

thereon until my wife's death.

And this is my will, there so help me God.

Jacob Burkhardt

Witnesses:

George Geissler

Nicholas Schell"

Two years later Sabina died and her death notice, as recorded in the church record follows:

"Burkhardt - Sabina Dorthea; nee Naegeli died
January 1, 1796 - 74 years, 4 days.

Born December 28, 1721.

Had trouble with one eye for some years and finally
became totally blind."

Both Jacob and Sabina were buried in the Trinity Lutheran
Church Cemetery.



Trinity Lutheran Church
Reading, Pennsylvania

CHAPTER III

JOHN BURKHARDT - THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER - SECOND GENERATION IN AMERICA

John, son of Jacob and Sabina Burkhardt, grew to manhood in Reading, in the turbulent years prior to the Revolutionary War. The Burkhardt and Fox families had been close friends in Europe and that friendship strengthened and grew as they struggled together amid hardship and danger to survive in their new country. Their homes and shops were closely situated and no doubt the young people spent much time together enjoying what simple pleasures were afforded them at that time.

David Fox and his wife Catherine (nee Geiss) had eight children; namely: Jacob, Andrew, John, Christian, David, Barbara, Elizabeth and Catherine. Jacob and Sabina Burkhardt had five children survive infancy. They were John, Jacob and three daughters whose names we do not know.

A romance was developing between John Burkhardt and Mary Barbara Fox and as the war became imminent, they decided to marry before he enlisted. According to the Trinity Lutheran Church records, they were married January 30, 1776 and John enlisted April 17, 1776 as a private in Captain Andrew Long's company of

the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, commanded by Colonel Samuel Miles. John served at Valley Forge the winter of 1777 - 1778.

The hardships endured by the soldiers during that winter at Valley Forge can scarcely be imagined by our present generation with every comfort and convenience at their finger tips. An army of raw, undisciplined recruits, half naked, half starved, sickness and death rampant, little medicine, and lack of shelter from one of the most severe winters in history - can one help but wonder how any of them survived? A British historian writes that only the respect and admiration for Washington by his troops kept so many with him through the winter in that wretched situation.

However, toward the end of February, two events occurred that gave some hope and encouragement to the weary men at Valley Forge.

First: France had decided to help America in her struggle with England and would soon be sending men, arms and the fleet into the conflict.

Secondly: The French Minister of War and others of the French Cabinet had persuaded Baron Von Steuben to offer his services to the colonists. He was a Prussian, a seasoned soldier and a great disciplinarian who had served with Frederick the Great in the Seven Years War in Europe. Letters of recommendation were forwarded to General Washington from Benjamin Franklin and Mr. Dean, our envoys at Paris. A committee of Congress accepted the professional services

of the Baron and he was sent to Valley Forge.

Washington received him gratefully and soon found in him a skilled soldier whose knowledge and experience did much to prepare the troops, not only at Valley Forge, but the army as a whole, for the ensuing battles and the successful conclusion of the war.

A statue of Baron Von Steuben stands in the Valley Forge Memorial Park in recognition and grateful appreciation of his great and unselfish contribution to the cause of American liberty.

After the expiration of his first enlistment, John returned to his wife, Mary Barbara, in Reading, for a short time, but on November 1, 1778, he again enlisted in a troop that had been formed, called the "Independent Troop of Horse" and placed under the command of Major Bartholomew Von Heer. Three of John's brothers-in-law, Jacob, David and Andrew Fox, enlisted with him in this company in 1778 and also served until the end of the war.

