

Fall 2014  
Newsletter



### ***Beginning Genealogy***

**Thursday, September 18, 7 PM**

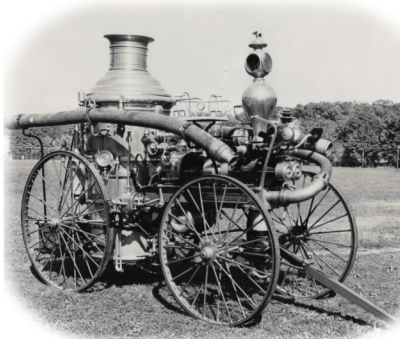
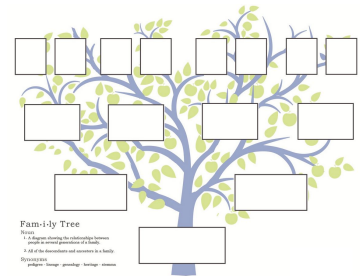
**at the Union County Public Library,**

**255 Reitz Blvd, off Route 45 or Route 192, Lewisburg**

Glenda Sheaffer of Mifflinburg, a UCHS volunteer researcher, and an avid genealogist, will present *Beginning Genealogy*.

Participants will learn how to begin their genealogy quest, receiving information on the latest web sites, and the resources the Union County Public Library and the Union County Historical Society have available for the public. Participants will also learn how to properly log and maintain their information. Sign up at 570-524-8666.

The program is free and open to the public.



### ***Fire Safety***

**Thursday, October 9, 7 PM**

**at the William Cameron Fire Museum,**

**11 Buffalo Rd & N. 5th St., just off Route 15, Lewisburg**

The UCHS will observe Fire Safety Month with a guided tour of the Wm. Cameron Fire Museum at its fire hall, featuring an exhibit of antique fire fighting equipment and the history of the William Cameron Engine Company. We will see the original, horse-drawn pumper wagon used to fight fires in Lewisburg at the turn of the past century and much more. The Wm. Cameron Engine Company has a rich and well-preserved history, and continues to serve local communities today.

This free program is suitable for adults and children.

### ***The History of Fire Fighting in New Berlin***

**Thursday, November 6, 6 PM**

Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program

**at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg**

We will continue our appreciation of firefighters of our area at the annual dinner. Harold "J.R." Erdley of Mifflinburg will speak about the history of fire fighting in New Berlin. J.R. Erdley is a charter member of Lewisburg Professional Fire Fighters and EMTs, and the Sergeant at William Cameron Engine Company in Lewisburg.

The program follows a buffet dinner with choices of entrees, sides, salad, dessert, beverages.

Awards for contributions by individuals or groups for historic preservation and service will be presented. A Silent Auction 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](mailto:info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org).

### **Special program incentive for members**

Attend four programs during the year, beginning with the upcoming events, and receive FREE the definitive county history book *Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History* by Charles M. Snyder.

**Union County Historical Society** office, 103 S. Second Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

570-524-8666 ~ [info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

[www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://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,  
Jeffrey Spotts and Eric Wagner



**Welcome New Members  
who have joined since July 2013**

Carol Kehler, Bromall, PA  
James & Karen Marinaccio, Danville, PA  
Wilbert & Ann Musser, Chillicothe, Ohio  
Michelle Sanders, Mifflinburg, PA  
Leo Mendonca & Karen Hackman,  
Lewisburg, PA  
Mike Molesevich, Lewisburg, PA  
Carol Thomas, Lewisburg, PA  
Eric Wagner, Mifflinburg, PA  
Russell Wells, Winfield, PA  
Mary Zimmerman, Lewisburg, PA  
Marcia Falconer, Nepean, Ontario

**Thank you to Life Members**

David Goehring, Vesta Bowers,  
and William & Jeannette Lasansky  
for their donations.

**Thank you**

to Lois Huffines for donation for the  
West End Fair booth fee.

**Thank you**

to Philip Bobko of Gettysburg, PA for new  
membership in honor of Russell Dennis.

**Thank you to the members and friends**  
who donated during the Raise the Region  
fundraiser of the First Community  
Foundation in March 2014.



The President's Message

There are transforming experiences that excite and inform us in lasting ways. This past spring two such events were presented by the Union County Historical Society.



In early May, Rafe Martin, renowned story teller and author, told oral tradition-based stories in the Elias Centre for the Performing Arts in Mifflinburg. The ambiance of the Elias Centre framed Rafe's voice and hands that together crafted magical moments for those in attendance. The following morning, Martin conducted a workshop there for homeschooling parents, a librarian, grandparents, other story tellers, and docents or staff from the Gutelius House, Preservation Mifflinburg, and the Muncy and Union County historical societies. Those present made a journey with Rafe and *The Woolly Mammoth*. All experienced first hand the power and possibilities of sharing our sites' "stories." This very special opportunity was afforded to all ages by the underwriting of the Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts. We are pleased to have asked for the Foundation's support and to have received it.

In late March, the UCHS presented two sold out, back-to-back showings of Steve and Martha Huddy's, documentary film *Surrender* about the taking in 1942 of the town of Alvira including 8,400 acres of the White Deer Valley, Gregg Township. Shown at the 1941 Campus Theatre, it was overwhelming to hear and see this tale set in WWII and to witness hundreds in the audience taking in this story in the restored space of the Art Deco movie house in Lewisburg. The telling was compelling — of the greater society's needs pressing on the few —but then of the betrayal in the end: of unkept promises the return of the land at the War's conclusion. *Surrender* is a beautifully done documentary but the story is wrenching.

Like the storytelling events, *Surrender* transformed its audience. The Q&A session at Bucknell University Barnes & Noble's community room provided an opportunity to be with the Huddys just a bit longer. We are fortunate to have volunteers think of — then nurture — such events with the underwriting and support of organizations, businesses, and individuals.

If you missed any of these please keep in formed of "what is next" via the Society's newsletter, e-mail, web site or Facebook page. You can't go wrong.

*Jeannette Lasansky*

What's ON LINE at [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**ACCOUNTS:  
Call for essays!**

Become a published author. Make permanent what you know of our county's history.

