

# SWATARA FURNACE - EARLY HISTORY



**Bill Grumbine**

Hi, I'm Bill Grumbine Sr, amateur Historian, tour guide from time to time, and was also a full time area resident in the Swatara Furnace/Forge area back in the 1940's, I attended the Outwood country school on two different occasions, then moved on to the Pine Grove High School for a number of years before moving to New Jersey where I graduated. My interest in this small section Southwestern Pine Grove Township goes back many years, even though I am no longer a resident of this area my interest has not lessened in any way.

So, why did I set up this little information blog? Well, not too long ago I had the good fortune of gaining access to Volume # 1 of The Swatara Furnace Ledger Book, this starts in 1830. While I have not had nearly enough time to go through the whole ledger I can see that it is a "Goldmine" as far as genealogical information is concerned, many of the surnames in the book are family names of people who still live in the Pine Grove area, some names are the same as the kids that were at the Outwood School when I was there.

I'm quite old now, this Blogging and Website stuff is new and complicated as far as I am concerned, I will try to do my best to get information and pictures out. To start with I be covering surnames and information concerning the furnace and nearby buildings that were part of the Swatara Furnace Iron Plantation.

The picture below is the full volume #1, at the right is an enlargement, E. & G. No. 1, this stands for Eckert and Guilford, the builders of the furnace in 1830. It seems I have run out of space for this post, more information will follow in a future post.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016**

## **SWATARA FURNACE HISTORY**

This is a test post, my first attempt did not come out too well



Volume # 1, Swatara Furnace Ledger Book  
Starting in 1830

E. & G. stands for Eckert and Guilford, the  
builders of The Swatara Furnace in 1830

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

## Furnace Pictures



This is about what the furnace looks like now, a late 1980's photo by your blogger.



A Williams family box camera snapshot from the 1920's,  
The Stager family home is on the "Furnace Bank"

at the upper left, much more on the three generations  
of the Stager's who lived here later on.

For those who are not familiar with furnace terminology the "Furnace Bank" is a level piece of ground behind, and roughly the same height as the top of the furnace. In this picture the furnace seems to be as tall as the top of the house, this is because of the angle that this picture was taken from; if you walk up the hill today you will see the top of the furnace and the ground level of the furnace bank are almost the same. When the Swatara Furnace was in operation a bridge went from the furnace bank to the top of the furnace, this was where workers crossed to dump loads of charcoal, limestone and ore into the top of the furnace.

It's about time to get this post on the way, I hope to have some Ledger Book information on my next post.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016**

### **Swatara Furnace History**

**Ledger Book post # 1**

It's time now to start adding surnames to our furnace story, many of the names that will follow are common in Pine Grove Township now, just as they were back in 1830. As I said in my introduction I attended both the Outwood Country School and Pine Grove High School, family names of some of my classmates will be turning up in a post a little further down the road.

February 24<sup>th</sup> 1830

1 Buildings	D <sup>r</sup> To Paul Brand				
1 Paul Brand	for work as for Bill		1.25	1	81
1 Wm Graeff	and a for Bill	March 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1830	2.62		
			9.32	12	15
1 Paul Brand	D <sup>r</sup> To Wm Graeff				
1 House Charge	for 2 beds				.90
1 Buildings	for Augers				.70
				1	86

This is the top of the first page of the 1830 ledger book

As you can see the text has not faded in any way, I did have to use Photoshop to improve the contrast a little, as the image from my hand-scanner needed a little help.

I had mentioned before many of the names in the ledger are what one might call names common in Pine Grove Township, they were in 1830, are now and will probably continue to be. However, the first two names in the book are not what I would call "Household" names in this part of Schuylkill County; the names are Paul Brand and Wm. Graeff, these two names keep turning up in page after page. There are several accounting categories listed in this part of the ledger that also keep repeating themselves, **"Buildings and House Charges"**, Brand and Graeff seem to always be connected to the buildings and house charges categories. I had wondered for quite awhile where the builders of the furnace, dam, raceways and all of the support structures lived while the "The Iron Plantation" was being constructed, this was really the boondocks back in 1830; the nearest hotel was probably in Port Mifflin (Now Suedberg), if there was a hotel at the canal port, was it big enough, or reasonable enough to house the construction crew? What I did next was go to the U.S. Federal Census for Pine Grove Township for 1830, typed in **"Brand"**, my answer popped up right away on page 103, **Head of Families - Paul Brand, 1 Male between 5 & 10, 16 Males between 20 & 30, 1 Male between 30 & 40, 2 Females between 5 & 10, 1 Female between 20 & 30, 1 Female between 30 & 40, 1 Female between 40 & 50.** There are 23 people living under one roof, 16 of them males, this is not a three room cottage, it's either a hotel, boarding house or bunkhouse; I'm going to speculate a little, I'm going to say this is some sort of a bunkhouse Eckert and Guilford built at the furnace site for the first batch of workers, furnace engineers, surveyors, water dam builders and some labor's who had worked on furnace projects before. I checked the 1820 Census and did not find Mr Brand listed in the Township; I have not had time yet to research Mr. Graeff.

Next on page 1, Dated Mar. 13, 1830. **Buildings - Martin Felty for 1098 feet Pine c.12, 11.23.**

Other odds and ends from page 1.

Mar 3, 1830, **Wm. Graeff, Buildings, 12.15**

Mar 3, 1830, **Wm. Graeff, House Charge - 2 beds, c 45 - .90**

**Buildings, 4/4 Augers, 2 files - .70**

Mar 10, 1830, To **Paul Barr - Buildings, 12.15**

Mar 10, 1830 **House Charge, J Keesey 3.30**

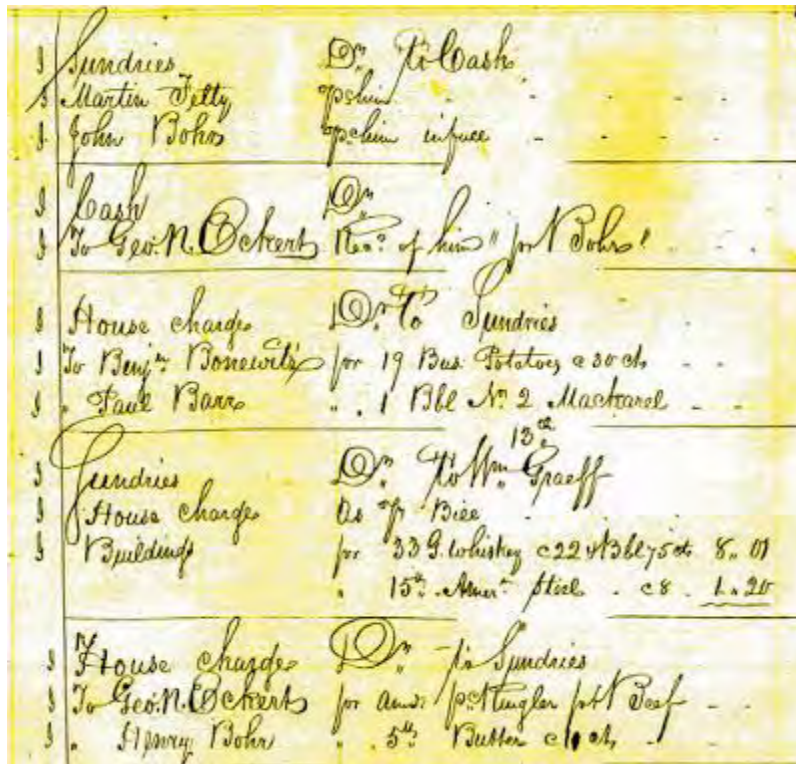
Mar 12, 1830, **Paul Brand, Buildings, 5 gal Whiskey - 1.25, 2 shovels - 1.25 - total of 2.50. also to Paul Brand, same date under House Charge, 3 gal Molasses - 2.95.** It looks like molasses cost three times as much as whiskey .

Note: So far the dollar sign (\$) has not been used, everything just numbers and decimal points, and (c) for cents.

Bloggers Note: One of my best friends at the Outwood and Pine Grove High Schools was Herbert Felty; Herbert was one grade behind me, I was in high school a year before he caught up with me at PG HS. On one occasion we rode our bicycles to school in Pine Grove and then back home to the Outwood area, about a six mile trip one way, we both had heavy frame, balloon tire bikes with no gears, one trip was enough. I visited Herbert and his wife several times before he passed away on April 9, 2014. Herbert told me several years ago that his ancestors had owned a good deal of acreage in the Outwood area back in the 1800's, the Martin Felty listed above might have been one of them.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

LEDGER BOOK POST # 2



Page 3, April 10, 1830

Above is a scan of a small section of page three of the ledger, some of the text is hard to figure out, also the dollar and cents amounts don't seem to add up all the time at the end of each entry. The first entry comes out right though, Martin Felty was paid 50.00 and John Bohr 5.21 for a total of 55.21, this one adds up the way it should. The second entry is for Geo. Eckert, he received 5.21, which was for Bohr in the first entry. It's hard to figure the 3rd entry out. The bottom entry is not much better either, except, for the last line, Henry Bohr was paid .55 for 5 pounds of butter, the .55 was at the far right side of the ledger and does not show up in the above scan; I did not try and scan the full width of the page, this leaves off the total charges for some of the entry's, scanning the full width of the page would have made the above scan too small to easily read.

From here on I am only going scan sections of the Ledger Book that have notable information in them; I will

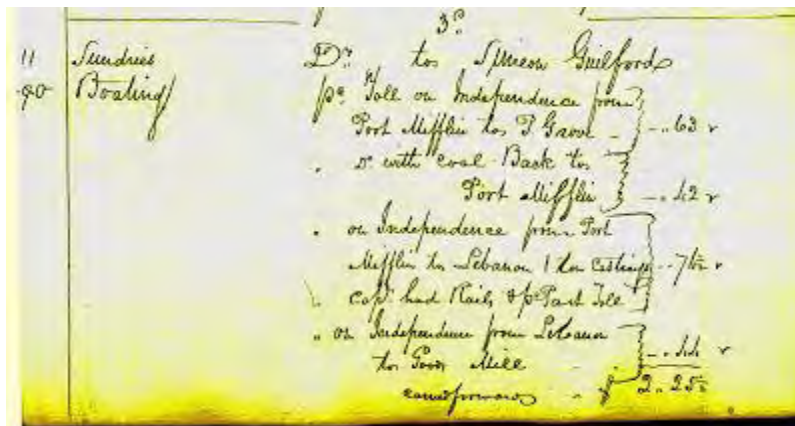
type out the names of people the first time their names appear in the book, also what their names are associated with, example: selling things to the furnace company, working for the company or buying things from the company store when it is up and running. The names, **Paul Brand and Wm. Graeff** appear once or twice on almost every page at the beginning of the book, I think they are in charge of what we now call "Buildings and Grounds, no more of those two for the time being. Maybe at the end of three or four months I will note that Mr Martin Felty sold "X" amount of lumber to the company for "X" dollars, or Mr Henry Bohr sold "X" pounds of butter to the company during the last four months.

Bloggers note: I had mentioned before that I had attended the Outwood Country School and Pine Grove High School on two different occasions; while in 4th grade Carl Bohr was in 6th grade there, Carl was a kind of an "In Charge" guy, he always made sure us little guys got our turn at bat during the noon time baseball games, I think Carl's nickname was "Monkey". I returned to The Outwood School in 1946 to finish out my 6th grade, one of my classmates was Clark Bohr, Molly Bohr was also there, she was a year or two behind me, Molly rode the school bus with me later when we moved on to school in Pine Grove. I think the Bohrs were probably descendants of the 1830's families, don't know for sure though, This is a question for a genealogist.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

**LEDGERPOST #3 AND CANAL BOAT INFORMATION**

---



**Boating entry for Feb 3rd, 1832**

WHEN I FIRST POSTED I NEGLECTED TO MENTION WHY WORK ON THE SWATARA FURNACE IRON PLANTATION WAS NOT STARTED EARLIER IN THE 19TH CENTURY, I ALSO FORGOT THAT SOME READERS OF MY POSTS ARE PROBABLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE EARLY HISTORY OF PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP. BEFORE 1830 THERE WAS NO WAY TO GET IRON ORE AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF LIMESTONE INTO THAT AREA, ALSO NO WAY TO SHIP OUT PRODUCTS FROM THE FURNACE; THIS ALL CHANGED IN 1830 WHEN THE UNION CANAL BRANCH FROM PINE GROVE TO MIDDLETOWN WAS COMPLETED, THE PINE GROVE BRANCH AT MIDDLETOWN CONNECTED WITH THE WEST TO EAST BRANCH OF THE CANAL WHICH HEADED TO READING.

