

# Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

## Summer & Fall 2009



### 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, and 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.

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## QUICK CALENDAR

### June through October

#### Sunday afternoons 2:00 to 4:00

Dale/Engle/Walker House Tours  
Farm Tools & Equipment in the Wagon Shed  
Dairy Exhibit in the new Milk House  
Dairy and Quilt/Coverlet Displays

### August 12 - 15

#### Rural Heritage Days

Four days of fun for children and adults featuring demonstrations of rural skills, farm animals, antique machinery, rides, 18th-century fashions, and food!

### September 12, 2 PM

#### Central Oak Heights: Celebrating a Century

### October 8, 7:30 PM

#### Agriculture in History

### November 12, 6PM

Annual Dinner and Program  
*Local Canal History of the West Branch,  
North Branch, and Susquehanna Division*

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](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org) for events, updates, articles and more.



## A Message from the President



**UNION COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 2009 OFFICERS & BOARD  
 M. Lois Huffines, President  
 Jeannette Lasansky, VP  
 Diane Meixell, Secretary  
 David W. Milne, Treasurer  
 Jonathan Bastian  
 Forrest Fothergill  
 David Goehring  
 Joshua Muchler  
 Tom Rich  
 Jean Ruhl  
 Gary Spangler  
 Mary Jo Spangler  
 Jeffrey Spotts

Dear Sojourners into History,

History is not only a time in the past, but it is also a place.

Having just returned from three weeks in Peru, I have a heightened appreciation for what history can mean. On the Amazon River, I visited a village of the Yaqua people, a society where men wear grass skirts and hunt prey with blowguns, and where women are skilled at beadwork as well as finding food and herbal cures in the jungle. They know nothing of large cities, such as Lima, or towns with shopping districts. It was like seeing history played out before my eyes. In the Andes highlands, I visited, as do most visitors to Peru, the ancient Incan complex of Machu Picchu. I marveled at the structures the Incans built of massive stones. Modern Peruvians still use Incan foundations for their homes and churches, Incan retaining walls along their rivers, and Incan agricultural terraces and irrigation systems, all built over 500 years ago. Amazing.

### Welcome New Members who have joined since January 2009



Patricia Arbogast, Selinsgrove, PA  
 Joseph & Sarah Kowalski, Turbotville, PA  
 Barbara Larsen, Port Townsend, WA  
 Susan Navarro, Odenton, MD  
 Linda Ravage, Sequim, WA  
 Mary A. Wood, Santa Barbara, CA  
 Ray & Elaine Campbell, Susan Kilgallen,  
 Jack Spooner, and Michael Wilson from  
 Lewisburg, PA;  
 Dorothy Dickie, Mark & Deb Wehr,  
 Kevin & Jonna Zimmerman from  
 Mifflinburg, PA

Of course, Union County does not have Incan ruins and primitive tribal cultures. But Union County has its own accessible history: homes and structures that once formed the western frontier border of European settlements in Pennsylvania. We can marvel at early log cabins and stone houses and see the artifacts that characterized early central Pennsylvania life. We can learn from how our precursors endured hardships with resilience and determination.

History happens while we are in the process of living out our daily lives. As John W. Gardner puts it, "History never looks like history when you are living through it. It always looks confusing and messy, and it always feels uncomfortable." That's why I encourage people to "do history" in their own homes and within their own family. Ask parents and grandparents what it was like growing up, what was hardest to contend with, how they managed when times were tough, how they endured when they were sick or injured. If you are a parent and/or grandparent, tell stories of the family and community to children and grandchildren. Let them hear and appreciate how time changes and heals, how we learn from the past, and how we hope for our future. Give each other, one generation to the next, time-tested resources of how to live life fully, regardless of wealth, hardship, or pain.

**Thank you to Life Members**  
 Russell Dennis and Thomas Rippon  
 who gave monetary gifts since Jan. '09

**Thank you to members who  
increased their membership levels**  
 Erica Shames, Susquehanna Life  
 Dr. Loren Rosenbach

**Thank you to Members and Friends**  
 Harold Fisher and Barbara Larsen for  
 donations for research; John and  
 Marge Gardner, Lewisburg Studio, for  
 unrestricted donation; Virginia Nunley  
 for unrestricted donation; William &  
 Sharon Lynch for donation in memory  
 of Elizabeth Hubler; and Curtis & Millie  
 Noll for donations in memory of Roger  
 Haas and Robert Blyler.  
 We appreciate your generosity.

The Union County Historical Society can help identify and find those resources. Come to its programs (described elsewhere in this newsletter) in the coming months and learn how Union County has changed over time and how its history is still accessible and visible today. Visit the Dale/Engle/Walker House for a peek into the past. Enjoy as a family the Society's Rural Heritage Days (August 12-15, 2009), which will bring history alive with demonstrations and participatory events.

