

Local History

-by-

Alvin D. White

-1992-

- C O N T E N T S -

TALKS GIVEN BY ALVIN D WHITE ON LOCAL HISTORY

1. Mt Prospect Church - August 5 1934
2. Defenders of the Constitution - Cross Creek Church -
September 12 1931
3. Paris Church - March 30 1950
4. Upper Buffalo Church - May 3 1961
5. National Secretaries Assn - November 9 1964
6. Cross Creek Grangers - February 1 1968
7. Settlement of Mt Pleasant Township - 1976
8. Hickory Lions Club - January 6 1976
9. Avella Firemens Association - January 8 1976
10. Hickory Fireside Club October 27 1976
11. George Washington Chapter - Sons of American Revolution
& National Pike Chapter - Daughters of American Revolution
February 1 1977
12. Kiwanis Club of Washington - May 19 1977
13. Hickory Boy Scouts - March 12 1980
14. Burgettstown Library - June 7 1980
15. Lions Club of Hickory - October 3 1981 & November 2 1981
16. George Washington Chapter - Sons of American Revolution
February 12 1986 & April 18 1986
17. Hickory Womens Club & West Middletown Community Club
18. Washington County Genealogical Society May 8 1986
19. Mt Prospect Graveyard & Cemetery
20. Mt Pleasant Township Group - September 13 1988
21. Hickory Womens Club - September 1988
22. Hickory Lions Club - April 18 1989
23. 200 Years of Freedom - 1989
24. George Washington Chapter - Sons of American Revolution
February 21 1991

Paper Read at Memorial Service
August 5, 1934
Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church

The purpose of the organization, Shrines of the American Revolution, is to locate and properly mark the graves of Revolutionary soldiers and to aid communities, such as our own, in paying due respect and honor to the memory of these pioneer patriots. In this work the organization should have the support of every red-blooded American citizen.

There are I believe at least two reasons why we should engage in this work of commemoration. First, our nation has never been, and we hope under God, will never be a militaristic nation. It has however always been able to provide for its own defense in times of national peril. The citizenry of our country have always been able and willing to come to its support in such times. We therefore honor these men as citizens first and as soldiers after, realizing that their deeds on the fields of battle were only a part of their great service to the young republic.

Second, we in this community are doubly indebted to these men, for, after helping to win their independence from the oppressor they came over the mountains through an almost trackless forest and hewed for themselves and for us homes in what was then a rude wilderness region. These were not men who ran away from service in the colonial army; they stayed on the job and saw it through and, then led by the pioneering spirit, they moved westward to take another great part in the carving of a new country.

The service of these men to this community might be briefly summarized as follows: Since another speaker will briefly outline their military records, I shall present only some facts in connection with their personal history. The men to be honored today are: William Hughes, Robert Lyle, and William Parkinson.

William Hughes, the son of Rowland and Elizabeth Smiley Hughes, was born in York County PA. He saw service in the colonial army. His father died in 1779 and the following year the mother and her family removed to Mount Pleasant Township Washington County and settled on the farm which is the present home of Mrs. J.P. White and family. Besides the son William, the family consisted of at least three other sons viz. Thomas Edgar Hughes, Smilie Hughes, and James Hughes. These last three all entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church and made notable contributions to the spiritual growth of this pioneer region.

William Hughes was a tanner by trade and he built a tannery on his place which he carried on for many years. He became an elder of the Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church about 1802 and on organization of the Mt. Prospect Church in 1825, he became one of its first elders and served as such until his death in 1831. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Jefferson College from 1809 to 1817. His service in other church and community undertakings was ever of the utmost usefulness. He was recognized as a man of eminent piety and influence.

James Hughes, son of William Hughes, served as an elder in this church for 28 years from 1844 to his death in 1872. The late John P. White, who was called from our midst on May 29, 1934 and

who had served as an elder in this church for nearly 41 years was a great-grandson of William Hughes, whom we honor today. The present representatives of the descendants of William Hughes in this community are recognized as among our most substantial and useful citizens and members and supporters of this church.

Robert Lyle was born in Northampton County PA in 1754. He was a son of Robert Lyle who came to America from Ireland in 1742. After service through almost the entire period of the Revolution; he came to Washington County with other members of his family in 1784. He bought and settled on the farm just north of this church, the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. William Russell. This was his home during the remainder of his life. He soon affiliated himself with the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church and was ordained an elder therein in 1792. He later transferred his membership to the Upper Buffalo Church, where he also served as elder and on the organization of the Mt. Prospect Church he transferred his membership here and here again he was elected an elder in 1834 and so served until his death in 1843. The land for the Mt. Prospect Church and the old graveyard here was furnished by Robert Lyle. On the incorporation of the church according to law in 1861, David Lyle, son of Robert Lyle, formally deeded to the congregation the land on which this present church building stands.

Robert Lyle raised a large family of children most of whom married and removed to other communities where they and their descendants have taken their places as useful citizens and staunch supporters of Church and State. The influence of such lives as those

of William Hughes and Robert Lyle have truly reached unto their children's children for many generations.

The brief time which I have had for research on these matters has not permitted me to discover any personal history of the other man whom we honor, William Parkinson, the military record of whom will however be given just a little later.

The concluding part of this service will be held in God's Acre where we shall witness the decoration of the graves of these patriots by six little people all of whom are great-great-great-grandchildren of Robert Lyle and four of whom are also great-great-great-grandchildren of William Hughes.

These little folks are as follows: Harry McCalmont White and Nancy Lee White for William Hughes; Robert Reed White and Martha Alice White for Robert Lyle, and William Arthur Phillips and Dorothy White for William Parkinson.

We shall now follow them to the cemetery. We would like to have immediately following these little folks, all the descendants present of any of the pioneer patriots. We invite all of you to join with us in the ceremonies which we assure you will be brief.

Immediately following the placing of the decorations on the graves, we shall be addressed by Mr. E. M. Golden of Dormont who is President of the Pennsylvania Branch, Shrines of the American Revolution. He assures us the service at the cemetery will be brief.

Defenders of the Constitution

This paper prepared by A.D. White and read by him in Cross Creek Church on September 12, 1937 on occasion of Memorial service for Revolutionary veterans.

Captain John Lyle was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1752. He served in the Revolutionary army as Captain of a Company in the Second Battalion of Northampton County Militia. After the close of the War, John Lyle, his wife and two children emigrated to Washington County, PA and selected a tract of 400 acres in what is now Mt. Pleasant Township 2 miles northwest of Hickory. Part of this tract is still owned and occupied by his great grandson, J. Edwin Lyle. John Lyle lived on this farm for 42 years and is buried in the old Cross Creek graveyard.

John Lyle's brother, Robert Lyle, likewise served in the Revolutionary Army, having been a private and sergeant in the company commanded by his brother John. He likewise journeyed to Washington County and settled a tract of land adjoining that of his brother, this being the land now owned in part by William Russell near Mt. Prospect Church. Robert Lyle lived on that farm for 59 years. His death occurred in 1843 and his body lies buried in the Mt. Prospect cemetery. Robert Lyle served as ruling elder of Cross Creek Church, later of Upper Buffalo Church and still later after the organization of Mt. Prospect Church, he served as elder in that congregation until his death, his total service in that capacity having extended over a period of more than fifty years.

Aaron Lyle, the illustrious brother of John and Robert Lyle enlisted in the Revolutionary Army when he was only 16 years old.

He joined the soldiers of freedom at the Flying Camp, and took part in the battles of Ft. Washington and Long Island where he narrowly escaped. His hatred of tyranny and oppression was so intense as to carry him through six years of fighting for independence. The rough military life of a Revolutionary soldier served as a training school for the stern life of a frontiersman which followed the close of the War, for Aaron Lyle, his wife and one child had also emigrated to land near that of his brother, John, on the west, the land known in later years as the William Rankin farm in Mt. Pleasant Township. Six years later, Aaron Lyle bought 350 acres of land in Cross Creek Township, the farm now known as the Gault farm near Nosco School house. Here he made his home until his death in 1826. He was buried in the old Cross Creek graveyard.

Aaron Lyle was one of the outstanding citizens of his time in Washington County. From 1797 to 1806 he served continuously in the Pennsylvania legislature. From 1806 to 1817, in the Congress of the United States as representative from the District comprising Washington County. This period was during the Second War with Great Britain, commonly known as the War of 1812. It goes almost without saying that Aaron Lyle's votes in Congress were consistently in accord with resisting the aggression of Great Britain. The last eight years of his life were spent on his farm, where he devoted himself to the duties of his home, the betterment of his farm, and to being a good citizen in his home community. Aaron Lyle was a member of Cross Creek Church, and his descendants to the present time have always taken a prominent part in the affairs of the congregation.

A fourth brother of John, Robert, and Aaron Lyle, viz: David Lyle, lies buried in the old Cross Creek graveyard. Quoting James Simpson's History of the Graveyard: "He was a teamster in the War of the Revolution under General Anthony Wayne, and saw hard service, which caused his death at an early age." David Lyle died in 1791 at the age of 30 years.

And still another brother, viz: Moses Lyle, also served in the colonial army. He did not emigrate to the Cross Creek Community but lived and died near New Brunswick NJ. Here we have five sons in one family who served their country in the dark days of the American Revolution. I am wondering if any other family of the Washington County veterans of the Revolution have a comparable record.

Col. Samuel Rea, a neighbor of the Lyle family in Northampton County entered the Revolutionary army as a private in Captain John Wilson's Company, Sixth Battalion, Northampton County Militia in 1776; later he was made colonel of the First Battalion in 1781. Col. Rea did not migrate to Washington County but his son, Squire William Rea settled land still held in part by the Rea family in the southern part of Cross Creek Township. Rea's oldest daughter, Sarah Rea, married Robert Lyle, above mentioned. These children of Col. Rea were prominent residents of Washington County for many years and their descendants have always taken a prominent part in civic and religious affairs in this and other communities where they have resided.

Joseph Reed was a native of York County, Pennsylvania. He was a son-in-law of Col. Joseph Reed of Revolutionary fame. The son-in-

law according to James Simpson "saw hard service fighting for the liberty of his country from the yoke of Great Britain." In 1779, when Rev. Joseph Smith was planning to move to Cross Creek to become the first pastor of Cross Creek Church this Joseph Reed, the son-in-law was sent to move the family of Rev. Smith from York County to Cross Creek. This difficult task was successfully accomplished and at a later time, Joseph Reed came to live in this locality and spent the rest of his life here. His death occurred in 1832 at the age of 75 years. He was one of those whose memory we honor today.

James Cooke was born in Donegal Township, Lancaster County, PA, and he served in the Lancaster County Militia in the Revolutionary Army. After the war was over, James Cooke and his family removed to Smith Township Washington County and settled a large tract of land in the valley, adjoining to the east the present mining village of Atlasburg. Much of this land is still owned and occupied by descendants of this pioneer soldier.

William Patterson, a native of Little Britain Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. He was a private in Captain Thomas Whiteside's Company, Col. Thomas Porter's Battalion of Lancaster County Militia, and was mustered into service August 13, 1776. After a service of perhaps two years, William Patterson came to Washington County, took up land and settled in Cross Creek Township. Here according to Simpson's History: "he defended his home from the savages still 1783." In 1794 William Patterson built the Patterson Stone House till owned and occupied by his great-great-grandchildren. Here his death occurred in 1818 in the 86th year of his age and he is buried in

the old Cross Creek graveyard. The Patterson descendants have always been prominently identified with the civic and religious welfare of this and many other communities.

Robert McCready (paraphrasing Simpson's history) volunteered in the army of the Revolution in the Flying Camp, where he saw hard service for his Country's cause during that memorable year. In 1777 he came to Western Pennsylvania and settled on what is still known as the old McCready farm in Jefferson Township, Washington County. Here he also had to defend his home from the savages until 1783. In 1779 he picked the site and drove the stake for the Church at Cross Creek and he said in his autobiography that he helped to clear and fence the graveyard where his body now lies. For over 50 years he was a ruling elder in Cross Creek Church and for the same period of time, he served as a justice of the peace. He also served for a short time in a campaign in the War of 1812. He was known as "the praying McCready" and in the minutes of session at his death is the record: "he descended to the grave loved, respected, and lamented by the whole congregation." The McCreadys have always been prominent in the communities where they have lived. A great-grandson of Robert McCready occupies a part of the old McCready farm at the present time.

Of the other Revolutionary veterans, whose memory we honor today, I have at the present time little or no information. The descendants of some of these, I know or have met, but to the military service and subsequent personal history of these men, I have so little information that it would be useless to attempt an evaluation in this paper. However, I feel sure that if the facts were

reviewed, they would reveal not only honorable service on the field of battle, but also what is just as important distinctly valuable service as citizens of this community in the early days.

One remarkable fact about the 22 men on this Revolutionary roster is their longevity. Only four of the number died under 70 years of age; two lived to the age of 100 years and average age of death of the 22 men was 77 years. Surely they were providentially spared for long lives of usefulness here. As we honor their memory today, would it not be wise to speculate on their value to this church and to the community in general?

Several of these veterans came west before the close of the War, surely not to escape from military service, for the hardships of the frontier were certainly as bitter as those of army life. Here they were continually or periodically disturbed by raids by the savages, and life at best was not easy. Even after the war, it is difficult to understand why these men and their families would leave the settled communities of Northampton County or Lancaster County or other eastern sections, and endure the rigors of a trip over the mountains to reach a wilderness such as this was in 1783. Perhaps the Scotch-Irish pioneering spirit is the best explanation which can be offered, and happy are we today, because our ancestors did come here, and established their homes, their churches and their schools, which are a goodly heritage for us their children of the fourth, fifth, and succeeding generations.

Just as the Declaration of Independence did not make this country free from Great Britain until these men had won their freedom in a baptism of blood in the Revolutionary War, so the

formation of the Constitution in 1787 did not make of the thirteen states a united nation, until the ideals of that constitution were translated into effective action by such men of our communities as those who served our country on the field of battle, and then when victory and freedom were won, came home to continue their service for their country by building communities such as the Cross Creek community has always been.

It has been such service as that of Aaron Lyle on the floor of Congress, and of Robert McCready and William Patterson and all these other noble men each in their own place in their communities which have made our nation great. Do not their records challenge each of us to carry on their work as their descendants have always done here, that our nation may continue to be great for all time to come? Do not the problems of the present day offer us as great an opportunity to be defenders of the Constitution as did the problems which confronted our honored ancestors a century and a half ago. We can honor them best, not by lip-service here, but by consecrated service wherever our duty calls us.

A.D. White - Address to Men's Meeting at Paris Church on March 30, 1950

Stories - Mow and the Black Eye

Gen. Eisenhower's Cow Story

Al. Smith's Campaign Story

Reference to the History of the Paris Church;

Rev. Elisha McCurdy - began pastorate in 1799

Present Church building erected in 1857

Remodeled in 1940 - the annex 30x52 feet erected

Dr. Biddle's zeal in the work of this church

"The people had a mind to work and everything was cared for."

Men's Organizations are a relatively new thing in our Churches. The ladies have had their large active organization. The missionary efforts in which the churches of this very area had such an important part in their beginning have been taken up by our Women's Missionary Societies in our Presbyterian Churches. We seldom hear of a Men's Missionary Society. Also our Ladies Aid Societies and similar organizations have been rendering noble service in many congregations; but for the most part, our men have not been organized.

The Why of Men's Organizations

I shall not endeavor to interpret to you the conditions and needs of our world today. Much has been said and much has been written about present world conditions. Many volumes have been compiled setting forth the progress of mankind through the ages of our existence as a race. With the general tenor of these writings most of us are familiar. We know that our material progress, especially over the past few years, has been very rapid, and here in America we have come to a very high attainment in scientific process and material wealth. Evidence of this progress greet us on every hand.

To take only one example: How traveling has improved in this very area over the past 150 years. Reference in the History of the Mill Creek Presbyterian Church. When the Reverend George M. Scott accepted the call to that Church in 1799, he lived in Northampton County Pennsylvania. He left this on July 1, 1799 and 20 days later arrival by wagon he preached at Mill Creek Meeting house to a large audience. Now of course Rev. Scott did some visiting along the progress of his journey, but even so he made the trip across Pennsylvania about as rapidly as the conditions of that day would permit. Compare that with a young minister who moved a year or two ago from a parish in Western New Jersey to a charge in Western Pennsylvania, who one day loaded his household effects on to a moving van which started west the same evening. The next morning the minister and his family started west in their motor car, drove across Pennsylvania, stayed overnight with friends here in Washington County and the next morning drove to their new home, where they found their furniture already delivered, their rugs on the

floor, curtains on the windows and their electric range already set up ready to cook their first meal in their new house less than 48 hours after they had left their home in Jersey. All these gradations of progress in the means of travel from 1799 to 1950 are familiar to us all. Example in December 1861 of Rev. J.R. Thompson, then pastor of Hickory U.P. Church came to Paris to assist Rev. J.C. Campbell, pastor of the U.P. Church here in the Communion services. He left Hickory early on Saturday morning and rode on horseback to Paris consuming most of the day on that trip riding through very severe weather and bad roads to reach this place. Tonight, if all goes well with me after leaving this place, I shall ride home in comfort in a heated car, with radio entertainment all the way if I choose and I should be in my own home within little more than half hour after leaving here.

These examples are typical of how fast we are going in these times. But let us stop and think: How far have we really come? Where are we really going? Where will we be when we get there? Along with our material progress and our speedy way of doing things and all the convenience of modern living, what has been our progress in spiritual matters? That is a question which it behooves each of us to ponder carefully, and if we answer it faithfully and truthfully, we probably will realize that here is one field of endeavor in which we are sadly lacking. Yes, we have probably failed to keep up with our other progress when it comes to affairs of the Spirit.

I don't intend to take this occasion to deplore the shortcomings of this present day. It will do us no good whatever to wish for a return to the so called "good old times." Most of you men, at least

those who are as old or nearly as old as I am, have traveled to such meetings as this one tonight by horseback, have tied our mount up to a hitching post, blanketed it well, I hope, and left it stand there and shiver until we were ready to go home, and then have ridden for miles through the dark and cold and storm to reach our home late at night, often times I suppose nearly frozen, or at least we would so remark. But I daresay, anyone who has come here tonight by motor car, prefers to go home the same way. "Backward turn backward, O Time in your flight." No that is not our prayer or our purpose tonight.

Is it not rather our responsibility as men of the Church or Christ of this mid-twentieth century to make the most of these excellent times in which we live, and do all we can to bring ourselves and our churches and all that is concerned with our spiritual well-being up-to-date and alongside these other types of progress which we have made in almost every other line of endeavor. It will take a much better analyst than I to tell you what is wrong with us spiritually, or why we have probably lagged in spiritual progress over the years. But I am going to venture one guess and to suggest one solution.

We have learned in educational matters, where we believe we have made some progress, that education in the abstract is becoming more and more out of date, and that we must turn to more concrete and more meaningful procedures if we are going to properly educate our children for these times. As instances of this; note our audiovisual materials and methods for class room instruction, our field trips and our laboratory experiments, our class room displays and collections. We believe we can educate our children more

efficiently by making use of methods and procedures which will appeal to as many as possible of the child's senses, seeing and hearing, feeling and even smelling, etc. Example of the Canonsburg Geog. Teacher demonstrating before Geog. Study Group.

And so I have been wondering if in the field of religion, we haven't been a bit too abstract in our methods with the result that many people have grown cold and indifferent and uninterested even in their own spiritual well-being. Now I don't mean to take away from our religion those things which must exist only in the abstract. We must still think and study and use our heads a bit about this matter of religion. No, I don't mean to disregard or take away those concepts on which our religion is based, but I do suggest that our Christianity can be made more practical and more meaningful for nearly every person in our churches today. It is my guess that by and large our efficiency as Christians is not nearly 100% so I am going to suggest as an ideal for our Christian living that we strive to reach a much higher efficiency as Christians in our Church and in our Community, that we try to translate the love of God into our love for all mankind, and that we try to serve each other just as Christ, our Master, came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, to all those with whom he came into contact.

**Talk to a Youth Group at
Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church
May 3, 1961**

During recent months it has been my privilege to read a number of old scrapbooks containing news clippings, some of which are as many as 80 or 90 years old. Among these have been the accounts of the deaths of many prominent men and women of that period of time; the 1870's and 1890's etc. These clippings were usually not the brief resume of the life and notice of death of the present day obituary notice: Usually they consisted of several paragraphs of interesting history of the subject of the sketch and also of the family to which he or she belonged.

Among these clippings I found the account of the death of a member of this Church. This man died in 1883, and if I mentioned his name, you would know the family, at least, to which he belonged. The part of this death account which intrigued me the most was this which I want to read to you now.

"But the highest aim and honor of our deceased friend were seen in his life as a Christian. In early manhood he professed his faith in Christ and entered into the communion of the church of his fathers, and so continued with unabated ardor until God took him to his Church on high. He was a constant attendant upon the services of the Lord's House, a habitual student of the Scripture, fond of religious conversation, consistent in his deportment, the leader of his household at the daily morning and evening altar, a friend of the ministry, and a liberal supporter of the enterprises of the Church. He died as he had lived, in the peace of the gospel, and was followed to the Grave by a large company of sincere Mourners, a majority of whom had been wont to sit with him at the communion table."

This tribute was written not by his own pastor because the pulpit here was vacant at the time of his death, but it was the tribute by Dr. James I. Brownson of the 1st Church of Washington who conducted the funeral service.

I submit to you, this was a valuable man to the Upper Buffalo Church. Truly, there were giants in those days, and I present this account of the Christian life of this good man as something which we of the present day might well emulate.

