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Southwesterly Town Lot Histories of Fairfield, Pennsylvania

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Abstract

Each lot history give the original lot number, original owner, the current address, the owner of the lot in 1860, a description of the lot or dwelling in 1860, a recital of ownership with as much detail as is known, a comprehensive lot history, any known residents in 1860 (may be different than lot owner), and any family notes on any residents mentioned in the lot history. The research is comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive. Thorough information for all lots was not always available to the researcher.

Keywords

Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Fairfield, Town Lots

Southwesterly Lot Histories

Town Lot #1S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 12 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Peter Shively. **Description:** Vacant lot, orchard. **Recital:** William Miller, in 1801; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Peter Shively, November 8, 1856; Jacob J. Shoemaker, April 2, 1900.

History of the Lot: The early history of Lots 1S and 2S is associated with the Mansion House property directly across the street. The 1856 deed between Wilson and Shively describes this property as “the lot in front of the improvements above described and lying south of Main Street containing nearly one acre, upon which is an apple orchard, a spring, wash and milk house, said lot bounded on the east and south by Rufus Swope.” These lots are shown as vacant on the 1858 wall map and in the 1872 *Atlas*, and were vacant for many years afterwards. The current house at 12 West Main Street was built by Dr. Ira Henderson in 1931. According to an article in the *Gettysburg Times*, “For the past century a small stream has meandered through the streets of Fairfield, almost at will; in rainy seasons in years gone by it would run wild, overflowing its banks to the extreme discomfort of pedestrians and the delight of bare-foot children. Since the incorporation of the town, however, the stream has been curbed by walls and bridged streets. The last stand of this rambling stream was in the low, water-logged ‘lot’ across the street from the Mansion House Fit only for pasturage, this low bit of land was never considered, even by the most optimistic, as a possible building lot until Dr. Ira M. Henderson looked at it one day in 1922 with a speculative eye. As a result of his vision there stands on that spot today a handsome, perfectly equipped dwelling house.”

Sources: ACDB T-454; “Frog Pond is Now Fine Home,” *Gettysburg Times*, June 30, 1931.

Town Lot #2S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 16 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Peter Shively. **Description:** Vacant lot, orchard and spring house. **Recital:** William Miller, in 1801; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Peter Shively, November 8, 1856; Jacob J. Shoemaker, April 2, 1900.

History of the Lot: This lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 wall map and in the 1872 *Atlas*.

Civil War Notes: This lot was associated with Lot 1S and shares the same early history. According to an affidavit in the border claims file of Peter Shively, during the retreat through Fairfield following the Battle of Gettysburg, Joshua Cease witnessed Confederate soldiers stealing lard from the spring house of Peter Shively across from the Mansion House. This occurred presumably on lot 2S.

Sources: ACDB T-454; “Frog Pond is Now Fine Home,” *Gettysburg Times*, June 30, 1931; Civil War Border Claim of Peter Shively, PHMC.

Town Lot #3S: Trenkle and Rasche Rental Property. **Current Address:** 20 West Main Street. **1860 Owners:** George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche. **Description:** Two-story, log, rough-cast, house, with back-building. **Recital:** Barnabas Reily, in 1801; Heirs of Barnabas Reily, 1818; Unknown 1829-1844; Patrick Mooney, 1841; Heirs of Patrick Mooney (Ellen Mooney), by 1844; James Wilson, August 7, 1844; George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche, May 4, 1846; Susan Rasche, September 8, 1886; Martha Byers, April 18, 1899; Martin Byers, March 24, 1905; George M. Neely, April 4, 1914.

History of the Lot: In 1828 this property was described as “a lot of ground with the improvements thereon erected, viz. a two-story log house & log stable, adjoining lots of John Criswell and an alley, situate in Fairfield (Millerstown) . . . the estate of Barnabas Riley, deceased.” George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche purchased this property in 1846 and apparently lived with their families at this location until they built a house on Lot 5S in 1860. At that point, lot 3S became a rental property, although they still may have retained the blacksmith shop for their own use. This property is shown as an unidentified dwelling and a blacksmith shop on the 1858 map. *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists “Trenkle and Rasche” as blacksmiths in Fairfield. An 1860 sales notice for the property of George Trenkle and Rudolph Rusk describes this as “a lot of ground, situate in Fairfield, Adams County, in the centre of the town, adjoining Peter Schively [*sic*] and others, thereon a two-story log roughcast house, with back-building, blacksmith shop, wagon-maker shop, stable, well of water, and a

fine lot of fruit trees.” However, the property did not sell, and in 1860 it appears that the tenant of the house and shop on this lot was Samuel Little. Perhaps Little was operating the wagon shop and Trenkle and Rasche the blacksmith shop. Upon the sale of lot 5S in 1864, the Trenkle and Rasche families most likely moved back to this lot. In 1873, the property was valued at \$400, but in 1874 the assessment was increased to \$1200. Most likely, the two-story brick dwelling house standing today replaced the original log structure at that time. The 1872 *Atlas* indicates this lot was still occupied by “Rashe and Trankle” at the time. It also shows a blacksmith shop near the house. According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, “blacksmith shops abounded in the Fairfield vicinity although no trace of the old shops still remains. One of the largest was owned by two German emigrants by the name of Rosche and Trenkel before the Civil War. Another was located along Spring Run and Main Street.” These two shops are actually one and the same. An 1899 deed specifically mentions the blacksmith shop as having been removed.

