

Commemorative



Edition 1759 ★ 2009

# Celebrate 250 Years



ON THE WAY TO CAMPBELLTOWN. PA.

# Campbelltown Pennsylvania

Past & Present: A Visual Tour

By Don Rhoads, Jr.



# Campbelltown

Pennsylvania

Past & Present: A Visual Tour

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*This work is dedicated to the memory of my father, Donald Rhoads, Sr. (1941-1999)  
whose devotion and dedication as a volunteer to his community provided a great  
example to a grateful son.*





Foreward.....

As I was laying out the plans for this anniversary edition, my original idea was to create a history of Campbelltown through vintage picture postcards, produced by Harvey S. Lineaweaver, the village's early twentieth century photographer. Lineaweaver's lens captured images of the many people, places, and community events happening in the village. Using a photographic stock with a postcard back, he preserved them for posterity.

After selecting the several examples of Lineaweaver's work, as well as a few others of interest, I presented my concept for this book to our 250th Anniversary Committee for their input. After some discussion, a suggestion was made to make this endeavor more interesting by taking a "then and now" approach to the work. After sharing a draft of the outline, the committee approved resoundingly, and the daunting task of researching, writing and organizing the information began.

While reading this compilation of our pictorial history, take notice that the images are arranged in order of locations from east to west. With the assistance of committee member and amateur photographer, Lily Horst, the present view of each card has been included as a comparison. Some locations have changed only slightly in appearance, like the Gruber Home for example while others have either been changed drastically or entirely replaced with a different structure, such as the Rising Sun or Leshner's / Gingrich's Bakery.

As with any publication, typographical errors are omitted, and facts confirmed. This work reflects my best efforts for accuracy. I wish to thank Rebecca Henderson for the time she devoted to proof reading the text. Her assistance is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the 250th Anniversary Committee, Township of South Londonderry, especially supervisor Rugh Henderson and manager Tom Ernharth, and everyone who contributed to this publication's development and production. Without the interest and support of these fine people, this project would not have become a reality.

In closing, I sincerely hope that you will find this book interesting and educational, and that it will spark an interest in the historic nature of the village we call Campbelltown. We have a proud heritage that should not be forgotten.

John Campbell, a Scots-Irish immigrant came to Pennsylvania sometime before 1751. He settled in the area then known as Derry Township, Lancaster County, PA. Campbell, a farmer, obtained a warrant for 100 acres from Thomas and Richard Penn, proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania in 1752. After returning his survey, which grew to 352 acres, he patented [purchased] the property on August 6, 1759. Here Campbell laid out various lots subject to the ground rent system, and the village of Campbelltown was established.

After John Campbell's death between 1775 and 1776, the land transferred to his only brother Patrick Campbell of Peter's Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Peter Grubb, Iron master of the Cornwall Furnace, purchased the same tract, ground rents and other lands in 1779.

When Robert Coleman, a native of Ireland and local ironmaster, began to acquire the Grubb's interest in the Cornwall furnace and ore banks, the town of Campbelltown and the 352 acre tract became his possession in 1780.

Philip Wolfersberger, a native of Schaefferstown, purchased the same 352 acres from Coleman in 1785. The Campbelltown tract was eventually split into four parcels amongst Wolfersberger's sons, Peter, John, Frederick and Philip about 1809.

A branch of the U. S. Post Office was established in the village about 1811 with John Wolfersberger serving as the first postmaster. It remains some 198 years later, providing an identity that the village still retains.

Campbelltown's government has always lied with the township. Originally part of Derry Township Lancaster County, it would become part of Londonderry Township, Lancaster County in 1768; Londonderry Township, Dauphin County in 1785; and after the formation of Lebanon County in 1813, part of Londonderry Township. After the division of Londonderry into North and South, it became part of South Londonderry Township in 1894.

taverns were present. By 1875, there were approximately 20 dwellings, 1 store, 2 hotels, a drug store, shoe shop, tailor shop and a wagon-making facility with blacksmith shop. The twentieth century showed the most noticeable increase with housing establishments such as Dissinger and Leshner's addition to Campbelltown in 1907, and the lots of Henry K. Kreider and Harvey A. Alger in the 1920's, which helped to grow the eastern portion of the village. Arrivals of major housing developments such as Country Squire Estates, Londonderry Village, Thistledown and Springbrook Farms provided the most growth for the village in the latter part of the Twentieth and early part of the twenty-first centuries.

