

Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"



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.



Winter and Spring 2013

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at Barnes & Noble, Lewisburg

Book Signing

Sunday, February 10, 2 PM

at 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House, Lewisburg

The 1790 Census: What It Says and What It Doesn't

Sunday, February 24, 2 PM

at Old Buffalo Church, Buffalo Crossroads

Slaveholders and Parishioners: the Dales and Linns

Sunday, March 10, 2 PM

at Marlow Hall, Riverwoods, Lewisburg

Early Buffalo Valley

Thursday, April 11, 6 PM Spring Dinner and Program

at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert

Changes to the Forest Landscape

of the West End 1754-2013

Sunday, May 5, 2 PM

at Dreisbach Church, Dreisbach Church Rd. Lewisburg

History of Surveying in Union County

Sunday, June 2, 2 - 4 PM

Dale/Engle/Walker House opens for the season

Guided tours every Sunday afternoon through October

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.

**UNION COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD

Jeannette Lasansky, President
Deb Wehr, Vice President
M. Lois Huffines, Secretary
Kim Ranck, Treasurer
Kathy Taylor Brady, Sidney Dreese, David
Goehring, Sharon Lynch, Duain Shaw,
Gary Spangler, Mary Jo Spangler,
Jeffrey Spotts and Steve Wilver



**Welcome New Members
who have joined since July 2012**

Troy Bowersox, Patricia Catherman,
Debbie Sanders and Jerry Zimmerman of
Mifflinburg, PA
Marion Brown, William Richard, and
Priscilla Waggoner of Lewisburg, PA
William G. Cropsey of Milton, PA
Theron Dersham of Waynesville, OH
Tyler Potterfield of Richmond, VA
David C. Thomas of Janesville, WI

Welcome New Life Members

Deb Wehr and Mark Wehr, Mifflinburg, PA

Thank you to Life Members

David Goehring, Diana Lasansky, Mary
Ellen Paulhamus, Carl & Jeanne Sampsell,
and Harry Snook for unrestricted
donations; Jeannette Lasansky for
donation toward Dale/Engle/Walker House;
David Mensch for donation toward New
Berlin book, and Hertha Wehr for donation
toward the Time Line project.

Thank you to Members and Friends

David Goehring, Jeannette Lasansky,
Eleanor Rawitz and Jean Ruhl for
donations toward office renovations;
Mary Jo Spangler for donation toward
transcription of Shorkley diaries;
Jeannette Lasansky for donations toward
Titanic event and diary transcriptions;
Jerilyn Reniger for donation toward
genealogy and research library;
Timothy Bittner for donation toward photo
collection and archives; Jim & Lois Dale for
donation toward the Dale/Engle/Walker
House; Karen Nace, Barb Ritchy & John
Huckaby for unrestricted donations;
PP&L for unrestricted donation;
the Peachy, Reimensnyder, and D. & S.
Weaver families for donations for research
by Jack Fisher; and anonymous donation
toward the Titanic event.



Birthdays come and go.

Birthdays sometimes present us with
the quandary—how did we get here?
It is a familiar refrain—as the number
of the birthday becomes larger. The
year 2013 is no exception as I bring
attention to two county birthdays.



The Union County Historical Society, which was
reorganized by John Deans and others motivated by the
county's sesquicentennial in 1963, turns "50" in 2013.
And the grand number being celebrated all year is "200"
for the birthday of Union County.

Indeed, how did Union County get to 200?
Through cultivating the land; navigating the waterways;
husbanding the resources; innovating in business, arts,
and education; providing freedom and diversity of
thought and faith; and raising new generations to follow.
The list of accomplishments can go on and will be the
subject of publications, presentations and events.

For those who have an interest in or embrace the
potential of local history, this will be a perpetual feast of
topics and ideas. This year-long birthday celebration will
give all pause to contemplate the area's past, contrast it
with the present, and imagine its future—all in the
context of our natural and man-made environment.

The 1813-2013 Bicentennial of Union County,
under the leadership of two Society members, Nada
Gray, a past president, and John Showers, a county
commissioner, offers an unusual set of opportunities.
Meeting over the past couple of years have been
residents from White Deer to Laurelton and more: Ardith
Wilkins, Dahle Bingaman, Bill Clemens, Jim Lenge, Jim
Smith, Linda Bollinger, Joanna Skucek, Roberta
Greene, Arna Dersham, Jeanne Sampsell, Lois Huffines,
David Goehring, Murrie Zlotziver, Lowell Leitzel, Paul
Mauger, Diane Meixell, Andrew Miller, and Suzanne
Pugliese. Shawn McLaughlin and John Del Vecchio at
the Union County Government Center have also been
important in shaping the website and media outlets.

The diverse events planned can be viewed at the
official Bicentennial web site: www.unioncounty200.com
and at www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org as well.
Enclosed for posting is a schedule of over 50 items to
tempt you. Your historical society, that you support in so
many ways, has played a lead role in developing this
schedule and we hope that YOU enjoy the party!

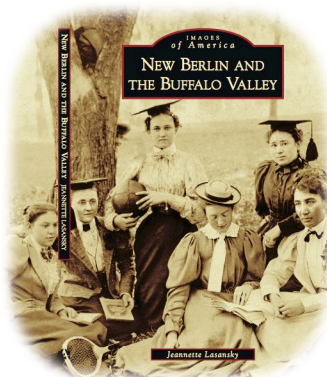
Jeannette Lasansky, President

PUBLICATIONS

Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing

Pictorial histories of Union County, in four wonderful books - hundreds of photos with detailed captions on the people, places, events and stories of our communities. Price is \$21 (UCHS members) or \$23 (non-members). Shipping is \$4 for the first book; add \$1 for each additional book to the same address. For more information, and to order, contact 570-524-8666 or hstorical@ptd.net.

