

Less complete lists appeared in ACCOUNTS a year ago as appendices of an article, “A Sense of Place,” by Lasansky. Now augmented and up-dated to 2016, these lists are benchmark sources on the business fabric of Union County, past and present, underpinning future research on its commercial and economic history. See how many businesses you recognize and marvel at how common it is that family-owned businesses have operated for generations here.

Write for ACCOUNTS

If you’re new to ACCOUNTS, you may wonder whether you, yourself, might be suited to contribute an article to ACCOUNTS. Scanning this issue’s authors (and the “About this Issue’s Authors” section at the back), you won’t see a pattern. Some authors are ordinary neighbors of yours, not known for essay writing, and others are seasoned writers about local history. What’s the right profile?

There is no profile other than having knowledge, interest, and curiosity about some facet of our county’s history, and the desire to write it down. ACCOUNTS is a community enterprise, not just the preserve of professional historians; ACCOUNTS is the vehicle by which we all share what we know and add it to the knowledge base of our county’s history. I stand ready to be helpful, to work with you on a first draft, and will be your support during the process of preparing it for an issue of ACCOUNTS.

Don’t figure you should wait until you have thoroughly researched the topic. There’s nothing final about history. We go with what we think we know and welcome others to later add to or refine the story. If we leave the writing of our history to when it’s finally “ready,” much of our county’s history will disappear, because many of us waited too long and never got around to writing it down.

What topics are right for ACCOUNTS? Gravitate toward the specific. It could be the story of a bridge, or a barn, or a festival or a park. It could be of a family – perhaps yours – that has lived a couple of generations or more in our county. It could be about a business, a church congregation, a voluntary organization; or a political leader or an ordinary farmer, working the soil the way it used to be done. It could be about a dramatic event, like a flood or a fire, or the dedication of a new post office. It could be about an artifact you have that has a story behind it. Our county’s history is the product of the lives and labor of all who have lived in Union County and been part of its daily life.

So, write about what you know. I’ll assist in helping you see how it fits into the story of this county. I’m happy to discuss your idea and to suggest how you might deal with it in an essay for ACCOUNTS. Write me:
<greaves@bucknell.edu>.

Tom Greaves, Editor

Further guidance on writing for ACCOUNTS is found on pages 76-78 of this issue.