

Union County Historical Society

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

2008 Volume 1, Number 1

Published January 2008



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QUICK CALENDAR

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Focus on Black History

At the Dale/Engle/Walker House,
Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg

February 9 from 2 to 4 PM: Unveiling of the 1793 Dale Hearth painting by David Seybold.
First public showing of original painting and prints

February 10 at 2 PM: *People as Property: Slavery and the Underground Railroad at the Dale House 1793-1840* by Jeannette Lasansky

February 17 at 2 PM: *Slavery and the Constitution: A Broad View of the 'Peculiar Institution' in Central Pennsylvania....and How They Got Away With It* by Bruce Teeple

February 24 at 2 PM: *Thaddeus Stevens and the Abolitionist Movement in Pennsylvania*
by Dr. James Delle

Annual Cabin Fever Fundraising Sale

March 3 - 7: Books, postcards and ephemera will be offered at the Society office
March 3 - ongoing: Textiles, vintage accessories, metalware, ephemera and books will be for sale at the Roller Mills Antique Mall, Lewisburg

SPRING PROGRAMS

March 13 at 7:30 PM: *Pennsylvania's Overlooked Treasures: Post Office Art of the New Deal* by David Lembeck

April 10 at 6 PM: *Distilleries in Union County*
by Rick Reish. Program and dinner at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert

May 8 at 7:30 PM: *A General History of Lewisburg* by Rick Sauers

June 1: Dale/Engle/Walker House & Wagon Shed
open for the summer season of guided tours on Sunday afternoons 2 - 4 PM

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



A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Members of the Union County Historical Society,

As I begin my term as President of the Society, I want to express appreciation on the part of all of us to David Goehring for his four years of service as President of the Society. His work and commitment will be a tough act to follow. Under his leadership, the Society made tremendous strides in carrying out its mission. I am pleased to say that David will continue as Chair of the Program Committee and as a member of the Board. We are grateful to him for the many ways he has served the Society.



Secondly, I want to thank the members of the Board for their continuing work and concern for the health and activities of the Society. The Society relies heavily on the involvement and judgment of its Board members in serving the citizens of Union County and planning for the Society's future. I will continue to rely on David and all the members of the Board during my term as President. I will certainly need their help.

I want to thank you, the members of the Society who care about the organization and about advancing the knowledge and study of the history of Union County. Without you, there would be no Society. As always, we need your help. As you have concerns about historical preservation issues in the county—tell us; perhaps the Society can help. As you have questions about Union County's history—ask us; perhaps the Society can help you find the answer. As you see places where efforts of the Society can make a difference in highlighting and preserving Union County's history—help us; the Society relies on your individual observations and comments to keep us informed and to involve us in the community.

The coming months promise to be busy ones. During February the Society will celebrate Black History Month with three programs, each dealing with some aspect of slavery or abolitionist movements in Union County. In the summer, the Society joins with Packwood House to present a joint exhibit on the history and importance of Market Street, Lewisburg's "Main Street." The exhibit will also look at the importance of rail, canal, and road transportation, avenues of travel and commerce that defined Lewisburg's early history. More details of that exhibit will be forthcoming. And, of course, the Society will celebrate Rural Heritage Days in August, always a time of fun and learning.

The Society's motto, "Preserving the Past for the Future," expresses the Society's mission in abbreviated form. The Society is dedicated to enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history. Let us all join in that effort. I look forward to the next two years as your President.

Lois Huffines



Welcome New Members who have joined since July 2007

Debra Bieber of New Columbia, PA; Ed and Diane Campbell of Athens, PA; James W. Hartley of Selinsgrove, PA; Bruce and Catherine Platusich of Lewisburg, PA; Donald A. Schnure of Lewisburg, PA; Ted Strosser of Lewisburg and Mahlon Lenig of Watsonstown, PA.



Thank you to Life Members who have made monetary donations since July:

David Goehring, William Haas, Owen Heiss, George Jenks, David Milne, Helen Royer, Jean Ruhl, Carl & Jeanne Sampsell, Harry Snook and Peggy Sutherlin



Thanks to those who have served as Friday Volunteers: Judith Blair, Jack Fisher, David Goehring, George Jenks, Valerie Mertz, David Milne, Glenda Sheaffer.



This is a great opportunity to help the Society - by serving our members and visitors on Fridays - as well as a chance to spend time in our research library learning more about Union County. Won't you consider volunteering? One Friday morning and/or afternoon per month, or whenever suits your schedule. Training is provided.

Reminder: Members are entitled to a copy of our latest Heritage book *Samuel Dale: A Life and Estate in Union County* with their 2008 membership. Local members are asked to pick up their copy at the courthouse office.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 9, 2 to 4 PM
1793 Dale Hearth by David Seybold

Reception with the artist at the Dale/Engle/Walker House

Members are invited to the unveiling of the painting *1793 Dale Hearth* by David Seybold. Painted especially for the Union County Historical Society, and offered in a limited edition of signed and numbered prints, *1793 Dale Hearth* depicts the original cooking fireplace at the Dale House with 18th century cookware from the Society's collection. The restored hearth and original kitchen, located in the lower level of the house, were the domain of the Dale family slave, Dinah, who would have prepared the family's meals, heated water and made soap and candles over this hearth.

