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Adams County History 2001

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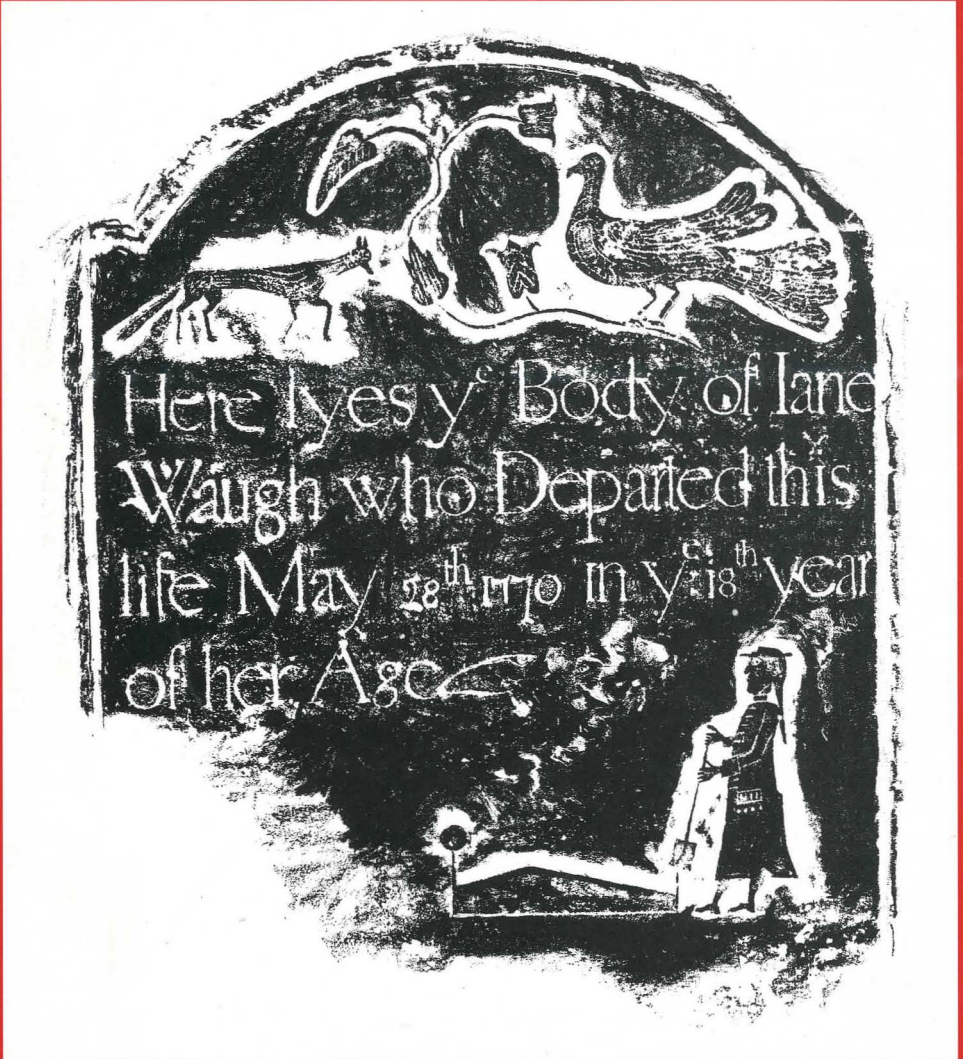
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Adams County History 2001

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ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



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Statement of Purpose

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the presentation of the social, economic, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of that history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains museum displays and a valuable library of publications, and archival and manuscript material which includes estate papers, deed books, land surveys, and newspapers. In addition, it publishes important historical studies and reprints of earlier studies on Adams county history, a monthly newsletter, and a journal.

The editorial board of Adams County History encourages and invites the submission of essays and notices reflecting the rich history of Adams county. Submissions should be typed double spaced. Contributors should retain copies of the typescript submitted. If they desire return of their submissions, they should enclose a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

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Editor's Note

How can one make an absence flower,
Lure a desert to sudden bloom?

– John Montague

A decaying, wooden, humpbacked bridge spanning a railroad cut and the barely remembered gravers whose tombstones preserve in slate, sandstone, and marble, not only the names, dates of birth and death of the county's early settlers, but also the Scots-Irish and German folk art once used to memorialize those dead – these have inspired the two essays collected in this year's volume of *Adams County History*. Superficially unrelated, the two articles together nonetheless remind us again how fragile and fugitive and endangered are the material remains of our past.

Unprotected from vandalism and weather – and, indeed, from cultural indifference – the county's rural graveyards are becoming smaller, their stones breaking and becoming more illegible each year. Even sadder, the early craftsmen, who usually pursued their love of stone-work part-time, when demands of their vocations allowed, comprise a largely unknown group. Yet to their communities they were essential. Long a student of early folkways and folk-art, Nancy DeLong has endeavored to resurrect the identities of as many of those stone-gravers as still feasible, sometimes discovering surprising connections among them that crossed ethnic – that is, German and Celtic – boundaries, oftentimes uncovering veritable dynasties (Bighams and Mealses) of gravestone-makers, whose crafts, style, and traditions were carried on generation after generation.

Bureaucratic indifference and insensitivity also assault the county's material legacy. In his essay, Elwood W. ("Woody") Christ investigates the history of Guernsey's wooden, arched bridge, decreed as fit for demolition by the commonwealth's Public Utilities Commission. Endeavoring to assess ultimate responsibility for maintaining the structure and thus perhaps providing the Friends of Guernsey some justification for preserving it and obtaining funding to repair it, Woody's meticulous detective work not only clarifies something of the bridge's mysterious origin, but also uncovers a history of the hamlet of Guernsey, together with the latter's business and social ventures, that helps explain the puzzling and seemingly irrational configuration of roads and properties that surround the Butler township landmark.

Both essays offer significant views into our history: DeLong's examines the lives of artisans we who appreciate and value gravestones hardly even think about; and Christ's details how geographic anomalies and today's half-recognizable clusters of houses at cross-roads may embody complex social and economic histories. Both reveal directions future work might pursue and suggest approaches and articles for inclusion in next year's *ACH*. If this publication is to continue, it must be in a position to draw upon the resources and interests of its readership. Essays for inclusion in volume 8 are now being considered, and we hope that anyone interested in submitting a piece for publication will get in touch with the editor as soon as possible.

Adams County Grave-stonecutters, 1770-1918

by Nancy DeLong

Overview

Stonecutting in Adams county followed all the general developmental trends and stages exhibited by the craft in other parts of Pennsylvania. Adams county, nonetheless, evolved its unique approach to gravestone art, for rural early American stonecutters were by and large highly unique artistic individuals.

The earliest prominent stonecutters maintained high artistic standards as well as exhibiting a high degree of creativity. These were craftsmen of the Scots-Irish Bigham family of Marsh Creek and the Pennsylvania-German Meals family, centered at Bender's Cemetery, Butler township. A third outstanding Adams county stonecutter was the predecessor of Barnet Hildebrand of East Berlin. This artist carved both in German script and in English and possessed a fine flowing style with an unusual German eye for proportion and spacing. In 1805, most Adams county residents were still being buried with rough red fieldstone to mark head and foot. Yet by 1805, members of these three prominent stonecutting groups had established a standard for Adams county stone-carving excellence. Their influence continued to shape the character of the county's gravestones until granite became the medium of choice.

Researching the earliest stonecutting is made difficult by the nature of the craft. In the colonial and federal periods, this rural area we now call Adams county lacked sufficient affluence to support full-time stonecutter craftsmen. Stonecutting was work that supplemented the family livelihood; it was not essential. In frontier times those who knew how to carve in stone presumably shared their knowledge with younger men of their family or community. They also imparted a battery of other skills that might become increasingly useful as the new country evolved. Men who were good with their hands were valued for what they could accomplish, and most needed to be able to "turn their hand" to more than one sort of task. Frontier mentality lasted longest in rural areas such as Adams county. For census and tax purposes, various stonecutters in the area listed their occupations as "stonecutter and farmer," "wheelwright," and later "chair-maker," "engraver," and

“machinist.” There is some indication that “potter” and/or “tanner” should be added to the list. Second-generation carvers also did not pursue stonecutting for unbroken periods of time. While exhibiting less skill than first-generation carvers, the second-generation stonecutters seemed to create more unique or adventurous designs and stone treatments. Peter Brieghner, who secured carving work from both English-speaking and German-speaking customers before 1810, illustrates this second-generation approach.

The earliest German stonecutters in the county had the refined, three-dimensional carving skills that had been necessary in the old country. The distribution of their beautiful stones proves residence close to Bender’s Church in today’s Butler township. This area was home to the Meals family, a group most strongly identified with the craft from 1820 to 1954. Although there is no direct proof that Samuel and Gabriel Meals (active stonecutters, c. 1820) learned to carve from older members of their own family, commonly employed stylistic features offer indirect evidence that they did so.¹

In addition to making use of their more intense training backgrounds, the first-generation carvers explored new creative ideas allowed by the artistic freedom in frontier America. An early Meals family stonecutter thrice explored carving the full form of an angel complete with winged feet (see figure 1). The Scots-Irish Samuel Bigham, who relocated in North Carolina after 1776, also personified this sort of early creativity with his beautiful branches of leaves, his nature-art, and the unique and puzzling contents of the shields in his coats-of-arms.

Adams county estate papers leave scant information as to who carved which gravestones. Many persons buried under remarkable grave markers did not leave an estate account. Many with complete estate accounts appear to have been buried with no grave markers. Of those few who had both, perhaps one in twenty estate accounts will list a gravestone expense and indicate money paid out to the stonecutter. Few wills specify that gravestones be erected. Apparently, there was never a standard for including a gravestone as part of the business of settling an estate.

In common with many other fledgling businessmen, Charles Ramsey was no doubt inspired by the creation of the new county called Adams in 1800. In 1807, Charles Ramsey attempted to make a living in Gettysburg by only carving gravestones. His business venture last-

ed less than two years. Young Charles Lafferty declared stonecutting his occupation for only one year, 1826. In 1827, Charles suffered the sheriff's sale of his belongings. After starting out in carving, Daniel Menges also lost his first modest property in an 1833 sheriff's sale. It did not pay to pin all one's hopes on stonecutting even if that was what one did best. Before 1840, wise individuals who could carve gravestones did so only when such work was practical. They seem to have valued their ability to carve in varying degrees. Many locals who could carve adeptly apparently did so infrequently. Additionally, several carvers of modest skill carved many, many stones.

Since the 1770s when Samuel Bigham of the Marsh Creek settlement produced gravestones for residents of Abbottstown and Straban townships, folks in the area have used the purchase of gravestones to establish and reestablish communal ties. On the basis of need, many area residents recognized that they must associate with others not of their own cultural heritage or not of their own immediate geographic area. Purchasing gravestones provided a means for connecting with other social groups. Often, associations created or strengthened were forged among people who lived close to one another and were of the same cultural heritage and economic class, yet this was never exclusively the case. Economic, emotional, or social needs were met as stonecutting contracts were dispersed. Stonecutting transcended the partisan and political rivalries that divided the area along cultural lines, for it touched the great equalizer – death. In addition, all recognized that the worth of a gravestone was significant. A medium-sized stone could equal the cost of a cow or horse. The custom of networking socially through dispersing stonecutting contracts became a part of Adams county's cultural fabric. Prior to 1918, it was rare for an established local family exclusively to use the same stonecutter (or stonecutting family) without ever employing the competition.

The choice of stonecutters before 1840 seems to have depended only indirectly upon the artistic skill of the carvers available. Carvers were basically free to create artistic designs at their own discretion. Customers sporadically supplied epitaphs, but early decorative effects appear to have been employed mainly at the suggestion of the stonecutter. The stonecutter probably used an evolving succession of pleasing designs to impress viewers with the quality of his work and thus invite future commissions.

The most unique stone treatments and trends in Adams county

are found before 1840. By 1840, when the use of marble superseded the use of slate and sandstone, stencil patterned lettering and art replaced the freely chiseled inscriptions and art of previous decades. Stonecutters began to sign many of their works. Daniel Menges, however, prolonged the earlier folk-art approach to stonecutting well into the 1860s, producing many of Adams county's most interesting marble monuments.

Throughout Adams county's Victorian period the spacing of the stencil-style letters on gravestones remained individualistic. The work of Menges, the Meals and Spangler families, and others may be identified in many cases where the stones are unsigned simply on the basis of the spacing of the lettering. Each of the later "marble works" businesses had favorite designs, with some favorite design features remaining in use for decades.² In contrast, there was a great variety of shifting gravestone styles and price ranges from which the customer could choose. One could even order gravestones from Sears and Roebuck. The customer's exposure to all this Victorian variety is still reflected in the peculiar character of the various Adams county "grave-stone communities." Stonecutter August Diehl, who died in the 1870s, owned a Townsend's Design Book worth \$3.50 from which apparently customers could select standard patterns to personalize in any variety of ways. Yet Isaac Group of Tyrone township drew his own design for the gravestone he had William Miller of Gettysburg carve for his daughter's grave. Standardization was not the rule during the county's Victorian times, yet it was clearly possible to support oneself by carving marble gravestones by the 1850s and 1860s.

By the 1870s stonecutting "monument works" had sprung up in many of the smallest communities. These communities included McSherrystown, East Berlin, York Springs, and Arendtsville. Reports indicate that communities compared the skills of local stonecutters with the skills displayed by other monument works in Gettysburg, Dillsburg, Carlisle, or even Baltimore.³ However, so long as the stonecutter used soft marble to make gravemarkers, there remained an outlet for personal creativity in Adams county gravestone design. The much harder granite medium, introduced into the county about 1918, required new tools and more refined techniques. Granite signaled the true standardization of the craft and reduced the number of small businessmen who could afford to stay employed at stonecutting.

* * * *

The Bigham Family

One segment of the Scots-Irish Bigham family settled in the Marsh Creek area in 1749. Among the group was a Samuel Bigham, Jr., who produced gravestones here between 1770 and 1776. There were several "Samuel Bigham" stonecutters. It seems that the Bigham family had gained experience at carving gravestones even before their journey from Ireland to America. In Ireland carvers satisfied strict standards in creating proper full coat-of-arms designs on each gravestone. In America, the stonecutter was free to experiment and explore any themes that had meaning to the community group.⁴ This freedom of expression, added to the obvious worldly knowledge and skill of Samuel Bigham, resulted in a brief burst of beautiful Adams county art worked in black slate.

The Bighams could procure the finest quality of slate available in the colonies. In addition, Samuel Bigham, Jr., designed and executed works as skillfully as the finest colonial craftsmen of his time.⁵ His signature "s.b." is used on the Abraham Agnew stone, Lower Marsh Creek, Highland township.

Samuel Bigham, Jr., had great impact upon the local people of Adams county. For instance, he carved the lion-bearing gravestone that John Abbott erected for his son after the boy's sensational suicide. Abbott and Bigham were both of English speaking families, but Bigham was Presbyterian and Abbott was Anglican. A contract such as this one, forged across sectarian lines, testifies to the respect Abbott held for Bigham's work.

Samuel Bigham, Jr., also had a great impact on local stonecutters. After the untimely deaths of two Straban township youth, Bigham executed a coat-of-arms containing a life-like goat, a rope, and a three-sectioned collar with three separate buckles. The meaning of much of Bigham's symbolism is unclear today, yet decorative features of his work (the ropes and veined leaves in his carvings) directly influenced the style of other local Scots-Irish and even German stonecutters (for example, the work of Peter Brieghner below, who executed the stone of John Abbott, Sr., in English).

Around 1776, the Bigham family relocated in North Carolina. There they continued to carve and evolve intense artistic stone-bound expressions of the freedom their new community valued. From patri-

otic eagles and stars to sailing ships (yet always featuring the Scottish dove of promise), the Bigham carvings in total form a moving reference to the emerging values of the common American before 1800s.⁶

At Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Cemetery in Highland township, stands the slate gravestone of Jean Brownfield (d. 1760) and her little sister Elizabeth (d. 1776; see figure 2). Both girls attained the age of five years. Mr. Bigham choose to portray a child-angel on the top of this gravestone. Not a part of the Scots-Irish tradition of gravestone symbolism, the little effigy reflects the fashions of big-city coastal gravestone art. The stone would have been at home in Boston or Philadelphia. Instead, it was placed in a verdant country green. The frontier people doubtless beheld it wonderingly, if they could indeed save a moment for reflection from the urgent concerns of their daily lives.

Another intriguing example of Bigham art may still be found at Black's Cemetery, west of Gettysburg. Here stands the unique gravestone of James Innis, a land-owner on the Manor of the Masque. For the marker of a gentleman who had more than reached his maturity, Samuel Bigham chose to employ a full coat-of-arms. The interior elements of the shield are, however, placed informally. There appears a carpenter's square and a compass. No estate account on Innis exists to provide more information.

A local Scots-Irish carver whom Bigham influenced was the mysterious "carver of the crown." This as yet identified stonecutter produced a great quantity of Scots-Irish gravestones, which may still be found at Black's and in the Marsh Creek area. This quaint stonecutter always executed a sprawling crown atop the content of the epitaphs he lettered. (The crown was but one part of a traditional coat-of-arms.) Often, but not always, the "carver of the crown" used a Bigham spiral and/or a vine with leaves in his design.

Another example of the influence of Samuel Bigham, Jr., survives in the gravestone of eighteen-year-old Jane Waugh (d. 1770; see the cover illustration). This stone is carved in very unusual low relief. Because of the good quality of the stone material, however, the monument has survived the passage of time. The carving atop the stone shows both a bird and a fox with three distinctly German tulips on a crooked stem. The lettering seems to indicate that one of the Bigham family members indeed carved this record. Finally, the figure of the colonial gentleman and the casket below defies adequate interpreta-

tion. (Other Adams county stonecutters portrayed a simple casket shape below the wording on some of their stones.) The detail of the Jane Waugh stone is beautifully executed, but whether or not the moving sphere above the casket indicates the flight of the soul remains subject to question. Perhaps the illustration shows some sort of winch for lowering a casket. According to the dates on the stones, there was a large number of deaths in Lower Marsh Creek in 1770. Perhaps a plague of sorts occasioned the invention of a winch in this burial area. A second stonecutter at this location also carved a casket with an attached sphere.

One need look no further than the Samuel Bigham family carvings for a reason to be impressed by the social adjustments taking place here around the time of the Revolutionary War. The reciprocal influence of the Bighams across traditional cultural barriers of heritage indicates that Adams county contained the elements necessary for the development of a true Americanized consciousness. Social melding was apparently taking place even before the area became known as "Adams."

* * * *

Peter Brieghner

The stonecutting style of Peter Brieghner of Berwick township owes much to his German heritage and also his contact with the stonecutting of local Scots-Irish families, including that of Samuel Bigham.

Brieghner's earliest stones date from 1785 and 1786 and employ his distinctive Elizabethan shape with rope twist around the perimeter. All the carvings of this period exhibit a distinctive mix of capital and lower-case letters. Peter probably produced these works while still in his teens, and apparently after a minimal apprenticeship. The Abbott, Caldwell, and McIntire inscriptions of this period are in English, while most of the other stones by Peter Brieghner employ German inscriptions. Two early stonecutting examples at the Pines, Straban township, display a unique checked decorative figure centered below the inscription (see figure 3). This motif appears to have sprung from the influence of Scots-Irish heraldry. Other carvings (in English) apparently by other stonecutters utilize the same symbol. These carvings may be found at New Chester and also Conewago Chapel.

Beginning in 1789 with the Anna Barbara Albert stone at Lower Bermudian and continuing until at least 1801, Peter Brieghner employed a distinctly German trio of six-pointed stars on the top of his gravestones with the Germanic *urbogen* (curve of the earth) grounding the base of the stones.⁷ During these years, his spacing, as well as his use of capitalization and letter size, became more sophisticated. At Abbottstown's St. John's Cemetery is the stone of "Jacob Berlin" (1790). Researching Jacob's estate led to the identification of Peter Brieghner as the person paid for producing the "head Stone."

The Adam Mauren stone in Bender's churchyard (1792) illustrates the final period of Peter Brieghner's carving. It employs a tiny swirling German swastika inside a six-pointed star centered at the top of the slate. Flanking the star are two arching veined leaves, while below the inscription is a purely decorative swirl shape similar to but smaller than those used by the early German Meals family. At Conewago Chapel, the stone of Catharina Merthin (1800) utilizes all the same elements, as does the stone of Margaret Lashels at Low Dutch Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant township. Margaret's stone is inscribed in English.

