

Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"



Winter-Spring 2009

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"No event is without a preceding event."
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Rural Heritage Days
"This was the best day of my life."

Mission

The Union County Historical Society appreciates and values the role of history as the formative context for today's way of life. The Society is dedicated to enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history, and to that end, it collects, preserves, and interprets historical sites, artifacts, and materials related to the history of Union County. It serves the citizens of Union County and those interested in Union County history by providing educational opportunities through exhibitions, publications, tours, programming related to the history of Union County and by providing access to the historical artifacts and documents in its collections as appropriate to the safety and protection of the materials.



QUICK CALENDAR

February 8, 2 PM

Safe Harbor Film

February 22, 2 PM

Hidden in Plain Sight: Daily Life for African-Americans in Union County's West End 1840-1940

March 2 - 6

Books & Ephemera Sale

March 12

The Study of History from the Outhouse

April 16

History of Pennsylvania Logging Era

May is Union County History Month

May 14, 7 PM

*An Eye on the Past:
History of Photography in Union County*

June 7, 2-4 PM

Dale/Engle/Walker House & Wagon Shed
First Tours of the Season

← New exhibit on local advertising at courthouse office

The Union County Historical Society office/reference library is in the Union County Courthouse, 103 S. Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Hours are M - F 8:30 - 4:30 (closed noon - 1:00). Visit our website: www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org for events, updates, articles and more.



A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Travelers to Understanding the Past,

“No event is without a preceding event.” This quote from David McCollough’s lecture at Bucknell this past fall struck me forcibly with its implications. I wondered how much more we could know about ourselves, our community, and our nation if we knew preceding events.

How much more could we enrich our lives if we knew how our ancestors lived, how they solved their problems, and if they ever thought about us, even in their wildest dreams? What can we learn from those early settlers who were the first planners and builders of our community? Did they ever envision a bustling town, no longer under siege by hostile Indian tribes but battling instead economic forces from far beyond its borders? Did our nation’s forefathers really know that their work would result in our nation’s enjoying peaceful transfers of power, where no shot is fired, but only harsh words exchanged in the passion of debate? We have such a rich history on every level. We should cherish all that it can tell us about who we are. We learn from preceding events.



The Union County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and interpreting Union County’s history and the County’s role in the wider region. Take advantage of the Society’s resources and attend its programs. Together we can learn of those events that preceded and continue to mold the events of our time. We join in an exciting journey into our past, and in its way the Society and its members represent the future of history. Wow, the future of history! History is too important to leave in the past.

I look forward to seeing you at our programs. Pick up a copy of the Car Tour of Union County CD entitled *On the Road: History throughout Union County*, and I’ll see you on the road.

Lois Huffines



Welcome New Members who have joined since August 2008

Thomas C. Clark of Middleburg, PA
Connie Dennis of Greensboro, NC
Albert Engle of Justin, TX
Barbara & Bill Simpson of Lancaster, PA
Leslie & Rebecca Johnson of Mifflinburg, PA
Scott Griffith of Mifflinburg, PA
Buffalo Valley Antique Machinery Association,
John & Joan Allen, Jane Amacher, Alan & Martha
Barrick, Fred & Ruth Brouse, Margaret Bryan,
Joan Bush, Gerald Eager, Maryann Edgerton,
Joseph Fell, Allan & Ann Grundstrum, Paul & Pam
Mauger, Wayne McDiffett & Ruth Burnham,
Manning Smith, and Douglas & Maggie Sturm
from Lewisburg, PA.

Thank you to Life Members

Forrest Fothergill, David Goehring, William Haas,
Owen Heiss, George Jenks, Betty Koons, Wm &
Jeannette Lasansky, Jean Ruhl, Carl & Jeanne
Sampsell, Harry Snook, and Wendy Wehr who
made monetary donations since August 2008.

Thank you to Members and Friends

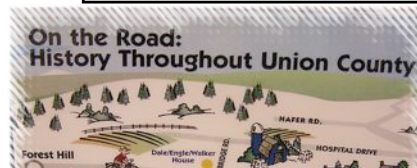
C. Black for donation in memory of Peg Confer,
James & Lois Dale for donating to the 1804 Dale
Library, Richard Harris and Mary Warnock for
donation for research, and Jerilyn Reniger for
unrestricted donation.

We appreciate your generosity.

UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2009 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

M. Lois Huffines, President
Jeannette Lasansky, Vice President
Diane Meixell, Secretary
David W. Milne, Treasurer
Jonathan Bastian
Forrest Fothergill
David Goehring
Joshua Muchler
Tom Rich
Jean Ruhl
Gary Spangler
Jeffrey Spotts
Ron Wenning



Our car tour CD takes you to more than three dozen sites spanning over two centuries of county history. The tour, which can be driven as a whole or in sections, is narrated by local residents. Cost is only \$10 + .60 PA tax (\$9 + .54 PA tax for members). Shipping is \$2.



