



THE
JOURNAL
OF THE
LYCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME II
NUMBER TWO

WINTER
1960

LYCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLISHED BIANNUALLY IN WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

MR. FRANK W. BRUNNER, PRESIDENT
 DR. JAMES P. BRESSLER, 1ST. VICE PRESIDENT
 MR. GEORGE R. WALTERS, 2ND. VICE PRESIDENT
 DR. JOHN C. WINTER, 3RD. VICE PRESIDENT

MISS MARGARET E. HORN, SECRETARY
 MISS BLANCHE M. NEFF, TREASURER
 MISS ZELLA G. PEPPERMAN, ASST. TREASURER

DIRECTORS 1959-1961
 MRS. JOHN CORYELL HAYS
 MRS. ROBERT COCHRANE
 MISS MARGARET B. CORYELL
 DR. DAVID L. McMORRIS

DIRECTORS 1960-1963
 MR. WILLIAM R. SIMS
 MISS SUE BISHOP

EX OFFICIO
 W. CLYDE HARER

EDITORS

MR. MICHAEL M. WARGO
 MR. L. RODMAN WURSTER

DR. LEWIS E. THEISS
 MISS MILDRED KELLY

Extra Copies of The Journal Fifty Cents Each

CONTENTS

Moravians in Pennsylvania, The — by C. L. Youngman, M. D. 3

Pilgrimage — Summer 1960 5

What Salt Meant to Early Pioneers — by Dr. Lewis E. Theiss 6

Story of the Blockhouse, The — by Berton E. Btck 8

Lycoming Historical Program 14

History of Otstonwakin Farm — by Michael E. Eck 15

New Members 16

President's Letter 17

Surgical Cases 17

Letters of Appreciation 17

Accessions to the Museum 18

Index of volumes I through X 19

THE MORAVIANS IN PENNSYLVANIA

By C. L. Youngman, M. D.

(Continued from Summer, 1960 Issue)

Colonel J. H. A. Phillip Frederick Antes married Anna Katharine Antes and came from Freinshein in the Palatinate and reached America appartntly late in the 17th century. In 1701 a son, John Henry was born who in 1726 married Catharine Dewees, the daughter of the owner of the first first paper mill in the colonies. It was located at Crefeld near Germantown. This John Henry stayed with his father-in-law for three years and then moved to the Wissaluckon where he owned and operated a grist mill. On October 5, 1736, was born John Henry the 2nd who is the subject of this paper.. He died May 13, 1820 almost 84 years old.

In the family Bible the father made the following record: "Fifteen of October, 1736, a son was born to me this morning at 3 o'clock. I named him John Henry. The Saviour preserve him to eternal life. He was baptized by John Phillip Boehm. I, myself, stood as sponsor at the baptism."

John Henry 2nd was one of eleven children born of the union of his father with Catharine Dewees. He himself was twice married, first to Maria Paulin by whom he had five children, and after her death in March, 1767, to Sophia Snyder to which union were born eight children. Their youngest daughter, Catharine, married Simon Snyder about 1796. He became Governor of Pennsylvania in 1808 and served as such till 1817. John Henry's first marriage was contracted while still under age shortly after his father's death. The wife of Antes was the daughter of a German whose inn at Hanover was a center of German patronage. Here he stayed as "Mine Host" to travelers going to and from Germantown and Philadelphia till about 1772 or 1773. Apparently he felt the need for solitude and a less convivial type of life for it was about this time that his brother William and he purchased a place on the West Branch of the Susquehanna opposite the Great Island. On this there were two springs with eight acres of land cleared and fenced by Nicholas Bonner, a blacksmith, who had settled there after the new purchase. This tract was

purchased for 35 pounds, and if a deed could be obtained from the proprietor the payment was to be 65 pounds. This agreement was signed September 29, 1773. The place chosen by Antes for his home was opposite to Pine Creek on a high bluff adjacent to a creek which drained Nippenose Valley, named for an Indian of the same name. The entire length of this stream, named Antes Creek, became his property and he determined to build close to the mouth of it. This land lay in disputed territory since the Indians had claimed that Loyalsock Creek was the Tiadaghton, and the whites claimed Pine Creek as being the Tiadaghton. The Indians later admitted the truth of the whites claim but were not averse to selling land twice if they could get away with it.

At any rate, on September 18, 1773, the Governor informed the Board of Councils that squatters were in the territory not included in the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and that proclamation was issued to that effect ratified by John Penn September 20, 1773. The squatters paid no attention to the proclamation but set up a Fair Play group to administer extra governmental justice. Their seat of justice was at Chatham's Mill near the mouth of Chatham's Run. The Antes grist mill was apparently built about this time. It quickly became a center of social activity as well as a center for government and news. Antes was the local magistrate and his brother Frederick in Philadelphia kept him informed of matters of government there.

By 1775 the approaching battle for independence together with the incensing hostility of the Indians led to a conference at the home of Frederick Derr which was situated at what is now Lewisburg. James Potter was elected Colonel, John Brady Second Major with eleven Captains of companies. Henry Antes was Captian of Company 8 consisting of fifty-eight men. This group was to constitute the military defense of this area of the frontier. When the call came for soldiers to leave the valley, Captain Antes was transferred to the Regiment of the Second Battalion of North-

umberland Associations of which William Plunkett was Colonel. Antes was made head of the First Company. Colonel Plunkett was intensely pro-English and soon dropped out after which Antes was appointed Lieutenant Colonel with command of the forces on the extreme frontier. This was around May, 1777, and his headquarters were at the stockade called Antes Fort. A four pound cannon was placed there to protect the grist mill and the settlers. Frederick Antes was elected a Colonel of the Philadelphia County Associators protecting townships in the vicinity. Shortly after came the battles of Paoli, Brandywine, etc., with disaster for the Americans. Washington moved into Valley Forge. General Howe placed a bounty of 200 pounds on the head of Frederick Antes and the West Branch Valley awaited the coming storms. Colonel William Antes was trying to convert the estates and wealth into funds for use of the Commonwealth. William Dewees, uncle of Colonel Henry Antes, was entertaining Washington and his wife at Valley Forge and David Rittenhouse, second cousin of the Antes Brothers, was Treasurer of Pennsylvania. All their private fortunes and farms were either ravaged by the British or placed at the disposal of Revolutionary leaders.

By the summer of 1778, the whole frontier had a bad case of jitters. Ammunition was scarce; the Indians were attacking isolated areas and on June 10, 1778, a massacre occurred near Lycoming Creek. Six people lost their lives at the corner of West Fourth and Cemetery Streets.

