



Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

Fall/Winter 2005

Calendar of Events



- Sundays from 2 to 4 PM through October 26* *Dale/Engle/Walker House tours and exhibits*
Guided tours of the house, summer kitchen, and library.
- August 17, 18, 19 & 20* *Rural Heritage Days at Dale/Engle/Walker*
- September 8, 7:30 PM* *The Mathewson Family: Christy, Jane and Christy, Jr.* by Robert
Gaines
- October 16, 3:00 PM* *Celebrating 250 Years at Leroy Springs*, by Eli Reiff
- November 10, 6:00 PM* ***John B. Deans ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM***
by John L. Moore
Dinner at 6:00 PM, program at 7:30 PM.

A Message from the President of the Union County Historical Society

History has always been fascinating to me. Folks tell me that history often repeats itself. Today we take our automobiles for granted. Did you ever think what you would do if your automobile were taken away from you? In 1910, when buggies were being turned out by the thousands in Mifflinburg, three Goehring brothers, who lived in Zelienople, Butler County, Pennsylvania, were students at Bucknell. Automobiles were not a viable form of inter-city transportation, so how did these three arrive in a town of about 3,000 people from a town of about 3,000 people and 200 miles distant? If you attended our May 12th program, you would know*. It is hard to believe that 95 years ago a person could board a train in Lewisburg and travel to almost any town and city in the United States. Even 50 years ago a bus could take you to State College, Harrisburg, Scranton or Williamsport at least twice a day.

This is history! I wonder, as the price of gasoline creeps up, how long it will be before the residents of rural communities and small cities will start demanding the re-establishment of good, reliable public transportation? Ninety-five years from now, will students attending Bucknell come in their future automobiles, will the golf course be transformed into a parking lot, or will there be a transportation system in place that enables students, faculty and residents to move around without the need for the private automobile? I do not know if history will repeat itself in a way we would imagine today, but sometimes we bring back what has been discarded in order to survive.

Volunteers are needed!!!! Your Board of Directors, all volunteers, put in a lot of effort to plan and carry out the programs, publications, school tours, ground maintenance at the Dale/Engle/Walker House and special events. We need your help! Opportunities include manning the court house office on Fridays, acting as host/hostess or tour guides at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Sunday afternoons, help with inventory of artifacts and setting up displays, writing articles for publication, the list goes on. And we are always looking for candidates to serve on the Board. All you need is an interest in history. We will help you with the rest. Let us hear from you. Call the office at 524-8666.

~ David

*The L&T (Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad).

PROGRAMS & EXHIBITS:

Thursday, September 8, 7:30 PM

***The Mathewson Family: Christy, Jane and Christy, Jr.*
presented by Robert Gaines**

at The Forum in the Langone Center, Bucknell University, Lewisburg

Robert Gaines, of Bucknell University, will present the program *The Mathewson Family: Christy, Jane and Christy, Jr.*, about sportsman Christy Mathewson, famed professional baseball pitcher for the New York Giants. Mathewson attended Bucknell University where he played football and basketball as well as baseball. The stadium at Bucknell is named in honor of this talented and well-respected gentleman.

Mr. Gaines is Manager of Development Communications at Bucknell, having previously worked as a San Diego newspaper sports columnist. He, his wife, Linda, and their children, Megan and Robbie, live in Lewisburg.

This program is free of charge and open to the public. The Langone Center at Bucknell is located at the intersection of Moore Avenue and S. 7th Street. Parking is available along Moore Avenue and in a lot across from the center.

Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 PM

***The Leroy Springs Massacre*
presented by Eli Reiff
at the Leroy Springs, Mifflinburg**

Eli Reiff, UCHS board member and Mifflinburg Groffdale Mennonite, will present the story of the 1755 "Leroy Springs Massacre," and the reuniting of a young girl and her mother through a song. The story is an example of the conflict between early settlers and the native inhabitants of central Pennsylvania.

The program will take place at Leroy Springs, located at the corner of Ridge and Dice Roads. From Mifflinburg: take Route 304 east approximately 1 mile to Ridge Road; turn left and travel about 1/2 mile to Dice Road. This program is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. In the event of rain, the program will be postponed to Sunday, October 23, same time and place.

**Thursday, November 10, 6:00 PM - Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program
1755 - An Indian War Comes to the Susquehanna Valley. presented by John L. Moore
at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Route 45, Mifflinburg, PA
Dinner at 6 PM and Program at 7:30 PM**

Historical writer John L. Moore will speak about the illegal settlement of the areas west of the Susquehanna River by Europeans. Mr. Moore's latest book, *Rivers, Raiders and Renegades: True Tales About Indians, Outlaws, Settlers and Soldiers on the Eastern Frontier*, has just been published. The book details the earliest European exploration of the areas now comprising eastern Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, from 1609 to 1689. It is a companion work to Moore's *Traders, Travelers and Tomahawks* and *Cannons, Cattle and Campfires*. A former managing editor of the *Daily Item*, Mr. Moore lives in Northumberland.

The program follows the annual dinner, to which all are invited. The buffet dinner features choices of entrees, sides, salad, dessert and beverages. Prepaid reservations are required. Local members will receive a letter and reservation form in October, however, reservations can be made at any time prior to November 3 by calling or writing the Society office.

New Exhibit

From Forest to Finished Product

At the Dale/Engle/Walker House beginning August 17

Member Ruth-Alice Spangler will be installing a new exhibit at the Dale House, called *From Forest to Finished Product*. The exhibit will cover the lumbering, building, and furniture-making history of Union County. Mrs. Spangler has also secured a speaker on the history and techniques of timbering for the program on Thursday, August 18 for Rural Heritage Days.

