

# Leaves of History



Historic Area: Jefferson Township

created by

Kathryn Campbell Slasor

and

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for

# The      Seekers

SUMMER, 1997



The home of Roy Melvin Thorley and Belle Steele Thorley and their son, William Merle Thorley stood where the Methodist parsonage now stands, beside the Eldersville Church. Merle's grandparents, William and Jane Thorley, bought three acres of land in 1879, from Hugh Patterson. Mr. Patterson bought these same three acres from John and Rachel Reily in 1851. There is no known record of when the lovely old house was built. At one time there were barns and other farm buildings behind the house.



The Eldersville Methodist Church at one time had two front doors, as shown here. Inside, an aisle led down to the altar and pulpit area from each door. A pot belly stove stood on each side and furnished the heat. The first church was a frame building, built in 1829. This brick church was built in 1849 and was remodeled several times.



LEFT:

Mr. Alvie Robertson was a Sunday School Superintendent in Eldersville Methodist Church more than sixty years ago. He was one of the most faithful members of the church.

BELOW, LEFT:

Eldersville was always known for its excellent school system. This picture shows the early beginnings of the Eldersville School, which first held classes over 160 years ago, starting in 1834.

BELOW, RIGHT:

A well loved teacher in Eldersville School was Mrs. Sarah Butler, shown here in her later years. She first started to teach in 1895 taught her first classes Eldersville in 1923.

Mrs. Butler loved all of her pupils, and often took the little ones on her lap and hugged them.





The Class of 1907 of the Eldersville Normal School posed for a picture on the front lawn of the Henry Cooper house, where Dorothy Petrel now lives, 1997. Behind the students and across the road may be seen the little house that was burned by the firemen about two years ago. It was the home of Bill Truax for many years. The last person to live in it was Kathryn Slasor. When this picture was taken in 1907, the house had no porch. Part of the porch on the Cooper house is seen in the upper right corner.

The Eldersville Normal School was similar to a short-term college, where young people studied to be teachers. The man in black, in the second row toward the right, is Mr. Elza Scott, one of the head professors. He was one of Jefferson Township's greatest historians.

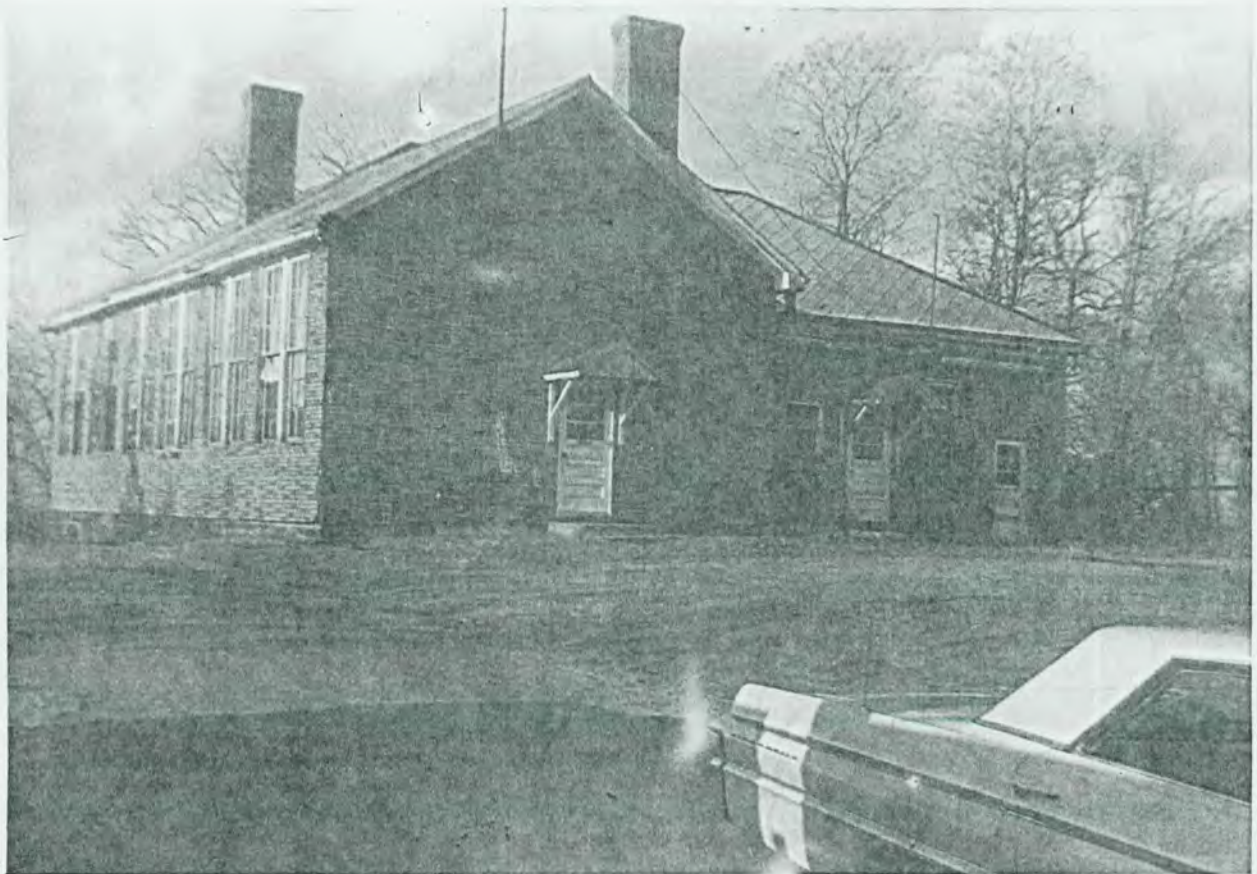
Eldersville Normal School started classes in 1881, with Washington Attorney, Samuel Ampoker, securing enough students to hold a class. No more classes were held until 1886, when Mr. R.P. Stevenson became an instructor. Classes were held in Centennial Hall, now re-named, Heritage Hall.

In 1910, the students held a reunion in Cooper's Grove (backyard of Dorothy Petrel's house, in front of the Eldersville Church), and some accounts say that 800 people attended. They came into town from all directions, some arriving in Hanlin on the train and walking up Hanlin hill. At the reunion meeting, the thought of building a new place for classes to be held, was discussed. If this was done, it may have been the one-room schoolhouse that was built, as some accounts say that Normal School was held in it.

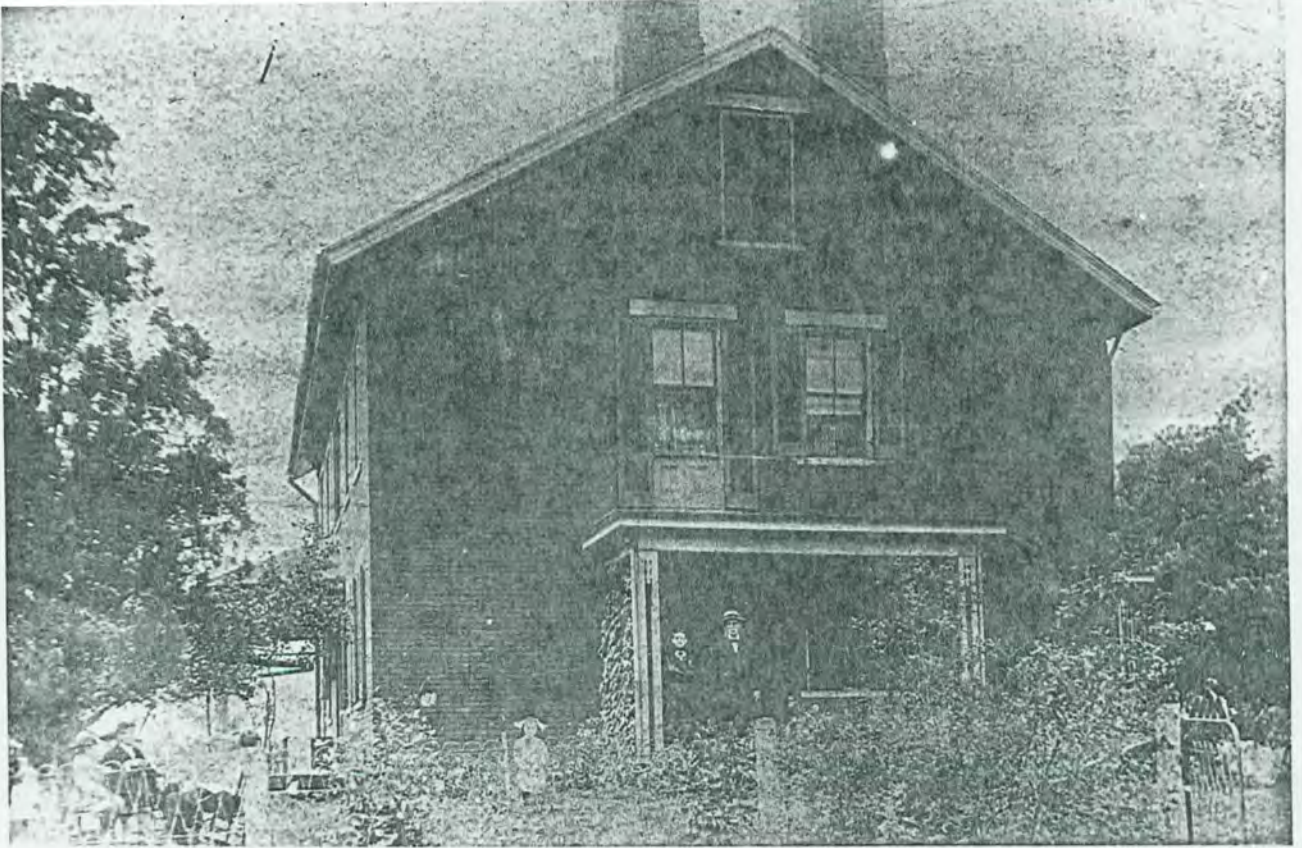
Classes were held until 1915. Students from out of town lived with, or "boarded" with families in Eldersville. This 30-year period of the Normal School was one of the highlights of the history of Eldersville.



