

### *From Aaronsburg to Zion (and every town and village in between)*

By Cathy Horner

The summer of 2019 seems like it was decades ago. So much has happened in our lives since then and not much of it good. My conversation with Joan Brower that summer, though, was a very good thing. Through my involvement with the Centre County Historical Society, I had learned that Joan had an incredible collection of Centre County postcards and memorabilia. While doing research on a project, I had the opportunity to visit Joan and view some of her collection. I was astounded by the volume (and organization) of her postcard library. Housed on floor to ceiling shelves and assembled by town in three ring binders, the mass of images numbers in the tens of thousands!

She and I discussed how these images should be featured in a book so that the residents of our county could see the amazing transformations that have taken place over the last hundred plus years. The idea to publish a book of her postcards had been raised before but this time seemed the right time. Joan also made the extremely generous decision that she would commission the book herself and all proceeds from the sale of the book would go to the Centre County Historical Society.

The task would be daunting, as each image to be used would need to be scanned individually. We started meeting twice a week and developed a system and a rhythm. Joan would remove the postcard from its protective sleeve, I would scan it, and Joan would insert it back into the sleeve and back into the album. I took notes as I scanned, recording the date if known and any other interesting information about the card. We were on a roll and making headway... and then came March of 2020.

The pandemic halted our progress. We no longer could safely meet and work on the project. Finally in late spring of 2021, we both were vaccinated and could once again pick up where we had left off. I also began researching and working on short introductory text to be used with images of each village, town, and borough. We decided early on to let the picture postcards tell the history instead of words, but I felt it important that the readers learn a little

something about the towns that they might not have known.

Joan Brower's contribution to the preservation of images (and items) of Centre County's past is immense. Her love for this county is unmatched and her generosity for donating the proceeds from this book is heartwarming. The book will hopefully be at the printers by the time you are reading this. It is a large, 347-page hardcover book with 617 images! 43 Centre County towns and villages are represented, and Grange Fair has its own category.

I feel so fortunate to have worked on this project with Joan. Our goal was to preserve Centre County history and I think we've accomplished that. The fact that we were working on a historical project while living in a historical time was not lost on us. We both hope that folks will enjoy perusing this book as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

*Our sincerest gratitude to CCHS Life Member Joan Hawbaker Brower for underwriting and making this special publication a benefit for the Centre County Historical Society. And many more thanks to Joan and her co-author and long time CCHS Member Cathy Horner for making the history of communities in every corner of Centre County come to life through the postcards in Joan's truly amazing collections.*

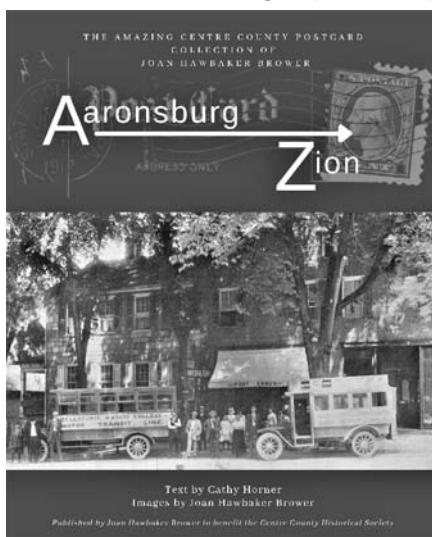
#### ***Aaronsburg to Zion, The Amazing Centre County Postcard collection of Joan Hawbaker Brower***

Presented by Joan Hawbaker Brower and Cathy Horner  
Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m. at Centre LifeLink, 125 Puddintown Rd., State College.

Join us for an in-person book signing, discussion and show-and-tell by co-authors Joan Brower and Cathy Horner about Joan's Centre County postcard collection. As COVID-19 and its variants continue to be an unfortunate factor, we ask that you please keep an eye on CCHS communications in the event we would need to reschedule.

Books are \$35.00 (plus tax) and may be pre-ordered. When received from the publisher, they will be available for pickup or shipping.

Pre-order your copy today online at <http://centre-county-historical-society.square.site> or contact Johanna Sedgwick at [jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org](mailto:jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org).



Joan Brower

# About the Centre County Historical Society

## ☞ Contact Us ☞

Centre County Historical Society  
Centre Furnace Mansion  
1001 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 234-4779

### CCHS Office Hours:

MON-FRI, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Research at the Centre Furnace Mansion:

Special arrangements for on-site research may be made by email or calling the office. For additional information, staff may be reached by calling 814-234-4779 or by e-mailing [info@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@centrecountyhistory.org).

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Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society, the County's official historical society, is an educational organization that promotes appreciation and research of Centre County's historic and natural resources through its properties, collections, programs, publications, and advocacy.

A community and volunteer-based organization, the Society is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This site includes the restored and furnished ironmaster's home, furnace stack, and landscaped grounds and gardens. Centre Furnace was home to the earliest 18th century industry: charcoal iron making. In the 19th century Centre Furnace played an important role in the beginnings of Penn State University. The Society also owns and operates the nearby Boegersburg one-room school.

The Centre County Historical Society depends on financial contributions that help support our free public programs and educational opportunities for children, and provide necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of the Society's facilities and collections. Your membership and generosity are sincerely appreciated. Donations may be made by visiting [CentreHistory.org](http://CentreHistory.org) and click on "Donate Now" or by simply sending in the form on the back of this newsletter.