In Campbelltown's early years, the religious needs were supplied by two area congregations – Derry Presbyterian in nearby Derry Township, Dauphin County, PA and Bindnagle's Lutheran in North Londonderry Township. With the arrival of the Wolfersberger Family to the village, a plot was set aside for a church, which was built in 1792. The structure was used by both the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations. Soon others would follow. Today, there are five churches in the Community.

The village's social growth can be measured by the many groups that were established in Campbelltown. The Fire Company was organized in 1925, an American Legion Post during World War II and a chapter of the Lion's Club in 1952. All remain committed to the surrounding community. Other organizations formed included a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop, a PTA, a Grange, 4H group, a Jaycees group, and the Old Barn and Rifle Club, among others.

The village's amenities grew, especially during the twentieth century with the establishment of electric lights (1916), public water (1922), natural gas (1930) and a public sewer (1980's).

Education in the village was handled by the early churches of the area. But with the enactment of the Free School Act in 1834, public schools began to be established. Under the direction of the Londonderry Township School Board.

closed all the nearby one room schools. The Center Street location closed during the 1972-73 school year. Since the merger of the Palmyra Area Joint School District and the South Londonderry Township School District in 1962, the educational needs of the village have been served by the Palmyra Area School District.

Transportation in the village has had a great past too. With the completion of the Downingtown, Ephrata, and Harrisburg Turnpike, also known as the "Horseshoe Pike," in 1819, many people found themselves traveling through the village and staying at its few hotels, including the Rising Sun. The wagon shop, opened along the main street during the Civil War, provided a means for those who had the funds to purchase a wagon or carriage to carry them beyond the village's boundaries. The arrival of public transportation in the form of a street railway in 1908 provided the citizens with the chance to travel beyond the boundaries of the village, including to the cities of Harrisburg, Lebanon, and beyond. Automobiles were beginning to dot the landscape in the early twentieth century, and with the establishment of E. O. Miller Chevrolet, the citizens gained their own place to purchase the "machine" of their choice.

area known as "Campbells Town." While the community in 1759 had a much different appearance than today's village, the name continues to honor its founder, John Campbell.

But with the passage of time, we can't be certain how long the name Campbelltown will remain. With each passing year, the area's housing growth closes the gap with its neighboring community to the north, Palmyra. Recently, residents who have a Campbelltown address received letters reminding them that a personal mailbox, with a Palmyra zip code could replace their post office box at the Post Office. Many new mailboxes are springing up along the Horseshoe Pike as a result. It is sad but true that in 2004, when a tornado ripped through the village it was said some residents learned they actually lived in Campbelltown and not Palmyra.

Hopefully the name Campbelltown will never be lost. Please take a moment and read through this brief history of our community's past as we celebrate and honor its 250th anniversary.



Picture postcards evolved from plain postal cards which in 1873 had been authorized by the United States government for rapid communication in an increasingly busy commercial world. Twenty years later when the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, an imaginative stationer was granted permission to add illustrations of buildings and artwork on the message side of those plain postal cards to be sold as souvenirs of the fair. Along with the Ferris wheel and the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag, the souvenir postcard takes its place among the legacies of that 1893 world's fair.

Until March 1, 1907, one entire side of the postcard was required for the addressee; any message from the sender had to share space with the picture on the other side. After that date, space for a message was provided alongside for the address so the picture could cover the front side entirely. The 'divided-back' postcard is the format familiar to this day.

The picture postcard has served the needs of America well during the past century. Its convenience and brevity converged with an increasing need for immediacy in communication, as well as a growing fondness for all things pictorial in those first decades of the twentieth century. It expressed pride of place and was versatile enough to show how one town was as progressive as, or different from, the next. On small slivers of cardboard were captured the main streets, new buildings, old

landmarks, and the pursuits of citizens at work and at play, thus reflecting a community's personality and interests, as well as documenting its appearance.

