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BCHA Party Line Volume 14 Issue 2 February 2024



Hanging the Bourne Mill 's sign was no easy task. The one piece framed sign measures 3ft x 21 ft.

The 1881 Bournes Mill's sign from the Gerald Broune homestead near Burlington has a new home. Info from a 1980 Elmira Star Gazette article states the identifying sign was made in Gerald's grandfather's time. Gerald had found it in a pile of lumber in a barn, restored it and hung it on-site.

The sign says " Brounes Mill's' ". Why is the apostrophe in the wrong place? That's the way it was originally, and Gerald copied the painted lines on the single wide board exactly. Why for that matter is there a period? Whoever made it in the first place made the errors and Gerald thought it added to the country flavor of the sign.

The first Broune Mill was started in 1849 and there were three mills in Gerald's grandfather's day

The sign, showing wear is now in a protected environment. Thank you to the Broune family and B.C.H.A. Board Member Walt Wittie who assisted in the acquisition, research and transportation.

Upcoming Events

Junction Canal, 1858 - 1871

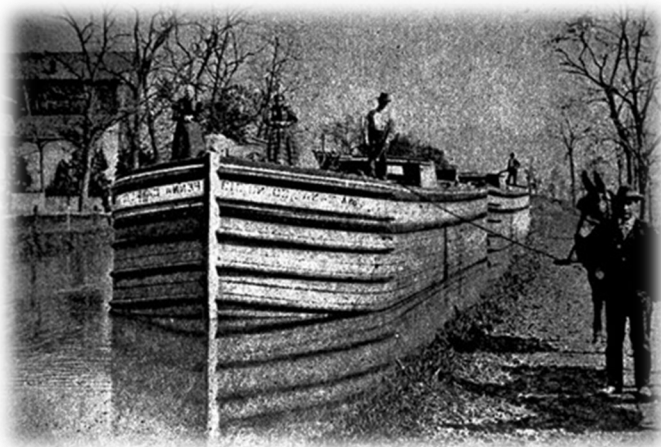
Power Point Presentation by Mary Ellen & Ron Kunst

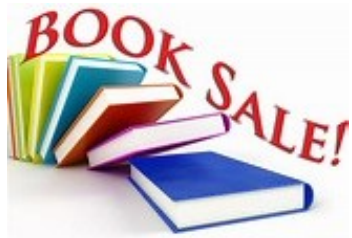
Sometimes called Arnot's Canal, it was 18 miles long with 11 locks. Work began in 1853.

Originally designed to move coal and produce to the Erie Canal by way of the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers.

Saturday April 20, 2024

Museum, Free Admission to the program





New, used and old books
Tuesdays at the Museum
9AM-noon



Museum Volunteers will be helping the Big Pond Lions Club at their annual Pancake Breakfast at Faye's Sugar Barn.

Saturday and Sunday March 23 & 24



Maple Festival—April 27 & 28 10AM-4PM, visit the museum as part of your Maple Festival ticket.

Our newly created indoor program space is quite accommodating, spacious, well lighted, heated, no steps, bathrooms, seating and parking. We are looking for individuals/groups who would like to use the space for a program that is open to the public. Speakers, demonstrations, workshops, meetings etc.

If interested please contact Barbara Barrett 570-786-9482
bbarrett362@comcast.net.



Allyn and Mitchell Store By C. R. Wagner

In 1853, John Tracy built a general store in East Smithfield, for his two sons. Eventually Charlie Allyn bought out one of the Tracy's and the store became Allyn and Tracy's. Some years later, it became Allyn and Elsbree. After World War II, it changed again to Allyn and Nichols, run by Pete Allyn and Jim Nichols.

Soon, Jim left the business to go to the Ulster Bank.

Harold Mitchell then partnered with Pete Allyn, where they would continue for over 40 years.

Harold became the post master in the late 1950's or early 1960's and worked in the post office which was up the street at the home of Miles Raker. He was able to appoint his clerks and so hired his wife, Erma and Janet Allyn, Pete's wife for those

positions. As a result, the two couples were able to rotate work schedules fairly within the two families. Eventually, Harold and Pete moved the post office to Allyn and Mitchell's.

Allyn and Mitchell's sold groceries, over the counter medicines, blue jeans, work shoes, rubber boots and animal feeds. They had a large feed route, delivering to area farmers.

Larry Allyn, the son of Pete and Janet, remembers the general store when he was growing up. One of his memories is of the Coke machine in the back of the store that held glass bottles that sold 6.5-ounce bottles of Coke and 8.5-ounce bottles of Pepsi. People had to pay a 2-cent deposit if the bottles were re-moved from the store. There were two chairs and a bench near the Coke machine. Men came in to sit, drink a Coke and "shoot the breeze."

