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Adams County History 2011-2012

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ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



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Cover Illustration: R. Fibich, Cemetery Painting; Courtesy New York
State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY.

ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



2011-2012

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Statement of Purpose

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the preservation of the social, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains a valuable library of publications and manuscript material which includes estate papers, deed books, land surveys, and newspapers. In addition, it publishes important historical studies on Adams County, a 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. Generally, authors should follow the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. They should submit the typescript in both hard-copy and electronic format, using a commonly employed word-processing system. Copy should be typed double-spaced, including endnotes and block quotations. Use Times Roman font, 12-point (or 12 cpi) type, with one-inch margins. Number pages consecutively, using Arabic numerals in the upper right-hand corner of the page. ALWAYS carefully proofread your text several times before submitting. Pay special attention to quotations.

A small publication with a limited budget, Adams County History must normally limit the number of illustrations to no more than 7 or 8 per article. Please indicate where each the illustration is to go, both within the text and on a note attached to the picture caption. Image caption-lists should be compiled and submitted separately from the article. Please double-space and include both descriptive text and credit lines. Be sure to note where each illustration comes from. Items used without charge can be noted simply as, for example, "Courtesy the Pennsylvania Historical and Manuscript Commission." Where the owner has charged a fee, employ such a formula as "Collections of the Pennsylvania Historical and Manuscript

Commission.” If the source has specified a style or a way of acknowledging source, use that instead.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

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Editor's Note

One must be leery of the questions one asks. . . . I had helped initiate *Adams County History* in 1995. In 2004, I moved on to devote my time to other activities. Then, as I recall it now, toward the end of last year, as I anticipated retiring from full-time teaching at Gettysburg College, I asked my colleague and then editor of this journal, Michael Birkner, if he could use an assistant editor. Apparently having been eager for sometime to give concentrated effort to his teaching, research, and responsibilities as a member of the Gettysburg Borough Council, he immediately suggested that I resume my earlier role. Little suspecting how greatly publishing the journal had changed over the course of five years, I agreed.

During the nine years I had edited it, getting *ACH* into print had involved simply turning over to the printer the completed typescripts – often with editorial annotations written in by hand – together with my notes for changes involving the new volume number and year, and deciding upon the new cover color. I soon discovered, however, that far-reaching changes had come into play. The new printer expected copy-text to be submitted in an electronic format and – worse for me – in a word-processing system I had for years stubbornly resisted because of its inelegance and numerous shortcomings. I was totally unacquainted with it. But, as Heraclitus the Dark said some 2,500 years ago, “it is in change that we find purpose.”

The changes wrought in the last year to the Adams County Historical Society have been momentous, indeed. The most significant of these has involved moving from our commodious quarters in Schmucker Hall to somewhat more

cramped and, in a way, labyrinthine accommodations in the seminary's Wolf House. Shortly after that move, the society acquired a new director, Benjamin Neely. And, on a far lesser scale of importance, the journal, amidst this flurry of changes, missed publication during 2011 – thus, the “combined issue” (vols. 17-18) which this publication represents.

Two of the pieces featured here sweep away the cobwebs and wishful thinking that often gather about local histories and anecdotal, family oral traditions. Looking to identify the exact site represented in a nineteenth-century painting entitled “York Springs Graveyard” – see the cover of this journal for a reproduction of this startling painting – Judith S. Pyle (with “childhood ties to York Springs”) undertook years of exhaustive research, concluding that the burial ground represented is actually situated in another Pennsylvania county.

Similarly, Kevin Greenholt records his efforts to determine the identity of a young girl supposedly abducted by Indians in 1765 while she was picking berries near “a settlement along the banks of what is now known as ‘Flat Run,’” and whose story was first published in 1880. The trail that Kevin eventually followed tracked across several states – Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kansas. The story that Kevin finally brought to light, although clarifying many problems in the original version, still left him with puzzles and uncertainties.

Finally, Duane F. Alwin recounts the 100-year history of the Alwine Brick Company, which had its beginnings sometime in the 1860s, when Peter Alwine gave up teaching to devote himself “full-time to the pursuit of brickmaking.” Central to Duane’s article are the often forgotten facts of Adams County’s rich deposits of clay suitable for making bricks and the contribution of brickmaking to the county’s economic and architectural history (my own house, for example, has no less than three distinct veneers of brick over its log-and-weather-boarded frame – two consist of bricks burned on the property; the third is composed of commercially made bricks, possibly from the Alwin Brick Company. Other readers may be able to tell similar stories).

In a last note, the society is already working on the next volume’s 150-year anniversary issue commemorating the battle of Gettysburg. We have already had several inquiries for volume 19. We invite potential contributions to that issue, which will be dedicated to the both the battle and more generally the Civil War.

Shedding New Light on a Pennsylvania Painter: Finding “R. Fibich” and His Graveyard

by Judith S. Pyle

Background

The painting that would become known as the “York Springs Graveyard” (see cover illustration) was sold to Connecticut folk-art collectors Jean and Howard Lipman in about 1939 by Joe Kindig, an antiques dealer from York, PA. The 18” x 24” oil painting on canvas, of mid-nineteenth-century people and carriages at a cemetery, with cattle in the middle distance, is signed “R. Fibich.” The New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY, subsequently acquired the painting from the Lipmans. It was cleaned, documented, studied, and then exhibited at various venues including the Primitives Gallery of Harry Stone (1942); the Union College of Art Gallery, Schenectady (1951); the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston, Texas (1956); the M. Knoedler Gallery, NYC (1956); the Roberson Gallery, Binghamton NY (1966-67); the New York State Fair at Syracuse (1970); the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA (1972); the Whitney Museum, NYC (1974), and Smith College Museum of Art Collection ((1975). In addition to inclusion in *The Flowering of American Folk Art: 1776-1976*, which was published in conjunction with the 1974 Whitney Bicentennial Exhibit, it also appeared in *American Primitive Painting* (Metropolitan Miniature Series, 1953) and in *Life* magazine, where readers were solicited for any information about the artist. *The Flowering of American Folk Art: 1776-1976* index of artists’ biographies states “R. Fibich (active c. 1850). Known for a single oil landscape of a York Springs, Pa., graveyard.”

Researching the Artist

In the fall of 2007, this writer, a resident of Adams County, Pennsylvania, with childhood ties to York Springs and its surroundings, saw the “York Springs Graveyard” in *The Flowering of American Folk Art: 1776-1976* and began what would become extensive research of the painting and its maker. At the encouragement of historian and nineteenth-century photography expert, William A. Frassanito, the approximate date of the painting (c. 1850) was extended to the 1870s, based on Frassanito’s assessment of the style of the women’s clothing in the painting. At the same time, another historian and fellow researcher, Debra Sandoe McCauslin, contacted the New York State Historical Association to see if additional information on the painting were available. The association responded with a packet of research, including the painting’s provenance. One paper quoted the statement written on the back of the frame of the painting: “found in York Springs, Pa.” As will be seen, this declaration involves an interpretative puzzle. Thus far, researchers had assumed that this statement meant that the painting was of a scene *in* York Springs, but we can only at face value: the painting was *found* in York Springs.

I undertook several trips to the burial ground in York Springs known as Bonner’s or Sunnyside Cemetery and took photographs. Comparing the photos with the painting (fig. 1) several things became clear: (1) the mountains on the horizon at York Springs can hardly be seen; they are actually about 50 miles away at Thurmont, MD. (2) What appears to be a mountain is actually Big Round Top on the Gettysburg Battlefield, about 10 miles distant. (3) Route 94, the Carlisle Road—see the flatbed tractor trailer—in the middle of the photograph can be plainly seen from Sunnyside Cemetery; it is not in the painting. (4) An iron fence, unlike any in the painting, surrounds one of two Bonner monuments; there are no other fences. And (5) the cemetery roads are laid out at right



Fig. 1

*York Springs Cemetery: View from Bonner Monument;
photo by Judith S. Pyle (hereafter indicated as JSP).*

angles to each other, with no curves, and there are no triangular plots (fig. 2). Clearly, important details in the painting do not represent or conform to the York Springs landscape. Fibich's painting is of an altogether different location than the burial ground at York Springs.

Frassanito's approximate date of the 1870s and the emphasis on the word "found" from the back of the frame of the painting led me to broaden the scope of my search and begin an intensive quest which has shed some light on the painting's subject and its elusive maker.



Fig. 2

York Springs Cemetery Roads; JSP.

Searching for R. Fibich

With US Census records increasingly available online, notably by way of Ancestry.com and Family Search.org, the search which had baffled early students of the painting and its painter became much easier in 2008. A search for R. Fibich in the 1870 US Census gleaned one Robert Fibich, 50, living in Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He was born in Prussia, but what was most intriguing was his occupation: “Painter.” Using this information as a guide, the rest of the research slowly fell into place. A trip to Pottsville yielded Fibich’s application for citizenship in 1856 at Pottsville, county seat of Schuylkill County. His signature on that document would prove helpful in the final assessment. In Tamaqua, the huge Odd Fellows Cemetery and its ever-helpful sextant, Justin Bailey, produced conclusive information, and a side trip to the Historical Society of Berks County in Reading found the 1856-57 Reading City Directory in which Fibich is listed as a “Painter,” living on the south side of Neversink Street below Bingaman Street. That visit also was notable, since I located an outstanding collection of so-called Almshouse paintings housed at the historical society and saw in them painting styles similar to that of Fibich.

The earlier 1860 US Census finds him living with his family in Reading, Berks County, where his name is spelled Phebich and his occupation is “Fresco Painter.” Living with him in Reading’s Southeast Ward were his wife, Jane, as she was referred to in the census, their son, Edward, 4, and his daughter, Anna Phebich, 15, who had been born in Germany, presumably by an earlier wife, assumed deceased. Since Fibich does not appear in the 1850 US Census, it is my assumption that he may have arrived as early as the months just after the 1850 census was taken, since he was married and had fathered a son by 1856.

German-born Painters/Fresco Painters in Reading, PA

Coincidentally, three other German immigrant-painters, who became known as the “Almshouse Painters,” lived in Reading at nearly the same time as Fibich (1865-1880): Charles Hofmann, John Rasmussen, and Louis Mader. They were also periodically listed as occupants of the Berks County Almshouse because of ongoing alcohol problems, including vagrancy. Hofmann, the first to live at the almshouse, painted numerous views of the buildings and grounds on tin/zinc. The almshouse and its environs also inspired Rasmussen, whose stays at the almshouse overlapped Hofmann’s, to create landscapes similar in composition to Hofmann’s. The third painter, Louis Mader, came to the almshouse later and painted views of it using a large central oval, with smaller views tucked into the four corners of the painting. In his June 28, 2012, article on the Almshouse painters in *The Reading Eagle*, Ron Devlin writes:

The great interest often manifested in the old county home is possibly due to the great number of surviving paintings made by the ‘almshouse painters’: men who spent time in the place and produced renderings of it,” George M. Meiser IX wrote in “The Passing Scene.” Three painters who were almshouse residents -- Charles C. Hoffman, John Rasmussen and Louis Mader -- rendered most of the surviving paintings of the institution. All were born in Germany and painted between the 1860s and 1890s. About 10 of their almshouse paintings are in the Historical Society of Berks County’s collection. Another [painting] is part of the Reading Public Museum’s Pennsylvania German collection. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Fenimore Art Museum in New York and the Everhart Museum in Scranton also have almshouse paintings by the three artist-residents. Rasmussen’s

1880 depiction is inscribed with an institutional epitaph of sorts: “God Bless the Home of the Poor.”