We invite Society members to contribute essays to the Society's on-line journal, *ACCOUNTS of Union County History* – now in its 4th year of publication with six articles per issue. If you haven't looked at ACCOUNTS you can find any issue simply by going to [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org) and clicking on an issue in the ACCOUNTS box.

In the most recent issue you'll find essays on Lewisburg's airport, a first-hand account of the 1972 flood, essays about the first Indians to inhabit the Susquehanna valley, how Lewisburgh lost its 'h,' what the 1790 census reveals about the people of the county before there was a Union County, and a study of the county's most widely found building, its barns.

Essays can be about historic episodes, people, buildings, businesses, groups, families, celebrations, and the countless other items that make up Union County's history. You don't have to be an expert, an experienced author, or trained researcher: just put down what you know. ACCOUNTS articles range from 4 to 12 double-spaced pages in length. Additional guidance is found at the end of every issue.

We are ready to work with you to shape a draft and prepare it for publication. Just get in touch with either of us. Know someone else whom we should contact about authoring an essay? Let us know and we'll do the inviting. We want to hear from you.

Let's not allow the history we know today to disappear tomorrow.

*Tom Greaves, greaves@bucknell.edu*

*Sidney Dreese, sdreese@alb.edu*

Co-Editors of ACCOUNTS of Union County History

***Once Upon a Time in Union County:*  
Contributors sought!**

Want to see your name in print? Write a column on Union County history.

*Once Upon a Time in Union County* is a column in the *Daily Item* newspaper, appearing every four weeks since 2008 (alternating with Snyder, Northumberland and Columbia county historical societies). After publication, articles and photos are posted on the UCHS website: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org); click on the *Once Upon a Time* box for all past articles.

The latest columns include *D-Day and Local War News, Samuel Wolfe, The Old Log Academy and the Lewisburg Academy and A Village Dies in Union County*.

Articles can be about any time in local history, from late 1700s, through the developments of the 1800s and 1900s; about a person, groups of people, or a place, a business or historic event. Articles are 300-600 words. Photos are a nice addition, supplied by you or from the society collection.

As with ACCOUNTS, you do not need to be an experienced writer, just interested in an aspect of local history and willing to do a little research. We will supply all the support you need.

Or perhaps there is a topic you would like the UCHS staff to research and write about.

Contact or visit the office with your article ideas on Union County events, people, places, and businesses. We would be delighted to work with you to capture Union County history.

*Elaine Wintjen*

[ecw@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:ecw@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Keep liking us! on FACEBOOK**



Our fans continue to grow. Since January of this year we have acquired 27 more likes or followers bringing our total to 316. That means that every time a posting is placed on the Facebook page, 316 people will be informed. In the last 28 days, 747 people were served by the postings on the Facebook page. Of those reached, 730 were from the United States, 12 from Canada, 2 from Australia, 1 from New Zealand, 1 from Luxembourg, and 1 from the United Kingdom. Those reached in the United States were from Livingston, New Jersey on the east coast to Bakersfield, California on the west coast. Facebook has given the Union County Historical Society another opportunity to enhance and make more visible the history of Union County not only to our residents but to people all over the world. Continue to view the posts and share the page with your Facebook friends. Hit the "like" button and keep informed on the news from the Union County Historical Society. The link to the Union County Historical Society Facebook page can be found on the UCHS website: <http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org>. ~ *Kathy Brady*

## The Publishing Goes On...

The 2013 Bicentennial of Union County was a banner year for Union County Historical Society publications. The year saw the publication of the fourth volume of the Arcadia series on Union County with the title, *New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley*, authored by Jeannette Lasansky; the Heritage special bicentennial volume, *Water-powered Gristmills of Union County Pennsylvania*, authored by Thomas Rich and David Del Testa; and the popular DVD *1937 in Mifflinburg and Western Union County*, produced by Lois Huffines. These publications significantly advanced the visibility of Union County history and of the Union County Historical Society.

The publication banner year continues. In 2014, preparations are well underway for the next biennial Heritage volume for 2016, entitled *History of Funerals and Funeral Directing in Union County, Pennsylvania*, authored by James L. and Carol G. Schwartz. This volume, due out in August of 2015, will offer a unique perspective on Union County history, and in addition to the history of the profession, it will include narratives by Union County funeral directors themselves or their descendants, offering readers very specific and individual perspectives from professionals committed to the community.

For those interested in the topic of the Heritage volume for 2018, Chris Macneal, senior associate of the Kieran Timberlake architectural firm in Philadelphia, will author a book tentatively entitled, *Vernacular Architecture of Union County*, which will look at log and early frame structures in rural farm areas. While still in high school, Macneal spent weekends biking around the county taking pictures and measurements. His analysis will be the first of its kind for the county.

Best of all, with these exciting and important Heritages on the horizon, Union County Historical Society members will receive a copy of each biennial Heritage as part of their annual membership dues. Build your own personal library on Union County History as every other year a new Heritage is published relating new research and analyses.

~ M. Lois Huffines

## Calendar

The Society's 2015 calendar has historic photos of New Berlin, West Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and the West End featuring school children, a Chautauqua circle, a baseball team, workers and hunters, businesses and street scenes.

The 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. The calendar debuts at New Berlin Day, Saturday, August 23. Cost is only \$6.



