

HOME FOLKS

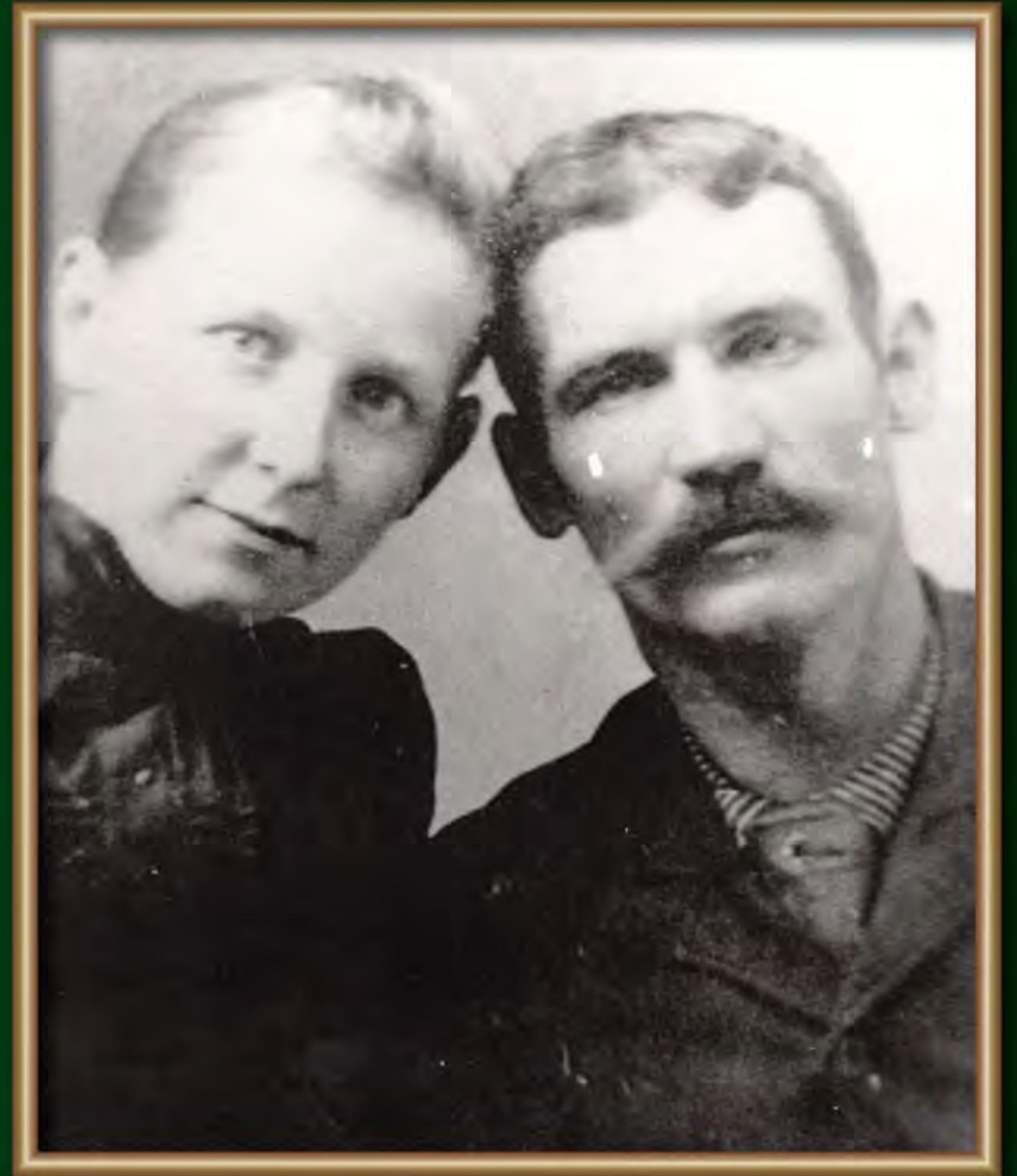
Everyday Life in Holt's Hollow

1924 - 1945

Emma Confer Watson (1876-1945) wrote a column for the Centre Democrat under the heading "Holt's Hollow" for 20 years. Covering three decades of rural life in Boggs Township, she faithfully reported the comings and goings of her friends and relatives in weekly columns and also recorded her daily activities in personal diaries.

