

## **FULTON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS**

The Fulton County Historical Society in McConnellsburg, PA, has the best collection in the world of the three Fulton County newspapers published in McConnellsburg since Fulton County was formed in 1850. The FULTON DEMOCRAT and the FULTON REPUBLICAN papers were very political as their name suggests, and subscribers were often so loyal that they might send personal information to one paper and not the other!

After Fulton County was officially divided from Bedford County in April 1850, the JACKSON DEMOCRAT newspaper moved from Bedford to McConnellsburg and in September 1850 began publishing the paper as the FULTON DEMOCRAT. The newspaper ceased publication on June 29, 1983. The last owner, Lee Oakman, donated the entire collection to the Fulton County Historical Society in December 1983. The bound volumes begin in 1866 but a break occurs from August 6, 1944, through the end of 1946 when copies were apparently donated to the paper drives of World War II.

On January 17, 1851, the FULTON REPUBLICAN newspaper began publication in McConnellsburg and continued until the paper closed in 1921. Bound volumes beginning with January 1865 were stored in the attic of the bank in McConnellsburg and donated to the Fulton County Historical Society after the Fulton House was opened and dedicated in 1976. Since the State Library in Harrisburg did not have copies of the FULTON REPUBLICAN, Glenn Cordell was given permission to use the microfilm camera at the Fulton County Courthouse to film these

newspapers about 1980. Some reels are in negative format (white letters on black background).

No copies are known to exist for the first 15 years of publication prior to 1865-66. The assumption is that paper was useful and was taken by Confederate soldiers during one of their raids in the town during the Civil War. Sometimes other newspapers picked up articles printed locally during this period and reprinted the article in their paper. Researchers have sometimes found local information by searching various newspaper archives on the internet.

On September 21, 1899, the FULTON COUNTY NEWS began publication and continues today as the only newspaper printed in Fulton County. The papers were all professionally microfilmed. So researchers would not need to contact the NEWS office for older editions, the microfilm reels were first loaned and then donated to the Fulton County Historical Society where they are available for public use in the Society's library. The collection is complete except for missing years 1912-1913 and years 1981-1987 although the Society began subscribing to the NEWS and has original paper copies bound at the Fulton House from 1980 to the present. A microfilm reel is also missing for January-June 2004. NEWS articles can be searched on the internet from your home computer at [www.fultoncountynews.com](http://www.fultoncountynews.com) for issues since September 24, 2005.

The original newspapers are stored in the Fulton House. During the years when the Society's research books were housed on the second floor of the Fulton House and open to the public every Thursday evening, the newspapers received hard use from

genealogists and began to deteriorate, especially as the bound volumes were turned upside down to be photocopied. A few articles were cut although this may have happened before the Society received the papers. After the Society's library collection was moved to the Fulton County Library, 227 N. First St, McConnellsburg, in 2001, the newspapers remained in the Fulton House with instruction from the Board of Directors that they remain closed to the public without specific permission for handling under supervision. The originals cannot be replaced.

## **Microfilm Collection**

***Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.***

***Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA***

### **85 reels - FULTON COUNTY NEWS**

Roll 1 begins September 21, 1899; ends December 2010

Missing 1912-1913; 1981-87

Donated by the Fulton County News

See [www.fultoncountynews.com](http://www.fultoncountynews.com) for recent newspapers

### **26 reels - FULTON DEMOCRAT newspapers**

Roll 1 begins July 3, 1889; Roll 26 ends December 25, 1975

Missing July 1893 through June 1894; all of 1913 through 1917; all of 1941 through 1950; all of 1967 through 1971

## **15 reels - FULTON REPUBLICAN newspapers**

Roll 1 begins January 5, 1865; Roll 15 ends October 21, 1921

Missing all of 1888, all of 1890. Many issues are missing after 1903. It was sometimes common to have only 50 issues per year with no newspaper printed the week of July 4 or December 25. The years available are as follows:

1865 – complete

1866 - complete

1867 – complete

1868 – ends on August 13

1869 – begins on April 15

1870 – missing issues #8, 25, 29, 32, 39

1871 – missing issues #5, 20, 22, 23, 25, 30, 44

1872 – missing issue #16

1873 – missing issue #1

1874 – complete

1875 – complete

1876 – complete

1877 – complete

1878 – missing issue #28

1879 – complete

1880 – complete

1881 – complete

1882 – missing issue #33

1883 – complete

1884 – missing ALL issues except #26-38 and #41

1885 – missing issue #14

1886 – complete

1887 – missing issue #35

1888 – missing ALL issues

1889 – complete  
1890 – missing ALL issues  
1891 – missing issue #38  
1892 – complete  
1893 – complete  
1894 – complete  
1895 – missing 3 issues  
1896 – missing 4 issues  
1897 – missing 4 issues  
1898 – complete  
1899 – complete  
1900 – missing issue #4  
1901 – missing 2 issues  
1902 – missing issues #27, 30, 33, 42, 43, 47  
1903 – missing 3 issues  
1904 – incomplete – only 15 issues  
1905 – incomplete – only 9 issues  
1906-1907-1908 – incomplete, only 1 issue each year  
1909 through 1914 – no issues at all  
1915 – incomplete – only issue #47 to end of year  
1916 – missing 2 issues  
1917 – missing issues #16, 34, 36, 37, 42, 44, 47, 49, 50, 51  
1918 – missing issues #21, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39 to end  
1919 – missing 21 issues  
1920 – missing 16 issues  
1921 – ends October 21 – end of publication