

UP THE CREEK



Hacker's Creek Newsletter

December 2016

Christmas brings visions of family gathered around the crackling fire with steaming mugs of hot chocolate, snow falling softly while children glide swiftly over the glistening white land with a new sled, carolers huddled around the garlanded front door, singing timeless Christmas melodies that our ancestors sang, and gifts given out on a brisk December morning while coffee is savored in the background. Do any of these narratives sound like your family home on Christmas? What about your ancestors in America? How did they celebrate Christmas?

To answer these questions, one needs to look at the time period in which one's ancestors moved to the United States and where they lived. The Puritans in the northeastern colonies did not celebrate Christmas. They considered the day to have morphed into a secular celebration, and it fell against their religious beliefs. In the southern colonies, Christmas was celebrated with a feast and a few trinkets for the young. The traditions we currently ascribe to the holiday were not yet American traditions. There were no Christmas trees, holiday cards, or stories of Santa Claus coming down the chimney. It was a simple holiday for friends and family to spend time together.

It was not until the Victorian Era that Christmas truly became the holiday we know and love today. The image of Queen Victoria with her family gathered around an opulent Christmas tree inspired the rest of the world to emulate that scene. It is important to note that the first time Queen Victoria sat for a drawing with her Christmas tree was in 1848, a time that corresponds with Americans purchasing Christmas trees. The year 1843 saw the advent of the Christmas card with Henry Cole commissioning the first one. Soon, families across England and then the world were sending and receiving both purchased and homemade Christmas cards.

Santa Claus became the jolly man in red in 1863 when cartoonist Thomas Nast drew "Old Saint Nick" for Harper's Weekly. Not until 1870, however, was Christmas even declared a federal holiday in the United States.

Perhaps this would be a fun holiday project to do with your children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews. Gather your loved ones around and take a look at how grandparents, great-grandparents, and other family members would have celebrated the day in their respective eras. You might be surprised and find a new tradition to add to your family experience. Above all, **"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"**

Article from "An American Christmas" by Allison DePrey Singleton

"Somethings are loved because they are valuable; others are valuable because they are loved."

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Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Library in Horner, WV

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are some amazing online learning opportunities. The FamilySearch wiki is nothing short of terrific. If you haven't used it, you're not really serious about learning, or about finding all the data possible. There are a number of blogs that easily qualify to be part of one's learning opportunities. Some of the very best are listed below.

- ** Amy Johnson Crow -- AmyJohnsonCrow.com
- ** FamilySearch Blog -- familysearch.org/blog/en/
- ** Judy Russell's Blog -- legalgenealogist.com
- ** Kathleen Brandt's a3Genealogy -- blog.a3genealogy.com
- ** Robera Estes' DNAeXplained -- dna-explained.com

The more we understand about the process of research, the more aware we become of how fragile and impermanent records can be. With that understanding, we can all become better curators of the history in our hands.

Greathouse family links

Here are some links from HCPD Member Rick Greathouse. Rick is the President of Roane County Historical Society located in Spencer, WV. Their website is www.wvroane.org

Have you see our news about Herman Grothaus family residing on Grothaus Haf #2 [farm #2] at Grosdornberg about 5 miles west of Bielefeld, Germany between 1500 and 1709. Herman was heir to the rights to work that Haf or farm when he came to Springfield, Philadelphia County, PA in 1710.

Here is our Springfield, Philadelphia County, PA collection... <http://greathouse.us/archives/usa/pa/philadelphia/springfield.htm>

Bielefeld, Germany today
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bielefeld>

Here is a link to the church Herman Grothaus was baptized and confirmed in.

<http://greathouse.us/archives/deu/st-peters-kirchdornberg.htm>

A "Dilly" of a story

Working at HCPD Library is an incredible delight, meeting people from all over the nation and even serving a man in Manheim Germany! We never know who is going to come through our doors.

One day a girl from Pennsylvania came in by herself with her stuffed bag over her shoulder, I could tell she was one of those serious genealogists.

My usual way of greeting people is to have them sign in and I ask "what name are you here to research", then I proceed to print out all that we have in our data base with that name so they can keep it and call me later if I need to look something up for them.