What are the challenges to a Christian of the present day? What does our Church require of us? Is there any need of the Church which we in our Christian lives can help fulfill? My answer is that the Church needs us, and we need the Church today more than at any time in the history of the world. It is never safe to rely too much upon superlatives to impress our point in speaking of crises in our national life.

Our forefathers of early pioneer times here had critical situations to face when they had to fight against the crafty Indians, for instance, or a hundred years ago when men had to leave this community by the dozens to fight for the Union of our beloved country, there was for them an intensely critical situation which they had to meet, but now, what of our present situation? We are confronted with a situation where not only is our very physical existence in imminent peril, but if we survive physically, then we are threatened by the imposition upon us of ideologies which strive to take away from us every vestige of spiritual freedom which we still enjoy. It is not my intention to try to frighten anyone, I would rather be an informant than an alarmist.

And not only are we threatened by these perils from without our country, but I tell you I greatly fear for our county from within. God grant that we may withstand these forces from without, and if our country is not rotten at the core we may be able to do so. But a time of testing is coming, and the consequences may be very grave for every one of us.

At a time like this when the forces of evil are so rampant in our land, what is the average church member to do. For every movement which will extent these evils, and abundance of money immediately starts to flow to develop them to the fullest extent. The liquor and beer traffic which boasts openly of its staggering growth from year to year. Organized crime in all its aspects increasing all around us; O maybe not in your immediate community or in mine, but we don't have to go far away these days to find it in many forms. And gambling with all its attendant vices knocking on our very doors, and being offered to us as a cure for all our economic ills. These agencies are flourishing to the utmost, but if we need money for schools or churches or libraries or any other agency for the betterment of mankind, we have a hard time getting what is needed.

I tell you it is time the Christian people of America wake up and get together and assert themselves and let the world know what they stand for. If it takes a national crises to bring us to our senses, let's get set for it and have it over with and then maybe we will know our strength as Christian people, and then fully realize that Christianity is a virile way of life, and we can show the world our true colors and not be ashamed of it at all.

Each one of us as a Church member has duties to perform. First of these I believe is regular attendance at our services of worship and study in the Church and in the Sunday School. We usually have an hour of each in these services each week. This hour alone is not sufficient of course, since we must or should also have our periods of devotion and study in the home as well. But an hour in the study of God's work in the Bible School, or an hour of worshipping God in the Church service is so little time for these important services. And surely, with so little time, it behooves each one to be prompt and punctual in attendance at every service. If you are a teacher and your class has to wait for you to come each Sunday morning, each one of those scholars has lost something by your being tardy, or if you are a member of a class and come in late you cannot possibly get all the teachings of the lesson. So I say regular and punctual attendance is of first importance.

And second - diligence in study. This is something which we are obliged to do in our homes. Again, whether teacher or pupil will benefit from the lesson cannot be obtained unless we have given attention to our study and adequately prepare ourselves for the lesson of the day. Usually we are quite exacting about our appearance when we are getting ready for church and Sunday School. It is an old-fashioned idea of course, but if we are not to become a nation of spiritual illiterates, we have got to study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed.

I will pass over the matter of giving to the Church, since I do not wish to talk about money, except to remark in passing that most people seem to have money for everything else these days, so why can they not divert some of it to the uses of the Church? They can, I think, if they will.

But another important phase of Stewardship which must not be overlooked is that of giving of our time to the Church. Again, an hour in Sunday School or an hour in Church once a week is not enough. If

our churches are to flourish as they should, there is need for every one to use his talents of money and time for the advancement of God's kingdom. Just what use of your time you devote to your church should depend to some extent upon your abilities. Usually, we underestimate our own abilities and it is best therefore to depend upon someone else to guide us toward fulfilling the need. It is likely that your pastor or your Sunday School Superintendent needs help and usually he knows your abilities well enough to know where you will fit into the picture. Be ready to answer that call.

I don't think very many strive in his daily living to qualify for a flowery death notice to be read after they are gone, but if we are faithful each day to Christ and his Church, when we lay down our implements here on Earth, if we can only receive the well done of the master of all life, that is what counts after all.

**Showing Slides on Pennsylvania
to Washington Chapter
National Secretaries Association
November 9, 1964**

Madam Chairman - Ladies of the Association. I am grateful for a generous introduction. I hope that what Helen has said about me is all true. I think she is a thoroughly honest person, and one who wouldn't disillusion you for the world. When I asked her what sort of an audience I would have this evening, she was very frank and honest: when she said there would be about thirty charming young women whose average age I believe is about 23 years, and so as she doesn't wish to disillusion you. I believe she has been equally honest with me. Sometimes my audiences say that I get carried away with my subject: I fear this evening that I am likely to get carried away with my audience - at least there is a danger of it.

Some years ago the Pennsylvania State Publicity Commission published a booklet whose title was: Pennsylvania Has Everything. This booklet by means of pictures and short descriptions outlined in a very attractive manner, most of the many places for which our State is famous. Its great cities, its smaller towns, its beautiful rivers, its rugged mountains, its places of interest of many kinds.

After reading that booklet, and since we had not then traveled widely in the State, and since we haven't been able to go to very many places farther away, we have tried to explore some of this Everything which Pennsylvania is supposed to have. We have visited many of these places, not all of them as yet, and during recent years, I have been trying to capture with the lens of my camera some of the

beauties and wonders of the Great Keystone State. My collection of colored pictures is far from complete, and even if it were, time would not permit my showing you all that Pennsylvania really has. But in the time allotted to me on this program, I want to share with you some of my pictures of a few parts of Pennsylvania. Most of these are my own pictures. I have supplemented my own collection in a few places with commercial slides appropriate to the region in question.

We shall begin with these scenes on the Ohio River in Beaver County near Shippingport, just inside the state line from West Virginia and Ohio. Since there are great stretches of our rivers when no bridges cross it is necessary at such places to have ferries to enable traffic to cross streams: This is the old Smith's Ferry at this point on the Ohio, and since there is no bridge between Chester WV and Rochester PA this ferry has been very useful to those who must cross here. Until quite recently it has been in operation, but there was a collision between the ferry boat and a coal barge here in a fog last winter and I believe the ferry has been forced to suspend operations. As you can see a new bridge is being constructed here, and when it is there will be no further need for the ferry. This picture is looking up stream from the ferry boat in the middle of the stream, and it is typical of the beauty which one finds so frequently along the streams of Pennsylvania. This is a factory located, I believe, at Kobuta on the south bank of the river near the same place.

Pittsburgh is noted both for historic importance and for at least some scenic beauty. Most historic of all perhaps is the Block House erected in 1764, just two hundred years ago a part of the

British fortifications of Fort Pitt. It is located in about the center of the new Point Park which is now being developed in Pittsburgh. This building has withstood the ravages of time and also the efforts of zealous modernists who would tear it down, but due to the zeal of the DAR it will be retained and become a part, the really historic part of the new Park.

If one wishes to see Pittsburgh at a glance, take a ride on the Monongahela incline, up the side of Mt. Washington. The ride is a thrill and when you reach the top, if the air is clear, and it usually is anymore, you can see all of the Golden Triangle, much of the North and South Sides, as well as the so called Hill Section of Pittsburgh. These scenes show in succession: The Point, Mid-town, Smithfield Bridge section And the Hill with the new Civic Arena. I suppose you have visited the Arena and are familiar with its stupendous "lay out" including its retractable roof - and here are 2 views of the Golden Triangle after night. Passing on to the Oakland Section, the 42 story School house, the Cathedral of Learning - on the same campus, the beautiful Heinz Chapel - and three other important buildings in the background - the spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Mellon Institute, and the Board of Education Building.

This time of year, or in the spring, one must attend the Flower Show at Phipps Conservatory. These are Easter time pictures, taken 3 or 4 years ago - most of these are the beautiful pouch flower of *Calceolaria*, one of my favorites, and one which endures longer than many, for these pictures were taken after the main show was over - Mrs. White, our daughter Peggy and son-in-law Harry - he was looking for the birds over head.

This is a typical scene in rural Butler County near Evans City - This marker at Brady's Bend mentions the Indian Chief Bald Eagle. I sometimes tell folks that that is Bald Eagle's squaw, which of course makes me, Bald Eagle - these scenes of the river at Brady's Bend always enchant me. This scene is on the Clarion River - near the town of Clarion, seat of the Teacher's College.

The fall foliage color in the forests near Titusville, PA. And here is the replica of the Drake Oil Well, drilled on Oil Creek in 1859, 105 years ago. A fine museum and park here help to memorialize the beginning of the American oil industry at this place.

This is a mountainside near Youngsville in Warren County. And the city of Warren is a beautiful place, the gateway to the Allegheny National Forest - now important for the Great dam at Kinzoa on the Allegheny River above Warren.

These pictures appear to have been taken in bright moonlight. I was trying to get the color of the leaves on the mountainside, but didn't get much color except the houses. (Guess I needed a filter on my camera lens.)

This is the Kinzoa area to be flooded by the new dam - the island in the river - lower corner of the same island, same general area, mountainside - same area from Jake's Rocks.

This shows an early stage in construction of the dam - not the Great Pyramid - the Giant Cranes which were used - looking up river from the dam - clearing the sides of the channel - stoning the side of the dam and the bottom of the channel - charts at the site - Devil's Elbow - Crozier Bus.

Rimrock Overlook - Valley of Kinzoa Creek.

Going farther east in to Troga County: The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania - Pine Creek - looking south - and at the side canyons - this area must be seen to be appreciated.

Now to Gettysburg - about 850 students and teachers on 2 day bus trips in past seventeen years - Peace Light, one of stops on the Battlefield when we leave the bus.

The monument in the National Cemetery where Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address - repeated there by an Eighth Grader each year - then saluting the flag at Jennie Wade's grave.

Little Round Top - made famous in 2nd day of the Battle when Gen. Warren discovered that it was not being protected, so he ordered that it be fortified at once, and so saved this important point from being taken by the Confederates - the life-like statue of the general.

Devil's Den where Southern sharpshooters picked off men trying to defend Little Round Top. Students at the cannon - 140th Regt. marker in the Wheatfield. Electric Map building - the Cyclorama.

Scenes of Eisenhower farm from the Tower - other scenes from the Fire tower.

Then to Hershey - the Rose Garden - Pond Swans - Fish in the Pond - Hershey Hotel - different scens of students in the Rose Gardens - continual display of finest roses and other flowers there all summer long - Hershey factory (no cameras.)

Indian Echo Caverns - a very old cave. Scenes in it.

Lancaster County - the Pennsylvania Dutch County none more distinctive than the Amish people - their appearance - dress -

customs - religion - attitude toward education - ways of doing farm work - visit to an Amish School -

The Amish Farm which we visited - Public Square in Lancaster - Farmer's Market - Sign Boards - Old Village Store - Howe Store - Pretzel House - Peel of Pretzels - Landis Valley Museum - following scenes.

James Buchanan, leading citizen of Lancaster County of 100 years ago - elected President in 1856 - just before the Civil War - his birthplace in Franklin County - Stony Batter.

Wheatland Scenes.

Characterization of James Buchanan - able statesman - congressman - senator - ambassador to both Russia and Great Britain - president 1857-1861 - unable to cope with the problems of secession of the South - a victim of the difficult time in which he lived - loyal to the Union during the Civil War.

Stroudsburg Railroad - the road to Paradise.

Robert Fulton Birthplace.

Unfortunately, I have been roving over the State of Pennsylvania and have failed, so far, to get too many scenes in Washington County, i.e. of general historical interest. And so, if I can't return you to Washington County by means of this program, I will just leave you stranded down in Lancaster County where you may join the Amish, if you choose, or at least take a ride to Paradise. But wherever you may land, or roam, in Pennsylvania, I hope that you, too, will discover that Pennsylvania truly Has Everything.

Talk at Cross Creek Grange 954 February 1, 1968

Religion

in George Washington's time - our old churches established

In Abraham Lincoln's time - still there in same location new church buildings erected 1864 and 1872 same buildings.

In Lyndon Johnson's time - still in same locations good for many years to come.

The church, like the great head of the Church, is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Our most stable institution, important to maintain the History of our oldest and most stable institution.

Roads

In George Washington's time - trails and paths, long distance traveling non-existent, travel by foot and horseback.

In Abraham Lincoln's time - mud roads - an occasional turnpike, horse and buggy days, sledding in winter.

In Lyndon Johnson's time - four-lane highways - all roads are paved, all traffic fast moving, all vehicles motor powered.

Communications

In George Washington's time - by personal messengers or occasionally by letter.

In Abraham Lincoln's time - fairly well developed postal system, telegraph, telephones.

Education

In George Washington's time - the subscription school - no publicly supported education as we know it now - a few colleges with many courses of about the same level as present High School.

First school law - in 1834 - dist. schools

Second school law - in 1854 - co. Supt. and Co. Institute

In Abraham Lincoln's time - our district one-room school system was well developed

10 districts in Cross Creek Township

6 districts in Hopewell Township

8 districts in Mt. Pleasant Township

During this period and until consolidation began about in 1915, these district schools were community centers, not only used for education of children but they were social centers for adults in each neighborhood. Singings were held regularly, and literary societies and spelling bees and box socials and occasionally a preaching service on Sunday afternoons in summer. These would be attended widely within the area of the school and when traveling was good, many would go to these social affairs in adjoining districts to enjoy the singings which were great affairs and to match wits with champion spellers in the other school districts. Usually all rivalry was good natured and resulted in good community relations over a wider area. Occasionally someone would get miffed at something that had been said or done and then would proceed to get even with somebody else.

A lot of dating and courting would go along with these affairs and if two or more boys were interested in the same girl, they were liable to be pranks played on each other by the rival suitors. If a boy took his best girl on horseback to a singing at Beech Knob School, a boy from the Nosco Hall district, if he was interested in the same girl, might cut the girth on the saddle or turn the other boy's horse loose, so he would have to walk the girl home from the singing.

Such rivalry led also to spirited bidding for the boxes of certain girls at a Box Social, since one boy would spend his last nickel to beat another out for the privilege of eating with the girl who was the focus of attention for both of the boys.

Sometimes the rivalry between school areas took a malicious turn as it did one night at Limestone Lane School where for some reason which I don't recall, some boys from another school brought a skunk and threw it in the transom above the door and then fastened the door from the outside so that it couldn't be opened. This trick created a panic in the school room and the crowd or some of them at least had to leave by a window. For weeks afterward throughout this school area, the Sunday go to meeting clothes of many farmers could be seen hung out on the clotheslines for airing, since there was no dry-cleaning available.

But the social lives between and among school districts was for the most part wholesome and resulted in many matrimonial matches being consummated. Three Reas from the Beech Knob District married three Campbells from the Nosco District and my guess is that the social life which centered around these one-room schools had a great deal to do with these matches being struck.

Our schools of LBJ's time are not the social centers which they were in Lincoln's time. They are bigger and better and more expensive and they should be doing a better job.

Settlement of Mt. Pleasant Township

This year 1976 marks the Bicentennial of this Nation, July 4 of this year will be the focal point of the observance of the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. It is fitting and proper that a nation wide observance of this event should be held.

In a much wider sense, this decade of the 1970s marks the 200th Anniversary of the settlement of Mt. Pleasant Township by the white people. Settlement here was not sanctioned by our government until the time of the Treaty at Fort Stanwix on September 7, 1768. Before that time anyone attempting to settle here was subject to removal by the colonial government if complained of by the Indians. This was acknowledged Indian land and settlement by the whites was made literally "at their own risk." In the treaty at Fort Stanwix all this was changed and what is now Washington County was thrown open to settlement. A Land Office was opened in Fayette County on April 3, 1764, and at once many applications for land grants were received.

The first white settler in what is now Mt. Pleasant Township was Daniel McGugin who came here in 1770 and settled on the land occupied by his great-grandson, James McGugin and family until just a few years ago.

The procedure for taking up land was to apply at the Land Office for permission to settle upon a tract of land and to make improvements on it, and to have it surveyed after which a patent, or deed, would be issued to the settler, thus giving him title to the

land. The settlers would come here, locate the tract which he wanted to occupy - he would then mark the corners by chopping marks on trees at the corners, or boundaries of the land which he wanted. This was called a "tomahawk" claim, since the marks were made with an ax, and sometimes with a tomahawk. This claim, of course, could be disputed by other prospective settlers, and no one had an absolute claim until the patent was actually issued.

In surveying these tracts, a map or plot of the tract of land would be made by the surveyor and given to the patentee with his patent, and these papers of course became matters of permanent public record.

To illustrate, I have here a plot of a tract of 400 acres made for John Lyle when in 1784 he settled on the land where the Meadowbrook Golf Course is located on Route 18 North. This tract is odd-shaped to say the least. After all the land in this area had been surveyed many years afterward in fact, all of the plots of farms in Mt. Pleasant Township were put together on one patentee map such as this one. No two of the plots are the same shape or size, so it must have been some job compiling this map, and fitting all the pieces together - it was regular jigsaw puzzle and I don't think even my wife could have put them together if she had been given all the separate pieces.

In issuing the patent, a name was usually given the tract, such as "Hollywood," the name given to the tract taken up by John Lyle. On this map for each plot, three dates are given: the date of the warrant, or application, the date of the survey, and last the date on which the patent was granted.

One curious fact about the McGugin tract - it was not given a name, and although having been the first settled, the dates of warrant, survey and patent are 1816 and 1817, latest of any of the larger tracts in Mt. Pleasant Township, and the patent was issued to David McGugin, son of the original settler. Jim McGugin once told me that by delaying so long getting the papers for this tract, they lost some of the land which Daniel McGugin claimed to the Buchanan Farm on which Mr. Willard Hoop now lives.

This land was occupied by Daniel McGugin and his wife until their deaths, then by David McGugin and his wife, next by their son, Alex. V. McGugin and his wife, and last by their son, James A. McGugin and his wife and family until it was sold, after a total of 196 years occupancy, in 1964 to the Ohio Lutheran Camp Association who are now using it and developing it for camp and conference purposes. The tract does now have a name "Agape" but it was given after the Lutheran Association secured possession of it. It was on this farm that the Great McGugin Gas Well was drilled in 1881.

The next family to settle in the Township was probably the McCartys who came in 1772 and settled on a sizable tract of land on the headwaters of Cherry Run and very near the site of Ft. Cherry High School. The head of this family was John McCary and succeeding generations of this family seem to have always had a John until the present generation is represented in our midst by John K. McCary. Some of the original tract was still held by a John McCarty in 1876, but most of this land was later owned by the Farrar Family and it may still be in that familiar name.

Just below the McCartys were the Achesons who also took up large tracts of land there. The Treaty at Fort Stanwix limited the tracts to 300 acres in size, but this condition wasn't strictly observed and one of the Acheson tracts was nearly 400 acres. This family is represented locally by Miss Lori Acheson.

Then the family for whom this valley was named the Cherrys patented two or three sizable tracts, and one of these which J.H. Loffert presently occupies. Cherry Fort was located, and it was at a spring on this farm near the fort that Thomas Cherry was found one morning soon after the family settled there. Mr. Cherry had been shot through the head and his empty gun was found beside him, so his death was supposedly accidental.

Over in the valley of the other branch of Cherry Run, when the West Penn Water Dam is located, the Rankin Family made extensive settlements. Wm. Rankin had come from his home near Winchester VA and located the land which he desired to occupy - then returned to his home and brought out his family. His land was the present farms of Ed. Cowden and Ed. Miller, and on the ridge to the west, his son Zechariah Rankin took out a large tract of land and erected a log home on it. Here, one night in October 1785, Zechariah Rankin heard a noise among the animals in his barnyard. He opened the top half of the double door of his cabin and looked out. A mad wolf sprang at him and bit him severely on the wrist. He managed to hold to this rabid animal until someone brought a knife and he cut its throat, but from the wound which it inflicted on him, he developed rabies and he soon after died a horrible death. He and Thomas Cherry and other pioneers were buried in the Cherry Graveyard near Cherry Fort. The

only member of the Rankin family remaining in the Township is Happ Rankin.

Out on the western side of the Township the Campbell Family settled. Wm. Campbell came from York County PA in 1772 and settled on the farm now owned by John Pollana. A brother John settled on what is now the Serenity Farm in Cross Creek Township. Another brother Charles settled on the present Jay Walker Farm, while a fourth brother, James settled on the old Lyle Farm near Atlasburg in Smith Township.

Two miles south of Hickory, on the farm now owned by Mr. Glenn Clarke, James Simpson settled in the 1790's. He was not an original patentee but purchased parts of two other tracts there. The Simpsons established a grist and saw mill on their property and it was conducted there until near the end of the 19th century. This was a water mill for many years, and was so located that their were doams on two streams which meet at this point so water for power could be used from both. These old local mills were very important in the local economy from pioneer times until fairly recent times, since farm families over large areas were dependent on them for sawing out lumber, and for grinding feed, flour, and meal for both human consumption and for stock feed. The Rankins had a mill on the present Ed. Cowden farm and it, too, was used for many years. An occasional horse-mill was built and the only one I know of in Mt. Pleasant Township was built be John McElroy on the present John Hoffman farm. Another water mill was run by the McGugins who once owned the former Fullerton Farm on the Smith Township line along Route 18.

Other land in the Township was quickly taken up by other families that those named. Some of these families did not remain here for long but sold their land to families of other names, such as the McCarrells, McCalmonts, McBurneys, Buchanoans, Hughes.

The first settler where our town of Hickory is now located was James Ross, but he died before title could be completed to his property so when the patent was issued to John Shannon, Executor of his will and the tract was given the name of "Executorship" - the property eventually was in the possession of Ross' widow - Mrs. Mary Ross. Attempts were made to sell lots in a town to be called Mt. Pleasant around 1800 but these were not very successful. In January 1806, a petition was sent to the County Court praying for the erection of a new Township and this was granted on May 12 of that year and the Township was called Mt. Pleasant. The location of our town here is on some of the highest land in the Township. The knob which you see on the Phillips farm just to the rear of the Dave Miller property and beyond the end of the tunnel is the real Mt. Pleasant for which the Township is named, and which almost gave the name to this town.