WE WILL NOW TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ABOVE SCAN OF THE LEDGER BOOK THAT IS DATED FEB 3RD, 1832.

IN THE UPPER LEFT WE HAVE "**SUNDRIES**" TO SIMEON GUILFORD, THE LINE BELOW IS "**BOATING**", THIS IS THE ACCOUNT THE CHARGES WERE MADE TO, THE CANAL BOATS NAME WAS THE "**INDEPENDENCE**", THERE ARE A FEW WORDS IN THE ENTRY THAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT.

**TOLL ON INDEPENDENCE FROM PORT MIFFLIN TO P GROVE - 63,  
WITH COAL BACK TO PORT MIFFLIN - 42**

INDEPENDENCE FROM PORT MIFFLIN TO LEBANON 1 TON CASTINGS, CAPT HAD RAILS ??? TOLL - 7 1/12

INDEPENDENCE FROM LEBANON TO GOOR MILL

CARRIED FORWARD 2,, 25 1/2

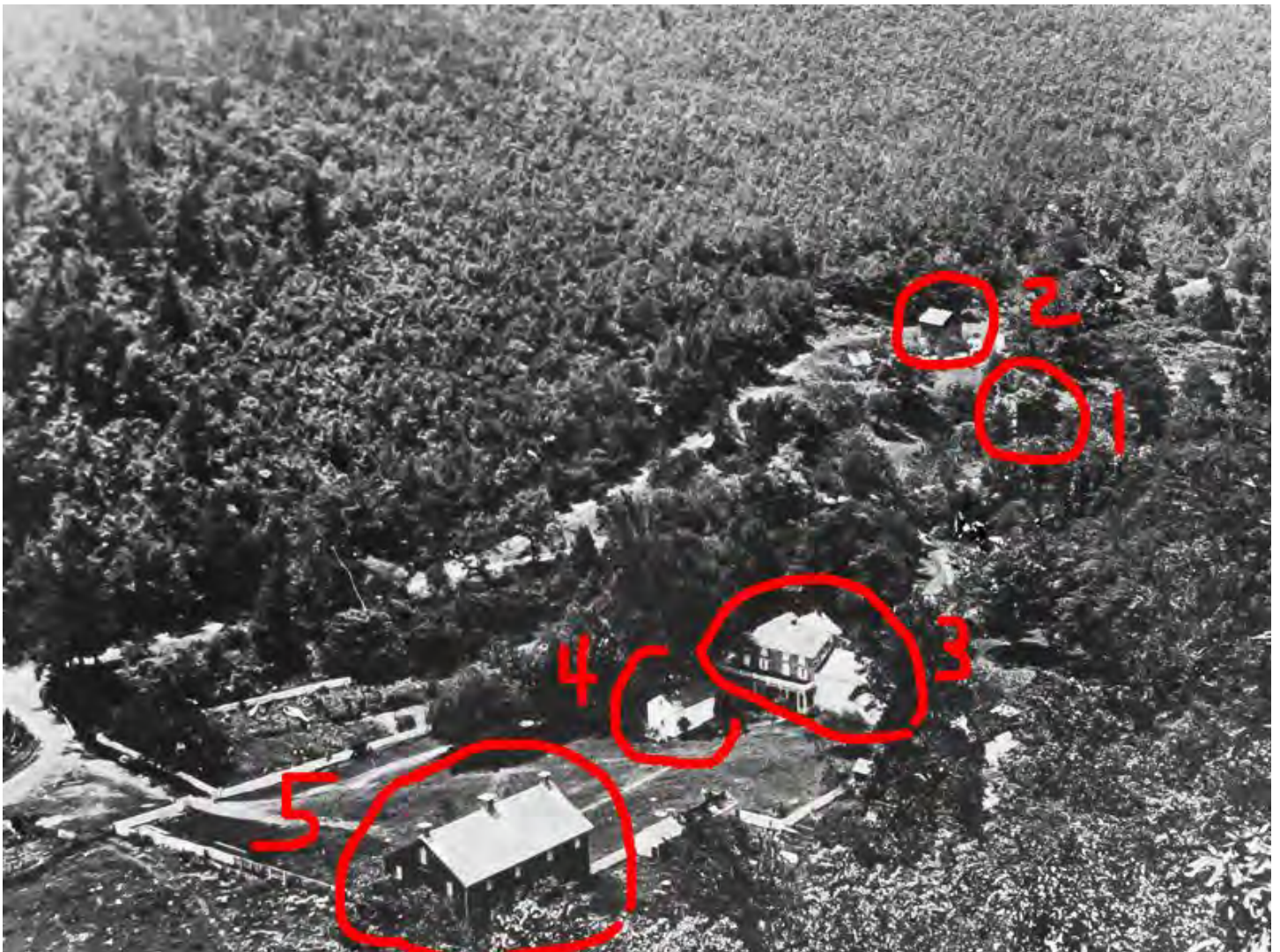
THE ABOVE FIGURES DON'T ADD UP, MAYBE SOME VIEWER OF THIS POST MIGHT HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE IN 200 YEAR HANDWRITING, IF SO PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I WILL BE POSTING MORE ON CANAL DATA IN THE FUTURE, THERE ARE NAMES OF CANAL BOATS, NAMES OF THEIR CAPTAINS, WHAT THEY HAULED AND WHERE THEY CAME FROM, AND WHERE THEY WENT TO.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016

**Swatara Furnace History**

Mountiantop View of the Furnace, Big house,

and other buildings



The above picture was given to the Williams and Grumbine families by Miss Margaret A. Boyer, she said she didn't know who took the picture, but it had been in her family as long as she could remember, she did not know when it was taken or by what photographer. This is a section that I cropped out of the original picture, this would have been taken from the top of the mountain by a professional photographer, probably with a 8 X 10 or 5 X 7 glass plate camera, it was not taken with with an amateur box camera. To identify the structures I added the red circles and numbers via Photoshop.

1. Swatara Furnace
2. The Stager Family Home
3. "The Big House" (Ironmaster's Mansion)
4. The Furnace Company Store
5. The Carriage Barn

I will again speculate a little. I believe the picture might have been taken to use as a selling advertisement when the Eckert family put the property up for sale in the 1880's, or perhaps taken at the request of Mahlon H. Boyer after he purchased the property.

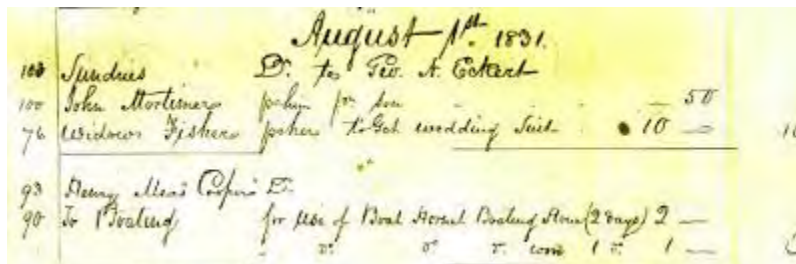
Mr Boyer bought the property form the Eckert family on December 3rd 1889. The purchase date along with much more information is on page number 487, Deed Book number 306 at the Schuylkill County, PA Court House in Pottsville, PA

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016**

**Correction-Union Canal**

**Also New Scan From The Ledger**

I have a correction to make on my March first post. One of my followers pointed out that the Pine Grove branch of the canal connected to the main canal at the Water Works (a little West of Lebanon) and not at Middletown as I had written in my post; my follower was 100% correct. (I went to Google). Anyone reading my posts should feel free to advise me on mistakes they feel I have made, also comment on what I have written. From now on I will keep both my feet and hands out of the Union Canal and it's lore; I have not really done any research on the canal. I will continue to post scans and ledger information, along with comments concerning boating information from the Furnace ledger.



**Ledger entry Aug 1, 1831**



In the above scan we have "Sundries" and "Boating" information. I have figured out what some of the old script means, the "P" with what looks like "c" following it means paid, in the upper entry Geo N. Eckert paid John Mortimer, (p him) .50 for Son (or Sou), just below that the Widow Fisher, (p her) was paid 10 in the dollar section to get a wedding suit, 10 dollars was big money back then. The money total works out though, at the far right of the ledger, (not shown in the above scan) the total for the two charges was 10.50. At the bottom of the scan, 93 and 90 we have Boating charges, Henry Meas "Cooper", was paid a total of 3 dollars for use of Boat Hornet Boating ??? (2 Days) 2\_\_ which came to the 3.00 in the far right charge section. It looks like Meas was paid 1 dollar for wood?

The name "Meas" turns up quite a few times in the ledger. I wonder if this name is really Meese or something similar which sounds the same as Meas. When time permits I will check the 1830 and 1840 Census for the Township and see what I can come up with.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

**Ledger Post # 5**  
**Strange Ledger Entry**



**1828 information listed on page 210 of the 1832 ledger**

I called the above scan a strange ledger entry because it appears on page 210, Feb 4th, 1832 in the ledger, the information concerns payments for work done in 1828. So, what's going on? I don't have any idea. This is three to four years after the work was done, I can't imagine anyone waiting this long to be paid. Perhaps Eckert and Guilford weren't using ledger or account books at that time and just put their figures down on individual sheets of paper, then decided to write them down in the big book at the above time. This does show that George Eckert was in the area and working before the Pine Grove branch of the Union Canal was completed. George N. Eckert moved to Pine Grove in 1826 to practice medicine and look after his Father Peter's coal mining interests in the area, maybe Guilford was not even involved at this time.

Some of the above scan is hard to figure out, the figures on a couple of lines are right on the money though. Sam Bowman was paid 63.28 for sinking a 113 foot shaft at .56 a foot, he was also boarded for 27 days at .25 a day for a total of 6.75; he also put away 9 quarts of whiskey, sinking shafts is thirsty work; near the bottom of the scan a D. Greenawalt is mentioned in connection with 2 shovels.

I'm beginning to think the above entry might be connected with Eckert's Father's mining business and has nothing to do with the Swatara Furnace.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016

**LEDGER POST # 6**

**Another Pre 1830 Ledger Entry**

**Also Fishing/Mill Creek**

Item	Amount	Balance
Expenses taking up rods	5.75	13.47
Threlkeman for 1200 26 July	60.76	
By Stein - Hauling	5.00	
Geo Bonewits - Carpenter work	30.00	
do do	30.00	
Paul Brand for Board 76	16.92	
John Beasly for Hauling	10.00	
Wm Graeff Board 76	61.68	
do do	9.75	
Stein's share	5.25	
Angel Bonewits for 9 Board	38.92	
do do in full	38.18	
Israel Capt. to Wm. Henselhof	1.50	
do do less to do	1.00	
Fishes for 14 days work	2.25	
By Israel Capt. to Wm. Henselhof	2.00	
John Henry 10 1/2 days work	5.25	
Coin for	510.25	965.16

Apr. 1st 1829 {

Apr. 15th 1829

1829 entry added to the bottom of page 212 of the Feb 8th 1832 ledger page

In the above scan we have two entries from 1829, one is dated Apr. 1st, 1829 and the other Apr. 15th, 1829; the most important one is the one dated Apr. 1st; in the fine print, just to the right of the keyboard symbol, " {" we have "Apr. 1st 1829. For house at Fishing Creek". You will have to tap the scan to enlarge it for best viewing. Back in the 1800's the creek was called "Fishing Creek", now days it is called "Mill Creek". I don't know when the name was changed from Fishing Creek to Mill Creek; someone could find out the approximate date by looking at various copies of the printed topographical maps printed by the Federal Government.

The above scan shows that Geo. Eckert had a crew working back at the future Swatara Furnace site before the Union Canal was up and running. Two of our friends from the 1830 Ledger Book are there and working, Paul Brand and Wm. Graeff. Geo. Bonewits was paid 60 dollars for carpenter work, a Stein was paid 5 dollars for hauling and it looks like an Angel Bonewits was paid 38.92 for something.

