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IBERLAND County History

2009

Volume Twenty-six

In This Issue

History of Ralph Ray Watts, World War I, United States Army
as told to Laura Mae Wakefield Watts, edited by Randy Watts

The Sadler/Levinson Curtilage
Mark W. Podvia

Shippensburg's Locust Grove Cemetery: A Window on Two
Centuries of Cumberland County's African-American History
Steven B. Burg

Cumberland County's Connection to John Brown's Raid
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Joseph D. Cress

Cumberland County Government and Court Records
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Notable Library Acquisitions – 2009
Cara Holtry

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The editor invites articles, notes, or documents on the history of Cumberland County and its people. Such articles may deal with new areas of research or may review what has been written and published in the past.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced. Citations should also be double-spaced; they should be placed at the end of the text. Electronic submissions should be in Word format with any suggested graphics digitized as separate files. Authors should follow the rules set out in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

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Correspondence concerning membership and subscriptions should be addressed to the Executive Director at the Society.

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORY

*Cumberland County Historical
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Contributors

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In the mid 1980's he published a series of books covering the railroads of the Cumberland Valley. In 1995 he coauthored the book *At A Place Called the Boiling Springs* with Richard Tritt. His interests include the iron and mineral industries of the county and he is preparing a history of the clay industry along Mountain Creek. He is also preparing an index of Cumberland County troops in the Civil War. Randy is a Senior Risk Management Consultant for American Insurance Administrators in Mechanicsburg. A graduate of Shippensburg State College, he lives in Boiling Springs with his wife Laura.

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Joseph David Cress is an award-winning journalist with over 18 years of full-time newspaper experience. For the past 11 years, he has worked as a staff reporter with *The Sentinel* in Carlisle where he currently covers Carlisle Borough and the military affairs beat. Cress is an aspiring author, novice poet and an amateur game designer. He lives in York, PA with his wife Stacey, dog Dottie, and cats Chewie and Boone.

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Editor's Note

In 2008, Cumberland County Historical Society completed twenty-five years of publication of *Cumberland County History*, the Journal of the Society. The main goal of the publication over those twenty-five years was always to present scholarly writings that expand the readership's knowledge and understanding of the history of Cumberland County. That goal remains in place, but beginning with the 26th Volume, the Journal will move to publication once each year rather than twice annually as had usually occurred in the past. At times in the past, a single double issue of the Journal was published, but from this time forward the intention will be to publish once each year.

David L. Smith

History of Ralph Ray Watts, Veteran, World War I, United States Army

as told to Laura Mae Wakefield Watts, edited by Randy Watts

Introduction

The following is a reminiscence of the World War I military experiences of my grandfather, Ralph Ray Watts. His memory of those experiences was recorded by my grandmother, Laura Mae Wakefield Watts. I suspect some of the "editorial" comments were added by my grandmother. Her handwritten summary was later transcribed by a cousin, Cindy Prickett. The date of the original document is not known.

In attempt to put my grandfather's experiences in context with events of the American Expeditionary Forces during the war, the following narrative includes information from several additional sources. This includes an account written by Major John S. Switzer, Company D, 8th Machine Gun Battalion, an officer in my grandfather's unit. Additional information is also provided from other World War I sources regarding the events in which my grandfather was involved. In the narrative, the information in italics is from my grandparent's original document. Spellings of ship names and place names in France and Germany are as my grandmother spelled them. Information in standard print is gleaned from the other sources.

Family History

Ralph R. Watts was born in Mattawanna, Mifflin County on September 3, 1891. His father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad as a track inspector and was killed in a job-related accident in 1907. About that time his mother moved the family to 6 South Front Street in Wormleysburg. He still lived there at the time he went into the service. There is a large cast plaque honoring the members of the community who served in WWI in the Wormleysburg Community Center and his name is included.

Ralph Watts married Laura Mae Wakefield, also from the Mattawanna area, on June 21, 1924. Shortly thereafter they moved to 417 Eutaw Street in New Cumberland. They had three children, Margaret, Ross and Ralph Jr., now all deceased. According to family stories he did not like to talk about the war and for some years suffered the effects of gas attacks. Ralph R. Watts, Sr., died on November 9, 1955.



Photo of Ralph Watts taken July 1945 at 417 Eutaw Street, New Cumberland.

His son Ross was home on furlough after basic training which apparently was the reason for donning the uniform.

Watts Family Photograph

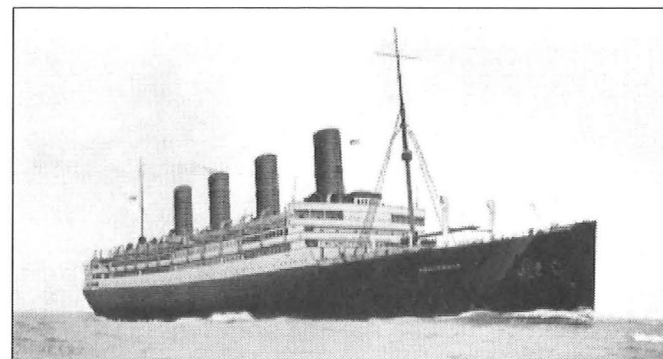
World War I Memories of Ralph R. Watts Sr.

Examined in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, by local draft board August 30, 1917. Reported to Carlisle, Pennsylvania ready for duty November 2, 1917. Sent to Camp Meade, Maryland, November 3, 1917. Trained in Company "C", 316 Infantry until December 12, 1917, where I was transferred to Regular Army at Camp Greene, Charlotte, North Carolina, and assigned to Company "G", 30th Infantry. Remained in Company "G", 30th Infantry until February 16, 1918, when I was

transferred to 3rd Division, 7th Machine Gun Battalion and assigned to Company "C". The entire Company "C", 7th Machine Gun Battalion transferred to 8th Machine Gun Battalion as Company "D" 8th Machine Gun Battalion, February 20, 1918. Remained in Company "D" Machine Gun Battalion and left Camp Greene, North Carolina, March 25, 1918 for Camp Merritt, New Jersey, arriving there March 27, 1918 where we remained until April 1, 1918.

The 3rd Division was formed on November 17, 1917 and was considered a "Regular Army" unit even though it consisted of a large number of National Guard troops. It was commanded by Major General Joseph T. Hickman, a highly regarded officer and military instructor. Hickman had participated in a number of actions prior to the war including the campaign against Geronimo. The 3rd Division would become known as the "Rock of the Marne" as a result of its actions near Château Thierry.¹

Left Camp Merritt, New Jersey, April 1, 1918 and went on board His Majesty's Ship Acquatanania at noon. Pulled away from dock and out of New York Harbor at noon April 2, 1918. Had to remain below deck until we passed the 3rd mile limit. Our quarters on the Acquatanania were nice, as it was at that time the largest ship afloat except for one, and we had a stateroom for four men. Every morning we went to the top deck for fresh air and physical drill, and remained there until "recall" blew at 11:00 a.m. In the afternoon we had boat drill, the signal for which was "Fire Call" on the bugle.



HMS Aquitania

www.ocean-liners.com/ships/Aquitania

Had a very quiet trip except for two days off the Irish Coast, which were very rough. Landed in Liverpool, England, April 11, 1918. Disembarked and marched to the railroad station where we entrained for Southampton.

The trip across England was great and it certainly is a fine country. Landed at Southampton at 6:00 o'clock the same evening. We marched through the dark streets for more than an hour until we came to a rest camp. We remained here for two days, and got out to see some of the town, when the guard had his back turned.

Left the rest camp about 4:00 p.m. April 13, 1918 for the dock to take a boat for LeHavre, France. When we boarded the boat we found it was a cattle boat, and our "state rooms" were the stalls where the cattle had slept on the previous trip. We left the harbor after dark and were due in LeHavre before the next morning but about half way out the skipper lost his nerve and we turned back and remained in Southampton harbor all the next day and finally crossed the night of April 14, 1918 arriving at Havre about daylight April 15, 1918.

Major John S. Switzer, an officer in the company, recorded the following: "The 20th of April 1918 found Company D 8th Machine Gun Battalion in France eager to do battle. But we had no machine guns, no pistols, no carts, no animals. Moreover, our training in the good old USA had not only been too brief, but so hurried that it had resulted in a sort of mental indigestion."²

We marched through the city and landed at another rest camp. Remained here one night, and boarded train for Bricon April 16, 1918, riding all night April 16, 1918, and all day April 17, 1918 and until 4:00 a.m. April 18, 1918, when we unloaded at Bricon, France after a very tiresome ride in third class coaches. Billeted here in barns until April 25, 1918, when the Battalion moved out. Headquarters "A" and "B" companies going to Ogres, "C" Company to Pontleville and "D" Company to Aizonville, a distance of about 8 kilometers. In Aizonville, we were issued helmets, and went into training. Most of my time here was spent under a shade tree with a pair of signal flags, learning signal codes.

On May 30, 1918 the 3rd Division was assigned to the French 6th Army, under the command of General Dequotte. The division was split up at this time and assigned piecemeal to French units defending the Marne River during the Third Aisne. They remained on the line until July 1, 1918 but saw no real action. The entire 3rd Division was reassembled in late June and placed under American command.³

May 28, 1918, we got orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice. Packed all our equipment and waited until 6:00 p.m. May 30, 1918 when we moved to Bricon to wait for transportation. Remained at Bricon until 4:00 a.m. June 1, 1918 when we loaded our equipment and left there in

boxcars for the Front. Unloaded at Provins about 5:00 p.m. the same day. Had supper, hiked about two hours then took motor trucks riding until 1:00 a.m. June 2, 1918, when we unloaded near Monthurel and slept in a field until about 11:00 a.m. when we started and hiked to a small town named Monthreal near Con-de-en-bre. Billeted here until June 6, 1918, when we again made a hike and made our camp in an apple orchard waiting orders to take up positions.

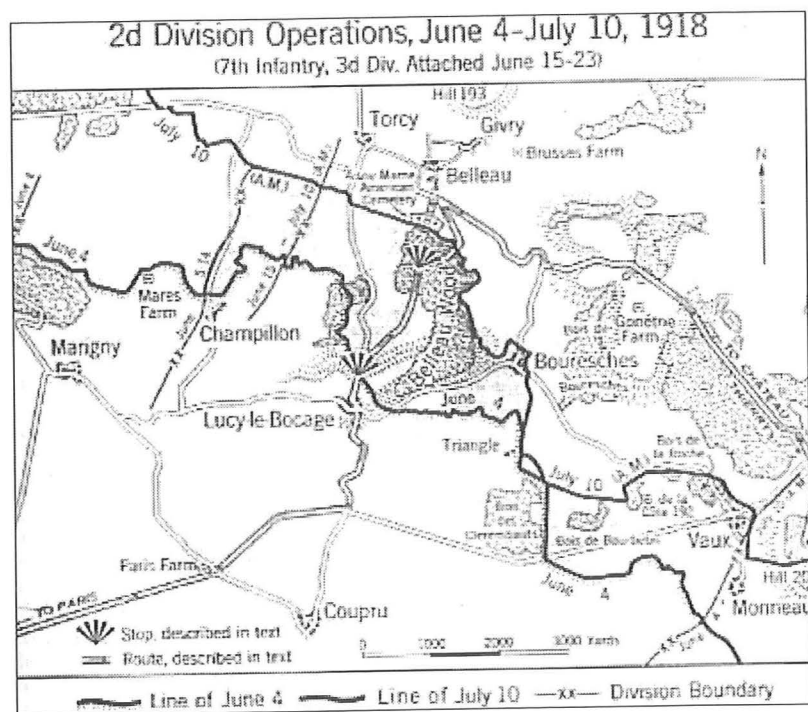
Took up positions June 9, 1918 for the first time.



Chateau Thierry region of France in 1918
<http://www.worldwar1.com>

Major Switzer described part of the experience as follows: "Somehow I got into the hands of a very stout and mustached French captain. Evidently he was their machine-gun expert because he pantomimed that I was to follow him and learn where to put my guns. My officers and I went with him, leaving the company in the woods near the farmhouse. All of us were still wondering what it was all about."⁴

"Captain Michel may have been fat but he could surely scamper through the bushes and up and down hills. We inspected our own hill from the river to its top and back again several times. Now and then he would stop and indicate a spot for a gun, or maybe two guns. Some of these places looked all right to me and some didn't – but my opinion wasn't asked. And so Company D came to rest on a hill above the Marne near Dorman's, with some guns down by the river itself."⁵



June – July 1918 positions of American Expeditionary Forces
<http://www.worldwar1.com>

We remained there almost a month and war was nothing more than a Sunday school Picnic. About ten or twelve shells a day came our way, and always at a certain time so we were ready for them. July 1, 1918 we were relieved and moved about ten miles to the American Sector near Chateau

Thierry. Took over our new positions July 4, 1918 and had another Sunday school picnic until the morning of July 15, 1918 at exactly 12:01 a.m. the Germans opened their barrage that preceded the battle of the Marne. It lasted more than ten hours.

This was the battle of Second Marne. It was the last major German offensive of the war and is regarded as the turning point of the war. A total of 250,000 American troops were engaged in the battle and 30,000 died. The campaign began in late May with a German offensive from the Chemin des Dames Ridge, northeast of Paris, and moved toward the Marne River before American troops arrived on the front. The intent was to threaten Paris and the Paris-Verdun rail line. The 2nd and 3rd Divisions were along the Marne River in the area of Château Thierry. The 3rd Division met the attack "head on" and became known as the "Rock of the Marne."⁶

The battle is typically broken into two phases by historians. The first lasting from July 15 to 17 and the second from July 18 to August 17. From July 18 to July 27 the 8th Machine Gun Battalion was assigned to the 5th Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier General F. W. Slader. Third Division casualties totaled 7971 including 1096 killed. The battle started with a major bombardment and gas attack.⁷

The aftermath of this bombardment is described by Major Switzer.

"It was time to get out and see what it was all about – check on my guns – see what I could do. Never shall I forget that inspection – my first contact with actual war. The ground was torn up; trees wildly twisted and broken; the smell of gas permeated everything; scarcely a bit of ground the size of a parlor rug that had no shell hole or scar upon it – craters from 75's, 105's, 210's, 320's. And in the roads, in the ditches, in the woods, were dead men, dead animals, shattered wagons, mutilated equipment of all descriptions. There were wounded and dying – there were soldiers with staring eyes, trembling behind whatever cover they had been able to find, but apparently not wounded. There were stragglers – some silent, some hysterical, some swearing, some trying to find their outfits. There were bursted carcasses of animals. There were dead men turned blue, with crinkled hair, distorted features – gassed. Near a vast crater stood an ambulance – the horses dead, the driver dead – the occupants dead – two medical corps men shoving a wounded man on a stretcher into the wagon – all dead – stiff – statuesque – killed by concussion. It was horrible."⁸

When it started, I was on my way to report to 2nd battalion of the 7th US Infantry, but never got there as my guide led me into a dug out which was a Company C.P. for "E" Company 6th Engineers. Remained here until about 2:00 p.m. July 15, 1918 when the shelling let up and I reported back to my company. Found out when I got back that the Company had suffered quite a loss; about 22 killed and wounded. All but six of our animals had been hit and had to be shot.

July 16, 1918 the Germans broke our lines on our right at Fosse and at Mezy but we counter attacked and drove them back. July 22, 1918 we crossed the Marne on a Pontoon Bridge at Glands near Chateau Thierry and camped at Monte St. Pier for a couple of days, then moved ahead about 5 kilometers where we remained until we were relieved July 30, 1918.

From this point until the division was relieved the fighting consisted of a more or less open character and consisted almost entirely of machine gun fire and flanking movements on positions assumed by the rear guard of the enemy. After line duty of a month and a half, a terrorizing bombardment for an offensive and an enemy offensive followed by a mustard gas shelling, the troops were tired and wholly dispirited."

Coming back, we crossed the Marne on another pontoon bridge and as we crossed the 4th Infantry Band opened up and the music made us feel like new men and ready for another battle. Hiked back to some farmhouses just outside Courboin where we had a few days rest.

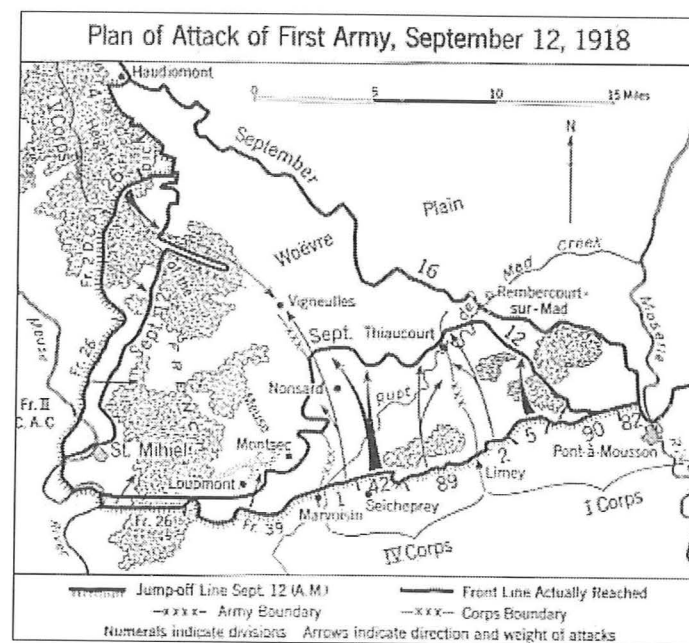
Took an eight mile hike from here to a delousing plant where we took a bath, got new clothes and blankets, and I also got my first cooties here. Remained here until August 9, 1918 when we went to Mezy and took up anti aircraft work. Remained here until August 14, 1918 without a chance to fire a shot then were ordered back to our farmhouses again. August 16, 1918 we hiked to the outskirts of Montmarail to await transportation to rest billets back of the Toul Sector. Pitched camp here and didn't move out until 10:00 p.m. August 17, 1918.

