

In September of 1901 a group of Italian anarchists from Guffey were driven from the hollow by 30 men dressed as Ku Klux Klansmen. Twenty-five families' lives were threatened if they dared return.

Today only the Guffey Club, one company house, and several other homes remain from when Guffey Station was a typical 19th century coal-mining boom town.

### Jacktown (Jacksonville)

Jacktown in the early 1800's was the largest and most important town in what is now North Huntingdon Township. In 1827 when North Huntingdon Township was split, the northern part was described by the State Legislature as "Jacksonville". The history of Jacksonville is that of the great road running through it, the Philadelphia to Pittsburgh Pike, and the hardy families that settled here. The first settlers in Jacktown were James (1751-1833) and Jane (1749-1820) Irwin, brother and sister of Colonel John Irwin.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* shows a letter was written by Colonel John Irwin on September 22, 1783, to his brother James, who was still in Ireland, advising him to arrive in the fall of the year, rather than in the spring as James had intended. Arriving in the beginning of winter, John said, his brother could "enjoy a season of health until your constitution becomes in some degree reconciled to the climate, living conditions, etc." If the letter did reach James in Ireland and he heeded his brother's advice, then it is likely that he did not arrive until the fall of 1784.

James bought land beside his brother John's Brush Hill estate and built his house high on a hill overlooking the ravine of Tinker Run and what is now the town of Irwin. The house still stands on Verdant Boulevard and is now owned by the Charles McIntyres. James served as justice of the peace and advisor and agent for many of his Irish friends and neighbors. Squire James married Jane Fullerton (1789-1836), daughter of William Fullerton.

In 1791 the Greensburg Pike was routed through Jacktown, making a jog coming out of Irwin to ease the grade and come near Squire James' house, and going up the Jacktown Hill to Circleville. The highway brought the second known settler to Jacksonville, William Fullerton (1765-1827) son of "Big Humphrey" Fullerton (who weighed 460 pounds) who with Colonel John Irwin surveyed the New York-Pennsylvania boundary. William Fullerton had three wives, the last being Jane Irwin, sister of Squire James. William and his son Humphrey (1787-1835) opened a store and stagecoach stop in Jacksonville, located either in their own home or in what later became the McIntyre House.

The Fullerton's stone house still stands at the corner of Old Lincoln Highway and Southside Road (which used to go to the old Southside Coal Mine) and is now owned by Mrs. Jean White, our first lady county commissioner.

Deed records show that in 1808 Humphrey paid \$18 for one acre and fifty seven perches (square rods) in what is now Jacksonville. In 1810 he and Squire James Irwin laid out lots in Jacksonville. In deeds dated September and December of 1829, sealed and witnessed by Justice of the Peace James Irwin, which trace the ownership of the land known as "Three Springs." We find that by indenture Humphrey Fullerton "conveyed to Patrick Green a certain part of the aforesaid tract of land on the original plan of the town of Jacksonville by lots No. 11 and 12, each lot being sixty feet in from on the Turnpike Road, by one hundred and twenty feet back, bounded East by lot No. 10, on the West by a twelve foot alley."

In 1829 he also received \$575 for two other 120 x 120 foot lots. The deed to the house directly across the road from the site of the Jacktown Hotel contains the name of Humphrey Fullerton as the original owner. Dr. B. Rush Marchand (1804-1864) who practiced medicine in Jacksonville from 1825, when he was 19, until 1864, was Fullerton's brother-in-law. Dr. Marchand's grandfather Dr. David Marchand, built what is said to be the first hospital west of the Allegheny Mountains in 1770. It was located on the Little Sewickley creek about two miles south of Adamsburg, near where Wickes Lumber Supply now stands.

The first stagecoach stop was what later became the "McIntyre House" now owned by Mike Hamm. Hugh McIntyre (1814-1859) bought the coach house in 1854 and he and later his wife Jane Siegfried (Mother Mac) McIntyre ran the McIntyre House until 1894. Boucher reports that Hugh McIntyre was a prominent abolitionist and his hotel was a principal station on the "Underground Railroad" before the Civil War.

Jacktown became the principal stage stop in the township, was the first voting district, and housed the Tinker Run Post Office. It boasted a furniture-casket maker, a dry goods store, inns and a hostelry. However, the railroads and coal mine communities passed it by; Jacktown scarcely grew between 1867 and 1904.

In 1850 Irwin was an oak forest with one house. By 1880 it had grown to a population of 1,414 while Jacksonville kept a population of only 132. The coming of the railroad facilitated travel and eliminated the stagecoach line, making Jacksonville a place of lesser importance. The coming of the motor car changed Jacksonville. Center Highway was built about 1928 and houses were built around the new two-lane concrete road, as well as to the east of Jacksonville on the old pike. A new Dodge dealership was built on Center Highway just before the Second World War, and a Pontiac dealership after the war, which has been converted to the Norwin Lanes bowling alley. In 1939 the new four-lane Lincoln Highway was built to connect to the new turnpike. Traffic bypassed Jacktown and it became the residential district that it is today.