

JOSEPH HERWICK'S ACCOUNT BOOK 1816 - 1868 GREENSBURG, WESTMORELAND COUNTY PA

Until 1951, this Account Book used by Joseph Herwick (1778-1832) lay hidden in a trunk owned by his great grandson William Thomas Herwick (1867-1960). William's son Forrest Seal Herwick (1897-?) discovered it.

Joseph Herwick was a wheelwright and a chairmaker in Greensburg, Westmoreland County. He came from Cumberland County Pa. as early as 1800, and married Martha Skiles (1785-1851) daughter of Isaac Skiles. In that same year Martha gave birth to twins - Joseph Jr. (1810-1837) and Robert (1810-1858) and Joseph's red-haired apprentice, George Sloan, ran away.

Notes by the author of this article, a descendant of Joseph Herwick states: "The Windsor chairs he made are not what we expect Windsor chairs to be. My Mother had one of Joseph's chairs, and my son in Wheeling WV now has it. I saw another one like it in the Century Inn at Scenery Hill in Washington county Pa. I saw a snapshot of one a woman in Ohio had in her family, and a similar one can be found in Illustration #252 in *The Encyclopedia of Furniture* by Joseph Aronson, Crown Publishers, N.Y., 1954. Joseph's descendants all insist that he came from England, but his Windsor chairs show a strong influence of Pennsylvania German chairmakers. I think he probably learned the craft from a German. I quote from an article I wrote much later for *Tri-State Trader* Vol. 3 No. 49 in which I state: Early in the 19th century, Pennsylvania German wheelwrights developed their own version of the Windsor chair. Like the more common Windsor or Philadelphia chairs, the Pennsylvania German version had a bowed back, a thick seat and splayed legs which were pegged directly into the seat. Otherwise, it bore little resemblance to the classic Windsor. I then referred to an article by Dr. Paul McDermott in the July 1970 issue of the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* in which he points out that Western Pennsylvania furniture designs were later adaptations of Philadelphia styles but were heavier and more simple. The Herwick chair leg is shaped like the early Pennsylvania spear leg, but is thicker and sturdier. Now to quote myself again: The chair pictured is black with an undercoat of 'barn-red' paint which shows on the underside of the seat. The splat is vase-shaped and decorated with a vertical oval stencil design featuring stylized flowers. The chair top has a horizontal oval stencil design." /S/ Martha Banks.

Joseph Herwick died 15 June 1832 and is buried in the St. Clair Cemetery in Greensburg Pa. He was so far in debt that his property had to be sold "at public outcry" in 1835. The Inventory shows that Robert had his father's tools, yet Robert is listed as a chairmaker in 1834 only. This suggests that the tools of his craft were sold to help cover his debts.

Robert Herwick's sister Nancy, wife of merchant Henry Welty, also died in 1834. By 1839 the name Herwick had disappeared from the Greensburg tax records.

According to Robert's great grandson, Forrest Herwick, of Mill Run, Fayette County, Joseph built the 8 foot tall grandfather clock which is in the Westmoreland County court house. About 1977, A.H. Herwick of Barberton, Ohio said that his mother had told him that his great grandfather had built the clock in 1827. He thought she was referring to William (1769-1833). William was Joseph Herwick's brother who lived next door to him at the north end of Greensburg, just across the street from the Hon. John Latta. Tax records show that William was a watchmaker and clockmaker beginning at least as early as 1811, so there is really no conflict between the two 'stories.' William made the works, and Joseph built the case.



EDITORS' NOTES

Butler County Newspapers are now available on CD-ROM. Made up from the collections of both the Butler Area Public Library and the Butler County Historical Society. Includes more than 40 newspaper titles and 2000 individual editions, spanning the period 1805-1901. 16 CDs contain the full set. The CD is called "News of the Day, Butler County Newspapers 1805-1901." Cost is \$149.95 (Pa res. add tax). Call 724/283-8116. Butler County Historical Society, Box 414, Butler PA 16003-0414 or visit them at their office located on the 7th floor of the City National Bank Building, at the corner of Main & Jefferson in downtown Butler.

