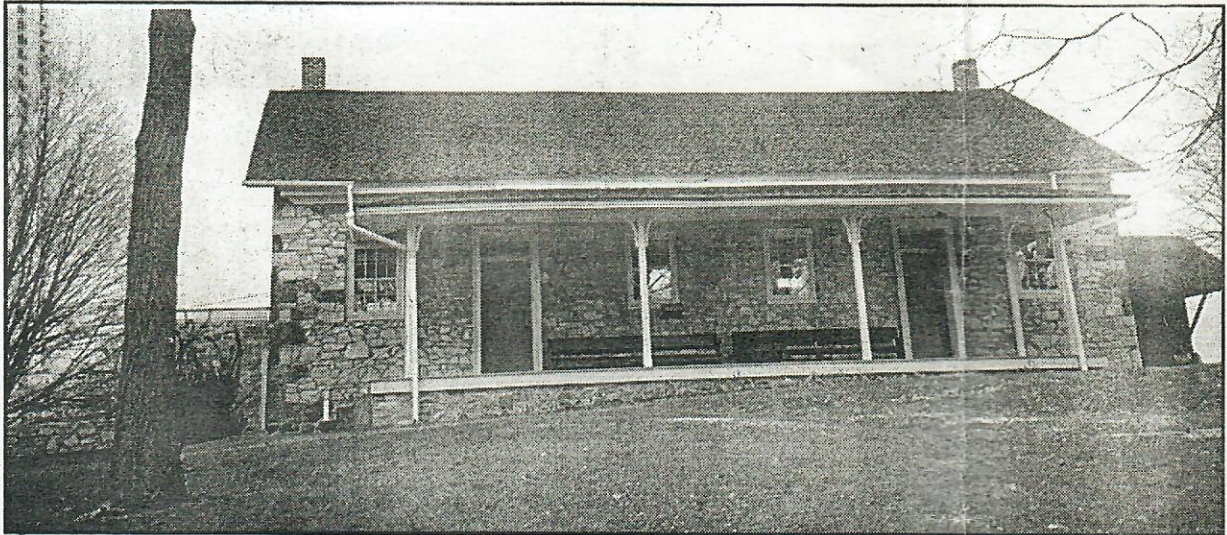
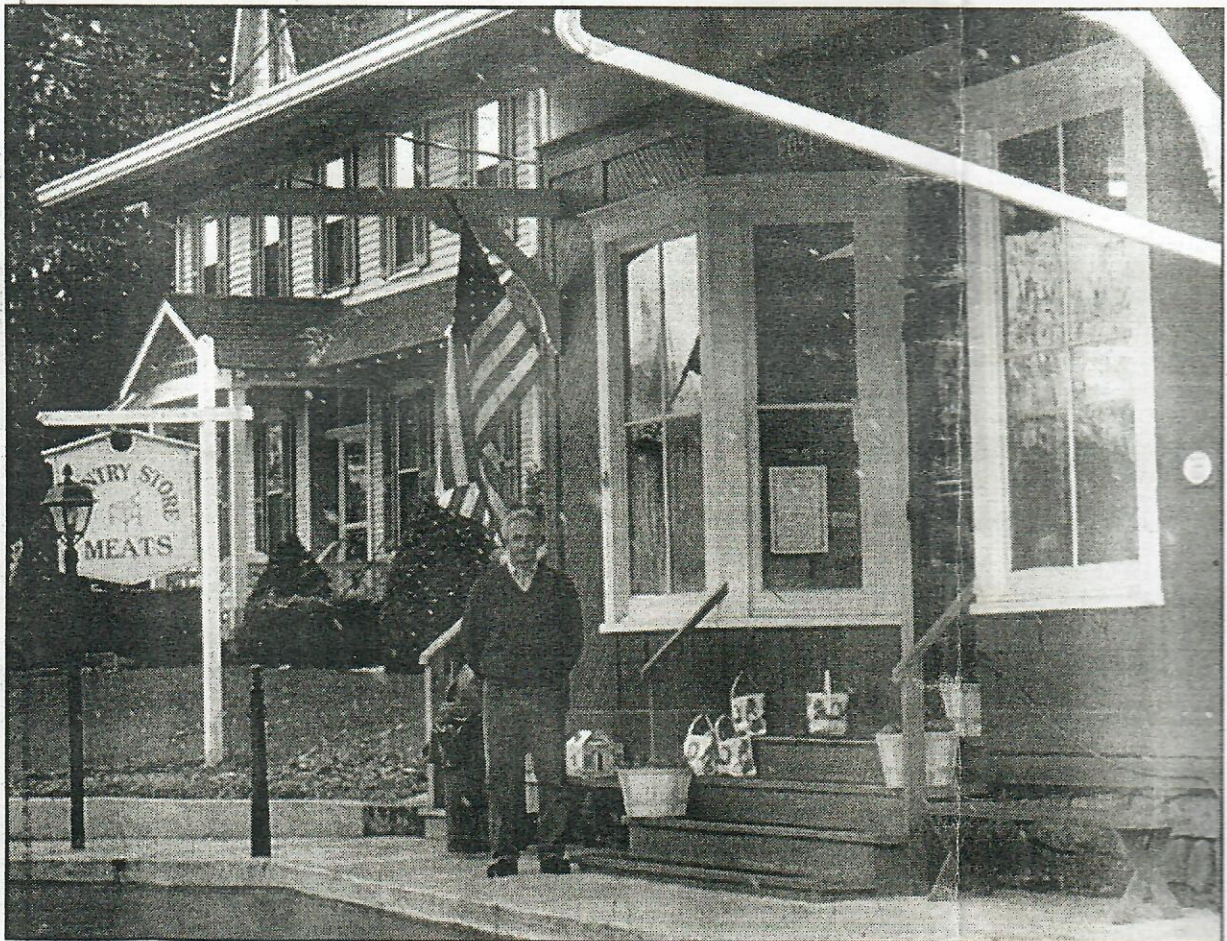