Local Events of Interest

August 27 - New Berlin Day celebrates the history and heritage of New Berlin with crafts and antiques, food, music and entertainment. Sponsored by the New Berlin Activities Committee. In New Berlin, Routes 304 & 204.

October 15 & 16 - Aaronsburg Dutch Fall Festival 2005: A Tribute to Tradition, featuring crafts and antiques, historic re-enactments, music and food; sponsored by the Aaronsburg Civic Club. Located in Aaronsburg, Rte 45, Centre County.

Juniata County Historical Society
498 Jefferson Street, Mifflin, PA, 717-536-5152. juncohis@tricounty.net

October 18 Dinner Program "Lenape Lifeways: Introducing the First People of Pennsylvania" by Carla Messinger, Director of Native American Heritage Programs, Allentown, PA. The Lenni Lenape were the first inhabitants of eastern PA and parts of NY, NJ, MD and DE. Admired and respected by Wm. Penn, they were later betrayed and forced from their villages by the policies of Penn's grandson and the infamous Walking Purchase. The program will be held at the Walker Grange, Mexico, PA.

"Andersonville Committee," Gettysburg Camp #112
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, PO Box 3176, Gettysburg, PA 17325

December 7 -100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Pennsylvania Monument, Andersonville, Georgia. According to the National Park Service in Georgia, there were approximately 4825 prisoners from Pennsylvania at Andersonville during the Civil War, about 1835 of whom died there. To this day, Andersonville is a meaningful and controversial topic. For more information: www.paatandersonville.com or www.gettysburgcamp112.org. Also William R. Mock, Commander Gettysburg Camp 112: wrm138@hotmail.com and Jim Michaels (for information on limited edition print of the PA Memorial at Andersonville Cemetery by Gary Casteel) at: camp112treas@yahoo.com or jim@watchmaker.com.

Packwood House Museum, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA, 570-523-0323
Exhibits can be seen during the museum hours, Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM

Through August 27 "Time to Play" Antique Toys Exhibit looks at toys of yesteryear, from the 1850s through the 1950s. There will be a hands-on play area for children of all ages.

September 10 - October 29 "Country Furniture Making-Reviving the Pennsylvania German Tradition" looks at the work of ten craftspeople who are handcrafting reproductions of beautiful Pennsylvania furniture. The exhibit is a joint project with SEDA-COG. There will be several programs given by the furniture-makers during the exhibit's run; please contact the Museum for dates and details.

September 29, 6 PM Members and Friends Dinner. The public is invited to join Museum members and friends for dinner at the Lewisburg Hotel. The evening's speaker is Dr. Irwin Richman of Penn State Capital Campus, speaking on "Flower and Garden in Pennsylvania German Art."

Early October Trip to the American Folk Art Museum, New York. To accompany the fall exhibit, the Museum is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City to the new painted furniture exhibit at the American Folk Art Museum. Trip includes a visit to New York Public Library and one other museum. Please call for details.

November 22 - January 7, 2006 Annual Holiday Exhibit will focus on dollhouses and miniatures. Both the Kelly Gallery and the first floor of the Museum will be decorated.

Through January 7, 2006 "The Road Taken: Edith Fetherston's World Travels" highlights the museum founder's travels and the kinds of "souvenirs" she may have picked up on her visits to France, Germany, England, Japan, Mongolia, the central Soviet republics, Egypt, and Jordan. Beautiful objects from the collection, accompanied by photographs, postcards, and maps, give visitors a taste of international travel without having to leave the Susquehanna

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE DALE/ENGLER/WALKER HOUSE



The Dale/Engler/Walker House hosts its first outside event this summer—the Engler family reunion in mid-August. More than 75 members of the Engler family gather on August 13 from as far away as Massachusetts and Colorado. The Society was pleased to see the first property rental be to a member, or shall we say “members” since Millie Engler Noll, Ruth Engler Clemens, Bill Clemens, Anna Engler Persham, Grace Engler Buckley, and George and Jake Engler are all Society members!

Consider renting the Dale/Engler/Walker House for your family reunion or wedding. Contact the office at 524-8666 to find out about rates and policies.

House Work

Earlier over the winter and spring months work at the house continued at a steady but noticeably less intense pace than in the past years. In the late winter some of our regulars came out to burn piles of autumn olive and other invasive plants that had grown over a former farm field within sight of the house. Working and watching the piles were: Gary Slear (property manager), Jake Engler, David Goehring, and Wayne McDiffett. Then in April, two Linn Conservancy work crews with board member John Tonzetich cleaned up the house grounds in anticipation of the Conservancy’s Caring for Communities events held there. Eric Imgrund, excavator, worked with Gary Slear, Jake Engler, and David Goehring in consolidation of burn pile remnants. David Arndt returned as well to make some interior repairs, and Bill and Mollie Criswell and Nancy Hoffman worked on the gardens. Jeannette Lasansky coordinated many of these efforts.

Also in April, Bill Deitrick from the Union County Conservation District, Gary Slear, Jeannette Lasansky, and farmer Lloyd Zimmerman met to discuss plans for the future conversion of some farm crop land to farm pasture land. Gary also supervised yet another Eagle Scout Project that was headed by Scout Micheal Snyder. The ambitious project encompassed planting new native species along the corn crib’s east side, along the red shed and beside other earlier plantings by the welcome sign. We purchased our plants from Dogwood Hill Nurseries which again helped us with good specimens at discounted prices.

