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of the  
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COVER PICTURE—This view of the front of our old courthouse, 1861-1968, shows the tower surmounted by the figure of Justice. See Mr. Hofmann's article on "Courthouses of Lycoming County."

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

1970-1971

You are cordially invited to attend our regular membership meetings which will be held at 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. We will meet at the Museum except in September and March, when the dinner meetings will be at the Warrensville Fire Hall.

September 17, 1970 (6:30 p.m. dinner, Warrensville Fire Hall)

WILLIAM N. RICHARDS, Director, Bureau of Museums, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,  
"Effective Use of a Modern Museum"

October 15, 1970

PAUL G. GILMORE, Editor, Williamsport Sun-Gazette,  
"Highlights of Local History"

November 19, 1970

MISS GLADYS TOZIER, Museum Archivist, slide presentation on  
"The Ring of the Axe and Whir of the Saw"

December 17, 1970

CHRISTMAS PARTY — Reenactment of 1940 Christmas meeting, dramatizing three "Christmas Recollections" of 100 years ago by: Mrs. Edith Wright, Messrs. Scott Laughead and Don K. Skiles, with Dr. Mendal Van Valin leading the Christmas carols.

January 21, 1971

DR. JUNE BASKIN, Supervisor of Art, Williamsport Area School District,  
"In the Interest of Architecture"

February 18, 1971

A moving picture, in color and sound, from Colonial Williamsburg entitled  
"Doorway to the Past"

March 18, 1971 (6:30 p.m. dinner, Warrensville Fire Hall)

MRS. ELIZABETH TOWNSHEND TRUMP, Internationally Known Expert on Antiques  
"Antiques — the American Way"

April 15, 1971

MRS. HUMES COLLINS, Nationally Known Collector of Pewter,  
"Early American Pewter"  
(Annual Business Meeting)

Mrs. John W. Bitner,  
Program Chairman

## SIX MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT

April 1 through September 30, 1970

The following condensed report of Society and Museum finances has been taken from our Treasurer's operating statement for the first six months of the present fiscal year, starting April 1, 1970. Some of our receipts are seasonal, such as meeting room rental to the Community College, now on a 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. basis. By next summer the tourist trade should help fill this gap. Funding by the Williamsport Area School District has helped raise the current annual budget to \$33,700. This badly needed help has resulted from recognition of a number of well-received museum school programs in 1969, such as the Operation Museum classes for younger school children, using museum objects, which was originated by the Junior League under the leadership of Mrs. Michael Lecce and her staff. Much of the credit for our school-oriented programs and tours goes to Mr. John Strawbridge III, who worked as Exhibit Consultant for three years. On June 1, 1970, he was placed on the payroll as full-time Museum Director. Other Museum employees and our new Executive Secretary for the Society, Mrs. Kathryn Clute, work on a part-time basis. Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance for them was started in June. Details of the Museum programs are outlined by Mr. Strawbridge in his Museum Showcase Section.

## LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## OPERATING STATEMENT — APRIL 1, 1970, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1970

Checking Account — 4-1-70		\$ 1092.72	
RECEIPTS			
Dues from Members	\$3159.50		
Admissions to Museum	420.96		
Lycoming County Commissioners (six months)	2700.00		
Williamsport School District (six months)	2000.00		
Rentals — Wmspt. Area Com. College and others	1540.00		
Gift Shop — Income in Excess of Expenses	211.30		
Dinner and Bus Trip - Income in Excess of Expense	52.75		
Other Income*	763.16		
Fred Waring 1969 Concert	2500.00	13347.67	
			<u>13347.67</u>
FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$14440.39
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries	\$ 8474.75		
Insurance	670.00		
Office Supplies, Postage, Printing Journals and Brochures	842.65		
Utilities and Heat	2652.36		
Social Security, Blue Cross-Blue Shield	569.82		
Other**	530.12	13739.70	
			<u>13739.70</u>
Funds in Excess of Operating Expenses			700.69
Non-Operating Additions and Other Credits			
Accts. Rec., Payable, & Misc—Net Credit	1090.62		
Advance payments for fiscal year:			
County Commissioners — Third Qtr.	1350.00		
Wmspt. School District — 3rd and 4th Qtrs.	2000.00	4440.62	
			<u>4440.62</u>
			5141.31

Non-Operating Expenditures — Capital 857.66

BALANCE — Society Checking Acct. 9-30-70 \$ 4283.65

\*Includes Contributions, Soft Drink Machine and Pay Telephone concessions, and income from Trust Funds.

\*\*Building Maintenance, Hauling, Exhibit Supplies, Telephone, and Historical Publications and Memberships.

LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCE

September 30, 1970

CURRENT ASSETS			
Checking Account	\$ 4283.65		
Savings Account	328.60		
Gift Shop Inventory (\$854.16), Prepayments (\$331.98)	1168.14	\$ 5798.39	
			<u>5798.39</u>
TRUST FUNDS INVESTED			
Federal Home Loan Bank 8.05 percent Bonds	\$10125.00		
Savings Accounts	2783.95		
Stock of Corporations	1878.75	14787.70	
			<u>14787.70</u>
FIXED AND OTHER ASSETS			
Land, Building, Furniture, and Fixtures	\$341331.57		
Display Equipment, Cases, Material, etc.	19600.92		
Victorian Period Room	4762.04		
Artifacts	69271.63	\$434966.16	
			<u>434966.16</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		\$455,552.25	
			<u>455,552.25</u>
Accts. Payable and Taxes Withheld			365.17
FUND BALANCE		\$455,187.08	
			<u>455,187.08</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCE		\$455,552.25	
			<u>455,552.25</u>

Members of the Society should not be misled by this \$4,000 balance in our checking account on Sept. 30, 1970. We had just received a subsidy from the Williamsport School Authority. Only a few weeks before we were down to a few hundred dollars of available cash to meet current obligations. We are still badly in need of funds with which to operate the Museum. October 1, 1970, was the end of the six-month grace period for payment of dues by people who had not renewed their memberships for the last fiscal year, and 69 had to be dropped from the mailing list. Seventy-one have been added to our rolls. This makes a very small gain in total membership. As of Jan. 1, 1971, we have 556 memberships. Estimating two people for each family membership, we have approximately 775 members. Since income from dues in our current budget calls for at least 1,000 members, we urge all of you to take an active part in soliciting new members for our Society.

We take this opportunity to point out that bequests to the Historical Society are held strictly in trust, and only the income from such money is used to defray operating expenses.



## a profile: past, present, . . . and future

The Lycoming County Historical Museum, now two years old, continues its development as a significant cultural resource. Progress since its opening in November 1968 has been in all areas of the Museum: collections, exhibition, and education. Following is a brief review of those activities which can serve as a short history of the institution and which shall characterize its operation in the future.

Among the various types of museums, the purpose common to all is collecting. In a regional history museum, objects, paintings, and documents are collected in order to reflect the changing conditions of human life in a particular area, in our case, in Lycoming County. The collections, thus established, are the single most important aspect of the Museum and are the basis for its existence.

The beginning of man in Lycoming County is illustrated by the collections of archaeological material held by the Museum. The earliest Indian migrants to our area lived a simple and strenuous existence, spending most of their time trying to se-

cure food and to keep warm, leaving behind a few stone tools which serve as a record of their passage. As Indian cultures evolved, as Indian technology progressed, a greater number of artifacts were left behind. By unearthing these materials, Museum archaeologists can gain an understanding of Indian life: hunting, fishing, warfare, agriculture, food preparation, religion, and ceremony. The archaeological collections of the Museum include thousands of objects and are constantly being amassed. The most significant addition during the past two years has been the gift of the Collins Collection from Lycoming College.

The development of an American civilization in Lycoming County is reflected in the diverse materials of the Museum's culture history department. Here, objects made or used by local residents signify levels of taste, standards of living, methods of craftsmanship, and forms of recreation. Stoneware, glass, pewter, silver, iron, and wood find expression in objects used in local homes over the past two hundred years.

Changes in fashion and skillful needlework are represented in the costume and textiles department. From the earliest samplers to late Victorian dresses, the threads of local history are woven into materials of usefulness and beauty.

The military history department serves as a repository for the weapons and accessories of war. A highly valued addition to the department has been the acquisition of the Reno Post Civil War Collection from Lycoming College.

The industrial collections of the Museum contain the equipment used by our ancestors in shaping useful objects to their own needs. The tools of the blacksmith and carpenter, along with those of the cooper, cobbler, farrier, and millwright indicate the pride in craftsmanship held by the people of our past. As industrialization began in Lycoming County, products of local companies signify the accomplishments of people working together.

Art and man is the concern of the fine arts department. Drawings, paintings, and graphics in the collection illustrate the artistic talents and tastes of our ancestors in producing works of art for their homes and public buildings. The long-term loan of a group of paintings from the James V. Brown Library greatly enriches our resource in this area.

Maps, photographs, personal papers, business records, and legal documents are preserved in the Archives as a resource for historical research. One section of the Archives, the Newman School Collections, was acquired from the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians and contains much material relating to early public education in our county.

All of the Museum collections are acquired under the responsibility of each curator, with the criterion of historic significance used as the basis for acceptability. Most of the objects collected have been gifts of local people. A huge amount of credit is due those who have contributed in this way, making the Museum truly a community institution.

The exhibition program of the Lycoming County Historical Museum utilizes both

its own collection and also certain materials loaned by other museums and individuals. The exhibits serve to illustrate concepts in the human history of our area and are directed toward a general audience. Following a roughly chronological pattern, the story of man is traced from Indian times to the beginnings of our own century. Thus far the exhibits open to the public include the Indian and Lumbering galleries, a section dealing with decorative arts of the Victorian era and area for special exhibits, the Industrial gallery, and a number of smaller units relating to Little League Baseball, the conservation of natural resources, and early nineteenth century textiles. A scheduled opening of the gallery "The Way Our People Lived", will take place early in 1971, and will provide an illustration of urban and rural life of the past in Lycoming County.

One aspect of many of the exhibits is change. In order to provide new experiences for the museum visitor and in order to show additional material from the museum collections, the exhibits undergo an evolution. Some are replaced every month, particularly those in the lobby area; others change every six weeks, namely the special art exhibits; and most of the rest are, at best, semi-permanent, lasting perhaps five years. Although the Museum has not yet developed its total area, the exhibits program will never be complete. As new materials are acquired, as our knowledge of local history increases, and as the needs of our visitors change, the Lycoming County Historical Museum will attempt to adapt its exhibits in order to maintain its significance to the community.

A most important part of the Museum is education. Several educational programs have been instituted thus far involving young people from the primary grades to college level. Included are the Junior League's "Operation Museum," the Arts Centre of the Williamsport Area School District, and museum-related courses at Lycoming College.

A museum experience in the social studies is the purpose of "Operation Museum," a most successful program originated by the Junior League of Williamsport. In classes held at the Museum, elementary-

school children learn about Indians, historic modes of transportation and the lumbering industry. Objects from the collections, are used to bring reality to the concepts dealt with by the Junior League teachers. Now in its third semester, more than five thousand students have been involved in the program.

In November 1970, the Williamsport Area School District began operation of its Arts Center at the Museum. This project is financed under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and is supervised by Dr. June Baskin. Activity is centered in the Museum's carriage house and involves instruction in music, art, jewel-

ry-making, woodworking, textile design, and other crafts.