Campbelltown in Pennsylvania's Lebanon County is fortunate to have had such documentation during the first quarter of the last century. A talented and multi-faceted resident, Harvey S. Lineaweaver was Campbelltown's young-man-with-a-camera when both photography and the medium of the picture postcard gripped the nation's imagination. Mr. Lineaweaver, who learned much of his trade from Luther Harpel, the Lebanon Valley's pioneer photographer, recorded life in Campbelltown around the time of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Today, a century later, an effort has been made to photograph as many of those same locations, for historical perspective on the community at the time of its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Campbelltown's Sestercentennial history, therefore, illustrates how well postcards have documented yesterday's history, just as today's photographs are documenting tomorrow's history.

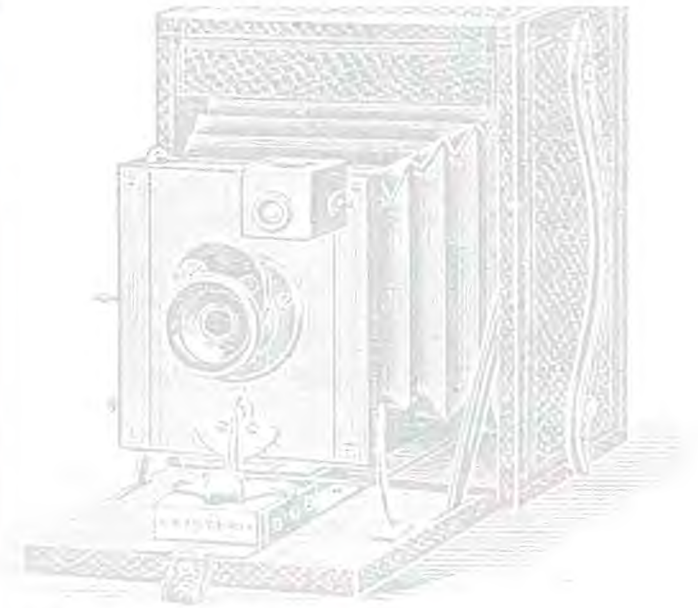
Donald R. Brown  
Institute of American Deltiology  
Myerstown, PA



**Lineaweaver  
Family -**

Harvey Lineaweaver  
(upper right) poses  
with his parents  
Adam and Emma  
and sister Helen.





**Lineaweaver -**

Harvey Lineaweaver, Campbelltown's early twentieth century photographer, used his parent's Main Street home for many of his group photographs. Utilizing the side porch, more than likely a woven rug and kitchen chairs from his mother's kitchen, and a cloth photographic backdrop, he took this photograph of (back l to r) Claude Arnold, Joe Shetter (1892-1965), Clarence Kegerreis (1894-1976), (front l to r) Simon Kettering (1893-1968) and Bill Hamilton (1894-1969).

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/Courtesy of Author



**Dissinger's Store -**

Dr. A. D. Forrest, a druggist and resident of Philadelphia, PA received this card postmarked July 22, 1908 of F. (Frank) R. Dissinger's store delivery wagon. Forrest and Dissinger were first cousins sharing a family bond through their parents and Campbelltown residents, Mary "Polly" (Dissinger) Forrest, wife of tailor Bernhard Forrest, and Edward Dissinger, founder

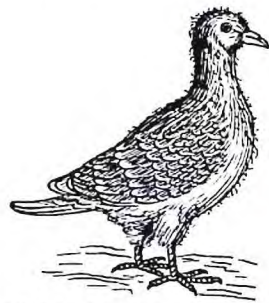




### Trolley -

On January 6, 1908, the Hummelstown and Campbellstown Street Railway service officially began to the village of Campbelltown. Thanks to Milton S. Hershey, residents could travel to surrounding communities with ease. The arrival of World War II extended the trolley's life, which finally ended on December 21, 1946. This and similar Brill-built cars originally operated in Baltimore before being purchased by Hershey in 1907. Motorman George Holzman and Harry "Whitey" Bistline posed for Harvey's camera.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/Courtesy Neil Fasnacht

