



103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-524-8666  
info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org  
www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

News! Late Summer and Fall 2018

*"Exploring Union County's history to inform the present and future."*

**Dale-Engle-Walker House**  
1471 Strawbridge Road  
Lewisburg, PA 17837



Tours of the Dale-Engle-Walker House, built c. 1793 by Scots-Irish immigrant Samuel Dale, include new information about Samuel Dale's pivotal role in the formation of Union County. Visitors will also learn about the site's geological, social, economic and agricultural history, and how changes in the region affected the history of this nation.



**For schedule of tours and programs,**  
please visit our website  
[www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**ANNUAL JOHN B. DEANS DINNER & PROGRAM**  
Friday, November 16, 2018 6 pm at the Lewisburg Hotel  
**"The Reading Railroad in Union County"**

Tim Bittner will present a program on the Reading Railroad line that ran from Winfield to Lewisburg, West Milton, New Columbia, White Deer, and Allenwood. The line was built in the late 1800s and most of the track is still in place today, used by the



North Shore Railroad. Originating in Shamokin, thence to Sunbury and crossing the river at Blue Hill, the line served the central PA area. Bittner's power-point program will show photos from earlier times through the 1960s and '70s.

The program follows dinner. Awards for contributions by individuals or groups for historic preservation and service will be presented. Society publications, including the 2019 calendar, will be available for purchase. Raffles, a silent auction, and door prizes will complete the evening.

Pre-paid reservations are required.

Local members will receive reservation forms for the dinner/program in the mail. For others interested in attending, please contact the Society at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org. Information will also be posted on the website.



**Members:** Please see the enclosed ballot for the UCHS Board. Biographical information on new board members is on page 5 of this newsletter. According to approved changes in the bylaws, members vote on nominations to the board in August. New board members/officers begin serving after the November dinner/program. Ballots are due back to the UCHS office by August 27.



## History – Who Needs It?

It's unfortunate that some people think history focuses too much on "dead people and old stuff."

Why do societies that value convenience, efficiency, and technology need to study the past, a time when folks lived at a slower pace?

Does glancing at a monument, visiting a historic site, or reading about some famous person's valiant deeds really affect your life? Do these experiences reveal everything about long-gone realities? Do these moments leave you wanting to learn more?

Or do you ask yourself, "So what? Big deal! What does this have to do with my life?"

This is familiar territory for historians because "istoria," the Greek root word, actually means "inquiry." And that spirit of inquiry has recently led UCHS to join the Smithsonian and over 250 other history organizations in the "History Relevance Campaign," an effort to show how citizens familiar with historical thinking skills are essential if our republic is to survive and flourish.

Advocates and critics of a STEM curriculum often miss the point when they view the social and physical sciences as separate and distinct disciplines. Historians, physicists, sociologists, mathematicians, and chemists all use the same critical thinking skills to weigh, sift, and measure the evidence at hand.

Just as gathering new information forces scientists to revise their theories about the world, new or previously ignored perspectives often force public historians to change how we interpret the past.

"Why are things the way they are?" "How do I know what I know is true?" "What is the role of change in our lives?" These questions are the foundation of any serious inquiry, whether it occurs in a laboratory, courtroom, marketplace, boardroom, or legislature.

The tools of historical inquiry help us understand the present and reasonably predict the future. When we explore connections, patterns, and consequences, we gradually discover that rigid approaches not only ignore context and complexity, they increase the likelihood of failure because we've reduced the capacity to learn.

Successful communities that promote a strong awareness of their past are laying the foundations for a vibrant economic infrastructure. By learning how others faced challenges and made decisions, we not only avoid re-inventing the wheel, we also develop a strong, lasting sense of identity and ownership in our communities.

Contrary to what some pundits say, human knowledge of any kind is never "settled." It's a slow,



### OFFICERS & BOARD

Bruce Teeple, President  
Doug Hovey, Vice President  
Kim Ranck, Treasurer  
Margaret Kastner, Secretary  
Phyllis Dyer  
Karen Gardner  
Mary Kay Harper  
Lonnie Hill  
Marj Kastner  
Louise Knight  
Mike Molesevich  
Jeffrey Spotts  
Matt Wagner

### Welcome new members

Kathryn Lentz, Lewisburg, PA  
Paul & Anne Plaisance, New Columbia, PA  
Julia Stevens, Bucknell University

**The society appreciates donations** from Timothy Forrest of Arizona for research and from Marj Kastner for tech. support.

