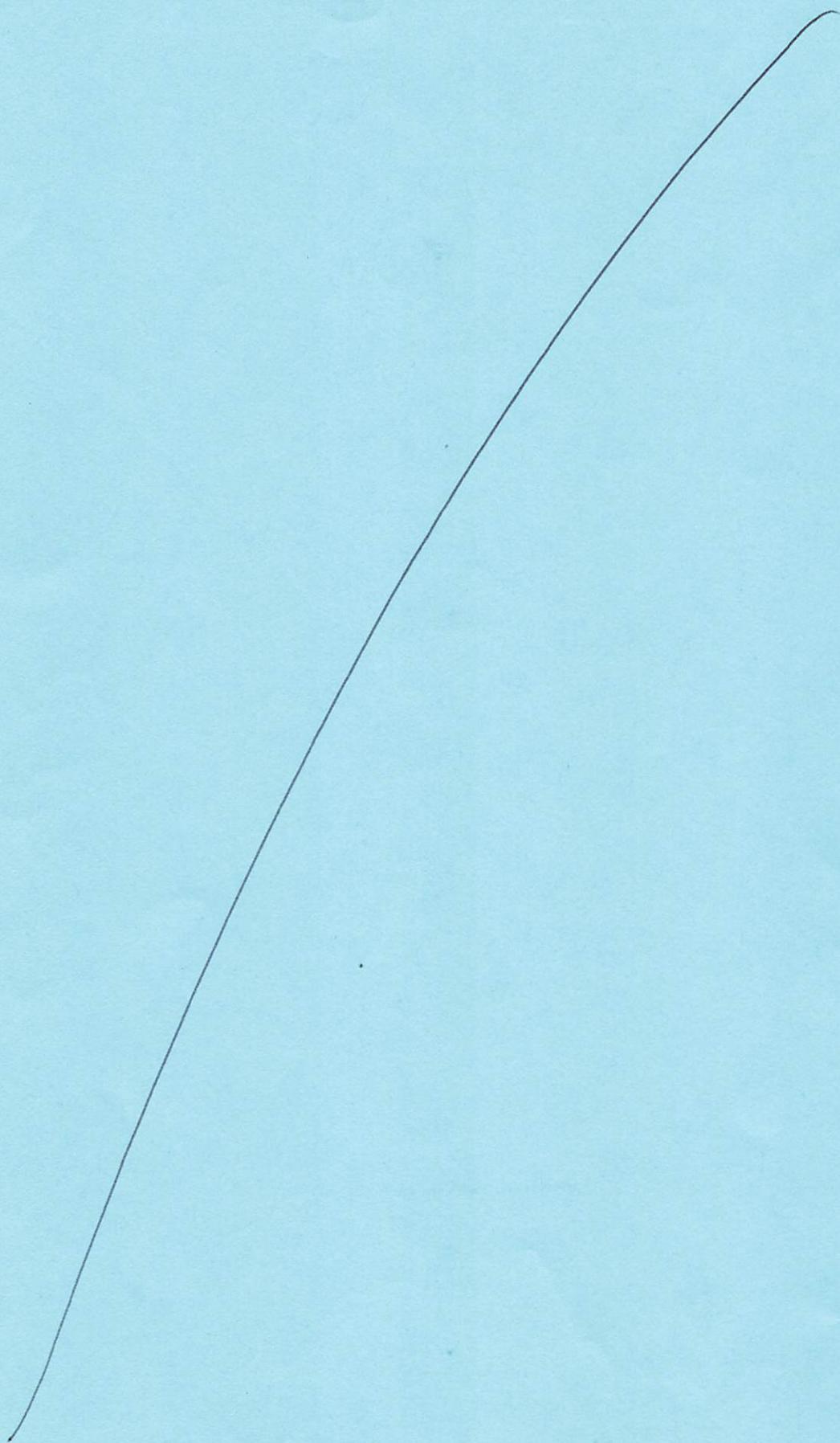


CHARLES JACOBUS SCHOOL, First Ward  
 New Brighton Borough, Daugherty Township,  
 Beaver County Pa 23 June 1870

Taken from the 1870 census of Beaver County, New Brighton Borough, Daugherty township, Beaver county Pa. page 232-3.

House number 210, Household enumeration 223

JACOBUS	Charles	30WM Principal of School	\$2000. RE	b. NY
"	Lizzie	22WF Keeping house		b. Mass.
"	Ruth	03WF At home		b. NY
ARNOLD	George	20WM At School		b. Indiana
BEEBE	Frank	17WM "		b. California
BEERS	Frank	17WM "		b. Pa
BOWMAN	William	15WM "		b. Pa
BROWN	Charles	16WM "		b. Pa
"	Henry	16WM "		b. Pa
BURSON	Edward	16WM "		b. Indiana
CASS	Kennedy	19WM "		b. Pa
"	Charles	16WM "		b. Pa
COWAN	Edward	16WM "		b. Pa
FALLET	Decator	19WM "		b. Michigan
"	Benjamin	15WM "		b. Michigan
GRAY	Carl S.	13WM "		b. Ohio
JONES	Henry	17WM "		b. Pa
KERR	John	19WM "		b. Pa
MACDONALD	Frank	15WM "		b. Ohio
MILLER	Christian	15WM "		b. Pa
PLUMER	Louis	16WM "		b. Pa
"	Arnold	15WM "		b. Pa
SCOFIELD	Archie	15WM "		b. Pa
SHIELDS	Thomas	14WM "		b. Pa
SLOTAPER	Daniel	16WM "		b. NY
STOW	Erin	15WM "		b. Pa
FAUNT	William	15WM "		b. Pa
ULMAN	Parks	21WM "		b. Pa
YEAGER	Fred	14WM "		b. Pa
JUSTIN	James	19WM "		b. Pa
GILLMORE	Arnold	19WM "		b. Pa
ANDREW	George	29WM Assistant Teacher \$150 PE		b. NY
"	Libbie	20WF Keeping House		b. NY
EASLEY	Maggie	21WF Domestic Servant		b. Pa
"	Mary	18WF " "		b. Pa
COBERT	Lois	21WF " "		b. Pa



PA  
Allegheny  
1.13

Lost Taxes  
of the  
Borough [of Pittsburgh]  
For the Year 1807

transcribed by Suzanne M. Johnston

This list of delinquent taxpayers was found in the microfilmed papers of the Select and Common Councils of the Borough of Pittsburgh. They can be found in the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh under P-79. The records are for Councils' activities from 1804 through 1862. The papers are obviously incomplete; some years have numerous petitions and ordinances, others have only one or two papers.

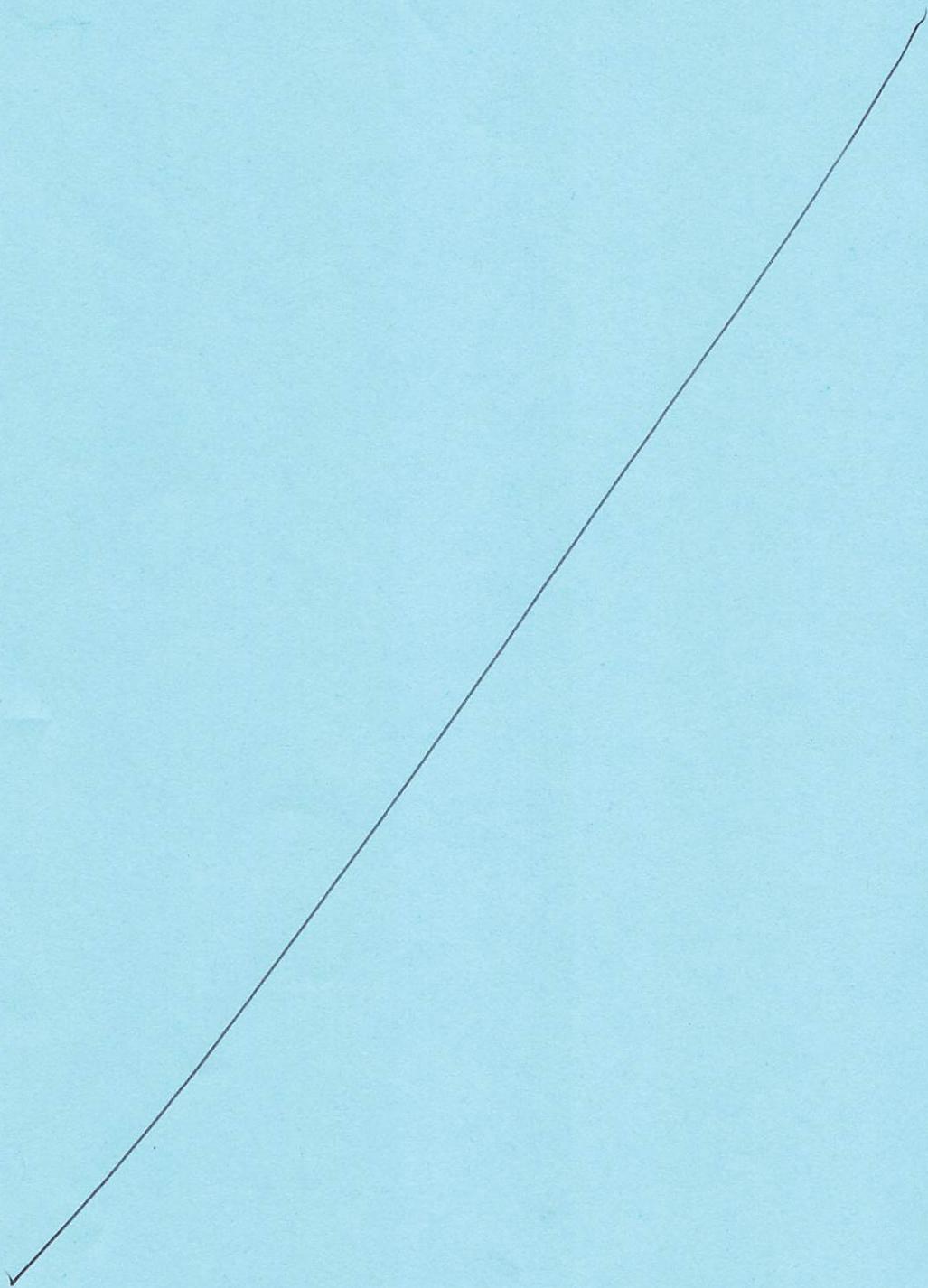
Although this tax list is for 1807, it is labeled and filed under the date of 13 March 1809. Individuals whose names are marked with an X apparently paid their taxes after the list was completed. Three names were added after the taxes were totaled.

Algo, John, Sen	1 00	Garwood, Isaac	1 00
Alexander, John, Jun	1 00	Gorrett, Robert	0 15
Alexander, Simpson	0 06	Gibson, Henry	0 12
Armstrong, Joseph	0 06	Gray, Robert	0 12
Bosley, Hendrey	1 00	Harman, John	1 00
Barkley, Joseph	1 00	Hall, John	X 0 03
Barenstrachter, Joseph	1 00	Henry, William	1 00
Barber, Robert	1 00	Hogans, John	1 00
Brown, Robert	1 00	Horn, Junass	1 00
Colven, William	1 00	Johnston, John	0 15
Chess, George	1 00	Johnston, Robert	1 00
Coats, Frederic	1 00	Johnston, Charles	1 00
Darragh, Nell	1 00	Kinkade, David	1 00
Darragh, Artche	1 00	Kanade, John	1 00
Dringall, William	1 00	Lowstutter, Thomas	1 00
Durhim, Thomas	0 15	Lee, W. John	1 00
Elias, Mathew	0 15	Lober, George	0 12
Eiller, George	1 00	Mils, John	1 00
Fisher, Charles	1 00	McDonal, James	1 00
Freeman, Richard	0 03	Miles, Charles	0 03
James, Talley	X 1 00	Morey, Peter	0 12
Grayham, William	0 12	McNeal, Thomas	X pd 1 00
Gilland, John	0 12	McBerry-Mayberry, Richard	X 0 09
Garner, James	X 0 12	McGolgan, John	0 12



Mears, George	1 00	Shipley, George	1 00
McFarling, John	0 12	Torrence, William	1 00
Millar, James	1 00	Tanner, Richard X	0 03
McClurgh, James X	1 00	Trotman, Francis	1 00
McDonal, James	1 00	Woolf, John	1 00
Newman, Nicolass	0 12	Wilson, Elijah X	0 09
Neal, Kinard	0 15	Ward, John X	0 27
Nelson, James	1 00	Magee, Charles	1 00
OHarragh, Philip	1 00	Logan, Mathew	0 15
Patterson, Augustas X	0 30		
Roberts, Jesse	1 00	Total	48 63
Reed, John	0 15	deduct	<u>3 97</u>
Roach, George	0 06		44.66
Reed, Mosess	0 18		
Reeves, Danil	1 00	Samuel Smith sm	1 00
Soals, John	0 12	Geo. McCracken sm	1 00
Smallman, Edward	0 03	James McClurg	1 00
Shingler, John	1 00		