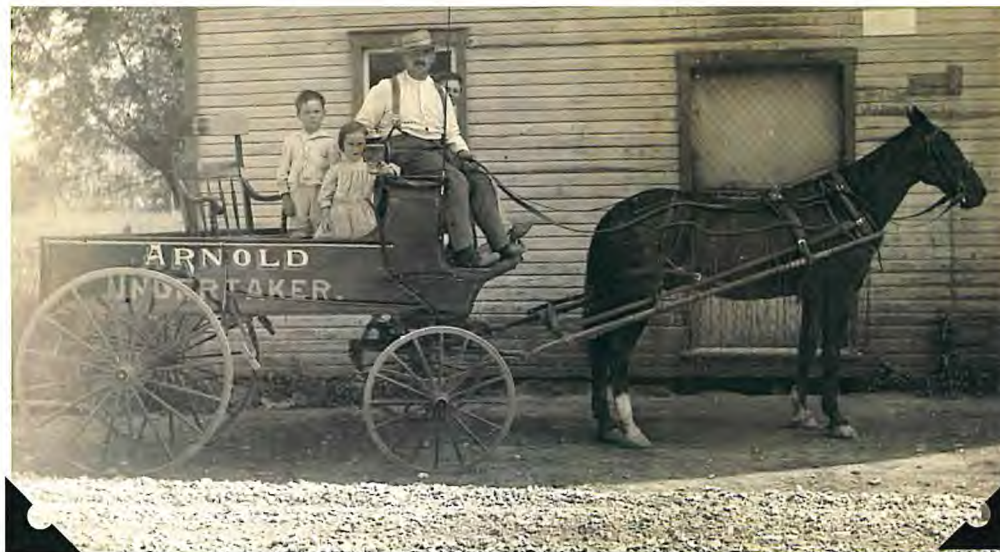


### Squab Plant -

James W. Blythe poses with his daughter Dorothy. Emigrating from England to the United States in 1885, he became manager of the Dissinger's squab raising facility. Squab, or pigeon, was once sold for as much as \$10 to \$12 a dozen.







three children, John, Ethel, and C. Leroy pose for Harvey's camera. Arnold, a third-generation undertaker and furniture dealer appears to be using his wagon for a delivery. According to his daughter Ethel Taylor (1905-1998), Arnold was quite adept at embellishing his furniture with decorative painting.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/  
Authors Collection

### **World War I -**

Local residents and friends Earl Grumbein Kauffman (1896-1971) and Harry William Horst (1896-1987) were drafted during World War I.

Kauffman received his notice to report for his physical examination on July 25, 1918. He was in Army Training School at Lafayette College, Easton, PA from August 15 until October 10, 1918 training as a carpenter. On November 11, 1918 the Armistice-ending World War I was signed. After being discharged, Kauffman returned and married his first wife, Arline Seabold of Annville, in 1921. She died a year later from consumption. With his second wife, Lucina Fry of Annville, whom he married in 1926, he had two children, Sallie Ann and Earl F. Kauffman remained in Lebanon County working mostly in the dry cleaning profession.

Horst remained in the United States and served from August 14 to December 28, 1918. He returned to Campbelltown and would marry Charlotte Felty on June 22, 1921. Sadly, after the birth of their daughter, Lucille, his wife died in 1923. Horst would later remarry. During his lifetime, he worked for the Hershey Chocolate Company and served the local and regional Boy Scout program in various positions, including as the Lebanon County Council Commissioner from 1955 until 1967.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/Authors Collection





(1907-1930) poses in Atlantic City with her nephew, William Brunner Campbell circa the early 1900's. William, a son of Fannie Brunner Campbell and sister to Carrie, had this to say about his trip, "Aunt Carrie and I have so much fun in the ocean. I would like to stay a few weeks. Brun."

~ Postcard/Authors Collection



## Vaudeville -

Vaudeville was a very popular pastime entertainment for people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Traveling acts such as this one visited local communities, set up their tents, and provided such things as recitations, singing, dancing, juggling, or whatever they had the skill to do.

The sign for this particular show indicates "Francis Chesmen and Company High Class Vaudeville also 4,000 ft of Motion Pictures - 10 cents." This company set up their tent on the then vacant lot across from the Academy on Campbelltown's Main Street.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/Authors Collection







### **Village Motel -**

While the Rising Sun once served as a hotel, the construction of the Village Motel brought new amenities to Campbelltown, including Texaco Gasoline. Former owners of the Rising Sun Bar and Grill (1955 – 1964), Marvin and Verna Hinkle, built this modern facility in 1967. Today it is the Budget Motel.

*~ Postcard/ Authors Collection*

*~ 2009 Lily Horst*





### Gingrich Residence -


This image postmarked December 22, 1910, shows a house constructed in 1889, perhaps by Frank R. Dissinger, owner of Dissinger' Store. It later became the home of Ammon and Kate Ann (Flory) Gingrich. In February 1972, the house received its current aluminum siding.

