

# Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

# PASS IT ON

Share our history

Volume 20, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2021

Pass It On  
is a quarterly  
publication of the  
Turkeyfoot Valley  
Historical Society

Address:  
600  
Logan Place  
PO BOX 44  
Confluence, PA  
15424  
Email:  
tfvhs@tfvhs.com  
Web:  
www.tfvhs.com

#### Officers & Directors

President  
Lisa Hall  
Treasurer  
Ronald Schaeffer  
Secretary  
Janice Fike  
Directors  
Neil Bender  
Ginny Halverson  
Jerry Hall

#### NOTE TO MEMBERS

If you are interested in  
receiving your copy of  
Pass It On electronically,  
please contact the  
Society at  
[tfvhs@tfvhs.com](mailto:tfvhs@tfvhs.com)

### MEMORIES OF THE SMITHS by Ron Schaeffer

It was in the fall of 2001, shortly after 9/11, that we met this couple. We moved in next door to them on the West-side of Confluence. The West-side is considered the side between the Youghiogheny River and the Casselman River. They welcomed us to this Confluence community by sharing some goodies with us.

The couple I am referring to is George and Mary Kay Smith. What a lovely couple they were. They were leaders in our community. I am not sure all that they were involved with. I do remember they were involved with the Confluence United Methodist Church, and they were involved with the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society.

I remember the trellis vines that protected their porch and I especially loved the blue morning glories. Whenever I would be working on a project in the back of the house, I would recall on many occasions George standing on his porch and looking over at me and saying, "Now what are you up to?"

When their sons Brian and Bruce came home for a visit, they would have us over for a dinner meal. Over the years Brian and Bruce became like brothers to us.

When George became ill and was bedridden, there were times I would go over and have prayer with him. And then the day came that he passed away on February 20, 2004 at the age of 89. We were there to comfort Mary Kay thru her time of loss.



# TO THE PEOPLE OF SOMERSET AND FAYETTE COUNTIES, PA., PRESTON, CO. W. VA., AND GARRETT COUN- TY, MARYLAND.

We thank you for your kindly support during the last year, which has been the best, by far, of any of our nineteen years in the Mercantile business. By your co-operation year after year you have made it possible for us to build up in your midst, for your convenience and profit, one of the best stores in Somerset Co. A store where you can get what you need when you need it with or without money. No doubt you realize that a store like ours enhances the value of your real estate as property near a church, school railroad, bank, mill and an up-to-date store will always command more money than a property distantly located from such necessities and conveniences.

## WE HAVE ONLY ONE BUSINESS.

Selling merchandise, work at it 14 or 15 hours per day, 321 days per year, buy a great deal of our stock from manufacturers in large quantities giving our customers the advantage of fresh up-to-date merchandise, at the right price, a thing the small dealer cannot do.

We again thank you for past favors and ask a continuance of your patronage, assuring you we appreciate it more than words can express and promise a bigger and better store than ever.

Yours for business

## HOOK'S DEPARTMENT STORE,

The store that made Somerfield famous.

T. M. Hook,  
Proprietor,

S. R. Hunt, Sec'y. & Treas.  
J. S. Hook, Manager.

"No place like Hooks" because "You can get it  
at Hooks"

From then on Mary Kay relied heavily upon us. If something needed fix, I would try and fix it. I ended up taking care of the lawn and anything else that needed done including trimming the trellis, bushes, trees, and even painting the porch. Mary Kay became our adopted mother. We enjoyed many meals together and had great times of fellowship.

Who could remember her ladies group which included Marjorie Frantz, Florence Phillippi, Virginia Edwards, among others that I cannot recall at this time.

Mary Kay was heart-broken when she heard that we would be moving, but then later found out that we were just moving across town. We continued our friendship together. Years later, she became ill and we recalled those visits to the hospital. On October 3, 2008 the Lord called her home one day after her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Sometime later, I was honored to conduct a grave-side memorial for her.