The National Gallery of Art, which holds three of Hofmann’s works, states in its biography of Hofmann that he “was born in Germany around 1820 and immigrated to America in 1860, arriving in the port of New York. In subsequent years he lived in several communities along Pennsylvania’s Schuylkill River, sometimes as a resident/patient of the public poorhouses.”

Did Fibich know the Almshouse painters? Certainly, it is a possibility. Because of the striking similarities of Fibich’s paintings to theirs, one might assume that they influenced one another. They spoke the same language, lived in the same city, and had similar painting and composition styles. And although Fibich had already moved to Tamaqua by 1865, about the time Hofmann arrived in Reading, he might have gone back to Reading to visit his daughter and her family, as well as his friends.

Tamaqua, Pennsylvania

By May 1865, Fibich had moved his family to Tamaqua, PA, about 45 miles north of Reading. He appeared on an IRS Tax Assessment List, where he was taxed \$1.56 on his income. Robert, listed as a “painter,” Jane, and Edward were living in Tamaqua in 1870, on Pine Street; the 1875 Tamaqua map puts the Fibich home between “Lewall” and “F. Lawall” on Pine Street. Robert Fibich died February 15, 1878, age 58. The cause of his death is undetermined, but we can assume it was unexpected, since it was his wife Jane who, upon his death, purchased a plot at the new Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua. The 1880 US Census for Tamaqua (East Ward), Rail Road Street, shows Jane as a widow, living with her son, Edward, 24, a painter, and his wife, Kate, 21, born in Pennsylvania.

Fibich's Family

Fibich's wife, Clara Jane Catherine, was born in Pennsylvania on January 9, 1832, one of six children of Edwin Heyneman, a shoemaker, and his wife, Catherina. They lived in the Southeast Ward of Reading. Although Jane had been christened as a child at Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading December 25, 1840, she was baptized a second time with her son Edward on April 19, 1867, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tamaqua, PA, the family's new home.

After Fibich's death in 1878, Edward and his family continued living on Pine Street, but by 1900 Jane had moved to Greenwood Township, Perry County, PA, and was living at the home of Isaac Staley, a widower, age 51. If Jane and Isaac were related, it is not stated. Jane died November 25, 1917, and was buried in the Fibich lot in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua.

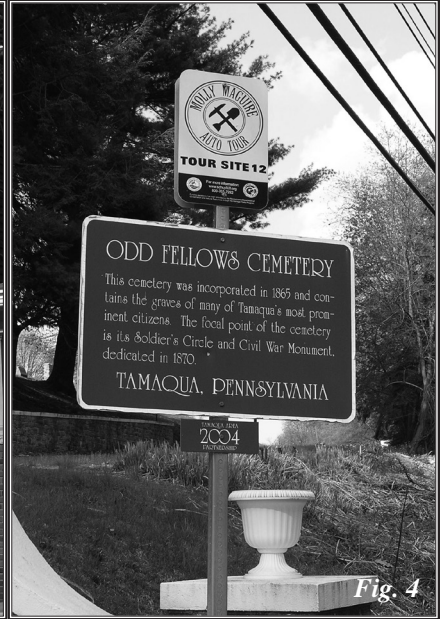
In trying to establish any connection with York Springs, Pennsylvania, it is necessary to examine carefully the history of Fibich's family for as many generations forward as available. His daughter, Anna, married Henry Fischer before 1870. They appear in the 1870 census in Reading, PA, with their children, Henry, 1, and Ida, 7 months. Anna Fibich Fischer died in Reading some time after her last child was born in 1873. By 1880, Henry had married his second wife, Mary, also of Prussian descent. They lived in Texas with their young family, Henry, Ida, Emma, Charles and two-year-old Bethny. He died in Texas, in 1935.

The family (spelling had changed to "Febech") continued living at 321 Pine Street through the 20s. Edward, a painting contractor, his wife Kate, their four sons, house painters as well, lived in the house, which, by 1930, was worth \$10,000 (fig. 3). According to neighbor Charles Kellner, Anna Febech, who had cared for her husband Guy, one of the sons, and her in-laws, died penniless, on the "fifth floor" (apparently

a euphemism for “insane and/or indigent”) at the state hospital in Coaldale. All of the Febech family were buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua, except Guy and Anna, who died at Coaldale. I did not look for any reference to a sale of the destitute family’s possessions after Anna’s death, nor did I ask Mr. Kellner how he came to own the Fibich property.



321 Pine Street in April 2008; JSP.



Sign at the side entrance of Odd Fellows Cemetery; JSP.

Odd Fellows Cemetery

The Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua (fig. 4) opened in 1865. It was a planned garden cemetery covering 31 acres, with plots, concentric roads and paths radiating from the central Soldiers’ Circle. A 50’ marble pillar with an eagle on top was installed at the center of the Soldiers’ Circle in 1870 (fig. 5). The cemetery is situated on a hill facing east, overlooking Tamaqua, with the Little Schuylkill River running through the town. A range of mountains can be clearly seen in the distance. The headstones of the oldest part of the cemetery face east,



Soldiers' Monument; JSP.

looking out over the valley below. Access to the area includes steps up from Rt. 209—a main artery in town—at the front, as well as a road leading around to the side of the cemetery from the same road. According to sextant Justin Bailey, iron fences had surrounded the family plots at one time, but they were removed and melted down during World War II as part of the war effort. Today, the plots consist only of mown grass, with kneeling stones—round marble rolls at each end of a raised marble step, many of which are sunken to ground level—where gates into the plots would have been.

Conclusions

To establish the identity of the artist who painted the “York Springs Graveyard,” two intertwining cases must be made. First, that the Robert Fibich who lived in Tamaqua from the 1860’s until his death in 1878, is indeed that artist, and second, that the Odd Fellows Cemetery, founded in Tamaqua in 1865—and not that in York Springs—is the cemetery depicted in the painting.



*Detail, cemetery Painting: Fibich signature; Courtesy
NYSHA, Cooperstown, NY.*

Other than the **R. Fibich** discussed here, no other exists on any census that I studied for the time-frame established. While the surname indeed appears occasionally, the rest of the information is inconsistent with what is known of Robert Fibich's life.

The signature that R. Fibich made on the painting (fig. 6), although printed, clearly resembles those made by Robert Fibich on both his application for citizenship in 1856 and the grant of citizenship in 1863 (fig. 7). Note that the letters are precise, measured and even; note, too, how the lower right tail of the R seems to be held in reserve, as opposed to swinging out, away from the rest of the letter.

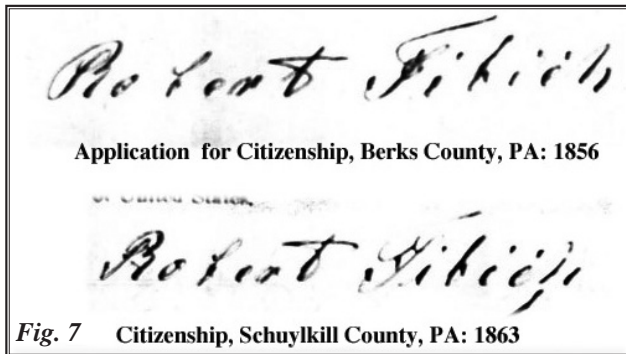


Fig. 7 Citizenship, Schuylkill County, PA: 1863

*Citizenship Application; Courtesy Schuylkill
County Historical Society, Pottsville, PA.*

Finally, we must accept the premise that the skills of a house painter could, in conjunction with a unique creative urge, develop to produce such a painting. We must also bear in mind that Fibich was listed as a fresco painter in 1860, probably trained in his native Prussia, so the painting might not be the anomaly that one would initially assume. Unfortunately, this is the only painting attributed to Fibich, so we have no body of work with which to compare it, no less to assess the evolution of the artist's style.

The Cemetery

The Odd Fellows Cemetery is much changed since the time Robert Fibich painted the view (fig. 8). There are understandably more headstones, more trees, more buildings and no cows, horses nor carriages. Photos taken in the spring show the view without too many leaves, but the trees remain. However, the lay of the land is the same: there is a sharp drop down to the main street of town; there are hills, mountains; and there are curving roads in the cemetery. Note that the photograph of the main street shows bends in the road, mimicking the curves of the road in the painting. The few buildings in the painting are not easily identified and may not be standing. While the Soldiers' Monument is much larger



Odd Fellows Cemetery: April 2008; JSP.

than the monument to the left in the painting, the monument in the painting could be any one of the numerous obelisks in the cemetery. Several of the converging roads match the pattern found in the painting. And what has been thought to be a lamb in some research might be a kneeling stone instead or a group of head stones.

Most conclusive, however, are the two fenced triangular plots in the painting. They are not visible in the cemetery now because the iron railings, as mentioned before, were removed as part of the war effort. However, when sextant Bailey was asked how so many coffins could fit in the space where there is only one headstone (fig. 9), he answered, “Well, first of all, the plot is triangular.” It was at that point that I fully understood



Gravestone: Edward Febich and Kate H. Febich; JSP.

the importance of the seemingly insignificant iron-fenced triangles in the painting. Even though his own plot had not been purchased yet, Fibich put his own grave plot into the painting; the triangular plots were already familiar to him. Perhaps Jane had the painting and its triangles in mind when she purchased the plot after Robert’s death.

Unanswered Questions, Assumptions and Pure Speculation

Of the two nameplates on the fence in the painting, only one can be read, and several variations of its spelling were explored (**Stubl, Stuble, Stabler**) (fig.10), but no one by any of those names was buried in Odd Fellows in Tamaqua or in the Charles Baber Cemetery in nearby Pottsville. Another variation, **Stahler**, yielded different results. Odd Fellows sextant Bailey confirmed that several Stahlers were interred near the Fibich lot: two children, an infant in 1875 and Elmer (6 months, in 1876), as well as Israel and Aaron Stahler, who died as adults. None of this information, however, makes for a compelling reason for the painting's existence, nor does an obvious trail lead from Tamaqua to York Springs.



*Cemetery Name Plate; Courtesy NYSHA,
Cooperstown, NY.*

Reasons to Make a Painting

In order to execute a piece of art, the artist may be moved by monetary reasons to produce, or be involved with, his/her subject or the idea behind the subject. In the case of this painting, I feel that the artist could have been inspired to make the painting (1) because the cemetery was relatively new

and the view pleasant; (2) because he may have wanted to do a painting of the view he would have in the hereafter; or (3) because he may have made the painting following the deaths of children of people whom he may have been close to in the community. Robert Fibich could have been commissioned to paint the funeral of one of the Stahler babies, which he could have completed before his death in 1878 and which might have remained in the possession of the Stahler family.

A fourth, more convincing reason could be this: if the date of the painting is circa 1870, as Frassinito suggested, and Fibich's daughter Anna Fischer died between the birth of her last child in 1873 and 1878, when Fibich himself died, then perhaps the artist was simply making a painting commemorating his daughter's life and death.

