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COVER PHOTO: Our cover picture is of Colonel Herbert Russell Laird, first secretary and founder of the Lycoming County Historical Society. Please read more about Colonel Laird in Paul Gilmore's "Early Episodes in Williamsport's History" printed in this Journal.

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members:

We look back now upon our year of celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Lycoming County Historical Society with a sense of satisfaction in the accomplishments and with hope for the future.

The programs - "Sheep Rock Shelter" presented by the North Central Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology; "William Penn and the 300th Birthday of Pennsylvania" presented by our Director, Andrew Grugan; "Christmas Music" presented by Mary Landon Russell, Doris Heller Teufel and Kay Huffman; "History of Valentines" by our Director; the musical program of the Chamber Singers; "Early Episodes in Williamsport's History" by Paul Gilmore; and "From the Forks to the Forests - the Story of the West Branch Canal" by Richard Mix - were outstanding and very well attended.

During the year of celebration, as you know, the Society and Museum received the Pennsylvania Travel Industry Award for Excellence.

As of May 26, special contributions for the anniversary year celebration, in response to the appeal sent out by the Board of Governors, have been made by 105 members and totaled \$9,345.00. The names of those who contributed \$25.00 or more by this date are listed elsewhere in this Journal. Those who contribute after May 26 will be listed in the Fall Journal. These and other contributions made during the year will help the Society meet increasing costs and maintain its excellent service.

Our hope for the future rests in your continued active interest in the Society and its programs, your efforts to bring in new members and your generous support financially.

We wish to express appreciation to the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees for their direction and guidance, to the staff for their excellent and faithful service and to the many volunteers who give hours and hours of time and effort.

We regret to announce that Mr. Joseph Zebrowski found it necessary to resign his position with the Society and Museum as of May 30th. We miss his valuable services.

Please note that a copy of Paul Gilmore's address "Early Episodes in Williamsport's History" is printed elsewhere in this Journal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clarence R. Mutchler  
President

## EARLY EPISODES IN WILLIAMSPORT'S HISTORY

by Paul Gilmore

*This speech was presented to the Historical Society at its Annual Dinner Meeting in Warrensville on April 14, 1982.*

Fasten your seat belts!

We're going to take a wide-ranging flight, tonight, through 185 years of Williamsport's history.

Described in tourist literature as the "Queen City of the West Branch", and known throughout the United States during its lumbering era as the "fastest growing small city in America", Williamsport has acquired a fascinating history which deserves occasional retelling.

Some of the episodes we will talk about are well documented. Others will be hearsay - folklore - and have been gleaned from articles read during more than 40 years of local newspaper work.

Williamsport has come a long way since the sunny afternoon of July 4, 1796.

That day Michael Ross held an ox roast on his riverfront farm and offered at auction the 300 town lots into which he had sub-divided his 111-acre property. Thus, Williamsport got its start.

New-born, it was less populated than either Jaysburg, on the west side of Lycoming Creek, or upriver Dunnstown. But it gained a sudden importance when it was chosen the county seat of newly-formed Lycoming County.

It owes this political preferment to the influence of Col. William Hepburn, a defender of the West Branch frontier during the Revolution. When he became a state senator, he persuaded the General Assembly to cut Lycoming off from Northumberland County. Then he maneuvered the selection of Williamsport as the county seat by persuading Ross to set aside free town lots for a court house and jail. Neither Jaysburg nor Dunnstown could match this generosity.

It should interest us, this evening, that Lycoming County was created exactly 187 years ago - on April 13, 1795. It originally encompassed 12,500 square miles - one-fourth of the land surface of Pennsylvania. Subsequently, all or portions of 17 counties have been carved out of it. Yet, with 1,215 square miles, it is still the largest county in Pennsylvania; larger than Rhode Island and only slightly smaller than Delaware.

The original boundaries of Williamsport were the river on the south; approximately Little League Boulevard on the north; East and Academy Streets on the east; West and Hepburn Streets on the west. The Hepburn farm extended westward from the town's boundary to present-day Susquehanna Street; and the colonel was openly accused of serving personal interests when he won the county seat for Williamsport.

Quite naturally, Williamsport has changed since it was founded. So has everything else.

In a day when we can drive to Philadelphia in less than four hours at legal speed, or fly there in 25 minutes, no one wants to push a wheelbarrow those 200 miles. Yet, the German forebears of some of us did exactly that at the dawn of the 19th century when they transported their meager possessions from the port of Philadelphia to Blooming Grove and Rose Valley.

No one wants to abandon today's super-highways and go back to using Culbertson's foot-path over Bald Eagle Mountain. Nor will we give up today's motor bus for the stage coach which, in 1809, required 14 hours to get from Williamsport to Northumberland in good weather - and uncomfortably longer if roads were snowbound or deep in mud.

We could not feed today's population, if we were still cradling wheat by hand; nor could we clothe it, if we relied alone on the spinning wheels of our great-great-grandmothers!

This is not to say those old ways and old tools should be forgotten. Discarded, yes; but not forgotten.

The Culbertson Path; the stage coach of James Cummings, drawn by six horses; the grain cradles made by Samuel Ball at Balls Mills, north of Williamsport; and the spinning wheels of long ago - all these things have passed away because their usefulness expired. And for the same reason, stove pipe inspectors, the earliest employees of infant Williamsport, are no more. Vanished, too, are the Susquehanna Boom and logging ponds of sawmill days; the paddle-wheel excursion boat, Hiawatha, which carried Sunday School picnickers to Sylvan Dell, below Williamsport; and the slow-moving Maid-of-the-Mist which plied the river westward to Nippeno Park. And, with electric refrigeration, who would cut winter ice to store in sawdust for summer consumption?

GONE! The passing of Time has eliminated all these things. It has also altered the face of Williamsport.

We no longer gather around a town pump in front of the jail to discuss town news as did the original inhabitants. Boys no longer spear frogs in a pond that covered the present-day site of the Northern Central Bank and Trust Co. And hunters must go far beyond the First United Methodist Church to shoot deer.

Despite changes of recent years in Market Square, no one today would expect to buy the whole of it for \$400 as did Col. Robert McClure in the 1820's.

No longer is a light-house required on the river bank at the foot of Locust Street to guide boatmen across an unbridged stream. Smile at this if you

choose, but on a Sunday in 1824, eight Negroes attempting to cross the Susquehanna in torrential rain became confused, lost their bearings, and seven of them drowned.

This was the way of life in original and early Williamsport. It was a crude frontier hamlet in 1796.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, 20 years earlier, Indian allies of the British has laid waste this same land with torch and tomahawk. Indeed, it was considered an outpost of white civilization into the 19th century.

Its militia was left at home during the War of 1812 to guard against Indian raids still considered possible on the exposed West Branch frontier of that day.

Roads were laid out early but they were little more than rough and rutted cartways. The first bridges were built in 1816 near the mouths of Lycoming and Loyalsock Creeks. The Susquehanna River was not spanned until 1849 when a private stock company financed a toll bridge at Market Street.

The first bank was chartered in 1835. Because President Andrew Jackson was hostile to the national banking system, only Whigs and Anti-Masons bought its shares. No Jacksonian Democrat would offend Old Hickory by purchasing bank stock, regardless of how profitable such an investment might promise to be.

We note that slave-holding was countenanced in Williamsport into the 1840's. The number of slaves never exceeded 50 but among their owners were Colonel Hepburn and Dr. Samuel Coleman, early masters of Williamsport's first Masonic Lodge; Amariah Sutton, father of Methodism on the West Branch; and John Rose, a prosperous farmer whose acres comprised most of the 6th and 10th Wards of the city.

Fugitive slaves had helpful friends in this locality. Nigger Hollow, renamed Freedom Road about 50 years ago, was

one of their sanctuaries. Abraham Updegraff and Tunison Coryell, prominent businessmen, aided them openly. Fugitives found concealment in Nigger Hollow, north of the city, during the day, and at night were hurried across the hills to the Williamsport and Elmira Railroad. Known friends on that line would get them to Elmira, and thence to Canada.

But back to slave-owner John Rose. He was the father-in-law of Robert C. Grier, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and a son of the Rev. Isaac Grier, early Presbyterian preacher and teacher in Lycoming County.

