

What's in this Issue?

We lead off with a path-breaking article by **Susan Waggoner** on Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg's master builder of the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century. Together with his teacher, Joseph Boop, Miller's skill and creativity are evident in much of the historic appearance of Mifflinburg today. Waggoner recounts Miller's life and introduces you to his many legacy creations.

Mike and Carol Manbeck, owners of that stand-out home and barn along Airport Road in Lewisburg, tell us about the original owners, Joseph and Ann Elizabeth Shriner, grandparents of Elizabeth Rue. Elizabeth is the author of a marvelous 1897 essay remembering her childhood adventures in her grandfather's barn, now carefully maintained by the Manbecks. Elizabeth's charming essay, written when she was 14, is included in its entirety in this article.

The third article, by **Jonathan Bastian**, takes us to our county's West End to recount the wild, dangerous, days of logging, arks, tram railroads, whiskey and lumber around towns like Pardee, Weikert, Laurelton, along the Penns Creek drainage in the late 1800s. Meanwhile, merchants, farmers and churches attempt to implant orderly communities as the fast-moving timber companies clearcut the hills of Union County's last frontier.

Ever heard of Churchville? **Georganna Kresl** tells the story: in the 1830s Lewisburg was victorious in its fight to be joined by a three-quarter-mile-long "cross cut canal" connecting it to the Pennsylvania Canal to its east. Then come two fast-talking brothers, Francis and Jerimiah Smith, platting a town fronting the cross cut, opposite Lewisburg and offering lots for sale. The Smiths propagated fake news and alternative facts as abundantly as in our times. Although they appear to have lost money on their Churchville venture, they went on to establish other towns that grew and put money in their pockets.

Finally, **Tom Walker** returns to ACCOUNTS' pages with a review of the controversy that enveloped New Berlin in the 1940s, spawned by a campaign by New York playwright Maxwell Anderson to induce towns across America named for the defeated Nazi capital to change their names. The people of New Berlin, PA were unimpressed. But who hasn't heard someone tell of this episode? Tom Walker gives us the facts.

Updates

ACCOUNTS readers will remember Tom Walker's investigation of a mysterious address on his dad's letters home to Mifflinburg during WWII (vol. 6, #2, 2016). I am pleased to share with you that Tom has now published a book on his dad's war service based on his letters and writing. The book is *Navigator*, available on Amazon.

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