But before this area was very well settled, a road was cut from Well's Mill at present Avella to Canon's Mill at Canonsburg. This road followed present Route 50, at least through this immediate area. When the crew of axe-men clearing this road reached the high-point in our Town where the Barbershop is now located, it was lunch time. In looking about for something to use for a table, they spied an old discarded sled, which they used on which to spread their repast. After lunch was finished, one of the men

pulled down a nearby Hickory sapling, and tied the old sled to it - this allowed the tree to spring back into a upright position. They called the name of the place - Hickory Tavern - and when a real tavern, a blacksmith shop and other facilities were built here, the name stuck, and you can find this name on the roadside markers as you come into town from the East or West.

The oldest organization still in existence here is the United Presbyterian Church dating form around 1795, so the Hickory U.P. Church observed the 180th Anniversary of its founding in June 1975. With all the old churches, graveyards were established. The oldest graveyard or cemetery here is the Mt. Pleasant adjoining the old Mt. Pleasant Churh building. The oldest legibly marked graves there are dated 1811 - Margaret Scroggs, John McBride, and Samuel McBride.

When the Mt. Prospect Church was established in 1825, a graveyard was located there, and the oldest marked grave is that of Samuel J. Stewart, died October 21, 1830. The oldest person interred in Mt. Prospect Cemetery was August Wienecke, a native of Germany, and at his death a resident of Buffalo Village. He died of congestive heart failure at the age of 105 years, 3 months, and 7 days.

There is a lot of history connected with these old burial grounds. Predating our public graveyards were the old family graveyards located on farms. The most noted in this Township was the Cherry Graveyard, which was located where a garage is just across the road from the Loffert Farm House over in Cherry Valley. This graveyard was still in existence some 60 years ago, but one owner of the farm used the yard for a hog pen, and used the

gravestones in a foundation for one of his farm buildings so this old yard has entirely disappeared.

In the Mt. Pleasant Graveyard here are buried many of the members of the old Cherry Family, the Rankins, McCarrells, McConnells, McConaugheys, etc. In 1834, when the church was being built there, John Moore was fatally injured by the falling of a beam and he is buried there. In 1892, a man by the name of James Kelly was buried here. After his death and burial, a number of bonds totaling \$1300.00 in value and which he was known to own could not be found. He had been known to carry these and other valuables in a money belt which he often wore. So the theory was proposed that these bonds might have been buried with him. An order for exhuming the body was secured from the Court and Co-Commissioner John E. Stewart and his attorney Joseph F. McFarland came to the Cemetery armed with this order of the Court. They secured the services of Dr. Joseph McElroy and Dr. Charles Campbell and William Davidson, Sexton, to do the digging, and they dis-interred the body of Mr. Kelly. But the bonds were not found, so the body was returned to the ground to rest, I assume in perpetual peace. In 1843, Mary McKee, wife of John McKee and several of their small children died within a few days of each other from the then dread disease of diphtheria.

In the Mt. Prospect Cemetery, we have buried six or seven persons who were suicides. The oldest person interred there was Mt. August Wienecke, a native of Germany and for many years a resident of Buffalo Village. Mr. Wienecke was one of quite a number of natives of Germany who from the 1870's to about 1900 emigrated from that country to this land of freedom in America. It is not said

to their discredit that many of the men among these families migrated to America to avoid services in the Prussian Army. That country was then, as it has been at many other times, highly militarily inclined. These people who migrated here and settled, many of them, in Mt. Pleasant Township are peace loving, industrious and frugal, and they became good citizens here and made a great contribution to the economy and civic well being of this community. The list of names of these families is a long one, and I will not attempt an exhaustive list here, but I am referring to the Alrutzs, Schafers, Carls, Knauers, Millers, Ahrns, Krauses, Golwes, Gundlales, Kasts, Kimmonds, Kirkermeyer, Scopolds, Raabs, Rasels, Retzers, Seabrights, Somerlades, Studas, Vogles, Wienecke. One of the colorful characters among these people was the old shoemaker, Joe Wittman, who died in 1939. He was a short, stocky man who had served in the German Army in a war back in 1886. He had 3 horses shot from under him, had a leg broken and was left on the battlefield for dead, but when the dead wagon came along he was alive, so got over his injury and came to the United States locating here at Hickory and working as a shoemaker for many years. He lived at the home of Lewis Ahrns, where Mrs. Jane Kraier now lives and walked up the road hundreds of times to his work, later "batching" in a room adjoining his shop. Joe died in 1939 and is buried in Mt. Prospect Cemetery.

A short reference to the history of the municipality - Mt. Pleasant Township was formed from adjoining townships in 1806, the order of court dated May 12 that year created the new township. Mt. Pleasant was an appropriate name, since the elevation generally

is higher than in other nearby areas. The town here was called Mt. Pleasant, even before the township was created, and the real Mt. Pleasant is the rounded knob, just northwest of the village as before mentioned. This is not the highest point in the Township but it is one of the highest, and high enough to merit the name "Mt. Pleasant."

Our town has always been mainly residential. When the Wabash Railroad was built through here in 1902-1903 or 1904, the place became an important commercial center - much milk and other farm products were shipped from the station here, and for many years passenger traffic was heavy as many people rode the trains to work in Pittsburgh. In early times, the McPeaks had a steam saw mill down about where the Suzie-Q is now located and later the lumber yard site here in the center of town. Denny and Allison had the hardware store early this century and now Allison brothers carries on that business. We used to have three thriving grocery stores here - now only one. The Post Office dates from about 1830, and has been called Hickory from that time.

One of the early industrial effects to follow the building of the railroad was the Curtain Pole factory. It was financed, I think, by local capitalists, just who they were, I can't now tell you, but they had this factory at the south end of the tunnel here, just about where the Township buildings are now located. The product, of course, was large wooden curtain poles, such as used to be used in the older houses. Evidently, the business wasn't much of a success, so it eventually folded. The building remained there for several years but it became a hideout for hoboes traveling along the railroad, etc, so it was either torn down or someone set it afire.

It would be interesting to speculate on some of the older buildings in our Township. It would appear that the oldest in Hickory is the old Retzer Log House right in the center of town - other log houses are the home of Mrs. Glenn Clarke, which is just part log, and the home of Jim Brezinski on the former Alrutz Farm which is partly log, and the small white house on the former Wm Russell farm below Mt. Prospect Church which is all log. It was built before 1800 by Robert Lyle, and these others, too, would be as old.

I know of only one complete stone house now standing in the Township that on the old Houston Farm now owned by Joe Matovich. Although there is a part of the old McConaughy stone house still standing on the road to Ft. Cherry High School on the farm of Duane Sprowls. The old Stewart House here in Hickory now the home of Gaylord and Beatrice Miller is old. I don't know the date - the brick house on Meadowbrook Golf Course, now the home of Mrs. Reed Welch was built by Joseph Lyle in 1836. Brick houses on the farms of Nelli Mungar, the Raymond Henderson house, the former J.Y. Dinsmore house, and the house on the former McCoy Farm recently owned by Odis Shaffer are of about the same type and were possibly built about the same time, I would guess about 1840 to 1850. The three Donaldson brick houses in the southern end of the Township where Mac White and the Lowrys live, and also the former Denning house are of about the same type and must have been built in the late 1840's or 1850's. Our two church buildings were built about the same time. Mt. Pleasant in 1868 and Mt. Prospect in 1872.

The school system of Mt. Pleasant Township has gone through all the stages from the informal subscription schools of the early

1800's to the one-room district school, the consolidated Township Schools, and to the modern joint consolidated school of the present day. Our roads, too, have gone through the stages from the all mud roads of 75 years ago to the modern primary and secondary state and township roads of the 1970's. The offices of school director and road supervisor are much more complicated than they were when our township was in its infancy. But as our pioneer forefathers formed here the lushest forests, and the best watered and most fertile land to be found in western Pennsylvania, so we of this present day have one of the most progressive and most livable communities to be found in all of Washington County, If we didn't pretty nearly all believe this we wouldn't stay here very long. I hope in 200 years more of life in Mt. Pleasant Township that the same situation will still exist.

**Outline of a talk to
Hickory Lions Club
January 6, 1976**

Introduction

How settlements were made and land taken up

Expl. of plot, patent and patent map.

First settlers - Daniel McGugin 1770

Second - probably John McCarty at head of Cherry Run

then - the Achesons - 2 tracts

- the Cherrys - 3 tracts

The George Washington tract of 2813 acres

In the other valley - Wm. Rankin

his son Zachariah - the mad wolf story

On the western side of the Township the Campbell Farm

Wm. in Mt. Pleasant, John in Cross Creek, Charles and James in Smith Township.

James Simpson - 2 miles south of Hickory

The Simpson Mill - other old mills - Rankin - McGugin

Coulter Mill at Woodrow - McElroy Horse Mill - McPeak Saw Mill

Other land quickly taken up - many of original patentees did not remain, but sold their land holding and moved on. The McCarrolls - Donaldsons - Buchanans - Millers and others came in and purchased these old farms

Outline - Settlement of Hickory by James Ross

Story of Hickory Farm - dual name Mt. Pleasant

First lots sold 1802 or 1803

Church lot sold in 1804 and church erected on it.

Our oldest local institution is the United Presbyterian Church

Mt. Pleasant 1795 Mt. Prospect 1825 merged 1968

180th anniversary last June.

Graveyards connected with the two churches - very historic

Mt. Pleasant oldest marked grave - 1805

Mt. Prospect oldest marked grave - 1830

Stories about these old yards - much history involved if it can be discovered:

John Moore killed in 1834 - while building the church

James M. Kelly - 1892 - story of the money belt

August Wienecke oldest buried at Mt. Prospect 105 years old

Six or seven suicides buried at Mt. Prospect

Many service men's graves in both Cemeteries

German families settling in Mt. Pleasant Township

history of some of them - Joe Wittman

History of the municipality - Township established on May 12, 1806

Name - Mt. Pleasant is appropriate - elevations

Name applied early to the Village - P.O. Hickory 1830

Population predominantly rural until 1900 - Farmers, Sheepmen, Dairymen

Building of Wabash Railroad 1904 - farmers selling coal

Coal banks in Township - later deep mining - Westland - Southview

Industry - Curtain Pole Factory

Schools of Township

Roads of Township

To the Avella Volunteer Firemen's Association
January 8, 1976

Mr. Toastmaster, Members of the Avella Volunteer Fire Department, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is our first attendance at your annual dinner meeting, and we are very grateful to you for the invitation. Your chairman indicated that Mrs. White would be welcome, and she appreciates the invitation. I have read about your dinner meetings as they have occurred in the past. While I have not been familiar with all of your activities over the years since your organization in 1930, I have heard enough about your group to know that you have become an important part of the Avella Community.

A Fire Department may be a bit like the armed services of our Country in that membership in the Fire Department or in the Army, for example, may be more glamorous than the actual work of the unit. Mere membership may be attractive, but when it comes to fighting fires or fighting an enemy, it may not be so enjoyable in either case. I recall several years ago, during a prolonged dry spell in the Community, when field fires were almost continuous for many days time, the Avella firemen were hard pressed and dead tired, as call after call came to continue the fight against the fires; under such conditions the life of a fireman is not so attractive.

In spite of such conditions, the blast of the fire whistle and the siren of the fire truck always arouses interest in the minds of nearly everyone who hears them. The sound of the siren usually

prompts people to rush to their doors, or fling open their windows to find out where the fire is, and to watch the fire trucks rush by.

I hope you don't mind my telling an ethnic joke; this is about two Irish immigrants - In the days before the Polish and the Slavish and the Italians and others from southern and eastern Europe were coming to this Country in great numbers, it was the immigrants from Ireland who came here to build our roads and railroads and to furnish labor on the farms, so to demonstrate some of the humorous situations these people got into, it was the prevailing custom to tell these stories about the Irishmen, I remember hearing my parents and grandparents tell about two or three of these Irishmen who were hired men on our old farm here in Cross Creek Township, and of the humorous situations they would get themselves into, as they attempted to learn how to live as Americans.

Well the Irish tale which I have in mind is about the usual Pat and Mike who came across the pond, landed in NYC and went into the East Side to look for a place to stay. They found a good hotel where the rates were \$.75 for bed and breakfast, or if two shared a bed the rate was \$1.25. So these boys got located for the night - there was a good soft bed, two solid chairs and a table, and then another piece of furniture which they had never seen before, but it was about so high, made of wood, and it had three sort of boxed one above the other and handles in front to pull the boxes out. Not knowing what else to do Pat took his clothes off and put them in the bottom box and pushed it closed and went to bed. Mike didn't go to bed right away, but when he did he put his clothes in the second box and pushed it closed. But Mike's chief difficulty was in putting the light out - he

tried to blow it out, but it was in a bottle at the end of a long cord and hanging along the wall - suddenly, in desperation, Mike took the light off the wall - opened the top box in the set of drawers, or bureau, put the light in it, pushed it shut, and then went to bed.

Pat was already asleep, but before Mike could get to sleep, he heard a clanging and a clattering on the street outside and getting up to look out, there was one of the old-fashioned fire engines racing down the street, belching out smoke and fire - then Mike looked up the street and another fire engine was coming at breakneck speed and it soon passed the hotel. Mike didn't want Pat to miss the show - he saw another fire-engine coming in the distance so he went and shook Pat awake and told him: "Pat, Pat come quick and see, the Americans are moving hell down the street and two loads have gone by already."

Well, to be more serious for a few minutes, I was invited to come and talk with you for a short while on the History of Avella. I am not a historian as your chairman seemed to intimate, but I have been interested in the History of this Cross Creek Valley for quite a long time.

As I think you know, a little over 200 years ago this area was an immense forest with gigantic hard wood trees, no permanent inhabitants, and very little if anything the same as today, except that the stream now called Cross Creek and its many branches were watering and draining the area, much as they are still doing today. It was into this wilderness area that your first white resident, Alexander Wells and his wife and family came to settle in 1772. The Wells came from Baltimore, and since this area had been thrown

open to settlement by white people only a couple of years before, they came with the intention of taking up land, and take up land they did. Mr. Wells was a good judge of land - what was here in the valley seemed to suit him and so he took out patents for several tracts here around present Avella and near present Cedar Grove and in the southern part of Jefferson and the northern part of Independence Township. On the patent maps for these areas, we can count as many as twelve tracts taken out in the Wells name. One patentee was restricted to 300 or 400 acres, but Mr. Wells got around this by registering additional land in the name of his sons or other relatives.

Among improvements made here by the Wells were the saw and grist mill located on the creek to the rear of the old DePaoli store building in Browntown, Wells Fort and the Family Graveyard located on Knox Hill just to the Northwest of Avella. The Fort was built in 1774 and was used as a place of refuge from Indian deprivations as long as the red men were troublesome, and then it fell into disrepair. The Wells Graveyard was established along side an old Indian Mound which was opened first in 1878 by Lysander Patterson and others, and again in 1975-76 - in both excavations, I understand, large prehistoric skeletons were found in this Mound. The Wells Stone House was erected by the family just back of Browntown School, or the present Lutheran Church. It was used by the Wells Family, later by Oliver Clemens and still later by some members of the Campbell Family.

Alex. Wells moved to Wellsburg, WV in 1796 but when he died in 1813, his body was brought back here and buried in the family

graveyard. He had sold the mill to his son-in-law and later Thomas Patterson bought and conducted the mill for many years. The mill was operated up until near the end of the last century.

I speak of Alexander Wells as being our original settler here, typical of the men and families who were living here 200 years ago. To the south were the Doddridge Family, to the northeast were the Pattersons, the Marshalls and the Campbells had settled the eastern part of Cross Creek Township. While up around Cross Creek Village were the Vances and Marquises, all of whom migrated here soon after Alex. Wells came here in 1772. There were not the only early families but they were among the most prominent and the most affluent, and they and their descendants dominated this area during its first 100 years of white occupation.

One hundred years ago, where Avella is now located, the land here was owned and occupied by the Campbell and Brown families. This end of present Avella was owned by Samuel Campbell, who was a son of David and Ann Rea Campbell. The Campbells settled on the farm now called Serenity Farm, the so called Halfway House for Alcoholics, while the Reas occupied the farm up the Valley at Rea Crossroads, and now occupied by a descendant, Maynard C. Rea and family. There was a great affinity, apparently between these two families, since two of the Campbell boys married two Rea girls, while Wm. Mason Rea married Elizabeth Campbell, and if that wasn't enough intermarrying, a third Campbell boy married a young aunt of the three Rea children. This resulted in quite an integration of these two families - the Reas and the Campbells.

So Samuel B. Campbell was a son of one of these marriages - he had married Jane McGugin from the family of that name at the head of the Cross Creek Valley, and this was their home until the deaths of both: Mr. Campbell in 1890 and his widow in 1900. Mr. Samuel S. Campbell succeeded his parents in the ownership of this farm, located right here where we are met tonight, his home having been the house across the street and his small barn or stable was right here where the fire hall is located.

I remember Mr. Campbell very well - He was a large man, well built and of commanding appearance. After selling his farm out in lots, he had a competence in life and was a sort of Country Gentleman, although always plain and affable, and never pretentious. He had a good singing voice and belonged to a male quartette which sang at many community gatherings in his day. He helped organize the Lincoln National Bank and served as its President - He was part owner of Avella Lumber and Supply Co. now managed by his grandson, also Samuel S. Campbell, and he established the Campbell Theater here, and helped organized the Presbyterian Church. So, to Mr. Campbells interest and foresight and industry we may attribute the planning of this end of the town of Avella. Contemporary with these Campbells, living further down the Creek were the Brown Family, their original member was one of the Irish immigrants of whom I spoke earlier - this was James Brown who, with his wife, came here in 1837. The original Brown home, I think, was across the bridge in Browntown, over in Independence Township but one of the sons, William J. Brown bought the land which is now Browntown, and when Mr. Campbell was selling lots in

this end of Avella, Mr. Brown was laying out his farm in lots and selling them.

The coming of the railroad in 1904 brought great interest in the mining of coal and the opening in the mines at many points here in the Cross Creek Valley. As part of the Bicentennial last year, Carolyn Bogo and I wrote up some Sketches of the Cross Creek Valley, which if we ever get them published, well give, I hope at least a sketch of the mining industry here together with a rundown of many of the later families who came here from Italy and Poland, from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and from other European countries to do their part in carrying on this coal mining and the further development of the Avella Community. Having deep appreciation for the value of these families to this Community, we have tried to pay tribute to these people for their faith, their industry and their integrity in making this community what it is today.

The Community was started by the English, and the Irish and the Scotch-Irish people, and these elements still exist here today but then influence has been strengthened by the addition of these latest new American families. These are your immediate ancestors, in many cases, and I hope that you will keep them in remembrance as long as you live and work here.

The economy of the first white settlers here was a relatively simple one. Alexander Wells and his family were able to provide from the forests and from the industry of their own home most of the things which were required for their daily living. After it was possible to bring consumer goods in from the outside. Mr. Wells and

his successor conducted A store here at his mill to provide some of the necessities of life to his neighbors back in the hills of Cross Creek and Independence and Jefferson Townships. But the forests still provided shelter as trees were cut and split or sawed for the homes of the people, and it was from the forest that fuel was secured to heat these homes and much of the meat for the family table was obtained.

As agriculture progressed in the area, the farmers had more to sell, and also they bought more, and the people began to depend much more upon each other for the things which they required. Mills were an important part in this developing economy as grain was ground into meal for use on the farms, and into flour for sale in other communities. In times of high water many a boatload of flour was floated down Cross Creek to the river and then reloaded on larger boats for sale as far away as New Orleans. Thus trade developed in the Community and other outlets by road and railroad were needed and in time came into being. The coming of the railroad and the development of coal mining of course made this Community what it is today.

Although the old names and families still exist in a limited way, as a few of the Wells and Campbell and Brown name and lineage can still be found, yet it is now to a large extent the responsibility of you people of other names and of a different lineage to carry on the affairs of the Avella Community and of the Cross Creek Valley.

We found this past summer that more than 200 family names can now be found in this Community which were not here 75 years ago. These are largely you people of this present day, many of the

second and third generation of those frugal, industrious and honest people who came here to work in our mines and to live on our farms, and most of all to make homes for you people of the present day. I hope that you will appreciate the early history of the area, and that you will honor the memory of your own forbears whoever they were who made it possible for all of us to be here tonight.

A great man once said "If you know whence you have come, if you are alert to the needs of the present day, and if you have a good idea of where you are going, you need not ever get lost on the way."

Outline for a talk before Fireside Club of Hickory U.P. Church - October 27, 1976

Bicentennial of Our County, and also of white settlement here in Washington County and in Mt. Pleasant Twp.

Early Settlers:

Daniel McGugin in 1770

4 Campbell Brothers in 1772

John McCarty to upper Cherry Valley in 1773

William Rankin from Winchester VA in 1773

Thomas Cherry to Cherry Valley in 1774

The Achesons to upper Cherry Valley in late 1770's

William Hughes to Washington County in 1778 and later to this area

The Lyles to this immediate area in 1784

and the Simpsons about the same time

The Farrar and Simanton to Cherry Valley

"after the war" (Revolution)

Most of these were the original patentees to the land on which they settled.

Many of the other older families came here just a bit later, and purchased land from those who had been the first owners: The McCarrells, McBurneys, McElroys, the Buchanans, the Donaldsons, and eventually several other families.

Manner of taking up land.