During the fall semester 1970, Lycoming College students began working for course credit in the archaeology department of the Museum. The initial project for this course is the classification of artifacts in the collections and is being accomplished under the supervision of Dr. Maurice Mook, of Lycoming College.

These formal educational programs, along with numerous student tours, constitute a major use of the facility, and will hopefully encourage public awareness of the value of the Museum.

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM HEPBURN

(CONCLUSION)

*Taken from Lycoming Gazette of July 3, 1821*

With the increase of population in this newly opened territory, William Hepburn was quick to sense the need for a store where goods and supplies could be obtained without going a long distance. About 1790 Hepburn started such an establishment and became the first merchant in the settlement which ultimately became the city of Williamsport. Since grain could be more readily marketed in liquid form, owing to the difficulties of transportation, many farmers started distilleries. Whiskey was a more marketable commodity. So, in keeping with others of the time, Hepburn added the distilling business to his other pursuits. Thus we find him before the year 1800 a farmer, a distiller, a merchant, and a Justice of the Peace. Since he was the only Justice for miles around, much business came to him.

We turn now to two interesting anecdotes quoted from Meginness. "He was noted for his wit, quickness of repartee, and kindness of heart. Among the anecdotes that have been preserved, two may be mentioned. One day he was waited on by a young man named John Bennett, who had paddled his sweetheart five or six miles in a canoe down the river for the purpose of having the marriage ceremony per-

formed. The squire promptly united them. When the groom hesitatingly informed him that he did not have enough money to pay the fee and buy a few articles necessary for housekeeping, the squire was so impressed with the frankness and honest appearance of Mr. Bennett that he not only remitted the fee but supplied him with some provisions from his store, and sent the newly married couple up the river rejoicing in their canoe."

"On another occasion an Irishman named Conn had a suit before him, and taking exception to some of his rulings, gave vent to his feelings in personal abuse of the Justice. Instead of commanding him to be silent, or imposing a fine, the Squire quickly threw off all dignity, and walked from behind his desk, with one blow of his fist sent Conn sprawling on the floor. No further interruption occurred during the progress of the trial, but the defendant never forgot the blow, and attempted to waylay the Squire after he became judge. His strong arm did not fail him, and Conn, again discomfited, concluded not to interfere further with the muscular representative of justice."

With the mention already made of the "Deer Park" tract, it must not be supposed

that that embraced the entire land holdings of Hepburn. Although he held much land in partnership with his brother, he possessed at different times numerous tracts in his own right. As early as 1789 he bought at a sheriff's sale a tract of 300 acres situated along Loyalsock Creek, probably a part of the northern boundaries of the city of Williamsport. In 1792 he acquired 315 acres called "Williamsburg", but later sold off about half the tract. Again records show that on May 4, 1796, he purchased four lots from Michael Ross. Two of these lots were situated on Front Street while the other two were on the northeast side of the public square. Less than a year later he purchased two lots in what is now Newberry. Then in 1797 he bought "Corn Bottom", a tract of 16 acres in Lycoming township. His further land purchases were of no great importance until, with his son-in-law Robert McClure, he purchased the John Edmiston tract of 223 acres. This land was situated on Dougherty's Run, about two miles from its mouth. His last purchase was in 1814, being a tract of 294 acres in Loyalsock Township. According to Meginness, the last transaction to appear in the record books as a grantee is in the deed of partition with his brother James, when they divided the Deer Park and Mount Joy tracts. Deer Park, on which Hepburn lived for over thirty years, was a splendid property containing 316 acres. It must be understood that not all of the above mentioned land was in his possession at the same time. He sold much land, and by his will it can be seen that at his death he held only his Deer Park farm and a few other tracts.

It is well to recall that during most of the period thus far mentioned Lycoming County, as it came to be, was a part of the vast area known as Northumberland County. Agitation, begun as early as 1786, appeared for a division of Northumberland County, but for nine years it was only agitation. Much of the opposition which developed to the division came from, and was supported by, Robert Morris. The "financier of the Revolution", as he was popularly known, was the holder of thousands of acres in Northumberland County, and it was from much of his holdings that Lycoming County was formed. William Montgomery was the State Senator at the

time, representing a district composed of Luzerne, Mifflin, and Northumberland Counties. A vacancy having been created through the resignation of Senator Montgomery, a special election to fill the vacancy was held January 8, 1794. William Hepburn, by a majority of 64 votes over Rosewell Wells, was elected to fill the vacancy. Knowing Hepburn to be of their opinion, the friends of division went forward with renewed energy. Hepburn was appointed chairman of a committee consisting of four additional Senators to prepare a report on the division. So well did the committee prepare their report, and so zealously did they pursue their aim, that less than two months were to elapse until April 13, 1795, when Governor Thomas Mifflin signed the bill creating the new county of Lycoming. Even the name was not acquired without struggle, for originally the county was to be named Jefferson. This was not adopted, and the names of Lycoming, Susquehanna, and Muncy were in turn proposed and turned down. After reconsideration, it was agreed to name the new county Lycoming after the great stream which had for so many years formed the boundary between Northumberland County and the disputed Indian land.

By way of digression it might be mentioned that as originally formed Lycoming County contained an area of approximately 12,000 square miles. However, it was not to remain forever a county of such vast proportions for either in whole, or in part Armstrong, Bradford, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga, Venango, and Warren counties have been formed. Although her original 12,000 square miles have dwindled to 1,213, she proudly boasts of being the second county in point of size in the commonwealth.

This illustrious man was not to hold the proud position of State Senator for long, but he exchanged it for one that brought him greater prominence. On April 15, 1795, Governor Mifflin appointed William Hepburn one of four associate judges for the purpose of organizing the judicial machinery of the new county. These associate judges meeting but a few days later in the village of Jaysburg, west of the mouth of Lycoming, for the purpose of organization

heaped further honors upon Hepburn by electing him as president. Thus William Hepburn gained the high honor and proud distinction of being the first President Judge of Lycoming County. Having attained this new office and honor, Hepburn resigned the office of State Senator on April 20, 1795. It is proper to assume that while the Judge was a man without legal learning, he discharged the duties of judge with ability and fairness, and advanced rapidly in his judicial capacity.

#### COURT PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Honorable Thomas Cooper, Esq., (President of the several Courts of Common Pleas in the eighth circuit, consisting of the counties of Luzerne, Northumberland, and Lycoming, and Justice of the several courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in the said counties) and William Hepburn, James Davidson, John Fleming, and Samuel Harris, Esqs., (judges of the said courts of General Quarter Session of the Peace, in the said county of Lycoming) have issued their precept bearing date of 13th day of October, to me directed, for holding a court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Common Pleas in the borough of Williamsport on Monday, the 30th day of November next.

Dated at Williamsport, the 15th day of October, A. D. 1807, and of the independence of the said Commonwealth the thirty-second.

J. Cummings, Sheriff

God Save the Commonwealth

Lycoming Gazette 10-15-1807

Since Mr. Wilkins makes the positive statement that Williamsport was named after William Hepburn, some attention must be given to how the city came to be and leave the dissension of how the city came to be named to others. After the Governor had signed the act creating the new county, he appointed five commissioners to select a site for a county seat. Very early one proposed site was at Dunnsburg, on the mainland above the Great Island, now in Clinton County. Another

site was at Jaysburg, which was already regularly laid out and was the only place making any pretensions to a village west of Muncy. Temporary quarters had already been secured for the county officers, and Prothonotary and Register and Recorder Kidd had opened his office. As before mentioned, the four newly created judges met for the first time in Jaysburg. A jail had been provided, a jailer appointed, and a prisoner or two had been incarcerated.

(Meginness) But for Jaysburg, possession was not to be considered nine points of the law. Judge Hepburn was intensely interested in having the county seat located on the east side of Lycoming Creek. In the meantime Michael Ross appeared on the scene as a powerful factor. He owned 285 acres of land lying in what is considered the central part of Williamsport, and envisioned a town growing on his acres. Surely added impetus would come in the fulfillment of his dream if it were made the county seat. There can be no doubt that the Judge shared his views for he, too, had vast acres whose value would be enhanced if the dream of Ross should materialize. The best description that I have been able to obtain of this piece of land appears in a Sales Notice, published after the death of his second wife, under date of June 18, 1828.

It is also interesting for it shows us the manner in which such sales were to be advertised in other papers.

Sales Notice, Lycoming Gazette  
6-18-1828

"Will be sold at public sale at the Courthouse in the borough of Williamsport, Lycoming County, on Monday, the 25th of August next, the following property, being part of the real estate of the late William Hepburn Esq., deceased, and to be sold agreeably to the directions of his will, VIZ: 330 acres of first-rate bottom land, situate on the north side of the West branch of the Susquehanna about a half-mile above the borough of Williamsport, with valuable improvements, consisting of a large two-story brick house and kitchen, a brick distillery, a large double barn, and other outhouses; also an orchard of choice apple and other fruit trees and about

250 acres of cleared land, under good fence, and in fine state of cultivation, and well known as "Deer Park Farm", on which said deceased resided.



DEER PARK — Built by William Hepburn in 1800, using bricks from his own brick yard.

The editors of the Pennsylvania Reporter, Harrisburg, Pa., Lancaster Intelligencer, and German Stateboethe, Lancaster, Pa., will please to insert the above three times and forward their accounts to this office for payment."

Another item gleaned from the newspapers of the day follows:

"To celebrate the anniversary of the glorious period which gave birth to the freedom and independence of our country, a respectable number of gentlemen of this borough and its vicinity assembled on Monday on the bank of the Susquehanna. They were honored with a large and brilliant circle of beautiful ladies.

William Hepburn, Esq., was chosen president and Mr. Charles Stewart vice-president. After partaking of a collection provided for the purpose, the following toasts were drunk:

1. The day we celebrate — the birthday of liberty and a republic. (3 cheers and a volley.)
2. The memory of the heroes who fell in fighting for the liberties of their country—'tis honorable to die for one's country. (3 cheers and a volley.)
3. George Washington—as a hero and a statesman, the pride of America, and the admiration of the world. (3 cheers and a volley.)

4. Thomas Jefferson—so long as he acts for his country's good, may he receive his country's applause. (3 cheers and a volley.)
5. George Clinton—he fought his country's battles, and may his country never forget the patriot. (3 cheers and a volley.)
6. Thos. McKean—firm as a rock, and stable as the everlasting hills. (5 cheers and a volley.)
7. The next governor—may he be a man unbiased by party, and proud of the prosperity of his state. (3 cheers and a volley.)
8. Commerce—a speedy resuscitation of its corpse. (6 cheers and a volley.)
9. The embargo—may it soon be safely moored in the dry dock. (3 cheers and a volley.)
10. Agriculture—the basis of our national wealth. May the surplus of its produce not rot on our hands. (5 cheers and a volley.)
11. Our national legislature—may wisdom and not party spirit predominate in its debates. (6 cheers and a volley.)
12. Our country—proud of its national honor, may it never cringe to a foreign power. (5 cheers and a volley.)
13. Hemp—may there be a sufficiency of it for all who would barter the liberties of their country. (3 cheers and a volley.)
14. Salt—as the importation of this necessary article is prohibited, may the mountain be removed from the wilds of Louisiana and the Atlantic shores. (3 cheers and a volley.)
15. Peace—may it soon cover the whole earth like a garment. (9 cheers and a volley.)
16. The Susquehanna—so long as liberty is dear, may its banks give us an annual repast. (6 cheers and a volley.)
17. The American fair—lovely above all God's creation. (10 cheers and a volley.)

