

NOTES AND QUOTES ON THE COMPASS INN
AND THE PEOPLE OF
LAUGHLINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
1828-1870

MYRON B. SHARP

THE Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has two collections of letters and documents relating to Laughlintown, Pennsylvania, and the Ligonier Valley. One of these collections is the Mathiot Papers which consists of twenty-five manuscript boxes of letters, deeds, account books, receipts, wills and many other papers dating from 1790 to 1867. The other collection, consisting of four manuscript boxes and several ledgers and daybooks, is known as the Armor Collection. This consists of several hundred letters, many of them to and from Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, some from various people in the valley and elsewhere to the Armors, Louthers and others. Included are several old unused ledgers marked "Historical Notes" by Chas. L. Armor. He apparently marked down happenings of the past as they came to his attention, and contemporary happenings as they occurred.

In Box No. 2 of the Armor Collection there is a large picture of the Compass Inn, taken in 1929 by Frank H. Steele, Photographer, Wilksburg, Pennsylvania. On the back of this picture someone (probably Charles L. Armor) wrote the following:

"Compass Inn — Main Street, Laughlintown, Pennsylvania — Lincoln Highway, Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County.

East end of house (logs) built by Philip Freeman, 1799.

West end of house (stone) built by Robert Armor, 1820.

Philip Freeman, 1799-1807

Benjamin Johnston, 1807-1812

Frederick Meyers, 1812-1814

Robert Armor, 1814-1854

John G. Armor, 1854-1878

Mrs. Catherine C. Armor, 1878-1892

Frank W. Armor and Charles L. Armor, 1892-1915

Mr. Sharp, chemist, a member of this Society, is well known to our friends and readers, not only through the book *A Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania* but through his continued research in the Mathiot Papers.—Editor

Charles L. Armor, 1915-1921

Interim landlords:

Israel Brown — 1845

Philip Miller — 1862 Last year as a hotel.

"Philip Freeman kept a hotel on the Forbes Road at a site in an orchard on the present (1929) farm once owned by Jacob Swank in the Willow Grove School District, Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and in 1799 or before built the present Compass Inn (log end) on the State Road in the new town of East Liberty, now Laughlintown, Pennsylvania.

"When Robert Armor came to the hotel in 1814 he gave it the name of the Compass Inn, the name of the hotel he had come from at Compassville, in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

"Previous name of this hotel not known but it had a sign projecting from east end of house near roof.

Ampelopsis vine on stone on west end of house.

Foliage of Ailanthus tree at extreme left.

Western locust tree top over roof at left.

Norway Spruce tree top over roof at right.

Young White Pine tree at extreme right.

"Dimensions of house 60 x 25 feet.

"Where small kitchen now stands in rear on Westmoreland Avenue, there had been a two (2) story log kitchen and fireplace for cooking, etc. Torn down in 1862."

To bring the ownership of the Compass Inn up to date, the following information was obtained from Mrs. Kenneth R. (Barbara Swank) Craig, who is the daughter of Mrs. Virginia Swank. Mrs. Swank sold the Compass Inn to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society in 1966.

From 1921 until 1940 the property was owned jointly by the Armor heirs. In 1940 Mrs. Virginia Swank and her husband bought the property from the heirs. Mrs. Swank's father was Harry C. Smalley and her mother was Ruth Armor Smalley, one of the heirs. Mrs. Virginia Smalley Swank's maternal grandfather was Herbert Armor, brother of Charles L. and Frank W. Armor.

Compass Inn, located on the southwest corner of the Lincoln Highway and California Avenue in Laughlintown, was built in two parts. The first part (1799), as stated above, was built of logs and the later addition (1820) of stone. The log portion had been covered with siding for many years and few people realized that the Compass Inn was actually a log house.

At the present time the Ligonier Valley Historical Society is at-

tempting to raise money to restore the building to its appearance in the early 1800's. The work is being done under the able supervision of Mr. Charles M. Stotz, architect and historian, and a well-known member and Vice-President of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. Some preliminary work has already been done. When the work is completed the old inn will be a museum, and another building which is to be erected on the property, will be used as a gift shop, office and headquarters for the Ligonier Valley Historical Society.

The following article is taken from the letters and notes of the Mathiot and Armor Collections. Most of the letters were written by Catherine Mathiot, in Laughlintown, to her father, Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, in Washington, D. C. Others were written by his son, George Davies Mathiot, his grandson, John McCreery and others, mostly from Laughlintown. Some letters were written by Jacob to his children.¹

The first two letters from which I quote are not about Laughlintown but are of interest for the reasons stated. The first letter was brought to mind by a paragraph in a section titled "THE ROAD," in a pamphlet called *Stage Stop on the Road to History*, issued by the Ligonier Valley Historical Society. "The fastest, surest and probably the most uncomfortable transportation in the first half of the nineteenth century was provided by stage coach." The truth of this statement is brought out in the following letter.²

New Ark, Ohio
Feb. 14, 1828

Col. Jacob D. Mathiot
Ligonier, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Dear Brother :

I arrived here on Thursday last after a most unpleasant journey. The stage arrived at Laughlintown the morning after I left Ross, filled with passengers, and after some considerable dispute with the driver, I was permitted to take a seat by his side. As the morning was severely cold I had a most unpleasant ride and to help the matter the stage was capsised [*sic*] near Youngstown. [Between Ligonier and Greensburg, ed.] I escaped unhurt by springing from my seat. Two of the passengers were slightly injured, but taking everything into con-

1 It will be noted throughout this article that there are sometimes two or more spellings of the same name. No attempt was made to correct the spelling of names but words were corrected except in a direct quotation. In the following footnotes, M.P. refers to the Mathiot Papers and A.C. to the Armor Collection.