Peter Brieghner began to explore a new motif design circa 1798 – crossed bones. These shapes usually rise above the plane of the carving, so they must be planned for as soon as the stone is conceived. German stones with similar raised crossed bones may be seen in Sheafferstown, Lebanon county, and doubtless other areas as well. Peter was the only Adams county stonecutter to use them repeatedly. Brieghner's first documented use of crossed bones may be found at Abbottstown on the stone of Johan Adam Grasser (d. 1798). Cumulatively, Peter Brieghner's final stonecutting works employ a mix of all the elements he had already mastered as well as two new features. Above the raised crossed bones, a radiant raised heart emerges, and on either side of the heart a detailed leaf graces the flat surface of the slate. Hearts to a German indicated the fulfillment of the soul in heavenly bliss.⁸ Thus, the symbolic message of Brieghner's final works contains much more than the stark warnings of death's inevitability. Excellent examples from the end of this period may be found on the stones of "SeBASTIAHN FINCK" (1801; see figure 4), Abbottstown, and "ISRAEL KUTZMILLER" (1802), Littlestown.

Leaves were not traditional German symbols, yet they figure prominently on the final Brieghner stones. Leaves and ropes, however,

are prominent artistic features on the beautiful Adams county Bigham-carved gravestones (1770-1776). Young Peter would have studied these markers before he began his first stonecutting. The Abbottstown gravestone of young John Abbott employs most remarkable leaves and rope (because the stone had deteriorated badly, it is not legible enough for reproduction here). The sensational aspects of young Abbott's suicide made it unlikely that any resident of Berwick, c. 1800, would have been unaware of this marker. John Abbott, Sr. (an Anglican), had commissioned this gravestone be carved by Mr. Bigham (a Presbyterian) of the Gettysburg area. This stone was and still is a conversation piece in the town bearing Abbott's name (for a comparison of leaves by Bigham and Brieghner, see figure 5).

The Bigham leaves are so true to life that it is hard to imagine a young potential stonecutter not being enthralled by them, and one wonders why it took Peter Brieghner fifteen years to employ them on his stones. However, if inclined to doubt a Scots-Irish influence, compare the capital 'A' used by Bigham, Brieghner, and other Scots-Irish stonecutters working in the immediate area (see figure 6 for another example of Brieghner's early work). Without exception, Bigham's Adams county stones predate Brieghner's work, yet the letter variation and the rope trim that both Bigham and Brieghner employed suggest the former's influence on the latter. Brieghner's first carvings were lettered in the English language, yet the traditionally placed stars, swastikas, and urbogens of his second period strongly reflect the man's German upbringing. One may wish to view Brieghner's later imitation of Bigham's leaves as an artistic compliment. Peter had matured stylistically in that he was finally integrating the leaves into his own complex design format instead of merely trying to copy them as a novice would.

Today, Peter Brieghner's distinctive work may still be found at the Pines near New Chester, Bender's Church in Butler township, Littlestown's White Church, Low Dutch Cemetery and Young's in Mt. Pleasant township and at St. John's in Abbottstown (Abbottstown may contain the largest number of Brieghner stones).

A fine example of Peter's work has thus far survived the assault of vandals at Trinity Churchyard, E. Walnut and School Ave., Hanover. This is the stone of Johann Jacob Helmann who died in 1789. The back of the stone bears a statement about the significance of life and death given by the deceased, a German practice very rarely seen in this area.

Peter Brieghner apparently did not continue stonecutting after 1802. Indeed, the body of his work was never large, although its wide distribution indicates his popularity. The septennial census of 1807 did not report a profession for Peter Brieghner. In 1814, the report listed his profession as "farmer," in 1821 as "cooper." It is possible that he always worked in several professions.

Viewed chronologically, Brieghner's work exhibits systematic exploration of various artistic expressions. Checked flourishes give way to urbogens, which in turn give way to bones, then bones with hearts above them. Apparently, Brieghner's customers did not seek to influence this early stonecutter in his choice of decoration, yet they did choose the poems to be inscribed on several of the gravestones. Brieghner seems to have been free to explore the decorative art that he successively found personally compelling. With his artistic desire realized to the best of his ability, the mature Peter moved away from stonecutting to work in professions less backbreaking and more financially stable. Peter Brieghner's entire body of work remains earnest and honest from first to final carving.

The Gettysburg *Centennial* reported the death of Peter Brieghner of Berwick township in 1839, at the age of 70 years. His estate lists value principally in farming land.

Within Adams county the work of Peter Brieghner is important because it shows how a local man of modest means and education could be affected by trends in a culture other than his own Pennsylvania German heritage. His work illustrates that an Adams county stonecutter, c. 1800, could succeed in carving for both English-speaking and German-speaking families. His work also illustrates a unique blending of individual responses to the then-dominant trends in German gravestone art. That his work was so widely accepted indicates not only that the man was well liked, but also that the persons who employed him were satisfied with markers that deviated from the more traditional norms. Perhaps they were unaware of the norms, yet felt that Brieghner could adequately convey their intentions through his carving.⁹

* * * *

Charles Ramsey

Charles Ramsey's career as an Adams county stonecutter was brief, yet it has proved extremely easy to document. His name appears in the septennial census of 1807, with his profession listed as "stonecutter." This in itself is very unusual because most of the men carving gravestones in Adams county before 1850 listed other occupations as their main source of income for census purposes. In 1807, Ramsey was taxed only for his occupation according to the records of the Gettysburg borough. The following year, 1808, he was also taxed only for occupation, but a line was drawn through his name indicating a closure for his records.

Ramseys were widely distributed over what is now Adams county in the colonial and early federal periods. Notable members of the family relocated in Tennessee and North Carolina. The only other Ramsey on the tax lists of Gettysburg prior to and during the years of Charles's brief stay was Reynolds Ramsey, well-known storekeeper and owner of horse, cow, female slave, and three and 3/4 lots in the borough. Perhaps Charles was able to locate his place of work and/or dwelling under Reynolds' roof. Charles Ramsey seems to have done a high proportion of carving for estates. Perhaps Charles was additionally able to make use of the more established man's business associations in procuring clients.

The stonecutting of Charles Ramsey is documented in two estate accounts, both dating from 1807. The first is the estate of Archibald Coulter, who died in September of 1806 at the age of 63 and is buried at the Pines, New Chester. Carving the modest slate stone earned Charles Ramsey \$6.00. The second estate account is that of Revolutionary War veteran David Agnew who died in 1797 and is dated 1807. It lists Charles Ramsey as having produced both head and foot stone for this gentlemen's resting place. David Agnew is buried at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Cemetery.

Also at the Lower Marsh Creek are the slate stones of veteran Robert M^cJimsey (d. 1799), James Thompson (d. 1801), and Jane P. McGinly (d. 1803; see figure 7). All appear to be the work of Charles Ramsey. The slant of the lettering, the distinctive shape of the small case "y," the number "1," and the lines embellishing the closing all reveal the identity of their carver. Charles Ramsey used very thin lines

to fashion his letters, but he had a fine aptitude for spacing those letters attractively (These characteristics may be expected from an Adams county Scots-Irish stonecutter.) Since his lines are so thin, the photos of Ramsey's work are especially hard to read.

Charles Ramsey was apparently not content to abide long in our county. Perhaps he relocated with others of his heritage. To date, the various possibilities have not been researched.

* * * *

Charles Lafferty

Charles Lafferty, stonecutter, wheelwright, and chair-maker, lived in the town of York Springs, Huntington township, from 1827 until his death in 1859. He left behind a modest estate and several children not yet of age. Charles Lafferty's earliest stonecutting work may be found at the Pines, New Chester, with other examples preserved at Lower Bermudian and Low Dutch cemeteries as well as at other sites. Wherever Charles Lafferty employed his fractur-like decorative bar designs on either side of the word "of," he left behind distinctive stones that cannot be mistaken for the work of any other stonecutter. Lafferty is an Irish, not Scots-Irish name, and perhaps this man's carving reflects an Irish style (which often parallels German). Charles Lafferty always circled the word "IN" in the phrase "IN MEMORY OF." However, other carvers also used a circle around this beginning word (see figure 8). Photo and rubbing comparisons have been most helpful in establishing a better comprehension of the character of Lafferty's stonecutting. His letters are always deeply marked into the slate or sandstone. He carved few stones, yet all his work seem to indicate a strong, yet artistically whimsical character.

The earliest carving of Charles Lafferty appears to have been done about 1826. The green slate stone of Catharine Whiest (d. 1826) at the Pines, New Chester, shows evidence of straight lines which aid in laying out the lettering actually etched into the surface of the stone. This appears to be the only work in which guidelines are so obvious. The Lower Bermudian gravestone of Christian Bushey (d. 1826; see figure 8) is also cut of the same green slate. The final account of Christian Bushey's estate indicates that Charles Lafferty was paid \$6.50 for his work of carving this headstone. It bears Charles's trade-

mark decorative bar design. The sandstone grave markers of Daniel and "Ephraim" Funk in Sunnyside Cemetery at York Springs seem also to have been done by Charles Lafferty in 1826.

It appears to have been hard to make a living at stonecutting in Adams county when first entering the business. The Gettysburg *Centennial* announced the sheriff's sale of Charles Lafferty on February 28, 1827. On September 27, 1827, he shows up in the tax records of Huntington township as single man. The following year Lafferty's affairs apparently turned for the better. He married Miss Sydney Sadler of Huntington township on August 7, 1828. The extended Sadler family owned a good bit of land in the New Chester area.

About 1829, Charles Lafferty carved a pair of slate stones for Mary M^cDannel and (apparently) her husband. These unique and individualized works survive at Low Dutch Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant township.

In 1830, Charles was listed as a wheelwright in Huntington township. In 1833, he bought the house and lot in York Springs, but in 1850 tax rolls listed him as "chairmaker."

It is unclear exactly when Charles Lafferty stopped carving gravestones. Perhaps he made the transition to carving in marble yet never signed any of his works in this new material. Perhaps his later works do not resemble the stones he first carved in 1826. In 1859 when he died in Huntington township, his inventory listed among many other tools a "grinding stone and frame," a "Drilling machine," and "two boxes of chisels and gouges." At the crying sale, files and chisels were broken down into small lots. Among those who purchased the tools were J. E. Spangler – a lot of files – and C. E. Miller – five lots of two chisels each. Both these men produced accomplished stonecutter descendants in Adams county.

No evidence as yet indicates where or from whom Charles Lafferty learned the stonecutting trade. The name Lafferty is rare in early Adams county. In 1833, six years after Charles Lafferty's sheriff's sale (and the year he bought the lot in York Springs), an old man named Manasas Lafferty died at the county poor house. The *Compiler* indicates that he was known as "Old Manas." Could this have been Charles' father or uncle? One can only wish that a more complete record had been printed, for perhaps it was from "Old Manas" that Charles learned how to carve such decorative messages in stone (see figure 9).

* * * *

Daniel Menges

Many people feel that the earlier the stonecutting the more purely it expresses true folk, ethnic art. These people believe that using stencil patterns and design books somehow contaminated the expression of the stonecutters. For them only a "pure" work of strictly ethnic origin is worthy. Even willow trees are to them evidence of ethnic "corruption," and thus are held in less regard.

The work of Adams county stonecutter Daniel Menges belies this insistence on "ethnic purity," for Daniel's work retained his own uniquely German cheeriness throughout a long career (see figure 10). Through many stylistic changes, Menges managed to explore the various themes that intrigued him as well as to meet the demands of decades of customers. Daniel Menges was not a highly educated man. When he first began carving he used stencil patterns to help him. The patterns, however, served merely as aids; they helped but did not dictate what he could design.

Menges appears in the tax records of Mt. Pleasant township in 1829. In 1831, he acquired one and a half acres of land. In 1833, he and his wife, Magdalena lost two little children: "Maryan," aged one year, and "David," aged three. These children are buried at Christ Reformed Church in Littlestown. Their father carved their little red sandstone gravestones that stand side by side. During this early period Daniel Menges also carved the puzzling twice-double East Berlin slate markers for the children of William and Elizabeth Wolf (Daniel had his own way of spelling "Elisabeth").¹⁰

Hard luck continued to follow the young Menges family. On February 17, 1834, the Gettysburg *Centennial* announced a sheriff's sale of their property:

2 acres more or less adjoining lands of John Kuhn Widow Cline and others on which are erected a one-story log Dwelling house, log stable, springhouse, and a well of water near the door, also an orchard and garden. Seized and taken in execution as the estate of Daniel Menges.

Leaving this cozy dwelling behind, the family moved to Middletown (Biglerville), the home of Magdalena's parents. The

Menges clan made a better living in Middletown, even owing their own horse, cow and adjoining lot. From this relatively central location, Daniel Menges carved for bereaved families of modest means who lived in every area of the county during the 1840s and 1850s. Menges carved a huge number of plain-lettered, small marble stones, as well as many monuments like the decorative markers that appear in accompanying photos. He was as popular as the Meals brothers. Folks traveled from Littlestown, York Springs, Conewago Chapel, Upper Bermudian, the Pines and Flohr's Church to order Menges's stones. These markers are easy to identify even when unsigned because of the distinctive spacing patterns. Above all, Menges was an artist who valued decorative effect. There is only one cemetery where his markers are conspicuously absent – Evergreen Cemetery.

By 1850, son Edward Menges was active in the stonecutting business. He had even signed a few gravestones himself. Apparently, however, Edward lacked whatever it took to succeed on his own. Although he married and lived adjoining his parents' home, he was not long taxed for an occupation. Perhaps Edward was the reason that Daniel could continue to carve well into his 66th year of age. Edward could have helped provide the strength that moved the marble from place to place. Neither Edward nor his wife had an estate or a gravestone erected in their memory, yet there are gravesites where they both may lie in Bender's Cemetery, beside Edward's mother.

Daniel Menges explored a wide range of decorative styles during his career. He lavished stylized tulips particularly on the graves of young children and old ladies. He persisted in spelling phonetically and in spacing creatively also, although the spelling improved with the years. Significantly, he had no natural love for the perfectly centered or the perfectly symmetrical. His work was very honest and natural, but it was never refined, as was the carving of William B. Meals, his contemporary. When Daniel procured a new set of decorative stencils, he simply worked out the ideas that he found most to his liking and then moved on from those ideas. It is also likely that his customers sometimes requested that he use particular designs. It is just as probable that many customers valued his ability so much that they let him choose how to decorate the stones they were purchasing. Knowing the ways of the country folk, it is likely that Daniel Menges had a unique yet endearing personality. He probably loved to visit with and commiserate with his customers when they came to order stones. Those who

were indifferent to his art were evidently not immune to the charms of his personality, because he got enough business to continue to enjoy doing what he did. Menges visited with his customers and continued to explore his stencil possibilities joyously for decades with no vestige of self-consciousness. This is how any true folk artist approaches his work, and it is this quality of joy that makes Menges stones so endearing (see figure 11).

The carving that had begun in the 1820s or 1830s ended in 1865. Menges produced a beautiful large marker for his wife Magdalena, using at Bender's his first and only wreath with flowers. Also in that year he produced the meticulous gravestone of York Springs Civil War casualty, Charles G. Miller. This stone is so perfectly free of spelling errors or happy little accidents that one can hardly believe it is a Menges work until one reads the signature. Daniel must have been really honoring this young soldier to have accomplished this carving so carefully, unless he had some help. After 1865, he seems to have stopped carving, although the name Menges still shows a tax for occupation. Then the horse and cow are gone, and by 1869, Daniel himself is gone.

Adams County Poor House records show Daniel Menges residing within its establishment in 1870. He is listed as "demented." In 1871, there is no Daniel Menges. There remains, however, yet a third unmarked grave beside that of Magdalena Menges, and we may hope that Daniel lies there, if anonymous, content for all his labors.

* * * *

August Diehl

Augustus (August) Diehl fashioned the marble monuments popular in the late Victorian decades while living in Heidlersburg and working at Good Intent Mills, Huntington township. This artistic stonecutter lived only until the age of 27. Information concerning his career has been gained from estate papers, the 1880 census, and also from the gravestones which he carved and signed.

The first local gravestones to appear with the signature "A. Diehl" are dated 1879. These indicate that by the age of 23, August had set up his own business and was conforming to the practice of the majority of local carvers by signing a few of the stones that he carved. On December 23, 1879, he married Hannah Elenora Bower, daughter of

William Bower, Huntington township. In 1880, a son, Edward, was born. It may be assumed that August had served as an apprentice and/or a journeyman stonecutter for a number of years in order to learn his trade. In 1880, census records indicate that he had an apprentice of his own living and working with him, a John Peters, aged nineteen.

August Diehl's business is somewhat typical of the 1880s in that his operation was not family-owned-and-operated. He appears to have struck out from an undetermined point of origin (perhaps in another county), locating his own shop in the industrial center of Good Intent Mills, along Bermudian Creek. Here, local wool was woven into cloth for clothing and fine blankets. The end products of his work were sold both at Good Intent and at locations outside the area.

Many of the stones in local cemeteries signed "A.Diehl" are extremely traditional for the time period and locale. Perhaps Diehl's most endearing works are the stones on which he lavished a German fractur-style lettering, using a fine eye for design and proportion (see figure 12).

This lone stonecutter also created monumental, obelisk-style pieces. The Idaville stone of Jesse R. Group is one obelisk in which August may have taken no special pride (see figure 13). He did not sign it. Jesse Group's estate papers indicate that the eight-foot high monument was created by August Diehl. Working a piece of marble of this size required man and horse-power and a prior knowledge of many mechanical aspects of working with stone.

When August Diehl died of a sudden illness in 1883, estate papers show that he and his young family had lived modestly. The venue list total value was \$242.23. The single most expensive item owned by the Diehls was an Erie organ, which brought \$87.50.

Three other prominent local stonecutters attended the estate sale, and purchased many of the tools and supplies. In the following account, the names Wm. Miller, Ruben Minter, and E. G. Lough indicate established carvers in Gettysburg, Arendtsville, and York Springs, respectively. The "Diehl Bros" listing is ambiguous, since pumice stone may be used for sharpening and grinding tools needed in a wide range of professions.

Ruben Minter	.....seive	.....50
Wm. Miller	.....sand	.....10
Ruben Minter	.....blocks	.....35
Wm. Miller	.....shears	.....1.40
E. G. Lough	.....drill	.....20.25
	(Moyer drill with bits)	
Diehl Bros	.....20 lb. of pumice stone	.....1.40
Diehl Bros	.....9 lb. houé (?)	.....45
Wm. Miller	.....grit	.....75
D. Starry	.....rope	.....75
C. Yeats	.....tool box	.....10
R. Minter	.....pail	.....15
Wm. Miller	.....plug and feathers	.....10
Wm. Miller	.....2 wooden rollers	.....10
Wm. Miller	.....2 iron rollers	.....10
Wm. Miller	.....2 iron rollers	.....8
Wm. Miller	.....plaster	.....50

In addition to the above list, the inventory appraisement shows “three pairs of gravestones, finished. . . \$40.00,” and “one Townsends Design book . . . \$3.50.” This design book must have supplied information about popular motifs and stone treatments. It could also have included sample poems and epitaphs. In this period, one stonecutter could duplicate the work of another by employing stenciled patterns. One may hope that a *Townsends Design* book has survived somewhere in Adams county and will eventually be acquired by the historical society. The book would be quite valuable. Indeed, the product of the stonecutter was often quite valuable.

In 1883, William Miller of Gettysburg was paid \$178.59 to finish “working out the marble” that remained incomplete at the time of Diehl’s death. The estate seems to have settled out slightly in the red.

Records housed at the Adams County Historical Society reveal no indication of August Diehl’s final resting place. The two most likely possibilities are that he was buried without a gravestone, or that he was buried outside Adams county. Further research may provide a richer understanding of the impact of August Diehl’s stonecutting establishment upon the little industrial center of Good Intent Mills.

* * * *

The preceding profiles have featured stonecutters who practiced their craft either in isolation or as the trend-setter of their family group. The following profiles illustrate how the stonecutter's calling often became an integrated part of family identity.