The Society may also be supported by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by Centre Foundation at [CentreFoundation.org](http://CentreFoundation.org).

*Mansion Notes* is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society and is made possible through the G. Harold Keatley Fund.



*Funding for this publication is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*



The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. Official registration and financial information about CCHS may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## Upcoming Activities

Please note that reservations are needed for talk programs and can be made at CentreHistory.org or by calling 814-234-2449.

### Centre Furnace Mansion Tours:

Tours are available by appointment on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.. Please call us at 814-234-4779 or visit [CentreHistory.org/visit-us/visit](http://CentreHistory.org/visit-us/visit) for available dates and times.

**SUN February 20, 2:00 p.m.: From Pastime to Premiere: The History of Movie Theaters in Centre County** by Kevin Hagopian, part of the new Encyclopedia Live History Talk Series, via Zoom

**SUN March 13, 2:00 p.m.: CCHS Annual Meeting** CCHS Members are invited to join the Board of Governors for a recap of 2021 followed by *For the Future of our Past: Preserving the Centre Furnace Mansion* by Alan Popovich and Mary Sorensen, via Zoom

**SUN April 10, 2:00 p.m. Aaronsburg to Zion: The Amazing Postcard Collection of Joan Hawbaker Brower**, see cover page for details.

## Save the Date

**THUR 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Weekly gardening at the Centre Furnace Mansion.** All are welcome. Starting mid-March, or as weather permits. Call 814-234-4779 for more information.

**TUE May 10 - WED May 11: Centre Gives @ CentreGives.org** online fundraiser.

**SAT May 14, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: 27th Annual Plant Celebration & Garden Sale** at the Centre Furnace Mansion.

**SUN June 12, 2:00 p.m.: Deplorable: The Worst Presidential Campaigns from Jefferson to Trump** by Dr. Mary E. Stuckey. Location details will be updated in the spring Mansion Notes

**SUN July 31, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps** at Poe Valley State Park

**Stay Connected**  
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## President's Corner

By Roger L. Williams



What a privilege it is to begin my term as president of the Centre County Historical Society—an organization rife with members prolific as authors and historians.

As you read on page one, the CCHS is in the final stages of publishing *From Aaronsburg to Zion*, a fascinating tour de force of the Centre County postcard collection of life member Joan Hawbaker Brower, with text by Cathy Horner, a former CCHS Governor. For me, it is a vivid reminder of the vibrant villages and towns, beautiful homes and architecturally stunning buildings that defined our county in the 19th and 20th centuries. Too much of it, unfortunately, is gone with the wind.

Joan and Cathy's book also serves as a reminder of the many histories—local to national—that have been published by CCHS members over the last five years. This outpouring reflects our members' impressive talents for researching, interpreting, and writing on a wide variety of topics.

Certainly, there is Cathy Horner's previous work, *The History of the Boalsburg Tavern and the Woman Who Saved It* (2019) and life member Mimi Barash Coppersmith's *Eat First, Cry Later: The Life Lessons of a First-Generation College Graduate, Penn State Alumna and Female CEO* (2018), with insights to town-gown dynamics over six decades. Rebecca Inlow authored *The Rowland Story: Beauty from Ashes; The Life of the Rowland Theatre and Charles Rowland* (2018), which details the amazing story of this century-old Philipsburg landmark.

Add to that list *We Had Ink In Our Blood: Newspaper Memories from Former CDT, Pa. Mirror Staffers* (2020), co-edited by R. Thomas Berner and Terry Nau. CCHS Governor Ralph Seely published his informative *Native People and Their Paths in Central Pennsylvania* (2018). Ralph has finished another work, *Central Pennsylvania Stories*, that the CCHS will publish later this year. Tom Range with Lew Lazarow recently published the Arcadia book *Penn State Blue Band* (2021), a visual expansion of their earlier volume on the subject. Christopher Macneal and Alice (Macneal) Carli revised and published a second edition (2021) of *A Penns Creek Companion*, authored by their father, the late CCHS Governor Emeritus Douglas Macneal in 2005.

*Branch Line Empires: The Pennsylvania and the New York Central Railroads* (2017), by Mike Bezilla with Luther Gette, recounts the competition between these two giants to acquire additional lines in central Pennsylvania. Speaking of giants, Governor Emeritus Lee Stout and Harry West collaborated on *Lair of the Lion: A History of Beaver Stadium* (2017), a deep look at this engineering marvel with an interpretation of its role within the development of the larger university.

Sports historian Ron Smith published *Nailed to the Crossbar: From the NCAA-Penn State Decree to the Joe Paterno Family Lawsuit* (2018) and, more recently, *The Myth of the Amateur: A History of College Athletic Scholarships* (2021), which greatly influenced the U.S. Supreme Court's recent NCAA v. Alston decision regarding the use of athletes' names, images, and likenesses.

Other nationally significant books by CCHS members include Roger Geiger's *American Higher Education Since World War II* (2019), the second volume of his magisterial history beginning with Harvard in 1636. Stephen Browne published *The First Inauguration: George Washington and the Invention of the Republic* (2020), a fresh look at the rhetoric creating a new nation. CCHS Governor Ford Risley edited and published *Dear Courier: The Civil War Correspondence of Melvin Dwinell* (2018), a Vermonter turned Southern sympathizer as editor of the Rome, Georgia, newspaper.