Boarded train August 17, 1918 at 10:00 p.m. and landed in a town near Bar-Le-Duc at 3:00 p.m. August 18, 1918 then hiked ten kilometers to Maligny-Le-Grand where we went into rest billets. While here, the Company drilled every day and I reported to Battalion Headquarters at Marson for signal instructions. Attended signal school a few days then was put on a detail to run a telephone line from Marson to Maligny-Le-Grand, a distance of 8 kilometers, which took a week. Here I spent my 27th birthday. Got the

telephone working Thursday noon, and moved out Saturday September 5, 1918, leaving Maligny-Le-Grand at 7:00 p.m. on foot to take part in the St. Mikhail drive.

We hiked all-night and stopped in the woods during the day. Rain every night and very unpleasant hiking. September 8, 1918 we stopped at Rigny-St.-Martin for two days. While here we selected to go on a Division maneuver with the officers and platoon Sgt. and hiked through the wood from 8:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. in a pouring rain. Slept from 4:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. then up and hiked again until 10:00 a.m. when the maneuver was over, then hiked some more until we got back to the Company at 2:00 p.m. YMCA gave us an entertainment while in this town that was very good.

September 10, 1918, we left Rigny-St.-Martin. Weather still bad. Rain every night. September 11, 1918 we came up in the rear of the line on St. Mikhail Sector near midnight and the Americans started the barrage soon after we arrived, keeping it up until daylight, when they went over the top. September 12, 1918 we broke camp at 1:00 p.m. and hiked about 5 miles to where the second line of trenches had been before the drive and spent the night in dugouts on the way there we passed many prisoners on their way to the rear. It was on this trip that we learned that the attack was successful.



September 12, 1918 plan of attack.

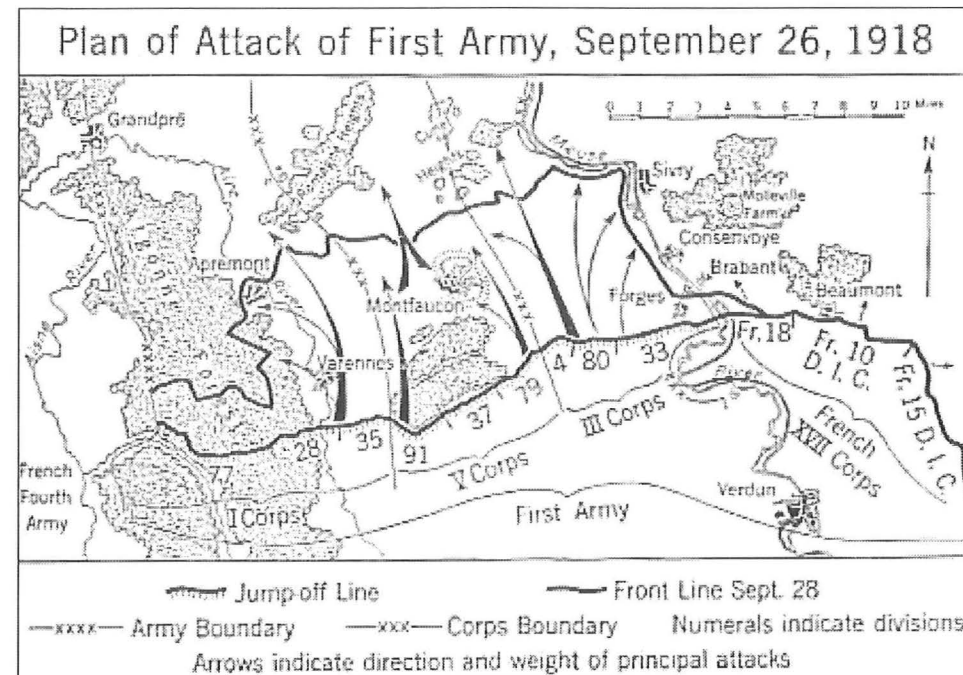
<http://www.worldwar1.com>

This time period encompasses the St. Mihiel campaign which lasted from September 12 to 15. This was the first independent American Expeditionary Force operation and victory. There were no casualties in the 3rd Division during this battle.¹⁰

September 13, 1918 at 11:00 a.m. we started hiking across "NO MAN'S LAND". This piece of land was full of shell holes, and it was hard to hike, having to push our carts out of the holes every few yards. Stopped on the outskirts of Essey about 5 p.m. and was ordered back to the kitchen where we started from with a detail to bring chow for the Company. Just got about 2 kilometers from camp when an officer came after us and told us to return to camp, roll packs and move back to where we had started from in the morning. Lost the road and had to hike all night arriving back at the kitchen at 3:00 a.m. September 14, 1918 almost starved and dead tired. Had a good feed and sleep and broke camp at dusk September 15, 1918 and moved to the rear about 10 kilometers where we camped for three days just North of Bricq.

Wagon train left us September 16, 1918 and started for the Verdun Sector. September 18, 1918 we were loaded in the trucks and started for the Verdun Sector. Rode all night and until about 2:00 p.m. September 19, 1918 when we finally unloaded and made our camp in the woods near Villa-Sur-Cousancy. Remained here for a week and it rained every day and night making our stay in the woods very uncomfortable.

Broke camp about 4:00 p.m. September 25, 1918 after a lecture by the Captain about the drive that was going to start along the entire front. Hiked about 4 hours and again made camp. September 26, 1918 started out again for the Front, hiking by daylight through the woods that had been the battleground in the battle of Verdun in 1914. Nothing left of it except shell holes and old stumps of trees, which were broken about half way to the top. Made camp on what was known as DEATH VALLEY in the 1914 battle. Camped here as a reserve division until 6:00 p.m. September 30, 1918 when we started in to take the place of a division, which had failed to hold the line.



September 28, 1918 plan of attack.

<http://www.worldwar1.com>

This action is the Meuse Argonne (Champagne) offensive. This was the largest operation conducted by the AEF and was its largest victory. The Hindenburg line was breached on October 21, 1918. Total casualties for this effort were 26,277 killed and 95,786 wounded. Third Division casualties totaled 8,374 which included 1,269 killed.¹¹

We had our worst hike here as the trail was one shell hole after another and a mass of mud. We were all night September 30, 1918 all day October 1, 1918 and until about 2:00 a.m. October 2, 1918 going less than 12 kilometers. Made camp at Montfaucon October 2, 1918 and took up anti aircraft work to pass away the time. October 4, 1918 we had our first experience bringing down a Hun plane. One man was shot in the arm by a machine gun bullet from the plane. October 5, 1918 we got another. The observer had been killed but we captured the pilot. Saw seven Hun planes brought down in half an hour's time.

About 4:00 p.m. October 5, 1918, we took up support positions and were observed by the enemy. Got shelled very heavy for an hour. Lost one man killed and four wounded. Remained here in holes by the roadside until dark October 6, 1918 when our platoon and the second went in and took

up front line positions. Here the fun began. October 7, 1918 third platoon made an effort to join us but was caught in a heavy barrage killing one Sergeant and wounding several. It was a hard fight but a steady advance for us and Romange and Cunal were taken.

Relieved October 9, 1918 by the M.G. (Machine Gun). Co. of the 30th Infantry and were ordered back for a rest of two days. Made a hike in the 4th Infantry, which almost killed the whole company. We carried full pack, guns, equipment and ammunition while the 4th only had packs. We lost most of the Company and only had three squads when we landed at stone quarry. Just stopped in the road when the Huns started shelling us and two shells landed in the rear of the Infantry column killing 3 and wounding 11.

October 19, 1918 went over the top with the Infantry and saw some real excitement. Took cover in a large hole where we remained for two days putting up our guns as reserve at night. Rained all the time and about two feet of mud and water in the hole. Moved again about October 23, 1918 taking up new positions. Moved ahead again October 25, 1918 and held these positions until relieved October 27, 1918 by the 5th Division when we moved back to our carts and kitchen at Montfaucon. October 30, 1918 left Montfaucon near midnight for rest billets.

Pitched camp in Verdun woods at 6:00 a.m. and camped here until the following morning, November 1, 1918. Broke camp and after a short hike loaded on trucks riding about 4 hours when we landed in Villains, France. Billeted here in barns and spent our resting time drilling and having General Inspection. Got 2 new majors here, which made things more exciting.

November 9, 1918 got orders to be ready for the Front again at a moments notice. News of the Armistice party going to France changed our plans. While here the YMCA gave us a few entertainments through the efforts of the Chaplain who was acting Y secretary. November 11, 1918 we heard of the signing of the Armistice and that our Division was selected as one to go on the Army of Occupation.

November 14, 1918 we left Villains at 11:00 a.m. on trucks and about 6:00 p.m. arrived at Thillat. Billeted here until November 16, 1918 when we started again on foot and hiked until 10:00 p.m. when we pitched tents in a field for the night near Bilneey. November 17, 1918 at 5:00 a.m. we started again arriving at Mars-La-Tours about 3:00 p.m. where we stopped for the night. November 18, 1918 off again at 5:00 a.m. arriving at Batilley at noon.

Here we hit the first town with a civilian population on the German side of the line. They had some very exciting stories to tell. There were some stockades here where the prisoners had been kept but the prisoners had all been turned loose. Rested here November 19, 1918. Left again at 5:00 a.m. November 20, 1918 arriving at Gueiff about noon. This was the last town we were in before crossing the Lorraine border. All the towns were decorated with the Allied colors. November 21, 1918 we crossed the Lorraine border about 8:00 a.m. and from then on the people talked all German.

We passed the mining section and the mines were working the same as if there never had been a war. Arrived at Diedenhofen about 5:00 p.m.; billeted for the night. November 22, 1918 off again at 5:00 a.m. stopped at a small town called Gandern where we remained for a week cleaning and resting. Spent Thanksgiving in Gandern having corn beef and cabbage for dinner.

November 30, 1918 hiked to Mondorf and took a sulfur bath. December 1, 1918 left Gandern about 7:00 a.m. passing out of Lorraine into Luxembourg then out again and across the Mussel River into Rhineland. The first town we stopped at was Perl then continued to Castel for the night. December 2, 1918 hiked to Schomerich. December 3, 1918 Schomerich to Kell. December 4, 1918 Kell to Hermeskeil. December 5, 1918 Hermeskeil to Allenbach. December 6, 1918 Allenbach to Laufersville. December 7, 1918 Laufersville to Chumbdchen. December 8, 1918 a day of rest. December 9, 1918 Chumbdchen to Morsbach. December 10, 1918 we left Morsbach at 8:00 a.m. and hit the Long Trail a winding into the Rhine Valley. This hill was about 9 kilometers long and consisted of about six horseshoe curves. Stopped for dinner at the town of Steeg, and then hiked about ten minutes before coming in sight of the Rhine at Bacharach.

Here we turned west along the river and the scenery was something great. Stopped at Oberwesel about 4:00 p.m. where we remained until December 15, 1918. While here we were billeted on the third floor of the railroad station. Had a real feather bed. December 15, 1918 left Oberwesel at 9:30 a.m. and hiked to Boppard, arriving about 6:00 p.m. December 16, 1918 we hiked from Boppard to Coblenz crossed the Mouseal River and billeted in a small town just on the outskirts of Coblenz. December 17, 1918 started on what was our last days hike. Passed through Andersnach about noon and stopped about three kilometers away from Andersnach for dinner then finished our last lap landing in Nickenich at 2:00 p.m. Here I

saw more kids than I ever saw in my life at one time. Started to count what was on the street from the edge of town to where we made our picket line, about four squares, and counted 200 boys in the first square. Then decided I had too large a job and quit. Busy getting acquainted with the town and people until Christmas.

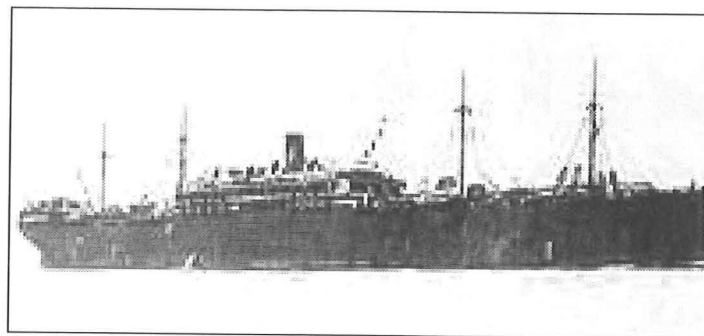
December 25, 1918 was a big day for us. Had a fine dinner even if we were in Germany. Remained in Nickenich until June 19, 1919 when we removed to the bridge over the Rhine River near Engers where we waited the signing or refusal to sign the peace treaty. Remained at bridge, camped in pup tents until one week later June 26, 1919 when we were ordered to break camp and return to our former billets at Nickenich. We came back with the expectation of starting for the U.S.A. but were forced to remain until after the departure of the Fifth, Fourth, and Second Divisions which took considerable time.

After returning from Engers one platoon of us went to target range at Wehr and took part in the competition shoot of all machine gun outfits in the Third Army which took place June 29, 1919. Nothing of interest took place after returning from target range and the balance of the time was spent in every day routine and turning in our equipment as we were to be ready to leave for home August 8, 1919.

We had a few excursions and leaves during this time, such as a boat trip up the Rhine to Boun. Another to Cologne. Also a trip by truck to inspect Berg Eltz Castle but cannot remember the dates of these trips. The trip to Cologne was very interesting and we had the pleasure of going through the Cathedral, which was the most famous in the world. The trip to Berg Eltz Castle was one to be long remembered also.

On the afternoon of August 8, 1919 we departed from Nickenich for the last time and all the natives turned out to give us farewell and wish us good luck. We hiked a few miles to the railroad and loaded up once more in boxcars this time of American make, which gave us more room and started for Brest via Belgium. One car was equipped as a kitchen and meals would be prepared and then the train would stop on siding long enough for us all to get out and eat and then be off again. In the evening of August 10, 1919 we arrived in Brest and camped there until morning of August 12, 1919. We went to the docks where we loaded on a tug or a ferry, which took us out in the harbor where we transferred to the former German ship, Pretoria, and sailed for home as soon as loaded.

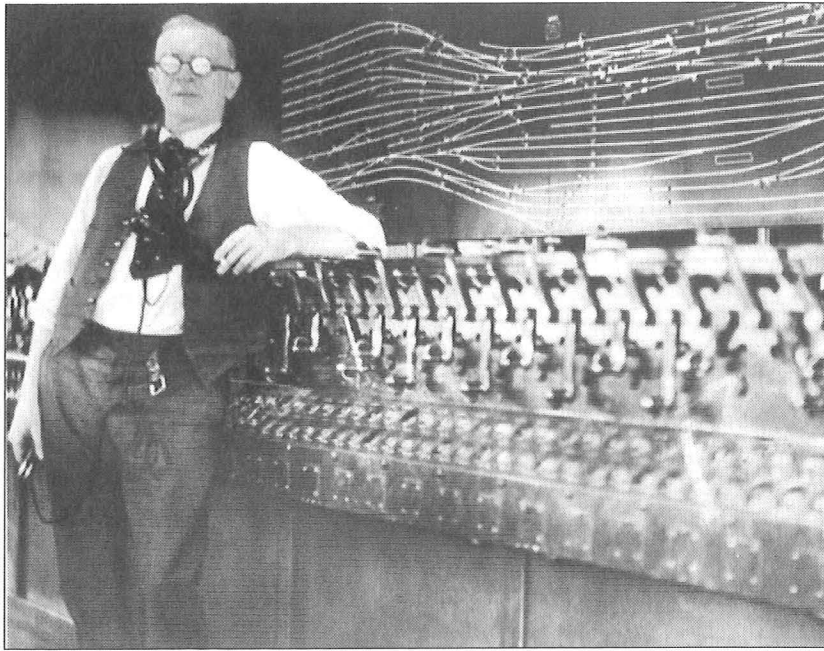
Was assigned to guard detail with duty from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and the balance of the time was my own to do with as I saw fit. All dress regulations were set aside and we could dress or undress as we as we wished. We spent our time reading, eating and playing cards. The boat was making her last trip and was to be dismantled and scrapped on arrival in the U.S., so orders were issued to use up all supplies if possible and we could eat any time and any amount.



USS Pretoria underway, 1919.
www.history.navy.mil

After a few days out, fire broke out in the coal bunkers and every man that was not on some detail was assigned to the hold to transfer coal from one bunker to another and fight fire. Due to being on guard duty, I was relieved of this and was very glad as it was a hot and gassy job. Otherwise the trip was slow and uneventful. After 12 days of this we passed the Statue of Liberty in the evening of August 24, 1919 and dropped anchor for the night then docked at Pier 3 in Brooklyn on the morning of August 25, 1919.

Unloaded and took the train for Camp Dix, NJ where we handed in our equipment which we had left. Took final medical examination and discharged in the forenoon of August 30, 1919 or two years to the day from the time I took my examination in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Got a train for Camden, NJ soon after being discharged and another from Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa. about 2:30 p.m. and arrived home (Harrisburg, Pa.) on No. 21 about 6:00 p.m. August 30, 1919 with all my personal belongings in my barracks bag on my shoulder. Thus ended the history of my life as a soldier in the Army of Occupation and the U.S.A.