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

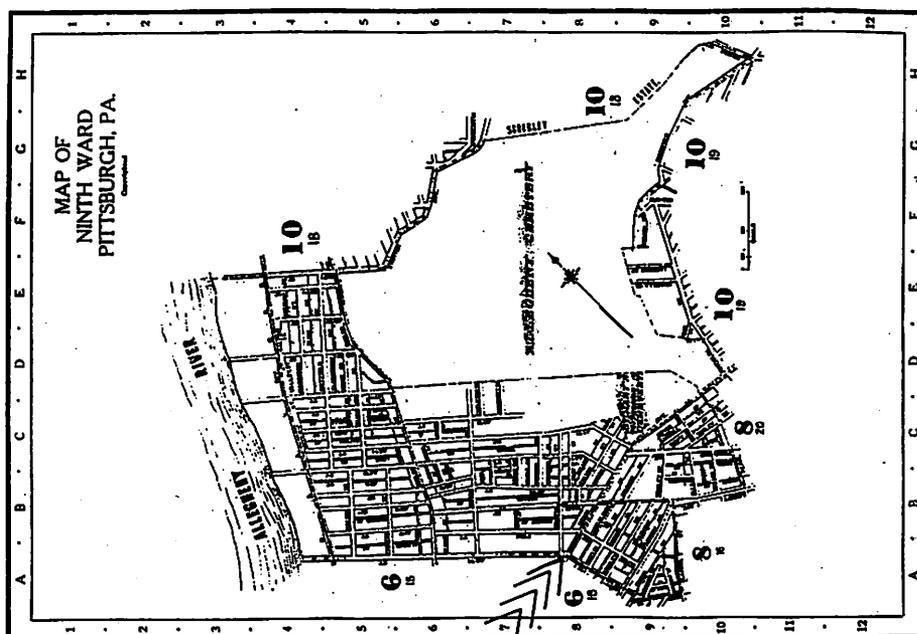


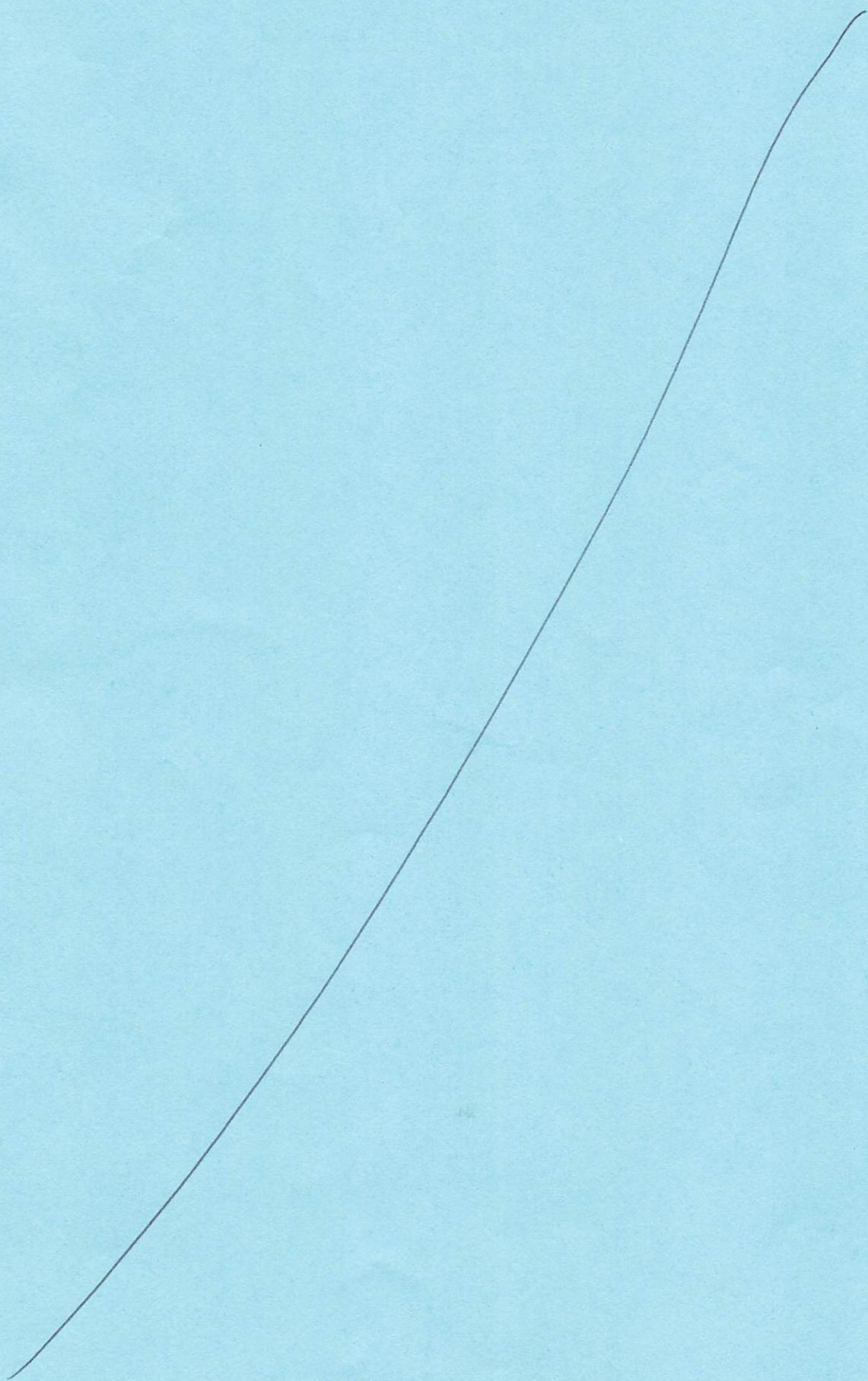
## EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOME ASSOCIATION OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ALLEGHENY COUNTY PA

The Episcopal Church Home Association was established 28 March 1859. Its first site was on the Locust Grove Seminary in Lawrenceville in 1861. The second site was located at Penn Avenue and 40th Street in Pittsburgh's 17th Ward. It is now known as Canterbury Place, a retirement center.

Founders were John Schoenberger, Felix R. Brunot, Charles Knap, and Thomas M. Howe and the Sponsoring Agency was the Episcopal Church of Pittsburgh. The Home began as a home for aged and infirm members of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Allegheny County. It was also one of 46 sites in Pennsylvania which housed Pennsylvania's Civil War Orphans. The state provided schools for Civil War soldiers' orphans, furnishing food, clothing, instruction, and care until the students reached the age of 16.

Records for the Episcopal Church Home have not been found. They are not held by the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives. Due to this lack of records, we have turned to the censuses of 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, & 1930 for listings of "inmates" of this home for these years. The arrows on this 1910 Map of the Ninth Ward, Pittsburgh shows the location at the time of 40th Street and Penn Avenue.





OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

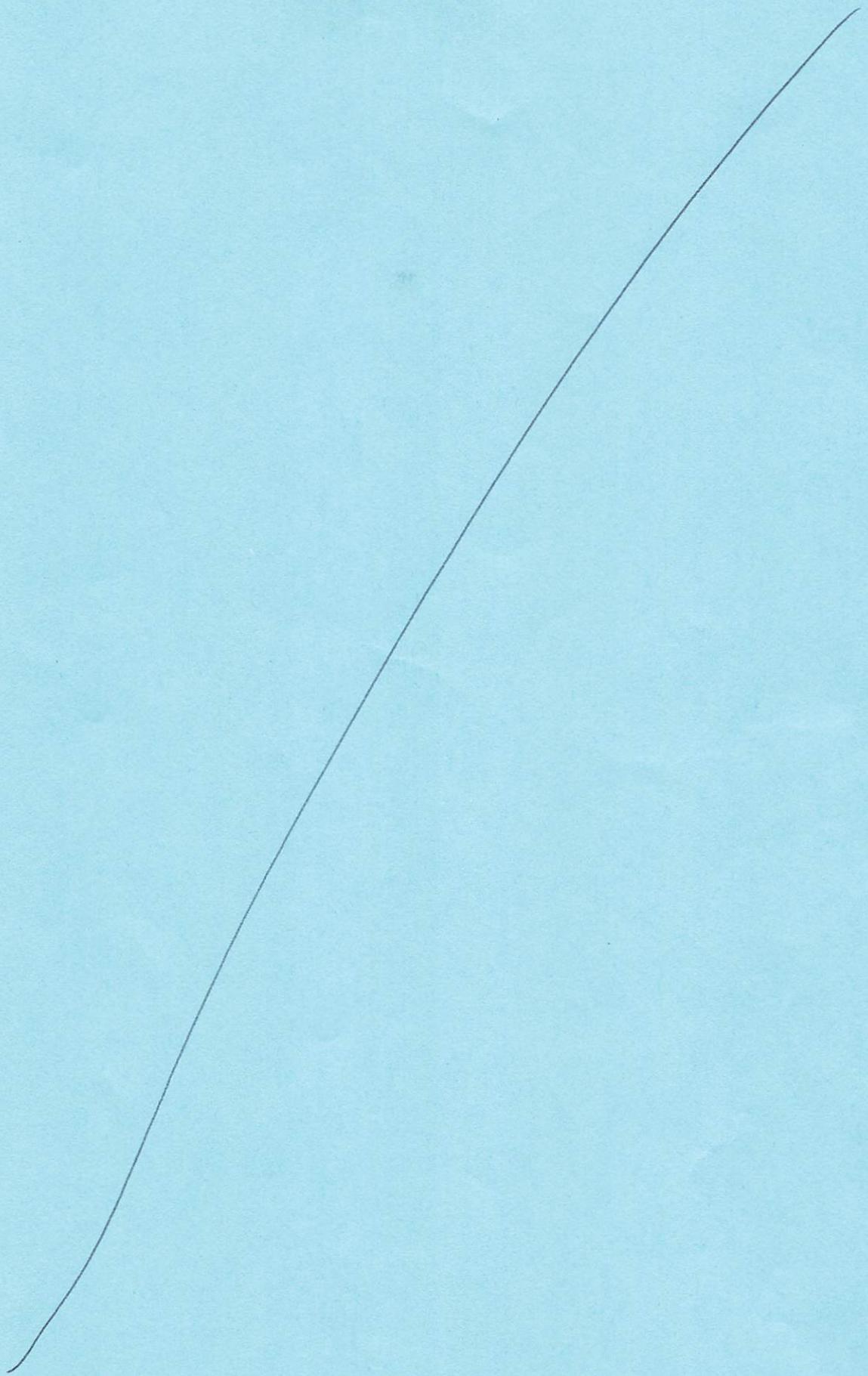
PAYROLL OF A PARTY OF MILITIA  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY PA SENT TO GUARD  
THE WATERFRONTS OF THE OHIO NORTHWEST  
TERRITORY (JEFFERSON COUNTY) IN 1792

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Taken with permission from *Ohio Records & Pioneer Families* Vol. 12 No. 4 (Oct.-Dec 1971). No source is given, no source has been found. Names of men who guarded the riverfronts in the summer of 1792, stationed at four points – the main body of men at Yellowcreek Blockhouse, 12 men at Spillers Creek [now Goose Run or Port Homer], 12 men at Croxon's Run at Toronto, and 12 men at Cable's Blockhouse at Island Creek. Payroll of a party of Washington County Pa. Militia under command of Capt. Thomas Caton to repel hostile Indians.

Allison, James	Gibbons, Wm. M.	McNeal, Dan'l.	Roberts, Wm.
Buchanan, John	Hart, Mathson	McCurdt, Alex.	Rolston, Robert
Bilby, Richard	Hart, John	McBride, Alex.	Richison, Wm.
Brown, John	Howers, David	Markland, John	Ralston, David
Bryan, Joseph	Henry, Francis	Moore, David	Robb, William
Clark, Alex	Hall, Samuel	Moore, James	Rob, Robert
Coswell? Jno.	Henery, Moses	Mouro? Alex	Ravenscroft, Jas.
Crosetin, Abr.	Henwood, Elijah	Moor, Henry	Rue, Edward
Crockston, Abr.	Hunter, Samuel	More, David	Settle, David
Campbell, Robt.	Hair, Christley	Mattison, Jas.	Sowder, Philip
Cowden, James	Huet, Henry	Moody, Jos.	Sutton, David
Coventry, John	Homes? Isaac	Mannon, Jas.	Smith, Alex.
Croney, Wm. H.	Howard, Samuel	Mustard, Jas.	Sharp, John
Castleman, Henry	Johnson, Dan'l.	Mills, John	Skelty, James
David, David?	Jordan, Sam'l.	Munter, Jacob	Stevenson, Jas.
Davis, John S.	Kimble, Sam'l.	Moody, Jas.	Saunders, John
Davis, Jesse	Knose, Rob't	Morrison, Wm.	Smith, James
Dugan, Robt.	Knose, Wm.	Murphy, Peter	Thompson, Thos.
Elly, John	Ladder, Rob't.	Nisebrod, Jno.	Thompson, Moses
Fruman, Thos.	Lard, Jos. M.	Nessebrod, John	Taggart, Sam'l.
Fullum, Wm.	Low, Isaac	Oldham, Moses	Fullum, Nelson
Thompson, Ephriam	Ladder, John	Poll, John	Vinard, James
Glass, Ben	Lindsley, Lenar	Paul, John	Walton, Christley
Glass, Pat	Lewis, Solomon	Phillips, Thos.	Wallace, Robert
Griffey, John	McCay, James	Phibbs, Wm.	Ward, Robert
Griffiths, John	McComb, Wm.	Pettit, Azariah	Wallace, James
	McLean, James	Robertson, Jas.	

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PA  
all  
1.2

WEST DEER TOWNSHIP  
A CENTURY AND A HALF OF PROGRESS  
1836 - 1986

This history has been compiled by John Graff, retired West Deer teacher, with the aid of a number of others whose names appear with their contributions.

Published by  
The 150th Anniversary Committee  
of  
West Deer Township  
1986

50000

## FAMILY HISTORIES

The histories of the following families are included in this section.

Aber  
Baumgartel  
Black  
Bonin  
Carnahan  
Catherwood-McKnight  
Cunningham  
Dawson  
Dillner  
Elliot-McKnight  
Gray  
Hazlett  
Hemphill

Hunter  
Hutchman  
Magill  
Marshall  
Capt. John McClelland  
McKrell  
Michael  
Monnier  
Norris  
Dr. Daniel G. Rowley  
Schwab  
Scott  
Snitzer  
Stirling

### The Aber Family

It is not known exactly when Allen Aber (1813-1886) and his wife Mary Ross (1815-1889) came to West Deer Township. History does record that one of their sons, Robert E., born in 1851, did grow up on his father's farm. We may assume that Allen and Mary did come to West Deer before the middle of the last century and built a log house which stood just in front of the present Aber home on Saxonburg Road. This couple lived in this log house until the present house was built about the time of the Civil War. The log house was used for other purposes and was torn down after the turn of the century. Allen Aber was reported to have been quite interested in politics.