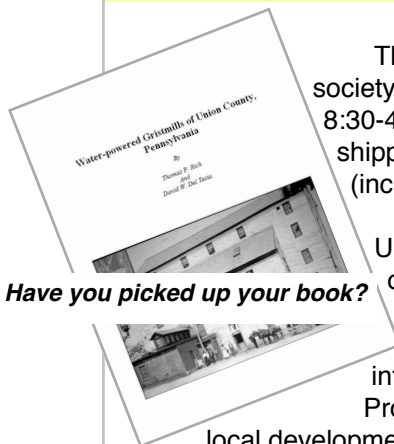
## Union County Heritage

### ***Water-powered Gristmills of Union County ~ 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.

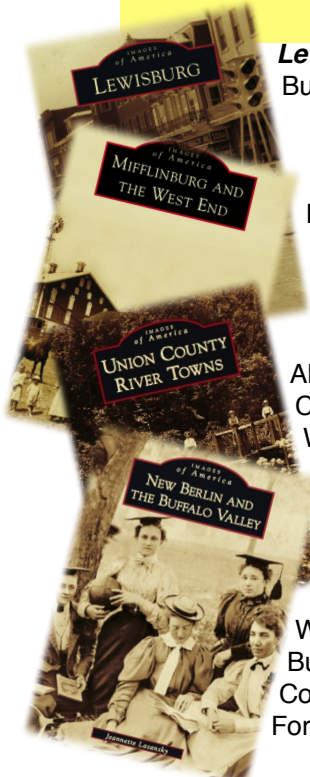
In 260 pages of text, drawings, and historical photographs, the history of Union County is told through the stories of forty gristmills and the people who operated them. Authors Tom Rich (professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, Bucknell University) and David DelTesta (associate professor of history, Bucknell University) have placed the gristmills within both an international and statewide historical context.

Providing not only a detailed description of county mills, and an insightful look at local development, this Heritage volume is a great resource for those seeking genealogical information on mills that played a part in their own families' histories.



**Have you picked up your book?**

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



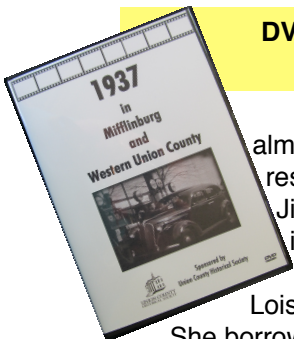
**Lewisburg**, Kelly and East Buffalo Townships.

**Mifflinburg and the West End:** Swengel, Millmont, Laurel Park, Pardee, Glen Iron, Weikert, Hartleton, and Laurelton.

**Union County River Towns:** Allenwood, White Deer, New Columbia, West Milton and Winfield, Tea Springs, Spring Garden, Devitt's Camp, Alvira and Central Oak Heights.

**New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley:** Dry Valley, Dice, White Springs, Vicksburg, Buffalo Crossroads, Mazeppa, Cowan, Red Bank, Rand, and Forest Hill.

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](mailto:info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org).



**DVD "1937 in Mifflinburg and Western Union County"**

Four reels of 16mm film were almost lost to us. They were rescued from the trash in 1976 by Jim Schwartz of Mifflinburg. Then in 2010, while researching *Mifflinburg and the West End* Lois Huffines learned of the reels.

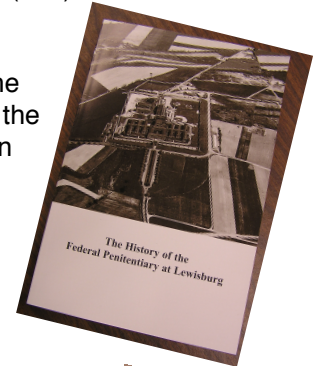
She borrowed a 16mm film projector from Bucknell and was amazed to find raw footage of Mifflinburg and western Union County taken by an unidentified photographer in 1937.

The film has been digitized, and made into a DVD, preserving 36 minutes of amazing, rare footage from 1937 of everyday life – schools and children, businesses and workers – in Mifflinburg and the surrounding towns of Laurelton, Mazeppa, Cowan, Millmont, Swengel, White Springs, Forest Hill, Vicksburg, and Hartleton. **The DVD is \$16.**

**SPECIAL BOOK PACKAGES for MEMBERS**

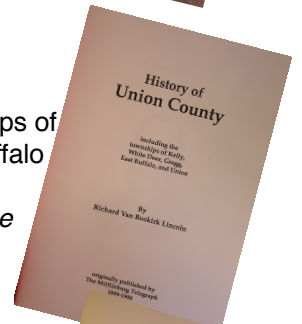
**Lewisburg**, the pictorial history. (\$21)  
PLUS

**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; period photos and drawings. *UCHS Heritage Volume XX* (\$19). **Both books for \$35.**



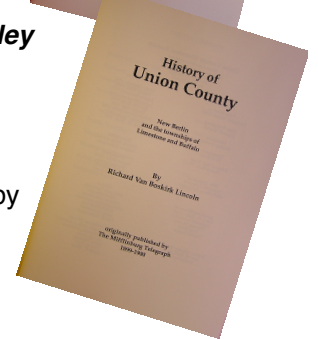
**Union County River Towns** pictorial history. (\$21)  
PLUS

**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.**



**New Berlin and the Buffalo Valley** pictorial history. (\$21)  
PLUS

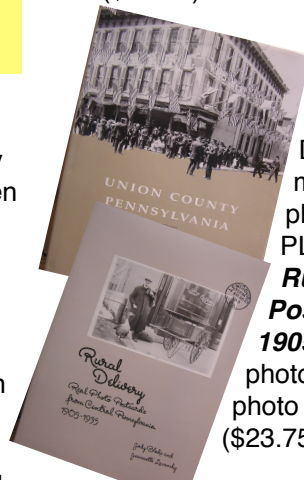
**History of Union County: New Berlin and the townships of Limestone and Buffalo** written by Richard VB Lincoln 1899-1900. *UCHS Heritage Volume XV* (\$14.25). **Both books for \$30.**



**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 for \$65.**



Many publications will be for sale at the society's table at the **West End Fair August 4-9** in Laurelton; and at the **Dale/Engle/Walker House** on Sundays 2-4PM.

**Order on-line** with PayPal at our secure website: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org).



## COLLECTIONS



### Archives and Museum Committee ~ Jeff Spotts

In our last newsletter when temperatures were frequently below freezing degrees and all began to tire of shoveling snow, our committee discussed “resolutions.” For many people, the memory of what it was we resolved to do with a new year has passed. Yet, for the Archives and Museum Committee (Committee), we made a resolution and are taking action in furtherance of the Society’s mission to preserve the past for future generations. After a resolution comes “action” and those actions are what move us forward.