Another massacre occurred in September. The people around Muncy fled to Fort Brady, those up Lycoming Creek went to Wallis' place and those above Lycoming and around Pine Creek assembled at Antes and Harris Forts. When Colonel Hunter at Fort Augusta heard the news, he sent word to Colonel Hepburn ordering the evacuation of the valley because there was not a sufficient number of troops available

to protect them. Colonel Hepburn had difficulty to get a message through to Colonel Antes but finally Robert Covenhoven and a young man in the employ of Andrew Culbertson volunteered to carry the word. They got through with the order to evacuate the valley within one week and immediately an armada of rafts, boats and bateaux started down the river carrying women and children and what household goods were transportable. The men marched in two columns along the bank of the river. They finally reached Fort Augusta at Sunbury in safety. This migration was called the Big Runaway which occurred in July. In August scouting parties visited the area and found the Antes Fort partly ruined and the grist mill destroyed. The aroma of roasting wheat was still in the air. No militia were again stationed there and the fort fell into ruins. Colonel Antes rebuilt the grist mill soon after the return of peace, and he continued to live there until his death on May 13, 1820. In 1782 he was chosen Sheriff of Northumberland County which post he held with honor. At his death he was laid in an unmarked grave at the Antes Fort Burial Ground just below the Fort. This cemetery began with the burial of early settlers killed by the Indians in troubles just prior to the Revolutionary War. A suitable stone has been erected on the highway near the Fort by the D.A.R. and several appropriate headstones have been placed in the burial ground marking the graves of his son, John Henry and other descendants.

This brief sketch is intended to show from what kind of people came the early German settlers of the Colony of Pennsylvania. God-fearing but free thinkers, hard working and patriotic, they contributed greatly to building the foundations of this great Commonwealth. This paper is a small tribute to them and one of their illustrious sons, Colonel John Henry Antes.

- (1) On the Frontier with Colonel Antes—By Edwin MacMinn S. Chew & Sons 1900
- (2) Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania, Volume 1—Clarence M. Busch 1896 State Printers of Pa.
- (3) A German Hero of Colonial Pennsylvania—Rev. Edwin MacMinn 1886 Moorestown, N. J.
- (4) Oetznachson—A History of the West Branch Valley, Volume 1 J. F. Meginness Gazette and Bulletin Printing House 1889
- (5) Conrad Weiser—Paul A. W. Wallace 1945 University of Pennsylvania Press
- (6) History of Lycoming County—John F. Meginness Brown Runk and Co. Chicago 1892
- (7) Encyclopedia Americana—Americana Corporation 1939
- (8) Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire 1948—The Portable Gibbon Edited by Dero A. Saunders V. King Press

PILGRIMAGE - SUMMER, 1960

June 15, 1960 at 1:30 P. M.

One hundred members, friends, and guests of the Lycoming Historical Society met at the museum to begin their annual summer pilgrimage. It was a beautiful day.

The first stop was made at the lovely twelve room home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wagner along the Susquehanna River west of Williamsport.

This very interesting ivycovered brick dwelling was built in 1800. It contains a large collection of guns, including matchlocks, wheellocks, flintlocks, and percussion caps. Old glass, pottery, and Indian artifacts are included in the collection.

On the third floor are some 400 steins, which Mr. Wagner has been collecting for 30 years. This collection includes some Dutch steins dating back to 1600, plus many German and some Italian ones.

After leaving the delightful home of the Wagners we journeyed toward Jersey Shore. We stopped at Lockabar Lodge along Antes Creek, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Carpenter.

Here we viewed a monument commemorating the sale of land along the Susquehanna by the Indians to William Penn in 1700.

The large pillar which forms the monument and towers over 12 feet into the air was moved to Lochabar Lodge from the old state capital in Harrisburg and erected in 1900 along the banks of Antes Creek facing Lochabar Lodge.

Inscribed is the following: "W. I. Daagh, King of Susquehanna Indians, whose wigwam was here, executed a treaty with William Penn September 13, 1700, conveying Susquehanna River and lands adjoining in consideration of a "parcel of English goods" erected September 13, 1900.

Lochabar Lodge was built in 1874 by Col. George L. Sanderson. The original Guest Book which is still at the Lodge indicates that the grand opening of the house was July 4, 1874.

Our tour then continued from Lochabar Lodge back to Jersey Shore to the home of Mrs. Robert Cochrane, one of the borough's oldest houses, a lovely pink brick. The house contains the original hardware, wrought iron cellar window grills and the original venetian blinds which are 120 years old.

The house is furnished throughout with antiques. One of the particular items of interest was the slant top desk, which once belonged to Dr. Davidson, a Revolutionary War Surgeon. On the underside of one of the drawers is the information that the desk was transported to Jersey Shore from Trenton, New Jersey, by boat in the 1790's.

Another interesting piece was a chair made by Jacob Schreiner with the original table. Mr. Schreiner at one time manufactured Windsor chairs and settees in Jersey Shore.

The front door of the Cochrane home has the original small glass panes, the original door knob and silver key hole. After leaving Jersey Shore we journeyed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris H. Housel near Larrysville.

The Housel home, which was completed in 1801, was built by John Knox, a lineal descendant of John Knox, the Reformer.

John Knox came to this area from Maryland. He brought slaves with him and they made brick for the home out in the meadow on what is now the Housel property.

The homes furnished with antiques, includes a grandfathers clock which once belonged to Robert Covenhoven, Indian fighter and frontier guide in the Revolutionary period. (A man who came into this area to warn settlers that the Indians were about to attack prior to the Big Runaway.)

The clock dated 1791 was purchased in Lancaster and taken to Harrisburg from which point it was transported up the Susquehanna by boat.

A Philadelphia Queen Anne Chair which once belonged to Elizabeth Haddon is included in the array of antiques.

Elizabeth Haddon was sent to this country from England by her father to look after his interests in New Jersey during the period from 1770-1780.

Our tour then continued on to the Evangelical United Brethren Church, where a very delicious dinner was served.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the delightful talk given by Mrs. Perry Russell of Jersey Shore on "The Big Runaway."

We then returned to the museum. Everyone reported a most enjoyable afternoon

What Salt Meant To The Early Pioneers

By Dr. Lewis E. Theiss

What salt meant to the early pioneers we can hardly comprehend. Perhaps we get some idea of its value when we read a book like Philip Tome's "Pioneer Life," which carries the subtitle of "Thirty Years a Hunter." Tome spent practically his entire working life killing game on the outer Pennsylvania frontiers. His family moved from Dauphin, near Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania capital, to Pine Creek, which enters the West Branch of the Susquehanna at Jersey Shore. This was in 1791, when the region was absolute wilderness. Game existed in incredible numbers. The pioneers had no farm animals—pigs excepted—that they could spare for food. So they lived largely on "wild meat."

Tome first went into the deep forest with the men who made that notable early survey in an effort to connect the streams of western and eastern Pennsylvania, so as to divert western traffic to Philadelphia. He was just a boy. But one of the survey party fell ill at the Tome cabin and young Tome volunteered to take his place. That made a woodsman of him for life. Subsequently, Tome killed thousands of deer and countless other animals. It often required several days to get the meat from the woods to the settlements where it could be sold. Without salt, the meat would speedily have become useless through putrefaction.

Fish were a tremendous help to the pioneers. Annually certain kinds of fish swarmed up the Susquehanna to spawn, and the inhabitants caught them just as folks have been catching salmon in the Columbia River for decades.

The Susquehanna was dotted with "Shad fisheries." These had great value and were saleable. Evidently such a fishery was usually located where an island narrowed the stream, thus driving the fish closer together. Some five miles or so below Muncy there was such a fishery. It was at Lawson's Island, a piece of land perhaps ten acres in extent which has now been washed away entirely. Here, when the shad swarmed up the river, the early settlers gathered in large numbers, with their great seine, baskets of salt, and many barrels in which to pack the fish.