The lady told me the name she is researching is "Dilly"... I thought, wow, I've never heard anyone from our area with that name. Sure enough we did not have one Dilly in our Library.

The good news is that I did an internet search and immediately found her ancestors all the way back to 1600's Scotland. She was in amazement, I printed it out and she just quietly sat all day studying her new found family.

Later in the day a couple emerged from Patty's office and I asked them if they signed in, "no, we're in here a good bit" and I let it go. Something in me was unsettled and I said: "Oh, just go ahead and sign in anyway, it let's people see that we have folks coming in"...so she bent down to sign and shrieked: **DILLY! I'm a Dilly!** The girl from PA was so happy! The couple was Rick James, caretaker of Peterson Cemetery and his wife who's maiden name is Dilly! What a great day we had!

Please feel free to call me any time you want help researching your family line or email me at: hackerscreek@outlook.com.

Here to serve you!

Jeannine Garton

Lewis researcher shares his findings with HCPD

John Michael Lewis of Clover, South Carolina, contacted HCPD Library back in 2015 very excited about all he learned about his Ancestors and wondering if we had more information to give him.

Michael is a fifth Great Grandson of Major Andrew Lewis, of whom Lewisburg, WV is named. Lewis County WV is named for Charles Lewis, brother of Andrew.

Stories from his Mother about her family, McElwee, from Tyrone Ireland hooked Michael on genealogy as she explained to him they were all patriots! Once he had all that information he started looking for his Lewis line and found they too were from Ireland, Donegal.

What a wonderful discovery! His fifth Great Grandfather was related to and fought with George Washington.

General Andrew Lewis was made famous for two crucial battles. In 1774, Lewis at Point Pleasant commanded a force of western Virginians against the Shawnee and their victory secured the Ohio River frontier from further attack.

In July of 1776 General Lewis fired the first shot himself at Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of Virginia who was occupying Gwyn's Island. They successfully ran the British off and gained possession of the Island where they found the suffering and wounded.

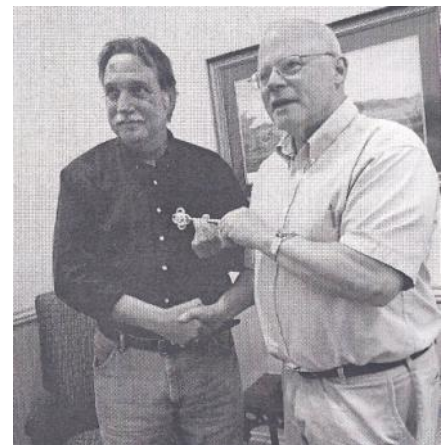


There is a great video that can be seen on You Tube called "*A Point of Controversy*" about the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the leadership of Andrew Lewis.



One of Michael's hobbies is dressing the part of General Lewis and attending historical living exhibits. In September he was in one of his costumes at the Mercer County Heritage Festival as you see pictured.

Michael is pictured receiving the "key to the city" of Lewisburg from the Mayor of Lewisburg on November 12 this year.



Mr. Lewis has donated a copy of his genealogical and historical findings to our HCPD Library, "FA 1160". Send any Lewis people you know to our Library to see if they too are related to such great patriots! It has been a privilege to work with Michael and his work is a great addition to our Library.

Thank you to each person who has contributed your genealogy to make this Library so great. I serve people from all over the country three days a week here, without copies of your work I would not be able to help so many people. If you have not yet entered your family tree, please consider doing so, you never know who you may help!

by Jeannine Garton

Joseph B. Lightburn for President

Very few towns in W.Va. have had a U.S. presidential nominee. The late Joseph B. Lightburn Sr. was that man. He was a candidate on the Constitution party ticket in 1964. He was the grandson of General Lightburn.

The year was 1964. The tiny Constitution Party nominated Joseph B. Lightburn, Sr. for the oval office. The 65 year old owned a general store in the town of Jane Lew, where he had been elected mayor on the Citizens Party Ticket in the 1950's. He did not fare to well as a presidential candidate, receiving only 5,060 votes during the Johnson landslide that year.

I am going to use Mr. Lightburn's obituary to illustrate what info you can find when researching your family tree.

