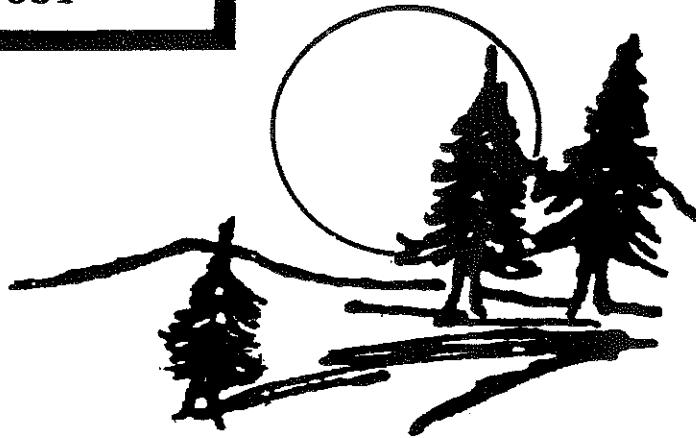


150 years

ESTABLISHED

FEB. 11th, 1851



POLK  
TOWNSHIP

This is dedicated to all the  
Polk Township residents for  
the past 150 years.

*To all those persons who spent their time and effort  
to make this publication possible:*

Polk Township Supervisors

Neal Davis, Don Cepull, Jay Heilbrun and Pat Davis,  
Secretary

Polk Township Planning Commission

Jeff Shaffer – President, Carl Dixon – Vice President,  
Lisa Wiggin – Secretary, Don Cepull, JoAnn Smith,  
Ken Boyer, Barry Carnahan, Richard Shute and Dick  
McKendree

**PATRON'S PAGE**

Keystone M. Quarter Horses Christopher Mitterer 328-2226	Sleepyhead's Power Equipment Center Harry & JoAnn Smith 849-3399
Greenbriar Farms Carl & Rhonda Dixon 328-2380	M.A.A.C. Munderf Area Action Committee
D & K Machine Co., Inc. Carl Dixon, Pres.; Guy Dixon, V.Pres.; Rhonda Dixon, Secretary 328-2382	Manno Construction, Inc. James J. Manno, Pres.; James J. Manno, Jr., V.Pres.; Virginia Manno, Secretary Ridgway (814) 776-1310
Justin Boyer Artwork for Township Logo	Jimtown Builders Steve & Tammy Shaffer 328-2395
Brocious Trucking, Inc. Steve & Rich Siple 265-1765	William H. & Joyce Holt Holt Farms
John's Repairs John Armstrong 328-2035	Dick & Jane Striker "L'I Bruin Camp" Freeport
Donald C. Cepull Township Supervisor 328-2401	Phillip & Mildred Yost Brookville
Carlson Funeral Home, Inc. John Carlson & Eric R. Shugarts, Funeral Directors Brockway 268-2732	Neal Davis Lumber Davis Run Road 328-2561
Hide-A-Way Cottages William & Sandra Morelock 328-2219	Dixon Corner Country Store Pat Davis, Laurie Welsh & Rena Bailey 328-5255
Jim & Ruth Ann Wingard Wingard Farms	Henretty Logging & Excavating Wes & Barb Henretty 328-2377
Emma Work Brookville	Your Local Sanitation Mike & Rena Bailey 328-5247
Allshouse Towing Shane Allshouse 328-5150	Snyder Building Company Terry Snyder 328-2021

**Rodney Devere Boyer**  
**In Memory of Phyllis Boyer**

*Phyllis served on the election board for many years*



**History of Polk Township  
Early Pioneers and Settlers**

**Jefferson County  
Pennsylvania  
2001**

**Joyce (Wingard) Holt**

**Pictures--Courtesy of Joyce Holt**

## Polk Township History

**Polk Township** officially came into existence **February 11, 1851**. It was taken from Warsaw and Snyder Townships, forming the twenty-first township in Jefferson County, and named in honor of James K. Polk, the eleventh president of the United States. It is bounded on the north by Elk County and Heath Township, on the east by Snyder, on the south by Warsaw and on the west by Warsaw and Heath.

Nearly all the township is drained by the North Fork Creek, with smaller streams of Hetrick Run, Manners Run and the Lucas Run flowing into it. These smaller streams were named for early settlers. The North Fork was used in rafting logs down stream with the aid of splash dams. The dams were filled with logs in the spring of the year, then the gates lifted and the logs splashed down stream to the next dam, with Pittsburgh the destination. Today, you can see evidence of where these dams were located. This era in our history gave rise to the famous "River Pilots".

### **Early History of Pennsylvania--**

The commonwealth of Pennsylvania, October 1784, purchased, at the treaty with the Indians at Fort Stanwix, to which **Cornplanter** was a party, the domain embracing in whole or in part the present counties of Tioga, Potter, McKean, Jefferson, Warren, Venango, Armstrong, Allegheny, Bulter, Crawford, Mercer and Beaver, with the exception of a small individual reserve to Cornplanter on the Allegheny. The lands comprising Jefferson, Elk, Clearfield and Forest Counties has been referred to as "Cornplanter's Kingdom", named after the great chief--Gy-Ant-Wa-Ka, John (Abeel) The Cornplanter, Chief of the Senecas, and Six Nations. Indian village sites were located within the county--perhaps even in northern Polk Township. The frontier, however, was not at peace for some years after that, nor, indeed, until Wayne's treaty in 1795.

By an act of April 8, 1785, the lands were sold by lottery. Some of the purchases in Polk township were made by Wilhelm Willink, Nicholson and McPherson, Francis Nicholls, John Nicholson, T. Pickering, I. Gordon, Samuel Bole, Rev. R. McMurdy, H. R. Stry, Elijah Heath and Samuel Hodgdon.

At the close of the Revolutionary War several wealthy Hollanders--Wilhelm Willink, and others, to whom the United States was indebted for money loaned to assist in carrying on the war, preferred to invest the money in this country, purchased large tracts of land in the State of New York, and at the same time took, by warrant large tracks in Pennsylvania, which included Jefferson County and Polk Township thus owned by the Holland Land Company.

As immigrants flooded through the Port of Philadelphia, they gradually pushed westward across Pennsylvania. They settled open land and as it became populated, moved further west--to Clearfield, and around Jefferson to Clarion. In the 1830's and 40's, settlers suddenly took note that northern Jefferson County was unsettled and boasted virgin timber and many hearty pioneers came back to claim and settle Polk township, clearing timber, establishing homes, a church, stores and schools.

### **Earliest Settlers**

The earliest recorded settler to this territory was **Paul Vandevort**, who settled (Whippoorwill) for a brief time (several years) on the land today owned by Pat Feeley. Paul, son of Joshua and Hannah (Miller) Vandervort, was born July 28, 1807, in Orange Co., New York, and came to Pennsylvania with his parents about 1822. He married Margaret Hetrick, a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Hetrick, of Brookville, May 6, 1831. She was born February 1, 1812. (DAR dates birth 1813). They had 13 children. He was a stone mason. One history suggests they moved west, another that he and his wife lived in Erie Co., Pa. where they died, while the "**Van Devoort History**" from which these notes were taken, states he died in Brookville.

**Frederick Hetrick** came about 1835 and settled on land in the upper part of the township (Greenbriar) on the farm owned by Thomas P. McFadden. He cleared the land and made the first improvements there.

**Note:** There is a lot of controversy about the Hetrick Family by historians, genealogists and the DAR that I add this note. One dispute is--who was the wife of Jacob Hetrick--was it Lydia Shaffer or Margaretha Himes? More recently and more importantly to many, has come the claim that Jacob Hetrick, a Revolutionary War Veteran buried at Mauk's Tunnel is not the father of Frederick Hetrick, Philip Hetrick and Elizabeth Black, as believed by many and recorded as such in the McKnight's History 1917.

## Polk Township History

**The Hetrick families** were of great influence and importance in settling Polk Township and establishing a community. (Regardless of their relationship to each other or Jacob Hetrick, records show that Frederick, Philip, Elizabeth and John lived in this area.) Frederick Hetrick was interested in government and elections. "The first spring election shall be held by Frederick Hetrick as judge, and John Smith and Thomas Reade as inspectors, on the last Monday of April next. . ."

Philip Hetrick was instrumental in establishing the first church body, the Methodist Episcopal Church. He built the first parsonage, 1857, on his land and with his funds, even before we had a church house, so traveling ministers had a place to stay. Mr. Hetrick was interested in education and establishing schools. Elizabeth (Hetrick) McFadden Black, along with her son Jacob McFadden, Jr. and his wife Rebecca, were founding members of the "Zion" M.E. Church. Mr. McFadden donated land for a community cemetery, and provided land to the congregation of the Church to build a house of worship.

**Philip Hetrick** came about 1842 and settled on the land east of the present Munderf Methodist Church. He built the first sawmill in 1844 on Hetrick Run, later his son Darius Hetrick, built in 1865 at "Blowtown" another mill, near the site his father's mill was erected. It was a water mill and cut a large amount of boards each season. Philip and Esther (Reed) Hetrick later moved west to Coffee Co., Kansas, where they died.

Next came **Isaac Nicholls** in 1844 from Genesee Co., New York. Then **John Masters** made the first improvements of the farm later owned by Jacob McFadden (west of the U.M. Church) known as the "McFadden Farm" until the death of Roger McFadden, 1994, the last of his family to reside there.

**John Lucas**, in 1846, settled on the farm first cleared by Paul Vandervort, but he too sold out and moved west. However, "Lucas Run" bears the name of this early settler. As two or more families often traveled together, along with the Lucas family, then or later, came the Sheckler family. **Frederick Sheckler** was married to Eliza Lucas. He was killed April 1865, near the close of the Civil War, left a widow and six children who had to go into an orphanage. His daughter, Anna Jane Sheckler married George Frederick Wingard, May 1870 and lived the rest of her life in Greenbriar (Polk Township). Her sister, Olive Sheckler, married George's brother, Henry Wingard, in 1870. They moved to Armstrong County in the late 1890's, where Henry logged on Crooked Creek. They are buried at the Kittanning Cemetery, Armstrong County.

**John Dixon, Jr.**, settled here in 1847. He was a son of John Dixon, one of the first settlers in Jefferson County. He settled near the corner that bears his name, "Dixon's Corner". At the age of 80 years, he was still a hale, hearty man, and held the office of constable for twelve years in Polk Township. Raised amid the tolls and privations of pioneer life, he was well informed on all the topics of the day. Mr. Dixon was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he united 1828-30. He and his wife Lydia were founding members of the "Zion" M. E. Church in Polk Township, and Mr. Dixon lived to attend the Dedication Service held at the new church, November 3, 1901, the only surviving member of the original founders of the church.

The **Jacob McFadden** family arrived about this time settling on the section of land west of the Munderf Church. His family included his wife Rebecca, his mother, Elizabeth (Hetrick) Black, and several children. Four of his sons later served in the Civil War, where one son, Levi, died.

**Henry Schaffner** came in February 1849, from Redbank, Clarion County, and soon had one of the best farms in the township, for many years his home was a haven for all weary travelers. Mr. Schaffner was a straight forward and honest man. He was the father of thirteen children. Four of his sons served in the Civil War, where son Henry, died. Mr. Schaffner died April 1882, his wife Appolonia, (1808-1894) and both are buried in the Zion Cemetery. The Schaffner homestead passed to his son, Fulton.

**Others of the old settlers** of Polk Township were Leonard Lockwood, who moved here in 1847; James K. Hoffman; John Plotner and Emanuel (Nofsker) Nosker came together about 1850-51, Mrs. Nosker was Sophia Plotner, sister of John; Amos T. Reigle, 1852, his wife Mary, a sister to Henry Wingard; James Carnahan, owned 100A in 1878; Fred Wingard and his son Henry Wingard (1855). The Wingards settled in upper Polk township (farms owned today by Carl Dixon.) Later settlers include Jared Jones, and William H. H. Manners who came after the Civil War. Other family names that come through the pages of Polk

## Polk Township History

Township History include Davis, Webster, Mortimer, Chamberlin, John Smith owned land in this township before 1855, as did the Clarks, John Snyder, a Justice of the Peace, Cunningham Longwell, who resided on the Longwell Farm, McCombie and Blacks, just to mention a few.