Justice Grier's wife inherited her father's farm and slaves; and slave-owner Grier was the "Northern justice" who concurred in the politically motivated Dred Scott decision. He agreed to "ride along" with Chief Justice Roger B. Taney and his concurring opinion earned him widespread and caustic Northern criticism.

Seven years after the Dred Scott decision, Williamsport figured again in an important political incident of the mid-19th century.

Historians agree that the re-election of Abraham Lincoln was assured in 1864 when he won Pennsylvania's electoral votes. But winning them required adroit political maneuvering.

First, the state constitution had to be amended to permit soldiers to "vote in the field". State Senator Henry Johnson, an attorney practicing in Muncy and Williamsport, was the chief proponent of the amendment. He carried it successfully through the Legislature; and the soldier vote of Pennsylvania carried Lincoln back to the White House.

Incidentally, this was the first time in national history that provision was made for absentee voting.

During the time these things were happening in the political arena, Williamsport was gaining widespread atten-

tion as a lumbering center. Here's the story:

Major James H. Perkins, an experienced lumberman from Maine, came to Williamsport in 1845. He quickly recognized that the gentle drop in the river above Williamsport was ideal for impounding logs, thus making the operation of saw-mills profitable. So he built the famous Susquehanna Boom in 1849.

It was a series of sunken cribs and piers placed diagonally across the river from the north to the south bank. They were 252 in number; measured 20 x 50 feet; were 22 feet high; and were anchored, which means filled, with large stones. They were connected by logs to which chains were attached. The chains, in turn, were fastened securely in the piers.

This arrangement made a floating fence that would catch logs coming down the river.

The Boom extended upriver from Maynard Street for 11 miles. It could hold 300-million board feet of logs - and these were rafted at convenience into the holding ponds of the 35 mills which lined the riverfront.

In the lumber industry's three best decades - from 1861 to 1891 - the Boom prospered. So did Williamsport. More than 31.6-million logs were floated into the Boom, and rafted out to sawmills that turned them into 5.5-billion board feet of lumber!

These were the bountiful years when the lumber industry provided 2,000 jobs; when mill owners with a total investment of \$9-million were manufacturing products worth \$7-million annually - and growing rich, even through floods and fires were devastating hazards.

They were years before income taxes; years when more millionaires lived on West Fourth Street than on any other street of comparable length in the world.

But there were also years when mill

hands worked 12-hour days, six-days-a-week, at \$1.50 per day, top wage!

That's why there was a Sawdust War in 1872.

The mill hands wanted their day cut to 10 without loss of pay. Denied this, they became riotous. Ten companies of militia were rushed into the city and martial law was declared.

When a confrontation occurred on July 22, and each of the city's nine policemen were injured, 21 of the strikers were arrested. Tried before Judge James Gamble in September, 1872, they were found guilty. Most of them drew sentences of 30 to 90 days. Four ringleaders were sentenced to the penitentiary for one year.

At this point, one of the most unusual happenings in local history occurred. Peter Herdic, sawmill operator, owner of the Boom, and Lycoming County's largest landholder, the only lumberman who had been willing to cut the work-day to 10 hours, rescued the imprisoned strikers.

After Judge Gamble had pronounced sentenced, Herdic boarded "the night flyer" for Harrisburg and persuaded his friend, Governor John W. Geary, to issue pardons to these men. He returned in time to hand these pardons to the sheriff as the men appeared to start serving their sentences.

Once the court trial found the strikers guilty of rioting, Herdic was interested only in restoring peace on the labor front.

A fascinating side-bar to the story of the Sawdust War is the fact that one of its ringleaders was Thomas Greevy, a great-uncle of retired Judge Charles F. Greevy. In later years, Thomas Greevy, a conspicuous Blair County attorney, was a Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania.

Let us talk politics for a few minutes.

Local history shows WilliamSPORTERS have often strayed from majority party moorings. They have repeatedly responded to crusading minorities.

Three times in a row in the 1830's, they backed Joseph Ritner as the Anti-Masonic nominee for governor. He carried the county in his one successful campaign in 1835. And George F. Boal, of Muncy, became the county's Anti-Masonic district attorney.

It was the hard-to-identify Know-Nothing Party that carried Williamsport in 1854 and helped the Whigs elect Judge James Pollock as governor. He had presided over the Lycoming County courts in 1851 and, later, by appointment of President Lincoln, was director of the U.S. Mint. His fame rests on the fact that he is the author of the motto on American coinage: "In God We Trust".

Three years later, in 1857, the Know-Nothings were still a dominant influence in local politics. They broke the up-till-then Democratic tradition of this congressional district by electing John J. Pearce as a one-term congressman.

Pearce was a Methodist minister who served Jersey Shore. He was active in the Temperance movement, then just starting its political agitations.

The Know-Nothing Party was a peculiar institution. It operated through secret associations. Its members were oath-bound. They wanted to halt immigration; demanded 21 years for naturalization; and were as bitterly anti-Catholic as the Anti-Masons had been hostile to secret societies 20 years earlier.

They got their name from the fact they never answered questions. To every inquiry, they replied: "I don't know."

Their influence evaporated rapidly as the slavery issue moved to center stage.

By the 1870's, WilliamSPORTERS were chasing another rainbow. This time it was the Greenback Party with its de-

mand for easy credit and the use of paper currency for paying interest on government bonds.

The Greenbackers were cutting a wide swath in both state and national politics; and Williamsport became their state headquarters. Their newspaper mouthpiece, *The National Standard*, was published here by Peter Herdic.

One-time Congressman William Armstrong, of this city, was the Greenback nominee for governor in 1878. That year, William F. Ott won election as city controller under its banner; and former Judge Benjamin S. Bentley, Sr., came within 18 votes of becoming mayor.

Next came Prohibition.

Interest in it had been mounting for a half-century, and Prohibition Party endorsements had been helpful ever since the 1857 election of the Rev. Mr. Pearce as congressman.

The party achieved success on its own in 1896. That year it elected James Mansel mayor. He was a wealthy hardwood merchant of high standing and impeccable reputation.

The second Prohibitionist in City Hall was Herbert T. Ames, attorney, and nationally prominent Methodist churchman. He was elected mayor in 1927 at the age of 84.

He was 93 when he died in 1936. He was the Prohibition nominee for governor at 91 - and a year later successfully argued a case before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, winning a \$22,000 verdict!

Williamsport must have been an exciting place, politically, in the years from 1912 through 1917. The Socialist Party was flexing its muscle in those days.

In the presidential election of 1912 more WilliamSPORTERS voted for Eugene V. Debs, a Socialist, than for the re-

election of Republican President William Howard Taft. Debs polled 860 votes; Taft, 685. Woodrow Wilson topped Teddy Roosevelt in Williamsport by 11 votes.

Three years later, Williamsport elected Jonas Fischer as its Non-Partisan mayor - then watched him be run out of office for lack of naturalization papers!

He was philanthropic and public-spirited, a successful Jewish industrialist. Although he was bitterly assailed politically, his contemporaries spoke of him as a "generous and kindly man" whom the city's poor "loved for his many benefactions".

After Mayor Fischer resigned in January, 1917, City Council deadlocked in its efforts to name a successor. Its remaining members were one Democrat, one Old Guard Republican, one Bull Moose Republican, and one Socialist. They spent months in futile balloting.

Finally, their choice fell on Willard G. Von Neida, a lumber scaler and registered Socialist. When he declined the office after two days, Council was back in its old rut.

Again, weeks of deadlocked voting slipped into months without a choice. Eventually, the Legislature intervened. It enacted the Brumbaugh Law which limits city councils to 30 days for filling vacancies. After that time the appointive power passes to the courts.

On the evening of its last day, Council elected Archibald M. Hoagland, a Bull Moose Republican who had just completed a term as district attorney.

Let us say a word about the Socialist in the 1917 Council. He was George K. Harris, a popular East End merchant and always a hard-working city official. Over a period of 20 years, he was elected with Socialist, Republican, Democratic, Prohibition and Liberal Party nominations. No man ever campaigned in Williamsport under more banners than he.



