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OF THE
Lycoming County Historical Society

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FALL
1978

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of the
LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GUEST EDITOR: In an effort to reach out and tap the wealth of information of our membership, we have asked one of our members, Everett Rubendall, to be the guest editor for this issue of the Journal. Many of our members realize that Ev has gathered and presented historical information over Radio Station WRAK for more than twenty years. We thank him for permitting us to use some of this material for our Journal.

COVER PICTURE: Peter Herdic's Minnequa Springs Hotel located at Canton, Pa. Please note, to the left of the hotel, the gazebo which covers the spring. This is not the original hotel building, but the replacement after the fire.

MEETINGS, 1978-1979
LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 16, 1978, 2:00 p.m.

A memorial meeting at the Dunkard Church, Bloomingrove.

October 19, 1978, 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Richard L. Mix will speak on the subject, "From the Forks to the Forest, the Story of the West Branch Canal."

November 16, 1978, 8:00 p.m.

Program to be announced later.

December 14, 1978, 8:00 p.m.

Dr. June E. Baskin will speak on the subject, "Madonna in Art."

January 18, 1979, 8:00 p.m.

Mr. William Parker and Mr. Andrew Grugan will discuss recent developments in local genealogy.

February 15, 1979, 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Andrew Grugan will present a biographical sketch of Col. Henry Shoemaker.

March 15, 1979, 8:00 p.m.

Program to be announced later.

April 18, 1979, 6:30 p.m.

Dinner meeting at Eldred Township Fire Hall, Warrensville. The Williamsport Junior Music Club, under the direction of Miss Doris Heller, will present a program of local music. A short annual business meeting will be held.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

October 1, 1978

Fellow Members:

In recent months our Society participated in two historical observances. On June 10 the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Plum Thicket Massacre was commemorated with a program in Calvary United Methodist Church on the site of the event. The other observance was the sesquicentennial celebration of the first Dunkard Meeting House in the United States at Bloomingrove. Our part in the final week of this anniversary took place on Saturday afternoon, September 16.

Planning has begun for a year-long celebration of the 75th Anniversary of our Society which will occur in 1982. This event may seem far in the future, but the years seem to pass exceedingly fast, and we hope to accomplish much good for the Society to celebrate in that year.

Perhaps the most important objective is to put our Society on a firm economic base. To do this we need to increase our endowment so that the income from this fund will produce a greater portion of our annual budget. Another means is to increase the total membership and to get more persons to change from individual membership (\$5.00) or family membership (\$8.00) to sustaining membership (\$25.00).

Many of you will be asked to work actively on committees. We hope you will volunteer to help in all the ways you can to make 1982 a year of celebration. But we cannot depend on volunteers alone. We expect to contact all who do not volunteer. So, when you are asked to assist in any particular way, we hope you will say, "Yes, I am glad to help!"

On the preceding page of the Journal you will find listed the programs for membership meetings for the coming year. We hope you will attend as many as possible.

Talk to family, friends, and neighbors about the Society and Museum. Better yet, bring them and out-of-town friends to see the exhibits. We can be proud of our organization and facility. Andy Grugan and our staff are among the most competent, finest, and most dedicated in the land. There is always something novel, interesting, and educational on display.

The third annual meeting of the North Central Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held in the Northumberland County Court House in Sunbury on Saturday, November 18. An interesting program including tours of the historic places is planned. All members are welcome. Why not join us. Further details will be included in our monthly newsletter.

I hope to greet you at meetings of the Society.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Smink, *President*
Lycoming County Historical
Society

MINNEQUA--A BRILLIANT MARK IN CANTON'S ROMANTIC PAST

The following historical sketch on Minnequa was given by Mrs. Leon J. Keagle at a 1948 meeting of the Bradford County Historical Society held in Canton.

There have been many legends concerning Minnequa, some of them popularized in verse published by the author, Peter MacKellar. Of these, the two which have gained the most favor are the one of Minnequa, the chieftain's beautiful daughter who was "sick unto death," but made a miraculous recovery when brought to drink the water of the magically healing spring, and the other of the "Giant of Minnequa." This giant was supposed to have come marching over the hills centuries ago, clad in satin with lace ruffles. He drank from the spring, drank again, and soon was making a continuous performance of imbibing the water, with his many servants carrying it to him. He grew prodigiously, split his fine clothes, and eventually became a giant, all due to the magic water. At his death, he was so large it was impossible to bury him, so his followers laid him on the ground somewhat back from the spring and heaped dirt over him. It took so much dirt that eventually the hill upon which Rockgirt and other cottages stand was formed as the giant's grave.

So much for the legends. For many years after Canton and Alba were settled the site of Minnequa was woods and a little partly cleared farm land. Not much is known about it until two brothers named Palmer, both lieutenants in the Civil War, returned home to Alba at the close of that conflict. In 1866, they built a log house a short distance north of the open spring and started to cut wood to fill a contract they had with the Northern Central Railroad, requiring them to furnish fuel for the wood burning engines then in use on that division. They and their families lived for a time in the log house.

At about this time James Reynolds

established a carriage shop at Alba which soon expanded into a big business employing many mechanics, and Alba became almost a "boom town." In this carriage shop, the Herdic coach was built, which coach was first used in Washington, and later in other cities. It was horse drawn of course, but in its way was a forerunner of the modern taxi cab.

Evidently while Peter Herdic was in Alba in the interests of his Herdic coach, someone, presumably Luther Andress, introduced him to the Minnequa waters as a cure for rheumatism, from which he was suffering. The mineral and medicinal properties of the spring had just been established, and as the "cure" seemed to help Mr. Herdic, he immediately had visions of a great health resort hotel rivaling Saratoga Springs and other popular spas of the day.

With Peter Herdic, a vision seen was a plan to follow, so by 1869 he had acquired the Spring, together with many acres of adjoining land, had built a hotel and was ready for business.

Mr. Herdic had married Encie Maynard, daughter of Judge Maynard, of Williamsport, for his second wife, and thus the judge acted as Peter's legal and political advisor and added dignity and social poise to balance his son-in-law's cash and flair for publicity. In 1870 Judge Maynard bought a 60 acre tract at Minnequa, and erected a very fine cottage, which continued to be occupied by his descendants until sold to Dr. Smith of Pittsburgh a few years ago.

Though a man of little or no education, Mr. Herdic had great vision and imagination, and was second only to the great Barnum in promotional ability. He had many friends in high places, and

as the fame of his hotel grew, the circle from which the guests were drawn widened, and by 1879 the hotel buildings had been enlarged to accommodate 600 guests comfortably, together with the personal servants many brought with them. These guests came from Williamsport, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore. Minnequa was a regular stop on the railroad, and a station, telegraph office, post office and news-room were part of the hotel.

One of the first and most important bits of Peter's promotional work was to interest the famous actors, E. L. Davenport, Frank Mayo and the Rankins, in the healing and youth-giving properties of his famous spring. They came in the early 70s and enjoyed their stay among the hills so much that they returned each year until 1874 when Mr. Davenport bought a home on upper Troy Street and named it "Lily Villa" in honor of his daughter. His son still owns this property, though for many years it has been known as "Davenport Villa." About this same time Mr. Mayo bought the adjoining property, which Francis Elliott was building and had the house finished according to his own ideas. A couple of years later Miss Fannie Davenport bought Elliott's third house known as "Hillside" and used it as a summer home until her death. In case we residents of Canton are inclined to feel smug and superior now, let me give you an extract from an interview Miss Davenport gave a Los Angeles Times reporter in October, 1889, showing her opinion of Cantonians of that time: "One finds such places as Canton only in the heart of an agricultural region. The people are quaint, crude, untravelled, but not uninteresting to a student of the species. They regard my home with unbounded wonder and spend hours looking up at its gables, chimneys and towers, for it is a rambling old place with wide corridors, roomy recesses, stately chambers and an air of departed distinction about it." All this about a remodelled, overgrown farmhouse, built by a local contractor.

As early as 1872, Herdic conceived the idea of adding the western half of Bradford to the eastern half of Tioga,

and forming a new county to be known as Minnequa County with Minnequa as the county seat. This was fought bitterly by Towanda and Troy, as well as by many Canton men, who thought the taxation would be excessive. Peter's influence in Harrisburg was great, and he was so sure of winning that he built a second large building at Minnequa to be used as a courthouse and county office building. This building stood about 500 yards farther up the R. R. and on the opposite side of the track. It was built of brick, five stories high next to the R. R. and three on the side near the road. This building was not completed at the time the new county was denied existence by a negative majority of only one vote in the legislature, but was completed later after the first hotel burned.

The hotel was managed by Will D. Tyler, who seemed very popular with the guests, and the whole establishment was at the height of its glory. A drill team and band, known as the Herdic Grays had been organized for some years, the members mostly being recruited from the employees of Reynold's Carriage Shop at Alba. They were splendidly equipped with gray uniforms and band instruments and played many concerts for the hotel visitors. Late in the fall of '76 they must have disbanded, as their instruments were sold to a group at Leona.

