

Yesteryears

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Teagarden village founded in 1804

Blackledges, Teagardens migrated to township, built saw, flour mills

In this article, the author reminisces about Teagarden, the town founded in the early 1800s, and the school, church and history that was part of its heritage.

By Anna Lease-Daugherty
THE BLACKLEDGE AND Teagarden families had been close neighbors in Pennsylvania when they began the westward trek to Ohio during the sultry summer of 1804. It was natural to join forces, because they had married the Rafelty sisters — Levi Blackledge to Barbara Rafelty and William Teagarden to her sister Susannah.

The Teagardens emigrated from Prussia, arriving in America on September 1, 1736.

William Teagarden purchased section 31 in Salem Township and built a log house. Section 28, too, was probably owned by the Teagardens. Their interest in that land was acquiring the water rights. With Levi Blackledge they built the dam and erected the Teagarden Flour Mill and a saw mill at the Beaver Creek crossing.

Keeping only enough land on both sides of the creek to secure the water rights, William plotted the village of Teagarden, and sold an irregular quarter section on the north to Garrett Hart. The southern part of the half section (more than 200 acres) went to Sam Shelton. The other half section he sold to Young, Bricker and Grace. This Grace was a relative who married Olive Stockwell.

The saw mill stood for 12 years, but in 1816 a flour mill was erected on the old site, to the north of the bridge — it stood till 1904. The Lewis coal and iron mines were to the south.

William and Susannah (Rafelty) Teagarden built the home Fred Gauding lives in, in the year 1822.

Uriah a character
Uriah Teagarden, considered

a famous character in early Salem Township, was both a farmer and a mill wright. He worked hard to establish the village of Teagarden station and became its first postmaster.

The old grist mill was built by Levi Blackledge and his son Jesse; it was purchased by Uriah Teagarden and called the Eagle Mill. The property consisted of 68 acres on the middle fork of Little Beaver Creek. When his granddaughter, Maria Neikeik visited the site of the mill about 1950, she found only the stones of a foundation and some rotted sills of the back porch foundation.

A crossing or fork in Beaver Creek was used by the Indians for centuries, and in 1965 could be waded in wearing galoshes. This spot is between where Timmy and Jeff Bailey live down over the hill to the creek. The creek road was opened to Franklin Square, joining the Franklin Square Road. Flour was hauled to Salem over the Christian Church Road, the old Indian trail, until it met the Depot Road three miles south of Salem. The other end of the trail went to Lisbon and became the Lisbon Teagarden Road or Route 45.

Uriah Teagarden also sold land to the Stewarts. The Stewarts and Sheltons intermarried frequently through the generations. Both families were of aristocratic English origin.

Shelton's Grove opens
After the mill and saw mill fell victim to progress, Vernon Shelton, a son of Sam Shelton, acquired the land along the creek to the present Route 45. His picnic grounds, Shelton's Grove, became almost a resort area. Situated on a beautiful level area of some two acres with plenty of shade, it became the picnic site for churches, schools and family reunions for miles around.

The park's unique features included a hand powered merry-go-round, a dance hall, a



The above scene shows the new bridge alongside of the old covered bridge at Teagarden while (below) is the bridge in October 1967. *Anna J. Lease-Daugherty*

store that sold ice cream and other picnic accessories and a boating area above the dam that was unexcelled. The dance hall eventually closed because of the slightly unsavory reputation it gained after a few wild parties and conventions.

The Great Annual Harvest Home Picnic was held there on the last Saturday of August for 50 years. National figures, senators and governors frequently addressed huge crowds in the large speakers hall. Typical was the gathering of about 8,000 people on Saturday, August 26, 1905.

The addresses on that occasion were made by the Honorable Phillip M. Smith of Wells-ville and Rev. Earl D. Holtz of Allegheny. Officers elected for the ensuing year were President K.D. Bill of Rogers; vice president, Clark Halverstadt, Salem Township; secretary, H.A. Halverstadt, Salem Township; treasurer, Watson E. Stewart; executive committee,



Frank Betz, Homer Everett, P.M. Bowman, Peter Smith, Orlando Frederick, and A.H. Arter.

The Grove's demise
When the automobile
See Teagarden page 6

Proud USS Iwo Jima is a rusting carcass

By Associated Press

THE USS IWO JIMA, AS if in mockery of the historic battle that gave the ship its name and the nation a metaphor for courage and pride, has become a rusting carcass awaiting the scavengers.

A melancholy epitaph for a proud ship.

Over the last 35 years, the Iwo Jima has steamed to virtually every foreign flashpoint — rescuing the Apollo 13 astronauts along the way — and certainly meeting the noble standards inspired by the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi.

