

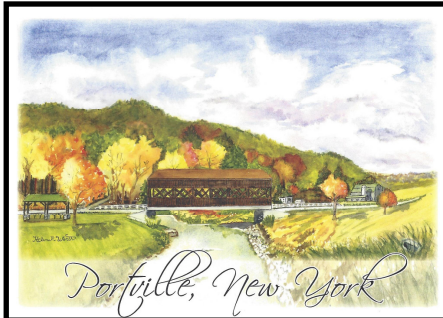
The Homespun Collage

Newsletter of The Portville Historical and Preservation Society Vol. 29 Issue 1

The purpose of the Portville Historical and Preservation Society is the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Portville area in the State of New York.

Dinner to Benefit the Covered Bridge Project

The art work by Helen Worth (at right) depicts the proposed design for a covered bridge over Dodge's Creek on Temple Street at Mayville. Mr. Chuck Lucas, project chairman, is taking reservations for a special fund-raising dinner that will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 6 p.m. The dinner will be held at Sprague's Maple Farms and feature their famous turkey dinner. Owners Randy and Toni Marie Sprague are graciously providing a complementary sample of their own maple wine with dinner. Dinners are \$50 per person including tax and tip.



The Portville Historical and Preservation Society will be presenting the history of bridges in Portville, including two known wooden covered bridges that were located at the Toll Gate over Oswayo Creek and the Allegheny River bridge in Mill Grove. Participants will receive a complementary copy of "The Bridges of Portville New York", a new pamphlet that contains facts and photographs of the many bridges in Portville's history.

To make your reservation, send payment by January 30th (or as soon as possible) to Covered Bridge Dinner, P.O. Box 94, Portville, NY 14770. Checks must be made payable to Community Bank, Portville Branch. For more info, call Chuck at (716) 933-6366. We hope to see you there for a worthwhile evening.

The Family Heritage of Charles O. Eshelman

On January 24, 2015, we marked five years since the passing of our generous benefactor, Colonel Charles O. Eshelman. We have always intended to publish a newsletter delving into his family history and finally have amassed quite a bit of research—at least enough to make it interesting for our readers.

Charles was a very private individual and did not leave many clues about himself while he was living. From the contents of his home, which we were very lucky to inherit, we have developed a better picture of this brilliant man, not complete, but better.

For instance, we can tell that he sincerely loved his family and heritage, his country, his home town, and especially his "four corners". His passions included history, Indian tribes, nature, art, books, collecting, pottery, printing presses, hunting, and many other interests. Fortunately, the family loved photographs and they help us understand the family members better. Charles and his ancestors have a first rate pedigree that was immensely helpful in the research and we are grateful to Charles' family who have shared pictures and information with us over the past five years. We hope you will enjoy finding out about the ancestry that made up this interesting man.

The Homespun Collage

January 2015

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The Carpenter Family



We begin our story with the Carpenters, who were the ancestors of the family of Charles' maternal grandmother in Eldred, Pa. Most of our family research is about the Carpenters, but more important is their eventual connections to Portville and several families here. (To track the generations, we used a superscript after the name.)

The history of the Carpenter family in America dates back to 1638. William¹ Carpenter, born in 1605, and his wife Abigail emigrated from England, arriving on the ship Bevis. He had relatives already in New England so they were welcome here and he was readily admitted as a freeman in Weymouth, Massachusetts. He quickly gained influence as a representative and became close friends with Governor William Bradford, who was married to Carpenter's cousin Alice. He was appointed Captain by the General Court of Mass. in Boston and was involved in resolving some land disputes among the Colonists.

William¹ learned about the surrounding areas and set out to obtain a tract of land from the Indians known as the Seekonk Plain, a fertile location ideal for a new settlement. By 1643, the colony of Seekonk was known as Rehoboth and consisted of eight square miles. The first settlement of the Colony of Rehoboth consisted of 58 members from Weymouth, Mass., who drew lots on the division of lands on June 31, 1644.

About this time, William¹ Carpenter was elected to the General Court of Plymouth, where he could influence matters even more. He accomplished a great deal in America in a relatively short amount of time, amassing considerable land and wealth, but passed away on February 7, 1659, leaving a wife and seven children.

Three of William¹ and Abigail's children were born in England, three in Weymouth, and Samuel², who was born in Rehoboth. Samuel² was not quite of age when his father died but the will divided his ample real estate and possessions equally among his widow and children, allowing Samuel² to marry the following year. He and wife Sarah Readaway of Rehoboth had ten children together, nine sons and a daughter. They were all minors except for three when he died at about age 40 in 1683.

