

District of Ross Mills

Ross Mills Newsletter

December 2019

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This is a good time just to sit and think some of the things in the by gone years. So many times I think of many early school days at Christmas time. Hirem, a neighbor in Ross Mills, would bring in to the school a tall evergreen tree, many times it went way to the ceiling which was 11 foot. Then us kids had a chance to help to decorate it, then I remember all the gifts under it. Then I would also be a program we all never liked, because we didn't like to face people.

~ Emory Holmquist

What is the meaning Christmas?

Most people know that answer. The birth of Christ, it hasn't been that long ago since God brought Jesus to us in comparing to the age earth.



God has prepared us for a very long time at least when the earth was a red melting rock. He was preparing for baring of life. This was a plan, things don't just happen. Everything that grows starts with a seed that is all programed for its purpose, God made all things of growth to maintain life and reproduce itself. God also provided other things for mankind's use. Such as different kinds of trees so we could use the wood and many underground reserves.

A lot more can be said about this, if you think about it we are all part of what comes right from the ground. ~ Emory Holmquist

Ross Mills Grange News

Ross Grange met at the Falcon's Nest Banquet Hall preceded by a buffet meal on November 27. Reports were given on the 20th annual Holiday Happenings Craft Show. All who helped in various ways were thanked. Members voted to donate \$100 each to the Salvation Army, Blue Star Mothers, and St. Susan's Soup Kitchen from the profits.

Letters of thanks for the Veteran's Day cards were received from the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Buffalo and Erie. This has been an annual project by Ross Grange for a number of years as a way to recognize those who have served our county.

The Christmas party will be December 9 at the Falcon's Nest with a catered meal. Reservations should be made to Elaine Melquist 716 665-5391 by December 2. All members are welcome but need reservations.

The meetings for January, February and March will be held at 1:00 PM with light refreshments served.



Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley & Pittsburgh Railroad

One of the earliest railroad projects planned west of the Allegheny River was proposed by the people of Warren, PA to build a railroad north. A state charter was granted in 1832 but nothing happened until 1853. 1700 shares of stock were sold to form the Warren Pine Grove Railroad.

The first move toward building the D.A.V. & P. came in 1866 when meetings were held at Sinclairville, Dunkirk and Fredonia, Early in 1867 The Dunkirk, Warren & Pittsburgh Railroad was organized.

On April 23, 1867 New York State authorized the company to issue stock and the towns along the route were to provide \$238,000 in capital.

On June 17, 1867 work began on the railroad from Cassadaga Lake to Dunkirk, with surveying done by Obed Edson. Grading of the road began on October 3, 1867 at Ross Mills. The road was graded from 1867 to 1869 with track being laid from Dunkirk to Laona in 1870. By June 1, 1871 it had reached Sinclairville and by June 17 it was complete to Falconer. The first passenger train ran over the line on June 22, 1871.

On December 31, 1872, the Dunkirk, Warren & Pittsburgh Railroad Co. combined with the Warren and Venango Railroad Co. to form the Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley & Pittsburgh Railroad Co. On January 3, 1873, the DAV&P (The Dolly Varden) was leased to the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Co.

An Excerpt from ~ Gerry: A Peek into Our Past