Viewed comprehensively, these biographic sketches can give an introduction to the rewards of studying gravestones, yet some significant Adams county stonecutters have not been mentioned, while others who were not prolific have been included because their works can be documented to reveal the character of the craft. There is much more research to be done in this area. Hopefully, crumbling marble and shattering slate will withstand the harsh treatment of our modern culture to become the subjects of future scrutiny.¹¹

* * * *

The Meals Family

Only gradually did stonecutting become a full-time occupation in colonial America. Our growing nation tended to ignore the subtleties of growth of the art. Here, for example, is the sole and brief explanation of the inception of the Meals family stonecutting business as summarized by the *Gettysburg Times*, July 15, 1950:

The Gettysburg Monument Works which was located beside the house in the 1860's, was established in 1820 by Gabriel Meals, great-grandfather of G. Kent Meals, who operated the monument works until his death in 1948 [For a photo of the Gettysburg Monument Works, see figure 14.]

One might conclude that Gabriel's decision to choose this line of work came about fairly quickly. Actually, such a hasty conclusion could not be farther from the scenario suggested by local evidence. The septennial census report of 1821 lists Gabriel Meals only as "farmer," yet he most certainly did carve gravestones as well. In addition,

Samuel Meals of Menallen township is listed as “farmer” and “stone-cutter” in the 1821 census report. The Meals family was a large one. Almost surely, Gabriel and Samuel were not the only family members carving in slate. Cemeteries close to the Meals’s first settlement (Bender’s and Upper Bermudian) particularly abound with beautiful unsigned German gravestones bearing tulips, sun shades, and unique angels. These works indicate the endeavors of several closely related individuals. Local evidence suggests that members of the Meals family had practiced stonecutting ever since arriving in this area, but that none of them carved exclusively before the period of the 1821 census. The Pines in Straban and Bender’s Cemetery in Butler township contain some Meals carvings in three dimensions. These pre-1820 stones utilize a crowded lettering style. Many contain phrases verbatim from the *taushein* of the deceased individual. Persons who carved in this intricate three-dimensional style often had learned their craft in the old country.

Gabriel Meals signed at least three gravestones. The most significant of these is at Upper Bermudian Cemetery, the badly worn marble monument of a member of the Bowers family (see figure 15). Gabriel was just making the transition from slate to marble in 1841 when Bowers died. In our county, use of marble also entailed use of new stencil patterns to create both letters and motifs. In general, this modernization hastened the abandonment of “old-fashioned” German folk designs. The signature on this Bowers stone is placed on its side and reads “G and H Meals” in script. Below the entire inscription appears a large, circular symmetrical sun-shape in kinship with earlier carvings at Bender’s. The use of the sun-shape makes this a transitional sort of stone. At the Pines, Gabriel Meals also placed a signature on the side of the stone of a nine-year old child named Louisa (last name illegible). Also at the Pines is the large marble of Elizabeth Cremer (d. 1842), signed “G.Meals, Getrg” with a special circular signature seal.

The stone of Elizabeth Cremer is one of many elegant and refined Meals creations utilizing then-current trends in gravestone art (see figure 16). The Meals family, more than any other in Adams county, was able to tap into the new supply of broadly available artistic features and produce what customers wanted. Earliest came the full mourning pictures, or, more commonly, the tall and hollow-looking lone willow trees. The Meals family even began with the open Bible motif as early

as 1842, employing this soon-to-be-common motif on a tiny marble stone at Low Dutch Cemetery, Straban township. The Elizabeth Cremer stone is important because the leaves, letterings, and precise drapery features used on it were also utilized by Gabriel Meals on a trio of large intricate marble stones at Bender's (see figure 17). These three stones are unsigned, or the signatures have been buried in cement.¹²

These carvings are the important works of a mature stonecutting artist, an individual who could combine symbolic elements assimilated in his younger days with an exploration of the medium of new marble. Gabriel Meals was producing at his best when he created monuments for "home-folk." It is perhaps no coincidence that these stones are erected at this particular churchyard. Although Gabriel had relocated in Gettysburg more than twenty years before, he probably still thought of this church as "home." Work by the Meals family always remained very popular at Bender's.

According to the signature on the Pheobe Brinkerhoff slate marker in Evergreen Cemetery, Gabriel's sons Henry and William were early at work in their father's "monument works." The 1850 census lists the following in Gabriel's household in the Gettysburg borough:

Gabriel Meals	56	farmer
Nancy	53	
Henry	26	stonecutter
William	24	stonecutter
Frederick	16	
Joseph	13	
George	10	
Lydia	7	
Elizabeth Baughman	84	

In 1850, roses began acquiring popularity (Uriah Carson, d. 1851, buried at Cline's Church, Menallen, for example). Meals-style willow trees became fat and full and proclaimed their sorrow from a circle symmetrically centered above the inscription. These willow stones were seldom if ever signed. Estate papers have twice affirmed their authorship – Meals of Gettysburg.

The 1860 census indicates that young George Meals had also begun to work in marble. William B. Meals had become the leading carver of his clan. Meals's work was purchased and employed county-

wide; there is scarcely a cemetery without examples of Meals's precise work.

The Meals family began and finally ended their stone carving with evidence of great pride in the family craft. The July 15th, 1950 *Gettysburg Times* article concludes as follows:

Both William B. and Louis H. Meals were sculptors and carved a number of statues from stone for cemetery work. They placed a large number of the monuments in Evergreen Cemetery and placed stones as far away as Charleston, W. Va., Baltimore, and Downingtown. One of the stones of which they were proudest is that of the Bevan family in Evergreen Cemetery, which has flowers sculptured on the stone from top to bottom and down the other side. The stone is the exact replica of that of a member of the Bevan family buried in Barcelona, Spain.

* * * *

Barnet Hildebrand (Researching the History of Adams County Stonecutters)

Mindful of the reader's sense of curiosity, it seems appropriate to explain exactly how this research of stonecutters' histories was carried out in the 1990s in Adams county. The history of Barnet Hildebrand as stonecutter offers a useful example.

A windy March morning in cold sunshine brought the chance for a visit to mysterious Round Hill Cemetery in Reading township. Three quarters of the way up the rise, three large marble stones stood very close to one another (see figure 18). They marked the graves of William Hodge and both of his parents. All three stones were obviously erected after the death of William, because the dates of the parents' death were so early that only slate would have been available for markers when they died.

Nevertheless, 1838 was early for the use of marble in Adams county. Who could have been working in such an innovative medium? The decorative effects and unique punctuation were spare, similar and

hauntingly familiar – reminiscent of the rounded shapes in the initials on the Joseph Bittinger stone in Abbottstown's Lutheran Cemetery.¹³ The Bittinger stone was unique because half of it was in English and half in two-dimensional German script. Here at Round Hill were special messages on the stone of William Hodge's parents, particularly the father's epitaph (refer to caption, figure 18). William had therefore intentionally requested the erection of markers bearing this information before he died. This was a situation in which estate papers, if they existed, would further explain the significance of the stones, perhaps even identifying their carver.

The lettering on these stones was very precise. Although it lacked some of the flow and authoritative energy expressed on the Joseph Bittinger stone, it was steady and consistently spaced, like that exhibited on the earlier slate medium in Abbottstown and East Berlin. These three stones should all have been produced by Bittinger's stonecutter, yet all were works from a later period.

It was time to leave Round Hill. It would have to be either much earlier or much later in the day when these monuments could be photographed because of the angle of the sun at this time would not allow legible photography. A photo would have to be done on another day, as well as a rubbing. The afternoon of the same day, March 11th, I visited the Adams County Historical Society to research the estate of William Hodge. There was no use looking up Joseph Bittinger again. Joseph Bittinger's stonecutter had for years eluded identification. Not only was this gentleman's estate not on file, but the "sister" stones in East Berlin were also unlikely to lend any positive identification through the recording of their executor's accounts. These East Berlin people were either children or very young women, not the sort to have died owning so much property that it needed to have been legally noted.

After Tim Smith brought me the Hodge estate account, I found not only the name of the carver, but also the reason for the precise arrangement of the stones as set forth by William Hodge in his will. The executors of Hodge were charged to:

Purchase white marble head and foot stones for my Father's, mother's and my own grave to be finished and lettered as is common in the neighborhood and set up at the expense of my Estate.

And in the final account by executors James Morrow and William Patterson was the further information that "Barnet Hildebrand" had been paid in two installments for the tombstones – \$44.00 and \$21.00 respectively.

Now to find the white cards on Barnet Hildebrand . . . there was his death - June 4, 1864. There also was his marriage on September 8th, 1834, to Eliza Brown in "Berlin." But he was not in the census records. Puzzling as this was, this was as far as time constraints for the day would permit the research to proceed. Much later Dr. Charles Glatfelter provided the missing link: the name Barnet was the same as the name Bernard and Hildebrand had even been spelled differently long ago. Armed with this knowledge, it was easy to ascertain that Barnet lived, worked, and was taxed in the town of East Berlin. He had declared his profession as that of engraver. He had even managed to die with an estate and to be buried with a joint tombstone, one shared with his wife and (apparently) a son (dates only on the stone). This was good news because the excellent and prolific Daniel Menges (another Adams county stonecutter) had died in the poor house and been buried in an unmarked grave.

Returning to the East Berlin cemetery, many, many, thin, white, marble gravestones looking "just like" that of William Hodge came into focus where they had been overlooked before. These carvings proved that Barnet's work was very popular with the people of his community – more in demand than even the beautiful carvings in the same style from the earlier period. I took several photos. No new "matches" were later found in any other estate account, however. The positive Hildebrand identification would have to rest based on the three Hodge stones at Round Hill. Only very rarely do estate accounts list the carver of a tombstone – perhaps one in twenty accounts is "kind" enough to provide this sort of information.

Barnet had attained the age of 64 when he died in 1864. That meant that he could not have carved most of those earlier slate stones because he would have been a baby in 1805. Probably some member of the Hildebrand family carved the early slate works and later taught Barnet the trade. The most obvious choice would be Barnet's father, John. John Hildebrand proved to have been a tanner by profession. Besides John, there was an older brother of Barnet's, John, Jr., a potter who passed away in 1831. It was still artistically clear that Barnet had learned from the scribe of the beautiful East Berlin stones, the

carver of the Adam Rupley, Simon Snyder, and Nancy Hildebrand gravemarkers.

Nancy Hildebrand's stone might provide a clue (see figure 19). Eight years before I had made a rubbing of this beautiful stone and given it to the East Berlin Historical Society. The stone's inscription recorded the death of Nancy and her babe in childbirth. Under the epitaph were the initials "JH." After an additional eight years of observing script on tombstones, it was now easier to see that the scripted initialing had denoted capital "J" and capital "H" and was not to be confused with the young lady's own initials.

Back to the cemetery for another look and more rubbings. Unfortunately, to date there has been actually no way to prove which J. Hildebrand carved the stones in question. Mrs. Olive Jones of Hanover is a descendent of the Hildebrand family. She kindly supplied the information that Nancy was the first wife of Jacob Hildebrand, another of Barnet's older brothers. Another trip to the estate files confirmed that all the Hildebrand men died without having made a will, so there was no signature to compare with the script initials. However, Barnet Hildebrand's signature was gleaned from some Orphans' Court proceedings. Unfortunately, it seems that no one had saved examples of John, Jr.'s pottery, which might have made some unique speculations possible.

The profession of "potter" did not in and of itself exclude the possibility that John (or Jacob) Hildebrand had carved some gravemarkers between 1804 and 1816, thus influencing the "engraving" of the younger brother, Barnet. Other Adams county stonecutters had earned livelihoods as coopers, wheelwrights, and chair-makers. The oldest East Berlin carvings had been executed with a fine liquid flow, such as the lines of a craftsman who needed to work quickly (as a potter does) in order to attain the best results. Sometimes we do not find all the answers and are left hoping that someone else will eventually supply the missing links.*

*(I wish to thank Mr. Gary Collison, Penn State American Studies professor, for his encouragement. Above all, I wish to thank Dr. Charles Glatfelter and Dr. James P. Myers Jr. for all their assistance and active support of my research and writings. – N.G.D.)

NOTES

1. Before 1820, Meals family stonecutters differed in their styles of lettering but shared the following common artistic elements: sunbursts, pairs of tall tulips with undulating stems, six-pointed stars, and peculiar winding scrawl embellishments.

2. For example, the design feature favored after 1850 by the stonecutting Spangler family of East Berlin was the folded, scrolled and paired, stylized leaf looking like the wooded gilding on a Victorian picture frame. This feature lent itself to many unique adaptations. Gabriel Meals employed a small central daisy-like flower in all the known works of his final period. Arendtsville carver Ruben Minter favored the rose and the rosebud around 1850.

3. For example, stonecutters themselves compared their works in competitive newspaper advertising.

4. Richard E. Meyer, ed., *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, (Logan, Utah, Utah State University Press, 1997); Edward W. Clark, *The Bigham Carvers of the Carolina Piedmont* (Logan, Utah, Utah State University Press, 1992), 32.

5. Ibid., 37

6. M. Ruth Little, *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemakers* (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 108-117.

7. Preston A. Barba, *Pennsylvania German Tombstones A Study in Folk Art* (Allentown, PA: Schlechter's, 1954), 12.

8. Ibid., 22.

9. The Jane P. McGinley stone by C. Ramsey displays an original epitaph, as indicated by the unusual spelling. Stonecutters' common practice was to copy words exactly as provided by the individual purchasing the stone. "IN/Memory of/JANE P. MCGINLY/who Departed this Life;/December 23rd 1803/In the 38th year of hir Age/O Grave where is thy victory/the Righieous have hope in/There Death-."

10. The two stones are almost exact duplicates. They are carved on the same thick dark slate shape. The inscription on both reads "Erected by WILLIAM and/ELISABETH WOLF to/The memory of their two Infant children in 1829 (2nd in 1833)/Born in a world of toil and sorrow/Encompassed round with care and/Doom without a wish to see the [] hurried onward [The rest is underground]." Since this stone was ordered shortly after the death of Daniel's two children, perhaps he carved the first marker, installed it, then retained the order slip with the verse because it had meaning to him. Later, looking at the order slip, he forgot that he had already executed the stone and thus duplicated it.

11. Other ways to appreciate the heritage in our cemeteries include the study of epitaphs and the study of the placements of the stones themselves. The relative waxing and waning popularity of various artistic features (for example, the rose, the open Bible) paralleled local response to nation-wide cultural trends. Other essays outlining the significance of the gravestones as an every day art form may be found at the Adams County Historical Society in the cultural study titled *Attitudes Toward Living and Dying* by this author.

12. Using stonecutters' traditional symbols, the John Henry Bender stone (1845) at Bender's Cemetery conveys a once-familiar message. The drapery surrounding the figure symbolizes the transition between this world and the next. The open Bible symbolizes the revealed Word of God. The rising-sun fan above the pastor's head symbolizes the actual message of the revealed Word. This stone appears to assert that the message is "resurrection." Two similar gravestones in Bendersville, Menallen township, assert in print "God is Love" (these two are works of an unidentified stonecutter).

13. The gravestone reads: "J B [large decorative initials]/departed/this transitory Life/in the 52nd Year of his age/JOSEPH BITTINGER/Born Feb. 26th 1773/died July 26th 1804." The German part of the inscription appears to give the same information, but the bottom portion of the stone is set in concrete. There is a second slate stone with this type of double inscription in the Arendtsville Cemetery. It is by the same carver.

Figure 1. Rubbing detail, Upper Bermudian. Stone of Christina Minnigen, age 5, d. 1792. (Carver identified with the Meals family).



Figure 2. Jean Brownfield, d. 1760, and Elizabeth Brownfield, d. 1766 (Lower Marsh Creek; carved by Samuel Bigham). Text reads: "Here lvs the Body/of Jean Brownfield/who Departed this/life Septemb^r 26/1760 Aged 5 years./Here lvs y^e Body of Eliza-/beth Brownfield who Departed this Life May/ y^e 9th 1766 Aged 5 Years (mixed fonts of the original have been normalized).

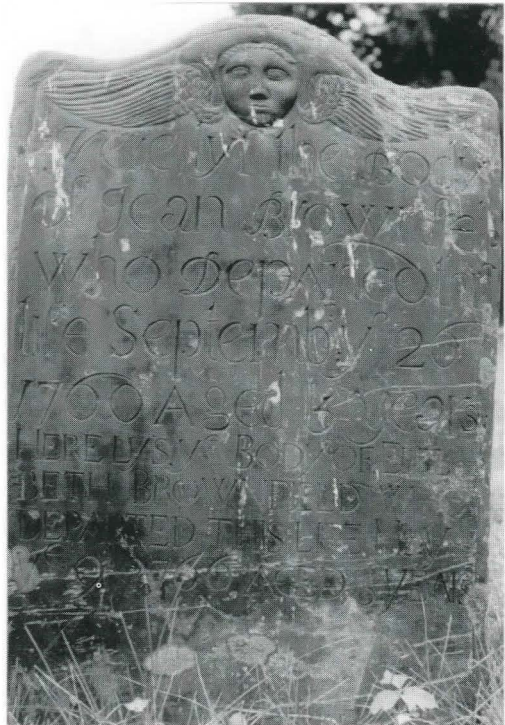




Figure 3. Detail, Hugh Caldwell's gravestone, d. 1785 (the Pines).



Figure 4. Sebastian Finck, d. 1801 (Abbottstown; carved by Peter Brieghner). Text: "Hier Ruhet/Sebastiahn Finck Ge:/bohr[en] Febuahri Den 12^{ter}/1728 In Den Ehe Gelebe und/Gezeigt 15 Kinder Gestorben/November Den 16^{ten} 1801/Sein Alter Var 72 Jahr/10 Mon: und 4 Tag" (font styles normalized).



Figure 5. Details: the above rubbing of a leaf is from a Bigham gravestone. The leaf below is from the gravestone of Sebastian Finck, carved by Peter Brieghner.

Figure 6. John Abbott, Sr., d. 1786 (Abbottstown; carved by Peter Brieghner). Text: "Here Lyes The Body/of John Abbott/Who Departed This/Life Feb^y The 19 1786/Aged 86 Years &/One Month And 17/Days" (font styles normalized).

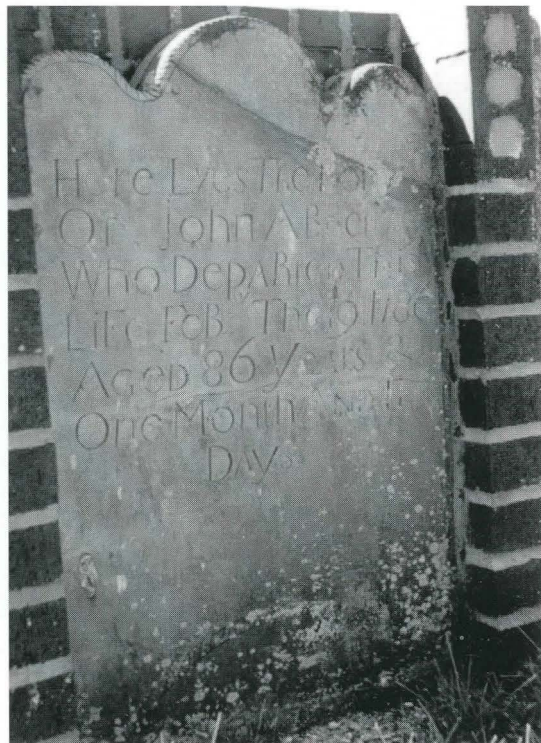


Figure 7. Jane P. M^cGinly, d. 1803 (Lower Marsh Creek; carved by Charles Ramsey). Text: "In Memory of Jane P. M^cGinly/Who Departed this Life/December 23rd 1803/In the 38th year of hir Age/O Grave where is thy victory/the Righieous have hope in/There Death" (font styles normalized).



Figure 8. Christian Bushey, d. 1836 (Lower Bermudian church; carved by Charles Lafferty). Text: "In/Memory/of/Christian Bushey/born October the 4th/AD 1751 and departed/this life September the/12th 1826 Aged 74/Years 11 Months and/21 Days" (font styles normalized).