### Memorial Gifts

Members and Friends are reminded that the society welcomes memorial gifts such as sponsoring or purchasing a book for the Dale Library. Other gift opportunities include monetary donations towards upkeep of the Dale-Engle-Walker House, and technology upgrades for the office. Contact the office or board members for details.



never-ending accretion of slivers to help us form a cosmic jigsaw puzzle.

Change itself is not necessarily a bad thing; it's how we stumble, adapt and learn as individuals, as institutions, as societies, and as a species. Teaching new generations of responsible citizens how to ask questions is a legacy worth leaving because it ensures the survival of our democracy.

Think of it as a history for the future.

*Bruce Teeple*

## Dale-Engle-Walker House

### WORLD WAR I EVENT & EXHIBITS

June marked the official 2018 season opening of activities at the Dale-Engle-Walker property.

On Saturday, June 9, presentations about WWI-era music by Matthew Wagner, the American Red Cross by Karen Gardner and Dr. Olsen, and wartime propaganda by Bruce Teeple were offered to the public during this centennial commemoration.



On the following day, visitors had the opportunity to speak with two famous soldiers, General John “Black Jack” Pershing (portrayed by David Shuey) and a young Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower (portrayed by Dan Bower).

Exhibits included a tribute to Helen Fairchild, a Union County nurse who served with distinction during WWI (items courtesy of Nelle Rote), memorabilia of the newly-founded Boy Scouts of America (courtesy of Steve Ranck); military items on loan from Linda Wilkinson, Andrew Lysiak, and Don Turner; and a review of the U.S. government’s propaganda campaign and its effects on Union County. Exhibits will be on display throughout the summer months at advertised times.

The weekend also marked the unveiling of the gift shop in the Dale/Dieffenderfer/Ruhl Gallery. Volunteers freshened up the walls and installed a display case for UCHS publications, reproductions, and other retail items.

**Many thanks** to the members of the Kratzer-Dull American Legion Post #182 for their continuing support. Their generosity made General Pershing’s visit possible. Additional support was provided by PPL, Walmart, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

### DIGGIN' & BEE-IN' AT THE DALE-ENGLE-WALKER HOUSE

On Saturday, June 16, **Kim Mattern** led an archaeological dig and explained the process archaeologists use to unearth and record evidence of past communities. Mattern, a local archaeologist and avid collector, provided background information about the early Susquehannocks and shared a wide-ranging exhibit of artifacts.



A group of twenty junior archaeologists, in teams of four, began to carefully excavate a promising site. As one team scraped layers of soil away, other teams policed the adjacent field, searching for flakes and other stone debris. Participants learned that patience and determination pay off when combing a site for artifacts. They also came away with a better understanding of our earliest neighbors.



Student photographer, Micah Zook, visually recorded group activities and findings. **Generous Sponsors** of this day camp were the G. Scott and Bessie K. Guyer Foundation and Weis Markets.



In the afternoon, **David Hackenberg**, local apiarist, and **Maryann Frazier**, a retired Penn State entomologist, spoke about bees and bee colony collapse.

Mr. Hackenberg was awarded a commemorative plaque acknowledging him as a Notable Union Countian. His observations and expertise raised worldwide awareness of this ongoing ecological crisis. Hackenberg travels the world warning of potentially dangerous agricultural policies and practices.



## COLLECTIONS NEWS by Tony Shively

The Archives /Museum Committee of the Union County Historical Society fosters the collection of Union County manuscripts, ephemera, local advertising, and decorative arts through gift and purchase.

### **The Committee would like to acknowledge the following individuals for recent donations:**

**Robert Brouse** of Mifflinburg for donating a set of membership record cards for the Lewisburg Explorer Post # 2501, Boy Scouts of America from the 1950's through the 1970's.

**Arlene Maurer** of Mifflinburg for donating items relative to the Mifflinburg Post Office during 1938 through 1939 when land for the office building was purchased and a new post office was erected.

**Union County Treasurer's office** for various hunting licenses, fishing licenses and dog licenses etc.

**John Corson** of Shirleysburg, PA for donating a copy of his recently published book entitled "The Unlikely Railroad" – the story of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad, the L & T, operated by the PA RR.

**Clyde Gass** of Milton for donating a black and white photograph showing the results of a scrap metal drive undertaken in the Borough of Lewisburg during WWII.