This is the first day the image will be released to the public. Prints, published from the oil painting, will be available for sale at the reception. The original oil painting will also be offered. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Historical Society.

The reception is open to the public. The artist will be on hand to discuss his work. Members of the UCHS Board and Archives Committee will field questions about the building, the hearth and its artifacts.

Sunday Programs in February Focus on Black History

All February programs are held at the **Dale/Engle/Walker House**, Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg. Programs are free and open to the public. These talks are suitable for adults and older students.

Reservations are suggested as seating is limited.

Call the Society office at 524-8666 or email hstoricl@ptd.net to reserve your place.

February 10, 2 PM

People as Property: Slavery and the Underground Railroad at the Dale House 1793-1840

Jeannette Lasansky, active researcher on slavery in Union County, will talk about slave holding by the Dale family, one of only two or three families in Union County who persisted in owning slaves until as late as 1840. Their slave Dinah, actually belonging to Samuel Dale's wife, Ann Futhey Dale, was enumerated in the 1790 and subsequent census. John Blair Linn makes reference to her in his *Annals of Buffalo Valley*.

Jeannette Lasansky is a Life Member of the Union County Historical Society, serves on the Board of Directors (currently as Vice President) and on various committees. She is the author/editor of numerous books on area history, quilting and other rural traditions. She is also active in the Vinalhaven (Maine) Historical Society. Her research on slavery in Pennsylvania is an ongoing project.

February 17, 2 PM

Slavery and the Constitution: A Broad View of the 'Peculiar Institution' in Central Pennsylvania....and How They Got Away With It

Bruce Teeple, historian, free-lance writer, and columnist for the *Centre Daily Times*, will discuss slavery and the use of law to support this "peculiar institution." How could a nation, built on the premise that all men are created equal, so effectively deny all rights to major portions of its population?

Teeple, a graduate of Penn State in history and political science, is retired from the University's Office of Physical Plant. He was curator of the Aaronsburg Historical Museum for 20 years and co-edited *Glimpses of the Past* and *In Schadde vun Rundkopp*. The Centre County Historical Society has recognized Teeple for his presentations on central Pennsylvania history to area schools and various organizations. He serves on the American Association for State and Local History's Small Museum Committee, and as a reviewer for both the History Channel's *Save Our History* and the IMLS' Connecting Collections grant programs. Teeple is currently writing *As Good As A Handshake: The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania*, a topic he presented at the Society's dinner/program November 2006. He has also presented several Black History programs for the Society and we are pleased to have him continue to enlighten us.

February 24, 2 PM

Thaddeus Stevens and the Abolitionist Movement in Pennsylvania

Dr. James Delle, assistant professor at Kutztown University and research associate at Franklin & Marshall College, will present a program on Thaddeus Stevens 1792-1868. Born in Vermont, Stevens moved to Pennsylvania in 1815 after graduating from Dartmouth. As a lawyer in Gettysburg he defended runaway slaves. Stevens served in the Pennsylvania state legislature from 1833 to 1842 and in the US Congress from 1849-53 and 1859-68. He was a strong opponent of slavery and a harsh critic of the South and any efforts at appeasement.

Our speaker, Dr. Delle, received his B.A. in history from Holy Cross College, M.A. in anthropology from the College of William and Mary, and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts. He has published articles on archeology and social dynamics in Jamaica for various texts and journals, and book reviews for the *American Historical Review*, *American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, *Winterthur Portfolio* and others. He presented the well-received program *The Archeology of Slavery* last February and we are thrilled to have him speak to us again.

Directions to the Dale/Engle/Walker House: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west about 1.5 miles and turn onto Strawbridge Road. Go about 1.4 miles to the property. PennDOT signs are posted. Parking is available at the house which is handicap accessible.

Remember to make reservations for the February programs as space is limited. These and all UCHS programs are free and open to the public.

SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DONATIONS AND CONSIGNMENTS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

You can make a valuable contribution to the Society by donating items for the annual fundraiser such as books on area history, old maps, vintage postcards and local advertisements, as well as antique tools, pottery, glassware, metalware and textiles. Items may also be consigned, with 10% of the selling price going to the Society and the remainder returned to the consignor.

This is a great way to support the Society and "find new homes" for things you no longer need. Your donations can be dropped off at the Society office at any time. Questions? Please call us.

Another way to help the Society is to come to the Cabin Fever Sale. There may be just the book you are looking for, or the perfect gift for a history buff at the Society office sale. Perhaps you will find an antique or collectible you can't live without at our case at Roller Mills Antique Mall in Lewisburg.

CABIN FEVER FUNDRAISING SALE

Ephemera Sale at the Society Office March 3 - 7

A wide assortment of books, vintage postcards, maps and paper goods will be offered at the Society's annual Cabin Fever Fundraising Sale in the Society office. History buffs, genealogists and collectors will find something of interest at this once-a-year event.



Antiques and Collectibles Ongoing Sale at Roller Mills Antique Mall

Local history books and advertising material, vintage jewelry and beaded purses, period clothes and textiles, early greeting cards and photographs, tools and books...are among the items offered at the Society's case at the Roller Mills Antique Mall, St. Mary Street, Lewisburg. New pieces are added from time to time, so be sure to stop in regularly to check them out.