He lost the GOP nomination for mayor in 1931 but got a 1-vote Liberal Party endorsement. This he used to achieve a November victory. He was mayor during the Great Depression; issued script in 1934 when 40 per cent of the tax duplicate was delinquent; and did a job of budget trimming that no other chief magistrate has matched.

There is another record worthy of notice at this point. We refer to the length of years during which W. Clyde Harer, now 96, filled public office. First elected a school director in 1908, he was a Republican state committeeman from Lycoming County 70 years later. His career includes terms as a school director, a city councilman, state assemblyman, county treasurer, register and recorder, county commissioner and state committeeman.

Who were the men Mayor Harris defeated in 1931?

The Democratic nominee was David M. Gerry, popular two-term city treasurer, director of the Repasz Band - oldest brass band in America - and later chairman of the Democratic county committee.

The Republican nominee was Col. Herbert Russell Laird, a man of commanding presence who, unfortunately, gave the voters the impression that he was cold and unbentingly aloof. He was, in reality, one Williamsport's most public-spirited citizens; a man whose superior talents had long been dedicated to the civic and industrial improvement of his city.

He served as manager of Williamsport's Board of Trade at the turn of the century (1900-09), when the lumber industry was fading and replacement payrolls were desperately needed.

We honor his memory, tonight, as the founder of our society. Incidentally, there is an explanation for the year being 1907.

Williamsport had observed the cen-

tenial of its corporate existence in 1906 and had underscored the occasion with many festivities. These Colonel Laird had helped promote. They drew widespread and favorable publicity.

One of his spectacular promotions was the erection of a billboard, 15 x 30 feet, opposite the main entrance to the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia. It extolled the merits of Williamsport as "The Ideal City for Home and Business" and was in place all of 1906.

With this kind of commitment to publicity, the Colonel considered a permanent Historical Society an important aid in advertising the attractions of a community.

So in 1907, he organized our society to serve a two-fold purpose: First, to gather and preserve local history and cherish the heirlooms and folklore of Lycoming County while there is yet time; second, to utilize an historical society to keep alive an appreciation of the re-born Williamsport.

And re-born it was!

Speaking to the Williamsport Rotary Club in March, 1947, Colonel Laird reviewed Board of Trade activities from 1900 through 1909. Its primary responsibility during that period, he said, was the procuring of jobs. To that end - and acting upon a plan devised by C. LaRue Munson, prominent attorney - the Board established a Guaranty Fund which underwrote industrial financing. Businessmen pledged \$215,000 to this Fund.

Colonel Laird explained it was a "subscription of credit, not cash. The banks agreed to lend money on the endorsement of the Fund. No subscriber was called on for cash unless in event of loss when each would pay his proportion of that loss."

The first use of this Fund was in 1901 when it kept in operation two plants employing 75 men. It was renewed in 1905 and subscriptions that year

grew to \$461,000.

Only once were the subscribers called on to pick up a loss - and that was for \$14,000.

Speaking of this unique Guaranty Fund. Colonel Laird told the Rotarians that "this feature of the Board of Trade effort was of greater value from a publicity standpoint than from any other, and Williamsport attracted much favorable attention throughout the nation because of it."

I cite only one illustration of the vitality of the Board of Trade under Colonel Laird's leadership. One of his first activities as manager was calling a public meeting in City Hall to announce that the Keystone Dye Works could be brought to Williamsport if its owners could raise \$140,000.

The colonel, with justifiable pride, recalled that the \$140,000 was subscribed in 40 minutes - and the Dye Works operated here for many years.

It should interest us that the Guaranty Fund of the early 1900's was replaced in 1955 by the Lycoming Foundation. It exists to "promote the economic, commercial and industrial welfare of Lycoming County".

Its most recent report - distributed a few weeks ago - showed assets in its revolving fund in excess of \$2.6-million. On its books are loans to 16 industries; and in 1981 eight industrial expansions intended to create 360 new jobs were financed.

What Colonel Laird started lives on!

There are a half dozen episodes in local history which can be best appreciated by reviewing the remarkable career of Peter Herdic. He took up residence in Williamsport in 1853 when it was a rural, cross-roads town of 1,600; and he spent the next 35 years transforming it into a thriving city of 30,000.

He made the Susquehanna Boom

prosperous; gave Williamsport a gas plant and water works; built its initial public transit system; erected the finest hotel in Central Pennsylvania; and went bankrupt because he did too many things too fast.

His idea of licking the depression of the 1870's was to keep men employed building low-cost housing.

But he had his devious ways, too.

When Williamsport was upgraded from a borough to a city in 1866, its western boundary was Lycoming Creek. Newberry residents were divided about annexation. One petition circulated favoring it; another opposed it. City Council, caught in the middle, stayed neutral. It did nothing. As a result, a third petition was addressed to the county grand jury. It asked that Newberry be constituted a borough.

Before the grand jury could act - and in some manner never explained - Herdic and Thomas Updegraff procured the City Council petitions; clipped off the signatures from each; wrote a new petition favoring annexation and attached the signatures to it.

This petition was dispatched to Harrisburg. Everything appearing to be in order, and there being no objections, it was promptly and favorably acted upon.

Thus Newberry was annexed to Williamsport without consent, or even prior knowledge - and sometimes we get the impression that some of its residents have not yet forgiven Herdic.

Next came the judicial hassle of 1868-69. Largely through the influence of Herdic, Lycoming County was constituted a separate judicial district in 1868. Governor Geary, to please his influential friend, Herdic, appointed Benjamin S. Bentley, Sr., an able lawyer, as the first judge. This was in February, 1868.

But in the election that Fall for a full

10-year term, Bentley was unseated. James Gamble, a popular Jersey Shore Democrat, was elected.

Thereupon, Herdic hurried back to Harrisburg and induced a pliant Legislature to abolish the 29th Judicial District. Judge Gamble retained his office only because the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled the ripper law unconstitutional.

Another venture in 1873 proved highly unpopular.

While on a business trip in Bradford County, Herdic learned of the reputed curative properties of the sulphur-charged waters of Minnequa Spring, north of Canton. When treatment eliminated ringworm, from which he was suffering, he promptly bought the property and began ballyhooing it as a summer resort and health spa.

It was to enhance the value of this resort that he had political lieutenants introduce a bill in the Legislature creating a new county to be known as Minnequa County. He proposed merging the northern townships of Lycoming County with the eastern part of Tioga, the western part of Bradford, and the northwestern portion of Sullivan to form it.

After a sharp fight in the House, it was defeated by a single vote.

The story of how some of Williamsport's most serviceable institutions came into existence is a romantic chapter of local history.

For example, a \$432 mechanics lien accounts for Lycoming College.

By 1811, with a population of 300 persons, Williamsport had an academy supported by subscription. It was an octagonal building situated at Third and West Streets, near the site of the new Federal Building.

With the advent of public education in 1834, the tuition-supported academy

fell on hard times. Its problems were further complicated when the Williamsport and Ralston Railroad established its terminal alongside the school. Teachers complained that train movements distracted the pupils; and parents said the train endangered their children.

As a result, the Academy was sold and the \$2,400 it brought was used to purchase land outside the northeast corner of the borough. Here a new building was erected that was to become the seat of Lycoming College. It was known as Old Main.

Financial difficulties plagued both the Academy and public schools. Education fell on hard times. Eventually, the Academy was sold to satisfy a mechanics lien of \$432.

Abraham Updegraff, a banker, and John Smyth, an associate judge, bought it. They, in turn, appealed to the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church to operate it. The conference renamed it Dickinson Seminary in 1848. And exactly 100 years later, it became an accredited four-year, degree-granting institution.

If you want to discover the happy, comfortable circumstances under which 54 elderly women are spending their twilight years in this city, visit the Park Home. Note its spaciousness, its sylvan surroundings, its ideal facilities. Then pay tribute to the generosity of the late William Budd Stuart.

The Park Home has a fascinating history. It was built about 1865 as a four-story, 700-room hotel. Peter Herdic erected it and named it "the Herdic House". For that day, it was the finest hotel outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

It was part of a deal Herdic struck with the Pennsylvania Railroad. He would provide a hotel, if the railroad would locate its passenger station beside it.

