



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 46, Number 1

Winter 2024

Sherm Lutz and the State College Airport that Wasn't

By Ronald A. Smith

In the midst of the Great Depression, on January 4, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered an important State of the Union Address to Congress. Roosevelt outlined a program that would provide nearly \$5 billion and put millions of the unemployed to work on various projects. The Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) was born. The W.P.A. plans ranged from constructing parks and supporting artists to building roads and airports. Airports were becoming more numerous in the 1930s, but they were mostly inadequate to handle larger planes for commercial travel.

In Centre County, Bellefonte had a landing strip near the present Bellefonte High School for airmail planes beginning in 1918. The original airfield, however, soon proved inadequate and a larger Bellefonte airport on 90 acres was built in 1925 near the intersection of Route 64 and Garbrick Road, northeast of Pleasant Gap, to better accommodate airmail traffic.¹ Another airstrip was constructed between Oak Hall and Boalsburg in 1929. The simple grass landing strip near Boalsburg, since consumed by the State College Bypass, was the idea of Sherman Lutz, a young air pilot and daredevil of the 1920s and early 1930s. Yet, the Bellefonte and Boalsburg airports were not constructed to handle numbers of passengers. There was interest in a larger airport in the State College area, the town dominated by financially strapped Penn State College.

With the national election of Franklin D. Roosevelt three years after the 1929 stock market crash, the construction of new airports and the rehabilitation of older ones was part of the New Deal programs designed to put

people to work on projects useful to the public. The Roosevelt administration was the first in the twentieth century to move in the direction of the federal government providing services on a major scale in search of a solution to the Depression and vast unemployment. By the mid-1930s, State College and its population of about 5,000 had

pressure to construct sidewalks and street curbs, to extend water lines, and especially to build a sewage disposal plant.³ These appeared to be concerns of greater importance than building an airport that could bring in larger planes, as commercial airline travel was becoming more popular.



Left to right, Henry Clark Glure, Dr. R.H. Hoffman, Bob Baker, Russ Young, Sherm Lutz, Mack Maccast, Ed Johnston. 1935. CCHS Sherm Lutz Collection 2001.24.24.0629

its own unemployment problem, but it was not as severe as the 30 percent or more unemployment rate in the rest of the state.²

While Penn State College remained the economic motor for Happy Valley, there were unmet needs in State College that could be countered with federal government funds though public works and programs to reduce the unemployment. However, in State College, there were projects considered more important than an airport. There was major interest in receiving government aid to expand College Avenue and to pave Beaver Avenue east

The State College School Board, unlike the Borough Council, quickly took up the question of larger internal improvements with federal aid by placing an emphasis on a well-thought out building of an athletic field out of a former farm field that had a sink hole draining what was called the "Hollows." Even before Roosevelt's 1935 State of the Union Address, the State College School Board, under the leadership of Supervising Principal Jo Hays, was suggesting that the school seek federal resources to build an athletic field under the original Civil

Works Administration begun in 1933. When the temporary Civil Works Administration was concluded by 1935, the W.P.A. was proposed by Roosevelt. Within two weeks of FDR's State of the Union Address in 1935, a special meeting was called by Jo Hays for a reworking of old plans for a football stadium and submitting them to the new W.P.A.⁴ Within several months, the School Board applied for and received W.P.A. funding.⁵ By the fall of 1935, construction began on the new athletic facility.

The Borough did not act as efficiently. The Borough had originally responded in 1933 to the New Deal's Civil Works Administration for several projects including a sewer pipe project, a fire hall floor, curb work near the University Club at College Avenue and Atherton Street, and minor work on Sherm Lutz's airport near Boalsburg.⁶ Yet, there were months of discussions when it came to major projects such as concrete paving Beaver Avenue from Atherton Street to Pugh Street, or more importantly, building an efficient sewer disposal plant.

Meanwhile the school stadium at the Hollows, under the efficient Penn State landscape architect John Bracken, was given an expansion grant and was nearly completed. At one point the Borough, at the same Council meeting, sent two grant proposals to the W.P.A. headquarters for both a sewage disposal plant and an airport.⁷ While the school board acted quickly, it took Borough officials nearly a year later to apply for funding for street and sidewalk work, water line improvements, a major sewer project, and an airport. From a financial standpoint, the school district was

Continued on page 12

About the Centre County Historical Society

**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.

Archives: Spring hours Thursdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and by appointment during regular office hours.

Centre Furnace Mansion Tours:
Tours are available by appointment at the Centre Furnace Mansion on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.. Please call us at 814-234-4779 or schedule your tour online at CentreHistory.org/visit-us/visit.

2024 Board of Governors

Roger L. Williams, President
Jacqueline R. Esposito, Vice President
Deborah McManus, Secretary
Beverly Lipski, Treasurer

William A. Blair
Ann Moellenbrock
Alan R. Popovich, AIA
Bob Potter
Ford Risley
Ann Hamilton Taylor

Emeriti and Emeritae

Jeffrey M. Bower, Esq.
Robert B. Donaldson
Steve and Carol Gentry
Robert B. Hazelton, President Emeritus
Jacqueline J. Melander, President Emerita
Beth Ricker
Ralph Seeley
Leon J. Stout

2024 Committee Chairs

Budget & Finance: Ann Moellenbrock
Collections Management: Jacqueline R. Esposito
Communications: Ford Risley
Development: Deborah McManus
Gardens: Beverly Lipski
Governance: Ann H. Taylor
Human Resources: Rebekah Dreese
Investment: David Panko
Melander Society: Bob Potter
Membership: Roger L. Williams
Property: Alan R. Popovich, AIA

Staff

Mary Sorensen, Executive Director
Johanna Sedgwick, Marketing & Events Coordinator

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.

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

History is an interpretive art, based on available evidence. Accordingly, the interpretations are, at times, controversial and contested. The Centre County Historical Society strongly supports freedom of speech and the First Amendment rights of our speakers, authors, and writers. The Society may not necessarily support the views, conclusions, and opinions expressed, yet believes they merit entry into the marketplace of ideas and the scrutiny it affords.

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.

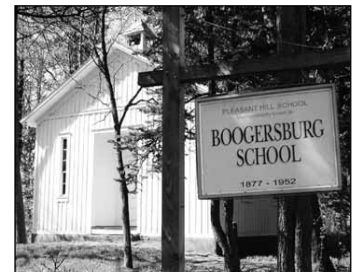
The Centre County Historical Society depends on financial contributions that help support our free public programs and educational opportunities for children, and provide necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of the Society's facilities and collections. Your membership and generosity are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

The Society also may be supported by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by Centre Foundation at 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.



2024 Business Sponsors

Panko Wealth Management
Bower Law Associates, PLLC
APArchitects, LLC

Executive Director's Message

Ending the Year and Starting a New One

The past quarter was vibrant with holiday events, starting with the Stocking Stuffer holiday market set a lively tone for the season. Organized by co-coordinators Deb McManus and Becky Drees and supported by more than 75 volunteers and contributors, the event was a great success. Nearly 50 vendors participated and the event was attended by over 800 members and friends.

We were pleased to host Dr. Dan Marriott's Larch 414 studio class at Penn State who presented their semester-end student presentations continuing the work of the 2022 fall studio project, Rethinking 322. Exploring various aspects of the 322 corridor in Penns-Brush Valley Rural Historic District, their project will soon be available on our website, complementing existing resources for the State College Area Connector project.

Following this, was our joint meeting and program of the CCHS and Central Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table featuring Lucy Cadwallader, owner of Victorian Hairwork, who gave an engaging talk about the history of hair art in the Victorian Era. She brought with her an amazing display of period hairwork examples and tools used in making hair art.