New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley by



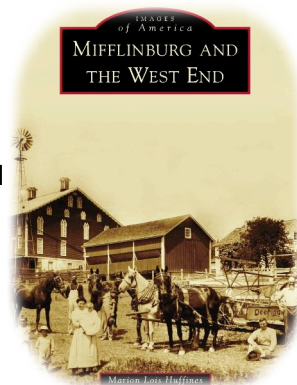
Jeannette Lasansky highlights what life was like in New Berlin and Dry Valley, Dice, White Springs, Vicksburg, Buffalo Crossroads, Mazeppa, Cowan, Red Bank, Rand and Forest Hill. New Berlin, the county seat from 1813 to 1855, is along Penns Creek, an early busy waterway. Nearby

Shamokin Mountain was important for iron and timber. Farmers, craftsmen and tradesmen thrived in this heartland of Union County.

Available July 2013.

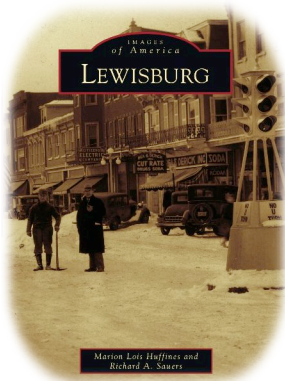
Mifflinburg and the West End by M. Lois

Huffines tells the unfolding stories of Mifflinburg, Swengel, Millmont, Laurel Park, Pardee, Glen Iron, Weikert, Hartleton and Laurelton. It is a history full of surprises and wonderful spirit. The photographs - on living, working and celebrating in Mifflinburg and western Union County represent the combined resources of the Union County Historical Society, the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, and private collections.



Available now at the Society, at banks in Mifflinburg and at Laurel Market.

Lewisburg by M. Lois Huffines (of the

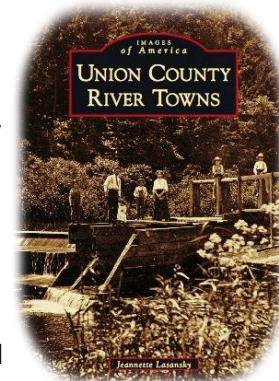


Union County Historical Society) and Richard Sauers (past Director of the Packwood House Museum), tells the history of Lewisburg, Kelly and East Buffalo townships from earliest beginnings until recent times, through text and wonderful period photographs from the UCHS, Packwood House and private collections.

Available now at the Society office.

Union County River Towns by Jeannette

Lasansky, in collaboraton with many local residents, covers the history of towns along the Susquehanna River: Allenwood and nearby Spring Gardens, Devitt's Camp, and Alvira; White Deer, New Columbia, West Milton and Central Oak Heights, and Winfield, through text and historic images, from the UCHS and private collections.



Available now at the Society office.

The 2013 Calendar has wonderful old scenes of Union County: the Nিকেlette Lunch, V&H Motors c. 1953, Millmont General Store, Cowan Band c. 1910, the Bergenstock farm in Mazeppa c. 1907, Bucknell baseball team in 1899, Mifflinburg Hose Co. of the 1940s, Purity Candy and Oldt's Dry Goods in the early 1900s, Reptiland staff with anaconda in the 1960s, Buffalo Crossroads Elementary School students in 1948, children in Halloween costumes in White Deer in 1920, Laurelton Lumber Co. in 1894, Mifflinburg after a 1967 snowfall, and the New Berlin train station c. 1906 on the cover.

Available at the Society @\$4.50/members, and at local banks for \$5.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 8, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Book Signing

at Barnes & Noble, 400 Market St., Lewisburg, PA

Several of our authors will be present to inaugurate the addition of UCHS *Heritage* and Oral Traditions volumes to Barnes & Noble's book offerings. Present will be Diana Lasansky, architectural historian and chapter author in *The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg*, Heritage Vol. XX, 2006; Hertha Wehr, Mifflinburg author of *Cows on the Landscape and a Milkman at Your Door: Dairy in Union County 1900-2005*, Heritage Vol. XXII, 2010; and Jeannette Lasansky, author of *The History and Magic of Honeycomb*. All of these books can be purchased and signed during the event.

Sunday, February 10, 2 PM

The 1790 Census: What It Says and What It Doesn't

with Bruce Teeple

at the 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House, 1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA

The 1790 Census, our nation's first, is not only a gold mine of information, it provides a snapshot of reality on the Susquehanna frontier. But this snapshot has some self-imposed limitations. This presentation will cover the reasons for these decisions as well as the social conditions and political atmosphere surrounding the people who collected this information.

Bruce Teeple is a local historian and writer. A graduate of Penn State in history and political science, Teeple worked in the University's Office of Physical Plant for over 30 years. He has served on committees for the American Association for State and Local History, and the grant review committee for the History Channel's *Save Our History* program. Teeple was curator of the Aaronsburg Historical Museum for 20 years, co-edited *Glimpses of the Past* and *In Schadde vun Rundkopp*, and wrote *As Good As A Handshake: The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania*, about which he gave a program for the Historical Society. Teeple also presented a program on *The Underground Railroad in Central Pennsylvania*. We are pleased to have him join us again.

This program, free and open to the public, is at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, built in 1793 by Samuel Dale, a slaveholder in Union County. Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west for 1.5 miles to Strawbridge Road and turn north; go 1.5 miles to the property.

Sunday, February 24, 2 PM

Slaveholders and Parishioners: the Dales and Linns

with Jeannette Lasansky

at Old Buffalo Church, Buffalo Crossroads, PA

The Dale and Linn families were among Union County families in the 1700s who were both slaveholders and devout Presbyterians. Some were members of the Old Buffalo Church (shown below) where this program will be held.



Jeannette Lasansky, historian and author on African-American slaves and slaveholders in Union County, will examine the conflict or ease with which people could be both slaveholders and parishioners at that time. The Dales continued as slaveholders until 1847, the time of total abolition in Pennsylvania.

This program is free and open to the public. Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west about 3 miles to Buffalo Crossroads, turn south on Johnson Mill Road. The church is on the left just beyond the cemetery.