It was a bargain which both sides

kept, and which proved profitable to each during the years when 37 passenger trains moved in and out of Williamsport every 24 hours.

After Herdic's bankruptcy, the hotel passed to other hands. For decades it was known as the Park Hotel. Then, in 1939, Budd Stuart, a wealthy real estate owner, bought it; had the top floor removed; and reconditioned it as a home for elderly women. He called it the Park Home.

This is historical. But I've never seen in print the story of his motivation.

Mr. Stuart was a physical giant. It was his boast that in his prime no man in the surrounding lumber camps could beat him in a bare-knuckle fight. He was proud of his prowess and, on the exterior, was sometimes gruff.

But his heart - ah, the heart of Budd Stuart was gentle!

His mother was a petite, cultured, gracious soul. She taught art for years at Dickinson Seminary. He loved her tenderly.

After he had grown wealthy, he sought to honor her memory; and did it by establishing the Laura V. Stuart Memorial Foundation. It is the income from this considerable fortune that undergirds the Park Home; and it is the comfort of 54 elderly women that pays daily tribute to his gentle, out-reaching heart.

The loss of a leg in a logging accident led to the founding of the Williamsport Hospital.

A man named Scott - his first name is not found in existing records - suffered a crushed leg while cutting timber some miles northwest of Williamsport. He was hurried to the city on a railroad flat-car but there was no place to care for him.

The record says: "He was no case for the alms house so a kindly, elderly

woman took him in charge."

This incident induced the Medical Society of 1872 to propose establishing a hospital. In response to a petition signed by 17 physicians and 23 lay persons, the court granted a charter for the Williamsport Hospital a year later.

It faced years of struggle. But we must remind ourselves that there were only 178 hospitals in the United States in 1873, and none of them were in a city as small as Williamsport.

Its first - and possibly its life-saving - benefactor was actually a benefactress. Mrs. Horace B. Packer took up its \$4,000 mortgage on terms so generous that it was able to stay in operation.

The hospital was first located in a narrow, three-story brick building at Edwin and Elmira Streets. By 1885, it had moved to the west side of Pine Street, south of Fifth Street. After extensive damage in the flood of 1889, it moved to high land on Campbell Street, north of Louisa Street.

It has grown in its 120 years of community service. Today, with 1,400 on its payroll, it is Williamsport's largest employer. It has an income of \$40 - million per year; and 20% of its patients are on medical assistance. The cost of replacing it is estimated at a staggering \$140-million!

Williamsport has three institutions which show how "great oaks from little acorns grow." One is the Mary Slaughter Home for Aged Persons; another, the Williamsport Home; and, third, the Williamsport Foundation, or Community Trust.

One year after the Civil War a young Negress, born in slavery and never taught to read or write, moved to Williamsport with her husband. They became custodians of the First Baptist Church.

There, Mary Slaughter listened closely to the sermons she heard. Handicapped



by illiteracy, there were many things she could not do. Still, the sermons emphasized loving one's neighbors - and this Mary could do.

She began by showing concern for the sick. If a neighboring mother became ill, Mary would take the children to her own table and feed them. As a matter of reverence and custom, she said grace at table. Soon, boys and girls were going back to their homes and asking why their parents didn't give thanks.

Her kindly services grew until she opened her own home to aged and infirm colored people who were without family. By 1897 this care outgrew her own home and she went door-to-door soliciting support for what became the Home for Aged Colored Women.

First it comprised a four-room house on Walnut Street, near Park Avenue. Then it was moved to larger quarters on Brandon Avenue. Today, we have a modern, comfortable facility carrying on the compassionate ministry of this remarkable woman who was born a slave, lived untutored, spent her last years in Danville State Hospital, died at 97 in 1933, never having read or written a word.

To prepare her obituary, I interviewed the pastor of her church. With tears on his cheeks, he said to me: "Mr. Gilmore, one out of every six members of my church are there because of Mary Slaughter's good influence!"

The Williamsport Home comes of a different background. Although it initially experienced years of struggle and frugality, it enjoyed from the beginning the support of the city's Society women - in a day when you spelled society with a capital "S".

The hearts of these women were touched - back in the early 1870's - when four young children were left destitute by the death of their father. The ladies were meeting then as the Women's Christian Association.

At their meeting, Mrs. Phoebe Trainer, spoke of the sad plight of the bereaved mother and children. Then she laid a dollar on the table and said: "Let this be the first dollar toward a home for the needy."

Thus, the association took on the task of establishing a shelter for women and children. In April, 1873, they bought a four-room house on East Third Street and paid for it with food sales, bazaars, rummage sales, and direct solicitations.

In two years their facilities were overcrowded and larger quarters were needed. Peter Herdic gave them land on the east side of Campbell Street, just north of the railroad. In that day the area was undeveloped and the site was farmland.

A larger home was built and within a year it was threatened with sheriff sale. Only a one-day, door-to-door solicitation by the most prominent women of Williamsport saved it. They collected \$2,167.

The shelter was named the "Home for the Friendless" and, as such, later moved north on Campbell Street to Rural Avenue. In recent years, as "The Williamsport Home", it has been beautifully located on the north hills overlooking the west Branch Valley.

It is one of Williamsport's proud possessions - and what a magnificent heirloom, Mrs. Trainer's humanitarian dollar has become.

Finally, Williamsport has a \$31 contribution by Riley W. Allen, James B. Krause and James B. Graham, to thank for an institution that pours \$1-million annually into the welfare of Lycoming County.

It was with that small original contribution that the Williamsport Foundation, or Community Trust, was launched in 1916. A Community Trust was a new idea 65 years ago. In fact, the local foundation is numbered among the

first 30 in America; and was the first established in a city of less than 40,000 population.

With current assets exceeding \$11,500,000, it is a "living monument to the memory of generous residents of Williamsport and Lycoming County."

Because they decreed that their wealth should be perpetually administered in trust, the Williamsport Foundation has disbursed \$7.7-million to date to welfare, charitable, religious, educational, civic and social programs which undergird our community life.

There is no end to a paper like this; only an end to your endurance.

I have left much more unmentioned than we have talked about. Five great floods since 1865 have been ignored; so have costly fires that called in help from places as distant as Sunbury and Altoona.

The story of Dietrick Lamade and Grit Publishing Company belongs in a recital like this. So does the history of C.A. Reed and Company; and the old Demerest Sewing Machine Company, forerunner of Avco.

We haven't talked about the era when men became millionaires manufacturing automobile engines; then lost those fortunes in the stock crash of 1929. Or of an earlier time when Williamsport was as famous for its racing horses as for its lumber output; a time when it got headlines throughout the East as "Big Oliver" outran the fastest horses on the county fairground track.

And who was "Big Oliver"? An ostrich!

We have avoided incidents that would shame us.

We could have told you about the first Salvation Army lassies who appeared on the streets of Williamsport almost 100 years ago. They were stoned!

Or about the regrettable occasion 75 years ago when Thomas Hughes, first Negro policeman, was pummeled to death by drunken rowdies - not one of whom was ever brought to trial!

But let us conclude on a happier note.