Misidentification of the Site of the Painting

Another question that remains unanswered involves the apparent misidentification of the site of the painting. It may never be known if antiques dealer Kindig actually "found" the painting in York Springs or if he purchased it somewhere else. In fact, it may never be known if he or someone else wrote the notation "found in York Springs" on the painting. That there seems to be no obvious connection linking Tamaqua, Reading, or Perry County to York Springs additionally complicates the puzzle.

Further, it seems serendipitous that the cemetery at York Springs has a large monument and is situated on a hill. Many nineteenth-century cemeteries with large monuments, however, are situated on hills, and, at first glance, any one of them could have been the subject of the painting.

Only careful historical research can determine that Odd Fellows Cemetery at Tamaqua alone meets all the criteria of the painting, including the direct connection to the artist and those triangular plots.

Conclusion

The artist who painted the “York Springs Graveyard” is Robert Fibich, born in Prussia in 1820 and died in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, in 1878. He lived and worked in Tamaqua for about twenty-five years, long enough to see the cemetery in its earliest planning stages through the placement of the Soldiers’ Monument in 1870. In the end, we do not know if he painted the view he hoped to have after his death, if the subject simply appealed to him aesthetically, if he were commissioned to make the painting, or if the reason were more personal.

Although we may speculate about the reason for the painting, the site of the painting is clear: the mountains, the hills and the road leading through the settlement to the base of the hill of Odd Fellows Cemetery all fit the painting, as do the roads in the cemetery. The most compelling pieces of evidence, however, are those triangular plots, which are not found anywhere else in the area.

Of course, the overarching question remains: if “Found in York Springs” is Kindig’s notation, and it is correct, how did the painting get from Tamaqua to York Springs, a distance of just over 100 miles? For the time being, we can only guess at the answer. Hopefully, as more records become accessible, research may provide the answer. This writer hopes that this paper provides what might be a first chapter in the search for answers about Robert Fibich and his work. Until that time, there are always opportunities to pore over old newspapers, on the off chance that a 1930’s auction notice lists an old painting of a Pennsylvania country cemetery, dating from the 1870s.

Endnotes

Acknowledgements:

To Debra Sandoe McCauslin, for calling me in for an opinion on an unrelated painting and subsequently contacting New York State Historical Society at Cooperstown for painting records and research on the York Springs Cemetery painting; to historian William A. Frassanito, for strong encouragement to look at later than 1850 records and for advice and editing; to Timothy Smith, assistant director for research at Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA, for advice and help with research; to Dr. Peter Yasenchak and the staff at Schuylkill County Historical Society, for their help with research; to Barbara Brophy and the staff at the library at the Historical Society of Berks County, for their help with research; to Joshua K. Blay, associate director and museum curator for the Historical Society of Berks County, for his help with images of the Almshouse paintings in their collection; to Nancy Buelher, research director at Baber Cemetery in Pottsville, for her patient responses to my emailed queries; to Justin Bailey, for meeting me more than once to explain cemetery records and to walk over the Fibich area at Odd Fellows; to Tamaqua residents Jody Kellner, her father Charles Kellner, and Wayne Freudenburger, for making the family who lived at 321 Pine Street come alive; and finally, to Robert L. Bittick and William A. Bixler, who took time from their busy lives to edit this article thoroughly.

Notes

1. Research documents and provenance, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY (cited hereafter as NYSHA).
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Jean Lipman and Alice Winchester, *The Flowering of American Folk Art: 1776-1976* (New York: the Viking Press, 1974), 67.
5. NYSHA.
6. Lipman and Winchester, 280.
7. Ibid., 67.
8. Frassanito is the author of several books on Civil War photography, including *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time* (New York: Scribner's Sons, 1975).
9. *Yellow Hill* (Gettysburg: For the Cause Productions, 2005).
10. NYSHA.
11. US Census 1870: ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?ti=0&indiv=try&db=1870usfedcen&h=3641238.
12. United States Citizenship Application; courtesy Schuylkill County Historical Society, Pottsville, PA.
13. Reading City Directory 1856-57 (Reading: J. Knabb, 1857); courtesy of the Berks County Historical Association, Reading, PA.
14. US Census 1860, Reading Southeast Ward, Berks, PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1860usfedcen>.
15. Ron Devlin, "Berks County Almshouse gave the poor a home, work.," www.readingeagle.com. (Originally published 6/28/2012, <http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=396228>).
16. Both Hofmann and Rasmussen were in the almshouse in the 1880 US Census: <http://searchancestry.com/Browse/view.aspx?dbid=6742&path=Pennsylvania.Berks.Cumru.011>. Hofmann, 65, from Bavaria, is identified as "Insane." Of the four men who were "painters," only Rasmussen, 52, is identified as a "Fresco Painter." Charles C. Hofmann, "View of the Poorhouse," *Berks County Historical Association Collection: 67-2* (cited hereafter as BCHAC).
17. Louis Mader, "Berks County Almshouse," *BCHAC*: Image 69-17.
18. Devlin, "*Berks County Alms House*."
19. Biography of Charles C. Hofmann, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC: <http://www.nga.gov/cgi-bin/tsearch?artistid=1399>.
20. *BCHAC*, Images 62-2, 69-14, 69-20 and 69-17.

21. U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918, District 10; Annual Lists: May 1865 (in 1862, President Lincoln signed into law a revenue-raising measure to help pay for Civil War expenses. The measure created a Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the nation's first income tax. It levied a 3 percent tax on incomes between \$600 and \$10,000 and a 5 percent tax on incomes more than \$10,000).
22. http://www.ancestry.com/browse/view.aspx?dbid=7163&iid=4278956_00336&pid=3641238&ssrc=&fn=Robert&ln=Fibich&st=g. *Schuylkill County Atlas* (Tamaqua: F.W. Beers & Co., 1875).
23. Odd Fellows Cemetery records, Tamaqua, PA; courtesy of Justin Bailey, sextant for the cemetery.
24. Odd Fellows Cemetery records.
25. US Census 1880, Tamaqua (middle ward), Schuylkill Co., PA. <http://www.Ancestry.com/http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1880usfedcen>.
26. http://search.ancestry.com/browse/view.aspx?dbid=2451&iid=40162_264325-00314&pid=1721164&ssrc=&fn=Clara+Jane&ln=Heyneman&st=g.
27. US Census 1870, Tamaqua, District 99, Schuylkill Co., PA. <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1870usfedcen>. http://search.ancestry.com/browse/view.aspx?dbid=2451&iid=40162_261750-00093&pid=988866&ssrc=&fn=Clara+Kath+Jane&ln=Fibich&st=g.
28. US Census 1900, Tamaqua, District 199, Schuylkill Co., PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1900usfedcen>.
29. US Census 1900, Greenwood Township, Perry Co., PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1900usfedcen>.
30. Justin Bailey, sextant, Odd Fellows Cemetery, interview by Judith S. Pyle, April 22, 2008.
31. US Census 1870, Reading, Berks, PA. <http://www.Ancestry.com/http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1870usfedcen>.
32. Ancestry.com: Family Tree site for the S. Polkowski Family Tree; no official citation.
33. Ibid.
34. US Census 1910, Tamaqua, District 99, Schuylkill Co., PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1910usfedcen>.

35. US Census 1930, Tamaqua, District 99, Schuylkill Co., PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen>.
36. Charles Kellner, present owner of the Fibich home at 321 Pine Street; interview April 22, 2008.
37. Bailey interview.
38. Ibid.
39. Schuylkill County Historical Society; copies from Schuylkill County Naturalization Records, Schuylkill County Court House, Pottsville, PA.
40. US Census 1860, Reading Southeast Ward, Berks, PA, <http://www.Ancestry.com/> <http://www.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1860usfedcen>.
41. William A. Frassanito, suggestion for looking at tombstones, fall of 2007.
42. Bailey interview.
43. Nancy Buelher, research director, Charles Baber Cemetery, Pottsville, PA.
44. Bailey interview.
45. Author's note: upon asking the Research Director Nancy Buelher at Baber Cemetery in Pottsville, PA, which could have been a likely alternative to Odd Fellows Cemetery, the researcher stated, "No triangular plots at CBC!"

Girl Abducted by Indians

by Kevin L. Greenholt

In 1886, Samuel P. Bates published in his *History of Adams County* a short account appearing in the section devoted to Liberty Township. It reads:

On Flat Run near the Maryland line, on what is known as the old Reed farm, the Zimmermans, a Swiss family (who subsequently Anglicized their name into Carpenter), settled in 1765. In [t]his family was a little girl nine years old; this child was carried off by two Indians. A neighbor heard the Indians coming, and, hiding near the trail, recognized the little girl, but could not rescue her. Pursuit followed but resulted in nothing. Ten years after[,] the whites fought a tribe at Shamakin, and captured from them a young white woman and her half-breed boy; she was brought to her parents and subsequently married one of the Loman boys. Her half-breed son died in 1826, at Adam Rader's house, on the Overholtzer farm, near where his mother was made captive. She died at ninety years of age on her husband's farm, sold to James Wilson, and by him to the Bollingers. Two of her daughters married into the Zimmerman family; one married John Clark, who owned McDevitt's mill, and a fourth married John Light, from Falling Waters, Va.¹

Who was this girl? Why was this account not known to others who had researched Indian abductions in the Adams County area? A former volunteer at the Adams County Historical Society suggested that I look into these matters. Using the collections of the historical society, the Pennsylvania

State Archives, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, D.C., my search began.

It should be noted before going any further that the 1765 date, which is repeated in various accounts of this abduction, is incorrect and will be examined later. Also incorrect is the fact that the Zimmerman/Carpenter family lived in the area of what is now Adams County in 1765 and that the abducted girl had the Zimmerman surname.

+ + + +

Remember that game in which you told someone a story, after which he or she retold the same story to another person, who then passed it on yet another person? At the end, after the last person recited the story, everyone would laugh at how the story had been “edited” from the first to the last person. What follows is another version of that game, although it occurred in printed form over a period of 105 years.

During the 1870–1880 period Henry J. Stahle, editor of the *Gettysburg Compiler*, printed various historical columns, mostly involving Adams County or that part of York County which became Adams County in 1800. Among those columns were accounts of the known attacks by Indians on settlers in the county area, such as those on the Bard and Jemison families. The August 5, 1880, edition of the newspaper carried a previously unknown incident involving Indians, purporting to have occurred within what is now Adams County. Editor Stahle received a letter from a 29-year-old former Adams Countian, Lizzie I. Carpenter, dated July 16, 1880, and sent from Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia.²

Stahle printed the letter as written. This is the first known printed version.

**More Indian History –
Abduction of a Little Girl in Liberty Township,
Adams County, Pa.**

Martinsburg, W. Va., July, 16, 1880.

Mr. Henry J. Stahle – Dear Sir: In the year 1765 my great-great-grandfather and family resided in Liberty township, near the Maryland line, in a settlement along the banks of what is now known as “Flat Run,” and in the immediate locality of what was known years ago as the “old Reed farm,” now owned by the Hunter heirs.

