

BUSH HILL SIDELIGHTS



John Bush, Jane Ware, Mary Bush, Helen Masters 1895

by
Courtney C. Gustafson



John Bush---Jose Masters 1916.



Bush Residence 1890.

Table of Contents

Dedication/Preface/Acknowledgements	1---5
Bush Hill Farm	6---12
Helen Masters Memories	13---28
Chronological History of Bush Hill Area	29---72
Jane Ware--Oldest co-ed	73---74
Bush Hill Farm Poems	75---77
Bonnie Castle	78---99
Tragedy at Bush Hill Farm	100---102
Masters Family History/Western Trips	103---108
Bush Hill Road Construction	109---112
Jack Dugger/Orin Brink	113---115
Ronnie Kleisath.	116
Bush Family Obituaries	117---128
Bush Genealogy	129---138
Bush Hill Gustafson Descendants.	139
General Smethport History Photos	140---152



Jane Ware (95) and Ina Bush Roberts (86) ---1955.

DEDICATION TO RJ FOLTZ

RJ remembered by his family

In Memory of

Richard Jacob Foltz

“R J”

09/16/1931-04/08/2010

He paused for a moment on his journey up the pine trail and thought, “It can’t get much better than this-- it’s as close as you can get to heaven on earth”. The sky was blue, the air was crisp, and the leaves of fall were swirling through the air with the glow of orange, yellow, and red. RJ and Bo, his dog, were on one of the numerous jaunts through the woods of his beloved Bush Hill Farm in Smethport, Pennsylvania.

His love affair began in 1971 when RJ and his companions would gather at the local camp grounds where they had set up a hunting camp which bordered the farm. During the annual gatherings he always admired from afar this land known as Bush Hill Farm. He dreamed of what it would be like to own the land but never thought it would come to pass. Then in 1986, an opportunity arose--- to settle the estate, the farm was put up for sale. RJ immediately took action and Bush Hill Farm became his.

Not only did he receive 430 acres, he acquired the original farm house full of historic documents revealing the beginnings of the farm. And, as it was his nature to do, he began restoring the farm grounds and researching and categorizing documents revealing a rich history of the people and events that occurred on Bush Hill farmland.

He loved to tell stories of his discoveries and would be pleased to know that, with the help of his friend Courtney, the history of this land has been preserved for others to enjoy. Thank you RJ for this wonderful gift.

RJ REMEMBERED BY THE AUTHOR

The author would like to dedicate this book to the memory of RJ Foltz. My first encounters with RJ revealed a man who was stern and did not appear to want to become too friendly with the local people. I guess this was his way of trying to protect his little pet project...the Bush Hill Farm.. from outside influences. I am sure he had other holdings and properties in his portfolio but this farm was his true love. It was like the little kid who found his first good mud puddle... he loved to “play” at the Bush Hill Farm.

As RJ entered the winter years of his life, this farm became even more important to him. When the new pipeline was bulldozed out on the other side of route 6, RJ was very meticulous and guaranteed that there was no “scar” left on his beautiful Bush Hill Farm. All of the stumps from the trees were buried and the pipeline right of way was properly seeded.

Once RJ and I decided we were indeed going to write this book, it became a very pleasant experience for me each time we would sit in the kitchen of the old house and he told me stories about Elisha Bush and the Bush Hill Farm. He always called me Courtney. I was like a sponge trying to absorb all the information. There was a twinkle in his eye that only comes from being fully involved in what you are doing. Unfortunately, as often is the case, a great deal of Bush Hill history went to the grave with RJ.

RJ was a good steward for the Bush Hill Farm. He strived to keep the farm in its natural state and protected it from any encroachment.

It is my hope that as he looks down on his beloved Bush Hill Farm and this book, he will say.... “Good job, Courtney!”



RJ and “Bo” in Dart’s field.



RJ and Katie and Lauren.



Richard Jacob Foltz 1931-2010.



RJ and "Bo" in the woods.



RJ with Katie and Lauren in wheelbarrow.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR....

Courtney “Gus” Gustafson, the fifth child of Edith and Fred Gustafson, was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania on March 4, 1942. He spent his childhood in the Bush Hill area of Smethport and graduated from Smethport high school in 1960.

In 1960 he enrolled at Thiel College then in January of 1962 he transferred to Lock Haven State Teachers College. He graduated in August of 1964 from Lock Haven with a degree in biology. In 1965 he joined the Pennsylvania Fish Commission as a fishery biologist at the Benner Springs Fish Research Station in Bellefonte, PA. He later served as Chief of the Research Section for the Commission. He resigned from that position in August of 1977. He then joined Mt. Parnell Fisheries in Mercersburg, PA and served as a fishery research biologist. He retired from that post on August 5, 2004, to become a full time grandfather.

In 1965 he married Sonia Musselman, daughter of Charles and Rosanna Musselman of Lock Haven. On February 22, 1968, a daughter, Cynthia Dawn, was born at the Lock Haven hospital. On August 5, 1970, a son, Kevin Courtney, was born at the Bellefonte hospital. Gus now has six grandchildren.

As a young lad he often spent time hunting in the Bush Hill area. On certain occasions he would venture onto the farm known as the “Bush Hill Farm” owned by Jane Ware and Helen Masters. Over the years Gus spent a great deal of time hiking and hunting this Bush Hill Farm with his brother Ralph and also his early childhood friend and neighbor Ronnie Kleisath. He would find the remnants of old buildings, foundations, etc. and he became very interested in the history of this farm.

In the late 1980’s this farm was sold to Richard “RJ” Foltz from Sharon, PA. Gus became friends with RJ over the years. Through discussions with RJ, Gus learned that a great deal of the historic information concerning the Bush Hill Farm had been left in the library of the house on the farm at the time he purchased the farm. RJ and Gus discussed the possibility of writing a book on this historic farm. RJ had already begun to organize some of the material. Unfortunately, RJ contracted bladder cancer and passed away on April 8, 2010.

Jeff Foltz, RJ’s son, knew of these plans and turned the various historic documents over to Gus for his use in compiling this book. Gus spent many hours gathering additional material concerning the history of the Bush Hill Farm. The newspaper archives on the Hamlin Library’s web site served as an invaluable tool compiling data. Literally hundreds of hours were spent on this website by Gus. The McKean County Historical Society made material available for the book.

The intent of this book is to preserve some of the happenings on the Bush Hill Farm as well as sidelight events that took place in the local area. It became apparent that this farm became a labor of love for the Bush descendants. In the 158 years that this farm remained in the Bush family there were many, many joyous occasions experienced on this farm and also there were certain times of heartache.

Numerous people contributed to the production of this book. Katie Foltz, granddaughter of RJ, was instrumental in the early stages of compiling info on the Bush Hill Farm. Some of the Bush descendants including Linda Dugger, Jill Masters and Quentin Masters provided info for the book. Also, Ruth Covert provided info on Orin Brink. Lorine Rounsville, of the Hamlin Memorial library provided access to photos. Ross Porter, Glenn Cunningham, Donald Comes, Jim Freer and Bill Lake provided numerous photos for the book. To all of these people the author would like to say “Thank You!”.

BUSH HILL FARM OWNERSHIP

HANNAH AND ELISHA BUSH



In 1828, Elisha and Hannah Bush came from New York state to settle in McKean county. Elisha was 18 years old. Elisha purchased land east of Smethport (Bush Hill Farm). Elisha and his brother built a log cabin on this land. Elisha and Hannah had 8 children--Hiram, Charles, John, Mary, Andrew, Silas, Melinda and Saloma. This farm would stay in the Bush family for the next 158 years. Four generations of the Bush descendants lived on this farm.

JOHN AND MARY BUSH



John W. Bush was the son of Elisha and Hannah. He married Mary Dexter from Port Allegany and they lived on the farm many years. In 1862 their daughter, Jane Bush was born. They also had a son O. D. Bush and a daughter Desmonda. They also had a son Herman and a daughter Helen who both died at birth.

THOMAS WARE AND JANE BUSH SMITH WARE



Jane Bush married John Smith on June 28, 1884. Their daughter, Helen Smith, was born on April 18, 1885. John and Jane were divorced on November 11, 1890. Jane Bush Smith married the Rev. Thomas Ware on September 12, 1904, in Chicago. Thomas Ware died on November 1, 1925. Jane Ware relocated to the Bush Hill Farm from Chicago in 1922. Jane Ware died at the family homestead on January 21, 1960 at the age of 97.

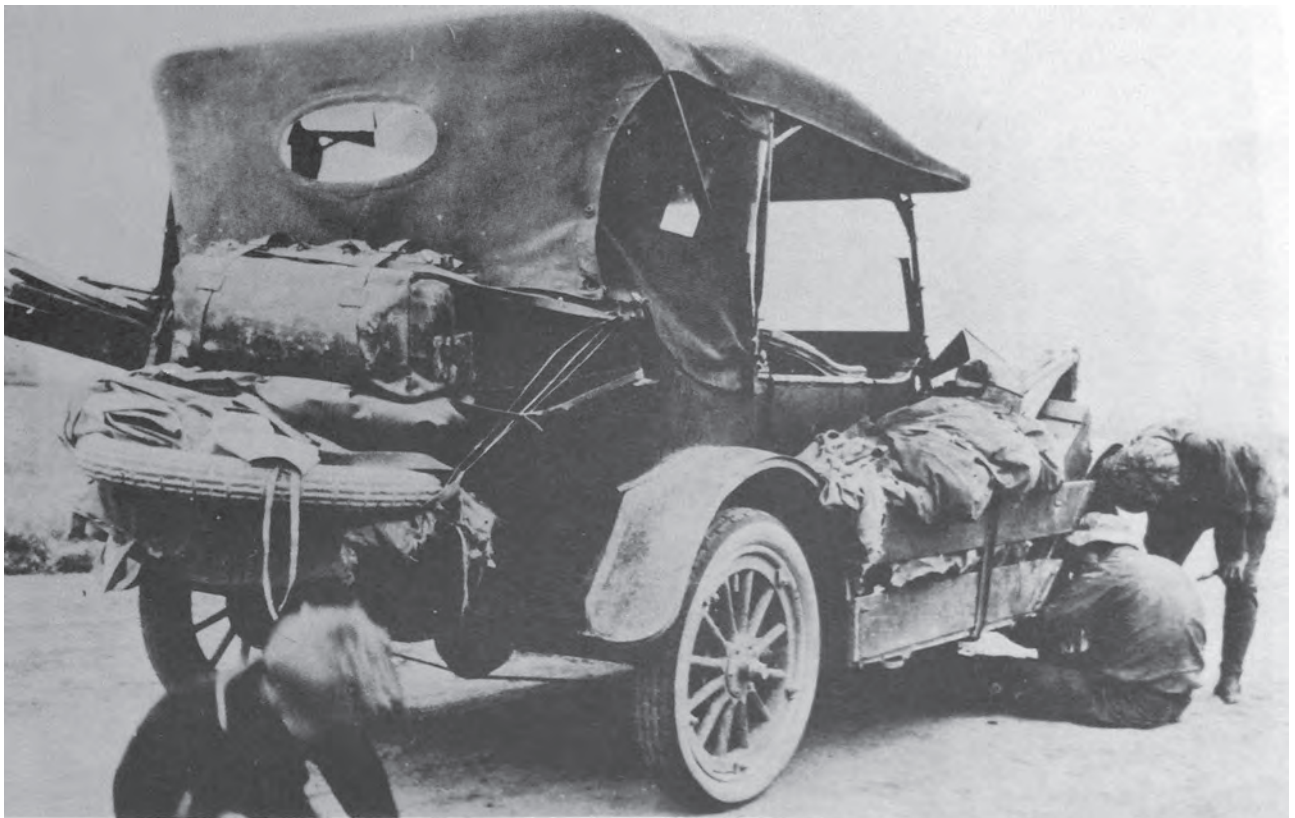
J. G. MASTERS AND HELEN SMITH MASTERS



Helen Smith married Joseph G. Masters in 1912. They had four children.....Jose, Jane, Conrad and Helen. They lived in Omaha most of their professional life but moved back to the Bush Hill Farm in 1944. Helen Masters was the last Bush descendant to live on the Bush Hill Farm. She died on January 17, 1979 at the age of 93. In 1986 the Bush Hill Farm was sold to RJ Foltz.



Elisha and Hannah Bush and children 1860's.



JG Masters repairing 1918 touring car.

JOHN W. BUSH



John W. Bush, farmer, P. O. East Smethport, was the third son of Elisha and Hanna Bush, and was born on the farm in Keating township, McKean county, PA, in 1837. His father was a native of Oneida county, N. Y., where he married, and in 1828 located on the farm owned by his son, John W. When Elisha Bush settled on his purchase, McKean county was an unbroken wilderness. Dense forests of pine, hemlock, cherry, maple and almost every species of timber stood in majestic grandeur; sloping hill and fertile valley spread out before them, and little streams of pure soft water flowed in great abundance through these grand old forests, winding their way to the Allegheny river.

Land was cheap, and his keen eye foresaw that with industry and economy he could soon possess a comfortable independence, for McKean county was soon to develop mines of wealth and stand as one of the first counties for health and industries in the State. True, it must be a life of toil and privation, with land to clear before he could raise food for himself, wife, and little ones; during this time of waiting he must work wherever opportunity offered, and has worked all day from sunrise till sunset for the small sum of 50 cents, or eight pounds of flour, and was thankful for even that. Today you hire a man, and he will work nine hours and charge \$1.50 or \$2.

At that time there were no mills where grain could be ground nearer than twenty miles, but for the convenience of himself and the little settlement where he lived, Mr. Bush invented a small hand-mill for grinding corn, and this convenience supplied many a want. But if they had privations, they had bless-

ings also, and, when want pressed hard, each neighbor felt his friend's trouble was his also. If a family had a sickness it was not necessary to ask help for friends or neighbors came miles to assist.

There were no schoolhouses or churches, but mothers taught their little ones what they could, and the inhabitants would assemble in some neighbor's house and unite in prayer, feeling even in their crude homes they were sure of the same blessing from their Heavenly father that they received in the prosperous far-away home they had left.

The woods abounded in wild game, and if meat was needed it was not necessary to go far from home to fetch down a fine deer or go to the brook and catch as many speckled trout as might be desired. But there were animals that were not so harmless as deer, for bears were plenty and often tore down the ripening corn or committed depredations on the sheep-fold; and Mrs. Bush states that in this lonely place, without a neighbor within a mile of her, she has stayed alone with her little ones for a week at a time when their necessities kept her husband away to work, and all night long the hoarse bark of the wolf in an adjoining thicket, or the scream of the panther, kept her company.

Woman is said to be weak and dependent, and in many things it may be true, but in times of trial she is strong, and when a man would despair and die, she is hopeful, ever assisting, ever cheering him on, so that difficulties may be overcome.

As the settlers had not yet cleared the land for grazing purposes, their cattle were obliged to seek food in the forest, and the cows were brought in at night and secured in a yard till after they were milked in the morning, when they were driven away again. One night, Mr. Bush returned home rather late, and hastened to search for his cow; having found her and started her homeward, imagine his horror when the terrific scream of a panther in a tree nearby sounded on his ears. The cow did not need farther urging to start at full speed down the irregular foot path for the clearing, and Mr. Bush, preferring the company of the fast-fleeing cow to that of the panther, seized hold of the tail, and in a remarkably short space of time the two arrived at home.

In due time his children were able to assist him, and at length he got control of the United States mail route from Smethport to Wellsborough, a distance of seventy miles, but, carrying the mail part way the most of the time, and a Mr. Barnaby carrying the other end of the route, the services of his son, John W. Bush, were called into requisition, and he (being a boy about fourteen years of age) was entrusted with the mail, and, there being hardly an apology for a road, he was obliged to carry it on horseback, making two trips a week. For nearly six years he performed this duty through mud and storm with the utmost promptness and fidelity.

He had the benefit of an academic course at school, and today is an honored citizen of McKean county. Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Bush, however, in course of time, retired from active life, and removed to the town of Smethport, where the mother died in 1883, and the father followed her November 22, 1885.

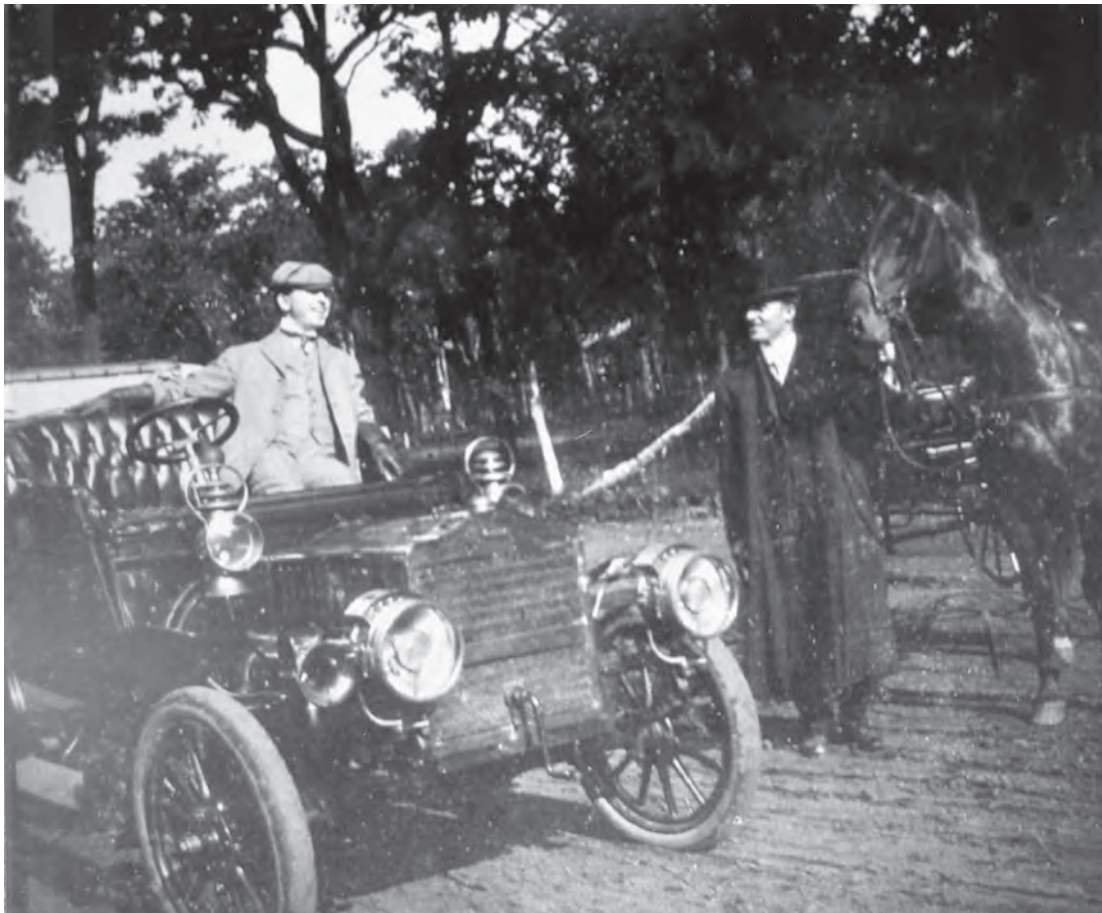
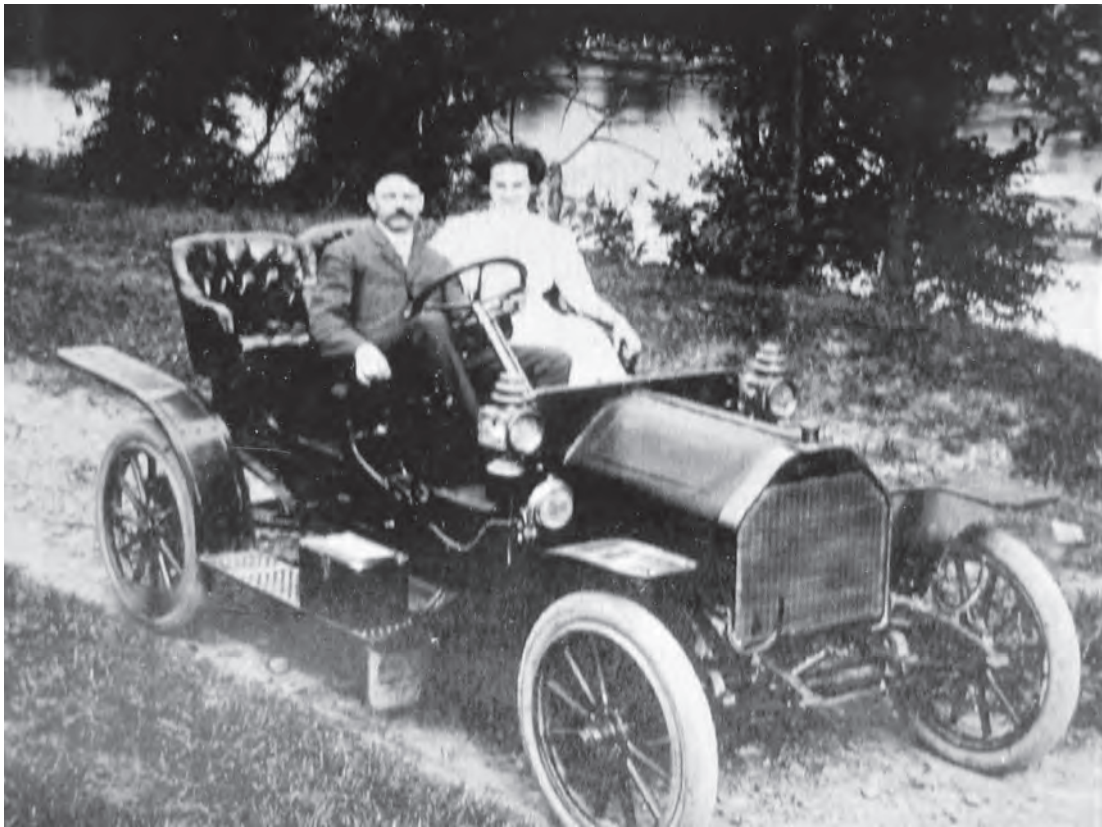
The children of Elisha and Hannah Bush were Hiram, Charles, John W., Mary (wife of Homer Howe), Silas, Andrew, Saloma (wife of William Stanton of Keating), Melinda (wife of Walter Evans of Smethport) and Wallace.

John W. Bush purchased the farm adjoining the old homestead, and after his marriage located on his purchase and engaged in farming, becoming a large land holder, also owning the old homestead, to which he removed, April 20, 1875 and which was his residence.

John W. Bush was married in 1856 to Mary, daughter of John and Maria Dexter, of Port Allegany, and they had three children: O. D., Jane (wife of J. L. Smith) and Desmonda (wife of O. B. Cooper). Mr. Bush was a member of the Baptist church. In politics he was a Republican.



Pencil drawing of Bush Hill Farm by Jane Masters.



J. G. Masters "courting cars".

HELEN MASTERS MEMORIES



Helen Masters and Jane Ware, 1958

The following material was written by Helen Masters in 1972 at the age of 87.

Have you ever wondered why north central Pennsylvania was comparatively late in settlement: the grant land to William Penn was made in 1681: Smethport was settled in 1822. Why this gap?

The grant, as you must know, was made to satisfy a debt of the King to William Penn's father, then deceased. The son, William, when at Oxford had made the unfashionable mistake of joining the quaker society, and now, with this grant in hand, he determined to lead a colony with proper equipment to the newly acquired territory. He planned also to pay the Indians for the land they ceded, thus to avoid hostilities and to lay a foundation for a peaceful commonwealth.

As long as Penn was in charge, the Indians were satisfied with the arrangement but when Penn's deputies took over, corruption arose. Moreover, the various grants made to individuals by different kings and at different times, overlapped each other and the boundaries were in dispute. How could a settler get a clear title to his claim? Thus the colonists confined themselves largely to area adjacent to the sea or to a sea-way. Northwestern Pennsylvania was an unknown land. Exploration was dependent upon a waterway, and there was no direct waterway to Northeastern Pennsylvania. There were great forests and mountains, hostile animals, and Indians who might or might not be friendly.

A change came in 1784. The Pennsylvania legislature which had bought the Penn properties for 130,000 pounds sterling, now sent commissioners to a conference called with the chiefs of the five nations of the Iroquois at Ft. Stanwix (now Rome, NY) to arrange a price with these claimants for the disputed area of northern Pennsylvania. The Indians agreed to cede the land for ten thousand dollars (less than the price of an ordinary house today). This is called "The last Purchase". McKean county is one of the 14 counties carved out of this area.

Land offices, surveys, rich and poor purchasers were slow in advancing.

The State Assembly was very anxious to sell land to reimburse itself for the \$10,000 outlay. Accordingly, the price was lowered from the original price of 80 cents an acre to 53 cents, and in 1792 to 13 cents. Sales then became brisk. Two million acres were bought by the Holland Land Company. A wealthy citizen of Philadelphia, William Bingham, bought 1,125,000 acres. He sold part of it to John Keating, a man who proved himself in this area to a helpful friend to both Indian and settler. He gave a Square for

County Court House to help make Smethport the chosen County Seat. The township in which we live was named for him.

In 1884, a hundred years after the Last Purchase, the Keating estate sold its holdings in McKean county to Byron D. Hamlin, Henry Hamlin and John Forest, all men of Smethport. They paid \$400,000 for 297,428 acres, an area that in 1798 had sold for \$80,000. The bank of Smethport, established by the Hamlins, became an agent of the government for the buying and selling of lands. It is hard now in 1972 to realize the sacrifice and labor that went into even small payments for land. Of course, no great amount of currency was in circulation. A full day's work of 8 or more hours brought fifty cents, or 8 pounds of flour. In 1830, postage for letters carried 400 miles was 25 cents, or 2 bushels of oats, or 2 bushel of potatoes, or 4 pounds of butter, or 5 dozen eggs. In 1890, one pound of butter was worth 25 cents.

In 1876, The Last Purchase was divided into 10 districts to make preliminary surveys, so that land could be sold to settlers. But settlers did not come in large numbers until the border warfare had moved into Ohio. Many settlers came from New England and there were some who had previously come to New York state from New England. Others came from the Philadelphia area, via Lock Haven and Driftwood and the Canoe Place, now Port Allegany. The settlements in the northern tier counties were deeply stamped in the New England way of life: the central square, surrounded by shops, the Town Meeting, the habit of church-going and the devotion to thrift.

The name "Smethport" was originally "Smeth's Port", from the Holland De Smeths, who had long been buyers of land and counselors to buyers. Seven merchants known as the Holland Land Company bought nearly two million acres here and at their request the town was named Smethport. In 1807, it was chosen as the County seat. Town lots were surveyed, but there were little permanent settlements until 1822.

So much for a short briefing in general condition.

Meanwhile, the enterprising Dutch, the merchants and carriers of this period, had done a large fur business with the Indians and had brought settlers to New York state. Some settlers had also come from rugged New England and from the sea coast. John Bush, the father of your great-great grandfather, Elisha Bush, was a descendant of Reynold Bush (about 1592-1662) who had come to this country about 1630 and had become the proprietor of Cambridge (now Brieghton). He lived on the south side of the River Charles, had a wife and family, and was a trusted man in the community. (A careful and detailed record of the Bush family Tree has been worked out by Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bush, 363 West 9th Street, Erie, PA 16502). Let me repeat then: John, the descendant of Reynold Bush was the father of Elisha Bush. You are all familiar with the pictures of Elisha and Hanna Bush here at the farm. John Bush was born in 1763 in Enfield, Conn. He made his home in the finger lake country of New York state. He was not primarily a farmer but a carpenter.

Thus he made contacts rather widely and was well acquainted with various counties in the lake area. In 1800 his wife, Polly Pearce died. They had no children. In 1805 he married Huldah Hochridge, a widow who lost her English husband by drowning and had brought her three young sons away from the coast to live in Cazenovia, Madison county, NY.

John and Huldah had six children. The first was named Polly after Polly Pearce. The fourth was Elisha, born in Burlington, Ostego county NY on June 26, 1810. As John taught his sons the essentials of carpentry he must have realized that in Elisha he had a very apt pupil, one who quickly absorbed the in-

structions and also had suggestions and improvements. Of course while Elisha was growing up he heard much discussion about the big opening of land in northern Pennsylvania. Settlement was no longer opposed by the Indians, and home-sites could be obtained at a reasonable price. I fancy that the situation was not unlike the situation after the Civil War when new land was opened in the West and great numbers of returning soldiers swelled the caravans westward. Your grandfather, J. T. Master, returning to Illinois, now thrilled with this great opportunity, sweat through the hot plains and took up a claim in Kansas. He actually settled in south east Kansas near the town of Newton, an old cattle town on the Chisholm Trail.

And so it was that Elisha and his brother Uri journeyed to northern Pennsylvania, and in spite of the dense forest were able to select an area containing a number of excellent springs and creeks, slopes suitable for tillage and not far from a growing town where logs could be floated to the great mills Williamsport and Jersey Shore and even farther. This initial acreage was the nucleus of the Bush Hill Farm. It is likely that Elisha and his brother put up a simple log cabin about where Conrad built a cabin. There was an excellent spring by the cabin. This spring now provides water to Ralph Gustafson's ponds. This land was taken up in 1828 when Elisha was 18 years old.

Elisha had already found the woman he wanted to marry: Hannah Paige of Cazenovia, born in 1807. In 1815 her family had left Vermont and came to live in Cazenovia. This is also where Elisha's aunt Polly lived and it may well be that on a visit to Aunt Polly, Elisha made the acquaintance of Hannah. It seems likely that he took her to Smethport and they were married there. And then, for them, a new life began.

The whole area, densely forested, was known as the Seneca Indians' hunting lands. It of course contained many wild animals dangerous both to man and to his flocks. The one most intensely feared was the panther, often called a wild-cat. It lay along the large branch of a tree, ready to jump on man or beast and quickly tear its prey to pieces. It made an unearthly scream that caused a tired horse to run like a racer. Out of this period has come a story of Elisha's experience with a panther. He was a little later than usual bringing the cow home from pasture in the woods, but found her without trouble. Suddenly, on the way homeward, the fiendish scream of the panther sounded from a tree right above them. The cow inspired with almost unbelievable speed and dashed over the rocks and between trees in a frenzy of eagerness to get home. Elisha seized her tail, closed his eyes when they went through briars and thickets and thought nothing of his bruises. He and the cow had some way escaped.

