Winter / Spring 2014 Newsletter

In This Issue

- Publications Heritage 2014
 2014 Calendar
 Arcadia books
 DVD
- Programs & Events
 Washington & Slavery
 Rural Foodways
 American Weddings
 To Instruct the Youth
- * Collections news
- * What's On-line
- * Service Awards
- * Research News A History Mystery Lost Bible
- * Dale/Engle/Walker





Film: Surrender! The Sudden Death of Alvira, Pennsylvania

It began innocently enough in Gregg Township, northern Union County. In late 1941, telling residents they were measuring fields for a new roadway over Bald Eagle Mountain, surveyors worked the land on both sides of old Route 44 passing through the sleepy village of Alvira. Then, curiously, they began taking measurements of houses, barns and outbuildings. As concerned residents continued questioning, this pretense dissolved. The "surveyors" were, in fact, War Department land agents assessing property they would confiscate for the United States government to further an undisclosed "war-related purpose."

In two community meetings held at the Stone Church in the White Deer Valley during the early spring of 1942, 400 Alvira area residents learned that the government would seize 8500 acres of their land to build a massive TNT plant. More hurtfully, they learned that the War Department would make property owners one offer to purchase their land, at a dramatically reduced value. Their only hope: a promise of their land's return at the end of the war.

Residents had six weeks to vacate their property. Land was quickly cleared. Barns and houses were bulldozed, blown up, or set afire. From the ashes of this once idyllic village would emerge the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works, the largest construction project ever witnessed in central Pennsylvania. A workforce of 10,000 men and women completed construction of the TNT factory in just under 11 months at a final cost exceeding \$50 million. Ironically, it operated only 11 months before being mothballed. And the land promised them was never returned.

Surrender! The Sudden Death of Alvira, Pennsylvania by documentary filmmakers Steve and Martha Huddy, at the Campus Theater, Market Street, Lewisburg Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 12 noon and 1:30 PM



For those who have seen the program "Alvira and the Ordnance," this criticallyacclaimed film will be a brand new experience, filled with survivor interviews, new and never-seen photographs, historic WWII film clips and a beautiful narrative to recount this piece of Union County history. The film's showing is a fundraiser for the Union County Historical Society.

Tickets for this special event are available at the Society office at \$10 for general admission and \$30 for VIP seating. Please send check, specifying the number in your party, \$10 or \$30 seating, and for which showing (noon or 1:30), to UCHS, 103 S. Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Your seats will be reserved once your check is received.

Union County Historical Society office, 103 S. Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-524-8666 ~ info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014 OFFICERS & BOARD Jeannette Lasansky, President Deb Wehr, Vice President M. Lois Huffines, Secretary Kim Ranck, Treasurer Kathy Taylor Brady, Sidney Dreese, Beth Hackenberg, Doug Hovey, Sharon Lynch, Dan McDavitt, Mary Jo Spangler and Jeffrey Spotts



Welcome New Members who have joined since July 2013 Terrance Straub of Minneapolis, MN Barry Becker of Philadelphia, PA Craig Baillie of Garnet Valley, PA Ardith Wilkins of White Deer Stephen & Martha Huddy of Williamsport Mary L. Sieminski of Montoursville Terri Stump of New Columbia Neil Ulrich of Selinsgrove Dale & Lee Kline of Winfield Kenneth Lynch of Allenwood Mervin Kline of Swengle Kristen Bibikos of Harrisburg Barbara Baker, Paul W. Brann, Dennis Hause, John Mathias, J. Donald Steele, and Aden Weaver of Lewisburg; Doug & Karen Hovey, Leslie & Rebecca Johnson, Karl Polm-Faudre, Jill Shirk, Carol Sumner, and David P. Wagner of Mifflinbura

Welcome new LIFE members Ella Jane Kunkle of Bethlehem, PA Thomas E. Finsterbush of Mifflinburg John Ruhl of Lewisburg

Thank you to Life Members

Jeannette & William Lasansky, Dave Mensch, Karen Nace, Maryellen Paulhamus, Thom Rippon and Marion Wohlheiter for their donations.

Thank you to Members and Friends Cathy Dennis, Ruth Coles, Alan and Bev Hoffman for donations in memory of Russel Dennis; Jason & Ella Zimmerman, James Mauch for donations for research by Jack Fisher; Jerilyn Reniger for unrestricted donation.

Union County 2013: How does your garden grow? *Bicentennial reflections* by John Showers

Building community was one, among several, of the early themes adopted by both the County Commissioners and the Bicentennial Committee for the 2013 year-long Union County Bicentennial celebration. And, from my unique two-hat vantage point as co-chair of the Union County Bicentennial Committee and as a member of the Union County Board of Commissioners, I believe the 2013 Union County Bicentennial observance planted some heirloom community seeds in the good soils of our olde Buffalo Valley.

Somewhere in Union County in 2013 – sometime between hearing in mid-winter at Old Buffalo Church about early slave-holding families at Old Buffalo Church, sketching Union County on a Saturday in May, climbing Chimney Rock, learning of Mennonite ways at Mountainview Meeting House, boiling apple butter in New Columbia and then, finally, debating the existence of the buffalo in October – a unique sense of place about this community we call Union County just simply began to take hold.

You just had to be there at that Donald Housley lecture on the politics of the early 1850s that led to the division of the county. It was priceless to hear Ted Meixell (before an audience that included at least 22 New Berliners) feel compelled to disavow any responsibility for his great-great grandfather Eli Slifer's push to divide the county and strip New Berlin of its county seat in 1855. Maybe Ted could smell the gathering of hot tar and feathers from the resurrected debate, or maybe Ted, like everyone else present, was just enjoying being part of a community that was now defined today as more the sum of its parts than by any one municipality.