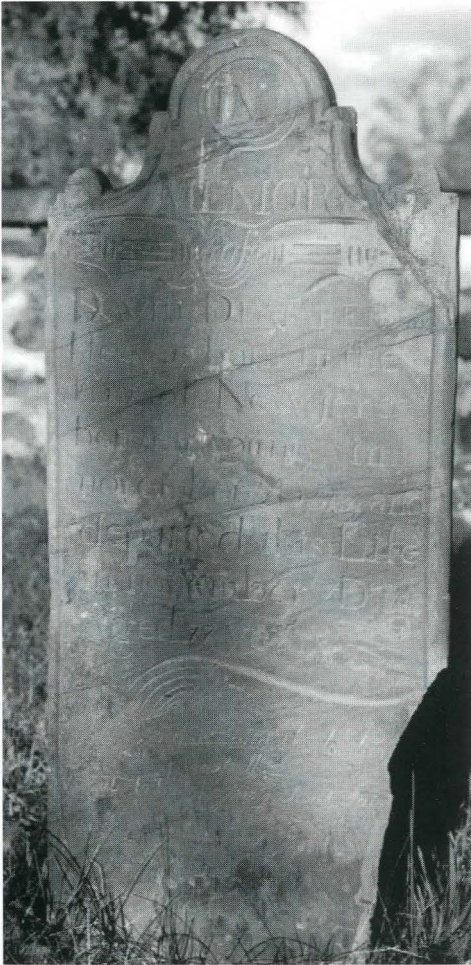


Figure 9. David Demaree, d. 1808 (Low Dutch Cemetery; carved by Charles Lafferty). Text: "In/Memory/of/David Demaree [?]/He was born in the/East of New jersey/bergen county in/november AD 1730 and/departed this Life/in november AD 1808/Aged 77 years//And now I add this lowlier/spell/Sweet to the passing Sweet fair" (font styles normalized).



Figure 10. Sarah Goulden, d. 1844 (the Pines; carved by Daniel Menges). Text: "In/Memory/of Sarah/goulden dau^{gr}/of John G []n/who departed/This Life may/7 AD1844 aged/24 Years 5 mo/[?] days" (font styles normalized).



Figure 11. David Matthias, age 2, d. 1842; Rachel Elisabeth, aged 4, d. 1842 (two sandstone children's markers at Bender's Church carved by Daniel Menges. Leah's stone on the right is by one of the Meals family).

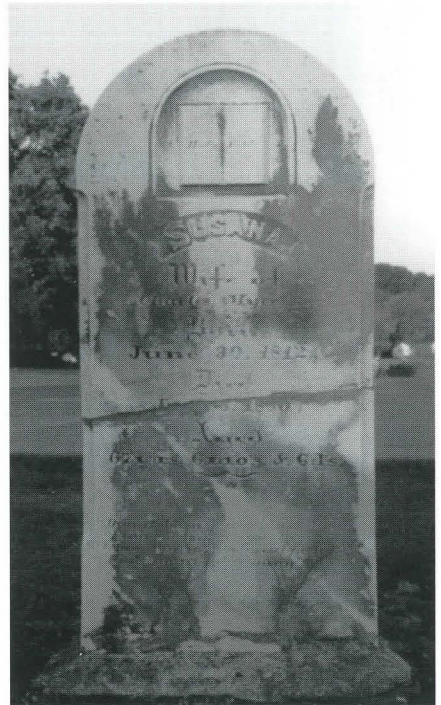


Figure 12. Susana Myers, d. 1880 (Bendersville Cemetery; carved by August Diehl). Text: "Susana/Wife of/Charles Myers/Born/June 30. 1842/Died/ [?] 16 1880/Aged/67 yrs. 6 mos. & 6 ds.//Dearest children strive you well/I can no longer stay/I hear my Savior sweetly call/And I must haste away" (font style normalized).



Figure 13. Jesse R. Group, d. 1883 (United Methodist Evangelical Church, Idaville; carved by August Diehl). According to the 9 March 1883 account of the executors of Jesse Group's estate, \$275.00 was paid for this obelisk.



Figure 14. Undated photograph of L. H. Meal's "monumental works" (Adams County Historical Society).



Figure 15. [First name not legible] Bowers, d. 1817 [?] (Upper Bermudian Cemetery; signed "G and H Meals").

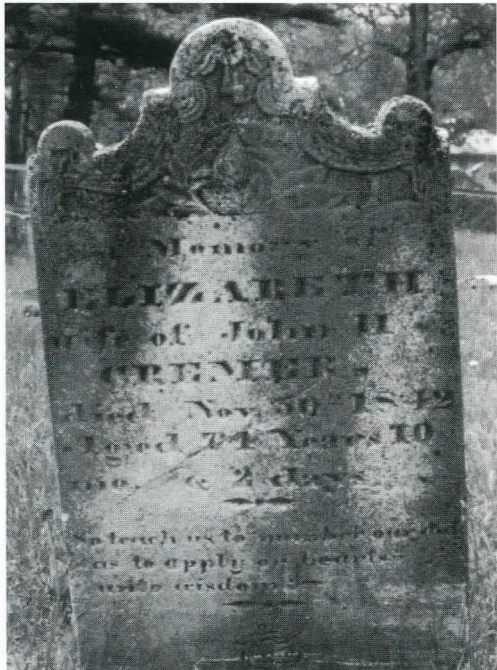


Figure 16. Elizabeth Cremer, d. 1842 (the Pines; carved by Gabriel Meals – the faintly carved signature “G. Meals, Getrg” can be seen in the bottom center of the marker).



Figure 17. Catharine Bender, d. 1844, and John Henry Bender, d. 1843 (Bender's Church; carved by Gabriel Meals. Note the tasseled flower at the top of each stone. John's marker displays the pastor reading the "word of God," the meaning of which is suggested in the sunburst above the pastor's head).

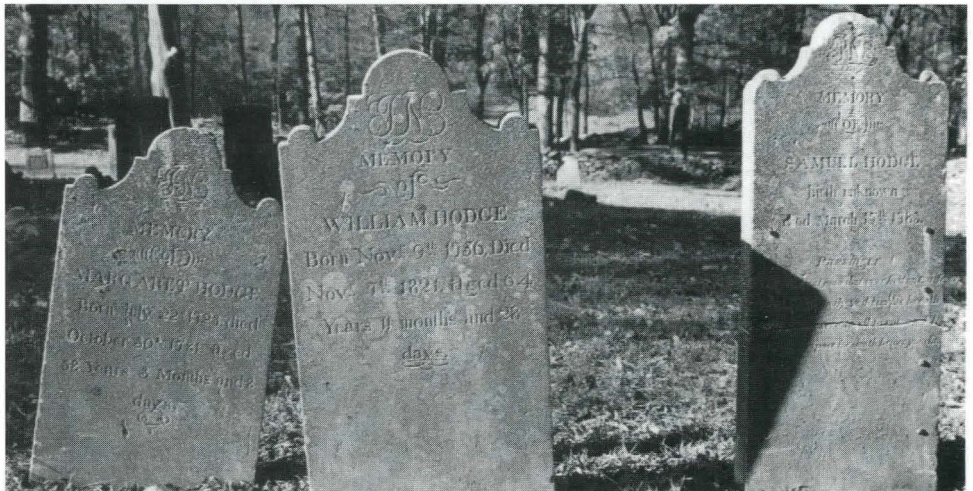


Figure 18. Margaret Hodge, d. 1781; William Hodge, d. 1821; and Samuel Hodge, died 1783 (Round Hill; carved by Barnet Hildebrand). Epitaph on Samuel's stone reads: "Passenger/The strongest man that ever liv'd on earth/At last did quietly yield up his breath/This of [?] sure to all to you and I/Come thee, prepare for death before you die."



Figure 19. Nancy Hildebrand and infant child, d. 1804 (East Berlin cemetery; carved by J. Hildebrand). Text: "In/Memory/of/Nancy Hildebrand/and her Infant Child/born Sep. 5th 1781/died Oct. 20th 1804/Aged 25 Years 1:Mo:/ & 15 Days./JH" (font styles normalized).

**“Not only for . . . Material Progress . . .
but for the
General Good and Uplift”:
A History of Guernsey and Its
Humpback Bridge
by Elwood W. Christ**

The Guernsey or “Humpback” Bridge (see figure 2) is dying from neglect. Small saplings and briar bushes now cuddle its abutments that Mother Nature has bombarded with many wind and rain showers and baked with her sweltering summer suns. Several timbers are tattooed, seared by countless embers from wood- and coal-fired locomotives that have traveled underneath it along the Gettysburg Railroad line. Sections of several other timbers have rotted. Indeed, this little, single-lane span cannot withstand the weight of motor vehicles much longer. For this reason, in 1999 the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission ruled that the forlorn bridge was a safety hazard, closing it to the public and earmarking it for demolition.

The Guernsey bridge’s future looked bleak. No government, business entity, or private citizen wanted to claim the bridge. Located next to the intersection of West Guernsey and Guernsey Roads, situated some two miles northeast of Biglerville, in Butler township, Adams county, the “Humpback Bridge” was neither maintained by the Adams county commissioners nor the Butler township supervisors. The Gettysburg Railroad, which had been sold several times over the past several decades, had no record of it. Thus the PUC had intervened.

The Guernsey bridge, however, had not been completely forgotten. A grass-roots group, Friends of the Guernsey Bridge, was organized to prevent the bridge’s destruction. But when the group sought to acquire it in order to preserve it, it encountered a stumbling block: the identity of the bridge’s owner. “Who is the present owner of the Humpback Bridge?”

In February 2001, I was hired by the Friends of the Guernsey Bridge to try to answer the question of ownership. What I uncovered,

the subject of this article, was not only its date of construction and its original builder, but also an interesting story of the formation of Guernsey that intertwined with the history of two prominent Adams county families, the Griests and the Tysons.

* * * *

The site of Guernsey and its humpback bridge is mostly located on land that can be traced back to the Penn family's 'Possum Creek Manor (see map, figure 3). It encompassed the majority of the present site of Biglerville, Butler township north of Rt. 234. Its northern border crossed Rt. 34 about 1.35 miles north of its intersection with Rt. 234. Approximately three-quarters of the manor's acreage lay east of Rt. 34, with a portion of its eastern boundary line approximating present-day Guernsey Road (T-534 south). Guernsey itself is situated along the manor's eastern boundary.¹

The authority for William Penn and his sons to erect manors in their proprietary colony of Pennsylvania was contained in the nineteenth section of the Charter of King Charles II to William Penn in 1681. In 1741, two manors were warranted to the Penns in what is now Adams county: on June 14, the famous Manor of Maske situated about the Marsh creek watershed, encompassing portions of Cumberland, Hamiltonban, and Straban townships, and on November 14 the lesser-known 'Possum Creek Manor in Menallen township located a short distance north of the Manor of Maske and about one mile southwest of 'Possum Creek.

'Possum Creek Manor was first surveyed on October 26, 1742, by William Parsons.² As first defined, the manor encompassed some 988 acres. Although the land was to be reserved exclusively for the Penn family, a situation similar to the Manor of Maske developed: pioneers squatted on the land. Thirty-four years later, on January 24, 1774, Archibald McClean resurveyed 'Possum Creek Manor, establishing that it actually contained 1,047.5 acres. He also noted that "The Whole of the said Tract is settled and considerably improved by sundry Persons."³ On June 9, 1775, the manor was surveyed a third time, by John Dill.⁴ The Penn family retained legal title to the manor until the turn of the century. On June 28, 1804, John and Thomas Penn through their attorney John R. Coates sold the entire manor to Alexander Cobean of Baltimore, Maryland, for \$870.⁵

The identity of and the date when these early settlers squatted on the manor lands between 1741 and 1804 are shrouded in mystery. Based on a land draft drawn ca. 1804, probably for Alexander Cobean in anticipation of his purchase, there were some fourteen squatters who had claimed some 1,085 acres, 87 perches.⁶

One of the squatters was a George Hartzell whose 122-acre, 144-perch tract included the majority of the site of Guernsey. Notations on the land draft suggest that some time prior to 1804 Hartzell had acquired the parcel from a William Stewart. According to one of the earliest surviving Menallen township tax records, a William Stewart was assessed for 100 acres in 1779. Checking Adams county tax records, the assessor in the 1802 record (compiled the fall of 1801) noted that a George Hartzell, "Jr." had acquired two tracts from a George Slaybaugh. Hartzell's name first appeared in the tax records as early as the 1800 record as owning 140 acres and some 50 acres of mountain land.

Although there is no solid documentation, the information recorded by the Menallen township tax assessors suggests that sometime between the fall of 1796 and the fall of 1799, Slaybaugh had acquired the land from a David Stewart, possibly a relative of the William referred to in the ca. 1804 land draft. Moreover, at some time prior to 1800 the 122-acre farmstead had been enlarged by some 18 acres. Based on later recorded deeds, the additional acreage most likely included a rectangular-shaped parcel situated outside the manor, but adjacent to the northeast corner of the Stewart-Hartzell manor lands. The 18-acre parcel had been part of a plantation that had been acquired by a John Cox as early as 1742.⁷

Menallen, Butler, and Franklin township tax records show that members of the Hartzell family populated the area of the Conewago and 'Possum Creek watersheds during the latter part of the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. Tax records and the D. Small and W. Wagner 1821 Map of York and Adams Counties noted that a George Hartzell operated a mill along the Conewago Creek, situated in present Butler township where present B & F Road (T-646) crosses the stream about 1.5 miles northeast of Mummasburg.

But which George Hartzell had purchased the subject 140-acre property from Slaybaugh? Bender's Lutheran church tombstone inscriptions indicated that there were at least three George Hartzells alive during the first two decades of the 1800s, born in 1749, 1772, and

1798. Based on a survey of early tax records, we surmise that the Hartzell who acquired the acreage from Slaybaugh was the George born on October 31, 1772, and died on December 12, 1838.

As his farm flourished, George Hartzell decided to improve his living conditions. A date-stone inscription reveals that in 1811 Hartzell built a two-story, side gabled, brick house on the subject farm. However, Hartzell, along with other Adams countians, developed financial troubles during the 1820s as the nation was thrust into a depression. The Bank of Gettysburg (today a branch of PNC Bank), applicant of William Maxwell's estate, filed suit against Hartzell with the Adams county courts. By virtue of a writ of *venditioni exponas*, on November 27, 1825, Sheriff Thomas C. Miller sold to the bank for \$2,060 the following:

a tract of land in the township of Menallen . . . adjoining lands of Jacob Bosserman, David Stewart, Sam'l Wright & others, containing [140] acres more or less on which are erected a large two-story brick house, brick Bank barn, brick smoke house, stone spring house, & etc. . . .⁸

Two years later the bank through its attorney, John B. McPherson, sold the 140-acre farm for \$3,000 on June 29, 1826, to John L. Sadler, Jr. He retained it for ten years when he sold the farm to Joseph Dill for \$3,000 on March 14, 1836, the same day that Dill sold his land in Huntington township to Sadler. A year later, Dill and his wife sold the subject farm on March 20, 1837, to George J. Hartzell.⁹

According to his county death certificate, George J. Hartzell (1798-1853) was a son of George (1772-1838) and Maria (Bream) Hartzell. On April 4, 1819, George J. married the former Mary "Polly" Gelwicks.¹⁰

Two years after his marriage, on May 17, 1821, George J. Hartzell acquired 75 acres from "George Hartzell, Sr."¹¹ Based on title lineage, the 1775 Dill survey, the 1804 land draft of 'Possum Creek Manor, and Menallen township tax records, the 75-acre parcel – which some 46 years earlier had been part of the plantations of John Cox and William Osburn – abutted the Stewart-Hartzell farm's manor lands on the east and the Hartzell farm's 18-acre section on the south. Sixteen years later George J. purchased his father's manor farm at the sheriff's sale.

In 1852, George J. sold the 75-acre tract to his son, Charles A. Hartzell. He retained the property until 1857 when he sold it to Samuel and Joanna Johnson who, in turn, sold it to Jacob Kime on March 23, 1864.¹²

George J. Hartzell retained the 140-acre manor farm until his death on June 13, 1853. Widow Mary Hartzell remained on the farm until her death on September 12, 1859, at the age of 63 years, 3 months, 28 days.¹³ Seven months later George J. Hartzell's heirs – Lebright E. Hartzell and wife; Charles A Hartzell and his wife; Matilda Hartzell; Ezebiah Hartzell and wife; Zepheniah Hartzell and wife; and Rachael Bender and husband, Jonathan – sold their interest in the farm to their sibling, Frederick Hartzell, on April 23, 1860. Two years later Frederick Hartzell and his wife, Mary, sold the 140-acre farm to Cyrus S. Griest on March 29, 1862 for \$5,800.¹⁴

Cyrus S. Griest was the man responsible for the construction of the Sunny Side railroad station and subsequently the creation of the hamlet of Guernsey, and most likely the person responsible for the construction of the Guernsey Bridge.

Cyrus Samuel Griest was a grandson of William and Ann (McMillan) Griest, and a son of Cyrus Griest (1803-69). Born on May 29, 1803, the elder Cyrus married at the age of twenty-three years on March 2, 1826, to Mary Ann Cook, a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Warner) Cook.¹⁵ Cyrus S. was born in York county on March 1, 1835, one of nine children.

About 1837, Cyrus and Mary moved their family to Quaker valley in Menallen township, an area later named Wrightsville, then Floradale. Educated at home and in public schools, Cyrus S. briefly attended the "Academy at London Grove" in Chester county. There, at the age of 26 years, Cyrus S. married the former Letitia Broomel of Upper Oxford township on March 20, 1861. Returning to Adams county, besides being a co-owner of several farms with his brothers and father, Cyrus purchased the old "Hartzell" farm in 1862. Except for a two-year period, Cyrus and his wife spent the rest of their lives on their Butler township farm¹⁶ (see figure 4).

Five years after purchasing the Hartzell farm, Griest contemplated a move to Gettysburg. On November 12, 1867, Cyrus and Letitia purchased a house and 1-acre lot on the north side of the Chambersburg turnpike from Perry J. and Sarah E. Tate, today the site of the Gettysburg Post Office on Buford Avenue. Although the

Griests retained this property until March 27, 1876,¹⁷ a sale advertisement for the Gettysburg property that appeared in the May 17, 1870, *Star and Sentinel* implied that they had returned to Butler township after a two-year hiatus.

During their time together, Cyrus and Letitia were blessed with seven children: Emilie Belle, born June 3, 1862, who married Aaron I. Wiedner on April 17, 1909; Mary Esther, born May 21, 1864; Florence J., born May 3, 1866, who married Charles Michener on November 17, 1887; Elizabeth, born July 18, 1868; George C., born April 21, 1873, who married Harriette Asher of New Haven, Connecticut, on August 4, 1898; Cyrus Arthur, born August 25, 1878, who married Lula E. Wierman on December 3, 1911; and Maurice E., born September 22, 1883, who married Marguerite Heacock of Philadelphia, on September 21, 1910.¹⁸

In his obituary in the August 15, 1918, *Gettysburg Times*, Cyrus S. Griest was noted as “a successful farmer and orchardist, a man of business ability, and one whose influence was not only for the material progress of the community in which he resided but for the general good and uplift of that section.” He kept “the most profitable grades of stock, having a fine herd of Guernsey cows.” Cyrus was also associated with the Citizens Trust Company of Gettysburg, serving as one of its original directors from its incorporation on February 18, 1904, until 1914.

Cyrus was also a member of the Society of Friends. During the 1880s and 1890s, he was appointed to various committees, served as clerk of the day numerous times, recorder of marriage certificates, trustee of the Menallen, Huntington, and Warrington Meetings, overseer, and one-time representative to the Friends Meeting in York. He was also a member of a local agricultural organization. As noted in the December 1, 1885, *Star and Sentinel*, “The Farmers’ meeting was held at the house of C. S. Griest on Saturday night, with a full attendance.”¹⁹

As Adams county prospered during the antebellum period, the farms between the Newville and Carlisle Roads (today Rt. 34 and “Old Carlisle Road,” S. R. 4001, respectively) and situated northeast of a crossroads later named “Middletown” (present Biglerville) were relatively isolated – no public roadway provided area farmers easy access to existing county roads that led to market or mill. To correct this, a

year after the death of George J. Hartzell, a petition was filed with the Court of Quarter Sessions of Adams county in 1854. The court ordered viewers to lay out a public road in Butler township "from a point on the road from Gettysburg to Newville (Rt. 34), on the lands of Jacob and Lazarus Weidner, to the Gettysburg and Carlisle Road (Old Carlisle Road) on lands of Jacob Bushey." In the viewers' report to the court, dated October 20, 1854, a pertinent part of the description of the road's courses and distances read as follows:

[from a post] thence along a line dividing the improved land of Jacob Weidner, William C. Wright & the Heirs of George J. Hartzell. . . **South [68] Degrees East [180]** perches to a post, thence along a line dividing improved land of William C. Wright and Hartzell Heirs **North [83.5] Degrees East [45]** perches to a post, thence through improved land of the said Hartzell's Heirs north [87.5] Degrees East [58.6] perches to a post, thence along a line dividing improved land of the said Hartzell's Heirs & Charles Hartzell **north [89] Degrees East [40.6] perches** to a post. . . .²⁰

Comparing this to the deed description of the farm that Frederick Hartzell sold to Cyrus S. Griest in 1862, the first two emphasized courses and distances very closely match a portion of the farm's northern boundary starting at its northwestern-most point. The third emphasized course closely matches a portion of the southern boundary of the farm's eighteen-acre tract situated just east of the farm's manor lands. This road, confirmed by the court on March 20, 1855,²¹ appears on G. M. Hopkins's 1858 Atlas Map of Adams County. Today, this Biglerville-to-Center Mills thoroughfare is designated as West Guernsey and Guernsey roads (S. R. 4002 or L. R. 01019 and T-535, respectively).

