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COVER PICTURE — Copy of an engraving of the United States Hotel, 17-19 West Third Street, Williamsport (the present location of the Fidelity National Bank). It is stated that "He (Severin Roesen) took his meals, rather irregularly, at the old United States Hotel." The engraving was taken from the border of a map of the city of Williamsport in 1857 by McKinney and Bonwill.

1972-1973

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM
LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You are cordially invited to attend our regular membership meetings which will be held on the third Thursday of each month. We will meet at the Museum except as noted in September and March.

September 21, 1972 (6:30 p.m.)

MR. WILLIAM TURNBAUGH, former Vice President of the Society and currently a doctoral candidate in archaeology at Harvard University, will present an illustrated talk on "Archaeology Here and There" at a dinner meeting at the Warrensville Fire Hall.

October 19, 1972 (8:00 p.m.)

MR. MAX E. AMEIGH, Instructor in Art, Lycoming College, will give a demonstration and explanation of pottery making.

November 16, 1972 (8:00 p.m.)

MISS ELIZABETH WARNER, of Hughesville, who is a former school teacher and a "birthright Quaker," will give a talk on Quakers in Lycoming County.

DECEMBER 21, 1972 (8:30 p.m.)

A CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM by the Gesang Verein Harmonia and the Damenchor (Women's Chorus) under the direction of Mr. David M. Smith of South Williamsport.

January 18, 1973 (8:00 p.m.)

DR. MAURICE A. MOOK, of Penn State and Lycoming College, will speak on recent discoveries about the life of Severin Roesen in Williamsport.

February 15, 1973 (8:00 p.m.)

DR. OTTO L. SONDER, Dean of Liberal Arts of the Williamsport Area Community College, will speak on "A Social Psychology of Local History."

March 15, 1973 (6:30 p.m.)

A symposium on antique and modern WEDGWOOD JASPERWARE put on by a Wedgwood Company representative and Ralph B. Grammer, Inc., at a dinner meeting in the ballroom of the Lycoming Hotel.

April 20, 1973 (8:00 p.m.)

OPERATION MUSEUM JUNIOR LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS, under the leadership of Mrs. Allan N. Young, Jr., will present their program on "100 Years of Changing Scenes in Lycoming County." This will be the annual business meeting of the Society.

Mrs. John Bitner, Program Chairman

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reserve December 5, 1972, for the benefit concert by Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians at the new High School Auditorium.

September 20, 1972

Dear Members:

Your Board of Governors has asked me to become your President, which I have accepted with great humility.

I have a very real interest in our Historical Society and all that it stands for. I am aware that today's events become tomorrow's history. Expanding our exhibits and enlarging our resources, financial and otherwise, should always be our goal. Our Museum is one of the finest anywhere, and with your continued cooperation we can enhance its value.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Noyes, Sr., President



YOUR COUNTY MUSEUM TODAY

Since the appearance of the last Journal, your Museum has acquired many valuable and interesting items for the collections. I think it would be interesting to mention some of them. Misses Pauline and Elsie Faber donated to the Museum a variety of textiles and clothing, and some excellent genealogical books for the archives. From the estate of John J. Hurr we received several books on history for the archives, including a set of Pennsylvania history books by Godcharles, "Chronicles of Central Pennsylvania," 1944, of which volume three is missing. If any member would happen to know of a copy of the third volume of this set, it would be an important addition for our resources. A gallery instrument and tripod (an 1883 portrait camera) was given by Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Fullmer along with a handmade spinning wheel chair that was used with the camera in the 1880's. A complete set of World War I nurse's uniforms, that had been worn by Mrs. Catherine Stearns Nutt, was given by Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Cipolla. Other recent additions were textiles from Mr. and Mrs. George Bittner; a handsome Victorian needlepoint and beaded fireplace screen from Dr. and Mrs. William Brink; and two canal markers, one from Mr. William Umstead and the other from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hollen, who also gave us a very old pine desk.

We are always happy to receive items of special interest, or quality, for the Museum collections in order to fill in areas that have a special need. Also, we are always anxious to have items with particular family connections, or historical connections, in the county.

We would urge our members to frequent the Museum during the coming months so that they can see many, many objects that have been in storage for some time and are being shown in special exhibits in the lobby area of the building. Also, since April of this year, we have opened several permanent exhibits in the Museum galleries, such as a colonial living room and a colonial kitchen, a series of handmade dioramas in the lumber gallery, and a Pennsylvania Canal exhibit.

The following special exhibits have been in progress since April, and will continue through May of next year:

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH:

The Beauty and Utility of Wood	April 15 - May 15
A Lamp unto My Feet	May 15 - June 15
Fourth of July	June 15 - July 15
Hand Weapons	July 15 - August 15
Little League	August 15 - September 15
The Art of Penmanship	September 15 - October 15
The Cobbler's Art	October 16 - December 1
Christmas Special	December 2 - January 15
A Hat for My Lady	January 16 - February 28
Sir Walter's Weed	March 1 - April 15
A Bookworm's Delight	April 16 - May 30

COLLECTOR'S CORNER:

Ladies' Fans	May 1 - June 1
Men and Women's Jewelry	June 1 - July 1
Rocks and Minerals	July 1 - August 1
Currency and Coins	August 1 - September 1
19th Century Toys	September 1 - October 1
Political Campaigns	October 2 - November 15
Silver and Plate	November 16 - December 31
Handkerchiefs	January 1 - February 15
Railroad Memorabilia	February 16 - March 30
Postage Stamps	April 1 - May 15

LARGE SPECIAL EXHIBITS:

Maps and Documents	May 1 - June 16
Here Come the Brides	June 16 - July 31
Photos from the Archives	July 31 - September 16
Leather	September 16 - October 31
Let's Make Music	November 1 - December 15
Old Fashioned Christmas Gifts	December 16 - January 16
Some More Quilts	January 17 - March 15
Tradition of Local Pottery	March 16 - April 30

PICTURE OF THE MONTH:

"Jane C. Brandon" - John F. Francis	June 1 - June 30
"Battle of Gettysburg" - Lithograph	July 1 - July 31
"Children Buying Candy" - Frances Tipton Hunter	August 1 - August 31
Portrait of J. G. Rathmell	September 1 - September 30
"Chickens Feeding" - S. S. Fryer	October 1 - October 31
"Henry Clay in Congress" - Lithograph	November 1 - November 30
"Philadelphia Snow Scene" - M. H. Pancoast	December 1 - December 31

In all probability it will take from two to three years to explore all the facets of the varied and interesting collections in storage. We urge everyone to come in and enjoy these special shows.

Andrew K. Grugan
Museum Director

SEVERIN ROESEN AND HIS FAMILY

There has been a brisk traffic in the sale of the still-life paintings by Severin Roesen during the last several decades, in spite of which fact a large number of his more than one hundred known paintings remain in the Williamsport area. Most of the local owners of his paintings, and other interested persons as well, have heard many stories relating to the life of this mysterious artist.

It is a truism among historians that traditions may or may not be historically correct. It is a rule in historical investigation that a tradition may not be accepted as history until it is proved to be correct by independent *non-traditional* evidence. In the case of the family history of Severin Roesen it is now possible to separate truth from some of the legends, and it is the purpose of this paper to try and do so.

One of the mysteries concerning Roesen has been some uncertainty as to his first name. A newspaper article which appeared in the June 27, 1895 issue of the *Williamsport Sun and Banner* is entitled "August Roesen, Artist: An Interesting Williamsport Genius Recalled by His Works" (emphasis mine). This article was based upon tradition as it had been transmitted by "a large number of our older inhabitants (of Williamsport, among whom) there are few . . . who will not recall the genial German who made Lycoming County his home" during the last decade or so of his life. Most of the facts in this newspaper account seem to be correct, and it should also be pointed out that, although Roesen left Williamsport in the early 1870's, this article, written twenty-some years later, is the nearest thing to a contemporary account that has yet been found in nineteenth-century statements concerning this mid-nineteenth century man.

Consonant also with the given name of August is the fact that the Williamsport City Directory for 1866-67 lists "A. Roesen, artist", who is indicated as boarding at the old and now defunct U. S. Hotel, which was located in the first block of West Third Street at that time. (This is

the first Williamsport city directory in which Roesen is listed at all, although tradition has it that he came to Williamsport "about 1858"). The Williamsport Directory for 1869-70, however, identifies him as "S. Roessen," and that of 1871-72 lists the name as "S. Rosen." Mistakes in the spelling of names are frequently met with in early city directories, but the last two listings conform to the way the artist usually signed his paintings. In a catalogue of 132 of his paintings, published in 1951, 111 of these are signed by the artist, and of these, 68 are signed "S. Roesen", 40 are signed "Roesen", and three are signed "SR"¹.

In 1847 an artist named Severin Roesen had a flower painting in an art exhibition in Cologne, Germany. A contemporary publication identifies the artist as a porcelain painter residing in that city ("maler zu Köln") at the time of the exhibit. He also may have been born there (J. J. Merlo, *Kunst und Künstler in Köln*, Köln, 1850, p. 349). The monumental Thieme-Becker *Lexicon* lists the artist by the same first name and identifies him as a painter of flowers on porcelain and enamel. (*Allgemeines Lexicon der Bildenden Künster*, Leipzig, Vol. 28, 1934). A French publication of 1924 lists him as Severin Rosen, "Peintre sur porcelaine et sur email, spécialiste de la fleur. Cologne, vers 1847" (Henri Clouzot, *Dictionnaire des Miniaturistes sur Email*. Paris, Editions Albert Morance, 1924).

