

Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

2007 Volume 1, Number 2

Summer / Fall 2007



In This Issue:

- Message From the President
Notice of Constitution and Bylaws Revisions
- Society News
- Calendar of Events :
Rural Heritage Days and Great Fall Programs
- Collections: Donations and Purchases
- Projects: *Preserving the Past*
- Library Update - *New Heritage*
- People Make a Difference
- Membership

Quick Calendar

Rural Heritage Days at the Dale/Engle/Walker House Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg

Wednesday, August 15, Noon - 4:00 PM

Activities, Games and Food
Fun for children of all ages

Thursday, August 16, 7:30 PM

Presentation: *Textiles on the Farm*
Exhibits: *Textiles on the Farm* and

Made from Grain: Flours, Meals and Whiskey

Friday, August 17, 6:00 PM

Hay Ride and Tour of Historic Grove's Mill

Saturday, August 18, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Textiles on the Farm and Metalworking
Demonstrations & Exhibits

All-day chicken & corn roast, fresh ice cream
Wagon rides ~ Early farm equipment display

Guided Tours and Exhibits at the Dale/Engle/Walker House **Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

Now through October 28

FALL PROGRAMS

Thursday, September 13, 7:00 PM

at the Stone Church, Alvira

Alvira: Paradise Lost by Kate Hastings

Sunday, October 14, 2:00 PM

Architecture & History

Walking Tour of Lewisburg

with Roger Curran

Thursday, November 15, 6:00 PM

Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program

History of Wheelwrights by Bradd Mertz

at Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg



The Union County Historical Society office & research library are located in the Union County Courthouse,
South Second Street, Lewisburg PA 17837. Hours are M-F 8:30-noon and 1-4:30.

Have you visited our Web site? www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.



From the President's Desk -

WOW, what a season this has been! Great programs for Black History Month, and our spring line-up of programs were well attended. The Archaeology of Slavery, a study of U. S. colonial coins, Union County town bands and a study of the Underground Railroad in Central Pennsylvania made for exciting and interesting evenings for those who were in attendance. If you live in the Union County area and could not attend any of these programs you are missing one of the benefits of supporting your Society. Our summer and fall programs will be equally interesting and informative.

These activities have already started. Have you toured the Dale/Engle/Walker House? It is open for tours every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 PM through October. As a member you receive a dollar discount from the adult price of \$3. If you have out-of-town guests or you live out of town and visit the area, our house tour is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. (You can follow up the tour with a walk on the Dale's Ridge Trail, a two-mile nature trail maintained by the Linn Conservancy entirely within the Dale/Engle/Walker farmstead.)

On August 15th we begin a four-day Rural Heritage Days observance. The schedule of events is in this newsletter. Children's games, hay rides, tours of an operating water-powered gristmill, demonstrations and exhibits of textiles on late nineteenth and early twentieth-century farms and lots of good food will be featured. A great place to bring your children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors.

This is my last message as president of the Society. I have been privileged and honored to serve as president these past four years. Typically, I have learned and received a lot more than I have contributed. Our new president, Lois Huffines, will be a great leader when she takes over in November. She has been an excellent chairman of the Publications Committee and responsible for the publication of our *Heritage* booklets. Also, I could not accomplish what I was able to do without the tireless efforts of our excellent office staff, headed by Carol Manbeck, office manager, along with Elaine Wintjen and Carla Watson. We have also been fortunate to have had some bright and talented student interns: David Bell (Lynchburg), Mara Wilcox (Bucknell), Maggie Miller (Shippensburg), Joe Manbeck (Lehigh) and Sarah Bramhall (Point Park). These young folks bring an energy and enthusiasm to the Society that convinces me that history will be alive and well wherever these young folks settle down.

Have a great summer and be sure to come and see us!

David Goehring



Welcome New Members Who Joined Since January 2007

Roger & Ruth Farmer, Mifflinburg, PA; Katherine M. Faull, Lewisburg, PA; Robyn Jackson, Lewisburg, PA; Eddie Jones, Selinsgrove, PA; Sharon Markunas, Northumberland, PA; Fred Miller, Mifflinburg, PA; Niki Moore, China, MI; Duain & Joyce Shaw, Millmont, PA; Walter Simons, Turbotville, PA; David Smith, Grantville, PA; Paul & Linda Spangler, San Jose, CA

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

The members of the Union County Historical Society will be asked to vote on the revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Society at the September program meeting. Copies of the revisions are available to all members online at the Society's website, www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org, or from the Society office. The proposed revisions have been approved by the Board of Directors.

