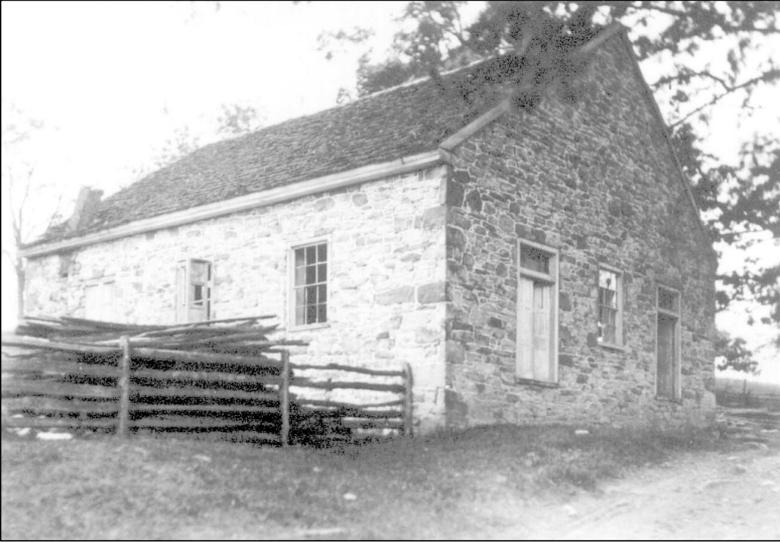


# **Marriages and Deaths 1865-1884**

**from Fulton County Newspapers**



***STONE CHURCH - Two Scots-Irish Presbyterian groups shared the stone Seceder church built in 1828 in Ayr Township. An Associate group left in 1879 to build a frame church at Union Cemetery, and the main group moved into a new frame church in 1886 on Lincoln Way West in McConnellsburg. The early stone church was demolished.***

**Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.**  
PO Box 115  
McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania 17233

Copyright (c) 2007 by the Fulton County Historical Society  
Not to be reproduced or put on the internet without permission.  
Library of Congress No. ISSN 1557-6965

## IN APPRECIATION



Data in this book was compiled and typed by Samuel H. Buterbaugh of McConnellsburg from original Fulton County newspapers. He loaned his typed notebook to the Society for this publication. Sam has always been interested in local families and events. He has a wealth of historical information and a great memory for stories.

Roy Shaw, formerly of northern Fulton County but now living in Appomattox, Virginia, took Sam's typed pages and scanned them into a format for printing. The scanner made endless misspellings trying to read the floating capital letters and e's and o's closed by the old typewriter ribbons. Roy's contribution to this book was a major one.

Gene Leese, publisher of the Mercersburg Journal, once again donated his time and skill to the editing and layout of this book. The volunteer hours given by Sam, Roy and Gene have made this book possible as a benefit for members and friends of the Fulton County Historical Society.

**COVER PHOTO:** An advertisement from the 1878 Fulton County Almanac, J.E. Downes, Publisher.

PRINTED in 2007 by Fulton County News, McConnellsburg, PA

# INTRODUCTION

*by Roy Shaw*

History is recorded in books, but it typically is from a bird's-eye view. Everyone with roots in Fulton County should be grateful for the foresight and energy of Sam Buterbaugh, who, 40 years ago, recognized that history occurs at the family level; so, he perused decades of *Fulton Democrat* and *Fulton Republican* newspapers and transcribed the marriages and deaths of past countians. Legal information such as inquisitions and rules of heirs were also included. Thanks to Sam, local news from a century past is now much more accessible.

While genealogists will appreciate the dates in this book (although it should be remembered that these dates are from newspapers and may not be good enough for strict genealogists), this volume contains more than dates. It provides insight into the lives of 19th century Fulton countians.

One of the most obvious observations provided in this book is the extremely high mortality rate of young people back then. We can look back from the relative safety of today and see families torn apart by diphtheria, scarlet and typhoid fevers, consumption (TB), cholera, dysentery, or smallpox. The Chaney's lost two children and their mother within two days; a Sipes family lost a four- and a six-year-old on the same day; two Mellott girls were small enough to be buried in the same coffin. This type of news was sad, but not uncommon in the 1880s.