A few of the guests brought their own carriages and coachmen, but most of the others relied on the livery attached to the hotel, and run by Jahiel and Hiram Lockwood, or on the teams and surreys of the very popular Canton liveryman, Levi Stull. There was such a demand for transportation to various points of interest that many farmers bought fine two-and-three-seated surreys and had a busy summer transporting Minnequa's guests on their excursions.

To carry on the tradition that Minnequa Spring had been famous for its healing properties among the Indians, Mr. Herdic imported three families of Penobscott Indians who lived on the "Island" in shacks and wigwams, making

baskets, bows and arrows, canes and other novelties to sell the visitors. The same Indian families came for many years and were a great attraction to the hotel guests. The Canton Sentinel of July 27, 1876, has this to say: "The latest event at Minnequa was the baptism of a little Indian. An undoubted papoose was obtained, age four months, and named Agnes Minnequa. After the baptism, the Pale Faces closed the day with a dance." The baptism must have been effective, for there are records showing that one family of the Indians, whose surname was Paul, spent the winter in Canton, and their children became members of the Baptist Sunday School. The Island referred to was a short distance south of the spring. Here, according to legend, Minnequa, the chieftain's daughter, was buried, and there was a mound at the foot of a large hemlock tree supposed to be her grave.

In addition to driving trips planned for Minnequa's sojourners, there were many other social and intellectual entertainments. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport gave Shakespearean and other readings in the hotel parlors, and once they gave an open air production of a Shakespearean play with a full cast of actors. The hotel had a first class four piece orchestra under the direction of R. Green, and "Dress Hops" were a frequent diversion. The billiard rooms and bowling alleys were also much in use, and frequent attractions were planned. One of these was on August 15, 1876, when a balloon was sent up, which landed in Williamsport at 8:37 p.m., making the distance in two hours and seven minutes.

On July 4, 1876, there was a grand celebration at Minnequa, beginning with the arrival of the morning train from the south at 9:30 a.m. On the engine pilot a long plush covered seat had been built, and on this and in the engine cab were Gov. Hartraft, Thomas A. Scott, president of the P.R.R., A. K. McClure, editor of the Philadelphia Record, and other prominent men. This was a publicity stunt arranged by Peter Herdic, the men probably only riding thus from Canton to Minnequa. Music was

furnished by the Herdic Grays Military Band, with dancing and grand fireworks in the evening.

Lake Nepahwin was christened by Grace Greenwood the famous author, the name being thought more euphonious than the old one of Gillett's Pond. Notice of the new name appeared officially in the Canton Sentinel of May 25, 1876.

Each year Mr. Herdic tried to outdo his previous effort in a Fourth of July celebration, and that of 1877 far outshone the one of 1876. This time he had the Hon. A. K. McClure, Gen. McCandless, Gen. Collis, Col. McMichael, the Hon. Stanley Woodward and others as speakers, and the famous Repasz Band of Williamsport furnished the music. Dinner was served from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to more than 1,000 diners, and there was considerable criticism of the balance of the 6,000 persons present for not patronizing the hotel dining room instead of bringing basket lunches.

The height of the season at Minnequa was from August 1 to September 15 but there were a good number of guests from July on.

In 1877 Herdic had eight-inch water mains laid from Canton to Minnequa, and in this year many of Canton's homes enjoyed their first city water.

Early in 1878, Peter Herdic went bankrupt for the huge sum of \$2,000,000, with almost no visible assets. The Minnequa House was taken over by the Minnequa Improvement Company, and that summer a new building of some sort was erected by imported colored labor. The season was not quite as successful as formerly, and the knell of this golden age was sounded by the fire bell which announced the burning of the hotel on November 12, 1878. The origin of this fire always remained a mystery. The loss was \$75,000 with \$50,000 insurance.

Even the famous health-giving properties of the spring could not outweigh the double disaster of Peter Herdic's colossal failure and the fire, so

there was very little activity until 1884, at which time the Maynard Estate remodeled the brick building which had been started as a courthouse and added porches on all floors entirely around the building. These porches were advertised to contain 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space. The hotel had electric bells in every room, steam heat, gas lights, and an elevator, which though slow, was quite efficient, being operated by water power. There were semi-weekly "hops," with music by Stopper and Fisk's famous orchestra from Williamsport, and guests were guaranteed plenty of dancing partners, many of whom were the boys from Canton and Troy.

Between 1885 and 1891, Rev. Arthur Brooks, Mrs. C. Maynard Parker, Mrs. Thomas J. Owen, Miss F. A. Smith and Henry A. Oakley, all of New York City, built beautiful cottages on Maynard Hill, and the Rev. Stephen W. Dana of Philadelphia had built on the hill's southern slope, and Minnequa was on the way to a new life.

The main part of the hotel was 75 x 100 feet, with an addition 100 feet long, containing among other things, a ballroom with a solid walnut floor. There were also an outdoor dancing pavilion where square dancing was enjoyed. The hotel had accommodations for 125 guests; and for its time, was very modern. It never enjoyed the success of its predecessor, however, probably due in part to the lack of Peter Herdic's indefatigable bally-hoo, and partly because other resorts had become attractive to Minnequa's former patrons.

At the time of the second fire, which occurred May 13, 1903, the hotel had been closed for two seasons, and was then under option to a group of New York and Pennsylvania doctors who planned to purchase it for use as a sanitarium.

(This article was taken from the 150th Anniversary Edition of The Canton Independent-Sentinel.)



THE LEGEND OF MINNEQUA AND NEPAWIN

A nameless spring in the wildwood
Clear as the crystal sea,
A spot where all red men were peaceful
For its waters were healing and free.

Here, in the doorway of his wigwam
With two daughters by his side,
Sat an aged, weary chieftain,
From the red Oneida tribe.

But old time was fast encroaching,
Bent in form, and lame was he;
And to try these healing waters,
A long journey came the three.

He remembered in his childhood
How the lame were quickly brought,
When in battle, sore and wounded,
They these "spirit waters" sought.

He for years had roamed these forests
 And knew every stream and mound,
 Wild birds' notes, and leaflets' rustle,
 Were to him familiar sounds.

Many tribes had found these waters
 North to south, from east to west,
 And the sick, throughout all nations
 Thought these "spirit waters" blest.

Sparkling, bubbling, gaseous waters,
 Sulphurous to smell and taste;
 Coming up from deepest Hades,
 Where good is driven off as waste.

Here he lingered, growing stronger,
 Till he had his youth regained,
 Then tho't to memorize the fountain
 And a fitting name obtain.

So he sent out a delegation
 To all tribes of the Iroquois,
 To come dance by the spring in the wildwood,
 Sing songs and tell tales of its joys.

When the tribes had thus assembled,
 Heard the tale of youth renewed,
 And drank of the cooling fountain
 And these loving daughters viewed.

They, in honor to their children,
 Whom they knew as Manatau,
 Named it for the eldest daughter,
 "Healing Waters"--Minnequa.

Young Towanda, a brave of the Mohawk
 Saw charms in the younger one.
 So beautiful, agile, and cunning,
 Gave his heart, and her hand won.

And quite jealous, lest the elder
 Should outshine the younger one,
 Told the tribes he would be wedded
 Before the day was done.

At the little lake on the hilltop,
 The home of the Mahug, or loon,
 Towanda was wed to Nephawin,
 By the light of the full blazing moon.

And to make her name immortal
 With the lake so placid and deep,
 They christened the lake Nephawin
 Sweet--"Spirit of Sleep."

Then Minnequa, and her father
 Went westward to their home;
 Returning one day years later,
 Determined no longer to roam.

Down the beautiful valley
 Towanda hunted the deer,
 Nephawin was queen of the forest
 Their children the hunters cheer.

Leona, the foot of Mt. Pisgah,
 Was for one of their daughters named
 And for good deeds, and brave ones,
 The other children were famed.

Once a year they met together
 In honor of Manatau brave,
 Near the spring, quite hid in the forest,
 At a mound, that was Minnequa's grave.





A view of the Indians and their white callers, showing some of the baskets the Indians wove. The baby in the picture is Agnes Minnequa.



A few of the colored maids with their tubs and washboards.

MINNEQUA HOUSE

Situate in Bradford County, Pa., on the line of the Northern Central Railway, a connection of the Pennsylvania railroad, forty-one miles north of Williamsport, Pa., and thirty-seven miles south of Elmira, N. Y., about equidistant from Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Baltimore, Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Erie. It is easy accessible from all these cities by daily trains.

Located in the midst of a rich farming and dairy country, at an elevation of fifteen hundred feet above the sea, its pure mountain air, picturesque scenery, delightful drives and shaded walks afford unlimited opportunities for the enjoyment of out-door life.

Mount Pisgah, within easy driving distance, is claimed to be the highest point in Pennsylvania. From its summit the view is grand beyond description, surpassing anything to be seen in the Adirondack or White mountains. From the tower erected upon its highest point, the visitor may, as from a balloon, look down in every direction upon a scene of surpassing beauty.

The Hotel, a substantial structure with ten thousand square feet of wide verandas, is complete in every appointment. With steam heat, gas, electric bells, elevator, and with post office, telegraph office, railroad ticket and express offices in the house.