This German artist then disappeared from the European art world. One year after the Cologne exhibition he appeared in New York City and records show that from 1848 to 1850 he sold eleven works, eight of which were flower paintings, to the American Art Union. (The Art Union was an organization formed to encourage American artists and to sell their works. To the Union an artist was American if he resided in this country, irrespective of where he was born or how long he had lived in the United States). He is also listed as S. Roesen in New York city directories from 1848 through 1857 (Personal communication

from Dr. David H. Wallace. See also George C. Groce and David H. Wallace, *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of American Artists, 1564-1860*. New Haven, 1957, p. 543.

Fourteen signed and dated Roesen paintings have been located to date, nine of which are dated from 1848 to 1857 and were therefore painted during the period of his residence in New York City. Eight of these are signed "S Roesen" and one is signed "S. Rösen", retaining the German umlaut spelling of the name. There are five known dated paintings of his Williamsport period, all of which are signed, and they date from 1862 to 1872. Four of these are signed "S Roesen", and one carries the (for Roesen) unusual signature "Roesen, Artist".

During the past several years descendants of the artist living in this country have been heard from, one of whom is an energetic genealogist. She is a great-granddaughter of the artist who has meticulously researched primary historical records available in New York City. She writes me as follows: "As to the name of the artist, there is no middle name listed in any of the records, including the U. S. Census of 1850. Just *Severin Roesen*" is recorded.

So one can now conclude with confidence that the painter's Christian name was Severin—not August, or any thing else. It also is improbable that August may have been his middle name, and has been suggested by Stone (p. 11). In this connection it is interesting that Wolfgang Born, the first author to mention Roesen in a history of American painting, accepted Severin as the artist's Christian name and implies that Cologne was his birthplace, substantiating his assumption (he seems to think) by stating that "Severin is a common name in Cologne, since St. Severin was a popular saint there" (*Still-Life Painting in America*, 1947, p. 25).

For the sake of the factual record it should be stated that we do not know that Roesen was born in Cologne; we only know that he was living there in the middle 1840's. It does seem certain, however, that the Cologne porcelain painter of 1847 is also the German-American still-life painter

who painted predominantly flower paintings in New York from 1848 to 1857 and predominantly fruit paintings in Williamsport from 1862 to 1872. (I am here using the terminal dates of his dated paintings in the New York City and Williamsport periods of his painting activity).

Another quite lively oral tradition in the Williamsport area has been the belief that Roesen with his wife and children migrated to America from Germany in the late 18-40's. The 1895 newspaper article already cited flatly says so: "He came to this country with his wife and family and lived for some time in New York City". This was accepted as a fact in this area until a living descendant of Roesen (one of his five great-grandchildren still living in this country) visited our city and advised us differently. This descendant's research has established the fact that Roesen married Wilhelmina Ludwig who was born December 25, 1832, in the village of Altsei, which is located in the Rhine River valley near Cologne. We have seen that Roesen was living in Cologne in 1847, but Wilhelmina would have been only 15 years old in that year.

It has been reported by the mother of one of Roesen's living great-grandchildren that Wilhelmina was brought to this country by her family when she was 16 years old. She would have been 16 years old on Christmas day 1848. This is also the year when Roesen is thought to have come to New York from Cologne.

But if the Roesen family tradition respecting Wilhelmina's arrival in New York City with her family is to be even tentatively accepted, it would have to be concluded that Rosen and his future wife came to New York independently of each other and while they were still unmarried. He must have soon married her, however, and undoubtedly while she was still a teen-age girl, for it is known that their daughter Louisa was born February 1, 1851. Wilhelmina would then have been in her nineteenth year. Severin Roesen's birthdate is unknown, but Stone (p. 13) by a series of perceptive deductions concludes that he may have been born *ca.* 1816. This is perhaps little better than a guess, but it at

least suggests that Roesen may have been at least 15 years older than his wife was.

It is well remembered by living descendants that Severin and Wilhelmina Roesen had two daughters and one son. No record has yet been found of the name and birthdate of one of the daughters, but it is known that she became the wife of a Dr. von Duering who practiced medicine in New York City. He died in 1908 and she died about two years later. They had no children.

Severin and Wilhelmina Roesen's daughter Louisa married Bartholomew Krusi in New York City May 31, 1870. Louisa was, like her mother, a teen-age bride; on her wedding certificate her "age at next birthday" is indicated as nineteen. On the same certificate Severin is listed as her father's first name and it is also there stated that he was "born in Germany." It is thus no longer necessary to assume that he was born in that country. The bride's mother's first name is recorded as "Mina," which is, of course, an affectionate abbreviation of her full first name. (She is also listed as Mina in the New York City Directory of 1870, where her last name is misspelled Roesan). The first daughter born to Bartholomew and Louisa was also named Mina. They had four daughters and no sons, so in their branch of the family the name Roesen ceased with their marriage.

Bartholomew Krusi was born in Switzerland and migrated to New York, where he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, then located on Madison Street in the eastern half of lower Manhattan. The Krusis lived in the parsonage at 276 Madison Street next door to the church. Pastor Krusi preached in German and his congregation included important New York German-speaking families, such as the Steinways. In the 1880's the German opera star, Lilli Lehmann, was married in his church, on which occasion Mina, the oldest daughter, played the organ and the other three little sisters sang as members of the church school choir. The diva long remembered this part of the ceremony and years later sent one of the girls her photograph in loving memory of the occasion, the girls and their parents. Pride in their ethnic

identity was characteristic of the German inhabitants of Manhattan a century ago and there was accordingly a strong feeling of fellowship among the members of the congregation. The church on Madison Street still stands, but due to the displacement of the former German inhabitants of this area, it is now used as a synagogue.

One of the Krusi daughters never married. The other three girls did, however, and from their marriages there were born five great grandchildren of Severin and Wilhelmina Roesen, all of whom are still living. Two of these are men, one of whom never married and the other is married but childless. The three female great grandchildren married and each has one or more living descendants today. There has been a predominance of females in the descendants of Louisa and Bartholomew Krusi, but, as earlier noted, the name of Roesen terminated in this branch of the family when Louisa Roesen married Pastor Krusi in 1870.

The five great grandchildren of the artist that descend from Bartholomew and Louisa Krusi are now dispersed in almost as many states: one lives in New York City, another lives elsewhere in New York State, and the other three live in New Jersey, New Hampshire and Texas. One of the men is an engineer and the other is an eminent professor of botany in one of our larger state universities. He is the author of several substantial scientific works and is listed in the current edition of *Who's Who in America*. Three of the artist's granddaughters were teachers, and one of the three great granddaughters is a retired teacher whose son is also a college professor. It is clear that the artist's descendants in this branch of the family have had their share of well-educated and professional people.

It is evident that the tradition that Severin and Wilhelmina Roesen were married in Europe and came to this country as a family is untrue. There is an even still stronger tradition that, due to Roesen's failure to support his family in New York, his wife and children left him and returned to Europe. It is stated in the Williamsport newspaper article already cited that "his wife and family left

(New York) about 1850 and went back to their home in Europe." This has been accepted until recently in Williamsport tradition, and it was also accepted by Richard Stone, who has written the most extensive monograph we have on the artist. However, Stone misinterpreted the 1895 newspaper statement when he said that "the first date for Roesen in the United States is 'about 1850' when the *Sun and Banner* says that his wife and family left him in New York City" (p. 9). Neither assertion is correct. The first date we have for Roesen in this country is 1848, and that "his wife abandoned him in New York" (p. 13) is also incorrect. As we have seen, his family remained in New York City, and it is also clear that Roesen left his wife and children when he came to Pennsylvania, rather than that they left him. All three of Severin and Wilhelmina's children were married in New York City, and their mother died in the Bronx on October 15, 1903 in her seventy-first year.

As soon as it was evident that the artist could not support his family by painting in New York, and after he left for Pennsylvania either late in 1857 or in 1858, Wilhelmina supported their children as best she could. Family tradition has it that she did so by working as a practical nurse. The New York City Directory of 1870 lists her as engaged in sewing for a livelihood. Soon after Louisa Roesen married Reverend Krusi in 1870, Wilhelmina and her son Oscar moved to the parsonage to live with the Krusis at 276 Madison Street.

Severin and Wilhelmina Roesen's son, Oscar, was born in Manhattan August 13, 1857. Either in or the year after 1857 Roesen left New York, leaving his young wife with a baby-in-arms and two small daughters to support. When Oscar was but eleven years old he went to work in a printing shop. Five years later he became an apprentice at R. Hoe and Company, a firm engaged in the manufacture of printing presses. Oscar Roesen remained with this company for 48 years. After passing through various grades of employment in the manufacturing end of the business, he entered the sales department, of which he later became Manager. At the time of his death he was a Director and Vice President

of R. Hoe and Company.

Oscar Roesen was not only financially successful; he also is reported to have made substantial contributions to the development of the printing press in America. His obituary notice in the *New York Times* (May 15, 1921, p. 22, col. 3) states that he had installed more printing presses than any other man in the world. It called him "one of the greatest authorities" on printing presses, and added that he had contributed to the "development of the press from its awkward age to its present stage of (being) one of the mechanical marvels of our age."

At the time of Oscar Roesen's death his son, Oscar, Jr., was also employed by the Hoe Company; another son, Robert, worked for a New York City trucking firm; and a daughter, Hildegard, also survived. Hildegard never married. Robert Roesen served in World War I and died in 1924 without issue, having survived his father by less than three years (Obituary, *New York Times*, January 20, 1924, p. 13, col. 2). Oscar Jr. married and had one daughter, Anne, who is married and now lives in Warwickshire, England and teaches at Cambridge University. She was the only great grandchild of the artist, and also the last person among his descendants, to carry the Roesen name. She is also the only Roesen descendant now living abroad.