2 M.P. 1-5-3.

sideration, it was a very safe turnover. We had a rough and disagreeable ride to Turtle Creek, where the tongue of our stage broke and we were compelled to walk the most of the way to Pittsburgh, where we arrived sometime after dark. I was detained at Pittsburgh until 3 o'clock on Wednesday when I set sail in the steamboat *Atalanta* for Wheeling and arrived there without meeting with any adventure at 2 o'clock next morning. I set out in the stage at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning and arrived at Fairview the same afternoon; the United States Road is only completed to this village and I found that the stage was not running to Zanesville. I was therefore compelled to mount one of the stage horses, with the gears [?] on, with one of the mail bags as a saddle and with the mail carrier as a companion. I set off from Fairview about 10 o'clock at night in the midst of a refreshing shower and after travelling all night and the next day, I arrived in Zanesville. The road was as bad as it could be, and what added to the comfort of the ride was the rain, which fell in torrents, and without intermission; I entered Zanesville about sunset on Friday, cold, wet, hungry, and muddy, and out of humor. In that situation I thought it not very prudent to call on my particular friends that night. _____

I remain your
affectionate Brother
Joshua Mathiot

From this letter it would seem that the stage coach was not the only uncomfortable means of travel in those days.

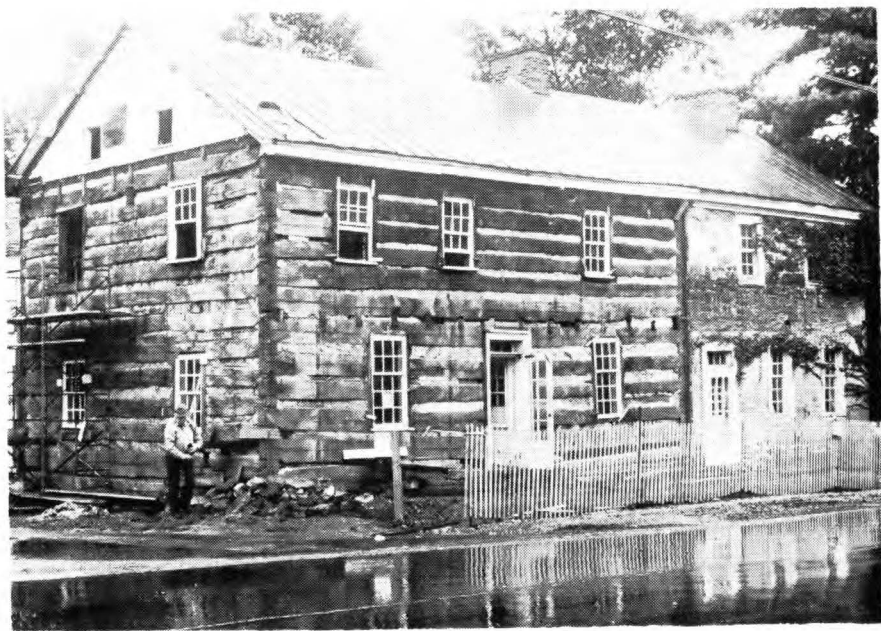
The second letter³ has to do with a tragic accident. Westmoreland County had, and still has, two Powdermill Runs. One of them is in Cook Township, south of Ligonier, from which the Carnegie Museum, which owns the reserve, derived the name Powdermill Nature Reserve. The other is in St. Clair Township, northeast of Ligonier. It enters Baldwin Run just above the Laurel Hill Furnace.

On May 21, 1840, there was an explosion at a powdermill which killed two men. Apparently people have become confused as to which Powdermill Run was the site of the explosion. A letter dated May 24, 1840, from John Mathiot to his brother, Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, tells the entire story and locates the site of the explosion. He wrote that on May 21 the "powderhouse belonging to the mill of R. Wallace, lately occupied by John Hill was blown up. Mr. Hill and his son Gasper

3 M.P. 16-12-26.



Compass Inn, Laughlintown, Pennsylvania
July 1970



Compass Inn (After Removal of Siding)
September 1970

(him who married Ruth Young), were in at the time. They were terribly burnt [*sic*]. The old man died on Saturday and no hopes for Gasper. Mr. Hill was scraping some dirt off a board on the floor with a hatchet and struck fire. It is said there was not much powder on hand but a great deal of dust from salt petre, charcoal, etc. I heard the report at Ruffner's. I told him at the time that I thought it was the powder-mill. ——— Since writing the above I have heard that Gasper Hill died last night." This mill was located on the Powdermill Run which enters Baldwin Run near Laurel Hill Furnace. This is borne out by the fact that on an 1867 map of St. Clair Township a Ruffner's farm is shown midway between Ross Furnace and Laurel Hill Furnace.*

The following note by Charles L. Armor gives some interesting information about the California Furnace.

March 1, 1849. Articles of Agreement between John Mathiot, Samuel P. Cummins and Jacob D. Mathiot, to build and operate the California Furnace.⁴ Each shall put in \$2000. John Mathiot to be superintendent of erection of furnace and to become manager at a salary of \$600 a year. The furnace will take all of 1849 and most of 1850 to build. [It was finished in June 1850.] Samuel Benson and Robert Fuller of Somerset were to be the contractors. The stack was to be 25' x 25' x 40' high with a foundation 12' deep. [The measurements of the furnace today are 32' x 32' x 32' high. The top is 22' square.]

February 27, 1858. Complaint to Justice of the Peace Robert Louthier that Davis Mathiot, clerk at California Furnace, did "hit complainant over the head with a small skillet and swore he would knock his G— d— brains out."⁵

Spring 1858. Fourteen boys formed a military company called the Laughlintown Guards, George McCreery, Captain. They made uniforms and wooden guns painted red and wooden swords.⁶

*An interesting sidelight to this account is that in 1846 George M. Reed, son of Hezekiah Reed, builder and owner of Laurel Hill Furnace, bought the Wallace property mentioned above (Westmoreland County Deed Book, Vol. 29, p. 65). George Reed was probably buying timberland as a source of charcoal for the furnace.