CALENDAR

Programs

Sunday, February 8, 2 PM

Safe Harbor

~ Film showing at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg ~

Safe Harbor, the critically acclaimed film about the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania, will be shown. There will be time after the film for group discussion about Union County's role in slave holding and the Underground Railroad. The Society has been researching slavery and free African-Americans in Union County for the past six years. Board member Jeannette Lasansky's work on the Dale family role in slave holding appeared in the 2008 issue of the Union County *Heritage*.

This is the first of two Sunday afternoon events sponsored by the Union County Historical Society for Black History Month, designed to better understand the African-American experience in Pennsylvania.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling the Society office at 524-8666 (Monday through Friday).

Sunday, February 22, 2 PM

Hidden in Plain Sight: Daily Life for African-Americans in Union County s West End 1840-1940

~ Program at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg ~

Susquehanna University Professor Kate Hastings, who heads the Milton Roots Project, will present a talk on the daily life of African-Americans in Union County from 1840 to 1940.

Kate Hastings was raised in Milton and received her undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College and her PhD from Penn State University. She has been teaching at Susquehanna University since 1992. Hastings' Milton Roots Project is an in-depth, multi-faceted study of the historical African-American community of the Milton area and its ties to parts of Union County including its "tight end."

This program is the second of two events hosted by the Historical Society for Black History Month, developed to examine the local African-American experience of free black households, slaves, and those involved in the Underground Railroad.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling the Society office at 524-8666 (Monday through Friday).

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 PM

The Study of History from the Outhouse

~ Program at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg ~

Robert E. Lee, III will present a program about the artifacts and stories he has, literally, dug up when excavating outhouse sites in our area. Lee started digging as a hobby in order to recover pottery for the historical and educational displays on which he is involved.

"At first it was the artifacts, then it became the stories behind these historical artifacts....all different and unique," he says of his work. Lee studied art education and ceramics at Kutztown University. He displays and/or demonstrates old pottery techniques at Warrior Run Reenactments, the Bloomsburg Fair and Danville Iron Heritage events. His next dig is at the 1792 Montgomery House, Danville.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will be offered at the Dale/Engle/Walker House. Weather permitting, prior to the program (at 7 PM) we will walk around outside the house to look for possible outhouse sites, which may be investigated in the future.

Seating in the house is limited. Reservations can be made by calling the Society office at 524-8666 (Monday through Friday).

Directions to the Dale/Engle/Walker House: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west about 1.5 miles and turn onto Strawbridge Road. Go about 1.4 miles to the property. PennDOT signs are posted. Parking is available at the house which is handicap accessible.

April 16, 6 PM
History of the Pennsylvania Logging Era
Dinner and Program
~ Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert ~

UCHS member and retired professor Jack Fisher will present the program at our annual spring dinner. Fisher's PowerPoint illustrated discussion will include logging camps, Susquehanna log booms, rafting on the river, tools used by loggers, splash dams, railroads, and tanneries. Logging tools from his collection will be on display.

Fisher is a graduate of Williamsport Area Community College, Pennsylvania State University, and Wilkes University. He was an instructor in the Penn College forestry department for twenty-two years and adjunct instructor for Penn State Continuing Education courses for five years.

The program will follow dinner at the popular Union County Sportsmen's Club.

Local members will receive dinner reservation information in the mail. Others interested in attending may call the Society office at 570-524-8666 or email hstoricl@ptd.net.

May 14, 7:30 PM
An Eye on the Past: History of Photography in Union County
~ Buggy Museum, 598 Green Street, Mifflinburg ~

Photographer Keith Orndorf of Montandon will present a program on photographs, and the early photographers who captured the scenes and events of local history.

Keith bought his first camera, an Instamatic 100, when he went into the service in 1965, serving in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. "This is a memorable moment in my life," he thought. Keith worked in photography for about 15 years, including having a studio in Mifflinburg for several years. He has been involved in photography for over 30 years. His current subjects - now using digital equipment - include nature study and his family. Early in his career, collectors such as "Cool" Snyder and Gary Slear would have him copy old photos and photo postcards. He will discuss some of the pioneering Union County photographers during his illustrated presentation.

This program will be held at the Buggy Museum, 598 Green Street, Mifflinburg. [Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 45 west to Mifflinburg and continue through the borough to 6th Street, turn left and go two blocks to Green Street. The museum is at 6th and Green. Signs are posted.]

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Society office at 524-8666 (Monday through Friday).