The revisions to be voted on are summarized as follows. The Constitution was amended to specify that the annual membership meeting of the Society will take place in November. The functions of standing committee for the Archives/Museum Committee were elaborated, and two further committees were added: Marketing and Webmaster, with their respective duties described. The Constitution was further expanded to include the administration of the Dale/Engle/Walker House and property, adding Article VIII devoted to the ownership of property. Also added was Article IX on strategic planning. In addition, the tragic loss of Gary Slear made it clear that a succession of Society administrative officers needed to be clarified, and the limits for consecutive terms for officers and Board members are described. The Bylaws were amended to include a description of the duties of the Office Manager, the Dale/Engle/Walker Property Manager, and the Education Coordinator. Other stylistic changes were made to make the document more readable.

Members desiring a full copy of the Constitution and Bylaws should contact the Historical Society office at 570-524-8666 or email hstoricl@ptd.net.

SOCIETY NEWS

2008 Calendar

Debuts during Rural Heritage Days, August 15-18

Wonderful historic photos from around Union County including Homes and Family Groupings ~ Workers, School Children and Band ~

A Bank and Railroad Station.

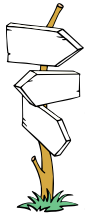
Members price \$4.50 plus .27 tax / Non-members price \$5 plus .30 tax

Available in the Society office and by mail (postage \$3).

Also for sale at Mifflinburg Bank & Trust and West Milton State Bank branches, Ard's Market, Country Cupboard, Country Farm & Home, Laurel Market, Open Door Gallery, Shirk's Store, Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau, La Vieille Maison, Wagner's Stationery and Ziegler's Barbershop.

Once again the Society is indebted to Alan Richard of RichardHouse Photo Restoration, Winfield for his work on the calendar, including restoring faded and damaged images, and preparing the calendar (on CD) for printing by the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*.

This project is also made possible by contributions from those businesses whose ads appear in the calendar. Please let them know you value their support of the Historical Society.



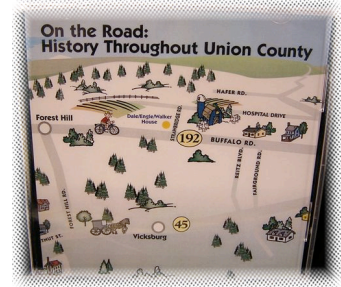
Historical Car Tour CD Now Available

Our long anticipated Union County driving tour project was completed this spring. Thanks to financial support from two Union County Commissioners tourism fund grants, the CD is now available for sale.

The tour can be driven as a whole or in sections. Visiting over three dozen sites spanning two centuries of county history, the tour covers 60 miles of rural roads from New Berlin to Dry Valley to Winfield; from Lewisburg to Buffalo Township to Mazeppa and Buffalo Cross Roads; from White Springs to Hartleton to Mifflinburg.

The project was envisioned by member Diana Lasansky and Ross Kribbs, written by Diana and Jeannette Lasansky; narrated by John C. Snook, David King, Peggy Ulmer and Nancy Showers (area residents with family ties to the county); recorded, edited and assembled by Susquehanna Sounds.

The CD can be purchased at the Society office and at sites throughout the county, including: Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau, Packwood House, Wagner's Stationery, Lewisburg; Buggy Museum, Country Farm & Home, La Vieille Maison, Mifflinburg; Inn at New Berlin. The cost is \$10 (plus .60 tax). The cost to mail the CD is \$3.



Coverlet Raffle Ends August 18

The Society commissioned a beautiful, traditionally-woven Bird-and-Bush queen-size coverlet from Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, PA. Family Heirloom Weavers use historical patterns and traditional material to hand-loom their goods. The Bird-and-Bush pattern and style of weaving were found in Union County and central Pennsylvania in the 1800's. The coverlet is being raffled with the drawing on August 18, 2007 at *Rural Heritage Days*. **Let us know if you want more tickets which are still available at \$1 each or 6/\$5.**

Lovely table runners and small Bird-and-Bush coverlets with the corner insignia will be offered for sale. These items were a sell-out at our Christkindl booth in December. If you saw them and wish you had bought one, you can do so at *Rural Heritage Days*.