In the "History of Old Zion Church" by William Arter Zundel, there is a paragraph pertinent to this part of the Burkhardt history which states as follows:

"There are several interesting features of the Revolutionary War that we should know. The first is that Washington's bodyguard was made up of Germans. There had been suspects in the first bodyguard and plots to seize the person of the Commander-in-Chief. On the advice of Washington's private secretary and adjutant, Reed, who was of German descent, a troop was formed consisting entirely of Germans,

called the "Independent Troop of Horse", and placed under the command of Major Bartholomew Von Heer, a Prussian, who had served as cavalry Lieutenant under Frederick the Great in the Seven Years War. Von Heer recruited most of his men in the Pennsylvania German counties; Berks and Lancaster. They began to serve in the spring of 1778 and were honorably discharged at the end of the war, twelve of them serving longer than any other American soldiers, having the honor of escorting the Commander-in-Chief to his home in Mount Vernon. These twelve men each received presents of arms, accoutrements and a horse, as we learn from a written record in the possession of the family of one of the twelve; Lewis Boyer. In the pension lists of 1828, a number of names of soldiers belonging to Von Heer's troop (14 officers and 53 men are given), Boyer was granted a pension - one hundred pounds annually. Jacob Fox (Fuchs), who had lost his discharge, brought as witnesses two former comrades, John Burkhardt (his brother-in-law) and Louis Trescher, who swore that they had belonged to Von Heer's corps and that that troop was the bodyguard of Washington.

"Colonel John Johnson, by birth an Irishman, president of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, and a personal friend of Washington, said not a single officer or soldier of this troop understood a word of English."

At the end of the war, John returned to his family in Reading and resumed his place as a weaver in the shop with his father and his brother, Jacob, Jr. John's patriotism is evidenced by his enlistment and re-enlistment in the service of his country. He was

a man of character and intelligence, capable and dependable and a leader among his contemporaries. John was called upon and assumed many of the responsibilities, not only of his own family, but that of his wife's as well.

He acted as administrator in the estate of his father-in-law, David Fox, who had died just prior to his marriage to Mary Barbara. He served in that capacity in the Andrew Fox estate (Mary Barbara's grandfather), who died in 1783 and also as co-executor with his mother in the estate of his own father, John Jacob, who died in 1794. His name appears frequently in Will books, Deed books, documents and files on record in Berks County Court House in connection with the settlement of these estates during the period from 1782 through 1796.

John and Mary Barbara were the parents of eight children: Jacob, John, Samuel, David (born in 1782), George, Daniel (born in 1785), Elizabeth (born in 1788) and Peter (born August 26, 1790 and died September 3, 1790).

Mary Barbara died the following year (1791) and her death notice, as recorded in the church records, follows:

"Burkhardt - Mary Barbara - born May 28, 1758
Died August 19, 1791 in childbirth - the
child died also.

Daughter of David Fox (deceased) and Catherine
nee Geiss

Eight children: Seven sons and one daughter
One son died."

On November 11, 1792, John Burkhardt married Catherine Fox (born October 1, 1773), a sister of his first wife, Mary Barbara. They were the parents of eleven children; namely: William, Abraham, Benjamin (1804), Solomon, Andrew, John, Barbara, Catherine, Mary, Sallie and Susan.

After the death of John's mother Sabina, in 1796, John and Catherine moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The United States Government, under the Act of May 10, 1800, offered land in Ohio to veterans who had served in the Revolutionary War. A general migration from Lancaster County to Fairfield County, Ohio took place about 1810 and John and Catherine, with their children, made the move to Ohio. John's son George, by his first wife Mary Barbara, accompanied the family west. These children were the progenitors of the Burkhardt family in Ohio. About this time, however, the descendants of John Jacob, the immigrant from Germany, changed the spelling of the name from Burkhardt (the German form) to Burkett.

On December 20, 1814, John applied for a grant of land designated as the S. W. 1/4, Section 35, Fairfield County, Ohio, and subsequently received a patent on May 25, 1820 for this land comprising 160 acres. This patent is recorded in Vol. 51, page 564, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Department of the Interior.

On April 2, 1827, John Burkett, Sr. sold to his son George a parcel of his land, being the south half of the S. W. 1/4, Section

35 in Township 16 of Range 16, containing approximately 88 acres. Consideration - \$500.00. Recorded April 30, 1828 in Deed Book Vol. C. P. 265 in the Court House at New Lexington, County seat of Perry County (formerly Fairfield County) Ohio. Witnesses: John Vanatta, J.P. and Joseph Reed.

Perry County, Ohio was organized December 12, 1817 and consisted of parts of Muskingum, Fairfield and Washington Counties.