Review of an obituary: Info you can find

- HCPD has copies of obituaries from different local newspapers
- Obituaries tell death date, age, birth date, where died, military history, honors, parents, marriage date/wife name, children and where being buried. Other information can be obtained. All this information can help you in your research.
- Info I obtained from the copy of Joseph Benton Lightburn, Sr. obituary
- **Mr. Lightburn died December 3, 1980 at the age of 81 in the Veteran's Hospital, Clarksburg, WV. He was a WWI veteran. He served 2 terms as mayor of Jane Lew, alternate delegate to the Republican Convention in 1952, received the Republican nomination for Congress in 1954 and was candidate for the United States President on the Constitution Party ticket in 1964. In 1968 he was a Candidate for State Senator. He was born Aug. 29, 1899, son of Luther Grant and Florence Goodlowe Lightburn. He was the grandson of the Civil War General Lightburn. We was married to the former Susan Davisson of Jane Lew. He had 1 son and 2 daughters. (names of children were listed) (names of siblings were listed) Rev. Don Jackson, officiating, Interment/burial in the Broad Run Cemetery.**



Holy Bloopers

The following are bona fide bloopers from church bulletins

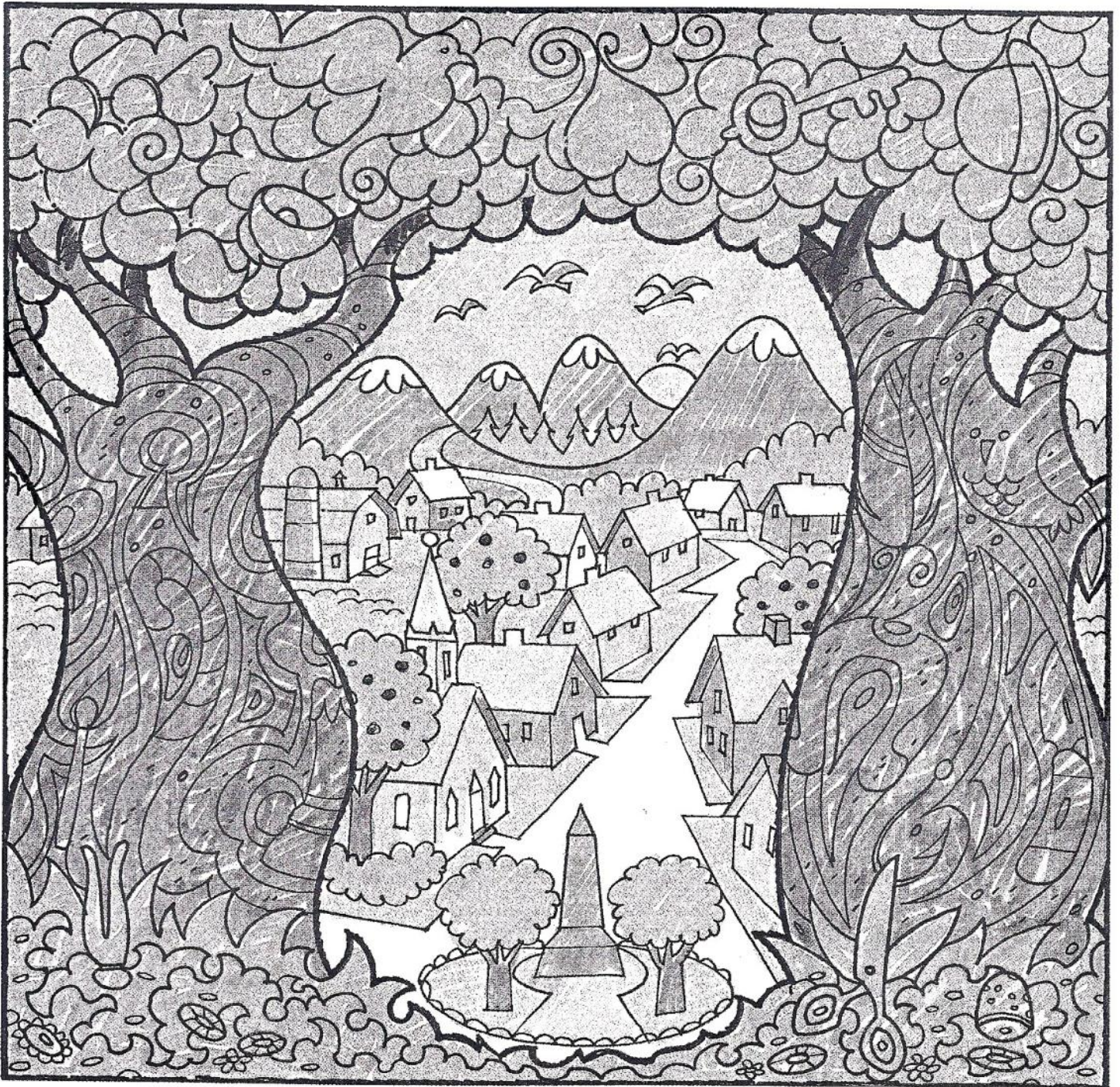
- ◇ The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, and they can be seen in the church basement Friday afternoon.
- ◇ Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on Oct. 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in school days.
- ◇ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ◇ This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Jones to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- ◇ The choir will meet at the Larsen House for fun and sinning.
- ◇ Next Sunday Mrs. Jones will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- ◇ This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