We now have more questions than answers, where on Fishing Creek was the house, there is no mention of masonry work, only carpentry work, "The Big House", (Ironmaster's Mansion) was mostly all stone. I have a feeling they first built a wooden house, maybe at the site of the future "Big House", a wooden house would go up much faster than a stone house. Perhaps there will be some answers as I get further into the ledger.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016**

**LEDGER POST # 6-A**

**Fishing/Mill Creek**

***Creek Photographs***

I wanted to include the photos below with my last post but did not have them prepared at the time. Mill Creek does not now look anything like it did before the 1946/48 City of Lebanon Water Supply Dam was built. Most people born after 1950 have no idea what this beautiful trout stream used to look like. I think there is some law on the books that says a water supply company can't completely cut all of the water off from a stream and let it dry up below the dam breast. I guess the same amount of water still comes down the creek below the second 1990's dam as did when the 1946/48 dam was built. The pictures below are only a fraction of the photos that are available of the creek.



Local boys enjoying the Mill Creek swimming hole just below "The Big House", middle 1936 photo by A.W. Grumbine



1947 Photo by A.W. Grumbine. This Winter view looking down the creek. The red circle, # 1 is where the same three rocks that are shown in the photo below set. The mid 1940's Lebanon Water Supply Dam was under construction at this time, however, the water was not restricted when this photo was taken. You can barely see "The Big House" through the trees, red # 2.



1930's Photo, looking up the creek, by A.W. Grumbine. The flat rock with the two rocks leaning on it, (red circle, # 1) are directly in line between The log cabin and the Swatara Furnace stack; # 2, is the grass area just up from the cabin.



A 1920's Box camera photo from the W.T. Williams collection. The water is a little higher than normal in this photo

A few words now about the swimming hole dam, picture at the top. From my Uncle Bill Williams's 1932 diary, May 28th: "Up at 7:30, Built Dam, 31 in party, Water 6 ft, a great success, ate in Dell".

George Boyer supplied all of the materials for the dam, log to be laid across the creek, lumber to be cut and nailed to the log, etc. The dam project was the idea of Philo Castle Dix; Mr Dix was the State of Pennsylvania's WMCA Secretary; his office and home were in Harrisburg, however, he also rented the smaller stone house (part of the original Swatara Furnace Plantations structures) from 1928 until 1947; Mr Dix and his family spent most of their summers, weekends and vacation time at the stone house on the road to Outwood.

The reason for building the dam was this: every Summer Mr Dix organized camping trips for YMCA boys, also Boy Scouts, from Eastern PA; these boys camped in an area between the Highbridge and the Swatara Furnace stack, the problem was that there was no area deep enough to swim in.

The dam builders were, some of the local kids, including my Uncles Bill and Lloyd Williams, the Stager boys and a group of WMCA boys who were camping at the time.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

**LEDGER POST # 7**  
**Furnace Area Construction Work**  
**Some Doctor Work**

3 Buildings	D.		
3 Dr. E. W. Fare	D.	for Excavating Head Race	
		1359 (Boyer & Mack)	190.26
		Shovel Pit 360 " c18	65.34
		Tail Race 120 " c14	19.60
		Foundry for Furnace 133 " c18	23.94
		Dr. Coal House 144 " c18	25.92
		Miller & Leprain 192 " c18	34.56
		Embarkment 813 " c20	168.60
		Loose Rock 60 " c20	12.80
		Solids Dr 25 1/2 " c60	15.30
		Digging Coal House	1.50
		Grubbing	35.00
		88 1/2 days work in Larry	83.50
3 Dr. E. W. Fare	D.		
3 Dr. Smith	D.	for work	
3 Martin Gilly	D.	for sundries	
3 Buildings	D.	for an Over of 4 1/2 ft 12 rows c12	1.35
3 Dr. E. W. Fare	D.	Medical Attendance	
		Cash	50.00

**Scan-Page 42, Nov 8, 1830**

There is a lot of good information in the above scan, there are three sections to the scan, the most important being the top and bottom ones. The total charges for the top section was \$676.32, this was really big money for that time period. It looks like the people who did this work were a E & W Fare, (The name might be "Fehr" instead of Fare) back in those days people doing the writing sometimes didn't bother to ask how a name was spelled, they wrote it down the way it sounded to them, I'll have to look it up in the Census when I have time. I am going to write down some of the lines from the top part of the scan because they might be hard to read even when you enlarge the scan.

**"For Excavating Head Race" \$190.26.** The last time I visited the head race site it was still in pretty good

shape.

**"Wheel Pit", \$65.34.** This is the water wheel pit, it's also still in good shape.

**"Tail Race, \$19.60".** I'm not sure what the "Tail Race" is; when I have time I will contact the NPS people at The Hopewell Furnace to get an answer; I think the Tail Race might have been the section that ran from the water wheel pit and into the creek.

**"Foundation for Furnace, \$23.94".**

**" Foundation Coal House, \$25.92".** Coal House means Charcoal House, the Charcoal House was located on the Furnace Bank. Back in the late 1980's Lloyd Stager showed me the exact location of the Coal House, if you dig down a little bit through the dirt you will find some charcoal.

**"Cellar Drain, \$34.56".** Have no idea what that was.

**"Embankment, \$168.60".** This refers to the Furnace Bank, this is the flat area directly behind the top of the Furnace Stack, this is where the charcoal, limestone and ore were stored, a bridge from the bank to the top of the furnace stack enabled the work crew to dump charcoal, limestone and iron ore into the furnace. The excavators had to dig away a good portion of the mountain side to set up the Furnace Bank.

**"Loop Rock, \$12.80, and Solid Rock, \$15.30".** I have no idea what these mean.

**"Digging holes for Coal House, \$1.50".** See Foundation Coal House above.

**"Grubbing, \$35.00".** ???

**"88 1/2 Days work in Quarry, \$83.50".** Stone Quarry ???, maybe this was where they got the stones for the Furnace Stack.

Lets jump down now to the third line in the bottom section of the scan.

**"To G. N. Eckert, Medical Attendance, \$3.00".**

As most of you know by now George Eckert was a Medical Doctor, I can't imagine Eckert charging one of his workers for medical services, perhaps this was for some local non furnace worker that needed medical attention.

**Comments: Dave Ravegum** March 25, 2016 at 9:10 PM

The tail race is the course the water takes after it leaves the water wheel on its return to Fishing Creek. The stone lined pipe leading from the water wheel to the creek is still intact and runs under the access road to the dam. It water course beyond the road has been covered over with soil.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016

**Ledger Post # 8**  
**Surnames**

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1830

1	Sundries	Dr. To Bohr			
2	Martin Felty	for 50 lbs butter	50	00	
3	John Bohr	for 5 lbs butter	5	21	57 21
4	Bohr	Dr.			
5	To Geo. N. Roberts	for 10 lbs of butter			5 21
6	House charge	Dr. To Sundries			
7	To Benj. Bonewitz	for 19 Bus Potatoes @ 30 cts	5	70	
8	Paul Barr	for 1 Bbl No 2 Mackerel	7	25	12 95
9	Sundries	Dr. To Wm. Green			
10	House charge	for 5 lbs butter	6	25	
11	Buildings	for 339 lbs butter @ 22 cts @ 15 cts @ 8. 11			
12		for 15 lbs butter @ 1.25	9	21	15 46
13	House charge	Dr. To Sundries			
14	To Geo. N. Roberts	for 10 lbs butter	6	25	
15	Henry Bohr	for 5 lbs butter		50	6 75
16	Buildings	Dr.			
17	To Martin Felty	for 50 lbs butter @ 1.25	6	25	

**Top of Page 3, 10 April, 1830**

I am going to start from the beginning of the ledger and list surnames as they appear on the pages, I won't keep repeating the same surnames over and over in the typed out names below; some of the names show up two or three times on the same page, if there is something I feel is significant connected with a name I will list it again; I won't be able to scan full pages at all, it's too time consuming, the scan in this post is only about 1/4 of the full page. I'm going to include at least one scan from each page with each post. I am also starting to use dollar "\$" and cents "." keys in my posts, they didn't use these in the ledger book, there are two columns at the far right of each page which I haven't included in most of the scans, if I tried to include the full width of the page in the scan the scan picture would be too small to be correctly viewed

Surnames on about half of Page 3

**Paid Martin Felty \$50.00**

**Paid John Bohr \$5.21**

**To Benj Bonewitz for 19 Bus potatoes c .30 \$5.70**

**To Paul Barr for 1 Bbl No 2 Mackerel \$7.25**

**To Henry Bohr for 5 lbs butter c .11 .55**

**George Reed, pd him \$10.76**

I don't know whose spelling is worse, mine or their's. Miss Greenawalt, my English Teacher at the Pine grove High School would not be happy with either of us.

**Ledger Post # 9**  
**Surnames**

Sundries	D <sup>r</sup> to Geo N. DeLoach		
House charge	for am <sup>t</sup> of 1100 <sup>th</sup> & 1/2 bushels of corn	2.12 1/2	
Team charge	11th Bus corn cost pd by Geo N. DeLoach	6.18 3/4	
Washing	for Drago's entry	28	
Cash	Rec <sup>d</sup> for Day - Geo Reed	210	220 67
Ditto	Rec <sup>d</sup> of him		
Cash	To Simon Guilford Rec <sup>d</sup> of him		
Sundries	D <sup>r</sup> to Geo N. DeLoach		
Mich. Roland	pd him	100	
Jon Meas	pd him	7	
Eleandria Crawford	pd him	2.75	
Sam Trump	pd him	20	

**Bottom of Page 3, 10 & 17 April, 1830**

**Surnames from the above scan**

John Zimmerman supplied 16 1/2 Bus corn at .37 1/2 per bushel; this came under Team Charges. George Reed received money for something.

Bottom 3rd of Page 3, 17 April, under "Sundries"

**Mich Roland, pd him, \$100.00, Cash**  
**Jon Meas, pd him, \$7.00, Cash**  
**Eleandria Crawford, pd him, \$2.75, Cash**  
**Sam Trump, pd him, \$20.00, Cash**

Some interesting names above, notice the last name, we now have a Mr. Trump on our surname list, I can't find anything to say what the last four were paid for, we probably need some sort of an Investigation Committee to sort this out. Also the spelling on three of the above is questionable; I put down "Roland", maybe it's "Noland", then there is the first name of Crawford, who knows what that might be. Then there is "Jon Meas", I checked the 1830, Pine Grove Township Federal Census, there is a John Mease and Johathan Mease on Page 103; "Meas" turns up many times in the ledger I think the proper spelling is "Mease".

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

Ledger Post # 10  
Surnames

April 28<sup>th</sup> 1830

Edward & Wm. Fare	D <sup>r</sup>		
To Smith Shop	for 1 New Pick		\$
Sundries	D <sup>r</sup> to cash		
Buildings	for Pickhandles	2	—
John Meas	pd him	—	16
House charge	D <sup>r</sup>		
To Dumb Wonder	for 1 lb Beef @ 12 <sup>cts</sup>	6	69 <sup>cts</sup>
	50 <sup>cts</sup> Yellow @ 2 <sup>cts</sup>	—	10
Buildings	D <sup>r</sup>		
To Wm. Gaff	as off bill dated 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr. last		
Jacob Happle	D <sup>r</sup>		
To Paul Brand	for Groceries for 1 <sup>st</sup> plan		
Sundries	D <sup>r</sup> for Simon Guilford		
Michael Uhler	for cash	10	—
David Tillman	"	5	—
Fred. Sharp	"	5	—
Jacob Simpson	"	—	50

Top of Page 5, 28 April, 1830

Something other than Eckert and Guilford purchasing building materials and foodstuffs has finally happened at the furnace site; the second most important operation other than the furnace itself is now up and running, this is the "Blacksmith Shop", the entry is at the top of page 5, 28 April 1830. **Edward & Wm Fare, Dn To Smith Shop for 1 New Pick \$1.50.** (the \$1.50 is not shown on the above scan, also the "\$" sign was used for the first time in the ledger). Go back to my Post # 7, 8 Nov, 1830; this was for excavation work done by the **Fare's** - It looks like the scribbling of their first names on that post were "**E & Wm.**", This comes out as **Edward & Wm.** on the 28 April scan. I'm pretty sure now these were the contractors **E&G** hired to do the heavy digging work.

Now, back to the Blacksmith Shop, at this period in time no industrial project back in the middle of nowhere could survive without a Blacksmith. The Blacksmith, (maybe more than one) and his helpers made tools, shoes for horses, mules and oxen, tires for wooden wheeled wagons and carts, door hinges, cooking utensils, - this list could go on for pages.

Drop down now to the second section at the top: **Sundries Dn to cash, Buildings,** looks like **pd for Pickhandles \$2.00. John Meas, pd him, .16.**

I'm beginning to believe "**Dn**" might mean "Drawn", unless somebody haws a better explanation.