~ Postcard/Authors Collection

~ 2009 Lily Horst

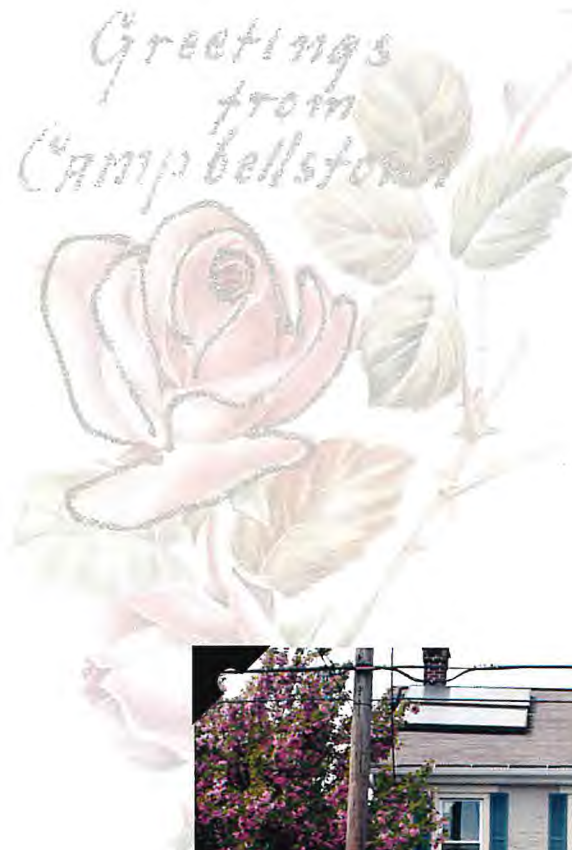


ALBERT H. DISSINGER  
General Merchandise  
"Where Quality and Price Are Best"  
Authorized Dealer for Aladdin Lamps  
"Brighter Than Electricity"



BALL BAND FOOTWEAR  
BUY THE BEST... BUY IT HERE  
DISSINGER'S STORE  
CAMPBELLTOWN, PA.  
Opposite the B.





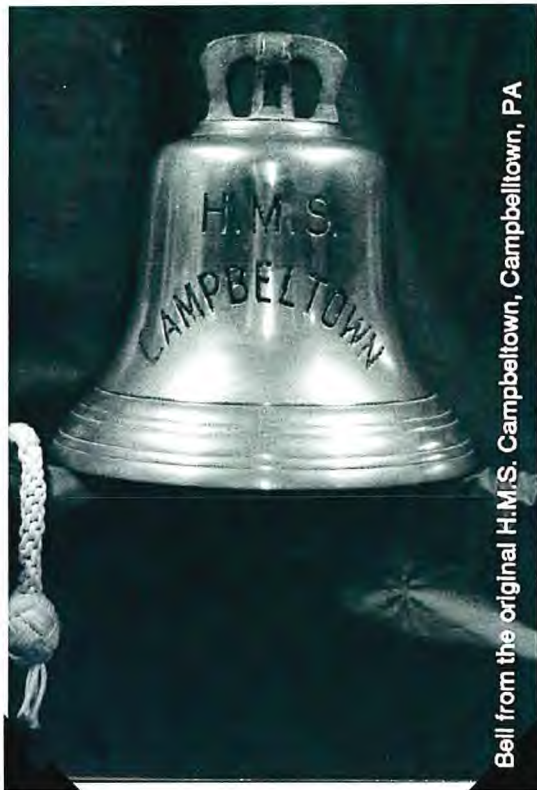
**Ginder Residence -**

Aaron Ginder (1853-1918), preacher and school teacher, called this residence home along with his wife Amelia (Forrest) Ginder. Educated in a private academy in Palmyra and Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Ginder taught for 42 years in the Londonderry Township area, including the Campbelltown Academy. He also served as preacher for the United Christian Church in Palmyra and Campbelltown.

*~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/Courtesy  
Lebanon County Historical Society  
~2009 Lily Horst*







Bell from the original H.M.S. Campbeltown, Campbeltown, PA

lease of naval and air bases in the Caribbean and North Atlantic. Once in the hands of the British Royal Navy, the ships were renamed for towns common to Britain and the United States. Thus the H.M.S. Campbeltown was born.