Its cuisine is noted. Supplied daily with the fresh products of farm and dairy, its table forms one of its chief attractions. With a dining room one hundred feet long, spacious ball room and cosy parlors, in-door life at Minnequa possesses a peculiar charm.

The semi-weekly hops, with music furnished by the noted Stopper & Fisk orchestra, of Williamsport, are occasions of especial delight to the young.

Cottage life at Minnequa is characterized by a generous hospitality. Rock-Girt, the country home of Dr. Arthur Brooks, rector of the Church of the Incarnation, New York, occupies a position near the summit of Maynard Hill, the centre of a vast amphitheatre of hills. The house, an imitation of an

English farm house, conveys the impression of roomy comfort.

Beechwood, the charming summer home of Mrs. C. Maynard Parker, of New York, stands neighbor to it. The overhanging Gambrel roof gives a cosy, home-like appearance to this pretty colonial house with its dainty coloring of yellow and white.

Owenheim, with its pointed gables, is the picturesque summer home of Mrs. Thomas J. Owen, of New York; a commodious house, with a large hall, spacious stairway and wide fireplaces. A beautiful feature, and one much enjoyed by guests, is a tiny stage, complete with dressing rooms and other accessories, for amateur entertainment and musicales.

In the orchard is Hillside Cottage, the summer place of Miss F. A. Smith, of New York, a pretty home with wide verandas.

Peeping through the tree tops in Wood Crest, the country house of Henry A. Oakley, Esq., of the Continental Trust Co., of New York, a large house in yellow and white.

Rev. Stephen W. Dana, D. D., of Philadelphia, with his sister, Miss Elizabeth Dana, of Morristown, have built a large house on the southern slope of the hill, at a point known as the Bluff, where Dr. Dana and family, with Miss Dana, will spend the summers.

Dr. Jean Saylor Brown, of Williamsport, Pa., has a pretty cottage near the hotel.

Embowered in trees and shrubbery is the handsome summer home of Mrs. Judge Maynard.

Mooreland Park, a large and handsome house, is the summer place of Dr. Seymour, of Louisville, Ky.

Crockett Lodge, the well-appointed residence of Mr. Frank Mayo, the popular personator of Davy Crockett, is located about a mile from Minnequa, adjoining the handsome home of the late E. L. Davenport, the well-known actor. Opposite them, on the road that skirts the side of the valley, is the effective country home of Fanny Davenport.

MINNEQUA SPRING

The medical properties of the spring were known to the Indians, and through them to the earliest settlers. Physicians of the neighboring towns have prescribed the water for many years in certain classes of disease.

The active ingredients are the Boracic Acid and the Salts of Manganese and Zinc. These metals are of unusual occurrence. One of them, Manganese, is found in the following celebrated springs:

Ems, Nassau; Spa, Belgium; Carlsbad, Bohemia; Pyrmont, Waldeck; Weisbaden, Nassau; Garonne, Toulouse.

Boracic Acid is also found in the water at the Spa, Belgium.

It is a well-known fact that many remedial agents act most favorably when largely diluted. The springs at Vichy, for instance, contain one grain of Arsenic in seventeen gallons of water and are wonderfully efficient in cases requiring the use of that metal.

Nature sometimes unites the inorganic constituents of spring water in a peculiar manner, so that artificial mineral waters containing the same elements fail to produce the particular results derived from the water from springs. Friedrichshall is a well-known example of such a water with a peculiar constitution.

In addition to the benefits derived from drinking medicated waters, the effects of change of air, diet, habits, etc., consequent upon a visit to the springs, aid materially in the cure, especially of chronic diseases.

Minnequa is situated in one of the great mountains ranges, at a considerable elevation above tide water, and is free from the local detractions of our great watering places.

The rolling country is conducive to healthy exercise, and the surroundings are pleasant to the eye, and the invalid can enjoy the benefits of light and air in

groves, without much expenditure of muscular energy.

The ailments for which this water is best adapted are such as require tonics, anti-spasmodics and alteratives. Scrofula, Epilepsy, Chorea, Chlorosis, Neuralgia and Rheumatic Affections will chiefly be benefited.

For anaemic patients, with whom the preparations of Iron have failed or act but feebly, the use of Minnequa water is peculiarly suited, at first in conjunction with the Carbonate or Iodide of Iron, and finally alone.

This treatment will usually improve the appetite, increase the pulse force and induce healthy secretions.

As active secretion, especially of the liver, is produced by the Salts of Manganese, it will be prudent to use this water under restrictions, and as soon as its constitutional effects appear, to gradually diminish the amount taken, ceasing its use when healthy secretion is established.

In many cases it will be prudent to warm the water, as is usually done with Friedrichshall, before permitting patients to drink any large volume of it.

To the medical profession the presence of Borate of Soda will suggest the necessity for precaution in the use of this water with a certain class of patients, on account of its action as an emmenagogue, and also of its suitability for use in nervous, gastric or kidney troubles, or whenever the alkalies are indicated.

Minnequa possesses an advantage over all of the foreign waters enumerated, inasmuch as it admits of the use of the curative agents without the necessity of taking into the system large amounts of useless, if not hurtful, salts found in each of them.

Charles M. Cresson, M. D.
417 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Analysis of Minnequa Spring Water

Grains in one U. S. Gallon

Total solid contents in one U. S. gallon	7.652
Calcium	0.994
Magnesium	0.207
Sodium	0.722
Lithium	trace
Aluminum	0.127
Iron	trace
Manganese	0.226
Chlorine	0.140
Silica	0.700
Zinc	0.028
Carbonic Acid	2.053
Boracic Acid	2.132
Oxygen (with Silicates)	0.138
Loss	0.145

*Temperature of Spring - 47° Fahr.**Amount of Sample - 25 U. S. G.***WHITTLING**

What ever happened to the lost art of whittling? It attracted young boys and men alike in years gone by. Every father had his own pocketknife, his attire not complete without it. And what young boy didn't look forward to receiving his own personal pocketknife, or his favorite hightop boots with knife carrier? Remember the one with the ivory handle, polished and yellow with age?

Every male worthy of his name had one-lacked masculinity without one. Every school boy had a knife. It was with this knife that he sharpened the pencils for the girls, or made tops out of spools, or cut out a willow whistle. He made old cornstalk fiddles, pipes from acorns

or horse chestnuts, or a basket from a dried peach seed.

Fathers carried them, too. These men were especially adept at peeling an apple, letting the unbroken spiral fall to the ground. They would throw the peeling over the shoulder to see whose initials the spiral would form when it hit the ground.

One of those old Barlow pocket-knives was perfect for plugging the great striped watermelon in the field. It could be used to skin a squirrel for supper, for skinning a deer in the woods, and sometimes for pruning a limb in an orchard for roasting marshmallows over the camp-fire.

BRYANTOWN

One of Montoursville's industries of half century ago made the news at the beginning of 1924. This was the Warshow Silk Company, Patterson, New Jersey, which took over mills which had been closed down for sometime and offered to expand their output. The management of Warshow said Montoursville offered a fine location adding it was possible the entire Warshow operation might be moved here. At that time of 1924, the company manufactured only casket lining.

Speaking of industries in the valley, let's look at a woolen mill which made such things as yarn and batting, one located at Bryantown, a small community two miles north of Hughesville. This community included four dwellings, a flouring mill and a woolen mill and was often referred to as Bryantown or Bryan Mills, as it was known when it was included in the rural delivery service, out of Hughesville. The woolen mill, the primary industry in that section, was originally put into operation about the year 1830. The old structure was torn down later and a new plant built in 1866 by Ellis Bryan. The building was first rented by the owner with James Coulter and Samuel Bryan. When Mr. Coulter retired, he sold his interest to Mr. Bryan. In 1881, David Ostler, who lived in Forkesville, moved to Bryantown and purchased the business. Two years later, he took into partnership with him David W. Elder. Together they ran it for twenty-five years. Mr. Elder died in 1910. Eleven years later, L. P. Gilmore joined the firm until 1923, when Mr. Osler sold his interests to Joel Baker of Millville. By 1924, it was in flourishing condition under the ownership of Baker and Gilmore.

Waterpower was the only available source of power in the earlier days of the industry. Only on rare occasions did the waterpower ever fail. Later motors were added.

At one time this three-story building included a cupola--or observatory--at the top.

Products of the mill sold well. Each year 25,000 pounds of raw wool were manufactured into various kinds of finished goods each year. In the early days the entire output was yarn, used by housewives in the knitting of hosiery and other articles of clothing. By 1924 flannels of pure wool were made and wool batting used in the making of bed clothing. Woolen blankets were very popular.

The Bryan family also built a grist mill not far away. Less than a quarter mile away was the hub factory, where hubs for cannon truck wheels used during the Civil War were made. At the height of its career this industry employed thirty to thirty-five men. At the close of the war, the firm switched over to making wagon wheel hubs.

Bryan's settlement was one of the thriving communities in the history of Muncy Valley. From the experience gained from operating this woolen mill, James Coulter and George Rogers organized the Muncy Woolen Mills.



