

Summer / Fall 2013
Newsletter



UNION COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

RURAL HERITAGE DAYS
August 14 - 17, 2013
at the Dale/Engle/Walker House
1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA

How many water-powered mills were located In Union County?
Who was the Widow Smith?



Wednesday, August 14, Noon to 4 PM. A fun-filled afternoon of activities for all ages, including tinsmithing, rope making, potato harvesting, spinning, and candle dipping. Meet Widow Catherine Smith! Animal exhibits, yard games, music, pony rides and more. Lunch available at reasonable cost. Free Admission.



Thursday, August 15, 6 PM. Hear author Tom Rich talk about his new book "Water-powered Gristmills of Union County." There were more mills in Union County than you ever thought! Free Admission. Please bring a chair.

Friday, August 16, 6 PM. Take a hayride from the Dale/Engle/Walker House to Grove's Mill and enjoy a tour of an original, working, water-powered mill. Fee of \$3 per person for the hayride. Reservations required. Call 570-524-8666 to reserve.



Saturday, August 17, 10 AM to 4 PM. Demonstrations of blacksmithing, masonry work and throwing on the pottery wheel. Draft horse plowing at 10:30 and fieldwork demonstrations with antique machinery throughout the day. Talk with the Widow Smith! Many live demonstrations of skills from the past. Open-fire colonial and Native American cooking, spinning, music and much more. Chicken Barbeque and home-made ice cream. Horse-drawn wagon rides.

Come and stay the day! Donation of \$5 per car for parking requested.



Union County Historical Society office, 103 S. Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Dale/Engle/Walker House, 1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837
www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

**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 January 2013**
Allen Dershem, New Columbia, PA
Carol B. Good, Harrisburg, PA;
Corrinne Groesbeck, Chantilly, VA;
Marda Olsen, Circle, TX;
Mr & Mrs Gregory Sassaman, Winfield, PA;
Fred Ressler,
David Straub, Lewisburg, PA;
Linda Bolinger, Ralph Dietrich, Elizabeth
Hackenberg, Janet Laubach, James &
Brenda Ocker, and Norma Reich of
Mifflinburg, PA;
Barbara Arentz,
Janet Bowersox, Millmont, PA

Thank you to Life Member
Thom Rippon for unrestricted donation

Thank you to Members and Friends
Gary & Rhonda Boyer for donation for land
research by Jack Fisher;
Nada Gray and Tom Greaves for donations
toward transcription of the Shorkley diary;
Lynn Hoffman for donation in honor of Marj
Kastner of Bucknell University;
Robert Linn for donations toward photo CD
and photo scanning;
Larry & Linda Rinker, and
Graham Showalter/Dreisbach Church for
unrestricted donation;
Citizens Electric Co. for generous support;
Lutheran Community Foundation grant –
estate of Paul and Catherine Ernst;
and to those who participated in the "Raise
the Region" First Community Foundation
Partnership fundraiser



Planting Trees

There is something particularly rewarding in planting trees and no more so than in 2013, Union County's Bicentennial Year. Having Union County school children plant 2,013 saplings in the spring and 200 larger trees as well, is looking a step forward as planting a new tree or the birth of an infant can be. Savoring the old trees is part of that same process, as the bridge to what has been: knowledge and lessons to absorb. As we look back on our history over the past two hundred years— in broad swaths or in snippets and interesting anecdotes— it has involved work and has been both interesting and fun. There are events still to come to celebrate our Bicentennial, so check at www.UnionCounty200.com.

So it is that I tell you with enthusiasm about the tree planting that is being planned at the historic Dale/Engle/Walker property: apple trees—trees that can live for 100, 150, and 200 years—sometimes, if untended still yielding apples on a tree whose trunk is hollow, almost turned in on itself. Apple trees represents sustenance and if carefully chosen will bear fruits that are borne in the summer through to early winter, with many winter apples getting ever better in storage. The apples, depending on type, are good eating from the tree, for cooking or making into soft or hard cider. It is said that hard cider built America in our Mid-west and the Plains but no doubt too in Pennsylvania a swig kept the plowman plowing at times.

The names of the apples roll off one's tongue— Fameuse, Gravestine, Red Astrican, Sweat Bough, and Wolf River. The names conjure up all sorts of memories from seeing those buds appear in early spring, successful grafts budding for the first time, apples picked and apples stolen as well as using one's favorite apple ladder to prune and open the inner tree to air and light. Ah, to crawl up onto a branch and sit cradled beside the trunk. Yes, to work the tree for all it will give back to you.

So it is with those thoughts on heritage apple trees and on new species still being developed, that I urge you to read on in the newsletter about our plans on selecting and planting heritage varieties at the farm. It will be a while before you take a bite, but enjoy the effort and the remainder of our Bicentennial celebration.

Jeannette Lasansky
President

Union County Heritage

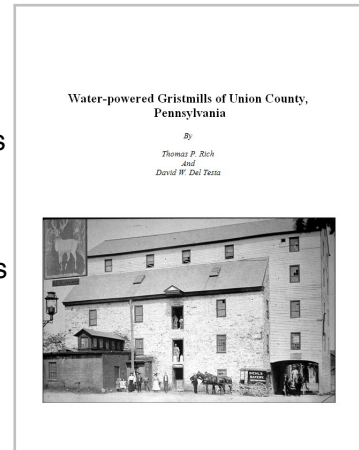
Water-powered Gristmills of Union County, Pennsylvania is the Heritage edition for this bicentennial year. The book was written by Thomas P. Rich, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, and David W. Del Testa, associate professor of history, both from Bucknell University.

In 260 pages of text, drawings, and many historical photographs, the history of the county is told through the stories of forty gristmills and the people that operated them in every corner of the county. The authors made a concerted effort to place the gristmills within both an international and statewide historical context. Along with numerous period descriptions of the lives and times of these mills, the book explains the historical development of gristmill technologies and the impact on the growth and physical landscape of the county.