CORRECTION to WPGSQ 27:1(Summer 2000):12-13 "Borough of Pittsburgh Electors 8 Oct 1805." Please add the following names to these lists: James Wills, Jeremiah Sturgeon, Eneas McDonald, Woolman Gibson, Mathias Evans, William Mason. It is Daniel (not David) Dawson; William Shinas is likely William Shiras, Joseph Simnall is likely Simeral, Samuel Hubbey is likely Hubley, and Elections Tudor is likely Aloysius Tudor. From Paul Amedick.

Change of email address for Linda Plazics Kleback who wrote the article "Testimony in Civil War Pension files for Butler County Pa resident: An Undiscovered Source" In WPGSQ 27:1(Summer 2000):14-15. In case you wish to contact the writer her new email is kleback@bellsouth.net.

From Heritage Books News December 2000, Issue #205. The number of resources available on the web for Native American research is impressive. A good starting point is at www.americanindian.net/ which leads to sites dealing with all aspects of Native American life. Click on the "Links" button at top of front page; then scroll down and click on the "genealogy sites" option in the master link table. The Bureau of Indian Affairs site is a good starting point for basic research advise. This can be reached via the above route, or directly at www.doi.gov/bia/ancestry/geneal.html. Another excellent site with links by Indian Tribe is www.thefuturesite.com/nzingha/newlinks.html. For general browsing you might want to try www.indiancircle.com This site lists over 330 tribes recognized by the U.S. government and is part of a web site with 30 Native American sites on it. Thanks to Laird Towle.

Do you have an ancestor in Beaver County? Carnegie Library Pa Dept. holds microfilm of the Beaver Argus from 11 June 1830 to 29 May 1878. Some abstracts have been made from 1830 to 1858, marriages have been abstracted from 1830 to 1873, Deaths have not been abstracted from 1858-1878, Marriages have not been abstracted from 1874-1878 and small items have not been abstracted from 1858-1878. If you do not live in Pittsburgh in order to use these microfilms at the library, you can interlibrary loan them from the Newspaper Dept. at the Pa. State Library. Contact your editor for help with this project for the Quarterly. The State Library holds microfilms up to 1912.

Additions and Corrections to WPGSQ 26:3(Winter 2000):30-36 "Allegheny County Towns that are not there anymore" by Elizabeth Wall, submitted by Paul Amedick. Page 33 Brushton. It is my understanding that it became the 37th Ward in 1874, the same year that Wilkinsburg managed to stay out of the city. Page 34 Tinkersville. My entry says 8 Aug 1851 (from Der Frieheits Freund mentions Tinkerville in Lower St. Clair twp). I would possibly place it in the later 'seldom seen' below Beechview or possibly Beltzhoover.

The County Line: Newsletter of the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, The Newberry Library, Chicago IL dated December 2000 has just arrived on my desk. This project has already completed and published atlases for the following states: Alabama; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island (in one volume); Delaware, Maryland, and District of Columbia (in one volume); Florida; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kentucky; Michigan; Minnesota; Mississippi; New Hampshire & Vermont (in one volume); New York, North Carolina; Ohio; PENNSYLVANIA; South Carolina; Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Their goal is to publish an Atlas for every state in the United States. The year 2000 saw the publication of two new volumes, *Tennessee* and *Minnesota*. The next couple of books are not far off – North & South Dakota; and Missouri is not far behind. Utah is being worked along with Nevada. New Jersey is completed but not yet published. And the compilation of Texas is coming along. This work is being funded by NEH with additional funds from The Newberry, and private foundations and individuals. The historical development of county jurisdictions is very useful to thousands of researchers. Your library should have a copy of Pennsylvania, at least. You can view the Web Site of The Gale Group, Box 9187, Farmington Hills MI 48333-9187 who market these volumes at www.galegroup.com where you can also place an order for any of the volumes. Editor John Long advises that the Ohio Atlas is not yet on the web site, but it is available for those interested. You can also call The Gale Group at 800-877-GALE. If you are purchasing a copy of any book for your library, you might want them to order it for you in order to get the Library discount. The Pennsylvania volume is magnificent, I use my copy all the time.