4th ANNUAL RURAL HERITAGE DAYS AUGUST 15-18, 2007

At the Union County Historical Society's historic Dale/Engle/Walker House
Strawbridge Road off Rte 192, 1.5 miles west of Route 15, Lewisburg,
Follow brown PennDot signs

Wednesday, August 15 Noon - 4 PM

Children's Old-fashioned Games with Prizes ~
Animal Exhibits & Pony Cart Rides ~
Refreshments ~ Demonstrations ~ Tour of 1793 Original Kitchen
No admission charge



Thursday, August 16 7 PM

Nancy Roan of the Goschenhoppen Historians presents a talk: *Textiles on the Farm*
Exhibits: *Textiles on the Farm* and *Made from Grain: Flours, Meals, and Whiskey*
No admission charge ~ Reservations advised ~ Call 524-8666

Friday, August 17 6 PM

Enjoy a hay ride over country roads from the Dale/Engle/Walker House
to the historic Grove's Mill, a nineteenth-century brick and stone mill on the site
where a mill was established by A. M. Baer in 1788. The mill is operated by water
from the race off Buffalo Creek. Fee of \$6 adults/\$3 children for ride and tour.
Prepaid reservations required ~ Limited seating ~ Call 524-8666



Saturday, August 18 10 AM - 4 PM

All Day Chicken Barbecue and Corn Roast with all the Fixings ~
Fresh Ice Cream Making ~ Open Hearth Cooking ~
Activities Focus on Rural Textiles and Metal Working:
Rugmaking, Quilting, Tatting, Lacemaking, Smocking & Darning Demonstrations
Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Horse Shoeing, Tinsmith Demonstrations ~
Percheron-drawn Wagon Rides ~
Hit & Miss Engines Making Rolling Pins and Boxes, Threshing and Binding Wheat ~
Donation for parking



Dale/Engle/Walker House Tours Sunday Afternoons 2 - 4

This historic house, built by Samuel Dale c. 1793, is open for guided tours
every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 until October 28. Come see the restored
house, the Dale Library, the original kitchen with furnished hearth and the current
exhibit. On a nice autumn day, you, your family and friends may also like to walk
the Dale's Ridge Trail, maintained by the Linn Conservancy.

The 2008 *Heritage* (see article on page 9) is all about Samuel Dale and his house.



Volunteers

Thank you to this year's hosts, guides and gardeners at the Dale/Engle/Walker House:
Sarah Bramhall, Mary Brumbaugh, Roxy & Terelle Carl, Nancy & Roger Curran, Nikki &
Russell Dennis, David Goehring, Phyllis & Paul Heim, Gladys Lakes, Jeannette Lasansky, Joe Manbeck,
Tom Rich, and John Ruhl.

Many thanks to our Friday office volunteers: Judith Blair, Jack Fisher, David Goehring, George
Jenks, Valerie Bieber Mertz, Dave Milne, Glenda Sheaffer; and to Mary Belle Lontz for research help.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Alvira: Paradise Lost

Thursday, September 13 at 7 PM

at the Stone Church, Allenwood Camp Lane, Alvira

Seven weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, federal agents were knocking on the doors of farmhouses near Allenwood, Alvira, Elimsport, Kennedy's Crossroads, and Maple Hill. Within six months, more than 8,000 acres had been vacated by their owners who were promised they could return after their land had been used by the Army to manufacture TNT for the war effort.

Susquehanna University professor Kate Hastings, who has family ties to the valley, will discuss the settling of the valley, what it was like in its heyday, and the profound loss suffered by the trusting patriots who meekly surrendered their farms, churches, businesses, and homes.

The program will be given at the Stone Church (Christ Lutheran Church) located on the grounds of the Allenwood prison camp. Take Route 15 north almost five miles past Allenwood, and turn left at the signs to the White Deer Golf Course - "Allenwood Camp Lane." Pass the golf course and enter the federal prison grounds. About 1.5 miles from Route 15, the church is on the right with the cemetery across from it. This stone church was completed in fall 1907 and dedicated December 15, 1907. Therefore, we'll be there for the 100th anniversary!

The program is free of charge and open to the public.

Architecture & History Walking Tour of Lewisburg

Sunday, October 14 at 2 PM

Meet at Courthouse, South Second Street



Enjoy a guided tour through a section of old Lewisburg that will focus on architecture and town history. Originally called Derrstown, for the 1769 settler Ludwig Derr, the town was renamed Lewisburg in 1812 and incorporated as a borough in 1822. Many houses reflect the town's early growth during the Federal architectural period. Later homes are in diverse Victorian styles. This beautiful town is preserved and protected by its Historic District designation.

