

THE LEIGHLITER ... LEICHLITER ... LICHLITER ...

# LANTERN

*Shedding a little light on our family tree*



VOLUME I

## April 1, 2008 THE LANTERN'S NEW LOOK

The newsletter has always been one of the most important methods of communication for family associations. Our new Lantern is intended to provide an interesting and informative vehicle to touch base and provide news about family members and historical background on the "L" family. This issue is a collaborative effort, and includes writing contributions from, Ron and Connie Riley, Bev Ricks, Kay Ann Cober, Beth Daniels, and myself. Bev edited most of the articles. The masthead was designed by Rick Pepper, and Sheri Pepper added her editing and layout design talents. It has taken quite a bit of work, as we are starting something new, and there was indeed a learning curve. Future editions should be much easier to produce.

We plan for future newsletters to include still more varied articles, and hope you will consider offering a story of your own, from your line of the Lichliter family. We also solicit your interesting photos. And of course, your suggestions for improving the product.

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## 2008 Reunion Date Set Berlin, PA

**August 9** is the date of this year's Lichliter Reunion. And it's promising to be better than ever! The committee is hard at work planning activities to keep us entertained. Exact scheduling and times will be announced well in advance. But here's what's on tap. [Food, Fun, and Family!!!](#) The weekend will begin with a Friday evening. Welcome Home get-together at the Quality Inn, Somerset (PA), where sandwiches and drinks will be provided, On Saturday, we'll gather at the Veterans Home, in Berlin for the requisite family photo, and a chance to share stories, pictures, and memorabilia. The meal is scheduled for 4:00 pm. As usual there will be prizes for a variety of categories. Bring all your family and win a prize for the family group with the most in attendance In the evening, everyone is invited back to Christa Cober's Stadium St house, the former home of Lucille (Lowry) and John Lichvar, for drinks and light snacks.

[Make it a Mini-vacation!!](#) Among the activities being considered for your enjoyment this weekend are:

--A visit to Meyersdale's Storybook Castle where "children's stories are brought to life using quality artwork and animation that will excite the child in all of us."

--An outing on the Allegheny Trail, a 318-mile long hiking and biking trail that stretches from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC, and is accessible from Meyersdale.

--A visit to Ohio State Park, near Confluence, which offers white water rafting, hiking and biking.

--A tour of some of the area cemeteries where many of our ancestors are buried, including Jacob and Martha Leichliter's graves in Normalville.

[Places to stay!](#) A block of 10 rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the refurbished Quality Inn in Somerset. Swimming pool/spa, restaurant/bar are available. The group rate will be \$79 per night if you mention that you are with the Lichliter Reunion. 814-443-4646.

### Some other interesting and less expensive options:

The Allegheny Trail Hostel at 215 Main Street, Meyersdale, PA. Rates are \$15 per night, \$8 per night for children 4-17 traveling with parents; and children three and under are free. 814-634-8478; 814-634-9100; 814-634-5335.

Romantics might want to check out Meyersdale's Levi Deal Mansion (814- 289-7600) or the Victorian Rose Bed and Breakfast (814- 662-2442) in Salisbury.

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## Turkeyfoot: Where Our Somerset Heritage Began

By Ron and Connie Riley



If you are a **Lichliter** or descendent of a **Lichliter**, the spelling may once have been **Lighliter** prior to 1800, or it may have been **Lighlider** in 1800, or **Leichleider** in 1810 or just plain **Lichliter** in 1840. All of these names appear on the tax and census lists from Confluence in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Turkeyfoot Township received its name from the Indians who scouted for George Washington on his mission in 1753 to build a fort at Pittsburgh. A portion of the map showing the country Washington traversed shows the shape of a turkeyfoot formed by the confluence of three bodies of water: The Youghiogheny River, The Casselman River and The Laurel Hill Creek. George Washington stopped here May 20, 1754 and wrote in his diary: "we gained Turkey Foot by the Beginning of the Night....Tarried there some time to examine the Place, which we found very convenient to build a Fort, not only because it was gravelly, but also for its being at the Mouth of the three Branches of small Rivers ..."