History, Location Make Penn



SOCIETY OF FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, BUILT IN 1799 IS THE OLDEST
 . . . house of worship in Lycoming County and oldest building in Pennsdale



CHESTER RUTH, ONE OF COUNTRY STORE'S OWNERS
 . . . stands outside the building constructed in 1839

"It's off the beaten path, so we don't have the traffic through the village. Until 180 was here, nobody even knew where Pennsdale was. 180 put us on the map."

TOM SPRINGMAN
Pennsdale resident

By JENNIFER S. BOYD
 Sun-Gazette Staff

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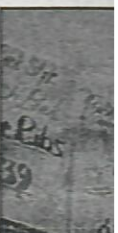
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Country Sto

By JENNIFER S. BOYD
 Sun-Gazette Staff

Mention the name Pennsdale and many people will say, "Oh, that's where the Country Store is."

The Country Store draws scores of people every day into



ake Pennsdale Special

By **JENNIFER S. BOYD**
Sun-Gazette Staff

Ripe with stories, the tiny village of Pennsdale boasts a history rivaled by few places in the Susquehanna Valley.

It is home to what some local historians say may be the county's oldest educational institution and the congregation to hold the most consecutive church services. Both belong to the Society of Friends, or the Quakers.

Nestled amidst rolling farmland, Pennsdale is just a short jaunt off Route 220 in Muncy Township.

"It's off the beaten path, so we don't have the traffic through the village," said Tom Springman, a lifetime resident.

In fact, outsiders seemed somewhat unaware that the cozy village even existed until Interstate 180 was built through the township.

"Until 180 was here, nobody even knew where Pennsdale was. 180 put us on the map," Springman said.

History lovers should be grateful to have discovered this charming village. Many of the stone houses lining Main Street in or near Pennsdale date to more than two centuries ago when the Quakers built rock-solid homes.

According to accounts from numerous historical records, the Society of Friends Muncy Meeting was pioneered by William Ellis toward the end of the 1700s. After Ellis settled just a mile east of Pennsdale, numbers of other Friends followed him to the area.

In 1796 the preparative meeting, a meeting to prepare business matters, was established after having met since 1788 as an indulged, or worship, meeting. About 70 fami-

lies from all over the area met in a log house at that time.

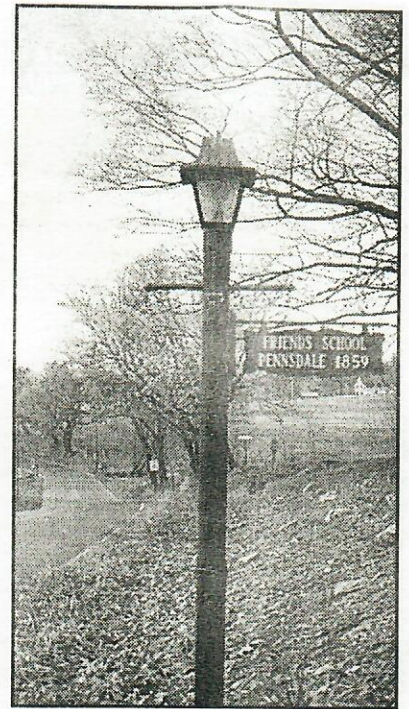
By 1799 that meeting had blossomed so much that the Muncy Monthly Meeting, also called the Pennsdale meeting, was established and a new meeting house was built shortly thereafter. That stone building still stands and is the oldest building in Pennsdale.