Programs

Sunday, March 10, at 2 PM

Early Buffalo Valley

with Nancy Neuman, Pat Longley and Marj Kastner
at Marlow Hall, Riverwoods, 3201 River Road, Lewisburg, PA

How did Union County come to be? Who were the early residents and what were their occupations? What economic, social, and political issues influenced the lives of the people and the future of the county? Nancy Neuman, Pat Longley and Marj Kastner have done extensive local and family research. Using county documents, maps, and historical trends, they will draw a picture of life in early Union County. They will identify families whose descendants continue to live here and will encourage audience members to share family stories.

This program is free and open to the public. Directions: from Route 15 just north of Lewisburg, take River Road east at light, then first right into Riverwoods; Marlow Hall is the first building on the left, with parking across from the building. The Hall is handicapped accessible.

Thursday, April 11, 6 PM

Spring Dinner & Program

Changes to the Forest Landscape of the West End 1754-2013

by Tony Shively
at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert, PA

Changes to the Forest Landscape 1754-2013, a power point presentation on the changes that have occurred in the forests of the West End of Union County over the last 250 years, will be presented by Tony Shively, local writer, historian and editor of *The Millmont Times*.

The program will touch on topics including the virgin forest that greeted early European settlers who migrated into this section of Pennsylvania. We will discuss early lumbering practices, products made by coopers, making charcoal and bark peeling; the use of splash dams, log slides, and the arrival of lumbermen from Maine, a.k.a. "Yankees." We will also examine changes affecting the forest with the arrival of large-scale lumber companies and the legend of Pardee Engine 59. Hear about the purchase of large tracts of clear-cut forestland, R. B. Winter's efforts at reforestation, the CCC contribution to those efforts and changes occurring in the forests today.

Dinner at the popular Sportsmen's Club will precede the program. Local UCHS members will receive dinner reservation information in the mail. Others interested in attending may contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net.



Sunday, May 5, 2 PM

History of Surveying in Union County

with surveyors Jack Wagner, Alan Wagner and Eric Wagner
at the Dreisbach United Church, 875 Dreisbach Church Road, Lewisburg, PA

Wagner's Surveying is a second-generation Union County firm located in Mifflinburg. Jack Wagner, the father, has been particularly interested in collecting early surveying instruments and understanding early surveying techniques. The Wagner family: Jack, Alan, and Eric, will share their knowledge and stories of this craft. Alan Wagner has been researching an 18th-century diary of Samuel Maclay (1741-1811), one of our earliest surveyors. Maclay was a surveyor, politician, and farmer, and his home is close to the Dreisbach Church. Guests and members of the society attending the program will be afforded a glimpse of one of those individuals critical to the settlement of Union County.

The program is free and open to the public. Directions: from Lewisburg take Route 45 west through Lochiel to Dreisbach Church Road; from Mifflinburg take Route 45 east through Vicksburg, to Dreisbach Church Road. Turn south and continue to the church, on the left.

Upcoming UNION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL Events

Many events are planned to celebrate Union County's Bicentennial throughout 2013

Highlights of events in March to August are listed below.

Visit the website www.unioncounty200.com for details

March 22, 4 PM at the c. 1813 New Berlin Courthouse: **Official Opening of Bicentennial with Ceremonial 17th Judicial District Court of Common Pleas Session** with President Judge Sholley, Judges Hudock, Woelfel, and Knight presiding. *By invitation only.*

April 14, 3 PM **Concert** by Albright College A Cappella choirs in New Berlin; New Berlin Heritage Museum **exhibit** on the town's Union Seminary and Central Pennsylvania College days.

April 17 - June 30 Exhibit: **Gutelius Buggies: Decades of Excellence**, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, *tickets: (570) 966-1355*

April 20, 10 AM start of **Bike, Paddle, Walk, Run, and Geo-cache the Union County 200** hosted by Linn Conservancy, at the Dale/Engle/Walker House

April 21, 1-4 PM Exhibit: **Faces of the Gutelius Family**, photographs at the Gutelius House, Mifflinburg, *tickets: (570) 966-2371*

April 27 **Special Bicentennial Performance**, Lewisburg Arts Festival, 570 524-5221

May 1, 10 AM and 7 PM **Student Mock Trial Court Competition** at the Union County Courthouse in Lewisburg with all four county judges presiding

May 4, 10 AM - 5 PM Artists' Guild "**Sketch Union County**" *Contact (570) 524-5221*

May 12 - 18 **Grand Opening of the Elias Center for the Performing Arts**, Mifflinburg

May 18, 10 AM - 5 PM **Mifflinburg Mayfest**: crafts, demonstrations, food and entertainment.

May 19, 1-5 PM **Cherry Run Walk & Bike**: travel west of Weikert as part of the **Union County 200** from Cherry Run to the rail tunnel through Paddy Mountain. Talk on historical transportation: **Penns Creek Arks and the Lewisburg to Bellefonte Railroad** at rail tunnel at 2, 3, & 4 PM

May 19, 1-4 PM **Reminiscences of the Gutelius Family**, *tickets: (570) 966-2371*

May 26, 6-7 PM **New Columbia's Highland Cemetery Tour** (refreshments served)

May 27, Memorial Day **Lewisburg Cemetery Tour**

June 8 through October **Historical Glimpses of Union County** at Packwood House Museum

June 8, 9 AM-9 PM and, June 9, 9 AM-3 PM; **Battle of Chamber's Ridge** re-enactors' program to honor those from Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties at the Battle of Gettysburg's 150th, Union Church, Hartleton, (570) 966-5052

June - August **Dig into Reading Summer Reading** Program at all Union County libraries, www.unioncountylibrarysystem.com

June 16, 1-5 PM "**Historic Ramblings**" Union County Site Tour (eastern part)

June 17-21 **History Camp** at Slifer House with bicentennial emphasis, *register: (570) 524-2245*