VOLUTEERS

Judge Hepburn and all friends to our

country—may they never want spirit nor courage to defend it. (3 cheers and a volley.)

By Mr. Hays—confidence in a majority. (3 cheers and a volley.)

Lycoming Gazette July 6, 1808"

True to the faith of his fathers, Judge Hepburn was a Covenanter and remained one until his death. Among the early records of the Lycoming Presbyterian Church the name of Judge Hepburn frequently appears not only as its treasurer but as a contributor also to its support. Tunison Coryell in his historical reminiscences thus speaks of him: "The Judge was one of the supporters of the first Presbyterian Church built at Newberry. A receipt of the Rev. Isaac Grier, the pastor to William Hepburn, dated February 20, 1796, as treasurer of Lycoming Congregation, for 15 1/2 and 3 1/2 d, full amount of first year's salary due from said congregation, the 3rd of October, 1794, has been preserved."

After Williamsport had been created a borough in 1860 it began to attract many men as residents who had worked with Judge Hepburn. No record of the life of the Judge would be complete if mention were not made of his prominence in at least one other respect. For a few years he had been a Mason, having originally been a member of Lodge No. 22 located at Sunbury. Desirous of having a lodge instituted for his new borough, Judge Hepburn with nine other men of distinction in and around the borough were finally instrumental in having a petition granted for the constitution of a Masonic Lodge in the year 1806. Again the high esteem in which the Judge was held by his brethren is evidenced by the fact that he was named to be the first worshipful master of the new lodge, which was then and still is known as Lodge No 106 Free and Accepted Masons.

To provide but a glimpse into his wealth and holdings, we borrow from Meginness the assessments against Judge Hepburn for the year 1821, and we find "300 acres of land, in 3 separate tracts, 1 house, 1 distillery, 4 horses and 6 cattle, 6 houses and an assessment of \$100 for occupation". This totaled \$3,918 on which the assessment was \$19.59. His brick house was built about 1802 and appears in the assessment list for that year.

Further military honors were to come to William Hepburn for under date of June 4, 1807, Governor Thomas McKean appointed him Major-General of the Tenth Division of the State Militia, to serve for four years.

Probably with the approach of advancing age, the Judge turned over much of the work of his store to his son Samuel, but took an active part in the management of his farm.

His first wife and the mother of ten of his children died in 1800 and was buried in the family plot located at Fourth and Cemetery Streets. Within a short time he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Jane Walder Huston of Williamsport. To them were born nine additional children.

From all the given facts one can only conclude that the veteran soldier, judge, merchant, and farmer must have lived an unusually full and active life. Time had to take its toll and the Judge showing signs of a rapid decline, fell violently ill and died June 25, 1821, in his brick mansion at the foot of Park Street. He was buried in the old graveyard on West Fourth Street, where he had assisted in burying those who were so mercilessly slain by the savages on the tenth of June, 1778. His second wife, having survived him for a few months over six years was buried by his side, where their bodies rested until 1888. Then the remains were removed to Wildwood Cemetery.

#### OBITUARY — JULY 3, 1821

On Monday, the 25th instant, after a short but distressing illness, during which the utmost fortitude and resignation were exhibited, died at his place of residence, near Williamsport, William Hepburn, Esq., age sixty-eight. On Tuesday his funeral was attended by a great concourse of people from Williamsport and the country adjacent, who assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to their much lamented friend.

Mr. Hepburn's life has been eminently useful and respectable; and his death will long be deplored by those who have enjoyed the pleasure of his friendship or acquaintance with unaffected sorrow. In the struggle for independence he supported, as an officer in the American army, a very active and conspicuous part; and by his unceasing vigilance and exertions, against a most in-

sidious enemy, he perhaps more than any other person kept in check, or rendered unavailing, in this and some of the adjoining counties — then a frontier and exposed to all the stratagem and havoc of savage warfare — incursions aimed against the defenseless inhabitants which elsewhere marked the most bloody and heart-rendering scenes.—

Possessed of good natural abilities, urbanity of manners, and an accurate knowledge of mankind, his influence has been extensive, his talents respected, and his virtues revered. His conduct, indeed, has been such as to gain the applause of his friends, and the respect of his political opponents.—

Lycoming Gazette, 7-3-1821

## - The Genealogy Corner -

During the course of a year we get many requests for genealogical information from outside Lycoming County. We find that members of many original families emigrated to other parts of the country. In fact, they spread out all the way from Lake Helen, Fla., to Seattle, Wash., and Santa Ana, Cal.

In order to help them trace their forebears, we use available sources such as wills, real estate deeds, census reports, tax records, obituary notices, cemetery records, and, of course, Meginness' History of Lycoming County. The Society Archives yield some information.

All too often these sources produce very little information. For example, only rarely do real estate deeds give family relationships. Relatively few people left wills and many of them did not record deeds to their properties.

We are very anxious to build up the genealogy section of our archives. When the old courthouse records were micro-filmed, we acquired the original will books and Orphan Court records dating from the founding of the county in 1795 to approximately 1900. During the past two years these records have been indexed by volunteers. They are available to members of the Society by prearrangement.

If you can trace your family history back to early settlers, won't you share your information with us so we can help other people who are doing research on their genealogies? It's quite possible that you will be helping some of your own distant relatives. Please let us know about any such information by calling the Society Genealogist, Mrs. D. M. Carson. Her home phone number

is 435-0441, or bring the information to the Society Office at the Museum.

In order to answer current requests, immediate information is needed on the following.

1. Daniel Dunlap of Pine Creek who died about 1831.
2. Michael and Catherine Page Bower, whose son Dwight was born in 1845.
3. Martin Luther Young, an itinerant preacher in the mid 1800's.
4. Any descendents of Lt. Overton Carr, Jr. He was graduated from West Point in 1872 and died in Philadelphia in 1881.

Your cooperation will not only preserve the record of your own family but will help the Society in their efforts to research inquiries from the general public. Placing our genealogical resources on a broader, more business-like basis will also enable the Society to use this service as a source of income which is the practice in most other historical societies.

Journal readers: Please take note on request concerning German American writers:

Dr. Robert E. Ward, associate professor of German at Youngstown State University, is seeking bio-bibliographical data and other information for his "Dictionary of German-American Creative Literature, 1670-1970." A German-American writer is anyone, regardless of nationality, who writes creative literature in the German language while residing in the United States. Direct all correspondence to:

Professor R. E. Ward  
Department of Foreign Languages  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503





"WAKE OF THE FERRY"

by John Sloan

Phillips Gallery, Washington, D. C.

(To be issued as a postage stamp in 1971)

## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN SLOAN

By Mrs. John Sloan

Taken from pamphlet prepared for Title III, E.S.E.A., J. Area.

John Sloan is an American Artist whose pictures are shown in all our great museums, in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington. He was born in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, in 1871. The Sloans had come from Scotland early in the eighteenth century, bringing their trade as cabinetmakers with them. At first they lived in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and then they moved on to Williamsport and Lock Haven. By the time John Sloan was born, the family business was feeling the pressure of competition from factory-made furniture, so in 1876 Sloan's father made a trip to Philadelphia, looking for a new job. He found work as a traveling salesman for a paper business run by his wife's family, and then moved his household to Philadelphia.

Sloan's mother had been a school teacher in Lock Haven. She taught her son to read before he went to school. He was always de-

lighted with new additions to his home library and spent his Saturdays at the local library rather than loafing around the house or playing baseball. His family encouraged him to make things with his hands. Although they were poor, Sloan and his two young sisters always had all the tools and materials they wanted to work with. By the time he was twelve, he had read all of Dickens and Shakespeare. He was fascinated by machinery and invented things and had copied all the illustrations in the dictionary. In the summers he usually had a job to help out with the household expenses, because his father made very little money and was in failing health. One summer he worked in the railroad yards checking freight cars, and at other times he worked as an errand boy in a lawyer's office. He said that he never had any pocket money and that it didn't occur to him to think that he should have.

When Sloan was part way through the junior year of high school, his father's health suffered a serious breakdown. The family decided that Sloan would have to leave school to help support his parents and sisters. Many years later he said about this crisis: "I don't think I was ever bitter about leaving school at the age of sixteen, but I cannot bear to remember the look of grief and defeat on my father's face when he had to tell me." On another occasion he said that he "might have been a doctor, lawyer, or preacher."

At first he had a job as assistant cashier in a book store. There was a print department there, with original etchings by Rembrandt which he used to copy in pen and ink to sell for five dollars. Then he started to make greeting cards with his own verses and sketches. Finding that he could earn some extra money in this way, he decided to go to night school to learn more about drawing. This led to a job as a designer of calendars and novelties, and free lance work for advertising. When the free lance work did not bring in enough money, he got a job as an illustrator for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. He continued to earn his living as a newspaper artist until he was over thirty. Meanwhile, he had met a great teacher, Robert Henri, who encouraged him to start painting pictures in his spare time. There was not very much spare time when he worked six and often seven days a week from two in the afternoon until after midnight, but he did start to paint portraits of his friends, and some pictures of Philadelphia street scenes. The paintings were shown in important exhibitions, but they did not sell, so he had to go on working as an illustrator to support himself and his family.

After his sisters had grown up, they were able to help with the care of their parents. In 1901 he married "Dolly", Anna Maria Wall, a tiny little Irishwoman, who encouraged him to take more time for his own painting. In 1904 his job for the newspaper came to an end (he was then working for the Philadelphia *Press* which is no longer in existence). His other artist friends on the newspaper had lost their jobs when the halftone process had been perfected to reproduce news photographs, but his job as an illustrator for the Sunday Supplement

lasted longer. "My job became obsolete when a form of automation came in, the management having decided to subscribe to a syndicated Sunday Supplement instead of putting out their own, but I still had the job of making word-puzzle drawings once a week. This paid my rent for another seven years when we moved to New York."

Sloan was thirty-three when he moved to New York, and for the first time in his adult life he was free to do more work for himself. While walking the streets to find work as an illustrator of magazines and books he saw the life of the city and began to make a series of etchings and paintings to show what interested him. In the summers he managed to spend a week or two in the country to paint landscapes.

Ten years after he moved to New York, when he was forty-three, Sloan was finally able to save enough money to spend a whole summer in the country painting landscapes. He went to Gloucester, Massachusetts, a small fishing port where a number of artists liked to go. Here he painted many pictures of the seashore and then neighbors children, and also started to teach classes in painting. In 1916 he started a long career as a teacher at the Art Students League in New York. One of his most famous peoples was Alexander Calder who invented the "mobiles".

In 1919, he took a motor trip to New Mexico. There he found a new kind of landscape to paint and scenes of town life in the old Spanish city of Santa Fe. The next year he went back and bought a house for summer vacations which proved very beneficial to his health. He continued to spend most of his summers in New Mexico until the last one in 1951, which was spent in Hanover, New Hampshire, at the invitation of his namesake John Sloan Dickey, the president of Dartmouth College. After surgery for cancer, he died in Hanover at the age of eighty. He had been looking forward to many more years of happy work as an artist.

