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85th ANNIVERSARY

OF

MEMORIAL DAY

1864-1949

MAY 28 - 30, 1949

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## MEMORIAL DAY



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On behalf of the Boalsburg Fire Company, composed principally of members from Boalsburg and Harris Township may we acknowledge our appreciation to every individual, business firm or institution who participated in this publication—Again, Thanks.

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# PROGRAM

85th Anniversary of Memorial Day Service

May 30th, 6:30 p.m.

Boalsburg, Pennsylvania

Mr. S. K. Stevens, Master of Ceremonies

**Band Concert on the Square**—Veterans of Foreign Wars Band of State College, Pa.

**Presentation of Flag**—Officers of Smith-Pletcher American Legion of Centre Hall, Pa.

**Flag Raising**—Sons of Veterans of Boalsburg

**Parade to Cemetery**

**Decoration of Graves**—Children and Girl Scouts of Boalsburg

**Presentation of Floral Tribute**—Florists Telegraphic Delivery

**Invocation**—The Rev. T. G. Jones, Pastor of St. Johns Reformed Church, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania

**Vocal Solo**—Miss Ruth Ann Douglas "Miss Pennsylvania 1948"

Accompanist—Miss Jeanne Smith, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Introduction of Speaker**—Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian of Pennsylvania

**Address**—The Hon. James E. Van Zandt, Representative in Congress of the 22nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania

**Vocal Solo**—Miss Ruth Ann Douglas, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Benediction**—The Rev. D. G. Raup, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania

**Firing Squad**—Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars of State College, Pennsylvania  
**Taps**

(Note: As you disperse you are invited to enjoy the Festival on the grounds of the Boalsburg Fire Company)

## Acknowledgments:—

We wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the many valuable services that have helped to make this observance a success. The Hon. James E. VanZandt, Dr. S. K. Stevens, Miss Douglas, the Rev. T. G. Jones and all others who helped to make the Memorial Day Service the memorable climax of this occasion. Those who were so liberal in the contribution of materials and time for the souvenir Program and History—Mr. W. H. Stuart, chairman of History Committee; Edward Riley; Mrs. Virginia Myers; Mrs. E. D. Spotts; Miss E. Augusta Murray; Mrs. Harry Lonberger; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corl; Mr. Charles Faxon; Mrs. Margaret Spangler and others of the staff of the Pennsylvania State College library; Mr. Hugh Ralston for make-up and printing; Mrs. Donald Raup, typing; Miss Phyllis Deal who secured the advertising. Last but far from least the faithful members of the Memorial Day Committee: Mr. Fred Lonberger for greens; the V.F.W. Committee and Band; local Boy and Girl Scouts; Mr. William McMullen of the Florists and all others who have been generous with time, advice, and cooperation to make this 85th Anniversary of Memorial Day a grand occasion in our community life.

DONALD G. RAUP, Chairman  
Memorial Day Committee.

## Memorial Day Committee

Rev. D. G. Raup, Chairman  
W. H. Stuart  
Ralph Neff  
Dan Mothersbaugh  
Mrs. Virginia Myers  
Fred Kline  
Mrs. Maude Graham  
Hugh M. Ralston

Mrs. Marian Spotts  
Mrs. Anna Homan  
Mrs. Mildred Callahan  
Robert Hess  
Mrs. Nidia Sharer  
Fred Lonberger  
Edward C. Riley  
Mrs. Virginia Jeffrey

Charles Gearhart



*Best Wishes*  
*on your*  
**85th**  
*Anniversary*

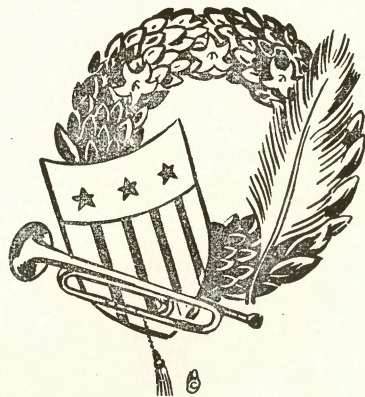
**Unit 3C**  
**Delivery**



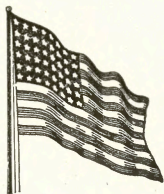
**Florist Telegraph**  
**Association**

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**COMPANY**



**STATE COLLEGE • PENNSYLVANIA**



## *In Reverent Memoriam*

*Of those who, for God and Country, gave  
their lives.*

*To promote peace and good will on earth*

*To combat the autocracy of both the  
classes and the masses*

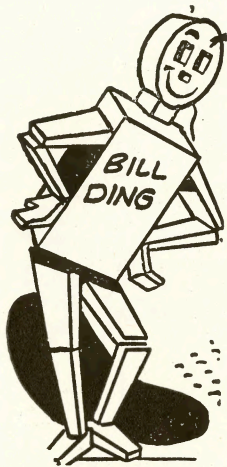
*To transmit to posterity, the principles  
of justice, freedom, and democracy.*

**Nittany**



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State College, Pennsylvania**



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## The Honorable James E. VanZandt

The speaker for this 85th Anniversary of Memorial Day has had a distinguished career of leadership on a national scale for many years.

He is serving his state and nation at present in his fifth term as Representative in the Congress of the United States from the 22nd Congressional District of the State of Pennsylvania. (One of these terms was interrupted by his service in World War II.) During this time he has exhibited unusual wisdom and understanding with reference to national problems. His activities in Congress have been felt in the whole realm of veterans' interests and also through the Patents Committee and the Immigration and Naturalization Committee. He is known widely as an effective, concise speaker and a keen thinker.

