

Hendersonville – A Century in a Coal Patch Town

By Pam Nixon & Bryan Seip - Montour Railroad Historical Society

Pam (Mack) Nixon is a historian and genealogist who shares some facts found in old newspaper clippings of Canonsburg's "The Daily Notes" as well as her family history relating to Hendersonville.

June 12, 1914 - The Daily Notes

Mr. McGrew, the chief engineer for the Henderson Coal Co., moved on Monday from his home on the Charleroi streetcar line to the house owned by the coal company, which expects to have its shaft completed early in July. It has about 75 feet to go before reaching the coal.

August 14, 1914 - The Daily Notes

It is expected that the Montour Railroad will have trains running over its lines by September 15. The bridge [over *Chartiers Creek*] near the tunnel at Bells is finished and trains are now being operated to distribute material at such points where it is needed.

Poles for the electric line from McDonald to Hills station are being placed. This line will supply electricity for the Henderson Coal Company's mine at McPherson's Mill and for the Montour mine at Hills. [*Pittsburgh Coal Company generated its own electricity and distributed it to several other mines.*]

The Henderson Coal Company will erect a number of modern and comfortable houses for the families of American miners whom they will employ in their workings.



Archibald Malcolm McIntyre and Luke Dunwoodie in front of the mine tipples and company boarding house, ca. 1916. Photo from Pam Nixon collection.

January 12, 1915 - The Daily Notes

The new tipple of the Henderson Coal Company is completed, and a coal town is fast springing up. Next summer the mine will be put into operation.

The foundation for a large store which the coal company is building, has been completed. This building will stand very near the site of the old McPherson mill.

November 6, 1915 - The Daily Notes

The Henderson Coal Company mine is equipped with the most modern machinery. The houses erected for the workmen are of a better grade than are usually built for the families of miners and are neat and comfortable homes.

[Pam Nixon relates that her great-grandparents, Archibald and Lucy McIntyre, with their six children, moved to Hendersonville in 1915. Archibald became a fire boss at the mine, responsible for checking the mine for explosive or poisonous gases before the workers entered for their work shift. Lucy ran the company boarding house which supplied room and board to single miners. Their daughter Florence became a clerk at the Hendersonville company store.]

Matthew Mack was a machinist on the coal tipple winches, and boarded at the McIntyre run house, where he met Florence. In October 1919 they married and moved into a house on Bungalow Hill, where they raised three children.]

November 4, 1918 – The Daily Notes

The Henderson Coal Company is taking precautions against an epidemic of influenza among the miners and their families at Hendersonville. Miners and their families are being inoculated with anti-influenza serum, and so far, there have been very few cases at the mining town.

The company bears the expense of inoculating the residents, and in addition have employed Miss Henrietta Franz, a professional nurse, to look after the people there. She has been taken on as a permanent nurse and has an assistant who can speak five languages.

February 1, 1919 - The Daily Notes

Hendersonville now has a post office, with J. C. Bortz as postmaster. The mail is sent by rural carrier from Canonsburg, with a separate pouch for Hendersonville being used. *[The post office was closed in 2011.]*



McPherson's Mill, ca. 1870. The Hendersonville post office was in the house on Morganza Road, which was razed in 2021.

April 10, 1942 - The Daily Notes

The Pittsburgh Coal Company announced today it has purchased the physical assets of the Henderson Mine of the Henderson Coal Company. It will use the property as a means of access to its own coal reserves adjacent to the Henderson mine. Included in the purchase are 140 houses, a store and a tippie on the Montour Railroad. Pittsburgh Coal expects to maintain the 800-ton daily production.

[Pam Nixon - When the mine closed in 1945, Matthew Mack found work with the town water company, maintaining the tanks, pumps, and water lines. Florence became the water bill collector and thus was known by everyone in town. She passed away in 1990 at age 97 after living 75 years in Hendersonville. Her daughter Catherine (Cass) passed away in 2016, the last member of the McIntyre-Mack family residing in Hendersonville.]

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