"Name it, she's been there," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Raine, a Navy spokesman at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

The storied career of the Iwo Jima, a massive helicopter carrier, includes cruising the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis; launching search-and-destroy missions off the coast of Vietnam; treating survivors of the 1983 Marine barracks explosion in Beirut; serving in Operation Desert Storm; and participating in international relief efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The 11,000-ton ship, the size of two football fields, is gathering dust and rust at dockside in Philadelphia waiting to be towed away and chopped up into razor blades by its new owner.

A New Jersey scrap dealer submitted a high bid of \$177,777 at an auction this summer. A bargain, dealers say, considering the amount of steel, the thousands of miles of copper wiring, brass fixtures and hundreds of lockers, sinks,

toilets and bunks.

Nearly everything the Navy didn't strip away is recyclable, including the crushed can of Olde English malt liquor and the empty Mennen shave cream container left behind in one stateroom.

The dealer's bid is still pending final government approval. So for now, the Iwo Jima waits silently in the Delaware River. It is in heroic company. Its neighbors in its final resting place are the carrier USS Saratoga and the USS Guadalcanal.

The Iwo Jima's missiles are gone, of course. The SAM (surface-to-air missile) batteries are burned beyond repair. The large barrels of the 3-inch guns have been lopped off and stowed beneath the turrets. Cobwebs cover the turrets. Gears have been purposely mangled, wires slashed.

By contrast, the USS Guadalcanal appears in relatively good condition. It is an Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship and also has been decommissioned. But it was bought by a nonprofit group in New York that plans to make it into a museum and not into scrap metal.

The added irony is that the Iwo Jima was consigned to the scrap heap in the 50th anniversary year of the bloody victory it honors. More than 6,000 Americans gave their lives to capture the island's 6 square miles from the Japanese in March 1945.

In its slip at the 194-year-old Philadelphia Navy Yard, now closed, pigeons account for the only air traffic on the Iwo Jima. In the hangar bay, the rim is missing from the basketball hoop and the floor is dotted with bird droppings and feathers.

The mural of the flag-raising



Fifth graders at Reilly School smile for the photographer on Oct. 23, 1934 (first row, from left) Betty Alexander Knoedler, Isabelle Lockhart Roller, Marie Holk Ehrhart, Fern Allison, ?, Henrietta Hillard Kilbreath, Beatrice Hively Lutz, Beulah Grace (second row, left) ?, Barbara Catlin, Eleanor Hillard Shasteen, June Wolford, Mary Skorupski Smith, Donna rice Erhart, Ben Ware, unidentified teacher; (third row, left) Arnold Zimmerman, Art Cody, ?, ?, Allison, ?, ?, Bill Hinchliffe, Glen Whitacre; (fourth row, left) Donald Rice, Joe Harp, Ronald Bell, Jay Haverstaht, Sidney Simon, Camp, Robert Entriiken, ?, Joe Anderson, Dick 'Stony' Stone. Betty Alexander Knoedler

on Iwo Jima is fading, as are the battle ribbons painted on the tower acknowledging its service in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

There are no markers on the deck indicating where astronauts James A. Lovell Jr., Fred W. Haise Jr., and John L. Swigert Jr. set foot following their ill-fated 1970 voyage to the moon.

Its windows are boarded up, the steering wheel is gone and the captain's chair is off its mount and leaning against a wall on the navigation deck. In the squadron ready room, oddly enough, the glowing red overhead lights which enhance the pilots' night vision still work.

In 1983, the Iwo Jima was the flagship of the American fleet supervising the Israeli with-

drawal from Lebanon. And when a suicide bomber destroyed the Marine barracks, killing 241 and injuring more than 100, the ship became the primary hospital.

Then-Vice President George Bush visited the survivors aboard the ship to award Purple Hearts.

"I still remember that day very clearly," said Capt. Morgan M. France, now retired and

living in Virginia Beach. "I remember everything about that grand old ship. She was really something. It was a pleasure and it was truly a privilege to have been a part of her history."

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Gumby makes comeback

By Associated Press

HE'S LOYAL, BRAVE and always ready to extend himself to help a friend.

And he's really, really green. Now, Gumby is trying to make his biggest career stretch ever. A comeback.

He's back on TV, this time on Nickelodeon, which is interspersing new episodes with reruns of the old series that started in 1956. There are Gumby pizza parlors in college towns, capitalizing on a new student following. There's even a motion picture, "Gumby 1."

Don't look for Gumby to start trashing hotel rooms anytime soon. He isn't letting renewed success go to his bumpy little head.

"There's none of this wise-cracking and cynicism that you see in ... some of the other cartoons," says creator Art Clokey. "He's supposed to be a role model for kids. He cares about other people. He will be loyal to his friends and respects his parents."

In many ways Clokey has proven as resilient as his creation, keeping his balance through fortune and fiasco.

His film career began in the early 1950s when he was a graduate student at the University of Southern California. Working in a garage, he made a four-minute film called "Gumbasia," that showed abstract clay forms moving to jazz music.