/S/ Jean S. Morris, Quarterly Editor

In 1869, Dr. John Morrison in his will gave the clock "to the office of the Westmoreland County Commissioners." Dr. Morrison was the son of Rebecca Herwick (1767-1854) and her husband John Morrison Sr. She is also buried in St. Clair Cemetery, Greensburg.

Other siblings were: Elizabeth who married John Isett in the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle on 5 April 1785; and Ann whose wedding to William Armour took place in the same church on 2 Apr 1807. Ann died in Greensburg in 1813. Another sibling might be James Herwick who married widow Catherine French in the First Lutheran Church, Carlisle on 16 April 1792. All except James removed to Westmoreland County. Ann, whose will mentions the above as her brothers and sisters, did not include James.

At some point Joseph Herwick's Account Book was turned upside down and was used to keep accounts for a man who seemed to be a jack-of-all-trades. Forrest Herwick believed it was Robert son of Joseph Herwick (thus the entries after his 1832 death date) to 1868.

JOSEPH HERWICK'S ACCOUNT BOOK

Sept. 25, 1823 - Mrs. Isett, a widow, chairs, high chair, wheel work
No date - William & John Graff, spinning wheel, chairs
No date - John Graff
No date - Mrs. Jacob Eicher
Nov. 29, 1823 - Jacob Zimmerman
Apr 14, 1822 - Wm. Philips, oil, painting, wagon
Nov. 3, 1830 - Levi Camp, chairs
Jan. 23, 1824 William Lehner - 16 chairs \$20.
Jan. 18, 1824, Peter Zimmerman - 1 barrel flax seed
May 8, 1824 Jos. Montgomery - painting furniture
Oct. 8, 1827 XXXX'd out
Nov. 30, 1830 Jacob Welty - mending chairs
No date - Samuel _____
Oct. 30, 1823 Frederick J. Cope - glazing
July 1817 - John Morris - painting rooms and furniture, wheelwork
Dec. 19, 1822 - William McKinney - spinning wheel, glazing
Jan. 3, 1830 - Peter Fleeger - painting, chairs
Jan. 18, 1818 - James Bradey - glazing, chairs
Jan. 26, 1817 - James Ewen - chairs
Mar 30, 1818 - Robert Montgomery Esq. - chairs, glazing, wheelwork
Oct. 12, 1816 - Mrs. James Graham - chairs, settee, painting & glazing
Nov. 26, 1818 - Samuel Shaw - 1 silver watch, chairs, bay horse
 Aug. 20, 1834 Wm. Herwick and Samuel Shaw agreed account dead by limitations.
May 19, 1826 - Thomas Morgan - glazing, painting, chair, brandy, whiskey
Nov. 18, 1818 - John Taylor - turning bedstead posts, bureau legs, chest feet, glazing, table legs.

1849 - John Townsend (continuation from old book) coal, hauling wood, food boxes.

1850 - Monroe Bute - corn, cotton

Names in this account include Bowman, Drake, Work, Gore, Skiles,
Thomas, Freeman (no given names).

Peter Mitchel - planting corn, harvesting

Wm. T. Patton, painter, Cambria County, Pa.

