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ACCOUNTS

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In This Issue:

With this issue ACCOUNTS of Union County History begins its 6th year recording historical information and ideas about our local history. Herein you will find a pleasurable assortment of topics, testimonies, and ideas, shared by your Union County neighbors.

In his essay, “Growing up in Vicksburg,” **Carl Catherman** gives us his personal account of life and youth in one of our county’s myriad small communities connecting people with local lands and life. As the essay shows, these smaller towns play a powerful role in molding a great many of us. You will also see how life in the small community, by the 1950s, had growing linkages to the goods and entertainments provided in nearby larger towns.

Anna Burrey Walter, in “Burrey’s Store in Vicksburg,” describes a family-run, store that is a hub of local exchange, supply, and social relationships in a small community. Such stores, together with local churches, anchor the very existence of local life. As a daughter of the owner-operator family, she recounts how the store was founded, how it grew, who its customers were, what was stocked, how the store was arranged, and the winds of economic change in the Valley that eventually assailed the store’s viability.

Deborah Wehr shares with us her research on the rise and abrupt decline of Buffalo Valley logging, an era of “wood hicks,” rafts and arks, narrow-gauge railroads, sawmills, lumber and mine prop sales. This pervasive industry transformed much of Union County’s economy, while literally supporting the regional coal industry and the construction needs of growing eastern cities, while permanently denuding our uplands of vast old-growth forests.

Nancy Newman, president of the Lewisburg Cemetery Association, recounts the history of the iconic, Gothic-inspired, stone chapel from its construction in 1898 (fifty years after the establishment of the cemetery), to the present day. Along the way she fills in details of the founding and growth of the Lewisburg cemetery, our county’s largest, and the construction and use of its other buildings and installations.

Richard Sauers distills the essentials of his intensive study of the more than 30 newspapers that have been published in Lewisburg the first appeared in 1824. Many were new, often short-lived papers, while others were descended from previously published papers, renamed and re-oriented. Sauers introduces us to their publishers, writers, and editors, and shows how the content and role of Lewisburg’s earlier newspapers contrasts with what we read in newspapers today.

Five years of ACCOUNTS have been completed, an appropriate point for editor **Tom Greaves** to assemble a comprehensive index of those issues. The index lists and locates the names of every person associated with our county who has been mentioned in the pages of ACCOUNTS, plus the localities, businesses, institutions, activities, and topics that featured in their lives. The cumulative index will serve and assist the reader, the researcher, the student, and all who are historically curious as they mine the rich content of ACCOUNTS.

Be an ACCOUNTS Author!

I invite you to write a piece for a forthcoming issue of ACCOUNTS. All that's required is a story to tell, illuminating some corner of Union County history. You don't need to know all the history about the subject, just share what you already know. I can work with you to move it from an idea to an essay, and together we can add what you know to the historical record of Union County and its people. Got a relative or neighbor who also has a story? Let me know and I'll extend an invitation.

There is still space in the next issue. Don't confine your topics to the following, but here are some topics to get you thinking:

1. A bridge, a road, a building, or a monument's story
2. Growing up in a long-gone way of life
3. Enoch Miller, mid-county builder and architect
4. The generations of a family long associated with our county
5. The logging railroad at White Deer
6. Billmeyer's sawmill and boat-building business on Buffalo Creek
7. History of "Fiddler's Tract" property on Rt. 192
8. Hotel Shikellamy, on Blue Hill
9. Troutman's Pharmacy, Lewisburg
10. A local foundry or commercial furnace
11. The general goods store at the heart of any one of Union County's small communities
12. A event, a festival, a happening of the past we need to remember

Do let me hear from you!

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