June 7, 2009
The Dale/Engle/Walker Property opens for the season
with tours on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM

The Dale/Engle/Walker property offers guided tours of the 1793 limestone Georgian-style house built by early settler Samuel Dale (the subject of our 2008 *Heritage* publication).

The Wagon Shed exhibit, included in the tour, features period farming equipment and tools from the Society's collection. Interactive audio stations enhance the tour experience.

Your hosts and guides are members of the Society who generously donate their time and talents. A visit to the house is a great way for local residents and out-of-town visitors to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west for about 1.5 miles to Strawbridge Road. Turn and proceed 1.4 miles to the property. PennDOT signs are posted.

SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DONATIONS AND CONSIGNMENTS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Seeking books on local history, old maps, vintage postcards and local advertisements for our *new* Books & Ephemera Sale.



We are also accepting antique glass, redware and yellow-ware, treen and metalware, vintage toys and tools for our case at Roller Mills Antique Mall.

Books and antiques may be donated or consigned. Consignors set the price of their items and receive 90% of the sale, with the remaining 10% going to the Society.

This is a great way to help the Society and sell or donate books and antiques you no longer need. Your items can be dropped off at the Society office at any time. Please call if you have any questions.

NEW THIS YEAR! BOOKS & EPHEMERA SALE

at the Society Office MARCH 2 - 6

History buffs, genealogists and collectors will find something of interest at this sale. There will be a special section of reduced price Society publications.

ONGOING SALE of Antiques and Collectibles at Roller Mills Antique Mall, St. Mary Street (just off Route 15) in Lewisburg

Here we offer vintage postcards and greeting cards, area advertising, fashion accessories, books, and more.

Special thanks goes to Roller Mills owner Craig Bennett for his generous support of UCHS sales efforts. Proceeds from the in-office and Roller Mills sales help fund programs and services of the Society.

As the Society reviews its collection, some items are replaced by better or more clearly documented examples. Deaccessioned items are given to other organizations, or offered for sale. This allows the Society to continue to acquire articles with a connection to Union County and our cultural heritage.

Does a bequest to the Union County Historical Society fit into your estate plans?

For many people, bequests are the easiest type of planned gift to arrange. Bequests enable your estate to realize a tax savings benefit and ensure that your assets are distributed the way you want them to be. It may be in your will or an added codicil. It may be as simple as the following statement:

I give and bequeath to the Union County Historical Society, a nonprofit organization located in the Union County Courthouse, the sum of \$_____ for its general purposes.

Or it may be more complex for your needs and we encourage you to discuss these options with your legal advisor for professional advice.

You might also want to specify its use, for example, educational programs for children or the historical collection at the Dale/Engel/Walker House. Contact us for possibilities at (570) 524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net. Or talk with a member of the Board of Directors.

Updates on Society Activities

Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg

Christkindl Market provides an opportunity for the Society to raise money through sales, while informing people about the work of the Society. The Society booth featured wonderful runners and squares by Family Heirloom Weavers plus Society books, 2009 calendars, and more.

Volunteers who made our 2008 booth a great success: Tony & Janice Shively, David Goehring, Jake Engle, Roxy Carl, Bill & Lindy Mattern, Diane Meixell, Glenda Sheaffer, Kris & Ron Wenning, Ray James & Elaine Wintjen, Carol Manbeck, Carla Watson, Dave & Marcia Milne, Deborah Wehr, Jeff & Brandi Spotts, Forrest Fothergill and Mickey Campbell. Jim Walter donated the fresh evergreen roping for our booth, which afterwards provided traditional decorations for our courthouse office.

A great way to help the Society and enjoy the Christkindl Market is to volunteer for a shift at the Society's booth. Please consider helping in 2009.

Grants

While the Society relies on member support, grants also help fund our programs and services.

The Society has received a \$10,000 general operating grant for archives support and our education programs in county schools from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

A Union County Commissioners' Tourism Fund grant of \$2500 supports advertising - such as our rack card placed at visitors' centers - for Rural Heritage Days.

The Edna M. Sheary Charitable Trust provided \$2910 for the interpretive educational panels for the new milk house exhibit. We are grateful for the contributions from these organizations.

COLLECTIONS

The Society's Archives and Museum Committee *by Jeannette Lasansky*

With a limited budget for collection purchases, cataloging and care, the Society is increasingly looking for outright gifts to the collection. Items such as pristine local coverlets or long rifles have always commanded high prices as do fine area appliqué quilts. Those who collect dairy bottles know that while some bottles sell for \$10, others bring \$150 to \$1,200. Obviously we are not normally in a position to purchase such high priced examples of Union County's past. However, the Society can accept designated funds that would be set aside for such special purchases. Sometimes we have been able to purchase items like these at a price that is below market value when the seller cannot totally give the item yet wants the item preserved and cared for in the Union County Historical Society's collection.

