

PROPERTY OF
FORT VANCE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Souvenir Booklet of the Borough of West Middletown, Penna.
Is Presented to

THE FORT VANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In Grateful Appreciation for valued services rendered by members
of the Society during the Observance of the Sesqui-Centennial Anni-
versary of the Borough which was held at West Middletown on July
5 to 8, 1973.

Very sincerely

The Anniversary Committee

WEST MIDDLETOWN SESQUI-CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

July 5 to 8, 1973

The following pages were compiled for the observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Granting of the Charter of Incorporation to the Borough of West Middletown on March 27, 1823.

Identical copies of these pages were used as "plaques" and were placed in front of each and every property in the Borough during the Anniversary Observance, this identifying the properties in terms of present ownership and of such history as is known about each one, and enabling persons taking the walking tour of the town during the observance to identify the various properties. These copies are now presented in this package for the use of such persons as wish to keep them as souvenirs of this Anniversary.

Prepared for the Anniversary by A. D. White of Hickory, in co-operation with and under the direction of Homer R. Ross of West Middletown.

WEST MIDDLETOWN HOUSE NUMBERS

SOUTH SIDE * EAST TO WEST

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Presbyterian Parsonage ----- | 124 | Main St. |
| James Buchanan ----- | 119 | Main St. |
| Stanley Rush ----- | 115 | Main St. |
| Frank Brownlee ----- | 107 | Main St. |
| Logan Brownlee ----- | 99 | Main St. |
| Charles McFadden House ----- | 95 | Main St. |
| Paul Roberts ----- | 91 | Main St. |
| Chester Buchanan ----- | 87 | Main St. |
| Joseph Yevins ----- | 83 | Main St. |
| Christian Church +----- | 79 | Main St. |
| George Walbrown ----- | 75 | Main St. |
| Elwood McDeugan ----- | 21 | Lane Barn Rd. |
| Bell House ----- | 67 | Main St. |
| Jay Keenan Sr. ----- | 63 | Main St. |
| Bert Sims ----- | 59 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Mae Miller ----- | 55 | Main St. |
| Joe Kelley House ----- | 47 | Main St. |
| Mrs. John Durilla ----- | 43 | Main St. |
| Lyle Hair ----- | 39 | Main St. |
| Lawton Log House ----- | 35 | Main St. |
| Earl King ----- | 31 | Main St. |
| John Brownlee ----- | 27 | Main St. |
| John Temple ----- | 15 | Main St. |
| Lindsey Hotel ----- | 11 | Main St. |
| William Huston ----- | 3 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Donald Farrer ----- | 10 | College St. |
| Janet Bemis ----- | 12 | College St. |

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------------|
| John Baker ----- | 16 | The Oaks |
| Donald Umphrey ----- | | The Oaks |
| Dennis Kelley ----- | 18 | The Oaks |
| Leonard Kelley ----- | 29 | College St |
| James Patterson ----- | | College St. |
| Mike Yevins ----- | 21 | College St. |
| Joseph Umphrey Jr. ----- | 17 | College St. |
| Mrs. Grace Miller ----- | 9 | College St. |
| Dave Miller ----- | 7 | College St. |
| G.G. Williams ----- | 1 | Main St. |
| Harry Humphrey ----- | 17 | Main St. |
| Lawrence Headley ----- | 25 | Main St. |
| John Ferrell ----- | 29 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Mary Farrer ----- | 33 | Main St. |
| Lloyd Clark ----- | 49 | Main St. |
| Elizabeth Perkins ----- | 53 | Main St. |
| Leroy Kelley ----- | 59 | Main St. |
| McClure Leg House ----- | 61 | Main St. |
| William Craig ----- | 81 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Phoebe Murdock ----- | 85 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Eva Patterson ----- | 3 | Possum Hollow Rd. |
| Emmett Patterson ----- | | Possum Hollow Rd. |
| Fred Anderson ----- | 10 | Possum Hollow Rd. |
| Peter Smith ----- | 89 | Main St. |

NORTH SIDE * EAST TO WEST

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----------|
| Ben Miller ----- | 112 | Main St |
| Mrs. Juanita Farrer ----- | 96 | Main St. |
| Grell Plants ----- | 80 | Main St |
| Ann Malone ----- | 76 | Main St. |

| | | |
|--|----|------------------|
| John Kress ----- | 23 | Thompson Hill Rd |
| William Sperie ----- | 20 | Thompson Hill Rd |
| Gailey Ritchey ----- | 72 | Main St. |
| Morris Knabenshue ----- | 64 | Main St. |
| Dan Hodgens Brick House ----- | 60 | Main St. |
| McKeever House ----- | 56 | Main St. |
| Arlin Collins ----- | 52 | Main St. |
| Phila Lawton ----- | 48 | Main St. |
| A.M.E. Church ----- | 40 | Main St. |
| Roy Dunkle ----- | 36 | Main St. |
| Rea Dunkle ----- | 32 | Main St. |
| Homer Ross ----- | 28 | Main St. |
| Jay Keenan Jr. ----- | 20 | Main St. |
| Charles Temple ----- | 16 | Main St. |
| Farrer's Store ----- | 6 | Main St. |
| Lester Andrews ----- | 2 | Main St. |
| George Shanks ----- | 6 | Main St. |
| Roy Wilson ----- | 10 | Main St. |
| Jean McLaughlin ----- | 14 | Main St. |
| Liggett Bros. Tin Shop ----- | 18 | Main St. |
| Patty Brownlee ----- | 26 | Main St. |
| Mrs. Minnie Smiley ----- | 30 | Main St. |
| Mr. Dungee ----- | 34 | Main St. |
| Don Voytek ----- | 42 | Main St. |
| First Christian Church Building ----- | | Main St. |
| Everett Patterson $\frac{1}{2}$ ----- | 50 | Main St. |
| Louis Craig ----- | 54 | Main St. |
| George Kelley ----- | 58 | Main St. |
| Thomas Campbell McKeever's Study ----- | | Main St. |

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN PARSONAGE

The Home of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Leland M. Miller

This property is shown on the 1876 map of West Middletown as belonging to M. Cowden. Prior to the erection of the present house, a log house stood on the rear of the lot. The present house was built by Alexander Wells Cunningham, who also was the builder of the A M E Church building in the Borough.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF JAMES BUCHANAN

This house was built by George Kelley who was living on the property in 1876. Later it was the home of Mr and Mrs "Ike" Smith. Mr. Smith was an antiquarian and greatly interested in the early history of the local area.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. STANLEY RUSH

This was once the property of Thomas McKeever, who owned the home and farm of Robert Patton to the rear of this property. He built the original house on the lot as the home for a widowed daughter who lived here for a number of years.