Emma Confer married John Thomas Watson in 1894, and together they raised 12 children on the family farm. Her daily chores seemed endless: baking bread, pies, and cakes; doing laundry, canning, gardening, sewing, and making soap. It is hard to imagine when she found time to write her columns or keep a diary.

While the daily rhythms of farm life remained constant, her rural community gradually changed as more people left the hollow for education and work. By the 1930s, she regularly describes absent family members who return to visit with "home folks." Emma continued to write her columns until her death on January 15, 1945.



Wedding picture of Emma Confer and John Thomas Watson, December 18, 1894.



Watson Family, c. 1938.

HOLT'S HOLLOW.
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miles, of Fleming, greeted friends at this place on Saturday also attended the funeral of Mrs. William Watson, of Chestnut Grove.
 Mrs. Clair Shawley, of Yarnell, called on friends at this place on Saturday.
 Netta and Helene Watson were callers at the Heaton home on Sunday.
 Lee Johnson made a business trip to Bellefonte on Monday.
 Mrs. Clyde Watson and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Lucas attended the funeral of Mrs. Jacob Robb at Howard on Saturday.
 John Yarnell, and Furst Harnish, of Snow Shoe, visited friends at this place last week.
 Quite a number of our school children are missing school on account of the measles.
 Mrs. Grace Lucas called at the Robert Lucas home at Fairview on Friday.
 Preaching services next Sunday at 11 a. m.

Centre Democrat, February 10, 1927.

Mrs. Watson will be sadly missed in this community, where she spent her entire married life. She was a friend to everyone and was always ready to help anyone who was in need. She will also be sadly missed in the church services where she has been an active member and one of the faithful few for many years.

- Centre Democrat, January 25, 1945



Emma Watson Diary, 1924.

Exhibit photos from collections of: Centre County Historical Society; Advent Historical Society; Pennsylvania Lumber Museum; Library of Congress; Army Signal Corps.
 Additional photos provided by Anna Allison, Twila Newman, Marion Weaver, and Judy Hefty.

1920's

Emma's newspaper columns and diaries from the 1920s describe everyday life on the small, mostly self-sufficient farms of rural Boggs Township. Community members regularly came together to worship, celebrate birthdays, and assist each other with seasonal tasks. Social life included "pleasant callers," family reunions, and visiting friends and family.

Butcherings

When the weather turned cold in November, December, and January, families and neighbors gathered to help each other butcher livestock, often processing several pigs or a cow in a day. Everyone pitched in to make scrapple, render the fat into lard, make sausages, or prepare meat to be canned, salted, or smoked. Despite the hard work, it was a social occasion for the whole family.

Mr. and Mrs. D.F. Poorman, Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher and children of Bellefonte, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Heaton of Bellefonte, Forrest Aikens, Mrs. May McClincy, Mabel Heaton and friend of Sunbury; Fleming Poorman, Jacob McClincy attended the butchering at Edward Heaton's Thursday.
Centre Democrat, December 4, 1924



Men butchering, Boyd Johnson Farm, Buffalo Run, 1920s.



Barn raising, probably at Lee Johnson farm 1924.

A New Barn

In her diary on June 25, 1924, Emma recorded that "rain in p.m. blew Lee's barn down." A tornado at Lee Johnson's farm took the upper part of his log barn but spared the log house. A few days later, she noted that Lee went to Curtin to see a barn that he dismantled and rebuilt on the old foundation.

Lee Johnson erected his new barn on Wednesday with a crowd of about one hundred men, women and children.
Centre Democrat, August 11, 1924

Family Gatherings

Families visited back and forth on a regular basis, but birthday anniversaries, in particular, were marked by special gatherings and parties.

Quite a number of friends and relatives gathered at the Harry Johnson home on Sunday in honor of Mr. Johnson's birthday.
Centre Democrat, October 30, 1924



Picnic gathering with Harry Johnson family, 1920s.