History is fun, it's now as well as then; it's here as well as there. History tells us who we are by showing us who we have been. I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

*Lois Huffines*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### RURAL HERITAGE DAYS

A Celebration of Traditional Rural Life at the Dale/Engle/Walker Property

#### Wednesday, August 12, Noon to 4 PM

A fun-filled afternoon for children and adults!

Children's old-fashioned games with prizes ~ Make a Corn Husk Dolly, Potato Candy ~ Animal exhibits ~ Pony & cart rides (\$1) ~ Music ~ Demonstrations of rural farm skills ~ 1793 kitchen tour ~ Burgers, hot dogs, homemade ice cream for sale. Free admission.



#### Thursday, August 13, 6 PM

Living history show. For all ages!

18th-century costumed characters, games, period music & light refreshments. Bring lawn chairs/ blankets to this entertaining outdoor event. Free admission.



#### Friday, August 14, 6 PM

Wagon ride and tour of 19th-century Grove's Mill.

Tour this historic mill, which operates with a horizontal water wheel. Wagon ride departs from and returns to Dale/Engle/Walker House. Prepaid reservations required. Call 524-8666 for details.

#### Friday, August 14, 7 PM

Dairy Sharing

Share memories of old time dairy farming, milk delivery, dairy cows, and ice cream. *Milk from the Farm* Exhibit. Debut and book signing of *Cows on the Landscape and a Milkman at Your Door: Dairy in Union County 1900-2005*. Dedication of Milk House. Bring blanket or lawn chairs. Open to all. Free admission.



#### Saturday, August 15, 10 AM to 4 PM

Experience the sights and sounds of rural country life!

Chicken barbecue, potato and corn roast, watermelon, homemade ice cream for sale ~ Old-time music ~ Draft horse wagon and pony rides ~ Hit-and-miss engines ~ 18th-Century Rope Walk ~ Demonstrations of rural farm skills and crafts: metalworking, woodworking, stone carving, open-hearth cooking, women's work, gun and tin smithing and more ~ Custom orders from demonstrators ~ Hands-on activities ~ Tours of 1793 original kitchen ~ Wagon Shed and Milk House exhibits ~ Displays of signed quilts and coverlets, and counted cross-stitch and samplers ~ Exhibit of milk bottles and dairy equipment ~ Sale of antiques and collectibles. \$3 per car parking donation.



#### The Dale/Engle/Walker House

Open for Tours on Sundays 2 to 4 PM through October 2009

Take a step back in time at the Dale/Engle/Walker property on a guided tour of the 1793 limestone house built by early settler Samuel Dale. Learn about the home's architecture and see the original kitchen and hearth, furnished with early cooking implements. The 1804 Library contains period and facsimile books from Dale's estate listing. Tours include discussion of the Dale family and their place in county history, early immigration, slavery and the Underground Railroad.

The Wagon Shed features period farming equipment and tools. The newly restored Milk House holds a display on dairy farming. Interactive audio stations provide stories on the site and county.

A Dairy exhibit with milk bottles and dairy equipment, and a display of signed Union County quilts and coverlets are featured in the house.

**Directions to Dale/Engle/Walker property:** from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west for 1.5 miles to Strawbridge Road. Turn north and proceed 1.5 miles to the property. Signs are posted.

## Programs

**September 12, 2 PM**

### ***Central Oak Heights: Celebrating a Century***

at Central Oak Heights, West Milton

Central Oak Heights is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Mary J. Lippert-Coleman will give a talk and lead a tour of this special place in Union County.

The Bible Conference Society of the United Evangelical Church acquired Central Oak Heights from George F. Miller in 1909. Miller was anxious to preserve his grove of trees, primarily oak, and would sell to the Conference if they promised to let it remain a grove, and with the passing of time it would be improved and beautified. From this hilltop one could view the seven counties of Union, Lycoming, Clinton, Snyder, Sullivan, Northumberland and Montour. The property was a 1770 land patent to Joshua Hoffman.

In the spring of 1909 the first cottages, the tabernacle and dining room/boarding house were built. So much progress was made that the first Bible Conference was held on site in August of that year.

A century later this hilltop is still a summer retreat for 65 cottage owners. In addition, there are rental facilities for families and various organizations, i.e. Scout groups, daycare organizations, band and athletic camps, church picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions to name a few. Scheduled activities and Performing Arts Series are open to the public: [www.centraloakheights.org](http://www.centraloakheights.org).

The entrance to Central Oak Heights (sign posted) is accessed from the southbound side *only* of Route 15 just below West Milton. Go up the drive, park at the Shaffer Building and walk to the Heritage Room. This program is free and open to the public.