The Union County Bicentennial wasn't just about Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, New Berlin, or the White Deer Valley. It wasn't about the separation from the mother county of Northumberland, and it certainly wasn't about being part of some greater Susquehanna Valley. The year 2013 was vintage Union County: everything Union County ever was and everything Union County will become. It was about a common heritage, lofty mountains and pristine valleys, and the community we all inherited and share; it was about a common heritage whether your family was of pioneer stock or you arrived here from Hannibal, MO in 1964 or you just came to town last year.

So a big thank you is in order to the Bicentennial Committee, the Union County Historical Society, and Bicentennial Co-Chair Nada Gray (of Hannibal) for finally connecting the dots of Union County from river-points of Alvira to Shikellamy Lookout, from the Blue Hills to the Tight End and back again...encompassing Buffalo, White Deer, and Dry Valleys. Yes, the seeds are planted in good soil. Let us all go forth and tend the garden we call Union

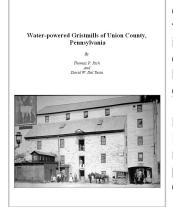
Let us all go forth and tend the garden we call Union County.

PUBLICATIONS

Union County Heritage

Water-powered Gristmills of Union County, Pennsylvania

Thomas P. Rich, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, Bucknell University and David W. Del Testa, associate professor of history, Bucknell University



In 260 pages of text, drawings, and historical photographs, the history of Union County is told through the stories of forty gristmills and the people that operated them. The authors have placed 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 about the first gristmills in the area and where were they located; the gristmill built in a familiar building right on Market Street in Lewisburg; the colonial woman who built and operated one of the largest mill complexes in the county; the longest, continuously operating, water-powered gristmill in the county, and perhaps in North America – still in commercial operation today.

The book contains a detailed profile of each mill: ownership

documented through extensive deed searches and readings of 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* with 2014 membership or with Life membership in the society. Local members are asked to pick up their copy at the society office (M-F 8:30-4:30). For those who need the book mailed, please send \$5 to cover the cost of shipping and packaging. Members may purchase additional books for \$23.75 (including tax) and shipping @ \$5. Retail (non-member) price is \$26.50.

2014 CALENDAR

Great historic photos of Union County including a party for Andrew Herbster in 1946 at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, New Berlin Scouts on a trip west in 1958, the White Deer Flouring Mill, the Meckley family in W. Milton, 1936 New Berlin elementary school class photo, Lewisburg and Buffalo Valley Railroad train and workers, 1963 bicentennial beard contest winners, Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity in 1942 and more.

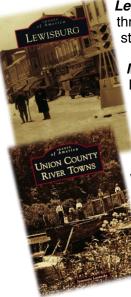


The 2014 calendar can be purchased at the society office, the Open Door Gallery on Market Street in Lewisburg, Country Farm & Home on Route 45 in Mifflinburg, Laurel Market in Laurelton, and at branches of West Milton State Bank and Mifflinburg Bank & Trust. Cost is \$6.

On the cover: Maid-of-honor June Taylor puts the finishing touches on bride Jeanne Grice. Herbert C. Grice, Jr., assists his future brother-in-law George "Bud" Ramer in September 1949. George Ramer received the Medal of Honor for service in the Korean Conflict; he was killed in action in September 1951.

Arcadia Books

Collect all the books in the Arcadia series - each having over 220 historic photos of Union County:



Lewisburg 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 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 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.

New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley 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. New Berlin was a cultural, educational and governmental center for

craftsmen, farmers and tradesmen, and served as the county seat from 1813 to 1855. *New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley* can be purchased at branches of West Milton State Bank and Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, and the public libraries, as well as Barnes & Noble bookstore in Lewisburg.

All four Arcadia books are available at the UCHs office in the county courthouse. Member's price is \$21 per book. For mail orders, call 570-524-8666 or email info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

SPECIAL BOOK PACKAGES

Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History by historian Charles M. Snyder. Definitive county history with maps, vintage and contemporary photos. (\$57.25) PLUS

Rural Delivery: Real Photo Postcards from Central PA 1905-1935. Reproduces 200+ local photo postcards, plus a history of real photo cards and local photographers. (\$23.75) Both books for \$65 *Lewisburg,* the pictorial history of Lewisburg, Kelly and East Buffalo townships. (\$21) PLUS *The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg*

The first history of "The Big House," the architectural design of the prison and the philosophy of prison reform, prison staff community; with period photos and drawings. **UCHS** *Heritage Volume XX* (\$19)

Both books for \$35

Union County River Towns, pictorial history of Allenwood, White Deer, Devitt's Camp, New Columbia, West Milton, Central Oak Heights, Tea Springs, Spring Garden, Alvira, Winfield. (\$21) PLUS

History of Union County townships of Kelly, White Deer, Gregg, East Buffalo and Union written by Richard VB Lincoln 1899-1901. UCHS Heritage Volume XVI (\$14.25) Both books for \$30

The following hard-to-find, out-of-print books are available in limited supply:

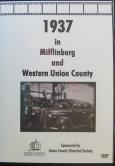
Central PA Redware Pottery \$120 To Cut, Piece & Solder: PA Tinsmiths \$82 Heart of PA: Symoisium Papers \$55 *To Draw, Upset & Weld* : PA Blacksmiths \$100 *Made of Mud: Stoneware Potteries in Central PA* \$100 *Willow, Oak and Rye: Basket Traditions in PA* \$76

DVD "1937 in Mifflinburg and Western Union County"

Four reels of 16mm film were almost lost to us, but they were rescued from the trash just in time and digitized, and made into a DVD, preserving 36 minutes of amazing, rare footage from 1937 of everyday life in Mifflinburg and the surrounding towns. of Laurelton, Mazeppa,

Cowan, Millmont, Swengel, White Springs, Forest Hill, Vicksburg, and Hartleton. This is how it happened.