We rang in the new year with the dedication at the Centre Furnace Mansion of the long-awaited Birthplace of Penn State historical marker by Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi. Additionally, the John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards program celebrated outstanding recipients at the historic Pennsylvania Match Factory in Bellefonte, honoring Awards Chair Katie O'Toole for her decade-long dedication to the event.

Thank you to our members and friends for a successful 2023 Annual Fund campaign, and to Ron and Sue Smith for their generous match donation, and to those donors who quickly responded. Our 2023 Membership campaign is well under way. These two major fundraising efforts support more than 40% of our operating budget.

Enthusiastic cheers for the writers and presenters who contribute to our rich programming and publications, such as the *Centre County Encyclopedia of History and Culture* and our *Mansion Notes* newsletter.

Johanna Sedgwick and I will soon be attending the PA Museums 2024 Statewide Museum Conference - Chance for Change: Opportunities in a Community on April 14-16 at the State Museum in Harrisburg, PA. This conference is attended by more than 100 museum and historic site professionals from around the state and offers an opportunity to reconnect and exchange ideas and solutions.

In May and June we look forward to another successful Centre Gives fundraiser, spring Plant Celebration, and Centre County Explorers Day.

Behind every CCHS activity lies the generosity of our donors, members, sponsors, volunteers, friends, and leadership, providing the foundation for our success and preservation efforts.

~ Mary Sorensen



Larch 414 studio class 322 Advocacy Summit on December 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



A Glaring Historical Error?

By Roger L. Williams

What a wonderful day was Thursday, January 11, featuring the dedication of our new historical marker—*Birthplace of Penn State*—at Centre Furnace Mansion. Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi joined us to celebrate the occasion. She was generous with her time and effusive with her remarks. And we loved her characterization of the site as “hallowed grounds.”

The audience had grown large beyond expectation. Area news media turned out in force and carried the story far and wide. The mid-day weather waxed beautiful, with clear, blue sky, beaming sunshine and temperatures in the mid-forties. It was a day to send the spirits soaring, a gift by mid-January standards.

As the festivities wound down, I left the grounds fairly floating on air. Could things have gone any more perfectly?

Finally, we had planted our “flag” signifying the Mansion’s seminal role in the history of what has become one of the world’s greatest research universities. On June 26, 1855, the site selection committee of the Board of Trustees of the newly chartered Farmers’ High School of Pennsylvania arrived at Centre Furnace Mansion. Their task: to inspect the lands of Centre Furnace ironmaster James Irvin and identify one of three 200-acre farms he freely offered as the potential site for this experimental new school—a collegiate institution (despite the name) designed to instruct the sons of Pennsylvania farmers in the developing agricultural sciences. The final decision would not be made until the Board’s meeting in Harrisburg on September 12, 1855, when, after debate and several failed motions for other sites, the Trustees voted in favor of Board President Frederick Watts’s original motion to locate the school in Centre County.

With the marker dedication now behind us, I was free to research a related question that has long intrigued me: After the Trustees accepted Irvin’s offer, when was the deed to the 200 acres transferred and where is it now housed? Was there a ceremony of any sort surrounding the transfer of land and, if so, when and where? Our own historical society has long noted that “The papers to officiate this deal are believed to have been signed in the east front parlor of the Thompsons’ Centre Furnace Mansion, which is now called the Founders’ Room.” Is that fact, lore, or myth? Where is the documentary evi-

Continued on page 16

Upcoming Events

Please note that, due to limited seating, reservations are required for some programs by calling 814-234-4779 or reserving through the event listing at centrehistory.org.

Centre Furnace Mansion Tours are available 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 for more information.

March 10, 3:00 p.m.
CCHS Annual Meeting via Zoom. RSVP required.

March 16, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
BSA Genealogy Merit Badge
Pre-registration required

March 23, 1:00 p.m.
Managing Your Personal Archives by Jackie Esposito
RSVP required

April 21, 4:00 p.m.
Melander Society Reception
RSVP required

May 8 & 9 - Centre Gives.
Online at CentreGives.org.

May 11, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
29th Annual Plant Celebration

June 2, 2:00 p.m.
The Way I Saw It
by Pat Little
RSVP required

June 9, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Centre County Explorers Day

June 13, 5:00 p.m.
CCHS Volunteer Reception
RSVP required

July 28, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CCC Legacy Day at Poe Valley State Park
RSVP requested

Stay Connected

www.centrehistory.org
E-Mail:
info@centrecountyhistory.org
Facebook:
facebook.com/centrefurnace
X:
twitter.com/centrehistory
Instagram:
instagram.com/centre.county.history
YouTube:
<https://rb.gy/sfxzk7>

Managing Your Personal Archives

Talk by Jackie Esposito

Jackie Esposito, Archivist/Librarian emerita, Penn State University Libraries, will present “*Managing Your Personal Archives*,” Saturday, March 23, 1:00 p.m., at the Centre Furnace Mansion. This presentation will provide guidelines and helpful hints for individuals wanting to manage their personal collections and legacies.



Megan Kelby and Jackie Esposito with the CCHS Hamilton Collection materials donated by Anne Hamilton Henszey-Pyle and Kenneth B. Pyle.

The program will assist attendees in establishing management priorities for their collections as well as provide handling recommendations. There will be time for reviews of specific document handling techniques for specific items such as newspapers, photographs, diaries/journals, and clothing.

Jackie is currently CCHS Vice President and Collections Management Chair. She has been actively engaged in the management and preservation of University archival collections for over 30 years. She began

serving Penn State in the fall of 1986 as a project archivist and was promoted through the ranks to full librarian. In addition to working with the University’s archival collections, she oversaw an extensive oral history project for the University Libraries, entitled *Library Legacies*. As the former university archivist, she managed permanent University records, the Sports Archives, Fred Waring’s America, an extensive audio-visual collection, and both born-digital and electronic records. She is the author of numerous articles on archives

management, higher education legislation, and records issues, as well as co-author of *The Nit-tany Lion: An Illustrated Tale*.

Space is limited to 40 and RSVPs are required. Please call 814-234-4779 or RSVP online at CentreHistory.org.

Special note on parking: Parking is available in the Mansion’s parking lot off of Porter Road and in the parking lot behind Esber Home & Rugs. Please do not park in front of Frye’s Sweeper & Sewing Center as this will be a business day for them.



Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners and volunteers preparing for the 2023 Plant Celebration.

29th Annual Plant Celebration

Saturday, May 11,
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Centre Furnace Gardeners will host a favorite Centre Furnace Mansion tradition featuring native and non-native plants from local and regional growers, and from the Mansion Gardens.

We enthusiastically welcome the public for this annual CCHS tradition to celebrate the Mansion’s gardens and all who keep them beautiful.

Details will follow by postcard and email. Visit CentreHistory.org/plant for event updates.

New Historical Marker Celebrates Location of the Birthplace of Penn State

"This is a proud history—one I am honored to help continue as Penn State's president, and one I am thrilled to celebrate with you today."



Alan Popovich, Carol Gentry, Jackie Esposito, Steve Gentry, Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi, Roger Williams, Penn State Alumni Association Chief Executive Officer Paul Clifford, Mary Sorensen, Jeffrey Bower. Photo by Chuck Fong.

Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi dedicated a new campus historical marker titled "Birthplace of Penn State" on January 11 at Centre Furnace Mansion.

In her second year as Penn State's president, Bendapudi has visited all of Penn State's campuses across the Commonwealth. This visit was her first to Centre Furnace Mansion, the place where it all began 169 years ago.

"This is a proud history—one I am honored to help continue as Penn State's president, and one I am thrilled to celebrate with you today," she said.

The new historical marker—the latest addition to the 68 campus historical markers sponsored by the Penn State Alumni Association—details the events of 1855 that led to the institution's founding:

"The charter for the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania was signed on Feb. 22, 1855, and on June 26 the Board of Trustees site selection committee visited Centre Furnace Mansion to inspect 200 acres offered by ironmaster James Irvin and enjoy a dinner hosted by Moses

and Mary Thompson. After visiting sites across the state, on Sept. 12, 1855, the Trustees approved Board President Frederick Watts' motion to locate the fledgling school here."