In the first descendant generation of the artist's family, either by birth or by marriage, there were two professional men and a successful business man—Dr. von Duering, the Reverend Bartholomew Krusi, and the artist's son, Oscar, who, unlike his father, was both successful and wealthy. In succeeding generations there is an engineer, two college professors, and several teachers. None of the artist's grandchildren survive. There are six living great grandchildren, one of whom lives in England, and the other five live in four states of the United States. Three of these six descendants possess a painting by the artist. It is interesting that three of his great great grandchildren now live in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania within 25 miles of Williamsport, where the painter lived during the last years of his productive painting period.

We have seen that several "facts" deriving from oral tradition are incompatible with historical records of the Roesen family. Several other folkloric bits of misinformation concerning the artist have been considered in a recently published essay by the present author which deals with the painter's artistic activities and accomplishments while residing in Williamsport. (*Lycoming College Magazine*, Spring Issue, 1972).

1. The catalogue here referred to is on pp. 33-37 of Richard Stone's "Not Quite Forgotten", *A Study of The Williamsport Painter, S. Roesen*. Proceedings and Papers No. 9, Lycoming Historical Society, Williamsport, Pa., November, 1951. Although it is frequently assumed that this monograph is out of print, approximately 50 copies are still available at \$3.00 each, plus tax.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS

(From *STORIES OF WEST BRANCH VALLEY* by Katharine W. Bennet.)

The itinerant lawyers, preachers, and school teachers who traveled the early highways shared the road with a queer assortment of characters of varying occupations. Among the most picturesque of these old-time wanderers was the Yankee peddler. From the early 19th century until after the Civil War these vendors of assorted wares from New England followed the remote highways, seeking out isolated farms and villages.

At first only very young men followed the road, which was often a trackless way, with long stretches of wilderness between towns in which dwelt fearsome beasts and treacherous Indians. But with the building of national turnpikes, peddling became a business with men of parts and almost every commodity was vended from house to house.

The trunk peddler played an important part in the life of the frontier. At this time, he was something more than a purveyor of the necessities of life. He brought news of the outside world and gossip from distant neighborhoods. A trip from New England to Pennsylvania at that early day excited more local comment than a journey to the North Pole would today.

Many men of national note answered at one time the call of the road. It is a mat-

I gratefully acknowledge the generous help of Mrs. Edna L. Hazelton of New York City, without whose assistance this paper could not have been written. I also wish to thank Mr. Samuel J. Dornsife and Mr. Andrew K. Grugan for helpful leads and ideas.

Maurice A. Mook
Professor of Anthropology
Lycoming College
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

ter of record that Bronson Alcott, the great philosophical writer, passed up a Yale education to become a peddler of tinware and almanacs. Stephen Girard, one of the great shipping princes of his day, began as a riverway peddler of bottled cider and claret on the Delaware. P. T. Barnum, a Connecticut Yankee, afterwards the famous circus man, began as a peddler of molasses candy, gingerbread, and cherry rum on Training Days.

In our own valley Hezekiah Noble, one of the pioneer merchants of Muncy, left his native Windsor, Connecticut, as a peddler of brooms; and Moses Ulman, when a lad of eighteen, migrated from Manheim, Germany, and from a peddling tour accumulated enough to give him a start as a clothing merchant at Liberty, Pa., a business which he transferred to Williamsport six years later.

Currency was scarce and in its place the peddler received rags, old rubber, old iron, and sometimes grain. After the vendor stopped the road and became proprietor of a little store, he often received these articles in trade. In 1808, Fahnestock and Brindle, of Pennsborough, Francis Fargus of Dunnsburgh, and Thomas McClintock of Jersey Shore all advertised that "Cash or Store Goods will be given for clean Linen and Cotton Rags."

Chimney sweeps were familiar wanderers on the highways of the valley sixty or more years ago. They were usually small negro boys in charge of a man or parent, who announced their vocation with a sort of Tyrolean yodeling song, "Sweep-ho, Sweep-ho, Sweep-ho." This song was repeated when the sweep issued from the chimney. Chimneys were swept spring and fall and by careful housekeepers once a month. If a chimney swept so often took fire, the man in charge of the sweeps guaranteed to pay a fine.

The tides of itinerant workmen, who surged up and down our early country roads, attracted to the highways strange local characters who wandered around without any special purpose. One of these peculiar individuals was Tom Morton, whose official residence was supposed to be Williamsport, but who was at home anywhere in the valley he chanced to take off his hat. Tom was a bit "touched" and therefore treated kindly by everyone who knew him. His one accomplishment was spelling. Often where crowds gathered in country stores, Tom would be asked to spell such words as stove pipe, snapping turtle, which he accomplished in a sing-song manner, followed by a sharp whistle after each syllable. For his performance, a small cash contribution was given.

One of the most popular ways of raising money was by lottery. This method which is now classed as gambling, and therefore declared illegal in both Great Britain and the

United States, was then in the heyday of its popularity. B. Moore, a druggist of Milton, advertised that he kept constantly for sale lottery tickets on the lowest terms, and J.B. Landis and Co., of the same place, were agents of the Union Canal lottery, which they advertised as a place where all persons should come who were desirous of making money by the heap. Harmony Church of Milton was built by means of a lottery. Capital prizes of \$1500, \$1000, and \$600 were offered and the drawing lasted three days. Nor were the good people of Milton the only liberal patrons of this means of raising money. Even the Quakers, who kept themselves "unspotted from the world," did not always object to the lottery, and there are instances when "many Quakers took chances."

Though newspapers were few, and published but twice or three times a week, they were much used for personal items, and in curious details exceed the agony column of today. S. Coleman of Williamsport on March 8, 1809, issued a request to an unscrupulous book borrower in the following manner:

"The person who has the first volume of a novel entitled 'The Daughter of Adoption,' lent by the subscriber, will oblige him by returning it to him at his lodging. Likewise a book entitled 'The Ladies Library' lent three years ago, he would thank the person who has it in his possession to return it as above."

THE NEXT FLOOD LIKE THIS YEAR'S

Colonel John Morgan, who is on his way home from Boston, is a guest at the Hepburn House. He has a scientific theory of the late flood in the Susquehanna Valley, which may soon be given to the public, that will convince everybody that one like it cannot, by any possible occurrence, happen again for at least 631 years. The state of the atmosphere, the currents of wind, the amount

of evaporation, and rainfalls cannot all meet together in less than the time named. Then, as Bella Wilfer said to her ma, "Oh, Lor,' let's us be comfortable."

(Taken from the *Semi-weekly Gazette and Bulletin*, Williamsport, Pa., Friday, July 19, 1889.)

WILLIAMSPORT'S MUSICAL HERITAGE

Famed Repasz Band Plays at Two Presidential Inaugurations

Perhaps the most fascinating chapter in the history of music in Williamsport is the story of the nationally famous Repasz Band. Not only was it the first brass band in the city, but it claims the distinction of being one of the two oldest bands in continuous service in the United States, the other being the Allenwood Band.

Organized in 1831 before Williamsport passed from a borough into nationwide prominence as a lumbering city, the Repasz Band has survived to this date. It is often referred to affectionately as the "Granddaddy of American Bands."

Credit is given to Jacob L. Mussina for organizing the musical unit which was originally called the Williamsport Band. Mr. Mussina was made the first leader, and during the first few years of the band's existence Christopher Lawrence, L. W. Hyman, and A. K. Mabie served in that capacity.

Original members in 1831 were Mr. Mussina, William Grafius, John S. Hyman, Jacob D. Hyman, William Coulter, Henry D. Heylman, Reuben Ruch, Samuel Strayer, George Slate, J. Hyman Fulmer, Christopher Lawrence, A. K. Mabie, Abraham Rothrock, and John Rothrock.

It was in 1838 that the young man who was destined to bring this band into national prominence came to Williamsport. Daniel Repasz, a resident of Muncy, came to Williamsport to teach music and dancing. He joined the band in 1840 and became its leader. He introduced new and improved instruments, and under his skillful leadership the band attained prominence as it travelled about the country. Members of the band were so appreciative of Mr. Repasz' accomplishments they renamed the band in his honor in 1859.

One of the band's earliest triumphs came in 1841 when it accompanied the Pennsylvania Whig delegation to Baltimore, making the trip in a canal boat. There they played during the convention which nominated Henry Clay for President.

With Daniel Repasz as leader and William N. Jones as drum major, the band enlisted in a body at the outbreak of the Civil War in April, 1861. It was attached first to the 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

After serving three months the band reenlisted with the 29th Regiment. It went through the war from start to finish and, as the band of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, was at Appomattox when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered.

In 1903 it became the official band of the National Guard, serving three enlistments and retiring in 1912. During those years the band scored many of its greatest successes. It headed the Pennsylvania Guard in New York City at the centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as president; it led the guardsmen in March, 1905, at the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt, and played again in 1909 at the inauguration of President William Howard Taft.

One of the most colorful figures of Repasz Band history was William Kilpatrick, for many years its drum major, who later gained international prominence when he toured Europe with McCadden's Circus.

In 1917 the Repasz Band again volunteered its services, and offered 60 musicians for service in France under Col. John P. Wood, commander of a Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment.

Now known as the Elks-Repsz Band, the musical organization will observe this year

its 126th anniversary of unbroken existence and distinguished service to Williamsport.

FISK MILITARY BAND AND IMPERIAL TETEQUES GAIN STATEWIDE, NATIONAL PROMINENCE

The 19th century was an era of bands. The town band played a large part in village life, accompanying the troops to the wars, leading parades for patriotic celebrations, and giving summer evening concerts on the village green.

Shortly after the establishment of the Repasz Band in 1831, the Excelsior Band was formed. It lasted only a short time, however. At about the same time, the Emmet Band came into existence. Comprised principally of members of the Hibernia Fire Co., it, too, did not exist for long.