Third section down - **House Charge**, whoever is doing the bookkeeping is starting something that is plain nasty. at this time a Mr. **Wonder** is starting to supply E& G with meat. I went to the Pine Grove Twp Census for 1830, Page 103, and found only one **Wonder** listed, his first name was **Peter**. Mr Wonder supplies the Furnace site with meat for month after month. The nasty part comes in when the bookkeeper enters the name "**Dumb Wonder**" every time a purchase of meat is made; I guess our bookkeeper just didn't like Mr Wonder.

Other new surnames at the top of page 5

Jacob Hipple  
Michael Uhler, for cash \$10.00  
Dave Kelker, for cash \$5.00  
Fred R Harp, for cash \$5.00  
Jacob Simpson, for cash .50

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

**Ledger Post # 10-A**  
**Blacksmith Shop and older Bridge**



**1947 color transparency by A. W. Grumbine**

The above picture is similar to the black and white photo I used in Ledger Post # 6-A. The Swatara Furnace Blacksmith Shop was located on the opposite side of Fishing Creek from the furnace. The shop, ( # 1 in the red rectangle), was built in the area between the creek and the present day road, ( # 3, red semi-circle), that leads from the Cabin to the West end of The Big House. I first heard about the Blacksmith Shop back in the summer of 1946 or 1947; My Mother, Ruth (Williams) Grumbine and my Grandmother, Georgia, (Britton) Williams were getting ready to cook our evening meal, it happened that they were two or three eggs short of what the recipe called for, we usually bought our eggs by the dozen from Austin Stager and his wife who lived in the Western most house up in Outwood, Austin and his wife had a large chicken house and sold eggs to many of the area

residents, so, it looked like I was going to have to walk the mile to Outwood for eggs, however, Stell Stager, (Sister-in-law of Austin Stager) our neighbor who lived with her family in the home directly behind the furnace stack was down at the Big House helping to do some housework for my Grandmother, Stell said she could spare several eggs so that we wouldn't have to go to Outwood before supper. Stell and I then headed for her home, we went on the road that led from The Big House to the cabin, as soon as we got into the wooded section of the the road Stell told me there used to be a big Blacksmith Shop between the road and the creek, well, me being a very young teenager at the time was not interested in blacksmith shops, forges or furnaces, I guess I just said " huh huh" or something like that, end of conversation; at that time in my life my main interests were baseball, basketball and riding my bicycle to Outwood to visit my friends. When Stell and I got to the Cabin we "jumped the rocks" to cross the creek and go up the path to the Stager home. The reason I remember this incident so clearly is because Mrs Stager gave me a lecture on getting the eggs safely back to my Grandmother and Mother, Stell said, "Don't jump the rocks with these eggs, take them back by the road and over the wooden bridge and up into the yard, if you break them you will have to go to Outwood for eggs as I don't have any more to spare".

The second time I was told about the location of the Blacksmith Shop was in August of 1990, my Dad and I made an appointment with Lloyd Stager, (One of Bob and Stell Stagers Sons) for a tour of the Swatara Furnace/Forge area to get information on what he knew about where things, buildings etc were; the Stager home itself had been torn down by the Lebanon Water Company in the late 1970's or early 80's. We met Lloyd at the Furnace stack, he showed us many things in the area (too many to go into now), one of the first things he mentioned was the Blacksmith Shop, he pointed across the creek and said, "The Blacksmith Shop was in those woods, about a hundred feet South of the cabin".

This is getting a little long now, I better get to # 2, the red line at the right of the picture; there was a bridge here at one time, a road led from the present day road circle at the rear of the Big House, over the bridge, then came out about fifty feet South of the furnace stack; the foundations for this bridge were still visible during the 1940's and 1950's; I think several hurricanes and the creek dredging did away with the foundations altogether.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016

Ledger Post # 11

Surnames also Blacksmithing

Description	Debit	Credit	Total
John Meas To House charge	for 2 Pair Pantaloon		1 32
Building To Paul Repairs	for 2 shovels	.87 1/2	1 72 1/2
Edward & Wm. Fare To Smith Shop	for 2 new Picks	3.00	
	steeling Picks	.50	
	1 Pair Pick	.37 1/2	3 87 1/2
Michael Noland	for steeling 4 Picks	1.00	
	"	.50	
	3 Pansons	1 68 1/2	5 51 1/2
Jacob Simpson Jacob Huppel Lawrence Shouiper	for " " " "	5.00 7.00 .50	6 50
House charge To Mary Porter Dumb & Wonder	for 1 1/2 Pansons 209 3/4 Beef	.66 4 3/4	10 58
Jacob Simpson Peter Millage Peter Weil	for " " " "	20.00 9 90	29 90

Bottom of Page 5, April 28 & 30, 1830

Yep, we are still on page 5, there are some interesting Black Smithing details I want my readers to understand. if you enlarge the scan picture you will see that the earth digging contractors "**Edward and Wm. Fare**" purchased 2 new picks from the Blacksmith Shop for \$3.00, what is interesting is on the next line down; there you will see that the Fare's paid .50 (cents) for "**Steeling Pick**". I can't tell if they only had one pick steeled, or both of them, it doesn't seem reasonable that since they were in the excavating business that they would have had only one pick steeled. What **Steeling** means is that a thin strip of steel was welded onto the end, or ends of a pick to make it last longer; this Steeling procedure was also used on shovels, axes and the bottoms of Farmers plows. At this time in the 1800's steel making was still in it's infancy, it was hard to make and therefore expensive. There is something else interesting in that same section, a Mr. **Michael Noland** paid \$1.00 to have one pick steeled, that's twice what the Fare's paid to have their steeling done, maybe since the Fare's were major contractors on the job they got a discount at the Blacksmith Shop. We will probably have a lot more information concerning the Blacksmith Shop as we get further into the ledger.

The amount of beef being purchased is going up, E & G bought 209 lbs of beef from Mr. Wonder; 4 3/4 cents a pound, must be more people working at the site now. In the top box, under House charge, John Meas bought "**2 Pair Pantaloon \$1.32**".

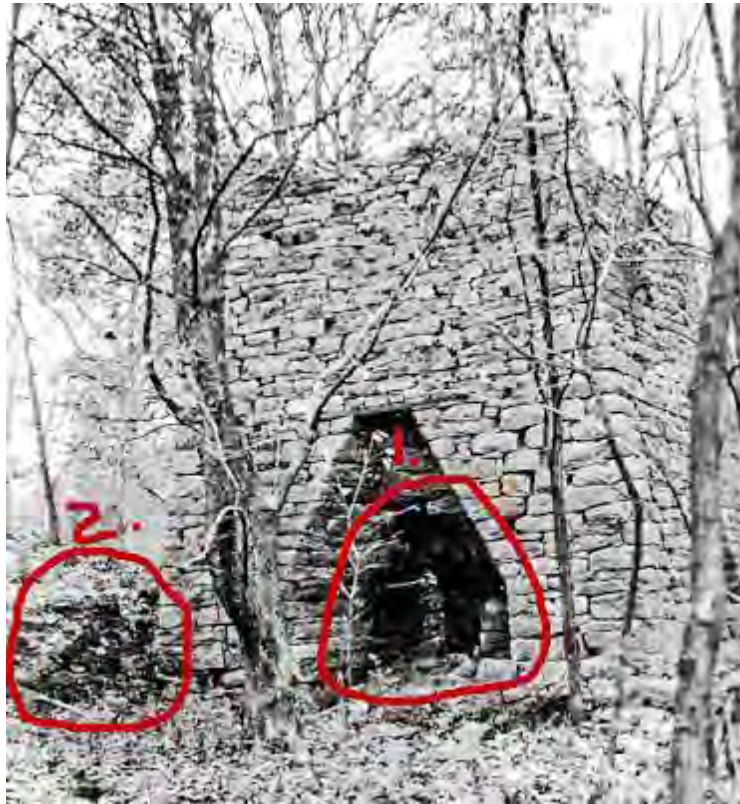
New Surnames - Bottom of Page 5

- Michael Noland
- Laurence Shouiper, ???
- Peter Millage
- Peter Weil

Hopefully some of surnames will turn up again later on in the ledger and be a little easier to read.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

Swatara Furnace Post # 12  
Furnace Preservation and Repair



1923 Photo by A. W. Grumbine

We are going to skip the ledger book for this post and jump forward ninety three years to 1923, the above picture was taken and dated by my Dad, Arthur W. Grumbine. This is the side of the furnace that faces down the road towards the Outwood Lutheran Church. Number 1. is what is called "**The Cast Arch**", the cast arch is where the molten iron and slag flow out of the furnace "**Crucible**" and into the "**Cast House**", the cast house was a large wooden covered shed where "**Pig Iron**", **Stove parts and other utensils**" were cast. The area that is circled, number 2., was a base stone wall for the cast house, parts of this stone wall were still visible when work started in 1946 on the first City of Lebanon Water Supply Dam at Highbridge. The pipeline from Highbridge to Lebanon went directly behind the furnace stack; if you look at the back wall of the furnace stack you will see some sagging in the stone work, this sagging was caused by some settling of dirt over the pipeline. The pipeline was originally set to go right under the furnace stack; it was only because of the outcry of Township and County people that saved the furnace. I myself, watched them dig most of the the pipeline from Highbridge to just the other side of the small white house below the bridge for the road that led into The Big House and up to Outwood, at this time I was a student in seventh and eighth at the Pine Grove School.



The above picture is an enlargement of the picture at the start of this post. For some reason parts of the inner cast arch had started crumble, so, some time in the late 1920's, or 1930's Mr. George Boyer hired a stone mason to do some repair work, I was also told by my family, and the Stager family that Mr Boyer had gotten Boy Scouts, with the help of Mr. Dix to clear away small trees and brush away from the grounds and top of the furnace stack. Time for the next picture.





I took the above picture of the cast arch on Feb. 1st 1987, this was long after Mr. Boyer's stone mason had repaired the early 1900's damage. My last visit to the furnace was in September 2014 with my Son and Granddaughter, the Cast Arch stonework should still look pretty good unless someone has damaged it.



I took the above picture in 2009; it appears that the front side of the stack is starting to bulge out, the cast arch looks like it is still stable; however, something is going to have to be done to keep stones from falling out, once one or two fall out it might fall like dominoes, would be very hard and costly to put back together.

Fortunately there is some help on the way, a group of area residents has gotten together to take down three trees that are a danger to the stack, remove the small trees and other growths from the top of the stack, clean up the area surrounding the stack and water wheel pit and tail race, and fence in the water wheel pit so nobody falls into it. Much of the work is being done by volunteers, one grant has been secured to help start the work, however, heavy equipment, and operators will be needed to complete the first phase of the work, so, donations will be gladly accepted; later on engineers will be contacted to find out the best way to stabilize the stack itself, this will be a big and long project.

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

Swatara Furnace Post # 13

Ledger Post

The image shows a handwritten ledger page with three distinct sections. Each section begins with a 'D.' (Debit) entry. The first section is headed 'D. To Martin Felty' and includes entries for 'Sundries', 'Sundries' (with a sub-entry 'for 22 1/2 ft Boards etc'), and 'House charge' (with a sub-entry '60 Boards etc'). The second section is headed 'D. To Cash' and includes entries for 'Peter Keyser', 'John Meas', 'Fred Keyser', and 'Jacob Simpson'. The third section is headed 'D. To Sundries' and includes entries for 'House charge' (with a sub-entry 'for 6 1/2 Boards etc') and 'To Geo Ringler' (with a sub-entry '30 1/2 Beef etc').

Section	Item	Description	Amount
Section 1	Sundries	D. To Martin Felty	
	Sundries	for 22 1/2 ft Boards etc	27 00
		155	1 24
Section 2	Sundries	D. To Cash	
	Peter Keyser	for 1/2	5 75
	John Meas	for 1/2	25
	Fred Keyser	for 1/2	1 25
Section 3	Sundries	D. To Sundries	
	House charge	for 6 1/2 Boards etc	66
	To Geo Ringler	30 1/2 Beef etc	13 00

The above scan - 1 May, 1830 Page 6, Top

The above scan is missing the first text block on the page. There are two surnames in that block that I don't believe I have posted before.

**Fred Brenner, Pd Him \$20.00**  
**Peter Sellers, Pd Him .50**

No mention was made of what these two men were paid for. You can see in the first text block that Martin Felty is still supplying Eckert and Guilford with lumber. There is one new name in the second text block that I don't believe I have posted before.

**Peter Keysler, Pd Him in full - \$5.75**

The last name at the bottom of the upper scan is also new to the ledger, a second supplier of beef.