Ralph R. Watts at work in Harris Tower, Harrisburg circa 1944. He worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad from 1912 until his death in 1955.

Watts Family Photo

Endnotes

- 1 *The Third Division at Chateau Thierry July 1918*, Gas Warfare in World War I, Study No. 14 U.S. Army Chemical Group Historical series (U.S. Army Chemical Corps Historical Office, Office of the Chemical Officer, Army Chemical Center, Maryland. 1959) 6.
- 2 John S. Switzer, *Personal Experience Monograph*, Operations of Company D 8th Machine Gun Battalion in the Champagne Marne Defensive, A Baptism of Fire (Infantry School mailing list 1933–34, Vol. VII, December 1933. The Book Shop Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia) 139.
- 3 *The Third Division*, 6.
- 4 John S. Switzer, 142.
- 5 *Ibid*, 142.
- 6 *Second Battle of the Marne* (Doughboy Center; www.worldwar1.com).
- 7 *Ibid*.
- 8 John S. Switzer, 160.
- 9 *Third Division*, various.
- 10 *The St. Mihiel Offensive* (Doughboy Center; www.worldwar1.com).
- 11 *The Big Show. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive* (Doughboy Center; worldwar1.com).

The Sadler/Levinson Curtilage

by Mark W. Podvia

The need for a dormitory to house Dickinson School of Law students was recognized as early as 1898, twenty years before the Law School moved from its original home in Emory Hall, located at the corner of South West and West Pomfret Streets, into its current home in Trickett Hall on South College Street in Carlisle.¹ An editorial in the February, 1898, issue of *The Forum*, the forerunner of *Dickinson Law Review*, asked “[d]oes the law school need a dormitory? To one mingling with the students of the law school, this question comes most frequently, in fact it is a question on the minds of not a few of the present attendants of the law school.”²

The editor offered several arguments in support of a law school dormitory:

(1) Dormitories are essential elements to a well regulated educational institution. (2) The student body would be intact. (3) College students are obliged to room in dormitories and are thus kept under the direct management of the faculty. Why not law students? (4) Association of student with student is conducive to the intellectual health of all concerned. (5) It would increase the attendance of our rapidly growing and prosperous law school. (6) Students coming to the school would not be inconvenienced by being compelled to hunt rooms which, as is very often the case, are unsuitable. (7) The student body would gladly welcome such an acquisition as filling a much needed want.³

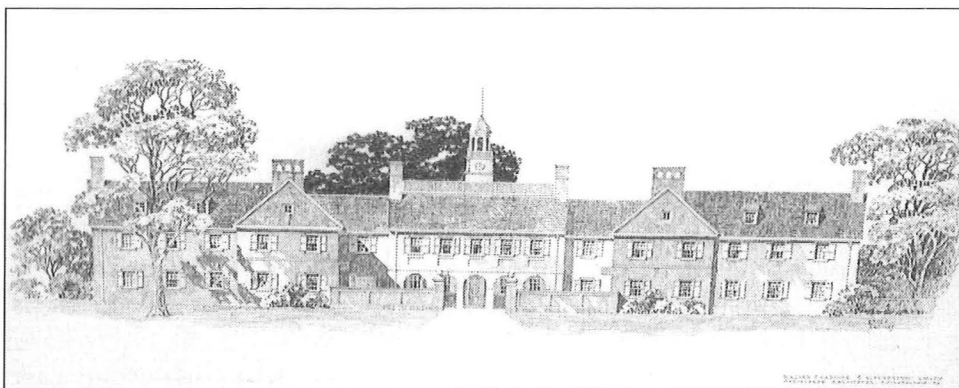
The editorial noted that “buildings in close proximity to the law school are for sale which would be most appropriate for our required dormitories.”⁴

The Dickinson School of Law’s Board of Trustees apparently considered the need for a dormitory for “many years.”⁵ In October, 1932, the school purchased a portion of the Mooreland Tract fronting on College Street that would eventually serve as the site of the school’s dormitory.⁶ However, the purchase was apparently not originally intended for dormitory purposes; a 1934 architectural drawing by F.P. Dempwolf of York, Pennsylvania, depicted a “Memorial Library” on the site.⁷

Following the Second World War “increasing demands by the Army Post and by the industries in Carlisle” and an increased law school enrollment combined to create a severe housing shortage for law students in the borough.⁸ In 1946, law school Dean Walter Harrison Hitchler informed the Board of Trustees that he was having difficulty locating housing for his students. The need for the law school dormitory that had been proposed almost a half-century earlier now became critical, not only for housing purposes but also because residential accommodations on the campus were seen as creating “a better study atmosphere and a more fruitful experience in living” for the law students.⁹

In 1946, the Trustees appointed a committee to explore the possibility of erecting a dormitory for the law school.¹⁰ The committee, after careful study, recommended “that the project be undertaken when material and labor were available and that the alumni be invited to share in the costs by voluntary contribution.”¹¹

Philadelphia architects Walter Karcher and Livingston Smith designed the dormitory, keeping with Trickett Hall’s colonial-style architecture.¹² The blueprints called for five interconnected buildings built around a central courtyard, capable of housing 90 students. The structure also included a first-floor apartment for Dean Walter Harrison Hitchler and a student lounge/drawing room.¹³ Ground for the new building was broken in February, 1951, and the cornerstone was laid in a special ceremony on June 2, 1951.¹⁴ Among the items placed in the cornerstone by Pennsylvania Governor and Dickinson School of Law alumnus John S. Fine were photographs of the Law School’s Board of Trustees, a 1951 Law School yearbook, a current issue of the *Dickinson Law Review*, photographs of the dormitory site and a copy of the *Holy Bible*.¹⁵



Architectural drawing of the Curtilage by Walter T. Karcher and Livingston Smith, Registered Architects, Philadelphia, PA.
Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.

The primary speaker at the cornerstone-laying was Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Charles Alvin Jones, a 1910 graduate of the Law School.¹⁶ The Honorable W. Clarence Sheely, President of the Law School’s Board of Trustees, also spoke, saying that “the Dickinson School of Law is the only one in the state with a dormitory, the oldest law school in the Commonwealth and the only accredited law school in the United States not connected with another institution.”¹⁷

It was originally hoped that the new dormitory would be ready for occupancy during the Spring 1952 semester, and Dean Hitchler wrote that “everything is being done to make this possible.”¹⁸ However, various delays, including “government priorities on steel,” postponed the completion of the building.¹⁹ It was not until February, 1952, that Dean Hitchler was finally able to report that “[t]he outside work on the new dormitories has been completed.”²⁰



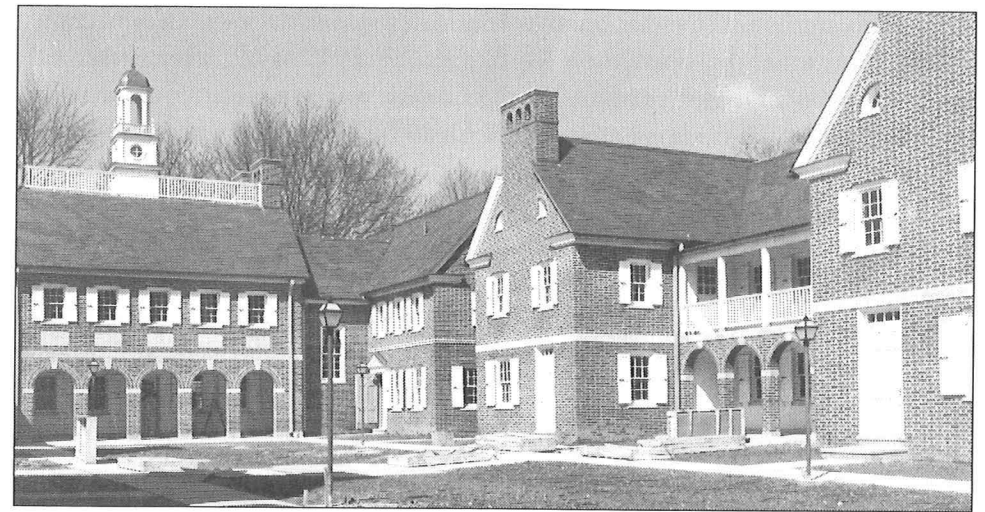
Sadler Curtilage under construction, 1951.
Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.

In April, 1951, the law school's Board of Trustees formally named the new buildings. The quadrangle was named the "Sadler Curtilage" in honor of Judge Wilbur Sadler, one of the men responsible for chartering the Law School in 1890.²¹ The two front buildings within the quadrangle were respectively named for Professors A.J. White Hutton and Joseph Parker McKeehan. Both men had joined the law school faculty in 1902. Professor McKeehan died on June 28, 1950—only a few months before ground was broken for the dormitory—while Professor Hutton retired in 1951 after 49 years of teaching.²²

The next two buildings in the Sadler Curtilage were named for the Honorable Fred S. Reese and Dr. C. Scott Althouse. Judge Reese, "one of Carlisle's most respectable citizens," had—along with Professors McKeehan and Hitchler—served on a committee that ran the law school following the death of Dean William Trickett in 1928 until Dr. Hitchler's appointment as dean in 1930.²³ Dr. Althouse, of Reading, Pennsylvania, was a member of the Law School's Board of Trustees.



View of completed Sadler Curtilage buildings, 1952.
Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University.



View of completed Sadler Curtilage buildings, 1952.
Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University.

The largest building in the Sadler Curtilage, located in the rear of the quadrangle facing South College Street, was named in honor of Dean Walter Harrison Hitchler. The *Alumni News* noted that "[t]his tribute to the Dean is more than deserved:"

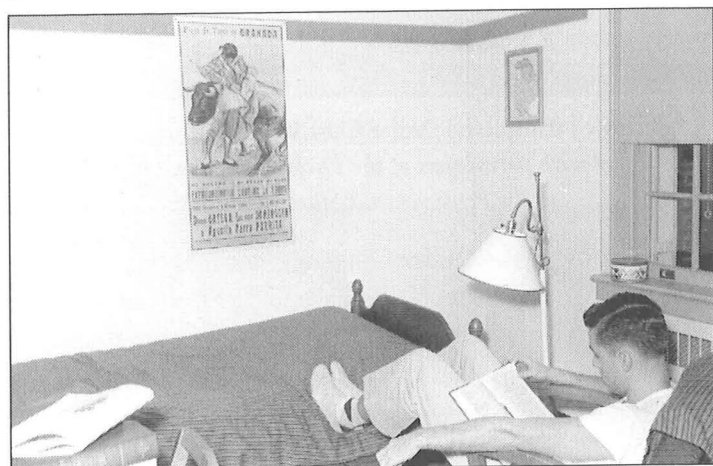
Joining the faculty in 1906 after his graduation from the University of Virginia, he has given 46 years to the Dickinson School of Law. The present standing of the Law School in legal educational circles speaks volumes for Dean Hitchler's contributions to the Dickinson School of Law.²⁴

The dormitory was dedicated on June 7, 1952, in a ceremony that was attended by more than 1500 alumni and friends of the Dickinson School of Law.²⁵ Pennsylvania Governor John S. Fine, Class of 1914, offered the dedicatory speech in which he "praised the law school for its idealism and its practice of the same sound American principles that have been instrumental in making America great."²⁶ Former Pennsylvania Governor Arthur James, also a law school alumnus, spoke about the men for whom the Curtilage was named. The keys to the Curtilage were then presented to Dean Hitchler by William I. Potteiger, vice president of the Potteiger Construction Company. The structure was completed for an approximate cost of \$550,000.²⁷

The first occupants of the Curtilage were not law students. The Pennsylvania Council of Juvenile Court Judges held its summer meeting at the Law School on August 29-30, 1952, and the judges stayed in the new building.²⁸

The law students arrived two weeks later and the Curtilage was fully occupied when the Law School opened on September 17, 1952.²⁹ All “unmarried male students” who were not residents of the Carlisle vicinity were required to live in the Curtilage, “unless excused by the Dean.”³⁰ Women, with the exception of law school cleaning staff, wives, mothers, and sisters, were originally barred from the building.³¹

Room charges for dormitory residents were originally \$145 per semester for a single room, \$125 per student per semester for double, and \$135 per student per semester for a two-room, three-man suite.³² In addition, there was a linen charge of \$13 per semester which covered weekly changes of sheets, pillow cases and towels.³³



Sadler Curtilage dormitory room and common room shortly after occupancy in 1953
*Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University.*

For more than five decades the sometimes closet-like rooms and narrow hallways of the Curtilage served as a home away from home for law students. For many, living in the law school’s dormitory was a unique experience that could be an education in and of itself. Among the observations of life in the Curtilage were the following:

After dressing suitably for registration, and thus suitably registering, it was time to enter the ivy-covered walls of the Sadler Curtilage to seek out the rooms previously assigned to us. To one who has never wandered through the maze of corridors in the Curtilage, this would not seem a hard task. However, to the fledglings of the Junior Class, it seemed that the Curtilage was a trap for the unwary, and hardly worth the effort of trying to locate the proper room. Somehow all the rooms were located before dark, suitcases unpacked, and new associations made.³⁴

Overheard on the beloved Curtilage telephone about this time was “Get my room ready, Pop. I am coming home. You would not believe this place.”³⁵

I shall never forget...awakening in a room as cold as a tomb due to the Sadler Curtilage Pranksters (boyish rogues) breaking the window panes with snowballs, rocks, stale sandwiches and beer bottles (empty of course).³⁶

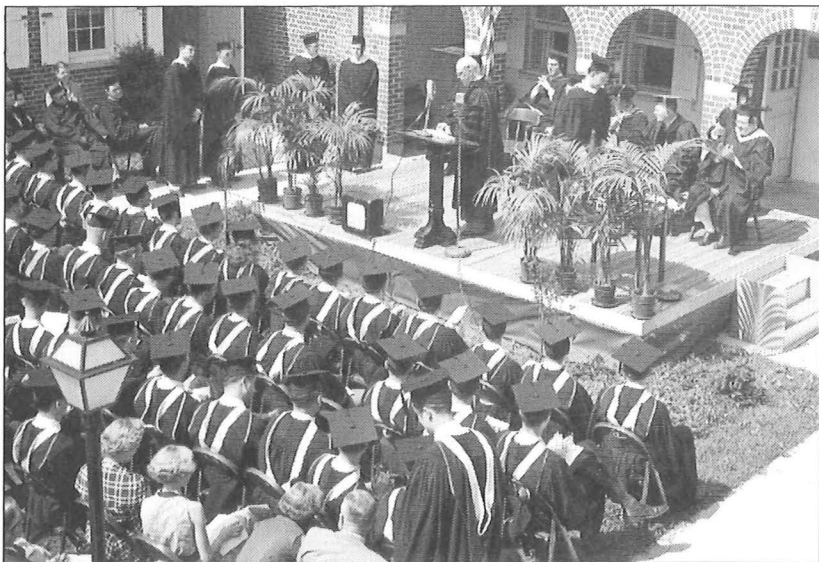
After the Christmas holidays, we returned once again to bury our heads in our books. During this period the studious silence of the Curtilage was pierced by horrible screams of despair. This was a most distressing period of time, and I prefer not to dwell on it.³⁷

It would be completely unfair to leave law school without mentioning Lucy, that wise old sage who guided the dormitory destinies during our career. A cheery word, a kindly thought, a hearty voice calling, “Girls! Girls!” is our memory of her.³⁸

Professor of Law Harvey Feldman, Class of 1969, remembered that “[l]ate-night card games in the Curtilage lounge were a big part of student life when I lived in the dorm, and Sunday evenings were very important. The mother of Carmen Nasuti of my class used to make delicious meatball subs for Carmen to bring back for everyone. We gathered in the lounge waiting to see his headlights turn into the parking lot; then we’d assault him en masse.”³⁹

In addition to housing students, the Curtilage quickly became the Law School’s social center. On December 18, 1952, more than 200 men and women attended a Christmas party in the drawing room of Hitchler Hall.⁴⁰ The party included a performance of *Jingle Bells* by the law school’s “faculty orchestra” with

Dean Hitchler directing. That affair began a long tradition of Curtilage events ranging from student orientation to activity fairs to various parties and weekly Friday kegs. The building's courtyard also served an academic function; from 1953 until 1967, when expanding class size outgrew the space, the law school's Commencement ceremonies were held in the Curtilage.⁴¹



Dickinson School of Law graduation, 1953.
*Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University.*

In the 1960s a "Dorm Council" was formed to serve as "the administrative agency responsible for the well being and government of the Sadler Curtilage."⁴² The Council apparently did its work well; the 1970 yearbook noted that "[t]estifying eloquently to its effectiveness as a governing body is the fact that Sadler Curtilage, for which the council is responsible, has not yet been reduced to smoldering ashes, despite its housing some of the most destructive elements in all recorded history."⁴³

The Curtilage finally got its first female residents in the fall of 1974, the school having seen an increase in female law students. For several years prior to admitting women into the Curtilage, the law school provided living quarters for four female law students in a school-owned house located at 335 West South Street.⁴⁴

In 1988 the Curtilage received its only major renovation, with a gift from Dr. Jacob Levinson, Class of 1928, funding the refurbishing.⁴⁵ The renovation included replacement of the wiring system, "an upgrade of the plumbing, the

installation of emergency lighting, fire alarm and smoke detector systems, the addition of air conditioning and a repainting of the entire building."⁴⁶ All but two rooms were converted to singles, reducing the number of students housed in the building to 69.⁴⁷ Students continued to live in the Curtilage while the renovations were underway. The Curtilage was thereafter renamed the "Levinson Curtilage."