Washington's proposed fort at Turkeyfoot was never built. But this is where the Borough of Confluence, Pennsylvania, in Lower Turkeyfoot Township was built in 1870 when the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad was completed. The railroad brought prosperity to the town. And at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Confluence became a bustling burg with lumbering and coal mining serving as the primary industries. Because of the

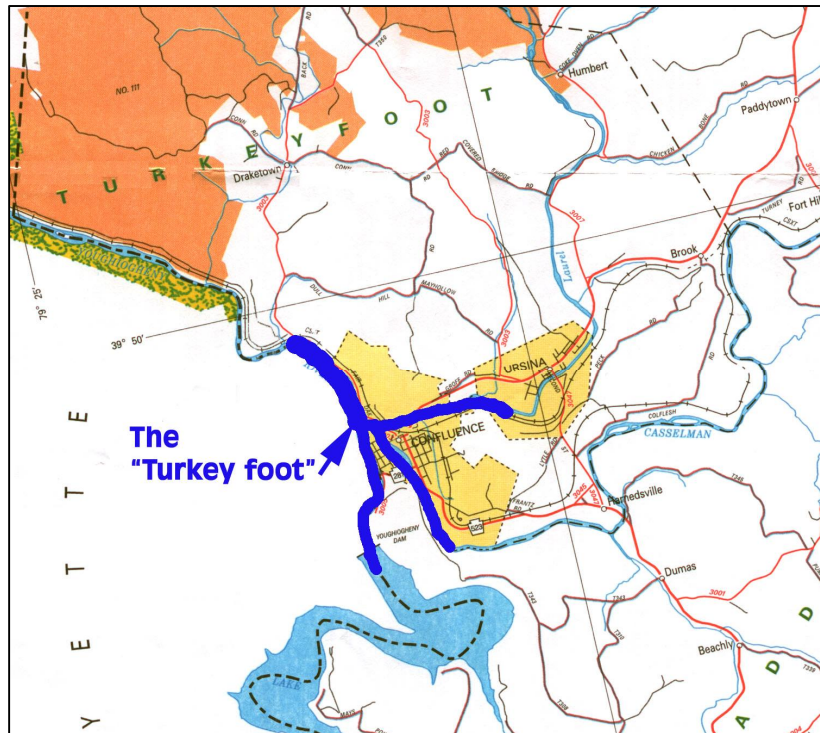
abundance of hemlock bark, the Beggs Tannery became the biggest industry in town. The B&O main line, which splits here, provided the transportation necessary for moving the lumber and coal to its destination.

After the coal was mined, the big trees cut, a dam built and the trains quit stopping, Confluence had to find a new beginning. Today, river and trail recreation have provided that beginning. Confluence is a traiside town with several good restaurants, B&Bs, and a large town square, with a gazebo.

So, while you are there you will surely want to visit some of the

historical sites in the vicinity such as Fort Necessity which is west of Confluence, along Route 40, the first National Road; Lower Humbert Covered Bridge still open to traffic; Petersburg Toll House which was used to collect tolls on the first National Road and is located in Addison, PA eight miles from Confluence; Jersey Baptist Church, the first Protestant Church west of the Allegheny Mountains; Ream Cemetery where some of our relatives may be buried; and Fort Hill, the site of two palisaded Indian Villages.

After you have completed your tour of these sites you may want to return to the town square, sit on a bench and contemplate how you got from "THEN to NOW". Among Lichliter relatives who live or lived in Confluence are Emily Jane (Lichliter) Hickson and her family, and Winnie (Lichliter) and Ward Newman and their family.



