



# PRESS RELEASE

CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONTACT: Mary Sorensen  
EMAIL: [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org)  
PH: (814) 234-4779

## CCHS ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK!

### ***Aaronsburg to Zion, The Amazing Centre County Postcard Collection of Joan Hawbaker Brower***

**State College, PA** – *Aaronsburg to Zion* tells a history of Centre County through the lens of Joan Hawbaker Brower’s “amazing postcard collection” and historical research and text by Cathy Horner. Published by Mt. Nittany Press, this book features a broad sampling of Joan’s Centre County postcard collection with informative captions and gives a brief history of many of Centre County’s towns.

“Spend a little time with each image found in *Aaronsburg to Zion* and you will learn what Centre County, Pennsylvania looked like in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Be sure to notice the fashions, the vehicles (both horse-drawn and motorized), the storefronts, the roadways, and the people. Towns and villages, of course, do change with the times. Capturing this amazing collection was a way to be certain that the importance of place is never forgotten...” Cathy Horner.

About the authors: Joan Hawbaker Brower moved to State College in 1944. The daughter of an early real estate developer, she saw the growth of the town first-hand and lived in several places around the area. She attended State College Area schools and her beloved Penn State. She was active in her husband, Ralph Brower’s real estate office, where she began her postcard collecting journey to decorate the walls of his office. The collecting became something that she and Ralph did together – travelling the country to look for those special Centre County postcards.

Cathy Horner has always been interested in local history. She served in a volunteer research capacity for the Centre County Historical Society for almost ten years and served on the CCHS Board of Governors. Cathy also co-authored the book *Three Women, A War, and A Tradition: Boalsburg in the Civil War* and authored *The History of the Boalsburg Tavern and the Woman Who Saved It*. Cathy grew up on a farm in northwestern Pennsylvania that her ancestors had settled on in 1838 when it was “in the wilds of Pennsylvania.”

*Aaronsburg to Zion* was commissioned by Joan Hawbaker Brower as a benefit to the Centre County Historical Society. CCHS is grateful to both Joan and Cathy for their great effort and commitment to local history.

*For more information contact Mary Sorensen at the Centre County Historical Society at 814-234-4779 or email [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org).*

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THE AMAZING CENTRE COUNTY POSTCARD  
COLLECTION OF  
JOAN HAWBAKER BROWER

A  Z  
ions



Text by Cathy Huener  
Images by Joan Hawbaker Brower