Our guide Roger Curran is a resident of Lewisburg and has served as a guide for similar tours for seven years. He also gives tours of the Society's Dale/Engle/Walker House. In addition to being a member of the Historical Society, Roger is a member and Board Secretary of the Linn Conservancy.

The tour will last about an hour to an hour and a half, with the starting point at the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse at South Second Street.

This program is free of charge and open to the public. Note: Rain date is October 28, 2 PM.

Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program

***History of Wheelwrights* by Bradd Mertz**

Thursday, November 15 at 6 PM

at the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg



Wheelwright Bradd Mertz, far left, talks with visitors at *Rural Heritage Days*. For our November program, Bradd will discuss the history of this important craft. His talk will follow dinner and awards presentations.

Dinner will be buffet-style with choice of entrees, sides, beverages and dessert. Local members will receive reservation forms in the mail in October. Others who wish to attend the dinner and program can make reservations by calling, emailing or writing the Society.

COLLECTIONS

Archives and Museum Committee

2007 began with lots of work with the Society's collection. At our first of three annual committee meetings we welcomed new members Donna Crow Slear and Jeffrey Spotts. The committee reviewed collection goals for the spring, some deaccessioning of a few duplicate items (the money from which will be used for additional items), and the moving of some large vehicles which we did the following week. At that time, the Society gave one of its many bibles to the Gutelius House in Mifflinburg since it was one owned by the Gutelius family.

A "Brown" sleigh of ours that had been at the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum was taken to Ike Reiff's in Vicksburg where it was scheduled for restoration. Members Gary Spangler, Mike Manbeck, Dan Sachse, Jeffrey Spotts, and Eli Reiff made gifts that allowed for the repainting of five decals of a heron standing by cattails on the sleigh. During the summer of 2007 the restored sleigh returned and is on view in the wagon shed.

Gifts began to come our way again starting in January. E-Bay purchases of small items (mainly advertising, dairy, and post cards) resumed under the watchful eye of Mike Manbeck, while Jeffrey Spotts and Donna Slear watched for local auction material.

Jeannette and Becky Keister worked on the collections with what may be the final reorganization (for a while) of over 7,000 small items: Union County ephemera, old photographs and postcards, ledgers, agricultural items, maps, deeds, prints and paintings, dairy and other business items, quilts, coverlets, and samplers, military items, furniture, locally made toys and dolls, etc. Their work makes it easier to know what we have and do not have. In March and then in May our museum consultants spent two days doing additional paperwork on the objects. Also we are investigating options for a much needed collections software update which we hope to start this year. We never seem to get caught up but keep on promising to!!

The following items were either given or received from December 2006 through June 2007. Many, many thanks to these donors for helping the Society grow the collections with Union County material.

Gifts to the Union County Historical Society since January 1st have included the following donors and items:

Karen & Bruce Kline gave a 1937 souvenir edition of *The Lewisburgh Saturday News*;

Member Owen Anderson gave a pig iron ingot from the Union Furnace of Winfield;

Member Gary Spangler gave an advertising thermometer/humidity guide and a pen from Spangler Brothers, New Berlin, calendars from O.J. Saw Shop in Millmont and Verna's Fabric near Red Bank;

Alan Ard gave an advertising yardstick, T-shirt and Maze patch from Ard's Market;

Members Daniel & Nancy Sachse gave corn husking pegs, a corn cutter, a homemade stumper for the wagon shed at Dale/Engle/Walker;

Members William and Jeannette Lasansky gave a West Milton Bank calendar, a placemat from the Lewisburg Hotel, a Rural Heritage Days apron, a braided rye straw 18th-century style women's hat, and dozens of wrought nails and spikes as well as a hanging chain for the wagon shed;

Kit Sisson gave two shovels, a tin snips, an old fashioned light bulb, and a pliers with wire cutter for the wagon shed;

Member Fred Blyler gave an early wrench and an early lathe hammer for the wagon shed;

Ellen Snook gave two Mifflinburg advertising fans: Mifflinburg book store and Garman's Department Store, and other ephemera;

Member Sharon Cronrath Herald gave the book *Watsonstown, McEwensville, and Delaware Township: A Real Photo Postcard History* by Robert Swope, Jr. in memory of Will Wagner Cronrath, Marjorie Koch Cronrath, Oliver Sanders Koch, and Ruth Sechler Koch;