**October 8, 7:30 PM**

### ***Agriculture Throughout History***

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

Daryl K. Heasley, volunteer curator of the Pasto Agricultural Museum in PA Furnace will present an illustrated program on agriculture throughout history. The Pasto Agricultural Museum, which takes visitors back to a time when farmers used muscle power, both human and animal, to produce food and fiber, holds approximately 1,300 rare and unusual farm and household items dating from 4,000 BC to the 1940s. The museum began in 1974 with the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society and was named after Jerome K. Pasto, the first curator and associate dean and professor of agricultural economics. Pasto Agricultural Museum is located on the Ag Progress Days site.

This program, free and open to the public, will include discussion of the early 20th century farming tools and equipment in the Society's Wagon Shed exhibit.

**November 12, 6 PM**

### **Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program**

#### ***Local Canal History of the West Branch, North Branch, and Susquehanna Division***

at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Route 45, Mifflinburg, PA

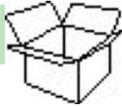
Michael P. McWilliams Sr., "Canal Boat Captain Mick," will give an entertaining and informative presentation on canal operation and canal life through a series of pictures of the canal and canal ruins.

McWilliams is a 4th generation painter and wallpaper hanger, operating Tibbs Interiors in Northumberland for 37 years. He comes from the very historic Union County Zeller family of the Turtle Creek area. His ancestor John Zeller traveled through the Susquehanna Valley in 1720 when he came down the river in a canoe with an Indian guide and scouted the Tulpehocken Valley for Conrad Weiser's group of people in New York.

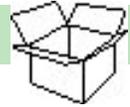
McWilliams has been doing canal programs as Captain Mick since 1990. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Canal Society, National Canal Society, Co-Chair of Northumberland-Point Township History Day, and many other community groups and societies.

Our popular buffet dinner with choices of entrees, sides, salad, dessert and beverages will precede the program. Awards for historic preservation and service will be presented.

Local members will receive reservation forms in the mail in the Fall. Others interested in the dinner/program should phone or email the Society, or visit the website for more information.



## COLLECTIONS



### Archives & Museum Committee by Jeannette Lasansky & Jeff Spotts

The new year began with member Jeff Spotts agreeing to be the committee's next chairperson with Jeannette Lasansky providing backup on collections management. Welcome Jeff! Jeannette has served as chair for six years, a period in which the collection made its move to the Dale/Engle/Walker house, was reorganized and rehoused. During her tenure, the Wagon Shed was built at the site and became fully furnished under the watchful eyes of the late Gary Slear and then Gary Spangler and Mike Manbeck. Under Jeannette's leadership, the collection also eliminated a backlog of several years and is currently caught up (if that is possible). The collection is now poised for a new software transition as well as scanning efforts headed by Mike Manbeck, among other projects.

**GIFTING TO THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS COMES AT A STEADY PACE AND FROM JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2009** gifts have been made by the following individuals. We thank those who have thought of giving their items a permanent home:

- Kenneth Keefer gave a corn sheller, a wagon jack, an ice saw frame, and ice poles for the Wagon Shed;
- Joseph Keller gave Bechtels' ice cream tubs and photos;
- Member Phil Wagner gave a Wagner's paper bag from 1960, calendars from 1994-2001, an advertising key fob and pen, and a Lewisburg Dragon's felt patch;
- Jean Brown gave us fourteen different documents that frame the Brown family's immigration from Germany in the 18th century through the laying out of West Lawn, including early documents in German, a name plate for Christian Brown, report cards from 1905, a Lewisburg commencement program, a WW II ration book, estate sale bills from the 1930s to 1940s, and the plots for West Lawn;
- William Slear gave fifteen items many of them of local banks such as shares from the Dimes Savings Institute of Lewisburg, Lewisburg Deposit and Union National as well as Buffalo Valley Farmers Mutual Fire Association material, WW II ration stamps, and Dock View Dairy material;
- New Berlin Heritage Association gave recent *New Berlin Heritages*, photographs & ephemera;
- Member Bill Mattern & son Kim gave a reprint from the *Lewisburg Saturday News* about a Union (then Northumberland) County company;
- Esther Rein gave numerous photographs and real photo postcards of the Loudon and Spotts one-room schools, photo service materials from Baker's Pharmacy, Headings Drug Stores and Rea & Dearick; and an 1898 graduation invitation for Kelly Schools;
- Phyllis M. Dyer gave numerous political campaign posters and advertising blotter, photos of Dyer's store in Winfield, glassware from the Ebenezer Church, and the bylaws of the Odd Fellows' Lewisburg Lodge;
- William H. Herald gave two large farm sale bills from Mazeppa and near Vicksburg for A.W. Barber and F.E. Barber from the early 1900s;
- Christine Sanders gave a cabinet photograph by Donald Ross of the Masonic Hall in Lewisburg;
- Member Larry Kemmerer gave local paper items;
- Gary Spangler, board member, gave a current Mifflinburg Bank calendar and an anniversary Bechtel's Dairy pen;
- Elwood Walters gave a milking stool for the Dale/Engle/Walker milk house; and
- Robert Seebold gave assorted ephemera.