Samuel² and Sarah's eldest child, Samuel³, served as a Lieutenant in the militia and lived to be 76 years old. He and his wife, Patience Ide, had 13 children which included two sets of twins, all born in Rehoboth. The eleventh child, Charles⁴ Carpenter, was born in 1702 and married Hannah Bosworth. They both died in their early 40's about 4 years apart, leaving four children.

Their third child, another Samuel⁵, was orphaned with his siblings when he was almost 7 years old. Details

of their upbringing are unknown, but they must have been cared for by close family since they made their way through life, married, and had their own families. Samuel⁵ married Mary Hix at age 20 and after having six of their eight children, left Rehoboth and moved to Richmond, New Hampshire, around 1771.

In 1775 in Richmond, Samuel⁵ enlisted and served eight months as private in Capt. Oliver Capron's Company, Col. Doolittle's Regiment in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted again in 1778 but only served five days. In 1801, they were living in Osceola, Pa., with four of their sons. When Mary died, she was buried there in 1811.

Public records show that their oldest son, Daniel⁶ Carpenter, served as a private in the New Hampshire militia in 1780 for 3 months and thirteen days, commanded by Col. Nichols. He also served after the close of the war and achieved the rank of Captain. Daniel⁶ married Mary Thompson in 1785 and they had six children. They moved from Richmond, N. H., to Cooperstown, N. Y., and eventually ended up in Portville. They lived here many years. Daniel⁶ died August 26, 1840, and is buried in the old Mersereau Burying Ground on Pine Street in Portville.

Timothy⁷ Carpenter, the eldest child of Daniel and Mary, was born on August 2, 1786, in Richmond. He married Bethena Trumbull there in 1810. Her father, Oliver Trumbull, was also a veteran of the Revolutionary War. They had thirteen children, many of them born in Coventry, N. Y. Timothy and Bethena eventually moved to this area. Timothy's parents were living here and his sister, Polly⁷, was married in 1810 to Luman Rice. Luman Rice was a well-known pioneer of Portville (formerly part of Olean), who was born in 1787 in Glastonbury, Connecticut, the son of Deacon Eliphalet Rice. Their home at the end of Brooklyn Street at South Main is considered the oldest house in Portville. Luman was Portville's first supervisor and lived to be 87 despite having lost his arm in a rafting incident before age 40.



Bethena Trumbull
Carpenter
1791—1882

Luman and Polly Rice had seven children. Delia Ann married Alfred Wright of Portville (1834), a carpenter. Marcia Polly married Olcott Parten Boardman (1833) of Boardmanville, Olean. Eliphalet Luman Rice married Sallie Harrison (1847) and was a lawyer in Kentucky. Ambro David Rice was a druggist at his own pharmacy, A. D. Rice and Sons, in Portville. He married Sarah Smith (1840), daughter of Lemuel Smith, the lumberman in Main Settlement and later a prominent businessman in the village.

Harriet married physician Dudley Smith (1846) and lived in Cincinnati. Susan married druggist John Park and lived in Kentucky and Mary married druggist Harvey Scovil (1849) and they lived in Chicago.



Ozro's sister, Almira
Carpenter Rice

Timothy and Bethena decided to settle their large family in Eldred in 1830. Three of their children married relatives of the Rice family, also prominent in Eldred. One daughter, Almira, married Almon Rice. Two children married Lamphiers and one married a Chrisman of Eldred.

Their son, Ozro⁸ Stephenson Carpenter, was born in Coventry, Chenango County, N. Y., on September 8, 1825, and was only five when they first came to Eldred. The area had to be cleared and improved and they built a temporary cabin at the corner of what is now Rt. 446 and Slack Hollow Road, in Eldred Township. Ozro grew up to be a farmer.

On June 6, 1852, Ozro married Celestina Rosetta Davis, the daughter of Luther and Elizabeth Broas Davis of Lafayette, McKean County, Pa. Luther Davis was born in Union near Endicott, Broome County, N. Y., as was his daughter Celestina in 1834. Davis' lived in Lafayette (near Bradford) from 1843 to 1865, where Luther was postmaster for a time.

Celestina and Ozro's first child, Emma⁹, was born in 1853 in Eldred but by 1857, the Carpenters were living not far from Lafayette. Their post office was known as Eden. Ozro had gotten a state contract to clear a right-of-way for a road through there and Celestina operated a hotel near Marshburg for the workers. Their two sons were both born in Lafayette, Frank, who was born in 1859 and Grant, who was born in 1863.