Also in the mix, at the risk of immodesty, are my own *Evan*  
*Continued on page 9*

## Director's Message

*"It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future," William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.*

CCHS has long advocated for historic preservation in Centre County starting with its first president Governor James Addams Beaver, who was a principal in establishing the Linn Historical Society of Centre County, now CCHS. There have been numerous authors ranging from J. Marvin Lee to Douglas Macneal and more current authors, that Roger Williams highlights in his President's Corner, who have preserved history through their writing. Jackie Melander spent countless hours preparing nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, headed up the initial restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion in the 1980s, wrote numerous project and support grants, and authored many meaningful articles about Centre County history and culture that continue to be frequently referenced. Project coordinator Carolyn Clinefelter Smith, funded with a PHMC grant, led CCHS efforts with Jackie and staff members to embark on an epic photo scanning and documentation effort in 2000, that took them to every corner of the county. This project resulted in CCHS's Places & Spaces Collection of over 2100 Centre County historical photographs ranging from the 19th century to the mid-20th century. Bob Hazelton has led teams to uncover the history of Scotia and other lost towns. The John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards has celebrated over 240 individual and organizational efforts featuring amazing work across the County to preserve history and save historic resources. And, of course, the new Centre County Encyclopedia of History and Culture. However, this is just a short list of preservation projects.

CCHS has also advocated for historic preservation relative to transportation and other building projects in Centre County through providing background information, research, and giving voice to at-risk resources in collaboration with other area non-profit organizations like Clearwater Conservancy and the Bald Eagle Archeological Society.

Planning is now underway for the final leg of the State College Area Connector Project (SCAC.) In the 1960s, the Rt. 322 bypass project around State College began as part of a larger project from Harrisburg to State College. Without a years-long grassroots effort on the part of the community and CCHS at that time, the Centre Furnace Mansion would have been demolished. Years later, in the 1990s and early 2000s, the next part of the Rt. 322 transportation project was planned and built through Lewistown to just east of Potters Mills. Most recently completed was the section through Potters Mills Gap.

There are a variety of options for the trajectory of this Rt. 322 connector to I-80. And there is still time for the public to weigh in on how they would like this to look given the impacts of various options to Centre County. We have created a web page to provide background and resource links to help you "get up to speed" on this highway project: [CentreHistory.org/research-explore/connector](http://CentreHistory.org/research-explore/connector).

~ Mary Sorensen

## Upcoming Programs and Events

CCHS programs will be held virtually until at least April, when we hope to safely meet again in person. As programs near, we will provide Zoom links via our e-newsletter and make them available on our website. We continue to watch CDC and local COVID guidelines regarding masks and gatherings as we continue to plan programs. Please check our website at [CentreHistory.org](http://CentreHistory.org) or give us a call at 814-234-4779 for any changes or updates prior to attending.

### **Encyclopedia Live: From Pastime to Premiere: The History of Movie Theaters in Centre County**

Presented by Kevin Hagopian

Sunday, February 20, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

The history of movie theaters in Centre County is a miniature of the growth and plateauing of public moviegoing in the US from the nickelodeon era (c. 1905-1915) to the present. Centre County presents many kinds of movie markets in the same geographic area, from a college town, with its diverse tastes, to market communities like Phillipsburg and Milheim which have historically attracted rural audiences to the movies.

Kevin came to Penn State in 1998, where he has been teaching cinema studies ever since. An award-winning teacher, Kevin has published articles on a variety of film history and theory topics, and on college teaching.

For full program details and to register visit <https://centrehistory.org/events/encyclopedia-live> or call 814-234-4779.



*The new Encyclopedia Live History Talk Series is hosted by the Centre County Historical Society and features authors of articles written for the online Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture. Virtual programs have a limit of 100 registrants, but will be recorded and made available on the CCHS YouTube Channel.*

### **CCHS Annual Meeting**

Sunday, March 13, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

We invite you to the Annual Meeting of the Centre County Historical Society on March 13 at 2:00 p.m. The program portion of the meeting will be: *For the Future of our Past: Preserving the Centre Furnace Mansion* by Alan Popovich and Mary Sorensen and will feature early and amazing preservation efforts beginning in the 1980s, our current Phase I Mansion restoration efforts, and what is ahead in Phase II and beyond.

*While proceeding with caution, we are excited to be planning in-person events starting on April 10 with "Aaronsburg to Zion" highlighted in the cover article. Save-the-dates for other spring-summer programs and events are featured in Upcoming Programs listed on page 3, including our Plant Celebration in May, an intriguing talk by Dr. Mary E. Stuckey, and Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in July at Poe Valley State Park. We hope to see you soon!*

## 2021 John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards of the Centre County Historical Society

The Centre County Historical Society recently hosted its 33rd Annual Historic Preservation Awards in January. Over three decades, the awards program has recognized 240 individuals and organizations for their outstanding work to preserve Centre County history. If you missed the Awards Program, the C-NET filming of the program is available on C-NET and on our website at: [CentreHistory.org/events/awards](http://CentreHistory.org/events/awards). You will also find past year's programs and award nomination forms on the page. Photos at the right are listed in order of their following awards. Congratulations 2021 Award Recipients!

### EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

#### **Robert Cameron – Columbus Chapel and Boal Mansion Museum in Boalsburg**

For tireless efforts to raise awareness and garner community support for the Columbus Chapel and Boal Mansion Museum from uncovering and displaying artifacts from their extensive collection to making the site a community resource through improvements to the Boal Barn Theatre and development of the landscape.