In the early days of settlement, hair-raising adventures were not limited to Elisha. I quote now from historic papers left me by mother, Mrs. Jane Bush Smith Ware, grand-daughter of Elisha and Hannah:

"Many years ago my Grandpa, Elisha Bush, cut down trees and built a log house near the spring where Conrad had his chicken house. He and Grandma Hannah moved into the house and lived there with their baby. They cut down some more trees and planted some corn and other things, kept a cow and some chickens and an ox team to plow the ground and haul wood, etc. Grandpa could drive his oxen to Smethport via a path through the woods. A shed was attached to the kitchen and from the shed a hall led through the length of the house and had an outside door at the far end. Beds in the curtained alcoves, or "stalls" filled the space along the hallway."

"One warm summer day Grandpa Elisha put a bag of corn in his cart, hitched up the oxen and went to Smethport to get the corn ground into meal or exchanged for meal to make corn bread and mush, the usual supper menu. Grandma Hannah had made a big iron kettle of mush and put it into the shed to cool. It was getting late and would soon be dark and the cow had come to the house to be milked.

Grandma noted that the baby was asleep in his cradle in the hallway and so she went to milk the cow. With trees on every side it darkened rather fast. Returning to the shed and unable to distinguish shapes clearly, she heard a noise like a dog eating the mush. She gave the dog a kick and told it to get out of there. It moved forward into the hall where a candle was burning. Hannah could see it more clearly. It was a bear. Then, indeed, she was afraid. And to add to her fears the bear stopped by the cradle and was smelling of the baby. Stories of babies being dragged from their cradles and devoured in the woods fired her to action. It must have been an explosive kick she gave the bear this time, for it ran out of the farther door of the house and into the woods. Grandma was very sick after being so frightened.”

Again, I quote from the papers of my mother, Mrs. Jane L. Ware:

“Grandpa Elisha Bush was the father of John W. Bush, my father. In 1846, when John was 9 years old, in the late fall, when all had gone to bed, someone woke up smelling smoke. The log house was on fire. Some snow lay on the ground but everyone had to hurry to get out of the house for the fire was fast burning it down. John and his brothers, Charles and Hiram, slept upstairs in the loft, and had to open the window and go out on the roof of the shed and slide down to the edge and jump off into the snow. Their feet were bare and their only clothing the shirts they slept in. All the winter provisions had been gathered and properly stored for winter: the potatoes and other vegetables properly stored for winter; even the pork salted down in brine in barrels, the sausage, the mincemeat, the head-cheese packed in stone crocks. The winter wood was cut and corded up. Everything was burned up.”

“And the children were cold and crying. “Grandpa” Aker, their good neighbor on the west, occupying the land now owned by Ralph Gustafson and Mrs. Sylvanus Pierce, took Grandma Hannah, her sister, Lucinda Cleveland, and the children home with him, gave them warmth and food, and loaned them clothes. Grandpa Elisha joined them when the fire had spent itself. Just how it had started remains unknown. But with open fires, clothes hung all around to dry, and candles in general use, the chances of fire were great.”

“Only stout hearts could face such a disaster. But stout hearts they had. Grandpa Elisha had built a horse barn a year or so earlier. He intended to build a house too just where he did build, and use the water from the spring which still flows abundantly. They arranged some rooms to live in, in the new barn, and they made do through the winter. In early spring Grandpa Elisha was getting out rocks for the wall of the new house across the road, getting logs together for beams, planning the rooms carefully and finally digging the cellar. This would not be a log house but a house of finished timber with great pines in front. John helped set the pines.”

Let me sum up some more pertinent facts, gleaned mostly from my mother’s papers. Town lots in Smethport were surveyed in 1807, but settlement was slow until 1822. The first census of McKean county was made in 1801: 141 whites and 1 negro. The first bridge across Potato Creek was built in 1820 at a cost of \$300. Since it was very inconvenient to get corn ground, Grandpa Elisha set up a primitive grist mill on his own property, finding and fitting the stones himself. The neighbors were also welcome to use it.

My mother writes: “I remember seeing one of the stones in the pasture. It served to hold the tether for sheep or cattle by reason of the hole through its center. Ultimately the stone was buried close to the corner line between us and Sylvanus Pierce, and was near the road”.

“When G’pa Elisha settled here there was not a wagon road in all of McKean county. At Jersey Shore,

100 miles distant, was the nearest post office. When there first came to be a mail carrier, he traveled on foot, supplying his own provisions and using his pockets for mail bags. It took two weeks to make the round trip.”

“The first oil well drilled was at Titusville, known as the Drake well. It was finished August 28, 1859. It was 69.5 feet deep. Tools were suspended by ropes. They made 4 ft. a day, and it was a 4-inch hole. This of course set off a tide of speculation.”

Hannah and Elisha had ten children. One died from an accident in early childhood. She choked on a thimble she had swallowed. Nine lived to grow up and marry. Hiram, Charles, Silas, John, Andrew, Mary E., Melinda, Salome and Wallace. The new house, spacious though it seemed to be, had no idle space.



The second house is on the left in this photo. The current house built in 1882 is on the right. The main road to Port Allegany went between the houses. Photo taken 1895.

The house was built with great care and competence. It was 1.5 stories high, on a wall about 30 ft. by 20 ft. and stood broadside to the road on a small rise. Thus it faced the south and sunshine streamed through its rooms a good share of the day. As the pines grew they cooled the house and yard in summer and protected it in winter. A guest might drive up to the fine fence of planed boards, hitch his horse, walk up to the door stone of great flat rock and rap on the door. Someone on the inside would peek through the lace curtains that hung at the narrow glass panels at each side of the door, then open and invite the caller in. He would find himself in a small square hall with stairs in front of him and a door at each side of him. The west door would lead to the parlor and “spare room”, the east door to the living-dining room and the kitchen beyond. On the east side of the house an addition was attached. It had no cellar and was roughly finished. It was important, however, for it was the kitchen. Blue wood smoke rose from its chimney early and late. Baking, cooking, and laundry went on here constantly. Behind it, close to its north side, were the wood shed and the wood yard where logs were brought down in the fall, sawed into proper lengths, split, and corded up to season in the wood shed.

The spring, now walled up into a well, was only a few steps over large flat rocks from the platform in front of the kitchen and a sort of hand sweep was provided to raise the pails of water the short distance to the surface. When the men went to work they always left a large supply of water in the kitchen. Water was abundant. It drained from the spring in a rivulet constantly. And by a home made conduit it was led into a large water-trough (hewed from a tree trunk) at the road side. This was greatly appreciated by man and beast, especially as the area became more populated and as travel increased. For this public benefit Grandpa was allowed one dollar a year remission on his road taxes.

Elisha and Hannah had six sons and three daughters who grew to maturity and married. The education of this family was of course one of the problems thoughtfully considered by Elisha and Hannah. About 1829 the state Assembly had provided that each county might establish an academy to be supported in part by state subsidy and in part by private subscription. Poor children to a number not exceeding five could be admitted free but not for more than two years. The original grant was for two thousand dollars, and this had to pay for the building and furnish a productive fund for support. It took time for this venture to get on its feet, but it was well supported, a two-story building was erected in the neighborhood of the present Court House, and its graduates and students enjoyed considerable prestige. The subjects taught were Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, Philosophy, Geography, Grammar, Latin and Greek. John, and probably other members of the family went to the Academy. And there was a Singing School in which John was an enthusiastic and gifted student. There he learned the rudiments of music. He had a good baritone voice and a good ear and all his life loved to sing.

In 1834, the Common School Act was passed. Gradually schools filtered into the rural areas. A little red schoolhouse was built a short distance up the road from Elisha's house. It was built by the neighborhood and they furnished the fire wood. The teacher, at \$12.00 a month, was paid by subsidy and was entitled to "board around". This same building became also something of a social center. Occasional religious meetings were held and a Sunday School was conducted. An acre of land above the schoolhouse was set aside for a burial plot and so remains to this day. The large balsam tree, once set at a grave as a memorial, now towers over the county side and marks the site.

However, little I know directly about Elisha Bush. I feel sure that he was a shrewd man, with a mind open to improvements and to opportunities that suited his purposes. He built one house in Smethport, and I think he built two: one just above the Marvin Creek dam (now used as a nursing home) and one on Willow Street below the dam. He planned for him and Hannah to retire to town in their later years. He owned the trees that would furnish the lumber for these houses, he knew how to build and he had sons to help him. There was Hiram who showed great mechanical genius. It might be Hiram who would have a sawmill and grist mill here where the water from Marvin Creek would bring down the logs from the higher levels. It would be a sound investment.

And there was another thing: mail delivery. Elisha secured at least part control of the route opened between Smethport and Wellsboro, a distance of 70 miles. At the age of 14, when on the frontier a boy was considered a man, John became the rider of the first stretch of 35 miles. The other end was carried by a Mr. Barnaby. There were no roads and few cabins, but miles of forests, with the screams of panther and the hoarse bark of wolves. In winter John frequently became so stiff with cold that he had to be lifted from his horse at the way-station. In the history of McKean county he is reported to have carried the mail for six years with never a complaint. His health suffered considerably in later life from the exposure he had undergone.

He was my grandfather of course, and as a little girl I often wondered why he had no interest in horse-back riding and why he would walk behind the team to the house when for some reason they had unhitched in the field. I did not ask: just wondered. For those two trips a week I do not know just what pay he received. A 56 mile round trip paid 75 cents. Mr. C. W. Lillibridge, in the Smethport Centennial program in 1953, says that in 1839, after the completion of the Milesburg Turnpike, a contract was let to Gideon Irons of Smethport to carry the mail once a week from Milesburg to Olean for \$845 per annum. Milesburg is east of State College.

It may be that all the mail carriers had some advance in pay by that time. However that may be, doubtless realized that this son's interest were in farming. The days that he could spend at home working with his father on the farm were happy days. And John absorbed all the information Elisha could give him about building, about lumber and about farming.

How many times they watched the morning or evening flight of the wild pigeons, darkening the sun with their numbers. The males would fly one day to the feeding grounds and the females the next day. Often the place of the feeding grounds would be a long distance from their nests. They were known as "Passenger Pigeons". By shooting the nests down, the squabs would fall to the ground. The older birds were netted by a murderous device that was very effective. Dense beech timber was their favorite nesting site. Here the older birds never fed, leaving food there for the squabs. An adult male averaged 16 inches in length; the female, 14 inches. Shipped to the city, the squabs brought about 7 cents each. Hunters sometimes made \$100 per day. By 1866 the Passenger Pigeon was extinct.

Occasionally a child strayed into the dense forest and would be lost very quickly. The neighborhood would be alerted by the sound of a horn, such as a bull-horn. A systematic hunt would be planned and, if necessary, it would continue through the night. The hunters would fear what they may find. But in no case in the early records that I have read was the child harmed except by briars and insects. The sound of the horn would signal the successful end of the hunt.

For us who have traveled a great deal in the Buffalo country of the West and have seen the few herds in captivity after the white man almost extinguished them, it is interesting to have an account of the presence of buffalo in this general area of Pennsylvania. The centennial edition of the Port Allegheny Reporter and Argus (1924) carries the article. In the 1800's after there had been some settlement on The Portage, between Emporium and Port Allegheny, a settler named Bergstrasser found a herd of about 300 bison killing his cattle and sheep and devouring his stack of hay. It had been a very severe winter and the animals seemed crazed with hunger. In spite of the danger to themselves, he and his daughter shot five of them and the animals moved out of the barnyard. But they broke into his cabin, trampled his wife and small children, and finally took their way south towards Emporium. A hunt was soon on its way, found all sunk in deep snow so that escape was impossible. That is how this section of PA did not have to buy Buffalo robes from the West.

McKean County was being "developed". Port Allegheny, changing its name from Canoe Place in 1840, 9 miles east of the Bush Hill Farm, was doing a flourishing business in logging and rafting, and a little later in sawed lumber from its own mills. Much sawed lumber was floated in rafts as logs had formerly been. Very capable men managed the growing business, sending their fleets to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and even New Orleans where pine brought \$40 per thousand. For a large raft going a long distance a professional Allegheny River pilot was hired. In this work Mr. H. J. Moore became famous. A raft of lumber could not be fully constructed at Port Allegheny on account of the difficulty of passing dams and other hazards. So the raft was built in parts or sections: what they called a "platform" of timber--16 feet

square and 18 to 25 courses thick, held together by pins.

Four or five platforms at Larabee, after the first obstacle had been safely passed, were coupled together by “cribs” to make a Warren fleet. The raft was now 32 feet wide and more than 149 feet long. With success at Warren, four Warren fleets were put together to make a Pittsburgh fleet, and then four or more Pittsburgh were coupled to make an Ohio River fleet. These fleets became very large, often covering nearly two acres of surface. Old pictures show a great raft in the Ohio River: on the top of the raft a cabin with a family doing their domestic work and a cow tethered nearby. Rafting was over when the railroad was completed through from Buffalo. But you may remember seeing the great raft on lake Superior the summer we went to Rainy lake. A trip to Warren paid \$8.00; to Cincinnati \$21.00 with board and sleeping quarters on the raft. It took 31 days. Relatives baked barrels of bread to stock the raft.

I gleaned most of this information about rafting from the centennial issues of the Port Allegany Reporter and Argus.

The men who ran the sawmills and sold the lumber built fine homes in Port Allegany and contributed generously to the welfare and progress of the town. It was a hustling place and a demanding life. Large hotels were built and used by the army of salesmen, or “drummers” as they were called, and by settlers bound for Ohio who often stopped here to rest and to wait till new canoes would be built. And sometimes a few liked the town so well that they stayed. The Butler House, still standing, was opened in the midst of this prosperous period. There was a grand ball in which the well-dressed gentry of the town mingled with visiting notables, some even from Buffalo, listened to the violin music of Ole Bull, imported from the Ole Bull colony south of Sweden valley, and joined in the dancing and refreshment.

The rafting days were over when a train finally pierced through the wilderness and brought its car fitted with a loader, using a crane much like today’s equipment. A passenger train, running through Port Allegany to Buffalo, came along in the 1870’s. A connecting short line was built from Smethport to Larabee, so that one could go to Olean in the morning, do one’s shopping and return in the early evening. Or one could take in the circus at Olean. This branch line went south even farther than Smethport and brought out loads of coal from Clermont.

Somehow, with all this timber cut and the hillsides a sea of stumps, the streams no longer filled their banks and the spring floods seldom rose high enough to take a boom of logs over the dams. And “Old Timers”, sitting on the benches of the Town Square in Port would reminisce about the enormous size the logs used to be, and how skillfully a big log jam had been broken.

The development of Smethport followed more sober lines. Of course logs were brought down Marvin Creek and milled there, and also sent on to the junction with Potato Creek, and on even to Larabee and the Allegany River. A tanning factory, using huge piles of bark, and an extract factory were also in the neighborhood of the sawmill in East Smethport. A cooper’s shop where barrels were made and a blacksmith shop gave useful service but added no romance or story interest. Beauty, however, was not absent. Maple trees were set along the road from King’s Corners almost to Potato Creek, and as they grew they gave dignity and loveliness to the area.

The Court House, the seat of government for McKean County, was a symbol of the federal government in Washington. It represented a free people. And some of these settlers had lost their grandfathers in the conflict. It had been a great cause and a great victory, and its memory was still green. Smethport slowly grew in the vicinity of the Court House. Some of those who had frequent business at the Court House

and some of the well-to-do built beautiful homes on West main street, well-landscaped places, with carriage-houses, and requiring many servants.

But this was still a development still in the making when Elisha and Hanna Bush moved into their new house after the disastrous fire. Bridges, roads and school-houses had to be built; a system for taking care of the needy, especially the aged, had to be provided, accounts had to be kept and audited, land-sales had to be registered accurately: the center of these activities was naturally the Court House.

Of the nine children of Elisha and Hannah-- five sons and four daughters--Hiram was the oldest. He was a mechanical turn of mind. A perfect wooden wheel which he made still hangs in the old barn. He married Sarah Murdock Douglas, a capable young woman of warm and kindly nature, who lived in the New York finger lakes area. Their daughter, Ina, and my Mother were great friends. When both of them were well past eighty she visited us here at the farm. They took long walks together and once they climbed the pinnacle after we had taken them up the hill to the base. Hiram operated the sawmill and a grist mill at the Marvin Creek bridge near Water Street in Smethport. He owned quantities of timber on the Big Level. They had a large house in the area and Sarah kept boarders. When my Uncle Osborne and my Mother went to High School in Smethport they stayed with Uncle Hiram and Aunt Sarah. It seems a pity that Uncle Hiram lived to be only 49 years old.

Apples were beginning to show in the new orchard which Elisha had planted. He had found the right place for it-- on slope north of the house--the very place where he and the cow had escaped the panther. There would be apples for all seasons-- early, summer, mid-summer, early fall, late fall and winter. "Maybe my great grandchildren will be eating these ," he thought. "And maybe my great grand children will not know a Rambow from a Russet". The very idea!

By the time John was 17 (1854), it must have been fairly clear to Elisha that John was the son who would be happy as a farmer, who would accept the hard toil of developing the land without complaint and without turning back. Besides, John was wholly reliable. If only he married a woman of equal strength and quality.

Elisha rehearsed these thoughts a good many times, and with a sigh brought himself up with "if only". However, John seemed of a very steady nature and often talked with his father about buying an acreage adjacent to Elisha on the east. "Ah the day was coming," thought Elisha. Maybe John better go up to Madison county or the Finger Lakes area of New York state. There were relatives he could visit. Hadn't Elisha's father married there? Hadn't Hiram found a superior woman there? Hadn't he himself found the best woman in the world there?

But John did not have to make that trip!

I must tell you how it all came about for it is a stirring chapter in the family history.

THE DEXTERS

The following information is from the Media Research Bureau of Washington, D. C., and from research my Mother did in Omaha Public Library when she spent winters with us there.

The Dexters have a long line. They are said to have been of Norman origin and to have been brought to England at the time of William the Conqueror, the name being then spelled De Excester. About the year 1269 Richard De Excester took the name into Ireland where he became governor and Lord Chief Justice. It is said that all the families of the name of Dexter in Great Britain and America descended from a common ancestor.

One of the first Dexters to emigrate to New England was Thomas Dexter who came about 1630 from Bristol, England to Lynn, Mass. Another was Richard Dexter who made his home in Boston, then Charlestown. John, the only son of Richard, removed to Malden, Mass. and died there in 1677. Gregory Dexter came to America before 1643 and lived in Providence, Rhode Island. Families were large in those early times and most of them contained a "John" or a "Thomas", or both. There were many Dexters in Providence. Col. Knight Dexter was one. It is not unlikely that Col. Knight Dexter had a son named after him; a son living in Scituate, RI. who was captain of a sailing ship carrying goods around Cape Horn in the China trade. In 1801, when in a few months he and his wife were looking forward to the birth of a child, he had to set sail. Parting was hard. They might not hear from each other till his return. It was a dangerous voyage, through the horse latitudes and around Cape Horn.

In due time the child was born and named after John Bowers Dexter, probably the Dexter who came on the Mayflower. Months and years passed. The ship was not heard of again. Had captain Dexter drowned? Had he been washed up on some island or barbarous coast? After five or six years he was considered dead and his widow married again, a man named Rowley. The child, John, was slender of build and eager for school. He lived with his grand-parents Col. and Mrs. Knight Dexter until he was six. Why did they not continue to keep him? My thought is that they were too old. The child was either bound out or entrusted the care of a man (name unknown) who brought him to Knoxville, PA, in the northern forest of Tioga county. And from this time on he had to make his own way, hiring himself out to do chores for his keep. My Grandmother wrote in 1905: "He once boarded with Geo. Parker on the Genesee River and went to school three months, working for his board, and that was his formal schooling. Yet he kept working and studying nights, and, if you remember him, he was a man with a good education and a fine understanding, and of refinement.. It is said that Grandpa Col. Knight Dexter was interested in the Providence Bank and leased land to the government for the city of Providence, but we never had any pay for this. A genealogy of the Dexters is said to be in Providence, RI.



Early Bush Hill Farm photos.



Early Bush Hill Farm photos.



Early Bush Hill Farm photos.



Bush Hill Farm--1946



Early Bush Hill Farm photos.



Early Bush Hill Farm photos. 1947

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE BUSH HILL AREA

First house in Smethport

The first house built in Smethport was a log house built by Captain Arnold Hunter in 1811, another built in 1812--- both abandoned in 1814.

Bush Cabin Built

Elisha and Hannah Bush built their new log cabin near Smethport this summer. They have relocated here from the finger lake region of New York state. **October 1, 1828**

John W. Bush Born

John W. Bush was born in 1837.

First Barn Built

The first barn has been completed on the Bush Hill Farm. **July 1, 1844**

Log Cabin Burns Down

All had gone to bed but someone was awakened by the smell of smoke. The log house was on fire. There was snow on the ground. John, Charles and Hiram slid down the roof to safety. All others got out the front door. Everything was lost. Grandpa Acker took children home with him. The family later moved to the barn for the winter. **November 10, 1846**

New House Built

The new house has been completed. It is 20 X 30' and is a 1 ½ story building. There is a kitchen attached to the side of the house. It is located beside a very good spring. **October 1, 1847**

Schoolhouse Built

A new schoolhouse has been constructed below the Bush Hill cemetery. Mary Dexter at 14 years of age is the school teacher. **September 2, 1850**

Grist Mill Built

The first grist mill is in operation on the Bush Hill Farm. All of the buildings were constructed from wood obtained from trees harvested on the farm. **October 1, 1850**

Infant Helen Dies

Helen, daughter of John and Mary Bush died at the age of 5 weeks and was buried in the Bush Hill cemetery. **June 1, 1858**

Andrew Bush Purchases Farm

Andrew Bush purchased a farm on the Bush Hill road just above King's corners recently. This farm will later be owned by Walter Kleisath. **July, 1860's**

CAUTION

Whereas my daughter, Melinda Bush, is in the habit of association with and receiving the advice of persons who are avowed enemies of mine, contrary to my wishes and orders, this is therefore to forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her construction after this date. **ELISHA BUSH Keating, January 31, 1861**

Commonwealth vs. Shaw

In the case of Commonwealth vs. Shaw, assault and battery, verdict not guilty, to Elisha Bush, plaintiff and defendant to pay the cost. **July 2, 1861**

(Normally when the Commonwealth is a party to a case like this it is a criminal matter being prosecuted by the local District Attorney against the named defendant. Here it would be criminal complaint against Shaw. My guess is that they got into a fight and the judge found them equally at fault, ruled Shaw not guilty and required them to split the cost of bringing the case.... 2014)

Jane Bush Born Today

John and Mary Bush announce the birth of their daughter Jennie Lestina Bush today. **August 20, 1862.**

Mercantile Appraisement

Vendor of Merchandise

McKean County

Keating Township

Hiram Bush

1865

The above license is for the General Store operated by Hiram Bush in East Smethport.

J. G. Masters Birth

Joseph Tilford Masters and Ellen Mitchell Masters announce the birth of their son, Joseph G. Masters today in Harvey County, Kansas. **February 20, 1873**

Elisha and Hannah Move to Smethport

Elisha Bush has built two houses in Smethport. They will move into one of these houses for their retirement home. **March 4, 1875**

(One house lot is part of the Lake View Nursing Home Complex today).

John Bush Moves to Homestead

John and Mary Bush have consolidated the Bush Hill Farm and have moved into the family homestead.
April 20, 1875

Jane Lestina Becomes Teacher

Jane Bush, daughter of John and Mary Bush, has become the teacher at the schoolhouse on Bush Hill.
September 1, 1876

Notice of Sale of Personal Property of Hiram M. Bush

February 3, 1881

Second House Built on Bush Hill Farm

The door glass has been installed in the new house that has been built on the Bush Hill Farm for the retirement home of John and Mary Bush. The original homestead house will now be a tenant house. (This new house is the house currently existing on the Bush Hill Farm--2014). **September 1, 1882**

Delancy Alford Dies at Bush Hill Farm

Delancy Alford, 28, passed away at the Bush Hill Farm on Thursday, December 28, 1882, as a result of injuries suffered in a fall from a tree. Jane and Delancy were to be married Monday, January 1, 1883.
December 29, 1882

Hannah Bush Passes Away

1883

Jane Bush Marries John Smith

Jane Bush of the Bush Hill Farm married John Smith today. **June 28, 1884**

Helen Smith Born

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith announce the birth of their first child--Helen Smith. **1885**

Elisha Bush Succumbs

November 22, 1885

Jane Bush Smith and John Smith File for Divorce

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith were divorced today. **November 11, 1890**

R. J. Bush vs. M. A. Sprague

R. J. Bush vs. Sprague, executor; verdict for plaintiff in sum of \$1,047.66 **February 13, 1891**

(The plaintiff in the above case as it is captioned would be R. J. Bush. It would appear that Bush sued Sprague who was acting as the executor of an estate. Bush could have been a beneficiary of the estate, he could have been someone that had a contract with the deceased, or he could have been someone that rendered services to the estate and was seeking payment for them. 2014)

Bark Peeling Season

The bark peeling season has opened in this section. **May 15, 1891**

Mrs. O. D. Bush Ill

Mrs. O. D. Bush of East Smethport is quite ill with rheumatism of the stomach and heart trouble. **December 2, 1892**

Holmes and Gilfillan Established

Franklin Leroy Holmes and Alba J. Gilfillan have formed the firm of Holmes and Gilfillan. The company will do wholesale and retail business in lumber and building supplies. **March 1, 1894**

Pierce Brook Oil Co.

The stockholders of the Pierce Brook Oil Co. held a meeting in this borough yesterday. **June 28, 1895**

Fire Destroys House on Bush Hill Farm

The tenant house on the farm of John Bush, Bush Hill Farm, was destroyed by fire Tuesday night...9/14/1897. A family who had been occupying the house had moved out the day before. The cause of the fire is unknown. The building was insured for \$500 in Burdick's agency. **September 17, 1897**

New Sleigh Purchased

Dodge and Sherburne have placed a new sleigh on the road for the delivery of milk. **January 11, 1900**

T. D. Ware Officiates Funeral for Infant

Rev. T. D. Ware officiated for the funeral of four month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Condry of Marvin street. **September 7, 1900**

O. D. Bush Store Sold

Voorhees and McCarty have taken over the store in East Smethport formerly owned and operated by O. D. Bush. They will offer general merchandise and flour and feed. **October 3, 1902**

Order of Frogs Dinner

Roy Gifford gave a bachelor dinner to the members of the Order of Frogs at the Hotel Imperial on Tuesday evening. **June 4, 1903**

T. D. Ware Marries Jane Bush Smith

Jane Smith became the bride of the Rev. T. D. Ware today in Chicago, Illinois. **September 12, 1904**

Lost in Snow Storm

Dr. W. A. Ostrander, returning from a professional call in Port Allegany last Sunday night, lost his way in a blinding snow storm at the top of Bush Hill. He got out of his cutter and led his horse through snow drifts finally finding the road. **March 9, 1905.**

Cars and Whiskey

Within a few weeks there will be at least nine residents of Smethport who own cars. Also, there is only one medicinal whiskey sold in Smethport. Ask for O. F. C. at the Imperial Hotel. **June 8, 1905**

J. G. Masters visits Bush Hill Farm

Rev T. D. Ware and Mrs. Jane Ware, daughter Miss Helen Smith and J. G. Masters, school principal in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is visiting here, drove to Kane Tuesday. **August 9, 1906**

Miss Helen Smith Travels

Miss Helen Smith, grand daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bush of Bush Hill Farm, left Monday for Lock Haven to visit her uncle O. D. Bush. She will then go to Chicago to visit her mother Mrs. Jane Ware. Miss Smith has just returned from an extended European trip. **November 3, 1910**

Good Gas Well Drilled

The Smethport Gas Company drilled a good producer on their holdings on Prospect Hill. The well will be good for about 200,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day. **November 3, 1910.**

Backus Automatic Pin Setters

Holmes and Gilfillan's production of the Backus automatic pin setters has been pushed to the maximum production of the unit due to high demands. **November 3, 1910**

T. D. Ware Invention

Mr. T. D. Ware has invented a dust sprayer for the use of farmers and gardeners to be used as a plant disinfectant. **November 7, 1912**

Frank Acre Arrested

Officer McCarthy on Tuesday evening arrested Frank Acre, a sweet fiddler of the Devil's Elbow, who was carrying a soul full of sweet melody and tavern liquor. **November 18, 1912**

Silas Bush Passes Away

Silas Bush, son of Elisha Bush, 70, passed away at his daughter's residence, Mrs. W. J. Voorhees, in Olean, NY on February 10, 1913. Early in the Rebellion he enlisted in Co. C, 58 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and served his country in a gallant manner throughout the bloody conflict. Later in life he served as janitor for the Smethport Court house for 17 years. He only lived one month after he retired from that post. Survived by brothers John and Andrew of Keating township. Also three sisters, Melinda Evans of Smethport, Mrs. William Stanton of Keating township and Mrs. Homer Howe of Port Allegany. **February 13, 1913.**

John Dodge----Gifford Farm

John Dodge died at his home, at the Wright House, February 18, 1913 at the age of 67. He was born January 14, 1846 in Kennebec county, Maine. John Dodge engaged in the lumber jobbing business with his son-in-law in the Smethport area. In the late 1800's he purchased the William Gifford farm, on the Bush Hill road which he turned into one of the model dairy farms of this section of the State. The Gifford farm was started by William and Louisa Hackett Gifford. **February 20, 1913**

T. D. Ware Plants Strawberry Plants

Rev. T. D. Ware, of Chicago, has set out, this spring, 45,000 strawberry plants on the Bush Hill Farm. Mr. Ware now has about six acres of strawberries under cultivation, and will be in position to supply all demands in strawberry times. **Democrat----May 18, 1913**

T. D. Ware Temporary Pastor

Rev. T. D. Ware, of Chicago, will supply the Baptist pulpit until the arrival of the new pastor of that church, which will be in early July. **May 18, 1913**

Holmes and Gilfillan Purchase Farm on Bush Hill Road

Holmes and Gilfillan recently purchased the Dodge and Sherburne farm in Keating township along the Bush Hill road. **April 9, 1914**

O. D. Bush Visits Area

O. D. Bush and his family from Lock Haven visited the Bush Hill Farm for the 4th of July celebration. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Burdick and their son, Hamlin, visited Venango county. **July 15, 1914**

Ford Cars for Sale

We will offer the following prices from August 1, 1914 to August 1, 1915.