John Aber, the oldest son of Allen and Mary, was probably not born in West Deer but moved here with his parents when a boy. He later served in the Civil War and family stories indicate that when he came home after the war the new house had been built. He may well be the John Aber listed as a corporal with Capt. John McClelland's Company of the 63rd Infantry, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Robert E., the younger son of Allen and Mary, was probably born in 1851 on his father's farm and grew to manhood there. In 1883 at the age of thirty-two he married Maggie Wilson of Harmar Township. To this union six children were born: Mary (Baumgartel), who died in 1916; twins Dillie and Tillie; William; Robert M.; and Sarah. Robert E., their father, died in 1912 and some years later Maggie Wilson Aber married Michael Haberlein and moved to Hampton Township.

Dillie married Carson Grubbs of the Rich Hill area. This couple settled in West Deer and had two daughters and a son. Hazel, the older daughter, married Sidney Davis of New York and lives in New York City. They have no children. Margaret, the younger daughter, married Hartle Thomas of Butler County and had two daughters. They, along with their daughters and grandchildren, live in the Meridian area. Wilson, the only son, married Ella Mae Gray of West Deer and lives in the East Union area. This couple had three children. Gary lives in Karns City with his wife, the former Terry Schneider of Mars, and daughter, Heather Lee. Janet is a nurse and lives at home with her parents. Robert, the younger son, died at age twelve.

Tillie, the other twin, died in 1907 at age twenty-one. William, the older son, is believed to have had a military career. Sarah, the youngest daughter, was born in 1892

and is now a resident of the Presbyterian home in Washington, Pa. She furnished some of the information for this family account.

Robert M. (1890-1968), the younger son, was the one who remained on the family farm. He married Wilda Black (1895-1924) and had two sons to this marriage. Chester lives in Penn Hills and William lives in Coraopolis. In 1929 Robert married again to Marian McCaslin and to them two daughters and a son were born. Marian (Auld) lives in McCandless and is a psychologist with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. She also furnished information for this account. Reva, the second daughter, lives in Ohio. Joseph resides with his family in the original Aber farmstead. His children are the fifth generation to have lived on the Aber farm. His house is believed to be at least 120 years old and is one of West Deer's original homesteads.

### The Baumgartel Family

In 1872 Joseph Baumgartel of Indiana Township married Emma Eggers, also of Indiana Township, and moved to West Deer. They bought a farm on Cedar Ridge and immediately built a new house. Joseph was a carpenter, his speciality being building barns.

This couple had five children, two of whom lived in West Deer. Their son William married Louise Seibert from Hampton and bought a farm at the junction of Cedar Ridge and Martin Roads. This farm is now owned by the family of the late Dr. Robert Weber. They had ten children including a son Merle, who has continued to live in West Deer. Merle married Martha Hunter and lives on Shephard Road. Harry, brother of Merle, married Bertha Pfirman and lived on the original family farm on Cedar Ridge Road. They had four daughters and one, Harriet (Setzanfand), built a home on their property.

Joseph Baumgartel preceded his wife in death by a number of years. Emma died in 1951 at age ninety-nine, having been active until the time of her death in the Dorseyville Home. The Baumgartel family has been in West Deer Township for one hundred and thirty-five years.

Submitted by: Martha Baumgartel

### The Black Family

Margaret Eggers, sister of the above Mrs. Joseph Baumgartel, married Oliver Black and moved to a farm at

the corner of 910 and Cedar Ridge Road. This was probably in the early 1880's. The 1876 map indicates that this was a Black farm at that time and may have been Oliver's father's farm. Oliver and Margaret spent their entire lives on this farm, both dying in the mid-1930's several years apart. Their son Archie married and lived there for a number of years with his wife and eight children. Another son, Lawrence, married Hazel Wood and built a house on Shephard Road, where they lived until his death in 1978 and hers in 1983. Their three sons all became pilots. They also had one daughter. The Black family had been in West Deer for over one hundred years.

Submitted by: Martha Baumgartel

### The Bonin Family

Peter Bonin and his wife Catherine Guyot left Rohrbach, Germany with their two small children and sailed in a small boat to America in 1852. They settled in West Deer Township on "squatter's rights," that is, the portion of land on which they settled became their personal property after they cleared the trees and cultivated the soil. They found a spring for water, put up some type of quick shelter and began the task of cutting down trees, digging out stumps and cultivating the soil with the little bit of equipment they had. It was hard work because not much could be brought over on the small boat and then be transported here by land, but they accomplished the task. God was good to these early settlers, giving them health and a strong determination to succeed. They began producing vegetables for market in Pittsburgh. They build a house and barn, planted fruit trees, raised chickens and had cows and horses.

In America, Peter and Catherine had four more children. The youngest child was Charles Bonin, who remained on the farm. He married Ella Kraft and at the time of his marriage his personal belongings were said to consist of a ham and \$20.00. However, the couple worked hard on the farm, Charles also working as a rigger on the local oil wells. They had six children.

Harry, the first child, married Annie Cook and had three children, Pearl, Helen, and Charles.

Bertha, the second child, married William G. Gray of West Deer and moved to the Gray farm near what is now Bairdford. This family is described in more detail in the Gray family account. Bertha is the oldest living West Deer native.

Irene, the third Bonin child, married Joseph Dillner. This couple, at this writing, is the oldest living native couple in West Deer, having been married seventy-one years. They had seven children. They reside on the well-known "Dillner's Knob" farm.

The first of their seven children was Harry, who married Mildred Geisy. They have three children and eight grandchildren. They live in Butler County.

The second child was Ruth, who married Oliver Black. The Blacks have three children and three grandchildren and also live in Butler County.

Hazel married Clarence Mink and lives in Indiana Township. They have one son and four grandchildren.

Herman married Dorothy Patton and lives in West Deer. They have four children and five grandchildren.

Earl married Peggy Hetrick and they have two children and three grandchildren.

Howard married Louise Beach and they have three children and three grandchildren. Howard and brother

Herman built their homes on their father's farm at the base of Dillner's Knob.

Elmer married Jean Frenchko of West Deer. They have four children and one grandchild.

Submitted by: Ella May (Gray) Grubbs

### John Carnahan

The following account is included here because of a number of references to names and places in West Deer Township. It was taken from Jordan's "History of Allegheny County" and was probably written about one hundred years ago.

*John Carnahan, farmer, Culmerville, was born July 31, 1814, on his present farm, son of John and Martha (Kissick) Carnahan, former of whom was born in Juniata County, Pa. and died in 1830, aged sixty-five years; latter born in County Derry, Ireland, and died in 1833, aged fifty-six years. The father settled here about 1796, and was closely identified with the U.P. Church, and with affairs of the township. Mr. Carnahan's half brother, George, was in the war of 1812. John received his education in West Deer township in the old log schoolhouse with paper windows. He was left alone at his father's death and took charge of the farm until it was divided between the three sons. He was married in 1836 to Eliza Catherwood, a halfsister to Robert Catherwood, and daughter of John and Susan (Hessen) Catherwood. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Carnahan: Susan, Samuel, Robert, Martha, Elizabeth, Jane, Mary, Nelson, and Clark. Samuel and Robert were in the war of the rebellion, and both died in the hospital; the former was being educated for the ministry. Mrs. Carnahan died in 1855, and Mr. Carnahan was married in 1856 to Nancy Black, a native of West Deer township, her parents coming from Ireland. Six children blessed this union, viz.: Margaret, George (a minister in Kansas), Shafer, Sarah, Lawrence (deceased), and Blair. Mr. Carnahan is an old citizen of West Deer township, has been a ruling elder in the U.P. Church since 1836, and has been school director and supervisor. He is the only one of the children now living. He has 130 acres of land, which his two sons, Clark and Blair, cultivate.*

### The McKnight-Catherwood Families

James McKnight was born in Ireland and immigrated to America in 1801, settling in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. He married a Danish girl whose maiden name was Colosson. He later moved to Pittsburgh where he operated a grocery store. From Pittsburgh he moved to Millerstown where he bought the old Schenley farm and opened a grocery store there. He and his wife were among the first settlers in Millerstown. They had ten children, four boys and six girls. One of these girls, Sara Caroline, was born in Millerstown and later married Robert Carson Catherwood, son of John Canning Catherwood who had immigrated from County Down, Ireland in 1812.

John Canning Catherwood came to America shortly after he was married and settled in Pittsburgh. While living there he bought a 114 acre farm between Bull Creek and Deer Creek. He walked from Pittsburgh to his new land while clearing it and building a log cabin. His wife died not long afterwards and at a later date he married an Elizabeth Fleming. They had one son, Robert, born in 1851. Elizabeth

died in 1855 leaving Catherwood, a middle-aged man with two children, Susan and Robert Carson.

Susan married William Culmer, who spent many years working in the post office near the crossroads settlement that became known as Culmerville, named after the Culmer family.

In 1857 Robert Carson Catherwood married Sara Caroline McKnight and they lived on the old homestead. Robert bought part of the Fleming farm and annexed it to his 100 acre farm, making it 178 acres. He was the father of eight children, three girls and five boys. The girls all died of diphtheria, two of them dying in less than one week. This was a severe family tragedy. The boys were John Charles, James, Robert Fleming, Joseph Leonard, and William. William died when he was very young. The other four married and settled near Culmerville, except for James who settled in Pittsburgh. The oldest, Charles, married Martha Couch. Martha died when her daughter Mary was born. Mary married a man by the name of Kammerdiner. Eight days after her marriage she was on her way to her new home on the other side of the Allegheny River. Her horse shied on the bridge, throwing her into the river and drowning her. Her father, Charles, later married Martha Coe.

Robert Carson Catherwood and his wife Sara lived on the Catherwood homestead until their deaths, his in 1902 and hers in 1908. Their three surviving sons, Charles, Fleming, and Joseph, each inherited about sixty acres of land from their father. They each had their own home, barn, and other farm buildings but owned their machinery in partnership. They helped each other with many of the farm operations.

Charles, the oldest, married Martha Coe and had four children, Ira, who died at age four, Grace, Elva, and James. Grace married Robert Norris who will be remembered as having a general store at Culmerville. (The Norris history appears elsewhere in this book) Elva married Victor Ramsey. They have four sons. They are now retired and living in Florida. James married Effie Donaldson and remained on his father's farm. They have two daughters, Dorothy and Ruth. Dorothy married David Colton and lives in State College with their five children. Ruth married Eugene Sullivan and has four children. The Sullivans live in Beaver Falls.

It might be said that teaching school seems to "run" in the Catherwood family. Dorothy and Ruth, as well as Ruth's husband, their mother, two aunts, four cousins, and several more distant relatives were teachers.

James and Effie lived on, and farmed, their sixty-three acres until his retirement in 1973. They now reside on two acres reserved from the original Catherwood farm in the house which they had previously built. Catherwoods have lived on this same land for almost 140 years.

Fleming, the second son of Robert and Sara, married Elizabeth Bryan and had two daughters and one son, all now deceased. Olive, the older daughter, married John Monnier and had no children. Ruby, the younger daughter, married Paul Fredley and had two daughters, Garnet and June. Garnet married Lynne Roth and lives near South Park. They had four children. June married James (Dick) Rodgers and resides on part of the original farm. They have two daughters and one son. The older daughter, Donna, is married to Paul Vokish and lives in Valencia. Both Donna and Paul are faculty members in the Deer Lakes School System. The second daughter, Laurie, and son James are at home. Charles, the only son of Fleming and Elizabeth,

never married and remained at home on the farm for his lifetime.

Joseph Cathewood, the third son of Robert and Sara, married Martha Norris. This couple had two daughters and one son. The older daughter, Bertha, married Herbert Hausee and lives near Sarver. Edna, the second daughter married Hugh Cunningham and had one daughter, Jane, and three sons, Glenn, Harold, and Darwin. Jane married Clarence Scheerbaum and lives on Christy Road. They have two children, Gary and Diane. Glenn, the oldest son, married Erika Obert, and they live in Ohio with their two children. Harold married Janice Hazlett and they have three children, Sharon, Scott, and Amy. Darwin, the third son, now deceased, first married Florence Walker and had two sons, Jeffrey and Thomas. His second marriage was to Barbara Auelrich and they had one son, John.

William Catherwood, the third child of Joseph and Martha, was first married to Isabel Walters, who died a few months after their marriage. He later married Dorothy Strobel, now deceased, and had one son, Robert, and two daughters, Ann and Elaine. Robert married Janelle Lynk and has three children. Ann married Michael Wallace, has two children and lives in Ohio. Elaine married Ralph Viggano, also has two children, and lives near Washington, D.C.

William lived on part of the original Catherwood farm and farmed either full or part-time for many years. He was employed by Gulf Research, Harmarville for many years. He retired about 1970, sold the farm, and moved to the Marienville area.

Ed. note-The remaining Catherwood on the original farm is James who prepared this Catherwood history. He is an active member of the 150th Anniversary Committee.

## The Cunningham Family

Abraham and Nancy (Glasgow) Cunningham emigrated in 1810 from Ireland to Butler County. Some time afterward they moved to this area, bought 200 acres of land, and became farmers. He died about 1861 and his wife in 1865.

They had one son, Hugh, who married Eliza McNeal. She died in 1862 after becoming the mother of seven children. One son, Abraham, was the only child to reach adulthood. Hugh Cunningham married the second time to Jane Park. To this union two children were born, a boy and a girl. The son, William P., was born in 1867 and grew to manhood on his father's farm. His father died in 1891 and William continued to operate the family farm. In 1900 he married Jennie Conley and to this union five children were born:

1. Stella, the firstborn, married Andrew Wood, a well-known West Deer farmer, and had two children, Verna, whose family lives in Harrisburg, and Dale, whose family lives in Middlesex.