During the Civil War, Ozro was paid by the army to board new recruits before they could be mustered in and taken to their regiments. Two of Celestina's brothers, Orlando and Pete, served in the Union army and she kept their letters and those from other family members during that time.

Orlando Luther Davis was born in 1838 and in the first year of the war, he enlisted at Titusville, Pa., in Company H, 10th PA Reserves. He was later transferred to the Signal Corps and served until the end of the war. He was taken prisoner on Kilpatrick's raid on Richmond and spent 3 months in Libby prison and 11 months in



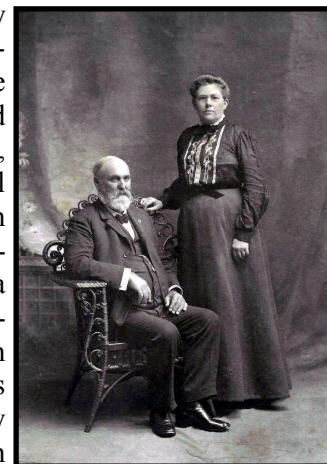
Ozro S. Carpenter
1825—1908

Andersonville. After the war he returned to Broome County and the farm of his parents near Endwell, N. Y., where he lived for most of his life. After all that he had endured, he married, had a son Fred, remarried, and lived until 1930, aged 92.

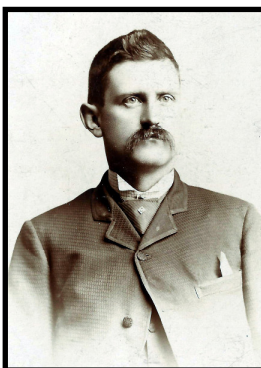
Peter R. Davis was born in 1842 and enlisted in Company H, 58th PA Volunteers in 1861 at age 19. After the war, he lived in Eldred with his wife, Mary Eloise. They both died in 1910 about 6 months apart.

Soon after the war, Ozro and his family went back to Eldred and their home and farm. In 1874, their youngest child, Tina, was born. Her sister Emma was now 21 years old but did not marry until 1887. Her husband was Thomas Cornelius Wainman, widower. Thomas had lost his wife, Cordelia, two years prior and three of his eight children had also died. He lost one more daughter just after remarrying and Emma became mother to the remaining four, never having any children of her own.

Wainman was a very successful businessman in lumber and oil. He tired of the fires and floods in Eldred and moved his family to Decatur, Ga., where he was successful in lumbering until his health declined. They moved to Bainbridge, Ga., and he built a grand hotel called the Wainman Hotel. He passed away in 1908, the same year as Emma's father, Ozro. Emma eventually remarried Frank L. Blair in 1913, a Pa. Civil War veteran and survivor of Andersonville prison. He served as quartermaster of his GAR post and she chaired the Ladies Auxiliary and was a member of DAR. They lived at his home in Pittsburgh. He died in 1921 and Emma died in 1939.



Thomas C. and Emma
Wainman in 1901



Grant Carpenter
1863—1949

Frank Carpenter farmed in Eldred. He married Fanny Remington and had a son, Frank, Jr. The marriage did not last, nor did a second one with the widow Winifred Osmun. Grant made nitroglycerine. He married Gertrude Duryea and had five children, Amelia, Emma, Vernal, Nila Beth, and Thos. Wainman Carpenter ("Wayne"). Emma Blair inherited the family home in 1917 and sold it to Wayne in 1937 so his parents could live there too. It still remains in their family today.

The Hopewell Family



Our Hopewell story begins with the marriage of Benjamin T. Hopewell and Martha E. Abbott in Tidioute, Pennsylvania, on October 30, 1851. Tidioute was established in 1800 in Warren County and was connected with the cutlery industry, begun there when immigrants from Sheffield, England, migrated from New England factories. The name comes from the Iroquois and refers to the sharp bend in the Allegheny River there.

The Dusenbury and Wheeler families took great interest in this area as well. It was a prosperous settlement on their rafting route from Portville to their mill just south of there in Tionesta, Forest County, which they purchased in 1838. The Allegheny River was the main thoroughfare through the region and borders the vast area that is now the Allegheny National Forest.

Benjamin was a gentleman who emigrated from England in 1838. He was a successful retail dealer in Tidioute Borough and in 1865 was agent for Premium Oil Well, a crude petroleum company there. His wife, Martha, was the oldest of three daughters of Michael and Amelia G. Abbott, who were also from England. Michael was a member of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of the City of New York as of Feb. 4, 1824.

