

Historical Notes
on the early days of

TERRE HILL

Reprinted from
The Greater Reading
Reading, Pennsylvania
August, 1898

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*Prepared for the 67th Overholser Family Reunion
held on Saturday, August 27, 1977, at Memorial Park,
Terre Hill, Pennsylvania*



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The Greater Reading Publishing Co.,

W. S. HAMAKER, Editor and Proprietor.

No. 25 North Sixth Street. (Board of Trade Building.)

Subscription rates, 5 cents per copy ; 50 cents per year in advance

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PRESS OF JAMES E. NORTON & Co., 30 NORTH SIXTH STREET, READING, PA.

READING, PA., AUGUST, 1898.

Terre Hill

The site of this pleasant and thriving town is on a range of moderately elevated hills, in East Earl Township, Lancaster County, with a population of nearly eleven hundred inhabitants. It is situated half way between the cities of Lancaster and Reading. From its commanding situation it overlooks the fairest position of the Conestoga Valley, and can itself be seen from long distances. One-fourth of a mile west of the town is one of the grandest views that the eye can behold as far as one's vision reaches. The rich and beautiful Conestoga Valley, with its large and commodious farm buildings, and the green verdure of the Welsh Mountains, and in the distance the Susquehanna River hills. The church spires in the city of Lancaster are plainly to be seen. It will amply repay one to travel miles to see this view.

Founded in 1840

Abner Cline was the founder of the town, in 1840. He purchased a small frame house from John Oberholser, a farmer residing about a half a mile south of the present town, for \$100, and removed it to the northwest corner of the Reamstown road (now Cline's Avenue) and the main street, where he had purchased eleven acres of land. That was the first house built. Mr. Cline was a hard working man, and removed the house he had purchased to its present site by night, after the labors of the day were over. He was a cooper by trade. The trade declining, his sister, Mrs. Cramer, advised him to embark in the cigar manufacturing business, she being a practical cigarmaker, and volunteered to instruct him in the business. He accepted her proposition, and in the year 1848 became the pioneer of the cigarmaking industry, which has made this place famous. At first he began on a small scale. By and by he enlarged his plant. He was in the business more than one third of a century. During the latter part his daughter Lydia superintended the factory. Upon her marriage it was taken in charge by another daughter, Anna, as partner. When she married he retired. His sons, William and Amos, in connection with a brother-in-law, Reese H. Davis, took the business, each having his own factory. But the original factory was retained by Mr. Saul S. Watts, who was a son-in-law, and is described in another column. In connection with cigar manufacturing they dealt in leaf tobacco, which was continued for some years. When they retired, two of A.M. Cline's sons, Charles and Abner, taking charge. From the small beginning in 1848, there are at present fifteen factories in the place, giving employment either directly or indirectly to nearly five hundred persons. Abner Cline, upon his retirement, was not idle. The improvement of the town was his pleasure and delight. It was often told of him "that he had no rest unless he was building." The grave, half a mile northwest of the town, known as "The Abner Cline Camp-meeting Ground" stands as a monument to his liberality. Long may it stand. He was a remarkable man physically, strong when he had passed the three-score and tenth milestone. He would get up in the morning, walk to Reading before breakfast, attend to his business and walk home again the same day in time for supper. He died in 1886, 83 years old.

Public Institutions

The next most prominent in the improvement of the town was the late Levi Watts. He purchased a tract of land in the eastern part, had streets laid out, the land divided into lots, which he sold on the most liberal terms. There are many who now own homes in Eastern Terre Hill who owe their all to his liberality and generosity. The other industries consist of two shirt factories, giving employment to upwards of sixty operators. Two cigar box factories, an extensive bakery, besides there are small factories of almost all trades and occupations. The town has three large and commodious churches — the United Evangelical, Evangelical and Mennonite Brethren, and large Sunday-schools connected with each.

A large and commodious six-room schoolhouse, built so that an addition of a two-room annex can be added when required, gives ample educational facilities. The I. O. O. F., the P. O. S. of A, and Knights of the Mystic Chain, have large and flourishing societies. A large band hall graces the town. There are three general stores, one clothing store and drug store, all of which do an extensive business. The *Terre Hill Times*, a weekly paper, published by A.B. Cake, is a lively paper. He has a large job office connected.

The moral tone of society is high. Since 1840, only two from this place have been convicted of any crime, and these two of only a small grade. This speaks well of the place, as neither was to the manor born.

