



Cambria County

Women of Cambria County

Their Work - Their History - Their Contributions

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WOMEN OF CAMBRIA COUNTY, THEIR Branch

WOMEN OF CAMBRIA COUNTY

*Their Work—
Their History—
Their Contributions
1770–1987*

by
The Johnstown Branch
American Association of University Women

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The A. G. Halldin Publishing Company
Indiana, Pennsylvania

First Edition

TO WOMEN
Past—Present—Future

The cover was created by Murilla Himes and designed by William V. Pasternak. The portraits illustrated represent women's contributions to life and the community. A modern miss views her mother and grandmother as she ponders her future through a looking glass. The artistic designer, William V. Pasternak, is a local artist and a teacher of art in the Richland Schools. He is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has a Master's degree in art education. He has taken graduate work at Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh and specializes in portrait painting.

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ISBN 0-935648-25-9

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October 1, 1988

My heartfelt thanks to the many members and friends of the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women who made this book possible. They gave three years of dedicated effort.

Anne McDonald suggested the book and persuaded the Board to undertake the effort on October 24, 1985. Kimberly Bakale assisted her. Rosemary Hagadus collected the submissions of outstanding women, assigned writers, and edited the "Biographies Honoring Outstanding Women by Area of Contribution". When Anne moved out of the state in 1986, Virginia Thompson and Leora Rager provided continuity. Dorothy Liphart was a valuable source of information.

Murilla Himes was the driving force who completed most of the balance of the book. Murilla proposed the "Specific Locales in Cambria County and Some Women Who Were There"; and, researched the towns, located the women who were there, and wrote most of the material. This "Locales" portion of the book honors women who contributed to their immediate communities. Murilla also wrote all those other sections which bear her name.

Lenore Frontczak, Joan Moss, and I did the typing and final editing. Christine Bell chaired the Marketing Committee.

I am very proud of this book. It is our contribution to the community and to the Centennial Commemoration of the 1889 Johnstown Flood.

Dorothy Kodrowski
President, Johnstown Branch
American Association
of University Women

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PART I
AN INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project is to publish a book recognizing women in Cambria County over the past 217 years who made an impact in their roles as concerned citizens, wives and mothers, community leaders and workers. Between the years of 1770 and 1987 women in Cambria County have made valuable contributions in the areas of business, the professions, the arts, in community leadership and as homemakers. The latter role was so commonly accepted that it was difficult to find the given and maiden names of some of these women. Writings recorded them as the wife of, the mother of, or the daughter of "John Smith"

Our primary goal is to publish an important and inspirational book about women. Other goals are to collect data which would be lost unless culled from the memories of persons now living; to collect additional data from scattered sources; and, finally, to collate published data on women for whom there are written records of their accomplishments.

The project was undertaken by the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women as our salute to the Centennial of the Great Johnstown Flood to be celebrated in 1989. The inspiration to write a book on Cambria County women stemmed from the experiences of a committee of American Association of University Women members; namely, Anne McDonald, Pauline Horwin and Mary Jo Novelli, when they researched the biographies of two Cambria County women included in the book published by the Pennsylvania Division of the American Association of University Women, *Our Hidden Heritage: Pennsylvania Women in History*. The above committee found both a dearth and a wealth of information of women in our area and recommended researching, recording and collating as much information on women as could be found to preserve it

for future generations. From the pre-war period to the present no history has been published on the impact of women in the growth and development of Cambria County.

In order to secure as much information as possible, letters were sent to libraries, newspapers, organizations, schools, and individuals asking them to submit names of women, deceased, who should be included in such a book. Efforts also were made to secure additional women's names by personal visits of members of the American Association of University Women to areas from which no materials had been received. We have been reasonably successful in obtaining the names of notable women from all major areas of Cambria County. Some two years was devoted to interviewing families, friends, relatives and acquaintances of women to be included.

A geographical approach was selected in order to facilitate the reader's locating information from a particular locale of the county. One section presents information on specific life styles of women and a brief overview of the history of Cambria County from which can be gained a perspective of the different environments in which women made their special contribution: a western frontier, a farming community, a mining, and steel and railroading town, an urban center.

A biographical section includes resumes of women for whom sufficient data was available.

A fourth section includes a history of the Johnstown Branch American Association of University Women and summaries of other women's organizations.

A final segment is included to recognize the contributions and stories of women from varying ethnic backgrounds and a potpourri of interesting bits and pieces about our county women which will contribute to the enjoyment of the reader.

It was not possible to document all the outstanding women of Cambria County or even to acquire such a listing. We are sure when the book is published, there will be many who will know women who should have been included. Therefore, this book makes no claim to mention all the outstanding women, or all the women who should be included in a women's history of Cambria County. Rather the book cites the names, life styles, incidents about and/or contributions of all the women for whom we were able to secure information. Neither does the book claim 100% authenticity, because much of what is written comes from

CAMBRIA COUNTY—SITE OF OUR RESEARCH

Cambria County, a rectangular area of land comprised of 965 square miles lying in southwestern Pennsylvania, was the area for our research. The county land was included in a huge land grant made to Admiral John Penn for “services rendered” to King Charles II of England. The charter for the province of Pennsylvania came to William Penn, one of Admiral Penn’s sons, in 1681. Although the charter gave ownership to William Penn, he refused to permit settlement on the land until payment was made to the Indians living there. Then Penn immediately purchased the land along the Delaware River and established three counties: Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester. This latter county encompassed all of the land west of the other two counties and extended to the Ohio line.

Colonization of Pennsylvania proceeded rapidly with settlers moving westward from the coast and north from Maryland and Virginia. It became necessary to form new counties for convenience, and to serve as government centers. Individuals or groups could petition the General Assembly to form a new county, taking unclaimed land as well as land from other nearby counties. Lancaster was the first new county formed in 1729, and others followed—Cumberland, Somerset, Bedford, etc. On March 20, 1804, Cambria County, by Act of the General Assembly became the forty-first county, taking Frankstown Township from Huntingdon County, the township of Cambria, and Conemaugh Township from Somerset County, as well as a small part of the northeast corner of Bedford County. It is estimated there were about fifty families in the area at the time. The area was open for settlement following Penn’s family treaty

memories of long ago. It is hoped the book will prove interesting to the general public, pleasing to those reading about their own family members, friends, and acquaintances, and provide important historical material for future generations.

with the Iroquois Indians, called "The Treaty of Fort Stanwix". Iroquois, Delaware and Shawnee tribes were found here; other tribes traversed the area traveling west over the path later to be called the "Forbes Trail".

The name Cambria is derived from the ancient Celtic word for Wales—Cymre or Gymura. The topography of the new county was said to resemble that of the old world country. There were plans for a large Welsh settlement to be called Beulah; in the early years many Welsh people immigrated here.

Some statistics from the *Origins of Cambria County* tell us:

First permanent settlers in the county—1771

First permanent settlers in Johnstown—1777

Michael McGuire built a cabin on Chest Creek—1778

Joseph Johns settled at the mouth of the Stonycreek River—
1793

Settlement of Beulah along the Backlick—1795

A Welsh colony settled where Ebensburg now stands—1796

Early in the history of Cambria County, the main population areas were Loretto, Ebensburg, Beulah and Johnstown. The rest of the land was mostly scattered cabins and farmland. Much of the country was rolling tableland of the Allegheny plateau; but in the southwest section a deep gorge, the Conemaugh Valley, separated the Laurel Highlands and the Chestnut Ridge. Elevations varied from 1,147 feet in the valley of Johnstown to 3,000 feet in nearby highlands. These variations in topography accounted for considerable differences in industry and lifestyle from one section to another, and set the stage for the floods that plagued the city of Johnstown.

The men, women and children who made up the population of Cambria County had traversed an expansive wilderness, crossed the Allegheny Mountains and passed over trails (not roads) to settle in areas where only Indians and white traders had been before them. One can understand the lure of adventure and new experiences which attracted the men of this time; but what can one say of the women and children who accompanied them? The courage of these pioneer women to leave the stability and safety of a settled area and go away from the presence of family and friends to trek to a new life in a lonely wilderness, peopled by Indians and roamed by wild animals, and

lacking in law and order, truly bespeaks an indomitable spirit. The pioneer family was a true partnership, and these women provided for their families in a basic way by performing and accepting tasks which are part of the family in society today, with none of our modern conveniences. Besides providing food, clothing and education, they often were responsible for protection when the husband was away from home. In this early period, men's names were legion, and recorded; but women were most often nameless, being referred to as the wife of—the daughter of—the mother of and almost never as “Mary Smith” in her own right.

Settlers to Cambria County journeyed westward from the east coast and northward from Maryland and Virginia. At first, of necessity, agriculture was the major industry together with hunting. However, with all the forests around and the need for lumber for building dwellings and other structures, it wasn't long before sawmills and the lumber industry made its appearance. This was chiefly true in the northern part of the county; a number of sawmills still are in operation in the Spangler and Barnesboro area.

The story of Cambria County cannot be told without reference to the mining of coal, for “coal was king”. Here are four important coal deposits to be found; in the Gallitzin area, the Barnesboro-Beaverdale-Portage area and the two seams of the upper and lower Kittaning. In early days the technology of mining coal was very primitive; working in the mines was hazardous and difficult. The life style of the wife of the coal miner tells all this in the next section of this book. Coal was needed to operate the steel mills in this area. The commercial mine made its appearance near Lilly in 1825; but it, too, was primitive, as was the method of transporting the coal. Coal mines in Cambria County were in South Fork, Gallitzin, Portage, Ehrenfeld and Barnesboro. By the end of 1885 there were twenty-three mines operating in the county; the total production was 1,107,965 tons of coal, as stated in *Origins of Cambria County*, and *Johnstown, the Story of a Unique Valley*.

Immigrants were attracted by the expanding economy, coming to Cambria County from England, Wales, Germany, and later, from Eastern European countries and Italy. Many of them came to the homes of relatives, or became boarders in other homes. Some women supported themselves and their children by providing room, board and laundry.

Iron and steel-making was centered largely in Johnstown, although there were pioneers who started foundries, forges and furnaces in other areas of the county such as Ashville and Vintondale. These latter operations were important to the area in which they were located, but never became steel making businesses. Rather, they supplied items needed by the pioneers in their homes and farms. Steel-making in Johnstown transformed it into one of the most remarkable industrial areas.

Early transportation in Cambria County was accomplished on foot, by packhorse, Conestoga wagons, canoes, rafts and such. It is no wonder that various parts of the county were isolated from each other. The Pennsylvania canal system and the old and new Portage Railroad heralded progress. Finally, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and smaller lines connected remote areas of the county. The advent of the railroad, for example, made South Fork an important terminal, as it became a transfer point to connect isolated communities such as St. Michael, Sidman, Beavertdale and Dunlo. Later came electric street car service and trains to major points in the county. In the 1900's, the railroad offered Sunday excursions to New York City for \$6.00, to Niagara Falls for \$7.50 and to Washington, D.C. for \$5.00. The freight traffic carrying coal, iron and steel products to all areas of the United States and abroad made Cambria County a good place to live.

Besides the two urban centers of Johnstown and Ebensburg, from time to time during this period other towns enjoyed a "boom" period; but today have stepped back into small-town obscurity: South Fork, Conemaugh, Cresson, Gallitzin. This was caused by fluctuations in economy due to changes in the lumber business, the railroads, and the opening and closing of coal mines. Even today, Cambria County, with its educational institutions such as St. Francis College, Mount Aloysius Junior College, and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, and with its varied small industries and residual coal mining and steel-making industries, is largely a rural agrarian economy with many small communities.

Before we research how social, economic and cultural factors affected the contributions and life styles of women, it behooves us to consider the uniqueness of this early state of Pennsylvania. The philosophy and beliefs of William Penn created a colony like none other of the original thirteen. This was a colony of social, religious and political tolerance. Therefore, Penn-

sylvania attracted a greater variety of ethnic groups free to hold their own beliefs, along with more different religions than any other colony. This was reflected in the life style of women in Pennsylvania and, early on, showed in the activities of pioneer women in Philadelphia where they supported and supplied leadership to women's groups and social movements such as women's rights and the anti-slavery groups. For the individual woman here, it meant more freedom to participate in activities outside the home and sometimes to engage in enterprises usually restricted to men. Records show that in this early period some women held significant roles; some of their names are recorded in Pennsylvania history.

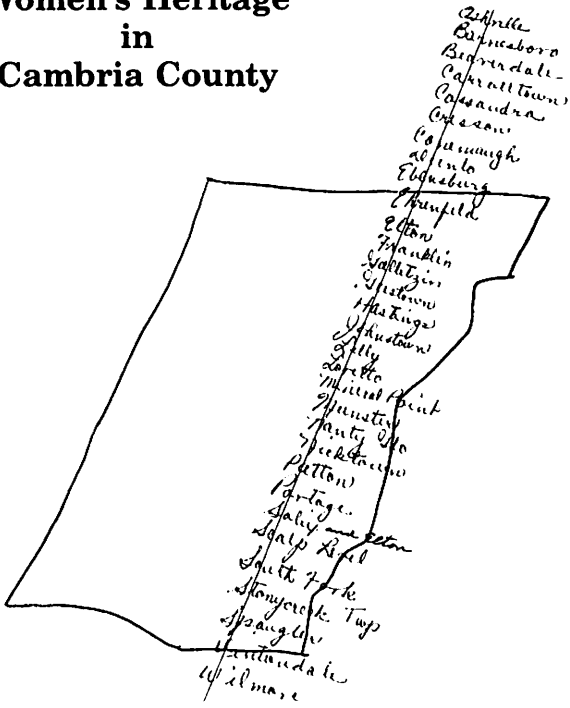
Women were farmers, midwives, hotel owners and operators, teachers, nurses; a few made it into the professions of medicine and law. They also operated mills, taverns and stores. We have been able to discover, in a limited way, through personal investigation, perusing church centennial reports, old newspapers and gathering memories of older citizens, the names and stories of some of these women in Cambria County who made noted contributions in their respective communities.

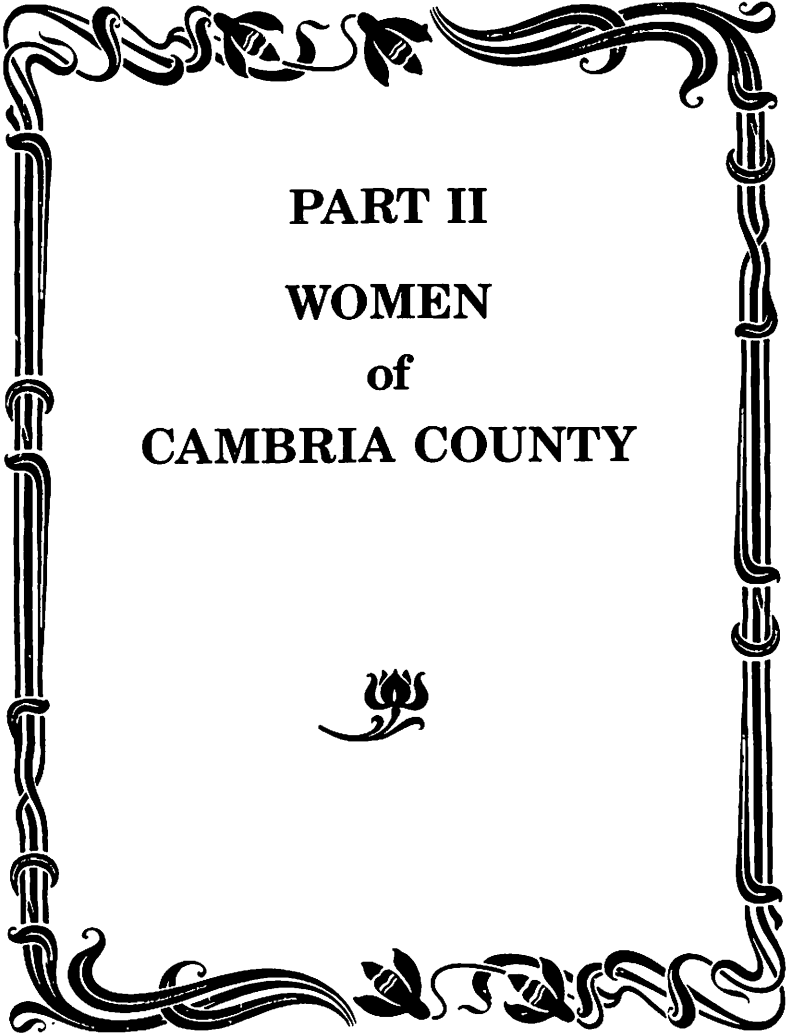
Such services as caring for the young, the elderly, ill family members, neighbors, and even the animals, raising and canning food, making the family clothing and other household articles, helping with the farmwork and, "you name it"—women were doing all the extras as well. All these tasks which pioneer women did were accepted as women's work, and not generally recorded or acknowledged. Women involved in work other than home chores usually acquired their skills through a type of apprenticeship to a male member of the family; then, later, took over the full responsibility, generally because of death, injury, illness and/or war. Lest we forget, these women were also wives and mothers; one could well believe "a woman's work was never done".

William Penn and the Quakers believed in education for women, so we find finishing schools and other educational institutions for women early in Pennsylvania history. But, even with these advantages, very few women were able to invade the male-dominated professions of law and medicine. Cambria County was unusual in that we had at least two women in the field of medicine: Dr. Esther Marbourg and Dr. Bertha J. Caldwell.

The change from pioneer status to a more progressive economy affected the lives of women and their families. In the next section we have presented the life styles of these women in their various roles.

Women's Heritage in Cambria County





PART II
WOMEN
of
CAMBRIA COUNTY



LIFE STYLES OF WOMEN IN EARLY CAMBRIA COUNTY

An analysis of women's worth and women's work in the hamlets, villages and small towns of Cambria County, as well as the rural areas, shows that women were farm wives, industrial wives (coal, steel and railroad), teachers and a few seamstresses in some of the towns. In the late 1800's a few nurses and some religious appeared. Some women had become hotel operators, grist mill owners, store keepers and farm owners. Usually women succeeded to these positions as a result of the death of a husband or father. Only in the urban areas of Ebensburg and Johnstown were women able to get adequate education to secure the opportunity of becoming artists, musicians, social workers, doctors and other professionals.

The life styles of most women in Cambria County were built around their husband's occupation and their family's needs. The few with a specialized type of career (e.g., politics or law) usually achieved the opportunity through family connections.

Life differed for the wife of a farmer compared to that of a coal miner or a railroader or the wife of a steelworker. From historical records and the memories of some of these women still living and/or descendants, an attempt has been made in these pages to summarize the daily living patterns of the farm woman, the wife of a coal miner, of the railroader and of the steel worker and the teacher in the one-room school.

The Life of a Coal Miner's Wife

Prepared by Eileen Cooper

No history of Cambria County would be complete without reference to the mining, marketing and utilization of bitumi-

nous coal. The first commercial mine, opened near the town of Lilly, began producing a limited amount of coal in 1825. From that date, an expanding population and the growth of industry created an accelerated need for coal and men to mine it. By 1885, there were twenty-three mines operating in the county; production for that year totaled 1,107,965 tons.

By the turn of the century, the establishment of several large mining corporations, among them the Cambria Iron Company, began leasing thousands of acres of coal lands in the area. Seemingly overnight, mining plants appeared on the landscape of Cambria County, replacing the peaceful farms and stands of virgin timber. Soon, train tracks wound down the hills and through the valleys, linking Johnstown with major coal markets.

Attracted by the lure of a job and a better way of life, a growing number of immigrants poured into the area. Many were single men, come from the old country alone. Others left wives and children behind, sending for them later, when money had been saved for their passage. Some, however, brought with them wives and children, brave women who followed their husbands into the unknown. The story of their lives has been, perhaps, neglected in the annals of history, handed down only in the oral tradition. This, then, is their legacy.

When pressed for recollections, retired miners' wives and women who spent their childhood years in Cambria County mining towns can provide us with a unique glimpse into the past, rich in details of a way of life which is gone forever.

A coal miner's wife, in the early days of the industry, soon discovered that the routine of her days, as well as that of her husband, was determined by the whistle blasts which shrilled forth periodically from the coal company's main office. These whistle blasts, like the tolling of a monastery bell, announced the miners' shift schedules, around which the entire family's life revolved. In contrast, the absence of these same blasts created a heavy silence in coal towns, for this indicated that the mines were temporarily closed, and pay envelopes correspondingly empty.

Housing itself varied greatly, depending on the relative prosperity of the various coal companies. Early mining towns, hastily thrown up to keep pace with the rapidly expanding mines, often presented a bleak impression to women who had come to the new world from picturesque European farming communities. Sidewalks, grass, and even trees were unknown in the

mud-caked towns which sprang up in the wake of that initial desperation to get a maximum tonnage in the shortest amount of both time and capital.

By the first years of the nineteenth century, however, the brisk consumption of Cambria County coal, both locally and in broader markets, channeled greater returns into the pockets of investors, and the resulting prosperity made itself felt in the improved conditions enjoyed by the miners and their families. Houses, formerly without foundations, were built with basements and sturdy roofs. Slowly, churches and schools appeared in mining communities. Nevertheless, although the miner's day ended upon his departure from the mine at the end of his shift, the work of the miner's wife, particularly if she had a family to care for, might easily extend to midnight or beyond.

In the early years, difficulties with the various languages encountered in an average Cambria County mining town added to the complexities of life faced by miners' wives. First came the Welsh, English and Scottish families, who, due to their previous mining experience and command of English, quickly rose to positions of prominence in the community, both socially and in the workplace. Later came the Germans, and, in the early part of the twentieth century, immigrants from eastern Europe and Italy. Newcomers tended to settle, if possible, into established neighborhoods of similar ethnic backgrounds, creating "English Streets", "Polish Streets", and "German Hills" in many turn-of-the-century mining towns. Gradually, mutual concern and shared experiences overcame the barriers of language; later, as children learned English and taught it to their parents, these initial problems were resolved.

"Home", in the first coal towns, was for many a double, or duplex-type house, economically beneficial to the mining company, who constructed them at around \$200 each. The dream of every miner's wife was the possession of a single house, preferably near the company store and mining office. Often this status was easily obtainable only to wives of English or Scottish men who held positions as bosses or foremen in the mines. Usually, the two families who shared a double house created amicable relationships, although stories exist to the contrary, including one of a jealous wife who slit her neighbor's new wallpaper by running a knife through the boards between the two kitchens.

Double or single, mining town wives shared similar, never ending household duties. With only a broom, dustpan, and mop,

they joined together in a daily, continual battle against the by-product of their very livelihood: the omnipresent coal dust which filled the air above and around every mining town in Western Pennsylvania. Residents who slept with open windows wore telltale rings of black soot around their nostrils in the mornings, and a layer of oily black particles decorated the water in their basins. The housewife herself usually hid her hair under a dustcap as she went about her chores.

In addition to daily cleaning, special spring, fall and holiday housecleanings required especially vigorous efforts, for when these were scheduled, windows were removed from their sashes for washing and rugs were taken out to be beaten. In the days before vacuum cleaners, some housewives saved tea leaves, dampened them, scattered them on their floors, and swept them up, leaving a clean floor behind.

As well as these ingenious housecleaning techniques, a miner's wife also invented ways to decorate her home in spite of an habitual lack of money. She ordered her furniture from a catalog or from the company store. Living room and dining room furniture was usually made of oak, sometimes with black upholstery, and stuffed with horsehair. For bedrooms, she bought iron bedsteads with cotton mattresses. All of her purchases were charged at the company store, with a minimal amount deducted each week from the miner's pay. Often, the women recall, the furniture was worn out long before the awaited last payment was made.

At the company store, mining town wives also purchased or charged bolts of the same coarse muslin used in the mines to block off dangerous or unused underground areas. From this rough material they made curtains, either on a treadle sewing machine, or entirely by hand. The more creative wives dyed their homemade products with coffee grounds. Called "ecru" curtains, these took on a dark beige color which lightened with each consecutive washing. During spring cleaning, the indestructable fabric was dyed again.

Usually, a coal miner's wife owned only one rug, and this she kept in the parlor or living room. The rug, too, was often made of mine muslin, the creation of many hours of hand braiding. Framed mottoes, religious pictures and potted plants, perhaps supplemented by a precious cup and saucer or other memento of the old country, completed the attempts of the mining town

housewife to make a home from a standard, company-built house.

After making her own rugs and curtains, the miners' wives practiced countless other economies every day. They made sheets, pillow slips, and even towels from the versatile mine brattice cloth. When the fabric's lifespan as bed linen was over, a worn sheet was cut up to make four tea towels.

The miners' wives made underwear for the entire family from old flour and potato sacks, and saved scraps for quilt patches. Many former coal town residents can remember relatives who went to their graves wearing homemade flour sack underwear underneath their suits.

Funerals prompted still another thrifty practice: upon learning of a death, neighbors of the deceased searched their closets so that the bereaved family might attend services properly attired in borrowed black.

The housewife also knitted all her husband's and children's socks, stockings, caps and scarves. When stockings could no longer be darned, she cut off the foot part to make "tube socks" for the younger children. A schoolgirl generally owned two dresses, "one on the hanger and the other on her back". Children passed along outer clothing down the line until it wore out completely; one woman who grew up in a local coal town remembers that she never had a new coat of her own until she reached eighteen.

When finances improved, men joined "suit clubs" at the company store. In a few months the suit was paid for, and the miner happily left the store with new clothes, and passed his old suit on to be cut down for his sons. One woman recalls that her father, on one occasion, went to the store to finally secure his long-awaited suit, changed his mind, and traded it back to the store keeper for a treasured gift of silverware for his wife.

After clothing her family in the most economical way possible, the miner's wife faced the challenge of keeping those same clothes clean in a community where coal dust filtered in even under the doorsills. Well into the 1930's, women in Cambria County mining towns carried all their own water for laundering. Sometimes two or three families shared a single outdoor pump, so it was wise to be early on washday in cold weather, for latecomers faced a treacherously slippery pumphouse porch.

On washday, a veritable bucket brigade of women and chil-

dren sloshed water from the pump to the huge copper boilers simmering on the kitchen stove. The coal town housewife boiled her family's clothes and rubbed them "on the board", with homemade soap. When she hung her wash outside, she had to take it down again quickly before the airborne dust blackened it all over again. A miner's work clothes, the women note, never got completely clean, even with the application of lye to the blackest areas.

In addition to washing his clothes, a miner's wife usually washed the miner, too. In company towns all over Cambria County, a ritual was enacted daily when the men returned from work. Each miner bathed in the kitchen using a zinc tub which had been filled by his wife with steaming water. The weary miner stripped to the waist and knelt by the tub while his spouse scrubbed his back with soap, towels and strips of old underwear. This accomplished, all women and children vacated the kitchen, closed the door behind them, and left the miner to complete his bath.

In times of two-day work weeks, the miner's wife faced a problem even more serious than keeping her family clothed and clean: keeping them fed. In the twenties, many coal town families had a total income of less than five dollars a week, a situation which required a great deal of imagination and hard work on the part of those responsible for cooking meals.

In the early 1900's, most coal town residents supplemented their company store order by keeping cows, pigs and chickens in their backyards. But the major coal companies, concerned about appearances, eventually banished the livestock to the outskirts of town. This edict, although it undoubtedly made the towns smell better, made the care of animals so difficult that they soon disappeared altogether. Some families, even after the cows were gone from their backyards, still maintained a few rabbits for meat.

In most towns huge gardens were a common sight, some so large that they filled every available inch of space around the family house. Housewives helped each other do the major canning and preserved large quantities of fruits and vegetables. Mothers expected children to participate in this annual event by washing canning jars and sorting rings and lids.

In the absence of refrigeration, some families set old tubs into the clay floors of their cellars, where the temperatures sometimes fell low enough to set "Jello".

Housewives, of course, baked all of their own bread, and older residents of coal towns recall seeing the beehive ovens which stood in many backyards, where many efficient women baked thirty or forty loaves each Wednesday. Menus reflected the rise and fall of the local coal industry, with buckwheat cakes and sausages for breakfast following a five or six day work week, and oatmeal starting the day when the pay had been short.

Large families were the rule across the country in the twenties and thirties, and in the coal towns, too, children formed a large part of the population. One woman, who was raised in a local mining town recalls: "Babies were the only new thing we ever got!" A great deal of modesty surrounded pregnancy and childbirth. Some women disguised their condition by the addition of layers of folded cloth worn under their heavy clothing, to create the illusions of a flat profile. One mother concealed her pregnancy from her older children so well that even her eighteen-year-old daughter was completely surprised when a baby brother joined the family.

Coal companies maintained a doctor who was readily available, and deducted three dollars a week from the miner's salary to cover the cost. Large towns had a resident physician; and a traveling doctor visited the smaller communities regularly, checking in at the company store to see if anyone needed him. Sometimes, mothers left notes with the store clerk describing her child's symptoms. If the doctor, upon reading the note, decided that a house call was not necessary, he left a prescription at the store for the mother to pick up later.

Most mothers, however, practiced a little medicine on their own, and concocted some rather strange, though evidently harmless, remedies. One mother, upon hearing of a case of diphtheria or scarlet fever in her vicinity, lined up her defenseless offspring and spooned into each a soupladleful of castor oil containing nine drops of turpentine. After each child had visited the outdoor privy, she considered her ounce of prevention well administered.

With husbands absent for long periods of time when they worked, miners' wives did most of the disciplining of children. Men and women who grew up in local mining towns still testify that their mothers kept them so busy they had no time for mischief. An idle child was handed a broom and told to sweep the porch. Parents expected even the very youngest children to work as soon as they were able; preschoolers were sent into the gar-

den with a tin can to collect potato bugs from the precious winter food supply.

Tragically, many Cambria County mining town women had, on occasion, much more serious matters to face than potato bugs. Given the dangerous working conditions of the early underground mines, the threat of injury or death was always present. Lists of accidents from old Bureau of Mines reports still fill us with a sense of horror: broken necks, backs, and fractured skulls resulting from roof falls; kicks from intractable mules; bodies crushed between mine rib and locomotive; limbs amputated by runaway cars. Later, electrocutions, broken arms and legs from machinery switches and misfired "shots" of dynamite took their toll in many mining communities.

Most feared of all, however, were the relatively rare, but terrifyingly destructive mine explosions, eruptions of methane gas or concentrated areas of coal dust which could devastate not only the mine itself, but reverberate throughout an entire geographical area.

When, on the morning of July 10, 1902, such an explosion tore through the Cambria Steel Company's Rolling Mill mine, contemporary newspaper reporters recorded the agony suffered by the wives, mothers and sisters of the 112 men who lost their lives that day. "Women Fight to Reach Loved Ones", reads the caption, still poignant after a distance of 84 years:

"Several scores of Cambria women, nearly all of them foreigners, on hearing of the disaster swarmed around the mouth of the mine. . . . Finally, a fight was started by the frantic women who wanted to enter the slope to search for those they loved best. And it was with the utmost difficulty that the officers succeeded in subduing them and starting them home."

In the same paper, a second writer observed a woman who stood wringing her hands as she ran about among the startled men who watched the rescuers at work at the Mill Creek entrance to the mine:

"'My husband, my husband', wailed a whitefaced woman . . . She was Mrs. Mary Jackmund, and she came from Cambria . . . She was one of many women who were assembled in the crowd, expecting at every moment to hear

the worst. No one in the crowd could give her any assurance or consolation.”

Pittsburgh Dispatch, July 11, 1902

By the late twenties and early thirties, coal mine fatalities and injuries began to drop as improved safety techniques and more rigid enforcement of governmental regulations made their appearance in the industry. In 1931, the U.S. Bureau of Mining established the North Cambria Council for the dissemination of safety information and to secure better cooperation between companies and employees in the promotion of safe mining practices.

In addition to anxieties concerning her husband's safety, the mining town wife, rolling out pie dough in her kitchen in Colver, perhaps, or Charles, had still more on her mind: labor-management strife. Several lengthy coal strikes had occurred in Cambria County, the most severe in the early twenties. In 1924, when coal companies across the state found themselves unable to honor their contract with the UMWA, still more privations were in store for coal town women. Some companies hired Coal and Iron Police, who forcibly evicted union members and their families from company-owned housing. Still other men were “blacklisted”, and forced to leave the area in search of other employment.

In the wake of the upheavals of the twenties, the early thirties brought the results of the stock market crash. Many mines operated only two or three days a month; already used to stretching their dollars, miners' wives found their creativity increasingly challenged.

One woman recalls that, when the economy slumped, her family ate meat only once a week. On the remaining six days, she served eggs, cheese, and meatless spaghetti. Baked bean sandwiches went into lunch buckets; fried carrots and potatoes made an evening meal.

Miners' wives who survived the Depression believe that years of practicing the strictest economy helped get them through the hard times with a minimum of panic.

Despite frequent privations stoically faced by a generation of mining town women, many recall their enjoyment of quilting parties, pie socials, and picnics. Baseball games in the summer and ice skating and sledding in the winter added rich memories to their lives. By the late thirties, many mining town residents

attained a comfortable prosperity; radios, washing machines, and family-owned automobiles were no longer a rarity. "Coal town kids" were routinely finishing high school; many went on to universities and entered the professions. Some followed their fathers into the mines, but as foremen, superintendents, engineers and geologists.

By the end of the Second World War, some Cambria County mining communities were already obsolete. Ease of transportation enabled mining families to locate in Johnstown's growing suburban settings, or to build homes in the surrounding countryside. In some locations, mines were worked out and tipples closed down and left to rust. Some company housing fell into disrepair and was abandoned; but many houses were purchased by the occupants, repaired, made liveable, and are still in use today.

Though the women who once lived with them as daily companions feel little nostalgia for coal dust and outdoor toilets, there are many in this area today who still look back wistfully to a time when neighbors, sharing all their joys and pains, could sit together on the porch on a summer's evening. They recall a way of life which is gone forever, in the mining towns of Cambria County.

Woman's Life on a Farm

Prepared by Murilla Himes

The early farmer and his wife were true partners, and the family closely knit, as everyone had his chores to do, from the youngest to the oldest. A pattern quite close to that of the early Cambria County farm family still exists in the Amish patterns in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. In this partnership, farm wives expected to do their share of the work and sometimes more, for some of the husbands had a second job. A farm wife had to be executive, entrepreneur, director, nurse, teacher, midwife and veterinarian, farmer and laborer; the job was not easy.

Farm houses ranged from rude cabins to rather large barn-like structures with big rooms and high ceilings, often heated only by a stove in the kitchen and/or living room. The upstairs bedrooms were hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Frequently the farmer's wife was the fireman, a task which fell to the oldest child when he was fourteen. In some instances, the

barn was connected to the cabin which meant the farmer's wife didn't need to go outdoors to feed and care for the stock.

Everyone worked. The younger children did the baby-sitting, picked the fruits and vegetables, gathered eggs, brought in wood and water, helped in the garden. The older ones, especially the boys, fed the stock, milked the cows, and helped their father with farm work, such as bringing in the hay and harvesting corn. It was a common sight to see the entire family help with taking in the hay while the baby played in its box in the hay field.

The farmer's wife started early to train her daughters in the art of homemaking: general housekeeping, cooking, baking, canning, gardening and sewing. With no railroad refrigeration cars to bring in supplies, no refrigerator in the home, or nearby stores from which to buy food, the housewife maintained her own garden in which she grew staples such as potatoes, carrots, cabbage, beets and turnips. This food could be canned after the advent of the Mason jar in the 1850's; but prior to that time food to be preserved had to be dried, treated like sauerkraut or preserved by application of vinegar and/or salt. Vegetables such as potatoes and turnips could be stored in a protected hole in the ground and dug up as needed. Meat was preserved by using a mixture of salt and by smoking.

Usually the farm family was large and the farmer's wife had to prepare large and economical meals for a hungry outfit. She became an expert at preparing soups, stews, boiled dinners (ham and cabbage) which could be prepared and then put in the iron kettle to cook until it was needed. Also, there were lunches to fix for the school children as there was no cafeteria in a one-room school.

The farmer's wife always had a flock of chickens which she carefully coddled, for they were a source of food for a special occasion (such as birthdays, weddings, important company), and also provided a supply of eggs which could be used for food or a source of "pin money". Bread had to be baked for the family at least once a week, sometimes twice. Some women made fifteen to twenty loaves of bread at a time. If the supply ran out, there was no store to run to, so it meant another baking. Cakes, cookies and pies were a very special luxury and were only produced for particular occasions.

She was in the manufacturing business in a big way. She sewed for the whole family, knit socks and sweaters, made cush-

ions, braided or hooked rugs for the floor, made pillow cases, towels, quilts and haps. Imagine dressing a family of ten from inside to outside garments for all seasons. Sometimes the family could afford to buy winter coats and men's suits since they were so difficult to sew. One can understand why both youngsters and adults had one good outfit for Sunday and special occasions, and only one or two for everyday. Clothes were handed down from one child to another so that some of the youngest never had a completely new outfit.

These farm women practiced some medicine, too, for there were few doctors, and they didn't come to the farm. Castor oil, turpentine and the "asafedia bag" around the neck were common remedies. Some women were better at this chore than others, so they prescribed for their neighbors as well. A so-called black "Doctor's Book" supplied the basis for treatment. Many times these women had to treat and birth the stock as well because there were few veterinarians. Lights were kerosene, gas lamps or candles and were used only when necessary to conserve the fuel or the supply of candles. The pioneer wife made her own candles.

Washing clothes was another task which took all day, and sometimes some members of the family had to go to bed until part of their wardrobe would dry. Wash day usually was selected so clothes could be hung on the line when possible. Frequently in winter clothes had to be hung in the kitchen to dry. Early on, it was necessary for the wife to make her own soap. Starch for those clothes requiring it had to be cooked and bluing added to keep the clothes white. Irons were heated on the stove; with no controlled temperatures it was easy to scorch the garment.

Throughout the "busy life style", there were enjoyments and pleasures. After churches began to spring up, they held social gatherings such as church dinners and picnics. People stood around after church to talk; even the men enjoyed this. Sundays were fun times and for recreation. Friends and relatives came to visit; there would be baseball games, horseshoe contests and much conversation.

Quilting was a favored pastime for the pioneer woman since it was her "very own" thought, design and work; her husband had no part in its creation. When other wives came to help with the quilting, it was doubly pleasant. Difficulties of transportation were a drawback to visiting. Early transportation was by

horse and buggy; then the Ford, and finally other cars. Only on special occasions would the farm woman have used public transportation. Usually farmer's wives would get to the nearest town once in every several weeks, to church on Sunday, and maybe to visit some relatives.

Since farm women were relatively self-sufficient in their environment, they were less affected by socio-economic changes. Certainly they were slower to be affected by the Women's Movement. Some of these women did not even have access to a newspaper. After the radio came along they did get more news more currently, but it did not make a great impact. Lest we forget, these women did look forward to the visits by the peddler who came bringing for sale "knick-knacks" so dear to female hearts—lace, pins, buttons, inexpensive jewelry and free gossip from the outside world. Later the "Raleigh Man" made his rounds bringing cough medicines, tonics, creams and salves for treating the sick and injured.

Living was too real for most of them to get involved with women's issues or the world outside their own realm. Definitely, the most disturbing element was war and economic depression, for they were affected directly by these factors.

These women seemed to be a happy group and adjusted to their life style. Some of them have said they wouldn't exchange it for life in the city. They say it was a good life despite its privations and limitations.

The Railroader's Wife

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Somewhat similar to the coal miner's wife, the wife of the railroader found that her routine, as well as that of her family, revolved around the work schedule of her husband. When the railroads moved into the area, the result was a rise in the economy and "boom conditions" in some of the leading coal towns. Because the railroads here were extensions of large companies on the east coast, working conditions and salaries were much better than those of the coal miner. Thus, the railroader's wife had a much easier life style. These people had more money, lived in the towns, not renting, but usually buying or building their own homes. In early times, washing machines made their

appearance, ice boxes were available, and there were grocery stores where food could be purchased.

Railroaders' wives still continued to have limitations in the range of foods available, but they could buy from the farmers who came around to sell produce, as well as procure food from the stores. The farmer would regularly stop at a house where the mother could go out to buy what she needed.

Some of the railroaders' wives had gardens and some had chickens. However, unless there was a large family to feed such activities were hardly worth the work and expense. The women did a great deal of preserving and canning of fruits and vegetables, as well as baking their own bread, cookies and cakes.

The wives of railroaders had a pass enabling them to ride passenger trains free of charge. A railroad employee could obtain one trip pass per year for himself and his family so they could ride on systems other than the line on which he worked. This pass system afforded opportunities for education and travel. A child commuting to a school in another town could have a monthly school pass.

There was more time for leisure in their lives than in that of the farmer's or coal miner's wife; so they volunteered for church work, joined organizations, were involved in the activities of the schools, and even a few entered politics. I remember a Democratic committee woman who, when there was a vacancy, was appointed postmistress. Children, likewise, had more time for leisure pursuits; but also had chores assigned. As the railroaders worked long hours and did not get home until late, it was the mother who was responsible for the disciplining of children, following through with school contacts, and the supervision and regulation of their activities.

The Wife of the Laborer in the Steel Mill

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Sophie Pavlich was born in the United States to parents who immigrated from Poland. After finishing school in Johnstown, she worked in a cigar factory in Cambria City. She was left with three children to raise after her first husband died. After a while she was married again to a laborer in the steel mill. She and her second husband had three more children. Most of Sophie's life pre-dated the advent of the steelworker's union.

Work for her husband was irregular. After reporting for work each day, the boss decided how many workers he needed; the rest were sent home. The boss was more likely to pick men whom he liked. Sophie never knew how much money there would be to feed and clothe the family. The shift usually was twelve hours; but when a man went to work, he might have to work eighteen to twenty hours. Wages were low, so there was no possibility of saving money. Workers shopped at the company store so credit would be available when money was insufficient. Sometimes there was only \$1.00 in the envelope on pay day.

According to her son, Henry, his mother rarely went anywhere outside the home except to church. She was very religious, so this was a must. At home, awake before anyone else, she had the coffee pot on the stove where it stayed twenty-four hours a day. Water and coffee constituted the family's beverages.

Sophie did her own washing using a tub, a washboard and handwringer. She preferred a washday when clothes could be hung outside, even though the atmosphere was polluted with dirt, smoke and dust. The clothes were boiled in a large tub to make them white. She bought Octagon soap to use for washing, but some of the other wives made their own soap from grease and lye. She heated the water on the coal stove and pressed the clothes with an iron heated on the stove.

The staples of the diet were potatoes and home-made bread. Produce was available from the farmer who came around the neighborhood, if there was money to buy. Most homes did not have sufficient ground for a garden, nor were there funds to purchase seeds, plants and fertilizer. Henry noted that nothing was thrown away. Sometimes he worked in a grocery store and the store owner would give him fruit or vegetables which wouldn't last over the weekend. His mother always managed to use them in some way. Once he brought home lemons and his mother made lemon pies, sending one to the store owner in appreciation. These wives were experts at making soups and stews. Except for chicken meat was almost unknown. Many families raised chickens, so they were cheap. Henry went with his father to pick mushrooms which they brought home and dried on strings above the stove; then they were used in soup. A basket of lettuce cost 5¢ and a pound of sugar cost 5¢-10¢. Most women bought canned milk; a few women who lived in the country had a cow for fresh milk. Sometimes supper was only hot baked bread which was eaten with molasses or spread with

lard and pepper. Wives also canned and preserved foods when they were cheap. At times, half the cellar was taken up with canned foods.

The wife did all the sewing for the family. Clothes were handed down from one child to another and were well-patched. In those days children walked to school, and were clean and neat when they went. In addition, women made rag rugs for the floors of the living room and bedrooms, as well as making bedding. These floors were cleaned with a broom.

Most homes had two stoves, a pot-bellied one in the living room and a coal stove in the kitchen, so the housewife had to be a fireman as well. Upstairs rooms were cold and the featherbed was the answer. Of course, there were no telephones, TV's or radios.

With the advent of the union, things changed radically for the wife of laborers in steel. Employment became steady, and the wife knew what shift her husband was working. Now they were able to save money enough to spend for things other than basics. Henry remembers what a great day it was when a radio was purchased.

Later, both unions and companies had picnics in the summertime and a party at Christmas.

The life style of the steelworker's wife was determined by his position in the mill. The better the husband's job, the better were the wages and fringe benefits. Belonging to the union was mandatory, and the union set policy and pace. During strikes, there was no income; so the wife had to find ways to keep the family going. Glosser Brothers store gave food on credit until the worker was earning again and could pay. Other smaller grocery stores likewise extended credit.

The husband and wife had to be "jack of all trades" around the house, as there were neither the money or tradespeople to make repairs. Neighbors helped each other with fixing things such as plumbing.

Recreation, to a large extent, consisted of sitting on the front porch steps to converse with neighbors and passers-by.

Henry saw his mother and other steel wives as the heart and center of the home. They kept things moving, supplied everyone's basic needs and were there at all times. Their neighbor's problems became theirs, and they helped each other in any way they could.

The wives of steelworkers, especially in early times, had a hard life; but it would seem to have been a good life.

The Teacher in the One-Room School

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Teaching in a one-room school was vastly different from being in the schools of the town, or the consolidated schools of today.

The teacher of the one-room school did not arrive with the children on a bus to a situation ready for them to start the day's teaching. These schools were usually in rural areas or in very small towns. Both teacher and pupils walked to school. Before the teacher left her home or the house where she boarded, she had to pack her lunch as she wouldn't get home at noon, and there was no place to buy food. Usually the teacher had to unlock the building and start the fire in the pot-bellied stove which stood in the corner of the room; this meant arriving a good hour before the students in order to have the room warm. Then, if she hadn't stayed to do so the night before, she had to make her plans for the day. Imagine, she taught grades one through eight to pupils who were in the classroom the entire day. Not only did she need to plan lessons for all the subjects she taught—Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, History, Geography—but also assignments and activities to keep those children busy who were not currently being instructed.

Teaching was only a part of her job as she was nurse for ill students, playground supervisor for recreation and referee for fights and ball games. Also, she played mother, dressing the smallest ones when ready to dismiss school. At the end of the day she put out the fire and did the necessary cleaning. In some larger communities having three or four rooms in the school, one or more women in the town were hired as janitresses.

It is interesting to note that, in the beginning, there were more men than women involved in teaching. The men would apply to get into schools where there was more than one room, and thus avoid the cleaning and unpleasant chores associated with the one-room school.

Roy Burley talked about his experiences in attending a one-room school about five miles from Nicktown. His mother, Mary McAnulty, had taught earlier one year in the very same school. He told of carrying drinking water from a spring and of the

common dipper used by all. The older boys were responsible for bringing in the coal and wood for the stove. They also had to carry some ten to twelve buckets of water to take care of the chemical toilet.

Some of the better older students were required to help the younger ones when they were not being taught. Two incidents that follow occurred in one school:

One day the teacher was late in arriving and the two eighth grade boys had come early to install a skunk in the school. Needless to say, everyone enjoyed a holiday; but the culprits were caught and spent the day getting rid of Mr. Skunk and the odor he left in the building. This was done by washing up with tomato juice. Another time, after Hallowe'en, the teacher, arriving in the dark of the morning, found the pranksters had applied black axle grease to the school door knob. Luckily, one of the school board members lived on the farm across from the school. He found the guilty pupils and supervised the clean-up job. Some other teachers at this school were Eleanor Tate Stuby and Peg Stuby. Teachers were expected to discipline the students, and parents rarely questioned what the teacher did. One irate father said, "Don't kill him; just kick him".

The following is a sample schedule of a day in a one-room school as told by two teachers based on their own experiences. In each situation the time allotted for class would vary with the number of students in the grade and the difficulty of the subject. The number of children in the school usually would be twenty to twenty-five, ranging in age from six to sixteen or seventeen.

9:00

Flag Salute Songs—used record player and taught some basics of music

15 minutes—First Grade

Subjects: Reading (used Dick and Jane books); Addition (used flash cards); Spelling; Phonics

20 minutes—Second Grade

Subjects: Reading (used second level of Dick and Jane books); Subtraction; Spelling; Phonetics; English; Writing

30 minutes—Third Grade

Subjects: Reading; Multiplication and short division; Review Addition and Subtraction; Spelling; English; Writing—write stories

30 minutes—Fourth Grade

Subjects: Arithmetic (long division); Spelling; Writing; Reading; Geography (Europe)

45 minutes—Fifth Grade

Subjects: Reading; English; Spelling; Writing; Arithmetic (Fractions); Geography (U.S.A. and South America)

45 minutes—Sixth Grade

Subjects: Reading; Decimals; Writing; Geography (Europe, Africa, Asia); History (American)

45 minutes—Seventh Grade

Subjects: Reading; Arithmetic (percentage and interest); Geography (Europe, Africa, Asia); English grammar; Spelling; History (American)

45 minutes—Eighth Grade

Subjects: Reading; Writing; Arithmetic (percentage and square root); English Grammar; History (American); Spelling

In seventh and eighth grades students took county tests in the subjects being taught.

Teachers had contracts in which some unusual conditions were spelled out which would be quite unacceptable to teachers' unions today:

The teacher must fire the stove, take out the ashes, and be responsible for any grate he or she broke.

The salary frequently was based on the number of students to be taught.

The teacher cannot be married, or get married during her term of teaching.

Submitted by: Mrs. Donald Murphy, Sr. and Miss Helen Hennessey both of whom taught in one-room schools

Contributions from: Leroy J. Burley who attended a one-room school

SPECIFIC LOCALES IN CAMBRIA COUNTY AND SOME WOMEN WHO WERE THERE

As was noted in the beginning of the book, this is not a detailed or complete survey of the areas referred to in our study. It is merely a brief description of those areas where names and data on local women were found.

It was no problem to find information about early Johnstown and/or Ebensburg women. There were ample opportunities for these gifted and zealous women to make names for themselves. There were newspapers to keep records of happenings and so to identify some women's outstanding achievements. Not so, in the small hamlets and towns where life was more rugged, more isolated, and with fewer opportunities to record the activities of early women pioneers.

In researching these areas, one started with a list of the men who were known to have settled early in these towns. Much of the time, however, there were no written records of their wives except to know there was a wife, and the number of children. Cemeteries rarely yielded more than the wife's name, and, perhaps, her maiden name. Frequently there were no living relatives or descendants to interview. However, by word of mouth, visiting libraries, reviewing newspapers where they existed, church records and booklets, we've turned up the names of women who identified themselves as belonging in some special way to a particular location. Our information may be so sparse as to be only one or two sentences; but we have recorded it. In almost all instances we have been able to highlight at least one outstanding woman in most of the towns and hamlets of this county. We have been able to prove that women *were* there.

Stonycreek Township

Stonycreek Township was formed from the southern part of Conemaugh Township on January 4, 1876. Later, Adams Town-

ship was created from Richland Township which was originally part of Stonycreek Township. There were Delaware Indian tribes from the West and Shawnee Indians living in the area. Others traversed the area over a path later to be called the Forbes Trail. The path came from the west across Stonycreek Township to Von Lunen Road and then to the Bedford Trail.

Time has a way of dulling the memory for past events and concepts of distance and place become vague. So it is with the Adams family. They are claimed by all and sundry between Johnstown and Bedford since the family travelled the Bedford Trail.

The Adams family came from Berks County sometime prior to 1771. Present data obtainable leads to the conclusion that Samuel, Solomon and Rachel Adams were the first white family to locate, improve and till the soil within the limits of what now is Cambria County and Conemaugh Township. This makes Rachel Adams our earliest woman pioneer in Cambria County.

Stonycreek Township has shrunk since its earliest days as parts became independent units or joined with the city. However, Stonycreek Township still lays claim to the privilege of being the site of the location of the Adams family. We still find descendants of the Adams family living in the township; areas in the township and the city are named for the noted family.

Rachel Adams, Cambria County Pioneer

Prepared by Marie Morgart

One of the most daring and courageous women in the history of Cambria County was Rachel Adams. She and her brothers, Solomon and Samuel, became the first white settlers in this area, arriving in 1770 from Berks County.

Undaunted by the discovery in 1771 that by treaty no white man was permitted to occupy land reserved for Indians, the Adams family continued to improve the land—a tract which later became the Horner estate.

It was not a simple life; the trio knew well that both the Shawanese and Delaware Indians, when encroached upon by the settlers would raid, plunder and kill. However, in order to hunt, fish and trap for a livelihood, such invasion was necessary.

As for Rachel, hers was the monumental job of preparing goods for market in Bedford. She gathered and boiled maple syrup, cleaned and dried fish and venison and gathered herbs.

Living became increasingly difficult and perilous, for the

white man and the red man were at war from 1769 to 1774 in the territory between Bedford and Pittsburgh. Forts had been set up at Bedford, Ligonier and Palmer, and in times of real danger, the Adams family would flee—usually to Bedford.

A short distance into one of these flights, it became necessary for Solomon and Samuel to return to the farm. Assuring Rachel that they would hurry back, they left her in charge of the horses.

The brothers did not get far. They were ambushed on the trail, and although they fought heroically, Samuel was killed. Somehow, Solomon managed to escape.

Meanwhile, Rachel watered the horses at a small stream in Elton (later to be known as Rachel's Run), and there she was discovered by the Indians.

The deed was swift and terrible. When Solomon returned, the horses were gone, and the body of his gallant sister lay by the stream.

Years later, in her honor, a prominence east of Geistown on the Bedford road was named Rachel Hill; the area is now known as Adams Township.

By 1784, there was peace as far to the west as Westmoreland County, and in 1787 Solomon Adams was appointed by the Provincial Council as a Viewer to locate the Frankstown Road; he was also appointed as a Bedford County commissioner.

As for Rachel, one of the most heroic pioneer women of this state, she is to be remembered for her outstanding contribution to the development of Cambria County.

Geistown and Geistown Borough

Geistown was not incorporated until 1930 but a long and interesting history precedes this event and there are records of its women.

As early as 1731, Indian traders came to the area known as Geistown. Both peaceful and war-like Indian tribes traveled the area. It is known that old Route 56 was an early Indian trail. Geistown, a spin-off of Stonycreek Township, claims the Adams family as their first inhabitants to settle in Cambria County.

In 1812, William Slick and his wife Rebecca Hemphill Slick moved from Johnstown and bought a large tract of land in what is now Geistown, a wilderness inhabited only by Indians and called it Slicksville. This pioneer woman was brave—maybe it

helped to have her name on the deed—quite unusual at this time in history. The first church, Methodist, was in William Slick's home. The farm also included a tannery. The Slicks divided their land into three parts and sold one to Squire Horner in 1842. The Squire then sold his land to Joseph Geis. Joseph Geis and a party of 17 came from Germany. They traveled the Portage Canal from Philadelphia to Johnstown when one of the party became ill. While waiting for his comrade to recover, he saw a spot of land which he decided to buy. With 15 months, Joseph Geis had established his homestead and traveled back to Bavaria and returned with his parents, Conrad and Anna Marie Geis.

Conrad and Joseph started a distillery where they made rye and wheat whiskey. It had to be sent to Pittsburgh to be stamped and then returned here and sold for \$.90 a gallon. Joseph Geis then enlarged his house and set up a tavern. This became the stopping place for travelers for food and overnight lodging. It was called the Half-Way House and later the Allegheny Mountain House. It's capacity was 38 persons and lodging cost \$.25 per night.

Joseph Geis, during this time, had divided his land into lots and named his settlement, Geistown. There were in the small village, three hotels (taverns), two blacksmith shops, a distillery, and a few mercantile stores. In 1876, a Mr. Koontz (Kuntz) had opened a shallow coal mining shaft. The village also had a carpenter shop, lumber mill, bowling alley (in Bernard Ness's Tavern), slaughter house, weighing station, tinning shop, and cooper's shop. Joseph Geis had a general store in a portion of his house, and in 1892 had the first post office.

The road between Johnstown and Scalp Level was a toll road. This was old Route 56, the toll charge was six cents. The toll house was in Walnut Grove at the foot of the hill. The toll was removed in 1908, and Route 56 became a modern highway in 1951.

We have noted, previously, women are included in the history of this interesting community. We have been able to include a number of their pioneer women:

Mary Ann Fleckenstein Geis
Helena Geis Nees
Rose Nees Heinrich
Florence Helen Karcher Karr Ruth

Mary Ann Fleckenstein Geis

Mary Ann Fleckenstein Geis had married Joseph Geis in her home country of Bavaria and, then, came with him to the new world as a young bride. She traveled to Johnstown from Philadelphia by way of the Portage Canal. Passage on the canal was \$3.50 and food cost \$1.50. She was one of a party of seventeen including Geis' and Nees', Erhart Zane, and others who were traveling to the new world to avoid conscription in the German Army. When they arrived in Johnstown, one member was ill and they were waiting for their comrade to recover. Joseph and Mary Ann took a ride out into the country and they found a beautiful section of land. They bought the land and the party stayed in Johnstown.

Mary Ann must have been really busy. Joseph and his father had a distillery in the area of the Geistown Cloverleaf, extending his house into a tavern, which became a place for travelers to stop for food and lodging. Realizing the limitations facing the housewife of that day, how did Mary Ann manage all the washing, ironing, cleaning, and food preparation for a traveler's lodging stopover?

Mary Ann and Joseph Geis had 9 children, three boys and six girls. The whole family contracted small pox from a traveling salesman and one of the boys died. The other two boys died at an early age, leaving the six girls. The girls were all sent to St. Aloysius School for Girls in Loretto under the supervision of the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Mary Catherine Wayne was the first head of the school. It was somewhat unusual to educate one daughter at a Girls School at this time, but for these parents to send all six girls to school and considering the distance to Loretto, it was highly unusual. The girls were Catherine, Helena, Rose, Clare, Mary and Eva. They attended Blough School before going to St. Aloysius. The Geis's and Nee's families intermarried and a very large number of people in Geistown are related.

Since Geistown had been a station on the underground railroad before Joseph Geis's time, he continued to perpetuate it during his life. This meant that Mary Ann had runaway slaves to hide and care for during their stay at the respective station. Also, the consequences could be hazardous if the police found them, or those individuals who tried to recapture the runaway slaves and return them to their masters for the lucrative re-

wards. To further add to Mary Ann's job, Joseph had a large barn where he weighed wheat, oats, etc., from the surrounding farms. She probably had to do some weighing when Joseph was busy with his other business ventures.

Mary Ann was born December 16, 1821, and died June 13, 1893. Her parents were Adam and Eva Fleckenstein of Bavaria. She is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Geistown.

Helena Geis Nees (A Family Story)

Helena Geis Nees was one of six daughters of the founder of Geistown, Joseph Geis and Mary Ann Fleckenstein. She was born February 11, 1850, in Geistown. There were five sisters and three brothers. The boys all died young. Helena attended Blough School and then St. Aloysius in Loretto.

Helena married Bernard Nees on February 22, 1870, thus uniting two of the founding families of Geistown. They had a family of thirteen children in all, eight living. The sons were Ludwig B., Joseph M., and George W.; while the daughters were Agnes, Katie, Annie, Rose, and Josephine. Parents of these days had tragic times with raising their children for there were many communicable diseases to take children's lives then but for which there is treatment today. Three little girls of Helena and Bernard died within months of the dreaded disease, scarlet fever. The story is told that Helena was inconsolable for a time and my informant said her grandfather had trouble restraining his wife from going out and adopting little girls. Tragedy stalked this home, also, in another way. Josephine, one of the other children, had epilepsy. This was in the days before there was medication for controlling the seizures. Her father spent a fortune traveling over the country whenever he heard of someone who might help his daughter.

Bernard and Helen Geis Nees operated the Geistown Hotel. This building was torn down and the space used for the Owen Ketterer funeral home parking lot. In addition they owned a hardware store in town. Helena was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Johnstown but became a charter member of St. Benedict's when it was organized in Geistown.

Another daughter, Rose, married Ernest Heinrich in 1907. They had four children: Helene, Rita, Bernard and William. It

was Rose's daughter, Rita Heinrich Adams, who shared this story, three generations of an early Geistown family. It is the story of her mother, Rose Nees Heinrich, her grandmother, Helena Geis Nees, and her great grandmother, Mary Ann (Fleckenstein) Geis. Rita has children and grandchildren, so the Geis-Nees line will continue.

Have you heard anyone speaking of the Red Geranium? Maybe their wedding reception was there, or an anniversary party, or a special birthday celebration. It was a popular spot in early Geistown history. It was operated by George Nees, a son of Helena and Bernard Nees. It still stands today on Lamberd Avenue, and it still looks very much like the picture of the old "Red Geranium."

Florence Karr Ruth

Prepared by son, William Ruth

Florence Karr Ruth was born April 29, 1890, the oldest of four children born of Charles and Crescentia (Noe) Karr. She spent her early childhood in Old Conemaugh Borough attending St. Joseph's German Catholic Church and School.

In her late teens she worked at the Quinn Store on Clinton Street, and by 1909 was the head buyer in their lingerie department.

Her affable nature eventually won her the favor of Leo A. Ruth, also of Conemaugh Borough and they were united in marriage on June 17, 1914, at St. Joseph's German Catholic Church.

Shortly thereafter they built a home in the Oakmont section, which eventually became a part of Geistown. Thus Florence and Leo Ruth joined a handful of pioneers that were willing to endure the hardships of living in Geistown which at this time was still a remote little farm village and still a long dusty or muddy ride from Johnstown. Most of these pioneers had one thing in common. Their ancestors came from Aschaffenberg, Germany.

As Geistown grew, so did the Ruth family. Florence Ruth gave birth to seven children: Robert, married to Mary Kozora; Dolores, married to Philip Vaught; Richard; and Barbara, married to James Boxler. All the aforementioned still live in Geistown. John, married to Edna Thompson now deceased, and now mar-

ried to Luisa Pellegrini, lives in Alliance, Ohio; and Paul, married to Millicent Kiplinger now deceased, lives in Martinsburg, Pennsylvania; and William, married to Eulalia Conway, lives in Delaware, Ohio.

On April 29, 1980, all her children and grandchildren met on her ninetieth birthday to stage a "This Is Your Life." The following are some comments that were made on this day by her grandchildren: "Grandma, you're the special ingredient that makes your home so special." "This world is a little brighter and whole lot happier because of a mother and grandmother as thoughtful and as wonderful as you." "Grandma, you live each day so unselfishly with others' cares in mind." "Those whose paths have crossed with yours would certainly agree that you are one of the greatest, nicest people that this world will ever see."

Florence Ruth was a model wife, a wonderful mother, and revered by her twenty grandchildren. She always had a positive attitude about everything.

She never held public office. She wasn't known for her inventions and discoveries. She was known and loved by all who came in contact with her for her deeply religious fervor, her faith in prayer, and love for God. Florence Ruth liked the arts. She usually was seen at the symphony orchestra performances, and the Community Concert series. She attended the travel series of the Lee Hospital Auxiliary and activities at Bishop McCort. Usually, she was accompanied by her son, Richard Ruth.

She was the inspiration for her husband, Leo, to write many poems about her throughout their married life. We are grateful that she had the insight to allow her children to compile these poems into a book for her children and grandchildren.

Florence Ruth died on March 9, 1981, fifty-one days before her ninety-first birthday. At her death she was the oldest living member (in time) of St. Benedict's parish, and even though she out-lived most of her friends, the near capacity crowd at her funeral was evidence of the many who loved her.

As Monsignor Kiniry eulogized this wonderful lady he said: "We have been made richer because we have known her. The parish, I'm sure, was supported by her prayers in many ways that many of us don't even know about. I'm sure that we are all stronger because she was here. And she leaves to all of you and to all of us a heritage from that little corner of the world. If your

faith and your hope and your love can be but a shadow of what she taught, then we understand why I'm sure God said, 'Florence, come home with me. Your work is done.' "

St. Valentine's Day,—February 14, 1963

What shall I say now in this Valentine
That would tickle the heart of this girl of mine?
Surely she knows that I love her so well
'Cause my acts do speak louder than words can tell.
E'en though her hair is now well mixed with gray,
Its the gold that I see, as I did on the day
We walked down the aisle my head in a cloud;
Then saying my vows to her bravely and loud.

When I gaze at her now she's the same girl somehow,
Who stood at the altar repeating our vows,
Whose veil I raised tenderly, whose sweet lips I kissed
And surely our many friends noticed mist
In my eyes as she crept in my waiting arms,
And to whom I say truly "You've lost none of your charms."

Dein Schatz
by Leo Ruth.

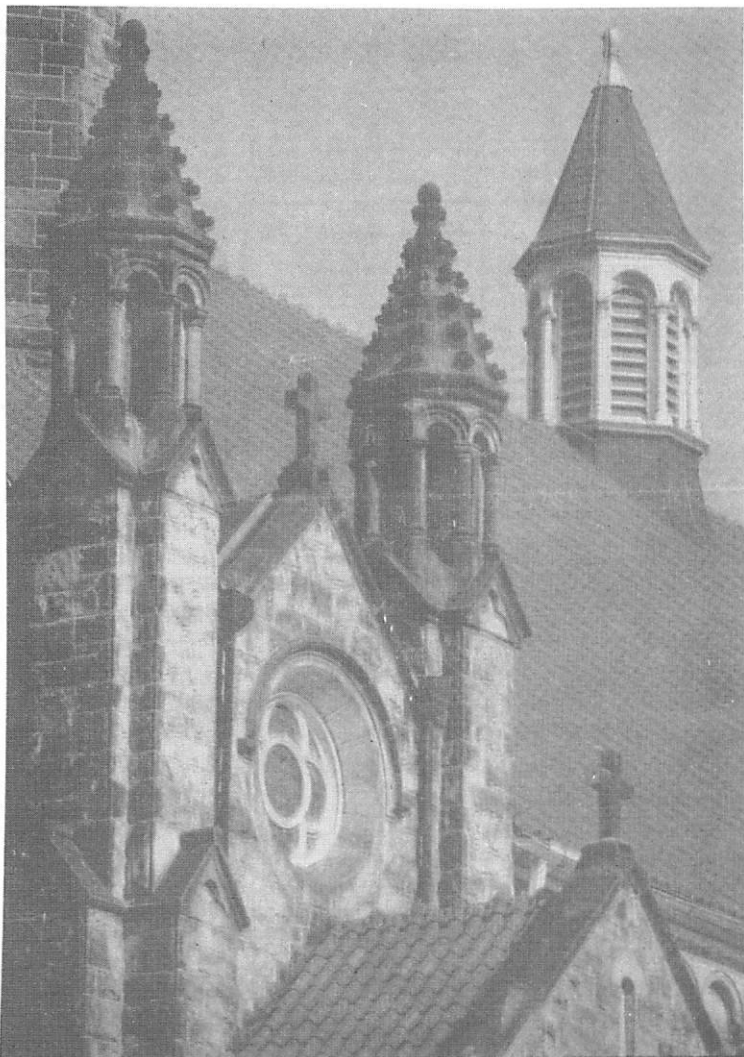
P.S. Mother had this note "My last Valentine"

P.P.S. For you grandchildren, Grampa Ruth was buried February 14, 1964.

Loretto

Loretto is a small borough located in the northern section of Cambria County. In 1788, Captain Michael McGuire had settled in this area with his own and other families; it was known as McGuire's Settlement. In 1799, the Russian-born prince, Priest Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, first to receive full priestly orders in the United States, arrived in a place about one mile from McGuire's Settlement. He re-named the area "Loretto," for the well-known shrine on the shores of the Adriatic Sea.

Laid out by Father Gallitzin in 1816, and later incorporated in 1945, the town is divided into twelve squares, with twelve



Pete Vizza/The Tribune-Democrat

Loretto landmark

This is historic St. Michael's Catholic Church in Loretto. The parish was established almost 190 years ago. It began as a tiny log cabin church founded in 1799 by Prince Augustine Demetrius, who gave up his claim to nobility to be a missionary in the Allegheny Mountains. The existing stone structure, described as a masterpiece of church architecture, was built at the turn of the century with funds provided by Charles M. Schwab. The style is that of the round-arched Gothic period made to conform to modern standards.

lots in each square. The streets bear the names of saints, with St. Mary's being the main street. The borough is surrounded by church land: the Carmelite Monastery, St. Francis College, St. Michael's Catholic Church, the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House, and the Schwab estate which was bought by the Franciscan Order from the Schwab heirs.

Two major forces developed the area—the Catholic church and Charles M. Schwab.

The influence of the Catholic church dates from Father Gallitzin's arrival in the 1790's. The early residents were mostly Catholics of Irish and German descent. Even now, most residents are Catholic, with St. Michael's Church the only one in the area. Father Gallitzin's influence not only shaped Loretto, but extended to other far-flung parts of the country as well.

It is quite impossible to discuss Loretto without enumerating Mr. Schwab's contributions to the town. Mr. Seymour, a local historian, states that Charles Schwab modernized the town by bringing in natural gas, water, sewage, and had a part in obtaining electricity for the community. Mr. Little, an employee of the Schwab family, explains that Mr. Schwab was responsible for having the streets paved, too. His building projects included St. Michael's Church, the Carmelite Monastery, and his own estate which now belongs to the Franciscan Order. He also made contributions to the college and to the Science Building on campus.

A large portion of the tract on which Captain McGuire settled still is owned and occupied by his descendants. The Captain himself was a Revolutionary War hero; his wife Rachael Brown McGuire, certainly was a heroine in her own right. With her husband constantly away fighting she was left to protect herself and her family. Her biography is included later in this section. The oldest son, Luke, married *Margaret O'Hara*; their cabin is said to be the oldest house in Cambria County, and still is owned by a descendant. Their son, Richard, married *Eleanor Byrne*, a daughter of another pioneer family. Additional early families in this settlement were Dodson, Nagle, Maguire, Ashcroft, Rager, Alcorn, Storm, Trux, Douglas, and Meloy. These settlers had to fight off wild animals and Indians. It is said, the wife of James Alcorn (we do not know her name), disappeared from the clearing near her home and was thought to have been carried off by Indians.

In 1848, the first Sisters of Mercy came to Loretto from Pittsburgh. They operated a school for girls and conducted an orphanage. *Katherine B. Conrad*, our pioneer woman from Lilly, whose biography appears in that section, attended this school.

In 1930, the Discalced Carmelite nuns moved to their present location in Loretto from a house in St. Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona. The monastery was built by Mr. Schwab, whose sister, Sister Mary Cecelia, was a member of the order. Originally the order was established by *Mother Marie Joseph* and *Sister Genevieve* from Gignac, France. Sister Genevieve left to start another monastery in Ohio in 1947; but Mother Joseph remained in Loretto and died in 1934. Sister Cecelia served as the Superior of the community, dying in 1954.

In early days the town had six stores for general merchandise, one for furniture, two blacksmith shops, one livery stable, an undertaking establishment, a foundry, and a hattery for felt hats.

St. Francis College had its impact on the community. At one time called the "College in the Pines," it was a boy's school to



Mrs. Catherine Cooper

Mrs. Elizabeth McConnell

The two old ladies seen in the above picture are sisters, daughters of Englebert Walters and Susan Behe, who were among the pioneers of this district. Mrs. Cooper was born March 10, 1810, and Mrs. McConnell, February 21, 1812. They were both baptized by Father Gallitzin, and were married by him on the same day,—April 28, 1835,—the former to Joseph Cooper, the latter to Hugh McConnell, who was reared in the prince-priest's house, and whose wife also lived for a time with Father Gallitzin.



Mrs. Susan Gallagher

She was a woman of remarkable energy, which remained with her to the end of her long and holy life.

educate young men for the priesthood. It is now a large co-ed institution. Besides being a dynamic force in the community as a source of many jobs, it provides significant cultural advantages and opportunities.

Today, there is no industry in Loretto, and the residents work mainly outside the area, generally in Johnstown and Altoona. In Charles Schwab's time, many townspeople were employed on the estate. For example, the whole Little family worked for Charles Schwab. A sister, *Bertha Seymour*, was the switchboard operator in the main office, while the brothers worked on the estate. Salaries were low. Mr. Little tells of a time when he and other workers at the horse barn went on strike to raise their wages from twenty-seven cents an hour to thirty-five cents. They didn't get the eight cents increase. Instead, Mr. Schwab fired them and hired other men.

Loretto still is a very close-knit rural community; everyone in

town knows one another. The students from St. Francis do come in to town, but they are transient. Few stay to make their mark on the village.

An interesting bit of trivia about the Loretto area is that it had an appeal for William Penn. Early papers show that he reserved a tract of land between Loretto and Chest Springs for one of his manors. It was known as "Chest Manor."

Sources:

The Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

The Life of Charles M. Schwab, by Robert Hessen

The Loretto Centenary

Rachael Brown McGuire

Perhaps the first permanent settlers in Northern Cambria County were Captain Michael McGuire and his wife, Rachael Brown McGuire.

In 1788 they came from Taneytown to an area just below and east of what is now Loretto, making a hazardous journey on horseback with their children. Here, Rachael, an intrepid and heroic woman, dared to undertake a life which was not only difficult, but dangerous.

Making matters worse, Rachael faced a life without her husband's support. McGuire established a hunting camp near the Chest Springs and Ashville area, and soon afterwards went off to fight with the Maryland Rangers. He also fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

There was no one to protect Rachael, except for the dubious support of her older children. Raising food and caring for nine offspring was a full-time job, and there was always the threat of hostile Indians.

In 1793, Captain McGuire died, and in 1912, Rachael's son, Richard was also off to war.

Distraught over her husband's death, Rachael dedicated herself to carrying out his wishes. Some time earlier, Captain McGuire had deeded a tract of their 400 acres to Bishop Carroll of Baltimore for the building of a church.

To further that cause, Rachael and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Luke McGuire, brought Father Demetrius Gallitzin to the area. Until the church was built, Father Gallitzin said Mass in Rachael's home.

Prior to the building of the church, Rachael and her husband had given large tracts of land to the Franciscan Brothers. (That land is now the site of St. Francis' College in Loretto.)

On Christmas Eve, 1799, the new church was dedicated. Father Gallitzin named it St. Michael's Church; it was a log cabin, built on a hillside, one-half mile from Rachael's farm. This was the only Catholic Church between Lancaster, Pennsylvania and St. Louis, Missouri.

Rachael's generosity and devotion to her church continued throughout her life. In 1794 she had granted administration rights to her sons, Richard and Luke, but she lived until May 1, 1818, and is interred in St. Michael's Church cemetery.

* * *

"Aye, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod
They have left unstained what first they found—
Freedom to worship God."

Felicia Hemans

Emma Eurania Dinkey Schwab

Rana (pronounced "Raynee") was born September 12, 1859, in West Penn Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, the eldest of four children of Reuben and Mary Elizabeth Dinkey. This was a second marriage for Mary Elizabeth who was then a widow with two daughters. A posthumous sister, Minnie, was born after Rana's father's death in a railroad accident. Rana, then sixteen, assumed the responsibility of caring for the baby while her mother worked to support the family. In 1879, Mrs. Dinkey moved the family to Braddock so the boys could find jobs at the Thompson Steel Works at \$6.00 per week. She used the money left from her husband's insurance to buy a large house so she could set up a boarding house.

Charles Schwab, a draftsman, was a friend of Tom Wagner who was married to Rana's step-sister. Tom invited Charles to come to the house to visit and Charles accepted because he knew Mrs. Dinkey had a piano. Thus he met Rana and began a three-year friendship and courtship. What drew these two together remains somewhat of a mystery, as there are no surviv-

ing love letters or mementos. Rana was not beautiful; even while still young she had a tendency toward obesity which became more pronounced over the years. She is said to have had a flawless complexion which she never lost. A vociferous reader, she also enjoyed the arts, music and dancing. She was bluntly outspoken, expressing her likes and dislikes very freely. Self-assertive and ambitious, she had her own business of making and selling hats for a time.

Rana admired Schwab's self-confidence and business acumen; he appreciated her support and encouragement. When Schwab asked Rana to marry him (she was 3 years older than he), she said, "Why do you want to marry an old lady like me, Lad?" For the rest of their lives they called each other Old Lady and Lad. The essence of this story suggests companionship rather than romantic love.