The 1858 map also suggested that sometime between 1855 and 1858 a school house was built on the south side of the road about 900 feet to the east of the Griest's farm 18-acre tract. The school house, later called "Sunny Side," was moved about a half mile west to a lot situated on the north side of the 1855 public road about 0.2 miles east of Griest's farmhouse. Indeed, on September 11, 1863, one of Griest's neighbors, William J. Peters and his wife, Eliza, for one dollar trans-

ferred a 1/2 acre lot to the School Directors of Butler Township. Peters's land, part of the 'Possum Creek Manor, had been claimed by Benjamin Wright sometime prior to 1804, when Cobean purchased the manor tract from the Penn family. Cobean relinquished his claim to Wright's farm on March 2, 1809. Fifty-seven days later Benjamin transferred the acreage to Samuel B. Wright on April 28, 1809. Retaining it for 24 years, he sold it on May 26, 1835, to William H. Wright. After his death, the land was transferred on March 31, 1856, to Henry G. Koser, who, in turn, sold it to William J. Peters on April 1, 1859. The schoolhouse lot was located at a southeast corner of Peters's farm and abutted a portion of Griest's farm to the east. Moreover, that section of the road located about 0.2 miles east of the new schoolhouse site had become a dogleg - traveling eastward, the road turned 90 degrees to the north and after about 100 feet turned 90 degrees to east.²² We suspect that the dogleg was created so the public roadway precisely followed the crest of the high ground there and the boundaries between Griest's and Charles A. Hartzell's 75-acre tract (see map, figure 5).

With the United States emerging as an industrial nation and as interest in the Gettysburg battlefield grew after the end of the Civil War, a second railroad was built to Gettysburg in the early 1880s. The establishment of that rail line also meant the construction of stations along the line. Wherever a station was built, it spurred commercial and residential development there.

As noted in the January 15, 1882, *Star and Sentinel*, Jay Cooke and Colonel J. C. Fuller of the South Mountain Railroad proposed a new line that was of "great importance to the north end of the county, in opening up a market for agricultural products and stimulating industry of all kinds." A month later, the February 15 *Star and Sentinel* noted that the new line would also "bring Gettysburg within two hours' ride of Harrisburg and open up a direct route to the coal and lumber regions of the north and west, and the limestone supply of the Cumberland Valley. Passenger travel. . . , now necessarily circuitous and attended by provoking delay, would be direct, connecting at Harrisburg with leading railroads running in all directions."

During the spring of 1882, several railroad organizational meetings were held in the Adams county court house. As reported in the 10 May *Star and Sentinel*, an executive committee of fifteen Adams countians were formed until the new railroad company was officially

organized. In part, the executive committee was empowered to canvas for some \$100,000 in subscriptions, secure releases and settle damage claims from landowners, and oversee regional committees that would be formed. Not only was Cyrus S. Griest a member of the Middletown group, but he was also a vice president of the executive committee. By autumn enough funds had been raised – \$80,000. As reported in the October 11, 1882, *Star and Sentinel*, the Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railway Company (GHRH) received its charter from the state on the 6th. The incorporators also noted that the company's capital stock stood at \$250,000.

Progress on the rail line was faithfully covered in the Gettysburg newspapers. Construction of the 22-mile long GHRH began in earnest by November 1882 and took some fifteen months to complete. Beginning at Hunter's Run, located on the border between South Middleton and Dickinson townships in Cumberland county (southern terminus of the South Mountain Railroad), about five miles south of Mt. Holly Springs, construction progressed towards Gettysburg. The railroad was officially opened with a ceremonial driving of two golden rail spikes a short distance northwest of Gettysburg on February 26, 1884, although passenger service did not begin until April 28.

Of particular note, the July 25, 1883, *Star and Sentinel*, reported that the firm of "Cofrode and Taylor, Philadelphia, have the contract for all the wooden bridges along the line including the trestle bridge at the big fill [near Asper's Mill]. . . ." By late fall of 1883, construction had reached Butler township. As noted in the December 19, 1883, *Star and Sentinel*, "The new bridge over Opossum Creek is now almost complete **and the trestle at Sunny Side is now being built**, so that track laying will be continued as rapidly as possible" (emphasis added).

When the railroad surveyors laid out the line's right-of-way, they created problems for landowners and construction crews alike. Crossing 'Possum Creek, the line approached Biglerville (Middletown) from the northeast. Possibly due to grade restrictions and an attempt to cause the least inconvenience to farmers, as the right-of-way reached Griest's farm, it curved due south at the dogleg on the 1855 road and then paralleled a portion of Griest's eastern boundary (originally the eastern border of the 'Possum Creek Manor). A 15-foot deep railroad cut was dug adjacent to the road's dogleg that cut the public road in twain, and, in turn, complicated Griest's access to some four acres southeast of the rail line that was part of his 18-acre non-manor parcel.

Griest (a member of the county railroad executive committee) and representatives of the railroad company reached an agreement sometime during the latter part of 1882. Unfortunately, this instrument was not recorded at the Adams county court house. However, it was referenced in several recorded deeds. The agreement stipulated that:

a fifty (50) feet wide right of way of the Gettysburg & Harrisburg Railroad Company [was] granted by the said Cyrus S. Griest unto said Company for Railroad purposes by release dated the 25th day of January 1883, wherein the said Cyrus S. Griest released the said Railroad Company of all damages by reason of the location and occupation of said right of way in consideration whereof the **said Railroad Company agreed to make and maintain proper fences along said right of way and further agreed to give the said Cyrus S. Griest a suitable wagon passage where most desirable over or under said railroad so as to connect the lands of said Cyrus S. Griest** and further to locate a permanent station at Sunny Side Crossroads, with a suitable side Track accommodation for the individual use of said Cyrus S. Griest [emphasis added].²³

We strongly suspect that, pursuant to the January 25, 1883, agreement, Griest's bridge or the first version of the Guernsey bridge was the "trestle at Sunny Side" most likely built by the firm of Cofrode and Taylor during the week of December 19. Indeed, the bridge was completed by the spring of 1884, for a deed dated March 13, wherein Griest and his wife sold a 2-acre tract to his brother-in-law, Andrew J. Koser, noted that the point of beginning of the tract's physical description was "at a post in the Public Road at the plank of the Bridge across the H and G Railroad."²⁴

Unfortunately, there are no known photographs or engineering drawings of the original bridge. Based in part on existing physical evidence, we suspect that the bridge's design was similar to the present structure, but the abutments and trestle footers were probably made of stone.

Assuming that Griest's agreement with the railroad led to the construction of the "trestle at Sunny Side," why build it over the rail-

road cut when the bridge's eastern end was virtually at the edge of Griest's property and an at-grade crossing was eventually established about 1000 yards up the rail line? Griest might have been looking out for his own extended family's interests. In the 1883 agreement, the GHRR agreed to build a station at Sunny Side and provide a siding for Griest both of which were constructed on a southern section of his 18-acre tract east of his manor lands – a 4-acre parcel sandwiched between the railroad right of way and the 1855 public road. Undoubtedly, a railroad depot would draw commercial development to its vicinity and property values would rise. Indeed, about 70 feet east of Griest's bridge, on April 1, 1885, Maria E. Tyson, Cyrus' sister, purchased a 6-acre, 24-perch tract from Jacob Kime.²⁵

Griest, however, might also have been looking out for the interests of his neighbors. Prior to the railroad, there were no public "cross-roads at Sunny Side." As can be clearly seen in the 1872 map of Butler township, there was farmland on either side of the 1855 roadway about a quarter mile east of the Sunny Side School. At the road's dogleg, an access lane led due south and then southwest to the "E. [Edward, 1839-1916] Brough" farmhouse. When the railroad was laid out at Sunny Side in December 1883, the cut undermined the 1855 road, thus denying farmers west of the rail line the easy access they had enjoyed for 28 years to the gristmill at Center Mills. Edward Brough, Jacob Kime, and other farmers east and south of the rail line were also denied direct access to the western section of the 1855 public road.

Topography also played a part. In the vicinity of its dogleg, the public road had been strategically located along a low ridge. Immediately to the south, the ground undulated. With the installation of the railroad bed running in a north-south direction, formidable embankments were created. The bed was high enough that to create an at-grade crossing, considerable fill would have been needed, and the diverted roadway would further dissect Griest farm lands. At the same time, the railroad embankment was too low to create a railroad bridge without excavating surrounding farmland to create an adequate passageway. To the north, the ground also undulated, but the railroad right-of-way paralleled the ridge's northern slope. A new roadway along the north slope of the ridge would also further dissect Griest's lands and other neighboring farms. Thus, the best location of the public road was along the high ground where it had been laid out in 1855.

The construction of Griest's bridge insured that the public had

unhindered and relatively safe travel over the railroad to the grist mill at Center Mills. It also insured that Griest had a more convenient access to his four acres south of the railroad right-of-way and that Brough had access to the public road without sacrificing additional acreage to lay out a new access lane.

The construction of the railroad through his farm motivated Griest to sell parts of it. As noted earlier, about two weeks after the railroad was officially opened and three months after construction of Griest's bridge, Griest sold a 2-acre tract to his brother-in-law, Andrew J. Koser on March 13, 1884, on which he built his home a year later.²⁶ This tract was situated along the west side of the railroad right-of-way, fronting on the south berm of present West Guernsey road, and abutted the west end of the bridge.

A month later, on April 10, 1884, for \$1000 Griest and his wife sold a 4-acre parcel (3 acres, 148 perches) – site of the Sunny Side Stations – to Josiah W. Prickett and Charles Michener, a future Griest son-in-law. The Prickett & Michener parcel was located a short distance northeast of the bridge, sandwiched between the south side of the railroad right of way and the north side of present Guernsey Road (T-535).²⁷ But development on this tract had started a month before Griest's Bridge was built. The November 14, 1883, *Star and Sentinel* reported that Josiah Prickett of New Jersey had purchased 2.5 acres and the railroad "switch" (siding?) of Cyrus S. Griest, and was then building "quite a large warehouse."

As the Prickett warehouse was nearing completion, Griest anticipated the construction of a creamery. The September 9, 1884, *Star and Sentinel's* "Bigler Items" noted that C. S. Griest was digging a well and intended to build a creamery on the GHRR. Indeed, as reported in the November 18, 1884, *Star and Sentinel*:

C. S. Griest is rapidly pushing forward the new creamery building at Sunny Side. Charles Michener, of the firm of Prickett & Michener, is now in Lancaster county learning to operate the machinery, and will be ready to take charge of the business by January 1st, at which time the building will be completed and the machines in running order.

Deed and tax records indicate that Griest built his creamery a

short distance from the west end of the bridge, about 200 feet north of present West Guernsey road²⁸ (see figure 6).

But not all the development at Sunny Side Station was commercial. As reported in the September 23, 1883, *Star and Sentinel*, while Griest and his wife took a trip to Baltimore and Virginia, a neighboring property owner to the north and east, John Heiges, was building a new house near Sunny Side. Deed records and the map of Butler township in the 1872 *Atlas of Adams County* reveal that his new house was a two-story brick structure build on the north side of the 1855 public road about a quarter mile east of Griest's bridge²⁹ (see figure 7).

With improvements at Sunny Side, we suspect other local farmers lobbied for public roads to be laid out to link surrounding areas to the new depot. The 1872 map of Butler township and a USGS topographic map dated 1908, disclose that during that period two new roads were opened. One roadway, today the southwestern portion of Guernsey road (T-534 south), was laid out from the eastern end of Griest's bridge and led due south to the old York-Menallen road (Rt. 234). The other roadway, today Quaker Run Road (T-534 north), extended due north from Griest's creamery tract. A perusal of the county road docket books from 1855 to 1910 did not reveal when those roads were officially opened. We suspect they were laid out a short time after the railroad line was completed to Sunny Side (ca. 1883-86), but they were definitely in place by 1908 (see map, figure 8).

Moreover, three driveways were in use by 1908 – all probably opened about the same time. One driveway, about 100 feet in length, led from the south end of Quaker Run Road located just north of Griest's creamery to the railroad depot situated on the south side of the railroad right of way. This driveway created an at-grade crossing some 155 feet northeast of Griest's bridge. Because the depot was only seventy feet north of the 1855 public road, moreover, a second drive led from the station up the ridge to the road. The third driveway, some 150 feet in length, led from the southern end of Quaker Run Road (squeezing between Griest's creamery and the railroad right of way) to West Guernsey road at the west end of Griest's bridge. Based on deed descriptions of properties over which these driveways were laid, they were laid out over private property.

Immediately, the depot at Sunny Side drew considerable business. As noted in "Butler [township] Items" column in the May 5, 1885, *Star and Sentinel*,

Sunny Side now promises to be one of the best business points along the new R. R. between Gettysburg and Hunter's Run. Supt. Woodward was there last week, making arrangements to have the siding raised and a platform erected to load and unload freight, the freight traffic being so large that it is a necessity. G. [Z.] J. Peters has opened a new store besides many other business facilities the place affords.

A post office was also established at Sunny Side Station. Unfortunately, "Sunny Side" was already the name of a post office in Allegheny county, established in 1864. Griests had a herd of cows – Guernsey cows – on his farm, probably one of the reasons why Griest insisted in the 1883 agreement that the railroad maintain proper fencing along the line through his land. Although we could find no contemporary documentation why the post office at Sunny Side was named Guernsey when it was opened on October 1, 1884, by postmaster Josiah W. Prickett, it probably was named after the bovines owned by Griest, the principal developer of the village at Sunny Side Station.³⁰

On May 5, 1885, the *Star and Sentinel* reported

TO THE PUBLIC - The undersigned has just opened a new store at Guernsey, on the G. & H. R. R., where will be found a full line of Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Hats and Shoes, and everything usually kept in a first-class county store. He simply asks the public to call and see what he has, and convince themselves that they can buy cheap for cash. Any kind of goods not on hand will be ordered on very short notice direct from Philadelphi [sic].

Very Respectfully,

Z. J. PETERS
Guernsey, Pa.

The railroad company improved its operations by installing telegraphs at their depots including the one at Guernsey. The May 12, 1885, *Star and Sentinel* reported that "Quite a number of persons

passed over the [line], on Monday to Gettysburg. The company has put telegraph communications at nearly every station. . . .” Guernsey also proved a popular depot for travelers and vacationers. The July 7, 1885, *Star and Sentinel* noted in its “Butler Items” that

Among the visitors here last week we notice William Peters and his wife of Gettysburg; Henry, Franklin, and Hiram Pensyl of Altoona; Rev. E. Weigle and family of Littlestown, and Mr. Zilba T. Moore of Longport, New Jersey. This vicinity is never without its visitors in the summer season.

The partnership of Prickett and Michener dissolved during the summer of 1885. Probably due to his added responsibility as Guernsey’s postmaster, Prickett officially transferred his half interest in the 3-acre, 148-perch property to Andrew J. Koser on December 14. Three years later, Koser and Michener tri-sected the tract. On March 29, 1888, for \$200 Michener sold his half interest in a 1-acre, 69-perch eastern section to Koser and, in turn, Koser sold his half interest in an 1-acre, 80-perch center section to Michener. He and Koser retained joint ownership of the remaining western section that was improved with the railroad station and warehouse. The 1888 Butler township tax record, compiled the fall of 1887, implies that Michener built a “new house” that year, the two-story, side gabled dwelling that presently stands on the center section of the Prickett and Michener tract (see figure 9). On March 4, 1890, for \$2,500 Michener and his wife, the former Florence Griest, transferred the 1-acre, 80-perch central section to Letitia B. Griest, Cyrus’ wife. Six months later, on September 11, Michener and Koser with their spouses sold for \$500 the western section that included the railroad station and a warehouse to George Wilmer Koser, Andrew’s son.³¹

As contractors worked on Michener’s brick house in 1887, Cyrus S. Griest sold a parcel to two of his children, Emilie Belle and Mary E. Griest. These sisters served as teachers in Butler township schools.³² On November 12, two years after the establishment of the Guernsey station, Griest and his wife, Letitia B., sold to their daughters for \$1,500 a 33-perch (0.2 acre) parcel that was sandwiched between the railroad right of way on the north, Guernsey road on the south, and the Guernsey bridge and the railroad on the west, and the railroad depot

on the east. Butler township tax records suggest that Cyrus built a store, a two-and-a-half-story brick structure, on this parcel sometime between the fall of 1887 and the fall of 1888 when the assessor noted in the 1889 record that "1 lot & store" was transferred to the Griest sisters from Cyrus (see figure 10).³³

Ten years later the *Star and Sentinel* published in its April 13, 1897, issue a business index of the county. Although the post office was called Guernsey, apparently locals and the railroad still referred to the hamlet as "Sunny Side Station." Besides the warehouse of G. W. Koser, "Dealer in Grain, Feed, Seeds, Coal and Fertilizers," who had a "telephone connection," a general store was operated by Griest's daughter, E. Belle, a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, etc. also Butter, Eggs, Poultry, etc." There was no mention of a creamery, however.

With the passage of time, tragedy struck the Griest household. On May 5, 1898, after some 37 years of marriage, Letitia died at the age of 60 years, 9 months, 3 days. Two years later, Cyrus married Mary Ann Wright, his third cousin, on November 21, 1900. At the age of 65 years, Cyrus considered retirement.³⁴ During the first decade of the twentieth century, he sold off portions of his farm to his brother-in-law, Charles J. Tyson.

Charles J. Tyson and his brother, Isaac G., Quakers born in Burlington county, New Jersey, moved in August 1859 from Philadelphia to Gettysburg, where they established a photographic studio. On April 30, 1863, Charles married Maria Edith Griest, Cyrus's sister. The Tyson brothers were two of the first photographers to take images of the Gettysburg Battlefield in 1863. In 1864, Charles brought a one-third interest in the Spring Dale nurseries of Cyrus Griest and Sons in Menallen township, and a year later sold out his interest in the photographic studio. Rejoining his brother in the gallery for a brief time (1866-7), Charles Tyson sold the business to William H. Tipton and Robert A. Myers. In 1869, Charles purchased a 167-acre farm in Menallen township that abutted the Menallen Friends Meeting House situated along the Carlisle Road (Rt. 34) north of Floradale. Remaining in the nursery business until 1875, Tyson sold out and in 1880 became associated with the Susquehanna Fertilizer Company of Baltimore City on whose board he served as president for a number of years. He also was instrumental in the establishment of the Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railroad through Menallen township during 1882-4.³⁵

During their lifetime together, Charles and Maria Tyson were blessed with four children: Edwin Comly, born on August 28, 1864, who married Mary Willis Hawkhurst of Old Westbury, Long Island, on June 5, 1887; Mary Anna, born August 1, 1866, who married Zachariah Jesse Peters on April 30, 1888; Chester Julian, born September 4, 1877, who married Bertha Charity Hawkhurst on February 16, 1901; and William Cyrus, born September 24, 1879, who married Edna Kerr of Peoria, Illinois on June 17, 1912.³⁶

With development at Guernsey, Tyson decided to invest in real estate there. As noted previously, on April 1, 1885, Marie E. Tyson, Charles's wife, purchased from Jacob and Eliza Kime a 6-acre, 24-perch rectangular-shaped tract that abutted C. S. Griest's farm just southeast of Guernsey Bridge and the south property line of the old Prickett and Michener warehouse tract. This acreage had been part of the 75-acre tract that George Hartzell, Sr., had sold to George J. Hartzell in 1821, who, in turn, sold it to his son, Charles A. Hartzell.