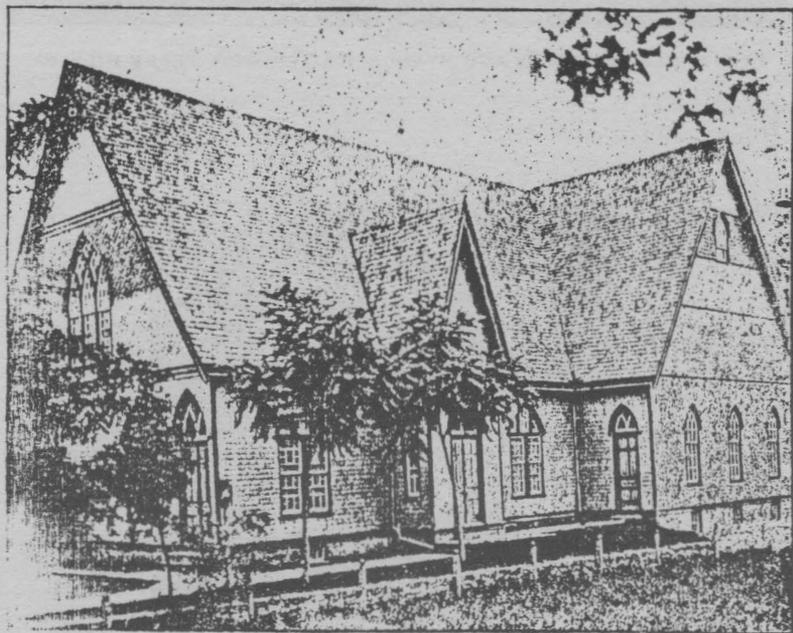
The mail facilities are: A daily mail to and from Lancaster, daily to and from Reading, one daily from Cedar Lane, on the Lancaster and Downingtown Railroad to Denver, on Reading and Columbia Railroad daily to Ephrata.

It is a healthy place, on account of its elevation and pure water.

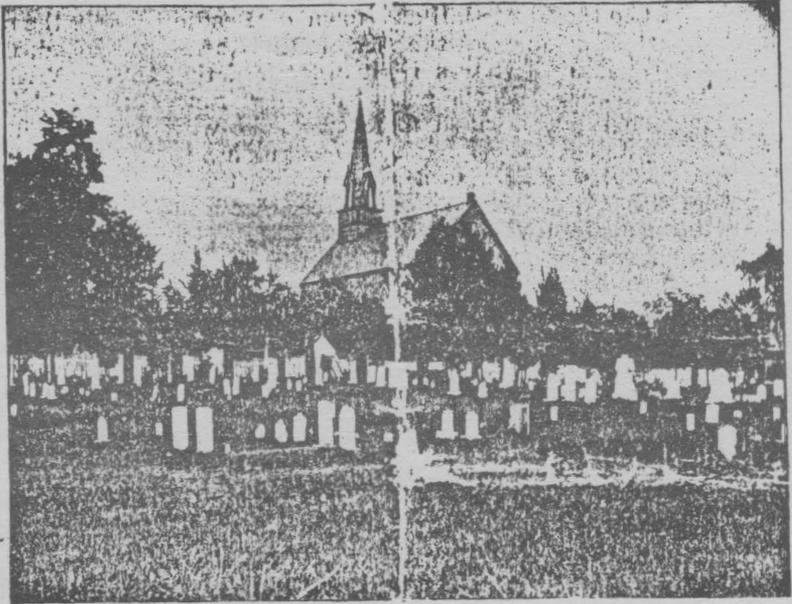
The nearest railroad point is three miles distant. Some make objection to this as being too far away for the establishing of manufactories, but upon examination is not tenable. The low rents, and cheap living more than over-balances the expense of shipping to and from the railroad.

We are indebted to Mr. John C. Martin, formerly Justice of the Peace of Earl Township, for this valuable historical data.

*GLIMPSES
OF
TERRE HILL IN 1898*



TRINITY UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH, TERRE HILL, PA.



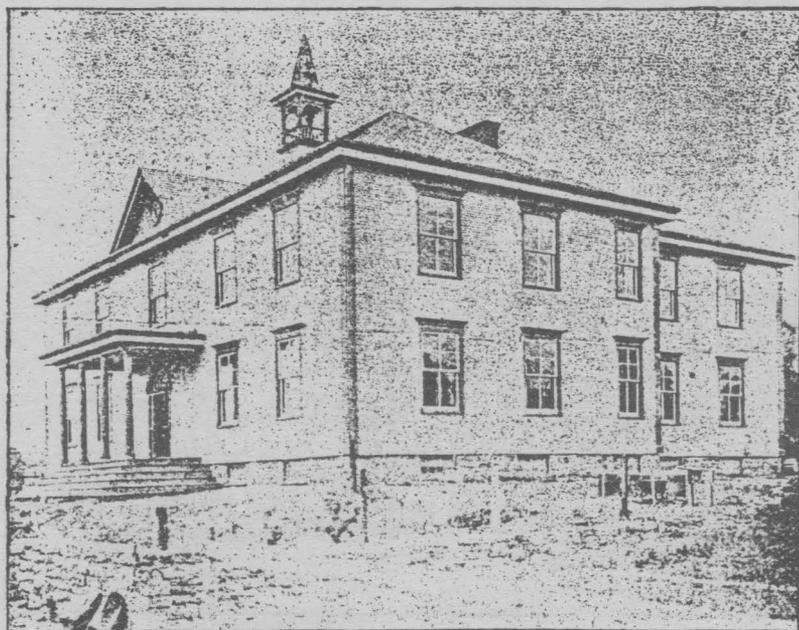
TERRE HILL, CEMETERY AND EVANGELICAL CHURCH. TERRE HILL, PA.