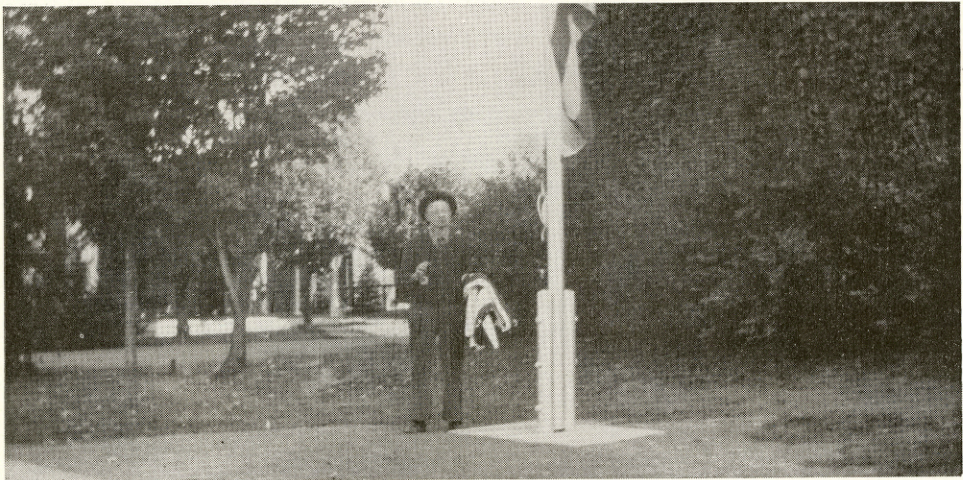
Congressman Van Zandt's present high position is the latest of many in the fifty years of his life.

His work before entering public service was with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company where he began as an apprentice after World War I and worked up to District Passenger Agent.

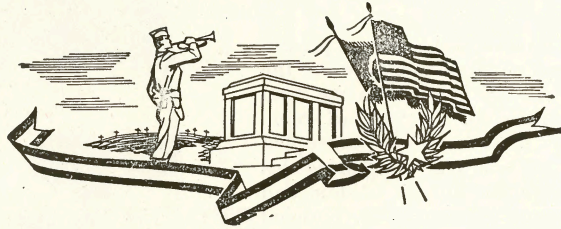
The Service record of Lieutenant Commander VanZandt is outstanding. In both World Wars he distinguished himself in the U.S. Navy—his outstanding service in World War I was in convoy duty and in World War II he was commander of LST Group 19 in the Pacific theatre, for which service he was awarded the Legion of Merit by Vice Admiral T. C. Kincaid, Commander Seventh Fleet.



James E. VanZandt



ED RILEY, member of the Sons of Veterans who has played an important part in keeping Memorial Day alive.



*85th Anniversary*  
*of*  
*Memorial Day*

**T**ODAY we join in humility before the great sacrifices that our neighbors and countrymen made in defending our way of life. We are reminded of the debt that all of us owe to them . . . a debt to be paid not only with monuments and wreaths, but with our determination to perpetuate and protect the way of life for which they fought so valiantly.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post  321

STATE COLLEGE

### "Miss Pennsylvania 1948"

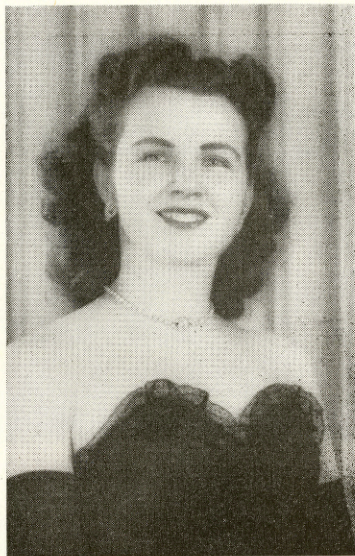
Miss Douglas, a native of Harrisburg, has won a notable place for herself among her many friends in her local community and throughout the whole state because of her beauty, talent and charm.

Her beauty was recognized last year as she advanced through competition in her home state and was chosen to represent the State of Pennsylvania at the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City.

Her talent, a beautiful soprano voice, has been developed through years of study with Salome Sanders, distinguished voice teacher of Harrisburg. It was recognized when Miss Douglas won first place in the Carnegie Hall Contest in her home city. She continues to use and develop her talent as soprano soloist of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Harrisburg.

The charm of this young lady is evidenced in her position as receptionist in the executive office of the Bureau of Employment and Unemployment Compensation of the State of Pennsylvania. She is also a popular student member of the Wednesday Club, a group of talented Harrisburg musicians.

We are happy to have Miss Douglas and her accompanist Miss Jeanne Smith to share in our Memorial Day program.



Ruth Ann Douglas



THE DIAMOND in Boalsburg as it looks today.

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*Send Compliments  
on the 85th Anniversary  
of Memorial Day*

STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.



VIEW FROM WHAT IS NOW 28th DIVISION SHRINE, Looking towards the Boalsburg Cemetery.

### Dr. S. K. Stevens

Dr. S. K. Stevens, born Harrison Valley, Pennsylvania, July 10, 1904. Educated Harrison Valley Schools, 1910-1922; The Pennsylvania State College, 1922-1926, B.A.; The Pennsylvania State College, 1926-1927, M.A.; Columbia University, 1945, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of History at The Pennsylvania State College, 1926-1937; State Historian of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1937-.

Author and editor of the following publications of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission: *Papers of Col. Henry Bouquet*, editor (with Donald H. Kent); *Wilderness Chronicles of Northwestern Pennsylvania*, editor (with Donald H. Kent), and a number of pamphlets including the several on Pennsylvania's part in World War II, and "Pennsylvania History in Outline."

Private publications: *American Expansion in Hawaii, 1842-1898*, and the three-volume work *Pennsylvania—Titan of Industry*.

Professional positions include: President, Pennsylvania Historical Association; Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies; President, American Association for State and Local History; State Historian of Pennsylvania.



Dr. S. K. Stevens

Historic  
Duffy's Tavern

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Boalsburg, Pa.

## AN AMERICAN VILLAGE

### BOALSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

*Written by* REV. DONALD RAUP

The slow but very deliberate march of the years has brought to the village of Boalsburg as to villages and cities alike in America and the world over a change of face and pace as well as of mind and spirit. The age which has produced electricity, jet planes, rockets and atom bombs has led man even in the remote corners of the earth to set his face eagerly to the future with the hope of being the first to see the next step in the glorious advance of science and technology.

We dare not, however, as we press eagerly forward and upward, forget that the past can speak with great wisdom to our hearts and spirits, and often help us to consolidate in the realm of human values the marvelous victories of material realms. Thus it is that now and again we deliberately turn our attention to the years gone by and learn again the lessons of pioneering courage, perseverance, and sacrifice so necessary even in an atomic age.

It is in this spirit of bringing the values of the past to bear upon our forward progress that we now present the drama of the years in the village of Boalsburg and make particular point of that which is its contribution to our nation, namely, a leadership in honoring the sacrificial spirit of those who count life best when given for the preservation of the nation.

An attempt to link the past with the present with reference to the area around Boalsburg makes it imperative for us to cast our backward gaze over nearly two hundred years. The view thus presented would seem to us like that cast upon the eye by looking through the large end of a telescope.

To do this we must imagine the hills and meadows covered with forest growth. There was an occasional cleared spot caused by fires which had swept some sections or by the ax of Indians. The people who thus appear before our minds eye will be of swarthy complexion and walk through the forest glade with easy step. By watching carefully we could see many of these people moving gracefully over the hill and through the hollow where Boalsburg now lies; for a direct path from "Bald Eagle's Nest" (the camp of chief Bald Eagle near Muncy) led through Logan Gap in Nittany Mountain (near Hecla) to the headwaters of Penn's Creek and thus westward along the mountain to Frankstown.

In these early days the "old pine tree," so recently passed from the landscape, must have already stood straight and tall above its neighbors. It was in the direct line of this trail and offered a perfect landmark to guide mocassined feet on their way.

The drama of the years brings to view the face of Capt. Potter who was the first white man to gaze upon this land from the top of Nittany Mountain. After much hardship he finally saw beautiful Penn's Valley, having come across from Bald Eagle Valley near where Milesburg now stands. This was in 1759. The years that followed brought Capt. Potter back as owner of a large section at the upper end of the valley.

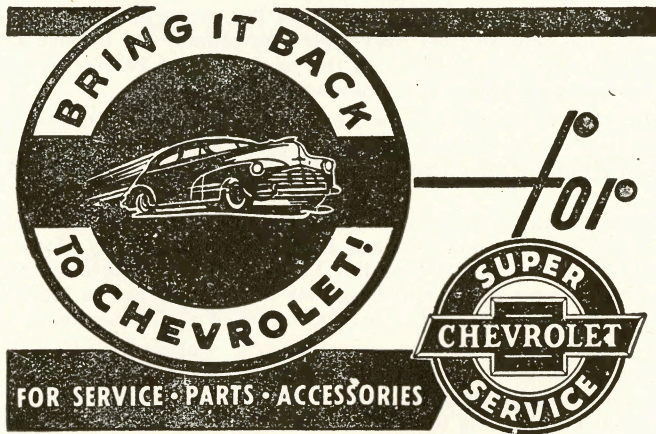
The first years in which the white men came to this section called for great endurance and often danger to life; for the Indians of the West, enflamed in spirit by the French, were seeking to drive out the English and their allies among the Iroquois Nations of the East led by friendly Chief Logan. Only the courage and vigorous spirit of these men and their hard work in building forts such as Augusta at Sunbury saved them from complete destruction.

Hardly had this first conflict passed when the red men were stirred up by the British during the Revolutionary War and again lives were lost and homes destroyed.

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**FRANK McCLELLAN**

STATE COLLEGE



Names of the earliest permanent settlers in this territory in the years following the Revolutionary War run through our minds. Rev. William Stuart, Jacob Jack, Michael Jack, his son, Alexander Dunlap, James Watson, John Potter Jordan, William Young, James Galbraith, James Larimer, Barnabas Hasson, Isaac Temple, David Barr, Adam Miller, Daniel Mosser, Jacob Sparr, Fergus Potter, James McFarlane, Henry Meyers were some of the courageous souls who came to Harris Township in these early years and spent the toil necessary to develop the land. The land in many cases was obtained from Reuben Haines who had gained it by warrant in 1767.

The village was first given the name of Springfield because it was located around a big spring in the east end of the present site. This part was laid out by Andrew Stroup late in 1810. In this section were a school, George Jack's store, another store and a tavern operated by David Boal.

It was the last of these men who some years after Springfield was laid out planned an addition at the west end of the village and for whom the whole town took its name when the Post Office was founded in 1820. David Boal came to this area to settle at the end of his journey with his son George from County Antrim in Ireland. This journey in 1798 led first to Philadelphia and thence to Centre County.

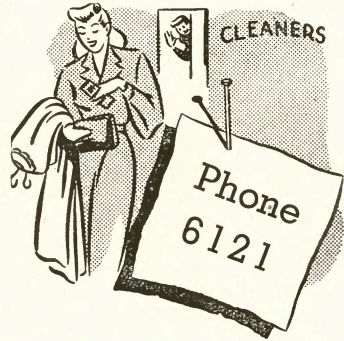
Of this family for whom the village was named much could be written for they have distinguished themselves in the realms of community interest and public service through the years. George Boal who came to this country with his father was a member of the State Legislature and later an associate judge of the county. Among his children were Capt. John Boal who was killed March 16, 1865 at the engagement of Cape Fear, North Carolina; David Boal, a member of the Bellefonte bar; George J. Boal, a prominent attorney in Iowa and several daughters who were active in community life. In later years Colonel Theodore Boal, a distinguished soldier and founder of the 28th Division Shrine, and his son Pierre de Lagarde Boal, a distinguished member of our nation's diplomatic service, have continued to bring honor to the family name.

In addition to this family of Irish Presbyterians many others are associated with the history of this village and have borne a heavy share in its life. Among these are the Shenebergers, Prices, Mooney, Riley and later Fishers, Keller, Wassons, Murrays, Smiths and many others. The vigor and solidarity of the life of this village is a tribute to the work and community spirit of its citizens.

Much of the popularity that has been associated with the name of Boalsburg outside the local area has come because of its hospitality to travellers on the King's Highway. We have alluded to the travel along the Indian trail that followed this valley. Soon after the white man took over, this trail became a road on which wagons, stage coaches and carriages carried travelers and materials from the East to Western Pennsylvania. The lucrative business of providing entertainment for people on the road was early sought in Boalsburg. James Newell operated a tavern east of town and David Boal had one in the town. The Boalsburg Tavern which now stands on the square is said to have been built in 1819 and has served the public under many proprietors almost continuously through the years. The exception was a period of years after fire had gutted the old stone building. Miss Winsor had the building restored and refurnished to put it again in operation.

At one time late in the 19th century travel was so heavy through the town, especially among those going to Spruce Creek to catch main line trains, that two taverns were in busy operation. The one mentioned above entertained the elite; the other in what is now the Tennis home was used by coachmen, drovers, etc., because it had adequate space to house the stock as well as men. With regard to this latter tavern the story is told of the occasion when circus people were being entertained. After the last performance in the evening, the circus crowd returned to the tavern; but instead of settling for the night, they threw the bedding out the upstairs windows and departed quickly leaving the tavern keeper a heavy loser.

MODERN  
CLEANING  
IN A  
MODERN  
PLANT



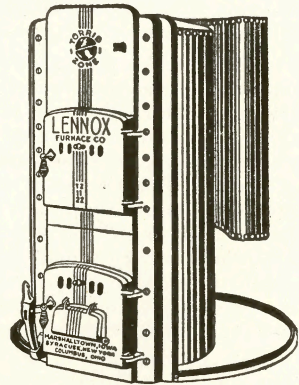
## NITTANY CLEANERS

BOALSBURG, PENNA.

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**THE DIAMOND** from which point the annual Memorial Day parades formed.

If we are to adequately understand the continued life and growth of a village such as Boalsburg over a long period of years, it is not enough to think only in terms of the business brought to it by passing travellers. We must see that this community's development depended upon the bustling industry which made it the busy center of a farming and lumbering section. What today we take for granted, in past years was the life of a village; thus it is that as we travel in memory along the streets of town one business after another makes its bid for prominence. There were the shoemakers (sometimes three of them) and the tailors; the hatters (both those who made women's remarkable creations and makers of men's high silk hats); the smiths and carriage makers; chair makers; tanners; makers of wooden rakes and cradles; harness makers; goldsmiths and many others to meet the needs of active people. In addition to these local industries a woolen weaving mill and foundry were located at Oak Hall and provided employment for many Boalsburg people. It is easy to see that in spite of the limitation of size this community was practically self-sufficient.

The institutions of a village also share in making it a place of worth to its citizens. Boalsburg schools, churches, Post Office, etc., have all had a share in its life and growth. The first school was built among the first buildings in town. It was later moved to Pine Street and in recent years to the top of the hill (jokingly known by many of the residents as "mortgage hill") to the north of town. The task of educating the youth was also advanced by Boalsburg Academy which was founded about 1850 by Rev. Peter Fisher, Hon. George Boal, Henry Keller, and George Jack. Mr. J. G. Austin was the first instructor. In 1853 a building was built which served as a Presbyterian Church and place for class instruction. Mr. James Patterson, instructor at the time of Lincoln's call for volunteers for the Union Army, went to war and took most of the male students with him. Such names as George Leshar, Theophilus Weaver, D. M. Wolfe, and Fleisher are associated with the later work of this school. In its distinguished period of service many notable students were sent forth to serve mankind.

In early years travelling ministers of the Reformed and Lutheran groups came to hold services in this community. By 1827 they had combined to build the "Old Stone Church" which stood as a landmark for forty years. By that time each group was strong enough to build its own edifice: the Reformed congregation building a spacious church across the street and the Lutheran group replacing the Old Stone Church with a brick building. The Presbyterians always had a strong, active con-

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Ar. Lewistown	11:35 A.M.	4:45 P.M.
Lv. Lewistown	11:55 A.M.	5:40 P.M.
Ar. State College	1:00 P.M.	6:45 P.M.
NOTE: FRIDAY AND SUNDAY ONLY—		
Lv. S.C.	5:45 P.M.	Ar. Lewist'n 6:45 P.M.
Lv. Lewistown	7:05 P.M.	11:40 P.M.
Ar. State College	8:10 P.M.	12:45 A.M.
<i>Make direct connections with East-bound Trains—12:19 P.M., 4:57 P.M. (Friday- Sunday—7:22 P.M.)</i>		
<i>West-bound Trains—11:50 A.M., 5:35 P.M. (Friday-Sunday—7:00 P.M., 11:35 P.M.)</i>		

**GROUP EXCURSIONS  
BY RESERVATION**

Whipple's Dam, Greenwood,  
Roosevelt Dam, Black Moshannon,  
Poe Paddy, Etc.

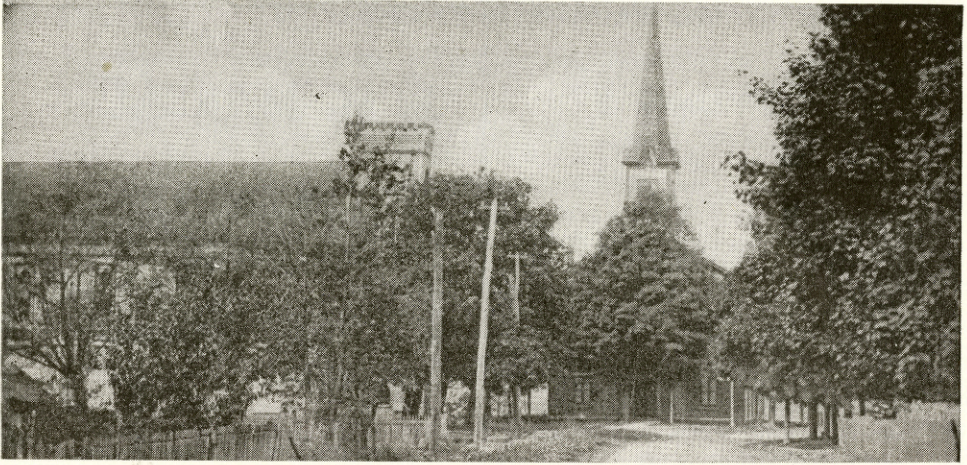
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**CHURCH STREET** where parades marched on their way to the cemetery.

gregation to worship and work for the glory of God. For many years, too, a Methodist group worshipped regularly in their church on Pine Street.

Boalsburg Post Office which was established in 1820 has continued its service to the community from various locations in the village. Col. John Hasson was the first postmaster and his successors include James Huey, Charles Rainey, George Jack, James Stuart, James Price, Scott Bricker, Mrs. Belle Woods, Jacob Meyer, Leland Walker, with Miss E. Augusta Murray serving at the present time in an office located next to the tavern. She has filled this post for a period of about fifteen years.

We could add many scenes to the drama of the years in the "American Village" of Boalsburg. However, it will suffice to point out that though much of its self-sufficiency is gone, its valuable community spirit still remains. Moreover, it has changed its purpose to that of providing a pleasant and beautiful residential area for those who in one way or another serve in the work of educating the youth in Pennsylvania State College. In a bustling atomic age it too looks forward and continues to make an impact on citizens and travellers alike, speaking firmly for calmness, courage, and perseverance in meeting the issues of life.

Boalsburg life in its modern aspect is enhanced by many organizations which carry forward various community interests. The Grange, Odd Fellows and Rebeccas have through the years sought to enhance the life of our people and in some respects their past activity surpasses that of the moment. Civic Club, P.T.A., Volunteer Fire Company and very recent auxilliary, W.C.T.U., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are very active groups in providing interest programs for the people of Boalsburg. Moreover, a fine spirit of cooperation in all aspects of community life is fostered and affected by the Inter-Organization Council. The present seeks energetically to carry forward those things which the past has proven as the best in the life of "An American Village."

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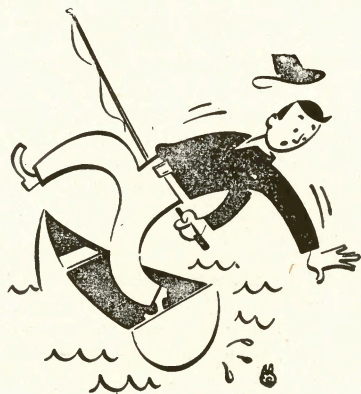
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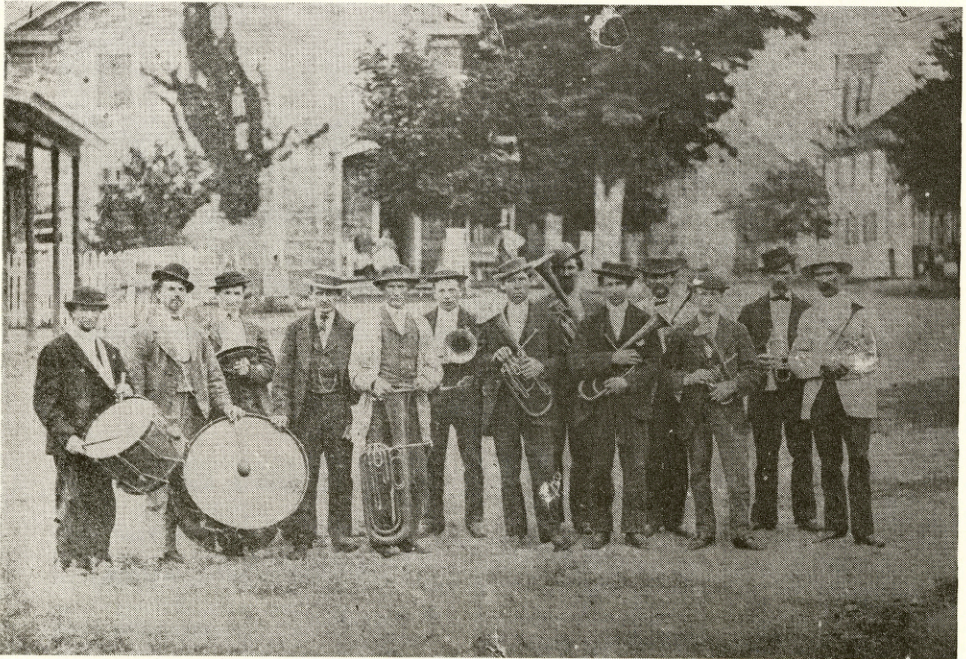
STATE COLLEGE

## THE HOME OF MEMORIAL DAY

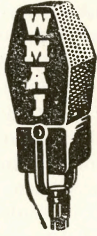
The story of Memorial Day has been separated from the main drama of the life of Boalsburg because it represents a major contribution in itself to the life of our nation. This is no reason, however, to feel that this activity is in any way separated from the community activity. Rather the important emphasis we wish to make is that an interest in memorializing the courageous sacrifice of her boys was a part of the general interest of the community during the war between the States.

The whole picture as it should be seen begins with the early years of the Civil War. The spirit of the community strongly favored the Abolitionists, thus there was an unusual interest in the Union cause. Mr. James J. Patterson, professor in the Boalsburg Academy, was a leader in representing this cause among the citizens. Finally on August 5, 1862 this interest was converted into intense activity. In reply to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers in the Union Army, Prof. Patterson announced his intention to go to war and urged his students to go with him. At a meeting held that evening in the "Old Stone Church," the Hon. H. N. McAllister of Bellefonte addressed a large throng after which Prof. Patterson called the roll of his students to which all gave the reply "Ready." Many other men of the area made the decision at the same time so that 127 men of Boalsburg and vicinity left to fight in the Union Army, becoming a part of the 148th Penna. Volunteers.

Mrs. Sophie Keller Hall gives an account of the following months in *A History of the 148th Pa. Volunteers*. She tells of mothers and wives with other women of Boalsburg meeting day after day in the Academy to sew, knit, and pack boxes for the boys in the Army. This group soon organized a Soldiers' Aid Society and through the remaining years of the war worked in many ways — among them



**BOALSBURG BRASS BAND**—Left to right: Calvin Riley, John Ishler, Andy Cramer, Guss Wolf, Mann Wolf, Pete Jordan, John Jordan, Dan Meyer, Mann Ishler, Wess Meyer, Guss Williams, Bill Meyer, Sam Ishler.



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arranging concerts of the famous Boalsburg Brass Band to raise money for the Sanitary Commission which cared for wounded and needy soldiers.

With so many boys engaged in one battle after another, there is no question that there were occasions in these months when the task of comforting one another became necessary. There were, too, the heart-rending walks behind the bodies of loved ones to the Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery beside the Old Stone Church. There were at least five of these occasions: David K. Gilbert died of a wound received at the battle of Williamsburg, Va., May 15, 1862; George W. Ishler was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863 and died May 6, 1863; Amos Meyer was killed at the battle of Gettysburg July 3, 1863; Wm. Swinehart was killed May 10, 1864 at the engagement of Po River, Va. (grave not now known); and Reuben Hunter, Surgeon of the 54th Rgt. Pa. Vol. who died of typhoid at Annapolis, Md., Sept. 19, 1864.

It was after the last of these saddening experiences that the event which started Memorial Day took place. Though we cannot know the details because they are lost in history, we can safely fit this event in with the spirit of the women of Boalsburg.



**Mrs. Sophie Keller Hall,  
Mrs. Emma Hunter Stuart,  
Mrs. Ella Stuart,  
Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobs**



**Miss Emma Hunter,  
Daughter of Reuben Hunter**

In conjecture we can see a group of women met at the Academy to sew or knit. Among them are Emma Hunter, daughter of Surgeon Hunter, recently laid to rest; Sophie Keller, her friend; and Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer whose son Amos was killed at Gettysburg but likely was only recently returned for burial. As these women work sadly together we can hear Miss Hunter speak of taking flowers to the cemetery for her father's grave, Miss Keller agrees to go along and Mrs. Meyer asks to go with them for she has her son to mourn. They agree upon Sunday afternoon when Mrs. Meyer can drive down to the village from the farm a mile to the West. As we try to reconstruct the scene, this could have been the way it came about. Moreover, in this there is nothing unusual for men and women to have decorated the graves of loved ones and mourned their loss almost from the birth of time.

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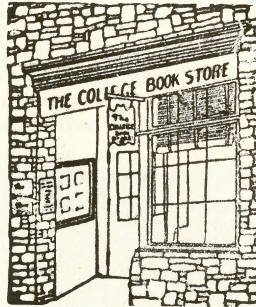
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The event which led to a regular observance of Memorial Day and which is unusual and valuable in its spirit occurred when these women met in the Cemetery and began to lay flowers on the graves of loved ones. Together they decided to share the flowers, putting some on the graves of all the boys who had been killed and possibly laying a few on graves of soldiers from the War of 1812 and the grave of a Revolutionary soldier nearby. The joy of sharing their flowers in honor of others who had given their lives in sacrifice led these women to agree to do it again on Independence Day next year, 1865, and also to agree that others should share their joy. Thus in early October 1864 in the village of Boalsburg the idea of a Memorial Day was born.

Little did these women know that by the time July 4, 1865 came around they would be coupling the decoration of the graves of loved ones gone with the welcome home of those who had lived to finish the conflict. However, this is what happened. A group of men from Harris Township and Boalsburg including George Boal, Sam



Upper left corner is the grave of Mr. Dale; Upper right: Amos Meyer; Lower right: Ruben Hunter; Lower left: American grave in Margarten, Holland.

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Gilliland, Moses Thompson, Wm. Foster, Henry Keller, Samuel Wilson, Wm. McFarland, Henry Meyer, David Stuart, J. D. Rankin, and Wm. Grove met with others from all over Centre County to plan an enormous "welcome home" on Independence Day in Bellefonte. When the great day arrived Boalsburg Brass Band led the enormous parade from its place immediately behind the Chief Marshal. The celebration included speeches and great cheer in recognition of victory.

In the years that followed the whole community of Boalsburg followed the lead of its faithful women in honoring the memory of her courageous men.

By 1868 the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union soldiers, was becoming strong. On May 5th of that year General John A. Logan, its commander, named May 30th as the day "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country." As he signed the order he did so "with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year." Thus the decoration idea became official.

In August 1868 a Boalsburg chapter of the G.A.R. was organized and in years that followed they became responsible for the annual observance of the day which soon took the official name of Memorial Day.

The idea was not always well received for in its first years the Democratic Watchman of Bellefonte voiced its dissent by saying people "better take money spent for flowers to buy flour for widows and orphans of soldiers." In 1871 the same paper ran a long article entitled "The Decoration Humbug." However before many years had passed this paper joined in urging Sunday School children to march in Memorial Day parades and in espousing the idea born in Reading of planting rose bushes on soldiers graves.

So far as local observance of the day was concerned the following list of observances and speakers kept by Col. James T. Stuart reveals the community's regular interest:

Mr. W. H. Stuart tells how the sons' interest was first manifest in this observance. As a boy he took the spring wagon out into the woods to gather spruce which was woven into a wreath for each grave. There were then about thirty. By 1910 Jeremiah Dinges the last of the active G.A.R.'s passed away and the group of Sons of Veterans has carried on. This group includes W. H. Stuart, Edward Riley, Dicen Thomas, John M. Fisher, Leonard Wilson, Wm. B. Young, and Joseph Mingle, Samuel Kaup, Wm. Coxey, Frank Whitehill, Harry Whitehill, "Doc" Stover, James Irwin, Harry Bailey, Robert Bailey, David Stuart, Reuben Stuart, Geo. Stuart, Chas Fisher. Of these men "Teddy" Riley has for 52 years been in charge of the flag and has taken care of flags for the graves and only the first four have been actively interested thru the years.

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As the years passed on the members of the G.A.R. began to take their places with those who had died in battle, thus their sons took up the torch, continuing to keep the memory of honored dead alive in the hearts of the living. This group organized locally as the Sons of Veterans and have year by year planned the Memorial Day observance.

The observance as it is now planned includes a simple service with an outstanding speaker and firing squad following a short parade from the village square to the cemetery. The parade is made up mostly of children who bear flowers to decorate the soldiers' last resting place. Some of the recent speakers have been Rev. L. J. Kaufman, Attorney Paul Campbell, Judge Walker, District Attorney Musser Gettig, Prof. J. O. Keller, Rev. Andrew Newcomer.

The last thirty years have added to the roll of those who gave their lives in defense of the nation. These, too, share with the honored dead of past wars as we memorialize their sacrifice. Thus in honoring the dead of battle we pray that peace may come to cut short the roll of the dead and mark the beginning of a roll of peace.

In our observance of the 85th occasion in which the people of Boalsburg walk from the historic square to the cemetery beside the Church, following in the steps of three courageous women, we do so in the knowledge that the people of this whole nation are following our lead. We do so also in the hope that the sacrifice of those who died to save our nation will inspire us in a glorious sacrifice to save the world.

The following Memorial Ode sung to the tune Old Hundred in the 1876 observance of Memorial Day in Bellefonte well expresses our thoughts on this solemn day:—

Blest are the martyred dead who lie  
In holy graves for freedom won;  
Whose storied deeds shall never die,  
While coming years their cycles run.  
Blest be the dead where heroes sleep,  
And blest the flag that o'er them waves;  
Its radiant stars their watch shall keep,  
And brightly beam on hallowed graves.  
While freedom lives, their fame shall live  
In glory on her blazing scroll;  
And love her sacrifice shall give,  
While anthems round the altar roll.  
Year after year our hands shall bear  
Immortal flowers in vernal bloom,  
Till God shall call us home to share  
Immortal life beyond the tomb.

*Democratic Watchman June 2, 1876.*

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- 1869—The first Decoration in Boalsburg, May 30, 1869, at which time the only participants were: Mrs. Ellen Hunter, Miss Emma E. Hunter, Miss Priscella A. Stuart, Mrs. Sophie S. Keller, Mrs. Joseph Moyer, Mrs. Ada Moyer, Mrs. E. Patterson, John W. Stuart. The graves were strewn with flowers without any other ceremony.
- 1870—Decoration attended by the citizens generally, and more interest manifested than last year. Music by the Citizens Band; Prayer by Rev. W. H. Groh; Flowers scattered over the graves by the soldiers.
- 1871—Interest in the decoration ceremony seems to increase amongst the people and also the Veterans. Prayer by Rev. M. Williams; Oration by Prof. Lescher; Rev. Groh and Hamill in attendance; Music furnished by Boalsburg Band. Good attendance by the people, John W. Stuart, Marshall.
- 1872—Decoration at 6 p.m. Procession headed by the band and under the marshallsip of John W. Stuart. Started from the Academy and marched to the cemetery. Prayer by Rev. Hamill; Oration by Prof. Lescher; Music by Band. Graves strewn by the soldiers and children.
- 1873—Procession marched from Academy to Cemetery, Jas. T. Stuart, Marshall. Prayer by Mr. Williams; Orations by Rev. Hamill and Daniel S. Keller; Music by Band. Graves strewn by soldiers and children. Benediction by W. H. Groh.
- 1874—Procession marched from Academy to Cemetery, Marshall, Col. McFarlane. *America* sung by the choir; Prayers by Rev. Hartsock; Orations by Clement Dale and Rev. A. J. Hartsock; Music by Band. Graves strewn by soldiers and children; Benediction by Rev. W. H. Groh.
- 1875—Evergreen monument constructed by I. N. Dinges; Procession marched from Academy under the Marshallsip of Lieut. John W. Stuart; Prayer by Rev. Hartsock; Oration by A. A. Dale; Music by Band; Graves strewn by soldiers and children; Benediction by W. H. Groh.
- 1876—Procession marched from Diamond to Cemetery; Prayer by Rev. Hamill; Oration by Rev. Hartsock; Music by Band; Graves strewn by soldiers and children; Marshall, J. T. Stuart; Ode sang by Choir; Benediction by Rev. W. H. Groh.
- 1877—Procession marched from Diamond to Cemetery; Prayer by Rev. W. H. Groh; Oration by Prof. Dean; Music by the Band; Flowers and wreaths strewn by soldiers and children; Jas. T. Stuart, Marshall; Benediction, Rev. Hamill.
- 1878—Weather, wet; Ceremonies conducted in basement of Lutheran Church; Prayer by Rev. Groh; Oration by Prof. Ray; Music by Band; Flowers and wreaths strewn by soldiers; Marshall, J. T. Stuart.
- 1879—Procession lead by Martial Music prepared by G. B. Jack and Gust Wolf; Marched from Diamond to Cemetery; J. T. Stuart, Marshall; (The Band refusing to furnish the music); Prayer by Rev. Groh; Music, Memorial Ode by Choir led by Clement Dale; Oration by Clement Dale; Graves strewn by soldiers and children; Benediction by W. H. Groh.
- 1880—The largest procession of the kind ever witnessed at the place started from the Diamond at 6 p.m.; Marshall J. T. Stuart. Arriving at the Cemetery the exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. W. H. Groh; Oration by Rev. J. Youtzy; Memorial Ode by the Choir led by Mr. P. Weber; Graves decorated by soldiers and children; Music by Col. J. Kramer, Geo. B. Jack and C. B. Shaffer; Benediction by Rev. Youtzy.
- 1881—Still the interest in the decoration of Soldiers graves appears to increase in our vicinity. As this one was more largely attended than on any previous occasion of the kind we have ever had. The ceremonies were conducted by the Lemont Post, G.A.R., Dr. Christ Commanding. Exercises opened with Prayer by C. Patterson, Chaplain of the Post. Graves decorated by the Veterans; Oration by Rev. Mendenhal, pastor M. E. Church; Closed with Benediction by Reverend Wm. H. Groh, pastor, Reformed Church. Procession formed in front of Post Office; Marshalled by Mr. W. and J. T. Stuart; Headed by the Lemont and Boalsburg Brass Bands; Weather threatening but without rain.
- 1882—Post from Lemont in attendance; Prayer by Chaplain of Post; Oration by Prof. Jordan; Benediction by Minister; Music by Lemont Band.
- 1883—Graves decorated by members R. H. Foster Post, G. A. R. of Lemont; Music by Lemont Band; Oration by Rev. Groh and Prof. Jackson; Prayer by Chaplain of G.A.R. Post; Benediction by Rev. R. Hamill.
- 1884—R. H. Foster Post, G. A. R. in attendance; Graves decorated by members of the post; Music by Lemont Band; Oration by Prof. Hamilton; Prayer by Chaplain of Post; Benediction by Rev. Groh.
- 1885—Lemont Post decorated the graves; Prayer by Chaplain of Post; Oration by J. G. Love, Esq.; Benediction by Rev. Salm; Attendance good.
- 1886—Prayer by Rev. Salm; Oration by D. J. Fortney; Benediction by W. H. Groh; Decoration of graves by soldiers and children; Music by Drum Corps, conducted by Drum Major Geo. B. Jack.
- 1887—Decoration by soldiers and children. Their being no minister present the prayer was dispensed with. The oration was delivered by E. R. Chambers, of Bellefonte. The Linden Hall, the Lemont and the State College Bands were in attendance, and also an unusual crowd of people.
- 1888—Soldiers and citizens marched from Diamond to Church yard to music furnished by the State College Band. On arriving at Cemetery prayers were offered by Rev. Traster of the Lutheran Church after which an oration was delivered by W. E. Gray, Esq., of Bellefonte; the graves were strewn with flowers by the children and veterans; Benediction by Rev. Groh.
- 1889—Rained so hard that there was no ceremony except the decorating of the graves which was done by the soldiers. Rev. Mr. Frost was to have spoken but as there was no crowd present, no speaking was done. This was the time of the great Johnstown flood.
- 1890—Marched from Diamond to Cemetery; Procession headed by Pine Grove Band, followed by Veterans, then Sunday School children and citizens generally. Exercises opened with prayers by Rev. A. A. Black of Reformed Church; Music by Band followed by an oration by Rev. Traster of the Lutheran Church. Next, strewing the graves with flowers by veterans and children; Benediction by Rev. A. A. Black; Turnout good, weather pleasant.
- 1891—Marched to Cemetery to the music of the Pine Grove Mills Band. Parade consisted of Veterans, Sunday School children with flowers, and citizens generally. Invoca-