1860 Residents: Samuel Little, wagon maker (1831); Sarah A. Little (1835); Mary C. Little (1856); Charlotte A. Little (1858).

Civil War Notes: Rudolph Rasche filed a claim for damages following the Civil War. He listed \$188 worth of damage which was mostly to his wheat and cornfields somewhere near the town, but he did indicate the loss of \$30 worth of blacksmith tools, including a “jack screw.”

Sources: ACDB, 140-414; Susan Rasche, et al., to Martha Byers, April 18, 1899, URD, ACHS; Civil War Border Claims Files, Rudolph Rasche, PHMC; “Notice,” *Adams Sentinel*, January 29, 1828; “Houses and Lands,” *Compiler*, November 26, 1860; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area’s Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 57; *Boyd’s Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).

Town Lot #4S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 20 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** Jacob Feree, by 1801; John Criswell, April 2, 1810; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; George Trenkle and Edward Rasche, by 1860; Abram P. Beaver, 1882.

History of the Lot: Lots 4S and 5S sold in 1810 for \$50, indicating that there were no substantial structures present at that time. Lots 4S, 5S and 6S were three of the nine lots owned by John Criswell and repossessed by James Wilson in 1843 because of non-payment of ground rent. This lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 wall map and in the 1872 *Atlas*. An 1860 public sale described this as “a lot of ground . . . with a variety of fruit trees thereon.” Today, there is a two-story brick dwelling at this site. Tax records list A. P. Beaver with no property until 1883, when he first appears with a lot valued at \$2,500. So it would seem, as far as the tax records are concerned, that the current house at 20 West Main Street was built about 1882.

Sources: ACDB E-180, P-285; “Houses and Lands,” *Compiler*, November 26, 1860.

Town Lot #5S: George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche Residence. **Current Address:** 24 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** George Trenkle and Rudolph Rasche. **Description:** Two-story dwelling-house. **Recital:** Jacob Feree, by 1801; John Criswell, April 2, 1810; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; George Trenkle and Rudolph (Edward) Rasche, May 8, 1856; J. V. Danner, May 1, 1864; John Biesecker, September 30, 1867; Heirs of John Biesecker; Lewis Artzberger, January 5, 1894; George E. Brown, October 10, 1905.

History of the Lot: Lots 4S and 5S sold in 1810 for \$50, indicating that there were no substantial structures present at that time. Lots 4S, 5S, and 6S, three of the nine lots owned by John Criswell, were repossessed in 1843 by James Wilson because of non-payment of ground rent. This particular lot appears to be vacant on the 1858 wall map. An 1860 public sale describes this as “a lot of ground . . . with a new two-story dwelling house thereon erected. Also fruit trees on the lot.” The 1860 census seems to indicate that this was the residence of both the Trenkle and Rasche families at that time. In 1864 the property was purchased by J. V. Danner. The 1872 *Atlas* shows this as the residence of “J. Beisecker.” It is unclear whether the house standing on the site today is the original structure.

1860 Residents: George Trenkle (1812), blacksmith; Rachel Trenkle (1828); Rudolph Rasche (January 17, 1820), blacksmith; Susan Rasche (April 1817); Mary Rasche (1849); Sarah Rasche (1853-1926).

Family Notes: According to his naturalization record, Rudolph Rasche was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on January 17, 1820. He immigrated to the United States and arrived at the port of Baltimore on August 1, 1841. In 1849 he applied for naturalization. The spelling of Rudolph Rasche's name varies considerably in the various records, several sources giving his surname to Rusk. It should also be noted that in more than one record his first name is given as Edward instead of Rudolph.

Sources: ACDB, E-180, P-285, X-280, 59-458; Naturalization Records, ACHS; "Houses and Lands," *Compiler*, November 26, 1860; "Numerous Sales of Real Estate in Hamiltonban Township," *Compiler*, October 28, 1903.

Town Lot #6S: Israel W. Fraim Residence. **Current Address:** 26-28 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Israel W. Fraim. **Description:** Two-story, log, dwelling-house and frame shop. **Recital:** Barnabus Reily, in 1801; William Miller to John Criswell, May 29, 1820; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; Israel Fraim, 1856; Heirs of Israel Fraim (Mary Fraim), May 6, 1873; Heirs of Mary Fraim, May 28, 1883; Joseph Bigham, 1884.