The Methodist Church parsonage for many years. This is where all the preachers and their families lived. It still stands (1997) but is owned by Bill and Tina Mitchell, who have remodeled it into a more modern home.



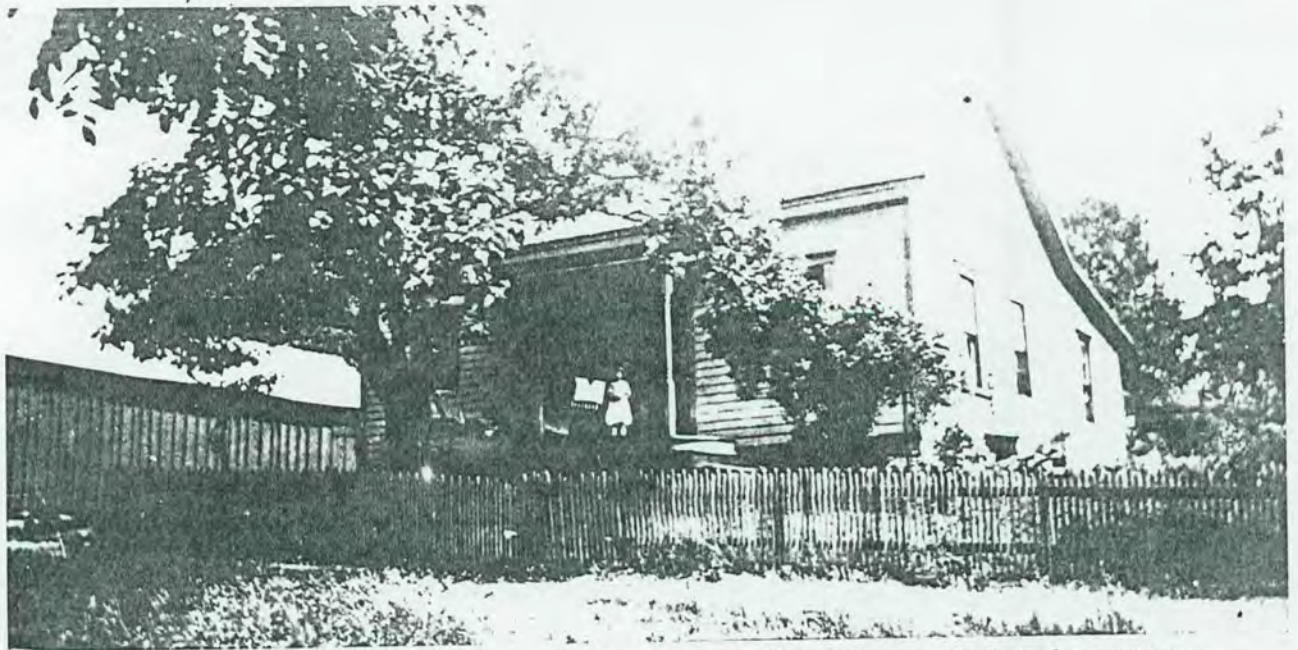
The one-room Eldersville School had two rooms added about 1920. First, second and third grades were held here until the building was torn down a few years ago.



This house stood approximately where Tom and Judy Goldsboro now live (1997) to the rear of the former Post Office site. It was the home of the Dimit family. The house burned about 1926.



This is the road leading past the vacant lot now owned by Linda Dellenbaugh. The house in the foreground was the home of Bill and Eleanor Truax, later Kathryn Slasor. The road was known as a "mud road," with this picture having been taken before any paving was done in the Eldersville area. Paving began about 1921.



This was a small red house that stood next to the Boles and Gourley store. Charlie Moore and his wife lived there about 1915. The Dimit family also lived here. Many other local families made their home in this house, some of them moving in shortly after they were married, until they found bigger homes. They included Shorty Wiegmann, the Brown family, and Clarence and Helen Boles. Jefferson Township firemen burned it a few years ago, as a practice drill.



This is one of the old Stevenson houses, probably last occupied by Walter and Blanche Gardner. This house was also used by many local families. At one time, a lady, name unknown now, lived upstairs, and baked loaves of bread and sold them to the neighbors. The upstairs was reached by a set of steps that went up the outside of the house. It stood just west of Gaylord Martin's home.





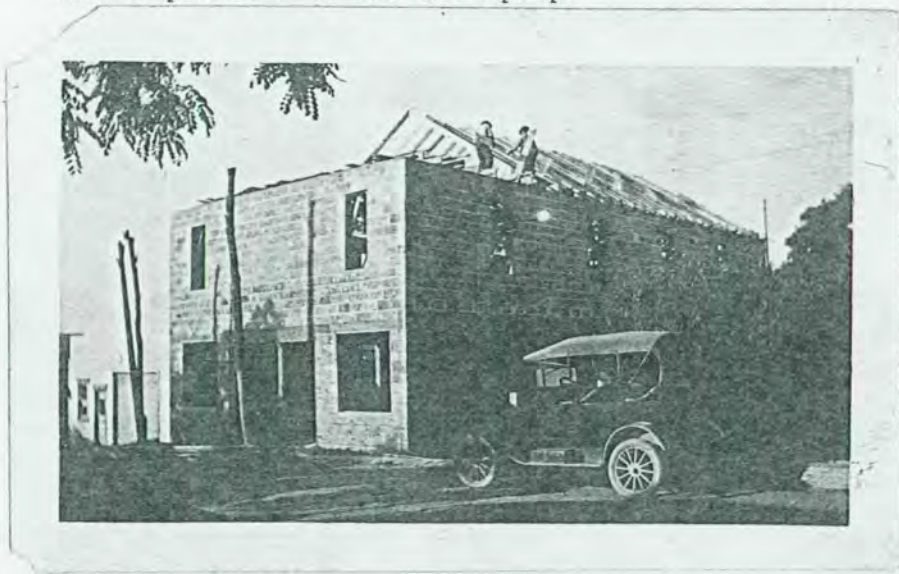
About the year 1921, when the local mines became active, living quarters were needed for the miners. These houses were built by the "Company," and to this day they are referred to as "company houses." They were all built alike, and all in long rows. This is the row that was built between the Stewart corner by the town pump, to very near the brick school. The house where Clara Wilkins lives still resembles the original houses. Others have been remodeled into more modern homes.



This is a typical scene at the "corner," in Eldersville, before 1921, when the mud road was paved. The double porch of the Allingham house may be seen on the left. The Gillespie store, also with a double porch, is seen in the center, rear. The Odd Fellows building, now Heritage Hall, is on the right. Seen driving the team with the wagon is John Clemens.



One of Merle Thorley's favorite pasttimes was to sit on the platform of the town pump.



Bud Stewart's garage, where Jenny Mendak lives (1997) was built as a mine shop, about the time the company houses were built. Merle Thorley operated it for many years, as did Paul Wiegmann and others.



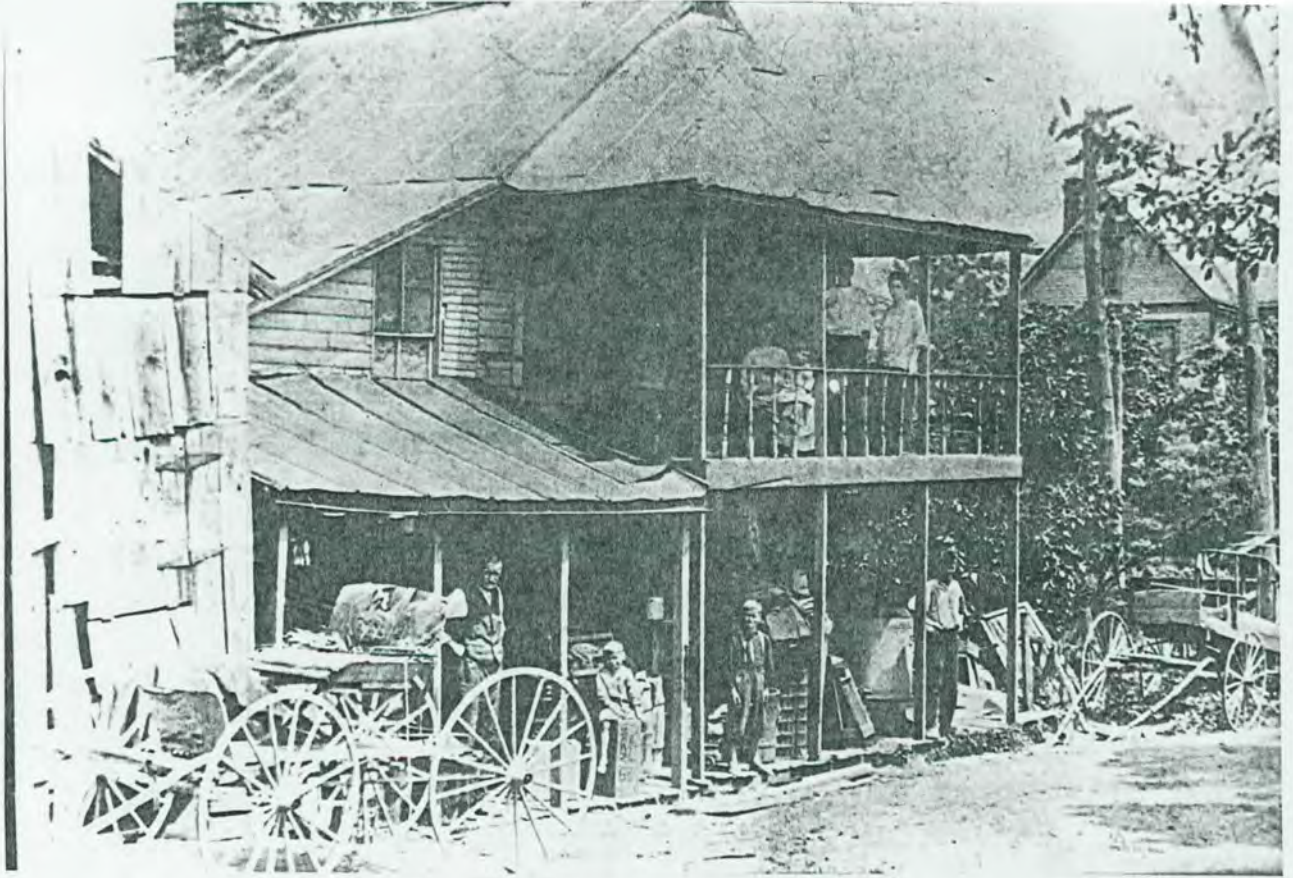
This was known as the Odd Fellows Hall, and was built in 1876. At that time it was called Centennial Hall, because it had been one hundred years (a century) since our country was formed. The Odd Fellows Lodge met here, as did the Grange, for many years. Festivals were held, as well as dances, and other activities. School was held for a few years, before the brick building was built. Eliza Murchland taught here. Note the board fence and the mud roads. It is now called Heritage Hall.