Surviving childhood was not, however, a guarantee of making it to old age. This book reads like a manual of ways to die - people died from eating too many chestnuts, being thrown from horses, train "mishaps," falling trees, freezing. Young John Buterbaugh died from being butted by a buck sheep.

With life so tenuous, it is small wonder then that religion was very important to most people. Obituaries often included where and when the departed had "converted" or

been “born again,” and how many years they had been a member of their church.

There were men who fought in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and, of course, the Civil War. This book begins with the 1865 news, some of which was of soldiers who “came home to die.” The Civil War officers were held in particularly high esteem, with the public referring to their military rank for the rest of their lives, e.g., Maj. Chesnut and Capt. Wishart.

One can also see the mass migrations of people during the 19th century. Fulton County had immigrants from Germany, Ireland, England, and Scotland. Many countians also moved, especially to the Midwest, but some just “went West.”

This book illustrates the strong patriarchal society of that day. When Mrs. Warner died in 1880, it was at the residence of her husband, not at home! Widows often were referred to as living with their sons-in-law, not their daughters.

Local government in the 19th century was different from today, with townships playing a more important role. Language, too, was different, and I liked learning some new words. For example, I am happy to have a “consort,” but sad that she will probably be my “relict” someday.

I would have loved to have met some of the characters in this book. Mrs. Shoemaker, who was indentured to a New Yorker for nine years after her passage from Germany, lived to be 100 years old and remembered seeing George Washington after the Revolutionary War. Another, Miss McCormick, died at 90 years old, the last of a family of eight, none of whom ever married.

The local history packed into this volume just piqued my interest for more. Why were so many of the German immigrants from Hesse Darmstadt? Where was Elysian Mills in Ayr Township? (I think I’d like to retire there!) What was the Seceder Church? I’m sure some of the answers are at the Historical Society; see you there.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

*by Glenn Cordell*

In Pennsylvania, marriage licenses were not issued by the state before 1885, and death certificates were not required until 1895. Thus the newspaper marriage and death notices in this book for 1865-1884 will not be found in any public record.

Marriages and deaths only appeared in the newspaper if a family member or friend submitted the notice. They were more likely to do so if they subscribed to either the *Fulton Democrat* or *Fulton Republican*. Names from Path Valley, Little Cove, Lemasters, or Loudon (Ft. Loudon) in Franklin County would seem to indicate those families subscribed to a Fulton County newspaper, or had family relatives who did, or who had resided here sometime in the past and wanted former friends to know of their event.

Dates given in this book are meant to be the date of the wedding or date that death occurred, not the date of the newspaper where it appeared. Dates are not in order, since some people delayed sometimes before sending in the news. Also, when Sam was transcribing, he would work through one bound newspaper, then start over with the competing paper. In many cases, the newspaper might give the date as "Tuesday ultimate," so Sam had to calculate backwards to find the calendar date.

Marriages were not likely held in churches and were not the large events common to our generation. If the couple were married by their minister, the ceremony could take place in the parsonage or the home of a family member or friend. A man elected as a Justice of the Peace (often noted with Esq. after his name) could also legally perform marriages. An exception to a normally private wedding took place on September 16, 1877, when George Pittman and Miss Emma Mellott were married at a Methodist "Bush Meeting" or outdoor revival service near Big Cove Tannery.

The newspaper staff had no way to verify the accuracy of

the information given to them. In at least one incident, either as a prank or through malice, a Warfordsburg marriage in 1882 was reported and published, then retracted the following week.

Other notices give insight into the period. One bride on her wedding day in September 1883 was just 14 years old. A man who died in January 1883 was 95 years old and had 28 children from three marriages. Daniel Wink “lived and died on the farm where he was born.” William Seylar, who died in December 1880, was known for manufacturing both the Gap plow and the Seylar plow.

Fulton County was established in the spring of 1850 with McConnellsburg as the county seat. Fairly quickly, two weekly newspapers started up, each having strong political viewpoints. The *Fulton Democrat* dates to September 1850 and the *Fulton Republican* to January 1851. The earliest existing copies today of the *Republican* begin in 1865 and the *Democrat* in 1866; earlier copies may have been lost during Confederate raids. Bound volumes of the papers from which Sam worked are in the Fulton County Historical Society collection today. Some have been microfilmed.