June 29, 10 AM **Union County Veterans Parade** with 1813-2013 theme, Lewisburg

July 3, 7:30 PM **Concert** by Penn Central Wind Band, "Stars, Stripes, and Sousa," at Hufnagle Park, Lewisburg, (570) 524-5221

July 11, 7 PM **Open Air Concert** with the famed Repasz Band of Williamsport at Slifer House

July 8 - 12 **History Camp** at Elias Church, Gutelius House and Mifflinburg Buggy Museum (570) 966-088 or elmstreet@mifflinburgpa.com

July 13 **All-day bus tour** of Union County historic Plain Sect/Amish (1770s-1900), ticketed event

August 4 - 10 **Union County West End Fair** in Laurelton

August 14 and 17, noon - 4 PM **The Widow Smith of White Deer** visits **Rural Heritage Days** at the Dale/Engle/ Walker farm

August 21, 7 PM **New Berlin Cemetery Tour** (rain date August 22) (570) 966-1783

August 24, 10 AM-4 PM Exhibit: **Union Seminary** at New Berlin 1813 Courthouse (570) 966-1783

DETAILS ON ALL EVENTS IN 2013
CAN BE FOUND ON
THE BICENTENNIAL WEBSITE:
www.unioncounty200.com



COLLECTIONS



Archives & Museum Committee by Jeff Spotts

After the annual holiday rush, hopefully the winter months will provide time to reflect upon the past year. The Society's Archives and Museum Committee experienced another busy year in 2012 as we continue to formalize our processes, improve what we do with less resources, and prepare for the future.

Before we look too far forward, it is important to note what we have accomplished as we have built Union County's most diverse collection of local items. As often as we hear of new buying opportunities and receive spectacular donations and financial support, we receive many questions about what it is exactly that we collect. We sometimes have to say "no thank you" for donations and I think it is important to explain our mission. First and foremost, the Committee collects and cares for Union County items. But what are these items? We don't collect Uncle Charlie's pocket watch made in Germany simply because he lived in Union County but if Uncle Charlie's tall case clock was made in New Berlin by Philip Frank, we would add such an item to the collection.

While the Committee is always cognizant of item size and condition as it relates to future storage needs and the possible introduction of items that may contain damaging mold, we are most importantly focused on collecting items made in or particularly relevant to understanding Union County history. Two hundred years ago, Union County split from Northumberland County and between then and now, numerous items were produced right here that are important to our collective understanding of where we were, and to better appreciate where we are going in the future.

As Committee chair, I hope to expand our collection to include items from under-represented areas of the County, including the northern and western townships as well as under-represented aspects of the collection. We are actively seeking advertising items, post cards that differ from our expansive collection, and Union County items that we often do not realize were made in our backyard including tall case clocks, coverlets, early rifles, redware, and the items that may rest on your shelves — unidentified. If you are interested in learning more about your possessions and where they might fit into our collection or ways in which you can assist our Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Society Office via email at: hstoricl@ptd.net or telephone: (570) 524-8666.

We thank the following donors and are excited about sharing recent acquisitions listed below.

GIFTS:

- Jeff Spotts: 23 county businesses' advertising pens and pencils;
- Judy Muchler: West Buffalo Township Bicentennial mug 1792-1992;
- Lois and Jim Dale: 1775 book printed in Philadelphia, with Samuel Dale's signature;
- Dr. Clarence Burgher: 2 long strings of sleigh bells for the wagon shed;
- Nancy Lou Kunkle Murray: 1963 photo of Harvey P. Murray and Governor Scranton in Lewisburg;
- Doris Marino: 1930s yardstick of Lewisburg merchant Francis Baker;
- Karen Nace: CD of Pawling homes, Judge James Marshall & John Schrack;
- Bill Clemens: commemorative ceramic Christmas ornaments of White Deer and New Columbia historic sites and small ceramic plate of White Deer flour mill;
- Gary Spangler: 1972-73 Campbell Insurance Co. calendars, 2013 Bastian Tire calendar, and 2012 New Berlin Heritage Association booklet;
- James Swartz: Lewisburg Chair and Furniture Company/Pennsylvania House scrapbook and trademark registration certificate for PA House;
- Rick Sauers: L.E. Bechtel farm equipment business matchbook cover, H.J. Nogel & Brother notebook, H. Eyer Spyker Coal Co. notebook, 1883 schedule of the Catawissa & Williamsport, Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg branches of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad in original frame from the Lewisburg RR station, ten Union County cookbooks, Brough's and Gundy Hat Shoppe boxes, ruler from Amanda Miller Insurance, local take-out menus and Bechtel's placemat;

- New Berlin Heritage Association: miscellaneous papers of the Lewisburg Building Association, railroad cabinet photos by Lewisburg photographers, photo of the Weikert Store, 1898 souvenir of the St. John's Reformed Church in Lewisburg, 16 photos of Diane Walter, 11 assorted New Berlin duplicate photos and Lewisburg playbill;
- Robert Berger: copies of 1940s letters on the Ordnance in Gregg Township;
- Diane Meixell: Commemorative photo book of the Society's Titanic Event of September 16, 2012;
- Jim Holtzapple: William Cameron Engine centennial plate (1974) and two Lewisburg coffee mugs;
- Peggy Shreck Roberts: Laurelton Village, Lewisburg and New Berlin postcards;
- Debbie Adams Sanders: Shriner Brothers Painting and Paperhanging Contractors invoice early 1900s;
- Thomas Boop: 2011 Mifflinburg Bank Annual Report;
- Bruce Jackson: 1961 *Look* magazine with article on Mifflinburg Fair;
- David Hursh: original 1865 Civil War diary of William H. Hursh from the PA 192nd Infantry Regiment and transcript on CD;
- Jeannette Lasansky: 28 contemporary color photo postcards by Marna Decker Benion of Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, New Berlin, Vicksburg, Glen Iron, and Millmont historical sites and streetscapes; and
- The Noble County (Indiana) Genealogical Society: *The Union County Star* newspaper of 1852, New Berlin.