As the Society reviews its collection of Union County-related material, some items are removed to accommodate better examples or more clearly documented articles. Deaccessioned items are given to other, more appropriate organizations, or are offered for sale. This allows the Society to continue to acquire articles for the collection that have a connection to Union County and our cultural heritage.

Spring Programs

March 13, 7:30 PM

Pennsylvania's Overlooked Treasures: Post Office Art of the New Deal
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg

During the New Deal era the federal government embarked on a massive public works building program. The most visible of these projects were the charming post office buildings designed for small towns. Artists were often commissioned to create murals and sculptures for these post offices. Pennsylvania has the second largest collection of these artworks. The most common themes are local industry, agriculture, historical events, and famous Pennsylvanians. Post office art - often a town's most visible reminder of an industry, building, or landscape that has disappeared - remains a local historical record.

In a presentation illustrated with slides, David Lembeck will provide an overview of the major themes of the artworks around the state. Special emphasis will be placed on the post office art in Central Pennsylvania. David Lembeck is a graphic designer based in State College. His studio, C Factor, specializes in publication design.

April 10, 6 PM

Distilleries in Union County
Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert

Rick Reish, whose family was connected to distilleries in the county, will present a talk following our annual Spring dinner at the Sportsmen's Club in Weikert.

The Reish family operated distilleries in Buffalo Township from 1820 to 1920. Daniel Reish, from Berks County, his son Benivel and grandsons James and Joel successively ran the family businesses. Some of their account books are in the Society's collection.

Local members will receive reservation forms for the dinner program in the mail. Others may call the Society at 570-524-8666 for details.

May 8, 7:30 PM

A General History of Lewisburg
Faith Lutheran Church, Route 45, Lewisburg

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, was laid out in 1785 by German immigrant Ludwig Derr (originally Dorr). This charming town on the Susquehanna River has seen many changes in the past 2 centuries.

Rick Sauers, Executive Director of the Packwood House Museum in Lewisburg, will give a general history of Lewisburg that will coincide with the upcoming joint exhibit of Packwood House and the Historical Society. Dr. Sauers is a Lewisburg native with a Ph.D. from Penn State University. He is a noted Civil War historian and author. Residents *and* visitors will enjoy this presentation. As with all UCHS programs, this program is free and open to the public.

June 1, 2007

The Dale/Engle/Walker Property opens for the season
Tours are offered Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM

The Dale/Engle/Walker property offers guided tours of the 1793 limestone Georgian-style house built by early settler Samuel Dale (the subject of our 2008 Heritage publication). The new Wagon Shed exhibit, included in the tour, has period farming equipment and tools from the Society's collection.

Your hosts and guides are members of the Society who generously donate their time and talents. A visit to the house is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Directions: from Route 15 in Lewisburg, take Route 192 west for about 1.5 miles to Strawbridge Road. Turn and proceed 1.4 miles to the property. PennDOT signs are posted.



DALE/ENGLE/WALKER HOUSE

report by Jeannette Lasansky



Thanks go to the many who work at the 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker property in different capacities to make it the enjoyable place that it is for our members, their families and visitors. Without the outpouring of volunteer help we would not be able to accomplish what we have in so short a time.

Working on planning and future direction are members Ted Strosser, Gary Spangler, Eli Reiff, William and Jeannette Lasansky, David Goehring, Bill Deitrick and Bill Clemens.

At the property's fall cleanup day under assistant property manager Bill Deitrick's supervision were Society members Billy Deitrick, David Goehring, Carol Manbeck, Diane Meixell, David Milne, and Eli Reiff along with Linn Conservancy representatives Roger Curran, Diane Donato, Judy Ellis, Geoff Goodenow, Ben Hoskins, John Tonzetich and student intern Anthony Deleo, along with six Bucknell students.

Others involved with the site this fall have been forester Tom Strausbaugh who is working on a land management plan for the forested areas, excavator and grader Eric Imgrund and Conservancy member Tom Travis and his Adopt-a-Month Dale's Ridge Trail stewards. Bucknell Professor Duane Griffin and students from his land use class conducted a lab/workday removing invasive plants from the ridge as part of a bigger project to control invasives and reclaim open areas for future use. Bill Deitrick donated candles to decorate the house windows for the holidays.

Coordinating house tour hosts and guides for 2007 was office Administrative Assistant Carla Watson. Volunteering were Mary Brumbaugh, Roxy and Terelle Carl, Roger and Nancy Curran, Russell and Cathy Dennis, Nikki Dennis, David Goehring, Phyllis and Paul Heim, Gladys Lakes, Jeannette Lasansky, Pat Longley, Rhelda Mangle, Maggie Miller, Tom Rich, John Ruhl, Gary Spangler and interns Sarah Bramhall and Joe Manbeck.