With this in mind, the committee comprised of Jeffrey Spotts, Gary Spangler, Donna Slear, Dan Sachse, Mike Manbeck, Jeannette Lasansky, and Forrest Fothergill has compiled an ultimate "wish list" in skilled craft categories.

Jacquard Woven COVERLETS

as marked in the coverlets corner squares:

J Clapham, West Buffalo Twp
Joseph Schnee
William Schnee/Benjamin Angstadt, Lewisburg
William Schnee, Freeberg
(now Snyder County/then Union)

LONG RIFLES (major makers)

Gideon Angstadt (Lewisburg)
Samuel Baum Sr. and Jr. (New Berlin)
Charles Baum (New Berlin)
Issac Beck (Mifflinburg)
John Dreisbach Sr. and Jr. (Mifflinburg)
Samuel Dreisbach (Mifflinburg)
Peter Kochler (Lewisburg)
Fisher
Levi and Leroy Kaup (West Buffalo Twp.)
Joseph Long (Beaver Springs)
John Parks Sr. and Jr. (Selinsgrove)
Joseph Schafer
George Smith (East Buffalo Twp.)
Elias, Adam and Mose Specht (Beavertown)
David Young (Middleburg)

Hand drawn FRAKTURS by

Francis Portzline and Henry Young

Marked UNION COUNTY FURNITURE

other than Bell and Ginter (which we have)

QUILTS

We have several dozen local quilts but are missing the following important patterns or types:
1840s-1850s red/green/white appliqué
Log Cabin design in cottons, wools or fine fabrics
Pieced design from the 1850s-1920s in
predominantly pink/green calicoes
1920s/1930s appliqué patterns like *Sun Bonnet*
Sue (We have a *Wedding Ring*)

DAIRIES

not yet represented with bottles in the collection:
Benfer, Winfield/New Berlin
Cold Spring/Eberhart
Matthews, Lewisburg
McCreery, Lewisburg
McClows, New Berlin
Seidel, Mifflinburg
Shirk, Millmont
Shreck, Lewisburg
Smith, Lewisburg (221 S. 6th Street)
Steimling, Lewisburg (5th St L'bg dairy)
Winfield (Riverside or River View)

The Archives and Museum Committee has been busy on other fronts. Foremost, it has put together a disaster management plan after attending a seminar last winter presented by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) at the Heisey House in Lock Haven, owned and operated by the Clinton County Historical Society. Our disaster plan is based on a template provided by the PHMC. The committee is also exploring joining forces with another local historical society or museum in having part-time archival help supported through our annual state funding.

We thank all who have given Union County objects as well as provided funding or time in growing, caring for, interpreting, and presenting the collection to the public. Doing so is one of the primary aspects of the Society's mission.

GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION

- Fred & Ruth Brouse, Linntown School bell;
- Floyd H. Taylor, photographs of Lewisburg from the 1946 flood;
- Clair Hasel, 10 early deeds;
- Judith Marvin, a three-footed cast-iron stand with large hanging pot and an old saw horse;
- Carol Rohland Good, the Rohland Family record, "All Aboard Union County" Lewisburg and Buffalo Creek train narration;
- Member David Mensch for the Dale/Engle/Walker site, a meat cutting bench, a wagon tongue, and hay ladder; also, 2 advertising rulers from the Edwin D. Mensch Real Estate Agency, Lewisburg;
- Members Paul & Phyllis Heim for the Dale/Engle/Walker site, a wooden tongue with 2 iron wheels to pull a potato digger, a 4" by 6" by 6' long lumber /evener to pull logs;
- The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, Gutelius women's clothing, 5 horse collars, 2 bridles with blinders, 4 harnesses, an 1872 issue of the *Mifflinburgh Telegraph*;
- Member Dianne Lynch, Liberty Real Estate 1931 calendar;
- Elaine Wintjen, BZ Motors can opener;
- Harold Spangler, a pleavy for the wagon shed;
- Member George Reish, a log branding iron c. 1890 with "R," used by James K. Reish of Mifflinburg in Hartley Township; a scrapbook begun in 1937 by Fred Groover and daughter Alice, Lewisburg, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Airmail delivery; and
- Life member Mary Koons, several cabinet photographs of the Take It Easy Club, and a large, single star quilt made in 1836 by Mary Bibinghaus Piper of Mifflinburg, shown here.