Donations and Grants Fund New & Continuing Projects

New donations to reconstruct the former wagon shed were secured from Kuhns Brothers LumberCo., Inc. Members Terry and Dotti Zimmerman’s initial and major gift has been key to the reconstruction of the wagon shed. The shed is a post and beam construction and will be cut and raised on-site during Rural Heritage Days (see enclosed flyer) this August 17-20. The work will be overseen by member and architect Ted Strosser, the mortice and tendon work will be done by Amishman Jonathan Hostetler, the standing seam tin roof by Bob Sampsell, and the siding and doors by Fred Wert of Middleburg.

A successful Sheary grant will fund a new audio interpretive station for this building. The station will be similar to the three stations in the house which give narrations on Samuel Dale, slavery in Union County, and the underground railroad. The new station will focus on dairy, general farm work and the vehicles used by a Union County farmer. Members Gary Slear, Jeannette Lasansky, and Jake Engler will be working on the new station’s narrative text.

A major gift from the Paul and Geneva Crow Trust has allowed for the completion of the repointing of the house. A gift in 2003 from the trust enabled us to do the front facade of the house as well as the porch side. Gifts in late 2004 and again in May 2005, allowed us to call back to the site mason Mihai Epure of Beaver Springs. He then completed work to the north and west sides of the house as well as under the porch. The Crow gift was the fourth large contribution made to the property by that trust. We are very thankful for those who have had continued interest in the property as such interest has allowed the Society to proceed to projects beyond those covered in the 2001 Capital Campaign.

Fred Wert did custom work in the collections’ area of the house: making six walls for hanging all of our framed material. A generous gift from Jean Ruhl allowed the Society to purchase four large shelving units for boxed items. In the future we plan to have a members’ afternoon for viewing the collections.

COLLECTION NEWS

The Archives & Museum Committee has been active since last reporting in the winter newsletter. Collecting and caring for Union County material for the Society is fun and the committee is constantly at one aspect or another of its work. New committee member Gary Spangler from New Berlin has joined veteran members Daniel Sachse, Pat Longley, Mike Manbeck, Gary Slear, and Jeannette Lasansky. Any society members who might be interested in joining, or who have items you want us to review, should contact any committee member directly.

The committee normally gets together at least twice a year to put accession numbers on new acquisitions and in other ways prepare items for consultants working under state grant monies to catalog our objects using standard museum nomenclature. The committee met twice in January and will meet in August to do these hands-on assignments. The consultants came in February and will return in the fall to work on a backlog of material.

The Collection - In January the committee moved more of the small objects in the collection to the new facility at the Dale/Engle/Walker House. Nearly three-quarters of the collection has been rehoused there. In January and February duplicates were separated out as well as some objects that did not have Union County connections. One Snyder County quilt was given to the Snyder County Historical Society, arrowheads from Montour County were donated to that county's historical society in Danville, while other objects were put in our March Cabin Fever Sale. Proceeds from that sale are used to purchase Union County material for the collection and in late May, the committee used the proceeds to purchase an 1863 Lewisburg-made long rifle in wonderful condition.

The Society is quite excited about our improved storage for collection "smalls" at the Dale/Engle/Walker House: new shelving has been purchased and custom-made mesh walls have been installed from which our growing collection of framed paintings, prints, photographs, broadsides, diplomas, birth certificates, and advertising items hang. We plan to hold a members-only day in the early spring for those who want to see the new facility.

Exhibits from the collections have been on view in the courthouse as well as the Dale/Engle/Walker House. In the courthouse, by the office door: Union County dairy items were seen through February, and new objects in the collection are there until September. From June through October small wooden items from the collection (like Union County baskets) are being featured in the House's Ruhl/Dieffenderfer/Dale Gallery. Larger items such as furniture will be in the Degenstein Gallery along with a timeline on Union County wood industries: logging, mills, home building, and furniture making. Board member Ruth Alice Spangler is assembling and mounting the large summer exhibit. *Wood is the unifying theme of the 2nd Annual Rural Heritage Days in Union County.*

Purchases - The committee has a modest acquisitions budget and purchased the following items since the beginning of the year:

- Baker (Lewisburg) embossed glass pharmacy bottle
- Lewisburg ruby glass souvenir dish
- "Lewisburg" pint embossed milk bottle
- 1907 souvenir of the Pike school
- Mifflinburg Bank & Trust personal phone book with 18 period ads
- Old postcards: 1928 Weikert souvenir card, 2 Stone Villa Haven (Lewisburg) cards, several additional real photo postcards of Maurer family reunion c.1906, Cowan and Millmont souvenir cards, 2 Mazeppa house real photo cards, Hotel Lewisburg card (1951), and a Lewisburg aerial postcard
- Advertising pieces: fans from Grove's Furniture Company in Mifflinburg, Edmund Shively Radios, and D. Neil Pursley, Funeral Director; a 1913 calendar from J.P. Gast, Millmont; trade card from New Columbia stove dealer; old Christmas Club and envelope from Samuel Maus Burial Vaults, Lewisburg
- 1930s Purity Candy company Easter egg box
- Erdley's Dairy (Lewisburg) 1963 calendar, Crystal Spring (John W. Newman) Dairy receipt pad, 1924 National Dairy Council paper milk bottle advocating "Drink Milk Everybody"
- 11 large format photos mounted on boards of the 1889 flood in Lewisburg including the Halfpenny Woolen Mills