John and his family lived here until 1835 when he moved to Sandusky County, Ohio. Land was being offered for sale by the United States Government in what is now Washington Township, Sandusky County, Ohio. John, Sr. decided to purchase land in this area and subsequently received a certificate (or deed) #10747, dated May 21, 1835, conveying 160 acres to him for the sum of \$200.00. The certificate reads: "The United States of America to John Burkett, Sr." and is signed by the then President, Andrew Jackson. This certificate is recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office for Sandusky County, at Fremont, Ohio, in Deed Book Vol. L - page 104.

In preparation for the move to Sandusky County, Ohio, John, Sr. sold the remainder of his land in Perry County to William Vanatta, described as a parcel of ground in Perry County, Ohio, being a part of the S. W. 1/4 Section 35 in Township 16 in Range 16 in the Chillicothe District, comprising approximately 79 acres. Consideration: \$650.00. Recorded June 18, 1834 in Deed Book Vol. F, page 51, in Perry County Court House at New Lexington. Witnesses: John Vanatta and Abraham Aumocke.

John Burkett, Sr. and his wife Catherine, with several of the younger children, moved to their new home in Sandusky County in the spring of 1835. At the same time, Benjamin (born 1804), third child of John and Catherine, who had also purchased land (80 acres) in the same area moved there with his family consisting of his wife, Suzanna (Brehm) and two children.

In an account written by Solomon Burkett II, great grandson of John Burkett, Sr., he describes the conditions of the area found by Benjamin and his father upon their arrival and the hardships they endured. With great effort enough ground was cleared for a small log cabin to shelter them and for food they subsisted on wild game which fortunately was in abundance. Next, Benjamin cleared another small area where he could raise corn and buckwheat and then cornbread and mush, hominy and buckwheat cakes became the mainstay of the daily meals.

For water, they dug a well about six feet in diameter and six feet deep. This well was the only source of drinking water and sometimes, especially in the summer, it would be covered with a green scum which had to be brushed aside in order to get water. Sickness and disease constantly threatened and in 1855 typhoid fever claimed the lives of Benjamin and three of his daughters; Rebecca, Katherine and Susan, within a span of five weeks.

The land was covered with heavy timber consisting of oaks, walnut, poplars, sycamores, cottonwood, elms, maples, birches and others. Many of these trees were more than five feet in diameter

and had to be cut down in order to clear the land so it could be farmed. The area was so flat and drainage poor that ditches had to be dug into which the land could be drained.

The largest oak, walnut and poplar logs, cut into twelve foot lengths, were hauled to Fremont, Ohio by sleds and were sold for just one dollar per log. For this, they received no money, just due bills, for which they could get groceries, boots, shoes or clothing. The hauling was done with oxen as few men had horses at that time. It took two days to make the trip to Fremont; one day down and the next day back, even though Fremont was less than eight miles away.

The fact that John, Sr. was 82 years of age at the time of his move says much for the strength and vitality of this man. His life began with adventure - crossing the ocean to America as a baby, growing to manhood during the French and Indian War and the turbulent years that followed, serving in the Revolutionary War, braving the hazards of the trip across the Allegheny Mountains to the lands he had purchased in the Ohio wilderness and now at this advanced age, ready for yet another new adventure!

John, Sr. was equal to the challenge - built a home for his family and farmed his land until his age and health forced him to retire.

The farm of 160 acres which John, Sr. purchased from the United States Government in 1835 was located in Washington Township

and situated near the little village of Gibsonburg.

On October 1, 1836, John, Sr. conveyed 58-1/2 acres of this land to his son, John, Jr. Then on March 31, 1840, he conveyed to the Board of Education of Washington Township one-half acre of ground as a site for a school.

John died on January 2, 1847 and is buried in the old Hessville cemetery about six miles northwest of Fremont in Sandusky County, Ohio. John's monument and the tombstones of the other members of the family buried near him are in excellent condition and the cemetery is beautifully maintained.

The following inscription is on John's monument:

"John Burkhardt, Sr. died January 2, 1847
aged 93 years, 4 months, 12 days.

A soldier of the Revolution and a member
of Washington's Life Guard."