History of the Lot: Barnabus (or Barney) Reily is shown as the holder of this lot in the 1801 agreement and he appears to be taxed for this lot in early records. The 1820 deed refers to the fact that Barnabus Reily died intestate "before any title to the same" property was made, and so the lot was repossessed by William Miller. Reily never obtained clear title. In 1820 Miller sold this lot to John Criswell for \$46, but that deed makes no reference to an earlier owner. Lots 4S, 5S and 6S were three of the nine lots owned by John Criswell and repossessed in 1843 because of non-payment of ground rent. Lot 6S was clearly vacant at that time. It also appears vacant on the 1858 wall map, but as is the case with lot 6W across the street, there was almost certainly a small house there at the time. In 1857 a house and lot valued at \$125 was transferred from James Wilson to Israel Fraim (also spelled Frame). *Boyd's Business Directory* (1860) lists "Israel W. Frame" of Fairfield as a cabinet maker. The map in the 1872 *Atlas* shows two structures on this lot, the residence of Israel Frame and a building referred to as a "confectionary." The estate papers of Mary Frame describe this property in 1883 as being "a lot of ground

in Fairfield fronting 60 feet on Main Street, improved with a two story log house and one story frame shop worth about--\$600.” The property was sold to Joseph Bigham in 1884 for \$525. It is unclear whether any portion of the current structure on this lot dates from the period of the Civil War.

1860 Residents: Israel W. Frame (August 19, 1815--May 6, 1873); Mary Youse Frame (August 12, 1815—May 28, 1883).

Sources: ACDB I-91; Estate Papers of Mary Fraim, ACHS; *Boyd's Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860)..

Town Lot #7S: Daniel King Residence. **Current Address:** 30 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** John Sanders. **Description:** Frame dwelling-house. **Recital:** James Waugh, in 1801; James Agnew April 18, 1795; Francis McCormick, December 31, 1805; Isaac Robinson, 1848; Unknown, 1852-1855; John Sanders, 1856; Jeremiah Stem, by 1861; Daniel King, 1862; Catherine Musselman, 1870.

History of the Lot: The recital in 1805 deed of transfer between James Agnew and Francis McCormick indicates that Agnew purchased the lot from Miller in 1795, but the 1801 agreement shows that John Waugh is the holder of this lot. The 1805 deed refers to this as lot “No. Seventh.” At that time, the property sold for just 7 shillings and 6 pence. In 1856 John Sanders appears in the tax records with this house and lot, which was valued at \$150. The 1858 map shows an unlabeled structure shown here. In 1861, tax records indicate the transfer of this property, valued at \$100, from John Sanders to Jeremiah Stem. Daniel King and his family appear to be living at this location in the 1860 census, and tax records indicate he purchased the lot in 1862. The 1870 tax records note that King sold a house and lot valued at \$300 to Mrs. C. Musselman, a widow. The 1872 *Atlas* identifies lot 7S as the residence of “Mrs. Musselman.” According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, “Newman’s Super Thrift had its beginning in 1927 when E. H. Newman bought the butcher shop and slaughter house of the late Cleve Sieferd at 30 West Main Street, where the Village Wash House is now located. Mr. Newman had as his partner his wife, who ran the shop while her husband did the slaughtering and delivered meat in the nearby communities. In 1941, after Mr. Newman became ill, Bob joined his parents in the

business. In 1945 an addition was built to the butcher shop which housed Newman's Self Service Food Store when Tom, returning from the service, joined the partnership. The present partnership of Tom, Bob and Bill Newman was culminated in 1949, when Bill bought out his father's interest." In 1964, they built and opened a more modern store (still standing) and "Newman's Market," as it was known, was closed.

1860 Residents: Daniel King (1823-November 19, 1895), laborer, born in Maryland; Mary King (1821-February 5, 1902); Sarah King (1843); John W. King (1850); Alice King (1856); Lafayette King (1859); Patrick Bostick(1842), laborer. **Family Notes:** Daniel King bought and sold properties all over the town, and constructed several houses in the area during the years prior to and just after the Civil War.

Sources: ACDB C-222, U-54; James Agnew to Francis McCormick, December 31, 1805, URD, ACHS; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 65-66; "Newman's Super-Thrift Store at Fairfield to Open Wednesday; Cut Ribbon at 9," *Gettysburg Times*, November 10, 1964.

Town Lot #8S: Mary Marshall Residence. **Current Address:** 100 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Thomas Marshall. **Description:** Two-story, brick, dwelling-house, with a weather-boarded kitchen. **Recital:** Jacob Feree, by 1801; John Criswell, April 2, 1810; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; Jane W. Paxton, October 27, 1849; Alexander Benchoff, March 16, 1857; Thomas A. Marshall, October 7, 1857; Heirs of Thomas A. Marshall, 1863; Daniel King, 1864, Jacob L. Firror, 1867.