Although there does not seem to have been any tribe of Indians encamped in the neighborhood of the settlement, they often passed through it, and were not unfrequently found lurking around, begging or stealing, I presume, much as they are apt to do now-a-days. Among other members of his family was a little daughter about nine years of age, who during the berry season went out alone one morning, into a wood bordering on the stream, in search of berries and presumably wandered out of sight and hearing of the settlement. It so happened that one of their neighbors was coming through this wood, and hearing excited voices, hid behind the underbrush in order to learn, unobserved, what was transpiring; this was what he saw, two Indians were leading this little girl, or rather half dragging the reluctant little girl away from home; the child was crying bitterly, and he noticed as they passed by that she attempted to call out, when one of them put his hand over her face, and in doing so pushed her bonnet back and he recognized her. Doubtless the watcher’s first impulse was to attempt the rescue of the

child then and there, but a second thought must have convinced him of the hopelessness of such a course. As soon as possible he gave the alarm; friends and neighbors searched far and wide, but in vain, captors and captive having vanished as effectually as though the earth had opened and hid them away. Days multiplied into weeks and the search was abandoned, weeks fled into months, months vanished into years, until Time had transferred ten of them into the Ledger of the Past, and all hope of ever recovering the captive must have ended. When the whites in an engagement with a tribe of Indians up at Shamokin captured from them a young white woman and her half-breed child, a boy, they were taken to the settlement of their captors, and in course of time the woman was recognized as the child who had been stolen, and was returned to her family and friends, along with her child. When the incidents concerning her capture were related to her she admitted to having an indistinct recollection of them, but had grown taciturn and morose and does not seem to have manifested any great pleasure on being restored to her parents. She described the Indians as having been extremely kind to her, and when she arrived at a suitable age was married to one of the chiefs, with all the rites and forms by which the tribe signalized their marriages in "high lodge-life." She had never known any other home while with them than that of Shamokin, and told what a vast amount of silver and lead used to be brought into camp by the Indians, and asserted that there was "plenty of it around there." It occurs to me it has never been discovered there by whites, save the silver, as a return for coal. As time passed away, she took more kindly to civilization, and was wooed and won in the "good

old time” manner by a young man named Loman, and reared a family of four girls, and one boy named George, and of course the half-breed son who was known as “John Loman.” My father remembers this half-breed as a handsome, athletic, strong man. He is said to have been of a roving disposition, with the nomadic habits of his race; he never married, and died in 1826 at the residence of Adam Rader, on the “Overholtzer farm,” near where his mother had been taken captive. His mother lived to be ninety some years of age. The farm in Liberty township owned by her husband, and upon which the greater part of her life was spent, was afterward purchased by the Hon. James Wilson, and sold by him to the Bollingers. The land joined the Krise and McKee farms. Two of Mrs. Loman’s daughters married Zimmermans (brothers), and one of these, John, was my grandfather; another daughter married John Clark, who owned the mill on Tom’s creek, known for many years as “McDivit’s Mill”; the other daughter married a man named Light, from Falling Waters, Va. Her offspring inclined to theology. Peter Light Wilson, her grandson, was one of the brightest theologians in the Maryland Conference of the Methodist Protestant church.

It seems rather singular that my grandfather’s name was Zimmerman, and my father is called Carpenter, yet it is simple enough when explained. The Zimmerman family was originally from Switzerland. A part of them went to England, part to France, and three brothers came to the American colonies. This was before the Wm. Penn treaty. When he came he changed the German and Swiss names to English, and among the others Zimmerman was changed to Carpenter. Some of them were satisfied with this, and

others were indignant and clung to the old name, and both names are used down to the present time.

By what name the tribe was known that stole my ancient relative, I do not know, being unacquainted with the history of Pennsylvania at that time. You will probably know, and if you can throw any light upon that part of the history, I shall consider it a very great favor. I am sorry not to be able to learn more of the stolen child's parents, but without important family records – and I have not been able to find any pertaining to that branch – it is not worth while trying.

Yours truly, Lizzie L. Carpenter, Martinsburg, W. Va.

The second retelling was printed in the *History of Adams County*, as noted at the beginning of this study.

In 1890, the third account appeared in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sumner County, Kansas*. Lizzie returned to tell her version a second time. She had married James W. Beller in 1887 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and they moved to Perth, Sumner County, Kansas. In a section of her husband's biography, Lizzie and her father, who had moved to Kansas to live with Lizzie, are discussed. It reads:

Dr. Carpenter has in his possession title deeds to lands in Adams County, Pa., a part of which was then called the "Manor of Maske," that date back to Penn's residence and were given under his hand and seal. Dr. Carpenter's grandmother, who in her maidenhood was Miss Lamon, was captured by the Indians in what is now Adams County, Pa., about the year 1765, when she was a child. Subsequently, after she had grown to be a young lady, she was recaptured by the Provincial Army and returned to her family. ³

The fourth account occurred on March 5, 1953.⁴ Lizzie's letter was reprinted, without change, in the *York Dispatch*, York, Pennsylvania, as part of a column recounting a talk by Henry W. Shoemaker, president of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society, Pennsylvania State Museum, Harrisburg. Regarding Lizzie's question as to which Indian tribe took the girl captive, Mr. Shoemaker said, "There was no answer able to be made to the above, which remains one of the absorbing Indian mysteries of Pennsylvania folklore and history."

The fifth printing occurred in the March 29, 1958, edition of *The Gettysburg Times*. Beryl F. M. MacPerson's county history column on the Zimmerman-Loman Family included the following:

In the spring of 1765 a little daughter of the family (Carpenter), aged about nine years, went into the woods bordering Flat Run to pick berries.... [the account continues fairly close to the original]. About the year 1775 a brief but decisive battle between the Indians and whites took place near Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The Indians were defeated and forced to give up all captives taken by the living with them. Among the latter was a young white woman and her half-Indian son. They were taken to the nearest settlement (probably Fort Augusta) and there, in some way or other, the woman was identified as the child who had been taken from the settlement along Flat Run. She was returned to her family and friends, along with her child....

The sixth retelling occurred in 1975 when *The Gettysburg Times*, in its January 21 edition, printed the following in a piece on Indian raids in the county during and after the French and Indian War:

1765, two years after the conclusion of the French and Indian War, a little five-year-old white girl was abducted from a farm on Flat Run in Adams County in Liberty Township. Her immediate rescue failed and the girl remained with the Indians for 15 years. She was finally rescued at Shamokin. She had married an Indian brave and was the mother of a half-breed son. Both returned to Adams County and lived in this section until their deaths.

C. E. Schildknecht, *Monocacy and Catoclin* (1985), provides the seventh and last retelling. In discussing Mennonites, he writes:

The capture and recovery of Mary Carpenter from Indians has been recorded in the Warner, Beers' History of Cumberland and Adams Counties. In 1765, when she was 9 years old, Mary was picking berries along Flat Run near her home, when she was carried off by a band of roving Indians. Hope of recovery of the girl had been given up when 10 years later Indians were defeated near Shamokin, PA, far up the Susquehanna River, and Mary was recovered as the wife of a warrior, along with a young son. It is said that she was reluctant to return, but was brought to her former home and parents on Carroll's tract and gradually adjusted to a new life. Mary Zimmerman married George Lowman (Lohman) and had 7 children in addition to her Indian son, who was known as John Lowman.⁵

True to the game, the various retellings stuck to the basic story. However, it is interesting to read the above and note the subtle changes and embellishments to the original accounting.

The 1975 *Gettysburg Times* recollection changes her age from nine years to five years and the length of her captivity from ten to fifteen years. The last version, Schildknecht's, is the only one which provides a full, though incorrect, name, Mary Carpenter, to the child. Lizzie Carpenter Beller's second account names her as Miss Lamon. This is most likely a memory slip on Lizzie's part; the Lowman name was probably in her mind when relating the account.

+ + + +

What is known of this young woman? Her given name was Mary. She was married in what was then Virginia to George Lowman in 1763/64. Their first child, a son named Ephraim, was born in 1764 in Virginia. They became the parents of seven more children, George, Elizabeth, Mary, Rebecca, Sarah, Catherine, and Susan. The last was born in 1782. These children were all born in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia).

A fourth-great grandson of the captive woman, Charles J. Beckman, now living in Denver, Colorado, conducted an extensive research of George and Mary Lowman's life in Berkeley County. He presented his findings to the Adams County Historical Society, where they can be found in the Lowman family file.

Sometime after the birth of their last child in 1782, George and Mary Lowman, her half-Indian son, John, their son, George and his family, and their younger daughters moved to Liberty Township in Adams County. On January 4, 1798, George bought over 524 acres of land from William Porter. George wrote his will October 28, 1800, and it was presented for probate on November 25, 1800. The location of his grave is unknown. There are several documents on file at the Adams County Historical Society which verify these transactions.

Approximately ten years after his father's death, son George and his family moved to Champaign (now Clark) County, Ohio. Accompanying George and his family was his mother, Mary.

Mary's half-Indian son, John, remained in Adams County, where his name is often found associated with Adam Rader/Rider. Adam's wife was Susan, most likely John Lowman's half-sister. John served in several legal capacities for his half-siblings, based on Adams County Orphans' Court documents. He died April 24, 1822, and his body was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Emmitsburg, Maryland, per Jacob Holdcroft's transcription of Frederick County, Maryland, tombstones entitled *Names in Stone*.

This researcher was unable to find John's tombstone on several trips to the cemetery. But even when Mr. Holdcroft recorded the stone, he could not read the age at death. This is unfortunate as it might have provided a more solid date of Mary's abduction or release.

Mary passed the remainder of her life in Clark County and died on August 3, 1826, in her 93rd year. According to Mr. Beckman, her remains are buried in the Heck-Funderburg Cemetery, Bethel Township, Clark County, Ohio. Based on the age inscribed on her tombstone, Mary was born about 1733/34. Since Mary was a married woman and rearing her family in Virginia during the period she was supposedly abducted from Adams County, she must have been taken captive around the early 1740s.

Learning these facts from Mr. Beckman's research, I used an online genealogical site known as Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness to locate someone familiar with the cemetery. A person who traveled past the cemetery each day offered to take pictures of her tombstone, for which I am grateful. This person wishes anonymity.

The accounts of Mary's captivity above start with the



*Tombstone for Mary Lowman, located in the
Funderburg Cemetery, New Carlisle,
Clark County, Ohio.*

initial, printed recitation by Mary's great granddaughter, Lizzie Carpenter. Lizzie's father was Dr. John Carpenter, son of John and Rebecca (Lowman) Carpenter. Rebecca, in turn, was the daughter of Mary, the captive. Dr. John was about 5 years of age when his grandmother moved to Ohio. It is undoubtedly through him that Lizzie learned of her ancestress's captivity. Here we have the first verbal version of the printed "game," with the story subsequently passing down through the generations.

Lizzie's account, however, is not the only one which has been passed along. Mr. Beckman's research uncovered two more versions. Mary's granddaughter, Susannah, daughter of Mary's son, George, recalled the following: "Grandmother was made a captive by the Indians during the French and Indian War, at the age of fourteen years. She was held a captive for five years; was married to an Indian chief and to them was born one son, whom she called John. The chief's name not known. After her release they gave her the child and she returned to Pennsylvania." A great-grandson, Joseph Lowman, grandson

of George (the son), related the following: “During the French and Indian War a group of Indians surprised and attacked the homestead of Mary and her parents, killing them, her parents. Mary ran, frightened, off into near-by bushes to hide, but one of the Indians saw her and found her, dragging her off into captivity. While she was in captivity the Chief married her and they had one son. She was released after a long time with her son when the war was over.”