Plans for the Farmers' High School were set in motion by the newly formed Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, founded in 1851 with lawyer and agricultural innovator Frederick Watts of Carlisle as president. The school was originally chartered by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1854, but that document was rescinded because it called for an unwieldy 65 members of the Board of Trustees and offered no state funding. A new charter, specifying 13 Trustees, was signed by Governor James Pollock on February 22, 1855.

The chartering ignited a statewide competition with various counties vying for this revolutionary new school designed to teach agricultural science to the sons of Pennsylvania farmers. After their first site visit to Centre Furnace, the Trustees left to inspect other proposed sites in Erie, Allegheny, and Blair counties.

When they met in Harris-

burg on September 12, 1855, they debated the matter and finally approved the motion of Chairman Watts to locate the school on Centre Furnace land.

Centre Furnace Mansion is doubly significant because it is the site of the first charcoal-fueled iron furnace in this part of Pennsylvania. The furnace was put into operation in 1792, prompting the development of additional iron furnaces and forges across Centre and adjacent counties. By 1810, Centre,

Huntingdon, and Blair counties were generating more than half the entire amount of pig iron produced in the United States.

Thus Centre Furnace—with the remains of the furnace stack still standing—is the original source of wealth enabling James Irvin to prosper and be in position to offer free land to get the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania located in Centre County.



Roger Williams, Neeli Bendapudi and Mary Sorensen snap a quick photo together after the dedication. Photo by Chuck Fong.

Thank you to our Speakers

The Centre County Historical Society is grateful for speakers who contribute time and talent to help provide public programming.

Lucy Cadwallader presented *The History and Weaving of Victorian Hair Art* in conjunction with the CCHS and Central PA Civil War Round Table annual meeting in December 2023.

This unique and sentimental art form was popularized during the Victorian Era as a way to commemorate loved ones who had passed away. A professional expert and collector, Ms. Cadwallader spoke on Victorian mourning customs and showcased hair art and hair jewelry pieces from her vast collection.

On February 11, Bill Blair presented *Centre County's Civil War Black Troops in the Struggle for Freedom*.

Blair, emeritus professor of American history at Penn State, presented an illustrated talk based on his fresh research into local history which, at times, unearths treasures. Such is the case with the story of the military service of Centre County's African American soldiers who served with the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War.

He is an emeritus director of the Richards Civil War Era Center, and founding editor of "The Journal of the Civil War Era," published by the University of North Carolina Press.



Lucy Cadwallader, lucyshairwork.com



William A. Blair presents to a full Hearth Room audience.

BSA Genealogy Merit Badge to be Offered

Through this Scouts BSA merit badge, participants will take a beginners look into the world of Genealogy. We will use standard tools to organize information, create the foundation of a family tree, conduct basic online search, evaluate sources and take a side quest into the archives of the Centre County Historical Society.

This session will be held Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. A fall session will be announced at a later date.

Scouts should visit CentreHistory.org for more details and to register.

This merit badge session is being hosted by Johanna Sedgwick, marketing and events coordinator at the Centre County Historical Society and a Scouts BSA registered merit badge counselor.



JOIN US FOR UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

CCHS members and the public are invited to attend upcoming programs of the Centre County Historical Society.

The **CCHS Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m.** via Zoom. All CCHS members, donors and volunteers are welcome to attend.

After the business portion of the meeting, Mary Sorensen will present *A Year in Review* highlighting the 2023 Centre County Historical Society ac-

complishments and activities.

A link to register will sent via email and will be posted at CentreHistory.org.

Centre Gives, hosted by the Centre Foundation, will be held **May 8 & 9**. Your gift of \$10 or more through this online giving event helps the Centre County Historical Society compete for a larger share of the stretch pool provided by the Centre Foundation and Hamer Foundation. Details will follow by postcard and email.

Sunday, June 2 Pat Little, photographer and former Photo Adviser at *The Daily Collegian*, will present an illustrated talk *The Way I Saw It* based on his State College, Penn State, and Centre County photography. Find him on Facebook for a daily trip down memory lane!

Watch for more details in the *Spring Mansion Notes*. RSVP will be required due to limited seating. Call the CCHS office at 814-234-4779 to RSVP.

WPSU Culinary Connections, Eat. Drink. Listen, aired on January 13, 2024 featuring Pine Grove Hall. The instrument collection and accompanying sheet music received by CCHS in 2023 make an appearance due to their connection with Simon Ward, the builder of Pine Grove Hall, and the Pine Grove Mills Cornet Band. Check out the WPSU broadcast schedule for the next airing date or watch at wpsu.psu.edu/tv/video.

Stocking Stuffer Thank You

A million thanks to all who have made the 21st anniversary Stocking Stuffer Magical Holiday Market a smooth-running success! We are grateful to each one of you for your support. To host this event takes months of preparation, weeks of set-up and help with the sale, and days of clean-up. We could not possibly do it without our sponsors, supporters, vendors, many volunteer hands and, of course, shoppers! Thank you so much from all of us at CCHS. **Visit CentreHistory.org/stocking-stuffer for the full list of event volunteers!**

Stocking Stuffer Co-Chairs:

Deb McManus
Becky Dreese

Stocking Stuffer Event Sponsors:

Mimi Barash Coppersmith –
Event Sponsor
The Happy Valley Adventure
Bureau – Rack Card Sponsor

Business Contributors:

Avant Garden, Inc.
Daniel Vaughn Designs
ProCopy
Tait Farm Christmas Trees
Way Fruit Farm
Wisocoy for Animals

Stocking Stuffer Room Sponsors:

Candace and Robert Dannaker
Becky Dreese –
Thrive HR Management
Annie Hamilton Taylor, Marty
Gutowski, and Libby Taylor
Steven and Carol Gentry
Roger L. Williams and
Karen Magnuson
Mary Watson

Stocking Stuffer Supporters:

Anonymous
Elizabeth Hanley
Chris Igo
Chef Rebecca Dale -
The Hidden Hostess
Deb McManus
Liz Reed
Jo Merrell and Floyd Todd
Centre Furnace Mansion
Gardeners
Centre Furnace Mansion Docents

**Antiques & Treasures
donated by:**

Keith Barry, Paul Brown, Ruth
Campney, Mary Lou Dubil, Patti
Wood Finkle, Katie Frieden,
Ruth Merritt, Barbara Schroeder,
Greg and Paula Wilson, Patricia
Zarkower

Organizational Volunteers:

Harris Township Lions Club
JustServe
Penn State Circle K



Jude Larkin finishing hearth decorations in Mary's Parlor.



Left to right: Elizabeth Dutton, Becky Dreese, Elliot Abrams, Patty Mutzeck, JoAnn O'Hern creating pomanders for the Stocking Stuffer.



Annie Taylor, mantel decorations by Daniel Vaughn Designs.



Left to right: John and Joni Arrington, Annie Taylor, Johanna Sedgwick, Frank Barksdale, Kari and Tom Reyburn preparing for Stocking Stuffer.



Chris Igo and Judy Heberling.



Avant Garden decorating the Hall.

2023 John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards

The Centre County Historical Society recently hosted its 34th Annual Historic Preservation Awards in January. For over three decades, the awards program has recognized 249 individuals and organizations for their outstanding work to preserve Centre County history. We congratulate and thank the 2023 award recipients for their commitment to Centre County history and preservation.

A special thank you to Awards Chair Katie O'Toole for 10 years shepherding the Preservation Awards.