John's wife Catherine (Fox) died June 16, 1862 and is buried at his side.

After her death, Henry Reiling, Administrator of the Estate of John Burkett, Sr., Deceased, conveyed the remaining one hundred acres in Washington Township, Sandusky County, Ohio to Nicholas Kirsch for the sum of \$1,600.00.

The one-half acre of ground conveyed to the Board of Education adjoined this one hundred acres and when a school was

eventually built, it was named the Kirsch School. Solomon Burkett, II, great grandson of John Burkett, Sr., taught in the school many years later.



Tombstone in the old Hessville Cemetery
about 6 miles northwest of Fremont, Ohio
on Route 20

THE SWORD

The sword, which John Burkhardt carried when he was a bodyguard of General George Washington, is now 199 years old and is truly a treasured keepsake.

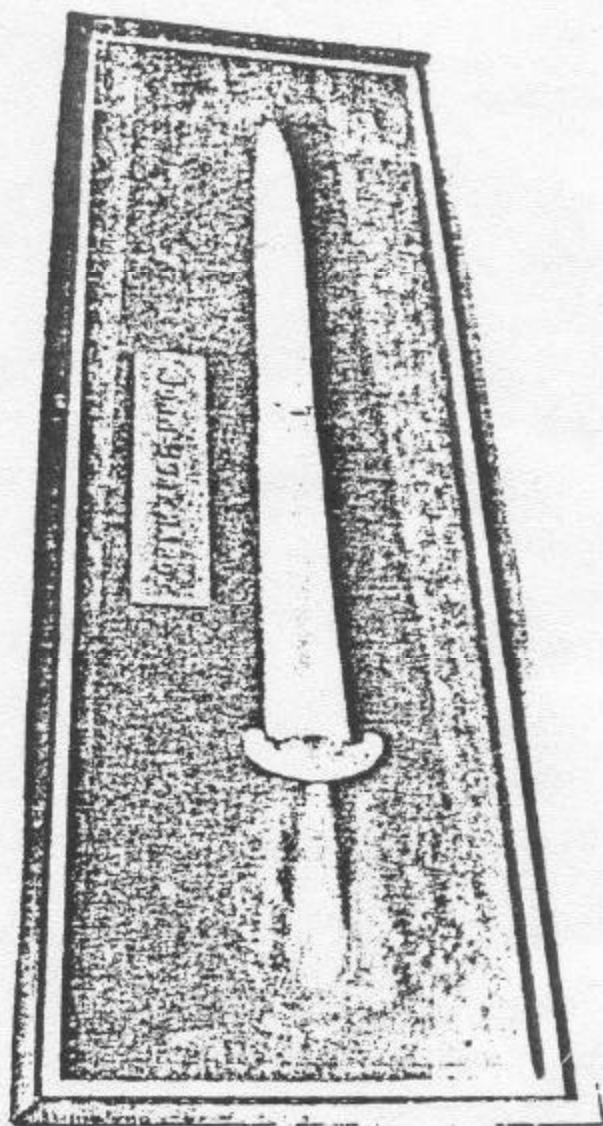
It has come down through the ancestry of John's son, Benjamin, to Benjamin's son, Solomon, then to Solomon II and to his son, Solomon Russell Burkett.

During the years of pioneer living, its historic value was not considered important and it was used many times as a tool, especially at corn harvest when corn was cut by hand.

One time it was broken and welded together again. The blacksmith remarked that he had never seen finer steel. It survived the rigorous usage remarkably well; however, it reflects much more than battle scars.

Today the sword, encased in a glass frame along with a bronze name plate which has JORN BURKHARDT inscribed thereon (note the spelling JORN), hangs on a wall in the home of Mrs. Carl F. Lehman of Lindsey, Ohio. This plate was taken from the casket of John Burkhardt at the time of his burial by the sexton of the cemetery. Years later, when the sexton was an elderly man, he gave the plate to Solomon Burkett II, expressing regret for his unwarranted action.

Mrs. Lehman is a great, great, granddaughter of John Burkhardt.