2. Hugh, the oldest son, married Edna Catherwood of West Deer and to them four children were born. Glenn lives in Ohio, Harold is married to Janice Hazlett, lives on Christy Road, and has three children, Sharon, Scott, and Amy. Jane is married to Clarence Sheerbaum and they too, live on Christy Road. Their children are Gary and Diane. Darwin is deceased.

3. Erla married Walt Hohman of Richland and had two sons. Howard married to Janice Kifer of Richland, lives in West Deer and has three sons, Dale, Daniel, and Darwin. Alvin lives in South Carolina.

4. Charles married Geraldine Beacom of the Cherry Valley area of West Deer and had three daughters. Jean, married to Joseph Lupnacca, lives in Fawn Haven with their children, Tracy and Douglas. Charlene married Dave Phillips and lives on Glasgow Road. They have one daughter, Dawn. Hope married Gary Thornton and lives in Middlesex.

5. John married Alma Stepp of Russellton and had one son, James. "Jim" married Lois Tomiczek of Russellton and is a career officer in the U.S. Air Force, holding the rank of Lt. Colonel.

## The Dawson Family

Ralph Dawson Sr. (1777-1864) and his wife Mary Henry (1784-1850) were born in Ireland. They came to America and settled in Pittsburgh where their eldest son, James was born. They moved later to Deer Township where they were joined by Ralph's brother William (1772-1847), who also immigrated from Ireland. Ralph Dawson Sr. purchased land grants from Stephen Lowry, who had purchased them from the government. Ralph Sr. divided some land among his three sons, James (1813-1877), Ralph Jr. (1814-1896), and John (1823-1895). In the possession of Ralph Jr.'s decedents is a deed dated April 17, 1935 from Sara Collins, daughter of Stephen Lowry, to Ralph Dawson Sr. for seven hundred twenty-one acres (more or less) for \$1,442.00, and also a deed dated May 9, 1839 for two hundred and five acres and sixteen perches from Ralph Sr. to Ralph Jr. for \$410.00. Also in their possession are two of the original land grant documents written on buckskin and in excellent condition. On the 1876 map of West Deer Township the original properties of the Dawson families may be located.

### Decedents of James Dawson Sr.:

James Dawson, son of Ralph Sr. and Mary, married Margaret Caldwell (1811-1877) and to this marriage six children were born: Joseph, 1836; Agnes, 1841; John, 1843; James, 1845; Robert, 1846; and Mary, who died at the age of six. The 1850 census lists this family as living in East Deer Township but they later lived in a large brick home along Dawson Run Road (now Shephard Road). This farm later became the home of the Alex Hunter Family. Joseph was killed in the Civil War. Agnes was the second wife of Robert McKnight and lived on Dawson Run Road, perhaps on part of her father's farm. James Sr. set his three sons, James Jr., John, and Robert, up in the gristmill business. One of these mills was located on the father's farm along Dawson Run, now called Deer Creek. Aside from farming James Sr. and James Jr. were funeral directors. At that time the funeral directors built the coffins and decorated the interiors. John and Robert did not remain in the township. James Jr. stayed on the farm.

On August 19, 1875, James Jr. (1845-1916) and Margaret Montgomery were married by Rev. Samuel Hood, then pastor of Deer Creek U.P. Church. They lived in the house with James' parents. James Jr. and Margaret had seven children: Sally (1876-1899), Susan (1877-1951), Thomas (1879-1909), Charles (1881-1953), Mary (1884-1971), Grace (1887-1905), and George (1889-1903). Sally, Grace, and George died at early ages. Thomas married Edna Aiken and had a son, Floyd. Thomas was killed by a bull wheel while working at an oil well. His wife died previously. Susan married A. Jamison Norris, Charles

married Anna H. Norris, and Mary married W. David Norris. They all made their homes in the Culmerville area.

Susan and Jamison had a son Herbert, who lived to be eight years old. After the death of Floyd's parents, he made his home with Susan and Jamison.

Mary and David had four children: Charles, Ethel, Howard, and Gertrude.

Charles and Anna had two daughters: Alice and Mary Etta.

All of James Jr. and Margaret's surviving children had homes in a small area along Tarentum-Culmerville, Millerstown-Culmerville, and Blanchard Roads. The decedents of James and Margaret still living in this same area are Floyd Dawson, his daughter Helen Murray and her three children, William, Michelle, and Edward; Ethel Knoch, her son Samuel and his daughter Marlinda; Ethel's grandson, David Thompson and his son Seth; Howard Norris; Gertrude Burns; and Mary Etta Monnier. Seth Thompson is the eighth generation descended from Ralph Sr. and Mary Dawson.

### Decedents of Ralph Dawson Jr.:

Ralph Dawson Jr. (1814-1896) and his wife Jane (1817-1891) lived on a farm off Saxonburg Boulevard on Dawson Road near the Butler County line. They had one son, William Henry. William Henry (1850-1937) married Mary Marshall (1862-1935) of West Deer and continued to live on his father's farm, it later being willed to him by his father. They had seven children: Flora, Cora, Laura, Ralph, Samuel, Alberta, and Scott. These children had a long walk each day to attend the Culmerville School.

Aside from farming, the family operated a coal mine, doing commercial mining as early as 1845. A daughter, Alberta Linamen, remained on the farm after her marriage, raising her family. After the death of her father, William Henry, she managed to keep the coal mine in operation. Alberta and her husband, Lester, had lived in Penn Hills but returned to the farm when William Henry died. Lester operated the farm and worked on the railroad while Alberta managed the mine.

Marlyn Linamen, a son of Alberta, is living on Christy Road in West Deer Township. He is the fifth generation descended from Ralph Sr. and his wife, Mary.

This farm has been depicted on a well-known line drawing published in a former county history and is now the site of the operations of Northern Allegheny Stone Inc.

### Decedents of John Dawson:

John Dawson (1823-1895), son of Ralph Sr. and his wife Mary, married Lacey Conely (1821- ? ). On the 1850 census John and his wife Lacey and their infant son, John Henry, are listed as living in West Deer Township in the same household as his father, Ralph Sr. They later lived in the area of what is now the Dillner property on Dawson Road. Dillner's Knob was once known as Dawson's Knob. Aside from farming, coal mining was also done on this property.

John Henry (1850-1931) married Isabelle McIntyre (1855-1923) and had a large family: Margaret (1874-1899), John III (1875-1958), George (1877-1926), Alfred (1879-1955), Etta Lacy (1881-1955), Howard Wilmer (1885-1887), Howard Vernon (1879-1955), Hugh (1891-1897), Harry (1897-198?), and Aida (1900- ). John Henry had a farm along Starr Road. Many of his children also had homes along Starr Road as well as Dawson Road.

John III married Wilda Mahan and had a son, William.

William and his wife lived along Saxonburg Boulevard near East Union Road. Their daughter, Doris Wilson, now resides in this area.

Alfred married Margaret Culp and lived along Starr Road. They had three children: Alice, who died at age five; Earl; and Frank. Earl and his wife Helen (1923-1967) had two children, Jane and Earl Jr. Both Earl and his son Earl Jr. reside along Starr Road in West Deer Township. Frank and his wife Dorothy had five children: Vivian, Frank Jr., Joyce, Terry, and Timothy. Frank lives along Starr Road in West Deer Township.

Harry Dawson, son of John Henry, and his wife Ruby lived along Bakerstown-Culmerville Road until shortly before his death. They had no children.

#### Descendents of William Dawson

William (1772-1847), a brother of Ralph Sr., immigrated from Ireland. He had one of the first gristmills in the township near where Dawson Run flows into Deer Creek near Route 910. William later had a farm adjoining the property of Ralph. William and his wife Jane had five children: Robert, Susie, Jennie, Ralph (a missionary who helped start the Millerstown Church), and James (killed in an explosion).

Robert married Mary Barker and their children were: Charles, Albert William, Bessie, and Paul. Bessie married Harry Magill and lived in West Deer at the present site of Magill Heights. Paul was killed in the millstream at Millerstown.

Susie and Jennie did not marry and continued to live on their father's farm.

Submitted by: Mary Etta (Dawson) Monnier

### Dillner Family

Wilhem Herrman Dillner was born April 19, 1855 in Grozriesen, Plauen, Germany to Johann Friedrich Wilhelm and Friederike Wilhelmine (Baumgartel) Dillner. He had two brothers, Wilhelm Ernest and Franz Oscar, and one sister, Marie Louise. (German spellings)

In 1871, when he was sixteen years old, Herman came to America with his brother Wilhelm Ernest and settled in West Deer Township. Most of the descendents of Wilhelm Ernest live in the Pittsburgh area at the present time.

Herman worked on the charcoal wagons, on the local farms, and at the coal mine on Martin's Hill Road. He is said to have hauled the brick for the Ben Hughes house on Middle Road Extension with his horses and wagon.

Herman purchased the farm on Dillner Lane from the Dawson's. There was a log house on the property which had been built between 1825 and 1835. Herman remodeled this house sometime after he purchased the farm. It has been said that there was a winding staircase in the log house and that the sheep stayed on the second floor. In 1910 the house was enlarged. Herman's son, Raymond, lived in this house until his death in 1982. A fire destroyed this house in August 1985.

About 1878, Herman married Anna Elizabeth Snitzer, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Gumbert) Snitzer of Snitzer's Corner in West Deer Township. Herman and Anna had seven children, all born in West Deer; Henry, Menea, John, Fred, Joseph, Louis, and Raymond. These children attended Martin's School in West Deer. They all lived all or most of their lives here except for John and Fred who went to Kansas. Joseph, at age 93, is presently living

with his wife at his home on part of the original Dillner farm.

Herman farmed and also worked at the oil wells on his farm. He was an early township supervisor and while in that position erected a shed on his property which was used to house the townships trucks of that time. The township in the 1920's was using many truckloads of red dog to improve the mud roads. As was the custom in those days, the shed reverted to the supervisor when it was no longer needed. This shed is on Dillner Lane and is still standing today.

Herman died on May 13, 1942 at age 87. His farm was divided between his sons, Joseph and Raymond. Raymond remained at the homestead.

Joseph married Irene Bonin, daughter of Charles and Ella (Kraft) Bonin of West Deer Township, in 1914. They had seven children, all of whom were born in West Deer: Harry, Ruth, Hazel, Herman, Earl, Howard, and Elmer. Joseph and Irene now have twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren. Joseph worked on his farm and in the coal mines for most of his life. Two of his sons, Herman and Howard, and Herman's son Herman Jr. and their families presently reside in West Deer Township.

Louis married Ethel Pittman, daughter of John and Ella (Fox) Pittman of Lardintown, Pa. in 1927. They had three children, Louis Glenn, Frederick, and Dorothy. There are thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Louis also worked in the coal mines and farmed. Glenn and his daughter, Gloria (Dillner) Marshall and their families currently reside in West Deer Township.

Raymond married Hazel Bonin, a sister of the above Irene Bonin, in 1922. They had five children, all born in West Deer: Norman, Ethel, Clarence, Jean, and Frances. There are twelve grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren. Ray, like his brothers, worked in the coal mines and farmed. He helped build the North Pittsburgh Telephone Company and was a director for fifty years. He was also a life member of the West Deer Volunteer Fire Company #1. Two of his sons, Norman and Clarence, and Clarence's son, Lawrence, and their families presently reside in West Deer Township.

The Dillner's have been in West Deer for 115 years.  
Submitted by: Judy Walker, granddaughter of Ray Dillner and Mrs. Herman (Dorothy) Dillner

### The McKnight-Elliot Families

David Sterret McKnight (1800-1874) came to West Deer Township with his wife Elizabeth Wageley (1815-1897) and three children about 1839 and settled on what we might now call the Paholich farm in the Culmerville area. The McKnights had previously lived in several other areas of Pennsylvania before settling permanently in West Deer Township. Seven more children were born to this union. The McKnights were charter members of the Pleasant Unity Church and are buried there.

Two of their ten children are known to have married and had families in West Deer. A son, Robert P. born in 1838, married first to Ruth Ann Strohn and then to Agnes Dawson. There were four children born to this second marriage. Their home was in the Dawson's (Dillner's) Knob area. A daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1850, married Daniel Elmer Elliot and lived in the Blanchard and Curtisville areas. They were living in Blanchard when their son, James Oliver, was born in 1889. They later moved to

the Leslie farm where Curtisville #1 now stands. Young Oliver attended the Gray's Mill School. They later moved to Fawn Township where they operated a dairy farm.

Oliver Elliott had farmed, then worked in a Hardware, returning to West Deer in 1931. He had eight acres and developed a nursery while working for the Ford Collieries Company. He had married Alma Irene Means and had three children, Iva Mae (Long), Arlene (Bargerstock), and James Oliver, Jr. In the 1950's he retired and moved two lots away from the nursery where he developed "Bell Haven", a bell museum. (See Bell Haven in Short Story section)

David Ferguson, born in Ireland in 1745, had a farm on the Butler County line. His twin daughters, Effie and Susannah, married brothers, Adam and James Norris. (See Norris family) Adam and Effie had a daughter Effie who married Robert Elliot (1831-1902). Effie and Robert had a son, the previously mentioned Daniel Elmer Elliot, father of Oliver Elliot, and grandfather of Iva Mae Long.

Iva Mae married Harry Long of Tarentum and built their home near the Elliot Nursery. This couple had three children, Harry is a medical doctor and lives with his family in Minnesota. Allen resides in Tarentum with his family. Margaret resides on Bull Creek Road and is the seventh generation of this family combination to live in West Deer. The past generations are buried in either the Bull Creek or Pleasant Unity Church cemeteries.

