mrs. Evelyn Robinson; Vice Grand, Miss Verna Tarr; Secretary, Mrs. Joan Moore; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Carolyn Fowler; Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Read. Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays.

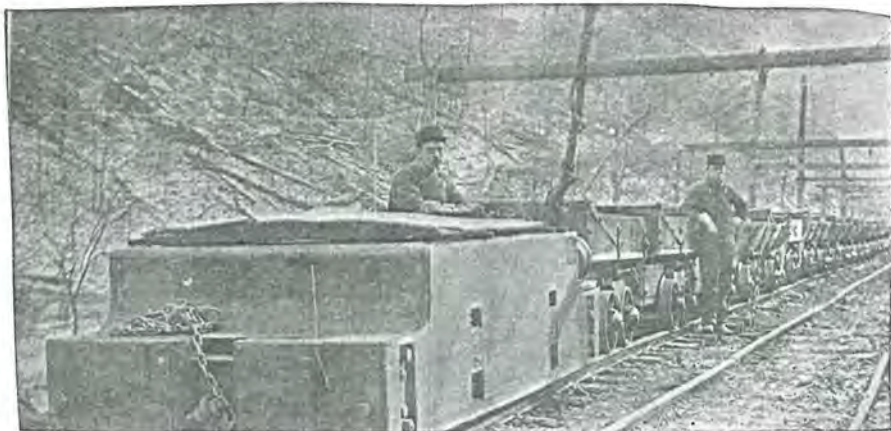
LOGROW - ITS MINES AND RAILS



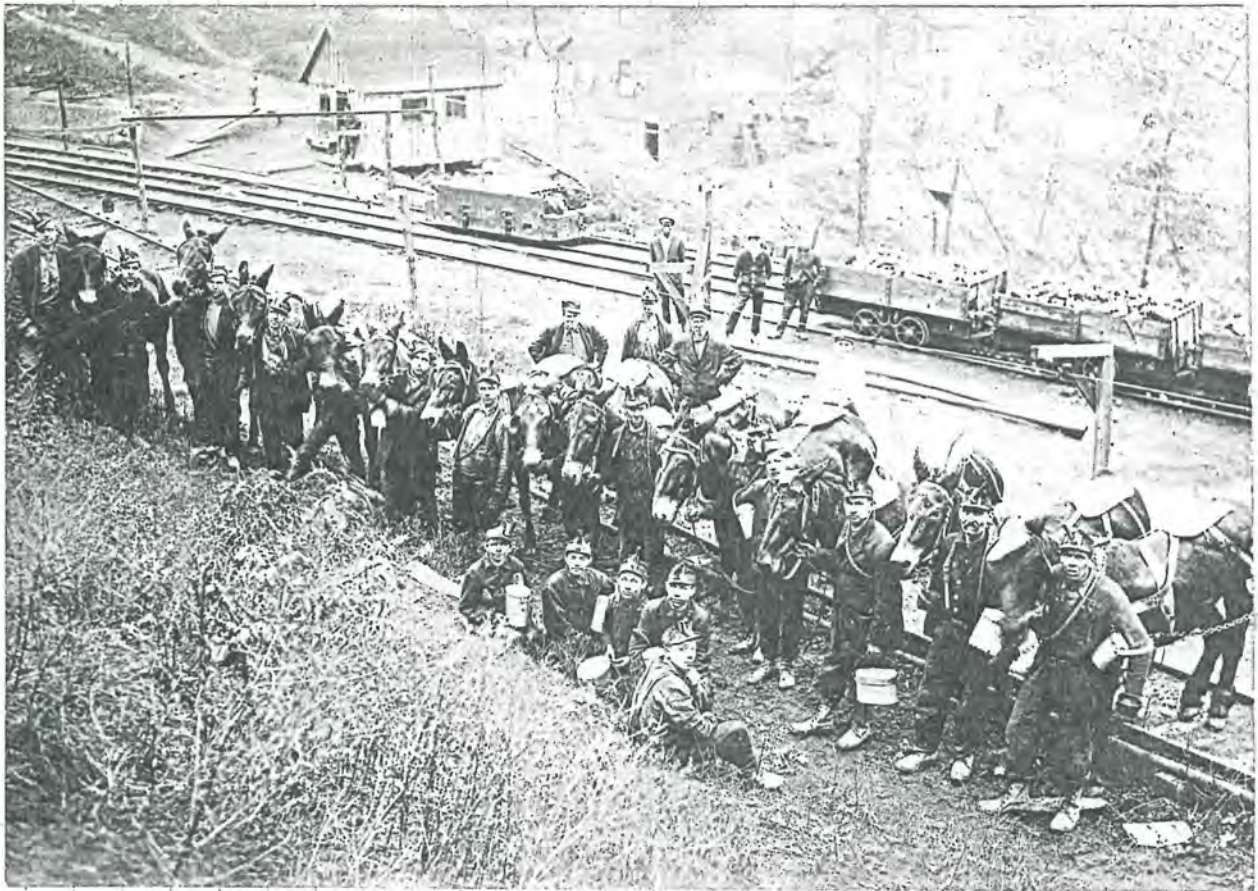
The tracks up and down the hill carried loaded coal cars down, while the empties were sent up to be refilled. This made a continuous cycle from the mines far above.