Overview of Dickinson School of Law campus, mid 1960s.
*Used with permission of the Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University.*

Student demand for more spacious living quarters and the availability of several modern apartment buildings in fairly close proximity to the law school gradually led to the conversion of much of the Curtilage into faculty office space, although law students continued to live in the structure until May of 2006.⁴⁸ A portion of the building was leased to Dickinson College for student housing from 2000 to 2003, and again during the fall semester of 2007.⁴⁹

In 2005 the law school's Board of Governors approved a "dual-campus plan" for the school that called for the construction of new law school buildings at University Park and in Carlisle, along with renovations to Carlisle's Trickett Hall and the 1985 Center for Advanced Legal Education.⁵⁰ Construction plans for the new "Lewis Katz Hall" required the removal of the Curtilage.

Demolition of the Curtilage began in the winter of 2008. By March 12, 2008, only Hitchler Hall—stripped of its brick facing—remained, and, by the final week of March, it too was gone.⁵¹ Brick from the Curtilage was ground up and recycled as fill.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Emory Hall, a former church owned by Dickinson College, stood at the corner of West and Pomfret Streets. Grace United Methodist Church occupies the site today.
- 2 "Editorial," 2 *The Forum* 1, Feb. 1898.
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 "New Dickinson School of Law Dormitory Nearing Completion," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, 10 Sept. 1951, 1.
- 6 The Mooreland Tract had previously served as the Moore home and included a large deer park. A much larger portion of the tract was purchased by Dickinson College.
- 7 The drawing is currently in the possession of Nancy LaMont, Assistant Dean for Administration, The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.
- 8 *Ibid.*
- 9 *Ibid.*
- 10 The committee consisted of attorneys Douglass D. Storey, E. D. Siegrist and Sidney D. Kline. The Hon. W.C. Sheely, President of the Board of Trustees, and Walter Harrison Hitchler, Dean of the Law School, served as *ex officio* members of the committee.
- 11 "New Dickinson School of Law Dormitory Nearing Completion," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, 10 Sept. 1951, 3.
- 12 Karcher & Smith also designed buildings at Swarthmore College and Franklin and Marshall College, as well as the former United States Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, once described as "[o]ne of the finest Art Deco buildings in the City." The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, *A List of Endangered Historic Structures in the Greater Philadelphia Region*, <http://www.brynmawr.edu/iconog/endanger.html>.
- 13 A life-long bachelor, Dean Hitchler occupied the apartment until shortly before his death in 1959. After he died there were several reported sightings of his ghost in his former quarters as well as in Trickett Hall. "Mystery Haunts Law School," *Bill of Particulars*, 30 Oct. 1968, 1.
- 14 "Lay Cornerstone Tomorrow at Dickinson Law School," *Evening Sentinel*, 1 June 1951, 1.
- 15 "Nation's Future Depends on Ability to Prevent Attacks from Within, Jones Declares," *Evening Sentinel*, 4 June 1951, 1.
- 16 *Ibid.* In a speech that was typical of the era, Jones spoke out against Communism, telling the crowd that "if we courageously defend our liberties against attacks from within, unmoved by the passions and prejudice of the hour, we need not have to fear for the future."

- 17 *Ibid.*
- 18 Dr. W. H. Hitchler, "A Message from the Dean," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, 5 Nov. 1951.
- 19 "New Dickinson School of Law Dormitory Nearing Completion," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, 10 Sept. 1951, 1.
- 20 Dr. W.H. Hitchler, "A Message from the Dean," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, Feb. 1952.
- 21 "New Dormitories will be Dedicated on June 7: Governor Fine to Deliver Dedicatory Address," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, May 1952. The term Curtilage is defined by *Bouvier's Law Dictionary* as "the enclosed space immediately surrounding a dwelling-house, contained within the same enclosure."
- 22 *Ibid.*
- 23 *Ibid.*
- 24 *Ibid.*
- 25 "Dormitories Dedicated: 1500 Alumni and Friends Tour Sadler Curtilage," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, 15 Sept. 1952.
- 26 *Ibid.*
- 27 A balance of \$285,000 remained due at the time that the building was dedicated. While formal fund-raising was suspended, alumni were "requested to keep the law school in mind in the writing of wills or suggesting the law school as a worthy cause for charitable contributions."
- 28 "Juvenile Court Judges are First to Occupy Sadler Curtilage: Meetings Held in Trickett Hall," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, November, 1952, 2.
- 29 "Sadler Curtilage Occupied to Capacity," 2 *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News* 3, Sept. 15, 1952. More than 50 men had reserved room in the building before the end of the Spring semester.
- 30 *The Dickinson School of Law Catalogue—1953-1954*, 20.
- 31 "Nunc Pro Tunc, History of the Class of 1954," 1954 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, p. 64. The law school had few female students when the dorm was dedicated; the 1953 *Res Ipsa Loquitur* lists only four members of Phi Delta Delta, the women's law fraternity.
- 32 *The Dickinson School of Law Catalogue—1953-1954*, 20.
- 33 *Ibid.*
- 34 "Observations and Reminiscences of a Law Student," 1965 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 61.
- 35 *Ibid.*
- 36 "A Speaking Demurrer," 1961 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 70.
- 37 1965 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 69. At that time fall semester finals were given after the Christmas break.
- 38 "Nunc Pro Tunc, History of the Class of 1954 (not to be read by one who is ill at ease or out of sorts), 1954 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 64.
- 39 E-mail from Harvey Feldman to the author, 14 January 2009.

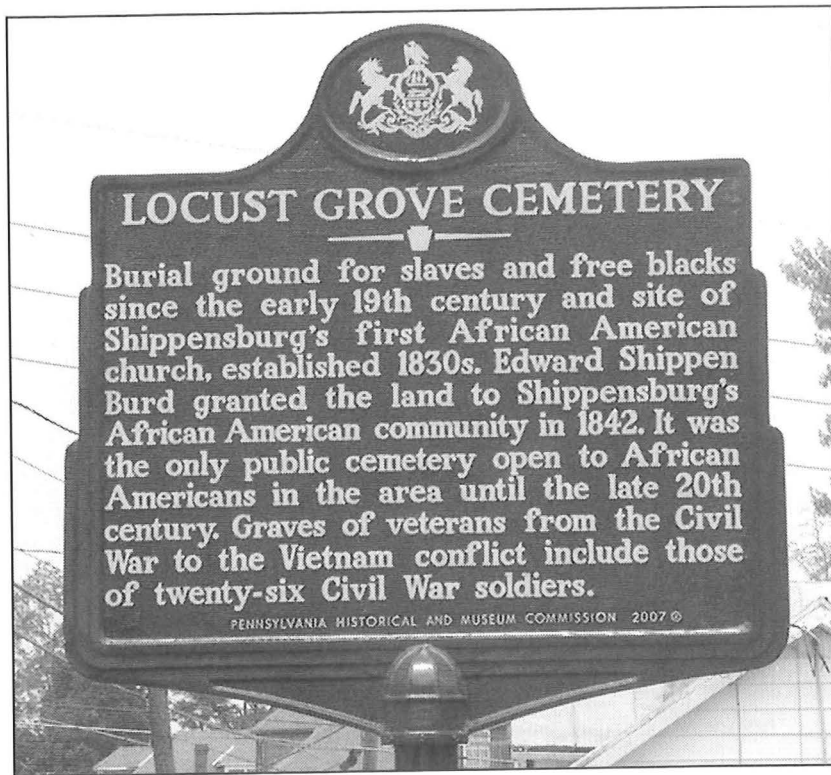
- 40 "Christmas Party Given by School," *Dickinson School of Law Alumni News*, February, 1953, 3.
- 41 The only exception being the 1962 Commencement, which was held indoors at the nearby Lamberton Junior High School on Graham Street.
- 42 1967 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 49.
- 43 1970 *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, 60. Service on the Dorm Council apparently provided excellent training for an academic career. Among those who served on the council was Harvey Feldman, Class of 1969, who later became Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.
- 44 "[No Title]," *Bill of Particulars*, September 8, 1970, 5.
- 45 Dr. Levinson's gift was the largest contribution received by the law school at that time. "Curtilage Renamed in Honor of Levinson," *Trickett Hall Notes*, Summer 1988, 2.
- 46 "DSL Dormitory Undergoes Much-Needed Surgery," *The Judicial Notice*, October 1988, 3.
- 47 *Ibid.*
- 48 E-mail from Doris L. Orner, Financial Officer of The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University, to the author, January 18, 2009.
- 49 *Ibid.*
- 50 Adam Smith, "Penn State Names Law Building as Construction Begins," *Centre Daily Times*, 19 January 2007, A1. An earlier proposal to move the entire law school to University Park was defeated following "heavy opposition." *Ibid.*
- 51 "Carlisle," *Foundations*, March 2008, 1.

Shippensburg's Locust Grove African-American Cemetery by Steven B. Burg

At 10:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007, representatives of the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Shippensburg Historical Society, and Shippensburg University unveiled an official blue and gold Pennsylvania Historical Marker at Locust Grove Cemetery on North Queen Street in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.¹ More than two hundred people gathered to dedicate the first new historical marker erected in Shippensburg in thirty-seven years (the last one, erected in 1970, recognized the "One Room School House" on the Shippensburg University campus). The new sign honored Shippensburg's historic African-American cemetery, a site that has been in continuous use since its inception as a slave burial ground in the late eighteenth century, and a place that offers a unique vantage point for discovering Cumberland County's rich African-American history.²

Five Shippensburg University students—James Bollinger, Sasha Makuka, Charles Evans, Eric Folio, and Cara Holtry—completed the nomination application for the marker as part of a class project in the course Introduction to Public History. The students submitted the application on December 15, 2005, on behalf of the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee and the Shippensburg Historical Society. In March 2006, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approved the marker, and the following year the dedication ceremony took place in coordination with the cemetery's annual Memorial Day observance.

The sign's text begins by noting Locust Grove Cemetery's connection to the long history of slavery in Pennsylvania. The cemetery began its existence as a slave burial ground, and as such, it offers a place to reflect on the lives of Pennsylvania's enslaved men and women. For example, at the front of the cemetery stands the tombstone of "Our Father Richard Baker." Baker was born into slavery in Shippensburg on March 27, 1797, son of Nell, a slave owned

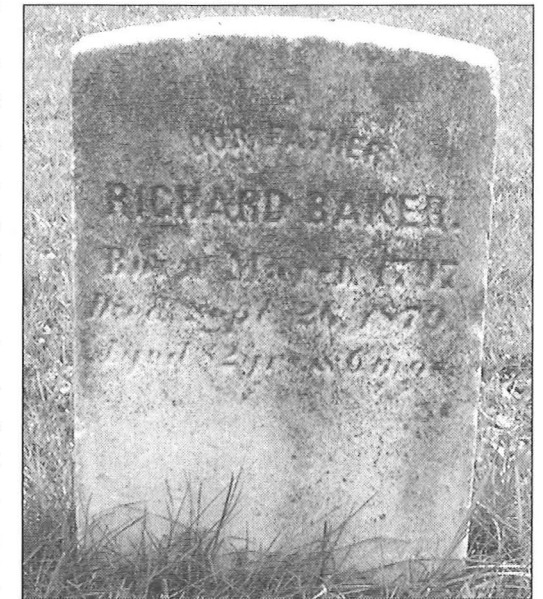


Historical marker showing the commemorative text
Photo by author

by Shippensburg's richest resident, David Mahan.³ According to his obituary, Baker was "of Spanish or Creole descent" and he was described as a "respected colored citizen" who was "upright in his dealings, a consistent Christian, and respected by all."⁴ Baker gained his freedom sometime before his twenty-eighth birthday in 1825, and chose to stay in Shippensburg where he worked as a barber. Upon gaining his freedom, he enjoyed the right to vote for thirteen years until the state constitution of 1838 stripped him of the franchise. More than thirty years later, the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution restored his right to vote. Baker also led the African-American church that once stood at the front of the cemetery along North Queen Street. When he died, he was buried along the east wall of his beloved congregation's home. The church underwent renovations in the 1880s, and then was rededicated in 1886 as the Richard Baker A.M.E. Church in his honor.⁵ Baker's life serves as a testament to not only the cruel history of slavery, but also the resilience and achievements of the men and women born in bondage who then chose to build new lives of freedom in Cumberland County.

The marker also notes the construction of Shippensburg's first African-American church, a symbol of the local community's connection to the growing African-American religious movements of the early nineteenth century. As early as 1817, one year after the official founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Shippensburg was named as one of the "preaching places" included in the A.M.E. Church's Harrisburg-to-Frederick circuit.⁶ Shippensburg residents were thus early participants in a new religious organization dedicated to providing African-Americans with a place where they could worship free from discrimination. The A.M.E. Church also became a vocal advocate for racial equality, civil rights, and the abolition of slavery. The vitality of Shippensburg's A.M.E. congregation is visible in an account given by Jarena Lee, the A.M.E. Church's first female minister, who visited Shippensburg in 1825: "There was great success at this place; fifteen joined the Church; some of the most hardened sinners became serious and reformed. I was astonished at the wonderful operations of the Spirit, and the immense congregations."⁷ Sometime before 1834, the Shippensburg A.M.E. congregation erected a log church building along North Queen Street.⁸ Later, that building would be replaced by a 25' x 35' single-story brick structure. Though the Richard Baker A.M.E. church ceased operation sometime between 1904 and 1910, it had served as the "mother church" for two other African-American churches in Shippensburg: the Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Zion Church that operated from 1878 to 2005, and St. Peter's A.M.E. Zion Church that has operated continuously since 1892.⁹

The African-American community established its church and cemetery on property owned by the descendants of the town's original proprietor, Edward Shippen. In 1842, Edward Shippen's grandson, Philadelphia lawyer and philanthropist Edward Shippen Burd, decided to give the land to the town's African-Americans.¹⁰



Richard Baker's grave marker at
 Locust Grove Cemetery
Photo by author

The deed reads:

Now be it known to all people whom it May Concern that I said Edward Burd hereby agrees and binds himself his Heirs and Assigns forever to Leave undisturbed said piece of ground for the Consideration of twenty cents a year and yearly forever which is to be and for the purpose of erecting a place of worship and Burying the Dead of the black people of Ship

This lot became Ocean Street Colored Cemetery and was 64' 4" wide at front in 1842. Know all men by these presents that whereas the black people in the Town of Shippensburg in the state of Pennsylvania have been in the habit of burying their dead in a certain piece of ground in said Town without first obtaining any written grant therefrom the former proprietor or proprietors of said Town, And whereas Joseph Burd by deed did purchase the proprietors interest in said Town of Shippensburg and is willing to confirm to the black people the right to said piece of ground for said purpose and also for the purpose of erecting a place of worship there on and whereas said black people are not a Corporate Body for any purpose as a Congregation or otherwise so as to enable them to receive a deed for said lot and whereas it now appears that Joseph Burd's bargain and contract is become null and void and I said Edward Burd has purchased of Joseph Burd's executor all his interest that has not sold out in his lifetime.

Now be it known to all people whom it May Concern that I said Edward Burd hereby agrees and binds himself his Heirs and Assigns forever to Leave undisturbed said piece of ground for the Consideration of twenty cents a year and yearly forever which is to be and for the purpose of erecting a place of worship and Burying the Dead of the black people of Shippensburg and for no other purpose whatsoever. Said piece of ground is bounded as follows, viz - it is the same piece of ground that has been lately purchased for a grave yard for and by

Original deed transferring title of the land for the cemetery.
Cumberland County Land Records

With that act of generosity, Edward Shippen Burd allowed the African-American residents of Shippensburg to own and control the site of their church and burial ground. As a result, North Queen Street emerged as the spiritual, social, and residential center of Shippensburg's vibrant and expanding African-American community.