In 1852 the five Stopper brothers arrived in Williamsport from Germany. They formed their own band in 1859 under the leadership of Fred Stopper. They enlisted in the 106th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served one year. During the time they were in camp in Civil War days, they were known as the Silver Cornet Band.

In the 1880's Williamsport boasted of three rather unique bands made up of musicians who played mostly "by ear" — the Billy Sips, the Boars, and the Hammer Bands.

Most of the tunes these bands played were picked up from hearing the little German bands which came to town several times each summer. An article in the Gazette and Bulletin of that day described the members as "clad in fiery red uniforms, puffing away on their big brass horns, resembling lobsters just after being boiled in hot water."

The bands played on street corners, passing the hat to take care of expenses. Since no music was ever purchased, the only ex-

penses were an occasional lunch. As the big elections approached, and as political rallies began, members of these bands literally thrived on lunches.

Headquarters for the Sips Band was on Mulberry Street near East Jefferson Street on the second floor of an old frame building used as a carriage shop. There members of the band would sit about on paintkegs and buckets to practice the "airs" they knew.

Although the Billy Sips Band never acquired national or state fame, it was a factor in all torch light parades and events of like character for many years.

The Boars had their headquarters in the Old Star Brewery on Market Street north of the town. The band was composed of from four to eight members.

The Hammer Band held rehearsals in the old tannery on the southeast corner of Court and Church Streets. Organized by George Hammer, the musical contingent came under the direction of John Hazel in 1883. In April of that year, the Gazette and Bulletin said: "Members are becoming proficient musicians, and under their new leader will soon rank with the best brass bands in the state."

Other bands of the middle 1800's which assisted in the success of many political rallies and parades were the Stokes Band, a Negro musical unit, the City Greys, and the Smith Band.

A prominent musical organization of the latter 19th century was the Fisk Military Band. Organized in 1879 in South Williamsport, the band of seven members was originally known as the South Side Band.

A year later the band secured as its director Lyman J. Fisk who was then playing with the Repasz Band. Changing its name to the Fisk Military Band, the organization increased to 22 members and in 1886 moved to Williamsport. Here the band became one of the leading musical groups of Central Pennsylvania.

Over a period of about 15 years, the group made many trips out of town accompanying local organizations. Hired by the Knights Templar as its private band, the organization traveled to Washington, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and many other cities in Pennsylvania with Baldwin II Commandery.

Concerts in the parks were one of the band's contribution to local residents' enjoyment. Mention was made in the Gazette and Bulletin of July, 1895, describing one such concert at Vallamont when "3,000 people heartily enjoyed a most delightful affair."

The Fisk Band enjoyed a distinguished career until 1904 when it disbanded.

Three more bands, which existed during the last quarter of the 19th century, were the Washington Camp No. 574 P.O.S. of A. Band of Newberry, a fife and drum corps which maintained headquarters on the second floor of the present Sun-Gazette Building, the Distin Manufacturing Company's Band, and the Sixth Ward Brass Band.

Williamsport claims the distinction of having had the original all-Masonic musical organization in the United States — namely, the Imperial Teteque Band.

It was in the year 1894 that the seed for the unique group was sown. Truman R. Reitmeyer, John K. Hays, Herbert R. Laird, and Clarence Else, all members of the Masonic fraternity, decided to form a brass quartet. Mr. Reitmeyer agreed to teach the others to play. This was accomplished so well that when they made their first appearance at a lodge meeting they "brought down the house."

Thus began the famous organization whose name became known from coast to coast.

The quartet improved with age, and gradually other members with different instruments were taken in, leading to the development of a brass band.

The story of the name of the band is an interesting one. Having started out as the "Triple Tongued Quartet," the group changed its name to the TTQ Band as the membership increased. Finally it became the Imperial Teteques.

The band of 40 members was one of the first Knights Templar bands in the country.

The Teteques were fortunate in having an interested and generous godfather in the person of J. Walton Bowman. Known as the "dean" of the famous organization, Mr. Bowman saw that uniforms, instruments, and music were supplied. An item which made headlines when it was procured for the band was a mammoth bass drum nearly six feet in diameter and 36 inches in width. It was understood that all new machinery had to be made for the manufacture of the drum, the complete cost of which was about \$300.

The beginning of the 20th century brought numerous other bands to the local scene—the Newtown Band, which changed its name in 1904 to the Williamsport Marine Band, and the Newberry Band organized in the western part of the city.

One of the most popular bands remembered by local residents was the Verdi Band, an Italian organization, formerly a bugle corps organized in 1909 with Giuseppe Biffarella as leader.

During the early 1900's the band was always present at the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Court House Lawn. In 1915, 3,000 persons gathered in Brandon Park to hear the Verdi Band play a concert for the benefit of the Repasz Band fire loss fund.

One of the many community services rendered by the band was the erection of the Dante Memorial Statue of the Williamsport High School. Members collected contributions for the monument and played at the dedication ceremonies.

In May, 1915, the following notice appeared in a music publication:

"Lincoln's Ladies' Band of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Harry J. Lincoln, took the town by storm, when it made its initial bow to the public. Thousands of people filled the street to get a glimpse of the lady musicians as they headed the Memorial Day Parade."

The nucleus of the Lincoln's Ladies'

Band was the Dockey family — five sisters and two nieces of Mrs. Fred DeCanio. Seeing the possibility of gathering his talented family together as a performing group, Jeremiah M. Dockey formed the Dockey Family Band. Brothers, nephews, and cousins joined the girls, bringing the membership to 15.

(These are the second and third installments in a series describing the history of music in Williamsport as compiled by Mrs. Glen Russell, of the Lycoming College music faculty.)

ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA

(From the papers of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hurr, former members of the Lycoming County Historical Society. Mr. Hurr was the founder of Hurr's Dairy.)

The Susquehanna gently flows
'Neath the Pennsylvania skies;
Her waters a perfect diamond
When the sunset on them lies.

Rocks mid-stream, resembling onyx
Polished by the water's flow,
Little islands lay in circles
Wishing they could reach the shore.

Along her banks, high hills stand guard
In grandeur quite serene;
Little rapids here and there
In distance may be seen.

Waving trees along the shore
Cast shadows deep and black,
While their leaves bid me a "fond good-bye" -
Yet beg me to come back.

I've seen much beauty thru the years,
Much beauty God has given;
But the lovely Susquehanna
Is obviously of heaven.

The weeping willow bows its head
In submission to the will
Of the mighty Susquehanna
Which is never, never still.



DR. THOMAS LYON

A portion of the following, written by Dr. Thomas Lyon, of this city, and read at the banquet of the Lycoming Medical Society last Tuesday evening at the Hepburn House, has already appeared in print, but a great deal of it has not, and through the request of a number of gentlemen it appears in the *Gazette and Bulletin*:

In reflecting over some of the incidents which occurred during my early adventures in the practice of medicine in Williamsport, which commenced in April, 1838, (being now almost fifty-one years), I bring to mind a great many events that might interest the medical profession, and others, who have located here at a later date. In the first place, I will address myself more particularly to the medical fraternity, and, to some extent, contrast it with the present. Previous to my locating here, Drs. James Hepburn and Taylor were in possession of the field; and for one year Dr. Seiler practiced after Dr. Hepburn had left. The latter had also ceased to practice, and had engaged in the mercantile business. Dr. Taylor had been elected to the Legislature, Dr. Vastine and myself were the only physicians until Dr. Samuel Pollock from Milton located here, which made three to do the

FIFTY-ONE YEARS: A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN IN WILLIAMSPORT

Dr. Thomas Lyon at the Banquet given by the Lycoming County Medical Society last Tuesday evening

(Article taken from *The Semi-weekly Gazette and Bulletin, Williamsport, Pa., Thursday, April 11, 1889.*)

work. Dr. Shoemaker was practicing in Newberry and Drs. Davidson, Reed, and William Hepburn at Jersey Shore; Drs. Wood and Rankin in Muncy; and Dr. George Hill in Hughesville, making in all ten physicians in Lycoming County. Now contrast that with seventy-five male and four female, and you will come to the conclusion that medical males and females have increased more than population.

Medical Fees

Now for the medical fees: Dr. Hepburn had charged fifty cents per visit, and Dr. Taylor reduced it to twenty-five. The former afterwards compromised by charging thirty-three and a third cents per visit, twenty-five cents per mile in the country with no extra charge for night visits; five dollars for confinement in town and country. There was but one drug store, and that entirely behind the times. We were obliged to carry medicine with us in town and country. I bought my medicine from Charles Ellis, of Philadelphia, who charged very high but was always perfectly reliable. Quinine, at that time, was five dollars an ounce, and as intermitting fever prevailed in a great extent, and being obliged to find it ourselves with our small fees, we were obliged

to go almost day and night to meet our expenses. We charged twenty-five cents for bleeding, fifty cents for cupping, twenty-five cents for a blister of cantharides, twenty-five cents for extracting teeth, for which we got more cusses than money. There were no physicians in Linden, Montoursville, Warrensville, or up either Lycoming or Loyalsock Creeks, nor any one except Dr. Charles Ludwig, an uncle of Dr. Youngman, in all of White Deer Township. You can now draw your inference of the amount of labor we had to perform. I am the only one left to tell the story.

