

Yesteryears

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Moultrie honors veterans for 132 years

By Lois Firestone

He had had only four weeks of schooling his entire life, and at that, the lessons were taught in German which he didn't understand — his father was a schoolteacher but taught in a school where only German was spoken.

John Hime's father was a farmer, too, but unsuccessful, since the soil he plowed and planted was poor, and rocky besides. John was born on Oct. 24, 1794 in Northumberland County, Pa., and until he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, worked on his father's farm.

He worked at blacksmithing for 26 years, although after working at his trade for four or five years, he took to tramping, with a view of seeing more of the world.

John eventually settled in Guilford Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where he married and bought five acres of land and a house for \$900. When he made the purchase, he didn't have a dollar to put down and yet he managed to pay for it and save some money besides.

John L. Hime was born Oct. 4, 1823 and assisted his father in his shop from the time he was very young until he turned 17. That was the year the family, along with three of John Hime's' brothers, migrated to Ohio.

In 1840, the father bought 72 acres of land on Section 8, called Hahn's section, in West Township. John Hahn had come from Maryland with few possessions, a wife, and an old history book; he was prosperous and fathered 14 sons and daughters, and was the first to be buried there.

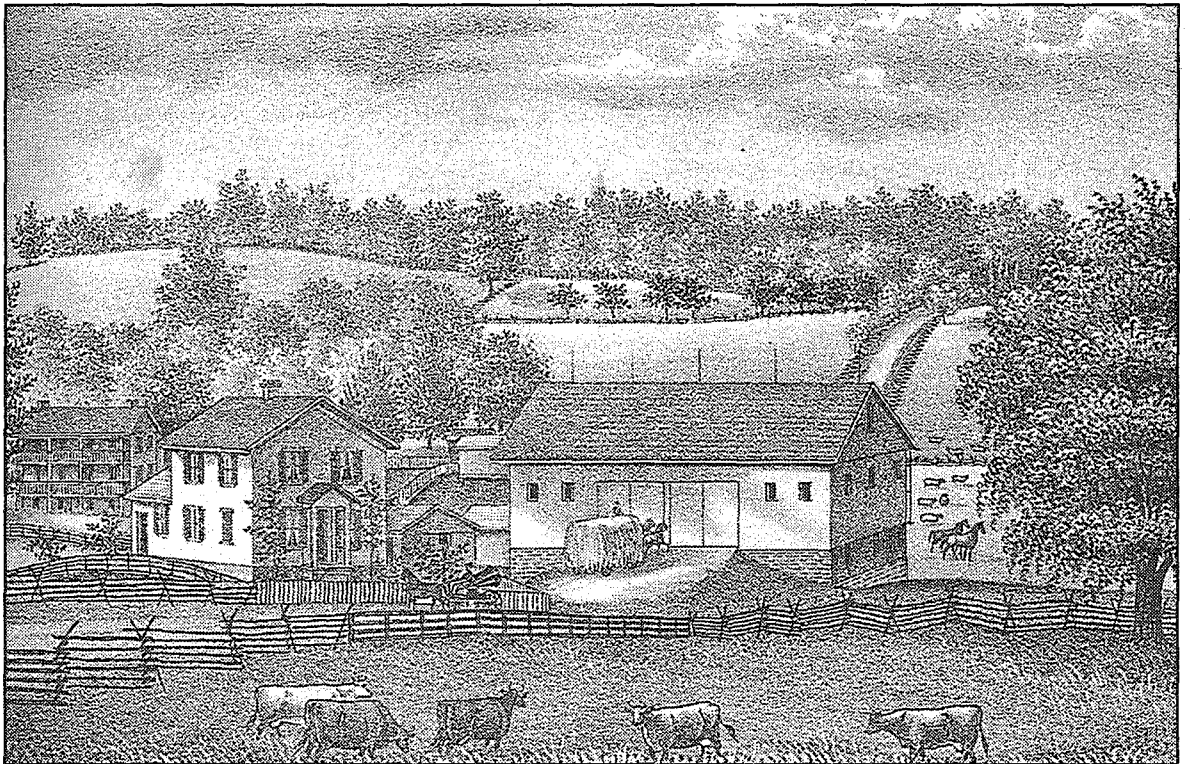
The town of Moultrie wasn't platted until February 7, 1853 and eventually had a population of about 100, with several schools and churches dotting the township. Nine one-room institutions of learning were built the 36 sections of West, among them Moultrie which was built in 1898 and used until 1935, and is still standing. others were Chestnut Knob, Wild Duck, Dumb Corners and No.4.

But the churches were vital to the settlers, and they sprung up all over the small township. John Hime gave part of his land for a cemetery and built a small log church nearby in 1842, two years after he arrived. A larger building came later, for many years known as Hime's Church. Then in 1893, a large frame building was built beside it at the urging of a unique resident.

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President of Tjaatje National Society Colonial Dames Wanda Pandin congratulates West Township trustee Lee Haynam and Shirley Whiteleather Fox, vice president of the West Township Memorial Association who accept the plaque presented by the society at the dedication of Moultrie Chapel as a historical site at a special program on April 22 at the chapel. The plaque has been placed permanently on the chapel along Route 172. The Tjaatje society covers Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.