We thank the dozens of demonstrators, cooks, parking attendants, photographers, guides, and hosts (some individuals wearing multiple hats for different events at *Rural Heritage Days*) along with the



office staff Carol Manbeck, Carla Watson and Elaine Wintjen and summer intern Joe Manbeck. Specifically, we thank Judy Anderson and other members of the Susquehanna Valley Spinners and Weavers Guild, Owen Anderson, Tom Anderson; Bill, Connie, Jeff and Jonathan Bastian; Leeann Keiffer-Bechdel and children Willow, Lyra and Rigal; Steve Beiler and family, Von Lou Benfer, John Bower; Dale, Dale Jr. and Donna Buckley and family; Bill

Callahan and his many animals, Walt Catherman, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Catherman and their horses, Bill Clemens, Mark Cromley and the Buffalo Valley Antique Machinery Association, Ethan DeHart, Bill and Billy Deitrick, Mary Beth Emery, Jake Engle, the Erdley family and their cow, Peg and Scott Gelnett, David Goehring, Grove's Mill, Paul and Phyllis Heim, Heather and Andy Hibbs, Lois Huffines, Diana and Jeannette Lasansky, J. Paul Martin, the Masser family, Ted McNett, Diane Meixell; Brad, Jessica, and Valerie Mertz, Janet and Terry Mincemoyer and Dawn Betz, Maggie Miller, Sally Miller, Angie and Josh Muchler, the Reiffs: Amanda, Eli, Eli Jr., Kathleen, and Stanley; John Ruhl, Dan Sachse, Andy and Rick Slear, Gary and Ruth-Alice Spangler, Ralph Stahlnecker; Ted, Drew and Alex Strosser, Charlotte and Calvin Styers, Harold Walter, Jim and Sherry Walter and journeyman quilters George Shaffer, Donna Pervis, Whitney Goddard and Alexa Moser; Paul and Dana Weaver, Chris and Ron Wenning, Pat Wertman, the Samuel Yoder family, Rose Zartman, and the Lloyd Zimmerman family.

Currently planning for **Rural Heritage Days 2008** are Leanne Keiffer-Bechdel, Bill Clemens, Mark Cromley, Bill Deitrick, Peg Gelnett, Heather Hibbs, Diana and Jeannette Lasansky, Diane Meixell, Sally Miller, Eli and Kathleen Reiff, Ted Strosser, and Ron Wenning.

Events will be held **Wednesday, August 13 to Saturday, August 16**. A complete schedule will be in your next newsletter and on the Web site later this spring. New to the event will be an 18th-century fashion show with period music on Thursday evening, August 14. This will be a reserved seating event and if you want an early heads up you can be called or e-mailed. On Saturday, August 16th, in addition to our tinsmith, blacksmith, wheelwright, and gunsmith demonstrations, we plan to have a knife smith. The fellows that bind and thresh oats will need your help in filling bed ticks and grain bags, so join in the fun.

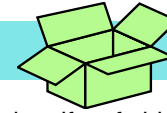
The 2008 summer exhibit will be assembled by Diane Meixell, Ruth-Alice Spangler and Jeannette Lasansky. It will again focus on textiles but will be very different from last year's that focused on recycling fabrics and using scraps. This year's will feature the extremely rough to the very finest of farm textiles: from grain bags, rope, woven corn husks to samplers. Valerie Mertz will be the featured craftsperson in the house during *Rural Heritage Days* - she will bring along her large sampler collection and do needlework demonstrations. Added to some of last year's rugmaking, darning, smocking and tatting demonstrations, will be hatmakers using rye and others using corn husks to make mats, dolls, and more. Corn and rye items will be featured in demonstrations and displays.

Highlights from *Rural Heritage Days 2007*





COLLECTIONS



Archives and Museum Committee

This part of the Society is always in transition because donors periodically make gifts of objects, and purchases made with our modest budget continue as well (see below). The last three years have seen tremendous strides made as we moved all the archives and smaller museum objects to our new collections storage area at the Dale/Engle/Walker House. Larger items like cast-iron Laurelton stoves are stored off-site and shown periodically.

As we moved objects to our storage area, we were critical about assessing their condition and whether the items were made in Union County or were about Union County institutions. It was not the age that mattered since we collect even contemporary items about Union County institutions, especially advertising items about local businesses. Proceeds from the sale of deaccessioned objects are used to purchase other Union County items.

Last year we had an open house of our collections in their storage area, for members only. We enjoyed showing how we care for a wide variety of items: from postcards and letterheads to clothing and furniture. We continue to pull from the collections for exhibits at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, Union County Courthouse display cases, and new display case in the Union County Government Center. Items from the collection will be highlighted at a major exhibition at the Packwood House Museum on the commercial development of Lewisburg starting with the canals and railroads. That exhibit will open in June and run through October 2008. Watch for notices and special invitations to our members.

Other aspects of the collection are on permanent display. A few items have been on long-term loan to the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum and include an early New Berlin runabout made by Heimbach and beautifully restored by Isaac Reiff. Three collections can be seen at the Dale/Engle/Walker House. One is the fully furnished 1793 cooking hearth with dozens of eighteenth and early nineteenth century cast and wrought iron cooking utensils, pottery, woodenware, copper and brass items. The Wagon Shed is filled with tools and equipment that would typically have been in a building of that nature from the mid-1800s through to the early 1900s. Hundreds of objects both small and large, most given by area families, include area buggies, sleighs, wagons, hay rakes, and sleds among the larger items; also, troughs, ladders, fly nets, and horse collars. The third collection, Samuel Dale's Library, encompasses many of the book titles listed in his estate inventory of 1804. Dozens of leather-bound books that date from 1804 or earlier on history, poetry, travel, and period prose are found in this collection.