All three of the Hopewell sons were born in Tidioute. William Abbott Hopewell was born in 1853, Benj. T., Jr., was born in 1855, and Francis H. was born in 1857.

Martha's parents had a beautiful home in Elizabeth, N. J., at 471 Madison Ave. In 1876, both her parents and her husband, Benj. Hopewell, passed away. They were buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Elizabeth with

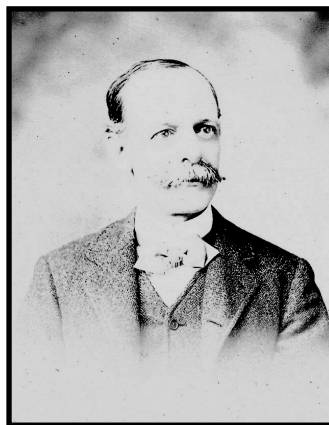


Amelia G. Abbott
1797—1876

by a large apartment building but the lovely park is still across the street and the church, though modified, still stands next door.

When their father died in 1876, the three Hopewell Brothers moved to Eldred. In the 1880 census, they each had jobs as clerks, having had experience from being raised in their father's store. Eventually, they had their own business that was called Hopewell Brothers.

Francis married Tinia E. Carpenter on September 4, 1900, and they had three daughters, Sarah in 1902, Emma in 1905, and Lillian in 1906.



Francis Henry Hopewell
1857—1918



Tinia Carpenter Hopewell
1874—1964

In 1908, the patriarch of the Carpenters in Eldred passed away. Ozro had been partially paralyzed by a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair in his last few years. The family gathered at the old homestead in Eldred the day of the burial in Chestnut Hill, Portville (see photo page 5).



Ozro S. Carpenter
1825—1908



Celestina Davis Carpenter
1834—1917



Tintype of Abbott home in Elizabeth, N.J., as it looked in 1860-70

her sister, Amelia M.

Martha went to live with her only living sister, Sarah, in their parents home in New Jersey. The sisters lived there until Martha's death in 1897 and Sarah's death in 1912. Sadly the home was replaced over the years



September 24, 1908—The Day of Father's Burial
Francis, Frank Jr, Frank Sr, Peter Davis, Tinia, Grant, Orlando Davis
Mary Eloise Davis, Winifred, Celestina, Emma, Christine Devine

The Hopewells continued to live in Eldred for a time and then moved to Elizabeth, N.J., (1913) for a few years then on to Reading, Pa. (1915). Tinia's mother died in 1917 and less than a year later her husband, Francis, died of pancreatic cancer at age 60 in 1918.

Tinia and the girls were always close to their Uncle Will, who had never married, and went to live with him on his farm in Gibraltar (Robeson Twp), Berks Co., Pa. (near Reading).



Lillian, Emma, and Sarah—1920

Their lives "down on the farm" seemed idyllic, at least in photos. The three girls often dressed alike and pictures were labelled "the heavenly sisters" and "the triplets".

In 1923, Sarah was married and the following year, Uncle Will was struck and killed by an automobile late at night. Tinia, Emma, and Lillian moved to Pittsburgh to live with Tinia's sister, Emma Blair. She was all alone after her second husband "Fritz" died in 1921.



Grant, Tinia, Lillian, Emma-1927

Emma passed away in 1939 and her Pittsburgh estate was left to her sister Tinia, then Emma and Lillian upon her death in 1964, then to Emma in 1988 when Lillian died, and then to their nephew, Charles, in 1998. Neither daughter ever married. Charles sold the Pittsburgh house and had its contents moved to Portville.

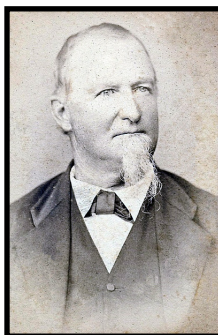
The Eshelman Family



The Eshelman family had a long history as merchants and farmers in Berks Co., Pa. Absalom (b. 1803) and Sarah Burkhart Eshelman (b. 1813) raised their family in Brecknock, Berks, where he was born. Absalom's wife died in 1846, leaving him with seven children. Then his father, Christian Eshelman, died there in 1851, aged 84 yrs.



"The Plow", owned by Absalom then Moses and Augustus Eshelman.
Original photo from Eshelman collection.