The committee and the Society mourn the recent passing of Daniel Sachse of Lewisburg, a valued member since the 1980s. Dan was our resident expert on tools, and advisor on the value of many antiques that came into the collection. He will be sorely missed.

As Dan was always willing to devote his time and energy to the Archives and Museum Committee, he provided for a very generous gift to the Society upon his passing, in the form of a beautiful Charles Bell stand built in Lewisburg (pictured here). Dan's wife, Nancy, recently assisted in completing Dan's final contribution, which will provide a tangible reminder to the Society of his many efforts and commitment. We remain ever mindful of his many gifts over the years, in furtherance of the Archives and Museum Committee's and Society's missions.



**The Society continues to bring area items “back home” through E-Bay purchases including:**

- An 1863 Civil War muster roll of Charles C. Shockley’s Company 3rd Regiment Infantry and a carte de visite of a Civil War soldier by John Nice, photographer of Lewisburg;
- A 1930 catalog from the Mifflinburg Body Company;
- Several glass plate negatives c. 1900 including a view of the Lewisburg Armory on S. 3rd Street;
- A number of “blue sky” postcards of New Berlin and Mifflinburg scenes;
- Real photo postcards of Allenwood, White Deer Turnpike, aerials of Laurelton Village and Mazeppa as well as the Laurelton High School;
- Other postcards of the Mifflinburg Jr./Sr. High School, Dry Valley Crossroads store, and of the May Flower Motel south of Lewisburg on Rte. 15;
- Allenwood’s Yocum Mills printed paper bag for dog food, a racing program from the 1932 UC Fair, and the 25th Anniversary booklet of the US Penitentiary at Lewisburg;
- Calendar/thermometers from Shreck’s Poultry Farm and from Penns’ Creek Mills in Mifflinburg
- Edmund Shively (Mifflinburg) wooden toy, Band Box (Mifflinburg) advertisement; Forest House (Forest Hill), Newberry (Lewisburg), and Frederick Miller Coal (Lewisburg) glass ash trays;
- Shoe horns of Leiser and Prowant clothing stores (Lewisburg);
- I.O.O.F of Lewisburg ribbon and Full Moon Club of Mifflinburg minute book from 1906-1926; and
- Advertising pieces for: the Edison Battery Car that ran between Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonstown; C.J. Wolfe in Lewisburg; Varsity Clothes in Lewisburg; and Gilbert Butler Motor Company in Lewisburg.

**The Society's mission** is to collect items made in, and associated with, Union County for the purpose of preserving the county’s heritage. The collection contains items made by area metal smiths, quilt makers, milliners, and basket makers; ads for area politicians and businesses; old business ledgers and photographs. Some material is used for research. Other items, like those in the 1793 hearth and 1804 Dale Library, aid in the interpretation of the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

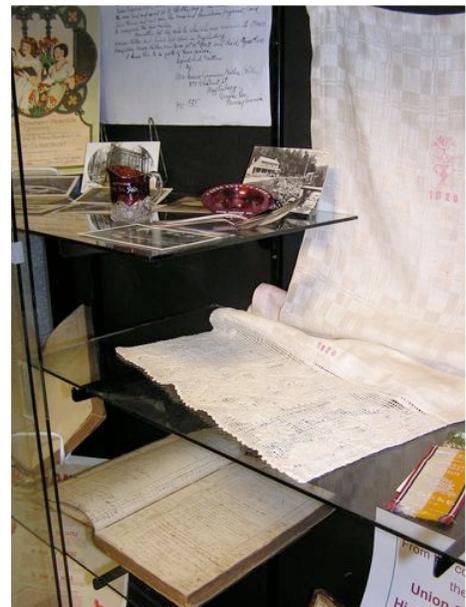
If you are interested in donating to the collection, please call the office at 570-524-8666 or email to [hstoricl@ptd.net](mailto:hstoricl@ptd.net).

**Society Collection on Display** at the following locations:

- *Forest to Finished Product* exhibit, at the Union County Government Center, N. 15th Street, Lewisburg, through February 2010;
- 19th-century wedding items at Slifer House exhibit through November 2009;
- Dairy exhibit at Dale/Engle/Walker House June through January 2010;
- Bedding display at Dale/Engle/Walker through October '09.