This was known as the Boles and Gourley Store and Eldersville Post Office at one time. The store was operated by John and Belle Quarterman Boles, great grandparents of Bob Alexander, who has not quite completed the home he and Leanne are building on this lot. Mrs. Alma Gourley, sister of Mrs. Boles, was the Postmaster. The store was very cozy inside, with a pot belly stove and overstuffed furniture, where patrons were made to feel "right at home," when they came for a pound of sugar or a loaf of bread.



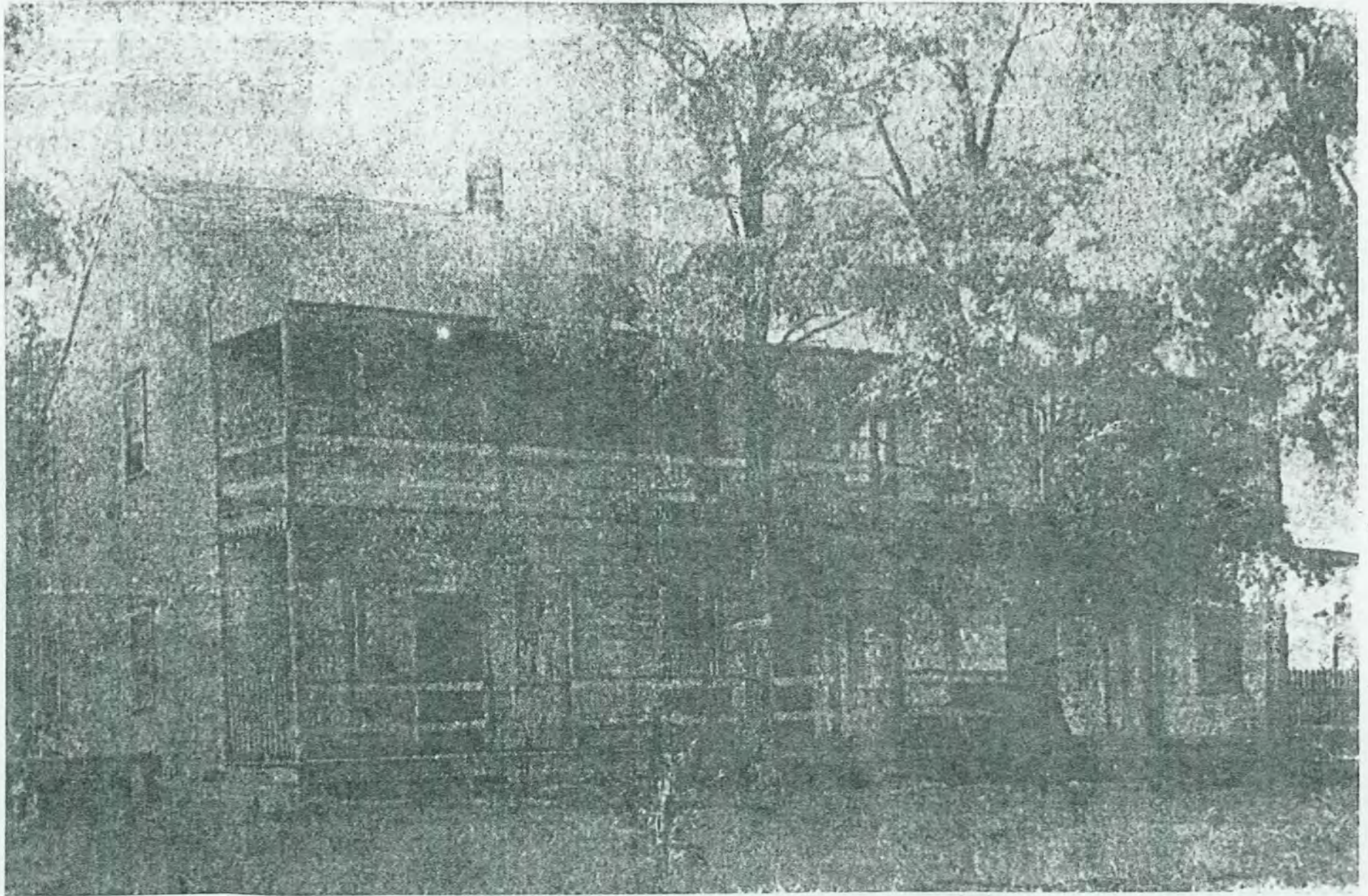
This was the Stevenson barn that stood across the road from where Gaylord and Helen Martin now live, (1997). This "mud road" led out past the "company houses" that were being built when this picture was taken, probably around 1921. The brick school was farther out the road, but was not built until 1930.



Gillespie's Store in the old days. Now (1997) the home of Charmie Ambrose and family.



Robert Boles Blacksmith Shop in Eldersville. Robert is standing on the right in the picture. The shop stood in what is today (1997) the front yard of the home of Viola Gillespie. Robert Boles descended from a line of blacksmiths, his father, Cornelius, Jr. and grandfather, Cornelius, Sr. having both practiced this trade.



This building stood for many years on the vacant lot adjacent to the "town pump." It was known in its early days as "The Allingham House." John Allingham and his wife, along with his brother, George, lived here at least in the year 1872. This was the year that a long chain of circumstances led to the murder of John. A man by the name of Henry Briceland was a bitter enemy of John Allingham, and decided to kill him. He rigged a contraption that pointed a gun through the window on the left. By moving part of the riggings from a distance, the gun would go off. Mr. Allingham slept just inside this window. The charge of gunfire killed him instantly. Mr. Briceland was caught, tried, and was sent to prison for the crime.

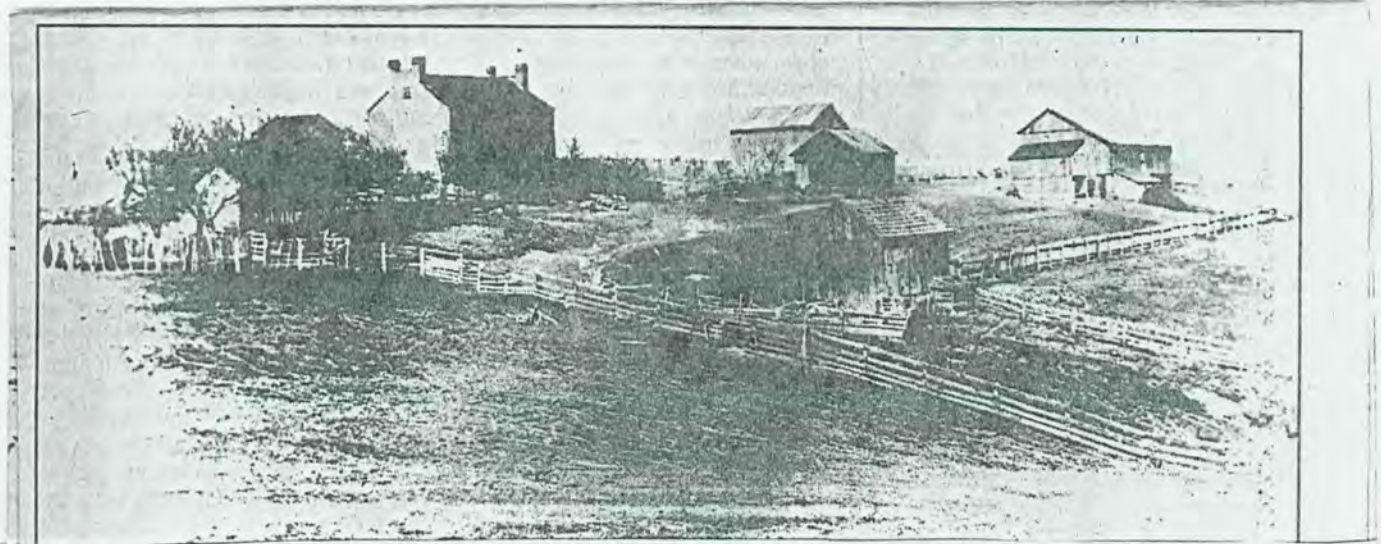
Several years later, different townspeople opened grocery stores in the building. Among them were W.K.



This row of "company" houses lined the road from the old Stroud farm to Eldersville. This is a view of the back of the houses. They were under construction when this picture was taken in the early 1920's.

A few of the houses remain, but have been remodeled and made modern, so that it is difficult to recognize that they all looked alike a few years ago.

These houses formed what is still known today as Windy Row.