Sloan's first wife died in 1943, a year later he married Helen Farr, who had been one of his pupils at the Art Students League. She had collected the notes for his book, *Gist of Art*, which was published in 1939.

Several books have been written about Sloan. Lloyd Goodrich, Director of the Whitney Museum, wrote a monograph at the time of the museum's retrospective exhibition in 1952. Van Wyck Brooks published a biography, *John Sloan, A Painter's Life*, in 1955. Sloan's early New York diaries, *John Sloan's New York Scene*, came out in 1965. In 1967 the Hammermill Paper Company, Lock Haven Division, privately printed a book on his newspaper work, *John Sloan's Poster Period*. The most recent publication is *John Sloan's Prints* by Peter Morse, published by the Yale University Press in 1967.

In addition to Sloan's contribution as an artist working for himself, he gave a great deal of time helping other artists find the opportunity to show their work. In 1908 he helped to organize the exhibition held at the Macbeth Galleries in New York City. Known as "The Eight", this group of Robert Henri's friends made a great impact on the art world. (Henri, Glackens, Davis, Luks, Shinn, Lawson, Pendergast, and Sloan). Two years later this group organized a pioneer exhibition of Independent Artists which drew such crowds that the police had to be called in to manage the traffic. Then in 1913, Sloan helped with the famous Armory Show that brought modern art to America. From 1918 until he died, Sloan was president of the Society of Independent Artists, an exhibiting organization with an open door for all kinds of work that has been imitated by outdoor and clothesline shows all over the country. Perhaps he was most proud of his service as president of the Exposition of Indian Tribal Arts, which showed the work of American Indians as real art in a traveling exhibition that was sent around the United States from 1932-1934.

Sloan illustrated books for Stephen Crane, T. S. Daly, Edgar Lee Masters, Paul deKock (called the Dickens of France) Gaboriau, and Wilkie Collins. The last one he illustrated is probably the best known, *Of Human Bondage*, by Somerset Maugham. This was done for the Limited Editions Club in 1937.

He did not win many prizes, but was proud of earning the gold medal granted by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1950, the year before he died.

Sloan is best known for his pictures of the "American Scene", pictures of everyday life in New York City. This subject matter was not considered proper for Art by the juries and critics at the beginning of the twentieth century. They thought this kind of genre picture was too realistic, or too much like illustration even though artists in France, Holland, and Spain had made pictures with the same kind of subjects. The art history books now refer to work done by Sloan and his friends as the "Ashcan School of Painting" which makes the reader think that these artists were interested in the grimy side of life. As a matter of fact, however, the pictures painted by Sloan and Glackens of New York City parks, restaurants, and country scenes are full of enthusiasm for the kind of happy healthy life they observed in the neighborhoods where they lived.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Historical Society is deeply grateful to Mrs. John Sloan and to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Grugan for raising the cultural level of our museum through their well organized special exhibits of Mr. Sloan's work along with that of other world-renown artists. These fine collections were seen and appreciated by thousands of viewers, mainly school children and art students.

### QUESTIONS FROM THE ARCHIVES:

1. Who was Affy Dumm?
2. Where were Safe Harbor Flouring Mills located?
3. When was Williamsport incorporated as a Borough?
4. Who was the first blacksmith in Williamsport?
5. What did George Rothrock manufacture?

ANSWERS: (Page 35)

### THE WILD LYCOMING - STREAM OF HISTORY

Tonight we focus our attention on a stream well known to all of us who live in Lycoming County, admired by travelers from near and far, enjoyed by those who love the great outdoors, and revered by those who know its history. This is Lycoming—the WILD LYCAUMICK—as the first white settlers came to know it. One could stop at any point along its course, from its origin near Grover to its confluence with the Susquehanna in Williamsport, and be in sight of enough of history to require an evening to relate. Rather we want to drift with the centuries and stop long enough along the way to become a part of the historical episodes that mark the Lycoming as a stream of history.

To find the true genesis of Lycoming one would probably need to retreat at least into the long-dead ages of the Pleistocene—the ice age. The last phase of the ice ages—the Wisconsin glaciers—is thought to have penetrated southward to the vicinity of Trout Run. Toward the close of this age, roughly 20,000 years ago, the whole eastern part of the country was covered by a huge sheet of ice, often thousands of feet thick. As the climate moderated the melted water assumed huge proportions, especially in the mountain valley of Lycoming. It cut huge gaps into the rock barriers to carve out the general contours as we know them today. In that time there was no life here. The melting ice left behind an undulating desert of moraines at the headwaters of Lycoming which can plainly be seen near Grover and Canton. This melting process may well have taken thousands of years, and in its wake the land was at last ready for the slow advance of nature as it always does to heal its own wounds. First appeared a huge tundra on which grew lush grass and moss, to be followed later by trees as the species spread their seeds ahead of them. Huge animals, now extinct, the mastodon, bison, probably horse, and other grazing animals moved into the rich area from the south and west. The sequence inevitably brought man into his first contact with the Lycoming.

The Lycoming, now rapidly growing into brush and trees, and with the stream drop-

ping to a more normal flow, became a migration route for game animals as they retreated southward in the long winter and headed northward in the spring even as the geese do today, but unlike the browsing deer which have learned to survive the year round. It was natural for the earliest man to follow the game on which he lived, and he followed it over one of the most direct routes in the east—the valley of the Lycoming. Evidence of this is rapidly coming to light. At the mouth of Grays Run is a long flat field. Here was an unmistakable site of the Paleo man, for here have been found at least two of his characteristic fluted spearpoints known as Clovis points. We know little about him for he had few permanent campsites and moved about with the game on which he subsisted. He was the hunter of bison and mammoth, and we put his appearance on the Lycoming at about 8,000 years B. C. Then for thousands of years the valley was again quiet until about 3500 B. C. when on this same field camped a much larger group of hunter-fisher-gatherer people known to us only as Lamoka, or Early Archaic man. These had by now become more stable and lived in what resembled a form of village, probably consisting of several family groups. They had a much better developed stone tool industry and left behind the well-known spearpoints and flat-backed knives of their culture. Where they came from and where they went must forever be lost in the mists of time.

Thus we have an antiquity for the She-shequin trail that takes the historical beginnings of Lycoming almost to the close of the Ice Age—a span of more than 12,000 years. Here lived a band of humans on the Grays Run plains a thousand years before Moses led the Hebrews to the promised land. They lived here at the time of the very beginnings of the first dynasty of Egypt.

Through the ages following Indian nomads camped often in the dark vale of Lycoming, but more often than not merely used the valley as a convenient north-south migration route even as we do today. Sometime during Middle and Late Woodland, times, when the Indian had progressed at

least to the point of limited agriculture and had learned the art of pottery making, a substantial settlement was made at Hepburnville that was sporadically occupied until colonial times. Here they settled on the rich bottomland on the west bank of the stream, and grew patches of corn, beans, squash and melons. More significantly for us, the squaws discovered a good source of clay to fashion some of the finest pottery in the area. These are known to archaeologists as the Clemson's Island people, and good examples of their pots are on display in our museum. A thousand years earlier an extensive village of the Late Archaic hunter-gatherer people was built on the terrace where Hepburnville school now stands. This village of typical round bark huts was scattered from that point to the confluence of Lycoming and Mill Creek. Many interesting stone artifacts have been found here as silent tribute to the skill of their makers. On the lower reaches of the stream where its waters mingle with the Susquehanna, the Transitional people, known for their soapstone vessels and large rhyolite spearpoints, settled in large numbers around 1500 B. C. The Susquehanna was their homeland and at probably no time before or since has the valley seen so extensive an occupation. But they, like the rest, faded from the scene to seal forever the truth of their going. They left no written record. What little we know must be adduced from the stone or other indestructible tools and pottery they left behind. But these tell us nothing about the people themselves, their work and their play, their joys and their sorrows, their culture and their origins, and the new generations that came to learn new customs and new ways. Yet a little while and the mixmaster of civilization and industry will scatter and destroy even the tools such as we have been privileged to find. Future generations will see only what we have had the foresight to preserve for them in our museum.

For ages the Lycoming lay quiet. The coming of the white man was inevitable of course and when the first white man set foot on the banks of the Lycoming it was in consort with and because of his Indian neighbor. There is no substantial evidence that any white traders had penetrated into the vale of Lycoming ahead of Conrad Weiser, whose accounts are well documented.

The time is now 1737 in the bleak cold of March. His companions were Chief Shikellamy, the Oneida, and several Indian guides. Shikellamy, whose hut stood near the present site of Milton, was strategically placed there by the Iroquois to act as an overseer of the Delawares, who in turn were allowed to remain on the Susquehanna only at the pleasure of the Iroquois. The occasion was a journey to Onondaga, where burned the great council fire of the Six Nations. Weiser had been sent there by the provincial authorities to keep open the lines of communication between the British and the powerful Iroquois.

Already the storms of war were forming between the French to the north and the British for control of the lucrative fur trade in the hitherlands of Pennsylvania. Control of that trade carried with it an infinitely greater prospect of gaining preemption rights for settlement among friendly Indians and eventual claim to the territory. Weiser, the Indian interpreter, was a vital link in this chess game. This, the first of his many trips over the Tulpehocken and Sheshequin trails, almost ended in disaster for Chief Shikellamy when he slipped on the smooth ice of the cliffs near Ralston. Weiser as well as others who travelled the lonely Lycoming route described in sheer superlatives the gloomy nature of the valley, hidden as it was in perpetual darkness under the giant pines and hemlocks and the laurel thickets along the path. The Indian trail was nothing more than that—a body width of open path among otherwise impenetrable misery.

After Weiser's original trip through the wild Lycoming, the Moravian missionaries, Spangenberg and Zeisberger, soon followed in the name of Christianity to cement further the relations between white and red.

In the French and Indian war that followed, the Lycoming valley had no part in the hostilities, but the Sheshequin played host to many missions of diplomacy. Over it shuttled the couriers to the Six Nations, whose tottering loyalty nevertheless remained with the British eventually to tip the scales in their favor and blunted forever the French claims to the territory that was to be Pennsylvania. No settlements had yet been made much above Fort Augusta at

Sunbury, and except for Madam Montour's village no vestige of white influence was yet found in this awesome wilderness.

It was the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768 that gave Thomas and Richard Penn the opportunity to purchase the portion of Pennsylvania whose one boundary was Burnetts Ridge and the Tiadaghton. All of us, I am sure, are acquainted with the confusion this sale caused. The Iroquois claimed the Lycoming was the Tiadaghton; the Penns understood it to be Pine Creek. The rolling hills between the two streams had always been a favorite hunting ground and the Iroquois were reluctant to lose it. The settlers who poured in after the French and Indian War squatted on this disputed land fully aware that they would receive no protection from the province. This, in time, led to the creation of the Fair Play System, a story we have time only to mention here.

With the coming of the Revolution and the complete loyalty of the Iroquois to the British cause, the Lycoming valley was to play once more a decisive role in the politics of colonial history. By now the Susquehanna bottomlands were peppered with the clearings of white settlers as far west as the Great Island and beyond. This frontier became the backdoor for invasion of the weaker part of the colony by war parties of British and Indians. Well directed by the British, the Senecas made good use of three main invasion routes: the Sinnemahoning, the Lycoming, and the North Branch. The stakes were high, for, if successful, they could lay waste the rich agricultural and manufacturing base of the Revolution.