JESSE BELL'S GIANTS

Some years ago before he died, Jesse S. Bell, well-known Williamsport realtor, wrote an autobiography entitled "Jesse Bell Toots His Own Horn." First a newspaper man, then a realtor from 1909 until the time of his death in 1966, Mr. Bell rubbed shoulders with many people, some of whom he referred to as "his giants."

One of these giants was a financial giant, according to Mr. Bell. Eugene R. Payne was described as the richest man in Williamsport until the turn of the century. Mr. Payne, who lived at the corner of West Fourth and Grier Streets, was a member of the private banking firm of Cochran, Payne and McCormick. Their bank was in the building later known as the Arcade Building, located at the southeast corner of West Fourth and William Streets. At the turn of the century, Mr. Payne was worth about four million dollars, a large fortune for any small city resident. But Mr. Bell said that Mr. Payne had an ambition to be worth about one hundred million dollars, so he bought a seat on the New York Stock Market, for which he paid \$65,000. Dabbling in stocks, he lost his financial empire.

Mr. Bell said that as far as he knew only three men ever reached the four million dollar wealth enjoyed by Mr. Payne. They were John H. McCormick, Seth T. McCormick, Jr. and James B. Graham. They owned and operated the Lycoming Manufacturing Company, makers of automobile engines. Eban Cord, from out of the west, was building the Cord and Auburn cars in those days. The local men were making motors, and influenced by Cord, they invested heavily in his enterprises, mostly Cord. The stock went to dizzy heights and at the top, the three men were reputed to be worth about four million dollars each. Then came the crash, and the value of the stock dropped to only a fraction of its high mark. All three men were bankrupt, but later made financial comebacks.

Mr. Bell said that during the boom of the 1920s, the Dusenberry, the Austin and the Cord cars were far ahead of the times and sold for extravagant prices. At least one was priced at about \$15,000 at the time when the Cadillac was selling for around \$1,500.

Mr. Bell said that Mr. Graham was one of the most public-spirited men, generous to a fault, but consistently one of this city's most civic-minded citizens.

Another giant, in Mr. Bell's estimation, was Valentine Luppert, owner of a group of South Williamsport industries which he generally named, the "Keystone," this or that. Mr. Luppert made money easily. One time in his young life he got the idea that real money was not to be made in furniture, friction hinges, musical implements, or what-have-you, but in moving picture theatres. So, he built the Park Theatre in the seven-hundred block of West Fourth Street. At the grand opening, he greeted his patrons in dress clothes. While Mr. Luppert also was affected by the depression of 1929, he later made a partial comeback.

There were other lesser knowns who meant a great deal to Mr. Bell. One of these was James M. Black, hymn writer and song leader. Of all the songs and song books published by Mr. Black, he is chiefly remembered here for the most famous "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There." Mr. Black courted and married Elizabeth Gibson. His hymns made him both famous and prosperous.

The Reverend J. H. Hopkins, one-time rector of Christ Episcopal Church before the turn of the century, is another man whom Mr. Bell admired. During Reverend Hopkins' pastorate at Christ Church, he wrote the song "Three Kings of Orient." His people were supposedly preparing a Christmas celebration depicting the nativity and the three Orientals were to march in. According to

Mr. Bell, when no carols or other music that seemed to fit the scene could be found, Dr. Hopkins sat down and wrote the words and music of "We Three Kings." The song caught the public's fancy and was sung by millions of people over the years, including many in Williamsport who never heard of the author and his rectorship at Christ Church.

Mr. Bell was equally proud of John Hazel, a musician and one of the outstanding cornetists of the country. Mr. Hazel wrote many pieces of music, was a personal friend of John Philip Sousa, and also the leader of the famed Repasz Band.



THE OLD BUGGY WHIP

Did you know that at one time in history the buggy whip was regarded as the sign of the driver's character?

In olden days the sight of a buggy whip in its socket of an ancient buggy was quite a common sight. Drawn by an old and lean horse, with a whip even older, the wagon could be seen heading into the city from north Market Street.

The buggy whip might be made of a flexible rod, with a whip cord of strong leather or of hard twisted hemp cord. It had a rubber butt end to make it bounce. It was often fit into the socket on the dashboard with a sharp plop.

When it came to buying a buggy whip, the buyer would often stand long at a hardware store before the iron rig from which the red and blue banded whips hung. The buyer prided himself on knowing which whip would wear longer. It was said that a new whip had the effect of bolstering a driver's feeling of well-being--and to the contrary, when the whip was broken, so was the owner's pride.

You could tell a man's stature by his whip. A wealthy, conservative man

And there were others: J. Henry Cochran, lumberman, banker, and businessman--a physical giant who had worked in the woods. He later became a Democratic Senator. Samuel N. Williams, one of the owners and the operating manager of the Lycoming Rubber Company, later the U. S. Rubber Company. Mr. Williams served as mayor of the city for a term. James N. Kline, hardware proprietor, whose business was located in Market Square. And Jonas Fischer, one-time mayor of this city. A Jewish man, who although very charitable, fought the established electric interests.

According to Jesse S. Bell, most of these people lived along Millionaire Row, West Fourth Street, west of Campbell Street.

usually had a perfect whip of dark color. A bold man might use one of a pale maroon or light tan, sometimes with a bow of ribbon tied on it. The careless man was content with a homemade stiff rod, a thong insecurely attached.

Stealing a man's whip stood next to stealing a horse!

It was common to see a young man come to church, his light laprobe folded neatly over his arm as he paused to stand his new whip in the corner of the vestibule. It was also common at picnics, or county fairs, or a Fourth of July celebration, to see young men strolling through the crowds, with their best girls holding one hand while whirling their whips in the other.

Good drivers employed quite a knack in using these buggy whips, too. They could snap the cracker over the horse's back. And an especially good driver could often flick a horsefly so skillfully that the horse barely felt the lash.

Yes, the character of the driver, his horse, and his rig, could be diagnosed by his whip and the way he wielded it.

WILLIAMSPORT PROHIBITION QUARTET

Although you probably never heard of it, the Williamsport Prohibition Quartet was at one time one of the most widely known singing organizations in Lycoming County. And although the purpose of the organization was well spelled out, it took a long time to achieve its goal--the adoption of the Prohibition Amendment.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the members of the quartet were followers of the Prohibition Political Party.

The quartet's one desire was "to sing the truth into the people"--a task that was not easily achieved for there were many places where the singing group was not well received. Even so, it became very popular and was an active quartet for about fifteen years.

Shortly after the 1889 flood, a nationally famous singing organization known as the Silver Lake Quartet came to Williamsport appearing as part of an oratorical contest at the old Academy of Music. The contest had to do with prohibition issues.

Two local people who heard the quartet sing were a Mr. McCormick and Dr. C. W. Huntington. With Dr. Huntington as organizer and business manager, the Williamsport Prohibition Quartet was formed. Whenever the quartet performed, there were speakers--usually Herbert T. Ames and the Reverend C. W. Burnley.

The members of the quartet were: Mr. McCormick, a foreman at Dayton Shoe Factory; Frank N. Long, a printer; George W. Welsh, a carriage blacksmith; John Nichols, and Oscar M. Kiess, who was in the furniture business. The accompanist was Miss Grace Mulliner.

As you can imagine, the experiences of the quartet were often very trying. They were called all sorts of names, and many times they had trouble reaching the places where the prohibition meetings were scheduled to be held. Occasionally, the key to the country schoolhouse might be lost, accidentally, and the meeting would have to be held outdoors.

The liquor interests often passed out circulars prior to one of the meetings. These might warn the farmers that if prohibition was ever adopted, the farmers would have to cut down their apple trees so they could not grow apples to make cider. Grain fields would be a thing of the past because there would be no use for the grain.

On one occasion when the key to the schoolhouse could not be found, those who participated in the outdoor service were told that if they returned for another meeting they would be "rottenegged." They did return, but fortunately got inside the schoolhouse. However, while the meeting was underway, anti-prohibition forces rattled the window blinds and slammed doors. Eggs were found in the wagon.

The mode of travel for the prohibition quartet was a three-seated carriage drawn by two horses. The men had to be careful when using the carriage, for it was frequently the object of pranksters. It was always a good idea to examine the wagon bolts and burrs before beginning a trip.

On several occasions an "open carriage" was used; it was called a "Democrat." There was much joking among the members over the fact that a Democrat was being used by a prohibition quartet.

Below is a sampling of some of the songs rendered by the Williamsport Prohibition Quartet.