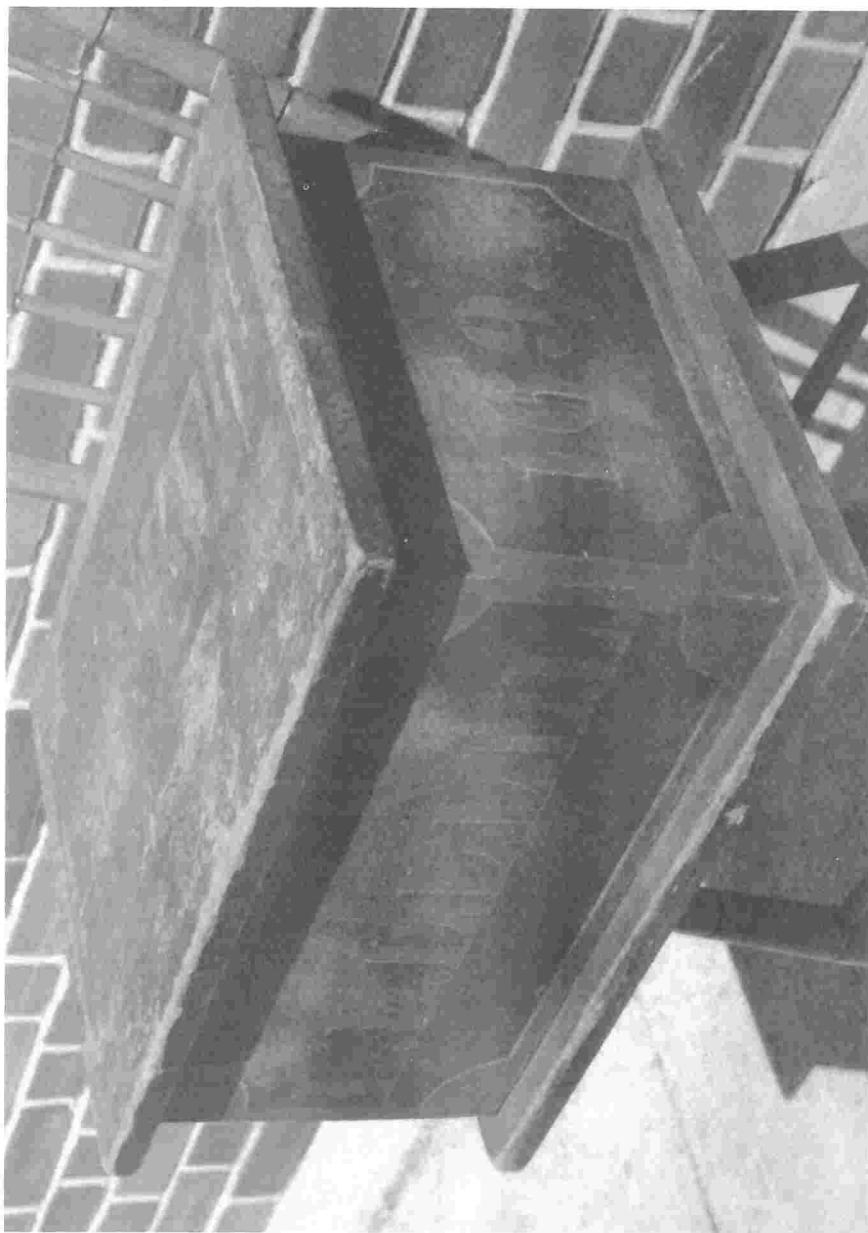
A few years ago, Jesse S. Bell, well-known realtor, churchman and civic leader, wrote a lovely little autobiography. In it he recalled that planked shad was a delicacy first prepared by lumber camp cooks and introduced to gourmet chefs by Peter Herdic; that James M. Black, famed hymn writer, made his home in Williamsport; and that the Rev. J.H. Hopkins wrote "We Three Kings of Orient Are" for a Christmas pageant in Christ Episcopal Church while he was its rector.

Then Mr. Bell added this paragraph:

"The Repasz Band, Little League Baseball, planked shad, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder", "We Three Kings of Orient Are" - these alone are enough to make Williamsporters swell with pride."

So be it.





Casket used to store records of the "Know Nothing" party. The casket is made of pine and has the original painted finish.

Donors: Mrs. George S. Young and Miss Eleanor L. Young.  
Photograph: Miss Gladys Widemire.

## 75th ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTORS

*The following people have donated \$25.00 or more to the Lycoming County Historical Society in celebration of its 75th Anniversary. Future contributions will be listed in the Fall, 1982 Journal.*

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## HISTORY OF U.S.S. LYCOMING (APA-155)

*This article was found in the files of the Lycoming County Court House and presented to the Historical Society on November 22, 1977.*

Twenty-six days after the keel was laid in the yard of Portland's Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation on 30 June 1944, the APA-155 was launched and christened U.S.S. Lycoming after Pennsylvania's Lycoming County. She was outfitted and piloted down the Columbia River to Astoria, where she was commissioned on 20 September, with the original ship's company of 329 officers and men aboard for the ceremony. A 144-man Boat Group and a 46-man Beach Party reported for duty the following day.

Skipped by Commander D. B. Coleman of Union, South Carolina, the Lycoming sailed to Bremerton for supplies and ammunition, picked up the ship's complement of boats at San Francisco, and on 10 October proceeded to San Pedro for a two-week shakedown period.

On 1 November the Lycoming reported to Seattle for duty as a training ship for personnel assigned to APAs not yet commissioned. Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca were used as an operating area until the duty ended on 17 December.

Amphibious landing practices took the ship to Coronado and Oceanside, California. Nine days availability at the Naval Repair Base in San Diego followed, then back to Seattle to load 1,411 army troops.

The Lycoming was underway from Seattle on her maiden voyage on 22 January 1945. In Honolulu all troops were debarked, and on 31 January she sailed convoy with a light load of passengers and cargo to report to Commander, Fifth Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, for duty with Task Force 51, Transport Squadron 13, Transport Division 38. On 21 February she reported to Leyte, arriving via Eniwetok, Ulithi, and Palau.

The next month was spent in equipping and rehearsing for the coming assault landing on Okinawa. On 1 April the 1,213 enlisted men and 81 officers of the Army's Seventh Division Artillery were put ashore on Purple 1 beach. That night the Lycoming forward 40 millimeter battery opened up on a Jap suicide plane that swerved over her bow and crashed into the adjacent U.S.S. Alpine (APA-92). Thereafter, kamikaze attacks in the harbor off Hagushi were frequent, air warnings punctuated the busy days and nights, and protective smoke screens often covered the entire anchored fleet.

The Lycoming was unloaded and off for Guam on 5 April. From Apra Harbor she rerouted to Pearl Harbor, then to San Francisco. Arriving on 11 May, she was loaded immediately with casual Army troops and cargo and sailed for Manila, stopping at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, and Ulithi for changes in escort.

Upon arrival at Manila the Lycoming was transferred to the Seventh Fleet for temporary duty with the Seventh Amphibious Forces. First assignment took her to Finschaven, New Guinea, to aid in the general evacuation of United States troops from that theater of operations. On this trip her polywags became shell backs and her 5 inch .38 caliber gun crew exploded its first floating mine.

Increments of the 14th Anti-Aircraft Command and other casualties were loaded at Finschaven and on 1 July the Lycoming was underway for Manila again, this time by way of Hollandia. On 14 July, with all Army personnel debarked and cargo discharged, the ship sailed for San Francisco, discharged from the Seventh Fleet and reassigned to Fifth Amphibious, Pacific Fleet.

On 3 August the Lycoming reached the Golden Gate, back from active duty overseas for the second time. She had sailed 45,000 miles, in seven Pacific Seas. A "cruise book" covering her travels in pictures was printed for future publications.

The peacetime phase of the history of the Lycoming began. On 4 August Captain Emmett J. Sullivan of Denver, Colorado, relieved Captain Coleman as commanding officer. The new skipper took the ship from Puget Sound for a two-week availability at the Everett Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. yard.

On V-J Day the Lycoming was at sea again, enroute from Seattle to Saipan with a load of Army troops. She arrived at her destination 9 September, unloaded, moved to Guam for orders. There she was assigned to Task Force 54, Transport Squadron 12, Transport Division 34, and sent back to Saipan to lift the Third Battalion, Eighth Regiment of the Second Marine Division.

Now her role as a troop carrier took her to Nagasaki, Kyushu's great ship building port, in a formation of twenty-one troop transports and cargo ships bringing occupation forces to defeated Japan. Here in the enemy home land the Lycoming participated in her first "bloodless" invasion. Marines were debarked in midstream (inner Nagasaki) and landed without opposition.

On 28 September Transport Squadron 12 got underway for the Philippines. Two days out the convoy was forced to double back to avoid an approaching typhoon. On course again, the Lycoming was dispatched (since there were no escorts to send) to investigate a derelict approximately 200 miles off the northern tip of Luzon, found the U.S. Army QS-5 in good condition but unmanned, towed it to Lingayen Gulf. After a stop at Subic Bay, the ship reached Manila on 6 October.

On 16 October, while at Manila, the Lycoming was detached from Transport Squadron 12 and assigned to "Magic

Carpet" duty, a fleet unit engaged in the transportation of service personnel from Pacific theater overseas stations to the United States.