From information provided by Iva Mae Long

### The Gray Family

William S. Gray married Elizabeth Leslie and settled on a farm in West Deer Township. It is believed that he saw service in the Civil War. The name William S. Gray appears on the plaque of the 63rd Infantry Regiment in Company E which was Captain John McClelland's company. This plaque is on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg. William and Elizabeth had a son Robert who may also have served in the Civil War in a different company than his father. Robert married Annie Norris and remained on the farm. The 1876 map, found elsewhere in this book, shows Robert Gray on the Gray farm near what is now Bairdford. Robert and Annie had four children.

Janet, the oldest, married Howard Kellar and had three daughters, Roberta, Addie, and Janet.

Robert and Annie's second child was a son, William G., who remained on the farm. He married Bertha Bonin, born September 22, 1889, and who at this writing, is the oldest living native West Deer resident. This couple has six children, Harold, Ella Mae, Anna, Olive, Charles, and David.

Harold married Clara Eisele of Indiana Township and lives in Bairdford. They have two children, William and Arlene. William, married to the former Beth Nesbit of the New Castle area, has one daughter, Gwendolyn and lives in Bedford County. Arlene, married to John Nury of Harmarville, resides in Indiana Township. They have two sons, David and Douglas.

Ella Mae, second child of William and Bertha, married Wilson Grubbs and had three children, Gary, Janet, and Robert. Gary lives in Karns City with his wife, the former Terry Schneider, and daughter, Heather Lee. Janet, a nurse, lives at home and Robert, the younger son, died at age twelve.

Anna lives with her mother on the Grubbs property on Michael Road.

Olive married William (Scotty) Thompson of West Deer and resides in Indiana Township. They have two sons, William Jr. and Dale, and a daughter, Lynn.

Charles married Marie Biehl of West Deer and lives in the East Union area. They have six children: Coleen, who teaches in Conneaut and lives at home in the summer; Charles, who married Roberta Rider of Indiana Township and lives on the Russellton-Dorseyville Road; Darlene (Zimmerman), who lives in Dover, Delaware; Kenneth, who is married to Amy Harbison of Harwick Crossroads and lives in Bairdford; and Scott and Richard, who live at home.

David, the youngest son of William and Bertha, married Phyllis George of West Deer, and resides near New Wilmington where he teaches at Westminister College. They have three daughters, Amy, Lisa, and Gwen, and a son, Josh.

Stanley, the third child of Robert and Annie Gray, married Elma Rush and had five daughters, Ann, Mary, Jean, Franny, and Dorothy. Many of our older residents remember Stanley Gray's Garage, which was across the road from the present Consolaro Garage. Stanley sold Model T Fords here in the 1920's and moved to Mars in 1927, where he also sold Fords, this time the Model A's.

Robert and Annie's youngest child was Paul, who married Bertha Campbell and had twelve children. They were Ruth, Barton, Edna, Sarah, Lois, Emerson (deceased at age three), Merle, Bob, Stanley, Lawrence, Mary, and Harriet.

### The Hazlett Family

William Hazlett emigrated from Ireland sometime in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, settling in what is now West Deer Township. He may have come here even before Deer Township was formed. Old records indicate that Hazlett School existed on his farm by 1800. Family records indicate that he married a Miss Lesley and became a farmer. His homestead was just south of the Culmerville-Bakerstown Road, east of Logan Road.

A son, George Hazlett, was born in 1800. In 1829 he married Eliza Karns, from what is now Harrison Township and Brackenridge, and shortly afterward moved to that area for the next twenty-one years. In 1851 the Hazletts returned to that old homestead. They had three sons and three daughters but only the sons survived their parents, who died in 1870 and 1871.

One of the sons, James E., was born on the Harrison-Brackenridge site and moved with his family to West Deer in 1851. In 1859 at the age of twenty-two he married Nancy Porter, whose grandfather, Robert Porter, was one of West Deer's pioneers. This union bore six children, two of whom were life-long West Deer residents. Clara A. married Dr. Daniel G. Rowley and later taught school for many years in the Culmerville Schools. George W. married Margaret May McCorkle of Dorseyville and established himself as a progressive farmer on the Hazlett farm, the farmstead which is located behind the present West Deer Municipal building (Curtisville School). Their two sons, Karns and William, have been well-known in West Deer for many years.

Karns married Sarah Bryson of Gibsonia and to them two sons were born. Vernon lives in State College where he is with the Animal Sciences in Penn State's College of Agriculture. He has two children. James, the younger son,

is married to Nancy Mitrecik of Hampton Township and they live on part of the Hazlett farm. They have three children, Todd James, Tracy Jane, and Tara Jean. These children are the seventh generation to bear the Hazlett name in West Deer Township and the fourth generation to live on the same land.

William married Flora Fredley of West Deer and lives on part of the Hazlett farm. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Carl, an attorney, lives in Tucson, Arizona and has four children. Janice is married to Harold Cunningham of West Deer and their home is on Christy Road. They have three children, Sharon, Scott, and Amy. These children are the seventh generation on the Cunningham side to live in West Deer.

### The Hemphill Family

Robert Hemphill Sr., born in Ireland in 1792, settled in this area with his wife Catharine in 1812. Their farm, located in what we call the Blanchard area, contained between two and three hundred acres and extended to what is now the Fawn Township line and south to the Bull Creek Road.

The Hemphills had seven children. Two sons reached adulthood and each inherited half of the original homestead. David received the western end of the farm and Robert the eastern half.

David Hemphill married Isabella Means and to this union seven children were born. Of these, only two sons reached full adulthood and married. John, born in 1858, remained on the old homestead, now known as the Mark Stewart house in Blanchard. He was married twice, first to Carrie Katz and to them three children were born, Florence, Edna, and Cyril. His second marriage was to Mary F. Mays and they had one daughter, Margaret.

When John Hemphill died in 1920 the farm went to his son, Cyril W. Born in 1888, he was first married to Bessie Olson and had three children, Marvin, Doris, and Irene. His second marriage was to Christine Kaiser. Two sons, Lester and Elmer were born to this marriage. Cyril was killed in the Blanchard mine in 1929.

Marvin, Cyril's son by his first marriage, married Eleanor Cotton of the Saxonburg area and lives in the Bull Creek Road area of West Deer. They have one son, Victor, who also lives in the Culmerville area. He is the father of two daughters, Vickie and Ronnie. These girls are the seventh generation to have the Hemphill name.

David Hemphill's other son, Wilson, married Nancy McCurdy and they had two sons, Samuel J. and David E. Samuel J. never married and after his death his homestead was sold to Miles Smolic. David E. became a doctor and practiced in the South Pittsburgh area.

Robert Hemphill Jr., second son of the original Hemphill, (1831-1915) got the eastern end of the farm now owned by his grandson, Glenn Hemphill. He was married first to Frances Bryson (1840-1923). To this second marriage nine children were born, three dying in infancy, three growing up and leaving the area, and three staying in West Deer. These three were Edward, Harry, and Blaine.

Edward (1862-1945) married late in life and left no children. Harry married Emily Elliot and had six children, four of whom reached adulthood. These two brothers traded farms in 1925. Edward had the section of the original farm between the Pleasant Unity Church and the Elliot Nursery, which he traded to brother Harry for another

section of the original farm. Of Harry and Emily's four children, Lois and Harold are deceased and Melvin and Kenneth live in the Clinton area. They had lived in West Deer for some time.

When Robert Hemphill Jr. died in 1915, his son Blaine D. got the homestead. Blaine (1884-1956) married Hazel Woodrow (1891-1927) and to them seven children were born, five of whom are now living in the area, with two in West Deer. James and Lyle live in the Sarver area, Ray lives in Fawn Township, and Clyde and Helen are deceased. Glenn, mentioned previously, lives on the farm which the first Hemphill ancestor settled. His home is well over a hundred years old. Charles lives in the Bull Creek Valley area as does his son, grandchildren, and two great grandsons.

Charles Hemphill married Alma Strohm and to them two children were born. A daughter, Sylvia, married Robert Grubbs and lives in the North Hills area. Their son, Blaine, married Elsie Geibel and they have three children, Lora, Linda, and Daniel. They are the owners of Hemphill Cabinets. Daughter Lora is married to Ronald Orkis and they have two sons, Scott and Steven. These boys are the seventh generation of the Hemphill family to live in West Deer Township.

### The Hunter Family

James Hunter II was born in Ireland in 1762. His daughter, Jane (McCord) was the first Hunter to come to America. She and her husband wrote back for more of the family to follow. A number did come, five dying enroute. James III, brother of Jane, married Margaret McCord, sister of Jane's husband in 1823 in County Down, Ireland. In 1830, with three children, James and Margaret came to America, settling in Pittsburgh. James worked at the Eagle Cotton Mill but poor health forced him to leave this type of work. He and his brother George bought a farm on Bull Creek and moved to Fawn Township in 1840. Ten years later, in 1850, the Hunters moved to West Deer, having bought farms in the Deer Creek area. James bought his farm on what is now Bairdford Road next to the Deer Creek Church and immediately built a log house there. The Ferguson and Schwab farms were next to his. His wife died on the farm and he lived the rest of his life with married daughters, Nancy (Lytle), Margaret (Stewart), and Ellen (Taylor), who lived in the area. His son James lived at the end of Middle Road Extension, where he had a store and post office. This post office was Lewis Post Office, named for Jane (Hunter) Lewis and was also known as Hunter Post Office.

Mary Hunter, daughter of James III, married Robert Hunter (no relation) of Pittsburgh and bought the Bell farm on Hunter Road, just west of the Deer Creek Cemetery. Their youngest daughter, Elinor Bolin, lives there today.

Francis Hunter, youngest son of James III, married Martha (Wallace) Schwab in 1874. She was the widow of Nicholas Schwab who had been killed by a bull. She was widowed with four small children and had six more, all sons, to her second husband.

George Hunter was building his home on Middle Road Extension when he met an untimely death in a railroad accident. He taught school at Martin School prior to his death. He left three small children.

Frank Hunter taught school for almost twenty-five years and was teaching in Russellton at the time of the

nationwide flu epidemic, to which he succumbed early in 1919. His brother Charles was killed in an auto accident in Bairdford. Another brother, Robert, remained on the farm, later selling to the Hunkles.

James Alexander Hunter, also called Alex but more often by the familiar name "Pixie", married Margaret (Maggie) McIntyre in 1905 and moved to a farm on Shephard Road, then called Dawson Run Road, which his parents had bought some years before. This had been the James Dawson farm and had on it the remains of a gristmill with the old burrstones and millrace. The house, one of West Deer's oldest, was of three-brick construction and had been built of bricks made on the farm about 1850. Bricks for the Deer Creek Church were made at the same time.

Alex and Margaret Hunter had two sons and ten daughters. Alex later bought the adjoining Glendenning farm and continued as a farmer for the remainder of his life. These farms also had several oil wells on them. A grandson, John Bruce Hunter, and his family live on this farm today.

Of their ten daughters, six were teachers, with five of these teaching at one time in the schools of West Deer Township. Ruth (Cunningham), retired teacher, lives in the George Hunter house on Middle Road north of Deer Creek. Florence (Snitzer) retired teacher, lives on Russellton Road near Snitzer's Corner (see Snitzer family). Martha (Baumgartel), retired teacher, lives on Shephard Road as does brother Bruce and sister Marian (Kratz). Two other sisters, both deceased, had previously lived on Shephard Road. Frances (Mrs. Burt Stevenson), also a teacher, and Norma (Mrs. Don Kirkpatrick) had built their homes on part of the original Hunter farm. Ethel (Mink), also a retired West Deer teacher, lives in Florida. Grace, a retired teacher, lives in California. The youngest daughter, Verna, lives with sister Ruth.

Two granddaughters of Alex and Margaret Hunter live in the area. Diana (Baumgartel) Gilch lives on Shephard Road and Janet (Cunningham) Allaman lives in Fawn Haven.

Members of other branches of the Hunter family include the Girdwood families, Robert Ley of Middle Road, and Robert Stewart of Donaldson Road.

The Hunters hold an annual family reunion at the Deer Creek U.P. Church. The 1985 gathering marked the 60th reunion of this family, which has been in West Deer for 135 years.

submitted by: Martha Baumgartel

### The Hutchman Families

An entry in the Allegheny Court House, Deed Book, Vol. 124, page 489, reads as follows: "A piece of land which James Ross and others conveyed to Jane Anderson, who afterwards intermarried with Samuel Hutchman Sr. by deed October 7, 1837."

John Anderson, from Bedford, PA, owned large tracts of land in Hampton Township and other places. He sold some of these to his friends and family. This land was from the Revolutionary War Grants. His family lived in the Hampton Township area, and his four grandchildren, Mary Ann, Jane, James and John, inherited several of these tracts of land.

Samuel Hutchman and Jane Anderson Hutchman moved to a log cabin located near Star Road on

approximately 125 acres of land. They had three sons, John Anderson (1839-1913), who married Amanda Kingan; William, (?) who married Ceenia Snow and moved to Iowa; Samuel (1844-1903), who married Mary Agnes Hazlett, daughter of Alexander Hazlett and Jane Sweeney Hazlett, who lived in West Deer Township near the spur railroad track which goes from the Bessemer Railroad to Curtisville #2.

The two married sons, John A. Hutchman and Samuel Hutchman, lived in the log cabin along Starr Road and raised their children there. Using Starr Road as a dividing line they formed two almost equal sized farms with Samuel Hutchman owning the one on the east side of the road.

The Samuel Hutchman log and frame house was built beside Starr Road in the early 1880's and my father, Elliott Hutchman, stated that he moved there as a child of about eight years. Samuel and Mary Hazlett Hutchman had these children: Jennie (Murray), Sarah, Elliott, Merle and an infant daughter.