This large *Lone Star* quilt by Mary M. Bibinghaus Piper (1803-1876) is pieced from calico and solid color fabrics on a white top with a plain back and applied calico binding. A sawtooth border frames the star. There are 8 to 9 quilting stitches per inch. "This star is one of the earliest examples of the type, having an oral tradition of being made in 1836." *In the Heart of Pennsylvania: 19th and 20th Century Quiltmaking Traditions* by Jeannette Lasansky, Oral Traditions Project, UCHS, 1995.

For color photo, go to our website
www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

PURCHASES:

Purchases on E-Bay have included:

- Blotters of Champion Shoe Repair and Keeler's Bookstore, both in Lewisburg;
- Real photo postcards of mill in Laurelton, of Bucknell University stadium;
- Real photo postcard by Eisenhower of J.A. Roush's Independence Hotel;
- Recipe books from Central Oak Heights and from Lincoln Chapel;
- Farmer's pocket ledger from J. S. Zeigler, RD 2 Lewisburg;
- Small Lewisburg Fair ruby glass pitcher and a Lewisburg souvenir spoon;
- 1921 Albright implements price list;
- Twin Diner fan and Koons Hardware, Mifflinburg, egg separator, and Electric *Good Eggs to Know*;
- DAR materials including program to 1910 Halloween dance and regent's ribbons;
- Numerous post cards on Central Oak Heights, Camp Thomas, New Berlin, Buffalo Cross Roads, Glen Iron, and Weikert; and
- Several blue sky postcards to complete this early series including a rare one of the Spinning Wheel in Penns' Creek

Found locally have been:

- One spreader, two bridles with white rings, one set of reins, two belly harnesses, and two horse covers for the Wagon Shed, at the Heim sale;
- 1822 Bartolet show towel, Emma Gast stencil, Hopp Inn and Buffalo Valley Inn spoons, "Wetzel" reaping hook, "Strunk" wooden hanger, Koons Apparel footed display sign, and large Mary Koons overhead shop sign, from the Mary Koons sale;
- A Stone Villa Haven advertisement;
- 1921 catalog of J.H. Albright & Sons implement catalog (they made cultivators, harrows, etc.)

RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE

Recent visitors to our library have been looking into the following families and topics. If you have information to share, please contact the office or the researcher.

ALBRIGHT/BROWN/SHUCK: Katy Wech, 1224 Highlander Way, Mechanisburg, PA
BAKER/CATHERMAN/FREDERICK/LINN: Philip Scaglione, 310 Municipal Rd., Ebensburg, PA
BARTLEY: Connie Dennis, 1005 Browning Rd., Greensboro, NC
BERGERS: Robert Berger, 866 Penn Drive, Hughsville, PA
CAMPBELL: Mickey Campbell, 9 Mill Park Lane, Lewisburg, PA
CHARETT/MOYER/DUBS: Paul Charett, 533 Mahoning St., Milton, PA
DERSHAM: Madeline Layos, 101 S. 3rd St. #4, Lewisburg, PA
FORREST: Andre Dominguez, 254 W. 4th St., Bloomsburg, PA
GRIGGS: Alan Griggs, 32721 Arbor Ridge, Lillian, AL
HACKENBERG/MECHTLEY/EBERHARD/RAGAR/DECKER:
Richard & Dianne Denney, 30090 Orla Enge Rd., Colon, MI
KELLY: Dennis Kelly, 1062 S. Joplin Way, Aurora, CO
KRATZER: Milton S. Haldem, 410 Hahnstown Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522
LEITZEL: Ben Leitzel, 4 Nicholas Dr., Carlisle, PA
MARTIN/EBRIGHT: Karen DeDay, 114 Armory Blvd., Lewisburg, PA
MOORE: BJW Maker & S. Granlund, 795 Millwood, Roseville, MN
PEARSON: Barbara and Nancy Hubler, 3229 Globe Mills, Middleburg, PA
PENTICOFF/BENIGHOFF: Maysel Penticoff, 2208 7th Ave., Rapid City, SD;
Dennis & Jeanie Jay, Box 40060, Casper, WY
REITZ: Beth Ney, 1626 Hays St. NW, Palm Bay, FL
RHOADS/WILT: Kathy & Bob Nay, Ravine Rd. S., Jacksonville, FL
SCHOOLEY: Larry & Barbara Wheeler, 513 W. Market St., West Chester, PA
SCHUCK: Teresa Keeley, 234 N. 4th St., Lewisburg, PA
SHAMP: John & Julie Dilworth, 497 Bayou Ridge Rd., Dover, AR, jdilworth@centurytel.net
SHOLLY/STAHL: Bill McKinnley, 4773 Greenbriar, Erie, PA
SOLOMON: Melissa Newswanger, 32 Green Acre Rd., Lititz, PA
SWEIGARD: B. & April Brooks, 38 Zimmie Lane, Millmont, PA
THOMAS: Darlene Duggan, 18 North St., Schenectady, NY 12305
VAN GUNDY: James Van Gundy, 240 Boundary Ave., Elkins, WV
WATLER: Ruth Ann & Wm. Focht, 157 N. Tamenend Ave., New Berlin, PA
WALTER/HASINGER/BOBB: Denise Williams, 12898 W. Arizona Place, Lakewood, CO 80228
WEIRICH/BOWERSOX: Martha Mulfinger, 1265 Winston Ave., San Marino, CA
ZITSCH: Penny Murphy, 4112 Cortland Ave., Altoona, PA