This is an early picture of the mine entrance at Logrow, probably taken in the very early 1920's.



The big motor was used to pull the cars, whether full or empty.



Mules were a great help in the mines in early days. Here, miners and mules alike relax near the track, the mules waiting to be put to rest for the night in the nearby stable not far from the company store.



WILLIAM THOMAS (WILL) SNYDER
1857-1933
Picture taken 1895



Roads in and just west of Logrow were in atrocious condition a few years ago. Citizens of Colliers claimed that a traffic count made this road to Hollidays Cove the second most important in Brooke County, and demanded repairs frequently.



The Company Store for West Virginia Coal near Colliers, was located near the homes and the mines of those hundreds of men and their families who depended on the mining of coal for a living. This area was known as Logrow, a settlement that had its own Post Office (in the Company Store), its own barber shop, and everything necessary for self-sufficiency. In the store could be bought, food, toys, hardware, miners' tools, groceries, black powder, carbide, gum boots and many other items essential for life in those days. Not only was it a privilege to have a store so handy, it was mandatory that these people use it! If the miner was caught buying from another store, he was immediately fired!

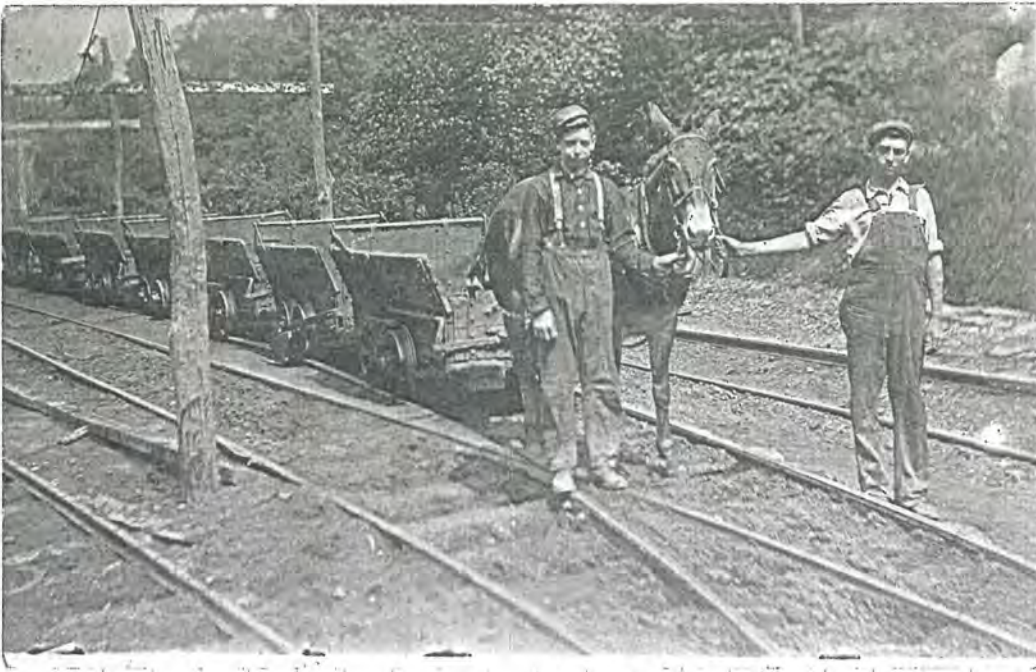


SOME OF THE MINERS AND A FEW HOUSES IN LOGROW

COLLIERS TIDBITS

Some of the trains that passed through Colliers on runs between Pittsburgh and Steubenville had been given names by those who rode them regularly. The "Greaser" passed through about 6:30 in the evening, while the "Bummer" made its run about midnight.

Betty Mills Davis remembers that her grandfather, Alonzo Wallace Mills, and later, her father, Ralph Alonzo Mills operated a taxi service to the Station from out-lying areas. Her grandfather was a Methodist minister.



THE MINES OF COLLIERS



A prominent business in Colliers for many years was the Esso Station. It stood across the road from the school as early as the 1930's. Proprietors in early days and probably for the greatest number of years were the Yost family.

From Howard Standish, of Tempe, Arizona, comes this bit of information: "My Grandmother Standish and her second husband, Charles Yost, ran the Esso Station for years. And my great grandparents, Ben and Martha Ryland Sanders had a farm there (Colliers) before they moved to Cross Creek. Martha's brother, Hugh, had a farm and a mill there also."