Kathy Klein gave Lewisburg class of 1928 and 1929 reunion photos and other photos including three great West Milton cards, two of which feature bands and the other the train station;

Isaac Reiff gave two advertising yardsticks and a 2007 calendar from the Vicksburg Buggy Shop;

Member Andrea Bashore gave 2 rye coil measures for the wagon shed;

Member Hertha Wehr gave 24 West End Fair booklets from the time period 1951-2002, four calendars from Shively Meats from 1924-1933, West End Fair entry receipts & fair financial records from 1951-1962;

Eugene Manbeck gave 12 matchbooks from Union County businesses, three 1950s calendars from Diehl Chevrolet and one from Mifflinburg Lanes, 220th anniversary of Dreisbach Church: ribbon, program and book; Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Christmas Club Santa and Book of Carols, Mifflinburg Area "Jacees" badge and dinner program; J. W. Throssel Mifflinburg baker's blotter, Lewisburg Ramblers' Club card and badge; West Shore Railroad ticket and other Mifflinburg and Lewisburg ephemera;

Member Paul Ernst gave letterhead of Dunkle and Auten's Lewisburg Realty Co.;

Member Bill Deitrick gave 2 wagon wheels, a double-headed ax, a pick, a wedge, small tin snips, a meat saw, digging irons, 2 wrenches, 2 screw drivers, a meat saw, a hand saw, wooden crates, a small wire cutter, pliers, wooden fence posts, a nail keg, a wooden box, nuts and bolts, an iron fence post, 4 chains, 2 corn huskers, a shovel, a hammer head, a hammer, and a lug wrench, all for the wagon shed;

Michael Garinger gave a Union County Sesquicentennial plate;

Carolyn Dale gave a two man cross cut saw for the wagon shed;

Member Dave E. Mensch gave Edwin D. Mensch Insurance Agency golf tees, real estate key tag, glass ashtray, tape measure & important papers folders for the insurance agency and Lewisburg National Bank;

Staff member Elaine Wintjen gave Moore Business Forms, Lewisburg, ice scraper;

Members Paul and Phyllis Heim gave additional farm equipment - there will be more reporting on this in the winter newsletter.

Purchases for the Union County Historical Society since January 1st included:

Calendars of Union County businesses: Albert Cresswell, The Merit Printing Company of Mifflinburg; the First Evangelical Church, Mifflinburg, with church photo from 1917;

Blotters from Lewisburg Bank & Trust, from the Vacation Club of the Lewisburg National Bank, from J.F. Reber water systems, R.B. O'Connell brass pipe Lewisburg, from an early Lewisburg Fair, from Hayes Person in Lewisburg, and from a typewriter repair place in West Milton;

Postcards of Charles F. Lindig, candidate for the legislature in 1932; rare real photo postcards of Central Oak Heights and of Dreisbach building in Lewisburg; real photo card from 1906 of White Deer post office; 2 real photo postcards by Urs Eisenhauer of Millmont: one that is of Florence Smith and Mazie Fessenden and pet dog "Rover" in front of homemade back drop; series of six 1953/54 black and white printed Half Way State Park postcards and four 1940s/1950s real photo cards of same place; rare 1906 litho card of Watsontown/Milton/Lewisburg trolley car; rare real photo postcard of White Deer Train by Swanger; several early Reptiland cards;

Photographs of Central Oak Heights camps from 1959-1962; an aerial view of Vicksburg from the 1960s; West Milton Train Station from 1960s; D.F. Bingaman Hotel in Vicksburg with many people and a runabout with horses; Lutheran Big Brothers large group shot from 1928;

Flour bags from Rhoads Mill in Winfield;

Commemorative tile from Beaver Memorial Methodist Church 1812-1962;

Book by Bucknell University Professor Oliphant titled *On the Arkansas Route to California in 1849 - The Journal of Robert E. Green of Lewisburg*;

Original letters (10) from Lewisburg to Fort Sill in Indian Territory in the 1880s from mother, brother and other family members to Will W. Musser describing local incidents of people being shot while duck hunting, a post office robbery, etc.;

Cookbook compiled by the Women's Guild of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Lewisburg 1945; cookbook from the Good Times 4-H, Mifflinburg area, 2007;

2 large colored board posters for the Allenwood Volunteer Fire Department Carnival May 28-June 1 (no year) and the American Red Cross Union County Chapter Circus at Middle School June 27 (no year);