The Archives committee is now involved in the tedious task of entering all objects into a new computer database that will eventually include a photograph of each object. The previous software used for over 7,000 items is now outdated and needs to be converted to the new software PastPerfect. The conversion, updating of information, entry of completed paperwork as well as photography will occupy our time and hopefully be supported by cash donations and small grants over several years. It is our plan to ultimately have the collection computer-accessible at the office and at a Web site. If you are interested in supporting this effort with the donation of time or money, please contact the office.

Gifts

Since late May, members have made the following gifts:

Paul & Phyllis Heim have donated sets of horse fly netting, a hay fork, grind stone on bench, rope and pulley, hay ladder and accessories, bench for sausage press, and grain rake.

Owen Anderson has donated a chicken crate, chicken funnel, hog trough, hand corn shellers, nails, lightning rods, snow guards, pliers, double bladed ax, stone hammer, an 18" chain, open face wrench, horse shoes and clevis, hinges, and spouting — all for furnishing the Wagon Shed at the Dale/Engle/Walker property.

Members Dan & Nancy Sachse donated a 1914 Lewisburg plate; Gary Spangler gave a K.L. Shively advertising ruler, Manbeck Motors advertising thermometer and Buffalo Valley Antique Machinery commemorative pin; Gary Cronrath gave photos of Claire and Clarence Wolfe funeral and related material; Nada Gray gave scrapbooks for the Union County Republican Women, glass plate and other negatives and prints from 1906-1935; Paul Ernst gave a basket, Lewisburg Borough officers photos, local ordinance pamphlet and a picture of Commonwealth Bank directors; Dorothy Reish gave pegs from the Old Main (Bucknell) fire and The Old Academy (Lewisburg); Jeannette Lasansky donated local advertising pens from Evangelical Community Hospital, University Hair Design in Lewisburg, Lewisburg Builders Supply and Albright Care Services, and an Amish woman's hat; Ruth-Alice Spangler gave a political advertising pencil.

Non-members Dianne Hoffman gave 13 cartes de visite portraits from late 19th-century Lewisburg photographers Cornelius, P.C. Hunter, Ginter & Cook and Pross; Steven and Darlene Engle gave the 1929 Engle deed for the Dale farm, a receipt from J.B. Engle's Dale's Ridge Dairy as well as three leases of the Engles for cows and cars; Charlotte Styers donated one of her fine braided rugs.

Purchases

Since May, the Society has made the following purchases for the collection:

- White Deer bicentennial plate
- New Berlin Fire Company 50th anniversary glass mug
- 1893-1907 Union County Odd Fellows record book
- engraved brass block from the Wolfe/Young/Barber Flour Mill (Mifflinburg)
- two early 19th-century molding planes of H. Yost, Lewisburg
- numerous postcards including a real photo postcard of the West Milton train round house, White Deer aerial view, Allenwood and Central Oaks Heights street scenes, Weikert snow scene, rare Bucknell views and Laurel Park cards
- an F.L. Zeiber (Lewisburg) embossed glass milk bottle, rare Kling embossed milk bottle from West Milton and Calvin Eberhardt milk receipt
- advertising items: glass ash tray from Tony's Pizza in Mifflinburg, thermometer from Sholter Store in Weikert; calendars for 1910 from Lewisburg National Bank, 1950 from Grove's Mill, 1972 from Harold Walters automobile dealership, from Mifflinburg Motors, 1934 from Mazepa Union Church, 1965 from Stricklers; and Johnson Gulf Station mileage minder
- large, hand-decorated New Berlin rocker made by Andrew J. Spitler 1820-1840

Giving to the Society

For information about gifting locally-made Union County items to the Union County Historical Society, please contact Jeannette Lasansky, Mike Manbeck, Dan Sachse, Jeffrey Spotts or Gary Spangler, Archives Committee members. Or contact the Society office by mail, phone or e-mail. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Exhibits



The exhibit, left, featuring photographs and memorabilia from Union County schools, is at the Society office in the county courthouse. Featured are teachers' grade books, students' workbooks and penmanship notebooks, and photographs from selected schools in the early 1900's. There are mementos from Lewisburg High School, including a newsletter, tickets and photographs. Donations of items like these are gratefully accepted.



The new exhibit in the courthouse lobby will feature a wide variety of fabulous vintage valentines from the collection of William Ruhl of Lewisburg. Both displays can be seen during regular business hours Monday through Friday, from now until March.

Does a bequest to the Union County Historical Society fit into your estate plans?

For many people, bequests are the easiest type of planned gift to arrange. Bequests enable your estate to realize a tax savings benefit and ensure that your assets are distributed the way you want them to be. It may be in your will or an added codicil. It may be as simple as the following statement:

I give and bequeath to the Union County Historical Society, a nonprofit organization located in the Union County Courthouse, the sum of \$_____ for its general purposes.

Or it may be more complex for your needs and we encourage you to discuss these options with your legal advisor for professional advice.

You might also want to specify its use, for example, educational programs for children or the historical collection at the Dale/Engel/Walker House. Contact us for possibilities at (570) 524-8666 or hstoricl@ptd.net. Or talk with a member of the Board of Directors.