Recent purchases include:

Real photo postcards of: 1906 Civil War veterans reunion in Millmont, Kenneth Schnure and a dog in a wagon (Swengle, 1910), Millmont farm binding scene, and Spring Garden Mill after flood destruction in late 1950s; Strassner's cap & milk bottle from New Columbia; Bechtel's Dairy early cottage cheese containers; 1917 Lewisburg/Mifflinburg/Watsontown rail pass; James Dale letter to brother Samuel in 1838; and Slear cabinet photo of Mifflinburg Post Office.

Also, 1880s receipt from Mifflinburg miller, Jacob Boyer; colored photo-litho postcard of train by the West Milton water tower; Union County pieced quilt with stars in pink and green c. 1890-1929; mug from New Columbia Sesquicentennial; 1914 Buffalo Cross Roads Grange ledger; metal shoe lacing hook from Frank Feese of Mifflinburg; advertising stove pad from George Proctor and Sons, Lewisburg c. 1900; 1800s framed ad from William H. Dennis, farm equipment, New Columbia; and JPM advertising coasters and mug.

Also Lewisburg Trust and Safe Deposit personal bank with key, Waltman's auto service White Deer coin holder, and Troutman Pharmacy pill box; advertising pencils for Lewisburg: Stamm's, Swartzlander coal dealer, H.C. Snyder, Gene Kolesar Dodge, Buffalo Lumber & Hardware, J.S. Zeigler early farm equipment; Pleasant View Egg Farm Winfield; and an advertising pen for The Wardrobe.

We also added Union County Bicentennial items (which coincidentally are available for purchase at various events throughout 2013) including Union County 1813-2013 Commemorative rolling pin by Pete Wertman; tin berry bucket by Scott Baylor patterned after Hartleton tinsmith; several pottery pieces by Bill Lynch of Penns Creek Pottery; and Bicentennial wooden nickel and ruler.



COLLECTORS NOTE: The Society is provided a glass case at Roller Mills Antique Mall, St. Mary Street, Lewisburg (just off Rte 15). We sell local advertising items, old post-cards, early glass and china, books, and more. Funds from sales support our collection of Union County items.

RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE



Added to our family books and newsletters:

Keefer Family Association Newsletter

Kleckner - account of John Kleckner from "The Genealogical History and Statistical Data of the Kleckner and Gift Families," donated by Carl Catherman

Moyer - *Descendants of Henry Moyer and Susanna*, given by Larry and Linda Riker

Added to the library:

The Chronicle, Volume XXIII, Spring 2012

Marie E. Cutman, *100 Years of Commitment to Communication Services 1902-2002: Conestoga Mutual Telephone Co.*, gift of Calvin Kurtz, Tri-County Historical Society, Morgantown, PA

The Millmont Times, monthly issues through December 2012

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

WERTZ / HAGEY / KOCH: James Robinson, 324 N. Franklin St., Allentown, PA 18102; jadaro@juno.com

FREDERICK: Ron Moyer, 8607 Woodcave, San Antonio, TX 78251

GEDDES: Philip Ladd, 24813 Outlook Ct., Carmel CA 93923; casacarmel2@aol.com

BOYARDEE: John Bower, 1110 Mexico Rd., Milton, PA 17847

BILLMEYER: Cindy Miskinis, 1838 Spring Ridge Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603; cjmiskinis@aol.com

RIDER / HUSTON: Bob Shourds, 610 Ridge Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

CAHN / BUCK: Leslie Cahn, Tallahassee, FL; dedudette@embarqmail.com

KILLIAN / BECK: Jeff & Janice Killian, 4978 New Columbia Rd., New Columbia, PA 17856

SIMONTON: Debbie Sanders, 221 Pine St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

WETZEL / ADAMS: Betsy, Elizabeth Fisher et al., 87 Cochran St., McVeytown, PA 17051; betsyfisher@verizon.net

HAINES / SHOWERS: Bob & Nan Jones, 4927 Bayshore Dr., Seneca, SC 29672

ORWIG / WEBB: Brenda Nelson, 1608 Spruce Ct., Iowa City, IA 52240; bren4carl@aol.com

WALTER: Donna Valle & Steve Valle, 5808 Long Park Rd., Cummings, GA 30040

KOONS / WILSON / DAUGHERTY / STAGGERT: Mary R. Guinter, 1088 Guinter Rd., Jersey Shore, PA 17740

SPYKER / BIGALOW / RHOADES: Douglas Goodwell, 1124 Mount Lane, Rhome, TX 76078

SHRADER / FAIRCHILD: Jared Shrader, USS Guardian, FPO AP 96666 1925, SASEBO, Japan

ROTE: Sean Potochney, 2408 Walden Way, Marriotsville, MD 21104

CRADER / KREIDER: Linda, Judy and Luke Crader, 763 Seclusion Glen, Las Vegas, NV 89123; bondpilato@cox.net

STAHL / LEAVENGOOD: Judi Hill, 253 N. Washington St., Delaware, OH 43015

SOLOMON: Shelly Emery, 585 Railroad St., Danville, PA 17821; semery88@yahoo.com

COLLINS / BRYAN / BRYSON: Mary Sieminski and Jane Luther; hjluther@verizon.net

WITTES / GILBERT / OVERMYER and others: Kathy Wittes, Ed & Aurera Lewis, 21901 Dupont St., #4, Chatsworth, CA 91311; kathy.wittes@rocketmail.com

LINN / CHAMBERLIN: Tom Linn, 9481 Green Is., Lone Tree, CO 80124

SMITH / HARRISON / WERTZ: James Robison, 324 N. Franklin St. Allentown, PA 18102

BINGAMAN / LEPLEY: Marilyn Lepley, 7318 Grover St., Omaha, NE 68124; (402)-658-1693