June 17, 1820 - John Taylor - bedposts, window cornices, sign post

Nov. 18, 1825 - John B. Hornish

Apr 10, 1822 - John H. Izett

1824 - Eli Coulter

Oct. 1829 – George and James Pattey (sic) – one blind mare \$20.
 Apr 14, 1828 – Robert Hunter Jr.
 Sep. 24, 1827 – Robert William, saddler
 Dec. 13, 1818 – Henry Barton
 May 30, 1824 – Z. Poole
 Mar. 20, 1830 – Daniel _____
 1829 – James Postlewater
 Dec. 1818 – Fred. Schaeffer “wrong”
 July 30, 1824 – George Lindorf
 Feb. 10, 1821 – Barney Thomas
 Apr. 9, 1828 – John North
 Mar. 8, 1816 – Jonathan Sarver
 Sep. 21, 1824 – Adam Williams
 No date – George Hawk
 Oct. 19, 1817 – Arthur Cann
 Aug. 7, 1830 – William Brown – repairing musket \$1, repairing umbrella 25 cents
 Dec. 29, 1818 – Fred. Schaeffer – chairs, spinning wheel, etc.
 Apr. 1834 – Wm. Ramsey
 Aug 13, 1822 – Henry Hesner
 1826 – Fred Keefe – spinning wheel, rocking chair
 1823 – David Macara – chairs
 Jan. 29, 1825 – Daniel L. Carpenter – 2 loads of wood for schoolhouse, 80 bushels of coal,
 load of hay, small chair.
 Dec. 22, 1824 or 1834 (unclear) – James Noris, carpenter, 4 months rent of shop.
 Apr. no year. – Joseph M. White – Sunday work done at house, not charged in regular
 account. 3 days working at spring house, 1 day daubing house, 9 days under spring
 and daubing.
 1832 – Wm. Herwick debtor. 1 wood stove \$15., old stove \$4., other names mentioned in
 this entry are Daniel Keeler, Young Philips and Michael Dix.
 1867 – Account of P. Shephard – harvesting, etc.
 1867 – Sarah Rist – husking corn
 1868 – Byers – mending boots, tobacco, yard goods, beef, corn, bacon, buckwheat.
 1861 – B. Byers – work
 1861 – B. Byers – butchering, etc., labor, etc.
 No date – B. Byers – days of work
 1861 – B. Byers
 No date – David Master
 1858 – Contra – house rent, rent on cow pasture, flour, ploughing, etc.
 1858 – Joseph M. White – labor
 1858 – Contra – by moving from Harper’s ½ day, coal, etc.
 No date. – James Rankin – hoeing corn
 1857 – Contra – exchange of corn and wheat
 1856 – Wm. Harper
 1858 – Andrew C. Byers, husking corn, etc.
 1857 – Contra – corn, etc., rent
 1857 – Wm. Harper Sr. – hoeing corn, etc.
 No date – Contra – corn
 1856 – Wm. Harper
 1856 – Archibald Skiles – threshing, gathering corn, splitting rails, etc.
 1856 – Adam work – rent, order to Connellsville, boots, shoes, cows, hat, potatoes, wheat,
 house rent, rent on cow pasture.
 Mar. 14, 1856 – Adam work, new account, Labor at \$6. per month chopping logs, spading
 garden, 250 rails at 87 cents a hundred, planting corn, threshing wheat
 1855 – Adam work – hauling grain, making hay, hauling for Gilmore, doing errands, etc.
 butchering hogs, digging coal, dug 30 bushels of coal for 30 cents.
 Above account settled in full with Adam Work for my own and Thomas’ services

and 3 months for Joseph's up to the middle of Dec. 1855 & also my services done well. With John Gilmore not included in the above settlement.

1855 – Contra

1855 – Adam Work

No date. Thomas commenced work by the month at \$6.

1853 – Contra and for Thomas White 1857 – threshing, picking apples, etc.

1853 – John Bute

Dec. 6, 1856 – Adam Work – flour got by Martha for Joseph

1858 – Thomas White, corn, flour etc.

Apr. 21, 1855 – Aug 31, Sept. – commenced working the well for Adam Work at 75 cents per foot for 5 days Sept. 8

1853 – Contra – sugar, flour, wheat, bread, etc.

1853 – John Bute

1851 – Contra

1851 – Henry Snyder – painting, hauling oats, making mortar, tending plasterers, etc., leveling the yard, tempering mortar.

HERWICK BIBLE

Supplied by Mrs. Forest Herwick of Stewarton Road, Mill Run, PA in 1960:

Joseph Herwick Sr. died June 15, 1832 at 2 o'clock

Wm. Herwick Sr. died November 2nd 1833 between 2 & 3 o'clock in the evening

Nancy Welty died on Monday evening at 5 o'clock 17 day November 1834 aged 27y2m 11d

Joseph Herwick Sr. departed this life on Monday evening 3 o'clock the 31st day of July 1837 aged 27y3m 11d

Martha T. Gore departed this life in May 24th, 1843 in the 23rd year of her age.