As an action item growing out of the Committee’s January meeting, we resolved to conduct an auction and Mary Jo Spangler stepped up to lead that effort. With the purchase of a significant amount of postcards in 2013 from the Gary Slear collection in lots of at least six cards, we acquired important additions to our collection and also acquired duplicate postcards. As we reviewed our collection, we realized that we had other duplicate items and certain items that did not quite fit in our collection, which focuses on items made in Union County or important to interpretation of its history.

We resolved to remove duplicate and out-of-scope items from our collection and took action by selling them in the traditional country auction that historically was and continues to be an important part of settling estates and downsizing. While we did not segregate men and women in the sale of farm items and household items, respectively, on July 24, Dale’s Ridge echoed as auctioneers Lori Hess-Lauver and Micheal Weaver, who we appreciate and thank for their volunteer services, sold Society and select consignment items to a crowd of collectors looking to add items to their inventories and collections. Thanks go to Mike Manbeck, Dan & Gloria McDavitt, Doug & Karen Hovey, Deb Wehr and others for helping. What a success it was for the Society and the Committee!

The Committee made a resolution and took action 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. Why not resolve to improve historical society displays and focus UCHS efforts by taking action to donate items, make a cash contribution or volunteer your time? To make a donation or volunteer, contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalociety.org.

### Gifts

We thank our donors for the items that follow, received since January 2014:

- Philip Wagner: *Nautilus* 1940 and 1943;
- Debbie Adams Sanders: Mifflinburg diploma 1941, John Elwood Shriner (grandfather’s) scrapbook, the picture of the Shriner family home and one other picture of Cowan from 1931; father’s field log of the 1960 construction of the addition to Mifflinburg High School; *Nautilus* yearbooks from 1936, 1937, and 1939.
- Robert Berger: *Union County Harmonie* (shape note hymnal) printed by Henry Eyer of Selinsgrove, Union County 1833;
- Betty Lou McClure: 1897/98 and 1913 Bucknell University year book *L’Agenda*, bound set for newspaper, *The Union* (New Berlin) 1816-1817;
- Jim & Kathy Diehl: four photos of basket-maker Jim Diehl, Wabash, Union County;
- Paul Brann: Local newspapers covering the 1972 flood, etc.;
- Randy McGinnis: two oral history tapes on the Lewisburg Opera House recorded with John Cromley and Lois Kalp in 1978 and 1979;
- Bucknell University: church histories, 1930s *Lewisburg Standard* tabloids, O.U.E newsletters, early postcards; and
- Anonymous: Mifflinburg Farmers’ Bank wallets, 2 real photo postcards of the World War I Homecoming parade in Lewisburg by Caulkins; Mifflinburg HS football schedule from Reed’s Store for Men & Boys 1952.

**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.

## Purchases

Combing various venues, we purchased the following items:

Real photo postcards of Devitt's Camp, Central Oak Heights, colored photo-litho cards of Mifflinburg Freight station (rare view), a Blue Spruce Camp post card, and rare Kodachrome of RB Winter with tenting family.

Advertising thermometers of Crystal Springs Dairy and Harry Chappel's Electric and Wiring; a tin "TV" bank for Lee's TV sales & service in Lbg.; a bamboo fan advertising P.F. Dieffenderfer tinsmith in Mifflinburg; an ashtray for Benfer's Electric and Heating, Mifflinburg; and a rare 1859 Union County superintendent's record book. Also, a Charles Snyder advertising calendar, a Evangelical United Brethren dime saver, and a Laurelton Lutheran Church commemorative plate.



## The Dale / Engle / Walker Property

Spring was welcomed at the Dale/Engle/Walker house even if it seemed a long time in coming. A Saturday work day in early April saw Society and Linn Conservancy members Beth Hackenberg, Dan McDavitt, Bob Van Horn, Ben Hoskins, Geoff Goodenow, Jeannette Lasansky, and Bill Deitrick worked with about 20 Bucknell students on a wide variety of chores. Later in the month, Bill Deitrick and his daughter Grace Ann Deitrick planted five young heritage apple trees in the field beyond the former barn yard. We look to see how well they adapt to their new surroundings.

Also on the agenda was paint prep in the house by volunteer Jim Arndt. Later, Jim's crew scraped the long porch ceiling for the first time since 2001, and it now has a refreshed robin's egg blue color again. The porch floor was similarly prepped and painted for maybe the third time since 2001, and a number of the doors, door frames, and window sashes were done for the first time since our restoration in 2001. That exterior paint work was partially paid for through a restricted fund for repair and maintenance at the house.

Several couples have been considering the site for a wedding, sometimes complete with a reception. One couple has already reserved for late May 2015. Consider the Dale/Engle/Walker property for family reunions, weddings, or other celebratory events. There couldn't be a lovelier venue.



**The Dale/Engle/Walker House, Wagon Shed and Milk House are OPEN FOR TOURS and exhibits on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 through October.**



Exhibit on learning



Union County Commissioners Preston Boop, John Mathias and John Showers passed a resolution at the commissioners meeting on May 6, 2014 declaring May to be "**Union County History Month.**" Pictured are Bob Van Horn (UCHS Office Manager), Jeannette Lasansky (UCHS Board President), Beth Hackenberg (UCHS Board), Commissioner John Mathias, Paul Mauger (Slifer House Board President), Commissioner Preston Boop, Commissioner John Showers, MaryJo Spangler (UCHS Program chair), Kathy Brady (UCHS Board), Lois Huffines (UCHS Publications chair), Deb Wehr (UCHS Board) and Kim Ranck (UCHS Treasurer).



## PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Summer Student Interns

are a tremendous help during the busy summer months; we appreciate their work and their energy

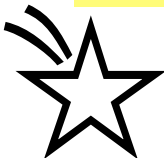
**Alicia Pucci**, of Mifflinburg, is a student at Bloomsburg University majoring in art history with minors in anthropology and studio art. She had this to say about her internship at the historical society:

*"It was an honor to return to UCHS for a second summer. My knowledge of the history of Union County, genealogical research skills, and experience at the Dale/Engle/Walker House has developed tremendously. Walking in the Veterans' Parade, interacting with visitors and being involved with Rural Heritage Day was the best hands-on learning experience. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to rekindle my rapport with the staff, members, and volunteers of the society. Their immeasurable dedication, enthusiasm, and insatiable thirst for knowledge will always serve as an exemplar for me as I continue my own studies throughout graduate school."*

**Samantha Moyer**, of Selinsgrove, is a student at Dickinson College, majoring in history. This was her first internship with the historical society.