FEES / FIESS (Henry A.): Doug Peck, dpeck9696@aol.com

OLDT: Libby Stone, 121 Birch Ct., Dahinda, IL 61428; dlstone1969@gmail.com

DIBLER: David and Brenda Dibler, 7660 Turkey Point Drive, Titusville, FL 32780

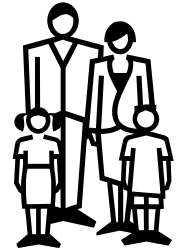
THOMAS: Becca Thomas, 631 Wildwood Rd., Mifflinburg PA 17844

FISHER, Wm.: Sherry Conrad, 124 Airport Rd., Sunbury, PA 17801; 570-286-5473

YENTZLER: Karen Nace, 9200 Mitchell Bend Ct., Granbury TX 76048

BARTO / LYTTLE / MANN & others: Heather Truckenmiller, 4490 Springtown Rd., Watsonstown, PA 17777

FAIRFIELD SCHOOL: Robert Evans, Pensacola FL; 239-633-7345



Research Services

The Historical Society will research family history through search of our reference books and courthouse documents. Send your query via email or post to the Society office.

Genealogical research ranges from the search for a single document (such as a will or obituary) to complete family history. Fees are \$5 (single document) to \$40 and up (full search) depending on complexity.

Deed search fee is \$50 - \$100 to trace deed to earliest county record available. Includes maps of property. Deed searches are negotiated on an individual basis.

DIY: The Society staff will help members and visitors do their own research; come to the office to learn more: Monday through Thursday, 8:30-noon and 1-4:30. Look at the *Primary Source Materials* list on our website to see all the documents and data available.

SPECIAL BOOKS for Sale

Currently available are one each of the following out-of-print books.

*Central Pennsylvania Redware Pottery
1780-1904 @ \$70*

In the Heart of Pennsylvania @ \$45

*To Cut Piece, & Solder: The Work of the
Rural PA Tinsmith 1778-1980 @ \$50*

*To Draw, Upset, & Weld: The Work of the
PA Rural Blacksmith 1742-1935 @ \$50*

*Made of Mud: Stoneware Potteries in Central
Pennsylvania 1831-1929 @ \$70*

Please contact the office to purchase — first come, first served.

COURTHOUSE EXHIBITS



Calendars of the past

During the year, the Union County Courthouse lobby features monthly displays by county departments about their history, and from the collections of courthouse staff and Historical Society members.

Society members are invited to join the 2013 exhibit schedule. Please tell us what your collection is and when you would like to exhibit. We will accept exhibitors on a first-come basis. Contact the Society at 524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net.

The case at the Society office has a changing display of items from the Society's collection, currently, local advertising pieces.

A case at the Government Center has a changing exhibit of items on topical themes. Currently it features items from the county Sesquicentennial and town anniversaries.

MOVING? TRAVELING?

Members who receive the newsletter and other Society mailings via post — if you are moving or if you are "temporarily away" (post office term for short absences), please notify the Society ahead of time by mail, phone or email. Our mailings are not forwarded or held by the post office; they are returned to us at significant cost. Thanks for helping us keep you informed.

COMING SOON — NEWSLETTER CHANGES TO PDF

Starting with the Summer / Fall 2013 issue, the Society will be sending our newsletter to those members and affiliate organizations as an email attachment when they have an email they have shared with us. This saves both paper and postage and brings the twice-yearly newsletter to you with colorful photographs.

If you decide that you want to have the newsletter sent by postal mail instead, please let us know at hstoricl@ptd.net or call (570) 524-8666.

ACCOUNTS

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

I am pleased to report that the latest issue of ACCOUNTS of Union County History is now on line at

<www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org>.

Here's what's in it:

In the first article Nada Gray enriches our acquaintance with Union County's folkloric heritage, Belsnickles and all. Happy holidays and beware of all callithumpians at your door.

Then we bring you a charming essay containing rare information on Mifflinburg's now-closed movie house, variously called the Nickelodeon, Lyric, New Theatre, Band Box, and Pix. Our essay was written years ago by the late Nessie Watson. Although we generally don't publish previously written material, readers will find no better account anywhere on the 60-year lifespan of Mifflinburg movies. So we broke the rule and here it is.

Next Joannah Skucek and Jim Bohn explore the work of little-known fractur artist Johann Valentin Schuller. If you don't know much about fractur, this article will introduce you to the subject and its colorful place in our local history. Maybe there's a Schuller fractur hanging in your parlor.

It's always a pleasure to find that an ACCOUNTS article has stimulated a reader to write more on the same subject. In this case, Carl Catherman has expanded the ground of Tim Ryan's article in last Spring's issue on the pre-civil War migration of Union County residents west to Illinois and Wisconsin. Various families followed the westward-moving frontier and with it the prospect of better opportunities and land, making Stephenson County, Illinois, and its vicinity, a new home for former Union Countians.

Sidney Dreese describes the emergence of public schooling in our county and the election of the first superintendent of county schools in 1854, Jacob Whitman. His life paints a picture of how formal public, private, and religiously based schooling emerged in Union County. And Lois Huffines focuses our attention on a beloved Mifflinburg teacher, Theron Dersham, whose fine teaching across more than four decades of the mid-20th Century will be fondly remembered by many, shaping the lives of his former students living today.

Be an ACCOUNTS Author!

I invite you to write a piece for ACCOUNTS. All that's required is a story to tell, illuminating some corner of Union County history. I can work with you to move it from an idea to an essay, and together we can add what you know to the historical record of Union County and its people. Got a relative or neighbor who also has a story? Pass along the name and I'll extend an invitation. There is still space in the next issue. Don't confine your topics to the following, but here are some topics to get you thinking:

- Weikert Sportsmen's Club and the building's history
- Enoch Miller
- The logging railroad at White Deer
- Billmeyer's sawmill and boat-building business
- History of "Fiddler's Tract" property on Rt. 192
- Hotel Shikellamy, on Blue Hill
- Recollections of Troutman's Pharmacy, Lewisburg
- A local foundry, mill, or commercial furnace
- The general goods store at the heart of any one of Union County's small communities
- The story behind the grave stone on the traffic island at Winfield.