Near the close of the nineteenth century, Tyson decided to move back to Adams county. On November 29, 1898, for \$500 Charles J. Tyson of Baltimore purchased from G. W. Koser and his wife, Elizabeth, the western section of the old Prickett and Michener tract that included the depot and warehouse. Nearly thirteen months later, on December 23, 1899, Tyson also purchased Andrew J. Koser's house and 2-acre parcel, and the eastern section of the old Prickett and Michener tract for \$3,500.³⁷

Andrew J. Koser and his son, George W., who had operated the warehouse at Guernsey, moved into Biglerville. There they established another warehouse. Tragically, on July 5, 1909, Andrew died of a fractured skull as a result of an equestrian hit-and-run accident. George W. Koser continued in the warehouse business and became one of the outstanding citizens of upper Adams county. Besides operating his Biglerville warehouse for some 50 years, he served as clerk of courts for Adams county (1897-1900); was one of the principal founders of the Biglerville National Bank, serving on its board of directors for some 30 years; participated in the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association; and as a "hobby," rehabilitated a number farms. In 1927, he was one of a group of men who decided to hold an agricultural fair in upper Adams county. This evolved into the present South Mountain Fair.³⁸

Charles J. Tyson continued to buy and improve properties in the

vicinity of Guernsey. On October 15, 1900, C. S. Griest sold him 0.63 acres for \$150, a 75' x 368' strip abutting the west side of the old A. J. Koser 2-acre house tract. Three months later, on 7 January 1901, Tyson purchased for one dollar from the heirs of Letitia Griest an 825-square foot, triangular-shaped plot of the center section of the former Prickett and Michener tract. A year later, on 27 March 1902, Tyson purchased a 6-acre, 60-perch tract for \$800 from George W. and Blanche G. Peters. This parcel had been part of John Heiges' farm (formerly the Jacob Bosserman property), abutting a portion of northern and eastern boundary line of Griest's farm, and fronting on the west berm of Quaker Run Road (T-534 north). The Butler township tax assessor also noted that during 1901 Tyson improved one of his properties, the 2-acre A. J. Koser tract, and moved there by that fall.³⁹ Based on existing physical evidence, Tyson added several rear additions, a tower, and numerous bay windows onto the old Koser house (see figure 11). We also suspect that during the ca. 1901 renovations, a tower was added to a two-story, frame barn (see figure 12).

However, Father Time caught up with Charles J. Tyson. Developing Bright's disease, he died on December 22, 1906, at the age of 68 years. In the obituary that appeared in the December 26 *Gettysburg Compiler*, Tyson was described as "one of the most enterprising citizens of the county. . .[who] carried out the prosperous career of a self-made man having the esteem and the respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances." He "possessed a progressive spirit which carried into all his undertakings."

As Charles J. Tyson had acquired properties about Guernsey, Cyrus S. Griest sold off additional parcels. On April 12, 1905, for \$1,300 he sold to the Cleaver Produce Company of Philadelphia his creamery tract encompassing "65 perches and 244 square feet." Seven months later Griest sold an 84-perch, 136-square foot parcel to Willis W. Lady on November 11, 1905. This parcel abutted the southeast corner of the bridge – nestled between the railroad right-of-way on the west; a "public road" that ran from a "point on the bridge" to another public road on the north; a public road (Guernsey Road – T-534 south) and a portion of Maria E. Tyson's six-acre tract on the east; and other lands of Cyrus S. Griest on the south.⁴⁰ Deed and Butler township tax records suggest Griest built a two-story frame house on this site ca. 1900 (see figure 13).

Within a year, the former Griest creamery changed owners again.

On October 18, 1906, the Cleaver Produce Company sold it for \$3,000 to Isaac W. Hershey of "Derry Church," Dauphin county. On 2 January 1907, Isaac and his wife, Emma M, sold a half interest in their holdings to Paris N. and Ephraim N. Hershey. On 27 March 1908, Isaac purchased the Willis W. Lady property for \$1,450 on 27 March 1908. Then on 10 November 1909, Isaac, Paris and Ephraim formed the Hershey Creamery Company whose business address by 1915 was 68 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg. The Butler township tax assessor noted in the 1910 record that the Hershey company also purchased the creamery of Aaron Hostetter in Butler township. However, the Hershey brothers retained their Guernsey properties only for a short time. On 11 March 1915, for \$1,900 the Hershey Creamery Company sold the Griest creamery and former Lady tracts to Henry L. Rouzer.⁴¹

Closer to home, Cyrus S. Griest's neighbor to the north, Solomon Meals, died. His executor, J. J. Meals, sold a parcel to J. Harvey Stevens and his wife, Bertha, on March 25, 1910. This L-shaped parcel abutted the north and west sides of the Sunny Side School lot. Six days later, Stevens sold a 4-acre, 33-perch tract to Lola W. and C. Arthur Griest. Based on a 1908 UGS topographic map that shows a structure standing adjacent to the Sunny Side School, we suspect that sometime prior to 1908, Meals entered into an agreement with Stevens to sell him a portion of his land along present West Guernsey Road on which was built a two-story, side-gabled, wood-frame house. However, a formal deed was not generated until 1910, possibly the year that Stevens fulfilled some financial arrangement with Meals or his heirs (see figure 14).⁴²

Six years later, we suspect that Butler township school directors had decided to construct a larger Sunny Side school that required additional land. On April 27, 1916, Lola W. and C. Arthur Griest sold to the School District of Butler township for \$25, a 35' x 134.5' strip along the north side of the existing schoolhouse lot.⁴³ About that time, or shortly thereafter, we suspect the present one-and-one-half-story, rectangular, hipped-roofed, brick school was constructed (see figure 15).

Between 1911 and 1915 negotiations occurred between the Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railway Company and at least two Guernsey property owners. On February 2, 1911, the railroad entered into a right-of-way agreement with Charles J. Tyson's heirs – siding and driveways were to be permitted over the entire western section of the old Prickett and Michener tract improved with the Sunny Side

Station, and a small triangular piece of the center section acquired from the heirs of Letitia Griest.⁴⁴

Four years later, the railroad desired additional lands adjacent to an aqueduct where the tracks crossed a stream about 340 yards south of the Guernsey bridge on Griest's farm. On March 3, 1915, Griest and his wife, M. Alice, sold to the company for one dollar two pieces of land: a 35' x 135' strip on the east side of the right of way and another 20' x 129' parcel on its west side.⁴⁵ Physical evidence today suggests that, possibly due to erosion, the railroad company needed the additional land to shore up the railroad bed and build the current concrete aqueduct.

During the first decade of the twentieth century Cyrus S. Griest also expanded his Butler township real estate holdings and decided officially to bring his sons into his farming enterprises. On March 13, 1901, for \$4,000 he bought the 132-acre, 80-perch Solomon Meals farm that abutted his land and the Sunny Side school north of present West Guernsey Road. Seven years later, at the age of 73 years, Cyrus entered into a business partnership with his three sons, C. Arthur, George C. and Maurice E. Based on an entry in the 1909 Butler township tax record, by the fall of 1908, Cyrus had joined with his sons to form "C. S. Griest and Sons." Transferring his home place (remnants of the Hartzell farm) and the Meals farm to the partnership, Cyrus retained the central section of the old Prickett and Michener parcel that his first wife, Letitia, had purchased in 1890, improved with a two-story brick house built for Charles Michener. However, deed lineage suggests that the Cyrus S. Griest farm was not officially transferred to the "co-partnership" of C. S. Griest and Sons until May 6, 1916, when it was sold for \$6,500. At that time, of the three sons, only C. Arthur Griest resided in Butler township. George C. Griest had moved to Connecticut during the late 1890s and Maurice E. moved to New York City ca. 1910.⁴⁶

After a fruitful life, Father Time caught up with Cyrus S. Griest. Possibly anticipating the end, Cyrus transferred his interest in the farms on May 5, 1918, to his sons who had formed Griest Brothers, Incorporated.⁴⁷ Three months later, Cyrus died on August 5 at the age of 83 years, 5 months, 4 days. The remnant of the Griest home farm remained in the Griest family for another thirteen years. During this period, besides running the Griest orchards and farm businesses, C. Arthur Griest was elected to the state legislature for the year 1919-20.⁴⁸

After the death of Charles J. Tyson, his heirs acquired additional land holdings in Guernsey. Deed records show that Tyson's sons, Edwin C. and Chester J., resided in Menallen township, while son William C. lived in Butler township, in the house at Guernsey built by A. J. Koser and enlarged by his father ca. 1901. In 1916, the Tysons desired more land about the old A. J. Koser property. On May 6, Griest and his wife sold to the Tyson heirs for \$25 a 20' x 289.5' strip along the south boundary of the 2-acre A. J. Koser tract and its west end addition.⁴⁹

As early as 1909, Edwin C., Chester J., and William C. had formed a partnership, Tyson Brothers. By June 19, 1916, they had formed Tyson Brothers, Inc., for that day they and their wives transferred their Menallen township land holdings to the new corporation for \$4,000. Three years later, on March 29, 1919, Tyson Brothers, Inc., purchased for \$1,600 from Harry L. Rouzer the old Lady tract located immediately south of the east end of the Guernsey Bridge. On September 4, 1920, Rouzer sold the old creamery tract to Edna Kerr, the wife of William C. Tyson.⁵⁰

By 1920, with the end of the World War I and as the American economy and lucrative stock market blossomed, several Quaker businessmen from Floradale and Guernsey decided to embark of a different kind of enterprise. Possibly, the rolling farm land around Guernsey, its relative location in the country, and close proximity to a railroad depot that could bring in visitors spurred the businessmen to establish on or before July 17, 1920, the Quaker Valley Country Club (QVCC), the first of its kind in Adams county.

The purpose of the QVCC was to "maintain a country club for social purposes at or near Guernsey." The first member of the club's board of governors were C. Arthur Griest, William C. Tyson, and Frederick E. Griest, a first cousin of Arthur. The club's first subscription list contained the names of some 190 people, most from around the county, some of them Tyson and Griest family members or in-laws, and others from Hanover, Fayetteville, Philadelphia, and Warren, PA; and Baltimore, Hagerstown, Washington, D.C., Hamilton, Ohio, and New York City. One hundred of the subscribers were from Gettysburg alone and included Mr. and Mrs. J. Paxton Bigham, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Keith, William A. McClean and wife, Elsie Singmaster Lewars, Donald P. McPherson and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCrea Dickson; W. A.

Granville and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Huber, M. C. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross Shuman, Dr. and Mrs. Milton Valentine, and Mr. and Mrs. Edmund E. Thomas. Other members included Dr. William E. Wolf and wife of Arendtsville, A. E. Rice of Biglerville, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gitt of Hanover, and Mr. and Mrs. Burton A. Alleman from Littlestown. With the addition of C. H. Huber and John D. Keith to the board, the latter met, and on June 1, 1912, adopted a constitution, by-laws, and regulations of the club.⁵¹

As stipulated in its constitution, the club's purpose was "the maintenance of a club house to be enjoyed by its members for social purposes and the maintenance of pleasure of its members of necessary courses, grounds and courts for golf, tennis and like sports and games." Membership was divided up into three classes - Class A, county residents; Class B, non-county residents; and Class C, junior members (children of members between the ages of 16 and 21 years). To join the QVCC, a person had to fill out an application and be certified by two members that he or she was "a fit person." Initiation and annual dues varied between \$15 and \$25, based on membership classification. Fees to use the golf course or tennis courts were implemented based on amount of use - 50 cents a day. If a member used the facilities more than 20 days a year (\$10), he or she was not assessed an additional user fee. The club's annual meeting was to be held on New Year's Eve at 8 P.M. Other business meetings could be called at the discretion of the board of governors. To transact business, a quorum was defined as 20 Class A members. The clubhouse was to be open 6 days a week 8:30 A.M. until midnight. It was closed from midnight Saturday until the following Monday morning. House rules included no gambling of any form or tipping of club employees by members or guests. General rules indicated, "No report shall be made or account published of any proceeding of the club or of anything that takes place in the club house without permission of the Board of Governors." Two prohibitions of the club were: (1) that the clubhouse was closed on the Sabbath and (2) that the use, possession or display of any alcoholic or malt beverages on the premises was forbidden.

With the formation of the QVCC in the summer of 1920, construction of facilities was pushed forward. The site of the clubhouse was selected - Griest's old creamery tract then owned by Edna Kerr Tyson (see figure 16). Construction was started, possibly as early as the spring of 1920, and completed by the following spring. As reported in the April 9, 1921, *Gettysburg Compiler*:

The Quaker Valley Country Club at Guernsey was formally thrown open to its members on Tuesday evening, April 5th. The Governors of the Club . . . sent out invitations to the members for the function to consist of a reception from 4 to 6 o'clock, supper from 6 to 8, and dancing from 8 to 12.

The opening . . . was a brilliant success . . . The building has gone through a wonderful transformation. Wide porches flank the house on three sides. The ground and second floors contain two huge picturesque fire places. On the ground floor there are shower baths for both men and women, and a rest room. On the main floor a large reception and dance room connects with the porches and makes a delightful place for such functions.

The furnishings and decorations, with blue as the predominant color have been most tastefully and artistically done and the ensemble of the place invites a welcome and delighted everyone who journeyed there.

The golf course is almost ready for use and covers 35 acres specially well adapted for the purpose. It is expected to have a man and woman take charge of the catering to the members and visitors. At present the roads towards the Club House can not be spoken of with any degree of enthusiasm, but when the Biglerville Road is completed [paved?], and that is promised by mid-summer, the Country Club will be most accessible from all points over good roads.

Two months later in its June 4, 1921, issue, the *Gettysburg Times* reported the following:

On June 29, an application will be made to Governor Sproul by William C. Tyson, Dr. William E. Wolf, M. C. Jones, and John D. Keith for a charter of an intended corporation to be called the "Quaker Valley Company, Incorporated." This corporation, if granted a charter, will have charge of operating the finances of the Quaker Valley Country Club located at Guernsey. Stock in the corporation will be sold to all members of the club who desire to purchase it.

Apparently, the QVCC needed additional space for its athletic facilities. On August 25, 1921, the Board of Governors and trustees of club entered into lease agreement with George A. Shank for the use of 11 acres, 130 perches of his land “for golfing, tennis and other sports only.” Over a five-year period, beginning April 1, 1921, and ending March 31, 1926, the trustees of the QVCC were to pay Shank a total of \$705.40. At the end of the lease, the trustees had the option to renew it for another five years. This pentagonal-shaped parcel’s southern boundary bordered that portion of the Griest Brothers property located north of the rail line and east of present Quaker Run Road. Its western border fronted some 488 feet along the center line of Quaker Run Road and its southeast boundary bordered a “driveway” that ran along the north side of the railroad right-of-way.⁵²

Nine months after its golf course was secured, the QVCC formally purchased the clubhouse tract from Edna Kerr, the wife of William C. Tyson, for \$1,000.⁵³

The precise boundaries of the QVCC are not known, for only the club house tract was ever officially deeded to the organization. The April 9, 1921, *Gettysburg Compiler* article suggests that, besides the parcel leased from Shank, some 23 acres owned by members of the Board of Governors (the Griest and Tyson brothers) were utilized. Logically, those lands probably included acreage surrounding the clubhouse – bordered on the west by the Sunny Side School and the Meals farm, on the south by present West Guernsey Road, and on the east, Quaker Run Road. Athletic facilities also probably included the Griest brothers’ parcel located east of Quaker Run Road and sandwiched between the leased tract, Shank’s other lands, and the railroad right-of-way. We also suspect that Tyson’s 6-acre parcel situated on the west side of present Quaker Run Road opposite the parcel leased from Shank was used (see map, figure 17).

As stipulated in the club’s by-laws, very few items concerning it were published in the newspapers. However, one controversy was covered during the summer of 1924. Members moved to have the club’s constitution amended to permit activities on Sunday afternoons. As reported in the August 20 *Gettysburg Times*, the Adams County Women’s Christian Temperance Union opposed the move. In a resolution, the union asked the club to “Help Adams county express her faith in her Christian institutions by giving to her young people a continued example of proper observance of the Sabbath Day.” At a special meet-

ing of Class A members held at 8 P.M. on the 23rd, by a vote of 55-5, the membership adopted the amendment.⁵⁴

After some 38 years of serving the public, and after countless wood-and coal-fired steam engines passed underneath its planks, Griest's bridge must have begun showing her age, in need of overhauling and modernizing. Although the trestle itself remained a wooded structure, the composition of the present bridge abutments and trestle footers suggests that the original stone ones were replaced with concrete structures.

The present bridge abutments are poured concrete masses, whose matrix is composed of many small granite stones about a half inch in dimension - nearly identical to the foundations found in the old Gettysburg Panel Company building that was partially razed in 1999 to make way for the new Super 8 Motel on York Street in Gettysburg. The panel company building was constructed between 1921 and 1925. The present abutments also imply that the bridge spans - from the abutments to the trestles on which the span across the tracts were laid - were wider than the original. For example, the east abutment is some four to six feet wider than the present twelve-foot wide causeway.

Despite the economic good times of the 1920s, financial problems caught up with the Tyson brothers when they attempted to expand their business operations. As noted in the December 3, 1927, *Gettysburg Compiler*,

Tyson Bros. have been growers of fruit, farm crops, and produce and sellers of farm supplies and machinery. The brothers inherited their farms from their father . . . and developed a huge apple production and marketing business which became known throughout the state and nation. A dozen farms totaling 3,000 acres are owned by the firm in Adams and Cumberland counties.

An expansion of activities into the sale of the farm implements is said to have led to the collapse of the concern.

In the same article, the reported noted that by the spring of 1927, Tyson Brothers, Inc., had liabilities in excess of \$1 million. At a meeting of its board of directors, after it was reported that the company was insolvent, owing some \$1,073,520.42 in claims to banks and trust companies in Gettysburg, Biglerville, and Bendersville, its secretary,

Wallace V. Peters of Biglerville, was directed to have their corporate attorney, Robert C. Wible, file four bankruptcy petitions with the federal court in Lewisburg – one for the corporation, and one each for the three Tyson brothers. The voluntary proceedings were done to head off the sale of assets of the company for settlement of a \$1,000 judgment of the Bendersville National Bank. Fortunately for Adams countians, “few residents . . . [were] to suffer as a result of the collapse . . . [for] most of the stock of the concern was owned by firms and individuals outside Adams county.” During litigation, a national organization, the American Fruit Growers, operated the extensive Tyson holdings.⁵⁵

Two weeks later, G. W. Koser was appointed trustee of not only the Tyson company’s holdings, but also the estates of the three Tyson brothers. On April 4, 1928, six C. J. Tyson farms were sold. C. H. Musselman purchased the “Bream Farm” and M. E. Knouse, “Edgemont Farm.”⁵⁶

During a second round of sheriff sales, held on June 2, 1928, the remaining Tyson farms were sold, as well as holdings in Guernsey. As the result of the law suit, **1st National Bank of Gettysburg [now Adams County National Bank], assignee of Chester J. Tyson vs. Edwin C. Tyson and Mary W. Tyson, Mortgagors; G. W. Koser, Trustee of the Bankruptcy of the Estate of Edwin C. Tyson, real owner; Chester J. Tyson, as occupant, and Z. J. Peters, occupant**, a writ of *levari facias* was issued by the Court of Common Pleas to Sheriff George D. Morrison. At the sale, the sheriff sold three, non-contiguous parcels. One parcel, the old A. J. Koser property and its two additions, “improved with a dwelling, barn, and other out buildings” where William C. Tyson and his family lived, was sold to G. W. Koser for \$2,900. The other two parcels, the western (warehouse) and the eastern sections of the old Michener & Prickett tract, were sold to Zachariah J. Peters, storekeeper and Guernsey postmaster, for \$800 and \$310, respectively. The court confirmed the sales to Koser and Peters on June 18. Eighteen months later, Koser sold his father’s property to Oscar H. and Sadie J. Benson of Bethesda, Maryland, on December 30, 1929.⁵⁷

Peters retained the eastern and western sections of the old Prickett and Michener tract (three plots) until his death at the age of 77 years, 2 months, 17 days on July 9, 1936. On March 26, 1937, his heirs sold the three plots for \$1,515.75 to siblings Margaret M. Boyer of Millersville and Charles G. Boyer of Biglerville. They retained them

until 23 November 1945, when for one dollar they were transferred to George C. Kiner of Aspers.⁵⁸

After the Stock Market Crash in September 1929 and the Great Depression that followed, some Adams countians suffered financial losses. By the early 1930s, Griest Brothers, Inc., had decided to fold. On February 9, 1931, they sold the remnants of the home farm and the Meals property to the Citizens Trust Company of Gettysburg for \$275. The trust company held the Griest property for but a short time. The trust company owed money to the First National Bank of Gettysburg. On February 23, 1932, the Court of Common Pleas directed that the holdings of the trust company were to be liquidated, and on April 4 all holdings were transferred to liquidation trustees, Harry L. Snyder, E. W. Thomas, M. E. Knouse, and the First National Bank of Gettysburg. Two years later for \$10,000, the trustees sold the Griest home place, referred to as "Tract #3, No. 2 Hartzell Farm," encompassing 134 acres, 135 perches, to Milton L. and Mary Jane Shipman of East Orange, New Jersey, on 23 February 1934. The Shipmans retained the Griest farm for twenty-two years. Deed records suggest that they may have used the farm as a summer residence and/or a tenant farm, for when they sold the property for \$32,500 on November 15, 1956, to Harold A. and Elizabeth F. Huettner of Hicksville, New York, the Shipmans were still listed as residents of East Orange.⁵⁹

Members of the Huettner family still own the majority of the old Hartzell-Griest farm. After her husband died, Elizabeth F. Huettner sold off parcels to her two sons. On June 10, 1983, she transferred a 4.52 acre parcel to Daniel F. and Jacqueline B. Huettner, and on December 30, 1989, she transferred an 18.676 acre tract to son Harold Russell Huettner.⁶⁰ Elizabeth A. Huettner is the current owner of record of the 105.32 acre remnant of the old Hartzell-Griest farm.