In 1976, Jim Schwartz, funeral director from Mifflinburg, now retired, rescued four reels of 16mm film from the trash when the old Mifflinburg firehouse was being demolished. Jim kept the reels in his home until about 2010, when he offered them to the Union County Historical Society. At that time, Lois Huffines was researching the history of Mifflinburg for her book, Mifflinburg and the West End. She saw that the reels were labeled "Mifflinburg," but no one could tell her what the reels actually contained. She borrowed a 16mm film projector from Bucknell University and was amazed to find 36 minutes of raw footage of Mifflinburg and western Union County, taken by an unidentified photographer in 1937.



The reels contained images of schools and school children in Mifflinburg and surrounding towns; images of local industries, mills, shops and stores in buildings, some now long gone, others still standing. We see gas stations with their attendants washing windshields and checking oil (remember that?), workers from the KoolTex Knitting Mill; men working at the CCC camps at Halfway and at Weikert; and residents of the Laurelton State Village at the barn. We see a wonderful 1937 fire drill, with firemen racing through the streets of Mifflinburg to catch the fire truck. We see everyday life in 1937. It is not fancy, not staged, but it shows a community of folks doing their work, enjoying their friends and family, and helping out in the community. We see a caring community.

The film brings to life the lost memories of how it used to be. And if anyone was in school in 1937, they are almost sure to appear in the footage. Lois Huffines edited the film, and with a lot of help from local historians, identified the places shown. Now through the Union County Historical Society, the film, on DVD, is available for sale. The title is "Mifflinburg and Western Union County." See a 1937 slice of history as it was-and YOU ARE THERE!

The DVD may be purchased at the Union County Historical Society Office (570-524-8666), at Laurel Market in Laurelton, and from Tony Shively (570-922-4297). Cost is \$16.

This film-to-DVD project was supported by contributions from Dahle & Shirley Bingaman, Judith Blair, David Goehring, Lois Huffines, Robert Lynch, Jeannette Lasansky, Thom Rippon, Jim & Carol Schwartz, Tony Shively, Deb & Mark Wehr, and Mifflinburg Bank & Trust.

Keep liking us! on FACEBOOK

Our followers are continuing to grow, and we now have 289 people who are fans of the Union County Historical Society Facebook page. The fan base is made up of mostly Union County residents, but 81 are from out of the county and 20 are from out of the state. One fan resides in Houten, Utrecht,

Netherlands. A greater percentage of the fans are women in the 45-54 age range. The number of people who viewed posts on the page during the last four weeks was over 600. Most of the views were from the United States, with the United Kingdom, Canada, Philippines, and Austria also included.

The Union County Historical Society Facebook page is a vital resource in spreading the word about our events, our publications, and moments in history. Continue to view the posts and share the page with your Facebook friends. Give us a like if you haven't already. The link to the Union County Historical Society Facebook page can be found on the UCHS website: http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org. ~ Kathy Brady

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

George & Martha Washington and Slave Holding by Jeannette Lasansky Sunday, February 16, 2 PM

While much has been made of Thomas Jefferson's slave holding as a contradiction to his other beliefs in the equality of mankind, less has been made of George Washington's position on slaveholding. Jeannette Lasansky will present a complete picture of the Washingtons as a family of slaveholders. Washington was a close friend of Marquis de Lafayette who, along with others, urged Washington to emancipate his and the nation's slaves. Martha Custis, the President's wife, held a slave who was her half sister. What bearing did this have on Washington's thinking or on his actions? Come to the Dale House, a slave site in Union County until the 1840s, to find out.

Lasansky has done extensive research on the history of slave holding in what is now Union County and some of her work has been published in the Society's 2012 Heritage, *African Americans in Union County: Slave and Free.*

This Black History month program is free and open to the public.

Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west. Go 1.5 miles and turn onto Strawbridge Road. Go 1.5 miles to the site. Drive up the lane to the house and parking area. Signs are posted.



Rural Foodways Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, 9 AM to 3 PM each day

Come by to see maple syrup being boiled down, sausage and scrapple being made, corn meal being ground, and butter being churned, in a demonstration of rural food traditions. Then partake of a pancake breakfast with the fixings being served by volunteers including Greg Bonsall, Bill Deitrick, Diane Lengel, Mark & Deb Wehr, Eli Reiff and Eli Reiff Jr., Jeannette Lasansky, Mary Jo Spangler and Rose Zartman.

Maple syrup, sausage, scrapple, and cornmeal will be available for purchase. The demonstration is free. Breakfast, served 9 AM to 2 PM, is under \$5 per person.

Home school and district school children, teachers and parents are urged to attend on Friday.

Severe weather date: March 14 and 15.

Coming this Spring: DALE/ENGLE/WALKER APPLES



The **Smokehouse** apple originated in Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, early 1800s. It is a red-striped yellow, juicy apple; an excellent keeper, ripens late, is hardy to -40 degrees F, and is good for fresh eating, cooking, baking, and cider. The **Famuse** apple is a very hardy and productive mid-season long-lived tree bearing ruby red apples, excellent for home orchards. Its fruit is delicious fresh; makes good cider, applesauce, and apple butter. Famuse originated in Canada, is the precursor of the McIntosh.

late 1700s, and is the precursor of the McIntosh.

The **Spitzenburg**, yellow with faint red stripes and russet freckles, was discovered by a man with that surname, Ulster Co., NY, late 1700s. Thomas Jefferson ordered a dozen of these midseason trees for his orchard in Monticello. The fruit is great off the tree but improves in storage.

The **Greening**, the finest American cooking apple since early colonial times (Rhode Island, 1650s), is a good cooking and eating apple, with green skin and a tart and pleasantly acid flavor.