The name was a childhood memory of visiting his grandfather's farm and remembering his father coming into the house and saying he'd "got stuck in the gumbo," local coinage for the region's sticky, clay soil.

"Gumbasia" was made using a technique called stop-motion, in which figures are filmed, moved slightly and filmed again, a painstaking, but according to Clokey, uniquely satisfying, process.

Clokey's big break came via his paying job at Harvard Military Academy (now Harvard School) in Studio City near Los Angeles. There, he tutored the son of Sam Engel, then-president of the Motion Pictures Producers Association.

Invited over one night to look at previews, Clokey mentioned he'd made a film of his own and was told "bring it over."

What followed next was every young film student's dream. Engel didn't just like "Gumbasia," he loved it.

For a moment, Clokey envi-



This is a photograph of Thomas Gainsborough's 1770 painting, 'Blue Boy.' X-rays revealed that originally Gainsborough included a small dog in the lower right side of the painting.

sioned himself a Hollywood player.

"I could just see myself being his assistant and mingling with the stars," he recalls. Engel's next sentence shattered his silver screen fantasy. What he wanted, it turned out, was better children's television: Could Clokey develop some clay figures to create a TV show?

The result was Gumby, his little pony Pokey and a host of other clay mates.

From the beginning, Clokey, who once studied to be an Episcopal minister, had a clear vision of Gumby. He would be a hero, but not obnoxiously so.

"He has some characteristics of a superman. ... He also has characteristics of a human being. He's not superpowerful; he will need the help of his friends."

Clokey's father, Arthur Farrington, lent more than the inspiration for the character's name. His amazing cowlick — captured in a sepia photograph that hangs on the wall of Clokey's San Rafael office — was the model for Gumby's asymmetrical head.

As a clay boy, Gumby could assume any shape, squashing flat as a paint slick or splitting into a handful of gum balls to

escape a gumball machine.

Children were enthralled as he and his friends embarked on fantastic adventures, leaping through time and space to hook up with fictional and historical characters.

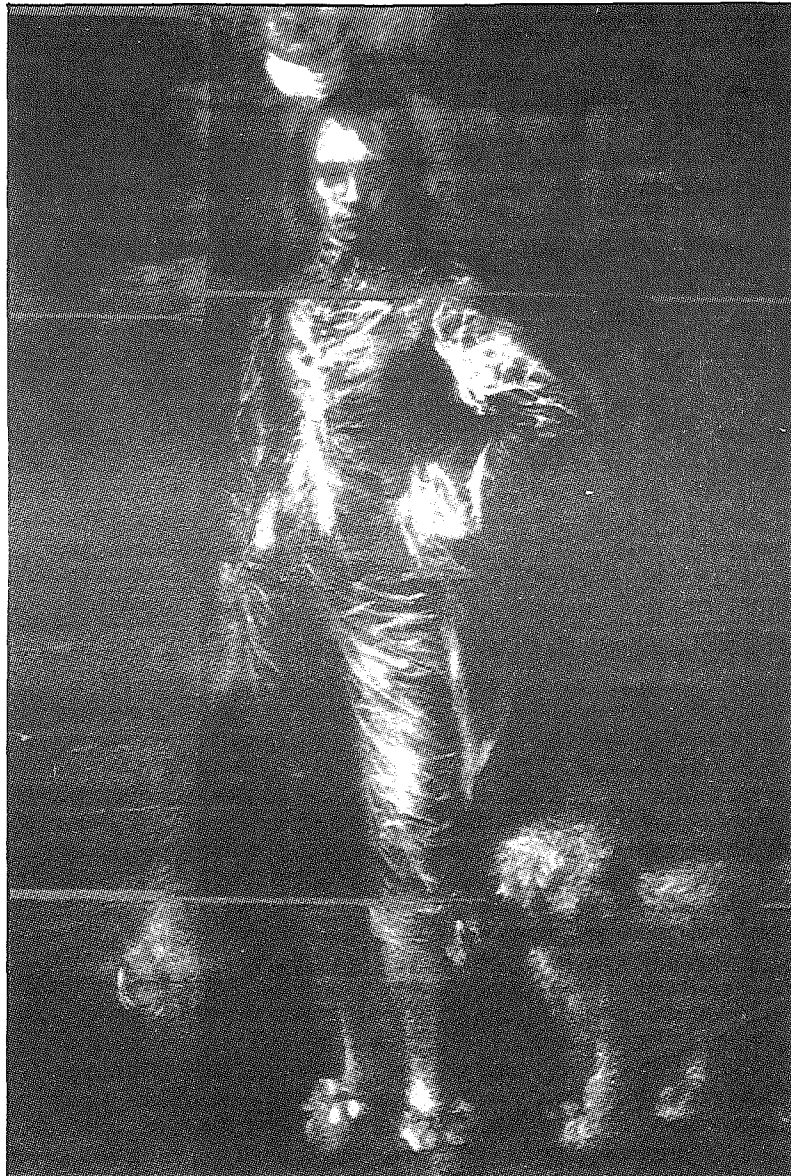
By the late 1970s, Gumby was yesterday's star and Clokey was facing foreclosure on his house. A second toy he designed had failed spectacularly after something went wrong in the manufacturing process.