Elizabeth Welty departed this life Feb 21 in 1844 in 13th year

Wm. Herwick departed this life Sept 21, 1866 in 39th year

(ink faded may be 1844)

Martha Herwick departed this life Nov 1st 1851 at 9 o'clock in the morning, aged 66y4d.

Eliza Herwick departed this life April 11, 1858 at half past twelve o'clock in the morning aged 41y8m9d

Robert Skiles son of Robert and Eliza Herwick departed this life Aug 5, 1858 at 2 o'clock aged 4 months.

HERWICKS IN GREENSBURG, WESTMORELAND COUNTY PA TAX RECORDS

Earliest Tax Book is:

- 1811 - William Harwick, single man, watchmaker, 1 horse
Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 2 lots, 1 horse, 1 cow
- 1812- Joseph Herwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 2 lots, 1 horse, 1 cow
William Harwick, singleman, watchmaker, 1 horse
- 1813 - Joseph Harwick, 1 house, 2 lots, 1 horse, 1 cow
William Harwick, singleman, 1 horse
- 1814 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house and lot, 1 horse, 1 cow
William Harwick, clockmaker, singleman, 1 lot 1 horse
- 1815 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house and lot, 1 horse, 1 cow
William Harwick, single, 1 lot, 1 horse
- 1816 - W. Herwick, singleman, clockmaker, 1 house and lot, 1 horse
J. Herwick, chairmaker, house and lot, 1 horse, 1 cow
- 1817 - Joseph Herwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 1 cow

- Wm. Herwick, silversmith, singleman, 1 house, 1 horse
 1818 - Joseph Herwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 1 cow
 Wm. Herwick, silversmith, 1 house, 1 horse
 1819 - Joseph Herwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 1 cow
 Wm. Herwick, singleman, silversmith, 1 house, 1 horse
 1820 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 2 cows
 William Harwick, silversmith, 1 house, 1 horse
 1821 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 2 cows
 Wm. Harwick, silversmith, 1 house, 1 horse
 1822 - Joseph Harwick, chirmaker, 1 house, 1 horse, 2 cattle
 Wm. Harwick, silversmith, 1 house, 1 horse
 1823 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 cow
 Wm. Herwick, 1 house, 1 horse
 1824 - Joseph Harwick, chairmaker, 1 house, 1 cow
 Wm. Herwick, 1 house, 1 horse
 1825 - Joseph Herwick, 1 horse, 1 house, 1 cow
 William Herwick, 1 horse, 2 houses
 1826 - Joseph Herwick, 1 house, ½ lot, 1 horse, 2 cows
 William Herwick, singleman, 1 house, ½ lot, 1 horse
 1827 - Joseph Herwick, 1 house, and lot, 1 horse, no cows
 William Herwick, singleman, 1 house and lot, 1 horse
 1828 - Joseph Herwick, house and lot, 1 horse
 William Herwick, singleman, house and lot, 1 horse
 1829 - Joseph Harwick, 1 house, ½ lot, occupation chairmaker
 William Harwick, singleman, silversmith, 1 house, ½ lot, 1 horse
 1831 - Joseph Harwick, house and lot
 Wm. Harwick, silversmith, 1 horse
 1832 - William Herwick, Jun., silversmith
 William Herwick, Sr., silversmith, house and lot, 1 horse
 Joseph Herwick Sr. 1 house and ½ lot
 Joseph Herwick Jr. singleman
 Robert Herwick, chairmaker
 1833 - William Herwick Jr. silversmith
 William Harwick, Sr., house and lot, 1 horse
 Joseph Harwick, house and ½ lot
 Joseph Harwick Jr., clerk
 1834 - William Harwick Sr., house and lot (occupation tax and horse tax crossed off)
 William Harwick Jr. 1 cow
 Joseph Harwick, house and ½ lot
 Joseph Harwick Jr., clerk, 1 horse
 1835 - William Harwick Estate, house and ½ lot
 William Harwick 1 cow
 Joseph Harwick estate, house and ½ lot
 Joseph Harwick, singleman, 1 horse
 1837 - Joseph Harwick estate, house and ½ lot
 Joseph Harwick, singleman
 1839 - no Herwicks listed.