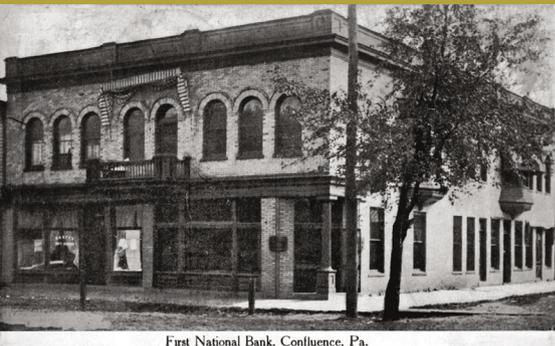


# The Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society



First National Bank, Confluence, Pa.



Interior meeting and display area.



Artifacts and archival material from First National Bank.

The headquarters of TVHS is in the former First National Bank building.



- The Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society (TVHS) came into existence on February 21, 2001, because of the inspired efforts of 10 residents who wanted to preserve the history and traditions of one of the lesser known areas of Somerset County, Pennsylvania.
- The valley earned its unique name as a result of a visit by a young Virginian officer, Colonel George Washington, who was sent to survey the area. Legend is that a Native American guide pointed out to Washington that the confluence of the Youghiogheny and Casselman Rivers and Laurel Hill Creek looked like a turkey foot and the name stuck.
- The TVHS became a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, charitable organization on November 12, 2003. It is managed by an all-volunteer Board of Officers and Directors and has approximately 300 members from 20 states, Canada, and even the United Kingdom.
- The Society is located in the H.C. Harned Center at the site of the former First National Bank of Confluence, Pa. The 2,000-square-foot, two-story building was purchased in

December, 2005. It houses the society's archives, collections, offices, and meeting area, in addition to providing space for the Turkeyfoot Lending Library and Confluence Tourism Association.

- The Society's museum is an eclectic and neatly organized collection of artifacts that provide insight and perspective into the history of the area and life of its residents. The collection also displays historical photographs, postcards, and newspapers. There are items from the Civil War and both world wars, in addition to the railroad and timber industries, which once were the economic mainstays of the area.
- Each year, the TVHS hosts a variety of special events including guest speakers, historical reenactors, book presentations, bake sales, holiday parties, and Pumpkinfest. The Society has conducted presentations on the Spanish American War, Fort Necessity, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), Fallingwater, and Charlotte Browne, a British widow and mother who left her children in London to serve as matron of the British army in North America during the Seven Years' War. All events are free and open to the public.

- The Somerset Historical Center (SHC) is hosting the Heinz History Center's traveling exhibit, *We Can Do It! WWII*, from July 20, 2019, to September 17, 2019. TVHS is working closely with the SHC to curate the local stories, develop educational programs, and deliver enriching programs and events.
- In partnership with the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, the Society presents two scholarships each year to deserving students for post-secondary education at an accredited institution. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,250 per year for up to four years (\$5,000 total).
- The TVHS welcomes private individuals, their families, and corporations to become members. Individual membership is only \$15.00 per year, \$20.00 per household, and corporate memberships are as little as \$50.00 per year.
- The Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society is located at 600 Logan Place, Confluence, Pa., 15424. To learn more about activities and events, membership, and volunteer opportunities, call (814) 395-5415 or email [tfvhs@tfvhs.com](mailto:tfvhs@tfvhs.com). The society's website is [www.tfvhs.com](http://www.tfvhs.com).

The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, History Center Affiliates Program (HCAP) Coordinator, at [rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org) or (412) 454-6359.



## H.C. Harned Center in Confluence, Pa.

All photos courtesy of Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society.