

## Claysburg History Presentation CK 2023

### Things You Probably Did Not Know About Claysburg, PA

Slide #1 –

Slide #2 –

Slide #3

Slide #4 – Indian

Sproul Archeological Digs. Indian artifacts from Sproul at Library

The very first people to live in the area around Claysburg-Sproul was Native Americans. Archaeologists discovered artifacts that dated to the Paleoindian period or as far back as about 10,500 years ago. This discovery was made at the Walter Business Park and the area near A.P. Green Refractories at Sproul prior to the construction of the road re-configuration there several years ago.

Artifacts included a spear point and many other artifacts. The Paleoindian period was about 10,000 years ago or during the end of the ice age. Radiocarbon dating indicated that the site was occupied repeatedly from approximately 10,500 years ago to around 3,000 years ago. This is a very rare find for Pennsylvania, and there are very few other sites of this age in Pennsylvania

Slide #5

The Native American Indian Trail used by the Delaware or Lenape Nation called the Frankstown Path from Frankstown, PA followed the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River southward and actually split near Duncansville.

One path called the “Kitanning Path” headed west over Cresson Mountain towards Pittsburgh.

The other section sometimes called “Warrior Path” headed south and continued to follow the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River through Claysburg and then followed Beaver Dam Creek to Sproul, Greenfield and south to Osterburg and then to Bedford. That is why an abundance of Indian artifacts have been found in fields near Greenfield, Sproul and near Polecat Road.

Slide 6

Warrior’s Path and Kittanning Trail

## Slide 7

This next slide shows the actual Indian trail called “Warriors Path” from Bedford north to approximately East Freedom outlined in gold. Further north it splits at Duncansville.

You can see the stream marked on the map and the trail follows Beaver Dam Creek and Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River.

The red arrow shows the location of Claysburg.

## Slide 8

Warrior’s Path through Kimmel near Queen and Greenfield Township

## Slide 9

### Early Settlers

#### Slide #10 – Names

If you have the names Lingenfelter, Musselman, Claar, Walter, Weyant, Black, Dodson, Dively, Knisely, Zeth, Burket or Mauk, then you are descended from the early settlers to Claysburg in 1800-1804.

#### Slide #11 –

How many have that last name? Probably 20% do.

How many are related to someone with these last names? Probably 30-50% or more.

Slide 12 – Lingenfelters came 1790; Claars and Walters in 1800, Musselmans 1801 and John Zeth 1804

Slide 13 – John Zeth House Built 1813. It is believed that John Ulrich Zeth scouted out this area in 1800 and settled here shortly thereafter and not in 1804 as originally believed. He came here by Conestoga wagon. The town of Claysburg had its first settlers in 1804 when John Ulrich Zeth and others settled in the actual town of Claysburg. The John Zeth house at the corner of Bedford and Church Street is believed to have been built in 1811 and was formerly part of Mauk’s Service Station. John Zeth was a Hessian soldier. Hessian soldiers were German’s recruited to serve in the military for the British during the Revolutionary War. Actually the King’s of some of the German’s states would “sell” their German subjects to the British to fight for them in the Revolutionary War. However, after the war and the loss to the colonies, many of the Hessian soldiers defected and stayed in America. About 20% of the Germans Stayed in America that fought as Hessians. President George Washington gave them amnesty and welcomed them to stay in America. In some cases they did not have the money or means to get back home to Germany. John Ulrich Zeth came from the Taneytown, MD area as did many of the local German settlers. He is buried near the road on Church Street on what was

probably his own private property at the time. Although he fought in the Revolutionary War, they were not recognized for it since they fought for the British. Today Hessian soldiers are recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution even though they fought on the other side. His house is the oldest house in Claysburg, PA.

Slide 15: Dunnings Mountain

Slide 16:

- Ganister or Quartzite stone comprised of approximately 98% silica used to make silica brick.
  - What area does Dunnings Mountain cover? From where to where?
  - Dunnings Mountain - Dunnings Mountain begins near Snake Spring in Bedford at the Narrows where the gap is located. To the south is Evitts Mountain that extends south to Maryland.
  - Dunnings Mountain continues north through Claysburg to close to East Freedom to McKee where the gap is located. To the north of the gap is Short Mountain that continues through the Loop at Hollidaysburg towards Huntingdon.
- 
- Who is Dunnings Mountain Named?

James Dunning (Scotchman) left his name indelibly fixed in Bedford County, Dunnings Mountain, Dunnings Creek and Dunnings Cove, being prominent land marks in the north central part of the county. To have so imposed his name on the locality his activities must have been predominate in his day. Being an Indian Trader his activities must have been of that nature. Exactly where his trading post was located is not definitely known but it most likely is the locality of the old Schaffer or (Ewalt) farm lying between Dunning's Creek on the west and the Dunning's mountain on the east, which is crossed by the Allegheny Trail. This district along Dunning's Creek and Mountain was in the early pioneer days the first rendezvous of the Shawnees west of the ancient Warrior Trail.

It was in this locality that the first Shawnees facing west from Alliquippa Gap during the migration of 1698 detached from the main Caravan, settled. The Shawnees later found at Assunepachia (Frankstown Blair) about 1730 undoubtedly came from this settlement by the way of the Old Traders Path, following northward along Dunnings mountain, that old Indian Path between the two branches of the Juniata west of Standing Stone (Huntingdon). In later years subsequent to 1730 Dunning very likely used this path between the two branches of the Juniata. In fact it is patent that these early Conestoga Indian Traders could have reached Frankstown more easily by this route than any other. LeTort who visited Franks town in 1731 most likely traveled this route.

Slide 17 & 18:

Indian Peak - Indian Peak is located on Sproul Mountain directly above the Claysburg-Kimmel High School.

As children we believed the stories told to us that Indian Peak looked like the face of an Indian and may have been carved from the stone. We actually believed that Indians were located up there. The truth is that when General Refractories was quarrying ganister or silica rock going back to 1910 or later from the mountain, the mountain was dynamited, and the jagged edges of rock that appeared to look like the face of an Indian came from the dynamite explosions  
Slide 19 – Current View of Indian Peak showing the deterioration

Slide 19 – Indian Peak Wide Angle Current View of Claysburg

Slide 20:

What's in a Name?

Slide 21:

Did you ever wonder how areas around here did get their names?

**So How Did Different Areas Get Their Names?**

**Like: Claysburgh?**

**King & Queen?**

Slide 22:

Founded in 1804. Supposedly named for Henry Clay, a famous statesman.

Some speculate that Henry Clay's sister was Margaret (Klee) Clay who was married to Simon (Clar) Claar. However, this has never been proven. Claysburg was not named for the material used to make bricks in the town as many have speculated. The material used from Sproul Mountain was ganister or silica material not clay material. Claysburgh's (with an "h") post office opened in 1874.

Slide 23:

**Sarah Furnace** - Dr. Peter Schoenberger had built an iron furnace near the present town of Sproul on the road to Sheetz Headquarters. He named the furnace for his daughter, Sarah, and it also became the name of the town. Sarah Furnace starting in 1832.

**Sproul** - After the opening of General Refractories Co in Sproul in 1911, the town applied for a new post office and named it Sproul after former Governor Sproul who was one of the owners of General Refractories. The Sproul Post office opened on June 14, 1911.

Slide 24:

**King** - named after the King family who was one of the original settlers to the area. King had a post office from 1883 to 1911.

**Queen** - Originally called Lewistown, the town filed for a post office around 1880. They were informed that a Lewistown, PA already existed, and there could not be two Lewistown, Pa towns. Someone suggested that because there was a neighboring area called King, that they should be called Queen. The name stuck, and the Queen Post Office opened on May 1, 1884. Their post office closed in 1993.

**Imler** - Named after the family who first settled there.

**Greenfield** -Originally part of Greenfield Township until Kimmel Township was spun off from it. However, the name origin is unknown.

Slide 25:

**Yelpertown** - Supposedly named after the noisy, yelping dogs in the area.

**Scrub Grass** - name origin unknown

**Cottontown** - This area is actually part of the Klahr valley. Cottontown is located at the intersection of the Lower Claar Road and Pine Hollow or Schellsburg Road. Cottontown was named for the plant that grew with white tops and was probably the milkweed pod that looked like cotton in the fields. The Klahr Post office was actually located at this intersection.