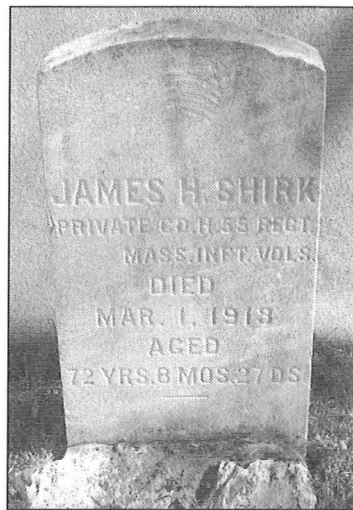
By the mid-nineteenth century, Shippensburg had become a haven for former slaves seeking freedom—particularly those who migrated North from Maryland and northern Virginia. The Shippensburg area grew rapidly in the decades after 1860 as former slaves and their families relocated to the community. The African-American population living in Shippensburg Borough and Township grew from 119 in 1850, to 176 in 1860, to 241 in 1870.¹² Fully one-sixth of the African-American population living in the Shippensburg area in 1870 had been born as slaves in Maryland or Virginia.¹³ As an example, one couple buried in Locust Grove Cemetery are William Carter and Sarah Jane Rhoads Carter. Both had been born slaves and were owned by Edward C. Marshall of Markham in Fauquier County, Virginia. William Carter gained his freedom in 1861 (whether he ran away or was freed is unknown) and arrived in Shippensburg in 1862. The following year, he enlisted in the 25th United States Colored Troops. After his service, he returned to Shippensburg and married Sarah Jane Rhoads in 1866. They lived and worked in the community with their adopted son, David, for the next five decades. Sarah Carter died in 1911 and William followed her seven years later in 1918.¹⁴

As the marker notes, Locust Grove Cemetery also serves as an artifact of segregation in Pennsylvania.¹⁵ Shippensburg's cemeteries became formally segregated in 1861 when a group of local businessmen incorporated the Spring Hill Cemetery as a new public burial ground. As part of its by-laws, the cemetery corporation would only allow the burial of "such white persons [emphasis added] as they may choose to admit."¹⁶ Thus the informal racial separation that had existed in the early nineteenth century became a formally defined system of exclusion and segregation. For more than 100 years, African-Americans in the Shippensburg area had no choice but to bury their dead in Locust Grove Cemetery. Of course, segregation extended beyond the community's graveyards. Shippensburg also supported a separate African-American "colored school," Masonic lodge, American Legion post, and community baseball team. African-Americans sat separately at the town's theaters and were not welcomed as patrons in most bars, hotels, and restaurants.¹⁷ Today, that system of segregation no longer exists, and memory of it has largely faded in the region's popular memory. Young people growing up in Central Pennsylvania associate segregation with the states of the Deep South, not their own towns and institutions. By recalling its role

as Shippensburg's segregated burial ground, Locust Grove Cemetery serves as a powerful reminder of our region's segregated past.¹⁸

One other factor that makes Locust Grove Cemetery distinctive is its high proportion of military veterans. Visiting the site, one cannot help but notice the large number of government-issued veterans' grave markers on the cemetery grounds. There are at least twenty-six Civil War veterans buried in Locust Grove Cemetery. In the older section of the cemetery, 21 of 56 standing gravestones mark the graves of Civil War veterans—fully 38% of all marked graves. In total, forty-seven African American veterans rest in the two sections of Locust Grove Cemetery, including men who saw service in every major American conflict from the Civil War through Vietnam. Forty-two of those forty-seven soldiers served in segregated units.

Two of the Civil War veterans buried at Locust Grove are the brothers John and James Shirk, veterans of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first Northern regiments that allowed African-American men to serve in combat. Before their service, the Shirk brothers farmed and worked near the Mainsville Dam northwest of Shippensburg, producing charcoal for use at Big Pond Iron Furnace.¹⁹ In the spring of 1863, John, James, and their brother Casper traveled to Readville, Massachusetts, to be among the first African-American men to enlist. On July 18, 1863, John and James Shirk participated in the famous assault on Charleston Harbor's Fort Wagner Battery featured in the movie *Glory*. Though both survived the war, James suffered a severe injury to his back when a man leaping from the ramparts of Fort Wagner landed on him.²⁰ Their

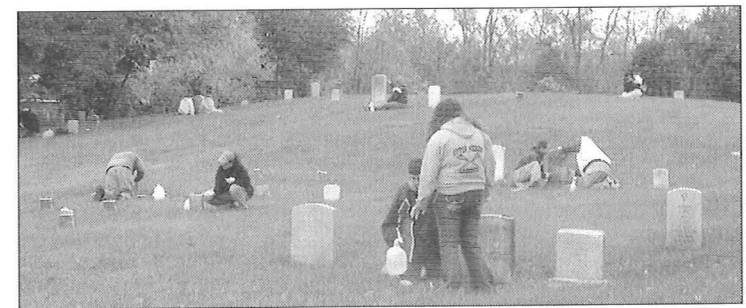


John and James Shirk's tombstones at Locust Grove Cemetery

Photos by author

brother Casper Shirk served with the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland during the war. When the conflict ended, the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry received garrison duty along the Rio Grande River in Texas. Casper Shirk died on October 31, 1865, on his unit's last day of active service. He is buried in Chalmette National Cemetery in Louisiana.²¹ Unlike their brother, John and James Shirk returned to Shippensburg after the war. They now rest side by side on a hilltop in Locust Grove Cemetery, having died within weeks of each other in the spring of 1913.

Erecting a Pennsylvania historical marker to highlight this history was just one component of a larger community effort dedicated to preserving the cemetery and educating the public about its significance. In 2005, the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee, Shippensburg Historical Society, and Shippensburg University's Applied History program launched the Locust Grove Cemetery Restoration Campaign, an effort designed to restore and protect the cemetery in perpetuity. When the campaign began, the cemetery required extensive conservation work to repair dozens of grave markers that were sinking into the ground, leaning precariously, or that had broken apart or toppled over due to erosion and weathering. Additionally, the effort sought to halt repeated incidents of vandalism and malicious trespassing on the cemetery grounds. During 2005 and 2006, more than 100 individuals, businesses, organizations, and government bodies contributed funds for the cemetery's restoration and to erect a protective fence around its grounds. Volunteers, including dozens of Shippensburg University students, Shippensburg High School students, and Boy Scouts have given hundreds of hours of labor to raise funds, repair and clean the tombstones, and conduct research to help preserve the cemetery and its history. The residents of Shippensburg and the Commonwealth rallied to restore the site and to ensure that the men and women buried in its hallowed grounds would rest in peace and dignity.²²



Volunteers from Shippensburg University and Shippensburg High School at work restoring Locust Grove Cemetery, October 2006.

Photo by author

The official blue and gold sign standing along North Queen Street now alerts those passing the cemetery to the extraordinary history to be found in this simple burial ground. For those wishing to discover the long and rich history of African-Americans in Cumberland County, Locust Grove Cemetery provides a place where one can reflect on the bitterness of slavery, the joys of freedom, the injustices of segregation, and the honorable service of generations of African-American veterans. One can also appreciate the cemetery as a unique African-American cultural landscape—one of the few sites in the region that has been used and maintained by African Americans for over two hundred years. A visit to Locust Grove Cemetery thus offers a special sense of connection to the African-American experience in Central Pennsylvania by bringing visitors to a place where they can recall the lives of the African-American men and women who contributed so much to our region and nation.



Locust Grove Cemetery, North Queen Street, Shippensburg

Photo by author

I would like to thank the many, many people and organizations that have contributed to the restoration of the Locust Grove Cemetery. In particular, I am deeply grateful to my students at Shippensburg University who enthusiastically adopted the cemetery and gave countless hours to research, document and restore the site. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless work of the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee, Nancy Hodges, Mai Baltimore, Carl Bell Jr., and Carole Smith, and the many dedicated cemetery volunteers who lovingly care for the cemetery grounds. Last but not least, I would like to thank Erica, Sam, and Lucy Burg for their support throughout this project.

Tombstone Listing for both sections of Locust Grove Cemetery

North Queen St. Section	Birth-Death		
		Draper, Dawson	1826-1904
Addison, Geary	1871-1887	Fletcher, Mary H.	1880-1905
Addison, Mary	1813-1881	Galloway, Henry J.	1840-1905
Addison, Sarah	1816-1897	Green, Richard	1809-1885
Armstrong, Mary	1845-1897	Green, Robert	1835-1894
Arter, Brainard Mckinley	1897-1897	Gross, Rebecca E.	1892-1893
Arter, Charles Edward	1859-1902	Gross (infant)	1892-1892
Arter, John	1829-1895	Harrison, William	1846-1917
Baker, Edward N.	1850-1899	Hill, Louise	1837-1902
Baker, Hannah	1803-1896	Hill, Martha	unknown
Baker, James H.	1847-1882	Hinton, Elizabeth	1871-1893
Baker, Richard	1797-1879	Holiday, J. E.	1824-1881
Baker, Richard S	1832-1899	Holms, Lewis (Holmes, Louis)	1836-1914
Barnes, Ellen R. Davis	1818-1893	Johnston, Henry	1843-1918
Barnes, George A. Senior	1830-1899	Juniper, John	1842-1917
Barnett, Jane	1830-1895	Landey, George	1823-1895
Barnett, Jesse	1894-1894	Lane, Irene	unknown
Boles, John	1834-1882	Lane, Joseph	1845-1894
Boles, Mary B.	1894-1895	Lane, Joseph William	1894-1894
Brown, George W.	1878-1896	Lane, Mary Helen	1834-1894
Burke, Barney Augustus	1856-1906	Lewis, Eliza	1844-1919
Burke, Henry Montrose	1853-1899	Lewis, Mary	1846-1901
Bushrod, Cyrus	1847-1912	Massey, Elizabeth	1876-1895
Bushrod, Mary Ann	1846-1896	Massey, Jessie	1874-1894
Carmichael, Wilson	unknown	Miller, Charles E.	1870-1918
Carter (infant daughter)	1895-1895	Richardson, Hattie	1875-1897
Carter, Sarah Jane Rhodes	1845-1911	Richardson, Levi	1836-1904
Carter, William	1841-1918	Rideout, Emma	1869-1919
Coleman, Anna Elizabeth	1919-1919	Rideout, Joseph	1841-1920
Cotton, Amy Emma	1856-1896	Rinker, Benjamin T.	1857-1918
Cotton, Samuel	1845-1901	Robinson, Anna May	1907-1922
Curtis, Robert	1836-1906	Robinson, Joseph L.	1844-1899
Deadford, Eliza Jones	1822-1869	Robinson Washington	1823-1893
Dixon, Marshall	1845-1915	Russ, Isaac	1878-1897

Shirk, Alice	unknown	Boles, Leonard Conrad, Jr.	1910-1971
Shirk, James H.	1840-1913	Boles, Mary E.	1853-1943
Shirk, John	1843-1913	Boles, Viola Rebecca Burke	1931-1967
Smith, Mary E.	1843-1918	Branson, Frank	1864-1926
Smith, Preston	1843-1900	Burl, Margaret	1904-1992
Spencer, Kezia H.	1834-1885	Burls, Clarence O.	1905-1937
Stephenson, Joseph	1844-unkn	Carter, Alice	1887-1957
Washington, Benjamin	1862-1918	Carter, David F	1877-1955
Washington, Bettie	1859-1919	Carter, Sarah C.	1913-1935
Washington, Howard Jones	1893-1894	Carter, William	unknown
Webb, Letitia	1836-1901	Chase, Romaine D.	1890-1945
Williams, Jane	1820-1910	Clark, Lizzie L.	unkn-1932
Wilson, Jesse	1833-1884	Coleman, Alexander	1892-1945
Wilson, Mary C.	1873-1890	Coleman, Alonzo J.	1909-1956
Wilson, William	1832-1868	Coleman, David F.	1904-1981
Wright, Daniel	1842-1878	Coleman, Harriet Shirk	1881-1950
Wright, Louisa Watson,	1846-1915	Coleman, James A	1881-1962
Wright, Samuel	1836-1920	Coleman, Theodore F.	1884-1940
		Collins, Daniel	1877-1960
Locust Grove Section	Birth-Death	Collins, George Charles	1894-1957
Armstrong, Margaret Barnett	1872-1950	Collins, Mary Wright	1902-1965
Arter, Nannie M.	1861-1934	Corbin, Stephen D.	1950-1975
Arter, Sadie	????-1934	Collins, Norah E. Lane	1879-1942
Arter, Samuel Nelson	1856-1922	Daniels, Rev. John T.	1894-1936
Baker, Anna B.	1871-1936	Dorsey, June A.	1920-1996
Baker, David H.	1866-1937	Draper, Albert	1885-1937
Baker, Mary Ellen	1862-1927	Draper, William Henry	1869-1932
Baker, Nannie A.	1867-1928	Fry, George W.	1874-1858
Ballard, William Henry	1877-1935	Fry, Sarah S.	1889-unkn
Barnett, David	1881-1949	Green, Ruth A	1861-1927
Barnett, John A.	1845-1925	Hamilton, Zelda L.	1923-1980
Barnett, John Howland	1863-1935	Harper, Eugene W.	1913-1973
Barnett, Lucy Massey	1872-1944	Hill, Barney	unknown
Barnett, Margaret Armstrong	1872-1950	Hill, Charles	unkn-1945
Beasley, Ernest F.	1893-1966	Hill, Charles, Sr.	1883-1957
Boles, John	1848-1940	Hill, Harry Henry	1902-1962

Hill, Lillian Mae	1897-1945	Nocho, Elnor Bessie Lane	1911-1988
Hinton, Ernestine	1900-1957	Nocho, Helen M.	1926-1997
Hinton, John W.	1843-1932	Nocho, Paul Clement, Sr.	1900-1967
Hinton, Laura B.	1876-1939	Nocho, Paul Clement, Jr.	1924-1984
Hinton, Richard L.	1891-1957	Peyton, Dorothy M.	1914-1972
Holman, Rev. Edward	1880-1952	Peyton, Robert S.	1917-1975
Holmes, James William	1904-1977	Pickens, Clara M.	1897-1947
Holmes, Rachel	unknown	Pickens, Isabella	1899-1917
Jackson, Ethel M.	1890-1927	Pickens, Samuel S.	1891-1973
Jackson, Homer I.	1914-1961	Richardson, Ellen Coleman	unknown
Jackson, Marian Hill	1907-1954	Richardson, William	1889-1951
Jenkins, Susan	1886-1974	Rideout, John A	1932-2002
Jones, J. C. Senior	1940-2001	Rideout, Joseph	1894-1968
Kiser, Margaret S.	1863-1942	Rideout, Margaret A Moore	1899-1972
Lane, Avis	1885-1966	Robinson, Frank	1885-unkn
Lane, Bessie	1886-1962	Robinson, Vinia N. Boles	1888-1941
Lane, Garfield J.	1884-1936	Robinson, Rev. Joseph	1866-1963
Lane, Palmer	1891-1961	Robinson, Naomi M.	1916-1994
Lane, Sarah A	1886-1932	Robinson, Robert Joseph III	1932-1955
London, Catherine	1888-1983	Russ, George	unknown
London, Eleanor K	1912-1999	Russ, Lila Jane	1886-1923
Massey, Lucy Barnett	1872-1944	Russ, Maria	1851-1929
Massey, Virginia Snavelly	1876-1949	Russ, Nelson	1893-1948
Massey, Walter	1876-1945	Russ, Rhonda	unknown
Meily, Gladys E.	1911-1929	Russ, William	1884-1977
Meily, Mary	1883-1968	Shadney, Nellie B. Russ	1891-1950
Meily, William C.	1880-1951	Shaffer, Harry Hoyt	1877-1968
Moore, Thomas E.	1916-2003	Shaffer, Samuel	1881-1953
Moseley, Sarah Burk	1871- unk	Shaffer, Jennie	1886-1935
Mosley, William. Sr.	1904-1955	Sheaffer, Margaret	1889-1960
Murphy, Sarah K "Teen" Nocho Burke	1930-1995	Sheaffer, Margaret I	1908-1936
Nocho, Carl	1902-1968	Shepherd, Charles	1864-1926
Nocho, Clement B.	1871-1947	Shepherd, George B.	1908-1928
Nocho, Elizabeth Stark	1895-1957	Shepherd, Fannie Hester Russ	1881-1964
Nocho, Ella Mae Shirk	1871-1966	Shirk, Casper	1866-1952
		Shirk, Sarah J.	1848-1927

Smith, Alice C.	1908-1993	White, Florence R	1881-1954
Smith, Myrtle Armstrong	1887-1959	White, Rev. James L.	1888-1952
Smith, William	1877-1940	White, Rev. James Robert	1867-1952
Snavely, Jennie	1844-1932	Whiting, Charles H.	1923-1994
Thomas, Danelle R	1981-1998	Wilson, Catherine	1843-1944
Thomas, David R.	1936-2007	Wilson, Eliza Russ	1875-1938
Tondee, Paul Alexander	1939-1963	Wilson, George S.	1868-unkn
Washington, George	1897-1980	Winters, Elizabeth M.	1870-1954
Washington, Lucy D. Lane	1907-1984	Wright, Emma M.	1882-1943
Westcot, Alexander	1889-1967	Wright, Howard A.	1905-1975
Westcot, Luke	1849-unkn	Wright, Mary	1902-1965
Westcot, Martha B.	1878-1936	Wright, Samuel A.	1865-1939
Westcot, Sarah J.	1848-1924	Wright, Sarah C.	1913-1954
White, Esther K.	1889-1939		

ENDNOTES

- 1 Joya Ellertson, "'Proud Moment' for Shippensburg," *Shippensburg Sentinel*, May 30, 2007.
- 2 The Locust Grove Cemetery consists of two distinct cemeteries: the older North Queen Street Cemetery that was established in the eighteenth century and that was closed to new burials in 1922, and the newer Locust Grove Cemetery that opened in 1922 and continues to accept new burials. The Locust Grove Cemetery Committee is responsible for the care and maintenance of both cemeteries and it has become common practice to refer to the two cemeteries collectively as the Locust Grove Cemetery.
- 3 John Alosi, *Shadow of Freedom: Slavery in Post-Revolutionary Cumberland County, 1780-1810* (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg University Press, 2001), 81.
- 4 "Death of Richard Baker," *Shippensburg News*, September 27, 1879.
- 5 Steven Burg, "Introduction" in Steven B. Burg, ed., *Black History of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 1860-1936* (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg University Press, 2005), 10-11; "Repairs to a Church," *Shippensburg News*, February 13, 1886.
- 6 Daniel Alexander Payne, *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Nashville, Tenn.: Publishing House of the A. M. E. Sunday School Union, 1891), 42.
- 7 Jarena Lee, *Religious Experience and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee, Giving an Account of Her Call to Preach the Gospel* (Philadelphia: self published, 1836), 42. Accessed via *Digital Schomburg: African American Writers of the Nineteenth Century*, http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs/wwm9716/@Generic__BookView (Accessed June 8, 2007).
- 8 Entry for Joseph Burd, Esqr.'s heirs, Shippensburg, Cumberland County Tax Rates, volume 1835, Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
- 9 *Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970*, Maps for Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 1904 and 1921, <http://sanborn.umi.com> (Accessed on February 1, 2007). The church is shown on the 1904 map, but the 1910 Sanborn insurance map indicated that it was "Old & vac." [old and vacant]. By 1921 no trace of the Richard Baker A.M.E. building remained on Sanborn maps. For the history of Shippensburg's African-American congregations, see William Burkhart, *Shippensburg in the Civil War* (Shippensburg, PA: News-Chronicle Co., 1964, reprint edition 2003), 247-249; Jessica Nourse, "Shippensburg's African American Churches in the Nineteenth Century," in Burg, *Black History of Shippensburg*, 75-94.
- 10 *Ibid.*
- 11 *Ibid.*
- 12 The exact percentage in 1870 was 9.8%, or 241 African-Americans in a total combined Shippensburg Borough (population 2065) and Shippensburg Township (population 381) population of 2446. See the Ninth Census of the United States (1870), "The Statistics of the Population of the United States," volume 1, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1872), 248. For a demographic study of the Shippensburg African-American population in 1870, see Krista Hoffman, "Shippensburg's African Americans-1870," (unpublished paper