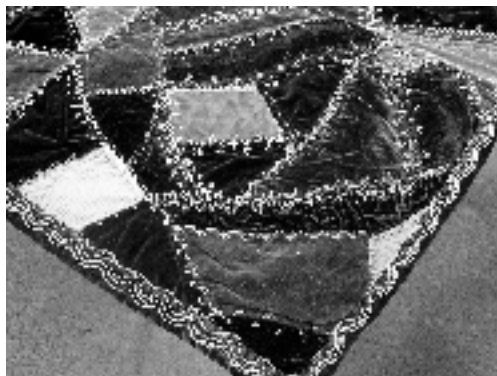


New collection objects at the courthouse office

- “Lewisburg Dairy” embossed pint milk bottle and Bechtel’s quart milk bottle with special pyro design
- Hymnal printed in New Berlin in 1846
- Laurelton Foundry catalog and price list from the 1930s

Donations - The Society relies on the generosity of donors to make the collections grow faster and deeper, and since January the following items of Union County origin have been given by:

- Margaret Seebold - a Seebold farm sale broadside printed in 1885 by printer G.W. Schoch of Mifflinburg.
- Hertha Wehr - a booklet of the 1937 Highland Farm dispersal of Charles C. Erdley
- Gary Cronrath - 1934 and 1936 Strunk Ambulance Service (Lewisburg) calendars and an H.R. Miller (tailor), Lewisburg, advertising hanger
- Jeannette Lasansky - a 1909 moonlit postcard of “The Willows,” Lewisburg and a group of contemporary post cards on Mifflinburg and Lewisburg subjects
- Alyssa Shedlach - 30 Department of Forestry reports from 1913-1925 documents
- Kim Mattern - a 1987 copper Mifflinburg bank
- Clyde Peeling - three old postcards of Reptiland
- Tony Shively - a 1909 Union Township telephone ledger
- Mary E. Olt - a large framed photo of her rushing a chair at Pennsylvania House
- Anonymous donor - a Mifflinburg Bank savings passbook from 1934, and Musser Hardware invoice, envelope, and pamphlet.
- Irene Musser - Pennsylvania House catalog
- Carol Lynn Anderson - a 1936 Oneida yearbook and 1888 autograph album
- Marilyn Miller and Roger Miller, descendants of Alice Walter - A crazy quilt, featured in "In the Heart of Pennsylvania" quilt book; a crazy quilt coffin cover of wools and satins with fancy stitch embroidery; and black skirt, blouse and cape, all made by Alice Walter of Swengel, 1867-1927; and a photograph of Alice Walter.
- Nancy Kunkel Murray - Pennsylvania House stool from 1966 with original sales receipt; numerous Pennsylvania House catalogs including early ones from the 1960's; 20 Union County post cards including real photo cards of the Opera House fire and one of Pennsylvania House display at the 1964/5 World's Fair; Lewisburg National Bank advertising tape measure and memo pad; Evangelical Hospital older annual reports; Purity Candy box from 1960's; a period Lewisburg Businessmen's Association book and miscellaneous county paper items.
- We have received a large group of furniture drawings and sales catalogs from former Pennsylvania House employees. This complements previous material given by Pennsylvania House and past employees through the efforts of Dick Steffensen, former furniture designer.



Crazy quilt coffin cover made by Alice Walter



The Society has acquired this beautiful original drawing of the Campus Theatre by the architect David Supowitz. The framed piece was donated by Jacquie Steifel, who for many years worked at the theatre owned by her father. The Campus, on Market Street, Lewisburg, is one of the few remaining “movie houses” in the area. It continues to show current and archival films in the restored Art Deco building.

The drawing now has pride of place in the Society office in the county courthouse. Please come in to see it!

Samuel Dale Library Update

Recent additions to the 1804 Dale Library, the Society’s project to replicate the library of Samuel Dale as listed in his will, are:

- *The Poems of Oliver Goldsmith*, Dublin, 1800, given by Gary and Donna Sleary;
- *The Fool of Quality*, 5 volumes, by Henry Brooke, London, 1792, given by Jean Ruhl;
- *Solitude* by J. G. Zimmerman, Dublin, 1800, given by Jean Ruhl;
- *Plutarch's Lives*, 9 volumes, published 1749, dedicated to Dorothy Jeannette Mehrer, a bibliophile.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Heritage Volume XX, 2006 is Available Now

The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg

It's sure to be a Union County best seller!

By M. Lois Huffines

The 2006 issue of the *Heritage*, to be available this August, brings us the history of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg. This volume is timely in that 2005 marks the 75th anniversary of the groundbreaking of the prison complex and 2007 marks the 75th anniversary of its opening. The Penitentiary at Lewisburg has played an important role in Union County and was, in its time, at the forefront of advances of penology. The story is a fascinating one, in which we learn much, not only about the Bureau of Prisons, but also about the story behind the prison's architecture and the penal philosophy that the architecture was meant to express. The volume contains a wealth of photographs, the majority of which have never been published before. It is exciting to see how the "Big House," always within view of Lewisburg and its surroundings, has changed over time.

The volume contains essays on the place of the Lewisburg Penitentiary within the broader context of the Federal prison system, the history of its location and construction in Lewisburg, the impetus for the choice of its architecture, and the philosophy of reform and rehabilitation that originally determined how the prisoners were classified and the specifics of their incarceration. The volume also contains interviews of former employees who worked at the Penitentiary when it opened, as well as lists of the staff on opening day, the wardens who have served there, and statistics regarding the number of prisoners, the type of offenses, and the sentences imposed.

This *Heritage* volume is an interesting look into the prison that has dominated the Lewisburg skyline, and the pictures are worth membership in the Union County Historical Society in themselves. It is an exciting volume. Look for your copy in August!