Although numbers dwindled in the 1970s, the congregation has gradually grown since then and the Friends continue to worship at what is believed to be the oldest church in the county.

The Friends School House also still stands, although it has since been turned into a home. The stone building was built in 1859 to replace the log structure where both Quaker and non-Quaker children learned to read and write.

Although the school closed when the public schools opened in 1915, some historians say Shady Bank School, as it was called, is the oldest educational institution in Lycoming County.

There was a public elementary school in Pennsdale, but now all Pennsdale children go to schools in Muncy. The previ-



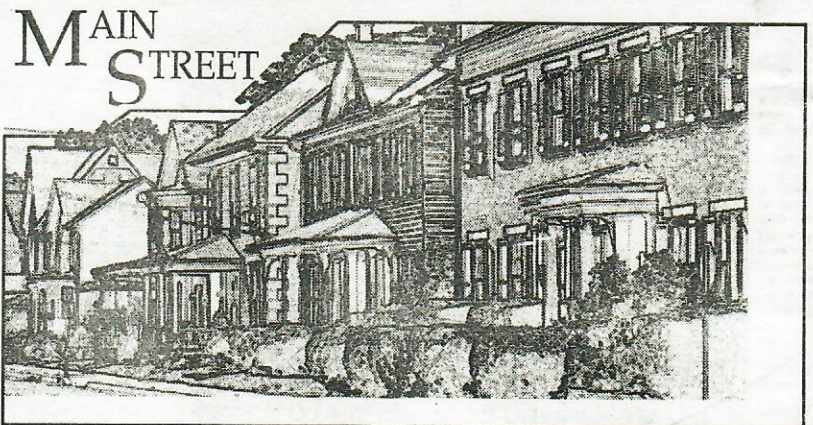
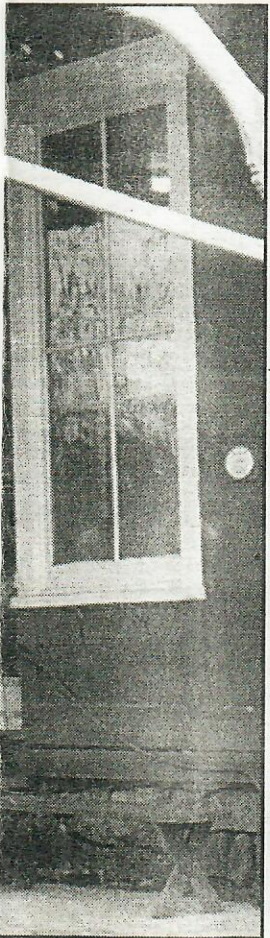
SOME HISTORIANS say the Friends School, built in 1859, is the oldest educational institution in Lycoming County. It has since been turned into a home.

ous school, which is located across the street from the former Quaker school, is now used by a church.

The Quakers were active abolitionists and the Muncy Friends were a regular station of the Underground Railroad. (Continued on Page A-3, Col. 1)



THE OLDEST
Pennsdale



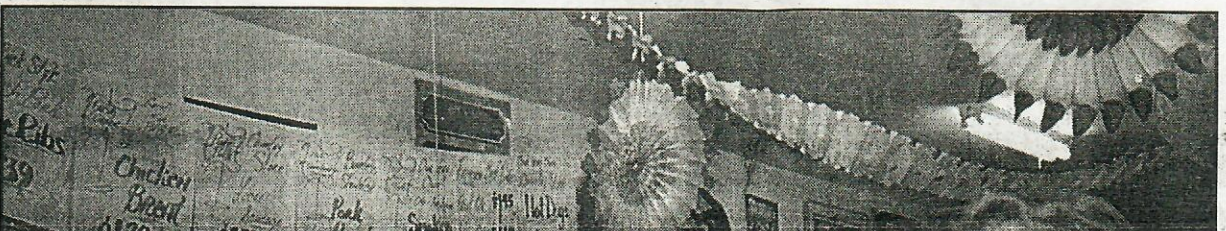
PENNSDALE

Country Store is a Village Institution

JENNIFER S. BOYD
Sun-Gazette Staff

In the name Pennsdale, many people will say, "Oh, here the Country Store..."

Country Store draws...



Country Store is a Village Institution



CLAIR JOHNSON AND HIS SON CLAIR JOHNSON II, DUSHORE, ... get friendly service from Country Store employee Kathy Yeagle

store, Ruth said. They buy hogs, a job Ruth says they are very fussy about, and slaughter Monday through Friday.