Elliott Hutchman (1878-1951) and his sister, Sara (1875-1929), were very helpful in their work for East Union U.P. Church and in the formation of Oak Valley Grange where they were treasurer and secretary for many years. They knew that their parents, Samuel and Mary, were one of the founding families of East Union, and they followed the family tradition.

In 1908 Elliott Hutchman and Ida Monnier of West Deer Township (daughter of Henry and Eliza Monnier) were married. They had four children: Mabel (Wardle) (1909), William E. (1911), Helen A. (1914-1933), and Merle E. (1920). Mabel lives in Florida now; William lives in Marion, Ohio; and Merle E. lives in the family homestead on Starr Road.

Merle E. Hutchman is married to Rebecca Johnson and they have two sons: Eugene and Ralph William Hutchman. Eugene is married to Margaret Hamilton, and they have two young sons. They live in West Deer Township. Ralph William lives at home with his parents.

This history places six generations of the Hutchman family living in the original family home. This house is 100 years old or more. For most of these ancestors the two farms provided a financial living, and several of the fields are in production yet in 1985.

submitted by: William E. Hutchman, Marion, Ohio

### The Magill Family

John and Sara Ross Magill came to West Deer Township in 1828. Two years later they purchased a tract of land from Samuel Richards and his wife, who had been granted the land by the State of Pennsylvania. John and Sara had four sons and four daughters. Among the children were Mrs. John Allison, William Henry Magill and George Chambers Magill.

Mrs. John Allison was the grandmother of LeRoy Allison, a well known farmer of this community. LeRoy and Elizabeth Hazlett Allison are the parents of a family of thirteen children of outstanding ability and achievement.

During the time John and Sara resided in West Deer Township, they occupied the original house, later the residence of William Henry Magill, their son. John was a leader in local affairs and one of the organizers of the East Union Presbyterian Church in 1850. He later moved to

Freeport to run a woolen mill. However, he returned to West Deer before his death in 1875.

George Chambers Magill married Mary Hutchman and they had six daughters and two sons. The sons, John and Roger, ran the farm for many years after the death of their father in 1917. It was later sold, part of it being the area where the present Deer Lakes Jr./Sr. High School stands, another part being sold to William Dyer, and another section to the Brnardic family. A remaining part still belongs to Daniel Thompson, a grandson.

One daughter, Christine Magill, was a teacher in West Deer and Rural Ridge for a number of years.

William Henry Magill served in the Civil War from 1861 until 1864, including the battle of Gettysburg. The 63rd Infantry plaque on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg lists William H. Magill as one of the two sergeants in Capt. John McClelland's Company E. This company was recruited in Allegheny County and lists a number of local names. In 1868 William Henry married Phoebe Jane Crawford and took over at least half of his father's farm, purchasing it in 1874 just before his father's death a year later.

William and Phoebe had four daughters and four sons, one of whom was the late Harry T. Magill. About 1911 Harry took over the farm because of his father's poor health. His father was not able to operate the farm but he continued as a justice of the peace. He had previously served three terms in the state legislature but returned to his justice of the peace position, which he held from 1882 until his death in 1916.

Just before Harry Magill took over the farm, the original house burned. Under Harry's direction and his father's sponsorship a new home was built to which Harry brought his bride, Bessie Dawson Magill, in 1913. They lived in this house until 1962 when they sold it, after selling the farm for a housing development. The house burned that year during the remodeling process.

Harry purchased the farm from his mother in 1919. During the years he farmed he participated in many of the first innovative farming procedures, such as contour farming, pond building, and other conservation practices. He owned one of the first combines in this area. Harry and Bess were both active in church and community affairs.

In 1952 Harry and Bess sold the first tract of land to Ideal Homes and Victory Construction, owned by F. P. Galata, for residential development. Upon completion of one section, another tract was sold to Galata in 1954. When that was completed the final section of the farm was sold to him in 1955. Harry and Bess retained the homestead as their home until 1962 when they moved to the Poconos to reside with their daughter Blanche and son-in-law T. E. Banks. Today the two hundred homes of Magill Heights are the culmination of the Magill family history. While no Magills live there the name will probably continue for many generations.

submitted by: Blanche (Magill) Banks

### The Marshall Family

Samuel and Martha (Swan) Marshall came from Ireland to Pittsburgh in 1848 and shortly afterwards located in West Deer Township on 200 acres of land. Of their nine children, seven reached maturity but by the end of the

century only three remained, and only one of these stayed in West Deer. Samuel and Martha's son, William, born in 1832 in Ireland, came with them to America at age sixteen and assisted his father in becoming a successful farmer and breeder of high grade cattle.

The original Marshall farm was north of the Culmerville-Bakerstown Road and west of Rittman Road. This farm, originally two hundred acres, was divided in two sometime in the last century and had a road, now long abandoned, between the two farms. The 1876 map shows William Marshall on the southern farm and Samuel Marshall on the northern or "lower place" near the present Marshall shaft of the old Russellton mine. The original farm house, built in 1859 of stone at the edge of a stone quarry, is now used as the summer place of a Pittsburgh family. The house near the Marshall shaft is now unoccupied and is visible from Rittman Road.

In 1864, at age thirty-two, William Marshall enlisted in the 6th Pennsylvania Artillery and served in the final year of the Civil War. Later in life he would serve as commander of the William Scott Post (see Scott family story) of the Grand Army of the Republic in West Deer Township. This Post had a building on the Culmerville-Bakerstown Road at one time.

William married Mary Ferguson in 1856 and to this couple seven daughters and one son were born.

Thomas, the only son, married Sarah Monnier, a West Deer native, and to this union six children were born. A daughter and granddaughter of this couple live on the Culmerville-Millerstown Road. The children of Thomas and Sarah were: W. John, Samuel F., Mary I., Selden H. (Ben), Robert T., and Gertrude A. Gertrude (Gertie) married Wilbur Ekas and has lived much of her life in the Culmerville area. She had four children. Floyd lives in Harrison Township, Kathleen lives in Fawn Township, Linda lives in Buffalo, N.Y., and Penny is deceased. Carol Holsing, daughter of Ben Marshall, lives in the Culmerville area. She has three children.

Rebecca Marshall married Samuel McIntyre and had nine children. Mary, Maggie, George, Thomas, Lillie, Iva, Martha, Emma, and Clara were their names. Two of these daughters married men whose names became well known locally. Maggie married Alex Hunter and was the mother of at least five daughters who taught school in West Deer (see Hunter family history). Lillie, also a school teacher, married Ray Allen and lived for years in a log house near the present community park at Bairdford. Their children left West Deer years ago but one, Dr. Allen, gynecologist, resides and practices medicine in nearby Oakmont.

Martha Marshall, postmaster at Bakerstown for many years, married William Scott and had one son, L. Vernon. An old family picture shows the Butler Plank Road in front of their house and post office in Bakerstown, Martha told of the rumbling noise made by the wagons on this road.

Mary Marshall married William Henry Dawson and had six children. They were Cora, Laura, Ralph, Samuel, Alberta and William Scott. William Henry was affectionately called "Uncle Bill Hen" by his many nieces and nephews.

Nancy married Selden Goodrich and also had six children. These six were named Merle, Vera, Sesta, W. Marshall, Harold, and Carrie.

Lillie died at a young age. It is believed that Rebecca's daughter Lillie (Allen) may have been named for her.

Clara first married George Rittman and had one

daughter, Georgilla, before his death. She later married again to Daniel Smith and had five more children. They were J. Ronald, Lawrence, Leona, Daniel, and Howard.

Emma married Samuel Schwab and had one son Curtis. He was killed in an auto-truck accident between Culmerville and Deer Creek not too many years after World War II. This occurred not far from the original farmstead of his great-grandfather.

Gertrude Marshall Ekas supplied much of the information for this account of her family.

### Captain John McClelland

George McClelland came to Deer Township in 1811, buying 235 acres of land for \$265.00 in what is now the East Union area of West Deer. This property was originally Lot No. 152 in James Cunningham's survey district No. 4 in the Depreciation Lands described earlier in this book. It had been sold previously for unpaid taxes but after becoming McClelland(d) property remained in that family for eighty years and witnessed a number of family hardships.

John was born on the family farm in 1817 and little is known of his early life. When West Deer became a township in 1836 he was already nineteen years old. It may be assumed that he remained on the farm, becoming owner of part of it after the death of his father and mother. He became a member of the East Union Presbyterian Church shortly after its organization in 1850 and became an elder in 1865 upon his return from the Civil War.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the 63rd Infantry Regiment, organized in Pittsburgh in August 1861, enrolling its members for three years service. This regiment was part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 3rd Corps and participated in many engagements with the enemy in Virginia and at Gettysburg. The 63rd Infantry bronze plaque on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg lists Captain John McClelland as company commander of Company E. One account states that he enlisted and rose through the ranks to company commander while another states that he joined the regiment as a captain. Some knowledge of Civil War military history would lead this author (John Graff) to believe both accounts. As military groups were organized, the officers were usually elected by their men.

The 63rd Infantry was mustered out in June 1864 except for the veteran volunteers, of which Capt. McClelland was obviously one. These men were transferred to the 155th Infantry and continued with hard fighting in the final year of the war in Virginia.

Captain McClelland returned to his farm in 1865 and continued farming until 1870 when he was elected an Allegheny County Jury Commissioner. Five years later he was elected to the Board of County Commissioners and again in 1878, holding that position until his death the following year, on April 11, 1879.

He was one of West Deer's outstanding citizens at that time and was well-known, both in the township and in Allegheny County. He is interred in the East Union Cemetery.

The McClelland homestead on the Russellton-Dorseyville Road has been the Cox family home for a number of years.

### The McKrell Family

James Boyd McKrell Sr. was born on a farm on the present McKrell Road, West Deer Township, on January 13, 1891. This farm is now owned by John Dlugopolski. Boyd now resides with his wife Frances on the farm on which he grew up, across the road from his birthplace.

Boyd's forebearers in West Deer go back to at least 1840. Bull Creek Church records show that his great-grandfather, Allen Taylor, joined the church in that year.

Allen Taylor and his wife, Flora Blakely Taylor, arrived from Ireland in the 1830's. They settled in the East Union area, where Allen worked as a stonemason. The 1876 map identifies their home. Their oldest daughter, Jane, married James Lynn McKrell in the 1850's. As far as is known, James Lynn was the only one of his family to settle in West Deer.

James Lynn and Jane bought a farm in the Bull Creek area on what is now Superior Road. The old barn is still standing. James and Jane had seven children. The third, William John, was born in 1861. He married Pauline Geiser in 1890.

Pauline was the daughter of John George Geiser and Philamina Rumpsburger Geiser. They emigrated from Germany in the mid-1800's. Pauline, the seventh of eight children, was born in 1861.

John George Geiser bought a two hundred acre farm in the 1860's on the present McKrell Road. This is shown on the 1876 map. The original farm encompassed land from the present Sportsmen's Club to the far side of Saxonburg Boulevard. Young James Boyd discovered a number of arrowheads in the Saxonburg Boulevard area of the farm during plowing.

Upon his marriage to Pauline, William John McKrell moved to the Geiser farm, where he both farmed and bought, broke, and sold colts. He and Pauline had five children: James Boyd, Olive Mabel, Elsie Jane, Sarah Marjorie, and Alice May.

Of William John and Pauline's four daughters, three are deceased and the fourth no longer lives in West Deer. Mabel married Harry Kearn but died in 1925 at age thirty-one. They had no children. Elsie Jane married Andrew Schohn of West Deer. They had three daughters: Phyllis (Campbell), Dorothy (Vogele), and Betty (Patsko). Betty and her daughter Joni still reside in West Deer. Elsie died in 1932. The third daughter, Marjorie, married W. S. Buzard. Their children are Lois, William, and James. Marjorie died in 1979. The youngest daughter, Alice, married George Trevorrow and resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

William John and Pauline's only son, James Boyd, worked with his father on the farm, worked for a time for the Bessemer-Lake Erie Railroad, and worked for Ford Collieries in the Curtisville office, where he was purchasing agent for many years. He married Frances Campbell of the Portersville area in 1928. They had two sons, John H. and James Boyd Jr. John H. lives in the family homestead and James Boyd Jr. lives next door. He married Nancy Mawhinney, also of West Deer. They had three children, all of whom grew up in West Deer. These children are the sixth generation through the Taylors and the fifth generation through the Geisers to have lived here. Jonathan D., the oldest, now lives in Canton, Ohio, and Mark D., the youngest, resides in Rochester, New York. Judith L. continues to live on McKrell Road, West Deer Township.

## The Michael Family

William Michael and his wife Margaret came to West Deer Township from Sharpsburg in 1872. They purchased a one hundred acre farm near the East Union Church and began farming. The 1876 map shows W. Michael on the site of the present Michael Brothers operation.

Henry W. Michael, son of William and Margaret, remained on the farm, eventually taking over its operation and continuing the family farm. He and his wife, the former Katherine Henrich of Indiana Township, began raising tomatoes and plants in addition to their general farming. They began to place more emphasis on dairying about the time of the first World War. This couple had ten children, six boys and four girls.

These children are as follows: Howard, deceased; Russell, who first set up the nursery operation, also deceased; twins Nora and Dora, Nora lives in Virginia and Dora in St. Louis; Alice, Walter, and Martha, all of whom live in California; Wilbur who lives on the home farm; Richard who resides in the Slippery Rock area; and Therman, the youngest, who also lives on the home farm.

Henry was killed in 1936 in a farm accident when a tree fell on him. This was a very trying time for the Michael family. Russell had started the nursery but it was not in full production. The family placed more emphasis on vegetables as cash crops until the nursery was in full production. Russell died unexpectedly and brothers Wilbur, Richard, and Therman took over the nursery thus explaining the Michael Brothers name, although the nursery is now operated by Therman alone. The brothers then bought the farm from their mother and operated the poultry farm, greenhouses, and nursery under the Michael Brothers name. At one time there were over 20,000 hens in the poultry operation. Wilbur is now in semi-retirement, operating an egg sales business.