Members renewing for 2006 are entitled to a free copy of the *Heritage*. Those living near Lewisburg are asked to pick up their copy from the Historical Society office in the Union County Courthouse, S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg. Remember, the office is open weekdays 8:30-12 noon and 1:00-4:30. Members residing elsewhere will receive their copy in the mail. Local members who cannot pick up their copy, please call 524-8666 to arrange for mailing. It saves greatly on postage if those who can, get their copy from the office.

2006 Historical Calendar on Sale in August

The 2006 Historical Calendar, designed by Alan Richard of RichardHouse Photo Restoration and published by the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* contains photographs of Devitt's Camp in Allenwood, White Springs School, the Mifflinburg High School band, and scenes of Lewisburg, Weikert, New Berlin and more. A photo collage of real photo postcards adorns the cover.



Calendar sponsors for 2006 are: Ard's Farm Market, Bucknell University, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Citizens' Electric, Iddings Quarry, Lewisburg Builders Supply, Lewisburg Hotel, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, Open Door Gallery, Reba & Pancho's Restaurant, Richardhouse Photo Restoration, Ritz-Craft, Ruhl's Engraving, Sovereign Bank, Swineford Bank, West Milton State Bank.

You may buy the calendar at the Society office, the Dale/Engle/Walker House and at these area merchants: Mary Koons Shop, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Country Farm & Home in Mifflinburg; Shirk's Store in Millmont; Laurel Market in Laurelton; Ard's Farm Market, Country Cupboard, the Lewisburg Hotel and Wagner's Stationery in Lewisburg; and most area banks in New Berlin, Mifflinburg, West Milton, and Lewisburg.

Additions to the Research Library

Added to our family books and newsletters are:

Aikey Family (updated May 2005) by Glenda Sheaffer
Baker Family in Union County. Donated/prepared by Mary Belle Lontz
The Barber & Lacey Families of Kirkman, Iowa including data on Barber, Maize, Spitler, Wetzel, Krause, or Shortess. Donated by Denny Williams, Ontario, Canada
Bingaman Family History: Descendants of Johann Jost Bingaman (March 2005) by Arleigh P. Helfer, Jr.
Book of Bowers compiled by Ester Akens Wolf
Descendents of Ludwig Derr. Donated/prepared by Mary Belle Lontz
The Genealogy of the Dorman Family 1753-1989 by Perl M. Kaler
Hironimus Family, donated by Glenda Sheaffer, Mifflinburg
Descendents of William Pursley, families and individuals dating from c. 1805. Donated by Glenda Sheaffer, Mifflinburg
Sholter Family, donated by Glenda Sheaffer, Mifflinburg
Shuman/Wilt Family History Correction by Roger N. Whiting
Excerpts from *Thompson Family History: Kulps/Calps, Schneck, Swartz families of Union County*, donated by Marc D. Thompson, Delray Beach, FL.
Descendants of Johannes Yohn 1751-1825, written and donated by June Yohn, Palmyra, PA

Groninger Family Record 2005 update.

Keefer Family Newsletter Vol. XVIII #1 & 2, March & June 2005.

The Millmont Times monthly editions through June 2005.

Now and Then: A Magazine of History, Biography and Genealogy, 2005, Muncy Historical Society and Museum.
Snyder County Historical Society Bulletins for 2005.

Added to the library are:

The Colonel's Reward; A historical Novel, donated by the author Homer K. Folk.
Difficult Crossings donated by the author Robert Scott Franks. Published by West Branch Heritage, Watsonstown, PA, 2004.
History of Cowan and Its People, by Mary Belle Lontz
Monitoring the Situation: The Evolution of the Relationship Between the Soldiers and the Community of Union County, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War as Presented Through the Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle, donated by the author, David L. Bell, III, Lewisburg.
Priestley and the Inhabitants of Northumberland: Slaves and Servants, Friends and Acquaintances. 2000. Donated by the author, Leslie Patrick, Bucknell University.
World War II Soldiers Memorial List, by Drew Macamer, donated by Mary Belle Lontz.
World War II Soldiers in various cemeteries mostly in Northumberland.

Genealogical Queries

The following information is sought by those who have visited/contacted the Historical Society. Please respond to the contact person indicated:

Seeking information on BARBER, Rev. James died 19 Sep 1867, minister and leader for almost 50 years with the Evangelical Association, and **Mary (Maize) Barber**, his wife, died 19 Dec 1870. Also their relatives in Maize, Spitler, Wetzel, Krause, and Shortess families.

Contact: Denny Williams / denny_d_williams@msn.com or www.mindspring.com/~barber-laceyfamily/ <http://www.mindspring.com/~barber-laceyfamily/> / (905) 637-6304

MOYER, Peter 7/26/1782 - 4/27/1849 and wife Elizabeth, died 8/12/1866, Snyder County; children Rebecca, Peter b. 7/20/1817 Perry Twp, Snyder Co., Salome b. 7/15/1819 and Johannes b. 7/11/1821.

Contact: Martina McCleary, 1815 Marigold Road, York, PA 17404

KESSLER, Benjamin and wife **Kate Reiner** married c. 1840's; children: **Isaac Kessler** 1846/50 - 1914 and wife Dianna/Dinah 6/13/1853-2/1927 and son Edward F.; Benjamin F. Kessler and Hester.

Contact John Kessler, 5290 Pine Tree Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

If you are interested in helping do genealogical research using Society resources and courthouse records, please call the office. Training is available.

