

## NORTH WAYNE TWP VILLAGE OF FRIEDENSBURG

The original purchaser of the present site of the village of Friedensburg was a Mr. Summer.

While most of the early records have been lost, we may assume that the first residents contributed to the building of a prosperous community. One of the first industries was a tannery. The farmers sold hides from the cattle which they butchered to the tannery where they were cured and tanned for leather. There is no evidence of the site of the tannery remaining today.

Shoemaker and harness repair shops were also a part of early history of the town. William Monroe Kramer operated a shoe repair shop for many years. His son William Kramer succeeded him and operated the shop which was located next to the present home of Mary Roeder. This was the last shoe repair shop in the area.

For many years Mr. Jeremiah Degler operated a casket factory on a small scale. The undertakers from surrounding communities bought caskets from Mr. Degler. The site of his place of business was the present Fire Company building.

Charles Snyder operated a paint and repair shop for farm wagons, spring wagons, buggies, carriages and coaches. This required very skilled type of workmanship. New parts had to be made to replace broken and splintered parts of the wagons. New spokes were made for wheels and when the iron bands on the wheels were worn thin, replacements were made for them. The painting of wagons and carriages was customized as much of the painting of autos is today. After the vehicle received its first coat of paint, the spokes on the wheels were striped. The wagon boxes were also striped, after which a special coat of varnish was used over the entire vehicle, giving the finished project a very attractive appearance.

Blacksmith shops were also an important part of the early community. For many years Charles Stump operated a shop on the property where the Fire Company is now located. The farmers brought their farm horses to the shop to have the shoes replaced. Horses that were used every day generally had to be reshod about four times a year. During the winter months horses were shod with sharp shoes to give them a good grip on ice and frozen ground. The winter horse shoe was made with four holes where four heated caulks were driven into the shoe to fasten them to the shoe. These caulks were about one and one-half inches long.

Mr. Stump was succeeded in the blacksmith shop at the same location by Pierce Reichert and then Joseph Schappell. Mr. Schappell later built a new blacksmith shop at his home on Hickory Street which is now the home of Edward Brensinger.

When Mr. Schappell's health failed, George Douglas, who lived with Mr. Schappell and served as an apprentice blacksmith, succeeded him in the business. Mr. Douglas operated the shop for many years and in addition to shoeing horses, expanded the business to repairing farm machinery. He also built farm wagons. The Douglas wagon was a familiar wagon on farms of the community. Mr. Douglas' sons worked with him in the shop and also became familiar with the trades of iron and wood working.

Guy Douglas operated a wood working shop later and was recognized as a fine cabinet maker as well as a carpenter and mill man.

William Douglas operated the Douglas Garage for many years and served the community during the early automobile days. His garage was equipped with modern equipment and wrecking service.

Paul Douglas operates one of the few cider presses that remains in the county. This cider press was first built by James Heffner before the turn of this century and was operated by members of the Heffner family until Mr. Douglas purchased the property.

Mr. Heffner along with William Luckenbill operated a farm machinery business known as Heffner and Luckenbill. They sold all types of farm machinery used in that era such as plows, harrows, cultivators, mowing machines and grain binders.

Samuel Heffner and later, Harvey Heffner operated a general store and the Post Office.

Daniel Ney and Frank Brown were engaged in the general store enterprise known as Ney and Brown. They delivered merchandise and local farm products to the residents of other towns of the area. Many local farmers sold their butter and eggs to Ney and Brown for this purpose. After Mr. Ney's untimely death in 1919 the Brown family continued the business until their retirement.

In later years John Roeder, followed by his son Robert, operated a general store. The store was located on the first floor of the P.O.S of A. lodge building. The Roeders served the entire community with a store at your door.



In 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bast opened Dan's Self Service store. This store has been in continuous operation since that time selling groceries, numerous hardware and gardening items, seeds, flower and vegetable plants.

Shortly after World War II, "Dewald & Lengle" was born in Friedensburg. After working together as mill workers and carpenters for contractor Harvey E. Dewald, Aaron P. Dewald, and Harvey A. Lengle decided to form a partnership and go into the farm implement business. Dewald was from Schuylkill Haven and Lengle was from the Pine Grove area, but the site they chose was in Friedensburg. Land was purchased from the Daniel Fidler farm and first building was erected. Several additions were made later.

Dewald and Lengle started their business doing mill work. They later acquired an Allis Chalmers dealership as well as other farm equipment franchises. Kelvinator appliances, hardware, and painting supplies were added. Some former employees of the store are Oscar Nagle, who retired in 1975, Jacob Moyer, Ray Strouse, Harvey Ferrebee, Harry Nunemacher, William Miller, and Phillip Rumpf (now deceased). Allen R. Faust is presently employed at the store.

