

What's in this Issue

We lead off with an article about a building in Allenwood that anyone driving through on Route 15 will have noticed: an ornate, two-story, 19th Century, red-brick building, obviously formerly a store. No other Allenwood building is like it. **Jean Hormell**, a descendant of same Allen family for whom the town is named, describes the store her great, great grandfather, HP Allen, founded, anchoring the town whose history he actively shaped. Think of how many county towns are centered around general merchandise stores. Here's a great case.

The central Susquehanna, very much including Old Union County, was re-known for its gunsmiths during Revolutionary War times and later. More than 100 smiths have been identified in what is now Union and Snyder Counties. Naming the gunsmiths, the years of their practice, the signature features of their work, and preserving the surviving guns that came from their hands have long been the passion of careful researchers in our region. **Richard Nornhold** presents a well-illustrated primer for readers of ACCOUNTS and a working list of the identified gunsmiths whose works are known.

One of the oldest houses in the county, dating from about 1800, is at 125 Stein Lane in Lewisburg. A farmhouse and tenant farm for its early owners, authors **Douglas and Mary Candland**, who have owned the house for nearly 50 years, recount the history of the deeded land and the house built upon it. ACCOUNTS readers, or their parents, may have been clients and patients of the Muffy veterinarian and Loughhead obstetrical practices based in the house during the mid-20th century. The Candlands' article ends with the results of deed research that is a fine model for others to follow in researching their own properties.

Tom Walker was puzzled by the address on envelopes of letters written home to New Berlin by his father, Lt. Spencer Walker, during his World War II Air Force service. The letters and envelopes were saved by Tom Walker's mother and handed down. The envelopes' address, "104 Market Street," doesn't match the house number of the family home. Resolving the mystery leads his son on an odyssey that entails figuring out the location of the New Berlin post office during the war years, the postmasters for the town, New Berlin street addresses, and local postal practices. Along the way the author evokes recollections and assistance from various contemporary colleagues. Unravel this family mystery with Tom Walker as he follows the trail.

Mifflinburg hosted a short-lived newspaper, *The Union County Press*, during the Civil War that competed, for at least part of its short life, with *The Mifflinburg Telegraph*. Founded in 1850s, **Sidney Dreese** tells us its story – who founded and published it, its press policies and content, and the events of Mifflinburg during wartime. In the course of doing so, the author shows us how the civil war was reported in Mifflinburg, the ways in which the War impacted Mifflinburg, and the careers of the paper's owners. Dreese shows us the wealth of historical information to be learned from preserved newspapers.

This issue also publishes updated lists, compiled by **Jeannette Lasansky** and **Richard Sauers**, of businesses operating in Union County and Lewisburg.