The present house was built here after the original house was destroyed by fire.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS FRANK BROWNLEE

This house was built for Mr and Mrs Brownlee in 1952 and they have occupied it as their home since that time.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS LOGAN BROWNLEE

This house was built for Mr and Mrs Brownlee in 1953, and they have occupied it as their home since that time.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE OLD CHARLES R. McFADDEN HOUSE

This house, not now occupied, is the property of Robert Buchanan of Washington. It was, for many years, the home of Mr and Mrs Charles R. McFadden. Mr. McFadden was an oil operator of the area, and his wife, Mrs. Aura Morris McFadden was a local historian who contributed a number of articles to local newspapers relative to the early history of the Borough and the surrounding territory. Charles R. McFadden was a son of the local auctioneer, Campbell McFadden, who was a colorful personality in the town in his days here.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS PAUL ROBERTS

This house was erected for Mr and Mrs Roberts following their marriage in the late 1940's. Much of the framing lumber for the house came from the old carriage house which stood near the location of the present Fire House in the Borough.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS CHESTER BUCHANAN

This is an old house, but the date of its erection is not known. Alexander Lawton is said to have once lived here, and it was, for a time the property of the Liggett Family who lived at the foot of the Thompson Hill Road. Huston Miller lived in the house prior to 1926, when the Buchanans moved here from Rea Station. They have added the kitchen to the house, filling in the L to the rear. One of the earlier residents of the house is known to have conducted a store on the premises.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. JOSEPH YEVINS

This house was built by Mr. Yevins, the present owner and occupant. An earlier house which stood here was, in 1876, the home of James Nelson. Robert Nelson, son of James, had a public transportation business which operated out of West Middletown. It was known as the "Hack" which made three round trips weekly to Washington, hauling passengers and the United States mail. Also, after the building of the "Wabash" Railroad, for a number of years, Mr. Nelson's vehicles met the trains at West Middletown station two miles to the north.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE WEST MIDDLETOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The scenes of the early religious activities of Alexander Campbell having been in this area, the Christian Church has, for many years been identified with the life of the people of West Middletown. Under the direction of the Campbells and the McKeevers, services were held in the town as early as 1830. A church organization, however, was not effected until 1837, and during the first 10 or 11 years of its life, the congregation met for worship in the school-house, in the building now occupied by Mr. Roy Wilson, or in the homes of members.

In 1848, the first church building was erected, built of brick and located on the north side of the street about 1/4 mile west of this point. The building, used later as a garage and storage building is still standing.

The present building here, used by the congregation since 1861, was built by the Methodist Episcopal congregation and used by them until their dis-organization and then was taken over by the Disciples. The church is presently being served as minister by Mr. Larry Brown of Bethany College.

The building will be open to visitors each day during this anniversary celebration.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS GEORGE WALBROWN

This is sometimes referred to as the "Half-House" due to the roof pattern on the building. In 1856, a Mrs. Wilson owned this property, and others who lived here included Billy Allison, a cooper, and his sister, Peggy, Dr. Erastus Bemis, the Rev. Mr. Downey and David Craig Ross and his wife, Mary McGugin Ross.

On the lot adjoining, now vacant once stood the house where the Rev. Charles Avery Holmes, noted Methodist minister, was born.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS ELWOOD McDOUGAN

This house was built by the present owners who have lived in it ever since its erection , just a few year s ago.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE OLD BELL HOUSE

(the property of Mr and Mrs Robert Sweger)

On the 1861 and 1876 maps of West Middletown, this is shown as the property of the Bell Family. It was in this old building, just recently torn down, that James Bell a copper- and tin-smith manufactured the oil burning lantern invented by Andrew Ralston of Hopewell Township. Mr Ralston also invented the threshing machine, which was manufactured in West Middletown in the McClure Machine Shops located about 1/4 mile west of this point. Another invention of Mr Ralston was a combination sheep-trough and hay rack. For this farm accessory, Mr. Ralston sold the plans and the farmers could have the trough made to their order. During the years it stood here, the old building also housed a general store, and the Bell Telephone Company's switch-board was at one time located in the building. Lucinda Brown, a black woman lived here a number of years ago. The house had been vacant for a number of years before being dismantled.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF JAY KEENAN, Sr.

The original house on this lot was a log cabin which stood to the rear of the present house. This house was built by James Westlake who was a native of Ohio, having been born on Capitan Creek in 1817, a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Quillan Westlake, his father having been a well-known river-man on the Ohio River in his day.

In 1856, according to the map of the Borough of that date, Miss Fagen is shown as the owner of the property. This may have been Ann Fagen, whose death, however, occurred in 1852, and the property may have still been listed in her name. In 1861, a Mrs. Wilson is shown as the owner, and in 1876, J. Patterson.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. BERT SIMS

In this house once lived Conrad Hillegas, a brother-in-law of Andrew Fessler. These men were both tomb-stone cutters and they made many of the markers in the early graveyards of this area. Mr. Hillegas could neither read nor write, but he could follow a pattern, and made his inscriptions in this way.

In more recent years, this was the home of Mrs. Eudora Rush Ray and her daughters when they lived in West Middletown.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS MAE B MILLER

This house was built by James McClure who had his home and a store in the house. The next owners were John and Sarah Logan Brownlee, whose daughter, Jennie Brownlee was the wife of Dr. James N Bemis. Dr. Bemis and his family lived here and he was associated in practice with his brother, Dr. David H Bemis who lived across the street.

Dr. James N Bemis was very active in combating the small-pox epidemic which raged in the construction camps when the Wabash railroad was being built in the early years of this century.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE JOE KELLEY HOUSE

The old brick house which stood here and which was torn down about a year ago was once occupied by one of the McKeevee men who conducted a meat business here and who also hauled meat to Baltimore for sale there. He found it a profitable business until the building of the B. and O. Railroad, and he found that he could not compete with its rates, so he had to discontinue his trips there.