Touring Car-----\$490

Runabouts-----\$440

Town Car-----\$690

James Quirk and Sons, Agents

July 31, 1914

Acetone Factory Starts

The acetone factory in East Smethport commenced operations on Monday. About 30 men are employed at the new industry. **March 18, 1915**

Window Glass Factory Shuts Down Friday

The depressing news has been made that the Smethport Window Glass company's plant in the borough will shut down Friday, thus throwing a large number of men out of employment. **March 18, 1915**

Bush Hill House Renovated

Holmes and Gilfillan are making extensive repairs on their farm house, the old Gifford estate, on the Bush Hill road. When these enterprising gentlemen complete their plan they will have one of the most attractive farms in Mc Kean County. **June 3, 1915** (Current Dart residence).

Sylvanus Pierce Home

Sylvanus Pierce is home on Bush Hill road from spending the winter in Kansas, and will drive Col. Gillette's touring car during the summer. **June 3, 1915**

Disposal of Bush Hill Farm

The Democrat understands that John Bush, the owner of Bush Hill Farm on Bush Hill, desires to dispose of this property. As this is one of the best farms in McKean county, Mr. Bush ought not to have very much difficulty in disposing of it. **November 11, 1915**

Pierce Arrow Touring Car

Mrs. Emma McCandless has purchased a handsome new Pierce Arrow Touring Car. **June 29, 1916**

Emma McCandless Party at Bonnie Castle

Mrs. Emma McCandless entertained a number of ladies at Bonnie Castle, her bungalow on Bush Hill, Tuesday afternoon. **August 2, 1917**

Wilbur Acre

Mrs. Clarence Parker visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Acre of Bush Hill road. **April 11, 1918**

Mrs. John Bush Ill

Mrs. John Bush, who has been very seriously ill at her home in East Smethport, is reported to be feeling much better. **April 18, 1918**

No Trespassing

Keep out of the tame strawberries on the Bush Hill Farm. Jane Ware **July 4, 1918**

Bush Hill School

The Bush Hill school children visited the Open Brook school Thursday of last week. **October 17, 1918**

Bush Hill School

The Bush Hill school will resume classes Monday with Miss Helen Johnson serving as teacher. **January 9, 1919**

Pie Social

Don't forget the pie social at the Open Brook School House Tuesday evening. **February 4, 1919**

Andrew Bush Succumbs

Andrew Bush, born October 26, 1839, the son of Elisha and Hannah Bush, passed away on May 2, 1919. **May 5, 1919**

Andrew Bush Farm for Sale

The following two tracts of land being the Keating lands conveyed to William Acre found in deed book "X", page 301 will be sold. Tract #1 consists of 12.5 acres and tract #2 consists of 24 acres. (Walter Kleisath farm) **June 28, 1919**

Mary Etta Bush Land Purchase

Following the death of her husband, Andrew Bush, Mrs. Bush has purchased the O. D. Bush residence in East Smethport. (*She will live there until 1931*). **October 1, 1919**

Train to Serve Potato Creek Valley

A new passenger train route from Clermont through East Smethport then on to Larabee will now serve the Potato Creek valley. **May 20, 1920**

Boys Burglarize Bonnie Castle Bungalow

Charged with breaking into Bonnie Castle, the summer home of Mrs. E. H. McCandless, located on a mountain peak a few miles from this borough, Lawrence Coon, Arthur Stanton and Lawrence Cunningham pleaded guilty before Justice Dickinson when arraigned for hearing Monday were held on \$500 bail each, which was furnished in each instance. It is alleged that goods having a value of \$377 were taken from the Bungalow consisting of a rug, towels, kitchen utensils and numerous other articles. Constable Dickinson said that the boys readily confessed to the act and told him where much of the plunder was hidden and the greater portion of it has been recovered. **January 23, 1920**

John W. Bush Passes Away

John W. Bush, son of Elisha and Hannah Bush, passed away on April 29, 1920. He was one of the founders of the present Baptist Church in Smethport and it was due to his personal contributions that the edifice was erected when his son-in-law, Rev. T. D. Ware, was pastor at the church. **May 5, 1920**

Bush Hill School Closed for Vacation

The Bush Hill school closed Monday for the two week holiday season. The teacher, Alberta Stewart, is visiting her home in Kane. **December 23, 1920**

New Barn on Royalba Farm

Mr. Alba Gilfillan is having a new barn built on the Royalba Farm east of town on Bush Hill road (former Gifford farm). Owned by Franklin Leroy Holmes and Alba J. Gilfillan, (thus the name "Royalba") this is one of the nicest farms in the area. At present there are 42 blooded cows in the stable. **March 21, 1921**

Formaldehyde Factory Shut Down

The East Smethport formaldehyde factory has been shut down for an indefinite period of time. **May 12, 1921**

Consonant Club Meets

Mrs. A. G. Bush entertained the Consonant Club Monday evening. **May 12, 1921**

Bush Hill School Teacher

Alverda Stewart is the teacher at the Bush Hill school this year. **May 12, 1921**

County Soon to have Women Jurors

For the first time in the history of McKean county, women's names will be placed in the jury wheel with the men for selection for jury duty. **June 6, 1921**

Emma McCandless Passes Away

On the evening of February 13, 1922, Mrs. Emma McCandless, (64), passed away. Emma Marian Hamlin McCandless was born December 26, 1857. She married the Rev John Heber McCandless in Smethport on October 26, 1885. In 1891 her father, Henry Hamlin, built a mansion for his daughter. Her love of nature has been sweet and unaffected loving them all, the birds, the flowers, the trees and her mountain home (Bonnie Castle) is in itself a lesson and a call to reverent worship. **February 16, 1922**

Farm for Sale or Rent

A farm for sale or rent. Inquire of Jane L. Ware, Smethport, RD # 2 or O. D. Bush of Lock Haven, PA. **February 16, 1922**

Jane Ware Returns to Bush Hill Farm

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Ware have sold their residence property in Chicago, IL and intend to make their home with Mrs. Ware's mother, Mrs. John Bush at her farm on Bush Hill. Mrs. Bush, who is one of the section's grand old ladies, is enjoying splendid health despite her advanced years. **March 9, 1922**

O. D. Bush Road Trip

Rev T. D. Ware was in Milesburg visiting his former parish and then went to Lock Haven to visit his brother-in-law O. D. Bush in Lock Haven. O. D. then brought him back to Smethport in his new car. The route to Smethport was through a beautiful mountain area including a side trip to Ole Bull Castle in Potter county. While in Smethport O. D. took his sister, Jane Ware for a ride in the car which she seemed to stand well. Also, at the time O. D.'s niece, Helen and her husband went back to their home in Omaha but spent a week along the way camping on various lakes in Minnesota. **September 14, 1922**

Former Local Girl takes Writing Course

With a very interesting character sketch, "Nancy Gault, a study in Drab," Mrs. Helen Masters of Omaha, won the top prize of \$40 in the annual literary contest. Last year she won honorable mention with a story entitled, "His Mother's Child." She has three children-- Jose, little Miss Jane and Conrad, the latter being in kindergarten. Mrs. Masters is the daughter of Jane Ware. **February 1, 1923**

27 Tire of Mates--- Want Divorce

The spring divorce rate is a record breaking one. Judge J. W. Bouton presided over argument court where 27 McKean county men and women filed for freedom. **May 17, 1923**

Death of Mary A. Bush

Mrs. Mary A. Bush, widow of the late John W. Bush, and one of this section's oldest and most highly revered ladies, passed away at the family homestead on the Bush Hill Farm, Thursday, July 5, at 2:30 am after being confined to her bed nearly seven months. She would have been 85 years old on July 22. She was born July 22, 1838, near Wellsville, NY the daughter of John and Maria Dexter. Mrs. Bush is survived by one daughter, Jane Ware, who administered help to her ailing mother religiously during her illness, and one son O. D. Bush of Lock Haven. **July 12, 1923**

Swimming Pool Nearly Completed

The excavating for the new Smethport Conopus Club Swimming Pool being constructed on Blacksmith Brook has been completed. The 8 ½ foot cement dam will soon be completed and will back the water for a considerable distance. **July 12, 1923**

Gasoline Prices Booted

The price of gasoline at Atlantic Refining Company stations throughout Pennsylvania has increased 2 cent to 22 cents per gallon. **January 24, 1924**

Mahlon T. Ware Passes

Mahlon T. Ware, the brother of Rev. Thomas Ware, recently passed away. The event occurred in St. Petersburg, FL. **June 3, 1925**

Chestnut Fence Posts For Sale

Chestnut fence posts for sale at 5 cents each. Also, rotted fine manure. Mrs. Jane L. Ware, Bush Hill Farm. **June 18, 1925**

Rev. T. D. Ware Convalescing

Rev. T. D. Ware, who has been confined to his home at the Bush Hill Farm for a number of weeks past, following an extensive surgical operation he underwent in Cincinnati, Ohio several months ago, is now convalescent and is able to enjoy automobile rides. **August 6, 1925**

State will Erect Fire Tower

The State Forestry Department plans to erect a fire tower between Port Allegany and Smethport--probably in the area of Bush Hill. **August 13, 1925**

Rev. T. D. Ware Succumbs to Illness

Rev. T. D. Ware passed away at his farm home on Bush Hill Monday morning, November 2, 1925, about 6:30 am. Rev. Ware had been in poor health for some time past. Last winter he underwent an extensive surgical operation at a hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. Following a long hospital confinement, and undoubtedly due to his weakened physical condition, heart trouble developed. The funeral will be held at the family residence on Friday. **November 5, 1925**

Biography of T. D. Ware

Mr. Thomas DeCoursey Ware was born in Newport, Kentucky, February 26, 1853. The family moved to a nearby farm in Licking Valley when he was an infant. At the age of 12, in a little church in the valley, he was converted and baptized. He later went to seminary to become a pastor. Jane Bush Smith became acquainted with Mr. Ware while he was a pastor in Smethport. Their relationship was renewed shortly afterwards and they were married in Chicago in 1905. At the time of the marriage Mr. Ware was 48 years old and Jane was 38. Mr. Ware was never in robust health. He had pronounced artistic ability and he painted several pictures that were prized by his friends. He also wrote poetry. One of his poems was entitled PEACE and another one was THE BUSH HILL FARM. Copies of these poems appear elsewhere in this book. **November 12, 1925**

Bush Hill Farm Photo

A Picture of the Bush Hill Farm has been published in the 1926 edition of "Pennsylvania Highways".
June 1, 1926

Grave of Revolutionary War Officer on Bush Hill Farm

The cemetery on Bush Hill Farm was cleaned up considerably last Saturday by relatives and friends of people buried there. The cemetery is over 100 years old and at least one Major of the Revolutionary War is buried there. **June 3, 1926**

Merrill Dexter Visit

Merrill Dexter of Roulette visited his cousins, Mrs. Jane L. Ware and O D Bush at Bush Hill Farm last week. **June 3, 1926**

Pomeroy Inn

Smethport's attractive new Roosevelt Highway tourists' inn, recently opened by Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Pomeroy in the S. F. Redfield mansion, has been named the Pomeroy Inn. **August 25, 1927**

Jane Ware Returns from Omaha, Nebraska

Mrs. Jane Ware returned last week from an extended visit with her daughter, Mrs. Helen Masters, of Omaha, Nebraska. **May 31, 1928**

Reunion of the Dexter Descendants

The reunion of the Dexter relatives was held at the home of Jane L. Ware on the Bush Hill Farm. There were 45 members present and an interesting historical presentation was made by Jane Ware. John and Mariah Dexter were the early pioneers from which all present members are descendants. They came from Chatham, Tioga county, PA, in the 1839 and purchased a farm from Samuel Ledyard of Williamson, Wayne County, NY, in the then dense wilderness two miles below Canoe Place, just below the two mile bridge on the Roosevelt highway. They erected a log house there.

Mrs. John Bush was their daughter and attended the first teaching institute held in McKean county. The institute was of one month's duration and she boarded with Mrs. L. L. Medbury. She was a girl not yet 15 years of age but began teaching in the old red schoolhouse on the Bush Hill Farm and later taught at the Gallup School. **July 8, 1928**

Notice: No Trespass

This is to notify the public to cease trespassing on my premises. Mrs. Jane L. Ware **July 26, 1928**

Howard Acker buys Whippet

Howard Acker has purchased a new Whippet sedan. **August 30, 1928**

Helen Roberts visits Jane Ware

Miss Helen Roberts, grand daughter of the late Hiram Bush, and her friend, Miss Wilma Bowman of Chicago are visiting at the home of Jane Ware. **September 20, 1928**

Bonnie Castle Raided by Thieves

A summer bungalow known as "Bonnie Castle" which belongs to O. J. Hamlin of Smethport and stands atop the highest pinnacle of Bush Hill, was raided by thieves one night recently. Loot taken consisted of two suites of furniture, several rugs and cooking utensils of considerable value. **September 28, 1928**

Last Virgin Hemlock Stand Falls

The last stand of virgin hemlock in this section is yielding before the onslaught of the woodsman's axe in nearby Norwich. The 2000 acre tract adjoins the Norwich Game Refuge and is known as the Botts tract. Bark peeling began last summer and this winter logs and bark are being transported from the scene on horse drawn sleds. A large portable sawmill has been set up at Fiddler's Green. **January 31, 1929**

Two Rattlesnakes seen near Bush Hill

Last week, Jane Ware while picking strawberries near Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill, heard a noise behind her, turned around and saw a coiled rattlesnake. Mrs. Ware dodged the snake as it struck at her. The next week a second snake, which was larger, was seen by her cousin from Port Allegany in a field on Stickles Road, about one half mile from Bonnie Castle. **June 27, 1929**

Dexter Descendants Reunion

On July 7, 1929, the annual reunion of the descendants of John and Marian Dexter was held at the home of Jane Ware on the Bush Hill Farm. Fifty-nine were present and an excellent dinner was served on picnic tables in the yard under the maple trees, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. **July 11, 1929**

Contract Awarded for Athletic Field

A new grandstand, bleachers and a red brick field house will be erected at McCoy stadium. **September 5, 1929**

New Farmers Valley School

The brand new brick Farmers Valley School will open this week. Cost--- \$35,000. **September 5, 1929**

Bush Hill Road Boosters go to Wellsboro

A large delegation from Smethport will go to Wellsboro Friday to attend the annual directors meeting of the Roosevelt Highway Association meeting at the Penn-Wells hotel. Their mission will be to urge assistance by that organization in the project of paving the Bush Hill highway short-cut between Smethport and Port Allegany. **March 13, 1930**

Bush Hill Potato Club Formed

The Bush Hill Potato club was recently founded with the help of Miss Flossie Braden, a former teacher at the Bush Hill School. **May 1, 1930**

Dexter Family Reunion

The Dexter family reunion will be held next Sunday, July 13, 1930, at the home of Jane Ware, the Bush Hill Farm. **July 10, 1930**

Injured Playing Ball

P. R. Balch, who conducts an upholstering shop and antique shop on main street, was painfully injured Sunday while playing baseball on the Bush Hill Farm. Mr. Balch and another player collided in the field with such force that the former sustained several cracked ribs. He was attended to by Dr. Robert Hamilton. **July 17, 1930**

Magnificent View from High Retreat-- Bonnie Castle

Magnificent view of a vast expanse of hills and valleys, gorgeous sunsets greet the eyes of Hamlin bank Treasurer R. E. Burdick and his wife, who have been sojourning this summer at Bonnie Castle, a model bungalow atop the high pinnacle of Bush Hill, overlooking Smethport.

Exceeded in height only by Prospect Hill, the highest peak in northwest Pennsylvania, the lofty domicile commands a view of succeeding ridges of the Allegheny mountain range and with the aid of a powerful field glass, the local couple can command a view of many towns and hamlets.

Tuesday morning, this editor enjoyed a trip to the bungalow and beheld a spectacle of indescribable beauty from the broad verandah surrounding the structure.

The bungalow was erected by the late Mrs. Emma McCandless of Smethport, a deep lover of nature. In choosing one of the highest needle points in this section, the prominent local lady showed splendid discernment. The altitude of the beautiful bungalow is 3200 feet.

To clear the site for this bungalow, it was necessary to cut down the sharp point of the peak several feet. The steep sides of the hill below the summer residence are covered with a dense growth of timber and a sheer drop is presented in almost any direction from the broad porch which entirely surrounds the structure.

A road leads from the main Bush Hill road part way up the hill to a garage and from there rustic terraced paths lead to the bungalow with rustic benches placed at intervals under the trees.

This summer home is equipped with running water and other conveniences. It is a delightful retreat. **August 28, 1930.**

Bonnie Castle Raided

Thieves entered Bonnie Castle earlier this week. Entrance was gained by breaking a window. **October 2, 1930**

McKean Mansion Sold

Lawrence E. Mann has purchased the large McKean mansion from the estate of the late Katherine McKean. The mansion was erected by the late Charles McKean in 1905 at a cost of \$50,000. The furnishings for the mansion were purchased by the discriminating Mrs. McKean for an additional cost of \$50,000. Mr. Mann will continue to operate the brick hotel and restaurant across the road from the McKean mansion. **March 19, 1931**

Local inventor J. C. Backus Succumbs

Mr. J. C. Backus, 65, passed away in Buffalo, N. Y. John Clayton Backus was born in Smethport March 14, 1866 the son of Major John and Mary Windsor Backus. Mr. Backus was an inventor and held a patent on a check locking device for hats, coats, etc. The system found a ready market in some of the world's largest hotels. A pin setting device he patented in 1905 was sold by the Brunswick-Balke-Calendar Co. This unit was manufactured at the plant of Holmes and Gilfillan here in Smethport. **March 19, 1931**

Bush Hill man Killed by Train in East Smethport

Russell H. Almony, 40, recently passed away at Olean General hospital as a result of injuries sustained when the Ford car he was driving was hit by a freight train in East Smethport. Mr. Almony, his wife, a worker and a nurse were following an ambulance containing Majorie Almony, 19, his daughter, who was very sick and was being transported to the Olean hospital. The worker, Mr. Weir, also died as a result of the accident. Majorie died a couple days later at the hospital. A double funeral was held at their farm along the Bush Hill road. Mr. Almony had purchased this farm in 1926. **March 19, 1931**

Valley 8th Grade Arithmetic Contest

The 8th grade class recently had an arithmetic contest. Carl Ferman and Trecia Reed tied for first place.. Each getting 35 out of 40 correct. **April 23, 1931**

John Dexter Masters Graduates

Mrs. Jane Ware's grand son, Jose Masters, graduated from a five year high school course at Omaha, Nebraska last week. He is also doing fine in violin study and is already earning money from his music to help pay his college expenses. He said, "Why should Dad and Mom do for me what I can do for myself?" **July 2, 1931**

Contract is let for Grading of New Bush Hill Road

The George S. Maller-Weidner Co., Medina, Ohio was the successful bidder with their figure of \$95,977.37 for the grading of the Bush Hill short-cut of the Roosevelt Highway between Smethport and Port Allegany. Work must be completed by July 1, 1933. A 52 foot cut is to be made at the top of Bush Hill. The contract calls for employment of McKean county men for labor at a minimum wage of 35 cents per hour. The State is to receive Federal Aid on the project. **October 27, 1931**

For Sale

Farm of about 100 acres with buildings. Also, platform wagon and sleigh. Inquire at the home of Mrs. Jane L. Ware, Bush Hill Farm. **December 3, 1931.**

A. J. Gilfillan Camp

Merle Dickinson, Ronald German and Fred Harrington all harvested deer while staying at the Gilfillan camp last week. **December 17, 1931**

Hunting Season Fatalities

During the entire fall hunting season a total of 77 hunters were fatally wounded, 40 being accidentally killed during the 15 day deer season. **December 17, 1931**

Juvenile Potato Club

Fourteen youths from the Bush Hill community have formed a Potato Growing Club. Each member will be provided five bushels of seed potatoes costing \$2.00. Each youth must plant his potatoes, care for them and harvest the crop. Prizes will be awarded for the best potatoes. **March 31, 1932**

New Chevrolet on Display

The new Chevrolet goes on display here tomorrow at the Fay and McKiernan Chevrolet garage according to Urban Fay, manager. **December 5, 1932**

Plan Ice Harvest

Johnson and Erickson, Smethport ice dealers, reported this week that ice had frozen on their spring water pond to a thickness of 5 inches. The annual harvest will be started soon. **December 22, 1932**

Jane Ware Extremely Ill

Mrs. Jane Ware of Bush Hill Farm is suffering from a severe attack of illness at the Safstrom Nursing Home. Dr. Burg Chadwick is attending the well known lady. **January 12, 1933.**

Ton of Dynamite used in Single Blast on Bush Hill Road

The Bush Hill road project set off one ton of dynamite in a single blast this week as they attempt to crumble the stone for the 52 foot cut on Bush Hill. **January 19, 1933**

Purchases Dining Car

Harry Kepner, proprietor of the Star Restaurant, has purchased a dining car in Olean and will bring it to Smethport. He expects to have it in operation later in February in time for the court session. A suitable location is being acquired for the diner. **February 2, 1933**

Four tons of Dynamite in One Blast

DuPont company experts recently set off four tons of dynamite in one blast for the new Bush Hill road. This is equivalent to 16,000 sticks of dynamite. A huge compressed air drill made 200 holes 20 feet deep in the rock. Dynamite was placed in each hole--the holes then packed with sand--and the charge was set off. Jane Ware reports it rattled the windows in her house. She is very distraught with the project. It will put a scar on her beautiful property. **March 2, 1933**

Mrs. Jane Ware has Operation

Mrs. Jane L. Ware of the Bush Hill Farm, submitted to an operation for removal of her appendix at the Lock Haven hospital last week. Reports indicate that the well known lady, who has been in poor health for some time, is recovering in a gratifying manner. **April 6, 1933**

Beer License Application

Effective June 1 the new state beer control law becomes effective. Six applications have been filed for Smethport and one application for East Smethport. **May 25, 1933**

New Route 6 Road Grade Finished

Port Allegany and Smethport citizens are deriving a great “kick” from experiencing their first motor ride over the newly finished grade of the Bush Hill highway short-cut, which was opened to traffic last week and will be paved next year. At present the earth highway is as smooth as a floor. Cuts were made on various peaks and some of the valleys received fill-- thus making the road proceed to Port Allegany almost in an air-line fashion from Smethport to Port Allegany. **August 17, 1933**

New Bowling Alleys Built

The new bowling alleys with four lanes will open tonight in the basement of the new Ostrander building. All alleys are equipped with the Backus automatic pin setters manufactured by Holmes and Gilfillan. **December 21, 1933**

Courthouse Repairs to Provide Jobs

The McKean county courthouse is to be completely renovated under the federal CWA program. The courthouse was erected in 1883 with a new wing added in 1915. **December 28, 1933**

Sweet Fiddler of Devil's Elbow

Rowland “Wildcat” Freer has become well known as the “sweet fiddler of Devil’s Elbow” for his fiddling and dancing routine performed at local events. **January 23, 1934**

North Penn to Drill Deep Well near Smethport

Another important test of the Smethport gas fields for the deep Oriskany sand, which has yielded monster wells in Tioga and Potter counties, was started this week when the North Penn Gas Corporation staked a location on Open Brook at the foot of Bush Hill and started erection of a gigantic steel rig on Tuesday. **March 22, 1934**

Saw Two Bears in Woods

It was reported this week that O. D. Bush, prominent Lock Haven banker, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Jane Ware, of the Bush Hill Farm, saw two bears in the woods near the homestead. Bear has become so scarce in Pennsylvania that the game commission has forbidden hunters to kill them this year. This is the first instance this newspaper has heard of bears being seen in a long time. **Democrat---August 16, 1934.**

Bush Hill Paving Job to Be Let Friday

Friday, in Harrisburg, the State Department of Highways will open bids for the construction of over four miles of 20 foot wide concreted pavement on the Smethport end of the new Bush Hill cutoff of the Roosevelt Highway between Smethport and Port Allegany. This road will go through the newly formed cut on the Bush Hill Farm. **August 16, 1934**

Paving on Bush Hill Road under Motion

The Tri-State Engineering Co. of Waynesburg, PA, low bidder for the 4.31 miles of the Bush Hill road paving project, has brought a complete assortment of road building equipment to Smethport. The company has opened its office in the Pennsylvania Railroad depot in East Smethport. A force of 100 men, mostly local labor, is being employed. The project will start at King’s Corner and go to Link Hill. The Tri-State Co. bid for the paving contract was \$134,184.84. **August 30, 1934**

Bonnie Castle Dinner

The members of the S. L. Club enjoyed a picnic dinner at Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill summit last Friday night. **September 13, 1934**

New East Smethport School Authorized

A beautiful new schoolhouse for East Smethport is assured. Keating township voters did themselves proud Tuesday by piling up a big majority in favor of a \$28,000 bond issue to erect the new structure, which will replace the present old two-story wooden building which must be abandoned by reason of its close proximity to the new Bush Hill road, and which, for some time has been regarded as unfit and unsafe for school programs. **November 8, 1934**

Bush Hill Potato Club

The annual Bush Hill potato Club Round-up sponsored by the Smethport Conopus Club, was held at the Colonial Hotel Monday evening in connection with the regular Conopus dinner-meeting. Each member entered a peck of potatoes for the event. First place--Margaret Jane Goodyear, second place--Mable Bashline and third place--Herman Rice. **November 8, 1934**

Roy Thomas to Take Over Chevrolet Garage Friday

Roy Thomas will become the proprietor of the Fay and McKiernan Garage Friday . Urban Fay and Charles McKiernan are retiring to devote full time to their big oil well drilling business. **February 28, 1935**

Holmes and Gilfillan sell Farm on Bush Hill Road

Clayton Crawford and his son, Elmer Crawford, have purchased the large farm (former Gifford farm) on the Bush Hill road from the estate of F. L. Holmes. Clayton successfully operated this farm for a long period of time while it was still owned by Holmes and Gilfillan. **April 18, 1935.**

Wanted

Party to cut hay on shares. Jose D. Masters, Bush Hill Farm, Smethport. **July 18, 1935**

Bonnie Castle Dinner

Sydney A. Burdick entertained members of the Cuckoo Foursome and their wives at a 6:30 PM trout dinner Sunday at Bonnie Castle. **July 25, 1935**

Kleisath Land Purchase

George A. Holmes sold his farm on the Bush Hill road to Walter Kleisath and his wife. \$2,000 **October 16, 1935**

Loss Nearly \$5,000 in McKiernan Fire

Fire, believed to be caused by spontaneous combustion, destroyed a large barn on the Charles McKiernan farm on Bush Hill Monday afternoon. A team of heavy draft hoses, recently purchased by the drilling contracting firm of Fay and McKiernan also perished in the fire. **October 17, 1935**

Bush Hill School Sold

Charles McKiernan was the successful bidder when the Keating township school district offered its one room abandoned schoolhouse on Bush Hill for sale Monday. This leaves only two one room schools maintained by Keating township-- at Bordell and Wolf Run. **May 14, 1936**

Barn Burns on Bush Hill

A barn on the Arnold Baker farm on Bush Hill road near Smethport was destroyed by fire last Thursday. The house on the Baker farm was destroyed by fire last year. **May 14, 1936**

Banker is also Auto Designer

R. E. Burdick, treasurer of the Hamlin Bank and Trust Company, recently purchased a beautiful Chrysler "S" Airflow car.

Mr. Burdick, himself, designed the seating arrangements so that the car may quickly and easily be converted from a regular one seat coupe to a sedan accommodating five or six passengers. The change is made by sliding the folding seats.

Chrysler engineers in Detroit were so impressed by the design that they made several more vehicles of the same design for their production line. **June 27, 1936**

Corner Drug Store, Oldest in County, Passes from Existence With Sale

Warren Brenneman, who recently acquired the old Corner Drug Store, has changed the name to "The Corner". It will no longer be a drug store but will be a tap room and restaurant.

The original Corner Drug Store was destroyed in the fire of 1933. The handsome new brick structure was promptly erected by the proprietor, Dr. W. A. Ostrander. Dr. Ostrander had purchased the old building in 1920. **May 14, 1936**

Drilling Boom Started in the Bradford Field

Oil at \$2.45 a barrel makes extensive drilling programs not only possible, but advisable. The "five-spotting" or water-flooding method of forcing oil from the sand has been a life saver for McKean county. **May 14, 1936**

Bonnie Castle will be Moved to Prospect Hill

R. E. Burdick has purchased 80 acres of land on Prospect Hill and plans to move his cottage, Bonnie Castle, from Bush Hill to the new location.