Prohibition Chimes
 What's the News
 Down in the Licensed Saloon
 Dying While You Are at Play
 It's a Dead Sure Thing
 If You're Not Found Out
 Vote the Ticket Straight
 We'll Vote It Every Time
 Speed Thee Prohibition
 Prohibition Bugle Call
 A Saloonless Nation in 1920
 Every County Dry
 Old Temperance Eye
 Peace, Prohibition and Equality
 The Saloonatics Cry
 The Saloon Must Go
 The Prohibition Ark
 You Can't Change Him



Mr. McCormick, one of the members of the quartet, recalled the perils of one trip to Oval. It occurred just after the 1894 flood when two spans of the old Market Street bridge had been carried away. The party got across the river near the Hepburn Street dam, getting very little water in the wagon. The group used the Jack's Hollow Road, but for some reason became lost. In addition, the harness of one of the two horses was broken. A farmer who responded to their call for help remarked that someone must be drunk to drive a team into a tree. Then it started to rain, and by the time the group arrived at Oval, they were two and one half hours late. Only one person remained at the meeting house, because of the late hour of eleven o'clock. However, one of the prohibitionists began tolling the school bell. Thinking there was a fire, everyone hurried to the school. The members of the quartet said it was one of the best gatherings ever held. A fine supper followed the program--then the long trip back home began at one o'clock in the morning. The rain caused the river to rise, so the horse and buggy could not recross the river at the dam. And the ferryman at the Market Street bridge couldn't help either--he said the ferry was owned by a brewer. The prohibitionists then commandeered the ferryboat.

It was customary for the quartet to sing fifteen or sixteen songs at each meeting, and if the speaker got a little dry, the quartet would jump in with another song. The only pay was the big supper at the end of every meeting.

Although jeered at in the beginning, the quartet began to gain friends, eventually singing for such things as the Prohibition picnics at Sylvan Dell and elsewhere. "We honeycombed the sentiment," said one member. And, as we know, eventually Democratic and Republican candidates began to record with the Prohibition vote and the amendment was finally passed into law.

DUBOISTOWN CORNET BAND

For over one hundred years Williamsport has enjoyed a rich musical heritage. Its history as a "band" capital of the nation dates back to Civil War days and its "Twelfth Regiment Band," predecessor of the Williamsport Repasz Band. The Repasz--known now as the Elks-Repasz Band--carries the unusual distinction of being the oldest band, in terms of continuous organization, in the United States.

The city had its lesser known bands, too. There was the Verdi Band, the Hammer Band, the Darktown Band, and the one you'll learn more about today, the DuBoistown Cornet Band.

Not a great deal has ever been recorded about the DuBoistown Cornet Band. In fact, what little information is available concerning its origin and years of service has been taken from the original book of minutes, presently the property of Dr. Robert A. Berger of San Mateo, California. The minutes were passed on to Dr. Berger by his grandfather, Samuel D. Cook, one of the charter members of the DuBoistown Cornet Band.

Despite its name, this band was not a CORNET band exclusively. There were other instruments, mostly of the brass variety. And I'm afraid the cornet of the 1880s would have to be referred to as the "snub-nosed" version of today's instrument.

The origin of the band is well spelled out, but little is recorded on its decline. We do know that the first meeting of the band took place in DuBoistown on August 14, 1882. For the remainder of the year the men busied themselves with the writing of the constitution and by-laws, the selection of a rehearsal room site, and the developing of ways and means of financing such a project. The constitution and by-laws were approved December 5, 1882, and early in 1883 the band's first slate of officers was chosen.

Mr. E. Layberger served as the first president, Samuel D. Cook was vice president, W. S. Carson was secretary with Thomas Cook as his assistant, A. K. Brown served as treasurer, and H. Hartzel and Mr. Layberger were trustees. Thomas Cook was named musical director for the first year.

To understand the musical director title, you must understand the band's constitution. You will find it humorous occasionally, but you will get an idea of how serious the founders of this band were.

The constitution stated that the DuBoistown Cornet Band would continue as long as five members were willing to serve. Concerning its musical director, it stated that the holder of this office would select the pieces of music to be played by the band in the room, on the street, or at any public gathering. He was to do any other duty that would be of interest to the band. The musical director was not to be confused with the leader. It was the leader's duty to play "at the command of the musical director." The constitution read: "He shall take the lead in marching and shall have full control." There were rules for the members, too. Here are a few of them:

1. No person shall be admitted into the band who does not have a good moral character.
2. Any person being admitted shall pay the sum of a \$5.00 membership fee.
3. A member shall return the instrument and uniform in good condition.
4. Any member absenting himself from a regular meeting shall be fined 25 cents unless a sufficient excuse can be given which shall be determined upon a vote of the band.

5. No profane or obscene language shall be used.
6. The member shall pay all attention to the leader so no mistakes may occur.
7. Any member who is intoxicated while the band is on parade or at a public gathering shall be fined \$5.00.
8. Any member who fails to accompany the band on any parade or engagement shall be fined \$3.00 unless notice is given by him at the time it is made. Any subsequent excuses shall be voted on by the band.

And finally, any member blowing on his instrument during the time of practice shall be fined 10 cents.

There were other membership rules that came along later. For example, within the first year of the DuBoistown Cornet Band, it was resolved, and passed, that every member should find himself with a spittoon. The motion passed unanimously. Later a member moved that smoking in the band room should be prohibited, but this motion was defeated. Anxious to improve their band, the members brought in music teachers--Lyman Fisk was one of them. The members voted that when a teacher was present, the band would play the first part of the evening and save their 20-minute recess until later.

Even in the 1880s it took quite a bit of money to support a band such as the DuBoistown Cornet Band. Festivals and auctions were held to raise the money. At one such festival, the band took in \$297.63--paid out \$111.33--with a net profit of \$186.30. The expenses included \$8.32 for cigars, 10 cents for coal oil, and \$1.30 for Professor Gowers' expenses.

Another entry from the minutes of the band. "A committee was appointed to see some girls to beg for a ring." The ring was auctioned off later. Another entry--"It was the motion of the president

to see some girls to beg for items for our festival." More entries--"Each member is to pay 10 cents to A. K. Brown for the carriage ride to the festival at Rauchtown."

On several occasions the DuBoistown Cornet Band members invited the Repasz Band, the Newberry and Salladasburg Band, and the Fisk Cornet Band to sit in with them.

There were about sixteen men listed in the original membership of the DuBoistown Cornet Band. They were:

Warren Whitnack	G. W. Norris
Andy Weitzel	C. Wesley Gebbart
Thomas Cook	Samuel D. Cook
Robert Shuman	William Whitehead
Jacob Miller	Henry Hartzel
George Pickering	William Minnick
Charles Donley	William Fritz
Joseph Thorning	Ed Philips

Other early members included J. and F. Thallinger, R. Myers, George Zuber, and James Bird.

The DuBoistown Cornet Band carried into the 20th century, but how long is not definitely known. Brochures found in the minute book included advertisements for instruments. A 1905 Brass Cornet, Slaters C Vocal Cornet, with a music lyre and German Silver mouthpiece cost \$15.00. Prices increased on up to the Silver Plated and burnished bell, gold-lined and with points gold-mounted, with music lyre and mouthpiece which sold for \$25.75. With it you received a black leather satchel. Trombones ran from \$9.50 to \$21.75. Alto horns were \$14.00 to \$27.75, and tenor horns were from \$16.00 to \$31.25. Music stands, the umbrella type, were 50 cents--full nickel plated were \$1.20. Typical musical selections of the period were: Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground, The Rose Day March, My Lady Lindy, The Whip O Will Polka, The Village Clown March, The Colonade March, and The Florence Polka.

So ends the story of one of the smaller, lesser known musical units in Williamsport's history, and as they would have said in the 1880s, not Williamsport's history but DuBoistown's--the DuBoistown Cornet Band.

WARRENSVILLE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Time: May 11, 1878

The Place: Warrensville, Pennsylvania

The Event: The weekly meeting of the Warrensville Debating Society

The Topic: "Resolved that intemperance has caused more misery than war."

Attending: Men only--representing a membership of sixty men

The Warrensville Debating Society changed its name to the Improvement Literary Society in November, 1879, by a 5 to 4 vote.

Let us look more closely at debating as it related to a form of educational entertainment as practiced in this tiny community of Warrensville. The source of information is the actual minute book of the Society, penned in ink from April, 1878, through May 8, 1880.

With few forms of entertainment available in those days, coupled with post-Civil War patriotism, it was only natural that discussing and debating issues of the day were popular. Less than twenty years earlier (1858), two of the most prominent of all debaters, Abraham Lincoln and Stephan A. Douglas had debated the question of whether slavery should be extended into free territory. Those seven debates led to the nomination of Mr. Lincoln as the Republican candidate for the presidency in 1860, and to his victory over Douglas, the Democratic candidate, after the breaking apart of the Democratic party over the slavery issue.

It seems that the art of debating has been with us forever. It dates back to the 400s B. C. when a democracy was established in Greece. One of the early teachers of rhetoric was a man by the name of Protagoras who is credited with developing the principles of debating. Oratory and debates have been ways of expressing formal spoken arguments for or against great issues of all times. It hasn't been too long ago that our high schools and colleges were represented in competition by their debating teams.

Even now, political figures challenge each other to debates on campaign issues.

When the Warrensville Debating Society met April 11, 1878, it was not to compete with another society, but rather for their own enjoyment. However, it wasn't long before the club was challenged by the Balls Mills Debating Society. From the minute book we know that the two clubs formed sides for battle. The topic was selected: **RESOLVED THAT INTEMPERANCE HAS CAUSED MORE MISERY THAN WAR.** And David Kiess would act as the Warrensville Judge at the public debate. The affirmative team representing Warrensville was to include the Messers J. E. Champion, J. L. Wilson, Z. E. Kimble, H. G. Casner, N. T. Milnor, J. S. Cranmer, N. B. Wilson, J. J. Waltz, J. A. Kiess, A. S. Blaker, B. F. Wheeland, William Champion, and J. W. Kiess. But whether the debate was ever held was not recorded in the Society's minute book.