RESEARCH LIBRARY UPDATE



Added to our family books and newsletters are:

Barber and Lacey Families of Kirkoman, Iowa - updated; "*James Barber, Evangelical Preacher: His Life and Times 1797-1867*," *The Chronicle* Vol. XVIII, Spring 2007 - given by the author Denny Williams
Mein Stamm Baum: Jost Hoffman Freindschaft by Daniel Curtis Hester, given by Luann Haney
Keefer Family Association Newsletter Volume XX Issue No. III Sept 2007
Joseph and Esther Kerstetter Family Book, 2007 - given by author Bonnie Arnold; *The Kerstetter Family: The Early Years 1727-1850* - given by author Steve Kerstetter: www.members.shaw.ca/kerstetter/
Jacob Looss of the Edinburgh: The Story of the Lose/Loss Family in America - given by author Daniel Loss

Added to the library are:

Annals of Buffalo Valley, compiled by John Blair Linn, an original copy, donated by Alexis Bardo Matt
The Story of a Little Town; The Birth and Death of Alvira, PA, given by Heidi Kerstetter
Murder in Lewisburg, April 1900; Lenhart/Motz, copied from the Mifflinburg Telegraph by Mary Belle Lontz
Hartleton, Pennsylvania, a history of this west end town, by Mary Belle Lontz, donated by the author
Mills of Union County by Mary Belle Lontz, donated by the author
Hironimus Cemetery, Weikert by Emilie Freer Jansma, Wm. Cunningham, photographs. Given by author.
1885-1899 Marriages, Funerals, Communion and Baptisms Performed by Pastor Lewis Franklin Brown donated by his great granddaughter Kaye Brown Yarrison

RESEARCH

Recent visitors to our library have been looking into the following families and topics. If you have information to share, please contact the office or the researcher.

HAUPT / VAN LEW: Bob Van Lew, 530 Beech Forest, Bristol, TN
MAURER / OWENS/WALTERS: Craig & Pam Owens, 231 Perry Ave., York, PA
KAHLER: Wm. G. Kahler, 220 Beechwood Ct., Conway, SC
LENIG: Mahlon Lenig, 8 Walnut St., Watsonstown, PA
KLING / BROWN: Donald Kling, 1309 N. Pebble Beach Dr., Gilbert, AZ 85234
ELDER: Richard Dahl, 20 S. Main St. #205, Mt. Prospect, IL
SHIFFER: Paul Shiffer, 20 Farm Ln, Ephrata, PA; Phyllis Betz, 3 Wedgewood Circle, Northumberland, PA
REICHLEY / BECK / YOUNG: Ed Beaudoin, 112427 Hedges Run Dr., Lake Ridge, VA
MILLHOUSE: David Schultz, 11569 County 47, Grey Eagle MN
HILANDS/HIGHLANDS: Cheryl Stromdahl, PO Box 178, Ocean Shores, WA
EDELMAN: Marian Christopher, 1041 Adams St., Douglas WY
CHAMBERLIN: Ralph Temple, 14847 Airport Rd., Lansing, MI
CLINESMITH / GROVE / SHAFFER / DIEFFENDERFER: Carla Adamson, 604 Masters Dr., Victoria TX;
Edna Ammon, 215 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA; Scarlett Erdley, 28 Hemlock Lane, Pennelville, NY 13132;
Arlene Shaffer, 191 Meadow Green, Mifflinburg, PA
SWINEFORD: J. L. Schwartz, PO Box 210, Mifflinburg, PA
SCHNURE / PONTIUS / SMITH / REAGEL: Donald Schnure, 50 Beverly Dr., Lewisburg, PA
CRAMER / BAILEY: David Ferster, 354 N. 4th St., Northumberland, PA
WATTS / ALBRIGHT: Roger & Diane Ring, 416 Autumn Chase Ct., Pursellville, VA
LINN / THOMPSON: Jack & Jill MacRae, 113 Riverview Rd., Marietta, OH
HOFFMAN: Luann Haney, 1936 Gilpin Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806
BOWER / VAN NEIDA / WISE: David Bower, 103 Estates Ct., Athens, OH
MANBECK / SMITH: Steven James, 2044 Kensington St., Harrisburg, PA 17104
REESE: John Reese, 9555 Frascatiway, Santee, CA
MILLHOUSE / ORWIG: Sheryl and David Wingert, 1366 Howard Rd., Atlanta, GA
HOUSEL / McCALMONT: Sandy Smith, Floyd & Marjorie Ramp, 2277 S. Swallowtail, Boise, ID



SALEM CHURCH, Salem Church Road outside Mifflinburg: Matt Cardellino 570-524-0885



Many thanks to researchers Jack Fisher, Mary Belle Lontz and Glenda Sheaffer who assist our staff with family geneologies, land searches and topical research. We are indebted!



NEWS

Update on the Lewisburg Penitentiary Tower project, reported in our 2007, Volume 1 #2 newsletter

Restoration of the Historic Smokestack Tower at Lewisburg Penitentiary

by Erik Valentino, MPS

A multi-phased restoration project is underway to restore the architecturally significant tower that was constructed in 1932. Masonry Preservation Services, Inc. (MPS) of Berwick, PA, began work in spring 2007 and anticipates completion in fall 2008.