Read this book and learn the answers to many interesting questions about Union County. For example: What were the first gristmills built in the area and where were they located? What was the gristmill built in a familiar building right on Market Street in Lewisburg? Who was the colonial woman who built and operated one of the largest mill complexes in the county? What is the longest, continuously operating, water-powered gristmill in the county, and perhaps in North America? (It is still in commercial operation.) These and many more such questions are answered in the book.

A major section in the book contains a detailed profile of each of the county's mills. The authors established and documented the ownership of the mills through extensive deed searches and readings of available secondary historical references. This will be a great resource for families seeking genealogical information on mills that played a part in their own families' histories.

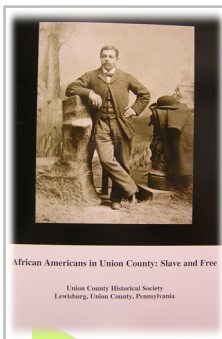
Water-powered Gristmills of Union County is **Heritage Volume XXIV**. This important work is *free* for pick up at the society office or the Dale/Engle/Walker House, with 2014 membership or with Life membership in the society. For those who need the book mailed, the shipping fee is \$5. Members who wish to pay ahead and receive their book, may do so by visiting the office, or by sending a check for 2014 membership dues, plus shipping cost of \$5. Local members can pick up their copy at the society office (M-F 8:30-4:30), or the Dale/Engle/Walker House (Sundays, 2 - 4 PM now through October). Members may purchase additional books (after their free copy) for \$22.50 plus 6% tax if mailed to PA address, and shipping cost of \$5. Retail price is \$25.



Two opportunities to learn more

Tom Rich will talk about *Water-powered Gristmills of Union County* on Thursday, August 15 at 6 PM, during *Rural Heritage Days* at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

Tom and co-author David Del Testa will be at the White Deer Baptist Church on Sunday, October 13 at 2 PM to discuss this special new book. Both events are free.



Members,

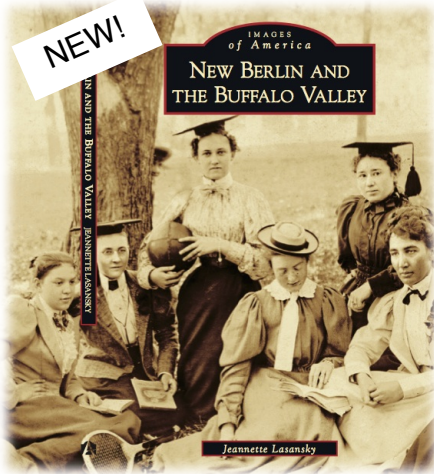
Have you picked up your copy of Heritage Volume XXIII, 2012?

African Americans in Union County: Slave and Free describes the life and work of African Americans in central PA in the 1700s-1800s: Bruce Teeple discusses slavery and abolition in Pennsylvania, Jeannette Lasansky tells about slaves and slaveholders in Union County, Sam Alcorn recounts Charles Bell's flight from slavery to freedom, and Catherine Hastings gives insight into the lives of African Americans in our area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. On the cover: a photograph of Robert S. Miller, gentleman farmer of Mifflinburg, by the W.M. Ginter Studio in Lewisburg.

Please visit or contact the office about getting your book, an important account of a previously little-researched aspect of Union County history.

Arcadia Publications

New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley



This new Arcadia publication, by Jeannette Lasansky, presents a photographic history of New Berlin and the surrounding communities of Dry Valley, Dice, White Springs, Vicksburg, Buffalo Crossroads, Mazeppa, Cowan, Red Bank, Rand, and Forest Hill.

Located in the heartland of Union County, New Berlin was considered a cultural, educational and governmental center for craftsmen, farmers and tradesmen. New Berlin served as the county seat from 1813 to 1855. The town is bounded by Penns Creek – a busy waterway for transporting goods – and Shamokin Mountain – rich in iron ore and timber.

Author Jeannette Lasansky is current president of the historical society, and author of over two dozen books and articles, including *Union County River Towns*, in this Arcadia Images of America series. In this new book, she presents the region's history using the extensive photographic resources of the Union County

Historical Society, the New Berlin Heritage Association and many private collections.

New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley is available at the society office (open M-F 8:30 - 4:30; except noon-1:00) or at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Sundays between 2 and 4 PM, now through October. Other local vendors include the West Milton State Bank, Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, local public libraries, Laurel Market, and the Bucknell University Barnes and Nobles Bookstore in Lewisburg.

Discussion and Book Signing: *New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley*

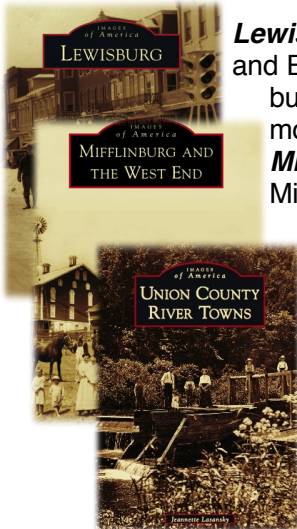
September 8, 2:00 to 3:00

at the New Berlin Community Center, Vine Street, New Berlin

Highlights from the latest in the series of books on county history, *New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley*, will be given by the author Jeannette Lasansky. The book provides a pictorial history of the early county seat, New Berlin, and Dry Valley, White Springs, Vicksburg, Mazeppa, Cowan, Red Bank, Rand and Forest Hill.

Light refreshments will be served, and books will be autographed.

Collect all the books in the Union County Arcadia series:



Lewisburg by M. Lois Huffines and Richard Sauers. A history of Lewisburg, Kelly and East Buffalo Townships through period photographs of farms, schools, businesses, churches, street scenes, parades, the Susquehanna River and more.

Mifflinburg and the West End by M. Lois Huffines. The unfolding stories of Mifflinburg, and the communities of Swengel, Millmont, Laurel Park, Pardee, Glen Iron, Weikert, Hartleton, and Laurelton, through historic pictures with detailed captions.