History of the Lot: Lots 8S and 9S sold for \$240 in 1810, indicating some structure on one of these lots. Tax records also reflect this sale, but group the two lots together as one. It is difficult to say which one was occupied by a dwelling house at that time. In 1843, lot 8S was repossessed by James Wilson for non-payment of ground rents. Wilson had acquired the ground rents (and for all intents and purposes became proprietor of the town) when he purchased Miller's property in 1823. It appears that Criswell had not paid the ground rent on his properties for quite some time. In 1849, the lot

was transferred by Wilson to the widow Jane W. Paxton. In April 1857, the property was transferred to Alexander Benchhoff and later that year to Thomas A. Marshall. The 1857 deed recorded the sale price as \$700 and described the property as a “brick dwelling house, backbuilding stable &c, said lot not being subject to quick rent.” A September 1863 notice of public sale advertised this property as “a lot of ground in Fairfield, fronting on the public street, and bounded by lot of Daniel Biesecker, on which are erected a two-story brick dwelling house, weatherboarded kitchen, with a spring house, and other improvements.” The property was purchased from the estate of Marshall by Daniel King, and in August of 1867 the *Compiler* announced that Daniel King had sold his house and lot in Fairfield to Jacob L. Firor for \$800. Perhaps there were some complications with the sale for again in November of 1867 the *Compiler* reported that Daniel King had sold a house and lot on Main Street in Fairfield to Jacob L. Firor, again for \$800. The 1872 *Atlas* shows that lot 8S was the property of Jacob L. Firor. In 1914, *Adams County News* reported: “Murice Sheffer, of Hamiltonban Township, has bought the property on Main Street, of Fairfield, known as the Firor place, from John McCleaf for 700. Mr. Sheffer will take down the old house and build a new one. Possession October 1st. The present tenant, Mr. Wormley, will move into the house which will be vacated by C. J. Seifert who expects to move into his new house about that time.” Newman’s Super Thrift opened for business at this location in 1964.

1860 Residents: Mary Marshall (1790); Margaret Marshall (1834); Virginia Marshall (1852); Sarah Butt (1844), domestic.

Family Notes: Thomas Marshall, who died in 1863, was living elsewhere in Hamiltonban Township at the time of the 1860 census. Members of his family occupied the house and lived there during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Sources: ACDB, E-182, K-58; Estate Papers of John Criswell, ACHS; Estate Papers of Thomas Marshall, ACHS; “Public Sales,” *Compiler*, October 5, 1863; “Property Sales,” *Compiler*, August 23, 1867; “Newman’s Super-Thrift Store at Fairfield to Open Wednesday; Cut Ribbon at 9,” *Gettysburg Times*, November 10, 1964; “To Build New House,” *Adams County News*, August 21, 1914.

Town Lot #9S: Daniel Biesecker Residence and Shoe Shop. **Current Address:** 102 and 106 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Daniel Biesecker. **Description:** Frame dwelling-house and frame shop. **Recital:** Jacob Feree, by 1801; John Criswell, April 2, 1810; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; Jane Paxton, 1859; Daniel Biesecker, 1858.

History of the Lot: Lot 9S was one of nine lots owned by John Criswell that were repossessed by James Wilson for non-payment of ground rents. Both the 1858 map and the 1872 *Atlas* show two structures at this site, the residence and shoe shop of Daniel Biesecker. *Boyd's Business Directory* (1860), lists Daniel Biesecker of Fairfield as a boot-and-shoemaker. At some point John McCleaf removed his store to 102 West Main Street and remained there until his death in 1940. Upon McCleaf's death his son continued to run the store for many years. The 1976 history of Fairfield noted that, "This store too remained much as it was when it was built with its high shelves filed with cloth, boots and various articles of clothing on one side and groceries on the other."

1860 Residents: Daniel Biesecker (1831-April 26, 1885); Elizabeth Weigle Biesecker (1833); John N. Biesecker (1857- March 9, 1910).

Sources: ACDB, E-182, K-58; Estate Papers of John Criswell, ACHS; Obituary of John N. Biesecker, *Compiler*, March 16, 1910; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 64; *Boyd's Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).

Town Lot #10S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 108 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Rebecca Nunemaker. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** John Miller to Robert Slemmons, February 26, 1787; Hugh McGaughy, 1805; Patrick Mowney, June 10, 1807; David Stewart, 1840; John Stewart and Samuel Boyd, by 1842; Charles W. Stewart, February 5, 1842; John Nunemaker, March 20, 1855; Heirs of John Nunemaker (Rebecca Nunemaker), 1856; Heirs of Rebecca Nunemaker, April 21, 1862.

History of the Lot: Lot 10S was associated with 11S and 12S for much of its early history. The lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 map. Adam C. Musselman, son-in-law of Rebecca Nunemaker, at one time a public school teacher, appears to be the one who sold the ground to the directors of Hamiltonban Township. The public school building at this site, was built during the school-year of 1868-1869. In 1905, the building was torn down and replaced by the current structure. An article at the time relates that “the old school house has been torn down and a new building will be erected on the same ground. The school board purchased a portion of the adjoining lot from the Odd Fellows and a three roomed building one story high will be built.” The 1905 school building served for many years as an educational facility and is today the Fairfield Village Hall, which houses the offices of the Fairfield Borough.

Sources: ACDB C-550; Q-515; T-188; “School House Torn Down,” *Compiler*, May 17, 1905.

Town Lot #11S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 112 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Rebecca Nunemaker. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** James Burd, in 1801; Hugh McGaughy, 1803; William Miller to Hugh McGaughy, June 6, 1805; Patrick Mowney, June 10, 1807; David Stewart, 1840; John Stewart and Samuel Boyd, by 1842; Charles W. Stewart, February 5, 1842; John Nunemaker, March 20, 1855; Heirs of John Nunemaker (Rebecca Nunemaker), 1856; Heirs of Rebbeca Nunemaker, April 21, 1862.