**Geo Ringler, Looks like 30 lbs of Beef delivered.**

3	House charge	D <sup>r</sup> for sundries	
3	To Amy Boho	for 6 <sup>th</sup> Pouches etc.	11
3	To Geo. Rindlers	30 <sup>th</sup> Prof. acct. det <sup>d</sup>	13 1/2
3	Treat <sup>d</sup> Dinner	D <sup>r</sup>	
3	To Wash	for	
3	Isaac Simpson	D <sup>r</sup>	
3	To House charge	for provisions	
3	Wash	D <sup>r</sup>	
3	To Geo. N. Eckert	Rec <sup>d</sup> of him in Simpson	
3	Buildings	D <sup>r</sup> for sundries	
3	To John Sponcake	for 13 days work c 50 ct	6 50
3	To Geo. Sponcake	for 11 days work c 40 ct	5 60
3	John Sponcake	D <sup>r</sup>	
3	To Smith's Shop	for Steeling in case	
3	Geo. Sponcake	D <sup>r</sup>	
3	To Geo. N. Eckert	for cash	

**The above scan - 1 May, 1830 Page 6, Bottom**

The above scan contains the bottom section of the first scan at the top of this post, sorry about that. The first four text blocks in the above scan contain surnames that are continuously repeated; however, the bottom three blocks have a new surname, "**Sponcake**", maybe this is a misspelling of Spancake ??.

**"To John Sponcake for 13 days work c 50 ct \$6.50"**  
**To Geo. Sponcake for ?? days work c 40 ct \$5.60**

The \$6.50 and \$5.60 total \$12.10, which is correctly shown on the far right of the ledger, (not shown on the above scan), John and Geo. Sponcakes names are repeated again in the last two text blocks at the bottom of page 6.

Ledger Post

7  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 1830

Dr	Andrew	D. Tolbacht		
1	John Spruance	John		4 25
1	Geo Spruance	Geo		60
Dr	Coash	D.		
1	To Geo M. Coakut	Recd of Geo		
Dr	Andrew	D. Tolbacht		
1	Geo Spruance	John		1 31/2
1	John Tischer	Geo		5
1	Geo Stippel	Geo		50
1	Mich Yergers	Geo		2
Dr	Andrew	D. Tolbacht		
1	Buildings	for 2000 shingles @ 6.00	10	
		100 <sup>th</sup> shingles	7	20
1	Horse charge	1/2 day; March 25 <sup>th</sup>		2 10
1	Swabcharge	1 Dune Paper		25
Dr	Geo Stippel	D.		
1	To horse charge	for 19 <sup>th</sup> March @ 3		

The above scan - Page 7, Top, May 1830, 6th, 8th and 10th.

It looks like there are only two new surnames in the top section of page seven. we have a "John Richer and Mich Yerger". Two of my classmates at the Outwood School were Alma and Mark Yerger, maybe the same family? who knows?

I'm planning to set up some kind surname index here at home so I don't post surnames as being new when I have said they were new several posts back, there may be a few that slip through at times though, however, I will repeat surnames when they are connected with something I feel is a little out of the ordinary day to day activities.

Dr	To House charge	for 29 <sup>th</sup> Flour c 3		
				11 <sup>th</sup>
Dr	To Catherine Wolf	B. John		
Dr	To cash	John		
Dr	To Building	D. To Sundries		
Dr	To Mich Shucker	for 200 lbs Lard 250c	66	
Dr	To Martin Kelly	68 <sup>th</sup> for W.P. Rogers, Dec 7 8.20		
		1 New Tin	50	8 70
Dr	To House charge	D. To Sundries		
Dr	To Paul Roberts	for 1/2 case molasses		50
		3 <sup>rd</sup> coffee		56 <sup>th</sup>
Dr	To Amy Robt	3 <sup>rd</sup> Butter 12 <sup>th</sup>		55
Dr	To Sundries	D. To Smith Shop		
Dr	To Amy Robt	for sharpening 2. shovels & fitting		18 <sup>th</sup>
Dr	To Valentin Hall	fitting 3 Horse shoes		18 <sup>th</sup>
Dr	To Building	D. To Sundries		
Dr	To Westlock	for 1200 lb Flour 1000 c 8	9 60	
Dr	To Wm Power	620 W.P. 12 <sup>th</sup> 120	8 17 <sup>th</sup>	
		531 W.P. 7. 60	3 45	11 62 <sup>th</sup>
Dr	To Edward W. Tail	D.		
Dr	To Smith Shop	for 1 New axe		

The above scan - Page 7 Bottom, May 1830, 11th, 12th and 13th.

The new surnames at the bottom half of page seven are as follows:

**Catherine Wolf, Mich Shucker and Wm Power**

Ledger Post

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1830.

5	Geo Zimmerman	D <sup>r</sup>				
5	to Cash	for			5 --	
2	Wm Tower	for	on acct		10 --	
3	Geo Walter	for		110 <sup>5</sup>	5 --	
3	John Stahl	for			10 --	
3	Wm Tower	for			20 --	
3	Wm Tower	for			5 --	
3	Hugh Reenan	for	on acct		2 50	
3	James Riley	for			2 50	60 --
<hr/>						
2	John Mess	D <sup>r</sup>				
3	to Paul Grand	for	Order for a few shovels			15 --
<hr/>						
3	House charge	D <sup>r</sup>	to Landis			
3	to Dumb & Wonder	for	180 <sup>5</sup> Beef		3 55	
3	Val Stahl		15 <sup>5</sup> Butter @ 11 <sup>5</sup> 1/2	1.65		
			6 @ 10 <sup>5</sup> oil	.60		
			1 doz Eggs	.10		
			9 lbs milk	.27	2 62	11 --
<hr/>						
3	Landis	D <sup>r</sup>	for Cash			
3	Val Stahl	for	on acct		3 --	
3	Wm Tower	for	on acct		2 --	
3	Wm Tower	for			14 32	19 32

The above scan - Page 8, top, May 13th 1830,

There are some new surnames in the top block for May 13th, a couple of them are hard to make out though.

**Wm Tower** (maybe Wm Power) from an earlier post.

**Geo Walter**

**John Cetner Sei - ???**

**Hugh Reenan**

**James Riley**

In the third block down we have "Dumb Wonder" selling beef again and "Valentine Stahl" supplying butter, eggs and milk.

1	Buildings	D. To Sundries	
2	To Henry Felty	for 4 days work	2 --
3	to Jacob Wolf	179 Bushels Coal @ 8 ct.	14 32
1	Sundries	D. To Smith's Shop	
1	Edward M. Fare	for packing 2 tons of fish	57 1/2
	Mooney	for packing & Bids	60
		19 <sup>th</sup>	
1	Buildings	D. To Sundries	
1	To Hugh Keenan	for 11 1/2 days work @ 50 ct.	5 75
1	James Riley	11 1/2 "	5 75
1	Sundries	D. To Cash	
1	Hugh Keenan	for his wages	3 25
1	James Riley	do "	3 25
		19 <sup>th</sup>	
1	House charge	D.	
1	To Amy Rich	for 8 <sup>th</sup> Bids	11
1	Team charge	D.	
1	To W. Graff	for 20 Bushels Ry @ 58 ct.	

The above scan - Page 8, bottom, May 13th, 18th and 19th, 1830

No new surnames on the bottom of page 8. There are some interesting figures though: In the top block Jacob Wolf was paid \$14.32 for 179 bushels of coal, (8 cents a bushel). Also, the labor rate was 50 cents a day, Henry Felty, paid \$2.00 for four days work, both James Riley and Hugh Keenan, (third block down) were paid \$5.75 for 11 1/2 days work at 50 cents a day.

Once again, for any new followers, click on the scans, or tap your tablet or phone to enlarge the scan picture, also go to the "Blog Archive" on the right side of the post to view earlier posts.

Ledger Post

1	Spencer	D. To Cash	
3	John Mass	John	1
3	Peter Wile	his wages	3
		20 <sup>th</sup>	
1	Smith Shop	D.	
3	To Peter Wile	for 5 day Blacksmith	
1	Cash	D.	
3	To Geo. N. Eckert	his	
1	House charge	D.	
3	To W. Graff	for 1 sack Melops	250 ct
1	Spencer	D. To Cash	
1	David Melkos	John	1
1	Mich. Shucker	his	1
		Net	
1	Buildings	D.	
3	To Mich. Shucker	for 150 Bush Lime	22 <sup>ct</sup>
		33 ct	
1	Saorl Dipples	D.	
3	To House charge	for 1/2 ton	1
1	Spencer	D. To Cash	
3	Mich. Shucker	John in pass	10

The above scan - Page 9, top, May 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd 1830

New Surnames on the top part of page 9

Peter Wile and Mich Shucker

It looks like we might have a Blacksmith or a Blacksmith's helpers name now. "To Peter Wile for 5 day Blacksmith", Now, Wiles was paid only \$3.00 for five days work, that is only 60 cents a day, one would think a Blacksmith would get more than 60 cents a day, perhaps Mr. Wile was a "Helper" or doing something else at the shop. Next we have Mich Shucker, he was paid \$49.50 (not shown on scan) for 150 bushels of lime, that was 33 cents a bushel.



1	Spindles	D: for bush		
1	Sticks Shanters	for in pair	10	
1	Arthur Kelly	bu	12 1/2	10 1/2
1	Spindles	D: for Mr. Graeff		
1	Building	for a Spindles	2 75	
1	House charge	and as for bu	13 86 1/2	16 1/2
1	House charge	D:		
1	To John Rich	for 6 <sup>th</sup> Water + 110 <sup>th</sup>		
1	Mr. Graeff	D:		
1	To House charge	for 5 Plates + 100 <sup>th</sup>	2 6 1/4	
		1 Tumbler	12 1/2	
1	John Meas	D:		
1	To Mr. Graeff	for Order		2
1	John Ketner Junr	D:		
1	To Cash	for 1/2 p G. & Eckert's		3
1	Building	D:		
1	To Geo. J. Eckert	for ord for Sheaffer for 14 1/2 days work	11 60	
		D: 13 1/2 days - 14 1/2 D: -	11 60	23

**The above scan - Page 9, bottom, May 22nd 1830**

Four new Surnames on the bottom of page 9

**Arthur Kelly, John Ketner, a Sheaffer** and the last name at the bottom of the page which I can't figure out.

Kelley was paid 12 1/2 cents for something, it looks like John Kentner paid Guildford and Eckert \$3.00 for something. At the bottom of the page we have two Stonemasons, **Mr. Sheaffer** and **B???**, \$11.60 each for 14 1/2 days work at 80 cents a day.

**FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016**

**Swatara Furnace - Page 11**

Before I post today's scan I have a couple of comments to make: First, scanning every page is a little more time consuming than I first thought (what with the necessary scanning and Photo Shopping I have to do), than I have time for, At the rate I am going I will be somewhere between 150 and 200 years old before I finish the job, I don't think that is going to work out too well for me or anyone-else who is following my posts. There are so many duplication's of Surnames on every page, and pages that follow, (so far anyway), so, I am only going to scan, (most of the time) a page or parts of pages when I figure there is something significant, or new, or historically different. I will continue to check each page for new Surnames and post them. At some time in the future, when I am done with the Ledger, people who are interested will be able to view it for themselves at The Historical Society.

**There is no Scan of Page 10**

There are three new Surnames on page 10, all of the other Surnames on page 10 have been posted earlier; there is nothing on the page that says what these three individuals were paid for.

**Minnich, Christian - Pd \$10.00 cash**  
**Felty, Arthur - Pd \$25.00**  
**Richer, John - Pd \$15.00**

The three above all got pretty good bundles of money when you figure most payments for work were less than a dollar a day, maybe later in the Ledger we will find out what type of work they did, or what type of food or materials they supplied. There have been members of the Felty family mentioned in earlier posts, this is the first "Arthur Felty" I have seen.

**Ledger Post**

1	Yrs. Miss	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1830	1 27 1/2	2
1	Buildings	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	To Mr. Graeff	for 30 lbs Whisky 1830 year		8
1	Ed of Mr. Earl	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	To Smiths Shop	for Stealing Tools, unaccounted for 11/27 Nov 1830	68 1/2 75	1
1	Wash	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	To Geo. Martin	for amt of cash borrowed of him		1
1	Buildings	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	To Philip Reed	for 100 lbs Iron Bars (May 25 <sup>th</sup> 1830)	8	
1	Adam Raudenbush	for 50 lbs Bar iron c 550	48 12 1/2	56
1	House charge	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	To Mary Cook	for 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1830		
1	Buildings	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	House charge	for amt of iron nails 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	15 7/2	
1	Iron charge	Wagon Iron	70	16
1	Buildings	D <sup>r</sup>		
1	Philip Reed	for 10 lbs Iron (May 25 <sup>th</sup> 1830)	5	
1	Philip Reed	for amt		
1	Philip Reed	for amt	6 1/2	5

**The above scan - Page 11, center, May 31st 1830**

New Surnames on the above scan.