In 1855 George M. Reed married Cassandra D. Mathiot, youngest daughter of Col. Jacob D. Mathiot. Their son, Mathiot Reed, was a prominent attorney in Ebensburg for many years. The grandson, George L. Reed, is presently an attorney in Ebensburg.

4 A.C. 1-1-6.

5 M.P. 16-1-9.

6 "Historical Notes" by Charles L. Armor in the Armor Collection.

May 1858. Judson Armor had a case of measles. First case in eight years.⁷ Mrs. Simon Naugle lived in the store end of Susan Armor's house in 1858 while Simon was in California.⁸

June 23, 1860. William Curry and family were still in Laughlintown.⁹ He was to leave soon for Philadelphia for a job in the custom house. Dr. Samuel P. Cummins was at this time in Industry, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. He was taking care of a large practice and liked it. During his years in Ligonier, although a practicing physician, he had preferred business to medicine and had been in partnership with many men in the valley, including Col. Jacob D. Mathiot and Noah Mendell.

June 25, 1861. Jacob D. Mathiot, now sworn in and working in the office of the First Comptroller of the Treasury in Washington, D. C.,¹⁰ was engaged in copying the accounts of Consuls and other agents of the government, writing treasury warrants, making duplicates, etc. His salary was \$100 a month. He paid \$20-\$30 a month board, and washing "75c per dozen." In his letters at this time he tells of the great number of troops in Washington.

July 3, 1861. In a letter to Catherine Mathiot, Jacob relates that Mr. Cowan and Mr. Covode (of Westmoreland County) are in Washington or due to arrive in a few days. They all board at the same house. He mentions Adam Yetsler of Laughlintown and Mr. Postlethwaite of Somerset.¹¹

July 6, 1861. Catherine Mathiot subscribed to *Godey's Lady's Book*. John Mathiot was fixing a drum for Jud Naugle. William Curry and family were staying with the Weavers. James Loughery lost two children and another was seriously ill. They were poisoned by eating mulberries that had been infected by a poisonous worm. The first case of this kind in the county. The doctor said that he had heard of one previous case of this kind.¹²

July 19, 1861. The Brethren intended having a camp meeting, commencing the last Friday in August, on Naugle's land between his clearing and Joel Mark's, on the left of the Pike going up.¹³

July 29, 1861. Catherine Mathiot wrote one of her newsy (gossipy) letters. Elizabeth Huston now had three children. Mr.

7 "Historical Notes" by Charles L. Armor in the Armor Collection.

8 "Historical Notes" by Charles L. Armor in the Armor Collection.

9 M.P. 3-1-34.

10 M.P. 3-1-35.

11 M.P. 3-1-38.

12 M.P. 3-1-41.

13 M.P. 3-1-48.

Walter commenced his school after a long vacation. "Elizabeth Curry, Nannie and young William Curry are at Monaughers. Cecelia Curry is expected there in a few days. Mrs. Monaughers will have a full house. Katy Armstrong married a Mr. Miller. He is said to be a Dutchman from over the hill." ¹⁴

August 3, 1861. The volunteer Company from Ligonier was to be in Latrobe that day. Dan Mickey had gone to Latrobe with the Naugles. No one from this part of the county would enlist. ¹⁵

August 19, 1861. Harmon Bird, son of Esq. Bird of Youngstown, Westmoreland County, was a volunteer, took typhoid in the army, came home and died. Jim Lanson had left town. He was afraid that the returning volunteers would get him and Kinsey. Mr. Trauger intended getting some sugar from Pittsburgh and proposed that George Mathiot take some of it. ¹⁶

August 1861. John Mathiot joined Dr. Kimble's cavalry company. ¹⁷

August 22, 1861. From Catherine Mathiot: Mrs. Douthert left her husband, Lewis, and moved into the old house below Mrs. Campbell's, where Joe Park's family lived when he was building his new one. John McCreery was going to Mr. Walter's school. ¹⁸

September 2, 1861. Eliza Mathiot Davidson, sister of Col. Jacob D. Mathiot and widow of Col. Robert Davidson, hero of Detroit in the War of 1812, when he refused to surrender his men to the British, wrote asking if the rumor that the government was going to pay a pension to the widows of the War of 1812 was true. ¹⁹

September 3, 1861. Jacob D. Mathiot wrote that he had warned Naugle many times to stay clear of Reeside. Now Reeside had failed and Naugle had again lost money. He had probably not yet recovered his losses from Garman. Mathiot sent \$40 to pay on what he owed to McFarland, Moorhead, and Hargnett. He said he might have to proceed against Postlethwaite (of Somerset) to collect money due Sarah Ann Curry, Mathiot's daughter. (Note: Sarah Ann Mathiot had married Dr. John McCreery who had practiced medicine in Somerset. He could not collect money due him so he gave up the practice of medicine and took a job in Washington, D. C. After only a few months there he died of consumption. A few years later Sarah Ann married

14 M.P. 3-1-52.

15 M.P. 3-1-53.

16 M.P. 3-1-57.

17 M.P. 3-1-59A.

18 M.P. 3-1-61.

19 M.P. 3-1-66.

John Curry. J. D. Mathiot hired Postlethwaite, a lawyer, to collect Dr. McCreery's accounts. He did collect some of them but neglected to turn the money over to Sarah Ann Curry.²⁰)

September 7, 1861. A letter from John Mathiot said that the Captain of his company was Dr. Kimball and the 1st Lieutenant was George Covode. John had borrowed \$5 from Armor and Louthier before leaving for the army. A son of Adam McClintock had raised a company of soldiers. The camp meeting was only moderately successful.²¹