### HISTORY AND HERITAGE

#### **Benjamin Fehl – The Crooked House at Homecoming Park in Milesburg**

For efforts to promote local history in Milesburg and strengthen the community through advocacy and through preserving the site of the Abigail Miles house. The house evolved into a community art project called The Crooked House at Homecoming Park.

### PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

#### **The Glennland Building in State College**

#### **Gary Brandeis – The Scholar Hotel Group**

#### **The Campbell Family – Robert and Richard Campbell and Nancy Campbell Slagle**

For restoration and rehabilitation of the historic Glennland Building in State College completed in 1933 by builder O.W. Houts and physician Dr. Grover Glenn. The Glennland Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEERISM

#### **St. John's Stewardship Team - St. John's United Church of Christ in Boalsburg**

For overseeing the restoration of the St. John's United Church of Christ in historic Boalsburg through a several years-long initiative to complete major building repairs and preserve historic artifacts related to the church in preparation for its 200th Anniversary of continuous worship in 2022.

### THE JACQUELINE J. MELANDER AWARD

#### **Sue Hannegan**

For outstanding and long-term advocacy of and commitment to historic preservation in Centre County and community revitalization through promoting the continued use of older buildings. Currently Sue is focusing her talents in the role of President of the Roland Curtin Foundation.

### CCHS PRESIDENT'S AWARD

#### **Judith Heberling**

For nearly two decades and well over 3000 hours of outstanding service to the Centre County Historical Society through her dedicated weekly curatorial work with the Society's object and archival collections and as a long time Centre Furnace Mansion Gardener.

If you know of a project, organization or individual that you feel should be recognized, nomination forms may be found at [CentreHistory.org/event/awards](http://CentreHistory.org/event/awards). Or contact Mary Sorensen at [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org) or 814-234-4779.

We extend our gratitude to Centre County Government for C-NET sponsorship. And to Will Yurman for contributing portrait photography and David Lembeck for graphic design for the Historic Preservation Awards. Special thanks to Awards co-chairs: Katie O'Toole, emcee and Ford Risley and our Awards Committee members: Rebecca Inlow, Matt Maris, Jackie Melander, Bob Hazelton and Dick Pencek. And, of course, many thanks and kudos to the 2021 Awards Recipients!





# Thank you!

We are beyond grateful to the businesses, supporters, volunteers, and vendors came together to bring the Mansion's special holiday tradition and largest fundraiser back successfully, despite these challenging times. We are especially thankful for everyone's support, given all of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all who supported the 19th Annual Stocking Stuffer. It truly was a Magical Holiday Market! From planning and set-up efforts, to the event days with a beautiful array of treasures, to clean-up, it couldn't have gone more smoothly and we are very grateful. Even the weather cooperated.

Many, many thanks to floral designers **Avant Garden** and **Daniel Vaughn Designs** for decking the Mansion's halls with their contribution of extraordinary holiday décor. And our thanks to **Woodring's Floral Gardens** for their donation of Cupressus trees for us to sell and to **Way Fruit Farm** for their donation of wonderful apple cider that steeped in mulling spices throughout the weekend!

Special thanks to our **Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners** for outdoor holiday decorations and our **CCHS Docent Committee** for helping out with craft making and numerous other tasks.

A huge shout out and thank you to the **Harris Township Lions Club** for taking care of our parking and seeing to it that our shoppers got in and out safely!

Enthusiastic cheers and thanks to our gifted volunteer Stocking Stuffer Coordinators, **Deb McManus** and **Becky Dreese** along with staff member **Johanna Sedgwick** who oversaw details from sales and set-up to merchandising and vendor coordination to make the event go smoothly. With great appreciation to the contributors and donors listed.

For more information on how to volunteer for or support the 20th anniversary Stocking Stuffer, contact Mary Sorensen at [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org) or 814-234-4779 for more information.



*Ann Taylor, Fran Nuhfer and Johanna Sedgwick*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
20th Anniversary!  
**Stocking Stuffer**  
*Magical Holiday Market*

Friday-Sunday, December 2-4, 2022

## 2021 Stocking Stuffer Event Sponsor Mimi Barash Coppersmith

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Avant Garden  
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# Mining Iron Ore - A Better Way

By Bob Hazelton

The stately iron furnace that sits next to our Centre Furnace Mansion is a reminder of our heritage.

But there is no monument for the men who worked “behind the scenes” such as those who supplied the charcoal. And perhaps the most forgotten are those who did the back-breaking pick-and-shovel work digging the lumps of iron ore. It was frustrating work as often the ore was embedded in sand and clay and therefore was bypassed.

The frustration lasted until the early 1840s, when the ore washer was invented. At least that was the situation for the iron furnace operations that had a single large ore pit that would justify the expense of a washer. The option was to haul all the material from the various ore pits and have the ore washer at the furnace. That was not practical as hauling all the sand and clay wasn’t cost effective.

Pennsylvania Furnace with its single large ore pit was ideally suited for an ore washer, which therefore contributed to outlasting many of the smaller iron furnace operations. Pennsylvania Furnace also tried another relatively new invention for mining, that of a steam shovel. Unfortunately, because of large deposits of limestone, the use of a steam shovel was unsuccessful at Pennsylvania Furnace.