**Martin, Geo, Pd for amt of cash borrowed of him - \$1.50.**

**Raudenbush, Adam - Bar iron c 550 48.12 1/2.**

**Sheaffer, John - for 11 1/2 days work, c .50 - \$5.75.**

The "Bar iron" supplied by Mr **Raudenbush** was the product of someones Forge; it would have gone to the Furnace Blacksmith shop to make horseshoes, tools etc. The **John Sheaffer** above is probably the same **Sheaffer** that was listed page 9 of a previous post, his first name was not listed on that page.

Ledger Post

Dr	Logan	Dr		
To	House charge	for	1 Tin Bucket	70
			1 Frying Pan	87 1/2
			9/2 lbs of Pork with	59
			6 1/2 lbs Beef	39
Dr	House charge	Dr		
To	Bel. Stahl	for	8 1/2 lbs Butter	011
Dr	Ed. & W. Bart	Dr		
To	Buildings	for	2 lbs Whiskey @ 6 1/2	
			3 1/2	
Dr	Dennis McCauley	Dr		
To	Cash	for	work	
Dr	Sundries	Dr	for	store
To	Arthur Kelly	for	1 plug tobacco	03
To	Peter Sellers	for	1 "	03
Dr	Buildings	Dr		
To	Thadus Thompson	for	15 1/2 day work @ 50 ct.	
Dr	Thadus Thompson	Dr		
To	Cash	for	work	

The above scan - Page 12 Center, June 1st, 1830

New Surnames on the center section of page 12.

**Dav, (or Dan) Logan**  
**Dennis McCauley**  
**Thadus Thompson**

There are only three new Surnames on page 12. Mr Thompson was paid \$7.75 (the \$7.75 was shown at the far right of the Ledger page and not scanned) for 15 1/2 days work, @ 50 cents a day. Nothing said on the Ledger page as to what Mr McCauley was paid for or how much he was paid. Lastly there is Mr Logan, his transaction was "To House charge for one Tin Bucket, .50, one Frying Pan, .87 1/2, and a small amount of Pork and Beef that totaled .99.

Now, if you remember, I said in my last post I was not going to scan any Ledger pages, or sections of pages, that did not have anything new or historically different on them; well, I don't know if any of my viewers picked up what was listed for the first time in the above scan; look at the fifth full box down from the top of the scan, there you will see the names, **Arthur Kelly and Peter Sellers**, these two names are not new, they were noted in earlier posts, what is new is at the top of that box, next to Sundries, "**Dn To Store**", The Swatara Furnace Store is now up and doing business. Both Kelly and Sellers purchased a plug of tobacco from the Company Store at the whopping cost of three cents each. I kinda believe that the Company Store was doing some business a little earlier than has been noted in the Ledger; look at the first box on the scan, I feel that Mr Logan did not sell the above items to the Furnace Company, I think he purchased the four items instead. I doubt that the Company would have purchased 99 cents worth of meat from Mr Logan when they were now purchasing large amounts of meat and fish from Mr Wonder and others.

There will be much more in future posts concerning the Company Store and the people who were buying things there. Remember the lines from the old song? "I Owe My Soul To The Company Store"

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016

**Swatara Furnace Sketch**



**A Late 1800's Sketch of The Swatara Furnace Stack and the Stager Home behind it. - Thanks to Dave Kreichbaum.**

Way back in 1990 I was doing research on the Swatara Furnace/Forge area; at that time I contacted Lloyd Stager, a long time family friend of ours and made an appointment with Lloyd to take us (my Dad Arthur and I) on a tour of the Furnace/Forge area; Lloyd pointed out many interesting things to us, locations where many of the now gone Furnace/Forge buildings had been located, Lloyd, along with a number of his Brothers and Sisters, were born and raised in the wooden home right behind the Furnace stack. Lloyd also showed us the foundation remains of the home where his Mothers family, (the Rager family) had lived back in the 1800's. In a later post I will go into more detail concerning the Stager family, who was born where, when etc. This

information was supplied to me by Mae "Stager" Ditzler, another close friend of ours. Anyway, when we had finished our tour Lloyd asked us if we had talked to Dave Kreichbaum about the area. I had talked to Dave a few years earlier, Dave gave me some information at the time, most of it I already knew though. My Dad said, "It wouldn't hurt to check in with Dave again" so on our way out we stopped at Dave's home which was not too far from the Outwood Lutheran Church.

Dave told us a story about what happened to his Grandfather some time back in the 1800's, Dave's Grandfather, a teenager at the time was fishing at one of the Furnace/Forge dams, a big storm came up, Dave said his Grandfather took off for home as fast as he could go so as not to get soaking wet; unfortunately he left his fishing rod on the dam breast, when he went back the next day to get his rod he found that the fishing rod, along with a small section of the dam breast had washed down stream, he never found his rod.

We were getting ready to leave Dave's when he said, "Oh, I do have something you might like to look at", Dave came back with the above framed Furnace sketch, he said it had been passed down through his family, he didn't know who the artist was, or when the sketch was done. We asked if we could photograph it, Dave said "sure", so, I took the above picture. Dave knew both my Dad and I were photographers, he said if we had time would we make a copy for the Pine Grove Historical Society, (they have a copy), he also said it would be nice if both the Lebanon and Schuylkill County Historical Societies got copies when we had time to make them, we also got permission to use the photo in any newspaper or magazine article as long as we mentioned who was the owner of the original sketch. Dave was afraid of what might happen to the original sketch when he passed on; he said this was the earliest representation of the furnace he had ever seen, and copies would insure that the furnace in this state would be made available to interested people at a later date.

Now, at the lower left of the sketch, "**Old charcoal Furnace Ellwood, Schuylkill Co Penna**" **RKB**.

Does anybody know who the artist "RKB" might be? Maybe a lady artist using the "K" middle initial for her maiden name of **Kreichbaum** ???

Now some technical stuff , the wooden shed at the right contains the "**Twenty-two foot Water Wheel**", "**two Blowing Tubs**" , "**One Receiving Tub**", plus whatever other machinery that was not mentioned in the deed; "**Eckert to Boyer**." The stone foundations to the left of the "**Cast Arch**" are all that was left of the "**Cast House**" at the time **RKB** did the sketch.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016

Swatara Furnace - Page 13,14,15 and 16, June 1830

Ledger Post

June 20 <sup>th</sup> 1830				
1	Lundin	D. To high		
1	Swatara	pd Expense to Swatara	1.60	1.66
1	John Kauf	for		10.50
1	Burkhalter	for		10.00
1	Leicht. Uhler	for		20.00
1	David Melker	for		20.00
1	John Nicksa	for		10.00
1	Thos. Barman	for		5.00
1	Edmund McConley	for		1.50
1	Jacob Simpson	for	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00
			21 <sup>st</sup>	
1	Geo. Volter	for		
1	To Store	for Tobacco		
1	John Meas	for		
1	To Paul Brand	for Order		
1	Lundin	D. for Smith Shop		
1	Levi Felty	for work		.08
1	Ed. Everhart	for shoes		.58

The above scan - Page 16, Top, June 20th, 1830

I did not scan pages 13, 14 or 15; there was nothing new on these pages concerning the Furnace project; there were five new surnames though, which I will list later in this post.

I think the scan above shows us something new though, (page 16 top). Go back and look at my post from March 1st 2016, in that post I jumped ahead to Feb 3rd, 1832 and supplied canal and canal boat information. Now look closely at the above scan, if I am correct it looks like this is the first mention of the "Canal" in the "Ledger Book". The ledger entries are quite small and not too clear. I try to translate as follows:

???Charge pd Expense to Pine Grove 06 1/4 cents. Next line down: pd Shown to Canal, 1.60. Then below are the names of eight men, seven of the eight are surnames that have appeared in earlier posts, the one new name is "Tho Barman". A number of these men were paid large sums of money, I think most of them were unskilled laborers which only got wages of 50 cents a day, (earlier posts), at 50 cents a day one would have to work 40 days to make \$20.00. So, whats going on here? Did Eckert and Guilford "Farm Out" some of their employees to work on the canal? Maybe some of our followers who are interested in Union Canal stuff can figure out what was going on.

Now I will list the other new surnames from pages 13, 14 and 15.

Page 13, June 8, 1830  
Levi or Leon Felty, - 5 bundles of straw c \$1.05 - \$5.25  
also on June 8, 1830 - John Everhart - order for shoes - \$1.50

Page 14, June 12, 1830  
Daniel Strupenhauer - 30 cents to Smith Shop. Also on page 14, David Sellers, June 14, 1830, - .03 cents to Store, 1 plug of Tobacco.

**Page 15, June 15, 1830  
Leonard Felty - .08 cents for Blacksmith**

Now, the above "Leonard Felty" might be the same fellow as the "Levi or Leon Felty above on Page 13, June 8th; this a good genealogical question for any present day Felty family members who might be following these posts.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016**

**Swatara Furnace Area History**

**The Furnace Company Store**

**Some Williams Family History**



**The Swatara Furnace/Forge "Big House", Company Store and Carriage Barn**

We will start this post with the Furnace/Forge Company Store. Go back to my post: "Saturday, March 5, 2016", The Mountaintop view of the Furnace/Forge complex. You can see the whole area in this photo. I have enlarged the above section of the Mountaintop picture as much as I can, further enlargement destroys the sharpness of the small section of the big picture. Number 1, big red circle, is the Company Store, I will explain what is in the small red circle, Number 2 later on in this post, I just found what is inside the small red circle several weeks ago when I enlarged the above picture even larger than what is posted above. The "Store" is showing up more and more as I get further and further into the Ledger, I have found some pages that are "**Store**" purchases from nearly top to bottom of a page.

Before we continue with the "Store" I need to furnish some of my Williams family information. My Grandparents, William Thomas and Georgia (Britton) Williams were living in Lebanon, on 111 High St., where Grandpa Williams was a "Roller" at a local Iron and Steel Company; they lived in Lebanon with their five children, Ruth, (my Mother to be), Helen, Lloyd, and the twins, Dorothy, and Aaron (Bill). Both Grandpa and Grandmother loved to fish. Sometime early in 1921 they were told about an excellent fishing stream just North of Suedberg. As soon as the 1921 fishing season opened they took the train from Lebanon to Suedberg and went up Mill Creek to a spot called the "Deep Hole", from there they fished down the stream to a wooden bridge that crossed the creek. I have heard the following story told to friends by my Grandmother more times than I can count, there were a few variations in the tale from time to time, but, the ending was always the same.

"After we finished our fishing for the day we spied a large stone house and barn through the trees on the other side of the creek, we crossed the bridge and went into the yard of the house, the place looked abandoned, the grass in the yard was knee high, we walked up to the house and found there was at least one resident in the place, a cow walked out of what turned out to be the kitchen, that kitchen door was hanging on by only one hinge. At this time we walked back to Suedberg and caught the train back to Lebanon."