Program for the First Annual Ball of the Lewisburg Chair Company held at Armory Hall, Lewisburg; menu/ticket for Colonial Dinner at Bucknell from the 1920s;

Druggist labels for G.P. Lewis, Mifflinburg, and Charles A. Smith, Lewisburg; movie passes from the Roxy Theatre in Lewisburg;

1930s and 2006 Bechtel's menus, a Bechtel's commemorative fly swatter, 1979 calendar, and Bechtel's buttermilk pyro milk bottle as well as a metal advertising towel holder for J.S. Hackenberg Dairy, Lewisburg, and a colorful matchbook from Wehr's Dairy, Mifflinburg;

National Air Week first day covers in 1938 for Allenwood and for West Milton;

Sesquicentennial pin with bell attached for Miss Sesqui Belle;

Hog scrapers, a framing square, wedges, log chains, wrought traveler, cant hook, sledge hammer, long crow bar, 2 hammers, and a Slifer, Walls, & Shriner (Lewisburg) corn sheller, all for the wagon shed;

Ceremonial ribbon for Mifflinburg Council 164 Jr. OHAM (Masons) and another ribbon for the New Columbia Grange #122;

Small ferrotypes of a male and female by John F. Nice, Lewisburg in their original embossed paper holders that are stamped on the reverse side: 16 of these pictures for 50 cents;

Sewing kit, needle case, 1904 calendar from B. Harris Gent's Furnishings "Iron Front" building Lewisburg;

Advertising pamphlet for "Reel-Easy Fencemaker" Pat. #2453979 made and sold by Leroy Frontz Allenwood;

Strunk button made in Mifflinburg;

Envelope with advertising for J.D.S. Gast & Son, Mifflinburg Dry Goods, Ladies Ready Made Wear, & more; and another handmade envelope by Margaret J. Gundy (custom hat maker) est. 1906, Lewisburg;

Colorful ceramic pitcher made in Germany for Harry N. Hartman, Lewisburg, of the Soldiers' Monument in Lewisburg and a commemorative coin from the monument's dedication in 1901;

Coin silver spoon made and marked by Lewisburg silversmith John K. Housel in the 1830s.

Donations to the 1804 Dale Library:



From Thom Rippon:

Letters of Junius 2 volumes printed in London, England, 1722

From Jeannette Lasansky in memory of her parents, Douglas and Dorothy Mehrer: Wm. Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John*, 1927, Yale University Press; Thomas Leland's *History of the Life & Reign of Philip King of Macedonia*, 1794, Dublin; John Hawkesworth's *Account of the Voyages in the Southern Hemisphere*, 1789, Perth; Vicesimus Knox's *Essays Moral and Literary* 2 volumes, 1783, Dublin; Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, a reprinting of Faulkner's 1735 Dublin edition.

Jeannette Lasansky, Archives & Museum Committee chair

LIBRARY UPDATE

Added to our family books and newsletters are:

Aikey/Mitch Family Tree - donated by Kathy Klein of Camp Hill, PA

Keefer Family Association Newsletter, June 2007

Rich Family History - Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Rich of Riverside, CA

The Pennsylvania Paternal Ancestors of Elwood Merrill Rich and Their European

Roots by Lorna B. Rich, 2006. Given by Mr. & Mrs. Elwood M. Rich. Includes families: Braine, Rich, McCloskey, Schumacher/Shoemaker, Schmidt/Smith, Op Den Graeff, Huff & Keim



Added to the library are:

"Record Keeping and Archives in West Germany" and "Formation of the Counties of Pennsylvania" - donated by Kathy Klein of Camp Hill, PA

Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin, 2005 - given by Glenda Sheaffer

NEW!

Heritage Volume XXI

Samuel Dale (1741-1804): A Life and Estate in Union County

The Union County Historical Society is pleased to present the 21st *Heritage* volume devoted to the life and estate of Samuel Dale (1741-1804). One of the earliest settlers of the area that became Union County, Samuel Dale served the region and the Commonwealth as a Captain in the Revolutionary War, as one of Pennsylvania's first state assemblymen, and as an elected state senator who helped establish the early government of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Dale purchased land in 1789 along Buffalo Creek and built his home there in 1793, using stones quarried on the property. Subsequent generations of the Dale family owned or occupied the property until 1929, when it was purchased by Jacob and Maude Engle, who farmed it until 1957. The Engles sold the property to Ralph Charles and Rosemary Walker who, in their will, paved the way for the Union County Historical Society to assume ownership in 2001.