His wife and business partner, Gloria, traces the resurgence of their fortunes to a visit to spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba in India about 15 years ago. They gave him Gumby to bless with sacred ash and "after that things started happening," she said.

Back in California, Clokey was asked to give a Gumby show and lecture at the Beverly Hills Library.

It was standing room only. Next came a tour of movie theaters and bookings on the lecture circuit.

In the early 1980s, the Clokeys got a boost from an unexpected source when comedian Eddie Murphy brought Gumby to TV's "Saturday Night Live." Murphy would swagger



This x-ray image reveals that the original 18th century Gainsborough painting included the small dog at lower right, at some point eliminated from the composition. Museums invest in x-ray technology hoping to uncover original details artists wanted to conceal. Associated Press Photos

around, bullying his cohorts and declaiming, "I'm Gumby, dammit."

That wasn't exactly in line with Clokey's vision. After all, he took legal action to stop the manufacture of "Scumby" T-shirts that showed Gumby as a beer-bellied reprobate. Murphy's Gumby had the saving grace of being funny. It also came on way past the bedtimes of Gumby's more innocent fans.

"We called him the anti-Gumby," joked Clokey, who has a sign in his office that

quietly points out "I'm Gumby, Dammit."

Although they can laugh at the renegade Gumby, the Clokeys took no chances on corrupting influences in "Gumby 1." They used their savings from the new TV episodes to produce the \$2.8 million film themselves after studio executives wanted to make changes in the script.

The 90-minute feature premiered in Dallas in May, hits San Francisco this month and is expected to play in Los Angeles and New York later this fall.

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Teagarden

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arrived, it might be supposed that the Grove would be more popular than ever, but sadly the opposite was the case. The patronage dwindled and at the Harvest Home Picnic in 1924, although the senator was there, less than 50 people were present to hear him. This was the last Harvest Home Picnic and the Grove was practically closed after that.

John and Mark Sheltons had foreseen this and in 1919 they sold the Grove and the farm to Clarence Eagleton who had great visions that came to naught. He failed and died and the owners became the Driscolls. The farm buildings have fallen down, the road has been changed, no longer going past the entrance, and many houses were moved. The property is now owned by the Brantinghams. Clifford Aiken, whose road was cut off by the new road, owns the farm that belonged to Henry Grace.

The first rural free mail delivery began in 1901 and telephones were installed about 1905. The first pole for electricity was set in 1937. Joe Gruber was the area dentist.

The covered bridge is fast becoming an endangered artifact, utilized today for walking. At one time 42 of our 50 states had these barnlike structures. The Teagarden covered bridge with vertical siding and wood shingles was built by Simon A. Shive in 1876, 100 years after the birth of our nation. Located on Eagleton Road off Teagarden Road in Eagleton Glen Park, the single span, 66 foot long bridge spans the middle fork of Little Beaver Creek. A five foot overhang is at one end, with multiple king post trusses and the bridge itself is 2½ feet wide and 10 feet high. The load limit was 27 tons.

Covered bridge closes

On one portal is printed the advertisement "Buy your drugs at C.R. Phillips." In 1992 the covered bridge was closed and a new one built at a cost of about \$185,300. The city of Salem owns the park located near the bridge.

The Erie Railroad at Teagarden is 1,043 feet above tide waters. This was measured at the old iron bridge.

Elizabeth Farmer's grandfather built the first store about 1885 and it was quite a meeting place for the people in the neighborhood to gather, visit and pick up their needs. He had the post office there and got the mail from the train. He also had his grocery stock delivered by train including 10-cent-a loaf bread from a bakery in Lisbon.

Clarence Lease Sr. bought the

store building, also Elizabeth's grandfather's home, and tore it down and rebuilt it for the home we seven Lease children — Anna J., Bus, Richard, Lillian, Arnold, Donnie and Shirley — were raised in. Her grandfather's store was above the railroad and Bates had a store below the tracks. Flour was hauled to Salem over the Christian Church road.

Teagarden was quite a coal mining area and there were quite a few houses there.

Saturday afternoon games

Usually a game was played every Sunday afternoon on the ball diamond behind my grandparents home in Ludwig's field. We had some pretty good players. In fact, Ernie Hrovatic went on to sign up with the major leagues only to be a casualty of World War II. Some of the ball players in early years were play manager Wesley Hanna, manager Lew Sheen, Clarence Lease, Logan Lease, Ralph "Jiggs" Hrovatic, Rudy Hrovatic, Johnny Hrovatic, Joe Hrovatic, Forrest Dickson, Jack Galchick, Curt Hippley, Joe Hippley, Joe Mattevey and Bus Simpson. In later years, a new team was formed. Some of those players were Carl Wickline, Red Dodson, Glenn Bruderly and Don Bruderly.