**Found locally have been:**

- Many local dairy items at the January sale of collector Pete Gardner: Wilson dairy bottles, a Dock View advertising ruler, Citizens Milk quart bottle and butter milk bottle cap, a New Berlin Rosedale butter milk bottle cap, an Erdley wooden milk crate, a Snyder’s Dairy (Mifflinburg) milk cap pick, and a Wehr’s Dairy enamel wall pad holder;
- Numerous postcards;
- Brass label of Lewisburg Condensed Milk Company;
- Sickle by sickle smith Henry Wetzel (b. 1799 Berks County), made in Middle Creek Township, Union (now Snyder) County prior to 1855; and
- At the Strunk sale: advertising thermometer for Smith’s Hatchery in New Berlin, autograph album of Robert Strunk from 1935, Mifflinburg Hardware advertising fan, cabinet photo of Strunk house, folio of 24 yearbook photos from c. 1941, Wehr Dairy ash tray & menu, Mifflinburg High School “Hi-Lites” 1941-1942, and more ephemera.



The **new exhibit** at the Society's office features items recently added to the collection, including real photo post cards, advertising pieces, day books from the 1800's; a signed and dated, hand-made show towel and more. This exhibit can be seen through the Fall 2009 during regular business hours.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE

### Added to our family books and newsletters are:

*Alvira and the Ordnance: An American Dream...Denied* and map *Pennsylvania Ordnance Works 1942* (showing land owners) published and donated by the Montgomery Area Historical Society  
*Architecture of Lewisburg's Historic District*, on CD with photographic inventory of 824 buildings in the borough, compiled and donated by Bucknell University  
*History of Lewisburg*, by Mary Belle Lontz, donated by the author  
*Millmont Times*, 2009 editions to July  
*Mills of Snyder County, PA* by Mary Belle Lontz, donated by the author  
*Strunk's Funeral Records, Mifflinburg, PA, August 1908 to December 1985*, compiled and given by Dianne Lynch  
*Union County Times*, 2008 editions  
*Bingaman* - updated family history donated by compiler Arleigh Helfer



### 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.

PAGE/PAIGE: John O. Shedlock, 623 Chestnut St., Mifflinburg, PA  
R. VB. LINCOLN: Max VanBuskirk, 103 James Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA  
RANCK: Michael Wilson, 2282 Ft. Titzell Rd., Lewisburg, PA  
TRUTT: Maurice Clouser, 519 Old Orchard Lane, Mifflinburg, PA  
GOODLANDER/BREON/BELLMAN: Bob Kibbee, 6115 Mecklenburg Rd., Mecklenburg, NY  
rk14@cornell.edu  
AARON SCHAMP: William J. Troppman, Valley Forge National History Park, King of Prussia, PA  
william\_troppman@nps.gov  
SCHNURE/BINGAMAN/PONTIUS/RENGEL: Donald A. Schnure, 50 Beverly Drive, Lewisburg, PA  
daschnure@gmail.com  
PETERS of Union and Dauphin counties: Michael McCormick, 3781 Carlisle Rd., Gardners, PA  
THOMPSON/TEMPLIN/WILSON: Barbara & Rudolph Krueger, Wolfboro NH  
CHRISTOPHER SHOTZBERGER: Charles Shotzberger, 50 School St., Old Orchard Beach, ME  
SHAPELLE/SHOPBELL: Karen & Bruce Collins, 7050 Dean Farm, New Albany OH  
HOFFMASTER/STONEBACH/EDELMAN/SWARM: Don & Sylvia Martin, RR 2 Box 120F, Wysox, PA  
SYLVESTER/MILLARD/CLARKE: Cassandra Miller, 48 S. 1300 E, Salt Lake City, UT  
OLIPHANT/WITHINGTON/REIFSNYDER/BARGER: Joyce Moyer, 705 Market St., Apt. 713, Sunbury, PA  
ALTER/KNIGHT: Joan Knight, Williamsport, PA, pcvkid16@gmail.com  
YERGER/YARGER: Earl Hoffman, Linda Hoffman, 3197 Woodland Rd., Los Alamos, NM  
PRINTZENHOFF/KNITTLE/HIGH: Joy Lewis. Flinty Knoll Rd., Pinnacle NC  
MARSH/LEINBACH: Anne Criffin, 113 S. 4th St., Lewisburg, PA  
YOST/SPITTLER: Melvin Yost, 4295 Sunbeam Lake Dr., Jacksonville, FL  
MARTIN: Jerry & Margie Schaefer, 3822 Panorama Rd., Colorado Springs, CO  
BOWER: George & Theda Bower, 1012 N. Front St., Sunbury, PA  
BARBER/PIERSON: Kathy Mackey, 2316 Seabury Dr., Crofton, MD  
ZELLERS: Vicki Garinger, 6167 Col. John Kelly Rd., Lewisburg, PA  
JOHN MASTIN'S HOME: Lorin Correll, 10085 State Rte 90, Genoa, NY  
IRON ORE MINES: Jack Egolf, jegolf1350@aol.com



## A Note of Thanks

Researchers Jack Fisher, Mary Belle Lontz and Glenda Sheaffer provide invaluable help to our staff and to researchers. You might find them volunteering in the Society office on a Friday, or working on some project at any time. We truly appreciate their help.