The **Sheepnose** (Connecticut, late 1700's) is a large, conically shaped, and ribbed apple that is almost a dark purple. It blooms late, stores well, is good fresh and in cooked desserts, having a distinct sweet flavor. These varieties, plus Winesap and Strawberry, were in the Engle farm orchard.

Sponsors of these five apple trees are Louise Clapp, Jeannette Lasansky, Eli Reiff, Thom Rippon, and Donna Slear.

SOCIETY EVENTS

From Cinderella to Princess Di: Making Meaning in American Weddings by Dr. Deborah A. Abowitz Sunday, March 23, 2:30 - 4 PM, Gallery Theatre, Langone Center at Bucknell University

This talk will present an overview of some changing ideas about pre-nuptial and nuptial (wedding) rituals in American life and culture over the past century. Many wedding-related "traditions" are in fact fairly new. They are social creations of a 20th century wedding "industry" that tied consumption to romantic love. From the diamond engagement ring to the

that tied consumption to romantic love. From the diamond engagement ring to the white dress, many of our wedding-related rituals are not the age-old traditions we believe.

Dr. Deborah A. Abowitz is a Professor of Sociology at Bucknell University. She received her BA from McGill University and MA and PhD from Brown University in Sociology and Demography, before joining the faculty at Bucknell in 1985. Her research over the past 15 years has focused, in particular, on the sociology of courtship, weddings, and marriage in America, looking at changing attitudes, rituals, and social meanings from the late 19th to the early 21st century.



Directions: The Gallery Theatre is on the third floor of the Langone Center at Moore Avenue and S. 7th Street, Bucknell University campus, Lewisburg. Parking is available on the street, and in the lot nearby.

This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

To Instruct the Youth: From Union Seminary to Albright College by Sidney Dreese Thursday, April 10, 6 PM Program and Dinner

Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert

New Berlin was the mecca of the Evangelical Association and so it was fitting to have a school,



the Union Seminary, there. Through the diligence and leadership of Rev. William Orwig the seminary was founded in New Berlin, opening its doors on January 3, 1856. For nearly 50 years, young people, chiefly from Union County, could get an education. Follow the school as it moved from Union County to Lebanon County, and then on to Albright College in Berks County.

The Evangelical Association, whose members are mostly of German descent, was founded in 1800 by the Rev. Jacob Albright, a German-speaking Pennsylvanian (1759–1808), influenced by

John Wesley and the Methodist movement. The first meetings were held in 1803, and a *Book of Discipline* was introduced six years later. In 1816, the church became "The Evangelical Association."

Sidney Dreese, a UCHS Board and Archives Committee member, is the Director of the College Archives and Special Collections at Albright College, and resides in Camp Hill. He graduated from Mifflinburg High School, from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Education, from Drexel University with a Masters in Library Science, and from Pennsylvania State University with a Masters in American Studies. He has been a librarian for over 20 years, and has always had an interest in the history of Union County; his Master's thesis was "A Civil War Home Front Study: *The Mifflinburg Telegraph* Tells the Story."

This program will be offered at the Society's Spring Dinner. Reservation forms will be sent to local members in March. Others interested in attending, please contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

COLLECTIONS



Archives and Museum Committee ~ Jeff Spotts

Resolution--a word that has many meanings. At the start of each year, it takes on a special meaning as one often "resolves" to make changes or refocus priorities in careers, health or life, generally. Unfortunately by the end of January each year, many personal resolutions fall to the wayside.

Rather than a New Year's Resolution with a goal that may be impossible to reach, why not resolve to take a small step that not only helps you but can help the Union County Historical Society (Society) and its efforts to preserve the past for future generations of Union Countians in this 201st year of the county's history? But what steps can you take to reach that end?

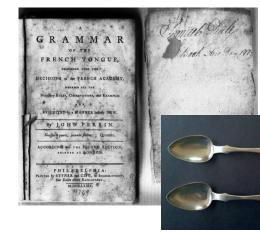
First, we all have too much "stuff." An unused advertising calendar from last year or an item from your family's history that is occupying space in your home or storage shed may make a perfect tax deductible donation to the Society's collection. Other than items that you may not want to part with just yet, a tax deductible financial contribution to the Archives and Museum Committee (Committee) for its continued care of items or a special project could make a very important impact no matter what resources you may share.

Beyond items and money, your time cannot be overlooked as an important contribution to assist the Society's or Committee's efforts.

The Society's collection is unparalleled in many respects, including post cards and items of local interest. What is lacking is the time commitment to interpret the items in our collection. One project that the Committee has often discussed is the need to analyze advertising items in our collection to identify the business, its location, its importance to the community and the significance of items from that business to understanding history. If you are local to the area and remember businesses from the past, your time could make a very lasting impact on the Society's and Committee's mission.

In pursuing that mission, we as a Committee remain resolved to organize our collection, appropriately care for it and expand efforts to better understand the significance of items from the county to the interpretation of its history. Through your donations and volunteering, the Committee's resolution will not fall to the wayside by end of January but will instead create the building blocks for future endeavors.

While the Society does not maintain a public museum, items are not stored in darkness. This past year items from the collection have been on display at the Dale/Engle/ Walker House, Union



County Government Center and the Union County Court House; and on loan at the New Berlin Heritage Association Museum, the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, the Hartley Township Building, and as part of a program at the Dreisbach Church given by member, Graham Showalter. The collection has also been used for research by the Lewisburg Cemetery Association, the Mifflinburg School District and a Bicentennial speaker.

Why not resolve to improve our displays and focus our efforts? To make a donation or volunteer, please contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

French Grammar book signed by Samuel Dale. Coin silver spoons monogramed for Margaret Dale Simonton (Samuel Dale's daughter).

COLLECTORS NOTE: The Society is provided a glass display 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.