A jolly surprise party was held at the Raymond Fetzer home on Saturday evening in honor of Raymond's birthday...most all the young folks were masked in Halloween costumes which added much to the entertainment of all. The evening was spent in playing games and about 10 o'clock refreshments were served and all departed wishing Mr. Fetzer many happy birthdays.
Centre Democrat, October 31, 1929

1930's

Emma's diary for 1931 continues to record the daily chores of gardening, canning, and sewing, but the Great Depression brought tragedy and disruption to the community. Two suicides occurred that year: Sam Schulz, a stone quarry worker, killed himself and his wife; Raymond Fetzner, a farmer, shot himself. Young people left home to find employment wherever they could. Some joined Civilian Conservation Corps camps, while others looked for factory work in Altoona, Pennsylvania; Buffalo, New York; and Warren, Ohio.

Hard times also brought neighbors and friends together for mutual assistance and entertainment. Appearing regularly in Emma's columns were reports of quilting parties, birthday parties, and kitchen showers for newlyweds that combined social occasions with "useful gifts" and practical sewing sessions.

Weddings

Weddings were usually small, private events, but Holts Hollow folks still carried on the tradition of serenading a newly married couple with raucous music and pranks. Emma Watson refers to the Callithumpians, meaning a band of discordant instruments or a noisy parade, probably from an English dialect word gallithumpian. The practice is more commonly referred to in Appalachia and the Midwest as a shivaree from the French word chivari.



Eleanor Johnson and Alexander Franco, 1936.

The Calithumpians did fine on Friday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Miles Stauffer, also gave them an old fashioned sleigh ride.

Centre Democrat, February 6, 1936

Many friends and relatives gathered at the Johnson home on Saturday evening with cow-bells and other musical instruments in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Franco who have been married recently. The bride and groom treated the crowd very kindly with candy and cigars.

Centre Democrat, December 7, 1937

The Calithumpians gathered at the Albert Young home on Friday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McCloskey who were married recently.

Centre Democrat, April 6, 1939

CCC Camps

From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps employed young men to plant trees and improve state and federal parks. Charles Force, Milford Fetzner, Fred Watson, Howard and Eddie Burd, and Linn Johnson all joined this federal program for unemployed young men, ages 18-25. They earned \$30 a month and were expected to send \$25 home.



CCC Camp, Rookwood. Courtesy Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Collection.

Howard Burd of Camp Hyner spent the week with relatives.

Centre Democrat, March 15, 1934

Fred Watson of the CCC camp at Somerset spent the weekend with home folks.

Centre Democrat, November 15, 1934

Howard Burd left on Friday for Altoona to take the examination to join the CCC camp.

Centre Democrat, September 5, 1935

Eddie Burd and Linn Johnson left on Friday to join CCC camp.

Centre Democrat, April 20, 1939



CCC Workers outside camp building, Dyer Farm. Courtesy Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Collection.

Stretching a Dollar

With money scarce, many companies offered advertising promotions and incentives to attract customers. Emma and her friends formed a Larkin Club to order from the Larkin Company of Buffalo, New York, and earn premiums. Emma also urged her readers to renew their newspaper subscriptions so they could earn premiums to help support the church with a "pot of gold" promotion from The Red Arrow Service Corporation of Springfield, Illinois.

Win \$100 for church.

Now is an opportune time to renew your subscriptions, if you have not already attended to that duty, in view of the fact that for each year of renewal the Centre Democrat will give until June 10, 2500 votes towards winning that Red Arrow Bag of Gold, to be awarded to some organization, and for each new subscription, 5,000 votes will be given. Here is the opportunity to help your church win \$100 in gold.

Centre Democrat, May 29, 1930



Red Arrow Dollar, Red Arrow Service Company.



Red Arrow sign held by church members in the Advent cemetery, c. 1930. Courtesy Judy Hefty.

1940's

Centre County residents answered the call to serve when the United States entered World War II in December 1941. Emma's columns report enlistments, visits home on leave, and news from the front. Many served overseas. Robert Confer died in Italy on June 3, 1944, at Anzio and is buried in the Sicily-Rome Cemetery in Nettuno. Others, including David F. Johnson and Harry Johnson, were wounded. Many Holts Hollow veterans returned home and are buried in the Advent Cemetery and other local burial grounds. Each year, their service is honored by placing flags on their graves for Memorial Day.

Frank and Clair Johnson left for Army service this week. Centre Democrat, September 3, 1942



Clair Johnson stationed in army post, Iceland.