In accordance with a directive received from the New Unit Commander, Lycoming got underway for the South Pacific to pick up a capacity lift of returnees. Enroute to her first port of call in southern latitudes, she again crossed the Equator. On this occasion there was only one man aboard to be initiated into the Ancient Order of the Deep. A lavish and hilarious ceremony was arranged for the lonely "Pollywog".

While at anchor for a brief period of the morning of 24 October in the little harbor of Renard Sound, Russell Islands, some 220 Marine and Navy passengers were picked up. With this first consignment of returnees on board, the Lycoming's stateside list was expeditiously loaded and a departure was taken for Espiritu Santo. At Espiritu some 350 Navy passengers came aboard. Finally, on 29 October, loading was completed at Noumen, New Caledonia and a course was set for a non-stop voyage to San Francisco.

The six thousand mile trip to San Francisco was uneventful. Favorable weather contributed in no small measure to the health and comfort of the same 2,400 landlubbers embarked aboard the Lycoming.

Early in the morning of 13 November the ship passed under the Golden Gate and proceeded to Pier 15 to disembark passengers.

The Lycoming remained in San Francisco for a brief period set aside for leave, liberty, recreation and voyage repairs. Eventually, on 28 November, in obedience to orders received from the Commander of the "Magic Carpet", stood out of San Francisco Harbor and headed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

The out-bound trip was characterized by frequent passage of the Lycoming through a sequence of storms.

Weather beaten, she arrived at her destination on 16 December. There a load of 123 officers and 1,900 enlisted men were embarked for passage to Seattle, Washington. Three days out of Okin-

awa a mine was sighted and sunk by small caliber gun fire. The highlights of the home bound voyage were the celebrations occasioned by Christmas and New Year's at sea.



## WILLIAMSPORT & NORTHUMBERLAND MAIL STAGE

The subscriber respectfully informs the public that he has commenced running the Mail Stage, from Williamsport to Northumberland, twice a week.

The Stage will leave the inn of the subscriber every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 5 o'clock, and passing through Pennsborough, Milton, etc. will arrive at William Forsythe's, Northumberland, by 6 o'clock, P.M. and returning will leave Mr. Forsythe's every Wednesday and Friday mornings, at 5 o'clock, and arrive at Williamsport at 6 o'clock, P.M. from which place passengers will be conveyed to Jersey Shore, Great Island, Wellsborough, etc.

Every attention will be paid to the comfort and convenience of passengers.

All baggage at the risk of the Owner -

Fair from Williamsport to Northumberland \$2.

James H. Huling,  
Williamsport, Jan. 7, 1824

*This is an article taken from an old newspaper belonging to Miss Martha Mussina.*

## SARAH BURROWS CORYELL HAYS COLLECTION

by Kathy Lee Chalmers

*This paper was prepared during the Fall, 1975 Semester at Lycoming College as a research project to fulfill the requirements of an internship in the History of Art.*

The Lycoming County Historical Museum's Costume Department consists of the wearing apparel and accessories which were worn and subsequently donated by the inhabitants of the Lycoming County area. The entire collection contains articles that have been dated from the Eighteenth Century through the mid-sixties of the Twentieth Century. This paper will deal with one of the largest collections in the Costume Department which can be traced to one owner: The Sarah Burrows Coryell Hays Collection. This particular collection was donated by the family of Sarah's daughter, Margaret Hays Lamade. Because of her kindness and concern for the preservation of historical artifacts, historians have the opportunity to study a collection of considerable size and one which also spans two centuries.

The major concern of this paper is to present the reader with a representative view of clothing which Sarah wore in her lifetime. If the reader is looking for the exact history of Sarah's life, he will be sadly disappointed. The biographies of women are extremely difficult to compile, since in the past, they were considered only as an appendage of their husbands. They are referred to only in the roles of a wife or a mother. This is definitely the case of Sarah's history. However, through the Margaret Hays Lamade family's gift to the Museum, certain conclusions about Sarah's life can be slowly drawn together - thus, a partial picture can emerge.

On April 23, 1937, George L. Lamade and his family donated a sofa to the Lycoming County Historical Museum in memory of his wife, Margaret Hays Lamade. The sofa belonged to Margaret's great grandparents, James and Elizabeth McLaughlin Bingham, when they lived in the original Way

House (the former museum). Their daughter, Margaret Bingham, married John Burrows Coryell, the only son of Tunison and Sarah Coryell, on November 25, 1855. Margaret Coryell produced four children: James B., Sarah, John G., and Bingham. Sarah was the second child born to this family. Since her older brother was born on September 4, 1856, I can only guess that Sarah was born somewhere between the years of 1857 and 1865. Sarah's father was an extremely prominent businessman of the West Branch Valley. Thus, it can be stated that Sarah lived a very comfortable childhood.

The Museum's collection of Sarah's clothes is void of all articles that pertain to her childhood and adolescence. However, her physical dimensions can be calculated in the following manner. Measure her dress from the shoulder to the hem of the skirt, which is 56 inches. If you allow 10 to 11 inches for her neck and head, it could be said that Sarah was about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches tall.

The first dress to be mentioned in this paper has been dated c1870-1880. However, I feel that the dress should be dated closer to c1878-1880. This dress was worn as either an afternoon or reception dress in the winter season. The material used in the dress was red slipper satin with the front insert panel of a floral printed taffeta faille.

The bodice of this dress is very interesting. The neckline is low and cut straight across with a stand-up collar that frames the neckline. The bodice is fastened in the front with ten round, wooden buttons. The sleeves of the bodice come below the elbow and are slightly flared at the cuffs with a slit in the back.



The skirt is attached to the bodice below the natural waistline. The back of the skirt is beautifully sculptured; it flows down from the bustle, trimmed with narrow pleats which widen as they flow down to the end of the train. Ruffles are used as trim on the hem of the red slipper satin. The front of the skirt is composed of floral printed taffeta faille. It is framed by the red slipper satin on either side of the dress. Right below the waist, the red slipper satin is draped on both sides of the faille inserts and is pulled back into the bustle. The weight of this dress is very misleading to the viewer since slipper satin is a very delicate material. As this is a winter dress, the lining of the skirt has been padded for warmth.

On June 25, 1885, Sarah Burrows Coryell became the bride of John King Hays III. He was the son of John Walker Hays and Rachel Allen, born on August 18, 1856, in Williamsport. He graduated from Lafayette College with the class of 1876. He then read law with Messrs. Allen and Gamble and was admitted to the bar of Lycoming County May 10, 1879. According to historical accounts of the families, they were both extremely prominent in the development of Williamsport. Both families must be cited as among the elite of this city.

Sarah's wedding dress was made by either a store or a person by the name of "Miller," located on East 28th Street in New York City in 1885. This gown is typical of fashion in the summer of 1885. The wedding gown is made of ivory satin, trimmed with ecru lace, has a taffeta lining and a dimity underskirt. The front panel of the bodice has a "V" neck with bands of ecru lace coming over the shoulders. The lace merges and then separates to the left and right of the dress below the waistline, and then continues around to the side seams and stops. The bodice is fitted to the natural form of the body. The back of the panel repeats the "V" neck of the front panel; however, the lace accents the "V" by framing it. The sleeves are typical of this fashion period. They are slightly puffed at the shoulders (natural

shoulder line) and end slightly below the elbow. The cuffs of the sleeves are trimmed with a strip of velvet ribbon and have a slit at the back of it.

The skirt of the wedding gown has a bustle which descends into a long train. The skirt is semi-full. The front of the skirt has ecru lace swirling down it in tiers. The hem of the skirt has scallops around the bottom over a dust ruffle of ivory satin. The skirt joins the bodice below the natural waistline. The under part of the dress is composed of a taffeta lining and a dimity underskirt which can be seen sneaking out from under the train. The total effect of the dress is stunning.

The history of this gown after the wedding of Sarah and John K. is interesting. It was worn by her daughter, Margaret Coryell Hays, when she became the bride of George L. Lamade. It is impossible to discover exactly what type of alteration this dress has undergone over the years. The gown somehow fell into the hands of Misses Carolyn and Grace Follmer who donated it to the museum.