Time does not permit any extensive account of the many episodes in which the Lycoming valley was involved. We shall look at only a few significant highlights.

After the Big Runaway, caused by the news of the brutal Wyoming massacre, a few settlers returned in August of 1778 to harvest what crops were not destroyed by the rampaging Indians. Col. Broadhead was placed in command of available forces with headquarters at Wallis's, later to become Fort Muncy. After Captain Walker built Fort Muncy, plans were laid to make at least a retaliatory raid into Indian terri-

tory. The Hartley expedition that was to follow hoped to destroy some of the Indian outposts that had played so devastating a part in the invasion of Lycoming Creek.

The expedition began on September 21, 1778, and followed the Sheshequin trail which was in no way adequate for a military expedition. Robert Covenhoven, a young colonial scout and hero, was to distinguish himself on this mission largely because of his intimate knowledge of the country he had come to know as a surveyor's helper. Colonel Hartley described the slow and arduous process of moving through the Lycoming valley in superlatives. He likened it to Hannibals crossing the Alps. The trail crossed and recrossed the Lycoming upwards of twenty times. Every foot of trail had to be cut to make possible the passage of men and equipment for a force of 200 men. They followed the Sheshequin eastward from Canton toward Tioga which was then hostile Indian country. The Indians were by now well aware of their approach and were preparing to meet them near Newtown near Elmira. Instead, Hartley moved on to Queen Esther's town which they destroyed. Several engagements were fought but few losses were suffered, mainly because the men were well acquainted with Indian warfare and were well equipped for it. This raid disrupted for a time the Indian mischief on the frontier, but it remained for the much larger Sullivan expedition finally to break the back of the Iroquois confederacy. Hartley returned by way of the North Branch, fighting a constant rearguard battle with trailing war parties.

The following year, in July 1779, the Lycoming was again to witness a major British and Indian raid. Led by the notorious Hiokato and the Tory Capt. McDonald, a force of British and Senecas numbering around 200 had assembled on the Lycoming near where Wheel Inn is now located above Ralston. Here was the rendezvous for a mission that had as its objective the destruction of the West Branch settlements, the subjugation of the points of defense, and finally the attack on Fort Augusta and the destruction of the supplies of the Sullivan expedition at Northumberland. But this time their advance was discovered. High

on a ridge overlooking the valley, our hero scout, Robert Covenhoven, did his work well. He made his way well in advance of the invading force to spread the alarm among the settlements in time to organize an orderly evacuation of the valley. This was known as the SECOND RUNAWAY. Fort Muncy was abandoned. Only Fort Freeland near Watsonstown did not heed the warning in time, and the frightful loss of life there is one of the sad episodes of the times. But for Covenhoven's timely warning, the loss of life on the West Branch could well be imagined. With the victory at Fort Freeland we witness one of the eccentricities of the Indian nature, for with their thirst for blood momentarily sated, they insisted on returning to their homes. Thus the advance to Fort Augusta was abandoned, but to the north Forts Muncy and Brady lay in ashes as did every settlers house in the valley.

Following the Revolution, the land rush was on, and with it a new chapter began for the Lycoming. The next fifty years saw the taming of the valley and the development of more peaceful pursuits. The Williamsons road is another saga that students of history delight in the telling. We will look at only the highlights.

When land speculation began after the war, the Genessee lands became the focus of attention. Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, sold an estate of over a million acres of the choicest lands on the Genessee to Charles Williamson, an agent for the Pultney estate of England, to be developed for emigrants. It seems strange that the British, lately the losers in the war, should now be the first to be allowed to invest their capital so freely here. In this they had the encouragement of some of the leading patriots of the Revolution. At any rate, in order to make colonization possible, a road had to be laid out through the virgin forests from the Susquehanna frontier to Painted Post. The building of the road is a long story, but it was a momentous undertaking for the times and on occasion almost ended in starvation and disaster. A man named Berczy was hired by Robert Morris to head the workmen composed of inexperienced Europeans recruited off the streets and from the jails of Hamburg Ger-

many. Work was begun in May, 1792. The crews started from the Loyalsock and generally followed the Sheshequin trail as far Trout Run, where it bore to the north. Progress was slow and Williamson, who turned out to be a better promoter than contractor, was in constant conflict with the man in charge of operations, William Berczy. Despite great difficulties with supplies and with men illfitted for life in the American wilderness, the road was finished in 1796. Its path could still be traced up Steam Valley Mountain to the point where it bore to the right of Route 15 over Laurel Ridge. From there it passed over the ridge to Liberty, where the block house was built, and then on to near Mansfield and Covington and on to Painted Post. While not a highway by modern standards, the road made possible an influx of emigrants that at least in part satisfied the original hopes of the promoters.

And now for a quick look at some of the early settlers that began the taming of the valley in the wake of the Williamson Road. One of the earliest was James Kyle who had cleared 30 acres of bottomland at Powys even ahead of Williamson. He also erected one of the first grist mills so far upstream. By 1815 one of the earliest sawmills was built on Clendenin Run to start the real beginning of lumbering in the area. Wood was naturally one of the most abundant and most needed raw materials available. Land had to be cleared, and in the process the huge native pines and hemlocks and oaks had to be disposed of. Soon mills sprang up all along the Lycoming, powered at first by water from the many tributary streams and later by steam.

A. M. Riley cleared a tract of land a short distance below Bodines before 1812, and Martha Clendenin settled on Clendenin Run about the same time. A. M. Slack may well have been the first squatter on Lycoming Creek, having settled there shortly after the Revolution at about the place where the Rollin Albert farm now stands. Slacks Run was named after him. The village of Bodinesville later grew up around this clearing. Robert Allen was one of the first settlers of Trout Run. A close friend of Aaron Burr, Mr. Allen mysteriously disappeared while on a trip with Burr and was

never heard from again. Another prominent settler of Trout Run was John Allen, father of Robert, who cleared a large tract of land near there. Henry Hews was another of these hardy adventurers who, together with his wife, Martha had participated in the original colony at Oregon Hill. Finding that region too wild and inhospitable, they moved to Trout Run where the Martha Hews tavern was to become a famous landmark in later years. Here was one of the most hardy and persevering women of the times, and during her 85 years of life she survived two husbands but never once hesitated to carry on the most rigorous work of the farm and sawmill and later the general store and tavern.

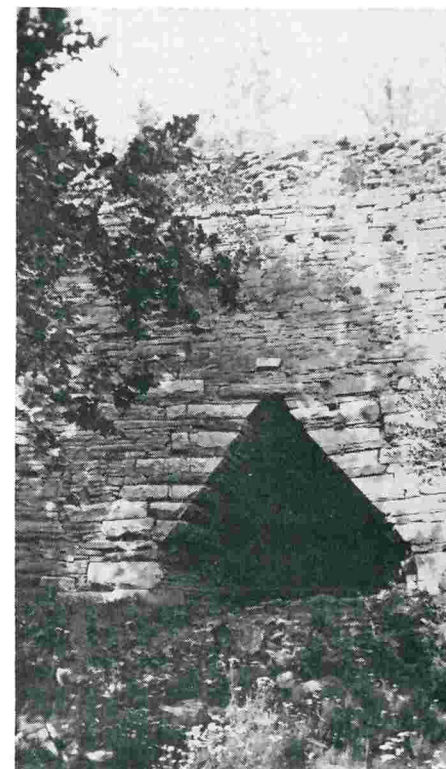
John Bodine, after whom Bodines was named, came to that place in 1838 and became a prominent man of his time. Bodines became a place of note and several industries were founded there. A large tannery was built by Robert Innes.

By 1835 a sawmill was also erected there as was a creamery and a hotel.

Ralston was named after Matthew Ralston, a Philadelphia businessman, who founded the town in expectations of making it into an industrial center. The railroad was laid out to that point in 1837 after the discovery of iron and coal in the adjacent mountains. It is to this development that we want to turn our attention briefly. As we have seen, the development of the valley was spurred by the discovery of its several natural resources that for a time promised to make this the industrial hub of the post-Revolutionary era. Two of these, coal and iron were to become major factors in the early growth of the Ralston. We shall look at these briefly in turn.

Iron ore associated with the coal measures of Red Run was discovered at an early date, but it remained for the New York Coal and Iron Company of Elmira to make the first serious efforts to manufacture pig iron in 1831. This was at the mouth of Frozen Run. Mr. Aston, of the New York Company, established a small furnace and thus founded the town of Ashtonville. Six years later a charcoal furnace was erected a short distance up Frozen Run using the ores from the Red Run mines. Since the ore was rather impure in its native state, it was allowed to

freeze over winter. This allowed the fire clay and ore to be separated manually—Thus the name Frozen Run. A rolling mill was also established a short distance below Frozen Run at Crescent near Marsh Hill. This mill used the iron pigs produced at the furnace. In 1847 the furnace was put out of action by a disastrous fire. The property was then bought by the Lycoming Iron Company which rebuilt the furnace at a cost of \$300,000. Whereas the original furnace was operated with charcoal, the new owners began experimenting with the use of an anthracite-bituminous mixture. This venture began in 1853, but it proved a failure and the furnace chilled. Some of the charges with the coal imbedded in the matrix can still be seen where they were dumped.



THE OLD FURNACE

By 1855 the railroad had been opened to Elmira, New York, thus improving transportation to major markets. A William Thompson of New York then operated the furnace for about a year and a half, but he too gave up the venture. In 1864 the firm

of Jervis Langdon of Elmira reopened the furnace. They brought in ores from the Bellefonte area to mix with the white ores of Red Run. The flood of 1865 disrupted operations, again causing that fatal phenomenon called chilling. Thus ended the iron industry at Astonville, by now a good sized village. It now became a ghost town and has since vanished from memory. Only the giant stone furnace remains to remind us of the days of iron mining in Lycoming county. By proper preservation methods this ruin could be preserved, for it is truly a giant and a memorable landmark of the region. In later years a so-called hermit (Mr. Gruber) used the protection of the huge stone structure as a home. Some of the people native to the area still remember him, and how in the spirit of charity they often supplied him with food. On one such visit the hermit's body was discovered where he died, and the ruins have been silent ever since.

A short distance above Ralston stands the ruins of another smelter at Cartersville. Like Astonville, it was built to use the Red Run ores. Like Astonville, it was less than a rousing success. Built in 1854 by a man named Carter, of Tamaqua, the furnace was not actually operated before Carter was killed while on a trip to Philadelphia. Twenty years later an attempt was made to operate the furnace with anthracite coal rather than with the local Red Run coal. About 500 tons of the ore were processed before the furnace was abandoned; and with it Cartersville, like Astonville, became a ghost town. Now the stack can still be seen a short distance above Ralston on the left across Lycoming Creek.

While iron production was something less than a bellringer, coal mining was infinitely more successful. It has continued sporadically until fairly recent years when strip mining on McIntyre mountain put an end to the more exposed veins.