Before the new bridge on Lisbon Road was built and the creek was cleaned, heavy rains flooded over the grounds by the bridge. A few times the water was up to the main road. It was nothing for all the neighbors to meet down by the bridge to see if the bridge would hold up under the strains of all the water. It did.

The old cistern well still runs every day. That well smelled like rotten eggs, but we always managed to hang around down there.

Highland Christian founded

The Highland Christian Church is located in section 32 off Route 411 Teagarden Road, turning north on Gamble Road, then right at Yates Road. The cemetery and church is located on the left side of the road.

The church was founded in 1860 and the history of Salem Township records that the Rev. William Teagarden preached regularly at the Highlandtown church from the beginning and at other churches in the township. Whether he was one of the first Disciples of Christ ministers in this area is not known for sure, but it is believed he was later ordained.

The organizational meeting was held at the Teagarden homestead in 1861. First trustees were Uriah Teagarden, Ephrem Holloway, Joshua



The Highland School is shown in this photo taken in April 1995.

Spencer and H. W. Farmer.

This sect was started by Alexander Campbell in 1811 in nearby Pennsylvania. They were known variously as Campbellites, Disciples and now generally as the Christian Church. At first the congregations were almost autonomous but as they grew more numerous, they had to move or become less centralized and have some overhead authority.

Later, the neighborhood church was organized as a Christian church. A church building was erected not far from the school house. It still has a steady attendance and is a prospering rural church. The road in front of the church was at one time known as the Deerfield Road.

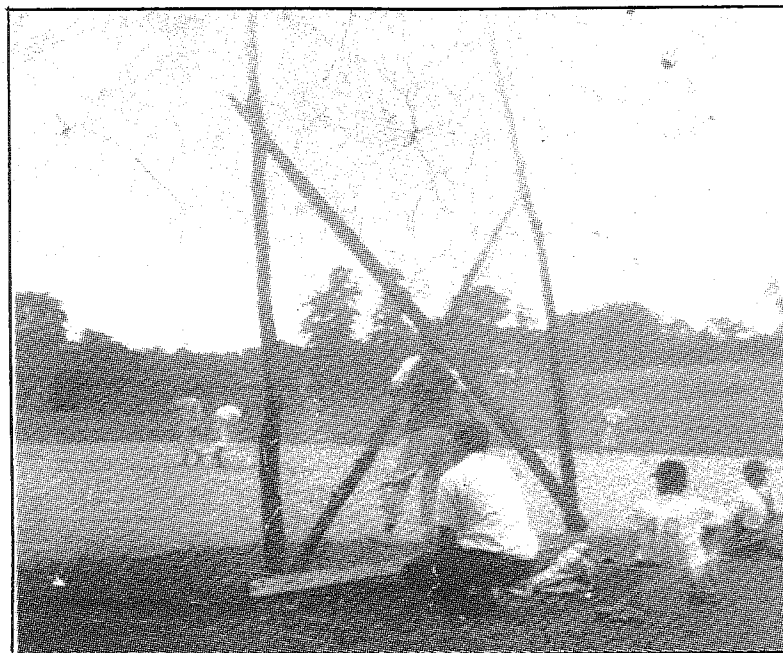
Uriah donates land

Uriah Teagarden donated the land for the Highland Church and burial ground, and after his death in 1880 descendants placed his photograph in the back of a chair and presented it to the church in his memory. Uriah Sr. and Uriah Jr. are buried by the side of the church. Uriah Jr. was married to my great aunt Elizabeth Stockwell who is buried by the side of the church.

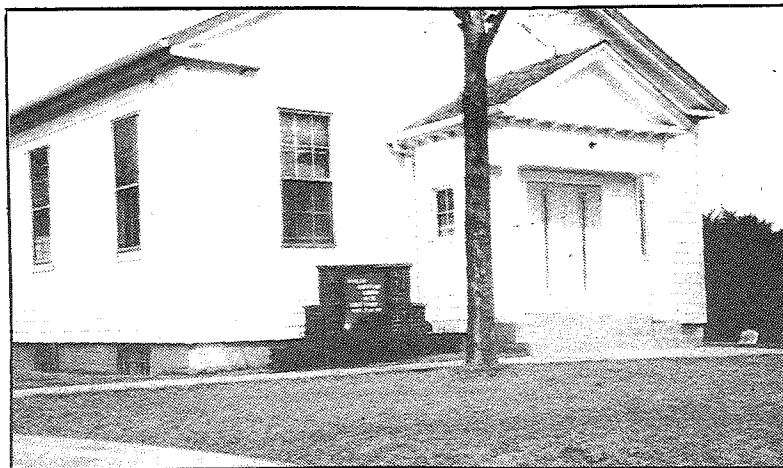
Uriah was stricken with small pox and died at the age of 36. His body was wrapped up and buried at midnight. His home was burned to prevent spreading the disease. He left his wife Elizabeth and five children.