GIFTS

We thank our donors for the items that follow, received since June 2013:

• Billie K. Spotts: hand school bell from teacher, Ray Spotts, who taught in West Milton, and bookmark from the James Schwartz Funeral Home in Mifflinburg;

• J. Corbin: various Bucknell University play bills and music department related ephemera (paper items) from the 1930s, and Lewisburg ephemera from the 1950s including the High School and placemats from Steininger's Restaurant and bus stop in the 1950s;

• William Slear: variety of Union National cash bags, "Fetter for Judge" putting greens comb, recipe cards for L.R. Whitmyer, Contractor, envelope from c.1900 for attorneys Linn & Dill of Lewisburg, Annual Lewisburg Bowling Association Yearbook and Lewisburg Jaycees booklet from 1972;

 Martha Huddy: Mauser's Centennial History of Lewisburg, 1886;

• Columbia County Historical Society: litho and real photo postcards from 1907-1910;

• John Moore: Western Joint School District's record album from 1962-63 of the Junior and Senior High School, and cook books from Mifflinburg Bicentennial 1992 and another in memory of Brenda Peachey, 1995;

• Bonnie Stahl: CDs with photos of Myatte Wagner Swartz's teaching days at Forest Hill, Millmont, Buffalo Cross Roads, and Mifflinburg; and Mary Alice Dietrich's old Cowan pictures;

- Rachael Shirk: CD with pictures of her June 2013 wedding at the Dale/Engle/Walker house;
- Carriann Shultz (on behalf of Catherine K. Yocum): scythe for the Dale/Engle/Walker wagon shed;

• Debbie Adams Sanders: old photographs of a ball game in the 1940s at the Mifflinburg baseball field (by the school at Maple and Second Streets), the construction of the first buildings at the Laurelton State Center, the Lewis Township High School, and mail planes at Hartleton; a real photo post card of the construction of the Musser house at 266 Market Street; a souvenir book from 1903-04 of the Center Point School; and a specialty painting tool made and used by Charles H. Shriner of Cowan;

• Ruth Musser: Union County dry goods merchant ledger;

• Betty Lou McClure: 1885 stereo views of the Lewisburg Centennial Parade arches, bound set of New Berlin newspaper from 1816-1817, bound set of the Lewisburg News 1901-2, original town plan of Lewisburgh (sic), many Focht photographs from Civil War-WWI, cabinet photographs of Neyhart's livery stable from 1900, and two diaries of Mrs. Banks O. Daubert 1937-1945, etc.; and

• Ella Kunkle: large framed Bruce Mitchell oil painting of Clark S. and Ella Miriam Miller farmstead located on Johnson Mill Road between Mazeppa and Buffalo Crossroads, hand crocheted cotton bedspread by Ella Miriam Kunkle of Buffalo Township done between 1957-60 as well as cabinet wedding photo of Clark Stevens Miller and Ella Mirian Dice from 1907 and invitation to and photo of their 50th Anniversary in 1957, other family photographs and Mazeppa Lodge of I.O.O.F. ribbon and pennant.

PURCHASES



We were fortunate to acquire the following items since June 2013: An (Allenwood) Ordnance ID badge for employee number 13312; photo litho card of Forsythe Cottage west of Mifflinburg with map and directions on the reverse; cook book *Visions of Sugar Plums* by Lewisburg Junior Civic League; envelope for Lewisburg Planing Mill 1886; advertising pen for Lee Snyder, Lewisburg Contractor from the 1970s; and an assortment of post cards from the Mazeppa and Buffalo Cross Roads area, including a recent purchase of a significant Mifflinburg train station scene.

What's ON LINE

www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

ACCOUNTS

The latest (October 2013) issue is on the Society's website. Here is a synopsis of the contents:

Douglas Sturm shares his experience and curiosity about one of Lewisburg's earliest and historically most important dwellings, the 1786 stone and frame Williams (or Williams-Sturm) house. He and his wife, Margie, moved into the house in 1965 and called it home for the next 34 years. He describes in detail the features of this landmark home, and analyzes what its various features suggest about its construction history.

Irmy Hartung recounts the challenges she and her husband, Charles Hartung, faced in establishing an optometric practice in Lewisburg in the 1950s, including coping with the devastation wrought by Hurricane Agnes in 1972. This is another in a series of narratives of local, long-lasting businesses around which so much social life revolved in Union County communities.

Robert Lynch introduces us to a key historical resource in Mifflinburg, the Elias Church, now beautifully restored for community use. This was the first church building within the boundaries of what is now Mifflinburg. The more-than-200-year history of the building, beginning with its founding in 1806, is laid out, starting as a church shared by two denominations, and finding later uses as a school, a buggy warehouse, and apartments.

Ruth-Alice Seebold Spangler recollects her early years growing up as a child of a farm family on the family's farm, Crystal Spring Farm, in the 1950s and 1960s. She leads us through the twelvemonth cycle of planting and growing crops, raising poultry and livestock, and doing chores essential to viable family farming in Union County sixty years ago.

In a pair of articles, retired **Chief Robert Stackhouse** first presents a history of the Cameron Volunteer Fire Company in Lewisburg, including its acquisition of ever-more-capable fire fighting equipment, and then recounts the Fire Company's battle against the spectacular fire of 1972 that destroyed the original Bull Run Inn and the adjacent bowling alley.

Lois Huffines presents the amazing discovery of four reels of 16mm film shot in Mifflinburg by an anonymous photographer in 1937 and recently donated to the Historical Society. Still photos taken from the films illustrate her article and much effort has been invested in identifying the scenes and people depicted. The films have been digitized and recorded onto a DVD, which is available for \$16 from the Society's Office.

Interested in submitting an article? Please contace me with your ideas.