Their specialty is their old-fashioned smoked bologna and ham, which are popular parts of their holiday gift packs. They started sending the gift packs about seven or eight years ago, Ruth said, and now sell them to major corporations during the holidays.

More than 65 employees round out the Country Store staff. Incorporated in 1957, the business is family-owned by four partners.

In keeping it in the family, sons have taken over and bought shares of the business as their fathers or relatives have retired.

"You will not get any fresher pork anywhere," he said.

When Springman's father ran the store, its main stock was dry-goods. Then when the younger Springman took over, he sold mostly groceries and meat. Eventually the groceries were dropped and meat became the only product sold.

"We figured we could compete in meat where we couldn't in groceries," Springman said. And compete in meat they did. In 1957 they added the pork packing facility, often referred to as the slaughter house. This is the part of the business Ruth says many people are not aware exists, but adds a large percent to their revenue.

"Everybody thinks it's just a store, but it's more than just the year Ruth says is their busiest.

Photos by

1788 as an indulged, or wor- ship, meeting. About 70 fami-

Country Store is a Village Institution

S. BOYD

Staff

me Pennsdale will say, "Oh, Country Store. Store draws every day into of Pennsdale. re is known beyond Ly- its fresh and the tender e state, from Philadelphia customers in d Troy. They ders all over, often to cus- ved out of the uncommon for w Jersey resi- e the store on h Pennsylvia-

ver there on and see five rates," said who used to said it's their dedication to freshness that makes their products popular. "We don't compromise quality," he said, adding that they also specialize in competent, friendly service.

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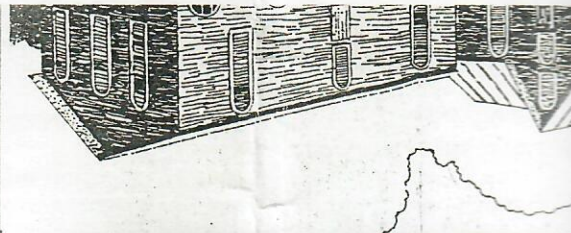
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BARN CENTRE

Landmark...



CHESTER RUTH, ONE OF COUNTRY STORE'S OWNERS
... stands outside the building constructed in 1839

"It's off the beaten path, so we don't have the traffic through the village. Until 180 was here, nobody even knew where Pennsde was. 180 put us on the map."

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Country Store, Pennsde

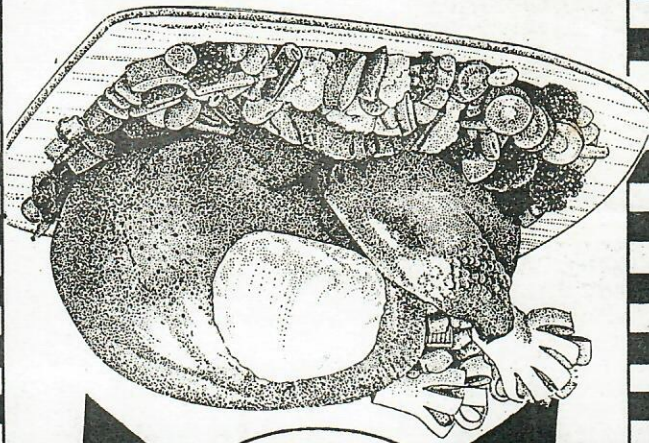
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Taste the Difference
FRESH MAKES!

GRAND CHAMPION
BRAND TURKEY

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TURKEY
anywhere!



A breed which has been developed over the past 40 years. It is the most uniform as well the leanest turkey on the market.

- Naturally Lite,
- EXTRA Lean
- 55% Less Fat
- 25% Less Calories
- 22% More White Meat



55%
LESS FAT

By JENNIFER S. BOYD
Sun-Gazette Staff

Mention the name Pennsde and many people will say, "Oh, that's where the Country Store is."

The Country Store draws scores of people every day into the tiny village of Pennsde. The historic store is known throughout and beyond Lycoming County for its fresh and tasty meats.

Trucks deliver the tender meat all over the state, from restaurants in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, to customers in Tunkhannock and Troy. They also send mail orders all over the United States, often to customers who've moved out of the area.

It is also not uncommon for New York and New Jersey residents to patronize the store on their way through Pennsylvania.

"You can go over there on many weekends and see five cars from five other states," said Tom Springman, who used to own part of the business.

What brings the customers back again and again? "Good meat and good service," Springman answered. Present co-owner Chet Ruth

said it's freshness products compromise adding the in compete

Country Store

1788 as a ship, meet



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IN THE AUCTION BUSINESS WE'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD

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A Pennsde Landmark...