- in the possession of the author, 2004). US Federal Census 1870. The Census used was for the 179th district of Shippensburg Township and Borough taken by Samuel Shearer, Asst. Marshal, from July 11, 1870–August 27, 1870.
- 13 This is based on the manuscript census. Due to the possibility that census takers missed African-American residents, the number could be higher. U.S. Census 1870 accessed via *HeritageQuest Online*, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com> (Accessed February 16, 2005).
 - 14 See Deposition A, November 4, 1913, William Carter Civil War Pension File, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. Death dates are taken from their tombstones.
 - 15 It is important to note that segregation in Pennsylvania was different from Jim Crow in the American South. Segregation in Central Pennsylvania was largely a matter of social custom enforced through public pressure rather legislated system maintained by government authorities and vigilantes. Attempts to separate the races were not consistent or uniform, and many African-Americans and whites interacted and socialized regularly. There were instances of government-sponsored segregation, most notably the segregated public schools that existed in many communities into the twentieth century in clear defiance of Pennsylvania law that had prohibited segregated schools starting in 1881. According to long-time Shippensburg resident John Rideout who trained in Mississippi during World War II, Shippensburg's practice of segregation was qualitatively different from Jim Crow which he called "the real thing." Steven Burg interview with John Rideout, May 21, 2005, transcript in possession of the author.
 - 16 Charter and By-Laws of the Spring Hill Cemetery, January 18, 1861, Shippensburg Historical Society.
 - 17 For studies of segregation in Shippensburg, see John Bland's "Select Brotherhood" and Erin Overholzer's "Shippensburg's Segregation and Education" in Burg, ed., *Black History of Shippensburg*, 95-152. Also, Steven Burg interview with John Rideout, May 21, 2005, transcript in possession of the author.
 - 18 Though African Americans could be buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery by the late 1960s, the first African-American burial did not take place until February 13, 1996. Based on a conversation with Edward Sheaffer, author of *Records in Stone*. The first African American burial in the Spring Hill cemetery was Edna Bradberry, an elderly African-American woman who froze to death in her South Penn Street home when her furnace ran out of oil. She was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery on February 13, 1996. See "Woman Dies of Hypothermia" and "Edna C. Bradberry" in *Shippensburg News-Chronicle*, February 12, 1996.
 - 19 William Burkhart, *Shippensburg in the Civil War* (Shippensburg, PA: News-Chronicle Co., 1964), 219.
 - 20 See John Shirk, Civil War Pension file certificate # 767-164, and James Shirk, Civil War Pension file certificate #760-472, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.
 - 21 Marisa Fenice, "Shippensburg's Black Soldiers in the Civil War" in Burg, ed., *Black History of Shippensburg*, 19-44; William Burkhart, *Shippensburg in the Civil War* (Shippensburg, PA: News-Chronicle Co., 1964, reprint edition 2003), 225-228.
 - 22 For newspaper coverage of the campaign, see "Historical Society Supports Efforts to Preserve Cemetery," *Shippensburg Sentinel*, February 1, 2006; "Historical Society to Aid African-American Cemetery," *Chambersburg Public Opinion*, February 8, 2006; "Caring for a Cemetery: Shippensburg University Professor Heads a Restoration Project" *Carlisle Sentinel*, August 2, 2006, Section B, 1; "Preserving the Past: SU Prof, Students Restoring Locust Grove Cemetery," *Shippensburg Sentinel*, August 5, 2006; "Grant Pays for Cemetery Work," *Chambersburg Public Opinion*, August 7, 2006.

Cumberland County's Connection to John Brown's Raid at Harper's Ferry

by Joseph D. Cress

In October of 1859 the well-known raid by John Brown and his men occurred at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). Most members of the Brown group were captured at the time of the raid, but several men escaped including John E. Cook and Albert Hazlett who fled into Pennsylvania. These facts serve as the backdrop for events that occurred in Carlisle later in October.

A stranger was apprehended west of Carlisle on the morning of October 22, 1859 by men from Chambersburg who had been pursuing him. Initially identified as John E. Cook, one of John Brown's raiders, his mistaken identity would play into the history of the events following the raid on Harper's Ferry. Carlisle would become a stop on his road to the gallows.

Local newspapers had varying accounts of the man's capture. The October 26 edition of the *Carlisle American* reported that he was arrested with slight resistance carrying four loaded revolvers, a Bowie knife, "some little money" and an advertising circular for a book called "The History of Slavery." The stranger, who called himself William Harrison, was described as six feet tall, well built, with red hair and a thin sandy beard. He was dressed in a red muslin shirt and dirty dark pants. "He, as might be expected, is a rather hard-looking individual, though under such circumstances every man is liable as being described as looking desperate and fit for any enterprise," the newspaper reported.¹

The *Carlisle American's* rival newspaper, the *American Volunteer*, reported the man had just entered West High Street when he was overtaken and made no resistance to arrest. An article published October 27 stated he was armed with three revolvers and two Bowie knives.² The *Carlisle American* reported that Harrison was brought before Squire* Sponsler around noon on October 22, but refused to answer any questions, saying only he was innocent and did not want a hearing at that time.³ Meanwhile, Attorney W. J. Shearer was walking

* a position similar to today's District Justice

into the downtown from his home on South Hanover Street blissfully unaware of his impending date with destiny.

In 1905, Shearer recounted his memories of the events in 1859 at a meeting of the Hamilton Library Association. Subsequently his paper was published by the Association. Shearer mentioned being intrigued by seeing a large crowd gathered in front of Sponsler's office. He then crossed the street and entered the building. There, he found Bill Houser and Charlie Campbell of Chambersburg, two men who had been tracking the man they thought to be John Cook, along with a "tall, raw-boned" stranger seated nearby. Sponsler was in the middle of preparing paperwork on the stranger when Shearer asked what they were doing.⁴

Houser said, "Here is Cook, one of John Brown's men. He was in Chambersburg and slipped out, and came down here, and we followed him and arrested him up the railroad." Shearer asked "Which is Cook?" Houser and Campbell said it was the stranger, but Shearer was not convinced. "No, that cannot be Cook," he told them. "I have never seen Cook, but he is described as being an effeminate looking man, with light hair and blue eyes. This is no such man." Judging by his hard hands, Shearer thought the man in custody was more of a laborer, but Houser didn't really care. "We are satisfied he is one of John Brown's men," Shearer quoted Houser as saying.⁵ His identity was a common misconception at first. Both newspapers reported that authorities believed the man in custody to be John Cook, one of the prominent leaders in the so-called insurrection six days earlier in what was then Harper's Ferry, VA.

Abolitionist John Brown and his "provisional" army of twenty-one men had launched an operation on October 16, 1859 to seize weapons kept at the federal arsenal in Harper's Ferry. Brown wanted to arm local blacks and rid the South of the sin of slavery, but his attempt failed after 36 hours when both state militia and Marines were called to the scene. John Cook was among those who escaped the government's military response. The *Carlisle American* reported that a person believed to be Cook was seen in Chambersburg on October 21, visiting his wife at a boarding house. It turned out this individual was probably Albert Hazlett, alias William Harrison.⁶

"The looks of the prisoner creating suspicion, the front door of the house was watched by one man while another went for assistance," the *Carlisle American* reported. "The house was then searched, but meanwhile the 'bird had flown' over the fence, leaving in the yard a Sharp's rifle, unloaded, and a blanket marked E.H." The suspect was followed and subsequently arrested near the west end of Carlisle.⁷

The *American Volunteer* on October 27 reported how a number of Chambersburg residents had surrounded the boarding house, but the man believed to be

Cook had eluded them and escaped. That newspaper reported the man now in custody had called himself "William Harrison" and said he was from Indiana County in western Pennsylvania. The *Volunteer* also noted that Harrison "is a much larger man than the published description makes Cook."⁸

Back in the office, Shearer pressed the issue of due process by asking Houser what he was doing with the prisoner. Houser confirmed paperwork was being prepared to transport Harrison to Virginia to stand trial. Shearer then asked the stranger if he knew of any attorneys in Carlisle to represent him. The man said no, but then asked Shearer after learning he was an attorney, "Will you see that I have justice done me?" Shearer agreed to represent the man in what were to become extradition hearings before Cumberland County Court.⁹

As his first official act as Harrison's defense attorney, Shearer warned Sponsler he had no right to draw up papers sending Harrison, a Pennsylvania resident, to a different state without court approval. This was later confirmed by William Penrose, Sponsler's attorney. None of this mattered to Houser, who insisted on taking the fugitive away to Virginia. "I don't believe you will," Shearer told Houser, having already set in motion the first in a series of stratagems to spare Harrison from the hangman's noose.¹⁰

Anticipating trouble, Shearer asked Sheriff McCartney and a deputy to stand outside the office and arrest Campbell and Houser on kidnapping charges if they tried to remove Harrison. The sheriff complied with the request only after Shearer agreed to stand by him. Shearer stated, "I then went into the office; they were preparing to take that man away. I said to Houser, 'If you take this man out of this office against his will, you will be put in jail for kidnapping.'" Houser reportedly responded, "I guess not." To which, Shearer replied, "That is what will be done. I have the sheriff out there for that purpose."¹¹

Shearer's reminiscences described how Houser looked out the door and asked the sheriff what he was doing there. "We are waiting for you and Campbell," the sheriff answered. The plan worked. The stranger was not extradited on the spot, but Sponsler exercised his right to jail the man. Shearer was among the defense attorneys including William H. Miller and Alexander Sharp, who filed a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of Harrison (alias Hazlett) before county court.¹²

The *Carlisle Herald*, in a November 2 article, reported how the first hearing on the writ was held on October 26, 1859 before Judge James H. Graham. Judge Frederick Watts of Cumberland County Pennsylvania served as council representing the interests of the state of Virginia. He presented a warrant from Pennsylvania Governor William Packer requesting the release of Albert Hazlett to Virginia authorities. Watts proved revolvers found on the stranger were of the same manufacture as those used by the insurgents and that the appearance

of the prisoner closely matched the description of Hazlett as given by witnesses at the scene. However, since there were no witnesses called who could verify the man in custody was the fugitive, Judge Graham remanded the prisoner back into the custody of the sheriff until Saturday, October 29, to give Watts time to bring witnesses from Harpers Ferry.¹³



Cumberland County Court House, Court Room, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
CCHS Photo Archives

That Saturday, the prisoner was brought before the court for a second hearing. Shearer appeared once again as defense attorney and argued his client should be discharged on the grounds his name was William Harrison, not Albert Hazlett, the *Carlisle Herald* reported. Several witnesses from Virginia testified to seeing the prisoner in Harpers Ferry the day of the raid. One, a Mr. Collis, said he and a neighbor talked to the man in custody in the street and had examined his rifle to see if it was loaded. They thought the prisoner was a member of a volunteer militia on his way to Winchester Fair. That presumption changed when two other men, armed the same way, forced Collis, his neighbor and a third man to march to the armory as prisoners.¹⁴

A second witness, a Mr. Copeland, testified he had seen the prisoner discharge his rifle at about the same time a man was shot in the street. From his vantage point, Copeland could see the muzzle flash but could not tell whether the prisoner in custody in Carlisle had aimed the rifle at a particular individual.¹⁵

The *Carlisle Herald* reported that the same men who swore to the identity of the prisoner in the courtroom had failed to recognize him earlier while visiting the county jail. The *Carlisle American* picked up on this same discrepancy in its November 2 article, mentioning an incident that reportedly happened earlier in the day on October 29:

“On arriving in the morning, these gentlemen called on Sheriff McCartney and requested permission to see the prisoner. Instead of pointing out any particular individual, the Sheriff took the parties to the different cells and showed them all the prisoners. After a careful scrutiny, three of the men said they could not identify anyone in jail as having been connected with the affair at Harpers Ferry. One of the men declined to say whether he could or could not identify – stating that he was instructed to say nothing. In court, these gentlemen had no difficulty in recognizing the prisoner as one of the ring leaders of the insurgents...”¹⁶

The *Carlisle American* reported that witnesses testified to seeing the prisoner not only shoot at citizens, but patrol the town streets armed with a gun as he stood sentinel at the armory. “Whether they testified truthfully, we leave to everyone to form their own opinion,” the unnamed reporter wrote. The newspaper noted discrepancies in witness testimony. For example, one witness told the court the prisoner had whiskers coming to a point at the chin, but no moustache while another witness testified the alleged fugitive had a light beard on his face and wore a moustache. There was also conflicting testimony regarding the clothing the prisoner allegedly wore the day of the raid. One witness saw him dressed in a red flannel jacket with pockets on the sides while another saw him wearing a striped shirt with a dark slouch hat. Despite these discrepancies, Watts argued there was clear proof the man in custody was present at the scene as a participant in the raid. Watts reminded Judge Graham the revolvers found on the stranger were identical with those found in the hands of the insurgents.¹⁷

Shearer was part of the defense team arguing that proof of identity was insufficient and therefore did not warrant the judge to deliver the prisoner into the custody of Virginia authorities. The defense claimed there was no evidence the man in custody was Albert Hazlett – the name specifically mentioned in the requisition from Virginia. They asked Graham to discharge the prisoner or at least commit him to the custody of the sheriff until further proof of his identity

could be obtained. Judge Graham agreed with both sides. He said while Virginia proved its suspicion the man in custody participated in the raid, the defense was correct in concluding insufficient evidence existed that the prisoner was indeed Albert Hazlett. The judge bound over the case to yet another hearing.¹⁸

Months later, on February 22, 1860, the *Carlisle American* ran a story on what William Harrison (alias Albert Hazlett) told a Charlestown court after being sentenced to death by hanging. In his statement, the recently tried and convicted man made a direct reference to the witness testimony in Carlisle:

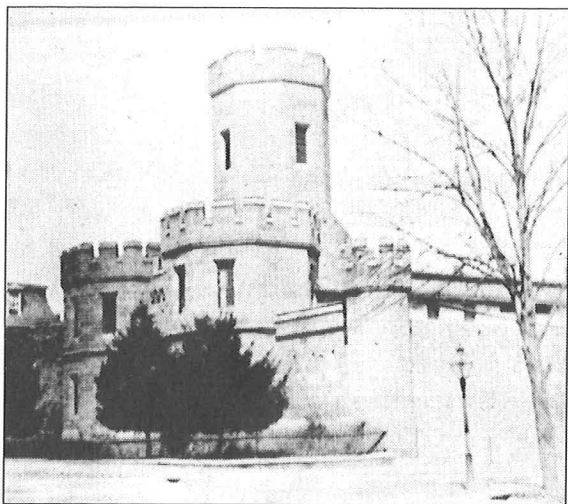
“I have a few words to say. I am innocent of the charge on which I have been convicted. I deny ever having committed murder or ever having contemplated murder, or ever having associated with anyone with such intentions. Some of the witnesses have sworn to things which I deny, and which were positively false. For instance, in reference to my beard; I have never in my life, until my imprisonment in jail, allowed my beard to go more than three weeks without shaving, and all testimony therefore as to the length of my beard is false. Again, Mr. Copeland testified that I was sitting on a stool when he entered the cell at Carlisle; this I deny. I was sitting on a blanket, back against the wall, and another man was on the stool. Copeland also said there were only two men in the cell; this is false, as there were four other white men in the cell with me...”¹⁹

Both articles by the *Carlisle American* correspond with Shearer’s own writings on the extradition case. Shearer chronicled that, on two different occasions, he enlisted the help of Sheriff McCartney to call to question the ability of prosecution witnesses to identify his client during visits they made to the county jail. Shearer made no mention of the precise dates of when each incident happened.²⁰

On one occasion, McCartney had warned Shearer of the arrival in town of a party from Virginia. Right away, Shearer had asked the sheriff whether they had already seen his client. “No, they are over there at the hotel smoking their breakfast cigars and then they are coming over,” McCartney was quoted as saying. Shearer then set a plan in motion to spare his client.

“You are the sheriff,” he told McCartney. “It is your business to keep the prisoner, and not to deliver him to anyone unless they identify him. I am this man’s counsel and I warn you not to spot him. You have no right to pick him out for them. If they want him, they ought to know him.” The sheriff said he understood. Shearer then asked McCartney to set all one hundred inmates at county jail loose inside its main corridor and “let them pick him out.”