Why am I writing this article? I had a high school student doing some volunteer hours. We had a collection of obituaries that were lumped together and I had this student separate them into a notebook alphabetically. As I reviewed the work, I noticed this picture of George and Mary Kay Smith. It brought back memories that I just had to share.

BOOKKEEPING	PENMANSHIP
THE	
<b>TRI-STATE BUSINESS COLLEGE</b>	
CUMBERLAND, MD.	
Open all the year	Catalogue free
SHORTHAND	TYPEWRITING

## The Youghiogheny Dam

By Haley Rugg (4/15/16)

The Confluence area was significantly impacted by historical events and technological advancements. The construction of the Youghiogheny Dam in 1943 saved many communities along the Youghiogheny River, Monongahela River, and Ohio River from floods. Sadly, the communities were lost, but lives were saved.

The Youghiogheny River Reservoir is owned and operated by United States Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir is one of Pittsburgh district's sixteen flood control projects and at the time of construction cost nearly ten million dollars. It has saved hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damages.

The dam is not only important in flood control, it decreases pollution problems. The regular release of water improves water quality by diluting processed water from sewage treatment plants. Also facilitating industrial and mine run-off produced by villages and town along its path.

The dam plays an important role in navigation. During low water periods more water can be released to aid in the transport of coal and other commodities to various points down stream of the reservoir. During high water periods, the flow can be controlled to allow safe transport of goods.

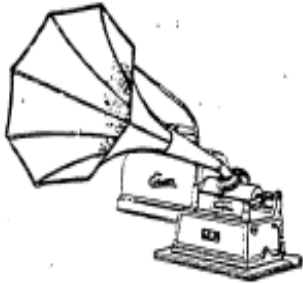
The Youghiogheny Dam has been modified to create hydroelectric power. The Youghiogheny Hydroelectric Authority holds a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate a hydroelectric plant below the dam. The power from the plant goes into the Penelec power system, used in western and central Pennsylvania. The plant has the capacity to generate up to twelve megawatts of electricity per hour, enough to service an estimate of eight thousand homes a year.

The dam is a necessity and brings enjoyment to the visitors and community of Confluence. Fishing and boating are some popular activities at the

## EDISON PHONOGRAPHS

Real Entertainment Anywhere and All the Time.

Haven't you ever noticed that no matter where you start an Edison Phonograph it immediately becomes the center of interest, as an entertainer it has no competitor, with



each new record, whether a song from the latest musical comedy, a waltz or two-step by band or orchestra, a selection from grand opera or a ballad of long ago, the Phonograph becomes a new pleasure and the Edison Phonograph in your home means enjoyment

for each member of the family and for all occasions.

We wish to introduce to you the above Washers, The White Lily and White Daisy, we feel that we were very fortunate in securing the agency for above machines in this locality. A gentleman from Watsondale came in the other day, we were putting up a washer for a man, he looked at another setting near and said is that a White Lily, on our answering in the affirmative he said, send it and a wringer to me to-morrow, everybody who knows the merits of these machines and needs a Washer, will do well to say, send me one To-morrow.



Anybody wishing to buy Clover

Seed or Fish, will do well to get our prices before buying.



Lincoln and Washington birthday cards now on our counters, also Valentine cards at all prices. Fresh Oysters always in stock. Patterns in stock. Come to see us, we can interest you.

Yours for business

## HOOK'S DEPARTMENT STORE,

The store that made Somerfield famous.

T. M. Hook,  
Proprietor,

S. R. Hunt, Sec'y. & Treas.  
J. S. Hook, Manager.

"No place like Hooks" because "You can get it at Hooks"

read th  
A. M. H.  
water th

## Is it worth while to wear trousers at all?



Sweet-Orr Trousers.

It is worth while to wear trousers that are properly put together.

The putting together makes all the difference in the world. Trousers to be properly put together, must be made by well-paid expert union labor, and not by underpaid and underfed workers in cheap factories or sweat-shops. There is one good way for a man to be sure, when buying trousers, that he is getting garments that are all well made, and union made, and which will retain their attractive appearance, and serve him faithfully for a long time to come.