Harvey A. Lengle planned to retire December 31, 1974, but passed away December 4, 1974. Since that time, Aaron Dewald has been the sole owner and is assisted in the operation of the store by his wife, Peggy.

Mail was carried from Pine Grove to Schuylkill Haven by means of a coach which was drawn by two mules and had the capacity to carry passengers as well as mail. George Hummel was the carrier who made the trip daily in all kinds of weather. After leaving Pine Grove, he would first stop at the DeTurksville Post Office and general store located at the corner of the present route 443 and the road to Hetzel's Church. The postmaster there was Samuel DeTurk.

The next stop was at Friedensburg where Mr. Charles Kreckler was the Postmaster. From there the trip to Schuylkill Haven was completed. Passengers were carried for a very small fee.

Later the mail coach ran only from Friedensburg to Schuylkill Haven and made two trips daily. Lyman Reed and his son Robert were the succeeding drivers for these trips. Spring wagons were also put into use during this period and were the last horse drawn conveyances used to deliver mail.

Levi Kerschner was the first carrier to use an automobile or truck to carry the mail and passengers. The fare for passengers was ten cents for one way. Daily passengers were carried for twenty-five cents per week. Mail carriers following Mr. Kerschner were James Heffner and son Charles, Fred Eichert, Earl Staller, Aaron Ziegler and Wilson Rhine.

Records show that Jacob Minnich was the earliest postmaster in the township. Charles Kreckler was appointed postmaster in 1862, and held the office till his death, in 1872. His widow succeeded him. In addition to those the following postmasters and postmistresses served at Friedensburg; Harvey Heffner, Lloyd Weller, Mame Keller, George Greenawalt, LaRue Greenawalt, Charles Brown and presently Grace Fehr. The Rural areas around Friedensburg are now served by Sch. Haven, Pine Grove and Pottsville R.F.D.'s.

Jacob Minnich was said to have been the first justice of the peace, followed by Henry Bressler and Charles Heffner.

The town of Friedensburg had two hotels for many years. The old stone hotel known as Keller's was razed to provide a site for the Friedensburg Fire Company No. 1. The Roeder's Hotel was destroyed by fire in February, 1971. The hotel keepers at the Keller's Hotel were Charles Stump, Charles Krammes, Frank Young, Mr. Fox, Charles Diehl, Ed and Henry Degler, George Freeman, Oscar Bressler, Grace Hain, and Ed Keller. Hotel Keepers at the Roeder's Hotel were Charles Hummel, John Stoudt, Alfred Cooper, Charles Brown, Oscar Hummel, Thomas Stouger, Charles Roeder.

The hotels entertained parties and served meals to various groups of people. During the period of horse drawn conveyances, sheds were provided for the horses and they were fed and watered by hostlers. Travelling salesmen came to the area regularly and found board and lodging at the hotels.

Friedensburg had an old factory building where for some years covered spring wagons were built. Some farmers used these wagons to market their produce, there was a big demand for this type of wagon. The wheel wright at this time was Daniel Langle.

The factory building was later owned by H. Irvin Honsberger who operated a shirt factory for several years. The building was remodeled into a double frame house and has remained as a double dwelling since that time. It is presently owned by the Yulich family.

Willis Palsgrove had a cigar factory on the first floor of the two story Lodge Hall for several years following World War I. The young girls of the community were employed in wrapping the cigars.

The second floor of the building was used as a meeting place for several of the fraternal organizations. Organizations in the community were the Sons of America, Odd Fellows, Independent Americans and the Grange.

Friedensburg for many years had a doctor who served a wide area. There was a Dr. Cooper who resided here during the latter part of the 19th century.

Dr. David S. Moyer practiced medicine in Wayne Township also. He settled in Friedensburg in 1877 after his graduation from Jefferson Medical School, Philadelphia. Dr. Moyer was born in Llewellyn March 26, 1852.

Early in 1900 Dr. Cleaver came to Friedensburg and built a fine residence and began practicing. His medical skill soon became known and his patients came from a wide area. He made house calls at all hours of the day or night. He maintained a stable for three horses and his hostler, William Luckenbill, always had a fresh horse and buggy ready for a call. Dr. Cleaver's practice came to a sudden end when he succumbed while undergoing an operation.

Dr. Cleaver was succeeded by Dr. Harry Hambleton Stewart who began the practice of medicine in Friedensburg in 1906. Dr. Stewart was born in Talbot County, Maryland in 1869. He graduated from Easton High School in Maryland and attended Medico Chi Medical College in Philadelphia planning to become a medical missionary. He later graduated from Baltimore Medical and was married to Annie Esther Brenneman of Easton, Maryland. The Stewart's had two children, Florence Stewart Smith and Harry H. Stewart.