Union County River Towns by Jeannette Lasansky. Discover the history of Allenwood, White Deer, New Columbia, West Milton and Winfield, Tea Springs, Spring Garden, Devitt's Camp, Alvira and Central Oak Heights through photos and text.

Price per book is \$21 for members, at the society office or the Dale/Engle/Walker House. **To order**, call 570-524-8666 or email info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

SPECIAL BOOK PACKAGES

We have "bundled" some of our books for this special offer.

Lewisburg A pictorial history of Lewisburg, Kelly and East Buffalo townships through period photographs of farms, schools, businesses, churches, street scenes, parades, the Susquehanna and more. (\$23)

PLUS

The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, the cutting edge architecture and philosophy of prison reform in the 1930s, with period photos and drawings. (\$20)
Package Special \$35

Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History by historian Charles M. Snyder. Updated edition of county history with maps, vintage and contemporary photos. (\$60)
PLUS

Rural Delivery: Real Photo Postcards from Central Pennsylvania 1905-1935. Reproduces over 200 photo postcards, and provides a history of real photo cards and local photographers. (\$25)
Package Special \$70

Union County River Towns Discover the history of Allenwood, White Deer, New Columbia, West Milton and Winfield, Tea Springs, Spring Garden, Devitt's Camp, Alvira and Central Oak Heights through photos and text. (\$23)

PLUS

History of Union County, Kelly, White Deer, Gregg, East Buffalo and Union townships, **Heritage Volume XVI**, written 1899-1901 by Richard VB Lincoln (\$15)
Package Special \$35

A Treasure Trove

Wedding Photos from the 1940s and 1950s

The Union County Historical Society received the photography files of Don Ross, a professional photographer, whose shop was on Market Street, Lewisburg. Among his holdings were hundreds of wedding photographs from the 1940s through 1962. Most are identified: among the photographs are the wedding pictures of Raymond Ard, Barbara Bechtel, Robert Diehl, Lawrence Keefer and Genevieve Manbeck, Marian Heim, Lester Bowersox, Peg Minium Bishop, and Yvonne Johnson and Robert Hickox.

Many photographs are not fully labeled. Often only one name of the couple is given, and the spouse is unidentified. There are also photographs with no names at all, leaving us to wonder who the happy couple is. Family members and friends also appear in the photographs, and several generations of one family might be pictured. The Historical Society would also like to know what church served as the locale for these weddings if that can be identified. **Can you help identify these wonderful people?**

Family and friends who would like to have these photographs (they are duplicates of the ones in our collection) may take them on a first come, first served basis. The Society only asks for a donation of your choosing. The photographs are frequently proofs with instruction written on them by the photographer, but the people are clearly seen in vivid black and white sharp photography. As always, all brides are beautiful! Your family and ancestors may be pictured among the photographs in the collection.



The wedding photographs may be seen at the Union County Historical Society Office on weekdays 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (closed noon to 1 PM), in the County Courthouse at South 2nd and St. Louis Streets.

Imagine, finding your parents or grandparents in their romantic younger days, enjoying the happiest and scariest day of their lives.



DALE/ENGLE/WALKER PROPERTY



Sundays 2 to 4 PM
now through October

Guided Tours and Exhibits at the **Dale/Engle/Walker House**
1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA

This historic property offers guided tours of the house with furnished original hearth, wagon shed with tools and farm equipment, and milk house with dairy display in a beautiful setting alongside Buffalo Creek.

The main exhibit is "**Water-powered Gristmills of Union County**," curated by Tom Rich with items from Bill & Sharon Lynch of Penns Creek Pottery, and from the historical society's collection. Society board member Deb Wehr and others – Owen Mahon of the

Open Door Gallery, calligrapher Nancy Cleaver, and the GIS department at the UCGC – have been crucial in this educational/interpretive effort. A small exhibit in the house entry space features objects from Union County's First Century (and compliments the exhibits at the Union County Courthouse and the Government Center, as part of the county Bicentennial).

Rural Heritage Days will be held on-site August 14-17 with demonstrations of rural skills and crafts, hands-on activities and special programming.

Is a Famuse, Strawberry, or Winesap Apple Tree Waiting in Your Future?

It is the Society's plan to order this fall, five different apple species for the Dale/Engle/Walker farm. These standard and dwarf species are from orchards that specialize in heritage apple trees – root stocks grafted with apple types that were planted by the Engle family on the farm in the 1930s and 1940s: Smoke House, Strawberry, Winesap, and Snow aka Famuse, and a Spitzenberg that dates from the time of Samuel Dale and which was a favorite of Thomas Jefferson.

This summer, society member and landscaper Tim Bittner, will assess two possible locations for the trees. One location would be in sight of the house in the area used as a truck patch by the Engles; the other is further up the farm lane and above the barn where the Engles had planted many apple trees in their era. Based on what Tim reports about sun and soil conditions, we will make a decision as to where to dig for planting in March.

We are seeking sponsors now for three of the five trees we have selected at \$80 each, which will cover ordering and planting expenses. Please e-mail, write or call the office if you want to sponsor the Strawberry, Winesap or Snow trees. Sponsors have presently spoken for the Smoke House and Spitzenberg trees. We will order standard size root stock when available from either Fedco Trees in Maine or Trees of Antiquity. There is nothing quite like a heritage apple tree!



Education: Planting Fun

On May 15, students from Mifflinburg Elementary School came with plants and cut potatoes all ready for planting in the raised beds and the barrel planter near the corncrib at Dale/Engle/Walker. After washing up, the students enjoyed eating their brown bag lunches on the lawn below the porch. They had just enough time for a very brief tour around the outside of the house, and a walk down the lane to investigate Buffalo Creek. This is the second year that Mifflinburg students have assisted in planting the raised beds. The class that takes a house tour during the winter returns in May to reciprocate the favor by assisting with our planting. It is a small, but important way that UCHS cooperates with our community. ~ Deb Wehr





SOCIETY EVENTS

September 8, 2:00 to 3:00

New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley

at the New Berlin Community Center, Vine Street, New Berlin

Highlights from the latest in the series of books on county history, *New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley*, will be given by the author Jeannette Lasansky. The book provides a pictorial history of the early county seat, New Berlin, and Dry Valley, White Springs, Vicksburg, Mazeppa, Cowan, Red Bank, Rand and Forest Hill. (See page 4 for book details.)