*"I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Union County Historical Society this summer. Already I have met many interesting and passionate people, and love listening to the stories society members and visitors have of the people and places of Union County. This position has offered a great chance to hone my researching and writing skills, as well as an amazing opportunity to learn and develop a new skill set. Though my academic focus is on European history, working as an intern for the Historical Society has opened my eyes to all the fascinating aspects of history right here in the Susquehanna Valley. My work here has inspired me to engage more fully with local history."*

## OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



We thank **Friday office volunteers**: Judith Blair, Kathy Brady, David Goehring, Tom Greaves, Beth Hackenberg, Doug Hovey, Marj Kastner, Dan & Gloria McDavitt, and Jamie Wagner; and researchers Glenda Sheaffer, Jack Fisher, and Mary Belle Lontz; and Susan Colon who makes our displays look great.

*Are you interested in volunteering in the office on Fridays? Would you like to help with research? Training is provided. Call (570) 524-8666 or visit the office.*

We appreciate those members who helped at the **Surrender film** showing in March: Steve & Martha Huddy, Sharon & Bill Lynch, Pam & Paul Mauger, Diane Meixell, Jeannette Lasansky and Beth Hackenberg, and friends Jenni Steiler, Campus Theatre staff, and Debra Fitzgerald of Bucknell Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

We thank all those who helped in May at **Rafe Martin's Evening Storytelling Program and Story Telling Workshop** at the Elias Centre for the Performing Arts: members Linda Bollinger, Diane Lengle, Diane Meixell, and Jeannette Lasansky; plus Murrie Zlotziver of Mifflinburg, and most of all, the Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Performing Arts whose grant made the event possible.



**Board Nominations** to be presented for a members vote at the September 2014 program

**Nominations for Treasurer and Secretary terms from 2014-2016:**

Treasurer, **Kim Ranck** is a Lewisburg native and a graduate of Lewisburg Area High School. She graduated from Susquehanna University with a B.S. in Business Administration. She is also a graduate of Leadership Susquehanna Valley, a career banker and is currently the Manager of the Lewisburg Office of Mifflinburg Bank & Trust. Kim has been the Treasurer of the UCHS since January 2011 and a member its Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and recently on the Nominating Committee and on its ByLaws review. She is active in church affairs and is in the Penn State Master Gardeners' program.

Secretary **Lois Huffines** was Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Bucknell University and Professor of German and Linguistics until 2007. She received her Ph.D. in Germanic Linguistics from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. During her tenure at Bucknell, her research focused on the Pennsylvania German dialect and how it changed over time because of its contact with English. Using Pennsylvania German as an example, she studied the linguistic process of how a language dies. Lois served as the President of the Lewisburg Kiwanis Club and as President of the UCHS for four years. Lois currently chairs the Publications Committee and the recent ByLaws review, and has been the editor of the Society's *Heritage* series since 2002. Lois has written two Arcadia volumes on Union County history, *Lewisburg and Mifflinburg and the West End*, and directed the DVD release of *1937 Mifflinburg and Western Union County* film footage.

**For 3-year Board Terms ending in 2017:**

**Sharon Lynch** grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in Sociology with certification in Secondary Education Social Studies and has a PA Masters equivalency in Curriculum Development. Sharon and her husband moved to Penns Creek, PA, in 1978 to begin their family and to establish Bill's Penns Creek Pottery in Sampsel's Mill, a 19th-century flour and grist mill on Penns Creek. Sharon's family appreciates local history and their mill is an excellent example of adaptive restoration. Earlier, she served two years in the Peace Corps in Kpandebu, Sierra Leone, where she taught upper elementary level reading and math and has since taught in a variety of educational settings: alternative education for court adjudicated youth in Tennessee, American history in high school in Georgia, a self contained classroom on Lookout Mountain, and 28 years of teaching world history and reading in the Mifflinburg Middle School. Sharon retired in 2011 after 35 years of teaching. Sharon is chair of the UCHS Education Committee, Educator Coordinator, and works on Marketing / Promotion events for the Society.

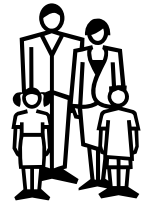
**Jeff Spotts** was born, raised and continues to live on the family farm in Buffalo Twp. Jeff works in the Governor's Office of General Counsel, assigned to the Dept. of Transportation's Office of Chief Counsel where he maintains a diverse legal practice in contracts, litigation, technology, intelligent transportation, intellectual property and the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law. He is an honors graduate of Juniata College with a B.A. in Politics and History, and the Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate. Jeff can be found on weekends collecting the antiques he has sought out since age 12. Jeff focuses his collecting on local items; early Pennsylvania and Kentucky rifles. He is a member of the PA Bar Association (PBA), PBA's Government Lawyers Committee, numerous Office of General Counsel practice groups and various antique collecting organizations, including the Kentucky Rifle Association. Jeff is chair of the Museum and Archives Committee and on the Finance Committee.

**Eric N. Wagner** was born and raised in Union County residing mostly in Mifflinburg, now living near Rand with his family. He is a son of Jack D. Wagner, P.L.S., and the late Judith S. Wagner. His ancestry dates back to the original settlers of Buffalo Valley (Christian Shively, 1770s). Eric graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. in History (emphasis on American history) and minor in Political Science. He is employed by Wagners Surveying in Mifflinburg and is involved with The Lewis Cemetery Association where Christian Shively and many other original settlers are buried. He currently serves as Vice President of Challenger on the Board of Directors of the Lewisburg Little League. Eric was President of the non-profit Harry F. Haney Memorial Park Committee in Mifflinburg for twelve years and on the Mifflinburg Borough Council. He has also been involved with Special Olympics, Mike and Dots II charities, and Milkshakes for Fred. He is interested in the history of land surveying and has done extensive research on the evolvement of municipal boundary lines, particularly of PA and Union County.