Slide 26:

**Klahr** - The German word Klahr actually means “clear”, and the valley was named Klahr, because of the pristine or clear beauty of the area. Klahr had a post office open in 1910 and closed in 1931.

**Upper and Lower Claar** - Upper and Lower Claar are also part of the Klahr valley and the name Claar is based on the settlement of the Frederick and Christina Walter Claar family in the area near the Upper Claar Church. The original church became known as the Claar congregation. When the church was built down the road in 1891, it was called Lower Claar. When a new church was built across the road from the original congregation in 1892, it became known as Upper Claar. The generally known boundary between Upper and Lower Claar was the cement bridge below Musselman’s Grove near the Musselman stone house.

Slide 27:

**Black's Corner** - Named after Adam Black who settled in the Friesville area in 1803-1804 at the corner of Pine Hollow Road and Ski Gap Road where the old Church of God was located. He had a mill there as well as being a Squire or Justice of the Peace. Adam Black's son, Henry later sold the property to Jacob Fries who then operated the mill.

**Friesville** - Named for Jacob Fries who was an early settler and had a mill in the area.

Slide 38:

**Buttermilk Hollow** - One story is that the old, muddy road was full of ruts and when the farmers transported their cream to market, it would bounce around so much that it turned into butter and buttermilk.

**Pine Hollow** - Named after Pine Run that runs through the northern end of Pine Hollow. Pine Run was probably named after the abundance of pine trees there.

**Polecat** - One older resident from Polecat remembers her uncle telling her that the area used to be called "Strawberry Hollow". However, there were so many polecats in the area that the name stuck.

Slide 29:

**Blue Knob** - One of three "knobs" located there. One story said that there was a blue haze there or fog early in the morning. Hence, the name was Blue Knob. Also known as the "Switz", "Swites" "Schweitz" or "Swiss" because of the beautiful mountains reminding settlers of the home country of Switzerland. Some locals also spelled it "Sweights".

In the 1884 History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton counties, they wrote about Pavia as follows: Pavia is the name of the first town on a stream flowing from the mountains of Switzerland; hence the name is appropriate here, for the little village of Pavia is on a stream which takes its rise in "Schweitz". This confirms what was written above that the mountains of Blue Knob reminded some settlers of Switzerland, their homeland.

Slide 30:

**Hileman Hollow** - Originally called Nolen Run Valley after the stream that runs through it and named because of the original settler families of Nolen. Now named for the Hileman family who settled there and many whom still live there.

**Jugtown** - Supposedly was an area where jugs or containers were manufactured in the 1800's. However, there has never been any definitive proof on this.

**Fredericksburg** - Originally the name for the Bulls Creek area.

**Bulls Creek** - Supposedly named after a bull drowned in the stream after a flood in 1889. Was originally called Fredericksburg. Also, it is now called Ski Gap.

**Ski Gap** - Basically is the area around Bulls Creek, but received this connotation after Blue Knob Ski Resort opening in the mid-1960's.

Slide 31:

**Coney Island** - Area at north end of Claysburg across Frankstown Branch of Juniata Creek at Walnut Street. Older local residents attribute the name being given by a kid at the time. Seems that George Edgar "Ed" Lingenfelter lived on Bedford Street next to the Little League Field and had to cross the stream to get to Coney Island to play with the other kids. There was no bridge at the time until after the 1936 flood, and Coney Island must have seemed like an island to him. Ed would tell his mother, "I'm going over to play with the kids on Coney Island." And the name stuck!

Slide 32:

**Bryantown** - Area encompassed from Oakdale Street (Street with access to C-K Athletic Field) past Penndale Street (Home of Will and Rhet Walter) to top of the hill near Lynn and Janice Crist's home. No known origin of name.

**Indian Springs** - Near Wood Drive where Andy Rath's swimming pool was located. Indian Springs Lodge, swimming pool and bar was later named for that area.

**Fairview** - Section of Claysburg beginning at Arden Street

Slide 33:

SARAH FURNACE

Slide 34:

Sarah Furnace Layout – Circa 1832

It is ironic that the first major business located in the area in 1832 is located right beside the largest existing business, Sheetz in the area and next to the oldest business AP Green, the old General Refractories Company which is 100 years old. Sheetz currently employs around 1300 people at this location. Also, they recently opened the convenience store at the Sproul intersection.

Water was piped in a trough sluice and brought from Dunnings Mountain, and water was carried from the springs on Sproul Mountain in an aqueduct type wooden trough above ground to the furnace site.

Iron ore was brought across Sproul or Dunning's Mountain somehow from Ore Hill. Limestone was quarried locally and some ganister rock was used as a base for the furnaces from the mountain.

Slide 35:

1800's Ironmaking Furnace

Slide 36:

Sarah Furnace Mansion – Built 1832

When Dr. Peter Shoenberger decided to build an iron making furnace here in 1832, there was virtually nothing located in this area. Dr. Peter Shoenberger built this 21 room mansion here in 1832 by building a kiln to burn the brick on site. He also built the Sarah Furnace Iron making furnace here. The fireplaces throughout the house are made of black imported Grecian marble. A similar house was located at Rebecca Furnace. The barn that you see straight ahead off to the right housed 65 mules for the iron making business.

Shoenberger also built a church, store and school in the vicinity of Sarah Furnace for his employees.

He died in 1854 and was buried in Philadelphia. His estate was large. He owned over 100,000 acres. His estate was valued at \$12 million in 1854 which in today's money would be worth \$312 million.

The old iron making furnaces gave way to other methods of making iron and steel, and Sarah Furnace was dismantled in 1883

First of all there has always been a big misconception by many local residents as to where Sarah Furnace, the iron making furnace was located. It was located right beyond this traffic light on your right side on Sheetz Way before you get to the railroad tracks.

Slide 37:

Sarah Furnace Barn – Built 1832  
Built for 54 Mules

Slide 38:



Lime Kiln on Sproul Mountain Road

First of all there has always been a big misconception by many local residents as to where Sarah Furnace, the iron making furnace was located. It was located on your left side on Sheetz Way right here at sign #7.

Slide 39:

Dr. Peter Schoenberger, Ironmaster

Slide 40:

Owners of Sarah Furnace

SLIDE 41:

Sproul Intersection – Circa 1910

Slide #42:

David Reighard Oil

Slide 43:

Thomas Reighard – Innkeeper

Slide 44:

David P. Reighard – Oil Baron

Slide 45:

David Reighard Pittsburgh Home

Slide 46:

Post Offices in Claysburg Area

Slide 37:

Post Office	Date Opened	Date Closed
Sarah Furnace	9/4/1832	2/24/1874
Claysburgh	2/24/1874	5/19/1894
Claysburg	5/19/1894	
Queen	5/1/1884	9/30/1993
King	5/24/1883	8/31/1911
Blue Knob	6/30/1894	9/15/1918
Sproul	6/14/1911	3/30/1982
Klahr	6/30/1900	1/15/1931

Slide 48:

Sarah Furnace Post Office Sarah Furnace Post Office  
 Opened Sept. 4, 1832

Slide 49:

Sarah Furnace Post Office Sorting Bins Opened Sept. 4, 1832

Slide 50:

- In 1890, the United States Board on Geographic Names was created to establish uniform place name usage throughout the various departments and agencies of the federal

government. To guide its standardization efforts, the Board adopted thirteen general principles, one of which was that place names ending in *-burgh* should drop the final -<sup>[8]</sup>

*h.* The Board compiled a report of place name "decisions" in 1891 in which the city's name was rendered *Pittsburg*.

Slide 51:

Claysburg PA Post Office Opened Feb 24, 1874

Slide 52:

Claysburg PA Post Office 1918-1959 - Look at the sign above the door.

Slide 53:

Sign from Claysburg PA Post Office 1918-1959 – 100 years old

Slide 54:

Hanging in Barn

Slide 55:

Claysburg 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1879?

Records Show 1874 – Claysburgh or Claysburg – 1894

Note the year is wrong!

