

## Taflinger-Rolston-Swank House

The log house where Abraham Rolston and wife Hannah resided, now the home of Larry & Laura Huffman, Jr. (nephew of Dorothy & Glen Swank; held by the same family line for 156 years) was built by Jacob Taflinger (Tarflinger, Terflinger) before 1860, probably around 1800. Taflinger was a Hessian soldier who settled in the area. A cemetery for the Taflinger family was located north of the Swank barn in a grove of locust trees (more than likely on Bill Dove's property where the previous barn stood). In the 1920's grave markers made from sandstone were located in this pasture field.

Jacob Taflinger sold the house and farm to Abraham Rolston in 1854. He then bought, from Henry Good, land north of the Joseph Funk land. Taflinger sold part of this land to Timothy Funk as it was on this land that Singers Glen is located.

The Taflinger home was unusual at this time because of the size and the two stories. There were three rooms on the first floor and four on the second floor. A center hall with stairs and walnut rail gave access to all the rooms. A large area under these first floor rooms served as a cellar which had an earthen floor and is still in use as cellar and storage. The foundation was constructed of limestone and sandstone, held together by mortar. These original foundation walls are still in place today. Logs the length of the cellar formed the framework for the flooring. The first room on the left as you enter is 20' X 11' and the two rooms on the right are 12' X 7' (front) and 15' X 13' respectively. Pine flooring was used throughout the house and the original floors are still in place. The stairs in the hall are unique in that each riser is stipple painted which gives a marbled effect. This was done by an itinerant painter who was paid room and board for his work. Chimneys were built on the north and south side for the wood stoves.

On the second floor are four rooms which were used as bedrooms. Sizes varied from 12' X 12', 13' X 11', 11' X 7.5', and 12' X 7.5' (one of the smaller rooms has since been converted to a walk in closet). The attic was used for storage since it has a floor. During the Civil War when the Union Army raided and burned many homes and barns, Abraham Rolston hid their cured meat here. Large spots on the floor, caused by drippings from hams and shoulders, are still visible. Meats were also stored in the ceiling of the front porch.

Although there are no records to verify when the addition was added to the east side of the house, we assume it was built after 1905, because of the following facts:

- 1) Elizabeth Rolston (Bettie) daughter of Abraham and Hannah Rolston married Lewis E. Swank in 1892.
- 2) Children of Lewis & Bettie were Wilmer b. 1894, Edna b. 1896, Ruth & Reuel b.1900 and Winnie b. 1903.
- 3) Hannah, Bettie's mother, died in 1905 and Bettie inherited the land and buildings.
- 4) Lewis Swank married Effie whose children include: Ava, Dorothy, Glen, Ruby and Lois.

Two large rooms, a kitchen 15' X 11' and dining room 15' X 13' and a pantry 6' X 5' were built on the first floor with identical sized rooms on the second floor. A stairway from the dining room to the second floor was constructed. Large porches were added to the north and a double one on the south side. A full basement consisting of two rooms the size of the kitchen and dining room completed the addition. A large chimney and a fireplace in the basement were used for heating and cooking.

Work on building a barn was begun in 1897 when lumber was sawed at a nearby sawmill. A foundation of sandstone, limestone and mortar was put in place first. In March and April of 1898 the lumber was hauled from the sawmill. Some days six teams of horses were used for this work. Barn raising took place on May 12, 1898 with the help of 65 men. A noon meal was prepared and served with the help of neighbor women. The barn is 70' X 40' with a steep roof for the shingles which were not available so metal was used for roofing (the barn is currently the property of David Reedy, Jr.).

Since 1892 the house has been owned and lived in by the Swank family. Larry and Laura Huffman took residence in December 2001 a month after Glen Swank's passing and have not removed his name from the postbox.

Information on the early history of the house and barn was supplied by the late J. Robert Swank, Singers Glen historian and genealogist and from the Journals/Diaries 1892-1898 of Lewis E. Swank, Dorothy V. Swank (daughter to Lewis, great-aunt to Larry). Dorothy put this information together January 1998, before her passing April, 2000. Additional information provided by Laura Huffman January 01, 2010.