The ship, used for the purpose of exploding a major German-occupied port at St. Nazaire, Normandie, France on March 28, 1942, was totally destroyed. The only surviving piece from this vessel was the bell.

After the end of World War II, the bell arrived in Campbeltown, Pennsylvania on October 29, 1950. A gift from the British Government to the citizens of the community, the bell came filled with letters from school children living in Campbeltown Scotland to children in Campbeltown, Pennsylvania. Some relationships forged by these pen-pals remain to the present.

In 1989, a new H. M. S. Campbeltown was to be commissioned. A vote was held on Election Day 1988, and it was decided by a five-vote margin to return the bell from the original Campbeltown to the new Campbeltown for the duration of the ship's life.

The bell continues to be a symbol for the community of Campbeltown, PA.

~ Don Rhoads, Jr. Postcard/Authors Collection

~ 2009 Courtesy of James McLellan, Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy





### **Gruber Home**

Cyrus F. Gruber (1857-1918) and his wife Lizzie built this home along Horseshoe Pike in 1903. One unique feature was the large storage tank in the attic, used to provide gravity-fed running water to the rest of the house. Cyrus, a cattle salesman, was a father to seven daughters and one son, Harry. The current owners are Dylon and Faith Bucks, who operate a chiropractic office here.

~ Postcard/ Authors Collection

~ 2009 Lily Horst

1759 - 200th BICENTENNIAL - 1959  
CAMPBELLTOWN AUG. 22







### Dr. Fisher Residence

Dr. Milton R. Fisher purchased this property from David and Elizabeth Gingrich in 1879. Milton and Marian Fisher moved to Palmyra about 1901. Dr. Ulysses Risser (1871-1934) also began his practice here sometime between 1897 and 1901. He remained until being replaced by Dr. Louis G. Fetterman (1904-1978) in 1933. Fetterman remained here until he sold the property to Dr. James Keiter in 1949. The current owner is Maria Pichini.

~ Postcard/ Authors Collection  
~ 2009 Lily Horst







**Brunner Residence**

Benjamin Hocker (1805-1863) purchased a 163-acre tract from the estate of John and Elizabeth Wolfersberger in 1844. On a portion of this tract he built this home and operated a general merchandise store.

William Brunner (1834-1905) began working in the store in 1858 and married Hocker's daughter Louisa. Brunner continued to operate the store, carrying such items as Queensware, notions, drugs, boots, and shoes. He retired from the business in 1880. After the death of their only surviving daughter, Mary L. Brunner, on February 9, 1960, William Brunner Campbell, her nephew sold the property thus ending more than 100 years of Brunner family ownership.

After passing through a few property owners, it was acquired by Pam and Dave Graybill on November 23, 1999 from the estate of Karen Strawbridge. The Graybills restored the property and created the Londonderry Inn, a bed and breakfast.

Nancy Gambler Postcard/Authors Collection  
 ~ 2009 Lily Horst

Middletown Pa  
 Oct 6 1870

Mr E Brunner Esq  
 Conspouton Pa  
 My dear Sir:

I should be very much pleased if you will accept the opportunity as one of the Congressional Conference for Lebanon County in my interest for the nomination for Member of Congress for this district

Meeting of the Conference to be at the Lockhart Hotel Hamilton Pa on Monday Oct. 13. 1870 at 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Please advise me at your earliest convenience if you can be there?

Respectfully Yours  
 John Wolfe  
 M.C.