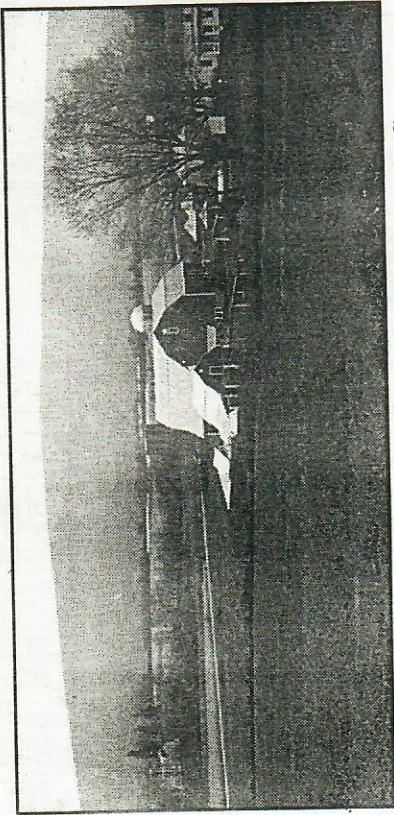
History, Location Make Pennsdale Special

From Page A-2)

a furtive night missions, slaves were brought from Catawissa, fed, sheltered and rested, then transported to another Friends settlement in Sullivan County. From there they were taken north to Canada to the protection of the British Government.

One of the village's oldest homes was used to hide slaves. The House of Many Stairs, so named because not a single room is on the same level as any other, has a hidden compartment once used to conceal slaves on their way to freedom.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Brant have occupied the 206-year-old home for 56 years. Mrs. Brant said a friend of hers discovered the secret room when he put his hand against a wall on the upper level and the wall moved. The space behind the wall would house about 12 to 15 people, she said.



PENNSDALE IS SURROUNDED BY FARMS

... such as this one between Route 220 and the village

"very intriguing."

The home was built in 1790 into a hill, and has served numerous functions over the years.

In the 1860s it was the Bulls Head Tavern, and in the early 1900s it was a tea room.

After it sat unoccupied for about 10 years, the Brants bought the home for \$4,000. Mrs. Brant said she found the unusually constructed home said.

"We haven't changed a thing," she said, except to clean up the home after its 10 uninhabited years. Their antique collections have added to the old home's charm.

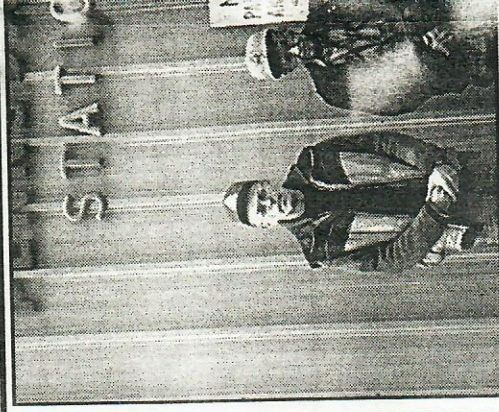
The Brants raised two boys in this maze of stairs and curving walls. "It would break my heart to leave," Mrs. Brant said.

The history of the name of this village is almost as rich as that of the village itself. It was first called Elizabethtown, then got the local name of Goose-town.

Goosetown was so named because an old man named Joe Capper, who lived in the House of Many Stairs when it functioned as the Bulls Head Tavern, was upset because his neighbor's goose kept getting into his garden. He was so angry he almost took the case to court.

The name then changed to Hicksville when the Hicks family moved into the area. After that the name switched to Pennsylvania, then became Pennsdale because there was already a town in Pennsylvania called Pennsylvania.

From then on, the village has remained Pennsdale, a village residents say is a great place to live and raise children.



PENNSDALE FIRE CHIEF Edward President Bob Miller, right, surprised his 90th birthday by calling the Sur to the company.