After they finished their cigars, the men came over to the jail and asked the sheriff which inmate was Hazlett. In response, the sheriff advised them of Shearer's warning and told them to look themselves. "You ought to know the man," McCartney reportedly said. "Look in there, he is there." They looked, but admitted they could not identify Hazlett. The men left Carlisle empty-handed.



Early view of Cumberland County Jail
CCHS Photo Archives

A short time later, a second party came up from Virginia claiming they could identify Hazlett. Again, McCartney warned Shearer of their arrival and the wily defense attorney had a ploy in mind. This time, Shearer asked McCartney if there was a man in Carlisle who looked like Hazlett. The sheriff knew of just such a dead ringer. Shearer then asked the sheriff to get that man to come to the jail, put him in the same cell as Hazlett and have them exchange clothes. While Hazlett was asked to look his accusers squarely in the eyes, the imposter was instructed to hang his head in shame. The alleged witness took one look at the downcast imposter and reportedly said "Sheriff, that is my man," but McCartney soon set the record straight. "Why, that man was born and reared in Carlisle, and has never been out of Carlisle." The score was Shearer two, Virginia zero.²¹

The third and final hearing in this extradition case was heard on November 5, 1859 before Judge Graham. This time the name "William Harrison" was included on the warrant and the matter in question was whether to deliver Harrison to William N. Kelly, an agent of the state of Virginia. The *Carlisle American* on November 9 reported that defense attorney Alexander B. Sharpe,

one of Harrison's attorneys, submitted an application for a continuance arguing that while the prisoner had yet to make such a demand, delays had been obtained for the state of Virginia. In his application, Sharpe said the defense had hoped to secure the testimony of A.W. Knapp and Marion Andres of Indiana to support Harrison's alibi that he was not in Harpers Ferry at the time of the raid. A letter had been sent to the defense witnesses on October 27 but there was no response. Watts submitted written objections to granting a continuance, arguing that the prisoner had already had two weeks to produce credible evidence for his defense. Watts added there was no proof that any further delay would yield enough evidence to justify not releasing the prisoner to the custody of Virginia.²²

Graham said, with so many representations being reported in the newspapers, he felt it was prudent to adjourn the hearing so he could draft his decision in writing. The *Carlisle American* described the mood in the courtroom in its November 9 edition:

"Great anxiety for and considerable doubt was entertained as to what would be the decision. A greater portion of the crowd seemed to be of the opinion that the continuance would be granted, and in the sporting portion of our community odds of 3 to 2 and in some cases as high as 2 to 1 were freely offered on that event with but few takers. There were accordingly long faces when it was announced that the prisoner had been given over..."²³

The *Carlisle American* published the decision verbatim. In it, Graham noted that three witnesses had testified that the prisoner was at Harpers Ferry as a member of the raiding party. While two swore positively to the identity of the prisoner, the third testified to seeing him passing back and forth on the street the day of the attack. The decision went on to read:

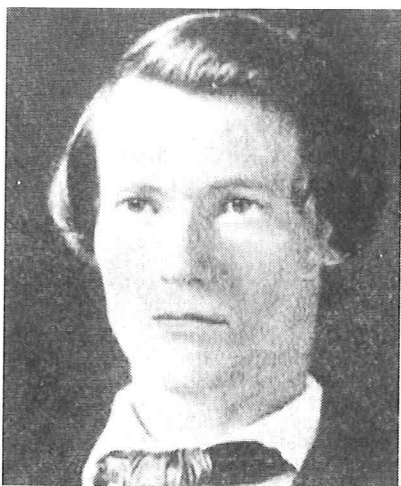
"We are not called to pass on the guilt of the prisoner – that question must be decided by the proper tribunal of the state of Virginia. The only question before us is one of identity. The prisoner when first arrested stated that his name was William Harrison and had a writ of habeas corpus granted by that name. William Harrison is the person in the warrant issued by the Governor of Pennsylvania upon the requisition of the Governor of Virginia, accompanied by the affidavits of citizens of Virginia charging him with being one of the armed band..."²⁴

Graham agreed with Watts that two weeks was sufficient time for the prisoner to develop a case and that no proof was offered. Possible testimony by Knapp and others could support either a continuance or an alibi defense. "The prisoner certainly knows where he was and whom he saw on the days mentioned,"

Graham wrote. "The ground on which a continuance is asked is too vague and indefinite. The identity of the prisoner being satisfactorily proved, we consider it our duty to issue a warrant for his delivery to the agent appointed by the Governor of Virginia."²⁵

The prisoner was then turned over to Kelly and left on the afternoon train to Charlestown via Chambersburg. The *Carlisle American* reported how a "considerable crowd" expressing "a great deal of sympathy" followed the prisoner from the jail to the train. Some had shed tears in a show of grief while others made charges of injustice done in not granting the continuance. The newspaper had its own opinion about this show of emotion for Hazlett alias Harrison.

"To these persons we would commend a careful perusal of Judge Graham's decision as given above; which we feel confident will convince any right-thinking person that strict justice has been done to the state of Virginia while the prisoner has been given all the latitude permitted by fair and impartial laws of Pennsylvania."²⁶



Albert Hazlett
www.iath.virginia.edu

The whole time, the man calling himself Harrison publicly denied any involvement in the raid. He was supported by a capable defense team of lawyers who argued he was not the Albert Hazlett the authorities were looking for in connection with the insurrection. But what does history know of Hazlett?

In October 2004, *The Sentinel* published a series of articles about Cumberland County's involvement in the raid and its aftermath. One of the sources interviewed for that series was Marsha Wassel, an interpretive specialist with the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. Wassel said Hazlett was born in Pennsylvania in 1837 and first met John Brown in Kansas in 1858 where they fought

as "free state" guerillas against pro-slavery settlers trying to control the political destiny of that disputed territory. During the Harpers Ferry raid, Hazlett was assigned to guard the arsenal building with Osborne Perry Anderson, a free black recruited by Brown in Canada, Wassel said. She explained how, on the afternoon of October 17, 1859, the two men heard commotion outside and realized there was nothing they could do to help Brown and the other raiders. So they decided to escape amid the confusion – hoping to carry on the fight at some future date or at least regroup with other survivors of the raiding force.²⁷

In his book, *A Voice From Harpers Ferry*, Osborne Anderson, who was never apprehended, described how he and Hazlett paddled across the Potomac River in a stolen boat before escaping to the Kennedy Farm – the main staging area for the raid – located about five miles away in Maryland. The two men fled north into Pennsylvania where they separated. Anderson went north into Canada while Hazlett supposedly turned northeast toward Chambersburg, the transit point for weapons used in the raid, Wassel said. This led to reports of a man believed to be John Cook lurking near Chambersburg.²⁸

The night before the November 5 hearing, Shearer and another defense attorney visited Hazlett at the county jail. During their conversation, which lasted until 10 p.m., the mysterious stranger said he was with John Brown in Kansas and had fought in the Battle of Ossawatimie. "When we left him, he said to me, 'Mr. Shearer, I wish you would tell the sheriff that I would like to have a plug of tobacco,'" Shearer wrote later. "Now it is remarkable on what small matters one's life may depend. Asking for that plug of tobacco cost that man his life."

As he left, Shearer passed on the request to McCartney. "He went back and examined this man's cell and found the whole back of the cell out. A blanket was hung against it," Shearer wrote later. It was later determined Mark Scott, an African American barber, was sent to Carlisle by a follower of John Brown with a horse and buggy, a rope ladder and instructions to help Hazlett make his escape. On seeing the open wall, McCartney put Hazlett in a different cell thus cutting off any rescue attempt. Shearer believed the request for tobacco had been interpreted by McCartney as a warning not to allow the prisoner to escape. This prompted the search of the cell by the sheriff.

The next morning, November 5, Shearer was down at the jail when McCartney pulled him aside. "Mr. Shearer, that client of yours is the most stupid man I ever saw in my life," the sheriff told Shearer. "You know when I was sent down with him, it was very dark, as dark as midnight...and if he had just given me a little push I would have fallen over in the gutter. He could have been out in the North Mountains in a short time." This statement confirmed what Shearer had already suspected: the sheriff knew Hazlett wanted to escape and McCartney wanted to let him go. It was just that the request for tobacco had rattled the sheriff enough to prompt him to check the cell and transfer the prisoner to less exposed accommodations.

Shearer continued to help Hazlett by arranging for him to have legal counsel in Charlestown and by furnishing the defense team in Virginia an important piece of evidence.

“When this man was captured, he had one of the Sharps rifles such as were used at Harpers Ferry and it had never been fired off,” Shearer wrote. “These rifles were so nicely burnished that if they were discharged once, the discoloring made by the powder could never be removed unless it went through the makers hands again.”

In his writings, Shearer said the guilty verdict rendered in Virginia may have been coerced. He wrote that attorneys for Harrison (alias Hazlett) put on a “grand” and “noble” defense and were confident the jury would acquit or at least be hung on the determination of guilt. But they wrote Shearer claiming that local citizens were out until midnight hounding jurors for a conviction with howls of “Hang him or we will hang you.”

Before his execution, Hazlett wrote Shearer a number of letters thanking him for all he had done or tried to do on his behalf. “He said I had been more than a brother to him and he would never forget me until his dying day,” Shearer wrote. “He signed himself in the conclusion of the letter, Your friend through endless eternity, William L. Harrison.” At his sentencing hearing, Harrison (alias Hazlett) thanked his attorneys in public and maintained his innocence saying, “I am prepared to meet my fate.”²⁹

There is evidence the extradition proceedings created a stir in Carlisle. The *Shippensburg News*, in its November 5, 1859 edition, reported that the courtroom was crowded with what seemed to be hundreds of spectators. “Virginia ministers of law, looking their sternest, were present in numbers, ready to carry off the prisoner; but were slightly nonplused when they discovered that the judge was quite ready to deliver him.”³⁰ The *Carlisle American* just three days before reported that the case attracted the attention of several Virginia dignitaries and a reporter from the New York Tribune.³¹

The *Carlisle American*, in its November 9 edition, published the following letter to the editor from a reader using the initials “A.D.”:

“The excitement incident to the Harpers Ferry insurrection and the capture of old Brown and his followers appears to have taken such a powerful hold upon the students of Dickinson College that there is considerable difficulty in restoring that order which is characteristic of an institution of learning. The members of the college appear to be under no discipline and the regulations are disregarded. But where does the fault rest? Most assuredly with the faculty. The students as a general thing are mere youths, and have been sent here by their parents and guardians, expecting that parental care to be exercised over them. The faculty are assuredly responsible to their parents for the morals of their sons; there is something loose in the discipline of the College, else why is

it night after night the campus is the scene of the most riotous conduct; bonfires burn unmolested to the terror of the neighborhood and fights are not unfrequent both at the college and in the most public resorts in our town. The rooms of the students at night are deserted, and those who by the regulations are required to be in them are roaming through the campus and the streets of the borough, making the night intended for rest hideous with their howls. We think that the members of the faculty should exert themselves to suppress this truly great nuisance.”

Along with the letter, the *Carlisle American* published this response addressed to “A.D.”:

“We have some faint hope that the publication of it (the letter) may do good by spurring up the collegiate authorities to giving a proper attention to the subject. Should it not do so, we shall be happy to hear from you again on the subject.”³²

The *American Volunteer* on February 16, 1860 reported that the trial of Albert Hazlett had concluded five days earlier. The jury returned with a guilty verdict of murder in the first degree. The newspaper reported that the defendant denied any knowledge of the raid on Harpers Ferry. Newspapers of the time were prone to including editorial comments in stories. This article is one example:

“Poor fellow – we really feel sympathy for this young man, for he was evidently led into wickedness and crime by the advice of older heads. His appearance is that of a mild man, but yet appearance is often deceptive. The fact that he took deliberate aim at and fired upon citizens of Harpers Ferry – citizens who had never harmed him – was evidence that he was willing to obey to the letter the orders of his desperate and blood-thirsty chief, old Brown. Of course, Hazlett will suffer death upon the gallows. We repeat, we are sorry for this young man, but at the same time we must confess that his punishment is just.”³³

A month later, on March 22, 1860, the *American Volunteer* quoted the *Baltimore Sun* which reported that a vast crowd of spectators had flocked in from around Charlestown, Virginia to witness the execution of both Hazlett and another Harpers Ferry conspirator at about noon on March 16. Both men were brought out of jail under a heavy military escort and led to gallows erected on the same spot where John Brown and his associates were executed. Hazlett said goodbye to his jailors and friends before the noose was placed around his neck and he was “swung off.” The *Baltimore Sun* reporter wrote that “Hazlett seemed to die very easy.”³⁴

ENDNOTES

- 1 "Arrest of a Supposed Harper's Ferry Insurrectionist," *Carlisle American*, October, 26, 1859.
- 2 "Arrest of a Man Supposed to be Captain Cook," *American Volunteer*, October 27, 1859.
- 3 *Carlisle American*, October 26, 1859.
- 4 W.J. Shearer, *John Brown's Raid* (Hamilton Library Papers Annual Report, Vol. 1, January 17, 1905) 3.
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 *Carlisle American*, October 26, 1859.
- 7 *Ibid.*
- 8 *American Volunteer*, October 27, 1859.
- 9 W.J. Shearer, 3.
- 10 *Ibid.*
- 11 *Ibid.*, 4.
- 12 *Ibid.*, 5.
- 13 "The Harper's Ferry Fugitive," *Carlisle Herald*, November 2, 1859.
- 14 *Ibid.*
- 15 *Ibid.*
- 16 *Ibid.*
- 17 "Hearing on Saturday," *Carlisle American*, November 2, 1859.
- 18 W.J. Shearer, 5.
- 19 *Carlisle American*, February 22, 1860.
- 20 W.J. Shearer, 6.
- 21 *Ibid.*
- 22 "Hearing of the Harper's Ferry Insurgent – He is Delivered to the Virginia Authorities," *Carlisle American*, November 9, 1859.
- 23 *Ibid.*
- 24 *Ibid.*
- 25 *Ibid.*
- 26 *Ibid.*
- 27 Marsha Wassel, Interview, October, 2004.
- 28 Osborne Anderson, *A Voice from Harper's Ferry*, Boston, 1861.
- 29 W.J. Shearer, 10.
- 30 Untitled column, *Shippensburg News*, November 5, 1859.
- 31 *Carlisle American*, November 3, 1859.
- 32 *Carlisle American*, November 9, 1857.
- 33 "The Conviction of Hazlett," *American Volunteer*, February 16, 1860.
- 34 "Execution of Hazlett and Stephens," *American Volunteer*, March 22, 1860.

Cumberland County Government and Court Records

by Barbara Bartos

In 1978, Cumberland County Government and Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) entered into a formal agreement to transfer older government and court records. The records, officially on long-term loan to the Society according to the agreement, are housed at the Society in an archival environment. Acid free supplies are used to store the records and the Society's archives provide a temperature and humidity controlled environment to better preserve these early documents.

Over seven hundred volumes and numerous additional documents dating from 1750 to the 1960s are currently housed at CCHS. Most of the records focus on the period prior to 1930. A year-long project, started in the fall of 2007 by the county government and CCHS, has enhanced the accountability and access to these volumes. The inventory that follows deals with the volumes that are housed at the Society. It is divided by Office (Record Group) with an alphabetical listing of the volume titles (Record Series) for that Office along with a title's date span and number of volumes.

The "Preliminary Guide to Cumberland County Records – Volumes" is located in the Stuart Reading Room of CCHS. This finding aid expands on the summary below and provides a general description of the content of a title along with information regarding arrangement and any integral indexing. A listing of individual volumes of a title is also provided to share any major content that differs from the general description.

This information can also be found on the official Cumberland County Archives web site at www.ccpa.net/ccarchives. Additional titles and volumes stored at other county locations are in the process of being added to the site. Record Series for Papers and Microfilm also appear on the web site. Many of the Paper Series have been digitalized. Watch for the "camera" icon to view images of original documents.

COUNTY RECORD SERIES AT CCHS – VOLUMES ONLY

(as of 22 July 2009)

Series Title	Date Span	Quantity
	1750...1965	702 vols
CLERK OF COURTS – RECORD SERIES		
LIQUOR LICENSE DOCKET	1856–1923	2 vols.
OYER & TERMINER DOCKET	1798–1895	1 vol.
QUARTER SESSION DOCKET	1750–1927	33 vols.
QUARTER SESSION DOCKETS INDEX	1868–1875	1 vol.
QUARTER SESSIONS ROUGH DOCKET	1778...1943	13 vols.
SLAVE AND SLAVEHOLDER REGISTER	1780...1841	2 vols.
TAX COLLECTORS BOND BOOK	1895–1958	5 vols.
		<u>57 vols.</u>
COMMISSIONERS – RECORD SERIES		
ASSESSORS DOG REPORTS	1921–1921	1 vol.
APPRAISEMENT RECORD	1835–1859	1 vol.
BRIDGE BOOK	ca 1930–1950	1 vol.
CENSUS 1840 Cumberland County	1840–1840	1 vol.
CIVIL WAR BOARD OF RELIEF MINUTES	1861–1863	0 vol.
COMPENDIUM OF THE ENUMERATION OF THE INHABITANTS AND STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES 1840 Census	1841–1841	1 vols.
COMMISSIONERS LEDGERS	1849–1932	5 vols.
COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM	1825–1835	1 vol.
GUIDE TO COUNTY OFFICERS Taxes	1877–1877	1 vol.
LIST OF TAXABLES, SLAVES, DEAF & DUMB, & BLIND Septennial Census	1821–1870	10 vols.
MINUTE BOOKS	1790...1939	17 vols.
ORDERS REGISTERS	1858–1934	8 vols.
PAUPERS BOOK Children	1823–1833	1 vol.
ROAD VIEWERS RECORD	1906–1910	1 vol.
SURVEYORS' COMPASS DEVIATION RECORD	1853–1894	1 vol.
TAX RATES BOOKS	1736–1930	152 vols.
TAX RETURNS DOCKETS Delinquent Taxes Seated Lands	1934–1935	2 vols.
TIME BOOKS	1847–1905	4 vols.
		<u>209 vols.</u>
		+ 2 copies
		<u>211 vols.</u>

CONTROLLER – RECORD SERIES

AUDITORS' ANNUAL REPORTS	1794-1937	5 vols.
		<u>5 vols.</u>

COUNTY AUDITOR – RECORD SERIES

Auditors' Annual Reports transferred to Controller's Office.