## WHAT IT WAS LIKE

*Connie Cammer, a resident at Riverwoods, shares with us her experience as an immigrant. Immigration has been finding its way on to the front page of newspapers, even across Central Pennsylvania. This attention is cyclical, but it happens with fierceness during times of economic downturn. Connie describes for us how difficult it is even for those who come to our country speaking English and with a similar cultural background. Imagine how difficult it is for all the others! Connie gives us a glimpse of how much courage it takes to pull up stakes to move to another country.*

*Lois Huffines, President UCHS*

### **I am an Immigrant**

Legal, that is.

Maybe this will help you understand.

I was born in England in 1916. In 1920, at the end of World War I, my father's job in an arsenal was terminated. No jobs were to be found. My Uncle Arthur and Aunt Polly (my mother's sister) and their son Jack were in the same situation. These relatives had gone to Canada and had written letters to us to tell us that "There are plenty of jobs here—come on over." We went to Canada.

Since Canada is a member of the British family, it was just like moving next door. After three and a half years in Canada, economic problems hit there too, and factories closed. So again, there were no jobs. Aunt Polly, Uncle Arthur, and Jack went to the United States and wrote to tell us, "There are plenty of jobs, so come on over."

My father got a six-month work permit and headed for Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A. Mother and I were to join him after he got a job. In a couple of months, we got the word to join him. We rented out our house, sold everything not needed, packed our trunks and bags and headed for Detroit. Since I was not quite eight years old, I do not know too many details. I just remember putting my arms through an iron fence to hug my dad. Somehow, we did not know about getting a visa to enter the U.S. Dad would lose his permit if he came through that fence, and we were not allowed past that fence.

Mother and I went back to Brantford, Ontario, with nothing and no place to go. I heard someone tell my mother that a Sunday school teacher they knew had an empty double house where we could stay. Friends gave us a kitchen table with two chairs. They also gave us a mattress, sheets, and blankets. We slept on the floor.

My parents had put aside enough money to return to England if things did not work out, but

the weeks of no jobs depleted that fund. My mother got the flu and became depressed. Finally, friends coaxed her to go to Hamilton, the capital of Ontario, to apply for a visa. We got the last two visas for that year's allotment from Ontario.

On December 31, 1924, mother and I took the train to Windsor, Ontario, to cross over into Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. As immigrants, we were directed into a very large building. The room was many stories high—a really big place. At one end of the room were three big exits. Over the first exit there was a sign "FOREIGNERS." Over the second exit the sign read "ALIENS." The third exit sign read "U.S. CITIZENS." Mother and I stood and looked at those signs, and I remember asking, "Who are we, foreigners or aliens?" Mother did not know, so we went to the "TRAVELER'S AID" desk to ask what an alien was. The lady asked which country we were from, and when we said, "England and Canada," she said we were aliens because our country spoke English. If one's country spoke a foreign language, then one was a foreigner.

At the end of our correct exit we found my dad and my Uncle Arthur. Uncle Arthur had a car, so he had come to drive us to Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A. We moved in with my aunt and uncle to save money, which was quite short by this time. I went to be registered for school. Now, in Canada one didn't start school until seven years old. I was still in the first grade. Since in the U.S. children started when they were five, I found myself two years older and a lot bigger than the rest of my classmates. I also already knew what they were teaching those first graders. The teachers quickly put me into the second grade. I was still a year older than the rest of the class, but I did not know the level of arithmetic and spelling that they were learning.

I talked "funny," so they laughed at me. I also dressed "funny." You see, both in England and

in Canada, my mother followed the custom of having me wear a navy blue pleated skirt and a white middie blouse in the morning. But after lunch that attire was not “suitable for a little girl.” I always changed into a frock (dress) in the afternoon. You cannot even imagine what I went through. Children can be cruel.

We soon moved to a rental house of our own. All the neighbors owned their homes, and I remember thinking that it probably took two or three generations of living in the U.S. before being able to buy a house. Very few “commoners” in England owned their own homes. We had lived in a “council house,” which was owned by the town, which was owned by some royal family.