If There's Duffy's

By JENNIFER Sun-Gazette

For as long as the fire chief Wilbur Harris has helped to protect

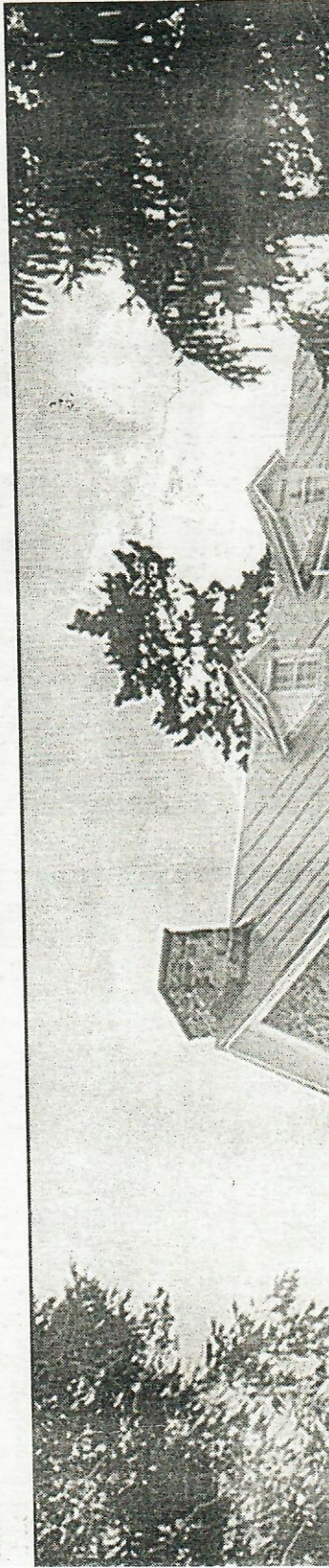
Harris, affectionately known as the volunteer since 1949 when the he'll turn 90 years old and he's

Anyone who's driven by a fire correcting traffic around the blazing for all 46 years he's been a member

Once, shortly after he joined side a burning house, but the much he was sick for two weeks served as fire police.

It's not a job he takes lightly. Main Street in Muncy he stood for 12 hours, said company. "You gotta yell and scream marveling at the firefighter's c

'House of Many Stairs' Once Underground Railroad Stop



Here Duffy's

By JENNIFER
Sun-Gaz

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"You gotta yell and scream marveling at the firefighter's Snow, sleet or hail don't stop. And age isn't getting in his

Palmatier said, with a chuckle. Duffy said as he approached to slow down a bit but he's def says I ought to keep going," he

Born on a farm near the village all his life. He drove a truck long hours in a cab got to him

Later he worked at Sprout. Duffy's face is doubtless a fan go players. Absent from just 1

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Of the about 140 people that "Duffy" knows most of them by

Fans of the instant tickets to bingo. He started selling tickets adding to the popular fund-raising "I just like to help," Duffy s

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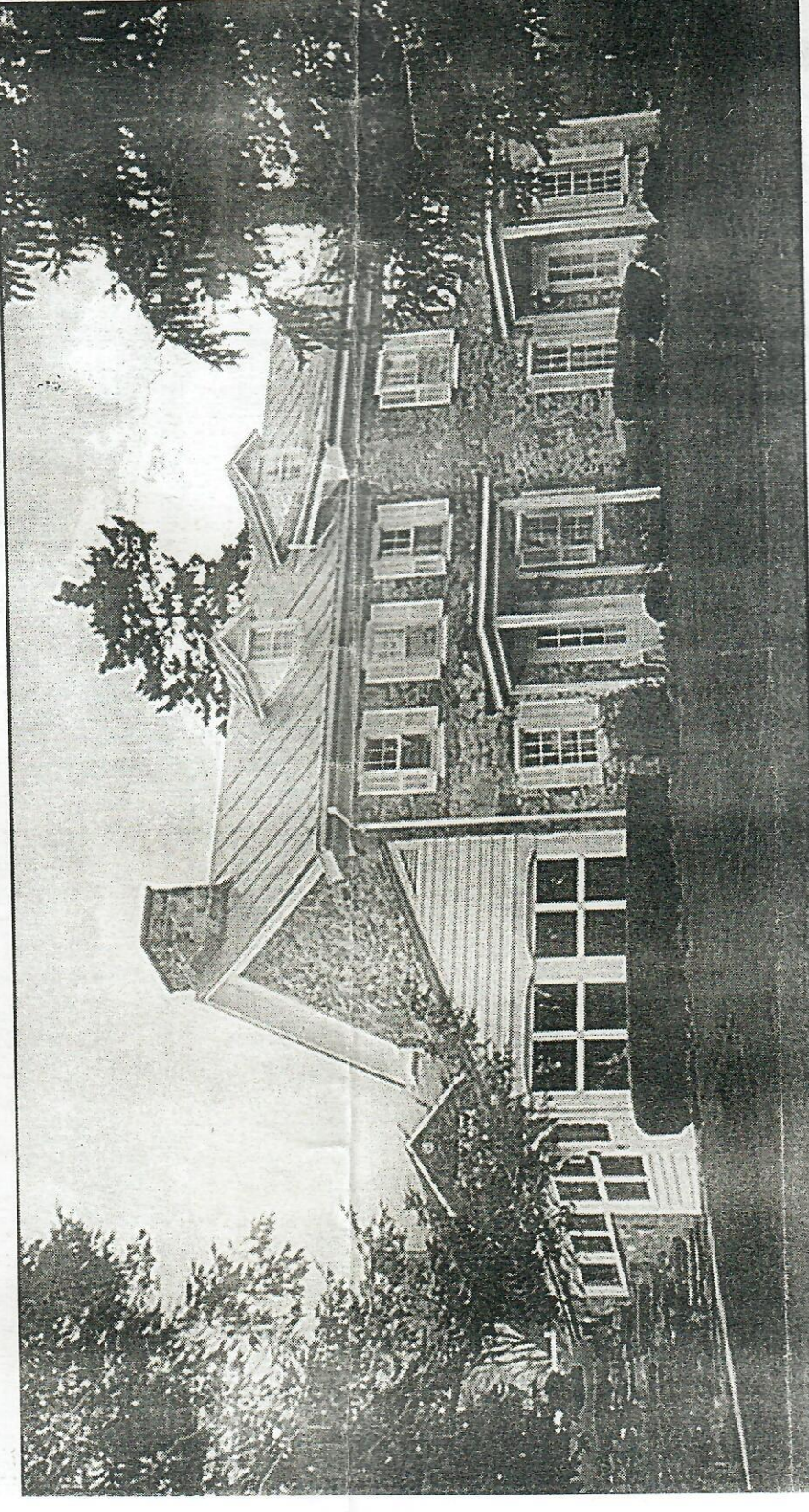
The Brants raised two boys in this maze of stairs and curving walls. "It would break my heart to leave," Mrs. Brant unusually constructed home said.