September 11, 1861. Catherine wrote to her father that three sons of Neil Parker, Alex Tantlinger, and Judson Armor had volunteered. James Hall was an army teamster. Old Mr. Campbell talked about going as a teamster. Mrs. Douthert was keeping a candy shop. Anderson Bond left his family and went away with Ann Essherman. "Sally his wife, and the children would no doubt have to go to the poorhouse unless he returns."²²

September 1861. Teeny Bales came home some time ago to her family, "sick and crippled," her mother said, from having nothing to eat or wear. They kept her for some weeks then Joe Park took her to the poorhouse. "Poor Teeny has had a hard life with John Bales." Anne Leslie's son, William, went with Captain Bierer's company.²³

October 7, 1861. John McCreery wrote to his grandfather, J. D. Mathiot, that Benjamin Brubaker had left for war again and Western Brubaker was going to leave in a few days. James Hall was at home but was going back very soon. He mentioned a pottery in Ligonier but did not give its location. John Hamilton was at home on furlough. He was serving in western Virginia under General Coxe. Simon Naugle was trying to raise a company.²⁴

October 20, 1861. Israel Clark liked the army. John Hamilton was away for four months and never wrote so his wife thought he was dead. He came home on furlough and brought a lot of things for his family.

Billy Clarke's valuable horse was killed in town. A team of horses was going down the road and a herd of cows was coming up. The horses became frightened and the pole of the wagon hit a cow, knocking it down. The saddle horse of Billy Clarke's fell on the cow's horn and died in a few minutes. The steer was injured. Joseph Naugle bought it for \$10; "a bargain if it lives."

20 M.P. 3-1-67.

21 M.P. 3-1-69.

22 M.P. 3-1-72.

23 M.P. 3-1-78.

24 M.P. 3-1-81 and M.P. 3-1-85.

Frank St. Clair had been in Saltsburg. He married a widow with some property and six children. George Phillippi was going to teach school but "John probably won't learn anything from him." George moved into a part of Susanne Armor's house.²⁵

January 6, 1862. Jacob D. Mathiot had been out to see John Mathiot in a camp near Washington and told how he had his tent fixed up.

The charcoal house at California Furnace, now run by Alexander Cavin, burned down and Mathiot didn't think that Cavin should collect the insurance money because he believed there was conniving between Cavin and the insurance adjuster on the fire in 1858 which burned down the store and probably on this fire also.

January 27, 1862. J. D. Mathiot heard of a fight in Ligonier between a Union man and a Rebel, in which the Rebel was badly wounded. The men were Knox and Lorison.²⁶

February 8, 1862. Dr. Samuel P. Cummins wrote from Industry, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, that he was interested in coal and coal oil. He was thinking of putting up a plant to produce coal oil. His son, Mathiot Cummins, was practicing medicine in Fairview, a few miles north of Industry, and was doing very well.²⁷

March 3, 1862. Jacob Mathiot wrote, in a letter to Catherine, his daughter, that "John Bell's marriage is a strange one and if Penrod marries Mrs. Douthert, it will be a still stranger one."²⁸

March 10, 1862. Joseph Buel was going to move to town in the spring. Miller was going to move to the crossroads. He had rented a tavern stand there. Naugle and Leslie dissolved partnership. They auctioned off their goods. Naugle, in his own trading, paid in goods at cost, and Leslie would not stand for that kind of dealing. A primary election was to be held the following Saturday. "St. Clair was out as assessor, Park and Kimmel as Constable and Harvey Clark was out on the Democratic side for Constable."²⁹

March 17, 1862. John McCreery wrote to his grandfather, J. D. Mathiot, about a lot of moving about that had taken place. "David Gilchrist, in Adamsburg, sold his tavern stand to Michael Walthour and is going to move next door. Mr. Cowan's mother and brother are going to move to the brick house opposite Mr. Gilchrist's tavern stand.

25 M.P. 3-1-86.

26 M.P. 3-2-6.

27 M.P. 3-2-11.

28 M.P. 3-2-13.

29 A.C. 1-1-39.

William Buel moved to John Buel's old house in Laughlinton and John Buel moved to the white house at the furnace [California or Washington?]. Joseph Buel was going to move to John Neff's house and Neff intends going over the ridge."³⁰

March 24, 1862. Mrs. Dougherty was going to move to a frame house on the bank at Washington Furnace. The house was said to be haunted. Catherine Mathiot wrote, "It will certainly be haunted when she moves in." She rented the house from Charlie Cobe for \$6 a year.

There had evidently been an election and all of the Republican ticket had been elected except for old Mr. Buel. Joe Park was elected Constable and Mr. St. Clair was elected assessor.³¹

Joseph Buel was returning to town. It seems that he could not get along with Fred Naugle. Naugle had bad luck with partners. The writer of this letter, Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, said that people were beginning to distrust and dislike General McClellan.³²

March 25, 1862. William McCreery, uncle of John McCreery, J. D. Mathiot's grandson, was in the army in Missouri and wrote to Mathiot about the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He fought through most of the battles in Missouri and Arkansas and finally contracted malaria and spent the remainder of the war in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. He had lived in the Ligonier Valley before moving to Iowa and enlisting in the army.³³

April 28, 1862. Catherine Mathiot said that Armor's boys and John McCreery went to Ligonier every evening for the mail. John Buel's wife had a daughter. Catherine was trying to use a steel pen. It was not as easy to use as a quill.³⁴

May 5, 1862. George D. Mathiot wrote that Mrs. Caldwell's mother who was almost one hundred years old came to live with her and died in less than one week. Stephen Northrup arrived in town on Saturday from Illinois. He looked "hard and seedy."³⁵

May 12, 1862. John Taylor at Louthers Mill died.³⁶

May 19, 1862. Frank St. Clair died a few days before this letter was written. William Leslie was at White Plains, Virginia, on railroad guard duty. Lewis Luther came home. Sam Luther had not been heard from for a long time. John Hamilton had not written since he left in

30 M.P. 3-2-15.

31 M.P. 3-2-17.

32 M.P. 3-2-18A.

33 M.P. 3-2-19.

34 A.C. 1-1-40.

35 A.C. 1-1-41.

36 M.P. 3-2-27.

the fall, but he came home early in May. He was on the Tennessee River and was at Fort Donaldson and Pittsburgh Landing.³⁷

June 11, 1862. John Hamilton and Louis Louther probably had a bad influence on John Mathiot who had quit drinking. [He had evidently started again.]³⁸

June 16, 1862. Lewis Luther and James Campbell's daughter, Ruhamme, were married. They were serenaded until Lewis took the boys up to Naugle's and stood treat.