Mr. Burdick purchased the land known as the old Toban farm from Henry Kleisath who also owns a farm at the foot of Prospect Hill. Bonnie Castle will be 26 feet higher than the fire tower. In the past, several farms on the top of the hill were planted in potatoes as well as other crops. Mr. Kleisath had 2 fields of potatoes planted this year. Due to the high elevation the blight does not effect the potatoes here. **September 17, 1936**

Young Man Severely Injures Eye

Calvin Van Dusen, an employee of contractor J. Alfred Johnson, received a serious injury to his eye last Friday afternoon. Mr. Van Dusen was struck in the eye by the head of a nail while dismantling Bonnie Castle, R. E. Burdick's cottage on Bush Hill. **October 1, 1936**

Man Injured on Bonnie Castle Project

Andy Peterson, was off work for 12 weeks due to an infected hand resulting from a rusty nail injury experienced while dismantling Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill. **December 10, 1936**

Walter Kleisath Kills Buck

Walter Kleisath killed an 8 point buck Saturday while working on the North Penn Gas Company lease. **December 10, 1936**

Jane Ware Spends Summer at Bush Hill Farm

Mrs. Jane Ware, who has spent the summer at her Bush Hill Farm, returned to Columbus, Ohio last week. **September 23, 1937**

Start Electric Line to Crosby

Prospects are bright for rapid extension of electric service up the Potato Creek valley. Construction will start in the next few weeks. Reports also state that a branch line will be constructed to R. E. Burdick's cottage on lofty Prospect Hill via Gifford Hollow. **December 16, 1937**

Dog Sounds Alarm of Fire

The barking of a dog awakened Mrs. Lloyd Hackett and infant son Monday morning at their isolated farm house in Hackett Hollow, may have saved the lives of mother and son. The house was ablaze and was started by a chimney fire. Both escaped the house. **January 6, 1938**

Jane Ware Enrolls at Ohio State University

Mrs. Jane Ware, owner of Bush Hill Farm in Smethport, PA became the oldest co-ed in history at OSU when she recently enrolled there as a student at the age of 75. **March 17, 1938**

Jane Ware---Oldest Coed--Returns to Bush Hill Farm

Mrs. Jane Ware, who gained widespread fame recently for being the "oldest co-ed" at Ohio State University, Columbus, has returned to spend the summer at her Bush Hill Farm. **June 23, 1938**

Old Scenic Bush Hill Road to be Paved

Keating township will pave the old scenic Bush Hill road at its start at the new road just over Bush Hill and will pave it one mile towards the Devil's Elbow where it meets the Liberty township line. It is their hope that Liberty township will pave the remainder to its junction with the new Bush Hill road at the Grimes district. **January 19, 1939**

Jose Masters Accepts Post on Oklahoma Univ. Faculty

Jose Masters, grandson of Mrs. Jane L. Ware of the Bush Hill Farm, has accepted a position as music instructor on the faculty of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma. Mr. Masters graduated from Ohio State University in Columbus in June. **August 24, 1939**

William Bush Student

William Bush, a student at he Pennsylvania State College, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Bush. **January 15, 1942**

Alec Cunningham Dies after Stroke

Alec Cunningham died after a heart attack Wednesday. He was born in Job's Corner, Tioga county, on May 20, 1873. On October 6, 1898, he married Miss Hannah Bush of East Smethport and had been a local resident since that time. **June 3, 1942**

COURT RECORD----DEEDS

June 23 to 29, 1943

Jane L. Ware to Helen G. Masters, Keating township, \$1

Almon Stickles Dies on Bush Hill

Almon Stickles, 35, died in the Kane hospital as a result of injuries sustained when his car over turned on Bush Hill. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jed Stickles and was employed at Thomas Chevrolet Garage. **October 28, 1943**

Conrad Masters visits Bush Hill Farm

Conrad Masters has returned from Chicago where he worked as research investigator and he will be at home until inducted into the army. **March 6, 1944**

Miss Helen Masters visits Parents

Miss Helen Masters, who attends Ohio State University, spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Masters at the Bush Hill Farm. **March 16, 1944.**

War Prisoners will be Housed at Sheffield

Nazis will cut wood in Allegheny National Forest

The first prisoner of war camp for captured German troops will be set up at the CCC camp in Sheffield by July 15, 1944. **June 22, 1944**

Thomas L. Smith Funeral Held

Thomas L. Smith, lifelong resident of Bush Hill, died July 18. Mr. Smith was probably best known throughout this section for his efficient services as a fire warden operator at the important fire tower which was located above his home on Bush Hill. He made many friends with his "happy" attitude toward life. **July 26, 1945**

Jack Dugger

Jack Dugger, who is the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Masters of the Bush Hill Farm, recently played tackle at the Pittsburgh football game, is now back in Detroit where he is playing football for the Detroit Lions. Mr. Dugger also plays end for the Lions. **September 25, 1947**

Car Strikes Boy on Bush Hill Road

Raymond Kleisath, 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kleisath of Bush Hill road was struck by a car bearing a Florida license Monday evening. The lad was coming out of the Gifford Hollow road. The driver sounded his horn but still struck the bicycle sending it and Raymond into the air. The car then side-swiped a utility pole. Raymond only received a few cuts and bruises. The occupants of the car spent the night with Joyce and Walter Kleisath and continued on their trip the next morning. **May 26, 1949**

Lad Injured in Bicycle Mishap

Courtney Gustafson, 8 year old son of Fred and Edith Gustafson of Bush Hill road was recently treated and released at the Kane hospital for a fracture of the right arm resulting from a bicycle mishap. **June 15, 1950**

Family Reunion at Bush Hill Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Masters and Mrs. Jane L. Ware of Bush Hill Farm held a family reunion last week-end. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Jose Masters and three sons of Corpus Christi, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Masters of San Francisco, Miss Jane Masters, St. College and Mr. and Mrs. John (Helen Masters) Dugger of Charleston, W. Va. Thus all four of the Masters children were present. **July 20, 1950**

Sewing Machines For Sale

New electric sewing machines--\$59.50 Trade ins considered. Demonstration at our home. J. D. Masters, Bush Hill Farm Phone--695-J-2 **July 27, 1950**

Tall Tales Club Ice Carnival

More than 1000 people attended the recent Ice Carnival sponsored by the Tall Tales Club-- the first of its kind.

One of the features of the program was a graceful waltz on ice presented by Miss Jane Masters of the Bush Hill Farm and Bob Cooper. This exhibition of fancy skating scored a big hit with the audience. **February 1, 1951**

L yol Bush Visit

Mr. and Mrs. Lyol Bush and son, Robert, of Lock Haven were guests Sunday at the Bush Hill Farm. **August 9, 1951**

Jane Master Receives Masters Degree

Miss Jane O. Masters of the Bush Hill Farm was awarded the degree of Master of Education at the Pennsylvania State College last week. **August 16, 1951**

Daughter visits Mother, Grandmother at Bush Hill Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Helen) Dugger and daughter, Susan Diane, of Columbus, Ohio spent the week end at the Bush Hill Farm as guests of Mrs. Dugger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Masters and her grand mother Jane Ware. **December 13, 1951**

Jane Ware Celebrates 91st Birthday

Mrs. Jane Ware celebrated her 91st birthday Sunday, August 30, on the Bush Hill Farm where she was born. When Mrs. Ware first saw the light of day in the summer of 1863, the Civil War was raging and the second Battle of Bull Run was being fought. **September 3, 1953**

J. G. Masters Speaks to Rotary Club

J. G. Masters, of the Bush Hill Farm, gave a most interesting talk to the Rotary Club last Monday. Mr. Masters is a western man who until retirement was a leading educator in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. **February 18, 1954**

Joseph G. Masters, 81, Passes Away

Joseph G. Masters, 81, born February 20, 1873, in Harvey County, Kansas, of pioneer residents, died Wednesday afternoon, May 19, at his home, Bush Hill Farm, near East Smethport. **May 22, 1954**

O. D. Bush, 84, Dies at Home

Osborne D. Bush, 84, who with his wife celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on May 28, died at 10:30 am Sunday, June 11, at his home, 616 West Main street, Lock Haven, after a six month illness. He was a well known banker in the Lock Haven area. Osborne was the son of John and Mary Bush of the Bush Hill Farm. His sister is Jane Ware. **June 15, 1954**

Alford Bush Retires

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Potter, Mrs. J. Albert Cleveland and Mrs. B. A. Ball had a party at the Ball residence to honor Alford G. Bush who recently retired from the Quaker State Refinery at Farmers Valley. **Democrat--August 12, 1954**

Jane Ware Celebrates her 92nd Birthday

Mrs. Jane Ware celebrated her 92nd birthday on August 30, 1954. She has lived in Columbus, Ohio, Chicago, Kansas, and Olean in the past years. In 1937 and 1938 she took a course in social studies at Ohio State University. **September 2, 1954**

Helen Masters Writes Biography of Husband

Mrs. Helen Masters, also a graduate of the University of Chicago, recently wrote the biography of her husband, Joe Masters. She is the author of several one-act plays that have been presented by high schools and Little Theater groups. She has also authored a number of short stories that have been published in nationally known magazines. **May 19, 1955**

Dead Mountain Climber Identified as Ina Bush

On August 13, 1957 an 88 year old lady mountain climber was found dead on Pike's peak. The body of Mrs. Inestine (Ina) Roberts, 88, was found after the woman had climbed to the summit of the 14,000 foot mountain for the 15th time.

It was learned that Mrs. Roberts was Jane Ware's cousin--a daughter of the late Hiram and Sarah Bush of Smethport, Inestine (Ina) Bush was born on west Willow street in Smethport in 1869 and attended local schools. She later married Mr. Roberts and resided in Chicago.

Mrs. Ware writes---

“As a widow, she resided in Colorado Springs, almost in the shadow of Pikes Peak. She was a traveler and hiker of renown. When she visited us 2 years ago (1955) she climbed to the Devil’s Den and also to the top of the Pinnacle at the age of 86.

She was a well known hiker in the West and it was her custom, even in later years, to climb Pike’s Peak once a year.

This year she began her 15th climb on August 3 and reached the summit. But on the way down she disappeared and became the object of search parties. On August 13, her body was found near the timberline, in a meadow of blossoming mountain flowers. A coronary occlusion was the cause of death. Her loved mountain, it seems, had provided a bed of flowers and a quick, painless passing”. Mrs. Jane Ware will be 95 years old tomorrow. **August 29, 1957**

Jose Masters Family Visits Bush Hill Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Masters and sons of Corpus Christi, Texas, who had been guests of his mother, Mrs. Helen Masters, left Monday for Kansas where Mrs. Masters and children will visit her parents. **August 6, 1962**

Mrs. Dugger Visits Mother Helen Masters

Mrs. J. R. Dugger and daughters Susan, Linda and Lorry arrived Sunday night from Chicago and will spend time with her mother, Mrs. Helen Masters at Bush Hill Farm. Mr. Dugger will join them Friday of this week . **August 6, 1964**

Helen Masters Injured in Fall

Mrs. Helen Masters is recuperating slowly after a fall several weeks ago at her home, the Bush Hill Farm. Mrs. Earl Dickinson, a practical nurse, has been caring for Mrs. Masters. **February 11, 1965**

Japanese Larch Planted

7000 Japanese larch trees were planted on the south side of Route 6. **April 30, 1965**

Jane Masters Tour

Miss Jane Masters of the Bush Hill Farm, has returned from a five week tour of the Scandinavian countries and Ireland. **August 24, 1967**

William Bush Visits

Mr. William Bush, Cheektowaga, and his daughter Mary Kay, recently visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Bush on east main street. **November 9, 1967**

Gustafsons Move to Bush Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gustafson have moved from the Valley Road to their new home recently built on the Bush Hill road. **November 9, 1967**

Helen Masters Death

Helen Geneva Masters, 93, Bush Hill Farm, Smethport, died Wednesday, January 17, 1979, at the Stone Manor Nursing Home, Smethport. **January 22, 1979**



Photo provided by Jim Freer

Bush Hill School.



John Bush and O. D. Bush



Thomas Ware/Jane Smith wedding certificate.

In the Court of Common Pleas of McLean County.

Of 235. May Term, 1889

No. 235.

Mrs. J. L. Smith

VERSUS

John Smith

Divorce.

And now November 11 1890 : The Court having heard

this case and having fully considered and proceeded to determine the same as
to law and justice appertain. Do sentence and decree, that Mrs. J. L.

Smith be divorced and separated from the nuptial ties

and bonds of matrimony heretofore contracted between her, the said Mrs.

J. L. Smith the libellant, and the said John Smith

respondant; And that thereupon all and every the

duties, rights and claims accruing to either the said Mrs. J. L. Smith

or the said John Smith at any time heretofore in pursuance

of said marriage, shall cease and determine, and the said Mrs. J. L.

Smith and John Smith shall severally

be at liberty to marry again in like manner as if they had never been married, and

further the Court do award to the said Mrs. J. L. Smith

against the said John Smith her,

costs in this behalf expended.



Per Curiam

Attest:

J. M. Clay

Prothonotary

Hugh A. Brawley Secy



Jane Bush/John Smith wedding certificate.

Blomgren Bros. & Co.
Electrotype and Stereotype Foundry,
AND PRINTERS' WAREHOUSE,

Nos. 162-4 South Clark Street,

C. G. BLOMGREN.
O. N. BLOMGREN.
S. A. HAWKINSON.

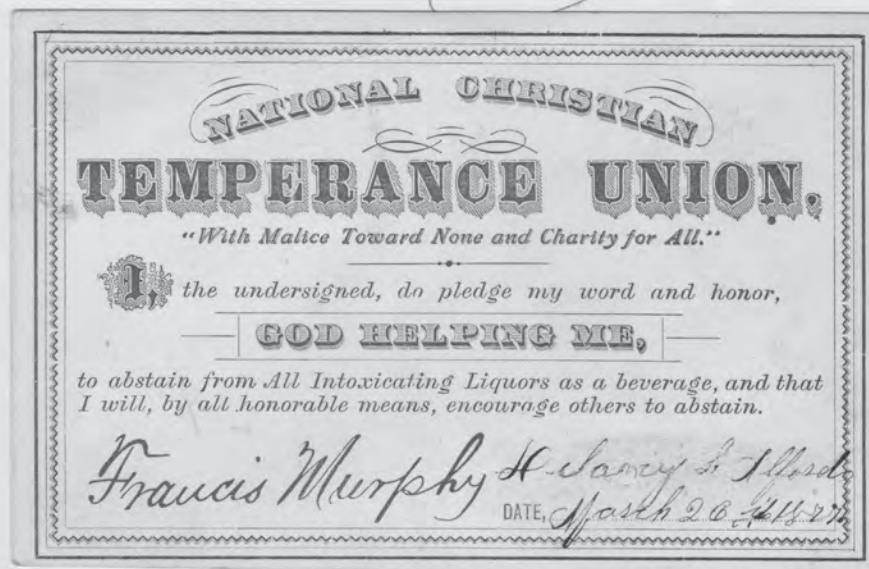
Chicago, Oct 25 1882

W. L. Alford Esq
E. Smithport, Pa.

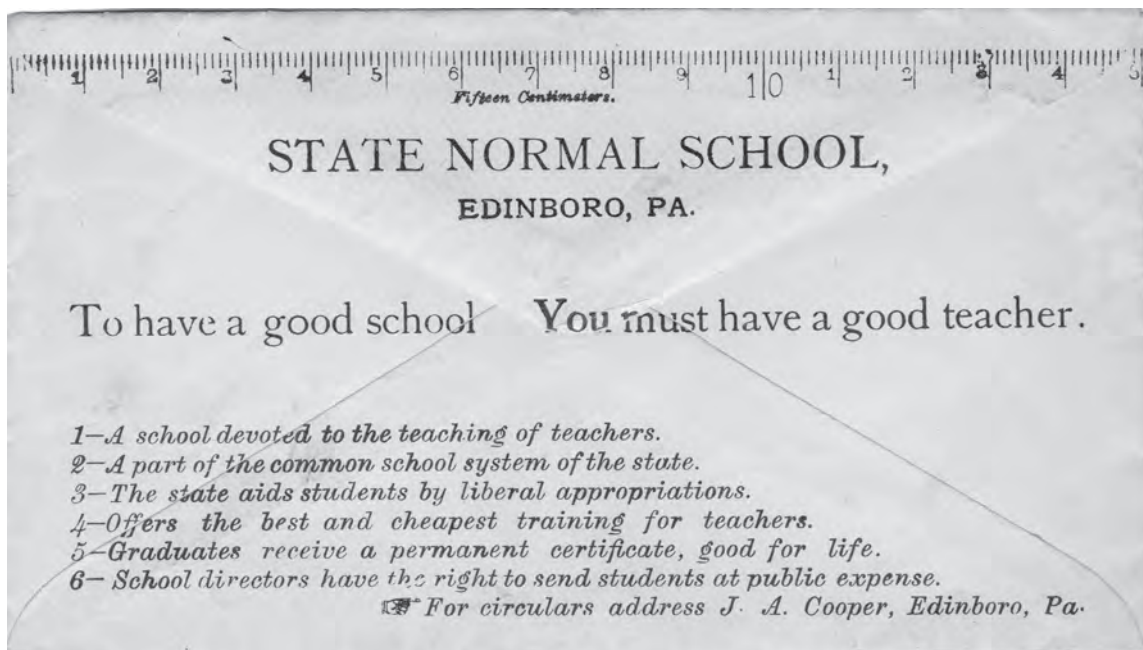
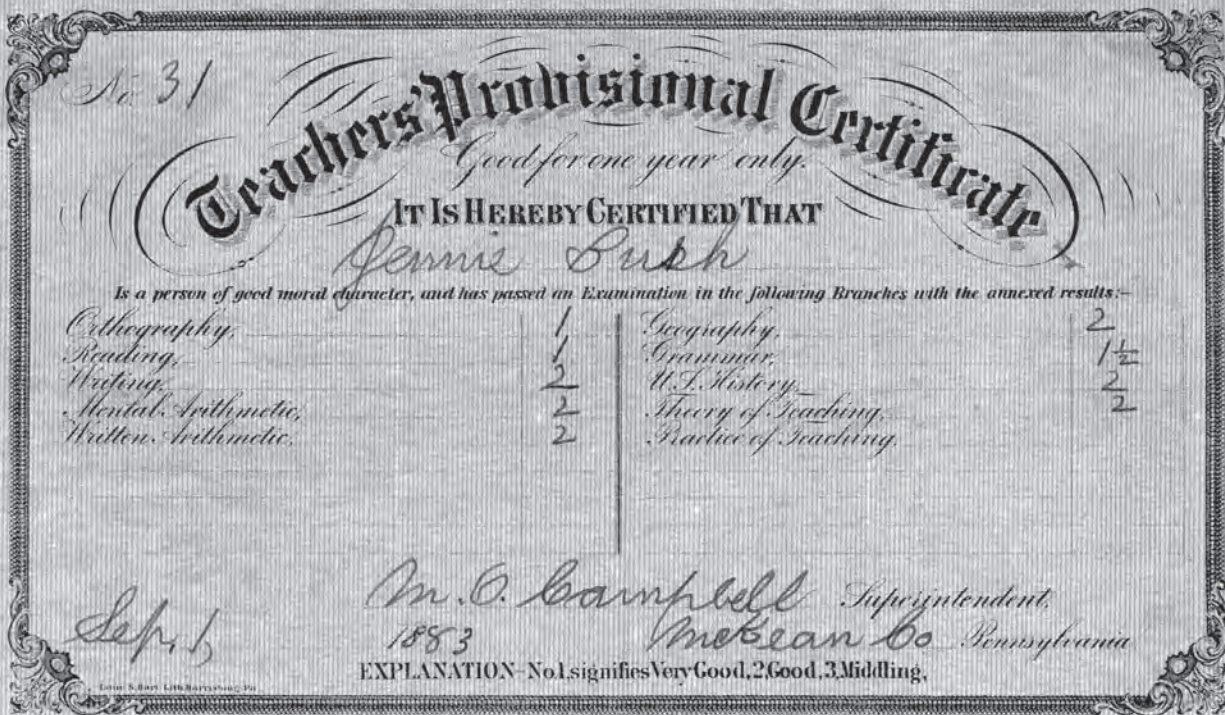
Dear Sir,

In reply to your
card of 20 I would say that the cost
of stereotyping pages 5 x 3 1/2 not mounted
will be 26¢ per page, blocked on wood
50 cents per page.

Yours Respectfully
Blomgren Bros & Co.
J. S.



DeLancey Alford material.



Jane Bush Teaching certificate...Normal School.



Jane Lestina Bush 1883



Jane Masters 1935



J. G. Masters and dogs



Basketball "hoop shoot" at Bush Hill Farm 1920's



Helen Masters, Helen Master Dugger, Conrad Master, Susan Dugger, Terry Dugger Curtis, Jack Dugger, Linda Dugger, Carol Masters, Jose Masters and "Ginger" (dog).



John Smith 1893



Jane Masters at sap boiling shed with rabbit and gun.



unknown



Jane Masters 1954



Jose Masters, Jane Masters, Helen Masters, Conrad Masters (with dog), Helen Masters and J. G. Masters.



Helen Masters and dogs.



Terry Dugger, Linda Dugger, Susan Dugger, Helen Masters Dugger and Jack Dugger.



*Conrad Masters, Helen Masters, Jane Masters, Jose Masters.
Back---Jane Ware and Helen Masters. August 1947*



John and Mary Bush...early 1900's.



The Reverend Thomas D. Ware



DeLancy Alford clan, Lock Haven, 1880



Mary Alice Bush, second row, second from left



Helen "Hallie" Masters in 1978



Jane Masters 1998



John Bush and Lyol Bush



J. G. Masters and Helen Masters and Children



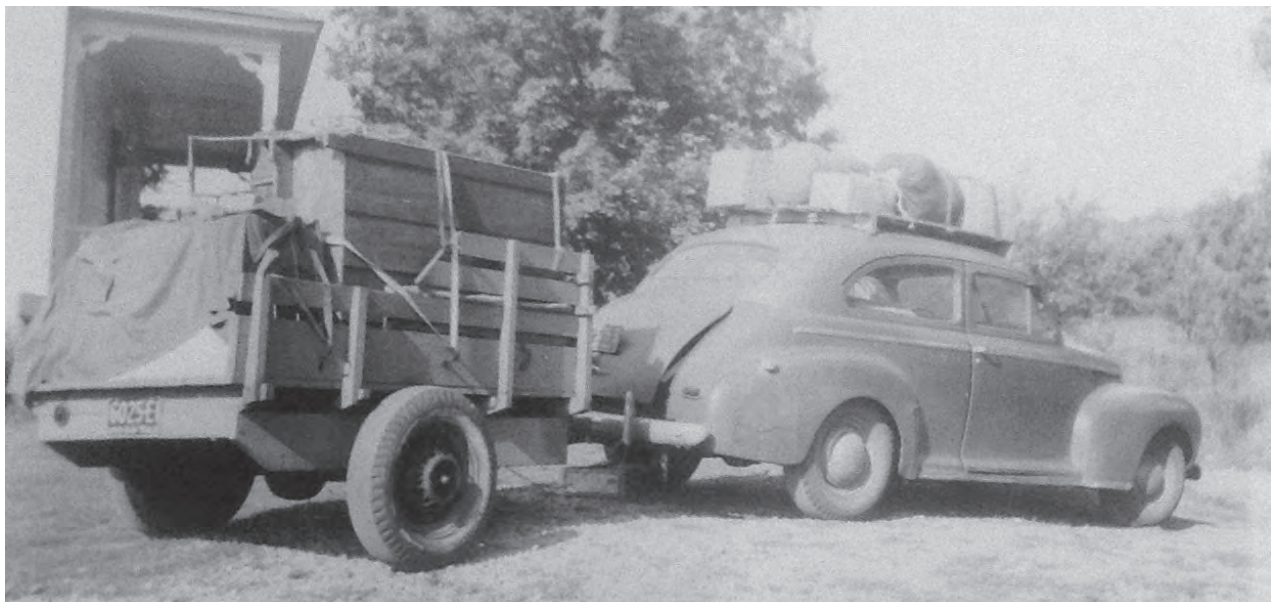
Dexter family reunion at Bush Hill Farm. Couple in center may be Jane Ware and O. D. Bush, at Bush Hill Farm in 1920's



J. G. Masters, Jane Masters, Jose Masters, Helen Masters, Jane Ware and Helen Masters. Conrad Masters in front with unknown child.



University of Chicago 1903 field hockey team. Helen Masters is in the middle in the front row. She was “captain” of the field hockey team with the nickname.... “Little Choo-choo”.



Jose’s vehicle packed in 1949 ready for trip to Corpus Christie, Texas.



Helen Masters and J. G. Masters on wedding day in 1912.



Jane Masters



J. G. Masters and Helen Masters "Sunday go to meetin' clothes".



Helen Masters



Jane Ware

JANE WARE --- OLDEST COED

Life Begins at Ohio State for Jane Ware, 75: Dull Days Give Way in Her March With Time Studies Psychology, Philosophy, Current Events

At an age when most women are content to sit beside a fire dreaming of the past, 75-year old Mrs. Jane L. Ware, whose modishly bobbed white hair, unlined face and youthful figure belie her age, has begun a college career.

This amazing woman, whose handclasp is as firm as a man's and who thinks "life is loads of fun," came to Columbus a year ago last fall from Smethport, PA, to make a home for her grandson, Jose D. Masters, when he transferred to Ohio State University.

For a while, this widow of a Baptist minister, was content to clean house, do the washing, cook and do fancy work at their two-room apartment at 232 W. Woodruff Way. But her urge for learning asserted itself and last spring she enrolled in the Ohio State University-WPA night adult school.

Strolls Five Miles

She walks to and from class four nights a week, sometimes taking a five-mile stroll at a pace her grandson finds difficult to keep up with.

Rarely does she miss a class. She's studying philosophy, psychology, current events and eastern history. She studies at night, but not enough, according to Jose, who has threatened to "take her out of school if she doesn't get down to serious studying."

After attending a normal school in Pennsylvania Mrs. Ware taught in a country school for five years before being graduated from a business college.

Worked in Offices

She worked in business offices for many years before moving to Chicago where her only daughter, Helen Geneva Masters, Jose's mother, short story author, attended the University of Chicago. There she attended lectures "and always kept in touch with what was going on."

Jose, who is a junior in education and president of Phi Mu Alpha, musical fraternity, is the son of Joseph G. Masters, principal of Central High School in Omaha, Nebraska, whose "Stories of the Far West" was published by Ginn and Company.

The blue eyed co-ed explains her penchant for continuing her educational career in the winter of her life with "I simply cannot sit in a corner and be an old lady piecing quilts."



Helen Masters car



“Old Juicehead”

THE BUSH HILL FARM



Thomas D. Ware

The Rev. T. D. Ware was an accomplished poet. These two poems were written by him

Bush Hill Farm

The Bush Hill Farm with meadow green
It's deep and fertile soil
Through many summers been the scene
Of busy and faithful toil
These graceful, sloping fertile fields
With sparkling springs abound.

And as the march of progress came
Abundant gas was found
These springs poured forth their precious gifts
From hidden sources burat
And from the cool refreshing stream
The cattle slaked their thirst

The gas wells sent a lengthy shaft
Down through the rocks and clay
And snorted forth a roaring sonad
In breaking through its way

The natural gas, a handy thing
To heat the house all through,
And boil the sap from maple trees,
And make the sugar, too.

There was a man who came to work,
And stayed some thirty years,
He plowed the fields and milked the cows
And fed the hungry steers
He'd tell you when the moon was dry
And when to look for showers
And if it thundered very hard
'Twould turn the sweet milk sour.

The crows would bother on this farm
And steal the chicks and corn
I'll fix the rascals sure 'nuf
Was spoken out by Oren.
Now this old gun, she kicked me once,
And so I dare not crowd 'er
But all these plagued crows will need
Is just the to smell the powder.

Good Mother Bush, with faithful life,
Did not forget her share
Of duties on this busy farm
As well as anxious care
Her cookies seemed to hit the spot
Of healthy appetites
Her feather beds and nice clean sheets
Felt good on chilly nights.

While Father Bush with steadfast gait
He wades the deep plowed ground
And with his faithful rubber boots,
He plods his daily round.

Some fifty-seven years ago or more
These lives together bound,
And struggling hard with heavy loads
A fruitful life has found.

Let coming generations mark
The victories here won
And with an equal courage strong
Complete the work begun.

PEACE

Peace, the heaven of our life
To be where angels feet have trod
And live in harmony with God
With life divine
Serene in kind
Free from fatigue and strife.

Peace that gentleness distills
On quietness with those we trust
Whose careful thought is kind and just
Where nobleness
And love's caress
Secures life from ills.

Peace, kind to the last degree
With bitterness and malice gone
Let us forgive
That we may live
With all caringly.

Peace, yes there is a peace
A peace that we have made a test
And we have found the best;
A peaceful mind
Godlike in kind
Where love can never cease.

Thomas D. Ware
The Farm, Pa.
November, 1921

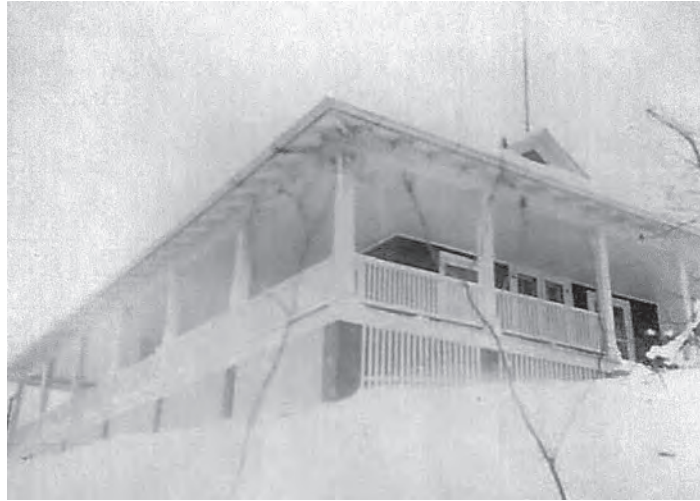


Photo provided by Bill Lake

Original Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill Farm 1920.



View from porch of original Bonnie Castle.

BONNIE CASTLE

Sometime prior to 1917, Emma Hamlin McCandless obtained a lease with the Bush Hill Farm to construct a summer bungalow on one of the high peaks on the Bush Hill Farm. The lease contained a fair amount of land and appears to have been a long lease covering an extensive number of years. Emma named her sanctuary Bonnie Castle. The Hamlins had vacationed in the thousand islands area for many years and had often visited a site known as "Bonniecastle". This was the estate of Dr. Josiah Gilbert Holland, M. D. and was built in 1877. Perhaps Emma named her retreat after this castle.

At the time of its construction the current Route 6 was not yet constructed. The main road to Port Allegany from Smethport went up what is now called Jane Ware road and passed over the top of the hill where the present cut is made for Route 6. The road then traversed out along the hill to Devil's elbow and eventually over into the Grimes district.

At the top of Bush Hill there was a dirt road that went to the left and eventually lead to the point upon which Bonnie Castle was constructed. The cottage was built on the very top of the point. One could not drive the final approach to the cottage. There were walkways leading up the hill to the cottage.

Emma loved nature and this high peak permitted a view covering many miles of forests and scenery. It is probable that her father, Henry Hamlin, financed this venture. There are references to times that Emma entertained her guests at her beloved cottage. She truly enjoyed her mountain sanctuary.