### Early History Notes

The first marriage in the township was **Adam Hetrick**, a son of Frederick Hetrick to **Miss Mariah Hetrick**, daughter of Philip Hetrick. The ceremony was performed by Darius Carrier, justice of the peace, of Troy. The next was Matthew Wells, an Irish man, and Delilah Nichols.

The first birth, of which there is any record, was **Rebecca Dixon**, daughter of John Dixon, born in 1848. The first deaths were **Rebecca**, aged two years, and **James**, aged six, children of John Dixon, who died of dysentery, in August 1850; then a daughter of Philip Hetrick, and one of Jacob McFadden, (Maria 1852); the next, and first adult to die in the township was **Elizabeth Black**, mother of Jacob McFadden, who died suddenly at a prayer-meeting, just as she had finished giving her testimony for Christ--the last words she spoke. (Note: I believe that Mrs. Black, is buried in the "Zion" (Munderf) Cemetery in an unmarked grave.)

**Elizabeth (Doverspike) Hetrick**, wife of Frederick Hetrick, died 1856, and was buried in an unmarked grave, in a field at the Hetrick farm at Greenbriar, now owned by T.P. McFadden. His father, William, told of finding the grave, when plowing with horses, years later.

**Jacob McFadden** first set aside ground for a grave-yard, still in use today on the rising portion of ground, north of the Munderf Church, known as **Zion Cemetery**. Additional lands have been purchased over the years and added to the cemetery. The Munderf Cemetery was Incorporated in 1964 under the direction of Charles E. Mortimer, Eugene Dixon, Virgil Carnahan, Kinsel Breakey and Loy Lockwood, offering perpetual care to lot holders.

### "Zion" Methodist Episcopal Church

The "Zion" Methodist Episcopal Church began in May 1847 when seven people gathered in the kitchen of the John Dixon home to share their faith and worship God. They were John and Lydia Dixon, Jr., Philip and Esther Hetrick, Jacob and Rebecca McFadden, Jr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Black.

The first sermon preached was by the Rev. Boyle in the Dixon home, May 1847. Weekly prayer meetings were held in their homes until a log cabin school house was built about 1850. It was at one of these prayer meetings that Mrs. Black died after giving her testimony to the Lord--the last words she uttered.

Eight new members were added to the congregation as new pioneers settled in the region; Amos T. and Mary (Wingard) Reigle, Othniel and Annie (Hetrick) Davis, John and Frances Schaffner and Fulton and Rachel (Hetrick) Schaffner.

Methodism started in this area with three Societies known as the Warsaw Charge, Hazen, "Zion" and Richardsville. The first parsonage\* on the charge was built in 1857 by Philip Hetrick on his property. The original "Zion" M. E. Church was built (Schoffner's Corners) in 1863, on a corner of the Jacob McFadden property, purchased through deed and subscription, under the guidance of the Rev. Samuel Coon. Thomas Craven was the architect and builder.

By 1900 the Zion congregation had increased to 70 members. A decision was made to build a new larger house of worship. This statement was taken from the minutes of the trustees on June 2, 1900: "**We propose to build a new church house not for pride, but because we believe it to be necessary to honor God and for the benefit of our young people.**" The old church building was put on poles and skidded to the other end of the McFadden property, near the former Munderf Store, so the new church could be built on the site of the original church. (The former church building remained in use for many years as a community social hall, election house and a library.)

The new Zion M. E. Church was erected under the pastorate of the Rev. Lewis Wick and dedicated one year and five months later on Nov. 3, 1901. Built at a cost of \$4000--, it was dedicated entirely free of debt.

One of the interesting features of our church is its beautiful stained glass windows installed in 1901. The names on the 15 memorial windows faded within a few years, with only three remaining legible in 1987 when restoration work was done, The Schaffner's, The John and Lydia Dixon, and the Civil War windows. The Civil War window draws the most attention, it is "In memory of our comrades who died and of those who were veterans of the Civil War" and list 11 names. Heading the list are the names of David Reigle and Thomas Reigle, sons of Amos T. and Mary Reigle, who died in Libby Prison.

## Polk Township History

On May 4, 1997, our church celebrated its 150th anniversary. We've seen many changes over the years, we're now the United Methodist Church, average attendance is 48, the bell tower was torn down in the middle 60's and a new annex built, but one thing has remained the same, we still profess the same faith in the Lord that the founding members professed and demonstrated back in 1847.

(\*The old parsonage was torn down and rebuilt into a 3-car garage by Kinsel Breakey.)

**Additional Notes:** **Rev. Thomas H. Sheckler**, son of Frederick Sheckler, was converted in the old Zion M. E. Church in Polk Township, in March, 1868. Rev. Sheckler spent more than 50 years in the ministry, starting in the Erie Pa. Methodist Conference. He went to Dakota territory in 1885 and held pastorates at Devils Lake and served as presiding elder with headquarters at Bismarck. He preached at a country charge 20 miles from Standing Rock Indian Reservation on the Sunday that Sitting Bull left with his warriors in quest of white men's scalps. Rev. Sheckler preached for 30 years in the Upper Iowa Conference, the Dakota Conference 8 years, and the Minnesota Conference 4 years. He retired in Waterloo, Iowa.

**Marriages:** The early custom was -- marriages were performed in the home of the bride, later most took place at the Parsonage. Shannon McFadden and Anna Webster were married at the Parsonage in Polk Township, May 1866, by Abraham Bashline, Minister of the Gospel. The first marriage ceremony performed in the "Zion" M. E. Church was Bessie Davis and Clyde Smith, October 16, 1949. The next, that of Joyce Wingard and William H. Holt, July 19, 1957, by the Rev. Clair A. Lundberg.

The **Methodist Protestant Church** was located at Schoffner's Corners near the home of Sylvester Davis, founded about 1878. The church building was torn down about 1926.

**Early History Notes:** This community had established a church body (1847) and built a school house (Schoffner School--1850) before officially becoming Polk Township. The log cabin school was built across the road from the site of the present day school building at Munderf.

### **Pioneer Taxables, As Per Assessment in Polk Township in 1852**

Thomas Allison, cow; John Chamberlin; Samuel Cochran, two cows, \$100 at interest; Alvin Clark; John Dixon, cow; four oxen; Philip Hetrick, a sawmill, cow, two oxen; Frederick Hetrick, a sawmill, two cows, four oxen; Stephen Hetrick; James K. Huffman, cow, two oxen; Richard Long, cow; Samuel Long; Thomas Lucas; John Lucas, cow, ox, steer; Leonard Lockwood, cow, two oxen; Jacob McFadden, two cows, four oxen; Isaac Nichols, Sr., two oxen; Rufus Nichols, sawmill, cow, two oxen; John Plotner, two cows, two oxen; Amos T. Reigle, horse, cow; Thomas S. Reed; George Smith; John Smith, two cows, two oxen; Henry Schaffner, two cows, three oxen; Solomon Schaffner; John Snyder, cow, two oxen, \$100 at interest; Fred Sheckler; Mathers Wills, two oxen.

### **More on the Early Settlers**

**Frederick Hetrick**, was born Sept 7, 1787, in Erie Co., Pa. (According to DAR application papers). He was named in a complete list of taxables for Jefferson County in 1820, residing in Clover Township. In 1826 he lived at Coder Dam, just west of Brookville, later living just west of Summerville. In 1835, he moved to what is now **Polk Township**, where he was assessed among the taxables of Snyder in 1836, and at his house the first election for Polk Township was fixed by Act of Assembly 1851. He was married to Elizabeth Doverspike (Daubenspeck) in 1809 in Armstrong County, who was born 1791 in Luzerne County, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Charles) Doverspike. She died in 1856 in Polk Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania and is buried in an unmarked grave on the McFadden farm.

They were the parents of fifteen children: **Christian** (born 1810, died before 1820); **Eliza** (born, Jan. 1, 1811, Mahoning Twp. Armstrong Co.) (m) Darius Carrier; **Margaret** (1813) wife of Paul Vandervort, first recorded settler in Polk Township; **Esther** (1814) (m) John Carrier of Jefferson County;

**Magdalene** (1816) (m) Andrew Vashbinder and lived their married life on a farm on Warsaw Township and had a family of 16 children. They are buried at "Ferris Cemetery", located on the Hump Back Bridge Road--Tombstones --**Vashbinder**, Andrew (d) 1/21/1889 78y, **Vashbinder**, Magdalene, w/o Andrew, (d) 12/9/1886-70y, 5m. **Eva** (1817) wife of Michael Long, and made their home in Jefferson County;

**Susan** (1819) (m) Joseph Conger, of Clarion County and they resided in that county. **Mary Magdalene** (Mar. 18, 1821) wife of George McAninch, a farmer and lumberman of Jefferson County, where she died



## Polk Township History

1897, leaving a husband and eight children; **Annie**, (Mar. 22, 1822, date of birth according to DAR records --tombstone date is 1823) **wife of Othniel Davis**, they lived in this community.

**Adam**, (born 1827-died April 6, 1908, Kalispell, Flathead Co., Montana) married **Miss Maria Hetrick**, lived near Omaha, Nebraska, later Montana. Birth and death dates taken from his tombstone. He was survived by his widow and three children. **Rachel**, made her home in Nebraska with her brother **William**; **Catharine**, (m) Morgan Lucas, of Armstrong County, who was killed in a sawmill accident, (Nov. 15, 1865, Elk Co.) his widow and children moved west; **William** (died 1902, Kalispell, Montana--death certificate lists age as 67 years) married Leah Shrechongost (born 1842, Jeff. Co., Pa.-died-1930 Kalispell, Montana) The couple had lived for a number of years in Washington Co., Nebraska, before moving to Montana. **Hannah**, married John Custard, of Luzerne, was a union soldier who died in the Civil War. His widow resides in Chautaugua, N.Y. and **Henry**, was born April 10, 1832, and married Mary A. Darrah. Frederick Hetrick moved west and died in Arlington, Washington Co., Nebraska, 1874.

### Philip Hetrick

The 1850 Warsaw Township census lists the family of Phillip and Esther Hetrick (Polk Twp. 1851) as follows: Philip 46; Esther 43; Stephen 20; Darius 18; Eli 17; Paul 15; Agnes 13; Rachel 10; Rebecca 6; and Elizabeth 1. Their oldest daughter was listed with her husband: Adam Hetrick 22; Mariah 21; Mathilda 1. **Stephen Hetrick** (1830--1862) (m) Elizabeth Nosker, and had two children, Rosa and Paul. Paul moved to Montana. Rosa (m) Robert Melvin Armstong. **Darius Hetrick** (1832--1894) Settled in Blowtown, operated a lumber mill, a carpentry shop, built a store and farmed. He (m) Mary Susannah Nosker, July 4, 1854 (1835--1910) daughter of Emanuel and Sophia Nosker. Eight children were born to their union. Wilmoth Irvin (m) Susannah Elizabeth Plyler, operated a cobbler shop at Blowtown; Flora (m) M. Ferman Claypool; Eli Sherman (m) Jennie Etta Temple; Rena (m) Silas Yount; and Charles Edgar (m) Effie Blanche Cook. He operated "The Hetrick Gallery" photography shop in Blowtown. Some pictures have C.E. Hetrick, Blowtown, others have--"The Hetrick Gallery, Schaffner's Corners."

**Eli Hetrick** (1833--1918, Madison Co., Nebraska) (m) Mary Schaffner 1855, they and their four children moved to Nebraska the spring of 1869. Mary (1841-1901, Madison Co., Nebraska) was a daughter of Henry and Appolinia Schaffner. **Rachel Hetrick** (1841, Cool Spring, Jeff. Co.-1911, Munderf). She was united in marriage to Fulton Schaffner, August 11, 1861, son of Henry and Appolinia Schaffner, (1839-1924). They were the parents of five children: Loretta (m) Daniel Plotner; Cora; Harvey (m1) Annie Ella Shaffer, (m2) Lydia Lyle; Mary (m) Daniel Smith; and Frank (m) Flora Johns. The Hetricks were staunch supporters of the church in this community, and their home was always a stopping place of the Methodist preachers when they visited this section.