Sword carried by John Burkhardt,
our Revolutionary War ancestor,
while serving as a member of
George Washington's Life Guard

CHAPTER IV

DAVID BURKETT - THIRD GENERATION IN AMERICA

The Proprietary of Pennsylvania, anxious to extend the settlement of lands across the Allegheny mountains as far as Pittsburgh - then called the "Gateway to the West", opened land offices in 1769. Persons applying for a tract of land in the western part of the Commonwealth would receive a warrant. This was not a title in itself, but an order from the land office to have the tract of land located and surveyed. The land was then conveyed to the applicant by a patent under the seal of the Commonwealth. The patents were of sheepskin and any that survive today are truly valuable keepsakes.

In offering the sale of land at a minimal price, the Proprietary hoped to encourage the movement of great numbers of people westward to help bolster and protect the tiny settlements and scattered pioneers on the frontier.

As the sons of the early immigrant pioneers matured, married and had families, the need for land of their own became apparent and this offer of cheap land attracted many of these young families. In spite of the hazards of travel through the wilderness, the rigors of crossing the formidable ranges of mountains, with little more than trails to follow, plus the ever present danger of Indian attack, the movement westward began. They traveled primarily in groups and settlements pertinent to this history were made at

Hannastown and on both sides of the Kiskiminetas river in Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties. Church settlements were made at Harrolds in Hempfield Township, Brush Creek near Irwin and Poke Run in Washington Township and the names of Burkett, Townsend, Owens, Young, Hill, Schall, Stout, Painter, Kunkle, Rugh, etc. were prominent among the earliest arrivals.

David, son of John Burkhardt and Mary Barbara (Fox), his wife, was born in Reading, Berks County, in 1782, near the close of the Revolutionary War. The family moved to Lancaster County when David was about 14 years old and lived there until about 1812 when the father made the move to Perry County, Ohio to claim the land granted to him by the government for his services in the Revolutionary War.

In the meantime, David had married Christine Bates (born 1783) and had become a miller by trade. Realizing that the opportunities for the young were in the settlements to the west, he made his plans accordingly.

When his father and family moved to Ohio, David and his family accompanied them as far as Huntington County, Pennsylvania. Other Burketts were living there at that time and were no doubt related. David and his family resided for a short time in Sinking Valley in that county.

Jefferson County was organized in 1804, but for many years after its establishment, it was little more than a hunting ground for

whites and Indians. Large areas of virgin timber land were held for years by Land Companies who would neither improve their lands nor sell them at a fair price to those who would.

The speculations in timber in the State of Maine caused the lumber trade to focus its attention on Pennsylvania, and Jefferson County in particular. The "Yankees" with their proverbial shrewdness had discovered the vast areas of pine and hemlock around the sources of the Allegheny river, not appreciated at their full value by the pioneers who lived on them. The "Yankees" had learned to estimate it by the tree; the Pennsylvanians still reckoned it by the acre.

Later, individuals and companies from New England and New York purchased large tracts of land in Jefferson County from the Holland Land Company and other owners of extensive sections. They proceeded to build saw mills and improve the waterways and roads; therefore, the lumber trade soon became a flourishing business. This new development gave such an impetus to immigration that the population of Jefferson County increased three-fold in ten years.

Jacob Hoover was one of the first white men to settle on land that is now Clayville, Jefferson County. He was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and came to Mahoning Valley in 1814-15 and purchased land from the Holland Land Company comprising Clayville. He built one of the first log grist mills in which he used burrs of native stone. He built a saw mill on Mill Creek and in 1840 built a foundry in Clayville. He was a most enterprising pioneer and actively

participated in all phases in the development of Jefferson County.

David, realizing the opportunities available to a miller in Jefferson County, moved his family into Perry Township and became associated with Jacob Hoover. He resided for an interval at Round Bottom, Perry Township and later ran a grist mill at Spartsburg. In 1826, he appears on the tax list in Young Township (formed from part of Perry Township) and was among the very early settlers in what is now Punxsutawney. For some time he operated the old Hoover grist mill in this area.