History of the Lot: Throughout its early history, Lot 11S was associated with lot 12S. This lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 wall map and in the 1872 *Atlas*. In 1885, Adam C. Musselman, husband of Lucinda Nunemaker Musselman, “built a commodious store,” at this site “rendered necessary by his increasing trade, the result of enterprise and integrity.” He had formerly operated a store on Lot 12W. It was reported in November of 1885 that “The new store room of A. C. Musselman is about completed and he will occupy it in a few days.” Eventually, this store was taken over by John McCleaf. According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, this “general store in Fairfield had its beginning about ninety years ago [ca. 1886] when Mr. John McCleaf and Samuel Barton entered into a partnership at 112 West Main Street in the first floor of the old Odd Fellows Building

(now the Village Apartments). Soon the partnership was dissolved and Mr. McCleaf built his own store at 102 West Main Street.” Sometime subsequently, the Fairfield Odd Fellows organization moved into the old store building on the lot. The Gettysburg School Board purchased the Odd Fellows Hall in 1958, and for a time it was used as a kindergarten until the completion of the elementary school.

Sources: ACDB C-548; C-550; Q-515; T-188; “Miscellaneous,” *Compiler*, November 13, 1900; “Fairfield Items,” *Compiler*, September 14, 1904; “Out of the past, 50 years ago,” *Gettysburg Times*, November 19, 1935; “Fairfield Lodge takes Court Action,” *Gettysburg Times*, February 21, 1953; “Board Will Sell Building in Fairfield,” *Gettysburg Times*, March 17, 1964; “Times a-changing,” *Gettysburg Times*, March 4, 2013; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area’s Past* (The Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 64; *Tariff of Rates for Adams County* (Philadelphia: 1908), 52; *1886 History of Adams County*, 446.

Town Lot #12S: Rebecca Nunemaker Residence. **Current Address:** This site is vacant today and as a result has no current address. **1860 Owner:** Rebecca Nunemaker. **Description:** Two-story, frame, dwelling-house. **Recital:** James Burd, in 1801; Hugh McGaughy, 1803; William Miller to Hugh McGaughy, June 6, 1805; Patrick Mowney, June 10, 1807; David Stewart, 1840; John Stewart and Samuel Boyd, by 1842; Charles W. Stewart, February 5, 1842; John Nunemaker, March 20, 1855; Heirs of John Nunemaker (Rebecca Nunemaker), September 12, 1856; Heirs of Rebecca Nunemaker, April 21, 1862.

History of the Lot: The 1801 agreement indicates that lots 11S and 12S “southeasterly,” were owned by James Burd at the time. The 1802 tax list reveals that Burd (also spelled Beard or Bird in various records) owned a house and two lots, valued at \$300. And the 1803 tax list indicates that this property, a house and two lots, were transferred to Hugh McGaughy. But the earliest known deed indicates that William Miller sold Lots 11S and 12S directly to Hugh McGaughy for 200 pounds with no mention of Burd. The deed also establishes that the lots were sold to McGaughy for \$5 each, leading one to believe that they were vacant. It would seem that Burd owned the property with a dwelling on it, but that he never obtained clear

title to the lots. So Burd sold McGaughy the property, and then McGaughy purchased the title to the lots from Miller. McGaughy also purchased Lot 10S from Robert Slemmons. Patrick Mooney (or Mowney) owned the lots until 1840, when they were transferred to David Stewart. The lots are consistently valued as three lots at \$300 (except that the 1833 tax list shows Mooney with 1 lot at \$250 and 2 lots at \$60). There is strong evidence that the dwelling-house was always on lot 12S and that lots 10S and 11S were vacant until after the Civil War. But as of yet, I have found no early description of the house. The 1858 map shows this as an unnamed structure, and the 1872 *Atlas* identifies a building on lot 12S as owned by “A. C. Musselman.” Adam C. Musselman had married Lucinda Nunemaker, daughter of John and Rebecca in 1859, so the property basically stayed in the family. In 1914, the property is described in a sale notice as the property of A. E. Rentzel: “fronting 61 feet on Main Street, adjoining odd fellows’ hall on the east, public school on the east, a public alley on the south, improved with two-story log and frame weatherboarded dwelling house, butcher shop, stable ice house, buggy shed, corn crib, chicken house, well of water, slaughter house, summer house.”

1860 Residents: Rebecca Nunemaker (October 4, 1795-April 21, 1862); Margaret Dentler (1822).

Sources: ACDB, C-548, C-550, Q-515, T-188; “Bankrupt Sale,” *Star and Sentinel*, 1914; “J. Elmer Musselman, Vice president of First National Bank, Expires today at 88,” *Gettysburg Times*, February 8, 1951.

Town Lot #13S: Zephaniah Herbert Residence. **Current Address:** 118 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Zephaniah Herbert. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Nancy Robinson, December 20, 1839; Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841; heirs of Zephaniah Herbert, April 9, 1864; Mary Alice Rodgers (wife of Washington C. Rodgers), April 19, 1879; heirs of Mary Alice Rodgers, March 14, 1887; Mahlon Reynolds, March 30, 1915.