Rana Schwab would have been perfectly content to be the wife of an ambitious workman, to live in a modest house and to have a family. Instead she had married a man whose energy and ability had pushed him into the presidency of a corporation at a very young age. Rather than the simple life she preferred, her world became a series of mansions and private palaces with a corps of servants to satisfy her every whim. In later years, she did learn to adjust to a battery of household help. Rana shared her husband's love of music and travel; but later these interests grew sated while her husband's increased. Likewise, she became unable to keep up with him physically because of a tremendous gain in weight, coupled with a debilitating case of gout. Being conscious of her appearance, she no longer accompanied her husband socially or in his travels.

Rana spent eight months of each year at the New York mansion on Riverside Drive, and the remainder on the estate at Loretto which was called "Immergrun," meaning evergreen. Her sister and nieces were closest to her. Working out jig-saw puzzles was her chief hobby, which she sent on to her mother-in-law who was equally as avid a fan. Weather permitting, every afternoon she went for a drive, her chauffeur driving along the west side of Manhattan, and then north for twenty or thirty miles. Her husband bought her beautiful jewelry from Tiffany's, none of which she ever wore, since she suspected each gift coincided with his taking a new mistress. She stored her jewelry as well as her bonds at Tiffany's, for they were her security against losing her husband's wealth or affection.

By the early 1920's, Rana had become reconciled to her husband's extra-marital affairs. The situation was bearable because she never saw the "other woman." She had only her suspicions and rumors. However, their marriage was never in jeopardy and, it was said Charles loved her with the kind of love he felt for his mother. He was always solicitous and concerned about her health, her family, her activities, remembered her birthday, wrote to her when traveling, and shared with her major highlights of his travels when he returned.

Rana felt life as the wife of a wealthy industrialist had deprived her of all sense of privacy and personal identity. She had thousands of acquaintances, but they were her husband's friends and business associates. Her intimate companions were her own family. She became suspicious of those people who showed any tendency toward friendliness, seeing in it an attempt to gain money or special favors from Charles.

She bore her illness with stoicism, but was impatient when one of her needs or requests was not instantly satisfied. In later years she used a cane to get around, and to summon the servants.

Rana Schwab died on January 12, 1939, in her sleep. Her death deeply affected her husband. It is told that, at her funeral, he appeared to have aged visibly, and was emotionally distraught. He informed Alfred McKelvey, the husband of one of Rana's nieces, that he would not see him again as he expected to die within a year. "A man knows when he doesn't want to be alive, when the will to live has gone from him." Schwab followed his wife in death in September of the same year.

Material from:

"Bicentennial of Loretto," 1926

"Steel Titan", *The Life of Charles M. Schwab*, by Robert Hessen

The Tribune—Democrat, May 31, 1987

The Catholic Register, Monday, August 2, 1987

Barnesboro

Barnesboro is located in the northwestern corner of Cambria County and is practically contiguous with Spangler. One passes directly from one town to the other. The whole town was built on

a farm of 420 acres. Route 219 runs north through the main street of both towns.

In 1865 Daniel McAnulty owned a rolling farm of 420 acres. He was a wide-awake, resourceful early settler. Daniel was a hotel-keeper, a farmer and a saw mill manager. He really was the "man of the village." His house stood in the middle of what is Philadelphia Avenue today. The family's five sons became farmers and loggers. They called their little settlement "McAnulty." The name was changed to Barnesboro when Thomas Barnes, an Englishman from Phillipsburg and Philadelphia, moved into the area and bought up a great deal of land in the community. Mr. Barnes, together with Mr. Tucker of Philadelphia, began to develop coal mines. Barnesboro was incorporated in 1894.

A newspaper, *The Barnesboro Star*, began to publish in 1902 and continues today. Leading industries in Barnesboro were mining and lumbering until 1930 when Phillips-Jones Corporation opened a shirt factory which afforded employment for women. With the drop in mining activity, this was welcome, and they had no trouble finding workers. W. C. Westover and one of the McAnulty descendants founded a lumber business in 1900 which still exists as the Barnesboro Lumber Company. The James Clark family had a greenhouse for growing plants and some flowers. Other early settlers, besides the McAnulty family, were the Longs, the McGuires and the Weaklands.

Prologue Note: Another AAUW member and I interviewed this charming woman early in our search for the names of women, deceased, who had made contributions to Barnesboro history. She suggested we include Beatrice (McAnulty) Overberger for her efforts in the founding of the Barnesboro library, and talked about her own early days in Barnesboro. Since we met with Mrs. Fridman, she died, and we want to include her as a pioneer woman.

Jennie Fridman

Jennie Fridman was born in Russia and emigrated together with her parents to America when she was an infant. She attended school here and had qualifications for teaching, but didn't tell us from what institution. She came to Barnesboro with her husband, Jess, who was a salesman. She said he adver-

tised in a shoppers' guide, and went from house to house, selling his merchandise from a pack on his back. She was a gracious hostess, showing us many of her lovely acquisitions. At this time she was having some health problems.

Mrs. Fridman showed us the Memorial Park area near their home which had been rehabilitated as a Jewish memorial. Fridman Park Association, of which she was a member, maintains it. She talked about the Jewish community in Barnesboro when the membership was large enough to have a synagogue and services. Now there are not enough Jewish men in the town to maintain the synagogue, and it has been donated for use as a museum.

Mrs. Fridman, in her busy life, had taught in Revloc, and operated the Fridman Shoe Store. She also taught at St. Stanislaus Extension of Northern Cambria Catholic Schools.

Besides being a member of the public library board and the Barnesboro Business Association, she was affiliated with the Cresson Lake Playhouse Association and the Barnesboro Synagogue and Hadassah. She had been in charge of the Miners' Hospital Canteen and a member of the hospital auxiliary.

On the night of our visit she was having a dinner party for twelve; but she assured us she was having a woman come in to help her and so had time to talk. She invited us back, but we didn't make it. Jennie died April 14, 1987.

We do not know Jennie's maiden name, and her age was her own secret. It was omitted in the obituary (others mustn't have known, either), and any clues for calculating it are nil. Maybe she wanted it that way. She didn't tell us her age when we visited her, but we know she had three grown sons well advanced in their careers.

Interviewers:

Murilla Himes

Virginia Thompson

Beatrice McAnulty Overberger

By Murilla Himes

Cora Beatrice McAnulty was born in Barnesboro July 22, 1897, the daughter of Hulda Berringer and Norman Gilbert McAnulty. Beatrice was a favored child and enjoyed all the good

things of life. She attended school in Barnesboro and went to Indiana Normal to prepare for teaching. She taught in the Barnesboro School until she married. Beatrice and her mother attended the Methodist Church while her father was a Catholic. Hulda McAnulty was not pleased with this arrangement but could not change her husband's religion, so this made for little social exchange between Mrs. McAnulty and her husband's family. My father, who was Mr. McAnulty's brother, was intimidated by nothing or no one; so when we went to visit relatives, we included my uncle and his wife in the same way we visited all other relatives. My father believed in maintaining family ties. My first memory of my uncle's wife was an intimidating one. She was a tall, rather stern woman, and she seemed to tower over me like a giant. As she came toward me, I tried to sink into my shoes, but failed; and she grasped the lobe of my ear. I didn't know what she was going to do as she pushed back my hair and exclaimed, "Thank goodness you inherited your mother's ears." It seems large ears were an inherited trait in the McAnulty family, and everyone had them.

Beatrice McAnulty taught for several years in the school; then on June 26, 1919, she married Doctor Charles Edward Overberger, D.D.S. They had three boys, Charles, James and William. She was a faithful housewife and mother, and was active in church work.

After her boys had gone to college and were on their own, and her husband died, Beatrice Overberger became involved in community activities. Her greatest priority was the library. She served a term as president of Friends of the Library. I am told she was responsible for the library reaching out to rural areas, and she wanted to see the library have its own building. The Board of the Library bought the present building on March 9, 1977. Beatrice did not live to see her ambition realized—she died in January, 1977.

Underground Railroad

The history of some of the towns and villages of Cambria County would not be complete without mentioning the stops on the Underground Railroad. Rather than noting this separately, a summary is included here because this was the end; from here slaves were able to make it on their own to Canada.

When the Civil War ended the practice of slavery in this country, slaves from Maryland, Virginia, and other Northern slave states continuously tried to gain their freedom by escaping to Canada. Their flight was along planned lines and there were men north of the Mason-Dixon line who resorted to seizing and returning escaping slaves for the lucrative rewards paid by their owners. Likewise, there were sympathizers. This is the story of the sympathizers and the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad came from the Cumberland Valley to Bedford Borough northward to the Quaker Settlement at what now is Fishertown, on to Pleasantville and across the mountains to the Johnstown area.

There were no stations through the Cumberland Valley but the slaves were helped by several scattered black families who aided their fellow blacks. In Bedford, the slaves could count on help from John Fiddler, Elias Rouse or Joseph Crawley, who arranged for the safe passage to the Quaker Settlement. At the Settlement, the Penroses, Ways, or Millers advanced them along to Walkers near the mountain or directly to Blair County by way of Claysburg and East Freedom. From Walkers, the slaves usually were taken across the Pleasantville Mountain to the home of William Slick in Slickville, later to become Geistown. He relied on assistance from some local people, among them Mr. and Mrs. Heslop, John Meyers, Wallace Fortune, William Barnett, plus others, John Cushion, Frederick Kaylor, Henry Willis, and John Meyers. Once Joseph Geis founded the village of Geistown, he continued the operation during his era. It moved to Johnstown via Clinton Street and then continued north to Ebensburg to Carrolltown, Spangler, and Cherry Tree.

In the area of Eckenrode's Mills, Mr. A. A. Barker operated a lumber mill, had a store and farm. He operated a station on the underground railroad. In Allegheny Township, the McGuires had a station. In the Barnesboro-Cherry tree Area, Peter Garman's home was supposedly the last station. After this, the slaves were able to make their way, generally unmolested.

Spangler

Spangler, in northern Cambria County, is located on the west branch of the Susquehanna River. Pioneer settlers came to the area to mine the coal found there. Colonel Jackson Lane Span-

gler, an attorney and coal broker, was one of the earliest to capitalize on the area's natural resources. He was responsible to a great degree for the impetus which developed the community. An early speculator in the coal fields, he had little trouble in securing options from the farmers for coal rights, as they were interested only in the top of the earth. When he persuaded the Pennsylvania Railroad to build a line into the community it became "boom time." Spangler was organized in 1892 and incorporated in 1893. Other early settlers were Joseph Lantzy, Anthony Miller, John S. Dumm, Joseph A. Gray, who started a distillery, in 1906, Ed Kirkpatrick, who was the distiller, and John Sullivan, the first postmaster. The post office opened in 1893.

The highway passes through the middle of town with most of the businesses and some residences on this main thoroughfare. Most of the residential area is found behind the main street. Because of its proximity to Loretto, and exposure to Fathers Gallitzin and Lemke, this town has a rich background of Catholicism. There are two Catholic churches here, one at each end of the town, as well as churches of several other denominations.

The hospital, located on a hill at the east end of town, has been called Spangler Hospital and Miner's Hospital of Northern Cambria County. The course of its history has been rough. The ground for the hospital was given in 1905 by the Spangler Development Company of which Mr. Spangler was secretary-treasurer. In 1908 it was incorporated with Ann E. Brobson as first superintendent. The hospital opened in 1909 and, believe it or not, the first patient was a man, not a woman. The hospital roster has been a source for remembered women of Spangler.

The hospital, early on, opened a school of nursing which served well to prepare nurses for meeting the hospital needs. The school closed in 1954. The name of the first director is a question. Later, Mary Arbaugh Dumm served as director for a number of years. Ethel Blair's tenure was shorter due to the closing of the school.

Ursula Bitter Lantzy

One of the early pioneer women in Spangler we could learn

about was Ursula Bitter Lantzy, but, even here, history is sparse. She was born March 19, 1795 in Wallbach which was a parish of Mumpf in Austria, an area which was annexed to Switzerland in 1803. She was the daughter of Michael and Anna Maria (Probst) Bitter, and of German descent. The Bitter family, according to the records of the Port of Philadelphia regarding the arrival of ships and immigrants to America, arrived at that port November 4, 1816 from Amsterdam on the ship Amphitrite. In the same records it shows that Joseph Lantzy arrived on the same ship. (In their home community of Wallbach, the name Lantzy was spelled "Lenzin".

Interesting to note is the fact that only one week after their arrival, on November 11, 1816, Joseph and Ursula were married in Philadelphia. Whether this was a shipboard romance, or whether they had known each other before the voyage is interesting to speculate upon. Most likely, they were acquainted earlier as they came from the same region. The Lantzy genealogy does show another of the children of Joseph's father, Leonz Hocky Magnus Lenzi married a Bitter. In 1822, M. Elizabeth Lenzi married Mariz Bitter in Switzerland. Three other sons emigrated to America: Wendelin, Jacob and Anton.

Joseph and Ursula remained in Philadelphia for an indefinite period before moving to Lancaster. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1818, a daughter Susanne was born in 1820 and a son, Joseph was born in 1823. By March 24, 1827, they were in Cambria County when their son, John, was born. He was baptized by Father Gallitzin sometime during 1827. Imagine how traumatic must have been the wandering of this pioneer woman and her children from Philadelphia to Cambria County, with probably three different locations in between.

Another "blow" was in store for Ursula Lantzy. Assessment records show that taxes on their 564 acres for the years 1823 and 1824 were \$5.41 for each year. The property contained a log dwelling house and a log barn. For 1825 the assessment of \$5.41 was not paid; there is a notation that "he had removed and his whereabouts unknown." The property was sold at sheriff sale for \$200. All the money and labor which Joseph and Ursula had put into their property was lost. That must have struck her deeply.

Ursula and Joseph had nine children. Philip, the youngest, did not marry, and was killed during the Civil War at the Battle of Antietam at the age of twenty-two. The rest of the children

mostly married spouses from the Spangler area as well as Barnesboro, St. Boniface and Carrolltown.

Ursula (Bitter) Lantz died June 2, 1881, and is buried in St. Benedict's Cemetery in Carrolltown.

Hastings

This town founded in 1889 was named for Daniel Hartman Hastings, Governor of Pennsylvania 1895-1899. The village was incorporated in 1894 and started by pioneers in the coal industry. These men bought large acreages and traversed the entire northern part of Cambria County. The same pioneers who were instrumental in the development of Spangler, Barnesboro, and the surrounding areas, included Hastings as well.

Hastings is located in the northern section of Cambria County and is off the main artery of Route 219.

As to women, one publication lists four teachers and two of them were women, Miss Mollee Nash and Miss Anna Callahan. An early pioneer woman, who still is living, merits a comment. Mrs. Gertrude Houck is in her nineties. She is a writer of poems and has had a number accepted for publication. She, also, is remembered, with her late husband, a co-editor of the North Cambria News and was instrumental in the founding of the Hastings Library.

My informant, Louise Kibler, the niece of Mrs. Houck, tells me Mrs. Houck has had several books of poems published and, in addition, has had articles and feature stories and several songs published.

The following women from Hastings also made contributions to their community. Many were wives and mothers. Cora Yeager was a Red Cross Nurse in the first World War, Marie Huber served in the Army Nurse Corps, and Hattie Johnson was a Red Cross Nurse also. Irene and Marie Anna, Eleanor and Betty Patrick were long-time teachers. Mrs. Agnes Koch Easley was a music teacher who taught piano in her home. She raised a family but it is said, her sister raised her family. Ruby Warfield Easley ran a drug store and had a soda fountain. Rose Franklin was the first lady Justice of the Peace in Hastings. Mrs. Mark Huber and Mrs. Rose Young were a midwife team. Mary Rice Morrow, daughter of Dr. Morrow, was another pioneer woman. Her biography is included in Part III.

Our pioneer representatives from Hastings are Loretta and

Mary Bearer who were identical twins who married brothers by the name of Strittmatter. Both are old-line families of this area.

Louise Kibler of the Hastings Library helped us to find Hastings pioneer representatives.

Loretta Bearer Strittmatter

This is the story of Loretta Bearer Strittmatter as told by her daughter, Joan Strittmatter Holt, and includes some information about her identical twin sister, Mary. These twin daughters were born to Anastasia and John Bearer December 29, 1894. There were eight other children, but it is to be expected that the twins caused the greatest number of problems. In their early life they both attended eight years of grade school, and later, attended Indiana Normal School for two years. Until they married they dressed identically and no one could tell them apart. They weren't adverse to changing places. While dating two cousins, Modestus and Amadeus Strittmatter, they frequently switched partners, and the boys were none the wiser. Loretta and Mary made all their own clothing, hats, and even their own wedding outfits.

Both girls taught grades one through eight in one-room country schools. One wonders if they might have changed schools one in awhile. They had to walk at least a mile to the school, then had to build a fire so the room would be warm when the students arrived. (Earlier in this book we discussed the life of the teacher in a one-room school.) After teaching only a few years, the girls bought a millinery store. They made and sold dresses and hats, having a natural talent for sewing. Mary married Amadeus Strittmatter, who was in the lumber business.

Loretta married Modestus Strittmatter, and is our representative pioneer woman from Hastings. As a farmer's wife she did all the hard work necessary to help keep the operation moving. She had a garden and, of course, canned the produce for winter use. They kept six to eight cows which Loretta, Joan and her sister milked morning and night. Milk was stored in a spring house. Regular customers brought buckets to accommodate the amount of milk they wished to purchase. Despite this busy schedule, Joan said her mother loved to sew, making all the clothing for her three daughters, and, later, for her grandchildren as well. After she lost her sight, she missed her sewing the most. Loretta also loved company. Part of their relatives who

lived in Altoona were called their "city cousins". When they came to visit their favorite treat was Loretta's home-made bread, butter and jelly.

Both Loretta and her sister developed glaucoma and became blind. This determined woman, although blind, did her own cooking and cleaning as long as her husband lived. Then the house and farm was sold. Although a bit unusual in identical twins, Loretta lived twenty-one years after her twin died. Loretta died in October, 1987.

As an interesting footnote to this story, her daughter, Joan tells that she and her husband had built their home opposite the family homestead. Now they have bought back as much as possible, intending to restore it to its original state. Loretta Strittmatter would have been pleased with this development.

Carrolltown

Carrolltown was founded by a priest, Rev. Peter Henry Lemke, an immigrant from Germany who was a convert to Catholicism. Father Lemke founded St. Joseph's Church at Hart's Sleeping Place, and was named pastor in 1835. The original plan was to build a town similar to Loretto around this church. However, Father Lemke bought 181 acres at a location which he felt was better for the parishioners. He wanted to call the tract



of land bought from William Vaux "Gallitzin," but Father Gallitzin said, "No"; that it should be named for the first Catholic bishop in the United States—John Carroll of Baltimore. The aristocratic background of Father Gallitzin showed frequently in his dealings with his parishioners and those under his jurisdiction. A classic example of this is noted here, and in several other instances in selecting names for other towns (Wilmore, for example). When he commented to Mother Mary Frances Ward that he needed sisters in Loretto, this led to the Sisters of Mercy coming there. Five years later, Mother Mary Frances (being British) said, "You must do what a prince wants."

In 1851, John Campbell bought a little more than eighty-one acres from Father Lemke and laid out a town which he called "Campbelltown." When, in 1958, Carrolltown became an incorporated borough, Campbelltown was included in the incorporated area. This town lies north of Ebensburg on Route 219, close to Loretto, Spangler, St. Benedict, Hart's Sleeping Place and other small towns. Peter Urban had the first log cabin boarding house in town.

St. Benedict's Church, the outstanding structure in town, stands in the center, at 2173 feet above sea level. It has a 172 foot spire on which is a nine-foot cross equipped with bells and clock. The exterior of the church is stone-encased; seating capacity is 1000 people. The hand-carved high Gothic Altar of wood was imported from Germany at a cost of \$3,000.

Carrolltown is essentially a Catholic community, and activities for many women in town centered around the church. Special celebrations highlighted all feast days. I can remember the wooden altar which stood in the bedroom of one of my aunts which was brought out for the procession on Corpus Christi Sunday, when church services were held in the adjacent cemetery.

Some of the early pioneers of Carrolltown were A. A. Barber, Joseph Yaegby, Dr. Lawrence Fleck, Conrad Luther, Americus Bender, John Weakland, John Miller, Michael Cunningham, Jacob Yost and John Elder.

Throughout its history the town has been a residential community with Route 219 forming the main street. The business district and residences are located along its entire length. Primarily, the businesses serve the community's needs. There is a restaurant, service station, general store, church, firehall, bank, the American Legion and the corporate offices of the

Bender Coal Company. Also here are the offices and machinery for printing the newspapers, *The North Cambria News* and *The Carrolltown News*. The paper was owned by George E. Hipps. In early days there were three breweries in town. Father Lemke encouraged the making of beer in order to discourage the use of whiskey. In general in these early times, whiskey was widely used for its medicinal purposes, as well as socially.

The chief industry here was coal mining; and the town was affected by steel making.

Today the town looks very much as it did at the turn of the century. Many young people must go out of town to find steady, good-paying jobs. Carrolltown is said to be a nice town in which to live and raise a family. Most of the population is Catholic and "everyone seems to be related."

Relatively few women in this hamlet work outside the home. There are teachers, of course, and nurses, who can find employment at Spangler Hospital nearby, but little opportunity exists for other kinds of work.

When researching for an outstanding representative to write about, one realized how little is known about women in this town. Fannie Wetzel had her own dry goods business; Mary McAnulty Hipps was a clerk in the post office. Catherine Eckenrode McAnulty raised a large family while her husband was away fighting. He was paid to go to war in place of Peter Gorman. Close to Carrolltown was the little settlement of one house, the home of Ruth McConnell, the wife of a Major McConnell, who had a remarkable Revolutionary War history. She built a mansion called "Glen Connell," and lived there. Today only ruins of the mansion exist. Glen Connell has become the village of St. Lawrence today.

Our pioneer woman from Carrolltown is Catherine Gillespie.

Written by: Murilla Himes

Catherine Rice Gillespie

Catherine Rice Gillespie was born in County Waterford, Ireland on December 12, 1812. In 1815, Catherine came to America with her father, Patrick Rice and mother. On the boat to this country, a brother, Edward Rice, was born. Catherine's father was a stone mason by trade and he located for awhile in Wash-

ington where he worked on the capitol building. After a while, he migrated to Bedford County and bought a large farm.

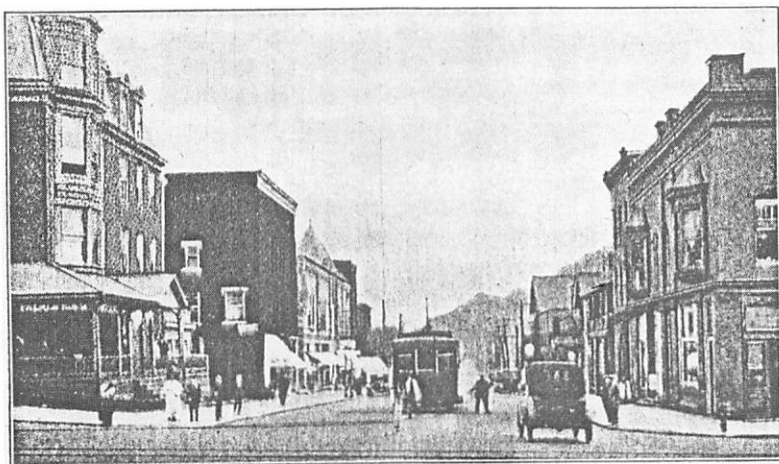
In 1831, Catherine married Patrick Gillespie and they settled on a farm a few miles west of Carrolltown. In 1848, her husband died and Catherine was left with small children and the home heavily in debt. Catherine turned to the task of rearing her family and getting out of debt. The boys cleared away the forest and the family soon found themselves in comfortable circumstances.

When war broke out, the two oldest sons, Edward and John, enlisted in Company A, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves. Edward was discharged and came home but his health was affected and he lived only a short time. John was captured and died in Andersonville Prison. Her other children were Patrick C., a merchant and hotel keeper, Francis, a farmer, Mark and Mary.

Catherine Gillespie was well-liked and respected. She had a pleasing personality, was lively and liked people.

Patton

Patton, a town of multi-industries, lies in the Allegheny foothills near the junction of Carroll, Chest, Clearfield, and Elder



MAGEE AVENUE, LOOKING EAST, PATTON, PA.

Townships. It was named for John Patton who came from Curwensville.

The first industry was a Grist Mill on Chest Creek, opened and operated by Caleb Howard and John McMasters. Ferdinand Marks bought the Grist Mill for \$60 and gave the town the name of Mark's Mill. One of the Mellons owned a large acreage on the west side of Patton. He was a lumberman and then went into coal and real estate. John Nagle set up a wood manufacturing company to make pick handles and wagon spokes. In 1888 Joseph Richards had a foundry which later made mine equipment. With the advent of the railroads, coal became the primary industry. Present-day Patton was laid out in August 1892 and incorporated in 1893.

George S. Good, James Curf, Alice Patton, H. Brown and W. Sanford organized the clay works in 1892—the same year the water works was built with pipelines of wood. The Ernest and Levy Company Silk mill operated from 1907 to 1949 with 191 machines and 125 employes. The shift factory had 350 employes. (Phillips Jones Company). Patton Paper Box Company employed between 80 and 100 workers. The town had 10 churches. Harry Scanlon had the first hotel, The Marks House, and there was a second hotel called The Mellon House. The Palmer House burned in 1920. John Cosgrove had the first store. One of the early banks in 1906 was the Grange National Bank organized by John Schwab, father of Charles M. Schwab. Ed Mertens used to deliver his bakery products by wheelbarrow. Two early hotels, Miner's Rest and Commercial Hotel, are still operating. Patton had a public school system plus St. Mary's Parochial school.

It seems fitting to mention a unique feature to be found in Patton. Sitting on a hill and above the town is to be found a bed and breakfast inn called the Nationality House. This bed and breakfast pattern is much more common in Europe than in America. The Inn is the residence of its owners, Gerald and Loretta Albright, although it is more Loretta's for she says her husband is "lukewarm" about the idea. The Inn was opened in May of 1986. It is mostly a one-woman operation and she has enjoyed seeing the product of her own doing. I don't know whether Loretta serves more than breakfast but it certainly sounds like an interesting place just to visit.

Annie Thomas, a native of Patton R.D. was a registered nurse who volunteered her services during the Johnstown Flood of 1889. She was the daughter of James and Matilda Thomas and

was born on August 24, 1872. She lived to be 103, and died April 3, 1976.

Meet our pioneer lady from Patton—Gertrude George Smith.



Loretta Albright holds guest robes that complement the decor of the Egyptian room.

Gertrude George Smith

Submitted by Helen Myers, granddaughter

Gertrude George, our lady representative from Patton, was not born there. Instead she was born in Lilly on July 13, 1870 and lived in Lilly until she married and came to Patton. Our informant, Helen Myers, was a girl of 15 when her grandmother died in 1935 at the age of 65 and so her information has limitations, but what she remembers makes a good story of her dynamic grandmother.

Nothing is remembered of her early life or schooling. She did have two brothers and a sister for whom she made herself responsible. At a very young age she met and married Adam Smith. He was a widower who had 13 children and several of them were older than his new wife. Besides rearing her husband's children, they had four children of their own. And you

will remember, we mentioned she assumed responsibility for her brothers and sister. It surely was a formidable task for a young wife.

In 1904 she and her husband purchased the Commercial Hotel, a popular stop-over for the many travelers passing through the fast-growing town of Patton. As the town grew, they became very active in the organizations that were being formed to help the town grow.

When her husband died in 1924, she became one of the first widows in town to find her place in the business community. There were many good times and bad times, especially during the depression of the 30's. After the 1929 Crash, everyone was feeling "hard times" and unemployment was high; men passing through town by riding the railroad box cars came to the Commercial Hotel. Her granddaughter writes it was said if you knocked on the back door of the hotel, Mrs. Smith never let you go away hungry.

Mrs. Smith passed away September 6, 1935. The hotel remained and was operated by the family until 1972 when the granddaughter sold it.

Gertrude George Smith found time in her busy life to do other things as well. Her granddaughter describes her as a "pillar" of the Fireman's Ladies Auxiliary. She was a charter member of the Auxiliary. She was a member and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of the 40 & 8 Women's Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. She was active in her church work at St. George's Catholic Church and in the Benefit Association.

Gertrude George Smith, a truly dynamic and brave young woman to make herself responsible for 17 children and 3 siblings as well.

Ashville

In the early days, Ashville was well traveled.

Early records indicate that Michael McGuire from Loretto, a hunter, traveled the northeast trails in search of food and possibly furs. He established a camp in the Ashville-Chest Springs area about 1788. Also, there is evidence the Indians traversed the area and had cleared out sections called "Clear Fields" which were used to raise crops such as corn, beans, squash. Another well-known traveler on the Kittanning pass was Father



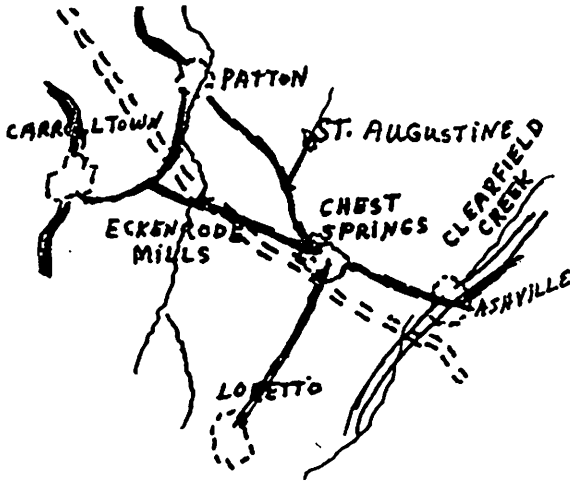
Demetrius Gallitzin who is credited with the founding of many communities in the northeast portion of Cambria County. Another traveler was John Hart, a German fur dealer, who traded with the Indians and stopped at a place near Carrolltown called "Harts Sleeping Place."

History indicates the first house in Ashville was built in approximately 1842 by Joseph Conrad on property purchased from two brothers, David and Joseph Trexler, who were farmers. The Trexler brothers' parents, Joseph and Elizabeth, owned land in this area during the late 1700's and 1800's and were the parents of seven children. David and Joseph were first to till the soil and raise crops in Ashville.

Joseph Conrad, with his brother James, and Hugh McNeil, hoped to start an iron industry. The operation was called Ashland Furnace in honor of Henry Clay whose home in Kentucky was called "Ashland" and the community was called "Ashland." The operation was short-lived but interesting. The iron was hauled by wagon to the Portage Railroad and then sent by rail to Pittsburgh and other areas. Some of the iron also was taken to Duncansville by mule and/or horse-drawn wagons.

In 1887, the town was incorporated and the name changed to Ashville because another town in the state had been called Ashland. At the present time, the town of Ashville is located on the property that had belonged to the Trexler Brothers.

Logging, also, was another industry but it was seasonal because transportation depended on floating the logs down the creek. In 1840, however, a railroad plotted a right-of-way



through the area. This line later merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad. At this point the coal industry made its appearance. Mines were given such names as "Ant Hill," "Black Diamond," etc. Coal company houses were built and later sold to private buyers. Ashville also had a "shook shop" owned by James McGuire. Shooks were bundles of 20-30 staves to form casks.

Other pioneer businessmen with their special interests were Paul Elwanger, mortician, Frank Trexler, barber, Joseph Trexler, brickyard, Will Burgoon, drug store owner, Dave Trexler, saw mill, and Joseph Weber, flour and feed mill.

The 100th Anniversary publication furnished the most comprehensive list of women pioneers outside of Johnstown and Ebensburg. It would have been pleasing to have included all of them but this was not possible. The following were selected and their biographies follow.

Katherine Elizabeth Harber Burgoon
Eletha "Susie" Burgoon
Mary L. Bender

Katherine Elizabeth Harber Burgoon

1845-1929

Katherine Elizabeth Burgoon married Fulgentius S. Burgoon

on April 18, 1865 at St. Augustine and lived originally in Clearfield Township before settling in Ashville.

In 1889, the Burgoons opened the first General Merchandising Store in Ashville. It is said they handled anything, including household goods, groceries, and a millinery shop was run by Katherine. They had ten children, eight lived to adulthood. The business remained in the family through 4 family owners until purchased by Mary Jane Little and Mike McCauley in 1974.

The life styles of the children of Katherine Elizabeth Burgoon presents a rare and unusual story:

Ida Mary (1866-1917) married Simon P. Nagle. They had the American Hotel in St. Augustine until her husband's death, when it was then sold.

Elmira (1868-1962) married Thomas Morris, a butcher and they owned the Morris Hotel in Vintondale for a time before selling out and buying a farm.

Georgie (1871-1955) married Henry Elwanger. They ran a hotel in St. Boniface, then Gallitzin.

Henrietta Katherine (1875-1944) (Kate) married Dr. Harry Somerville. The family lived on a farm in the vicinity of Chest Springs and his medical practice included Chest Springs, Ashville, and the surrounding area.

John Henry (1879-1962) married Rose Wilbur and they owned the restaurant in Ashville.

Robert Lewis (1881-1966) never married. He left Ashville and settled in Arizona for awhile and then returned to Ashville and took over the ownership of the family store. Health failing, he sold the store to his brother Albert Ross and his wife Mary after they returned from Arizona.

Albert Ross (1883-1966) (A. R.) married Mary Connelly and moved to Arizona. They returned to Ashville and he bought his brother's restaurant, as noted before. They ran the restaurant and game room located in the basement, and later he acquired the Burgoon General Store. He thus became the third family owner of the store. Finally, the store was taken over by his son and daughter, James and Eletha, and in 1940 was moved from the homestead to a new location. In 1974, the store was sold to Mary Jane Little and Mike McCauley and thus passed out of the Burgoon possession.

Katherine Burgoon must have been proud of the achievements of her unusually ambitious family. She died in 1929.

Eletha "Susie" Burgoon

Though Susie's parents, A. R. and Mary Burgoon were original residents of the Ashville area, Susie was born in Bisbee, Arizona, on August 28, 1913. Her father had followed his three brothers out West, but returned to Ashville after the war. Susie attended grade school in Ashville and graduated from Altoona Catholic High School in 1931. She attended Altoona Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1934. She worked at Crile Clinic in Cleveland for awhile, then returned to Ashville. She worked at Altoona Mercy Hospital until 1944 when she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the military. Because of her eyesight, she was not shipped overseas, but remained in the Service until 1946. She came back to the Ashville area and was a vital part of the community ever since. When Dr. Fleck left Ashville, Susie took over all the functions of a doctor, nurse, and midwife. Her house was always open. Before there was any system of radio communication, Susie would always let her door open—when the fire whistle blew, it was only a short while before one of the local kids would yell up the stairs to tell Susie she was needed on a run. She delivered their babies over the years. Her territory covered all of Ashville, Coalport, Reade Twp., Gallitzin, and Patton and utilized the services of Altoona Hospital, Altoona Mercy and Miners Hospital in Spangler. Susie's father owned the local Economy Store, and when she got called out on a run, she would get the key to the store so that she could get any supplies she might need. She worked in the store until 1960, when she retired.

The Fire Company was organized in 1955 and Susie started with the Ambulance Association in 1958. She never strayed far from home since the firehall was built on land donated by her father. She remained single, stating matter-of-factly, that she never had time to date.

Susie was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. She was a member of the V.F.W Auxiliary. Even though she was a veteran, she was not permitted to join the V.F.W. so she became a member of the Auxiliary. She was the recipient of the Jefferson Award, given to her for public service. She was presented the Community Service Award on June 28, 1969, by the citizens of the Ashville area. In 1981, she was given the Ashville Volunteer Fire Company's Achievement Award and she received the

“People Are Great” Award for humanitarian service to the community and was featured on WTAJ’s “People Are Great” by the late “Big John” Reilly.

Her hobbies included crocheting, sewing, and ceramics. When her brother-in-law was a heart patient in the hospital he was encouraged to take a course in ceramics. Susie decided she would like to try her hand at it also. It became her favorite hobby, and she usually gave away what she made as gifts.

Every small town seems to have at least one Susie Burgoon; someone who dedicates her life in serving their community to make it a better place to live. Susie died in 1987.

Taken from the *Cambria Co. Shopper*, dated August 7, 1986.

Mary L. Bender

1910–1985

Material taken from a write up by
Carleton (Davis) Barber

Since graduating from Altoona Catholic High School in 1929, Mrs. Mary L. Bender had been working at one job or another, either as a paid employee or as a volunteer. Mrs. Bender, a Loretto, R.D. resident, was the Secretary-Treasurer of Allegheny Township, having been appointed by the Supervisors in 1962. Although well-known in that position, she was even better known for her involvement with the local Cancer Society. She began as a volunteer making cancer dressings for residents in the Ashville, Chest Springs area in 1967. Centered in Chest Springs, the local branch of the society had many dedicated volunteers, (co-chaired by Mrs. Bender and Ella Little) who met once a week to make the dressings, in St. Monica’s Church Hall. These dressings were then dispersed to those in need only in the Northern Cambria County area. As far as Mrs. Bender knew, their group was the only one allowed to give out dressings, aside from the headquarters in Johnstown.

Mrs. Bender’s work-a-day routine began after high school when she became secretary to the Superintendent of Transportation and Claim Agent, Logan Valley Transportation Co. This stint endured until she was married to Kenneth P. Bender in 1941. After Pearl Harbor, her husband was called for active duty and she ventured to Washington, D.C. to work as a secretary in the Marine Corps and Navy Allotment Office. Not particularly fond of the situation, she returned to Altoona to serve

as secretary to the accountant at Sylvania Electric Products until the war was over.

Mrs. Bender settled down to housekeeping in 1946. Some ten years later, the Benders purchased their home "out in the country" near Chest Springs. Settling down as "housewife" did not mean being without "work" for Mrs. Bender. Her involvements during the next few years were many and totally voluntary. For nearly nine years, she was a 4-H leader in the Chest Springs area. She also served as secretary-treasurer of the local Community Action Center, whose main project was setting up the Prince Gallitzin Senior Citizens. Mrs. Bender acted as the organization's recordkeeper until they were established enough to elect officers. Although Allegheny Township is officially associated with Loretto, Mrs. Bender leaned towards Chest Springs, because it is closer. However, she was active in both communities' Bicentennial projects.

She was a member of the Altar-Rosary Society at St. Monica's, and was the secretary and news reporter for her school alumni association. "Like mother, like daughter," Mrs. Bender belonged to her quilting club for years, and, unlike most quilting clubs, it participated as a group in community celebrations, such as Fourth of July parades. Mrs. Bender enjoyed playing cards and did a bit of crocheting, in addition to the usual household chores.

Mrs. Bender was born in 1910 in Dean Township, Cambria County, the daughter of Herman and Matilda (Douglass) Krug.

Mr. Barber, in his write up, says it was necessary to do a "bit of coaxing" to obtain this information about this pioneer woman's activities.

Source:

Patton U-P Courier, October 1975

Nicktown

The village of Nicktown grew up around the Catholic parish of St. Nicholas. It is a lovely small country village located in northwestern Cambria County. It sits on a high level spot near the center of Barr Township. The church, parish buildings, and cemetery are located on 14 acres of land acquired by Bernard Lambour and his wife Mary from Father Lemke of Carrolltown. The Lambours were the first Catholics to emigrate to this area

from Alsace-Lorraine. Early on the town was called Blacklick Run Settlement because of its location. In these early days, Mass was celebrated in the homes of Nicktown residents.

In 1864 a committee met with the priest, Very Rev. Giles Christoph, O.S.B., to discuss the building of a church. Nicholas Lambour, son of Bernard Lambour, offered to donate fourteen acres of his farm land on the Indian Road to the Bishop of Pittsburgh to be held in trust until such time as needed. A petition was made to form a new parish and plans were made. Jacob Shurf was appointed by Father Giles as foreman to clear the land, excavate the foundation, and haul the stones out. Some others involved were John and Nicholas Soisson, Nicholas Lambour, Adam Lieb, Sr., Michael Farabaugh, Leonard Miller, George Duman, Ambrose Lantz, and John Kirsch.

The contract for erecting the building was awarded to Peter Strittmatter, who with his two sons, completed the church in January, 1867. The church is a neat frame building in Romanesque style. In 1871, the church was plastered, painted and otherwise improved. Side altars and statues also were placed in 1871.

Since these early days, the town has grown and houses and businesses extend along the roadway similar to early western towns. The Lambours had a store in the town and Mrs. Lambour worked in the store. The post office was in Lambour's store in 1873.

Lena Slereth was one of Nicktown's most interesting women. She had a candy store which was just "a hole in the wall" but that didn't affect the candy. Lena slept on an ironing board in order to save space as her living space was very small and crowded. In some way, Lena learned that a foreign mission was very much in need of a mission church—to them she made a gift of all her life's savings. Later, when she died, there was not a cent for a tombstone for her. Some members of the Nicktown community purchased one for her so that her grave would not be unmarked.

Another unusual woman was Mrs. Vehovek. She and her two grandsons had gone to church to go to confession. Inside the little box called the confessional the boy discovered a black snake wrapped around his leg. He grabbed it by the neck and threw it away from him. In the meantime in the pew nearby, Mrs. Vehovek was bent over looking at the floor when the priest came out of the confessional to see what was happening. Mrs.

Vehovek raised up, her hat askew, and the priest asked if she was alright. "Yes," she replied, "I was just putting that black snake in my pocketbook. I need it to take care of rats and rodents."

Most of the wives around the village were homemakers and mothers. The village was surrounded by beautiful farmland and so, some were farmer's wives. In the main, these wives led a life style of the typical farmer's wife and did whatever was necessary to keep the family going. A higher than average number of the young people became priests and nuns.

After the shirt factory opened in Barnesboro some of the unemployed traveled to Barnesboro to work.

The town had an excellent seamstress, Rose Dumm Weiland. Viola Dumm Lieb, Eleanor and Peggy Stuby, and Mary McAnulty were some early teachers in one-room or small schools in the area. One such school was in Nicktown, the Killins School, and one at Moss Creek, another the Griffith School at Blue Goose.

Our pioneer woman from Nicktown is Isabel Adams Dumm.

Isabel Adams Dumm

Isabel Adams Dumm was born November 10, 1848. Her parents were Christopher and Agnes Adams. She probably was of Irish parentage. Her great granddaughters were unable to find anything of her early life although they do have elaborate family record books. It must not have been important to record her early schooling and other facts.

Isabel married Joseph Dumm, son of Soloman and Margaret (Flanagan) Dumm on May 9, 1869, Diocese of Pittsburgh at Nicktown, Pennsylvania, so the marriage certificate reads. Joseph's family must have been of German descent for it was said Grandma Dumm became very annoyed when people came to her house and spoke German since she did not know German. The couple had thirteen children, Maggie Ann, Albert William, Clara Cecelia, Agnes Rosy, Ida Elizabeth, Mary Monica, Francis Joseph, Emily Mary, Ann Gertrude, Bernadetta, Louis Vincent (my informant's father), Rose Hortense, and Viola Isabel. All of these names can be found today among their descendants.

It was said that Isabel Adams Dumm was an excellent manager and a good improviser. She would need to be, with the family she had to organize and manage. She was a seamstress and made the clothes for her family but still found time to quilt.

One of the quilts she made, she cut, combed, cleaned, and carded the wool to be used. Louise said it was a beautiful piece of work and lasted for many years.

Isabel was a midwife and doctored animals as well, all from her *Practical Knowledge for People*. The book contained recipes, diseases of women and children, and how to treat animals. The pages she used most frequently showed plainly the wear. Some of the unusual recipes found in the book were: beets to bake, beets with onions, cracked wheat mush, apple butter, pumpkin butter made in the north woods, frosted figs, sour apples to cook and keep shape. All water came from a spring and had to be carried to the house. There also was a springhouse to keep things cold.

At one time, Joseph backed a man who didn't make good on his note, and Joseph Dumm's farm and all his possessions were sold at Sheriff Sale. The only possessions at the end of the sale which the couple and family had were the clothes on their backs, and some pigs which a brother of Joseph, Thomas, had driven into the woods.

Somehow Joseph was able to get on his feet again, with help from his father, it was said, and he again owned a farm. Joseph put the farm in the names of all the children and there were mineral rights. When the small return was divided up among the living children and/or heirs, it hardly was worth bothering about. My informant's father took care of the distribution for much of his life and then turned it over to the oldest of his brothers to manage. Louise says they have no idea what has happened to it since the exchange long ago.

Isabel Adams Dumm was very religious and was a charter member of the church in Nicktown. Her spiritual reading books have been preserved, as well as her Recipe and Guide Book. It is to be wondered when this busy pioneer woman could have found time to sit down and read. She died January 4, 1911.

Source:

Sr. Helen Marie Dumm, R.S.M.

Louise Dumm

(great granddaughters)

Munster Township

Munster Township was named for a county in Ireland, or, perhaps, for a city in Germany. The first settlers were Irish. There

is a story that Edward Victor James had a quarrel with Father Gallitzin, then decided to leave Loretto and move to this new area. He laid out street plans and went into the real estate business, but didn't do well. Munster vied with Ebensburg and Beulah for the privilege of being named the county seat. Located on the Galbreath Road, the first road built in the county, Munster was also the site of the county's first inn, Storm Place, erected in 1780.

Munster is located along the crest and western slope of the Allegheny Divide, being the watershed for water running off the west side going to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the east side to the Atlantic Ocean. An agrarian community, Munster has some lovely, large farms; it is the home of Vale Wood Dairy.

Some old-line families were the Itles, the Hogues and the Noels. Pioneer settlers were Cornelius Dever, Jacob Glass, Joseph Custer and J. J. Thomas. An outstanding family was the Collins family; but we find the names of men, not of women. Philip and Peter were contractors; Philip was the founder of the newspaper, and Thomas Collins was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1852. E. V. Jones laid out the town which was a station stop on the Ebensburg-Cresson Railroad.

Record was found of a Marion C. Garrett who was a teacher in the Munster Township and Cresson elementary schools for forty-five years. Then, too, there is mention of one Sarah Meloy who was married by Father Gallitzin; but, strangely enough, no mention of her husband.

The pioneer woman representative from this beautiful section of the country is Bernadette Frances Hines Itle. She is not Lady #1 in this old-line family but she was truly a pioneer.

Bernadette Francis (Hines) Itle

Prologue to the story of Bernadette Itle

John and Joseph Itle came to America from Switzerland in 1816, and were granted fifty-three acres of land by Prince Gallitzin. (Father Gallitzin paid for the land from his own private funds and then distributed it to his parishioners.) The grant was made prior to 1830. John Itle and his descendants have lived on the original farm and are there presently. Baptismal records at St. Michael's Church in Loretto show several children of John and Mary Itle were baptized by Prince Gallitzin. The family bought the surrounding land as it became available and

the farm now covers 574 acres and is the home of the Vale Wood dairy founded in 1933 by Charles Itle. The original log cabin of John and Mary Itle still is standing. In this cabin, Mary and John lived upstairs and made pottery crocks downstairs. The original spelling of the family name was IteI. However, when grandfather IteI was in the Civil War and was discharged on disability, his name appeared as Itle rather than IteI. Since money was scarce, in order to cash his disability check of \$14.00, he changed the spelling of his name and the practice continued.

Bernadette Frances Hines was born October 19, 1879, outside Cresson. Her parents were Anne McDermott and James Hines. Her childhood was uneventful and she attended the catholic school at St. Aloysius in Cresson through the eighth grade. After her schooling, she helped at home and sewed for the nuns at Mt. Aloysius until she was married.

In 1903, she married Charles Itle at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Cresson and moved to the Itle farm. At that time, living with the newlyweds, were Grandmother Itle, Charles' niece Ida whose mother had died when she was born, and an uncle. The house was unusual since it had only two rooms downstairs but there were four upstairs. In back of their house was a so-called summer kitchen. My informant tells me in the summer, her mother, Bernadette, would move all her cooking equipment to the summerhouse and they lived there. Sometimes they came up to the house to sleep for it would be cool when no cooking had been done.

Bernadette's husband farmed and had dairy cows. Her daughter, Bernadine, thought that early they had about fourteen to sixteen cows and that her mother and cousin Ida did the milking morning and night. They would go to the barn about 5:00 AM, do the milking, and return to the house by 7:00 AM. Her mother would get the children up, give them their breakfast and get them off to school or settled for their play. At about 4:30, she went back to the barn to do the night milking and then returned to the house to get the supper. They always had late supper. There were fourteen to fifteen hired help and, at that time, the help lived with the family, and even their washing had to be done by the lady of the farm.

Charles and Bernadette had six children, three boys and three girls. (Are you beginning to appreciate the schedule this busy woman had?)

There was an excellent spring above the house and so they had a spring house which served as the refrigerator for the milk and all perishable products. In the beginning Mr. Itle delivered milk to the surrounding areas with horse and wagon. Bernadette was somewhat familiar with the dairy business because her mother had cows and placed the milk in small cans on the doorstep for her customers.

From 1910 to 1917, the operation was called the Highland Dairy farm. Milk was delivered by horse and wagon each morning to Stroupe's Dairy in Cresson, which later became Penn Cress. In 1933, Charles founded the present day business—the Vale Wood Dairy. From 1933 to 1955, Bernadette and Charles did all the work. One daughter, Florene, who returned home to convalesce from an illness, remained and took over the office end of the business. Before Florene took over the office, Mrs. Itle did all the book work as well as helping her husband with the dairy work. The daughter, Bernadine, remembers hearing her father say, he could never have “gotten along” without his wife's help. In 1933, the workers wore white coveralls. Bernadine, who was a nursing office supervisor at Memorial Hospital,



Originated in 1914 as HIGHLAND DAIRY FARM by C. A. Itle with team and wagon milk route in Cresson. Converted to VALE WOOD FARMS and motorized in 1933.

remembers going home and finding a whole table of white coveralls waiting for her to iron. Later, a change was made to blue coveralls. It was not until about 1946 that electric milkers were purchased for the dairy.

Bernadette Itle was a pleasing and sincere person, had a sense of humor, and was a hard worker. She loved plants and had them all over the inside and outside. She always had a big garden from which she did the canning for the family. She liked to embroider and was an excellent seamstress, and sewed all the clothes for the family.

Bernadine remembers her mother making their underwear from the white muslin sacks in which flour came.

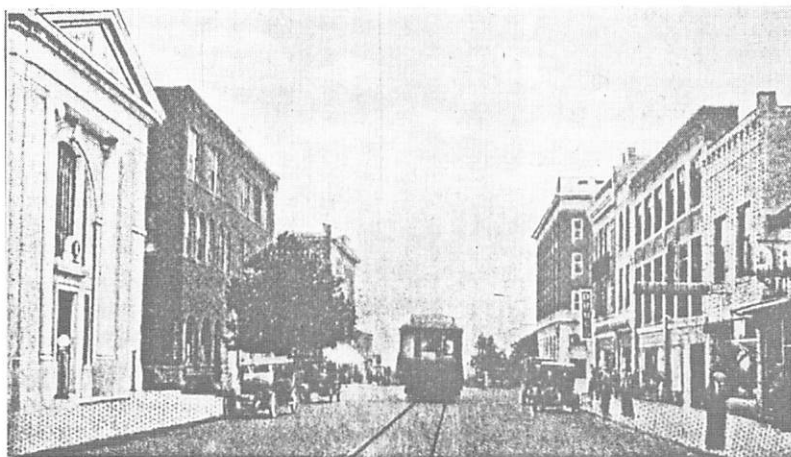
When Bernadette wanted to visit her parents at her home near Mt. Aloysius, she drove the horse and buggy. In later years, Charles purchased a Model T Ford. It is said she would only sit next to the door with her hand on the door latch. She said she would jump out if there was trouble. (And she probably would have done just that if the occasion arose.)

Bernadette was happiest when she was working. Daughter, Bernadine, gave up her position at the hospital and took over at home since she was needed. Bernadette had a heart problem and spent some time in a wheelchair. Even this did not keep Bernadette from working. She peeled vegetables and helped with the canning from her wheelchair, and probably directed the job.

Bernadette died March 11, 1965.

Ebensburg

The land comprising Ebensburg Borough was originally warranted to Thomas Martin who conveyed his interest to Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. In 1796 a group of Welsh immigrants left Philadelphia to establish a home in the mountains. Their leader was Rev. Rees Lloyd; the group included George and Hugh Roberts, William and Thomas Griffith, Thomas Philips, Robert and William Williams, John Jacobs, James Evans, and John Thomas, along with their wives and families. On August 8, 1804, Rev. Lloyd purchased 410 acres of land from Dr. Rush and the settlement was named Ebensburg for Rev. Lloyd's son Ebenezer, who had died in infancy. Being chosen as the county seat, the town began to increase in size, in importance and in opportunities.



HIGH STREET, LOOKING EAST, EBENSBURG, PA.

An interesting woman was Elizabeth Brallier who married John Gillin. He had been born crossing the Atlantic Ocean on July 18, 1818, most likely a traumatic experience for his mother, Frances Smith Gillin. John had plans to move his family to Iowa when he died in October, 1865. His widow carried out his plan and moved herself and her ten children, the youngest of which was three weeks old. She was said to have been "one of the most business-like women Cambria County ever produced."¹ At the time of her death she owned 1400 acres of very valuable land and had a large bank account.

The wife of James F. Thompson, *Alice Griffith Wilson*, was co-owner with her husband of the newspaper, *The Mountaineer Herald*. After his death, she continued as co-owner in the capacity of supervisor of circulation and editor of a column, "Days of Long Ago." She retired in 1976.

Because of its location on the mountain top, Ebensburg became a summer resort. Maple Park Springs, Lloyd Springs Hotel, Feinach Hall and the Mountain House were prominent hotels, offering domestic employment for women in the kitchens, dining rooms and lodging facilities.

¹Cambria County Historical Society, *Our Cambria County Heritage*, September 1982, p. 2

This unusual pioneer woman, Eliza Ann McDonald, has a biography quite different from most others submitted. She came from a well-to-do family; her accomplishment was in *not* allowing her fortune to increase!

A biography is also included for Jean McSparran Estep.

Eliza Ann McDonald

Written by Dorothy Liphart

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

New Testament

I Corinthians, XIII

In an unusual way, the birth of Eliza Ann McDonald in 1821 was to have an important impact on the early development of Cambria County. In fact, the scope of her influence was far wider than this.

Eliza was the fifth child in a family of nine born to Owen and Eliza Pearsons McDonald. Her father established a mercantile business on High Street, Ebensburg and also built the Cambria House Hotel (later known as the Foster House).

Thus, born to a family of considerable wealth, Eliza was well educated, completing her education in St. Mary's Academy at Emmetsburg, Pennsylvania.

Most of her life was spent in Ebensburg, but her kindness and generosity spread to many other areas. A true philanthropist, Eliza's policy was not to allow her fortune to increase.

This meant that each year she must distribute her entire income to worthy causes. Accordingly, she aided the poor (withholding nothing but her name), and assisted churches of many denominations, rejoicing in her ability to improve life for others.

At the age of 86, upon learning that she had not much longer to live, Eliza had her affairs in order and was perfectly resigned to God's will. Following her death, Ebensburg's *Mountain Herald* newspaper reported her estate at \$94,206.78, of which a large part went to charities.

Her inheritance tax amounted to \$3131.31; her church, Holy Name Catholic Church in Ebensburg received \$5,000.

Eliza's charity spread to Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital and the Catholic Mercy Working Girl's Home. Other bequests included

cemetery repair; St. Joseph's Protectors for Boys in Pittsburgh; Sisters of St. Joseph in Ebensburg; The Foundling Asylum; Little Sisters of the Poor; and Sisters of the Good Shepherd, all of Pittsburgh. She also gave the Rt. Rev. E. A. Garvey, Bishop of the Altoona Diocese, more than \$30,000, of which sum one-half was for the Orphan Asylum at Summit, and the other half for the education of young men for the priesthood. In addition, she made many personal bequests.

At the time of her death in 1906, Eliza Ann was Ebensburg's oldest known resident, and considered a great asset to her community which mourned her passing.

Jean McSparran Estep

Written by Dorothy Liphart

Jean McSparran Estep was born in Hensel, Pennsylvania, on June 23, 1907. After attending Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa., she taught Latin and French at Central-Cambria High School from 1931 to 1934.

She took care of her family of four children while they were growing up and then returned to teaching at Nanty-Glo for the 1961-1962 term. In the Fall of 1962 she went back to teach in Central-Cambria until her retirement in 1972.

During the time she lived in Ebensburg she was always interested in community and church affairs. President of the Woman's Club for several terms, she was instrumental in raising



money to purchase a lot for the building of a club house. The project was later dropped and the lot sold; but the money has remained in a fund, the interest of which is used for civic projects. She had always taken an active interest in her Presbyterian Church, having coached the young people in many plays and serving as program chairman for the women's organization planning unique programs for the entertainment.

As a French teacher she is remembered fondly by many students. Some of them she persuaded to attend her alma mater, Wilson College.

She directed productions for the local Player's Club, a group of persons interested in dramatics. She was a guiding light in the organization of this club. Later, she was director for a young Shakespearean Club. Two of her original plays included one about her family in Lancaster County with a setting of her youth; another was written and directed for the Ebensburg Women's Club. Her last performance was an historical play acted out by her hand puppets telling the story of the founding of Ebensburg.

Still another interest of this active woman was in Girl Scouts. She was involved in writing a history of the Talus Rock Council at the time of her death. She was a former board member and officer of this organization.



A bonus of Samoyed owners is the soft, white combings from the undercoat, which can be spun into yarn. The Samoyed nomads made their dog's hair into clothing. Mrs. Dorothy Keener (left) well-know local weaver, and Mrs. James F. Estep, needlecraft expert, show Samoyed yarn spun by Mrs. Keener and a cozy hat knit from it by Mrs. Estep.

Jean Estep was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society for teachers, and of the Northern Cambria Branch of the Johnstown Symphony Auxiliary.

Jean was a needlecraft expert. She never went anywhere, except church, without her knitting. Her family always wore beautifully hand knitted sweaters.

She died at home on April 29, 1987.

Gallitzin Borough

The Borough of Gallitzin resulted from the need to construct a tunnel through the Allegheny mountains to permit the Pennsylvania Railroad to build a route connecting the eastern cities with the rapidly expanding western towns. At this time, there were only two pioneer families living in the area—the Watts and the McCloskeys. However, many Irish immigrants came to do construction work on the tunnel and the railroad. By the time the tunnel and railroad were completed, Gallitzin was a fast-growing village. Some pioneers were Michael Fitzharris, F. J. Christy, Joseph Waltson, Eban and Henry Nutter, David McCoy, Thomas Monroe, John Gilchrist, John Campbell, W. S. Strickland and Charles Pratt. Some of them had wives but there are few records of them. We just know they must have done what all early pioneer, railroad and coal miners' wives had to do.

Lumbering, coal mining and railroading were the main industries. However, in 1921, a shirt factory, owned by S. Lubovity & Sons, began operation. This offered the first major opportunity for women to work outside the home.

One noted woman from Gallitzin was *Mildred Weston Rogers*, who was a well-known poet at this time and co-authored a book with her husband. Mrs. Rogers wrote under the pen name of Weston. She has authored poems that appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and more than thirty anthologies. Her work published as a volume in the 1950's was "The Singing Hill." Mrs. Rogers died February 7, 1975.

Sister Florine Madigan, JHS, was gracious enough to submit what she remembers about her pioneer mother, and her biography follows.

Elizabeth Bertha Verobish Madigan

Documented and submitted by her daughter,
Sister Florence Madigan, I.H.M.

Elizabeth Bertha Verobish was born January 1, 1908. Sister says her Mother was an orphan and had very few material things but was aggressive and a hard worker. She was married to Paul Madigan and they had five children.

Mr. Madigan was somewhat of an invalid from working in the mines and Sister says her mother was determined to keep her family together and take care of her five children. She managed to open a country-style store in the mining town of Amsbry where they lived and then later, became postmistress. She operated the store for 30 years and was postmistress for the same time.

Mrs. Madigan was Roman Catholic and was a member of St. Thomas' Church in Ashville. Sister says her mother was deeply religious, sympathetic and compassionate. She also was a nurse and in her younger days, she would give insulin injections to diabetics, help deliver babies, and take care of the elderly. She often fed families who needed food from her own store. Sister said her mother was one of the most self-sacrificing persons she ever knew.

Mrs. Madigan had to use her nurse's knowledge for her own family as well. One of her daughters suffered from epilepsy and was completely paralyzed for 3 years following a seizure, when her son, David, was 1¹/₂ years old. She died at the age of 25. Another daughter, Deanna, was retarded and Mrs. Madigan took care of her until she died at the age of 40. Three of her children are still living, Paul, Ellen, and my informant, Sister Florine Madigan, IHM, St. Bernard's Convent, Hastings, Pennsylvania. Mr. Madigan, too, needed his wife's care for he suffered from "miners" asthma and died from cancer of the jugular vein.

Sister says her mother was a Democrat but her father was the politician. She also was civic minded and Sister says she was instrumental in getting the first paved roads in Amsbry. She contributed to the town's welfare by collecting the water rents, teaching children how to swim and serving as a confidant for many who needed special counseling. She was an example of her faith and, it was always God's will she accepted until she died.

Sister feels that her mother was a humble handmaiden and never truly recognized for her many charities and good deeds. However, this often is the way it is.

Lilly

The early history of Lilly is a series of land exchanges involving 332 acres of land granted to Joseph Moyer and his wife in 1802, known as the "Dundee" tract. Having a wife's name on a deed was most unusual. They cleared the land and operated a grist mill for seven years. Simon Litzinger bought the land; after twelve years he sold it to Joseph Lilly who died before he could develop it. The town was named for Richard Lilly, one of the purchasers, being called Lilly's Station, then Lilly's, and finally incorporated as the Borough of Lilly in 1883.

Thomas Biddle and Co. were coal pioneers who carried coal across the mountain in sacks to blacksmith forges in Huntingdon and Bedford Counties. James Conrad bought a sawmill and a sixty-acre tract of land which was the source of much timber for the Portage Railroad. Richard and Alex White did much of the cutting. John Kelly, an Irish tanner, set up a tannery to supply the need for shoes and boots for railroad men. Richard White recruited a Civil War company. John Conrad had plans for a station, but the station was built on the other side of the tracks. Caron Leahey had the first water works. James Conrad, the first postmaster, was paid \$15.75 every three months. The first firemen were called the Bucket Brigade in 1883. A visit to the cemetery revealed that Mr. Leahey's wife's name was Elizabeth and Mrs. Moyer's was Barbara.

Lilly's pioneer representative whose story is told here is that of Katherine Brady Conrad, married to a descendant of John Conrad, one of Lilly's early settlers.

Katherine Brady Conrad

Katherine Brady, known as Katy B, was born in Ireland, coming to the United States at the age of 14 or 15. She stayed with her uncle, the Rev. Phillip Brady, who was pastor of St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Lilly. Katy B was the first one of the family to come to America, but later several of her sisters also arrived. One sister, Nell, went to Ohio and a second sister, Bridget, set-

tled in the Bronx in New York. The Brady family was large and Katy B was the eldest.

Katy B attended Mount Aloysius, which, when it first opened, was located in Loretto. It was known as the Mount Aloysius Academy for Girls under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy. The Academy remained in Loretto until 1896 when the Sisters of Mercy moved to Cresson. She graduated from Mount Aloysius and not too long afterwards married Charles A. Conrad who was a resident of Lilly. Charles was a descendant of John Conrad, a pioneer settler. She and her husband had six living children. The boys were Phil, Jim, and Hugh and the girls were Rose, Adele, and Helen. They were life-long members of St. Bridgets Catholic Church. The early Conrads owned a fairly large parcel of ground and also had a grist mill and a saw mill. Mr. Conrad opened a small store and the post office was incorporated into the store as a sideline.

When Charles Conrad died, it was necessary for Katy B to support the family but she did get some help from the oldest daughter, Rose, who worked in the office of the Gross Department Store in Cresson. Her salary was \$25 per week and Rose's meager funds helped sustain the family. She had to ride the train to and from work and had to pay for her lunch. This was a good wage for a girl at this time and she should have been rather proud of herself and what she was able to contribute.

The children all went to the one-room school until 1911 when the high school was built in Lilly. Prior to that time, the school was located in "Sohol Hall." It was necessary for Katy B to make clothes for the family or have them made. She could sew, but, again, as was the story elsewhere, the clothes were mostly patched and handed down from one child to the other and finally given away where they could continue to be used.

Katy B had received in her education, some courses in the fine arts. So, she learned to sew—and became a very good seamstress. Her son tells me she sewed for wealthy individuals and probably was able to help keep the family going in this way. She also could paint pictures and china. Her son, Hugh, could not remember how his mother had fired her handpainted china. Her pictures have been distributed to family and some probably were sold. Mr. Conrad remembers his mother was always patient and kind and never complaining. She took classes at the Mount after her children were grown but her son doesn't recall

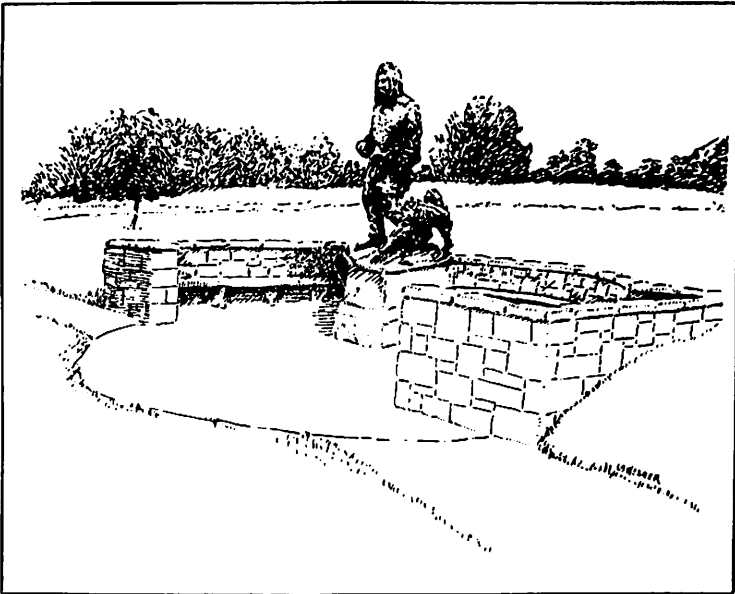
precisely what they were other than possibly art classes.

Source of information:

Hugh Conrad, son of Katy B.

Cresson

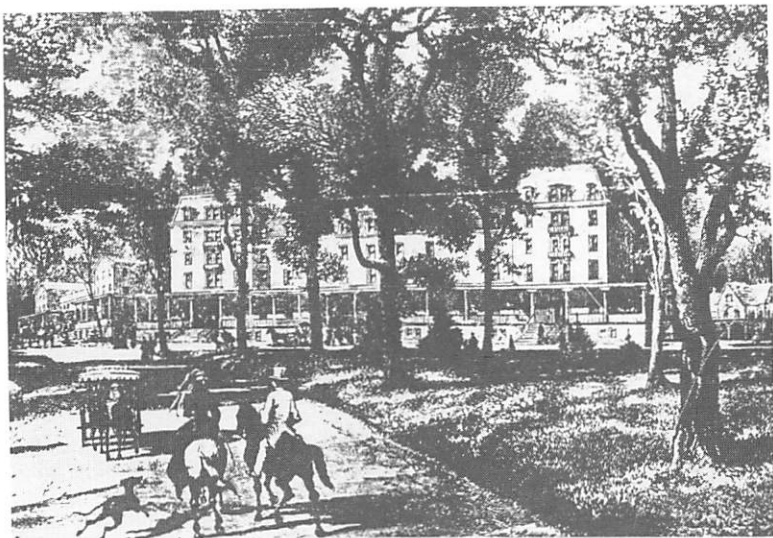
This town situated in the Allegheny mountains is located at the crossroads of U.S. Route 22 and Pennsylvania Route 53. Originally, Cresson was part of the old Adams Tract given to Ignatius Adams for services rendered to the government in the War of 1812. The town got its name from Elliott Cresson, a Philadelphia philanthropist and a subscriber of the Pennsylvania Railroad. For awhile Cresson was a resort area catering to the wealthy guests who came from other areas to the large summer resorts nearby. Later in the Twentieth Century, it enjoyed an industrial boom as a railroading and mining town.



The Statue of Admiral Robert E. Peary and his Eskimo sled dog was executed by Joseph P. Polla, New York. Pennies from school children made the statue possible. The land is a gift of Mrs. William P. Thompson, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Drawing made by L.A. Wesner

Cresson Township, the larger unit of which Cresson Borough was a part, included Mount Aloysius. In the early days, Mount Aloysius was located in Loretto. At first, it had grade school and high school, then a girls' high school and junior college, then two-year girls college which now has become a co-educational institution giving an associate degree. It is operated by the Sisters of Mercy, and many Sisters have affected the lives of young and old.



The Mountain House

Located just below Mount Aloysius on the opposite side of the road is the Admiral Perry Memorial Park. It was the site of the homestead where in 1856 Admiral Perry, who discovered the North Pole, was born on April 9, 1909. Sister Mary Ann McCue tried to save the homestead from being razed but was unsuccessful.

In 1854, Cresson was known as Summitsville or Summithill in the resort days. There were a number of hotels but one of the most famous was "The Mountain House." Here millionaires like Andrew Carnegie and dignitaries such as President Benjamin Harrison rubbed elbows. The house formerly had been in Hollidaysburg and was dismantled and brought to Cresson. Later it was torn down and the lumber used to build other buildings.

Some of the wealthy had cottages along Route 22 and several are being used as homes today and can be seen from the highway.

One doesn't see much of Cresson since most of it lies beyond Routes 22 and 53. It has businesses along the main street, and residential areas back towards the mountain. The Hoffman Hotel was a lovely hotel with a beautiful dining room in the days of Cresson prosperity. Route 53 is synonymous with Main Street in the town.

Our distinguished pioneer woman from Cresson is Mrs. Rachael Moore whose biography follows.

Rachael Moore

Rachael Moore was born in Philadelphia in 1892. Her husband was employed by the Hughes Coal Company. They were the parents of two sons, Dan and Ralph. They lived in Cresson until the death of Mr. Moore. Mrs. Moore's son, Ralph, says his mother was chairman of the Allegheny Ridge Red Cross during World War II. One of her duties was to contact families of persons injured or killed during the war.

Rachael Moore was the prime moving force in the establishment of the Cresson Public Library. She always had a deep interest in books and their value. Mrs. Moore's son also told us his mother started the Cresson Library which was housed on the second floor of the borough building in 1924. She also tried to start a bookmobile service in the 1930's. The county commissioners turned down the idea of the bookmobile saying there was neither money to equip a vehicle or pay a driver. Finally, she obtained state aid for the project and a county-wide bookmobile route was established.

The next project for this energetic lady was to have a permanent library building in Cresson. In 1962, she turned over the first spade of dirt to break ground for the library building. It is said this was the first in Cambria County to be erected for the sole use of a library. Mrs. Moore, at this time, was President of the Board of Trustees of the Library Association. She was assisted at the ground breaking ceremony by Joseph P. Roberts, President, Cambria County Commissioners, and Cresson Mayor

J. Henry Byrne. The event was well attended by townspeople and Dr. F. K. Shields served as Toastmaster. Friends of the Library cooperated with the board of trustees in the fund drive.

A plaque and photo of Mrs. Moore in the Cresson Library attest to her achievement.



Ground was broken for the new Cresson Library building at special ceremonies Thursday evening at the site at Laurel Avenue and Third Street. Shown turning the first shovel of dirt is Mrs. Rachel Moore, president of the board of trustees of the Library. She was assisted by Joseph P. Roberts, president, Cambria

County Commissioners (on left) and Cresson Mayor, J. Henry Byrne. The program was well attended by townspeople, who heard Mr. Roberts and Cyril Sykes, Cambria County Librarian, speak on the merits of the local venture. Dr. F. K. Shields was toastmaster for the occasion.

Mrs. Moore returned to Philadelphia, after the death of Mr. Moore, where she died in 1984. Her ancestors lived in Portage, and she was buried in the family plot.

Information from:

Dorothy Liphart
Juanita Schettig
Ralph Moore, son
Cresson Library

Cassandra

Cassandra, named for a woman, the wife of George H. Reade, an attorney, who laid out the streets and building lots of this town as early as 1888, was not always Cassandra. The town was first in Washington Township about three-fourths of a mile from the present site, and was known as Myra. We do not know why Myra was the name. Myra was composed of a pumping station and a large building which accommodated boarders, a store and the post office. The Sanders Bottling Works was located in the town and they made a chocolate drink known as a "Derby Shake." It is said that the name was changed from Myra to Derby for this reason. Finally in 1908 when the borough was officially incorporated, the residents chose to call it Cassandra in honor of the Reades. There was no record of Mrs. Reade except that she was the wife of George Reade.

The major industry in Cassandra until 1953 was mine #2 of C. A. Hughes and company in Benscreek. The other industry which exists bears the name of the town, the Cassandra Bottling Company. Today a handful of small business establishments remain in the community.

Our informant, Doris Lazere, was born and reared in Cassandra. What we have found out about pioneer women has been culled from her childhood and teen-age memories. She remembers her grandmother, Elizabeth Kelly, very well. Mrs. Kelly operated the Union Hotel on Portage Street and was popularly referred to as "Mom" Kelly. Mr. Kelly with his wife, operated the Union Hotel as well as a livery stable, and other rental properties. "Mom" Kelly had a very large garden until the year before she died when she planted a "small" one, which would have been big to most women. In addition she raised chickens. She died at age seventy-nine, but still said, "I am not old."

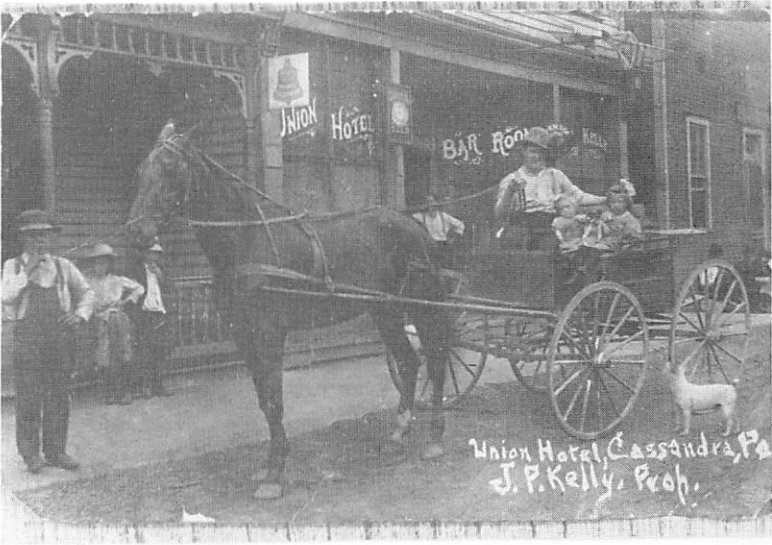
Mom Kelly was most pleased when her granddaughter, Doris, graduated from Conemaugh Valley School of Nursing. Mom's maiden name was Leap, and she had two sisters living in Cas-



sandra: Molly, "Aunt Mol" Sheridan and Esther Diehl. A third sister, Alice Scanlon, lived on Scanlon Hill. Alice's daughter, Esther McCabe, had twelve children, one girl and eleven boys all in the service in World War II. All Mom Kelly's sisters were widowed at an early age. Other pioneer women in this town were Molly Berk whose sons became mine supervisors and Priscilla Myers who operated a butcher shop which she took over after her husband's death. Emma Franey, another widow, managed to support her family. Carrie Prescott shared with her husband the operation of a hardware, general store and blacksmith shop. It's obvious who did what in that partnership because a blacksmith shop was a full-time activity.

In the early days, people got in and out of Cassandra by train. Four stopped each day, one eastbound and one westbound in the morning and the same in the evening. Doris remembers that her Grandmother went to all funerals of her friends and patrons, "hauling" Doris with her. They would go in the morning to whatever town, stay all day, and return on the night train. Other modes of transportation were horses and a few cars.