Moses Eshelman
1828-1885

In 1852, Absalom moved to Robeson Township and in 1854 he became the owner of the Plow Hotel. The store was located in Plowville, an unincorporated area south of Reading. He ran the hotel, store, and farm of 128 acres until his death in 1865.

In the settlement of Absalom's estate, the farm, store, and hotel were passed down in the family and his son, Moses, and his wife, Priscilla Steffy Eshelman, carried on the business there for a number of years. They had been in the hotel business about 10 years prior in Cumru Twp. Moses' brother, Augustus, had returned unharmed from the Civil War in 1863 (Co. A, 167th Pa Militia). He and his wife, Christiana Bitler Eshelman, continued to run the Plow Hotel until retiring in 1901 while Moses farmed until his death in 1885.



Priscilla Eshelman
1830-1903

Moses and Priscilla had six children, four who grew to maturity: Jacob Howard, Annie Elizabeth (Frees), John Jefferson, and Moses Hiester Eshelman.

J. Jefferson Eshelman was born in 1857 in Cumru Twp, Berks, Pa, and continued to live on his parents farm at Plowville until he married Annie M. Wolf, daughter of George and Hannah Young Wolf. He was a merchant like his father and they lived in Gibraltar, six and a half miles from Reading.

They had three sons, Wil-liston Winfield (1882), Orville C. (1887), and George Dewey (1898). Willis worked in Detroit in an auto factory, Orville was a druggist in nearby Shillington, and at age 22, George was assistant Postmaster.

On August 25, 1923, George D. Eshelman married Sarah Juanita Abbott Hopewell in Gibraltar, Berks, Pa. They started their family and continued their educations, George receiving a diploma in mechanics and Sarah took domestic courses including dressmaking. Frances Elizabeth was born in August 1924 and Charles Ozro was born in October 1925, both in Gibraltar. George's father died that year on July 6, 1925, from diabetes.



J. Jefferson Eshelman
1857—1925



Annie Wolf Eshelman
1859—1939



George Dewey Eshelman
1898—1946



Sarah Hopewell Eshelman
1902—1999

When Robert H. was born in 1927, George and Sarah were in Pittsburgh with her mother, sisters, and Aunt Emma. They moved to Portville in 1929. In 1930, George was a mechanic in the oil fields near Portville and owned the home at Bedford Corners. He was soon hired by the Dusenbury family to be their chauffeur.

Growing up in Portville was about nature and animals, gardening, and family. The Eshelman children grew



Aunt Lillian
and Spunky

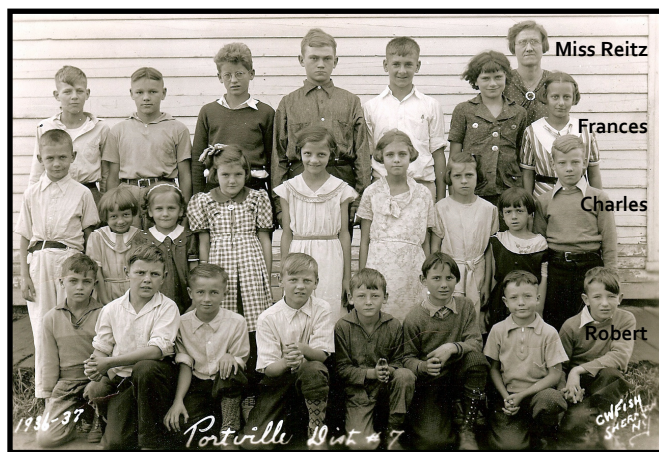
up loving nature and their pets, including Robert's skunk, Spunky, and a pet crow named Blackie, who pestered Sarah and her clothesline. They had cats and a dog, ducks, and birds.

In winter, they and their friends ran their sleds and skis down the hill across from their house, ice skated, and suffered an occasional misadventure like when Robert fell through the ice and had to walk a distance home in the cold.



George read out loud to his children in the evenings for entertainment. They loved to hear about the 'Coon, 'Possum, and the Old Black Crow. He fed their curiosity about an animal called a "mince" that they thought their mother used in her mincemeat pie. He teased them with a skinned and tail-less squirrel, posing it as the so-called mince, such was his genial nature.

The family also loved music. Frances played the flute beautifully and they had all sorts of records, players, and radios in the house. Sarah and her sisters also played the violin in their youth.