Wilbur married Esther Baker of Kentucky and has three children. Joyce, an accountant, is married to Jeffrey Mulkern and lives along the Saxonburg Boulevard across from the Aber farm. David is a ceramic engineer and lives in White Oak. Linda is married to Raymond Pater of McKeesport and lives on the original Michael farm.

Therman married Mary Trevellini of West Deer and lives beside his nursery. He and Mary have four children. Alan, their only son, is a horticulturist and lives on the Russellton-Dorseyville Road. He is associated with Channel 4-TV and has his own program on Saturday mornings. Marie is a biologist and Carol is a horticulturist. Both are involved with research with the United States Department of Agriculture near Beltsville, Maryland. Beverly, the oldest daughter has earned a PhD and teaches math at the University of Pittsburgh. She lives in Holiday Park.

The Michael Brothers Nursery and Poultry Farm is a well known local operation and draws customers from a large area. Therman and Mary operate the nursery while Wilbur and Esther manage the poultry department.

## The Monnier Family

We first hear of the Monniers, who were French Huguenots, during the reign of King Henry the IV. It was he who signed the Edict of Nantes, giving the Huguenots religious freedom. King Henry IV was loved by the

Monniers. One of the Monniers was a cup bearer to the king and another was a Captain of the Guard. Their love of the king was shown by at least one member of each generation having a son named Henry. Even my great grandmother was named Henriette. With the death of King Henry IV, the Huguenots were persecuted and when King Louis XIV, the grandson of Henry the IV, repealed the Edict of Nantes as many as 400,000 Huguenots left France for other countries. France thus lost many of her finest subjects from its army and navy, and from its magistrates and businessmen. Most of these people were skilled workmen.

Our Monnier family fled almost two hundred miles from Cheny to the St. Imier Valley of Switzerland where they settled in the town of Sonceboz about 1700.

Apparently Charles Henry Monnier, who drove stagecoach between France and Switzerland, was the first of that family to seek a new home in America. In 1820 at the age of eighteen he crossed the Atlantic, but not until nineteen years later did he purchase land as his future homesite in the Little Deer Creek Valley, West Deer Township, a location he said reminded him of the St. Imier Valley in Switzerland.

On his second trip from Switzerland in 1826, he became friendly with the family of Fredrick and Henriette Petram Vorpe, who were passengers on the ship. They were also Swiss from Sonceboz. He was particularly attracted to their bright-eyed, dark-haired, ten year old daughter, Henriette. Charles waited until 1834 when she was eighteen and he was thirty-two to marry her.

After living a short time in Bakerstown with a friend by the name of Garroux, Charles and Harriet (Henriette anglicized) bought 129 acres from Merriman and Sarah Oxuinn in what is now Curtisville. On this land they built a log cabin where they lived while erecting a barn in 1850 and the present red-brick house, the Monnier Homestead, in 1854. Bricks for the house were purchased from the brickyard of James Leslie, which adjoined the Monnier farm on what is now known as Ford and Church Streets, Curtisville. This property which Charles and Henriette Monnier and their decedents lived for three generations was known as the Woodbine Farm.

Charles and Harriet bought an additional 25 acres on September 13, 1856 and 107½ acres on April 9, 1861 from Christian King and his wife Elizabeth, the widow of David W. Thomann.

Charles and Harriet had six sons and one daughter: Henry, Emile (died an infant), Fred, John, Lydia, Julius (died at the age of seven) and Alben.

Harriet had long black hair that when brushed hung to her knees. Indians of the Shawnee, who camped nearby, admired her long hair and would sometimes be observed looking through the window as she brushed it. They would visit her on bread baking day and she would give them a loaf of bread. As a result, the Monniers never had any trouble with the Indians. Harriet carried a gun when she rode up to Brimstone Corners (Culmerville), not for protection from the Indians, but because of the wolves that lived in Leslie's woods. Charles was attacked by a wildcat (called a panther then) one night while on his way home.

Charles Henry and Harriett's son Henry married Eliza Crawford, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Reinhart) Crawford. They bought the 107½ acres from Henry's father and later built a large frame house which replaced the log house. This house is along what is known as the Monnier Road

and is now the residence of the Rogan family. Henry and Eliza were successful farmers devoted to general farming but their specialty was the breeding of Jersey cattle and Chester white hogs.

Henry and Eliza had ten children: William Henry who died as a young boy; Albert J., who married Clara Schroder; Sarah A., who married Thomas Marshall; Frank E., who married Rachel Magill; Charles E., who married Rosa Murray; Clara, who married John Vorpe; Ida A., who married Elliott Hutchman; Ella M., who married Clyde Thompson; Leonard C., who married Bella Kamp; and a deceased infant. Six of the children lived all of their lives in West Deer Township.

Leonard, as a boy, trapped and with some of the money purchased a Seroco glass plate camera, which I still have and which is in excellent condition. He took and developed many pictures of the surrounding country. Often people would ask him to take their family's picture. Several of Leonard's pictures have been reproduced in this book.

Leonard Monnier married Bella Kamp and they had their home along the East Union Road, now owned by the Bernardic family. While their new house was being built, they lived in a log house across the road. Leonard did some farming and chicken raising but spent most of his life working at various coal mines. Later, he was employed by West Deer Schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Highways. He passed away in 1970 at the age of 84 and was buried in the East Union Cemetery with his parents, grandparents, and his four brothers, William, Albert, Frank, an infant boy unnamed, and one sister, Ida Hutchman.

Leonard and Bella had one son, Clarence, who married Mary Etta Dawson of West Deer Township. To this union was born two daughters. Judith Lorraine married William Dyer of West Deer Township. They have a son and a daughter. Joyce Etta married Richard Field of West Deer Township. They have two daughters. Both families now reside in Maryland.

Clarence and Mary Etta live along the Culmerville-Millerstown Road. Together, before retiring, they taught school a total of seventy years, all in West Deer Township Schools.

submitted by: Clarence Monnier

### Norris Family

The earliest Norris of whom we have definite records is Robert, whose description was found in Central Pennsylvania History, published by Beers and Co. of Chicago. It reads as follows: "Robert Norris was a wealthy citizen of Ireland who took great delight in hunting and spent much time in following the hounds. He was six feet six inches tall and weighed two hundred fifty pounds." This Robert was married twice having a son, Robert, to his first wife and seven sons and two daughters to his second wife. They lived in Castle Dawson, Derry County, Ireland.

Robert (1785-1867), the son of Robert's first wife, his wife Catherine Dowling Norris and their son, James (1810-1870), came to America in the early 1800's. It is not known if more of their ten children were born in Ireland. Robert and Catherine settled in Deer Township in the vicinity of what is now Culmerville. Robert sent back such a glowing report of his new home that his step-mother (then a widow) decided to take her family to America.

Shortly after the family started their long journey the

mother became ill. Fearing her death, two sons took their mother back to Ireland in a life raft, staying with her until her death two years later. In the meantime the oldest brother had a difficult time managing to get his charges to their destination. A story was told about one of the little girls falling overboard and was kept afloat by her hoop-skirt until she could be reached by a life raft.

These young people went to the home of their half brother, Robert. Daniel, Adam, John, James, and Henry settled in Deer and Buffalo Townships. The two girls, Nancy and Esther, went to New Jersey and two other brothers, not mentioned above, settled in Norristown.

It is known that Robert, the half brother, owned two hundred fifty-five acres of land in and around Culmerville. There were two tracts of land purchased from Sara Collins. It is not known what kind of a house they had at first but a brick home was constructed later from bricks fired at a nearby kiln. This home was located west of Culmerville along Saxonburg Boulevard and is the present home of Mr. & Mrs. John Consolaro. Robert and Catherine's daughter, Margaret, married Robert Culmer and had a daughter Mary Ann. It was for this daughter, Mary Ann Culmer, that Culmerville was named.

The property of Robert and Catherine was willed to their children and grandchildren and much of it was sold, by these heirs, to H. M. Davidson. Their son, Dowling, inherited the section where the brick home stood. Dowling died at the age of twenty-nine and the property was willed to his wife Elizabeth K. Norris. She continued to live in this home for many years. Older residents may remember it being referred to as the "Mrs. Norris Place". In 1912, Elizabeth Norris deeded the property to her daughter Mary Norris Bryce. It was later bought by the Consolaro family.

### Adam (1800-1870)

Adam, half brother to Robert, married Effie Ferguson (1795-1867), a daughter of David and Susannah Pollard Ferguson. David fought in the Revolutionary War and was a scout for George Washington. Adam and Effie located on a knoll in what is now Blanchard about 1820. They later built a brick home using bricks made in the Norris kiln which was located along what is now known as Blanchard Road. All of the children of Adam and Effie were born in this house and the names of these children were said to be recorded in the basement floor. These children were: Adam, Nancy, Robert, David, William, Rebecca, Effy and Susan. This brick home is now occupied by the Caponi family.

Adam (1832-1909), son of Adam and Effie, married Isabella Matthews (1833-1908) and lived in the father's home on the knoll in Blanchard. Their children were: James, William, Effie Etta, David, Adam Henry, Benjamin Black, and Logan Robert. Their childhood days were spent in West Deer but many established homes in the Pittsburgh area. Logan and his wife Estella lived in Tarentum and had six children. Their youngest son, Adam, married Virginia Hanna and they lived in West Deer until their deaths. Their son, James, grew up in West Deer and attended its schools.

William (1836-1902), son of Adam and Effie, married Rebecca Matthews (1839-1912) and had a home along what is now Blanchard Road. Their first home was on the right hand side of the road near a spring. They built a new brick home across the road using bricks which were made at the Norris kiln. This house is still standing but is not occupied. "Uncle Will and Aunt Becky", as they were

affectionately called, had a large family and many of their descendents remained in West Deer and had much to do with its development. Their children were as follows: Mary Ann who married Charley Porter; Agnes did not marry; George, who married Rachel McIntyre; Adam Jamison, who married Susan Dawson; James Alex, who married Inez Henry; Bertha, who married A. R. Means and after his death married McClain Henry; Sara, who married John Fleming; Silas Milton, who married Lavina Henry and William David who married Mary Dawson.

Descendents of this family still living in West Deer are as follows: Sara Porter Drum, daughter of Mary Jane; Harold Norris, grandson of George, his daughters Deborah Irvine and Nancy Johnson and Nancy's daughter, Rachel; David Norris, great grandson of George and his daughters, Michelle and Lauren; Allen Norris, great-grandson of George and his son Allen, Jr.; Edna Catherwood Cunningham, daughter of Martha, her daughter Jane Scheerbaum and her children, Gary and Diane; Edna's son, Harold, and his children, Sharon, Scott, and Amy; Robert Henry, grandson of Bertha, and his daughters Tricia and Rebecca; Clarence Norris, son of Milton; Ethel Norris Knoch, daughter of David, her son Samuel and his daughter Marlinda; Ethel's grandson David Thompson and his son, Seth; W. Howard Norris, son of David and Gertrude Norris Burns, daughter of David. All of the surviving children of David have homes on the original homestead which was purchased from Sara Collins.

Effie (1834-1904), daughter of Adam and Effie, married Robert Elliott (1831-1902) and had seven children. The children were: Adam, James, Daniel Elmer, Elizabeth, William David, Effie and Robert Milton. See the Elliott history for more details.

#### John (1801-1896)

John, half brother of Robert, and Mary E. Moore (1805-1886) were natives of County Derry, Ireland. In 1824 they emigrated to Canada and in 1828 came to Allegheny County. They were married in Newfoundland enroute to their new home. The dates indicate that John was one of the brothers who went back to Ireland with his mother. The children of John and Mary were: William and Henry, farmers in Jefferson County; Jane and Esther married and settled in the Pittsburgh area; Robert married Jane Mays and lived in Pittsburgh; Nancy died at the age of twenty-three; Joseph, Ruth, Adam and Sara settled in West Deer.

Joseph, son of John, and his wife, Margaret, lived on the homestead which was located on Tarentum-Culmerville Road east of the Bull Creek Church. Joseph and Margaret's children were: Samuel, who married Mae Henry. Samuel can be remembered as a fine carpenter; William and his wife had a son, Joseph. William taught school in Bakerstown and walked from the homestead to the school; Charley married Ollie McCullough; Bert went to California; Ella taught at the Culmerville school and afterwards married Mr. Darby and went to New York to live; Nettie married Ora Love and at one time lived in the "Mrs. Norris House" with their three children, Pauline, Jean, and Donald; Mary married Robert Bovard and had two children, Helen and Herron.

Of this family Joseph, son of William, and his wife Margaret Austin reside in Deer Creek. They have four children. Their son, David Glenn, also resides in Deer Creek.

Ruth, daughter of John, lived on the homestead with her brother, Joseph.

Sara (Lizzie), daughter of John, married John Stark and lived on a farm west of Bull Creek Church. They died during the flu epidemic of 1918 and were buried the same day.

Adam (1844-1911), son of John, married Mary Montgomery (1852-1930) and lived on a farm in the valley east of Bull Creek Church cemetery. It was just down the hill from the homestead. The children of Adam and Mary were: Thomas and Howard who married and lived in the Pittsburgh area; John, who stayed on the farm until his death; Lilly, who married Harry Thompson and raised her family of four boys in West Deer Township; Anna married Zelvin McKibbon and went to Butler County; Edna married Curtis Cunningham and went to Butler County; Edith married Mr. Burns and remained in the township. Her son, Wilmer, is the only descendent of this family living in West Deer at the present time.