**John Dixon Jr.**, son of John and Sarah (Armstrong) Dixon was born in Jefferson Co., Nov. 20, 1807. His father came from Scotland (or Ireland) around 1800 and settled in Jefferson County. About 1828, John Dixon, Jr. and four others founded a Methodist Class, in an old log barn, then owned by David Bulter, on the North Fork, at the head of (1901) A.W. Cook's dam. This was the beginning of the M.E. Church in Brookville. Mr. Dixon was a faithful, devoted Methodist for over 72 years. On Nov. 12, 1832, John Dixon, Jr., married Lydia Adams. The rite was performed in Brookville by the Hon. Elijah Heath, a pioneer and prominent Methodist.

The family moved to Dixon's Corners about 1847. (Home was near the present home of Don Cepull) Of the 13 children born to them: Samuel, Ezekiel, Sidney, Elizabeth, George, Benjamin, Amanda, Sarah, William, Edward, James, Rebecca and John Wesley, six died young of dysentery, and are buried at the Dixon homestead. Mr. Dixon traded a shotgun to his brother Samuel for this piece of land containing 120 acres. The other piece of land containing 108 acres is now owned by Neal Davis, great-great-grandson of John Dixon, Jr. When the Dixons cleared the land, they built a log slide from Dixon's Flats down to the North Fork Creek. They developed a system of rolling the logs to the stream by the slide and rafted them down the river to Pittsburgh.

The Dixons were among the founding members of the Methodist Episcopal "Zion" Church started in this community about 1847. Mrs. Dixon died March 31, 1890, 76 y 11 m 20 d. John Dixon Obituary Notes: "**John Dixon Dead**"--Oldest Native Born Citizen of Jefferson County Laid to Rest. The venerable John Dixon, who had the distinction of being the oldest native born citizen of Jefferson County, died at his home in Polk Township on Saturday morning, February 6, 1904, aged 96 years, 2 months and 17 days. He was

## Polk Township History

born on the James Butler farm, three miles northeast of Brookville, on the Richardsville Road. His wife preceded him in death. He is survived by 6 children, 44 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren. John Dixon led a life in strict conformity with his Christian profession. He was laid to rest in "Zion" Cemetery beside his wife.

**McFadden Family**--Jacob McFadden Jr., was born in Clarion County, Oct. 1812, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Hetrick) McFadden. He (m) Rebecca Reed, Mar. 1835, a native of Westmoreland Co., who came to Jefferson Co., with her parents Peter and Rebecca (Shannon) Reed. Mr. McFadden was a big man physically, standing six feet, three inches, rawboned and powerful, energetic and capable, and was an expert hewer, considered the best man with an ax known in Polk Township.

After settling on the land west of the present Munderf Church for a number of years, the family moved to upper Polk Township, land formerly owned by Frederick Hetrick, where they lived their remaining days. Of the nine children born to them, seven grew to maturity: Shannon, a Civil War hero, settled on his father's former farm at Munderf, (m) Anna Webster; Levi, who died in the Civil War as a member of the 11th Pennsylvania Reserves; Peter Reed, also a soldier in the Civil War, a lumberman by calling, died at Ridgway at the age of 72 years (Zion); Jonathan R. (m) Christena Wingard; Elizabeth, lived with Shannon; Reese P. (m) Caroline "Carrie" Wingard, homesteaded in Whippoorwill beside her brother Daniel, until the death of his parents, when he moved to the farm in Greenbriar; and Enoch, a farmer in Warsaw Township.

The McFaddens are buried in the "Zion" Cemetery at Munderf, Jacob McFadden, (d) 10/29/1891, 78y--Rebecca (d) 1/16/1890, 74 y.

Shannon and Anna had two children: Gussie May (m) Barrett Schaffner; Charles Herman (m1) Lulu Belle Wingard, children: 'John', Charles, Myra and Dessa, (m2) Regna Plotner: Jack, Frances, Lewis, Roger and Gladys. Jonathan and Christena: Harvey (m) Anna Belle Davis: Laura (m) Frank Ross; Daniel (m) Della Lyle and Nettie (m) Raoul Snyder. Reese and Carrie: Della (m) John Hidingier; John (m) Malinda Webster; and William Ross (m) Grace Farley, had sons, Paul and Thomas P.

**Nosker (Nofsker) Family** The original home of Emanuel Nosker in Polk Township was a pioneer log home, but differed from many early log homes, as it was a two-story dwelling. Mr. Nofsker later erected a comfortable frame house on his farm, where he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives.

Emanuel Nofsker was born 1808, his wife Sophia Plotner, was a member of an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family. On coming to Polk Township, the Noskers were accompanied by John Plotner, who settled on adjoining land and today some of the original Plotner homestead is owned by his descendants. Children born to Emanuel and Sophia Nosker, John Henry, died 1914; Julia Ann, (1833-1859) wife of Henry Schaffner (1837--1862) died in the Civil War; Mary Susannah (m) Darius Hetrick; Elizabeth (m) (1) Stephen Hetrick and (2) John T. Mortimer; Margaret, wife of Hugh McKillips, of Richardsville; Martin Emanuel, a resident of Warsaw township. Emanuel Nofsker (4/8/1808--9/13/1877) and Sophia Nofsker (8/1/1807--10/29/1884) are buried in Zion Cemetery.

Children born to Elizabeth (Nofsker) Hetrick and John T. Mortimer: John, moved to Colorado; Margaret (m) George W. Dixon; Sophia (m) Frank Ettebuss; William lived on the home farm; Ida (m) Wilbur Work, of Sheffield; Frank (m) Amanda Blanche Lyle; Elizabeth, (m) John Heilbrun; Ella (m) Jacob Black, of Clarion County; and Lucy (m) Emmett Dunhanus.

(Mortimer, John T.--3/23/1823--11/25/1884, 67 PA Inf--Co. E 67 PA Vol. CW)

(Mortimer, Elizabeth, w/o J.T. 1/30/1838--11/30/1919) Munderf Cemetery)

**John C. Plotner** was born Sept 20, 1803, Centre Co., (m) **Elizabeth Bowerstock** Dec. 1828 in Centre Co. and died Oct. 23, 1869, Munderf. Elizabeth (Dec. 15, 1811--May 4, 1900) Both are buried in the Munderf Cemetery. Of the 12 children born to them: Juliann (1829-1882) (m) Levi Snyder; David, (1831-1838); Cathrine Elizabeth (1834) (m) James Taylor; Rachel (1835-1878) (m) Samuel M. Stewart; Lusetta (m) M. Ford; George (July 30, 1840--May 31, 1862, in the Battle of Seven Pines, Va., Civil War, 105th PA Vol.); Rebecca (1842-1845); John W. (1845, Clarion-Nov. 12, 1913) (m) Margaret C. Nosker; Sophia A (1847-1912-Zion Cem.) (m) William Magee; Mary Matilda (1850-1932, Zion Cem.) (m) Christopher Syphrit. They lived on the farm now owned by Terry Snyder. Sarah Jane (1852-1904) (m) Newton Webster; and Daniel James (1854-1940, Zion) (m 1) Amanda Harriger, (2) Loretta R. Schaffner and lived on the farm now owned by Violet Preston

## Polk Township History

**Henry Wingard**--Henry and Barbara (Weiss) Wingard settled in upper Polk Township about 1855, moving from Clearfield Co. Henry was born in Germany, as was his wife Barbara, who came to America with her parents. Adam and Barbara (Seibert) Weiss. 1837, two sisters and younger brother Adam Weiss, Jr., a well known pioneer of Jefferson County. They raised 11 of their 12 children as well as James Bert Claypool. Barbara was a doctor and mid-wife and delivered many babies. Mrs. Claypool, at the time of the birth of her son knew she was dying and asked the Wingards to raise her son. Their children: George Frederick, Henry, Christena. John (m) Lena Rhodes; Jacob (m1) Nancy M. Ross (2) Elizabeth Near; Daniel (m) Mary E. Ross; Caroline; William (m) Elizabeth Melzer; Emma (m1) Robert Baughman (2) Solomon Pifer; David; Harvey (m) Martha E. "Libby" Davis. Henry (1817-1886) is buried in the Zion Cemetery. His funeral service was conducted at the Wingard Farm in Greenbriar, with the Rev. O. H. Sibley officiating. His widow, Barbara remarried 1890 and died at Big Run. Her funeral service was conducted at the Wingard Farm, 1904 and it is assumed she is buried beside her first husband at Zion Cemetery.

**Frederick and Catherine Wingard**, parents of Henry, and daughter Catherine, settled on the place now owned by Carl Dixon. **Amos T. and Mary (Wingard) Reigle**, settled in Greenbriar, 1852. Later known as the Wingard Farm as Henry and Barbara lived there after the Reigles moved to Nebraska. They had seven children: David, Thomas Henry, (both died in Libby Prison during Civil War) John; Margaret (m) Othniel Erustus Davis, and moved to Nebraska; Sarah P; Mary A.; and Emma.

**Othniel Davis**--son of Levi Davis and Phebe (Stevens) Davis, (m) Annie Hetrick, daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Hetrick. They were the parents of the following children: **Sylvester** (m) Martha Pugh, had children: Anna Belle, Violette, Martha E., Ambrose S., Effie, O. Blaine, and Harry Earl. They lived at Schoffner's Corners. He operated a general store, served as postmaster and justice of the peace. **Darius; David** a minister who served many churches in the west. **Othniel Erastus** (m) Margaret Anna Reigle; **Thomas; Levi Herbert** (m) Iris Winegarder, lived in Warsaw Township; **Esie** (m) Lucinda Briggs, lived in this township. Had children: Maude, Ava, Tom, Chesleigh and Orvil; and **Ida**. Othniel Davis (Sept. 20, 1812-Apr. 12, 1893) Annie Davis (Mar. 22, 1923--Dec. 22, 1897) Zion Cemetery.

**John Chamberlin** -- Polk Township taxables of 1852. John (1824 Potter Co., Pa.--1906-Polk Twp., Baptist Cem., Richardsville) was a son of Peter and Mary Ann (Snyder) Chamberlin. He (m1) Nancy Vasbinder; Children: Samuel (1849-1930, Shannondale Cem.); Henry (1851--1907, Brookville Cem.); Thomas J. (1853-1926, Baptist Cem., Richardsville); Mary Ellen (1857-1940, Beechwoods Cem.) (m1) Robert Patterson, (2) Alvin Huffman; Rose A. (1860--1933, Munderf Cem.) (m) Perry H. Schaffner; and Sarah (1865-1949 Beechwoods Cem.) John Chamberlin (m2) Mrs. Elizabeth Slagle.

**Thomas Jay Chamberlin**, (1877-1963) son of George W., grandson of Peter, lived on the Egypt Road. He married Ida Shaffer (1882-1948) Children: Vena, Dallas, Eunice, Helen, Wilma and William. Farm is owned and operated as a Dairy Farm by his grandson, Kenneth Chamberlin and wife Ellen.

**Websters**--George and Lydia Webster moved to Jefferson County in the 1800's. Of their eight children Newton was their youngest. He (m) Sarah Jane Plotner (1872), their children were: Henrietta (m) Earl Galbraith; Adda (m) John Nosker; Malinda (m) John McFadden; and Daniel (m) Goldie Wingard, had children, Daniel Ross, Robert Lowell, Maurice, George Edward, Asher Newton, Gerald and Vera, and Noah (m) Jessie McFadden, sons, Randall and Craig. Ross resides at the Webster Farm at Munderf.

**Jared Jones**, his wife Selinda Lyle and family, homesteaded the farm now owned by William Holt, settling here after the Civil War in which he served. They were the parents of ten children with many descendants living in Polk Township and surrounding communities today. Carrie (m) Elmer Boyer; Bertha, William Wingard and Mary Eleanor "Ella" (m) Gust Olson, of Lake City, Ray Rodney (m) Elsie Thomas and resided on the home place many years. Mr. Jones cleared the land, put up the present barn and house. They were good Christian people, honest and hard working. Mr. Jones served as Trustee when the "Zion" Church was built at Munderf in 1900-01. (It took years to find a picture of Jared Jones) Jared died 1906, Selinda 1913 and both are buried in the Munderf Cemetery.

### **William Henry Harrison Manners**

Was born in Oliver Township 1841, a son John and Susanna (Fiscus) Manners. He enlisted in the Civil War Nov. 1861, Co. 1 of the 105th Pennsylvania Regiment, and continued to serve until Oct. 1862, when

## Polk Township History

honorably discharged for physical disability. He participated in ten battles, including Fair Oaks and the Seven Days Battle, was shot seven times, and finally incapacitated by typhoid fever, and "spotted fever".