COUNTY SURVEYOR – RECORD SERIES

Survey and Warrant Books and Indices transferred to Recorder of Deeds Office. County Surveyor (originally called Deputy Surveyor) is a discontinued office.

ELECTIONS AND VOTER SERVICES (Bureau of Elections) – RECORD SERIES

CANDIDATE FILING RECORD	1911-1911	1 vol.
ELECTION DOCKETS Federal & County Wide	1839-1936	2 vols.
ELECTION RETURNS Municipal	1876-1935	5 vols.
		<u>8 vols.</u>

ORPHANS' COURT – RECORD SERIES

APPEARANCE DOCKETS	1930-1954	4 vols.
ARGUMENT LISTS	1825...1894	2 vols.
CASES FOR ARGUMENT	1875-1900	1 vol.
ORPHANS' COURT ACCOUNTS FEE BOOK	ca. 1907-1910	1 vol.
ROUGH DOCKETS	1801...1927	6 vols.
WRITS OF PARTITION	1844-1846	1 vol.
WRITS OF PARTITION INDEX	ND	1 vol.
		<u>16 vols.</u>

POORHOUSE AND HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT – RECORD SERIES

ALMSHOUSE REGISTERS	1830-1922	3 vols.
DEATHS AND MISCELLANEOUS REGISTER Almshouse	1887-1935	1 vol.
DISCHARGE BOOK Hospital for the Insane	1899-1919	1 vol.
DUPLICATE BILLS LEDGER	1895-1896	0 vol.
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS LEDGERS	1841...1891	2 vols.
EXPENSE LEDGER	1904-1904	1 vols.
HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM REGISTERS	1879...1927	2 vols.
MEDICAL JOURNAL Hospital for the Insane	1899...1929	1 vol.
MINUTE BOOKS	1829...1937	4 vols.
OUTDOOR RELIEF CASH LEDGERS	1873...1937	2 vols.
POORHOUSE LAWS	1877-1877	1 vol.
PRODUCE AND BOARDING INCOME LEDGER	1924-1927	1 vol.

SMALLPOX REGISTER	1872-1873	1 vol.
STATEMENTS Annual	1867-1879	1 vol.
STEWARDS REGISTER Almshouse	1896...1921	1 vol.
VISITORS REGISTERS Almshouse	1896-1936	2 vols.
VOUCHER DAY BOOK Poor Board	1936-1939	1 vol.
		25 vols.
		+ 1 copy
		26 vols.

PROTHONOTARY – RECORD SERIES

APPEARANCE DOCKETS	1765...1816	16 vols.
APPEARANCE DOCKETS INDEX	1760-1768	2 vols.
ARBITRATION DOCKETS	1832-1909	4 vols.
ARGUMENT DOCKETS	1841-1958	9 vols.
ATTORNEYS' RECEIPT BOOK	1852-1877	1 vol.
AUTOMOBILE AND MOTOR REGISTER	1903-1905	1 vol.
CASES FOR ARGUMENT	1888...1950	3 vols.
CASES FOR TRIAL	1866-1966	5 vols.
CASES FOR TRIAL Circuit Court	1826-1826	1 vol.
CERTIORARI DOCKETS	1818...1893	2 vols.
CIRCUIT COURT DOCKETS	1787...1832	3 vols.
CONTINUANCE DOCKETS	1750-1845	16 vols.
DENTAL REGISTER RECEIPT STUBS	1930-1933	1 vol.
DENTAL REGISTERS	1883-1965	3 vols.
EXECUTION DOCKETS	1770...1799	6 vols.
INSOLVENT DEBTORS DOCKETS	1799-1860	3 vols.
INSURANCE LIEN DOCKET	1844-1846	1 vol.
JUDGMENT DOCKET Unsatisfied	1843-1846	1 vol.
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE DOCKETS	1826-1935	85 vols.
		(all JP dockets)
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET	1850-1963	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Baxter H.K.	1922-1925	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS Bowers George W.	1896-1900	2 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS Brindle John P.	1884...1896	5 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS DeHuff Abraham	1860-1879	5 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Heap John	1818-1824	1 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS Heberlig George B. Mc.	1908-1949	2 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS Hughes W. G.	1896...1918	35 vols.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Irvine William	1832-1841	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Leshner John	1893-1898	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Martin W. R.	1926-1935	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Plank B.	1879-1884	1 vol.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET Richey William	1826-1830	1 vol.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKETS Shyrock Edgar Leonard	1869...1895	29 vols.
MEDICAL REGISTERS	1881-1941	2 vols.
NATIONAL TROTTING ASSOCIATION RECORD BOOK	ca.1892-1892	1 vol.
OPTOMETRY REGISTER	1918-1968	1 vol.
PARTITION DOCKET	1850-1888	1 vol.
REGISTER OF FILINGS	1907...1931	1 vol.
REGISTER OF PA LAW PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTION	1800...1899	1 vol.
ROUGH DOCKETS	1805-1946	19 vols.
SOLDIERS' PEDDLERS' LICENSE	1935-1965	1 vol.
STALLION REGISTER	1894-1913	1 vol.
STATE TAX STATEMENTS Monthly Report	1906-1926	1 vol.
TAX LIEN INDEX	1930-1939	1 vol.
TAX LIEN RECORD Municipal	1914-1917	1 vol.
TESTATUM FIERI FACIAS DOCKET	1823-1955	1 vol.
TRIAL DOCKET Cases Submitted for Trial Without Jury	1873-1889	1 vol.
VETERINARY REGISTER	1889-1903	1 vol.
		197 vol.+ 1 copy
		198 vols.

RECORDER OF DEEDS – RECORD SERIES

ENTRY BOOK	1786-1800	1 vol.
GENERAL INDEX Book A-II	1750-1826	3 vols.
INDEX TO GRANTEES	1750-1784	4 vols.
INDEX TO GRANTORS	1750-1784	4 vols.
INDEX TO MORTGAGEES	1750-1874	1 vol.
INDEX TO MORTGAGORS	1750-1874	1 vol.
INDEX TO WARRANTS DOCKETS	ca. 1900-1900	1 vol.
MISCELLANEOUS RECORD BOOK INDEX Grantee	1867-1874	1 vol.
MISCELLANEOUS RECORD BOOK INDEX Grantors	1867-1874	1 vol.
NOTARY RECORD Fridley Jacob	1883-1885	1 vol.
SURVEYS DOCKETS	ca. 1900-1900	4 vols.
SURVEYS DOCKETS INDEX (official copies of ca. 1750-1860)	ca. 1900-1900	1 vol.
WARRANT BOOK	1734-1899	1 vol.
WARRANTS DOCKETS	ca. 1900-1900	2 vols.
WARRANTS DOCKETS INDEX (official copies of ca. 1746-1869)	ca. 1900-1900	1 vol.
		27 vols.

REGISTER OF WILLS – RECORD SERIES

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INHERITANCE TAX RECEIPT STUBS Collateral	1917-1919	1 vol.
INHERITANCE TAX RECEIPT STUBS Direct	1919-1919	1 vol.
VENDUE INDEX	1750-1878	1 vol.
		4 vols.

SHERIFF – RECORD SERIES

APPROPRIATION DOCKETS Real Estate and Personal Sales	1850...1899	3 vols.
COMMITMENT REGISTER Quarterly Report	1872-1889	1 vol.
CONVICT DESCRIPTION DOCKET	1872...1961	1 vol.
CONVICT RECORD Summary	1922-1932	1 vol.
DAILY RECORDS Vagrants, Prisoners & Convicts	1874...1929	5 vols.
DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION DOCKET Convicts	1872-1896	1 vol.
EXECUTION DOCKETS	1787...1930	12 vols.
INDICTMENT FEE BOOKS	1889...1901	2 vols.
JUDGMENT DOCKETS Unsatisfied Real Estate Liens	1841...1882	3 vols.
MISCELLANEOUS RECORD BOOK	1926-1930	1 vol.
ORPHANS' COURT DOCKETS	1877...1900	4 vols.
PRISON BOARDING FEE BOOKS	1884-1886	2 vols.
PRISON SUPPLIES LEDGER	1926-1930	1 vol.
PROCEDURAL WORKBOOK	1925-1930	1 vol.
QUARTER SESSIONS DOCKET FEE BOOKS	1843...1897	2 vols.
RECEIPT BOOKS	1815...1930	8 vols.
RECEIPTS AND EXPENCES DAILY ACCOUNT BOOK	1926-1930	1 vol.
SALES BOOKS Personal Property	1895...1930	3 vols.
SUMMONS DOCKETS	1787...1930	6 vols.
SUPPLEMENTAL WARRANTS and Miscellaneous Docket	1873...1879	<u>2 vols.</u>
		60 vols.

TREASURER – RECORD SERIES

DAILY RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES	1907...1935	4 vols.
DELINQUENT TAXES Unseated Lands	1789...1937	7 vols.
DOG LICENSE RECORD	1915-1933	3 vols.
LIQUOR LICENSE FEE BOOK	1886-1886	1 vol.
LICENSE FEES BOOK	1918-1919	1 vol.
MERCANTILE LICENSE FEES AND TAX RECORD	1862-1865	1 vol.
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS LEDGERS	1900...1938	9 vols.
QUARTER SESSIONS COURT COSTS AND FINES	1927-1934	2 vols.
PUBLIC AMUSEMENT LICENSE STUBS	1925-1925	1 vol.
RECEIPT BOOKS Support	1939-1942	9 vols.
STATE TAXES OUTSTANDING	1781-1812	1 vol.
STOCK LEDGER AND INDEX	1870-1874	1 vol.
TAX COLLECTORS ACCOUNTS Deficiencies Allowed	1815-1843	3 vols.
TAX COLLECTORS ACCOUNTS Delinquent Taxes	1781-1794	2 vols.
TAX COLLECTORS ACCOUNTS Settlements	1781...1931	11 vols.
TAX LIST	1817-1817	1 vol.
TREASURER'S COUNTY ACCOUNT BOOKS Settlements	1787...1916	2 vols.
TREASURER'S COUNTY ACCOUNT BOOK Settlements Qrtly	1823-1855	1 vol.

TREASURER'S COUNTY ACCOUNT BOOK Taxes	1778-1790	1 vol.
TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORTS	1930-1933	<u>1 vol.</u>
		62 vols.

VETERANS AFFAIRS – RECORD SERIES

BURIAL RECORDS Indigent Soldiers	1885-1979	13 vols.
MILITARY ROLL	1871-1872	1 vol.
MILITIA ENROLLMENT RECORDS	1913-1916	4 vols.
ROLL OF HONOR	1917-1918	1 vol.
SERVICE RECORDS	ca. 1920-1920	1 vol.
SOLDIERS' WIDOWS BURIAL RECORDS	1915-1979	3 vols.
VETERANS' GRAVE REGISTER	1934-1950	1 vol.
VETERANS' GRAVE REGISTER MAPS	1933-1935	<u>1 vol.</u>
		25 vols.
		<u>+4 copies</u>
		29 vols.



Cumberland County Historical Society, Hamilton Library Archives
County Government Records Collection
Photo by David L. Smith

Notable Library Acquisitions January – September 2009

Peg Harnish donated materials relating to the Cumberland County Chapter of D.A.R.

Jean Layne donated two Cumberland Valley State Normal School Catalogs – 1906-1907, and 1913-1914.

First Families of Old Cumberland County: Vol. XVII – *South Mountain and Blue Ridge Summit*, by Hayes R. Eschenmann and Paul Barner

Kenneth Shaffer donated a copy of *Eastern Regional Conference of the Churches of God, 60 years of Committed to Caring 1948–2008: A History of the Church of God Home*.

Blank receipts from C. B. Wagner: Whiskies, Brandies, Gins, Rums, Wines, Fine Old Liquors, etc.

JoAnn Handshaw donated Carlisle Area School District Directories from 1952-1990 (missing 81–82).

Lester Wallace donated paperwork from the Carlisle Town 76 Meeting, November 20, 1976.

MORE (Men of Retirement Club) Club of the Carlisle YMCA added to their collection at the historical society.

David Williams donated a copy of *Anna (Nancy) Jane Westfall: Descendant of Gottlieb Westfall, A Hessian Soldier*.

Paul Biebel donated a signed copy of his work *Awakening: Blooming Life in Carlisle*.

Bob Highlands gave an updated index of the Church and Cemetery Index

E. K. Weitzel gave information on the property at the Southwest corner of King and Penn Streets in Shippensburg.

Joan Barnes donated materials including correspondence of the Robinson family in Carlisle and the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, J. Frank Wheaton Lodge, No. 312.

Janet Bell donated “Union Cemetery,” by Janet L. Bell & E. Louise Austin, March 2009. This folder contains an inventory of the Union Cemetery off of Franklin St.

First Families of Old Cumberland County: Vol. XVIII – *Mechanicsburg and White Rocks*, by Hayes R. Eschenmann and Paul Barner.

The Carlisle Garden Club added new materials to their collection, MG-002.

The Carlisle Art Association donated more of their records. They have been added to MG-128.

A signed copy of *Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance: The Glorious Impostor* was donated by the author Donald B. Smith.

Virginia Goodyear donated a family scrapbook which includes a lot of information about the Goodyear family and local businesses.

Paul Sunday donated a draft for a tract of land situated in Middlesex Township to the Middlesex Hall Association in 1876.

Lee and Dorothy Wise donated *Evangelical Penitential Sermons*, 1751 edition written in German. The book belonged to Frederick Carl Christlieb (1751-1837) one of the pioneer German settlers in Mifflin Township and one of the founders of Zeigler’s Log Church.

Paul Barner donated Vol. XIX, *Williamson and Mason-Dixon*, in the First Family Series, by Hayes R. Eschenmann and Paul Barner.

Carolyn G. Sowers donated materials relating to the Fickes family. One particularly interesting item is a scrapbook of a bicycle trip taken by Mary Fickes, a Carlisle High School teacher, with 3 female friends (and a dog) from Carlisle to Seaside Heights, New Jersey during the summer of 1943.

Terry Nickey donated the final book in the series *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania*.

Duane Duncan added to our Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Services Collection. He provided programs of the 2006, 2008, and 2009 Cumberland Ag Expo.

Carolyn Kenworthy donated a collection of materials relating to Blanche L. Dum.

Carol Green gave a folder of information for Camp Hill High School's Class of 1959 to commemorate their 50th anniversary. This includes information on the history of Camp Hill.

R. Gerald Lackey donated a variety of early local documents including ones pertaining to the surnames Hoffer and Givin.

Paul Barner donated *First Families of old Cumberland County: Vol. XX – The West Shore (Harrisburg West, Lemoyne, Steelton)*, by Hayes R. Eschenmann and Paul Barner.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

THE COUNTY HERITAGE SERIES

- The Bitter Fruits: The Civil War Comes to a Small Town in Pennsylvania*, by David G. Colwell (1998). Hardcover, \$10.00.
- In Pursuit of Pleasure: Leisure in Nineteenth Century Cumberland County*, by Clarke Garrett (1997). Hardcover, \$10.00.
- Past Receipts, Present Recipes*, by CCHS Cookbook Committee (1996). \$10.00.
- The Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 1879–1918*, by Linda F. Witmer (2000). Paperback, \$24.95.
- “Drive the Road and Bridge the Ford”: Highway Bridges of Nineteenth Century Cumberland County*, by Paul E. Gill (1992). Hardcover, \$24.95.
- Twentieth Century Thoughts. Carlisle: The Past Hundred Years*, by Ann Kramer Hoffer (2001). Paperback, \$29.95.

Recent Publications

- The Carlisle Hospital: The Most Important Building in Town*, by Susan E. Meehan for the Carlisle Area Health and Wellness Foundation (2008). Paperback, \$15.00.
- Changing Images: The Art & Artists of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School*, by Linda F. Witmer (2008). Hardback, \$39.95.
- Here Lies the Body: The Story of Meeting House Springs*, by Richard L. Tritt (2009). Paperback, \$22.00.
- Walking Guide to Historic Carlisle, PA.* (2001). Paperback, \$5.00.
- First Families of [Old] Cumberland County* (maps and surname indexes to 18th century land records in Cumberland and Franklin counties), by Hayes Eschenmann and Paul Barner. Twenty volumes, spiral bound paperback with map, \$15.00 each.
- Recent volumes:
- Vol. XIV– Shermansdale and Wertzville*
- Vol. XV– Greencastle (Franklin County)*
- Vol. XVI– Mt. Holly Springs*
- Vol. XVII– South Mountain and Blue Ridge Summit*
- Vol. XVIII– Mechanicsburg and White Rocks*
- Vol. XIX– Williamson and Mason-Dixon (Franklin County)*
- Vol. XX– The West Shore (Harrisburg West, Lemoyne, Steelton)*