The concrete pillars as well as parts of the brick fireplace still remain on the peak at the Bush Hill Farm. Bonnie Castle was dismantled and rebuilt to the exact same dimensions on Prospect hill in 1936.

Emma McCandless Party at Bonnie Castle

Mrs. Emma McCandless entertained a number of ladies at Bonnie Castle, her bungalow on Bush Hill Tuesday afternoon. **Democrat August 2, 1917.** This is the first reference the authors could find concerning Bonnie Castle's beginning.

Emma McCandless Passes Away

On the evening of February 13, 1922, Mrs. Emma McCandless, 64, passed away. Emma Marian Hamlin, the second daughter of Henry Hamlin and Hannah McCoy Hamlin, was born December 26, 1857. She married the Rev John Heber McCandless in Smethport on October 26, 1885. In 1891 her father, Henry Hamlin, built a mansion for his daughter. Her love of nature has been sweet and unaffected loving them all, the birds, the flowers, the trees, and her mountain home (Bonnie Castle) is in itself a lesson and a call to reverent worship.

Emma McCandless Scholarship Fund

Following the death of Emma McCandless, a trust fund was set up for student scholarships.

Some recipients---

1934---Robert Karlen, Vernon Hull, Pauline O'Laughlin. Abbey Southwick

1940---Joan Morrison, Helen McQuire, Barbara Bouton and Robert Miner

Following the death of Emma, her brother Orlo J. Hamlin, was in a charge of the “estate of Emma McCandless” that had signed the lease for the land on Bush Hill where Bonnie Castle was constructed. The pieces of correspondence between O. J. Hamlin and Jane Ware were signed including the following... “The estate of Emma McCandless”.

The following is a newspaper article from the McKean County Democrat on Thursday, August 28, 1930, concerning a tour of Bonnie Castle---

Magnificent View from High Retreat of Local Couple

Magnificent view of a vast expanse of hills and valleys, gorgeous sunsets and glorious sunrises greet the eyes of Hamlin Bank Treasurer R. E. Burdick and his wife, who have been sojourning this summer at Bonnie Castle, a model bungalow atop the high pinnacle of Bush Hill overlooking Smethport.

Exceeded in height only by Prospect Hill, the highest peak in Northwestern Pennsylvania, the lofty domicile commands a view of succeeding ridges of the Allegheny mountain range and, with the aid of powerful field glasses, the local couple can command a view of many towns and hamlets.

Tuesday morning, through the courtesy of Mr. Burdick, the Democrat editor enjoyed a trip to the bungalow and beheld a spectacle of indescribable beauty from the broad verandah surrounding the structure.

While Smethport and adjacent valleys were blanketed in heavy fog, the pinnacle protruded above both clouds and fog. The scene could easily be compared to a vast sea with the needle pinnacles and highest ridges of the Allegheny giving the impression of distant shore lines with the spray of surf breaking against them.

The miles of fog bank constantly eddied and shifted with the fresh early morning wind currents and at times only the Bush Hill pinnacle and the Massive bulk of Prospect protruded above the sea of fog. Again, a single tree-top of some high peak would protrude above the fog; to be followed by the illusion of an island arising from the sea.

The bungalow was erected by the late Mrs. Emma McCandless of Smethport, a deep lover of nature. In choosing one of the highest needle points in this section, the prominent lady showed splendid discernment. The altitude of the beautiful bungalow is 2200 feet.

To clear the site for the bungalow it was necessary to cut down the sharp point of the peak a number of feet. The steep sides of the hill below the summer residence are covered with a dense growth of timber and a sheer drop is presented in almost any direction from the broad porch which entirely surrounds the structure.

A road leads from the main Bush Hill road between Smethport and Port Alleghany part way up the hill to a garage and from thence rustic terraced paths lead to the bungalow with rustic benches placed at intervals under the trees.

The summer home is equipped with running water and other conveniences. It is a delightful retreat.

The history of Bonnie castle is an interesting story. Apparently, Emma became friends with one of the Bush Hill Farm ladies. It most likely was Jane Bush Ware but it may have been her mother Mary Bush. Mary passed away in 1923. The Bush family was very protective of the Bush Hill Farm and it appears unusual for them to share their land with a long term lease. From the beginning, the lease was issued to Emma McCandless. Even when Emma died in 1922 all the ensuing correspondence was done by O. J. Hamlin for the "Emma McCandless Estate". This remained valid until 1936 when Jane Ware refused to renew the lease and the cottage was moved to its current site on Prospect.

Ralph Burdick---Bonnie Castle

Once Emma passed away the management of the cottage seems to have been put in the control of R. E. Burdick, VP of the Hamlin Bank. He and his wife often entertained guests at Bonnie Castle over the next 14 years following Emma's death.

Ralph E. Burdick was born March 28, 1870, in Norwich township the son of early settlers Chester and Sarah Dickinson Burdick. Ralph started working in the banking industry in February of 1891, working for Henry Hamlin as a store supply boy. He served 62 years for the Hamlin family eventually being promoted to Vice President of the Hamlin Bank and Trust Company, retiring from affiliation with the bank in January of 1952. He married Alice Munn of Mansfield. They had one child, Hamlin Burdick. At the time of his death he had one grandchild, Ralph E. Burdick, Jr. His wife passed away on December 25, 1932 following a desperate leg amputation procedure in an attempt to prolong her life. Ralph Burdick died on May 24, 1954, at the age of 84.

The Burdick's Hosted many parties at Bonnie Castle.

Bonnie Castle Party

The members of the S. L. Club enjoyed a picnic lunch dinner at Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill summit last Friday night. **September 13, 1934**

Bonnie Castle Dinner

Sydney A. Burdick entertained members of the Cuckoo Foursome and their wives at a 6:30 PM trout dinner Sunday at Bonnie Castle. **July 25, 1935**

July 4th Celebration 1936

Guests at Bonnie Castle, the attractive cottage of R. E. Burdick situated on the peak of the loftiest summit of Bush Hill, overlooking Smethport, were treated to an unusual spectacle the night of July 4th. Seated on the broad verandah of the cottage members of Mr. Burdick's party were to witness fire-works displays from all county towns and communities for a radius of over 20 miles. The unusual effect presented by the bursting of aerial pieces at a high altitude over the spans of mountain peaks which the Burdick cottage overlooks was spectacular in the extreme.

Bonnie Castle was subject to vandalism---

Boys Burglarize Bonnie Castle Bungalow

Charged with breaking into Bonnie castle, the summer home of Mrs. E. H. McCandless, located on a mountain peak a few miles from this borough, Lawrence Coon, Arthur Stanton and Lawrence Cunningham pleaded guilty before Justice Dickinson when arraigned for hearing Monday were held on \$500 bail each, which was furnished in each instance. It is alleged that goods having a value of \$377 were taken from the Bungalow consisting of a rug, towels, kitchen utensils and numerous other articles. Constable Dickinson said the boys readily confessed to the act and told him where much of the plunder was hidden and the greater portion of it has been recovered. **January 23, 1920**

Bonnie Castle Raided by Thieves

A summer bungalow known as “Bonnie Castle” which belongs to O. J. Hamlin of Smethport and stands atop the highest pinnacle of Bush Hill, was raided by thieves one night recently. Loot taken consisted of two suites of furniture, several rugs and cooking utensils of considerable value. **September 28, 1928**

Bonnie Castle Raided

Thieves entered Bonnie Castle earlier this week. Entrance was gained by breaking a window. **October 2, 1930**

Bonnie Castle Lease

It is not clear why Jane did not renew the lease for Bonnie Castle in 1936. One must keep in mind that this lease was never written by either O. J. Hamlin or R. E. Burdick.

One note of contention was caused by an apparent party at the cottage with women sleeping over at the cottage. One must keep in mind, at this time the only road to Smethport from the cottage went right through the front yard of Jane Ware’s residence... therefore, she may have seen the vehicles containing these women departing the cottage that Sunday morning and heading to Smethport. Attached to this article you will see a letter written by R. E. Burdick explaining to Jane the circumstances of the event! This event took place in 1928 so I do not think that this was the cause for not renewing the lease 14 years later.

Another theory for not renewing the lease concerns the new Route 6 that was built in 1934. Some speculate that Jane Ware was in the West for the summer and R. E. Burdick gave verbal permission to the state to build this road. This may or may not be true. Ralph Burdick was on the committee to improve roads in McKean county for many years. Some correspondence seems to indicate that he had already made arrangements to have the new access road to Bonnie Castle be built in part by the road construction crew building the new Route 6 and the new access road to Bonnie Castle would be on the McKiernan side of Bush Hill.

It was very obvious that Jane Ware was devastated by the excavation of the cut on the top of the hill (“that ugly scar”) for the building of the new Route 6. She did not want any more “ragged corners” on the property.

You can read the attached letters concerning this lease written by various participants.

Bonnie Castle Moved to Prospect

Following the end of the lease in 1936, R. E. Burdick, contracted with J. Alfred Johnson to dismantle and move the cottage to Prospect. It appears that the cottage was meticulously dismantled and reconstructed in its original state.

Young Man Severely Injures Eye

Calvin Van Dusen, an employee of contractor J. Alfred Johnson, received a serious injury to his eye last Friday afternoon. Mr. Van Dusen was struck in the eye by the head of a nail while dismantling Bonnie Castle, R. E. Burdick's cottage on Bush Hill. **October 1, 1936**

Man Injured on Bonnie Castle Project

Andy Peterson was off work for 12 weeks due to an infected hand resulting from a rusty nail injury experienced while dismantling Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill. **December 10, 1936**

In September of 1936, R. E. Burdick purchased 80 acres of land on Prospect Hill where he planned to move Bonnie Castle. Mr. Burdick purchased the land known as the old Toban farm from Henry Kleisath who also owned a farm at the foot of Prospect Hill. Bonnie castle would be 26 feet higher than the fire tower. These farms on the top of Prospect had been used to produce potatoes because due to the elevation, the blight did not effect potatoes there.

There are conflicting reports on how the cottage... now Burdick's Bungalow... got its electricity.

One stated that Ralph Burdick contracted with the electric company to run an electrical line from the area of the current fairgrounds up through the fields towards his bungalow. When the work crew came to the land at the base of Prospect and started to set poles they were approached by the land owner, Henry Kleisath. Henry had not given permission for them to cross his land and questioned what they were doing. He said he would like to have electricity run to his farm nearby from this line. Ralph agreed to this but informed Henry he would have to pay ½ of the costs of running the line from the fairgrounds to this point also. Henry refused... said he would only pay for the line from this field to his house. Ralph did not agree so Henry told Ralph to get the poles off his property and that was the end of this line.

An article printed in the newspaper on December 16, 1937, stated that electrical service would extend up the Potato Creek valley. Reports also stated that a branch line would be constructed to R. E. Burdick's cottage on lofty Prospect Hill via Gifford Hollow.



Bonnie Castle located on high point on Bush Hill Farm.



Ralph Burdick's car appears to be 1933 LaSalle manufactured by Cadillac. Due to the Great Depression, GM considered dropping both the LaSalle and Cadillac lines due to extremely low sales of both models. The garage is the original one at Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill.



Bonnie Castle garage--ice storm of 1936.



Bonnie Castle entrance road at top of Bush Hill prior to the building of the new road. Charles Hubbard, Helen Masters and Oscar Johnson. 1923



Ice storm of 1936.

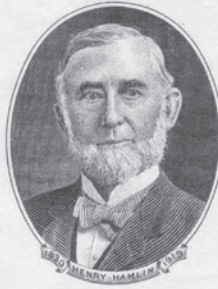


Light post at Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill following the ice storm of 1936.

ORLO J. HAMLIN
PRESIDENT

RALPH E. BURDICK
VICE PRES. & TREAS.

GUY MCCOY
SECY & ASST. TREAS.



CAPITAL \$200,000.00
SURPLUS \$200,000.00

HENRY HAMLIN'S BANK
ESTABLISHED 1863

HENRY HAMLIN & SON 1896
INCORPORATED 1902

HAMLIN BANK & TRUST COMPANY

SMETHPORT, PA.

August 23, 1928

Mrs. Jane Ware; --
Smethport, Pa.

My dear Mrs. Ware:

Referring to our conversation regarding the occupancy of the McCandless cottage on Saturday night, I find you are correct about women being there all night and leaving Sunday morning.

Am informed that the following ladies stayed there that night, Mrs. Prof. Bright, Mrs. Digel, Mrs. Claude Heath, Mrs. E.E. Heath, a friend from Canada of Mrs. Barnum's, Mrs. Barnum and one or two others.

This will explain the occurrence.

Very truly yours,

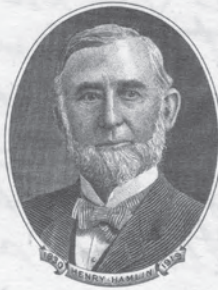
Ralph E. Burdick

REB:2

ORLO J. HAMLIN
PRESIDENT

RALPH E. BURDICK
VICE PRES & TREAS.

GUY MCCOY
SECY & ASST. TREAS.



CAPITAL \$200,000.00
SURPLUS \$200,000.00

HENRY HAMLIN'S BANK
ESTABLISHED 1863

HENRY HAMLIN & SON 1896
INCORPORATED 1902

HAMLIN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

SMETHPORT, PA.

February 17, 1933

Mrs. Jane L. Ware,
Route 2,
Smethport, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Ware:

Have yours of 10th regarding the rental
of land for cottage priveleges.

Am passing this on to Mr. Burdick who is in possession
of the property and pays rentals etc. Am very certain
he will attend promptly to the payment of rental, if it
hasn't already been paid. Possibly you had better get
in touch with him about it.

Respectfully yours,

E. H. McCandless
E. H. McCandless Estate.

OJH.:2

COMMISSIONERS:

A. J. BOND
W. H. HALPENNY
I. L. WYNN

SUPT. POOR FARM

CHAS. TAYLOR

County of McKean



CLERK:

R. WALKER

ASS'T. CLERK:

ROY ENGSTROM

SOLICITOR

F. D. GALLUP

Smethport, Pa., July 17th, 1926

Mrs. Jane L. Ware,
Bush Hill Farm,
Smethport, Pa. R. 2

Dear Madam:-

Replying to your inquiry regarding Bush Hill
road, the surveyors expect to start work from King's
Corners about Wednesday, July 21st.

Very truly yours.

W. H. Halpenny
County Commissioner

WHH-W

RE: PETITION OF
JANE L. WARE FOR
VIEWERS TO ASSESS
DAMAGES FOR TAKING
LAND FOR State Route,
No. 101, IN KEATING TOWNSHIP.

IN THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS OF
McKEAN COUNTY.

No. _____ December Term, 1933.

REPORT OF VIEWERS

TO THE HONORABLE THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

The undersigned viewers appointed by the Order of Court hereunto attached and made part hereof, respectfully report:

That notice was given as required by law of the time and place of their meeting for the purpose of attending to the duties of their appointment in the above matter, and in accordance therewith, they met on the ground of the petitioner in Keating Township on the 23rd day of October, 1933, at 10 o'clock A.M. and after being duly sworn to perform their duties faithfully, impartially and to the best of their ability and judgment, the undersigned proceed to view the premises with relation to the damages caused by the construction of highway No. 101.

There were present at this meeting besides the undersigned, Messers Hungiville, Halpenny and Anderson, county commissioners, and Mr. Jos. Wilson, Esq. representing the petitioner and W.G. Holder and C.E. Bush, witnesses. The latter were sworn and gave the value of the land at \$6.00 an acre at present which was just half of the value of same before the construction of the road on or about September 26th, 1932. Both agreed that the damage represented about one half of the value of the farm before the construction of the road. Both witnesses admitted that they were not real estate experts; did not know of any recent sales in the locality and were merely giving their respective opinions as to the damage caused by the construction of the said road.

It appeared that it was possible for the petitioner to reach the improved highway by way of the old road which was still being maintained as a public township road and that the new improved highway was a real benefit to the farm to an extent in excess of any damages caused by the construction of same. It was therefore decided that in the opinion of the viewers the petitioner had not suffered any damages in excess of the benefit and it is accordingly so reported.

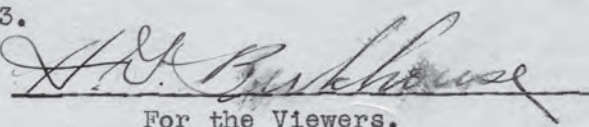
C.M. Colegrove

H.G. Berkhouse

Warley Gifford.

Notice:

The original report of which the above is a true, carbon copy was filed in the office of the clerk of the said court on the
24th day of October, 1933.


For the Viewers.

Return

JOSEPH P. WILLSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SMETHPORT, PENNA.
GRANGE BANK BUILDING

February 4, 1936

Mrs. Jane L. Ware
Smethport, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Ware:

I regard Mr. Hamlin's letter to you as an attempt on his part to have you renew the lease. He apparently realizes that the lease has been terminated by the notice to him, and for that reason would like to have a new agreement made. I suggest that you write him and say that you do not care to renew the lease.

LEASE

The petition for review came up before Judge Creighton of Tioga County, and on hearing the petition Judge Creighton told me he would have to deny it, but suggested that as he could not grant it I had better withdraw the petition. This amounted to an order to me to withdraw it in order to save him the trouble of writing an opinion, and that is how the matter stands. I have asked Mr. Hyde of the Supervisors to see what can be done about the opening of the road to your dwelling.

ROAD

Very truly yours,

Joseph P. Willson

JPW/JB

Mr. Orlo J. Hamlin Executor,
Emma McCallless Est.

Dear Sir:- Replying to yours of Feb. 21st.
I note what you say about access to the
Cottage & proposed location of same and
what you have quoted regarding the
lease &c.

I note you also invite
my suggestions. - First I will say
that it is a very ^{unfavorable} ~~poor~~ lease which I
would never have ~~agreed to~~ ^{consented to} and I do
not consider it ~~right~~ ^{wise} for anyone to take
advantage of me on account of it.

I should be very sorry to
have a road cut thru where Mr. Burdick
had planned, cut timber &c, it simply
cuts another ^{ugly} gash across my property
and leaves another ragged corner &
is not at all necessary. An entrance
from the old Bush Hill Road could
just as well be made near where the
old road ends and near the edge of the
old road not making ^{into the corner} ~~a dent~~ and be
~~only~~ a matter of ^{only} a few feet and very
little expense and for the short time
the cottage will be there would answer
every purpose. You know the lease ends
Oct. 1936 and it will not be released to anyone.

Mr. Orlo J. Hamlin, Executor
Emma McCandless Estate
February 7, 1936

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of February 1, 1936 I note what you say about access to the cottage and proposed location of same--- a new access road to the cottage coming from the east side of the Bush Hill cut and what you have quoted regarding the lease.

I note you also invite my suggestions. First, I will say that it is a very unfair lease which I would never have consented to and I do not consider it right to take advantage of me on account of it.

I should be very sorry to have a road cut where Mr. Burdick had planned, which also involved cutting timber. It simply cuts another ugly gash across my property and leaves another ragged corner that is not at all necessary. An entrance from the old Bush Hill Road could just as well be made near where the old road ends and near the edge of the new road not making another corner and be little expense and for the short time the cottage will be there would answer every purpose. You know the lease ends October, 1936 and it will not be released to anyone.

I see no reason for a road being made on the East side of the Bush Hill cut except that Mellott-Wierner or the county wish it for a detour and are willing to make it to pay them for the use it for your private road. Now if Mellot-Weidner or the county want a detour on my property I shall expect them to pay me for it and all the damages connected with it.

I certainly think it wholly unnecessary for you to make an east side road for your use going to the cottage and I should very much regret very seriously its being made in any case. I intend to reforest the point this spring and I expect a forester here to assist me about it next week.

Jane Ware

COMMISSIONERS:
ANDY ANDERSON
W. H. HALPENNY
T. F. HUNGIVILLE

SUPT. POOR FARM
CHAS. TAYLOR

County of McKean



CLERK:
R. WALKER

ASS'T CLERK:
R. E. YOUNGQUIST

SOLICITORS:
GALLUP & POTTER

Smethport, Pennsylvania Aug 30th, 1933

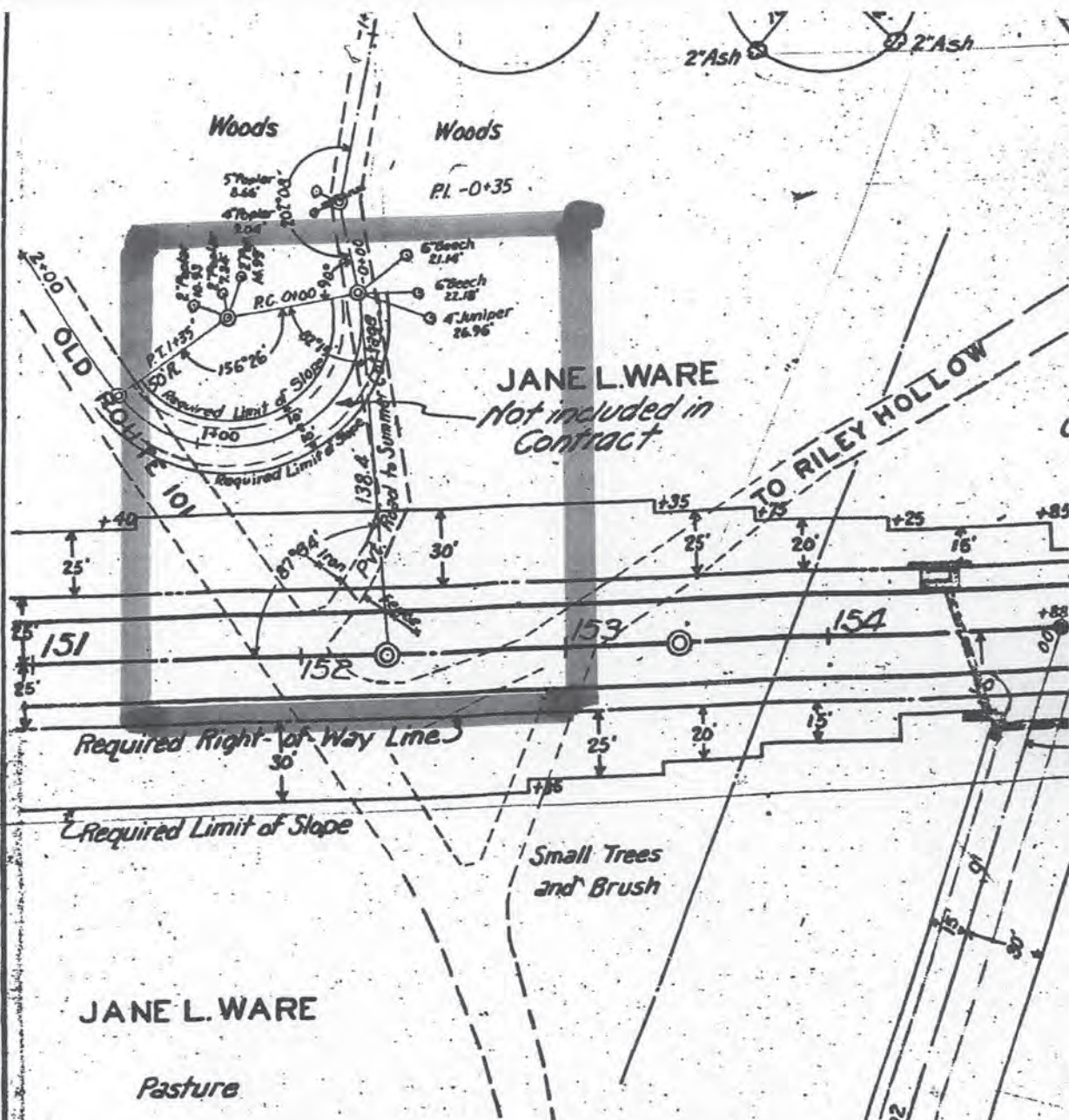
Mrs. Jane Ware,
Smethport, Penna. R.D.

Dear Madam:-

The County Commissioners refuse your proposal for damages in the amount of three thousand dollars. Your procedure is to get a board of viewers to assess damages.

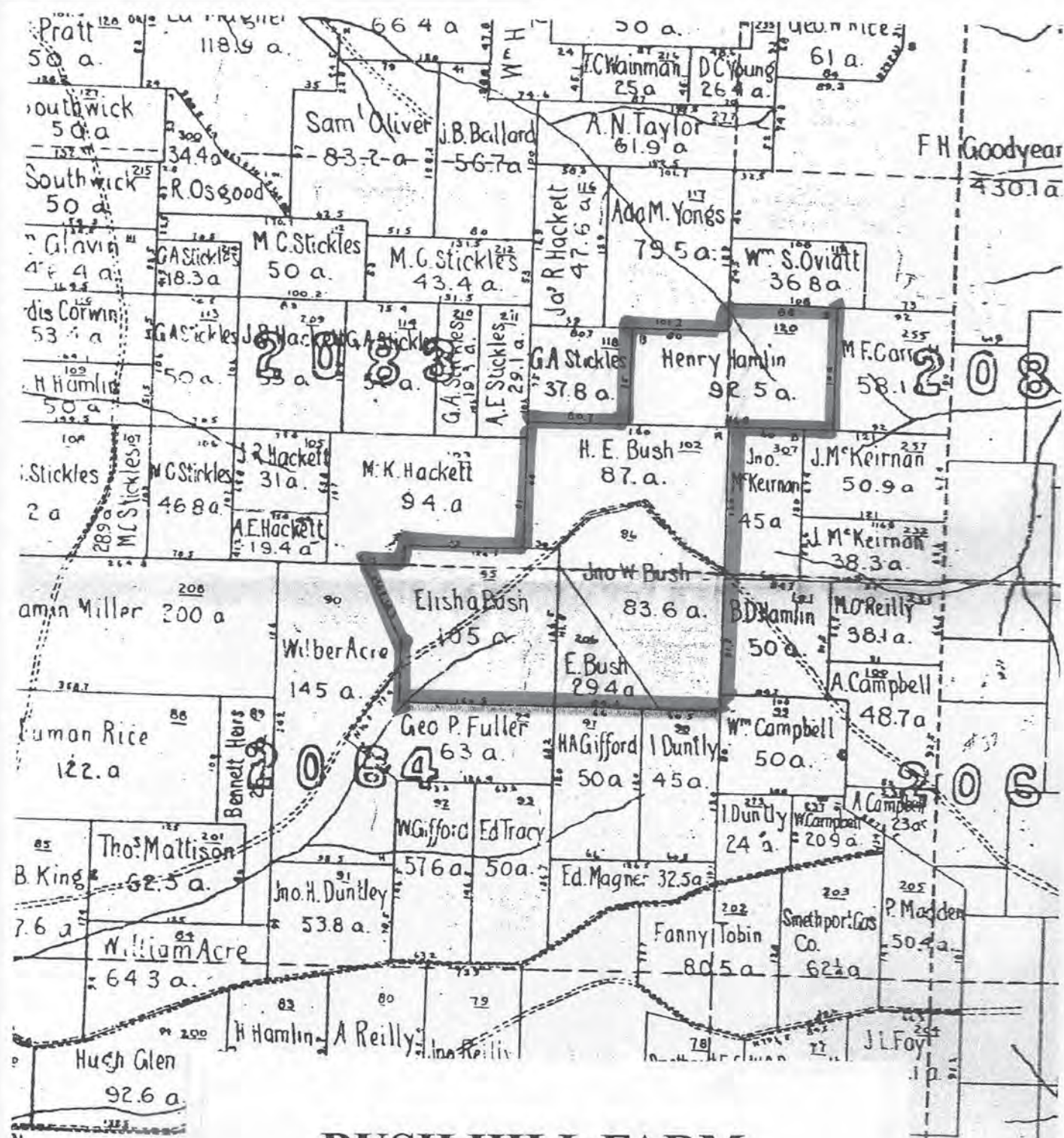
Yours very truly

County Commissioners,
Belcher Clerk



BONNIE CASTLE IRON GATES LOCATION

This blueprint is for the proposed new route 6 highway in 1932. You will note in the highlighted box there is a road listed as "Private road to summer cottage (Bonnie Castle)". At the lower part of this road you will see "Iron Fence" with a gate. The gates were on the proposed right of way for the new road and were removed during the construction of the new road and placed at their current site at the McCandless mansion.



BUSH HILL FARM

EARLY KEATING MAPS



In 1936 Bonnie Castle was torn down and moved to its current site on Prospect. The above photos show the building as it appears today which is owned by Bill Lake. This building used the material from the Bush Hill cabin and it was rebuilt to the exact dimensions that it had when it was located on the Bush Hill Farm.