Andrew Carnegie leased the Pennsylvania Furnace operation prior to moving on and creating Scotia in 1880. And maybe he got the idea of the steam shovel from Pennsylvania Furnace as he did have three steam shovels at Scotia. He went one step further and dumped each bucket load from a steam shovel into a narrow gauge ore car. The loaded ore cars were then hauled to the ore washer using a narrow gauge steam locomotive.

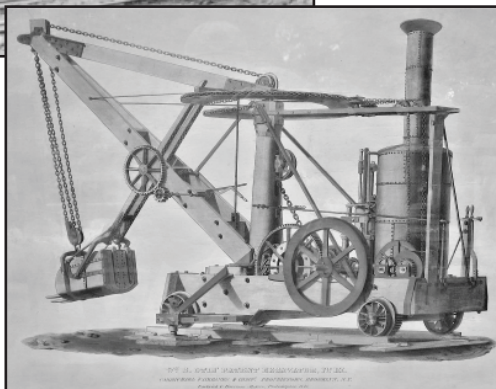
So, the steam shovel played a big part in streamlining Carnegie’s mining operation at Scotia. The steam shovel he used at Scotia was patented on February 24, 1839 by William Smith Otis. He built his first steam shovel in 1835 at age 22. And yes, he was related to the man who invented the Otis Elevator, his cousin Elisha Otis.

The official patent drawing of the Otis stream shovel (excavator) is missing but the above photo is said to be from the patent. An associated document and the patent illustration have the Otis machine mounted on a railroad car. Possibly that was the most convenient base for Otis to build on. The idea might have come from railroad construction, which was the biggest market for the machine at the time. However, research puts the width

at eight feet, about twice the width as standard gauge rail spacing. So the base must have been that of a modified railroad car. It also means that even though it might have been shipped on railroad cars, it had to be done in pieces and assembled at the site. Of all the historical photos of Otis’s machine available on the internet, none shows the machine on train track rails, but rather up on blocks or on wooden rails.

The photo to the left is of the Otis excavator at work at Scotia. Although not very detailed, the photos from Scotia that show the base do not reveal any track. The mules that appear were probably used to maneuver each of the empty narrow gauge ore cars into position then remove them when loaded.

William Smith Otis’s patent was officially called “Crane-Excavator for Excavating and Removing Earth.” Unfortunately, he did not live to see the real success of his excavator as he died nine months later of typhoid fever at the young age of 26.

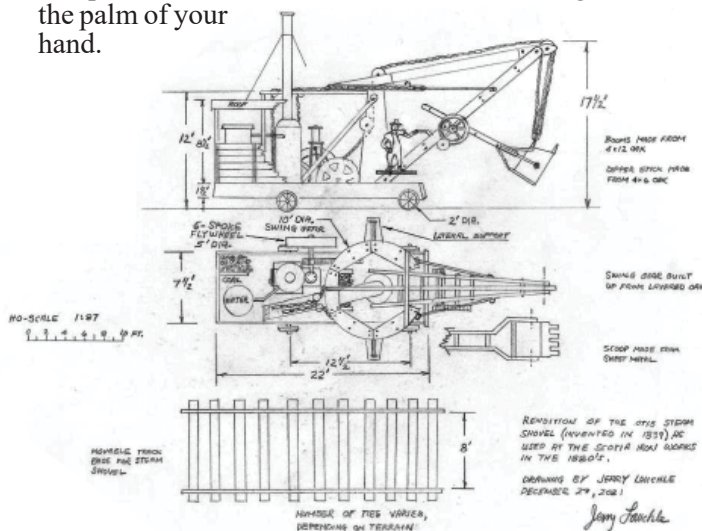


Otis stream shovel (excavator)

## Endnote:

This author, with much help, has been researching Scotia for over 10 years. In recent years a group started construction of an 8x12 foot scale model of Scotia, with progress on the project updated periodically in previous issues of *Mansion Notes*. The steam shovel is the smallest element in the layout, but perhaps the most interesting, and certainly a key part of Carnegie’s operation. Like all

the other structures of the layout we are trying to keep everything historically accurate. And with no model railroad kit for the Otis steam shovel, Jerry Lauchle has joined our group and has the credentials to construct our Otis steam shovel, actually two, from scratch. In working on the dimensions (see illustration below) Jerry verified the steam shovel would have been eight feet wide. Jerry’s project requires a lot of detail, which takes time. When complete, the steam shovel will be small enough to fit in the palm of your hand.



## CCHS Acquisitions

November 2021 - January 2022

2021.22 Oil on canvas portrait of Lucy Huston Sturdevant, born in Bellefonte, daughter of Judge Charles Huston and Mary Winters Huston. Painted by American portrait and still life artist John F. Francis in 1842.

*Gift of Amy Loveland*



2021.23 Portrait of Michael Hess and son Newton Hess, and two photographs of Newton Hess, and Newton's childhood sled.

*Gift of Lee Ann Hess Candor*

2021.24 "The Old Iron Kettle" Additional details below.

*Gift of the State College High School Alumni Association*

2021.25 State High Servicemen guestbook, 1943-1946 and scrapbook of State College High School homefront programs during World War II.

*Gift of Randy Bitner*

2021.26 Decorative wool penny rug.

*Gift of Mary Osborn*

## The Old Iron Kettle

By Tom Smith

The origin of The Old Iron Kettle is vague, but its history is firm. Two Penn State Students accidentally found it November 6, 1940, while hunting near the remains of General Philip Benner's 148-year-old mansion about halfway between Bellefonte and State College. It had likely been made very near there early in the 19th century at Philip Benner's iron foundry.