With the variation in age and length of captivity it is difficult to pinpoint the dates of events involved. If her tombstone’s record of age is correct, she would have been about 20 years old when the French and Indian War (1754-1763) began. If, however, Mary was a young girl (aged 5 to 14 years; in Lizzie Carpenter’s telling 9 years old), she was captured prior to the French and Indian War. She may have been abducted, then, sometime during King George’s War, 1744-48.

It is also unlikely that Mary’s maiden name was Zimmerman, as suggested by some who have reported this event. Peter and Mary Zimmerman were the first of that surname to appear in the York/Adams County area, coming from Lancaster County between 1795 and 1799. They arrived in the Adams County area at about the same time as the Lowmans. Their oldest son married Catherine Lowman, daughter of George and Mary Lowman. This connection with the Zimmerman family probably caused some of the confusion with Mary’s maiden name.

It is indeed possible, then, that Mary may have been from northern Virginia (today’s West Virginia). Keith Hammersla, reference librarian for the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library, attempted to assist in this research. Although he noted that several females were taken by the Indians from the Berkeley County area, none was named Mary.

Contact was made with Jack Hetrick, president emeritus of the Northumberland County Historical Society (Pennsylvania), concerning Lizzie Carpenter's claims that Mary was released at Shamokin. Considered an authority on the Indians of the Northumberland area, he disagreed with claims made by Lizzie, including her marriage to an Indian chief. Mr. Hetrick exclaimed, "they were all married to chiefs!" Research into the Colonial Records of Pennsylvania concerning the Indian village Shamokin also turned up nothing.

Could Mary have been taken from the southern Adams County area, as stated by Lizzie Carpenter in her original account of the abduction? Research by Mr. Beckman and myself failed to determine that fact.

One can only theorize how George Lowman, a Virginian, and Mary met. In addition, and as learned from Mr. Beckman's research of Virginia records, George was a wagon driver,. They may have met during his travels, and he may have taken her to Virginia, where they reared their family. If she were originally from Adams County, it may explain why she and her family moved from Berkeley County to Adams County in the late 1790's. George appears for the first time in the Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, tax list in the fall of 1798 for the 1799 tax year. In August of 1801, part of Hamiltonban Township, where the Lowman family resided, became Liberty Township.

Mr. Beckman's research has helped to determine a timeline of Mary's life, but her maiden name remains unknown.

Notes

1. Samuel P. Bates, *History of Adams County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago, Warner, Beers & Co, 1886), 303
2. Elizabeth Isabelle Carpenter, who apparently preferred to be known as Lizzie based upon my research of her life, was born in 1850 near Gettysburg, daughter of Dr. John Carpenter and Mary Ann Elderdice. Lizzie worked in Martinsburg, West Virginia, as an associate editor of the *Martinsburg Herald*. Possessed of considerable literary skills, she contributed to various newspapers and magazines. Possibly through her position with the *Herald* she became aware of Mr. Stahle's columns.
3. Author unknown, *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sumner County, Kansas* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 380
4. York Heritage Trust Library/Archives, York, Pennsylvania
5. C. E. Schildknecht, *Monocacy and Catoclin* (Shippensburg, Pennsylvania: Beidel Printing House, Inc., 1985), 1:195

A Century of Brickmaking at Berlin Junction A History of the Alwine Brick Company

by Duane F. Alwin, Ph.D.

Introduction

The Alwine family name had been associated with brickmaking in York and Adams Counties at least since the early 1850s, when Peter Samuel Alwine started his first brickyard on a farm in Paradise Township of York County.¹ He learned the trade of brickmaking during his youth and by the age of seventeen had become a skilled artisan. He learned how to make bricks by working in the spring and summer months at a brickmaking operation in Peach Bottom Township, located in the southeastern corner of York County. He did not set up his own brickyard until later, and following his marriage to Catharine Dahlhammer in 1860, he moved his brickmaking facilities to the farm where they settled in Paradise Township, near the Borough of Berwick (now Abbottstown) in Adams County. During that time, Mr. Alwine also engaged for varying periods as a schoolteacher, country merchant, and farmer. Later, he established a brickyard at Spring Grove in York County, and eventually another at Berlin Junction, near New Oxford in Adams County. Over the years, he attained a reputation as a man of considerable learning and sound business judgment.

After his death, in 1895, his sons William and Lewis Alwine continued the business under the name Alwine Brothers Brickyard, and later William's son Charles Emory Alwine would become president of the firm. Following Charles Alwine's retirement, and three generations of Alwine leadership, ownership of the company was transferred in 1978 to the Glen-Gery Corporation of Reading. This article

chronicles the history of the Alwine Brick Company from its beginnings to its final years, including more than a century at Berlin Junction, Adams County, Pennsylvania.

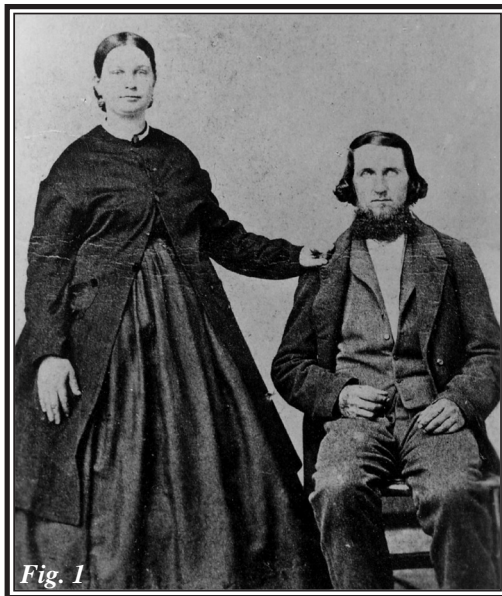
Peter S. Alwine ²

Peter Samuel Alwine, was the youngest son of nine children born to Samuel and Mary (Schaffer) Allwine. He was born in North Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania, on November, 4, 1831. He and his descendants used the ALWINE spelling of the family name, although the family descends from Johannes (Hans) Jacob and Catharina ALLWEIN, progenitors of many Allwein, Allwine, Alwine and Alwin families in North America. His father, Samuel, was born January 12, 1792, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, the youngest son of Conrad and Catharine Allwein, in an area that would later become Lebanon County.

The 1830 federal census lists Samuel and Mary Allwine living in Codorus Township on the western side of York County, and in 1840, 1850 and 1860 they were living in Paradise Township, York County, on the border with Hamilton Township in Adams County.³ During this time, at least for part of it, Samuel and Mary lived on the church farm at Paradise and worked for Rev. M. Lekeu, the priest of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Paradise) Church (see fig. 2).⁴ Peter S. Alwine was educated in the country schools in North Codorus and Paradise Townships of York County, and as a young man, he taught in the common schools for twelve terms in Jackson and Paradise Townships. During these years, he apparently taught school during the school year and learned brickmaking over the summers.

Peter S. Alwine married Catharine Dahlhammer, daughter of William and Sarah (Sour) Dahlhammer, on September 20, 1860, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Paradise Township, York County, near Abbottstown

(see fig.1).⁵ Although he was raised in the Catholic faith and married in the Catholic Church, Peter and his family became members of the Lutheran community in Paradise Township. There are a number of different family narratives about why this was the case. One in particular refers to a conflict between Peter Alwine's belief in modern science and his Catholic clergyman's resistance to allowing such beliefs among his parishioners. According to Jerome Allwein, "Mr. Alwine was a great reader and student of Modern Science, the reading of which books Father Manns (Rev. Peter Manns, S.J.) had forbidden," and that owing to these differences with Rev. Manns, Peter Alwine left the Catholic faith.⁶ He and his wife became members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Abbottstown, and their thirteen children (Emma Jane, Sarah Ellen, Ida May, Harvey D., Samuel Willis, William Clayton, Lewis Henry, Cora Ann, Edward Romanus, Percy Elmer, Emery Staunton, Laura Kate, and Paul) were all baptized there.



Reproduction of photograph of Peter S. and Catharine Dahlhammer Alwine, taken about the time of their marriage in 1860. [Photo contributed by Doug Alwine.]

In the 1850 federal census, when Peter Alwine was still living in his parents' household, his occupation was given as "farmer." By 1860 he is listed in the federal census of that year as a "common school teacher." Eventually, he devoted full time to the pursuit of brickmaking as a vocation—in both the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses his occupation is given as "brickmaker."⁷ A biographical entry for Peter S. Alwine in Gibson's 1886 *History of York County, Pennsylvania* confirms much of his early life history.⁸

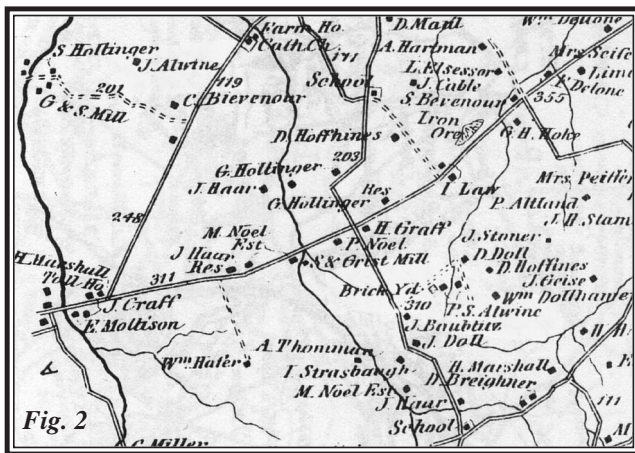
By that time, he had clearly put his brickmaking business on the map. Indeed, the location of Peter S. Alwine's brickyard and residence can be found on the 1876 map of Paradise Township published in an *Atlas of York County Pennsylvania*, and the location of the Paradise brickyard can be seen in the detail of that map shown in Figure 2. The lower right quadrant of this detail situates a "Brick Yd." near the residences indicated for "P.S. Alwine" and "Wm. Dollhammer" (William Dahlhammer was Peter Alwine's father-in-law). The village in the lower left quadrant of this detail shows the eastern edge of the Borough of Berwick (in adjacent Adams County) that would eventually become known as Abbottstown. The road marked with the number 311 in the vicinity of Abbottstown follows the route of the present-day Federal Highway No. 30 (the Lincoln Highway). This route, as can be seen, angles from left to right in a northeasterly direction. The general location of Peter S. Alwine's brickyard was south of this road. It can be found on present-day maps—on the east side of Moulstown Road (marked as number 310 in this extract), a few miles south of the intersection of Federal Highway 30 and the Moulstown Road, which is about two miles east of Abbottstown.

Using the Geographic Names Index System (GNIS), one can obtain an idea of the location of this Alwine brickyard. Search for "Abbottstown" in Adams County, and then once a mapping system is selected, follow the Federal Highway

No. 30 east for less than two miles to the intersection with Moulstown Road; then, less than a mile south of U.S. 30 to the east, off the Moulstown Road, one can find the location of the Paradise Brickyard.

The remnants of clay mining are evident at this location today, although it was often typical in those early days for brick makers to go to the site where the bricks were to be used and make them on location. It would take many wagon loads of bricks to build a house, and if the construction site was more than a few miles away from the brickyard, transportation costs would have been prohibitive. It was common to employ temporary or mobile kilns.