Locating the tract on which one wished to settle

Marking the corners - the "tomahawk claim"

The Warrant - application for the Survey

The Survey -

The Patent - final deed from the Commonwealth giving valid title to the land.

Each patent had a name:

John Lyle's was Hollywood

Humphrey Acheson's was Raccoon Haunt

Joseph Wells' was Pleasant Valley

Moses Wallace's was Cobtown

Most of these tracts bear dates of the warrant, survey, and patent in the 1780's - no patents were issued during the Revolutionary War, although quite a number of people lived here. The McGugin tract, the earliest settled had no patent name, and also, its papers were not issued until 1817 - probably the last of all.

The jig saw puzzle of the Map of Patents.

Much can be learned from a study of these old patent maps

Eventually all, or nearly, all the land had been taken up - land had been cleared and substantial log houses and log barns had been erected - a few of these remain.

The people settled down to peaceful living, and as shown by the 1876 Map of Mt. Pleasant Twp. many of the old families still occupied the home farms 100 years ago.

Our most famous land owner was of course George Washington who had a patent for 2813 acres of land in the eastern side of our Twp. Patented in 1774 (July 5). Why he took out this patent. Road signs at Venice.

My fascination with maps.

The Patent map - the earliest

1856 - 1861 & 1876 maps showing who lived on the various farms in those years.

The 1906 map, made up in conjunction with the Geological Survey

The Maps in the 4-H Plot Book of Washington County 1969.

All of these are remarkably accurate, and in my opinion extremely valuable.

Pioneer living in the log cabins and the log houses.

Gradual changes over the years, until modern styles of living prevailed

We progressed from

from the spinning wheel and hand loom to the use of factory made cloth & ready made clothing

from local growing and home preparation of all foods to dependence upon ready-made foods

from hand milking to up to date milking parlors

from the up & down hand churn to motor driven machinery of all kinds in the milk industry

from the hand corn cutter and husking peg to the most sophisticated types of harvesting machinery

Difficulties of settlers; Wild Beasts - Conflicting Claims - Scarcity of supplies Indians - the pioneer forts - the pioneers had difficult living, but they were hardy and were able to cope with their problems.

One of their most useful facilities was the use of water-powered mills - the locations of the mills in our area

The Rankin Mill - Simpson Mill - Coulter Mill at Woodrow - McGugin Mill on Route 18 North - McElroy Horse Mill on present Hoffman Farm.

Tragedies in our Area

Zechariah Rankin and the Mad Wolf

The James Rankin family

Wm Rea Rankin drowned age of 2 years

Allie Rankin accidentally shot at age of 15

Samuel N. Rankin was an intelligence agent (spy) in the Union Army - probably shot by the Confederates

Mrs. Anne Rankin Campbell struck by lightning

Another Rankin boy, James Edgar, badly scalded and died the following day

Ellen R. Armstrong burned to death in her home on the McGugin farm

Numerous deaths among children due to epidemic

Several persons buried in Mt. Prospect Cemetery were suicides

Many curious stories came out of the records of burials in our graveyards and cemeteries

John Moore killed while helping build Mt. Pleasant Church in 1834

The case of James M. Kelly d. 1892 - the money belt

Many veterans buried in our graveyards and cemeteries - 3 or 4 Rev. veterans in Mt. Prospect possibly some in Mt. Pleasant yard.

Notable Events in Mt. Pleasant Area

Patriotic celebration held during Civil War

The Great McGugin gas well drilled in 1882

The first Lyle Reunion on June 18, 1884

Anniversary of this settlement

Building of the Wabash Railroad 1901-1904

Sale of Pittsburgh Coal in this Area around the turn of the Century

Building of the Sprowl Road - Hickory to Mt. Prospect Church in 1904

Bicentennial Celebration of 1976

Horse Show and Time Capsule

The first Dr. D.M. Carrell came here to practice and his grandson' is still with us.

In spite of these characteristics of Our Community, the literature concerning our heritage is relatively sparse, and I think very little appreciated.

Much of our literature has to do with our Churches - Two small booklets on the Mt. Prospect Church - This one small book on the Mt. Pleasant Church

The History of Mt. Prospect Graveyard and Cemetery - available for 4 years - only about 1/3 of those sold has been in this community.

The Book: Our Heritage which we got out a little over a year ago - Copies of this book still remain unclaimed and on Mt. Pleasant Church also still on hand.

Three editions of the Lyles of Washington Co. PA 1880-1934 & 1963 - all have been sold and to all parts of the United States.

A Book: Aunt and the Soldier Boys - letters sent by Civil War Soldiers back to their Aunt, Miss Ellen Lee who lived in this Community.

Janis Anderson composed an interesting booklet several years ago on The Mighty McGugin Gas Well but it has had a limited circulation

The Russell Family a small book compiled by Mr. Alexander Russell in 1887 has condensed data on quite a number of the older families of this area who have been related to the Russells.

The Millers, Allison's, Jeffrey's, McBurneys, Hendersons, McClellands, McElroys, and on some of these families, genealogies have been composed, but I am afraid, have never been published - they are lying in someone's attic and they should be brought out into the light of day and shared with the Community.

And, so, as this Bicentennial Year fades into History, and as we go into the third Century of History of Our Country and of this Community, it is my fear that when 2076 rolls around, much of our history here will again be forgotten, and possibly people then will have to scramble around and hunt for what they will then want to know about our community.

Mill at Woodrow

Rev. Harsha, a Covenanter Minister was killed in an accident at this mill.

These mills were water powered at first but some of them were changed to steam.

A horse mill was conducted by James McElroy on the present John Hoffman farm. Stores in connection with some of these mills.

Tragedies

Zachariah Rankin and the Mad Wolf

Wolves attacking the sheep on the McGugin Farm

The James Rankin Family

Allie R.

A horse mill was conducted by James McElroy on the present John Hoffman farm. Stores in connection with some of these mills.

Tragedies

Zachariah Rankin and the Mad Wolf

Wolves attacking the sheep on the McGugin Farm

The James Rankin Family

Allie Rankin accidentally shot himself at age of 15 years

Wm. Rea Rankin met his death by drowning at age of 2 years

Samuel N. Rankin was a spy in the Union Army and probably was shot by the Confederates

A sister of these boys, Mrs. Anna Rankin Campbell second wife of S.S. Campbell of Avella was killed by lightning in 1893, just a year after here marriage.

Another little Rankin boy, James Edgar, was badly scalded on August 26, 1869 and died the following day.

Ellen R. Armstrong was burned to death in her home a short distance west of Hickory in November 1863.

Numerous deaths among children in earlier times due to epidemics of contagious diseases.

Several persons are buried in Mt. Prospect Cemetery who were suicides.

Many curious and tragic stories connected with our burial grounds. John Moore, buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery was killed while helping to build the Mt. Pleasant Church in 1834.

James M. Kelly d. 1892 - supposed to have had a money belt buried with him - his body exhumed but belt not found

The oldest institution in our Community is the United Presbyterian Church, dating from as early as 1795, thus being at least 181 years old. This was followed 30 years later by the organization of the Presbyterian Church in 1825.

Why is Our Community such a Good Place in which to live?

It has always been populated by good people who have been interested in making and keeping it a good place in which to live and raise children. Our people I think are conservatively progressive. We have always had strong churches here.

We have good schools and good roads.

We have all the conveniences for modern living

We have a heritage which I think we should fondly cherish, and should keep the reality of this heritage ever before our people. We should not take this for granted but be eternally grateful to those who have gone before and have left us this precious heritage. Unique in our living is that three generations of one family have rendered Medical service here for 115 years, since 1861.

Notable events in the Mt. Pleasant Area

Patriotic Celebrations held in Hickory during the Civil War - an especially notable one on July 4, 1863 - news of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Union victory came to Hickory that day.

The Great McGugin Gas Well, drilled in 1882.

The First Reunion of the Lyle Clan held at home of J. Reed Lyle on June 14, 1884 - just 100 years after the Lyle settlement there. The two oldest ladies present were my two great grandmothers. Ten more Reunions of this Clan have been held since, the last in 1975 at Cross Creek Church.

The building of the Wabash Railroad up Miller's Run Valley and down Cross Creek Valley in the Early 1900's - 1901-1904.

The oldest institution in Mt. Pleasant Twp. in the Mt. Pleasant U.P. Church - 180th Anniversary in 1975

Mt. Prospect in 1825

Hickory U.P. Church in 1968

We have a heritage of which we should be proud - How have we revealed this heritage.

The Lyle Books of 1886-1934-1963

The Russell Family Book of 1887

Other family records have been compiled but to my knowledge have not been published.

The Books on our Churches:

Mt. Pleasant Church History 1965

Mt. Prospect Church History 1950 and

Fireside Club Golden Age Books

Golden Memories I, II, III, & IV.

Our heritage - Hickory U.P. Church 1975

The Mighty McGugin Gas Well by Janis Anderson - 8th Grade Ft. Cherry H.S.

A Book "Aunt and the Soldier Boys"

Outline

Bicentennial of our country

Bicentennial of Settlements in this Area

Early Settlers here:

Daniel McGugin came in 1770

John McCarty to Primrose section in 1773

The Campbells from York Co. in 1772 - 4 brothers and 1 sister

The Achesons to upper Cherry Valley in late 1770's

William Hughes in 1778 later to this area

The Lyles in 1784

The Simpsons about the same time

Thomas Cherry to Cherry Valley in 1774

William Rankin from Winchester Virginia in 1773

The Farrars to Cherry Valley "after the War"

Many of the others so called old families just a bit later: The McCarrells, the McBurneys, the Buchanans, the McElroys, the Simpsons, the Donaldsons.

George Washington's Land 2813 acres patented in 1774.

Manner of taking up land: The Warrant, The Survey, The Patent
Difficulties in the settlement of the area.

Wild beasts - the panther & the wolf were numerous

Conflicting claims - sometimes more than 1 claimed same land

Scarcity of some supplies - salt, gunpowder

Difficulties with the Indians.

Pioneer Forts - exhibit the map

The Fort (stockaded) and the Block House

Cherry Fort - stockaded on former Cherry Farm now J.H. Loffert

Downey's Fort - formerly Joseph Wells Fort later named for Downey

Family - later the Charles Alrutz Farm - now the James Breziski farm.

Eventually the land pretty well cleared - substantial houses and barns, usually of log construction on the farm.

Old water-powered mills on larger streams

Rankin Mill on Ed. Cowden farm

Levi Scott killed at the sawmill there June 2, 1883

Simpson Mill on Glen Clark farm

Sawmill and grist mill - 2 streams furnished water

McGugin Mill at Smith Twp. line toward Burgettstown.

**Talk before The George Washington Chapter S.A.R.
and the National Pike Chapter D.A.R.
at the Holiday Inn, Washington PA on February 21, 1977**

This, I understand, is a joint annual affair for your two organizations. I congratulate you on the success and activities of these two chapters. Not being on the inside, I really cannot address you men as compatriots, but I do want to tell you how narrowly I have missed affiliating with this George Washington Chapter of the S.A.R.

Just about 50 years ago, there was a flurry of activity, either to organize, or to re-organize this chapter. At that time, Elmer Dinsmore, and I think, Lloyd Pollock and my uncle, John M. White who were then living in Washington, were planning to affiliate, and in making up his application for membership, Uncle John prevailed upon me to also enter an application; which I promptly did and started it through the proper channels for processing. In some manner, the check which I sent with the application was lost, and since, I believe, the National Organization demands cash on the barrel head, my application was not approved. I suppose that this incident sort of turned me against the organization, and although I did consider reapplying on a number of occasion, I never have done so, and, at this stage in life, I believe that I never will.

Although Mrs. White and I both have Revolutionary ancestors, we are no longer "joiners" of these patriotic organization. A number of years ago, a meeting was held here in the George Washington Hotel to stimulate a membership drive. I remember as others in the group were relating their various affiliation with this and that group, when it came my turn, I told them that all that I belonged to was the Presbyterian Church, which drew

a laugh, but I believe that the Church and the Grange are still my only affiliations and probably will remain so.

On one of my recent spells of reconsidering this matter, after I got to know Paul Curry and that he is an S.A.R., I somewhat gingerly mentioned the matter to him one day. "Oh" he said "we would like to have you as a member, but," he said, "you know the requirements are getting pretty stiff." Well I didn't pursue the matter any further, but I thought maybe I would have to lie about my age, or possibly my Revolutionary ancestors, so I gave up the idea.

Then in the meantime this Cumberland Road Chapter came along. Is that what you call it? Oh yes, the National Pike Chapter of the D.A.R. Knowing that some ladies organizations sometimes admit a few men to membership to make things more interesting, and hearing that Mary Lou Motes was the President General in this new chapter, I began cultivating a friendship with Mary Lou whom I had met in another connection several years ago. So, one day, I casually mentioned the matter to Mary Lou and asked her what my chances would be of getting into the D.A.R. Mary Lou is always ready with an answer so she didn't mince words in this matter. She bluntly told me that I would have to change my name to Alice, that I would have to get more hair on top of my head, and that I would have to lie about my sex. So, you see that I have been thwarted at every turn and still don't belong to either the S.A.R. or the D.A.R. but in spite of this ostracism, I still feel very kindly toward both chapters.

Since this is on or near George Washington's birthday, Lawrence asked me if I would speak "briefly," I believe he said on the life of this great man, the Father of our Country, and the one whom you know in the name of you S.A.R. Chapter. At once, I wondered what I might bring you

that would be new, and fresh, and significant. So much has been written about George Washington, that it is almost impossible to discover anything about him, but what is very well known. His life is truly "An Open Book."

But even with this being so, we still like to recall incidents in his career which have special meaning to us as individuals. I thought that I would speak on his relationships with Western Pennsylvania, with our own area and with other close-by communities, for it was in South Western Pennsylvania that young George Washington had experiences and got training for the major duties of his later life.

In 1753 when the French encroachments in to South Western Pennsylvania were giving great concern to Gov. Dinsiddie and the government of Virginia, it was 21-year-old George Washington who was chosen by the Governor to carry the famous message to the French commander at his headquarters in North Western Pennsylvania. Braving the dangers of the forest and of the approaching Winter season, young Major George Washington performed the arduous duties of that mission with dignity and dispatch he reached the French quarter promptly, was received courteously, delivered the Governor's message, and was given the reply, which was not a favorable one, back to Virginia. On this return trip, on at least two occasions his life was in serious danger, but I believe that he was providentially spared, that he might render greater services to his Country in the future.

The following year, 1754, noted an advance by the French to the Forks of the Ohio, and because of the trust again placed in him by the Governor, and which he had earned in he previous exploit, then Lt. Col. George Washington was placed in command of the military expedition

against the French here in South Western Pennsylvania. Moving as rapidly as condition would permit, he reached the Crest of Chestnut Ridge beyond present Uniontown, and there in his encounter with Jumonville, he experienced for the first time a taste for blood in battle. Now it was not much of a battle, more of a skirmish, but it gave a first hand experience to an embryo soldier in whose breast this spark quickly ignited into a real flame. For, from this opening encounter with the French, he was within a very few days to have his mettle further tested in the Battle at Fort Necessity, where he gave the first historical significance to the Fourth of July, not by defeating the French, but by tasting defeat, an experience which every military man is in danger of incurring every time he goes into battle. But instead of an entirely ignoble defeat at Fort Necessity: Major Washington had the good sense to accept the best terms which he could secure from the enemy, and so he was permitted to return to Virginia and prepare for even greater exploits the following year.

That year 1755 was to see the expedition of Major General Edward Braddock with his units of British regulars and the Virginia units under the Command of Colonel George Washington sent out against the French at Ft. Duquesne. Almost one year to the day after the Battle of Fort Necessity, this expedition passed the site of the earlier battle and pushed on into the Valley of Monogahela where General Braddock was to lose both the battle and his own life, and in which our hero George Washington now still little more than a youth - just 23 years of age - again distinguished himself with unparalleled bravery, and again being providentially spared from death or capture. This happened just 20 years before the Battle of Concord and Lexington and Bunker Hill, but they were years in which George Washington grew to full manhood and to a seasoned maturity which

made him the best trained and the most capable man for the appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial armies in 1775.

Much has been written about George Washington and almost everything which is recorded about him is favorably told. Other men possibly capable of the leadership of the Colonial Army were to be found at that time, but if we read their records, sooner or later, some flaw of character or lack of ability emerges, and America is fortunate that such a one was not placed in the chief command. General Charles Lee showed great ability during most of his military career, but he was too greedy for personal recognition to have made a successful generalissimo. General Benedict Arnold is often spoken of as of great ability as a military leader, second perhaps only to his commander-in-chief, but when temptation came to him to betray his country, he could not resist, and so went over to the enemy only to pay for his infidelity by being ignored and detested, even by those to whom he furnished military secrets and to whom he was willing to yield up the possession of one of his country's chief posts of defense.

So as we reflect on the career of our hero, we take pride in the fact that our south western Pennsylvania was the training ground for so much of the valuable experiences which he received, before being put into an office of great responsibility during the American Revolution.

And western Pennsylvania has other land marks and points of interest connected with this great man when our county was organized in 1781, possibly no other name than that of Washington was seriously considered, and the hamlet of Catfish Camp very naturally became the town and eventually the City of Washington. And when an Academy came

into existence here in 1787 it soon became Washington Academy and eventually Washington College, and then W&J College.

George Washington was interested in land, and was a large landowner on the Potomac in Virginia. Before the Revolution, he had been through this part of the Country on several occasions and had noted the fertility of the land. Accordingly he instructed his agent, William Crawford, to select a good sized tract of land for him in this western country, so the tract selected was one of 2813 acres located in present Mt. Pleasant Township just north east of Hickory; this was patented to Mr. Washington by the Colony of Virginia on July 5, 1774, just about 2 years before the date of the Declaration of Independence was signed. During the war years, General Washington could not give any attention to this land, but in 1784 he came to Canonsburg to visit Col. John Canon and together they went out to visit the General's land. They found several squatters settled on the land, and with these Mr. Washington tried to arrange some deal that they might remain on the land, or if the deal was not successful that they would peaceably yield to him the ownership of the land. The conference was heated and not successful, and the result was that the settlers were ejected, and eventually, the land was sold to other persons, who located upon it.

The story of Washington's using profanity on this occasion.

Among those eventually settling upon a portion of this land once owned by General Washington was the couple John and Elizabeth Berry. Elizabeth Gilmore had distinguished herself as had other women during the Revolution in serving as an Army muse - at Valley Forge during the terrible winter there and in the campaign which followed. And after the War was over, they came here to western Pennsylvania and took up a tract

of land, adjoining the town of Southview of Mt. Pleasant Township and here they lived the rest of their lives, they died here and both are buried in Robinson Run Cemetery, where a D.A.R. marker is at Elizabeth's grave. On the 1876 map of Mt. Pleasant Township the name Berry still appears on this tract of land.

General Washington went on to become our first President, unanimously elected to that office as no other President ever was. As Joe Bennett points out in an article in yesterday's Family Magazine in the Pittsburgh Press, he was elected at a time when political parties were almost unknown. Washington himself was above party, and as Bennett points out he might not have been elected in one of the later heated campaigns for the Presidency. But be that as it may, we still consider him the Father of Our Country. He is still to us, First in War, First in Peace, and First in the hearts of his countrymen. It will be good for our country if he always remains so.

At this meeting of S.A.R. and D.A.R. some of the people who attended and whom I met were:

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Clutter of Gably Ave.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Curry of Donora

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Sutherland

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sutherland

Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Mohr

Mr & Mrs. D.M. Winters of Jefferson Avenue Extension

Mr. Dillinger of Ft. Jackson Chapter of S.A.R. of Waynesburg

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Heatherington of Bentleyville

Mr. & Mrs. Freshwater of Follansbee WVa

Mrs. Peden - sister of Don Townsend

Mr. & Mrs. Glen Mounts of Buffalo Township

We went to the dinner-meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Cooke.

Absent due to ill health:

Mr. Henry M. Temple

Mr. and Mrs. J. Harold Chapman - post hospital

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Braden - he is in the hospital

Speaking to the Kiwanis Club of Washington
May 19, 1977

Chairman Quinet - Officers and members of this Kiwanis Club.

I must admit that right now, my head is in a sort of a whirl - I don't think that I am dreaming - I think that I am here in person and fairly wide awake - but I must confess that I am not fully sure what this is all about.

Mr. Quinet called me relative to this ceremony just a week ago today, and I tried to convince him that there must be some mistake - that he was talking to the wrong man, but I guess that he was able to talk faster than I did, and so, I am here - at least I think that I am here.

After I got the matter of this fine award through my head, I did try to figure out how it all came about. First, I asked my son Will, one of your members, about it, and he disclaimed any knowledge or responsibility for it. Then I began thinking about others of your members with whom I am acquainted - had your late fellow Kiwanian William P. Wilson been still alive and active, I could have guessed that he would have had a part in this. He was my first school teacher and a life-long friend, and I know would have promoted the idea of this award. But others who are still around like Albert Miller, or Bill Moreland, or Wm. K. (for Kiwanis) Neal, or Dr. Bill Leake I think know me well enough that they would not have favored the idea of giving this award to me - so I am at a loss to know who is responsible - I have the suspicion that this had been

done somewhat objectively, and of course if that is so, it is still all very mysterious to me.