#### Henry (1814-1900)

Henry, (half-brother to Robert) and his wife had six children. They were: Rev. James, Add, Robert, Lydia Norris McGeary, Mary Ann Norris Hazlett and Nancy Jane Norris Woodrow. Henry, the father, was one of the first members of Pleasant Unity Church. His son, James, and his grandson, James, son of Robert, were both ministers at Pleasant Unity. Many of the family settled in the Tarentum area but some descendents of the Woodrow family are still living in the township.

#### James (1805-1877)

James, (half brother of Robert) married Susannah Ferguson (1795-1858), daughter of David and Susannah Pollard Ferguson and lived in Clinton Township. Their children were: Maria, Susannah, Lucinda Jane, Elizabeth, Esther and Robert.

After the death of James' wife, Susannah, he married a widow, Violet Sweeney Carnahan. Violet and her first husband, John Carnahan, lived in a log house on a farm in Culmerville. They had three daughters: Ellen (1847-1861); Rachel (1850-1850) and Mary Jane (1851-1929). Violet remained on the farm after her first husband's death. It was during this time that a June frost killed all of the farm crops.

After Violet's marriage to James Norris, she and her two daughters went to Clinton Township to make their home. Later James' son Robert married Violet's daughter, Mary Jane. Robert and Mary Jane went back to Culmerville to live in the log house in which Mary Jane was born. All of their children were born in this same log house. Their children were: Rachel, who married Harry Ekas; James, who remained on the farm and never married; Nancy, who married Robert Marshall; Anna, who married Charles Dawson; John, who married Annie Donaldson; Ida, who married Anthony Myers; Robert, who married Grace Catherwood; Elsie, who married Clyde Schroder and Franklyn who died at the age of four.

When the railroad came through the farm, the barn had to be moved and a new house was built. Many descendents of this family still reside in West Deer. Some of these descendents are as follows: Sara Jane Ekas Newcomer and Harry Ekas, grandchildren of Rachel; Grace Ekas Fredley, daughter of Rachel, her son Clair and his son, Jay; Grace's son Loyal and his children, Wayne and Alice; Mary Etta Dawson Monnier, daughter of Anna; Kenneth Norris, son of Robert, his daughter Elaine Shaffer, and her daughters, Bethany and Joilyn; Leroy Norris, son of Robert, his son, Robert, and his children, Sarah, Abraham, and

Zachery; Leroy's son James; Phyllis Myers Passarella, granddaughter of Ida, and her daughters, Susan and Karen; Glenna Schroder Stark, daughter of Elsie, and her son, Raymond, and his daughter Kimberly; Dorothy Schroder Voeckel, daughter of Elsie, and her son Kirk.

To the second marriage of James (half-brother of Robert) and Violet Sweeney Carnahan, two children were born. The children were: Anna Lee and James Newton. One of James Newton's children, Arthur, married Annie Sterling and lived in West Deer. Their son, Matthew, is still a resident of the township.

The Norris family will be remembered as a group of hard working, dependable citizens who contributed much to the development of West Deer Township. Aside from farming and other occupations they owned and operated a brick yard, a bus company, and a general store. They also had much to do with the founding of Pleasant Unity Church.

submitted by: Mary Etta Monnier  
Dorothy Voeckel

### Dr. Daniel G. Rowley

Myron H. Rowley, father of our subject, was born in Vermont in 1805 and was educated in the field of medicine in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from medical college there in 1829 and shortly afterward began practicing medicine in Millerstown. He practiced in that location for almost sixty-three years until his death in 1899. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1852. Three years later he married again and to this union one son was born. This son, Daniel G., born in 1858, acquired a good education, read medicine with his father, and when finished with his medical education, practiced medicine in the Culmerville area for his lifetime.

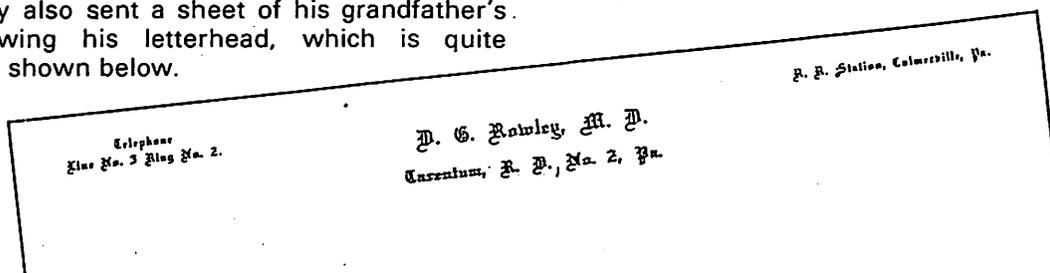
In 1893, at the age of thirty-five, he married Clara Hazlett of West Deer. To this union, one son, Myron E. was born in 1899. Dr. Rowley continued practicing until his death in 1916. He went out with a bad cold in a freezing rain to attend a patient. His condition worsened and he died within a short time at age fifty-eight. At the time of his death, his son was in college at Washington and Jefferson.

Dr. Rowley was a well-known and beloved personality in his profession and was highly regarded by West Deer's earlier citizens and fellow members of the Bull Creek Church. His home and office were in the house now occupied by the Larry Murray family.

Reference to Dr. Rowley is made in two other sections of this book, Culmerville and Medical Services. Hughes/Weisz also refer to Dr. Rowley and the elder Rowley who are the father and son in this writing.

Dr. Rowley's grandson is the Hon. James E. Rowley, judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania at Beaver, PA, who kindly supplied most of this information.

Judge Rowley also sent a sheet of his grandfather's stationery showing his letterhead, which is quite interesting. It is shown below.



### The Schwab Family

The Nicholas Schwab family emigrated to the United States from Oberweil, near Berne, Switzerland in 1845 and settled in West Deer Township.

The original Schwab farm consisted of 100 acres and was located on both sides of the Bairdford Road and extended to the Saxonburg Road. Today this location contains several commercial establishments, a church and many houses. It would extend from the Stanich Cafe to the Shema residence, about half way to Bairdford, on both sides of the road.

The Schwab family included three sons, John, Nicholas Jr., and Jacob, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Ann.

Nicholas Jr. became one of the "49'ers" who went west to California to seek gold. He later sent for his brother John to join him. When the brothers returned they used the money made in California to purchase two farms in West Deer Township. These farms were located on Monnier Road. In later years the Ford Collieries Coal Company purchased the John Schwab farm, which was known for a long period of time as the Company Farm. Nicholas, Jr. was killed by an enraged bull when he was forty-five years old.

Jacob, the third son of Nicholas Sr. married Keziah Gibson. They had four children, one of which was Leonard Schwab who worked at the Bairdford mine in the machine shop. Leonard married Ada Wright from Etna. She had previously taught school at the Martin School on the present Route 910. They had four children, a daughter, Gladys, and three sons, William R., L. Delmont, and Bert D.

These three sons have all left West Deer Township. William was in management for Pittsburgh Plate Glass in Ford City. L. Delmont worked for the Ohio State Machinery Co., in Columbus, Ohio. Bert D. was a technical representative for Douglas Aircraft Corporation and lives in California. Their children and their families all reside in areas other than West Deer.

Gladys, the only daughter of Leonard and Ada, married Roy Sterling from the Bakerstown-Culmerville Road area. They built their home on a portion of the Matthew Stirling farm. Their daughter, Dorothy, who married David G. Mathewson, presently resides on a part of that land. Dorothy and David have two daughters, Sharon and Ruth. The daughters also have homes on a part of the original Sterling farm. The Schwab family and their heirs have lived in West Deer Township for 141 years.

The Schwab family and the Sterling family were joined by marriage as were many of the families described in this account. Both families have been in West Deer Township for more than 140 years.

submitted by: Dorothy Mathewson

## The Scott Family

John Scott (1792-1875) and Sarah (Dain) Scott (1795-1866) emigrated from Ireland to West Deer, then Deer Township, along with their three children in 1822. Seven more children were born after their settling in this area a half-mile north of the Deer Creek crossroads. David, the only son to survive his father, was born in West Deer in 1839. He was educated locally, then in a Pittsburgh commercial college. After working for some years in Pittsburgh, he returned to the farm, making it his principal business.

David's brother William was an officer in Company B, 61st Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He is listed in one record as a Lieutenant and in another as a Captain. He survived their first battle at Fair Oaks, Virginia, but afterwards while searching for missing comrades, was killed by a sharp-shooter's bullet. The William Scott Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a local post, was named in his honor.

David (1839-1937) married Elizabeth Caldwell (1840-1904) before the Civil War and to them nine children were born. Three of these children have descendants at present living in West Deer Township.

Cornelia (1868-1937) married Harper Donaldson and had one daughter, Effie, who is married to James Catherwood and lives in West Deer. Her family is described in the Catherwood family history.

Robert G. (1873-1957), who remained on the farm, married Clara Donaldson (1875-1931). This couple had four children, two of whom died in infancy and two of whom remained on parts of the original Scott farm. Wilbur (1908-1970) married Esther Bunting, a West Deer teacher, and lived on the farm on the east side of the public road which divided the original farm. They had no children. Glenn married Isabelle Moody of West Deer and built their home on another part of the Scott farm. They had one daughter, Kathleen, who lives with them in the home which they built. Kathy is the fifth generation Scott to live on this land, which has been lived on by Scotts for 164 years.

Dain Carlisle Scott (1879-1934) married Anny Mae Seibert (1881-1973). They had four children, one of whom remained in West Deer. They lived on the west side of the road in the original Scott homestead. Their son, Dale David, married Eleanor Vanderlin, also of West Deer, and continued to live in this township. They had one son, Dain Vanderlin, who married Shirley Beasley. They had two children, Lori Lynn and David Craig. Dain served in the Vietnam conflict and has been West Deer's only Missing in Action casualty. His children now live in Nevada with their mother and attend college there.

The original Scott homestead is now the residence of the Robert Casian family. The second Scott home on the east side of the road is now the Richard Thompson home. Just south of it on part of the original farm is the present Glenn Scott home.

## The Snitzer Family

Martin Schnitzer (Snitzer) and his wife came to Pittsburgh from Hessen, Germany in 1820 with their nine year old son, Henry. Martin was a farmer and shoemaker and had served twelve years in Napoleon's army. Records show that a farm in West Deer Township was deeded to

him in 1842. This farm was located at the intersections of Campbell Road, Starr Road, Saxonburg Road, and the Russellton-Dorseyville Road. This intersection became known as Snitzer's Corner. A small grocery store and gasoline station was built there in 1920. Farm produce was sold to the city people, who were out for a ride in the country in their cars of which they were so proud.

Henry married Catherine Gumbert and this couple had eight children: Annie (Mrs. Herman Dillner); Lewis, whose son, Herbert and wife Pearl remain on a farm near East Union Church; Philomena (Mrs. John Pfirman); Katherine (Mrs. Philip Jennewine); and John Philip, whose descendants still live in the area of Snitzer's Corner. Two sons died unmarried. The farm is now a real estate development with Christine Drive and Deerton Road in it.

submitted by: Florence Snitzer

## The Stirling Family

The Stirling family has resided in West Deer Township since 1840. George Stirling and his wife, Isabell (Kirkland) emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland in 1840, bringing with them their three children. Three additional children were born in West Deer Township; Christina, Matthew, and James. The farm on which the Stirlings lived was located on the Bakerstown-Culmerville Road.

In 1861, Matthew, son of George and Isabel, joined the Union Army at age 15, after the start of the Civil War. His service included duty in Georgia with one of the regiments of General Sherman in the famous "March to the Sea".

Upon his return, he married Euphemia McCormick from Kaufman Road in West Deer Township. He began farming and blacksmithing on the Stirling farm. This couple had four children; James, Mary, Matthew, and Jesse. After his wife's death, he married again, this time to Maretta Porter. This marriage resulted in seven additional children; George, Clyde, William, Roy, Nellie, Annie, and Margaret. Matthew died in 1925 and was buried in the Deer Creek Cemetery along the Bairdford Road, in the family plot.

Several years after Matthew's death, the farm was divided among the remaining children. Some took a portion of land while others received a monetary value as their settlement. George remained on the larger portion and continued farming. Roy received about fifteen acres, on which he built a house in 1934.

Roy's daughter Dorothy Mathewson built a house on part of that property in 1949. She and her husband David still reside on part of the original farm, as do their two married daughters, Sharon Campbell and Ruth Kaufman.

Sharon, a graduate of Westminster College, is a teacher in the Pine-Richland School District. She married John Campbell of Turtle Creek. John, a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, is an ordained minister and is the Pastor of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church of Gibsonia.

Ruth is a graduate of Edinboro State College and works for Dr. R. J. Smolen in McCandless Township. She married Charles Kaufman of Edinboro. He is a carpenter and works in the Pittsburgh area. Their daughters Amanda Ruth and Melanie Ann, represent the sixth generation since the arrival of George Stirling from Scotland in 1840. Ruth also resides on land which was part of the original Stirling homestead and has been in the family for 146 years.

Note: David, father of Sharon and Ruth, printed most of the pictures for this book.

Other grandchildren of Matthew Stirling residing in this area are George Drum and Matthew (Sterling) Norris.

George Drum, the son of Nellie, had two children, Roy and Diane Drum, who have moved from West Deer. Matthew, the son of Annie (Norris), had three children, Kathleen, Richard, and Susan, none of which now reside in the township. A third grandson, Melvin Norris resides in Franklin, PA.

submitted by: David and Dorothy (Stirling) Mathewson

*The photograph on the right, taken in 1865, shows Matthew Stirling as he returned from the Civil War. He was the second generation of Stirlings to live in West Deer. His son, Roy Stirling is pictured below in his new 1911 Buick. On the lower right, third generation Dorothy Stirling Mathewson is pictured with her daughters, Ruth Mathewson Kaufman on the left and Sharon Mathewson Campbell on the right. Ruth is holding her daughter Amanda Kaufman who is the sixth generation to live in West Deer and on the same land settled by her great, great, great grandfather, George Stirling.*