Light refreshments will be served, and books will be autographed.

Sunday, October 13 afternoon programs
at the White Deer Baptist Church

Cemetery Tour

At 1:00, local researchers Jack Fisher and Paul Metzger will lead a walk through the church cemetery to identify some early settler's graves. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch to the picnic area in the church yard, prior to the cemetery tour and program. The White Deer Valley Baptist Church was organized in 1808 by Thomas Smiley, who left Towanda Creek during the Connecticut-Pennsylvania land disputes. Settling in White Deer Valley, he started a church with ten members and built a log church in 1810. In 1837, the present white frame building was built.

History of Union County Gristmills

At 2:00, Tom Rich and David Del Testa, authors of the new book *Water-powered Gristmills of Union County*, will discuss their research into the history of the mills and their owners (see article on page 3 in this newsletter).

"Ghost Town" Tour

After the talk, at about 3:30, a van hosted by the Montgomery Area Historical Society, will take a tour through the abandoned town of Alvira, an area taken for WWII munitions production.

Directions: From Route 15, take Rt. 44 in Allenwood approximately 2 miles, go straight (not on the S-curve that veers left) to the church and cemetery at 572 White Deer Baptist Church Road.

Thursday, November 7, 6 PM

Long Rifle Makers in Early Union County

Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg

Particularly fine gunsmiths lived and worked in Union County from the 18th century well into the 19th century. Some families, like the Baums, were multigenerational gunsmiths. The long rifle gunsmith's craft was the pinnacle of fine wood- and metal-working.

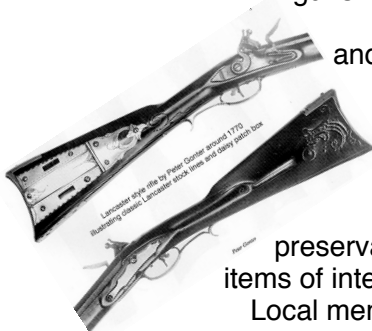
Jeffrey Spotts will share his knowledge of gunsmithing and gunsmiths, and provide a display of long rifles at the annual dinner.

The program follows a delicious buffet dinner with choices of entrees, sides, salad, dessert and beverages. The program and dinner are open to members and the public, with prepaid reservations.

UCHS awards for contributions by individuals or groups for historic preservation and service will be presented. A Silent Auction of books and other items of interest will be held during the Social Time preceding dinner.

Local members will receive reservation forms for the dinner/program in the mail.

Others interested in attending can contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.





COLLECTIONS



Archives and Museum Committee (Committee) members recently had the opportunity to remember an important contributor to our past efforts. Many readers may be aware of a two day auction for the Donna and Gary W. Slear collection of antiques and Union County items in May. Gary Slear contributed to this Committee in numerous ways, serving as its Chair, leader in acquisitions and as the person with the concept of building a wagon shed at the Dale/Engle/Walker house that would house horse drawn equipment and farm items. With Gary's untimely passing in 2006, the Committee lost not only its leader but a visionary in preserving our past for future generations.

Gary's widow recently paid Gary's legacy forward by donating many very significant items to the Committee's collection, while carrying out Gary's wishes to benefit the Committee and Society. Among important donations, a rare Lewisburg stove now watches over the Dale/Engle/Walker living room and can be viewed during Sunday house tours this summer and fall, and in future years. If you never toured the home, this is a great Sunday afternoon activity. House tours offer a peek at Gary's and our Committee's work in acquiring and caring for historically significant items that are important to understanding and interpreting Union County history through exhibits at the Dale/Engle/Walker House and other venues, including the Union County Courthouse and Government Center.

The Slear auction included one of the most important local post card collections to be offered for sale in many years. Committee members Jeannette Lasansky and Mike Manbeck, along with assistance from former Committee member Pat Longley, studied the Society's collection and the Slear collection to determine which cards were not in the Society collection and should be pursued. Many, many hours later that effort paid off as the Committee acquired a strong majority of the cards that were sought. It goes without saying that the Committee now cares for one of the best, if not *the* best, collections of real photo post cards that were printed in small batches, capturing images of everyday life in Union County at the beginning of the twentieth century. While this purchase will pose significant financial constraints for the Committee, this rare purchase opportunity allows willing donors to assist in our continued preservation of the past.

Below we recognize recent donors and detail recent purchases. To learn more about these items and ways in which you can assist in preserving the past for future generations, please contact the Committee by e-mailing the Society Office at info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org or calling 570-524-8666. ~ *Jeff Spotts*

GIFTS:

- Donna Slear: six Jesse Cornelius (New Berlin) forged iron and brass pieces, ceramic calendar plates dated 1910-1915 from Buffalo Cross Roads, Mazeppa, Dry Valley and Lewisburg; patented wooden calculator by Hatfield of Lewisburg, 1811 Lewisburg plot map, royal blue and black Log Cabin hap made by Cora Anna Rute Keefer (1873-1950) of Buffalo Township, for daughter Lula Baker, and a fabulous cast iron Lewisburg Foundry 10-plate stove c. 1840-1860 (now in the Dale/Engle/Walker House, pictured here);