**Brian Berry and Kelly Miller** for donating various items including miniature replicas of the three globe street lights in Lewisburg, a West Milton State Bank candy jar, two decks of Standard Journal playing cards with advertising from Union and Upper Northumberland County businesses, booklets by Lester Kieft entitled "Joseph Priestley and the Priestley House," a pamphlet from the April 1983 program at Bucknell University on "The Joseph Priestley Celebration," and numerous newspaper clippings.

**Ardith Wilkins** of Allenwood for donating a booklet from the May 7, 1967 dedication of the Faith Chapel of the EUB Church in White Deer along with an envelope commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of White Deer Township.

**Angelo Kifolo** of Lewisburg for donating a Bucknell Commencement exercise program from 1919, C. B. Comstock blotter, three Lewisburg Youth Baseball patches from 1959, B & W photographs of the old American Legion and the Creamery Building, newspaper clippings along with a 1963 copy of "The Story of Union County" published during the Union County Sesquicentennial.



### **Items recently purchased on eBay by the Archives Committee on behalf of the society include:**

Letterhead from Edward Sellers of Lewisburg, manufacturer of agricultural implements, porch swings, stove castings and more; blotter from the Hartz Cut Rate Store in Lewisburg; trade card from Hoffman's Pharmacy in Lewisburg; receipt card from the Buffalo Flour Mills; advertising card from the Studio Gift Shop; cookbooks from St. John's United Church of Christ of Lewisburg and one published by CSIU; photograph of a miniature village taken by photographer Donald Ross of Lewisburg; real photo postcard taken at the Glen Iron Furnace by Stephen Horton; real photo postcard of the Winfield Rural Mail Carrier with his horse drawn buggy as well as postcards from Millmont, Mifflinburg and Weikert.



**The 2019 CALENDAR** is now available, containing historical photos of Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, White Deer, Central Oak Heights, the Laurel Park Bridge, Federal Penitentiary, Dreisbach and Laurelton churches, and the Buffalo Valley small gauge railroad. Regular size calendar is \$6; convenient pocket-size is \$4. Get your calendar at the society office, at New Berlin Day on August 25, or order on-line on our website.

### The Milne Cabin Update: contents donated to the historical society

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Gale Duque, Craig Miller, Nancy Miller, Bruce Teeple, Tony Shively, and Kim Ranck who made fast work of packing up the cabin contents and within two-and-a-half hours had finished the job. Gale, Nancy, and Craig had a great conveyor belt going for each item: taking a picture, writing down what the item was, giving it a number, wrapping it in newspaper, and packing it in a box. Wow! Craig along with Bruce knew what most items were, even though there might be a mystery item or two. Bruce and Tony provided strong muscular help and carried out the big things first. Jim Clark offered storage space – what a gift! –and removed a number of big items. Kim helped with the last of the packing and took photos with her phone when the camera lost its battery juice. The rest of the boxes and larger items, from a spinning wheel to a pair of delicate glasses, found its way to my house via Bruce's truck and trailer, unloaded by Bruce and Tony. Otherwise we battled spider webs and a desiccated mouse who offered no resistance. I really appreciate your help. We were a great team! *Lois Huffines*



### NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

**Kathy K. Swope**, of Winfield, has a lifetime dedication to local history. She began working on her genealogy at the age of 18, co-founded the Montgomery Township Historical Society (Montgomery County) at the age 29, and is a freelance writer specializing in historical research. She earned a BA in Elementary Education at Susquehanna University. Kathy has served on Lewisburg Area Board of School Directors for 19 years, president for the past 11 years, and as the 2016 President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Chair of the PSBA Insurance Trust. Other community involvement includes PA School District Liquid Asset Fund, Church Mutual Regent Insurance Company, PA Public Education Foundation, and Green Dragon Foundation.

**Jeff Reber** is a lifelong resident of Mifflinburg. He, his wife Karen, and their two sons, live two miles from where Jeff was raised and where his parents still live. The family's connection to Union County dates to about 1805. Reber immigrants first settled in Berks County about 1738, and from there dispersed throughout the country with Jeff's direct lineage arriving in Union County.

Jeff graduated from Mifflinburg Area School District, received a degree in business administration from Bloomsburg University and an MBA from Penn State. He built a 19-year banking career with local, community financial institutions, then pursued an entrepreneurial dream as a partner in modular home manufacturing. He is currently a contractor specializing in the Aging in Place market. Jeff's community service includes the Red Cross, American Heart Association, Rotary, Little League, Chamber of Commerce, and the Mifflinburg Masonic Lodge. He looks forward to working with the Union County Historical Society to educate the public about the county's rich history.