The 1876 map also shows the location of the farm of John Alwine, Peter S. Alwine's older brother, which is likely to be the spot where their parents, Samuel and Mary Alwine, were living at the end of their lives. Note that the location of John Alwine's farm is very near the Catholic Church and Farm in Paradise Township (designated as "Cath.Church") on the map), which is consistent with the information that at one time they lived on the church farm at Paradise and worked for Rev. M. Lekeu, as noted above.



Detail of 1876 Map of Paradise Township showing the location of Alwine farms and Peter S. Alwine's brickyard.

In 1885, Peter Alwine moved his Paradise brick manufacturing enterprise to Berlin Junction, near New Oxford, Adams County, and established his residence there. Ten years later, Peter Alwine died unexpectedly on May 9, 1895, in Adams County, *intestate*, leaving it to the court to dispense with his estate. His widow, Catharine Alwine, and his heirs petitioned the Court of Common Pleas of Adams County to settle his estate.⁹ Peter Alwine's land holdings at the time of his death consisted of 31 parcels of land, amounting to nearly 400 acres, including a large 125-acre mansion tract in Oxford Township where he and his family were living at the time of his death. The remainder consisted of various other pieces of land, largely small 2-5 acre tracts of woodlands (which provided wood to fire the kilns used in the making of brick), scattered throughout Oxford and Hamilton Townships, and Paradise and Jackson Townships of York County. Relative to the time period in which he lived, Peter Alwine was a moderately prosperous man. After the sale of these real properties, the estate totaled nearly \$9,000.



Gravestone for Peter and Catharine Alwine, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Abbottstown, Pennsylvania.

Fig. 3

At the time of Peter Alwine's death, the eldest sons, Harvey, Samuel, William, and Lewis, had already established themselves and had married, and the three eldest daughters, Emma, Ida, and Sarah were also married by that time. William and Lewis Alwine would take over the family brickmaking enterprise. The five youngest children—Edward, Percy, Emery, Laura, and Paul—were all minors at the time of Peter's death.¹⁰ Thereafter, Catharine Alwine took up residence in the Borough of Berwick (Abbottstown).¹¹ She died on March 19, 1923. Peter and Catharine Alwine, and many of their children and grandchildren, are buried at the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery (LA) located behind the church on the east side of North German Street in Abbottstown (see Fig.3).

Brickmaking ¹²

Brick is generally considered one of the strongest and longest-lasting building materials used throughout human history. The earliest bricks were made from clay mud and were dried by the sun—a process often attributed to the ancient Mesopotamians. The early Romans discovered how to “burn” bricks by baking them at high temperatures in kilns, and kiln-baked bricks were introduced to many parts of the Roman Empire. Bricks are typically made from some combination of sand (silica), shale and clay, plus other natural ingredients, and until the development of effective means of transportation, bricks were typically made close to where they were to be used.

All bricks are made from clay, but it is important to understand that some clays are more useful for brickmaking than others and that clay alone is not sufficient for making bricks; sand and other material, such as shale, must also be used.

There are two basic types of bricks—soft mud bricks and stiff mud bricks—terms which refer to the processes used to shape the clay mud. *Soft mud* is the “term used by brick

makers to describe mechanical brick molding processes that mimic hand molding and thus use relatively soft mud which is pressed or thrown into molds.”¹³ *Stiff mud*, on the other hand, is used by brick makers to denote the “wire-cut” or “stiff mud” process “by which clay is extruded through a die and cut into bricks using wires.”¹⁴ The material used in the stiff mud process typically includes a greater clay content. The bricks produced by the Alwine Brick Company were made by the soft mud process, the two main ingredients being shale and sand, with very little clay.¹⁵

There are several important steps involved in making bricks, from the mining of the clay or shale (called *winning*), to the production of the clay mud that is its main constituent (called *tempering* or *pugging*), to the molding of the bricks, drying them, and ultimately to the burning of the bricks in the kiln and then cooling them.. In the beginning, manpower and horsepower would have been the principal means by which the first stages of the process were implemented. Later on, machine power took over, wherein steam shovels were used to extract the clay and shale from the quarry. Machines were then employed to grind and pulverize the coarse material, and conveyor belts would feed ground shale and clay into a brick molding process by which the mixture would be formed into brick material and subsequently inserted into molds.

Depending upon the source of the raw materials, a certain amount of crushing and grinding may often be necessary to pulverize the coarse clay and shale into the desired consistency. Once prepared, the material is mixed with water in preparation for molding. This process—called *pugging*—was done by hand, until the pugging mill was invented in the 1800s to mix the water-soaked clay. This stage was ultimately aided by horsepower, in which horses or mules were used to circle the chamber of the pug mill to drive the revolving shafts that mixed the material. Later on, this process was accomplished by machine power.

There were a number of different methods to mold or form the soft and malleable “mud” into the shape of bricks. In the 1800s, this was essentially done by hand, and an occupation, titled “brick molder,” came into being, described by the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.¹⁶ According to Doug Alwine, at the Alwine Brick plant,

...brick molds were made of wood, and were typically soaked in water for a period of time prior to use in order to get to get the wood thoroughly soaked. Then sand was poured into the mold and quickly dumped out prior to pressing the mud into the mold. The sand stuck to the wet mold and then acted as a release agent to make it possible to dump the brick out of the mold. The choice of sand also helps determine the final color of the brick. Sand and water are cheaper than oil and it was applied by simply scooping a little sand into the mold, swishing it about to cover all the interior surfaces and then dumping out the excess, a process which takes about three seconds. After a few dozen uses, the mold has dried out a bit and is placed back in the tub to re-soak and another one selected from the tub.”¹⁷

Machine-molded bricks were made by placing the wet clay material into a machine that pressed the wet mix into previously prepared molds. Early brickmaking machines, such as the steam-powered machine invented by Henry Martin around 1858, pressed the brick mud into wooden molds. The original Martin machine relied on manpower to dump the bricks from the mold onto a wood pallet, although descendants of this machine performed this operation mechanically.¹⁸

After the process of molding, the “green brick” (bricks before they are fired) would have to be dried for some period of time, and after leaving the molds, bricks would typically be stacked in some fashion and either placed in the open air or in enclosed dryers that utilized excess heat from the kilns. At the

Alwine Brick plant, after molding, the bricks hardened for 24 hours in 300-degree dryer tunnels, and then were hand-loaded into firebrick kilns.¹⁹

The next stage of the process is “burning” the bricks in kilns whose temperatures reached nearly 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. These kilns were built from “firebrick,” that is, bricks made from material with a high silica content, which resist high temperatures. The people who operated these kilns were called “burners” or “bakers.” In the modern era, kiln burning became a relatively standard technology. Although the implementation of the process may have varied, depending upon the historical period and the practices used by any particular brickmaking operation, the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (4th edition) lists the occupation of “burner” or “kiln burner” for the type of work comprising this stage in the process of brickmaking.²⁰ Inside the kilns at the Alwine plant, the bricks would bake for four days and cool for another three, taking about one week from the time raw shale entered the crusher until it became finished brick.²¹

The color of brick is determined by several factors. An important one is the minerals in the clay material, particularly the presence of iron. Brick with high iron content will become red or pink as the iron oxidizes. Those that are rich in lime, but lack iron, will tend to turn yellow or cream. Other factors that affect the exact color of the final brick are the temperature, the position of the brick in the kiln, and the amount of air let into the kiln at the later stages of firing the brick. Because of the variation within the kiln in these latter factors, there can be a wide range of color amongst the bricks within a single batch and from batch to batch.²²

By the middle of the twentieth century, the Alwine Brick plant housed 10 fire-brick kilns, each 60 feet in diameter, in which approximately 85,000 bricks were burned at one time.²³ Later, the number of kilns was increased to 13, and production

was thereby increased.²⁴ The kilns employed the forced-draft firing technology for brick kilns developed by John C. Boss of Elkhart, Indiana. Mr. Boss had patented several inventions in the early 1900s for the efficient burning of bricks, and William C. Alwine had installed the Boss-type cast iron burners that used coal as fuel.²⁵ Later on, the burners were converted to the use of natural gas, and one person noted that when the kilns were running, the Alwine Brick facility used as much power as the borough of New Oxford.²⁶

History of the Alwine Brick Company

As noted, the Alwine Brick Company at Berlin Junction in Adams County was predated by two earlier brickyards in neighboring York County, established by Peter Alwine in the late nineteenth century. Here we provide a chronology from these early beginnings through to the eventual demise of the Alwine Brick Company.

The Paradise Brickyard

Historical sources for York County provide some information on Peter S. Alwine's early brick manufacturing business. Gibson's 1886 *History of York County, Pennsylvania* gives the early history of the Alwine brickmaking business, as follows:

*In the year 1858, P.S. Alwine began burning bricks on his farm in this township and has continued this business in the same place ever since, even during the exciting times of the civil war. At this yard, about 300,000 bricks were made annually, or about 8,000,000 in twenty-six years of its existence. About 3,000 cords of wood have been consumed in burning the bricks. Mr. Alwine owns a large yard and kiln at New Oxford, and one at Spring Grove. At each of these places he manufactures about 700,000 bricks annually.*²⁷

The details provided by this entry are largely consistent with other sources, although most sources suggest that he began making bricks much earlier, probably around 1851. Whatever the case, as this narrative indicates, Peter Alwine began his own brickmaking operation in Paradise Township, and eventually he would set up similar plants at Spring Grove (Spring Forge), York County, and later at Berlin Junction, near New Oxford.

The Spring Forge Brickyard ²⁸

In the spring of 1880, Peter Alwine began building another brickyard and a home in the grove of Dietrich Swartz's farm in Spring Forge (now Spring Grove), Pennsylvania. This farm can be located on the map of Jackson Township provided by the 1876 *Atlas of York County*.²⁹ The brickyard was completed in July of 1881, and ten men were employed. The clay pits were located in the Codorus Creek area, and mules were used to pull carts of clay over small railroad tracks to the site of the brick kilns. In 1884, a flood destroyed this facility, when the waters of Codorus Creek overflowed its banks.³⁰ It was reported that two horses, the stable, the brick shed and all the wood were lost. The brickyard was moved to higher ground, and by 1886, this yard was producing 700,000 bricks a year.³¹ The storage yard for the finished bricks was located close to East Street in present-day Spring Grove. They were sold to local housing contractors and also shipped to York and Baltimore. After their father's death, sons William and Lewis Alwine continued to operate the business at the intersection of East Railroad Street and the Western Maryland Railroad site until about 1910 when the supply of clay was exhausted.

The Berlin Junction Brickyard

Although the original brickmaking operations of Peter S. Alwine were located within the boundaries of York County in Paradise Township, they were just a few miles from Abbottstown in Adams County. In 1885, he relocated the Paradise brickyard to Berlin Junction near New Oxford, between Gettysburg and Abbottstown (the place name “Berlin Junction” referred to the junction of two railroad lines). Mr. Alwine had discovered the desirable Oxford Shale Formation in Adams County and built a crude “fair weather” operation in an open field at Berlin Junction (such as that shown in fig. 4).³² At this location, the firm had access to a railroad siding, as well as to the shale of that area. This eventually grew to become the Alwine Brick plant at Berlin Junction, an installation that existed until 1978 when the ownership of the company was transferred to the Glen-Gery Corporation.