The first known officers of the Society were: John W. Kiess, president; B. F. Wheeland, vice president; Z. E. Kimble, secretary; H. G. Milnor, door keeper; and A. M. Champion, janitor.

It was customary at each meeting for the members to hear an oration, an essay, and then a debate, complete with affirmative and negative arguments and rebuttal. The winning team was to be acknowledged by a trio of judges from the club. There was also a question box which was opened each meeting and the questions answered. Then the topic for the next meeting was announced so that club members could prepare themselves. Members paid a membership fee of five cents a week, and when the treasury ran

low, an assessment was made of each member.

A constitution for the Warrensville Debating Society was drawn up in December, 1878. It was created to effect "cultivation of all those arts, graces, and talents which give effect to oratory and force to argument." The executive committee of the Society was charged with presenting three questions at each regular meeting from which the Society would select one for discussion at the succeeding meeting. The constitution called for the routine transacting of business prior to the EXERCISES of the evening: **READING, RECITING, DEBATE, AND DECISION.**

Over a year after the debating society was formed, in November 1, 1879, a meeting was held at the Warrensville school at which time a motion was made by J. A. Kiess to call the Society the Webster Literary Society. A second motion by Z. E. Kimble was made to call it the Improvement Literary Society. The name Improvement won 5 to 4.

The early roll books included many names familiar to the residents of the community of Warrensville. For example: Wilson, Waltz, Kiess, Cranmer, Lundy, Blaker, Willits, Steiger, Champion, Hartman, Wheeland, Harris, Slout, Darrone, and Crawford.

Listed below are some of the debate topics reflecting issues of concern to those living in the 1870s:

Resolved: That the history is of more benefit than the newspaper

That woman should have a right to vote in the U. S.

That compulsory education is not beneficial be changed to compulsory education should be enforced

That the negro has met with more injustice than the Indian by the white man

That the past was better than the present

That slavery should be abolished

That we elect a county judge that is honest in preference to one that is very intelligent and dishonest

That fictitious writing should be abolished

That the hard times are a blessing rather than a curse

That Columbus deserves more praise for discovering America than Washington for defending it

That Chinese immigration to the U. S. be prohibited

That the Irish tillers of the soil are justifiable in their demands of the landlords

That woman should have the right of suffrage

That the ability to read and write should be made a requisite to suffrage

That the Chinese should be driven from the U. S.

That the Confederate soldiers showed more bravery in the late rebellion than the Federals

NEWTOWN

Anyone who has lived in or around Williamsport for any length of time at all has probably heard of Newtown, or the Newtown Band. Scanning microfilm or old newspapers will occasionally bring out the name from time to time.

Newtown, to those who lived in it, provided most everything that our modern shopping centers now provide. It had its stores and hotel, its own dry goods store, and its slaughterhouse. Of course, it had its own church, drug store, grocery store, dairy store, bakery, and filling stations. And--five taprooms. Newtown boasted an alderman's office, three dentists, three barber shops, and its own schools. What else could be needed? Strangely, it was the announcement of the building of a hardware store in Newtown that brought it back into the news twenty-five years ago--November, 1947.

Newton had its beginning in 1850, and in 1901 formed its own band. It was best known perhaps as Sauer Kraut Hill and was sometimes referred to as Bohnenviertel, meaning the baked bean district of town. The most familiar family names connected with this area were Staib, Hiller, Stopper, and Meyer. By now I am sure you have guessed that Newtown was the area bounded by Washington Boulevard and Penn and Franklin Streets in Williamsport.

Dutch Hill had a long history, but a quiet one. It was the part of our community started by German settlers who gravitated to neighbors of their own nationality. Families remained there and grew, and as new needs arose, they added to their community to make it an almost independent unit within the city of Williamsport.

I mentioned a hardware store as bringing Newtown back into the news twenty-five years ago. At a time when there were thirty-two businesses on Dutch Hill, J. H. Carpenter, an engineer at Avco Manufacturing Company, announced plans for the building of a

general hardware store, a two-story brick building that would include office space for the George H. Roller Company on the second floor. Mr. Carpenter, a resident for nineteen years, purchased the former Mary E. Finnegan property, a twelve-room, three-story dwelling, and razed it for the construction of the new building.

They said then that this would be the "baby" business in Newtown, located not far from the oldest business in the area. This would be the combined insurance, tailoring, and alderman office of Fred C. Staib, an 81-year-old businessman, who had been located at 337 Washington Boulevard for fifty-four years.

One of Newtown's best remembered institutions was the Newtown Band. During its five years' existence, this musical organization appeared frequently at carnivals and public events. It held its own annual carnival on a lot at the southwest corner of Hughes and Penn Streets. The inspiration for the organization of this band was reported to have stemmed from Rockey Koch's Boer Band which started on a wave of patriotism and enthusiasm during the Boer War. A group of lads decided that they, too, wanted to have a band, with the result that the Newtown Band began rehearsals in Meyer's Hall, located at Washington Boulevard and Penn Street. Ed Flechler and John J. Tepel directed the band. The peak membership was remembered to be about twenty-two. Emerson Kauderman was its drum major.

The disbandment of another local band, the Fisk Band, gave the Newtown Band another avenue of advancing itself and it purchased uniforms and instruments from the Fisk Band. At the suggestion of Mayor John F. Laedlein, the Newtown Band changed its name to the Williamsport Marine Band. In 1906 the organization decided to disband and many of the members were absorbed by the Repasz Band. However, the German band idea never lost its hold in the

community. By 1947 the current representative band was August and His Little Band, headed by Harold L. "Beans" Lyman.

The nucleus of Newtown's business district in early days included the grocery stores of John B. Meyer, Mr. Markley, and Mr. Solwachter. The first one was located at the northwest corner of Penn Street and Washington Boulevard. Back of it was the Kast Slaughterhouse.

In addition to businesses, there was St. Boniface Catholic Church and St. Boniface Grade School, a convent housing

eighteen nuns, and a parish community hall.

The cultural advantages of the area were implemented, as had been for a century, by the presence of Lycoming College, formerly Dickinson Seminary and then Williamsport Junior College.

With its new hardware store and with its new four-year college, most everyone agreed that old "Newtown" was in for further development, with a future that held great promise.



MARKET SQUARE

At one time Williamsport's Market Square was paved with cobble stones, with the street crossings made of square, flat pieces of quarry stones. There were hitching posts in front of the stores. Lamp posts occupied each corner, and it was a common sight to see Larry the lamp-lighter at dusk, with his four-foot ladder and torch, lighting the old gas lights. In early days, horse-drawn street cars passed each other using a switch that was located in the center of the square.

After the close of the Civil War, the curbstome market occupied the square. Farmers came regularly with their market vans that were backed to the curb. Even in the cold of winter, they came. Some wore old army overcoats and caps of the Civil War.

Market Square was considered the halfway point between the eastern and

western ends of the city. It was the center of special attractions and entertainments. It was where the balloon ascensions were made--where tight-rope walking exhibitions were made--where bonfires were built, especially on election nights.

Soap box orators attracted crowds in Market Square as did many patriotic speakers. Those fakirs who sold rattle-snake oil and medicines used Market Square. Sometimes our people were separated from their money by the medicine show people, but they usually came back for more.

One of Williamsport's earliest entertainment centers, the Ulman Opera House, was located in the building on the southeast corner of Market Square. Traveling road shows such as the Bohemian Glass Blowers and the Swiss Bell Ringers entertained at the Ulman Opera House.

THE VANISHING SPAS OF PENNSYLVANIA

(An Historical Review)*

By

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The majority of American people today admittedly are indifferent to the therapeutic value of spas. For the most part, the physicians of this country also lack interest in this type of treatment. That such an attitude towards spa therapy was not held by our ancestors may be inferred from the numerous watering places that flourished during the colonial days and throughout the first century of this Republic's history. Many of these establishments were extensively patronized and enjoyed great popularity, as well as the approval and support of the contemporary medical profession.

The early white settlers of the State of Pennsylvania came chiefly from European countries, in which therapeutic baths and mineral springs had been in vogue for 2000 years. These people had learned to supplement the deficiencies of the medical practice of their day by what has been termed "natural treatments." It is not surprising, therefore, that when individuals with such a background found themselves in a vast virgin territory of untold natural resources and an abundance of water, they should have developed in their new surroundings facilities for spa therapy in which by tradition and training they had faith. The State of Pennsylvania lent itself well to such therapeutic purposes because of its geological formation. Throughout the State, many springs and wells were to be found, the waters of which vary in temperature and contain significant amounts of one or several chemicals such as iron, magnesia, sulfur, and hydrogen sulfide. Such natural resources placed for the most part in an attractive setting afforded

exceptional opportunity to establish spas. As a consequence, at various times during the past 200 years, at least 30 such institutions are known to have existed in this State. In addition, over 50 so-called mineral springs not combined with buildings for the housing of guests and patients have been recorded.