## Recent Genealogy Searches and Requests

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

SHIELDS, JUDD: Steve & Patty Shields, scshields1@comcast.net  
GEORGE DIEHL 1807-1885: Jim Diehl, ca2oh2ca@sonic.net  
KOCH, WERTZ, HAGEY: James Robison, 324 Franklin St., Allentown, PA 18102  
JOHN MIDDLESWORTH: Janelle Long, 332 Ridge Rd., New Columbia PA, 17856  
LOHR, ROSS, KAHL, MACK: Jackie & Mackenzie Bilger, 800 Black Rd., Lewisburg, PA 17837  
CAMPBELL: Deborah Basile, 8 Log Cabin Rd., Fairpoint, NY 14450  
KLINGLER: Carolyn & Richard Klingler, 323 Klingler Ln., Winfield, PA 17889  
HERMAN: John Ham, 22 Rose St, Milton, PA 17847  
GEORGE ADAM HUMMEL SR: George Hummel, 12807 Valleywood Dr., Silver Spring, MD 13002  
EIDEM, KRICK: Ray Moyer, 6 Eagan St., Pottsville, PA 17901, rlm1201@verizon.net  
YOST, JOST: Miles Barnes, 48 Adams St., Silver Creek NY, 14136  
CORL, KEISTER: Tom Corl, Box 640, Oxford, MD 21654  
KOSER (+MUFLY, MOOK, WILHELM): Valerie Bieber, 1225 Snyder Road, Milton, PA 17847  
REBER: Jeff Howell, 4703 Rixen Ct., Reading, PA 19606  
SHIRTZ, ROTE: Greg & Linda Christensen, PO Box 126, Wallsburg, UT 84082  
MILLIGAN: Greg Milligan, 96 Pine Creek, Carlisle, PA 17013, tvguy22@comcast.net  
BRUCE: Jim Gozeman, 3006 N. Main St., Mishawaka, IN 46544  
DAZELL, GRIFFITH: Gail Landers, 102 Cottage Ave, Williamsport, PA 17701  
BARBER: Chris Macneal, 3711 Hamilton St., Philadelphia, PA  
PARKER: Peg & Doug Adams, 7452 N. Meadow Ln, New Carlisle IN 46552, peggenealogy@aol.com  
MCCLURE: Diane Kaznewski, 2919 Pope Ave., Sacramento CA, 95821, grammakaz@comcast.com  
RANCK, DUNKLE: Susan Nicholas, 1043 Miller St., Sunbury, PA17801  
KOSER: Valerie Bieber, 1225 Snuder Rd., Milton, PA, 17843, bccmiax@aol.com  
LATSHAW, TROUTMAN: Don & Ann Tice, 24 Ridgeway Dr., Carlisle, PA 17015  
MITCHEL: Beth Hall, 2414 Emerald Lake Dr., E. Lansing MI 48823  
DREISBACH, DUNKLE: Dave & Marcia Falconer, 33 Abingdon Dr., Ottawa, Ontario  
HARRIS: Greg Renn, 182 Hartman Rd., Muncy, PA 17756  
BEATY, WALKER, BANKS: Gary & Elizabeth Simons, PO Box 421, Crosslake MN 56442,  
betznbobo@aol.com  
LINNTOWN (photos): Cliff Brown, 133 S. 13th St., Lewisburg 17837, cliffarch@gmail.com



## Research Services

Researchers at UCHS will conduct searches on ancestors, property and historical events.

During the first part of 2014, we have worked on more than twenty research requests in addition to assisting the many visitors who come to the office/courthouse to do their own research.

**Genealogical research** ranges from the search for a single document (such as a will or obituary) to complete family history. Fees are \$7 (single document) to \$40 and up (full search) depending on complexity. Please inquire.

**Deed search** fee is \$100 - \$200 to trace property 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 (office closed noon to 1). Members may use the library for free; non-members are asked for a \$10 donation. Copies are \$.50/page.

Check the *Primary Source Materials* list on our website to see the documents and data available. Also see, the List of Family Names for genealogies that have been given to the society.

## TRACING by Glenda Sheaffer

"Benitch, Benitch, is this one Nana?" Kolby asks.

"Yes, that's a Bennage", I tell him. "Do you see any more?"

Kolby and I are at the cemetery at the St. Peter's United Church of Christ, one of the Twin Churches. It is an old church dating to 1819. Kolby is looking for tombstones so I can add information to my family tree. Today we are working on the Bennage family.

Kolby is three years old. I tell him he can help only if he stays close to me, doesn't climb on any stones and is very careful walking through the grass. He doesn't want to sit in the car with my 86 year old grandmother. He wants to be outside and helpful. Earlier in the day we had visited Harmony Cemetery in Milton. He stayed in the car on that visit because it was misting.

My grandmother, Freda Musser, brought me to this cemetery shortly after I moved to Pennsylvania in 1973. Her grandparents and their extended families are buried here. The cemetery is set up on a hill behind the Church and it is a quiet and peaceful place to visit. Two years ago I started tracing my family tree and I now live in cemeteries and courthouses.

When we arrived, Kolby jumped out of the car and was immediately taken by a very large, red granite tombstone near the driveway. He was fascinated by it and started to trace the engraved letters with his small, fine fingers.

"Nana, this one is in my name" he says as he traces a letter L.

"Come on Kolby, stay with me. We're looking for Bennage. It starts with a B. Do you know what a B looks like? It's in your name too."

It doesn't take long for him to find one. We walk through the cemetery and each time he sees a name starting with a B Kolby alerts me. He's a good finder. The names include Bakers and Browns that have intermarried with my Bennages. Bickel, Bower and Beck are included in Kolby's finds.

My grandmother is very patient but I don't want her to have to wait much longer. I give Kolby permission to run down the drive to the car. I amble my way along the same path.

As I reach the car there he is standing in front of the red granite stone so much taller than he is. His fingers are again gently tracing all of the letters he can reach and he is entranced.

"What do you find Kolby", I ask.

"I find letters like my name", he says as he traces.

We've both found something on this day, both of us tracing, both of us excited, and both of us connected to what we have found.