With regard to the indictment which has just been read, I am afraid that I must plead guilty on most of its points. If these items enumerated are a fair statement of my record, I must say that I would not have considered them significant enough to have suggested this award. If any of them have been overstated, I will admit that they are all in my favor, and so I will not register any complaint. I think that I am one of those individuals who don't mind being talked about as long as everything sounds very good. While we are talking about my record, I think that it is correct to state that there are a number of elements in life for which I have considerable regard - and I will mention just a few of these, such as the sanctity of the home of the affection for loved ones in the family circle, and appreciation for good literature in our American culture, a love for the beauties of nature and especially in the realm of the flower kingdom, and then I think that my outstanding sense of appreciation is for the wonderful heritage which we have in our country as a whole, and in every Community which makes up our nation. My own especial interest in this line is for what I am pleased to call the Cross Creek County, which is in the part of Northwestern Washington County where I was born and where I worked in the public schools for nearly all of my active life. I love that region, its hills and valleys, its physical and historical land marks, and most of all the fine people who inhabit that area. It has been my pleasure to write something about that notable area, and if I had time, I would try to

tell you something about it, but I have already said too much and I must forbear.

With regard to your fine organization here: I must confess that I read all I can about your useful activities. The Kiwanis Club is noted for many good works and I commend you for your impact upon this community. I thank you sincerely for your recognition now accorded me. Before closing I want to say that I appreciate being allowed to bring some of the members of my family to this dinner. I have brought for moral support, my wife, Laura - we have been married for nearly 58 years - our two youngest sons, Dick who is a banker in Washington and your fellow Kiwanian Will who is in insurance (pardon these plugs) and then our lovely daughters-in-law, Dick's wife, Margaret, and Will's wife, Judy - they help us keep these two boys in line. Thank you for your hospitality in having us all, and although I still think there has been some mistake: Thank you very, very, much for the award. If I haven't deserved it in the past, I will surely try to do so in the future.

Talk on Local History to Boy Scouts at Mt. Prospect Church on March 5, 1980

White men have been living here just about 210 years - no legal settlements until the 1770's. Hunters and explorers here before that but no settlements. Settled by people east of the mountains in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Difficult travel in early time - no roads. Manner of settlement and taking up the land. Early homes - lean to, log cabins, log houses, stone houses, frame houses, brick houses since about 1830 or 1840.

Farms as laid out were larger than present farms - many of them of 400 acres. All woodland - big trees - dense forests - Indians didn't live here, but came here to hunt and fish - later came to drive the white men away - they killed many of the earlier settlers.

After 1793, when Mad Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians in western Ohio, no danger here from Indians.

One of the animals greatly feared were the wolves - running wild - killed sheep and young cattle - story at McGugin Rocks. Mad wolf bit Zechariah Rankin, and he took the hydrophobia and died a violent death.

Community life of the early days. Families lived farther apart than in the present time, but they were neighborly and visited and helped each other often. Going to forts at time of Indian raids.

Early churches established 1770's and later log churches, then stone, and lastly mostly brick.

Early schools were not regular in make-up, attendance, etc. Church schools, subscription schools, public schools, and parochial schools.

Hickory settled by 1780 - reason for the name - Mt. Pleasant - highest point in the township - known as Hickory since P.O. was established in 1830.

Clearing the forests - building other farm buildings - log barns - smoke-houses, etc. Early tools and farm implements very

primitive - forks and shovels made of wood - most farm work done by hand - not many horse-drawn implements till the 1800's. Wooden plows, harrows with wooden frames, and iron teeth - most cultivating and clearing done with large hoes.

After the Civil War, more horse drawn machinery came to be used - first mowing medium came here about 1862 - first grain binder several years later. Grain cut and gathered by hand and thrashed with a flailer, or by horses trampling it out. All very different than now where all machinery is powered by gasoline, or oil, or diesel fuels.

In the earlier day, the forests were full of wild beasts - many of them furnished meat for the settlers. As the forests were cleared off, animals became scarce, now some are coming back, such as deer and foxes - rabbits and squirrels and groundhogs have always been here.

Author Brunch - June 7, 1980
held at Burgettstown Public Library

I feel highly honored in having been asked to participate in this program. I have known of my two colleagues for some time and am familiar with their writings and some of their interests. They have both contributed significantly to the history and background of our local area, and as almost a native of Burgettstown, I am glad to assist in welcoming them to this event, and since this is the first time that I have met either of these ladies, I want to express my joy now in knowing them better.

I believe that all of you will agree that it is a good thing for a community such as we have in northern Washington County to pause in its busy life and take stock of the historical interests which can be found within its bounds. I suppose that there is no settled area in our country but what has at least a little bit of local history. I feel sure that the people of some communities don't know much, if anything, about their history, but that does not mean that such does not exist - it is just a matter of no one's having taken the time or trouble to find out about it.

Like all of these other communities, northern Washington County and Burgettstown have a notable history - much of which has already been discovered, but some of which is yet to be documented. Much of our early history has come down to us by tradition - not a very exact way to keep history alive but better than none at all. Something is known of the origin and history of many of our early families, and since history is a record of the activities of people, much of our history can be found in family records. Newspapers have been the means of recording day by day and week by week activities in our communities, and where we have early files of such newspapers, we can find much valuable and interesting history. Burgettstown has had a weekly newspaper for over one hundred years, and if we had files of it, we would find much valuable material. Unfortunately when a new owner of the Enterprise took over many years ago, I heard him say himself that he had taken previous files of this paper out and burned them, since he needed the room.

If we had those old newspapers we would have many of the writings of such men as James Simpson of Cross Creek Township and Joseph R. McNary of Smith Township who were fairly regular contributors to our local paper and to the county papers as well. These men had lived and talked with many of the first and second generation of our early settlers, so had gotten much of what they know about our history at first hand. These two men who incidentally were related, they were actually second cousins, were not highly educated but they were well-read and well-informed about many aspects of our local history. If we had all that they wrote during their lifetimes, we would have a much better record of our community. For years Mr. Simpson kept a daily journal, still extant in part in which can be found many gems of local history. Mr. McNary's writings were a bit more formal - his letters and articles reflect the time in which he lived.

Perhaps the earliest book published in and about northern Washington County was Doddridge's Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia and Pennsylvania, a very valuable book which is still available in a satisfactory reprint. Our county histories did not appear until 1870 when Alfred Creigh wrote and published his History of Washington County from its first settlements to the present time as he designated it. Then Crummin's valuable work came out in 1882 to be followed by Beer's Biographical Record in 1893, then by McFarland's History of Washington County in 1910, and by Earle Forrest's valuable three volume work in 1926. All of these contain something on Northern Washington County, but none of them contain what might be considered a comprehensive history of our section of the county.

Early attempts to fill in on our history were made by Burgettstown's own Katherine Pyle. I remember reading several of her excellent articles before I ever knew her. I began writing a bit for local publication some years ago when I composed a short history of Jefferson Township for the Centennial of the Township in 1953. The first piece of fan mail on that article came from Katherine Pyle, whom I had never met, but whom I soon found to be sufficiently interested in our local history to want to join a field trip of students of the Eldersville School which we did in that spring of 1953, as we explored some of the places which I had written about in the article. At that time both she and I were employed in public school work, but I got out of the active work of the profession by retiring voluntarily some years before she did, so when Jim

Dellars of the Burgettstown Enterprise asked me about 13 or 14 years ago if I would write a series of articles on Burgettstown and its Neighboring Towns, I was able to accept the assignment, and these articles embrace, pretty well, the core of our Book of Historical Sketches of Northern Washington County, reprinted about a year ago by our Fort Vance Historical Society. Like all such compilations, this is not in any sense a complete history of the area, but since it has been published in a permanent form, it is my hope that it will endure, and that it will be added to in the years ahead.

Now that she, too, has retired from teaching in the Public Schools, Miss Pyle is adding to our knowledge and appreciation of our local history by writing her weekly columns in our Enterprise. I hope that her writing, too, can be published in a permanent form some time in the near future.

As the Borough of Burgettstown looks forward to its Centennial Anniversary in 1981, and our County of Washington prepares to observe its Bicentennial in the same year, and as our State becomes 300 years old in that year, it would appear to be a good time to take stock of our past as citizens in these three entities of government and prepare to do some writing to update as nearly as possible our history as a town, as a county and as the Keystone State in our nation. We, here, should be interested in seeing that this is done on the local level. It should not be the work of a single individual, due to the magnitude of the task, and the short time left in which to compile what is needed.

In addition to updating and revising the general history of our area, specific fields such as education and religion and industry should be more adequately covered than they have been heretofore, and this is most important - the history of families should receive much better treatment than it has received up to this time.

In connection with some of my earlier writing, I completed a series of articles which I called "First Families of the Cross Creek County" this is the type of article which is still so badly needed in this area - a combination of genealogical and historical writing which will document the records of the older families - and not for them alone but also for those families who have come into the area in more recent years - the influx with the coal mines and the industry - these many families with different ethnic backgrounds than the First Families of 200 years ago. All of these families have contributed to the growth of Northern Washington County and they

should be given credit and recognized as could be done if appropriate history were written.

Please don't look to me to do much of this writing - my schedule is already too full to permit my taking on additional work of this type, so I hope that some will come forward and assume the task and the responsibility for getting some of this writing done.

**Outline for Speech on October 13, 1981
to Lions Club at Hickory**

Features of the early settlements 211 years ago.

Conflict between Pennsylvania and Virginia in jurisdiction over the land.

The settlement has resulted in certain landmarks, and it is my purpose to speak briefly about these and their preservation.

Case of Cherry's Fort

Marker concerning the Washington Lands

The marker for McGugin Gas Well

Our log houses - Bell House, Abraty-Brezuski House, Conner Log House, Robert Lyle House

Marker of the Old Mills - Rankin Mill, Simpson Mill, Woodrow Mill, Old Horse Mill.

Religious landmarks - 2 old churches over 100 years old, Site of the German Church

Old Graveyards - historic graves: Robert Lyle, Robert Marshall, John Moore

Preservation and recollection of these old landmarks - what the individual can do - what organization can do - the need for instruction in local history in our High School.

I am not sure what I should talk about.

Local History should be important to each and every community, since every community has a history of its own - similar in many respects to other communities, but also distinctly different, especially with respect to the personalities which make up a particular community.

There was no white settlement in Mount Pleasant until 1770 when Daniel and Ann McGugin arrived. Settlement was not permitted here until after the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768, so the McGugins came soon after that treaty had been signed, and some others began coming here soon after the McGugins, but settlement was difficult since the Indians were so troublesome during the decade of the 70's. Also, the onset of the Revolutionary War made it difficult for families to locate in this then Western Community. Several families did come and the tract of land taken up by George Washington in our Township was patented to him by the Colony of Virginia in July 1774.

These early settlements and these made later after the Revolutionary War was over in the 1780's resulted in the occupation of most of the land here by the late 1780's as can be seen from the dates patents were issued for the land. And it is to be noted that both Pennsylvania and Virginia claimed jurisdiction over the land in our Township until the Mason and Dixon line was extended to the present Southwestern corner of Pennsylvania in 1784, when Virginia gave up her intent in this section and Pennsylvania generously accepted the Virginia Certificates and permitted immigrants from that colony (or state) to retain possession of the land on which they had settled.

During this early period, Cherry Fort had been established for the protection of the early families in times of Indians insurrections, and other landmarks had been located, which can be recognized until this present day.

And I think it is with reference to these landmarks and their locations and recognition of them that I would like to speak on this occasion. I think there is not in the Mt. Pleasant area the interest and appreciation for our history and for locating and marking these landmarks as we should have. A few years ago, a young lady from our Township then attending one of our State Colleges became interested in comprising a historical paper and study of Cherry Fort, but when she had located the site of that Fort and began looking for information on the subject, she found not only that the people living in the area of the Fort didn't know any thing about it, but also there seemed to be no interest in finding out anything about it. This led this young lady to entitle her otherwise excellent paper: "Fort Cherry, the Death and Burial of Local History." When this lady, Miss Janice Foflygen came to me for help in her project, I gave her what information I could. If I had known what she was going to title her paper, I might have dissuaded her and suggested that she give it a more glamorous title because, while interest in local istory in Mt. Pleasant, I hope is not dead, yet I am afraid that it is not very much alive.

We have several real landmarks in Mount Pleasant Township but on the whole they are not recognized very well and at present I don't believe any of them are properly marked. We did have a roadside marker for the McGugin Gas Well, but since it was said to interfere with a view of traffic from the side road where it was located, it was taken down and discarded, when it could as well have been relocated in a suitable place. The two markers for the Washington Lands and the David Reed House are along

Route 50 but in Cecil Township and not even in sight of the lands which are referred to. These markers, in my opinion, should be relocated in Mt. Pleasant Township somewhere near the Brown Orelands, where almost all of the Washington Lands can be seen and from where the location of the David Reed House can be seen.

Our old log houses have nearly all disappeared, and the few remaining should, by all means, be preserved and if possible suitably marked. The log home in Hickory now owned and occupied by the Don Bell family will likely be preserved for many years. The log home on the former Alrotz Farm now owned by the James Brezinski family was shown in the 1876 Caldwell Atlas of Washington County, and now, in 1981, 105 years later, it has about the same appearance, and we included it in the 1981 Book on Mount Pleasant. Since it has been remodeled and repaired it will in all likelihood be preserved for many more years. The log house in the Cherry Valley section where Dr. Conner was born was torn down and destroyed when the new owner of the property bought the land and erected a modern new house. The old Robert Lyle log house which was gutted by fire several months ago may never be restored unless someone purchases it and takes an interest in it. Practically all of the old log houses have been taken down and replaced by modern frame structures.

The sites of old grist mills and saw mills in Mount Pleasant are all known, but the structures housing them have all been removed, and the only evidence of their existence are the scars on the ground showing the location of the dams for impounding the water and the "races" for carrying the water to the mill. These can still be traced at the site of the old Rankin Mill on the Ed. Cowden farm, at the Simpson Mill on the former Glen Clark farm and at the Woodrow Mill on the Dick Stewart farm. The only horse mill of which

there is any record was located on the present John Hoffman farm. My contention is that the sites of these historic structures should be memorialized in some way, and if possible should be marked in some manner.

The religious landmarks in our area are of course the ancient church building - the two still standing in our area both being now over 100 years old. In Great Britain and Ireland such structure are preserved even if no longer uses. The preservation of the old Millers Run Church in neighboring Cecil Township is a good example of what can be done to keep these old buildings in good repair and since it is used occasionally, its former usefulness to that community can be memorialized. And in Mount Pleasant for several years, we had the Trinity Evangelical German Lutheran Church which had a notable history during those years when it ministered to the immigrant German families who have made such a substantial contribution to the life of Mount Pleasant Township. Its site, by all means, should be marked by a plaque or stone marker, since all of the buildings have been removed.

In connection with most old churches, of course are historic burial grounds, graveyards we call these older grounds, and in them are to be found historic graves where the rude forefathers of our community sleep their last sleep. And over many of which have been erected monuments which are the real historic markers many of which record only the date of birth and death or the ages of the decedents - but some of these really are historic - on the gravestone of my great great grandfather Robert Lyle is the inscription "Soldier of the Revolution" and on the gravestone of Robert Marshall is recorded that he was one of the eighteen men in the Guadenhutten campaign of 1782 who "formed a second live in favor of

saving the Moravian Indians from massacre at Guadenhutten." These are matters of historical record which can be found in our History of the Mount Prospect Graveyard, which every family in Mount Pleasant Township should have on their bookshelves.

We here are the heirs of historic past in Mount Pleasant Township and it behooves us to do what we can to cherish and preserve this past. I believe that your organization here can do much to help in this preservation, and I hope that individually and collectively you will do all you can toward that end.

Note - In the references made to the sign for the McGugin Gas Well on Route 18, it was restored to its former location several years ago. And the two signs for David Reed and the George Washington Lands had been restored on the grounds of Brown's Orchard along Route 50 in Mount Pleasant Township.

Lion's Club - November 2, 1981

Before I forget it, I want to Thank You for this invitation to speak on this occasion and for the delicious dinner of which I have just partaken along with the rest of you. But I want to warn you that I am not really an after-dinner speaker - in fact I should not pose as a public speaker, at all - but I do especially poorly when I try to speak on a full stomach. Of course, after I finish, if I ever do, you men might think of me to be like the preacher who came to a certain town to speak at a Sunday evening meeting in the local church. Before they went to this meeting, the lady of the house had prepared a dinner so they asked the preacher to join them in the meal, but he declined saying he couldn't speak well so soon after eating. So the family went to the meeting, but the wife stayed at home to do the dishes, I guess, and to prepare a meal for the preacher to eat when they came back. After they had gotten him fed and safely to bed, the wife asked her husband how the preacher had done in his address of the evening. Oh, he said, he didn't do too well, he might as well have et.

Someone once asked Groucho Marx if he knew that the Eskimos eat whale meat, and blubber, and old Groucho's reply was "Well if you would eat whale meat, you might blubber, too." But I want to make one thing perfectly clear as Richard Nixon might have said, that story implies no reflection on this delicious dinner.

There is another complication in this matter, too. Before I left on a trip which I took about a month ago, your President called me and asked me to speak to your group which I got away from at that

time by leaving town. But being assured by Hany that I would receive another invitation to one of your later meetings, although I was very busy getting ready for my trip, I decided that I had better write something out before I left, so I did and left it on top of my writing desk to remind me of the matter when I got back home. Well, I have two daughters-in-law who are very attentive to my needs at all times, and both of them are Lionesses, by the way, that is wives of Lion Club members. While I was away, one of these girls broke into my shack and gave it a thorough housecleaning, not that it didn't need it, but when I got home, my manuscript was no where to be found, so I assumed that either this girl had read it and decided it was improper to use on this occasion and destroyed it, or else it was too hot and disappeared by spontaneous combustion. So I had to write another speech and if I try to give both of them on this one occasion, this meeting may prove to be what they used to say, somewhat protracted.

Well, to get down to business for a few minutes anyway. I want to remind you, as was brought out in our recent Anniversary Day that Mt. Pleasant Township is 175 years old this year, having been set up by order of Court on May 12, 1806. But the name "Mt. Pleasant" is much older than that, since this name was used as the patent name for a tract of land located east of Hickory and taken up by one Matthew Hilles on February 8, 1785. This is the tract known for many years as the McCoy farm now consisting of some 200+ acres of land. The Hilles Family did not remain long in this area - none of the name are buried in either the Mt. Pleasant, or the Mt. Prospect Graveyard, and the land passed into other hands. About

1870, Samuel D. White of Cross Creek Township came into possession of this land. He never lived on it, but during his period of ownership, Robert S. Wilson, Grandfather of Robert Wilson still living in the Township lived on this farm and farmed it for Mr. White. During their residence on the farm, members of the family took the dread disease of small pox, and the afflicted members along with the mother moved into an old building, a sheepshed which stood on the farm near the old McCoy Station - my father pointed it out to me from a Wabash Railroad train and told me the story as we rode along years ago going toward Pittsburgh. So, this old building was used as a sort of pest-house, but, fortunately, none of the members of the family died. In 1883, James R. McCoy bought this farm and lived on it until his death and during his ownership he built almost all of the buildings and made many improvements on the farm, which remained in the McCoy name until after the death of William M. McCoy, when his wife and daughter sold it and it is now owned, surface and coal, I believe by Eugene Pettrica of Smith Township. The name, Mt. Pleasant was, no doubt given to this tract, or farm, because of its elevation, about 1300 feet above sea level, and because of its good soil and excellent drainage.

Adjoining this tract, on the south was one of 236 acres patented by James McClelland and known by the patent name of "Peace and Plenty" another name indicating the type of soil and its favorable location. The McClelland Family did remain in the area - James McClelland is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and the family line is continued in the Simpson Family still here in the Township.

In 1812, Thomas Miller, a recruit immigrant from England purchased this tract from the McClelland Estate. He and his son, John M. Miller, both excellent livestock men, cleared the land and tilled the soil in the best manner known in their time. John M. Miller built the farm buildings still standing there and the Caldwell Atlas of 1876 shows those buildings as they appeared at that time, and as the barn still looks today. Sometime after the death of John M. Miller, about 1898, Mr. Wm. M. Dinsmore purchased this farm and it is now in the possession in part of his son, John C. Dinsmore, and is operated by his grandson, William G. Dinsmore. The Dinsmores have erected the two brick houses in which they now live, but the barns and other farm buildings are those built many years ago by the Miller Family.

These stories which I have told about these two tracts of land can be duplicated for most, if not all the farms here in Mt. Pleasant Township, for the McGugin Farm, the first tract settled in the township, for the Cherry farms on one of which Cherry's Fort was located for the old Rankin and Simpson and Marshall farms on which old water mills were located and operated for many years. Every owner of a farm in Mt. Pleasant Township can have traced the sequence of ownership of the land which he owns and on which he resides, if he would only have an abstract of title prepared for his tract of land. Such papers would bring out the many facts and stories which comprise the History of Mt. Pleasant Township.

They would show the location of the land in question, who owned it and probably lived on it, successively over the years, and would establish the sites of the many events of history which have

occured here in Mt. Pleasant Township. We tried to document part of this in the book: Mt. Pleasant, which was recently published and made available for all present day residents of this Township.

This, admittedly, is not a complete History of the area - a "complete" history is seldom compiled for any area - there are always limitations of time and space and finances, and also of the ability of a single historian to produce, but I feel that it has been a move in the right direction: Through the cooperation of the Township Supervisors who underwrote the project and the various writers who assisted in the compilation, we have done what we have done, and we offer it for whatever it is worth, beleiving that it should be in every home in Mt. Pleasant Township where there is any appreciation for the heritage which is ours in the delightful communities which comprise Mt. Pleasant Township.

I want to say, too, that the book: Mt. Pleasant is not in any sense a Directory of the Township such was not the intention when the Book was planned. If other anniversary occasions are contemplated in the future. I believe that a Directory of all Residents should sometime be compiled and published since such would be a valuable record to add to the archives of the Township which are much too scanty, at best, and I believe that all such publications should add to the interest of more people in our past. The Directory of the Township for 1876 in Caldwell Atlas of Washington County is a valuable record, and should perhaps be repeated, at least once in a while.