Clair Johnson in diesel training, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mrs. Edith Burd received word that her son, Pvt. Ray E. Burd had arrived in Ireland. Centre Democrat, June 3, 1943



Troop transport ships.

Wedding bells were ringing in our village last week when Pvt. Frank Johnson of Florida, and Laura Confer of Runville, were quietly united in marriage in the little white church on the hill by Rev. Shuey of Bellefonte. Congratulations. Centre Democrat, June 17, 1943



Wedding photograph of Frank Johnson and Laura Confer at Advent Church, June 11, 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Johnson received a telegram from overseas stating that their son Harry, who was wounded is still a patient in the hospital. Centre Democrat, November 1944



Nurse administers intravenous fluid to a wounded American soldier somewhere in France, U.S. Army Signal Corps, 1944.



Advent Cemetery grave of Harry Johnson, decorated with Memorial Day flag.

If any of our boys in the service are so lucky as to receive the Centre Democrat, we take this means of telling you that you are not forgotten at this Christmas season. We are still praying for you at the little white church on the hill, and hope that you will be with us again next year at Christmas time Merry Christmas to all. Centre Democrat, December 21, 1944

FARMING

During the 1920s to 1940s, Emma and her surrounding neighbors still lived on self-sufficient farms that grew field crops of wheat, oats, and corn; raised vegetables and fruits to preserve for the winter; kept livestock and chickens; and lumbered in the winter months. Her columns and diary reflect the seasonal tasks of farm life that remained unchanged into the 1940s.

Winter: January, February, and March

Winter months were spent skidding logs and hauling paper wood to the mill or cutting wood for fence poles and stove wood. Butcherings took advantage of the cold weather. By the end of March, farmers were ready to haul manure and begin plowing as the weather permitted.

Most of Our farmers have begun their spring plowing.
Centre Democrat, March 26, 1925

The wet weather is keeping the farmers back with their plowing, also making bad roads.
Centre Democrat, March 24, 1927



Holts Hollow farms in winter, undated.



Cutting Wood, early 1900s.



Lee Johnson, Jr., hauling manure with new Cleveland tractor, 1939. Courtesy Anna Allison.

Spring: April, May, and June

By April, farm tasks turned to preparing fields and planting crops. Oats were sown in May. Emma sowed her hot bed in April, and by June she had planted an array of vegetables that included potatoes, beans, tomatoes, beets, cauliflower, rutabagas, cabbage, peppers, cucumbers, and soup beans. The spring was also spent picking strawberries, raspberries, and cherries.

The farmers are very busy planting corn and pumpkins.
Centre Democrat, May 24, 1928

Summer: July, August, and September

July was spent cutting and hauling hay and harvesting wheat. By August and early September, the oats were ready to cut and the garden produced bushels of vegetables to sell, trade, or preserve. Berry picking continued with blackberries and elderberries later in the summer and early apples, pears, and peaches in September.



Hauling hay, Lee Johnson farm, 1937.



Team of horses, c. 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Watson and children and Mrs. Russell Confer of Milesburg enjoyed a huckleberry picnic on the mountain on Tuesday.
Centre Democrat, July 30, 1925

Fine weather for wheat and hay.
Centre Democrat, August 11, 1924

Apple butter parties have started in this vicinity.
Centre Democrat, September 10, 1925

Mr. Way of Fleming finished threshing in our vicinity last week.
Centre Democrat, October 18, 1928

Potato raising is about over. Corn husking will be next in order.
Centre Democrat, October 30, 1924

The hunters enjoyed a nice tracking snow on Monday. Some of our folks attended a butchering at D.F. Poorman's at Runville on Tuesday.
Centre Democrat, November 27, 1924



Lee Johnson and son, 1930s.

Threshing Buckwheat from Stack, near Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1928. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



Fall: October, November, and December

With buckwheat and oats harvested, the threshing machines were moved from farm to farm to help thresh the grain. Then fields were plowed to plant wheat for next spring's crop. Later harvests from the garden included cabbage for "crout" (sauerkraut) and apples for cider and apple butter. As the weather turned colder, hunting rabbits and deer, butchering livestock, and logging began.

PRESERVING *The* HARVEST

The food grown or gathered had to be preserved to feed the family over the winter. By the 1920s, canning was the main way to preserve fresh fruits and vegetables for winter use, but Emma still used traditional methods of drying, smoking, and pickling to preserve meats and vegetables.