"One of the biggest Coke drinkers was Charlie Nichols, a farmer," said Larry. "He was there at least six times a day to have a Coke." Another regular that Larry remembers was Harry Havens, a breeder of cows.

"Farmers would call the store to let them know they had a cow to breed. Then Harry would stop in at noon every day to have his lunch and get his messages," said Larry. "His lunch was a Coke and a Strohmman's banana cream cupcake which cost about 20 cents. Every time they went up one cent, Harry refused to buy them for about three days. He said they cost too much. Then after three days, he broke down and bought them again!"

As a young child, Larry's first job was to sort pop bottles and put them into the correct cases. His dad wanted his two cents back and if they were in the wrong cases the distributors wouldn't take them.

"My pay was a candy bar," said Larry.

As he got older, Larry started delivering feed with his dad.

In the 1990's Pete Allyn and Harold Mitchell retired and sold their business to Zane Chamberlain. Zane changed the store's name to Tom Jack Trading Post.

The building changed owners twice more – first to Sheila Kingsley and then to Dr. Alice Moyer. Chris Grant did the remodeling that turned it into her doctors' offices where she and Dr. Marcia Kesten have the East Smithfield Holistic Healthcare services today.

Snedekerville by David Lenington



Snedekerville was founded in 1859 by W. H. Snedeker who purchased 1,500 acres of heavily timbered land. He built a sawmill and converted the trees into lumber. The population at its peak was "in excess of 500." Mr. Snedeker served as employer, landlord, storekeeper," and postmaster.

Jerry Ryan, a descendant of W. H. Snedeker, purchased "more than 800 of the original 1,500 acres ..." by 1926. This included eleven houses and the village store. The population in 1926 was 110. The general store supplied "practically all needs of the residents ... from candy for the children to wearing apparel for the adults." The general store also contained the post office.

Did You Know- "Skid Row" is a term used to describe a run-down and poor neighborhood. It's often where homeless people or people who move around a lot live. The phrase started in the late 1800s when loggers would set up camp near the "skid road" where they slid logs to the sawmill or river. Over time, the areas became known as "skid row".

General Stores in Grover, David Lenington

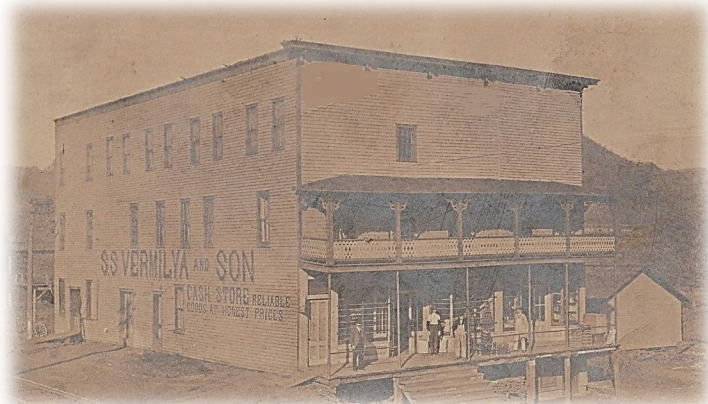
Grover, located "four miles southwest of Canton," was settled in the late 1700s. The village has a population of approximately 200.

Train service began in Grover in 1853. The first student from Grover known to go beyond the eighth grade rode the train to Canton in the early 1900s to attend Canton High School. The 10 minute trip cost 10 cents.

A picturesque grist mill was located by the beautiful water falls. Grover also had a planing mill, tannery, and milk plant.

"Most of the people ... were dairy farmers who made butter which they packed in tubs or firkins holding fifty pounds and which they exchanged ... at one of the two local stores."

"Almost any morning" customers "could drop in either of Grover's general stores and find a salesman telling anyone who would listen what people were doing and saying in other communities"



S. S. Vermilya & Son Grover, Pennsylvania

Edward "Vermilya was a farmer and the owner of Grover's principal general store."³ The Vermilya store carried groceries, yard goods, clothing, boots & shoes, and hardware items.

Rathman Store, Grover, Pennsylvania

"The Rathman store was a two story building; the family lived upstairs." "In the back of the store were bread boxes, cracker barrels, a molasses barrel and a drum filled with kerosene" for lighting. "The Rathman store was open every evening until ten o'clock." Men visited with one another "around the big potbellied stove in the rear of the store."

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