This was called "the old Stroud farm", and was located on the western edge of Eldersville. Many generations have come and gone since the Stroud family lived here. It was more popularly known as the Kayatin farm. Alex Kayatin brought his family here when one daughter, Hazel Kayatin Bartanus, was four years old. "It was a hard life," she recalls. The farm was productive even though there was no modern machinery. Everything was done by hand.

When the farm was owned by Basil Stroud, it contained about 140 acres. Around 1920 Edward Shin decided to open a coal mine nearby. Thus Shintown was born. This was a cluster of houses on the hillside, with the mine as a central attraction.

It is possible that the Kayatin, or "old Stroud farm," goes back to pioneer days. As it stands now, all the corn and wheat fields and all the neatly kept yards and out-buildings have been pushed over, covered up and buried by the coal stripping operation.



The First Greathouse Castle.  
Ancestral Home of Gardner-Donovans.  
Site of present (1997) home of  
Alan Gould.

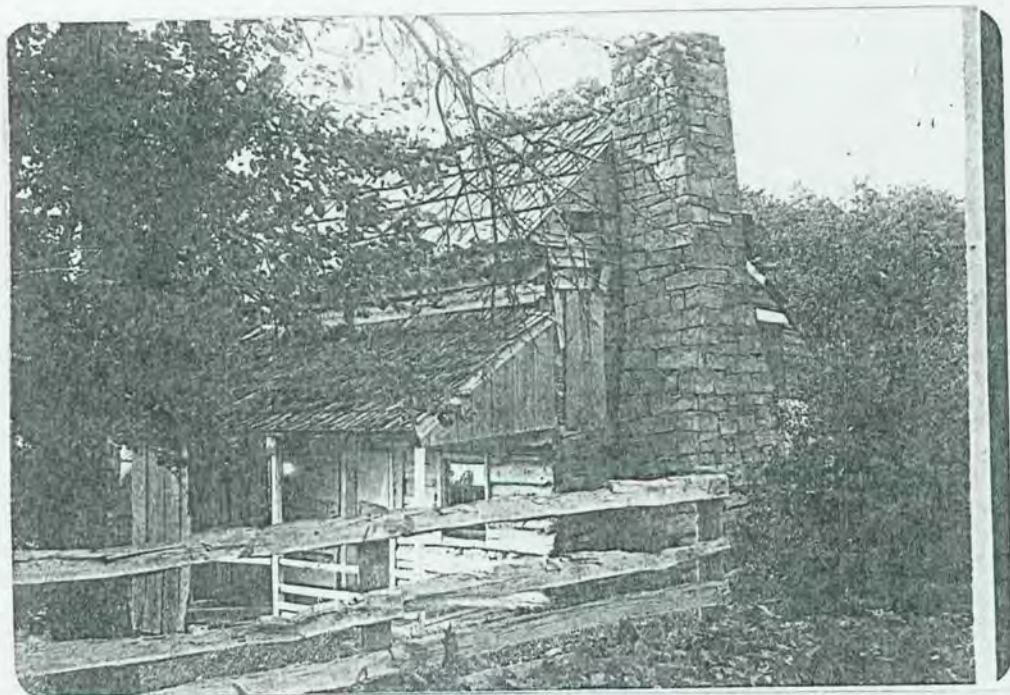


The Second Greathouse Castle.

At or near this location  
John and Elizabeth Clark Gardner  
went to house keeping. Last  
occupants prior to its demolition  
were Gaylord and Helen Weigmann Martin.



A dark-colored, chipped stone on the David Gregorski property marks the spot where the two states of Pennsylvania and West Virginia meet.



This strange looking little house was located back in a pasture field and wooded spot behind Robertson's Fruit Farm. It belonged to a little lady that was about as strange as her house!

Her name was Margaret Jane Moore. She was born on the McCarrell farm at the near end of Bethel Ridge. Her grandfather was Thomas McCarrell, whose daughter, Jane, married James Moore. Jane died when her daughter, little Margaret Jane, was born. However, she eventually grew up and became a teacher. Records say she taught for fifty years.

She was very strict in her life. She never missed church or Sunday School, and walked to the Tent Church in Brooke County every Sunday from this little house on Eldersville Road. One of her favorite things to do was to smoke her pipe!





The Robertson Fruit Farm, on Eldersville Road, had a small beginning. The Robertson family began retailing apples around 1915. They built a small roadside stand in 1925, when the "new" road was laid from the West Virginia state line to Burgettstown. Prior to that year, the road was of mud. Edward "Bud" Robertson, and his wife, Ellenrose, were the last owners and operators of the once-thriving business. Bud's father and mother, Arthur and Theo, were proprietors for many years, and his grandfather, Alvie, preceded them. This picture, taken approximately 1930, is the second building to be constructed. Bud is the little boy on crutches. He stands in front of his father and mother. Grandfather Alvie is on the right, between Bud's cousins, Bill McCaffery and Mary McCaffery Rujak. All are deceased except Bud and his cousin, Mary, and the business has been closed within the past year.



GARDNER SCHOOL, rear view, looking toward road. Now a residence across road from Robertson Fruit Farm. School closed in 1922.



This lovely house was the home of Jonathan Wright.. It stood just off what is known as Creek Lane, and was one of the old houses on the Laird farm.

The house was last occupied by John and Eva Rogers, brother and sister, who lived together in a number of homes in the Eldersville area. It was while they were occupants that the house burned to the ground. As told by those who remember, Eva had gone to a nearby neighbor to get some apples. While returning from over the hill, she saw great puffs of smoke coming from the direction of their house. Since John was an invalid most of his life, she had left him home alone and in bed. It is still a mystery as to what started the fire, but when Eva arrived home, John had managed to get out of the burning house, and was standing in the yard watching it burn.

Jonathan Wright was an ancestor of the Robertson family. This Wright family has disappeared through the years, and no family is yet in the neighborhood by the name of Rogers. Even the area where the big old house stood has been stripped for coal. Nothing is left but a flat, empty plateau. John Rogers and his long gray beard are only memories!

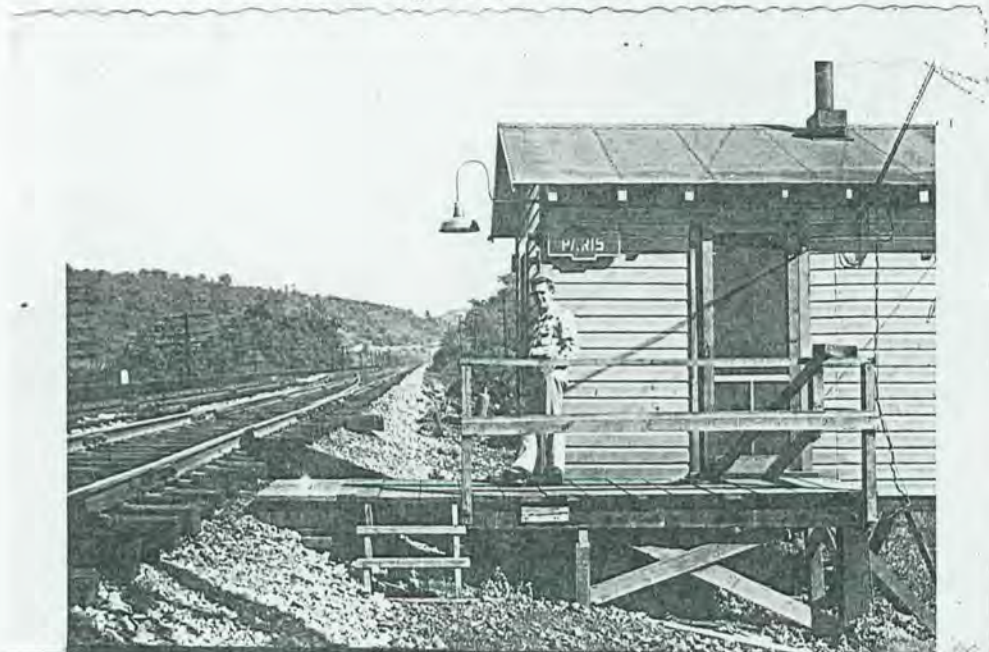


Her real name was Leona. But she was always known as "Loney" Sunderland. She lived in a small house on the big bend of Creek Lane. Loney was an unforgettable character around the Eldersville area a few years ago. She drove a horse wherever she went, usually a race horse which she drove at top speed through town! She died in 1944 and is buried across from Tucker Church.