Starting at a given point on the bank, the seiners rowed their boat out and around in a half circle, letting the seine out as they went, so that both ends were finally at the shore. Then the fishermen tugged and hauled mightily to get the net drawn into shallow water. How difficult this was may be judged from the fact that the seiners thought they sometimes held as many as 10,000 fish in the net. This, of course, is merely an estimate, but whatever the actual count, the haul was past belief.

Throwing the roe shad back in the river, the farmers cleaned the buck shad and packed them away in barrels. Of course, they needed lots of salt for this purpose, for these fish would have to last for months. They constituted a considerable part of the year's food supply. On occasion, the mass of struggling fish in the seine broke the seine and many escaped.

Years ago, when I was a small boy, my father used to buy kits of salt mackerel. On Saturdays my mother would remove one or two of these salt fish, soak them in one water after another to flush out the salt, and give us mackerel for our Sunday breakfast. Why these meals were always reserved for Sunday I never knew. I believe that one can still buy similar kits of mackerel put up in Gloucester, Mass., and similar deep sea fishing centers.

As an example of Tome's success in seining fish this quotation from his book is most illuminating: "In October, 1823, in company with John Campbell, Marshall Whitcomb and a Mr. Whitmore, I set out from KENZUA in a large canoe of above three tons burthen, to hunt and fish down the Allegany. We took with us four dogs and a seine. At the Big Bend, three miles below KENZUA, we took several barrels of fish of various kinds, among which were salmon, muskelonge, and some remarkably fine specimens of pike as well as white and yellow bass. We proceeded down to Glade Run, two miles above Warren, where we caught two barrels of fish and killed a fawn and a buck deer. At the village we caught another barrel of fish. At Dunn's Eddy, nine miles below Warren, we killed two deer, but took no fish. Three miles

below, at the residence of Robert Thompson, we caught two barrels of fish among which were some immense muskelonge; and also killed five deer. We then moved down about fourteen miles, to White Oak Shoot, where we shot two deer.

"Returning from our hunt, we again went to fishing with our seine. The water being very clear, we could see an immense number of fish in the seine. We judged there were not less than thirty barrels. The weight of the fish was so great as to break our seine. However, we secured about ten barrels. The seine was so badly torn that it occupied three of us nearly a day to repair it."

Deer and elk of course came to the salt licks. Where there were no natural salt licks, Tome made artificial licks. He tells how he did it. "The manner in which I made the lick was to bore several holes in a black oak log with an auger, which I carried with me for that purpose. Into these holes I put about three pints of salt, with a small quantity of salt peter, and inserted a plug in each hole. The wood soon became saturated with salt, and the deer would gnaw it.

"If I found a lick to which deer resorted at the proper season, I proceeded at once to build a scaffold in order that the deer might become accustomed to the sight of it before I made use of it. If a tree stood within three or four rods of the lick I built my scaffold on that. In hunting at these licks, I mounted the scaffold by a ladder which I drew up after me, and patiently awaited the approach of the deer. If none came during the day, I prepared a torch of pitch pine, which I attached to a pole reaching from the scaffold to the ground. As the deer came along, they would stop and stare at the light, forming an easy mark for me."

As it might be several days before Tome could get these slaughtered animals to market, he had to salt them well. He did just that, first cutting the meat from the bones. Then wrapping the meat in the hide, he placed it under some heavy logs to prevent bears or panthers from eating the meat, and moved on in his quest for more game.

From the Susquehanna to the Allegheny Tome hunted year after year. Probably he was by no means the only professional hunter of the district, but no other has left us such a vivid account of his activities. If his end-

less slaughter of game seems deplorable, we should remember that it was not one whit worse than the even greater extermination of the forest itself by the ignorant and unscrupulous pioneers. Not only were they lawless, but they were beyond the bounds of law. They took full advantage of their situation.

When the Revolutionary War upset the usual course of life in the West Branch Valley, making it difficult to secure salt, the matter became a subject of public concern. Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley sets forth these facts regarding the matter: "Complaint being made to the district committee that Mr. Aaron Levy and Mr. John Bullion had a quantity of salt on hand, which they refused to sell for cash, it was resolved that the aforesaid salt that is in the hands of the said Levy and Bullion (as they have refused the same for sale) be put in the hands of Mr. William Sayers, and by him sold at the rate of fifteen shillings per bushel, and not to sell any family above half a bushel for the time that the said salt is selling, and that the said Sayers shall keep a particular account of every bushel that he sells, and when sold, he shall return the money arising from said salt to this committee, first deducting one shilling out of the pound for his trouble of selling said salt, and six shillings and four pence for portage."

On November 23, 1776, Robert Fruit in Philadelphia wrote to the Northumberland Committee of Safety as follows: "I have received from the Council of Safety, in this city, twenty-seven bushels of salt for the use of the inhabitants of the County of Northumberland, which I have delivered to Marcus Hulings to forward up. It is delivered to me on the express condition of being divided among those inhabitants who did not get any part of the former quantity . . . Mr. Hulings has advanced all the money for the salt, together with all costs." The total cost for this salt and its transportation from Philadelphia was something more than eighty-five pounds.

Today we can step into any grocery store and buy practically any quantity of salt we wish and it is difficult to realize that there was a day when salt was not only a necessity of life but that it was truly difficult to come by. Truly the saying that a man is not worth his salt has more meaning than we realize.

The Story Of The Block House

By Berton E. Beck

In the very early eighteen hundreds, a portion of Liberty Township in Tioga County and a portion of Jackson Township in Lycoming County was known as the Block House. The name was first applied to the hotel or inn; then the village that grew up around it was called the Block House, and the countryside within a radius of about five miles was also called Block House. Soon known legally as Liberty, in the eighteen nineties, the village was incorporated as the borough of Liberty. The stream of water flowing through the present borough was, and still is, called Block House Creek.

These names originated after Charles Williamson had completed the road, which still bears his name, from Williamsport to Painted Post.

The reason for building the Williamson Road is an interesting bit of early New York and Pennsylvania history. For a detailed account, read "The Williamson Road," by the Honorable Charles G. Webb, in the Muncy Historical Magazine, *Now and Then*, for January, 1953. It is important to note that 1,100,000 acres of land known as the Genesee Country in New York, was purchased by the English Sir William Pultney and his associates. Charles Williamson was secured as their agent to conduct a group of 132 emigrants from Williamsport to Painted Post. To do this, he had to build a road through trackless forests, over two mountains and any number of lesser hills.

Many of these emigrants came directly from Germany, and among them was quite a number of women and children. On August 22, 1792, the emigrants arrived at Northumberland and were brought to the mouth of Lycoming Creek, where a camp had been prepared for them. The men in the group were hired to help with the road building, and at Trout Run another camp was established for the women and children. On November first, they were brought over Laurel Hill from Trout Run to the present site of Liberty, where a round-log building, 20 x 40 feet, had been built to house them. After the women and children

had been moved to the next station at Blossburg, this building was used as a supply base.

To the German workmen, any building made of logs was a "Blockhaus," and this apparently was the origin of the name. Some have said the building was a fort for protection from the Indians, but by this time the northern section of Pennsylvania and the western part of New York had been sold to the whites, and the Indians had moved farther west.