The interest of our people in our History would be increased, too, if old land marks and points of historic interest were

appropriately marked. At present the only such marker that I know of are the markers placed at each end of Hickory on Route 50 - these contain a lot of history and should be retained. But the markers for David Reed and the George Washington Lands are located in Cecil Township, miles away from and not even in sight of the site which they are supposed to memorialize. In my opinion these should be located near Brown Orchards in our Township and within sight of the Washington Lands and the site of the Reed House. And the marker for the Great McGugin Gas Well should be restored, even if it means replacing it where it would not interfere with the view of approaching traffic from the side-road at that point, which was given as the reason for its removal.

The locations of all of the old one-room schools are known and can be found on the 1876 map of the Township, where they can be located, if no other means of marking them can be found. The old original homes, the log houses are pretty well gone from the area, but the log house standing in Hickory and restored by Don Bell remains, as is the old Dinsmore or Alrutz log house when James Brezinski lives, but the Robert Lyle log house near Mt. Prospect Church was gutted by fire several weeks ago, and I see that it has now been entirely destroyed also by fire.

Our heritage here in Mt. Pleasant Township is a noble one - this area was settled by a good class of people and over the years many other good people have been attracted to our communities here in Mt. Pleasant and they have made definite contributions to the good things of life to be found here. This Heritage continues to grow and each one of us individually and collectively in such organization as

the Lions Club can do our part to enhance this Heritage. I hope that you will do your part, so that after 175 years more, Mount Pleasant will still be a good place in which to live.

Note - Since this speech was written and delivered, the David Reed and George Washington markers have been relocated from Cecil Township to the Brown Orchards along Route 50 in Mt. Pleasant Township - also the McGugin Gas Well marker has been restored to its former location near the Bert Phillips home along Route 18 South of the Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church.

Talk by A.D. White
February 12, 1986
before George Washington Chapter S.A.R.

Mr. President, Compatriots of the George Washington Chapter, Ladies of the D.A.R. and you other members of the Fair Six.

I appreciate very much this opportunity to speak to you tonight. I am not sure but that Pres. Vanatta might have made the first mistake of his administration by asking me to speak on this occasion. I had a phone call yesterday from one of those agencies in Washington D.C. who seem to think they can correct all evils in that city by asking me for donations to their causes. I always resist this, but in the conversation yesterday, the very insistent voice on the other end asked me: But don't you believe in free speech? - I said, Yes, I sure do, I am going to try to make one tomorrow night. (Dick, that is not a suggestion for a honorarium - you will find this speech wont be worth paying for, so I will relieve your mind on this point now.)

When Dick called me about speaking here, I soon recalled that I had been asked to speak on a similar occasion, about seven years ago - since I did not belong to the S.A.R. at that time, I think I told that group which was similar to this group here tonight why I didn't get into the George Washington Chapter when I applied for admission about 60 years ago - I have told some of you about that experience - on that other occasion members of the National Pike Chapter of the D.A.R. were present, and Mary Lou Mohr was their regent - since I had gotten to know Mary Lou fairly well, one time I jokingly asked her about joining the D.A.R. She took my question in stride and told me:

Church lot sold in 1804 and church erected on it.

Our oldest local institution is the United Presbyterian Church

Mt. Pleasant 1795 Mt. Prospect 1825 merged 1968

180th anniversary last June.

Graveyards connected with the two churches - very historic

Mt. Pleasant oldest marked grave - 1805

Mt. Prospect oldest marked grave - 1830

Stories about these old yards - much history involved if it can be discovered:

John Moore killed in 1834 - while building the church

James M. Kelly - 1892 - story of the money belt

August Wienecke oldest buried at Mt. Prospect 105 years old

Six or seven suicides buried at Mt. Prospect

Many service men's graves in both Cemeteries

German families settling in Mt. Pleasant Township

history of some of them - Joe Wittman

History of the municipality - Township established on May 12, 1806

Name - Mt. Pleasant is appropriate - elevations

Name applied early to the Village - P.O. Hickory 1830

Population predominantly rural until 1900 - Farmers, Sheepmen,
Dairymen

Building of Wabash Railroad 1904 - farmers selling coal

Coal banks in Township - later deep mining - Westland - Southview

Industry - Curtain Pole Factory

Schools of Township

Roads of Township

**To the Avella Volunteer Firemen's Association
January 8, 1976**

Mr. Toastmaster, Members of the Avella Volunteer Fire Department, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is our first attendance at your annual dinner meeting, and we are very grateful to you for the invitation. Your chairman indicated that Mrs. White would be welcome, and she appreciates the invitation. I have read about your dinner meetings as they have occurred in the past. While I have not been familiar with all of your activities over the years since your organization in 1930, I have heard enough about your group to know that you have become an important part of the Avella Community.

A Fire Department may be a bit like the armed services of our Country in that membership in the Fire Department or in the Army, for example, may be more glamorous than the actual work of the unit. Mere membership may be attractive, but when it comes to fighting fires or fighting an enemy, it may not be so enjoyable in either case. I recall several years ago, during a prolonged dry spell in the Community, when field fires were almost continuous for many days time, the Avella firemen were hard pressed and dead tired, as call after call came to continue the fight against the fires; under such conditions the life of a fireman is not so attractive.

In spite of such conditions, the blast of the fire whistle and the siren of the fire truck always arouses interest in the minds of nearly everyone who hears them. The sound of the siren usually

1) I would have to have my application in order, 2) I would have to get more hair on the top of my head, and 3) I would have to lie about my sex. Well as all of you probably know I didn't get into the D.A.R. but I am glad that I now do belong to the George Washington Chapter due to the help given me by our Past President and his wife, and Lawrence Sutherland and Bill Stout, and several others of you.

It is Presidents Month and I have been asked to speak about our two great Presidents, who were born in the month of February: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

As we honor the memory of George Washington year after year, as has been done for now nearly two hundred years, it is not unusual to refer to him as "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the hearts of his Countrymen." We recall his leadership in the French and Indian War, and especially in the War of the American Revolution, one of the truly great wars of all time, as we in this organization firmly believe. We think of his statesmanship in the formation of our Country, for he not only directed it in its struggle for Independence, but as a member of the Constitutional Convention and as our First President for eight years, he launched our Ship of State on what has been a safe journey now of almost two centuries. His exploits in these two phases of our Nation's History are well established in our minds.

So, in the brief time which Dick has allotted me, I am going to try to speak on a phase of George Washington's life which is much closer to home for all of us; I mean his interest in our County and in south western Pennsylvania.

Since he had been sent by the Governor of Virginia on a perilous mission to the French Camp in present North Western Pennsylvania in 1752 and had discharged that mission capably and had returned to Virginia in safety. Young George Washington was interested here of Pennsylvania, with General Braddock. He returned here in 1754 to fight the French at Jumonville and at Fort Necessity, and he came back to the part in that ill-fated campaign, Although his forces didn't do too well in these expeditions. Yet Mr. Washington's own prestige was increased and he got military experience which he used very effectively in later years.

With a view to obtaining lands for himself in this then western country. Mr. Washington came to Fort Pitt in the fall of 1770 and then sailed down the Ohio River to about the mouth of the Great Kanawha River. His purpose on this journey was to seek out lands which he might acquire for himself. The young man had become a surveyor and in doing that work he had become a keen observer of the value of lands where his occupation took him. His Journal of this trip is replete with accounts of his evaluation of the river bottom lands by which he had passed on this trip.

After going so far south and west on the Ohio River, Mr. Washington returned to the vicinity of the mouth of Cross Creek on the Virginia shore, and then traveled across country back to Fort Pitt instead of going back the whole way by the river valley. He does not, in his Journal, describe in detail the land over which he crossed, so we can only speculate as to the course he took. A friend of mine of some years ago, Mr. Eliza Scott, born in Jefferson Township and who lived later at Steubenville

studied this matter carefully and decided that Mr. Washington traveled over what is now Jefferson and Smith and Mt. Pleasant Townships in northern Washington County. One tradition of this trip states that Mr. Washington stopped to visit the Stevenson Family whom he knew in Beckley Co. Va. and who later lived in Smith Township but I do not believe that this family had come to Smith Township as early as 1770.

A definite result of this trip was that after he returned to Virginia he had patented to him a tract of 2814 acres of good land located in the eastern side of Mt. Pleasant Township. The date of this land grant is July 5, 1774, and in obtaining this grant from the Colony of Virginia, Mr. Washington became the first land owner in present Mt. Pleasant Township. The tract had been laid out and surveyed for Mr. Washington by his friend, Col. William Crawford.

Before he could come to visit Pennsylvania to view his new land possessions: the Revolutionary War intervened, and after the early battles which had been fought in New England, on June 19, 1773. George Washington accepted the commission as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the American Colonies with the express condition that he receive no salary for his service.

The story of the War is a long one which I will not attempt to tell here and now, but after it was over in the fall of 1784, after resigning his commission in the Army. Mr. Washington came to Canonsburg and then to his land in Mt. Pleasant Township. Again there is a long story which could be told, but the gist of it is that he found a number of squatters settled upon his land; he tried to effect a lease agreement with these settlers so he would have income from

the land, but failing in this, he ordered the squatters to leave his land, which was later sold and divided up into about 15 farms, and since the boundary lines of a numbers of these farms follow the lines of Mr. Washington's original tract, we know just where his land is, and which present farms are included in this tract.

For quite a long time two roadside historical markers stood near the Village of Venice on Route 50 - these markers with the name David Reed on one and George Washington on the other referred to the ownership of these lands by Mr. Washington - but the markers were not near this land nor even in sight of it, so, in 1976, with the help of the late Mr. Renzie Davidson, then Secretary of the Hickory Lions Club, we were able to have these markers reset, and they now stand on the grounds of Brown's Orchards, two miles east of Hickory, but still on Route 50, and at a point from which one can see almost the entire tract of the Washington Land, and also the site of the David Reed Log House, where Mr. Washington met the squatters on that October day in 1784.

At the time when Mr. Washington came here in that year, our County had been formed in 1781, and he had been honored by having it named for him an honor which he richly deserved at that time - and by the same token, we honor him by calling this the George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Washington served as our President from 1789 till 1797, then retired, finally, to his estate at Mt. Vernon, where he died on December 14, 1799, and his body was laid to rest on his estate there.

About ten years after Mr. Washington's death, on February 9, 1809, our second heroic President, Abraham Lincoln was born, in a humble log cabin, in the backwoods of Hardin County, Kentucky, so the lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln do not overlap, but belong in two greatly different periods of American History, and these differences begin with the two men themselves - consider the contrast of George Washington birth in an affluent home on the Atlantic seaboard with the birth of Abraham Lincoln in the poorest of circumstances in frontier Kentucky.

If we would consider the lack of opportunities in his early years to have been a deterrent to the later success of Abraham Lincoln, we find that he took full advantage of all the opportunities which he did have. His formal schooling consisted at best of only a few weeks at a school probably of the poorest type, but in spite of this Abe did learn to read, and having acquired that ability, he furthered his own education by reading borrowed books on every possible occasion. He became a large man, physically, by vigorous exercise and hard work - it took a strong man to split rails and to aid in building log houses. He got some elementary military experience by commanding a company in the Black Hawk War, but that was hardly a candle to General Washington's service in the Revolution. When the chance came to study law, he did it by borrowing books from an established lawyer, and then practicing the profession by taking all kinds of cases as they came along, regardless of any financial gains. His first political appointment was given him by President Andrew Jackson who made him Postmaster of New Salem Illinois, but his hat was his post office -

he carried incoming and outgoing letters in it until he could deliver them.

He was elected to the Legislature of Illinois and there met Stephen Douglass, whom he later debated on the question of slavery, but he lost the nomination as U.S. Senator to his opponent. In the Presidential nominating convention of 1860, there were eleven candidates, and at first, Abraham Lincoln was probably not even a "dark horse," but he got the nomination and was elected.

I don't suppose that I can connect Abraham Lincoln in anyway with Washington County, or closely with our area. He probably was never within our area. He probably was never within our bounds and I suppose that the nearest he had ever come here was when he stopped in Pittsburgh on his way to Washington for his inauguration. When there he stayed overnight at the Monongahela Home and while there he addressed a throng of people who had collected from a balcony overlooking the adjacent street. He went on from there to Harrisburg and Philadelphia - but from the time of his election Mr. Lincoln was a marked man - marked for assassination by the forces which opposed him and tried to prevent his inauguration so he had to sneak into the Nation's Capital by a subterfuge, but he did arrive safely and was inaugurated on March 4, 1861.

But the new President at once had to face the events which moved so rapidly into the Civil War. In trying to describe Mr. Lincoln's conduct of that War, again there is a long story to tell. And we don't have time for that on this occasion, but we know that in the conduct of that War - we see Mr. Lincoln patiently and capably meeting each crisis as it came - visiting battle fields, appointing

the leaders in the field, and carrying on the civil affairs of the Nation as well, and finally bringing the Nation through to victory and the preservation of the Union - then, when most of the acute problems of the time were on the way to a happy solution - when a grateful Nation was ready to recognize its debt of gratitude to its great leaders on an evening in April, 1865 when the tired President was trying to relax and get a few hours respite from the pressures of the four years of hard work and continuous worry - while attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington the bullet of the assassin finally caught up with the President and snuffed out his life - a bizarre tribute of gratitude to one who had borne so much of the nations troubles.

Every Nation, I believe, has its own heroes and we in America are well supplied with heroic men and women. President Reagan said in his State of the Union message last week "History is made by men and women of courage" and we do well, again in this month of February 1986, to honor the memory of George Washington who fought to gain our Independence and who worked diligently to found our Nation and of Abraham Lincoln, who worked personally to preserve our Union, and who even gave his life for that cause.

S.A.R. Dinner
April 18, 1986
Holiday Inn, Washington

Acknowledge Introduction

Story of Mary Lou Mohr

Optimal

Story of old farmer's false teeth

Our obligation as an organization to recognize Heroes of the Revolution

The Story of Paul Revere (1735-1818)

Best known for Longfellow Poem from Tales of a Wayside Inn.

British occupation of Boston

Colonial Intelligences re: their movements

Paul Revere's Ride by Longfellow

Listen my children and you shall hear

His arrangement with an accomplice

Christ Church - known as Old North Church

a beautiful church - a tourist attraction

one if by land, two if by sea

two lanterns were displayed

his waiting on the opposite shore

it was 12 by the village clock - Medford town

it was 1 -Lexington

it was 2 by the village clock -Concord

he had others to assist him in spreading the alarm - but he gets most of the credit

William Dawer - Dr. Samuel Pruvok

Paul Revere was a patriot

a colonel in the Revolutionary Army

a goldsmith, a silversmith and a coppersmith in everyday life.

He erected a mill to roll copper plate

he co-operated with Robert Fulton in making copper plates for steamboat boilers

he did fine artwork in metals and there is a collection of his artwork in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts - where there are also two good portraits of Paul Revere - one of them by Gilbert Stuart

George Washington's interest in Western Pennsylvania - we are proud in Mt. Pleasant Township that George Washington was our first landowner his mission to the French in Northwestern Pennsylvania in 1752 or 1753 barely 21 years old, the perils of this journey - its futility.

His mission in 1754 as head of Virginia militia - fighting at Jumonville and at Ft. Necessity

Along with General Braddock in 1755 - that defeat

His further preparation for military duty and his work in land surveying

His journey to Pittsburgh in 1770 - and down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Great Kanawha

His return to Pittsburgh and Virginia

selection and survey of his land in Mt. Pleasant Township by Col. Wm. Crawford

2813 acres in Eastern Mt. Pleasant Township

Roadside markers relating to this land

one on George Washington - the other the name of David Reed

The Revolutionary War intervening; he was not able to come to view his land until 1784.

His visit to Canonsburg and Col John Canon.

His visit to his land - and his meeting with the squatters there and trying to arrange terms of leasing the land - failure to do so - eventual sale of the land and its present occupation by about 15 farms - recalling this incident in our local history.

Relocation of the markers to the Brown Orchards east of Hickory.

Mr. Washington was not able to ever locate in Western Pennsylvania - after leading our army to victory - he retired to Mt. Vernon - President of Constitutional Convention

President of the United States for 8 years

His retirement to Mt. Vernon and his death there on December 14, 1799.

When he came here in 1785, our County had already been named for this famous man, and this was the beginning of the use of the name Washington, as it has been used for the name of the Capital City of the

Nation and one of our Northwestern States is named for him and towns and cities by the score in many of the states of our Nation.

We honored Mr. Washington here again in 1787 when our local Academy, soon to become a college was named Washington Academy - and when a large hotel was established here many years ago, it was named the George Washington, and now, again, our Sons of the American Revolution honor Mr. Washington by calling ours the George Washington Chapter - a most appropriate name, and certainly for our time, a really good way to honor the Father of our Country, and may I paraphrase a bit the famous saying - First in War, First in Peace, and the first registered landholder in Mt. Pleasant Township - Yes, even the first in Washington County for no other land patent in our County is any earlier than July 5, 1774.

Washington's great gifts to the Presidency were: dignity, power, and constitutionalism.

Paul Revere 1735-1818

of Huguenot stock

his father a silversmith

sold spectacles - replaced missing teeth - made surgical equipment

made copper plates

took part in Boston Tea Party

much a mill for rolling copper

cooperated with Robert Fulton on copper boiler for steamboats

his famous ride - April 19, 1775

almost the anniversary tonight 201 years ago

a Colonel in American Army

he preferred to be known simply as a silver smith and usually worked in his shirt sleeves

two portraits of him - one by Gilbert Stuart and a good collection of his silver art work ar in the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston

Questions

**Talk to Farm Women's Club at Hickory
later to Community Club at West Middletown
(modified to suit locality in each case)**

In what ways did the War in 1862-63 affect the people of Mt. Pleasant Township? Did they take part in projects designed to aid the war effort?

Were men from Mt. Pleasant Township enlisted in the armies of the Union Forces? Was there a draft law during the Civil War?

How was the home life of the people here affected by the war? Were foods rationed? How about the high cost of living?

How were communications carried on at that time? Did they have telephones and telegraphs? Radios? Railroads?

Were social activities of the people curtailed as a result of the war? Were there "black outs"?

Were people asked to buy war stamps and bonds to help finance the War?

Washington Reporter

January 2, 1862 - a description of the new Mount Prospect Church, telling of the contractors for each phase of the work - basement 50x44 feet for Sabbath School room, etc.

January 9, 1862 - James Simpson's weather report for 1861 - number of fair days, number of cloudy days, number of days on which rain or snow fell, hottest day, coldest day, etc.

Same issue mentioned knitting of sox, and making of blankets taken to Washington from Jefferson Township by D. S. Walker for use of soldiers - mentioned prominent knitters.

How did news travel in 1862?

February 20, 1862 - description of a celebration at Canonsburg at the receipt of news of the Union Victory at Fort Donelson - two gentlemen passing through Canonsburg brought the news from Pittsburgh. They arrived about night fall - on receipt of the news. a torch light procession was formed - they marched to the residence of Rev. Baine, who made a stirring speech in which he said that he wished that his voice might be heard across the ocean by England and France who seemed so anxious to recognize the Southern Confederacy. The procession visited the houses of the President and

faculty members of Jefferson College - many speeches were made - classes at the college were dismissed the next day in celebration. A tribute was paid to the parents who had boys in the Union Army before Ford Donelson, and who, of course, at that time didn't know the fate of the boys.

Were foods rationed? How about the cost of living?

March 6, 1862 - description of substitute for Tea and Coffee - Rye Coffee - Sweet Potato Coffee - Barley Coffee - Pea Coffee - recipes for making these substitutes.

March 27, 1862 - Markets on food items

Butter - fresh roll 15 cents lb.

Coffee - 25 cents lb.

Corn - 30 cents and 40 cents ln.

Eggs - 8 cents a doz.

Ham - sugar cured 10 cents; plain 8 cents

Lard - 7 to 8 cents lb.

Potatoes - 35 cents to 50 cents ln.

Sugar - refined 14 cents lb.

November 6, 1862 - description of an attempt being made by the North to become independent of the South in the production of sugar by developing more sugar from sorgham, the sugar beet and the rock maple.

Were all citizens loyal to the Union cause?

June 12, 1862 - description of a flag raising at Pine Grove Church in Jefferson Township - a Union flag had been put up on a small Baptist Church near the mouth of Cross Creek in Brooke County WVa. - the same group were bantered to put up a flag at Pine Grove Church - they did so - and guarded it Rev. Fleming went to the church on the next Sunday to preach - from considerable tension in the crowd decided not to conduct services then, but appointed a Union meeting at the Church the next Saturday.

What Union meetings were:

September 11, 1862 - account of a sermon preached on September 3, 1862 by Rev. John Eagleson of Upper Buffalo Church to two companies of Cavalry recruited by Captain George Work in the Buffalo region. These men were to report next day at Camp Carlisle at Wheeling. It was stated that for most of these young men, Dr. Eagleson had married their parents, had baptized these boys, and had received them into the membership of his church, and now very touchingly gave them this farewell message from his pulpit.

Were social activities of the people curtailed by the War?

September 18, 1862 - Washington Fair was cancelled on account of the War - same issue mentioned the quick response of Washington County to calls for soldiers - 2 companies just sent from

Washington - 2 also from Canonsburg - in addition to 2 companies above from Buffalo.

October 9, 1862 - account of Burgettstown fair which had been held on October 1 and 2 - account of the shooting of a man named George Wells near Stuebenville by a Negro Bery Wheeler, in a shanty near Burgettstown on the first day of the Fair. Liquor flowed freely.