The station was not only a place to fill up with Esso gasoline, but the proprietor usually carried a limited line of food, such as bread, milk, candy, pop, and many other "Mom & Pop" foods. Present (1997) owners are members of the Dodd family.



This was the tipple on Tent Church Road. The mine that burrowed under the hills at Logrow had as its "back door" the workings on Tent Church Road near the old Hays farm.

Right, George Samakis stands beneath the tipple. His family was active in the Logrow area for many years, he having been born in one of the mining houses, all relics of the past.



THE MINES AT LOGROW

by George Samakis



The steam shovel sprang into action when the deep mines closed. The land was then stripped, leaving the coal exposed for surface mining.

The mine at Logrow was small when purchased in 1913 from a Boston firm, by the Dean family from Cleveland, Ohio. Its headquarters were the West Virginia-Pittsburgh Coal Company.

The mine soon made a name for itself due to the quality of the coal. It was found to be the best in a wide area for the production of steam, which was necessary for the trains that had the long uphill pull from Colliers to Burgettstown and points east.

At its peak, in the very early 1920's, the mine operated three shifts. Logrow was known as "the bottom," since the mine operations were located on top of what became known as "Mine Hill." Company houses lined the road on both sides, from the "bottom" to the top.

At the top were such operations as the blacksmith shop, the generator building, the cable house, the explosives storage area, the guard barracks and the stables where the mules and horses were housed.

At the bottom, family life went on, with the silent movies being one of the chief diversions. There were also a barber shop, pool room, a fire department and a small jail.

Logrow closed after many successful years. All houses were torn down and hauled away. Only a few remnants remain, and only those folks whose lives this operation touched, will remember.



The Armed Forces Honor Roll stood in front of the Colliers School for many years. This is the red brick building that replaced the square, two-story white one in 1922.



Judge Buchanan, Steubenville, Marge Warren and George A. Wright, at a Gold Star Mothers celebration in Colliers. Mr. Wright was a well known personality in the area, and lived on a farm to the rear of the Robinson property on the hill.