Finished in 1793, the Williamson Road soon became a thoroughfare connecting central Pennsylvania with central New York. People immigrating to New York from Europe by way of Philadelphia, and others coming from southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey all traveled north over the Williamson Road. The present U. S. and Pennsylvania Route 15 now covers or closely parallels it, except at Steam Valley where the new road is a few miles west of the Williamson Road. From Williamsport to Painted Post Route 15 is now designated the Williamson Trail, in memory of Charles Williamson.

For the accommodation of travelers over the new road, hotels had to be established. At the present site of Liberty, the round-log building that had been erected as a supply base and rest camp for the colonists was remodeled into a hotel. Two conflicting stories are told as to who was the first proprietor. One is that Benjamin and Robert Paterson, two men in Williamson's organization, had remodeled the building and operated the hotel for a time. The other is that Phillip Anthonyson took over the hotel as soon as it was ready and operated it for twenty years, selling it in 1813 to Johnathan Sebring.

Historians generally agree that Anthonyson was anything but a reputable hotel man. He was a native of Alsace Loraine, a soldier of fortune, who found himself in Paris at the time of the French Revolution. Here he espoused the cause of the revolutionists with such fervor he soon became a marked man. To save his own head from the guillotine, he fled to England and later

to Pennsylvania where he is reported to have had a hotel on Big Run, some miles west of Lock Haven.

Here he used to entertain his guests with stories of his exploits in Paris, and many a timid traveler did not sleep much at night. His business fell off when it was reported a lone traveler was last seen stopping at his hotel. Anthonyson looked for a new location, and we next hear of him as the proprietor of the hotel on the Williamson Road at the present site of Liberty. Just as the leopard cannot change his spots, neither could Anthonyson change his ways. Rumors about him soon spread but nothing could be substantiated. It was said that people moving to New York over the Williamson Road and stopping overnight at his hotel might find one or two of their cattle missing in the morning. A driver with a herd could lose quite a number. Always very sympathetic with any of his guests who lost their cattle, he insisted on helping to search for the strays, always making sure that the searchers did not get near the hiding place.

He is reported as an affable and genial host who spoke German fluently and set a table where the food had the flavor of real German cooking. Many a German immigrant was thrilled to find in this wild wilderness someone he thought was from his own Fatherland. Anthonyson always spoke of "mein Blockhaus," and this, coupled with the fact that to Germans a log house was a "Blockhaus," accounts for the English name Blockhouse having been given to the hotel, the village, the stream and the countryside.

It was about ten years after the building of the Williamson Road before any settlers came to Block House. There is a report that soon after 1800, James and Stephen Sullard settled in about the center of the present borough, and that soon after their arrival a son was born, the first white child born in Block House. Apparently the Sullards did not stay here long, for we find no further mention of them.

Jonathan Sebring came from Berks County in 1813, and purchased the hotel from Anthonyson. He was an honest, upright man and kept a respectable establishment. A shoemaker, Sebring plied his trade along with keeping the hotel, reared a family of thirteen children, and cleared a farm

from the wilderness.

It has not been ascertained who had the first store in the Block House, but in Colonial days most every village had its tavern and often a store was connected with it. In a biography of Ribert, son of Johnathan Sebring, we learn that he began clerking in his brother John's store in 1835, becoming the owner five years later. There is little doubt that the Sebrings were the first proprietors of a store in the village, though tradition says Felix Coterson (Costerson?) was an early merchant in the village. It is said that with the arrival of Jonathan Sebring's small family and the departure of Anthonyson, the population numbered eleven persons.

Let us turn back the years to 1813, when Jonathan Sebring came here from Berks County and bought the hotel. This area of Pennsylvania is known as the Great Allegheny Plateau, and here between Laurel Hill on the south, and Blossberg Mountain on the north is a depression about twenty-five miles long east and west, by about ten miles wide north and south, known today as Liberty Valley.

Like the rest of the Appalachian Mountain Range, the area was covered with virgin forests with all species of trees indigenous to this altitude and climate. With your mind's eye take a look at this dense forest that stretched for miles in all directions. There had been scarcely a stroke of an axe, except where workmen had cut the trees in building the Williamson Road. There were white pine trees, four and five feet in diameter and towering from a hundred to one hundred fifty feet in the air. Chestnut trees might be as large in diameter or larger, but not so tall; hemlock and other species of trees would not range quite so large. Here in the Block House along with its dense forests the ground was sprinkled with more than a generous number of stones and rocks.

Through this dense forest ranged a great variety of animal life. There were some panthers, often called "painters" by the countrymen. Wolves, bear, and deer abounded along with the smaller animals. Often the nights were made hideous by the screams of the panther and the howl of the wolf. The former were said to resemble the hysterical screams of a terrified woman, while the howl of the wolf was

not exactly a lullaby.

The state paid a bounty of eight dollars for both panthers and wolves, and often this bounty money represented about the only cash income a settler might have.

The land in Liberty Valley is gently rolling, with steeper hillsides along the many streams; but on the hill tops are large areas of level land, as fertile and productive as any hill land in the state. It is well watered, there being many strong-flowing springs of clear, cold water.

Within a few years Sebring had about a dozen neighbors settled on farms. Peter Sechrist had come to the Block House in 1811 and settled on a farm a mile below the inn on Block House Creek at a natural waterfall. Here he eventually built a saw mill and grist mill.

Johnathan Sheffer moved from Williamsport in 1814, and settled on land a little to the north and west of the hotel. He had 150 acres there, most of it on top of a short steep hill that has ever since been known as Sheffer Hill.

Andrew Beck with a family of six children, most of them adults, moved from Newberry in 1814, and settled on land in what is now Jackson Township, several miles away from the hotel. He and three sons, George, Daniel and Jacob, bought four plots of land, making a square, with two plots on one side of the Williamson Road and two on the other side. Of his three daughters, Christine married Henry Weaver, Maria married Fred Boger and Margaret married Daniel Hartsock. The three sisters with their families all lived here in the Block House.

George Miller and his family moved from York County to Newberry, and in 1815, they too came to the Block House settling on a farm adjoining the Beck families. It is believed that the Beck and Miller families were acquainted while living at Newberry and that romance was budding, for very soon after coming to the Block House Jacob Beck and his brother Daniel married Catharine and Elizabeth Miller.

Andrew Beck was quite an old man when he came to the Block House, and his son George who was then twenty-nine years old was married and had small children. Andrew and George did not stay very long but moved back to their former home in Northampton County. But some twenty

years later, George's daughter, Mary, came back to the Block House as the wife of Elias Bauer.

Among others who came here at an early date are: Felix Coterson, Jacob and Elias Benner, Peter Maneval, Carl F. Veile, Charles Hensler, Jacob and Samuel Kehler, Rudolph Brownmiller, John Weaver and James Merrell. Any omission of names that should be included in this list is not intentional.

The Pennsylvania Assembly in 1887 made a grant of 10,000 acres in the Block House country to the Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and at about this same time also made grants to Franklin College and the German Lutheran Congregational Society. These Institutions were anxious to sell land to settlers and gave very liberal terms to the buyers. For a small down payment they gave a bill of sale or article of agreement to purchase, valid for seven years. If at the end of that period the buyer had made certain improvements, by making another small payment and signing a mortgage, he could have a deed.