Glenda Sheaffer  
200 Green Street, Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
gsheaffer@dejazzd.com

## RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE

### Added to our family books and newsletters:

*The Millmont Times* 2014 issues to date

Dreisbach Family Association Newsletters 2012, 2013, 2014.

### Added to the library:

*A Beautifully Solemn Scene: The Lewisburg Cemetery*, Robert Dunkerly. Donated by the author.

*The Chronicle*, Vol. XXV, Spring 2014

*Navigation of Penns Creek*, J.G. Shively. Donated by Glenda Sheaffer.

*Prisoner of War*, Kurt Molzahn. Donated by Robert Lamparter.



**Microfilm:** Do you know that the society has on microfilm newspapers from 1834 onwards, and phone directories starting in 1899? Newspapers and directories are an invaluable aid in researching the history of local families, businesses and events. **Sponsors are sought** to microfilm the 2003 - 2014 issues of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* newspaper at \$75/year. The name of the donor, or for whom they are donating, can be put on the microfilm box as a remembrance. Any support you can provide to continue this project is appreciated.

## EDUCATION

### Red Bank School

In 1886 a little one room, red brick, school house in Union County was abuzz with activities as youngsters in grades 1-12 studied reading, writing and 'rithmetic. So it was again 128 years later in May, 2014. This year the Red Bank School in West Buffalo Township was one of five stations for Mifflinburg 4th graders' day-long "Old Town Mifflinburg" local history experience.

As the 10-year-olds rounded the corner of the school, they were greeted by the ringing of a hand bell signaling time for school to commence. Dressed in period attire, school marm Nancy Miller and school master David Goehring described how in years past students walked or rode their bikes to school and brought their own lunches. They used a privy, tended the coal stove, and swept the school at the end of the day. Students learned that in a one room school the older students helped to teach the young students. After learning about the old days the students got down to work; their challenge was a penmanship lesson. They were taught how to use a stylus and bottle of ink to copy the poem "Try, Try, Again" from McGuffey's *Fourth Eclectic Reader*, 1879. How many of us can remember the Palmer Method of Handwriting?

Red Bank School is a special place. It was sold by the school district to West Buffalo Township in 1953. It remains as it was then, and today the township and the Union County Historical Society work together to provide an authentic learning experience for our youth.



### Union County Tour and Old Town Mifflinburg

This spring nine organizations and 36 individuals partnered with teachers and parent chaperones to provide the annual Union County Tour and "Old Town Mifflinburg in 5 Stations" to students in our county.

Last fall the education committee determined that a renewed emphasis was needed for the traditional Union County Bus Tour and for the new, evolving Mifflinburg Walking Tour. That emphasis was to create more age-appropriate hands-on activities and less lecturing.

Mifflinburg's Walking Tour became "Old Town Mifflinburg in Five Stations." The Bus Tour allotted more time to view Slifer House's many rooms and artifacts. There were three docents at the New Berlin Courthouse, one being Mifflinburg's own 2008 graduate Logan Roush, President of the Heritage Association. The guides at Dale/Engle/Walker House focused on the hearth where slave Dinah worked, and the Wagon Shed provided a focus on agriculture in Buffalo Valley. Students left Dale/Engle/Walker having tasted apple schnitz, many for the first time, and also with some Indian corn seed to plant in their very own gardens.

"Old Mifflinburg in Five Stations" included an introduction to the Elias Church and a timeline challenge. The Buggy Museum concentrated on the production of buggies in the factory. At the Gutelius House students observed a wood shingle maker before entering the 1802 log house to learn about the Gutelius family's quilts and weavings (At right: Alexis Scopelliti and Paige Rhyne sign a memory quilt at the Gutelius House where quilters will complete the unique piece.) The Federal-style Henry Gast House provided a glance into an 1803 lock-up (jail), a blacksmith's house with an exclusive collection of Mifflinburg plank bottom chairs, and Youngman's spring (At left: Mifflinburg's young thespians Sam Deluca, Jacob Bingaman, Cassidy Reedy, and Victoria Harvey act in a short skit about water rights in 1873). The 1886 Red Bank School showed students how public education has changed.



Sharon Lynch, education committee coordinator, recently met soon-to-be 5th grader Paige Kline for the very first time. When asked about her reactions to the two events, Paige enthusiastically responded, "I loved them. They were great!" Since, she has taken her family to see some of the sites.

Nine organizations and 36 people collaborated to make two history-filled days successful!  
~ Sharon Lynch, Education Coordinator

## RURAL HERITAGE DAY

The 11th annual *Rural Heritage Day* was held on Saturday, July 12, 2014.

*The Union County Historical Society's Rural Heritage Day is a local educational event where attendees acquire fundamental knowledge on everyday living as it was experienced during the period from the Native American era to the mid twentieth century in Union County. This knowledge will in turn lead to a greater appreciation of the challenges and rewards associated with living in rural Pennsylvania in years past, which may be foundational to a lifelong interest in history.*

For the first 10 years, *Rural Heritage Day* was a four-day event in August: an afternoon Children's Day, two evening programs, and a day-long event featuring antique machinery and demonstrations of rural skills of our ancestors in central PA.

The *Rural Heritage Day* Committee had considered establishing an Apprentice Program for youth (or young-at-heart). *Rural Heritage Day* was changed to a mid-July event to enable school-aged people to participate, learn to produce a craft, and learn its history.

Demonstrators included David Witmer making wooden rakes, Liz Rhode knitting socks on an antique machine, David Morris crafting windsor chairs, William Hill making white oak baskets, Brad Mertz making and repairing wooden wheels, Gail Moser demonstrating quilting and Elaina Hoffman, American Honey Princess, describing the history of beekeeping.

Also on site were Buffalo Valley Antique Machinery, stone mason Mihai Epure, blacksmith Bill Clemens and chair caners John and Viola Pfliegorg. Nada Gray explained traditional Pennsylvania German fraktur designs.

Children made corn dollies, frakturs, enjoyed the farm animals and pony rides. Music was provided by *Dale's Ridge Ramblers*, *Any Jig Will Do*, and *Joyful Noise*. Delicious food was for sale.