In the 1860s it was the Bulls Head Tavern, and in the early 1900s it was a tea room.

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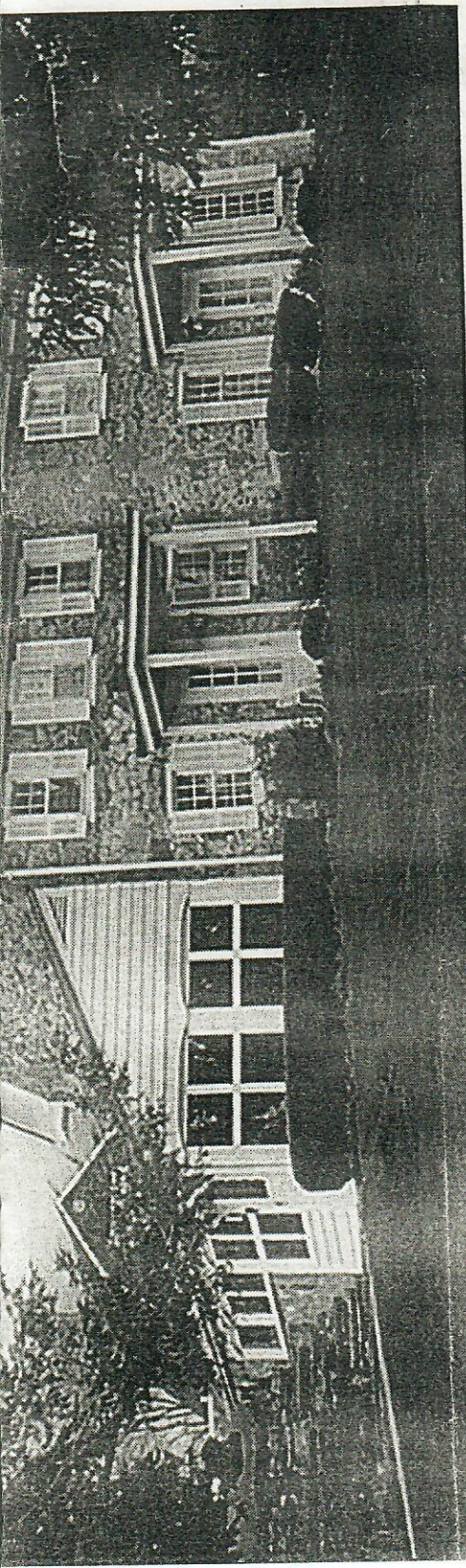
'House of Many Stairs' Once Underground Railroad Stop