Canning

John Landis Mason's 1858 patent for a glass canning jar with threaded screw top became the model for the Mason jars manufactured by hundreds of different brands in the 1900s using various types of lids. The process entailed heating the filled jars to kill any bacteria and then creating an airtight seal. In addition to pickles, string beans, pumpkins, beets, fruits and berries, dandelions, and corn, Emma also records canning meat from butcherings and venison from hunters.



Picking beans, 1942.



Albina Johnson canning beans, 1942.

Pickling

Pickling used either a brine of salt and vinegar or natural fermentation using only salt to preserve fresh vegetables and other foods. Emma reports making dill, mustard, and bread and butter pickles. She also records making crock pickles. Other items included pickled beets and pickled pigs' legs. She made sauerkraut from cabbage in barrels. Some of the apple cider they made was turned into vinegar.



Pickling crocks.



Hanging meat.

Making Preserves

Cooking fruits with sugar was another way to preserve the summer harvest. Emma reports making catsup, chili, peach preserves, grape and elderberry jelly, quince honey, and apple butter. Apple butter was a mainstay of their winter diet.

*Apple butter parties have started in this vicinity.
Centre Democrat, September 10, 1925*

*Mrs. Orvis Watson and children,
Mrs. Geraldine Kelly and Mrs. John Watson spent
Thursday evening at the Clyde Watson home in
Milesburg, where Mrs. Austin Miller,
Mrs. Minnie Roberts, Mrs. Russell Confer,
Mrs. Mae Luca, Mrs. Mina Weaver, of Milesburg,
all spent the evening in cutting up apples for
apple butter. Ginger bread, whipped cream,
doughnuts and coffee were served as refreshments.
Centre Democrat, October 9, 1941*

*Mrs. Edith Baird of Milesburg attended the apple
schnitzing at Lee Johnson home.
Centre Democrat, November 1, 1934*



Marie Johnson milking, 1930s.



Richard Johnson making ice cream, 1940s.

Milk

Milk was made into butter or occasionally a special treat of ice cream when ice was available or there was plenty of snow.

QUILTING

Women used time spent indoors during the winter months to piece cotton quilts, assemble patches for woolen comforters called haps, and sew rags for rugs. By early spring, they gathered for parties to quilt pieced tops or knot haps. Although traditional quilting continued from the 19th century to the 1920s, printed quilt patterns in magazines and newspapers spurred an increased interest in quilting in the 1930s. The number of quilting parties in Holts Hollow during the Depression years reflected this renewed popular interest in quilting. Emma reports that they often worked on both a quilt and a comforter, sometimes naming the quilt pattern. She published several poems in her columns describing these festivities, typically held in March or April.



Flower Garden Quilt, Albina Johnson, a traditional pattern popular in the 1930s.



Wool Hap, Ethel Watson, undated.

Mrs. John Watson and Mrs. Lee Johnson and two daughters attended the quilting at Clair Shawley home at Yarnell on Wednesday of last week. A large company of ladies gathered together and did some good needle work on a comfort and flower garden quilt. The dinner was fine and enjoyed by all.

Centre Democrat, March 18, 1937

*Last Thursday they say was a cloudy day
Mrs. Orvis Watson so kind and so good
Gave a quilting party and lots of good food.
The first to arrive about daylight
was Mrs. Blair Shawley so neat and polite.
Then Mrs. Lee Johnson always in luck,
Came riding along in a little Ford truck.
Just then the day turned dark and rainy
Who came from Bellefonte but Mrs. Joe Baney
With Mrs. Sweitzer and Mrs. Rhoades
Which made Bob Baney a nice carload.
Then Mrs. John Watson and daughter Polly,
Was ever a crowd of quilters more jolly.
The next on the scene was Mrs. John Kelly,
Who after dinner stepped in the jelly.
The ice was all gone and she couldn't come skatin
So down the road walked Mrs. Ed Heaton.
Mrs. Ida Johnson came next in order
And succeeded in quilting three yards of the order.
Then last but not least came over the bump
Mrs. Mack Reese and her son from Gum Stump.
Some of the ladies at the comfort did work
While those at the quilt their task did not shirk.
The comfort was finished about supper time
and the quilt the next day, don't you think we did fine?
Some departed from home in the dark of the moon
And sorry the quilting was over so soon.*