The 200-foot-tall masonry tower was designed in the Italian Renaissance style and punctuates the center of the prison complex. The tower is adorned with open arched balconies, embattled parapets, ornate brick shapes, arches, corbels, and terra cotta accents. After nearly 75 years in service, the tower required much needed masonry repairs to extend its service life. The Bureau of Prisons had the foresight to preserve this asset due to its landmark status in the community, as opposed to full-scale demolition and/or truncation.



It is MPS's intent to restore the tower to be aesthetically similar to its original construction, without modifications that will detract from the tower's historical significance. The use of select modern materials and methods to enhance and extend the useful life of the tower are being seamlessly integrated into the restoration project. These enhancements in conjunction with quality, long-term masonry repairs that are consistent with historical standards and guidelines are the ingredients for a successful historic restoration project.

The project is full of challenges, including the confined and difficult location of the work area, along with the significant amount of detailed masonry requiring rebuild. Not to mention, undertaking the project at the heart of a fully operational high-security federal penitentiary. Additionally, securing the manufacture of historically accurate materials for the many unique custom shapes of brick, cast stone, and terra cotta was an obstacle all its own.



The scope of work for the restoration includes a variety of items to repair, rebuild, and waterproof the upper portion of the tower so that it can remain in service for another 75 years. Many deteriorated areas, including masonry, steel, concrete, terra cotta, cast stone, flashing, membranes, and more will be addressed during the restoration. Over 25,000 masonry units will be removed and replaced over the course of the project.

Demolition of the massive embattled parapet and arch assembly has been completed.



Replacement of the structural steel supports and corbel system for the arch assembly is partially finished. Anchoring and relaying the brick architectural elements are slowly and deliberately proceeding upward. Ancillary repairs are completed along the way to ensure a comprehensive restoration. Although seeing the restored tower is highly anticipated, it should look the same as it always did; which is MPS's objective.

To view additional information about the historical background of the tower and the ongoing restoration project, including slide shows, visit masonrypreservation.com

*Heritage Volume XX, 2006, **The History of the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg** provides details on the construction of the prison, its architecture, prison philosophy and more. Available at the UCHS office or by mail.*

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program was held on November 15 at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg. "As the World Turns: A History of the Wheelwright," was presented by Bradd Mertz. His informative PowerPoint presentation detailed the history of the invention that mobilized mankind, starting with stone and solid wood wheels through Medieval times, Old England, Colonial America, the Industrial Revolution and on to the early 20th century. A wheelwright by avocation, Bradd is a regular participant in our *Rural Heritage Days*, as well as the Warrior Run *Fort Freeland Days* events.

Awards Presented



The Achievement Award was presented to **Tony and Janice Shively** for their work on the *Millmont Times*. **The Millmont Times**, researched, written and produced by Tony Shively and his wife, Janice Dorman Shively, debuted in May 2002. Tony, then a board member of the UCHS and working at Pennsylvania House full-time, delivered the bulk of those first 60 copies from door-to-door in the Millmont area. While researching an article on the Hartleton Union Church, Tony met Janice. They were married in the church by Janice's uncle, Richard Voneida, in May 2004. Just as the *Millmont Times* grew with the addition of Janice, who among other duties writes a monthly column, so did the circulation of the paper and its impact on the people both in Union County and away. The publication is a team effort. No longer hand delivered, the *Millmont Times* has a circulation of 720 families and individuals who get it by e-mail and regular mail. Its articles are a "must read" for county history buffs and for this we are all indebted.



The Historic Preservation Award was given to the **Norman E. Buck Family** for returning character and elegance to historic buildings in our central Pennsylvania area. The Watson Inn in Watsonstown, built in 1857, was their initial endeavor. The Bucks renovated and restored the building that now offers fine dining, banquet facilities, catering and hotel accommodations. Their next project was the Lewisburg Hotel. Established in 1834, the hotel provided service to the community for over 150 years before closing in 1992. Norman and Nancy Buck purchased the hotel in 1997. With fine woodwork, elegant lighting and accessories, the Lewisburg Hotel now reflects its Victorian past while offering contemporary amenities. Their most recent renovation is the Mifflinburg Hotel, built in 1858 by Jacob Decard on the site of the former Stitzer Hotel. In 1916, its interior was restored and an exterior balcony added. In the 1920's, the hotel was noted for fine dining, a tradition that continued for many years. During the latter part of the 20th century, the building served as a hotel and restaurant, banquet facility and boarding house. However, years of neglect led to its closing in 2003. The building was purchased in 2004 by the Watsonstown family of Norman E. Buck. Shortly after purchasing the hotel, Buck family patriarch Norman E. Buck passed away. The family continued with the building's restoration, creating a fine dining establishment and a focal point in the community. Hotel managers **Jennifer Buck**, Norman's granddaughter, and **Rick Buck**, Norman's son, and family matriarch **Nancy Buck** continue the family tradition of restoring life to historic buildings in our communities and for this we are grateful.

Bequest

The Society has received a generous bequest from the estate of Mary Maher, a long-time supporter and life member. For many years, large items from the collection, such as sleighs, have been stored in Mary's barn. She also was instrumental in preserving Buffalo Crossroads Church and cemetery.