The old first Christian Church building which once stood on the Ira Lawton lot across the street was located on this lot for a time before being moved to Bethany.

John ("Catamount") Kelley, father of the present owner of this lot furnished valuable clues to the detectives who solved the Ferguson Murder Case in 1904.

It is reported that a man died of carbon-monoxide poisoning while cleaning out a dug well on this property.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS JOHN DURILLA

This is the oldest brick house in West Middletown, having been built in 1798 according to Tax Assessment records of Hopewell Township. After standing for less than twenty years, it was declared un-safe for human habitation in 1817, but it is still standing and has been used as a residence for most of its existence, despite this early edict.

In the 1850's and 1860's, it was occupied by T. Lane who had a chair factory here. He had a horse-driven lathe on which he turned out the parts for his chairs. This later became the home of the late Milton M Hemphill who served as deputy sheriff of Washington County for a number of years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF LYLE AND MABEL HAIR

On the 1856 and 1861 maps of the Borough, this is shown as the property of E. McBride, who is said to have been a son-in-law of Col. David Williamson. In 1876, it was the property of J Patterson. A store was once kept in the building, and school was held here for a time in 1898 when the village school-building burned down.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE LAWTON LOG HOUSE

The age of this old house is not known. In an early day it was occupied by John Smiley, a tailor, whose daughter Emeline married William Ross.

On the 1856 and 1861 maps of the Borough, this is shown as the property of Mrs. McFadden, and on the 1876 map it is in the name of J McClure.

The Armstrong Family once lived here.

For many years, it was the property of Mr. Ira Lawton who lived just across the street.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS EARL KING

This house, built in 1890, was for many years the home of Miss Dorcas Thompson. After her death, the late William Thompson and his second wife, Margaret Lyle Thompson lived here.

The Post Office with Mrs. Earl King as Post Master has been located in the house following the retirement of Mrs. Laurel Ross in 1955.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF JOHN W. AND SARAH W. BROWN LEE

The first house on this property was a log house which stood just to the rear of this present house.

John Boyd built this brick house in 1831 and he appears to have still been the owner in 1856. On the 1876 map of West Middletown it is shown as belonging to David M. Boyd. The last of the Boyd Family to occupy the house was Bird Boyd Johnson, wife of Dwight Johnson. When the Johnsons lived here, the present side porch was a room in which a meat-shop was conducted, and later this room was used as an ice-cream parlor which is still remembered by local residents. For many years the family of John Brownlee, Sr. lived here, and it is now the home of Mr and Mrs John Brownlee, Jr.

On the adjoining lot between this property and the Fire Hall was the home of Mrs. Ellen Boon. Her husband was a trader in flour on the rivers for many years. On his 21st trip, he took the Yellow Fever and died and is buried at Cincinnati. After that sad event, Mrs. Boon brought her family to West Middletown and her father, Galbraith Stewart bought this property for her. At Mrs. Boon's death, her body was taken to Cincinnati and buried beside that of her husband.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS JOHN TEMPLE

This was once the home of James Templeton who may have built the house which must date from around 1850 or earlier. On the 1861 map of the Borough this is shown by the name: M. Church and in 1870, Thomas Lane owned the house and he lived here. The Ramsey Family also lived in the house, and Dr. S. S. Quest, one-time physician here had an office in a small building which stood in the side yard of the property.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE OLD LINDSEY HOTEL BUILDING

This building was erected by James Lindsey and was known for many years as the Lindsey Hotel. The old Hotel catered to the many types of traffic which moved through West Middletown in its hey-day.

Traveling circuses put on their exhibitions on this property, and provision was made on the lot to the rear of the hotel for overnight accommodations for the droves of cattle, sheep and hogs which were driven through here on the way to the eastern markets. When the route for the National Road was being discussed and the possibilities of its passing through West Middletown were being considered, Henry Clay and Philip Doddridge once debated the issue at this hotel.

Now the property of Mr. Harold Scott, the building has been vacant for some time.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME AND ANTIQUE SHOP OF WILLIAM HUSTON

Over the years this building has been known at various times as the McNulty Hotel, the Garrett Hotel and, in more recent years, as the France Hotel. According to maps of West Middletown of 1856 and 1861, W. W. McNulty was owner and he conducted a hotel here. By 1876, R. M. Garrett appears as owner, and he, too, had a hotel in the building. It has been claimed by some that John W. Garrett, organizer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad system was born in this house, but that claim is now disputed by local historians.

Before his death in 1929, Mr. John D. France lived here. He was a prominent local Civil War veteran having been a member of the famed "Roundhead" 100th Regiment P V I during the War. During the building of the "Wabash" Railroad in 1903, Mr. Samuel Ferguson, a contractor for nearby portions of that railroad building, lived at the France Hotel with his wife and daughter. After his being murdered at the foot of Seminary Hill on September 25, 1903, Mr. Ferguson's body was brought to the Hotel and the funeral service conducted by Mr. W. W. Hunter of Hopewell Township was held here.

The brick addition to the building at the rear is said to have been built by Samuel Urie, member of the prominent family of that name in the Buffalo Creek Valley of Hopewell Township.

When the France Family occupied the premises, the borough elections were held in the Hotel. It is now the home and place of business of Mr. William Huston who is a dealer in antiques.

THE HOME OF MRS DONALD W FARRER

On this 2 1/2 acre lot once stood a stone house which was the property of the Rev. Samuel Taggart, once minister of the Grove United Presbyterian Church. His daughter, Mrs. J. Verner Clark later owned the property and erected the present house in 1903.

Mr and Mrs David Scott and family lived in an earlier frame house which stood here and which was moved across the street when this house was built. Others who have lived here were the William Ritchey family, the John Mansons, and it has been the home of the Farrer Family for the past fifty years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MISS JANET BEMIS

This is one of the newer houses in West Middletown, having been built about 1925.

On the next lot to the south once stood the West Middletown two-room school building, used by the Borough until it burned down near the end of the school term in May 1941.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS DENNIS KELLEY

This house was built in 1945 by Greene Johnson. It has been occupied as their home by the Kelleys since the time of its erection.

