



# BALTZER MEYER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, PA

## What's in a name?

In this issue, we take a look the origins of the names of places in and around Hempfield Township. We are actively seeking stories behind the names of other places in and around the township. If you have any information that you would like to share, please contact us. Or, better yet, mail in the membership coupon found on this page and join us in collecting Hempfield Township history!

### FORT ALLEN

*Old and New Westmoreland* (1918) by John N. Boucher has the following information about Fort Allen:

"This name was given to a structure erected for public protection 'in Hempfield Township, between Wendel Onry's and Christopher Trubey's.' It was built at the same time that Fort Shippen at John Proctor's, Shields' Fort, and others were built. That was during the strenuous times of 1774. It was probably a firmly built log house or blockhouse, and may never have been used. It was likely named after Andrew Allen, who was then a member of the Supreme Executive Council. It was most likely a short distance northwest of Greensburg."

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monthly meetings are at the Baltzer Meyer Historical Center unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.--Christmas Program

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.--BMHS Annual Meeting

WINTER LIBRARY HOURS--Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Closed on holidays. Please call ahead if the forecast calls for wintry weather.

### BALTZER MEYER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

642 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg, PA 15601-9711

Phone: 724-836-6915 • E-Mail: [BMHSHempfield@aol.com](mailto:BMHSHempfield@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Westmoreland County Families of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Hempfield Township Historical Topics of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Jan. 1 through Dec. of the calendar year

Please circle if:    Renewing    New Member    Gift

Check the appropriate line (please make checks payable to BMHS):

Student (to age 22 with ID) \$5      Individual \$15

Family (same household) \$20      Lifetime, single \$250

Lifetime, couple \$500

Tax deductible contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(anything above the cost of dues is deductible)

### BOVARD

The village of Bovard was named after Harry F. Bovard, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bovard of Jacktown, near Irwin. A short biography of Harry F. Bovard can be found in *Bovard's 75th Anniversary 1910-1985*:

"He moved to Greensburg at an early age. In his earlier days he played as a member of several amateur and semi-pro football teams. He was married to Mary Moorhead.

He started with the Keystone Company as a clerk in Madison and rose to Outside Foreman and then to Superintendent. In 1918, he became General Manager. After the death of Julian B. Huff, he succeeded him as President of the Keystone Coal and Coke Co. in 1922 and held that position until the company was liquidated in early 1945. He only held one elected public office and that was the office of County Treasurer from 1906 to 1909.

He donated a large part of what is now Mt. Odin Park to the City of Greensburg and was instrumental in the Keystone Coal Company selling to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for only \$35,000 what is today Keystone State Park."

### HERMINE NO. 2

In his *History of Sewickley Township and Suterville*, John J. Wilson writes that for years, many people thought that Hermine got its name from a woman named Herminie White, but in reality the village was named after Hermine Berwind:

"The Ocean Coal Co. was Edward J. Berwind's project. 'Berwind' transposed gave Windber its name. His wife gave Hermine its name. He tried to make Oceanco stick to the No. 2 mine, but 'Hermine No. 2' stuck. Only the PA Railroad used the name Oceanco as the name of its depot. Six double houses on one of the hills in Hermine No. 2 are in Sewickley Township."

### ARONA

The village of Arona was part of Hempfield Township until 1895 and is bordered by the township on all sides. The story of its name comes from *Arona: Celebrating 100 Years of History*:

"Arona was first named Target. Oliver Perry Siegfried, son of John Siegfried, gave the village of Arona its present name. He was an avid reader. While reading a book on Italian history, he found the name Arona in northern Italy and liked it so much that he requested the name change from Target to Arona."

### YOUNGWOOD

The land that is now Youngwood was part of Hempfield Township until 1902. The origins of its name are found in *100 Years: Celebrating Youngwood (1999)*:

"Youngwood, prior to 1900, was a large area of land owned by the John Young and the James Woods families of Greensburg, hence the name of the town. In 1873, E.M. Gross of Greensburg, purchased the Young and Woods farms lying east and west of the Southwest Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in addition to the David Highberger farm to the north."

Visit our website for more information

[www.pa-roots.com/~baltzermeyer/pages/home.html](http://www.pa-roots.com/~baltzermeyer/pages/home.html)