While residing in Friedensburg, Dr. Stewart organized, was president of, and chief line man for the first local rural telephone company extending from Cressona to Pine Grove.

He enlisted for military service in the Army Medical Corps in 1916 and served two years at Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Georgia. He returned to civilian life with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and relocated in Pottsville where he was a staff member of the Warne Hospital. He was an active member of the Methodist Church in Pottsville and was also active in all phases of Freemasonry including Shriners and the Blue Lodge in Reading, Pennsylvania. He died in 1938.



**DR. HARRY H. STEWART**

After Dr. Stewart moved from the area, the house became the residence of the Harvey Heffner family. The house has been occupied by the Arthur Fehr family for a number of years and the Friedensburg Post office is presently located there with Mrs. Arthur Fehr serving as Postmistress.

One of the first macadam roads in Schuylkill county was built through Friedensburg in 1908. Originally this macadam portion of Route 443 was only four miles long extending from the east end of Wayne Township to the Township line in the West.

The base for this road was set with paving stones set on edge. This type of stone base was probably unique and was built as an experiment. The original base remains under the road in many places. This type of road was known as the Telford Base. The name came from the name of the man who designed it. The black top was a mineral that was mined in Tennessee and was shipped by railroad cars to Schuylkill Haven. The material for the entire road was hauled by horses and wagons and hand labor was used in the construction.

In former years, Friedensburg had a barber shop which was located on the second floor of the hotel later known as Roeder's Hotel. During the period that Thomas Stauffer operated the hotel the barber shop was operated by Abraham Palsgrove. Mr. Palsgrove was a resident of Friedensburg at the time and was active in St. John's Sunday School where he taught a young men's class.

When Mr. Palsgrove left the barber trade several other barbers successfully operated shops in Friedensburg. Most of the men and boys of the area patronized these shops and there were always people waiting for their turn on the barber chairs. Friedensburg was a convenient place for this business before the automobile age when people often walked several miles for a shave or a haircut.

William P. Heffner operated a butcher shop in Friedensburg for many years. He delivered fresh meats to the homes of his customers along routes which he had established in Schuylkill Haven, Cressona, and Pottsville. In later years, the business was known as William P. Heffner and Son,. During that period Mr. Heffner and his son Clarence, each had several home delivery routes.

Many of the hogs and cattle butchered by the Heffner's were raised on the family farm which was operated by another son, Arthur. Cattle were also purchased from outside the area and were shipped by rail to Schuylkill Haven. These cattle were driven by farm hands to the farm where they were kept until needed for slaughter. The cattle were slaughtered on the farm and the meat was kept in cold storage there. After the senior Mr. Heffner retired, Clarence Heffner owned and operated a butcher business in Schuylkill Haven.

Friedensburg was one of the earliest principal villages in this township, and is also one of the oldest settlements of the present Schuylkill County and was important as far back as 1811. At that time, Friedensburg, along with Orwigsburg and McKeanburg, was a candidate for the county seat, but Orwigsburg was chosen.

Railroads were not built near Friedensburg, the most accessible passenger station being at Sch. Haven, The Village is situated on the heavily traveled state highway of Route 443 which runs east and west with neighboring towns of Sch. Haven and Pine Grove.

To mention some of the early settlers of North Wayne we find in the Panther Valley, north of Friedensburg; Messrs. Lair, Berger, Schol and Schwartz. In Schnickle Creek Valley and Long Run Valley; George Miller, Mr. Kearcher, John Apple, John Gombery, George Shiffer, Henry Weaver and J. Wommer. In the village of Friedensburg the most prominent men were Messrs. Fritz, Hummel, Fessler, Krecker, Dietrich, Unger, Shappell and Moyer.

It is believed one of the oldest homes in Friedensburg is now owned by Mrs. Charles Brown.

## HISTORY OF FRIEDENSBURG GRANGE #1291

On June 16, 1905 a meeting was held in the Patriotic Order Sons of America hall in Friedensburg for the purpose of organizing a subordinate grange in Friedensburg. There were 15 men and 4 women present. State Deputy Dunkleberger was present to conduct the meeting. Officers were elected and S. B. Riland was the first Master. The first and third Mondays were selected as meeting dates.

Around the year 1912 the membership was 141 members. Then there came a decline till the year 1925 when no more meetings were held. The Grange was dormant at this time. G. W. Greenawalt was Secretary at this time and there were enough funds in the treasury so Mr. Greenawalt kept up the State Grange dues and the Charter was not taken away by the State Grange.