Slide 56:

Queen Post Office Opened 5/11/1884

Slide 57:

Klahr Post Office - Opened June 30, 1900

Slide 58:

King Post Office - Opened May 24, 1883

Slide 59:

Sproul Post Office Opened June 14, 1911

Slide 60:

Blue Knob Post Office - Opened June 30, 1894

Slide 61:

2000 vs 2010 vs 2020 Census

Slide 62:

INNS AT CLAYSBURG

Slide 63:

Eagle Hotel – Claysburg

Paul Mauk had a hotel here in the 1850-1890's called the Eagle Hotel. This was lot #6. Lots 5 thru 1 headed north towards the current bridge. He was the first postmaster of Claysburgh, and that was Claysburg with a "h" The "h" was dropped in 1894. Paul Mauk was born in Weyant, PA The old German spelling was MAWK. Old records show his using Mawk and then Mauk for his spelling.

Slide 64:

Eagle Hotel – Guest Register 1886

We have copies of the hotel register beginning in 1886. Last record in the books show Feb. 28, 1890. At the top of the register, it shows Annie Mauk, Proprietor. Paul Mauk's death was on August 2, 1889. Mrs. Mauk then sold the Eagle Hotel, and it became known as the Claysburg Hotel or Haney Hotel. Mrs. Mauk died Dec. 18, 1893 at age 75.

Slide 65:

Eagle Hotel Bill – 34 Soldiers @ .25 cent each July 27, 1877

Paul Mauk was in the Hotel business on July 27, 1877 when he charged the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 34 men from Co. C. 5th Regiment 25 cents/Man or \$8.50 plus 25 cents for the oath. The paper says "en route on foot Bedford to Altoona 36 miles". Think about it, 34 military

men stayed there on one night. Back then they slept 4-6 people per bed and many were total strangers.

Slide 66:

Ling Hotel – Built 1838

This Inn was located across the road from the old Klevan's Store on Bedford Street. Part of the concrete pad and retaining wall are still visible. Supposedly Orator Henry Clay stayed there. Also, there has always been speculation that this was used as part of the Underground Railway to help slaves escape. However, no actual proof exists on this.

Slide 67:

Underground Railroad  
Claysburg

Much has been written about the Underground Railroad and the moving of African American slaves in an attempt to get them to freedom. Many of the routes from the south actually went up the eastern seaboard and went near Philadelphia.

However, there were routes that went through central Pennsylvania with many of them being moved through Bedford County to Pleasantville and then on to Johnstown and further north with many eventually ending up in Canada.

While very little was ever written down and documented about the Underground Railroad, there has been much folklore passed down through the years. Keeping any type of records would have been dangerous to the families involved as well as their properties.

Rumors have always swirled around Claysburg that it was also a stopping place on the Underground Railroad and that the Conrad Ling Inn that was built in 1838 was supposedly that place. However, no documentation is available.

It does make sense that it could have been a stopping place since the Claysburg area is mid-way between Bedford and Altoona.

Slide 68:

Underground Railroad  
Claysburg

In the book Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania - Second Edition by William J. Switala on page #37, there is one paragraph as follows:

FISHERTOWN-HOLLIDAYSBURG- CLEARFIELD ROUTE

The second route from Fishertown to Clearfield followed the western slopes of the Dunning Mountain Ridge, running along Warrior's Path, as does U.S. Route 220. An entry in the diary of James Blackburn dated May 14, 1837, mentions runaways leaving Fishertown and going northeast to the town of St. Clairsville and says that another Quaker settlement there provided aid and transportation for those fleeing northward to Clearfield. From there they made their way eleven miles northward to the hamlet of Claysburg, proceeded five miles to East Freedom, and continued northward another six miles to Hollidaysburg and Altoona in Blair County. Siebert says William Nesbet was the major agent in Blair County. There were two escape routes leading from Altoona to Clearfield.

Again there has been no conclusive proof to date, but it does appear that a route may have gone through Claysburg.

SLIDE 69:

THREE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATIONS!

SLIDE 70:

Claysburg, PA – PRR Railroad Station

Slide 71:

Sproul, PA – PRR Railroad Station

The real growth of the township and Claysburg and Sproul happened in the early 1900's when the Pennsylvania Railroad was completed in 1910. The idea for a railroad began as early as 1872. It took until 1889 when surveys began and land was acquired. Some work started in 1891, but most construction started in the late 1890's. Most of the grading work was done, but the funds gave out. More bonds were sold across the country. Litigation followed, and the railroad went broke. The Pennsylvania Railroad bought the line at a receiver's sale on March 18, 1903. The line was then called the Bedford and Hollidaysburg Railroad Company. By 1904 all right of ways were secured. In 1909 money was appropriated to complete the line in 1910.

Slide 72:

Queen, PA – PRR Railroad Station

Slide 73:

Queen, PA – PRR Railroad Station  
First Day of Train Service 1910

Slide #74

Businesses in Claysburg

Slide #75-82

General Refractories

As the need for silica brick continued to grow in the United States, a group of entrepreneurs started a refractory company and began buying and building plants. In 1910 they started building the first silica brick plant in the area, and it was built at Sarah Furnace. Production began in 1911. This plant was owned by General Refractories Company. One of the owners of General Refractories Company was William Sproul, a former governor of Pennsylvania. After the opening of the brick plant, a new post office was opened and the town was renamed Sproul in honor of Governor Sproul. In the early 1960's, the silica brick plant was closed, and the plant was retrofitted to make specialty or monolithic type products mainly for the steel mills.

The town of Sproul was built by the company to house workers. There were houses built for the production workers, and also there was a street of houses built for their foremen on Railroad St.

On your left, approximately two miles up the road from Sproul, in Claysburg, Thomas N. Kurtz decided to build a silica brick plant. Construction was started in 1913, and the company was called Standard Refractories Company. In 1922, Kurtz sold his operation to General Refractories and both Sproul and Claysburg produced silica brick under the General Refractories name.

The town boomed just like Sproul did. Company houses were built by EH&B Claar for the company. A company store called the Eagle Mercantile was built. Water lines were laid from the plant reservoir so the employees would have good water.

But the stories are true, just like the coal miners and other company towns, “you owed your soul to the company store”. Employees paid rent although nominal, water bills and bought groceries at the company store.

Mrs. Lilly Fitzgerald was the last African American living in a General Refractories house. She lived in the Little Africa section of Claysburg. She would walk religiously to the Claysburg Plant Office to pay her rent and water bill. She never missed paying her rent or water bill. The rent was around \$15 per month for her and the water bill was 75 cents per month. After she died in the late 1970's, the company razed the entire area in Little Africa.

Employees were recruited from everywhere. There were people from eastern Europe like Croatia, Slovaks, Austria, Hungary, Albania, Italy. African Americans were recruited from the south. Charley Madara who was plant superintendent at one point actually was going south to recruit more blacks, and a cross was burned across the street on Bedford Street near Arden Street. This did not phase Madara, the next morning he left as planned to go south.

In your book on page #43 is a map showing where the African American Community generally lived. There were two sections. The first is on the right across from the Little League Field where the railroad spur goes back into the McCabe Complex. This area was called Shanty Row. These homes were not exclusive to the African American community. There were some white families who also lived in Shanty Row. There were approximately 15 homes along this stretch of railroad track. There is also a picture of some of the homes in Shanty Row. Many of them were double homes. These homes were torn down in the 1960's.

Shanty Row was known for bootlegging operations. A white lady lived there and ran a bootlegging operation. She put two sons through college doing this. They moved from Claysburg many, many years ago and do not live in the area. Both sons are successful businessmen and have their own businesses today.

The other area was called Little Africa and was located off Hileman Hollow Road and partially fronting Route 220. There were approximately 17 homes, a store and a small church in that area at one time.



