

What's in this issue?

Readers will find fascinating reading in this issue. **Carl Catherman** introduces you to the rich and vibrant history of Old Time Music in our region and in our county. From the Civil War to the mid-Twentieth Century, fiddlers, banjo players and other musicians and vocalists entertained and informed listeners live at dances, parties, and regularly on the radio. Catherman shares his knowledge and lists recordings from his collection. This article fills an important gap in Union County cultural history.

The Mifflinburg Telegraph informed mid-county readers for a century and a half, issuing its last issue in 2014. **Mary Lee Jensen**, now living in Ithaca, NY, edited the newspaper for more than a year in 1979-80, her first professional job, supervised by publisher Harris Lemon. She shares with us her experiences and her conclusions about the important functions a local newspaper fills, and how it differs from regional and national newspapers.

Sidney Dreese extends our knowledge of the Mifflinburg Telegraph with part 1 of a two-part study of the Telegraph from its 1862 founding to the 1930s, emphasizing the policies, politics, objectives, and business profitability under its four successive owner-editors. Based on a page-by-page, issue-by-issue reading, Dreese explores how the newspaper responded to both national (e.g. Civil War, Lincoln assassination, World War I) and local events (e.g. local businesses, civic groups, re-naming streets) through the nearly 7 decades covered by this article.

You don't have to be a sports fan to enjoy **Tom Walker's** account of the New Berlin Baseball Club's 1946 championship season, as WWII soldiers returned home and peacetime life resumed. Walker's father, Billy Walker, was the winning pitcher in the 5-game season finale against the archrival Mifflinburg Middies, and the original game tallies, artifacts, and statistics are part of this article. Adopting the writing style of sports journalism, author Walker shows that history can be made, and recounted, in more than one writing style.

Ninety-nine years after the 1918 death of American battlefield nurse Helen Fairchild, **Nelle Fairchild Rote** draws from her great aunt's diary to take us into the hardships and horrors of Helen's wartime service. At the same time, author Rote embeds Helen's heroism within Helen's White Deer family background and the aspirations of a young woman, allowing ACCOUNTS' readers to discover the person Helen Fairchild beneath the official citations and remembrances.

Richard Sauers returns to the pages of ACCOUNTS with the first of a multi-series on Lewisburg's economic history. Part I focuses on the lumber mills, boat-building, foundries and machine-manufacturing that shaped and broadened Lewisburg's economic base especially in the early- to mid-Nineteenth Century. Based on exacting study of records, as well as of the archives of Lewisburg newspapers, Sauer's article and his others to come will be benchmarks for the history of Lewisburg and Union County.

Passing the Baton to a New Editor

I have had the honor and privilege of founding ACCOUNTS in 2011 and editing its first 7 years of twice-yearly issues.¹ The work has provided me great satisfactions, especially the

¹ ACCOUNTS was approved by the UCHS board in the fall of 2010. Planning began in January, 2011. Authors were recruited across the Spring and the first issue (vol. 1.) appeared in October. Thereafter the

opportunity to work with many dozens of outstanding authors. Some have been professional historians, but others, the majority, are those who have deep knowledge and interest in Union County history and who have been willing to put in the substantial effort to write up some part of what they know. To all ACCOUNTS authors: it has been a pleasure; you have taught me – a mere anthropologist - a great deal of history. And together we have preserved knowledge that otherwise would be forgotten as memories fade and we pass away.

History is a learning enterprise, and so is editing a new journal. ACCOUNTS has much to show us. Consider the following five points:

One, ACCOUNTS demonstrates that a new, on line journal fills a need. Too much of what we should know about Union County's history resides in the heads and memories of our citizens, and largely evaporates when we pass on. ACCOUNTS is a working vehicle for capturing and preserving much of what otherwise is likely to disappear.

Two, ACCOUNTS shows that preserving history (which we define broadly) is a task all of us – not just the professionals – can shoulder. Local history is a community enterprise.

Three, ACCOUNTS shows the viability of an on-line format. The reason ACCOUNTS is on-line only is, frankly, that it's almost cost-free to the Society, and that any expenses that publishing an on line journal does incur, such as paying a website service, it would need to pay anyway.

Four, ACCOUNTS also points out the limitations of an on-line-only journal: it's hard to get visible and thus to attract readers and writers. A paper copy lying on a coffee table is much more visible than a web address. But paper copies entail production costs, subscription lists, financial records, mailing costs, and significant staff time --- incompatible with a volunteer organization already on a tight budget.

And five, to offset the visibility problem every issue needs to become its own vehicle for getting the word out, through e-mail announcements, flyers, and in-person pitches at the main Society events. Even so, a portion of the Society's members have little contact with the cyber world and are thus marginalized from ACCOUNTS. That's an uncomfortable reality.

Now that the first seven years of ACCOUNTS are complete, it is time to pass the editor's cap to a new editor, and I am pleased to introduce **Matt Wagner**, recently retired Mifflinburg music teacher and director of its award-winning band, who has nourished a lifelong interest in local history. Appointed by the UCHS Board this past September, Matt's first ACCOUNTS issue will be February, 2018. Welcome Matt! Please get in touch with Matt (mcwagner.mcw@gmail.com) with your ideas for an ACCOUNTS article - either one you could write, or a potential author he could approach. Help him get Volume 8 off to a strong start.

Thanks to all , **TOM**

issues of each annual volume of ACCOUNTS have appeared in February (#1) and October (#2) of each successive year.