* * * *

The following summarizes the more-recent history of the other properties in Guernsey that had formerly been part of the Cyrus S. Griest home farm, Tyson or Shank properties:

Griest's Creamery-Quaker Valley Country Club Clubhouse

With the demise of Tyson Brothers, Inc., and fallout from the Great Depression, the QVCC followed suit. During the August term 1933, the Adams County Court of Common Pleas issued on May 8, 1933, a writ of *fieri facias* *in rem* on the property based on the suit, **School Directors of Butler Township vs. Quaker Valley Country Club**. On June 3, Sheriff John C. Wible sold the property to Harry L. Rouzer for \$400, which was confirmed by the court on July 7. Retaining the old clubhouse for nine years, on February 18, 1942, the Rouzers transferred title temporarily for one dollar to Margaret E. Larson, single. A year later, on June 3, 1943, the Rouzers sold the clubhouse for \$2,800 to Milo O. and Osma O. Gallinger of Milford, Michigan. Retaining it for eleven years, on March 30, 1954, the Gallingers sold it for \$3,000 to Raymond Wagner, Jr., and his wife, Patricia A., who, in turn, sold it on March 12, 1959, for \$5,000, to George G. and Kathryn I. Phillips. Widow Kathryn Phillips sold it for \$17,000 on May 20, 1970, to Eugene D. and Olga W. Hartman. The Hartmans then sold it on December 5, 1986, to David J. and Diane M. Howell, the current owners of record, though a second deed valued at one dollar and dated April 8, 1987 was also filed.⁶¹

E. Belle and Mary E. Griest's Store

The store and lot that abutted the east end of the Guernsey Bridge and the west side of the old Prickett and Michener warehouse tract, which Cyrus S. Griest had sold in 1887 to his two daughters, E. Belle and Mary E., was sold by them for \$2,000 on November 8, 1926, to Harry L. and Alberta B. Rouzer. Physical and deed evidence implies that some time after 1910, a two-and-a-half-story brick back building was added onto the Griest store. The Rouzers retained it for seventeen years when they transferred title to it for only one dollar to Harry A. and Mada K. Eckert on January 16, 1943. A year later, for one dollar, they transferred the house and lot to Edwin A. and Anna S. Eckert of Franklin township on December 11, 1944. A decade later, Edwin and Anna sold the property to Walter C. Roberts, Jr. and his wife, Selena M., for \$12,900 on June 3, 1954. On August 27, 1962, the house and lot were sold to the current owners of record, Donald W. and Shirley M. Bower.⁶²

Sunny Side Station and Warehouse Lot – Western Section of the Prickett and Michener Tract.

Having been purchased along with the eastern section of the Prickett and Michener tract by George C. Kiner and his wife, Tressie A., in 1945, they sold this station and warehouse parcel (that included two small triangular contiguous pieces) for one dollar on July 1, 1946, to Charles V. and Bernadette C. Abell and Joseph C. Becker, Sr., and his wife, Margaret A. They retained the two parcels until April 21, 1948, when they transferred them for one dollar to the First National Bank of Gettysburg. Four years later the bank sold them for \$4,000 to Charles G. Boyer on January 30, 1952. Boyer retained the station and warehouse parcel until October 17, 1988, when he sold it to Douglas L. and Carol A. Bower, the current owners of record. Sometime after 1910, the warehouse, depot, and Griest's siding were removed.⁶³

Charles Michener House (Center Section of the Prickett and Michener Tract).

Purchased from Koser and Michener in 1890, this house and lot were retained by Letitia B. Griest (Cyrus S. Griest's wife) and her heirs and descendants for some 48 years. On Valentine's Day 1938, Letitia's heirs sold the parcel for \$2,500 to Glenn H. and Mildred M. Crist. Residing there for nearly 50 years, three years after the death of her husband on August 8, 1995, she sold this property to the current owners of record, Douglas L. and Carol A. Bowers.⁶⁴

Eastern Section of the Prickett and Michener Tract

Having been purchased along with the western section of the Prickett & Michener tract by George C. Kiner and his wife, Tressie A., in 1945, this 1-acre, 67-perch unimproved, tree-covered eastern section of the Prickett and Michener tract was sold for \$100 to Charles J. and Kathren J. Wilkinson of Menallen township. Three months later the Wilkinsons sold it for \$400 to Clarence J. and Bessie L. Rausher on March 27. After the death of Bessie in 1948 and Clarence on July 9, 1956, the property remained in limbo until October 16, 1978, when the Orphans' Court formally decreed that, as stipulated in Clarence's will, the unimproved lot was the property of Rausher's daughter, Mildred M. Crist. Ten years later, on March 15, 1988, for one dollar Mildred

transferred a half interest in the property to her husband, Glenn H. Crist. After the death of her husband in 1995, Mildred sold the parcel to the current owners of record, H. William and Dorothy T. Barbour on November 21, 1997.⁶⁵

Heiges-Shank House Tract

Part of the plantation of John Cox in ca. 1742, 265 acres were acquired by John Bosserman, Sr., possibly as early as 1825. He retained the property until his death on March 6, 1845, after which the acreage was transferred to a son, Jacob Bosserman on April 1, 1846. Deed records and the 1858 and 1872 maps disclose that the farm buildings were situated about a half mile north of Guernsey bridge site. After the deaths of Jacob Bosserman and his wife, Elizabeth, on 12 July and 28 November, 1873, respectively, some 60 acres were sold to Peter Bosserman on April 4, 1874. The southeastern portion of this tract abutted the north side of present Guernsey Road (T-535). A year later, Peter sold the 60 acres to John Heiges on 8 May, 1875. On that portion of the tract near its border with the Prickett and Michener tract, we suspect that Heiges built the present two-story, L-shaped brick house in 1883. On April 2, 1904, Heiges transferred the land to a Mathilda (sic) Barr. She retained the land until January 16, 1914, when it was transferred to Charles G. and George A. Shank. After the interstate death of Charles on July 5, 1915, the Orphans' Court ruled that Charles' half interest was to be transferred to George. Thus, on March 30, 1917, W. D. Sheely, Clerk of the Orphans' Court, transferred the 60-acre, 116-perch tract for \$2,000 to George A. Shank. He and his wife, Mathilda L., retained the property for 42 years. The Quaker Valley Country Club rented eleven acres of Shank's farm during the 1920s.⁶⁶

During the following four decades, Shank sold off portions of his 60-acre tract. On March 24, 1948, the Shanks temporarily transferred their property to W. Frederick Troxell on March 24, 1948, for one dollar. On August 15, 1959, the Shanks sold the remaining 51 acres and 52 perches of their farm for \$10,600 to J. Chester and Bertie E. Spicer. Within a year of the death of her husband on September 2, 1967, Bertie E. Spicer sold an 8-acre, 106-perch parcel (that which fronted along the north side of Guernsey Road) for \$12,500 to Clarence M. Swartz on July 8, 1967. Selling off a 5.423-acre plot on October 13, 1970, to Violet

C. Ondek for \$6,000, Swartz eventually sold his remaining lot, improved with the two-story brick house, to John E. and J. Joan Slaybaugh for \$6,300. Eleven years later the Slaybaughs developed financial difficulties. On December 29, 1982, Sheriff Bernard V. Miller, by virtue of a writ of execution, sold the 3.23-acre property for \$30,600 to Herman O. and Margaret L. Cooper. On May 21, 1984, the Coopers sold the parcel to H. William and Dorothy E. Barbour, the current owners of record.⁶⁷

A. J. Koser-Charles J. Tyson Mansion Property, a.k.a. "Loma Vista"

Sold by the sheriff on June 2, 1928, to George W. Koser, the latter sold it on December 30, 1929, for \$8,500 to Oscar N. and Sadie J. Benson of Bethesda, Maryland. Moving to Guernsey, the Bensons retained "Loma Vista" until June 23, 1943, when they sold it for \$11,500 to Milo and Osma Gallinger. They held on to it until May 1, 1952, when they sold it for \$16,100 to William J. and Viola M. Parker of Fox River Grove, Illinois. Apparently, the Parkers used Loma Vista as a tenant property, for they were then residents of Hanover, New Hampshire, when they sold it on May 11, 1959, for \$10,500 to Ray M. and Alma L. Black. The Blacks retained the property until July 15, 1961, when they sold it to the current owners of record, C. William and Marion T. Harbaugh and Jean Thomas.⁶⁸

Lady-Rouzer-Heidlersburg United Brethren Parsonage Parcel

As a result of the Tyson Brothers, Inc., bankruptcy, G. W. Koser, trustee of the estate, sold this parcel that abutted the southeast corner of the Guernsey bridge for \$870 at a "public auction" held on March 18, 1928, but its sale to S. E. Strausbaugh was not finalized until November 13. The recorded deed noted that the property was "improved with a two-story frame house." However, a day later Spencer E. and Myrtle Strausbaugh sold it to G. W. Koser, private citizen, for \$1,000. Koser held onto the property through the Depression until April 4, 1933, when he sold it for \$1,500 to Jacob Paxton, Elmer Bricker, and W. H. Peters, Parsonage Trustees of the Heidlersburg United Brethren Circuit. Serving as a church parsonage for twelve

years, on October 5, 1945, the church's parsonage trustees – Zeal R. Peters, Harry L. Heller, William J. Fohl, Charles R. Weaver, and Clark Pittenturf – sold the house and lot to Robert C. Hoover and his wife, Mary E., for \$3,400. Retaining the property for eight years, on June 22, 1953, they sold it for \$5,000 to John W. and Agnes Eckert of Biglerville. The Eckerts, in turn, sold it on May 17, 1955, to the present owners of record, Benjamin Edward Frey, Jr., and his wife, Barbara A. On September 23, 1980, the Freys enlarged this parcel through the addition of a 3,685 square foot strip along its south boundary purchased, from Jack R. and Liesel L. Southerly.⁶⁹

J. Wilmont Peters Parcel

On March 26, 1920, J. Wilmont Peters purchased from Z. J. Peters, a 70-perch tract that was situated at the northeast corner of the old L. E. Hartzell-Edward Brough farm. This acreage was bordered by the railroad right-of-way on the west and present Guernsey Road (T-534 south) on the east. A year later, on November 5, 1921, for \$251, J. W. Peters purchased from the Griest Brothers, Inc., another strip of land (immediately north of his 70-perch tract), encompassing some 2 acres, 82 perches at the southeast corner of the old Cyrus S. Griest home place that was also sandwiched between the railroad right-of-way and Guernsey Road and which abutted the south boundary of the Lady-Rouzer tract. Near the Griest parcel's southwest corner was located the railroad aqueduct through which a stream often flowed. As stipulated in the deed of transfer, the Griest brothers, their heirs, and assigns were to have “perpetual” access to a fourteen foot right-of-way across Peters’ strip of land to the aqueduct.⁷⁰

J. W. Peters retained these two parcels for two decades. On September 26, 1944, he sold them for \$2,000 to John W. and Agnes Eckert. Six months later, on March 8, 1945, the Eckerts sold them to Ralph B. and Maude B. Shetter for \$2,300. Three years later, Ralph and Maude sold the two parcels for \$2,500 on April 23, 1948, to Donald B. and Marian F. Shetter who, in turn, sold them for \$6,000 on November 21, 1952, to Charles A. and Donna N. Slaybaugh.⁷¹

In 1956, a 25-year-old mistake was discovered. Prior to the sale of these two acreages, a deed search uncovered the fact that when the remnant of the Griest home place was sold by Griest Brothers, Inc., to the Citizens Trust Company of Gettysburg, the 2-acre, 82-perch parcel

sold to J. W. Peters had not been excluded from that instrument. Thus, a quit claim deed was filed on July 24, through which, for one dollar, the First National Bank of Gettysburg, (today Adams County National Bank), the receivers of the remnants of the trust company's assets, relinquished to the Slaybaughs any claim to the 2-acre, 82-perch parcel. Three days later, the Slaybaughs officially sold their two parcels – "Tract #1," containing 2 acres, 82 perches and "Tract #2," encompassing 70-perchs – to Jack R. and Liesel L. Southerly of Bendersville for \$7,100.⁷²

Jack and Liesel Southerly retained the two tracts until 1980, when they divided them into three lots. They are the current owners of Lot #3 or the south lot. On September 23, 1980, they sold Lot #2 or the center lot, encompassing some 22,005 square feet, to Nancy L. Southerly, the current owner of record. On the same day, Jack and Liesel sold Lot #1 or north lot, encompassing only 3,685 square feet, to Benjamin Edward Frey, Jr., and his wife.⁷³

Tyson-Peters House Tract

Maria E. Tyson purchased from Jacob and Eliza Kime in 1885 the Tyson-Peters tract, retaining it until her death on March 11, 1927, at the age of 87 years. We suspect that about the time of her husband's death in 1906, a modest two-story frame house was built on the property (see figure 18). In her last will and testament, Maria bequested this parcel to her daughter, Mary Tyson Peters. She held on to it until her death on August 16, 1931. Her husband, Zachariah J. Peters, held the parcel's title until his death on July 7, 1936. Three years later, the heirs of Zachariah, through their attorney, Wallace V. Peters, sold the acreage for \$2,565 to E. A. Meyer of Biglerville, who retained it until October 17, 1942, when he and his wife, Josephine L., sold it for \$2,700 to Henry D. and Anita R. Lower of Biglerville. On June 3, 1963, the Lowers transferred the six acres to their son, Terry C. Lower and his wife, Carolyn A., the current owners of record.⁷⁴

(For a map of today's Guernsey and vicinity, see figure 19.)

Epilogue

Although the documentation examined thus far does not precisely identify who is the owner of the Guernsey bridge, evidence indicates that the bridge would not have been built if not for the 1883 agreement between Cyrus S. Griest and the Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railway Company, which, in part, provided the property owner (Cyrus S. Griest, his heirs and assigns) access under and over the railroad right-of-way. Mention of this agreement is written into the current deed of record for the remnant of the Hartzell-Griest farm, now owned by Elizabeth Huettner. Since a portion of that farm still abuts the western and northwestern side of the railroad right-of-way, including that section from the Guernsey bridge to the historic northeast corner of the old 140-acre Hartzell-Griest farm, one might assume that agreement still has full force and effect and is legally binding.

The present humpback bridge actually may be at least a third version of the structure (see figure 20). Physical evidence suggests that at least the causeway that lead up to that section of the bridge that crosses the tracts may have been wider at the bridge abutments. Those abutments, especially the east one, extend more than a foot beyond the bridge deck and its supports.

If the present bridge is actually a third or even fourth version, when was it built? Assuming that the major wood supports would last about forty years, then the bridge would have been replaced ca. 1923, and ca. 1963. Indeed, composition of the bridge abutments suggests that they were installed about the 1920s, about the time the Quaker Valley Country Club was established at Guernsey.

However, major repairs may have been made to the Guernsey bridge within the past twenty years. The editor of *Adams County History*, Dr. James Myers, recalls that about sometime during the late 1970s and early 1980s, "the bridge was extensively repaired, possibly about the time that the[Gettysburg] railroad tours enterprise began." Repairing the Guernsey bridge establishes a precedent - some entity had at least taken a maintenance responsibility for, if not direct ownership of, the Guernsey bridge.

NOTES

1. See Arthur Weaner, History of Possum Creek Manor, unpublished manuscript, 1992, 190: 'Possum Creek Manor file, Adams County Historical Society (ACHS).

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Adams County Court House, Office of the Register-Recorder, Deed Book B/389.

6. Land Drafts, Menallen township, 'Possum Creek Manor, ACHS.

7. Land Drafts, Menallen township, John Cox, ACHS.

8. Adams County Court House, Office of the Prothonotary, Sheriffs' Deeds, Insolvent Debtors, Naturalization Docket Book, 1819-1833/237.

9. Deed Books: L/228; P/192; and ZZ/529.

10. Photocopy in Hartzell Family file, ACHS; and Hartzell-Gelwicks marriage notice, *Adams Centinel*, 4/19/1819.

11. Deed Book: LL/8.

12. Ibid.

13. Bender's Cemetery, Butler township, tombstone inscriptions.

14. Deed Book: ZZ/529.

15. Samuel Benjamin Cross, compiler, *The Griest Family* (Westhampton Beach, New York: S. B. Cross, 1966), pp. 103-104.

16. See C. S. Griest obituary, *Gettysburg Times*, 8/5/1918, p. 1. Butler township was created in 1849 out of parts of Menallen and Franklin townships.

17. Unrecorded Deed, Cyrus S. Griest and wife to Sallie S. Mumper, house and one acre land, dated 27 March 1876, ACHS.

18. *The Griest Family*, p. 104, and Deed Book: 81/242.

19. *History of Adams County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: Warner Beers and Co., 1886), p. 384; C. S. Griest obituary, *Gettysburg Times*, 8/5/1918, p. 1; and Margaret B. Walmer, *Menallen Minutes, Marriages and Miscellaneous* (Bowie,

Maryland; Heritage Books, 1992), pp. 69 and 71.

20. Adams County Court House, Clerk of Courts Office, Road Docket Book A/93.

21. Ibid.

22. See ca. 1804 Cobean Land draft in Weaner 'Possum Creek Manor monograph, and title lineage in Deed Book 127/53.³

23. See Deed 81/242.

24. *The Griest Family*, p. 105; and Deed Book WW/379.

25. Deed Book LL/8.

26. See "Butler Items," *Star and Sentinel*, 6/9/1885, p. 3.

27. Deed Book 103/286.

28. Deed Book 60/452.

29. See Deed Book: 56/414; 78/28; and 154/228.

30. John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *Pennsylvania Postal History* (Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman Publishing, Inc., 1976), pp. 30 & 46.

Since the completion of this article, additional information has been unearthed in the records of the Postmaster-General, now on deposit in the National Archives.

On August 15, 1884, Josiah W. Prickett submitted to the Office of the First Assistant Postmaster-General in Washington, D.C., a "location paper" and statement. That statement's purpose was to provide information to aid the postmaster-general in deciding whether a new post office at Sunny Side was warranted.

When Prickett filled out the form, the new post office was to be located twenty-five feet south of the GHRR right-of-way, either in the depot or the warehouse. A map accompanying the statement noted that, by the summer of 1884, present Quaker Run Road and the southern portion of Guernsey Road had been opened, thus creating a crossroads at Sunny Side.

Guernsey was not the only alternative name for the new post office. Prickett initially wrote in "Hartford." That name

was crossed out and the name "Creamery" was written in by a different hand. That name was also crossed out and "Guernsey" was written in by a third hand.

31. Deed Books: WW/347, 383; and ZZ/537; and Obituary of G. W. Koser, *Gettysburg Times*, 7/6/1949.

32. See "Butler School Items," *Star and Sentinel*, 4/1/1884.

33. Deed Book ZZ/535.

34. *Star and Sentinel*, 5/20/1898; and *The Griest Family*, pp. 103-104.

35. William A. Frassanito, *Early Photography at Gettysburg* (Gettysburg: Thomas Publications, 1999), pp. 29-36; *The Griest Family*, p. 104; D. J. Lake, *Atlas of Adams Co. Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: I. W. Field and Co., 1872), plate 9; and 1886 *Adams County History*, p. 478-479.