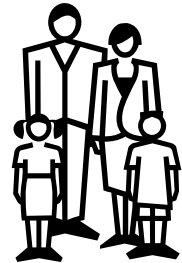
LAURELTON STATE SCHOOL: Floyd Trunzo, 1028 Amelia Ave., State College, PA

BUILDING at 400 Market Street, Lewisburg (early photos, documents):
David Schneider, 411 E. 6th St., Anniston, AL; dbschneider@bellsouth.net

DEAD GAMERS, a group from Lancaster who met in Allenwood and had post cards made: contact office

LEWISBURG 1880's BASEBALL TEAM, Lewisburg 3 - Mt. Joy 0: Chris Wood, chris@pacmedia.ca

Our newest volunteer researcher is Mickey Campbell, who recently relocated to Lewisburg upon retiring. He began by looking for the death record or obituary of his great grandmother. Unable to find this important bit of genealogical history, he volunteered to read through newspapers on microfilm for the late 1800s and write down all the death notices he found, adding to our data base. We now have compiled an impressive 12,000 names with death date and source. Unfortunately, Mickey has yet to find his great grandmother.



A Note of Thanks

Researchers Jack Fisher, Mary Belle Lontz and Glenda Sheaffer are an invaluable help in assisting our staff and visitors with geneologies and land searches. Jack loves to search land records and has his own computer software to plot deeds. Mary Belle is a tireless compiler of records and indexer. And Glenda enjoys researching family lines and preparing family charts. We really appreciate their help.



Added to our family books and newsletters are:

Catherman - Oliver Catherman & Mazie Stover family Bible pages
Catherman - Ancestors of Helen Sophia (Ella) Catherman, given by Lori Mahaffey
Farley - *The Name and Family of Farley* donated by Mary Belle Lontz
Gelnett - Family History including Landis, Shaffer, Hibbs and Burris
Gorman - Gorman Family Genealogy, given by Mary Alice Gorman Hubert
Hottenstein - *Our Hottenstein Family of Snyder County*, given by Park D. Ritter
Kieffer - Kieffer Family Association Newsletter, Volume XXI #3 and #4, 2008
King/Herbst - John King & Rebecca Herbst, 1871, family information
Rohland - Rohland Family Record by Gretchen K. Rohland, donated by Carol Rohland Good
Ryan & Dale Families of Northumberland and Union Counties, by Wm. Focht
Showers - Showers Family Genealogy, by Mary Belle Lontz
Spangler/Musser - family genealogies, by Mary Belle Lontz
Thompson - genealogy and descendents of John Thompson, given by Kenneth Thompson
Walter - John Walter Family



Added to the library are:

History of New Berlin by Mary Belle Lontz
Revolutionary War Soldiers of Union and Snyder Counties by Mary Belle Lontz
Trail of History of the Fought's Mill by Ruth Oberlin Fahmer, given by author

Notice to Genealogists - Researchers - Family Historians

PaHR-Access (People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access) is seeking support in a grassroots effort to have Pennsylvania make its older state death certificates more accessible, and available online fee-free. The following is excerpted from their website:

Currently, all death certificates recorded by Pennsylvania since 1906 have restricted access. PA Division of Vital Records regulations require the requester to supply information (including when and where the person died), pay \$9 and wait several weeks for every death certificate. A requester must have a direct relationship to the deceased to obtain a copy of a death certificate. In compiling family histories, one may not know if the person is related, and needs the death certificate to find out. The information a requester is expected to supply is quite often the very information sought and the very reason for wanting a death certificate.

Several states have already made their older death certificates available online, including Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, Utah and West Virginia, while Louisiana, New Hampshire and Vermont are in the process of doing so. For numerous other states there are online indexes.

PaHR-Access is a grassroots organization started in the Lehigh Valley, PA, in August of 2007, and is not affiliated with any political, commercial, institutional or religious organization. If you have any questions or concerns please contact PAHR-Access spokesperson, Tim Gruber, via email at timarg@rcn.com.

Visit the website: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> for details on the project and to find out how you can help. The Society has sent a letter of support.