The area in which this home is located was once known as "The Oaks" due to the large trees of this type which stood here. It was a favorite location for the camp-meetings held here by the A M E congregation and other religious groups.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS DONALD UMPHREY

Mr and Mrs Umphrey have lived in this mobile home for
the past two years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS JOHN BAKER

This house was built by Dennis Linder. It has been the home of the Bakers for the past eleven years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS LEONARD KELLEY

This house was built about 50 years ago by the Walker Family who occupied it until about 15 years ago when the present occupants acquired it. They have lived here ever since.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS JAMES PATTERSON

This mobile home belongs to Mr and Mrs James Patterson, who have occupied it since it was placed on this lot. They have lived here for about a year. Mrs. Patterson is in possession of some early missionary records of the local A M E congregation.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. MIKE YEVINS

This was the home of Mr and Mrs Yev ins until Mrs. Yevins' death.

Due to i l health, Mr. Yev ins is not living here at the present time.

The house was, for many years, the home of David A. and Flora

Brown White and their family. They were the parents of the late

Mrs. Mae Williams and of Roy White of Washington and Mrs. Jean ette

White Wiley of Neville Island.

The West Middletow n Sesqui-Centennial Anniversa r y

1973

THE HOME OF MR JOSEPH UMPHREY, Jr.

This house was built by Mr. Joseph Umphrey, Sr. and by Mr. John D. France shortly after their return from service in the Union Army following the Civil War years. Mr. Umphrey and his wife lived here until the time of their deaths, and it has been the home of Joseph Umphrey, Jr. since that time.

The vacant house on the adjoining lot, to the south of this property once also belonged to the Umphrey Family.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS GRACE M MILLER

This house has been re-modeled from an earlier building which stood here and which was used in early times by the congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and later as a Town Hall. The property next door to the north was the home of the David R. Miller family, whose son, Howard Miller was the husband of Mrs. Grace Miller.

The West Middletown Sesqui-centennial

1973

THE HOME OF C. G. (Sam) WILLIAMS

This is shown on the 1856 map of West Middletown as the property of David Craig, who had a store here. By 1860, the property had come into possession of Galbraith Stewart who removed several buildings on the lot and erected the present brick house in 1859-60.

After Mr. Stewart's death, this became the property of the family of James T Hemphill, and his daughter, Miss Lucy Hemphill occupied the house until her death. It was next the home of Dr. Grosvenor Pearson, a psychiatrist, and following him, Edith and Ann Braden owned the property until 1952 when the present owner acquired it.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS HARRY HUMPHREYS

Squire Buchanan once kept a hotel on this lot, and following his death, his widow sold the property to Hugh Hamilton who built the present house in 1820, adding the L-shaped wing to the rear in 1825.

Residents in recent years have included Mr and Mrs. Frank France, the Morrow Family, Miss Jean McLaughlin, and since August 1972, Mr and Mrs Humphreys and family have lived here.

Dr. Guy Sprouls and Dr. Esten L Hazlett, former physicians both had their offices in the house, which has under-gone numerous re-modelings since it was first built.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF LAWRENCE HEADLEY

William Vasbinder, an early resident, came to West Middletown when there were only 9 or 10 houses in the town. He was a wagon-maker and also worked occasionally as a blacksmith and harness-maker. His son, John Vasbinder appears to have conducted the shop here during the 1850's and 1860's and in 1876, he was still owner of the property. John Vasbinder married Margaret Slemmons of the family who kept the Slemmons Hotel, while T. B. Slemmons married Jane Vasbinder, and a third marriage between these two families was that of John Slemmons who married Margaret Vasbinder. This last couple lived on a farm in Canton Township near the house in which Robert Dinsmore was murdered in December 1866.

The present house on this property was built by Frank S. Brownlee who was an under-taker and furniture dealer here for a number of years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF JOHN L FERRELL

This house is on the site of a black-smith shop and wagon-maker's shop once conducted here by Thomas Potts. Later, the property was sold to George Vasbinder, who also conducted a black-smith and wagon-maker's shop on this location. The house, then standing, was a one-story building.

Still later, this property was owned by Daniel Hair, who was also a black-smith and wagon-maker and father of Lyle D. Hair who lives half-way down the hill to the east here in the borough. J. D. Scott, who was at one time a justice of the peace lived here.

The property is now the home of Mr. John L Ferrell.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MRS MARY C FARRER

This is an old house which has been frequently re-modeled and added to. It was listed on the 1856 map of West Middletown as the property of J Noble and on the 1876 map as that of Mrs. Ackison. This was, for some years, the home of the David R. Miller family, before they moved to their later home on College Street.

The family of John G. Cunningham moved here when their home on the Cunningham farm at the west end of town burned down. Mr and Mrs John G. Cunningham were the parents of Mrs. Mary Farrer. She and her husband, the late David H Farrer and their family have lived in this house for a number of years.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF LLOYD CLARK

The upper part of this house was the building which once housed the Union Grove School. This school was located near the property of the Grove United Presbyterian Church, at the eastern end of the Borough. The frame building was moved to this site by Dr. Scott, a dentist, who was the grandfather of the present owner, and who occupied the house as a residence and he also had his dental office here.

Crumrine's History of Washington County has this to say about the Union Grove Seminary, as it was called:

"About the year 1830 this seminary was opened, with James Sloan as principal. An anniversary meeting of the Franklin Literary Society connected with the Seminary was held on the 4th of November, 1831. The trustees at that time were: David McGugin, David Wherry and William Lindsey. At an examination held on the 15th of November of that year, J. Anderson, William Wallace and Dr. Al. Hamilton were appointed to take charge. On the 22nd of October, 1832, the school was opened under the superintendence of the Rev. Charles Wheeler as principal and Mr. George Gordon, a graduate of Washington College, as assistant, and on April 7, 1834, Mr. George M Hall was serving as principal. The school flourished for some years after this time with varied success, and was finally discontinued at a date which is not now known.

THE HOME OF MISS ELIZABETH PERKINS

Over the years of the history of West Middletown, this property has had a number of owners and residents. In 1856, the map of the town shows this as the property of George Ramsey. In 1861, it was the property of the Disciples Church, but just what use that organization made of it is not now known.