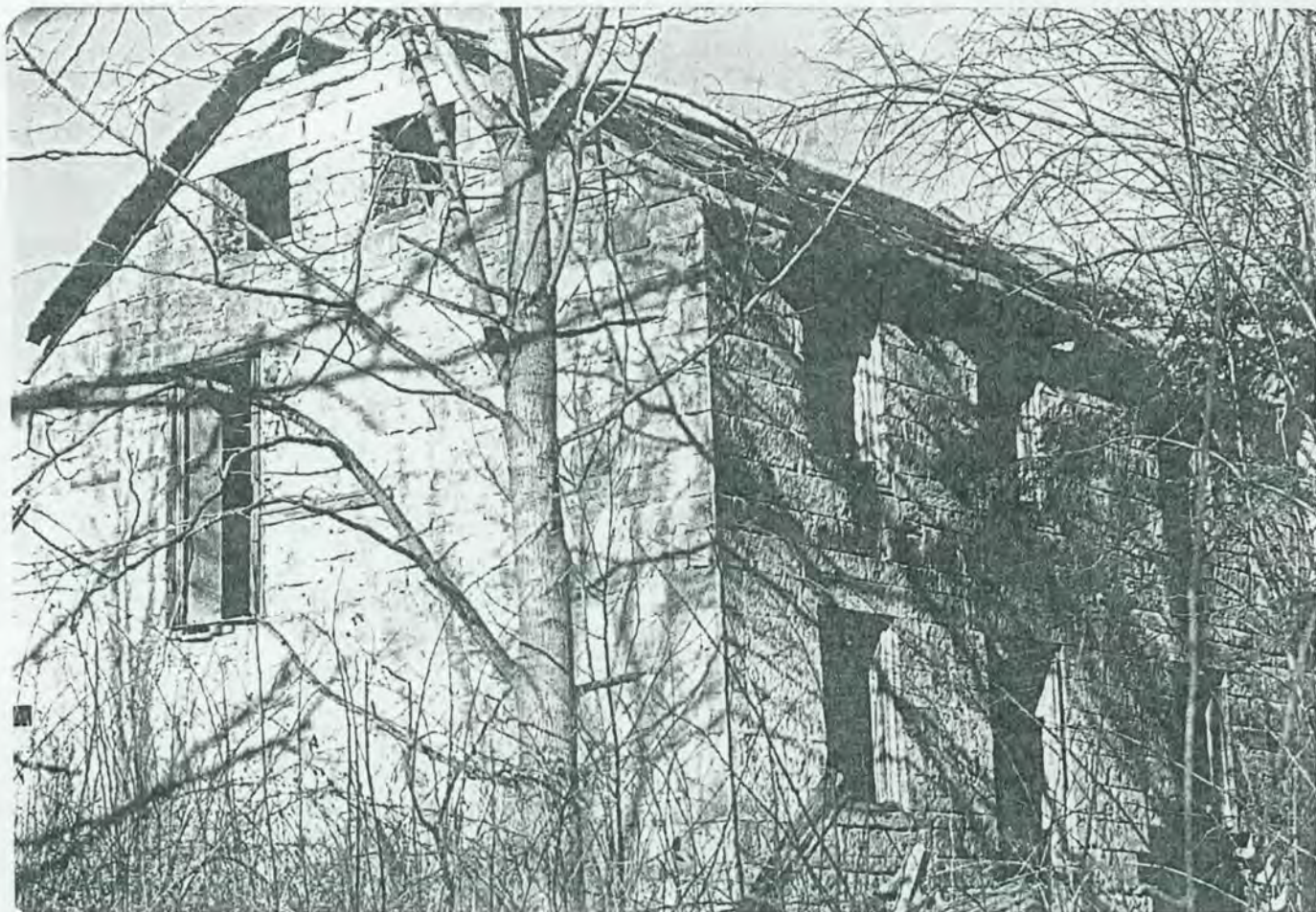




Snyder Reunion about 1913 at the John Snyder stone house on Harmon Creek near Paris Crossing on the Panhandle Railroad



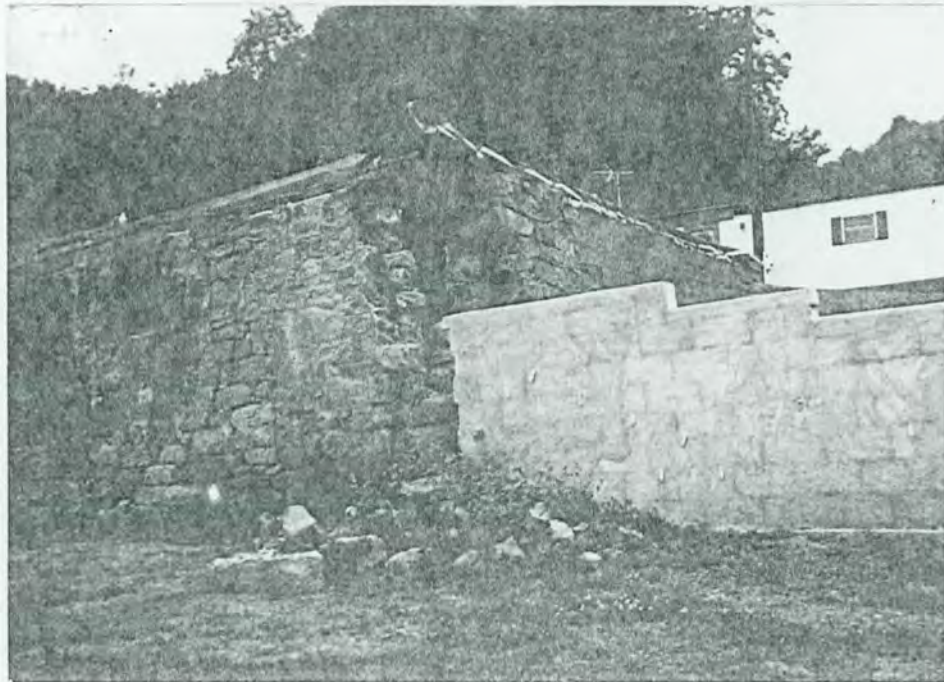
A few years ago, a tiny station stood along the tracks of the Panhandle Railroad, between Hanlin and Colliers. A road for vehicles crossed the tracks at this spot. It was known as Paris Crossing. It was believed that this little building held the secret to the murder of John Allingham, of Eldersville, in December, 1872. Some of the tools and leftover scraps of twine and pipe were discovered in this building after Mr. Allingham was killed. These scraps matched those used in the crime.



The old stone house that was the Robert Stewart homestead when he first came from Ireland was reached by a road that has been abandoned for probably over thirty years. The old road leaves the highway just beyond Orchard Hills, behind the home of Ray Haspel, and runs into the woods toward Hanlin. The house is believed to have been built by members of the Buxton family, who were stone masons and builders of stone houses. The property was known at one time as "The Sankey Farm." The Sankey family did not live here, but remained in their home in Pittsburgh, even though they owned this property.

In 1993, in order that the house would not be torn down by a bulldozing company, Dr. and Mrs. Ted McAuley began plans to save it. Since they live nearby, they carefully took the house down stone by stone and hauled it to their farm. Some day in the future, it will be rebuilt and will stand again as it did for probably one hundred thirty years or more.

The house has been the home of a number of families since it was built. Among them are the John Murchland family; and the Ratkovitch family.



The stone section of this building, left side of picture, was the lower floor of the first log house to be built on Stephenson land. The spring that attracted settlers to this land still flows from this basement. The cabin sat on the top, and was so old and rotted that it had to be torn down a few years ago. This spot is along Eldersville Road where Karch Road intersects with it. Mrs. Louise Karch, who has passed away, lived on Stephenson land across Karch Road. The Stephenson family is no longer in this area, but they left much history behind. The big fireplace that was built into this stone section has been preserved by Dr. and Mrs. Ted McAuley, and is in the cabin that they restored. David Gourley and his wife also live on Stephenson land, farther down Karch Road. A log house is still there also, but was not built by Stephensons. It is believed to have been built by Andrew Huston. Mr. and Mrs. Randy Cikovic are building a home near the stone basement shown here.



This is the McCorkle farm, the last property in Jefferson Township on the road to Cedar Grove. Iggy Yonis lives here, and does a lot of farming.



When a pioneer settler looked for a spot to build his cabin, one thing he especially tried to find was a spring of fresh flowing water. Much later, he built a springhouse, and sometimes, if he lived near a traveled road, he would make a trough where folks passing by could water their horses. This springhouse and watering trough is at the intersection of Cedar Grove and Cole School Roads. A pipe runs from the spring inside the building to a trough that at one time held lots of water for the horses. Many different families have lived on this farm, including the names Pettibon and Manson. It is now the home of Carol Burkett and her family. The watering trough is at the lower right corner.



Cole School was one of the early centers of learning in Jefferson Township. It probably came into being around 1834, when the Public Education Law was passed, meaning that every child of a certain age must go to school. Cole School could tell many stories. It could tell about the two outhouses in the back, and about some of the wonderful teachers who instilled a good education in the minds of the little ones who walked as many as three miles in snow or mud to get here every day. One room schools still bring nostalgic memories to the minds of those who attended them. Cole School closed about 1930.



The home today (1997) of Jeff, Maureen and Elizabeth Gump. This was one of the old Gillespie homes. The last of the Gillespie family to occupy it were John Gillespie and his sisters, Nannie (later Mrs. Thomas Meneely) and Miss Winifred.



The sign out front reads, "Wild Roe." This Stephenson Log House has stood along what is now known as Karch Road for more than two hundred years. The farm is owned (1997) by Mr. and Mrs. David Courley.



The White Church, on Fire Road, in Eldersville, looked like the upper picture about 1991, when members of the Jefferson Township Historical Society began to renovate it inside and out. The building was most recently the home of Mrs. Maude McClain. It has a long history, much of which is unknown.

This was the home of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Its congregation broke off from the Eldersville Church about 1844. The building is believed to have been moved from another location, probably around the year 1886. Its "other" location as recalled by 92-year-old Gaylord Martin, was, "down over the hill from the firehall."

Gayl Melvin, who was born in 1879, told Maude McClain that he "was seven years old when I saw it moved by rolling it on logs and pulled by mules."

Although Gaylord Martin was not born until 1905, he recalls that the story was handed down concerning the former location of what has since become the White Church. Pictured at left is the building as it looks today, (1997).



Schoolbus driver, Cree Stroud was the first to haul Jefferson Township pupils to school in any other way than in a wagon drawn by horses. This little blue bus became known as "the chicken coop," being very small. For the rides to school, the bus was put on this chassis. When school was out, it was taken off again and the chassis was used as a hay wagon! When it was "retired," it was really used as a coop for Mr. Stroud's chickens!







The Osburn General Merchandise store stood next to the lovely home of Agnes Murchland, on what is now Cedar Grove road, in the center of Eldersville. The store is known to have been open during the 1860's. Receipts kept since that time say that companies in Pittsburgh shipped many different kinds of goods by railroad to Hanlin Station. Deliveries would be made by horse-drawn wagon from the station to the store in Eldersville, as this was the chief mode of transportation in those early days.