Choir members of earlier years were George Gromley, Martha (Gromley) Gauding, Betty (Driscoll) Bailey, Joan (Driscoll) Gromley, Marge (Driscoll) Ullom, Paul and Eleanor Ludwig, Ida (Farmer) Albert, Carol (Aiken) Keir, Clifford Gilbey, Anna J. (Lease) Daugherty, Clarence Lease Jr. and pianist Maude Driscoll.

Later choir members were Betty Bailey, Joan Gromely,



Spectators watch a ball game at the Teagarden ball field.



This photo of the Highland Christian Church was taken in spring 1995.

Marge Ullom, George Gromley, Ida Albert, Anna J. Daugherty, Clarence and Richard Lease, Lillian Hughes, Carol Keir, Eleanor and Paul Ludwig, Clifford Gilbey, and pianist Maude Driscoll.

There were many cantatas, Christmas and Children's Day programs presented to large crowds in the church. Besides all these things the church took

part in many song fests with area churches.

Filson Camp at one time was the oldest member on the church roll. There were four generations of families on the roll. The Harrises, Leases, Milton Johns and Abner and Elba John. Mr. Harris's great great

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The Teagarden covered bridge in 1954.



The Teagarden hill on February 1978.

Teagarden

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grandfather, Benjamin Harris, a mill wright, built the old Hendrix mill at Teagarden.

Pump organ cost \$65

The old pump organ bought in 1905 cost \$65. Ida Jehu was the organist for over twenty years and Maude Driscoll played the piano for years. She was also a fantastic electric steel guitar player. Others who accompanied the choir were Elizabeth Farmer, Linda Ludwig and Lila Harris. The organist today is Randy Gauding.

There was Christian Endeavor every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. George Hampshire and Harry Lick, pastors at different times, were leaders. Choir practice was usually Thursday nights, but there were a few times on Saturday — rehearsals were brief then because everyone had to get home to see Gunsmoke on television.

The new addition was added in 1957. Many strawberry festivals helped pay for this addition. A great loss to the community while working at the church, was the passing of John Driscoll. Before the furnace was

installed, the church was heated by two pot belly stoves, one on each side of the room.

Those fine gentlemen who spent many long hours working on the addition were Charles Stiffler, Walt Hartman, Clarence Lease Sr., John Driscoll, Logan Lease, Lloyd Bailey and Donnie Lease. Charles Morlan was the mastermind with the electric work.

Past and present ministers included Rev. William Kelly, Rev. William Teagarden, Rev. Hyde, Rev. Wineget, Rev. McGovern, Rev. Cameron, Rev. Dunlap, Rev. Weaver, Rev. Geole, Rev. Carter; Rev. Erheart, Rev. Havlin, Rev. Truitt, Rev. Manchester, Rev. Brantingham, Rev. Westfall, Rev. Gardner, Rev. Lambert, Rev. Costegan, Rev. Cope, Mrs. Joseph Spies, Rev. Ewing, Rev. Keutunan, Rev. Bennett, Harry Licky, George Hampshire, Rev. Linton, Rev. Beresford, Kit Burrows, Rev. Cash, Rev. Ward and Randy Gauding.

Highland one-room school

Near Beaver Creek was a school named Fairview, about



Highland School youngsters pose for their class photo for the 1938-39 school year.



Ida Farmer Albert stands in the front doorway of Highland School while students pose in this 1944 photo (front row, left) Keith McDonald, Jim Snyder, Clarence Davis, Bud Phillis, ?; (back row, left) Marie and Doris Bardo, Betty Davis, Kalbfell, Helen Kilbreath, Vivian Farmer Whitacre, Betty Driscoll Bailey and Norma Hanna Hippley.

one quarter of a mile east of the present Phillips Church at the fork of the road. Another country school, Highland, was built on the road from Teagarden to Depot Road. Rev. Teagarden taught there for many years. One room held eight grades in those country schools, and one teacher taught them all.

The Highland School bus drivers were Merle Ewing, Sanford Summers and Luther Woodall. Some of the teachers were Mary Ward, Phoebe Nye, Florence Snow, Faye Pierce, and Luther Woodall.

As you entered the front door, there was a large furnace on the right and to the left were desks for each student. Blackboards covered the front walls. There was a basement, but the only time it was used

was if we wanted to hide from the teacher. The teacher's desk was quite large and if you misbehaved you were put under there. A bell hung in the steeple entrance. That bell was rung in the morning and at noon. School was opened every morning by saluting the American flag and reciting the Lord's Prayer.

At recess and noon, some of the games were Drop the Handkerchief, Farmer in the Dell and Hop Scotch. In winter there was usually sled riding or snowball fights. Those that didn't have sleds would slide down holding their coats around their bottoms.