Sometime between the opening of the 1921 fishing season and June of 1921 my Grandparents decided to rent the Big House for the Summer of 1921, they wanted to spend their weekends and vacation time there to fish and get away from the heat and noise of Lebanon. Things did not work out the way they planned though. The four months rental of The Big House turned into forty years and three months, we had to vacate the place as of November 1961

This is turning into a two part post. Part two will have more about The Company Store, a little more family history and my finding out about The "**Store**"



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

**Swatara Furnace Area History**

**Williams Family History - Part Two**

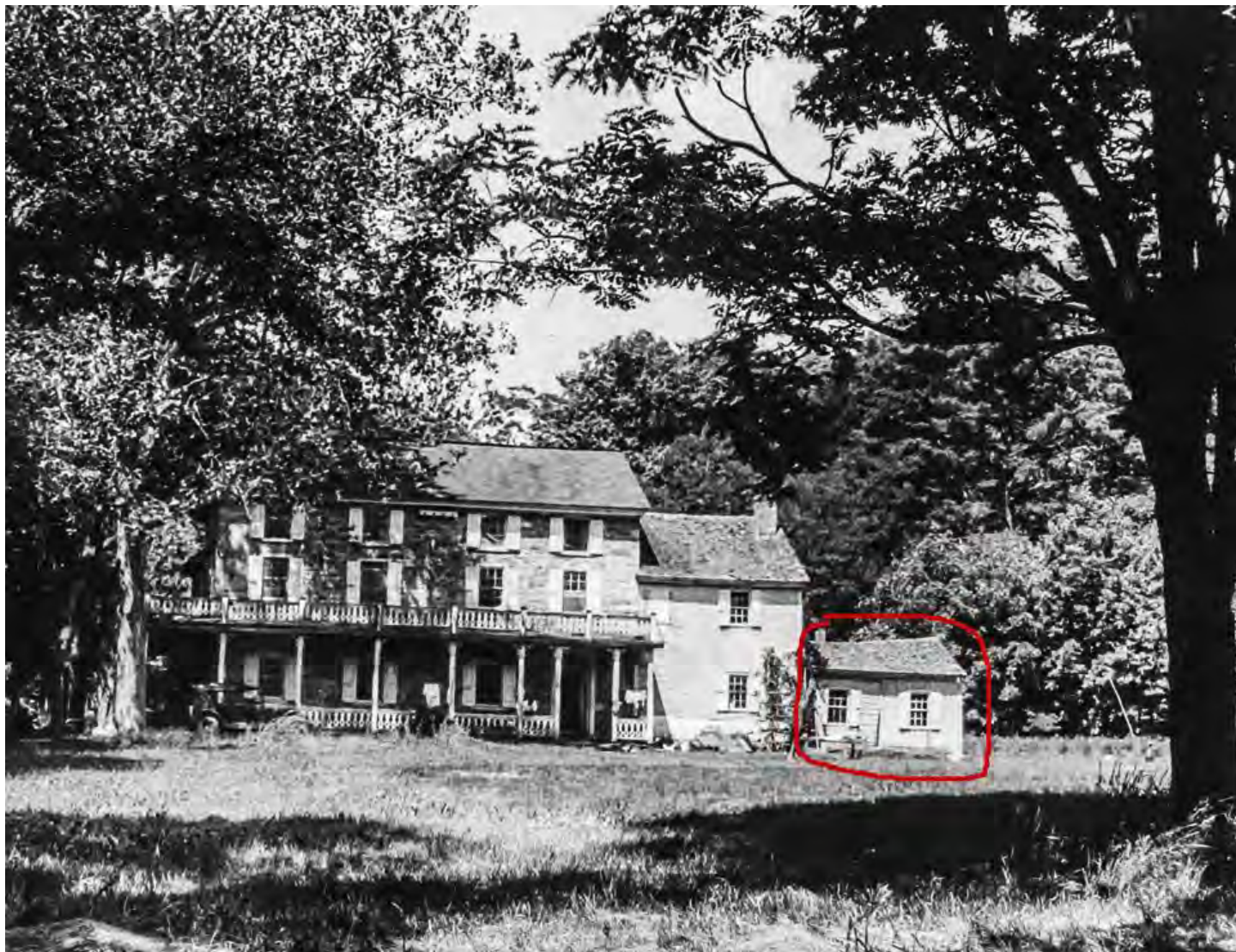
**The Furnace Company Store - Part Two**



**The above photo from the Williams family collection, taken sometime between June 1921 and 1925.**

It looks like the above photograph was taken with a low resolution box camera, there was no date on the back of the picture, however, there are some important structures that show up in the picture: Number one, inside the red circle, is the one story frame kitchen mentioned in the Eckert to Boyer deed, number two, also circled in red is the stone smokehouse with a small wooden shed with an angled roof (small red circle inside the number

two, large circle), The stone smokehouse is also listed in the above deed. The wooden shed attached to the smokehouse was still being used as a tool, wood and coal house when we were forced to vacate the Big House in November 1961, Miss Margaret A. Boyer had her coal supply stored in this shed. Number three, (red circle) is what we called "The Spring House", the far end of this building, towards the mountain had a depression filled with water that was filled by a number of springs further up the mountainside, we stored our coal supply in the dry and higher end of this wooden building.



**The above picture was taken by my Dad, Arthur W. Grumbine**

As you can see the above was taken by a higher quality camera than the first picture in this post. My Dad had the date, 1923 on the back of his enlargement; he told me the one story kitchen was removed about 1925 by George Boyer, Dad also said there were very rusty plumbing fixtures in this old "Out, Back, or "Summer Kitchen", there was also a big tin bathtub and other rusty plumbing fixtures in other rooms in the main part of the house when my Grandparents first rented it; water for the house and the circular fountain in the front yard had been supplied at one time by the Furnace/Forge dams up near the Highbridge; these dams had washed out by the time Grandparents rented the house in 1921.

I don't want to bore my followers, but, I do have a number of present day family members and friends who are interested in what went on after 1921 in The Big House area.

So, here we go; to start with, the seven members of the Williams family never did all live together at The Big House. In June of 1921 ;six of the seven family members lived in their rented house on High St in Lebanon, at this time, the seventh member of the family, my Aunt Helen Williams was in Nursing School in Philadelphia; she, and my Mother to be, Ruth, and their Brother Lloyd had already graduated from High School in Lebanon; the twins. Dorothy and her Brother, Aaron "Bill" Williams were in the sixth grade in Lebanon; Ruth had already taken secretarial courses at a business school in Lebanon, she had a secretaries job in Lebanon. Lloyd was working as a "Roller" with his Father at Lebanon Iron and Steel works.

I have over sixty family diaries from 1898 to 1977, as one would expect some years are missing. I don't know what happened during the late Summer of 1921; for some reason the house in Lebanon was given up; The Big House at Swatara Furnace/Forge was now the Williams family's main home. My Grandmother, Georgia, told another story that I heard many times over, she said when Helen came from Nursing School in Philadelphia to visit, and saw the Big House for the first time she "exploded", Aunt Helen said: **"You gave up our modern house in Lebanon for this!"** The Williams family home in Lebanon had electricity, telephone, indoor plumbing with a bathroom with tub and toilet, and central heat from a large coal furnace in the basement. The Big House at the Furnace/Forge had none of the above.

Unfortunately there are no diaries from 1921, 1922 or 23, (1924 and 1925 were the first diaries after the move was made. My Uncle Bill Williams started to keep a diary in 1926; in this diary was a slip of paper dated, Nov, 26 1921.

**"Got 1 pair of shoes Saturday Nov 26, 1921 - Price \$1.98, they are Mule hide shoes, I am in 7th grade, Outwood school, Bheney is the school teacher."**

The above tells me they had made the move permanent from Lebanon sometime between June and November of 1921; Uncle Bill failed to mention that his twin Sister Dorothy was also enrolled at the Outwood School. I have a picture from the Pine Grove paper showing Uncle Bill and Aunt Dot in a group picture at the Outwood School, Uncle Bill's longtime friend, John Thompson from Suedberg was also in that picture.



**Undated Williams family snapshot taken in the yard between the Big House and the Carriage Barn**

This photo probably taken late 1920's or early 1930's. at the far left is the "three hole" stone outhouse, this outhouse was still in operation at one of the Pine Grove Historical Society's Lawn Parties in the early 1990's; the stone structure to the right of the outhouse is what was left of the " Smokehouse", (see thee picture at the top of this post). No names on the picture at all, I know who three people are though: standing, at the far right, My Uncle Lloyd Williams, standing, center, my Mother to be, Ruth (Williams) Grumbine, Standing, far left, Dr Lombard from Lebanon, Dr and Mrs Lombard were close friends of the Williams family, Dr Lombard was also the Williams family dentist; I never met the Lombard's, but recognized them from other pictures that had their names written on the picture backs . I don't know who any of the other people in the picture were, probably all from Lebanon.

I am not done yet with Furnace Company Store, or my family history, these will both show up in a future post, my next post will be from the Ledger Book.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Swatara Furnace - Pages, 17, 18 and 19 - June and July, 1830

Ledger Post

18		June 30th 1830
1	House charge	8
1	To Henry Pater	12 75
July 1st 1830		
1	Wagon	12 75
1	To Smith Shop	2 00
1	Building	12 75
1	To Cash for 12th day	0 00
1	To Cash for 12th day	0 00
1	Sundries	2 00
1	To Cash for 12th day	25
1	To Cash for 12th day	5
1	To Cash for 12th day	5
1	To Cash for 12th day	12 35
1	Sundries	1 07 1/2
1	To Smith Shop	1 12 1/2
1	To Cash change	7 50

Page 18, 1830 Top - June 30th, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
 Note: Page 17 not scanned, three new surnames from page 17 appear later in this post

I think, but I am not sure, that this is the first page in the Ledger that any "Mason" work was mentioned; there is no doubt that there was loads of mason work that needed to be done before the first fire in the furnace was set; stone masons were needed for dam breast work, raceways, bases for the wooden aqueduct that carried water from the first dam to the head-race, then from the end of the head-race to the waterwheel itself, there was the furnace and waterwheel pit plus foundations for the many wooden buildings associated with the Furnace Community; I didn't mention The Big House and the other smaller stone houses, who knows when they were built; E&G may have wanted to have some furnace money coming in before they started on the fancy stuff, maybe something will turn up later in the ledger to let us know.

New Surnames in this post

Page 17

Powers, Wm - 6/23/30 - Dn to Sundries  
 Tregan, Dave - 6/24/30 - 1 Plug Tobacco - .03  
 Correll, John - 6/24/30 - Pd Him \$1.00

Page 18

July 2 - Building Dn To Cash Pd G Eyany?? for 12 3/4 days Mason work c 1 in full 12.75

Also on Page 18 but not on the above scan

Shultz, David - 7/2/30 - Pd Him \$2.00  
 Barr, Enos - 7/6/30 - for 1 Plug of Tob - .03

Page 19 - not scanned

Rigler, Stephen - 7/6/30 - Pd in full - \$13.04  
 Wright, John - 7/12/30 - To house charge - 1 Pt molasses - 1 1/2 cents - 1 loaf bread .15  
 Stein, John - 7/12/30 - for 1078 Spruce board - .08 - \$8.62

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Swatara Furnace - Page 20, July 12th and 14th

Some Blacksmithing Things

Water Supply For The Big House, Fountain and Garden

Ledger Post

1	House charge	D.	
1	to Dumb Wonders	for 18 <sup>th</sup> Beef 5/4	
<hr/>			
1	Stone	D.	
1	to Sand & Glass	for 18 <sup>th</sup> Coars Molasses @ 175	31 50
		" 1 <sup>st</sup> " Fine " @ 225	9 00
		" 12 <sup>th</sup> " " News Shoes @ 1.75	21 00
		" 6 <sup>th</sup> " " Molasses @ 1.57 1/2	8 25
<hr/>			
1	Sundries	D. To House charge	
1	Dart Logan	for 7 <sup>th</sup> Fresh Beef @ 6	42
1	John Wright	" 8 <sup>th</sup> " Bacon @ 8	64
		" 1/2 Bus Potatoes @ 30	15
		" 1 Plug Tobacco	.03
			82
<hr/>			
1	Sundries	D. To Stone	
1	John Mess	for 17 <sup>th</sup> Coars Molasses	1 62 1/2
1	John Mess	" 1 <sup>st</sup> Coars Molasses	2
1	John Mess	" 1 doz Medicines	12 1/2
		10 <sup>th</sup>	

Note: There are only three new surnames on Page 20, one new name was listed at the top of page 20 for July 12th, (Not included on the above scan); also one new name at the bottom of page 20 that doesn't show up on the above scan.

Page 20

**Craig, Andrew, 7/12/30 To Store for Tobacco - .03. (Top of Page)**

**A new Meas, (Not scanned, bottom of page) this makes three so far.  
Meas, Adam - 7/14/30 - .64**

The next new surname is in the second block from the top in the above scan, I can't figure out what his name is, looks like "**Sam Filiec**", I think Mr. Filiec sold things to the Company Store, there are twelve pairs of Men's shoes and six pairs of Women's shoes, plus eighteen "**Coars???**" and four of something else. The grand total for this stuff was \$69.75, far right of the ledger page, (not shown on the above scan). Some profit is being made at the Company Store; the woman's shoes cost the store one dollar thirty-seven and a half cents, John Meas (bottom block) paid one dollar sixty-two and a half cents for a pair of women's shoes. In the top block, Mr. Wonder is selling E&G beef at  $.04\frac{3}{4}$  cents a pound, the store is selling the beef at .06 a pound.