Paul Daniel Marriott, PhD, Rethinking 322

Education and Advocacy

This award recognizes Dan Marriott (1) for his contribution towards facilitating community conversations about the future of the Route 322 corridor in the Penns-Brush Valley Rural Historic District. The Larch 414 studio class in the Penn State Department of Landscape Architecture used the proposed State College Area Connector Project as a case study.

Julia Spicher Kasdorf

History and Heritage

For her role in conceptualizing and producing an interpretation of local history in a visual and highly entertaining way, and for giving voice to the often-unheralded accomplishments of our hometown heroes. (2)

Axemann Brewery and Titan Hollow

Preservation and Restoration

This award recognizes Axemann Brewery owners Rod and Dorothea Stahl (3), and Titan Hollow owner Angela Eliasch (4) for the reuse and rehabilitation of the historic Titan Metal Company. The factory, situated along Logan Branch in the village of Axemann, once housed one of the country's largest manufacturers of brass and metal.

Julie Ruggiero Houston, Negative Project

Support and Volunteerism

For spearheading the Negative Project that preserves and shares a visual history of people, places and events in 20th century Centre and Clearfield Counties. (5)

James and Gay Dunne

Jacqueline J. Melander Award

For the outstanding and nearly life-long commitment to the historical and cultural enhancements that contributed to the renaissance of Bellefonte. (6)

Ford Risley and Lee Stout, Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture

CCHS President's Award

For envisioning, creating, and continuing to expand the Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture which chronicles the history that makes Centre County special. (7)

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. You will also find past year's programs and award nomination forms on the page.

We extend our gratitude to Centre County Government for C-NET sponsorship, the American Philatelic Society for contributing venue space and to David Lembeck for graphic design for the Historic Preservation Awards. Special thanks to Awards co-chairs: Katie O'Toole, emcee, and Ford Risley, and Awards Committee members: Rebecca Inlow, Matt Maris, Jackie Melander, Bob Hazelton and Dick Pencek.

Thank you to event supporters: Ann Leahey, Cynthia Lorenzo, Samuel Rudy, Henry Pisciotta, Denise Sticha. And to those who assisted with the event: Ann Barton, Elizabeth Dutton, Steve & Carol Gentry, Claire Gray, Kathy Johnston, Ken Martin, Ann Moellenbrock, Bob Potter, Colton Snyder, Annie Taylor, Roger Williams, Paula Wilson.



Awardee Dan Marriott talks with Centre County Commissioners Mark Higgins and Amber Concepcion after the awards presentation.



Property Updates



Centre Furnace Mansion Kitchen Garden in 2016.

The Mansion was a little cozier and less noisy this winter thanks to the storm windows that were installed as part of the Mansion's restoration project. We will soon see how the energy bills compare! The storm windows that are being customized for the arched windows on the Centre Furnace Mansion's front gables have been delayed, but expected soon and will complete the exterior restoration of the Mansion. With all property projects, patience is a virtue. The arched storms required considerably more customization and, because of this, took more time than the others.

Work is planned this Spring to include repairs and enhancements to the Mansion's Kitchen Garden and adjoining areas to facilitate accessibility to the Ice House where the CCHS archival collection is now located. Among the projects this will include are: relaying the clay pavers in three areas: 1) on the walkway to the Spring house from the side porch of the Mansion, 2) under the Mansion's porch that faces the garden and 3) the walkway to the Ice House building. In addition, the garden beds will be edged in a more subtle bluestone, which would

have been abundant in Centre County and used in the Victorian Era. The steps leading down to the walkway to the Ice House will feature a much-needed handrail.

We are ever grateful for funding from Linda and David Witmer; and for memorial donations from the family and friends of Elizabeth "Betsy" Turner Taylor and Alfred H. "Ted" Taylor that have been designated to this project; and for in-kind services anticipated from Alex's ProScape. Anticipating the total project reaching \$20,000, we will still need \$15,000 to be successful in carrying out this work that now will bring back the beauty and interpretation of this garden and make the archival collection more accessible.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the Mansion Fund for this important project, please contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or email msorensen@centrefurnace.org or scan the QR code below to donate.



I heard a robin's waking song
At morn's first hint of coming dawn,
And other notes came far and near --
So now, I know that spring is here.

from *Poems* by Susan L. Harlacher of Halfmoon Valley.
CCHS 2018.06.01

Boogersburg

The Boogersburg School operated for 75 years from 1877-1952. An earlier schoolhouse that had been located nearby burned down just before Boogersburg was built.

The property was deeded to Patton Township by Moses Thompson ironmaster and owner of Centre Furnace on May 1, 1877. The schoolhouse was built in the same year.

When the school was erected, the town of State College as it is now known, had about a dozen houses most of which were along what is now College Avenue. Penn State boasted six buildings: Old Main, the President's house, two barns, and two cottages used by professors.

Township schools like Boogersburg had no wells for water, so the students carried water from nearby homes or farms.

Electric power came to the school about 1946 when power lines were installed in the hamlet of Boogersburg.

From 1877 until the mid-1940s, the school housed the first through eighth grades. After World War II, the township schools accommodated one or two grades in each building. At this time busing became more prevalent.

The Boogersburg School closed in January 1953. The building was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Grucci at public auction on October 26, 1953, for use as a studio by Mrs. Grucci (Sibyl Barsky), an accomplished sculptor.

Long-time CCHS members Robert "Bob" Struble and Susan Cray purchased the School in April 2001 and

began the restoration. Bob worked closely with Mrs. Helen A. Egler, school teacher at Boogersburg from 1937 – 1943, and former students to restore the school to its original state.

In 2004, the school was given to the CCHS by Bob Struble and Susan Cray, recipients of a 2003 CCHS Historic Preservation Award for their work to restore and furnish the building for use in interpreting school life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As the last of 180 one-room schoolhouses existing in Centre County in the 1870s, Boogersburg School remains a beloved tour destination for many local elementary school children who get a glimpse into the past during their visit. Our volunteer "school marms" are dedicated to providing a rich educational experience that transports students and adults alike back in time to the late 19th century.

We are proud to preserve the School's rich history by keeping its original structure intact. Time has taken its toll on the School, however, and plans are underway to address much needed repairs and restoration to the schoolhouse and surrounding landscape that will respect its history. Tree work, upgraded electrical service and planning the scope of the restoration will be the first phase of this work. The second phase will address interior and exterior projects including structural evaluation, roof and siding repairs, painting, window restoration and landscape improvements to make the site more accessible. We hope to begin the first phase in summer 2024.

We will keep you posted!



School docent Gloria Nieweg with a school tour.

Gardeners' Corner

Amidst life's uncertainties, solace can be found in the succession of snow drops, winter aconite, daffodils, Allium, Wood Anemone, and dozens of other spring ephemerals, garden bulbs, shrubs, trees and perennials that, most years, start in January. These beautiful plantings grace the grounds of the Centre Furnace Mansion, generously donated, mostly by the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners, several of whom have been volunteering since the early and mid-2000s.

The Garden Committee's efforts span nearly the entire year, involving meticulous planning, tool maintenance, and plant potting in preparation for the Plant Celebration in May. During late spring and summer, attention shifts to battling the determined crop of Centre Furnace weeds with the help of various service groups and community volunteers. October brings the end of the growing season with an almost celebratory day of hard work with helping hands from

a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers. After the leaves fall, wire mesh fencing is meticulously installed around various shrubs and young trees to discourage the herd of deer and multitude of rabbits and groundhogs that are bulking up for winter. In late November, the Gardeners gather once more for holiday decorating, setting the stage for the Stocking Stuffer event.

We extend heartfelt gratitude for the time, passion, generosity, and friendship that the Gardeners bring to the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Centre County Historical Society. Special recognition is due to Beverly Lipski and Katie Frieden for their coordination efforts.