On Horseback

The practice in the country was always on horseback after night, and when the roads were rough or muddy also in the day time. Occasionally, as a great treat, we would use a sulky; a four-wheeled vehicle was never seen except for pleasure riding—a kind of luxury unknown to doctors of that day. We finally got to using what were called buck boards, almost destitute of springs, but an improvement over the sulky. If there was snow in the winter, we used sleighs if we could get them. Frequently the roads were almost impassable, in consequence of snowdrifts, and we were obliged to go through fields, which made it dangerous in traveling after night. There were no extra charges for night rides, and the country patients took the advantage of it; they would work hard all day, and send for the doctor at night. A doctor in their opinion had no business ever to get tired, sleepy, or hungry. Some of them were very good pay and would treat you like human beings, others would occasionally haul you small loads of poor wood and charge the highest price — sometimes a load of spoiled hay, or soft and musty corn, that their own animals rejected. About the only circulating medium was what were called "shin plasters," issued by the merchants — small notes, from twenty-five cents to a dollar, redeemed at their stores in merchandise. It would not pay taxes or boarding bills.

Only Six Attorneys

There were but six attorneys residing

here at that time, viz: Anson V. Parsons, Esq., who was afterwards President Judge of the Criminal Court of Philadelphia, and the father of Hon. H. C. Parsons of this city who is one of our most eminent attorneys at the bar; Joseph B. Anthony, Esq., who was afterwards President Judge; James Armstrong, Esq., who was also President Judge for a short period; Robert Fleming, Esq., who was elected to the State Senate and also a member from Lycoming County to revise the constitution. Francis Campbell, Esq., and Judge Ellis Lewis, and Henry Ellis, Esq., who also possessed a poetic genius, resided here at that time. Dr. Davidson, of Jersey Shore, was one of the Associate Judges. We had but one schoolhouse, and a small one at that — one and a half-story brick on West Third Street, near Mr. John B. Hall's mansion. Mr. Joseph Rathmell was the teacher, the father of Messrs. Thomas and Ezra Rathmell, who are now residents of this city, and five daughters all living but one — Mrs. James Rothrock. We had but two four-wheeled vehicles: one owned by Colonel Packer, the other by Mr. Robert Faries. Some years afterwards Dr. Thomas Vastine became the owner of a carriage, which was as great a curiosity as Barnum's museum. He was thought to be a wealthy doctor, a name unknown to the medical fraternity of that day. It was never brought out except on special occasions.

Churches and Fire Apparatus

The town could only boast of two old dilapidated churches: one located on Pine Street belonging to the Methodist Association on the same ground that the present one now stands; the other, an old dilapidated stone church on West Third Street where the Reformed German Church is now located. The Rev. Mr. Hudson, who is still a resident of our city, was the pastor.

We had very poor weapons to battle against fires. The only implements were buckets to convey the water from pumps and open wells and a few rickety ladders which could not be found when needed; males and females turned out on all occasions. We had no organization, but it was understood that lines were to be formed and

the males to handle the full buckets and the females the empty ones; but, as a general thing, the latter had to perform both. The men would get excited, break open doors, carry out some furniture, and then with axes and saws get rid of the balance and throw them out of the windows. You were obliged to watch and dodge or you would have an old trunk or some broken chairs on your head. There was no method or judgment exercised, and as a general thing not much accomplished until the fire exhausted itself.

The Post Office

We had no post office, except a portion of the barroom owned and occupied by Mr. Henry Hughes, an old and honored citizen who had been the landlord for nearly half a century. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Toner, and his grandson, Daniel Hughes, M.D., still occupy a portion of the old homestead. It is one of the old landmarks on East Third Street, and was in existence long before my arrival in this city.

In speaking of our fires in an early day, and the primitive mode of fighting them, I omitted to mention one which caused great destruction to property. It commenced in what was called the United States Hotel, which was one of the largest and best hotels of the town. After destroying the building, it took a northerly direction, coming up what was then called Court Alley, now Court Street, destroying all the stables on both sides, and burning the Old School Church. Our house, being just across the street, was on fire a number of times, the roof suffering the most. My wife reminds me of the part she took in it. I got on the roof, taking carpet with me, and she, with Dr. Ed. on one arm (who was then a child), and a bucket of water in the other, supplied me with water to saturate the carpet, and after a hard struggle we succeeded in preventing it going any further. Taking into consideration the present size of the young man, and no better facilities for putting out fires, he would either have to take hold himself, or we would soon be minus a house. His voice was as good then as now.

Had No Saloons

We had no saloons, and the mode of making ice cream had not been developed. Old Mr. Duitch, who kept a small hotel on Pine Street, made ginger cakes and manufactured small beer, and on hot summer evenings it was a perfect luxury. Would it not now be a good idea to compromise with our ardent friends of Prohibition and start up a cake and beer factory?

The lumbering business was undertaken by several persons at different periods, but always ended in a failure. Major James H. Perkins, who is still living and residing in our city, was the first one to make it a success, and an honorable calling. It was he who started the first boom in the river, and gave the lumbering business an impetus which has been the means of building up our city and making it one of the great centres of Northern Pennsylvania. He is now over eighty-six years of age, and his mind and judgment as clear as it ever was.

A Stout Republican

When General Grant was a candidate for the Presidency, I was attending, professionally, Samuel Titus — Old Uncle Sammy, as he was usually called, and he was dangerously ill. He was a strong and decided Republican, his brother Joseph an uncompromising Democrat. They were both quite old and very deaf. Joseph called to see him, supposing his time was short in this world, and desirous of rendering some aid and comfort, and putting his mouth in contact with his brother's ear, hallooed at the top of his voice: "Brother, what can I do for you?" Samuel, after collecting himself and turning over said: "Vote for Grant." Joseph made no response, but soon left the room. The impression among his friends was that he did not carry out his brother's wish. Samuel recovered and voted for Grant, and after he had deposited his vote, he said: "I am now ready to die;" but he lived to vote for other Republican candidates for the presidency, but never changed his politics.

A Bad Cobb

In the spring of '38 our town was visited

by an individual calling himself Daniel Cobb, who hailed from the North, representing himself as being very wealthy. When he made his grand entrance in our quiet town, he drove a team of four horses to a carriage, which caused as much excitement as a first class menagerie. He soon ingratiated himself into the good graces of Mr. John Cowden, who was one of the wealthiest citizens of the town and county. Among his first acts was to buy up all the stores and their contents and merge them into one on the principle of consolidation. He professed to be largely engaged in the mercantile business in the North, and had teams going constantly in shipping goods to that point. Dr. Seiler, who was practicing medicine here at that time, and owned the house that I now occupy, was induced to sell out and put the money in the mammoth store, and in less than one year he was a bankrupt. He scraped up a little money from some of his patients and moved to Harrisburg, where he remained until his death. I purchased the property from Cobb a short time after coming to Williamsport. It was built by Dr. Wood, and afterwards owned by Dr. Hepburn, and then by Seiler. Cobb was a man of rather fine appearance, great violinist, and any amount of cheek. After fleecing everyone with whom he had dealings, he left for parts unknown. The Cobb not only disappeared, but the corn also. Mr. Cowden, who was one of his victims, lost not only his fine property

in Williamsport and Newberry, but his farms also.

Who Profited By It

There is an old adage that it is a poor wind that blows no one any good. G.W. Youngman, Esq., the father of the doctor, was one of the fortunate persons who profited by it. Having purchased one of the farms and laid it out in town lots, he realized what would some years since have been considered quite a fortune. He is still the owner of the major part of it. Mr. Abram Good is the owner of what was his pet, the brick flouring mill on Lycoming Creek, and near Newberry. He applied the rolling process in the manufacturing of flour for his friends and the community at large, and the rolling up of bank notes for Abraham Good. I was not injured directly by him, but was very much annoyed by some of his creditors out North. They were under the impression that I got the property too cheap, and sent J. Maynard, Esq., to have it resold, but my attorney, Mr. Anson V. Parsons, blocked the game, and that ended it.

Of the young men residents of this city in 1838, I can name only the following as being alive today: John B. Hall, George Gilmore, George Slate, William Fink, Frank Reed, Joseph Calvert, Hepburn McClure, Lewis G. Huling, John B. Beck, and E.M.D. Levan.

EARLY SPORTS

(From *STORIES OF WEST BRANCH VALLEY* by Katharine W. Bennet.)

There is a tradition that Samuel Wallis imported from England the first pack of fox hounds in the valley. Be this as it may, fox hunting with hounds either imported or domestic was the favorite pastime of our pioneer fathers. Other wild creatures of the forest were pursued either for their flesh or fur, but the chase of Reynard at that early time was a strictly sporting venture — he was prized only for his brush.

The Harris family brought with them

from Maryland one of the most celebrated packs of hounds — others keeping large packs were the Carson, Walton, and Winters families. Great competition prevailed among the pioneers in selecting the best blooded hounds. The young men of the day were as ambitious to own a horse trained for the chase as they are at the present time to have their own aeroplane or automobile.

A fox hunt was staged during the Christmas holidays of 1806 in which all the sporting contingent of the valley participated. The place of rendezvous was the tavern of Betsy Carson, at the Sign of the Fox and Hounds on Sand Hill, the present site of the residence of Orie Usmar, along the Montoursville road. The meet was in charge of Thomas Wallis, of Muncy, a brother of Samuel Wallis and a well-known sportsman. Many of the sporting fraternity gathered at the tavern the night before the chase with all the requisites for the occasion. On the following morning, after breakfast at 4 o'clock, the chase began. The Trail led over the hills now occupied by Wildwood Cemetery and its surroundings, and lasted upwards of an hour. The fox, after many ingenious courses with the hounds in full flight, tried to make for his headquarters and safety. He was holed at the upper cut, later occupied by the F. Coleman mill. The first at the hole was Tunison Coryell, then but a lad of sixteen, who was mounted on a trained hunter belonging to one of Mr. Wallis' nephews. Another fox which came out was holed, the additional brush going to the young boy and his well-trained steed. With a brush on either side of his saddle, the proud young man and the hunting party clattered through the streets of the village while the inhabitants came out from their houses and cheered. The hunt then returned to the tavern of the renowned Betsy Carson where a celebration took place. Fox hunting was a popular sport until the flood of 1865, which uncovered innumerable habitats of Reynard, and the dogs of the valley went berserk. After the flood, the tonguing of the hounds could be heard far into the night, and the foxes were chased from the river to the foothills of the Alleghenies. The dogs gave up only when their feet became so sore that they could no longer follow the chase.

