

SOME DATA
ON THE
EARLY SETTLEMENT
OF
THE GRAMPIAN HILLS
COMMUNITY

Written by Cora Walker at Clear Haven during 1961

*“I hope those who read these memories
will be charitable in passing criticism
as I lay no claim to being an author or historian.”*

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Cora Walker (undated photo)

Cora Esther Walker was a daughter of Alfred Nelson and Rebecca (Wall) Walker, she was born April 13, 1876, in Indiana County. By 1880 the family had moved to a farm in Penn Twp. Clearfield County.

She was a member of the Society of Friends, when she died on 22 Feb 1971, she was the oldest member. Cora was also a charter member of Penn Grange of Grampian, which she joined in 1893. She was also a Golden Sheaf Member.

SOME DATA ON THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE GRAMPIAN HILLS COMMUNITY

In 1834, Penn Township was taken from Pike Township.

Joe Boone, a sheriff from Washington D. C., induced Dr. Coleman to come from Williamsport in 1801. He brought four slaves with him. These were the only slaves ever owned in Clearfield County. Boone owned a large tract of land around about Grampian which he deeded to Dr. Coleman who was the first doctor in Clearfield County.

He was of the Catholic Faith and donated a goodly number of acres to the church. A church was built and there was a cemetery nearby. It was located off the Walltown Road, perhaps a mile or more from Grampian. At that time the town was Pennville. Dr. Coleman thought the hills around were similar to his native hills of Scotland so he named the place Grampian Hills. That was the name of the postoffice for many years.

When the railroad was extended to the town it was thought best that the postoffice and station have the same name so the "Hills" was dropped from the name and Pennville became only a memory.

Dr. Coleman was buried on the farm of the late Col. James Miller, which he formerly owned. In 1887 the doctors of Clearfield County erected a monument to mark his grave. There was a large number of people attended the unveiling. After the ceremony they went to the town hall and there were speeches.

The Grampian Band was on hand. I attended the ceremony and was eleven years of age at that time. Frank Henry of Bloom Township also attended the ceremony. He later told that Dr. Coleman gave a lance to his grandfather, who was John Henry, who later gave it to Dr. Carrier.

Father Sheridan was the first priest I remember. He used to drive up from Clearfield with his horse and buggy. There was a stable nearby for his horse. A church was built and there was a cemetery. The church in later years was torn down and a new brick church was built in Grampian, also a rectory. The stone steps at the church were cut from stone at Bilger's Rocks. My father hauled them. Our house was formerly the home of the priest before the rectory was built.

The early settlers like the people of old when they came to a new land, built places of worship. The Quakers were among the pioneers. They first held meetings at the home of James Moore who lived in a log house in 1811. In 1824 a log meeting house was built on the hill where the cemetery is located, on land donated by Nathan and Ann Moore. They also donated land for the cemetery. The meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1847 and later rebuilt. The present meeting house was built in 1901 in Grampian.

The Methodist Church was located on Main Street near the center of town. It was sold and converted into a hardware store with apartments on the second floor. Stanley Orcutt kept the store for a time; later A. T. Beers and the last owner was Gates of Curwensville. It is closed now and no one lives there. They also sold groceries at this store.

A new church was built on Sixth Street. The Methodist Parsonage was at Lumber City for many years and later moved to Grampian as it was thought to be a more central location. There was once a hall in Hepburnia with a skating rink on the first floor. The second floor was used for meetings of different kinds of church services before the church was built.

The Church of God was built in the Hepburnia area, Rev. Hone, pastor. I might add that some of the lumber from the old school on the hill in Grampian was used in the construction of the church. A new church will be built a mile or so from Grampian on land donated by the Nolder family.

SCHOOLS

There was once a school house near the Warner Wall farm.

My grandfather, Jonathan Wall, once taught the Spencer Hill School in 1845. In early days the school board examined the teachers and wrote out a certificate on a slip of paper signed by the secretary and president of the board. I have my grandfather's certificate, dated 1844. I think the teachers were paid about \$20.00 a month and boarded around with the parents of the pupils.

The first school I attended was located on a hill overlooking the town which at that time was Pennville. It was built during the Civil War days when Abraham Lincoln was president. My mother also attended that school when she was a small girl and the school house was new. My mother remembered a story the teacher once told the pupils when she made a speech. She (the teacher) was a Southern sympathizer and berated Abraham Lincoln and said "he ought to be hung by the heels and brimstone put under his nose."