A purchaser of one hundred acres received a bonus of fifty acres, and if the settler followed a trade he received a cash bonus of one hundred dollars. There is extant a mortgage signed by Jacob Beck on June 2, 1820 with the following endorsement: "For having built a smith shop there is hereby credited the sum of \$100.00 on this mortgage."

In Acts II: 17, we read in part, "Your young men shall see visions," and surely those men and women, whether young or old, must have had a vision that someday they would have comfortable homes, fertile farms, schools to educate their children, a church where they could all worship, stores, roads, and a happy, prosperous way of life.

That they faced what we could call unconquerable circumstances today, never entered their minds. They set to work to see their vision through to a successful end. They started here with the barest of necessities, but were able to "make do" and take advantage of new improvements as they were developed.

As they went into the woods to make a home, what beside their vision and perseverance and determination could a young couple have taken with them? They might

have a team of oxen and a wagon, or it may only be a cart, with a pitifully small number of household articles. They would need a gun for protection from marauding animals and to secure game for the table. There would be hand tools such as axes, a saw, a cant hook, a mattock, a spade, and possibly a few carpenter's tools.

Their first consideration would be a shelter for the family and that would be most quickly built of round logs. Logs about eight or ten inches thick and cut to the desired length, would have notches cut about one-fourth the way through at each end and on both the top and undersides. When these logs were laid up to make the walls, the notches fitted to hold the walls together. The cracks between the logs were filled with clay, a bark roof put on, a door and a window or two, and the cabin was finished. Later an inside fireplace would be built and a floor of boards put down.

This small shelter of round logs was intended as a temporary building until a more permanent house could be built of hewed logs. To build the latter, large trees were cut, and from them beams were hewed with axe and broad axe to a size of eight inches by twelve inches. They were cut to the proper length and notched in such a way that when two logs made a corner they fitted together in a dovetail joint.

These houses, if placed on a good foundation, lasted for many years, and there is today in Jackson Township such a house, over one hundred years old and still used as a home.

Clearing the land of those big trees was a Herculean job. All the trees, large and small, had to be cut down; this was called a "slashing." The felled trees were left to dry for about six months and then burned.

All the neighbors came to help burn the slashing. Fires would be started on all sides of the field at once to burn towards the center. Extra help of neighbors was needed in case the fire got out of control and started burning in the adjoining woods. Weather conditions had to be as near perfect as possible: there should not have been any rain for a short time, and the less wind the day of the burning the better. What a hot and roaring fire it made!

After the fires had burned out, came the "logging," piling the unburned logs and trash into great piles to be burned. Often

the piles of logs had to be restacked and burnt again and again. Handling those charred and blackened logs was a very dirty job, and soon a man would be as black as the logs he was handling. What a sorry looking field our pioneer had. It was full of blackened stumps, large and small, and the ground was very rough and uneven. A newly cleared field might be called a "new ground" or "fallow," pronounced by a countryman as "follow."

To add to the woes of the pioneer, there were a great many rocks and stones lying about, so that he had to plant his first crop as best he could. There was nothing that he could do about the stumps and rocks at that time, but with hand tools he could work around them.

In about ten years the smaller stumps would be rotted away, but the larger stumps might take another ten years, depending on the kind of tree that had been cut. Then by alternate burning and digging, the stump might be so loosened that it could be pulled out of the ground with a team of oxen.

The large stones and rocks were another problem since they could not be burned as the tree and stumps were but were hauled to the edge of the field and used to build a wall. Years ago it was not uncommon to see fields surrounded by stone walls.

It is interesting to note that many of the people locating in the Block House up to about 1820 had settled on farms near the present Friedens Lutheran Church in Jackson Township and on the adjacent land in Liberty Township. By 1820 there were enough small children in the community that the parents felt the need of having a school in the vicinity. This was fifteen years before Pennsylvania set up its public school system.

Jacob Beck lived in about the center of the community and as he had small children, he was greatly interested in the establishing of a school. He donated land across the road from the present home of Albert Brion and helped build a log school house. This is what was called a subscription school where the parents had to furnish the building, the supplies, and pay the teacher. Isaac Fulkrod had the honor of teaching the first school in the Block House.

Two years later, in 1822, a log school building was erected in the village of Block House, and here again Isaac Fulkrod was

the teacher. Those school buildings were of very simple design: just the four walls, a roof, a door and a couple of windows, with a fireplace and a floor. The desks were made by placing a sloping shelf about eighteen inches wide approximately three feet from the floor on two sides of the room. In front of the shelf were backless benches. Part of the shelf and benches could be made lower for the smaller children. Though many of the parents were of German origin and at home spoke mostly German, the classes were conducted in English. It was not uncommon to have children start going to school unable to speak any English. The New Testament was a popular reading book in the early schools.

Some of these early settlers came directly from Germany and others were of the first generation born to German immigrants. They brought with them the language and many of the manners and customs of Germany. Devoutly religious and mostly adherents to the Lutheran faith, they deplored the lack of a community church, but it was not until 1827 that sufficient interest was aroused to organize and establish a church. Circuit-riding ministers sometimes came through the valley and held religious services. We can imagine that Gustave Schultz was one of these traveling ministers, for in a history of the Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania, the Rev. J. N. Steck reports that Gustav Schultz was busy preaching to the Lutheran people west and north of Williamsport in the eighteen twenties.

In those days money for the building of churches was scarce, so while trying to raise money Schultz traveled to Washington and saw Andrew Jackson.

"Don't you have churches in Williamsport?" asked Jackson.

"No, we don't," said Schultz.

"Then preach to them in their barns," said Jackson.

"That's what I have been doing," Schultz replied.

Steck also says Schultz organized the Friedens Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Church in the present Jackson Township. Dedicated in 1828, the hewed log structure housed the congregation until the present two story brick church was built about 1870.

Let us again turn back the pages of

history and look at some of the governmental and political events concerning this section of our state. In 1874, a treaty had been signed at Fort Stanwix, New York, between the whites and the Indians whereby the Indians gave up their claims to the northern part of Pennsylvania and the western section of New York. This territory comprised a vast domain in the two states, and a wave of migration and immigration soon followed. Land-owning companies were formed to buy up large tracts, and individuals vied with each other to see who could control the most acres.

Government and political expansion was rapid. In 1772 Northumberland County had been organized, and its control along the West Branch extended to Lycoming Creek. But after the treaty of 1784, the vast area of Pennsylvania from the Allegheny River on the west to the North Branch of the Susquehanna on the east, and north to the New York line was placed under the jurisdiction of Northumberland County. In 1786 the land lying between Lycoming Creek and Pine Creek and extending north to the New York line was set up as Lycoming Township, Northumberland County.

In that same year, the Pennsylvania Assembly received a petition asking that a new county be set up for the convenience of persons living along the West Branch, near Williamsport. It took nine long years of petitions and counter petitions before favorable action was taken by the assembly. Finally, on April 13, 1795, Governor Thomas Mifflin signed the bill creating the new county, and after a long debate the name Lycoming County was finally agreed upon.

Set up in 1795 and containing approximately 12,000 square miles, Lycoming County was bounded on the west by the Allegheny River, on the north by New York, on the east by the North Branch near the New York border and farther south by Luzerne County. The southern boundary of the new county corresponded to the present county line except that it extended west to the Allegheny River.