Alexander Cavin died about June 2 from overexertion fighting a forest fire on the mountain. Nathaniel McKelvey was repairing the old tavern stand for Mr. Armor. Thomas Clark had his barn raising. Nearly all of the children in town had the whooping cough. Old Mr. McClune was over eighty years old.³⁹

June 30, 1862. Louis Louther went to Kansas to work some land he owned there. Squire Louther had put up a barn, weather-boarded his smoke house and enlarged his kitchen. John Hamilton was putting a kitchen on his house.⁴⁰

July 6, 1862. Catherine Mathiot wrote that sugar was 12c in Ligonier and 15c in Laughlintown. Butter was 8c and eggs were 6c in Laughlintown. Coffee was 25c per pound. Many people used rye instead of coffee. A Sunday School celebration was held on July 4. The children were treated with cake, crackers, cheese, and lemonade. Crawford Armor came home. He brought the body of Captain Warden of Mt. Pleasant.⁴¹

July 14, 1862. William Carnes of Laughlintown had been wounded. He was in Johnstown but was coming home soon. William Leslie wrote to his sister Anne, that his regiment was at Manassas and he thought that they would be sent to join McClellan at Richmond.⁴²

August 11, 1862. "A lot of men went to war last Friday." Israel Mathews, George Mickey, Alex Mickey, Joseph Clark, Fred Tantlinger, Abe Esherman, Jud Naugle, and a great many others.⁴³

August 15, 1862. Fifty-five or sixty men from Ligonier had formed a company under Dr. Donnely of Latrobe as Captain. Thomas Moorhead was elected 2nd Lieutenant. Among the men were Jud Naugle, and the other men mentioned in the preceding letter and also

37 M.P. 3-2-31.

38 M.P. 3-2-39.

39 M.P. 3-2-41.

40 M.P. 3-2-47A.

41 M.P. 3-2-49.

42 M.P. 3-2-52.

43 A.C. 1-1-45.

one of George Phillippi's sons, John Gebhart, and two of Jonathan Louthers' sons.⁴⁴

August 18, 1862. Jacob Wadsworth's father was killed on the railroad at Latrobe. John Hamilton's father died in Mt. Pleasant — a victim of whiskey.⁴⁵

August 20, 1862. Sheriff Huston's three sons were carrying the mail and gossip had it that they did it to escape the draft. Esq. Markes was appointed to "lay" the draft in Ligonier Township and Joseph Moorhead for the borough. Simon Naugle was trying to raise a company of volunteers.⁴⁶

August 1862. Robert Phillippi was taken prisoner, paroled and sent home. George Phillippi started for the army, got as far as Greensburg, and as no provisions had been made for his transportation, came back. He may teach school. He was a good teacher. Mr. McClintock's son was badly wounded.⁴⁷ Old Wadsworth would not take to his sons being drafted. He was a great secessionist. Frank Shaffer and Joe Parke talked of going to war and Simon Naugle had raised twenty men.⁴⁸

September 1, 1862. George D. Mathiot wrote to his father that one of their hogs got out and into Naugle's meadow. He turned the dogs loose and they killed it. Jacob in a later letter said, "that was very unneighborly of Naugle."⁴⁹ Thomas McCreery was killed in a recent battle. He was in Captain McCurdy's company. Judson Armor was in the hospital from sunstroke. Old Mr. Brubaker and daughter Mary had moved to East Liberty. Mary had a very bad temper.⁵⁰

October 26, 1862. Catherine Mathiot wrote that she saw Henry Lowery on his way back to Washington. Elijah Lenhart came home. He must have deserted. Susan St. Clair came for a visit. Isabel St. Clair and Henry Miller were planning on getting married. James Clark was drafted over the protests of his father.⁵¹

November 3, 1862. John Parker died. William Leslie came home from the army. Horner was putting his old place up for sale. Lewis Louthers was going to buy it.⁵²

November 9, 1862. John McCreery wrote to his grandfather that

44 M.P. 3-2-64.

45 M.P. 3-2-67.

46 M.P. 3-2-68.

47 M.P. 3-2-71.

48 M.P. 3-2-75.

49 M.P. 3-2-80.

50 M.P. 3-2-73.

51 M.P. 3-2-91.

52 M.P. 3-2-94.

Mr. Armor's house was getting on finally and there was little doubt that he would be able to move into it by spring. He put a new kitchen at the back of the house and tore down the sheds at the end of the stable and was getting the stable weather-boarded for a warehouse. The store was to be in the room which had formerly been the bar room. John thought it a very good arrangement. Old Compass Inn was to become a combination store and residence.

Western Morley had moved to the brick house at the bridge and John Neff had moved to Johnstown. Louis Louther bought the Horner place for only \$600.