Other members of our family also attended. Grampian was not then a borough and pupils from the township also attended. Perhaps there were around one hundred pupils for one teacher. In those days some of the teachers taught by the "tune of the hickory stick."

I remember how some of the older boys were stood up in front of the room and beaten unmercifully. Some of us youngsters were so frightened we got down under our seats. My oldest brother was one of the boys. I don't remember what they had done. In those days pupils furnished their own books and wrote on slates with slate pencils. The county superintendent examined the teachers and if they could pass the examination of the common branches, they were eligible to teach. Later teachers were required to have a higher education.

Young people who went to high school traveled by train and paid their own transportation. When the old school house had served its time the borough built a new two story, four room school house on Sixth Street opposite the church. The Methodist congregation has recently bought the school house and may convert it into a parsonage. A boy who used to attend the school bought the bell for one hundred dollars, showing evidence of what fond memories some cherish of their school days. The township built a school house at the upper end of town. It was named Spruce Grove. It was soon too small so another building was built. This one was called a Grammer School.

The older schools of the township were Spencer Hill, located in the Hepburnia area and Porter, on the Lumber City road. These were closed years ago. Others in the township were two in Hepburnia and one at Stronach, Bell Run and Fair View. These were all closed when the new Grampian-Penn Elementary School was built. Some of the buildings were torn down; others badly damaged by juvenile delinquents.

There used to be a summer school held in the old town hall. It was a subscription school and those who attended paid tuition. They accepted all grades. Winfield Luther of Luthersburg was one of the teachers. A. A. DeLarme was also a teacher in the old school house on the hill. He was my first teacher. He later became a minister.

Reuben P. Kester and Dallas Guppy later taught summer school in the borough school building. Four of the teachers to whom I went to school were residents of Penn Township and were born and grew up there - T. Ealyn Moore was the oldest and he taught me in the old school in the hill where there were so many pupils. His wife Nora used to help out and she would hear classes in the back of the room. She was not hired but volunteered.

Reuben P. Kester, T. L. Wall and Blanche Miller Padberg were others.

We had a number of drills under the leadership of Miss Miller which we gave at Teachers Institute in the old opera house in Curwinsville, with her father Col. James Miller giving command. We also gave one of the drills at Lumber City at a teachers institute. Clara Moore Norris accompanied on the piano with march music.

I never went to high school or even passed the eighth grade as we did not have the grades in my time! We just quit school when we thought we had enough or, as many went to normal school in preparation for some vocation, were given a report card at the close of school. Of course, we had a monthly review and Mrs. Padberg is the only one of my teachers still living. She is also an artist and spends her spare time in painting and making cartoons. Some call her the Grandma Moses of Clearfield County.

Some of the older citizens who were interested in the schools used to come to visit and they were always invited to give a talk. There was Billy Johnson who in his talk would keep repeating "my young friends" so some of the boys would get their slates and pencils and keep tally as to how many times he said it - perhaps that was as much as they got out of his talk.

One time when Elisha Davis visited the school and since it was the custom when school was out for the boys who had sleds to coast down the hill, Uncle Elisha thought he would demonstrate good sportsmanship so he got a rail from a fence nearby and coasted down the hill. I hardly think it was a "joy ride," but he landed safely. I doubt if he took the rail back and put it where he got it.

In olden times folks were not so germ conscience. A pail of water and dipper were used and sometimes during school hours someone, in order to break the monotony, would ask to pass the water. Anyone who wanted a drink drank

from the same dipper and lived to tell the story. We did not have the vaccination law at that time and I was never vaccinated.