In 1876, the heirs of McCaslin are shown as owners, and at various times since it has been the home of the Rev. Mr. Simmons, pastor of the A M E Church, who doubled also as a barber; a Mr. Bosier also was, for a time, a barber here, and at a later time the Rev. Mr. Blackwell, minister of the local Christian Church lived here.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS LEROY KELLEY

This neat little house has been re-modeled from a two-story building which was known in earlier times as the Clutter Hotel. In the 1850's a family by the name of Fowler owned the property, and in 1870 it is listed as the property of J. F. and J. H. Welch. Others who lived on the property include the Tilton and Grooms families, Mr. White, a black-smith, Dr. Holliday, an early practitioner here, and also the Daugherty and Nolan families.

When the Daugherty Family lived here, James McElroy, then a young man of the community began calling on a daughter of the Family. He continued the practice of calling on Wednesday evenings when the older members of the family were attending prayer meeting, his calling being somewhat clandestine, since the Daughertys did not approve of the young man. One evening the parents came home earlier than expected and young McElroy was still there. He had to make a fast escape, so he got outside and jumped off the high side of the back porch. Mrs. Daugherty had just made a large kettle of soft soap, and, in jumping off the porch, young McElroy landed in the middle of the kettle of soap. This unpleasant experience ended happily, however, since a short time later, Miss Daugherty became Mrs. McElroy, and possibly no more soft-soaping was necessary.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE OLD McCLURE LOG HOUSE

This is believed to be the oldest log house in West Middletown. When it was being erected, it is said that people came from miles around to see a two-story log house, so this dates it as one of the oldest log houses over a wide area. A Mr. James Hardy once conducted a blacksmith shop on the property, and from 1860 to 1876 and later, the family of Robert B. McClure made this their home. The machine shop which was located on the adjoining lot to the west was used by Robert B. McClure for the manufacture of the threshing machine, an invention of Andrew Ralston of Hopewell Township in 1842.

From the time of beginning this work of manufacture until 1859, about 500 of these machines were produced here. On June 5, 1859, the disastrous heavy frost which visited a wide area of the country forecast the financial ruin of this manufacturing venture. In that fateful year, Mr. McClure produced and shipped down-river a large number of the machines, but they rotted on the wharf at St. Louis since there was no demand for them.

In this house were raised the family of Robert McClure, which consisted of the two ministers, the Revs. W. S. and R. E. McClure, Dr. J. A. McClure, A. T. McClure and their sisters, Alice Snodgrass, Jennie E. Ralston, Margaret Bigger, Emma McMill and the Misses Annie L. and Etta McClure.

This property is now owned by Mr John Rohall.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF WILLIAM CRAIG

Mr. Craig, a retired farmer has been a resident of West Middletown since retiring from his farm, which lay about one mile west of this point. The Craig Family have lived in this area for many years and most of them have followed the vocation of farming.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS PHOEBE A MURDOCK

This small house was formerly a frame addition to the brick house in up-town West Middletown which is now the home of Mr and Mrs Lee Dunkle. It was moved to this point by Jean Kelley when the Dunkles re-nodeled their home in 1952. The present home of Mr and Mrs. Dunkle was, for many years, the home of the family of the late Rev. John T. Brownlee, long-time pastor of the Mt. Hope United Presbyterian Church in Independence Township.

Mrs. Murdock, who is an authority on the History of West Middletown and the surrounding area, lives here and works on her projects related to local history and the genealogy of many local families.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS. EVA PATTERSON

Mrs. Patterson, one of West Middletown's oldest residents, has lived in this house for many years. She is the mother of Everett and Emmett Patterson and of Mrs. Alice Kelley, all local residents, and of Mrs. Phoebe Thomas and Robert Patterson of Washington; Penna.

On the 1876 map of West Middletown, this was shown as the property of A. Lawrence.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF EMMETT AND EDITH PATTERSON

This home has been re-modeled from the old building of the one-room White School, which has stood on this location for at least 100 years.

After the school was moved to the newer building 1/4 mile down the road, the building was purchased by William and Agnes Patterson who made this their home for the rest of their lives. Then their three bachelor sons: William Ernst, Marion and Elmer Patterson lived and died in the old house. Their niece, Edith Moten has lived here since 1930, and her husband, Emmett Patterson since their marriage.

In re-modeling the former school house, the Pattersons uncovered the old black-board which had been papered over many times. This blackboard was found to be of pine, rather than the slate boards in later school buildings.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. FRED ANDERSON

This property in 1876 was owned by the Rev. John T. Brownlee, who lived in West Middletown but was pastor of the Mt. Hope United Presbyterian Church in Independence Township. Later, it was owned by his son, John N. ("Jack") Brownlee, until his death. Albert Kelley now of Mingo, Ohio once lived in this house.

The house is located on, or very near the line between West Middletown borough and Hopewell Township.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF BEN AND EDITH MILLER

This house is located on land which was once a part of the adjoining Thompson Farm, having once belonged to James Thompson and his son, John L. Thompson. The date of the erection of this house is not known, but in 1853, the Rev. John T. Brownlee and his wife, Martha Jane Ashton went to house-keeping here, so it is at least 150 years old.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS JUANITA FARRAR

This house, the only one in West Middletown borough, to be shown in Caldwell's 1876 Atlas of Washington County, is located on property owned in the 1850's and 1860's by James Christy. In 1876 it was the home of James Armour and the house is known to be well over one hundred years old.

Prior to occupancy by the Farrars, this was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Philabaum who came to West Middletown from the Dutch Fork area. The Philabaums had a son, Elzie, who married Leila McCabe, and two daughters.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF CRELL AND MARY ANN PLANTS

This house, when first built, was used for a pool room, and later a service station was located here. Rea Dunkle made the building over into a dwelling-house and he lived here for a time, being followed in residence by the Ben Miller family, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wheeler, and Mr and Mrs Plants who have done further re-modeling are the present owners and occupants.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MISS ANN MALONE

The original part of this house was built by Mr. Archibald Campbell, a brother of Bishop Alexander Campbell of the Christian Church and the founder of Bethany College. Mr. Archibald Campbell was prominent locally in the affairs of the Christian Church, having served as one of the ministers of the local congregation in the earlier years of its existence.