Lewisburg Foundry stove

- Elwood Moyer: a bag cart for the Dale/Engle/Walker wagon shed;
- Union County Bicentennial Committee: woven crib coverlet dated 1813-2013 by Family Heirloom Weavers, wooden ruler and nickel;
- Judy Muchler: Mifflinburg glass mug and Christkindl ornament;
- Dennis and Mary Jo Spangler: *Addendum to The History of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Foreign Mission Day Program of the United Evangelical Churches 1914, and Centennial of the Borough of Mifflinburg (1937)*;
- Tom Rich: paper flour bags from Mazzepa Mills, Burry's Mill in Vicksburg, and Rhoads Mill, and feed sack from Mifflinburg Farm Bureau;
- Jim Walter: "I survived Christkindl" sweatshirt, and paper flour bags from Snook's mill in Mifflinburg and Grove's Mill on Buffalo Creek;

- Joyce Hoffman: Sesquicentennial scrapbook pages, a wide variety of Vicksburg, political, and Sesquicentennial wooden nickels, Sesquicentennial programs from White Deer and West End Fair, Junior Grade Brothers of the Brush pin, photos of a JPM event in 1967 honoring Peg Mathias, 1901, Slear reunion cabinet photo and program, and real photo postcards of the Maclay monument installation at Dreisbach Church in 1908;
- Hertha Wehr: 1982 and 1984 Walter's Sales & Service (farm) equipment (Vicksburg), and large Cromley trade card for Singer Sewing machines c. 1890;
- Gloria Walters: Helen Lyons Gift Shop box;
- Rick Slear: five deeds from 1820-1937;
- George Conneman: 1970 Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Calendar;
- Mike Manbeck: Hummel Automotive Supply, Lewisburg 2000 calendar, and Diehl Chevy-Cadillac Dealership, Lewisburg 1999 calendar;
- Sid Dreese: *History of Albright College* (1957) with index, and *Discovery and Promise* by Eugene Barsch (1989);
- Debbie Simonton Sanders: two coin silver spoons of Margaret Dale (daughter of Samuel Dale) Simonton c. 1820;
- Mary Mastascusa: photo album of the retirement party for Ralph Charles Walker May 7, 1985;
- Jean Ruhl: rare real photo postcards of I.O.O.F. parade and storefront in Lewisburg c. 1915, and Hee-LaDee Council, D.of P. Lewisburg, both from the Gary Slear collection; and
- Steve Young: 4 ferrotypes and 4 carte de visites of the Kessler and Roshung families of New Berlin, the *Singing Geography* book printed in New Berlin by Baum & Winter in 1849 and given to Miss Kate Roshung on January 4, 1854, and Louis Kessler's field book of surveying of June 7, 1858-1864.

PURCHASES:

From the Union County Bicentennial Committee, we purchased a woven queen sized coverlet dated 1813-2013 by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, PA, and a Penns Creek Pottery soup bowl, with the intent to proactively acquire all of the Bicentennial items produced this year.

The Committee turned to multiple venues for the continued acquisition of items with a varied background. Most notable is a significant addition to our post card holdings by way of the recent Slear Auction and other venues. The winter months and early spring brought additions to our post card collection, including real photo postcards of Cat Bird Island, Winfield; Forest Hill Church, Cowan; Dreisbach Church cemetery; Millmont hay wagon; Vicksburg school; and Stone Villa Haven in Lewisburg. Another post card included a more modern Lawrence Motel image from Lewisburg.

Local advertising purchased included items from Steans Pharmacy, Benner Motors, Wensel's, Lewisburg Memorial Works, Lee Royer; Mifflinburg insurance, thermometers from Snook's mill and one from William Yoder, 1985 cook book from West End Fair, Harold Ruhl advertising fountain pen, and a J.F. Prowant advertising shoe brush. Other purchases included Sesquicentennial photos and a carte de visite of Weikert Tunnel with men sitting on top.

More recently, items purchased from the Slear Auction on May 4 and 11, 2013 included: rare real photo postcards of New Columbia, Spring Garden, White Deer, Allenwood, West Milton, Glen Iron, Millmont, Laurelton, Cherry Run, Mifflinburg, New Berlin, Winfield and Lewisburg; and a rare cyanotype photo album by Ellen Shields, professional photographer of Taylorville and Lewisburg, Union County c. 1910. Also purchased at the auction were: a mid-19th century ledger with James Dale entries for wheat, national Bicentennial autograph album with Lewisburg signatures and drawings, a plate from the Lewisburg Fair, an early advertising calendar from the Kelly Point Store, and a ceramic souvenir pitcher of Market Street, Lewisburg, produced for Harry Hoffman c. 1906.

The Theo Christ diaries in our collection, have been digitized by Penn State, having been deemed of special interest to the study of local and Civil War history; on-line at <http://collection1.libraries.psu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/pccolls/id/7909>

COLLECTORS NOTE: The Society is provided a glass display case at Roller Mills Antique Mall, St. Mary Street, Lewisburg (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.

ON LINE

What's in the latest Issue of ACCOUNTS?

The most recent issue of ACCOUNTS went on line in mid-February. The October issue is in preparation now.

February's issue has neat stuff in it: Phyllis Dyer recounts the history of the Dyer Store in Winfield across 4 generations of Dyer family ownership. Good pictures, too. Most of Union County's communities grew up around a general merchandise store. I'd like to see more essays on the local stores of the county.

There is also a history of the New Berlin Fire Company by Harold Erdley and Diane Lengle, accompanied by a piece by Jeannette Lasansky on three major fires, one by arson, in New Berlin over the years. Again, good pictures.

Author Lois Huffines returns to ACCOUNTS with an essay on a diary kept by Mark Shively from 1881 to 1894. Shively was a school teacher in the Mifflinburg area who eventually became a Borough councilman. Some entries were terse: he devotes one sentence to his marriage.

Linda Snook presents a history of the Red Bank School, an 1840s one-room building north of Mifflinburg that has now become an active teaching resource showing school children the way education used to be.

Finally, Carl Catherman demystifies court records and legalese to show the reader how to research deed records to establish the chain of past ownership of a house. You'll want to have Carl's guide in hand as you search out who owned your house in times past.

The February issue awaits you at www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org; click on the issue in the ACCOUNTS box. It's always free.