In 1926 County Agent W. L. Bollinger became interested in the Grange and on November 8 a meeting was held in the P.O.S. of A. hall for the purpose of reorganization. There were 46 persons present at this meeting. Officers were elected. Guy S. Reed was elected Master and C. M. Luckenbill, Sr. elected Secretary. The Grange prospered during the years. In 1931 there was a membership of 181. Then there came a decline.

When the P.O.S. of A. hall was sold we met for a time in the Reed school house west of Friedensburg. When the discontinued school houses in Wayne Township were sold, the Grange bought the school house in Friedensburg; in 1958.

During these last years Grange membership was down to 20 members. Due to too many activities in the schools we could not get the young people interested.

In 1973 our hall was sold to the Supervisors of Wayne Township, but we could still hold our meetings in the hall.

Due to lack of attendance at meetings it was decided to close the Grange and in 1974 the Grange was discontinued. The money on hand was distributed to the following churches from which most of our members were from: St. John's Lutheran, St. John's U.C.C. and Reedsville Evangelical.

### MARCH 26, 1909

### FRIEDENSBURG

Levi Reed was in town.

Spring weather, but a little cold.

The Grange received two carloads of fertilizer.

Dr. Stewart is out again looking after his patients.

The students of the normal school are spending a week's vacation at home.

Rev. Smoll will preach on Sunday morning in St. John's church in the german language.

Wm. F. Ziegler was confined to his bed with neuralgia in the head. Dr. Santee attended him.

Quite a stir of moving was going on about this community. Quite a few moved last week already.

Mr. Bergeman, at one time the queensware man, of Pottsville was a town caller with his beautiful car.

Levi Herring moved from the Heffner dwelling to the farm he bought of Mr. Kremer, near Second Mountain.

Harvey Heffner moved from the farm into the dwelling in town, where Lydia Moyer vacated last week. Aaron Ziegler moved on the Heffner farm, vacated by Harvey Heffner.

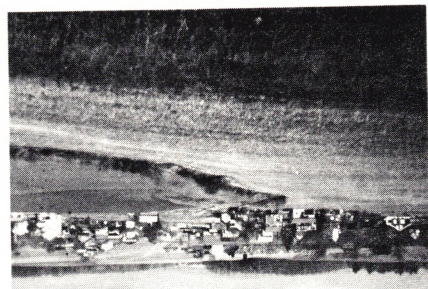
Frank Yeich, of Black Horse, has brought to your correspondent a hen's egg, 8½ x 6¼ inches, and weighs 4½ ounces. It can be seen at the store of Ney & Brown. The hen is of the Plymouth Rock kind. It's a monster.

Milton Ziegler's only child, 5-year-old daughter, died of whooping cough and pneumonia, and was buried on Thursday in St. John's cemetery, Rev. Smoll officiating. Chas. Wagner, of Sch. Haven, was the funeral director. The pallbearers were Mary Moyer, Dora Brown, Cora Zettlemyer and Alma Loy.

Tuesday Alvin Maidenford fetched his father, Edward Maidenfore, with the few things he had left, to his home at DeTrukeville, where he will make his future home. Maidenford's sale was well attended. This was the third sale he had, which occurred each time on his birthday anniversary, the 17th. of March. He was, at the time of this sale, 84 years old. He is a pensioner and well perserved.

A flock of wild geese passed through this vicinity on Saturday.

C. Smith's horse took sick very suddenly last week, but is reported to be improving at this writing.

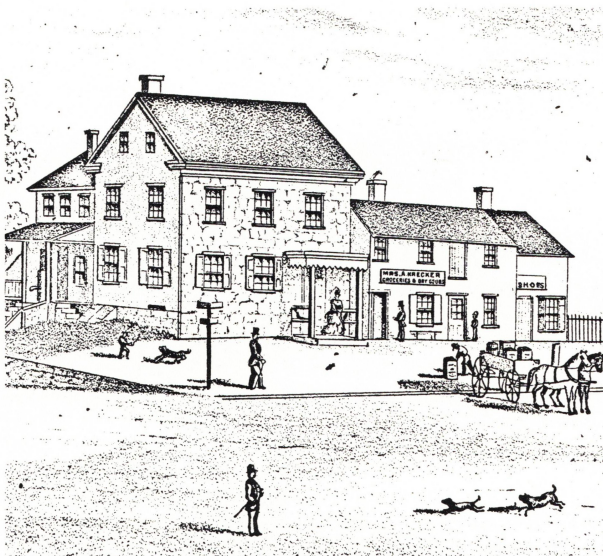




LAYING OF ROUTE 443



LAYING OF ROUTE 443



RES. & STORE OF MRS. A. KRECKER



FRIEDENSBURG HOUSE



HOTEL FOX - FRIEDENSBURG, PA.