Up until the middle of the last century health resorts and therapeutic springs in the Eastern United States attained considerable popularity and success. From that time down to the present interest in spa therapy throughout this country has steadily declined. In this respect, Pennsylvania's experience has not differed from that observed elsewhere throughout the United States. Of the 30 spas that were developed in Pennsylvania at different places and at various periods only three are presently active. The remaining 27 have been abandoned, destroyed by fire or otherwise, or have been converted to different uses.

Blossburg--Tioga County

Located on a steep hill in back of and above the Blossburg State Hospital, are two springs about 50 feet apart. The upper one, a magnesia spring, was never used therapeutically. The lower one, called Ben-Alan, a very productive spring, carries water of a peculiar acid taste. The entire property is a part of the Gaylord estate. Jacob Jones, grandfather of the present owner, acquired the grounds in 1849. The mineral water was used extensively for drinking and sitz baths from 1924 until 1928. The baths

were administered in a rather primitive bath house at some distance from the spring. The water was carried and heated on coal stoves. The bottling was continued until 1929. All commercial and therapeutic activities were discontinued after the death of Benjamin F. Jones.

Felix von Oefele, M. D. of New York and Dr. Kjelgaard highly praised Ben-Alan spring. In a lengthy article in the Blossburg Herald of June 30, 1927, Dr. von Oefele compared this water with the

water of Levico, a noted European spa. Von Oefele warned against the indiscriminate drinking of the Ben-Alan water because of its arsenic contents, which in his opinion could be harmful. The Ben-Alan spring was analyzed by F. A. Genth in the chemical laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania. Concerning his findings, Genth had the following to say: "I have just finished the analysis of the Ben-Alan chalybeate spring and have found it to contain in one gallon of 231 cubic inches, as follows:

Silicii acid	2.15386 grains/G
Sulphuric acid	5.64348 grains/G
Ferrii phosphate	0.32738 grains/G
Ferrii sulphate	31.31905 grains/G
Aluminum sulphate	6.58489 grains/G
Nickel sulphate	0.35819 grains/G
Cobalt sulphate	0.03019 grains/G
Manganese sulphate	1.83367 grains/G
Magnesium sulphate	13.10151 grains/G
Calcium sulphate	23.12789 grains/G
Lithium sulphate	0.11652 grains/G
Sodium sulphate	0.26646 grains/G
Potassium sulphate	0.24442 grains/G
Sodium chloride	0.10128 grains/G
Specific gravity	1.0033 grains/G
Total Solids	85.20879 grains/G (1.458.78 p/m)

The bath house has been completely destroyed and there is no intention on the part of the owner to attempt any reconstruction.

Loganton--Clinton County

The sulphur spring at Loganton is situated about 80 miles northeast of Altoona and some fifteen miles from Lock Haven. Known for the past hundred years, the water of the spring was held in high regard for its therapeutic qualities. The very low output of the spring must have tried the patience of those who attempted to collect its water in large jugs. A penetrating smell of rotten eggs emanating from this water is probably still attractive to some people, who believe in its efficiency. Mr. W. E. Meyer, Vice-President of the Loganton National Bank, is well acquainted with the medicinal properties of this spring. Kept in good condition and well protected by an attractive spring house, it served in the past the summer guests of a hotel known as the Logan House. Built long before the turn of the century, the hotel burned down in 1918 and no attempt was ever made to replace it.

McElhattan--Clinton County

McElhattan Springs, East of Lock Haven, on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, attracted many visitors during the summer season. The water supply came from five individual springs. Accommodations for the guests were provided by several hotels in the vicinity. The "medicinal" waters were used for drinking and bathing. Baths were taken in the bedrooms in portable wooden bathtubs. A local trout hatchery was another great attraction. The therapeutic value and the mineral properties of McElhattan's springs were never established.

*Minnequa Springs--Bradford County
(Vicinity of Canton)*

History, folklore, and the tradition of Minnequa Springs, in the vicinity of Canton, are still vivid, thanks to the interest displayed by a number of citizens of this community. The spring, known as the "Indian Healing Spring," was discovered by white men before 1771. The local lore relates the story of Minnequa,

the beautiful daughter of an Indian Chieftain, who made a miraculous recovery from a deadly disease, after drinking water from the magically healing spring.

Another legend tells of an elaborately dressed stranger, who came over the mountains to quench his thirst at the Indian Spring. It is said that the magic water made him grow without affecting his health. The "Giant of Minnequa" died at a very old age and his neighbors had great difficulty in burying his oversized body.

In 1868, Peter Herdic acquired the spring and the surrounding grounds, after obtaining relief from a rheumatic condition by the use of its water. The first hotel, erected by Herdic in 1869, accommodated 600 guests. The spring was protected against contamination and covered by an open spring house. The first Minnequa Springs Hotel burned down in 1878. It was followed by another hotel. This wooden building, smaller than the first, with a porch facing the railroad track, was closed in 1901 and two years later destroyed by fire. The hotel had only 92 bedrooms in the main building and 36 additional rooms in an annex near the spring. Two cottages nearby with 14 bedrooms increased the total capacity to about 300 guests. The spring and the Victorian springhouse are well preserved and easily accessible. An old description of the spring lists the following medical indications: "Keeps blood and excretions alkaline; increases metabolism and promotes tissue repair; enhances the action of the saliva, bile, and intestinal juices; aids in the change of gases in the tissue and lungs, by acting as a carbonic acid carrier; is indicated in dyspepsia, constipation, gall stones, gravel, gout, diabetes, skin eruptions, rheumatism, neuritis, and obesity."

The present owner of the spring, Mr. William Spencer Castle, Sr., has in his possession the following chemical analysis of Minnequa Spring, made by the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory on December 5, 1936, laboratory #188736, file #119 92.1, order # page 15180, marked David E. Fisher and signed by H. H. Craver.

Free carbon dioxide	25.00 p/m
Iron oxide	2.86 p/m
Calcium carbonate	99.68 p/m
Magnesium carbonate	25.66 p/m
Sodium carbonate	Trace p/m
Lithium carbonate	Trace p/m
Calcium sulphate	0.00 p/m
Magnesium sulphate	Trace p/m
Sodium sulphate	33.16 p/m
Calcium chloride	0.00 p/m
Magnesium chloride	Trace p/m
Sodium chloride	9.90 p/m
Manganese	0.50 p/m
Silica	2.00 p/m
Alumina	1.89 p/m
Total solids	174.00 p/m

Conclusions

A survey such as the one herein reported furnishes convincing evidence of the decline and virtual elimination of all but three of the spas and watering places in the State of Pennsylvania, over the last seventy-five years. Such a situation is not peculiar to this State; it is nationwide in its scope. From the above review, the conclusion is inescapable that the progress of the health resorts of this country has failed to keep abreast of the revolutionary advances that have taken place during the last half century in other fields of medicine.

It is to be hoped that the evaluation of spas being conducted by the Council on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the American Medical Association and efforts to place them on a firm scientific basis may alter this discouraging situation, and revive confidence in resort therapy.

The number of old, chronically ill, and disabled people in this country is steadily rising--the result of the national

increase in life expectancy. Therefore, it is not only highly desirable, but indeed urgent, that the present professional and popular attitude towards spa treatment should change. To look forward to this is justifiable because the properly conducted health resorts offer the best method of combining the therapeutic advantages of change in climate and environment with a sound health program built around the modern broad concept of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

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A LETTER TO THE "OLDTIMER"

of the Edinboro Independent

Dear Sir:

You ask for an article telling where the name "Gusty Hills" came from and stating also the commercial birthrights of our beautiful valley nestled in the very outer rim of the great Mississippi basin. And I will add, if I may, what seems to me spiritual birthrights of an area whose pioneers and antecedents had vision, courage and character--building their altars and their fires in a wilderness--dedicating their efforts to church and school and government by high and simple living in the fear of God and in the belief of accountability to their Creator.

The first white male child born in this area saw the light of day in William Culbertson's log cabin, on what is now Vunk's Point, in March 1800. This babe was christened John Augustus. John Augustus Culbertson went to the town of Erie in 1816 to learn to work in wood and served an apprenticeship of seven years as cabinet maker. He continued to work in Erie until twenty-seven years of age when he married Clarissa Harrison and returned to Edinboro and built his home on the first hill west of the outlet where Mrs. Etta Anderson Hollenbeck now lives. John Augustus Culbertson made coffins not only for the southern Erie County area but also for a good part of northern Crawford County. Much of the pay was in trade--potash, pearlsh, grain, etc. The demand for coffins was steady but not enough to take all of John Augustus's time and he built homes on land given him by his father on the west side of the outlet and also on the east side. His father (William) gave him (John Augustus) a good part of the land on the hills on the west side and so these hills came to be called "Gusty's Hills." The first rise of land was called "First Gusty" and the second rise "Second Gusty." John Augustus was called "Gusty" for short and the "Hills" took the same short

name. John Augustus Culbertson died in 1872. My mother never tired of telling her children what a kind, patient and helpful man "Grandpa" Culbertson was to her, and Harper Cornell, Trim Proudfit and Preston Reeder all have told me kindly things of "Uncle Gusty."