Two villages, long since abandoned, were once thriving mining towns as a result of this venture. The town of McIntyre was built on top of McIntyre Mountain soon after the mines opened in 1870. Jervis Langdon, whom we mentioned earlier in connection with the Astonville project, really got mining underway on a large com-

mercial scale. He was successful in constructing a 2300 ft. plane to lower the coal from the mountain to the railroad below. A huge winch and a cable weighing ten tons, and operated by a 15 horsepower steam engine, were installed. Output of the McIntyre mines amounted to as much as 200,000 tons annually. This required a large labor force. The village of McIntyre, composed of typical miners' row houses, consisted of close to 300 homes, and also a store, church, school house, a public hall, and the many service shops common to villages of the times. Today a good road has been reopened to the site. One can still see the outlines of foundations, abandoned wells, and similar evidence of the town. A few apple trees, probably seeded from original stock, still persist. Nearby is the graveyard where rest some of the natives now long forgotten. Long uncared for, only the obelisks of tombstones with their humble epitaphs point upward through the mosses and grasses where nature is moving in to reclaim its own. McIntyre has its own perpetual care.

Across the Lycoming Valley the McIntyre coal basin was extensively worked for many years. Across the face of the mountain behind Ralston, on the site of the Sheshequin trail where chief Shikellemy almost lost his life in March of 1737 while in company with Weiser, a tramway was built to haul coal from the mines. The coal and iron ore used at Astonville and Cartersville was hauled on this bed. Robert and William Hutchinson of Montoursville, who lived for more than 20 years at Red Run described the town to me as they knew it. Their father came there before 1895. This village, like McIntyre, has passed from the scene, but in its time was an important mining town. (Coal mining then ranked with lumbering as a major industry of the county.) The town consisted of about 60 houses, a school house, and a store. A long plane was constructed into Ralston on which cars of coal, six at a time, were lowered to Ralston and the railroad. The Hutchinson's described a spectacular accident when the cable snapped, releasing the loaded cars on the steep plane which smashed into the engine house below, killing one man. The Ralston Coal Company gained control of the mines in 1912 and

ran them well past the World War I era. Like McIntyre, the finale of the Red Run mines came when strip mining in fairly recent years ended all operations. Red Run is no more.

We cannot close this story without at least a glance at the major tributaries of the Lycoming, which are so well known to all sportsmen and which in their time were involved in history of their own.

Rock Run has long been famous to those who love good trout fishing and hate rattlesnakes. It ranks as one of the truly wild regions of the county. Here one can see the forest in an almost primeval state in a rocky setting unmatched anywhere except in the Great Smokies. It is one of the idyllic trout streams of the East, and the surrounding mountains are famous for deer, bear, and turkey hunting. Just before crossing the first branch of Rock Run, you will see to your right a series of cairns, neat piles of stones, that remind one of some weird archaeological wonderland yet undeciphered. Thus Weigle Reed left his mark in the world.

It is true many men have done greater deeds in this world than "Weig", but few have left behind a more puzzling memorial. Rolin Albert of Bodines told me much of what I know of Weig, but that was enough to become thoroughly fascinated. Weig was at one time constable, but he seldom arrested anyone. He always managed to let the wrongdoer get away before anything so drastic as an arrest had to be made. Why the rock monuments? As far back as can be learned, it was the simplest way of disposing of the many stones that had to be gathered up to clear land for a garden. It was a rough way of clearing the backyard but then again he had lots of time. Weigle was a great friend of all fishermen, and most of them found time to stop for a chat at his cabin. Many a tale is still told in the Ralston area about Weig—a colorful character of the Rock Run scene of yesterday.

Pleasant Stream joins the Lycoming at Marsh Hill. The drive up Pleasant Stream, though not so rough as Rock Run, ranks with the most scenic of them all. Long famous as a trout stream, it is also well populated with summer homes. In the latter

days of lumbering, Pleasant Stream valley was a busy place. The whistle and puffing of the locomotives was a common sound as the S & NY trains labored their way up the grade to Masten. This vast area was timbered off by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company which had a large mill at Masten. From there the road snaked through the mountains, one spur going down Mill Creek to Hillsgrove. It also made connections with Laquin, but I am not sure of the exact route. Unlike Pine Creek where log drives were a common mode of getting logs to the mill, Pleasant Stream had no need for splash dams. Lumbering was more sophisticated and only finished lumber came out of these hills by railroad of course. In the 30's a CCC camp was located near Masten and the many groves of spruces near there are living memorials of those times. To bird lovers, these spruce groves attract species not ordinarily found here and thus help make that region an interesting place for nature lovers.

Gray's Run is another wild tributary of the Lycoming. Named after an early settler, Timothy Gray, the stream that bears his name was a busy place during the lumbering era. The town of Gray's Run was about six miles upstream where the very large Proctor Mill was located. A spur of the railroad led upstream, the bed of which can still be followed. A switchback railroad was constructed here to make possible the hauling of logs from the vast hinterlands and mountain reaches. As at Masten, in the depression a CCC camp was located on Gray's Run, the effects of which can still be seen in the groves of evergreen trees they planted.

In our ramblings tonight we have had mere glimpses of the great variety of activity that has characterized the Lycoming through the years. From the war cry of the savages as they descend for the kill to the shrill whistle of the Climax and Shay locomotives of the lumbering days, and now the roar and rumble of huge tractor trailers, sounds have always reflected man's mission in this wild valley. The traveler on Route 14 is aware only of the pleasant scenery that still captures the imagination of those who love things wild. He is unaware of what has gone on before, and only the preservation of its

folklore and its landmarks by those interested enough to care will prevent its thrill-packed history from falling into limbo. A new generation may not remember or care what has been so important to their elders. Like the dead that sleep in McIntyre Mountain there is no one left to mourn, and nature has come to reclaim its own. I hope the wild Lycoming will remain just that—

forever wild—for in that state it can make its greatest contribution. There are precious few places to turn where the fuss and clutter of civilization has not all but obscured the peaceful places of nature where man can turn to regain his perspective of life. Lycoming is forever one of my favorite spots.

## 1976 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Lycoming County Historical Society, as the official source for the preservation and dissemination of information on local history, has a definite responsibility for stimulating interest in this important year-long celebration.

We became involved when Mr. Joseph J. Kelley, Jr, Secretary of the Commonwealth under Governor Shaffer, requested through Mr. George Stearns an opportunity to meet with concerned citizens on the subject of making plans for the Bicentennial.

Accordingly, a luncheon meeting was arranged on Wednesday, November 18, 1970 at the Lycoming Hotel. Mr. Kelley was the guest speaker. The luncheon was attended by forty-two people representing the heads of various civic, historic, governmental, and cultural groups. It was attended by two members of our Board of Trustees and ten from our Board of Governors.

Mr. Kelley outlined the preliminary organization for the Bi-centennial which has its headquarters in Philadelphia. It is also being promoted by The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission in Harrisburg. He touched on some of the activities which have been started in other parts of the state. Of particular interest is the estimate of 50 to 64 million tourists who are expected to visit Philadelphia during 1976. We hope that many of these people, particularly those who have come some distances will spread out through the state and visit our area.

We have two sources of preliminary information on how Lycoming County can start preparations for 1976, even at this early date. One is a newspaper-type publi-

cation called "The Bicentennial Chronicle" which has been started in Harrisburg. Dr. S. K. Stevens, Director of the Historical and Museum Commission, is Chairman of its Editorial Advisory Board. Another is a comprehensive research report called "Resources Towards a Celebration of the American Experience" prepared at the University of Pennsylvania. This research draft was requested by the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation.

It is fairly obvious that, in addition to long-term planning by our museum, we should get started on preparing suitable publications and designating certain historic sites to be featured in the 1976 celebration. The Society's Board of Governors has suggested Mr. Paul G. Gilmore, Editor of the Sun-Gazette, as Chairman of a Bicentennial Publications Committee.

To date he has selected the following to serve on his committee: Dr. E. P. Bertin, President, Muncy Historical Society; Mrs. Perry G. Russell, Genealogist; Mr. Thomas T. Taber, author of various historical publications.

Dr. Loring B. Priest, Chairman of the History Department at Lycoming College; Mrs. Edith K. Wright, Social Studies Teacher and Junior Historian Chapter Advisor; Miss Gladys Tozier, Museum Archivist, and Regent-elect of the Lycoming Chapter of the D. A. R.

Suggestions from interested persons will be welcomed by this committee and the Historical Society.

## COURTHOUSES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

by Rik Hofmann

Lycoming County's first courtroom was a bar. Well, they called it a "public house" at the time, but the effect was the same.

After haggling nine years about carving a new county from the vast Northumberland, the General Assembly finally passed a bill and Gov. Mifflin signed Lycoming County into existence April 13, 1795.

On April 14, Mifflin gave John Kidd and Samuel Wallis authority to administer the oath to elected officers of the new county. He also made Kidd the county's first prothonotary, and the first clerk of quarter sessions, and the first clerk of orphan's court, AND the first clerk of oyer and terminer. Kidd held a number of other appointed offices which are too numerous to enumerate here. The result was he held just about every office there was to be had in the first months of Lycoming's history. (He was also elected first county treasurer.)

On April 15, 1795, Gov. Mifflin appointed Samuel Wallis, William Hepburn, John Adlum, and Dr. James Davidson first Associate judges. The inevitable Kidd swore them in.

All this brings us back to the original statement. Lycoming County's first courtroom was a bar. And the bar was in Jaysburg.

Kidd and the judges met in Jaysburg to make some sort of order for the neophyte county. They began by making William Hepburn the first president of the court and Thomas Caldwell's "public house" the temporary county seat.

Evidently the relationship between the court and Caldwell's Inn wasn't exactly a romance. No historical reason is given, but the court moved after one year.

It moved to another . . . "public house." The second home of Lycoming County justice was in a building owned by one Eleanor Winter. History places the building somewhere in the vicinity of West Fourth and Rose Streets.

After another year, in 1797, the court moved again, to Russell Inn. The bench held court behind the bar of Russell Inn, at East Third and Mulberry Street. Evidently the Russell Inn had more to offer than the two previous courts. The judges stayed there for two years.

The Russell Inn was the first building erected in Williamsport. The double-log two-story building stood until 1871, when it was destroyed by fire.

After the two years at Russell Inn the court moved again. Care to guess? Right! Another tavern. It moved to the Rising Sun Inn. That was in 1799.

The turn of the century seemed to do something for the court's meandering. In 1800 the court moved to a small log building in the southwest corner of what is now courthouse square. Only once more did the court move; that was four years later, and then only a few yards into the first permanent court building.

The history of the land on which the building stood, and where the new courthouse stands, is somewhat unique. According to Deed Book A, page 540, on Oct. 12, 1799, William Ross conveyed four lots to the commissioners of Lycoming County. The land was for "courthouse, gaol and offices". What makes the land transfer so remarkable is that Ross sold the land for one cent. The lots included the area bounded by "William Street, Third Street, Tom Alley and Pine Alley".

What made the transaction a bit more interesting is that the commissioners paid Ross for clearing the land.

Few facts are available concerning the original courthouse. It is known that it was made of brick, stone, hair plaster, and cost \$20,000 to build. It may also be noted that five years of holding sessions in an alcoholic atmosphere might have had an effect on the buildings construction.

Notations in court records include several odd ones, such as: "\$6.00 Paid for 9 gallons

of whiskey at raising courthouse and offices."

The courthouse had a bell tower. A "figure" was placed on top of the tower as a weather vane. The original bell didn't last long. It was considered, well, puny. The permanent bell, weighing between 500 and 600 pounds, was brought to Williamsport by Gen. John Burrows by horse and wagon. The bell and figure cost \$440.20.