When Lycoming Township was set up, it was in Northumberland County; but by the act of Assembly in 1795, it was now in Lycoming County. The township covered such a large area that in 1797, the Lycoming County Court was petitioned to

divide the township by an east and west line to cut it in half. This was done and the northern part was called Tioga Township.

In 1803, an omnibus bill before the Assembly created a number of new counties from Lycoming County, among them being Bradford, Tioga and Potter. Consequently, what had been made Tioga Township in 1797, now in 1803 became Tioga County. This newly formed county was divided into a number of townships, Tioga Township occupying the north central part of the county and Covington Township occupying the south central part.

The southern line of Tioga County passed east and west just south of the present Borough of Liberty, cutting right through the middle of our Block House community. Half of the people were now living in Tioga County while the other half were citizens of Lycoming County.

The people living in and around the village of Block House in Tioga County now felt very keenly the inconvenience of their being part of Covington Township with Blossburg Mountain separating them from the populous area north of and beyond the mountain. The Tioga County court was petitioned to erect a new township; this was done in 1823, the new township being named Liberty.

In 1823 residents of the Block House living south of the county line were citizens of Lycoming Township, with all the township officers living along the river, twenty five miles away. These Block House people felt the need of a justice of the peace to acknowledge deeds and to perform the other duties of such an officer.

Accordingly Governor Schultz was petitioned to appoint Jacob Beck justice of the peace. Peter Sechrist walked to Harrisburg to present this petition in person. The appointment was signed March 7, 1824, and Jacob Beck served out the appointed term and succeeding terms until 1850, when he moved from the township and resigned his office.

At the February term of the Lycoming County Court in 1824, these same petitioners who had asked for a justice of the peace now joined with others of the township living along the upper reaches of Lycoming Creek. Their joint petition requested that the township be divided by a line starting

on the Lycoming Creek at a point eight miles from the river and running west to Pine Creek. This was acted on favorably at the September term of the court, and the new township was named Jackson in honor of the hero of the battle of New Orleans.

Thus surveyors' lines created new counties and townships and cut the little Blockhouse community in half, but even so the people continued to work together for further improvements. Their petition for a post office was granted in 1824, and the site chosen was in the village of Blockhouse, the name of the village being changed to Liberty. It was a common practice to give the post office and the village it was in the same name as the township. Human nature being what it is, it was difficult for people to get accustomed to the new name. Nine years later a letter postmarked May 14, 1833, was addressed as follows:

Mr. Isaac Fulkrod
Tioga County
Liberty Township
Liberty P. O.
Block House, Pa.

In 1894 this envelope was in the possession of Mr. John Fulkrod who was then the postmaster at Liberty.

Recently Mr. Quintillis Hartsock, an elderly resident of Liberty, told me another story of how Liberty got its name. With a twinkle in his eye, he said, "While they were building the Williamson Road through here, one of the workmen finished his job and asked his foreman what he should do. His foreman replied, 'I have nothing for you just now. You are at liberty.'"

In the very early days there were two rivals to the little village of Block House. Mr. C. F. Veile had built a tannery north of the village, and as soon as there were several houses the place was named Veile Town.

The other rival got started on the level land just east of the village on top of the hill. Two Jewish merchants had their homes and their stores there. Other people with trades built homes, a hotel was established and there was the beginning of a town. An old map of Tioga County showed it as Shentown, and at one time there were more people in Shentown than in Block House. But the coming of the post office and other places of business soon spelled

the doom of the rivals, though the hill has ever since been known as Jew Hill

Johnathan Sebring tore down the old "Blockhaus," and built a new building for his hotel. William Dieffenbacher built a grist mill in the village, but it is not known whether he or Peter Sechrist was the first to have such a mill.

Jacob Benner's fulling mill was later equipped with carding machines. The fulling mill was used to clean the wool clipped from the sheep in the spring time, and the carding machines prepared the wool for home spinning into yarn.

Lumbering was the heavy industry of the community, and at the Block House or nearby were several sawmills. Soon one of the mills put in a planing mill to turn out finished lumber, and later turning machines to make turned pieces for furniture and hand tools.

More families came into the community every year. A list of the settlers about 1830 shows over a hundred family names, many of them familiar in the community today. What these early settlers did here in transforming a wilderness into a prosperous farming community is no more than that

which many of their contemporaries achieved in other parts of our land. Their vision saw them through the perilous days of pioneering, and they laid here the foundation of a prosperous community.

Had there been no Williamson Road with German emigrants on their way to Painted Post—Had there been no man named Anthonyson who gave his hotel a German name, there might have been no Block House.

Despite the fact that the original "Blockhaus" succumbed to the ravages of age and was replaced by a new hotel and given a different name, despite the name of the village being changed to Liberty, despite the politicians with their surveyors lines cutting the community in half, the "Block House" lived on for many years in the hearts of the people. Now the only reminder of those days is Block House Creek, sometimes racing at breakneck speed as if trying to keep up with the cars tearing along the ribbon of concrete known as the Williamson Trail. At other times Block House Creek tarries languidly, and on certain days if you listen closely, you may hear it sing to itself, the story of the Block House.

LYCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM FOR 1960-1961

OCTOBER 6 —

The Block House Story Dr. Berton E. Beck

NOVEMBER 3 —

Moses Van Campen Edwin M. Barton

DECEMBER 8 —

Christmas Party Clyde W. Harer

JANUARY 5 —

Early American Silver Illustrated by Dr. J. Donald Wentzler

FEBRUARY 2 —

Murders in Lycoming County Judge Charles F. Greevy

MARCH 2 —

The Possessions of our Pennsylvania Pioneers Mr. John H. Carter, Sr.
Asst. Supt. of Schools in Northumberland County

The History of Otstonwakin Farm

By Mabel E. Eck

About a mile east of the Loyalsock Creek, between the main highway and the Susquehanna River, lies one of the most beautiful farms of Pennsylvania. It was originally the property of the Otstonwakin Tribe of Indians whence its name "Otstonwakin Farm."

I will begin with the "forest primeval" and trace its history to the present owner.

Count Zinzendorf and his party left Shamokin on the thirtieth of September, 1742, and traveled up the West Branch. During the second night they encamped near Muncy Creek. The Count spoke enthusiastically of the beauty of the scenery and richness of the foliage. Conrad Weiser, the Indian interpreter, according to the journal of the Count accompanied them. When they approached "Otsuagy" sometimes called "Otstonwakin,"—Weiser rode ahead to the village to notify the inhabitants of the approach of the party. It was then the residence of the celebrated Madame Montour, a French half-breed, who located there as early as 1727. In a short time he returned, accompanied by Andrew, the eldest son of Madame. Andrew invited the party to visit them. As soon as the Indians of the Otstonwakin Tribe saw them, they discharged their fire-arms, by way of salute and repeated this mode of welcome on our arrival at the wigwams. Here we dismounted and repaired to Madame Montour's quarters. When the old woman saw them, she wept. "We spent the night with this tribe and then traveled northward."