COLLIERS BASEBALL TEAM



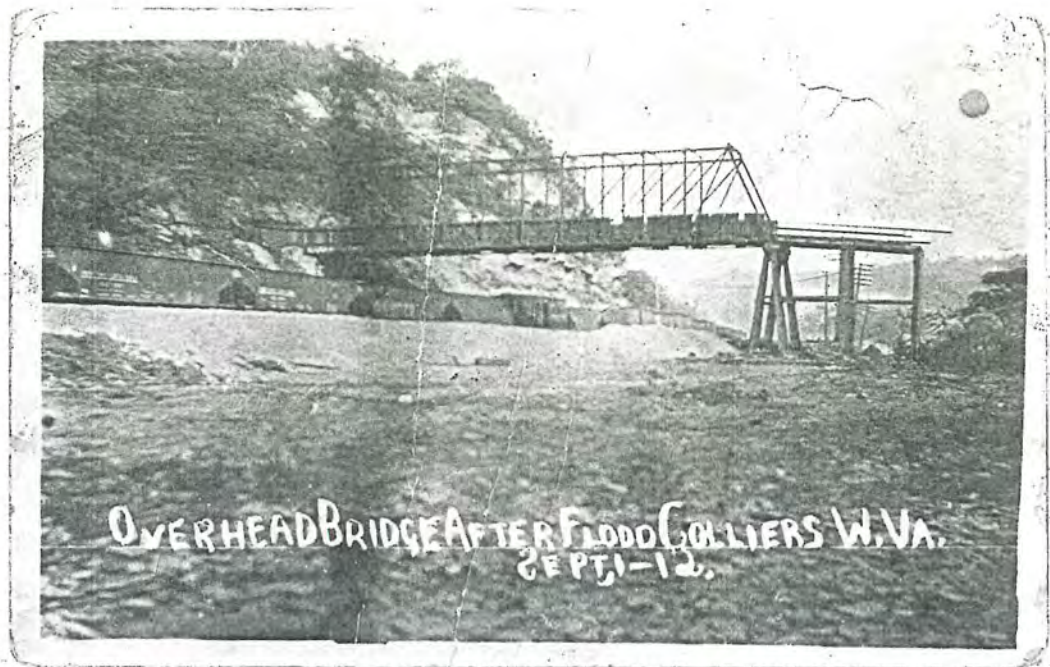
Front:

- Tackis
- Charles Bowers
- Harry Brown
- Leslie Beatty
- Bob Beatty
- Bill Beatty
- John Thompson

Back:

- Bud Beatty
- Bill Thompson
- Malcolm Snyder
- James Brown
- Jerome McGovern
- Earl Beatty
- Ed Thompson

Pete Reitter



OVERHEAD BRIDGE AFTER FLOOD COLLIER'S W. VA.
SEPT. 12.



MAIN STORE WRECKED BY FLOOD COLLIER'S
SEPT. 12.

THE 1912 FLOOD TOOK ITS TOLL



A. E. CHURCH AFTER FLOOD COLLIER'S W. VA.
SEPT. 12.



The "Three-Arch-Bridge" carries the railroad over Harmon Creek in the vicinity of the old Snyder Homestead.



The old Hindman Mill and homestead stood near the "Rat Hole" on the banks of Harmon Creek just a short distance from the David Snyder mill, cooper shop, and brick home. The Hindman brothers were very active in the establishment of the early Christian Church in the Cove and it is said that after Alexander Campbell first preached in the beautiful grove of trees beside the creek, the Hindmans began holding services in their home until a church could be built. Hindman tradition states that the first Hindman in this area of lower Colliers- upper Cove had lived in the area of Bethany, Brooke County, and had traded his farm there for the mill which is pictured on the left.



THE DAVID SNYDER HOMESTEAD

David Snyder came to Brooke County shortly after 1800. He and his wife, Catherine, were the parents of three sons and nine daughters whose descendants continue to populate the Harmon Creek area. In 1819 David bought 213 acres and 95 perches from the Andrew Walker heirs for \$4000 cash. There, on a deep bend in Harmon Creek, he made the bricks for the large mansion which still stands today (1997). In 1829 he purchased an additional 200 acres, apparently the "hill farm", which was sold by his heirs in 1855 to Nicholas Stansbury. The 1852 Brooke County Map shows the location of the Snyder mill and cooper shop, both near the large brick house. Although David, a cooper and a miller, was a hard-working, ambitious man, he died without a will in 1846 in his middle fifties, leaving his heirs to squabble over his large estate. And squabble they did.