School pitcher pump

A well with a pitcher pump served as the school's drinking fountain from which water was

obtained with a communal dipper. A large crock filled with water sat on a bench where lunch pails of every variety were lined up — store bought pails, converted syrup pails and lunch bags. That crock was cleaned out once a month. Its funny the rust didn't kill all of us. Everyone carried their lunch. School hours were 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There was recess in the morning and afternoon lunch was from noon to one o'clock.

The blackboards were cleaned off Friday. The erasers were cleaned by banging them off the school house wall. School was never closed because of bad weather. We all

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Highland Christian Church members gather in front of the church for a photograph in 1958 (front row, left) Charles Stiffler, Sally Ludwig, Rosemarie Ludwig, Marilyn Stiffler, Dean Farmer, Glen Harris, Rick Ludwig, Dana Boyce, Ron Ludwig, Alan Stiffler, ?, Sinsley; (second row, left) Lloyd Bailey, Betty Bailey holding Jeff Bailey, Linda Ludwig, Gladys Boyce, Elva Reese, Virginia Stiffler, Earl Freeman, Marie Freeman, Denise Hanna, Claudia Lease, Cheryl Boyce, Kenny Harris, Ruth Hanna, Wesley Hanna, Ethel Lewis, Marie Ward, brother Grant Ward, minister; (back row, left) Arnold Lease, Shirley Lease, Chuck Lease, Verla Harman, Lillian Lease, Elsie Lease, Anna Jean Lease, Richard Lease, John Harris, Lila Harris holding Rosellen Harris, George Harris, Alice Farmer holding Arlene Farmer, Elizabeth Farmer holding Eddie Farmer, Kathryn Vincent, Walter Vincent, Lilly Gant, Lizzie Harris, Bill Lewis.

Teagarden

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walked to school. This little school house which we called Highland was home from 9 to 4 five days a week for many, many students, with two weeks off for Christmas vacation. Though a far cry from modern facilities, we learned reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic — and stored up many memories.

One winter the snow was piled bank to bank in front of the church. Bobby Hartzell, Richard Doyle and Arnold Lease were walking on the snow bank when Arnold and Richard got buried in the snow and no way to get themselves out. Bobby ran back to Mrs. Doyle who came out with a shovel and dug the boys out — it took her over an hour and a half to do it. 1950 was one of the worst years of snow, making traveling and mobilization all most impossible. Schools were closed for two weeks.

PTA meetings were held once a month at the school. (I still have a PTA invitation in the shape of a clock dated February 22, 1946).

Schools consolidated

Youngsters attended there until country schools were consolidated starting in 1929. At that time Highland, Fairview, Winona, New Garden and Janoverton, were consolidated into one centralized grade school district, United Local. High school students were transported to Salem High School by school bus.

On October 9, 1955, an open house was held to dedicate the opening of United Local High School which cost \$429,567. The country schools were all closed

by 1951.

Polio hit the area in 1954 taking five lives, one of them being Janet (Bartholew) Phillis, wife of George Phillis Jr.

Salem's new water reservoir opened in 1950, taking the farms of Paul Denkhous and Carl Gamble.

The first girls 4-H club, Highland Busy Bodies, first met at Highland School on April 7, 1945. Advisors were Vivian Skeels and Gloria Vincent. Members were Betty and Joan Driscoll, Eleanor Ludwig, Violet Paulen, Martha Gromley, Ida Farmer, Vivian Farmer, Anna J. Lease and Joan Laughlin.

In later years members were Verla Hartman, Cheryl Boyce, Denise Hanna and Judy Aiken. After the Highland Busy Bodies disbanded another club, the Four Leaf 4-Hers, was started with Ruth Hrovatic, Vivian Farmer and Anna J. Lease as advisors. Members were Linda, Rosemary and Sally Ludwig, Lillian and Shirley Lease, Beverly Turner, Celia Oertel, Linda Carlson, Kathy Hrovatic, Martha Leone, Nancy Riegle, Bonita Bartholow and Nancy Bradley.

The boys 4-H club, the Highland Sea Bees, started in 1944, with Harry Beck as advisor. Members were Clarence Lease Jr., Paul Ludwig, Bobby Hartzell, Clarence and Russel Votaw. In 1961, three members of Highland Church Sunday School were honored for perfect attendance, Elsie Lease 11 years and Donald and Shirley Lease each ten years.

The Highland Busy Bodies 4-H club donated money to help pay for the new sign erected in front of the church under the leadership of Vivian Skeels. Our Halloween parties were usually held in John Driscoll's barn.