David was a very religious man as were his father and grandfather, and very early became active in the establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although there may have been occasional sermons preached by some ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the territory embraced by Jefferson County, no record of such appears until 1821 when Rev. Elijah Coleman formed a society or class of ten members in Punxsutawney at the home of Jacob Hoover. However, it was not until 1834 or 1835 that the Methodist Episcopal Church was officially organized, and listed among the early members were Jacob Hoover, Daniel Burkett (David's son), John Hunt, John Drum, Jacob Bear, Joseph Weldon and Thomas Robinson. Joseph Weldon was subsequently licensed to preach and admitted to the Erie Conference. He later married Mary Burkett, daughter of David and Christine. Eliza, another daughter of David and Christine, married Charles Coleman, the son of Rev. Elijah Coleman, mentioned above.

According to the 1850 census of Young Township, now Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, four of David and Christine Burkett's grandchildren; Mary Caroline - 6, D. Monroe - 5, David Burkett - 3, and E. C. - 5 months (the Rishel children) are listed as residing temporarily with them.

The closing years of David's life were spent in the little village of Clayville, one mile west of Punxsutawney, where he died in 1881 at the age of 99. He and his wife Christine were buried in the old Punxsutawney cemetery.

David and Christine (Bates) Burkett had eight children; viz., John, Sallie, Daniel, Caroline, Barbara, Eliza, Mary and Christine.

(1) John, the oldest son, born August 15, 1802, will be taken up later.

(2) Sallie, the oldest daughter, married Andrew McKeever who operated a hardware store in Punxsutawney. They were the parents of two sons, one of whom was a minister. After Andrew McKeever's death, Sallie married John Preston. They had one son who later became affiliated with a bank in Youngstown, Ohio.

(3) Daniel (1809-1882), the second son, married Bessie Perry (born 1811) and their children were Mary Ellen, Anna, David C. (born 1842) who fought in the Civil War and died of wounds received in the battle of Gettysburg, Frank, Sarah, Caroline A. and F. M. (born 1850). Following the death of his first wife, Daniel Burkett

married Lucinda Evans and their children were Albert (born 1858) and George Gorman (born 1860), who at age 13 began to work in a drug store in Punxsutawney, owned by Dr. Shiller, a pioneer physician and druggist. He worked there twenty years and in 1902 became the owner of a drug store at 238 E. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Later, he purchased a second drug store at 128 West Mahoning Street and operated both stores for many years. He was familiarly known as "Doc". George Gorman Burkett married Celia B. Crissman in 1880. They had no children. Emma (born 1863) was the last child of Daniel and Lucinda (Evans) Burkett and she never married.

(4) Mary, the second daughter, married Reverend Joseph Weldon, a Methodist minister. Their children were Mary Elizabeth, Caroline, William, Adelbart and David Burkett Weldon.

(5) Barbara, the third daughter (born 1817), married William Elwood.

(6) Eliza, the fourth daughter, married Charles Coleman.

(7) Caroline, the fifth daughter, married George Gorman.

(8) Christine, the sixth daughter (born 1822) married Daniel Rishel (born 1821). Their children were Mary Caroline (born 1844), Clara, D. Monroe (born 1845), David Burkett (born 1847), Anna, E. C. (born 1850) and Emma.

CHAPTER V

JOHN BURKETT - FOURTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

John Burkett, first child of David and Christine Bates Burkett was born in Lancaster in 1802. John was approximately ten years old when his father David moved the family; first into Huntington County and shortly thereafter established the family home permanently in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania.

Nothing is known of John's early life, but records show that as young men, John and his brother Daniel (born 1809) decided to jointly purchase a farm. They bought a large tract of land known as "Round Top Farm" and for some time lived there and farmed it successfully. The venture terminated somewhat later when John decided to marry and the farm was sold.

John married Mary (Polly) Stout (born July 9, 1803) and subsequently moved to Armstrong County, along the Kiskiminetas River. Among the pioneers already living in this area were the Isaac Townsends, the John Hills, the Owens, the Ashbaughs and the Schalls. These families are mentioned because they were neighbors and friends working together to conquer a wilderness and later through intermarriage to become a closely related group.