I'm looking for essays. I invite you to write about the part of our county's past that you know about. Contact me and I'll work with you to put an essay together. Also, suggest someone I should approach and invite to write.

Tom Greaves, Editor
ACCOUNTS of Union County History
greaves@bucknell.edu

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

is a column in the *Daily Item* newspaper, appearing every four weeks (we share this column with Snyder, Northumberland and Columbia counties). The latest articles include "The Battle of Gettysburg 1863," "The Indenture of Sarah Winter, age 7, 1802," "Union County in 1813," "Pennsylvania Canal System," and "1933, The Summer of Prison Breaks."

After publication, articles are posted on the society's website: www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org. Just click on the "Once Upon a Time" box. Articles covering many aspects of Union County history can be read there.

The Society invites contributors to write our "Once Upon a Time" column. Articles on Union County history – places, businesses, people, and events – should be 300-500 words. Research material is available in the Society office, plus 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.

Some ideas for columns: early politicians and civic leaders, local sports teams and events, one-room schooling, stores such as Gundy's Hat Shoppe and Mary Koons', local industry such as Mifflinburg's car manufacturing. The possibilities are endless!

Elaine Wintjen
ecw@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

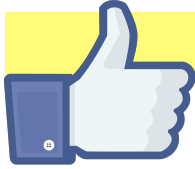
Newsletter Changes Coming soon

In the future, the Society will be sending our newsletter to members and affiliate organizations as an e-mail attachment when they have an e-mail address they have shared with us. This will save both paper and postage, and bring the twice-yearly newsletter to you with colorful photographs. If you want the newsletter sent by postal mail instead, please let us know.

NEW e-mail address for the society:

info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

made possible by tech. upgrades, including high-speed wireless in the office.



ON THE WEB



Like us! Many groups are generating visibility through Facebook, and the Union County Historical Society is no exception. Our followers continue to grow, and we now have more than 200 people who share our dedication to enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history. It has been a vital resource in spreading the word about events, new publications and moments in history.

Over the past few months, one of our most popular Facebook posts was our series of wedding photographs from the files of Don Ross, a professional photographer from Lewisburg. Our Facebook analytics also show a high a number of views for posts related to Union County Bicentennial events and local celebrations, including the Lewisburg and Highland Cemetery walking tours.

With Facebook we have a worldwide audience, reaching people in Canada, Spain, Brazil, Italy, Nigeria and Indonesia. The majority of our followers are from Union County. Our followers span generations from 18 years of age to 65 and older, with the largest number between 55 and 65 years of age. Women represent the majority of our followers at 66.7 percent, and men at 32.8 percent.

What can you do to help? **If you are on Facebook, please give us a like**, and encourage your family and friends to like us. The link to the Union County Historical Society Facebook page can be found on the UCHS website: <http://www.unioncountyhistoricalociety.org>. ~ Kathy Brady

ON THE SILVER SCREEN

Union County Historical Society and Bucknell University
produce a documentary on H&C Grove's Mill

With financial support from the Society for Industrial Archaeology and Bucknell University, Professors Thomas P. Rich and David Del Testa produced a twelve-minute documentary film that tells the story of Grove's Mill operation and the role played by its owner and miller, Curt Falck.

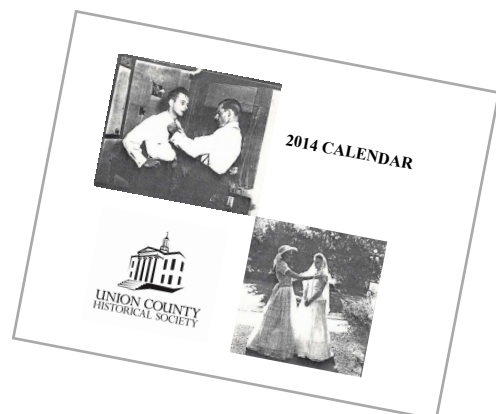
Director Erin Murphy shot ten hours of video during the summer of 2012. Through skillful editing by Murphy, the story of the mill was told. This film documents the operation of the grain processing equipment at Grove's Mill, most of which is over 100 years old. It is unlikely that there is another such mill in North America that has been in continuous operation since 1784 as a commercially operating water-powered gristmill. (The approximately ten hours of raw footage is also now available at the Union County Historical Society for research purposes.)

The quality of this film has been recognized by its acceptance at the following film festivals for 2013: The Frozen River Film Festival in Winona, Minnesota; the Lewiston/Auburn Film Festival in Maine; the Big Muddy Film Festival in Carbondale, Illinois, and the Rochester International Film Festival in Rochester, New York. Tom Rich and his daughter, Wendy Stetson, had the pleasure of travelling to Winona and participating in its showing at the festival.

It is currently planned to show the film at the upcoming presentation for the Union County Bicentennial Celebration: Sunday, October 13: 2 PM, program: History and Culture of Union County's Gristmills with Tom Rich and David Del Testa at the White Deer "1832" Baptist Church.

The 2014 CALENDAR contains wonderful old photos of people, places, trains, businesses, and events in New Berlin, Mifflinburg, Lewisburg, West Milton, Weikert and throughout Union County. Cost is \$6. Shipping is \$2.

Available at the Society office and the Dale/Engle/Walker House; at Mifflinburg Bank & Trust and West Milton State Bank branches, and the Laurel Market.



PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The following **New UCHS Board members** will be nominated at the October meeting, for terms beginning November 2013:

Beth Hackenberg was raised in Mazeppa. Her family owned and operated Johnson's Mill. She fondly remembers helping her father, and all the various sights, sounds and smells of the mill. Beth graduated from Lewisburg High School and earned her teaching degree at Lock Haven University. Beth has retired after teaching kindergarten at Buffalo Cross Roads and New Berlin for 31 years. She has served on her church council.