SHS Class Of 1960 50th Reunion Lake's Camp 2010

***First row-----**Phil Smith, Jim Barr, Gini Gosney Newell, Peg O'Brien Burdick, Shelia Hubbard, Jim Acker, Tom Abbey, Melvin James, Steve Kleisath and Courtney Gustafson*

***Second Row-----** Dan Marshall, Gary Herzog, Carol Barrie Freer, Jerry Baker, Jack Comes, Mike Mulvihill, John Stratton, Pat Confer, Pat Harmon Pegher, Norman Tanner and Tom McCord*

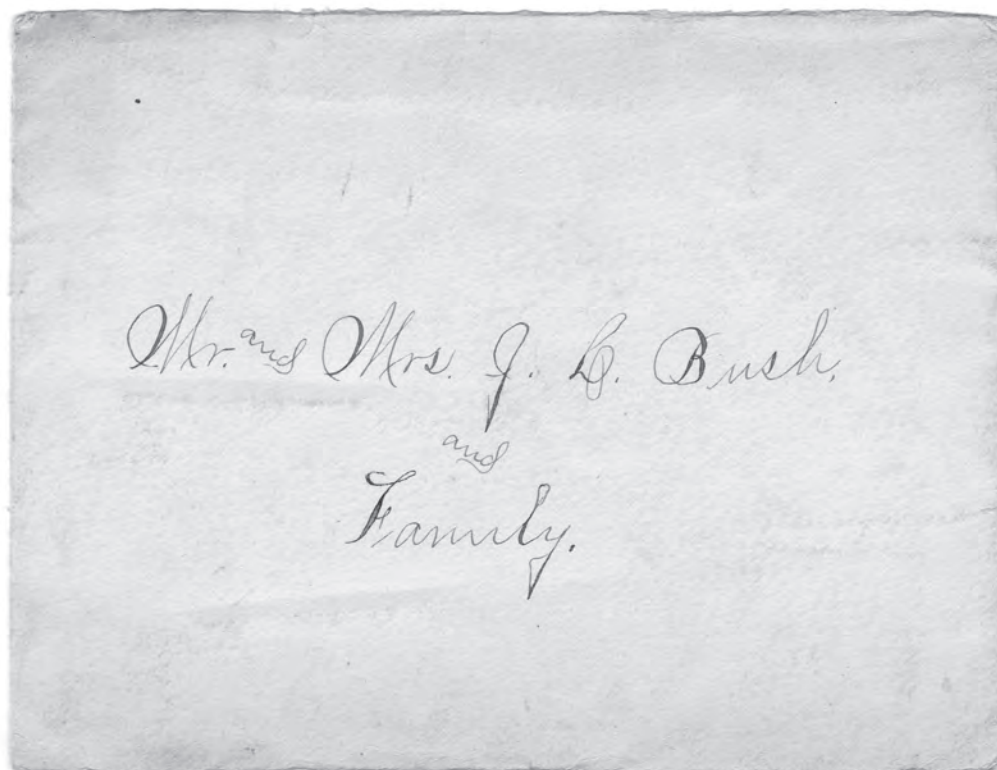
***Third row-----** Sharon Swartzfager Mitchell, Calomae Nelson Copeland, Bonnie Swanson Huff, Jeanne Parker Harrington, Sandy Rhinehart Shaner, Dick Hanson, Gail Guenter Hanson, Edna Irons Frontino, Joanne Brown Lukehart, Kathy Beckstom Enis and Bonnie Hewitt Conklin.*



Concrete pillar remains of Bonnie Castle on Bush Hill Farm... these can still be seen today.

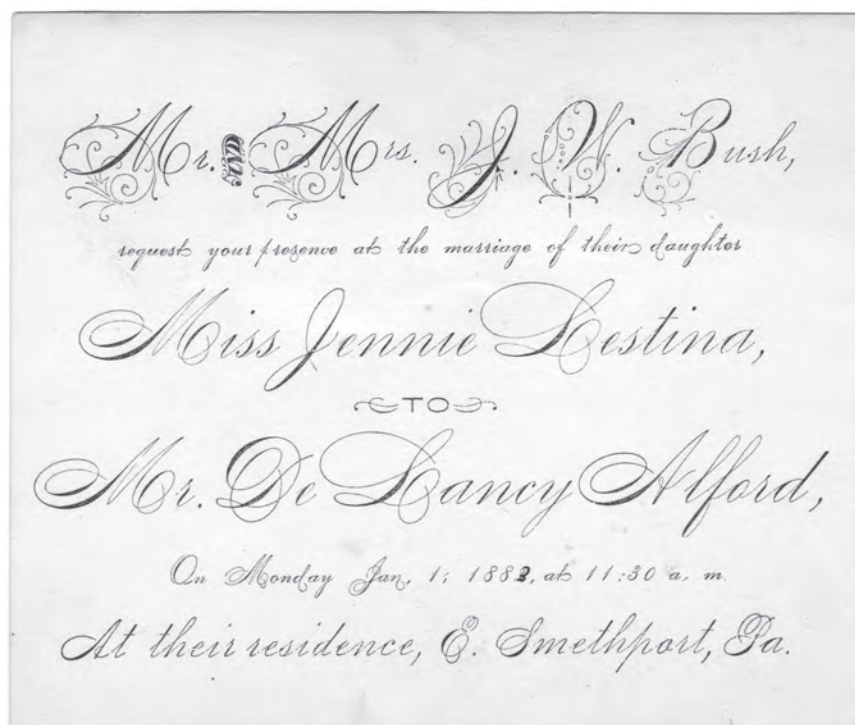


*Original cast iron gates that were used on Bush Hill site for Bonnie Castle.
These gates are now used at the McCandless mansion in Smethport.*



Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bush,
and
Family.

Jane Bush and Delancy Alford Wedding Invitation



Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bush,
request your presence at the marriage of their daughter
Miss Jennie Destina,
ETO
Mr. Delancy Alford,
On Monday Jan. 1, 1882, at 11:30 a. m.
At their residence, C. Smethport, Pa.

DELANCY ALFORD



Delancy Alford, 28, died at the Bush Hill Farm on Thursday, December 28, 1882, about 2 p.m. His death was occasioned by injuries received the previous day about 10 a.m. While engaged in securing evergreen boughs on a tree, a limb, some 30 feet high, on which he was standing, broke, and he fell to the ground, fracturing his skull, breaking his right arm, and bruising many other parts of his body. Dr. S. D. Freeman was summoned at once but could not save him. Human skill could not stay the hand of death.

Mr. Alford was born at French Creek, NY. November 16, 1857. Literary labor was his chosen life work, a work which, to some extent, had already engaged his mind. He completed his education at the Lock Haven Normal School. Four years ago (1878) he came to Smethport and was made the school teacher at the East Smethport school.

While here he became acquainted with Miss Jennie Lestina Bush to whom he became engaged. The following Monday, January 1, 1883, was to be their wedding day, but alas, how suddenly and unexpectedly were their fond hopes crushed.

The funeral service was conducted by O. J. Rose at the Bush Hill Farm. The text for the occasion was, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." His remains rest in the Bush Hill cemetery waiting the final resurrection.

* The following is a letter written by Helen Masters to her daughter Jane Masters in 1962. It contains

information about DeLancy Alford. DeLancy, Jane's husband to be, had died in 1882, following an accidental fall while decorating the house at the Bush Hill Farm for his upcoming wedding. They were to be married January 1, 1883. The MSS had been in storage 80 years.

Thursday a.m.... about 32 degrees

Dear Jane,

I think I'll go past box a little early to try to get this letter out. I hope that your affairs are going ok and you are getting rest at night so that your sinus is better. The sun is trying to get thru now.

The road Tuesday was very bad coming back. I hope to find the P.O. trail good enough to use today. It was still questionable yest.

I have no news of particular interest. Have gone over 2 suitcases full of papers, pictures and what-have-you that were in store room. Have read, sorted and burned loads of stuff. Have been immersed in the past. Have learned a good deal about Mr. Alford. He was a gifted man and a hustler. He was an agent for the publishing co. and he had all arrangements made with them to publish the book he had just finished. The plates for the illustrations were made & here with MS. He was working also on another projected book that would probably have sold very well. These MS have been lying here all these years. Your G-ma told me a long time ago to do what I thought best with them. I did not feel like opening the subject as long as she lived for fear nothing could be done. I got up my nerve at last. Decided to make a careful review & abide by my decision. And so I did. His long work, if published then, might have been favorably received. But now it seems to belong to the Victorian era almost exclusively. I'd say it was written by a person whose head was full of Tennyson, Longfellow, Whittier & others. He was young and had not yet found his own full ability but he knew where he wanted to go. He was a superior person & it is no wonder that your G-ma never forgot him. I am burning the MSS in spite of feeling respect for any MSS. I do it with regret.

Helen Masters

March 15, 1962

J. G. MASTERS TURNS 78

Bush Hill Farm Smethport Pennsylvania Feb 20, 1951

(The following is a letter written by J. G. Masters on his 78th birthday as he reminisces about his life.)

Our sad old world is much farther advanced but neither so hopeful nor confident as 78 years ago. Seems I have not done much good around here.

On the whole my health is excellent after this little rub with reality. I escape cold here, spend 10 hours in bed, have fine wholesome and some very wonderful food 3 times daily, have pure clear air and water and an endless sky-line,-- and just about totally free from disturbances and almost from annoyances. I have an ache or pain once-in-a-while and sore knee or heel for a week or two but they soon leave. I try to limit myself to 2 or 3 hours of vigorous work-out in Mother Nature's invigorating and health-restoring soils and earth. A lot of this work is both creative and experimental so that the mental exhilaration of some unusual development is altogether exciting and satisfying. Somehow, though I have lost a bit of that zest or confidence, or anticipation, that has caused me in years gone by to want to mount my Buick and strike off for far places (I am sure a part of this is due to far less ease and comfort in travel conditions. The comforts, ease and luxuries here are so great that I cannot make up my mind readily to exchange them for something so much more difficult to take. (Comment invited.)

I still live here in a good many different worlds,- some with expanding depth and interest, I very early determined that I would try to learn something of nearly all phenomena and enter into nearly all experiences about me. Life has thus seldom been monotonous, cheerless or uninteresting. On the other hand, I have been thrilled beyond measure with some new idea, fact or truth, discovery or invention, or a better working plan. It is this that gives life its larger zest today. With a broad outlook and a wide contact life can become selective and thus most happy and pleasant. I have found it a good plan to try to reach out beyond my present capacity and ability, to try to read a book too difficult, to try to understand a poem, philosophy, or treatise too abstruse, for by so doing I could add to my mental power and my experience enough in time that I could come to understand the new concept. It is thus that I am determined to make my mind come to understand the new concept. It is thus that I am determined to make my mind range over the whole area of human thought,-- at least as far as I can. Generally, the determined pursuit of ideas of whatever sort is highly rewarding.

Some interests: Education, growth, development, democracy, better living conditions, human welfare, schools, colleges, libraries, health, medicines, science, history, philosophy, archaeology, international relations, civilizations, literature and literary standards, cultures, fiction, agriculture, natural resources, forests, plant growth, new plants, fruits, grains, vegetables, soils, grasses, fertilizers, minerals, natural beauty, weather, climate, wild life, animals, birds, game, hunting, trees flowers, conservation of resources, of beauty. Discovery of better instruments of government, finer ways of living, better means of growth, higher social standards and ideals, and now for months on end I have been trying to think through, and read everything that I may possibly find to help, the end that I may discover ways whereby nations and peoples of this earth may live together in harmony and decency. I am trying to write these things into the column in the Omaha Teacher that I am responsible for, not that I shall change many convictions, but that I may see the way clearly myself if such is possible. And, more especially when such large numbers of the leaders nations have come up so short in human intelligence and human goodness. I have tried most of all to help people to grow, to acquire new and fresh ideas and ideals, to see new meanings, to

expand their horizons, to discover and feel the impulse of social change, to find new realms of being, to come to believe that a better world is possible and that we can climb out of a fatal morass of routine and habitual reactions of past ways. Individuals grow dull when they cease to learn and grow and when it becomes easy to anticipate their reactions. Spontaneity and originality are prime qualities.

I have lived through six interesting decades in which I have had some part. I have seen the people struggling time and again to build a better kind of life for themselves and their children and I have often seen them thwarted wholly or in part, most often corrupt politicians (most of whom claimed to be decent), by the power of wealth or privileges by sheer reactionaries. I don't base the worth of America on Hollywood, nor on the Mgg.As but on the plain people for the most part those struggling in the ranks, who are doing the world's work today the best they can. I don't see any moral and social revolt on the horizon of America, but I see a need for one.

I have been thrice blessed in a good heritage, a fine home to grow up in, a fine family of my own and a life companion of the greatest worth and most helpful attitude. Perhaps few have ever had relatives and friends who were so generous and kind. There are many fine ways of indulgence here on the farm and many happy things one can do, and lots of good things to have. For all of these I am grateful.

Love and good wishes.

J. G. Masters



J. G. Masters family on early "western trip".

SUMMER TRIPS TO THE WEST



Campsite for J. G. Masters family in the 1920's on one of their trips to the Rocky mountains.

In 1918 we bought our first car, an open Chevrolet with side curtains in case of rain. Of course we were nearly always drenched before we could get the curtains adjusted. It was absurdly small; it was primitive compared with the cars of today, but it was valiant. Incidentally, it was while driving this car one day that J.G. was rebuked by the police for speeding. They said he was going at thirty-five miles per hour. Needless to say, this little brush made J.G. a “regular fellow” among the student body.

In August, 1919, we began the annual family camping trips, which have afforded us some of our happiest memories. The running boards of the car were built up with carefully fitted strips attached by bolts to the fenders so that a great deal of our impedimenta could be carried in the pockets formed. In some ingenious fashion a large box was fastened to the rear--this was before the automobile manufacturers had thought of trunks-- and the tonneau was filled to seat level with clothing and bedding. Then a canvas was spread, pillows were provided, and thus the children could ride comfortably. We had a tent, a good camp stove, a folding table, folding cots, folding stools, a folding double bed fitted with cables and springs (very comfortable until it collapsed), and a cook kit that if assembled in just the right way could be enclosed in a pan designed for dish washing. The Kodak and the medicine chest were always within easy reach.

Our car resembled an overburdened packhorse, and we took off slowly. There was only a laborious response to the throttle. Maybe we had expected too much of the little contraption. However, by the time we reached Elmwood Park we noted that the brake had not been released! When this oversight had been corrected we skimmed along at perhaps twenty-five miles per hour. Our cruise to the mountains was under way.

The D. E. Porter family, our friends for many years, were partners in this expedition, and their equipment was very similar to ours. We traveled with the hoods folded back most of the way, for the motors needed all the cooling they could get, and this arrangement accelerated our frequent roadside investigations into the top secrets of the mechanisms. Before we could see the dim outlines of the Colorado

Rockies we had patched and pumped up many a flat tire on the hot stretches of the Plains, adjusted, for better or worse, the brakes, carburetors and the “points”, and had begun to list the extra parts we should carry on the next trip. Sometimes we made twenty miles a day, sometimes one hundred. But we were all hungry, for the mountains and, once we were among them, the difficulties of the journey were transmuted into romantic adventures to be recalled with pleasurable nostalgia.

August after August, with better cars and improved equipment, always independent of restaurants and hotels, we struck out an hour or two after the close of summer school at Central. Each year we re-explored some place we had known and loved, or we made new explorations. In this way we came to feel a vested interest in the whole country. It was indeed our country. We were at home in Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Canadian Rockies, Glacier Park, Jenny Lake, the Tetons and the entire Jackson Hole area, the Minnesota Lake country and the Great Lakes, the Black Hills, the west coast from Vancouver and Victoria to southern California and Catalina, Santa Fe and the southwest including Acoma and the Navajo and the Hopi reservations, the Carlsbad Caverns, the Petrified forest, the Mojave Dessert, Mesa Verde, and the Grand Canyon.

Usually we went alone, as a family. We would stop at nightfall on some open prairie, some desert, some mountain-side, some sandy beach or mountain stream. Often we were able to have a substantial camp fire and after supper to enjoy its warmth, the nearness of the constellations, pointed out by our daughter, and the beautiful melodies produced by our son on his violin.

In August, 1943, we sold our house in Omaha and came here to the country home that my great-grandfather, Elisha Bush, had established in 1828. It seemed that the Bush Hill Farm offered almost every advantage for retirement--comfort, quiet and beauty. However, to turn east instead of west, to leave our fireplace and our built-in-bookcases even for the ease of gas fires and other book cases took something of a pioneer's faith. But the household gods were going with us. The future still had promise.

J. G. was seventy; he was free from public pressures; and whatever responsibilities he assumed here were self-imposed. He did what most of us only dream of doing; he read the older books that he had always wanted to read or re-read the current books upon subjects that interested him. His delight in fruits and vegetables soared to a climax when the children and grand-children came home each August and gathered around the old walnut table for a leisurely dinner.

Last winter, (January 24, 1954) he wrote to his brother (I. H. Masters, Secretary of State, Boise, Idaho)...

“It may seem strange to you, but now I seem to belong here.”

His life never fell into sere, the yellow leaf. Arteriosclerosis stole upon him so slowly that nothing appeared particularly wrong until the first of the year (1954). In February, he was eighty-one, somewhat disturbed, but still eager and enamored of life. May nineteenth, he passed in his sleep.

“Whom the Gods love die young.”

How well they loved him!

Written by Helen Geneva Masters
Summer of 1954

MASTERS FAMILY HISTORY

(This is a letter written on April 2, 1938, by Joseph G. Masters to his son Jose D. Masters concerning the Masters family history.)

“John Masters”, born near Richmond, VA in 1804, was my grandfather. One of his brothers was Mose but I do not have others; I could get them for you however, I believe. The family had come up from South Carolina.

John Masters emigrated west to Nicholasville, Kentucky, and became a wagon-maker there very early (I never heard the year). My father Joseph Tilford Masters, was born there in 1842. Father’s brothers were Harry, “Jim”, Gabriel (always called “Doc”), Woodson, and Hendrick (called “Hank”), and one sister Mollie. All of these are now dead.

“My grandfather wanted to get his boys away from slavery so he migrated from Kentucky to Illinois in 1853. Father was a soldier in the Civil War, was married to Ellen Mitchell in 1876 when grandfather and the whole family moved to Miami County, Kansas, (near Paola) in 1867.

“Father and his cousin Billy Masters went down and took up a homestead in Harvey county, Kansas (7 miles west of Newton, Kansas), in the fall of 1871. Both went back to Miami county for the winter and then moved their families to the new claims in the early spring of 1872. I was born there February 20, 1873. I had an older brother Alva who was born in 1868 and who died in 1884. Edd (now in Canada) was born there September 26, 1870. I had two younger brothers, Woodson and Smiley, who died of scarlet fever, and a sister Gertrude who lived only a year. Ira is four years younger than myself. My sisters Grace and Nelly were both considerably younger than I.

My grandfather John Mitchell, came from Maryland and settled in Champaign County, Illinois, where most of my cousins (Mitchells) still live.

Grandfather John Masters was largely Scotch. Grandfather Mitchell was largely Scotch with some Irish. I enjoy, therefore, a stubborn ancestry.”

(The above letter transcribed for copying January 25, 1980, by Jose Masters. The original letter will be retained in my family history for my three sons and their children.....Jose Masters).

EDGAR MASTERS DEATH

(This is a letter that J. G. Masters wrote to his brother and sisters following the death of their brother Edd in 1948 in Canada.)

Bush Hill Farm Smethport Pennsylvania May 20, 1948

To Ira, Grace and Mary---

When the late springtime comes again to the prairie provinces of western Canada and when the bright sun brings its warmer mornings, Edgar will not be among those to go forth to the fields with his great teams to sow and to reap the golden grain.

This afternoon they are laying him to rest in that land he loved so much and in which he lived so long. If it is a day of brilliant sunshine as it is here on the Bush Hill Farm-- then the green fields, the wild flowers and the birds with their bits of song will all welcome him. It seemed altogether fitting that he should sleep in the land of his adoption and near the place where he spent so much of his life.

Edgar kept the family tradition for the moved-- as the race has always done-- on into the west. Mother's people going from Maryland into Ohio, then into Illinois and some on to Iowa; Father's people leaving the Tidewater of Virginia for Madison county, Kentucky, then to Illinois, then after the Civil War to Miami County Kansas. After Alva and Edd were born, Father and Mother moved in 1872 to Harvey county, Kansas, where Newton was begun. Then at the age of 20 Edd went out into the world.

In all of his life, Edgar was a roving disposition. His Grandmother Masters, took him to Miami county for a year to live when he was ten years of age. Above all else, Edd loved a horse and loved to ride. He cared for the horses at home very well. He liked to ride places and see peoples and things. He rode everywhere.

One Sunday when Edd was about 15 and I 13, we were riding home from church when we came to the open prairies we saw a great trail-herd of cattle and scores of cowboys with their broad brimmed hat, chaps, and six-shooters. Edd rode in among the cowboys and was altogether at home. He stayed and talked with them for a long time. Doubtless this fired his imagination still more for the saddle and this sort of life.

In 1890, Edd went west into Colorado and began work on ranches at Rocky Ford and Las Animas, but it was not many months before he was in the saddle for the round-ups. He lived the life of the open-range country and then went to Texas for the "long drives" of cattle from western Texas to the far-distant grass lands of Wyoming and Montana. I think that he was never happier than with a vast herd of longhorns strung out over the prairies for miles in that northern cattle migration. He has given me the best description of these trail herds and the position of the various cow-hands in the drive that I have ever read. The period of the cowboy has become a notable one in American History and literature. Even today it is still perpetuated in the ranches of the West, as it is in the songs, on the dude ranches, in rodeos and wild west shows, and by the "Westerns" of the movie world and the stories in the pulps and slicks of the magazine world.

Edd homesteaded in Canada 43 years ago. That was a long, long time to live and work on one farm. We used to think that Father and Mother lived a long time on the Harvey county fram---38 years. Edgar was faithful to the land and to that friendly Government that gave him the chance. Ira said during the recent World War, "Perhaps producing food on the farms was the most important part of winning a war against tyranny, exploitation and oppression". How wonderful and fine it was that Mary could join Edd in their marriage of 1927 and help share the load and problems of all these years.

And so, with a God Bless you and keep you, Edgar, we bid you, our dear brother, good-bye today! May your long sleep be as serene and happy as your long life has been faithful and good.

Your brother,

Joe G. Masters

May 20, 1948

BUSH HILL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

CONTRACT IS LET FOR GRADING OF BUSH HILL ROAD OHIO FIRM OPENS OFFICE HERE--PLAN TO START AT ONCE

The George S. Maller-Weidner Co., of Medina, Ohio, was the successful bidder with their figure of \$95,977.37 for the grading of the Bush Hill short-cut of the Roosevelt Highway between Smethport and Port Allegheny. Bids were opened by the State Highway Department in Harrisburg last Thursday, February, 1932.

Work must be completed before July 1, 1933, when it is hoped the contract for paving will be let.

The Maller-Weidner Co. has established an office in the Munn building on Main street, previously occupied by the Standard Electric Company. The contractor plans to start work immediately.

It is understood that the minimum machinery requirements in the contract call for use of five steam shovels on the job although it is said this number could be reduced by working at night under search lights.

Approximately a quarter of a million cubic yards of earth must be moved to make three deep cuts. There is very little fill involved.

The new grade is almost entirely different that the old road, which passed over two steep hills, Bush and Link, and had a number of sharp curves. State engineers made many surveys before finally deciding upon this route.

The old earth road was approximately 12 miles between Port and Smethport, while the new route is 7.2 miles and has no grade above 9 degrees. The paved Roosevelt highway between Smethport and Port Allegany by way of Larabee is about 18 miles, consequently the cut-off will shorten the important Roosevelt US 6 route by 10 or 11 miles.

Starting at King's corners in East Smethport at the intersection of the Emporium and East Valley roads, the new Bush Hill route will follow the old grade for only a short distance at the Almony farm. It then swings to the right and follows the valley straight to the top of Bush Hill, where a 52 foot cut will be made. Instead of turning to the right at the top of Bush Hill, as the old road did, the new grade proceeds straight ahead, far to the left of the "Devil's Elbow". It finally crosses the old road at the Card farm and swings far to the right of Grimes District, runs in back of the John Abbey farm near Port Allegheny borough and joins with the present macadam a short distance from the latter town.

The contract calls for employment of McKean county men for labor, at a minimum wage of 35 cents per hour.

The State is receiving Federal aid on the project.

BUSH HILL ROAD PROGRESS--- EXPLAIN EMPLOYMENT RULE

November 18, 1933

Inclement weather up to this week had a depressing effect on the Bush Hill road grading operation and work on the foundations for the new cracking plant of the Quaker State Co. at Farmers Valley.

Ex-soldiers on both jobs must have been reminded of muddy trenches on the battlefields of France. However, the weather took a turn for the better Monday and continued warm and dry until yesterday at least.

The Mellert-Weidner Co., contractors on the bush Hill road, expect to inaugurate a ten-hour night shift next week. In addition to the regular daylight work. This will give employment to more men, since the 3 -day, 30-hour week per man ruling will still be in effect.

At present two steam shovels are working this side of Bush Hill and another is in operation on the Port Allegheny side of Link Hill. Sixty men were employed the first three days of this week and another crew went to work this morning for the last three days.

According to word received here last night from the district highway office in Clearfield preference for common labor on the Bush Hill projects must be given ex-service men with dependents residing in McKean county.

FOUR TONS OF DYNAMITE IN 1 BLAST FOR NEW BUSH HILL ROAD GRADE

February 24, 1933

Dupont company experts set off another huge blast in the cut on Bush hill last Friday. A number of citizens witnessed the discharge of four tons of dynamite, which pulverized a huge quantity of the former solid rock formation.

The magnitude of the blast last Friday can be better appreciated when it is explained that the equivalent of 16,000 sticks of dynamite were used.

A huge compressed air drill made 200 holes 20 feet deep in the rock and small preliminary charges were used to make pockets at the bottom of the holes. Dynamite was packed in the pockets; a detonating stick of dynamite with fuse and electric wires attached was lowered into each hole, and all the holes plugged with sand. The wires were joined in one big circuit and a spark from a high-tension magneto device caused the four tons of dynamite to explode.

Steam shovels will operate for a long time clearing away the rock loosened by the blast. It is estimated that the shovels will be forty feet below the crest of Bush Hill before it is necessary to discharge another big "shot".

The Mellert-Weidner Co., contractors on the job of making a grade for the new Smethport-Port Allegheny highway, must cut a notch 52 feet deep through Bush Hill. A 31-foot cut is being made on Link Hill and additional blasting will be done there next week. The Link Hill cut is nearing completion.

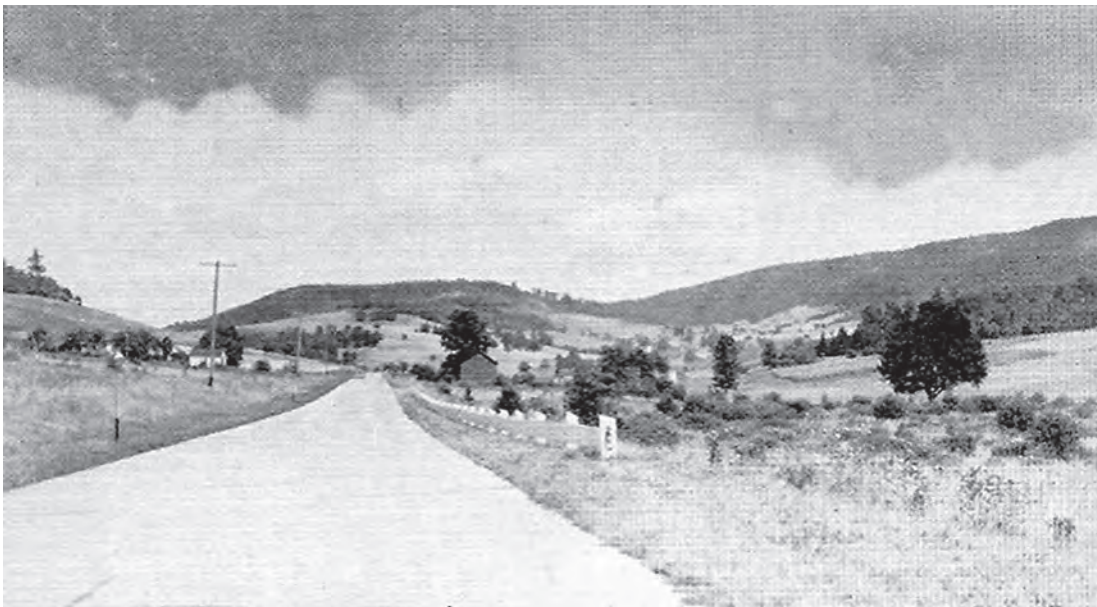
The contractors must finish grading before July 1st. They are still somewhat ahead of schedule, in spite of soggy condition of the ground, which has complicated operations much of the time this winter.

The bridge and culvert work is about three-fourths completed and good progress is being made on the various extensive fills.

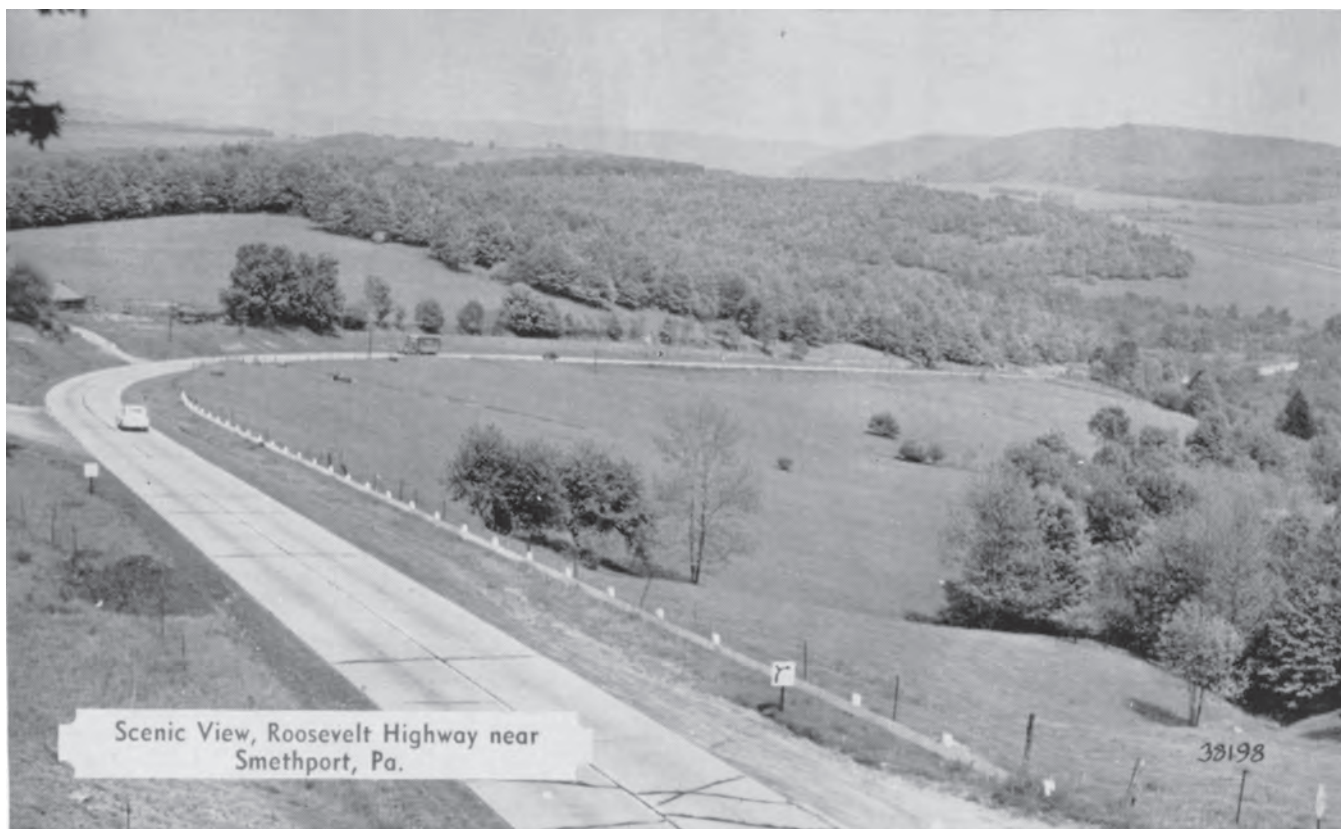
Seventy men are employed by the Mellert-Weidner Co., an average number which has been maintained for some time past.