Cassandra was a small village lying about a mile from Route 53 going east to Cresson. Originally Route 53 went through the town until it was re-routed in the 1940's. Today Cassandra still



is one of the small town hamlets which dot the rural areas of Cambria County.

Informant:

Doris Jean Lazere, granddaughter of "Mom" Kelly

Portage

Portage was incorporated October 7, 1890; it is located in the Portage Borough in the southeastern part of Cambria County. It lies on the line of the old Portage Railroad which crossed the Allegheny Mountains to connect the eastern and western sections of the Pennsylvania Canal.

Characterized by its international composition, it was settled in the early 19th century by Welsh, Irish, English and German immigrants, followed later by East Europeans and Italians. These people were attracted to Portage by the employment opportunities offered by the Allegheny Portage Railroad which passed through the area now known as Route 53, by lumbering and, later, coal mining which was established by the Martins. The line ran westward to Johnstown and eastward to Hollidaysburg. The Pennsylvania Railroad passed through the town.

Some of the early founding fathers were John Border who operated a sawmill, William H. Moudy, a landowner and the Martins who were in the mining business. There were three hotels, four stores, and a station in the town. Puritan Foundations and a jacket factory gave employment to Portage women at a time when they normally were not working outside the home. Portage today has eleven churches, a bank and many stores. There are also a number of organizations, fraternal lodges and a veteran's organization.

We have discovered the name of Maggie Lutz, but we do not know very much about her except that she ran a hotel on Main Street called Maggie's Hotel, which still exists today.

Meet the outstanding woman we've chosen from Portage, Yogella Golden. She was an immigrant woman from the mountains of eastern Europe who didn't need a Women's Liberation Movement in order to establish her place in the new world.

Catherine Yogella Golden

Catherine Yogella Golden was a classic example of the true pioneer immigrant woman who endured hardship in this new world of hers. She was born in 1885 in the mountains of Eastern Europe. Married to John Golden in Poland, she and her husband arrived in America when she was seventeen years old. She spoke no English and had a six-month old baby. They had little money or material goods and knew only the husband's relatives then living in Gallitzin.

John Golden did get a job on the railroad, but could not do any especially difficult work as he had asthma. She worked the fields with a horse and plow, and kept poultry and other farm animals. Her methods were Old World ones until her neighbors taught her new and better ways. She even worked on the railroad to earn the necessary money to make farm payments. When working on the railroad "nailing ties," she always wore a skirt and had neatly combed hair. She weighed about 130 pounds and was said by her co-workers to have "class."

She had twelve children and delivered most of her babies herself. Her family speaks very positively of her care of her children and the love and time she gave them. This busy woman, likewise, had time for church and neighbors. Despite all that was required to feed her own family, there always was room at

her table for more. During the Depression of 1930's, men would come to work in the fields for a meal for them and their families.

When her husband died in 1939, she had to make the living for herself and the four remaining children, the others having gone to "find" for themselves. Then, with World War II, two of the boys went into the service, leaving two teenagers at home. At this time she still had no automobile or modern farm equipment. It was very difficult to find a market for her produce or deliver it but she persevered. Until the late 1950's her monetary income consisted of a railroad retirement of \$35 per month, any other money coming from the results of her labors.

Certainly, this woman filled many roles in her life—wife, mother, provider, laborer, neighbor. Her family says she possessed outstanding characteristics of courage, faith and perseverance. Lacking formal education and modern methods, she almost single-handedly made a life for herself, her husband and twelve children. She is one woman whose life can be documented; but there are many other humble, strong and unnamed women in Cambria County whose faith, courage and hard work helped to write the history of Cambria County.

Researched by Michael Golden, grandson, and Michele Golden, great-granddaughter

The Old Portage Railroad

A story of Portage isn't complete without a few words about the Old Portage Railroad. Portage was famous before there was a town or borough all because of the railroad. From 1831 to 1837, the railroad was built. The Pennsylvania Canal Commission wanted to offset the loss of trade to New York because of the passageway from the Hudson River through to the Great Lakes by constructing a connection between Philadelphia and the west. An adequate water supply existed for the canal east and west, but the engineers had to conquer the Allegheny Mountains and they chose to do this by going over the mountain.

They began their construction of the eastern terminal of the canal at Hollidaysburg by making a series of 10 inclines and 11 planes to connect with the western terminal of the canal at Johnstown. The inclines were at Duncansville (number 10) at "Mountain Lake" (number 9), the Lemon House (number 8), which was a visitors center, number 5 at the Summit Hotel on

the back road to Lilly, number 4 at Lilly, number 2 at Portage now a part of Route 53, and number 1 at the Staple Bend tunnel at Mineral Point. Previously, it took 22 days to cross the state by wagon; now it could be done in 6 days. The trip on the railroad itself took 6 hours. On the planes, teams of horses and mules attained speeds of 6 miles an hour and on the inclines, a moving endless rope lifted the boats and cars over the inclines at a speed of 4 miles per hour.

The trip cost \$7.00 and it included meals and board. A board on which you sat, ate from, and slept at night. It is the ancestor of the term "Bed and Board."

Interesting and historic facts are part of the railroad's story. The body of President William Harrison, who died in the White House, early in his administration, was carried over the railroad. The body of President Zachery Taylor was carried over the railroad after he died. Ulyssess S. Grant traveled to West Point on the railroad. Charles Dickens, famous English author referred to the boards as "overhanging book shelves" and wasn't happy with this mode of travel.

Leave it to a woman to express her displeasure, Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Toms' Cabin* described her trip as "absolutely most prosaic and unglorious." I'm not exactly sure what she meant.

Shoes were found all over the boat and sometimes not found at all.

By the way, a team of horses or mules occupied the foresection of the boat and this was not exactly conducive to a pleasant journey.

Mrs. Thomas Keenan, the former Margaret Sybert, a retired teacher, recalls "My paternal grandmother Bradly, who was born in 1829, taught school in Jefferson, which is now known as Wilmore. Going home to Gallitzin for the weekend, Grandma rode the old Portage Railroad from Wilmore to Cresson. The few passengers rode the seat facing the fire box. The only fuel in those days was wood. Grandma Bradly told of how the sparks flew when wood was added to the fire and with the long full skirts and many starched petticoats, one had to tuck one's skirt tight around one's legs." (Taken from *History of the Portage Area—1976*)

The Portage Railroad lasted for two decades. Later it was bought by the Pennsylvania Railroad. However, mementos of

the old Portage remain near us; the Lemon House atop the Cresson Mountain, the skew Arch Bridge on Route 11, the ties, planes, and inclines and the Staple Bend Tunnel at Mineral Point.

Wilmore

Wilmore Borough was first settled by Godfrey Wilmore. He was a black man who migrated from his home in Baltimore shortly after the Revolutionary War, bringing his white wife to new frontiers. He chose Pennsylvania, settling about one half-mile south of what is now Wilmore Borough, naming the town for his son, Bernard Wilmore.

For a time Wilmore was called Guineatown until Father Galitzin suggested the name be changed to Jefferson to honor the President. However, when the post-office was opened, it was called Wilmore Post-office and the Pennsylvania Railroad called the station Wilmore Station. As a result, all other names were forgotten and the town retains its name today.

John McCormick, Joseph Orton Kerbery and John Kephart are listed as early settlers. Emma Cullen, a sister of "Mom" Kelly in Cassandra, was an early woman resident.

A small village today, Wilmore looks like a Western town. It has a few small businesses and residences; St. Bartholomew's Church stands on a hill above the village. However, Wilmore gave to Cambria County one of its early outstanding women. Clara Shryock made history in the schools of this county.

Clara M. Shryock

Prepared by Betty Pelikan

The family had its roots in northwestern Prussia, once part of ancient Netherlands. It was Clara's great-great-grandfather, Van Schrieck, who, with two brothers came to America's shores to escape the feudal wars so common in their time.

Along with geographical changes, the family name was changed from Van Schrieck to Schreyak to Schreyock, and finally, to Shryock. Grandfather, John Keller Shryock, decided upon Wilmore as the place to raise his family. It was there that

Charles W. Schryock met and married Catherine Cundegundas. The spirit of adventure being in the young couple's blood, they settled for awhile in Ohio where their first child, a boy, was born. The arrival of the child drew the couple back to Wilmore.

Probably in response to the slogan "Go West, young man," Charles packed up his little family for the long train ride to Nebraska. Following the birth of a second son, Clara was born April 26, 1890 in Upland, Nebraska. Only four years later, upon the death of grandfather John, they returned to Wilmore and greeted two new arrivals, Clara's sisters, Elsie and Florence.

Theirs was a family proud of its history and accomplishments. The stories of the travels of her forbears must have impressed Clara very deeply. She wanted to know all about the places from which her grandparents had come, and where she and her brothers had been born. What prompted these many moves, and why did the family decide to settle, finally, in Pennsylvania? Did the geography here resemble that of the land her great-great-grandfather left so many years ago? It was that kind of inquisitive background which propelled Clara Shryock when she began her education at the Wilmore school.

Clara's father, though he was born in nearby Haverstown, Maryland, brought with him the strong influence of impeccable "old world" manners upon which he insisted in the rearing of his five children. He always wore a coat and tie at the dinner table which had been set with all the appropriate dishes and flatware. (Later on his wife rebelled saying, "I don't know why we need so many forks and plates and spoons. We are not going to entertain a monarch. We're just having an educator now and then!" When they were old enough, Clara took nieces and nephews to New York for training in table manners.) There was to be no long hair hanging at the table. The girls were to wear stockings and not the sox which were coming into fashion. Reaching across the table was forbidden; talking was allowed only when asking for food to be passed.

Mr. Schryock was a mercantile businessman, intensely interested in education. In after-dinner conversation he shared his knowledge with his children.

There were other rules: everyone had to wear a white dress on Sunday—all day; there was to be no candy and no circus. He broke his own rule once, and Clara got sick. From then on it was chewing gum only for the whole family.

Her sisters said of her that it was easy to get along with

Clara. She was gentle and firm, obedient and considerate. When a soda fountain was opened in town it was a big drawing card for the young crowd, but Clara didn't go too often, heeding her father's advice that she'd get sick. She was a "skinny" little girl; and, yet, helped her mother in a chronic illness, even at nine years of age, Clara would carry little Florence on her hip as she performed household tasks. The mischievous "baby sister" constantly teased Elsie, her next-oldest sister; but she found it easy to listen to Clara!

After graduation from South Fork High School in 1908, the sedate young woman earned a teaching certificate from Indiana Normal School. Soon afterward, young Clara was assigned to teach at the Croyle school, a one-room school house where she was responsible for the children of all eight grades. She was boarded with a family whose only available sleeping space was with a ninety-year old woman. Trudging over to the little schoolhouse long before the children arrived, she would make a good fire and melt the bucket of water, frozen overnight in the uninsulated building.

She developed a greater impetus toward furthering her own studies in order to share them. The quiet, dynamic lady was awarded an MA degree at Penn State after undergraduate studies at Johns Hopkins, University of Chicago, University of Pittsburgh and Penn State. The entire family shared her pride and joy when she was awarded a doctorate in education at the University of Pittsburgh in 1943 after having written a thesis on "The Comparison of Two Programs for Supervision in Geography."

In 1924 she was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Cambria County Schools, specializing in the supervision of geography teaching and administration. Her work took her to every school in the county. She also served as chairman of the Cambria County of Nutrition. Thus she combined her administrative skills with her special interest in geography and her love for children with the desire to "build strong bodies." She was instrumental in arranging hot lunches for 25,000 rural students in the county.

Early in the program surplus commodities were used to prepare food for the students. The school board, Parent-Teacher organizations and the community were asked to support the program by donations for the necessary equipment to prepare the meals. In 1943, the government stopped the surplus food supplies and paid cash for the purchase of food. This, however,

did not provide cooks, many of whom had left the school lunch program to take jobs in the war effort. Clara turned to her sister, Florence (Mrs. Thomas Stein), convincing her to take a job as a cook. Now raising a family of her own, her hesitation to become a cook was easy to understand; but, as in childhood, Clara's quiet persistence prevailed!

Daily duties, however, seemed not to be enough to challenge the seeking, sharing mind of Clara Schryock. Because she was regarded as one of the leading authorities on the study of geography, she was named to the executive board of the National Council of Geography Teachers and elected to be president of the state Council of Geography Teachers. She held leadership positions in numerous other educational associations and councils, and was an honored member of Pi Lambda and Delta Kappa Gamma.

People, though, topped the list of this educator's special interests. She was always ready to give a listening ear and a helping hand to those who had needs. Much of her meager income was used to initiate people-helping projects. Her love of arranging flowers often satisfied her own need to work in this creative way with the desire to bring a moment of joy to someone who needed it. It is touching to note that, when she died, flowers kept coming so that they spilled from the tables and stands onto the steps and even the porch.

Most of Clara Schryock's travels were between Cambria County and Harrisburg to seek state support for school programs. Suits were her favorite mode of attire because she hated anything "fussy and fancy." There was an occasion, though, when she did make a "fuss." That occurred when the family wished to have Mother Schryock buried beside her Lutheran husband and the rules at the Protestant cemetery prohibited the burial of a Roman Catholic. It was her fussing that changed the rules, at least in that instance.

In June of 1948, Miss Schryock was invited to speak at the commencement exercises in Ebensburg. That speech, it seemed, was especially inspiring. She wore a lovely dress that evening. In response to compliments, she said, "Well, it probably will be the last time." A quick glance was directed at her sister. "Maybe this will become yours soon."

The beloved educator died in October 1948. It was then that the flowers came back to her!

Material prepared from:

Conversation with: Florence Stein

Notes from: Sheila G. Kaufman

Newspaper articles from the family scrapbook

Cambria County Historical Museum

Summerhill

Summerhill is one of the oldest communities in Cambria County. It was incorporated in 1892, but the town really was founded in 1910 by two brothers, Joseph and David Somers. The land was owned in the beginning by a Steinman family and a Griffith family. The village was called first Somerhill and then revised to Summerhill. The town is located in a narrow valley between hills through which the Portage railroad and then the Pennsylvania Railroad passed. Parts of the town are on both sides of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, and still other parts are on the hillside.

William McConnell did the surveying of the land, laid out the lots and named the streets. There were sawmills. At first, the lumber industry flourished, however it was supplanted by coal mining and railroading.

Early on there were feed mills, saw mills, a blacksmith shop, a slaughter house, a stone quarry, and a tannery. Also there were hotels, and a company store.

Some early settlers were George and Philip Pringle, who married sisters, Catherine and Mary Cable, Kneppers, Skelleys, McGoughs, Settlemyers, Crums, Betts, Dr. J. B. Grien, Mrs. Dora Simendinger, William McClarren, and Miss Patricia Smith.

My informant, Dora Simendinger, was a lifelong resident of Summerhill, and she knew quite a number of pioneer women in the area. Some of the women she mentions are:

Florence Seaman organized the Woman's Club and was associated with the Johnstown Symphony.

Emma Sherbine had the post office as well as a grocery store and sold yard goods.

Stella Williams was a widow with three children. She supported herself and her children by operating a grocery store.

In 1917, Mrs. Plummer had the post office in her home. She received a salary of \$50.00 per month, and operated the post

office Monday through Saturday from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Her husband put mail on the morning and evening trains.

Pauline Wess Habrel was a midwife. \$50.00 was the fee for delivery. Dr. Porch came to Summerhill from Johnstown on the train.

Barbara (Crosser) Brummert

Information by Gertrude Brummert, daughter

Barbara (Crosser) Brummert was born April 10, 1875. Her parents were Frederick Crosser and Edwina Umps. Her early education was interrupted because she had to help take care of the rest of the children. There were five children in the family, and they raised a grandchild. Barbara married Hugh A. Brummert in her early twenties on September 28, 1897, in St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Germany.

Barbara's daughter, Gertrude, lives in the old home. The house is about eighty-six years old.

Barbara's husband had a butcher shop in the early years, and Barbara helped in the shop. Her daughter states she could cut meat as well as her husband. Later on, they gave up the butcher shop and her husband sold insurance.

Gertrude's mother was a housewife and a devoted church worker. She started the idea of church dinners at St. John's Church and always cooked for the church picnic. Gertrude says her mother was a disciplinarian and all the family walked the "chalk line", even her brothers. She also was a midwife and had her special clientele. Her daughter remembers she brought all the babies of two of her neighbors and they both had big families.

Two of her daughters taught school. This was in the days when no extra schooling was required to teach. Both girls taught in country schools where they had to start the fires, do the cleaning, and break ice in the water bucket. The one sister didn't like teaching and gave it up. Later she returned but to teach shop and crafts. Mr. Brummert died in 1941. Barbara continued to manage until her youngest daughter, Gertrude, came home and took over. Her sisters, who had jobs, told Gertrude she didn't need a job and should stay at home with their mother. Barbara Crosser Brummert died August 22, 1955, at the age of eighty.

Ehrenfeld

Ehrenfeld is located in Croyle Township adjacent to Fifficktown and generally is included in the area which is addressed as South Fork. It was a progressive coal mining town at its inception.

Philip Hartman, employed by John W. Scott and Sons of Philadelphia, later a division of Webster Coal Company, came to this area to open mines and supervise the building of a coal plant. He was the grandfather of my informant, Elizabeth Leonard. Her grandmother was Bridget Leach Hartman. It was a company town and included company houses which were rented to the employees. The village was first named Webster Mines and when the Pennsylvania railroad set up a station on the south side of the river, the town was called Ehrenfeld after Fred Ehrenfeld, who was the supervisor of the Gallitzin division.

Mining operations increased and there were many more company houses with electric lights, water, and coal furnished by the company. A large company store provided all the necessary merchandise. There, also, was a community hall which included on the first floor a barber shop, pool room and bowling alley and a community activities room on the second floor. The Ehrenfeld mines were among the first to use machines in the mining process.

Bart C. Leonard came to Ehrenfeld from Scranton at the solicitation of Jake Steinman in 1901. He had been affiliated with the Sunshine mines. He opened the Riverside mine. Later he married a daughter of Philip Hartman—and they settled in South Fork. They were the first couple to be married at St. James Catholic Church in South Fork. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Leonard had worked in the Ehrenfeld post office and another sister, Nellie Hartman, worked on the desk of the mine office. The Leonards had two children, Joseph and Mary Elizabeth. Joseph joined his father in the mining business and married Mary Gates, a daughter of John Gates of South Fork.

Philip and Bridget Hartman also operated the Merchant's Hotel until the early 1920's in South Fork. They catered to traveling salesmen and railroaders required to have lodging to stay over until they could return to Altoona on their next run. The hotel also had a large dining room.

The people of Ehrenfeld looked to South Fork and later to Johnstown for banking, large scale shopping and major recrea-

tional activities. There was an elementary school and then the four years of high school was taken at South Fork.

Many persons were contacted to trace the contributions of women from this area. It is known most were coal miners wives and the story of their work and contributions would parallel the write up of this life style in the preceding section. In our search, however, we learned about the mother of Charles Bronson, the movie actor, but from the townspeople, not from him. Also Mrs. Joseph de Frank shared her memories of her mother. Both biographies of these two pioneer women follow.

Gertrude Wallace Wilson

This is the story of Gertrude Wallace Wilson as told by her daughter, Rita de Frank. Mrs. Wilson was born February 18, 1892, in Lilly, moving to Ehrenfeld when she was about three years old. Her husband had come to Ehrenfeld from Gallitzin as a child. Both attended the parochial school at the local Catholic church. They were married August 1912. Mr. Wilson was employed as a dispatcher for Mine #3 Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. Three children survived to adulthood.

Mrs. de Frank lives in her mother's house. Ehrenfeld, at this time, had company houses and a company store. There were few modern conveniences. A swinging foot bridge across the Cone-maugh River connected the town with South Fork where a broader selection for shopping was available.

Mrs. Wilson was a midwife who worked with two South Fork doctors, Dr. Pardoe and Dr. Hawkins. Mrs. de Frank remembers her mother going out on cases "all in white, and just so." Gertrude also worked as a nurses aid at Johnstown Municipal Hospital. The coal company had a farm called the "Pest Farm" in the direction of Mineral Point. If anyone in the community developed a contagious disease, he or she was taken there to recover. Rita says her mother developed chicken pox, and had to go to the farm.

Gertrude and her mother were beautiful quilters and also braided rugs. It was the custom to have quilting parties in the different homes. Mrs. Wilson also was an avid church worker.

A great aunt on her father's side, Emma Stevens, served as housekeeper for Mr. Ehrenfeld, the boss, who was head of the Gallitzin division.

Gertrude Wilson died August 12, 1972, in Ehrenfeld.

Mary Valinsky Buchinsky

Mary Valinsky Buchinsky's most apparent claim to fame—she is the mother of Charles Buchinsky, better known as the film star, Charles Bronson. He was contacted about information on his mother but no reply was forthcoming. The original spelling of the name was changed from Bunchinsky in about 1929.

Mary Valinsky Buchinsky was born in Tamaque, Pa. We know nothing of her parentage or early years. She married Walter Bunchinsky, a Lithuanian of Russian descent. They were the parents of 15 children of which Charles was number five. She was left a widow in 1933 when her husband died as a result of mine injuries and silicosis. Charles, number 5 son, was born in 1921 so she really had a big job to raise the family. Using simple mathematics and figuring a baby a year, the youngest must have been 2 or 3 years of age at the time of her husband's death. The older sons Ray, Joe and George worked in the coal mines.

At this point we must close the saga of Mary Valinsky Buchinsky. It is obvious that she had a hard life, it couldn't be otherwise, with a family of 15; her husband a coal miner, and 3 sons working in the mines as well. If nothing else, just think of the clothes to be washed! It is known that Mary lived in the Anderson Apartments in Portage for awhile but no dates were provided.

Vintondale

Vintondale Borough, on the banks of Blacklick Creek and surrounded by hills, is considered to be another coal town, and so it was. However, in earlier days it had another industry—iron. Before 1846, two Englishmen, Ritter and Irvin, came to make iron and ship the metal to Pittsburgh. The Eliza Furnace, still standing, was one of the first in the county equipped to burn coke for fuel. It was named for Eliza Schoenberger, the daughter of an early leader in the iron industry. There must have been a Mrs. Schoenberger, but we find no mention of her in the literature. A total of 100 men and boys were employed here until 1850 when the operation ceased. Sometime in 1850, lumber became king, and the town was called Barker City for the Barker family who owned much of the land towards Ebensburg. The business was the Vinton Lumber Company.

In 1895, the town was re-named Vintondale in honor of Judge

Augustine Vinton Barker. He is credited with introducing industry into Vintondale and making himself a fortune. The only mine here, Mine #1, was a typical one-company, anti-union company.

Later, in 1899, Vinton Collieries began opening coal mines along Blacklick Creek; the company also built two experimental coke ovens. Vintondale became an important producer of coke. A contract to build a railroad from Vintondale to Ebensburg was awarded to Charles McFadden so products could be moved more quickly. The Blacklick and Yellow Creek Railroad was built to move the lumber

This was a company town controlled first by the Lackawanna Coal and Coke Company, and, later, by the Vinton Coal and Coke. The 1920's were peak years for this small community. The town had paved streets, adequate stores, a school and four churches. In the early 1900's four trains per day traveled east and west.

Early pioneer families were the Barkers, Jim Jones, George Blewitz, and John D. Burgoon, an author. He used Vintondale as background for his works, "Even My Own Brother", and "Two Percent Fear". B. W. and Mary Shaffer had the first house in town.

Our informant, Mrs. Isabel Tackett, really searched out a list of women whose tasks were different and varied. There was Margaret McCabe, who worked at the freight and passenger station of the Pennsylvania Railroad; she was the only female employee. Mrs. Teresa Kerekish, who came from Austria, lived in the same building as Mrs. Wojtowicz, Mrs. Tackett's mother; they were good friends. She made hardinger curtains by hand. These curtains resemble "cut-out" embroidery work; she sold them for \$5.00 a pair. After becoming a widow in 1928, she made her living by cleaning schools and stretching lace curtains for ten cents a pair. For ten years she cooked breakfast and supper for teachers boarding at the inn.

Then, there was Molly Bennett who took over her husband's grist and feed mill after his death. Cora Bracken Roberts worked in the grist mill when she was ten years old. Cora's sister-in-law, Ruth Roberts, was the post-mistress, and ran a confection store. Marie Cresswell was one of the first telephone operators when she worked for Vinton Colliers. At this time in 1918 there were only four telephones in the town.

The Krumbines operated a wallpaper store. Mr. Krumbine was a mortician, and his daughter helped as his assistant. At one time, Mr. Krumbine ran the post office. This seems a good time to remind our readers that paper hanging was considered to be "women's work". Boiled starch was used to stick the paper to the wall.

Essentially, this book emphasizes and honors women who are no longer living; but it seems that, in the case of Vintondale, an exception should be made. Not exactly a pioneer woman, she did pioneer in the field of her achievement. This is the story of Margaret A. Farkas of Plymouth, California, once of Vintondale. She is a licensed airplane pilot, making her first solo flight from Ebensburg airport. She holds a commercial pilot's license and is also a skilled airplane mechanic. She has flown in the "Powder Puff" Derby, and has worked at McClellan Air Force Base in California. You may want to read her book, "She's Called Tootsie", in which she discusses her flying experiences and growing up in Vintondale.

Our pioneer lady from Vintondale is Stella Wojtowicz.

Stella Wojtowicz

Information from Isabel Wojtowicz Tackett, daughter

Stella Wojtowicz was born in Poland in 1894. Her father came to America first, settling in Glen Campbell. He returned home after his first trip. Stella came with an aunt. It is interesting, but none of the other members of the family decided to come to America. This pioneer-spirit rather justifies our selection of Mrs. Woytowiaz. Stella was 16 when she came to America, passing through Ellis Island, which she described as a frightening experience.

After coming to America, Stella worked in a hotel in Werhum, Pennsylvania. She met and married her husband in Werhum. Her daughter said it was an arranged marriage and she thought the arrangement was made through friends. The husband-to-be worked in the mines. There was an explosion in the mine in Werhum and they and others came to Vintondale.

Life was hard for this immigrant family. Stella's husband was injured in the mines and there was no workmen's compensation at this time. It was necessary for Stella to work to support the family.

One of the jobs Stella found to do was work as a janitress at the school. This job involved cleaning, dusting, scrubbing and oiling the floors. She washed windows with her brother's help. She picked and sold blackberries which grew wild and were plentiful. She also worked at the Vintondale Inn.

Stella worked as housekeeper for some Jewish families in Johnstown. She received room and board and \$5.00 cash per month. This housekeeping job Stella liked because she had a bed to herself. Her cooking specialty was crepe suzettes. Stella's daughter, Frances, at age fifteen or sixteen, worked in the company store.

As would be expected this versatile woman could crochet and embroider. She liked to make quilts and braided rugs.

Before her mother died, my informant made a trip to Poland to her mother's birthplace. Her mother's brothers and sisters still lived on the same farm as had her mother. Stella did not remember very much about her homeland.

Mrs. Wojtowicz became a citizen before the war. She had a tutor to come and help her learn English. She was a genial, pleasant person and enjoyed her life in Vintondale.

Stella Wojtowicz died in 1976 at age eighty-two.

Nanty Glo

Nanty Glo, the county's largest borough, has a name of Welsh origin meaning "a stream or valley of coal." It lies eight miles west of Ebensburg in a valley, and is surrounded by coal. The topography is similar to that of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Around 1797 a Welsh colony planned a town called Beulah which was a few miles from the present location of Nanty Glo. They hoped to make it a permanent settlement, but failed. The town is no more; all that remains is an old cemetery and a few stone foundations.

With the beginning of coal mining and the growth of the railroad, the population changed to a settlement for peoples of Southern Europe. In 1918 parts of Jackson and Blacklick Townships were incorporated into the borough of Nanty Glo.

This town has a bank, eleven churches and an independent school district. The original school was a one-room basement school in the Costlow Building, with Florence Evans of Ebensburg as the first teacher. John Lloyd of Ebensburg suggested the name of the town, and Lloyd Street was named for him.

Montell Davis was the first postmaster. Some other pioneer families were Wagner, Davis and Adams.

The researcher for Nanty Glo, Isabel Tackett, found the names of the following women worthy of mention:

Dr. Agnes Garrity was assistant superintendent of schools and was head of special education before 1943.

Caroline Burns, clerk and bookkeeper for the Ragley Lumber Company from 1942 until 1974, also was a tax collector.

Eleanor Smith Swartz was in charge of the government special sewing project. It was a short term project. They made pants and flat seam shirts.

Mrs. Grace Garrity operated an insurance company around 1925. Her husband owned the business but, I understand, the wife did the work. She sold life, car, and home owners insurance.

Mrs. Tom Kavanaugh was a bank teller at the Nanty Glo state bank in the 1930's. Her salary was \$50.00 per month.

Beaverdale

Beaverdale, a small hamlet, was named after Beaver Run Creek located in the southern part of Summerhill Township in southeastern Cambria County. (The creek was named for the beavers found there.) It was never incorporated. Close to Beaverdale are two other small villages, Lloydell and Onnalinda, composing a mining section. The area is mountainous and there was coal under the ground. The Mountain Coal Company and the Loyalhanna Coal Companies had mines in the area. Coal was shipped to South Fork by railroad.

It is interesting to note that Lloydell was named after two early settlers, Lloyd and Ellen Huff, Lloyd for himself and the first part of his wife's name, Ell. There were company houses and a company store in Beaverdale. In addition, there were privately owned grocery stores. Beaverdale had an elementary school but the children went to South Fork for high school. St. Agnes Catholic Church was important in the life of the community. There was a bank and hotels for visitors and travelers.

Adelie (Cornelius) Vanderboken is the pioneer woman from Beaverdale.

Adelie (Cornelius) Vanderboken

Adelie Cornelius was born in Lodelinstart, Belgium, in 1870. She went to school at two or three years of age and worked in

the mines at age ten or eleven with her father and older brothers and sister (about seven). Work was poor and working conditions were not good. Her parents were miners and farmers.

Adelie married Leopard Joseph Vanderboken. When she came to America, she was about twenty-one years old. She had an eighteen month old baby, Antoinette, (now Mrs. Westover) and later a second child, Maria, who is my informant. When the young family first came to America, they settled near Hopewell. They had a small home there and lived in Hopewell for about seven years. The husband worked in the mines. The family moved to Beavertdale in 1911 since her brothers lived there. Again, her husband worked in the mines and they lived on a farm. There were layoffs in the mines and these created problems economically.

Adelie had learned to sew and she was a good seamstress. A friend she made in Beavertdale, Mary, taught her how to use McCall patterns and cut clothing. She made beautiful clothes for her two daughters. She would make clothes in the spring and fall. She also was a midwife having learned from a licensed midwife in Belgium.

Mrs. Vanderboken always wanted her own home. She had been used to this and here in Beavertdale they were renting. She started doing laundry for others well enough off to afford this luxury, usually wives of mine bosses. She would do as many as twelve washings per week, and this included ironing as well. Her husband was working full time at the mine and so they built a house. It was necessary to carry water from a spring to do washing. Mrs. Bence remembers helping her grandmother with the wash. The washing machine was wooden and was worked by hand. There were wooden paddles that turned around. Adelie also cleaned offices in banks and mines. Mrs. Bence said her mother did very fine embroidery work, could knit socks, and mend clothing. It was said that when she mended socks, you couldn't tell they had been mended.

Adelie was also a good cook and liked to cook, but not fancy things. One of her favorite recipes was an old fashioned green vegetable soup. It was made with a soup bone, meat, and thick with green vegetables.

My informant said her grandmother had been able to read and write but had lost the skills due to disuse. Her husband would scold her for not reading. When would this busy woman,

who did twelve washings and ironings in a week, have time to read? Adelle's husband liked to read fiction, history, and French newspapers, and he read aloud to the children. When my informant, Mrs. Bence, went to school she would write to her grandfather in French. She always talked to her grandmother in English. French was taught in the Belgian schools when not taken over by the Germans.

Her grandmother also could make the lovely lace which visitors see in stores in Belgium. Children who are seven or eight years old have already learned to make lace. Her children were taught to sew, darn, crochet, knit, and embroider.

Adelle Vanderboken died in Beaverdale on January 7, 1962.

Dunlo

Dunlo is a village in the southeastern sector of Cambria County. It was a thriving community at the beginning of the century in the times of our pioneer lady. Close to Dunlo were two other small hamlets of Lanfair and Krayn. Including these two villages and Dunlo, there were five coal mines operating. Dunlo and Lanfair had company houses. In Lanfair, there was a common outside water tap. Just imagine the problems this must have created for our pioneer coal miners wives.

There were company stores in Dunlo and Lanfair, and they met all their customers needs from meat and groceries through to dry goods (yard goods, thread, some clothing). In addition to the company stores, there were, at least, six privately owned meat markets or meat market and grocery stores. One of the department stores was Goldsteins Department Store.

There was a livery stable, with horse and buggy necessary for travel. John Fox owned hay stables and feed store, the second floor of which was used for the celebration of Mass until the church was built. There was an ice house and two clothing stores. A weekly newspaper was edited by William Eichenser and there was a printing press.

Even in the 1900's, there were some consolidated grade schools, and such was the case for Dunlo, Lanfair, and Geistown.

The town was served by the Pennsylvania Railroad and there were four trains per day. There were enough salesmen and visitors to support six hotels in the area. However, by the 1920's, they all had become single family dwellings.

Dr. Bill Livingston was the town's general practitioner. He took care of everyone and really did everything. He operated on one patient on her mother's kitchen table. It was a ruptured appendix which he didn't remove, but someone else had to do so many years later.

Dunlo today no longer is the thriving bustling community it once was. The coal mines are closed, there's no railroad transportation and no need for all the hotels and businesses of yesterday. Instead it is a nice quiet community in which to live. No doubt, it would be quite a disappointment to our busy, energetic, active pioneer lady who operated The Fox Hotel until she was ninety-five. Read her biography which follows together with her mother's.

Theresa Himes Malzi McGrew

Theresa (Himes) Malzi McGrew was born July 14, 1864 to Peter and Christina (Snyder) Himes, a pioneer German family, the original spelling being Hime. She was born near Shade Furnace, Somerset County, and came to Johnstown as a young girl. It seems there was a sister, Margaret, and two brothers, William and John. The father, Mr. Himes, was proprietor of the Geistown Hotel for twenty-eight years. She lived the latter part of her life in Geistown.

She married Erehart (sometimes spelled Erehardt) and they had five children: Margaret, wife of Francis J. Box of Dunlo, and woman-operator of the Dunlo Hotel; Caroline, wife of John Reiser, a contractor on Menoher Boulevard; Augusta married to Cecil A. Quinn; Peter, married to Norma Hertzinger; and Bernard, not married. Mr. Malzi died in 1889, and later on, Theresa married George McGrew. The only child of the second marriage was Elva, wife of Harry Weaver of Geistown, with whom she lived until her death. Mr. McGrew died in 1910.

Theresa Malzi McGrew was a very active and energetic woman. She was active in church work, liked to cook, and did all kinds of sewing. A favorite pastime was playing cards with relatives and friends. Theresa (Himes) Malzi McGrew died January 3, 1948, at the age of eighty-four. Like mother, like daughter, but more so, her daughter, Margaret Fox operated a hotel until she was ninety, enjoyed life, and died at 102 years of age.

Margaret Malzi Fox

Information by daughters, Frances Appleyard and Agnes Fox

Margaret Malzi Fox was born May 28, 1875 in Johnstown. She was the daughter of Erehart and Theresa (Himes) Malzi. Her education and early life was spent in Johnstown. She worked at the Geis General Store and clerked at Foster's in the gloves and linens department. After her marriage to Francis J. Fox, on April 1, 1894, she went to Dunlo.

Mrs. Fox was the mother of five children: George, Margaret, Mary, Frances, and Agnes; Frances and Agnes being my informants.

The couple operated a hotel, and the first license was issued in 1901. In Dunlo at this time, there was a Catholic Church, the Fox Store and Hotel, a row of houses, a saw mill and the Malzi Butcher Shop. At the hotel they served meals, boarded school teachers, and traveling salesmen and drummers. There was a bar room connected with the hotel. The first hotel was built by Mr. Fox's father. A bigger hotel was built in 1917.

At this time, Dunlo was a thriving town. There were four or five mines in operation and sufficient businesses to meet the needs of the community. The church had a large pavilion where church picnics and big band dances were held on special holidays, Decoration Day and Labor Day. Margaret Fox had charge of the kitchen and planned the meals.

Mr. Fox died in 1948, and Margaret operated the hotel on her own from then until 1965.

Margaret Fox was an accomplished horse woman and thought nothing of driving a team of spirited horses to Johnstown. She was an active church worker and liked to play cards. She still was playing cards at one hundred years of age. She liked to travel and went to New York and to Florida when she was ninety years old. Her daughter Agnes, a retired nurse, was her favorite traveling companion.

"It was never like this when I went to school" (Johnstown newspaper article by Lou McCready) when Margaret Fox decided, at the age of ninety-two, to attend the "Traveling Abroad" lectures of the UPJ Community Cultural Series. Of course, she was commenting on the new classroom facilities of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as compared with

the schools she attended as a child. She was especially impressed with the seating and excellent lighting. She attended five of the six lectures but missed the last one because of bad weather. Dr. Sheep and Miss Susan Erdmann, who were the leaders, were very much disappointed at her absence.

At ninety-five, Margaret Fox, after five years of retirement from her hotel business, was still sprightly, walked unaided, had a sharp memory, and was a good conversationalist on present day issues. She attributed her long and productive life to hard work.

An open house at the former Fox Hotel and a birthday party at the home of her grandson in Bedford was the way she celebrated her one hundredth birthday.

Margaret Fox died October 30, 1977 at the age of one hundred two.

Salix and Elton

The history of Salix probably dates to the early 1800's, to be precise, May 1, 1817. The name "Salix" is a botanical term for willow; at one time willow trees were very abundant in the area. Before the name of Salix was arrived at, the town had three names: Adamsburg, Dundee and Farmersville. Although Salix is now in Adams Township, Cambria County, it had been included in two other counties, Cumberland and Bedford; and in three other townships, Richland, Conemaugh and Quemahoning. It seems on May 1, 1817, Jacob Stull, Jr. was the first to settle his family here on 451 acres of a Revolutionary War land grant which he had purchased. The same year John Kring bought a property nearby known as the Moses Kring property. Since both of these families came from Elton (and our women pioneers as well) we will describe that community in this section, too.

The post office in Salix was opened early in 1888 when it was announced that the name Salix would be used. The name was suggested by Dr. Frank Livingston, a local resident, who saw the name on a bottle of "Salix Niagoraments." Soon after the post office opened, a railroad was built through the town. In 1896 the former Salix Telephone Company was incorporated, the same year in which electricity was introduced here.

Salix, today, is a comfortable mixture of old and new. It is surrounded by rolling farm lands and offers a beautiful view of

the mountains. Most of the houses lining the main thoroughfare, Route 160 or Adams Avenue, are old; one dates to 1880. Also along the main street are several businesses: a bank, a school, a garage, a funeral home and a small store. Nearby, there are at least two housing developments. The market is a gathering place for townspeople. From here, on a clear day, one can see all the way to Ebensburg. Mrs. Andrykovitch says, "It's just home," and people agree with her.

Elton is a small village lying along Route 756, just a short distance from Johnstown. It, likewise, had its beginnings in the early 1800's when the pioneer Stull and Kring families settled before moving on to Salix. The main road passes through the town. There are a number of businesses and a mixture of old and new houses. I remember my mother and I visiting her friend, Rosie Murphy, who had moved with her husband from South Fork to Elton when they inherited Mr. Murphy's old home at the death of his parents.

The pioneer women who came to the Elton-Salix area, and whose biographies follow, are Magdalena Fye who married George Kring and Savilla Kring Poling.

Material taken from article in the *Tribune Democrat* by Heather Sutherland Johnson, "Trio Uncovers Past in Salix" (Rosalie Chestnutwood, Judy Probert and Carole Wolfhope)
From Sea to Shining Sea

Magdalena Fye Kring

Magdalena's story is a romantic one. We only know she was born in Lehigh County of a good family who had emigrated from Saxony, Germany where she had been born. Although we know little of her childhood or early education, she had concerned and loving parents as you will read later.

George Kring came to Woodbury Township in 1785. He made friends with Conrad Fye, lived in his home for some time, and set up his shoemaking business. He started to work the land of Breston Newkomer because he paid the taxes on the land. This suited George, but he wanted to meet the right woman and get married. Conrad Fye told him about a relative living in Lehigh County who had a beautiful daughter who would make him an ideal wife. George traveled to the home of the relatives with a letter of introduction. He met Magdalena, who *was* beautiful,

and fell in love with her. Her parents had heard of the Krings, and knew George's father had crossed the ocean with their relative, Vallentin Fye. They were pleased that Magdalena could meet such a nice young man of German background. The proper time was taken for the courtship, the engagement was announced, and they were married in 1787.

After the wedding, plans were made for the return trip to Bedford. Magdalena's parents, being reluctant to see her leave, decided to pack their belongings and move to Morrison's Cove in Bedford County. Magdalena's mother, since her daughter was so young, wanted to help her to set up and run a good German home, and to be near when children began to arrive. The names of Magdalena's parents are not known; but it is believed they are buried in Salix Cemetery.

By 1803 George and Magdalena had ten children. George heard tales of land situated across the mountain nearly 40 miles away. There was much timber, the soil was rich, and very few people had settled in the area. A small community was forming about seven miles from the place which George had in mind. Of course, the settlement was that of Joseph Johns—Johnstown.

In 1806 George Kring moved his family of wife and ten children to Elton. Several other families now moved to the Elton area: the Jacob Stull family, the Jacob Fye family and the Conrad Fye family. It is said Magdalena's children played with the Indian children. George Kring became lay leader of the Evangelical work in the Elton area. He and Magdalena had thirteen children in all. The first grandchild came in 1813. By 1840 all the children had married and left home. If all the grandchildren were counted, they would have numbered close to 100.

This is all we hear of Magdalena Fye Kring, except it is believed she is buried in the Salix cemetery.

Savilla Kring Poling

Savilla Kring was the first licensed woman evangelist of the Evangelical denomination; her evangelical heritage goes back to 1806 when her great grandfather, George Kring, became a member of the church. In fact, the church services were held in the Kring's and Stull's homes until a new church was built.

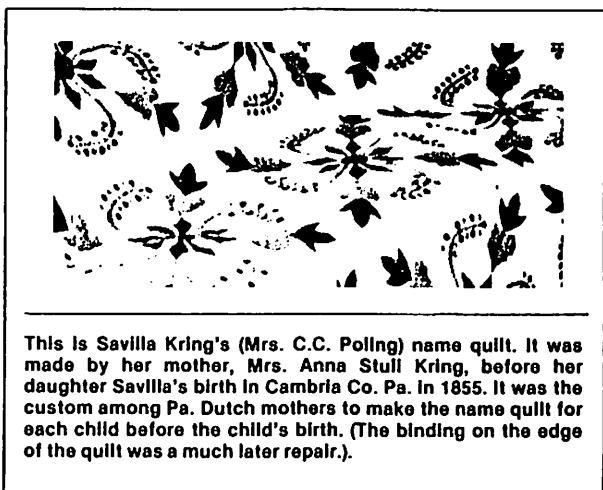
She was born on May 23, 1856 in Richland Township. Besides teaching school in Johnstown, she was a well-known soprano soloist. In 1881, as President James Garfield lay dying from an assassin's gun, he asked for a beautiful young woman evangelist to sing for him. Savilla Kring sang for him, "I'm the child of a King."

As the daughter of an itinerant preacher, she traveled and lived in different areas of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Her mother, Anna Stull Kring, who was Pennsylvania Dutch, made Savilla's name quilt, as was the custom of this folk. This is the picture of Savilla's name quilt.

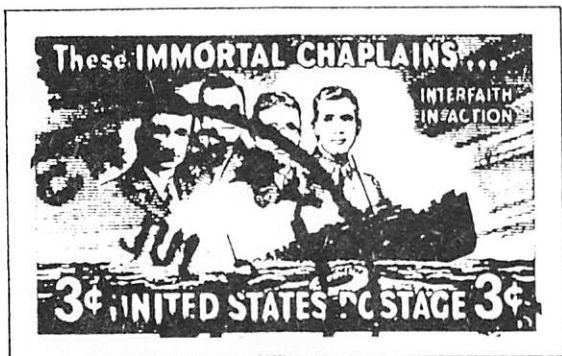
In September 1882, she married Rev. Charles C. Poling of Johnstown. Her husband was the son of Rev. Daniel S. Poling and Susan Pownall of South Fork.

Savilla Kring Poling was active in Women's Missionary Service, being a featured speaker at the 1883 General Church Convention.

The Polings had nine children, three of whom entered the ministry. Their son, Daniel, became famous as a leader in the Christian Endeavor. Savilla, also, was the grandmother of the Rev. Clark V. Poling, who, with three other chaplains, drowned in World War II when the U.S.S. Dorchester was torpedoed and sank. The chaplains had given their life jackets to four soldiers when there were not enough jackets as the order came to aban-



This is Savilla Kring's (Mrs. C.C. Poling) name quilt. It was made by her mother, Mrs. Anna Stull Kring, before her daughter Savilla's birth in Cambria Co. Pa. in 1855. It was the custom among Pa. Dutch mothers to make the name quilt for each child before the child's birth. (The binding on the edge of the quilt was a much later repair.)



don ship. A United States commemorative stamp was issued to honor the four chaplains.

Savilla Kring Poling died August 4, 1937.

Scalp Level

Scalp Level Borough, located in the extreme south of Cambria County, extends along the Somerset County line. Early on, it was a small village devoted primarily to farming and lumbering. Jacob Eash who was the first settler, came from Germany around 1835 and erected a two-room log cabin home along Paint Creek. This home was sold to Carl Henry Veil who established a tannery. His son, J. H. Veil, was a squire in the village; some of his descendants still live in the borough.

Many stories exist about how the town got its name. It seems likely to derive from the topography of being a narrow strip of land between the high hills. The provincial expression "skelp" meant a "leveling off;" for a time the town was called "Skelp Level." Mr. Eash, returning to his land, came to the men clearing the underbrush, and said, "Boys, skelp this level," meaning to cut close to the ground.

In 1893, J. S. Cunningham came to the area and was responsible for much of the future of the town. He was a representative for the Berwind White Company of Philadelphia. As he bought and leased land and rights, the company established its first office and opened up Mine #30. Business boomed, attracting large numbers of workers to mine the coal as well as merchants, hotels and stores to meet their needs.

Scalp Level was, around the turn of the century, a terminal point on the old Scalp Level-Johnstown Turnpike. It was common, in those days, for residents, including women, to work out their taxes by crushing rocks for the roadbeds with flexible-handled tools called knappers.

Around 1900, artists came to Scalp Level to paint. C. S. Reinhart, August Will, and Roger Davis are names in the literature, and one woman's name was included. We believe that one local woman artist, Helen Price, did paint in the area.

Prominent early families were J. F. Kneff, owner of the Mountain House Hotel, John Estep, owner of the Miners Home Hotel, Jacob Fox, operator of a meat market, E. L. Mahan, flour, feed and grain merchant, and S. Driggs, flour miller.

Our pioneer heroine for Scalp Level is Mary Jane Buchanan Veil. Her biography follows.

Mary Jane Buchanan Veil

Written by her daughter and great grand-daughter

Mary Jane Buchanan Veil was born October 1, 1850. Her father was David Wesley Buchanan and her mother Elizabeth (Crocket) Gahagen. The family lived on a farm in Shade Township, Somerset County. Mary Jane married John Veil on June 4, 1874.

After the death of David Buchanan, the farm was sold and her mother, Elizabeth, and two unmarried daughters, Louise



and Maggie, moved to Scalp Level probably to be close to Mary Jane. Elizabeth immediately became postmistress at Scalp Level, and after her death, her daughter, Maggie, became postmistress.

Scalp Level in the early days was the summer shelter living haven for Pittsburgh artists. It was a village of about fifteen houses reached from Johnstown by wagon over dirt road a distance of about nine miles. This is how Paint received its name.

The artists sketched along Paint Creek and many stayed at the Veil home. Board and room in those days cost \$5.00 a week. They often brought in big platters of chicken and apologized because the butcher hadn't come that day.

Grandmother and Grandfather Veil had a home that was very unique. It was built so there was access to a porch from every room and bedroom. The home had seventeen rooms at one time. Grandmother, also, had a large hearth oven for baking bread in a rear kitchen area.

My mother, Mary Veil Miller, tells of preparing meals for travelers. Grandmother would go to the chicken house and kill and dress the chicken, prepare a huge dinner for guests in a short period of time.

Mother said Grandfather Veil became upset one day when she and Grandmother took scrub buckets and cleaned his office at the tannery and harness shop. He stated, "Grandmother and mother would need scrub buckets when they got to heaven to be satisfied because they were always cleaning." Grandfather was Justice of the Peace and had many cases at the home so needless to say Grandmother was a particular housekeeper.

Grandmother knit many sweater and socks for the Red Cross during World War I, to be given to the soldiers. The socks were made on a knitting machine and had to have the heels and toes hand knit. She loved to knit.

I remember going to Grandmother's once a week in summers to scrub and clean all five porches. Preparing buckets of soapy water, wiping all the banisters, scrubbing the porch floors, and rinsing all with clear water. I had to help Grandmother and her sister Aunt Maggie (Margaret Buchanan), who made her home with Grandmother, to put all the porch furniture in place, hang the swing and place the pads and cushions. They sat for hours on the front porch in the shade of huge trees along Main Street and chatted with many neighbors and friends when they walked past.

I vividly recall Aunt Maggie and Grandmother's ginger cookies. I usually was treated to a large soft ginger cookie and milk in Grandmother's kitchen. Then Aunt Maggie would say, "Come to my kitchen and I'll give you cookies, Mary Jane's are good but I think mine are a little tastier this time." Grandmother and Aunt Maggie each had their own kitchen. I guess one kitchen would not have been big enough for two such cooks.

Grandmother was kept busy making clothing for herself and her family of five children. She also found time to make beautiful quilts. Many people who traveled would stop for a night's lodging and meals. Grandmother would set two large dining room tables in the two dining rooms with white linen table cloths and napkins, silver and china and serve sumptuous meals.

There was a beautiful parlor, only used for guests. It contained tapestry upholstered furniture, a lovely gateleg table and piano.

Grandmother and Grandfather's home was also a place of worship for their family and neighbors when the Methodist circuit rider pastors came. Mother relates stories of a Pastor Dosh, who would come on horseback and stay over night to conduct a service. Grandmother would prepare a meal for their guest. Pastor Dosh was a very large man and he would place a serving dish at his plate and consume the whole thing. He also did the same with a serving dish of jelly. Pastor Dosh would go to South Fork from Scalp Level for his next pastoral stop.

In later years my mother said she would accompany Grandmother to Johnstown to shop, traveling by street car. My mother continued to reside in the homestead and owned three adjoining homes.

Many of the artists from Pittsburgh didn't return to Scalp Level after the 1889 flood. The discovery of coal and the railroad tracks through the village spoiled much of the area for painting.

The following is a list of some of the artists from Pittsburgh who stayed at the Veil's:

Douglas Naylor
Albert F. King
John Beatty
Martin B. Leisser
Bryan Wall
Miss Olive Turner

Horatio Stevenson
George Hetzel
George Layng
Fred Bussman
Joseph Woodwell.

Information from a book, *Time and Progress Destroys Attractions of Scalp Level*, by Douglas Naylor, 1932–1937, was the source for artist's names.

The flood of 1977 destroyed the Veil home, many others, and the church in Scalp Level.

Written by Joane Miller Zane, Great-granddaughter of Mary Jane Buchanan Veil, Granddaughter of Ralph L. Veil and daughter of Mary Veil Miller, who resides with me at 117 Theatre Drive, Johnstown, Pa. Mother will celebrate her 89th birthday on August 25, 1988.

South Fork

The borough of South Fork is in the southwestern part of Cambria County about ten miles northeast of Johnstown. It is in Croyle Township and many deeds say it is located on the south fork of the Conemaugh Creek. It was first called the village of South Fork and then South Fork Borough. Early on, it sometimes was referred to as Stineman Town.

Generally speaking, South Fork refers to the entire area, and inclusions are Fifficktown, Ehrenfeld, and Rockville. Included within these boundaries are some areas with their own identities such as Bealtown and Sunshine.

Early settlers were the Stinemans, Joseph Croyle, David R. Lamb, Thomas Keelan, Dr. A. A. Pringle, George Lamb, and John Baker.

Coal mining and then its inception as a railroad center caused South Fork to become a "boom" town almost overnight. (Prior to the 1870's, the stores supplying South Fork customers were in Summerhill.) Buildings sprang up anywhere a site could be found. Landscaping did not enter the picture except where there was an affluent owner. Houses were built on the hillsides. Hotels and boarding houses were built throughout the community. However, Railroad Street, opposite the main lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was the business district. There were ten hotels located in this general area, and some sixty plus

businesses. Some women had businesses in these early days. Mrs. Thomas H. Wicks, Miss Molly Keelan and Mrs. Clarence Farber ran the millinery stores. Catherine Keelan operated a grocery store. Mrs. John Blewett had a confectionery store. Rella Shank operated a beauty shop for shampooing, manicuring, scalp treatments, and so forth. Alita Schofield operated Schofield's Restaurant on Main Street, a very good place to eat and to hold parties and banquets. McCarthy's Inn was operated by Mary McCarthy. There was a cut-rate drug store operated by Minnie Sanders. Laura Reighard and Josephine LaRocca had beauty shops.

There were some ten or eleven hotels in early South Fork and of these, at least two were operated by women. One by a woman by the name of May Crouse whose husband had died early and left the hotel to her. I only remember going to visit with my mother and sitting on a chair for hours when my feet didn't reach the floor, but it was worth it for Mrs. Crouse always served tea and home made cookies before we went home. Another hotel was operated by a wife who managed everything, but with a husband who sat at the big window in a big chair in the hotel lobby. All I can remember seeing him do was sit and talk, smoke a cigar, and catch us kids when we slid down the beautiful bannisters leading from the second floor. The couple were Mr. & Mrs. Frank O'Neill, better known as Big Poppy and Big Mommy—he was big in size but she was big in calibre—no grandpa or grandma for them. Big Mommy was distantly related to my father, through the McGuires, and would "baby sit" me while my mother went to Johnstown shopping or to attend meetings. I loved it because I got to eat in the big hotel dining room and there always was soup with those little round oyster crackers. There was a son who lived in Pittsburgh, three daughters, one Lucy, who taught first grade, and two other daughters, Margaret and Mary, also teachers.

My mother came to South Fork when she married my father. She had been a teacher in St. Louis, Missouri, and Zita Durbin, one of the local teachers, loved to tell how everyone who stayed at the Arlington Hotel was curious to meet the new bride. The bride wore a gray skirt and a white satin blouse with leg-of-mutton sleeves. It was prophesied that she wouldn't continue to dress like that in this coal town, or maybe even remain. No houses were available for rent or sale and my parents lived at the Hotel for about two years before they were able to rent a

half house and then five or six years later they were able to buy the property they wanted. My mother soon became active in church work, the railroad lodge, and school activities.

There were several female storekeepers in South Fork mentioned in the introduction. Somewhere along the way, Mrs. Morissey was the manager of the 5 and 10¢ store. Many women clerked in the various stores and there was a female ticket taker at the movie house. S. J. Dolan had the jewelry store and sometimes his wife would help out in the store. Then, too, the local drugstore owner had his wife help in the drug store.

There was a round house and tower for railroad activities, and William Fisher was in charge. The railroad imported him from Everson, and his wife, Mary Florence Carter, was a social leader in the community. She sang and led the church choir and played bridge and had bridge parties with a few of the other ladies in town who knew how to play bridge. More people in town played Five Hundred or Pinochle. Mrs. Fisher had attended Seton Hill, when it was an academy for girls. The Fishers had three daughters and they all were sent to Seton Hill and educated musically; Clara played the harp, Mary the violin, and Pauline the piano. Mary married shortly after graduation; it probably was South Fork's most elaborate wedding.

Mrs. Mary Broad, the second wife of Dr. John Broad, the dentist, was another of South Fork's socialites. She was a former schoolteacher in the South Fork school and came from Hindman. She traveled to Johnstown, played bridge, and drove a car. Her car was electric, it was the only one I ever saw. Everywhere she went, one could recognize her by her broad-brimmed sailor hat.

Alma Hull Bortel was South Fork's outstanding piano teacher. She was a piano teacher for over eighty years. Alma Hull had her first piano lesson at four years of age and started teaching when she was twelve. She took lessons from Hans Roemer of Johnstown and paid for them by scrubbing. I remember her because I have some dishes that belonged to her. She sold enough dishes from her twelve-piece Azalea set to my mother to complete the part of a set which I had.

South Fork had a seamstress, her name was Mrs. Sakele.

Margaret Watterson Kinny was born in South Fork although she married and moved to Johnstown and later became an alderman.

Nita Wicks was a violin teacher and an excellent violinist. Her father had a music store in South Fork and they had an organ in their home. The organ was donated to the Flood Museum. Nita, also, was the Justice of the Peace.

Early on, South Fork had mail girls to deliver the mail. They were Pearl, Clifford, McDonald, and later her sister, Freda. There were two daily deliveries of the mail.

Mrs. Laura (Wicks) Diamond, the wife of South Fork's Mortician, was very active in the Auxiliary to the fire company.

Edith L. (Topper) Biesinger was active in the American Legion, both local and state. She was the first President of the Auxiliary in South Fork, president of the Cambria County Auxiliary, and a director in 1934. She also was active in the P.T.A.

Since the Stinemans were the founders of South Fork, a word should be said about the Stineman wives. However, very little is available except names and who married whom. George B., along with his brother Jacob C., were the founders of South Fork. Martha Paul was the wife of George B. They had the first house in South Fork, which was washed away by the flood. Jacob C. was a successful politician and became senator. His wife was Ella Varner. They had eight children; one daughter, Nettie Mae, who married Dr. George A. Slick. I can't remember why my mother sent me to take something to Mrs. Slick. I remember, she had difficulty walking and used a cane—it probably was arthritis. My mother couldn't understand what took me so long but Mrs. Slick was showing me her lovely china and cut glass, even then I must have expressed my liking for pretty dishes.

Mrs. Barbara Johnson was a licensed midwife with a state certification. She took care of mothers in South Fork and the surrounding area. She would be on a case nine to ten days and would do the laundry for the mother and baby. She charged five dollars a day for all her services. She, also, took care of patients during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

I mentioned at the start of this section that women in South Fork did many unusual things, and, I think, this is a commanding list. I'm sure, there were many others whose names were not suggested.

For outstanding women of South Fork, the following biographies have been submitted: Emma Ehrenfeld, Catherine Ann (Corrigan) Gates, Isabelle Nederlander, and Harriet Pearl Ann (Giles) Duncan.

Emma Ehrenfeld, Girl Telegraph Operator Johnstown Flood of 1889

Written by Marie Morgart

As the Johnstown Flood of 1889 developed into the worst disaster of the nation's history, a single, young girl provided a steady source of information and hope to the stricken.

A true heroine, Emma Ehrenfeld gave her life at her post in South Fork as a telegraph operator, ticking out messages and warnings as the flood progressed. Prior to the flood, she had sent telegrams to both Johnstown and Pittsburgh, warning them of the condition of the South Fork dam. The warnings were ignored.

It is possible that few of the flood survivors were aware of the scope of her dedication to duty. The original story was as authentic as an account of that great disaster could be. Written in the year of the flood, Willis Fletcher Johnson's book, "The Johnstown Flood," is a gripping, well-documented tale. In it, Mr. Bender, Western Union's night chief operator, related:

"She said she was telegraphing from the second story and the water was gaining steadily. She was frightened, and said many houses were flooded. This was evidently before the dam broke, for our man here said something encouraging to her, and she was talking back as only a cheerful girl operator can, when the receiver's skilled ear caught a sound on the wire made by no human hand, which told him that the wires had grounded, or that the house had been swept away in the flood from the lake. At three o'clock the girl was there, and at 3:07 we might as well have asked the grave to answer us."

Of course, there were other accounts. According to information provided by the local library, more than fifty histories of the flood have been written since that time.

The story, as told later by others, differs in detail. For example, one author wrote:

"Last message to the Cambria Company's office in Philadelphia:

" 'We cannot reach your office, water immense. Washing over Lincoln Bridge. The house is full, water still coming up and threatening rain.' "

"When she (referring to Emma as Mrs. Ogle) actually received the news of the broken dam, all she had time to do as the

wall of water roared into town was to tick out, "This is my last message.'"

The discrepancy here shows what time can do to a story. According to the earliest report, there was no time to give any such final word.

However, through every available source, it has been agreed that the deed of this girl was incredibly selfless and brave. She has not been forgotten. For example, during the 1976 Bicentennial, in tribute to Emma, she was chosen as the Hidden Heroine of Talus Rock Girl Scout Council.

Emma's birth date seems to be unrecorded, but the date of her death is unmistakable.

Stories of Emma Ehrenfeld and her bravery have had numerous endings, as does the one included above. However, this one I found in the book "The South Fork Story" and I like it best. Here it is.

From *The South Fork Story*, Frank P. Alcamo. 1987, the A. G. Halldin Publishing Company, p. 46.

"The tower operator at South Fork was Miss Emma Ehrenfeld. She was lucky to scramble up the hill before the tower disappeared. Dr. Joseph H. Glass, who had located his practice in South Fork two years earlier, went to rescue her. His deed was rewarded a year later when she became his wife. They had eight children." (A nice ending to a flood story when so many were tragic.)

Catherine Ann (Corrigan) Gates

Information from:

Anne Coulehan, granddaughter
Johnstown Democrat

Catherine Ann (Corrigan) Gates was the daughter of James and Catherine (Condroy) Corrigan and was born in Barton, Maryland; later moved to Monessen. There is no information about her early life or schooling. She was married to John M. Gates, an engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad working out of South Fork. They were the parents of four children, one boy and three girls.

Catherine Gates first became interested in politics about

1924 when she was a member of the Cambria County Democratic organization. She served as president of the Cambria County Women's Democratic organization, and was elected to the State Democratic Executive Committee. In 1933, she was appointed postmaster of the South Fork Post Office, the first woman to be appointed to this position.

She was an active member of the Catholic Daughters of America and of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. She served as president of this latter group.

Catherine Gates died May 23, 1937. Her granddaughter supplied a testimonial to her published by the Johnstown Democrat, and I quote in part:

"Many people will profoundly regret the passing of Mrs. John M. Gates of South Fork for many different reasons. She was more than a person. She was a personality. The Democrats will remember her not simply because of her unswerving friendship for this paper, but because she was a woman who could win and lose in politics like a man—or at least like a man should."

"Mrs. Gates never whimpered when she lost or gloated when she won. If she was knocked over in a political battle today, would get on her feet and start over again tomorrow."

Isabelle (Lipsitz) Nederlander

November 18, 1885—June 13, 1984

The heart of Isabelle Nederlander was as big as the community she served. Where there was a need, she saw it. Whether this involved taking in a delinquent girl or aiding a crippled child, she moved to help. If a church or a synagogue had a problem, or unfortunates needed to be fed, Isabelle was there.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Isabelle moved with her family to the Allentown, Pennsylvania area as a child. She grew up in Catasaqua, where the Pennsylvania Dutch influence, mingled with her Jewish heritage, created her sensitivity to the needs of the community for a lifetime.

Belle, as she was known to family and friends, completed her education and embarked on a career in the business world, starting as a secretary with the Lund and Rothe Ribbon Mills in Allentown. Later, she assumed the total responsibility of the business office. Eventually, she became sales representative re-

sponsible for contracts obtained in New York City, with candy manufacturers and bedroom slipper manufacturers. In that era, ribbon was used to decorate candy boxes and enhance bedroom slippers.

When World War I erupted, Joseph Nederlander, from South Fork, joined with a Johnstown group enlisting in the United States Army Ambulance Corps. The corps was assigned to Camp Crane, in Allentown—where Joe and Belle met.

The Nederlanders were married in 1918 in South Fork, and both were actively involved in Cambria County community life for many years. No church or sectarian organization ever hesitated to call for a worthy cause in the borough of South Fork.

Belle was one of two people in South Fork who had secretarial skills; she was immediately offered a secretarial position by W. I. Stineman, of the Stineman Coal Company, and a senator in the Pennsylvania State Assembly.

After the birth of her fourth child, in 1925, Belle opted to stay at home and rear a family. However, her community involvement continued.

Membership in the Portage Twentieth Century Club was a pleasure to Belle. The group was active in the 20's and provided an opportunity for group discussions, platforms for accomplished speakers and the undertaking of projects for the needy.

In the late 1920's, Belle became president of the Central Cambria County National Council of Jewish Women. The organization, in addition to its commitment to the national council, undertook the responsibility of establishing a Sunday School for Jewish children in the area; there was not a synagogue between Altoona and Johnstown. The Sunday School provided religious training into the 1930s, when automobiles were more prevalent and roads improved to Altoona and Johnstown.

Belle was extremely active in the South Fork Parent-Teacher Association, and a staunch supporter of any parental assistance needed in the South Fork school system. Her interest in local education prompted her to take into her home a homeless, teenage high school dropout. With unending encouragement from Belle, the girl completed her schooling with honors, and entered a successful career in the nursing world. Belle's faith had been fulfilled.

Belle established the first Parent-Teacher study group in South Fork very early in the 30's, and devoted one study group evening to a religious discussion—a daring ecumenical venture

to moderate with guest panelists. These included Reverend Henry J. Latshaw of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Sidman; Attorney George E. Wolfe, a Johnstown attorney who represented Catholicism, and Rabbi Ralph Simon of the Rodef Sholom Congregation in Johnstown.

As an officer of the group, Belle attended classes and took correspondence courses to qualify as an accredited organizer of Parent-Teacher groups throughout the county. Under her leadership in the 30's and early 40's, many groups were organized and thrived.

During the Depression, the "soup kitchen" and related needs were high on her priority list, even though the economic status of her own home was not too stable.

Belle served as a parliamentarian in many women's groups with which she was associated, and shared her knowledge of the procedure with younger women finding their way into women's clubs.

Always a loyal Republican, she dabbled in politics and strongly supported the party candidates, but never became a candidate herself.

With a World War I veteran husband and two sons who were World War II veterans, Belle found it important to be active in auxiliary groups to the veterans' organizations.

In 1945, Belle and her husband moved to Johnstown and continued an active community life. She became significantly involved in the Rodef Sholom Synagogue. Her interest in the congregation, dating back to the 1880s, was vital. She worked dauntlessly to move from the synagogue built in 1904 on Iron Street to Westmont in 1951.

She again became a Council of Jewish Women president, in Johnstown, and enjoyed the opportunity of experiencing new goals of council, 25 years later.

In 1949, Belle became an original member of the board to establish the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, in Cambria County. She organized the first Lily Parade for the society and continued to be a board member for many years with her active interest never waning until shortly before her death.

Isabelle Nederlander lived an active life until June 13, 1984—her interest in community, everlasting.

Harriet Pearl Ann (Giles) Duncan

Prepared by Ruth Duncan Lockard, daughter

Harriet Pearl Ann Giles was born September 26, 1889, at Mifflin, Mifflin County. Her parents were Robert A. Giles and Harriet Joll. Harriet's father came to South Fork and his brothers moved to the same area. They called their settlement Gilestown and it still has this name. They lived close to the Buchinsky family, and Ruth says her mother often referred to playing and going to school with Mary Buchinsky, the mother of Charles Bronson.

Harriet lived at Scott's farm which was five miles from South Fork. She walked to high school every day plus milking six cows before going to school. She graduated in 1906 and there were sixteen students in the class.

This was in the days before college was required for teaching. Graduation from high school and a good character were sufficient in most instances. However, Harriet took a Teachers Certificate Course of six weeks given by Professor Bence. After taking the course, she taught school for two years in a country school, one through eight grades.

Harriet married James Shaw Duncan on July 3, 1908. The couple had seven children, five boys and two girls. When her oldest son graduated in 1925, he was the first student to have a parent graduate from South Fork High School.

Harriet was a charter member of the Y.W.C.A. and served as president several different years. Also, she was president of the Parent Teacher Association for several years, belonged to a Reading Club, and taught Sunday School for fifty years at Wesley United Methodist Church, as well as being Church Secretary-Treasurer for fifty years.

She was the first president of the Women's Society and was president for several years, and served as secretary to help the nurse and doctor with school physical examinations for a number of years.

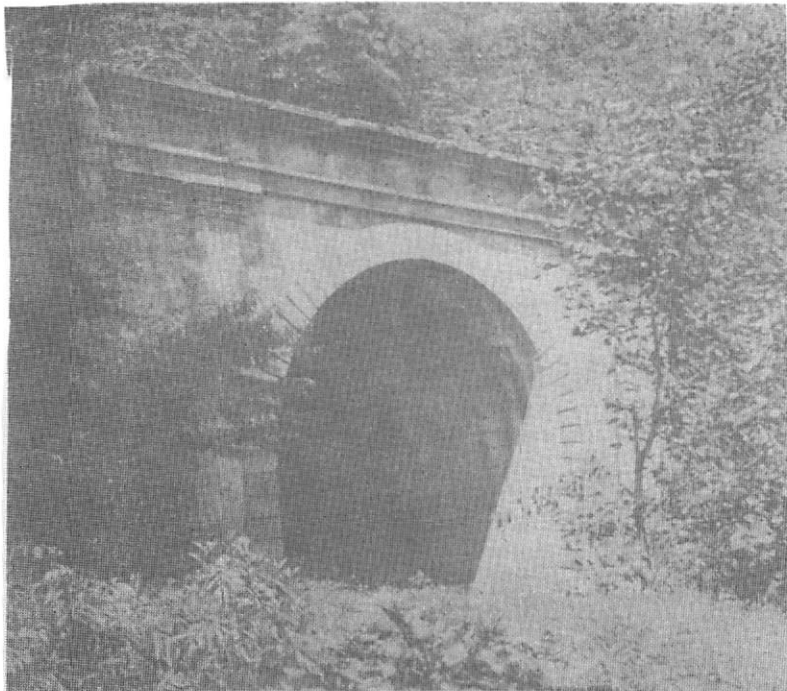
Mrs. Duncan was in the restaurant business in South Fork from 1928-1933. She was camp cook for the Y.W.C.A. summer camp, and also for the Girl Scouts. She was camp cook in Burlington, Virginia, summer camp.

Harriet Pearl Ann (Giles) Duncan died May 4, 1984.

Mineral Point

Mineral Point is in Jackson Township and is a small village owing its existence to the lumber industry, coal mining and the railroad. The famous Staple Bend Tunnel is located in the region. This tunnel, completed in 1834, was a part of the Allegheny-Portage Railroad and is considered to be the oldest railroad tunnel in the United States. It is still in existence and can be reached by car or by hiking.

There must have been pioneer women in this area, probably most of them farmer's wives, but there are no records. We were able to trace one woman pioneer, Susanne Hunt Varner, and her biography follows.



A TOUR OF THIS STAPLE BEND TUNNEL is being planned on Sunday, March 18. This tunnel a part of the Allegheny Portage Railroad completed in 1834 is considered the oldest railroad tunnel in the United States.

Susanna Hunt Varner

Sources of information:

Thomas S. Chappel, grandson

Louise Beckley Varner, granddaughter

Marian Varner, granddaughter

Mrs. Dwight Wicks, niece

Susanna Hunt was the daughter of Elizabeth (Clemenson) Hunt and Henry Hunt. She was born in Jackson Township, March 7, 1842. Her parents were from Yorkshire, England, and there were eight or nine children in the family. Susanna lived on her grandfather's farm. He was a farmer and the old barn and house still is there. Her father worked on the old canal and her brother drove mules on the canal also, so Mrs. Wicks, her niece, tells.

Susanna married Henry Varner and they were the parents of fourteen children, thirteen living. They were strict Methodists. Susanna was said to be a marvelous cook but no cooking was done on Sunday. One informant remembers her great currant preserves, black currant pie, and other English recipes. As was the custom in those days, itinerant preachers traveled to small communities and would have religious service in someone's home. The preacher would stay at the Varner home.

When Susanna's name was submitted, it was stated that she had a lumber business in Mineral Point which later became the Moxham Lumber Company. Her descendants with whom I talked assured me this was not true. Having thirteen living children to care for, plus living on a farm with all its attendant work and responsibility, was certainly a full time job for any woman. However, there was another reason for retelling the story of this woman, she had nine sons and seven of them were in the lumber business in Johnstown, Somerset, Greensburg and Barnesboro. You might say she founded a lumber dynasty in this area. It is interesting to note that Susanna's youngest son and Marian's father, Walter Varner, who headed the Varner Lumber Company, was younger than his oldest nephew. One speculates whether this wholesale move toward the lumber industry was necessity or a mutual contribution from Susanna.

Susanna Hunt Varner died July 12, 1905, as she was attending church at Wesley Chapel. She is buried in Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

Franklin Borough

Franklin Borough, named for Benjamin Franklin, was formed from Conemaugh Township and incorporated in 1868. Early Franklin consisted of a few houses and was linked to East Conemaugh by a bridge. Franklin also was in the path of the flood of 1889 and lost lives and property. After the flood, the Pennsylvania Railroad and steel companies helped to rebuild and develop the area. Now, it is recognized as a depressed area with inadequate funds.

The presence of Bethlehem Steel operations made Franklin Borough the richest borough in the nation at one time. Franklin was featured in Robert L. Ripley of "Believe It or Not" for it had no church or post office.

Franklin was close to Johnstown, had a small population, and had only a few businesses, but some women were there. Mrs. Lizzio had a small grocery operation at the corner of Main Street opposite the mill. An Edythe Good had a small store for a time but one couldn't find its location and she had moved. There was Nancy's Store operated by Nancy L. Joseph, as well as a store owned and operated by Catherine Morrissey. This woman did get around—she had a store and, then, the 5 and 10¢ store in South Fork, and a 5 and 10¢ store in Gallitzin.

Our outstanding woman from this small borough is the mother of Michael Strank.

Martha Grofik Strank

Martha Grofik Strank was born December 21, 1900 to Michael and Mary Grofik in Jarabina, Czechoslovakia. Her daughter says her mother had little formal schooling, which was the custom for most women at that time in history. She married Charles Strank in November, 1918 in her homeland. Their first child, Michael, was born a year later there. Mr. Strank came to the United States first, staying in Woodvale Heights with his uncle who had assumed responsibility for his passage, and had a job ready for him. Martha and their son came two years later when her husband had earned the money for their passage. In July of 1922 they settled in Franklin. Martha received her U.S. citizenship in 1941.

There were three other children, John, Peter and Mary. Mary says her mother was hard-working and industrious. Charles

was a miner, and her life centered around her husband and his job.

It must have been a proud day for this mother when she knew her Marine son, Michael, had been part of the team to raise the United States flag on Mount Suribachi when Iwo Jima was taken back from Japan.

East Conemaugh Borough

East Conemaugh Borough was incorporated in 1868 out of East Taylor Township. It also was called Conemaugh Station, then Sylvania, and then East Conemaugh to distinguish it from Old Conemaugh Borough now part of the city of Johnstown.

With the coming of the Pennsylvania Railroad through town, it developed into a railroad center. A roundhouse, tracks and locomotives filled the train yards. It was this section which was wiped out by the flood of 1889.

Almost all the women in East Conemaugh were wives of railroaders, steel workers, or miners. The women led busy lives and had little or no time to work outside of the home. A large influx of immigrants to work on the railroad meant monies could be re-inforced by taking in boarders to supplement family or individual incomes.

East Conemaugh Borough's distinguished citizen was Ella Kinny Kearns—Conemaugh Centenarian—teacher—politician—wife—and mother.

Mrs. Ella M. Kearns

1874–1976

Picture with Eleanor Roosevelt at the Democratic Convention in Johnstown in 1958 at the Fort Stanwix Hotel.