Sarah and her new husband moved into the house which once occupied the lot of 730 West Fourth Street. It was from this house that Sarah and John had four children and raised three to adulthood. The names of her children are as follows: John C., Walker A. (died in childhood), James B., and Margaret Coryell. The house has been torn down now and has been replaced with a school playground. Sarah lived in this house after the death of her husband and until her own death somewhere between the publication of the Directory book for Williamsport for the years of 1928 and 1929.

If I were to choose one dress from the Sarah Burrows Coryell Hays Collection that would sum up Sarah's taste and sense of style, it would be one of her winter dresses. This dress was made for her in 1888 after her marriage to John K. Hays, and it is in excellent condition for its age. In fact, I could go so far as

to say that it is one of the best in the entire Costume Department.

The dress is made of beige silk faille, wine-colored velvet, and silk crepe. The bodice of the dress has a "V" neck, which is accented with the use of silk crepe. The silk crepe continues around the back of the bodice's neckline, which in turn sets off the wine-colored velvet collar. The "V" neckline of silk crepe is finally set off by two strips of wine-colored velvet. The rest of the bodice is composed of silk faille and is tapered below the natural waistline. The dress is fastened together by the use of hooks and eyes; every other hook-and-eye set is positioned in a different direction. The sleeves are puffed at the shoulders with silk crepe, with the undersleeve of silk faille. The cuffs of the sleeves are trimmed with wine-colored velvet. The back of the cuffs are slit and shorter than in the front.

The skirt of this dress has a 25½ inch waistline from which the skirt falls into semi-fullness. The back of the skirt has a bustle with pleats that fall down to the end of the train. The bustle is framed by a wine-colored velvet bow with inserts of the same velvet down both sides of the dress to the train. The front of the skirt is scalloped on the bottom of the beige silk faille in order to reveal the wine-colored velvet dust ruffle.

In the course of my research for this paper I came across a winter bonnet that I feel was made as an accessory for this dress. Although they have not been assigned together before, I feel it should be done now. The bonnet is composed of wine-colored velvet with two small black ostrich feathers on each side of the bonnet. It is attached to the head by two beige faille ribbon ties, which are tied in a bow. The dress and the bonnet together are a very beautiful costume.

On a hot summer afternoon in Williamsport Sarah would probably be found wearing a dress made of lawn and net. The dress dates around the turn of the century, c1900-1903 to be more exact, and was worn over some sort of a

petticoat or slip because it is very transparent and lacey. The bodice of this dress is typical of the period it represents. The S-curve of the body was pronounced during this time. This was achieved by the use of a corset which drove the stomach slanting inwards so that the bust overhung the waist. The bodice has a high neck of lawn and the sleeves are loose at the shoulders and get very tight at the wrists. The skirt of this dress is semi-full and the back of it ends in a train. The effect of the dress is one which creates a sense of grace and coolness.

The last dress I will describe in this paper was worn by Sarah as a reception dress at social functions in Williamsport, or possibly when visiting other cities such as New York. (While reading back issues of the Grit, I discovered that many people, particularly wealthy people of Williamsport, would take trips for a week or so to New York.) This dress is representative of the Edwardian S-curve style which I have already described in the previous dress.

This is a two-piece dress of grey-blue, embroidered satin brocade. The bodice of this dress is beautifully embroidered in shades of white and greys to form a design of branches and leaves. The bodice has a high neck that is accented by a pink velvet ribbon with a bow in the back. The sleeves are slightly puffed at the shoulders. Traveling down the sleeves, the eye falls upon three separate ruffles. Each ruffle is made of plain satin which is trimmed with grey-blue braiding with inset seeded pearls. The waistband (24½ inches) is composed of the same plain satin material. The bodice has bone stays in it, and it is fastened in the front with hooks and eyes. The back of the bodice has two streamers of plain satin, trimmed at the ends with the same braiding and seeded pearls.

The skirt is semi-full with a train in the back. At the small of the back, the pleats begin at the top and fall down to the end of the train. The hem has a dust ruffle of plain satin composed of



three rows of ruffles. This dress has an underskirt of some type of lace. It would make anyone wearing it feel like the grandest lady at the ball.

In conclusion, I would have to say that this paper is by no means a con-

clusive research paper on the Sarah Burrows Coryell Hays Collection. However, it is a start, and as more material comes to the attention of historians, the pieces of her history will fall into a better perspective.



*Wedding dress of Sarah Burrows Coryell Hays, 1885.*

Dear Member:

Surveys indicate a shocking number of people die without having made wills. Without a will, there is no way to choose your beneficiary; rather state law determines how your estate will be divided.

If you haven't made a will, determine to do so; and when you do, or when you review your present will, remember your Lycoming County Historical Society.

Bequests in your will in favor of charitable institutions such as the Historical Society, are deductible in determining both Federal Estate taxes and Pennsylvania Inheritance taxes, so that the amount of your bequest passes tax free to the charitable institution.

If you would like to make a sizeable gift to the Historical Society in your will, but have other surviving family members who should not be deprived of the income such a gift will produce, you may create a charitable trust providing for certain income for the life of the family member or members, with remainder to the Historical Society when that person dies, and your estate will receive a charitable deduction in the amount of the value of the remainder interest.

We all have life insurance to protect our loved ones. Many of you may no longer need the protection afforded by such life insurance, now that your children are grown, and may wish to make a gift to the Historical Society of the paid-up value of one of your life insurance policies. This will provide a valuable Federal Income tax deduction which may be carried forward for up to five years. Another thought on life insurance - did you know you could purchase charitable life insurance naming the Historical Society as beneficiary? The life insurance proceeds would go to the Society tax free, and would be a marvelous way to recognize the debt each of us owes our community, and would be an opportunity for you to say "thank you" in a very tangible way for your success and for the heritage that is part of our West Branch Valley, and about which we all care so much. Even the premiums you pay for charitable life insurance are deductible if you name the Historical Society as irrevocable beneficiary or owner of the policy.

If you would like to make a gift to the Society and have property which has appreciated in value to the extent that you would incur a large Capital Gains tax upon its sale, there are ways you may transfer the property to the Society, be it stocks, bonds or real estate, without incurring any Capital Gains tax, insuring you a Federal Income tax deduction or your estate a Federal Estate tax deduction.

Remember, if you are the owner of a corporation, you can deduct, with certain adjustments, a corporation gift to the Society of up to 5% of your corporate taxable income.

We thank you for your careful attention to these suggestions. One of our Historical Society officers would be happy to meet with you and your attorney, life insurance agent, accountant, or trust officer, to insure maximum tax savings to you and benefit to the Historical Society.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MEETING OF APPLICANTS  
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN PROPOSED  
LYCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER  
CITY HALL  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.  
FEBRUARY, 5, 1907**

In accordance with call issued by The Board of Trade Committee on organization of a Historical Society, a meeting of the applicants for membership was held in the Common Council Chamber, City Hall, Williamsport, Pa., Tuesday evening February 5, 1907 at 8 o'clock.

Present: Hon. Seth Thomas Foresman  
Cyrus LaRue Munson Esq.  
Hon. Emerson Collins  
Hyman A. Slate  
Joseph Henderson McMinn  
Rev. William Charles Hogg  
Hon. James Mansel  
William Cares Shopbell  
Charles Hoffman Eldon  
Edward Jamison Fisher  
Herbert Russell Laird

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Laird and on his motion, Mr. Munson was elected Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Foresman, Mr. Laird was elected Secretary.

The Secretary read the names of the applicants for membership, seven for Life Membership, one hundred and seven for Resident Membership, as follows: (please see The Journal of the Lycoming County Historical Society, Volume VIII, Number One, Spring, 1972 for the complete list).

Mr. McMinn as Chairman of The Board of Trade Committee presented the following report:

Williamsport, Pa. Feb. 5, 1907

Those of you who were so fortunate as to see the Centennial Parade on July 4, 1906, will doubtless remember the first float in the Historical Division.

It was designed to represent a domestic scene that may have occurred on this very spot, before the aboriginies were displeased with the white race. Under the shade of green hemlocks stood the conical wigwam of poles covered with the tanned skins of wild animals, above which was suspended the totem of the Munseys or Wolf tribe of Delaware Indians.