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

Once Upon a Time in Union County

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 county historical societies). After publication, our articles and photos are posted on the UCHS website.

The latest include "John George Obermeyer 1727-1805, Early German Settler in Union County," "An Early History of the Lewisburg Chair and Furniture Company," "Logging in Central PA," and "Gunsmithing."



Log raft on the river

Interested in writing for the column?

Contact the office with your article ideas on Union County people, places, businesses, and events, such as early politicians and civic leaders, local sports teams, one-room schools, trains and railroads, businesses like Gundy's Hat Shoppe and Mary Koons', Mifflinburg buggy and car manufacturing. *Elaine Wintjen*

ecw@unioncountyhistoricalsciety.org

Fire at the Chair factory

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the Union County Historical Society annual dinner and program November 7, 2013 an

award for outstanding service was presented to **Lois Huffines** of Lewisburg for her years of service as a Union County Historical Society board member and officer, chair of the publications committee and overseer of the Heritage book series, for researching and writing two pictorial history books, *Lewisburg* and *Mifflinburg and the West End*, for researching and preparing the film DVD 1937 Mifflinburg and *Western Union County*, and for energetic promotion of all society publications. Her work has been invaluable.

The Society presented an outstanding service award to Betsy



Lois and Betsy

Robertson of Mifflinburg for over ten years in helping prepare the Society's publications by editing and proofreading the texts of the Heritage series from 2006 through the recently published 2014 volume *Water-powered Gristmills of Union County*; the four Arcadia books on *Lewisburg, Union County River Towns, Mifflinburg and the West End,* and *New Berlin and Buffalo Valley*; as well as the Society's newsletters. Her work has made each of these publications better and more enjoyable.

An award for outstanding service was presented to the current **County Commissioners**, **John Mathias**, **Preston Boop**, **and John Showers** (left to right; with Jeannette Lasansky, on left



and Nada Gray, center). This year of Union County's Bicentennial, the office of the Commissioners has worked especially close with the staff, officers, and board of the Union County Historical Society. With diverse projects and programs for over a year, our history has been front and center. The society thanks the commissioners for their support, and for continuing the efforts of past commissioners – such as Everitt Benner, John Hildebrand, and George Walls in 1906 when the

society was formed; Thelma Showalter, Anthony Flavio, and Franklin Benfer in 1963 during society reorganization and the county sesquicentennial; Dice Miller, William Showers, and Dale Spangler who provided office space and funding; Sherman Doebler, Thelma Showalter, and John Showers in 1976 during the US Bicentennial; Ruth Zimmerman, Harry VanSickle, and Max Bossert, who moved the Society to its present courthouse location to better serve the public, and the protection of early records with the offices of the Prothonatory and the Register & Recorder of Deeds – all efforts dedicated to preserving and promoting county history.





We thank Jack Fisher and Glenda Sheaffer for the research they do for us and for our visitors/correspondents, and for volunteering in our office on Fridays, and Mary Belle Lontz for research help and indexing new books. We also thank Judith Blair, David Goehring, Tom Greaves, Marj Kastner who staff the office on Fridays, and Susan Colon, a Friday volunteer who makes our office displays look great. And we welcome new Friday volunteers Kathy Brady, Beth Hackenberg, Doug Hovey and Dan & Gloria McDavitt.

Are you interested in volunteering? Training is provided. Call (570) 524-8666. Thanks to those who braved the cold and

snow to work setting up our booth at **Christkindl Market** (it was beautiful) and selling books and Family Heirloom weavings: Kathy Brady, Ardith Wilkins, Jamie Wagner, Jeannette Lasansky, Susan Waggoner, Deb Wehr, Diane & Jim Lengle, Dan & Gloria McDavitt, Duain & Joyce Shaw,



Steve & Teresa Wilver, Glenda Sheaffer, Mary Jo Spangler, Kim & Steve Ranck, and Lois Huffines.

A History Mystery by Glenda Sheaffer

As a mystery reader and a genealogist, which are much the same, I've always enjoyed chasing for the detail that will solve a mystery. In the past I've come into scrapbooks from estates and I have been able to return them to relatives that were amazed that property from distant family was not really lost. My most recent property mystery happened this year.

For Christmas of 2012 our children sent us to Erie for two nights in a B&B and on a wine tour. We had a great weekend the end of February. Erie and Crawford County Dear Brother, Your [letter] of October has been rec'd. I am glad offer a lot of history.

to hear you are all on the mend and Coincidentally, can be around. I fear you are all within a month I working too hard to keep up with received an enewsletter from the Arkansas Auditor General about their online unclaimed property searches. I lived in Arkansas for 10 years as a child and still have connections there. I like the auctions on line almost as much as a live auction.

The featured story of the month in the newsletter was regarding a safe deposit box that contained a letter sent to Kansas in 1870 from Conneautville, near Erie.

Susan Smith, a recently widowed woman who was ill and had a disabled child, was writing to her brother, F. J. Cooper in Kansas, about her

unfortunate circumstances and losing her farm to debts. She also caught him up on the siblings family problems which included a sister with an abusive husband while pregnant with her tenth child. It was amazing how much personal information was revealed, just like Facebook. She was hoping things were better with her brother who had gone west to Kansas via Illinois and was building a community.

> A mystery to solve! Online searches provided a little information. I emailed the Crawford County Historical Society with the newsletter, the transcribed letter and my information. I received an immediate response.

Long story short Annette in Crawford County and I got together and shared the information with the Arkansas Auditor. We were able to track Flavius Josephus (F. J.) Cooper, the founder of a community in Kansas. The Arkansas AG told us these leads resulted in finding a after our debts are paid on interest. nephew who then claimed the property. There was also a genealogy of the Cooper family that was quite old in the box to be shared. Crawford County Historical Society was given

but almost every person advises copies of the box contents. Susan Smith, in poor health, sold her farm to cover debts and died within a year. Her family dispersed from Crawford County but F. J.'s community thrived and his family continued on in Kansas and beyond.

RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE

Added to our family books and newsletters:

The Gebhart Family of Union County. Donated by the author, Rev. Robert Stoudt. Schnure Family History. Donated by the author, Donald Schnure.

that new city. How I should like to

famous pumpkin......I think of

renting a small house in

me to do so.....

peep into your nice garden and eat

some pumpkin pies made from that

Conneautville and taking in sewing

putting what money we have left

everything we eat drink and wear

I know it will go hard to buy

Schoch: Expanded Research Concerning the Origins of John Schoch of Muncy Twp, Lycoming County, PA. Donated by the author, Steven J. Schoch.

Shields / Judd Family History. Donated by authors Sarah Ethel Judd Shields and Anna Curzon Judd Wertman Lines: Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association.

Added to the library:

The Millmont Times 2013 issues

Union County Times issues through Dec. 2013

History of Spring Garden Grange #32

Notes from the White Deer Baptist Church Cemetery Tour, October 13, 2013 Lumbering: A Way of Life at Pardee, donated by the author Jonathan Bastian



Recent Genealogy Searches and Requests

If you have information to share, please contact the office or the researcher.

JOHN BUCK of New Columbia: Tom Young, PO Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868, teyoung@verizon.net TEMPLIN, Hannah: Gilbert Wood, 11130 2nd Ave, Marathon FL 33050 EMERY / CATHERMAN: Richard and Teri Wyman, 14313 San Jose, Redford, MI 48239 CHAMBERS: Deane & Linda Rhoadarmer, 337, N. Newcomb St., Porterville, CA 93257 ROSNAGLE: Tom Rosnagle, 1323 Royal Sands, Kingwood, TX 77345 JOHN OVERMYER: Barbara Knipe, 2704 Keat Rd., Cols, OH 43221 STERLING: Kay Thomas, 152 E. Cardinal St., Lewisburg, PA 17837, kaythomas@dejazzd.com STAHL: Nancy Stahl, 322 S. Edgewood, Wood Dale, IL 60191, ndstahl@att.net WEIKER: Philip Weiker, 1644 S. S. R. 53, Fremont, OH 43420 WAGNER: R.C. Wagner, 910 Sequoia Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19128 HACKENBERG / STEFFEN RENNINGER: Charles Hackenberg, 5 Chase Gayton Dr., Henrico, VA 23238 SCHREFFLER: John Mulfinger, 200 Bluebird, Bellefonte, PA 16823; Edw. Mulfinger, 244 S. Main St., Pleasant Gap, PA 18623 KUMMEL: Barry Becker, 229 W. Upsal, Philadelphia, PA 19119 BROUSE / SHIRK / WINKELBLECK: Joan Mowry, 8522 US Hwy 522 S., Lewistown, PA 17044 ETTINGER: Randy Eddinger, 5110 Wilson Rd., Geneva, NY, scanman1@frontier.net SHEMORY / MITCHEL: Tom Finsterbush, 1770 Penns Creek Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844 WERTZ / HAGEY / KOCH / HOOD / RANCK: James Robison, 324 N. Front St., Allentown, PA 18107 CALWELL / HUFF: Kristen Bibikos, bibikos@comcast.net KUNKEL, George and Samuel / BENFER: Isaac Kunkel, 119 Twig Lane, Sunbury, PA 17801 EYER: Joseph Eyer Rohrbaugh, 29643 Golden Ridge Dr., Ashburn, VA 20147, soesuer@verizon.net BOWER, Isaac: Marcia Bower Power, 1211 Eagle Nest Lane, Knoxville, TN 37922; Christine Bower Edge, 675 Strand Pond, Webster NY 14580 FETTER, Elizabeth A.: Barbara Hubler, PO Box 332, New Berlin, PA 17855, barbara123a@yahoo.com FISHER, Johannes John: Bert Fisher, 16600 Artistic Dr., E. Liverpool, OH 43920, fisherohio@comcast.net STRAUB: Terry Straub, 49 Melbourne Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN, straubMN@gmail.com SLIFER: Bob Ryan, 48 Cherrywood, Lewisburg, PA 17837 OVERMEYER: Lynn Peotter, 1069 Holly St., Neenah, WI 54956 LLOYD: Todd Enders, 246 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844, enders.todd@gmail.com COLLINS / BRYAN: M. Sieminski, 419 Shady Knoll, Montoursville, PA, mlsieminski@gmail.com DAUBERMAN: Marshall & Jana Dauberman, 14015 Clarksville Pike, Highland, MD 20777 RENNINGER / SPOTZ: Susan Funk, 6792 Alloway St. W., Worthington, OH 43085 SPIGELMYER / CHAMBER: Craig & Nancy Baillie, 139 Mattson Rd., Garnet Valley, PA 19060, craiqbaillie@verizon.net BOTTS: Steven Botts, 750 N. 8th St. #13, Sunbury, PA 17801 PAWLING / HUMMEL: Karen Nace, Granbury TX, kenace@sbcglobal.net PETERS: John Peters, 230 Mt. Joy Rd., Clearfield, PA 16830, jcglpeters@verizon.net RENGLER: Robert Stoudt, bobstoudt@aol.com KESTER / KEISTER: LeRoy Kester, 811 Pennsylvania Ave., Story City, IA 50248 SHIELDS / JUDD: Steve & Patty Shields, scshields1@comcast.net TEMPLETON / BEATY / WALKER: Gary & Elizabeth Simons, PO Box 421, Crosslake, MN 56442, betznbobo@aol.com MIDDLESWORTH, John: Janelle Long, 332 Ridge Rd., New Columbia, PA 17856 LOHR / ROSS / KAHL /MACK: Jackie and Mackenzie Bilger, 800 Black Run Rd., Lewisburg, PA 17837

PHI GAMMA DELTA: Ed Robinson, Vienna VA, ed_robinson@hotmail.com, 703-395-6140 COWAN, Union County: Janet Laubach, Old Orchard Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844 POW-WOWING: Carlene Hack, 163 Juniata View Dr., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Lost Family Bible

We are trying to locate an old Seagrist / Siegrist family German Bible.