Centre Democrat, March 14, 1935

Newspaper Patterns

Quilt patterns, published regularly in at least two local newspapers in the 1930s under the byline of Alice Brooks, Household Arts, were actually issued by Reader Mail, a New York-based parent company for needlework and craft patterns sold under the fictitious names of Laura Wheeler and Alice Brooks. In addition to the printed patterns, subscribers could send for detailed instructions. These patterns disseminated new designs and also helped establish consistent names for traditional patterns.

Mrs. George Robb entertained some lady friends at a quilting party on Wednesday of last week.... The ladies did fine work all day on two beautiful quilts, a flower garden and wedding ring.

Centre Democrat, April 15, 1937

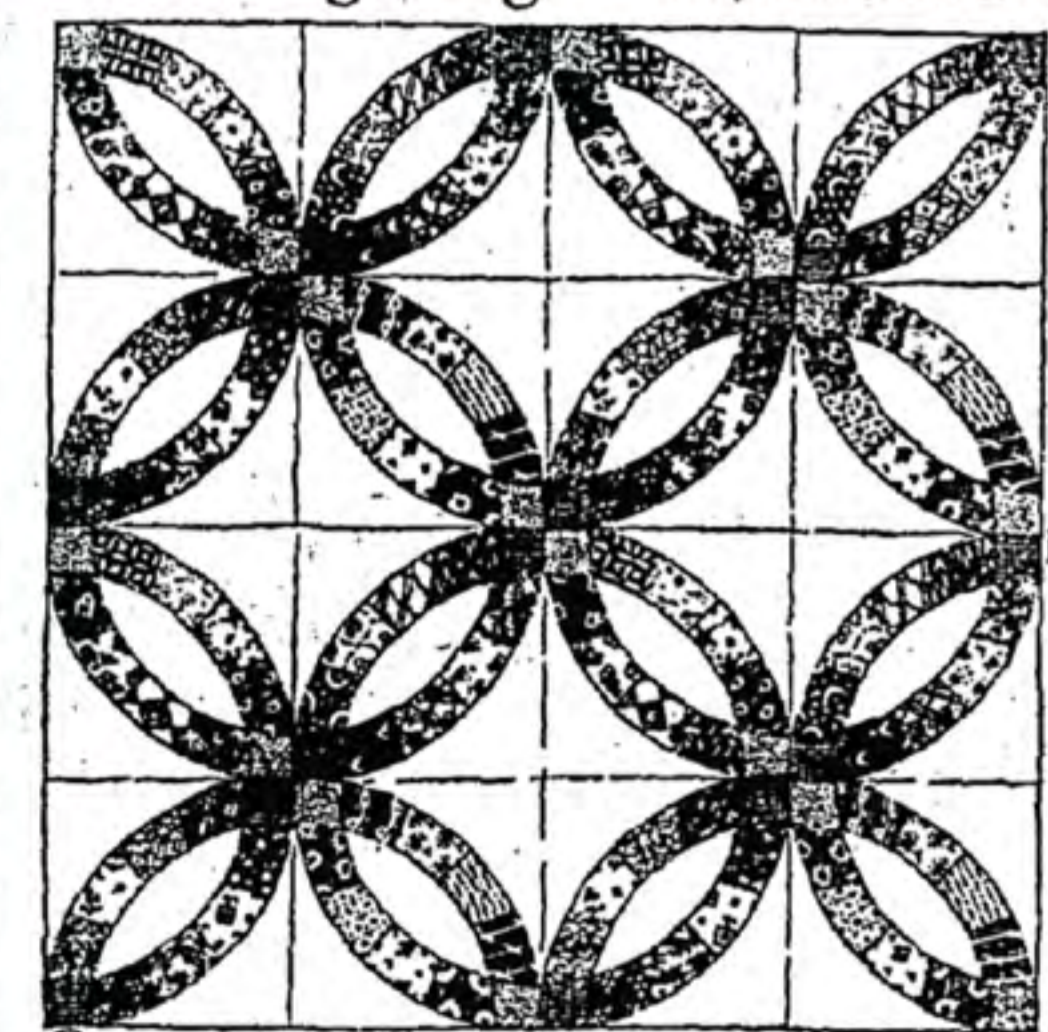


Nine patch Ohio Star Quilt, Albina Johnson, 1930s-1940s. A traditional 19th-century pattern associated with Oberlin College.