Adventures of Youth - As one reads in the press of some of the adventures of youth, it recalls some of the things that happened in my time. It seems to be natural to explore and to dream dreams of a different way of life and to try to find a way of making that dream come true. In my younger days in the old school on the hill, four of the older boys conceived the idea of going to Florida and making a living picking oranges. Perhaps these boys were about fifteen years old. They must have had this thought in mind for quite some time. My brother Harry was one of the boys. One was our Uncle Harryⁱ Wall; the others, William Helper and William Courtney. William Courtney lived with Willian Johnson a rather prominent man of his day. His home was located where J. P. Rowles had his news stand. Johnson had a safe in his home where he kept his money. The boys knew they would need money on the venture they were about to make, so Courtney would take some from the safe from time to time until he had around \$15.00. This he divided among his friends. It seems they had planned to take off during the night, but when brother Harry got up on the night planned, Mother heard him and asked him what was the matter, so he went back to bed. Then they tried another way. This time they left from school. But it seems someone was in on the secret and told William Helper's father so Mr. Helper got on his horse and started in pursuit of the boys. He overtook them on the road to Curwensville - that was the old dirt road - it was wintertime and there was snow on the ground. So he persuaded them to go back home. The boys did not want to be caught with the money, so Harry hid his under a laurel bush. Helper herded the boys to his home and they did not put up resistance. Another boy threw away his money. Mr. Helper notified the parents of the boys and they had a conference at his home and they persuaded

the boys to give up this venture. Harry told his father what he had done with his money so father took him back to where he had hid the money. The money was given back to the rightful owner.

I have often wondered how this venture would have turned out had it not been nipped in the bud. They had taken the map of Florida from their geography. Automobiles were not on the road so no hitch-hiking

INDUSTRY

Farming, mining, bricklaying and lumbering.....

Of course farming has always been the basis of industry. It has been said of the early settlers who came here when there was so much virgin timber that much fine timber was burned up in clearing the land as land was what they wanted in order to grow crops. The hemlock logs were peeled and the bark hauled to the tannery at Curwensville. My father hauled many a load.

Later timber was hauled to Lumber City and made into rafts and floated down the river to market when the spring floods came. Then there was the log drive. There were a number of saw mills in the community. Jerry Moore, one of the older residents, had one of the first. One at Walltown operated by Thomas Wall, Sr.; one at Hepburnia operated by P. J. Spencer and brother, W. G. Spencer. Thomas Stroncah, an Englishman, also had one. He and his daughter, Belle, lived in the community that bears his name. The Harbison-Walker Brick Co. and the school, also the village that was built for the workers. The brick company was quite an asset to the community in furnishing employment for a large number of workers. Fire clay and coal were hauled over a tramroad in cars drawn by mules. The brick plant is no longer there, perhaps for various reasons. The fire clay may have played out

Mines were opened up about the town and a number of houses were built for miners who came to work in the mines. Many were of foreign descent. The

place was called Jacksonville as the man who opened up the mine was named Jackson. I think he came from Philadelphia. Another mine was opened on the farm of Joseph Davis and a number of houses built. This place was called Belfast. The coal was shipped by rail.

The place was saddened by a tragedy. I think it was the only murder ever committed in this vicinity. The blacksmith's son was singing a song that went like this, "Coon, Coon, Coon, I wish my color would fade and, Coon, Coon, Coon, I want a differend shade." A colored man who lived in a shanty and worked in the mine took it as an insult, so he shot and killed the boy's father who was a Mr. Russell (no relation to the Russells who lived here). The colored man made his escape and was never apprehended.

Howard Burns was another coal operator in the vicinity. He opened a company store known as the Grampian Supply Company. It was in the store of "Lide" Spencer and J. C. Soeman was the manager. There were mines on the D. D. Miller farm and coal shipped by rail. There was a tippie near the track leading to Belfast mines. There were other smaller mines that supplied the local trade.

In early days there was a shock shop for the making of barrel staves.

Elwood Wall had a brick kiln on his farm. The bricks used in building his house were made there.

There were other industries such as cider presses. The first one I remember was on the farm of Newt Freeman who lived where Richie Farwell now lives. It was run by horse power. Walter Doughman had a cider press also a planing mill. A. T. Beers had a cider press.

Then there was the Village Blacksmith. The first one I remember was Mike Lightner who had a shop on the corner where Gus Chelgryn's TV is now. He lived in the house where George Mobley lives. *Valentine Kelle*
~~Later George Rafferty~~ had a shop farther uptown near where Orvis Addleman now lives. Frank Hamilton was a blacksmith and had the shop before George Rafferty at the same location.