Gardening days fall on Thursdays, a tradition maintained since the committee began. During spring and fall, gardening sessions run from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., while in the summer heat, activities begin earlier, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



In our memory, February 8 is the earliest Thursday garden work day ever! Thank you to Sharon Phillips, Frank Barksdale, Beverly Lipski, and Katie Frieden who are pictured above, and Carol Gouty and Ruth Merritt who escaped the camera!

For information about participating in gardening at the Mansion, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org.

Docents' Corner

After the December Stocking Stuffer event, winter settles into a quieter time for Mansion tour activity as holidays and breaks extend into January. We are getting closer to pre-pandemic levels for regular tour times, and group tours are on the uptick with groups such as: Penn State Lion Ambassadors, Cub Scouts, The Oaks, and students from the Penn State Masters of Architecture Capstone program.

We are grateful to our Docents and Greeters for volunteering extra time during the Stocking Stuffer event and during open house activities this winter. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Dutton, Elliot Abrams, Joy Schon, Lou Mayer, Patty Mutzeck, Jude Larkin, Bill Blair, Gloria Nieweg, Larry Miles, Linda Witmer, Carol Gentry, Steve Gentry, Karen Hazel, Bonnie Walter, and Lynn Roysel for being wonderful hosts to our winter visitors.

Docents play a crucial role in enhancing the visitor experi-



Many thanks to Steve and Carol Gentry, honorary Penn State Lion Ambassadors, for reintroducing students in this organization to the Centre Furnace Mansion and working to coordinate multiple tours for the Lion Ambassadors.

ence at both the Mansion and the Boogersburg School and we are always on the lookout for retiring teachers, or individuals who simply have an interest in history and enjoy working with people.

The Mansion offers regular visitor hours as well as elementary school and other group tours. At the School, docents portray 19th-century schoolteachers, providing tours to elementary-age students during the warmer spring months.

For information about volunteering to lead public tours at the Mansion through being a docent or greeter, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call at 814-234-4779.

Docents and Greeters, mark your calendar! 2024 Docent Committee meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays, April 25, August 22, and October 17.

Archives and Collections

Recently, family member John Krumrine, donated the master planning documents for Lederer Park and a small metal sculpture of Lucy C. Kemmerer Lederer created by Eugene W. Lederer. The sculpture is a small version of the sculpture at Lederer Park. This donation compliments a collection of oil paintings by Lucy donated in 2003 through a bequest of Eugene W. Lederer. The following is an excerpt from the CCHS Exhibition: *A Woman's World in a New Century, Paintings by Lucy C.K. Lederer 1891-1991*, a wonderful exhibition of Lucy C. Kemmerer Lederer's paintings in the CCHS collections received during the same year.

The following paragraphs are an excerpt from this exhibition:

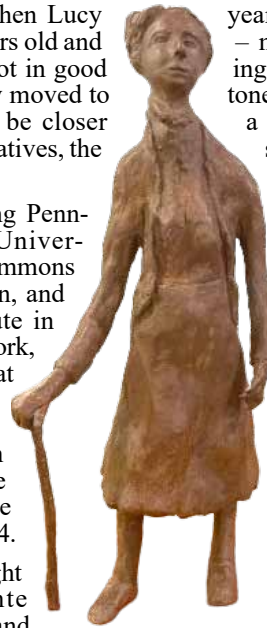
Lucy C. Kemmerer Lederer was born in Milton, Pennsylvania on October 8, 1891, when the Victorian era was in full flower. Lucy's father, William Kemmerer, was in his seventies when she was born; her mother, Katherine Krumrine Kemmerer, was

in her forties. When Lucy was about six years old and with her father not in good health, the family moved to State College to be closer to Katherine's relatives, the Krumrines.

After attending Pennsylvania State University, and then Simmons College in Boston, and then Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, financial strains at home caused her to return to State College and Penn State where she graduated in home economics in 1914.

Lucy first taught in the Bellefonte School District, and later in Lower Merion near Philadelphia where she met and married Eugene H. Lederer, a U.S. Army Captain. After a short time, they returned to State College where their son, Eugene William was born in 1920.

In the 1930s, Lucy began to paint in oil on canvas. For two



years she studied painting – mostly landscape painting and primarily in earth tones – with Emile Walters, a visiting Penn State Instructor of art. But from 1932 to 1934, under artist Hobson Pitman and with his encouragement, she began to use a lighter-colored palette and include architecture in her paintings.

Husband Eugene died on October 20, 1960. With his death, Lucy took on the full responsibility of managing several rental properties, the development of Lederer real estate and shortly after, the architectural design and supervision of the building of a new home for her and her son, Eugene.

The Lederers left a lasting legacy in State College and we are honored to keep this history alive.

Recent Acquisitions Nov. 2023 - Feb. 2024

2023.21 Wooden chopping bowl with metal food chopper.
Gift of Keith Barry

2023.22 39 letters written to Henry C. Holter from his father, uncle, and other relatives that are dated between 1861-1868.
Gift of Bucknell University

2023.23 Paperbound catalog for the Bellefonte Academy, 1915-1916, Bellefonte, PA.
Gift of Ron and Sue Smith

2024.01 PSU 100th anniversary commemorative calendar from the First National Bank, State College, PA.
Gift of Bucknell University

2024.02 Master planning documents related to Lederer Park and Lucy Lederer sculpture by Eugene W. Lederer.
Gift of John Krumrine

2024.03 Four glass goblets with "B" monogram.
Gift of Mary Lou Bennett

2024.04 Set of 10 tickets for Vernon H. Garbrick Rides & Concessions and envelope with printed return address as Jim and Jane and Their Western Vagabonds.
Gift of Clearfield County Historical Society

From the Archives

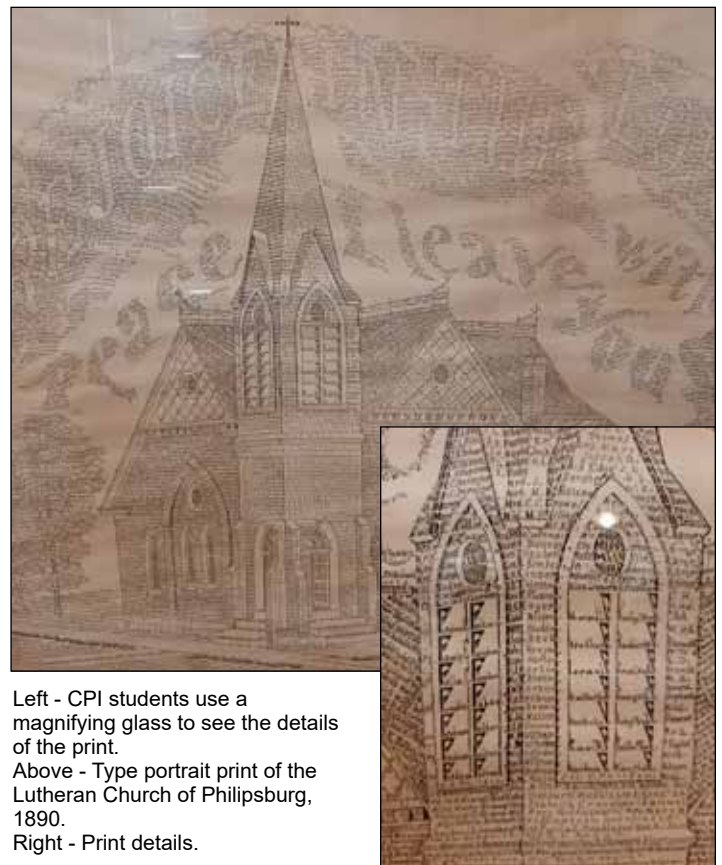
In early November, CCHS welcomed students from the Advertising and Commercial Arts classes at CPI (Central PA Institute of Science and Technology).