### The One Good Way

is to ask for Sweet Orr union-made Trousers, and insist on getting them, look for this name on the buttons. Sweet Orr Trousers always give satisfaction. They can't help it. Trousers that are made right will wear right, it is the surest thing you know.

When you want the right thing in trousers or anything else good in the clothing line come to us.

### Good News for Young Men

Samples of our Tailor-made line for the spring and summer, 1909 now in our Clothing Department, certainly a nifty line, come see the new patterns.

Yours for business

## HOOK'S DEPARTMENT STORE,

The store that made Somerfield famous.

T. M. Hook,  
Proprietor.

S. R. Hunt, Sec'y. & Treas.  
J. S. Hook, Manager.

"No place like Hooks" because "You can get it at Hooks"

dam. The reservoir is sixteen miles long with fourth miles of shoreline. It has an average depth of fifty-four feet. The reservoir is located between Friendsville, Maryland and Confluence, Pennsylvania.

Approximately seventy-three years old, the Youghiogheny Dam and its construction have played a major role in the history of Confluence and many communities. During construction many workers moved to the area and inhabited Confluence. The completion of the dam has been a source of pleasure and income for the area while preventing environmental damage. Without the presence of the Youghiogheny Dam, the history of Confluence and many communities downstream could have been entirely different. Its location and construction have had a great historical significance to the area.

(Haley graduated in May, 2020 from Penn State Fayette Campus with a degree in Administration of Justice. She currently works as a Probation Officer Aide.)

## VETERANS OF CONFLUENCE

By Zoey Betker (3/26/19)

Most people think the historical importance of Confluence, Pennsylvania in American History revolves around the early settlers and George Washington. Even though this is important, I also feel those who served in World War II were equally important. Communities from all corners of the United States, big or small, jumped at the opportunity to serve their country, and Confluence was no exception. My influence to acknowledge these men and women who served in World War II came from my great-grandfather, James Frederick Betker.

James served as a Sergeant in the 747 Field Artillery Unit from 1944 to 1947. He was in-

**T. R. EDGAR, Confluence, Pa.**  
**Practical Wagonmaker and Repairer.**

Will it Pay You to Invest in a  
**"NEW IDEA"**  
**MANURE SPREADER?**



It will more than double the value of your manure because it will go twice as far and give better results, acre for acre, and it covers the ground in a fine, even coat instead of a lumpy one. You can do the spreading in one-half the time and the hardest part of the work is done away with entirely. With the "NEW IDEA" Spreader, a boy can scatter the manure. As a lime spreader it is equally as good. For further particulars address

**S. B. ALCOTT,**  
 General Merchandise and Implements.  
 URSINA, PENN'A.

**Notary Public.**  
**EARLE R. BEGGS**  
**CONFLUENCE,**  
**PENNA.**  
 All business promptly attended to.

**DR. ROSS BOWMAN**



**PHYSICIAN and SURGEON.**  
 Special treatment for all Chronic Diseases.  
 Charges reasonable.  
 Both phones in office.  
**CONFLUENCE - - PA.**

strumental in freeing Jewish captives in concentration camps. Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society compiled a list of over 70 local veterans from World War II, and there are even more that are not listed.

Each one of these veterans has a different story to tell about their sacrifices and sacrifices of others from the Confluence area. Jessica Conway was one of the women I came across. She was in the W.A.V.E.S. (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Services) group and was a Pharmacists third mate. While serving, Jessica would administer shots to soldiers, complete paperwork, and dispense other medications. She received the American Campaign Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. Samuel P. Walker was drafted in January 1944, and fought from the time he arrived in England until the end of the World War II. While serving, Walker was sent in as a replacement in the Battle of the Bulge. He got promoted to Staff Sergeant because he was the only one out of his group that made it through the entire time. When 20,000 soldiers surrendered to Americans in France, he was there. Walker said they took them to safety and confiscated their guns. Ralph Metheny was shot when he went back to rescue a man in his squad. He was captured by Germans after laying in a field for 18 hours. Ralph was awarded the Silver Star, the Good Conduct Medal, A Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Medal. Russell Sann experienced suicide bombers daily while he was in Okinawa. "Another thing I could never get over was the fact that I had come from such a small town as Confluence to Okinawa, halfway around the world, and while I was there I met four other servicemen from Confluence..." (Turkeyfoot Valley WWII Veterans Book).