For many years, this property was owned by the Lindsey Family, in the 1850's and 1860's by John Lindsey and in 1876 by his heirs. In and about the year 1915, the family of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Scott lived here and in 1970, this was the home of Mr and Mrs Gary Rush.

THE HOME OF JOHN AND ANNE KRESS

This house was built many years ago by Horace Burns.

Among those who have lived in it prior to the present occupants have been: W. A. Ross, Howard F. Brownlee, Homer Dunkle, the John Davis family, Laurel Ross, Homer and Mary Ross, and Ben and Edith Miller.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS WILLIAM SPOERI

This house was built in 1947 by Homer and Mary Ross who lived in it until they moved up-town in August 1972. The Spoeris came here from Tennessee at about the same time.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF GAILEY AND ELLEN RITCHEY

This is a log house, dating to around 1800, It has been frequently re-modeled, the present porch to the east having once been an "added" room/. Some of the early owners and possibly residents were:

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| In 1876 | J Asby |
| 1861 | Thomas McKeever |
| 1876 | J. Q. A. Boyd |

In 1880, David Boyd conveyed the property to Elizabeth Boyd, and in 1919, Daniel Hair, the black-smith , conveyed it to William France, who, in 1922 deeded the property to William Ritchey/. The Ritchey Family have been in possession of the property since that time.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MORRIS AND BLANCHE KNABENSHUE

This large frame house was built by George Bushfield. For many years it was the home of Dr. Erastus Bemis, a native of Brattleboro, Vermont who came to Buffalo Village following his marriage to Ruth McCullough in 1844. About 1850, the Bemis Family moved to West Middletown, and this house was their home until Dr. Bemis' death in 1866, after which his widow occupied the house until her death. They were the parents of Drs. James N and David H. Bemis, who followed their father in the medical profession here. Miss Janet Bemis and Mrs. Sarah B. Farrer of West Middletown are daughters of Dr. James N. and Jennie Brownlee Bemis.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE DAN HODGENS BRICK HOUSE

This is one of the many brick houses of its type in West Middletown. It was for many years the home and office of Dr. Alexander Hamilton, and later it was the home of his widow for many years.

In more recent years, Dan Hodgens, a harness-maker had his shop here, and, for a time, the Post Office was located in the house. Miss Linnie Hodgens, an artist of note and once instructor in art at Westminster College, was a daughter of Dan Hodgens and she was raised in this house.

The house has been vacant for a number of years. It is now the property of Mr and Mrs Earl King.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE OLD McKEEVER HOUSE

This house was built prior to the Civil War years, since it figured prominently in events of that period. It was built by Thomas McKeever, a Justice of the Peace, Associate County Judge, noted abolitionist, and a director of the "Under-ground Railroad."

At different times in its long history, this house has been used as a store building and a hat factory, and it once housed, also, the West Middletown Post Office. A number of years ago, a large room in the house was fitted up for use as a meeting room for the "Community Club of West Middletown".

The house was the local station of the "Under-ground Railroad" and the basement was used for hiding run-away slaves. Also, in the basement is a secret room into which the fugitives could be put for greater security.

J. J. George and John Ferrell both kept store in the house, and Tom Marsh had a store and kept the Post Office here.

This house is now the property of Mr and Mrs Earl King.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF ARLIN B. COLLINS

This brick house was built before 1837, probably by Andrew Fessler, the tomb-stone cutter, who operated his shop here prior to the year 1850. In the 1850's and 1860's, David M. Boyd owned and occupied the property. In 1853, he was appointed Post Master and he held the office for eight years, at the same time engaging in the mercantile business here. He was also justice of the peace for nearly twenty years while occupying this property.

A man by the name of Hill once conducted a store here, and John Linton at one time had a tin-shop on the premises. Marshall Short also had a tin-shop here in the early years of this building.

By the year 1876, J. V. Rea was owner of the property and his son, Dr. Alexander M. Rea lived here and had his doctor/s office in the house. Following Dr. Rea's death, the property passed to his daughter, Mrs. Del Ross, and she and her husband occupied the home. From November 1934 until November 1955, Mrs. Ross served as Post Master for the borough and the Post Office was located here.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MISS PHILA LAWTON

(formerly the home of her parents, Mr and Mrs Ira Lawton)

This house was erected by George McFadden and he is listed as the owner on the 1856, 1861 and 1876 maps of the Borough. While living here, Mr. McFadden bought the old Christian Church, first erected in the Brush Run area, and he re-built it on the lot beside this house, where the present shop stands. He used that building for his shop and also conducted the Post Office in it. The older building was dismantled by Mr. Ira Lawton who built the present shop for his own use.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE A. M. E. CHURCH BUILDING

This church was erected in about the year 1860 by the Wesleyan Methodist Congregation which was then in existence in the Borough. Their first church building was on the property where Mrs. Grace Miller now lives. Friction in the congregation over the issues of the day caused a split in the membership and the dissenting faction built the present Christian Church building. In about the year 1860, the two factions re-united and built this church. At about the same time, the Campbellites (Christian Church) moved from their first church building, 1/4 mile west of this point, to their present church home, just to the east of this location and on the other side of the street.

Before the church building was located here, one of the numerous black-smith shops of the borough was located here, with J. W. Smith as proprietor. This was just prior to the years of the Civil War.

The African Methodist Episcopal Congregation who now worship here, in the early days of its existence, met in the old Dodaridge Chapel which was located on the present Falconi Farm about three miles west of town. When the Wesleyan Methodist congregation disbanded, the A M E congregation moved into town and has occupied this building ever since.