The next Moravian visitation was in June 1745, when Bishop Spangenberg, accompanied by Conrad Weiser, David Zeisberger and several converted Indians passed through the valley on their way to Onondaga. On the eighth of June they crossed Muncy Creek and followed the path to Otstonwakin, which they reached at noon. After crossing Muncy Creek the Bishop records in his journal that they "found half a deer," which an Indian from Otstonwakin had shot, and being unable to carry all of it home, he had hung the rest of it up in a tree, so that whoever needed it might take it—which we did.

The Indians at Otstonwakin received them kindly and treated them to boiled meat, which they placed before them in a large kettle. After refreshing themselves, they proceeded in the afternoon on their journey northward.

Hard times and the rumors of war continued on the West Branch. The French, who occupied the western part of the Province, were threatening an invasion and friendly Indians were in a state of alarm. Several of the latter came from the Ohio, and through Conrad Weiser informed Governor Morris that they desired to settle at Otstonwakin.

Permission was given to them to settle at Otstonwakin. On the twelfth of June 1755, Weiser notified the Governor that he had just returned from Otstonwakin, where he had been with ten men to fence in a cornfield for the Indians, in accordance with his instructions. When he arrived at the place he found that the Indians who had petitioned the Governor for assistance had mostly deserted the place for want of provisions, and chiefly for having lost all their corn by severe frosts between the twenty-ninth and thirtieth of May last, which was the second frost that had appeared in the valley since their corn was up, and it had been entirely killed. He only found two Indians, with their families in the town; they were very thankful for what had been done for them, but as they had no hopes of raising any corn from what they had planted, they thought it useless to have a field fenced. He left them one sack of flour, and on his way down the river left one with the Indians he found at Muncy. He informed the Indians whom they met of the threatening condition of affairs with the French, and that a declaration of war was imminent.

This was the turning point in Indian affairs on the West Branch. The dusky inhabitants had been forced to leave on account of the continuance of the famine, brought about by late frosts annually destroying their corn, and as their small stores had been entirely exhausted they could not recover. Hence the abandonment of the valley.

NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. O. J. Finster
2037 Sheridan St., Williamsport
- Miss Helen E. Dittmar
43½ Washington Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. Chester E. McCall
501 North Arch St., Montoursville
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. DeCenso
Sheridan St., Williamsport
- Dr. and Mrs. John D. High
2514 W. Fourth St., Williamsport
- Mr. John B. Riddell,
1100 Market St., Williamsport
- Dr. G. D. Castlebury
108 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport
- Mrs. Anna H. Herz
1119 Woodmont Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Phipps
1619 Malvin Place, Williamsport
- Mr. Henry Moser
125 Ross St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Earl Miller
1120 W. Fourth St., Williamsport
- Dr. and Mrs. Harry W. Buzzerd
760 Glenwood Ave., Williamsport
- Dr. and Mrs. John H. Bone
328 So. Main St., Jersey Shore
- Rev. Frank P. Corcoran
635 Hepburn St., Williamsport
- Mrs. Charles B. Losch Maynard
1616 Elmira St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bitner
412 So. Main St., Jersey Shore
- Miss Patricia McRae Philleps
332 Lincoln Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. John F. Raker
Liberty
- Mrs. Kathryn Stover
Park Home, Williamsport
- Mrs. A. L. Taylor
700 Campbell St., Williamsport
- Mrs. H. P. Herman
503 Hawthorne Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Lloyd
1353 Faxon Parkway, Williamsport
- Mrs. Florence Taylor
Trout Run
- Miss Florence Stover
Park Home
Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Freezar
324 Trout St., Jersey Shore
- Mr. and Mrs. Abram Miller Snyder
Cogan Station, Williamsport, R. D. 2
- Mr. and Mrs. George A. Geiger, Jr.
353 Woodland Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Reder
1500 Richey St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Neafie Mitchell
1525 Penn St., Williamsport
- Miss Mary Riddell
1600 Market St., Williamsport
- Mr. Charles E. Green
26 N. Main St., Montgomery
- Miss Barbara Jane Knittle
708 Highland Terrace, Williamsport
- Paul W. Reeder, Esq
1306 Cherry St., Williamsport
- Miss Enda Breese
420 Hawthorne St., Williamsport
- Mr. John Loedlein
706 Grace St., Williamsport
- Miss Emily Loedlein
706 Grace St., Williamsport
- Dr. and Mrs. John E. Knight
2105 W. Fourth St., Williamsport
- Mrs. Guy Wheeland
1206 Shiffer Ave., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Allen Page, Jr.
268 Woodland Ave., Williamsport
- Mrs. Percy Bay
301 Allegheny St., Jersey Shore
- Mr. and Mrs. Howard O. Bay
1128 Thompson St., Jersey Shore
- Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Emery
454 So. Broad St., Montoursville
- Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Eck
820 Broad St., Montoursville
- Dr. and Mrs. David T. Jennings
First National Bank Bldg., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Allen
1151 Market St., Williamsport
- Mr. Frederick A. Heim
36 W. Fourth St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Durrwachter
246 Lincoln Ave., Williamsport
- Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Little
R. D. 1, Cogan Station
- Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Morris
2729 Newberry St., Williamsport
- Charles E. McHaffie
967 W. Fourth St., Williamsport
- Henry E. Moser
125 Ross St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Nolan
805 W. Mountain Ave., So. Williamsport
- Mr. Herman A. Pautz
135 Ross St., Williamsport
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Plankenhorn
350 Harding Ave., Williamsport
- Nathan W. Stuart, Esq.
381 Lincoln Ave., Williamsport

The editor wishes to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Lycoming County Historical Society for the countless hours of work contributed by several students of Williamsport High School for the preparation of copy, proof reading, typing, etc. in preparing the Journal for publication. If it were not for this assistance given to the editor, the publication date of the Journal, extremely indefinite because of the scarcity of contributions, would not have been easily met. The Society wishes in this issue to particularly thank Edward Knights, Jan Robbins and Jill Dickie.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Again it is a pleasure to greet our members and friends by way of this publication.

I would like to voice my appreciation to the Journal Staff for their outstanding efforts in this connection. Also, I would like to thank all of the members for their assistance in bringing about the very marked growth of our Society during the past year.

Some wonderful improvements have been made in the Museum and more are being planned. Plans are also being made for definite improvements to the carriage house which will greatly increase its value and usefulness.

We'll be looking forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Cordially,

Frank W. Brunner
President

THE SURGICAL CASE

The surgical case (pictured in previous issue) was originally owned by Dr. John Nevins, who was born approximately in 1801, and practiced medicine at Titusville. Dr. Nevins carried this kit in a saddle bag while making house calls on horse back.

Dr. Nevins owned a 42 acre farm on which the Drake oil well was drilled. (This was the first oil well in the world to be drilled). In 1859, he sold the farm for \$75,000.00 and moved to Montoursville. He bought the brick house on the North-east corner of Loyalsock Avenue and Broad Street and retired from active practice soon after.

In 1883, his son, Dr. John Nevins, Jr., graduated from Bellevue Medical College which later became Cornell Medical College. Dr. Nevins, Jr., began practice at Jersey Shore in 1884-1910. He died on 3-10-1910.

The surgical case was then turned over to his son, George L. Nevins who is a retired pharmacist (PH) living in Jersey Shore. Mr. Nevins practiced pharmacy for 47 years having retired in 1956.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION
FROM CHILDREN OF THE
WILLIAMSPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Miss Harer,

We would like to thank you for the interesting trip through the museum. particularly liked the dolls that you showed us and the very nice old clothing.