Those I mentioned are just a small sampling of the many who served from the area of Confluence. The troops I touch on served during World War II, yet there have been many others who have served in other times of war. Even men and women from little towns made profound impacts on American History.

(Zoey will be graduating in May, 2021 from Clarion University with an Associates of Science in Nursing. She is presently employed as an Emergency Room Technician at Somerset Hospital.)



The Shelves of Obscurity Are Lined With Unbelievers in Advertising

# TURKEYFOOT NEWS

Volume IV

CONFLUENCE, PA., THURSDAY MARCH 4, 1909.

Number 48

## NEIGHBORHOOD BREVITIES

### Items of Interest Condensed for Hurried Readers

A. C. Eicher was in town Monday afternoon.

Miss Frances Fichtner is spending a few days in Connellsville, this week.

Albert Robinson, Listonburg, was in Confluence yesterday for a short while.

Martin Beckett, of near Harnedsville, was in Confluence a short time on Monday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Havner of west side a fine baby boy, Thursday, 25th. of February.

B. W. Sleighter of Rodgers Mills was in Confluence the first of this week shaking hands with old acquaintances.

H. M. Van Zandt, his sister, Mrs. Gray and son Joe, were registered at the Dodds House, for a few days, this week.

Henry Mitchell, Uniontown, was the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Mitchell, for a few days during the past week.

Mrs. C. C. Frederick and sister, Miss Myrtle Emory, of Friendsville, were visitors at O. F. McKee's from Thursday until Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Kurtz entertain this evening in honor of the latter's sister, Miss Anna Wagner. About twenty guests will be present.

Miss Emily Knight, one of the compositors in the NEWS office, spent a pleasant Sunday with her friend, Miss Pearl Slagle, at Ohio-dyle.

### Spelling Match.

A very enjoyable and interesting box social and spelling match was held last Friday night at the Fair Oaks school near Draketown. Miss Edith Show the efficient teacher of the school managed the affair in admirable style, and everyone present had a nice time. The purpose of the entertainment was to raise money to purchase a suitable teacher's desk for the school, and this was no doubt accomplished as the school was packed with friends and patrons from Confluence, Ursina and Draketown. The event of the evening was the spelling match in which 24 young people took part, 12 on a side. This was a spirited contest, and ordinary spellers soon began falling by the wayside, until finally all were down but Miss Tannehill and Miss Younkin of the opposing teams, both young ladies being from Draketown, Miss Tannehill finally won after quite a struggle. The lunch boxes were auctioned off at good prices and found ready buyers.

### Church Announcements.

Preaching in the Lutheran church, Sunday morning and evening, March 7, 1909, by Rev. B. B. Coffins, of Meyersdale.

Edward Keller, a Gettysburg theological student, will preach in the Lutheran church, Sunday morning and evening, March 14, 1909.

### Ursina.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Kelly, a bouncing big boy.

Aaron Shannon is suffering from a severe attack of la-grippe.

W. J. B. Benford was a business visitor at Somerset, on Friday.

Mrs. Lewis Zimmerman of Scottdale, Sundayed here with relatives.

Mayme Harned of Rockwood, visited relatives and friends here the past week.

Miss Umstead of Kingwood, was the guest of her friend, Lydia Cunningham, last week.

Scott Rush of Boswell, spent the latter part of last week here with his family.

Mrs. Sabina Rush and son, Wm. of the Jersey settlement, were in town on Monday calling on friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rushe of Riverside Hotel, were in Pittsburg Monday and Tuesday.