Both pieces were replaced in the second building, known to us as the old courthouse. The bell, set in the original courthouse tower, and the figure, placed on top of the tower in 1804, can be seen today on the western side of the new courthouse building.

But I digress.

All went well with the courts until 1850. At that time certain rumblings were heard in the valley concerning the need for a new courthouse. It was said that the building was too small and should be torn down to make room for a new one. The plan was met with strong opposition. Since history repeated itself recently, I won't bother with a drawn-out discussion of what transpired in the 1850's.

## TIME CAPSULE FOR NEW COURTHOUSE

A committee, headed by Dr. Loring Priest from the Board of Governors, has been working with the County Commissioners to select and acquire material to place in a hermetically sealed stainless steel box which will be built into the "cornerstone" of the new courthouse. Various documents, lists, pictures, symbols, maps, brochures, and writings will depict some of Lycoming County's history and many phases of present-day life in this area. Emphasis will be placed on the political life of Lycoming County and the new building itself.

In 1859 a former sheriff, D. S. Rissel, won the contract to build a new courthouse. Samuel Sloan, of Philadelphia, designed it.

Work began in the spring of 1860. Rissel kept up such a pace that offices were ready for the March session in 1861. Until the building was finished the court was relegated to Doebler's Hall, below the post office.

The new building cost \$41,030. As mentioned above, the original bell and weather vane took their proper places

The building of 1861 measured 116 feet long by 60 feet wide at the base. Projecting corners stretched dimensions to 122 feet by 66 feet. The first floor housed rooms for all county officers and a chamber for the president of the court. The second floor contained the main courtroom, with a high ornate ceiling; a room for the U. S. Circuit court; jury rooms; and rooms for institutes held by city teachers.

That building stood for more than 100 years. History repeated itself in the 1960's, but progress won again.

The history of Lycoming County's courts, from rough-hewn pine bar rooms to the present modern facility, continues.

The subjects covered will include the 1895 Centennial Celebration, dedication of the new courthouse, the two previous courthouses, county prison, Lysock View, present and projected highways, housing and Industrial Park; county budget, industrial and agricultural statistics; educational, religious, and recreational facilities; design for county flag; new judicial districts; county officials and their functions; Little League Baseball; communications media, transportation, flood experience, library and museum facilities.

## THE SIPE POTTERY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

by Mildred Veley Hardcastle

From *The Antiques Journal*, April, 1968

The oldest pottery in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, was founded by William Sipe in 1865. He had learned the pottery business from his father, Philip Sipe, who lived in York County, where William was born in 1826. At present there is no information available on the potting of his father, Philip.

The William Sipe family history is taken from the History of Lycoming County and from information provided by the descendants, Frank O., grandson of William, and William Boyd Sipe, Jr., great grandson.

The sons of William were Luther R., born in York County in 1854 who married Maria Wolston of Philadelphia and had three children: Mabel, Louise and Reba; and Oscar W. also born in York County in 1857, who married Martha Hagenbaugh and had two sons: Lewis H. and William Boyd. Oscar's first wife died and he later married Mollie Lilley of Black Hole Valley or Muncy Station, Pa. They had four children, one being Frank O., now living in Williamsport. The eldest son of William Boyd Sipe, named after him, is William Boyd Sipe, Jr., now living in Montoursville, just a few miles from Williamsport.

Both Mr. Frank O. and Mr. William Boyd Sipe, Jr., have been very helpful in providing information. They report that they each have some of the pottery, but that they know of no catalogs or record of the firm.

When William Sipe moved to Williamsport in 1865, he joined with a Mr. Nichols in starting a pottery in the 500 block on East Third St. They later moved to a site between Pine and Market Streets, south of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, which later became the Market Street Station, and is now a parking lot. (The 1875-6 Williamsport City Directory gives this location as their address.) Not much is known about this earliest pottery except that at least some of the pieces were marked, as the writer has a narrow-based stoneware jug marked "SIPE, NICHOLS & CO." This firm was disbanded in about two years, and in 1887 (according to the City Directory of that

year) William Sipe and his two sons, Luther and Oscar, formed the Sipe & Sons Pottery at 1028 West Fourth Street, an area that was then only farms and woods.

At first they manufactured redware exclusively, supplying the country over a hundred-mile radius since they were the first in Lycoming County to make this popular product. Like so much of the early Pennsylvania redware these pieces probably were not marked.

Later they added stoneware which is marked "SIPE & SONS, WMSPORT, PA." on the examples known. They made spittoons, all sized jugs, floral vases, ice water crocks in five-gallon size with a place at the bottom for a wooden spigot, milk crocks. Some vases three feet high were made for use on mantels; crocks were made with handles on the side and had floral designs.

The pottery wheels, three in the beginning, were operated by a horse and were on the ground floor, while the hired girls on the floor above formed the pottery and painted the design before it was placed in the kilns. The wares were at first all marketed by horse-drawn wagons over the hundred-mile area. Mr. Frank O. Sipe remembers stories his father, Oscar, told of making these deliveries, especially over a plank road to Larry's Creek.

Later William Sipe had the railroad put a siding in to make shipments by rail. As the pottery business diminished, they became extensive dealers in terra cotta and sewer pipe.

Most of the clay was of local origin, although Mr. William B. Sipe, Jr., reports that the firm went out of business in the early 1900's because the place from which they bought their material in New York State ran out of it and they were unable to find another source.

An advertisement in the Williamsport Directory for 1891 shows that the major part of the business must have been sewer pipe and land drain tile, but there is mention of a full line of stoneware. The last listing for Sipe & Sons in the Directory was in 1893.

## RACHEL SILVERTHORN

From Stories of West Branch Valley

by Katharine W. Bennet

Many heroic women feature the frontier life of the state, but none excel in sheer bravery Rachel Silverthorn, of the West Branch. Mollie Pitcher operated a cannon at the battle of Monmouth, in place of her wounded husband, and Margaret Corbin, another Pennsylvanian, filled the place of her husband who had been killed at the siege of Fort Washington. But Rachel Silverthorn emulated Paul Revere, who rode to save the army supplies at Lexington, and Caesar Rodney who rode to save the Declaration of Independence. Rachel's ride was to save her unsuspecting neighbors who lived along the half beaten trail that followed Muncy Creek.

The Silverthorns were early settlers in Muncy township. Even after Indian troubles depopulated the valley during the Big Runaway (1778) this pioneer family made an early return, erected a temporary shelter on the charred remains of their log cabin and made an effort to harvest their ripening grain fields.

Simultaneously with the return of the first hardy settlers, troops were sent to the valley for their protection and the rebuilding of Fort Muncy. But a detachment from the Continental army could not protect the isolated plantations from the skulking foe that lurked in the darkened recesses of the forest. As soon as the fort was under roof, the pioneer families were housed in the stronghold while the men went forward every day under the protection of troops to save if possible their much needed harvest.

The Silverthorns were in the fort on that foggy eighth of August when the party of fourteen cradlers and reapers under an escort of militia and Continental soldiers left before daybreak for the rye field of that "unhappy man, Peter Smith", at Loyalsock, now a portion of the Harris farm bordering the Williamsport - Montoursville road. Before the sun penetrated the fog a marauding party, that had been lying concealed in a clump of trees that today sur-

round the Harris cabin, charged into the reapers and the gallant Captain James Brady was shot, wounded with a spear, and tomahawked. With the exception of old John Van Ness, the cook, the soldiers and reapers fled. The old man cared for the wounded captain until he could be moved by canoe to Northumberland where his mother had gone for safety, and there he died five days later.

The harvesting party that had fled so ignominiously at the first approach of danger reached Fort Muncy about 5 o'clock in the afternoon and reported the disastrous happening. It was no ordinary marauding party, they reported. It was thought that the great Chief Bald Eagle was at the head of the band. Probably a second incursion of the valley, such as had caused the Big Runaway of a few weeks before, was imminent.

Captain John Brady, father of the unfortunate young captain, was at the fort. He had been sent home from the Continental army by General Washington for the purpose of helping Colonel Hartley protect the frontier. Brave soldier that he was, he controlled his own anxiety and grief and thought of the safety of other harvesting bands that had gone from the fort that morning. He had the call to arms sounded and the little garrison was mustered on the parade ground in front of the fort.

In a few hurried sentences the events of the morning were told and the inevitable fate of the other harvesting parties that had gone up Muncy Creek would likely be the same if not notified at once. The favorite horse of the captain was saddled and brought to the front and the question asked, "Who will volunteer to carry the news of danger to our friends?" No one stepped forward. "Take my horse, she is the fastest in the country and can outrun any Indian pony; you can notify the remotest settler and she will have you back before the sun hides behind the Bald Eagle. But none of the terror-stricken soldiers stepped from

the ranks. "This very night the wily varmints may creep up and when the first gleam of light shines over Muncy Hills the scalping knife and tomahawk will again be flourished over their defenseless heads." "Who, thundered the grief-stricken Brady, "will go on this errand of mercy?"

"I, Captain, I will tell them of their danger," said a gentle voice on his right, "I know the trails full well; I can make the circuit of the Gortners, John Alwood, the Shaners, David Aspen and the Robbs." And suiting the action to the word, Rachel Silverthorn sprang to the saddle and before the soldiers

had time to recover from their astonishment and chagrin was flying with the speed of the wind toward the nearest cabin on the creek.

Her path led over the land now occupied by Hughesville and a short distance on the road to Picture Rocks. Her timely warning was heeded, for under the cover of the dark night that followed every exposed settler was safely housed in the fort. As for the brave Rachel, her return from the perilous mission was made as the captain predicted, before the last rays of the sun vanished behind the Bald Eagle.

Reprint from *THE WELLSBORO AGITATOR*, April, 1890

## TWO STURDY PIONEERS

*How Men Hewed Homes Out of the Wilderness in the Early Days of Tioga County*

To the Editor of the *AGITATOR*.

Nauvoo, April 17, 1890.—The late Frederick Hyler, notice of whose death was published a short time ago, came from the Kingdom of Wirtemberg in 1820, and finally settled in Liberty township in 1824. Here at the age of nine years he assisted his father in making their first clearing on Brier Hill. From this time forward to the years of his early manhood, young Hyler went about the burning log-heaps from Spring until Fall barefooted; and if he happened to step into the fire, he quickly jumped out again. The cows browsed far into the unbroken forest, and the barefooted boy had to hunt them up over stones and patches of stinging nettles.

For four years the Hylers had no team. They did all of their clearing at first by hand and put all their grain in the ground with the hoe. Fred and his oldest sister had to hoe in all the grain, and they raised larger crops than most farmers do nowadays in this neighborhood with horses and improved machinery. They carried their sheaves together, stacked them, and threshed them out of doors on a small floor made of hewed plank. Their first live stock consisted of one cow. The posterity of this cow in due time furnished them with a team of oxen

and a good showing of younger cows and cattle. This is the history of the Hyler family in Liberty township up to 1840.

In that year Frederick Hyler and John Linck bought 160 acres of land near Nauvoo, in Morris township. They each paid \$150, which scraped the bottom of their combined purses. Here again these two sturdy pioneers commenced a new clearing in the Spring, and in the Fall they sowed seven bushels of wheat and rye. All the work was done by hand except three days dragging with a borrowed team of oxen. Here they were in the wilderness with no neighbors, no road, no money, no cook, and nothing to cook but potatoes which they had raised themselves, having planted the seed in the yet uncleared land of their new home.