## Digging Up Our Ancestors—One Cemetery at a Time

By Dutch Lichliter

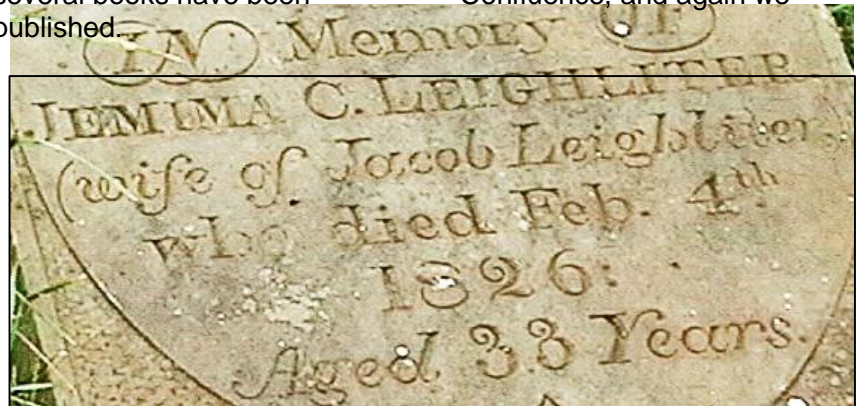
The genealogy bug bit me in the early 1970's when, on a visit to Confluence, my Uncle Ward Newman took a few of us to a small family cemetery located in a farm field a few miles north of town. He showed us the tombstone of Rev. John Campbell Leighliter, my great-great grandfather who died in 1853 at age 37. The inscription on his stone was "He lived to die, he died to live".

Not long after this visit, I came into possession of a genealogic work on the Lechleiter Family, compiled by Edwin Boyd Graham in 1935. While I found many fascinating tidbits in this material, it was disjointed and confusing, and not easy to correlate the various family lines that had been researched. I found myself drawing charts by hand to try to connect my family to others that were in the book.

Certain items in this book led me to search for cemeteries where our ancestors were buried. I have found many, in Somerset County, Fayette County, and in Virginia and elsewhere. One item in particular led me to Normalville PA and the grave of Jacob Leighliter. It was an article in the September 1899 issue of the local paper, the **Mountaineer**. The title was "**Springfield's Early History.- Leighliter – Rise and Progress- Family of Ministers, Teachers Etc – Influence of Good Example**". It described in some detail the

arrival and early struggle of John and Lydda Leighliter and their young son, Jacob, in "Jersey" (Confluence).

Our family name is unusual, but not rare. In areas where we have settled, there are large pockets of the Leighliter family. I believe there are thousands of descendents of John and Lydda Leighliter alive today. I have also discovered that a great deal of other research has been done over the years on the name Leighliter (and its variations), and that in fact several books have been published.



I left Pennsylvania in 1956 when I was drafted into the Army and have never lived there since. But on my frequent visits I always enjoyed traveling the beautiful rural countryside on the narrow curvy roads in search of a hidden graveyard and another lost relative. The advent of the computer and development of genealogy software programs was a tremendous assist to genealogy research. No longer did it take the painstaking work of hand-drawn charts. The computer would do the work for you and many other things, such as determining the relationship of individuals in the data base.

And with the internet connecting everyone, we have made so many new discoveries. Through our Leighliter Family website we have come into contact with Cousins near and far, and many have generously contributed the information they had to add to our database.

Our Reunions have provided an opportunity to get to know our family in person. The first, back in 1975, was in Confluence, and again we

visited some graveyards and discovered anew the family heritage. The continuation of these get-togethers has been rewarding and, I believe, a positive influence on the younger generations. I hope our next one is the best and biggest yet.

It has been especially gratifying to see a younger generation becoming interested in the Leighliter History. It is a heritage that is worthy of preservation, and it will be up to our descendents to continue the tradition.



# David "Pickle" Lichliter Honored at Testimonial

By Sharyn Maust

***This article appeared in the Meyersdale New Republic in 1971. Dave Lichliter was the son of Christian and Minnie Lichliter. He died in 1987.***

"This is the happiest night I could hope to have," was the way David E. Lichliter described the surprise testimonial banquet held in his honor Saturday at the Somerset Country club.