October 2, 1862 - name of some members of Captain Work's company:

Captain George Work (Company B, Ringgold Battery, PVC)

2nd Lieut. Robert C. Welch

C.S. Joseph C. Hunter

3rd Corporal Samuel C. Brownlee

8th Corporal Robert G. Rush

Privates: Joseph W. Brownlee, John F. Clark, William Hair,

Joshua

Hunter, Samuel F. Kelly, Frederick Kisner, Lemuel Ligget,

John Patterson, David M. Ralson, Washington Ritchey,

Thomas J. White, William T. White, William Woodburn,

James R. Woodburn.

May 20, 1863 - account of the death of Corporal Robert G. Rush, son of Patrick Rush of Hopewell Township. Corporal Rush was carrying mail from Romney WV to Green Spring Run WV - attacked by guerillas - ordered to halt - comrades surrendered but Rush put

spurs to his horse and declared - "they can ne'er take this mail as long as I am alive" - these words proved his undoing, for he was shot through the head, but clung to his horse for a few rods, then fell to the ground lifeless.

May 27, 1863 - publication of resolutions on the death of Corporal Rush by his comrades in service.

July 6, 1864 - contains an account published by a Wellsburg WVa paper of a monument weighing 2-1/2 tons and costing \$2,000 brought from Stuebenville to West Middletown to be placed on the grave of Corporal Robert G. Rush.

August 2, 1865 - account of a funeral discourse to be preached on the next Sabbath evening by Dr. John Eagleson at Upper Buffalo in memory of those who have fallen in the service of this country. No congregation in the county has been more creditably represented on the field of battle than that of Upper Buffalo.

October 30, 1862 - list of premiums of Mount Pleasant Equitable Agricultural Association (Hickory Fair) held on October 7&8.

For Horses: Premium to Samuel Lyle, Symmington Farrar, Gen. James Lee, R.M. Patterson.

For Cattle: to Lysander Patterson, J.N. Walker, Andrew Russell, Robert Jeffrey, S.S. Campbell.

For Sheep: to William Dinsmore

Fore miscellaneous articles: John Lyle, Alex. McGugin, Pressley Leech, Mrs. Alex. McElroy, Miss Haddissa M. Marshall, Mrs. John Lyle.

For Best Hay Pitcher (implement): John S. Dinsmore.

Thomas Miller was President, Joseph McElroy was Secretary.

November 20, 1862 - report of Ladies Soldiers Aid Society of Hickory

How about railroads in this section?

November 27, 1862 - account of progress of building of the Panhandle Railroad - also a reference to the unfinished condition at that time of the Chartiers Valley Railroad.

July 10, 1862 - account of the Independence Day Celebrations at West Middletown. A large number of citizens of Independence, Donegal, Buffalo, Hopewell, Cross Creek, Jefferson and Mount Pleasant Townships convened at Ross' grove near West Middletown. A table nearly 700 feet long was spread with the delicacies and the substantials of life, gratuitously supplied by those in attendance.

A procession was formed by Col. W.W. McNolty as Chief Marshal, assisted by R. B. McClure, James France, James Denny, Dr. J. McCabe, Joshua Hunter, A. Cunningham, D.C. Ross, Wm M. Bushfield, Wm McKeever, John Sampson and Dr. James Scott headed by the W.M. Brass and Brush Run Orchestra Bands followed by 36 little girls representing the states, the District of Columbia, and the goddess of Liberty, and the speakers a citizens. The littler girls were dressed

in white each with a neat headdress bearing the name of the state represented.

The procession marched to the table filling it up to the whole extent, where the vast concourse of people were liberally and orderly supplied by a committee appointed for that purpose. After dinner all collected around the speakers stand. Officers were elected: Pres. Hon. Walter Craig of Cross Creek; Vice President Col. Joseph Scott of Indiana; D.M. Boyd of W.M.; Vincent Blayney of Buffalo Township, Parker Reed of Hopewell, Robert Simpson of Cross Creek, George Plummer of Indiana, John Jameson of Donegal, and Lemuel Liggett of Indiana. Secretary Capt. George Work - W.W. Hunter - W.A. Smiley. Meeting opened with prayer by Dr. John Eagleson of Upper Buffalo; Declaration of Independence Read by S. Taggart, Jr. Following speakers - Rev. W.B. Keeling of Mt. Prospect, Rev. S. Taggart, Rev. J.W. McKeever, Rev. J.C. McKeever of Pleasant Hill Seminary, Rev. J. Eagleson and Rev. J.S. Anderson.

Number in attendance estimated at 1500 to 2000. A collection for sick and wounded taken amounted to \$23.44. The band discoursed sweet music during the day which added much pleasure to the occasion.

July 15, 1863 - account of Fourth of July celebration at Hickory - a Levee and Picnic held on the fair grounds at Hickory was one of the most magnificent affairs. President - Gen. James Lee; V. President - Wm. Dinsmore.

Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. J.M. Donaldson of Robinson Township. The Declaration of Independence was read by Samuel

Miller of Allegheny County. Patriotic letters were read from Rev. Col. Clark and Rev. Caldwell.

Rev. W.B. Keeling, pastor of Mt. Prospect Church made a speech in which he urged political unity, and read resolutions strongly upholding Prosecution of the War. West Middletown Brass Band furnished music for the occasion. Attendance was large. A rain in the morning threatened to spoil the day, but this instead increased the attendance, by at the same time laying the dust and making it too wet for the farmers to harvest wheat. The weather cleared and it was a fine day.

The early part of the day was spent in informal greetings. The young folks, many of them, walked to the Post Office, received letters from men in the army - these letters were read and then sold at auction - bouquets also were sold - \$215.00 were received.

For the festive part of the occasion, a table 300 feet long was loaded with picnic fare - all ate heartily - regret was expressed that the soldier boys could not be there to help dispose of what was left.

H.J. Vankirk of Washington was present to recruit men to fill a company leaving Washington on the following Tuesday - several soldiers were recruited.

Near the close of the day, the following toasts were proposed:

To the Constitution:

To the Constitution as it is
Every word and every letter
For some who wish to alter it
Would make it worse instead of better.

To the Ladies and the Brass Band:

May those very fine young lasses
Taste the lips that blow the brasses.

To Women:

May the sweet influence of woman's affection continue to and
each soldier's path through life, as they have clustered around and
rendered pleasant this day's celebration.

To Pennsylvania:

May she ever remain the keystone in the arch of our glorious
republic.

To those who were afraid to come to the celebration:

You were awfully scared and worse confounded did
For fear you's get shot or cruelly pounded
Now look at us here, not a tear in a shirt
Don't you see that you were far worse scared than hurt.

It was pointed out that an enjoyable time was had by all - there was
no disorderliness - no drunks and no profanity.

Were soldiers drafted into the army?

October 23, 1862 - draft of soldiers in Cross Creek Township:

Richard Buxton Farmer 38

Wm. Marshall	Lbr.	23	
Leopold Huber	Mason	32	
George Raab	Lbr.	32	
Lysander Patterson	Farmer	42	
John C. Reed	Lbr.	23	
John Holmes	Lbr.	23	
Wm. Perry	Lbr.	35	
Eli Marquis	Farmer	26	
Daniel M. Donahoo	Lbr.	21	
Wm. L. Powelson	- - -	- -	
In Mt. Pleasant Township:			
John Lyle	Farmer	41	
James White	Farmer	41	
J.R. Lyle	Farmer	28	
Carson Malone	Lbr.	21	
J. Scott Dinsmore	Farmer	24	
In Smith Township:			
W.O. Stevenson	Farmer	27	
Wm. Lyle	Farmer	35	
James J. Lyle	Farmer	40	
Jesse Campbell	Farmer	24	
John S. Vance	Farmer	35	

These men were required to report for duty at Pittsburgh on October 23, 1862. No mention of how they were to travel there.

In this draft of October 23, 1862, Hopewell Township was exempted because their quota had been filled by voluntary enlistment.

Also in the draft of March 9, 1864: Hopewell exempt

Also in draft of June 1, 1864: Hopewell exempt.

February 15, 1865 - Hopewell Township had a quota of 12; West Middletown, 4.

How about voluntary enlistments?

December 18, 1862 - a list of substitutes for men in Captain Ban's Company:

Atlas Lacock for Jesse Campbell

S.J. Wilson for James J. Lyle

Samuel J. Wilson for Wm. Lyle

Lindley Baker for W.O. Stevenson

December 31, 1862 - card of Dr. R.J. Shaffer Thompson stating that he will spend two weeks at West Middletown to attend dental work for those who wish to call upon him.

All through 1863 an account of Union meetings held at Hickory, West Middletown, Buffalo Village, Burgettstown, and other towns in various parts of the County.

April 8, 1863 - account of a large Union meeting of citizens of Mt. Pleasant, Smith and Robinson Townships held at Center Church Midway - resolutions.

June 3, 1863 - account of the Ladies Aid of Venice giving a concert for the benefit of soldiers.

June 17, 1863 - Executive Notice for Estate of the late David Lyle. (Story of deaths of John and David Lyle not in the Reporter.) John Lyle lived where Reed Welch now lives and David Lyle in the old log home this side of Mt. Prospect Church.

July 22, 1863 - on list of drafted men were Joseph Lyle of Mt. Pleasant Township. Creigh Walker of Jefferson Township - C.C. Rea of Cross Creek Township.

July 29, 1863 - account of an act of resistance to the draft in Cross Creek Township - shots were fired on Edmund Doak and Lieut. Isaac Vance by a person concealed in corn for whom a notice had been left. The same night their buggy was taken from the home of D. S. Walker where they were staying and demolished. The next morning, a shot was fired on them from another place. This article mentioned Cross Creek as being more inflicted with disloyalty than any other section of the County. No mention was made of the names of the disloyal parties.

July 8, 1863 - account of the surrender of Vicksburg - slight mention of the battle of Gettysburg.

July 15, 1863 - statement that Cannonading at Gettysburg was held at Laurel Hill near Uniontown, and as far west as West Newton on the Youghiogheny River.

April 22, 1863 - The Conscription Law explained.

July 29, 1863 - Advice of Attorney Boyd Crumrine for drawing up of papers for men exempted from draft. Six reasons for exemption were listed: mainly dependents, one of which was - if family had two members in army, etc.

also July 29, 1862 - list of drafted men in Mt. Pleasant and Cecil Townships -names as follows:

Lyle	Johnston	McConnell	McNary	Donaldson
White	Morrison	Glass	Leman	McCarrell
Herriott	Simpson	Conner	Robert	Cowden
Stewart	Carter	Smiley	Joseph	McElroy, etc.

August 19, 1863 - four boxes of hospital stores and a keg of domestic wine were credited by C.M. Reed of the Christian Commission to the U.P. Congregation of Mt. Hope in Independence Township.

July 1, 1863 - Poem: The Copperheads

Who are the men who clamor most
Against the war; its cause and cost
And who, Jeff Davis, sometimes toast?

The Copperheads.

Who hold peace meetings; where they pass
Lengthy resolves of wind and gas
Much like the bray of Balaam's ass?

The Copperheads.

Who hate a freedom - loving press
The Truth, and all who it profess
Who don't believe in our success?

The Copperheads.

And, who, when Right has won the day
Will take their slimy selves away
And in their dirty holes will stay?

The Copperheads.

And who will be the hiss and scorn
Of generations yet unborn
Hated, despaired, disgraced, forsworn?

The Copperheads.

Were War Bonds sold? How was the War financed?

October 23, 1942 - account of Jay Cooke, Philadelphia banker, as the first "Minute Man" of the U.S. Treasury - first loan for \$2,000,000 - within a few days another loan of \$50,000,000. Everybody, but J. Cooke, thought the war costing \$1,000,000 a day would be over in

six weeks - Cooke's plan for financing the war by the sale of bonds to the people - organized pay-roll deduction plans, By December 1862 the national deficit stood at \$143,000,000.

The Legal Lender Act of 1862 eased the tension but did not prevent a ruinous period of inflation, which followed. However the three Treasury issues of bonds of the U.S. Treasury were all subscribed to the limit, and Jay Cooke sold \$2,500,000,000 of War Bonds to the American people. They now had a share in the war, and each was determined to see it won. And they did.

Washington County Genealogical Society

May 18, 1986

Acknowledgement of introduction by Mr. Shaver. My reluctance to try to speak at this occasion not doing much public speaking lately. My limitation of voice holding up. Perhaps if it gave out soon, it will be in your favor. And there the limitation on material on which to speak. I soon realized that there has been little genealogical work done in my part of Washington County, but what I have been pretty well involved in or responsible for in one way or another, and I don't feel that I should appear to be talking much about myself, or the work which I have been trying to do over the past 27 years.

I believe I have been a member of this Society ever since its organization in fact I seem to recall that I was consulted by someone as to some of the guidelines to follow when it was being organized - my memory fails me on that. But I do recall sometime after we got going here. I was asked to speak on one occasion - I hope no one else remembers it - but it went something like this: I had, in 1967-68 for a full year written a weekly article for the Burgettstown Enterprise, and this included a number of short articles entitled First Families. I seem to have always been curious of family relationships which comprise genealogy - as long ago as I can remember as series of old aunts of my father and mother used to come on annual visits to the homes of both my sets of grandparents - there were, I recall, two Aunt Marys, one the sister of my Grandmother White and coming from a farm on which she lived near Lexington. She was a jolly old soul, as full of fun as she could be, and a joy to have around even for us children - the other Aunt Mary, as sister of Grandfather White -came from Lancaster County PA - she was surely a strait-laced old gal, who seldom smiled and when we were around her my sister and I knew to be on our good behavior. As I grew a bit older, I became curious about these family relationships, and asked my parents about them. In my freshman year at Muskingum College, in the fall of 1913, at Thanksgiving time, I was invited to Lexington for Thanksgiving and had one more good visit with the Aunt Mary there, but before I left college next spring, I had gotten the news that she had passed on.

My own family is a sort of genealogical challenge - with 10 children, 24 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, plus all the inlaws who have married into the family, we now number 78 - I made a family chart numbering all of my family using #1 for my wife, now deceased, and #2 for myself and all the descendants and inlaws - to each was assigned a number, and when they were all home two years ago for my birthday, the kids took up the idea and we all wore our number on our lapels or shirt fronts instead of name tags. My children are not yet as interested in this matter as I am, but I feel sure that someone in the tribe will take over when and where I leave off.

Of the Cross Creek Country - I have never disassociated local history, from genealogy but these particular articles, were genealogical, I had brought to this meeting a mounted set of these articles, there were 12 or 14 of them, and I had displayed them as I talked about each one - then laid them out on the table here for anyone to see - after I finished my talk something claimed my attention, and when I looked for my mounted articles, I found they were all gone - someone told me they had been taken out to the Xerox machine in the library for copying - I looked over and there was a line at each machine - I called out to them - don't do that - those articles are copyrighted - but of course they weren't, and everyone who wanted a copy got one - and we had a bit of fun about it all. That was one of my first attempts at genealogy.

But to go back a bit - to 1934 when I had really cut my eye teeth on compiling and publishing a real work on genealogy.

The Story of the Lyles - coming to Washington County

The first book on the Lyles - in 1886

My book in 1934 - a real labor of love

Since there were hard times then - I had printed 500 copies of that

2nd edition.

During the next 30 years - not much real work on genealogy - except that I had compiled family records on all families in my school district - as an end to the annual enumeration of children. For many years, I personally took the school enumeration and I found

their containing records of families of great advantage in connection with the school enumeration - by the time I retired in 1959, other records had been established and I found my successor did not want to retain these records so I took them home - their value now in furnishing school records for former pupils coming of Social Security age - and my records of date of birth with the school seal attached is always accepted.

But when I retired - a genealogical task was waiting for me - the next edition of the Lyles of Washington County, PA printed in 1963 - 12,000 names and appropriate dates - a 330 page book in place of the earlier volume of 157 pages. That was my last work on this book. The Reunion of 1984 Edition of Lyles of Western Pennsylvania 1986, compiled by Paul E. Kaup - anyone remember him - this book of 1,000 pages plus 30,000 names and all relevant dates, the book expected by September 1986.

My next book - a History of Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, 1969 - not a genealogy exactly but it contains many names and dates, and biographical record of all ministers of that church next - also in 1969 - a new edition of the History of Cross Creek Graveyard and Cemetery - this I claim is a book on genealogy with names and dates of death (and sometimes of birth) of all persons buried at Cross Creek, including the names of at least 44 Revolutionary veterans, probably 3 more of these - this was the third edition of this book - and it is still available with a supplement written in 1979.

Having been fairly successful with the Cross Creek book, in 1972, I prepared a History of the Mount Prospect Graveyard and Cemetery for publication- and this volume also has a supplement through 1981.

Restoration of Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Limited printing of a booklet listing all human burials in that yard - also preparing a listing of inscriptions from all gravestones in the same yard.

In 1976 Ft. Vance Society published my series of articles on Northern Washington County - Burgettstown, the Metropolis and Neighboring Towns. Sketches of these towns and mention of prominent families in each.

Also, in 1976, in collaboration with Mrs. Carolyn Bogo, a gifted young lady of Avella Heights, I helped compile Historic Sketches of

the Cross Creek Valley, entailing communities centering around Avella -this again including sketches of old families of this area plus mention, at least of 180-200 new family names in that part of Washington County.

In 1981, I completed a book entitled *Bethel* a rural community in southern Jefferson Township with many sketches of the older families and some mentions of later families.

Also in 1981, the Book entitled *Mt. Pleasant*, Being a history of the communities of Mt. Pleasant Township plus biographical sketches of about 75 families among the early settlers plus short accounts of 25 or more families of German origin who settled in Mt. Pleasant Township and nearby areas - yes, we had one Dutch Glory in Mt. Pleasant Township similar to the one in North Bethlehem Township years ago.

And my final effort in graveyard history was to compile a record of burials in two old graveyards at Burgettstown. Here we really had to start from "scratch" literally speaking - for these two old graves were and are in a deplorable condition - grown up with briars of all sorts most gravestones over-turned, but by a lot of persistence and with the good held of two other members of Ft. Vance Historical Society, we got a fairly complete list of the burials in these old yards, and we got out a booklet listing all known burials in these two old yards.

Instead of using the attached text on May 18, 1986 at Genealogical Society meeting at Citizens Library, Washington, I exhibited the following publication as evidence of the publication of much of the History of Northern Washington County:

Caldwell Atlas of Washington County - 1876

Reprint of Doddridge's Note (1824) - 1876

Mention of Crumrine's History of Washington County - 1883

Journal and Weather Report for 1859 - J. Simpson

Scotch-Irish in America by Dr. John W. Dinsmore - 1906

A Century of Education by William Melin - 1898

Original Edition of History of Cross Creed Graveyard

by James Simpson - 1899

Original Edition of Lyles of Washington County - 1886

History of the Russell Family - 1887

Half Century Pastorate of Rev. John Stockton D.D. - 1884

These books were exhibited and described in their relation to the History of Northern Washington County. Later books which I have written were not included in this exhibit.

A.D.W.

Mt. Prospect Graveyard and Cemetery

The Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant Twp was organized in 1825. Soon there after, a graveyard was opened on one acre of ground adjoining the church property. Land for both the church and the graveyard had been taken from the nearby farm belonging to Robert Lyle. Several early interments were made there, but the earliest marked grave in this old yard was that of Samuel J. Stewart who died on October 21, 1830.

Frequent burials followed from families in the Hickory Community until 1904 by which time more than 330 persons had been buried here. By that time almost all burial space had been used, and this situation prompted the organization of the Mt. Prospect Cemetery Association, which organization purchased seven acres adjoining the old Graveyard, and opened the Cemetery.

The Mt. Prospect Graveyard was under the direction of the session of the Mt. Prospect Church. At the organization of the Church these men served as elders: Charles Campbell, Hugh Conaughey, and Andrew Farrar, and Robert Lyle and Samuel Moore were added in 1834. Following the merger of the Mt. Prospect Church with the Mt. Pleasant U.P. Church in 1968 to form the present Hickory U.P. Church, the church corporation deeded the land comprising the Graveyard to the Mt. Prospect Cemetery Association which now maintains it.

Prominent persons buried in Mt. Prospect Graveyard include Robert Lyle, John Cowen, and William Hughes, veterans of the Revolutionary War, and General James Lee, veteran of the War of 1812.

The Mount Prospect Cemetery

The Association which directs the affairs of this organization began its work in 1904. When land was purchased and laid out in a total of about 665 lots, most of which have now been sold. In 1949 the Association purchased about seven additional acres from an adjoining farm - this has provided space for over 1000 lots which are now being sold to individuals and families from over a wide area. Since the opening of the cemetery over 1400 persons have been buried in the yard.

Included in the burials here are 6 Civil War Veterans, 31 veterans of World War I, over 40 veterans of World War II, one of the Merchant Marine veterans of both World Wars, 3 Korean War veterans, and 2 of the War in Vietnam. Also Brady Paul of the Pennsylvania Highway Patrol, killed on duty by Irene Schroeder and Glen Dague on the Butler-New Castle Road in December 1929 is buried here. Three former ministers of Mt. Prospect Church are buried here: Rev. A.F. Alexander, DD; Rev. James E. Miller, and Rev. Lewis A. Westphal.

**Outline of a Talk by A.D. White
before Buffalo Homemakers Club
September 13, 1987**

Appreciation for the Invitation

Buffalo one of my favorite communities

Family roots in this area

Robert Lyle, a great-great-grandfather, 1824-1832

James Dinsmore, a great-great-great-grandfather came here 1790

Samuel D. White, a grandfather here 1860-66

Origins of the name Buffalo, and its application to this village to the
Creek watershed, to another Township and to various churches.