Do let me hear from you.

Tom Greaves, Editor of ACCOUNTS
greaves@bucknell.edu; (570) 523-8880

Once Upon a Time.....in Union County WRITERS WANTED

The Society invites contributors to write our "Once Upon a Time" column in the *Daily Item* newspaper. Articles should be 300-500 words, and about Union County history, including places, businesses, people, and events. Previous topics have included Hartleton and Mifflinburg, the Opera House, Buffalo Valley Telephone Co., Christy Mathewson, Theo Christ, Union County Fair, the Civil War and WWI. You can read all the past articles on our website.

Research material is available in the Society office as well as photos to "complete" your story. We would be glad to help you write an article or edit one you have already written. Articles can be submitted at any time.

Here are some ideas for future columns: the cross-cut canal, Mifflinburg's car manufacturing, the story of a one-room school, Gundy's Hat Shoppe and Mary Koons shop, early politicians and civic leaders. The possibilities are endless!

Let's hear from you soon.

hstoricl@ptd.net; (570) 524-8666

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program

The Historical Society held the annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at Country Cupboard restaurant in Mifflinburg. The featured speaker was Earl E. Brown who discussed "Penns Creek Colonial Flour," and the innovative transportation system of the 1800's that moved goods from central Pennsylvania to the Susquehanna River and thence to their awaiting buyers, as far as the Chesapeake Bay.

As is customary, awards were presented to those whose efforts support the appreciation and understanding of local history, our historic environment, and our community.

2012 Awards

The **Outstanding Service Award** was given to **Alan Richard** of Winfield for volunteering his exceptional knowledge and skill in scanning photographs and preparing photographic images for Society publications and annual calendars as well as helping in the selection of the photographs; offering the story behind them, which provides a context for the image; and especially for his dedication to promoting the visibility and interpretation of Union County history.



Alan Richard and Lois Huffines

The **Outstanding Service Award** was presented to **Linda**

Estupinan Snook of Mifflinburg for serving as the Educational Coordinator for the Historical Society; for developing and presenting programs at the Red Bank one-room school; for bringing her re-enacting skills to the classrooms as she demonstrates how folks lived and dressed as they would in Colonial and Civil War era; for planning the annual county bus tours that take 4th and 5th grade students to historic locations in Union County. Linda continues as a volunteer in this important position that was originally funded by state grants.



David Goehring and
Linda Estupinan Snook

The **Historic Preservation Award** was given to **Bucknell University** (Jim Hostettler accepting) for their adaptive reuse of the Dreisbach

building at 400 Market Street, Lewisburg, now the Barnes & Noble at Bucknell University Bookstore. The c. 1900 building had been the home of C. Dreisbach's Sons' Hardware Company. Much of the front part of the building was rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1941. A commemorative plaque has been mounted on the building to honor the two firefighters who lost their lives fighting the blaze. The austerity of the building facade reflects the World War II era reconstruction. In adapting the building for the bookstore, many of the architectural elements were carefully restored by hand including brickwork, woodwork, steel casement and wooden double-hung windows, the original Otis freight elevator and a handsome black steel safe. In faded print on the North Fourth Street side of the building, the name Dreisbach remains visible.



Jim Hostettler (Bucknell)
and Diane Meixell

OUR WONDERFUL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

We thank **Jack Fisher** and **Glenda Sheaffer** for the research they do for us and our visitors/correspondents, and for volunteering in our office on Fridays. We thank **Mary Belle Lontz** for research and indexing. And we thank **Judith Blair, David Goehring, Tom Greaves** and **Marj Kastner** for staffing the office on Fridays. We — the office staff and the board — really appreciate your help.

Additional volunteers are needed to do genealogy research and to staff the office on Fridays. Training is provided. Give us a call (570) 524-8666.

Remembering Russell E. Dennis by Lois Huffines



It is with great sadness that the Union County Historical Society marks the passing of Russell E. Dennis, Bucknell University professor of education and the University's historian. Russ Dennis touched the lives of thousands of students during his 41-year-career. He graduated from Bucknell University in 1964 with a B.A. in history and returned to Bucknell to begin teaching in the Department of Education in 1969. He retired from teaching in 2010.

The Union County Historical Society remembers him for his service to the Society and his concern for its welfare. Russ served on the Board from 2003 to 2006. He was a member of the Education Committee from 2006 to 2009 and on the Program Committee from 2005 to 2008. He was a supporter of, and guide at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

In the latter years of his career, his commitment to local history was especially highlighted. He developed a masterful interactive web site which told the story of the evolution and ongoing development of Bucknell University. He made the personalities of Bucknell's founders, early administrators, and faculty come alive in his university capstone course "Bucknell of Yesteryear and Today," guiding students through Bucknell's history, culture and traditions. The course was videotaped and posted online.

Sam Alcorn quotes Russ Dennis in a *Bucknellian* article (February 16, 2010): "The major objective is to understand the continuity and change in the intent and meaning of a Bucknell education over the 19th and 20th centuries into the beginning of the 21st century."

Russ led numerous campus, cemetery, and architectural walks, sharing his knowledge and insights about Bucknell and Lewisburg with both students and local residents.

Once, in order to prepare for a Society program, Russ wanted someone to photograph the gravestones of Bucknell luminaries in the Lewisburg cemetery. I joined him one sunny afternoon to take the photographs he needed for the presentation. As we walked together, the stories of the people in those graves poured out of him as if he could not stop the joy of sharing his knowledge from overflowing. It is a treasured memory for me, and one I will never forget. How lucky were the students who took his courses!

And is this not what local history is all about: "...to understand the continuity and change in the intent and meaning" of what goes on around us, both now and in earlier times? Pursuing that understanding is how we learn who we are, as individuals and as a community.