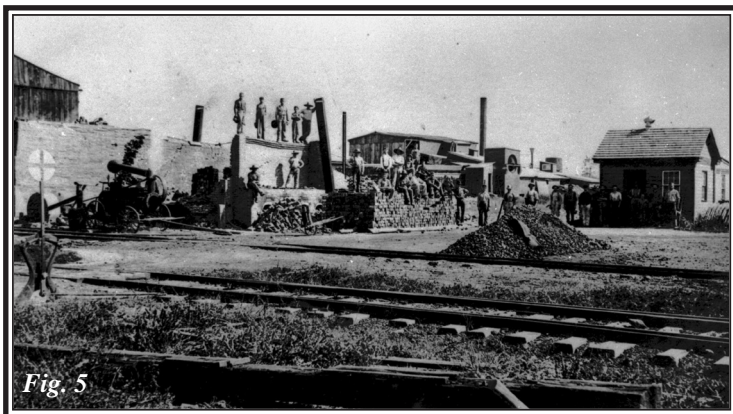


Fig. 4
Early brickmaking operation in Adams County. [Photo contributed by Doug Alwine.]

The Berlin Junction plant was situated adjacent to the Baltimore & Harrisburg railroad on the south side of New Oxford, which makes it relatively easy to locate. It is possible to see both the location of Berlin Junction on present-day maps and the site of the nearby Alwine brickyard. Using GNIS, one can search for “Berlin Junction” in Adams County. Once a

mapping option is selected, the user will note the road marked “Brickyard Road”—this indicates the location of the former Alwine brick factory.

Following Peter S. Alwine’s death in 1895, his two sons, William and Lewis Alwine, acquired the brickmaking business. After learning this trade in their youth, they were fully capable of carrying on the family brickmaking tradition. They became equal partners, and in 1915 the partnership was incorporated under the name “Alwine Brothers Brick Company.” Lewis Alwine eventually settled in Spring Grove, in Jackson Township, York County, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick at the Spring Forge brickyard for several years. William Alwine remained in New Oxford, similarly engaged in making brick at the family’s Berlin Junction factory in Oxford Township. Both men are listed as brickmakers in the 1900 and 1910 federal censuses.³³ Several other Alwine men—brothers, sons and nephews—were employed in the Berlin Junction factory over that period of time, both in the yard and in the office, and one daughter of William Alwine, Kathryn Alwine Livingston, was involved in the administration of the company.



*Alwine Brothers Brickyard, New Oxford, Pennsylvania, 1907.
[Photo contributed by Doug Alwine.]*

The early twentieth century history of the Alwine Brick Company is summarized in an entry for “Lewis H. Alwine” in George Prowell’s 1907 *History of York County*, which I excerpt here:

*LEWIS H. ALWINE, manufacturer of building brick at Spring Forge, Pa., Spring Grove P.O., is one of the progressive businessmen of that place, and widely and favorably known. ... Lewis H. Alwine was well educated in the country schools, finishing his scholastic course at the age of seventeen, at which time he began working with his father in the brickyard. At the age of nineteen, he commenced teaching in the country schools, and thus continued during the winter months, while in the summer he still gave his services to his father. During that period he thoroughly learned the brick business, so that in 1890, when he and his brother William formed a partnership, under the style of Alwine Brothers at Berlin Junction, where the father had had a branch factory for a number of years, he was thoroughly competent. Later Mr. Alwine moved to Spring Grove, purchased a plant and installed new machinery to accommodate the present annual output of 2,000,000 bricks. The brother William is interested in this plant, but devotes most of this time to the Berlin establishment. A large local trade has been built up, and the remainder of the product is shipped to York and Baltimore. The brick of this factory is of a superior quality, and finds a ready sale. The machinery is of the latest pattern, and the kilns are square in construction, both coal and wood being used for burning. The firm controls a very large business, which shows a steady and healthy increase.*³⁴

Although Lewis H. Alwine was a director of the Alwine brick manufacturing business throughout the remainder of his life, the Spring Forge plant was closed down around 1910, when he turned his full attention to other pursuits. In 1906 he helped establish the Pennsylvania Knitting Mills in Spring Grove and became its vice-president.³⁵ Thereafter, he purchased the Codorus Hosiery factory in York.³⁶ His brother, William Clayton Alwine, continued in the brickmaking business at Berlin Junction, as reported in the 1920 and 1930 federal censuses.³⁷ The 1930 federal census lists William C. Alwine as “president” of a brickmaking factory at Berlin Junction. From that point onward, the Berlin Junction plant was the sole producer of bricks under the Alwine name.



*Alwine Brick Company, New Oxford, Pennsylvania,
1938. [Photo contributed by Doug Alwine.]*

The Berlin Junction plant produced both machine-molded and hand-molded bricks. It is not known when, but possibly in the late 1800s, a brick molding machine, produced by the Posey Iron Works of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was installed.³⁸ The Posey machine followed the basic design of the brickmaking machine invented by Henry Martin (see endnote 19). It did essentially the same thing as the hand molders, but with greater efficiency: “It pressed the mud into the mold with a lot of pressure so that the corners and edges of the bricks were well formed, while the hand-molded bricks tend to have missing corners and small voids.”³⁹

William C. Alwine’s son, Charles Emory Alwine, eventually became the company’s manager. Charles attended Lehigh University, and in 1924 he earned a degree in electrical engineering. For two years following his college graduation Mr. Alwine was employed by the Philadelphia Electric Company. In 1926, however, he became affiliated with his father in the Alwine Brothers Brick Company, and in 1930 he assumed the management of the company. The name of the firm was changed to the Alwine Brick Company in 1935, and in 1956 Charles Alwine became the president of the company, a position he held until he retired in September of 1975.

Charles Alwine had a distinguished professional career. He was at various times the president of the Structural Clay Products Institute, Northeast Region. He was also active in community affairs, serving as president and a director of the Farmers’ and Merchants’ Bank of New Oxford, chairman of the New Oxford Municipal Authority, and treasurer of the New Oxford School Authority, an office he held for ten years.⁴⁰ At the time of Charles E. Alwine’s retirement, there were apparently no Alwine family members to undertake the management of the company, the first time this had happened in its 125-year history—over four generations—and the company was consequently sold.

Estimates vary, but at its peak it was reported that the Alwine Brick Company could turn out as many as 40 million bricks per year. At the time of his retirement from the management of the company in 1975, Charles Alwine stated that “the Alwine brickmaking technique had changed little since Peter Alwine’s day, except in the mechanization of handling the bricks. Soft mud still is pressed by hand into 9-pocket wooden molds that have been ‘lubricated’ with sand to keep the individual bricks from sticking when the mold is overturned.”⁴¹

In 1951, the Alwine Brick Company celebrated its 100th anniversary. At that time there were 90 full-time employees of the firm, 13 of whom were Alwine family members. Around the time of its 100-year anniversary, the Glen-Gery Corporation of Reading, Pennsylvania, acquired one-half ownership of the Alwine Brick Company. In 1958, several family members tried to regain full control of the company, initiating an effort to purchase the stock Glen-Gery held in the company, but this effort failed.⁴² When Charles E. Alwine retired, full ownership of the Alwine Brick Company was transferred to the Glen-Gery Corporation, and it became known as the Alwine Brick Division of that company. There is an aerial photo of the Alwine Brick Company plant in Robert Bloom’s 1992 *History of Adams County*, which contains the following caption: “The Alwine Brick Company, now part of Glen-Gery Brick, manufactures facing and paving bricks which are shipped to a wide area from the plant near New Oxford.”⁴³ At the time of Charles E. Alwine’s retirement in 1975, the Alwine Brick Company was the largest producer of colonial type, hand-molded brick in the U.S., with 130 employees turning out millions of bricks a year.⁴⁴



Alwine Brick Company, New Oxford, Pennsylvania, 1976. [Photo contributed by Doug Alwine.]

Projects for which the company has provided special orders for hand-molded bricks included the restoration of Pennsbury Manor (see fig.8), the estate in Falls Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which was the American summer home of William Penn. Located on the Delaware River about 25 miles north of Philadelphia, construction of the original manor house and estate began in 1683 and Penn spent considerable time there until his final return to England in 1701. The property remained in the Penn family for several years, but by the end of the eighteenth century most of the original land had been sold and the manor house and outbuildings were in ruin. In the early 1900s, local Quakers began a movement to create a permanent memorial to William Penn, which eventuated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's acquiring the original site. The reconstruction of the manor house according to its original design began in 1937. The Alwine Brick Company supplied the colonial-style brick for the project. The latter property is on the National Register of Historic Places.⁴⁵



Pennsbury Manor House, William Penn's Summer Home, built in 1683-1700. Reconstruction began in 1937 using bricks manufactured by the Alwine Brothers Brick Company, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

The Alwine Brick Company also furnished the brick for the Independence Hall Mall, in Philadelphia, and Colonial Parkway Bridge (on Route 199), spanning Colonial Parkway in York, Virginia.⁴⁶ Additionally, among many others, the company furnished the brick for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company building in Providence, Rhode Island, and the Liggett and Myers Company building in Durham, North Carolina. Local projects included some of the buildings at Gettysburg College (see fig. 9), and the Adams County courthouse addition in Gettysburg.⁴⁷

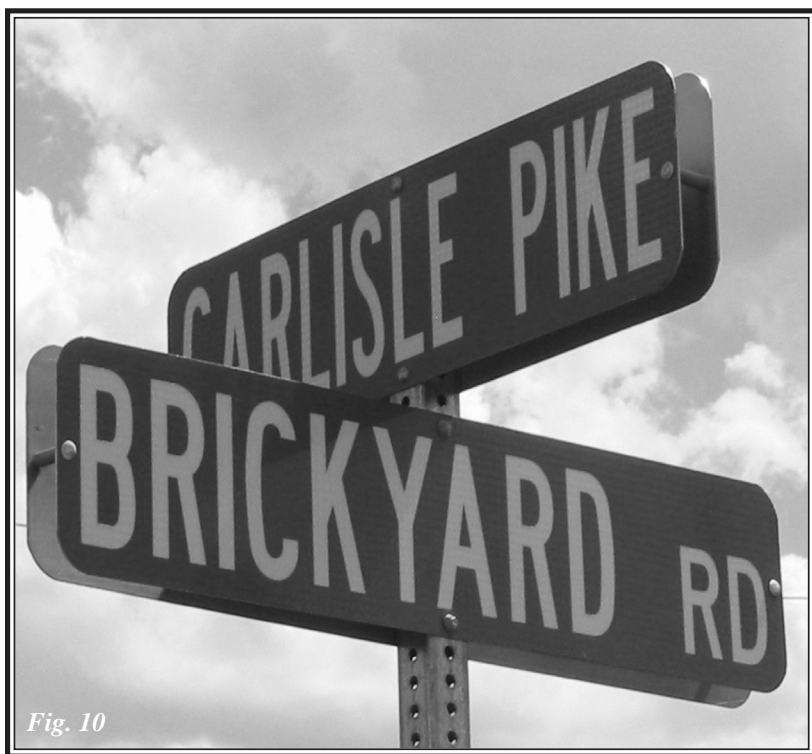
After the company was sold to the Glen-Gery Corporation, the Alwine Brick plant continued to make bricks, as well as concrete blocks, until production ceased in 1993. At that time, the New Oxford facility served primarily as a brick sales and shipping center, employing twenty people. For safety reasons, in January of 1999, the old brick plant was dismantled.⁴⁸ It is also worth mentioning that during the Glen-



The student union building on the Gettysburg College campus made from Alwine “Gettysburg blend” bricks.