History of the Lot: Although the house at this site is obviously very old, and it undoubtedly stood at the time of the Civil War, very little is known of its early history. In 1951, the *Gettysburg Times* related that “probably the oldest house in Fairfield is that which is owned and occupied by Mrs. Nettie Riley. A perusal of an early deed indicates that there must have been some opposition to the naming of Fairfield or at least indecision, because the area is referred to as Waynesburg The lot on which Mrs. Riley’s house stands, however, was not part of the town originally, but was on part of the land secured by John Miller from Charles Carroll. From William Miller, who inherited it from his father, it passed into the hands of James Wilson and his wife Mary, a granddaughter of John Miller.” I have not seen the deeds referenced in the newspaper article, but the chain of ownership is probably correct. From what we know about other houses in Fairfield, the lot was most likely sold by Miller, a house built, and then the property was likely repossessed or reacquired by Miller or Wilson. But who owned it for a time or when it was built is hard to say. The fact that one of the deeds is said to refer to Waynesburg is likely a mistake. That name undoubtedly refers to another group of lots that laid out a couple of miles west of Fairfield, along Jack’s Mountain Road, by John McKesson. The proposed town never took shape, but in early deeds it is referred to as McKessontown or Waynesburg. An unnamed structure is shown on Lot 13S on the 1858 map, and the building is labeled as being the residence of “Mrs. Herbert” in the 1872 *Atlas*. Obviously, this refers to Mrs. Zephaniah Herbert, whose husband died on April 9, 1864. A 1908 listing of the buildings in Fairfield describes this as a rough-cast dwelling-house owned by W. C. Rodgers. In 1915, the property sold for \$800.

1860 Residents: Zephaniah Herbert (May 3, 1778-April 9, 1864); Mary Herbert (February 11, 1788-March 17, 1879); Matilda Robinson (1844). **Family Notes:** Zephaniah Herbert was a veteran of the War of 1812, having served in a company commanded by Alexander Cobean. A story concerning Zephaniah Herbert and his rival Thaddeus Stevens was related by D. A. Wilson in the *Gettysburg Compiler* in 1911: Thaddeus Stevens “was an orator with few superiors, fluent in speech, graceful and not devoid of elegance, his argument was strong and his sarcasm biting. He possessed a good

degree of dry wit, and his tongue cut like a razor. He despised the use of intoxicants, and boarding at Thompson's Hotel, it was said that persons coming there for drinks refrained in his presence, rather than incur his stinging maledictions. A gentle criticism in explicating the case of Zephaniah Herbert of Fairfield I remember. Herbert was a man of more than common learnings. He had been a teacher and had represented the district in the State Senate. In the spring of '42, I taught the school in Millerstown, I boarded at the hotel kept by Isaac Robinson, who married my kins-woman, Agnes the daughter of Hon. James Wilson, and as Herbert was a frequent customer, I got to know him well, he was than a sophomore in mathematics; and he used to try my attainments in that study by plying me with some pretty tough problems in mensuration. Early in the morning he would come for a dram his hand trembling like an aspen. A good still gill of gin would steady them pretty well for the day though the talk was that he was helped to his bed every night for years by his patient, kind and uncomplaining wife. Soon after that when a Mr. Pollard kept the hotel, it was said that one summer he drank at the hotel the price of a valuable equine animal, and the saying became common that he has swallowed a horse. But notwithstanding this costly habit, he was still a man of considerable property. He dressed up well; was gentlemanly in his manners, and beside his country home in Fairfield, owned a large brick in Gettysburg . . . on Chambersburg Street, for some time in the forties used as a temperance house. Well, after this huge portico for so small a dwelling, I come to Steven's witticism. A gang of men were talking to Herbert and were wondering how a man who for so long had been an excessive drinker, was yet alive. 'Why,' said Stevens, 'that is easily accounted for, he's pickled.'"

Sources: ACDB 75-253; James Wilson to Mary Robinson, December 20, 1839, Abstract of URD, ACHS; Isaac Robinson to Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841, Abstract of URD, ACHS. "Town was Designated Waynesburg in Deed," *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951; D. A. Wilson, "In his Ninetieth Year," *Compiler*, August 30, 1911.

Town Lot #14S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 120 and 122 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Alexander Benchhoff. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Nancy Robinson, December 20, 1839; Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841; Alexander Benchhoff, April 2, 1859; Washington C. Rodgers, April 3, 1874; Heirs of Washington C. Rodgers, March 26, 1915; H. B. Slonaker, March 14, 1918.