The Society has lost a great friend. He served us all with integrity and humor. We shall miss him.

The Society is thankful for donations in memory of Russell Dennis from Sharon Herald and Jeannette Lasansky. Also donations in memory of Betty Bears from Terence Tran, and in memory of Margaret Seibold from Jeannette Lasansky and Nancy Wheaton.

TRANSITIONS

Our Office Manager, **Carol Manbeck**, has taken a job as Auditor for Union County. Over the past 15 years, Carol was involved with so many aspects of the Society: keeping the office running smoothly, training volunteers and student interns, preparing documents for the Board, organizing programs, distributing books and calendars to vendors, helping our genealogy visitors, and keeping track of Society finances. She will be greatly missed.

Also, Administrative Assistant **Nancy Crook** has retired. She will be spending more time on her business as a buyer and seller of antique textiles and with family.

New to the Society staff is **Bob Van Horn** as Administrative Manager. He comes to us with a strong background in business and an interest in local history. We welcome him to UCHS.

We thank the Search and Hire Committee of Paul Mauger, Kathy Brady, Deb Wehr, Bill Deitrick and Jeannette Lasansky for their team effort in selecting our new Administrative Manager.

Education Coordinator's Report by Linda Estupinan Snook

The Mifflinburg Intermediate School attended the Red Bank one-room School for seven days this fall. New this year was a presentation to the students on how the school day of the 19th century would be structured. The 4th grade Walking Tours were conducted in October.

The Sunbury Christian School held class in Red Bank School in October. Other groups will use this great one-room school and its grounds in the spring.

Shown are photos of students enjoying stops on their county tour last spring.

We are looking forward to another great school year.



Program Committee Report: The Titanic

On September 16, 2012, the Society offered a wonderful program about the sinking of the Titanic at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg. Period music and refreshments preceded the talk by Tom Badman who also provided a display from his collection of White Star Line memorabilia and James Cameron movie props.

Local actors portrayed Molly Brown, John Jacob Astor, Master Douglas Spedden, Emma Bucknell and her maid, and a third class passenger. Thanks to all those who helped the Society clear more than \$1600 for its 2012 general operating budget! Promotion Committee members included Nancy Curran, Nancy Showers, Sharon Lynch, Jeannette Lasansky and Diane Meixell.

In this photo, the crowd is lined up outside the theatre, Tullio Lasansky as Douglas Spedden and Diane Meixell as a third class lady were ready to greet those entering, like Pam and Paul Mauger in period garb.



Dale/Engle/Walker House

Sunday, June 2, 2 to 4 PM

Guided Tours and Exhibits

1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House,
1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA

This historic property opens for the season, offering guided tours of the house and furnished original hearth, wagon shed with tools and farm equipment, milk house with dairy display, and more.

The house is open every Sunday afternoon June through October. *Rural Heritage Days* will be held on-site August 14-17 with demonstrations of rural skills and crafts, hands-on activities and special programming.



Rural Heritage Days by Deborah Wehr

Rural Heritage Days is a special and transformative time for the Historical Society. All year long we collect silent, still museum pieces that can be looked at and perhaps held. Things that can be written about or displayed. Things that must be studied and considered before we can begin to feel their history.

Then, in the middle of August, the Society stops collecting things and transforms into a museum where visitors can see, hear, smell and sometimes even taste history! They can walk among ongoing activities of the past, see them happen, hold tools in their hands and sometimes even participate in those activities,



do those things that were done perhaps 250 years ago. *Rural Heritage Days* is **living** history! It is a place where visitors can experience the past first hand.



And it is an opportunity for participants to better appreciate our past, having done some of the living and doing of it.

We are always looking for demonstrators for *Rural Heritage Days*; people who know how something was done in the past and can actually do it. Activities ranging from harness repair to sock darning; braiding cornhusk doormats to tatting; swinging a scythe to dipping candles are all prime demonstration ideas that we would love to include at *Rural Heritage Days*.



Let us know of your "old" skills. Please contact us if you have an "old" skill that you would like to demonstrate or if you have an interest in learning one. Keep your skill alive by handing it down to oncoming generations. Help spark interest in the past. Keep the interest burning! Demonstrating at *Rural Heritage Days* is not only a chance to live history, it's fun.

Come join the fun of making history **live** at *Rural Heritage Days*.

dmwehr@windstream.net
966-2304, cell: 238-4980

Dale/Engle/Walker Volunteers

Thanks for refurbishing the corn crib building over two days during **fall work days** goes to: Gary Spangler, Duain Shaw, and Tom Rich. Thanks for giving a morning to the cleanup of the Dale House yard and area near the house goes to: twelve brothers from Bucknell's Chi Phi fraternity, Gerald Cooke, Ben Hoskins, Geoff Goodenow, Jeannette Lasansky, Bill Deitrick, and two Bucknell sorority sisters. Thanks also to the Lasanskys who brought gallons of cider and four dozen donuts for a hungry work crew.

We appreciate all those who volunteered as **hosts and guides at the Dale/Engle/Walker House** on Sunday afternoons during the season: Audrey Baylor, Duain & Joyce Shaw, Nancy Snook, John Ruhl, Roger & Nancy Curran, Tim Bittner, Diane Lengle, Dick & Betty Steffensen, David Goehring, Ron & Jamie Wagner, Kathy Brady, Jeannette Lasansky, Deb Wehr, Gale Duque, Becky Mapes and Wally Watkins.

Volunteer guides and hosts are sought for the 2013 season. This is a great opportunity to support your society. Training is provided. Contact us at (570) 524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net.

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

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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 maintain the 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House which offers tours, exhibits, programs and *Rural Heritage Days* events. Members receive the biennial *Heritage* publication, our newsletters, a discount on books and free use of our extensive reference library.

Mail this application form to:
Union County Historical Society, 103 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) _____	Please circle membership level:
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Individual \$30
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Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____	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.