The Kettle's insertion into Centre County history came about when Lou Bell, Director of Public Information at Penn State, suggested to Bob Wilson, Centre Daily Times Sports Editor, that the CDT sponsor it as a trophy for the annual Bellefonte-State College football games.

Titan Metal Mfg. Co. of Bellefonte cleaned the Kettle and affixed a brass plate to be later engraved with the scores of each game, the first of which was played on September 19, 1941, in the "Hollow" in State College, when Bellefonte won 7-0.

The Iron Kettle series had a few breaks over the years and ended unceremoniously in 1999 when State College – by then a much larger school than Bellefonte – won the last game, 62-0.

*The Kettle will be on display in the Mansion Hearth Room starting in March.*



## From the Archives

By Judy Heberling

One of the joys of working with museum collections is having the occasional opportunity to solve interesting mysteries. We were able to do just that recently with a donation that came in several years ago from a woman in Portland, Oregon, who enjoys buying old letters and diaries and sending them back to the people or area they've come from.

This particular piece was a diary from 1938. Neither the author nor the family was identified, but reading it made it clear that it was kept by a young man from State College who graduated from State High in 1938. He made daily entries beginning in January of 1938 that detailed his school and community activities, his chores, and his relationships with his parents and friends. He names classmates, teachers, and State College residents, including my paternal grandmother, who lived on East Beaver Avenue, and to whom he delivered sheep manure from the family flock!

As we read through the diary page by page, we were able to put together a picture of the young man, particularly through his senior-year activities. We were certain that we would be able to identify him given the right sources, and we were right. The State College High School yearbook, the *Maroon and Gray* for 1938, listed only one senior who was involved in all of the activities mentioned in the diary: playing violin in the orchestra and French horn in the band, conducting the junior band, performing in the operetta, and participating in the Music Club, Science Club, Aviation Club, Camera Club, and debate and public speaking competitions.

It was obvious that the diary's author was Eugene W. Lederer (1920-2003), the son of businessman Eugene H. Lederer and artist Lucy Kemmerer Lederer. At that time, the family lived on Kemmerer Road in Manor Hills, off East Hamilton Avenue. After leaving State High in 1938, Eugene W. graduated from Penn State in 1942, served in the Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and became a well-known State College attorney and artist. His mother Lucy was a successful painter, whose work was shown in several national exhibitions. Mr. Lederer donated several of his mother's paintings to the Centre County Historical Society in 1997. Mystery solved!

## Grant News

The Centre County Historical Society is grateful for recent support grants received from:

- PHMC Historical & Archival Records Care Grant
- PHMC Cultural and Historical Support Grant
- Centre County Government



## Board News

We welcome Rebekah (Becky) Dreese of Centre Hall as a new member of the CCHS Board of Governors. Becky has served in a leadership role as a co-chair on the CCHS Stocking Stuffer Committee with the cashier and accounting components since 2015.

Becky is the founder and owner of Thrive HR Management. For 25 years, Becky worked for small companies and start-ups, where she gained an appreciation for the hard work, enthusiasm, and teamwork of building a company, getting a product to market, or designing something new. From 2013-21, Becky worked as an HR Director, earned her PHR certification, and a Human Resources Management degree. We are grateful for Becky's contributions to CCHS through the Stocking Stuffer and other activities and are pleased to welcome her to the Board.



## Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to all who volunteer in service to CCHS. The dedication and contribution of time and talent are incredible and we truly could not do what we do without their generous service.

We are planning a volunteer appreciation reception to be held on **June 9 at 5:00 p.m.** We hope volunteers, members and friends will attend to celebrate the core of volunteers that have been so supportive.

## Collections Update

Thank you to Bernard Oravec, publisher of *Town & Gown*, Bob Struble and Ron Smith for contributing missing issues of the *Town & Gown*. We now have a complete collection and, thanks to Graham Spanier, a complete index to the stories and people within them. This is a great resource for local history and we appreciate everyone's contributions!

Many thanks to Intern Priscilla Mariani who has worked with CCHS as an intern with three projects since 2017. Her first project was the 2017 exhibition Centre County Women and the American Red Cross. She then researched and prepared a research paper about Martha Furnace and the Centre County Iron Industry. Most recently she worked with the ad hoc committee overseeing the CCHS Archives move to the Ice House building. Priscilla completed her Master's in Archives and Public History through a Capstone Project with New York University to develop a guide about moving archival collections for small repositories as part of her project here. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Priscilla and are grateful for all of her good work!

## Gardener's Corner

No one is more eager for spring's arrival than a gardener and we only have a few weeks to wait! While frigid temperatures, snow, and ice have delayed the late winter arrival of our earliest spring ephemerals in the gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion, we know they are there and eager as we are. Once winter loosens its grip, snowdrops and winter aconite will lead the way, followed first by crocus, early daffodils, and a variety of small bulbs that grace the Mansion grounds. Then, the showier English bluebells, trillium, columbine, tulips, bleeding heart that harken the Plant Celebration, in its 27th year on Saturday, May 14.

This year, we look forward to an in-person plant sale and are keeping our fingers crossed for lovely weather!