Research Query - One Room Schools

A member of the society is working on a project on the one-room schools in Union County. *Wanted* - old photographs of student groups in front of one-room schools in the county preferably with the students' names. Also, interested in talking with people with personal recollections or family stories about the schools, and those who know the history, students and teachers of any of the one-room schools, for the purpose of identifying those pictured in old photographs. Please contact the society office at 524-8666 if you can help on this project.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON

Judge's Portrait Project

Years ago, early Union County judges' portraits hung in a large law library on the second floor of the County Courthouse. Early portraits of county Bar Association members were also on display. During renovations of the courthouse in 1992-93, the portraits were placed in storage. When the courtroom was renovated in 1998-1999, it was thought the judges' portraits could be displayed there, but this was not possible because of the soundproofing baffles on the walls. At the time that the Historical Society became involved, the portraits were stacked in a corner of the arbitration hearing room on the second floor. At the suggestion of Judge Louise Knight, the Union County Historical Society initiated the project to preserve the portraits and again display them in the courthouse. The Union County Commissioners approved very modest funding for the project and the Union County Bar Association made a contribution.

Many of the older portraits had condition problems, needing rematting or repairs to the frames. The early Bar Association portraits needed serious conservation work to stabilize the pictures. This work was done by Owen Mahon of The Open Door Gallery in Lewisburg.

Photograph portraits of presiding Judges Harold Woelfel and Louise Knight were taken by Jim Walter of Mifflinburg. Retired Judge Wayne Bromfield was photographed by Mel Rakerd of Rakerd Studios in Lewisburg. A photograph of retired Judge A. Thomas Wilson was provided by his family, and enlarged and restored by Alan Richard of RichardHouse Photo Restoration in Winfield. Alan Richard also prepared the photograph of Judge James McClure. Name plates for the new portraits were provided by engraver William Ruhl of Lewisburg.

The courthouse maintenance staff, especially Merrill Swartz and Kim Mattern, helped with all aspects of the project, including transporting the portraits, protecting them in storage, and hanging them for display in the hallway leading to the courtroom.

The portraits are now displayed in the second floor hallway, in chronological order, starting with Ellis Lewis who served from 1833-1842 and ending with presiding Judges Harold Woelfel and Louise Knight. Around the far corner are the early Bar Association members' portraits. At the entrance to the courtroom are several large oil paintings of former judges, moved from the first floor, to better appreciate their grand size.



At the official unveiling of the portraits on May 12, UCHS president David Goehring spoke, as did Judges Woelfel and Knight. Present were Union County Commissioners, courthouse staff and participants in the project.

Missing Portraits Sought

There are only two portraits missing in the lineage of presiding judges of Union/Snyder County: a portrait of Miles I. Potter, who presided from 1922-1932 and a portrait of Seth Chapman, the first judge, who served from 1813-1833. The Historical Society is seeking these portraits and asks that anyone who might know of a picture of Miles Potter or Seth Chapman to contact us.

Union County Historical Society Receives Several Grants

Earlier in 2005 the society received a general operating support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. That successful grant, written by Carol Manbeck, supports some annual operating expenses like our Education Coordinator, a countywide cemetery project, the Red Bank School days for area fourth graders, and further interpretation of the Dale/Engle/Walker 1793 hearth.

As noted earlier in this letter, the Edna Sheary Trust awarded a grant to the society for a new interpretive station focused on farming, farm vehicles and more, for the soon-to-be reconstructed wagon shed.

Other grants were received from the Union County Commissioners' Tourism Fund. The Society has received funds for three distinct projects: a publicity flyer designed by Adrienne Beaver for the upcoming Rural Heritage Days on August 17-20 at the Dale/Engle/Walker farm, reprinting the New Berlin walking tour brochure, and the more complex execution of a countywide historical sites tour on CD. The tour will cover dozens of sites throughout Union County and can be done in parts or in its entirety. The tour has been refined and the text written by Diana and Jeannette Lasansky. This summer and fall the narration will be recorded by area residents at Susquehanna Sounds in Northumberland. The final stage will be mixing the narrations and making the CDs.

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Retirements

Thank you, thank you, thank you - to two longtime contributors to the Society:

Judy Marvin, our Education Coordinator since 1995, has retired. Judy assumed the role when the historic site bus tours were the primary focus of this assignment. Since 1995, Judy has implemented the Red Bank School program, an 18th century costume program, a wills and inventory lesson, and expanded the historic/architectural walking tour of New Berlin, Mifflinburg and Lewisburg for the Lewisburg and Mifflinburg school districts.

Paul Ernst became treasurer of the Society upon the death of the society's first treasurer, George Ruhl, in 1990. For 15 years, Paul has overseen the expansion of the Society's finances from a fairly simple, one account system, to a multi-account organization that now includes special financial reports to the Society, the Dale/Engle/Walker House and endowment funds that help support both of these endeavors.

These two loyal workers will be greatly missed.

Summer Interns

During this summer, two college students interned at the Historical Society, thanks in large part to funding from the Degenstein Foundation.

Maggie Miller, a 2004 graduate of Lewisburg High School, will be a sophomore at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is majoring in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences with a History concentration and minor in Secondary Education. Maggie plans to become a high school history teacher after graduation. During the summer at the Society, she has helped in the office, worked on our obituary files, searched records for our African-American project, and given tours at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

Joe Manbeck is a 2005 graduate of Mifflinburg High School. In the fall he will be attending Lehigh University, Bethlehem, majoring in Engineering. His main responsibility this summer has been keeping the grounds at the Dale/Engle/Walker House looking nice, but you would also see him in the office working on research and genealogy projects.

Both students were a great help to the office, since we see many more people doing genealogical research over the summer, and have all the added tasks associated with the Dale House tours. The students benefit as well by gaining varied work experience. The Society hopes to provide internships next summer as well.