The students had the opportunity to get an up close look at a typographic portrait of the Lutheran Church of Philipsburg created in 1890 (CCHS 1987.22.12). A type portrait combines the beauty of lettering with an illustration to

create a striking image. While the students will learn to create these images digitally, they appreciated the work that went into doing this with pen and ink.

On closer observation, Biblical messages and the names of the congregation form a detailed picture of the church, road, trees and clouds.

We also looked at advertising cards and letterhead from the mid-late 1800s to modern plastic shopping bags advertising Kalin's Dress Shop.



Left - CPI students use a magnifying glass to see the details of the print.
Above - Type portrait print of the Lutheran Church of Philipsburg, 1890.
Right - Print details.



Sherm Lutz

Continued from cover article

asked to provide only about 10 percent of the cost of the future "Memorial Field," while W.P.A. officials called for 20 percent or more of the project costs coming from the local area before W.P.A. grants would be given.

Eventually, the Borough rejected most federal help, possibly because of the 20 percent costs but also because the elected officials from Republican-dominated State College strongly opposed the Roosevelt administration. Democrat Jo Hays, head of the State College schools, apparently never questioned federal help. Though there is not strong proof for this, there was likely resistance to providing aid to the State College Borough and its Republican-controlled Council by W.P.A. officials who were Democrats under the new Pennsylvania Democrat governor George Earle, the first Pennsylvania Democrat governor in nearly a half century.

Confusion about funding a State College commercial airport may have come in conflict at the same time the Borough was making overtures to W.P.A. officials for internal public works. As the Borough Council was preparing a tentative plan for a possible airport, the School Board was already in the process of constructing an athletic field.⁸

The idea of State College supporting the creation of an airport likely came from the individual who had constructed a small air field near Boalsburg in the early 1930s, Sherman Lutz.⁹ Tentative plans for a State College airport were placed under the leadership of Wilbur F. Leitzel, a member of Council and State College Burgess (a name for mayor) and the airport committee. Surprisingly, Sherm Lutz was in favor of the federal government's paying for an airport. Lutz was a right-wing conservative who almost surely was opposed to the passage of the Social Security Act of 1935 and would agree with many Republicans who felt that the Roosevelt Administration was moving America toward socialism and away from the free enterprise system. He was well known for his viewpoint: "I don't like government intervention into our lives."¹⁰ Nevertheless, Lutz favored federal and state government support for a government-financed airport. A representative of the Pennsylvania State Department of Aeronautics spoke before the Borough Council in mid-July, 1936, on the possibility of using federal aid to construct an airport on the west side of State College.¹¹

The Proposed Location

Two farms between State College and Pine Grove Mills were the proposed site for an

airport. This farmland of about 70 acres was owned by Homer Grubb and Harvey Grenoble. It was located at Nixon Road just north of the juncture with Whitehall Road, about three miles west of State College, not far from Pine Grove Mills.¹² The site was as level as any in Happy Valley and a mile or so north of Tussey Mountain.

With the land selected for a new commercial airport, Sherm Lutz flew two Council representatives, President R. E. Minshall and Mayor Wilbur Leitzel, to Harrisburg to discuss the possibilities with the state W.P.A. officials. State College was overwhelmingly Republican in the mid-1930s, revealed by the 2,099 Republican voters versus 740 Democrats in the 1936 primary election.¹³ The Democrat-controlled State W.P.A. being lobbied by three Republicans may not have contributed to a successful adventure. Yet, little is known about this late July meeting in which the three individuals made their case for a State College airport. It is not clear, for instance, whether three Republicans meeting with Democratic-run W.P.A. officials might have resulted in a chilly assembly. In any event, the Borough in August 1936 authorized a W.P.A. grant application for a \$120,000 airport.¹⁴ (The cost of the State College athletic field, Memorial Field, was about \$100,000.¹⁵) State

College would provide the land and 20 percent of the cost of airfield construction.

The local newspaper, the *Centre Daily Times*, appeared to be more interested in the airport project than was the State College Council. Early on, the *CDT* reported about the upcoming council discussion with a potential airport that might compete with Lutz's Boalsburg air strip. Lutz, however, said that he was in favor of a larger airport and a Works Progress Administration federal project.¹⁶ While the *CDT* was editorially opposed to government action such as the passage of the Social Security Act and the W.P.A., and ridiculed the FDR administration for moving America toward socialism, there was no newspaper opposition to receiving W.P.A. government aid for an airport or other federally supported State College improvements.¹⁷ The initial offer of July 28, 1936, to the W.P.A. by the State College Borough was for an airport to cost between \$100,000 and \$125,000 with the Borough putting up 20 percent of the cost as well as the price of the land. On August 18, 1936, the Borough Council approved a \$120,000 airport project, with the caveat that Council could cancel it for financial reasons.

W.P.A Nixes the Project

The W.P.A. in Harrisburg was

Continued on page 13



This 1930s view of Pine Grove Mills, taken from the foot of Tussey Mountain, illustrates the great, flat plain of farm fields to the north of town. At the upper right is the road that later became Nixon Road. Lutz's proposed airport would have been placed on the flat land near the intersection of present-day Nixon Road and West Whitehall Road. Photo provided by author.

Sherm Lutz

Continued from page 12

quick to respond. “NO” was the answer. In less than two weeks, an administrator of the Pennsylvania W.P.A., Lee H. Walker, told Borough Engineer Michael Baker that the airport project was rejected because here was not enough “local relief labor” to support an airport being built.¹⁸

It is entirely possible that lack of qualified, unemployed workers was the reason for the rejections, but that is not the only possibility. Rejection letters, of all types, do not always tell the entire story. The Republican-Democratic conflict, as noted, may have come into play. By the summer of 1936, the W.P.A. already had over 50 projects in

Centre County, dominated by road building.¹⁹ The high school athletic field in State College had already received a second grant for field expansion a couple months before. The high school project was employing about 60 workers at the time, whose laborers were averaging about 56 cents per hour wage. This limited the number of possible workers for other projects. Yet, there could have been regional opposition to State College’s gaining an airport. Clearfield was the district W.P.A. headquarters, and Clearfield, with the state senator from that city, was receiving more than double the number of projects obtained by State College in the first year of the W.P.A.²⁰

The turnaround also may have



Unsuccessful in his bid to build an airport one mile north of Pine Grove Mills in 1936, Lutz constructed the State College Air Depot at Pine Hall, just west of State College, in 1945. The air depot lasted into the early 1980s, when Lutz sold the operation to housing developers.



Standing just off Nixon Road, about one mile north of Pine Grove Mills, author Ron Smith looks west to view the expanse of flat farm fields where Lutz’s proposed airport would have been sited. The ridge in the background of both photos is Tussey Mountain. Photos by Roger Williams.



been due to a lack of positive action by State College officials in the eyes of W.P.A. administrators. While the head of the Pennsylvania W.P.A., Edward N. Jones, indicated that a “lack of the necessary labor localities,” was a reason for not getting W.P.A. support, it was also possible that communities were “lukewarm’ to projects” by the sponsoring governmental entities such as counties, cities, and, in the case of State College, the borough. State projects, according to Jones, were at times not funded “due either to imagined political grievances, or to ordinary inertia.” There is little question that the State College Borough officials were reluctant initially to having the federal government involved in their affairs. The State College Republican-dominated Council was late in applying for major W.P.A. grants while the State College School Board, headed by Democrat Jo Hays, was ahead of the game of federal grantsmanship. Thus, politics may have played a major part in the failure to gain an airport.

There was another possible obstacle to State College’s receiving federal aid. That is, airfield construction did not appear to be a major focus of the Pennsylvania W.P.A. In the first year of the W.P.A., of the airports approved none were completed. It was not a record on which a new project was likely to be given priority. By comparison, in the state of Pennsyl-

vania there were 4,000 miles of roads and streets built or under construction with 355 miles of sewers, 100 miles of water lines laid, and 19,000 women working on various clothing apparel projects.²¹ An airport anywhere in Pennsylvania may have been low on the W.P.A. priority list.