Ella Kinney Kearns was born in Conemaugh, lived there during the 1889 Flood, and spent most of the remainder of her life in the community. She was active in her church, in the community, in politics, and in a large number of organizations. Some of these were the Conemaugh and Johnstown Democratic Clubs, the Auxiliary of the railroad lodge (her husband was an engineer working out of Conemaugh), Red Cross, Board of Mothers' Assistance, Soldiers Canteen during World War II, Catholic Daughters of America, her church organizations, and her



daughter, Mary Kathryn told me, "Any other group that needed volunteers." Perhaps her volunteerism was accounted for by her admitted dislike of housework.

My informant, Mrs. Kearns's daughter, Mary Kathryn, remembers her mother telling of her experience at the time of the flood when she was 14 years old. The following was taken from a tape recording as Mrs. Kearns, herself, told her story of the day of the '89 Flood for the *Conemaugh Franklin Borough History 1868-1968*.

"It was a gloomy day, May 31, 1889; rain had fallen for several hours. The river had risen and we were all worried at home. My sister, Annie, worked in the John Kelly store in Franklin and the bridge between East Conemaugh and Franklin was unsafe to cross. About 10:00 A.M. my mother

sent my sister Annie to Mrs. McKim's house to tell her to come to the Kinney's home. Her home was situated close to the river, but she wouldn't believe the river had risen. About noon my mother sent me to Mrs. McKim's home to advise her that she was in great danger since she was close to the river and the Pennsylvania Railroad shops. It was just about 25 feet from the river bank. When I went, Mrs. McKim was trying with the aid of some shop men to carry her furniture to where they thought it would be safe. I helped her pack in a clothes basket several boxes with bedding, underwear and many articles that she treasured. At this time, a lady friend of Mrs. McKim was visiting her by the name of Mrs. Sample. When Mrs. McKim decided to go with me, I said to Mrs. Sample that she had better put on her overshoes. While she was sitting down to put them on and Mrs. McKim and I picked up the clothes basket she had packed and started out the door, the whistle began to blow. We had gone about 50 feet to the fence; and since there was no gate, I climbed over and turned around to help Mrs. McKim who was close to me. But they had drifted quite a distance and only their heads were visible.

"I then ran up a pair of steps, and an empty engine was standing there, I climbed on the engine, looked around; and seeing no one, jumped down from the engine, ran across the foot bridge and came out at the United Brethren Church at the corner of First and Main Streets in Conemaugh. The first person I met was a neighbor boy of ours, a Frank Walkinshaw. The last house I remember seeing going down in the flood was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Shaffer. I still remember seeing the plain red curtains at the window. When I came to my senses, I thought of my people, so I ran up First Street to my house and hurried into the house. The first one I saw was a Mr. McGovern who had been left at my house. He lived in the lower part of the town and his people, knowing the water was very deep at their place, brought him to our house for safety. He was sitting where they put him, as he was a cripple and used crutches to walk and was very hard of hearing. Then I ran to the other side of our house, which was a double house, where my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kinney, lived. My grandfather, who was also a cripple and used crutches to walk, was sitting in the kitchen not

knowing anything happened. My grandmother was walking up the alley wondering what had happened. I found out later that my people, my mother and three sisters, had left the home when the alarm was given and had started to the hills. A neighbor girl, Mary Walkinshaw, went with them. My mother afterwards told us that she thought it was the Day of Judgment and that they knelt down and said a prayer asking God to keep them safe. They reached the home of a Mrs. Headrick where they stayed awhile and left for home. My brother, Harry Kinney, was a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad. He was called that morning to help a train to Gallitzin and was on the engine when the dam broke but escaped by running up the hill to safety. By evening all of our family was home safe.

“Many families who had lost their homes came to our place to stay until they found homes. Among the families were the McGuires, Hollisters, Humphries, Berkibles, Goffs, and many others. There was also a priest bound for New York who was a passenger on the train which was lost in the flood. I was often taken to the different morgues to see if I could identify the bodies of Mrs. McKim and Mrs. Sample; but as far as I know, their bodies were never found.”

Following the flood, the borough immediately began its clean-up program. A new bridge opposite Oak Street was planned, new houses had to be constructed, the houses which had been up-rooted from their foundations were placed upright and put on foundations higher up on the hill side, the U.B. Church (whose steps had been washed away) was used as a morgue and commissary for awhile, a relief committee was formed, a finance committee was also formed, and the people whose homes had been washed away were exonerated from paying taxes during the year.

Following the flood, the family moved to Windber in 1898. Ella Kinny married Thomas I. Kearns and returned to take up residence at 112 Main Street in 1901. The couple had five children. The eldest daughter, Mary Kathryn, lived at home and still resides in the old homestead.

Mrs. Kearns, a former school teacher, taught in Franklin Borough, Conemaugh, Mineral Point and Jackson Township. She was one of the oldest registered voting democrats in Cambria

County and was a democratic committeewoman for years. She was 84 in 1958 when the Federation of Democratic Women met in Johnstown and was honorary convention chairman. Five hundred women attended the convention along with democratic leaders. Among them were Governor Leader and Genevieve Blatt, State Secretary of Internal Affairs, and Eleanor Roosevelt. The picture at the beginning of this biography was taken by the Johnstown paper and was the highlight of the convention for Mrs. Kearns, even though she extended greetings as honorary chairman. She really "dolled up" for the occasion but perhaps the evening dress was her daughter's idea, because Mrs. Kearns usually wore very tailored clothing in muted tones.

Mrs. Kearns died at the age of 101—after a century of living that few equal. She rightly deserves the title of one of Conemaugh's Pioneer Women.

Information from:

Written records—Johnstown Tribune

Interview with daughter, Mary Kathryn, and other children of Mrs. Kearns

Johnstown

Johnstown's corporate history dates from January 12, 1831 when the name Conemaugh Old Town was abandoned and the community was chartered as Conemaugh Borough. Three years later the name again was changed to Johnstown Borough in honor of the founder Joseph Schantz (anglicized to Johns) by act of the General Assembly. Johnstown is located in the western part of Cambria County. When territory in this area opened for settlement by the treaty of Fort Stanwix, land tracts were patented by Charles Campbell, James Daughery and William Barr. The Campbell tract was the site for Johnstown and was bought by an Amish farmer, Joseph Schantz (Joseph Johns), who plotted the plans for the first settlement.

The valleys of the Conemaugh River and the Stony Creek which meet in Johnstown are V-shaped; but at the base, the valley bottoms are flat. It was here the city of Johnstown had its beginning. Joseph Johns built a log cabin and barn in the area between Vine and Levergood Streets. He hoped his land would become the county seat, and he began to lay out his town. Lots sold for \$10, plus an annual fee of \$1. Evidences of his planning

still remain in the Central Park and a parade ground, now the Point Stadium. His near neighbors, also farmers, were Jacob Leer, Peter Goughnour, Jacob and Abraham Good and David Stutzman.

The settlement became well-known because it was on the highway between Bedford and Pittsburgh. When Ebensburg was chosen as the county seat, Joseph Johns sold his property and moved to a farm near Davidsville.

Some of the early pioneers were William Hartley, Dr. John Anderson, Peter Levergood, George Brenizer, Thomas B. Will, Robert Hamilton, Daniel Huber and John Dibert.

Biographies, although limited, of the women in the life of Joseph Johns, his wife, and his sister, are included at the end of this section.

One cannot discuss Johnstown without mentioning the great 1889 flood. The tragedy occurred May 31, 1889. Floods were not new to Johnstown, for almost every Spring there was flooding; there were records of seven floods between 1880 and 1888. Early on there were the "pumpkin floods," so-called because of the large amount of vegetables, especially pumpkins, which floated in from outlying areas. However, in 1889, because of the bursting of the South Fork dam, the result was complete disaster and destruction. Flood waters fifty feet deep, a mile wide, and three miles long roared down through the valley, traveling fifteen miles to the city of Johnstown and the Stone Bridge there. From the bridge the water backed up into Hornerstown and surrounding neighborhoods, increasing the extent of the damage. Some 2200 bodies were found in the debris; 770 unidentified persons are buried in a special plot in Grandview Cemetery. Fire also raged at the Stone Bridge until Sunday evening. The flood catastrophe was the first such happening to be broadcast over the new telegraph wire service in the United States, and so attracted nationwide and worldwide attention.

A Mrs. Masterson explained how she, her husband, and little girl ran to the attic to escape the water. She suddenly became aware that the house had been lifted from its foundation, and was wrapped with electric and telegraph wires. They were rescued the next morning; Mrs. Masterson said that, of the twenty or thirty houses around them, she believed theirs was the only one not crushed or overturned. Material taken from Centennial Reports, May/June 1988, Vol. 2 No. 3

In other sections of this book, there are additional stories of women and their experiences in the flood.

Biographies are included for the following:

Mary Anna Frances Ruth
Frainie Holly Johns
Frainie Johns Crisner
Catherine El Hash Obeid George
Catherine Reiser

Mary Anna Frances Ruth

Our lady was christened "Anna Frances;" but, for some reason unknown, she named herself "Mary." Mary Ruth came to America with her mother who was about twenty-two and her young sister, Barbara, who was handicapped. Barbara was very ill and almost died on the voyage over. This was about 1870; it had to be a brave woman to come alone to America in Mary Ruth's situation. She had been born August 10, 1845, in Bavaria.

The period of 1872-79 was a time of religious suppression in Germany, the purpose being to crush the Catholic church to make a German state church. Priests were arrested, Catholic schools closed, and religious orders expelled from the country. "Listening In" column, *The Catholic Register*, March 17, 1959, by Msgr. Matthew Smith. Sebastian Ruth, with Joseph and Conrad Nees, Erhart Zane, Bernard Nees, and Mary Ruth's brother, George Krueger, had come to America sometime between 1872 and 1879 to escape conscription into the German army under Otto von Bismarck. Later, Mr. Ruth returned to his homeland for his father and mother and brother, Andrew.

Other siblings in her family were George Krueger, Frances Krueger Elsesser and Anthony. Mary had married Karl Sebastian Ruth in 1867 in Bavaria. Her granddaughter, Magdalene Tickerhoff, explained they were childhood sweethearts.

Mr. Ruth proceeded to have his brother-in-law, George Krueger, build a large three-story structure for him on Clinton Street. George Krueger was a contractor who was involved in building St. Joseph's school, and the convent, as well as repairing St. Joseph's Church after it burned. Mr. Ruth died in May 1901 before the building was paid off and Mary Ruth took over with the help of her son James. Before the death of her hus-

band, Mary Ruth had a room for sewing on the second floor. She was a skilled seamstress, having been taught by her mother who had been a seamstress for a castle in Aschaffenburg in Germany. On the rest of the second floor was an apartment for Mrs. Ruth's sister, Mathilda. The third floor was rented to a dentist. On the ground floor was Ruth's wallpaper and paint store as well as several other tenants, Leuns Clothing Place being one tenant.

At the time of the flood, the family lived on Locust Street. The flood waters came straight through the area where they lived and the side of the house was washed away. Father Ruth told all to join hands, Mary Ruth, his wife, Mathilda, Margaret, James, Leo, and Clara, and "all would go together." Thankfully, the house held, and they were rescued. However, Mary Ruth's sister, Anna Frances Elsesser, her husband and two children were swept away by the flood waters, observed by the Ruths just across the street from the Elsesser's hardware store. After the flood, the Ruths lived in a house in Geistown, as everything was filled up in Johnstown.

Mrs. Ruth and family belonged to St. Joseph's Church when it was located on Singer Street.

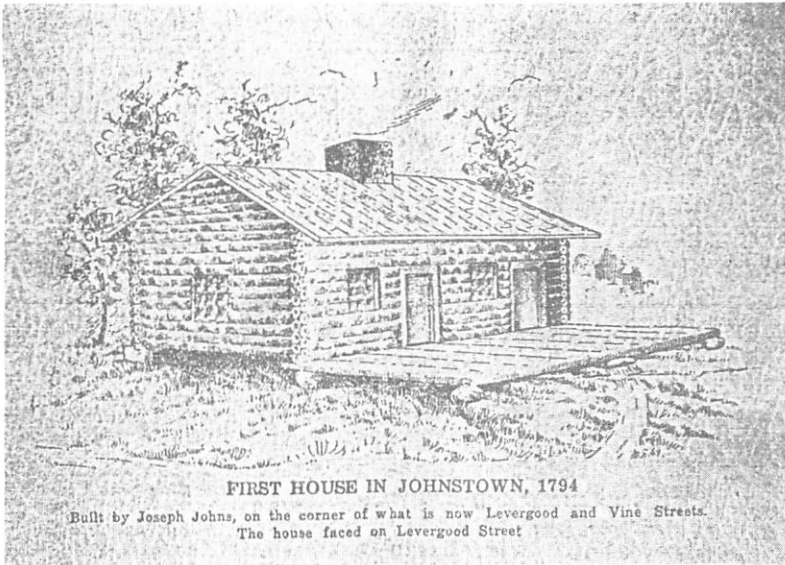
Her sister, Mathilda, thought it would be nice if they went in a surrey to visit relatives in Carrolltown. Mary Ruth died suddenly while driving to Carrolltown on June 27, 1910.

Frainie (Holly) Johns

This is the house in Johnstown, where Frainie Johns, wife of Joseph Johns, set up housekeeping, at the corner of Levergood and Vine Streets. Information is sketchy about the women in Joseph Johns' life, his wife and his sister.

Shortly after coming to Berks County from Switzerland, Joseph Johns, then about nineteen, and Frainie Holly were married. Frainie was born March 27, 1757, probably in Berks County. It is likely she would have been Amish because of the association with the county. There is no mention of her parents, her early life or her schooling. The name Frainie was spelled originally as Frainie, but later spellings are Frany, Franie, Vronie and Farinie.

Frainie and her husband first came to live on a farm near Berlin in Somerset County, then sold it to buy, in 1793, the Campbell tract of land on which most of Johnstown was situ-



ated. At that time it was a forest; as late as 1828, the part west of Market and Vine Streets was woods.

In the fall of 1793 Joseph Johns erected for his wife, son and himself a log house at the corner of Vine and Levergood Streets. The cabin was a nice house for that time in history, and was the first house in Johnstown. The structure was sixteen feet by thirty-two feet, equally divided into two rooms. There was a chimney in the partition between the two rooms with an opening into both sides. On the kitchen side was a crane and a Dutch oven where Frainie did their cooking and baking. Water had to be carried from a spring down the bank from the house and near the Stonycreek River. The second room served all the rest of their needs. The barn stood between what is now Bedford and Levergood Streets. Surrounding the house was the orchard; only a small portion of the whole tract was cleared. Frainie was a typical pioneer and farmer's wife, so her chores included washing, cooking, sewing, weaving cloth and more. She must have helped on the farm, for they raised their own grain to have it ground at a water mill near Franklin and Washington Streets, or at another mill in the Coopersdale area. Salt was brought in from the east side of the Allegheny mountains. They

made their own sugar; Frainie spun flax which she wove into cloth for their clothing. Their son, Joseph Johns II, told how he had to keep the squirrels and crows out of the corn fields. He was in deadly fear of black snakes which were numerous.

There were no churches, schools or stores for some time after the family settled here. Their neighbors were Leers, Goughnours, Goods, and Stutzman; all were farmers, as was Joseph Johns.

Joseph Johns was five feet tall and weight 175 pounds. Frainie was said to be a large woman; her weight is not recorded. She was most content to live a retiring life; in later years she preferred to knit, quilt, prepare flax and make clothes. Joseph Johns III has two small balls of linen thread which she spun from flax and dyed. It still is very strong, even, and without flaws.

Frainie had five children; two sons, David and Joseph, and three daughters, Barbara, Vronie and Sarah.

Frainie Johns is buried beside her husband in a private cemetery located on a knoll on the farm he purchased from Jacob Stover to which he moved from the house on Levergood and Vine Streets. The inscription on her tombstone says simply, "Franev Johns, Died December 15, 1833 Aged 76 years, 8 months, 18 days."

Source:

The Joseph Johns Family History, 1768-1970

Frainie Johns Crisner

Frainie Johns Crisner, the sister of Joseph Johns, came with him from Switzerland when he was nineteen. Present descendants know nothing of their ancestors or even from what part of Switzerland they came. Joseph and his sister were the only members of the family to come to the New World.

Joseph and Frainie first located in Berks County. Frainie married Joseph Crisner and they lived on a farm in Elclick Township. Their ten children were Peter, Eli, Jonas, David, Joseph, Benjamin, Christian, Gabriel, John and Daniel—a veritable baseball team. All were biblically named.

It would be nice to know more about Frainie Johns Crisner. Apparently all touch with her brother was lost; but one won-

ders, by what strange circumstance, the names of her children found their way into the family history.

Source:

The Joseph Johns Family History 1768-1970

Catherine El Hash Obeid George

Written by her daughters, Amelia and Elizabeth George

Catherine El Hash Obeid was born in 1887 in Amyaun El Koura, Lebanon, a town which is an hour drive from the Cedars. Catherine's father had another name, but he used EL HASH, which was a complimentary name that a man was privileged to use when he had made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She was very close to her father and he often let her help him to count the taxes he collected for the Turkish Sultan. Her mother saw that she was educated in the art of cooking, sewing, housekeeping, and so forth. She was one of the first girls to go to school when Czar Mediolas opened a school in the village for the Orthodox people.

In February 1908, Catherine married a young man, Michael George, who had just arrived back in Lebanon. They lived happily for five years in Lebanon and had a daughter and two sons. However, times were very difficult and there were rumors of war and so her husband decided to return to the States and to Johnstown in 1912. He went to work in the steel mills and made enough money to send for his family. They arrived in Johnstown in August of 1913.

In a short time Catherine and Michael found a restaurant to rent at 15 Iron Street. It was next to the Grand Central Hotel and it was called the P.R.R. Cafe. The cafe was just across the street from the railroad station and many passengers would get off the train to buy food during the stop in Johnstown. Once diners became part of the train, the people stopped coming to the cafe for food and the name of the cafe had to be changed.

Having the cafe, proved quite a learning experience for Catherine. She had to learn the English language, (in no way similar to Arabic), direct the help employed, and learn to cook strange foods. The cafe business went well and Catherine and Michael considered going home to Lebanon but were advised by their

older brothers not to come since conditions were bad and unsettled. When they decided to remain in Johnstown, they began looking for a location to buy and build a home and business. Catherine was a great help in making plans for their new place. They opened their store on July 28, 1926, at 1071 Franklin Street and called it George's Confectionary Store. They made sandwiches and sold ice cream and candy. A big attraction was the fountain for making ice cream sodas. Catherine worked in the store and in the kitchen. When the adjacent storeroom, which they had rented, became vacant they took it over. At this time, they remodeled and made a dining room, and changed the name to George's Old Lanthorn. Catherine continued to help but was most consistently in the kitchen.

Catherine recognized the importance of education. She helped the children with their school lessons and taught her husband to read Arabic script. She encouraged her children to finish high school and to get more education. In this, she was perpetuating the philosophy of most of the immigrants—get an education.

In today's language, Catherine probably could be classified as a workaholic. She could be found with her apron on in the kitchen of the restaurant long after she should have been taking things easy. Catherine George died in 1969, missed by friends, family, and long-time customers. The family still own and operate the business, George's Old Lanthorn, just across from Memorial Hospital.

Catherine Reiser

Catherine Reiser was born October 14, 1908, the daughter of John and Carolyn Malzi Reiser. She had one sister and two brothers. They lived on Locust Street in downtown Johnstown, then moved to 2202 Menoher in Westmont. Catherine was educated in the Johnstown city schools. She received her Bachelor's Degree in 1930, her Master's Degree in 1931, and her Doctor's Degree in 1941 from the University of Pittsburgh.

From 1931–1933 she was an instructor in history at UPJ. From 1933–1935 she taught history in the Pittsburgh public schools. Then she returned to Johnstown to accept a position teaching history in Westmont High School. She was Professor of History and Political Science at UPJ from 1943 to 1969, holding the distinction of being the first woman professor on the John-

stown campus; she was named Professor Emeritus in 1969. Catherine possessed a good sense of humor and was liked by her students.

Beta Sigma Phi named her Woman of the Year in 1961. She was also a member of the Academy of Political Science, Phi Alpha Theta and Beta Tau Alpha. She was listed in *Who's Who in the East* and *Who's Who in American College of Professors*.

Dr. Reiser traveled extensively, being one of a group of fifty-three educators who toured the Soviet Union on a field study of U.S.S.R. schools. The tour was sponsored by the Comparative Education Society; visits were made to all types of Soviet schools. On another occasion Dr. Reiser was invited by Chapman College in Orange, California to participate in a foreign travel teaching program with students from the college and other faculty. During that semester, she taught a course in history. Our informant did not remember the countries visited, but they were in the Far East.

Catherine Reiser was very civic-minded and was active in community affairs. She was a member of the Business and Professional Women of Johnstown, of the Mississippi Valley Historical Society, and of the Comparative Education Society.

Dr. Reiser died February 4, 1973 at the age of 65.

Researched by Karleen A. Grant, a niece of Dr. Reiser

Other sources:

Agnes Fox, cousin

Frances Appleyard, cousin



PART III
BIOGRAPHIES



WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Women were more favorably accepted in the arts than in areas where they were competing with men for monetary rewards. In other words, it was considered a more womanly occupation. Women in the arts had its inception in Philadelphia, in the early years, largely due to the philosophy of William Penn and the Quakers, who favored education for women. Early on, there were schools on the east coast which admitted women and there were colleges for women only. Curriculums included art as well as other so-called "womanly skills."

Again, we know there were more women artists in Cambria County in this early period than we were able to learn about. Biographies submitted include:

Mabel Coleman Harris
Dr. Anita Martin
Frances Tarr
Helen F. Price

Marjorie Coleman Harris

1891-1968

Prepared by Kathleen Kase Burk

The group of friends had been meeting together regularly on Sunday afternoons for several years in Marjorie Coleman Harris's large room art studio on the top floor of the building on the corner of Somerset and Franklin Streets in Johnstown. There they painted, shared ideas, and enjoyed the company of other artists. The group included several art teachers, such as Helen Hinchman and Frances Tarr; an advertising illustrator, Ludwig Henning; and well known local artists such as Helen Price, Lawrence Whitaker of Windber, and Bertha Townsend. In

1932, Marjorie suggested that they organize formally as a group to hold exhibitions of their work—and Allied Artists of Johnstown was born.

Like the founding of public libraries and other community institutions in the early part of this century, beginning a local art group was really an act of faith. Places like Johnstown had little in the way of artistic life. Musical and theatre groups were fairly common—indeed, amateur plays, church choirs, and musical programs constituted some of the major forms of entertainment for the average person in those days before television. But exhibits of visual art—fine art—were a rarity. Wealthy people did buy paintings and sculpture, but they bought them in big cities, or on their travels to Europe, and they hung them in their private homes and offices, where few people saw them. Actually, a knowledge of art and culture was considered an important social grace for very well-brought-up young ladies, and there was an Art League in town, which met to discuss art historical topics, or hear about some member's latest tour of Europe. But, there was an element of class consciousness to all of this: only those wealthy enough not to have to work, or who had had exposure to art and culture early, could really pursue it. The average person, it was believed, simply couldn't appreciate such things.

Local art groups were one of the means by which all this changed. By exhibiting local art; by bringing well-known artists to town to jury shows, demonstrate, or lecture; and by educating the public and making art accessible to all, these groups did improve the public's awareness and appreciation of fine art. The other major force in this new awareness was the inclusion of art as a regular subject in the public schools, a movement which was also gaining momentum at this time—and which, not coincidentally, involved many of the same people.

Marjorie Coleman Harris' model for the new group was the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, a group begun in 1910 by Lila B. Hetzel, youngest daughter of George Hetzel, who was one of Western Pennsylvania's most famous artists. Lila Hetzel had grown up on her father's farm in Somerset, and although she spent most of her life in Pittsburgh, she retained some ties to the area, and even exhibited in Allied Artists of Johnstown's first show, thus giving the new group her 'stamp of approval.' The catalog of this first exhibition, held November 25th to De-

cember 10th, 1933, at the Johnstown College of Music on Franklin Street, listed the new organization's goals as:

“ . . . to provide a travel exhibit of paintings for the use of high schools of our vicinity; to encourage local artists; and to produce original pictures to meet the demands of a discriminating clientele that have hitherto gone to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York.”

Twenty-one artists exhibited a total of sixty pictures in the show which was juried by three very well respected Pittsburgh artists—Christian Walter (longtime president of Associated Artists of Pittsburgh), Milan Petrovitz (Viennese-born Professor of Art at Carnegie Tech and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh), and Malcolm Parcell. They gave six awards, including the third place in the watercolor division won by Marjorie herself, for a painting entitled, “Old Portage Tunnel.” About five hundred invited guests crowded the College of Music on the evening of Friday, November 24th, for a gala opening reception. The Johnstown Tribune-Democrat of the following day pronounced the affair a huge success, and noted that a decoration color theme of red and gold was “carried out in splendid taste.” The article also reproduced photographs of several of the paintings—including an abstract one by local artist Sheldon Grumbling. A special feature of the evening's program was a voting by the guests for their favorite painting in the exhibition, won by Lawrence Whitaker's “Reflected Beauty,” a still life of a vase of flowers reflected in a mirror (which had also won the juror's second place in oils). The newspaper also reported that at 11 p.m., the artists retired to Mrs. Harris' studio where they “enjoyed a delightful studio supper served by Mrs. H. M. Tarr of Westmont.”

Marjorie Coleman Harris was Allied Artists of Johnstown's first president, and she remained its president for the first sixteen years of its existence. A friendly, plain woman who dressed simply and wore round glasses and her hair pulled severely back from her face, she devoted most of her life to art and art education. Born on March 31st, 1891, in Washington, D.C., she married Richard M. Harris, but had no children. She was art supervisor for the former Westmont-Upper Yoder Schools, and later for the former Franklin-East Taylor Joint Schools. She

also taught local Pennsylvania State University Extension classes for teachers, and her large studio functioned as an informal art school from 1923 until 1955, the same year she retired from the public schools. (The building now houses an insurance agency.) After her retirement, she continued teaching as Director of Arts and Crafts at the Church of the Brethren Home, where she resided in her later years. She gave the nursing home most of her remaining paintings upon her death in September, 1968, in Windber Hospital.

Marjorie's paintings are mainly florals, still lifes, and scenes of local interest, done in the muted colors popular in the 1930's. She also tried her hand briefly at some semi-abstract work, and the State Museum in Harrisburg owns her collection of twenty-two paintings of area one-room schoolhouses. Her works hang in many buildings throughout the state. She was interested in a wide variety of art, and was much-loved as a teacher.

Probably her greatest contribution to the area was the founding of one of its most important cultural organizations, the Allied Artists of Johnstown. Now in its 57th year, Allied Artists has about two hundred members, both amateur and professional, who hold regular exhibitions of their work throughout the year, sponsor scholarships for talented art students, donate works of art to public institutions, and generally work to promote the arts. Although many changes have taken place over the years, and the close personal feeling of meeting together in Marjorie's studio is not quite possible to sustain with so many members, the group still has its original goals: ". . . to encourage and support art in all its branches; to provide exhibition of original works of art; to foster a true appreciation of art . . . and to further social activity and goodwill among its members." Surely Marjorie would be very pleased!

Anita Louise Martin

Submitted by Edith Mary Martin, Shirley Gaynor,
and Opal Regan

Although Anita Louise Martin only briefly passed through Cambria County and Johnstown in her very busy life, she left a record of her passing and so shall be claimed as an artist in this review of outstanding women in the county. It is interesting to note that Dr. Martin's stay in Johnstown, as shown from the

very detailed summary supplied by her sister, Edith Mary Martin, encompassed the longest span of time spent in one location except for her growing up years and time spent in Wisconsin while attending the university there.

During her time in Johnstown, Dr. Martin was closely affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and the Cambria County Art Center. Credit for much of the material we have about her associations in Johnstown must go to Shirley Gaynor of the Art Center and to Opal Regan of UPJ.

Dr. Martin lived here from 1967 to 1975, teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, retiring in 1975. "She was proud to have had conferred upon her the title and status of Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts, Johnstown Campus", said her sister. Opal Regan tells us that, while at UPJ, Dr. Martin was responsible for selecting many of the pictures found in the offices and rooms at the college. In fact, she found it very hard to leave the picture of the "clown" in her office when she resigned. The pictures ranged the gamut from quiet scenes to bold types. When Dr. Martin left Johnstown, she moved to Wichita, Kansas, relatively close to her birthplace of Wellington.

Shirley Gaynor wrote of the things she did at the Art Center. In a lecture of "Rocks" which Margaret Castania, one of the Art Center members and a fan of Dr. Martin recalls, Dr. Martin showed pictures where rocks played an important part of the composition, color and theme, even though they varied in size and shape from pebbles to boulders, to mountains of rocks. She taught a first class in Art Appreciation at the Center and had about seven or eight persons in attendance. The class became so popular over a two-year period, it became necessary to find larger accommodations at one of the local churches, for the enrollment was now some fifty students. Another activity of Dr. Martin's was serving as guide for several bus trips to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. for her classes. Some members at the Art Center still talk about how knowledgeable she was about every period, style and artist.

Dr. Martin also taught Art Appreciation to children at the Center and at the local library. It is said the "kids" loved her; she had great rapport with them and with young people in general, using her beautiful sparkling eyes. She was also affiliated and active with one of the local churches.

After her retirement to Kansas, she returned to Johnstown several times to give short courses for the Art Center. She

stayed at the homes of Charlene McDowell and Rita Glosser (Mrs. Ben) who were devotees of her classes and bus trips.

Even though Johnstown can claim only a part of her, it behooves including some of the facts of her life elsewhere. She was born in Wellington, Kansas of pioneer settlers who went West by stage coach, then used a spring wagon to ford rivers and creeks. Her grandfather was one of the "town company" who organized Wellington. The second of three sisters growing up and playing on the plains of Kansas, even in childhood she was active and outgoing—a Camp Fire girl, a member of the Y.W.C.A., and active in the Presbyterian church.

She graduated from Wellington High School and the University of Kansas. At the University of Wisconsin she acquired an MA in Spanish and, later, a PhD in Art History.

Her teaching positions are too numerous to mention except to say they spanned the years from 1928 to 1975, and in the states of Kansas, Wisconsin, Vermont, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. Each summer she traveled to Europe visiting historical sites, art galleries and museums. In 1943 and 1944 she served a stint with the WACS.

She died July 29, 1981 following by-pass surgery, having lived life as a wanderer, a scholar and a traveler.

Dr. Martin's very large library of Art History books was given to the Chicago Art Museum as well as her personal collection of 10,000 art slides acquired from the art museums of Europe during her travels. She also had a large personal collection of paintings.

Shirley Gaynor described her as a "regal lady" who possessed a sense of humor and a very deep love for the arts, a liking for people and a desire to share her knowledge with others. Cambria County and Johnstown were fortunate to have had a share in the life of this brilliant and talented woman.

Helen F. Price

1892–1960

Written by Charles S. Price

Helen Price was born in Johnstown, Pa., November 9, 1892, the daughter of Sara Haws Price and Charles S. Price. Educated in Westmont Schools and a graduate of Briarcliff Manor in New York State, she was an artist and journalist. As a writer, she was the author of "On the Hilltop", published in 1927, and

wrote a weekly column for the *Johnstown Tribune* called "The Echo". Many of her stories and articles were published in various magazines. Her activities in community and political affairs led to her being a delegate to the electoral college in 1944.

As an artist she exhibited her works in many places: the Allied Artists of Johnstown, the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, the Ligonier Valley Art League, the National Association of Artists of New York, the Independent Artists of America and the Studio Guild in New York, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Indiana State Teachers College National Annual Exhibition, the Butler Art Institute in Youngstown, Ohio and the Argent Galleries in New York.

She preferred to paint log cabins, barns and houses. A one man showing of her paintings of log cabins was held by the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society in Pittsburgh. She made paintings of people's houses; other places her work was displayed were in offices, several being hung in Windber Hospital.

The recipient of many prizes at the Annual Art shows of the Allied Artists of Johnstown, she also held the distinction of having her name appear in "Who's Who in American Art"

Information from conversations with family members

Frances Tarr

1876-1966

Prepared by Kathleen Kase Burk

Mary Frances Tarr felt herself to be an artist from a very early age. One Christmas she received a set of paints as a gift from her brother, and, at the age of eight, she took her first painting lesson. So began a lifelong interest in painting and in teaching others to paint.

She was born Mary Frances Miller on October 30, 1876, on a family farm in Mercer County known as "Chestnut Corners." Her father, Wilson Miller, was a contractor. The family soon moved to the town of Mercer, where Frances took private art lessons. She attended Grove City College, where she continued to study art, and graduated in 1899. It was at Grove City that she met her husband, Harry McConnell Tarr, who encouraged her interest in painting.

After her marriage, Frances taught school briefly, but soon stopped to devote her time to raising her six children. Harry Tarr went into business as president of the Johnstown Grocery

Company, and the family was among the first to settle in the newly developing Johnstown suburb of Westmont. In those days, Westmont was sparsely populated and surrounded by fields and open land, where Frances and the children found much to paint, study, and enjoy. An energetic and outgoing woman, Frances soon involved herself in many community activities. She was a member of the daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists, The Huguenot Society, the Johnstown Garden Club, the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Auxiliary, the Y.W.C.A., the Johnstown Art League, and many others. She was active in the Westmont Presbyterian Church, and taught Sunday School there for many years.

Despite her many other activities, Frances always found time to paint. Her children remember being taken along on trips through New England, particularly the area of Massachusetts near Rockport and Cape Ann, where Frances painted many seascapes, which were much in demand by Johnstown art lovers. She also loved to paint flowers and landscapes, worked in oils and watercolors, and had several shows of her work locally. In 1932, when Marjorie Coleman Harris was organizing Allied Artists of Johnstown, Frances Tarr was one of the founding members, and she remained an active exhibitor with the group for many years.

In 1934, Harry McConnell Tarr died. Frances was 57 years old, unsure how to adjust to being a widow. Her children encouraged her to teach art, and she began to hold classes in her home for teen-agers and adults. When the Y.W.C.A. started to hold classes, Frances was a popular instructor there. "Everyone isn't an artist, but everyone can paint," was her philosophy. She promoted painting for enjoyment by anyone who wanted to "forget your troubles."

Frances continued to paint, exhibit, and give lessons into her eighties. She died at the age of eighty-nine in Mercy Hospital on September 12, 1966. Her children remember her as a tall and striking-looking woman, and they particularly recall her beautiful hands. Many of her paintings were sold during her lifetime, or done as commissions, but the family members still own several, as well as a large box of drawings from her college days at Grove City. A woman of enormous energy and varied interests, Frances Tarr was one of Johnstown's pioneers in art education, and was a popular and prolific artist.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Researching in the early years, history tells us women operated stores, hotels, farms, grist mills and other businesses; but there are few specific women's names. Usually this ownership was an inheritance from a husband, father or other male relative. It is known that a few women started their own businesses, but their names and achievements were not recorded. Obituaries were found to be a source of information. Generally this was limited to one or two lines, or found in a small separate item consisting of three or four lines. From the early years the biographies of eight women were researched and submitted. This information, however, is rather sketchy and nothing more is available. In more recent years the number of women as owner and/or operators of businesses has increased greatly, particularly in stores.

For the outstanding women, whose biographies were submitted, they follow at the end of the report.

Alma McClellan Cramer
Wilhelmina Oyler Danges
Goenner Wives
Lovinia M. Berkey Haynes
Catharine Mathaldi
Catherine Ream
Carolyn White Salinger
Iva Bly Sellers

Women and the Business They Owned and/or Operated

Prepared by Murilla E. Himes and Movene Ponas

- Stores:**
- Former Mock Store in Ferndale, owned by Alice H. Mock
 - Carpenter's Store in Johnstown, owned by Frances Carpenter
 - Former Bischof's Markets in Woodvale and Belmont Economy Market, owned by Rose Bischof
 - Former Streck's Meat Market in Minersville, owned by Mary A. Janet (Janiec)
 - Carpenter's Country Store in Sidman, co-owned by Florence Carpenter and husband
 - Nancy's Store in Franklin, owned and operated by Nancy L. Joseph
 - Cramer Grocery Store, owned and operated by Maria H. Cramer
- Restaurant:**
- Former Townhouse Restaurant, 209 Franklin Street, owned by Helen Pavlovich
- Pizza Shop:**
- Harry's Pizza Shops, owned by Mary Jane Carty. She was the driving force, and her special claim to femininity was adding a new charm to her bracelet each time she opened a new shop.
- Florist Shop:**
- Hugo Erdmann Flowers in Johnstown, co-owned and operated by Gladys Craig Erdmann with her husband
- 5 & 10¢ Stores:**
- The 5 & 10, Gallitzin; G. H. Morrissey 5 and Dime in South Fork; and a store in Franklin, owned and operated by Catherine Morrissey
- Music Stores:**
- Joe's Music Store on Franklin Street, co-owned by Helen Woznick Jamitis

- Morgan's Music Store on Franklin Street, co-owned, and later, owned and operated by Gwen Morgan
- Fur Store: Canadian Fur Company, Market Street, Johnstown, co-owned, then owned by Marie Pinsky
- Boutiques: Effie Kyle Shop, in Westwood Plaza, owned and operated by Effie Kyle Connor
Murty's Dress Shop in the Johnstown Bank and Trust Building, owned and operated by Sara Murty
- Hat Stores: Kaiser and Lint Hat Store, in the First National Bank Building, owned in partnership by Ms. Kaiser and Ms. Lint, who made elegant hats
Morgan's Millinery and Designer Shop, located on the second floor of the Johnstown Bank and Trust Building, operated by Amanda Morgan who designed and made hats. These were elaborate creations utilizing plumes, egret feathers and other expensive decorations. My informant, her niece Sara Jane Owen Torquato, told me her hats sold for \$100 to \$150. Obviously, she had the wealthy clientele of Johnstown and surrounding areas. One of her patrons was Mrs. Harve Tibbott, a Congressman's wife from Ebensburg. Mrs. Morgan made one trip per year to Europe to bring back collector's items such as crystal and glassware from Austria which she sold in her shop.
- Car Sales Agencies: Wagner Motor Sales, owned by Clara Stoehr
- Garages: Davis Ford Garage, Franklin Street, co-owned by Carrie E. Davis

- Wilson Service Station in Dale, owned by Rosalie Wilson
- Drug Store: Belzner Drug Store, at the corner of Haynes and Bedford Street, owned by Lois Lansberry, who was a pharmacist
- Notion Store: Updegrave's Notion Store on Franklin Street, owned by the Updegrave sisters. They sold sewing notions and sundries, and dry goods (fabrics). My informant recalls being taken to this store as a child, and her best memory is of the creaky wooden floor.
- Beauty Shop: Carrol's Beauty Shop on lower Main Street, owned and operated by Olive Carroll
- Beauty School: Hammond's School of Beauty Culture, located on Main Street, owned and operated by Mrs. Gearhart. After her death her daughter operated the shop.

Alma McCellan Cramer

1905-1986

Prepared by Cass Palmer
Information from Maryann Minahan

A dynamic, outstanding woman, Alma Cramer was so well known in Johnstown and surrounding areas that her invariable self-introduction was almost unnecessary.

"Hello I'm Alma Cramer," so began numerous radio programs and a television series. Hers was a booming voice, filled with self-assurance, softened with caring gentleness. The core of her life was Christianity; the love of her life was people. As charter member of American Women in Radio and Television, Alma Cramer used the power of broadcasting to champion her causes.

It was not an unusual sight to see this determined woman, who physically resembled a neatly dressed Mrs. Santa Claus, march into the office of a radio station and convince the general manager to let her broadcast a program. Religious programming was Alma Cramer's first step in broadcasting. The "Cler-

gyman's Study" radio program highlighted the beliefs and customs of the four major religions of the area.

This was just the beginning of a long line of popular religious programming that Mrs. Cramer produced and narrated. At age fourteen, Alma began teaching Bible School Classes. She continued throughout her life to teach at many of the United Methodist Churches in the area. Alma's professional radio career culminated when she was appointed director of women's programming, education, public service and continuity at radio station WARD, headquartered in Johnstown. She also served as coordinator of religious programming, and conducted a weekly program at WDAD, Indiana.

In the early 1950's, Alma became involved with the United Red Feather Campaign as a volunteer solicitor. She also wrote, directed and participated in "Red Feather Family," a Sunday morning radio program broadcast by all three local radio stations. She became the first safety director for the Cambria County Red Cross; and taught first aid at Memorial and Mercy Hospitals. Concerned for the safety of children on bicycles, Alma pioneered a program with the police department for the inspection and registration of bikes.

In 1953, she served as president of the Greater Johnstown Community Chest. Dedicated to serving her community, Alma began the Johnstown Chapter of the Soroptomist Club, an international service organization comprised of business and career women. She served as its first president, and participated in regional meetings. Through her participation in Soroptomist Club, Alma became aware of the needs of the senior community members; thus began one of her greatest community achievements.

Although the Soroptomist Club and Golden Age Club members did their best to try to meet the social needs of seniors in the community, the task was beyond their resources. With a fund of zero, Alma took on the monumental task of convincing the community to build a Senior Activity Center. Her energy, enthusiasm, and drive inspired the community and its leaders; and in May 1975, a \$600,000 Senior Activity Center was dedicated.

Alma's interest in the needs of senior community members continued; perhaps she is best remembered as the hostess for WJAC-TV's "Seniors Today" show. She always ended her pro-

gram by saying: "If you are not now a Senior Citizen, may you someday become one." What most people don't know about are the numerous requests for help that Alma received as a result of the show. She went out of her way to fulfill each request, spending her own money to help those in need.

Where did this woman get her drive? Her mother died when Alma was only eight years old; but not until she had instilled in her daughter the importance of proper speech. Her father died shortly thereafter. Virtually on her own from age 13, Alma learned to be dependent on herself. It obviously made her strong. She had little formal education, but was well-read and self-educated. She was appointed a life membership in the National Education Association in recognition of her work with the music and English department of area schools, and with mentally retarded children. She was an excellent communicator, with an innate talent for perfect timing—a talent quickly recognized by the production staff at WJAC-TV. Her drive could be embarrassing, at times, as a Soroptomist Club member can attest. They were paired together to ring the Salvation Army bell at the seasonal kettle drive. Not satisfied with the public response, Alma would go directly to individuals on the street and cajole contributions from them.

She usually agreed to guest speaking engagements, but would not accept money for herself; she would turn it over to a church or group. She organized Johnstown's first Girl Scout Troop, at the Grove Avenue United Methodist Church in Moxham.

Alma's achievements did not go unnoticed. She was listed in Marquand's *Who's Who in the East*, and was twice nominated for the McCall Award for public service—the highest honor a woman executive in radio can achieve.

As a result of her many accomplishments, the Johnstown Exchange Club gave her their Outstanding Citizen award; in 1962, the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority elected her as Woman of the Year; she also became an honorary member of the Johnstown Stamp Club.

Alma wrote poetry, too—unfortunately, her poems were destroyed after her death. Considering the life of this extremely active lady, is it any wonder that, eventually, she came to be listed in *Who's Who in America*?

Her greatest legacy was the example she left for all women in the way she lived each day. Said Alma, in an interview, "Women

must set new standards of excellence in their own lives and in every place and phase of their influence." She believed this; she lived it.

Wilhelmina Oyler Danges

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Wilhelmina Oyler was born on March 20, 1832 in Waldeck, Germany, and lost her parents when a child. In 1854, she came to the United States, landing in New York after a voyage of seven weeks from Bremen on the sailing vessel "Europa." She came to Johnstown where she lived with friends until her marriage.

Wilhelmina married August Danges, who was born in Germany, and brought to the United States by his mother at the age of fourteen. He learned the blacksmith trade and was employed by the Cambria Iron Company at the time he married Wilhelmina on April 18, 1856, in Johnstown. They had three children, Mary who married John Pendry, Johnstown undertaker; Emma, who married William Shuler of Westmont; and, Amelia, who married Charles Bierbeck of Benscreek. Henry died June 14, 1893.

At the time of the flood, Wilhelmina Danges was the proprietor of a millinery store on Franklin Street which she had operated for ten to fifteen years while living in the same building. She lost all her property in the flood, after which she built a home for herself on Potts Street but did not go back into business.

Source:

History of Cambria County, H. Storey, Vol. III, p. 330.

The Goenner Wives

Carolyn Egir Goenner, mother-in-law

Elizabeth Goenner, daughter-in-law

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Jacob and Carolyn Goenner, natives of Germany, came to the United States, locating at #5 on the old Portage Canal. From there they moved to Geistown where he was foreman of a barrel-making shop. The family moved to East Conemaugh, then to

Gallitzin, then to Summit, where he and Mr. Schrader purchased a brewery. In 1870 he moved to Cambria City to purchase the Guggsraeger Brewery which he operated until it was swept away by the flood of 1889. The power for this brewery was supplied by a treadmill operated by one horse. Small at the beginning, the business grew until it became one of the leading enterprises in the county. When Jacob Goenner died July 10, 1889, his widow took charge of the business.

Their son, William had married Elizabeth Frank on May 29, 1887. Her parents, natives of Darmstadt in Germany, had married after their emigration to the United States. Mr. Frank was the proprietor of a hotel on Washington Street which was swept away by the flood at which time both Mr. and Mrs. Frank lost their lives along with a number of their children.

When Jacob Goenner's estate was settled in 1890, the son, William and his brother-in-law, John L. Stibich, took over the brewery business. In 1892 they increased the capacity of the plant so that it became a model brewery of the county. After William died in January 1896, Elizabeth Goenner took over the business, having a strong business ability.

Lovinia M. Berkey Haynes

Researched by Anne Fattman

Lovinia was born February 18, 1954 near Stoystown, Somerset. Her parents were Jonathan Berkey from Scotland (founder of the family in America) and Nancy Gardner Berkey.

Lovinia received her education in district schools. She married Charles Haynes on April 20, 1882. Charles Haynes bought a 29-acre farm in Upper Yoder township, and became a prosperous truck and dairy farmer. He always found a ready market in the Johnstown area.

When Charles Haynes died in 1905, his wife, Lovinia managed the farm and business.

Catharine Mathaldi

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Catharine Mathaldi was born in 1882 and received a good common school education.

Her father, Lewis Mathaldi of Hastings (born in Italy), was a stonemason employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

In the winters he worked as a miner. In 1892 he opened a fruit and grocery store. By 1901 he enlarged his business and applied for a hotel license.

Catharine showed superior business abilities and when her father opened his hotel, Palmer House, she was his assistant. She took charge of the store owned by her father when she was nineteen years old. In 1904 she accompanied her father on a trip to the Old World, but after spending some time abroad, she was glad to return home to continue her activities in the hotel and store.

Source:

History of Cambria County, H. Storey, Vol. III, p. 330.

Catherine Ream

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Catherine, daughter of Karl and Mary Spenkel, married Jacob shortly after her arrival from her native Germany.

Jacob Ream came to the United States in 1855. He was employed by the Cambria Iron Company for twelve years. At the end of that time he went into the hotel business, conducting the Hulbert House for three years after which he moved to the Eighth Ward, where he opened a hotel which he conducted successfully. He amassed considerable wealth, and became the owner of much real estate in the Eight Ward.

When Jacob died in 1885, Catherine continued to carry on the hotel. After the flood, she reconstructed and enlarged it. She finally disposed of the hotel but continued to manage her estate and to look after her business interests. She was the owner of considerable real estate in the Eighth Ward, including the homestead on Franklin Street as well as a number of other houses.

Source:

History of Cambria County, H. Storey, Vol. III, p. 330.

Carolyn White Salinger

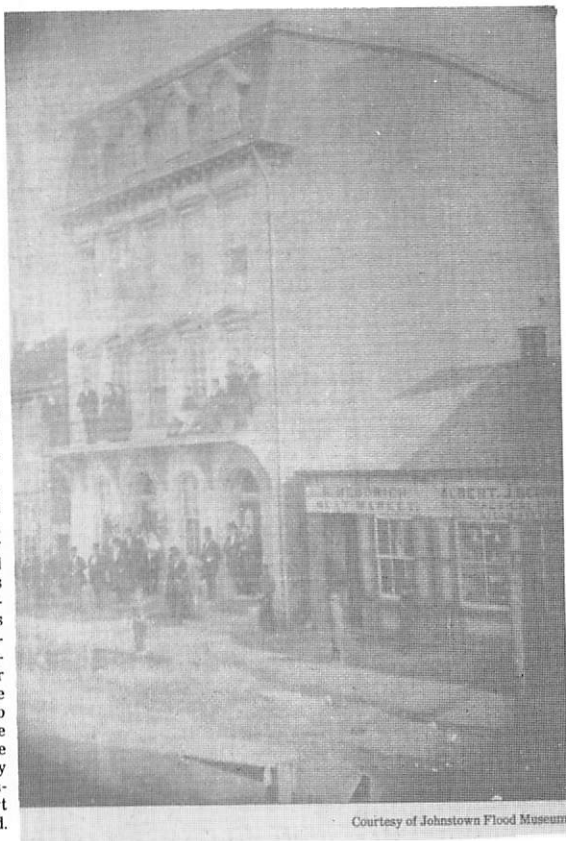
1894–1981

Prepared by Ann Salinger Hunt

Carolyn Huston White was the fifth of six children born to James and Mary (Douglass) White of Kittanning, Pennsylvania.

Hulbert House

This photograph shows the Hulbert House, one of Johnstown's most prominent hotels in the period prior to the 1889 Flood. Located on Clinton Street near Main Street, it was opened by James H. Benford in 1872. After Benford's death in 1878, the hotel continued to be operated by Elizabeth Benford and her sons until it was swept away by the flood. Built by Conrad Suppes as a store in 1853, the Hulbert House was converted by Benford into a four-story structure with 65 bedrooms, steam heat, electric lights, an elevator and an elegant mansard roof. Its clientele was made up largely of traveling salesmen and rooms were provided with extension tables where the salesmen could display their wares. On May 31, 1889, the Hulbert House seemed to many to be the safest place to take refuge during the flood. Struck directly by one of the flood wave's major currents, the Hulbert House quickly collapsed.



Courtesy of Johnstown Flood Museum



Of Scotch-Irish descent, she was strongly influenced by parents who, though poor, wanted nothing but the best for their children. Her father was a teacher, county commissioner, tax collector and manager of two farms. Both parents shared the belief that their children should be educated. During this day and age, this was unusual.

Carolyn's early education was in a one-room school situated three miles from the center of town. Later she drove horse and buggy or a sleigh to Kittanning every day in order to complete high school, graduating with honors.

Her later education was earned at Thomas Normal School in Detroit, Michigan. After graduation in 1915 she moved to Johnstown where she taught Home Economics at the former Westmont High School. Before her marriage she also managed a local cafeteria in the Johnstown area.

On March 17, 1926 she married Richard M. Salinger, proprietor of the Salinger Photo Service on Locust Street. She not only became a new bride, but the step-mother to James Young Salinger. Their children consisted of Richard, Ann Douglass, and David.

Life was not easy for the Salingers. Raising a family during the Depression on an income which was dependent on commercial photography, at a time when photography was a luxury, was almost unthinkable. But the business did survive and slowly grew until July 1942 when Richard died very suddenly of a heart attack.

The instantaneous pressures of raising a family by herself prompted Carolyn to decide to run the business rather than return to teaching. This decision was very difficult as she was entering a field of endeavor without experience and expertise during an era when the "woman's place was in the home".

Competition was fierce for a woman attempting to run a business in a man's world. But her determination to raise and educate three children, the innate spirit of competition and the basic need to earn a living gave her the incentive to make a go of the business. She retired in 1960 having fulfilled all of these goals.

Retirement gave Carolyn the time to enjoy the simple things in life. She was a good cook, baker and candy maker; the neighbors and family can attest to this. She loved flowers, raising tea roses as a hobby. She enjoyed animals, particularly cats. She had a large collection of cut glass in which she took great pride.

Her family always came first. Although they were scattered from coast to coast she kept in constant contact with them. With her friends and acquaintances their problems were always hers; she also shared in their joys and accomplishments.

Carolyn died July 11, 1981 at the age of 87, leaving a legacy of memories, examples of high idealism and love for mankind.

Iva Bly Sellers

1887-1966

The colorful career of Iva Sellers covered 46 years in the business world—42 of those in Pennsylvania Electric Company or predecessor utilities.

Following her graduation from Johnstown High School, Iva worked for three years before entering the utility field.

She was particularly interested in careers for women, and was the founder of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Johnstown. Later, she received a life membership in the YWCA, which reads, "In love and appreciation for her life of service to others, which is the reality of the YWCA purpose in daily living."

Iva was also a key volunteer worker for the American Red Cross, both in personal service and in inspiring others to be volunteers.

As supervisor of Pennsylvania Electric Company's 18-member stenographic department, Miss Sellers had many roles. She was not only supervisor; she was advisor, mother and protector. The protection was sometimes necessary, for a few executives were intolerant or irascible.

It is unlikely that the men who were manipulated by Iva Sellers ever realized being in that position. More than the equal of most business men in diplomacy, Iva had a particular technique, which she passed on to her young stenographers.

"First," she said, "you must get the man to sit down. There's no controlling a man who is towering over you. Once you have him across from you, face to face, he'll listen."

She demonstrated this theory one day, when an officer of the company stormed into her office, shouting before a shocked group, "These damn girls you send me are no . . . damned good." He hit her desk and paced the floor, still muttering profanities.

Iva waited calmly. Then she said, "Sit down, Roy."

He hesitated, then continued pacing.

"Sit down!" she said. This time it was a command. He sat down.

After discovering what had gone wrong, Miss Sellers explained that this new girl had not been trained in that specific operation, and that she, herself, was to blame for not foreseeing the problem. The job would be corrected.

Mollified, he left, almost in good humor.

In her role as protector, she always won out. A girl once protested being sent to a certain executive's office for a week, because others who had been there were afraid of him. Iva investigated; it was true, the girls acknowledged their apprehension.

Miss Sellers went to the man's office and confronted him. (She told the girls what she said.) "See here, Jack, when I send a girl to this office, I don't expect you to beard her like a lion in his den. I want you to treat her like a lady."

When the girl came back from her experience, she said, "He was very kind, and a perfect gentleman."

In Iva's role as advisor, she could invariably sense a problem. She would take a worried stenographer aside and get out a sheet of paper. Drawing a line down the center of the page, she would label one side as PRO and the other, CON. Then, she would proceed to discuss the matter objectively.

Problems with the girls sometimes involved the current dress code. In one case, a new girl habitually came to work wearing skin-tight sweaters. Iva had no time for the flaunting of sex in the office, and threatened to fire the girl unless she dressed more conservatively. It worked—the stenographer switched to wearing modest blouses.

With regard to dress, Miss Sellers never subscribed to the adoption of masculine-type suits by business women. She wore crisp, pastel-colored cotton golf dresses, and her hair, although short, had a soft, feminine cut.

In 1946, near the end of her business career, more than 200 men and women representing the civic, professional and business life of Cambria County turned out to honor Miss Sellers. The testimonial dinner was held at the Masonic Temple by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Johnstown.

That evening, as Iva was being named Cambria County's No. 1 War Loan worker in the six Bond drives, the announcement came that she had now accepted a more important assignment

for the seventh War Loan. She had been chosen by the Pennsylvania War Finance Committee as regional vice president in charge of women's activities for Cambria, Bedford and Clearfield Counties.

Iva modestly pointed out that recognition was due to 5,000 women of the county for selling 30 percent of all E Bonds sold.

"I wonder," she said, "if the public, particularly John Q., husband or father, ever stopped to think how much work was done by daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and grandmothers. I wonder if the men ever gave thought to the long hours during the four years spent in cold and drafty booths, theater lobbies and doorbell pushing. Many a pair of shoes was worn thin by Cambria County women who tramped the sidewalks selling War Bonds."

Iva was honored again in 1957, when she announced her retirement from Pennsylvania Electric Company. More than 75 of the many girls who had received stenographic training under her direction, honored her at a surprise birthday dinner at Green Gables restaurant. Since she planned to do some traveling, she was presented with appropriate gear.

However, in spite of much public recognition, one of Iva's greatest qualities was seldom noticed—much less, eulogized. She believed in the melting-pot concept of America; she hired Protestants, Catholics and Jews with equal enthusiasm. She sometimes grieved that no black girl had ever applied to her for a position.

Perhaps, one remark made at her testimonial dinner says it all: "The woman we honor tonight is representative of the finest in womanhood."

WOMEN IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Florence May Dibert
Gladys Bash Evans
Mary Rice Morrow
Joanna Lawrence

Prepared by Dr. Gladys M. Clifton

The four women profiled here under the heading of community leaders are in many way representative of an era and perhaps also a class. This is because there were very rarely opportunities for working class women of the late 19th century to exercise any kind of community leadership. The advantages that these four grew up with included financial security (even affluence for three of the four), educational opportunities (though limited significantly by their being female), and strong family bonds and traditions of community service.

These women were social leaders in both the newspaper society page sense and in their acceptance of responsibility for improving the quality of life and broadening the horizons of all members of the community. They might be called volunteers or even "do gooders" in the complimentary literal sense of that sometimes uncomplimentary label.

Miss Florence Dibert, the eldest of the four was born in 1865, at the end of the Civil War. Miss Joanna Lawrence, the youngest, was born January 15, 1900 at the turn of the century. All four survived at least to the mid 1960's. They lived through a period of upheaval and change: the great Johnstown Flood of 1889 and/or a similar disaster in 1936; two world wars, not to mention the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts; the advent of

women's suffrage after a considerable struggle; (interestingly, none of these ladies is on record as a Suffragette, though two became very active in party politics); the entrance of women into the workplace, the professions, and higher education in large numbers.

Events such as these within the lifetime of this group of women changed radically the prevailing ideas about women's place in society and opened up opportunities for participation in public life heretofore unknown to women. The four were affected by all these changes in varying degrees. They were distinctly different individuals, each interesting in her own way.

It is interesting to note that only one of the four, Mrs. Evans of Ebensburg, was a traditional housewife. One was never married, but was financially secure from birth (Miss Dibert). The remaining two (Miss Lawrence and Mrs. Morrow) were divorced in an era when divorce could still be a social stigma, yet they managed in their different ways to overcome this personal setback and become happy and productive individuals as well as leaders.

The profiles of the accomplishments of these women may inadvertently omit some of their contributions; but certainly what has been recalled and recorded is more than enough to make proud their descendants, both blood descendants and spiritual descendants who labor in similar vineyards of community service.

This group of four admirable women is, of course, only a sampling from the Johnstown and Ebensburg communities of the great number of women who similarly led, brightened and enlightened their communities. There are, no doubt, a great many other Cambria County women who deserve credit in the annals of volunteer efforts toward community progress in social welfare and in culture. Early histories of this area are mainly histories of men's achievement. We can only hope that diaries and journals of women from all walks of life are being preserved and will one day be collected and researched for a truly comprehensive history of women's accomplishments and their leadership roles in this county and this region.

Florence May Dibert

1868-1954

Prepared by Dr. Gladys M. Clifton

A biography of Florence May Dibert was compiled by Velva

Idzkowsky as part of the Johnstown Art League's centennial observance in 1984. Miss Dibert was singled out for memorial tribute as the Art League's longest surviving founding member and one of the most active. Her many other contributions to the community were duly noted in this tribute, which included also a great many details about the Dibert family's role in the community over several generations.

Mrs. Idzkowsky's account noted that Florence May Dibert was herself keenly interested in genealogy and had collected family histories of many other old Johnstown families besides her own. The Diberts trace their ancestry all the way back to the French Huguenot De Berts who emigrated to Holland in the mid 1700's to escape religious persecution under Louis XIV. Florence Dibert's great-great grandfather David Dybird moved the family to the new world in the late 1700's settling first in New York, then in Chester County, Pennsylvania where the name "Dibert" took its present form.

The son of this immigrant Dibert (also named David) lived in Adams, Bedford and Cambria Counties; his son was Florence's grandfather John Dibert, founder and long term resident of Dibertsville, a Somerset County village named for him. He was a successful miller and distiller in this small town and also eventually the owner of a hotel and a mercantile business in Johnstown. All accounts of the great Johnstown Flood of 1889 note that the sturdily built John Dibert homestead at the corner of Franklin and Dibert Streets was the only structure in its Kernville neighborhood to survive intact, though it floated off its foundation to treetop height. This John Dibert did not live to witness the catastrophe, having died in 1849 at the age of 45. The flood claimed the life of his namesake son John (the third of eight children) and may have hastened the death of eldest son David, Florence's father, just three months after the flood on August 29, 1889.

Florence Dibert's father David (1826-1889) set an example of community involvement and philanthropy that no doubt helped form a similar commitment to such involvement in his daughter. David Dibert had been reared on the family farm near Dibertsville and married Lydia Griffith (1830-1901) of Jenner Cross Roads, Somerset County. By 1851 this family was residing in Johnstown where David Dibert had a tanning business and then a general store at Franklin and Somerset Street (later relocated to Franklin and Main). He prospered and was re-

garded as a respected community leader though he never sought political office.

David Dibert is remembered in more than one history of Johnstown and Cambria County as one who was generous in both public and private philanthropies. He was a member of the city's Board of Education and very active on the Board of Trustees and the Building Committee of the Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Idzkowsky quotes local historian Henry Wilson Storey on Florence's father:

"He gave liberally of his time, influence, and means to church work and was unstinting in his benefactions. . . . Many a poor widow held him in reverent regard for his tender sympathy and aid, and many a young man owed his beginning in business and homemaking to his counsel and substantial assistance."

It is worth noting that in her teens Florence Dibert (the sixth of David and Lydia Dibert's ten children) attended the private English and Classical School on Locust Street, which opened in 1878 under the sponsorship of officials of the Cambria Iron Works. These officials and other local families who could afford the thirty to fifty dollar tuition could provide their children with education superior to that of local schools. The Johnstown Tribune for June 12, 1879 records Florence Dibert as one of the participants in closing exercises at Professor Burr's English and Classical School. She delivered a declamation entitled "The Poet's Lot."

This kind of educational background makes Florence Dibert's lifelong interest in cultural and educational activity seem a natural outcome. Had she been born even a decade later she might even have been one of the earliest women to enter higher education at a good women's college as did Mary Rice Morrow (born 1892) whose life will be considered later in this section. In any case, at age nineteen she was one of the enthusiastic founding members of the Johnstown Art League in 1884. Two years later she served as president of the League in a year devoted to "Study of the Italian Artists" (1886-1887). She was also president from 1895-1896, a year devoted to the study of Greece. She remained active in this group throughout her long life, and to

mark its 60th anniversary the Art League honored her in 1944 with a tea and musicale at the George Hay Mansion on Valley Pike, Johnstown.

Again, on May 16, 1953, the Johnstown Art League honored Miss Dibert as a member of 69 years and presented in her name a painting by local artist Josephine Paul to the Cambria County Free Library.

In light of her interest in genealogy and her own family history it is not surprising that Florence May Dibert became a charter member of the Quemahoning Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1912. She served as DAR regent from 1925–1927 and was an active promoter of the DAR offshoot, Children of the American Revolution. Keen interest in family history and history in general also led her to become a founding member of the American Daughters of 1812 and to join the Daughters of American Colonists.

Other organizations in which Miss Dibert was active include the Pennsylvania State Historical Society, the 20th Century Club of Pittsburgh, and the Johnstown Civic Club. She remained active in the congregation and attended the Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church, which her father had had a role in erecting (now the Franklin Street United Methodist Church).

Eventually, Miss Dibert served as President of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Women's Clubs, and also as Vice President of the National General Federation of Women's Clubs. In this capacity she was influential in getting the Johnstown Art League admitted to the General Federation. In 1949 she was named an honorary Vice President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was the recipient of a gold medal honoring her for continuous club work in Pennsylvania and of a silver medal from the National Federation for her lifelong club activity.

These activities and honors are remarkable for both variety and number. In kind they are typical interests for someone of Miss Dibert's background—but there is still more. Miss Dibert carried on her father's interest in educational matters and became a Trustee of Penn State University. She also took independent initiatives in the community to help improve conditions in working class neighborhoods. Mrs. Idzkowsky found that Miss Dibert broke new ground in the field of public health:

“Miss Dibert headed the old Johnstown Civic Club which crusaded for social and health reforms shortly after the turn of the century. The club, under the presidency of Miss Dibert, established a settlement house in Cambria City and engaged a registered nurse to instruct mothers in the care and feeding of infants. As a direct result of this movement, an alarmingly high rate of infant mortality in the city was reduced materially.”

This initiative by Miss Dibert and her group is credited with bringing about the eventual employment of a full time visiting nurse by the City Health Department and later the organization of the present Community Nursing Service.

Miss Dibert is also remembered as an active promoter of the Cambria County Chapter of the American Red Cross—which is not surprising since her family was personally affected by the flood and no doubt as impressed as the rest of the community by the heroic efforts of Clara Barton and her fledgling organization. Indeed, the American Red Cross first achieved national attention and status for the flood relief work of Miss Barton and her volunteers.

The local YWCA and the local Talus Rock Girl Scouts chapter also received a portion of Miss Dibert’s seemingly endless energy and support. She was rewarded for her support of scouting with the highest honorary award of the Girl Scouts.

Florence May Dibert’s lifetime of extraordinary service to the greater Johnstown community has earned her not only the highest regard of her contemporaries but a secure place of honor in the history of women’s achievements in Cambria County.

Gladys Bash Evans

1885–1975

Prepared by Dr. Gladys M. Clifton

In her letter supporting the inclusion of Gladys Bash Evans in this history Dorothy Liphart of Ebensburg writes:

“Once in a while, but not often, there comes to our town someone who makes her presence felt in almost every activity for her charisma, her friendliness, and her ability to organize. Such a person was Gladys Bash Evans, who died April 1, 1975, just a few days after her 86th birthday.”



Gladys Bash was born March 18, 1889 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, the daughter of William Dripps Bash and Mary Ellen Jamison. She attended Indiana public schools and graduated from Indiana Normal School (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania) in 1908. She taught in the Johnstown public schools for six years and is known to have attended Northwestern University for a year. In 1915 she married Ebensburg attorney Alvin Evans, and from the first she took an active interest in Ebensburg community affairs.

Mrs. Evans' best remembered and most lasting contribution to the Ebensburg community was undoubtedly as co-founder (with Sara Gallagher) of the Ebensburg Library Association. Starting from scratch this group built the local library and built up its collection, mostly through tireless and determined volunteer fund-raising efforts. Mrs. Evans served as Library Association President for 50 years (1923-1953). When she retired from this post at her own request in 1973, she was honored with the Good Human Relations Award by the Dale Carnegie Alumnae Association for her many services to the library from its beginnings.

Mrs. Evans is mentioned in many newspaper stories and appears in newsphotos spanning at least four decades of intense involvement in local social and club functions. This evidence is preserved at the Historical Society Museum in Ebensburg. There is even mention of her having received a certificate for completion of a Department of Mines course in first aid during the summer of 1952.

Mrs. Evans was a charter member of the Ebensburg Business and Professional Women and of the Ebensburg Women's Club. She was a member of the Quemahoning Chapter of the DAR and of Chapter 803 of the Eastern Star. It is not surprising that she was honored as First Lady of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (1972-1974). She is remembered also as a life-long member of the Ebensburg Congregational Church and as an enthusiastic hostess of meetings at her home of the Johnstown Panhellenic Society.

Mrs. Evans was also active in local and state politics. She was a charter member of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women, serving at various times as a member of the Board of Directors, as Director of the Southwest Region, and as Convention Recording Secretary. She was often hostess or toastmistress at party functions and conventions, and in 1946 she was elected to the State Committee of the Republican Party.

Gladys Bash Evans is remembered for her enthusiasm and conviviality as well as for the wide range of her efforts in the community. The Ebensburg community's public library will remain the most visible monument to her lifetime service, but the example that she set was equally valuable in the judgement of her friends.

Mary Rice Morrow

1892-1967

Prepared by Dr. Gladys M. Clifton

The story of the life and career of Mary Rice Morrow seems remarkably contemporary in that it profiles a woman energetically and successfully balancing the demands of family and work outside the home and also finding time for community involvement. Many of her efforts both as professional woman and private citizen were directed toward the improvement of opportunities for working women and benefits for their children, concerns that are still important to Mrs. Morrow's granddaughters.

Mrs. Morrow herself became a single parent with major responsibility for raising two children when her twelve year marriage to Dr. J. R. Morrow ended in divorce in 1930. In spite of handicaps facing women of her generation in such a position, not to mention the fact of the Depression, she made a success of both career and family, retiring from public life in 1956 as a

Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania. This honorary citation, conferred by the Governor, reads as follows:

"A pioneer leader in behalf of working women and children. Early in life Mrs. Morrow's interest in social service was evident. Experience at Denison House in Boston, the Pillsbury Settlement in Minneapolis and with the workers in the bituminous mines of her native Cambria County provided valuable background for her major work.

In 1940 she was appointed Director of the Bureau of Women and Children, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. This Bureau later took over administration of hours and minimum wages. In the next fifteen years Mrs. Morrow through her vision and leadership in writing, teaching, and work at the state and national levels, greatly improved laws and working conditions and wages for women and children. As a result, today Pennsylvania is credited with having among the best and most progressive laws of any state in the Union to protect women and children."

Mary Rice was born October 12, 1892 in Hastings, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Daniel S. Rice, a physician and native of Indiana County, and Nettie Corbin of Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. From 1920 on Dr. Rice and family resided in Ebensburg, where he practiced.

Young Mary Rice was an exceptional student and one of the few young women of her generation to attend college. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts in 1914 from prestigious Vassar College. She later earned graduate credits at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and also at Penn State University in political science.

Mary Rice had as a young girl nurtured the ambition to follow her father into a career in medicine; however, when her brother William was born in 1902, the family assumed that he was the logical choice to follow his father's footsteps. Ironically, young William appears not to have matched his sister in academic interest and ambition and did not attempt higher education beyond a B.A. from Penn State in 1927.

One can but wonder what course Mary Rice's life might have taken had she been supported in her ambition to study medi-

cine. Though women were very rarely considered, much less admitted, to medical schools in the early decades of this century, it seems quite likely that her father's influence might have helped secure such admission since she was certainly qualified (in the opinion of her surviving son) had she not been female. Her son Robert Morrow has remarked that his mother was extremely gratified to see her granddaughter Monica Morrow become an M.D. at 22 and later a surgeon and professor specializing in breast surgery as well as a cancer researcher.

Instead of pursuing medical studies Mary Rice married a physician, J. R. Morrow, who practiced in Ebensburg. The marriage, which lasted from 1918 to 1930, produced two children, Robert and Virginia. When the marriage ended, Mrs. Morrow and the children took up residence in her parents' Ebensburg home where she remained throughout the decade preceding her 1940 appointment to the State Bureau of Labor and Industry in Harrisburg. Up until that appointment she remained active in Ebensburg community clubs and in organizations concerned with working conditions among the miners of Cambria County.

During her twenty years of adult residency in Ebensburg, Mary Rice Morrow was a member of the Quemahoning Chapter of the DAR: she was Pennsylvania Republican Women's Speaker's Bureau Director from 1918 to 1931. She also served on the State Board of Directors of the YWCA for a period starting in 1920. She retained a sense of community involvement even after her career in government began to demand a greater portion of her time and energy.

In her professional life Mrs. Morrow achieved success and recognition. She moved from Harrisburg to a position in Washington, D.C. with the U.S. Department of Labor for her last two years of public service before retiring to Florida in 1956. Even in retirement she maintained an active interest in social and cultural affairs. According to her son, Mrs. Morrow served on the Florida Governor's Committee For the Aging and for a term as Pinellas County Chapter President of the AAUW. She died on November 13, 1967, in Clearwater, Florida.

Mrs. Morrow's son Robert writes: "My mother personally drafted the legislation that was passed in the 40's and 50's to improve the working women and children's lot." He adds that "her advice was solicited by many businesses, including large corporations, on fair labor practices." Not only her own grand-

daughters but this entire current generation of working and professional women can be thankful for her efforts.

Mary Rice was obviously a woman of both intellect and compassion. Though thwarted in her own first life ambition (to become a doctor), she put her gifts to use not only in the service of personal goals but in the service of the community. Nor did she define "community" narrowly; from local and county levels up to the state and national levels of public service, she dedicated her efforts to social justice, particularly to equity for women and children. Even if she had not received the well-deserved Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania Award, the legislation that she drafted on behalf of women and children would stand as a monument to Mrs. Marrow's distinguished life and career.

Joanna Lawrence

1900-1971

Prepared by Dr. Gladys M. Clifton

Miss Joanna Lawrence was born at the turn of the century (January 15, 1900) in the Coopersdale section of Johnstown. Her parents were William Edward Lawrence, a steel mill employee, and Mary Hess Lawrence. Joanna Lawrence was of another generation from Florence Dibert (born 1864) and born in considerably more modest circumstances. She was a closer contemporary of Mary Rice Morrow (born 1892) and though she did not share her advantages of education, they had in common a lifetime of service to the community in both chosen profession and volunteer capacities; Miss Lawrence was at various times a city employee and a public school teacher.

Miss Lawrence was educated in Johnstown public schools and Indiana Normal Schools. By 1923 she had begun teaching and received her State of Pennsylvania Permanent Certification for grades K-9. At this time she married an attorney and moved out of state to North Carolina. Little is known about this period except that the marriage eventually ended in divorce. A friend and former teaching colleague recalled Miss Lawrence's mentioning a brief period spent as fraternity housemother at a Southern college. In any event, by 1936 Joanna Lawrence had resumed her maiden name and her life in Johnstown.

She became active immediately in the Talus Rock Girl Scouts of Johnstown, no doubt resuming a former interest of her own

early days and keeping in contact with young people during a period of non-teaching employment. She became a member of the Board of the Talus Rock Girl Scouts during an extremely active period from 1936–1956. For her leadership in promoting scouting she received fifteen and twenty year achievement pins and also the “Thanks Badge,” the highest award conferred upon an adult Girl Scout. She is remembered not just for faithful attendance at executive meetings but for many years of continuous service as a leader at the local Talus Rock Girl Scout Summer Camp.

Miss Lawrence lived with her sister Miss Kay Lawrence after her return to Johnstown in 1936. She served as Secretary to the Mayor of Johnstown, Daniel J. Shields from 1936–1940. When a new mayor was elected, she was appointed as Clerk in the City Finance Office, a post she held until 1943.

At this time Miss Lawrence returned to the classroom, teaching first at Scalp Level Elementary School, where she taught from 1945 until retirement in 1966. However, her retirement from Maple Park was not a retirement from teaching. When federally funded positions for a special reading program became available at the newly opened and innovative Meadowvale Elementary School, Miss Lawrence joined the staff. She is remembered by a former supervisor and colleague as “a wonderful teacher.” She was dedicated to teaching and working with young people for as long as her health permitted. She continued at Meadowvale until retiring in 1970 at age 70.

Not all of Miss Lawrence’s considerable energies went into activities centered on youth. First among her adult club interests was the Johnstown Quota Club, which she joined in 1937. She played an enthusiastic leadership role in this service club for business and professional women, serving as local Chapter President in 1939 and 1940. In 1941 she was elected Governor of the Third District of Quota Club International (the Western Pennsylvania district).

Nor was Miss Lawrence content to be only the leader of the Johnstown Quota Club. She pursued contacts in neighboring communities and was instrumental in helping start Quota Club chapters in Altoona, Blairsville, Indiana, and Greensburg. For her contributions to this organization, she was honored with a testimonial dinner by Quota Club International in 1941.

During the war years 1942–1944 Miss Lawrence was a local Civil Defense Volunteer serving as an air raid warden and tak-

ing charge of telephone communications at City Hall. She also served a term as President of the Inter-Service Club of Johnstown, and she was active in the Wesleyan Guild of the Franklin Street United Methodist Church.

Miss Lawrence died October 2, 1971, only a year after her final retirement from teaching. Had she lived longer and been in good health, there is no doubt that she would have had an active retirement in pursuit of the same interests that gave her life of community service its admirable focus.