Another favorite sport of pioneer times was the circular hunt which was held without dogs or firearms, each hunter being armed only with a good club. One of these ring, or circular, hunts was held at Unionville on December 7, 1849, for the purpose of ridding this part of the valley of foxes and wolves. The area embraced was six miles: the first line resting on Bald Eagle

Creek, extending to Adam's mill; the second to extend from this line six miles into the mountains; the third line to square with this line back of the Alleghenies; the fourth line to connect to the third or back line. By some oversight the lines were not closed, and when the three lines converged to the ground agreed upon for closing they found it full of emptiness. The circular hunt proved a failure.

Horse racing was an early sport. The first course in Williamsport was located on what is now Front and Canal Streets. In the early nineteenth century, the races on this course drew attendance from the neighboring counties, and the bets were in cash and corn.

Herdic Park, which occupied the site of Williamsport hospital and the surrounding residences, had a renowned race course which flourished after the Civil War. The Mahaffey farm on the Montoursville road, now the property of James Eck, had a race course which was popular in the 1890's. With the coming of automobiles, the privately-owned courses declined, and today horse racing seems confined to the county fairs.

Quoits, foot races, and long bullets were popular recreations where men of early times were wont together. John Woodward was the valley's champion in the foot race. He had many competitors from different parts of the country, but he always retained his title.

The impossible feat of pioneer life was thought to be the taking of an elk alive. Old hunters said it couldn't be done. So great were the odds against the accomplishment of this task that Irving Stephenson, a tavern keeper at the mouth of Pine Creek, wagered Jacob Tomb 250 pounds that he could not take an elk captive. The bet was accepted, and four months were allowed for the fulfillment of the wager.

The pioneer hunter set out in January, 1800, accompanied by two of his sons, a man named Maddock, a horse, two dogs, and ropes sufficient to hold an elk. They trailed their quarry from Trout Run to the second fork of Big Pine Creek where they spent several days maneuvering the capture.

The hunted animal led them over miles of territory and finally stood at bay by the uprooted trunk of a large tree. While the dogs diverted his attention, Jacob Tomb slipped a noose over his horns from a pole twenty feet long. The hunting party then faced the task of leading the frenzied

and plunging animal through the wilderness to the mouth of Pine Creek. The journey was hazardous, but the party reached their starting point the latter part of January and claimed the wager, which was cheerfully paid.

INDIAN TRAILS OF LYCOMING COUNTY

By Virginia Trowbridge

Indians seemed to possess an intuitive knowledge of places and how to reach them for they had no roads and only limited means of measurement to improve paths. From long experience and keen observation, the Indian learned the paths which would take him where he wanted to go the quickest. The genius of the Five Nations was shown in their political concepts, however. They had no thought of drafting the manpower of their subject peoples to produce monuments for future ages to marvel at. Therefore, they had no roads comparable to the Aztecs, Incas, or Mayas. This does not mean that there is justification for belittling Indian paths. Indian trails at the time of the settling of Pennsylvania were comparable to the roads of that time in Europe. They were good for the purpose which they served: to provide paths for moccasined men and women.

Pennsylvania's best transportation has always been by land. Her rivers, on the whole, have been more of an obstacle than an aid in traveling.

Neither from north to south, nor from east to west, was there offered an easy passage through the mountains. However, Pennsylvania, thanks to the Indian, had plenty of good trail paths. Earlier ages had left a legacy of wind gaps (old abandoned water courses) which gave otherwise formidable ranges a low-level crossing. There were paths for all weather and for all people. Most of the paths were narrow, about eighteen inches wide, just sufficient for people moving single file. A few were well-worn buffalo traces. Only the well settled paths were kept clear of fallen trees

and brush. In the lonelier regions, heavy underbrush from windfall often blocked the paths. Where possible, the paths would avoid water, heavy underbrush, especially mountain laurel, and steep ascents.

Indian paths were generally low, level, and direct. Trails led from one to another of the main fords of river crossings, but managed to keep their level by twisting through wind gaps and water gaps to avoid too much climbing. Many modern highways follow the general course of Indian paths, but difference in travel objectives and weight of traffic have made it impossible to follow them for any great distance. However, the paths were so well routed that many of them were shorter than the corresponding paths we use today.

The Pennsylvania Indians, chiefly the Mohawks, Erie, Susquehannocks, Delawares, and Iroquois, had important thoroughfares along the West Branch, over mountains, and up the streams.

Lycoming County was the home of several important Indian trails and of a few minor ones. Indians formed the background of Lycoming County. They were prevalent in the county until about 1750 when the white man gradually forced them up the Ohio River. Their trails still remain.

In the West Branch Valley, Sunbury was the central point from which most of the Indian trails diverged. One trail led to the headquarters of the Five Nations and was frequently traveled by the Moravian Missionaries, bearers of important news, and war parties.

THE IMPORTANT TRAILS OF LYCOMING COUNTY

Shamokin was a central point in this area, and from it all the main paths diverged to all points of the compass. The main path north, since destroyed by the building of a dam at Sunbury, passed up the ravine in Blue Hill and after a few miles turned toward the river to pass over a hill and follow the river through Winfield and Lewisburg. From there the trail went to Shickellamy's Town. Shickellamy's Town stood on the mouth of Sinking Run, one mile below West Milton on the Union County side. The Reading Railroad now runs through the ground on which Shickellamy's Town stood.

From Shickellamy's Town, the trail followed the river along the hills into White Deer Valley, along the south branch of the creek which is the site where ElimSPORT is located. (The Indians frequented White Deer Valley, but there is no evidence of a village of any size there. The Indian name for White Deer was Opaghtanoten, or White Flint Creek.) From ElimSPORT, the path went west over a mountain into the Nippenose Valley. There it passed to the head, over the hill and through a ravine in Bald Eagle Mountain to the river where there was a ford to the Great Island. From the ford, it ascended Bald Eagle Creek to Milesburg. It then passed over the mountains to Clearfield (then known as Chinklecamoose) and westward to Kittanning.

From the site where Spring Creek and White Deer Creek flow together, another trail bore to the northwest. It followed Spring Creek to its source, and then passed over the mountains into Mosquito Valley. It went down through the narrows to the river, which was crossed just west of the mouth of Mosquito Run, to the western shore of Lycoming Creek, up which the path led to its source. (Lycoming Creek, the Legau-henne of the Delawares, was noted for its crookedness. In a distance of twenty-three miles after leaving Williamsport, the Northern Central Railroad crossed it eighteen times on bridges.) At its source, it branched out upon the head-

waters of the streams taking their rise near the present borough of Canton. The main path then continued northward while one branch led down Towanda Creek to the North Branch. It was the most important of the network of Indian trails in the valley, part of it being used by the Moravian missionaries on their way up Lycoming Creek.

It afterwards became known as the Culbertson Trail, and was used by the inhabitants of White Deer Valley in bringing their grain to the Culbertson mill which was located on the river at the mouth of Mosquito Creek. Portions of it can be distinctly traced at this time on the south side of Bald Eagle Mountain and in Mosquito Valley. It is deeply worn in many places and can be traveled for a long distance with ease. Apparently the path was well used. It passed a number of springs. It is believed that many prisoners were taken over this path to captivity. The path was regarded as a "short cut" over the mountains and white settlers used it in traveling to and from Northumberland.

Another trail passed up the river from Northumberland by the mouth of Warrior Run and through a gap in the Muncy Hills. (It is now followed by the public road to the present town of Muncy.) Warrior Spring, near this public road, was important because it was the favorite camping place of many chiefs and warriors who met there to counsel with one another as the times began to change and the Indians were pushed westward.

The Wyoming Path, though not used as much as others, served as a "cut off" by parties pushing to reach the West Branch Valley quickly from Wyoming. It started from Warrior Spring and ran up Glade Run. (Glade Run was named for its glades and the open spaces through which it passed before falling into the river a short distance below Muncy Creek.) From Glade Run, it continued over the hills to Fishing Creek, which it crossed at Millville. From there the path went on to Nescopeck Gap and up the river to Wyoming where it intersected an important trail known as the Wyalusing Path.

The Wyalusing Path ran up Muncy Creek to its head, and then crossed the hills to Loyalsock, half a mile from where Berwick Turnpike now crosses. From there it went by the site of Dushore and on to Wyalusing Creek, near the northwest corner of Sullivan County, and on to the flats. The path was frequently used, and the Moravians used it when they tied from their settlement on the North Branch to the West Branch Valley and on to Ohio.

The great trail from Muncy was a continuation of the path from Northumberland. It crossed Muncy Creek and continued up the river on the line of the highway to Otstonwakin, where it crossed at Loyalsock. In passing over the ground on which Williamsport stands, the path was probably located where East Third and West Fourth Streets are laid down. The course from Third and Penn Streets is believed to have been a little north of the present Third Street, following an elevated piece of ground near the line of Willow Street and as far north as Edwin Street, until a point was reached near Park Avenue, then to what is now West Fourth Street and thence to Lycoming Creek. There it crossed a ford and continued downstream to French Margaret's Town. It continued up the river to the Great Island and joined the Kittanning Trail. It ran over the ground where Jersey Shore stands and crossed Pine Creek.