With the W.P.A. rejection, the airport project was soon dropped by the State College Borough. The Borough was not about to go into major debt for a State College airport without the financial help from the Pennsylvania State College or the W.P.A.

The prospect for a significant airport near State College, however, was not lost on Sherm Lutz. He maintained his small airstrip operation located between Boalsburg and Oak Hall during the Depression and until after World War II.²² Lutz continued to train an impressive list of 476 pilots.²³ He carried on his training of pilots after purchasing farms and constructing a larger airport just west of State College in 1945. There, planes could land and takeoff on three sod runways near Pine Hall off College Avenue. He still dreamed of a commercial airport that could easily land aircraft after his Pine Hall airport was built. Lutz was unsuccessful in gathering enough support from State College and Penn State for a true commercial airport and lost out to the Black Moshannon Airport (Mid-State Regional

Continued on page 14

Sherm Lutz

Continued from page 13

Airport), built with federal grants just before World War II. A few years later, Lutz complained that the lack of interest in providing a real airport to serve passengers was squandered when State College did not apply for state and federal grants during the Korean War, which would have paid for a good portion of the cost of constructing a commercial airport. "We missed a golden opportunity," stated Lutz in 1953.²⁴ A future airport would await the decision of Penn State University to begin providing commercial flights in the late 1970s.

"We missed a golden opportunity"

The small Pine Hall airport constructed by Sherm Lutz in 1946 continued operating and even had a few commercial Douglas Commercial 3 (DC3) flights beginning in 1949.²⁵ The turf landing strip was not conducive to landings when touchdowns on sodden runways made flights more difficult. The airport remained until the 1980s when Lutz was in his 80s and the airport was closed, sold, and turned into housing developments. The fact that Sherman Lutz said more than once in his life that "I don't like government intervention into our lives" may have contributed

to the loss of his government-backed W.P.A. effort for a State College Airport in the 1930s. His perplexing opposition to the federal government involvement while favoring federal airport intervention with the W.P.A. and other federal aid continued throughout his lifetime. He continued to be disappointed in the failure of a State College airport that remained outside his control. Nevertheless, there is little evidence that Sherman Lutz ever publicly disclosed his role in the "State College Airport that Wasn't."

An eminent sports historian, Ronald A. Smith is professor emeritus of Kinesiology at Penn State.

Notes

¹ Bob Hazelton, "A Memorable Walk into Local Aviation History," Centre County Historical Society *Mansion Notes* (Summer 2021), 3.

² The population of State College was 4,450 in 1930 while Bellefonte, the largest borough in Centre County, was 4,804. Clearfield had a population of 9,221. The estimated Pennsylvania unemployed in 1933 was 37 percent. Randall M. Miller, *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2002), p. 294 and "Pennsylvania and the Great Depression," [http://explorepahistory.com/story.php?storyID=348chapters] (accessioned 9 March 2011).

³ State College Borough Minutes, Box 3, 1931-1934 and Box 4, 1934-1939, State College Borough Building, passim.

⁴ State College Area School District Minutes, 18 December 1933, 20 January 1934, January 30, 1934, 20 December

1934, and 16 January 1935.

⁵ State College Area School District Minutes, 20 January 1934, 20 December 1934, and 16 January 1935 and Ronald A. Smith, *Memorial Field: From Farm Sinkhole to Classic Small City Stadium*, (Lemont: Mt. Nittany Press, 2015), 26, 34.

⁶ State College Borough Minutes, 4 and 18 December 1933 and 4 February 1934, 5 March 1934, and 16 April 1934, Book 3, 1931-1934, State College Borough Building.

⁷ *Centre Daily Times*, 23 August 1936, p. 1.

⁸ The Roosevelt Administration's Civil Works Administration in 1933-34 was already helping to fund 1,000 airports when the CWA ended and before the WPA was created. "Plan to Salvage 1,450 CWAAirports," *New York Times*, 12 April 1934, p. 3.

⁹ Sherm Lutz noted in 1946 that he and President of the Borough Council, R. E. Minshall, made the initial plans for the development of a State College airport in 1936. "First Planes Make Landing on New Field," *Centre Daily Times*, 30 August 1946.

¹⁰ See, for instance, the conservative-owned *Centre Daily Times*, 2 November 1936, p. 1, 4, that opposed social security and the move toward socialism.

¹¹ State College Borough Minutes, Box 4, 1934-1939, State College Borough Building.

¹² Centre County Deeds Office, Dead Book 165, p. 416. Homer Aaron Grubb (1893-1988) and Mary Ellen Homer Grubb (1896-1985) were parents of Richard Grubb (1936-2007), who became a vice president of Penn State in the 1970s.

¹³ *Centre Daily Times*, 11 March 1936, p. 1.

¹⁴ State College Borough Minutes, 17 August 1936, Book No. 4, 1934-1939, Borough Building.

¹⁵ In 1938, the School Board received

nearly \$100,000 from the W.P.A. for an 8-acre project for tennis courts and a baseball field. State College Area School District Minutes, 25 April 1938.

¹⁶ *Centre Daily Times*, 17 July 1936, p. 6; 20 July 1936, p. 1; and 22 July 1936, p. 1.

¹⁷ *Centre Daily Times*, 2 November 1936, p. 1, 4.

¹⁸ Lee H. Walker to Michael Baker, State College Borough Engineer, 31 August 1936 quoted in the *Centre Daily Times*, 5 September 1936, p. 1. The W.P.A. papers in Harrisburg have not been examined for this project: Works Progress Administration Record Group 13 at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Series #13.108, the Working Files of the Works Progress Administration's Pennsylvania Historical Survey.

¹⁹ Edward N. Jones, *One Year of W.P.A. in Pennsylvania*, July 1, 1935-June 30, 1936 (Harrisburg, PA: Works Progress Administration for Pennsylvania, 1936), Table A-2. This book was published just before the rejection of the State College airport.

²⁰ Jones, *One Year*, Table A-1.

²¹ Jones, *One Year*, 69-70.

²² Much of Lutz's airport land was used for part of the State College Bypass, when it was constructed in the 1970s.

²³ Elizabeth Bergstein, "Solo," *Town and Gown* (December 1987) in "The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of Sherman Lutz," [modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/LutzSherman.pdf] (accessioned 18 July 2023).

²⁴ Paul M. Dubbs, "Lutz Still Seeking the Greater State College Airport," *Centre Daily Times*, 18 December 1953, Box "Lutz Scrapbook, Folder "Scrapbooks, 1946-1972," Centre County Historical Society.

²⁵ For film of the building of the 1946 Lutz airport, see the Lutz material in the Centre County Historical Society, State College, Pennsylvania.



Remember to check back to the *Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture* periodically! During the last quarter, the following articles have been added for a current total of 178:

- *Alpha Fire Company* - Anna Ludwig
- *Franco Harris* - Anna Ludwig
- *Municipalities* - Ford Risley & Lee Stout
- *Phil Hallock* - Laurin Goad Davis
- *Peter Meek* - Ford Risley

We are pleased that the encyclopedia continues to be a popular and invaluable online research tool. In the past quarter, it has garnered an impressive number of users and pageviews, proving its worth as a go-to source for Centre County History. We would like to express our gratitude to all of the authors who have contributed to the encyclopedia's success, helping to make it an ever-growing repository of knowledge. Thank you for your meaningful contributions!



Ford Risley and Encyclopedia intern Juliana Hart.

Remembering Friends

We offer our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those within the CCHS community who have recently passed away. Their dedication to and support for CCHS have been invaluable, and their absence will be deeply felt.