Gery era, there was another brick manufacturing company with Alwine ties that emerged, called “Manor Brickcrafters,” which specialized in the production and marketing of hand-molded shale brick. It was begun in 1967 by David B. Alwine, a grandson of Peter Alwine, who endeavored to continue the Alwine brickmaking tradition.⁴⁹ The company was located west of New Oxford in Mt. Pleasant Township near the intersection of U.S. Route 30 and Brickcrafters Road. Mr. Alwine attracted local investors and hired an engineering firm from New York to design the plant. It was a modern plant that produced quality bricks under the Manor Brickcrafters name, but it ultimately lost out in competition with the Glen-Gery company, which was still producing bricks at the Berlin Junction plant. When the Manor company folded under the pressure of competition, it was purchased by the Glen-Gary company, which continued to produce bricks at that location.⁵⁰

Recently, the Glen-Gery Corporation sold the property that housed the original Alwine Brick plant at Berlin Junction to the Trenwyth Company (an Oldcastle company), but it is not known how the property will be used. The old brick building that originally served as the headquarters of the Alwine Brick Company is in the early stages of its demise. There, as in many parts of Pennsylvania, as well as other parts of the country, one can occasionally find the remains of the brickworks of an earlier time. Once the old kilns were reduced to rubble and the old clay pits covered by a dense growth of trees and bushes, all that remains are the place names associated with these earlier times, offering clues to these vanished relics of brick manufacturing (see fig. 10).



Brickyard Road at Berlin Junction. The location of the former Alwine Brick Company, Brickyard Road runs east and west for about a mile between Hanover Street and Carlisle Pike in Oxford Township, Adams County.

Endnotes

1. Information concerning the history of the Alwine Brick Company was obtained from several historical sources, newspaper articles, as well as personal correspondence from Charles E. Alwine with family members. Historical sources that mention the Alwine brick manufacturing establishments include John Gibson, *History of York County Pennsylvania* (Chicago: F.A. Battey Publishing Co., 1886); George Prowell, *History of York County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1907), vol. 2; Robert L. Bloom, *A History of Adams County Pennsylvania, 1700-1990* (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Adams County Historical Society, 1992); and “Charles Emory Alwine,” in *Pennsylvania: The Heritage of a Commonwealth: Family and Personal Records*, ed. Sylvester K. Stevens (West Palm Beach, FL: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1968), volume 4. The author also acknowledges materials furnished by Ray Alwine, Marlin L. Alwine, Nancy Allwein Nebiker, and Jim Hoffheins. I am especially grateful to Douglas Owen Alwine—a descendant of the Alwine brickmakers, who worked during summer vacations from school and college at the Alwine brick plant—for detailed comments and suggestions on early drafts of this article. His father (Philip Edgar Alwine) worked at the Alwine brick plant most of his life, as did his grandfather (Percy Elmer Alwine). Doug also furnished several photos used in this article.
2. Information concerning the biography of Peter S. Alwine is drawn from the author’s historical treatment of the Allwein/Allwine/Alwine/Alwin families in North America. See Duane F. Alwin, *Familie Allwein: Descendants of Hans Jacob and Catharina Allwein* (Bloomington, Indiana: Xlibris, 2009), volume 1: *An Early History*; volume 2: *Journeys in Time and Place*, forthcoming.
3. *Fourth Census of the United States* (1820), *Inhabitants of Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania*, 57; *Fifth Census of the United States* (1830), *Inhabitants of Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 330; *Sixth Census of the United States* (1840), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 13; *Seventh Census of the United States* (1850), *Inhabitants of Paradise*

- Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 401; *Eighth Census of the United States* (1860), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 703.
4. Jerome Allwein, *Genealogy of the Allwein-Arnold Families* (Philadelphia: manuscript, 1902) 15.
 5. Marriage Records of the *Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Paradise, York County* (McSherrystown, Pennsylvania: John Timon Reily Historical Society, n.d).
 6. Jerome Allwein, *Genealogy of the Allwein-Arnold Families*, 48.
 7. *Seventh Census of the United States* (1850), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 401; *Eighth Census of the United States* (1860), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 701; *Ninth Census of the United States* (1870), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 182B; *Tenth Census of the United States* (1880), *Inhabitants of Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, 16.
 8. Gibson, *History of York County*, 160.
 9. Estate records were obtained from the Clerk of Courts, Adams County, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
 10. Records obtained from the Orphans' Court, Adams County, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
 11. *Twelfth Census of the United States* (1900), *Inhabitants of Berwick Borough, Adams County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 4, 47A.
 12. For an encyclopedic treatment of the history of brick and brickmaking, see James W.P. Campbell and Will Pryce, *Brick: A World History* (London and New York: Thames and Hudson, 2003); see also Kenneth Hudson, *Building Materials* (London: Longman, 1972), 28-42.
 13. Campbell and Pryce, *Brick: A World History*, 14-15.
 14. *Ibid.*, 312-313.
 15. Personal correspondence, Douglas Owen Alwine, August 28, 2012.
 16. MOLDER, HAND (brick & tile) [Code: 575.684-042], *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (revised 4th edition). (Washington D.C.: United States Department of Labor, 1977). See <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/contents.html>.

17. Personal correspondence, Douglas Owen Alwine, December 1, 2011.
18. Henry Martin, *Illustrated Catalogue of the Latest and Best Improved Brick Machinery* (Lancaster, Pennsylvania: New Era Press, 1886). [Copy available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19107.]
19. "Old Brick Firm Crumbles into Past," *The Evening Sun* (Hanover, Pennsylvania) March 6, 1999, 1.
20. KILN BURNER (brick & tile) alternate titles: baker; burner. [Code: 575.684-042], *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (revised 4th edition). (Washington D.C.: United States Department of Labor, 1977). See <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/contents.html>
21. "Alwine Brick Company's 100th Anniversary," *New Oxford Item* (New Oxford, Pennsylvania), Thursday, June 21, 1951, 1-2.
22. Campbell and Pryce, *Brick: A World History*, 16; and Hudson, *Building Materials*, 51.
23. "Alwine Brick Company's 100th Anniversary," *New Oxford Item*, Thursday, June 21, 1951.
24. "Old Brick Firm Crumbles into Past," *The Evening Sun*, March 6, 1999.
25. Correspondence from Charles E. Alwine to Charles R. Alwine, May 10, 1982.
26. "Old Brick Firm Crumbles into Past," *The Evening Sun*, March 6, 1999.
27. Gibson, *History of York County Pennsylvania*, 684.
28. Sandra S. Korowski, Ed., *The Spring Grove Years, 1882-1992*, Spring Grove Centennial Publications Committee, Philip H. Hershey, Chairman (Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, 1992) 39.
29. Beach Nichols, *Atlas of York County Pennsylvania Illustrated from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia: Pomeroy, Whitman & Co., 1876) 36. [Reproduction by Windmill Publications, Inc., Mt. Vernon, Indiana, 1999.]
30. "Alwine Brick Company Enters 75th Year," *The Gettysburg Times*, March 15, 1926, 1, and "Alwine Brick Company's 100th Anniversary," *New Oxford Item*, Thursday, June 21, 1951, 1-2.

31. Gibson, *History of York County Pennsylvania*, 684.
32. Although this photo (and others of the same site) of an early brickmaking operation were in the possession of an Alwine family member, they were unlabeled, and we do not know whether or not they are of the original Alwine brickyard. The depiction in fig. 4, however, is certainly consistent with such a possibility and the circumstances suggest this is a plausible, if not definitive, interpretation.
33. *Twelfth Census of the United States* (1900), *Inhabitants of Oxford Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 25, 299A; *Thirteenth Census of the United States* (1910), *Inhabitants of Spring Grove, York County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 99, 123A; *Thirteenth Census of the United States* (1910), *Inhabitants of Oxford Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 29, 43B.
34. Prowell, *History of York County, Pennsylvania*, 1015-1016.
35. *Ibid.*, 911.
36. *Fourteenth Census of the United States* (1920), *Inhabitants of Spring Grove, York County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 99, 210A; *Fifteenth Census of the United States* (1930), *Inhabitants of Spring Grove, York County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 67-74, 253 A.
37. *Fourteenth Census of the United States* (1920), *Inhabitants of Oxford Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 28, 28B; *Fifteenth Census of the United States* (1930), *Inhabitants of New Oxford, Adams County, Pennsylvania*, E.D. No. 1-28, 46A.
38. The Posey Iron Works is no longer in existence, but a descendant of the Posey brick machine, called the Lancaster AutoBrik[®] machine, is sold by Kercher Industries, headquartered in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. In 1983 the Kercher Machine Works purchased the assets of the Posey Company, and thereafter produced mixing equipment, brickmaking equipment, and aggregate drying equipment similar to that previously manufactured by Posey. See the brochure for the Lancaster AutoBrik[®] Machine Production System at the following URL: http://www.lancasterprd.com/client_images/catalog20029/pages/files/brick_machine_brochure.pdf
39. Personal correspondence, Douglas Owen Alwine, August 28, 2012.

40. See entry for “Charles Emory Alwine,” *Pennsylvania--The Heritage of a Commonwealth: Family and Personal Records*, ed. Sylvester K. Stevens (West Palm Beach, FL: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1968).
41. “Charles E. Alwine Ends 49 Years as Alwine Brick Co. President,” *The Gettysburg Times*, May, 30, 1975, 1 and 9.
42. “Alwins Sue in Equity to Secure Stock,” *The Gettysburg Times*, August 1, 1959, 1 and 3.
43. Bloom, *History of Adams County*, 254.
44. “Charles E. Alwine Ends 49 Years as Alwine Brick Co. President,” *The Gettysburg Times*, May, 30, 1975, 1 and 9.
45. See <http://www.pennsburgmanor.org>
46. Documented by the Library of Congress—see the following URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/related/?fi=name&q=Alwine%20Brick%20Company>.
47. My research indicates that exterior bricks for four buildings built in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s came from the Alwine Brick Company—the College Union Building (CUM), the Fisher-Sieber Health Center, the McCreary Science Building, and Apple Hall dormitory. I acknowledge the assistance of Carolyn Sautter, Dave Swisher and Ruth Miller of Gettysburg College in establishing these facts.
48. “Old Brick Firm Crumbles into Past,” *The Evening Sun*, March 6, 1999, 1.
49. “New Company Will Locate in New Oxford,” *The Gettysburg Times*, Thursday, March 23, 1967, 1.
50. Personal correspondence, Douglas Owen Alwine, September 22, 2012.

Contributors

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Judith Pyle attended Idaville Elementary School and York Springs High School and graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in McSherrystown, all Adams County schools. Her interest in history began with Clyde "Joe" Kennedy's history class at York Springs. She studied Interior Design with an emphasis on historic interiors and artifacts at Moore College of Art and Design, which paved the way for extensive research of two nineteenth-century Adams County signature quilts. A request to her by historian Deb McCauslin to identify another painting eventually led her to the Fibich cemetery painting.

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