Two years later, David's daughter, Julie, died, and in 1853, her brother, Robert, both of whom were unmarried. However, this still left ten children and David's wife, Catherine, to divide the estate. The deed to David's land states that his property bordered that of George Swearingen, Ephraim Owings, James Patterson, and Samuel Hindman, and cornered to James Campbell. (Part of this Swearingen land was the 400 acres purchased by John Swearingen, Sr. in 1816 from James Campbell II. It included the east side of Cove Road from Harmon Creek through the Three Springs Cemetery area and was part of an original tomahawk claim by James's father, Pioneer James Campbell of the Kings Creek area.)

David Snyder, Jr. tried to purchase his father's farm but only his brother, Daniel and four of his eight sisters and their husbands would agree to it. The others wanted it sold at public auction. As a result, after numerous court battles, and not until 20 December 1883, was it finally sold to William Cochran for \$5000. This was only \$900 more than David had offered to pay. Sadly enough, Cochran sold the property two days later at a profit of \$7500, an enormous amount of money in those days. Thus the beautiful spot by the Three Arch Bridge on Harmon Creek left the Snyder name forever. Later it was purchased by the Petrella family who have owned and occupied it for a number of years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researching of this history and the preparation of the booklet have brought us much pleasure. We have gained many new friends through our day to day association with residents of Colliers and the Harmon Creek area. The cooperation we have experienced is outstanding. We have knocked on the doors of strangers and come away with needed historical information and treasured one-of-a-kind photographs. Needless to say, we appreciate good, quality people such as the residents of this area have proved themselves to be. In today's hurried, electronic and computerized world, it is a joy to find those yet interested in their forebears, who are eager to look back as well as ahead. It was said recently by one among us, "Without historians, there is no past." May we always strive to remember from where our roots have sprung.

The material in this booklet is as accurate as possible. As with any history book of this type, much information is handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. As years go by, memories get clouded; dates get mixed; and facts get mingled. It is our intention to bring you as much history of your area as possible, considering the few tools with which we have to work. We hope the readers will accept our humble efforts to preserve a small square inch of America in the same spirit in which we present it.

June Campbell Grossman
Kathryn Campbell Slasor

Grateful appreciation to the following:

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Jay Valero
Steve and Ida Wargo
Richard & Delois Williams
Leroy Truax
Arthur Bilderback
Emma Richardson
Jim Pannett
Shirley Truax Petrella
Ben "Buck" Copenhaver

"The Chain" Sunday School Class, Methodist Church

All the People in Colliers

COLLIERS TIDBITS

Gaylord Martin, age 92, has nearly as many memories of Colliers as he does of his home town of Eldersville. The three houses across from the station were bustling with activity. Tom Matthews had a store in the house on the corner. Dell Donovan lived in the third house.

He remembers that Roscoe Barber was the Station Agent, and Edwin Smith was helper.

Gaylord also recalls the dances (and the fights!) that took place in the downstairs of the Odd Fellows' Hall. Hall's Road was known as Ryland's Road, named for the old mill that had already quit operating before Gaylord's time.

Katy Gardei remembers the "troop trains" that carried the soldiers to camp. It was about this time that she joined the Army!

Bob Beatty recalls that it was the "Grea-

ser" that brought his Uncle Bert Snyder home from the World War. Everyone in Colliers, Hanlin, Dinsmore, Burgetts-town and points east and west, knew that the "Greaser" went through around six o'clock. But to date, the only explanation of the name seems to be that this was the run that brought the working men in their "greasy" work clothes back home in the evenings.