In England most “commoners” (meaning not Royalty) were raised to be servants of the Royalty. My mother was a personal maid to a lady who operated a school for diplomats’ daughters—making them into “ladies.” Madam De Tenack was the wife of the tutor to the Prince of Sweden. Mother had her own maid and butler, but she was still a servant. When we arrived in the U.S., mother told me that I “... would never, never be anyone’s servant.” In the U.S., I was as good as the Queen of England. That made me hold my head up! My parents immediately gravitated to other English and Scotch people, making friends who at least understood our “funny” language.

At that time it took seven years’ residence in the U.S. before one could apply for citizenship.

My father applied as soon as the seven years were over. He went to classes and passed with flying colors and became a U.S. citizen. Because I was under 18 years old, I also became a citizen with my father.

Mother was reluctant to disown her Queen. We were taught to love the Queen. Since the law now allowed women to vote, my mother had to apply for citizenship on her own. A couple of years after my dad became a citizen, my mother applied, went to class, and was also made a citizen of the U.S.

To say we just melted in would not be true. I saluted a flag that was not my beloved Union Jack. I sang songs about “our forefathers” and remembered that my forefathers were the ones being killed. Others joked and laughed about the mix of nationalities in their families while I secretly was a little proud that all my ancestors were British as far back as we could tell.

Mother, Dad, and I went to everything that was free: concerts, museums, music lessons, night classes; everything was available. My parents went through only the sixth grade in school, but my dad read the newspaper from front to back. He continually brought stacks of books home from the library. He would read aloud to us while my mother ironed or sewed.

Over and over I heard my parents say, “These people do not realize how fortunate they are. They seldom take advantage of what is available. We are proud of and love being United States citizens.” *Connie Cammer*

The Society is immersed in stories. Folks who come to do research tell us about their families and the places they lived. Our Collection speaks volumes about the way people ran their households, farms and businesses, dressed, wrote, worshiped, were entertained, educated their children and governed their communities. Do you have a story to tell? Please submit your material to the UCHS office.

## Grants and Community Support

While the Society relies on member support, grants also help fund our programs and services. The Society received a \$10,000 general operating grant in 2009 for archives support and for our education programs in county schools from PHMC - the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

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. The Lindig Lewisburg Foundation provided over \$900 for reprinting the Lewisburg Walking Tour brochures. The West Milton State Bank supported our advertisements for *Rural Heritage Days* in 2009.

We are grateful for the contributions from these organizations.

## NEWS

### New! Heritage Volume XXII, 2010

#### ***Cows on the Landscape and a Milkman at Your Door: Dairy in Union County 1900-2005***

Hertha Wehr says in her introduction to this new Heritage volume: "*Dairying is as old as the first settlers, but in a much different way from today. Early on nearly every family had a milk cow for home consumption .....in the 1920s and 1930s, the dairy industry in our area was just passing from the cattle dealer—where one or two cows were the norm—to the establishing of dairy herds. In 1942 when I married into the Wehr family, I began to learn how much there was to know about dairy cows.....To me it was a whole new experience and I found it fascinating.*"

Hertha shared this fascinating story of dairy farming with us, as do Donald Hoy and Tony Shively who also contributed articles to the book. Members renewing for 2010 will receive a free copy of *Heritage* 2010. Additional copies can be purchased from the Society. The book will be available in August 2009.

### 2010 Calendar

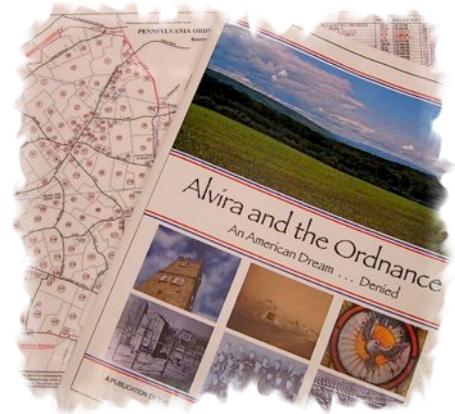
The 2010 calendar will feature a wide assortment of old photographs from around Union County, including New Berlin, West Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Hartleton, and Allenwood showing images of school children, a home-coming parade, steam tractor, trains, streetscapes, hunters and more.

The calendar will be available in late August, still at the low price of \$4.50 for members (\$5 for the general public). Please get your copy early, as we print a limited supply.

### New Book and Map For Sale

*Alvira and the Ordnance: an American Dream...Denied* tells the story of the town that vanished, to be replaced by a massive WWII military complex that now, too, is gone. Many photographs illustrate this fascinating account. The accompanying *Map of the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works*, shows all the property owners of 1942. The book and map can be purchased or ordered from the Union County Historical Society. Please call 524-8666 or email [hstoricl@ptd.net](mailto:hstoricl@ptd.net) for more information.