John Mathiot, John Hamilton, Nathan McKelvey, William Buel, and Stephen Northrup were all working at Armor's house.⁵³

December 8, 1862. Col. Mathiot saw Judson Naugle when he visited Captain Donnelly's company at Washington. He said that Judson looked well.⁵⁴

December 11, 1862. Anne Dorsey, sister of Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, who lived in Morgantown, West Virginia, said that the President's proclamation freeing the slaves did more in West Virginia for strengthening the South than any order yet given. Hundreds of men and boys left at once for the South to fight for the Confederacy.⁵⁵

December 22, 1862. Judson Armor was slightly wounded in the back. Col. Coulter was wounded and Captain Coulter lost an arm. Sam Bean was wounded in the groin. The Grahams were afraid their son might perish and would not allow him to carry the mail any longer. David Effley [sp?] took over the job. [All of this in a letter from Catherine Mathiot to her father.]⁵⁶

January 4, 1863. John McCreery wrote that "David Louther intends leaving the mill in three months. William Shaffer, who lives on the farm at the mill, intends moving also. There is a report going now that Dr. Fish and Thomas Clark are going to rent the Caldwell Tavern in the spring and will start a store there.——— Mr. Armor's house will not be done before the first of March, if then. They are almost done with the part of the house that they are to live in but the storeroom has to be fixed up yet."⁵⁷

January 5, 1863. Colonel Jacob D. Mathiot attended a reception at the White House and "had the *honor* of shaking the hand of the

53 M.P. 3-2-97.

54 M.P. 3-2-110.

55 M.P. 3-2-112.

56 M.P. 3-2-116.

57 M.P. 3-3-1.

President." In another letter he told of a fire at Ford's Theatre, about one square from his boarding house.⁵⁸

January 12, 1863. John Mathiot wrote of all the sickness in the Valley. "Hall, Reed McClune, Frank Sheaffer, James Buel, and Trauger have each had one or two children sick lately. William Buel buried a little child about twelve days old on Saturday. The child was so young of course it could not be told what was wrong with it.

"McKelvey is getting along slowly with Armor's house. ——— The porch is partly built. It will probably be late next month before it will be finished. Hall had rented Armor's present house. Mayor Huston's son has been driving the hack to Latrobe since Friday. Reed carried the mail to Stoystown. Abraham Penrod was married last week to the widow of Kenady Sloan. So that ends it with him and Mrs. Douthet." George Scott came home from the army.⁵⁹

January 19, 1863. Tommy Clark and his son-in-law, Dr. Fish, were going to open a store in town. Dr. Fish seemed to have two wives. Clark's daughter knew of the other wife when she married him. "He must be of the Mormon persuasion, I think." Israel Clark was trying hard to get a discharge but was afraid he would be called a deserter. George Scott was in town ——— a deserter. Anne Leslie's son had not written for five or six weeks. She was afraid he was sick.⁶⁰

Some of the Mathiot family, notably the children of Jacob's brother, John, had not had much education. One of these sons, Jacob D. Mathiot, started a letter to his uncle, Col. Jacob D. Mathiot, as follows: "After my love and respect for you I seat myself down to Embrace you a few lines to let you know that I am well and wishing you well." ⁶¹

February 9, 1863. John Mathiot wrote to his father about a terrible snow and wind storm in the valley. "Anderson Bond's shop was partially demolished, a little of the roof off each of Naugle's stables, though the damage was slight. The old gate house at Washington Furnace, Susan Grove's stable, and an old house at the furnace were blown down. David Horner's new house had the roof taken off and a side partly blown in but not one was injured. The Catholic Church at Latrobe was blown down. There were a number of other buildings in the valley injured, but not around here."

McKelvey was almost through with Armor's house except for

58 M.P. 3-3-2.

59 M.P. 3-3-3.

60 M.P. 3-3-4.

61 M.P. 3-3-11.

some shelves and part of the counter that were to be brought from the old store. Simon Naugle had been unwell but lately seemed to be getting better. The night before they had sent for Frederick and his mother so he must have taken a turn for the worse.⁶²

March 15, 1863. Catherine Mathiot wrote that Armor and Louther were moving their store. "Mrs. Armor will find her new house quite an improvement on the old one." Phillip Miller was supposed to move to town but could not find a place to live. Mrs. Douthet had rented Mrs. Caldwell's house and he was unable to get one in time. Emma Douthet was expected home soon. Dr. Fish talked of buying the brick tavern but finally concluded to rent it and will move the first of April. Sarah McMurray died. She was an aunt of Tommy Clark.⁶³

July 13, 1863. William Graham, youngest son of George Graham, tried to enlist. He was turned down because he was only fifteen. Jim Lawson of Ligonier visited the Rebels at Cumberland. After returning to Ligonier he was arrested. His brother gave bond for his release. Davis Mathiot was working in Mr. Nutter's store.⁶⁴

August 10, 1863. Robert Hale had come to town and was living in the old house between Campbell's and Tantlinger's. Mary Halferty, daughter of Edward, married John Peeples late in June 1863. Louis Luther and his wife had gone to housekeeping. They were in one half of the house and her old mother was in the other half which was a bad situation, according to Catherine Mathiot. Sam Smith of Waterford died of cholera morbis. [Note: Cholera morbis, or morbus, according to the *Twentieth Century Family Physician*, printed in 1883 and revised and enlarged many times through 1907, is "an acute catarrh of the stomach and intestines, often caused by unripe fruits and vegetables or other irritating substances taken into the stomach; yet it frequently occurs without such apparent cause. It is especially frequent in summer and early autumn."] ⁶⁵

August 27, 1863. William McCreery wrote to Col. Jacob D. Mathiot about the war in Arkansas and Missouri. He asked about the "Bennett tribe" of Fairfield and St. Clair Townships. He spoke of them as "Copperheads." ⁶⁶

September 7, 1863. Dr. Fish was taken to Pittsburgh for trial but apparently was acquitted. The charge was not mentioned.⁶⁷

62 M.P. 3-3-12.

63 M.P. 3-3-21.

64 M.P. 3-3-42.

65 M.P. 3-3-42A.

66 M.P. 3-3-47.

67 M.P. 3-3-48.

September 28, 1863. Catherine Mathiot wrote, "I see the Bishop has advertised his wife in the last weeks Herald. Perhaps he was afraid she might run him in debt. Well, he has suffered a greater loss lately than losing a wife; one that will take money to replace. His old horse is dead and it will be difficult for him to get along without one.