In the Fall of 1840 Mr. Hyler was married to Miss Mary F. Linck, sister of John Linck. The brothers-in-law continued in partnership until 1843; and then, having made two home plots, they divided the property one morning before breakfast by drawing cuts. Mr. Hyler receiving for his portion the original clearing and log house.

About six months after Mr. Hyler was



married, Mr. John Linck married Catharine Hyler, Frederick's sister, and the two families lived in the log house, measuring 18 by 20, for three years. At the end of this time they had two children each. They then erected a house of about the same size for the use of Mr. Linck on his lot, and he moved over to his own farm.

Mr. Hyler continued to clear land and acquire property until he became one of the successful farmers of the valley. He raised a large family of worthy children.

Frederick Hyler was one of nature's noblemen. Kind, generous, slow to anger, without an enemy in the world, he laid down his burden at the ripe age of seventy five years, surrounded by his family and scores of sympathizing friends.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was contributed by Mr. Francis Maneval. He with some help, dismantled this 1840 cabin and brought it into the Museum for future use in an exhibit.

## BATTERY "D", 1914 TO 1919

When the State met the requirements of the War Department in organizing more artillery and cavalry, it was done by breaking up Infantry Regiments and transferring them to the Artillery and Cavalry arms, the three old batteries being the nucleus for the First Pennsylvania Field Artillery. Companies B and I of the Twelfth Infantry were by General Order No. 19, A. G. O., June 8, 1914, combined into one battery and given the designation of Battery D, First Pennsylvania Field Artillery with Clarence L. Kiess, captain; John D. Andrews, first lieutenant; and Norman R. Hill, second lieutenant.

When the call came for troops on the Mexican border, it was mustered into United States service, July 5, 1916, with William B. Reilly, captain; Garrett Cochran, first lieutenant; John H. Ball, second lieutenant. It left that night for the Mexican border, arriving at El Paso, Texas, July 11. It remained on the border until November 14 when it left El Paso for Williamsport, arriving November 20, and being mustered out of United States service December 1.

The regiment was again mustered into United States service and mobilized at Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, July 15, 1917, where its designation was changed to 107th Field Artillery. It sailed on May 18, 1918, and reached Havre, France, on June 3, 1918, via Liverpool and Southampton. It served in France and Belgium until the armistice, Battery D serving with distinction in all engagements with the 107th.

Battery D lost one man killed in action, Private Raymond J. Kenney, and one officer, Lieutenant Garrett Cochran, who died from disease on shipboard on his way home to rejoin his battery which had not yet sailed.

It sailed for home May 1, 1919 and landed in New York May 9. It was mustered out of United States service May 16, 1919, at Camp Dix.

The 53rd Artillery Brigade, of which the 107th Field Artillery was a part, was the only American artillery to fight in Belgium.

Lieutenant Walter P. King, in his history of the 107th Field Artillery, which was edited by Lt. Col. Albert V. Crookston before being published, says of Battery DD (in writing of the engagement in October, 1918): "Battery D was the furthest advanced of any unit of the 107th Field Artillery, being designated as the accompanying battery in close support of the Infantry. By October it had reached the very edge of the town of Apremont and its guns were placed on the crest of a precipitous hill near the town. To grasp the importance of the work accomplished by Battery D on October 7 it is necessary to bear in mind the position of Apremont was in advance of the hill called by the French Le Chene Tondeu, or as it is recorded in military history, Hill 245. This hill was held by the Germans. Then natural defenses of this hill or ridge were so strong that it had been found impossible to dislodge the enemy and

the Infantry passed it on the right, the battery following, thus leaving the Germans in possession of this important bulwark.

"On October 7 the battery, at a range of only 1,300 yards, and firing to the rear toward the left flank, maintained a fire of such intensity and duration that the enemy was obliged to abandon the defense of Le Chene Tondeu, allowing the infantry to straighten its lines and continue the ad-

vance. From the observation post in a gravel pit could be seen the Germans as they emerged from their dugouts. They were alarmed and bewildered. They had not thought that American artillery would dare advance so far; they did not know at first where the fire was coming from. Those who survived could be seen scurrying back in retreat."

## WHEN NEWBERRY BURNED

From Stories of West Branch Valley

By Katharine W. Bennett

Betsy Reynolds was troubled as she padded around her log cabin in Newberry on a bright May morning in 1816. This was her day for baking ginger cakes, and the entire village which straggled along Arch Street knew that later in the day two dozen of this delectable confection could be purchased for five cents or its equivalent.

The pioneer housewives were not given to buying food stuffs — but they made an exception in the case of Betsy's cakes. She was famous throughout the little community for her skill in this especial line, and being thrifty turned it to good account.

On this day a funeral was being held in the village and Betsy well knew it would be attended by every family in the little settlement and the surrounding countryside. A funeral was regarded not only as an opportunity for an expression of neighborly sympathy, but it also implied eating and drinking and social intercourse. Betsy did not want to miss this entertainment, but was too frugal to postpone baking her cakes. Finally she decided to mix her batch of cookies and leave the baking in charge of her half-grown daughter, Mollie.

In due time, Betsy, attired in her best raiment, joined the large concourse of friends who assembled in the cabin of their departed neighbor. After they listened to a several hours' discourse by the local preacher they proceeded to the old graveyard down at the present Fourth and Cemetery Streets,

now occupied by Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church.

At home Mollie felt quite proud of being left in charge of the baking. She heated the huge bake oven in the backyard with red hot coals, and after this was properly done withdrew the coals and put in the cakes. When they had baked to a rich, russet brown, she took them out and gaily swabbed the oven with an old splint broom. Then she stood the broom against the barn and departed for the house with her baking. No doubt she gave a sigh of relief at the thought that her arduous task was done. She was blissfully unaware that in the depths of the broom was smoldering a red hot coal that would soon ignite both the broom and barn against which it stood.

Down at the cemetery the mourners noticed a thin spiral smoke ascending from the direction of Newberry. The smoke increased in volume, then suddenly a tongue of flame pierced the sky. The funeral party rushed pell-mell in the direction of the little town, each settler anxious for the safety of his own primitive home with its crude but precious furnishings.

It was a windy day, and by the time the settlers reached the place every house on the one street of the village was in flames, including the old log church of the Presbyterians. John Crothers chanced to think of the Bible in which were recorded the births and marriages of the community, and rushed

amid the falling embers and secured it. Every building in the village was soon reduced to ashes with the exception of the Hartman and McBride homes which were isolated from the others.

The old church which burned was for many years the only house of worship within a radius of fifty miles. It was built about 1795, or earlier, and in it worshipped such early pioneers as Judge Hepburn, William and Andrew Culbertson, James Cummings, and John McMeen. It was a quaint structure, stood on the bank of the run, had galleries at each end which were reached by flights of rough stairs from the outside. Its pulpit was of the high English, or wine-glass type, with a sounding board suspended over it, the lower surface of which was decorated with a huge star. There was no heating apparatus in the building — neither chimney, fireplace, nor stove. Its pews were of the old-fashioned high box type, in which many a pioneer child, benumbed with cold and wearied

with the long discourse, found welcome oblivion in sleep.

After this church burned the congregation met in a grove on Lycoming Creek until a new church could be built. The new structure was of stone, of sixty by sixty-six feet, with high boxed pulpit and high, straight-backed pews. According to tradition it was a cold, uncomfortable, forbidding place, doubtless a fitting background for the austere convictions of the old blue stockings who worshipped there.

Newberry was rebuilt, this time along several streets. History does not record what happened to Betsy Reynolds. It is quite likely that she, too, rebuilt her cabin and continued her business in ginger cakes. Her daughter Mollie grew up in the village, and married a Mr. Ellis. She lived for a time in Jaysburg, but when Mr. Dodge, a New York capitalist, purchased property on which to erect his mills she sold out and moved elsewhere.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME "NIPPENOSE" — AN OLD TRADITION

Antes Creek takes its name from Colonel Henry Antes, one of the earlier settlers, who built a stockade—fort near the mouth of the stream in 1776. As for the name "Nippenose", there is a conflict as to its origin. Some of the early settlers claim that an old Indian named Nippency once dwelt in the valley, from whom the present name is derived.

There is a tradition also that an Indian trapper once located himself near the mouth of the creek one winter; and having secured a jug of whiskey one cold day, imbibed large quantities. Lying down in a state of stupor, he froze his nose so badly that a portion of it came off. From this oc-

currence it is alleged, the Indians in speaking of the place afterwards always called it "Nip Nose". Whether this is true or not cannot be determined with accuracy, but it must be conceded that the transition is a suggestive one at least, and is as entitled to belief, perhaps, as many others. In the course of time, "Nip Nose" gradually drifted into the title of Nippenose. Whether it came from old Nippency himself, or the fact that Jack Frost nipped the end of an Indians nose while the old redskin was snoozing away under the effects of an overdose of "fire water", matters little at the present day, and we accept the tradition.

Carlton E. Fink, Sr.

## THE LAST OF THE PASSENGER PIGEONS

### *A Wildlife Tragedy*

On Dec. 3, 1918, Mr. Charles H. Eldon wrote a letter to Col Shoemaker, and added the following postscript:

"As to the Passenger Pigeon now in my collection this bird was shot October 5, 1890, by Mr. Jasper H. Fincher, two miles north of the town of Linden, Pa., in a woods through which the Queneshaque Creek flows. Mr. Fincher and a company of friends were picnicing there, when he saw a bird fly up from the ground and light on a tree. He shot the

bird and was surprised when informed it was a wild pigeon—he having never seen one before or since. I mounted the bird promptly upon its receipt, for Mr. DeLoss Mahaffey, who left it in my care. A few years ago, I purchased the bird from Mr. Mahaffey. I regard the bird as one of my choice possessions.' (From *The Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania* by John C. French P. 222)

This is the passenger pigeon on display in our museum.



In the past on Christmas Eve Philadelphians went from house to house presenting a short play which was a survival of the British tradition of mumming — the folk plays known in Elizabethan times. The old English play of St. George and the Dragon was still performed in Philadelphia about 1830, though St. George had become George Washington and the dragon

Beelzebub. The latter entered the house, like his English antecedent, with a stiff rhyme:

"Here comes I, old Beelzebub,  
On my shoulder I carry a club,  
In my hand a dripping pan.  
Don't you think I'm a jolly old man?"



WHAT IS A "HERDIC"? A "herdic" is a small horse-drawn vehicle having two or four wheels, side seats, and an entrance at the back. It was invented by Peter Herdic (1824-1888), an American carriage-maker.



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 18

1. Affy Dumm was the first child born at the old Russell Inn.
2. In Watson Township. E. H. Russell, Prop.
3. In 1806, by action of the General Assembly.
4. The first blacksmith in the borough was Peter Vanderbelt, of N.Y., who served the pioneers with work in this line previous to the organization of the county. His shop stood on the south side of Third Street, near Academy. His son, Peter, carried on the business at the same place after his father's death.
5. He made and sold saddles, harness, trunks, valises, traveling bags, horse blankets, fly nets, whips. His residence and sales room was at 39 E. 3rd St.

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