Quilters and visitors at the John Kelley home in Moose Run...did fine work on a lovely star quilt and delicious refreshments were served.

Centre Democrat, April 20, 1939

Wedding Ring Motif an Old Favorite



Household Arts by Alice Brooks

Make This Your Gayest Scrap Quilt Double Wedding Ring

"Happy is the Bride," the bride-to-be, or bride of Yesteryear who pieces this quilt—an old-time favorite. Its double wedding-ring motif is one to make you love, honor and cherish it—always! A most economical pattern too, for it's loveliest when pieced of scraps, just "helter-skelter." The variety of the materials makes the work most fascinating—you'll find yourself making rapid progress with this—your Heirloom-to-be! In pattern 5620 you will find the Block

Chart, an illustration of the finished block in actual size, showing contrasting fabrics; accurately drawn pattern pieces; an illustration of the entire quilt; three color schemes; step-by-step directions for making the quilt, and exact yardage requirements. To obtain this pattern send 10 cents in stamps or coin (coin preferred) to The Lock Haven Express, Household Arts Dept. Be sure to write plainly your NAME, ADDRESS and PATTERN NUMBER.

Double Wedding Ring Quilt Pattern, Alice Brooks, Household Arts Lock Haven Express, November 21, 1936.

HUNTING *And* FISHING

Hunting and fishing traditions played an important role for the Holts Hollow men who fished and hunted rabbits, turkeys, and other small game. The annual deer hunt was a major event when families and friends gathered as crews in their hunting camps in the mountains. Centre County was among the top four Pennsylvania counties in annual deer harvest in the 1930s. In 1931, the local newspaper reported on the deer season from December 1 to December 15 as the largest kill ever, with as many as 3,000 bucks and does killed by more than 7,000 resident and non-resident licensed hunters. Six deer was the limit for each camp, regardless of how many men participated. Emma reports on the success of local hunters in her columns from small game in October and November to the deer hunt in December.

John Watson fishing with his grandson, 1920s.



Orv Watson's Hunting Camp Song
(Sung to tune of "Wabash Cannonball")
c. 1943

He came over from the Snow Shoe mountain on a cold November day
He drove up to Orv Watson's, he could hear old Orvy say
There's a guy over in Gum Stump, he's long and he's tall
He moved in from Ohio, and he hunts bucks every fall

He said Orv get your red suit on, get your guns and shells and all
It's time to go to Big Hayes Run for the big game hunt this fall
So we loaded up the camp kit and bid farewell to all
And headed out to Big Hayes Run for the big game hunt this fall

Hear the mighty roar of the engine in the Big Hayes Cannonball
As she climbs the way to the mountains for the big game hunt this fall
Now her owner is Orv Watson, he's the happiest of all
As he climbs up to the driver's seat of the Big Hayes Cannonball

Now Milford is our captain, he's known quite well to all
Made a crash landing on forbidden with his ol' dump truck one fall
And here's to Irish Fitzgerald, oh my but he is tall
He'd reach half way to Orviston if he would ever fall

Down in the old forbidden you can hear Jim Womer squall
He's drivin' them down the hillside for us to shoot this fall
There's six bucks hangin' on the pole, Ken Lucas killed 'em all
And I won't get to shoot one till the big game hunt next fall

There's a verse for Nevin it's the darndest one of all
He went up into Maine and missed two dandy bucks one fall

There's a guy named Lucas, the one we all call Phil
While walking down the road one day he took an awful spill
He rolled and groaned and tumbled and then he said to me
I can't go any farther Orv, I b'lieve I broke my knee

There's a verse for Richard Fyfe the youngest one of all
To join this band of mountaineers to hunt for bucks each fall
He'd been up to Alaska boys, and all out through the west
But when deer season comes around he likes Big Hayes Run the best

Now here's a verse for Marlin Reese, better known as Son
Took a near-cut into camp one night and thought he'd have some fun
Now the whole crew wasn't with him boys, you see there was just four
And he whistled as he walked along "I've been down this road before."