THE WEST MIDDLETOWN SESQUI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

1973

THE HOME OF ROY DUNKLE

(formerly the home of his parents, Mr and Mrs Matthew Dunkle)

This property was known during the 1850's as the Slemmons Hotel, then conducted by T. B. Slemmons, whose wife was Jane Vasbinder of the family of that name in the Borough. Mr. Slemmons conducted the Post Office in the building from 1845 to 1849. The property is shown as belonging to Mr. Slemmons on the 1856 map of West Middletown, but after 1860 it appears to have passed into other hands. On the 1876 map, the name on this property is J. Hemphill. Mr and Mrs Charles Bromley, later residents of Hickory, once lived in this house.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF REA AND RUTH DUNKLE

One of the early occupants of this property was Andrew Fessler, the tomb-stone cutter. Examples of his work can be seen on grave-markers in a number of the graveyards in the surrounding area. Following Mr. Fessler, the Rev. Samuel Taggart, for fifty years pastor of the Grove United Presbyterian Church lived here, and he was followed in residence here by the Rev. John T. Brownlee, who served for so many years as pastor of the Mt. Hope United Presbyterian Church in Independence Township. The last of the Brownlee Family to live here was John Newton ("Jack") Brownlee, who often was referred to as "the best-liked man in West Middletown."

When Mr and Mrs Dunkle moved here in 1951, they remodeled the house and removed a lean-to kitchen, and this part of the house was moved by Jean Kelley and erected as a house at the west end of town. This house is now the home of Mrs. Phoebe Murdock.

On the 1856 map of West Middletown, the space between this house and the house next door (Homer Ross's house) was occupied by a building which appears to have been the property of a Mr and Mrs Tivaine. Others who lived in the present Dunkle house were Charles Runyon, a plasterer and Robert McCormick.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF DAVID L. ROSS
And OF HOMER AND MARY ROSS and FAMILY

This house is located on property owned during the mid years of the Nineteenth Century by John Sampson who had a cabinet maker's and undertaker's establishment here. His wife was Sallie McCauley, daughter of George McCauley. She was a coat- and pants-maker and worked at her trade at Wellsburg, W. Va.

There are in West Middletown several pieces of furniture which came from the cabinet-maker's shop of John Sampson. A table used for many years by Grove Church for the communion table was one of these pieces.

Caroline Sampson, daughter of John and Sallie, married Samuel Marks from Wellsburg, and they lived in this house, Mr. Marks probably taking over the business from the Sampsons. The shop used by these men stood adjacent to this house, and it was a frame building.

Later, a Dr. Hubert used this house for his home and office. As can be seen in the front of the house, this is one of thirteen houses in the borough which have two front doors. At a time when a part of these houses was used for business purposes, one door led into the living quarters, and the other into the business establishment, or office.

Prior to the occupancy of this house by Mr and Mrs Homer Ross, Mr. William Ross and daughter, Tamara, lived here with Mr. Ross's parents. Mr. David Laurel Ross is still the senior resident here.

THE HOME OF JAY, Jr. AND LELA KEENAN

This old house is built of logs, and when these were un-covered in a recent re-modeling, the logs were found to be 14 inches in diameter. Built at a date not now known, it stands on the site of the home of Thomas Lane, an early resident, who conducted a livery stable at the rear of the premises. Maps of the Borough dated 1856, 1861 and 1876 show the property to have been in Mr. Lane's name. Ed. Lane, a member of Col. Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders was a descendant of Mr. Thomas Lane.

Mrs. Florence Bushfield once conducted the Post Office in this old house, and here lived, also, John and Sarah Dodds with their children: Thomas, James, John, William, Margaret, Mary and Agnes. Mr. Dodds was a flat-boat river-man who worked on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He is said to have walked back to his home here from New Orleans twenty-three times.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. and MRS. CHARLES B. TEMPLE

This spacious residence, in the hey-day of West Middletown, was known as the Odenbaugh Hotel. On the 1856 and 1861 maps of the Borough, this is shown as the property of Thomas Jefferson Odenbaugh, who was an active member of the Abolitionist Party, and who served as the second Post Master of the Borough, with the Post Office most probably in this building/ On the 1876 map, Mrs. Susan Odenbaugh is shown as owner. She was one of six daughters of Mr and Mrs David Craig, Mr. Craig having been considered the second settler in West Middletown prior to 1802.

Since modern means of travel have made obsolete the need for the hotels in the small country towns, this property has been used as a private residence for many years. In the annex to the building to the west was the location of the West Middletown Post Office when Miss Lou Coulter served as Post Master of the Borough.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial

1973

THE OLD FARRER HOME AND STORE

James McFadden erected these buildings, and on the 1861 map of the Borough, they are shown as the T M McFadden Home and Store. On the 1876 map, J F and J H Welch are shown as owners, and about the turn of the Century, the store came into the possession of the Leech Family.

About 1907, Mr and Mrs Andrew C. Farrer moved from a farm in Cross Creek Township to this house, and Mr. Farrer took over the operation of the store. The store was then conducted by the Farrer Family until 1967, Mr. David H Farrer being the last of the family to own and operate it.

Of the family of the late Mr and Mrs A C Farrer, which consisted of sons: Leroy, Israel Bebout, McDonald and David Homer, and one daughter, Mary Farrer Sprowls, only one son, Mr. I B Farrer of Greenville, Penna. is now living. Mrs. David H. (Mary C.) Farrer and Mrs. Donald (Sarah B.) Farrer are now living in the Borough.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS LESTER ANDREWS

This house was built by James Thompson, whose first wife was Jane, daughter of David Craig. The property appears to have remained in the Thompson family until after the death of R. Boley Thompson, son of James.

The house was built in two sections, apparently identical in construction, except that the eastern section has stone headers over the windows, while those in the western section are wooden, with identical carvings.

Some years ago, Mr and Mrs George F. Boles lived in the house, and just preceding the present residents were Mr and Mrs John Brownlee.

THE HOME OF GEORGE AND NELLIE SHANKS

This long brick house was built by Thomas McCall, presumably around the 1840's. Mr. McCall was an early resident of the area and he owned a large tract of land south-west of West Middletown, where he was in the sheep and wool-growing business for a number of years. He served also, for a time, in the State Legislature of Pennsylvania.

Mr and Mrs William Richmond lived in this house in the early years of the present century, and Mrs. Richmond served as Post Master from 1909 to 1920.

The house is at present the home of Mr and Mrs George Shanks, Mr. Shanks being a native of the Emerald Isle and Mrs Shanks a former resident of Avella, where they were in business until their retirement several years ago.