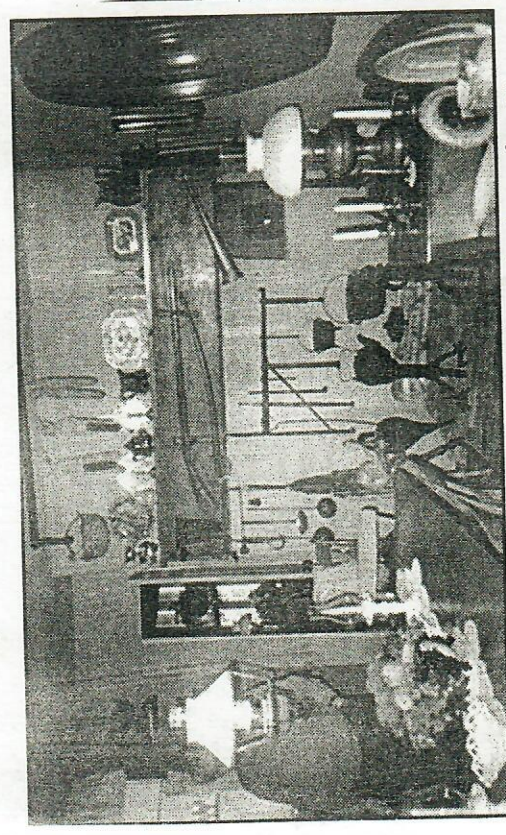
THE HOUSE OF MANY STAIRS provided a unique hiding place for slaves led to freedom by the Underground Railroad. To enter any room in the house, a person must go up or down a set of stairs.



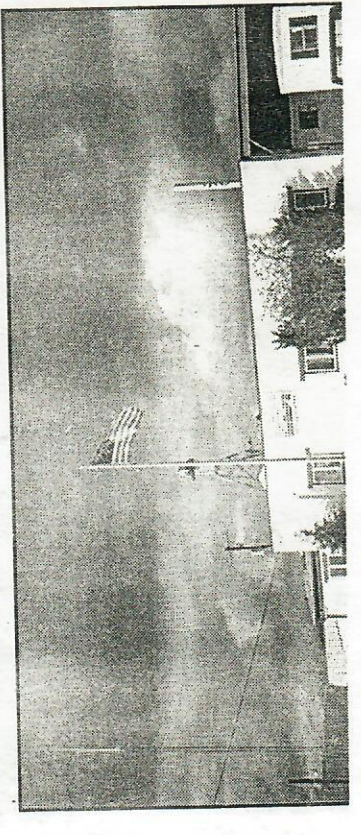
roof shoveling snow off last winter. Palmatier said, with a chuckle, "Duffy said as he approached me to slow down a bit but he's definitely I ought to keep going," he said. Born on a farm near the village of Dale all his life. He drove a truck for long hours in a cab got to him. Later he worked at Sprout-Palmatier company. He spent 29 years there. Duffy's face is doubtless a familiar one to go players. Absent from just 12 days this season is the only thing that has happened. "I even came down for it (bingo). Of the about 140 people that play, Duffy knows most of them by name. Fans of the instant tickets I play at of bingo. He started selling tickets adding to the popular fund-raiser. "I just like to help," Duffy said.



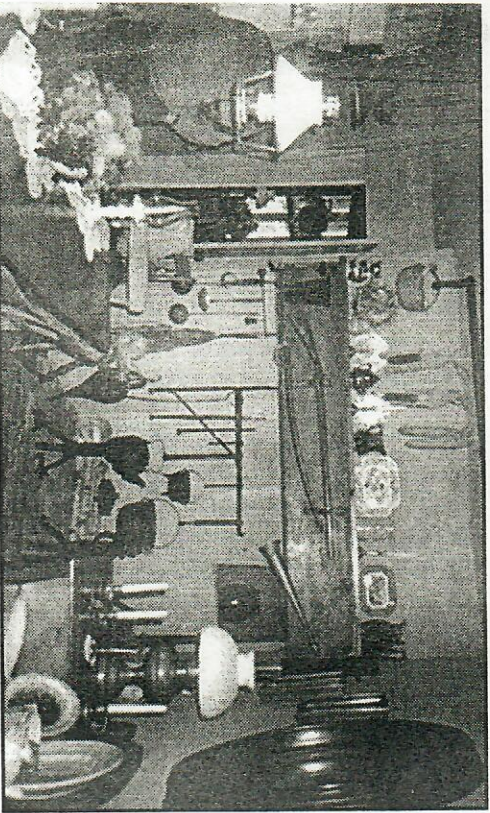
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MR. AND MRS. ELWOOD BRANT have owned the home for 56 years and have decorated it with antiques from various time periods.



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LINEAR DYNAMICS INC. set up shop in Pennsdale in 1965 after buying the property from Youngs Industries. The company manufactures traffic safety markings and employs about 35 people. Its asphaltic expansion joints are some of the most sought after in the country.

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