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

In the early years, teaching was considered an acceptable career for young women, as there were no definite educational requirements and no costs for added education. As long as the young woman was bright, educated, and came from a good family, it was presumed she would be able to teach. Even after there were formal educational requirements, education was still considered a preferred career for women.

Cambria County had many excellent and talented teachers, but only the following biographies were submitted:

Julia Connell
Agnes Exler
Sister Mary DeSales Farley
Gallagher Sisters
Mary Martha Gilmore
Mary Glenn
Annie M. Jones
Gertrude Lake
Sophia Moiles
Florence Patch
Jessie Tomb

Julia Connell

1874–1970

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

Ebensburg lost one of its most beloved townswomen when Julia Connell died at the age of 96 on April 19, 1970.

Hers was a pioneer family and her father was a member of

the famed Bucktail Regiment of Civil War days. William H. and Matilda Bendon Connell were the parents of twelve children. Julia, the first girl in the family, was born on February 9, 1874.

Her own teaching career began without the benefit of a college education. A higher education was considered important enough, though, for her to finance the education of her four younger sisters. Julia took courses at Columbia, continuing her work along the way toward a degree after graduating from Clarion State Teachers' College, where she later became a member of the faculty.

Most of her teaching was done at elementary schools in Cambria County. A nephew, Dan Connell, remembers her telling about the long walk from Ebensburg to Carrollton each day, an eight mile, one-way walk, whether winter or spring. Perhaps it was that daily walk, he mused, that gave her the longevity.

Other schools benefited from this warm, cheerful, generous teacher. She taught at Ebensburg school, at Westmont and at Osborne and Somerset Street schools in Johnstown. Compassion led her to teach and then to serve as the first principal at the former Children's Home School. That building is now a part of the State School in Ebensburg.

The Connell sisters lived together. All remained unmarried except for Margaret, who later returned to the house on West Herman Street with her two children, Joseph and Connie Drollet. These two children were, as Dan put it, "the light of her eyes!"

During President Roosevelt's relief project time, Julia went to the hard coal region, Minersville, to work among the people there. About half of her salary went for those children. Clothes were needed and many families didn't have adequate nourishment. Besides, there were books and other school supplies to be bought. It was believed that Julia kept hardly enough for her own subsistence.

This generous spirit won for her a host of long-lasting friendships. Even after her retirement in 1944 after fifty-one years as a dedicated educator, she was happy to receive the many former students who came to visit her. Judges, doctors, teachers and ordinary workers remembered her with gratitude, often sending or bringing lovely gifts to express their thanks in tangible ways.

The woman had a very keen sense of humor. Martha Connell felt a joy to be around her. There was a time when Martha and

her aunts went to the theater. Like most women, Julia loved beautiful hats. On this occasion she wore a feather hat with a plume which reached all the way around to the back and peeked out at the front again. Julia considerably removed her hat in the theater. As the group left the darkened theater, that hat went back on her head—backward. “She looked absolutely ridiculous”, Martha tells. “That plume looked for all the world like a lei draped from her head.” One prim sister chided, “Julia, Julia, you’re a teacher. Remember who you are!” The rest of the family was in hysterics.

Julia was crazy about popcorn. It was another hilarious moment when they presented her with a huge popcorn snowball.

Hard as it may be to believe it, Julia looked forward to retirement and a regular routine of housework. She was not a cook, but she longed to get into the mundane things of the world, and she wanted to continue her work in her local church as a member of the Catholic Daughters of Holy Name Catholic Church.

Julia Connell, it has been said, enriched and brightened her hometown.

Material prepared from:

Cambria County Historical Society, Dorothy Liphart and
Conversations with Dan and Martha Connell

Agnes Exler

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

Member of the original Johnstown Area Regional Industries

Member, Board of Franklin Street Methodist Church

Member, Board of Directors of the Christian Home

Member, Board of Directors of the Y.W.C.A.

Member, Board of Directors of Cambria City Mission

Member, Community Nursing Association

Member, Delta Kappa Gamma and President of the Iota Chapter

Member, Board of Directors of American Cancer Society

Life Member of Pennsylvania and National Educations Associations

Past President, Quota Club

Secretary, Board of Trustees, Glosser Memorial Library

Supervisor of Elementary Education from 1956 to 1971

Lecturer, Master Teacher, and Bible Scholar (Excelsior Bible Class for 26 years)

Agnes Exler often was teased by friends that she was on enough "Boards" to build a substantial home!

Life began for Agnes Exler in the little town of Scenery Hill on Route 40, east of Little Washington, PA. The family came to live on Elder Street in Hornerstown while she was very young, and later lived on Wood Street.

This dynamic educator began her own education in the Johnstown schools when she entered the fourth grade at the Horner Street School after having been taught by her mother at home for the first years. On the first day at school, the teacher asked the child to give her name. Her cheerful reply, "Agnes Catherine Lord Exler" brought instant laughter from her classmates. Middle names were not common in those days. It was then and there that she determined never to use a middle initial again.

After graduation from the eighth grade, she entered the Johnstown Normal School, now known as Johnstown High School. Always the insatiable student, Agnes already was thinking of Indiana Teacher's College by the time she completed her Normal School education in 1921^{1/2}. After a two-year course at the college (now known as Indiana University), Agnes honored her father's wish that she remain in Johnstown rather than seek employment elsewhere. Her teaching career began at Hudson Street School.

Thirst for knowledge sent her to the University of Pittsburgh where she earned a B. S. degree, and then, in 1947, a Master's Degree in elementary education. Later training prepared her for her role as Supervisor of Elementary Education in the Johnstown schools, beginning with the 1957-58 school year at the grand starting salary of \$6,800.

A great lover of children, the master teacher also was known as a master disciplinarian. "When I have to look at you, it's already too late!" she would warn a misbehaving youngster. But, on the darkest days she always wore the brightest dress she had. "No child should be expected to come to school in weather like this and have to look at a teacher in dark clothes, too", said this woman of an always-cheerful countenance.

There are those who thought that Agnes was a good organizer, but dogmatic and opinionated. Others saw her as having the courage of her convictions while maintaining a happy resil-

ience. There is no doubt that her Baptist rearing in early childhood had its good influence. Catherine Long, a dear friend with whom she shared a home in Roxbury until her death in 1979, recalls that a dinner guest once answered the phone with the words, "Home of the good shepherd!"

A deep empathy for people helped so much in her ability to get along with and understand them. "She could put herself in other people's shoes and understand", Catherine reminisced.

Perhaps that was why, when Agnes learned that most of the children in her class didn't know where their fathers worked, she brought a model of a steel mill to show to them. Later, in 1968, she sought and received permission to research "Individualized Learning for Inner City Youth" by working in Washington, D.C.'s inner city for three days. It was that experience which piqued an even greater interest in improving the reading abilities of students in the Johnstown schools and, together with other teachers, she would spend Saturdays taking them to the library.

As Supervisor of Reading, and herself an avid reader, Agnes offered "great ideas" in her work on textbooks: "Basically, a good teacher tries different methods until she finds the one which will motivate the children to learn. Nowadays, there are many ways open to teachers. They have books and teaching machines to help them. Otherwise, it's the same: helping children to develop their potential."

Agnes, who taught graduate students at the former Johnstown Center of the University of Pittsburgh and Edinboro State College, and elementary teachers at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania recalled, "I always told teachers to put 'PEP' in their teaching. The first P stands for preparation. You can't go into it cold. The E is for enthusiasm, a priceless ingredient. The final P stands for presentation, how interestingly a teacher can introduce material by new approaches, studying the needs of pupils. Most of it is just common sense and a love for children."

Because of her great interest in books, it seemed natural that she became involved in the Cambria County Library System and served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Her name is inscribed on the bronze plaque in the vestibule of the Glosser Memorial Library. Her carefully-taken minutes (which she took verbatim in a combination of her own shorthand and Pittman)

were in the second floor office of the Main Street Library and therefore escaped destruction in the 1977 flood.

The auburn-haired, blue-eyed lady with the gorgeous complexion refused to use the title "Miss" before her name because, she said with a twinkle in her eye, she didn't want people to think she had been "missed".

Catherine stifled a chuckle as she recalled the Christmas Agnes had received, *again*, a man's necktie from a charitable organization to whom each year she had sent a contribution. The tie was quickly re-packaged and returned with a note: "This is the umpteenth tie you have sent. Next time, please send a man instead!"

After thirty-one and a half year of service in the Johnstown schools, a new freedom was found upon retirement in August 1971. Just two days later, Agnes was bound for Alaska. The rheumatoid arthritis which had already begun to plague her, seemed almost to disappear when she traveled to Hawaii with Catherine. Later travels included a tour of the British Isles, a European tour, and in 1976 a tour to Scandinavia in which she expressed the opinion that the tour director had not done his homework!

It was after a trip to Iceland and Greenland with Delta Kappa Gamma that areothematosiis (a breakdown of the arterial system) began to take its toll. During one nearly fatal bout with pneumonia, a hospital nurse routinely asked Agnes for her teeth. Agnes refused to give them to the nurse, whose growing exasperation was relieved when the patient offered to call the dentist to have them removed. It was only then that the nurse realized that the teeth were her own! Even in illness, that great sense of humor prevailed.

In a final bout of pneumonia, Agnes Exler died February 22, 1979, and Johnstown lost someone who will not be forgotten.

Material prepared from conversation with:

A. Catherine Long
Dr. Levi Hollis
Dorothy Hindman
Anna Catherine Bennett

Material submitted by:

Quota Club of Johnstown—Mary Burkhart
Several newspaper articles

Sister Mary de Sales Farley, R.S.M

1892–1972

Written by Brenda George
Information from Sister Silverius, R.S.M.
Submitted by Sister Mary Geibel, R.S.M.

The founder of Mount Aloysius Junior College had a profound influence on many young lives in an almost magical way.

Sister Mary de Sales Farley seemed to be able to foresee coming trends in matters of church and education—somehow her influence spilled over from religious supporters to the lay community.

Born in New York to wealthy Joseph Austin Farley and his wife, Mary Gertrude, Gertrude Farley must have been destined for a religious vocation. Her uncle was Cardinal Farley, of New York City, and her great-aunt, Mary Gertrude Cosgrave, was the co-founder of the Mount Aloysius Academy in Cresson which would later become Mount Aloysius Junior College. Even her immediate family members had interests in religious vocations. Her brother Theodore became a member of the Jesuit community of Fordham University in New York City and a professor of philosophy; her sister Marian became a Maryknoll missionary and later, a cloistered nun.

In addition to family influence was the encouragement of her religious education. She received her secondary schooling from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart on Madison Avenue, and upon completion entered Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in 1910. She withdrew from college early, choosing to enter the Sisters of Mercy in 1912. Successfully fulfilling her novitiate—which is a two-year period given to the study of community and religious life—Sister de Sales took her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and began her career in education.

Her first teaching assignments were in two elementary schools: St. Mark's, Altoona, Pennsylvania, and St. Peters, in Butler. In 1920, she undertook an eight-year appointment, to teach English at Altoona Catholic High School, now known as Bishop Guilfoyle High. During this time, she completed her baccalaureate work and began post-graduate studies at St. Francis to attain her master's degree in English.

In 1936, her religious superiors appointed her as principal of Mount Aloysius Academy, which at that time was a private school. Established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1853, the acad-

emy initially served as a finishing school for the daughters of the affluent. Courses of study at that time included fine china painting, astronomy, Greek, Latin and history. With the changes in society came changes in the curriculum. By the time of Sister de Sales's arrival, the focus was on liberal arts preparatory courses and business courses. Always abreast of the changes taking place in the educational scene, Sister de Sales realized that the concept of the private Catholic academy was quickly becoming outdated. She envisioned Mount Aloysius Academy transforming into what was then the relatively new concept of a two-year junior college.

Motivated by this vision, she approached her religious superior and the bishop, concerning the promising possibilities of a junior college in Cresson. Then, tremendous support was given to her from the entire community.

Particularly influential was Arthur Stull, the county superintendent of schools, who personally offered Sister de Sales his assistance. In addition, came support from parents of students, one of whom was a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and another, George Wolf, of Wolf Furniture. It should be emphasized that there was no financial help given. As Sister Silverius, the archivist at Mount Aloysius explained, "The school was built on the prayer, faith and hard work of the sisters."

In 1939, Mount Aloysius Academy became Mount Aloysius Junior College—one of the first two-year colleges in the country.

The first administrative post Sister de Sales assumed was that of dean, although while acting as dean, she also fulfilled the function of president. In any Sisters of Mercy college, the office of president was reserved as an ex-officio for appointed religious superiors of the community; consequently, the responsibility of president fell within the orbit of the dean.

As the functioning head of Mount Aloysius Junior College, Sister de Sales's interests focused on the college: the students, the faculty and the sisters. She constantly stayed abreast of what was possible to offer in the college. Of particular interest to her was the expanding health-care field.

A major achievement was the establishment of an intensive two-year nursing program. For that purpose, she had studied a two-year program in progress in New York State. At that time, nurses were trained in three-year programs, so the two-year concept in Pennsylvania was considered radical. By the fall of 1962, she, with the assistance of another woman, had the program

functioning, and registered her first class. Today, the program has grown beyond even her expectations.

The improvements in academics fostered in her a desire to improve the education of her faculty. She saw to it that her sisters received further education at the best universities in the east, selecting schools that were best suited to their talents. Even before approaching a sister, Sister de Sales had a fixed idea of what subject the sister should study and what school she would be attending. Because of Sister de Sales's gracious personality, she never was refused; the sisters went on to pursue masters and doctorates.

This rare ability to approach people was one of her strongest qualities. Never forceful or sharp, she was always gracious and deferential—the type one just couldn't say “no” to. Even the bishop found her impossible to refuse. Some of Sister Silverius's fondest memories of Sister de Sales were the times when the bishop was invited to the college, and for a meal. Upon completion of the meal, the bishop, Sister de Sales and several other sisters would retire to the parlor. During discussion, Sister de Sales would request the bishop's presence at several functions for which she hoped he would officiate. The bishop would have the secretary immediately make a note of the dates, always fitting them into his demanding schedule. No one else could do that but Sister de Sales.

While accomplished in the social graces, she had strong, societal convictions as well. She recognized the importance of accepting students of any race, color or creed into the college. Even before she assumed the position of dean, the college was accepting students from other countries. However, black students had never applied. Consequently, Sister de Sales actively sought black students for enrollment. During the 1946–47 academic year, she registered the first black student into the secondary school division. This came during a time when southern schools still had laws denying integrated education. Since then, many black students have enrolled and gone on to successful careers in education. Particularly noteworthy was Sally Yates, who went on to earn her doctorate and is presently a full-time professor at Columbia University.

Sister de Sales also opened the school to male students on a commuting basis during 1949 and 1950. In 1968, Mount Aloysius officially established a co-ed policy.

Sister de Sales did everything that needed to be done to keep things going. Surprisingly, she was ill most of her life. As Sister Silverius explained it, Sister de Sales acted as the brains and the sisters served as the laborers. Always holding before her a picture of what she wanted to develop, she relied a great deal on the power of prayer.

A fitting term to describe her is *deferential*. She knew exactly how to approach people, because she was such an accomplished lady. But, in spite of all her social grace and poise, Sister Silverius did recall Sister de Sales in an awkward moment. While she was out recruiting students for the college, a family she was visiting owned a cat. The feline was curled up on the couch and Sister de Sales did not see it. She moved to make herself comfortable on the couch and unwittingly sat on the cat. needless to say, the scene produced some excitement.

She retired in the summer of 1966 and passed away in 1972, after an extended illness. Since that time, changes have occurred at the college that without the impact of Sister de Sales never would have taken place.

The Gallaher Sisters

Sarah McCune Gallaher and Ada Rose Gallaher

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

When asked what she considered the most outstanding memory of her life, Sarah McCune Gallaher grinned mischievously. "Well, I once went to a camp meeting and saw some ladies smoking. I thought I was smart and followed their example; and I set myself on fire. I was thirteen months recovering from those burns. During my recovery my mother's friend told her not to waste too much time caring for me. She said I'd never be able to do much of anything anyway!"

But Sarah showed them!!

This remarkable woman was a descendent of New Washington's original settler, John Gallaher. Miss Gallaher was born there, in Clearfield County on June 8, 1864, a daughter of George Washington and Elizabeth (Hallesen) Gallagher. John, the pioneer settler, a veteran of the Revolution and the War of 1812, came to the area with his family in 1816 and purchased 400 acres of land. Mr. Gallaher's son Crawford, was asked to

name the place after the town had grown considerably. The family thought the name "Washington" would be good, but since Pennsylvania already had a town by that name, the word "New" was added.

Sarah's sister Ada Rose told this story when asked if Indians had ever been seen in this region: "A sister of James Gallaher was stolen by the Indians; but as they were taking her toward Pittsburgh, a posse of white men met them and took the girl to live in Elizabethtown. There she grew to be an elderly woman."

"When a Dr. McCune settled in New Washington, he was interested upon hearing the name Gallaher. He told people about a gray-haired woman he knew who said that was her maiden name. She had been kidnapped by the Indians and didn't know her family. When they heard this, George Washington and Miss Margaret Gallaher got on their horses and rode to Elizabethtown. They were assured she was the lost member of their family."

It was against such an exciting, historical background that Ada Rose and Sarah began their lives.

The girls attended the village school. Records indicate that Sarah was a student there until the age of sixteen, and then was given a teaching charge at Coal Run (between Philipsburg and Osceola), Patchinville and LaJose.

"Uncle Jimmy" drove Sarah and her cousin to their respective schools of higher learning. "It was a delightful all-day trip", wrote Sarah. It was then she began her studies at Indiana Normal School, now Indiana State University, where she was awarded a Bachelor of Education degree in 1884, and later, her Master of Science degree in 1888. She went on to study at Cornell University, finally to receive a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1895.

An insatiable appetite for learning led her to continue her education at the Universities of Oxford, England; Berlin, Germany; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was given a fellowship in American History with a Master of Arts degree in 1902.

All of this led the Indiana State Normal School to seek her as an instructor, a position she held from 1888 to 1893. The College Preparatory School of Birmingham, Pa. named her associate principal in which capacity she served from 1896 to 1900. In addition, she was a member of the University Publishing Company in New York from 1902 to 1904.

The dream of her life became a reality when she established a

boarding school, Hallesen Place, the "Ebensburg Elementary School For Younger Pupils" in 1904. Fenwick Hall, a grand home on North Center Street, became the first home. Classes were held in a large brick addition with a raised section around a fireplace.

The school's beginnings were small, with just eight boarding students, to which two more were added in a short time. Along with the joy of a good beginning, there was disappointment when the enrollment fell short of the twenty pupils it was designed to accommodate.

Then, in December of 1907, with the purchase of seven acres from the Jones estate, plans for the new home of Hallesen Place were put into motion. The school was named to honor Miss Gallaher's mother. With the passing of time, a number of improvements were made, including the addition of an eight-room cottage to expand the dormitories. As the school expanded, so did its reputation.

Here, pupils could begin an education which carried them into the first years of high school and preparatory work. The school functioned throughout the year and accepted students at any time. Special attention was given to the mind and the spirit of each student while they were taught to study. The music department was given high recognition as one which offered the finest in musical education, and the entire community was welcomed to enjoy fine musicals, among which was the operetta, "The Gypsy Queen", presented by the whole school.

Thousands of pupils attended this fine school until its closing in 1942. It had attracted the wealthy and famous: the son of the Norwegian ambassador to the United States, the daughter of the head of the Pacific fleet, and many others.

A former pupil reminisced about the long ago school days at Hallesen Place. There was the memory of younger children in Hallowe'en costumes creeping down the stairway to "scare" the older children; the parties for special holiday seasons; children playing on the spacious lawn on summer afternoons; the bells jingling around the horses' necks as children were carried for worship to the little Methodist Church on Julian Street; the mannerly way in which they were expected to conduct themselves during the worship service; "discipline" which consisted of committing some of the great works of literature to memory. All of this opened a child's mind to that which is lovely and abiding.

Sister Ada Rose was there helping to make all of these dreams of a school come true.

During this time Ada served as Principal at the school, having completed studies at the Indiana Normal School, at Cornell, and qualified for a diploma in Elementary Supervision from Columbia University. The two sisters visited schools in England and Scotland as appointees of the National Civics Federation. They worked to establish a school in Puerto Rico after Ada Rose had taught in Florida and Cuba.

Before the realization of her "dream school", Sarah Gallaher was a professional reader. Some of the wealthiest homes of New York and Philadelphia invited her to entertain. The large-boned, dignified woman with the large grey eyes presented an impressive appearance in the lovely dress of black chiffon over satin, set off with a deep yoke of real Irish lace which she often wore.

Miss Sarah Gallaher was a recognized authority on Washington, Benjamin Franklin and William Penn. During the time she had been abroad, she became the first American permitted to do research at the Library of London which housed the only history of William Penn.

Interest in her own home town, though, was closest to her heart. A member of the Cambria County Mothers Assistance Board for many years, she also held membership in the State Teachers Association of Pennsylvania, the American History Society, Association of Collegiate Alumnae Clubs and the Cornell University Woman's Club.

Neither was her church forgotten. A staunch, lifelong Methodist, she served as a spiritual lay leader of the local church and took responsibilities as Church Secretary, member of the Board of Trustees, and taught Sunday School for boys.

Reading was one of Sarah's favorite pastimes throughout her 100 years of life. In that connection she was instrumental in the founding of the Ebensburg Free Public Library and was later named Member Emeritus of that library's Board of Directors.

True to the pioneer spirit from which she came, Sarah McCune Gallaher became the first Cambria County woman to serve in the State Legislature. She was elected in 1933, the first term women were eligible for the office under the 19th Amendment. She chose not to stand for reelection. In response to questions about her legislative experience, she replied, "I remember it as a very pleasant and instructive experience but not one that

I care to repeat. I did not care to devote my time to the Legislature. I only ran the first time", she went on, "because women were given the right to sit, and most of them were timid about running. I did it to give them an example."

Upon her retirement in 1942, the sisters returned to live in New Washington, but they were unable to return to their original home. A fire in the 1920's took a great part of the center of town. With it went the Gallaher family home.

Ada Rose died there at the age of eighty-nine, and a second cousin, Mrs. Edna Williams, came to live with Sarah as a housekeeper and companion in 1959.

Sarah preferred to live quietly in retirement, but the idea of a centennial birthday celebration appealed to this woman who had enjoyed such a long and colorful career in Cambria County. A newspaper photograph marking the occasion pictures her with the caption: "I guess I showed them!" This was in reference to those who had said she would never amount to anything.

The inevitable question was posed to Miss Gallaher, "To what do you attribute your longevity?" The answer came after just a moment of thought, "My wholesome home life. I always had to work hard and eat well."

Material submitted by:

Anne McDonald

Cambria County Historical Society Museum

Library of Hollidaysburg (Private College)

Article from:

Mountaineer herald

Conversation with:

Eva Estep Detz (former student and instructor)

Mary Martha Reinhold Gilmore

1904-1979

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Mary Martha Reinhold Gilmore was born January 16, 1904 in Johnstown, the daughter of Laura Elizabeth (Troxell) and Franklin Pierce. She attended Johnstown Schools, graduating from the high School. She attended and graduated from Indiana Normal School, and taught science at Cochran Junior High School.

She was married to Allen Gilmore and had two daughters, Alice Betsy Bannon, Leadville, Colorado and Lydia Reinhold

Costlow, Taipei, Taiwan. On a trip to visit her daughter in Taipei she had been able to secure an unusual artifact from one of the ancient families of Taiwan because there was no son to inherit it. She was extremely proud of it, a piece of jade—I think a Buddha.

Mary Martha lived on Park Avenue in Moxham. She did fine needlework as a hobby, teaching classes in her home. One of our AAUW members, Leora Rager, attended these classes. She tells me that Mary Martha's home gave one a sense of history for there were antiques and many samples of types of needlework done by colonial women. One chair in particular was done in old-type antique stitchery. In 1976 she gave up her home to move to Arbutus Manor. Although she was able to take her most prized possessions with her, as well as her two beautiful fluffy cats, she regretted her move.

She had presented to the Flood Museum a very lovely family heirloom, a wedding dress. The dress, being for a bride under five feet, was too small to be worn by either herself or her daughters. But it had been worn three times. Made for her great, great grandmother, Lydia Hesser when she was married to Dr. Charles Gottlieb Reinhold in 1839, it was used again by her great aunt, Dr. Mazie Reinhold when she married Robert Baker in 1881, and finally by her daughter Dr. Lydia Reinhold Baker when she married Dr. Ward Pierce in 1911. When next you visit the Johnstown Flood Museum, be sure to see this heirloom gown. Johnstown Branch AAUW purchased a case for displaying the dress which had been reposing in a trunk.

Mary Martha's field of interest was science. Some of our members had children who were taught by her. Her pet project was the Science Fair; single-handedly she helped and sponsored her science students with their entries. Many of them gained recognition for their work. Students said of her that she made them learn.

Mary Martha died October 21, 1979, not too long after returning from a trip to visit her daughter in Taiwan.

Material from conversations with:

Leora Rager

Anna Catherine Bennett

Newspaper clipping, *Johnstown Tribune*

American Association of University Women minutes

Mary D. Glenn

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

“She was a very private person.” This was the observation of Rosemary Hagadus, one of the students who sat in Mary D. Glenn’s English class when conversation turned to one of Johnstown’s most beloved English teachers.

In those days students didn’t know too much about their teachers’ private lives. Relationships between student and teacher were more formal than we know them to be in the 1980’s.

Another former student who later worked under Miss Glenn in the English Department spoke of her remarkable memory. When Carmela Falvo’s son was graduated, Mary Glenn shook her hand and used her name in offering congratulations.

Mary Glenn was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, tracing her roots to the beginnings of America. She never married, but lived with her sister on Park Avenue in Johnstown.

She was born on a hot August day at the top of her family’s general store. It was so hot they had to put “haps” (a Pennsylvania Dutch term for blankets) over the window to keep out the heat.

Mrs. Glenn would often serve as hostess to the Monday night Bible Study group, after which the women would quilt to help raise money for the church. Church members would pay fifty



cents to have their names embroidered on a quilt patch. Quite naturally, everyone wanted one of these quilts. Several are still in the possession of the Glenn family.

Baby sitting was no problem while the girls were growing up. When their mother went out to meetings, the children were instructed to stay upstairs in the apartment above the store. There was a register in the floor to allow heat to rise from the lower floor. If there was a need for Father's attention, a rap on the register would bring him immediately.

The store on Grove Avenue did a good business. Mary had a special fondness for the beautiful ribbons and dress goods. Farmers and newcomers from Davidsville, Ferndale and Moxham all patronized the Glenn store. Moxham was the home of the "elite" of Johnstown. Often horse-drawn carriages would pull up with statesmen customers.

Mary loved living in Moxham, except for the muddy streets. Everything was mud. Bob Turner, a neighbor, use to "jolly" Mary when she was all dressed to go out. He'd say, "Good-bye, Gloria Swanson. Don't forget you came to Johnstown through muddy streets."

On one occasion, the Glenn family decided to picnic on the Somerset Highway. They all climbed into their horse-drawn carriage and found the perfect spot. The picnic lunch had just been set out when, suddenly, a band of horsemen came rushing at them. They drew their horses to a sudden stop and in a burst of words told of a murder and robbery at the bank in town, and that the robbers were headed their way. So much for that picnic! The cloth and its contents were swept back into the carriage and the family hastily left the scene.

Education for Mary really began at the Park Avenue School. Eventually, she became head of the English Department at Johnstown High School.

An ad in the *Ladies Home Journal* piqued the interest of her sister, Florence, so much that she entered Bryn Mawr as a student. Her stories of life at this college so enthralled the two younger girls, Ruth and Mary, that they, too, enrolled there. Only Bessie, the oldest, did not go to college. She remained at home to care for their invalid mother and managed to graduate from high school despite many missed days. By that time she had a boyfriend, Ralph Porter, whom she later married. She had no interest in higher education.

Kathryn Hepburn and Lucia Chase were classmates when

Mary attended Bryn Mawr. It seems to be true that Kathryn was self-willed and defiant. According to Mary: "There was a cloister behind the library with a pond. No one was allowed there, but Kathryn went swimming. She was almost dismissed from the college." The wonder of it for Mary, though, was that Kathryn was still loveable enough to be chosen "Queen Elizabeth" for the May Day parade held every four years.

Shortly after co-ed dorms came into being, Mary returned to the college for a reunion. Everyone thought it was terrible that colleges now allowed men to be in women's rooms. In Mary's day, she recalled to a friend, the Haverford boys (from a nearby men's school) took us to tea and to the theater, so we had men at Bryn Mawr . . . "but we didn't have to live with them." That statement expresses most effectively the values held by her generation.

Later studies took her to Columbia University for summer work; to the University of Pittsburgh for courses in Education and English. Study was an integral part of Mary Glenn's life. It is interesting to note, however, that while she did a lot of work, she didn't seem to have a great interest in degrees.

Miss Glenn's teaching career began as a Special Substitute in Somerset schools after having received her AB from Bryn Mawr in 1917. She taught everything—Latin, Cicero, French, German. On one occasion the principal asked her to take a history class while he went out to apply for a new position. History was not her field and she felt she could not teach unprepared. She did not appreciate the man asking "out of a blue sky" to teach history. Later she returned to Johnstown to do private tutoring while tending her ill mother. Among her students were Scott Baumer and Kathryn Roberts Adair. History, of course, was included in the private program. "I was bound to have history!" she smiled.

Mary D. Glenn was very business-like. When students went into the classroom, they were there to learn a certain segment of the lesson for the day. She was a very proper person in the sense that she believed that good manners were very important, especially for young people. "I never remember her getting angry", remarked a former student. "She was soft-spoken, very low-key, and that in itself demanded attention." One had to pay attention to hear everything she said in order not to miss it. If someone in the back of the room would begin to whisper, she simply would stop, so, of course everyone else would stop. Thus,

in her soft manner, she would recall the offending student to the matter at hand.

Although she appeared to be a very formal individual, she had a whimsical side to her, often giving a wonderful smile which was different from her formal reserve. Weekends, when she served as chaperone for the Friday night dances or at the Canteen, she would say, "Now I expect you all to act like ladies and gentlemen at the dance. It's important to be polite to each other, and to be well-mannered. There's no reason to be rowdy. You can have a good time in a well-mannered fashion."

Dress was an important factor even in those days. One dressed for play and one dressed for school. It was unheard-of to wear blue jeans to school, though it might be considered for a dance. But, on weekends, going out to a dance was a dress-up event; everyone would wear their Sunday best.

Some indication of outside interests was indicated by her membership as Public Relations Representative of the National Council of English. She was a Sponsor of the Touchstone Chapter of the National Honor Society. More than anything, though, she was widely acclaimed as an excellent English teacher.

Dancing, theater, opera—all of these provided entertainment and a social life for Johnstown's younger set when Mary began her career. Even after many years, her eyes would sparkle as she remembered the time Helen Price, daughter of the president of Bethlehem Steel "swept into the theater, causing quite a sensation in her lovely gown . . . sometimes she sat in a box, too". There used to be dancing where the Fisher building is, opposite Swank's Hardware. Another dancing spot was located where the U.S. Bank is today. There was a large soda fountain where everyone went after the theater. Those were the days of live bands, and one could have several dancing partners for the evening by filling one's program. People would trade off dances. Everyone had a partner for each dance. Mary met a lot of people in this delightful way. When Rhumba came into fashion, the band would strike up as Wilson Slick and his wife sailed onto the dance floor; everyone would watch these two who were always the first to know the newest dance steps.

The family was a very important unit to Mary; the church influenced that unit. School was important in terms of acting as a guide for the student and getting the students to realize that these two elements were keys to a whole life. A strong influence in Miss Glenn's life was that of the church. Her father, George

B. Glenn, together with his wife Mary Alice (Groninger) were instrumental in the beginnings of the Second Presbyterian Church at the corner of Park Avenue and Village Street in Moxham. "We considered it our duty to work for the church when I was a child. All of us mowed the lawn. I was on the Flower Committee. My sister, Bessie, was in the choir and one Sunday the organist couldn't come. They needed someone to pump the organ. Bessie pumped the organ; that was her disposition."

"At Sunday School we had Christian Endeavor for the young people. We studied the Bible. I remember when I was five years old. Mother made pretty dresses for each of us and got us new shoes. Bessie's dress was yellow silk; Florence had blue, Ruth wore pink, and I had white. I had white shoes with pearls at the buckle. In Sunday School a little girl upchucked all over me, on my dress and on my shoes. Oh, I cried! Mother said the little girl couldn't help it I never got over that. Those things are tragic to children. I never forgot it!"

"In many ways, Mary Glenn was a little bit of a Peter Pan," says Ruth Kraft of her aunt. "As the youngest child, she was always deeply involved with her own family, never quite independent of her very, strong, dominant mother, even though all four girls were strong, each in her own way." Mary was not one to strike off on her own *except* when it came to teaching. Her world was her career and she could never quite see the real world as different from her family. She was very aware of everything that was going on, having even toured Europe after crossing the Atlantic by boat.

Perhaps her outstanding characteristic was her lady-like way, gentle and soft-spoken, though she was known to be forthright in expressing her opinion. Those who knew her best say that she never told an off-color joke, nor did she use language which was not respectable.

After an interview a few months before her death at a nursing home, Carol Fris was astonished to hear her apologize, "I hope I haven't bored you." The interviewer bent over her chair to give her a kiss and a hug. October 21, 1986 saw the end of the life of a gifted and gracious teacher.

Material prepared from:

Interview by Carol Fris April 16, 1986

Conversations with:

Rosemary Hagadus

Nancy Malloy
Lois Paff
Carolyn Beegle
Ruth Kraft
Carmela Falvo

Annie M. Jones

1866–1939

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

She died before she felt ready to leave her work. Even at the age of seventy-three, “Miss Annie”, as everyone in Ebensburg knew her, wanted to get well in order to teach just a little longer.

For fifty years, at the Ebensburg grade school, “Miss Annie” taught boys and girls. In many instances she taught their children, and even their grandchildren. Many of these students became prominent in their fields of endeavor. All were strongly influenced by her instruction, and, perhaps even more so, by her kindness.

Ebensburg was home to this beloved teacher. She was born there on March 28, 1866, the daughter of Thomas L. and Martha (Williams) Jones. There she grew up with three brothers: Herman T., who later became county controller and county superintendent of schools, Fred, and William G., and one sister, Elizabeth.

After graduation from the grade school, she continued her studies at the old Ebensburg Normal School. Her career began at the age of seventeen in the Cambria Township schools. Then, in 1886, she began teaching in the Ebensburg grade school, continuing there until her retirement in 1933. However, her interest in teaching did not retire. Many students were strengthened in their determination to progress in learning because of her encouragement, even after she was no longer connected with the school.

John L. Elder, then secretary of the Ebensburg Grade School Board and president of the joint Ebensburg-Cambria Township High School Board, said of her, “With her, patience was more than a virtue. It was a *necessity!* She always held to the viewpoint that the duty of a teacher is to realize that a child should not be expected to know things in advance of being taught. Therefore she was kind and patient”.

Those who remember her recall that she gave special consideration to those children who were fatherless or motherless, knowing they would have a real struggle to succeed in life. It is not impossible that this consideration would often include material assistance when it became noticeably evident.

Teaching from books was important to Miss Annie, but she believed that it would take more than mere words to teach children. A teacher's example, she felt, played a more important role in motivating students to become good men and women as well as knowledgeable ones. She did not preach, but she did show, by her own example, that a large measure of true success is righteous living.

Whatever her gift was, the residents and students of Ebensburg gratefully received it until her passing on February 24, 1939.

Material prepared from information provided by:

Cambria County Historical Society and Dorothy Liphart

Gertrude Lake

1889-1956

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Gertrude Lake distinguished herself by her contribution to education and community welfare. Little information is avail-



Left - Dorothy Liphart, Center - Gwen Straupe, Right - Gertrude Lake.

able from her early life, but it is known that she was educated in the Johnstown schools. She lived on Napoleon Street and never married. Everyone who contributed to this biography commented on her kindness and thoughtfulness for others and the special rapport she had with the elderly. She was born in February of 1889.

Friends and relatives described her as modest and dignified, but with a keen sense of humor. She was sympathetic, helpful and well-liked by students and esteemed by faculty associates.

Her field of expertise was Art. She was first a teacher of Art, and later Art Supervisor for the Johnstown city schools. Josephine Paul, who worked with Gertrude Lake gave the following statistics: In the Johnstown schools there were twenty elementary schools, three junior high schools, and a senior high school. Miss Lake was responsible for the supervision of Art and Art teachers in all these schools.

Enjoying a "busman's holiday", she also taught Art courses at the local Junior Pitt in the early days when it was located in the Cypress Avenue School and later on the Pitt campus in Johnstown.

She was active in her church and the American Bible Association. It was natural that she should be a member of the Johnstown Art League and the American Association of University Women. She also was a member of the Quota Club and Delta Gamma.

Gertrude Lake died Christmas Day 1956 from heart disease.

Material prepared from conversations with:

Dorothy Liphart

Edith Paul

Sophia M. Moiles

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

"Miss Science" was the name by which the quiet, unassuming Johnstown High School teacher became known all over town. Sophia M. Moiles was not a native of Cambria County, having come from Saginaw, Michigan in 1918, with six years of teaching behind her. She was "totally science", according to Dorothy Hindman who came to be a student teacher at the school in 1936, braving the flood along with the teacher from

Saginaw. It was to teach science, specifically chemistry and physics, that Miss Moiles came to Johnstown.

The young teacher arrived with an impressive set of credentials: after early education in the Saginaw public schools, she received an AB in science in 1912, followed by an MA at the University of Michigan. Six years of precious experience were built up in Michigan schools. Later, she won a General Electric Science Fellowship for teachers who completed a course of studies offered at Union College in cooperation with General Electric. She studied such things as the mental hygiene of adolescents, which proved to be valuable knowledge in her work with high school students.

Well-versed in physics, knowledgeable in atomic structure, and conversant with European psychiatry, she also studied electrical measurement and light, and went to the University of Michigan to study botany.

A course in current history was enjoyed at Penn State. Several leading colleges honored her by including her as one of the first women admitted for certain courses in scientific fields.

Despite her varied studies, throughout her career she taught in the areas of science, with Physics and Chemistry her strong subjects. Even those who loathed the subjects she taught admired her as a teacher.

"Miss Science", it was obvious, radiated the greatest pride, not in her own accomplishments, but in the honors her students won. A photograph, taken just before her retirement, shows three smiling people reviewing an experiment. With Miss Moiles in the center, pouring a chemical into a test tube, were Bill Norene and Thomas Chapple. Scores of her students entered Junior Science competition and have gone on to even greater scientific pursuits. Their achievements testify to the patience and teaching abilities of "Miss Science".

As a science teacher, she was ahead of her time; and yet, several people made the observation that she seemed to communicate the importance of science to the boys best. One can only conjecture that this was so because they were, perhaps, more receptive at the time; or perhaps because she knew that it would be the boys who would go on to put their newly-won knowledge to use in the industries more ready to accept them in the 30's and 40's. There had not yet been a shift to "equality", but Sophie saw that coming. She was a woman of vision.

Tall, hair cut in a rather severe style, a little on the heavy side (though she carried her weight well), conservative in her dress, complete with flat shoes and heavy stockings, Sophie Moiles is said to have been soft-spoken and kind. She never raised her voice in the classroom, according to Nancy Malloy, (reading advisor in the High School at the time of the writing). Nancy was one of the students to whom Miss Moiles had "tried to teach chemistry". She was one of those special teachers who recognized that not every student was gifted in the field of science. Still, she exerted patience and forbearance so that even those students might be instilled with an appreciation for the wonders of the scientific world.

Awe-struck students and faculty alike found her to be "kind of unapproachable unless you were talking about physics or science or something of that kind."

Born September 30, 1891, Sophia continued to hold her birthplace close to her heart throughout her life. Along with science, she could see the importance that money would play in American life. There was a pride she was unashamed of showing: that she had invested heavily in local business in Michigan and that she *was* astute with a dollar.

Having come from a family of farmers, she was also proud of her agricultural know-how, and often returned to visit the family farm as long as members of the family were living. It was with real regret that she sold the 120-acre farm not too long before her retirement. She let it be known that there was a statue of her father in the Saginaw town square, though no one seems to know why.

With such a background, it seemed natural that "Miss Science" would extend her interest to botany. This became widely recognized, especially during the last seven years of her teaching career. There are those who think she might have been the organizer of the Johnstown chapter of the Garden Club in which she was very active. Along with this was a great interest in AAUW (American Association of University Women). It became very evident that, like physics and chemistry, she knew a lot about flowers and scientific gardening.

It was when she bought her own little house on Emmet Drive that she actually began a years-long landscaping project, which included the planting of widely-spaced shrubs and greenery in order to allow for growth and the addition of beautiful flowers. It gave her pleasure to see that what once seemed disconnected



Miss Sophia Moiles (left), top winner in second annual spring flower show of Garden Club of Johnstown, displays one of seven awards she received for irises in the horticulture division. Mrs. C. N.

Crichton (center) holds the tri-color award, presented for best arrangement of the show. A silver ribbon, awarded for best educational exhibit, is displayed by Miss Elsie Canan.

and widely spaced had come together so that, she said, "everything is living in perfect harmony".

Upon her retirement Miss Moiles' warm weather time was spent in gardening and helping other persons with their gardening. "I'll help anyone who wants assistance," she said. "I'll tell folks what's wrong with their plants and how to garden."

There was time, too, for another pleasure. An enthusiastic golfer, she had won many golfing honors among women at the Sunnehanna Country Club where she was a member. She held memberships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Science Teachers' Association, American Association of Physics Teachers, Wayside Garden Club, American Iris Society, American Rose Society (being a specialist in these two families of flowers) and the Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women, all of whom benefited from her membership.

Delivery of reading material to her home was profuse! Besides regular reading of the local paper, she subscribed to the *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *The Manchester Guardian*, and countless scientific magazines and publications on gardening. Traveling was something included in her plans “when time would permit it”.

When it came to doing her work, though, Sophie was a “loner”. She did love to give teas—a way to share her love of beauty—and she did it in a beautiful way. On one such occasion, a young guest, seeing the many tea dishes, offered to stay to help clean up after the other guests had gone. “Young lady”, her hostess replied, “I’ve *had* it! You go home. I’ll clean up tomorrow. I’m going to bed!”

Scientific expert that she was, “Miss Science” knew when enough was enough for one day.

Material prepared from conversations with;

Anna Catherine Bennett

Dorothy Hindman

Nancy Malloy

A note from:

Dorothy Haberstroh

Article from:

Tribune-Democrat, Staff Writer Donald Matthews, Jr.

Florence G. Patch

1906–1985

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

“Her manner with children was a gentle one. . . . She won them rather than force them to obedience through fear.”

“She was very fair in her dealings with children, instilling in them what was right and wrong . . . and wrong was punished.”

During her years as principal at Oakhurst School, though, there were very few paddlings in the office. Most often the punishment meant that the errant child would stay in during recess or have to stay after school.

Florence G. Patch (the “G” stands for Gertrude) was beloved by children and parents alike. If a problem occurred, she readily conferred with parents, often visiting parents of truant children accompanied by a witness. The occasional and rare paddling also called for a witness, usually by a friend or co-worker.

Born to Isaac Campbell and Mary Gertrude Patch on November 16, 1906, in the family home at 214 Chandler Avenue, Florence spent her entire life in Johnstown. Friends recall that she was known as "daddy's little girl" and that she was something of a tomboy in early childhood.

Father Patch was fascinated by fire engines and the sound of the firebells drew him from whatever he was doing. He'd grab his little girl by the hand, whether it was night or day, and take her along to see the action!

At the age of thirteen, her role in the family changed somewhat when her brother, Campbell, was born. Theirs was a warm and close relationship, but the years between cast Florence into the role of "little mother".

Bheam School was the scene of her first experience with formal education. It was there that she entered kindergarten in 1910. She attended grade school at the old wooden Garfield School, which stood on the ground where Christ the Savior Cathedral now stands. In January 1921 she graduated from Garfield Junior High School with honors.

Two years later, after graduation from Johnstown High School, she entered Indiana Normal School, receiving her diploma in May 1925. Later studies included some time at Duke University in North Carolina and a B.S. in Education from Indiana State Teachers' College in August 1939. It was while seeking a position to begin her teaching career that her uncle, William Patch, put her to work as a cashier at the Penn Traffic Department Store.

Her first teaching assignment was in the fifth grade at Oakhurst School under Mr. Robert Palmer, whom she succeeded in 1941. During her forty-two year career, she also served as acting principal at Chandler, Bheam and Maple Park schools at different times. Educational associations, especially the Principal Association enjoyed her membership.

A Johnstown businessman who attended school while she was principal said that, while he never had to go to the office, his principal was known as a disciplinarian, strict but fair. This made a difference in student behavior. It was a source of amazement to him that she began to teach when she was only nineteen years old, a fact which was often contested by some of her students who were not too much younger than she. In fact, she celebrated her twentieth birthday just two months after school opened in 1926.

A strong believer in positive activity, Florence would hire youngsters to paint fences and mow her lawn. There were always a lot of contenders for these jobs, more out of a desire to please her than for the money to be earned. Here, as in the schoolroom, Miss Patch would never belittle her students, but would always try to build them up.

She was a very practical person. The story is told that she would promise to meet someone on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and would pull up within five minutes of the appointed time. She enjoyed challenges.

Despite her demanding career, this educator gave much of her time to her church and to her community. Mable Wagner, wife of Dr. J. Ernest Wagner, recalls the first time she met Florence Patch.

"The doorbell rang", she says, "and when I opened the door, there stood the prettiest little blonde girl you could ever want to see!" After properly introducing herself, Florence confidently expressed the wish to borrow some old clothes, including part of a fabulous collection of hats, for a play which the Oakhurst Mothers' Club would present. That was the beginning of a deep and long-lasting friendship between the two women.

In spite of her love for "old" things, Florence was always ready to follow modern fashion trends. She laughed a lot, preferring things of joy rather than sorrow. A great love for music manifested this leaning toward the joyful and beautiful. The Calvary United Methodist Church Choir made good use of her beautiful soprano voice. Sunday School children sang under her direction on numerous occasions.

Longtime members of the Young Women's Christian Association will remember her as President of that organization. She worked diligently with the Community Concert Campaign, selling memberships. She liked to entertain because she loved people, and the Business and Professional Girls Club benefited from her membership.

While she was not personally affected by either of the floods in her lifetime, Florence was actively involved in food distribution and administering shots to victims at Garfield School after the 1936 flood. During World War II, she knit countless garments for the war effort. One of her friends remarked, "Nothing was too much for Florence!"

A lighter side of her life was the friendship of the "Friday Nite Club". Co-educators Katharine Kurtz, Thelma Richards,

and friend Mable Wagner would get together for conversation and cards. They got along so well that one or more of the women would travel together, touring the United States and abroad.

Miss Kurtz remarked, "Florence drove all the time." Others recalled with a smile, "She always drove a blue Chevvie!"

The end of her mother's life brought changes in Florence Patch's health. Not long afterward, she was taken to Arbutus Manor where she lived until her death in 1985.

Perhaps she was paid the greatest tribute when a friend said of her, "She was a great friend. She made my teaching days a fine experience. I miss her very much!"

This material was prepared from conversations with:

Mable Wagner

Katharine Kurtz

Dr. Levi Hollis

Dorothy Hindman

Jessie M. Tomb

Prepared by Betty A. Pelikan

In a career which spanned forty-one years, the longest continuous service of any teacher at Johnstown High School, Jessie Tomb was almost never absent from school. Seven days were lost when her father, Dr. Hanson F. Tomb, died in 1938. Another seven absent days occurred in 1957 when she was needed at home during the illness of her mother Emma May (nee Matthews).

THE disciplinarian, Jessie Tomb practiced self-discipline to a fault. A good sense of humor was a gift this strict, but excellent administrator used often. She knew how to handle high school boys. Even those who were not afraid of the principal kept in line when she was around. Whenever anyone was absent without legitimate excuse, or had fallen into some sort of a dispute, she was the one who would decide whether or not they should be forgiven; and students just stayed in line, hoping that everything was going to be all right. This excellent sense of humor, combined with a little bit of fear and a little bit of respect brought respect for her in return. If she had been merely "tough", things might not have gone so well.

From the unimposing height of five feet, five inches, of slightly more than average weight, the fine-looking woman who

always dressed in simple dark clothing was a free spirit! Yet she inspired real fear in many students because she meant business. They wanted to walk the straight and narrow with her.

Jessie had the respect of students and faculty alike; she had authority and was willing to exercise it. Anna Catherine Bennett speaks of having come to Johnstown as a student teacher. "I stood in awe of her", she smiled, "but we developed a good rapport immediately." Anna Catherine, it was rumored, was a favorite. The younger woman had not been on the faculty very long when an unofficial poll was conducted as to whether or not faculty members "liked" Jessie Tomb. Apparently, all had agreed that she knew her job well and was a fine administrator. They came to her and said so.

The little girl who was destined to be Johnstown High's authority figure grew up on Jackson Street, just behind Zion Lutheran Church. Her father was recognized as an outstanding medical doctor. Her own education began in the Johnstown schools in 1896; she graduated from Johnstown High School (then the Joseph Johns building) with a diploma in college preparation in 1905. She studied at Wilson College in Chambersburg. In 1913 she was graduated from Allegheny College in Meadville, where she earned her Bachelor's degree. She received a provisional certificate in March 1914, and permanent certificate on June 16, 1916, indicating even then that she preferred to work in the high school in secondary education.

During that period of time in the history of education in Johnstown, young teachers were expected to begin at the elementary level and gradually work their way up to the secondary level. Somehow, though, Jessie convinced authorities that she should teach history at the high school level, saying she felt more comfortable with that age group, and children at level were more prepared to grasp the importance of history and its impact on society. Her own personal experience caused her to be a forerunner for vocational guidance in Johnstown Public Schools.

Studies continued until she was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1933. Her interest in classical history prompted her thesis on "Early Church History".

Because of her love for teaching and for the church, Jessie Tomb was a Sunday School teacher at the Franklin Street Methodist Church for many years.

A strong believer in higher education for women, Miss Tomb was a charter member of Johnstown Chapter, American Association of University Women, and a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

The educator was appointed administrative assistant in the Fall of 1938 at a salary of \$5050. This salary had risen to the grand sum of \$5850 when she died twenty years later.

Louise Peiger Schneider was a student at the school. After her graduation there on 1936, Louise was employed as Miss Tomb's office clerk on the fourth floor of the high school. "Students were aware they had to be on the ball with their behavior so as not to be sent to the fourth floor office for disciplinary action", writes Louise. "Miss Tomb toured the halls regularly." If a student was late, or had been absent, that student went first to the fourth floor office for a "permit" to enter the classroom. It was also her responsibility to plan the programs for the teachers and students, a great task, normally taking place during the summer when the rest of the world seemed to be at play.

Her ready laugh and obvious enjoyment of her co-workers won the love and respect she so richly deserved. "Children were her main interest and goal in life", Louise continued, "so much so that an award bearing her name was given to graduating students for excellence in scholastic athletics when they left Garfield Junior High School." Carl Schneider, son of Louise, was one of the recipients of the cherished award.

Miss Tomb was a truly loveable, honorable woman, worthy to be remembered among the "Outstanding Women of Johnstown".

Material prepared from conversation with:

Anna Catherine Bennett

Nancy Malloy

letter from:

Louise Pieger Schneider

Obituary dated Dec. 11, 1955

WOMEN IN HOMEMAKING

In all the areas of our research, there were unlimited numbers of women content to fill their roles as homemakers, not interested in engaging in a career outside the home. However, there was time left over from their routine activities so that some of this number could spend time on other pursuits such as volunteer activities in church and community. No records were kept of these women's lives, so we find only smatterings of their multi-faceted activities.

This section pays tribute to these lesser-known women notables who made their contribution without pay, acknowledgment or commendation.

The following were submitted for inclusion:

Ruth Ling Koontz Bowman
Clara A. Canan
Jessie Canan
Gertrude B. Tate Doerr
Margaret Hope Statler Dressler
Margaret Elizabeth Peterson Eash
Anna Margaret Suppes Hay
Minerva Phillips Saylor
Marion Dibert Suppes

Ruth Ling Koontz Bowman

Prepared by Lenore Frontczak

Many women who would have described themselves as "just a house wife" had an important impact in varied ways on their community. Such a woman was Ruth Ling Koontz Bowman.

Born in 1895, the only child of school professor Edward Ling and Erdine (Garber) Ling, she was raised by relatives in Bedford County because her mother died when she was a baby. Although she was the daughter of an educator, her step-mother felt it not important for a young woman to seek higher education, so she was not permitted to go to college. However, she did attend some summer courses and taught in a one-room school near Bedford for several years where she met and married a young man, Harry Koontz, who was soon employed by the U. S. National Bank in Johnstown. They moved into a home in the new Roxbury neighborhood.

While homemaking and raising three daughters, she was active in her church, in the Y.W.C.A. as a board member, in the Delphian Society, an early women's study group and the Wednesday Study Club. She also held membership in the Eastern Star, D.A.R. and the Michigan Poetry Society. For her church and other organizations she was in great demand as a book reviewer. A cast member of a humorous church drama production, she played a character whose chief pride was the abil-

FAR PILGRIMAGE
RUTH L. BOWMAN

HOMESPUN AND BROCADE
by
RUTH L. BOWMAN



ity to recite all the books of the Bible in three minutes; she rehearsed this feat while ironing and cleaning at home!

Typically, as a housewife in the Depression Days, she had to create nutritious meals from homegrown garden products and very little meat. Hot cabbage salad was often the main dish for supper.

A great lover of gardening, she and her husband developed a "showplace" garden with a large variety of trees and flowers.

Her husband's interest in establishing the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra resulted in her researching and writing the program notes for all the concerts. She also enjoyed being hostess for the Fortnightly Ensemble, a small chamber orchestra which met in the Koontz home every second Sunday night.

Several years after the death of her husband, Harry, she married Murry Bowman, who operated the Gately and Fitzgerald Furniture Store in Johnstown.

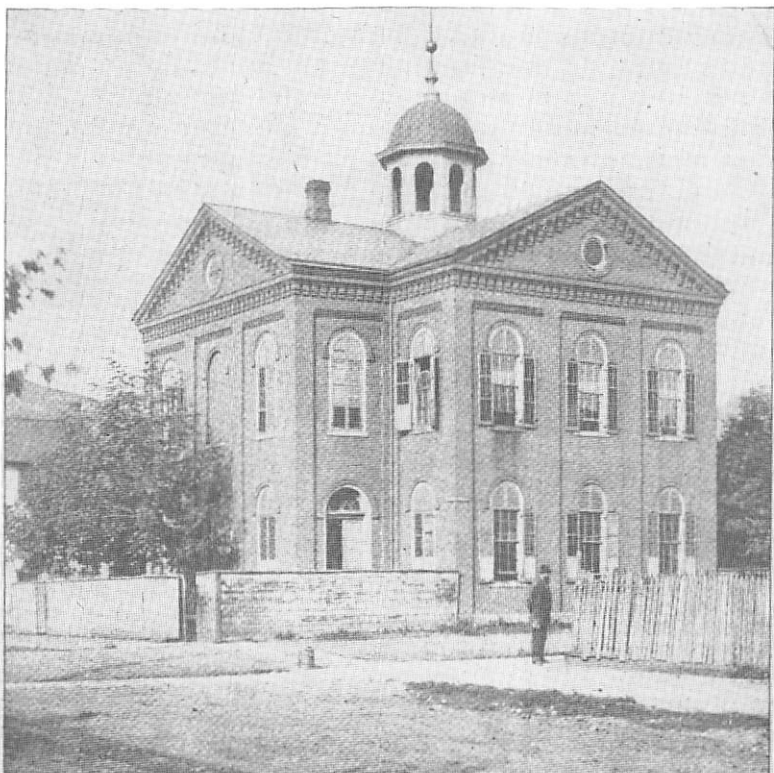
Always fond of poetry, she kept her little scraps of paper on which she had jotted down her "inspirations", and in later years, found time to compose and publish several small poetry volumes, among which were "The Will To Survive" and "Home-spun and Brocade".

Clara A. Canan

Written by Murilla Himes

Clara (Alter) Canan, a descendant of prominent Johnstown families was born in Johnstown on May 28, 1859, the daughter of William A. and Ellen (Knowlton) Alter. She received her education in the Johnstown schools. She was six years old in 1865; she was about to get an education. Attendance at school in the post Civil War days was considered a privilege, especially for a girl.

Schooling in Johnstown in 1865 was very different from today. Clara's first teacher was a Miss Rose Quinn and Mrs. Canan often spoke of the "then close relationship" between teacher and student. Instruction in the 3 "R's", reading, writing and arithmetic took place in the White School on the site of the old Joseph Johns Junior High School. The school was so-named since it replaced a former building called "Old Blackie." Clara attended this school until she reached "high grammar", what was then considered high school. For this part of her education



Courtesy of Johnstown Flood Museum

Johnstown's 1st high school

This building was constructed in 1868 as Johnstown's first high school. (The high school at that time was a one-room, one-teacher affair that taught a few advanced subjects.)

In 1880, the high school was removed to the

Adams Street school, and this building served briefly as the 3rd Ward School. When the B&O Railroad reached Johnstown from Rockwood in 1881, the building was converted for use as a passenger station. The structure was razed following the 1936 Flood.

she attended classes in the building which later became the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station. Clara completed her studies in 1873 with the equivalent of the junior high school term of today. During her high grammar and high school, she was guided by Miss Columbia Horn and A. J. Cook. The superintendent of schools at that time was J. R. Hykes. Of particular interest was the grading system—merit cards were signed by the Superintendent Hykes every two weeks. The card read: "This is to certify that Clara Alter of the high school has re-

ceived merit marks for two weeks and has thereby shown that she merits the approbation of her teacher." This was signed by the teacher, A. J. Cook. Then a later line adds, "and the praise of J. R. Hykes, Superintendent of Schools" and signed by J. R. Hykes. Imagine such a procedure today, but this was in the days when teachers had few pupils and more time to give.

Clara Alter taught for one year and then married Charles H. Canan in 1881. Another facet that makes this woman's life so interesting is that she had two daughters, Elsie and Jessie whose biographies also have been submitted for inclusion in this book. Both her daughters were involved in education. During the Johnstown Flood of 1889 the Canan family lived on Napoleon Street near Dibert, and had a narrow escape. The torrential flood waters lifted their house from its foundation and the family had to find refuge on the roof. They were rescued finally as the roof was tossed about near the Stone Bridge.

Clara (Alter) Canan enjoyed life to the fullest. In her latter years, she lived with her two daughters. She died on December 12, 1954, at the age of 95.

Rarely do we find three notable women in one family. This picture shows "Pop" with the notable women we have included.

Jessie Canan

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Jessie Canan was the younger daughter of Clara (Alter) and Charles H. Canan. She was born in Johnstown on November 19, 1884.

Jessie was educated in the Johnstown schools and attended Indiana Normal School in Indiana, Pennsylvania. She was a teacher of English classes at Johnstown Central High School. Her sister taught at Westmont. She retired when she had visual problems and her sister "became her eyes." Jessie had an almost photographic memory and could remember things readily. Even after she was nearly blind she gave reports and presented programs at organizations to which she belonged. She still was active in the Johnstown Art League, of which she was a past president, and the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women. She also was active in her church, Franklin Street United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Johnstown Garden Club, and Wednesday Study Club. She



was a member of her professional organizations: the Greater Johnstown Education Association, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, and the National Education Association.

It was a blow to Jessie when her sister died. Being the last surviving member of her family and nearly blind, it was necessary to give up the family homestead, and she moved to Arbutus Park Manor. She had friends and acquaintances who served as readers for her. She still continued to go to organizational activities and participate. I can remember picking her up and taking her to an A.A.U.W. Branch meeting at which she was the program, and she recited poetry sans any visual aids, for about forty-five minutes. She never complained to me of her situation

when I drove her to Contemporary Literature meetings and seemed reconciled to her way of life.

There is an early picture of Elsie and Jessie at the Johnstown Flood Museum similar to one included in the family group of pictures we have reproduced with the biography of her mother, Clara Canan. Jessie died at the age of 95 on August 7, 1980.

Contributions from:

Mary Grace Griffith

Conversations with:

Anna Catherine Bennett

Velma Idzkowsky

Gertrude B. (Tate) Doerr

Gertrude Tate was born January 24, 1897, daughter of Albert E. and Annie (Merle) Tate. She was one of nine children. Educated in the Johnstown schools, she was a teacher and a secretary in the business world. Mrs. Doerr was a very private person and it has been difficult to acquire many facts about her.

She was married to George Doerr, a local lawyer. One story is told of her that her husband always carried his lunch to work, which his wife packed at home for him. For whatever reason, love, fussiness or her husband's dietary restrictions, it was not financial!



Mrs. Doerr was very community-minded. She was conservative, never fashion conscious. She served as president of the Dale School Board and was president of the trustees of the Christian Children's Home. Active in the association of lawyers' wives, she was also a member of the Quota Club.

For some ten years approximately, she occupied a suite at Lee Hospital. During these years, because of health problems, one heard little about her and she did not go out in the community.

She had been a good friend to the neighbors and family members. Although quiet, she could "speak her piece" on issues in which she believed. When she had made up her mind, she was firm and not easily swayed.

It was a long-time dream of the Doerr's to build a facility to care for aging and infirm persons. When the bequest was made and the location of the facility identified, it was not satisfactory. After litigation and debate, the facility was built at Arbutus Park Manor. A picture of the Doerr's can be seen at the Manor. The Gertrude B. Doerr Building was dedicated May 13, 1984.

Material from conversations with:

Lois Fair

Lenore Frontczak

Margaret Hope Stotler Dressler

Prepared by Dorathy Stotler Pavian

Margaret (Peg) Dressler, sister of one of our own members, Dorathy Pavian, came from Wilkinsburg to Johnstown in 1947 with her husband Charles William Dressler when he became a member of the staff of the local paper. Mrs. Cornelia Krebs immediately took Peg under her wing and introduced her to the social and community life of Johnstown. Peg became an active member of the Westmont Presbyterian Church, the Art League of which she was President in 1956 and 1957, the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women, receiving the named gift award in 1933. She was a member and held offices in the Quemahoning Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution and the Daughters of 1812. She was a member of the Johnstown Garden Club and worked on a campaign against "litterbugs." In 1951, she received an award for "popularity" from the Tribune Democrat. She was an active member of Group I of the Women's Auxiliary of the Memorial Hospital.

Before Peg came to Johnstown she had lived her life in Wilkinsburg. She was the daughter of James R. and Catherine Stuart Stotler, born August 21, 1904. She attended public schools and graduated from Wilkinsburg High School. She had been active in high school belonging to the Science, History, French, English, and Madrigal Clubs, served as class officer, and was in two senior class plays. Her classmates wrote of her—she was “as merry as the day in June.”

Her work career was a secretary at the Westinghouse Air-brake Company until she married Mr. Dressler. After her marriage, she attended the University of Pittsburgh when in 1940 she received a Bachelor of Arts degree (with honor) in political science. At that time she made friends with Genevieve Blatt. After graduation from Pitt, she served as a volunteer secretary for two and a half years for the Allegheny County Council of Defense, receiving a Civilian Defense Service Award and letter of commendation.

Peg was very well liked in AAUW, and to the people who knew her well in Johnstown. She was always sweet and easy to get along with. She knew how to plan great social occasions for other people to present, especially her sister Dorathy, who was as much different from Peg in personality and temperament as night and day.

On November 10, 1976 Peg Dressler died.

Margaret Elizabeth Peterson Eash

Prepared by Doris Eash Lloyd

Living on a farm and raising twelve children early in this century wasn't just being a mother and housewife: it was a career. Margaret Peterson Eash made it a successful one.

James Eash's farm of 157 acres was located on top of the mountain on the road to Ligonier. It was reached by a narrow and rocky private road. The farm buildings included a farmhouse, a summerhouse, an outhouse, a barn and a lumber mill, where Jim and three of his sons worked.

In hot weather Maggie cooked and baked in the summerhouse to keep the heat out of the main house whose kitchen was on the second floor. On the first floor she heated food for canning and water for laundry. Sometimes she made applebutter here, in an enormous kettle, which the children were eager to

help stir while Maggie kneaded bread. There was no greater treat than apple butter on fresh-baked bread.

Maggie had to preserve food in the growing season to last the winter. Her store of home-canned foods included huckleberries, blackberries, cherries and rhubarb for pies and for eating. Bins in the summerhouse held potatoes, apples, onions, cabbages and carrots to be used during the winter. Beans were dried in baskets; corn and apple slices were spread on flat pans on the stove to dry so they could be stored.

There were few meat markets in these days and no refrigeration to keep food. Maggie had her own chickens which she had to catch, behead, pluck feathers and singe off the pinfeathers. For other meat her husband slaughtered cattle and pigs, and smoked the meat; sometimes Maggie canned it. She also made sausage, a hard and time-consuming task.

Although planning and preserving food for this large family was most important, doing the laundry for all of them took much time and energy. She had to carry water to the summerhouse where she heated huge kettles in the fireplace. The washer had a handle which she pushed back and forth to agitate the clothes. There was also a hand-wringer. Sometimes it was necessary to boil the dirtiest clothes or to use the washboard. Maggie made her own soap from lye, ashes and old grease. After the clothes were washed and rinsed, she hung them outdoors or, in bad weather, in the summerhouse.

As for ironing, a row of flat irons was lined up on the stove. She used one iron until it cooled; then set it back on the stove to reheat, snapping off the handle to put it on another hot iron.

Outside of housework, Maggie had other duties. Each year taxes must be paid. She planted a special onion field from seeds. This produced eighty-five bushels of onions which she sold for one dollar a basket, thus paying for the eighty-five dollar tax bill.

Getting a doctor to the farm was difficult. Jim would have to walk, or take the wagon or sleigh. The doctor didn't get there for all the babies' births, but Maggie's sister was always on hand. Naturally, at times there was sorrow. Twin girls died from whooping cough in childhood and one other daughter died of typhoid fever. Maggie was somewhat of a nurse treating the other children who had typhoid with liquid gruel from oatmeal plus sugar. For milder illnesses she fed them pap soup, made of bread soaked in warm milk with sugar.

If real medicine were necessary, Maggie went to her herb garden. Sassafras tea was used to thin and clean the blood; boneset tea was for general malaise. For chest congestion, onions were simmered in lard, put between two pieces of flannel cloth and laid on one's chest, under the clothing. To make cough syrup, she mixed honey and lemon juice in whiskey, or simmered onions with sugar and used the juice.

Other remedies Maggie used which were effective: cotton, dabbed in whiskey alleviated a toothache; a good washing with Fels Naphtha laundry soap stopped the itch of poison ivy; and a paste of baking soda and water soothed insect bites.

The children of the pioneer families had their tasks and Maggie's were no exception. They helped feed the animals, collect eggs and bring the cows in from the pasture. After chores, there was time for play. For hot days there was a cool little stream. Apple and cherry trees abounded and frequently they forgot Maggie's admonition not to climb.

There were other good times. Her daughter, Margaret, played the pump organ in the parlor; a sister played the violin; and family and friends would sometimes get together to sing. Twenty to thirty people might be gathered in the large summer-house kitchen, some playing guitars and violins while everyone sang. "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain" was a favorite.

Although Margaret Peterson Eash's world was busy and often difficult, she loved it; to her life was good. What could be more successful than that?

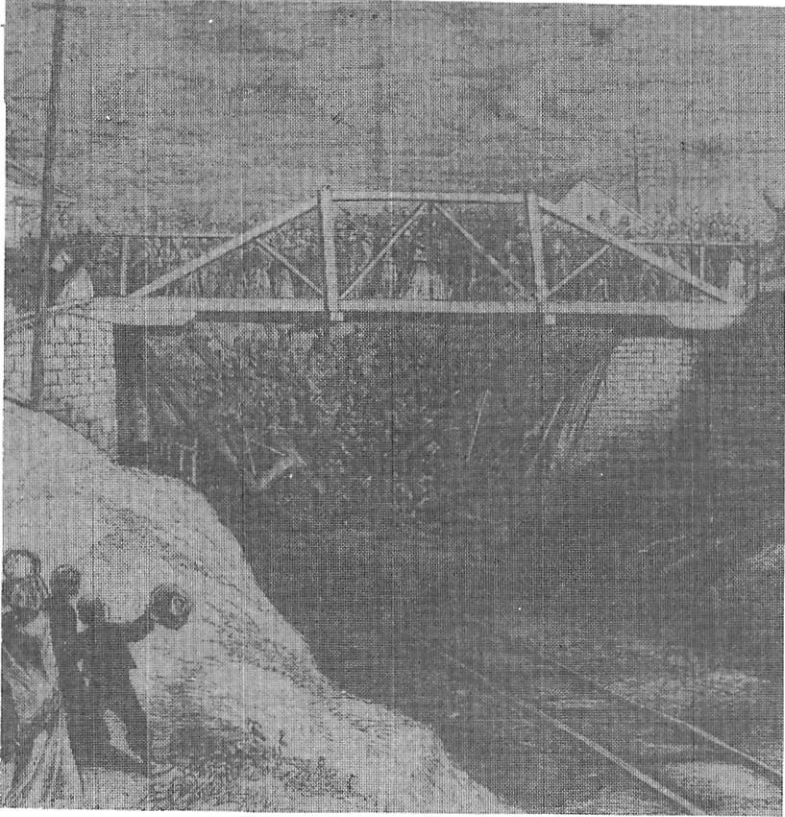
Anna Margaret Suppes Hay

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Anna Margaret Suppes was born May 14, 1851, in Johnstown to Conrad and Alice (Andrews) Suppes, their second child. She was educated at both private and public schools in Johnstown, and was privately tutored in the languages and other subjects in the evening by Prof. Joseph Hafner and Mrs. Louis Luckhardt. She attended Mrs. Mary L. Keemle's School on Vine Street and, later, Lutherville Female Seminary (now Maryland College for Women).

Anna Margaret Suppes married John B. Hay on May 11, 1871, solemnized by Rev. Reuben A. Fink, D.D. at the Suppes'

home. Prior to their marriage, both had received injuries on September 14, 1866, in the collapse of the Pennsylvania Railroad platform when President Andrew Johnson and other officials were in the city. Three children were born to them: John Suppes Hay, George Bolten Hay, who died in infancy, and George Hay, married to Mary Louise Austin.



Outdoor photography being in its infancy in 1866, when the wooden bridge across the old Pennsylvania Canal collapsed, hurling three persons to death and injuring 350 others, it was necessary for newspapers to have artists draw pictures they wished to print. The above picture was drawn by C. E. H. Bonwill. The artist portrayed a vivid description of the accident as he shows scores of people being precipitated from the bridge. He also pictures the old Pennsylvania Railroad depot, which very few Johnstownians of today will remember. Note the styles of the clothing worn by the women folks of that day, which are vividly portrayed in the drawing made 71 years ago.

Mrs. Hay and her son George were in the midst of the Johnstown Flood of 1889. They were living in a house at the corner of Walnut and Locust Streets which was entirely washed away by the flood. They were on the third floor watching the flood when the house was struck by a large frame structure and demolished. They succeeded in getting onto a small piece of roof and floated until they finally washed up on the edge of the debris at the old Pennsylvania Railroad Stone Bridge. Shortly after this Mrs. Hay and her son George went to Braddock to live with another son, John. In Pittsburgh she became affiliated with the Carnegie Library as assistant librarian; in 1890 she was promoted to be librarian. In 1891 Mrs. Hay returned to Johnstown to live with her son, Dr. George Hay, his wife and their two children on what was a portion of her father's farm on Valley Pike, Central and Hay Avenues.

Mrs. Hay was an active member, for many years, of the Conemaugh Valley Women's Memorial Hospital Association, active in Red Cross work during the war, receiving a citation signed by President Woodrow Wilson. She was a life member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a charter member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to Oriental Commandery, No. 61, Knights Templar, a charter member of the Young Women's Christian Association which was organized in Johnstown in 1914.

Anna Margaret Suppes Hay is the Author of *Genealogical Sketches of the Hay, Suppes, and Allied Families*, a monumental task, and unusual at this time for a woman. The genealogy carries a tribute on page eighty-six to their mother by her two sons, John Suppes Hay and Dr. George Hay. They credit their mother with a "Thoroughness, perseverance, and an indomitable will to excel rarely found in a woman. Tenderhearted and sympathetic, she is a friend to those in distress. Practical and tireless have been her efforts in all her undertakings, and the happiness and prosperity of her children has been her guiding star shown by self-denial and an unselfishness rarely seen."

Mrs. Hay died in the thirties.

Information supplied by:

Marion Suppes Perret, niece

Genealogical Sketches of the Hay, Suppes, and Allied Families
by Anna Margaret Suppes Hay, William Raab & Son, Press
1923, Johnstown, Pa.

Minerva Phillips Saylor

1875–1961 Prepared by Anna Catherine Bennett

“What better gift can one offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth?”

—Cicero

There are two endeavors in life which, when well done, contribute more to the quality of civilization than any others. The first is motherhood; the second, teaching. To her enduring credit, Minerva Phillips achieved both.

She was born on October 14, the same day as President Eisenhower; for years she received greetings from him.

Her father, John Phillips, wounded at the Battle of Antietam, died in 1878, leaving her mother, Susanna (Harris) with three sons, Frank, William and Harry; and two daughters, Margaret and Minerva.

At the time of the great Johnstown flood of 1889, the family lived on Lincoln Street, in the first ward of the city.

Somehow they were able to escape with their lives, but their home was moved from its foundation.

In 1892, Minerva was graduated from Johnstown High School. She went on to Millersville State Normal School where she was the only member of the student body permitted to go into Lancaster and Lility to do elocution readings. When she was graduated, her brothers, Frank and William went to the ceremony, proud of her achievements. It was rare, at that time, for a woman to acquire a higher education.

Minerva was offered a position on the school's faculty, in the English department, but she chose to return to Johnstown.

Minerva taught first grade at the Adams Street School from 1895 to 1906. She had a firm conviction that the best teachers should be in the elementary grades. It is there, she said, that the basic learning tools are acquired in reading, writing and arithmetic. People who had her as a teacher loved her and always remembered her.

In 1907 she married Tillman Culp Saylor, an attorney. From that day on, her husband (and later her children) served as the focus of her life. Minerva believed that she had the ideal family, two sons and two daughters.

As many children do, Minerva's took their mother and their

family for granted. But an incident occurred in 1937 which shed a different light on their mother. There had been another devastating flood in Johnstown in 1936. The year after that calamity, Dr. Victor Heiser, author of *An American Doctor's Odyssey*, was invited to come to Johnstown to give a pep talk. That evening four survivors of the 1889 flood met at the lecture: Dr. Heiser, Mrs. Fred Waterman, Myrtle Walters and Minerva Saylor. They were four of the eleven members of the Johnstown High School Class of 1892. Someone made the remark, "Min, it wasn't from Victor we expected great things; it was from you. You were the smart one."

Then Tillman Saylor, Minerva's husband of thirty years, said, "I don't know what you girls think, but Minerva has been a wonderful wife to me, and the mother of four fine children. A higher calling, no woman could have!"

That was a proud moment for her children. It was a tribute to their mother from the person who knew her best.

Who were these children? Their number one son, John Phillip Saylor, an attorney who represented this district in the United States Congress from 1949 until his death in 1973, and a daughter, Anna Catherine Saylor Bennett, an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Their other daughter, Margaret died of diphtheria at the age of seven. Their youngest son, Tillman Saylor, Jr., was graduated from Harvard Law School, and returned to Johnstown, where he practiced law until his death in 1968.

Minerva had eighty-seven wonderful years on this earth. Her daughter Anna Catherine said, "She was truly blessed. She lived to enjoy her children and her six grandchildren, with whom she had a fine close relationship."