In 1877, he purchased 125 acres in the northeast corner of Polk Township, cleared the timber, made excellent permanent improvements and developed a valuable farm. In 1904, he sold the farm to Harvey Wingard, who sold it to Daniel McFadden and was purchased by James H. Wingard in 1911.

Mr. Manners left a mark on the community, a testimony that he was here. The run to the north of the property still bears his name, as does the dam on Game Commission Land, often referred to as "Manners Dam", plus the little school (until 1922) at the end of the lane, 'Manners School'. He was an active member in the "Zion" Church and on the board of Trustees at the time the new church was built.

**Note:** An interesting story has come down through the years. When Billy Manners was building his barn (1886) and next door neighbor, Alfonso "Possum" Lockwood was working on his, a competition developed between the two as to who could cut the longest stone for their respective barn wall foundations. Tradition has it that Mr. Lockwood cut a stone 22 feet long but it broke when he put it into the wall. I've never heard who was declared the winner, but I do know both were excellent stone masons.

Mr. Lockwood's barn was pulled down in 1999 by Richard Krise the present owner of the farm. William and Susanna (Shaffer) Manners celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary Sept. 29, 1914, in Brookville as about 300 relatives and friends paid tribute to the couple.

### **Villages, Post offices, Local names, Famous Lumber Camp on North Fork**

The first established village was "**Mary Annsville**" (changed to Schoffner's Corners) Postmaster. Thomas Craven, appointed June 10, 1858. (I've been told that a Mr. Schaffner lived there and his wife was Mary Ann, but have not been able to confirm this information.)

**Schoffner's Corners**--Postmasters--George Smith, appointed Jan. 20, 1859; Philip Hetrick, Aug. 3, 1863, John Snyder, March 17, 1864; Henry Heber, June 16, 1864; John Andrews, June 22, 1865; Sylvester Davis, May 9, 1866.

"**Mondorff**" was the name suggested by Kate M. Scott, for the new village in Polk Township, in honor of Henry Mondorff, of Brookville. The government got the name "Munderf" and so it remains. Newton Webster, local merchant, appointed Postmaster February 5, 1885. Name officially changed to **Munderf**, March 5, 1886. After **Ambrose Davis** built a store at Munderf, across the road from his home (Ken and Hazel Thompson) the office of postmaster bounced back and forth, between the two stores.

**Today**--there are three mail delivery routes into the township, Brookville, Ridgway and Brockway.

Each section of the township was known by a local name and many have remained until the present.

"**Greenbriar**" in upper Polk Township has outlived the village name of Schoffner's Corners.

"**Blowtown**"--Originally called "**Below Town**" as it was in the valley below the village of Schoffner's Corners. This little village boasted quite a lot of activity, a Carpenter's shop, Hetrick's Photography Gallery, Cobbler shop, a General Store, Blacksmith shop, Hetricks Sawmill, Parsonage for the Protestant Methodist Church, and a Boarding House--maybe even an Opera House!

It was the men from the lumber crews working in the vicinity of North Fork, along the Brookville Railroad, that caused the name to be changed to "Blowtown". On Sundays, these loggers gathered around the pot-bellied stove at the local store, and 'blowed' in extravagant terms about what they had accomplished in the woods the past week. As this was a weekly occurrence, it wasn't long till the small community had been named "Blowtown" by the natives, and was entered as such on the company's reports and the geological map of 1940. Today, 2001, only a handful of people reside in this quiet intersection, but the name has stuck. It's still-- "Blowtown".

### **Degnan McDonald Lumber Camp**

Timber brought many people to this area. There were many lumber camps located through out Polk Township and Elk County, but perhaps the most famous was the Degnan and McDonald Lumber Camp located on the North Fork. (above Whippoorwill Bridge) Scottish born Stewart Williamson, was foreman for this firm between 1892-1900, having charge of 35 to 75 men engaged in cutting hemlock timber, stripping bark, hauling the timber to streams, and during high water of spring seasons, rafting the logs to mills. The lumber company continued to own a 500 A tract along the North Fork for many years. Mr. Williamson (m) Miss Mary Wingard, daughter of Fred and Jane Wingard, November 1892. They purchased

## Polk Township History

the store at Munderf about 1900, from Newton Webster, its owner and founder, and operated it for the next thirty years.

**Hetrick Mill at Blowtown**--In addition to all the lumber produced at this Mill, it also produced a goodly amount of "lath", each year. That was the reason for box cars on the trains of the Brookville Railroad. (Lath was used in plastering interior walls of homes)

**Whippoorwill** -- east end of the township, on the Games School Road. (Where I was born and raised) I still remember the sound of the whippoorwill in the evening. My grandparents, Daniel and Mary Wingard homesteaded a farm on Whippoorwill Ridge. (Paul Vandevort / John Lucas) Daniel Wingard built their house around 1890, had cut lumber to build his good barn in 1900, the year the congregation of the Zion Church decided to erect a new church. He donated the lumber to the church, delaying the building of his barn until 1905. That July, people in the community surprised the Wingards with a party, in celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary, held on the new barn floor. My dad, James H. Wingard purchased the farm across the road in 1911 where he lived the rest of his days. He was a pioneer in farming, ahead of his time, farming several farms in Polk Township, doing custom farm work in the Munderf, Sugar Hill and Beechwoods areas. He worked with equipment companies to improve farm machinery, and retired from active farming at the age of 86. Today, his son, James Jr., wife, Ruth Ann, and their son James III continue in the farming tradition. **Dixon's Corner** is located a couple miles below Munderf, SR 4005, near the place where John Dixon, Jr. settled. It is the location of the **Dixon Corner Country Store** and "Wes Henretty Logging and Excavation. **Jimtown** - a section in the western end of the township extending into Warsaw Township.

### Slyhoff Grave

The old story, "**The Slyhoff Grave Legend**" has been retold in area newspapers many times since it was originally compiled by John Larimer, of Sigel, for a Masonic picnic held at Clear Creek, August 20, 1936. It is the story of **Richard Slyhoff**, who was said to have been an ungodly man, and greatly feared the Devil would surely get him when he died. He knew of a certain large rock that leaned far over at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and looked as though the slightest tremor of the earth would cause it to fall. Slyhoff conceived the idea that if he were buried beneath this leaning rock, he would be safe from the Devil on Judgment Day and as the earth trembled as the dead came forth from their graves, the leaning rock would fall over his grave, completely burying him for all time.

Richard Slyhoff died January 2, 1867, and according to his wish, was buried under the leaning rock. Great inconvenience was experienced by the men who dug the grave. They had to get down on their knees under the rock to scope out the earth, and even then, constantly bumped their heads. In order to get the coffin in its final resting place, it was necessary to slide it under the rock and let it down with ropes, held by men a short distance from the rock. The headstone marker, with the inscription carved on it, had to be placed at the foot of the grave, facing outward. "**Slyhoff, Richard 1/2/1867, 43y**" The foot marker was placed at the head under the huge rock.

Now comes the remarkable part of the story: **The rock has moved**--not towards the grave--but away from it! Whether by supernatural forces or the forces of nature, no one knows. But the fact remains, and is readily visible, that **the rock has drawn steadily away from the grave. . . .** stands perpendicular, even leans away from the grave. In fact, if the rock were to fall today, there would be little chance of it falling on Richard Slyhoff's grave. And that's the legend of the Slyhoff grave, **the evidence is there for all to see.** This grave is located on private property, owned by William Morelock, near the Fire Tower in Polk Township. Please obtain permission before touring the grave site.

**Additional note:** In a Tri-County Sunday, Oct. 30, 1994, feature by Joey Payne, Bill Morelock related the following story: "Last summer was just another strange occurrence at the grave, when a total stranger, a man from Ridgway, brought a new gravestone and requested permission to put it up, as he could not read the old stone. Although he was not related to Mr. Slyhoff, placed the marker anyway. He said he just liked doing those kinds of things."

The article ends with an insightful statement by Mr. Morelock's son Allen, "I don't think (Slyhoff's plan) would have worked. If God can create a universe, I think He can look under a rock."

**Schools**--The first school building #1 was erected about 1850, near the site of the present day Polk Township Consolidated School building. Later, two more schools were built. Caldwell's Atlas (1878) show

## Polk Township History

on a map of Polk Township: #2 school house in Greenbriar and #3 school house located at the Swyers property on the road to Sugar Hill. (I've heard it referred to as the Wingard School, as the William Wingard family lived there). Later, six one-room school houses were scattered throughout the township:

**Greenbriar School** located at Schoffner's Corners. Martha Elizabeth "Libby" Davis taught at this school, as did Alta Marie Luther, before her marriage to James H. Wingard, 1911. School teachers boarded within the community, and Miss Luther lived in the home of Reese McFadden. **Manners or Whippoorwill School**, located just down from the main road and to the left on the lane leading to (then Billy Manner's farm) in Whippoorwill, today James Wingard's. Lulu Schaffner taught at this school and boarded at the home of Daniel Wingard. Rheba Wingard also taught at this school, but walked through the woods from her home at the Swyers Fields, and reportedly carried a 38 revolver tucked in her purse.

**Jones School** located on Township road 554, across the road from the home of William Holt. The camp of J. Gordon Brennehan is built on this site today. The most famous student to attend this school was **Myra McFadden**, daughter of Charles Herman and Lulu (Wingard) McFadden. Miss McFadden graduated from Penn State University and received her master's degree at the University of Michigan. She did graduate work at the University of North Carolina, Duke and Rutgers. She had been employed as a teacher and mathematics department chairman in the Brookville School system. She was also an instructor of mathematics at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. In 1965, she was employed by Franklin College, Indiana, and retired in 1972. She was the author of two mathematics textbooks, "Modern Trigonometry: A Program of Self-Instruction and Sets, Relations and Functions".

Nellie (Davis) Irvin laughed when she spoke of her former student, "Do you think I taught her a little math?"

**Syphrit School**, located halfway between Michael Bell and Giulio Felici homes. My mother, Bernice Schaffner along with her sisters and Ross Webster, attended this school. **Plotner School**, was located at the corner of the Plotner and Fire Tower roads, near the present home of Ruth and Fred Uplinger.

**Jimtown School**, located across the road from the Black home. The Shaffer children attended this school. Gertrude later taught at the consolidated school at Munderf.

(In 1878 Polk township furnished each of her schools with a "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.")

**Polk Township** was the pioneer in building the first consolidated school in Jefferson County in 1922. The six one-room schools were torn down to build the school building still standing at Munderf today. It had four rooms, two in front for the first eight grades and a two year high school room in the back. Ceryl Boggs was the first high school teacher. The high school closed in 1943, with the final thirteen years under Herbert Allshouse. Students finished their education at Brookville High School. Grade school continued under Miss Ellen Songer, until 1964, when all students were bused to Brockway.

**Busing of School Students** began when the Consolidated school was built. First with horse drawn covered wagons and later cars. I've heard stories how bad the mud was in the spring of the year, or the snow in the winter, many felt safer walking. Some early bus drivers were Cecil Plotner and Richard and Iona Schaffner over 30 years; Frank Wingard for a time in Whippoorwill. **William Travis** started busing students at this time and has continued until the present day.

**Stores-- Nathaniel Clark** had a pioneer store in 1856, at Greenbriar. **Sylvester Davis** was a storekeeper also in that community in 1866 which he continued for many years. **Darius Hetrick** built a store at Blowtown. Jonathan McFadden purchased this store about 1879 and operated it for a number of years before selling it to his son-in-law, Frank Ross.

**Notes from the Caldwells Atlas of Jefferson Co., Pennsylvania--1878**

**Polk Township Business Directory**

**Henry Bullers**, had 34 acres at Schoffner's Corners and lists his occupation as a Merchant, and dealer in dry goods, clothing, groceries, and everything kept in a first-class country store. **A. B. Clark**, 50 acres, Schoffner's Corners, occupation, farmer and copper. **Sylvester Davis**, owned 358 acres, Schoffner's Corners, occupation, Dealer in dry goods, clothing, notions, groceries, provisions, etc. **J. C. George**, owned one acre, Schoffner's Corner, occupation, Blacksmithing of all kinds done neatly and to order. Horse shoeing and machine repairing a specialty. **Darius Hetrick**, 83 acres, Schoffner's Corners, occupation, Sawyer and carpenter. Many listed occupation as Farming and some "Retired".