"Robert Douthet died of camp fever while in the Rebel army. The poor fellow was true to the Union and received very harsh treatment from the Rebels because of his Union sentiments. So Mrs. Douthet is a free woman at last and whoever is so simple as to want her for a wife can have her."

Dr. Beam had married a Miss White of Belmont, Ohio, a few weeks before. Adam Hollabaugh's family had suffered greatly with typhoid fever. The whole family had been sick with the exception of Mrs. Hollabaugh. One of his little girls had died. The others were on the road to recovery. Three of Fred Naugle's children were ill with diphtheria. Two were out of danger but one little boy was still in a critical condition. Tamor Trauger had diphtheria, but not seriously.⁶⁸

November 9, 1863. Dr. Fish was going to move to Latrobe. John Mathiot thought that the Valley would be well rid of him and Dr. Fish said that he was moving "out of Hell. Laughlinstown was the damnedest place I ever was." One of the Nicelys bought one of Dr. Fish's cows and Fred Naugle bought the other. John wrote of John Brubaker, Esq. Louthier who owned the house that Mathiots lived in, and Mr. Nutter and his stove shop.⁶⁹

November 23, 1863. Catherine Mathiot wrote that John Mathiot, John Hamilton and Harney Black left for Pittsburgh to get jobs as boatmen. Rebecca Huston died during the summer. Hannah Peeples, widow of Robert Peeples, died. Charley McCreery's daughter, Margaret, died last spring of consumption. David McCreery married Sarah Hanna. Byerly Wadsworth died in Johnstown of typhoid fever. He had been married only two or three months. Mr. Nutter had rented the brick tavern for five years and also bought the Caldwell house where Mrs. Douthet lived. Mr. Cassidy died at Stoyestown a few days before this was written.⁷⁰

December 7, 1863. John Mathiot and Harry Clark, who had "gone down the river," quit at Cincinnati and returned home. The job and exposure were too much. Lewis Louthier, David Eppley, James Park, and John Hamilton were on the same boat.⁷¹

68 M.P. 3-3-52.

69 M.P. 3-3-60.

70 M.P. 3-3-64.

71 A.C. 1-1-49.

December 21, 1863. One of the Mickeys from up the Valley died from diphtheria, and a brother who came from Latrobe for the funeral, took it, returned home and died a few days later from the same cause.⁷²

Mathew Graham and Nancie Hamil were married last week. About seventy-five people were invited.

Fred Tantlinger, Porter McClune, Isaac and Leander Morley, and a Mr. Lad left for Greensburg to enlist.⁷³

February 15, 1864. Israel Clark and Carson Campbell came home last Saturday. They were in the 11th Regiment. Alex Tantlinger did not come home.

West Morley was going to move to Mechanicsburg (Rector), and William Hall was to move into Morley's old place and have his shop in part of Mrs. Little's house.⁷⁴

Albert Lindhammer married a Mrs. Shoup.⁷⁵

February 27, 1864. The draft was heavy. They wanted twenty or twenty-one men from the township. Mrs. Huston, Margaret Naugle that was, was offering \$1000 for a substitute for her husband. Mrs. McClure had a son a few days ago. Bishop Cobe's wife left him, but when she found she could not "come on him for her support" she returned to him.

Mr. Armor's brother George, who had been in California for several years, returned and intended staying in Pennsylvania. Robert Mickey, Wadsworth's son-in-law, was killed in the army.⁷⁶

March 7, 1864. Elijah Lenhart fell down a cellarway, fractured his skull, and died a day or so later.⁷⁷

March 14, 1864. "Joel Marks has got religion." Catherine Mathiot could not quite see how he would be able to talk without using some very choice words he had always used. She was doubtful about it. Byerly Wadsworth's widow died of the same fever that killed him. William Wadsworth married a Johnstown girl and was living there.

Rebecca Ewing was going to live with Joseph People's family during the summer.⁷⁸

March 21, 1864. Dr. Fitch was in jail.

John McCreery wrote that there was quite a riot in town the previous Friday night. "Israel Clark, Carson Campbell, Porter Brick-

72 M.P. 3-3-68.

73 M.P. 3-4-6.

74 M.P. 3-4-11.

75 M.P. 3-4-14.

76 M.P. 3-4-15.

77 M.P. 3-4-18.

78 M.P. 3-4-20.

er, and a soldier by the name of John Burk, of Armaugh, came to town to get on a spree. In the afternoon they went to Armor's store and got to wrestling and upset a basket of onions and a tub of water over the floor. They then left and went to Naugle's and came back in a short time swearing they would whip young Armor. They bullied around through the store for a while then Israel Clark went up to John Shaffer and struck at him. John Burk caught hold of John Shaffer's arms and held him, John, however, managed to strike Is on the forehead and knocked him back against the counter. His eye struck the corner of it, cutting it badly. Mr. Armor interfered and stopped the row, but he was afraid they would come back as they were too drunk to know what they were about."

The following people had been elected in the recent election :

Justice of the Peace	Robert Louthier
Assessor	George Ambrose
Ass't Assessors	John Caven
	William Smith
Supervisors	George Albright
	George Shrum
	Henry Brant
	Joseph Buel
School Directors	William B. Shedron
	Alex Blair
Constable	Daniel Louthier
Township Clerk	Mathew Smith
Judge	Hiram Boucher
Inspector	John F. Boyd
Auditors	T. Seaton
	Nathan McKelvey ⁷⁹

April 11, 1864. The town had some new residents. Three Backhammer families, old Louis and two of his sons, married men. James Hale and Benedict Eaton and their families. All of the old houses in town were filled with the exception of the one over the street owned by old Mrs. Luther and if it had been at all fit to live in a family would be in it. Eaton and Hall lived in the house before Mrs. Campbell's. Louis Backhammer lived in the house that Mrs. Douthet had lived in and she had gone into the gate house over the creek and Backhammer's two sons lived in the Bond house. John Brubaker had moved to the brick house below town, owned by Mr. Boyd.