Messrs Edward Bluebaugh and Joe Nicola were visitors in Somerset on Sunday.

Mrs. Jakey Meyers and a party of friends left on Tuesday for Washington, D. C. for inauguration sights.

Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey and sons of Trafford City, spent Friday and Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Cosley.

Misses Elizabeth Case and Martha Younkin were the guests of their friend, Mrs. L. Leslie at Fort Hill, on Tuesday.

Alex Bluebaugh who was taken ill while working at the Riverside Hotel Confluence, was brought up to his brother Hiram's on Tuesday, and is very ill.

Mrs. Frank Phillippi, who has been out in Nigger Mountain, with her husband who is operating a saw mill, was here looking after her house on Saturday, returning again on Monday.

Rev. J. C. Cunningham closed his meeting on Friday night. Rev. Uptagraph delivered an eloquent sermon to a large and attentive audience. Rev. Uptagraph returned to his home in Pittsburg, on Saturday morning.

*Advertisements in this newsletter are from the Turkeyfoot News, 1909*



*Due to the pandemic, all monthly meetings and programs are cancelled until further notice.*

# Membership News

THANK YOU

We thank the following for their corporate donations to the Historical Society.

**Beggs Brothers Printing (Bronze)**  
**Confluence Lions Club (Silver)**  
**Confluence Tourism (Silver)**  
**Hanna House Bed/Breakfast (Bronze)**  
**Sechler Sugar Shack (Bronze)**  
**Somerset Trust Company (Silver)**  
**Turkeyfoot Lending Library (Gold)**



Our membership year runs from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21.

**Neva L. (Turney) Bowlin**, 91, Confluence entered eternal rest on January 2, 2021 at Mt. Macrina Manor, Uniontown. She was born November 28, 1929 in Confluence, a daughter of John and Laura (Bowlin) Turney. Her parents, in-laws, Clyde and Ida Bowlin, husband of 60 years, Carl, sisters, Ruth Lakatosh, Mary Matthews, Jean Tolin, Lois Alcott, brother, Jack Turney and son-in-law, George Leasure preceded her in death. Left to cherish her memory are daughters, Sharon Leasure and Brenda Burow (Ray) and a son Terry Bowlin (Kay); grandchildren, Amy Shaffer (Patrick), Jeremy Leasure (Donna), Josh Bowlin (Jennifer), Holly Lee (David) and Jesse Burow (Lareina); great grandchildren, Evan and Jacob Shaffer, J.J. and Emily Leasure, Emma Bowlin and Eleanor and Neva Grace Burow, all who affectionately called her "Maw". Also surviving are a sister, Julia Thomas, special cousin, Mary Louise Carey and many nieces and nephews. Neva was a devoted wife and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who took pride in caring for her family and her home. One of her favorite pastimes was baking bread, cakes and cookies, which she freely shared with family, friends and neighbors. Neva loved to read, especially historical books and did extensive research on family history. She loved spending time with family and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. She was a member of Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School for many years, organized and taught Bible School and planned many activities, parties and plays for the youth. She was a member of Confluence Rebekah Lodge, Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society and served for many years on the Henry Clay Twp. election board. Due to COVID-19 occupancy restrictions a private service will be held for the family with Rev. David Lee officiating. Interment in Johnson Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to either the Addison or Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Societies.



**Neva Bowlin  
Dorothy Harter**

**Dorothy L. Harter**, 74, Confluence, passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at The Patriot in Somerset. She was born November 30, 1946 in Confluence, a daughter of the late Harry Fred and Verna J. (Colborn) Burnworth. She is survived by her husband, Paul; son, Michael and fiancé, Mary Bordwell, Stanley, NY; grandson, Matthew Harter and a sister, Myrna Bender and husband, Robert, Hookstown. She was a member of Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church and the Great Crossings Chapter of the D.A.R. She was employed for a number of years as tax collector for Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District. There will be no viewing or funeral service at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Interment in Jersey Cemetery.