**Newton Webster** built a general store at Munderf before 1885. It was purchased by Stewart and Mary Williamson about 1900 when Mr. Webster was elected county commissioner. These country stores supplied an amazing amount of merchandise to the local community--butter, eggs, chicken, veal calves and pork.

## Polk Township History

Mrs. Williamson's younger brother Harry related stories of cutting ice from the pond on Hetrick Run, at Blowtown, for the Williamson's store. The huge blocks of ice were hauled to the store, kept in an out building, covered with sawdust to prevent melting, and used for refrigeration. Harry didn't speak fondly of the task. The Williamson's built living quarters onto the store. They had originally lived in the small house below the store. (Barry Carnahan) **The Williamson's** retired from the operation of the store, November 1929, due to Mr. Williamson's poor health. It was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sample who operated it for two years, then to Earl J. Sample, who continued operation until 1936.

**The Allshouses**, Herbert and Dorothea, purchased the store July 1, 1936, and it remained under their operation and their son's, Herbert Joseph "Joe", who took over management 1970, until his death June, 1993, when the store was closed and sold. This store had become widely known as "**The Munderf Mall**". Mr. Allshouse completely rebuilt the store and living quarters, of cement blocks, tearing down the original wooden structure as the new was erected in 1958. This store had been in continuous operation for over 100 years with the final 57 years under Allshouse management. (July 1936--July 1993)

**The Ambrose Davis Store** at Munderf was also a well-stored store. After the death of his wife, Laurena Schaffner, the store was operated by other people. This small county store provided an income to Goldie Webster after the death of her husband, Daniel Webster, and means of supporting her seven children. Loy "Joe" Lockood was the last to operate this store before it was closed, sold and torn down.

### World War II

Although many from this community served their country during World War II, only three paid the ultimate price. Gerald Webster, Delmar Mortimer and Kenneth E. Wingard.

**Gerald Webster**, son of Goldie (Wingard) Webster, and the late Daniel Webster, was killed September 6, 1943 during a cross-country bomber flight from Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, in a crash 17 miles east of Sioux City, Iowa, which claimed the lives of all on board.

**"Two Boys From Munderf Are Casualties"** This headline blazed across the front page of a February, 1945 edition of the Brookville newspaper.

**Pfc. Delmar A. Mortimer**, reported killed in action in Germany on January 20, 1945, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mortimer.

**S-Sgt. Kenneth E. Wingard**, son of James Wingard, of Munderf, (and the late Alta Luther Wingard) has been reported killed in action in Germany, January 25, 1945. "He took part in the D-Day Invasion, sustained wounds which won him the Purple Heart and an Oak Leaf Cluster." He was hospitalized in England until December 1944 when he returned to action and was killed one month later.

(These boys were born and raised on farms, across the road from one another, in Whippoorwill. Their deaths in Germany occurred five days apart.)

### Dixon Corner Country Store

The Dixon Corner County Store opened October 1995 and in the tradition of former stores in the township supplies almost every need of the people in this community. The store building is owned by Neal and Pat Davis, rented by Pat and her daughters, Lori Welsh and LaRena Bailey, who operate the store and own the merchandise. The store carries groceries, hardware and building supplies, hunting and fishing supplies, ice, a Deli, selling hoagies and pizza, video rentals, ATM, crafts, advertisements to purchase local quilts, a propane re-filling station, as well as carrying used books and magazines, local news papers.

**Veterans Memorial Stone**--Donated to the Munderf Cemetery by Thomas P. McFadden, Memorial Day 2000. The stone reads, 'They endured all and gave all protecting their country's freedom from oppression and greed. Dedicated to the men and women who have served our country in war time and in peace.'

**Polk Township Today**--2001 Polk Township has a new Township Building, used for elections and supervisors meetings, as well as sheds, on the same property, for storage of township road equipment. Township Officers: Supervisors: Neal Davis, Donald Cepull and Jay Heilbrun. Township Secretary, Pat Davis. Tax Collector, Ellen Chamberlin. Township Auditors: Brett Brumbaugh, Judy McKillip and Donna Bell. Assessor: Linda Bailey. **Businesses:** D&K Machine Shop (Greenbriar) owned by the Dixon Family. A Sawmill, owned by Neal Davis; Jimtown Builders, owned by Stephen Shaffer, "Sleepyheads Waterbeds"

## Polk Township History

and "Sleepheads Power Equipment". Sigel Road, owned by Harry and Jo Ann Smith; Wesley Henretty Logging and Excavation; John Armstrong Garage; Terry Snyder, Building & Carpentry; Michael and LaRena Bailey Sanitation Service; Spherion, DuBois, by J. Patrick Feeley; and Hide-A-Way Cottages, owned by The Morelocks, Dixon Corner Country Store; Kevin Moore Trucking (Log Truck); Travis Bus Lines and Keystone M Quarter Horses by Christopher Mitterer. **Dairy Farmers:** James Wingard, at Whippoorwill; Kenneth Chamberlin, on Egypt Road and Michael Shaffer, Jintown. **Beef Farmers:** Carl Dixon, with farms at Greenbriar and Munderf; Travis Brothers, Greenbriar, William Holt, Munderf; Kenneth Thompson, Munderf; Joseph Rhines, farm on Davis Run Road, and Lincoln Wilson, Longwell Farm, Bonds Road. Pat Feeley, raises a few llamas on his farm in Whippoorwill. Mr. Feeley, a native Texan is a former Manager of the Brockway Glass Plant #2 at Crenshaw.

**The oldest citizens** are **Juanita "Nellie" Lavender** 91 ( Sept. 2001) and Mary (Davis) Breakey at 90, Ellsworth Shaffer, Dessie Iona Schaffner and Blair Travis.

We have a resident Game Warden in Roger Hartless.

Amish families have moved into the township in the year 2000. The Dan Millers purchased the Russell Davis farm on Davis Road, built a new barn and house on the property last year. Another family purchased the former Baldy Black farm at Jintown. Other families are continually moving into the community.

**Population:** (Population in the township in 1860 was 244; 1870, 256; 1880, 361; 1890, 616; **1900, 653**, 1910, 414) According to the latest census the population of Polk Township is **297**. There are 373 camps within the township; 83 residential homes and 648 parcels. With the decline of the logging industry around 1900, farming became the main occupation. There was an exodus to find jobs in other industries, such as oil and gas. Today we have fewer farmers--but--those who do farm do so on a larger scale, including several farms in their operations.

**Gary Chamberlin, named head of CLC in Italy:** A former resident of this community, Gary Chamberlin, served many years as a missionary in Italy with "Inter Varsity", later with Christian Literature Crusade was voted, May 2001, as the head of that organization in Italy. He and his wife, Anita, have three children, Samuel, Heidi and Michele. Gary is the son of the Rev. William L. and Sylvia Chamberlin, of Brookville.

### A Humorous Note and Final Thoughts

In the past 150 years we've moved from log cabins to homes centrally heated, with electricity, running water and indoor plumbing. We've left the horse and buggy, well, most of us, in favor of automobiles, with almost every family owning two. Only one thing has remained constant and that is the "**Church**".

We've zoomed into the jet age with color television, cable, cell phones and computers--

but, the one change I get a big smile from --is--

A change over the past 150 years, the wife gets the title of "Mrs." or may even have a name--

The days of Mr. So and so and "wife" are gone!

I think the little woman has stepped up beside her husband rather than trailing two steps behind.

The man may have ruled the roost, or so he believed, but there was one rule the wife insisted on and enforced--no smoking or chewing in the house. (Could be why the older homes had large porches)

In church history I noted Anna McFadden seemed to be the first woman to hold an office in the church, but then, once the door was opened---

On a more serious note, I give 150% respect to these pioneers, both men and women, who settled Polk Township. They had a strength and fortitude that I fear we may lack today. They worked from dawn to dusk to "squeeze" out an existence and yet took time to worship God, establish schools, help one another and meet together on a regular basis to socialize.

They had a true pioneer spirit. Many came, some stayed, but just as many moved further west to Nebraska, Kansas and Montana, perhaps, with a grander goal of settling our country.

As for me, a third generation descendant born in the township and a fifth generation descendant of some of those early pioneer who came from Germany, Switzerland, England and Ireland--this is my home **a very special place**. I'm proud to call home, and where I'll be happy to live the rest of my days.

(Note: I've tried to write an informative history of Polk Township. As there is so much conflicting information, dates, etc., it is impossible to make definitive statements and say they're 100% correct. Compared to all the historical facts available, my knowledge is very limited, as well as the space permitted. If I've omitted something you feel is important or made errors in stating facts, it is unintentional.) Joyce Holt



## Polk Township History

(Note: This page should follow page 8, after John C. Plotner and before Henry Wingard)

### **Carnahan**

**James Carnahan** was born 1806--died December 15, 1883, (m) 1823 Mary Randolph (Feb. 18, 1802--June 3, 1888) daughter of William and Mary (Smith) Randolph. He lived in Madison Township, Clarion Co., where he was a farmer, until the 1850's when he moved to Polk Township with his wife and two youngest sons, Hugh and Benjamin Garrison. By 1870, his oldest sons, William and Thomas had also moved to Jefferson County.

**Hugh Carnahan** (July 24, 1844--Jan. 15, 1907) served in Co. C., Regiment 148th Pa. Vol. in the Civil War. He enlisted Sept. 7, 1862 and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863. He deserted from the Rebel Parole Camp, Maryland, Oct. 2, 1863. He and his wife Elizabeth (d/Sept. 23, 1922) are buried in the Zion Cemetery at Munderf. **Benjamin Garrison** (Aug. 11, 1846, Sandy Hollow, Clarion Co., Pa.--June 16, 1927, Munderf Cemetery) He served in the Civil War with Co. K, 199th Reg. Pa. Vol.) He (m1) July 20, 1869, Barbara Fair. She died Sept 17, 1897, Schoffner's Corners. Nine children were born to them: William, Harry, Loretta Ann, Garrison Lawson, Obediah, Mary C., James W., Wade G. and Laura M. He (m2) Jennie E. (Cooley) Porter, Oct. 8, 1900 at the Court House in Brookville, by John W. Walker, JP.

**Thomas Carnahan** (October 20, 1829, Clarion Co.--October 20, 1888) (m) August 23, 1864, Mary Taylor (May 1, 1841--March 5, 1920), daughter of John and Mary Taylor. Thomas was wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, during the Civil War, serving with the 101st Regiment of Pa. Volunteers. He was shot in the left arm and sustained injury to his left knee, resulting in permanent lameness the rest of his life. Thomas and Mary are buried in the Zion Munderf Cemetery.

Their children: **James Monroe** (June 25, 1865--April 7, 1938) (m) Bertha Ecklund, Sept. 20, 1900. She was born 1881, in Sweden, a daughter of Charles and Ingar (Helson) Ecklund and came to America Oct 21, 1884, died June 26, 1923, Munderf. Both James and Bertha are buried in the Munderf Cemetery.

**Abraham Thomas** (July 1, 1867--April 9, 1952, Munderf Cem.) (m) Sept. 22, 1897, Ida Snyder (1872--1912, Zion Munderf Cem.); Mary Helen (Dec. 15, 1869) (m) John Carlson, Sept. 22, 1897. **Minnie Amanda** (July 26, 1872--July 22, 1940) (m) Isaac Black, April 16, 1890; and **Alvin Ellsworth** (Aug. 31, 1875--Nov. 1950) (m) Nov. 13, 1910, Josie Lee (1889-1993) Both are buried in the Munderf Cemetery.

**James Monroe Carnahan** was a farmer and lumberman. In the winter and spring, he worked in the woods, and as he was skilled at his work, commanded top wages. He was one of the best "spudders" in this area. Spudding is peeling bark from hemlock logs which was used in tanneries. He began working in the woods at the age of 12 years and took his first ride down the Clarion River on a lumber raft at the age of 15. Being the oldest in the family, he took care of his brothers and sisters after the death of their father.