Welcome New Members

Ms. Leanne Keefer Bechdel, Mifflinburg PA
Dr. Richard Klinetob, Milton PA
Mr. Lynn Miller, Lewisburg PA

Ms. Emma Murphy, Vestal, NY
Libby & Arne Vesilind, Lewisburg PA
Mr. Nathan Walzer, Loganton, PA

✧ Thank you Members ✧

We thank all members who have renewed for 2005. Your support is the backbone of the organization. We especially want to thank those who, since January, have become:

Patrons: Marshall & Dorothy Ginter, Laurel, MD

Life Member: Matthew C. Wagner, Mifflinburg

As always, we thank our Friday volunteers who staff the office in the county courthouse: Judith Blair, Paul Ernst, David Goehring; and those who provide invaluable research assistance: Mary Belle Lontz, and Glenda Sheaffer and Carl Catherman who also work on Fridays.

✧ Many Thanks ✧

Thanks to Black History Month speakers: Kate Hastings, Juanita Patience Moss, and Jeannette Lasansky, and to those providing support for those programs: Mike and Carol Manbeck, Judith Blair, David Goehring, Pat Longley, Andrea Bashore, Jake Engle, Jeannette Lasansky, and Terry Eberhart, and the *Millmont Times* and the *Standard Journal's* press coverage in particular.

Thanks to 4th Grade School Tour bus guides and site hosts: David Goehring, Becky Hagenbaugh, Jeannette Lasansky, Carol Manbeck, Billy Mattern, Judy Marvin, Eli Reiff, Gary Slear and Carla Watson.

Thanks to: Rural Heritage Days planning group of Bill Clemens, Bill Callahan, Bill Deitrick, Ted Strosser, Ruth-Alice Spangler, Gary Slear, Mark Cromley, Sally Miller, Terry Eberhardt, Eli & Kathleen Reiff, and chair person, Jeannette Lasansky. Other thanks go to designer Adrienne Beaver and the Union County Tourism Fund for our new advertising poster.

Thanks to our college research assistants: Susquehanna University history major Carol Olausen, who spent her spring break researching on slavery in Union/Snyder counties; Bucknell students Mara Wilcox, Dana Cook-Milligan and Jesselyn Greiner, who worked on various projects over the Spring semester.

Thanks to those hosting and guiding at the Dale/Engle/Walker property in the early summer months: David Bell, Judith Blair, Nancy & Roger Curran, David Goehring, Gladys Lakes, Jeannette Lasansky, Joe Manbeck, Maggie Miller, Nikki & Russell Dennis, Mary Lou & Tom Rich.

Thanks also for Carla Watson's work in scheduling and Jeannette Lasansky for training hosts and guides.

Thanks to those who have spent time in producing the 2006 *Heritage* on the history and architecture of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg: Lois Huffines, editor; Jean Ruhl and Betsy Robertson, copy editors; Jeannette Lasansky and Carla Watson for design and layout; Diana Lasansky, Jeannette Lasansky, and Lois Huffines for their research and writing, and to Diana Lasansky for securing a major financial contribution from Cornell University. The issue is out and available for those who are life members or who have already paid their 2006 dues. It is a very large issue, filled with nearly 50 photographs, many never published before.

Thank you members and friends for your wonderful support!

Planned Giving & Bequests Benefit the Society

The Union County Historical Society has an updated "Bequest Packet" available for you or your attorney. We are a 501(c)(3) organization; gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are also able to receive gifts of appreciated property such as stocks. Please consider these options as a way to maximize your support of the Society. For more information, or to receive a Bequest Packet, call the office at 524-8666.

OPERATING BRIEFS:
Nominations for the Board

At the September meeting the following people will be proposed as new or renewing board members and officers: President: David Goehring
Vice-President: Gary W. Slear
Board member: Eli Reiff

Board members serving until 2006 are Judith Blair, Russell Dennis, Lois Huffines (Secretary) and Jeannette Lasansky. Those serving until 2007 are Robert Brouse, Terry Eberhart and Tom Rich.

Treasurer Sought for Union County Historical Society

The Union County Historical Society has an opening for Treasurer. The position requires experience in accounting, familiarity with computers, and some knowledge of financial investments, i.e. CDs, money market accounts, savings accounts, etc. The Treasurer becomes an officer of the Society and is a member of the Board of Directors.

Interested individuals should contact the office at 524-8666 for further details and to arrange for an interview.

  Union County Historical Society Seeks an Education Coordinator  

Primary responsibilities are to work with Union County public schools to coordinate bus tours to historical sites, to prepare the Red Bank School for a visit by elementary students, and to present programs to elementary students in county schools. The Society will provide administrative support for these services.

Additional responsibilities include the development of new programs and activities concerning the history of Union County and the Central Susquehanna Valley for middle and secondary schools and adults, and the development of a list of speakers who have expertise concerning county history.

Please send application and cover letter to the UCHS, Union County Courthouse, S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Board Meetings

The Historical Society Board holds meetings throughout the year to discuss society business. This fall's meetings are: Thursday, August 25; Thursday, October 27 and Thursday, December 1, all being held at 7:15 PM at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

Members in good standing are invited to submit topics for discussion and attend board meetings. Topics must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the day of the meeting. You may do so by contacting the office via phone, mail or email, or by contacting any board member.

Cabin Fever Report, 2005

The 2005 Cabin Fever Sale, which helps fund our services to members and visitors, raised just over \$1300. We had participation from five consignment donors, who offered for sale items such as an antique candle mold and doughscraper, antique glassware and kitchen collectibles, and books of historic interest. Items deaccessioned from the Society collection included clothing and accessories without Union County connection, and books.

Members and friends of the Society who have antiques or collectibles they wish to donate for the next Cabin Fever Sale (March 2006) may do so at any time. Simply call the office at 524-8666.