NEWS

New Tools for Researchers - Historical and Biographical Book Collection on CD

The Society is pleased to offer for sale a collection of historical books on CD from PA-Genealogy. The books were published between 1847 and 1976 and contain a wealth of information on area history. While some of the books may be available at used book dealers or at your local library and historical societies, others are difficult to find and can be quite costly. For researchers comfortable using computer software, these searchable texts are an invaluable tool.

The CD includes *History and Topography of Northumberland, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Centre, Union, Columbia, Juniata and Clinton Counties, PA; Otzinachson, Or a History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna* by J. F. Meginness, 1857; *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania 1755 - 1855*, by John Blair Linn, 1877; *History of That Part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Embraced in the Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Industrial and Commercial Resources of Pennsylvania; Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania: Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder*, 1898; *Central Pennsylvania Marriages 1700-1896* by Charles A. Fisher, 1946; *Historic Site Survey, Union County Planning Commission, 1976 and more*.

For a complete list of contents and how to order your copy, please contact our office (570-524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net) or visit our website: www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The 2008 John B. Deans Dinner and Program was held on November 13 at the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg. A capacity crowd was enthralled by Dennis McClain's fact-filled story of WW II intrigue: *The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City*.

At this annual event, the Society recognized those who have made important contributions to the preservation of history in Union County.

Awards Presented



The award for Historic Preservation was presented to **Gary Parks** for restoration of the stone house on his property. In 2003, Gary purchased the c.1813 Abraham Eyer home in Winfield. Beside the house stands one of the largest sycamores in the county, estimated to be 200 years old. In the backyard, beside Winfield Creek, is the shell of an old stone building said to be the site of the Lee Family massacre of 1782. Gary has installed a cedar shake roof and plans to continue restoration of this historic structure, which is in the Union County Historic Preservation Plan and is on the Union County driving tour of historic places.

Gary Parks is the Director of the Slifer House Museum in Lewisburg and curator of many fine exhibits in central PA. He is a regular contributor to *Susquehanna Life* magazine, served on the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau board of directors, and is currently a consultant for the Central Oak Heights Centennial Committee.



An Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to **Bill Clemens** of New Columbia for his yearly participation in Rural Heritage Days as a demonstrator of blacksmithing, for work on the Special Events Committee, and for designing and creating appropriate hardware for the Dale/Engle/Walker 19th-century style Wagon Shed.

Bill Clemens belongs to the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland and works out of the Carroll County Farm Museum in Maryland as a demonstrator at the Historic Forge as well as teaching blacksmithing classes. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Blacksmith Guild.

Bill served in the Air Force for over 25 years retiring as a Lt. Colonel in 2000. While working on the Appalachian Trail, Bill learned of the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. He and his wife April thought it would be fun to celebrate their anniversary taking courses at the School, Bill in blacksmithing, April in quilting. Bill is the son of Ruth Engle Clemens who was raised on the Dale/Engle/Walker farm.



An Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to **Diana Medina Lasansky** of Trumansburg, NY, for her development of the Society's car tour CD, *On the Road: History Throughout Union County*, and for her important contributions to the 2006 *Heritage* book on the Federal penitentiary at Lewisburg.

Diana has been involved with the work of the Society for many years - as a school student helping in the office, and taking part in oral history interviews throughout the county with her mother, Jeannette Lasansky. She initiated the car tour project, which takes the visitor on a scenic drive through Union County to historic sites described by local narrators. A primary author of the 2006 *Heritage: The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg*, Diana's chapter on the architecture of the Penitentiary is truly extraordinary.

Diana is an associate professor in the Department of Art, Architecture and Planning at Cornell University. She has written several books and numerous articles in academic journals that focus on the architecture of tourism and the Italian Renaissance.

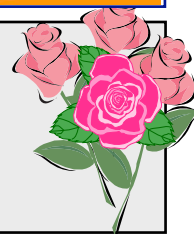
Bucknell Connection

The Historical Society offers work-study opportunities for Bucknell students, and this year Theresa Narus is working in the office. Theresa is a first-year student from Idaho, with family ties to PA. She's a great help, and is learning how to conduct genealogical research, and all about her new "home."

Also, the students in Professor David Deltesta's history class are investigating mills in Union County, with instruction from Society researchers Jack Fisher and Mary Belle Lontz. The students look at land records, census and other historical documents to analyze this historically important business, and to learn research techniques, writing and presentation skills, and more.

Thanks to our Friday Volunteers: Judith Blair, Mickey Campbell, Jack Fisher, David Goehring, Dave Milne, and Glenda Sheaffer. We really appreciate your help.