When one thinks of the places of business Grampian once had that are not here anymore it might be called a "ghost town". There were licensed hotel - the first one was the Grampian House, Mort Flynn the proprietor. It was located where the Grange and Community Building is now. George McMullen, Fred Smith and Frank Orcutt were other proprietors. Orcutts had a livery stable. Their son Earnest had charge of the stable. It was located where Ed Beck now makes garden. Levi Rafferty had a livery stable. Other hotels were the Aberdeen at the lower end of town near Zipf's Store. Lewis Woods had it built and was the first owner. The two proprietors I remember were Moosebarger and Smith. When it was no longer occupied it was declared a fire hazard and was torn down. When prohibition came in the hotels lost their charm. The other hotel was located where the Post Office now stands. William Ryan was the proprietor. It was destroyed by fire when the whole block burned. The town hall, the store of William McDonald. A picture house operated by Truman Davis was called "nicholodeon". The town hall housed the first free library in Clearfield County. It was owned by a group of local citizens and was used for various meetings such a s Teachers and Farmers Institutes. It had a nice stage with several curtains showing different scenes.

The Literary Society, the first in the county, put on many fine programs that were both entertaining and instructive. The young folks enjoyed meeting for practice and entertainment. The Grange met there for sometime. The Good Templar Lodge was an organization held by the older citizens for social betterment. A Constitution and By-Laws was found in grandfather's desk. It was dated 1841. Then there was a ^{Lyceum} ~~xxxx~~ where topics of the day and other subjects of an educational nature were considered and many fine papers written. These were all destroyed along with the library. I remember hearing grandfather

and others of the older citizens speak of these things. There was a P. O. S. of A. Lodge and W. C. T. U. These died a natural death for lack of interest as perhaps the younger generation did not seem to think it worthwhile, but we hope some of the seed sown may bear fruit. Grampian voted dry when it was an issue to be voted on. Penn Township voted dry once but on the second time it lost to the wets. So there is one wet spot in Penn Township. The old Mason G. Bloom house was once a tavern. It was operated by Greely Anderson, later by Samuel Hepburn. Bryan Taylor had a restaurant there and at one time sold beer. The Postoffice was located there while Bloom was there under a Democratic administration. The house nearby was the home of Gideon P. Doughman who was Post Master under a Republican administration. People from Bloom Township got their mail from the Grampian Hills Post Office. They came perhaps but once a week unless they had other errands. Then we got Rural Free Delivery. That was started during horse and buggy days. The roads were not improved at that time. There were two routes - Edwin A. Spencer and Wilmot Wall were the first carriers. Spencer served until his retirement. On the other route the later carriers were Luther Mills, Harry Russell, Ad Woods and Walter Bonsall. R. F. D. was brought about through the efforts of the Grange at large.

Grampian formerly had several stores. The E. J. Spencer Store was located on the corner where the Honor Roll stands. It was a three-story building with a hall on the third floor. The hall was used for different things. The Grange met there for a time, dances, etcetera. When grandfather left the farm, he kept store in Pennville. That was many years before my time. I do not even know where it was located as the building was no longer in existence. There are a number of houses in Grampian more than one hundred years old but they have been kept in good repair and remodeled so that if their former owners

were to return they would not recognize their old homes.

George T. Underwood, a former resident, once published a paper called, "The Pennville Monitor" in 1891, which later became "The Clearfield Progress." He had his printing press on the third floor of the Spencer Store. He also taught school then later moved to Clearfield.

A. McDonald and son William had a store where the Post Office is located. It was destroyed by fire at the time the whole block burned. Alex McGrath had a store where the Rit Worts Barber Shop and residence is located. It was a three-story building with a lodge room on the second floor. The Grange used to meet there. It was destroyed by fire along with the plumbing shop of Clyde Hepburn. G. ~~W~~^W Wood had a store that later became the John Zipf store. It is now the property of Ronald Spencer who uses it for a storage room. Rafferty Borthers had a store for many years. After the death of John, his nephew Tom carried on for a time but it is now closed. I. D. Norris had a store on the first floor of the town hall. Later Poser took over and he was the owner when the hall burned. George Shapiro had a clothing store in what is now the Borough Building, where the fire equipment is now housed. The fire company is called the Grampian-Penn ^{Borough} Township Fire Company. Howard Wriglesworth once had a store where Ronald Spencer has a hardware store. It was destroyed by fire. William Derrick had a store that was located where the old town hall once stood. His son-in-law, William Nolder, had a store in a room on the first floor. He sold mostly green groceries. Later Archie Moyer kept the store. There was an apartment on the second floor, and two on the first. A restaurant was kept in the store room, but it is all closed now and no one lives there. Etta Moore sold millinery and Grampian once had a 5 and 10¢ Store operated by Jenny Davis. George Woods had a clothing store and a restaurant (he also sold furniture). March Woods had a jewelry and repair shop.