*Rural Heritage Day* was supported by a very generous gift from Playworld Systems, and the time and efforts of members and friends of the Union County Historical Society. The *Rural Heritage Day* Committee is grateful for them all! Volunteers make our event!

~ Deb Wehr, *Rural Heritage Day* chair



## GRANTS AND GIFTS

In 2014, six competitive grants or gifts add to your membership support, and additional giving: The society received a **Lindig Grant** of \$659 used for needed technological upgrades.

A **Woodcock Grant for the Appreciation of the Arts, Inc.** for \$2640 totally underwrote Rafe Martin's *Evening of Storytelling* at the Elias Center for the Performing Arts in Mifflinburg, followed by a morning workshop there.

**Playworld Inc.** provided \$800 to support children and family activities at *Rural Heritage Day*, hosted by the society at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

**The Lutheran Community Foundation** provided an \$1119 grant made possible through the generosity of the LCF donor who established the Paul & Catherine Ernst Charitable Fund.

A General Operations Grant from the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** for \$4000 underwrites Society costs for two summer interns; displays and speaker for Black History Month events at Dale/Engle/Walker House; the Archives Committee's archival supplies for collections care; toward costs of events like the *Surrender* film showing; porch maintenance at Dale/Engle/Walker; and Rural Foodways expenses.

The **Raise the Region** fundraiser provided \$767 for general expenses.

~ Robert Van Horn, Office Administrator

## REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At the March 27, 2014 Board meeting, President Jeannette Lasansky appointed a committee to review the UCHS Constitution and Bylaws regarding the election of officers and directors to the Board, bringing the document up to date concerning officer and administrator responsibilities, and incorporating changes in current practice. Substantive changes to the document, i.e., those regarding more than title changes and typo corrections, occur in the following sections:

Constitution Article VI: The changes involve the eligibility of a Board member or Officer filling a vacated position on the Board after serving a maximum number of consecutive terms. It now reads as follows with the changes underlined:

### Article VI

#### Election of Officers and Board of Directors

VI.A. In December or January, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of not fewer than three members and at least one being a board member that shall make recommendations regarding nominations to Officer and Director positions falling vacant in the coming year. The committee makes its full report to the Board by its March board meeting for approval. The board, in turn, presents a full slate to the Society members in the summer/fall newsletter which has a deadline of June or July. At the Society's September program, Society members present vote on the nominations presented and any received from the floor. The new board members shall be invited to observe at the October board meeting and become voting board members at the November/December board meeting. In a year when there is a new president, the out-going president conducts all business until the end of the annual dinner usually held in November, at which time the new president assumes all responsibilities of the office as do new officers and board members. The Nominating Committee remains available to make recommendations to the Board on any vacant unexpired terms until the next Nominating Committee is appointed.

VI.B. A person who has been elected as President or Vice President for two consecutive terms shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year has elapsed between the end of the two terms and the beginning of the term for which that person is nominated. The President or Vice-President can become a board member after filling a maximum number of consecutive terms or serve in a different office from the position held without interruption. The Secretary and Treasurer have no term renewal limits.

A board member who has served two consecutive elected terms can become an officer and stay on the Board as an officer without interruption or fill a vacant unexpired board term and be eligible to continue by being nominated to serve a new term or set of terms if this is approved by the Board. Should a Board member be unable to serve for the full term to which he or she was elected, the Board itself will appoint a person to fill the vacant unexpired term or upon recommendation by the Nomination Committee.

Bylaws section III.5: The change is an addition which adds an annual audit of the Treasurer's account by a designate of the President or Finance Committee. It now reads as follows with the changes underlined:

III.5. The Treasurer will render a quarterly financial report or an interim report upon request. Audit of the Treasurer's account will be made annually by a designate of the President or Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall invest Society funds as that Committee, then the Board, recommends. Permanent records of the Treasurer, such as Cash Receipts and Disbursement Journals, as well as other records of a permanent nature, will be turned over to the Archives for safekeeping.

Bylaws section IV.D: The changes elaborate the specific functions for the Collections Manager and the Collections Data Entry Person. The section now reads as follows:

#### **IV.D. Collections Manager**

The Collections Manager is a member of the Archives Committee who conveys information regarding physical placement, care, and location identification of items in the collection to the Collection Data Entry Person and those members of the Archives Committee who make the collection available to others for research or for exhibition. The Collection Manager, along with the Collections Data Entry Person, assembles items for de-accessioning for the Committee to consider and sees that the collection is properly housed and that proper archival storage and identification materials are purchased.

Bylaws section IV.E: The changes elaborates the addition of specific functions for the Collection Data Entry Person. It reads as follows:

#### **IV.E. Collections Data Entry Person**

The Collection Data Entry Person is a member of the Archives Committee who numbers all new items to the collections, sends appropriate thank you correspondence to donors, maintains a list of purchases and gifts for the report of the Committee Chair and might along with the Collections Manager assemble items for de-accessioning, and provides support to the Collection Data. The Collections Data Person enters information concerning all new materials into the PastPerfect data software. The process includes digitally photographing each item, cataloging each item into PastPerfect, and providing appropriate descriptive information. The Collection Data Entry Person also seeks to maximize usage of the PastPerfect software by educating Archives Committee members about the capabilities of the software.

Bylaws section IV.F: The change elaborates the duties of the Facebook manager for the Society. It reads as follows:

#### **IV.F. Webmaster/Facebook:**

The Webmaster designs, develops, and maintains the UCHS's web site while the Facebook manager does the same for the UCHS's Facebook site. The sites will provide information about the Society and its programs and highlight, on a rotating basis, educational historical material on Union County. The Webmaster and Facebook manager need not be a member of the Board.

*The Board of Directors approved the changes at its May 22, 2014 meeting as recorded in the minutes.*

*All changes will be available on the Society's website. The changes will be voted on by the members present at the Union County Historical Society program in September 2014.*

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 one-room 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

Name(s) _____	Please circle membership level:
Address _____	Student (K-12)..... \$10
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Individual ..... \$30
Email _____	Family ..... \$45
Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____	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.

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