Slide #81:

Shanties for construction workers in Claysburg in 1915

Slide #82:

View of Sproul with Foremen Houses

Slide 83:

Claysburg Bottling Works Circa 1925-28 Behind Shenanigans Bar Claysburg, PA

Slide 84:

Claysburg Bottling Works  
Wooden Case for Bottles  
Claysburg, PA

Slide 85:

Claysburg Bottling Works for Sale – Aug 1928

Slide 86:

Pennsyl Dairy  
Between Sproul and King on Dunnings Highway – Circa 1930

Slide : 87

F M Dively & Son Dairy – Buttermilk Hollow Road  
Claysburg, PA – Circa 1925

Slide 88:

Ka-Tone Herb Tonic – Claysburg, PA

Slide 89:

Drs. Johnston & Johnston Medicine Bottles

Slide #90:

Dr. Johnston had first car in Claysburg

Slide #91:

Dr. Johnston's Office

Slide 92:

Klevans & Kantner – Circa 1924

Slide 93:

Amick's Coffee – Claysburg, PA

Slide 94:

Wright Milling Dog Food

- On your right Thomas S. "Wess" Wright started Wright Milling Company in 1918 when he began milling grain for himself and his neighbors. The milling business back then was a big business with at least eight mills operating in the area of a 10 mile radius. Today Wright Milling is one of the few remaining mills in a much larger area.

Wess Wright died in 1950. However, his wife continued the business with their son, Kermit. Kermit's brother, Mervyn worked for the business until 1968 when he took over another mill in Alum Bank.

A fire in 1967 did major damage to the mill, and it was torn down and rebuilt and back in operation in 1967. Another fire in the early 1970's totally destroyed the business, and it was rebuilt. Kermit's mother, Annie, died in 1972 and Kermit continued operating the business on a daily basis until late 2009 when he sold the business. He continued to work on a part-time basis. Kermit died in June 20, 2012. The mill continues to serve the needs of the local farmers as well as others supplying grains and feeds and many other items.

Slide 95:

Wineland Milling – East Freedom & Claysburg,

Wineland Feed Store was established in Claysburg in 1947. It was located on the left next to Wesner's Home.

Slide 96:

Klevans Store

Slide 97: Quints Store

Slide 98:

Ebersole Electric

Slide 99:

Reighard TV and Electric

Slide 100:

Clover Farm Store

Slide 101:

Shaffers Store

Slide 102:

There were 3 car dealerships in Claysburg until the 1970's. Zeigler, Walter and Lingenfelters

Slide 103:

A&P

Slide 104:

Mauk's Garage

Slide 105:

Biesinger's Pool and Orchard Park

Slide 106:

Queen Echo Paper

On Columbus Day, 1894 Amos Claar launched the publication a newspaper of The Mountain Echo. It was a weekly paper. Because of its growth, it was enlarged within the first year. It was printed where Jacob Knipple's store later was. Today it is an apartment building and you will see it when we turn towards the school. Then in 1894 Mr. Claar moved the Mountain Echo to Osterburg where it was more centrally located again enlarging the business because of its growth. Then in 1898 he sold the newspaper to George Oster of Osterburg. Amos Claar moved to Windber and started its first newspaper. Then he sold it, moved to Roaring Spring where he was in charge of their first paper, then the Good News and then the Cove News. He also owned a printing company in Duncansville and then died in 1938.

Slide 107:

E B Price – Blacksmith Shop Claysburg – across from Leslie-Miller Funeral Home where Ruth Helen Hoenstine lives. It was there in late 1800's.

Slide 108:

Mickey Walter's Blacksmith Shop

to the right of Tillie's was Mickey Walter's Blacksmith Shop that sat off this area behind where cars park towards where the Senior Center sits. The picture in your book shows a large barrel. Two guys were pushing this barrel to the west coast and stopped in Claysburg. There is another picture of three guys pulling a small covered wagon from the east Coast to San Francisco. It seems that the characters all ended up at Mickey Walter's Blacksmith Shop and had pictures taken.

Slide 109:

Walter & Walter Pin Mill

Walter & Walter Pin Mill. They made billy clubs for police departments and shipped them everywhere. Also, they were Pin Mill Makers of Locus Trennel Pins for Building Merchant Vessels. There were stories that they also made masts for the ships, but it has never been confirmed.

Slide 110:

Dr. Johnston's Drugstore

Now the Cat's Meow. Before that, it was Zerelda Long's Drugstore, Fountain and Florist where you could have ice cream, sodas, buy medicine, candy and gifts as well as flowers. Dr. Charles Johnston, son of Dr. John Johnston operated his practice from here on one side until his death, and his daughter continued to operated the drug store on the other side for several years after his death.

Slide 111:

Claysburg Speedway – Circa 1948-49.

Orville Mock operated it. Does anyone know any information on this. Received from Phil Emeigh. He said it was located between Yingling Insurance and Lynn Crist house on other side of the road on the hill. Supposedly was in operation for only two races and went out of business in either 1948 or 1949. Anyone have information or photos, please let us know.

Slide 112:

On your left at Sign #33 - In 1946 Fred "Muckle" Lingenfelter built an Esso gas station, did repair work on cars as well as selling snacks, soft drinks, tobacco products, etc. In 1951, Frank's father, "Iggly" Blazeovich bought the business and continued the same services and

products. Through the years, this small business has probably seen more of the Claysburg School student body through its doors than any other establishment in town. Frank Blazeovich

Frank's Place started in the late 1940's when Muckle Lingenfelter built it. Then he sold it to Iggy Blazeovich in the early 1950's and he operated it until his death and then his son, John operated it for a while and finally Frank took over running it.

Frank continued to operate the business, and it is still a popular place to visit by not only students but many other people of the community. By the way, Frank Blazeovich is a walking encyclopedia about Claysburg's History. He was very helpful in giving information for the Claysburg History.

Frank Blazeovich operated this and recently died in 2019.

Slide 113:

Abram Burket's Merchantile

Slide 114:

Bill's Place

Bill Burket was a memorable person. He was a quiet, no nonsense man. Bill's hamburger's were steam cooked in a skillet on a regular kitchen stove and were some of the tastiest hamburgers around. Bill would turn off the stove at night and leave the water in the skillet that he used to steam the hamburgers. The next morning he would turn on the stove, add some water to the skillet and cook the hamburgers for that day. That night again he would turn off the stove and let the skillet set with the water in and go home. It probably would not pass the Department of Health standards today, but they were great tasting hamburgers. Bill and Suie were highly successful business people.

Slide 115:

Dr. Edward J. Schultz was in World War II and while stationed in Africa played cards with Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Slide #116:

Levi Roush

Levi Rousch was from Sproul or Sarah Furnace at the time and was awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor for bravery on the 2nd day of the Battle of Gettysburg (July 2, 1863). His citation reads "Was one of six volunteers who charged upon a log house near the Devil's Den, where a squad of the enemy's sharpshooters were sheltered, and compelled their surrender". There is a monument there near the Entrance to Devil's Den with his name plus others on it.

Slide #117 Jacob Fries

Slide #118

Jacob Fries Builder

Slide 119:

Sarah Furnace Mill – Yingling’s Mill

Shoenberger had this mill built in 1840 by Jacob Fries who was only 16 years old at the time. The mill passed through different owner’s families until Martin Yingling’s family bought it in 1894. The mill ceased operations in 1949. They ground grains for flour, feed, etc.

Slide 120:

Sarah Roller Mills – Yingling Mill

Slide 121:

Sarah Furnace – Yingling Mill

Slide 122: Yingling Mill

Slide 123: Lutheran Church Built 1846

Slide 124: Lower Claar Church Built 1893

Slide 125: Friesville Bridge

Slide 126:

Knisely Trunk from Switzerland by George, John and Anthony Kneisely in 1723

There are many Knisely’s in the Greenfield and Kimmel Townships as well as in Blair and Bedford County. First a short history of the Knisely family who originally was from Switzerland. Note the spelling variations of the name.

Anthony KnussLi/Kneisley was born on September 20, 1657 in Eggiwil, Switzerland. Eggiwil is in the Signau District (similar to our county) of Berne which is similar to our state. Eggiwil currently has about 2500 residents. Anthony was born the son of Hans and Elsbeth (Muller) NussLi/KnussLi.

At the age of 14 in 1671 according to Mennonite Refugees, Hans Nussli, his wife and family were part of the Mennonite group forced out of Eggiwil in October, 1671. Their son, Anthony was probably one of the children.

Again in 1671 according to Mennonite records, Hans Nussli, his wife and four children were on the list of destitute refugees in the Pfalz region or Rhine region of Germany who were in need of money and other support.