⁷⁹ M.P. 3-4-21.

Dr. Fitch was at large. Some one had been fool enough to go bail for him. "No doubt he will escape having justice done him."⁸⁰

June 5, 1864. Fred Naugle got the contract to carry the mail. Fred Naugle's oldest daughter, Martha; Joseph Naugle's daughter, Emma; Joseph Mathew's daughter, Kathy; Marcellas Hall, Herbert Armor and John McCreery all go to school in Ligonier. Porter McClune was wounded in the wrist and Jacob Horner in the arm. One of Morely's boys was missing in action.⁸¹

July 18, 1864. "Bishop Cobe is married again — to a pretty hard case, Charlotte Essherman, — a regular tramp. The match was very sudden. Charlotte had been away for four or five years and only got back five or six weeks ago. The Bishop borrowed Esq. Luther's buggy and went over the hill with his bride and Mrs. Essherman and got married where the circumstances of the case were unknown. There was a little difficulty in the way of their getting married here owing to the fact of Charlie having a wife and Charlotte a husband. The widow Essherman was not in a good humor when her daughter cut her out. She said the Bishop was courting her and she would have got him if Charlotte had not come home."

Esq. Covode had lost two sons in the war to date. George was killed in battle and Jacob was captured and died of starvation in prison in Richmond. [A later letter stated that Jacob may still be alive.]

Mr. Nutter closed his store leaving only Armor's, "so Mr. Armor has his own way now."

The schoolhouse was sold to Mrs. Douthet for \$20. She intended having it moved to the lot above St. Clair's and moving into it.⁸²

December 2, 1864. John Mathiot, who was in the army, wrote from a camp near Petersburg, Virginia. He told of an attack on their picket line and named some of the men who were missing that his father might know. They were Sergeant George A. Brant, Corp. Thomas D. Stitt, William G. Bell, Hiram Y. McDowell, John McDowell, George Moore, James R. Douds, John Kurtz, James F. Lacock, Richard Larimer, Noah Carne, Ruben Hughes, and Joseph J. Buzzard. None of the boys from Laughlintown were on picket at that time. He mentioned seeing his cousin, Edward Canaan from Johnstown.⁸³

January 30, 1865. An exchanged prisoner came home to Youngs-

80 M.P. 3-4-25.

81 M.P. 3-4-33.

82 M.P. 3-4-47.

83 M.P. 3-4-78.

town and reported that Fred Tantlinger, Alfred Ladd, and Carson Campbell were dead.⁸⁴

February 13, 1865. Captain John McClintock was thrown from a sleigh and died the next day from injuries. Fred Naugle and Dr. Wakefield were with the captain but were thrown or jumped clear and were not injured. A son of James Menoher died of "spotted fever."⁸⁵

March 6, 1865. An oil well was drilled "on the ridge." It went through a vein of lead and a yellow rock that many persons thought was copper. [According to Richard Naugle, June 1969, copper mined on Laurel Ridge was smelted in the Westmoreland Furnace.]⁸⁶

March 13, 1865. Sam Mitchell had moved to Washington Furnace. The society up there, according to Catherine Mathiot, "will be very suitable for his family and self, consisting of the Morleys, Mrs. Essherman, and Mrs. Cobe [that is the last Mrs. Cobe]. The Bishop was stoned from the furnace to the saw mill the other day by his wife. Must have seemed quite a lively time to the old fellow when the stones were flying."

Porter McClune had his arm amputated between the wrist and the elbow. He was to get a pension.⁸⁷

April 17, 1865. Word was received in Laughlintown that John Mathiot had lost his arm and that a son of Andy Graham had been mortally wounded. They had also heard of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the attempt on the life of Seward. The Copperheads were rejoicing over the death of Lincoln and a big fight almost started in Ligonier but the Copperheads backed down.⁸⁸

April 24, 1865. Alex Nicely and William Karns came home after serving three years in the army. Susanna Armor returned home from Wheeling.⁸⁹

May 22, 1865. John Horner came home. He was sick and had been in the hospital. He was with Sherman on his march. Frank Phillippi, George's son, was killed by guerillas while guarding a railroad train. George Mendell was expected home any day. There had been no word from the two Morley boys. George Parkes, a son of Kal Parkes, had been missing since his fight at Petersburg.

"Mr. Armor keeps the prices up in his store, 25c for sugar while

84 M.P. 3-5-9.

85 M.P. 3-5-18.

86 M.P. 3-5-19.

87 M.P. 3-5-21.

88 M.P. 3-5-38.

89 M.P. 3-5-40.

it can be bought for 15c in Ligonier. Butter is 25c but we hope it will fall before long.”⁹⁰

Following are two notes taken from two books, written by Charles L. Armor, entitled *Historical Notes of Laughlintown and the Ligonier Valley*:⁹¹

David Boyd, of Philadelphia, married a daughter of Daniel St. Clair. He built a brick house one mile west of Laughlintown about 1840. The hotel [probably John Murray St. Clair's] was at the bridge on the south side of the state road and one hundred and fifty yards from the bridge. The storehouse was on the opposite side of the road.

John Murray St. Clair, son of General Arthur St. Clair, had a farm of seventy-five acres and hotel and storehouse at the bridge, east side of Loyalhanna, below the brick house. The hotel was a hewed log building. Murray was a very homely man, small and light, with crooked, spread-out legs. He wore no shoes but instead leather tied with straps, and bark, to tie up his feet. He died in Laughlintown in a log house near the site of present [1911] Effley house, March 29, 1844, age 76 years. Phoebe died 1887, age 93 years.

⁹⁰ M.P. 3-5-53.

⁹¹ A.C. 2.