Marion Dibert Suppes

Marion Dibert Suppes was the daughter of Scott Dibert and Ann Liggett Rosenthal Dibert and was born December 11, 1879 in Johnstown. Her parents lived in Woodvale at the time of the 1889 flood; her sister Lillian was saved by being pulled from the flood waters by her "pigtails". After the flood the family moved to a house on the corner of Dibert and Franklin Streets. As a child, Marion was considered to be a "tomboy" and in later years became a good athlete and horsewoman. She rode very well, frequently riding with her father. Mr. Dibert had a shoe



store at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets across from the U. S. National Bank.

Marion graduated from high school in Johnstown in 1899, going on to Goucher College in Baltimore for two years where she was enrolled in the classical course.

She married George Osborne Suppes on September 27, 1906, a childhood sweetheart. Her husband was the founder and first president of the Johnstown Bank and Trust. Daughter Marion states that her mother was an excellent cook and was very artistic. She did knitting, embroidery, beadwork and she painted pictures. All of the four children inherited some of her artistic talent. Her daughters were Marion Suppes Perret, who played piano and taught music; Sarah Anne Suppes Dibert Ashman, who played the xylophone and inherited her mother's social traits, and Elizabeth Robinette Suppes, who played the violin. The fourth child, a boy, died in infancy.

Marion Suppes was a social leader, a woman of poise and many talents who was active in the Johnstown community.

Her name was listed in *The Hereditary Register of the United States, 1973*. She belonged to the following organizations: Daughters of the American Revolution, United States Daughters of 1812, Colonial Dames XVII Century, Daughters of the

American Colonists, Daughters of the Barons of Runnemedede, National Huguenot Society, Colonial Order of the Crown, The Society of Descendants of Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, The Sovereign Colonial Society of Americans of Royal Descent, Magna Carta Dames and Sunnehanna Country Club.

Material from:

Grandson, George S. Ashman, M.D.

Daughter, Marion Suppes Perret

Grandson, Peter Perret

Genealogical Sketches of the Hay, Suppes, and Allied Families, by Anna Margaret (Suppes) Hay, Wm. Raab & Son Press, 1923, Johnstown, PA

WOMEN IN MUSIC

Written by Murilla Himes and Josephine Dunmyer

In the 1800's, it was usual to consider the two fields of teaching and nursing to be suitable careers for young women who did not wish to get married at an early age and wanted a career. However, in researching the topic of "women in music" it was surprising to find that some women, and especially in Johnstown, were able to establish a career for themselves in music. Hypothesizing, maybe the number of excellent women music teachers and the presence of a group of dynamic and well-educated women in the field of music, accounted for the seemingly unusual situation found in Johnstown. Also a second factor existing to create a demand for musicians was the very large number of churches in the area and their need for organists, pianists, choral directors, and vocalists.

There have been in this area many talented and outstanding women in the field of music but, as often was the case, detailed information was sparse. To combat this limitation and so that you may have some appreciation of the admirable contribution of these women in the area, we are categorizing them in the area of their proficiency.

For the few outstanding women, whose biographies were submitted, they follow at the end of the narrative report.

Mary Louise Austin Hay

Gwen Morgan

Emma von Alt Raab

Bess Hammond

Women of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra

NARRATIVE REPORT OF WOMEN IN MUSIC

Rosalie McClellan Wilson was a soprano soloist and fine voice teacher. The choir director at the Walnut Church of the Brethren and the First United Methodist Church, she was active in other community music circles and a president of the Johnstown Music League. With all her musical activities, she was also the owner of the Wilson Service Station on Bedford Street from 1958 to 1970. Her sister, Alma Cramer spent many years at WARD and WJAC radio stations.

Bernice E. Coppersmith was a 1950 graduate of Smith College, after which she received her master's from the Harvard School of Education in 1953. Mrs. Coppersmith was a music supervisor in the Revere, Massachusetts, school system and taught in a number of Johnstown area schools. She was an accomplished musician, being both a pianist and a lyric soprano. Mrs. Coppersmith was very active in cultural activities in the Johnstown area and performed often for many local groups. The Bernice E. Coppersmith Memorial Concert Series was established in 1982 by the Coppersmith family to present performances of classical music at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in honor of the memory of the late Mrs. Coppersmith and for the benefit and enjoyment of the college and surrounding communities.

Mabel Speicher Coleman was a pianist and organ teacher, playing the organ at the Franklin Street Methodist Church for thirty years. She and her husband, Herbert Coleman had a daughter, Jane Custer, who was active as a nurse as well as in music.

Mrs. Hilton Bowman, the organist at First Presbyterian Church, was also an excellent accompanist.

A resident of Moxham most of her life, *Mrs. Delbert Smith* later sold her home and moved to the Presbyterian Home. She was considered a very fine piano teacher and organist, playing the organ at both the Moxham Lutheran Church and the Second Presbyterian Church. Even in later years at the Presbyterian Home, she played for meetings and groups. Mrs. Smith was an organizing member of the Music League.

Mrs. C. M. (Laura Stewart) Hoover was a very fine voice teacher and organizing member of the Music League, serving as president in 1929-30, 1930-31, and 1931-32.

Two sisters, *Genevieve Bruckner Bittinger* and *Rose Bruckner Crichton* were both active in music circles and members of the Music League. Genevieve played the organ and piano; Rose was a vocalist and played the piano.

Gertrude Rohde was a voice teacher and, herself, a soprano soloist. It is said she was very particular about her student's singing techniques, such as proper use of the diaphragm. She also played the organ for the Christian Church.

The book, *The Johnstown Music League*, was researched and written by *Mary Jane Bowers Jones* who was also a contralto singer. She was untiring in her efforts to find information on the Junior and Juvenile Leagues, rendering all this service without remuneration. She was secretary of the Music League.

Harriet Hosmer Wild was a marvelous pianist and a great friend of Mrs. Hay. She probably could have had a career as a concert pianist had she chosen to do so. Coming from a musical family which included a brother, James and sister, Emma Jane, she was educated at Indiana Normal School with a Masters degree from New York. A music instructor at Joseph Johns Junior High School, she was active also in the Presbyterian Church.

Mary Weaver was known by many as supervisor of music for the Johnstown schools and organist/choir director at St. John Gualbert Catholic Church.

Adda Pritner Fulton, a very fine contralto, often sang with Rose Wilson. Mrs. Fulton was a graduate of Peabody Conservatory and served as president of Music League from 1932 to 1936.

Two well-known violinists were *Winnie Lamprecht* and *Daisy Fanning*. Miss Fanning taught her instrument at Mount Aloysius College, played in the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and also taught privately.

Grace Henning Speicher was considered one of our finest vo-

calists, having a good background and teaching private lessons.

Margaret Speicher Colliver taught voice lessons and was contralto soloist in the Christian Science Church.

Mildred Paxton was an organist and skilled as an accompanist. Organist for the Walnut Church of the Brethren and the Christian Science Church, she was also president of Music League from 1944 to 1946.

Florence Gerber Ellis was a graduate of Juilliard School of Music. She was one of the prominent contralto soloists in Johnstown, and was soloist for the Memorial Baptist Church on Vine Street.

Anna Marie Streilein played piano as a soloist and accompanist. She started out being active in the Junior League, going on to the advanced league, and finally became a member of the senior league. During her career she travelled to many institutes to further her skills. She accepted the presidency of the Music League to help keep the organization going.

Eleanor Oliver was often in charge of the dancing programs in the Music League. She had a ballet studio over the 5 & 10 store on Main Street, later moving to California where she had a second studio.

Ann Hatcher Eisenberg was an excellent violinist who was also a travelling music teacher. She taught music lessons to children on instruments supplied by the schools.

Another piano teacher who taught private lessons in her home was *Lucy Moses Kress*. She was organist at the Christian Science Church.

In 1949, according to Mr. A. J. Stomanson, president of the Johnstown Opera Guild, grand opera came to Johnstown. In 1950-51 the guild produced, among others, Rossini's "The Barber of Seville". All performers, however, were from out of the area. The cover of a program of the performance is reprinted here. Perhaps Grand Opera in its entirety did come to Johnstown in 1949; but a review of the minutes of the Music League shows some women in Cambria County were performing opera music previously in Johnstown. Programs from different dates in 1930 and 1931 featured an aria from "La Tosca" sung by Mrs. Harry Berney, "Tell Me O Fair One", from the "Marriage of Figaro" sung by Mrs. J. P. Jones, and still another program tells of a piano duo of selections from Tchaikowsky's "Nutcracker Suite" played by Ruth Bittner and Ethel Bowman. In October 1931, Grace Henning sang an aria "Una Voce Poco,

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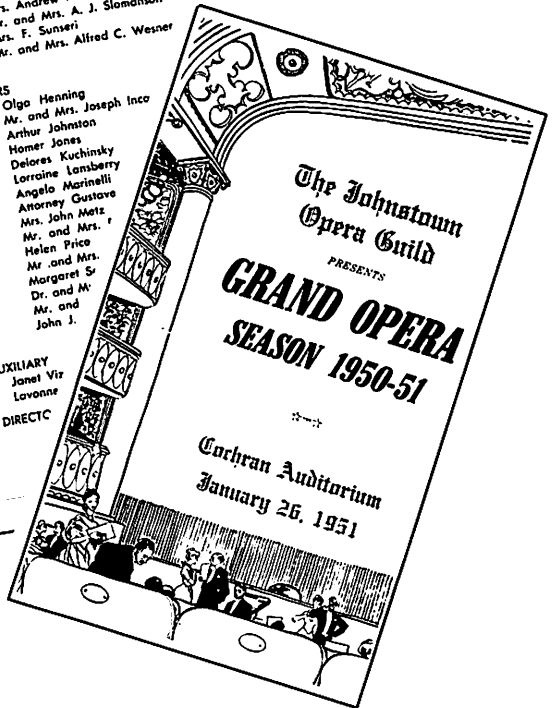
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Ta", from "The Barber of Seville" together with a group of other songs. In October, 1935, "The Magic Flute", by Mozart was presented by a local cast, largely Music League members. Another opera, von Flotow's "Martha", was produced in November, 1936.

A review of the minutes of the Johnstown Music League from 1929 to 1939 shows astounding calibre of programming which utilized local talent of both men and women, a tribute to the musical talent of many Johnstown residents. A roster of the women performers reads as a duplicate list of the women included in this narrative write-up.

In early days, Johnstown had an opera house called "The Johnstown Opera House", built in 1893 on the present site of Glosser's Store, which burned down in 1903. We could find no record of local women performing here at this early date.

Mary Louise Austin Hay

Mary Louise (Austin) Hay, daughter of Eugene Howard and Clara Rachael (Philips) Austin was born November 11, 1878 at North Wales, Pennsylvania, and was of English and Welsh descent. She received her education at the Cheltenham Hills School, Cheltenham Hills, Pa., graduating in June 1895. She then took a post-graduate course at the same school specializing in languages, painting and English. She studied piano with a private teacher, Mary Hallock-Greenwalt. In 1897 she studied drawing, painting and sculpture at the Pennsylvania Academy of Arts in Philadelphia, continuing her study of piano with another private instructor, Maurits Lufson. In 1904 she studied piano in Paris, France with Moritz Moszkowski and M. Falkenberg. During 1911 and the winters of 1912 and 1913, while traveling in Great Britain and the continent, she furthered her study of French.

She married Dr. George Hay on April 12, 1913 at the home of her uncle, William L. Austin in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Officiating was another uncle, Rev. Charles Baldry Austin. The Hays came to live in Johnstown in 1913. Both of their two children, George Austin Hay and Mariana Philips Hay inherited some of their mother's artistic ability. Mariana played the violin and George made a name for himself in photography, on the stage, in film production and as a pianist.

Both children live out of town and the Hays home on Central Avenue remains unoccupied, but is owned by the son who resides in Washington, D.C. The daughter left town when she married Brent Caldwell, and now lives in New Jersey.

The Hays had no church affiliation in Johnstown, but Mrs. Hay was Presbyterian by birth. She was fond of outdoor sports—

horseback riding, skating, skiing and tennis in which she was proficient. Mary Louise Austin Hay taught private piano lessons until the day she died, numbering among her students many piano teachers and musicians still active in Johnstown. She never performed public recitals, but was most interested in cultivating young musical talent. Although not a socialite, she was well-known in Johnstown music and art circles.

Mrs. Hay was not fashion conscious; but she like flowered dresses and white shoes.

Because of her deep interest in music she was largely responsible for the founding of the Johnstown Music League and played an active role in the early days of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra.

She was a member of Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital Association, the Johnstown Art League and the Ladies Auxiliary to Oriental Commandery No. 61, Knights Templar. A charter member who helped to found the Johnstown Music League, she held numerous offices in that organization. She was also in the forefront of the Community Concert Association, serving as vice-president and membership chairman.

Mrs. Hay was the 1966 Woman of the Year of the Johnstown Business and Professional Women's Club, and she and her husband shared the Golden Deeds Award of the Johnstown Exchange Club.

She died in 1973 at the age of 94. It is said that she never admitted her age.

Submitted by: Jeanne Burr

Researched by: Rosemary Hagadus, Murilla Himes and Marion Perret

Reference: Geneological Sketches of the Hay, Suppes, and Allied Families by Anna Margaret Suppes Hay, William Raab & Sons Press, 1923, Johnstown, Pa.

Gwen Morgan

Gwen Morgan was always associated with the Morgan's Music Store on Market Street. It was her father's business, and from her early days, she clerked in the store and finally became its owner, living above the store. The shop was very well-known and was patronized by local musicians as well as by outside artist.

Gwen sang in local musical groups and clerked in the music store. She was of Welsh descent and participated in her church choir and in the Gymanfan Ganu.

Mrs. Emma von Alt Raab

Mrs. Emma von Alt Raab initiated the activity that was to lead to the formation of the Johnstown Music League. Mrs. Emma von Alt Raab, in January 1928, started having musical programs in her home in Geistown Borough which were a type of memorial for her daughter, Emma Louise, a violinist, who died in 1926. Mrs. Raab, having collaborated with her daughter for sixteen years, wished to have some association with the art she loved and decided to have each month a regularly scheduled evening of music using as a focus the birthdays of some of the greatest music masters. Good performers were selected, the program planned, and attendance was by invitation.

The first one was Schubert Night and utilized the talents of Mrs. Colliver, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Raab, Laura Stewart Hoover, and Genevieve and Rose Bruckner and others. It was very successful and the program was continued. The second master selected was George Friedrich Handel and was held in February. J. Sebastian Bach was selected for March. The Classic Nights continued through June of 1928.

Due to other activities, no more classic nights were held but talk continued about founding a music club since there was none in Johnstown after the Fortnightly Music Club had disbanded in 1923. As an outgrowth of this activity and further research, the Johnstown Music League came into being on October 7, 1929. Mrs. Raab continued to be active during the early organization of the club.

Bess Hammond

Bess Hammond was one of the most widely known women musicians in Johnstown. Born in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, her parents were E. R. Hammond, a local merchant and Jennie (McCormick) Hammond.

She was educated in the public schools of Bolivar and graduated from Indiana State Normal School. Besides attending the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Oberlin College, she studied at the New York City College of Music and took a special course

at Columbia University. Her teachers were such "greats" as Leopold Godowsky, Edward McDowell, Alexander Lambert and Beveridge Webster.

In 1918-1920 she affiliated with the Pittsburgh Conservatory of Music while teaching in Johnstown.

In 1921 she established her school in the Swank Annex Building. Her "forte" was the teaching of theory, history of music and harmony of piano.

Bess Hammond was president of the Quota Club and held membership in the Eastern Star and White Shrine, the Y.W.C.A. and the American Legion Auxiliary.

This versatile woman also operated the Bess Hammond Travel Agency in downtown Johnstown during the 1940's and 1950's.

WOMEN IN THE JOHNSTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

From the Archives of the Symphony Office
Prepared by Lenore Frontczak

Women as performing musicians have been evident in Johnstown history. Of the 45 members playing in the Symphonic Society in its first concert May 15, 1929, under the direction of Hans Roemer, were the following women: Lorraine Lansberry, Edythe Flummer, Josephine Gladys, Winifred Lamprecht, Helen Schnabel, Doris Porter, Sylvia and Garnet Deckman and Rose Bruckner. Cooperating with this group were members of the Treble Clef Club: Mrs. C. Bohrer, Miss Millicent Clarke, Mrs. A. W. Berkebile, Mrs. J. D. Lambert, Miss Evelyn Blough and Miss Adda Pritner. Mrs. D. W. Coleman was Secretary-Treasurer of the Symphonic Society.

In 1929 a small group of instrumentalists met at the home of Francis Dunn; among them were Daisy Fanning, violin, Betty Dunn, cello, Julia Dunn, violin, Betty Bernt, piano, and Mary Bernt, violin.

In the 1930's the Municipal Recreation Commission applied for WPA money to organize a municipal symphony orchestra. Annual subscription fees of one dollar were solicited from the community. Women playing in this orchestra were Helen and Adelaide Nokes, oboe and Emma Jane Hosmer, French Horn. Becoming involved through her husband's activities in this project, Ruth Koontz wrote the program notes for the concerts. Among early officers of the orchestra committees were: Mrs. Franklyn Reiter serving as President and Mrs. Raymond Mor-

gan, Secretary. Other committee members were Mary Hay, Bess Hammond and Mrs. James F. Thomas.

There also was the Johnstown Opera Company, in which Mrs. Sylvia Landino, wife of one of the early conductors, sang.

WOMEN IN NURSING

Prepared by Murilla Himes and Movene Ponas

While in most specific areas there were a limited number of women reported and/or recorded for making notable contributions, the reverse was true in the field of nursing in Cambria County. Florence Nightingale in the 1860's had made nursing a respectable career for young women. The "Sairy Gamp" type of nurse written about in "Martin Chuzzlewit" had disappeared, and society had accepted Miss Nightingale's new image of the nurse.

There were so many ways this new nurse was being used by a growing society. For whatever reason, these women's names were kept in written records or remembered by persons who had known them. These nurses were functioning in hospitals, schools of nursing, physician's offices, in the military, the public schools, nursing homes and visiting nursing agencies. At the turn of the century even two of the Johnstown stores had nurses. The nurse at Penn Traffic Company had an office on the first floor balcony, while Glosser Brothers had their nurse on the fourth floor. By far the largest number of nurses were employed in hospitals with which Cambria County was well supplied. A large number of nurses were in private duty nursing.

There was a small hospital in Spangler as well as a very small one in Colver. Johnstown had seven hospitals. Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital was built in 1892 with funds donated from countries around the world as a memorial to victims of the 1889 flood, showing the good will of the world to the people of Conemaugh Valley. Johnstown can make some claim to Clara Barton, at that time the president of the Red Cross Society, since she was here to direct and coordinate relief efforts. Miss Barton arrived here on June 2 on the first Baltimore and

Ohio train to get through to Johnstown. She made her first headquarters near the Poplar Street Bridge where there was less damage; then moved later to Walnut Street where she remained until October.

The School of Nursing at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital was incorporated in 1896. *Louise (Louisa) P. Sims* was Director of Nursing from 1896 until June 1900, and was first supervisor of the Nurses Training School. *Carrie Overdorff* was an early director. Later, *Leota Curry Swank*, a Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital graduate, held the position of director for many years. *Dr. Esther Marbourg* was on the staff of the hospital and was an incorporator. The first graduating class included four students: *Jessie L. Green*, *Anna Neff*, *Mary Scott*, and *Susan Waters*. Today, more than four thousand nurses have graduated from the school which still is in existence.

Johnstown Municipal Hospital treated contagious diseases. Located off Ebensburg Road in the Prospect area, it had as its



Courtesy of Johnstown Flood Museum

Red Cross set up base after flood

Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross, arrived in Johnstown on June 5, 1889, to aid the survivors of the flood of May 31, 1889. This photograph shows some of the temporary facilities the Red Cross built to assist in its charitable work.

At right, the Red Cross Warehouse No. 1 can be seen at Walnut and Washington streets. The warehouse was used as part of the Red Cross supply distribution system. Some 25,000 people received some sort of direct aid from the Red Cross, which concentrated its

efforts on helping householders furnish their rebuilt homes.

The Red Cross Infirmary can be seen at left. Built in October 1889, the infirmary was the last of the buildings constructed by the Red Cross. Six temporary "Oklahoma" houses, prefabricated dwellings erected after the flood, were used for an infirmary, operating room and doctor's office. The infirmary was used until the spring of 1891, when it was razed along with other Red Cross buildings.

superintendent, a Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital graduate of 1901, *Margaret Waters*. Her sister *Claire Waters* was her assistant.

Mercy Hospital was incorporated January 29, 1911, and the school of nursing established later the same year. The first director of the hospital and school was *Sister Mary Evangelist Phelan*. The first class included eight students, but on October 27, 1914, graduated only three: *Sister Mary Aloysia McClafferty*, Mercy Order, *Mary Cecelia Brennan*, Shamokin, and *Minnie Agnes Smith*, Derry. *Sister John Joseph Flinn*, a Mercy school graduate, was the director of the school for the longest period of time. (Her detailed biography appears at the end of this narrative.) Other directors were *Sister Mary Grace King* and *Sister Mary de Shontal*.

Emily Munson Lee was responsible for the existence of Lee Hospital which was incorporated in 1916. Mrs. Lee died in 1916 and in her will left the bulk of her estate in the hands of a group of trustees, requesting that a hospital be established in memory of her husband, Dr. John K. Lee. He was a homeopathic physician, practicing from his house on Main Street until he lost his life in the flood of May 31, 1889. The hospital was slow in becoming established; it wasn't until May 2, 1920 that the first patient was admitted to the thirty bed temporary hospital. There were ten employees including the superintendent who, suprisingly, was a woman, *Mrs. Grace Langham*. She served until 1922 when she was replaced by Dr. G. Irving Naylor. *Miss Catherine Roberts* was the first director of nursing, and it is said "she had to be not only director but a jack of all trades." Others, now deceased, who followed her as directors of nursing were *Betty Jones*, *Helen Gohn*, and *Louise Koontz*. After Miss Roberts left the hospital, she set up a convalescent nursing home and, in this respect, her thinking was ahead of her time. Today we have many nurses working in privately-owned and church-home nursing facilities.

Other hospitals included a privately owned hospital of Dr. Salus which was located on Franklin Street and the Mendenhall Hospital for Maternity Patients located on Osborne Street. In the early 1900's a city hospital was located in Dale at the site of the present Garden Terrace Apartments. This facility was combined with Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital in 1920.

Records and information on women in nursing far exceeds

what can be included as separate biographies. The information in many instances is only sufficient to list the name and position. In light of this limitation, a narrative format seems the best method so as to include as many nurses as possible.

I'm sure there were more nurses in the military, but only two names were submitted. *Lt. Col. Clara Washington*, class of Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital 1912, served in World War I as did *Sara Mary Morgart Leventry* whose detailed biography is included at the end of this narrative.

Elsie Thompson, Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital class of 1918, directed the hospital's operating room until she retired. *Adelaide M. Picking Templin*, Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital class of 1925, supervised that hospital's maternity division from graduation to the early 1950's when she retired. *Freda Roseman*, class of 1919, handled the Pediatric Department for many years. There were many unlisted charge nurses and staff nurses employed in all these hospitals.

All three large industrial concerns had nurses employed in their first aid departments. Bethlehem had the first nurses, and I am told, they were two sisters, Rose and Helen Myers. *Louise Wissinger*, Conemaugh Memorial Hospital class of 1918, spent time as chief nurse at Bethlehem Steel. Lorain Steel and later U. S. Steel had nurses. National Radiator had their nurses as well. As industrial nursing was a later development in all but Bethlehem Steel, the earliest nurses still are living.

Mabel Davis, class of 1913, Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital, was head of the school nurses for the Johnstown schools; *Blanche Rogers* travelled to different schools in the city. *Molly Beers*, class of 1904, pioneered in becoming an x-ray technician.

In the field of private nursing, the name of *Anne Faith* is well known to many local residents. She practiced nursing until her death.

The names of *Ollie Ross* and *Molly Beers* stand out as Johnstown's and Cambria County's first officers in the early District Nursing organization.

Visiting nursing in Johnstown had its beginning in 1908 when the Johnstown Civic Club, headed by *Florence Dibert*, sponsored a visiting nurse to aid new mothers in caring for infants. *Cora Greenwalt* was the first visiting nurse.

The first Public Health Nursing Agency in the city was under the auspices of the American Red Cross and began in 1920. *Mrs. Daniel Stackhouse* was chairman of the first nursing activ-

ities committee of the Red Cross. *Miss Mary Howells* was hired by the Red Cross to teach home hygiene and care of the sick. She had been overseas in World War I with a Red Cross unit. After staying here only a short time, she resigned to go as a medical missionary to the Dutch East Indies.

Mrs. Stackhouse died in 1933 and was succeeded as chairman of the Nursing Advisory Committee by *Mrs. Louis Franke*, and later, *Mrs. Catherine Allen*. *Mrs. C. M. Goller* was the last chairman under the Red Cross Community Nursing Program. *Mrs. Justeen Livingston* was another dedicated lay person to give much to the visiting nurse program. These were dedicated lay women who gave of their time and talents to help Public Health nursing develop and grow in this area. In 1942 the Red Cross Nursing Service become Community Nursing Service. *Alice Woolridge* was director for a short time, followed by *Eleanor Strause* who came from the Henry Street Settlement in New York City. *Anna Lawrence*, senior staff nurse, had served as acting director in the interim. The organization had eight staff nurses who gave care and taught families how to give care to ill persons in the home in the greater Johnstown area. Today this service has been taken over by the hospitals.

Florence Walk Carpenter was one of the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital graduates who used her education well. She graduated in the class of 1936 and taught Red Cross Nursing classes during World War II, and worked with the Red Cross Mobile Unit. She was on the staff of Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital and Lee Hospital. In the South Fork-Croyle school district she was the first school nurse. In addition, she found time to be a wife and mother as well as co-owner with her husband in Carpenter's Country Store in Sidman.

At this time, apology is made to the many nurses whose names were not submitted and/or presented here. Your contributions were just as important though unheralded.

Sara Mary Morgart Leventry

November 27, 1881—June 26, 1966

Sometimes, like coming events, childhood traits foreshadow future professions. So it was with Sara Morgart. According to Mrs. William S. Morgart, her daughter had always enjoyed patching up non-existent wounds of five siblings.

One day, at the age of eight, Sara met a challenge. Out walking with her two-year-old sister, Grace, the pair discovered a crying, dirty, sore-eyed kitten huddled beside a porch. Grace loved the little thing on sight, and began screaming for it. Unable to deny the darling of the family, Sara smuggled the kitten home. She fed it warm milk and bathed it—carefully cleaning its eyes—all before her mother arrived on the scene. The once dirty, gray kitten was now a fluffy white, and there was no doubt of Grace's determination to keep it. The kitten stayed; Sara's career was definite.

Years later, after graduation in 1910 from the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital's Training School for Nurses, she became a private duty nurse.

Three years after that, Miss Morgart was employed as assistant superintendent of the Cambria Hospital in Prospect, caring for Bethlehem Steel's accident victims. This was not a pretty job, but it prepared her well for what was to come. Almost three years later, she became superintendent of the Indiana General Hospital—and when World War I broke out, she answered the call for nurses, enlisting for overseas duty.

Miss Morgart's diary related the story of her trip to France—the seasickness, the alarms set off by nearby German submarines, and the uncomfortable traveling conditions—all with good humor.

Although entering France as a Red Cross nurse, she was soon transferred to the United States Army and put in charge of a base hospital in Toul, France. The hospital's location was changed several times—possibly for safety's sake. Life was difficult. Short-handed in almost every respect, Sara was taught how to cook (by a French chef) and how to drive an ambulance by a corpsman.

Nurses were sometimes rebellious against Army regulations; nevertheless, rules were carried out to the letter. The stories Sara told afterwards, some funny, some graphic, gave a hint of the dynamic, but kind-hearted, person she was. One example of nurse defiance came soon after the arrival in France. The nurses were warned not to have their hair "bobbed," as the term was. Short hair was the sign of the prostitute, and this could invite trouble. In spite of the warning, one pretty girl came back from leave with her hair cut, Clara Bow style. Miss Morgart had no recourse. In spite of the nurse's tears and pleading, she was shipped back to the States.

At another time, Sara was making her rounds at bed-check, and discovered an empty bed. At this time, the hospital had been set up in a huge French chateau, which had been donated by a wealthy French woman. Each bedroom had long, glass doors opening onto a patio, allowing easy egress to the outdoors. Sara extinguished her lamp and rested on a chair in the dark until the errant nurse entered—with an Army captain. Then she lit the lamp, startling the couple. Sara reminded the captain that he had a picture of his wife and children on his desk. The captain was infuriated, threatening her with big trouble. Sweetly, she countered that he had no control over her—she was a Red Cross nurse. (Her Army service began soon afterward.) At any rate, the captain was reported, and although the nurse was permitted to stay on, she was warned about dating the officers.

One of the most difficult tasks Miss Morgart had was heeding the plea of the dying soldier and writing to his mother. This was unusually serious, for she had to invent a story—the boy was dying of syphilis, and wanted to keep the truth from his mother.

Then, the hospital was moved again. During the big battle of the Argonne, the building was only a mile behind the lines. Although a giant red cross was painted on the roof, some shell-
ing occurred. At the height of the battle, the hospital corpsmen were bringing in so many wounded men that it was necessary to lay them on the floor. As a relief driver, Sara donned a gas mask and piloted an ambulance into the field. Back at the hospital, men were gasping and dying, exhaling the deadly mustard gas. Sara became ill, as did the other nurses, but there was no rest; they were in the center of things.

After a little more than a year overseas, Miss Morgart came home. At the Indiana Hospital, a baby which had been brought into the institution before Sara left, was still there. She had been abandoned. For months, authorities had searched for the child's parents, but to no avail. The child, paralyzed in both arms and legs by infantile paralysis (polio), seemed to be destined for an orphanage. Sara thought this would be disaster for the little girl. Sara went to court and requested permission to adopt the child—an unheard of situation for a single woman, at the time. Wisely, the judge listened to her plea and granted the adoption. There were people who whispered, but Sara never let it be known that she noticed. She named the girl "Marie," and there were people who assumed that she had brought the child from France.

Soon after the war, Miss Morgart assumed a private duty nursing job. County Commissioner Charles Leventry needed care for his invalid wife, Julia (Von Lunen). After Julia's death, Ruth, Charles' daughter, begged Sara to marry her father.

Charles liked the idea; already fond of Sara, he had two teenage sons who needed a mother, as well as his 21-year-old daughter. Sara finally agreed; although she had hesitated to marry at the age of 40, she did care for Charles and his children. They were married. Together, they had two more sons, Robert and Donald.

Somehow, Sara never really got away from the nursing business. For many years, she was on call in the neighborhood. After her marriage, she lived in Geistown, far from a doctor's office or home. Sometimes, she was called in the middle of the night. At one of these times, she saved the life of a child who was dying of croup. In gratitude, the family brought her a heap of vegetables from their garden.

At the age of 84, Sara died peacefully in her sleep. The American Legion gave her a military funeral, presenting the folded flag to her older son, Robert.

Miss Margaret Waters

Superintendent of Municipal Hospital

Margaret Waters was the daughter of John Waters who was born in Ireland and a veteran of the Civil War, and Margaret (O'Hagan) Waters, a native of Cresson, Pa. She had four brothers and four sisters.

Margaret was educated in the public schools of Johnstown and graduated from Conemaugh, Valley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1901. Her older sister, Susan, Mrs. T. P. Flynn, graduated in the first class of the school of nursing in 1898.

In September, 1902, she became the superintendent of the Municipal Hospital located in Lower Yoder Township which had been founded in 1898. Operating solely for the treatment of contagious diseases, it was closed for several years due to lack of patients. However, it reopened March 27, 1902 because of a smallpox epidemic in Johnstown. The hospital accommodated sixty patients, and when Margaret became superintendent, Dr. L. W. Jones was in charge. Her sister, Claire, was her assistant

superintendent. If Claire was a nurse, she did not graduate from Conemaugh Vally Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.

Margaret Waters was a member of the Johnstown Quota Club and the Social Workers' Club.

Source:

History of Cambria County, by John E. Gable, Vol. II, P. 552,
Historical Publishing Co., Tpeka, Indianapolis, 1926.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

In early times, women were excluded from participating in politics both by tradition and by law. Again, Pennsylvania was an early state in which women were able to make inroads into this field.

Since Cambria County was a largely rural area, women were too busy, less-well informed, and less concerned about the social issues of the day. These served as a basis for women's involvement elsewhere in the political area. In eastern coast cities women began to get involved in politics by participating in such movements as women's suffrage, anti-slavery, and later labor and social welfare.

The following women's biographies were submitted for this section:

Mabel McGeary Dias
Pearl Hood

Mabel McGeary Dias

1894-1979

Submitted by Norma Kelly

When women won the right to vote in 1920, Mabel McGeary Dias' political appetite had already been whetted by her grandfather's interest in and support of William Jennings Bryan. "When you're interested in politics . . . you never seem to get out," Mabel said in a 1975 interview. For more than 40 years she contributed to the political life of the Johnstown community by working as City Democratic Chairman, serving as an alternate to the National Democratic Convention and writing a column for *The Johnstown Observer*. A love of people and a de-

sire to help those who were not able to help themselves motivated her to become involved in the political system.

Mabel was born in Johnstown, in 1894, to Frank and Katherine McGeary. Her father, a steel worker, lost his job because of his involvement in union activities. The family moved to Apollo where Frank found employment. His death, from typhoid fever, when Mabel was two years old, left a mother with five children to care for. Since the children's grandparents lived in Johnstown, Katherine returned home with her family. Life was tough in the days before Social Security helped widows with young children. Katherine placed her older children in an orphanage. Mabel lived at home, attended elementary school and early on showed an interest in literature and writing. In the summer of 1911 she attended The Teachers' Institute at Armagh where she received a certificate that allowed her to teach for one year. "Mother taught at the St. Clair School, which was a one room school on St. Clair Road, and at the Mountain School which was up the 'blackroad' back of Morrellville until she married my father Murr," wrote Norma Kelly.

"My mother became more interested in politics through my father, who was President of the West End Democratic Club. Her brother-in-law, Charles Dias, was an organizer for the United Mine Workers during the coal strike in 1922. When the miners were evicted from their homes in Dilltown, they spent the winter in tents on the Dias farm."

Mabel's humble beginning and experiences with adversity gave her an understanding of others who suffered. Surviving the hardships of the Depression gave her courage to speak out for others and folks seemed to sense that she was one who could represent them. Opportunity in the political system seemed the natural outlet for Mabel's organizational skills and desire to champion the causes of the less fortunate.

In 1934 Mabel met Mr. Alonzo Creswell, the City Democratic Chairman, and became active in his organization. By 1936 she was elected Democratic City Vice Chairman, and Chairman in 1937 when the W.P.A. flood control project was begun.

Today television follows the candidate and brings him into the family living room. In the 1930's candidates met the public in private homes, picnics, union meetings—wherever the party could drum up support for a rally. Mabel worked tirelessly on behalf of her party's candidate. She once wrote that she had gone into every precinct in the county traveling on roads cov-

ered with ice. "We waded mud, and in some cases spent hours in debate with committee members before we could get a commitment." Norma Kelly recalled that her mother knew and worked with every committee person directly in the city and Cambria County. "The Democratic party was a very tightly knit, well organized group, constantly in touch with committee people all over the county. They knew when the people in the districts had problems and tried to help. Favors owed, even to those who did not get along very well, were repaid," Norma wrote in a family history paper.

In 1936 and 1940 Mabel worked in the campaign to reelect Franklin D. Roosevelt and local candidates. A highlight in her life was an invitation to tea at the White House in 1940 and an opportunity to meet Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1948 Mabel was a presidential elector and an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

When Mabel's husband Murr, died in 1941 leaving her to raise a 13-year old daughter, her political activity provided a means of earning a living. She had worked to help elect John Torquato, Cambria County Democratic Chairman, and then worked as his secretary and administrative assistant for 12 years. At the same time she was secretary to the Democratic County Committee for 12 years. She also worked as a case reader for the Auditor General, investigating D.P.A. fraud and later as sidewalk inspector for Johnstown.

A new career developed in 1942 when Mabel began writing a weekly column, under the pen name "Aunt Liz" for *The Johnstown Observer*. "Hi" (Hiram Andrews, founder of *The Observer*) told me to write a few paragraphs that would stir up the imagination of readers, a few jokes, a bit of gossip, and some stuff that would needle folks," Mabel recalled in a 1975 interview.

"The Aunt Liz column," reported Sharon Smolko in the interview, "contained items such as 'overheard in Coney Island,' 'seen in Central Park,' little recipes, anecdotes, and other items of local interest."

"When she retired after twenty-five years, she maintained the unofficial title of 'general information bureau' at the Vine Street Towers," reported Ms. Smolko, "still serving the purpose that her column once did."

Even after she became unable to actively participate in campaigning, Mabel never lost her interest in, or enthusiasm for, the political process. She ended her interview with Ms. Smolko

with some advice for the politicians. "I'd like to say one thing—they shouldn't put these old ladies like us on the shelf and forget about us in politics. We might do them a lot of good."

Mabel died June 22, 1979, at Laurel Crest Manor, but her spirit will never be forgotten.

Pearl Hood

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Pearl Hood was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of James A. Hood who was engaged in the lumber business and Emma J. Edwards Hood, a teacher in the Indiana schools. A sister, Elizabeth May, was a teacher in the Johnstown public schools.

Pearl was educated in the public schools of Indiana. After attending Morrell Business College and graduating from Indiana Normal School, she taught for fifteen years in the Somerset Street School. In the summers she worked in the city treasurer's office.

In 1912 Pearl was appointed assistant treasurer and was elected city treasurer in November 1923. She had been nominated over six candidates in the primary on the Republican ticket. In the general election she won by a substantial majority. A very efficient person, she ran her department effectively.

Active in community and church organizations, she was a member of the Johnstown Quota Club and the American Red Cross. Also, she belonged to the First Presbyterian Church, the



Young Women's Missionary Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, Pride of Valley Council No. 56, the Women's Republican Club, Protected Home Circle, Johnstown No. 72 King's Daughters, W.C.T.U. and Y.W.C.A.

Pearl was attractive and had a pleasing personality.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS

The professions provided the most obvious example of the barriers women faced when attempting to move in a new direction.

In early colonial days, women were the main providers of health care simply by carrying out their "women's function" of caring for the ill, administering herbs and medicines as written in the "Old Doctor Book" and managing childbirth.

In addition, they had learned anatomy through butchering animals used for food. With the advent of medical schools, men moved into and took over the field, and deliberately shut the doors to women. Finally, in 1850, the opening of Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania provided women with the opportunity to acquire formal education in medicine. For the times, Cambria County had good representation.

In the profession of law, women usually got into the field through association with family members engaged in its practice.

One can't say "why" but there were few women recruits in the field of pharmacy, but Cambria County had an outstanding woman pharmacist.

Medicine

Bertha Caldwell, M.D.

Esther Marbourg, M.D.

Verna Turner, M.D.

Eloise Meek, M.D.

Law

Mary Douglas Storey

Pharmacy

Theresa Lantos

Bertha T. Caldwell, M.D.

1867-1924

Written by Barbara A. Horner, M.D.
(great niece)

Bertha Templeton Caldwell, daughter of Dr. William Caldwell and Susan Levergood Caldwell was born in Johnstown, April 17, 1867. Her mother was a daughter of Peter Levergood, Sr., a pioneer settler in Johnstown; her heritage is Scotch-Irish and Pennsylvania German.

Early education was received in the Johnstown public schools, graduating from high school in 1885. After attending Indiana State Normal, she taught a year or so at the Adams Street school, then moved to Idaho to teach until returning to Johnstown May 26, 1889. Narrowly escaping death in the 1889 flood, she shortly left to go to Philadelphia. Having decided on a medical career, she was graduated from Women's Medical College in 1893. Dr. Caldwell took post graduate work in the Poly-clinic College and the University of Pennsylvania, after which she went to India as a medical missionary for a period of about seven years. During that time she was head of a hospital for women and children in Allahabad.

Dr. Caldwell held the distinction of being the only woman to serve as a member of the Johnstown Board of Controllers and was also the first Probation Officer in the county.

She was an officer in the Civic Club of Cambria County which inaugurated the playgrounds movement in Johnstown. Also, she taught Sunday School in the First Lutheran Church which had received from her grandfather a considerable portion of land in the Fourth Ward when Johnstown was just a village.

Besides being an organizer and a life member of the Y.W.C.A., she was a past Royal Patron of Cambria Court, Order of Aramath and an officer of the Order of the Eastern Star.

On her way to visit a patient on the night of July 31, 1924, she fell through an opening in the footwalk of the Coopersdale bridge, a distance of twenty-five feet to the river and was severely injured. She died a few days later, a great loss to Johnstown and the medical profession.

It can be said that, early on, the equity for women became an issue, she gained recognition for herself and for women in general, in a field which had been almost exclusively dominated by men.

Reference:

Notable Women in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. 1942, University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 284-285

Dr. Esther Marbourg, M.D.

Woman Pioneer in the World of Medicine

Prepared by Ann McDonald

In 1869, women were shielded from everything—higher education, exercise, even the facts of life. Business and the professions were barred to them. They were not permitted to serve on juries, testify in court, or cast ballots in an election.¹ Yet, in spite of such a climate, Dr. Esther Marbourg launched a career in medicine. Think of how the men and women of the Victorian era suffered from the notion of propriety, particularly about the human body. Legs were called “limbs” and the world’s greatest nude paintings and sculptures were practically considered pornography.² Bowdler was busy cleaning up the Bible so that tender young female creatures could read it. Just imagine the courage of a young widow embarking on the course of becoming a doctor. The young widow was Esther Lukens Wright Nippes who was educated in the public schools of her native city, Philadelphia.

Born Esther Lukens Wright, her father was William Wright, a civil engineer and professor of language in Philadelphia, and a man of prominence. Her mother was Rachel (Lukens) Wright. Her father’s cousin, Abednego Wright was the founder of the Girls’ Normal School in Philadelphia.

For Miss Wright, teaching, even though most women of her class entered that field, did not offer the kind of intellectual stimulation that she needed. Nor was she running from marriage, which was the usual alternative for her peers, for she did marry before entering the medical profession.

Esther married Chester W. C. Nippes, a farmer in Indiana County and they had one child. It was shortly after the child was born that her husband was killed during the battle of Gettysburg. Esther, finding herself a young widow with no financial prospects to support herself and her child, felt it a good idea to take up the study of medical lore under the preceptorship of Dr. Benjamin B. Wilson of Philadelphia. In 1869, she entered the

Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. Three years later, she completed the course.³

So few women had graduated as physicians during this time, that she may rightly be called a pioneer woman physician, and the pioneers in every great work should be held in remembrance, especially when they are of importance by right of character or unusual attainments. Soon after graduating she came to live in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she practiced her profession with courageous success.⁴

She was married a second time in March, 1872, to Dr. H. W. Marbourg, who was born in Centerville, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. He had been educated in the public schools of Indiana and at Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He studied medicine with Dr. John Lowman of Johnstown and entered Jefferson Medical College, graduating in 1857. After graduating, he located in Johnstown, where, with the exception of a period during the Civil War, he practiced continually until his death, which occurred during the disastrous flood of 1889.⁵

Dr. Esther Marbourg practiced in Johnstown until her death in about 1900. She was an honored member of the American Medical Association and was a delegate to the meeting of that association when it convened in Chicago in 1887. She was one of the incorporators of the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital in Johnstown, Pa., the only woman among the incorporators, and she had served a period of time on the staff of that hospital. She was also a permanent member of the State Society until 1900. Until her death, she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Johnstown, and it is said that "she did good work and spread good influence in the community."⁶

Dr. Verna Turner, M.D.

1898-1987

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Many of us who were encouraged to seek higher education in the middle of the 20th century were guided into the accepted fields of service for women: nursing, education, and social work. Today, we encourage our daughters and say "Go for it!" as they consider careers unknown to us.

However, for a woman to enter a field mostly open to men in the 1930's, she must have a good mind, but also courage, conviction, and the ability to rise above prejudice.

Verna Turner was born in Hyde Park, Westmoreland County, a daughter of William K. and Elizabeth P. (Smith) Turner. She was the youngest of eight children, and spent most of her childhood in Hyde Park.

A niece, Jean Prager, writes "Allegheny Valley Hospital in Tarentum, Pennsylvania, is where Verna attended the school of nursing and where she was employed upon completion of her schooling. Later, she worked at hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio, and Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and then did private duty nursing while attending medical school. She was always considered to be an excellent nurse by the doctors with whom she worked.

"Verna was very independent and after having been in the nursing profession for several years, she decided she wanted to become a doctor.

"It was at this point that she found it quite difficult to be accepted at a medical school, and it was here her perseverance paid off when she, along with eight other women, was accepted at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"Upon graduation from George Washington University, Verna was fortunate to obtain an internship at the Windber Hospital in Windber, Pennsylvania, from July 1, 1937 to July 1, 1938. She opened an office for practice at Benscreek, R.D. 4, in 1938, and was often referred to as the Benscreek Physician.

"Helping others was always uppermost in Verna's mind, and many times she was known to make house calls at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. on a snowy, wintry morning," writes Mrs. Prager. "It was known that on a couple occasions she had to be pulled from a ditch before reaching her destination and being able to administer to the patient."

Verna Turner was the first woman to join the Mercy Hospital staff, and served as its president in 1955. She was honored by the Cambria County Medical Society, naming her its "General Practitioner of 1963." On that occasion, the Tribune-Democrat reported, "A quiet, kindly little woman, devoted to her profession and to helping physically those who seek her aid, received her medallion with modesty from Dr. William Lloyd Hughes."

Dr. Turner was one of the founders of the Cambria County Heart Association, serving three one-year terms as its president. She took a deep interest in problems of the aged. As a member of the First Presbyterian Church, she worked closely with the Reverend Dr. Carl S. Fisher, D.D., in formulating plans for the Presbyterian Home. She was a member of the Home's

board, and chairman of the admissions committee. She also acted as chairman of the Cambria County Committee of the White House Conference on Aging, and served on the Governor's Little White House Conference on Aging.

For forty years, Dr. Turner actively worked for the community by ministering to the physical needs of her patients and encouraging others to better health and quality of life through various agencies. She discontinued her practice of medicine on August 5, 1967.

Her other activities included: serving as president of the Soroptimist Club (with great interest in its project—*Golden Agers Club*); membership in the American Medical Women's Association; the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance, and the Cambria County Medical Society heart fund drives. She was honorary chairman of the campaign to raise funds to complete the Senior Activities Center; she was chairman of Daffodil Day, sponsored by the Cambria County Unit of the American Cancer Society, and Chairman of the North Atlantic Regional Conference of American Soroptimist Clubs.

On May 15, 1974, the Johnstown Exchange Club presented her with the Golden Deeds Award in recognition of civic achievement, public service, and dedication to community betterment.

Eloise Meek, M.D.

Prepared by Murilla Himes

Eloise Meek, M.D., was a graduate of Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in the class of 1899.

Little is known about her personal life. However, she was active professionally. She was a member of the American Medical Association and the Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Cambria County Medical Society. She was secretary for the Cambria County Medical Society.

Her parents lived in Bellefonte but she made Johnstown her home.

Mary Douglas Storey

1876-1936

Researched by Anne Fattman

Mary Douglas Storey was born January 25, 1876, the daughter of Henry and Abbie Doty Douglas Storey, in Conemaugh,

Pennsylvania. Her original home in Johnstown, at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets, became the Conway Funeral Home and was swept away in the flood of 1936.

Her father was a prominent member of the Cambria County Bar Association and for many years was solicitor for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Miss Storey's grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Storey, was the first treasurer of the Women's Bible Study Society of Johnstown. Her successor was Mrs. Abbie D. Storey.

Mary D. Storey was educated in the local schools, including the "Select School", on Locust Street and Park Place; she subsequently matriculated in Philadelphia. She read law in the office of her father, but never made application for admission to the bar.

One of its most prominent and active social service workers and a member of one of the pioneer families of Conemaugh Valley, she was in charge of Social Service Exchange, active in the Family Welfare Society, and the Cambria County Relief Board. While executive secretary of the Cambria County chapter of the American Red Cross, she was sent to help direct relief work after a disastrous flood in Mississippi, and also to direct similar work following a hurricane in Florida.

A descendent of Jonathan Doty, a soldier of the American Revolution, Mary was one of the early members of the Quemahoning Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Besides being one of the incorporators of Lee Homeopathic Hospital, she became an officer of the Senior Women's Auxiliary.

Mary Storey affiliated with Franklin Street Methodist Church in 1900 where she organized a group for young married women known as the Excelsior Bible Class. Fond of writing, she was the composer of several religious pageants. In assisting her father in compiling a three-volume history of Cambria County, she assembled much of the data used, and also read much of the proof of the material before the books were published.

Theresa Freud Lantos

1899-1972

Prepared by Anne Fattman

Theresa Freud, born October 5, 1899, in Sophia, Bulgaria, to Ignatz and Regina Freud entered a world about to undergo a dramatic change. As a result of the tensions and mistakes of

many years, in 1914 the great nations of Europe were lined up on two sides. The forces for making war were present—national pride, imperialistic rivalry, and the race for armaments. Opportunities were developing for women in education, scientific achievements would greatly enrich peoples' lives, and social life and customs would change, too. The old idea that "women's place is in the home" and that "a woman has no place in a 'man's' world" died slowly. To most people in eastern Europe, education was still a luxury.

Though Theresa was born in Bulgaria while her mother was on vacation, she lived in northern Hungary for 18 years. Public education was not provided for girls when Theresa was school age. Her father was an accountant for a wealthy landowner whose children were tutored. Theresa shared in their educational experience. Later she traveled by train every day to receive her schooling in Banhaci, Hungary. She excelled in languages (Hungarian, German, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, and Polish) and after eight years of study was fluent in reading, writing, and speaking both scientific and classical Latin. Theresa's mother encouraged her love of music with training in the piano. She was an excellent musician, especially in the classics, but her real forte was science.

We know little about the effects of World War I on the Freud family, but for many the war was a catastrophe. Eight million men were killed, 20 million wounded, and millions more died of hunger and disease. Women made their contribution by working in the factories, offices, and stores. One can only guess about the effect history had on Theresa's formative years. Perhaps living in a war-torn land was the stimulus that later motivated her to work so earnestly for a better world. Theresa had begun her study of pharmacy and had internships in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Though a young girl, she was given a responsible assignment to stop the Orient Express in Budapest in order to deliver vaccine to the troops. From 1918–1920 Theresa studied at the Pharmacy College of Charles University, (German division), Prague, Czechoslovakia.

After the war the great estates which had been the real source of power of the nobility and big landowners disappeared. War, heavy taxation, and inflation ruined many rich people and brought hardship to the middle class. It was during this period that many Hungarians left their homeland—as did Theresa and her family in 1920. She enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh

in the College of Pharmacy. Her parents returned to Europe, leaving her to earn her way through school and support her brothers. Lack of skills in the English language was a handicap, but a professor translated her lectures into German (her native tongue). Pharmacy education came easily because chemistry is universal and much of it is rooted in Latin—her strong area. Despite the language setback, Theresa was graduated with honors in 1922. While still a student at the University, Theresa apprenticed at a pharmacy in Wilkensburg where she met Joseph Lantos. Joseph and his brother opened the Star Drug Company in Portage in 1922. Meanwhile Joseph courted Theresa; they married in 1923 and a son, Ray, was born in 1924.

The family opened the Crystal Pharmacy, 1925, on Broad Street in Cambria City where they lived above the store. Grandmother (Regina) Freud (whose family was related to Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis) cared for Ray, thus allowing Theresa to work as well as care for her family. Cambria City, or "little Europe" as Ray remembered it, seemed a natural place to reside. "Life was not easy for these refugees, but whatever the hardship, they had the hope that here their hard work and determination promised a better existence," reports Ewa Morawska in *Johnstown, The Story of a Unique Valley*. "The South and East Central European communities bubbled with joyful and sorrowful events, spectacular accomplishments and failures. Hardly a week passed in the immigrant communities without a religious celebration, procession, wedding, and picnics—the joyful side of immigrant social life." Ray's family was part of this great fellowship which developed into a warm close knit group.

The Crystal Pharmacy became a popular gathering place for the working people to exchange information about their homeland, share concerns, and enjoy a good story. In addition to being the druggist, Theresa supervised the preparation of Hungarian specialties served at a counter in the store. Son Robert, born in 1930, says his mother had a story or joke for any occasion.

"There seemed to be a church on every corner in Cambria City and the priests loved to come in for a Coke and to share a laugh with Mother," said Robert. She formed such good friendships with the priests that she was an invited guest when the prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Eduard Benés visited the United States and also when the Johnstown Catholic Forum

honored Otto of Hapsburg, the exiled heir to the Hapsburg throne.

Because of her strong background in many languages, people with language difficulties sought her help. She was a community resource, whether for someone seeking help with language translation or a woman needing advice about feminine hygiene. "I was trained as a pharmacist, but often I had to be an educator, a psychologist, and a social worker," Theresa wrote. George Neuman, a pharmacist, recalled that Mrs. Lantos was not one to remain behind the counter; she took great personal interest in her clientele. "Mrs. Lantos was the store! She had a special knack with people—the magnet that drew people to the business. She loved her work. Often I would say to her, 'Mrs. Lantos, it's 6:15. . . . She'd reply, 'I know, I want to finish this last item.' "

By 1936 the Lantos family owned four drug stores in downtown Johnstown and one in Cambria City. "It was unusual at that time to own a chain of drug stores—the Lantos family was ahead of its time," said John Letizia, a Vinco pharmacist. Ray added, "These stores were the original discount stores with prices marked down. People with relatives in Europe brought prescriptions for Mother to translate since there were not many pharmacists with that ability. Folks would purchase a couple hundred dollars worth of drugs and send them back to the homeland where drugs were either not available or too costly."

All the Lantos stores suffered damage in the 1936 Flood. "Distributors came from Pittsburgh with supplies and 48 hours after the Flood we were selling necessities from tables set up at the corner of Main and Franklin—outside our store," Ray recalled. "Recovering from the Flood was very hard, but my father was able to purchase Widman's Drug Distributorship and of course my mother continued her pharmacy work."

The tug between her work, which she thoroughly enjoyed, and her family, which she dearly loved, pulled her both ways. She took her role of mother seriously as evidenced in a paper she wrote: "I have tried to the best of my ability to guide my boys and to lead them through the difficult years of childhood and adolescence." She is remembered as a woman with great energy who organized her day to accommodate the demands of career and family. By the 1950's when women had greater opportunities, Theresa became an advocate for women's rights in pharmacy. In 1956 she was invited to speak on "Women's Role

in Pharmacy" at Texas Southern University in Houston. She also served as the first woman president of the Cambria-Somerset Pharmaceutical Society.

In an article for the Tribune-Democrat in 1965 Theresa encouraged guidance counselors to direct young women to pharmacy which in her estimation "is actually cut out for women." She then tells of her experiences: "As a woman I was a pioneer in the field at a time when pharmacy was considered a monopoly of men."

"After having been in the profession all these years, it makes me feel uneasy when people hesitate to trust me and give me that doubting look, as if to say 'How can you as a woman be a pharmacist?' Just a few days ago, while on duty in one of the pharmacies, a man handed me a prescription after a searching look for a male pharmacist. After being told by me that his prescription will be filled in a few minutes, he tried to make me feel at ease by saying, 'Oh pardon me, I was not aware of the fact that there are female pharmacists, also.' "

"Pharmacy has undergone radical changes since I started in the field. In the early days we compounded our own liniments, cough syrups, ointments, cold creams, vanishing creams, suppositories, etc . . . The field, however, has widened. Antibiotics, tranquilizers, drugs to control diabetes, epilepsy, cardiovascular diseases, etc. were unknown in the early days."

Keeping up with advances in medicine required the reading of pharmaceutical journals. "Doctors often depended on Mother's knowledge of drugs and would consult her when prescribing medicines," Ray added.

Not only was Theresa an outstanding pharmacist, she was a tremendous force in the cultural community as well. The Beth Zion Forum begun by the Temple Sisterhood, on an experimental basis in 1926, became a popular and successful community outreach program. It brought outstanding national and international speakers to Johnstown during the 1930's, 40's, and 50's. Theresa served on this board for many years. Among the celebrities addressing Johnstown audiences were Clarence Darrow, Will Durant, H. V. Kaltenborn, Senator Robert Lafolette, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt (on whose visit Mrs. Lantos played the national anthem), Upton Sinclair, and Cornelia Otis Skinner. The proceeds from these events helped to support the Temple Sisterhood projects.

Upon completion of her tenure as president of the Sisterhood, Theresa noted she had addressed 22 civic, service, and church organizations while in office and had recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the Y.W.C.A.—the first Jewish woman in that position.

A paper she delivered reveals her motivation and commitment to community activities that furthered the cause of peace and justice.

I grew up in a war-torn world in one of the European countries during World War I. My sons grew up in similar circumstances during World War II. My older son, wounded three times in the War, was just as eager to take the responsibility of managing this disordered world, to put his ideals to work, as we were 30 years ago. The moral leadership for a better world is the responsibility of our youth and I am sure our youth, if given the proper backing, will not disappoint us. We must train our youth to take an interest in politics, international affairs, race relations, and interfaith work. The best way we can help our young folks is to make sure that they have every chance to develop three qualities they'll need as creative pioneers. They are *vision*, *imagination*, and *courage*. Through vision they will see things as they really are. Through imagination they will dream of things that may be. Through courage they will act boldly to make their dreams and ideas come true. We must train them to practice and live democracy through tolerance, understanding, and unification. We have a rich heritage—let us teach our children to preserve this heritage through work and understanding."

Under Theresa's chairmanship, the Interfaith Committee presented programs such as "One God and How We Worship Him" designed to promote goodwill among the races and understanding of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. In the 1940's she was a founding member and officer in the World Fellowship Organization at the Y.W.C.A., which encouraged understanding and fellowship among the ethnic groups. Following the war, World Fellowship sponsored a war brides unit to help women become acclimated to a new way of life and families were counseled about the adjustment returning GI's faced.

During Theresa's six years on the Y.W.C.A. Board she never missed an opportunity to keep people informed about world events. As chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, she brought to their meeting a cake with four lighted candles to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the United Nations. On another occasion she arranged a round table discussion, "Straws in the Wind," about Communism in the Far East and the danger for the West.

A lasting relationship was formed between Theresa and Mabel Johnson through their work on the Y.W.C.A. Board. It was through their friendship that Theresa was invited to a Marian Anderson concert and reception in Pittsburgh in the 40's. Ray remembers his mother felt honored to have been invited to that elegant affair. Before leaving the Y.W.C.A. Board Mrs. Johnson presented a plan of action that allowed blacks to swim at the Y.W.C.A. in New York City. "I felt if I showed the plan had been successfully implemented in one place, then perhaps those steps could be taken at the local Y," she said. "I made my final plea to permit blacks access to the Y and Mrs. Lantos backed me up."

Theresa was an early non-black member of the N.A.A.C.P. Her belief in the rights of all people shared itself many times over the years. Ray remembers when the Beth Zion Forum invited Mrs. Paul Robeson to speak; she stayed with the Lantos family because the Ft. Stanwix Hotel did not accept blacks. When asked about this liberal philosophy, Ray replied, "It was drummed into us early in life. We understood there was no other way."

There was yet another opportunity for Theresa to share her leadership skills. Because of her great love for music, she worked tirelessly while serving on the board of the Johnstown Symphony and Community Concert Association.

The world saw great changes from Theresa's birth in 1899 to her death July 14, 1972. She had those qualities of vision, imagination and courage which she worked to develop in others. A woman ahead of her time in her profession and in her attitudes about her fellow man. She had pride and integrity in her work and a love of learning. She tried to live her high ideals and prodded others to act on their social conscience. Her life truly reflected the divine joy of living.

(Information for this writing was supplied by Marjorie Lantos)

WOMEN IN RELIGION

As mentioned previously, the religious tolerance of William Penn and the Quakers made Pennsylvania a state with many different religions. This is very apparent in Johnstown where there are churches of all denominations and backgrounds.

Church work was woman's work in those early days. Women, generally, were the subtle keepers of religious traditions and moral values while men were more likely to be the leaders and performers of the religious rites. Nevertheless, there were several women from Cambria County who were outstanding active participants in religious work.

Bertha Ball
Minnie Gohn Dubs
Florence Rowland

Bertha Ball

1882-1950

Prepared by Cass Palmer

It was not a pretentious place—this empty storeroom which Bertha Ball found to rent as a starting point for her mission. Nevertheless, the budding Cambria City Mission soon became a youth center for Johnstown. Under her guidance, her workers served food to the hungry and distributed clothing to the needy. Equally important was the painless teaching of religion and morality, as attested to by the youth who frequented the mission.

As a social worker, Bertha emulated her father, Rev. George Ball, a Methodist minister in eastern Pennsylvania. From him, with her mother, she developed an untiring devotion to the community around her.

Her career began in Washington, Pennsylvania as a secretary of the Y.W.C.A. Later, she worked in Cleveland, but she was not satisfied. There were other goals in mind. She enrolled in the Moody Bible Institute, and after graduation was named to the post of dean of women at Knoxville College in Tennessee. This was something she wanted to do—to work in a co-educational school for colored youth, as a counselor.

However, circumstances changed her direction. Suddenly, she was needed at home. She gave up her job and came to Johnstown to care for an ailing father.

Naturally, Bertha immediately became involved in religious and civic affairs. Her big chance for a satisfying career did not come until 1930, when Dr. Robert Campbell, of the First Presbyterian Church, urged her to organize the new mission to be established in Cambria City by the church. She accepted—and served as director of the Cambria City Mission for 17 years.

From the storeroom, the mission was moved to a double house at 906 Broad Street, which had been remodeled. Later, this building was destroyed by fire, and a one-story buff brick building was constructed on the site.

The young people who had been regular visitors to the mission were vocal in their praise of Bertha and the home they had found in the mission.

One boy wrote from Japan: "I can honestly say that the time I spent in the Mission was as kind and warm as I could ever hope to receive. I know you are doing your best, which is a lot."

Another, a serviceman in the Pacific, wrote: "Now that I've had time to realize in what way the Mission help me, I can sum up my benefits in a few lines. (1) It kept me out of mischief. (2) It taught me to be a patriotic man—also a gentleman. (3). . . It brought the Lord closer to me and made the Bible a friend . . ."

Bertha's mission never competed with, or duplicated the work of any church. It always worked across nationality, creed, or racial lines. Roman Catholics and Protestants worked together from the beginning.

The activities of the mission included Sunday School, Women's Bible classes, craft clubs, Little Brothers Club, Pioneer Girls, vacation Bible school, camping at Pine Springs and other places, a baby clinic, and other activities for people of all ages.

When the Johnstown Flood of March 17, 1936 did a great deal of damage to the mission, Miss Ball called on the Works Progress Administration for help. These were two Federal agen-

cies formed to provide employment during the lean depression years; they came and restored the property.

Of course, Bertha had other interests. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and its Council of Christian Education; she was a director of Cambria County Women's Christian Temperance Union, and was active in Johnstown's Y.W.C.A. work. It followed that Bertha's mission and her civic work in other fields would be recognized. In 1946, she received the Good Neighbor Award by the Good Cheer Club of Johnstown.

Bertha was a unique person, as is testified to by the fact that the committee choosing her for the Good Neighbor Award stated: "Miss Ball was chosen over a group of over 300 nominees for (this) award, for her zealous work at the Cambria City Mission, Inc., of which she is the director. Miss Ball has worked untiringly at the mission since its founding in 1930."

Today's responsibility for the mission is in the hands of the inter-denominational Missionary Society, with most of the churches in the city guiding its affairs. Bertha no longer leads the activities, but one thing is certain; she is lovingly remembered by those who knew her.

Minnie Gohn Dubs

1883-1977

Prepared by Carol Fris

Minnie Gohn Dubs was an indomitable, courageous woman—little known in Cambria County, or even in Johnstown. However, this quiet, retiring person would be outstanding, even by today's standards.

It was probably natural enough for Minnie Gohn to be drawn to the missionary field. Born in Elton, Pennsylvania, to Rev. John P. Gohn and Elizabeth Dunmyer Gohn, she learned the value of missionary work early in life.

As a teacher, Minnie was first employed in Walsel, and then in Walnut Grove. Later while teaching in Franklin, came the turning point in her life.

One morning, the first grade teacher, Irene Poling, entered her room with the news that she had received an appointment as a missionary to China from the Board of Missions in Philadelphia. Elated, she continued, "I've given them your name and address; you'll be hearing from them."

This was a shock. Two years later, still somewhat uncertain,

Minnie volunteered to go to China to a newly opened field under the United Evangelical Church.

In 1910, she left teaching and went to the New York Seminary to study. That year, she was accepted and appointed as an educational missionary to China, along with Daisy Shaffer, a teacher from Windber.

Minnie arrived in the country in 1912, and spent two more years studying its language and customs. The latter were indeed foreign to her—sometimes unpleasant.

Many years later, at the age of 80, Minnie wrote the story of her years in China: *Adventures of a Sower*. The book is religious in character, but it includes some of her personal experiences.

For example, one of the delicacies at a wedding feast was called, “hundred-year-old eggs.” The eggs were pickled and sliced; although the yellows remained the same, the white part was black.

When the pieces of egg wouldn’t stay on her chopsticks, the hostess politely used her own chopsticks to put a piece in Minnie’s mouth. Then several other women followed suit. Somehow, Minnie managed to swallow the-kind offerings, but she never again ate pickled eggs. (Of course, they weren’t really one hundred years old.)

At the same feast, one of the courses was chicken chop suey (which means chopped into bits). Minnie managed to pick up a piece with her chopsticks—to her horror, when she went to put it in her mouth, she saw eyes and a beak. While the others were getting their chicken, Minnie put the chicken head under the table—the customary way of getting rid of bones.

Later, she learned that the head was a choice piece; after her experience, she was always polite—she never took the best.

In 1920, Minnie married Dr. Newton C. Dubs, founder and pioneer of the Central China Mission. She and her husband traveled to districts where a white woman had never been seen. Minnie spoke to women while Dr. Dubs spoke to the men.

Riding by rickshaw was quite expensive, so they decided to buy a horse. Dr. Dubs always walked with the coolies, who carried the equipment and supplies needed for six weeks of travel.

Once, on a trip to an outlying area, Minnie was thrown from the horse. The animal fell into a large hole—on top of Minnie. It was some minutes before Dr. Dubs realized he had lost his wife.

When she had first arrived in China, a civil war was being waged with the Manchus Dynasty, but, fairly removed from war,

she lived and taught in a girls' boarding school at Changsha, Hunan Province.

Now, things were worse. There was danger from armed bandit uprisings, Communist attacks and the invasion of the Japanese.

Unfortunately, when the Communists first attempted to take over China, the missionaries were forced to flee to Shanghai.

When Chiang Kai Shek forced the Communist guerillas back into the hills, the Dubs returned to their home in Liling, only to find everything gone or in ruins.

In 1936, Dr. Dubs died, but Minnie stayed on through dangerous times. With the Communist takeover, she found herself behind the Bamboo Curtain. The government said she wasn't a prisoner, but she was not allowed to leave China. She finally acquired the necessary permits in 1956, and returned to the United States.

Back at home, Minnie's work was to travel across the country, speaking on behalf of missions. After returning to Johnstown, she was active in the Calvary Methodist Church in Conemaugh, the Johnstown Chapter of the American Bible Society, and the Johnstown Book Club.

Now, at 80 years of age, under pressure from her friends, Minnie wrote her book. The incidents described earlier give one only a small glimpse of the strange and difficult life of a foreign missionary.

Minnie lived with her niece, Ruth Saylor, and her husband 1, in Riverside. In her eighties, she still played on the floor with her niece's children. She died at the age of 93.

Florence Rowland

1900-1985

Prepared by Anne Fattman

“True worth is in doing, not dreaming of good things to do by and by.”

“She deserves true success.”

Neither the author of those words nor the person who placed them under the picture of Florence Estelle Rowland in her 1924 Indiana University of Pennsylvania yearbook knew how appropriate they were for her life. Fifty-four years later the I.U.P. Alumni Association awarded her its Citation for Achievement “in recognition of sustained contributions to her profession that are

representative of a dedication to the principle of this university.”

She was a woman with a clear purpose in life; who pursued that purpose with zest, and never let any obstacle deter her from her vision. Her success was true success not measured by accumulated wealth or material possessions, but in service to thousands of others enabling them to gain a better life through education, health care, and spiritual growth.

Florence, born December 30, 1900, daughter of McClure and Alice (Gillinger) Rowland grew up in the Woodvale section of Johnstown, and was graduated from Johnstown High School. One of six children, she was a tomboy and like to rough house with her brother Wilbur. Attendance was expected by the entire family at the Memorial Baptist Church and Sunday School where Father served on the Building Committee and was Benevolent Treasurer. As a youth Florence was active in her home congregation as well as in an interdenominational group. In order to earn money for college, she taught elementary school for two years after graduation from high school.

In 1922, while a student at I.U.P., she writes in a letter to the Rev. J. Dwight Roberts of three close friends who have entered Christian work. She says, “I have always wanted to be a missionary, when so young that my parents thought it a whim and never thought I would really want to go. But from church activities I have seen my duty clearly and continued to keep up my hope of someday giving definite service to the world.”

“On February 29, 1920, you had just come home from a convention and you preached this morning on Missions and its need and value. Up to this time I had said to myself that I would go if I thought He wanted me, but as you preached that morning I heard the call, and I answered “yes.” After that when I thought of it I never said “If I go” but I said and still say “When I go.” I’m sure I’ll never be able to thank you and my Master for that message.”

Florence’s life shows that her dedication never wavered from the moment she gave herself in service to her Lord. After graduation from I.U.P. in 1924 she taught for two years in the Johnstown public schools and then entered the Baptist Training School for one year. She was commissioned a missionary at Denver, Colorado, June 1929, at the Norther Baptist Convention.

In September after a farewell reception by the Memorial and Emmanuel Baptist Churches in Johnstown, Florence sailed for India to begin her life work at the Telugu Mission in the town of

Ramapatnam, 150 miles north of Madras. Any sad farewells were tempered knowing Florence was embarking on an adventure she dearly wanted. Others might have seen life on the mission field as dangerous and full of hardship. Florence, with her indomitable spirit, saw it as an exciting challenge.

Florence loved India and the Indian people, but it did not take long for her to see the effects of poverty, ignorance and superstition. Her first year there was spent learning the Telugu language and working at the Ramapatnam Baptist Mission Station.

"India is so fascinating and bewitching and sometimes it seems as though it were all just a pageant and soon actors will step from the stage. Life in the villages is intensely interesting, but oh how lacking in the things which I have always considered as essential to existence. Their houses are one-roomed huts made of clay with palm leaves for roofs. (A cock usually keeps sentinel on top.) There is no furniture and the entire family usually sleeps on one mat placed on the ground floor. The dishes are comprised of a few earthen or brass vessels in which the food is cooked. Their food is very meager and rice to the ordinary Indian is a luxury."

"I still love the village work," she writes in 1937, "and am in one or more villages regularly six days out of the week, and often on the seventh, too. I visit each Christian Center each week. In addition, I teach five hours in the seminary and take the women (who would eventually assist their husband's ministry) out to the villages for their practice. The managing of two schools and supervising the hospital gives me enough to do to keep me out of mischief, if I wish to be kept!"

"There is a great new awakening among the caste women on the Ramapatnam field, such as we have not had here before," she relates in 1940. "Women were eager to learn about the Gospel and willing to risk persecution by family and society. After one woman became a Christian, the villagers found out about it and in defense of their religion and caste, they rose up as one. The headmen boycotted the school—the children stayed home for a week. One by one the children returned. Each brother who had a sister who spoke to the Christians used it as a good excuse to give her a beating."

On many an occasion the women and older children stopped by Florence's house on their way home from the field. Together they sang hymns, repeated Bible verses, and heard the story of

Jesus, and his love. The women went home to pound the grain, cooked it, and gave it to the husband. Then later, the women ate what, if anything, was left.

One young woman who came to the mission accepted Christ and was ready to declare her love through public baptism. Her husband had been unfaithful to her because she had produced no male child—only two daughters. When he learned that she was going to become a Christian, he threatened to take her two daughters from her. Such testing truly required courage, patience, and faith for both the missionaries and the converts.

While on furlough in 1947 Florence was ordained into the ministry of the American Baptist Church. She was one of the few women missionaries to be given this honor. By this time her duties in India consisted of serving as Dean of Women in the Baptist Theological Seminary, managing four village mission elementary schools, and supervising Christian Centers located in rural areas.

“Of all my work,” she once said, “in fact, my real love was rural evangelism, especially among the women. It takes something within to live as a Christian in the heart of an Indian village, apart from a Christian community.”

By 1950 Florence reported the witness of the Christian Centers was strong and steady. After working with the Bible women for many years they had become more dependable and more deeply consecrated. Florence always asked for the support of prayers for these women who had left their homes and people for Christ's sake, had little fellowship outside the Centers, and received less salary than others equally trained. Their work was strenuous and dangerous during the outbreaks of cholera and smallpox. “One of the Center women contracted smallpox and it was a feat caring for her—keeping her isolated and keeping others from knowing she had it. Indian people fear these diseases and yet know nothing about isolation. They fear Cholera so that they will desert their village, leaving corpses in the empty houses. Yet before they run away, they will grab the infected disease filled clothes from the dead bodies and take them with them.”

Two of the women at the center helped the sick by bringing supplies to the villages. Those who survived were so grateful that at rice harvest time they measured out God's share and gave it to the Center women saying, “Sell it, and use the money

in God's work." Florence writes, "They are poor, poor people—and yet how rich!"

"Caste people are so eager for the Gospel. They believe secretly, others know they do, but they cannot make the clear break that open confession through baptism would demand. Rose, one of the Bible women, has travelled village paths for twenty years. She knows them all. As I followed her on a narrow path through a field, I looked at her feet, gnarled, cracked, weathered, without sandals. Her feet through 20 years of sand and sun, rain and rocks, have brought her with the Gospel of Jesus to all the people in the area. What a witness! How beautiful her feet!"

During the hottest of the hot season daily vacation Bible schools were held. In 1950 there were 11 schools with 100 children in attendance at each. By 1966, 64 schools were held with 4,000 children attending plus many adults. Florence had to find 64 places to hold the Bible schools; procure 64 groups of workers, and 64 packages of supplies; have a syllabus planned, and printed; have song sheets printed; get gospel portions and Bible pictures ready for rewards for memory work. The schools were held during the hottest season (115 degrees in the shade) because day schools were closed and there was very little field work. The schools were held for a half day and closed with a rally attended by both children and adults. The children enjoyed the songs, stories, games and handwork. Crepe paper, crayons, pictures, etc. had been supplied by white cross packages from the missionaries' friends at home. The Indian day school has no such materials and A,B,C's were written in the sand until mastered.

Prior to 1956 transportation to remote villages was provided by bicycle or jutka and bullock carts (carts pulled by horses and bulls). That year Florence's jeep, Deborah, arrived—the gift of friends at home. She named the vehicle "Deborah" after the prophetess who received many inspirations sitting under a palm tree. And after many years of service Florence reflected, "My Deborah left me sitting under many a tree." Florence's delight and gratitude are known as she described the jeep for her friends. "It is so cute, (gray with red seats) so easy to handle and so unpretentious looking that I don't feel like apologizing when I go into the poor villages of very poor, poor people. I have made it a practice, as I put the key in and am ready to step on the gas

to say, "Thank you Father for this jeep and for all the folks who gave it to me. Go with us, give us a safe trip today, and use the jeep and me for your glory."

One year they had 75 Bible schools and her "neat little jeep" took her to many otherwise unvisited ones. She reports: "Had to use my four wheel drive. My it's grand hearing those wheels grip and feeling yourself moving in the direction I think I'm wanting to go."

She traveled into rural areas as far as her jeep would go over ruts, river beds of sand, water and slopes. Then she would take a jutka the rest of the way. "One has to travel in a jutka to appreciate the comforts of a jeep," she wrote. "On one such occasion she reached her destination by walking through river water and then over the hot river sand bed to attend a rally. It was held in a mud walled thatched roof prayer house. To make it nice and clean the women had given it a fresh coat of thin cow dung paste.