One receipt is dated May, 1861, from Meanor and Harper, Wholesale Grocers. Another is from John J. O'Leary, China, Glass and Queensware, on Wood Street, in Pittsburgh, dated May 9, 1867. Still another, date missing, is from Simon Ham-burge Jewelry outlet, in Philadelphia. All of these invoices, however, have as a destination on the letterhead, "Gillespie and Osburn." It is not known today which Gillespie was associated with the Osburn firm.

The last person to "keep store" in the building was Mrs. Ann Dellenbaugh, who sold groceries as well as penny candy to her Eldersville customers as late as the 1930's. She later became the wife of Oscar Freshwater, of Brooke County, just across the line in West Virginia. The building has since been torn down.



This picture of the Agnes Murchland house, in Eldersville, was taken in July, 1914. The house stood on what is now a vacant lot on Cedar Grove Road, near the center of town. The lot was purchased about three years ago from Anthony Valenti, by the Jefferson Township Historical Society. Immediately to the left of the house was the Osborne Store, a small portion of which may be seen here.



Many people today, even those who live in Eldersville, are unaware that the village at one time believed it necessary to provide a jail. Some old-timers say that even though it contained a couple cells, it was never used.

Sam Hampson, of Navarre, Ohio, however, would like to disagree. He remembers that when he was a little boy

living "on the street where the jail was," a sheriff's car came down the road to pick up a prisoner. This was in 1927 or 1928. The reason his memory is keen on this - his dad was teaching his mother to drive a car. When she saw the sheriff's car coming, she ran off the road and into a ditch, and never drove after that!



Whether the houses were built on Windy Row, along the street in Eldersville, or down over the hill in Shintown, they were all "company" houses, and looked the same. This row was out what is now Scott Hollow Road. Many years ago it was fondly known as "Sunbonnet Alley."

This picture shows not only the homes of many of the miners for whom they were built, but the little coal sheds that were necessary to each family. Everyone kept warm through the winters with coal fires.

Scott Hollow Road, or Sunbonnet Alley, ran from the rear of the school yard down past the old Scott farm, and others.



This house is located on what is today (1997) called Wiegmann Road. For many years, the road seemed to have no name, only a number. In early days it was just a path wide enough for a team of horses and a wagon to pass through.

Several farms are located along the way. Many are so old that evidence of their age is seen on all sides. Buildings have crumbled and houses are weather-beaten. Fences are in need of repair, and weeds have choked out even the fenceposts.

The road begins at the Black Angus farm owned by the Doak family. It winds up and down hills in nearly a straight line until it reaches the West Virginia state line. It passes farms that were once known by names such as Wiegmann, Magee, Stewart, Boles, Englert, Smith, McCready, Sturgis, Leeper, Lawther and McFarland. It crosses Scott Hollow and McCready Roads, and shares that known as State Line Road for a short distance. Most of its length has been closed to any type traffic for several generations.

The house in this picture was home to a number of these families in the past. At present, it is owned and occupied by Dick and Millie Swearingen Cole.

It was at the location of the house shown here, that much history took place during the days of the Indians. It was here that a James Clarke, who came from Maryland, settled, naming this beautifully laying land, "Farm Hill." His three daughters who accompanied him, married into prominent families in what became Jefferson Township. When daughter, Elizabeth, was 25 years old, in the spring of 1782, as she was busy at the loom, she saw the Indians approaching the house. The other family members were away. She was so frightened that she ran to the loft and covered herself with flax. The Indians came in, took some meat out of the boiling pot on the fireplace, cut some web off the loom, and left. For some reason, they did not set the house afire, and Elizabeth escaped to tell her father. The search party found two of their neighbors killed a short distance away.

Elizabeth married John Gardner and the two of them moved into Greathouse Castle, where they lived out their lives, with their large family of children. She died at the age of 95.



## ELZA SCOTT

Elza Scott was without a doubt the best historian that Jefferson Township ever produced. He was a professor in the Eldersville Normal School, and a teacher not only here, but also in nearby towns.

He was a writer and a great historical speaker. He founded the Tri State Historical Society in the late 1930's. He was heard on the radio every Sunday afternoon from stations in Steubenville and Wheeling, when he told tales of the dangers from Indians,



He was born into poverty on one of the Scott farms near Bethel Church. He was a son of John Franklin, one of the nine Scott brothers. He made his own way through life, and never had any of this world's goods. He left only a legacy of history when he died.

The picture above is a side view of the old black house where he was born and raised. Nothing is left of it now.



A number of Cassidy families have lived on this farm throughout the years. It was known as the John Cassidy homestead. This was the John Cassidy, who, with his wife, Jane Osburn, founded Bethel Church. It was later that a Robert Cassidy, a descendant of John, who lived here with his wife, Effie Sutherland, raised a family of two boys and a girl. Today's generation remembers them as Fred, a teacher at one time in the Miller School; Harlan, a banker in Coraopolis, and Pearl, who married Clyde Melvin, also a teacher in the local one-room schools. Harlan's wife, Sarah, still lives, in her nineties, in Coraopolis. Fred's wife, Viola Truax Cassidy, is a resident of Meadville, and celebrated her 101st birthday last February.

The Joe Macugoski family lived here for many years, and raised several children. All of them became prominent members of the community.

When John Cassidy settled here, it was probably he who built the log cabin that was still visible a few years ago in the Macugoski garden.



First log house built in Jefferson Township, Washington County, PA. Built by Pioneer Robert McCready in 1785. Picture taken by A.D. White just prior to its demolition in 1975.



The first Melvin Log House stood just to the left of the one built later, as one would face both structures from Irish Ridge Road. No dates are available at this time as to the year either was built.



MELVIN'S SCHOOL - 1914

Located in the Kidd's Mill area near the Melvin and the Cassidy homestead farms on Irish Ridge, now State Line Road. Iva Miller taught here during the 1914-1915 term. When the water was high on Scott's Run, she rode her pupils across on her horse.

Teacher, Clyde Melvin, took his pupils to his home during lunch hour to let them hear a radio, the first such luxury in this backwoods community.



MELVIN HOMESTEAD, log house, on what was known as Irish Ridge. Clyde Melvin, who taught music in the one-room schools, was born here.



MELVIN HOMESTEAD in later years, stands above and across "Irish Ridge" from the old log house.



The Robert McCready farm was one of the most productive farms in Jefferson Township. Gently rolling hills accommodated the old horse-drawn machinery that was used for plowing, sowing and reaping.

Pasture fields were in abundance for the grazing of sheep, with the production of wool being the chief goal of many farmers of that day.

The McCready farm was especially noted for cleanliness. Grass around the buildings was always clipped, and weeds were at a minimum.

This extremely beautiful farm was sold to coal strippers in the 1940's, erasing all outward signs of a century and a half of a saga of life that could never be repeated.



The McCready house had a long veranda across its entire front. It was reached by two sets of massive stone steps. The steps on the right led to the kitchen and dining areas, and by later years, were worn down in the center from the constant "foot-traffic" in and out of the house. The steps on the left remained flat on the top. They led to the "parlor," and no one except occasional company ever entered the house through the parlor door!





Robert McCready Homestead. Pictured are Lorin and Margretta Melvin McCready, the last of the McCready family to occupy it. The log part of the house was probably the first log house built in Jefferson Township. Pioneer Robert McCready was its builder. In his journal he states that he built it not far from the Mingo Trail.



THE THORLEY farm, as seen from the Melvin homestead. Area is stripped now.



The Wargo farm has a long history. This was the McCarrell place where the teacher, Margaret Jane Moore was born in 1823, nearly 175 years ago, probably in a log cabin that preceded this fine farmhouse that still stands, at the entrance to Bethel Ridge. The Fred Dreyer family built a smaller house on the farm and have lived in it many years. Mrs. Dreyer was Helen Wargo. Mrs. Sarah Pettibon Cassidy, of Coraopolis, was born here over ninety years ago, and remembers life on the farm here.