Upper and Lower Buffalo - Presbyterian

North Buffalo - Seceder and its sister South Buffalo

East Buffalo - also Presbyterian - no West Buffalo

The church here and the Village

Early pastors here

Joseph Smith 1779-1792

Thomas Marquis 1793-1799

John Anderson 1800-1834

John Eagleson 1837-1873 date of new building

J.D. Wilkershaw 1874-1882

Four buried here in Buffalo Cemetery

Restored markers for Joseph Smith and for John and Rebecca
Anderson

Very good markers for John Eagleson and wife

Great times at Buffalo Church during the evangelistic movement in
1802 - great Camp meeting here in Mr. Elisha McCrudys War

Interest of these minutes in education

Joseph Smith's Kitchen Academy

Judge Watrings - Horsemills Academy
Franklin High School

Upper Buffalo Academy - Dr. John Eagleson

Hopewell Twp. High School

Hopewell Twp. One Room Schools

Buffalo Consolidated Elementary School

Outline - September 13, 1988 to a Mt. Pleasant group on Local History

Hickory, a very old community over 200 years old.

Location of Mt. Pleasant height of 1300 ft above sea level - on the headwaters of three creeks - Cross Creek to the West, Chartiers to the east and southeast, and Raccoon to the North.

Early settlers largely Scotch-Irish of the pioneer type - looking for a domicile and freedom. James & Mary Ross - their settlement - stake out - survey and plot 300 acres.

Other early patents - the former McCoy farm to the east called "Mt. Pleasant" - the present Dinsmore tract "Pence and Plenty" - and the Griffith tract to the west called "Mountain" - reference to drawing on the cover of Mt. Pleasant Book observing the 175 anniversary of Mt. Pleasant Township - taken from Hopewell, Cross Creek, Smith, Chartiers, and Cecil Townships.

Two stories on the early History

The James (or Mary) Ross settlement "Executorship"

The story of Hickory Tavern.

This population of Mt. Pleasant pretty stable throughout the years of the 1800's - many farms remained in the hands of the

original patentees or at least very early settlers - McGugins probably among very earliest - and the Cowdens on the eastern side.

My own family, the Lyles, came in 1784 - three brothers and their families - settled just north of Mt. Prospect Church - the history of one family very similar to that of other families - a good rural economy - the active member living and operation the farm - older members alert and living in Hickory - raising sheep and production of wool an important source of the peoples income.

My own impression of the Hickory Community - living in Cross Creek Township we frequently came to Mt. Prospect Church - the 75th anniversary there was observed on September 7, 1900 - I should have started to school that year, since Grandfather White said I was a pretty good chunk of a boy, but my sister had to walk a mile and a half to Cook School and my parents decided my legs were too short to wade through the country snow, so I was kept a home that fall and started the next year - my impression of that Anniversary Day.

Later probably came from coming to Hickory to take the train to Pittsburgh - Hickory not the nearest point, but the best road - so we came here. Railroad built in 1902-03 and began using trains regularly in 1904.

Trains to Pittsburgh widely used by people who worked there, and people taking their products to market, and the shipment of milk. Well known train "Hoodlebug" in morning and evening. Low fares to Pittsburgh - 10 trips for \$2.50 and monthly fares probably even lower.

Economy given a boost also around early 1900's by opening of coal mines, and the sale of the Pittsburgh veins of coal - sold for \$100.00 an acre - now worth much more - but a lot of it still underground in Mt. Pleasant Township - but the effect on local farmers was good - they could pay their debts and improve their farms and get ready for what another century would bring. Many new barns were built, and new houses too, to replace early log structures which dated far back to the early times.

The population was increased during the mid- and late 1800's by the German migration. These people came in here, many from the Hanover area of Germany - coming like our Scotch Irish to improve their economic lot and many also to avoid service in the German Army. These people were frugal, thrifty, and industrious so added much to our local Community and especially since they brought their religion - the Lutheran faith with them. The church Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church stood here on the adjoining lot, and that congregation, although no longer in existence had a good history, even though it was a short one.

We had another migration - from Southern and Central Europe with the building of the railroad and the opening of the coal mines, and most of these people, too, brought their religion with them and established their own churches such as the Guardian Angel R.C. Church at Southview.

So the economy of Mt. Pleasant over the years has been very good - the moral tone of our communities has been measured at a high level through the churches that have been established, and Mt.

Pleasant Township has always maintained a good educational system.

I think that you folks who have been here for several years will agree that this is so, and I hope any newcomers to our area will be convinced of that too, and so will want to remain as residents of Hickory and of Mt. Pleasant Township.

**Outline for a Talk on Local History
before Hickory Women's Club
September 1988**

Hickory an old community

Typical of other country villages such as Cross Creek to the west, and Buffalo Village to the south - partly for retired people who moved into the village to be near church and stores, etc.

Two stories of early history.

- 1) The story of James and Mary Ross, and their land patent of "Executorship"
- 2) The origins of the name "Hickory Tavern" but the town also called "Mt. Pleasant" "Mt. Pleasant" was a tract east of Executorship - later known as the McCoy Farm, now owned by Eugene Petruca of Atlasburg and "Peace and Plenty" substantially the Dinsmore farm just east of Hickory.

The highest point near Hickory is the knob on which Jim Schollart's house is built. This tract was called "Mountain," patented by John Griffith - this later the Benyville farm and now owned in part by the Phillips Family.

When the Post Office was established here in 1830, there was the decree to call it Mt. Pleasant, since by then Mt. Pleasant Township had been organized, but there was another Mt. Pleasant in Westmoreland County so the older Hickory Tavern was shortened to "Hickory."

The George Washington Land in Mt. Pleasant.

My earliest recollections of the Hickory Area.

75th Anniversary of Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church on September 4, 1900 - I was there and remember best the canopy along the church on the outside where the food tables were set and a very abundant dinner served. A history of the church and congregation by the Pastor Rev. Shrodes and Elder John H. Miller were read. I have a newspaper copy of that history, which I hope can be preserved.

My next recollection of coming the Hickory from our farm in Cross Creek Township to the railroad here at Hickory to go to Pittsburgh, and even to Washington PA - the trains, and their crews - the Hoodlebug, and the Express, two passenger trains, each way, every day. Express and freight service, the very gentle and accommodating. Mr. Coates, the station agent and telegraph operator, and later a printer.

The old farm families, and the sale of the Pittsburgh vein of coal in early 1900's. Effects on the community. Farmers could pay off their debts. Many new barns were built. Organization of new national banks: Washington National in Burgettstown, Lincoln National in Avella, Farmers National in Hickory.

Hard times in the 1930's - closing of Lincoln and Farmers Banks.

The lucky people got through, other lost much and had to dig in and recover.

But the people of the Hickory Community have always been industrious and thrifty so most were able to get back on their feet.

School History is given in the Mt. Pleasant Book - written by Ed Swartz. One room schools of the Township and at Hickory: Miller School, Ft. Donaldson, McCarrells, Rankin, Cherry Valley, Moore, Primrose.

One hundred years ago, there was a one-room school located about where Bill Allison's new house is located -later a 2-room building on Washington Avenue - now remodeled into two homes, and the present school on Wabash Ave, established in 1914, as a consolidated Elementary and High School, then to be now replaced by the new Elementary Building near Fort Cherry High School.

The Mt. Pleasant Church

German Migration in mid-19th century, Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Outline of a Talk on "Local History"
by A.D. White at Hickory Lions Club
April 18, 1989

The Hickory Community and Mt. Pleasant Township are relatively "old" settlements having first been made here about 1700.

First recorded landowner was George Washington. His tract of 2813 acres patented by Virginia in 1774.

First white settler here probably McGugin who came here in 1770.

Early settlers and those here for first hundred years largely Scotch-Irish. They kept the Sabbath Day and anything else they could get their hands on.

Many farms originally settled remained in either family or family name for over 100 years. Many so called Century Farms.

Original buildings built of log - house and barn. Just a few of these remain.

Stone houses followed the log.

Brick houses as early as 1830 or 1840.

They saw newer and firmer homes and barns.

Scotch-Irish predominant until the time following our Civil War.

The German Migration:

The Studas, Carls, Seabrights-Abutz, Good, industrious people - brought their religion with them - Lutheran.

Usually rather poor - but would work for farmers as the hired hand - then would buy a team of horses and farm machinery and till a farm, then became owners of a number of good farms.

Next to happen to emerge the community

The building of the Wabash Railroad.

Its construction by immigrants - mostly Italian.

Opening of the coal mines.

Then another influx of immigrants - the miners - when coal sales were good - these people prospered - but often fell onto bad times - such as the depression of the 30's.

But these families were permanent settlers, were industrious and they too brought their religion with them - the Roman Catholic Church.

Other advantages of the coming of the railroad

Improved market in the city for farm products - and in the shipping of milk.

History and one industrial project

The Curtain Pole factory

The bum who rode the freight car

Stopping off at the Central Pole factory

The notorious Martin Van Buren

His house of ill repute

Early schools - subscription - public schools

School consolidation about 1912

McCarrell School first one closed.

Further consolidation

Remaining one room schools

Churches

Scotch-Irish Presbyterian 1795 and 1825

Lutheran Church following German Migration

R.C. Church for some southern European immigrants.

"200 Years of Freedom"

The People of Cross Creek Township of this year A.D. 1989 are found to be the heirs of those who obtained their freedom, and eventually our freedom from the Authoritarian Government of Great Britain in the War of the American Revolution which had been fought and won nearly ten years before Cross Creek Township was formed on December 10, 1789 and its creation was certified by the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Township had been settled by about 55 "original" founders, who had filed warrants, and had secured patents for most of the land, then embracing present Cross Creek Township. The names of these original settlers are known, but of those 55 names, hardly a one is still known in Cross Creek Township. Among these families none were better known than such as Vance, Patterson, Marquis, Marshall, Wheeler, Buxton, but I am not sure that any of these names can now be found within the bounds of Cross Creek Township. Although a few of these are known in communities not far beyond the bounds of Cross Creek.

However, a few individuals still live in Cross Creek Township who are descendants of these early families. In mentioning their names, we do not intend to reflect in anyway on any others who now live in Cross Creek Township. We believe that most people who have come to Cross Creek Township to live here have done so in their own quest of the Freedom which we all enjoy.

Mrs. Frances Schulte and her family of Cross Creek Village are lineal descendants of the Rev. Thomas Marquis who came here from

Frederick County Virginia and who became the second settled pastor of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Frances Schulte is a great-great-great granddaughter of Thomas Marquis, and she, herself is a loyal member of the Cross Creek Church.

Aaron Lyle, not an original settler, but in 1789 or 1790, he purchased a tract of land from David Vance and moved to Cross Creek Township.

Charles Campbell came from York County Virginia with three brothers and a sister and he settled in Cross Creek Township in the 1770's.

William Rea, a school teacher came to Cross Creek about 1789, and bought the land in southern Cross Creek Township still owned and occupied by the family of his great great grandson, Maynard C. Rea who is a descendant also along with J. Leroy Cooke and Wayne Cooke of both Aaron Lyle and Charles Campbell.

After suffering shipwreck just before landing on America's shore, Hugh Lee, Sr. came to Cross Creek and settled on land still owned and occupied by his great-great-great grandchildren, T. Borns Lee and his sister, Jane Lee Anderson, and William Hugh Lee of Coroapolis is another great-great-great grandson. And so we honor and salute and wish to honor those decendatnts of Cross Creek's First Families who still live within its borders. We next turn to seek those now living within our borders who have attained the longest chronological age, in other words, our oldest citizin of the present day.

After as diligent a search as possible we believe we have found the oldest, and the second oldest person now living in Cross Creek Township.

Mrs. Pearl Findling McCarty of Cross Creek Village came to this area as the new wife of Randall McCarty of near Bethany WVa in 1918 - seventy-one years ago. I had a small part in welcoming this young couple to Cross Creek since they went to housekeeping in a house on our farm in eastern Cross Creek Township. Pearl has lived in Cross Creek ever since her husband Randall died in 1977 - and she is the mother of five children - Clay McCarty and Dale McCarty, and an infant daughter, all deceased, and a son, Dean McCarty of Cross Creek, and a daughter Lena Obelon of Erie, Pa. Pearl is past 95 years of age.

The runner-up in this contest for the oldest person in the Township is Mrs. Mary Jane Havelka Boles of Cedar Grove who claims the venerable age of 90 years.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to honor these fine ladies on the auspicious occasion. The bells which we now present to each of them are Freedom Bells, which have been ringing in Cross Creek Township for 200 years. May you continue to ring them in Freedom's name for many more years.

Original Patents of Land

in Cross Creek Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania are taken
from the index in Home Papers Volume II.

Catherine Atkinson	Nathan Cromwell
Thomas Beatty	Henry Graham
Edward Brown	Joseph Patterson
John Campbell	William Reynolds
William Campbell	Thomas Marshall
James Coleman	John Tennell
William Coltreagh	Joseph Reed
William Scott	John Marshall
William Patterson	John McKibben
Alexander Wells	Samuel McKibben
James Wells	Robert McCombs
Samuel and Mary Patterson	Isaac Martin
Thomas Wells	Samuel Moore
Richard Wells	Joseph Scott
Thomas Marquis	Frannie McColla
John Marquis	James Pollock
George Wells	John Stewart
Joseph Reilly	Joseph Wells
William Smith	John Leeper
John Waggoner	William Pollock
Joseph Vance	James Marshall
James Denning	Robert Robertson
David McGoogen	John Downy (Donahey)
Francis McKinney	Thomas Wiley
David Vance	Thomas Boughlin
John Cowen	Thomas Rutherford
Robert Rutherford	James Moore
James Stevenson - mostly in Smith Township	

Patenters of Land in Cross Creek Township

Thomas Beatty	John Marquis
Thomas Buvington	Thomas Marquis
Jacob Buxton	James Marshall
James Coleman	Robert Marshall
William Coltreough	Thomas Marshall
Nathan Cromwell	Francis McColla
John Donahey	John Conley
David McCracken	Henry Graken
John Graham	John McKibben
Ephraim Hart	William McKibben
Daniel Hustin	Francis McKinney
Thomas McCorkle	Jacob Scott
James Moor	Joseph Scott
James Moore	William Scott
Joseph Patterson	Nicholas Smith
Samuel Patterson	William Smith
Mary Patterson	John Stewart
William Patterson	John Tennell
William Pollock	David Thompson
Henry Purviance	James Sturnin
Nicholas Reed	Joseph Reilly
William Reynolds	James Rice
Robert Rutherford	Robert Robertson
Jacob Johnston	

Most lived in Smith Township

Old Families before 1789

William Rea came in 1789 or 1790

Maynard Rea and family

Leroy and Wayne Cooke and families

Alexander Wells to Avella - patent date 1788

Leroy and Wayne Cooke and families

Albert Miller of Jefferson Township

John Campbell patent date 1787

Leroy and Wayne Cooke and families

Maynard Rea and families

Hugh Lee - settled here about 1790

Burns Lee and Jane Lee Anderson

Florence Lee

Great great grandchildren still in Township

**A.D. White speaking to the
George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
February 21, 1991**

Topic: Two of George Washington's Generals:

General Nathaniel Greene and General Anthony Wayne

Opening Remarks: Reluctance to speak again in public - told Davis Yohe that I thought my public speaking days were over. He said "Just one more time," so since the members of the legal profession can usually out-argue the members of the teaching profession, it is obvious who won the argument.

I think I have previously spoken twice before to the members of this organization - I don't suppose many of you recall those occasions or what I said. On the first occasion I spoke of the military areas of our hero, General George Washington and also, briefly, on his time as President of our Country.

On that occasion, I talked on some of the local aspects of our honoring General George Washington, when in 1781, upon the formation of our county, it was named "Washington" to be followed soon after by also calling our County Seat by the same name. I think I referred also to what we are really proud of out in Mt. Pleasant Township that George Washington was the first recorded land owner in that Township when, on July 3, 1774, he took out a patent for 2813 acres of land in what is now Mt. Pleasant Township. I have, at times in the past, done some thinking, and contemplated what might

have been the difference to our Community in Mt. Pleasant if Mr. Washington had followed up his interest in this section of our land by removing west of the mountains and settling upon this land. It might have influenced our land owners to have followed the plantation-type of farming, as they did in Virginia, instead of the small farm ownership which now prevails in most of parts of Western Pennsylvania.

But the start of the Revolutionary War intervened, and then, finally, the Presidency, so Mr. Washington was too busy to follow up ownership of land in the first county of the United States to be named for him.

I have chosen to speak, I hope, briefly on two of the generals who were associated with George Washington in the conduct of the Revolutionary War. Closest to him in many campaigns and battles was Nathaniel Greene, a native of the Colony of Rhode Island, the son of Quaker Parents and who early engaged with his father in building a forge in Rhode Island colony engaged in the production of heavy chain and anchors for colonial vessels. Nathaniel received only the most rudimentary education, which his Quaker parents considered sufficient, but Nathaniel had other ideas so he read widely and studied deeply in other types of knowledge, principally in governmental matters, and then, too, abandoning his Quaker background, in military matters, too.

Nathaniel Greene quickly became the active leader of the colonial forces of Rhode Island. Also, he frequently rode the 60 miles to the Boston area where he became familiar with the terrain and the problems of the Massachusetts Colonists. When Boston was

occupied by the British, Nathaniel Greene led his colonial troops to that area and when George Washington took command of all colonial troops, Nathaniel Greene was among the first to offer his forces to the colonial cause.

Ever after that time, General Greene as he soon became to be known, was a strong right arm on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief. It is said that General and Mrs. Greene named their two oldest children George Washington Green and Martha Washington Greene.

During the campaign around Boston General Greene and his forces took a very active parts and when the scene changed to the New York area, and then on to Philadelphia, General Greene and his men of the Rhode Island line found themselves in the thick of things. During the awful winter of Valley Forge, General Washington reorganizing the unique abilities of Nathaniel Greene for organization, appointed General Greene as Lieutenant General of the Colonial Army and in that new capacity he sent expeditions into the western parts of the colonies, especially in Pennsylvania, where he was able to secure greatly needed supplies for the colonial troops.

During the closing years of the war, General Washington sent General Greene to take command of the forces in the South, where he was to oppose the British General Cornwallis, who was then trying to divert the colonial troops in that area. By building campaigns of his own, and with the help of Generals Morgan and Marion, they used the strategy of trying to draw the British forces further and further inland, and away from their sources of supply on the coast.

As we know the theater of the war gradually moved north into Virginia. When at Yorktown, Washington joined his forces with

those of General Greene from the South, and with the help of the French under Count d'Estang, the British forces were surrounded and forced to surrender.

The career of General Nathaniel Greene after the close of the War was disappointing - the War left him deeply in debt, so he finally moved to the South where he was given large grants of land by the Southern States, but it was too late and Nathaniel Greene died in Savannah Georgia on June 19, 1786. At his deathbed was his good friend and associate in the War, General Anthony Wayne.

General Wayne, too, had a brilliant, but different career in the combat of the War, as a close associate of both General Washington and General Greene.

Anthony Wayne, a native of Chester County PA was an indifferent student, except in the study and practice of military science. He did attend the Pennsylvania Academy in Philadelphia, and subsequently he worked as a surveyor for Benjamin Franklin, working for a time in Nova Scotia, and then later in Western Pennsylvania where he soon became familiar with the terrain and also the problems of this area.

When the war clouds of the 1770s began to gather, Wayne was soon in the thick of things. A native leader with an attractive personality, he headed the Chester County PA Committee of Safety and was a member of Pennsylvania Provincial Congress. In 1776, he was commissioned as a colonel, leading troops of the Pennsylvania Line. He served brilliantly in a number of engagements in the Revolution. When he was ordered by General Washington to take and occupy Stony Point on the Hudson River, he was elated and told the

General that if he ordered him to capture Hell, he would take that too. General Washington basically told him to capture Stony Point first. Wayne was instrumental, too, in keeping West Point in colonial hands, preventing it from being taken for the British by the traitor Benedict Arnold.

He was associated with General Greene in the campaigns in the South, and the general stated that Colonel Wayne acquitted himself with great honor. He was closely associated with General Washington in many campaigns and battles, and he always sought an assignment very near the front in a battle. When he received a head wound at the battle of Stony Point, he asked to be carried to the front, so if he succumbed, he would be found where the battle was the thickest.

After the Revolution, although Britain had agreed to recognize the western frontier of the States, they did not keep that promise but continued exciting the Indians to harass the settlers.

Two prior attempts had been made to stop these Indian deportations. When General Harmen was sent around here in 1791, and General Arthur St. Clair in 1792. Finally President Washington through Henry Knox Secretary of War commissioned Anthony Wayne a major General and he was sent to the western frontier with orders to quell the Indians. In the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 he did what he had been ordered to do and the Indians were soundly defeated. When he retired, Anthony Wayne was acclaimed a hero which he actually was during the Revolution and also in the Indian campaign.

Now what is the importance to South Western Pennsylvania of these two men Nathaniel Greene and Anthony Wayne. You will recall that when our county was organized in 1781, General Washington was at the height of his career in the Combat of the War, so when our county was organized in that year, the name Washington was given to it, as well as to our county seat.

With the great increase in population after the war, soon the desire for the creation of another county out of our own County of Washington - when this came in 1796, the new County was named for Nathaniel Greene, Washington's most trusted General. And when the county seat was first established it was given the name "Elise" for the tract upon which it was located. But when Anthony Wayne returned in triumph from his Western campaign, the name of the new County Seat was changed to Waynesburg, so in their way our neighbors to the south, specially honored these two heroes and friends of our George Washington.

About forty persons present at the S.A.R. dinner meeting. Son, Bob, taped the speech.

-A.D. White