The Sheshequin Path left the main trail at the mouth of Black Hole Creek, followed up that stream and crossed Bald Eagle Mountain through the Loyalsock Gap to the river. From there it went northwest by a fording at the head of what is now known as Canfield's Island. From there it ascended Miller's Run. It then bore away in a northwesterly direction through what is called Blooming Grove and descended through a gap to Lycoming Creek. The path came out near Hepburnville. At Hepburnville, it united with a path leading upstream. Not far from Williamsport traces of the path are plainly visible and can be followed easily for some distance. The path considerably shortened the distance between the point where it intersected the path leading up Lycoming Creek and Otstonwakin, on the Loyalsock, by French Margaret's Town. According to Colonel Hartley, whose military

expedition traveled this path, it was called the Sheshecummink Path.

The Chillisquaque Path, only a few miles long, ran from the town of Northumberland over Montour Ridge to the county line of Comly. It was not an important path. The name, Chillisquaque Path, was also used for the Muncy-Mahoning Path. The Muncy-Mahoning Path crossed the valley of the Chillisquaque Creek in the vicinity of Washingtonville, north of Danville, in Montour County.

Logan's Path, named for Shickellamy's son, John, ran from the vicinity of Tishimingo on the West Branch of the Susquehanna near the mouth of Chatham Run to Logan's Spring near Reedsville and on to Kishacoquillas (Lewistown).

Nemacolin's Path, commonly known as "The Braddock Road," was named for an Indian who is believed to have been employed in 1752 by Christopher Gist and Col. Thomas Cresap, who acted for the Ohio Company in tracing the most direct trail between Well's Creek, Maryland, and the mouth of Redstone Creek on the Mononghalela River.

THE PEOPLE ON THE TRAILS

These trails were important to the development of Lycoming County. The people who used them were important in forming a background for Lycoming County.

There is an idea, on the part of many people, that the Indian was a savage and that to meet an Indian on the trail was to meet certain death. However, the people who traveled the paths of Pennsylvania and Lycoming County used them for much the same purpose that the people in Europe used their paths: to communicate, to satisfy needs, or to relocate. Most of them had no malice in mind.

When traveling for any distance, the Indian often carried a pack on his back. Men wore packstraps slung over the chest, women wore them over the forehead. There is a story that Shickellamy, the "half-king" of the Iroquois, was saved from death in 1737 when he slipped on the edge of a cliff of Lycoming Creek by catching his packstrap on a bare tree branch.

If an Indian met a traveler on the trail, he would generally offer him something to eat. It was the proper thing to sit down and pass a pipe.

David Zeisberger, in his *History of the Indians*, described the Indian on the trail this way:

"On their journeys they are never in haste, for they are everywhere at home and whithersoever they wander they find sustenance in the forest. Therefore, if a white man travels with them, it is wisest that he be content not to hasten but accommodate himself to their movements . . ."

SHELTERS AND FOOD

Finding accommodation for the night was no problem on the trail. Boughs of hemlock and balsam made a soft mattress. Every ten or twelve miles, on important trails, the Indians had one or more types of shelters erected. In rainy weather, if there was no cabin available, the Indian speedily peeled bast from the trees and built a hut. It consisted mainly of a roof supported by four posts under which they remained dry. In the winter they knew which trees to peel. The shelters were in oblong form, generally about 9 feet by 6. In front they were about 5 feet high, and behind about 3 and one-half feet, so that the roof would have a descent.

Food was also easy to come by. In season there were grapes and red plums, huckleberries and wild cherries. Travelers carried parched meal. Rattlesnake was considered a good meal. Often parties of hunters (Indians) were traveling the trails and accommodated one another and white people.

DANGERS ON THE TRAIL

The best time to travel was in the spring or fall: in the spring after the ice had broken up and floated out of the streams, or in the fall after the heat of the summer had passed and the flies had disappeared. Ice and snow, especially on the northern slopes of the hills, were treacherous. A flash flood could change a river into a raging torrent. Forest fires were not common, but were

terrible when they did occur. The most common hazard on the trail was getting lost. If an Indian did get lost on the trail, as he occasionally did, it was generally because there were too many tracks to follow and he took the wrong one.

Storms were great trail wreckers. There were times when the wreckage from a storm became so bad that travelers had to take detours and became lost.

As the Indian was shoved out, trails began to disappear. Trails were widened into bridle paths for the traders with pack trains. By the time of the American Revolution, wagon roads had taken the place of bridle paths. After the Revolution, many wagon roads were converted into railroad beds.

The Indian trail was an impermanent thing. No stone or road metal was used on them. Only a few survived. In Pennsylvania, it is hard to walk on an old Indian path. Most traces of the trails have been obliterated by farming, lumbering, road making, house building, and strip mining. A few in Lycoming County can be followed for short distances.

The Culbertson Trail can be traced on the south side of Bald Eagle Mountain and in Mosquito Valley. A trail that runs by Warrior Spring is now followed by the public road for a distance. The Sheshequin Path united with a path at Hepburnville, and after leaving Williamsport it can be followed for a distance.

As trails disappeared, so did the Indian heritage, though not as drastically. However, Indian heritage is beginning to be recognized as being important.

Indian trails, the paths which accommodated the savage, are buried beneath our towns and cities, but it does not make them less important for without the trails there could have been no communication. Communication was, and is, a great builder.

(Miss Trowbridge is presently a student at the Williamsport Area Community College.)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSE VALLEY

By Olive Strouble

The First Settlers of Rose Valley

John Rose first appears as a young man on the assessment of Loyalsock for 1798; and from 1801 to 1808 the word "attorney" is written opposite his name, showing that he had become a member of the bar. He was a Scotchman by birth, born in 1772, and came to America in 1794; and he died on September 1, 1812. He and his wife are buried in Wildwood Cemetery. He was one of the first, if not the first, settlers in the Valley. Soon after his marriage he settled in what is now Gamble Township and named his place "Scotland." From him the Valley takes its name, only at first it was known as Rose's Valley. After Rose left the Valley, it filled up slowly with rugged German settlers, who by dint of hard work reclaimed it from its pristine condition and made it, in reality, "bloom like a rose." An old journalist, who has been dead many years, visited the Valley in April, 1870, and thus wrote of the early settlers: "A stroll through this Valley has given the writer some idea of its resources and its inhabitants and its settlers."

In 1820, James McWilliams, Sr., settled upon the property that Mr. Stroble now owns and occupies. In McWilliams' early days, he endured great hardships, settling in the woods and working unceasingly, one-handed, to clear out the forests into farming land. The forests were very heavy and thick and as his sons grew up he was enabled, after several years of hard toil, to raise sufficient grain and vegetables for all the necessities of life.

John Griggs was one of the next settlers. He was indomitable, energetic, and industrious, and he was greatly instrumental in having Rose Valley improved at an early day.

The next person we speak of is Jacob Ulmer. He was also among the first settlers. He cleared out a fine farm and planted it with the choicest fruit trees. He was one of the most industrious men of the Valley.

We speak of David Stroble next. He planted himself down in this "vineyard of harmonies." John and Michael Stiger were also early settlers. Mr. Bidelspacher was the next settler. Isaac Lippincott, another settler, was possessed of a large amount of land.

Schools

The first schoolhouse was built in Rose Valley by John Griggs in 1839. It was a log building. The first teacher was J. W. Milnor, and the first scholars to arrive on the morning school opened were John and Peter Griggs. The teacher's salary was \$33.00 per month.

Churches

There are two churches in Gamble Township: one is a union church in Rose Valley, formerly used by the Baptists and the Evangelicals, but now used solely by the Evangelical United Brethren; the other is a Methodist. The ground for the Rose Valley Church, school, and cemetery was given by Jacob Ulmer on January 17, 1861. The deed was recorded May 15, 1861.

The school stood below the church, but after many years a new school was built and stands on its present location.

Originally the church was heated by two wood stoves, one on each side. It is said that the ladies sat on one side of the church while the gentlemen occupied the opposite side. There were seats in the right hand corner in the front which was labeled the "Amen" corner.

The Church was remodeled in the summer of 1913 at which time the memorial windows, Sunday School rooms, and the vestibule were added. The carpet was laid October 21, 1950. The lights were installed in March, 1959, and the new oil furnace in 1962. The organ was added in 1964. Nylon carpet was put in the Sunday School rooms in September, 1964.

(This article was included in the Sunday bulletin of the Rose Valley E.U.B. Church for October 8, 1967.)

EARLY HORTICULTURE

(From *STORIES OF WEST BRANCH VALLEY* by Katharine W. Bennet.)

When John Adlum accompanied Samuel Maclay and Timothy Matlack on an expedition to examine and survey the West Branch and its headwaters in 1790, he believed he had found a country better adapted to the culture of grapes than the sunny slopes of France. With a plan for extensive vineyards in mind, he invested heavily in lands bordering Muncy Creek, and in 1791 settled in the valley.

On a tract near the present Pennsdale he erected a stone house which is standing today and occupied by Curtis Hess. In this comfortable home he installed his aged parents and his three young brothers and six sisters. Then the young surveyor, who had been a veteran of the Revolution at twenty, appointed major in the Provisional army by President Adams, and a brigadier general in the Pennsylvania militia, settled to the quiet life of a scientific farmer and his hobby of raising grapes.

The country roundabout abounded with many species of indigenous grapes that young Adlum believed were capable, by proper cultivation, of yielding the very best of wine. So he spent his time collecting, cultivating, and improving the native grapes which otherwise would have become extinct by the rapid improvements of the first settlers. Extensive plantations of grape vines soon covered his freshly cleared acres, and he enthusiastically declared that "the grape will eventually be the most profitable article of agriculture in the United States."

But the young horticulturist had been too distinguished in public life to be allowed to pursue his experiments in peace. He was frequently asked to conciliate and make treaties with the restless and suspicious Indians, and when Lycoming County was formed on April 13, 1795, he was next day appointed one of its first associate judges. He held this office until 1798 when he resigned and removed to a farm near Havre de Grace. His extensive land holdings in

the valley were looked after by various members of his family.