The index to this volume includes maiden surnames and daughters’ married surnames when given. It does not include the name of the minister or justice of the peace, unless that person had a common Fulton County surname which was picked up by the computer program when indexing similar names.

There is additional material from Sam’s collection for a series of volumes, if this type information proves helpful to researchers.

Fulton Foundry & Machine Shop.



**WM. B. SEYLAR,**

McCONNELLSBURG, PA.

MANUFACTURER OF THE JUSTLY CELEBRATED

**“Seylar Plow,”**

FOUR SEERS.

CASTINGS FOR MILLS!

TANNERIES!

THRESHING MACHINES!

AND OTHER MACHINERY,

On hand or manufactured to order on short notice. Lumber sawed to order. All orders attended to with promptness.

*An advertisement from the  
1878 Fulton County  
Almanac by J.E. Downes.*

# Marriages and Deaths, 1865-1884

- died 1-8-1865 in Todd Twp., Mrs. Margaret Bell, aged 87-2-15  
1-25-1865 John Comerer Jr. aged 58-5-17, born Lancaster Co. Pa.; Evangelical Lutheran; married Elizabeth Irvine on 3-19-1835
- married 1-1-1865 at Springfield, Ohio, by Rev. Joseph Clokey: Thomas L Carson of Baltimore Md. & Hennie B. Patterson formerly of this county  
1-23-1865 John H. Greenough of North Point, Bedford Co. & Elizabeth L. McKillip of Fulton Co. by Rev. D.S. Banks
- married 2-13-1865 by Rev. Dr. Smith: Major Frank W. Hess of Fulton Co. & E. Antoinette Hayden of Philadelphia
- died 2-13-1865 at Warfordsburg, Lieut. Moses Whitford 3d Md. Inf. (Home Brigade) aged 53
- married 3-2-1865 by Rev. J. H. Mathers: Andrew Fox of Lawrence Co. to Louisa Divelbiss of Fulton Co.  
3-8-1865 by Rev. S. Southmayer at Somerset: William F. Houpt Esq. of Bedford Co. & Bella Flora Ankeny of Somerset.
- died 2-22-1865 in the boro, William D. son of John H. & Matilda Wilt aged 3-3-27  
3-5-1865 in the boro, John W son of John & Sarah O. Eiklebarner; aged 1-11-6
- married 3-9-1865 by Rev. J. Smith: William Kochenderfer of Blain, Perry Co. & Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Benjamin Reese of Dublin Twp., Fulton Co.
- inquisition 3-30-1865 Jacob Shives, late of Ayr Twp. children & Legal representatives: Mary Stine wife of Isaac Stine, Nancy Clark wife of Simon Clark, John Shives, Elizabeth Masters wife of Henry Masters, Andrew Shives, Barbara H. Rhodes wife of Frederick Rhodes, & Sarah Forsyth wife of Samuel Forsyth
- married 4-2-1865 by Thomas Morton Esq.: William Swope & Mrs. Rachel Mellott, all of Belfast Twp.
- died 3-12-1865 near Delavan, Tazewell Co., Ill., Henry Work, formerly of Mercersburg, aged 77 years 3 months
- married 4-27-1865 in Somerset, Pa. by Rev. L. Y. Graham: Charles A. Gaither (editor of Fulton Democrat) & Venie E. Benford
- died 4-18-1865 Joseph Markley in 41st year of his age; wife Hannah; eldest son of Emmor & Ruth Markley
- married 6-6-1865 by Rev. Dr. Williams; William S. Everett & Charlotte S. Reed of Chambersburg.
- died 5-26-1865 Pokagen, Cass Co. Mich at residence of son Dr. Henry Leader: Maj. Henry Leader aged about 79, formerly of Bedford, Pa.  
6-2-1865 Miss Elizabeth Brady, in her 79th year, at home of William Leshner Esq. Ayr Twp., member of Presbyterian church near 60 years  
6-11-1865 Licking Creek. Twp.; Amy Florence, daughter of George W. & Elizabeth Leighty, aged 1 month 4 days.  
6-23-1865 John Stahley, Co. H 56th Reg. Pa. Vol.; Ayr Twp., burial at Lutheran Cemetery