This is a publication of the Montgomery Area Historical Society, researched and written by Paul C. Metzger and Stephen C. Huddy. Copies of the book and map can also be purchased through MAHS. Email [pherbst@uplink.net](mailto:pherbst@uplink.net). See their website [www.montgomeryareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montgomeryareahistoricalsociety.org) for information.



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

A collection of historical books - published between 1847 and 1976 and containing a wealth of information on area history - has been compiled by PA-Genealogy on CD and is available from UCHS.

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 ... the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Vol I & II*, 1886; *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, please phone 570-524-8666 or email [hstoricl@ptd.net](mailto:hstoricl@ptd.net) or visit our website: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org).

## PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**A BIG THANK YOU to our Friday Volunteers:** Judith Blair, Jack Fisher, David Goehring, Dave Milne, and Glenda Sheaffer, whose help we really appreciate.

**Won't YOU consider working in our office on Fridays?** This is a great way to help the Society, as well as a chance to spend time in our research library learning more about Union County. Can you spare one Friday morning and/or afternoon per month, whenever suits your schedule, to help your Society? Training is provided.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Member support is needed to
- plan future programs
  - design and maintain exhibits
  - develop sales strategies and fundraising efforts
  - maintain our scrapbook

Please call the office or any Board member to find out more. Now, more than ever, member support is important. Become an active part of your Society.

### SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Does a bequest to the Union County Historical Society fit in to 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, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for its general purposes.*

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

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

### Changes to the Board

Officers and directors for election at the September meeting of the Historical Society are: Lois Huffines, President; Jeannette Lasansky, Vice President; Forrest Fothergill (Second Term), Sue Mapes (new) and Deb Wehr (new) for 3-Year Terms expiring in 2012.

At the March 26, '09 Board meeting, Mary Jo Spangler was welcomed as a new board member to fill the term of Ron Wenning that expires in 2011. At the May 21, '09 Board meeting, Gary Spangler (on Board since 2008) was appointed to fill the term of Jonathan Bastian that expires in 2011.

On the 2009 Nominating Committee are Diane Meixell (chair), Jeannette Lasansky, Josh Muchler, & Gary Spangler.

### New Board members

**Sue Mapes** has been a resident of Union County her whole life, as have her parents, Jim & Jeanne Zimmerman. Sue became a resident of New Berlin in 1989 when she married Mark Mapes. They have 3 children, Casey, Jennifer and Jim. Casey has graduated from high school, Jennifer is a senior and Jim is in 10th grade. Mark and Sue milk 90 Brown Swiss and Holstein cows and have 50 young heifers. They farm 150 acres in Limestone Township. Sue also works part-time in the office of the Middleburg Livestock Auction. She is a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church in Mifflinburg where she is very active. Sue says that she feels very blessed every day to be able to be home with family and live in a wonderful community.

**Mary Jo Spangler** was born in Ontario, Oregon, and met Dennis Spangler when he worked there for New Holland as a sales representative. They moved to New Berlin in 1989 with their children Joe and Anna. Joe is now employed by Genex Co-op in Lancaster County and Anna recently graduated from Villanova University. Dennis is the fourth generation to farm Harmony Springs Farm. Mary Jo works as clerical support at Rotech Billing Center. She is an active member of Saint George Catholic Church and The Union County West End Fair. Mary Jo also volunteers for New Berlin Day and Union/Snyder Senior Olympics. She enjoys spending time with family, knitting, cooking, and collecting antiques.

**Deb Wehr** was born in Union County, graduated from Mifflinburg High School and attended Edinboro State University and Penn State. Married to Mark Wehr and into a long-time dairy farm family, Deb worked first as a dairy farm wife and then as an assistant in a family dairy equipment business; most recently in manufacturing. Now a grandmother, Deb is a member of the Union County Historical Society and enjoys making 18th century clothing for family members interested in muzzle loading and living history events. Deb's family were friends with UCHS's John and Bessie Deans; she remembers John being the first to tell her brother and herself (nearly 50 years ago) about historical events that happened "right here in Union County!" His message resonates with her today.

Would you like to receive a full-color copy of the newsletter? We can email the newsletter to you as a pdf document. This will also save us postage costs. Please let us know.

**Membership in the Union County Historical Society** 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](mailto:hstoricl@ptd.net)

Check out our Web site: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle membership level:

NEW! Student (K-12)..... \$10  
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Family ..... \$45  
Contributor ..... \$60  
Patron ..... \$100  
Sponsor ..... \$150  
Lifetime (individual) ..... \$400

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

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