In 1692 records show that Anthony, their son was already married to Magdalena Hempstead and living in Germany. In 1709, it showed that they lived in the Alsace region of Germany which bordered onto the French region.

In 1723, Anthony was part of a large group of Mennonites who immigrated from the Pfalz area of Germany through Rotterdam, Germany to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Three of his daughters, Barbara Miller, Anna Kauffman and Elizabeth Kaufman and their husbands preceded them arriving in 1717.

Anthony and Magdalena had a total of nine children: Christiana, Anna, Hans John, Anthony, Elizabeth, Barbara, Mary Maria, Sybilla and George.

As a matter of fact, this chest was brought over from Switzerland by George, John and Anthony Kneisely who were brothers and held their entire possessions. This chest is now owned by Peggy Knisely Piper of Queen.

Slide #127:

Chandler Autos and Brown Factory in Queen

- Where Allen Knisely lives in Queen was a garage that originally was a car dealership. First they sold Chandler cars. In case you never heard of Chandlers, Chandler Motors was incorporated in 1913 in Cleveland, Ohio. Later Dodge cars were sold in Queen. Then Paul Knisely started Knisely & Sons here in 1947. Also, Peep Knisely had a barber shop here for many years.
- There was a broom factory at Paul Knisely's or near post office. The tools and equipment to make these corn brooms in later years was in Paul Knisely's garage or Roger Knisely's grandfather's garage. Roger remembers playing with these tools when he was small with their sharp knives, etc. There was a museum in Michigan that tried to buy these tools from Paul years ago because they were supposed to be very rare. Paul would not sell them. Unfortunately a fire in his garage destroyed them in 1978.

Slide #128:

United Telephone Now Century Link

United Telephone Company got its start in a little building in Queen right behind us on Peggy Piper's corner when Jess Claar started a phone company. Then it moved to the back of the Queen Gospel Hall parking lot. Eventually Jess moved the Bedford and the telephone company covered a much bigger area and today is a giant corporation and eventually merged with other companies.

Slide 129:

“LITTLE ALASKA”  
WHAT DID THEY DO?

SLIDE 130 & 131:

US Air Force Base and Station – Blue Knob

Off to your right high on Blue Knob Mountain at 3,146 feet high before there was a Blue Knob Ski Resort, there was a U.S. Air Force Base at the same location. Blue Knob is the second highest spot in Pennsylvania. The Air Force Base began operations sometime before 1941 when construction began under the auspices of the US Navy Department and later came under the command of the US Air Force during the 1950's and continued in operation until May, 1961. During that time, the base was a highly secure location and stirred up much speculation throughout the area as to what was actually going on high on top of the mountain.

It was called a Radar Base and was supposedly monitoring air space over the United States. Locals both young and old speculated that the base was actually spying on Russia since Russia was the big threat to the United States during the Cold War period of the 1950's and 1960's.

The base also had three (3) large silver domed radar balls each about the size of a two story house that could be visibly seen from some areas down below in the valleys. Parts of the concrete foundations or piers are still visible at the Blue Knob Ski Resort on top of the mountain.

The Air Force base had barracks for their personnel as well as housing for families and was very self sufficient. Children from the base attended Claysburg-Kimmel Schools and were driven daily to the school by Air Force personnel drivers in Air Force cars. Because Blue Knob was always colder than areas down off the mountain, some of the Air Force personnel called it “Little Alaska”.

The real stories have never been published, but Blue Knob Air Force base was part of a strategic set of bases located to detect possible incoming Soviet long range capable bombers and ICBM or Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

The most direct route from Russia today or 50-65 years ago is the same. The route is directly from Russia over the North Pole and southward past Alaska, Canada and the northern United States. The distance over the North Pole from Russia to the continental US is only 3,500-4,000 miles depending upon the destination. Back then in the 1950's and early 1960's during the cold



war, the concern was that Russia might bomb the continental United States and target large cities like New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and especially Washington, DC. If headed to Washington, DC, the route would have been directly over central PA.

Blue Knob is the second highest mountain point in Pennsylvania behind Mt. Davis in Somerset County. However, it is the highest isolated mountain in PA. Mt. Davis is on a plateau. This high point allowed for detection in the air above Blue Knob, and it also allowed for detection if a plane was attempting to fly “under the radar” in the valleys below since Blue Knob could also monitor below the mountain.

The US Air Force base at Blue Knob was part of the DEW Line or Distant Early Warning Radar Line. Blue Knob was part of a series of bases from Alaska, Canada including Vancouver and Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, the northern Midwest area of the US and southward with Blue Knob being one of the most southern and closest to Washington, DC. They were monitoring and watching for Soviet aircraft and ICBM missiles. For more information, check out Wikipedia Distant Early Warning Line.

Aircraft monitoring and the Nike anti-aircraft system was developed by the US Army and later transferred to the Air Force. The project delivered the United States' first operational anti-aircraft missile system, the Nike Ajax in 1953.

If Blue Knob had detected Soviet aircraft flying south, they most probably would have contacted the location of missile batteries on the mountain off route 30 east of McConnellsburg, PA. On top of the mountain approximately 100 yards from a current restaurant and bar on top of the mountain was the site of NIKE missiles.

Slide 132:

John Smith - What Did  
First National Bank

One side note on the relationship to Claysburg, PA, way before the days of bank ATMs and credit cards, the Air Force paid their personnel with cash. In the 1950's on every payday, a contingency of two jeeps - one in the lead with armed Air Force guards, the Air Force commander's car in the middle and a follow-up jeep with armed Air Force guards would arrive in Claysburg to pick up the cash to pay the Air Force personnel. They would arrive at the old two story red brick bank building of First National Bank of Claysburg slightly north of the Claysburg-Kimmel School District on the opposite side of the road while kids as well as adults

would watch in amazement as this routine played out.

While curiosity and conjecture about what was going on way up there on the mountain was always rampant, no one ever really did get a good explanation of what was going on. This

information confirms some of it.

Slide #133

Sports in Claysburg

**Slide #134:**

This is a photo of a 1915 Baseball Team. The earliest baseball teams were associated with the Claysburg and Sproul brickyards, but they were the foundation for the baseball enthusiasm in Claysburg throughout the years.

**Slide #135:**

Seven people from Claysburg who lived around here were signed and played for major league or minor league baseball teams.

**Slide #136:**

Dan Napoleon played for the New York Mets.

**Slide #137:**

Dan was born in Claysburg, but his family moved to Trenton, NJ when General Refractories opened a brickplant there. Dan graduated from Trenton High School.

**Slide #138**

Dave Hoenstine graduated from Claysburg-Kimmel, and he played for the Cincinnati Reds farm teams but then was moved up to the major league for about a one week period.

**Slide #139**

Dave played for Cincinnati's farm teams in the late 1970's and early 1980's. In 1978 he was named the Eugene Oregon's Team's Most Value Player. Dave is a physical education teacher at Central High School.

**Slide #140**

Kaleb Fleck was born in 1989 and is from Claysburg. He graduated from Claysburg-Kimmel in 2007. He was a great high school baseball player. He eventually went on to play for the Arizona Diamondbacks farm teams. This is a photo of his baseball card with the team.

**Slide #141**

While in college Kaleb spent 2 seasons in the Cape Cod Baseball League a summer collegiate league. Kaleb was with the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2012 to 2017.

**Slide #142**

This is Kaleb's baseball card with the Reno Aces of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

**Slide #143**

Later Kaleb played for the Lancaster Barnstormers in the Atlantic League of professional baseball teams.

**Slide #144:**

While football didn't officially start in high school until 1933, here is a picture of a group of guys from 1912 to 1914

**Slide #145:**

Claysburg's only undefeated Football team was in 1962. They were 9-0.

**Slide #146:**

This is a picture of team members in 2012 when they were inducted into the Bedford County Sports Hall of Fame

**Slide #147:**

Claysburg was progressive with girls' basketball. It actually started in 1928 even before boys football. Here is a photo of the 1944 girls basketball team.

Slide #148:

Distilleries, Prohibition and Bar Stories

Slide 149:

**DISTILLERIES, PROHIBITION AND BAR STORIES**

above Phil & Anita Emeighs is the "Whiskey Path" which started here and crossed over Sproul Mountain to a bootlegging operation on the other side of the mountain in the Cove area. This path was picked, because it was a slow, steady grade to the top of the mountain and then down the other side rather than going to Sproul with a steeper, windier route.