“Cut” made at the top of Bush Hill for the new road to Port Allegany in 1933.



New road to Port as seen from King’s corners.



Fred, Ralph, Dorothy and Carolyn Gustafson, 1935. You can see the guard rails for recently opened Route 6 in the background.

JACK DUGGAR

Bush Hill Home Scene of Wedding Saturday Noon



Jack Dugger and Helen Masters Dugger.

Miss Helen Mitchell Masters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Masters of Bush Hill Farm, and John Richard Dugger, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dugger, of Canton, Ohio, were married at the Bush Hill Farm on Saturday, June 16, 1945, at noon. The double ring ceremony was performed by Judge Charles G. Hubbard. The room was attractively decorated with baskets of snap dragons, lilies, mountain laurel and ferns.

Miss Jane Masters was bridesmaid for her sister and Donald Dugger acted as best man for his brother.

The bride is a graduate of the Omaha Central high school, Omaha, Nebraska and attended Ohio State University where she has been associated with the American Chemical Society on the campus.

Mr. Dugger graduated from Ohio State University this year. He received the conference medal for the highest scholarship in athletics by the Big Ten conference. He was a member of the varsity football, basketball and track teams and was chosen as an All American end under Coach Carroll Widdoes last fall. The Buckeyes were 7--2 for the season.*

*Jack Dugger would later play professional football in the NFL for the Chicago Bears and the Detroit Lions. Also, he played professional basketball for the Syracuse Nationals.

Jack Dugger

John R. (Jack) Dugger was born on January 23, 1923, in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. He attended Canton McKinley high school in Canton, PA. He later attended Ohio State University where he played football. Jack was 6' 4" and weighed 230 pounds.

In 1944, he was a consensus All American football player at Ohio State. That year Ohio State won the national championship and Jack was a co-captain. He won the 1944 Big Ten Medal of Honor for the highest grade point average. He received 9 varsity letters while attending OSU as he was a member of the football team, the basketball team and the track team.

The London 1944 Summer Olympics had to be postponed due to the War. Jack was still honored with the invitation to throw the Discus for the US Olympic team that year.

On June 17, 1945, Jack Dugger married Helen Masters, daughter of Joseph and Helen Masters, at the Bush Hill Farm.

Jack was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the second round of the 1945 draft. He opted out. In 1946 he played for the Buffalo Bisons. He then went on to play for the Detroit Lions in 1947 and 1948. In 1949 he played for the Chicago Bears.

Simultaneously, in 1946 Jack played professional basketball for the Syracuse Nationals. He only missed one professional basketball game due to a conflict with his pro football schedule. The Syracuse Nationals would go on to become the Philadelphia 76ers.

Jack died in Charlotte, North Carolina on February 23, 1988, at the age of 65.



Helen Smith Masters on a horse being led by hired hand Orin Brink early 1900's.

ORIN BRINK



Photo provided by the McKean County Historical Society.

“This is a picture of Orin Brink. As a boy of 14, he ran away from home and joined the Union army. His youth was recognized and he was given work as a hostler. He became G’pa,s Bush’s hired man for years before I can remember, and was here till after I was married (1911). He taught me to ride horse-back, brought me a side saddle, and was good to me beyond all I can say.

He went to the soldiers’ reunion once a year and drank liquor.

He is buried in East Aurora, NY.”

The above statement is a hand written note on the back of the photo of Orin Brink on display in the museum of the McKean County Historical Society at the old county jail in Smethport . The note was written by John Bush’s granddaughter, Helen Geneva Smith Masters, who lived on the Bush Hill Farm. John Bush and Orin Brink were both in the battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.



Orin Brink and unknown friend.

Ronnie Kleisath

Ronnie was born on Friday, September 13, 1940. Ronnie and Courtney grew up as neighbors and shared many treasured moments hunting, fishing and trapping. Unfortunately, Ron fell victim to dementia and passed away on January 9, 2003, at the age of 62. He is greatly missed by Courtney but he will never be forgotten.



Ron Kleisath.. Germany 1960

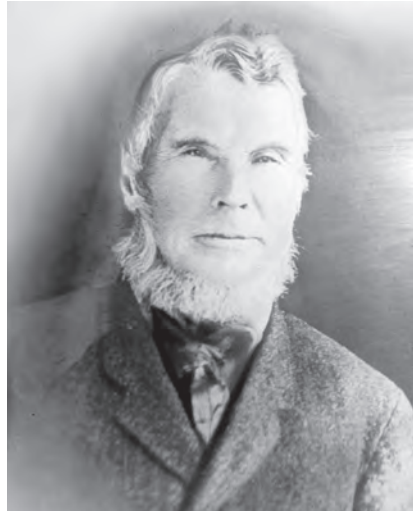


Courtney and Ronnie---1951

BUSH FAMILY OBITUARIES

JOHN W. BUSH HAS PASSED AWAY

April 29, 1920



The death of John W. Bush, one of the most widely known farmers in McKean county, occurred at his home on Bush Hill, Keating township, Saturday, on the farm on which he was born. In October, 1918, Mr. Bush fell from a load of grain sustaining injuries that had confined him to the house until his death. He was a prominent citizen for many years in Keating township affairs; was the founder of the present Baptist Church in this place as it was due to his personal contributions that the edifice was erected when his son-in-law, Rev. T. D. Ware, was pastor at the church.

He was the third son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Bush who cleared the farm on Bush Hill from the unbroken wilderness. The story of Elisha's experience would make an interesting book as he had to win the land from the natural inhabitants of the forest, live stock being killed and crops destroyed. His life was once endangered by the attack of a panther. John W. Bush was born in 1837, and at the age of 14 years entered upon the duties of mail carrier, carrying the sacks on his back over the rough mountain trails between Smethport and Wellsboro. With the assistance of another carrier on the other end of the route this seventy miles of almost unbroken forest was traversed twice a week. He had the benefit of an academic course at school but obtained his education under duress that would seem insurmountable to a boy of the present day. He worked on his father's farm and as he grew to manhood purchased an adjoining tract, later purchasing the old homestead from his father, who with his wife moved to Smethport about 1889.

He was married to Mary, daughter of John and Maria Dexter of Port Allegany, who survives him at the present age of 83 years, also a daughter, Mrs. Jane Ware of Chicago and a son, O. D. Bush of Lock Haven, who with his wife and two sons were present at the funeral. Preceding him in death were two infant children, Helen and Herman. Also, his daughter Destamony died while giving birth to a child. Various other relatives survive, descendants of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Bush.

The funeral was held at the Bush homestead Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Guy Margeson, former pastor of the Baptist Church, and Rev. Mr. Mark, the present pastor officiating. Burial was in the Rose Hill cemetery.

Death of Mary A. Bush

July 5, 1923



Mrs. Mary A. Bush, widow of John W. Bush, and one of this section's oldest and most highly revered ladies, passed away at the family homestead on Bush Hill Thursday, July 5, at 2:30 am after being confined to her bed nearly seven months. She would have been 85 years of age July 22nd.

The funeral was held at the family residence Saturday, July 7, Rev. Remicks of the Smethport Baptist church officiating. Interment was made in Rose Hill cemetery.

The deceased was born July 22, 1835, near Wellsville, NY, the daughter of John and Maria Dexter, the family being pioneers of this section. In early life the subject of this sketch taught in the Smethport schools and attended the first institute of teachers ever held in McKean county.

In 1855, she was united in marriage to J. W. Bush and her married life was happily spent on the fine Bush Farm near this borough, Mr. Bush having been one of the most successful farmers of this section.

Mrs. Bush is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Jane L. Ware, who had ministered faithfully to her Mother during her last illness and one son, O. D. Bush of Lock Haven; also one granddaughter and two grandsons, also several great grandchildren. **Thursday July 12, 1923**

Death of Andrew Bush

May, 8 1913

Andrew Jackson Bush, son of Elisha and Hannah Paige Bush was born October 26, 1839; died May 3, 1919. He was born at the Bush homestead on Bush Hill road, Keating township. He grew to manhood in the vicinity of Smethport and was educated in the Smethport school. He stayed at the old home during his early manhood and aided in clearing and improving the farm which is still owned in the Bush family by his brother, John W. Bush.

On July 12, 1863, he was united in marriage to Hannah McElvee, who died in October 1872. To this union were born 6 children.

In the sixties he bought and located to the farm one mile west of the old home, just above King's corners where he lived all his life.

November 9, 1886, he was again married to Mrs. Etta Brattle of West Sunbury, PA who survives. To this union were born four children, one, Lee Roy Bush, dying in infancy.

Mr. Bush was an ambitious hard working man, a man of sterling integrity and uprightness respected by fellow citizens and friends. Honesty and Truth were his mottoes thru life.

Funeral services were held with prayer at the family home and sermon at Union Church of East Smethport, Sunday afternoon. Reverend Arthur Greg, son of Methodist Episcopal church officiating. Interment was made in the Rose Hill cemetery.

Those left to mourn the loss of husband, father and brother are his wife, Mrs. Etta Bush and the following children: Mrs. Etta King, Charles E. Bush, Mrs. Hannah Cunningham of Smethport, Andrew J. Bush of Betula, Michael Bush and Mrs. Rose Morages of Kane, Mrs. Blanche L. Cole of Deloran, NY, Mrs. Melisa Sloppey, Kane, Miss Marion E. Bush, East Smethport and 24 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

The brothers and sisters are John W. Bush, Bush Hill, Charles E. Bush, Pittsburgh, Mrs. Saloma Stanton, Smethport.

O. D. Bush Dies at Home

July 11, 1944

Osborne D. Bush, who with his wife celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on May 28, died at 10:30 a. m. Sunday, July 11, 1944, at his home, 515 West Main Street, Lock Haven, after a six months illness.

Mr. Bush, a retired businessman, who moved to Lock Haven in 1904, has been active in church and civic affairs in Lock Haven for many years. He was on the official board of the Trinity Methodist church, was a member of the Ross library board and a director of the First National Bank for 30 years.

Born near Smethport May 30, 1860, he was the son of John and Mary Dexter Bush. He attended the Lock Haven Normal School in 1882. The following year he and the former Mary Alice Stone of Lock Haven were married and for 20 years he operated a general store in East Smethport, retiring and moving to Lock Haven in 1904.

Surviving are his wife, two sons, Arthur S. and J. Lyol, both of Lock Haven, six grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Jane L. Ware of Smethport. **June 15, 1944**

Death of Mary Alice Bush

Esteemed Lady Widow of O. D. Bush

March 9, 1948

Mrs. Mary Alice Bush of Lock Haven, PA, widow of O. D. Bush, passed away at 5:30 pm on March 9th, 1948, at the Lock Haven hospital where she had been confined since Nov. 25th, 1947, on account of a paralytic stroke.

The former Mary Alice Stone, she was the daughter of Thomas and Angeline Stone, both of whom died

when she was a young child.

She was born near Lock Haven and after the death of her parents lived with close relatives until her uncle, Shaffer Johnson of Lock Haven, an administrator of her parents' affairs, took her to Lock Haven and placed her in a private boarding school and later sent her to Normal School at Lock Haven. She graduated and then taught in rural schools for a few years. She met O. D. Bush at the Normal School and they were married in 1883.

O. D. Bush was a native of Smethport and at the time of their marriage was operating a general merchandise store at East Smethport. They lived there 20 years and then moved to Lock Haven. They were members of the Trinity Methodist Church. Mr. Bush passed away in 1944.

Surviving are two sons: J. Lyol Bush and Arthur Bush both of Lock Haven; Six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Burial was in Highland Cemetery in Lock Haven.

Mrs. Bush was the sister-in-law of Mrs. Jane Ware of Smethport.

Thursday, March 18, 1948

Rev. T. D. Ware Succumbs to Illness

November, 2 1925

Smethport residents were saddened by the death of the Rev. Thomas DeCoursey Ware, which occurred at his farm home on Bush Hill near Smethport, Monday morning, Nov. 2, 1925, about 6:30 o'clock.

Rev. Ware had been in poor health for some time past. Last winter he underwent an extensive surgical operation at a hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and following a long hospital confinement, and undoubtedly due to his weakened physical condition heart trouble developed.

The gifted divine was a profound student, a writer of verse which attracted most favorable attention for its splendid merit and a painter of landscapes of recognized genius. He was a broadminded, interesting citizen who had a wealth of understanding and sympathy for his fellow men. In him the noble marks of true Christianity found fullest embodiment. He was affectionately regarded by the many who prized his acquaintance.

Rev. Ware was pastor of the Smethport Baptist church for a number of years and during his pastorate the beautiful local church edifice was built. Of late years he has lived a life of retirement, pursuing his studies and writings.

Deceased is survived by his wife, Jane L. Ware, who has been an inspiration and rare helpmate during their years of happy married life.

The funeral will be held at the family residence Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock. Interment will be in the Rose Hill cemetery.

Services Held for J. G. Masters, 81, Noted Educator

May 21, 1954

Private funeral services for Joseph G. Masters, 81, were conducted at his home the Bush Hill Farm, at 2 P. M. Friday, May 21, 1954.

Mr. Masters was born February 26, 1873, in Harvey county, Kansas, the son of pioneer parents.

Mr. Masters was widely known as an educator, historian, author, lecturer and religious education leader. Prior to his retirement in 1939, he was for twenty-five years principal of Central High School, Omaha, Nebraska, having served earlier as teacher, principal and superintendent in Michigan, Tulsa and Oklahoma City. He was founder of the National Honor Society for high school students.

Mr. Masters held the Ph. B. and M. A. degrees from the University of Chicago. He was the author of two books....“Stories of the far West” and “Shadows Fall Across the Little Big Horn” (Custer’s Last Stand).

In 1943, the Masters family moved to the Bush Hill Farm to reside and to be with Mrs. Masters mother, Jane L. Ware of the pioneer Bush family of that region. At the Bush Hill Farm Mr. Masters took great pleasure in extensive fruit and vegetable gardening and experimented with many varieties new to the area.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Helen G. Masters of Bush Hill; two sons, Jose of Corpus Christi and Conrad of San Francisco; two daughters, Jane Masters of Warren and Mrs. John Dugger of Columbus; one brother Ira H. Masters, Idaho Secretary if State; one sister Mrs. Grace Roark of Grisweld, Iowa.

Mrs. Jane Ware, 97, Oldest Coed, Dies

January, 21 1960

Mrs. Jane L. Ware, 97, of the Bush Hill Farm, near East Smethport, who was the oldest coed in history when she entered Ohio State University at the age of 75, died at her ancestral homestead early Friday morning.

Mrs. Ware received world-wide acclaim in 1937 when she enrolled for a one year social studies extension course at Ohio State at 75. She graduated and then returned to her native homestead at Bush Hill.

Mrs. Ware was born August 20, 1862, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bush.

She started her life of “firsts” early. At 16, she taught at a one room school between Bush Hill and Port Allegany.

In 1884, she married John H. Smith and in 1889, after the birth of her daughter, Helen, the marriage was dissolved.

Mrs. Ware studied bookkeeping and graduated from Westbrook's Academy at Olean, NY. She worked as a book keeper in Smethport and Kane until her daughter graduated from Kane high school and entered the University of Chicago. Mrs. Ware moved there and operated a home for students. She became known as "Mother Ware" to the foreign students she assisted in orientation to this country.

Appropriately enough, in view of her lifelong interest in education, Mrs. Ware's son-in-law, the late J. G. Masters, was an eminent educator and the founder of the National Honor Society for high school students.

In 1904, she married the Rev. T. D. Ware, who later became pastor of the Smethport Baptist church. When her parents became ill in 1920, she sold her Chicago home and returned to her birthplace. The Rev. Mr. Ware died in 1925.

She was a member of the Hyde park Baptist Church of Chicago.

Mrs. Ware's grandparents, Elisha and Hannah Bush, came to McKean county from Oneida NY in 1828 and established the Bush Hill Farm. Then most of the surrounding area was an unbroken wilderness and Smethport, the county seat where the first court house had been built only two years before, was the largest town in the county, although it had only a few houses.

In order to support his family, Elisha Bush worked from sunrise to sunset for 50 cents or 8 pounds of flour. The nearest grist mill was 20 miles away and Mr. Bush is credited with inventing a small hand mill for grinding corn.

There were no schools or churches when the Bush Hill Farm was established. The forest abounded with all kinds of game, including elk, deer and bear, and the streams were alive with fish. The nearest neighbor was a mile distant and Mrs. Elisha Bush had to stay alone with her children for week at a time while her husband was away at work.

John W. Bush, Mrs. Ware's father, was born on the Bush Hill Farm in 1837. At the age of 14, he took the contract for carrying the mail by horseback over primitive trails between Smethport and Wellsboro. The 80 mile journey was shared with a man on the Wellsboro end. Young John made two trips a week for six years on this long, lonely mail route.

Beer's History of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter counties published in 1890 and quoted here credits the young man with an outstanding record of faithful service in performance of his duties as a mail carrier.

The history reports that John, when a young boy, had gone up Bush Hill to seek a cow after darkness had fallen. Just as the lad found the missing animal, the air was shattered by the hideous scream of a panther. Young John managed to seize the tail of the thoroughly frightened cow and made a record-breaking run down the hill into the barn.

In 1875, when his father and mother moved to Smethport, John Bush consolidated his own farm and the Bush Hill homestead. He had married Mary Dexter, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dexter of Port Allegany. In addition to their daughters, Jane and Destamony, Mr. and Mrs. Bush had one son, O. D. Bush, who was a prominent Lock Haven banker for many years prior to his death.

A remarkable woman, both physically and mentally, Mrs. Ware was very active until past the age of 90. Even when she became a nonagenarian, she continued to enjoy long walks with her dogs on the hills surrounding her beloved Bush Hill Farm until the infirmities of advanced age finally forced her to curtail her activities.

In her long life, she experienced many joys-- and also sorrow. As a matter of fact, when she was a very young woman, tragedy struck her with a crushing blow. The day before she was to be married, her fiancée, who had climbed a tree to secure evergreen boughs to decorate the Bush home for the ceremony, slipped and was fatally injured in a fall to the ground. He lived only a few hours after the shocking accident.

Surviving are her daughter, Mrs. Helen G. Masters, of Smethport, RD # 2. Four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and two nephews.

The funeral service was conducted Monday afternoon at the Fry Funeral Home, Smethport, by the Rev. Arthur B. Cope, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Pallbearers were B. L. Hyde, Leo Hackett, Alford Bush, Sylvanus Pierce, John Comes and Judge Charles G. Hubbard.

Interment was in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Helen Masters Obituary **January 17, 1979**



Helen G. Masters, 93, Bush Hill Farm, Smethport, died Wednesday, January 17, 1979, at the Stone Manor Nursing Home, Smethport.

Born on April 18, 1885, at Bush Hill Farm, she was the daughter of Jane L. Smith Ware and Thomas Smith. She was the granddaughter of John and Mary Bush. She married J. G. Masters on November 11, 1911, at Chicago IL. He died in 1954.

Surviving are two daughters, Jane. G. Masters of Warren and Helen M. Dugger of Columbus, Ohio; two sons, Jose D. Masters of Corpus Christi, Texas and Conrad B. Masters of Sacramento, California; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held. There will be no visitation.

Burial will be in the Rose Hill cemetery.

Jose D. Masters Obituary

March 5, 1999



Jose D. Masters, formerly of Corpus Christi, passed away Friday, March 5, 1999, in Houston, Texas. He was born August 12, 1912, in Oklahoma City. Jose earned a M. A. in music from the University of Chicago. He was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, stationed for a time at Harlingen.

Jose moved to Corpus Christi to play with the C.C. Symphony and teach music and English in the public schools including Hamlin J. H. Ray high and Miller high school. He founded and directed the Corpus Christi Youth Symphony in the 1950's. Jose also headed a dance combo that performed throughout the area.

In retirement he often entertained with the piano playing at area nursing homes. He loved to escape the Texas heat and enjoyed spending time in the Rocky Mountains each summer.

He is survived by his wife Roma Masters of Houston, two sisters, Jane Masters of Pennsylvania and Helen Dugger of Ohio and a brother, Conrad Masters of California.

Jose married Carol Steward Masters in 1942. They had three sons who survive along with their wives. Quentin and Diana Masters of Houston, Greg and Mary Lou Masters of Arlington, Texas, and Conrad and Men Masters of Austin.

Jose had six grandchildren who survive him. Steward, Ashley, Mane, Elizabeth, Kieu and Jesse Masters.
March 17, 1999

Helen Masters Dugger Obituary

November 15, 2005



Helen Mitchell Masters Dugger born April 23, 1923, in Omaha, Nebraska and died Nov 15, 2005, in Charlotte, N.C. from complications of lung cancer.

Helen was the last child of Helen Geneva Smith Masters and Joseph Gallieo Masters. Helen graduated in 1940 from Omaha's Central High School where her father J. G. Masters was Superintendent. Helen attended Ohio State University where she met John (Jack) Richard Dugger.

Helen and Jack were married at the Bush Hill Farm on June 16, 1945. They lived several places in the mid west including 17 years in the Chicago suburbs and over ten years in Columbus Ohio.

Jack and Helen were married for 42 years. Helen is survived by her three daughters, Susan Dugger Patterson of Monroe, WI, Linda Dugger of Los Angeles, CA and Terry Dugger Curtis of Midlothian, VA.

Helen also had four grandchildren: Katie Dugger Patterson Brugger of Monroe, Wisconsin, Kevin Curtis of Boston, MA, Eric Curtis of Charlotte, NC, and Brian Curtis of Midlothian, VA. Helen is also survived by three great grandchildren: Anna and Jack Brugger of Monroe, WI and Paige Curtis of Boston, MA.



Jack and Anna Brugger



Paige Curtis

Jane Masters Obituary

April 6, 2004



Jane G. Masters, 90, the Rouse Estate, Youngsville, PA, died at 11:40 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2004, after an extended illness.

She was born November 7, 1913, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to the late Joseph G. and Helen Smith Masters. She received a Masters Degree in Education and belonged to the Warren County Teachers Association, the PSEA and the National Honor Society for Secondary Schools which her father founded. She enjoyed hiking, travel, tennis, golf and ice skating which she continued to do in her 80's.

She is survived by a brother, Conrad Masters, Sacramento, California; a friend and helpmate, Mrs. James Beverly Moore, Warren, PA; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Jose Masters and a sister, Helen Masters Dugger.

Conrad Masters

July 30, 2006



Conrad "Doc" Masters passed away in California on July 30, 2006. He was born on August 16, 1916.

Conrad lived in northern California for many years. He liked to ski and RV.

Conrad had two children, Jill Masters and Joe Masters. He also had two grandchildren.

Conrad's ashes were spread on the Bush Hill Farm with a tombstone being placed in the Bush Hill cemetery.

Born-----August 16, 1916

Died-----July 30, 2006

Bush Hill Cemetery
Keating Township, McKean county

1. Claire Bush.....1885...son of Osborne and Alice Bush
2. Milton Cooper.....1883
3. Herman Bush.....1867.....son of John and Mary Bush
4. Helen Bush.....1858....daughter of John and Mary Bush
5. Destie Cooper.....1891
6. Destamony Cooper.....1864---1891 (baby and mother died)
7. DeLancey Alford.....Dec. 28, 1882....Aged 25 yrs. 1 mo. 13 days
8. George Hackett.....Nov. 30, 1871 Aged 77 years 5 months 13 days
9. Mercy Hackett.....Aged 72 years 13 days
10. Willie Acre.....son of D. Acre.....July 14, 1865
11. Daniel Acre.....Mar. 12, 1866.... Aged 68 years
12. Freddie Acre....son of WS & JR Acre...d. Nov. 2,1871..age 2 yrs 1 mo.
13. Phoebe Acre.....wife of Daniel.. d Feb. 28, 1879..Aged 78 years
14. Ameda J. Hall..... Daughter of Major & Julia Hall d. July 11, 1846
15. Father Ephraim Baker..... 1845--1885
16. Mother Mary Baker..... 1852--1875
17. Jane G. Masters.....Nov. 7, 1913--April 6, 2004
18. Conrad Bush Masters....Aug. 16, 1916--July 30, 2006



Bush Hill Cemetery



BUSH FAMILY GENEALOGY

John Bush
June 20, 1592 **1**
Essex, England

Ann Bush

Jonathan Bush

1650 ---1738
88 **2**
Enfield, Conn.

Grace Saunders Bush

1618 --1713
95
Wells, Maine

Jonathan Bush
1681---1745 **3**
64
Springfield, Conn.

Rachel Kibbe Bush
1688 ---1786
98
Enfield, Conn.

Arron Bush

1717-----1805
88 **4**
Enfield, Conn.

Alica French Bush

1720---1778
58
Enfield, Conn.

John Bush
1763 ---1847 **5**
84
Enfield, Conn.

Hulda Rogers Bush
1775 ---1856
81
Lyme, Conn.

Elisha Bush
1810 ---1885 **6**
75

Hannah Page Bush
1810 ---1857
47

Children

Hiram-----1829
Charles----1831
John-----1837
Mary-----1838
Andrew----1839
Silas-----1845
Malinda----1847
Saloma-----1847

John Bush		Mary Dexter
1837 ---- 1920	7	1838 --- 1923

Children----

Helen-----1858 (died at birth)
O. D.-----1860--1954 (94)
Jane-----1862(wife of J.L. Smith/ Thomas Ware)
*Destamony---1864--1891(wife of O.B. Cooper)
Herman-----1867 (died at birth)
* Died during child birth in 1891)

(John Smith) Thomas Ware		Jane Bush Smith Ware
1853 ---1926	8	1863 ---1960
73		97

Child

Helen Smith Ware Masters----1885--1979

Helen Smith Masters		Joseph G. Masters
1885 ---1979		1873---1954
94	9	81

Children

Jose Masters-----8/12/1912---3/5/1999 (86)
Jane G. Masters-----11/7/1913----4/6/2004 (90)
Conrad Bush Masters----8/16/1916---7/30/2006 (89)
Helen Masters----- 4/23/1923--11/15/2005 (81)

Family Group Sheet for Elisha Bush

Elisha Bush

Birth: 26 June 1810 in Burlington, Oneida Co., New York

Death: 22 November 1885 in Smethport, McKean county, PA

Burial: November 1885 in Rose Hill Cemetery, Smethport Sec 5 plot 147

Marriage: Bet.1825--1857 In Oneida Co., New York

Father: John Bush

Wife: Huldah Rogers---Hannah Page

Birth: 13 April 1807 in Massachusetts

Burial: Rose Hill Cemetery, Smethport; Sec 5 plot 148

Children:

1. Hiram Bush---born 1830; died 1880
2. Charles Bush--- born 1831
3. John Bush-- 1837--1920; married 1856; spouse: Mary Dexter
4. Mary Bush---1830--1890
5. Andrew Bush---1839--1919 spouse--Eliza
6. Saloma Bush---Jan 1842--April 18, 1922; spouse William Stanton
7. Silas Bush--- 1845--1913
8. Malinda Bush--- 1846--? Married Walter Evans in 1864
9. Wallace Bush--- died 1890

Bush genealogy material contained on pages 131-138 provided by Joel Holden.

John Bush Family Group

John Bush

Birth: 1837 on Bush Hill, McKean County, PA

Death: 24 April 1920 Marriage: 1836

Father: Elisha Bush

Mother: Hannah Page

Wife: Mary Dexter

Birth: 22 Jul 1838 in Wellsville, NY

Death: 04 Jul 1923 on Bush Hill PA

Children:

1. Osborne Dexter Bush

Birth: 30 May 1860 in Port Allegany, PA

Death: 11 June 1944 in Lock Haven, PA

2. Jane Bush

Birth: 30 August 1863 in Smethport, PA

Death: 15 Jan 1960 in Smethport, PA Rose Hill cemetery

Spouse: John Smith-----T. D. Ware

3. Desdemona Bush

Birth: 1864 in Smethport, PA; Death: 1891 Spouse: Oscar Cooper

Descendants of Reynold Bush

Generation 1

1. REYNOLD1 BUSH was born in 1567 in Messing, Lexden Parish, Essex, England. He died in 1602 in Messing, Lexden Parish, Essex, England. He married (1) ISABELLA HALL in 1612 in Cambridge, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA. She was born in 1571 in Messing, Essex, England. She died in 1612 in Messing, Essex, England.

Reynold Bush and Isabella Hall had the following child:

2. i. JOHN2 BUSH was born on 20 Jan 1592/93 in Of Messing, Essex, England. He died in Aug 1670 in Drowned. Cape Porpoise, York, Maine, USA. He married Grace Saunders, daughter of John Sanders and Ann, in Nov. She was born in 1618 in Of Wells, York, Maine. She died about 1670 in Cape Porpoise, York County, Maine, USA.

Generation 2

2. JOHN2 BUSH (Reynold1) was born on 20 Jan 1592/93 in Of Messing, Essex, England. He died in Aug 1670 in Drowned. Cape Porpoise, York, Maine, USA. He married Grace Saunders, daughter of John Sanders and Ann, in Nov. She was born in 1618 in Of Wells, York, Maine. She died about 1670 in Cape Porpoise, York County, Maine, USA.

Notes for John Bush:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)Submitted Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other
Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

Notes for Grace Saunders:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)Submitted Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other
Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

John Bush and Grace Saunders had the following child:

3. i. JONATHAN3 BUSH was born on 28 Apr 1650 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. He died on 15 Feb 1738 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. He married Sarah Lamb, daughter of John Lamb and Mrs. Joanna Lamb, on 22 Jul 1679 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. She was born on 15 Apr 1660 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. She died on 15 Feb 1726 in Enfield, Conn.