Beth has a keen interest in local history. Owing to her experiences in early life she is especially interested in the water powered grist mills of the county. Beth is also interested in the Civil War, her great-grandfather having served in the 131st regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Doug Hovey's family lived in New York State and he graduated from East Syracuse Minoa High School. Doug's undergraduate degree is from Bucknell University in Civil Engineering. Doug has been Union County's planner for 18 years, a planning consultant for Cummings & Smith for 21 years and now is a self-employed planning consultant. Doug has served the community on many volunteer organizations including Kiwanis, Mifflinburg School Board and Buffalo Twp. Planning Committee.

Many aspects of local history such as the county's buildings, architecture, history and geography are of interest. Doug states that he is intrigued how past history, events and culture affect the present.

Dan McDavitt's youth was spent in Swengel. He is a graduate of Mifflinburg High School, and Washington and Lee University. Dan's professional life involved 31 years with Bell of PA / Bell Atlantic / Verizon in various management positions. He also owned and operated McDavitt Signs & Awards for 14 years. After living in Mt. Pocono for 30 years he is now a resident of Kelly Township. Dan is no stranger to community service, having served on the Mt. Pocono Municipal Authority, Borough Council and as Mayor of Mt. Pocono.

Dan's interests include county history and the Civil War. He has a special interest in talking with local individuals and the oral history they have to share.



Our dedicated office volunteers



We thank Jack Fisher and Glenda Sheaffer for the research they do for us and for visitors/ correspondents, and for volunteering in our office on Fridays. Mary Belle Lontz provides research help and indexes new books. Syd Dreese is our newest genealogy researcher. Judith Blair, Susan Colon, David Goehring, Tom Greaves, Marj Kastner and Fred Ressler staff the office on Fridays, and help with a variety of tasks. We — the office staff and the board — really appreciate your help. Interested in volunteering? Training is provided. Give us a call (570) 524-8666.

DID YOU SEE OUR NEW LOGO?



Colby Walls, Graphic Designer/Photographer from New Columbia, holds his winning logo designed for the Union County Historical Society, flanked by David Goehring, Jeannette Lasansky and Lois Huffines. The Society sponsored a contest to create a new symbol and logo to celebrate the society's recognition as the official county historical organization since 1963, and the county's bicentennial 1813-2013. Colby is working with the society on other projects including CD cover design of an upcoming film.



UNION COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OUR WONDERFUL SUMMER INTERNS

are a tremendous help in the busy summer months, and we enjoy their fresh insights and energy.

Alicia Pucci, of Mifflinburg, and a student at Bloomsburg University majoring in art history with minors in anthropology and chemistry, had this to say about her internship at the historical society:

"During my time as a summer intern at UCHS, I have had the opportunity to interact and collaborate with individuals who have exceeded the boundaries of their fields and personal passions. Not only have I expanded my knowledge of local history, but have delved into the mystery of searching family ancestry. While writing research articles, my background in art history brings a new perspective to aspects of Union County. My time at the Dale/Engle/Walker House has augmented my experience with archiving, emphasized the importance of the upkeep of a museum, and introduced me to the position as a docent. I hope to continue to foster the spirit of Union County history and the belief that knowledge of the past brings the present to life!"

Walter Watkins, of Mount Carmel, a graduate of Bucknell University, worked at the Society during summer 2012. He will pursue graduate studies in Applied History at Shippensburg University.

"Enthusiasm and excitement are running high as I begin my second summer serving as an intern for the Union County Historical Society. During my previous stretch, I thoroughly enjoyed researching historical topics on Union County, working to preserve the Dale/Engle/Walker property for the future, and assisting members of the public with their genealogical quest. I remain exceedingly optimistic that this year I will be able to find the ever elusive "missing relative." The Bicentennial celebration adds a unique dimension to this year's internship. Being that the next centennial celebration will not take place for quite some time, I hope to do my part to make the Union County Bicentennial Celebration nonpareil. As I begin my trek down the path of historic preservation and presentation, the experience and knowledge that I have acquired during my time with the society will prove to be invaluable."

Becky Mapes, of New Berlin, is studying early Childhood Education with minors in Human Development, Special Education, Deafness and Hearing Studies at Penn State University. She also returns this summer – after her semester in Italy.

"Returning from my European studies, I am ready for my third summer at the Historical Society. Over the course of my studies abroad, I visited many museums and historical landmarks that allowed me to see how Italians preserve and share their country's history, and I am eager to share my experiences with the society. With the celebration of the Bicentennial of Union County, I feel fortunate to be back helping preserve our past for future generations. It is always great to come back and see what changes has been made to the society logistically, but even with these changes, the same good-hearted, knowledgeable people I get to interact and work with through my various tasks are what make the job so pleasurable."

Dale/Engle/Walker Volunteers

Thanks for refurbishing the corn crib for two **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 cider and four dozen donuts for a hungry work crew.

We appreciate all those who volunteer as **hosts and guides at the Dale/Engle/Walker House** on Sunday afternoons during the season: Audrey Baylor, John Ruhl, Diane Lenge, Dick & Betty Steffensen, David Goehring, Gale Duque, Ron & Jamie Wagner, Jeannette Lasansky, Deb & Mark Wehr, Alicia Pucci, Becky Mapes and Wally Watkins.

Volunteer guides and hosts are sought for the 2013 season. This is a great way to support your society. Contact us at (570) 524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalociety.org.

RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE

Added to our family books and newsletters:

Genealogies of the Blyler, Dorman, Kaler and Rearick families of Union County, by Pearl Kaler. Donated by Jane (Ely) Foster

Descendants of Johannes Andrea Sechler, compiled by Robert G. Sechler. Updated and donated by Charles H. Sechler.



Added to the library:

The Chronicle, Journal of the Historical Society of the Central PA Conference of the United Methodist Church, 2013 issues to date.

History of Mifflinburg Body and Gear Co, Sterling Brothers Throwing Co. and Mifflinburg Silk Mill by Jack Fisher. Donated by the researcher.

Juniata, River of Sorrows, by Dennis P. McIlnay. Donated by the author.

The Millmont Times, monthly issues through July 2013.