Slide #150:

There were 30 distilleries in Greenfield Township from 1805-1835. Remember the population back then was maybe 50 people!

Slide #151:

Shanty Row was known for bootlegging operations. A white lady lived there and ran a bootlegging operation. She put two sons through college doing this. They moved from Claysburg many, many years ago and do not live in the area. Both sons are successful businessmen and have their own businesses today.

The other area was called Little Africa and was located off Hileman Hollow Road and partially fronting Route 220. There were approximately 17 homes, a store and a small church in that area at one time.

Slide 152:

## ENTERTAINMENT

SLIDE 153:

### Barnhart's Grove

This is Barnhart's Grove, and you are actually sitting now in Barnhart's Grove. It extended the length of this school and across Route 220 to the old Barnhart farm where Hoss's is currently located.

Slide 154:

### Claysburg Band – 1885

Probably the initial form of singing and playing instruments came from church services after the settlers arrived. Other forms of entertainment began developing. As a matter of fact, Claysburg can boast of one of the oldest town bands in the state. It was formed in 1879 and was called the Claysburg Coronet Band. This photo of the band is dated 1885 or 132 years ago.

This shows a few names on the back of the original photo. The four names identified are Mont Smith, Joe Dibert, Austin Dively and Gilbert Feathers. I know that some of you are related to one of these guys.

Slide 155:

### Claysburg Concert Band

This photo shows the Claysburg Coronet Band from approx. the 1920's in Barnhart's Grove.

Slide 156:

### Claysburg Legion Band

Then in 1934 with the formation of the Claysburg American Legion, it became the Claysburg Legion Band and still performs to this day! So as you can see, music has always been a part of this area.

Slide 157:

Claysburg's Smokey Pleacher on Grand Ole Opry with June Carter Cash

Smokey Pleacher was born in Manns Choice, but then moved to Claysburg as a kid. We consider him Claysburg's Smokey Pleacher, and we will talk more about him later in the show.

He was a comedian who performed across the US and on the Grand Ole Opry. Smokey was with the Doc Williams Show from 1951-52 and later from 1960-70.

Smokey Pleacher with June Carter Cash at the Grand Ole Opry.

Slide 158:

Queen Group – Mayberry Claar Grove

Local places like Musselman's Grove, Mayberry Claar Grove and Barnhart's Grove provided them with local talented people, some of whom moved on to be quite successful through the years. This is Mayberry Claar's Grove in Queen. After the live entertainment was over they showed movies on a plywood board on top of one of the buildings and passed the hat to cover costs throughout the crowd.

Musselman's Grove – Klahr

This was a typical Sunday crowd in the 1940's and 50's at Musselman's Grove. The record crowd was there for a show by Lulu Belle and Scotty of Chicago. The crowd that day in September 1947 had 8,600 in paid attendance. The crowd was so large that they "hung from the trees." Doc Williams comments on the back of the picture said "8,600 paid attendance plus thousands more came in free.

Slide 159:

Musselman's Grove – Doc Williams Tickets

Price of admission was 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for children from the late 1940's. Note that the show started at 1:30 pm only two hours after church was over in Klahr. Again this was always a concern of the churches.

Slide 160:

Esquire Magazine – Dec., 1959  
Tom Allen Painting

In 1959 Frank Blazeovich of Frank's Place was in Frankfurt Germany looking at the December, 1959 edition of Esquire magazine and noticed the Coca Cola sign and thought that it looked familiar. And it was. There was an article written about Musselman's Grove and Country Western/Bluegrass music. There was a painting that was done by Tom Allen who was a well-known New York illustrator featured in the magazine. Tom Allen died in 2002. His paintings generally sell for over \$25,000! I wonder what happened to this one?

Also, do you see the people dressed in black near the front of the stage? Do you have any idea who they are?

In the Esquire article it states "attended by silently approving Amish"

Well, guess what? Those are not Amish, they were Church of the Brethren people from Upper and Lower Claar Churches. Even up until the 1960's, especially the older members of the Brethren Church all dressed in black similar to the Amish or Mennonites.

Doc William's shows were generally held on Sundays not Saturdays since he was performing on WWVA radio in Wheeling, WV on Saturdays. But I want you to think back to the earlier times before the 1970's. What did you do on most Sundays? You went to church and then probably to a relatives' house to eat and that was it. PA Blue Laws prevented you from shopping even for groceries, etc. Stores were not open on Sunday. So how did Doc Williams work things out so he could present family-style entertainment on Sundays? Here is a page excerpted from his book. He was a smart promoter and businessman. He asked the Smokey Road Run and Gun Club from Klahr to co-sponsor the shows. And because they were a non-profit organization, they were allowed to have shows on Sundays.

Doc struck an agreement with the Gun Club to have the soda pop and ice cream concessions at the Grove with no commission to be paid to him. Normally he charged 25% of the take as his commission.

The only problem was there were a lot of upset Brethren from Upper and Lower Claar because of having shows on Sundays. However, Doc Williams hired many of these Brethren to help work the events from ticket takers, security, cooking and whatever was needed and paid them a \$1 an hour which was a lot of money back in the late 1940's. It was money badly needed to help support families, and they welcomed the work even though it was on Sunday.

This is part of the article that was printed in Esquire magazine with those “silently approving Brethren.”

Slide 161:

This is Jim and Jane Claar and their family members. They had a Wagonshed outside Queen and performed every Saturday evening to a filled house plus on television and radio.

Slide 162:

Claysburg's Casino Theatre – Sproul Bus

On your left at the site of the garage on Jackie Helsel's property was the Casino Theatre. If you have ever heard someone yelling “Sproul Bus” as they were ready to go somewhere, it originated at the Casino Theatre in Claysburg. The first Theatre opened in 1915 by Emory Diehl and had one machine and seated 75 people. In 1916 Calvin and Emory Diehl opened the Opera House located where Klevan's 5 and 10 store was located. In 1924 the Diehl's built a new Theatre that seated 350 people. It was located between Bill's Place and Klevan's Store on Bedford Street. It was then operated by William Niditch until its closing in the late 1950's.

Oh, and as for “Sproul Bus”, it seems that many of the residents south of town rode the bus to the movie. The bus made regular runs between Altoona and Bedford so when the bus was headed south later in the evening and arrived at the movie theatre to pick up the Sproul riders, someone would yell out “Sproul Bus”! The sad thing to this story is that if a movie was extra long, the Sproul crowd would never see the end of that movie, because the bus was on a schedule and couldn't wait for the movie to be over!

In 1924 the Diehl's built this new Theatre that seated 350 people. If you have ever heard someone yelling “Sproul Bus” as they were ready to go somewhere, it originated at the Casino Theatre in Claysburg. It seems that many of the residents south of town rode the bus to the movie. The bus made regular runs between Altoona and Bedford so when the bus was headed south later in the evening and arrived at the movie theatre to pick up the Sproul riders, the manager of the theatre would yell out “Sproul Bus”! The sad thing to this story is that if a movie

was extra long, the Sproul crowd would never see the end of that movie, because the bus was on a schedule and couldn't wait for the movie to be over!

Slide 163:

Claysburg Casino Movie Ticket –  
Circa Late 1940's

Slide 164:

Signs for next visitor

Slide 165:

Hobo Markings

Slide 166:

Hobo Markings

Slide 167:

Hobo Markings

Slide 168:

HOBOS

Slides 169-178:

Jack London Story

Slide 179-180:

Jack London Foundation Publication 2020 – The Wolf

SLIDE 181:

STORIES –  
LORE, TRUTH OR SPECULATION?

SLIDE 182:

Louis and Ida Quint opened Quints Merchandise in Claysburg in 1919.

Ida's Filtz Quint birth certificate lists her place of birth as Russia. She emigrated to the United States in 1918 about the same time that the Czar of Russia's family was assassinated.

Ida always contended that she was a seamstress for the Czar of Russia. There is no proof on this and was considered family folklore.