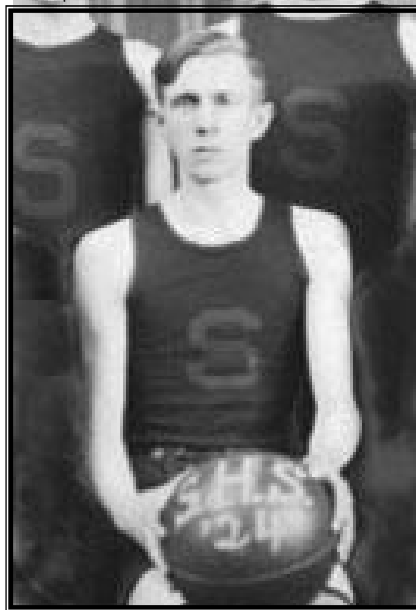
Lichliter is retiring this year as assistant supervising principal of the North Star School District, thus ending 43 years in the educational field. A native of Salisbury, Lichliter was a teacher, athletic coach and administrator in Salisbury, Boswell, Hooversville, Forbes and North Star school districts. To the majority of the almost 100 present at the banquet, he is just remembered as a winning coach in baseball, basketball, football and track.

Attorney Nathaniel Barbera, acting as toastmaster, described the banquet as "a tribute to one of the county's outstanding men."

Reese Lichliter began the testimonials by telling about the many basketball games he and his cousin, then known as "Pickle," played in a low-beamed barn in Salisbury. He also noted that the first Salisbury high school basketball team was formed and had a four-year unbeaten string while he and David Lichliter were students there.

"Hans" Wagner, another Salisbury native now living in Lancaster, related his experiences in high school with David Lichliter, as did "Babe" Robinson, who now resides in Wilmington, Del. John Dunn of Salisbury told of the times when

he was manager and coach of the Cardinals, an independent basketball team that played in the Maryland-Pennsylvania League. David Lichliter was the star of that team. The four other starters for the Cardinals, which was in existence 45 years ago, were present at the banquet.



"Rip" Engle, well known former county resident and ex-Penn State football coach, described Lichliter as "a complex individual; the most sedate, dedicated, sincere person I've ever known." Engle played basketball with and against Lichliter in Salisbury and at what was then known as Blue Ridge College. Engle also praised Lichliter for giving great team spirit to every game he was a part of, for being the only pitcher on the Salisbury baseball team when it won the county league, and for his early variations on the basketball set shot.

After going on to different colleges, Engle said that whenever he had two cents, he would buy a copy of the Washington Post to

read about Lichliter's athletic exploits at American University. He added that Lichliter was "the kind of coach and educator that I would like my son to be under."

Following the dinner, "Wib," David's brother introduced the many family members present.

John Lichvar, Carl Landis, Wayne Ickes and Robert Brougner, all members of teams that played for Lichliter introduced other members of the teams in the 30's and 40's that Lichliter had coached. Pan Shaffer, Chet Peiffer and Alex Rich respectively described Lichliter as "a great psych artist, "the man on top who understood" and "a gentleman."

Lichliter said that he was retiring for three reasons: that the rules of North Star say that he must; that a young student recently told him that he had taught her grandmother, and that people are beginning to mistake his wife for his daughter. He also noted that his wife was the best assistant coach and scout that he ever had.

Lichliter said that he had had "a terrific evening and appreciated each one who had come and spoke," adding that they and many others were actually responsible for the honor being paid him. He explained that in his view the most important things for an educator to have are integrity, honesty, character, under-standing and compassion.

Check out the  
Photo Gallery at  
[www.Lichliter.com](http://www.Lichliter.com)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY COUSINS!