**Barbara Franck** resides in Mifflinburg with her husband Joshua and three children. An active volunteer within the community, Barb currently serves as the secretary for the Union County West End Fair Association, organizational leader for the Good Time 4-H club, and is the senior president of the Regina Hartman Society, Children of the American Revolution. Barb is a member of the Shikelemo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution having traced her genealogy back to Captain John Piatt who served in the New Jersey regiment during the Revolutionary War.

Barb grew up in Ransomville, NY and attended high school and college outside of Niagara Falls, NY. After college, she worked as a New York State Trooper, retiring in 2001. Volunteer work has included the Make A Wish Foundation, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, West Union Millmont Lions Club, and the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum Board.

**The Union County Historical Society office and library welcomes members and visitors**  
Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30 – located in the county courthouse, 103 S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA.  
Members have free use of society library resources. Non-members are asked for a donation of \$5/day.  
On-site research assistance is available for all those visiting the UCHS office.

**Genealogical research services** are offered for those who can not come to the office. See Genealogy and Local History Research on our website. *Please email your research questions first. We will advise.*

**Fees:**

- General genealogical search (one family) – \$50 includes copying up to 20 pages of documents. Extensive searches requiring additional time /fees can be arranged.
- Probate search for will, letters of administration, orphans court record – \$5 plus 50¢/copied page
- Obituary search and copy (must know year and approximate month of death) – \$5 per person
- Deed searches are negotiated on an individual basis. Please inquire.

**Donations** of Union County family histories (printed or digital) are accepted for the society's library.

### Recent Genealogy Searches and Their Researchers

*If you have information to share, please contact UCHS or the researcher (address and/or email below).*

WERTZ / KOCH / HAGEY: James Robison, [jadoro@juno.com](mailto:jadoro@juno.com)

KLINE, Daniel: Sue Fairchild: [sueafairchild74@gmail.com](mailto:sueafairchild74@gmail.com)

JOHNSON family: Carl Catherman, 906 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

BOYER, Samuel F.: Jackie Wynbissinger, 230 Hartland Dr., Bellevue, OH 44811

SLOUGH: Janet & Richard Slough, Harrisonburg, VA, [jandrslough@hotmail.com](mailto:jandrslough@hotmail.com)

REARICK, Peter 1769-1842 , and John Rearick c.1730-1789: Linda Rarick Young, [lyounggray@gmail.com](mailto:lyounggray@gmail.com)

PIEFFER, Mary Ann b.c.1817 Snyder Co., d. OH, + John Kramer: Heather Menke, [themenkes916@gmail.com](mailto:themenkes916@gmail.com)

### Research Library Update

#### BOWERSOX Genealogies:

*The Jacob Bowersox Family of Northwest Ohio*, compiled by Beverly Jean (Thomas) Kelly, 1985.

*The Bowersox Family Yearbook* 2005 edition.

*The First Bauersachs Family to Come to America from Germany in 1750: The Johann Bauersachs Family Story*, compiled by Tom Bowersox, 1996.

*Historical Notes and Genealogical Record of the Bowersox ....Jeremiah Daniel Bowersox 1851-1870*, compiled by The Rev. George E. Bowersox, D.D., 1950.

#### **Added to the library:**

*The Chronicle* Volume XXIX Spring 2018. Susquehanna Conference UMC.

*Wertman Lines*, Wertman Family Newsletter, June 2018.

*Shikellamy: Peace-maker and Educator* (biography, historical information, and transcribed letters).

*Annals of Buffalo Valley*, large print copy. Donated by Mary Belle Lontz

Compiled and donated by Mary Belle Lontz:

1880 and 1890 lists of Civil War Soldiers of Snyder County

1940 Census of Snyder County, PA

1940 Census of Milton, Northumberland County, PA

*Births, Deaths, Marriages of Central PA*

*Centre County Tombstones*, and *Center County Deaths and Marriages*

*Index to Otzinachson*. Note: the society seeks a donation of *Otzinschson* by John Franklin Meginness for the library. Paperback or hard cover reprint.

### **Dorothy L. Bowersox Genealogical Library**

The Society has accepted Larry Bowersox's significant donation of genealogy material and Bowersox family history, compiled by his mother, Dorothy (LeVier) Bowersox. Union County was a starting place for Bowersox history in the US, and a logical place to house this extensive reference material. Earlier catalogued books are listed in UCHS newsletters 2018 #1 and #2. More are listed below.