On the 1856, 1861 and 1876 maps of the Borough, this property was in the name of the McCall Family.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF ROY WILSON

This double house was built by James Thompson, and since it is in two sections, it is possible that the two parts were not built at the same time. In an up-stairs room of the higher part of the house, the room with the two windows to the right, the early members of the Christian Church of West Middletown, prior to 1848, held religious services on Sunday, and, during the week, the same room was used as a school-room. Mr. Archibald Campbell and Mr. Joseph Naylor were the ministers who alternated Sundays in conducting the church services here. Mr. Naylor, also served as teacher of the school.

At one time the property was used as a shoe-maker's shop, and William (Uncle Billy) Buchanan was the cobbler. His wife was a former Miss Pyle and their children were a daughter, Mintie and two sons, Thomas and William.

On the 1856 map of West Middletown, this is shown as the property of Samuel Matthews, and in 1861, Galbraith Stewart is shown as the owner. In 1876, there appear to have been two owners with S. Thompson in the west end and Martin Lowery in the east end. At a later time, the west end of the house was shown as the Joseph Lawton home, and the east end was occupied by Mrs. Mary Farrar Sprowls. At still another time, Mrs. Jennie Buchanan Cunningham occupied the house.

The present owner, Mr. Roy Wilson lives in the east end and Miss Jean McLaughlin occupies the west end.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE LIGGETT BROTHERS TIN SHOP

This little old building was used for many years as a tin shop by Alfred (Al) and Wilfred Liggett, twin brothers who lived with their sisters at the foot of Thompson Hill road. These men were of small stature and while they worked here they could be seen each morning walking to the shop coming up the long hill from their home, but they were never seen walking together; one would always walk ahead of the other. After the death of Wilfred Liggett, Al continued to work here in the shop and throughout the community as long as he was able to do so.

In 1856, this property appears to have been owned by Mrs. Cotton and on the 1861 map of the Borough it is shown as a black-smith shop. Later James Thompson owned the property and he may have erected this building. It is being preserved as one of the landmarks of the town. George Morrow is the present owner of the property.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF PATTY BROWN LEE

This house, known in recent years as the Perry Liggett property, is shown on the 1876 map of the Borough as the home of P. Miller. It was also, for a number of years the home of Mr. and Mrs. David A. White and family, long-time residents of West Middletown.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MRS. MINNIE SMILEY

Built around 1800, this log house has been frequently re-modeled. Dr. Henry Cotton moved into the house in 1817 and he occupied it as his residence and office for a number of years. The property was in the name of the Cotton Family for about one hundred years. In the house at one time there was a store, and the West Middletown Post Office has also been located in the house.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MR. DUNGEE

This small home is another of the log houses for which West Middletown is noted, so it dates probably before 1800.

Persons known to have lived here previous to the present occupant include: Mr and Mrs Birney Walker and Mr and Mrs John Davis.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF DON VOYTEK

(formerly the home of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Loughman)

This is a log house, built probably as early as 1800, but it is completely covered with weather -boarding. During the days when the National Telephone Company served this area, in the early years of this century, the switch-board was located in this house, with Mrs. Nolen, and later Mrs George Smith serving as operators.

At one time Mrs. Fowler lived in the house, and also it was the home of the family of David L White .

The smaller building on this lot adjoining the old church building was used as a wash-house when Mr and Mrs George Smith lived here. Mike Friend used to live in that building and he had a loom used for weaving cloth. The building has recently been moved back from the street and is being made into a shop.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BUILDING

The congregation of the Christian Church of West Middletown dates to about 1830 when members of the "Campbellite" group began holding meetings for public worship, meeting in a school building in the east end of town, in the homes of members, and for a time, in the house now owned by Mr. Roy Wilson. The formal organization of the congregation was effected in 1837, at a meeting held at Pleasant Hill Seminary.

In 1848, this brick building was erected as the first church owned by the group. They worshipped here regularly until 1861, when they sold this building and acquired their present building 1/2 mile east of this point.

On the 1861 map of the Borough, this property is shown as a "Baptist" Church, but this is probably a mis-nomer. On the 1876 map it is designated "A M E" Church, and that congregation may have worshipped here before acquiring their present church home.

In recent years, the property has been used for commercial purposes. For several years, Mr. George Smith had a garage here, and now it is used for storage purposes by the present owner, Mr. Peter Smith.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

THE HOME OF MR. EVERETT PATTERSON

This is an all-frame house, but the date of its erection is not known. It has been the home of the Patterson Family for the past forty years, and Mr. Patterson and his daughter are the present occupants.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR AND MRS LOUIS CRAIG

This house was originally a part of the hotel building where Daniel McGugin kept a hotel during the early days of the town. Mr. McGugin was a native of Mt. Pleasant Township and a member of the family of that name who were the first settlers in that Township. This house was moved to this point about 1860 from the property now owned by Sam Williams. In 1861, the property was occupied by N. Clouse, who had a blacksmith shop here, and in 1876, J. Hare (Hair) is indicated as the owner on the map of the Borough of that year.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE ("Mac") KELLEY

This house was built many years ago by the Rev. George Webster, grandfather of Mr. Kelley, and a veteran of the Civil War. Mr. Webster lived and died in the house, and it has always been occupied by some of his descendants.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary

1973

THE STUDY OF THOMAS CAMPBELL MCKEEVER

This building represents a restoration of the study erected at Pleasant Hill Seminary by and for Thomas Campbell McKeever some time during the decade of the 1860's.

Mr. McKeever was a grandson of Thomas Campbell, a nephew of Alexander Campbell, and a son of Matthew and Jane Campbell McKeever. His parents were the founders of Pleasant Hill Seminary about 1845. The young Mr. McKeever became first a teacher in the Seminary, and later he assumed the principalship when his mother was unable to continue further in that capacity.

This present building purports to be an almost exact replica of the original study. The older building, patterned to some extent after the study of Alexander Campbell at Bethany, was moved to West Middletown following the close of the Seminary. It stood on various locations and was used for many different purposes while located in the Borough. It was torn down in the 1930's after becoming un-fit for continued use.

The building, erected under the sponsorship of the Borough Council, was built by Rea Dunkle and Homer Denning with the help of much volunteer labor from many local citizens. It will be used in the years ahead to house historical and genealogical records and reference works, and it is hoped that a circulating library might also be established here.

The West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary