

The Inkwell

FALL 2020

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Volunteer!
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1790**

*Renew
your
membership
today!*

Breakfast in the Free State

By Rusty Eder

Growing up in the '50s and '60s, my brother Phil and I spent a lot of time on our bikes collecting discarded soda bottles. Once we had 5 each, we'd take them to Mike's Sub Shop on Bridge Street and turn them in for 2 cents apiece and get a 10-cent soda for ourselves. This was pretty common practice back then. What I didn't know at that time, was that my dad grew up in the '20s and '30s doing the same thing, but with a unique twist. He hunted up discarded whiskey bottles and took them to the local bootleggers house for the same 2 cents apiece (5 cents if they had a usable cork or cap) which was a lot more money then. After all, it was not only the depths of the great Depression; it was also the time of the "Noble Experiment" ...Prohibition... and an enterprising young man could actually help out his family a little, or at least buy himself a rare treat now and then.

I've always been fascinated with Prohibition. How a country that had alcohol so deeply ingrained in its history could just shut off the taps all at once still amazes me. What's even more amazing is how badly it all went once we did! And no one exemplifies this contradiction better than....

H.L. Mencken - the Bard of Baltimore - writer, social observer, and professional cynic. I'll get to the titling of this photo in the second installment, but the date is 1927, in the very heart of Prohibition.

For roughly 15 years, the United States tried to go against every fiber of its long, wet history and outlawed alcohol. And I do mean wet! From hard cider made on the farms of New England and early ryes and bourbons in the Piedmont to the local brews that every self-respecting German community offered, we simply liked our libations. According to mobmuseum.org, by 1830, the average American over 15 drank the equivalent of at least 7 gallons of pure alcohol per year. (read the article [here](#).)

But then, in one fell swoop we shut it all down, only to find (quite rapidly) that the "Noble Experiment" was, by any sober assessment (no pun intended) an abject failure. This leads to two big questions:



H.L. Mencken—The Bard of Baltimore

President's Corner

Welcome to 2021! Everyone is ready to put 2020 behind them, however we are still dealing with the same issues that plagued us in 2020, but I am optimistic that we are moving in the direction of getting back to normal or our new normal. As you know several of our volunteers have continued to work through the pandemic and we have made much progress in our efforts to reorganize our space. Thankfully, we were able to get all of the paperwork back to the State for the funding of the Rev. Duke Log Cabin restoration and the contract has been signed. We were awarded \$150,000 by way of a Bond Bill. We are obligated to meet a \$25,000 match to these funds and the match needs to be spent before Bond Bill monies can be used. To date we have collected approximately \$6,000 in donations. Unfortunately, the fundraising

events we had planned to cover the match were canceled due to the pandemic. Any donation toward this project would be very much appreciated. Our other major project was the renovation of the DeWitt military museum. We hit a huge snag, when it was discovered that the mold had returned on the 19 uniforms. After much research and consultation with specialists, we have connected with a restoration group that will fumigate the uniforms and that will kill the spores. All other methods we researched would get rid of the existing mold, but will not kill the spores and we do not want to have to revisit this issue ever again. This comes with a pretty hefty price tag, but because this outbreak was

caused in large part to us being closed because of the pandemic and the area where the uniforms were stored did not have sufficient climate control or air flow, we were able to get some grant money toward eradicating the mold. The grant money will cover about 25% of the cost so, again, donations are much needed.

On a positive note, we will soon have two restored and renovated museum spaces for the public to enjoy. The volunteer staff at the Society is looking forward to having the interaction with our members and patrons that we have enjoyed in the past. Please stay healthy and safe until we meet again.

Sincerely,
Paula Newton,
President

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HSCC wants to email the Inkwell to as many members as possible! Please send us your email address to receive future issues via email.

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Do you want to get involved? Contact us! cecilhistory@gmail.com

1. How did this happen? How did a country with such a long tradition of tipping suddenly decide to turn off the taps nationwide?

2. What happened? How did such a well-orchestrated movement devolve into utter and ridiculous failure?

Question 1. For my money, Prohibition stands as one of, if not the most successful grass roots movements in our history. A very dedicated cadre of true believers managed to get a Constitutional Amendment approved by 2/3ds of the House of Representatives, 2/3ds of the Senate, and then have it ratified by 3/4ths of the states, only to find that the vast majority of Americans, didn't want it! But it didn't happen overnight, and it wasn't a mistake or an accident.

Some concept of Temperance has always been with us either for religious or medical reasons, but these movements were generally local. By the end of the 19th century, however, the combination of more efficient printing processes and the forces of Progressivism in American lent a whole new impetus to the movement and made it a national issue. This change came about primarily as the result of two national organizations.

Founded in Ohio in 1873, the Women's Christian Temperance Movement kept its religious foundation, but under the leadership of Frances Willard (elected president in 1879) the WCTU took the issue national, adding in some of the new social sciences of the later nineteenth century. By 1900, their newspaper, *The Union Signal*

claimed a monthly circulation of nearly 100,000 and receipts of over \$180,000, derived from subscriptions along with general fund-raising and advertisements. This was a situation tailor-made for one Mary H.H. Hunt, a staunch Prohibitionist from Massachusetts who had long pressed for "scientific temperance education" in her home state. In 1879, *the Union* (as it was colloquially known) Appointed

W. C. T. U. Convention.

The 17th Annual Convention of Cecil County W. C. T. U. will be held on Woodlawn Camp ground on Friday, Aug. 8th, at 9:30 o'clock. The Convention will hold no night session. The business of the day will be interspersed with music and recitations. The children's hour will be in charge of the Loyal Legion, led by Mrs. Mollie Thompson and addressed by Miss Florence Hammond, Sec. of Young Woman's branch of the State. The afternoon meeting will be addressed by Rev. W. L. White, of Seaford, Delaware. Everybody is cordially invited to be present, as the convention promises to be full of interest.

Mary H.H. Hunt to lead their "Department of Scientific Temperance Instruction." The science Ms. Hunt employed was based on statistical analyses of (by modern standards) dubious accuracy, but great visual effect. Her posters spoke of science, though they could also tug at one's heart strings.



**YOUR DAUGHTER OR THE SALOONKEEPER'S—
WHICH?**

When the writer spoke to the men in the Michigan Central Railroad shops in Detroit recently a workman told him this story of a scene he had himself witnessed:

"Papa, will you please give me fifty cents for my spring hat? Most of the other girls have theirs already."

"No, not now, Jane, I can't spare the money."

A beautiful 10-year-old daughter had made the request. The disappointed girl went to school. The father started for his work. On his way to the shop he met a friend and being a hail fellow well met, he invited him into "Bill's" for a drink. There were others there and the father treated the crowd, and then threw down a dollar that just paid for the drinks.

Just then the saloonkeeper's daughter entered, and going behind the bar said: "Papa, I want one dollar for my spring hat."

"All right," said the dealer, as he pushed to her the dollar just laid on the bar.

Jane's father was dazed, walked out alone and said to himself, "I couldn't give my daughter fifty cents for her hat, but I had to bring my dollar here for the rum seller's daughter to buy a hat with. I'll never drink another drop."

**YOUR DAUGHTER? THEN VOTE AGAINST THE
SALOON.**

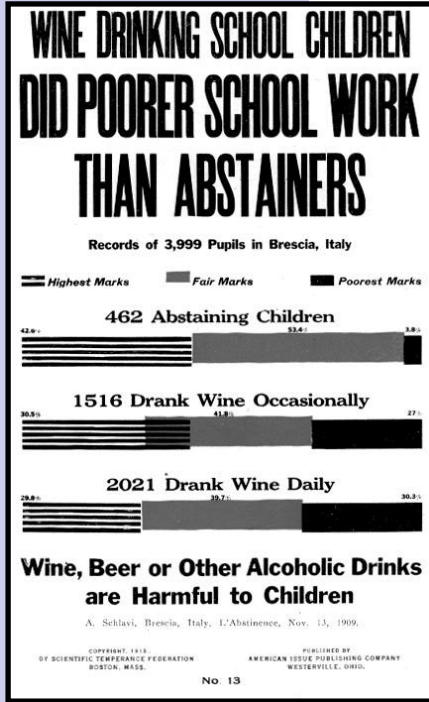
By the late 19th Century, the WCTU controlled biology textbooks in the country requiring students to take Hunt-approved temperance instruction which taught that "Alcohol was a clear poison" which "burned the throat" (burned literally, not like a good sip of bourbon or your favorite single-malt!!) For all this clout, however, they had problems with securing their ultimate goal, National Prohibition. Following on WCTU President Frances Willard's personal motto, "Do Everything" the organization divided its energies between National Prohibition and several other important issues of the day, such as women's suffrage, poverty, and prostitution, so while alcohol was the main enemy, it never received their full attention. Then there was the aforementioned problem with suffrage. WCTU leaders could give politicians money and public support, but they couldn't vote and without this political mother's milk, they were never quite able to get Prohibition over the hump.

Eder —From page 3...

Enter the Anti-Saloon League.

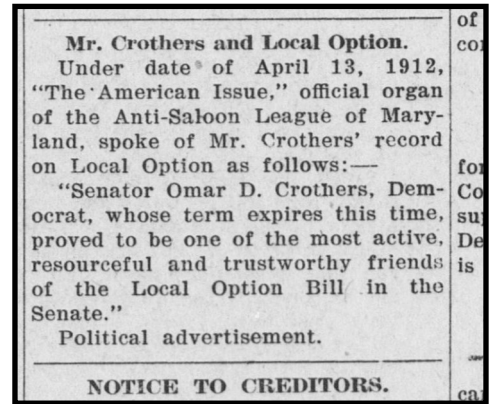
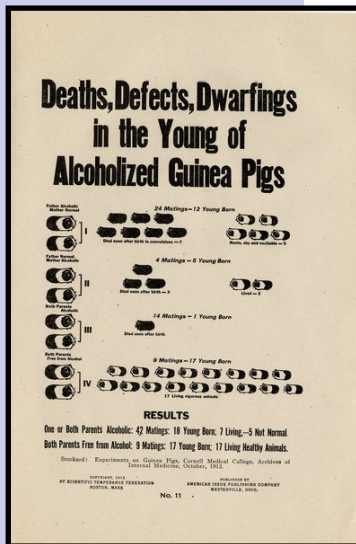


While they had much in common, the Anti-Saloon League differed from the WCTU in several critical ways. Like the Union, they were religiously oriented, led by the Rev. Howard Hyde Russell, and relied heavily on print materials generated by Ernest Cherrington and their state-of-the-art American Issue Publishing Company, which at its height generated 5 issues/month of The American Issue (their house organ) at one point printing 1,746,184 copies for one month, consuming 950 pounds of ink and fifty tons of paper. After a power struggle within the WCTU, they even convinced Mary H.H. Hunt to work with them, turning out “Scientific Temperance” materials like “Drink, the Largest Cause of Unhappy Homes” “Wine Drinking School Children” “Where Drink did its Worst” and many more.



As noted before, modern scientists don't show much respect for the “science” in these publications, but they caught the attention of many, many people across the U.S. Again like the WCTU, the Anti-Saloon League also had a political wing, directed by Wayne Wheeler, who knew how to make and keep the kinds of promises so attractive to the politicians of the day.

Their differences, however, were striking and important. The ASL included women, but was dominated by men, wielding the kind of voting clout the WCTU lacked. They also focused narrowly on one issue and one issue alone – Prohibition. Their slogan was “The Saloon Must Go” addressing the deplorable conditions in many such establishments, but their ultimate goal was total national prohibition. Perhaps most importantly, the tactics they employed with the politicians of the day were radically different from those of the WCTU. First off,



they did not require that a politician “take the pledge” to get their support. As W. M. Burke, Ph.D., Superintendent, Oakland District, Anti-Saloon League of California famously said,

“The fact is, the Anti-Saloon League has never insisted that a candidate whom they are supporting shall be a total abstinence man. They go upon the principle, to put the matter in an extreme light, that it is better to have a drunkard in a deliberative body who will vote right than to have a saint who will vote wrong.”

So, the relevant delegate, representative, senator, etc., only had to pledge to “vote right” to gain access to the League’s handsome coffers and voter rolls. Of equal importance strategically, was the ASL’s approach to the national issue. Recognizing the difficulty of getting Congress to change things all at once, they chose a more grassroots, gradual approach, dubbed “the local option.”

Imagine this scenario, “Well State Delegate Doe, we understand Maryland might be ready to outlaw liquor in its entirety, but don’t you think the people of Elkton, Baltimore, Frederick, fill-in-the-blank, should be able to make up their own minds? After all, it’s the Democratic way isn’t it?” They could point to jurisdictions like Maine or any of the other states which already had local option laws to bolster this argument.

Upon passage of their legislation, the League

went to work with the local churches building up dry oases and using these centers to begin electing dry candidates to state governments around the country. Keep in mind that prior to the ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913, Senators were still named by the legislatures of the various states. Getting control of these legislatures meant, eventually getting control of the Senate.

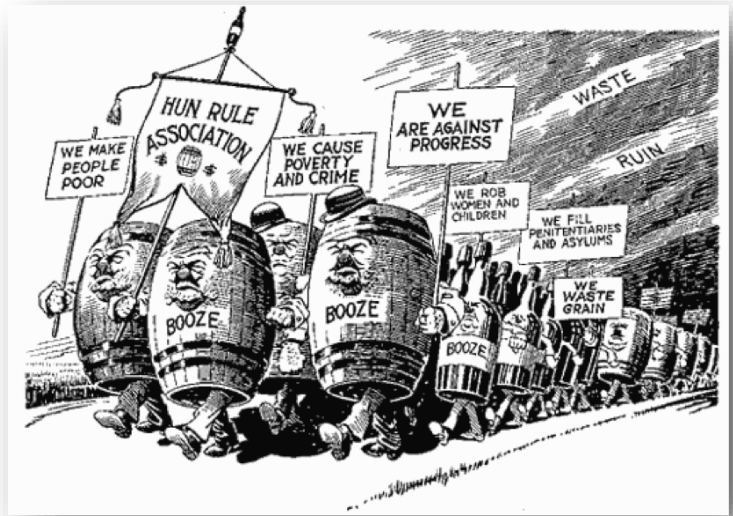
Despite their growing political clout, the ASL still had a couple of hurdles to clear. The first was financial. At the turn of the twentieth century, customs duties and liquor taxes made up anywhere from 2/3ds to 3/4ths of all the income of the United States, and liquor taxes were about half that amount. Before they could ever approach the Congress with a serious Prohibition effort, they had to find a way to replace that income. Fortunately for the Drys, the Progressive movement was already promoting an income tax as a part of their program for income redistribution across the US. The League and others happily supported this plan, resulting in the ratification of the 16th Amendment in 1913.

“The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.”

With this roadblock removed, everyone set to work to achieve national prohibition. The effort drew a wide array of supporters from all sides, including Democrats and Republicans, Progressives, and Populists. Even Andrew Carnegie and the IWW (strange bedfellows if ever there were such) agreed on the issue of workplace safety.

The ASL also recognized the need for speed. They understood that the 1920 census would show a substantial shift from the generally dry rural counties of the U.S. to the generally wetter cities, especially in large states such as New York. It was important then, to get the amendment out and ratified before that census could impede their efforts.

WWI provided the boost that effort required. Leaning heavily on anti-German sentiment they succeeded in obtaining a Wartime Prohibition Act. This law provided the perfect launching pad for a post-war push to finally achieve their long-time dream. Success came on December 18th 1917, when Congress sent the states the newly proposed 18th Amendment, outlawing “... the



manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.”

The final challenge (and irony) for the ASL came in the ratification phase. In passing the amendment, most Drys in Congress were convinced the states would never support such an absurd idea. Grossly underestimating the power of all the dry organizations, they generously allowed for a seven year ratification period. It was done in 13 months.



On January 17th, 1920, the Volstead Act took effect, laying out the details of the “Great Experiment” and beginning one of the most amazing, contradictory episodes in American history. The grass roots efforts of thousands of dedicated Drys succeeded in shutting down a 3 billion dollar/year industry across American and ushering in a period of criminal behavior on levels unheard of at that time.

This, then is “How it Happened” Stay tuned for “What Happened” in our next issue. More images are on page 6 & 7.



SMALL ACCIDENTS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU

Insured Drinkers
Had Three and
One-Fifth Times
as many Small
Accidents as the
Average Insured
Worker



Sobriety Boosts Safety

Statistics from Lethal Sick Benefit Societies, 1910
Drinkers were men 35-41 years old who showed signs of alcoholism. They had 329 minor accidents per 1,000 insured men to 109 per 1,000 among average insured workers. Report of Societies, 1910.

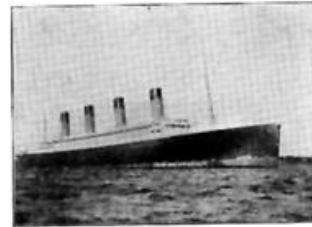
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BOSTON, MASS.

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WESTERVILLE, OHIO

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

No. 52

THE TITANIC CARRIED DOWN 1503 PEOPLE



**DRINK CARRIES OFF 1503 Men
and Women EVERY EIGHT
DAYS in the Year**

*At Least One Man in Every Seven and One-Half Men who Die in the
United States Lose His Life as the Direct or
Indirect Result of DRINK*

**No Man Need Die of Alcohol-Caused
Disease**

Estimates based on E. B. Phelps' The Mortality of Alcohol, 1911.

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BOSTON, MASS.

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WESTERVILLE, OHIO

No. 40

Three Accidents on Monday to Two on Other Days

What the Zurich Building Trades Learned

1900-1906

Average Accidents Monday

22.1%

Average Accidents Other Days

15.7%

**DRINK UNSTEADIES NERVES
IMPAIRS JUDGMENT**

Report Zurich Building Trades Local Union, Toronto

Copyright 1917
By Scientific Temperance Federation
Boston, Mass.

No. 27

\$100 Prize For Anti-Saloon Essay.

The Anti-Saloon League of Maryland offers a prize of one hundred dollars (\$100) for the best essay and fifty dollars (\$50) for the second best essay on:—

“What it costs the people of Baltimore, morally, mentally, financial and industrially to secure the million dollars which it now receives from the liquor traffic under the High Liquor License Law.”

The contest is open to any one person, anywhere, except employees of the League. Essays are limited to 2500 words. The decision will be made by the Headquarters Committee of the Anti-Saloon League or by judges designated by them. All essays presented shall become the property of the League and such essays as may be selected by the Committee will be read at a public meeting.

Typewritten essays must be received by Rev. J. F. Heisse, Chairman of the Headquarters Committee, at the League office, 801 American Building, by January 1st, 1911. The decision will be announced and the prizes paid as soon as the essays can be examined. The name and address of the writer must be attached in a sealed envelope to each essay.

ING SUN, CECIL COUNTY

TEMPERANCE DAY AT LESLIE SCHOOL CAMP.

Program Arranged By Cecil County
W. C. T. U. For August 1.

The following is the program arranged by the W. C. T. U. of Cecil county for Temperance Day at Leslie camp-meeting, August 1:

Dr. Homer Tope, Anti-Saloon League of Pennsylvania, and Hon. Horace Geiger, vice-president Philadelphia Temperance Bureau of Information, will address morning session.

At 1:30 p. m., children service, in charge of Miss Carrie Green, State L. T. L. Superintendent, assisted by Mrs. Mollie Thompson, County L. T. L. Superintendent, and Rev. William H. Micheals, who has charge of the Children's Hour.

2:30—Devotional services, Mrs. Jennie Reisler. 3—Demorest Contest—Contestants: Nolie Charsha and Mary Kirk, Woodlawn; Florence McDougal and Helen Jenkins, Rising Sun; Virginia Falls, North East, Grace Haines, Colora.

7:30—Devotional exercises, Virginia Abrahams; 8—Address, Mrs. Addie B. Parrsels, vice-president Penna State W. C. T. U., National speaker and organizer. Special music. Don't fail to hear Mrs. Parrsels. Give your presence and aid in the grand rally for National Constitutional prohibition.

SECRETARY.

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PLEASE SIGN THIS CARD
AND KEEP IT



Woman's Christian Temperance Union

PLEDGE

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider; and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

Name Mrs. Agnes Cole

Date Aug. 17 1917

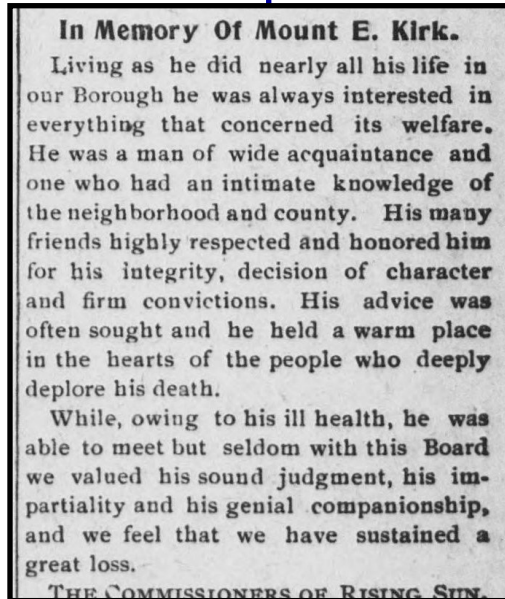
“A man of wide acquaintance. . . integrity . . . and firm convictions”: Rising Sun's Mount Kirk

I first ran across the name “Mount Kirk” at the Historical Society, where I found a poster proof for the auction of farm stock and equipment held in 1913. What interested me most about the poster was that the seller was my great-grandfather, who was apparently the tenant farmer. I dismissed the name as someone's rather grandiose appellation for a farmhouse on a hill. However, as I began researching my great-grandfather's possible property holdings, I kept seeing the name Mount Kirk in land records and in the local paper the Midland Journal.

Now, there have been Kirks in the Rising Sun area since the early 1700s, the unusually named Mount being only one of six generations of Kirks. Mount himself was born to Jesse Kirk and Hannah Mount Kirk, formerly of Philadelphia. She came here with her brother John when he relocated to this area, the rest of her well-to-do family remaining in Philadelphia. Their son was born on January 10, 1857, and he was to be their only child.

Mount's father Jesse seems to have been somewhat of a self made man. Jesse's father Allen was a successful farmer. Jesse became a man of business, and a prosperous one at that, harkening back to his Quaker forebears. He established a business with his brother Basil in 1846 in Rising Sun, then in 1852 became a partner in the firm of Haines, Kirk, and Stubbs, a foundry which also sold ploughs and stoves. By 1857, Stubbs had left the business and its focus changed to hardware, becoming Haines and Kirk, a name familiar to many old timers of the area.

At the age of twenty, Mount Kirk succeeded his father upon Jesse's retirement in 1877. Edwin Haines had already joined the firm, taking his father Job's place after the latter's death in 1867. Mount Kirk had inherited his father's talents in business, eventually surpassing him. In 1886, Mount opened a hardware store in North East, Kirk and Kirk, with his relation George E. Kirk. Later that year he would marry local girl Mary Rebecca Evans in Philadelphia. He owned several properties on Queen Street which were used for Haines and Kirk or rented to other business operators, and a house, which he rented and later occupied for a time with his family. And of course, there was the aforementioned farm, as well as lots in Rising Sun.



This memorial penned by the Commissioners of Rising Sun appeared beneath Kirk's obituary on the front page of the Midland Journal

But it was not just about business for Mount Kirk. Like his father, he was a contributor to his community. He was a founding member and trustee of the Crystal Lodge, a local chapter of the temperance league the International Order of the Good Templars. He was elected to the town board of Rising Sun at least twice, and was involved in the county Republican Committee, being elected delegate of the sixth district several times. He

was on the Board of Supervisors of Elections for the sixth district, a trustee of school number six of the sixth district, was on the Board of Directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Cecil County, and a member of the Rising Sun Detective Association. He was president of the Cecil Farmers Telephone Company, Treasurer and Trustee of West Nottingham Academy as well as performing those same functions for the West Nottingham Presbyterian Church.

One of the more interesting business ventures in which Kirk was involved was the Rising Sun, North East and Elk River Electric

Company, which intended to build an electric trolley line between Rising Sun, Calvert, Zion, Bay View, North East, and Elk Neck. After several years of planning and negotiations, the idea was apparently abandoned. He was also a part of other committees looking into forming companies to manufacture Bird's Cultivators and to build and operate a shoe factory, the Rising Sun Shoe Manufacturing Company.

These were not his only contributions to the community. He also seems to have functioned as a one-man loan company, loaning money and handing out mortgages to his fellow citizens, the extent of which we shall shortly see.

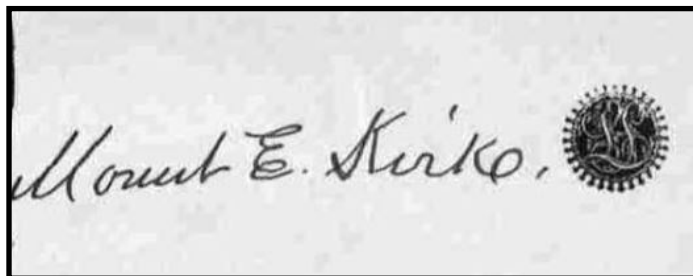
Some time in 1902 or thereabouts, Mount and his family moved into Jesse's house on

Walnut Street, which consisted of the house and two adjoining lots. Jesse had remarried in 1887 and apparently moved to his new wife's home on Main Street in Rising Sun. Difficult times were coming for Mount. In 1903 Jesse died at the age of 81. Aside from a few bequests, Mount inherited the bulk of his father's estate. In 1905, after an illness lasting several months, Rebecca died, leaving Mount with two children: Allen, fifteen and Francina, ten. But Mount himself was not in the best of health. In February 1906, he sold many of his possessions and by June was in a sanitarium in Reading, Pennsylvania, in an attempt to regain his health. At some point he left the sanitarium to

take up residence at the Windsor Hotel in Philadelphia, where he was cared for by Dr. S. D. Mount, a cousin. The end came for Mount Kirk on February 3, 1907, only a little over a year after his wife's death. The children were placed under the guardianship of Rebecca's sister Clara Turner, and Mount's estate was handled by his partner Edwin Haines.

Within the papers of Kirk's estate, which consists of over one hundred pages, are three and one half pages listing all the debts owing to the estate by people to whom he had loaned money, the total being well over \$30,000. In today's dollars, this is over \$800,000. Bequests in his will wiped out debts owed to him by the Rising Sun Commissioners and Janes Methodist Church. He also owned a number of stocks, including those of the National Bank of Rising Sun, where his father had been president. It was speculated in the Midland Journal that the value of his estate must have been between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars. It is to his very great credit that he used his wealth to help others in his community. His obituary in the Midland Journal states:

... Rising Sun and Cecil County sustain the loss of a highly respected and valuable citizen. He was a man of affairs and always had the best interests of the town and county at heart, keeping in close touch with the people and being interested in the welfare of the whole community.



The signature of Kirk as it appears on his will.



Excerpt of the Cecil County atlas of 1877 showing downtown Rising Sun. Note at the upper right the residence of J. A. Kirk, where Mount Kirk spent his final years. The Haines and Kirk hardware store is one of the buildings in the lower center on Main Street.

What a thoughtful and incisive tribute. In the paper, below his obituary, is a memorial paragraph signed by the Commissioners of Rising Sun. So great was their esteem for Kirk, in 1911, four years after his death, the commissioners named a new street in his honor: Mount Street. It is a fitting reminder of the man who gave Rising Sun and its citizens so much of himself.



Sixth district School No. 6, of which Kirk was a Trustee. It was located on Pearl Street not far from where the middle school is today.



Cycling in Cecil

By Jo Ann Gardner

This summer marks the 200th anniversary of the invention of the bicycle. It took a few decades for it to make its way to Cecil County and was at first a curiosity, but eventually it became a popular way to get around.



Baron Karl von Drais of Sauerbrun invented a 2 wheeled vehicle that could be steered by the front wheel. He first displayed his invention in the summer of 1817 in Mannheim Germany and then the following year in Paris. He received a patent for a velocipede which would become the bicycle in 1869.

The first mention of a velocipede in Cecil County newspapers is in July of 1867. An advertisement in the *Cecil Whig* by Henry A. Makinson of Port Deposit offered many goods for sale including velocipedes, carriages and coffins. It is not until 1869 that velocipedes/ bicycles become a curiosity. "The long talked of brain-turning bicycles have reached Elkton and everybody's got the mania", reported the *Cecil Whig* in May of 1869. The *Cecil Democrat* published that the "bicycle did not take in Elkton. There was not enough muscle or music or clown about it to make a show". There were questions on how practical the bicycle was. The general consensus was it was good for a trip of



10 or 12 miles. By 1881 bicycles were seen all over Elkton. High and North streets were the favorite practice grounds. Provisions were being delivered by bikes. Parents were encouraged to "let your boys learn to be bicycle riders and they will never become drunkards. No drunk man can ride a bicycle, no bicycle rider gets drunk"

The advertisements for bicycles were mostly for stores in the big cities such as Philadelphia and Wilmington. It wasn't until the late 1880's that local stores began to carry them. The first local advertisement since the one in 1867 was in August of 1888 by Hanna, Haines and Passmore, of Rising Sun who became dealers of bicycles, tricycles and velocipedes. The bicycle was "rapidly taking the place which used to be filled by the saddle horse. In July of 1893 Wells & Torbert of Elkton began selling American Rambler, Victor and Cleveland bicycles. Bicycles were not cheap. A Rambler cost \$150 in 1893 an equivalent of \$4,000 today, much the same as a high-end bicycle today. The Reading Flyer was about \$80 or about \$2,000 in 2020 dollars. Just like high-end bikes today, you could purchase frames and components separately. Ricketts Nelson and William Feehly of Elkton were riding 95 Ramblers and Charles Peacock was riding a 95 Columbia around Elkton.



With any new sport come accessories. *The Cecil Star* in 1887 advertised bicycle gloves for \$1.25 and shoes for \$1 to \$3 and socks for 75 cents. The Appeal advertised bicycle suits \$3.50 to \$5.00 on sale!

Bicycle racing appears in the newspapers as early as 1881. Many of the races were held at local fairs. Bicycle Clubs from Wilmington and Washington D.C. would compete for cash prizes of



\$12, \$5 and \$3. The champion sprinter "Jenks" of Rising Sun won first place in a race in Wilmington, DE. 1889. Accidents were frequent. *The Whig* reported in 1881, "Nowadays when you see a young man with his nose split open and four front teeth gone, we are unable to tell whether he is a professional baseball player or an amateur bicycle rider". In 1889 Harvey Boulden and Harry Griest had a head on collision while riding in opposite directions on the sidewalk in Rising Sun. Apparently it started a fight between the 2 riders and the banning of bicycles on sidewalks by Dr. Kirk the town commissioner. It seems that problem still exists today! In 1894 George Shure was practicing riding his bike in Rising Sun after dark when he collided with the Rising Sun team. His bike was crushed and escaped with his life. In London in 1895 it's estimated that there were 18 bicycle accidents a day!

Professional bike racing came to Cecil County in the 1990s. May 8, 1993 Port Deposit was the starting town for a major race. The third stage of the Tour DuPont was a 115-mile stage from Port Deposit to Hagerstown, Maryland. Sean Yates, the Irish rider for team Motorola, came in first with a time of 5.06.46. The route was



popular enough that it was stage 2 of the 1994 Tour DuPont. A German armature, Sven Teutenberg, won the 115-mile race in 5.56.29. Compare this to the early cyclists who rode from Perryville to Oxford, a 40-mile round trip. It took them 6 hours to complete the journey. Today on a modern bike the same route should take around 3 hours.

Cecil County is still a popular bicycle destination. Fair Hill has great mountain biking trails and Route 273 is a challenge to any road bike rider. Riders can choose from the hills in the north of the county to the flat C and D canal ride. The ride from Chesapeake City to Delaware City is beautiful. So get out and discover Cecil County the way riders have done for the last 130 years!



“Historic Facial Hair”

By Jo Ann Gardner

Given the current popularity of beards we thought we would look back over what was fashionable in the past. Our curator, Lisa Dolor scoured the photo archives of the Historical Society to find examples of fashionable men sporting fashionable beards.

To quote Leah Price of the New York Times, “Mustachioed hipsters may be happy to learn that facial hair spent the first half of the 19th century as the marker of rabble-rousers, artists and derelicts. It was only when the Crimean War veterans (1853-1856) set the fashion that experts began recommending beards to ward off frostbite, sunburn and air pollution, not to mention mumps, and toothache. A beard could also hide a man’s unmanly expressions and emotions.”

The 1860’s began the popularity of the “big beards” in the United States. Men copied the leaders of the time, Lincoln, Grant, Lee and Sherman all sported beards and who can forget General Burnside’s classic sideburns. The long beards and sideburns remained a popular fashion statement from 1850-1880 followed by the mustache craze; handlebar, horseshoe, pencil and imperial to name a few. The World Wars brought an end to beards as gas masks required men to be clean shaven. The clean shaven look remained popular until the 1970’s when the mustache came back into fashion. Today the beard has made a great comeback, with men sporting classic looks.

There is a connection between men’s beards and women’s fashions in a study published in *The Atlantic*, Jane Richardson and Alfred Kroeber found a direct correlation between the size of the beard and with width of women’s dresses. If you look back Civil War era photographs, this is evident. Men’s beards were grand and women wore the wide hoop skirts. Luckily with the return of the beard in the 21st century, hoop skirts have not come back into fashion.

The *Cecil Democrat* published its own opinion of the beard in January of 1879:

“The Beard”

Not many years ago it was hardly respectable to wear a beard, but the beard movement, resisted and ridiculed at first, has conquered, and it grows more and more the fashion to grow on the face as full a covering of hairs as can be coaxed out. “The beard,” the natural clothing of the chin, says a very old English writer, “was in ancient times looked upon not as a troublesome burden, but as a dignified ornament of ripe manhood and old age.” Our present generation, however, cares nothing for “dignified ornament” in dress, but very much for convenience and utilitarianism. It sees in the beard and, above all, in the moustache, a natural defense for the throat and face against the cold, and equally in warm climates a protection of these parts against excessive heat. Persons who wear

mustachios are said, on good authority, to be less liable to toothache than others, and it is also said that the teeth are less apt to decay.

The beard and moustache equalize the temperature to parts they cover with their protection. The sappers and miners of the French army, chosen in part for the size and beauty of their beards, enjoy especial immunity against bronchitis and similar evils. It is related that Walter Savage Landor was a great sufferer from sore throat for many years of his life, but was cured by the surgeon of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who advised him to let his beard grow.”

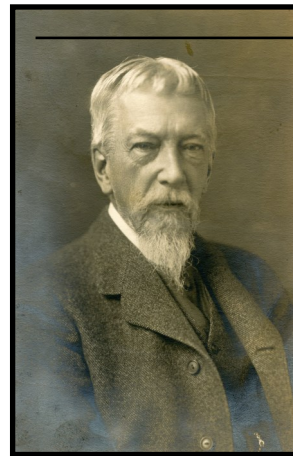
Beards fell out of fashion by the late 19th century when the germ theory of disease was discovered and doctors felt that diseases such as TB were being spread by kissing a man with a beard, and recommend shaving them off for public health. The argument over disease and beards is still going on today with both sides still disagreeing over the hygiene of beards.



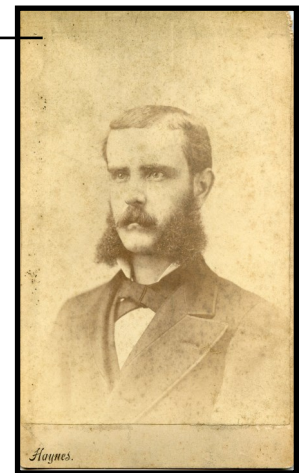
Handlebar Mustache



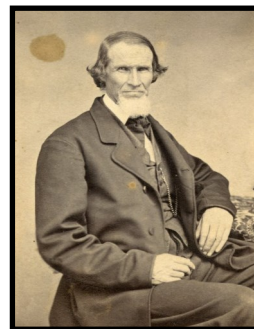
Chin Curtain Beard



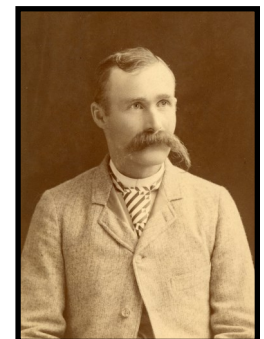
Van Dyke Beard



Mutton Chops



Goatee Beard



Walrus Mustache

Caroline Serena (Kirk) Greer

1846 – 1943

By Carol Donache

*Dress donated by granddaughter, Ruth Mustin Gilmore
"Married at Brick Meeting House, 2 Feb. 1870"*

Caroline Serena Kirk was born September 16, 1846 near "Brick Meeting House", Maryland where her parents, William Kirk and Hannah (England) Kirk owned a farm on the original Nottingham Lot #28 on Calvert Road in Cecil County, Maryland

The England and Kirk Families were early Quakers of the Nottingham Lots area. Over the years some family members were married by a magistrate, reverend or "hireling minister" and were no longer accepted as members of the Quaker faith.

Caroline married John Greer of Philadelphia on February 2, 1870. It has not been determined how they met, but they were married at the home of her father by Rev. Abraham DeWitt, a minister of the Gospel who lived in Fair Hill, District #4. By November of the same year they were living in Philadelphia and three of Caroline's sisters were living with them.

John Greer was born in 1839 to Irish immigrant parents, William and Mary Greer who settled and married in Philadelphia in 1834. William Greer worked in manufacturing but died when John, the oldest son was seventeen years old leaving the mother Mary with a large young family.

During his lifetime John worked in the cotton, woolen and carpet manufacturing trades.

In the mid 1800's Philadelphia became a vast manufacturing metropolis. By 1882 the greatest concentration of textile production in the nation was in Philadelphia. The introduction of the Markland power loom in 1868 helped Pennsylvania become the leader in carpet manufacture and Philadelphia was the leading city between 1870 and 1900, explaining John Greer's occupation in the carpet manufacturing trade in the 1900 census.

Caroline and John had nine children and lived out their lives in Philadelphia. John died in 1915 and Caroline continued to live in the city with three unwed daughters who had impressive careers as a private secretary, a hospital nurse and a school teacher.

Caroline died June 9, 1943 before reaching her 97th birthday. She was buried from the Tioga Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and rests with her husband in Woodlands Cemetery on the banks of the Schuylkill River.

"There is nothing so graceful and pretty for a young person as a thin dress" - Godey's Lady Book, March, 1865

Sample of a newspaper ad for a shop in Philadelphia:



No. 114 SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET,
Have now open a great variety of New Styles In made-up
LACE GOODS.
French Cap
FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN.
Novelties In Neck Ties
French Muslin and Tarlatan For Evening Dresses.

Snow-Bound**[The sun that brief December day]***John Greenleaf Whittier - 1807-1892*

The sun that brief December day
 Rose cheerless over hills of gray,
 And, darkly circled, gave at noon
 A sadder light than waning moon.
 Slow tracing down the thickening sky
 Its mute and ominous prophecy,
 A portent seeming less than threat,
 It sank from sight before it set.
 A chill no coat, however stout,
 Of homespun stuff could quite shut out,

A hard, dull bitterness of cold,
 That checked, mid-vein, the circling race
 Of life-blood in the sharpened face,

The coming of the snow-storm told.
 The wind blew east: we heard the roar
 Of Ocean on his wintry shore,
 And felt the strong pulse throbbing there
 Beat with low rhythm our inland air.
 Meanwhile we did your nightly chores,--
 Brought in the wood from out of doors,
 Littered the stalls, and from the mows
 Raked down the herd's-grass for the cows;
 Heard the horse whinnying for his corn;
 And, sharply clashing horn on horn,
 Impatient down the stanchion rows
 The cattle shake their walnut bows;
 While, peering from his early perch
 Upon the scaffold's pole of birch,
 The cock his crested helmet bent
 And down his querulous challenge sent.

Unwarmed by any sunset light
 The gray day darkened into night,
 A night made hoary with the swarm
 And whirl-dance of the blinding storm,
 As zigzag, wavering to and fro
 Crossed and recrossed the wingèd snow:
 And ere the early bed-time came
 The white drift piled the window-frame,
 And through the glass the clothes-line posts
 Looked in like tall and sheeted ghosts.

As night drew on, and, from the crest
 Of wooded knolls that ridged the west,
 The sun, a snow-blown traveller, sank
 From sight beneath the smothering bank,
 We piled, with care, our nightly stack
 Of wood against the chimney-back,--
 The oaken log, green, huge, and thick,
 And on its top the stout back-stick;
 The knotty forestick laid apart,
 And filled between with curious art
 The ragged brush; then, hovering near,
 We watched the first red blaze appear,
 Heard the sharp crackle, caught the gleam
 On whitewashed wall and sagging beam,
 Until the old, rude-furnished room
 Burst, flower-like, into rosy bloom;
 While radiant with a mimic flame
 Outside the sparkling drift became,
 And through the bare-boughed lilac-tree
 Our own warm hearth seemed blazing free.
 The crane and pendent trammels showed,
 The Turks' heads on the andirons glowed;
 While childish fancy, prompt to tell
 The meaning of the miracle,
 Whispered the old rhyme: "Under the tree,
 When fire outdoors burns merrily,
 There the witches are making tea."
 The moon above the eastern wood
 Shone at its full; the hill-range stood
 Transfigured in the silver flood,
 Its blown snows flashing cold and keen,
 Dead white, save where some sharp ravine
 Took shadow, or the somber green
 Of hemlocks turned to pitchy black
 Against the whiteness at their back.
 For such a world and such a night
 Most fitting that unwarming light,
 Which only seemed where'er it fell
 To make the coldness visible.



Thank you to the following new members:

- Acer Exhibits and Events
 - Ernest Atkinson
 - Connie Branch
 - Jerry Brown
 - Nora Carleson
 - Nancy Cornish
- William and Gabrielle Coutz
 - Mary Coyle
- Elkton Chamber and Alliance
 - Michael Estes
 - F. Barton Evans
 - Mark A. Freel
 - Graham Fulmer
 - Scott Giblin
 - Roy Glixon
- Kathleen Hermann
 - Paul Hyde
 - Chris Kohan
 - Thomas Lee
- John J. Moore Jr.
- Wendy Nichols
- Tracy Reynolds
- Gerald Richards
- Phil Scharper
- Peter Schenck
- Betty Smith
- Peter Vardon
- Joshua Zahn



Donate Today!

Above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions

The CARES Act allows for a \$300 above-the-line deduction for cash charitable contributions made to 501(c)(3) organizations for taxpayers who take the standard deduction.

The act also relaxes the limit on charitable contributions for itemizers—increasing the amount that can be deducted from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% of gross income. These changes go into effect beginning in the 2020 tax year.

Both of these provisions explicitly exclude enhanced deductions for contributions to 509(a)(3) charitable organizations (commonly known as sponsoring organizations) or donor advised funds.

Become a Member!

Joining the Historical Society of Cecil County is a great way to support the Society's undertakings.

All members are invited to attend meetings and functions sponsored by the HSCC, receive discounts on books and items, use the HSCC library for free and get a subscription to *The Inkwell*, our newsletter.

For over 75 years, we have connected people with Cecil's past by collecting and preserving the county's history and we count on membership dues to help fund this endeavor.

Through your membership you help connect people to the county's past through our library and its significant collection of rare books, manuscripts and photographs; our outreach services, helping others understand county history; a website that attracts hundreds of visitors monthly; our museum, which contains fascinating displays; and our widely distributed print newsletter.

Ways to Join

Become a member online or send your payment by mail (the old-fashioned way!). Membership renewal is on an annual, calendar year basis.

Members joining on or after August 1st will receive credit for the remaining months of the year of receipt as well as a full 12 months in the following period.

By Mail

Membership
Historical Society of Cecil County
135 E Main St.
Elkton, MD 21921

Online Payment with Paypal

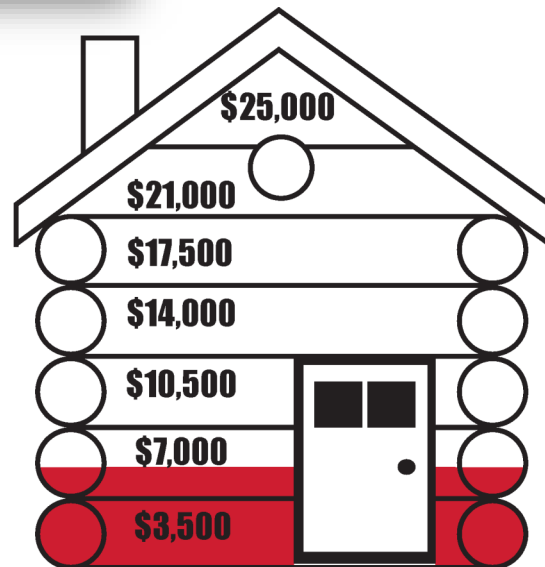
Select the appropriate category and click on the "buy now" button. It will take you to a secure PayPal page for payment.

You will receive your membership package within about two weeks.



The Work Begins.... Chuck Dolor and Travis Humiston cleared out the log cabin so work can begin

After we realized how quickly the Rev. Duke Log Cabin was deteriorating, we launched a campaign to save it. An experienced log home restoration contractor was called in to give us an assessment and an estimate of the cost for a restoration so the Board of Trustees had an idea of the funds we would need to raise. The estimate came in at a maximum cost of \$175,000. With the help of our local councilman and State delegate we were able to obtain \$150,000 in Bond Bill money from the State of Maryland, however, we are required to a match of \$25,000. To date we have raised \$5500 in donations toward our \$25,000 goal. We are asking for your help to save the circa 1800 Rev. Duke Log Cabin. Please send your donation to the Historical Society or make it through PayPal.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

135 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-1790

The Historical Society will remain closed until further notice.

We encourage patrons to send in research queries in the meantime!

Since 1932, the Historical Society of Cecil County Maryland has been the go-to resource for researchers, students and history buffs looking for answers about the culture and materials that defined (and continue to define) our county. We are a 100% volunteer-based organization.