### APRIL

- 1 – Christopher James (17)
- 4 – David Shoemaker (60)  
Jeanne Updegraff (49)  
Daniel Ketcham (30)
- 5 – Ronald Wolfe (58)  
Eric Thiry (18)  
Allison Ketcham (30)
- 6 – Gene Lichliter (77)
- 8 – Michael Wilson (53)
- 10 – Abigail Lichliter (19)
- 15 – Steven Ostrander (53)
- 17 – Jeffrey Cron (18)  
Charles Griffin (52)  
Nicholas Nowicki (23)  
Donna Lichliter (52)
- 26 – Gerald Jackson (70)

### MAY

- 1 – Rachael Gubernator (31)  
Daniel Feeser (20)
- 2 – Homer Leichliter (64)  
Michael James (60)
- 5 – Laura Leichliter (71)
- 8 – Cindy Ambroson (53)  
Jeanie Leichliter (69)  
David Kingman (23)

- Maile Clark (35)
- April Kingman (38)
- Amy Edwards (19)
- 10 – Corliss Keller (53)
- 12 – Charles Griffin (76)  
Diane Kingman (52)  
Deborah Leichliter (58)
- 15 – Michael Collins (40)
- 16 – William James (49)
- 19 – Theodon Adair (2)
- 21 – Thomas Clark (53)
- 22 – Elana Freeser (12)
- 23 – Robert Lint (81)  
Don Netzel (61)
- 24 – Stephanie Billard (15)
- 25 – Jerry Nowicki (54)  
"Biz" Blocher (80)
- 26 – Kirk Leichliter (43)  
Alan Leichliter (52)  
Kathleen Edwards (48)
- 28 – Barbara Tice (61)
- 30 – Lee Keller (51)

### JUNE

- 1 – Laura White (28)
- 2 – William Leichliter (78)  
Eric James (36)
- 4 – Norman Leichliter (68)  
Jessica Miller (27)
- 5 – "Peggy" Nowicki (54)  
Christa Cober (35)

- Carol Lichliter (53)
- 7 – Michelle Thiry (17)
- 8 – Deborah Lichliter (49)  
Emily James (55)
- 9 – Melissa Leighliter (37)  
Emily Hickson (85)  
Sharon Pepper (47)  
Kevin Billard (19)
- 10 – Elizabeth Poletti (74)  
Patricia Maust (55)  
Ryan Miller (16)
- 14 – Karen Murphy (55)
- 16 – Kevin Wagner (44)  
Karen Steward (43)
- 18 – Babst (98)  
Ronald Keller (65)
- 21 – Megan Walker (25)
- 22 – LuAnna Leichliter (64)  
Cordelia Clark (63)
- 23 – Gayle White (79)  
Courtney Smith (15)
- 24 – Ashlyn McKerahan (16)
- 25 – Linda Harms (54)
- 26 – Adrienne Lichliter (22)
- 27 – Marlene Lichliter (72)
- 28 – James Menhorn (84)  
Elizabeth Keller (23)  
Alexis Keller (25)

## FAMILY NOTES AND NEWS

Get well wishes are in order for **Edith (Lichliter) Clark** (great-grand daughter of Levi's brother, Henry Harrison Lichliter), who is recovering from recent surgery. According to cousin, Charlotte (Lichliter) Crawford, Edith is in good spirits. Husband Floyd was at her side nursing her back to health.

**Steve Miller**, son of Dorothy and Chuck Miller, passed away February 26, at his home in St Paul, Minnesota. Steve attended one of our reunions at Salisbury when we had it at the VFW. Our condolences go out to Dot, Chuck and their family.

## REUNION –continued

Finally, families might want to consider the Burgess' (Hostetler) House in Meyersdale, which sleeps nine and has two full baths. Full House Rental is: \$150 nightly, \$250 weekend, \$350 weekly. 814-662-2436 or [margarethostetler@hotmail.com](mailto:margarethostetler@hotmail.com)

Now is the time for your input into this year's reunion. Let us hear from you about your interests and preferences. We want to make this weekend a great one for you and your family. Contact Kay Ann or Bev about your ideas, suggestions, and offers of assistance.

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**Reese Lichliter**

**YOU CAN ALWAYS  
TELL A LICHLITER...**  
(You just can't tell them very much)