Little coppery faces peered through the openings, while in front of this primitive American home sat a group of squaws occupied by their various duties, papposes in their bark cradles were suspended from the nearby trees. One squaw was grinding maize between two stones, another deftly forming a pottery vessel, another with bone needle and sinew thread was ornamenting a strip of skin with gay colored porcupine quills, another stringing bone beads for wampum, while still others were pounding and scraping the dry leather into a pliable state or flaking

the arrowheads for their weapons.

But the most conspicuous object of all was the large old Chief in all his trappings standing with an arrow in his hand, pointing to the strange hieroglyphics before him, that were painted upon buckskin stretched over a rude easel formed of birch poles. He was interpreting the meaning of the characters upon this leather record, to a young lad beside him, who was thus learning the history of his tribe and of its conflicts with the elements and the enemy.

Among the most savage tribes yet discovered have been found traditions of the Moachian deluge and other catastrophes of widespread interest and here we see the method of transmitting these records from one generation to another.

This historical display was an emblem of the society it is proposed to organize this evening. The interest in the past that is implanted within every human heart and is expressed in substantial records by occasional individuals, now demand a more permanent recognition.

The importance of the subject has outgrown the capacity of grandfathers tales or even the records of local historians. The volume and value of our local history has become so great that The Lycoming Historical Society is an absolute necessity, if Williamsport is to maintain her place among intelligent and progressive cities.

The entire community realizes this fact and the only reason for failure of previous limited efforts to establish historical and scientific societies in our midst, though so much enjoyed by the membership during their existence has been the lack of efficient leadership and the acquiring of a permanent house.

Since The Board of Trade has become the mainspring in all the prosperous movements for our city's advancement, so it has been assigned the duty of organizing this Historical Society. Its committee has now called together those persons who have expressed a substantial interest in the movement so that a permanent organization may now be effected.

By the selection of official leaders adopted for the work, from among those having social, business and financial influence, the success of the effort will be promoted without any tedious delay.

Every day makes the endeavor more difficult on account of the accumulating material that common reason demands shall not be allowed to perish, and every day those who have devoted their lives to personal work in preserving these invaluable records, are passing away, so that their individuality is lost and strange hands must take up the task. So that now when almost every intelligent community throughout the land is organizing Historical Societies and now that conditions in our midst seem to be most propitious, the opportunity should not be neglected for adding one more proud banner to the "City that does Things", our own beautiful and up-to-date Williamsport.

J. H. McMinn  
Chairman of The Board of Trade  
Committee on organization of a  
Historical Society.

On motion of Mr. Foresman it was Resolved: That the report of Mr. McMinn be filed and the newspapers requested to publish it in full.

Mr. Laird submitted a suggested form of Charter and By-Laws, prepared by him and on his motion (Mr. Foresman adding stipulation that Mr. Laird be a member of the Committee proposed) it was Resolved: That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a Charter and By-Laws for the Historical Society.

On motion of Mr. McMinn it was Resolved: That this meeting suggests to the Committee on Charter and By-Laws, "The Lycoming Historical Society" as a suitable name for this organization.

The subject of organization generally was discussed by Mr. Munson, Mr. Foresman, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Mansel, Mr. Collins, Mr. McMinn and Mr. Slate.

Mr. Munson suggested the possibility of making arrangements with Reno Post G.A.R. for joint occupancy of the building owned by the Post.

Mr. Foresman suggested appointments of a committee to confer with the officers of Reno Post to ascertain what arrangements could be made in that direction.

Mr. Mansel advocated the organization of the Society with a view to the erection of a building or the purchase of a suitable building which should be the permanent house of the Society, believing that joint occupancy of its building with Reno Post would not be desirable and inquired of Mr. McMinn if he had figured on the probable cost of such a building as would meet the Society's requirements.

Mr. McMinn stated that his committee had not figured on the cost of a building and expressed himself of the belief also that the Reno Post building would not meet the requirements of The Historical Society.

Mr. Collins expressed himself in favor of organizing on modest lines, beginning with a suitable place of meeting, confining the activity of the organization at first to periodical meetings at which papers on historical subjects of interest should be read, the Society publishing such papers and through this work public interest will awaken and increase to such an extent as will enable the Society to secure such a home as will be necessary for the institution of a Historical Museum and place it on such a financial basis as will insure its permanent maintenance. That his observation convinced him that when a Historical Society was once organized, the greatest difficulty was overcome and when once in operation public interest invariably increases, and that while the Society should begin along the lines suggested, it should nevertheless have in view the acquirement of a permanent home where exhibits loaned or presented to the Society for exhibition will be absolutely safe from theft or fire.

Mr. Munson suggested the entire probability of the Society being able to secure from the Trustees of the James V. Brown Library, permission for the Society to use the Lecture Room of the Library for its literary meetings and also stated that from present indications there will be one large room in the Library which in all probability will not be used for some time to come and that it might be possible to secure the use of this room for the temporary installation of such historical exhibits as the Society can secure as a nucleus for its future Museum.

Mr. Foresman expressed himself as being in favor of organization along the lines suggested by Mr. Collins.

Mr. Hogg suggested his belief that it would be a mistake to lead the people to believe that the Society intends beginning its work on a large scale with attendant

large expense, expressing his opinion too, that success will follow organization based on modest lines. He suggested that it might be beneficial and interesting to secure some information regarding the extent of exhibits which could be secured and on his motion it was Resolved: That a committee of three of which Mr. McMinn shall be chairman be appointed for the purpose of looking over the whole field and of ascertaining what can be secured for exhibit purposes.

Mr. McMinn stated that in his opinion there will be no difficulty whatever in securing exhibits if an absolutely secure place is provided for them.

On motion of Mr. Foresman it was Resolved: That a committee of three be appointed to nominate permanent officers for The Historical Society.

On motion of Mr. Collins, it was Resolved: That the chairman of this meeting be and is hereby authorized to name the committees, the appointment of which has been authorized by this meeting and that Mr. Munson be named as the Chairman of the Committee on Charter and By-Laws.

The chair appointed as the Committee on Charter and By-Laws:

Cyrus LaRue Munson

Hon. Emerson Collins

Herbert Russell Laird

Committee on Nominations

Hon. Seth Thomas Foresman

Hyman A. Slate

Herbert Russell Laird

Committee on Exhibits

Joseph Henderson McMinn

Hon. James Mansel

Charles Hoffman Eldon

On motion of Mr. Laird, it was Resolved: That this meeting do now adjourn to meet at the call of the Chairman and Secretary.

Herbert Russell Laird  
Secretary



### WILLIAMSPORT GUARDS

Parade in full uniform, in the Court House Yard, on Sat. the 21st day of Feb. next, at 1 o'clock, P.M. each member to be provided with thirteen rounds of blank cartridges.

By order of Capt. Anthony,  
S. Hyman - O. S.

Williamsport, Jan. 25, 1824

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### WILLIAMSPORT GUARDS

Parade in full uniform (white belts and blue pantaloons) on Friday the 29th instant, at 1 o'clock, A.M., being the last stated meeting for the year. Fine for non-attendance \$1.

J. B. Anthony, Capt.

Williamsport, Oct. 12, 1824

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### SARAH ADAMS

of Williamsport, Lycoming County, informs the Merchants, Traders and others, that she has commenced the Straw Hat and Bonnet Manufactory

In all its various branches, and will sell Straw Hats and Bonnets on the most reasonable terms, and hopes, by industry and a close attention to business, to merit a share of the public patronage. Bonnets altered to the newest fashions.

June 21, 1824

### 6 CENTS REWARD

Runaway from the subscriber, living in Ostego County, on the 5th of August, 1823, an apprentice to the

#### Broom Making Business

Is a lad about fifteen years old, about 5 feet 2 inches in height, has a down look, very slow in speech; had on which he started from this place, a blue calf-skin coat, a scarlet vest, a coarse tow shirt, new pantaloons and boots to the ancles. Any person or persons taking up the said boy and returning him to the subscriber, shall have the above reward, but no charges paid.

Nathan Brotten,  
broom maker

Ostego, August 5, 1823