The garden season at the Mansion will begin with the first 2022 Garden Committee meeting on **Thursday, February 24 at 4:00 p.m.** via Zoom. If you have an interest in gardening at the Mansion, our regular day is Thursday and we begin in the afternoons when the weather permits in the spring. Please contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or email [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org) if you would like to attend or receive emails about gardening. You will learn a great deal from seasoned gardeners, most of whom are Master Gardeners. We warmly welcome you to join in any time!



## Centre Gives

On **May 10 & 11** your gift of \$10 or more through Centre Gives helps the Centre County Historical Society compete for a larger share of the stretch pool provided by the Centre Foundation and Hamer Foundation as well as qualify for additional prize money! We hope you will consider support of CCHS this coming May 10 & 11. Details will follow by postcard and email.

## Presidents Corner

*continued from page 3*

*Pugh's Penn State: America's Model Agricultural College* (2018) and *Frederick Watts and the Founding of Penn State* (2021).

This constant encouragement, facilitation, production, and promotion of new historical knowledge are fundamental to our mission as a historical society. The CCHS has commissioned a number of important works on local topics over the decades and our members, of their own volition, have generated compelling books on numerous subjects, national as well as local. Many of these books are on display and available at the Centre Furnace Mansion Museum Store, where our members receive a 10% discount.

## Looking Back

By Bob Hazelton

I became President of CCHS at the beginning of 2020 and I expected our normal challenges. I specifically recall having a CCHS related lunch meeting in March with the virus of minor concern. From then on nothing was normal in our lives nor the life of CCHS. We had to close our doors but still needed to keep operating. The word Zoom took on a new meaning. Our two staff members, Mary and Johanna, shifted gears and worked out a system and kept going.

Mary secured two PPP loans, and a record amount of grants. And our donors through Centre Gives came through for both years. We shifted two major fundraisers, our 2020 plant sale and Stocking Stuffer, from in person events to online sales. Then to add insult to injury, we had an expensive waterline repair. And had two large trees removed. And during all these pluses and minuses it seemed like we were progressing.

Then of course, there was the roof restoration which was necessary. But we had never faced such a monumental expense. I distinctly remember signing the contract thinking there is no turning back now. Somehow, we did it. I am still amazed. We also have added new board members who have great expertise. Our membership numbers are good and growing. And to top it all off, we just had a very successful 2021 Stocking Stuffer.

So I conclude that we have had a successful and crazy two years, but as president during that time, I don't take credit for it because you all did it - not I.

I thank you all especially our staff and board members, our donors, and our membership.

As of the first of this year Roger Williams has taken up the virtual gavel as CCHS president. He has been a breath of fresh air since being on the Board and has accomplished a great deal. With Roger as our new President, I am excited about our future and will help him as best I can.

I must tell you there was a day this past summer when I stood in the lawn looking up at our Centre Furnace Mansion and proudly thought I have been a part of all this and how significant this has been.

Thanks and stay safe, ~Bob Hazelton

## Remembering Friends



Pat Daugherty and Bob Hazelton with group.

Everyone knew Pat Daugherty. If you saw all that decorated the walls of the Tavern Restaurant you knew Pat had a love of history among all his other varied interests. I had the pleasure of working with him on a history related project that started in 2004 that lasted until 2008 when he needed to focus on The Tavern Restaurant. We spent many hours together, often being helped by some of his employees from the restaurant. Our work was often interrupted for texting and phone calls for scheduling his waiters and waitresses. Often he knew their life stories including their families and details of their PSU sport. There was the story he told me this past summer about a basketball player who worked for him who told the coach that he can hit from the various spots on the court but one place he could not hit from was from the bench. I think he was the "away father" to many of the students who worked for him.

I will remember Pat Daugherty for his regard for history, his engineering mind, his great memory, his caring nature, and the stories. I was privileged to have known him.

~ Bob Hazelton

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of CCHS members who have passed during this difficult time:

Joseph L. (Lou) Carroll  
Curtis (Curt) Chandler  
Karin DeJuhasz Henszey  
Steven L. Herb  
H. Louis (Lou) Moore  
John E. Mutzeck  
Shirley Palermo  
Susie C. Sherritt  
Carl Sillman  
Dan T. Stearns  
John E. (Jack) Wetzel

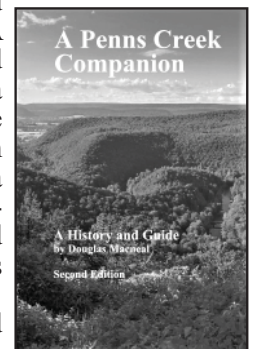


Life Members Susie and Grant Sherritt at the 2013 Plant Celebration.

## A Penns Creek Companion

Before his passing in 2020, Doug Macneal set out to update his widely popular *A Penns Creek Companion*, originally published in 2005. Doug aimed to create "A guide to the landscape, history, and culture of central Pennsylvania valleys and ridges which form the watershed of Penns Creek." With the help of Christopher and Eliza Macneal, and Alice (Macneal) Carli, revisions were made and a second edition was published by the Penns Valley Conservation Association.

Doug's book can be purchased through our online museum store or by stopping by the Centre Furnace Mansion.



## 2021 Annual Fund

**M**any, many thanks to all who have contributed to our Annual Fund Campaign thus far! It provides much-needed income to pay operating and maintenance expenses for our buildings and grounds, support our small professional staff, and otherwise pay for so much of what we do.