### **Barber Car and Alger Farmhouse -**

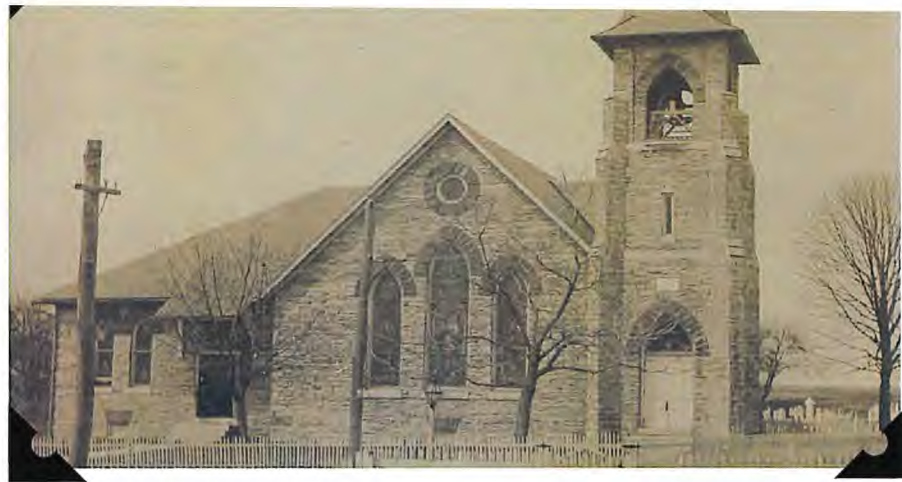
Described as the "trolleyless trolley car," in one newspaper account, the Hummelstown and Campbellstown Street Railway acquired this trolley car in 1912. Built by the Barber Car Company of York, Pennsylvania, it used a 54-horsepower gasoline engine to operate, rather than overhead electric wires. Riders would enter in the center of the car, which had a capacity of 40 people.

The farmhouse located behind the trolley was built about 1827 on land owned by the Wolfersberger family. Benjamin Hocker, William Brunner and Miriam Brunner were owners of this property. Harvey Alger, a farmer and native of Virginia and later Wells County, Indiana, purchased the property in 1920. A huge bank barn stood on this site, but it was destroyed by arson in 1990. Steve Alger, Alger's great-grandson, still owns the property.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/ Courtesy Lebanon County Historical Society  
~ 2009 Lily Horst







**Salem Reformed Church -**

In 1845, a new stone building replaced the original one, and it continued to be a union church. Over the years, the Lutheran congregation's attendance began to dwindle and on November 16, 1889, Reverend A. D. Markley held the last Lutheran service at Salem.

On September 30, 1896 a severe storm bore down on Campbelltown, and destroyed the church. After much debate, the congregation of Salem rebuilt their church, which was dedicated on May 19, 1898.

Salem's most interesting occasion was the marriage of J. Harold Paar to a local gal Miriam Wagner on October 9, 1943. Jack Paar would later find fame as the first host of *The Tonight Show* on NBC.

One hundred one years later, a major addition was added to the church, and dedicated on February 23, 1999.

~ H. S. Lineaweaver Postcard/ Courtesy Lebanon County Historical Society

~ 1967 NBC

~ 2009 Lily Horst







### Town Tavern

The "old town tavern" was built sometime before the glass tax in 1798. Constructed of logs, the earliest owner on record was a Peter Jontz (Johns), whose estate sold the property to Jacob Swar (Schwar, Swarr) (d. 1828) in 1814. By 1818, Swar sealed an agreement from neighboring property owner Christian Shiller for the "the unmolested right and privilege of taking and using the water from a certain run or stream running through the tract of land above mentioned and of conveying the same in pipes or bored logs under ground to the tavern house of the said Jacob Schwar."

Later, the property was purchased by farmer Harvey Alger about 1920. Alger was approached by the newly established United Brethren in Christ Church to rent the property for a house of worship. A few years later, the church purchased the same and the old tavern remained a meeting house until the present United Methodist Church building was finished in 1925. The tavern was auctioned off and subsequently removed.

~ Postcard/Authors Collection

~ 2009 Lily Horst





### **Bowman Farmhouse -**

The farm house of Samuel Bowman (1814-1879) and his wife Mary (Neidig) Bowman was built in 1865. Adjacent to the house, is a stone bank barn built in 1866. The house and barn were constructed on land obtained from his father Jacob M. Bowman, Jr.

Samuel Bowman, a farmer and later store owner, was instrumental in the establishment of Brightbill's United Brethren in Christ Church, located along Route 322 between Campbelltown and Fontana in 1842. He built a non-denominational meeting house in Campbelltown, which the United Christian Church purchased in 1882 from his estate.

Bowman also purchased a store in the central part of Campbelltown from Joseph and Caroline Landis in 1854. He operated the business until selling it to John and Margaret Deininger in 1861. It later became Dissinger's Store, and now is the site of A. & M. Pizza.

Today, the farm house is the residence of Gary and Gail (Shoop) Fasnacht.  
~ Postcard/Authors Collection  
~ 2009 Lily Horst





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*Celebrate  
250 Years*

