

## Jollytown history discussed at Cornerstone

Jollytown wasn't always Jollytown.

The small southwestern Greene County village on the banks of Dunkard Creek was once known as Centerville, said Jollytown native Bob Rice at the Cornerstone Genealogical Society meeting Feb. 8. Then again, at that time, Greene County wasn't known as Greene County either. In early colonial times, the area now known as Greene County was part of Westmoreland County, Virginia.



Rice and Greene County Judge Farley Toothman gave a presentation on the history of Jollytown, which is located about a half mile from the Mason-Dixon Line in Gilmore Township.

Patrick McCollum and John Hagart were granted land along Dunkard Creek. About 1835, Titus Jolly purchased a tract from McCollum, had it surveyed into 18 town lots and put them up for sale.

Eventually, Centerville had to change its name, because the moniker was already taken by a town in Washington County, so the village was named after its founder.

In its heyday, there were two stores in Jollytown. The Dye family had one on the west end of town, and the Clovis family had one on the east. The town post office could be found at one of those stores, depending on who was the nation's president. When there was a Democrat in the Oval Office, the post office operated out of the Dye store; and when there was a Republican president, the post office was in the Clovis store.

James Dye, who settled on Dunkard Creek in 1790, operated a grist mill. He was the father of 15 children by two wives, and all but one of his children migrated to Ohio. His son, Minor, stayed here and married Titus Jolly's widow. They had one son, Jefferson Dye. Minor operated a grist mill, which was later operated by Jacob Clovis.

Dr. J.L. Shriver was Jollytown's medical doctor, and he had nine children. Peter Bradley operated a general store and was a justice of the peace. Robert Gas was the village wheelwright and blacksmith. E. L. Wade and Son conducted a large saddle and boot retail and repair. John Lantz owned a large farm; his father was Jacob Lantz, a veteran of the War of 1812. William Fox was an undertaker and blacksmith. The Lemon family kept fine horses and stallions. J.L. Garrison was a wool and livestock dealer who built one of the oldest brick homes in the area; Josephus Rice was a farmer and teamster, until the B&O railroad put him out of business.

Jefferson Dye enlisted in the union army in 1861. After returning from the war, he served an apprenticeship with Mr. Lindley of Miracle Run, West Virginia, later opening his own store in Jollytown. Dye was a furniture maker, justice of peace and an undertaker who made all of his own caskets.

Mr. Rice had the privilege of meeting in the summer of 1975 a sixth-generation descendant of Titus Jolly from Cornell, Washington.