PROFESSIONS

The twon could boast of having had four doctors and two undertakers - I don't know how well they co-operated. Dr. Currier was the first doctor I remember. He had a drugstore. Dr. Miller came later. They both practiced as long as they lived. They traveled by horse and buggy and made many trips into the country over muddy roads and through snow drifts. Among my grandfather's papers there was a bill from Dr. Miller, who attended him in his last illness. He charged 50¢ a call and brought his own medicine.

Dr. Rowles and Dr. Shaffer both began practice in Grampian but later moved to Clearfield. Dr. Shaffer is still practicing in Clearfield

Doctors Ross and Fetzer of Lumber City both practiced in the Grampian Hills community. Dr. Ross was my grandfather Wall's family doctor. Dr. Ross is the grandfahter of our own Judge Pentz of Clearfield.

There were two undertakers - Abram Moore and Lewis Welty. Abram Moore was a babinet maker and made some of his own caskets. His daughters helped to line and trim them. His shop was near his home, which was formerly the home of Ronald Spencer and J. L. Cleaver. Among grandfather's old papers was a bill for \$35.00 for the burial of his wife Mary Newpher Wall.

Grampian had no dentist but if you got the toothache and it was necessary to pull it, Doctors Currier and Miller would pull them and "ouch" did it hurt!

Grampian had a band that we had good reason to feel proud of. It was organized at Walltown with a Mr. Davis of Mahaffey as leader. Later Walter Doughman of Grampian took over the leadership for more than fifty years. They went places and won prizes. Four of the Doughman family played in the band and later two of the grandsons. The Gus Chelgren family could boast of eight members of the family playing in the band - the father and seven sons; James Maurey and sons Frank, Charles and Al; the Guy Woodle family with father and three sons, Harry, Carl and Ralph.

When the band was fifty years old, they had a reunion in the Grampian Park and many former members and friends attended. The band turned out and furnished music on many occasions and gave concerts on Orcutt's lawn. They were always on hand on Memorial Day and headed the parade to the cemetery. Memorial Day was observed very differently than it is today. There would be a meeting in the old Methodist Church with speakers. The Civil War Veterans had charge of the program. Many children with wreaths and bouquets of flowers would form in line and march to the cemetery, headed by a marshal to keep them in line. I remember one time Blanche (Miller) Padberg was dressed as the Goddess of Liberty and escorted by the Village Blacksmith, who at that time was Charles Hall. They led the children through the cemetery and strewed the flowers on the soldiers' graves. The Civil War Veterans as I remember them were: Col James Miller, William Freeman, Adam Murphy, Alex McDonald, John Goss, A. Nelson Walker, John Guiber, John Brink, Gideon P. Doughman, C. A. Wood of Bloom Township, and Joe Henry. After the Civil War Veterans passed on, or were not able to carry on, the P. O. S. of A. took over and later the American Legion, who now have charge of the observance.

Many young men in the community served in the Armed Forces through the years from the time of the Revolution, and we would pay tribute, not forgetting we also had Heroes of Peace that kept the "home fires burning" and have worked for the cause of peace by using their influence to educate that war is not the answer.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

The first electricity used in Grampian was generated in the plant of Truman Davis. It was located on the lot where Jack Miller now lives. It was later taken over by the Pennsylvania Electric Company.

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

The first weather bureau in Clearfield County was conducted by Elisha Fenton who was a prominent man in his day. He established the first newspaper the "Pennville Herald", the first newspaper in Clearfield County. In 1821 he moved to a part of Dr. Coleman's farm near Grampian. He planted a row of apple trees along the road. These trees were later on the farm of Nelson Walker. When the highway was built the trees were cut down.

Grampian once had two fairs. One was a County Fair which was held on a plot of ground overlooking the town near the old school house that was built in Civil War days. It was in charge of the County Agricultural Society. That was more than sixty-five years ago. The other was a Juvenile Fair. The only ever held in Clearfield County. Dora Helper and Rose Wachter, both school teachers, conceived the idea of a Juvenile Fair and effected an organization in 1916. Rush Scott was president. It was held for a number of years at Spruce Grove. The exhibits were first displayed in the school houses; later a pavilion was built, a band stand and booths. The ground was purchased through the sale of stock and money was raised in various ways. It was a community center for many gatherings, such as picnics, reunions, dances, etc. Wilmot Wall and Theodore King had a merry-go-round that not only the children enjoyed but some of the older folks also.