Driving into Edinboro in summer season from the north, from the west, from the east or from the south you will pass by farm lands that speak abundance--that say here is plenty, and you will feel nature's challenge to the tillers of the soil and to all--"Match my prodigality with your intelligence and your labor, and plenty shall be your portion." This district is a natural potato area, a natural apple area for the Baldwin, the northern spy and the greening--two great food sources. Our greatest need in this area that can produce so much is, probably, intelligent and organized sale of our products. Other commercial birthrights of our area are the lake, the climate, the beautiful rolling and wooded countryside--all meaning health and happiness to thousands who come among us for a season.

Now our spiritual birthright is all who have gone before who may have added to our vision, to our understanding or to our courage. I wish to speak of one who was so outstanding and magnificent, one who has hundreds of lineal descendants in our area, which descendants should find urge and challenge in such heritage. Jane Winters, born in 1761, was the seventh of eleven children born to William and Eleanor Campbell Winters. Through her maternal grandmother, Anna Ball Campbell, Jane Winters was related to George Washington, whose mother, Mary Ball Washington, was a kinswoman (sister or cousin) of Anna Ball Campbell. Jane Winters married James Campbell and bore him six children--four boys and two girls. Campbell died and Jane Winters Camp-

bell married Lytle, and Lytle died and Widow Jane Winters Campbell Lytle married Robert Randolph, and Randolph died. Widow Jane Winters Campbell Lytle Randolph, thirty-four years of age, with six children, one horse and one cow, left the Williamsport, Pennsylvania, area in the fall of 1796 and moved west through the wilderness trail over the Allegheny Mountains to where Franklin, Pennsylvania, now is and from there on up to about a mile south of Edinboro where Widow Randolph and her six children built a log cabin with a lean-to for the cow. There were seven pioneers in this family group--the youngest nine and the oldest thirty-four--and each had an axe. As soon as their cabin with its lean-to was built, Widow Randolph, with four children, took their horse and returned to the Franklin area for the winter 1796-1797, leaving James and William Campbell--fourteen and twelve years of age--to browse their cow stabled in the lean-to, until spring. The only other whites in the wilderness around were Culbertson, his wife Mary and their year and a half old baby boy, Andrew Columbus. James and William Campbell followed the Indian trail ten miles with Culbertson to Fort LeBoeuf for potatoes that winter. Culbertson would carry a bushel and the boy, not yet fourteen,

a half bushel and the twelve-year-old boy, a peck. The cow which the boys had browsed all winter freshened in March and the boys used the third milking--not waiting for the ninth milking, the usual practice. Widow Randolph and her four children joined the two boys in their log cabin in the spring of 1797.

Descendants of "Granny" Randolph, there is your pioneer background and heritage. Widow Randolph's six children all married. Nancy, the older girl, married Job Reeder and Hannah, the younger girl, married John McWilliams. I propose that "Granny" Randolph's grave in the old cemetery be made a shrine by her descendants and others who visit her resting place, always leaving an attractive stone or pebble, picked up elsewhere, on her grave until the mound will tell the world that the Campbells, Reeders, McWilliams, Taylors, Lytles, Moores, Lewises, Hamiltons, Comptons, Cornells, Proudfits, Langleys, Dales, Wades, Pratts and others have not forgotten. "Man shall not live by bread alone." I call on you to accept my proposal and enjoy your heritage, and the pilgrimages to "Granny" Randolph's grave will follow.

Andrew A. Culbertson

Edinboro, Pennsylvania

July 14, 1940

HISTORY OF CENTER AND CLINTON COUNTIES

by

John Blair Linn

(Published 1883 by Louis H. Evarts, Center County, page 221)

William Potter, Esq., a grandson of General James Potter of the Revolutionary War, was born at Potters Mills, December 18, 1792. Mrs. Lucy Potter, widow of Honorable W. W. Potter, died in Bellefonte, May 30, 1875, aged eighty-four years, nine months and two days. Mrs. Potter was a member of a large and rather remarkable family, her father having been born in 1728, married in 1747, died in 1794, children to the number of nineteen being born to him, the eldest in 1748, the youngest in 1790, their births extending over a period of forty-two years.

William Winters, the father of the deceased, came from Berks County to Northumberland, now Lycoming County, in the year 1778, having purchased the farm lately known as the Judge Grier farm, near what is called Newberry, but now within the corporate limits of Williamsport. Mr. Winters was twice married.

His first wife was Ann Boone, sister of Col. Daniel Boone, famous in the early annals of Kentucky. His marriage took place in the year 1747 in the then province of Virginia. By this union there were issue eleven children, four males and seven females. His eldest daughter Hannah, married in Rockingham County, Virginia, Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the ex-President Lincoln. Shortly before his death, Lincoln, who was killed by the Indians, visited his father-in-law at what is now Williamsport and John Winters, his brother-in-law, returned with him to Kentucky whither Mr. Lincoln had removed after his marriage, John being deputed to look after some lands taken up by Col. Daniel Boone and his father.

They traveled on foot from the farm by a route leading from where Bellefonte now is, the "Indian Path from Bald Eagle to Frankstown." John Winters visited his sister, Mrs. Potter, in 1843 and wandering to the hill upon which the academy is situated, a messenger was sent for him, his friends thinking he had lost himself, but he was only looking for the path he and Lincoln had trod sixty years before and pointed with his finger the course from Spring Creek along Buffalo Run to where it crosses the "Long Limestone Valley" as being their route.

Upon the death of Mr. Winters' first wife in the year 1771, he again married in 1774. His second wife was Ellen Campbell who bore him eight children, three males and five females, of whom the latter the subject of this sketch was the youngest. The father of Mrs. Potter died in 1794 and in 1795 Mrs. Ellen Winters, his widow, was licensed by the Courts of Lycoming County to keep a "house of entertainment" where Williamsport now is, where she lived and reared her children as well as several of her stepchildren.

Here all her daughters married, Mary becoming the wife of Charles Huston, who for a number of years adorned the bench of the Supreme Court of this state; Ellen, the wife of Thomas Burnside, who was a member of Congress, judge of the Court of Common Pleas and finally, a justice of the Supreme Court; Sarah, wife of Benjamin Harris, whose daughter Miss Ellen Harris, resides on Spring Street in Bellefonte; Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Alexander, a carpenter and builder who erected one of the first dwellings in Williamsport, at the corner of what is now Pine and Third Streets in that city and many of whose descendants still live in Lycoming County.

Mrs. Potter continued with her mother's family in Lycoming County frequently visiting her two sisters, Mrs. Huston and Mrs. Brunside, who resided in Bellefonte, where in 1815 she was united in marriage by Rev. James Linn with William W. Potter, a young and rising lawyer and son of General James

Potter, one of the early settlers of this county. Here with her husband, until his death and then upon the marriage of her niece, Miss Lucy Alexander with Edward C. Humes, she made her home having lived continuously in this town since her marriage.



"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Did you know that a man who at one time sat as Judge on the bench of Lycoming County when it was a part of the Eighth Judicial District of Pennsylvania was responsible for the adoption of the motto "In God We Trust," which appears on the larger coins issued by the United States Government?

James Pollock, who was born in Milton, September 11, 1810, was the author of this motto. He was the director of the mint at Philadelphia from 1861 until 1868, and during the time he was filling that office, he suggested to the secretary of the treasury that the motto be inscribed on the coins, and his suggestion was adopted.

Mr. Pollock had achieved distinction as a member of Congress when he was appointed Judge by Governor Johnson in 1851, upon the death of Judge Joseph

Piles Anthony of Williamsport. He completed Judge Anthony's term, which had less than a year to run, and then returned to the practice of law.

In 1854 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania for a term of three years. In 1861 he was appointed a member of Crittendon Peace Conference, which considered the Crittendon Compromise an effort to avert the secession of the southern states through the adoption of the Constitutional Amendments recognizing slavery under certain limitations. His appointment to the directorship of the Philadelphia mint followed. Mr. Pollock retired in 1866 but was reappointed by President Grant in 1869, and in 1873 he became superintendent of the mint. He was appointed naval officer in 1879 and held that office four years. In 1886 he was appointed Federal chief inspector of elections. Mr. Pollock died April 19, 1890, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Lycoming County Historical Society and Museum is starting a series of special events to celebrate its 75th Anniversary in February, 1982.

The celebration begins now with a membership campaign. All of us are aware of the results of inflation on our economy, however, we do not want to increase our present dues structure. In an effort to maintain that structure, we are asking our present family or single members who wish to help us financially, and who feel that they are able to do so, to increase their membership to that of sustaining membership--\$25.00 per year. We are also encouraging each present member to bring us one or more new members in the coming year.

The Board of Governors sincerely appreciates everything the members are doing to help us to continue to maintain our excellent facility and its services to the citizenry in our area. Their special thanks are extended to you for your additional efforts in our membership drive.