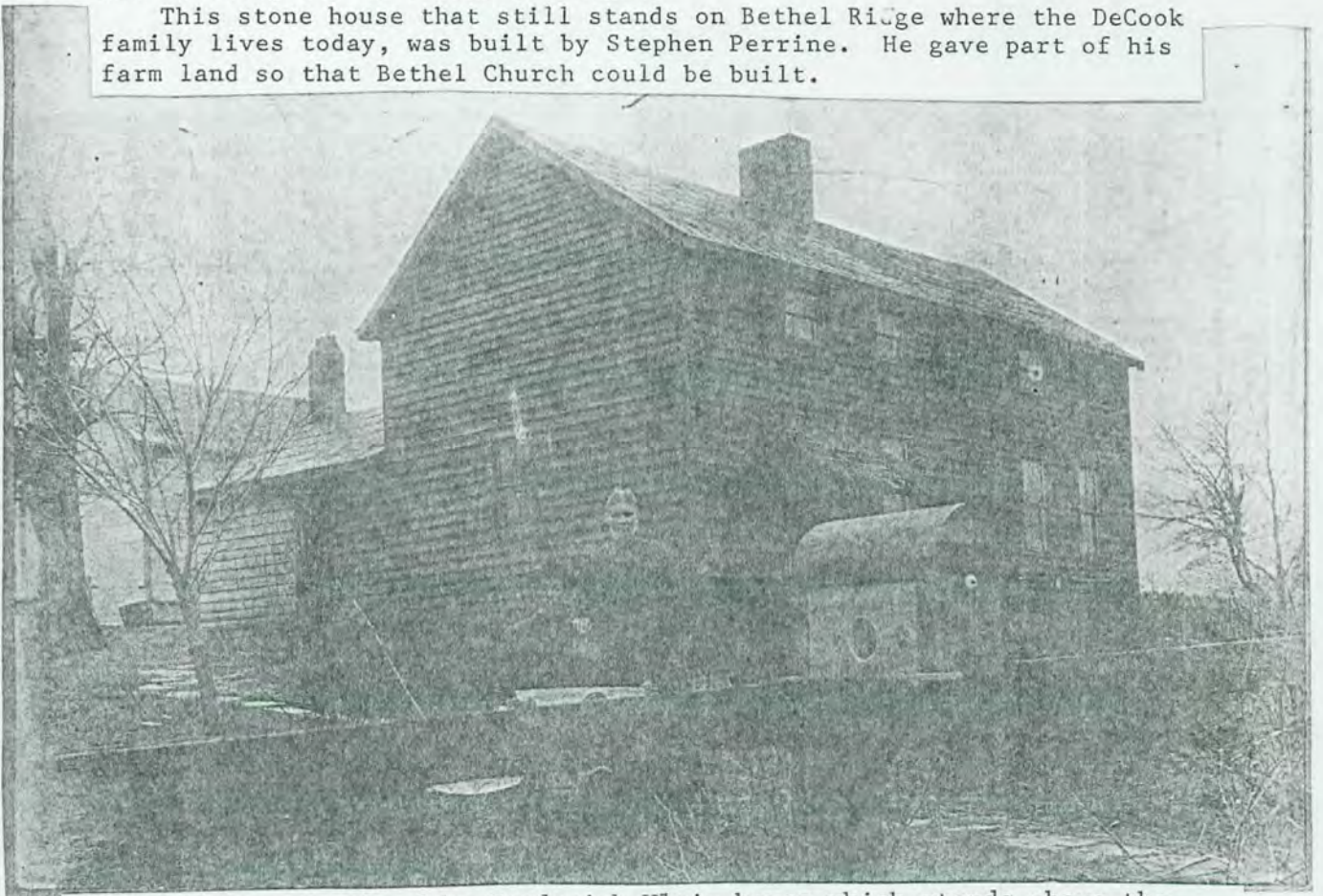


The " Old John Boles House", which was located in the valley near the Wargo farm, was occupied by the descendants of Cornelius and Nancy Buxton Boles until the death of its last Boles occupant, Henry Parkinson, known as "Park Boles". Park and his mother, Margaret Matthus Boles, lived out their lives here after the death of his father, John Lesley Boles.



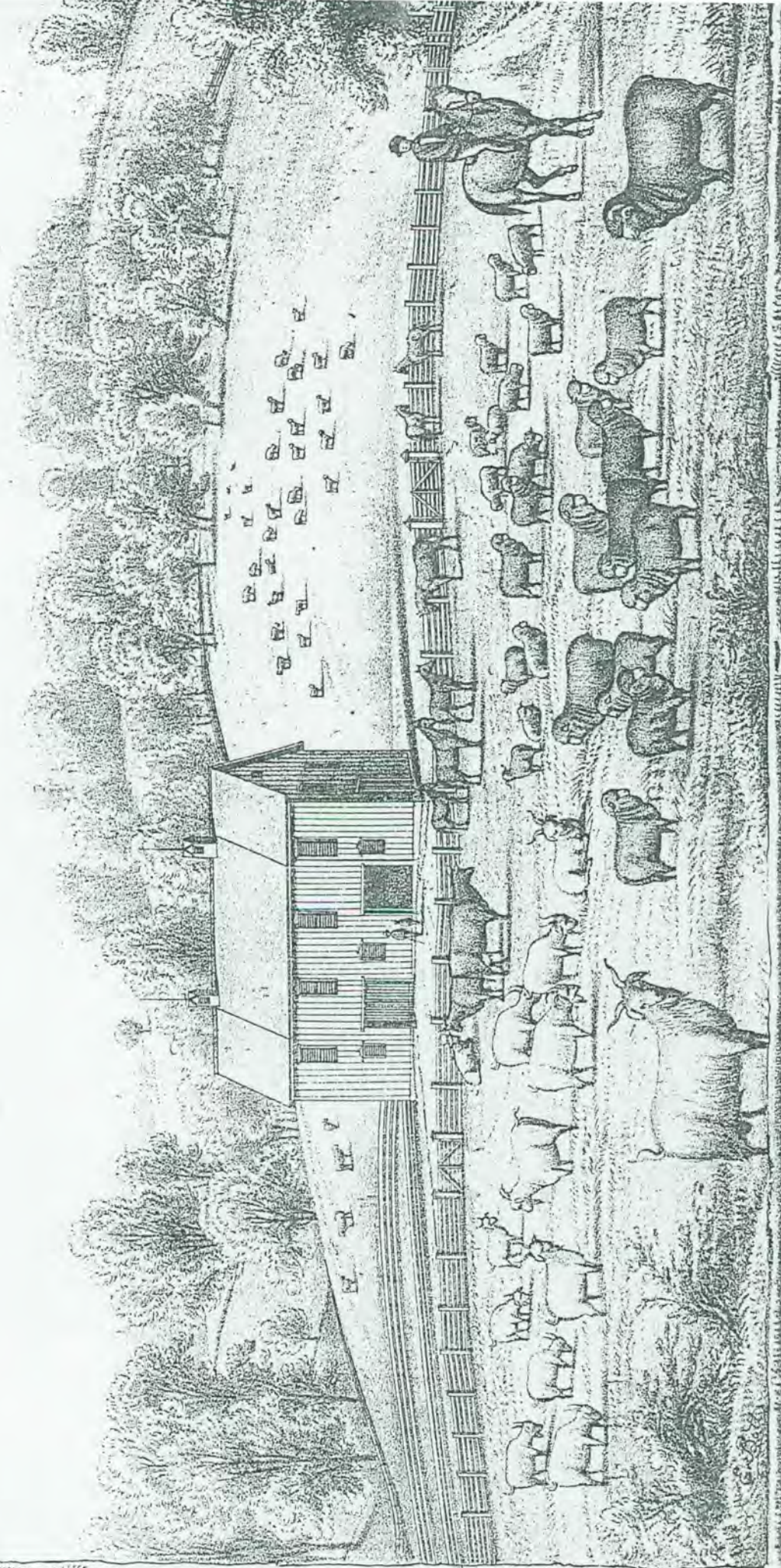
The Perrine family was very prominent in the early history of both Jefferson and Cross creek Townships. Peter Perrine was a Revolutionary War soldier, and is buried at Bethel.

This stone house that still stands on Bethel Ridge where the DeCook family lives today, was built by Stephen Perrine. He gave part of his farm land so that Bethel Church could be built.

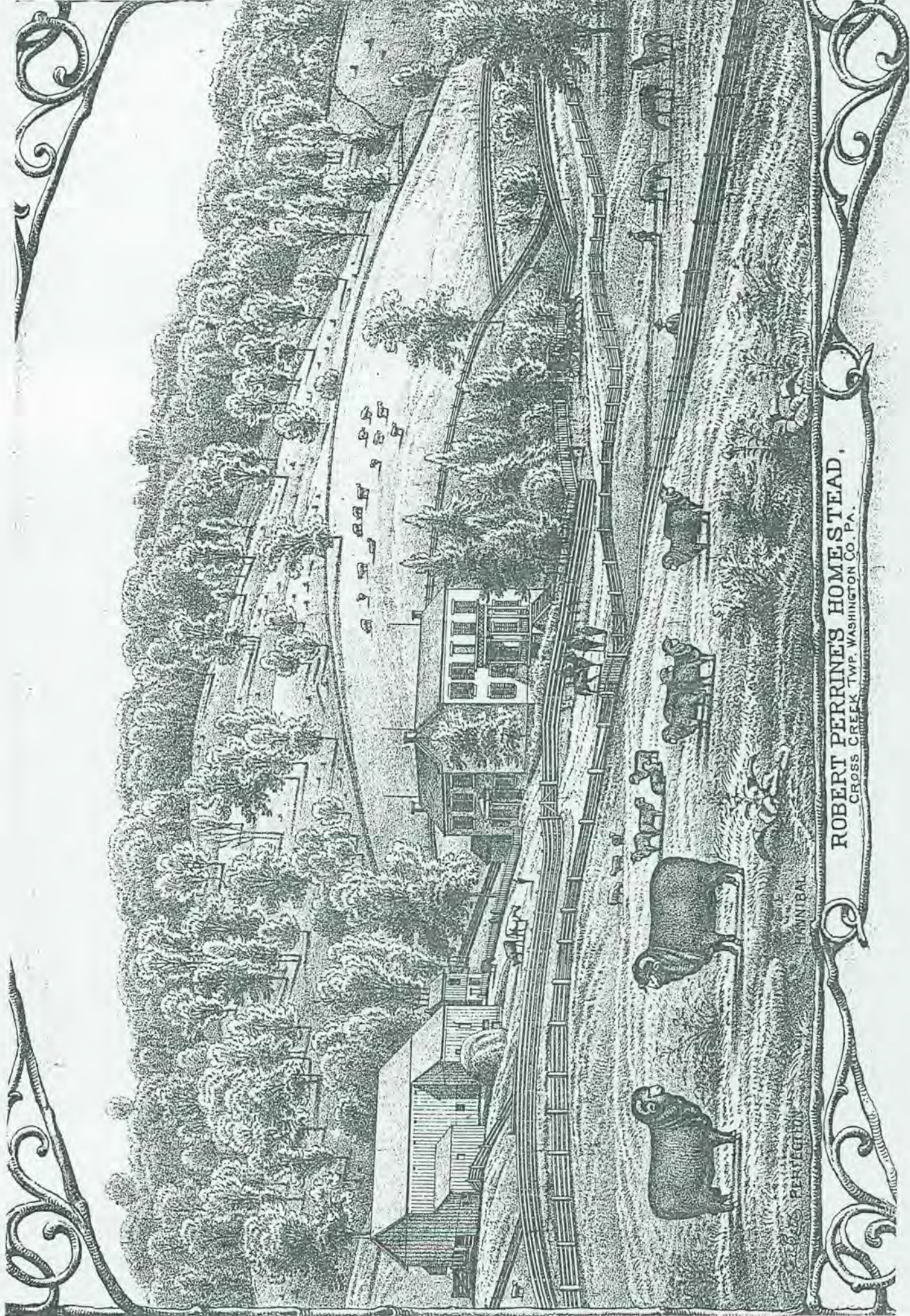


Pictured above is the John Frederick Klein house which stands above the Klein railroad tunnel at Penobscot. John and his wife, Margaret Metz Klein, along with others of their descendants are buried at Bethel. Pictured in front of the old house is their son, William and wife, Harriet Stewart who was the daughter of Robert Stewart. William was a Civil War veteran and life-long active member of the Bethel Methodist Church. After William's death in 1915, the house was owned by John R. Cassidy and his wife, Flora Lantz.