Slide 183:

#### Musselman Stone House – Klahr

There is a slightly confusing story here to tell. Right beyond the church is a stone house that was built in 1824 by the Jacob Lingenfelter family. In 1848 the farm passed down to Jacob's son, George and his wife, Barbara Claar Lingenfelter. In 1860 the property was deeded to Miss Catherine Duncan. Later she purchased more land from the Musselman brothers, John and David. The Musselman brothers then made their home with Miss Duncan.

It is the oldest stone house in Greenfield Township. Legend has it that an Indian is supposedly buried at the Old Stone house next to Lower Claar at the "kettle ring" where they butchered. The "kettle ring" was where the fires were built to make lard, etc when butchering. It was located beyond the lilac bushes between the house and towards Lower Claar Church. Nothing else is known about this supposed burial.

The old stone house was said to be haunted with no one being able to keep covers on the bed in one room. Today's owners never saw any ghosts themselves, but they heard lots of stories about them especially about the room with no windows where the attic door is located. That was supposedly the room where you could not keep blankets on bed. Supposedly the ghosts came from the attic and pulled them off the bed.

Kate Duncan was reputed to be wealthy. Numerous times she was supposedly rob by people of the area. Supposedly she kept a ram's horn close by to notify others that she was being robbed. However, while some people were caught after robbing her, the story goes that she would never prosecute. Kate Duncan Was born in Greenfield Township. Where she got her money is sheer speculation, but one story states that her family members were British sympathizers during the Revolutionary War. As a matter of fact, one member of the Walter family worked for Kate Duncan and stated seeing "old Tory or British" money at her home.

When the need for a larger church came about in the early 1890's, Kate Duncan donated the land and \$900 for the construction of the Lower Claar Church. She originally intended to be buried at Lower Claar, but when she died in 1907, she was buried at Upper Claar Church.

Slide 184:

#### Originally Bennett, Pressell, Lingenfelter Farm Civil War and Ghost Stories

This farm for the past 100 years has been called the Lingenfelter farm. Henry Bennett was a Revolutionary War fighter who was one of the earliest settlers to come to Claysburg. Henry Bennett was born in 1753 and died in 1837. His wife, Mary was born in 1768 and died in 1850.

Both are buried in the Pressell cemetery. Bennett supposedly received the 445 acres of land from the government for fighting in the Revolutionary War. The property was Bennetts, then Bennett and Pressell's (the Pressells married a Bennett daughter) and then the Lingenfelter Farm (a Pressell daughter married a Lingenfelter) being passed down from generation to generation of families. Henry Bennett's son, John Bennett was the man who did the surveying of the plots of land in Claysburg in the 1838, 1840 and 1847. John Bennett was born in 1790 and died in 1860. His wife, Sarah was born in 1794 and died in 1876. They are buried next to Henry and Mary Bennett. This farm house has lots of ghost stories.

Upstairs there was always a feeling that someone was upstairs with the people staying there. One person had the lights turned off and the door closed to attic. People have definitely experienced something there.

Across the creek, the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata is an old log house. Years ago Mrs. Noffske died there in a rocking chair near the window. Supposedly there are times when she can be seen in the corner window rocking away. Also, one time the fire company was called, because someone heard a child crying at that house even though no one lived there anymore. The fire company went there to investigate, and there was nothing there, and no one was living there at the time.

This stone fence on your right was built after the 1936 flood as a means of flood protection to keep the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River from flowing out onto the road which was the main and only road headed north and south from Altoona to Bedford.

Also, during the Civil War, the soldiers from New York passed through Claysburg on their way south to fight the Confederates. The family took their horses across the stream and hid them in their limestone quarry so the soldiers wouldn't take them for the war effort.

Slide 185:

#### Claysburg's First Library Location

On your left is the oldest house in Claysburg. It is believed that John Ulrich Zeth scouted out this area in 1800 and settled here shortly thereafter and not in 1804 as originally believed. He came here by Conestoga wagon. The town of Claysburg had its first settlers in 1804 when John Ulrich Zeth and others settled in the actual town of Claysburg. The John Zeth house at the corner of Bedford and Church Street is believed to have been built in 1811 and was formerly part of Mauk's Service Station. John Zeth was a Hessian soldier. Hessian soldiers were German's recruited to serve in the military for the British during the Revolutionary War. Actually the

King's of some of the German's states would "sell" their German subjects to the British to fight for them in the Revolutionary War. However, after the war and the loss to the colonies, many of the Hessian soldiers defected and stayed in America. About 20% of the Germans Stayed in America that fought as Hessians. President George Washington gave them amnesty and welcomed them to stay in America. In some cases they did not have the money or means to get back home to Germany. John Ulrich Zeth came from the Taneytown, MD area as did many of the local German settlers. He is buried near the road on Church Street on what was probably his own private property at the time. Although he fought in the Revolutionary War, they were not recognized for it since they fought for the British. Today Hessian soldiers are recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution even though they fought on the other side. His house is the oldest house in Claysburg, PA. This property is currently owned by Dennis and Kay Burket

Later this property housed Mauk's Garage and Gas station. It was also home to the Claysburg Area Library's first location.

Slide 186:

Gazzara's Dance Hall – Now Claysburg Library

SLIDE 187:

A black man was shot and killed by another black man on the second floor at a Friday night dance supposedly in a fight over a woman. The incident is believed to have happened in 1927. The murderer ran into the mountain and hid near the quarry section of the mountain. He hid for days while police searched for him. People in town knew that he was hungry from hiding and became concerned that he would return to town and break in somewhere for food. One man remembers his parents telling him that his father put nails in the windows so they couldn't be opened easily. The nails stayed there as he grew up in Shanty Row, and he vividly remembered the story. Eventually the murderer turned himself in and was put in prison for a long time but was eventually released. Sometimes the Library people hear noises on the second floor but have not seen anything.

Slide 188:

- "Fred" the ghost is rumored to hang out in the History Section on the second floor. We have been told that you could just sense that someone was there with you in the upstairs. Sometimes, there are unexplained noises coming from the upstairs when no one is there. He was named Fred by some of the people who work at the Library.

Slide 189:

- I lived a couple of houses away from the library growing up. I spent a good amount of time of my teenage years in the upstairs area of the Library, and "Fred" never bothered

me. I would get the feeling that someone was close by, or see one of the curtains move up there ever so slightly, but I was never frightened by it. When I'd go upstairs to look at the books, I'd always say "hello, Fred". I also got the impression that the one chair up there, an old leather one in between the bookcases by the window was "his". I never bothered it.

Slide 190:

- I've seen the curtains move also, the wind wasn't blowing outside, so it wasn't a drafty window. Always felt something was different on the second floor. I used to go up there when I was younger when it was a Hardware Store with the grandson of the owner. Didn't get that odd feeling back then. I'll not sit in the leather chair the next time I visit.
- The upstairs of the library has always freaked me out. Definitely can feel that something is off up there.
- Pretty creeped out right now. When I was a kid, I lived within walking distance of the library. One afternoon, I went there to look up something for an essay I had to write. I was upstairs by myself when I heard someone come up the steps. The person walked up the aisle next to the one I was in and then dropped a book. I walked around to see who dropped the book. A book was lying on the floor, but no one was there. Totally forgot about this until I just read this article and I never heard this story before!!

Slide 191:

- Been in the Library myself searching ancestors, on the second floor when in the rear of the book shelving a book fell off of the shelf and landed on the floor.
- When i was younger me and dan had an experience with a radio on the second floor of the library!!!

Slide 192:

- Here's another strange but true story. If you look behind the library between the railroad tracks and the alley, an incident occurred. About 95 years ago a couple had just been married and was celebrating their wedding. The bride was still in her gown and somehow ended up getting hit by a passing train. She was decapitated. Marvin Leslie was fairly young then, but he was carrying the medical bag for Dr. Johnston. He vividly remembered the young lady in her wedding dress with her head severed. Rumor was that she was pushed by her groom. The woman was buried in Newry in the Catholic cemetery. The name of the woman is Mary Kutarcice. She was born Sept 14, 1902 and died November 2, 1918. No one ever was arrested even though speculation was that the groom pushed her.