When the fair was no longer held the Grange took over the property and it was sold to the new Grampian-Penn Elementary School Jointure.

In reviewing the past there are so many things that come to my mind that I can only mention briefly. the people who used to live in our community and had a part in its activities.

There used to be some colored people who lived where Jack Miller now lives. They were the George Harthven family. There was one Isaac Cochran who lived

in the Spencer Hill neighborhood. Once when I mentioned this at Grange and said, "they seemed to have faded out" everyone laughed. I did not mean they had become white but that they were no longer with us. Some of these colored people used to visit us and sat at our table for meals and we youngsters thought no more of it than if they were white. So there was no segregation.

The Irish Settlement - so named because of the people of Irish descent who settled there. In early days there were three Rafferty brothers named, Pat, Tom and Felix who came from Ireland. They settled in that community and my grandfather lived neighbors to them. His sister used to bake bread for them. One day then they came for the bread it was not done and they were a bit dismayed and said, "they thought the women had been lazy and the way they fixed lazy women in Ireland was to give them a few knockdowns in the morning before breakfast." These brothers all got married and there are many of their descendants in the community. Others were the McKeowns, Danvers, Quigleys, Flynns, Keenans. Hats off to the Irish, they were good friends and neighbors.

My great-grandfather, who was Jonathan Wall, Sr., came to Penn Township in 1821 and lived on the Joe Boone farm where Grampian is now located. He later bought and cleared the Knob Farm and paid for it 575 bushels of wheat. This was later the farm of Elisha Davis. It is now the property of Clair Wriglesworth. It has been a landmark in Clearfield County for many years and is considered the highest elevation in the county, being 2200 feet above sea level.

My story would not be complete without some mention being made of the Joseph Davis Sugar Camp which was quite an interesting factor in its day. The camp was located back over a hill where there were many sugar maple trees. There was a boiler house with a large brick oven over which was placed a large

pan for boiling the sap. When it was boiled down to the proper consistency, it was taken to another building used as a kitchen for finishing into syrup and sugar. This was the women's job. The sap was collected and hauled in barrels on a sled drawn by horses. The barrels were rolled up on a skidway and siphoned into the pan. The place attracted many visitors, especially on Sunday afternoons. The syrup sold for \$1.00 a gallon and the sugar 5 and 10¢ a cake. When the season was over, the buckets were washed and stored until the next season. I helped ~~once~~ ~~in~~ ~~making the syrup and sugar.~~ This was once

the property of my grandfather Jonathan Wall. He made some syrup but on a smaller scale. He boiled in kettles. This was before my time. I might add that this farm was where my mother was born. When the project was discontinued, Truman Davis put in a sawmill and cut the timber, so the sugar camp became only a "sweet memory."

In recalling things of the past, many things come to my mind. It seemed to me there was more neighborliness and combined work and play such as corn huskings, barn raisings, log rolling and even apole cutting. Almost every farm had a dry house or smoke house for drying apples and smoking meat. In all these things there was always a big meal which the farmers' wives knew so well how to prepare and there was always plenty of help.

Then there was the country wedding. After dinner it was the custom to go for a buggy ride and that was the wedding trip. All those who had a horse and buggy joined in.

There were some things that come to my mind that should have been written in their proper place. It would seem that Grampian might be called a "ghost town" when we think of the things that once existed that are no longer there, and yet we call this an age of progress and rightly so. I think with the coming of the automobile, the improved roads, electric appliances and modern

conveniences the economic situation has changed.

Before the train came to Grampian, some one drove to Curwensville with a horse and buggy and brought the mail to the Post Office. After we had the train service a man, whom I recall as Adam Murphy, met the train with a two-wheeled cart and brought the mail bags to the Post Office. Erma Moore, a young girl who lived at Stronach, would come by train and carry the mail to the Harbison-Walker Brick Plant. There was a flag station at Stronach.

GRIST MILLS

Jerry Moore had the first grist mill. It had stone burrs for grinding. One of the burrs may be seen at the home of the late Ralph Moore. When he built a stone springhouse, he had the burr placed in the side of the springhouse. It can be seen from the road.