Pranks on October 31

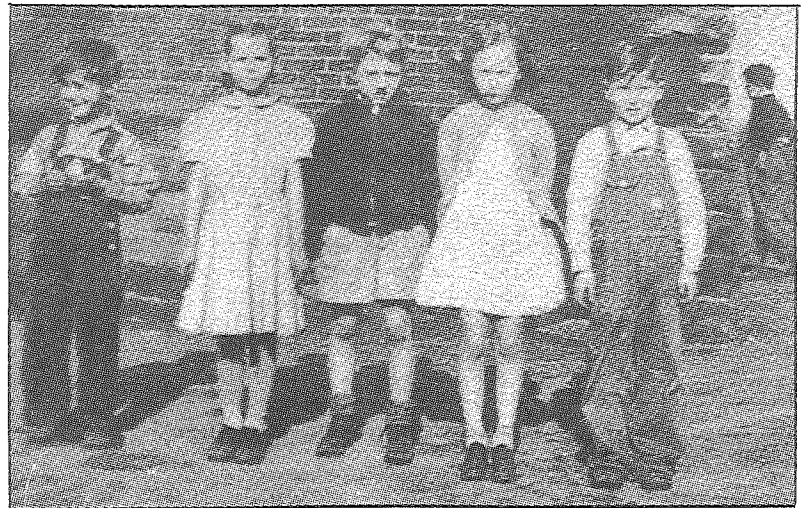
There were Halloween pranks. I've heard stories of upset outhouses at Highland School in the 1940s — the perpetrators were usually caught on the spot and forced to set them back up. What fun.

My dad Clarence Lease, told of several mischievous acts by he and his pals, Logan Lease, the Hrovatic boys, Clyde Hanna, the Vincent boys and Wesley Hanna. They would go down to the covered bridge, crawl up on the roof as cars came through, and dropped balloons filled with water, among other devilish things.

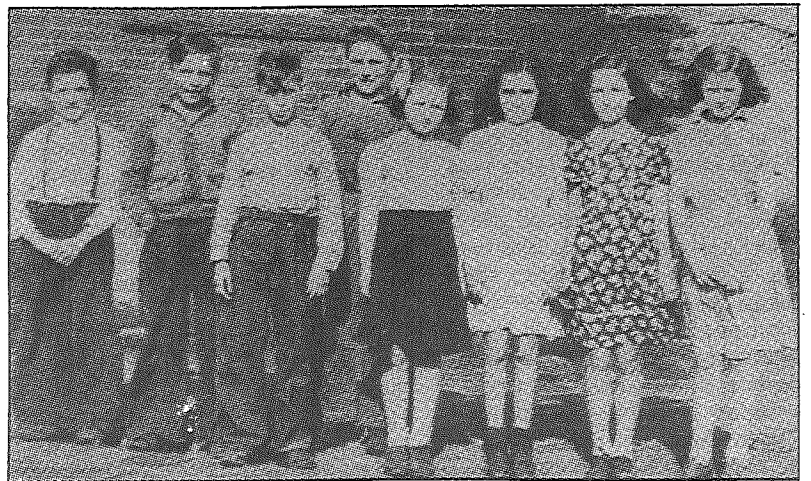
Christmas caroling was always a joy. New Year's Eve parties were held in the homes. Roller skating was at Kelley's Roller Rink and ice skating was usually on some pond somewhere. Sled riding was over the hill by Simon Ludwig's house. The question always came up, why did we never get killed? Same answers, we didn't know. Had many bruises.

In 1988 Clyde and Elizabeth Farmer were honored for 50 years as members of Guilford Grange, in 1989 Virginia Phillis was honored for 60 years and Beulah Sell for 70 years. There was always fun each year planning for the 4-H booth at the Lisbon Fair.

Many couples of Teagarden and Highland area were blessed with 50 or more years of married life: John and Elsie Sell, 54 years; Clarence and Elsie Lease, 57 years; Wesley and Ruth Hanna, 61 years; Clyde and Elizabeth Farmer, 58 years; Emmett and Wilma Aiken, 57 years; Lester and Maxine Hawkins, 58 years; Charles and Doris Morlan, 61 years; Howard and Gladys Wilhelm, 54 years; Donald and Alfedya Bye, 52 years; Woodrow



Standing in the school yard in the 1940s is (from left) Richard Lease, ?, Charles Phillis, Carol Aiken Keir and Billy Snyder.



This photo of Highland School children was taken in 1994 (from left) Paul Ludwig, ?, George Gromley, Clarence Lease, Ida Farmer, Joan Driscoll Gromley, ?, Anna Lease Daugherty,

and Viola Dennis, 53 years; John and Kathryn Smith, 53 years; Ed and Ruth Wilhelm, 52 years; Otto and Jesse Ullom, 63 years; Howard and Elsie Davis, 52 years; Jesse and Zade Pattorf, 58 years; Joe Sr. and Frances Hrovatic, 60 years; Ed and Stella Rea, 54 years; Charles and Virginia Phillis, 57

years.
To my Mom and Dad, Clarence and Elsie Lease, who wanted me to finish this history, I dedicate to them both.
There will never be an end to this story, but there will always be love and a bond between the families and friends of Highland and Teagarden.