Plan of the town of
COLLIER

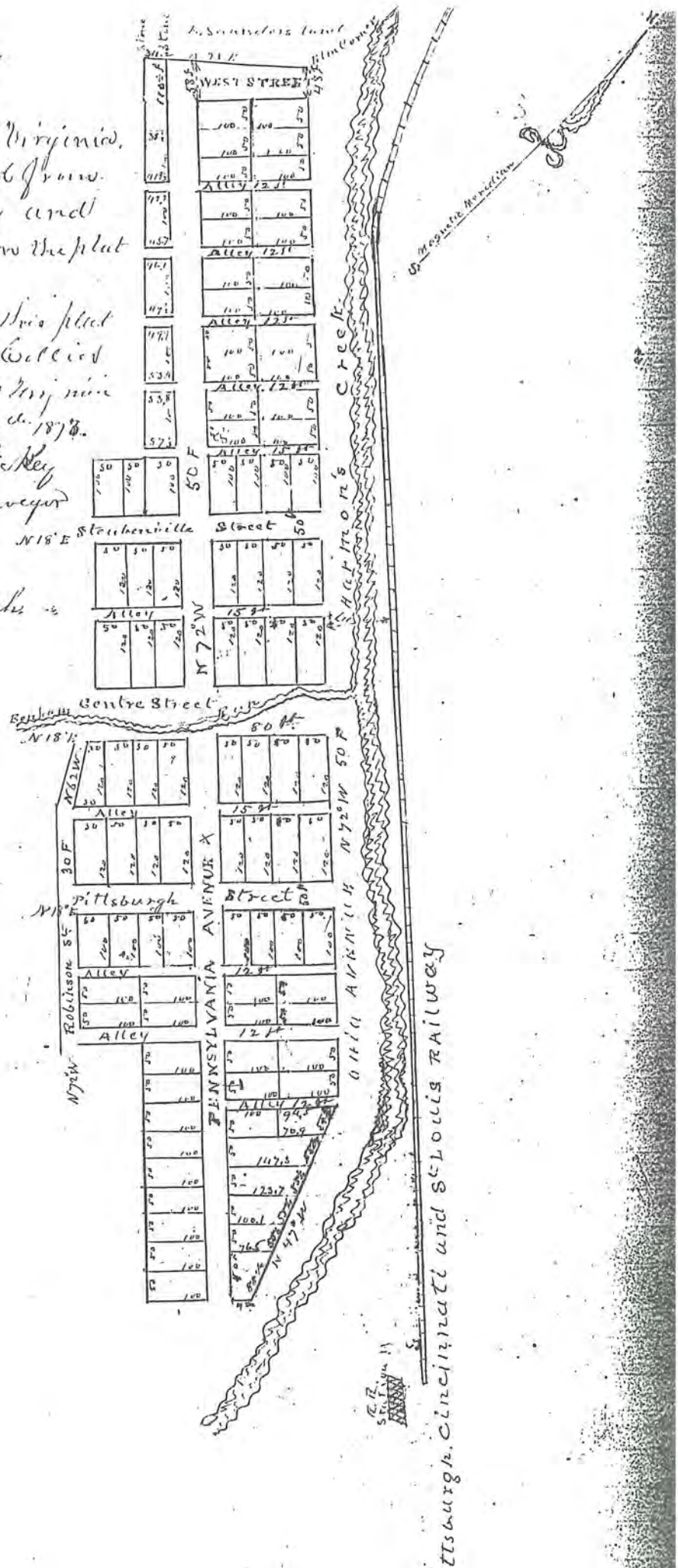
Brooke County, West Virginia.
 The lots are numbered from
 7 to 707 progressively by and
 are fully designated on the plat

I hereby certify that this plat
 and survey of the town of Collier
 and Brooke Co., West Virginia
 is correct. A. J. King 10th 1878.

J. M. Riesley
 Surveyor

N 18° E Steubenville Street

Scale 200 feet to the inch



CINCINNATI AND ST. LOUIS RAILWAY