Some fourteen years later, when a bachelor of fifty-four, Judge Adlum was married to his cousin, Miss Margaret Adlum, of Frederick, Md., and they settled near Georgetown, D. C., at a place long known as "The Vineyard." At this farm he continued his experiments and had the satisfaction of demonstrating that wine could be made in this country which, to use his own confident words, "will rival the world in quality." Among weighty testimonials, he cites one from ex-President Thomas Jefferson, who assured him that he placed a bottle of his native wine on the table with the best Burgundy of Chamberlin and asked the company to point out which was the American bottle, and they could perceive no difference.

In 1823 Judge Adlum published a small book entitled "A Memoir on the Cultivation of the Vine in America, and the best Mode of Making Wine." In this book he mentions "Muncy Grape — a purple or pale red; this is very like the Catawba in appearance, so much so that if I myself had not cut it from the original vine, which is growing on a limestone hill on a farm I have near the West Branch of the Susquehanna, in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, I would have taken them for the same grape; but the taste is different, somewhat like our wild plums."

Three years after John Adlum made his first experiments with native grapes in the valley (1794), George Edkin, a young Englishman, left his native London to seek his fortune in America. Almost immediately after his arrival in New York, chance led him to the house of General Horatio Gates, who had won undying fame by his brilliant capture of Burgoyne and his entire army at Saratoga, only to have his record smirched by his later connection with the Conway cabal.

General Gates took a sudden fancy to his wistful young countryman, and used

him by turns as gardener, farm hand, coachman, and body servant. Edkin was clever and willing, and soon made himself indispensable to the childless old general, who placed the greatest confidence in him during the last years of his life. After the general's death, Edkin spent some years with Mrs. Gates, but his imagination had been fired by George Lewis, a frequenter of the Gates mansion. Lewis had purchased large tracts of land in the mountainous part of Pennsylvania, in what is now Sullivan and Lycoming Counties. He was then spending a large fortune with the chimerical idea of making a still greater fortune by the manufacture of glass and the settlement of his lands. He built his glass factory near a mountain lake which for many years bore his name, but was later changed to Eagles Mere.

After the death of General Gates, Lewis

settled his estate and sold his farm. He then offered Edkin several hundred acres of land on terms that were considered favorable, and he removed to his new plantation with his family in 1808.

The tract sold to Edkin was in Muncy Valley and the place has long been known as Edkin's Hill. To this place he brought large numbers of young apple, pear, peach, and plum trees from the nursery on the Gates farm, and soon established a thriving orchard in the wilderness. This was the first regular nursery in Lycoming County, and Edkin's Hill became a distributing centre for the first orchards planted in this section. Thousands of fruit trees in the valley of the past generation were grafted from the trees that stood on the farm of General Gates over a hundred years ago on ground that is today the centre of New York City.

LINCOLN'S VIOLIN

By Glenda Hessler - a student of Montoursville High School

My great-grandfather and great-grandmother came from Germany and settled near Wilkes-Barre. At that time any settler could have bought the land where Wilkes-Barre now stands. Their son, Harvey Hessler, married Ida Frymire in Williamsport in 1903. They bought a new large house at Wallis Run.

My ancestors were lumbermen. My great-grandfather worked for a large lumber company. He owned four sawmills on timber tracts which dated back to 1864. One of these was destroyed by a flood which damaged much of the lumbering business in Williamsport. Another sawmill was burned in 1869.

A bit of interesting family history is the fact that my great-grandfather was given the violin which had been Abraham Lincoln's. This is the story:

The violin which Lincoln couldn't play was in the general store at New Salem, Ill., when no one ever dreamed he would attain the presidency. Where Lincoln got

it is unknown, but at that particular time money was so scarce that storekeepers conducted a large part of their business by bartering, and Lincoln was known to trade for anything. Perhaps he gave a side of pork or a sack of flour for it. At any rate, it hung in the corner of the store over the whiskey barrel for many years.

Lincoln couldn't play himself, but when a group of settlers were loafing in the store, he would get it down and one of them would scratch off a few tunes by ear. He took the violin to neighborhood dances, and it was one of the few in that section of the country. A Mr. Johnston would often play it for the dances. He was a homesteader in New Salem and frequented Lincoln's store. He often joked about the violin, and from time to time laughingly suggested a trade. One day Lincoln sold it to him.

Mr. Johnston's son became interested in it and soon was fiddling with the best of them. In the meantime, Lincoln moved and the Johnston's heard no more about him until he was a candidate for president. He

was on a speaking tour and was scheduled to speak in a nearby town when they saw him again. Young Johnston played in the orchestra that furnished the music. When the meeting was over and everyone was standing around shaking hands, he approached Lincoln and held out the violin.

"Do you remember this fiddle, Mr. Lincoln?" he asked.

Lincoln squinted at it for a moment, then tucked it clumsily under his chin, smiled and, in effect said:

"Oh, yes, it's the violin I never could play. It's much too short for my long arms. But there were many evenings that I danced to its music."

Years later the ancestors of Harry Johnston, of Holdrege, Nebraska, gave the violin to my great-grandfather Hessler when he was very old in payment of a large debt.

Some people think the violin may be a Stradivarius because of the delicate cut of the scroll and the mirror-like curled maple back which has a striking resemblance to the descriptions of Stradivari's work. The alternating dull and glistening grain is blended as smoothly as the finest satin, and all of its many years haven't dimmed the beauty.

My family now has the violin. My grandfather played it when the fiddlers performed at the Montoursville Centennial in 1950.

FLOODED NEWSPAPERS

HOW THE LOCAL PAPERS WERE ISSUED WHEN THE FLOOD WAS ON —
THE PLUCK SHOWN BY THE LUMBERMEN

(Article taken from *The Semi-weekly Gazette and Bulletin, Williamsport, Pa., Friday, June 14, 1889.*)

From the *Philadelphia Press*:

The newspaper press is not easily silenced by either flood or fire. In the recent riot of waters in this State most of the papers whose buildings were invaded by the flood managed to keep right on in some shape, in spite of the intruding and threatening element in the basements and lower stories. In Williamsport, when the turgid tide of the river came pouring into the editorial rooms of the *Gazette and Bulletin*, the writing force quietly moved up another flight and went on with their work, while the reporters covered their routes in scows. The presses were covered with two feet of water, but a Washington hand press and relays of able-bodied assistants got the edition out as usual. The other enterprising journals in that city, though less fortunate, came up smiling in the face of disaster.

At Jersey Shore

The Jersey Shore *Vidette* ran out of white paper, but there was a stock of col-

ored poster paper up in the second story untouched by the flood. Upon this a half-sheet extra, brim full of news, was issued that rivaled in gorgeousness the finest circus program Lycoming County ever saw. The presses of the *Renovo Evening News* never stopped, though they had to roll off the story of wide-spread disaster on the blank side of wallpaper for the people of Clinton County. The *Sunbury News*, half submerged, remarked complacently: "The flood has filled the basement of the *News* office, and consequently covered the Hoe press. When the *News* is issued — and we expect it to go out in good style on Saturday night — it will be an evidence in itself that all is well." And sure enough, out from its soaking office the *News* came, just as though there had been no flood and the Hoe press had not been coated an inch deep with Northumberland County mud.

This sort of newspaper enterprise pays in the long run. There is an inspiration about its self-reliant cheerfulness. If the readers of these journals do not appreciate

the efforts of their editors and publishers, it is simply because they do not know a go-ahead newspaper when they see one.

From the *Philadelphia Times*:

Plucky Williamsport

The people of Williamsport don't propose to get left in their business, even if a flood does come along and sweep their hundreds of millions feet of logs and sawed lumber away. They understand that they must hold the Lumber City as the centre of the lumber trade of the State, and they pull themselves together and get right down to practical business.

They have made a prompt hunt for their fugitive logs and found about 100,000,000 feet straggled along the river between Williamsport and the mouth of the Juniata, and they have arranged with the Pennsyl-

vania Railroad on favorable terms to have these logs gathered up and railroaded back to the Williamsport boom to be manufactured there. It is intended also to bring back all logs found between the mouth of the Juniata and the Chesapeake, but it is probable that most of them will never be recovered.

This is solid, robust pluck on the part of the Williamsport lumber dealers. There might be more immediate money in following the fugitive logs and manufacturing them at various centres along the river; but Williamsport is nothing if not the lumber centre of the State, and Williamsport pluck will maintain her great trade for the future. Pluck is a very commendable quality in seasons of great calamity, and Williamsport is a shining exemplar for every suffering community in Pennsylvania.

A PLEA FOR NATHANAEAL GREENE PAPERS

The Rhode Island Historical Society, with the support of the National Historical Publications Commission and the co-sponsorship of the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, is engaged in collecting photocopies of all extant papers of the Revolutionary General, Nathanael Green (1742-1786). The assembling of photocopies of original manuscripts is preliminary to a letterpress edition of selected papers to be published in several volumes during the next five years and an eventual microfilm edition of all manuscript material

that will be excluded from the printed volumes.

It would be appreciated if anyone possessing letters to or from Greene, or having knowledge of such letters in private hands, (or in public repositories whose holdings are not listed in the National Union Catalog), would notify The Rhode Island Historical Society. Please address communications to: Richard K. Showman, Editor, Nathanael Greene Papers, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906.

BABY CARRIAGES FREE

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has issued instructions to all baggage agents and baggage masters on the system east of Pittsburgh and Erie to receive and carry free of cost in baggage cars baby carriages, when accompanied by their owners. This is

a concession in favor of the children which their parents will heartily appreciate; and it is but another manifestation of the constant endeavor of the company to make the road attractive to everybody. (*July 23, 1889, Gazette and Bulletin.*)

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