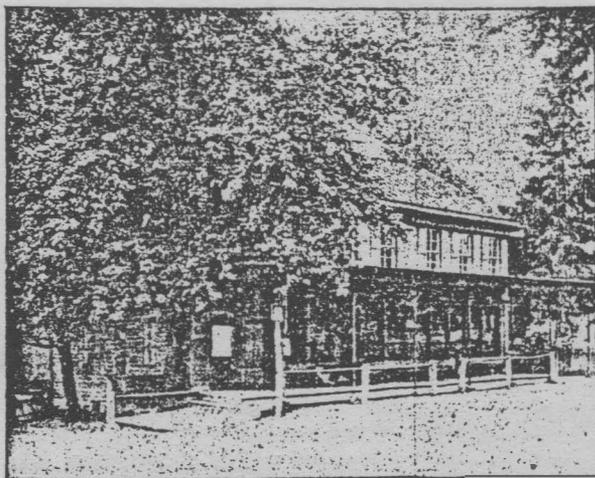
Davis & Watts' General Store, Terre Hill, Pa.



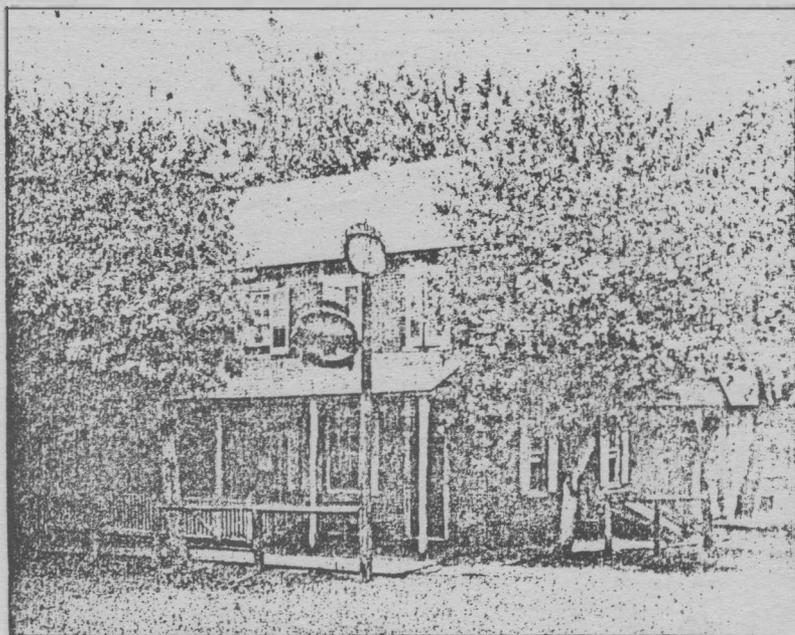
Samuel S. Watts' Cigar-Factory, Terre Hill, Pa.



PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE, TERRE HILL, PA.



Wechter's Store, Terre Hill.



FAIRVILLE HOTEL, TERRE HILL, PA.

Business Directory

Directory of leading business houses, manufacturing establishments and public institutions and facilities:

Postmaster — Samuel Wechter.

Newspaper — *The Times*, A.B. Cake, Proprietor.

Physicians — Dr. J.C. McConnell, Dr. Rayer.

Physician and Druggist — Dr. E.R. Fernsler.

Deputy Revenue Collector — Samuel F. Folz.

Hotels — Fairville Hotel, H.T. Witmer, White House, Samuel Wechter.

Restaurant — Jacob Artz.

Cigar Manufacturers — C.M. Cline & Co., W.W. Myer, C.R. Richmond, J.M. Reiniger, Samuel S. Watts, Weaver Bros.

Cigar Box Manufacturers — Sol. Leslie.

Shirt Manufacturer — Sol. Leslie.

Carriage & Wagon Manufacturer — Sol. Frankhauser.

Tinsmith & Stove Dealer — Harvey Schnader.

General Merchandise — Davies & Watts, W.R. Redcay, S. Wechter.