### **Blacksmith Products**

The Blacksmith Shop made most of, or all of the things needed for the construction of the Furnace complex, see pictures below.



My Son John has done quite a bit of Blacksmith work as a hobby, John gave me some advice on the above support rods. From the ground level the rods seem to be about one inch square; the above rod is on the East

side of the Furnace above the Cast Arch; they were bent on an angle and would have served to help support the Cast House roof. There are two ways to put the slot into the bar, one would be to use a "Hot Chisel" to cut the hole into the bar while the bar is at it's highest temperature, the other would be to "weld" two 1 by 1/2 inch rods together with a spacer that was pulled out before the rod cooled.



I took the above picture ten years ago on Oct 15, 2006. This is the back of the Furnace facing the Furnace Bank; the two rods, red circles, 1 and 2 stick straight out, I believe they helped support the "Bridge" that went to the top of the Furnace Stack, the workers hauled charcoal, limestone and iron ore from the Furnace Bank to the top of the furnace stack and dumped it into the stack. I hope all of these rods are still in the furnace stack and that nobody pulled them out and took them home.

**Furnace Castings - Water Supply to the Big House, Fountain and Garden**



I took the above picture and the one below on Oct 15, 2006. The red circle at the top, number 1 is the West end of the Big House, number 2, red circle, is modern day PVC pipe, probably installed by Boyer's after 1961, number 3, oblong red circle is what I believe is the cast iron pipe that supplied water to the Big House, garden and lower yard water fountain.



Above is another piece of partially buried pipe which I think supplied water to the house, garden and fountain.

**I would like to have some assistance - would somebody who is working on the current Furnace preservation project be kind enough to cross the creek and see if that old pipe is still there, and perhaps looks like ancient cast iron?**





I took the above photo at one of the Pine Grove Historical Societies Lawn Party's in the early 1990's. This is a cast iron drain pipe that a roof downspout went into at the Northeast corner of the wooden section of the Big House; you can see the mold seam inside the red circle; this pipe was most likely cast at the furnace.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016**

**Swatara Furnace - Page 28, August 2nd, 1830**

The above page number, 28, is not a typo, I am having to change the way I present information from the ledger; I have had the ledger for almost a year now and have only gotten as far as page 20, (Post from 30 September 2016). For the time being I am going to discontinue adding new surnames from every page; it is just too time consuming; I'm sure all of my followers are more interested in progress reports from the furnace site, what was going on, new things mentioned for the first time etc. I skipped pages 21 thru 27, there are new surnames on these pages which I hope to get back to and record at a later date. In addition to progress reports from the furnace site I am going to add things that are not quite new, but things that might be interesting to my followers; today's post falls under the "Interesting Things" information. I also have hundreds

of "Furnace/Forge area photographs" that I am going to add to my upcoming posts; after today's ledger post I will start with pictures of "Highbridge", I have also seen it printed as "High Bridge".

Ledger Post

		<u>Dr. to Sundiss (Blue Book)</u>		
for Mr. Cook	for 91 days work @ 1.50	136.50		
for Mrs. Trump	for 22 days @ .625	13.75		
	for 1 Auger	.80		
	Boarding Hands 8.5 @ 1.50 per 13.25	111.25		164.30
cash	for Spooner for 2 days work @ 1.00	2.00		
	for 1 lb. flour for Harry Jones	1.50		5.12
cash	for 78 days work @ .50	39.00		1.50
	for 22 days @ .05	1.10		5.00
for 81 days work @ .05		4.05		
for Mr. Cook	for 1 1/2 day work @ .50	.75		
for Mr. Porter	for 2 day work	1.00		
Arthur Kelley	29 days @ .50	14.50		15.61 1/2
Walt. J. J. J.	21 days @ .50	10.50		15.84 1/2
David Walker	22 days @ .50	11.00		12.98
for Mr. Cook	for Harry Jones	1.25		1.25
House charge		<u>Dr. (Blue Book)</u>		
for 7 candles				19
	for 2 Box dried Apples			50
	Meat Tub			1.25
	2 Pkts Apple Butter			50

Page 28, Middle, - August 2nd, 1830

There is something new in the above scan that I just picked up on, it seems we are now dealing with information from another ledger book, in both the top and bottom sections we see this: (Blue Book) which is underlined. The interesting part is the Surname "**Trump**", I'm sure everyone has become familiar with the Trump name over the past year or so. Sam Trump has been mentioned several times in this ledger book, nothing exciting though, just a couple of dollars here and there; the above is big time money though, Trump was paid \$1.50 a day for 91 days, a total of \$136.50; it could be fifteen to eighteen weeks work depending on how many days a week he worked, this could be three or more months work, also \$1.50 a day is the highest pay I have seen, a few skilled workers did make \$1.50 a day, most of the labor pay was one dollar or less per day. So, who was Sam Trump? What did he do? This would be something for a Genealogist to look into. Trump's wife is also listed in the top section of the scan, she received .05, total of \$13.75 for something. I would say that the Trump's lived at the furnace site, in the bottom block under House Charge Trump was paid for seven candles, dried apples, meat and apple butter.

## Swatara Furnace/Forge Area History

### Highbridge Photos



Williams family photo from between 1921 and 1923. My Uncle Bill Williams at the far right, to his left is my Mother to be, Ruth Williams, (later Ruth Grumbine), the two at the left are unknown.



Williams photo from the early 1930's. Bill Williams at the left, Helen Williams (later Helen Brogan, then Kimmy) center, girl at far right unknown



View from the ground of the three sitting on the bridge.



In 1935 my Dad, Arthur W. Grumbine purchased a Leica 35 mm camera, it was also in 1935 the Eastman Kodak Company released Kodachrome Color slide film. Sometime between 1935 and 1939 my Dad took his first color slide pictures. The above was taken in Summer time, the one below in the Fall. There will be more color slide photos in following posts.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Swatara Furnace - Page 28, August 2nd, 1830

You are reading it right, we are still on page 28, August 2nd, 1830; the scan below is at the bottom of the page of my last post, sent out on 24 October, 2016.

Ledger Post

Spencers	D. for lease	(Blue Book)	
Arthur Keay	p <sup>o</sup> him		1 50
Nick White	him		15 00
Whis! George	him		5 00
Woodward	Robt Johnston for cutting 44 cords wood @ 15c.		6 60
Coal Expense	Bradford for Coal		4 00

Page 28, Bottom, - August 2nd, 1830

Please note that the above information in the scan looks like it was transferred from the **(Blue Book)**, so, we don't really know on what date the work was done. The last two entries are "Firsts" though, we have Mr **Robt Johnston** being paid **\$6.60** for cutting 44 cords of wood at .15 a cord, that is an awful lot of work for that amount of pay; where I live now a cord of wood runs anywhere from \$75.00 to \$125.00 per cord. At the very bottom, under "**Coal Expense**" (a little misspelling) we have a Mr "**Bradford**" being paid **\$4.00** for Coal

Baskets, it doesn't say how many baskets; back then when they said "Coal" they were referring to Charcoal, the coal dug out of the ground was called "Stone Coal"

## Swatara Furnace/Forge Area History

### Highbridge Photos



To all of my Blog followers - On each of my posts there is a small picture of me, in the upper right hand corner with a hat on, taken in the early 1990's, above is a picture of my Mother, Ruth (Williams) Grumbine and me sitting on Highbridge looking South down Mill Creek towards the Swatara Furnace/Forge area. All of the photos in this post were taken by my Dad, Arthur W. Grumbine between 1935 and the start of World War Two. Judging by my size in the above picture I would say my Dad took this one in the Summer of 1939. After the start of WW 2, color slide film was almost impossible to buy; my Dad did have a few rolls on hand and used them during the early 1940's, I do remember though that the Highbridge slides were the ones Dad took in the late 1930's.





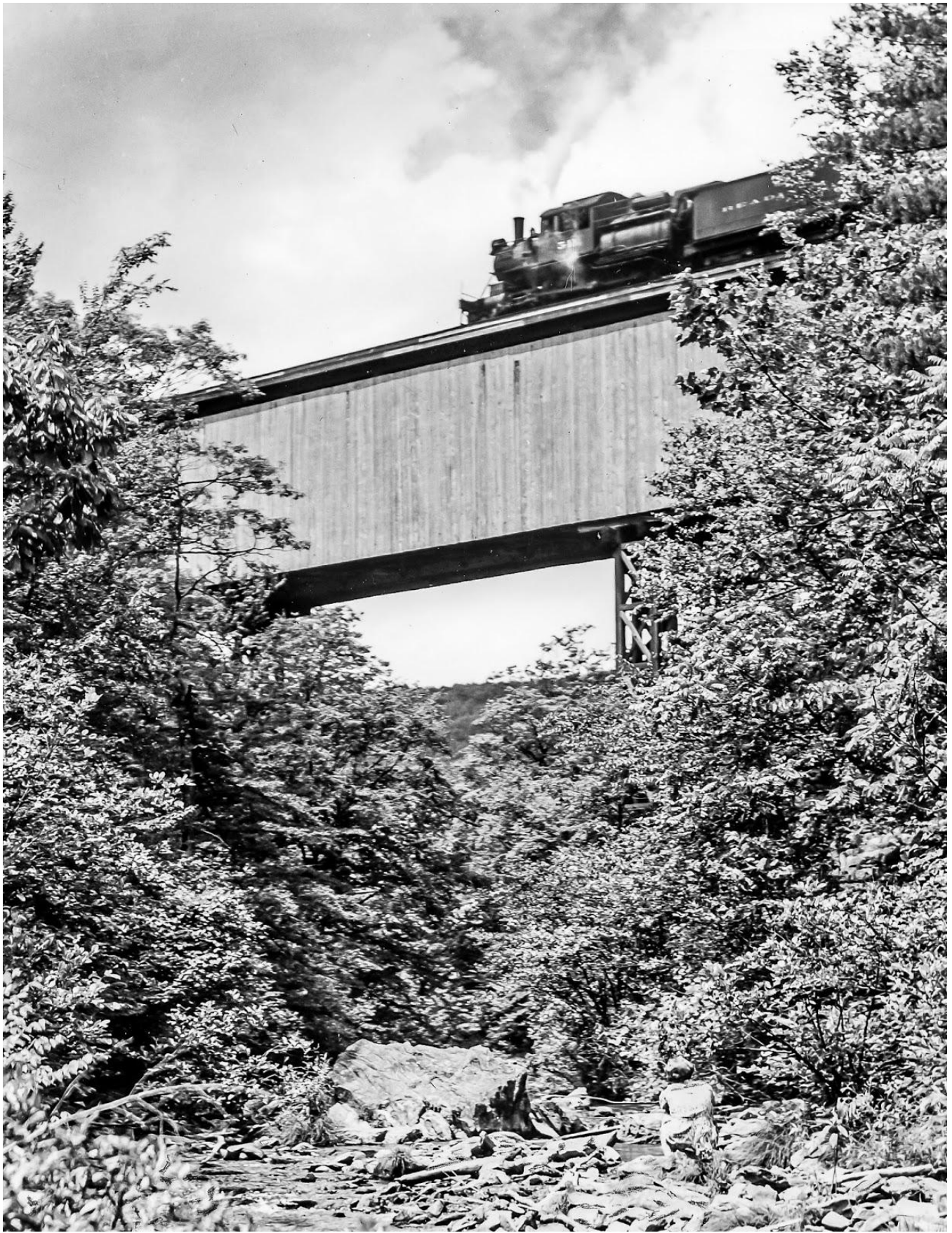
Looking North, up Mill Creek, the large rocks in the creek are in heavy shade.



Under Highbridge, looking South, the above road went Northeast, past "The Deep Hole" and into the "Jeff Swamp" area. According to local lore, the two wooden Highbridge supports were erected during World War One to support heavier RR engines and heavier freight cars; the above support was at the East end of the bridge.



Looking West across Highbridge towards "Goldmine", stops in-between and ending up in Dauphin, I have a list of the other station stops that I will post at a later date. Not shown in this slide, a little to the left and rear, on the left side was large metal water cistern that the Bridge-tender could get water out of to put out any fires that might have been caused by hot coals falling from the steam engines firebox. There will also be more information on the Bridge-tender and his home that was just to the rear of this picture.



In the 1930's and up until the start of World War Two the Reading Company ran passenger rail-fan trips on the old S&S Railroad to Dauphin and back; my Dad took this photo when the train was headed West; when I enlarged the picture it looked like the engine number was 511.



Above is # 511 headed back East after the trip to Dauphin.