We hope to visit you again in the future. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Diane Myers
5th grade

Dear Ladies of the Museum Committee,

Thank you for letting us visit your museum. We enjoyed every minute of it. We all liked your collection of old time things.

Sincerely yours,
David Victor

Dear Ladies of the Museum Committee,

Thank you very much for showing us around. We really appreciated it.

Your friend,
Susan Larson

Accessions to the Museum

1. Canal Captain's log book, containing cargo reports.
Gift of Dr. L. E. Wurster, Proctor Star Route.
2. Unframed pictures of open street car. (No. 103)
Donor unknown.
3. Unframed pictures (15) of Williamsport, 1889 flood.
4. Unframed pictures of Noble Grist Mill located at present P. P. & L. dam foot of Hepburn Street; wrecked 1889 flood.
Gift of Mrs. Fred Durrwachter, Williamsport, Pa.
5. Lantern which lighted the front of last canal boat which came into Williamsport.
Gift of George R. Walters.
6. Lycoming County map.
Gift of Greater Williamsport Chamber of Commerce.
7. West Branch Bell Telephone Co. directory, 1954.
Gift of Mrs. John C. Hayes.
8. Baby's garment made entirely by hand (1849); Child's books published by American Sunday School Union of Philadelphia.
Gift of Elizabeth M. Metzger, Williamsport, Pa.
9. Obituary of Augustue Aradt, date 1878: Resident of Williamsport. (This article is unusual as it is pictured on silk).
Gift of Clarence A. Corson, Farmington, Michigan.
10. Gas Lighter: Used in the Old Centennial Building, Pine and Fifth Street.
Gift of Mr. E. B. Allen, Williamsport, Pa.
11. Log Broom.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Luidenmutle (1959), Williamsport, Pa.
12. Indenture dated 6th day of September 1797: to land in Lycoming Township, signed by Administration of the will of William Wallace, deceased, Charles Stewart, Robert Hurst, and Rebecca Hurst, witnessed by W. Bell, Samuel Stewart.
Gift of Mrs. Ralph B. Riddell, Buffalo, N. Y.
13. Lycoming County Mutual Insurance Company, to John Swengel, Centre Township, Union County, Sept. 22, 1850.
Gift of W. W. Swengel, York County, Pa.
14. First Lady's open-face watch (Swiss) in Williamsport. Belonged to Jane Burrows Coryell Gibson.
Presented by Florence Coryell Parsons, Williamsport, Pa., granddaughter of Jane B. C. Gibson.
Secured by Margaret B. Coryell, Feb., 1960.
15. Clock; used on West Branch Canal.
Presented by the family of late Mr. and Mrs. John Levegood of Jersey Shore, Pa.
16. Trunk; Ladies Case.
Gift of Mrs. R. W. Jackson, Williamsport, Pa.
17. Pamphlet; 50th anniversary of Maple Springs Evangelical United Brethren Church.

INDEX OF VOLUMES ONE THROUGH TEN

Vol. & No.	Title of Article	Author	Page
I, No. 7	Annie Oakley's Last Shot	Col. H. W. Shoemaker	13
I, No. 5	Apple Butter Boiling in Early Days at Blooming Grove	Susan H. Little	11
I, No. 9	Apple Butter Making	Susan Little	18
I, No. 9	Arrival of First Canal Boat in Williamsport	(Not mentioned)	3
I, No. 9	Black Marble Fireplaces	Col. Henry W. Shoemaker	8
I, No. 8	The Care of Old Paintings	Dr. H. B. Mussina	11
I, No. 9	Christmas in Old Blooming Grove	(Not mentioned)	20
I, No. 1	Crime on the Canal	Lewis E. Theiss	5
I, No. 6	Doctors on Horseback and in Gigs	Compiled by Katherine Bennett	3
I, No. 9	"Don't Ruin That Painting"	Dr. Mussina	4
I, No. 6	Dudley Allen Martin, Central Penna.'s First Archaeologist	Henry W. Shoemaker	9
I, No. 5	Early Lumbering in Cogan House Township	Milton Landis	2
I, No. 2	Education in the Nineteenth Century	John Eckert	19
I, No. 5	The Fairy Basket	Clair Robbins	9
I, No. 2	Fishing Experiences	(Part of a letter published in Pa. Angler)	18
I, No. 4	Found — A Lost School	Della G. Dodson	5
I, No. 8	Founding and Early Life in Ralston	Copy of a news story on W R A K	13
I, No. 7	Fort Augusta	Lewis E. Theiss	5
I, No. 9	Freedom Road	Ralph L. Lester	22
I, No. 9	Gottlieb Heim, Grandfather at the Loyal-sock	Elma Larimore	13
I, No. 8	In Memoriam	L. R. Wurster	2
I, No. 8	Jake Rubicam's Flying Horses	H. W. Shoemaker	3
I, No. 1	John Wesley Little	Mrs. John Little	3

INDEX OF VOLUMES ONE THROUGH TEN

Vol. & No.	Title of Article	Author	Page
I, No. 4	July 4th, 1863, Gettysburg, "He was there"	George D. Wolfe	2
I, No. 7	Junk or Antiquities	Michael Wargo (not mentioned)	2
I, No. 10	Little Family	Susan Little	18
I, No. 6	Lumber Rafting On Big Pine Creek	John S. Beck	11
I, No. 2	Memories	Margaret P. Schultz	5
I, No. 2	Memories of My Boyhood Days on the Farm	L. E. Wurster, M. D.	2
I, No. 4	Memories of Wildlife on Young Women's Creek	H. W. Shoemaker	8
I, No. 3	Ocean Voyage of The Kiess Family—The Diary	George Kiess	3
I, No. 2	Old Tannery Whistle, The	Milton Landis	4
I, No. 7	On Entering The Old G. A. R. Hall	Robert S. Ulrich	3
I, No. 4	Pages Of Dirt	James P. Bressler	4
I, No. 1	Panthers Of The Loyalsock	H. W. Shoemaker	10
I, No. 1	Recollections of a Boom Rat	James Myers	11
I, No. 2	Reminiscences of Dr. A. F. Hardt	Dr. A. F. Hardt	8
I, No. 7	Reno Post 64, G. A. R., Williamsport, Pa.	John L. Hunsinger	4
I, No. 2	Sketch of the Life of Gen. John Burrows	John Burrows	9
I, No. 3	Society and Personal	From the Wmspt. Sat. Eve. Review	14
I, No. 3	Street Car Parties	(not mentioned)	2
I, No. 8	Sand Hill Cemetery	Clara Robbins	7
I, No. 10	Unhonored Hero, An	Clark B. Kahler	15
I, No. 7	What Do We Want?	Rodman Wurster	11
I, No. 8	What Lumbering meant to the U. S. A.	Lewis E. Theiss	8
I, No. 6	What the forest Meant to the Pioneers	Lewis E. Theiss	15
I, No. 3	When Lumber Was King In The East	Harry A. Fischler	17
I, No. 3	Wildcat in Duboistown	James Myers	18
I, No. 10	Williamson Road, The	Charles G. Webb	3