Slide 193:

- The wording is old-style, early Croatian. The top line reads "Here lies." The middle and last lines are "Born on" (assumingly) and "Died on." Although, the middle section is broken Croatian, I would assume that it is something along those lines.
- . Here lies, Born and Died.

- I remember the story about the bride being decapitated my daddy would sit on the back porch and tell us younger kids about it always changing it up to scare us !!!I know I hated living by them tracks !!!!!I remember the eerie feeling

Slide 194:

Reuben Rock

Many of you probably have heard the tale about Reuben Rock who died in 1949 and was buried in his military uniform against his wishes. Strange haunting noises and visions were said to have appeared at the home that he and his wife once occupied straight up this road in Friesville on the right. After performing exorcisms and actually digging up his body at Upper Claar Cemetery, his spirit was supposedly finally put to rest. Many newspaper articles were written, variegated versions of his story were told in books and the local folklore abounds. Whether this was the result of true spirits or the prank of some unwitting people remains unknown. However, the newspaper articles in 1949 said that Reuben Rock's body was exhumed, stripped of his military uniform, salted, wrapped in sheets and reburied after some spiritual exorcism was performed, and that his body now rests in peace.

Slide 195:

Grefco Ghost – John Markley

Slide 196-203:

Lost Children of the Alleghenies

Slide 204:

Early Education in Claysburg

Slide 205:

Bulldog Mascot

How the Bulldog Became the Claysburg School Mascot

Someone recently asked how the Claysburg schools became known as the Bulldogs. After months of asking people and months of checking old records, we came up with nothing! We had narrowed it down. We found there was no mention of Bulldogs before 1935, but by 1939 the mascot was the Bulldog. So how and when was it decided?

Finally, we knew. Hulda Feathers Dively, class of 1936, who now lives in the Puzzletown area near Newry, Pennsylvania, gave us the answer.

Hulda remembers that the Class of 1936 had a contest to name a mascot for the sports teams. Mr. Phillips was their teacher, and the coach at the time was Sam Hoenstine, who currently resides in Florida. One group of boys from the Class of 1936 was very interested in the contest, since most were athletes themselves. The group was really enthusiastic and interested in getting the football team going and the mascot named. Their entry of "Bulldogs" in the contest was chosen as the winner, and the mascot has been the Bulldog ever since.

These boys were Arthur Burket, Robert Campbell, Clarence Claar, Walter Diehl, Calvin Eicher, Robert Hoenstine, Tom Kurtz, Cletus Snowberger, Regis Walter, Charles Weyant, and Robert Weyant.

Slide 206:

First School was in Claysburg at the Claysburg Union cemetery

The earliest schoolhouse in the area is believed to have been located near the site of Sproul Lime and Stone near Sproul out here on your left. The early writings about the history of Claysburg date this school to approximately 1795. This school is believed to have been built by Johann Schwabenland at his own expense or John Swoveland which was his English name. Swoveland also attended the Greenfield Church.

Here on your left and right is the site of the former Sproul Lime and Stone Company. The earliest schoolhouse in the area is believed to have been located near the site of Sproul Lime and Stone near Sproul here on your left. The early writings about the history of Claysburg date this school to approximately 1795. This school is believed to have been built by Johann Schwabenland at his own expense or John Swoveland which was his English name. Swoveland also attended the Greenfield Church.

Second School was in Black's Mills now Friesville.

Slide 207:

This two story school was built to handle the increased population from the brickyards. It was located at current Claysburg post office site.

Slide 208:

This was the high school that was built in 1918 as the population exploded in Claysburg

Slide 209:

This 1924 class at the high school shows the integration of all ethnic groups. Bear in mind that in America de-segregation did not occur until 1965, but in 1924 Claysburg had integrated schools.

Slide 210:

This was the first consolidated elementary school – the F. D. Roosevelt elementary School built during the depression in 1936 with WPA funds and workers.

Slide 211:

This shows the gymnasium part a year later.

Slide 212:

These were Italian stone masons working at cutting the stone for the elementary school at the Taylor Dively farm in Klahr in 1936.

Slide 213:

This was the Queen elementary school

Slide 214:

This was the CK school complex in 1968

Slide 215:

This is the current Claysburg Elementary school

Slide 216:

This is the CK High School

Slide 217:

Early Churches

Early Churches

Slide 218 & 219:

It was originally called the Greenfield German Reformed Church and services were held beginning back in 1809 in people's homes. The first church was built in 1812 and was the first of three churches to be built at that site. Actually the church has celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 9, 2012.

At the time it was the oldest and only church between Bedford and Hollidaysburg. There were none in Claysburg until 1846. Early church records show items were recorded in German not English. As a matter of fact, church services were held in German until 1871 when they were switched to English. This was the Mother Church or predecessor church for all Reformed and Lutheran Churches in the area. Also, you normally don't relate the Greenfield Church to Greenfield Township, but back then Kimmel Township was part of Greenfield Township. And while we do not know the origins of the name Greenfield, there was a connection to Greenfield Township. At the time, this entire area was part of Bedford County until 1847 when Blair County was carved out of Bedford and Huntingdon Counties.

Slide #220 & 221:

Claysburg German Reformed Church

On your left in 1846 the first church was built in the town of Claysburg on this hill where the cemeteries are located. The original church, the German Reformed Church was built on the north side of Church Street here. It was used by the Reformed and Lutheran congregations jointly. In the early 1880's there was a need for a new church and about the same there was a split among the Reformed and Lutherans not just in Claysburg but everywhere.

Slide 222:

Current Claysburg Reformed Church

Slide 223 & 224

Claysburg Lutheran Church

Then a new Lutheran Church was built in 1882 on the south side of Church Street and was used until 1977 when a new Lutheran Church was dedicated at the corner of Route 220 and Walnut Street. In 1883 a new German Reformed Church was built and replaced the old one built in 1846 on the right side of Church Street, and was used until the dedication of a new church across from the high school in 1932.

Slide 225:

Claar Church of the Brethren

- Just over the Blair-Bedford county line near the Upper Claar Church is where Frederick and Christina Walter Claar settled shortly after they married around 1800. Their home was on the



right side near this gray house where Susan Musselman lives. They began holding church services in their home in 1816.

Slide #226:

Queen Methodist Church with 2 doors – one for men and one for women

In 1873 construction was started on the Queen United Methodist Church. The land was purchased for \$200. The original church had 2 doors – one for men and one for women. The church is part of the Queen, Claysburg and Weyant Methodist charge. Through the years many improvements have been made to the church, and the members have always been instrumental in working with the community on fund raisers for the church or for individuals in need.

Slide #227:

St. Anne's Church

On your right at Sign #26 - Across the street is St. Thomas More Chapel originally known as St. Anne's Church. The Chapel was originally called St. Anne's Catholic Church, and construction began in 1914. The St. Anne's Church was named in memory of Lilly Anne Nolen. Better known as Linnie, she was the wife of John Nolen, Jr., and they originally settled in which is now called Hileman Hollow with their three children. They lived in Claysburg until 1900. However, they contributed generously for the construction of the church and recognized the need for a Catholic Church in the town of Claysburg.

Slide #228

Ebenezer Baptist Church

On the left, behind here across the railroad track on Edgewood Street where the Community Park is located was the site of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Land for the church was purchased on September 17, 1920 for \$300 from Abram and Catherine Burket. The church was built by the African American community members in the 1920's. It remained in operation until 1960-1961. Later the Claysburg Bible Church used it. Now only a vacant lot which is a parking lot for the community park is the only reminder of its existence.

Slide #229-234:

Most Photographed Place in Claysburg over time – Bullscreek Falls

Slide #235:

Why are people called Bullscrickers?

Slide #236:

This has nothing to do with Bullscreek, but I am sure that this gave the Gaysport area of Hollidaysburg a bad name for a while after this.

Slide #237:

1930 Altoona Mirror article. Off to your left is the stream called South Poplar Run. It has its origins up in Blue Knob Mountain. A bull did drown in this stream in 1889 when the Johnstown flood occurred. It happened near Skunk Lane. Bullscreek was originally called Fredericksburg, but then became known as Bullscreek. Later with the Blue Knob Ski Resort opening, it also became known as Ski Gap.

Slide 238-247

Claysburg Hall of Fame – 7 years of inductees

Slide #248: The End!