Here's a verse for Domer Burne, the funniest one of all
About his trip to Big Hayes Run to hunt for bucks last fall
He left his home in Tyrone with his ol' companion Jim
There was nothing in that valley that could stay ahead of him
("Get outa the road cars, we're goin' for bucks.")

And when he finally landed out in Big Hayes Run that fall
He thought when that old Remington cracked a buck was sure to fall
But he went up in the "Dutchman" where it wasn't quite so steep
And a big eight-point buck came out and found ol' Domer fast asleep

When poor Hook Stauffer gets back home he'll hear his woman squall
"Well Miles you lost a whole week's work, and you didn't get a buck at all."
Now huntin season's over and I feel like I could bawl
For the fun and frolics over till the big-game hunt next fall

Now the last two verses of this song are the saddest ones of all
For Jerry's still in the hospital boys, and he can't be here this fall
And then it's sad to tell you that Dad won't be here this fall
But he'll live in our memories at the big-game hunt each fall
So fare thee well my comrades, good luck to one and all
May the Good Lord bless and keep you till the big-game hunt next fall
(Only 341 more days) Wa Hoo!!!!

Most all the men in this vicinity enjoyed much sport in the mountains looking for turkeys.
Centre Democrat, November 5, 1925

Several of our men and boys were out after small game on Monday but a few rabbits were all that was reported in our village.
Centre Democrat, November 4, 1937

Hunting is all the go now among men folks.
Centre Democrat, November 3, 1927



Deer Hunt, Big Hayes Run Camp, 1940s.
Left to right, Nevin Watson, Marlin Reese, Ralph Kelly, Dick Fyfe, Jim Woomer, Orvis Watson.



Six deer limit, 1930s.

Reports from the Big Run hunting camp; a buck the first day of the season.
Centre Democrat, December 9, 1934

The members of the Lucas and Watson camp returned home on Friday with six fine deer and the middle branch camp brought in five.
Centre Democrat, December 9, 1937



Big Hayes Run Camp, near Orviston, 1930s.

ADVENT CHURCH

The Advent Church regularly appeared in Emma's diaries and columns at the center of community life. She reminded her readers of Sunday School classes, preaching services, and revivals and reported on social and fundraising events like picnics, festivals, box socials, harvest homes, and special concerts. Congregation members frequently interacted with other denominations, including the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bellefonte, the Milesburg Baptist Church, and other groups that were similarly allied with the holiness and evangelical movements. During the 1930s, church members increasingly took part in national religious movements like Christian Endeavor, a program for young people; W.A.C. (Women Active in Christ), a study group organized by Free Will Baptists; and the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union). Protracted religious revivals, with services every night for several weeks, became annual events in November.



Advent Church and Cemetery, 1933.



Advent Church Interior, April 1941.



Walking home from church, 1933.

Our Sunday School picnic will be held in the grove near the Advent church on Saturday Sept. 19th. Everybody welcome.
Centre Democrat, September 10, 1925



Sunday School Class with Emma Watson and Albina Johnson, 1930s.



St. Paul's AME Church, Bellefonte.

Advent missionaries preached at the AME Church in Bellefonte in the 1840s. The minister may have been William H. Mills, a prominent member of St. Paul's AME Church in Bellefonte, best known as the grandfather of the Mills Brothers singing group.

The colored minister of Bellefonte will hold services at the Advent Church on Friday evening July 2. Everybody welcome.
Centre Democrat, June 21, 1926



John T. Watson, Dick Fyfe, Gerry Heverley, Seymour Confer, Rev. Shuey, and Mr. Tressler at the church, July 1934. Mr. Tressler is probably Robert Leonard Tressler, originally from Bellefonte (1890-1993), a Methodist Episcopal minister. Citing doctrinal differences with the Methodist Church in 1921, he united with the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, part of the holiness movement.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at the Advent cemetery.
Centre Democrat, May 28, 1931



Memorial Day Service in Advent Cemetery, 1933.



Christian Endeavor youth group at festival, July, 1934.

The W.A.C. class will hold a festival on the lawn near the Advent church on Saturday July 7, for the benefit of the church.
Centre Democrat, June 28, 1934



Setting up church event, 1930s.