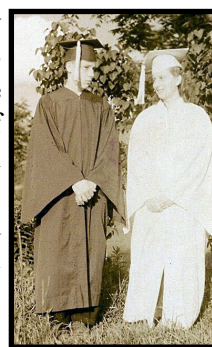


The rural school was taught by Miss Amelia Reitz at the Bedford Corners schoolhouse across the street. The boys had the daily chore of lighting the stove early in the morning.



CHARLES ESHELMAN
Valedictorian

Charles graduated from the village high school a year early with his sister, Frances, and achieved the top honor of Valedictorian of the Class of 1942.



Charles & Frances
PHS 1942



West Pointer

Charles went on to Amherst College, Mass., for four years, a preparatory school for the Army. His father George died unexpectedly in 1946, the year he entered the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.



George Eshelman

Despite this tragic loss, Charles graduated second in his West Point class in 1950. His career in the Army Corps of Engineers took him to Alaska from 1950-51 with the 807th Engineer Aviation Battalion. He then went to Korea from 1952-54 with the 1169th Engineer Combat Group. He received the Bronze Star for his service in the Korean War.



Charles in 1955—A Rare Smile

Charles continued his education during his service receiving a Masters in public administration at Harvard University in 1952 and in 1958, he received a second Harvard Masters in civil engineering.

In 1958, the Major was assigned to overseas duty in Newfoundland with the Army Corps of Engineers Eastern Ocean District, supervising construction at Harmon AFB for the U. S. Air Force.



Maj. Eshelman was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service, Washington, D. C., 6 April 1960 to 30 June 1962.

US Army Photo:
Maj. C O Eshelman 1962
Army Commendation Medal

Charles continued to earn promotion in the ranks and received many medals and awards.

Col. Eshelman was honored with the Legion of Merit in 1970 at the Pentagon. After 25 years in the Army and having served in both Korean and Vietnam Wars, he decided to retire.

In 1975, he returned to Portville and poured his energy into his family and his hobbies. His mother Sarah had remarried Harold Holcomb (1906-1983) and lived nearby on Yuba Dam Road. He purchased his childhood home from her and acquired all the other buildings and property at the four corners. He used the buildings for his printing and pottery interests, and his collections of Portville items.

To preserve these landmarks for Portville, Charles generously donated all of his land to the Pfeiffer Nature Center and the Portville Historical and Preservation Society, thus creating his legacy.

Charles passed away as quietly as he had lived, on January 24, 2010. He had spent his last ten years without his beloved mother, who passed away in 1999 at age 96. His sister Frances left this world in 1994, and his brother Robert also preceded him in death in 2008.

It may still be called Bedford Corners, but no one owned the corners longer than the Eshelman family. Charles' health waned but he retained his sharp intelligence to the end and we can not help but think of him every day. He has been gone for five years, but a presence still lingers on and Colonel Eshelman will never be forgotten.

Special thanks to family members Dr. Lyn Irving, Col. Mark Eshelman US Army Retired, Jon Eshelman, Juanita Lewicke, and Jerome Carpenter for sharing memories and photographs with us.

Other References used in this article are as follows:

A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America, by Amos B. Carpenter, 1898; *The Portville Review*, 1908-1946; *The Reading Eagle*, Nov. 22, 1918; *Photographs Credited to the U. S. Army*; *Photographs from the Collection of Lyn Irving*; *Photographs from the Collection of Jerome Carpenter*; *Photographs, Journals, and Carpenter/Davis Letters from PHPS Eshelman Collection*; *Ancestry.com*; and *Wikipedia.com*.



US Army Photo: Lt. Col. Eshelman

US Army Photo: Col. Eshelman
Legion of Merit - July 1970

In Memorium

Lee A. Frair (1915-2014)
Helen M. Layton (1923-2014)
Verda L. Neudeck (1929-2014)
Phillip Morris Straight (1940-2014)
Donald A. Wormer, M.D. (1927-2014)

Memorials

In memory of Donald A. Wormer, M. D., from:

Mr. And Mrs. Lawrence V. Assini
Charles and Celeste Chippero
Marc and Melody Pollock Ellis
Carol and Timothy Inglis
Christine Burke Kalb
Thomas and Ronda Pollock
Mr. and Mrs. James Slavin

Thanks for Your Donations!

Clyde Johnson
Marc Ellis
David Pupo
John and Lynn Scott
Elinor and Donald Wormer
Velma Tanner

In memory of Lee Arthur Frair from:

Thomas and Ronda Pollock

Welcome New Members

Nora and Paul Peasley

P.H.P.S

17 Maple Ave.

P.O. Box 59

Portville, NY 14770

phpsemail@yahoo.com