Generation 3

3. JONATHAN3 BUSH (John2, Reynold1) was born on 28 Apr 1650 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. He died on 15 Feb 1738 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. He married Sarah Lamb, daughter of John Lamb and Mrs. Joanna Lamb, on 22 Jul 1679 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. She was born on 15 Apr 1660 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. She died on 15 Feb 1726 in Enfield, Conn.

Notes for Jonathan Bush:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)May 14, 1963 LOGAN Source: bush2.FTW
Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

Notes for Sarah Lamb:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)May 14, 1963 LOGAN Source: bush2.FTW
Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

Jonathan Bush and Sarah Lamb had the following child:

4. i. JONATHAN⁴ BUSH was born on 10 Apr 1681 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut, United States. He died on 28 Feb 1745/46 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut. He married Rachel Kibbe, daughter of Elisha Kibbe and Rachel Cook, on 17 Feb 1707/08 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. She was born on 17 Apr 1688 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. She died on 03 Jan 1786 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut.

Generation 4

4. JONATHAN⁴ BUSH (Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born on 10 Apr 1681 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut, United States. He died on 28 Feb 1745/46 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut. He married Rachel Kibbe, daughter of Elisha Kibbe and Rachel Cook, on 17 Feb 1707/08 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. She was born on 17 Apr 1688 in Enfield, Hartford, CT. She died on 03 Jan 1786 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut.

Notes for Jonathan Bush:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)January 31, 1963 ARIZO Source: bush2.FTW
Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

Notes for Rachel Kibbe:

Facts about this marriage: Sealed to spouse (LDS)January 31, 1963 ARIZO Source: bush2.FTW
Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000

Jonathan Bush and Rachel Kibbe had the following child:

5. i. AARON⁵ BUSH was born on 18 Aug 1717 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. He died on 06 Nov 1805 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. He married Alica French, daughter of Richard French and Elizabeth French, on 21 Sep 1743 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. She was born on 30 Apr 1720 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. She died on 02 Dec 1778 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT.

Generation 5

5. AARON⁵ BUSH (Jonathan⁴, Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born on 18 Aug 1717 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. He died on 06 Nov 1805 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. He married Alica French, daughter of Richard French and Elizabeth French, on 21 Sep 1743 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. She was born on 30 Apr 1720 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT. She died on 02 Dec 1778 in Enfield, Hartford Co. CT.

Notes for Aaron Bush:

[bush2.FTW] From Ancestral File (TM), data as of 2 January 1996. Facts about this person:
Ancestral File Number 92R0-0S Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000
Source: bush1.FTW Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000 Baptism (LDS)April 18, 1927
Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000 Endowment (LDS)March
09, 1928 Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000 Sealed to parents (LDS)
January 31, 1963 ARIZO Source: bush2.FTW Medium: Other Date of Import: 21 Jan 2000
Aaron Bush and Alica French had the following child:

6. i. JOHN⁶ BUSH was born on 25 Sep 1763 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. He died on 26 Feb 1847 in Stockwell, Oneida, New York, USA. He married (1) HULDAH

ROGERS, daughter of Matthew Rogers and Lois Elizabeth Mack, on 02 Jan 1805 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut. She was born on 17 Mar 1775 in Lyme, New London, Connecticut, USA. She died on 03 May 1856 in Sangerfield, Oneida, New York, USA. He married (2) POLLY PEARCE on 31 Jan 1793. She was born in 1770. She died on 10 Mar 1800.

Generation 6

6. JOHN6 BUSH (Aaron5, Jonathan4, Jonathan3, John2, Reynold1) was born on 25 Sep 1763 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. He died on 26 Feb 1847 in Stockwell, Oneida, New York, USA. He married (1) HULDAH ROGERS, daughter of Matthew Rogers and Lois Elizabeth Mack, on 02 Jan 1805 in Enfield, Hartford, Connecticut. She was born on 17 Mar 1775 in Lyme, New London, Connecticut, USA. She died on 03 May 1856 in Sangerfield, Oneida, New York, USA. He married (2) POLLY PEARCE on 31 Jan 1793. She was born in 1770. She died on 10 Mar 1800.

Notes for John Bush:

Facts about this person: Burial Stockwell Cemetery

Notes for Huldah Rogers:

Facts about this person: Alt. Born March 11, 1775 Lyme, New London Co., Conn.

Source: Rogers.ftw Medium: Other Date of Import: 3 Jul 2000 Burial Stockwell Cemetery Ancestral File Number W16H-4C Source: Rogers.ftw Medium: Other Date of Import: 3 Jul 2000

Name (Facts Pg) Huldah ROGERS Source: Ancestral File (R) Author: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pub. Facts: Copyright (c) 1987, June 1998, data as of 5 January 1998 Location: NAME Family History Library ADDR 35 N West Temple Street CONT Salt Lake City, UT 84150 USA

Source: Rogers.ftw Medium: Other Date of Import: 3 Jul 2000

John Bush and Huldah Rogers had the following children:

- i.
- ii. POLLY7 BUSH was born on 15 Nov 1805 in Cazenovia, Madison, New York. URIAH "URI" BUSH was born on 07 Jun 1806 in Cooperstown, Otsego, New York. He died in 1860 in Madison County, New York.
- iii. LEE BUSH was born on 04 Mar 1808 in Cooperstown, Otsego, New York, United States. He died on 17 Sep 1884 in Sangerfield, Oneida, New York.
7. iv. ELISHA BUSH was born on 26 Jun 1810 in Burlingame, Oneida Co. , New York. He died on 22 Nov 1885 in Smethport, McKean, PA. He married Hannah Page between 1825-1857 in Oneida Co. , New York. She was born on 13 Apr 1807 in Massachusetts. She died on 21 Feb 1878 in Smethport, McKean, PA.
- v. HULDAH BUSH was born on 01 Oct 1812 in Burlingame, Madison County, NY.
- vi. ELIZABETH BUSH was born on 02 Oct 1815 in Bergen, Genesee, New York.

Generation 7

7. ELISHA7 BUSH (John6, Aaron5, Jonathan4, Jonathan3, John2, Reynold1) was born on 26 Jun 1810 in Burlingame, Oneida Co. , New York. He died on 22 Nov 1885 in Smethport, McKean, PA. He married Hannah Page between 1825-1857 in Oneida Co. , New York. She was born on 13 Apr 1807 in Massachusetts. She died on 21 Feb 1878 in Smethport, McKean, PA.

Elisha Bush and Hannah Page had the following children:

- i. HIRAM8 BUSH was born in 1830 in New York, USA. He died in 1880 in Smethport, McKean,

PA, USA. He married (1) SARAH G.. She died in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.

8. ii.

iii. CHARLES BUSH was born in 1831.

JOHN BUSH was born in 1837 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA. He died on 24 Apr

1920 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA. He married Mary Dexter in 1856. She was born on 22 Jul 1838 in Welleville, NY. She died on 05 Jul 1923 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA.

iv. MARY BUSH was born in 1838. She died in 1890.

9. v. ANDREW BUSH was born on 26 Oct 1839 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania, USA. He died on 02 May 1919 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania, USA. He married (1) ELIZA about 1879. She was born in 1837 in New York. He married (2) HANNAH MCELWEE on 06 Jul 1862. She was born about 1842 in Ireland. She died in Oct 1874 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.

10. vi. SALOMA BUSH was born in Jan 1842 in PA. She died on 18 Apr 1922. She married (1) WILLIAM STANTON. He was born in 1836 in New Jersey. He died on 20 May 1915 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.

vii. SILAS BUSH was born in 1845 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. He died in 1913 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.

viii. MALINDA BUSH was born in Aug 1846 in Pennsylvania. She married Walter Evans in 1864. He was born in Nov 1838 in New York.

ix. WALLACE BUSH. He died in 1890.

Generation 8

8. JOHN⁸ BUSH (Elisha⁷, John⁶, Aaron⁵, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born in 1837 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA. He died on 24 Apr 1920 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA. He married Mary Dexter in 1856. She was born on 22 Jul 1838 in Welleville, NY. She died on 05 Jul 1923 in Bush Hill, McKean Co., PA.

John Bush and Mary Dexter had the following children:

i. OSBORNE DEXTER⁹ BUSH was born on 30 May 1860 in Fort Allegheny, PA. He died on 11 Jun 1944 in Lock Haven, PA.

ii. JANE BUSH was born on 30 Aug 1863 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. She died on 15 Jan 1960 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. She married (1) T. D. WARE.

11. iii. DESDEMONA BUSH was born in 1864 in Keating, McKean County PA. She died in 1891 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania. She married (1) OSCAR BELL COOPER. He was born in Nov 1855 in Arkansas. He died on 25 May 1922 in Springfield, Green County, Missouri.

9. ANDREW⁸ BUSH (Elisha⁷, John⁶, Aaron⁵, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born on 26 Oct 1839 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania, USA. He died on 02 May 1919 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania, USA. He married (1) ELIZA about 1879. She was born in 1837 in New York. He married (2) HANNAH MCELWEE on 06 Jul 1862. She was born about 1842 in Ireland. She died in Oct 1874 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.

Andrew Bush and Hannah McElwee had the following children:

- i. ELLA⁹ BUSH was born in 1863. She died in 1936.
- ii. CHARLES E. BUSH was born on 31 May 1865. He died in 1939.
- iii. BUSH ANDREW JACKSON JR. was born in Jan 1867 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.
- iv. ROSALINA BUSH was born in 1868 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.
- v. MICHAEL BUSH was born on 14 Aug 1870 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.
- vi. HANNAH B. BUSH was born on 07 Oct 1874 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania. She died on 24 Jan 1951 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania.
- vii. BLANCHE LENORA BUSH.
- viii. BERTHA MALISSA BUSH.
- ix. HARRY LEROY BUSH.
10. SALOMA⁸ BUSH (Elisha⁷, John⁶, Aaron⁵, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born in Jan 1842 in PA. She died on 18 Apr 1922. She married (1) WILLIAM STANTON. He was born in 1836 in New Jersey. He died on 20 May 1915 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.

William Stanton and Saloma Bush had the following children:

12. i. JAMES⁹ STANTON was born in Apr 1857 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. He died in 1932 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. He married Martha in 1885. She was born in Jun 1864 in New York. She died in 1948 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.
13. ii. CASTELLA STANTON was born in 1862 in Smethport, Pennsylvania. She died in 1927 in Smethport, Pennsylvania. She married Frank Doyle Green, son of Thomas Doyle and Catherine, in 1876. He was born in 1856 in Dublin, Ireland. He died in 1901 in Smethport, Pennsylvania.
 - iii. ELOUISE STANTON was born in 1864 in PA.
 - iv. ANNIE STANTON was born about 1866 in Pennsylvania.
 - v. EDWIN STANTON was born in 1869 in PA.
 - vi. NORMAN STANTON was born on 01 Jun 1872 in Keating, McKean, PA, USA. He died on 10 Feb 1953 in Keating, McKean, PA, USA. He married (1) DORSEY THOMAS. He married an unknown spouse in 1893.
- vii. WALTER STANTON was born in 1876 in PA.
- viii. JOHN J STANTON was born in 1879 in Keating, McKean, Pennsylvania, USA.
- ix. MAUDE IRENE STANTON was born on 29 Jun 1887 in Pennsylvania. She died in Oct 1976 in Olean, Cattaraugus, New York, United States of America. She married (1) LEO PAUGH. He was born on 27 Apr 1884 in Pennsylvania.

Generation 9

11. DESDEMONA⁹ BUSH (John⁸, Elisha⁷, John⁶, Aaron⁵, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan³, John², Reynold¹) was born in 1864 in Keating, McKean County PA. She died in 1891 in Smethport, McKean, Pennsylvania. She married (1) OSCAR BELL COOPER. He was born in Nov 1855 in Arkansas. He died on 25 May 1922 in Springfield, Green County, Missouri.

Oscar Bell Cooper and Desdemona Bush had the following children:

- i. HERMAN ELDRIDGE¹⁰ COOPER was born on 02 Feb 1885 in Smethport, McKean Co., Pennsylvania. He died on 01 Jul 1948 in Falconer, New York.
- ii. EARL O. COOPER was born in Aug 1886 in Pennsylvania.
12. JAMES⁹ STANTON (Saloma⁸ Bush, Elisha⁷ Bush, John⁶ Bush, Aaron⁵ Bush, Jonathan⁴ Bush, Jonathan³ Bush, John² Bush, Reynold¹ Bush) was born in Apr 1857 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. He died in 1932 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA. He married Martha in 1885. She was born in

Jun 1864 in New York. She died in 1948 in Smethport, McKean, PA, USA.

James Stanton and Martha had the following children:

- i. SALOME¹⁰ STANTON was born in Dec 1887 in Pennsylvania.
- ii. RUTH STANTON was born in Dec 1891 in Pennsylvania.
- iii. LLOYD BURTON was born about 1892 in New York.
- iv. HAROLD J STANTON was born in Nov 1894 in Pennsylvania.
13. CASTELLA⁹ STANTON (Saloma⁸ Bush, Elisha⁷ Bush, John⁶ Bush, Aaron⁵ Bush, Jonathan⁴ Bush, Jonathan³ Bush, John² Bush, Reynold¹ Bush) was born in 1862 in Smethport, Pennsylvania. She died in 1927 in Smethport, Pennsylvania. She married Frank Doyle Green, son of Thomas Doyle and Catherine, in 1876. He was born in 1856 in Dublin, Ireland. He died in 1901 in Smethport, Pennsylvania.

Notes for Frank Doyle Green:

Frank Green was born in Cork, Ireland as Frank Doyle. He immigrated at age 14. Family tradition states that Frank Doyle was a member of the IRA and came to America to escape capture. He changed his name to Green to prevent being located. I (Joel Holden) suspect this Family story because Frank was only 14 years old when he immigrated but the IRA might have recruited young boys.

Frank Doyle Green and Castella Stanton had the following children:

14. i.
- ii. TOM¹⁰ GREEN was born in 1878. He died about 1930 in Port Allegany, McKean, PA. MARY ALZENE GREEN was born on 30 Nov 1883 in Bradford, PA. She died on 19 Jul 1978 in Port Allegany, PA. She married Elton Mark Holden, son of Augustine Comes Holden and Evelyn Adeline Fulmer, on 09 May 1906. He was born on 29 Sep 1879 in Port Allegany, McKean, PA, USA. He died on 23 Dec 1930 in Port Allegany, PA.
15. iii. GRACE GREEN was born in 1887. She died in 1959 in Port Allegany, McKean, PA. She married (1) THOMAS L. CLARK. He was born in 1884. He died in 1959 in Port Allegany, McKean, PA.

BUSH HILL GUSTAFSON DESCENDANTS



Fred Gustafson (1906-1977)
Edith Gustafson (1908-1996)



*First row---Nancy Gustafson Dickinson, Dorothy Gustafson Thompson, Carolyn Gustafson Daugherty
and Sonia Musselman Gustafson*

*Second row---Ralph Gustafson, Doris Raught Gustafson, Lanny Dickinson, Bark Daugherty
and Courtney Gustafson 2012*

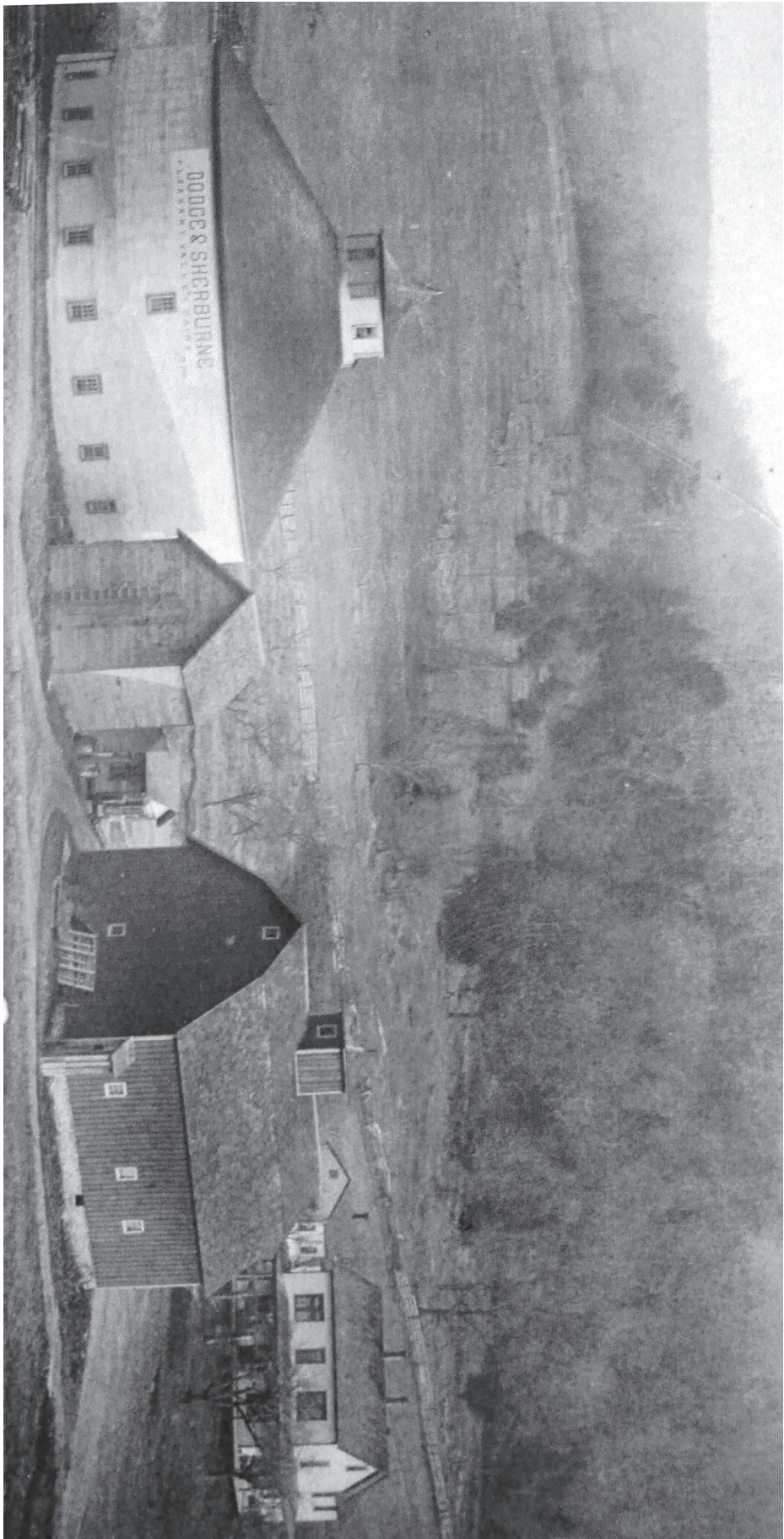
First little league teams in Smethport area - 1952



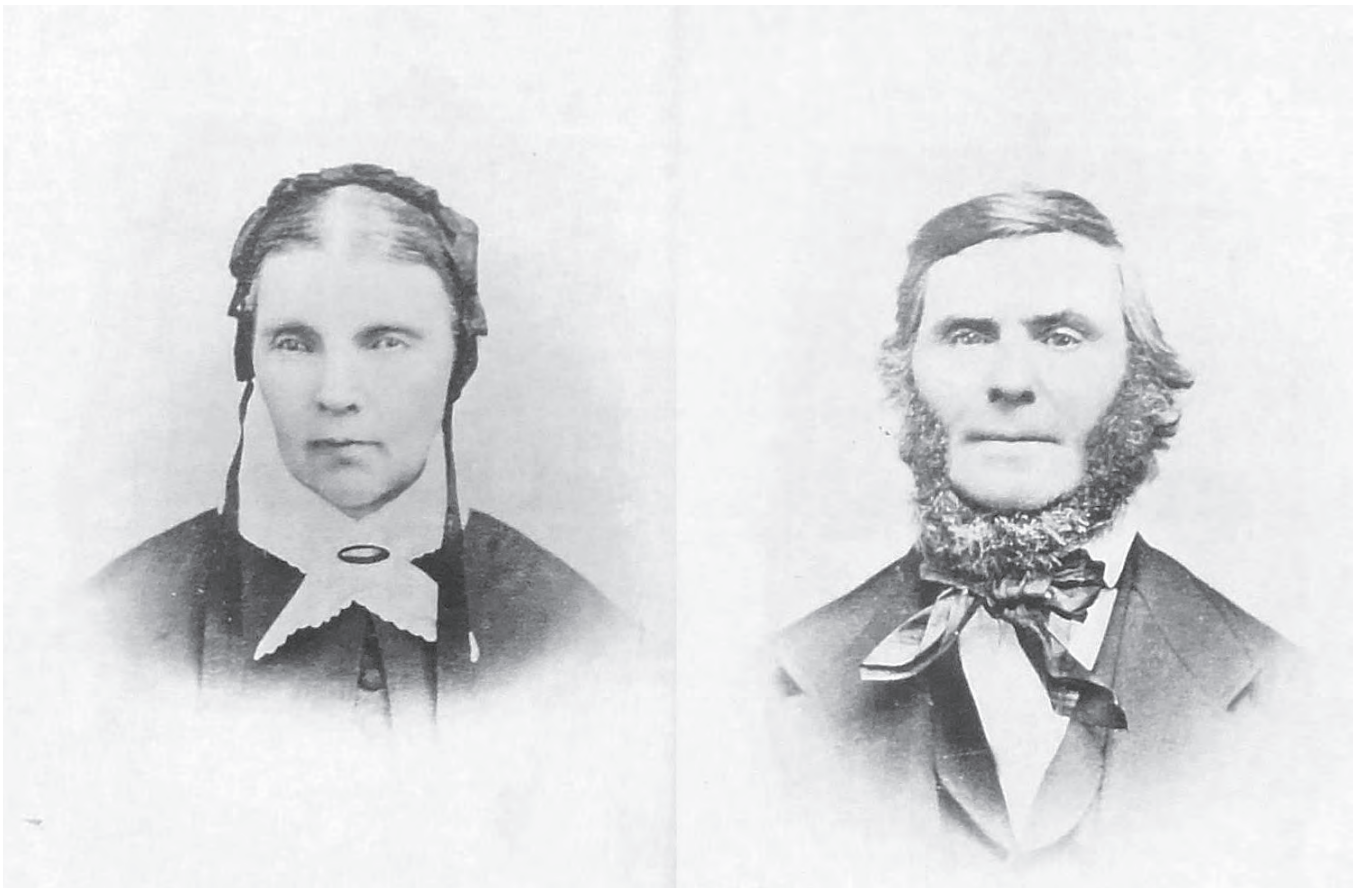
Photo provided by Glenn Cunningham

Front row---Galen "Spike" Mitchell, Cory Guenter, Joss Megivern, Joel Warfel, Sam Costa and Art Yeager.

Back row---Tom Abbey, Walter "Bucky" Russell, Edward Jennings, Frederick "Bunny" O'Connor, Gary Hayes, Frank Faes and Wilford Cunningham.



Dodge and Sherburne farm. This farm was started by Gifford and it is the current Dart farm at the entrance to Gifford Hollow. The concrete foundation for the round barn is still evident today.



Mary Dexter Bush and John Bush wedding 1856



Conrad 1947



Photo provided by Jim Freer

McKean Co. Fair Grounds - 1950's



Photo provided by Donald Comes

Early deer hunters in front of Hamlin Bank.



East Smethport railroad station.



Bush Hill School







Photo provided by Jim Freer

View of early Smethport area



Jane Ware turns 94

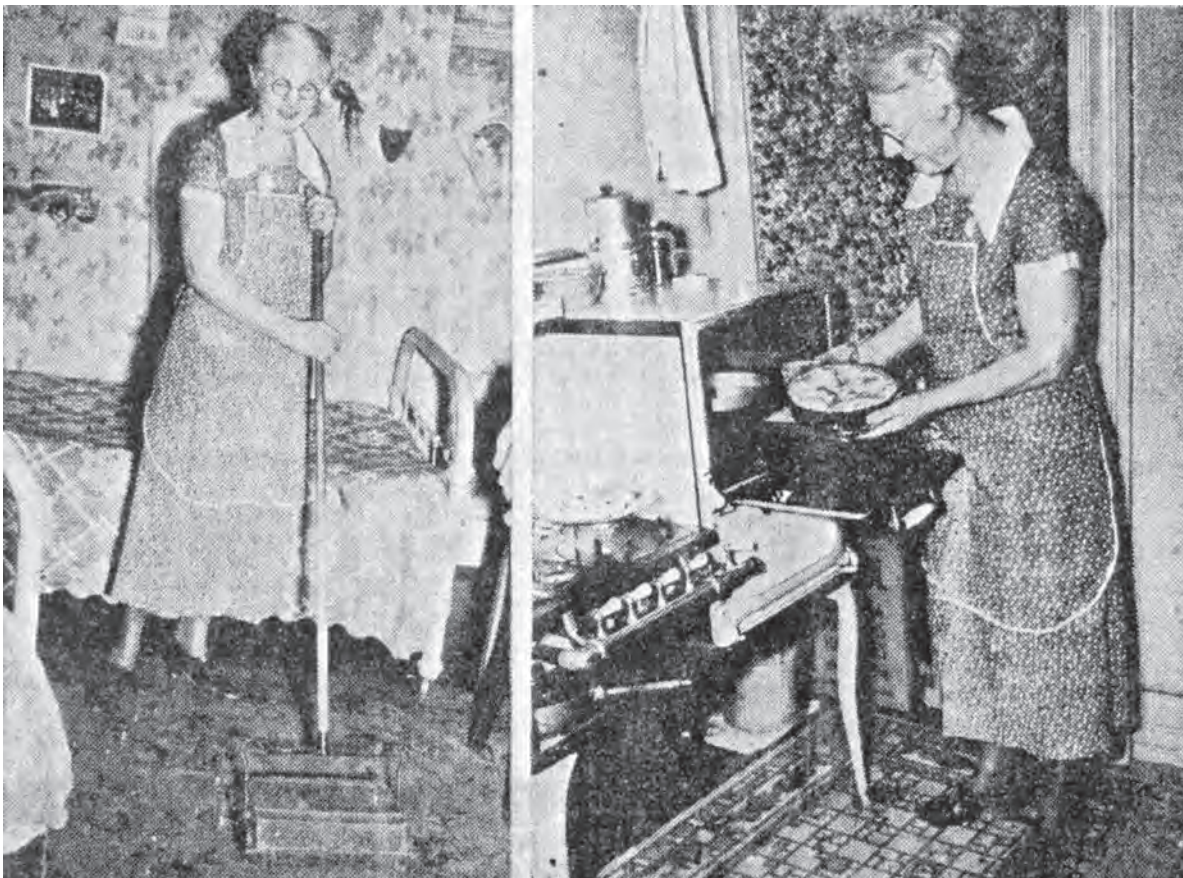
Life Begins at Ohio State for Jané Ware, 75; Dull Days Give Way in Her March With Time



A 75-year-old co-ed takes time out between household tasks to tackle a knotty psychology problem.



Proud of one another are Grandmother Ware and Grandson Jose.



Jane Ware attends OSU at age 75



Old Smethport High School.





Photo provided by Jim Freer

Smethport Diner



Photo provided by Jim Freer

*The Smethport diner was purchased by Harry Kepner in Olean, NY in 1933.
It was then moved to this current site.*



Photo provided by Donald Comes

Bush Hill School 1910

*Front--Francis Cory, Ester Cory, George Butterfield, Bernadine Gillen, John Gillen,
Lela Van Sickle, Anna Gillen*

*2nd row----Lydia Butterfield, Florence Van Sickle, Nellie Smith, Edith Cory, Sarah Smith,
Marian Van Sickle, Hiram Butterfield*

*3rd row---Jennie Templeton, teacher, Joe Olive?, Anna Cleveland, Gennie Smith,
Minnie Cleveland, Kathryn Smith*



Photo provided by Donald Comes

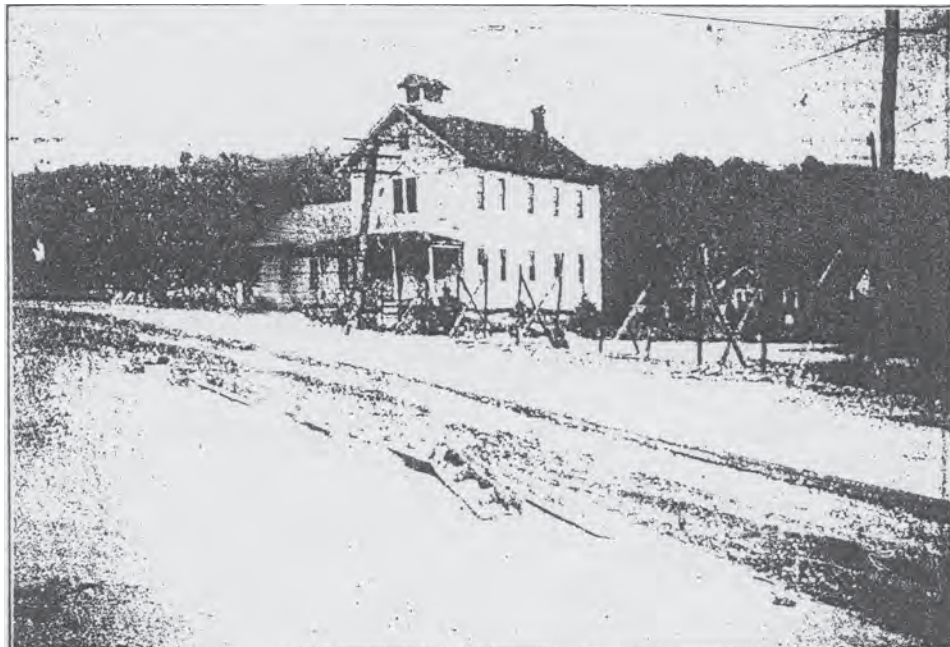


Photo provided by Donald Comes

Old East Smethport school at King's Corners, 1925



John and Mary Bush 1879



Above are the second and third houses built on the Bush Hill Farm by the Bush family. The house on the left was built in 1847 and was destroyed by fire on September 17, 1897. The house on the right was built in 1882 and still exists today. The dirt road going between the houses was the main road to Port Allegany at the time of this photo (1895).