Children born to James and Bertha (Ecklund) Carnahan: Edwin Alvin (Aug. 1, 1901); Virgil Howard "Cuffy" (July 2, 1903--Jan. 19, 1988) (m) Oglä Geer and had one son, Dale (1935-2000); Edith Blanche (Aug. 15, 1905) (m) Emil Lindholm; Ray Thomas (Jan. 26, 1908--Aug. 6, 1992) (m) Esther Lance; Robert Charles (May 23, 1910--June 8, 1978) (m) Mildred Irene Frederick; Mildred Altina (July 31, 1915--Jan. 14, 2001) (m) Preston Lyle McClelland, sons: Donald, Kenneth and Cletus; William Monroe (June 10, 1918--Jan. 21, 1995) (m) April 25, 1943, Lois Lindholm, children: Wesley, Diana, Barry and Randy; Mabel Margaret (Nov. 3, 1920--Dec. 17, 1999) (m) Herbert White; and Violet Maxine (May 20, 1923) (m) James Kolstee. Bertha died a few days after the birth of Maxine, who was adopted and raised by John and Ida Wingard.

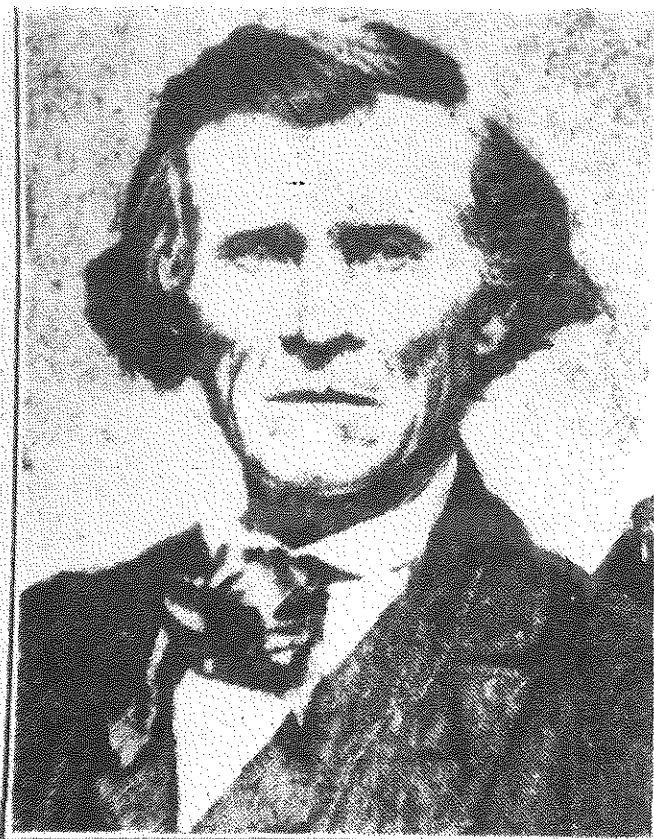
**Minnie Amanda Carnahan** (1872-1940) (m) April 16, 1890, **Isaac Irvin Black** (Aug. 26, 1868--June 30, 1951). Isaac is a son of John and Sally Black. Children born to Isaac and Minnie: Willie Alvin (1891-1891); Mary Laurena (1893-1979) (m) John McKillip; Perry Edgar (1895-1986); Merle McCain (1897-1984); John Monroe (Sept. 6, 1899-1919); Thomas Edison (1902-1921); Leila Ella (1904-1978) (m) Shirl Boyer, son, Elmer; Orpha Myrtle (1906-1998) (m1) Dennis R. Shaffer, (2) John Pase; Jay Herbert (1907-1908); Sarah Mae (1909-1909); Earl Robert (1910-1999) (m) Emily "Emma" Lindemuth, children, Betty, Robert and Thomas; and Jennie Dora (1914-1914). Minnie and Isaac Black are buried in the Munderf Cemetery.

References: "Carnahan" by Lois Carnahan and Dawn Colburn, August 1978  
Elmer Boyer

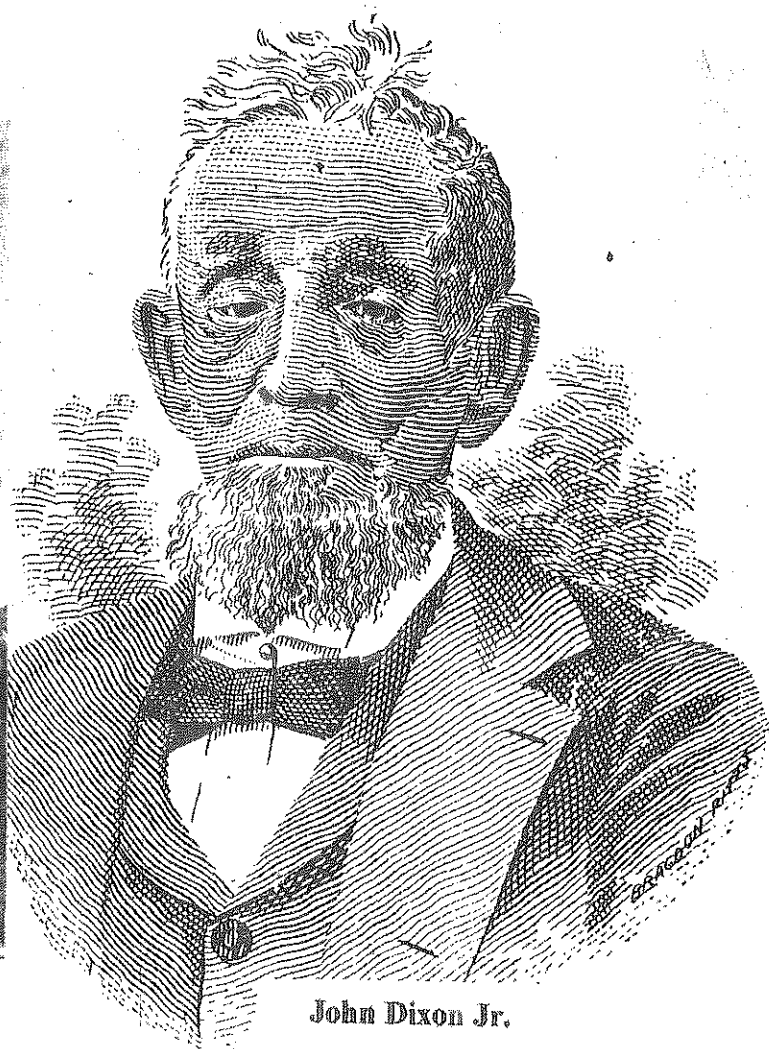
# Polk Township History

## References

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Caldwells Historical Atlas of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, by J.A. Caldwell, 1878  
History of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania by Kate M. Scott, 1888  
John Holt of Oldham, England and his Complete American Descendants 1802-1872 by R. Mark Baldwin, Jr.  
Tombstone Hoppin` By Patricia Steele  
Jefferson County Pennsylvania History 1982  
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Tri-County Sunday Newspaper  
Tribune Review Sunday Newspaper



**Paul Vandevort (Van Devoort)**  
First recorded settler in Polk Township



**John Dixon Jr.**



**Jacob and Rebecca McFadden Jr.**



**Henry and Appolonia Schaffner**



**Adam and Mariah Hetrick**

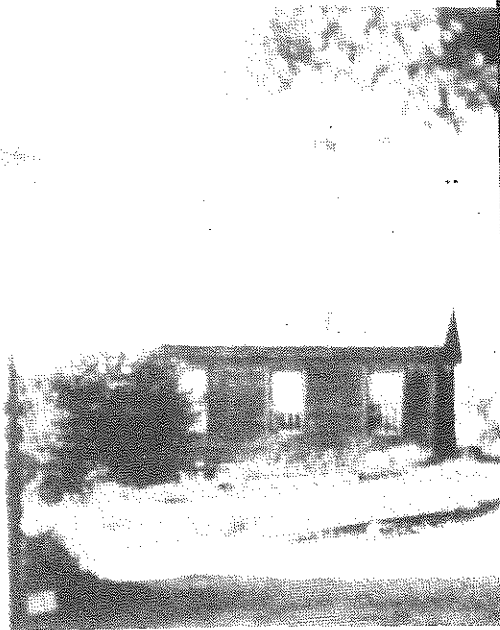
First couple married in Polk Township  
 Adam is the son of Frederick and Elizabeth  
 Hetrick and Mariah is the daughter of  
 Philip and Esther Hetrick.



*Darius Hetrick  
 From the Hetrick Gallery*

**Darius Hetrick**





**The "Zion" Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Left: Original Church House built in 1863, moved near the Munderf Store 1900**

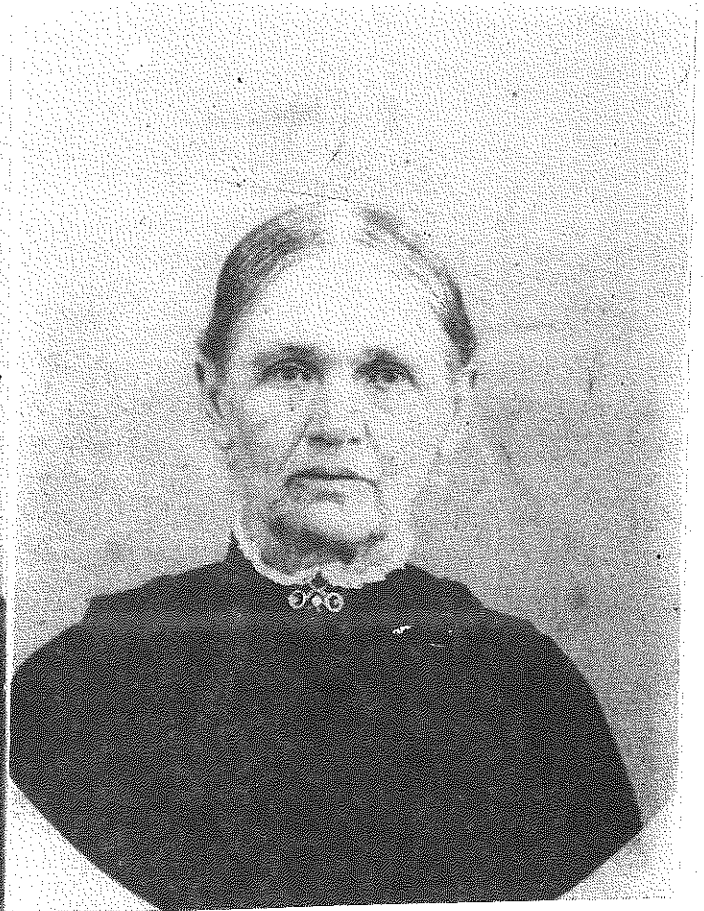
**Right: The Zion M. E. Church built 1900-01**