Moving?

If you move, or if your street address or house number has been changed to accommodate the 911 response system, *please* notify the Society office, by mail, phone or email. Our newsletter is sent bulk rate and will not be forwarded to you by the post office; it is returned to the Society at cost.

Communication

E-Mail

The Society maintains a list of members' E-mail addresses so that we may tell you about interesting local events, ask for input on historic preservation issues, and ask for assistance with Society work efforts. This is an efficient way for us to keep in touch, so please send us your address via E-mail to hstoricl@ptd.net. We do not share our list with any other organizations.

Internet Newsletter

We are considering making the newsletter available as a PDF document, with color and black-and-white photographs, which can be sent via e-mail. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required. This would save us postage and printing costs. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter in this form in the future, instead of a paper copy, please let us know by e-mailing the Society at hstoricl@ptd.net.

Membership in the Union County Historical Society

Your membership supports our annual historic sites tours and Red Bank one-room school experience for Union County students; programs and tours; and the growth of our collection of Union County photos, post cards, account books, diaries, and items made by Union County craftsmen. Membership also enables us to restore and maintain the Dale/Engle/Walker House which offers tours, exhibits, programs, and Rural Heritage Days.

As a member you receive the biennial HERITAGE publication, and our newsletters. You receive a discount on books and reduced fare on our bus trips and events. Members have free use of the extensive reference library in our office located in the Union County Courthouse, South Second Street, Lewisburg.

Membership Application

Share this with someone you think would like to become a member of the Society.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please circle membership level:

Individual.....\$29
Family.....\$40
Contributor.....\$60
Patron.....\$100
Sponsor.....\$150
Lifetime (individual)...\$400

*In addition to membership, donations specific to any aspect of the Society's work, including education, the collection, genealogy, the Dale library, or the Dale/Engle/Walker property, are always gratefully accepted and will be credited specifically toward the designated area. 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.***

Mail this application form to:
Union County Historical Society
South Second & St. Louis Streets
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Contact us by: **Phone:** (570)524-8666 ♦ **Fax:** (570)524-8743 ♦ **E-mail:** hstoricl@ptd.net

"Preserving the past for the future"

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Union County Historical Society would like to thank members who have responded to the board's model that suggests that we finish the \$250,000 capital campaign for the 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker property with an additional gift of \$50 from each member. To date the following members have given \$50-\$1,000 to help us get there:

RALPH & EDNA AMMON, JR
BEV MAIZLAND
MRS LLOYD B BEACHEL
MR & MRS MICHAEL MANBECK
JUDITH BLAIR
MARY & ED MASTASCUSA
ARTHUR & AUDREY BORDEN
RUTH & DAVID MCCORD
WAYNE & KATHY BROMFIELD
DAVID E & MARLENE M MENSCH
ROBERT BROUSE
VALERIE & BRAD MERTZ
GARY H CRONRATH
MARILYN L MILLER
MR & MRS THOMAS R DEANS
BETTY JANE MINCEMOYER
RUSSEL DENNIS
SHIRLEY STRAUB MORTON
ANNA DERSHAM
EMMA MURPHY
FRANK H & VIOLET D DIETRICH
NANCY & MARK NEUMAN
ROBERT W DONEHOWER
RALPH & JEAN NOBLE
ELIZABETH L DREGER
MARYELLEN PAULHAMUS
LOUIS A EATON
SUSAN B RAPP
TERRY EBERHART
ELI M. REIFF
JACOB F. ENGLE
THOMAS & PEGGY REIMENSNYDER
LINDA KALEY ERKELENS
JERILYN J. RENIGER
PAUL & CATHERINE ERNST
ELWOOD M & LORNA B RICH
DAVID W & SALLY K FARMER
TOM & MARY LOU RICH
JOHN & JOAN FERNSLER
THOMAS R RIPPON
FORREST FOTHERGILL
MR & MRS DANIEL T SACHSE
HARRY R GARVIN
MRS B IRENE SCOTT



JAMES GEISWITE
MARGARET D SEEBOLD
MARSHALL & DOROTHY GINTER
MR & MRS GARY W SLEAR
MR & MRS DAVID GOEHRING
GLORIA & ROBERT SLONAKER, JR
WILLIAM HAAS
GALE EUGENE SMITH
CHUCK & REBECCA HAGENBAUGH
HARRY SNOOK
LEISHA J. HARVEY
GARY & RUTH-ALICE SPANGLER
JOHN G HEFFELFINGER
DIANE SPECHT
OWEN E. HEISS
JACK D STRICKLER
SHARON HERALD
SHIRLEY M SWARTZ
NEIL HESS
WILLIAM & LOIS VANDENHEUVEL
JUNE M HOYLE
JIM & SHERRY WALTER
JOHN HUCKABY & BARB RITCHEY
MRS MELVIN WALTERS
M LOIS HUFFINES
NANCY WARNE
MRS JOHN R HURSH
REBECCA J WEBB
SUE IDDINGS
HERTHA WEHR
DR. RICHARD H. KILINETOB
WENDY C. WEHR
JEANNETTE LASANSKY
NANCY WHEATON
WILLIAM LASANSKY
STEVEN W. WINEGARDNER
MARGARET E LAUVER
MARION WOHLHIETER
JOHN L LOVING
MR & MRS GLEN F ZIMMERMAN
ROBERT K & DIANNE B LYNCH
TERRY & DOROTHY ZIMMERMAN
LEWISBURG LIONS CLUB

We have just \$8,967 to go in order to complete the project!

Those who have not yet been able to participate - we hope you can help us get over the top!!!