A 1958 letter gives a glimpse of her activities: "Yesterday I drove 90 miles to the Kavali field, visited in two centers, taught classes in each, paid salaries, saw to the details of the workers service, supervised the Bible women as to places to visit, lessons to teach, etc., stopped in Kavali to buy supplies—petrol, bread, flour, sugar, meat, cocoa, medicine, fruit, vegetables, matches, nails, and had the lantern repaired. Tomorrow is one of my seminary days. I lead chapel on Thursdays, and then teach three hours. In the afternoon I go with the seminary women to the village, where they do their practice teaching. Friday I visit another Christian center."

It is in the sharing of her experiences with individuals that we understand Florence's compassion and pride for the Indians, who despite their poverty and cultural background, responded to the Christian message.

"Adamma was of the Potter's caste. She was at Ramapatnam while her daughter gave birth to a baby. One month later cholera killed Adamma's daughter, baby and son-in-law in five days. Adamma was stunned and blamed God. The Bible women and I spent many hours trying to help her. She wondered what good was there in bucking all the relatives and friends in learning of Jesus. One day I had gotten my cycle out to visit Adamma when she walked into the compound. After spending two and a half hours with her, Adamma let Jesus come into her heart. It was difficult for her to accept baptism for that is the breaking with

caste—which is so hard for it touches every part of their lives. Adamma said, “We are poor. No one will give us work. Our own caste people won’t let us in their fields, not let us go to the well, and they won’t give in marriage their daughters or sons to ours. I tried to help her by reading John 16:33 ‘in this world trouble, but I have overcome the world.’ It made me think how easy for the most part we received baptism at home. Often, simply a decision as to whether it will be this Easter or next.”

After reading letters spanning 40 years, one wonders how Florence coped with hardships that made everyday life difficult. Going from a modern society to a totally undeveloped area was not for the fainthearted.

“Cholera gives us scares every year,” she wrote. “At harvest time, all our local people go ‘South’ to help. They get good pay and cholera.” The disease came to a hamlet right outside the mission compound. It was known that some had died and their bodies thrown near the compound well. The Hindus believed that the one who digs the grave will get the disease. Florence, along with other mission people carried away one living person and three dead. “Guess I may as well admit it, I was afraid.”

Early on in her missionary work Florence and a missionary colleague provided a home for six young Indian orphan girls. One came to Florence when she was just three weeks old and later became Florence’s adopted daughter Chellie. All six girls were educated; Chellie went to medical school and became a pediatrician. Chellie, a great source of pride and joy, married a Methodist minister, became the mother of four children, all the while continuing her medical practice at the Vellore (India) Mission Hospital.

By 1960 Florence was seeing a new India, one that was constantly changing. That year Ramapatnam had electricity for a couple of hours each night. However, Florence writes, “Being a missionary in India grows no easier. But ‘ease’ is not a word in His call, is it?” There was a growing attitude among the Indians that Christianity is a western religion, and therefore represents western political influence and a threat to Indian nationalism. More missionaries were retiring and greater administrative and teaching responsibilities were given to the Indian Christians.

As the time approached for retirement, one could sense the dread Florence had for giving up her work in India. One can only imagine the difficulty she knew in leaving the people, the land, and the work she dearly loved.

A farewell address by them embers of the Southern Telegu Baptist Church movingly tells of "their deepest appreciation and profound gratitude for her monumental services. There are a few of whom it is said, 'They never retire' and you are one such, always looking forward to more and more opportunities to serve."

And retire she did not. She taught and lectured about mission work throughout the United States. She served as interim pastor at the Memorial Baptist Church (Johnstown) for two years, and guided the church through its recovery after the 1977 flood.

At the close of one interview she said, "Don't make me out to be an angel. I'm just ordinary people." She says of her experience in India, "It was all ups—there were no downs." Reflecting on her anniversary in the mission field; "I am thankful that He has chosen me and sent me to India as a witness. It is a privilege to know the true story of Jesus and to be asked to tell it."

Florence joined her heavenly Father September 29, 1985.

"True worth is in doing, not dreaming of good things to do
by and by."

I.U.P. yearbook 1924

WOMEN WHO WROTE

These women of Cambria County who had works published, notes our researcher, Carol Fris, were not writers by profession. Most of them were teachers. Through an unusually favorable set of circumstances, and a special interest in a subject, these women were able to record their thoughts and experiences for others to enjoy.

Elsie Canan
Margaret Greer
Ethel and Helen Jones
Miriam Matthews
Bessie Glenn Porter
Gertrude Quinn Slattery

Women Who Wrote

Prepared by Carol Fris

A look into the history of Cambria County reveals, perhaps, why few women had chosen to write. Findings bring to mind the 1929 essay written by the English essayist and novelist, Virginia Woolf, "A Room of One's Own." In this book-length work, Woolf imaginatively explores the reasons why women of the Elizabethan age did not write for publication and why, especially, they did not pursue the art of writing fiction.

Woolf theorizes what would have happened if Shakespeare had had a sister as wonderfully gifted as he. She names this fictitious sister, Judith, and goes on to propose that Shakespeare (because he was male) was given an education, allowed sexual freedom, permitted to act in the theater, and encouraged to write plays.

Judith, on the other hand (as a female) even though she was "as adventurous, as imaginative, as agog to see the world as he", was not sent to school. Judith's parents wanted her to "mend the stockings or mind the stew and not moon about the books and papers." An Elizabethan woman's life was planned almost before she was out of the nursery, and she was held to it, Woolf says, by the power of law and custom.

In Cambria County, custom, as well as necessity, has been partly responsible in that it was unusual for a woman to write. In the northern part of the county, for example, in the Ebensburg-Nanty Glo area, immigrants (mostly Welsh) worked long, hard hours in the coal mines while their wives worked equally hard caring for babies and running households in cold, primitive cabins.

The women of Cambria County who have had works published were not writers by profession. Most of them were school teachers who had taken an interest in a subject and cared enough to record their views to share with the community.

In the Johnstown valley, the situation was much the same. Eastern Europeans had come to the United States to work in the steel mills. They married for convenience; men needed housekeepers and comfort-givers and women needed to be taken care of financially. Some of the Slovak and Polish women were sent to the land of opportunity as teenagers. Relatives, already here, had prospective husbands waiting for these youngsters.

Education was not important to the immigrants because survival, rather than intellectual pursuit, became the vitally important issue to both men and women. They were, for the most part, Catholics who did not believe in limiting their number of children. Their families were large. It is inconceivable, looking at this evidence, to think of these women—some of them mothers of eight to ten children—sitting down to write.

A woman of Slovak descent commented, "They cleaned, cooked, and changed diapers beginning at dawn; at dusk they were exhausted. Washing clothes could go on for days."

Another reason that the immigrants did not seek education, in many instances, was because of the simple, but seemingly insurmountable language barrier.

However, although circumstances dictated that most of the women of Cambria County did not write, this does not mean that they could not have created fiction, recorded memories or shared poetic thoughts if they had had the opportunity.

Today, the works uncovered through research have all been done by women born in the late 1800's. Their interests varied widely, from the botanical studies of Elsie Canan to the China mission experience of Minnie Dubs. Betsy Porter was a history devotee, as was Margaret Greer. Miriam Matthews wrote poetry, and the Jones sisters and Gertrude Slattery recorded childhood memories.

The works of the writers profiled in this chapter were preserved in the Pennsylvania Room of the David M. Glosser Memorial Library in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Several small volumes of poetry by women are also on file in the Pennsylvania Room. However, there is no information available on the personal lives of these writers.

In a famous essay, "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens," Alice Walker, author of the novel, *The Color Purple*, looks into the ways in which the creativity of the black woman was kept alive, when for years it was a punishable crime for a black person to read or write.

Walker says that no song or poem will bear her mother's name, "Yet so many of the stories that I write, that we all write, are my mother's stories." She continues, "Only recently did I fully realize this: that through years of listening to my mother's stories of her life, I have absorbed not only the stories themselves, but something of the manner in which she spoke, something of the urgency that involved the knowledge that her stories—like her life—must be recorded."

Today, the women of Cambria County are writing. They are publishing novels, short stories, magazine articles. Some are writing their family histories, if for no other reason, they say, than to present as legacies to their children and grandchildren. There are writers' clubs and poetry groups in various areas of the county; there are women in journalism now and there are more backing them up, as college women choose to major in journalism and composite and creative writing.

Situations are changing for women who desire to write. Alice Walker concludes that the creative urge will make itself known in some way. She has made an astute observation in the following words which serve as an inspiration to all women:

"I notice that it is only when my mother is working with her flowers that she is radiant, almost to the point of being invisible—except as Creator: hand and eye. She is involved

in work her soul must have. Ordering the universe in the image of her personal conception of beauty.”

Elsie Deane Canan

1883–1969

by Anne Fattman

Elsie Deane Canan, a scholar of many interests, chose the field of natural science for her discipline. Her great love of nature and knowledge of it enabled her, as a teacher, to make the visible and invisible world come alive for her students. Her friends tell of the pleasure she derived from wild flowers, birds, and plants and how much she wanted to share that pleasure.

In a paper prepared from the Johnstown Art League, Elsie quotes William Cullen Bryant:

“To him who in the love of nature
Hold communion with her visible forms
She speaks a various language.”

Elsie, through study and observation, delved into a world we often have taken for granted and made us sensitive to it. Her understanding of natural laws and our disregard for them caused her to speak out and warn us about our destructive use of land and water. She was a well known authority on ferns and wrote *A Key to the Ferns of Pennsylvania*. Respect for Elsie comes from confirmation of her fine teaching ability, her diligence in producing a book helpful to professional and amateur botanists, and her great enthusiasm for the wonders of creation.

Elsie, born January 30, 1883, was the first daughter of Charles and Clara (Alter) Canan: Jessie, her sister arrived a few years later. Elsie was born into one of Johnstown's oldest families whose members played important roles in the history of Johnstown. Her ancestors, Moses and Hanah Canan, came to this country from Ireland before the American Revolution and settled in Bedford and Huntingdon counties.

Elsie's father, Charles H. Canan, began working for the Cambria Iron Works at the age of 15 in 1862, three years prior to the invention of the Kelly Converter for the Bessemer process of steel-making. He left Cambria Iron Works, learned the carpentry trade, and later returned to the steel plant as a carpenter. On December 22, 1881, he married Clara Alter, whose grandparents came to Johnstown from Maine in 1853. Clara was one

A KEY TO THE
FERNS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Includes a non-technical key for identification of each of the fifty-nine species found in the state; directions for use of the key; an outline for aid in identification of ferns by sterile fronds alone; distribution of species through the state; and a list of ferns found in the vicinity of Johnstown, Cambria County.

ELSIE DEANE CANAN

ILLUSTRATED BY
ELIZABETH TRILNT

1946

of the fortunate few who was able to receive an education beginning in 1865. Attendance at school in post-Civil War days was considered a privilege—not a must. She received her instruction in the three “R’s” in what was known as the white school. Clara completed her studies in 1873 with the equivalent of a junior high school education and taught school for one year before her marriage.

At the time of the Johnstown Flood of 1889 the Canans, with Elsie and Jessie, resided on Napoleon Street near Dibert. The family had a narrow escape in the catastrophe when their house was lifted from its foundation and a huge log plunged through the structure. They fled to the roof which was tossed about in the backwaters from the Stone Bridge. They were rescued and taken to the steep hillside in Kernville where they were reunited with other family members. Elsie had just got over the measles and Jessie came down with them the day after the flood. The family stayed with Mrs. Louisa Knowlton, Elsie’s great grandmother in Walnut Grove.

Elsie was graduated valedictorian of her Johnstown High School class of 1901 and was an honor member of the 1902 class at the State Normal School in Indiana. In 1902 she began teach-

ing in the Johnstown elementary and high schools. Later, during the summers, she worked for her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Chicago. She received her degree in September 1920. After graduation she took a position as supervisor of nature study in the Westmont schools. In the summer of 1924 she taught nature study at the Children's School of Science at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, and during the summers of 1926 through 1928 she taught children at the Buck Hill Nature Club in the Pocono Mountains.

Elsie's experiences at Buck Hill carried over to her teaching program in the biology department at the Westmont-Upper Yoder High School. As soon as the weather allowed, she loved to take her students into Stackhouse Park for nature study and especially to locate ferns.

In June 1930, Elsie sailed on the S.S. Rotterdam for two months of travel in Europe and The Orient. A tour brochure told the participant to expect to go yachting in the Mediterranean, automobiling through the Holy Land, and camping in the Sahara Desert. Her diary told of visits to art museums, cathedrals, and places of historic interest in France, Germany, Austria, and Italy. She wrote of the beauty of the land and water while sailing from Athens to Constantinople and of walking amidst the ruins of ancient civilizations.

Traveling from Beirut through Syria and Palestine she observed the geography and absorbed the history of three religions. She wrote: "Left Nazareth for Jerusalem—Mt. Carmel in the distance—looking across the Plain of Esdraelon, site of Allenby's battle. At 1:45 across narrow gauge railroad built by the Kaiser—Zionist villages and cultivated corn—Kaffir corn. Sesame in bloom (blue flower)—oil from seeds used as a substitute for olive oil."

The group traveled from Jerusalem to Cairo by train through the desert near the shores of the Mediterranean. A highlight of her stay in Egypt was a trip to the Pyramids: arrived at after a two hour ride by camel. An overnight stay in a tent allowed her to watch the Pyramids in the moonlight. She sailed from Alexandria for Marseilles. After touring Paris and London, she sailed for home, reaching New York September 1.

Around 1930 Elsie began to gather materials for the publication of a key to ferns, which was a table for aid in identification. Keys were used by her high school biology students to help with the identification of ferns. "The chief advantage of this book,"

Elsie wrote, "was to help beginners identify by characteristics fairly easy to distinguish, any species without first determining the family and genus to which it belongs."

Elsie left no written account of her work during the 15 years it took to prepare her book. Friends remember the young men who earned spending money driving Elsie and Jessie on day and week trips to various parts of the state to locate ferns. Elsie knew exactly where colonies of ferns were to be found and would tell the driver to stop at a certain spot. Then, clad in their sneakers, the ladies would locate the ferns right in the anticipated spot. After locating and collecting the ferns came the drying process. Once at home it was necessary to dry the ferns. After the ferns are completely dry, they can be mounted.

Letters from fellow botanists give us an idea of the tedious work involved and Elsie's careful attention to detail in searching for accurate information. She sent materials to Dr. Edgar Wherry, a botanist at the University of Pennsylvania, so that he might confirm her findings. Elsie received much help from her friend, Margaret Stratton, in determining exact locations of the ferns. Many letters were exchanged between Mrs. Stratton and Elsie.

The book covered 59 species of ferns in Pennsylvania and was illustrated by Elizabeth Trent, a student of Elsie's. It was well received by botanists and educators in many schools and universities. Dr. O. E. Jennings, head of the Department of Botany of the University of Pittsburgh and acting director of the Carnegie Museum wrote, "I recently received that fine little book on ferns of Pennsylvania and was very much pleased at the way you have worked it out. It is nicely gotten up and the drawings are very usable. This ought to be a distinct stimulus to botanists particularly in this end of the state to become more familiar with ferns."

The classroom afforded Elsie the best opportunity to share her love of the natural world. Reminiscences by former students recalled that she was a "brilliant woman," "a walking encyclopedia," "old fashioned with definite standards, who expected students to meet those ideals." A picture of a biology class showed a somewhat fragile little lady leading her class from the Westmont-Upper Yoder High School to Stackhouse Park (Elk Run) across the street for class. "In the spring she liked to get her classes outdoors to identify trees, birds, May flowers and ferns. She was pleased when the boys brought in frogs to be

dissected. "Other teachers would shudder when you brought in frogs to be dissected, but Elsie liked the frogs," related Don Matthews, Jr., a former student. Elsie, "quiet and serious, loved teaching and her students." She had plenty of enthusiasm for her work to interest even those who "had to take biology whether we wanted to or not."

A cherished letter from Wm. P. Boger, M.D. expressed the impact Elsie had on his life. "Many and many is the time, in fond memory, that I have walked again in Elk Run, enjoying anew the tidbits of nature that you handed out so generously to us. I still cannot see a fossil without thinking of the mine shaft there in Elk Run, nor can I encounter a pink Lady Slipper without feeling the same thrill that I did when I was first introduced to this delicate flower. Each time I teach one of my two young boys anything about trees or flowers, I am passing along some of the same things that you taught me."

Elsie retired in 1945 after teaching biology for 20 years. Some people say, "once a teacher, always a teacher," and fortunately this was true of Elsie. Taking her fern collection and rock collections provided many delightful experiences. Her fern collection was donated to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and became part of the herbarium in the Biology Department. Her rock collection was also donated to the university. She served her community in a variety of roles; as a member of the Excelsior Bible Class of the Franklin Street United Methodist Church, president of the Garden Club of Johnstown, president of the Art League, and member of the American Fern Society, American Association of University Women, Young Women's Christian Association, Friends of the Library, and the Wednesday Study Club.

Elsie continued to educate those around her through participation in these organizations. Her background enabled her in a variety of papers prepared for the Art League to impress on members the value of the scientific attitude—observation of nature, searching for truth, testing, and above all learning from the past.

Elsie didn't hesitate to make responsible people aware of the consequences of progress. In a letter to Mr. Ronald Dentler, park superintendent at Price Gallitzin, and Dr. Maurice Goddard, secretary of forests and water, she wrote, "Happy to learn one of the future activities at the park is the study of wildlife and conservation. I was disappointed to find that within a few

weeks' time one of the most extensive and beautiful growths of maiden-hair fern that I have seen anywhere in the entire state has been completely destroyed. I am writing this in the hope that there may be some means of preventing destruction of any more natural beauty." An answer from the Department of Forests and Water explained that the ferns were inadvertently removed from the entrance road. Assuring Elsie that efforts would be made to prevent this from occurring in the future, Conrad Lichel, director of the Division of State Parks said, "This is one of the unfortunate things to happen when adequate supervision is lacking due to limited operating funds."

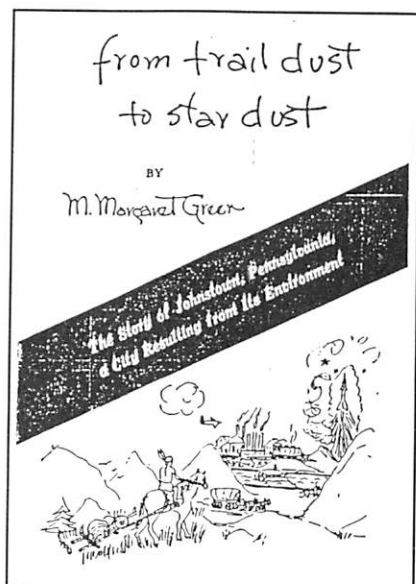
"Elsie left a very marked void in the lives of her friends when she passed on," wrote Dr. Lewis of her death June 18, 1969. How fortunate for those who knew Elsie Canan and with whom she shared her knowledge and enthusiasm for the wonders of nature. She opened vistas and enriched their lives.

M. Margaret Greer

1895-1959

Prepared by Carol Fris

One of the best of the more than fifty histories of Johnstown has been written by a teacher and historian, Margaret Greer.



On the title page of her book, *From Trail Dust to Star Dust*, Margaret Greer says, "Johnstown's story has been the story of its environment, of the Indians and their trails, of the natural resources hidden in the hills, but most of all the story of men." Margaret Greer knew that history is more than dates and places. Her lively history of the city of Johnstown is people-centered. She has included chapters on well-known figures such as George S. King, John and George Fritz, Daniel J. Morrell, and Joseph Schantz.

Joseph Schantz, Margaret tells us, came from Switzerland in 1769 to Berks County, Pennsylvania. From there, he went to Somerset County, and thirty years after his arrival in America, he came from Davidsville to Conemaugh Old Town. Joseph Schantz is, of course, Joseph Johns (Anglicized), and Conemaugh Old Town is an early name for Johnstown.

Miss Greer taught at Westmont High School at its inception in 1919. She served as librarian and dramatic coach for many years, and also taught mathematics and German. Later, she became a guidance counselor.

Outside of teaching, Miss Greer's greatest interest centered in preserving the history of Johnstown, an interest sparked and inspired by talks with her father.

Margaret Greer grew up in the Westmont section of Johnstown. She was the daughter of Samuel S. Greer (son of David Francis Asbury Greer, a merchant) and Emma Masters Greer (daughter of Joseph Masters, an associate judge). She graduated from Wells College in Aurora, New York, in 1918 and did graduate work at Columbia. She earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1933.

From Trail Dust to Star Dust does not forget women as it unfolds the history of Johnstown. For instance, there is a section about the Cambria Public Library which says:

"The Women's Library Association was organized in 1932 to assist in the maintenance of the institution during the depression years. The first floor was destroyed in the flood of 1936, and the Women's Library Association with the aid of State funds for flooded libraries remodeled the first floor into a room for boys and girls."

Margaret's object in writing this work was to present clearly and accurately those facts about the founders and builders of

Johnstown for future generations. In the introductory note of her book, Alice Gocher and Margaret Evans, her life-long friends, say: "Through study of this worthwhile history, the reading public may grasp a feeling of the tribulations and triumphs inherent in Johnstown's one-hundred-sixty years of progress."

Margaret Greer's accomplishments were not merely intellectual—some of them were practical. Her excellent Brownie recipe was submitted by Ann Hunt.

M. Margaret Greer's Brownie Recipe

1 cup flour
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
4 squares unsweetened chocolate
(melted)
1 cup melted butter
1 cup nuts
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix sugar and eggs. Melt chocolate and add to sugar and egg mixture. Add melted butter. Add flour, nuts and vanilla. Bake at 350 degrees for about twenty minutes. Check with a toothpick.

Ethel L. Jones

1888–1959

Helen Fisher Jones

1886–1968

Prepared by Carol Fris

Ethel and Helen Jones were talented sisters who made the most of life, in spite of many restrictions on women's activities. As two of thirteen children of Anne and Robert Jones, they grew up in a rambling, fourteen-room house on Franklin Street in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. At the time of the publication of their book (1959), *Sketches from the House of Jones*, they were still living in that large old place, keeping house for themselves and a bachelor brother.

Ethel was private secretary to Annie Ellis Campdon, executrix of the Alfred P. Ellis Estate. It is to Mrs. Campdon that their book is dedicated.



Ethel L. Jones



Helen F. Jones

Helen was the librarian for many years at Garfield Junior High School. One of her students remembers that she was very strict about maintaining quiet in the library. She would stand with hands on hips, not needing to say a word, her fiery red hair a promise of the fury students would be subject to, should they act up.

The Jones sisters lived simply. They enjoyed writing about the various people they had met and about the interesting events of their lives. Their personal credo, told in the last sketch in their book is: WORK AND SERVICE.

Following is an excerpt from *Sketches from the House of Jones*, a delightful piece entitled, "Grandmother's Attic."

Grandmother's Attic

The most attractive place of all to us children was the farm dwelling with its big spic-and-span kitchen, warmed by a built-in fireplace and fragrant with delicious cooking aromas; with its prim parlor, furnished with the popular horse-hair furniture, antimacassars and whatnots of grandmother's day; with its bedrooms, furnished with four-poster or tester beds, highboys and lowboys filled with lavender-scented linen; with the walls hung with oil portraits and samplers—was, all of it, a source of pure



Sketches from
the House of Jones



by Ethel L. Jones and Helen F. Jones

fascination to us city-bred children. But the place cuddled under the sharply sloping roof, the Attic, will always remain in our greatest source of happy memories.

The bare steps reached this enchanted spot in a long, steep, winding climb; the one window, set at an odd angle in the slating roof and located directly above the stairs, lent very little light to the ghostly gloom that pervaded the attic. But our eager eyes sought and found dust-covered, cobweb-encrusted old chests which suggested doubloons and pieces of eight. Upon investigation, it was found to contain the equally romantic apparel of a bygone age: bustles, hoop-skirted crinoline dresses, fichus, tiny bonnets and equally tiny parasols, as well as the old jewelry, cameos, heavy necklaces and bracelets, beloved by the women of those days.

Always these Civil War fashions called for impersonations of our ancestors, although the effect was somewhat marred by smudges of dust across our faces, and by cobwebs festooned in dishevelled fashion among our curls. And there, high above our heads hung a sword; that age-rusted weapon was carried by our great-uncle when he met his heroic death near Petersburg, in June, eighteen hundred sixty-four. How our very spines tingled as we reverently handled the heavy saber, and as we recalled the trilling deeds of our dashing, handsome grand-uncle who rode gaily to his untimely death on the battlefield at the age of twenty-three. We felt that his war record was the epitome of the entire Civil War.

Wearied by active inspection, we completed our attic orgy each time by reading, surreptitiously, great bundles of love letters faded as to ink and yellowed as to paper, but containing stilted, though passionate words which were undimmed by the years.

Uncle Emory's letters from his Southern sweetheart, and his letters to her, filled our romantic hearts with joy, mingled with a poignant sadness that these gay lovers whose letters breathed the joy of life should long since be dust. And as we clumped down those bare, winding stairs, our minds and hearts and souls steeped with romance, we found it difficult to return to the matter-of-fact existence of our own day. So to this day, that attic, redolent of memories of a dim bygone age, endures as the halcyon period of our visit to the beloved old farm house.

Excerpt from the book *Sketches from the House of Jones*, by Ethel L. and Helen F. Jones (Pageant Press, Inc., New York, 1959)

Miriam (Cassel) Matthews

1894–1987

Prepared by Carol Fris

Miriam (Cassel) Matthews is a published poet, as well as an outstanding artist. Her two books of poetry are: *Spring Interlude* (Harold Vinal, New York, 1927) and *New Wood* (Kaleidograph Press, Dallas, 1938).



Don Matthews Jr. remembers his mother as a wonderful lady who radiated Christian love, charity, happiness and everything good. "In her humble way," Don says, "she has accomplished far more than most people—even many of her family members—realize."

This magnificent woman, Don fondly recalls, was loved, admired, and respected by all who knew her. She was trim, energetic, and kind, always ready to extend a sympathetic and helping hand even when she was bearing her own burdens.

Miriam was the daughter of the late Dr. George Lincoln and Mary (Cadwallader) Cassel. She was born in Philadelphia and grew up in the historic Susquehanna River borough of Marietta in Lancaster County, the heartland of the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

The family moved to Marietta when Miriam was a small girl. They established their home there (it is still standing) and became active in the First English Presbyterian Church. Dr. Cassel began to practice medicine in Lancaster City.

Upon graduation from Marietta High School, Miriam matriculated to Wilson College in Chambersburg, a Presbyterian liberal arts school for women. At Wilson she participated in sports, becoming captain of the field hockey team. She was a proficient swimmer and enjoyed canoeing. She also played tennis, a sport which would later play an important part in her life.

Miriam's writing abilities took a turn toward journalism while she was at Wilson and she spent one summer as a staff member of the Chautauquan Daily, Lake Chautauque, New York.

While Miriam was in college, her parents moved to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where Dr. Cassel opened a medical practice downtown and the family became members of the First Presbyterian Church. In 1917, after earning her bachelor's degree at Wilson, Miriam came to Johnstown to join her parents at the home they had purchased at 221 Tioga Street, Westmont.

Miriam became an English teacher at Johnstown High School on Market Street in the building which later became Joseph Johns Junior High School. Today, a modern 10-story apartment building, Joseph Johns Towers, occupies the site.

Miriam enjoyed teaching and found Johnstown a pleasant place to live. One day while playing tennis at the Mound in Westmont, she met another player, the young man who was to become her husband, Donald Hamilton Matthews, the oldest of

three children of Dr. Charles A. and Mary (Loomis) Matthews, all of whom were members of the First Presbyterian Church.

Don was a student at the Dental School of the University of Pennsylvania who had to interrupt his education to serve a stint in Naval Aviation during World War I. Don and Miriam were married December 1, 1919, at a Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

After serving in the Navy, marrying Miriam, and completing his education, Donald Matthews joined his father in the practice of dentistry in downtown Johnstown. Dr. Don served the people of the community for 53 years before retiring. The practice continues today by Don and Miriam's second son, Dr. George C. Matthews and George's youngest son, Dr. John R. Matthews.

Don and Miriam had three children: Don Matthews, Jr., who became a member of the newsroom staff of the Johnstown Tribune Democrat; Dr. George C. Matthews, a local dentist, married to the former Anne Reber of Auburn, New York; and Miriam, wife of the Reverend Ernest E. Haddad, founding pastor of the Ormond Beach, Florida, Presbyterian Church. As of 1986, the Matthews had seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Miriam's ability as an artist blossomed when she was a teenager. During that time she painted and sketched numerous subjects. One particularly lovely piece is a sketch of girls in hoop dresses, done in 1910. A number of other works of her art, done over the years, are framed and grace the walls of her home at 139 Colgate Avenue where Don Jr. still resides.

Miriam was also adept at making collages—delicate designs, such as the one of various shaped seashells and one made for her husband of old-time dental instruments. Her collection of Miniatures in shadow boxes, antique irons, baskets and items of glass sit as attractive decorations in her living room and dining room. On the mantel, several small, hand-carved wooden animals stand proudly. These were made by Miriam and her husband after he retired when they took a carving class together.

After Miriam stopped teaching, she spent the next several years raising children, keeping house, gardening, and keeping active in many community organizations. She was an active member of the Johnstown Art League (where she also served as president); the Auxiliary to the Cambria County Dental Society; the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of Uni-

versity Women (a life member); and the Garden Club of Johnstown. She also served as trustee of Wilson College.

By living a fine life herself, Miriam set an example for her children. She was a leader in the Home and School Club of the former Tioga Street School and had been a loyal church member, attending services regularly. She helped at church dinners and bake sales and became a Circle leader in the Women's Association of the Presbyterian church.

Miriam was a very gentle mother. Don remembers that she was not particularly "strict," but rather very encouraging, always right there with them during homework. She always told the children to be themselves, to follow their own paths.

Besides her proficiency in tennis and field hockey, Miriam was an avid golfer in the 1930's and 1940's at Sunnehanna Country Club. She won trophies in women's events and continued playing golf well into the 1970's.

In their later years, Dr. Don and Miriam became members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). They loved to travel, going with tour groups to Europe, Alaska, Nova Scotia, the Bahamas, the Caribbean Islands, Hawaii, and to several southern states.

A few days before their 64th wedding anniversary, the Matthews were surprised when they received an oversized white envelope with the return address of The White House. They opened it to find a card signed by President Ronald Reagan and the First Lady, Nancy Reagan. The message was as follows:

"We are pleased to share the joy of this occasion with you. May the happy memories of your years together bring warmth to your celebration. Your long marriage is a tribute to our nation's greatest strength—the American family. Congratulations and God bless you."

When Miriam Matthews died at the age of ninety-two, less than four weeks after her husband, she left many friends and admirers, as well as an unpublished novel manuscript. The manuscript gives a history of the Cloisters at Ephrata, a historical site in Lancaster County, and is entitled, *On the Potter's Wheel*. The work has a fictional love story weaving through it.

Friends and family were, indeed, sorry to see Miriam leave them. The title poem from the book *New Wood* shows her deep

faith in God and is perhaps, her clear statement on the wonder and joy of life as she saw it.

New Wood

There are the damp earth-scented days between
The snows of winter and the warmth of spring,
Before the crocus blooms and the young frogs sing,
While sap is rising with a misty sheen
Of red in tips of bushes; yellow-green
Of lithe new wood in trees, a fluttering
Beats at my heart like flocks of birds on wing
Returning from far lands where they have been.

I quite forget the blossoms and the flow
Of ripened fruit which will come finally;
I am engrossed with buds that scarcely show—
And swelling shoots upon a leafless tree—
I wonder if my soul puts on new wood,
And if God sees the growth and calls it good.

On May 3, 1986, at the First Presbyterian Church, Miriam Matthews was honored by the Johnstown Art League for her fifty years of service. Their plaque reads:

“Vive L’Art”

Members of the Johnstown Art League
recognize and appreciate the fifty years of
active participation of Miriam Cassel Matthews
for her informative and humorous programs,
her outstanding service in the office of President
and committee assignments and her hostessing
of social activities in her home and community
with friendship and affection for all.

Don Matthews Jr. prepared a written tribute to his mother for this event and much of the information in this article was obtained from that tribute.

Miriam Matthews, the energetic, gracious, and much-loved lady, will live forever in the memories of those who had the pleasure of knowing her. And through her poems and art, she

will touch the souls of the many who will know her through these works.

Source:

Conversations with Donald Matthews, Jr., son

Bessie Rebecca Glenn Porter

1886-1977

Prepared by Carol Fris

The year was 1889. Mary Alice Glenn stepped out of the Hansom cab into thick, yellow mud which covered her shoes and the hem of her long traveling gown. Her foot slid forward and she nearly dropped Florence, her six-week-old infant. Her husband, George, was standing nearby holding four-year-old Rebecca, affectionately called "Bessie."

"It's a good place to build a business," George said. "I knew it would be. After that terrible flood, folks around here will need a general store."

Mary Alice looked at her young husband and smiled. "Yes, it seems like a real nice place," she said. But when her husband walked ahead of her, she lowered her head into the baby's blanket and wept softly.

It was awful here. Nothing but mud and wilderness. She wanted to go back to Renovo, back to her family and friends. George could have stayed there and worked for his father at the store. He didn't have to be so stubborn and set out on his own.

A few yards away there were barrels buried in the ground, their tops poking out of the ground. Boards stretch across the barrels to make a sidewalk. Mary Alice wondered which was worse, plodding through the mud, or trying to keep her balance on the narrow boards.

In a few years, George and Mary Alice had a thriving business: Glenn's General Store. They had a horse-drawn covered wagon to deliver groceries and other items to area residents. They would even deliver a five-cent spool of thread if a customer requested it.

Mary Alice and George learned to love Moxham, and through the years their family included five daughters. One of the girls died in infancy; the other four grew up to be outstanding women. Three of them—Florence (Zipf), Ruth (Pennel), and Mary—were graduated from Bryn Mawr College.

Bessie, on the other hand, did not wish to attend college. When she was seventeen years old, she was given a choice: a college education or a house. Bessie chose a house, for she was already in love with a young man whom she had met while bobsledding down Moxhamview to Bond Street and they wanted to marry. Her parents insisted that she wait until she became twenty-one and she did. Seven days after her twenty-first birthday, she married Ralph B. Potter, a clerk for U.S. Steel.

Ralph was a quiet man, while Bessie had a more outgoing personality. A compromise was needed, so they made a deal: Bessie may do whatever she wanted to all during the day—hold luncheons, card parties, history club meetings, entertain friends—whatever she desired . . . BUT, when Ralph came home from work in the evenings, he would prefer a calm atmosphere. Eventually, Ralph B. Porter became the general superintendent of U.S. Steel but the position did not change his reserved demeanor. The “Deal,” fortunately for the Porter household, served both parties well.

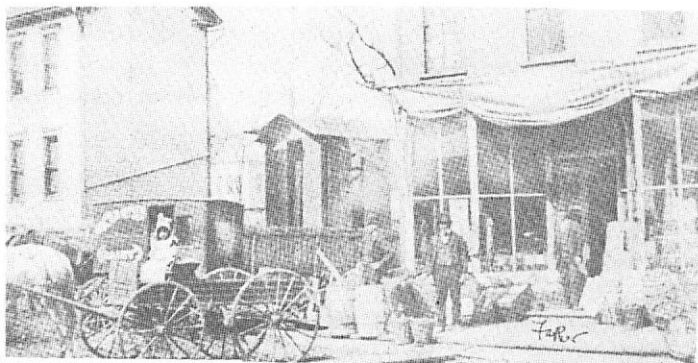
Bessie’s daughter, Peggy (Kraft), remembers well the time that her mother was having Afternoon Tea for the ladies of the Second Presbyterian Church. The telephone rang, and the caller was Attorney Percy Allen Rose who was calling to say that Ralph was in jail . . . something about a vehicle from the steel mill “denying the right of way,” of a railroad train . . . It was a hilarious misunderstanding—in retrospect.

Bessie and Ralph had another daughter five years after Peggy was born (the late Doris Faunce); and Peggy recalls helping to prepare the bassinette and layette, only to be told as the actual event was taking place, that she had to sit outside on the steps and wait.

Later, when housekeeping and motherhood responsibilities became less demanding, Bessie became active outside the home, especially with the volunteer group of the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital and the Y.W.C.A. In 1936, at the time of Johnstown’s second serious flood, Bessie was president of the Y.W.C.A. She supervised the restoration of the Y.W.C.A. home which had been extensively damaged by flood waters.

Bessie was also a passionate historian and became a member of several historical societies, such as: The Daughters of the American Revolution, The United States Daughters of 1812, and the Daughters of the American Colonists. In these organi-

Below is a picture of Uriah Griffith's delivery wagon stopped at the Glenn Store in Moxham. The doll in the wagon is Bessie Glenn, daughter of the store owner.



zations she held local, state, and national offices. She was active in the Pennsylvania and Cambria County Historical societies and the Huguenot Society, and the local Flood Museum.

Almost as though planned to accommodate her busy schedule, Bessie Porter's daughters gave birth to sons on the same day at the same hospital. Bessie wanted to visit them. She was waiting for a streetcar when a man in an automobile came by and asked if she wanted a lift.

Bessie thought the man was a neighbor until she got into the car and realized that she had accepted a ride from a stranger. Quick thinker and fast talker that she was, Bessie did some fancy verbal work. She bragged and bragged about her new grandsons, making sure that the stranger knew this was a grandmother he had picked up, and he certainly (Bessie was sure) would not think of doing harm to a grandmother.

Bessie Glenn Porter was deeply interested in the community of Johnstown—its people, its culture, its history. She especially loved and cared enough to research the history of her own village of Moxham. In 1977, at the age of ninety-one, Mrs. Porter wrote and had published a small book called, *A History of Moxham*. This delightful work is by no means a dry, factual account of historical information. Rather, reading it is as though Mrs. Porter has invited the reader into her living room, served tea and sugar cookies, and then sat back to reminisce. She cites names places and events in the lively manner of a storyteller.

A few passages from *A History of Moxham* follow:

... Charles Von Lunen and his wife Katherine had a number of children. The oldest daughter married George Hager. Clara married Alonzo Rodgers, Anna married Charles Hager, Minnie married Dwight Roberts and Henrietta married Dr. Woodruff.

... Moxham's growth and development was aided by industry and mining. In the early 1880's two men, Mr. Tom Johnson and Mr. A. J. Moxham, developed a new type of rail for a street railway. They bought a location on Jackson Street in Johnstown to make the rails. Their venture proved so successful they soon needed more space and bought land in Woodvale to build a foundry.

... I remember an Ice Cream Garden which occupied three or four lots on Coleman Avenue near Ohio Street and was surrounded by a high lattice fence.

... When I was about six years old, I went with a neighbor child to the Episcopal Sunday School and Mrs. Moxham was the teacher. Every once in a while Mrs. Moxham would take us all down to the Laboratory Building for a party. I enjoyed going down there and I still remember Mrs. Moxham's beautiful gowns. They were usually very heavy gray silk and rustled when she moved.

... Mr. Fronheiser had the first automobile in Moxham. It was an open sports car and had wooden wheels. A young man, Lionel Llewellyn, drove the car for Mr. Fronheiser and it caused a lot of excitement.

... There were a number of wonderful plays and concerts at the New Cambria Theatre. I remember going to see Viola Allen, Maude Adams, Wilton Lackey, John Drew, Ethel and John Barrymore, Lillian Russel, Harry Lauder, Theda Bara, Pavlova, and Madam Schuman Heineke, who was in Johnstown twice and sang "Danny Boy."

Hearing about the life of Bessie Glenn Porter may make people wish they had known her. But, she can be known through her

writing. *A History of Moxham* is one of Johnstown's most cherished keepsakes. Rebecca "Bessie" (Glenn) Porter is one of Johnstown's most cherished women.

Gertrude (Quinn) Slattery

1882–1974

Prepared by Carol Fris

Gertrude Quinn Slattery's book began as a simple gift to her children so that they would know of their mother's personal experience in the "great flood" of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, which took place May 31, 1889. This book, *Johnstown and Its Flood*, published by Dorrance Press of Philadelphia in 1936, has become a classic. It is a vivid description of the 1889 flood and a loving tribute to a town of people who are survivors in the deepest sense of the word.

Gertrude's parents were Rosina Magdalena Geis Quinn and James Quinn, both of Johnstown. The family owned a store in downtown Johnstown, "Geis, Foster and Quinn: Dry Goods and Notions." They also made their home in downtown Johnstown in a large brick house on Main Street.

Gertrude was six years old at the time of the flood. Following, in part, are her memories of that day the breast of the South Fork Dam gave way.

"The morning of May thirty-first was dark. There was a mist like the smoke of brushwood fires that changed into a fine drizzle and later into a heavy rain, which came down steadily . . .

"I remember very well his (her father's) anxiety and his lack of confidence in the reservoir . . . He said, 'I have seen the dam. It is a mighty body of water at any time; and now I feel with continuous rain, it is a very dangerous proposition for the people of Johnstown.'

Then he gave me a lecture on obedience, wet feet, and our perilous position; and he said he had come to take us to the hill . . .

"He looked out and saw a blur—an advance guard, as it were of mist, like dust that precedes a cavalry charge; and heard at the same time an ominous sound that froze the marrow in his bones—as I often heard him say. He rushed

back and in his most commanding tones called out: 'Run for your lives. Follow me straight to the hill.'

"... Libby (their nursemaid) was holding me in her arms ... Aunt Abbie (who had been visiting from Kansas) said, 'Let's run to the third floor. This big house will never move.'

"... Then a great shudder passed through the house, and it began to do sort of a tango step, then a regular shimmy ... Then the house gave a few violent jerks, rocked back and forth while we stood aghast, fairly out of our senses ... Then a shower of dust and plaster came from above, and we began coughing and choking and all at once the boards in the floor of my aunt's feet burst open and a fountain of yellow water gushed up, and over heads ... Then all was dark. I reached for a hand, but it was gone. I was alone. Sticks and dirt were filling my mouth and I kept spitting, kicking, and thrashing about trying to get hold of something ..."

The chilling recollection continues. The Great Flood of 1889 passes before the reader as though we are there with Gertrude, floating miraculously on the wet muddy mattress that she had climbed onto.

Gertrude describes her frail craft as tilting first at one end, then the other, so that she had to spring cat-like back and forth upon it in order to keep it balanced.

She tells about the dead animals floating past her with "their wet hair and staring eyes." She remembers praying aloud in German and remembers that her gold band ring, "with little blue enamelled forget-me-nots encircling it," slipped off her finger onto a piece of wood which had been drifting by. The reader realizes that it is a very courageous little girl telling the story when Gertrude writes, "Although literally on the brink of the grave at this moment, I jumped to the end of the raft and seized the precious trinket just as it was floating toward the very hold through which I had lately crawled." She continues, "Saving this ring gave me considerable momentary pleasure."

Feeling frightened and very alone in the world on her mattress raft, Gertrude says that she remembered a line frequently

quoted by her mother: "Let the little children come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." She says she had great faith that she would not be abandoned and while her thoughts were "thus engaged," a large roof came floating toward her with about twenty people on it. She believes it was the old Arcade Building roof.

Gertrude called for help and, finally, a man jumped into the water. He kept going down into the swirling water and coming up and at last he reached Gertrude. The child put her arms around his neck and together they went downstream to the accompaniment of "crunching, grinding, gurgling, splashing and crying and moaning of many."

After drifting about, Gertrude and her rescuer came to the edge of the water where two men sat in the window of a white building. They extended poles to help rescue people floating by. Since Gertrude and her rescuer were too far out to reach the poles, the men called: "Throw the baby over here to us."

So Maxwell McAchren threw Gertrude across the water. She was caught by Henry Koch, who had owned a hotel near the spot where she was saved. As Mr. Koch leaned out the window to catch her, a hotel porter, George Skinner, held Koch's knees so that he would not fall out the window.

The story continues as Mrs. Slattery tells more of her family's story and the stories of many others who endured the flood. Edward John Schellenberg, III, of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, a grandson of Mrs. Slattery sums up his appreciation of his grandmother's book. He says, "Although she wrote this book to give her children an understanding of the Great Flood of Johnstown, it has help her grandchildren to understand the unique events which almost prevented our very existence."

In 1914 Gertrude Quinn married Frank Slattery, the District Attorney of Luzerne County. They made their home in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Frank had been a widower with eight children and Gertrude raised them as her own. Their eldest son, Frank Slattery, Jr., served a term as mayor of Wilkes-Barre.

In addition, Gertrude had three more children: Gertrude, Thomas, and Duard. Edward John Schellenberg, III, and his sister Amy MacNulty, of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, are the children of Gertrude. Amy's and John's fondest memories of their grandmother are of their frequent walks through town talking with neighbors and friends. They also remember her interest in

her art work and feel fortunate that they have several of her oils and pastels.

When Mrs. Slattery died in 1974, a Wilkes-Barre newspaper, in a tribute to one of the town's most beloved citizens said: "She wore marvelous tweed coats and suits with hats to match and a tiny fur piece was her distinguishing remark. She knew everyone and enjoyed talking to them."

The newspaper concludes the article by saying, "There was love, happiness, pathos, energy, understanding, determination all wrapped up in one tiny package, Gertrude Quinn Slattery."

WOMEN IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Prepared by Joyce E. Johnson

These women are a living testament of service to their fellow human beings. One cannot read their biographies without being moved by their courage and determination. As role models, these women were an inspiration to those whose lives they touched. Their love of God was evident in their faithful work in starting churches and actively participating in the life of the church.

Most of these women realized that education was the key to making a better life. They were guiding forces encouraging young people to acquire learning. This was not accomplished easily in a day when racial inequality was something to be reckoned with every day.*

Blanche Anderson Johnson
Wilma Rose Lee Anderson Burton
Bessie L. Stewart
Josephine Waugh Wright
Clifford Hendricks Borders
Lillie Borders Sanders
Margaret Dean Brown Leftwich
Rose Hankins
Willia Mae Farrior
Faye McCray Griffin
Bessie Jane Stewart Johnson
Nellie Davis Duke

*Introduction written by Virginia Thompson

Blanche Anderson Johnson

1908–1964

Two sisters who made education their career were Blanche Johnson and Wilma Burton. Blanche Anderson was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1908, the fourth child of Lewis and Amelia Anderson. Educated in the Jackson city schools, she enrolled in the teacher training program at Jackson State University in 1916. She was hired in 1930 to teach in the Jackson city schools, soon to be named head of the music department and supervisor of a reading program.

In 1936 she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. While on a train trip to vacation in Chicago she met Rev. Leroy Johnson, a Baptist minister. The next year they were married in Cumberland, Md. at his first church. Later that year of 1937, they moved to Johnstown where Rev. Johnson become the minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Rosedale.

Blanche had always enjoyed teaching, and now was looking forward to teaching in the Johnstown schools. Her work in the Jackson Public School system had given her valuable experience and solid references from her supervisors. Yet Blanche was to find that she had to wait eighteen years for a formal teaching job in the Johnstown schools!

From 1937 to 1955 she applied yearly for a teaching position. At one interview she was told that Johnstown "already had one colored teacher", a reference to Rev. E. E. Swanston who was principal and teacher at the Rosedale School. Rev. Swanston "hired" her as a substitute teacher at his school, paying her out of his own pocket.

Encouraged by him to continue her education, Blanche packed up her three young daughters in the summers of the early 1950's, and moved temporarily to the Pittsburgh area. Waking up at four o'clock those mornings to walk two miles to the bus stop to get to her eight o'clock class, she finally completed her course work in 1955 and applied for the eighteenth time to secure a full time position teaching in the Johnstown schools. That year Dr. Miller offered her a job as a special education teacher because she had always enjoyed working with slow learners. She was the first teacher of trainable mentally retarded children in the public schools in Cambria County. She worked in this capacity in the Woodvale School from 1955 to



1963. During this time she attended classes in special education through Penn State University and Indiana State University in Pa. In 1959 she earned her Master's Equivalency in Special Education.

During the 1960's she was hired as a Head Start teacher in Westwood Elementary School, the first black teacher in the county in this program for pre-school aged children from low income families.

From 1963 to 1973 she taught special education classes in the Meadowvale School. After "retiring" in 1973 she continued to work as a substitute teacher.

"It was a struggle," Blanche mused in summary. "I sometimes think back and wonder how I did it." But then she smiled and concluded, "If my struggle to use my education and talents has made it easier for those who come after me, then it was worth it."

Submitted by Rita Redden

Source: Mrs. Blanche Johnson

Mrs. Erma Vaughn

Wilma Rose Lee Anderson Burton

1919-1983

When Wilma Rose Anderson came to visit her sister Blanche

in Johnstown, she decided to remain in this area. She, too, had been born and raised in Mississippi. Following her sister's footsteps, she attended classes at Jackson State College. To earn money for her tuition she cleaned dormitory rooms and served meals in the dining room. She made enough money to pay for most of the first year of college. When she could, she attended teacher training courses in summer school. She was hired to teach in Biloxi, Mississippi, but during the summer she continued in evening classes to earn a Bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Unable to get a teacher's job in Pennsylvania she worked in a factory while attending night classes at Penn State, Ebensburg Center, University of Pittsburgh and Indiana State Teachers College. After receiving her Pennsylvania certificate, she taught as a substitute in Conemaugh.

In Rosedale, Wilma worked with Rev. E. E. Swanston to sponsor programs for the community. She taught music lessons and played piano for the Trinity M. E. Church. She studied voice with Miss Kress and organ with Mrs. Kern and Mrs. Ellis.

Wilma met her husband, Homer Burton, at church. He was a poet who had written and published several books. They enjoyed a mutual interest in music as he played the violin. They presented musical and poetry recitals during the early years of their marriage.

Later, she took extra credits to earn a certificate to teach handicapped children and was hired to teach at Woodvale. Always studying, while giving her talents to the community, Wilma's life was an inspiration to many people.

Bessie L. Stewart

1895-1985

Longfellow wrote, "Music is the universal language of mankind". Both Bessie Stewart and Josephine Wright believed this and used this communication to make their community a better place.

Bessie was born in Georgia and came to Johnstown as a young woman. After her graduation from Dale High School in 1918, she was employed at Penn Traffic Store. Her husband, Arthur Stewart, died after the birth of their fifth son.

During the Depression, through the Works Progress Administration, Mrs. Stewart taught music lessons to dozens of poor



children and adults. In a time when people were unemployed and depressed, she taught them a respectable way to entertain themselves and others.

Her interest in furthering musical education continued throughout her working years. Under her strict direction, church choirs and ensembles were given a polished, finished quality which enriched every black church in the area.

Her former pupils remember her severity and loving criticism which raised local singing standards.

Mrs. Stewart was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Cambria A. M. E. Church and Mecca Temple of Elks.

Josephine Waugh Wright

One of the principal goals of Josephine Waugh Wright was to encourage young people to seek a musical education. Herself an accomplished musician and teacher, she was particularly active in encouraging women to become musicians.

Josephine's father, Clinton Waugh, came to Johnstown from Culpepper, Virginia to work with the water company, bringing one of the first black families to live in this area. His property on Grant Street included a horse stable because he hauled coal for the Jenkins Coal Company.

During the 1889 flood, Mr. Waugh took the family in a wagon to Millcreek Road. Mrs. Waugh was upset because a trunk containing their marriage license was left behind. Later, her husband found it intact.



Josephine and her brothers attended the Dibert and Somerset Street Schools. The family was active in the Cambria A. M. E. Church where Josephine later played the organ.

After graduation Josephine wanted to attend the Boston Conservatory of Music, but money was not available, and her mother became ill. So she stayed home to take care of the family.

As role models, she admired her teacher, Lucy Krebs, a renowned pianist, and Marian Anderson. She taught private lessons to both black and white students throughout the Johnstown area. If some were unable to pay, she taught them anyway.

Josephine practiced at least twice a day, early in the morning and late at night, even though housework and teaching kept her busy. She also played for many weddings.

In 1916, she married Ernest J. Wright, a waiter at the Coachmen Porters' Hotel on Main Street. After the children were born, he began working for the Cambria Equipment Company. Mrs. Wright lovingly lived for her children and grandchildren. One grandchild, Henry Leftwich, whom she taught has furthered his career with light opera.

During the Depression Mrs. Wright took in washing and ironing while teaching music lessons to help pay for clothing, education and other needs for the family. This wasn't an affluent family, but there was always enough to give help to others.

As a charter member of the Elizabeth Lindsay Davis Club, she became its first secretary. Here she was in her element; the goal of this club was to encourage young women to further their education and better their standards.

Clifford Hendricks Borders

1884-1955

As an example of how important a mother's influence can be, we have included the stories of Clifford Borders and her daughter Lillie Sanders.

Born in Clayton, Alabama of sharecropper parents, Clifford Hendricks married Isom Borders in 1898 when she was very young. All of her children were born at home in Alabama; she was tended by a midwife.

In 1917 she and Isom moved to Johnstown to get better employment. Settling in Rosedale, Isom found work in the Cambria Iron Company, but he died six years later, and Clifford had to raise the family with meager means.

She went to Rosedale school and got a job as janitor from Professor E. E. Swanston, the principal. This meant firing a potbellied stove for heat in the two-room schoolhouse, sweeping the floors and dusting every day for the small salary of \$12.50 a week. After cleaning the school each afternoon she did domestic work for the Stackhouse family in Westmont. It was necessary to walk the four miles from Rosedale to the street car line in Cambria City. Things became a little easier when her two older sons worked in the steel mills and two of her daughters married.

As Bethlehem Steel Company needed more men to work in the mills, Mrs. Borders helped to recruit and transport men from Alabama. She would send money South and Bethlehem would reimburse her.

To help the workers, Clifford and Henry Samuels operated a boarding house in Rosedale. Bethlehem took boarding expenses out of the men's salaries to pay the caretakers of the boarding house. Clifford fed the men and changed their beds; there were as many as fifty men in the house.

Living across the street from the Shiloh Baptist Church, the family was active in this church. On warm Sunday afternoons Isom Borders gathered the family together on the front porch for Bible readings.

Mrs. Borders was a civic and political leader in Rosedale. She had a life membership certificate from the Red Cross. With her daughters she made regular visits to the hospitals to visit the sick. They also went to homes where there was sickness to wash clothes, clean the house and assist where they could. As a politi-

cal leader, Clifford got people to the polls to vote and campaigned for candidates.

Before Clifford moved to Prospect she went to night school to learn to read and write. Learning to write her own name was a great thrill for her.

She was a great admirer of Professor Swanston whose leadership and encouragement inspired her to move forward herself and to educate her children. Mrs. Borders delighted in the fact that she could return to her birthplace in Alabama with a trunkful of fine clothes. She was a country girl who had prospered when she moved to the city, and was happily received by her sharecropper friends. Little did they realize what strength it had taken for her to reach this prosperity.

Lillie L. (Borders) Sanders

1900–1976

Lillie Lee Borders Sanders followed her mother's example in responding to her communities needs in person. In spite of caring for a family of fourteen children, she always managed to make weekly visits to area hospitals. If necessary, she would sit with a patient all night, doing her best to persuade them to give their hearts to the Lord, if they had not done so.

Seeing that neighborhood families were without a church in the community, Mrs. Sanders' parents, along with some other families in Rosedale, organized the Shiloh Baptist Church. When Lillie grew up and married John Sanders, they became members of this church.

Missions were her favorite charity, as she served as president of the church's missionary society for years. During this time she also was active with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and Church Women United.

The Golden Rule—Lillie Lee lived by it; her sister, Lorene Jacobs, will testify to that.

Margaret Dean Brown Leftwich

1890–1973

Dedicated leadership through activity in community organizations was the hallmark of these four women.

Margaret Leftwich knew that she had inalienable rights and she intended to pursue them for others. As a driving force for



racial equality, she concentrated on the value of education.

Margaret was born in Frugality, Pennsylvania, married in Hollidaysburg, and lived and worked in Johnstown. Her grandmother felt that girls should get an education to prepare themselves for life. Therefore she attended Hammond Beauty School; after graduating, she operated a beauty salon on Main Street. Later, both Mr. and Mrs. Leftwich entered school to become masseuses. They had a Turkish bath and masseuse business on Main Street called the Leftwich Bath Business.

She wanted to be involved with the public to have an impact on racial equality and to help others with the struggle. In 1930 Margaret and Dr. Burrell Johnson made it possible for blacks to attend Cambria Rowe Business College. As an active member in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she felt it necessary to desegregate this college. The NAACP had clout; Mr. Gerald Devaux was convinced to open the school to blacks.

In the process of moving the family from Iron Street to Main Street in 1936 the day of the flood, they placed all their belongings on the first floor. That night the Leftwich family lost everything. The Red Cross helped them in many ways, and they were able to reopen their business.

In 1938 the Leftwich family adopted five children, relatives of theirs. Every evening the family had a roundtable discussion of what actions must be taken to discipline the children, or to discuss the events of the day. Margaret wanted the children to realize that both parents and grandparents were doing their best to

give their children an education, especially a religious education. There were close ties of love and communication in the family.

Mrs. Leftwich continued to work for the NAACP, giving speeches on integration at various churches. She usually began her speeches with a Langston Hughes poem called, "Heist Your Head, Black Boy", and ended with "The Lord, he had a Job For Me".

As an Episcopalian, Margaret started a Negro mission at St. Mark's Episcopal Church which twenty-five to thirty members attended. She firmly believed that all roads lead to God; thus, her family was exposed to all religious denominations.

She made other contributions to further the cause of the black community. She and Ann Sawyer spearheaded a committee to purchase books about blacks for Cambria Library. Along with Dr. Burrell Johnson and Ann Sawyer, a Lincoln Sawyer Memorial Scholarship fund was set up to help blacks attend college.

The legacy she left was invaluable. Few people have, single-handedly, been responsible for doing more to further the goals of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Rose Hawkins

1907-1986

The vision of Rose Hankins was a freedom for women which was non-existent at the turn of the century. But dreams were not enough; she knew that the only way for women to advance in a man's world would be through education and encouragement.

Although she had influence in the Sunday School and other church activities, she saw the value of her early Girl Scout training which gave more validity to her dream.

Rose was born in 1907 in Macon, Georgia, but came to Johnstown early in life. After attending Conemaugh High School, she married Leroy Hankins.

Very active in the life of the Cambria Chapel A.M.E. Church, she held many leadership positions. She was also president of the Elizabeth Lindsay Davis Club in Johnstown.

But, first and foremost, Rose Hankins was a Girl Scout leader, with over fifty years as a registered Girl Scout. She was



a trainer, a member of the board of directors and member of the program committee. Serving as camp counselor, she led girls on the Appalachian Trail.

Mrs. Frances Hesselbein, National Executive Director of the Girl Scouts of America, in a letter to Rose's daughter, Mrs. Rowena Jones, commented:

"I learned about commitment from Rose in my earliest days as a Girl Scout leader. Later on, when I directed Camp Blue Knob, she was my assistant director, led the CIT unit and took the first group of senior Girl Scouts on the Appalachian Trail. Every standard was met or exceeded, and the trip was life-shaping for the girls fortunate enough to have been led by a capable leader."

Another friend praised Rose with the words, "She was a very generous and wise woman. I remember her wonderful admonition, 'You have to carry a big basket to bring something back'".

It is evident that Rose Hankins was a beautiful role model for young women as she was extolled by those whom she influenced.

Willia Mae Underwood Farrior

1907-1983

Willia Mae Farrior was not content to play the usual role of wife and mother without thought of the community in which she lived. She saw a need for improvement in nearly every as-



pect of life, and exerted much of her energy to aiding important organizations in the city of Johnstown.

She was born in 1907 in Clayton, Alabama, one of six children. Her parents owned a small ranch. Willia Mae and her husband, William, came to Johnstown in 1937. With their two children, they lived for a while in Rosedale, and later in Kernville.

In Johnstown Mrs. Farrior studied music under Rev. Swanson and at the Harris Music Company and Flynn Studio. Using her musical talents in the choir and as assistant organist in the Shiloh Baptist Church, she also was active in other capacities in the church.

Willia Mae served on the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as well as holding leadership positions in the YWCA, the Cambria County Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Elizabeth Lindsay Davis Club. Besides these, she was involved with the Cambria County Board of the City Clinic, on the board of directors Women's Auxiliary of Family Welfare and a member of the Kernville Community Improvement Action Committee.

Certainly, the life of Willia Mae Farrior was an important one of service to her fellow men and women.

Faye McCray Griffin

1921-1984

The parents of Faye McCray were sharecroppers who migrated to Johnstown from Bundage, Alabama in search of a bet-



ter life. Faye never lost track of that goal. The second of twelve children, she lost her mother when she was twelve, and assumed the role of mother for her younger brothers and sisters.

Faye attended school in the Minersville section of Johnstown, graduating from Johnstown High School in 1933. Although family was her first priority, education was always essential to her. Forty-two years after her high school graduation, she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

In 1934 she married Saul Griffin. Besides rearing her own two children and aiding in the rearing of grandchildren, she went to work at the Kay Artley Garment Factory where she worked for thirty-seven years. From this humble beginning she became a key figure at the Johnstown Office of Comprehensive Employment.

Throughout Faye McCray Griffin's life, she was recognized as a civic-minded and community-minded person; at every opportunity she helped her husband in his work with civic organizations in pleading for interracial good will and brotherhood.

She was president of the Prospect Development Committee, a member of NAACP and the Urban League of Johnstown. She also had numerous church responsibilities at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Mrs. Griffin died in her sixties, a young age for a person with so much to give. Her motto was: "All men count with me, but none too much." Her daughter, Carol Griffin McDowell says, "She truly could walk with kings, and she never lost her common touch".



Bessie Jane Stewart Johnson

Born near the turn of the century, Bessie Jane Stewart Johnson became the first black woman to be hired as a professional cook in the Johnstown area. Moreover, Bessie made a name for herself, not only by her culinary expertise in Bethlehem Steel Company's "Ye Olde Country Club", located on Grant Street, but through her executive ability which her employer soon came to recognize. Along with being in charge of the kitchen, she was responsible for hiring of all waiters and waitresses. Later, her authority expanded.

Bessie's husband, John F. Johnson, brought her to this city where he was hired as chauffeur for Mr. Price, a superintendent at Bethlehem Steel Company. The couple moved into an apartment above the garage of the Price home.

Together they operated the club. For many years they served the noon meal to the superintendents in the fourth floor dining room of the Bethlehem Steel office building on Locust Street.

In addition, meals were also served at the country club, on the first floor street level. The area where the fireplace is located was then the living room. The Johnson family moved to the second floor of the club where the bedrooms were located. The club was their home when no one was there.

After Mr. Johnson's death in 1936, Bessie Jane continued alone, managing the club for several years.

Nellie Davis Duke

“To be of no Church is dangerous.”

—Samuel Johnson

The import of this quotation was echoed in the thoughts of Nellie Davis Duke, when she made a discovery. It was unthinkable to allow those determined to split from Mt. Olive Baptist Church to be without a spiritual home. She and her husband would organize a new church in their living room. That was the core of Nellie, caring for others.

She had married Wilson Duke in Virginia when she was very young. They came to Johnstown so that Wilson could work in the steel mills. The couple, with their sons, Edward and Andrew, had a large house on east Main Street. To help with finances, Nellie took in roomers and boarders, including two nephews, George Gaines and Joe Davis.

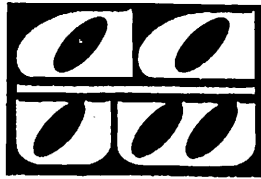
At the time of the church's organization in the Duke home it was called “Wilson Duke's Memorial Baptist Church”. Later, the first name was dropped. The new Duke Memorial Baptist Church was built at 740 East Main Street, in the yard of the Duke home.

Another crisis developed in 1889; the refugees of the flood sought shelter in the Duke home and found it. Throughout their lives, Nellie and Wilson continued their humanitarian efforts.



PART IV
ORGANIZATIONS





THE JOHNSTOWN BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN RECOGNIZES ITS OWN WOMEN

Prepared by Anne S. Doyle

As noted elsewhere, the purpose of this book is to recognize the accomplishments of women, now deceased, in Cambria County history, who have contributed significantly to the quality of life in their communities and elsewhere. The Johnstown Branch, AAUW, has had as our members and leaders a number of such women. In this section we will pay tribute to our deceased presidents and highlight some of our activities.

In 1921 Leta Morgart (Mrs. Fred), a Delta Delta Delta from Colorado University and a teacher at Johnstown High School, entertained a number of her Johnstown sorority sisters at bridge. Thus began the Tri-Delta get togethers. A little later, it was expanded to include all local members of the National Pan-Hellenic Congress. Still later, the group formed a "college club" and all college women were eligible to join. Eventually the "college club" became part of AAUW.

AAUW had its beginning, October 18, 1923, when a group of local college women met to form the Johnstown Branch of the AAUW. Membership was, and still is, based on specific college credentials. The purpose then was to further education of women, to advance education in general, and to encourage personal growth of its members. This purpose has changed very little through the years. At the present time it reads "AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, re-

search, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.”

At this first meeting, membership rules were presented that required members to have a basic college degree or its equivalency. Sophia Moiles, vice president and membership chairman, reported a total of 130 women in the city were eligible for membership. This statistic indicates that educational opportunities were available for women in Johnstown. The dues were \$3.00 for the national organization, and \$1.00 for local dues. The minutes written by Secretary Marguerita Hinchman showed one man as a member—a Mr. Willard Liggitt. His name never appeared again, probably the females were too overpowering. In these early years, an associate membership was available. This membership was for applicants who had attended a college without accreditation.

There are thirteen deceased presidents: Margaret Evans, the first president, Sophia Moiles, Ruth Yost, Mrs. A. F. Trent, Gertrude Heller Barnhart, Mrs. Calvin C. Rush, Laura A. McGann, Kathleen Ouster, Florence Trexler, Isabelle Devaux, Mabel Brown Aller, Margaret Gastmen Bowes, and Kathryn Smith Hershberger. Even in this avant garde organization, the given name and/or the maiden names of some of our presidents are not recorded.

The minutes of the original meetings show a determination to make this a prestigious women’s organization. In addition to strict membership requirements, programs were to be of an educational or cultural nature, and when appropriate, open to the public. Examples of some of the early programs were: “The World Court”, “The Bok Peace Plan”, “Trends of Modern Journalism”, and programs in music and art. Early meetings were held at the YWCA or in member’s homes. Then, as now, members preferred meetings to be in homes, and, early on, programs with social ramification attracted the largest attendance.

AAUW always encouraged the formation of special interest groups to foster personal growth. During Ruth Yost’s presidency (1924–1925) drama groups already were forming. These drama groups performed for the memberships. Their programs consisted of short plays of important playwrights, and skits that were written by members. Some of the directors and thespians were Adda Hager, Margaret Schultz, Mrs. A. J. Roberts, and Marjorie Raab. Because of their interest in drama, they wanted special programs by well-known drama personalities. Some

names suggested were Amy Lowell, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Robert Frost and James. R. Beck. The meeting minutes noted that Miss Millay's charge was \$500.00, whereas the balance in the treasury was \$4.00. Needless to say, Miss Millay did not come to Johnstown. Of the 156 members who belonged in 1961, only 38 did not attend a study group.

From its beginning, the branch was determined to encourage junior and senior high school girls to go to college. A Scholarship Loan Fund was planned so that some money could be lent to girls who needed financial assistance in order to achieve their college goals. During Miss Yost's term the Scholarship Loan Fund was established, and a ways and means committee composed of Ruth Leach, Freda Walters, and Mrs. C. C. Rush was appointed.

Miss Sophia Moiles began her terms as president (1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28) determined to make the scholarship fund viable. To aid the scholarship fund, the club members presented a marionette production, held a benefit bridge party, a rummage sale, and card parties in member's homes. All in all, the sum of \$400.00 was raised and the fund became a reality.

Interesting and diversified programs continued with members performing: Hazel Lansberry, Elizabeth Hoge, Alice Gocher, Abby King, and Sara J. Smith. Musical programs also were presented by well-known local artists: Eleanor Reese Hinks, Harriet Hosmer, Ethel Grey, and others.

Social patterns were changing by Mrs. Trent's presidency (1928-1929) and politics made its appearance in programs. A timely marionette show, based on the coming election was presented by Florence Gocher, Margie Coleman Harris, Margaret Greer, and Jessie Tomb. Another program was a debate, "Resolved that American Womens' colleges of today are not adequately preparing women to meet the demands of everyday life." A further program involving the ratification of the Kellogg Peace Treaty evidenced the widening political interests of the organization. There were musical programs; Chopin, Debussy, Beethoven, presented by local women artists. Chester Wallace, head of the drama department at the Carnegie Institute of Technology became increasingly popular as a guest speaker. These meetings were open to the public.

Mrs. Frank Burkhart became president in September of 1929 and continued in office until June 1932. In 1930, the treasurer's books reflected the results of the efforts of these women. The

scholarship fund showed a total of \$1007.39 with payments of \$653.92 and leaving a balance of \$353.47. Margaret Greer told of a book of puppet shows dramatizing well-known fairy tales, and moved that the shows be undertaken as a fund raising project. This project was the branch's biggest and most outstanding achievement of those early years.

Much of the branch was involved in the puppet project. Patrons were secured, scenery and costumes designed, puppeteers chosen, and publicity planned. By this time, it had become a community-wide project with local businessmen and individual sponsors participating. Tickets were distributed through cooperation of all city and borough schools for the designated dates, December 6 and 13 of 1932. The project had become a Christmas gift to all the children from AAUW, local business owners and individual sponsors. Three performances were presented on each of the two Saturdays at the Johnstown High School auditorium. The publicity given to the event was fantastic and the children wanted to come the second Saturday again. Nearly 4,000 children and adults attended. Expenses to the branch were \$20.00, and the show netted \$1,100.00 for the scholarship fund.

Two other unique activities to raise money for the scholarship fund included an exhibit of handmade quilts at the home of Mrs. Peter Carpenter, and a series of bowling party benefits held in the Carpenter recreation room.

In spite of the effort and time expended in raising money, other activities were not neglected. There were individual study groups in modern fiction, child study, international relations, legislation, and dramatics. At the annual tea for prospective college students from Johnstown and neighboring high schools, there were 175 persons in attendance. Professor Chester Wallace from Carnegie Institute gave a reading of "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", the then current New York stage success. This program was in keeping with the branch's concern for the teaching of classics in the public schools.

The annual fall travelogue meetings continued with interest turning increasingly to foreign travel. A large audience attended the open meeting at which the President of the University Travel Club discussed "Democracy in a Changing World." In addition, members names continued to appear in the minutes as they reported on their travels.

At this time, November 24, 1930, the yearbook made its appearance. Isabel Lang, treasurer, was paid \$10.00 for compiling the book. The first printed handbook was in 1935.

Under Mrs. Calvin C. Rush's leadership (1932-33, 1933-34) the branch swung into community activity. The library was in trouble. In addition to the usual financial assistance, it became necessary to request City Council to budget money for library needs. Petitions were circulated and a committee appointed to consider action to be taken to prevent the possible closing of the library. Eventually, the problem was solved and the library's solvency was assured.

Programs indicated an increasing interest in international affairs. An open meeting featured Lieutenant Alden who spoke on "What Is Happening In Europe and What It Means To America" and highlighting the League of Nations.

Laura McGann, (1934-35, 1935-36) followed Mrs. Rush's presidency and announced her project to be the publishing of a newsletter, the "Flood City Flutter". It was to be distributed at the Pennsylvania-Delaware AAUW Conference at State College. Its purpose was to show other branches what the Johnstown Branch was doing. The publications met with such success, it was decided to continue it. Editors and contributors were Laura McGann, Mary Frances Tarr Peat, Miriam Matthews, Leta Morgart, Isabelle Devaux, and Margaret Greet. To read the old editions of *The Flutter* gives an appreciation of the writing skills of these women as well as a knowledge of the branch activities.

In September 1935, the minutes show a resolution honoring Frances Moore, teacher and first woman to obtain a pilot's license in Johnstown.

As in previous presidencies, money was needed for scholarship and fellowship funds. A puppet show, "Alice in Wonderland" with Mary Frances Peat directing, was presented in December 1934 and netted \$40.00. This was followed by a four-day hobby show in the Penn Traffic's auditorium. Practically every member was involved in either gathering, arranging, or guarding the hobby collections, in greeting visitors and telling tales about the items displayed; or in collecting and depositing the nickle and dime admission fees. The profit was \$123.00 but more important was the camaraderie it engendered and the publicity for the branch.

The arts continued to attract. Mrs. Gregory Ivy of Indiana State Teachers College spoke on "Modern Trends in Art" with reference to the International Exhibit of Art on display at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. Poetess Marian Doyle, friend and mentor of Miriam Matthews, discussed poetry and read several of her own prize-winning poems.

An innovative program of Miss McGann's term was an "All College" dinner and program at Sunnehanna Country Club. More than sixty colleges and universities of this country and Europe were represented.

In the fall of 1935, the Johnstown Branch was host to the Western Pennsylvania Section AAUW convention with delegates from nine Pennsylvania branches in attendance.

Mrs. Andrew Crichton, local business leader and visitor to Russia, Susan Gletz, missionary to India, and Harriet Weigle Nicely, a visitor to Europe were among the featured speakers. Though America was at peace, people were becoming war conscious as the war in Europe was becoming increasingly ominous.

When Miss McGann's term ended, the charmingly written, unique, and informative *Flood City Flutter* "fluttered" to a close. Other newsletters replaced it during subsequent terms. It was in 1988, during Dorothy Kodrowski's present term that the branch resurrected the old name. It is being used again for the Johnstown Branch's newsletter.

During Kathleen Custer's term (1936-37, 1937-38) emphasis was centered on war and present social changes. Dr. Nathan Shappee, professor of history at Johnstown College, University of Pittsburgh, spoke on "European Tendencies of 1914 and 1936" and traced events that led him to conclude that within the following five years war in Europe was imminent. Social legislation concerning unemployment relief funds, the Federal Social Security Bill, the World Peace Conference, and the Far Eastern Crisis were among the subjects studied and discussed.

Interest in and support of the Fellowship Fund for college graduates was increasing. It was recognized that many able and talented women deserve the opportunity to continue their education beyond the college level but had insufficient funds to do so. Consequently, financial support was increased and this project continues to be a recipient of some of the funds from AAUW's annual Used Book Sale.

A contemporary American Literature group was formed in 1937, the syllabus for which was prepared by the national Com-



7-17-59 **FOR FELLOWSHIP FUND**

Three members of Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women prepare for the organization's annual book sale by loading into a station wagon some of the volumes to be offered to the public. The women are (left to right) Mrs. Donald Hershberger, finance chairman; Mrs. Asher Shupp, cochair-

man for the project, and Mrs. John W. Turner, chairman for pricing and sorting. Proceeds from the sale, to be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the store-room at Market and Locust Streets, across from the old postoffice, will go to the national fellowship fund which provides aid for graduate study or research.

mittee of Arts. This study group continues to function though its present agenda is determined by the members.

A very unusual program highlighted a luncheon meeting at the North Fork Country Club. A skit entitled "The World's Greatest Romance" was written by Miriam Matthews and presented by Branch members. Minutes carried the names of the cast, there were eight men and two women. Sophia Moiles played the parts of Queen Mary, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the chauffeur; and, the American woman was Ann Swanson. They did do interesting programs in the "old days".

In 1938, the minutes showed the first donations to the Cambria Library in the amount of \$50.00. This was continued for many years.

When Mrs. E. W. Trexler (1938-39, 1939-1940) assumed office in September her plans had already been finalized. Hazel Lansberry, Fellowship Chairman, announced an international exhibit to be held in the Penn Traffic Company auditorium and Elizabeth Hoge outlined plans for a Book Fair to be held in conjunction with the Women's Library Association. Measured by attendance and interest, both projects were outstanding successes even though the combined receipts were only \$191.00. In her effort to increase interest Mrs. Trexler suggested that members meet for lunch each Thursday. Mrs. Trexler's enthusiasm for AAUW also led her and past president, Sophia Moiles, to attend the International Conference of University Women held in Stockholm Sweden at their own expense.