The other grist mill at the lower end of town was once destroyed by fire. The Ellis Kester was one of the millers. Grant and William Wood once owned and operated the mill, also Wilmot Wall and son Earl. The Nelsons of DuBois, later Mr. Shimmel, were the last owners, but as far as I know it is not in operation at present.

The first rural telephone of which I remember was a private line between Joseph and Elisha Davis. They built it themselves and it had no connection with any other lines.

Later there was the Farmers' Rural Telephone with the exchange in Hepburnia. It was extended into Bloom Township, Penn and Grampian. It was in operation for a number of years and then taken over by the Bell System.

There were two ball grounds. One on the William Russell farm. One time as a WPA project it was graded at considerable expense to make it better fitted. The other one was on what was called Viney's Hill - so named because George McDonald pastured their cow there and Mrs. McDonald's name was Viney, and as one fellow put it, "she bossed the wild strawberries that grew there."

As we turn back the pages of yesteryear it is like a panarama as pictures of the past come before us. We used to go for chestnuts which were plentiful at that time. We also enjoyed eating them, especially when boiled or roasted. Some years ago a blight struck and killed them so they are no more.

In my early years people let their livestock have free range and go where they pleased. People had fences, mostly rail. Railsplitting was one of the things that was done. I think Abraham Lincoln was once called a "rail splitter." There were also some stump fences.

Then there were the peddlers, mostly Jewish, who used to travel on foot carrying a huge pack of merchandise on his back. It was surprising how much he could carry. We youngsters were always interested to see him open his pack. Sometimes he would stop for a meal or stay over night. We entertained them at times. At that time there were no motels or road houses and hitchhiking had not come into practice.

There were also the rag peddlers who collected rags and old rubber shoes in exchange for tinware, etc. One time, when the rag peddler stopped, Mother told us if we would gather what rubber we could find, we might have whatever he would give us for it. We got busy and gave him what we could find. He held them up and guessed at the weight and tore off a row of pins and said, "Now you need neither borrow or lend." How do you think we kids felt? So we lost faith in the rag peddler.

Natural gas was found on the farm of William T. Thorpe in 1825. It is being used at the Thorpe home but the line was never extended further.

At one time the railroad company planned to extend their line to DuBois and the road was graded over through Hepburnia area and above Wall Town, but was discontinued and never built.

The "Y" where the train used to go to turn and the track to the mines was taken up years ago, so there is no service except some coal shipping from strip mining - and the old station is torn down.

I don't want to forget that Grampian once had a lock-up for those who broke the peace by getting too full of "O Be Joyful." John Pentz was the constable. If someone had more than he could carry, John got his horse and stoneboat and hauled them off to the lock-up to sober up. On one occasion a fellow had been placed in the lock-up, upon sobering, did not like his quarters so he tore down the flue and made a hole large enough to crawl through. He was discovered high and dry on the roof and was rescued.

Then there was the Allen McDonald watering trough where "Dobbin" could stop for refreshing and at no charge. There were plenty of hitching posts but no parking meters.

Some forty years ago a Chataugua was held in Grampian. The tent was on the lot where the Pachler Garage is now. There were also camp meetings in tents or in the pavilion. A colored camp meeting was once held in the building on the old Fair Grounds on the hill.

There was once a water line extending from the spring that was at the home of Jonathan Wall. He built the house there. It was a fine spring of flowing water. The line was made of logs with holes through the center. It was extended to near the center of town and a number of residents got the water. Ide McDonald had a boring machine and he bored the holes. It was in operation for a number of years but, eventually, the logs rotted and with the building of the highway, it was torn up. The property was later owned by Hardman Heitzenrather. I don't remember who was the owner when the water line was built. It was later the property of the late Ralph Moore, but the spring is no longer what it formerly was due to a stripping operation. So it was through.