**Fulton and Rachel (Hetrick) Schaffner**

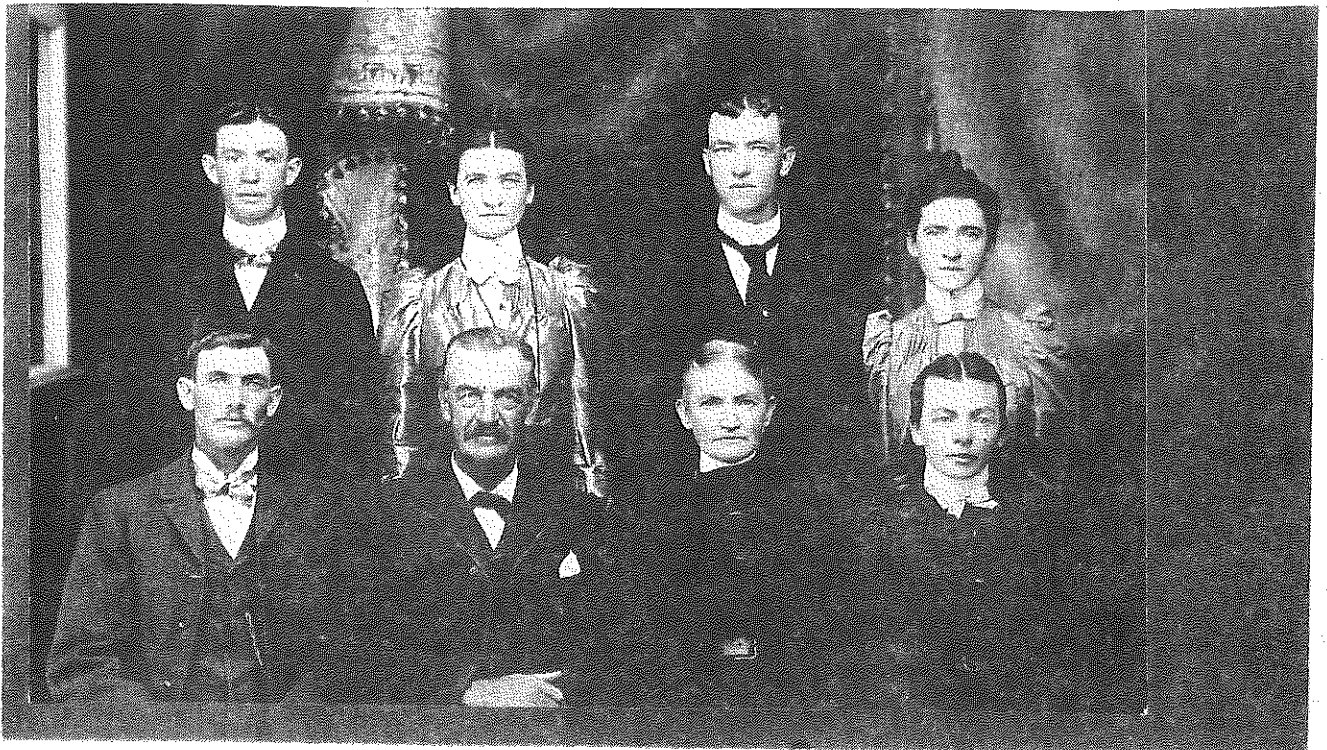


**Shannon and Anna (Webster) McFadden**



**Othniel and Annie (Hetrick) Davis**

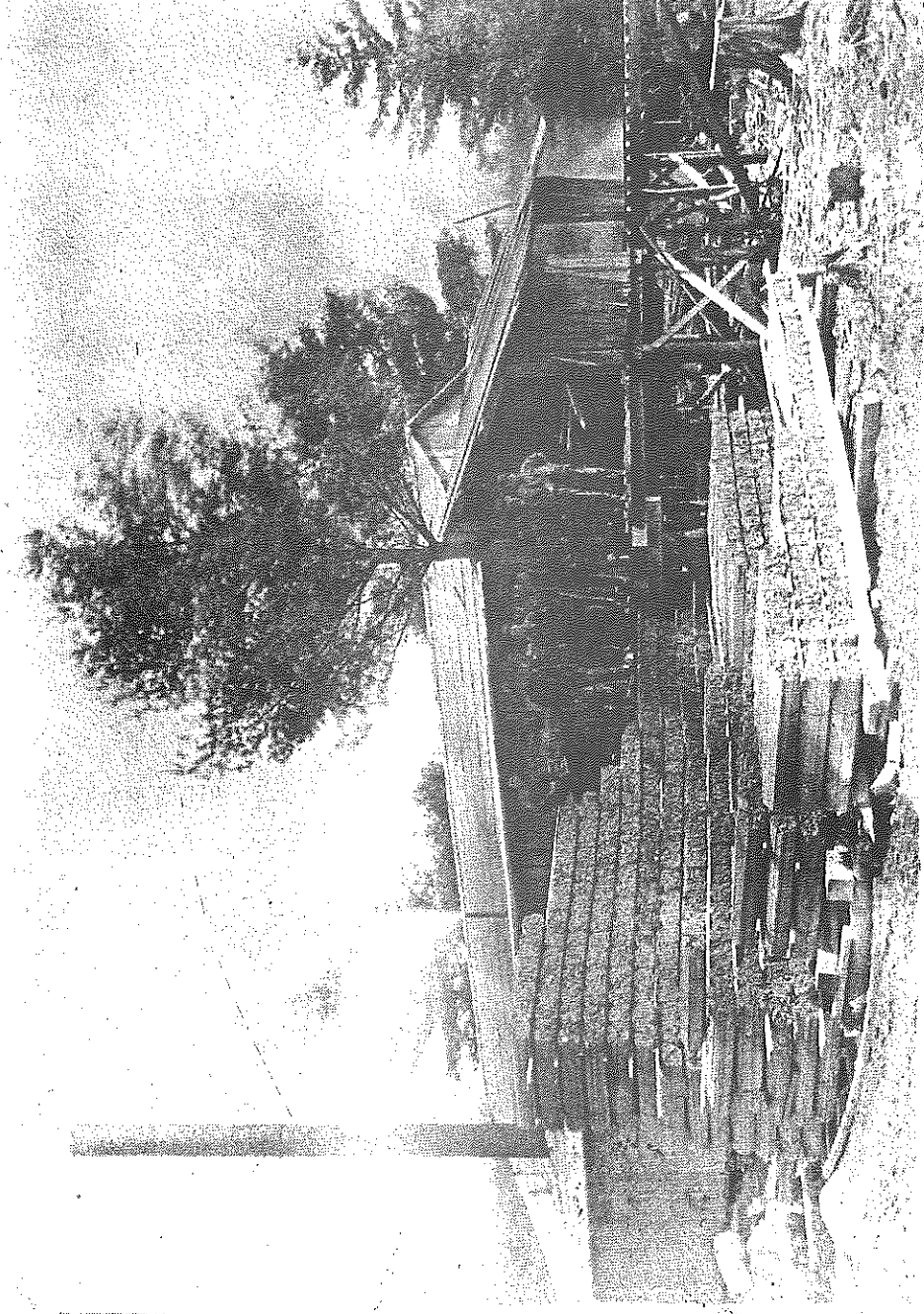
**The Sylvester Davis Family**  
**Front: Ambrose, Sylvester and Martha, Anna Belle**  
**Back: Harry, Effie, Blaine, "Libby"**





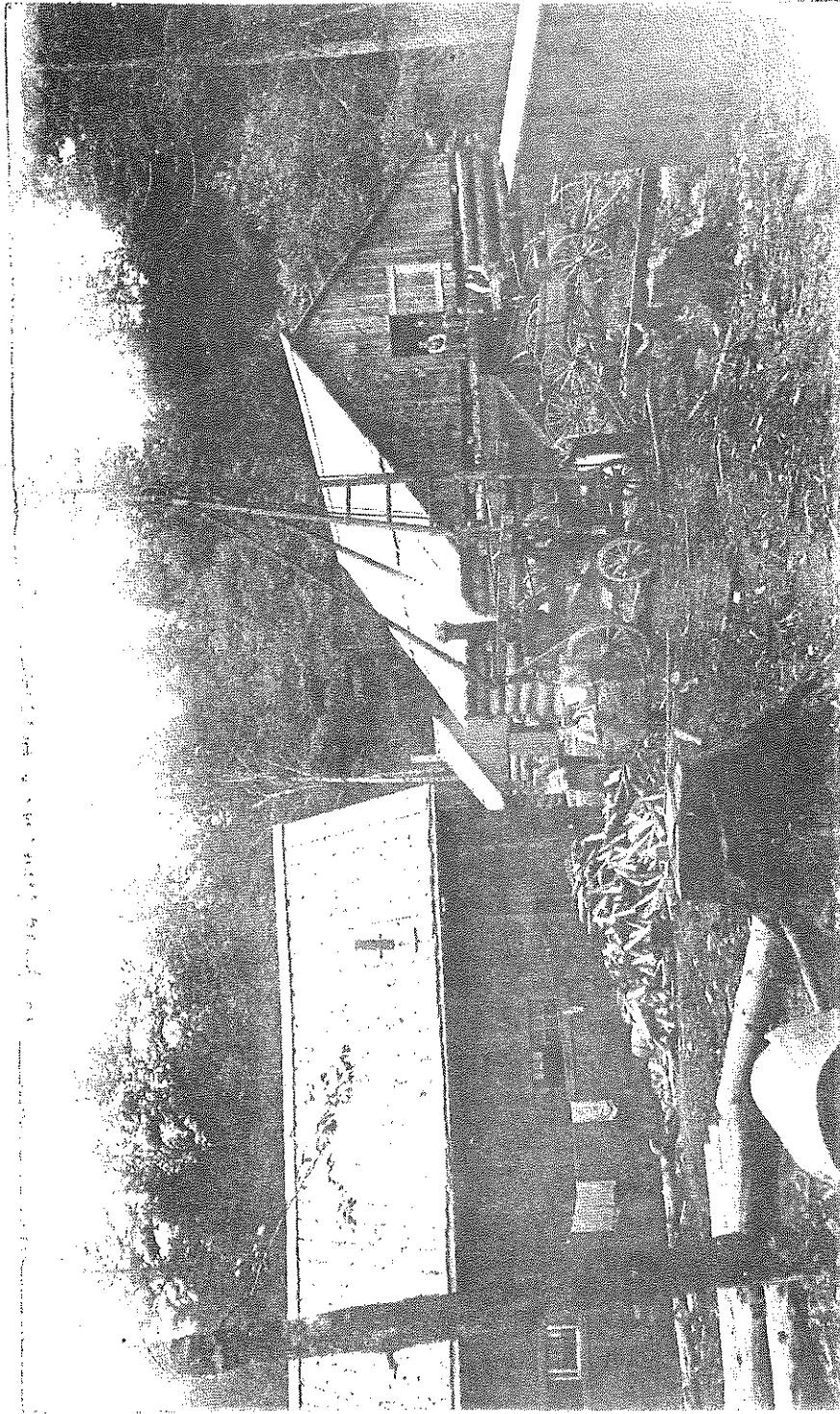


BLOWTOWN



**Hetrick Mill**  
**Blowtown**





*From the Gettysburg Gallery*

JEFFERSON, CO.

SCHAFFERS CORNERS, PA.



Jared and Selinda Jones



William H. H. and Susanna Manners



John W. and Margaret Plotner



Newton and Sarah (Plotner) Family  
center: (Elizabeth (Bowerstock) Plotner )  
and daughters Adda and 'Lynn'



**Robert M. and Rosa Armstrong**  
 (Rosa is the daughter of Stephen Hetrick  
 and Elizabeth Nosker)

**Paul Hetrick**



**Working Township Roads at Greenbriar**  
 (Sylvester Davis Home in Background)





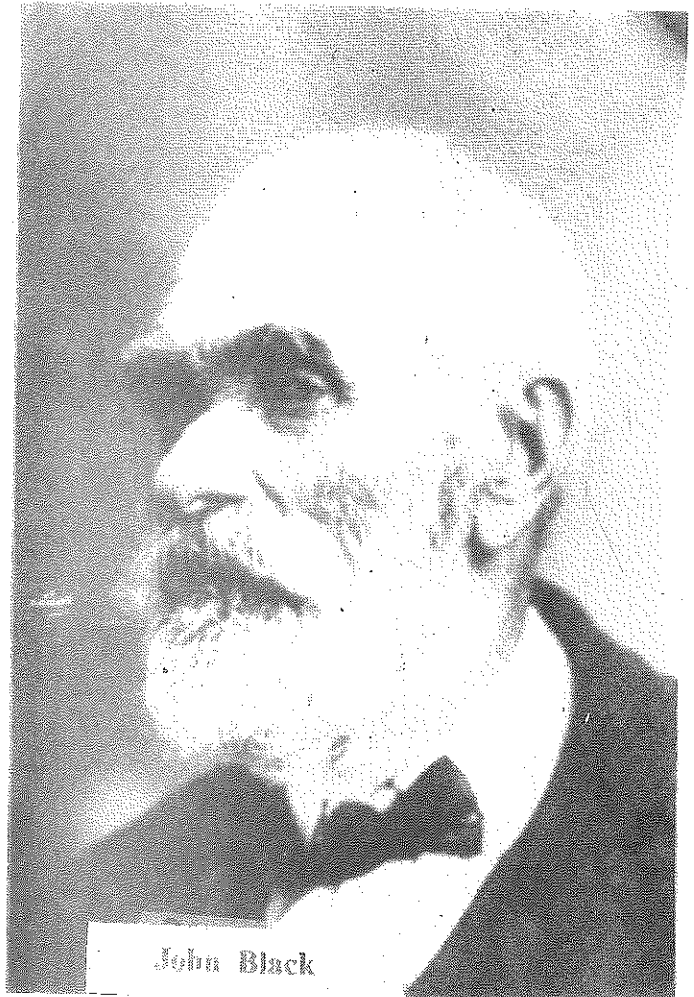
Proper Attire for the well dressed man 1900  
 Back: Jacob Wingard, Harve McFadden  
 Front: Soloman Pifer and C. Herman McFadden