Isaac Townsend and his wife Rachel (King) settled on a farm, consisting of 500 acres, in Kiski Township, Armstrong County, on the Kiskiminetas River in 1778, presently located one mile from

Salina on the road to Maysville. Isolated and alone on this vast tract of land, the early years were spent in clearing and cultivating ground for the growing of wheat, corn and vegetables and the planting of large orchards of fruit trees. At this point in time, the pioneers were dependent to a great extent upon their own land and labor to produce the food, clothing and most necessities for themselves and their families. Later, with his sons, Isaac became engaged in the manufacture of salt and soon the river from Dam #3 to Apollo was lined with these salt works. The salt was shipped to Pittsburgh by boats, then by pack horse over the mountains to the East. Much later his sons took the salt by wagon to the Eastern cities.

Isaac, Sr. and Rachel (King) Townsend were the parents of twelve children: John, Isaac Jr., Henry, Joseph (born 1789), Elizabeth, Robert, Joseph (born 1798), William, Mary, Abraham, George and Susan. At the death of Isaac, Sr., his third son, Henry, became heir to this land and with his wife, Kathryn (Ulam) Townsend, lived there until their death.

Recently, we had the privilege of visiting the private cemetery of Henry Townsend, located on this farm where he and his wife Kathryn and others of his family are buried. It is completely enclosed with a stone wall approximately three feet high. Many of the tomb stones are still standing and the inscriptions clearly readable. It is almost hidden by underbrush, but was accidentally discovered by Clifton Shirley who accompanied us to the site.

Isaac, Jr., the second son of Isaac and Rachel (King) Townsend, married Mary Hill, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Waltz) Hill. John Hill was one of the earliest and most prominent settlers on the Kiskiminetas River and on it in Allegheny Township erected one of the first flour mills at a place that at a later time was known as Bagdad Station. The Hills were also interested in the manufacture of salt, and having drilled many wells on their property, this venture soon became quite an extensive business.

Isaac, Jr. and his wife Mary (Hill) Townsend lived on his father's farm until 1832 when he moved his family to a large tract of land on the Westmoreland County side of the Kiskiminitas River, located on the three bottom tract of the "Horseshoe Bend" of the Kiskiminetas. It was then all woods except for a small clearing with a log cabin on it. The family cleared and cultivated the land and in 1840 erected a large frame mansion on the farm.

The children of Isaac and Mary (Hill) Townsend were:

- (1) John Hill (married to Eliza Burkett)
- (2) Eden Augustus (millwright - accidentally killed in a mill he was building)
- (3) Darius (died on a trip to Mexico)
- (4) Elizabeth (married to Samuel Owens)
- (5) Levi (died at sea)
- (6) Delilah (married to David Burkett)
- (7) Polly (married to James Moore)
- (8) Rachel (married to John Moore)
- (9) Susan (married to William Kuhns)

John Hill Townsend, oldest son of Isaac, Jr. and Mary (Hill) Townsend, married Elizabeth (Eliza) Burkett on June 26, 1849. Eliza was the daughter of John and Mary (Stout) Burkett of Armstrong County. After his marriage, John Townsend moved to Apollo and with his brother Eden erected a flour mill and participated in its operation until 1854. His father died in 1866 and as the eldest and only living son of Isaac, John became heir to the farm and moved his family back to the "old homestead". This property remained in the Townsend family until it was sold December 28, 1892 in its entirety to the Apollo Iron and Steel Company and others, and became the site the present borough of Vandergrift. A painting of the "old Homestead" now hangs in the Vandergrift Public Library.

At the time of the building of the Western Pennsylvania Railroad, John gave the railroad company a right-of-way through his land and the company built a station on his ground and named it in his honor "Townsend". This station stood approximately where the Custer School now stands.

John Hill and Eliza (Burkett) Townsend were the parents of the following children: Newton E., Frank, Eden, Alice, Barton Hill, Grant Burkett and Florence.

John and Mary (Stout) Burkett were closely associated with the Townsend and Hill families and no doubt John was involved in some capacity in the business ventures with these men. No record could be found that he personally owned any of the grist or saw mills or salt mines that were flourishing along the river at that time, so it is