A final thought about the Grange, a farmer's organization, which has stood through a period of more than 85 years. It was organized in 1875. Many changes have taken place since then, both in the type of meetings and the personnel. As will be noted in this story, it was held in many different halls and places. At one time it met in the Friends' Meeting House. From there it moved to the borough building on the second floor where the P. O. S. of A. met. There were times in the past when they considered having a hall of their own, but it seemed cheaper to rent. But finally it was decided to buy a house and convert it into a meeting place they could call their own. So a house was purchased and with considerable work and expense. The house was located just below the Bachelier Garage along the highway. It was formerly the property of Lizzie Rafferty. The Grange seemed to grow and prosper and there was a feeling that goes with having a home of your own. As time went on some were dreaming of a large place where they could entertain Pomona Grange and other public meetings and to make it a community center, as Grampian had no such building - so many halls had been destroyed by fire. A committee was appointed to plan such a venture. The committee included citizens outside the Grange membership. So today the building is there to speak for itself and is known as the Penn Grange and Community Centre. We hope it is a demonstration of a community spirit that will help to build a higher manhood and a better womanhood, one of the objects of the Grange.

FARMING

The first milkman to deliver milk in Grampian was James D. Wall. He lived on the farm where Richie Farwell now lives. He had the milk in large cans and measured it out with a dipper to customers who brought their own containers. He had a bell like a teacher's schoolbell that he would ring as he went from house to house. Those wanting milk would come and get it when

they heard the bell. At first, it was a bit embarrassing to ring the bell but it worked out and that was the important thing. He did not like the idea of delivering milk on Sunday, so he made a delivery on Saturday evening. After he retired, Seymour Kester sold milk for a number of years and later the Sanitary Milk Company of Curwensville were supplying the trade. The first milk dealers sold raw milk but now it is pasteurized. Robinson Murphy - nicknamed "Rube" - a former Grampian boy worked for the Sanitary Milk Company and delivered the milk. Somehow, we like to see a familiar face.

Our uncle, Elisha Davis, made butter for many years and delivered it to Clearfield to his customers. He drove a horse and buggy. When he retired and sold his farm he said, "It is a serious thing to give up your life's work." He did not retire on a pension or Social Security.

So many changes have taken place through the years. If a farmer had been told that some day he would be paid for not growing crops, he would have thought it was a "fairy tale" and the Soil Bank had not even been dreamed of. In the olden times farmers had to work out their own problems, but now there is the County Agent or Farm Bureau. We also have the Home Economics leader sponsored by Penn State University. Mr. Kearney was the first County Agent in our community. I was asked to assume the leadership of the Home Economics Committee. We met sometimes in the homes or Grange hall. We took up sewing, cooking, canning by the cold-pack method, home furnishing, food values, etc., and the use of substitutes that we used during times of war - sugar was rationed and we were taught to use dried fruits in cereal.

There were various activities such as making supplies in case war came close to home, rolling bandages, etc., that could be used for wounds.

We are thankful we never needed to use them and I doubt if anyone knows what became of them.

Crampian had a hatchery known as the American Chickery. It was owned and operated by Clarence Keiser. He sold baby chicks and shipped them over a large area. He bought and sold dressed poultry and also raised turkeys.

There were meat markets operated by Arthur Williams, V. P. Daviss, Levi Hepburn and the present one is owned by G. L. Chelgren. The butchers used to buy from the farmers and would go to the farms and do their own butchering or the farmer would have it done and deliver it, but I think they mostly buy from wholesale dealers now.

George Kittlebarger of Curwensville, who had a meat market, used to come into the area and do butchering.

Farmers used to send their young cattle to the mountains to pasture for the summer. There was a herder who would go around and contact those who had cattle to send. They had a metal tag put in the ear with the name of the owner. Some of the men, and boys, would go along to drive the cattle. I went along once to drive the horse and buggy for the boys to ride back home. It was a long walk and they were glad to ride. The cattle got tired, too. Mr. Painter was the herder I remember. He lived in a camp on the mountain,

People who had a spring usually had a spring house for keeping milk and other foodstuff cool. They used to sell butter to the store in exchange for groceries but now that is all done away with - creamery butter is the only butter on the market. Not everyone made good butter.

Grampian used to have many shade trees but when the highway was widened and a curb built, the trees were cut down. The place looked bare for a time, but you have to get used to things in the line of "Progress."

The George Woods building has been torn down and a new postoffice built in its place.

I feel I have written enough as I did not start out to write a book, but only on the suggestion of a friend to jot down some things as I remembered them.

I hope those who read these memories will be charitable in passing criticism as I lay no claim to being an author or historian.

I have been away from Grampian for more than two years, so from now on I will be like Will Rogers, "All I know will be what I read in the paper," and that paper will be Clearfield's THE PROGRESS.

Written by Cora Walker at Clear Haven
during 1961