A special program that was open to the public and brought an outside speaker to Johnstown was Ray Sprigle, ace reporter of the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* and winner of the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for reporting. He spoke before an audience of more than four hundred. Mr. Sprigle described himself as a newspaper man on "just another assignment" and not a public speaker. He captured the audience with the pleasing conversational style in which he gave the details of how he unearthed the facts for his prize winning entry, that Supreme Court Judge Hugo Black was once a member of the Klu Klux Klan.

During the annual dinner meeting at Sunnehanna Country Club, Gertrude Lake introduced Edwin A. Rowlands, America's Number One Autograph Collector, whose comments on "Intimate Glimpses of Famous People" delighted the ninety-four members and guests. A later meeting featuring the Falcons, a Polish Folk Dancing Group, and Mr. Helioder Sztark, Polish Consul General at Pittsburgh, attracted an audience of more than five hundred.

The final program for Mrs. Trexler's term was a tour of Cambria Plant, Bethlehem Steel Company. Mr. Ralph Hughes, general manager, engaged a railroad car for transporting the seventy-four members around the plant. He, also, arranged the timing of steel-making operations to parallel arrival at the various sections. Explanatory booklets were distributed.

When Mrs. Gerald Devaux (1940-41, 1941-42) assumed office, rumblings of war had intensified. A letter from National Headquarters requested funds for war relief and information as to whether local members would be willing to provide "dura-

tion" housing and care for children of members of the British Federation of University Women if the need arose. Cards containing information for each member's qualification for defense work were compiled. The Branch pledged its service in whatever capacity it could perform. Our national office suggested that members avail themselves of reliable information on nutrition in anticipation of food shortage. A series of programs followed. Marguerita Hinchman, presented a program on the necessity of making correct use of foods and on the grading of canned foods. Her sister Helen Hinchman discussed "The Buying of Clothing" and described the new synthetics. Later programs brought information on plastics, the coal stoker, the oil-burning furnace, the application of air-conditioning and other new products appearing in the market place. Mrs. Devaux directed the operation of Cambria Rowe Business School after her husband's death.

Throughout Mrs. Paul Aller's presidency (1942-43, 1943-44) concentration on the war effort intensified. It was suggested that each AAUW branch establish a war job information bureau to survey jobs needing to be done in case men were called to the armed forces. A listing of the kinds of defense training facilities available in the community was also suggested.

The "Buy A Bond" and "Buy A Bomber" campaigns were in full swing and a bond was bought by the Johnstown Branch to indicate its support.

The presidency of Mrs. John Bowes (1948-49, 1949-50) centered activities on an evaluation of the organization's twenty-five years of existence and on future expectations. All past minutes were bound and containers were purchased for safe keeping of records, clippings, and notices.

Though World War II was over now, interest in foreign countries increased. At the January 1950 open meeting, Dr. Harold Fishbein, an expeditor for CARE, spoke before an audience of several hundred. He described the problems in Middle Europe and Israel, and the difficulties of administering aid programs.

At this time, a new issue, a conscious recognition of the need for women's equality in the business world, was surfacing.

When Mrs. Donald Hershberger (1962-63, 1963-64) became president, the focus was on international relations and the study of the vital aspects of our changing world. The issues considered were "What time is it for the world?" Speakers invited

to present their views included Robert J. Hunter from Johnstown College, University of Pittsburgh, who discussed "The American Position in a Transformed World." Mr. Boax Harrison Ogola from Kenya, Africa, and a former student at the Royal College in Nairobi, Kenya, continued the theme by speaking on "A New African Nation." Elizabeth Green, a teacher of world cultures and representative to UNESCO in Boston spoke on "What the United Nations Has Done."

The issue selected for study during Mrs. Hershberger's second year was "Bridging the Gap Between Science and the Layman." This was also the period during which the critical need for Pennsylvania State Constitutional Revision was recognized and AAUW pledged its support. Education and legislative committee members made themselves available to answer questions concerning proposed changes so that members could vote intelligently on the matter.

Throughout its existence the Johnstown Branch has supported the Library so it was logical that when the Westmont library opened in October of 1963, a staff of volunteers from AAUW responded. The Westmont Library Branch became an integral part of AAUW activities.

October was the month during which the founding of the branch was celebrated. The minutes record a "salute to the vision and work of those members, who laid the foundation for building a program to enable college women to continue their own intellectual growth, to further the advancement of women and to discharge the special responsibilities to society of those who had enjoyed the advantages of higher education."

Programming always has been an important consideration of AAUW. In the intervening and continuing years the programs included plays, musical programs, illustrated talks and lectures by club members and prominent outside authorities. As State and National grew and expanded horizons, so-called topics and later issues were selected by the delegates at the national convention. These were topics of interest to women or special political, social, cultural or economic concerns. Each branch was expected to select one or more of these pertinent topics for study. Detailed outlines and bibliographies were prepared by a committee on the national level and distributed. Each branch was to study and develop an action program according to interest and needs.

The balance of the history of the Johnstown Branch AAUW

has been carried out in the administrations of our living past presidents. There are seventeen in all; they are as follows: Marjorie Stiff Raab, Marguerite Hinchman, Dorothea Haberstroh, Ann Swanson Doyle, Anne Wertz, Anna Catherine Saylor Bennett, Mrs. Albert L. O'Connor, Jr., Mrs. Richard Ott, Shirley Stockman Blue, Dorothy Ryan Glass, Thelma Giambattista McKibben, Cynthia Bennett, Leora Rager, Nancy Brown Tondora, Stasia Overtley Bennett, Virginia Thompson and Dorothy Kodrowski, current president. Two of our still active members, out of the original seventy-three, were founding members. They are Marjorie Raab and Rita Hinchman.

In 1937, the Johnstown Branch voted to have a Used Book Sale. The idea was suggested by Mrs. Turner. The event was held October 24, 25, and 26, at the Glessner Furniture Store. The chairman was Sophia Moiles with Mrs. Turner as assistant. The tables were furnished by Cambria Savings and Loan Association, and were transported in Dan Hershberger's station wagon. Total books collected were 2,000. The profit was \$295.42, and the expenses \$37.97. In 1961, the profit was \$470.79, but by 1964/65, it had reached \$1,381.44. In 1966, the profit was \$2,168.61.

Over the years, everything grew bigger, both the return and the expenses. The major "growing pain" was finding a place in which to hold the Used Book Sale. It was held at Mr. D's shoe store in Westwood, at the empty storeroom next to Rothsteins jewelry store, and at Kay's Furnishings in the Westwood Plaza. At Kay's Furnishings it meant cleaning up the place before we could start putting out books. One time the roof leaked and all the merchandise had to be covered with plastic.

We have earned over \$50,000 over the past thirty years from the Used Book Sale. Proceeds have gone to the AAUW Educational Foundation Programs which is available to women students toward doctoral programs, to our own Student Loan Fund, and for the first time, in 1988, to our new Scholarship Award Program for High School Seniors in the Greater Johnstown Area. The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has a \$10,000 endowment which provides scholarships to women each year in the name of the Johnstown Branch AAUW. The library and museum also have been recipients of some money from the AAUW Used Book Sale. Whenever moneys are given, it must be for an educational purpose and not for miscellaneous expenses.

Today, the Used Book Sale has changed, as has all other



AAUW SELLS BOOKS TO AID STUDENTS

This is the week for the annual used book sale sponsored by Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women for the benefit of its student fellowship and student loan funds. The sale is being conducted in a storeroom in the Westwood Shopping

Plaza. Here 5 members of the branch (front to back), Mrs. Kenneth N. Takehara, chairman for the sale; Mrs. Don Hershberger, Mrs. Asher Shupp, Mrs. John Turner and Mrs. Samuel McKibben, sale co-chairman—are completing the sorting and pricing of merchandise.



Helping Hand from AAUW

Four local groups have been given a total of \$1,020 from profits derived from the annual used book sale conducted by the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women. Seated is Mrs. Mary Lavine, representing the Group for Recycling in Pennsylvania (GRIP), a new organization that was given

\$150 by the AAUW. The other recipients and the groups they represent are (left to right) Mrs. Donna Koener, Johnstown Day Care Center, \$200; Mrs. Dorothy S. Pavian, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown library, \$170; and Mrs. Mary E. Braugher, Cambria Public Library, \$500.

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things. We usually make between \$3,000 and \$4,000, while expenses total about \$700.00. We, no longer, can alphabetize the books by author, or even get all books out on the tables the first day. Perhaps the most pleasant change is having our sale in the Community Room at the Richland Mall where it is clean, warm, and secure. We no longer price individual books, and our prices are lower than they were ten years ago.

Gains from the Used Book Sale, aside from the financial return, are the camaraderie it promotes among AAUW members as we get ready to have the sale; and, the opportunity for the public to obtain books very cheaply.

In 1933, the organization wrote to state representatives and senators against the proposed abolition of the Bureau of Women and Children. Also, a resolution was sent in May 1936 on flood control. Believe it or not, in 1934, AAUW participated in the Columbus Day Parade.

AAUW in the past has contributed to two major fund drives. When the national office of AAUW was soliciting funds for our home in Washington, D.C., the Johnstown Branch made a donation of \$500.00. A second contribution was in the amount of \$850.00 to the Johnstown campus of the University of Pittsburgh for the new site in Richland Township.

Another project of AAUW which proved interesting and valuable was the reading enrichment program for underprivileged children. In collaboration with the Johnstown School District, it was held in the seventh grade at Joseph Johns Junior High School, and in grades one to six at the Hudson Street School. A letter from the Johnstown Schools Superintendent, Frank Miller, commended AAUW on this activity. The project was then taken over by the school district. Students from the University of Pittsburgh and several area high schools, together with AAUW volunteers helped with the tutoring. Thought was given to having an adult reading enrichment program, but it never materialized.

In 1965 the AAUW State Conference was held in Johnstown at the Holiday Inn. Dorothy Glass was conference chair for a highly successful meeting.

AAUW joined the Arts Council in March 1966. In the Arts Council's Spring festival, AAUW consistently participated by holding a "Kids Town". This was very popular and the young people wanted to return each year. AAUW members manned the tables for inexpensive crafts to be made by the children with



Anna Miller, Denny Burkhardt and Will Mishler check book selection.

more or less help. Children from kindergarten age to sixth grade learned to make items such as head bands, flowers, wall plaques, drums, pencil holders and hats. Parents came with them and enjoyed the experience also. The children went home with two or three items they had made.

Throughout the history of the Johnstown AAUW Branch, the programming and the activities of the organization continue to reflect and implement our purposes. We work to develop and maintain high standards in education; we strive to be effective in the solution of social and civic problems; and we endeavor to secure broader opportunities for women.

To make a significant contribution to our community's celebration of the centennial of the Flood of 1889, we have dedicated ourselves in the effort to produce this book, hoping thereby to add richness to our county's history in honoring the achievements of its women.

OTHER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

**Written by Lenore Frontczak
Researched by Elaine (Grady) Metzler and
Beverly Coulson**

Ever mindful of the work to be done in our communities, women drew together to accomplish the tasks which would make their lives and those in their community a better place in which to live.

We are listing organizations which existed at one time, as well as present-day organizations, which are comprised of women only. The number of such groups is unbelievable, so we cannot be sure that we have found out about all of them. The incredible variety of interests represented in this list bespeaks the limitless imagination and infinity of energy women seem to possess. Within the confines of time which we had for this project and whatever resources we could muster, this list is as complete as we could make it. There is undoubtedly material for a book in itself to adequately cover the contributions women have made in these volunteer activities.

In addition to groups comprised of women-only, we are aware that, in many other organizations, it is the women who have given much time and energies to advance the causes of these associations.

ORGANIZATIONS FOR WOMEN

Addison VFW Auxiliary. Founded 1947; was the auxiliary to Old Trails Post No. 6819. Mary Augustine, first president.

American War Mothers

Gen. George C. Marshall Chapter. Organized 1944 by Minnie Walker. First President, Justina Bollinger

John Merlini Chapter. Organized June 1943 by Dorothy Craine and Miriam Reed.

Johnstown Chapter. Organized in 1929 by Mrs. Margaret Auchinvole.

Purposes are to provide volunteers to visit hospitals; to provide aid and entertainment for patients in Veteran's Hospitals.

Beta Sigma Phi Society. Founded in 1940's. Purpose is to promote fellowship and sisterhood; foster community improvement.

Business and Professional Women's Clubs

Ebensburg Chapter chartered in 1946. Purpose is to better the position of women in the work force

Johnstown Chapter chartered in April 1931. Objective is to advance professionalism of women. First president, Iva B. Sellers.

Centertown Republican Women's Club. Founded in 1960's. Purpose is to get well-qualified people in office and foster interest in the community.

Conemaugh Chapter 55, Order of the Eastern Star. Organized in 1924.

Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital Alumnae Association. Organized in 1907. First president, Maude C. Smith Rutledge.

Corollary Unit of Speer Orr Camp 14, Sons of Union Veterans, Naomi Parsons Tent 15, Daughters of Union Veterans. Organized June, 1917. Purpose is to perpetuate the memories of fathers in their loyalty to the Union. First president Josephine Tittle.

Dames of Malta

Amanda Sisterhood 126. Organized in 1918, by Amanda Lehman.

Glendale Sisterhood 145. Organized in June, 1935 by Mary McIntyre.

Hope Sisterhood 130. Organized May, 1918.

South Ford Freedom Sisterhood 262. Organized 1923 by Margaret Wilson and Mary Hopkins. Purpose is to support Queen Esther Home for children in Pittsburgh and home of the aged in Granville.

Daughters of the American Revolution. The Quemahoning Chapter, which is the local chapter, was founded October 3, 1912, by Miss Carrie Mae Brooks. The local organization has a present membership of thirty-six. The purpose of the organization is historical, educational, and patriotic. Through the organization, women can take active part in carrying out its objectives. Membership is based on lineage and a member must prove herself to be a direct descendant of a soldier who fought in the American Revolutionary war. Currently there are approximately 300,000 members. No men can belong. There is another organization to which men belong. It is the SAR, Sons of the American Revolution. Some of the activities of the organization are active participation in restoration of historical, and the presentation of DAR medals to students showing expertise in

These students are selected by the school. DAR supports Indian schools in locations where there are no other schools.

The national organization is located in Washington D.C. Each state has a state organization and each state is divided into districts. Another honorary group is the Colonists. They must be able to prove to be direct descendants of soldiers who fought in Colonial Wars, for example, the French and Indian, the War of 1812. The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists is referred to as "The Mountain Chapter" and was established April 10, 1921. Mrs. Elizabeth

Pringle, Past Regent of the Quemahoning Chapter of the DAR, supplied the information included here.

Daughters of America.

Auxiliary to the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. Formed in 1895. Purpose was to visit the sick and distressed and provide a fund for their relief.

Daughters of America, Bolivar. Organized in 1917. Activities are charitable work for hospitals.

Pride of the Valley Council 56. Organized in 1912. First President, Margaret Mock.

Daughters of the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary.

Daughters of the Elks. Mecca Temple 247

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Chartered 1980. Projects are activities to benefit disabled veterans, do volunteer work at Veterans Hospitals, support community awareness projects. First commander, Mary Barrett.

Ebensburg Rebekah Lodge 337, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Organized in 1907. First president, Catherine Davies.

Ebensburg Women's Club. Registered in 1937. Purpose is to become involved with community projects and foster youth programs. Original programs centered on current events, book reviews and music. With advent of World War II, participated in defense and staffed the first office in the county for registration of volunteer workers. First president, Mary Rice Morrow.

Federated Women's Club. Originally Johnstown Welcome Wagon. In 1977 joined the state and national organization of Federated Women's Clubs. Purpose was to serve as social club and do fund-raising for charities.

Ferndale Republican Women's Club

Flood City Auxiliary 24, United Spanish War Veterans. Organized 1912. Purpose was to help widows and orphans of veterans and aid hospitalized and disabled veterans. First president, Mary McVey.

Friendly City Women's Club

Gold Star Mothers

Johnstown Art League. Organized 1884, oldest women's organization in Johnstown. Purpose is to further study of all

- branches of the Arts. founded by Emma Baker Cabot and Clara Alexander, M.D.
- Ladies' Columbian Circle. Founded in 1936 to help flood victims. Auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus. First president, Mrs. Kennedy.
- Ladies Lodge 1892, Sons of Italy, Barnesboro. Organized 1940. Purpose is to support local orphanages and help raise money to build an orphanage in Casino, Italy, as monument to American Soldiers who died in Italy in World War II. First president, Marie Onrato.
- Lady Moxham Rebekah Lodge. Formed 1912. Organized by Clara Young.
- League of Women Voters
- Lioness Clubs, Auxiliary to Lions International. Purpose: Service club to provide care for blind and handicapped, Eye and Ear research, Leader Dogs,
- Geistown-Richland Club, Chartered 1984, first president, Nellie Schultz
- Jackson Township Club, Chartered 1983, first president, Loretta Nelson
- Lorain-Moxham Club, chartered 1983, first president, Joan Smajda
- Nanto-Glo, Chartered 1984, first president, Victoria Law
- West End, Chartered 1978, first president, Rita Forgas
- Loyal Temperance Union
- Memorial Hospital Jr. Auxiliary
- Memorial Post 174 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Gallitzin. Organized 1926. Purpose is to promote Americanism; help veterans and their families. First president, Mary M. Horrell.
- Mercy Hospital Alumnae Association. Organized in 1916.
- Mercy Hospital Senior Guild. Organized March, 1911. Purpose is to raise funds which will financially aid the hospital and the Sisters of Mercy in their care of the sick. First president, Mrs. Louis H. Geis.
- Mountain Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists. Organized 1929. Purpose was to research and commemorate colonial activities. First regent, Florence Dibert.

- Music League of Johnstown.** Founded 1929. Purpose is to promote study and demonstration of music and to promote a knowledge of music. First president, Laura Stewart Hoover.
- NAACP, Women's Auxiliary.** Chartered 1917. Purpose is to oppose discrimination against blacks and to promote equality among races.
- New Florence Hood Vanati Unit 307, American Legion Auxiliary.** Organized 1934. First president, Laura Igo.
- Order of Demolay, Oriental Chapter, Mother's Circle.** Purpose is to teach positive values and Masonic traditions.
- Past Noble Grands of the Rebekah Association, IOOE, in Cambria County.** Organized in 1928. Purpose is social and fraternal. Organized by May Samuel.
- Portage Italian Ladies Society (Ladies of Mt. Carmel).** Formed in 1936. Purpose is to promote good feelings among people with Italian background. First president, Lucy Vana.
- Professional Nurses' Association of Mercy Hospital.** Founded in 1917. Purpose is to provide a professional organization for registered nurses at Mercy Hospital.
- Professional Secretaries International.**
- Quota Club.** Johnstown chapter founded 1921. Purpose is to serve the community by advancing ideals of justice and goodwill, in projects and fund-raising. "Quota" is Latin word for share. The club motto is "We share".
- Seventh Ward Republican Women's Club.** Purpose is to promote Republican Party ideas among women, and support candidates.
- Soroptimist International of Johnstown.** A branch of an international service club. It is part of the North Atlantic Region. The local club was chartered in 1950. The purpose of the organization is community service and there are social implications. The first president was Alma Cramer. The name Soroptimist comes from the words Soro-Optomist and means The Best for Women. It is a highly classified organization and is open only to women in leadership positions. Further, only one person can belong from each classification. The most important contribution of this club to the community has been the vision of the early Soroptimists that has resulted in specialized senior citizen centers in Johnstown and throughout the country.

Sweet Adelines. Founded 1957. Purpose was to promote enjoyment and performing of barbershop singing.

Symphony Auxiliary. The Johnstown Symphony Auxiliary started in 1959-60 under the leadership of Mrs. Henry H. Gibb. The purpose of the organization is to promote and support the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra in all of its activities. The Auxiliary contributes financially through its activities and projects. There is the Johnstown Branch, the Northern Cambria Branch, and the Somerset Branch. Each branch has its own officers and plans for its own meetings. All branches participate in the overall fund-raising activities.

Unity Temple 56, Pythian Sisters. Organized 1946 by Judith Heeter. Purpose is social and fraternal.

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Women's Association. Founded 1947. Purpose is to further educational and recreational objectives.

Venture Club of Johnstown. Chartered April 1970 as a public service group of women.

Vintondale War Mothers. Organized September 1949. Purpose is to provide service to wounded or injured members of armed forces. First president, Margaret Wagner.

Women's Branch of the Union Benevolent Association. Founded 1889. Group recommended by Clara Barton to carry on relief operations after the flood. By end of first year, members had visited more than 1,000 homes and helped 671 persons. Later, dispensed clothing and staples to those in need. First president, Mrs. A. J. Moxham.

Women's Christian Temperance Union of Cambria County. Founded in 1884. Purpose is to promote abstinence in the use of alcohol and to educate against the evils of alcohol. In 1946 organized local group of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Women of the Moose, Johnstown Chapter 881. Organized 1926. First president, Rosa Nail.

Women's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic. Purpose was to be involved with charitable endeavors.

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Established in Johnstown in 1914. Early leader was Mrs. Thomas whose family was in the lumber business and donated the handsome building on Somerset Street to the YWCA.



PART V
A POTPOURRI



The Women's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic

Many of the ladies of the Union Benevolence Association Auxiliary were wives, widows, or daughters of Civil War Veterans and were members of the Women's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic. This Relief Corps was also noted for its charitable endeavors. It met at G.A.R. Hall and for many years held day-long sessions of quilting to raise money for charitable purposes. Among the members was the widow of Lieutenant Speer Orr, a Civil War Cavalry officer from Johnstown who had been killed in battle two months after his marriage. His remains were placed in a bullet-shaped casket and buried in Sandy Vale Cemetery. They were later moved to Grandview Cemetery along with his monument on one side of which appears a replica of his sword and sheath. The local unit of the Civil War Veterans was named the Speer Orr Post of the G.A.R.

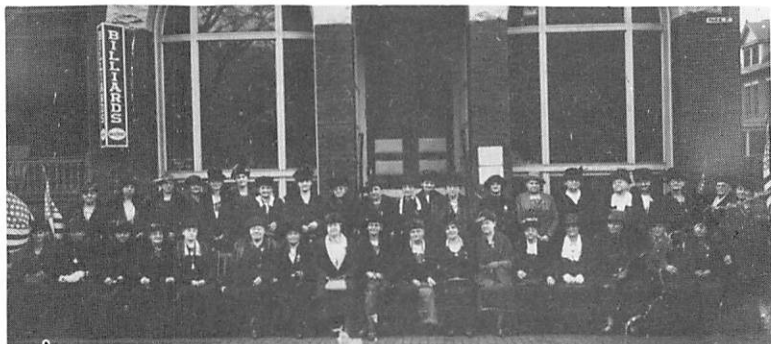
Several years after his death, the widow of Speer Orr married John Tittle, a Civil War veteran and member of the Tittle family whose later gift of a water fountain to the city of Johnstown was placed on Market Street near Main. In more recent years, it was moved to Washington Street where it remains. Their daughter, Josephine Tittle was a well known Johnstown school teacher whose name appears frequently in records of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Another of the Relief Corps women was Carrie Higson who was described in the Johnstown Weekly Tribune as having walked off the rescue board as deliberately as though she were going down the gang plank of a steamboat.

The son of still another member had a parrot named Bob who strode around the garret of the inundated family residence screaming "a devil of a time, a devil of a time!"

In the accompanying photograph, probably taken in the early 1920's, those who have been identified to date are Madames Boyer, Brotz, Ella Schultz Conner, Daugherty, Carrie Higson, Huston, Maude Boyer Kunkle, Luther, Owns. All were members of the Relief Corps. Some were also members of the Union Benevolence Association's Auxiliary.

Compiled by Anna Swanson Doyle (Mrs. Albert F.) from information supplied by: Sara Tittle Smith Baldrige, daughter of John W. Tittle whose History of Johnstown, and other records were preserved in the David A. Glosser Library and later destroyed by the Johnstown Flood of 1977.



A POTPOURRI

by Murilla Himes

There were anecdotes and stories which fit nowhere else in the book, but were too good to leave out. So I decided to add another section for these valued contributions and called it "A Potpourri".

REMEMBER IS A LOVELY WORD

This is the way it was,
Some of the "Firsts" for women,
Familiar faces;
Did you know?
Do you remember?

REMINISCING

How dear the simple things of life;
High button shoes,
Black lisle stockings,
Middy blouses,
Bloomers.

—Anonymous

I wonder if my soul puts on new wood,
And if God sees the growth
and calls it good.

—Miriam Cassel Matthews

To the Excelsior Class:
Kissed by the clouds on the mountaintop
Floated a banner of beautiful hue,
Its letters of gold are emblazoned bold
On a field of ethereal blue.

It stirs with the breeze in mid-day sun,
It clings fast when storms rage wild,

When shadows fall at evening's call
It droops, caressing and mild.

And you, who enroll beneath its folds,
Strive on, faint not, nor falter
For what Christ asks is no easy task,
But sacrifice laid on the altar.
"If thou would'st my disciple be,
Take up thy cross and follow me!"

—Mary D. Storey

"Firsts" For Women

Researched by Elaine Grady Metzler and
Beverly Coulson

Rachel Adams was the first white woman to settle and till the soil in Cambria County in 1744.

Bertha Caldwell became the first probation officer in the county. In 1908 she was the first woman to be elected to the position of school controller.

Sarah McCune Gallaher was the first person to do research in the room of the Library of London which houses the history of William Penn. In 1922 she was elected to serve in the Pennsylvania State Legislature, the first term women were eligible for office under the 19th Amendment.

Florence Dibert started the first kindergarten in Johnstown.

Eva White was the first person to serve at the Pennsylvania Honorary State Regent for the Daughters of the American Colonists.

Carolyn Brooks started the first library in Cambria County, and also started the first D.A.R. chapter.

Rachel Moore broke ground for the Cresson Library, the first time in the county when ground was broken for the sole purpose of construction of a new library building.

Helena Ivory of Carrolltown was the first woman attorney admitted to the Cambria County bar, and became the first woman attorney to practice law in the county in 1922.

Lillian Barclay was the first policewoman to be hired in Johnstown in 1919.

Louise (Louisa) P. Sims was the first director of the school of nursing at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital.

Jessie Green Stone, a student in the first class to graduate from the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, was the designer of the Pink Cross.

Kathy Holtzman was the first woman in Cambria County to be *elected* to serve as commissioner in 1987. However, she was not the first to serve—

Sarah H. Walker, a Westmont resident, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Arthur Griffith, who had been named to fill the unexpired term of John D. Walker, Sarah's husband. Sworn in June 1931, she served only to the end of that year.

Lillian B. (Deckert) Keller of Geistown filled the unexpired term of her husband, Logan M. Keller. Her term lasted through December 1939.

Frainie Johns was the first housewife in Johnstown.

Mrs. Hunter organized the Gold Star in 1929, and was responsible for the first Vietnam Memorial in Veterans' Park, Richland.

Dr. Verna Turner was the first woman to join the Mercy Hospital staff.

Theresa Lantos was the first woman president of the Cambria-Somerset County Pharmaceutical Society.

Dr. Esther Marbourg was one of the incorporators of Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital and the only woman incorporator.

Dr. Catherine Reiser was the first woman to be appointed a full professor at the Johnstown Campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

Frances Moore, a teacher, was the first woman to obtain a pilot's license in Johnstown.

Margaret Evans was the first woman to own a car, a Packard.

Carrie Nation, in 1903, addressed a large group of WCTU women at Westmont Grove.

Sister Mary Catherine Wayne was the first supervisor of the St. Aloysius School for Girls in Loretto in 1884.

First class graduated from the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing was in 1898.

The first Teachers' Institute was held in 1856 along with a county-wide teachers' convention.

The Ladies' Relief Association was formed in 1863 to "supply soldiers in the field and the wounded with all the comforts they need".

The first high school graduation in Johnstown, held at Union Hall, consisted of seven graduates—all girls. The date was June 26, 1882.

The first religious order to establish themselves in Johnstown in 1870 were the Benedictines, who came from Elk County to educate youths at St. John's Gualbert Church. Mother Adelgunda Feldman arrived on August 22, 1870.

St. Mary's Academy opened in 1870, a special school for young ladies conducted by the Benedictine nuns. The girls had classes on the second floor of "The Foster House", while the boys were taught by an old school master, Michael Sweeney, in classrooms on the ground floor of the building. The boys named their teacher "Sister Mike".

Interesting Trivia About Women excerpted from the "Looking Backward" column of the *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*.

60 years ago: Feb. 18, 1928

Portage—A group of public spirited women recently established a public library for the purpose of providing wholesome literature for the education and entertainment of the thousands who cannot purchase books and have been unable to reach a library center.

60 years ago: May 12, 1928

Miss Agnes Martin of Johnstown, talented member of the senior class of Hollins College, Roanoke, Va., and a candidate for a bachelor of music degree, has been awarded a cash prize by the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs for the best song entered in the contest for Virginia students. She is a daughter of Francis C. Martin of U.S. National Bank and Agnes (Stover) Martin, well known local reader. Miss Martin is a 1924 graduate of Johnstown High School.

60 years ago: July 7, 1928

Miss Amelia Earhart, "Lady Lindy," who holds the distinction of being the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, was in Johnstown for a few moments on her way east from a trip to the West following the big reception tendered her pilot, Wilmer Stultz, of Williamsburg, Blair County.

60 years ago: July 12, 1928

Appointed to head the faculty for a five-week normal session that opens next week in Houston, Tex., Mrs. Elsie (Miller) Leppert, wife of J. H. Leppert, Homestead Avenue, has been honored by the Art Publications Society, which fosters piano training. Mrs. Leppert will have on her faculty a number of teachers.

50 years ago: Feb. 24, 1938

Ebensburg—Judge Charles C. Greer has advocated the use of whipping posts for husbands who beat their wives.

50 years ago: Feb. 29, 1938

From a fund contributed by someone whose name was not revealed, Cambria Free Library has purchased an eight-volume Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences as a memorial to the late Miss Mary D. Storey, one of Johnstown's early social workers.

50 years ago: May 9, 1938

A distance of approximately 5,700 miles was covered by Blanch Suboleski of Conemaugh Township during her daily walks to and from school. Miss Suboleski, a member of the eighth-grade graduating class of Gossard School, walked from her home to the school, a distance of two miles, each day for the past eight years without missing a day. She will enter Franklin High School next September.

50 years ago: July 18, 1938

Twenty-six married women teachers in the city school system have not complied with Johnstown School Board's depression-prompted request that they re-

sign their jobs. However, the school board feels that it has met with some success in that its action "helped to crystallize public sentiment."

40 years ago: March 16, 1948

A Johnstown High School physics instructor has been reelected to a fifth term as state chairman of the Junior Academy of Science. She is Miss Sophia Miles of 638 Luzerne St.

30 years ago: July 11, 1958

Miss Helen R. Sellers, former executive director of Johnstown Area Girl Scout Council, has been named council adviser for Region 3, Girl Scouts of America, in southwestern Pennsylvania and part of Maryland.

20 years ago

May 16, 1966

All but one of the students who were tutored this spring under the reading enrichment program conducted at the Hudson Street School by *Johnstown Branch, American Association of University Women*, agreed they would like to be tutored again next year. But one of the 90 tutorees admitted at recognition ceremonies that he would "rather play ball!"



Emma Feigh's Millinery.

—How a millinery shop should look

DID YOU KNOW?—

- 1869 Mark Twain came to Johnstown to give a lecture at Union Hall in honor of the chartering of Johnstown.
- 1870 City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the practice of geese running free in the streets of Johnstown.
- 1884 An epidemic of typhoid fever occurred at Mt. Aloysius Academy. Four Sisters of Charity and six students were stricken.
- 1892 Clara Barton recognized the \$3,343.76 that Johnstown raised to send to Russia for relief of people during the famine. (The Russians had contributed thousands of dollars to Johnstown after the flood of 1889.)
- 1908 This year marked the beginning of the visiting nursing service in Johnstown when the Johnstown Civic Club employed a nurse to aid mothers in caring for their children.
- 1890's Early in this decade Riverside residents made a bridge of stones in the river to get to Moxham or Johnstown by carriage or wagon. This was south of the site of the present Riverside Bridge.
- 1928 Announcement was made of a planned visit to Johnstown by Col. Charles Lindbergh with his navigator, Philip Van Horn Weems who was married to a local woman, Margaret Thackery.
- At one time one could charter a street car to invite a party to ride from Moxham to downtown, to Coopersdale to Franklin and back to Moxham. The party would then go to the host's house for refreshments.
- “The Donkey” was a small railroad consisting of a few cars and a locomotive which operated from the grounds of the Johnson Company plant. At Ohio Street there was a small station from which passengers could ride to downtown Johnstown.
- There was an academy for young women in Coopersdale early in the 1900's.
- The first washing machine was invented in Pennsylvania.

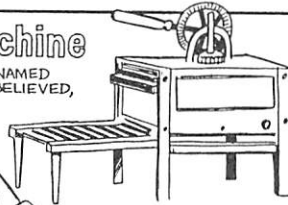
Pennsylvania Profiles

The First Washing Machine

WAS INVENTED IN PENNSYLVANIA BY TWO MEN NAMED SMITH. THEY WERE NOT RELATED NOR, IT IS BELIEVED, DID THEY KNOW EACH OTHER.

SOME SOURCES CREDIT HAMILTON E. SMITH OF PITTSBURGH. IN 1858 HE RIGGED UP 2 PADDLES WHICH COULD BE TURNED THROUGH WATER BY A HAND CRANK.

Perrick M. Reynolds

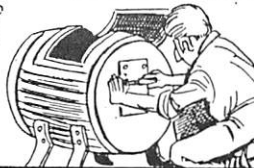


IT BOMBED BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE FOUND IT HARDER TO OPERATE THAN THE OL' RELIABLE WASHBOARD.

THEN THERE WAS STEPHEN MORGAN SMITH, A MORAVIAN MINISTER FROM CANAL DOVER, OHIO. HE STOPPED PREACHING IN 1871 AT AGE 32 BECAUSE OF A VOICE AILMENT.

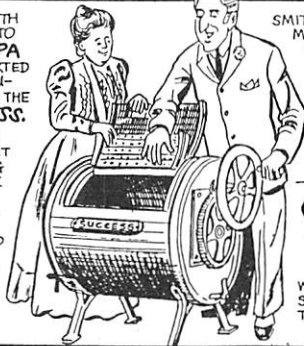


HE DECIDED TO MARKET A WASHING MACHINE THAT HE MADE FOR HIS WIFE SOME YEARS EARLIER.

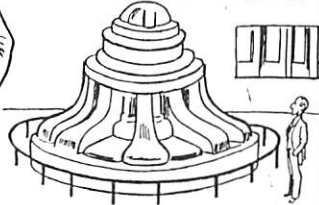


REV. SMITH MOVED TO YORK, PA AND STARTED TO MANUFACTURE THE SUCCESS.

IT WAS THE FIRST WASHING MACHINE TO BE COMMERCIALY PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES.



SMITH MADE A FORTUNE, BUT HE GAVE AWAY MOST OF IT TO HIS POORER FRIENDS. HE STARTED OVER, THIS TIME MAKING HYDRAULIC TURBINES.



WHEN HE DIED IN 1903 HIS COMPANY, THE S. MORGAN SMITH CO. OF YORK, WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD. IT IS NOW OWNED BY ALLIS-CHALMERS.

The most recent five volumes of the PA Profiles Collection are available as a handsome slipcase for \$17.50 postpaid. Make check or money order

payable to The Red Rose Studio and mail to The Red Rose Studio, 15 Flintlock Dr., Willow Street, PA 17564.

—Margaret "Tootsie" Farkas from Vintondale was an early pioneer aviator, earning a private pilot's license at age eighteen. In 1957 she and Thelma Syrek participated in a 2,567-mile cross-country race.

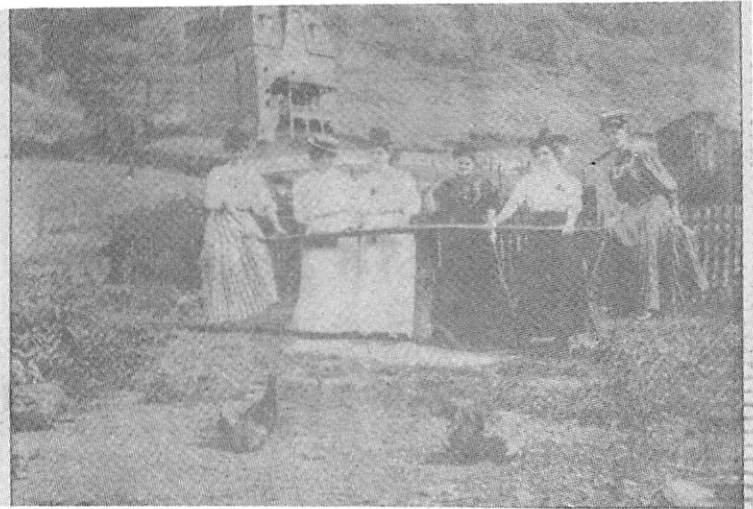


Photo courtesy of Mary Louise Wagner

The Coopersdale Academy is in the background of this 1907 photograph, depicting six young women who resided in the building and were putting up a seesaw. Note the barren hillside and outhouses in the right-hand side of the photo. The woman on the far left is Barbara Stutzman Stumbaugh, the paternal grandmother of Mrs. Wagner of Vaughn Street.

Did you know there was an Academy in Coopersdale for young women?

Letters From a Young Woman Who Survived the Johnstown Flood of 1889

Submitted by Dorothy Kodrowski

Very little is known about the young woman who wrote these letters to her mother in Philadelphia about the Johnstown Flood of 1889. Not even her full name is known because the letters are signed simply "Bett." They were personal letters, but they give us some idea of what it was like to survive the Great Flood.

"My Darling Mother: I am nearly crazed, and thought I would try and be quiet and write to you, as it always comforts me to feel you are near your child, though many miles are now between us. I have said my prayers over and over again all day

long, and to-night I am going to spend in the watch-tower, and am trying to be quiet and brave, although my heart is just wrung with anguish. Andrew sent me word from Johnstown this afternoon about half-past three he was safe and would be home shortly. Well, he has never come, and I have had many reports of the work train, but no one seems to know anything definite about him. I have telegraphed and telegraphed, but no news yet, and all I can find out is he was seen on the bridge just before it went down. I am trying to be brave.

GOOD NEWS AT LAST.

Sunday Morning.

You see, dearest mother, I could not write, and now I am happy, though tired, for Andrew is home and safe, and I thank God for the great mercy he has shown his child. I won't dwell on my anxiety, it can better be imagined than described. From the letter I had from him at Johnstown, written at 9 A.M. Friday, until 6:30 last evening, I never knew whether he was living or dead. Thomas, our man, brought the news. God bless him, and it nearly cost him his life to do it, poor man. Andrew got separated from the party, and was close to the bridge when it was carried away, but escaped by going up the mountain. He tried to signal to his men he was safe, but could not make them see him, nor could those men that were with him; all communication was impossible. Thomas left him at nine o'clock Friday night on the mountain and tried to get home. He got a man to ferry him across the river above Johnstown, and the boat was upset, but all managed to get ashore, and Thomas walked all night and all yesterday, and came straight to me and told me my husband was safe, and an hour later I had a telegram from Andrew. He had walked from the Conemaugh side to Bolivar. The bridge at Nineveh was the only bridge left standing. He took the first train home from Bolivar and got home about 9:30.

I telegraphed you in the morning, or rather Uncle Clem, that I was safe and Andrew reported safe, though now they tell me every one here thought he was lost and Thomas with him. Thomas's wife was met at the station and informed of his death by some of the men, and six hours afterwards Thomas came home, yet more dead than alive, poor man. It is very hard to write, as all the country people and men were here to tell me how glad they are 'I got my husband safely back, and I am a powerful sight lucky young woman.' Well, mother darling, make your

mind easy about your children now. Andrew is safe and well, though pretty well exhausted, and his feet are so sore and swollen he can hardly stand, and can't wear anything but rubbers, as his mountain shoes he cut to pieces. He left early this morning, but will be back to-night. I cannot begin to tell you of the horrors, as the papers do not half picture the distress.

I went down to the river once, and that was enough, as I knew Andrew would not like me to see the sorrow, for which there was no help. I went just after the bridge fell, saw Centreville flooded and the people make a dash for the mountain. Yesterday two hundred and three bodies were taken from the river near here, and yet every train takes away more. The freight cars have nothing but human freight, and wagon load after wagon load of dead bodies have been right in front of the house. There was a child about Nellie's age, with light hair, dead in the wagon, with her hands clasped, saying her prayers, and her blue eyes staring wide open. By her side lay a man with a pipe in his mouth, naked children, and a woman with a baby at her breast. Oh, the terror on their faces. Two women and three men were rescued here, and a German family of mother, four children and father. I had them all on my hands to look after, no one could make them understand, and how I ever managed it I don't know, but I did. They lost two children and their home, but had a little money and were going to his brother's, at Hazleton. They got here in the night and left at noon, and it would have done your heart good to see them eat. One was a baby five weeks old.

Now, mother, I want you to go around among the family and get me everything in the way of clothes you possibly can, and get Uncle Clem to express them to me. I should also like money, and as much as you can get can be used. I am pretty well cleaned out of everything, as all the cattle and stock have been lost and nothing can be bought here, and all I have in the way of provisions is some preserves, chocolate, coffee, olives and crackers. We can't starve, as we have the chickens. I got the last meat from the butcher's yesterday, and he said he didn't expect to have any more for a week, so I told Uncle Clem I would not mind having two hams from Pittsburgh, and was very grateful for his telegram. I telegraphed him in the morning; also, Uncle White at Germantown, so that they might know I was all right, but from Auntie's telegram I judge Uncle Clem's telegrams were the only ones that got through. If I find I need provisions I will let you know, but do not think I will need anything for

myself, and the poor are being fed by the relief supplies, and what is needed now is money and clothes.

There's not a house in the place that is not in trouble from the loss of some dear one, nor one that does not hold or shelter some one or more of the sufferers. Tell everybody anything you can get can be used, and by the time you get this letter I will know of more cases to provide for, so take everything you can get and don't worry about me, for I am all right now that Andrew is safe. This letter has been written by installments, as I have been interrupted so many times, so pardon the abruptness of it, and please send it to Germantown, as I have too much to do now. My hands and heart are both full. Milk is as scarce as wine, as the pasturage was all on the other side, and cows were lost, and bread is as scarce as can be, and instead of a dozen eggs, we only get one a day. Tell Cousin Hannah that the new tracks will be sure to be straight, as Andrew will superintend the whole ;business. With heart full of love to one and all and a kiss to the children.

Lovingly, Bett.

Sunday Night.

My Darling Mother: This is my second letter to you to-day. It is after 11 o'clock, and one of the men has just brought me word that Andrew will be home, he thought, by 1 o'clock; so I am waiting up for him so as to give him his dinner, and I have been through so much I cannot go to bed until I know he is safe home again. I put him up a good lunch, and know he cannot starve.

Oh the horrors of to-day! I have only had one pleasant Sunday here, and that was the one after we were married. I have had a very busy day, as I have been through our clothes, and routing out everything possible for the sufferers and the dead, and the cry today for linen sheets, etc., was something awful. I have given away all my underclothes, excepting my very best things—and all my old ones I made into face-cloths for the dead. To-day they took five little children out of the water; they were playing "Ring around a rosy," and their hands were clasped in a clasp which even death did not loosen, and their faces were still smiling.

One man identified his wife among those who came ashore here, and Rose said that he was nearly crazy, and that her face was the most beautiful thing she ever saw, and she had very handsome pearls in her ears and was so young looking. The

dead are all taken from here to Johnstown and Nineveh and other places, where they will be most likely to be identified; about thirty have been identified here and taken away. I feel hardened to a great deal, and feel God has been so merciful to me I must do all I can for the unfortunate ones. I hope soon to have some help from you all, for I have given willingly of my little and my means are exhausted. I expect we will have to live on ham and eggs next week, but we are thankful to have that, as I would rather live low and give all I can, than not to give. All I care about is that Andrew gets enough to eat, as he needs a great deal to keep his strength up, working as hard as he does. Now I will close as it is nearly time for him to be home. Lovingly, Bett."

Source:

The Johnstown Horror, by James Herbert Walker, Philip J. Fleming & Co., Pittsburgh and New York, Copyrighted 1889, pp. 401-407.

Anecdotes and Stories

In the summer of 1883, the *Tribune* began to publish scores of the major league baseball games. With interest in baseball increasing, an enterprising promoter arranged for two girls' teams to play here. But the game never came off. The "Belles of the Bat" and the "Queens of the Diamond" refused to leave the train when it reached the local station.

From 100th Anniversary Edition of the *Johnstown Tribune* Pg. 26

Mrs. Elizabeth Jones was the tollgate keeper during the Civil War at the Tollhouse of the Old Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike (at Lake Rowena, east of Ebensburg borough on U.S. 22). The Tollhouse is marked by a commemorative tablet erected in 1945 at the solicitation of friends in Ebensburg by the descendants of Mrs. Jones. This log tollhouse, built in 1820 was destroyed by fire September 16, 1943. Tolls had been discontinued in 1870. Mrs. Jones' husband, Lieutenant Hugh Jones, was killed at Fort Steadman, March 25, 1865.

A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania, Lois Mulkearn and Edwin V. Pugh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954

Quilts—A Woman's Own

Until recently, the making of quilts was almost exclusively a woman's art. A woman's quilt was "hers" to claim in a way in which she could claim nothing else. The man in her life controlled the finances, the land and property, her comings and goings; but had little or nothing to do with her quilts. It was the work of her hands, her designing and planning and her shrewdness in acquiring the materials.

Quilts were important in the lives of women down through the ages. American quilts had their derivation from covers made in Britain and the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th Century. It was in these two countries that the technique of making a quilt top by patching together pieces of material originated. This practice was furthered, in Colonial America, especially by the Puritans, since it was not a frivolous pastime and the quilts were usable. Almost everything the colonists used had to be grown or manufactured by their own labor. Cloth was woven by colonial women from their own wool or linen fibers. Early quilts were drab in color and consisted, usually, of two large sheets with an inner batting or filler. Practically all women between 1600 and 1900 made a number of quilts. These quilt tops often were of printed materials which the housewife spun, wove and dyed herself or salvaged from worn-out garments. Sometimes she used dress goods of calico, gingham and muslin which she was able to purchase. In general, most women could not afford to use large pieces of material to make quilt tops and so developed the idea and the fascination of working out patterns and designs from small scraps. Even in Puritan New England, it was possible for the women to add color, since quiltmaking was referred to as "women's fancywork".

The first pieced quilts were collections of squares and triangles and were the four-patch, nine-patch quilts. Then women began to cut patches into circles, diamonds and other shapes to arrange in various designs. Eventually, applique and embroidery was added to make really beautiful quilts. The pieced top was finished frequently with a border of a solid color. Another type of quilt is the Crazy Quilt which has no specific pattern, and the patches were made of velvet, silk, and brocade—expensive materials and were decorative rather than useful.

Patterns were drawn on paper and often traded back and forth. Quilts differ in various geographical areas. New England

quilts were often pictorial, less colorful, and of original design. The Southern colonial women made quilts of more delicate fabrics, more intricate designs and in pastel colors. Pennsylvania Dutch women used very bright colors and large distinctive designs.

A quilt top was made and assembled by one woman, but the quilting was a group activity. These get-togethers were called "quilting bees" and were social affairs, often involving activities for the entire family while the women busied themselves quilting. Other times quilting parties were a social time for women-only. Engagements were announced by making an especially fine quilt for the bride-to-be. She also had other quilts made by her or given to her to put in her "hope chest".

After the piecing of the quilt top was done, the top, filling, and lining were placed in a quilting frame. This held the materials taut in a raised horizontal position so women sitting on both sides of the frame could stitch through the layers following the marked design such as the "feather", a popular pattern. A good quilter made very fine stitches so the quilting would show through on the back making that side as lovely as the top of the quilt.

The list of patterns for the quilt tops and designs for quilting are many and varied. A beautiful collection of early quilts can be seen at the Smithsonian in Washington only by making reservations on special days.

Quilt-making is currently considered to be an art form. In fact, in this day and age, some men have taken up the art of making quilts. But, in general, quilt-making remains a woman's activity. However, it is more of a hobby today; quilts are beautiful and expensive. The practice in these days is carried out principally by church groups, by ethnic groups such as the Pennsylvania Dutch, Amish and Mennonites, and by individuals for whom it is a hobby or a profitable enterprise.

Cambria County Specials

Have you ever baked—?

Shoo-Fly Cake

4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 lb. light brown sugar
1/2 lb. butter

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup dark corn syrup
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses
2 cups boiling water
2 tsps. baking soda

Place flour, brown sugar and butter in a large bowl. Rub together with fingers until mixture is uniformly crumbly. Reserve one cup of mixture for cake topping. Combine corn syrup, molasses, boiling water and soda. Stir into crumb mixture in bowl, mixing until fairly smooth. Pour into greased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Scatter reserved cup of crumbs on top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, or until cake pulls away from sides of pan. Cool cake in its pan on a wire rack. Cut into large squares and serve.

Have you ever made—?

Potato Pudding

(Makes 6–8 servings)

3 cups seasoned mashed potatoes (do not pack into measure)
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups unsalted butter (room temperature)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brandy
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
Finely grated rind of large lemon
Juice of large lemon
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground mace
6 large eggs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground nutmeg

Run mashed potatoes through sieve. Let fall lightly into a large mixing bowl—do not pack down. Set aside. Cream the butter until very light and silvery. Add sugar gradually, creaming until fluffy. Beat in the brandy, lemon rind, lemon juice, cinnamon, mace and nutmeg. Beat eggs until very thick and light, (about the consistency of mayonnaise)—about 20 minutes of continuous hard beating. (Present day, can use electric mixer) Add beaten eggs to the creamed butter mixture alternately with the sieved potatoes, beginning and ending with the potatoes. Fold lightly with a rubber spatula.

Pour into lightly buttered 2¹/₂ quart baking dish.
Bake uncovered in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 1 to 1¹/₂ hours, just until pudding is puffed and brown.
Pudding, when done, should quiver slightly in dish when nudged; it should be neither soupy nor firm.
Spoon into dessert dishes at once. Top with a trickle of light cream, or allow guests to add cream to suit taste.

Problems of a Wife and Mother

The doctor left the sickroom and joined the pacing husband. "I don't like the way your wife looks, Mr. Cassidy," he said. "Well, Doc, I'm not crazy about her looks either, but she sure takes good care of the kids and me."

A woman went to buy a drinking trough for her dog and the clerk asked her if she would like one with the inscription: "For the Dog." "It really doesn't matter," she replied. "My husband never drinks water and the dog can't read."

Who says this is a man's world? When a man is born, people ask, "How is the mother?" When he marries they exclaim, "What a lovely bride." Then when he dies they inquire, "How much did he leave her?"

HOW TO BAKE A CAKE

Light oven. Grease pan. Crack nuts.
Get out bowl, spoons, ingredients.
Remove 18 blocks and 7 toy automobiles from kitchen table.
Measure two cups flour onto piece of waxed paper.
Get sifter out of cabinet.
Remove Johnny's hands from flour. Wash flour off him.
Measure out one cup more flour to replace what is now on floor.
Put flour 2¹/₂ tsp. baking powder and 1/4 tsp. salt in sifter.
Get dustpan and pieces of bowl which Johnny has accidentally knocked off table.
Get another bowl. Sift ingredients.
With spoon, work 1/4 cup shortening against side of bowl.
Answer doorbell.
Return to kitchen. Remove Johnny's hands from bowl.
Wash shortening off him.
Add 1 cup granulated sugar, gradually.
Answer telephone.

Return to kitchen. Remove Johnny's hands from bowl.
Wash shortening and sugar off him.
Get out egg.
Answer doorbell.
Return to kitchen. Mop up floor.
Change Johnny's shoes which are egg-y.
Get another egg. Beat.
Remove toy automobile from bowl.
Add flour mixture alternately with egg, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk and 1 tsp.
vanilla.
Answer knock at back door.
Remove Johnny's hands from bowl.
Wash shortening, sugar, flour, milk and vanilla off him.
Beat—(Mixture)
Take up greased pan; find it has $\frac{1}{4}$ layer of salt in bottom.
Look for Johnny, who has disappeared.
Get another pan and grease it.
Answer telephone.
Return to kitchen and find Johnny—of all people.
Remove his hands from bowl.
Wash shortening, etc., etc., etc . . . off him.
Take up greased pan; find it has $\frac{1}{4}$ layer of nutshells in it.
Head for Johnny who flees, knocking bowl off table.
Wash kitchen floor. Wash kitchen table.
Wash kitchen walls.
Wash dishes.
Call up baker.
Lie down.
—D. L. Winkler

An Irish Memoir
The Story of Bridget and Rose Anne Moran
Submitted by Ella Evans

Rose Anne Moran was the daughter of Bridget and John Moran who emigrated to the United States from Ireland. They had a baby who died on the ship on the way over. I'm sure Bridget wasn't asked if she wanted to come to America; she was told they were coming. They traveled by way of the Portage Canal, staying at the Lemon House which was a stop-over point on the canal. There were friends in Gallitzin, so John and Bridget set-

bled there. My informant, Ella Evans, has a very nice chest which came with them on the boat. Presumably the couple or their families were reasonably well-off in their homeland to be able to bring their belongings in a finished chest.

John and Bridget had a family of ten children. After John died, Bridget and her children moved first to Conemaugh Borough, and then to the Morrellville section of Johnstown, supporting her family by having boarders. Ten years later Bridget married Matt Glass who had a hotel in Cresson.

Rose Anne, herself, was born in Gallitzin where she attended school and later worked at a hotel. She was a good seamstress, making her own clothes and probably sewing for others. My informant thinks her pay was room and board when she worked at the hotel. She would walk to Loretto along the railroad tracks to attend St. Michael's Church.

When she was about twenty-two, she married Daniel Evans; they first moved to Arcadia as mines were located there. Following the development of coal mines they moved from place to place—to Wherim in Indiana County, to Vintondale, to Portage and to Windber. Finally, Daniel grew tired of the uncertainty of coal mine work and was able to secure a job at U.S. Steel.

The family now lived in Moxham on Village Street with their four children. They were supposed to buy what they wanted at the Company Store. A group of women, however, were familiar with the Montgomery and Ward catalogue, and preferred to do some of their shopping in this way. After placing the order they would go to the station to watch for the package and take it off the train; so only the women would be handling this "hot" merchandise. Several of the women took a small wagon and pulled the goods to one of their homes from which they sorted and distributed the orders. I have a hunch that when the packages arrived, there were few women who failed to pick up their order.

Rose Anne Evans, her daughter-in-law says, was a scrapper and held her own in any argument. She was not afraid to take a chance. For part of her life she was crippled from a severe infection at the time of childbirth. She was told it would be necessary to amputate her leg to prevent the spread of the infection involving the bone. A farmer said that if she would apply a ground beet poultice, it would clear up the infection; he went home immediately to procure the ingredients. Her friends and neighbors made up and applied the poultice. When the doctor

arrived to do the surgery, the abscess was draining and surgery was unnecessary.

For the latter years of her life after the death of her husband and after World War II, Rose Anne Evans lived with her daughter and son-in-law. Limited in her activities during her last ten to fifteen years, she had to spend considerable time in bed. She died in 1980 at the age of 94.

The Story of Mary Paluchak Kristoff

Prepared by Ella Kristoff Evans

Mary Paluchak's parents came from Hungary to America, settling near Greensburg. Her father had been a highway patrolman between Austria and Hungary. As he spoke several languages, he was later able to become an interpreter at Bethlehem Steel. He came to Johnstown originally to help in the clean-up after the 1889 flood, and decided to stay here.

Mary was born in Greensburg in September, 1887, so was two years old when the family moved here. A main activity of this close family was attending St. Emerick's Church of which her father was one of the founders. Cambria City, at this time, had a button factory, a cigar factory, a slaughter house and a department store.

Mary Paluchak married Steve Kristoff and they were the parents of ten children. With the grandfather living with them, there were thirteen persons living in a two-room house. There was no electricity or indoor plumbing, so they had to carry their water. Every year Cambria City had a flood and a Mr. Mikula, would pull the street cars through the water with a team of horses.

Wages of a coal miner were \$2.00 per day. Later, when Mr. Kristoff worked at Bethlehem things were a little better, but still not enough for thirteen people. Then the Depression came along. The diet consisted of soups, stews and vegetables from the garden. Besides canning, they always made a large crock of sauerkraut. Ella remembers being sent to the store for "fifteen cents worth of soup meat and a large bone". A farmer, Elmer Brown, from Black Road above Decker Avenue made and sold clothes props and vegetables, and Mary bought from him. Also, tradespeople, with horse and wagon, sold ice, fish, and, to the children's delight, ice cream cones at two for five cents.

Certainly, no spare money was available in this family. Ella helped the family finances by baby-sitting. She also tells of taking the younger children on Sunday afternoon for a street-car ride for entertainment. For twenty-five cents, one could ride all day long from the Coopersdale loop to the Roxbury loop on Sunday.

Mary's daughter, Ella, entered the school of nursing in Windber after finishing high school. With no money for transportation, she could come home only when one of her classmates gave her a ride. She would tell her mother that when she finished and got a job, she would see that she had some of the things she needed. This never happened, because Mary Kristoff died in July, 1937, only a few months before Ella graduated. Ella took a job in a local hospital and assumed responsibility for the children at home. The boys quit school at thirteen years of age to become apprentices to learn a trade.

Mary Kristoff died at forty-seven year of age. She had a hard life and never was out of Johnstown. Mary never was in a position to realize the good life which was the dream that was America.

The Story of the Welsh

Submitted by Helen Wheatley Muransky

The Welsh, as an ethnic group in Johnstown, are best known for their annual Gymanfa Ganu. The 1988 song fest was the 52nd in the series. The program includes Welsh hymns and songs performed by soloists and the audience. Most of the singing is in Welsh, with a few songs in English. It is a pleasant experience to hear the Welsh melodies.

Welsh history in Cambria County started when Rev. Morgan John Rhys (Reese) was sent to arrange the layout of a town designed to be the county seat of Cambria County. The town was called Beulah and located on Pa. Route 45, just one mile from its junction with U.S. 22 east of Mundy's Corner. The town was laid out on the gridiron pattern similar to Philadelphia. It was the first plotted town, laid out seven years before Cambria County was created. The original settlers referred to as the "first party" came in 1795-96. The families were Thomas Phillips, Theophilus Rees, Rev. Rees Lloyd, Donald Griffith, John Jones, Evan Jones, James Nicholas, William Griffith, David

Thomas and George Roberts. The bachelors were Thomas W. Jones, Esq., Isaac Griffith, John Jenkins and John Tobias. It is interesting that the record distinguishes the married and the single men.

Rees Lloyd came to Beulah in 1796 and Morgan John Rees in 1797 when a "second party" of families and bachelors arrived.

Cabins had been built to accommodate these early arrivals who came on the "Amphion" or the "Maria". A church was built, a cemetery laid out and a court house partially finished. There was a newspaper, the "Western Star"; also two taverns appeared.

The 1800 census shows about equal numbers of men and women. In 1804 a post office was established; John J. Evans was the first postmaster. Two main roads, the Galbreath Road and the Frankstown Road let into and out of the town. Thomas Philipps ran a grist mill. The school met in the church building, a good dual use of this structure. Both day school and Sabbath School sessions were held; the teaching was done by men.

Land could be paid for in cash and/or in books. Books were stored in a separate building. It was said that the Rev. Morgan John Rhys planned for a culture in Beulah to equal that of Philadelphia. Needless to say, this never happened.

The greatest blow was the selection of Ebensburg as the county seat. Families moved from Beulah to Ebensburg; those living on farms changed their allegiance. Population decreased; buildings not completed, such as the court house, were left as was, and cabins and other buildings deteriorated. Beulah became a ghost town with its ghost story of the "White Lady". Today, nothing remains but the crumbling stones of the cemetery and the historical marker that stands on the site.

The literature of Beulah leaves records of the names of the wives and the number of children, but very little of the special contributions women made. At the very least, they need to be commended for leaving civilized territory for an unsettled wilderness including Indians and wild animals.

There are records of the number of children baptized by Father Gallitzin. It is wondered why this would be so in a Welsh community unless Father Gallitzin was everyone's minister. The records show that David and Elizabeth Davis had four children baptized by the venerable priest; William and Mary Ann Davis had two children baptized, and Thomas E. and Mary (Mc-

Guire) Durbin had six children baptized. Elizabeth Ellis, a widow, occupied one of three homes for a number of years, and David Evans' wife was Anna Lloyd, the daughter of Rev. and Rachel Lloyd.

The daughter of Daniel Gibby fell in love with a sailor on the voyage to America. A daughter born to the marriage was the first female born in Ebensburg.

Rev. Morgan John Rhees' wife was Ann Loxley of a Philadelphia family.

The wife of Hugh Roberts died on the crossing. He later married Elizabeth Roderick; they had the first house in the area later to be Ebensburg.

There were two women of property in this group, for Thomas W. Ustick put his wife's name, Hannah, on two deeds for lots, and his daughter, Ann, on the deed for one lot.

There were family tragedies in early days; not always the strong survived. William Roberts married Ann Williams, the daughter of Thomas Williams. Ann and seven children are buried in the Beulah cemetery. She and four of the children died between January 15 and January 24 in 1837. William married a second wife, Catherine Thomas, the daughter of the early settler, John Thomas. The couple moved to Johnstown; ill-fortune struck again. William Roberts was found drowned in the Canal Basin on May 31, 1855.

The most outstanding woman mentioned in the chronicles was Mary Shadrack. She is said to have walked from Dixon's Run settlement to Beulah for church services. She was married first to John Thomas, and, later, to William Shadrack. Mary was instrumental in starting the Two Lick Baptist Church.

Even in that day and age, there were those who couldn't make up their minds. One couple, Richard and Martha (Davis) Thomas came to Beulah in 1796 and returned to Wales three years later. In 1813 they came back to America, settling in Bucks County.

Bertha (Empfield) Ludwig was born on a farm near Beulah in October, 1876. The daughter of William Empfield and Lizzie Wilman, she married John Wesley Ludwig of Ebensburg in Ebensburg on Christmas Eve, 1896. They had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. These were old-line families of Beulah.

Mary Williams Simons is our pioneer woman for Beulah.

Mary W. Simons

Written by her daughter

Mary Williams Simons was born April 16, 1865 on a farm near Pine Flats, Pennsylvania.

Her mother, Margaret Morgan Williams was born in Wales in 1833, and had been commissioned by the Calvinistic Methodist Church, now Welsh Presbyterian, from her home in Wales to visit churches of that faith in the Pittsburgh area.

Her father, Thomas Williams, born in North Wales in December, 1813, was a very devout Christian known as "Tom. the tee-totaller", because he would not drink any alcoholic beverage. Married before in Wales, he brought his three children with him to the Pittsburgh area where he was a mine inspector.

Mary W. Simons tells in her autobiography that she was born in a four-room house, but that within seven years her family moved to a seven-room house. The house was heated by fireplaces and stoves. Tallow candles were used for light, and a "fat" lamp hung by the stove. On the farm were horses, cows and sheep. There was also an apple orchard and a little pine grove.

When Mary Williams was two years old her mother died, leaving six children. Two years later her father married an English-speaking woman whom Mary remembers as a wonderful cook and a lover of gardening.

In December, 1879, Mary Williams was baptized in a "stream of water" near Pine Flats and became a member of the Baptist Church. Her special girlhood friend was Mary Houston who later became a missionary to China and was killed in the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1875 the Indiana Normal School, now the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was opened in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Mary graduated from there in 1887. The next year she attended a missionary school in New York City, as she wanted to become a foreign missionary. Among her friends there was Harry Emerson Fosdick. She could not pass the physical examination to go to Burma, so under the Baptist Women's Home Missionary Society she went to Spellman Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. She taught there for fourteen years, later teaching in the Braddock Public School in Pittsburgh.

In 1905 she was a delegate to the World Baptist Congress in London, England.

On September 20, 1906, Mary married James Duncan Simons and moved to Crafton, Pennsylvania. Her two daughters were Catherine, born in August 1907 and Emily, born in March, 1910.

The family moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1914; later they moved to Johnstown, living in Westmont in the home of the Wheatley family. This was the family home of Helen Wheatley Muransky, my informant.

For fifteen years, Mary Simons taught the Women's Bible Class of the Memorial Baptist Church in Johnstown, and had charge of the Vacation Bible School for several years.

Mrs. Simons also taught in the public schools of Park Hill and Mineral Point. Under her influence girls became teachers and nurses. She retired from teaching in 1930.

After retiring, Mary Simons lived for many years with her daughters. At the time of her death in December, 1951 she was living with her daughter Emily in Chicago who said, "I always think of my mother as the handmaiden of the Lord".

The Story of Katrina Panagotacus —a Greek woman immigrant

Submitted by Ella Evans

Mrs. Katrina Panagotacus came from Greece and settled in Johnstown. She operated a general store on the second floor of a building on Market Street. Her home was a "stopping place" for relatives and friends arriving from Greece who were unemployed and without a place to live. The men slept on mattresses on the floor; Mrs. Panagotacus cooked for them and washed their clothes until they got jobs and/or started their own businesses.

She and her husband built and owned the State Theater which they lost during the Depression. At this time her husband died, leaving her with their four children. Later Katrina bought and operated the Strand Theater on Main Street. During the day she managed activities at the theater, and later went back to do the cleaning after the show was over.

Returning to Greece for a visit to her native village, she was horrified to see the village women carrying water from a street well to use in their homes. She helped to get a water pipeline built for the town.

Mrs. Panagotacus died in Johnstown in the 1950's. She truly embodied the spirit of the immigrant woman and a real pioneer.

A Czechoslovakian Tale **The Story of Mary Swaltek Balazik**

by her granddaughter, Patti Pavlosky

Mary Swaltek was born in Czechoslovakia August 5, 1878 into a family of two brothers and two sisters. Her schooling probably consisted of what she was taught at home. When Mary was about sixteen, she had a job cooking for royalty in a hotel in Austria-Hungary. The next year she married Frank Balazik who came alone to the United States, settling in Cambria City. He boarded with his sister and her husband, finding employment at the blast furnace. In his native country he had been a pottery maker.

Mary joined her husband here in 1903 when she was twenty-five years of age. Their home in Cambria City had two bedrooms, one for themselves and one for four boarders who rented the room—two during the day and two at night. Mary had to wash for these men and pack their lunches. This service cost between \$1.25 and \$2.00 per week. The packed lunch consisted of bread, meat, cheese, and fruit plus the beverage which was carried in a two-layered aluminum bucket. Mary baked bread in a large tub, cutting it into large slabs, not slices.

To do the laundry, Mary had to carry water and boil it in a large copper boiler. My informant said that, early on, her grandmother washed clothes on the washboard, but later she did have a wooden washer operated by moving a large wood paddle back and forth to agitate the clothes. She ironed the clothes with irons heated on the cook stove. Drying clothes was a problem, especially in the winter when clothes would be hung all over the kitchen and kitchen stove.

For their three girls and three boys Mary sewed clothes and patched things by hand, for she did not have a sewing machine. She made underwear, towels and pillowcases from feed sacks and flour bags. Imagine how her fingers must have felt pushing needles through these heavy materials. Also, she had to work by kerosene lamplight.

She canned all the vegetables from her own garden for winter use. Mary always used the finest ingredients in her cooking, a throw-back to the time when she cooked for royalty. She was

famous for her noodles; her granddaughter says "her fingers flew" when cutting the noodles. She was also well-known for her grape jelly. Patti said her grandfather had a beautiful stand of grapes—pink, white catawba and purple—all over the yard.

Mary's brothers followed to make a home in Cambria City, and found work at Bethlehem Steel. Next they persuaded their widowed mother to come to America.

At this time Cambria City was a thriving community. In the Weisberg General Store people could buy on credit "accounts on the books". Sky Brothers was a grocery store, while Samuel's Store sold meat, groceries and produce. In addition, farmers brought produce, milk and meat, including live chickens, to be bought by the housewife. There was even employment for women and girls in a cigar factory located on McConaghy Street.

Life outside the home for Mary, like most other immigrant women, centered around the church. These churches developed in relation to nationality groupings. It was popular for the priest to be of their nationality as he could speak their language and hold services in their native tongue, as well as being familiar with their customs. The Immaculate Conception Church in Cambria City was founded by the German people in the area; St. Columbia's by the Irish; St. Casimir's by the Polish; St. Stephen's and St. Francis by the Slovaks; St. Rochus by the Croatian, and St. Emerick's by the Hungarians.

There was much activity on holidays, with church services, festivals and dancing; but it was essentially religious in nature. For these activities the women cleaned the churches and then decorated the statue or part of the altar which typified the religious feast being observed. Emphasis on special ethnic foods highlighted the great amount of cooking.

In 1920, Mary and her family moved from Cambria City to Morrellville to the house where my informant's mother still lives. There she became a member of St. Francis Church. The following are a few special customs observed on the religious holidays as remembered by her granddaughter, Patti Pavlosky:

On New Year's Day the men must enter the house before the women. Toasts of whiskey are drunk, followed by a feast from foods cooked previously by the women of the household. On January 6, Epiphany, the Feast of the Kings, the blessing of the house is celebrated. A table is prepared with a cloth, candles and holy water. The priest comes to the house, performs the

ritual, and then, on the doorframe, posts the date and year with white chalk. On Shrove Tuesday, the day before the beginning of Lent, special donuts are baked and eaten, being the last time rich foods are taken prior to the Lenten fast observance. Another high holiday custom takes place on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday when the food to be eaten is blessed. The Easter food is placed in a basket and taken to church for a blessing. In the basket are a poppyseed roll, salt and pepper, nut roll, colored eggs with names on each one, kielbasa, wine, horseradish and a bit of butter. The basket was covered with an embroidered cloth, the work of the women in the household. All food left over after the meal, even the crumbs and shells, must be burned because the food has been blessed. On All Saints Day in November the priest blesses the cemetery. Flowers which have been saved from the gardens and kept alive are taken to be placed on the graves of the family's dead, as well as beeswax candles which are lit. Patti remembers the grass fires which started and had to be stamped out when the dried grass caught fire.

Quilting was a social activity as women stopped other chores to go to the home where a quilt was being made. Many quilts were needed for warmth where the homes were heated only by stoves.

If there was a wedding, the house, decorations and food were prepared by the women of the household, assisted by relatives, neighbors and friends. It took three days to prepare food for the affair; feasting lasted long after the wedding was over.

Mary's days had to be very full with her housework (no electric gadgets to make this chore easier), caring for the children, keeping boarders, washing, ironing, cooking, sewing, and, finally, active participation in all the church celebrations. Patti remembers it was customary to have a new dress for each special holiday. Don't you wonder how this woman ever did get everything done?

Mary Balazik died on December 3, 1953.

Acknowledgements

Information for this book was gathered from many sources: books, centennial books, pamphlets and publications, newspapers and, mostly, from people interviewed. They have supplied the personal information on our pioneer and outstanding women from letters, records, diaries, genealogies, and, to a greater degree, from memories of their early years—those early years when we didn't ask enough questions or pay enough attention to our grandmothers. We want to credit all who have contributed to the preparation of this book in any way.

Many thanks to our writers and researchers:

Frances Appleyard
Kimberly M. Bakale
Carleton Davis Barber
Maria Bence
Anna Catherine Bennett
Heather W. Brice
Gertrude Brummert
Kathleen Kase Burk
Rosalie Chestnutwood
Dr. Gladys M. Clifton
Hugh Conrad
Eileen Cooper
Beverly Coulson
Anna S. Doyle
Sister Helen Marie Dumm, R.S.M.
Louise Dumm
Josephine Dunmyer
Ella Evans
Ann Fattman
Agnes Fox
Rita deFrank
Carole Fris
Lenore Frontczak
Shirley Gaynor
Amelia and Elizabeth George
Brenda George
Michael Golden
Michelle Golden
Karleen A. Grant

Nancy Grove, Ph.D.
Rosemary Hagadus
Rita Heinrich Adams
Murilla E. Himes
Joan Strittmatter Holtz
Barbara A. Horner, M.D.
Ann Salinger Hunt
Velva Idzkowsky
Bernadine Itle
Florine Itle
Joyce Johnson
Mary Katherine Kearns
Norma Kelly
Louise Kibler
Dorothy Kodrowski
Ida Krug
Marjorie Lantos
Doris Jean Lazere
Mary Elizabeth Leonard
Dorothy R. Liphart
Doris Eash Lloyd
Ruth Duncan Lockard
Sister Florine Madigan, I.H.M.
Edith Mary Martin
Donald Matthews, Jr.
Anne McDonald
Elaine Grady Metzler
Mary Veil Miller
Ralph Moore
Marie Morgart
Helen Wheatley Muransky
Helen Myers
Cass Palmer
Dorothy Stotler Pavian
Patti Pavlosky
Betty C. Pelikan
Mary Strank Pero
Marian Perret
Movene Ponas
Charles S. Price
Elizabeth Pringle
Judy Probert

Rita Redden
Opal Regan
William Ruth
Ruth Saylor
Louise Spiegel
Virginia Thompson
Magdalene Tickerhoff
Isabel Wojtowicz Tackett
Carole Wolfholpe
Joanne Miller Zane

Our heartfelt thanks to these persons who contributed in whatever way to the “doing” of this book:

George S. Ashman, M.D.
Sara Tittle Smith Baldrige
Carolyn Beegle
Katherine Bell
Mary Burkhart
Leroy and Norma Burley
Jeanne Burr
Mabel Burris
Thomas S. Chappel
Ann Conlehan
Dan and Martha Connell
Eva Estep Dietz
James and Margaret Dubreque
Evelyn Murphy Dunmyer
Lois Fair
Carmela Falvo
H. Elizabeth Fleck
Susan Gallo
Mary Grace Griffith
Geraldine Haberl
Dorothy Haberstroh
Helen Hennessey
Dorothy Hindman
Dr. Levi Hollis
Sarah Huchel
Dr. Earl Hunt
Blanche Johnson
Sheila G. Kaufman

Kearns Family
Ruth W. Porter Kraft
Katherine Kraft
Edna Mae Lantzy
Eleanor Lantzy
Catherine Long
Nancy Malloy
Jane Burley McAnulty
Anne McCaffrey
Pauline McCloskey
Maryann Minahan
Hugh Morris
Joan Moss
Evangeline Murphy
Mildred Noon
Lois Paff
William Pasternak
Josephine Paul
Mary Tarr Peat
Peter Perret
Price Family
Leora Rager
Richard Ruth
Juanita Schettig
Louise Pieger Schneider
Mary Serafin
Dr. F. K. Shields
Stella Simendinger
Florence Stein
Mrs. John Strank
Sem and Erie Thomas
Sara Jane Torquato
Louise Beckley Varner
Marian Varner
Erma Vaughn
Delores Vaught
Mabel Wagner
Helen and Henry Walkowski
Mid Whiteford
Elizabeth J. Will
Mrs. Dwight Wicks
Emma Yossi

Special thanks goes to Dorothy Liphart of Ebensburg whose help has been continuous throughout the project. Very early, she encouraged us by submitting a list of outstanding women to be included in the biographical section. We are especially grateful to her for helping to find and furnish information on pioneer women in the county. She never said, "No", and in a few days would send a letter with the necessary information.

Special thanks to John Wadsworth who recommended Mr. Halldin, the printer, to us.

Sincere appreciation to Mr. Halldin, the printer, and his staff for their invaluable help.

Finally, our appreciation to any persons who contributed to this publication, directly or indirectly, if their contribution was not identified to the editorial committee of this book.

Our gratitude and recognition is offered to the wonderful women whose lives and achievements have made possible this book.

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Penn Highlands Comm College



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