New Berlin Evangelical Church Project

UCHS Member Denny Williams of Ontario, Canada, visited us (and his cousin Gloria Maize) this summer. During the course of his visit he led a discussion in New Berlin on Sunday, September 2 "brainstorming" the idea of reconstructing the original 1816 New Berlin Evangelical Church. The project would be targeted for completion by 2016, the 200th anniversary of the church's construction. According to Denny, the assemblage, including members and ministers from the Methodist church, interested persons from the borough, descendants, and members of the New Berlin Heritage Association, were encouraging and enthused about proceeding to the next step in the project, namely to form an exploratory committee to formalize a vision and a plan to submit to "the powers that be" for approval to go forward.

To become involved in the project, contact Denny via email: denny.williams@mindspring.com

For photos and more information on the September 2007 meeting, read the *Daily Item* story - go to http://www.dailyitem.com/0100_news/local_story_246075249.html

Coverlet Raffle



Margaret Spielman of Lewisburg, pictured with David Goehring, was the winner of the Society's raffle of this beautiful traditionally-woven Bird-and-Bush coverlet. The lucky ticket was picked August 18, 2007, at *Rural Heritage Days*.

Made especially for the Union County Historical Society by David Kline of Family Heirloom Weavers, Red Lion, PA, the coverlet is woven using an historical pattern that would have been found in central Pennsylvania in the 1800s. It is made in traditional colors of deep red, blue and green on white background, in cotton and wool. Proceeds from the raffle support Society programs.

Mrs. Spielman has generously donated the coverlet to the Society for our collection and for display.

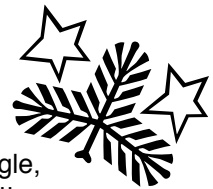
Small coverlets (40"x38" plus fringe) and table runners in the Bird-and-Bush pattern, as well as runners in the Peace-and-Plenty pattern, in a variety of colors, are available for purchase from the Society. For more information, call 524-8666 or visit the Society office.

Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg

Once again the Society had a successful Christkindl Market booth, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers who weathered the cold and the snow. Working the booth this year were: Diane Meixell and Pam Mauger, Phil and Linda Wagner, Lois Huffines and Dave Vernon, Paul and Phyllis Heim, Tony and Janice Shively, Roxy Carl and Rhelda Mangle, Kris and Ron Wenning, Glenda Sheaffer, David Goehring, Dave and Marcia Milne, Jeannette Lasansky, Bill and Molly Crisswell, Josh and Ang Muchler, Forrest Fothergill and Jeff Spotts, and staff Carol Manbeck and Carla Watson. Jim Walter donated the fresh evergreen roping used to decorate our booth (which we then use at our courthouse office in keeping with traditional holiday spirit).

The Society sold books, Herald Angels CDs, car tour CDs, notecards and Christmas cards. We also featured wonderful table runners and table squares by Family Heirloom Weavers (see coverlet article above). Very popular this year were the Belsnickle runners and Lee's Surrender table squares in holiday colors - so popular we had to order more!

You can be part of the fun next year by volunteering to work the booth. Give the office a call.



A DAY SPENT IN THE PAST

by Linda Estupinan Snook, Education Coordinator

Want to experience what school life was like in one of the best preserved one-room schools in Union County? Then come with me as we step back in time at the Red Bank School.

Children arrive at Red Bank to the sound of the teacher ringing the school bell. The students are seated according to grade – young students in front – older children in the back. The front row is a long wooden bench used when the teacher works with one grade at a time. All other students must be quiet and working on their assignments.

The subjects taught are Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Penmanship, Music, Geography and Art. Children read from original textbooks from the 19th century. A familiar text is the McGuffey Reader, the most widely used book during this era whose author, William McGuffey, was born in Claysville, Washington County, PA.

When the students begin their penmanship lessons they will do so not with a modern pen but with one that must be dipped into an inkwell. No ball point pens allowed! The pens must be dipped into the ink and the nibs kept clean so that the writing is legible. It takes some practice to make perfect.



Students attending Red Bank are encouraged to bring period correct lunches – peanut butter and jelly, hardboiled eggs and pickles, cheese and bread with butter sandwiches – this effort helps to make the experience more meaningful. When it comes to recess, no modern games are allowed.

The children play kickball, hide and seek, and tag.

What the students at Red Bank School experience is the quiet, simple joy of learning in a small school environment. Fourth graders from Mifflinburg, private school students and home schoolers enjoy their time at the Red Bank School. Come share the joy. Contact the Union County Historical Society to schedule your visit to our local treasure.

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, postcards, account books, diaries, and items made by Union County crafts people. Membership also enables us to restore and maintain the Dale/Engle/Walker House which offers tours, exhibits, programs, and *Rural Heritage Days* events.

Members receive the biennial *Heritage* publication and our newsletters, a discount on books and reduced fare on our bus trips and events. Members have free use of our extensive reference library.

Mail this application form to:

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

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

Check out our Web site: www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Name(s) _____

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Please circle membership level:

NEW! Student..... \$10

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Contributor \$60

Patron \$100

Sponsor \$150

Lifetime (individual) \$400

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.

Union County Historical Society
Union County Courthouse
South Second & St. Louis Streets
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