John L. Hime, like his father, was dedicated to the township's well-being and raised cattle and livestock on the farm shown above. A saddle and harness maker, he was postmaster at Chambersburg and was township clerk and treasurer. He and his wife, Judith had two children Mary and Anna.



Pioneer John Hime



John L. Hime, his son

Moultrie

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Daniel Webster Crist was a successful songwriter who ran a general store at Moultrie. Crist's extensive correspondence concerning his music attracted the attention of federal authorities; so many pieces of mail were leaving the tiny village that the federal mail office sent a man out from Washington, D. C. to investigate. Crist's home is now the Lowmiller farm.

The 55 by 70-foot frame building has 13 large-paned windows. The two front doors are topped with stoops of gingerbread and fret work. The chapel roof is a blue-gray pink slate set in a decorative pattern.

Crist later moved to Alliance and became a state representative, but is buried at Moultrie.

For a period of time, the Moultrie Chapel was shared by Presbyterians, Lutherans and German Reformed, but it was mainly the site for funeral services and services at Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as the oldtimers called it.

The date, May 30, became a Day of Remembrance in the township in 1868, following the end of the Civil War, to honor the men who had served the North in that war. The annual memorials continued.

In 1896, the Grand Honorable B. F. Weybrecht accepted the invitation of the Grand Army of the Republic Post of West Township to speak at the May 30th Decoration Day services at Moultrie Chapel. The Sons of the Civil War Veterans participated in that service.

Shortly after World War I ended, the West Township Memorial Association was formed. Today Gene Berman heads the association, assisted by Shirley W. Fox, vice president; Karl Summer Jr., treasurer; Edgar Haynam, secretary; and Jeff Haynam, Ray McPher-

son, William Richeson, James Householder, Michael E. Ray, and Elmer Steves.

West Township trustees are James Falconer, Lee Haynam, Dale Lowmiller and Sue Hawk, secretary.

Following the Civil War and World War I, other conflicts followed: World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War. The veterans from all these wars will be remembered on Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Moultrie Chapel.

This week, the headstones are being cleared of weeds and flowers placed in memory by the living, and the chapel itself is being readied for the annual remembrance.

The ceremony will begin with youngsters spreading out throughout the cemetery, carrying flags to the graves of veterans.

With the Minerva High School Band performing patriotic songs in the background, a young child will recite President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The firing squad from the Minerva American Legion Post will fire a 21-gun salute, and then the crowd (there's room for 200 people inside the chapel) will move inside the chapel for a program and songfest. The afternoon will be topped with ice cream treats for everyone.

West Township has had throughout the decades many men and women who served their country, beginning long ago. One of the earliest pioneer settlers was Michael Sanor, a Revolutionary War soldier who served under General George Washington, who came in 1804 and raised a family of 11 youngsters.

As Shirley Whiteleather Fox puts it, the people of the township and others come to the Moultrie memorial services, "the ones who in their hearts know there is a connection with the past that gives us a promise for today which instills in us dreams for our tomorrows."

"All my life I have had the humble honor of being part of this beloved tradition," Shirley says. "Even though it is only one day a year I hear the sound of those taps..that sound..can stay within my vividly until



Wanda Pandin chats with Joanne Cook of Columbiana, vice president of Tjaatje DeWitt Chapter, far right, and, from left, Joyce Haydu of Youngstown, Tjaatje DeWitt Chapter veterans affairs officer, and Mary Lou Shively of Salem, treasurer and chaplain of the chapter during the dinner preceding the Moultrie Chapel plaque presentation.



Attending the Moultrie dedication are, from left, Irene McKee of Canton, Woman of the Year AAUW for John MacIntosh Chapter; Mary Zawacki of Canton, state treasurer; and Carolyn Jones of Kettering, Concord Chapter.

the next year. And to see the children come and be a part of it all, and for them to hold their flag. It tells me they, like their ancestors before them, will feel this same need to pay tribute to those who served. I can come here and reflect and walk up over this beautiful little hillside quite often...I read the names and the many inscriptions. I learn and feel from the past...Moultrie is a resting place for many who have ties from the early times and it is for the newcomers who have come and like us, think this is

indeed a beautiful place to read inscriptions like 'Here lies a Patriot.' 'To live on in the hearts of loved ones is not to die.' To see the grave of a 22-year-old World War II soldier and the battle listed where he gave his life, to know four generations before me, are buried here...to look at the name of your Sunday School chum who went to Vietnam and came back not to live but to be laid to rest right up here directly behind the chapel as you crest the hill. It all makes you reflect and be grateful for the many gifts giv-

Today's day in history

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1701, Capt. William Kidd was hanged in London after he was convicted of piracy and murder.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary in World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, La.

In 1937, industrialist John D. Rockefeller died in Ormond Beach, Fla.

In 1940, Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra, the Pied Pipers and featured soloist Frank Sinatra recorded "I'll Never Smile Again" in New York for RCA.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide while imprisoned in Luneburg, Germany.

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