→ This is a great opportunity to help the Society - by serving our members and visitors on Fridays - as well as a chance to spend time in our research library learning more about Union County. Won't you consider volunteering? One Friday morning and/or afternoon per month, whenever suits your schedule. Training is provided.



Late Summer, Fall and Early Winter Seasons at the Dale/Engle/Walker Farm by Jeannette Lasansky

Work has begun on a new area at the Society's Dale/Engle/Walker property — the milk house. Built in the early 1930s by the Engle family, the unassuming concrete block building along the lane was where raw milk was processed and bottled prior to delivery to the farm's customers.

With grant support from the Edna Sheary Trust, we are making two interpretive panels on dairying in Union County and on the role of dairy at this farm. To prepare for the panels' installation, the inside of the milk house has been cleaned and made ready for some simple improvements. We hope to have an audio station in the building in the future similar to those in the house and at the wagon shed. The narrative text for the milk shed interpretive station has been written by Jake Engle, who grew up on the farm.

These dairy interpretive items will nicely compliment our next *Heritage* publication: *Cows on the Landscape and a Milkman at Your Door: Dairy in Union County 1890-2005* by Hertha Wehr, which will be available in August 2009.

Rural Heritage Days

At this past summer's *Rural Heritage Days* dairy was interpreted with butter making by Mary Emery and Rose Zartman, and butter print carving by master carver, Marshall Rumbaugh. Also, a heifer was exhibited at Wednesday's Children's Day, along with the other farm animals. Expect more and different dairy related items in 2009 including a major *Dairy in Union County* exhibit in the house.

This year over 1000 visitors came to the Dale/Engle/Walker property during *Rural Heritage Days* with the highest attendance being at the Wednesday and Saturday events. For making the event such a success we thank the committee organizers: Jonathan Bastian, Bill Clemens, Mark Cromley, Bill Deitrick, Diana Lasansky, Diane Meixell, Sarah Miller, Josh Muchler, Eli & Kathleen Reiff, Ruth-Alice Spangler, Ted Strosser, and Ron Wenning who worked together with me. Thanks also to the following Society volunteers: Judy & Owen Anderson, Jake Engle, Paul & Phyllis Heim, Lois Huffines & Dave Vernon, David Goehring, Nada Gray, Pat Longley; Carol, Dan, & Joe Manbeck; Bradd & Valerie Mertz, Dave & Marcia Milne, Jean Ruhl, John Ruhl, Gary Spangler, Tracy Strosser, Jim & Sherry Walter, and Kris Wenning.



Others who helped were the Shikellamy DAR, the Union County Conservation District, *The Standard Journal*, the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau, the Buffalo Valley Antique Machinery Association, and the Susquehanna Spinners and Weavers' Guild. Also helping were Curtis Faulk and Bessie Grove at Grove's Mill, Leanne Keefer-Bechdel and her entire family, as well as Alan Ard, Steve Beiler and family, John Bower, Bill Callahan, Roxy Carl, the Deitrick family, Mary Emery, Peg & Scott Gelnett; George Gould and his fellow musicians: Dave & Jan Pearson, Charlie Phelps, Leo Armbruster, & others; Heather & Andy Hibbs, Jamie Keister, Susan Kelleher from the Landis Valley Farm Museum, Andy Lehman, the Pauline Martin family, Stephen Miller, Larry Mitchell, John Nolt, pony riders, Rich Nornhold, Joanne & Zack Peachey, Margaret Smith, Randy Watts, Carla Watson, Paul & Dana Weaver, Elaine Wintjen, Melanie Reich, Samuel Yoder & family. Thank you also to those who underwrote some of the event's expenses: Bill Deitrick, the Lasansky family, Diane Meixell, Eli Reiff, Gary & Ruth-Alice Spangler, and Jim Walter.



Thank you all who attended, especially the little boy on Children's Day who was overheard saying, "**This was the best day of my life.**"

If you are interested in participating or helping behind the scenes, we would welcome that support. Just let any member of the committee know.

Fall and Winter projects

In mid-November we had a major work effort on the property with the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. Under the supervision of Bill Deitrick who assists on the property's management, were: Jake Engle, Ben Hoskins, Billy Deitrick, Wesley Ulmer, Wayne McDiffett, and about 30 Bucknell students. Among the many tasks tackled were clearing the yard of leaves and wind debris, clearing out the milk house and the corn crib, and removing invasive honeysuckle from the slope across from the barn. In addition, Duane Griffin and his geography class have been clearing an interior section of invasive plants. This was their second year on the site.

Over the winter months painter Jim Arndt plans to scrape and paint the building's shutters and in the spring the ceiling of the porch will be refurbished.

See you in June when the house opens for the season!



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 crafts people. 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

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The Union County Historical Society is a non-profit organization. Membership is tax deductible. 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
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