History of the Lot: No structure is shown at this site on the 1858 map. This lot is difficult to trace in tax records, but Benchhoff is taxed with a lot valued at \$100 in 1862. In 1865, the lot value is increased to \$500, perhaps indicating that a house had been constructed there. The 1872 *Atlas* shows a single structure in the middle of the lot owned by "A. Benchhoff." In 1874 the value of this lot increased from \$500 to \$2,000, making it clear that a major improvement had been made. This increase probably reflects the appearance of the property today. In 1875 the lot was transferred to Washington C. Rodgers. A listing of the buildings in Fairfield in 1908 describes Lot 14S as it appears today -- a brick dwelling-house on the west and a brick building containing an agricultural implements store to the east, both owned by W. C. Rodgers. The estate sale of Washington C. Rodgers in 1917 describes this property as "fronting seventy-five (75) feet on the south side of Main Street and running back two hundred forty (240) feet to a public alley, adjoining lot of Mahlon Reynolds on the East, and a public alley on the West. This lot of ground is improved with a two story brick dwelling house, situated on the southwest corner of the lot and containing eight rooms; a two story brick store building situated on the southeast corner of the lot and containing three rooms on the first floor and one large room on the second floor; a large brick ice house; wagon shed; large frame barn, with wagon shed attached; and other outbuildings. There are large and well drained cellars under both the dwelling house and the store building, and the buildings are all well repaired and in good condition. There is a well of water conveniently located in rear of the house, and a large cistern at the store building."

Sources: James Wilson to Mary Robinson, December 20, 1839, Abstract of URD, ACHS; Heirs of Washington C. Rogers to H. B. Slonaker, March 14, 1818, URD, ACHS; “Public Sale,” *Gettysburg Times*, August 14, 1917; Estate Papers of Washington C. Rodgers, ACHS.

Town Lot #15S: Henry Overdeer Residence. **Current Address:** 126 West Main Street. **Description:** Dwelling-house, carpentry shop. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Nancy Robinson, December 20, 1839; Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841; Alexander Benchoff, April 2, 1859; Henry Overdeer, June 13, 1860; Charles J. Sefton, April 2, 1862; Heirs of Charles J. Sefton, June 15, 1900; Annie E. Waddle, by 1904.

History of the Lot: Lots 15S, 16S and 17S are mentioned in the 1823 sheriff’s sale for Miller’s property and were probably laid out prior to his 1810 advertisement for the sale of lots. There are no lots shown at this site on the 1858 map. The 1861 Hamiltonban Township tax records list Henry Overdeer with a “new house” valued at \$300. This house was likely constructed around the time of the 1860 census, as Henry Overdeer and his family appear to be residing on the property at that time. Lot 15S and 16S were sold to Charles J. Sefton in 1862, and in about 1870 he purchased Lot 17S. These three lots are shown as two lots on the 1872 *Atlas*, and all are listed as Sefton’s property. The estate papers of Charles J. Sefton describe this land[Lots 15S and 16S] in 1900 as “fronting on the south side of Main Street, adjoining W.C. Rodgers and John Manherz: improved with a two story frame dwelling house, implement, wagon-maker and furniture shop, stable and other outbuildings.” In another document, this is described as a lot “fronting on Main St. and adjoining Washington Rogers on the East, John Manherz on the West and running back to a public alley.” The 1905 tax records indicate the transfer of this lot, valued at \$1600, from the heirs of C. J. Sefton to Annie Waddle. A 1908 listing of the buildings in Fairfield describes this as a frame dwelling house, owned by H. J. Waddle. There are several early photographs that show this property. The current house at this site could, in fact, may be the original structure.

1860 Residents: Henry Overdeer (1834), master carpenter; Matilda Overdeer (1838); Peter Overdeer (1837), carpenter; Uriah Mickley (1840), carpenter's apprentice.

Family Notes: Henry Overdeer and later Charles J. Sefton operated a well-known carpenter's shop at this location. The following passage is from Fairfield's 1976 history: "A variety of woodworking shops were established in Fairfield—some very early, others during the Civil War, and others more recently One of the boosters of Fairfield industry after the Civil War was Captain C. J. Sefton who established a woodworking shop at 124 to 128 West Main Street. The home that is there was originally the shop. Here Captain Sefton manufactured wagons, farm implements, cabinets, coffins, as well as conducting an undertaking business." *Boyd's Business Directory* (1860), lists Henry Overdeer of Fairfield as a carpenter. Following his death a statement was published that "the undersigned administrators of the estate of Charles J. Sefton, deceased, late of Fairfield, this county, offer at public sale the valuable undertaking, furniture and farm implement business of the deceased, located in Fairfield."

Civil War Notes: Charles J. Sefton purchased this property in April 1862 from Henry Overdeer. It October of that year, both Sefton and Overdeer were drafted and, along with other men from Hamiltonban Township, served as members of Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, from November 1862 until July 1863. Charles J. Sefton served as 1st Lieutenant, under Captain Ebenezer McGinley.

Sources: ACDB, HH-273; James Wilson to Mary Robinson, December 20, 1839, Abstract of URD, ACHS; "Town Lots for Sale," *Centinel*, January 16, 1810; "The Draft," *Gettysburg Compiler*, October 20, 1862; "165th Regiment, P. M.," *Star and Banner*, February 19, 1863; "Public Sale," *Gettysburg Times*, August 14, 1917; Estate Papers of Washington C. Rodgers, ACHS; *Tariff of Rates for Adams County* (Philadelphia: 1908), 52; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 57; *Boyd's Business Directory* (Philadelphia, 1860).