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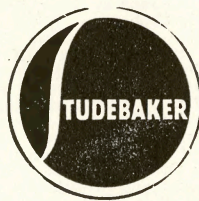
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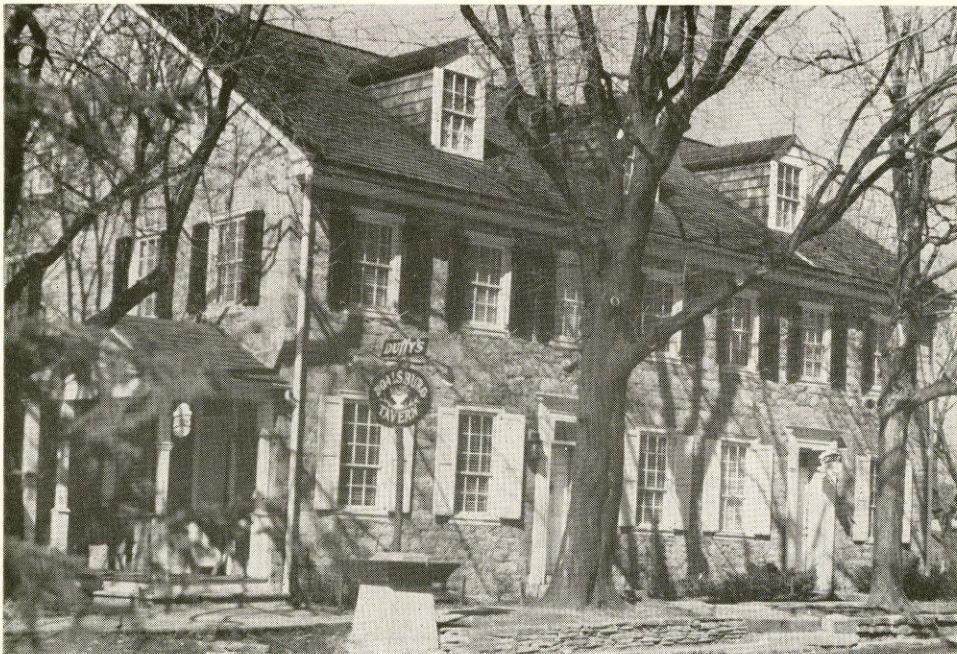
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- tion by Rev. Mr. Fraster; Address by Rev. Miller of the M. E. Church; Graves decorated by veterans and children; Benediction by Rev. Fraster; Weather fair.
- 1892—Parade formed in Diamond of the town, marched to Cemetery to music of Boalsburg Band; Prayer by Rev. Fraster of the Lutheran Church at Boalsburg, Pa.; Speech by Prof. Thompson of State College; Graves decorated by soldiers; Benediction by Rev. Fraster; Attendance large.
- 1893—Parade consisting of Veterans, Odd Fellows, Patriotic Sons of America, children and citizens generally marched from Diamond of town to Cemetery; Prayer was offered by Rev. Fraster; Music by Boalsburg Band; Oration by Prof Sparks of State College; Graves decorated by veterans and children; Music by the band after which the Odd Fellows decorated the graves of the dead; Benediction by Rev. Fraster; Very large attendance; Weather fine.
- 1894—Parade started from Diamond of the town, marched to Cemetery and decorated the graves, but owing to the shower just over the ground it was too wet to hold the exercises in the Cemetery so the people gathered in the Methodist Church and were addressed by the Rev. Knoll, parson of the Reformed Church at Bellefonte, Pa.; Music by Boalsburg Band; Large crowd in attendance.
- 1895—Procession started from center of town and marched to Cemetery headed by the Boalsburg Brass Band. Arriving at the Cemetery prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. W. Lescher after which the graves were decorated by the veterans and children. A vote of thanks was then offered the orator for his address; Benediction—
- 1896—Procession headed by Boalsburg Band formed at Diamond of the town, marched to Cemetery; Exercises opened with prayer by Rev. Lucher; Address by Rev. D. H. Hepler of Presbyterian Church; Graves decorated by veterans and children.
- 1897—Band, children and citizens generally marched to Cemetery; Prayer; Oration by Rev. Lescher; Attendance good; Weather cool and cloudy.
- 1898—Decoration very largely attended; Music by Band; Ode by Choir led by Prof. P. H. Myers; Oration by Rev. A. A. Black; Prayer by Rev. Lescher; Decoration of graves by veterans and children; Children in charge of Comrade I. N. Duyes.
- 1899—Decoration very largely attended; Weather very fine; Music by Lemont and Boalsburg Bands; Local Music by Choir led by Prof. P. H. Myers; Oration by Rev. D. H. Hepler; Prayers by Rev. Lescher; Benediction by Rev. Lescher.
- 1900—Decoration well attended; Music by Boalsburg Band; Prayer by Rev. G. W. Lescher; Oration by minister from Middletown, Md.; Graves decorated by soldiers and children; Benediction by A. A. Black.
- 1901—We think the largest crowd we ever had at a Decoration; Prayer by Rev. Hepler of the Presbyterian Church; Poem, Memorial Poem written by Caslton, read by Rev. A. A. Black of the Reformed Church; Oration by Wm. H. Murray, Esq.; Music by Coleville Band; Benediction by Rev. Black; Graves decorated by veterans and children.
- \* \* \*
- The writer here laid down his pen, he has answered the last roll call, and is where just men are made perfect.
- By Comrade J. N. Dinges
- January 1st 1903.



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