HCPD Mission Statement

The mission of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc. shall be to conserve, preserve, protect, display and make available the history, culture, and artifacts of the Central West Virginia area to anyone interested in their own personal history (and their family history) or the area's culture and history. Adults will be the primary implementers of the historic compilation and the preservation of the history, albeit, a special emphasis shall be placed on youth. Adults shall organize and maintain the Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library and Museum and provide most of the educational programs for various groups, including, but not limited to, students of all ages (from pre-kindergarten through Elderhostel), Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, heritage societies, and community service organizations. Implementation of these goals shall involve community outreach programs and coordination of programs with other organizations of similar purpose, both within and without the State.

(Revised 11-07-09 by action of Board of Directors)

As you complete your planned-giving for the year, please remember HCPD Library. Even the most modest monetary gift bears fruit many times over as we curate and present increasingly larger collection of electronic data and physical resources each year. We will send you a tax deductible letter for your records. Thank You!



These Woods Are Filled with Nostalgia!

Here's a Picture Puzzle for "kids of all ages." Hidden old-time things are in these woods.

There are 18 sentimental items and all are in the trees and foreground grass, none in the village. Pair of old wire glasses; "handlebar" mustache; skeleton key; derby hat; thimble; clothespin; horseshoe; pocketknife; candle; keyhole; owl; feather; bell; fish hook; candy cane; heart; scissors; bird.

List of items that have been donated to library

In the upcoming newsletters we will list our monthly new donations to the library. This time I'm just listing some larger items that have been donated in recent months.

- 100 yr. old Baby Carriage (on loan)
- Large framed children pictures of Ralph Wilbur Hacker and Wenora Pearl Hacker (member donated)
- Sweeney/Smith Funeral Home Records (we are in process of indexing, will be a wealth of info)
- Hand painted art by Virginia Kerr of Randolph County 1st Court House, Battlefield, Old White Church (going to donate to Randolph Historical Society)
- Ladies Mink Coat (told was from Paxton Mink Farm of Lewis County, farm closed in 1960's)
- WV Glass pitchers and glasses, assorted vases
- A member donated at Gathering Time a like new Atlas 600, which is a magnifying reader. (super wonderful to use to read that small print)
- Family Tree of the "Bowman Family" hand painted
- 1921 Sanhorn Map Co. maps of the City of Weston
- Photo album "Allman & Lorentz family"

Here is a link to a free website for searching Revolutionary War Ancestors

<http://valleyforgemusterroll.org>

FYI:

Please remember to renew your membership. Dues are \$40.00 a year. 2017 year was due Oct. 1, 2016. After Dec. 31st, you will not be able to access the website if dues are not paid. Have notice not to many members utilizing the website. Is there information and services you would like to see on the website? Email hcpd@hackerscreek.com with your suggestions.

EVENTS:

Library closed, Dec. 24th-Jan. 2nd, 2017

January: Selling items on EBay (will alert members what's for sale)

Feb. "Souper Bowl" dinner (date ??)

March "Spaghetti Dinner" (date??)

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our library.

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