This *Heritage* volume tells the story of Samuel and the Dale/Engle/Walker House. Forrest Fothergill provides an account of the life of Samuel Dale and his family. Mr. Fothergill explains the context of Dale's immigration from Northern Ireland to the frontier of Pennsylvania, describes Dale as a family man in his household, and highlights some of his accomplishments as a politician. Ted Strosser follows with an in-depth architectural description of the house, giving readers a feel for how life might have felt spatially in the home of a prosperous frontier citizen. One of the important pieces of information that comes down to us about Samuel Dale is a listing of the books in his library. James Clements identifies the books in the collection, gleaned from those titles a notion of what Samuel Dale's personal interests and intellectual background were. Jeannette Lasansky closes the collection of articles with a perspective on the Dale family as slaveholders. As one of the few slaveholders in the area, the Dale family owned slaves relatively late compared to others in the region. The practice of slavery in Union County is only recently coming to light. The Dale house plays its role in that practice.

The 2008 *Heritage* will be available in August 2007. Members renewing for 2008 are entitled to a free copy. Local members are asked to pick up their copy from the Society's office in the Courthouse. Out-of-state members and those unable to come to the office can have the book mailed to their home.

Marion Lois Huffines, *Heritage* Editor

4th Grade School Tours - Part of UCHS Education Programming

Tours for county 4th graders, organized by the Historical Society, visit a variety of interesting sites so the children can learn about county history. David Goehring serves as a guide for the school tours and this year received thank-you letters from one of the classes.

Many of the children liked the one-room Red Bank School best- *they learned handwriting - if you were bad you sat in the corner - students were polite - teachers were strict - they had an hour recess.* Others enjoyed the train station - some had never been on a train before. Some liked the Sierer House clock or the Buggy Museum. They all liked stories about Indians and the Underground Railroad. And they all had a wonderful time. If you want to join in the fun, you can volunteer to be a guide next year.

PROJECTS

Bridge at Grove's Mill



With the involvement of Bessie Grove, Curt Falck and UCHS board member David Goehring, the Department of Transportation reconstruction of the bridge over Buffalo Creek beside Grove's Mill reflects the historic character of early structures.

PennDOT eliminated the plain concrete facing on the inside wall of the parapet and replaced that surface with a "form-line stone face." This was done to complement the laid-up stone face on the exterior of the bridge and give the bridge a laid-up look both inside as well as outside of the parapets, while still meeting their building code. The sign at the bridge gives a history of the site.

During *Rural Heritage Days*, Friday, August 15, visitors can travel over the bridge on the Hay Ride and then enjoy a tour of Grove's Mill.

Lewisburg Penitentiary Tower



You may have noticed scaffolding on the prison tower at the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg - the tower is visible for miles around. There had been debate on whether to tear down or repair the deteriorating tower. UCHS members Jeannette and Diana Lasansky (contributors to the 2006 *Heritage* on the prison) and government representatives became involved with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in order to preserve the structure.

This local landmark and important architectural feature of the prison is being repaired.



Union County Bicentennial 2013



After an encouraging beginning with a core committee meeting to discuss plans for the Union County Bicentennial, the Bicentennial Committee went public. Thanks to John Showers and his son Michael, Tom Deans, Phil Wagner and the archives committee of the Society, attendees at the public meeting on May 22 saw interesting and informative photos, mementoes, and newspaper clippings.

Following some discussion, it was decided to launch a public campaign in 2008 using the slide show. It was also suggested that we needed some assistance to determine what is relevant in today's social climate. We will be meeting in the fall with a staff person from Penn State Extension for guidance.

We are looking for a few good town criers who will go to outdoor events and do the Paul Revere bit, "The Bicentennial is coming, The Bicentennial is coming."

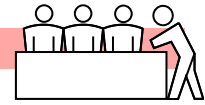
We are also seeking a motto or slogan to sell the event.

Please send suggestions to the Society office and also names of persons or organizations that should be on our contact list. We need more than a few good men and women!

Nada Gray, Bicentennial Committee Chair

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Changes to the Board



The slate of Board officers and directors for election at the September meeting is as follows: Lois Huffines, President; Jeannette Lasansky, Vice President; David Goehring and Tom Rich (renewed 3-year Board terms), Josh Muchler (new 3-year term). Phil Wagner will serve as Secretary, filling Lois' unexpired term. Appointed to the board are Ron Wenning and Jonathan Bastian.