ROBERT PERRINE'S HOMESTEAD,  
CROSS CREEK TWP. WASHINGTON CO. PA.



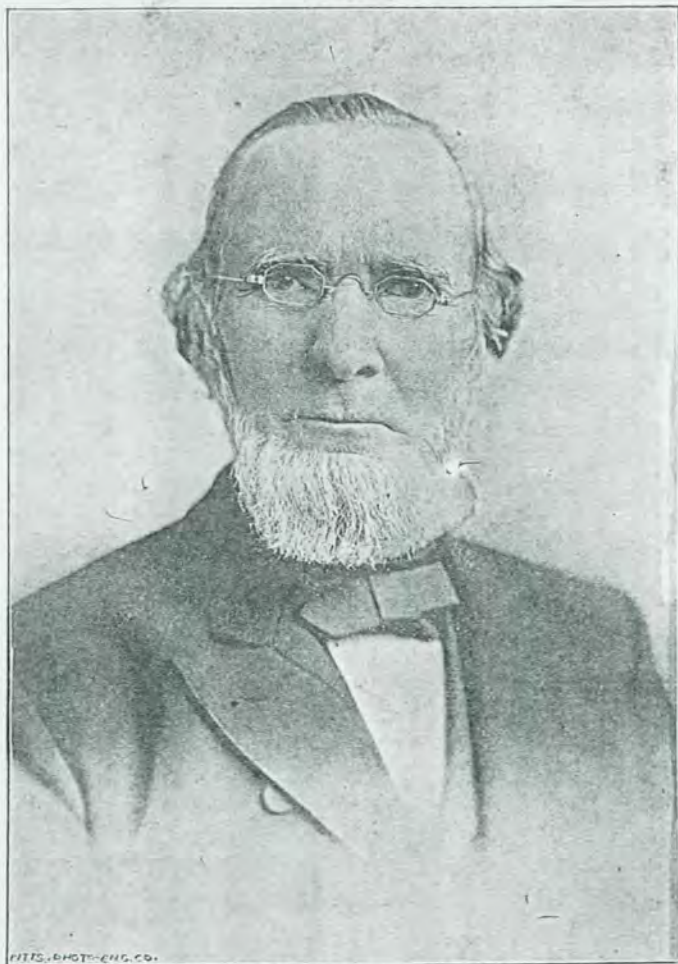
SHEEPFOLD



ROBERT PERRINE'S HOMESTEAD,  
CROSS CREEK TWP. WASHINGTON CO. PA.

PERFECTION

HAMMILL



*Yours very Truly,  
Jno. Scott*

John Scott, D.D. was born on a farm near Bethel Church in 1820 of Irish immigrant parents. He was one of the greatest Methodist ministers of his day, having preached for fifty years. He credited part of his desire to enter the ministry to the influence of George Brown, D.D. who was a circuit riding preacher at Bethel



George Brown, D.D. grew up on Brown's Island on the Ohio River near present-day Weirton. His father was Hugh Brown and his mother was a daughter of Absolam Barney, both of Baltimore County, MD. Dr. Brown was born just over the state line in Washington Co.. He became the founder of the Methodist Protestant Church when it split from the



This is a picture of the Lewis Irwin family. Several of them were born at the Shades of Death. This was a dark area in the valley below Bethel Church. The sun could scarcely get through the dense overhang of thick Hemlock trees. Even at noon, the road that passed through on the edge of a branch of Hollow Rock Run, was a scary place to be.

This picture was taken probably before 1900, on the front porch of the house where Nick and Catherine Bertovich live. The Bertovich farm joins the graveyard of Bethel Church, and was formerly a Perrine farm.

Left to right, standing: Jessie (Jay), Robert, Anna, Ida and James. Seated, center: Lewis Irwin and his wife, the former Sarah Brown. The youngest son, Bert, is shown center, front.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Irwin were the great grandparents of Robert Irwin, who lives along Cedar Grove Road, at the edge of Eldersville. At the time this picture was taken, the family had moved from the Shades of Death and were renting this farm from the Cole family.

Bert Irwin married Anna Dimit, from a prominent local family. Robert, who was the presentday Robert's grandfather, married Anna Sutherland, whose mother was Cynthia Hanlin.

Several of the older generation today remember that Jay and Anna, neither of whom married, lived together in a small house that once stood in Eldersville, near Gaylord and Helen Martin.



The Sutherland family has always been very prominent in the Shades of Death and the Bethel Church areas. Their story began in this country with John Sutherland, a native of Scotland, and a brave soldier of the Revolution. He died on January 2, 1842, at the age of ninety, and is buried in Cross Creek graveyard. His wife was Susannah Norris.

For many generations, the Sutherlands produced large families, sometimes twelve children. They always exerted their influence for good in their chosen fields.

One outstanding example was George L. Sutherland, who was born in 1864 and died in 1937. As with most of the Sutherlands who lived in Jefferson Township, the church at Bethel was his first love.

It was on a cold December day in 1909 that neighbor, Ethelyn Scott noticed clouds of smoke curling up from the horizon in the direction of the church. She ran to spread the alarm, but the church burned to the ground.

It was this George L. Sutherland who rode his horse over the countryside to so-

The twelve children of John Walker Sutherland, along with their wives, husbands and children, gathered around him for a family picture taken in the year 1896. With Mr. Sutherland is his second wife, Cynthia Hanlin Sutherland. His first wife, Eleanor Virtue Sutherland, the mother of six of the children, two boys and four girls, had passed away 26 years before this picture was taken, at the age of 33 years.

Cynthia's children, three girls and three boys, were as yet quite young and unmarried at this time.

licit funds for rebuilding the brick edifice that stands on the Bethel hill-top today.

One of the early Sutherland daughters, Christianna, married John Pogue, bringing another prominent family into the circle. Many of this family are buried in the graveyard at Bethel. Others lie in a private family cemetery on the old Pogue farm where George L. Sutherland and his wife, Dian Foster, raised their children. It is about one and one-half miles south of the church.





One of the most long-standing families associated with both the Bethel Church and Cemetery is the Cassidy family. John Cassidy was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and came to America as a young man. In Philadelphia, he married Jane Osborn and brought her with him to what is now Jefferson Township prior to 1820. Together, they were among the founders of the Bethel Methodist Church and are buried in the old graveyard. In the long row of tombstones whose inscriptions reveal the sorrows of the little family, stands the marker of Catherine Cassidy whose death is given as August 21, 1825, aged 81 years. The 1820 Census shows her living one house away from John. She is probably the mother of John and Robert whose families occupy graves reaching entirely across the width of the old graveyard. A little genealogical research reveals that eight generations of this family, beginning with Catherine and ending with Michael Joseph Slasor who died July 19, 1995 and was her 5th great-grandson, lie buried in this lot. The Cassidy family were staunch supporters of the church throughout their lives. Pictured above is the family of John Robert Cassidy and his wife, Flora Lantz Cassidy, who were workers at Bethel throughout their entire lifetimes, she having served as Sunday School Superintendent and soloist, and their daughter, Rosetta Cassidy Pugne ( pictured as a child) as organist.



The Scott Brothers of Bethel Ridge eventually owned all the farmland surrounding Bethel Church. Their parents were Charles and Margaret Cassidy Scott. Margaret was the daughter of John and Jane Osburn Cassidy, founders of Bethel Church. They are all buried in the church graveyard. One little boy, David, died at age three. Jane Ann, one of the only two girls in the family, also died young. The other sister, Fannie, is shown here with her nine brothers. Not in any particular order, they are James, Jefferson, Charles, George, Oliver, Robert, Cassidy, William and Franklin.



Cassidy Scott and his brother, Oliver, both pictured with the family, above, lived in this house to the left, at different times. Cassidy was a shoemaker. His cobbler shop stood in the yard near the house.

At one time, there was a log addition on the house, to the left. It had two stories, making the whole building much larger than the one in the picture.

Flagstone paths led to the coal house, the springhouse, the barn, and other necessary farm buildings. All of these large flat stones are now covered with the grass and the sod that have grown over them, lost forever.

Cassidy's cobbler shop also stood at one time on the southern portion of Bethel Ridge, on what has been known for many years as the home of Frank and Clarabelle (Flossie) Wells Pollack. It was later acquired by Albert and Delvin Miller, and moved to Meadowcroft Village.

Shown here is Kathryn Campbell Scott, wife of Harold Scott, son of one of the other brothers, Charles.



The Bethel Methodist Church has endured many struggles since the days in 1814 when the first little house of worship was built for the Methodist Episcopal.

A stone church was constructed about 1829. By 1874 the stones had begun to crumble, so it was decided to build a frame church. This was completed in 1876.

One night in December, 1909, the frame church caught fire. Some people thought that perhaps someone had left a candle burning. But the cause of the fire was never determined.

For several months, services were held in three country schoolhouses. George Sutherland, who was one of the prominent members of the church, went door to door to ask for funds to build a new church. People were very generous, and within one year, a new church was built. It was dedicated in December, 1910, and still stands out on the hilltop at the end of Bethel Ridge. This picture shows the frame church that was burned in 1909. Notice the large stones in the upper picture in the front yard. These were called an "upping block," and were used to help a rider "up" onto his horse! The bottom picture is a side view of the same building.