Northumberland County Historical Society *Proceedings and Addresses*, various issues 1930-50s. Donated by Rev. John E. Lee.

"Welcome to West Buffalo Township, Union County 1792-1992" (historical booklet with map). Donated by Ralph Dietrich.

Union County Times, 2012 issues on CD.

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.

ROW: Harry Tressler, Milton, PA; Rollo813@verizon.net

HAUS / FRANK: Kassie Kenton, New Berlin, PA 17855; kenton211@yahoo.com

HUNSICKER: Dave & Sue Laidacker, 30 Limestone Rd., Danville, PA 17821

LEWIS / CROMLEY: Dennis Lewis, 430 Enterline Rd., Watsonstown, PA 17777

MOYER / HACKENBERG: Larry & Linda Riker, 69 Cloverland Dr., Rochester, NY 14610 (585-381-6701)

WIRTH: Dave Wirth, Box 760, Minturn, CO 81645

WILSON / REMMLY: Bob Crossland, bobcrossland@comcast.net

AURAND: Gerry Shipe, 24 Jonathan Rd., Shamokin Dam, PA 17876

HATFIELD: Valeria Turner, 2860 Links Dr., Boulder, CO 80301

ADAMS / FREDERICKS: Joan Murry, 8522 US Hwy 522, Lewistown, PA 17044

GEBHART / KAUFFMAN: Jim & Mary Ann Ramaley, 125 Tiffany Lane, Gettysburg, PA 17325

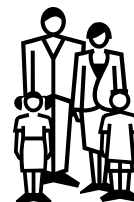
JAMES, Harry; SWINEHART, Civil War: Nancy Eggleton, NE1949@hotmail.com

BRENNEW: Eric Brusius, 570-473-9426

GILL: Chris Rynhart, rynhart617@comcast.net

House at 29 S 4th St., Lewisburg: Paula Harrison, pcharrison@mac.com

1972 Flood: Wanda Holtorf, 123 Rutland Ave., Malmo, NE 68040



RESEARCH SERVICES

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. Please inquire.

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.

Send queries via e-mail or post to the society office.

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.

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, articles, resource list and more.

Upcoming UNION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL Events

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

Highlights of events in August through November are listed below.

Visit the website www.unioncounty200.com for details

August 4 - 10 **Union County West End Fair** in Laurelton. Includes bicentennial memorabilia booth of fair photos throughout the years. Ticketed event.

August 10, 9 AM **Guided walk/climb** to Chimney Rock overlooking Penns Creek Valley. Begins at Union County Sportsmen's Club.

August 14-17 **Rural Heritage Days** events at the 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House.

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

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

September 5- November 16 **Exhibit: Made in Mifflinburg**. At the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum. Ticketed event (570) 966-1355

September 8, 2 PM **Program: New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley**. New Berlin Community Center with author Jeannette Lasansky (570) 966-1783

September 12 **The Iron Horse Returns to Northern Union County**. Northshore Railroad train departs Lewisburg 3:30 PM, arrives Allenwood 4:30 PM. Photo op and viewing; no rides.

September 22: 1-5 PM **"Historic Ramblings"** Union County Tour (western part). Ticketed event.

September 24: 7:30 PM **Program: The Origins of Union and Snyder counties and the Political Culture of the 1850s**, with Donald Housley at the Snyder County Historical Society, Middleburg.

October 5-6: 1-4 PM **"Frederick Adam Gutelius"** at the Elias Church. Ticketed event (570) 966-2371

October 12: 1-4 PM **Mifflinburg Log House Tour**. Ticketed event (570) 966-2371

October 13: noon **Gutelius Family Reunion** at the Gutelius House, Mifflinburg. Ticketed event (570) 966-2371.

October 13, 11 AM-2 PM Twelve-mile **scenic bike tour** of the White Deer Valley. Departs White Deer Baptist Church.

October 13: 2 PM **Program: History and Culture of Union County's Gristmills** by Tom Rich and David Del Testa at the White Deer Baptist Church; 1 PM **cemetery tour**; 3:30 PM **tour of Alvira**, the town that disappeared in the 1940s, hosted by the Montgomery Area Historical Society.

October 19: 9 AM-4 PM **New Columbia Apple Festival** at the Community Center.

October 19-20: 1-4 PM **Programs and events on weaver John Frederick Gutelius**, with the Susquehanna Spinners and Weavers at the Gutelius House. Ticketed event (570) 966-2371.

October 23: 7 PM **Bison-tennial Debate**: Did the fabled buffalo (aka bison) actually roam our bucolic valleys? Orators, music, and food at the Campus Theatre, Lewisburg.

October 27: 4 PM Lutherans mark Union County Bicentennial with a **liturgical celebration** of the Reformation and of the German Lutheran Church in Union County at 1867 Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, 328 Market Street, New Berlin. All are invited to this event of music and service.

October 27: 7 PM **Cemetery walk**, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum (570) 966-1355.

November 2: **1813-2013 Craftsmen's Series** at Penns Creek Pottery

November 7: 7:30 PM **Program: Long Rifle-makers in Early Union County** with Jeffrey Spotts at Carriage Corner restaurant. Union County Historical Society annual dinner. Ticketed event for dinner (570) 524-8666.

November 17, 1:30 **"Brothers of the Brush" contest** judging at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

November 22: 11 AM **Closing Ceremonies** of the Union County Bicentennial Year at Court Room, Union County Courthouse.

DETAILS ON THE BICENTENNIAL WEBSITE: www.unioncounty200.com

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 64
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Membership in the Union County Historical Society supports our programs, historic sites tours and Red Bank one-room school experience for Union County students; 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 form to:

Union County Historical Society, 103 South Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Phone: (570)524-8666 ♦ E-mail: info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Check out our Web site: www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

Please circle membership level:

Student (K-12)..... \$10
Individual \$30
Family \$45
Contributor..... \$100
Patron \$150
Lifetime (individual) \$500

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.