However you give, your generosity enables us to carry out our mission of discovering, preserving, interpreting, and presenting the fascinating history of our beloved Centre County.

Donations received November 6, 2021-February 1, 2022.

Hilary Barlow	Janice & Steven Livingston
Henrietta Baylor	Lawrence Lokman & Rhonda Seaton
Estelle & Charles Bennett	Ken & Sue Lower
R. Thomas & Paulette Berner	Alice & William Markle
Anita Genger & Eric Boeldt	Albert & Sharon Matyasovsky
Jane & Dennis Brown	Deborah Meszaros
Anonymous	Dr. Marla Moon
Rich Bundy	Sue Moyer
Joyce & Roy Christini	Fran Nuhfer
Peter & Elizabeth Cole	Kathleen O'Toole & Gary Gray
Andrew & Jerri Cole	Alan & Kris Popovich
Nancy Crane	Robert Potter
Candace & Robert Dannaker	Donna Queeney
Charlotte de Lissoy	Paula & Jay Ralph
John & Janet Dillon	Ford & Mary Risley
Marti Duffy	Marg & Dave Rockenbeck
Elizabeth & John Dutton	Ralph Seeley
Nancy Eaton	Elizabeth Shirey
Shari Edelson & Scott Dennison	Josephine Smith
Jacqueline Esposito	Mina Sommerville-Thompson
Brenda Farrell	& Jerry Sommerville
Joe Fiocchetta	Tom & Sara Songer
John & Lurene Frantz	Sandra & James Sorensen
Roger Geiger	Jackson Spielvogel
Anonymous	Dolores Taricani
David & Diane Gustine	Suzann & Vincent Tedesco
Sue & Bob Hannegan	Randolph & Paige Thomas
Daniel Hawbaker	Pamela & Daniel Thompson
Robert & Janice Hazelton	Patrick & Christy Todd
Elwood Homan	Marjorie & Phineas Tuthill
Catherine & Dave Horner	Jan & Rick Villastrigo
Betsey & Stacey Howell	Mrs. John E. Wetzel
Bill Jaffe	Susan & Robert Wiedemer
Barbara Jordan	Shannon Wright
Jeanne & Warren Kearns	Patricia Yearick
Theresa & Mark Lafer	Renee & Greg Ziegler
Douglas Leathers	Pamela & Cal Zimmerman



## Mansion Restoration Fund Donors

Donations received November 6 - February 1, 2022.

Anne Anderson  
Gail Kamon  
Rob & Meredith Veronesi



## Membership Note

**T**hank you to all who have sent in 2022 Membership renewals or joined as a new Member! We welcome you with enthusiasm and will provide a Membership listing in our Spring Mansion Notes.

## Thank You

**W**e are thankful for the many things that people do every day to help out with CCHS. Whether through service, donated items, or providing program support. We thank the following for their contributions:

Many thanks to the **CCHS Docent Committee** who have continued to lead tours over the winter

Interns:

**Priscilla Mariani**, NYU, CCHS Archives Project  
**Alex Schmidt**, Penn State, Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture, authored articles about Boogersburg School, Daniel Hartman Hastings and Rob Norman Fisher.

**Emily Kostenecki** who continues to work with us to update the Mansion's window and window hardware inventory in preparation for the second phase of the Mansion's restoration work.

**JustServe Elders and Sisters** for regularly helping in the gardens and grounds and wherever needed!



*JustServe Sisters helping with clean-up at the Stocking Stuffer*

Thank you to **Blake Teitelbaum and LVTech** for contribution of tech support.

Thank you to **Ed DeBrasky** who rebuilt the owl-shaped bird house that has been mounted outside the Mansion's Kitchen Garden porch and home to generations of Carolina Wrens for over three decades. Birder Brian Sedgwick notes that a bird house that looks like a predator makes no sense at all. Tell that to our clever wrens!



*Ed DeBrasky with the Wren's favorite bird house.*





CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CENTRE FURNACE MANSION  
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## Membership

*New members welcome anytime.*

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|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member             | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual             | \$35                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                 | \$50                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend                 | \$100                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                 | \$250                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor             | \$500                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward                | \$1000                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ironmaster             | \$1500                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Additional Gift</b> | <b>\$ _____</b>                  |

Your membership in the CCHS also makes the preservation possible for the Centre Furnace Mansion, Boogersburg School, and countless other explorations of our shared history and heritage – places that help us “get away” without even having to leave Centre County.

As we continue to schedule an engaging series of programs and events, we invite you to reconnect with the past and help preserve the beauty of the present through your membership. Your support means everything.

As our thanks to you for partnering with us on our mission to discover, explore, preserve, and interpret Centre County history, your membership benefits in CCHS include:

- 10% off CCHS publications (*Don't forget to mention that you are a member when purchasing books in our Museum Store. If purchasing books through our website, enter MEMBERS10 at the checkout.*)
- Lending privileges that allow you to check out books from the CCHS research library
- *Mansion Notes* Newsletter
- Advanced notification of upcoming programs via email

Join or renew at <https://centre-county-historical-society.square.site>, fill out this form and send to CCHS, 1001 E. College Ave., State College, PA 16801 or call us at 814-234-4779. The annual membership period is January through December.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_



- ☐ I wish to help cut down on mailing costs and help the environment. Please send my newsletters via e-mail!
- ☐ I would like my membership / donation to remain anonymous.