*View of Fairfield lots 15S, 16S, and 17S, J. B. Waddle,
c. 1910, ACHS.*

Town Lot #16S: Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** No current address. **1860 Owner:** Henry Overdeer. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Nancy Robinson, December 20, 1839; Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841; Alexander Benchoff, April 2, 1859; Henry Overdeer, June 13, 1860; Charles J. Sefton, April 2, 1862; Heirs of Charles J. Sefton, June 15, 1900; Annie E. Waddle, 1904; Henry Waddle by 1909.

History of the Lot: No dwellings are shown at this site on the 1858 map. The 1872 *Atlas* shows this as the property of Charles J. Sefton, but no structures are present. However, circa 1910 photographs by J. B. Waddle reveal a long frame structure at this site. The same structure is featured in a photograph in the *Gettysburg Times* in January 1978, when the building “collapsed under the weight of extra wet snow.” According to the article, “the building had been a machine shop, a feed store and an egg store which was operated by J. B. Waddell before being converted to a storage area.”

Sources: ACDB HH-273; James Wilson to Mary Robinson, December 20, 1839, Abstract of URD, ACHS; Estate Papers of Charles J. Sefton, ACHS; “Fairfield Building Collapses,” *Gettysburg Times*, January 26, 1978.

Town Lot: #17S: Peter Musselman Rental Property. **Current Address:** 130 West Main Street. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Nancy Robinson, December 20, 1839; Zephaniah Herbert, September 22, 1841; Peter Musselman by 1860; Alexander Benchoff, 1861; Daniel Musselman, in 1862; Charles J. Sefton, 1870; Harry Lawrence, 1880; William H. Low, 1889; John Manhertz, by 1896. **Description:** One-and-a-half story frame, weather-boarded, dwelling-house.

History of the Lot: Being 75 feet by 240 feet in size, this is probably one of Miller's "grass lots" as described in 1810. There are no buildings shown at this site on the 1858 map. In December of 1860, this lot was described in an assignee sale as the property of Peter Musselman as being "a lot of ground in Fairfield, adjoining Henry Overdeer and Maj. John Musselman, fronting on the public street, on which is erected a one and a half story frame weatherboarded house, with a well of water near the door." The 1870 tax records indicate the transfer of this property to C. J. Sefton valued at \$130. The 1872 *Atlas* shows two small structures at this location, owned by C. J. Sefton. This is the western edge of the town on the south side of Main Street as shown in the *Atlas*. In April of 1880, it was reported that "Mr. Harry Lawrence is about erecting a new dwelling house on the lot recently purchased by him from C. J. Sefton, to be of brick with a 30 foot front." So, it seems likely that the house standing today at 130 West Main Street was built in 1880. Lawrence encountered some financial trouble and his property was assigned to William H. Low in 1889 for the benefit of his creditors. At that time, the property was described as being improved with a two-story brick dwelling with frame back-building, two-story frame shop, and large frame stable. By 1897 it is clear that John M. Manhertz, a Civil War veteran, occupied the property, listed as a lot valued at \$1,050. A 1909 public sale describes the property of John Manhertz as No. 1, "situated in west end of Fairfield Borough having frontage of about 75 feet, on Main Street extending back to public alley, bordered on east by property of Henry Wadell, on the west by vacant lot of John Manherz, containing about 70 perches, improved with a 2-story brick house, and a 2-story frame back building, containing 7 rooms, hall and pantry in good condition with well drained cellar, wash house, wood shed, 4 horse barn and wagon shed, hen house and hog pen,

2 never failing wells of water, 1 with improved iron force pump, cistern, fruit trees and grapes, also elegant garden.”

Civil War Notes: John Manhertz was born in Baden, Germany, on July 12, 1838. He lived in Fairfield at the time of the 1860 census. Manhertz was a renter, his place of residence being unknown. It is possible that he lived on this lot and rented the house from Peter Musselman. The census also shows Manhertz as a farm hand. Perhaps he was working for the Musselman family on their farm. On August 26, 1863, at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, John Manhertz enlisted in Company C, 149th Pennsylvania Infantry. According to his record of service in the Fairfield GAR book: “The first engagement in which he participated was at the Wilderness, and then at Weldon Railroad and Hatchers Run. In the fall of 1864 he was detailed to drive a team in division train and continued to drive until the winter of 1864-1865 when they were transferred to Elmira, New York. In the winter of 1863, he was shot in the right shoulder by a guerilla at Bristow Station, Va.—he was in the division hospital in the field and removed from thence to hospital at Washington D.C., where he remained one month and from thence to Chestnut Hill Hospital at Philadelphia where he remained until July 1864.” Manhertz died on July 20, 1913.

Sources: ACDB OO-431, V-256; James Wilson to Mary Robinson, December 20, 1839, Abstract of URD, ACHS; “Town Lots for Sale,” *Centinel*, January 16, 1810; “Assignees’ Sale,” *Compiler*, December 3, 1860; “Out of the Past, 50 Years Ago,” *Gettysburg Times*, April 29, 1930; “Public Sale,” *Compiler*, July 7, 1909; Fairfield GAR Book, ACHS.