*Caldwell's Atlas of Jefferson Co., PA 1878.*

*Wills of Mifflin County, PA 1789-1860, Vol. 1 and 1861-1900, Vol. 2,* compiled by Dan McClenahen, 1983

*Index to Greene Co., PA Wills 1796-1900,* compiled by Bob and Mary Closson, 1980.

*Index to York County, PA Wills 1749-1900,* Closson Press, 1990.

*Dauphin County PA Marriages 1793-1810,* compiled by William L. Iscrupe, 1979.

*Index to Westmoreland Co., PA Wills 1773-1896,* compiled by Bob and Mary Closson, 1979.

*Old Westmoreland: The History and Genealogy of Westmoreland Co., PA Vol VI #3,* 1986

*Index of Wills and Administration Records, Philadelphia, PA 1811-1832.*

*Alcola Trinity Hawthorne Cemetery Records,* Alcola, Red Bank Twp., Clarion Co., PA.

*Index to Armstrong Co., PA Wills 1805-1900.*

*Rimersburg Cemetery, Rimersburg, PA,* compiled by Sally Jordan Reed, 2000.

*Early Birth Records of Northampton Co., PA, and Ancestors of Mildred Delilah Lankerd.*

*Middle Run Cemetery, Red Bank Twp., Fairmont City, Clarion Co., PA,* 1987.

*St. John's Lutheran Church near Berrysburg, Mifflin Twp., Dauphin Co., PA,* compiled by Philip A. Rice and Jean A. Delleck [church records].

*Baptismal Records of Jerusalem Lutheran and Reformed Church, Berks County, PA,* compiled by John I. Kestler, 1959.

*Descendants of Samuel Michael, Sr. & Appelonia Kneer & Elizabeth Brocious.* By Clarence R. Shirley, 2000 [Hickory Corners and Dalmatia, Northumberland Co., PA; Ringgold, Jefferson Co. and North Freedom, Armstrong Co., PA].

*The Carpenter's Kin: Descendants of Hans (Jacob) Manny, Jr. and Anna Maria Werly,* by Clarence R. Shirley, 2001. [Upper Mt. Bethel Twp., Northampton Co., PA and Redbank Twp, Armstrong Co. (now Hawthorn, Clarion Co.) PA].  
*Descendants of Ulrich Michel & Maria Margaret, and Jacob Michel and Anna Margaretha,* by Clarence R. Shirley, 2000.

*The Wenger Book: A Foundation Book of American Wengers,* by Samuel S. Wenger, 1978.

*Christian Kauffman: His Descendants and His People,* by S. Duane Kauffamn, 1980.

*Repassing at My Side...A Story of the Junkins,* by Richard D. and Elisabeth C. Robinson, 1975.

*Pioneer Cemeteries of Southeastern Ohio 1801-1980,* compiled by Conner & Masters, 1981.

*Columbiana County, Ohio, Cemetery Inscriptions,* Vol 2, 1977; Vol 3 1978; Vol 4, 1978; Vol 5, 1978.

*Directory of Census Information Sources,* Fourth Edition, edited by J.Konrad, 1980.

*Athens County, Ohio, Index to the 1870 Federal Census,* compiled by Beverly Schumacher and Marvin Fletcher, 1984.

*Evergreen Union Cemetery, Pike Co., Waverly, Ohio, Tombstone Inscriptions,* 1977.

*Van Wert County, Ohio Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. 1,* Tully and Pleasant Twps., 1982.

*1900 Darke County, Ohio, Census,* compiled by Rose Shilt and Audrey Gilbert, 1982.

*Tazwell County, Illinois, Land Records Index 1827-March 1838, Vol 1.* 1980.

*The Early History of Greene County, Indiana,* by Uncle Jack Baber, 1875.

*Bridge in Time: The Complete 1850 Census of Frederick Co., MD,* compiled by Mary Fitzhugh Hitselberger and John Philip Dern, 1978.

**The society appreciates donations** in memory of Dorothy Bowersox from Gladys Greenwood (sister-in-law) and Nancy McLaughlin (niece) of Grove City PA; Janet Craton (niece) of Warner Robins, GA; Larry & Susie Bowersox and George E. Bowersox III and Gail (Dorothy's sons and their wives) of Newark, DE.

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 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 events. Members receive the biennial Heritage book, newsletters, a discount on society publications, and free use of our extensive reference library.

New, renewing, and gift memberships: please mail this form to:  
Union County Historical Society, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____
Membership level: Lifetime (individual) \$500 Patron \$150   Contributor \$100   Supporter \$50   Individual \$35   Student (K-12) \$10

Please visit [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org) for events, articles, resource list, and more.