36. *The Griest Family*, pp. 105, 202-203.

37. Deed Books: ZZ/358 and 54/128.

38. Obituaries of A. J. Koser and George Wilmer Koser in 8/4/1909 *Compiler* and 7/6/1949 *Gettysburg Times*, respectively.

39. Butler township tax records 1900, 1901, and 1902 on file ACHS; and Deed Books: 55/168; 56/414; and 103/281.

40. See Deed Book 87/28.

41. Deed Books: 61/318; 87/28; and 83/370.

42. See title lineage in Deed Book 127/536.

43. Ibid.

44. Adams County Court House, Register-Recorder's Office, Miscellaneous Docket Book C/116.

45. Deed Book 73/536.

46. Deed Book 81/242.

47. See Deed Book 126/408.

48. See Obituary of C. Arthur Griest, *Gettysburg Times*, 9/17/1962.

49. Deed Book 103/289.

50. Deed Books: 78/86; 87/30; and 93/566.

51. Constitution and By-Laws, Quaker Valley Country Club, 1921, copy on file, ACHS.

52. Miscellaneous Docket Book F/524.

53. Deed Book 93/566.

54. *Gettysburg Times*, 8/24/1924.

55. Ibid., 6/9/1928.

56. *Gettysburg Compiler*, 12/24/1927 and 4/7/1928.

57. Deed Book 119/88.

58. Obituary of Zachariah J. Peters in *Gettysburg Compiler* 7/9/1936; and Deed Books: 144/547 and 171/80.

59. Deed Books: 126/408; 130/129; 133/453; and 216/71.

60. Deed Books: 368/790 and 672/132.

61. Sheriff's Deed Book B/123, and Deed Books: 158/328 and 329; 162/348; 205/557; 284/641; 443/562; and 454/96.

62. Deed Books: 114/141; 161/94; and 167/416.

63. Deed Books: 174/162; 183/573; and 504/477.

64. *Gettysburg Times*, 8/9/1995; and Deed Books: 147/371 and 1508/108.

65. C. J. Rausher Estate Papers, G-538, on file, ACHS; and Deed Books: 341/235; 483/377; and 1481/327.

66. Menallen/Butler township tax records; Deed 154/228; and the following *Sentinel* issues: 7/21/1845; 7/23 and 12/10/1873.

67. Deed Books: 181/561 and 652; 226/180; 262/715; 288/82; 297/136; 366/106; and 380/78.

68. Deed Books: 119/28; 162/349; 198/505; 225/153; and 234/31.

69. Obituary of Myrtle Strausbaugh, *Gettysburg Compiler*, 10/15/1938; and Deed Books: 115/370; 118/287; 170/323; 203/79; 210/150; 353/1122; 479/841; and 484/526.

70. Deed Books: 214/489 and 156/337.

71. Deed Books: 167/38; 168/159; and 200/517.

72. Deed Books: 214/494 and 214/496.

73. Deed Books: 353/1122 and 1225.

74. Estate Papers of Maria E. Tyson, on file, ACHS; obituaries of Maria E. Tyson, and Mary Tyson Peters, *Gettysburg Compiler*, 3/19/1927 and 8/22/1931; Miscellaneous Docket Book N/295; and Deed Books: 151/85; 160/356; and 245/1045.

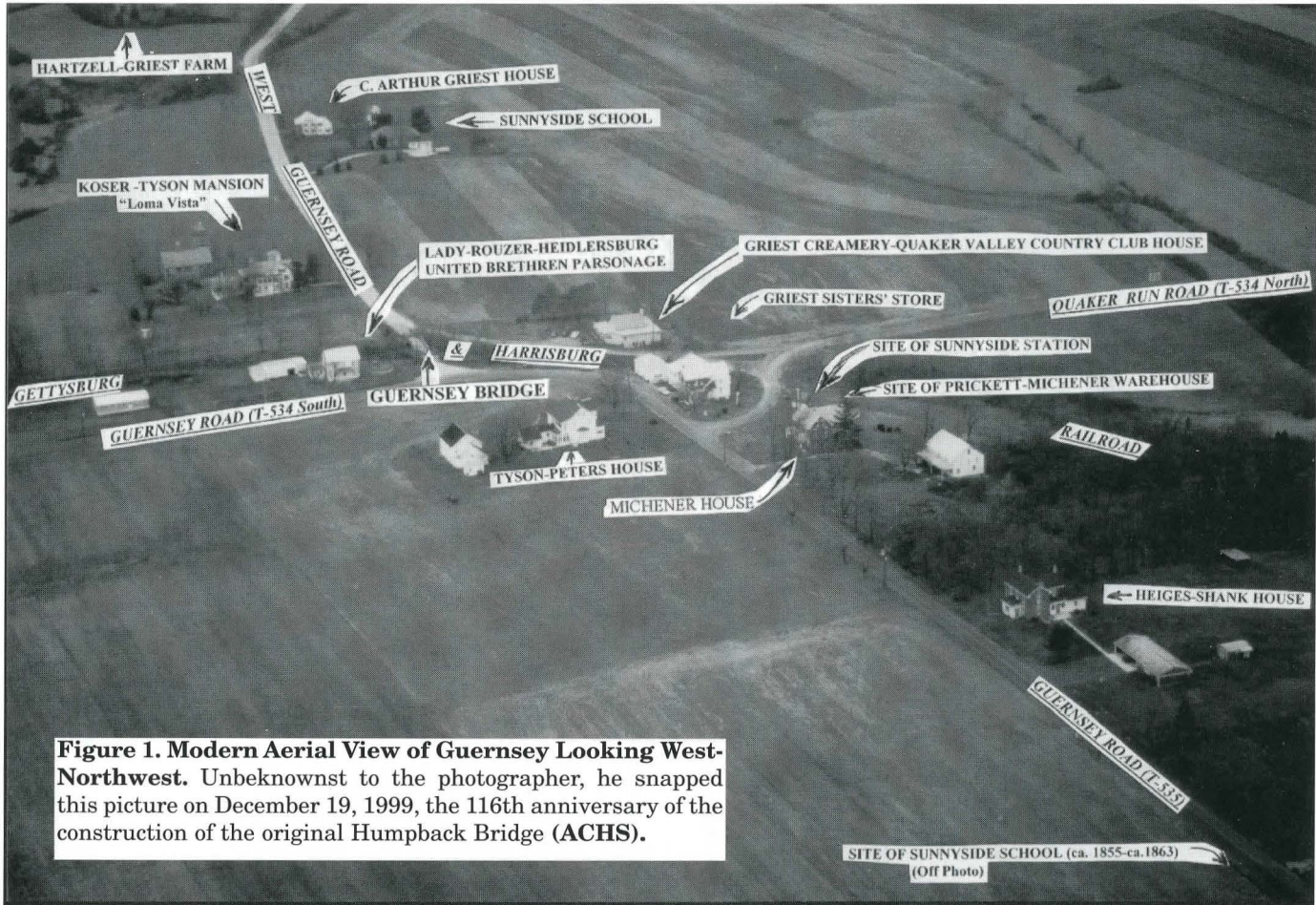




Figure 2. Guernsey Bridge Looking North along the GHRR Right-of Way. During the week of December 19, 1883, the original version of the bridge was under construction.

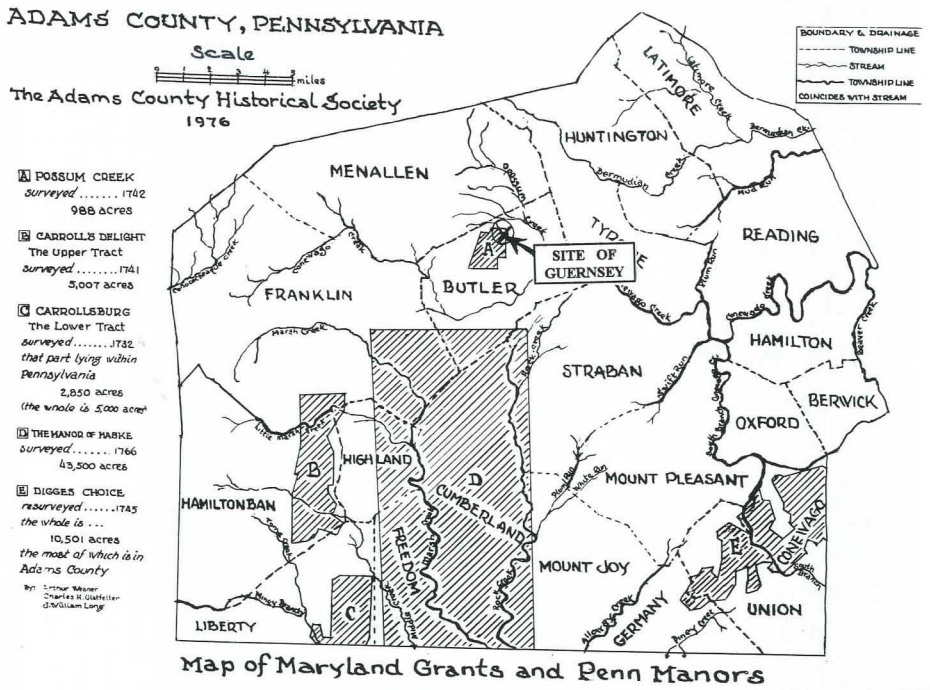


Figure 3. Colonial Land Claims in Adams County, 1732-1766, showing 'Possum Creek Manor (A) and the site of Guernsey.



Figure 4. The Hartzell-Griest Farmhouse Seen from West Guernsey Road. Built in 1811 for George Hartzell, his 140-acre farm was eventually purchased by Cyrus S. Griest in 1862. Today, 105 acres of the original farmstead remains intact.

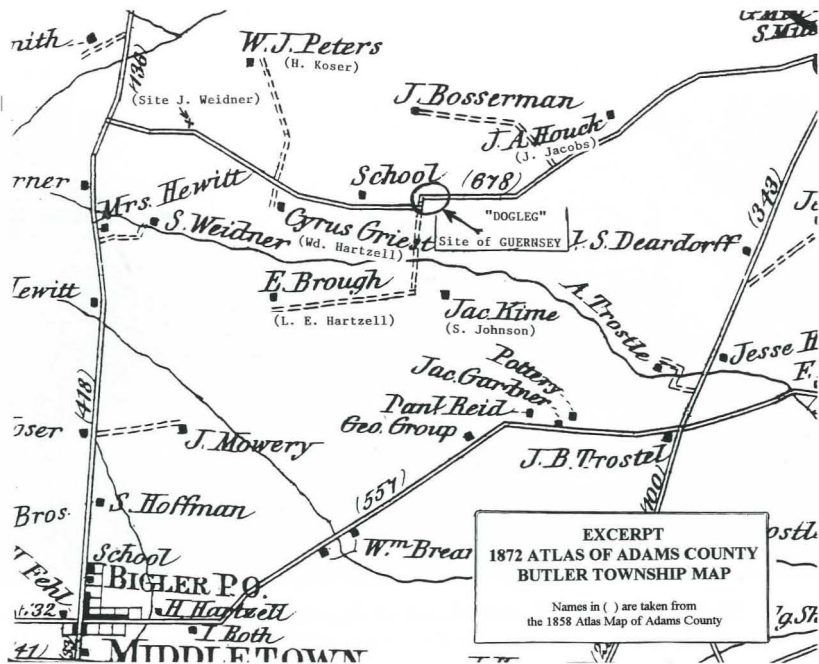


Figure 5. Detail from 1872 Atlas Map of Butler Township.



Figure 6. Coming Into Sunny Side Station from the North, Today. Sunny Side Depot and the warehouse of Prickett and Michener once stood along Griest's siding, which ran along the left side of the right-of-way seen here. Through the trees at left can be seen Griest's store. At photo-center is seen Griest's Creamery. The Tyson mansion, Loma Vista, can be seen just left of the old creamery.



Figure 7. Heiges-Shank House. Erected during the summer of 1883, John Heiges's modest farmhouse was the first new structure built in the village of Guernsey.

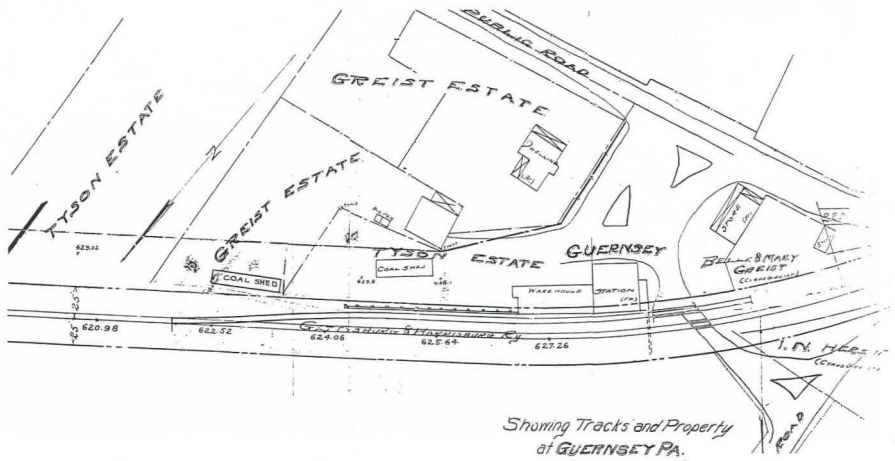


Figure 8. Sunny Side Station Depot Area, 1910. This blue print illustration was attached to the recorded right-of-way agreement, dated February 11, 1911, between the Griest family and the GHRR. The depot can be seen just below and right of center with the Koser warehouse abutting it to the left. Directly above the warehouse can be seen the Michener House. At right, stands Belle and Mary Griest's store. The direction of north is towards the bottom left corner of the illustration.



Figure 9. Charles Michener House. This quaint house was built in 1887 for Michener, a warehouseman turned creamery operator. That year he married Florence Griest, a daughter of Cyrus and Letitia Griest. Glenn H. and Mildred H. Crist resided here from 1938 until 1995.



Figure 10. E. Belle and Mary E. Griest's Store. The nucleus of this building was erected about 1888 for Cyrus S. Griest who sold it that year to two of his daughters, both teachers. The Griest sisters retained this building until 1926. Sometime after 1910, the building was enlarged and later renovated by subsequent owners.



Figure 11. Koser-Tyson House ("Loma Vista"). Andrew J. Koser built the nucleus of this house in 1885. Purchased by Charles J. Tyson, he enlarged and embellished the building about 1902.



Figure 12. North Facade of Loma Vista's Barn. Note the intriguing architectural design of the tower. Local custom holds that from the observatory, Tyson could see his original house at Floradale, located 1.6 miles northwest of Guernsey.



Figure 13. Lady-Rouzer House. Built for Cyrus S. Griest about 1900, in 1905 he sold this house to Willis W. Lady. In 1908, Isaac W. Hershey, co-founder of the Hershey Creamery Company, bought it, but sold it in 1915 to Harry L. Rouzer. Between 1933 and 1945, this house served as the parsonage of the Heidlersburg United Brethren Circuit.



Figure 14. Stevens-Griest House. We suspect that this house was built sometime between 1904 and 1908 for J. Harvey Stevens. In 1910, Stevens sold it to Lola W. and C. Arthur Griest, one of Cyrus's sons. The couple sold the property in 1935.



Figure 15. Sunny Side School at Guernsey. About 1863, the nucleus of this schoolhouse was built on this site, located just west of Guernsey. The original schoolhouse, built about 1857, stood about 3/4 mile to the east. We suspect this structure was renovated about 1916. The school was closed in 1937.



Figure 16. Griest's Creamery-Quaker Valley Country Clubhouse. Built as a creamery for Cyrus S. Griest during the fall of 1884, the structure was purchased by the country club and converted to their clubhouse in 1921.

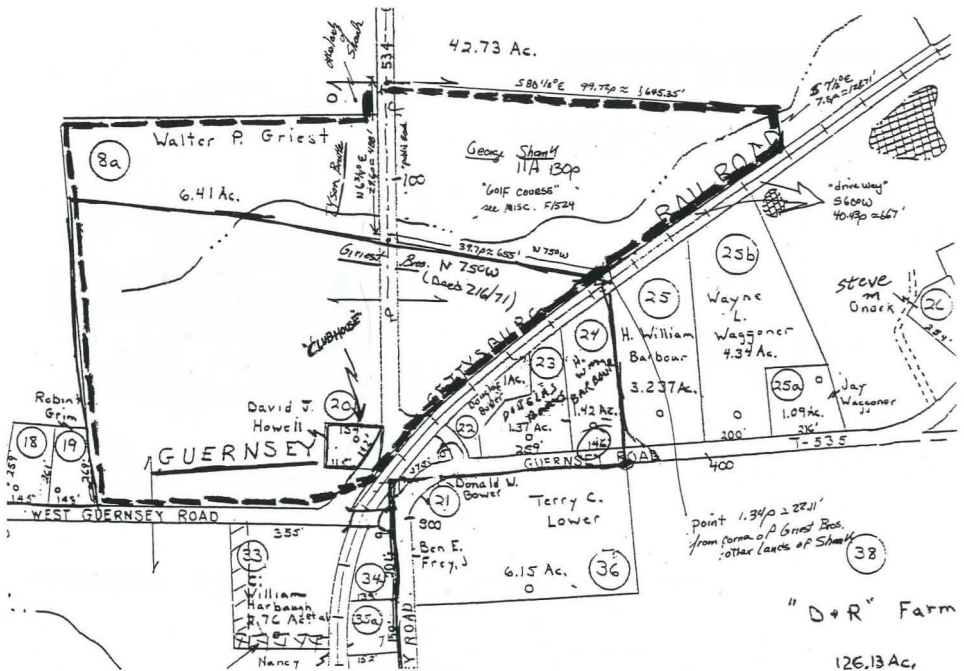


Figure 17. Conjectured Boundaries of the Quaker Valley Country Club, 1921-1931. Although the country club encompassed some 35 acres, the organization only ever owned their clubhouse property, formerly Griest's Creamery, seen at center.



Figure 18. Tyson-Peters House. Maria E. (Griest) Tyson, wife of Charles J. Tyson, purchased 6 acres of land from Jacob Kime in 1885. After her husband's death, this modest frame house was built about 1906 on the tract. With Maria's death in 1927, the property was transferred to a daughter, Mary S. who had married Zachariah J. Peters. Members of the Peters family resided here until 1939. Guernsey Bridge can be seen just right of the house.

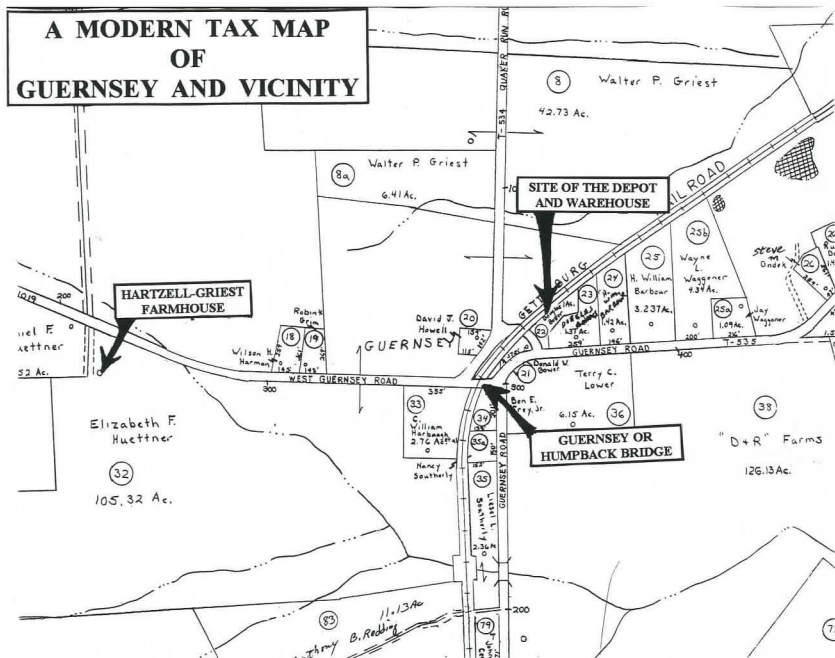


Figure 19. Modern Tax Map of Guernsey and Vicinity.



Figure 20. Bridge Deck Looking East. The Griest sisters' store can be seen through the trees at upper left. The Tyson-Peters house is seen just right of upper center.

Contributors

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