This is what Ron Wenning tells us about himself: [I] grew up in rural Ohio... graduated from Ohio State with degrees in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and minors in Animal Nutrition and Wildlife Management on June 7, 1969; married Kristen that afternoon, and moved to Pennsylvania the next day...[and] to Lewisburg in 1972...Because of our love of Pennsylvania history, in 1994 we started Wennawoods Publishing... to preserve the long lost books on 17th & 18th century Pennsylvania frontier history and Indian history. " Ron is also owner of Knittle & Frey Ag-Center Inc., Williamsport.

Jonathan Bastian of Mifflinburg has been a member of the Society since November 2004. In 2001 he started his research on the Pardee Lumber Company, which was located near a cluster of cabins known as Pardee. A book, *Lumbering - A Way of Life at Pardee 1886-1903* is the result of his research. Jonathan's grandparents have been active volunteers for the Society for many years, and he now continues this tradition - notable as he is 16 and a rising junior at Mifflinburg Area High School. He plans a career in the medical field after graduating in 2009.

Josh Muchler of Lewisburg is Senior Information Technology and Networking Specialist for CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) and very active in his church. A graduate of Mifflinburg High School and Susquehanna University, he is the son of Judy Muchler and the late Tom Muchler.

We welcome these new Board members and look forward to their participation and support of the Society.



Education Coordinator Leads Exciting Programs

Linda Estupinan-Snook, UCHS Education Coordinator, hosted a "thank you" get-together June 21st at the Red Bank School for education program tour guides, site hosts, school personnel and Society volunteers.

Linda manages the Society's programs for school children, including the one-room school experience at Red Bank School, 4th grade bus tours to various historic sites in Union County and classroom lessons. An avid Civil War Re-enactor, Linda is also the owner of La Vieille Maison des Livres in Mifflinburg. Contact the office, or Linda directly, to learn more about the programs and how you might be involved.

Student Interns

This summer the Society has been fortunate to have two interns, supported by the Degenstein Foundation and PHEAA. Sarah Bramhall, Northumberland, attends Point Park University, Pittsburgh, majoring in musical theatre and secondary education. Her interest in history, plus the opportunity to give tours at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, brought her to us. She is working on our obituary database and photo collection, and assisting with research and office tasks.

Joe Manbeck, Lewisburg, attends Lehigh University, majoring in engineering. He returns to us this summer to work on our county-wide cemetery listings, plus help with the care of the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

Our long-time intern, Mara Wilcox, has graduated from Bucknell and will soon be teaching history. Way to go Mara!

Thank You Thank You



The Society is grateful for the work of Owen Mahon of The Open Door Gallery who mounts our exhibit cards on foam core boards. This provides both a professional look for the exhibits as well as permanency to the labels so that they can be stored for future use.

Invaluable technical support is provided to the Society by Tom Egan, MAC computer expert. We appreciate his help, his guidance and his generosity.

We thank Jeanne Sampsell for posting our newsletters and mailings at the Laurelton post office.

For some time, the Society has stored large items for the collection in the barn at Mary Maher's, a long-time supporter. We are saddened at her recent passing. We thank Jeannette and Diana Lasansky for a gift in memory of Mary Maher.

Membership in the Union County Historical Society

Your membership supports our annual historic sites tours and Red Bank one-room school experience for Union County students; programs and tours; and the growth of our collection of Union County photos, postcards, account books, diaries, and items made by Union County craftsmen. Membership also enables us to restore and maintain the Dale/Engle/Walker House which offers tours, exhibits, programs, and *Rural Heritage Days* events.

Members receive the biennial *Heritage* publication and our newsletters; a discount on books and reduced fare on our bus trips and events. Members have free use of our extensive reference library.

Mail this application form to:

Union County Historical Society, South Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Contact us by: **Phone:** (570)524-8666 ♦ **E-mail:** hstoricl@ptd.net

Check out our **Web site:** www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please circle membership level:

Individual \$30

Family \$40

Contributor \$60

Patron \$100

Sponsor \$150

Lifetime (individual) \$400

In addition to membership, donations specific to the Society's work: education, the collection, genealogy, the Dale library, or the Dale/Engle/Walker property, are gratefully accepted. Unrestricted donations are used as the Board of Directors feels there is a need. The Society is prepared to accept gifts of appreciated property and planned giving, such as bequests. Thank you for your support.

Union County Historical Society
Union County Courthouse
South Second & St. Louis Streets
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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