And for the Lady  
 "Libby" Wingard  
 Designed and made Hats



Eva Clark



John Black

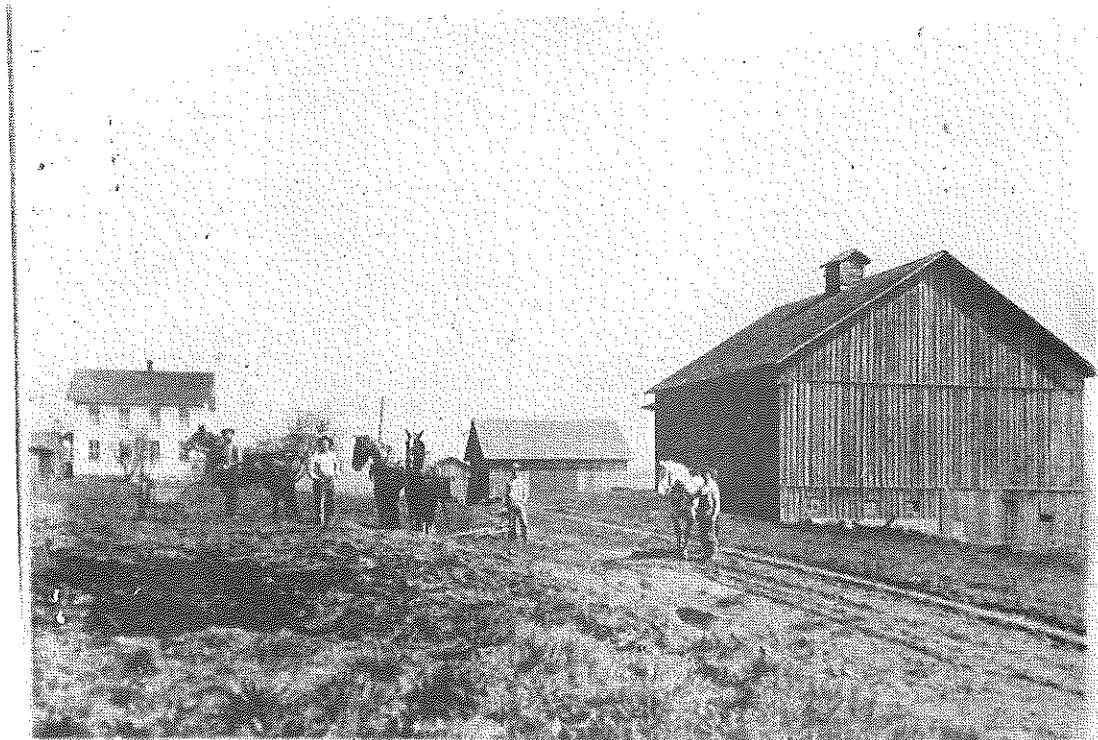


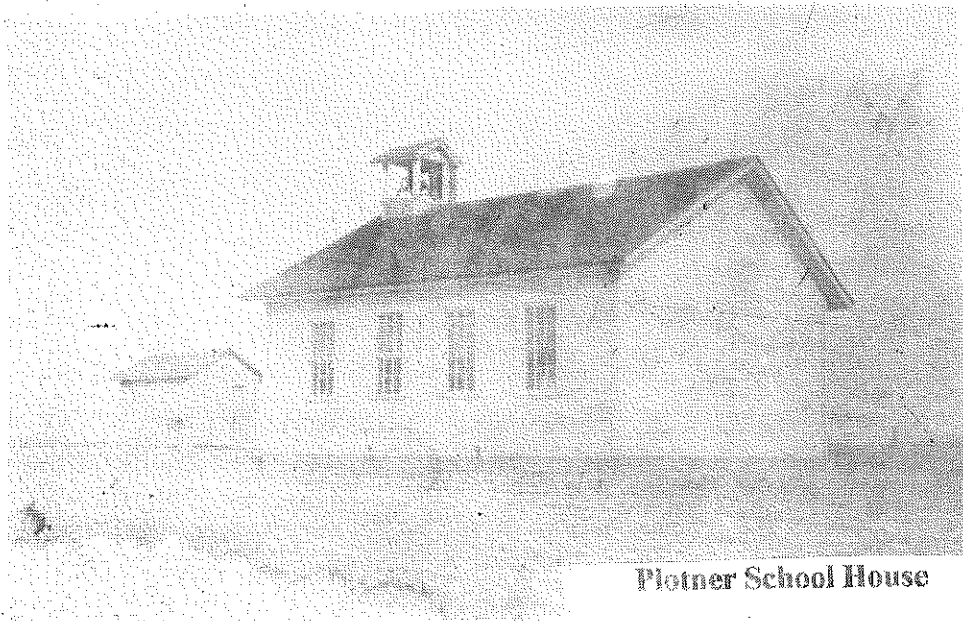
**Thomas Jay and Ida Chamberlin**



**Ray Rodney and Elsie Jones**

**A Former Picture of the Webster Farm at Munderf  
(Home of Ross Webster)**





**Plotner School House**



**Syphrit School House**

(Below)

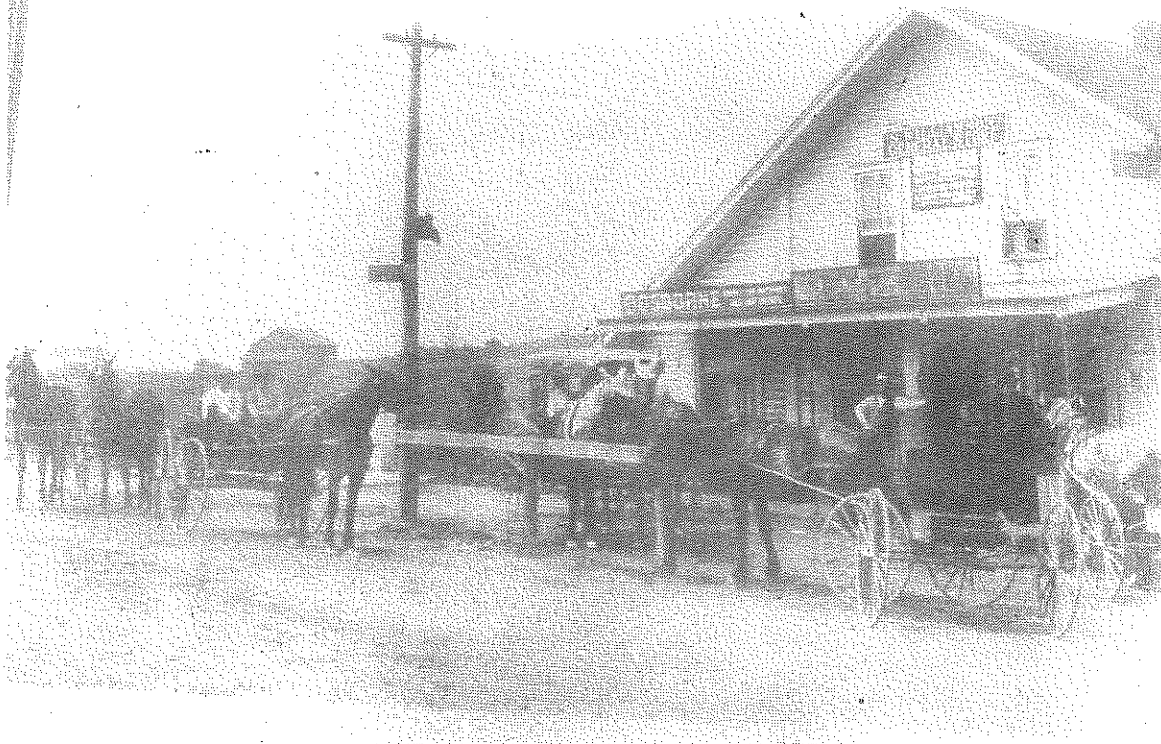
An old photo of some of the students who attended this school.



**Myra McFadden**





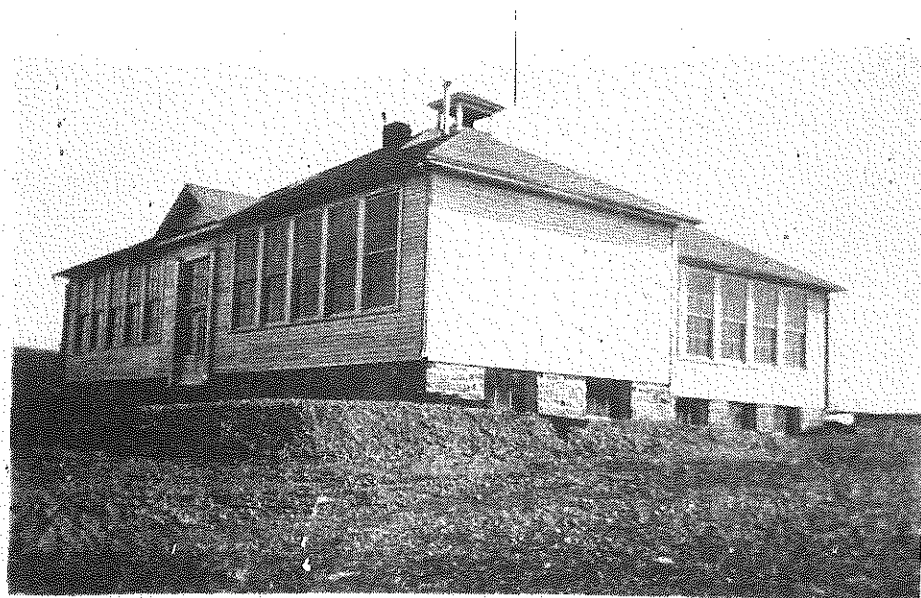


**Williamson's General Store at Munderf**  
Built before 1885 by Newton B. Webster  
Stewart and Mary Williamson operated the store  
1900--November 1929



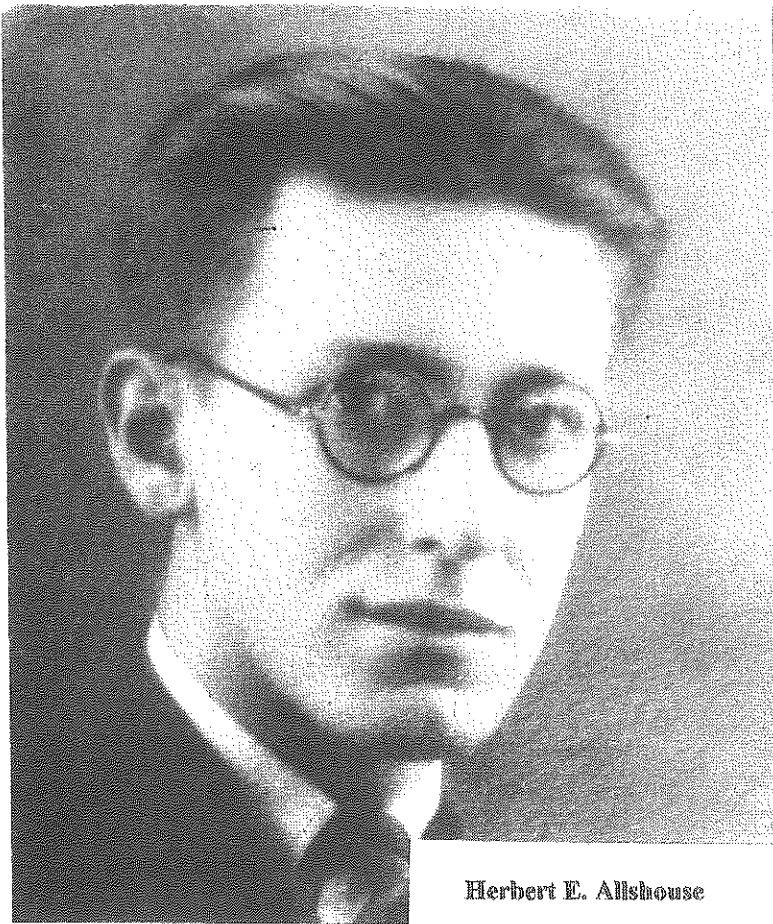


**Ambrose Davis Store**  
(Munderf)



**Polk Township Consolidated School**  
Build 1922





Herbert E. Allshouse



Dorothea (McFadden) Allshouse



Allshouse Store in June 1987  
Joe was manager  
(1970-1993)