The Siegrist Bible was sold at a U.S.G. Bubb estate sale in Milton in 1958 and at an A.L Shadle estate sale in 1964, also in Milton.

The Bible is said to be about 450 years old, brought from Zurich, Switzerland to Pennsylvania in 1727. Immigrant MIchael Siegrist sailed from Rotterdam, Holland on the ship James Goodwill with his wife and children. The family landed in Philadelphia on September 27, 1727 and settled in Lancaster County, where the children grew to adulthood. The Bible is said to contain significant Siegrist family records.

Seeking: any information on the location of the Bible, current owner or transfer of ownership after 1964.

Please contact UCHS member Luke Weaver at 570-524-7998 or weavers@pcfreemail.com. Or contact Jay Donald Siegrist & Joanne Hess Siegrist at 717-656-6429 or 717-471-3999; jhs606@frontier.net

RESEARCH FEES

Researchers at UCHS will conduct searches for past family members, property and historical events.

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 to the society office.

DIY: The Society staff will help members and visitors do their own research in the UCHS office and courthouse: Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 4:30 o(ffice closed noon to 1).

Check the *Primary Source Materials* list on our website to see all the documents and data available.

PROJECT: Transcribe the diaries of Theo Christ of Lewisburg

UCHS has been invited to participate in a project for Sabra Statham, Project Coordinator of The People's Contest, at Penn State University:

"We are testing an online transcription tool and need some people to transcribe the Christ diary volumes. It would all be done remotely and online. Visit this link http://

exhibits.libraries.psu.edu/peoplescontest/transcribe-it and select the Christ diaries and then you can see the online transcription tool. Users should log in first so they and we can track them. The 2-volume diary is 140 pages per volume."

Sabra will come to Union County to instruct on the project if that would be helpful. Or she can be reached at 814-360-8359 (work phone) or siw101@psu.edu (email).

Those who are interested in participating, please contact Sabra and UCHS.

Newsletter Changes

The Society newsletter will now be sent as an e-mail attachment to members and affiliate organizations who have given us an e-mail address. This will bring the newsletter to you quickly and 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.

Dale / Engle/ Walker Property

Update ~ Jeannette Lasansky, Property Manager

As the Society's ownership of the 1793 Samuel Dale House starts its 13th year, we have entered a stage of more substantial maintenance. With the receipt last year of memorial money dedicated to the interest in the property by former house guide and interpreter, board and education committee member, Russell Dennis, we will be better able to address some of the items on which time has exacted its toll. In July, for instance, Eric Ludovico donated his labor to install the irrigaton system at the house. We hope to receive other gifts of money or labor that will help us with large and small maintenance items.



The standing seam roof put on in 2001 replaced a slate roof that may have replaced original cedar shakes. Last year we saw our first rust spot develop and we painted over it. We are aware that as long as we paint and maintain the roof that it will be a roof for the lifetime of the building. Also, some of our shutters are over 100 years old and are beginning to be beyond repair so their replacement is in order.

As in every year, we attended to repair or replacement of some of the building's fabric—this year, some porch floor boards. More is ahead in 2014—repainting the blue porch ceiling and additional repainting along the exposed edges of our long porch floor. Financial support and volunteer time make a large job get done and faster.

This past November we saw a banner work day with Bucknell University students: 30 from the women's lacrosse team and others from the Bucknell Botany Club, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Alpha Phi Omega, who were supervised by many of our members: Tim & Brooke Bittner, Dan McDavitt, Janet Bowersox, Bill Deitrick, Deb & Mark Wehr, Doug Hovey, and Beth Hackenberg, along with Linn Conservancy members: Geoff Goodenow and Tom Travis. We got everything on our list accomplished including digging holes for the heritage species of apple trees that we will be planting at a spring work day. Let the office or me know if you want to join us. The more the merrier. Drink and donuts supplied by the Lasanskys will help the workers work ever better.

New events are planned for the Society's 18th-Century farm property ~ Deb Wehr

Rural Heritage Day will move to Saturday, July 12th in 2014. The activities of "Children's Day"

like the well-loved games, animal exhibits, corn dolly making, and pony rides, will be added to Saturday agenda.

The *Rural Heritage Day* theme for 2014 is "Learning" and will highlight apprenticeships; the



traditions of passing down information by word-ofmouth and example; oneroom school education and early academies; Chautauqua tent

gatherings that came to the area and fairs; early Sunday school organizations as well

as major institutions of learning such as New Berlin's Union Seminary and Central College. The "Learning" theme will be carried out in many ways at *Rural Heritage Day* including an exhibit at the Dale/ Engle/Walker House in the summer and fall months of 2014.





The Dale/Engle/Walker House, the Wagon Shed and Milk House will be open for tours and exhibits on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 beginning June 1.

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

Return Service Requested

Membership in the Union County Historical Society supports programs, historic sites tours and Red Bank oneroom school experience for 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* events. Members receive the biennial *Heritage* book, 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 (570)524-8666 ◊ info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org ◊ www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

			Please circle membership level:	
Name(s)			Student (K-12)	\$10
Address			Individual	\$30
			Family	\$45
City	_ State Z	_ ZIP	Contributor	\$100
Email			Patron	\$150
Phone (H)	Phone (W)		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.

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.