Clothing, Shoes and Gents' Furnishing — Joseph S. Harris.

Jewelers — George Gehman, James Stirk.

Barbers — W.H. Rauck, J.L.W. Weiler.

Bakery — Romig & Eitnier.

Green Grocer — James G. Wenger.

Creamery — Lemon Leisy.

School Teachers — John W. Mentzer, Levi Watts, Jr.

Telephone — Long Distance, Wechter's Store.

Telegraph — Western Union.

P. and R. nearest point — Denver, five miles, on Reading and Columbia.

Pennsylvania Railroad — Blue Ball, three miles, Delaware and Lackawanna.

Stage — Leaves for Reading daily at 5 A.M.; leaves for Denver daily at 5 A.M.

Five graded schools.

Evangelical church, United Evangelical church, Mennonite church.

To Manufacturers and Investors

Terre Hill certainly offers inducements to capital and industrial operators for investment. Although three miles from the nearest railway station, the low rate of taxes and reasonable rate to be paid labor, will more than make good the cost of hauling finished products to the station. A high elevation, salubrious climatic conditions, good water and intelligent labor in an usually orderly community, together with small expense for taxes and labor constitute this town's claims to the attention of those looking for a site for a knitting, silk, hosiery or manufacturing enterprise. Letters of inquiry addressed to O.K. Cake, Davis & Watts, Samuel Wechter, or C.R. Richmond will, without doubt, receive courteous and prompt replies.

Davis & Watts General Store at Terre Hill

The General Merchandise establishment of Messrs. Davis & Watts is a firm of enterprising young merchants of Terre Hill, Pa.

The business was originally established by Levi Watts, who was recognized generally as one of Terre Hill's most progressive men. After Mr. Watt's retirement Mr. W.M. Cline was proprietor for about two years, until January 1, 1897, when the present firm became the owners of the business.

In this large and commodious storehouse a fine stock of general merchandise is always in stock. Groceries, Notions, Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, and especially a fine line of Boots and Shoes, which are a specialty in the business.

Wechter's Store at Terre Hill

Mr. Samuel Wechter is a native of Lancaster County, having been born in Clay Township, in 1850. He is therefore nearly 38 years of age. He was educated in the common schools, and spent one session at the Millersville State Normal School in 1868.

At the age of twenty-three he entered the mercantile business at Terre Hill, and he has not changed location in the fourteen years intervening. He is a member of the School Board of East Earl Township, one of the directors of the Ephrata National Bank. He enjoys the confidence of all his neighbors.

Mr. Wechter is a candidate for the Legislature, and if nominated will be an able legislator.

Samuel S. Watt's Cigar Factory at Terre Hill

The factory of Samuel S. Watts was originally established by Abner Cline in 1848. During a period of a full generation, the business was conducted with uniform success. Mr. Samuel S. Watts, the present proprietor, is a young man of good business qualities, and is also a partner in the firm of Davis & Watts, general merchandise dealers. The factory is pleasantly located, near the center of the town, and is well adapted to the business, being 35 feet by 56 feet, three stories high, on a lot 75 x 100 feet.

The product is high grades of domestic cigars and finds a ready market throughout the country, being sold exclusively to the jobbing trade, from 50 to 60 people being constantly employed. Mr. Watts is prepared to turn out goods in any quantity at very short notice.

The Fairville Hotel at Terre Hill

The Fairville Hotel is a picturesque and popular hotel. Being the only licensed house in the town or vicinity, it has for years been popular with the travelling public. It is comfortably furnished with well ventilated sleeping rooms and a bountifully supplied table. A livery is attached. The genial proprietor, Mr. H.T. Witwer, is always at home to welcome his friends and assures us the Bar is well supplied with a carefully selected stock of the best wines, liquors, cigars and beers. Landlord Witwer extends a general invitation to the public to give him a call.

The End.

This folder is issued for
THE 1977 OVERHOLSER FAMILY REUNION
held at Memorial Park, Terre Hill, Pennsylvania
Saturday, August 27, 1977

In
Memory of

ANNA VIRGINIA OVERHOLSER TINKER
born April 24, 1877, at Terre Hill, Pa.
died October 13, 1953, at Seattle, Wash.

daughter of

MARTIN KURTZ OVERHOLSER
born February 18, 1840
died May 1, 1912, at Terre Hill, Pa.
buried at Terre Hill, Pa.

and

ELIZABETH STIRK
born _____
died 1895, at Mountain Lake, Minn.
buried at Mountain Lake, Minn.

Published by her children

SPENCER WILKIE TINKER
1121 Hunakai Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

and

DOROTHY MAY TINKER GARRISON
4802 East Mercer Way
Mercer Island, Washington 98040