Gert Aron
Ann Louise Heberling
David Glossner
Anthony Felice
Alfred H. "Ted" Taylor
Nancy Lee Stover
Louise Tukey
Eric Naylor
Patricia B. Potter
Maryellen Hill

Our gratitude to the family of Ted and Betsy Taylor and Maryellen Hill for designating the Centre County Historical Society for memorial donations.



Ted and Betsy Taylor 2016. Ted and Betsy were both dedicated members, advocates, volunteers and supporters since 2012 after their move to State College. Among his many accomplishments, Ted served as President and CEO and then Chairman of the Board of the Kresge Foundation and graciously shared his expertise through his service on the development committee.



Paul M. and Louise Heberling 2015. Louise and Paul were long-time members and advocates for CCHS. They were regular attendees at programs and activities with daughter Judy Heberling and son-in-law Michael Husband, both active volunteers in on our collections, development and garden committees.



Pat Potter, Edna Dombrowsky, and Lynn Royse 2015. Pat served as a docent at the Centre Furnace Mansion from 1998 until 2014. Pat made a difference and was especially devoted to working with students who have learning differences.

VOLUNTEER NOTES AND NEEDS

The Centre County Historical Society is a community of dedicated colleagues and volunteers from a variety of professions and interests. With a number of initiatives and activities, the need for volunteer participation is critically important and continues to grow.

Whether your interest is local history, guiding tours, gardening, event planning, office projects, collections, writing, handy projects, educational programming, volunteering for fundraising events like the Stocking Stuffer holiday market or the Plant Celebration in May, we would love to hear from you.

Currently, we are looking for help on two scanning projects. If you have computer skills and a few hours during the week to spare, we'd be grateful for your contribution.

Please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centre-furnace.org or 814-234-4779 if you are interested in volunteering! Scan the QR code below for more information.



Join us in welcoming Bronwyn Flemming as the newest CCHS volunteer!

President's Corner

Continued from page 3

dence? We do have a facsimile document signed by Irvin in the Founders' Room, but it is his letter of February 22, 1855, to the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society stating his strong desire to have the Farmers' High School located in Centre County.

So the day after the dedication, I started digging. The first source I looked at was *The History of Centre and Clinton Counties* (1883) by John Blair Linn. This monumental work is considered the Bible of Centre County history up to that point. But my quest was quickly derailed.

My Near-Death Experience

The first sentence I read stated: "On the 20th of June a committee of Trustees of the Farmers' High School...visited Centre County for the purpose of examining the farms offered by Gen. Irvin." (p. 97)

JUNE 20th??? A jolt of electricity shot up my spine and nearly caused cardiac arrest. Our historical marker stated June 26, not June 20th. How could I have made such an error?

I then grabbed my own book, *Frederick Watts and the Founding of Penn State* (2021), and there on page 60, the date June 26 appeared.

I then reached for Penn State's first institutional history (1933) by Professor Erwin Runkle, *The Pennsylvania State College, 1853 - 1932: Interpretation and Record*. There it was again (p. 49): "On June 20th, the site was visited by a Committee of the Board..."

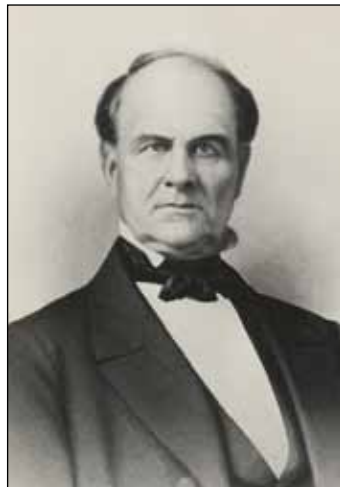
I couldn't believe it. Now I was dying inside but driven to dig deeper. How on earth could I have gotten the date wrong—a date now etched in a blue-and-white cast aluminum historical marker proclaiming the June 26th date to all posterity?

The Smoking Guns

Knowing that both Linn's and Runkle's works are secondary sources—an evaluation of putatively original data but not primary or original—I wanted evidence much closer in time to the original event.

Consulting *The Centre Furnace Story: A Return to Our*

Roots—I found it. The book was written by two eminent historians, Sylvester K. Stevens, a member of Penn State's history department in the 1930s who went on to become "the most active and influential historian of Pennsylvania of his generation," and later revised and expanded (1985) by Philip S. Klein, Penn State professor emeritus of history. The Centre Furnace



General James Irvin

Story provides a thorough, well-contextualized account of the significance of the first charcoal-fed iron furnace (1792) in this region of Pennsylvania and its implications for the development of Centre County.

And therein (p. 50) lay the smoking gun: "The Centre Furnace Time Book under the date June 26, 1855, records of this visit: 'The State Agricultural Committee met here today to view the ground for the Model Farm. After dinner the meeting was addressed by Judge Watts of Carlisle and Governor Pollock.'"

Whew! I thought: Vindicated! But still I sought more evidence. I retrieved from Paterno Library a primary source cited in my Watts book: *Fourth Annual Report of the Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society for the Year 1856*.

Here (pps. 104-110) was the Memorial of the Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania," signed by Trustees Hugh McAllister of Bellefonte, Augustus O. Heister of Dauphin County, and Robert C. Walker of Allegheny County. The relevant passage reads:

"The Committee in discharge of the duty assigned them, and

several trustees, met at the Spruce Creek station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the 26th day of June, 1855, at which place they received a proposition from Elias Baker, of Blair County, offering to donate two hundred acres of land...The Committee, accompanied by other members of the board, proceeded to the land offered by James Irvin, situated in Centre County."

This passage, written by trustees who were at Centre Furnace Mansion on the day in question, emphatically confirms the June 26th date for the site visit.

Elias Baker Competes

The reference to Elias Baker of Blair County bears further explanation. He was the owner-ironmaster of Allegheny Furnace and Forge in Altoona. He was competing vigorously to site the Farmers' High School near that fast-growing city on the newly completed Pennsylvania Railroad. He had heard about the Trustee committee's impending



Elias Baker

visit to Centre Furnace Mansion on June 26th and got himself to Spruce Creek, the PRR station nearest to Centre Furnace, although 20 miles to the west. Whether he had arranged to meet the Trustees upon their arrival or "ambushed" them unawares is unknown, but the meeting had to be brief, as the Trustees were due at Centre Furnace with 20 miles by horse-drawn conveyance yet to go.

After the Centre Furnace visit, and a "sumptuous dinner" hosted by Mary Irvin Thomp-

son (the sister of James Irvin and the wife of Irvin's partner, ironmaster Moses Thompson), the Trustees left the next day to inspect proposed sites in Erie County, Allegheny County, and then back to Blair County to view Baker's land. (Side note: Baker's home, now known as Baker Mansion, has recently been restored by the Blair County Historical Society. It is a magnificent Greek Revival structure, well worth the visit).

Onward and Upward

But enough digression. Although derailed by the historical error of Linn, repeated by Runkle, I was elated to see two primary sources confirm the June 26th date for the Trustees' committee visit to Centre Furnace Mansion. The new historical marker denotes the correct date and my heart rate has returned to normal.

And lest you think I am hanging Linn and Runkle out to dry, far from it. I have respect for both, appreciating the challenges they faced and the valuable contributions they have made to Centre County history. Nonetheless, despite their best efforts and devotion to fairness and accuracy, historians make mistakes. I have made them, certainly, and I've noticed errors of fact and interpretation in works I have read, studied and cited. And despite however many sets of editorial eyes examine a given manuscript, mortifying errors can find their way into indelible print...or plaques.

Now I am back to pursuing my original question: When was the deed transferred from James Irvin to the Farmers' High School and where is it lodged now? And is there evidence of a ceremony of some sort, at Centre Furnace Mansion or elsewhere, celebrating the acceptance of the deed or a memo of understanding?

I will need to look further into:

-The Pennsylvania State University Archives, housed in Special Collections in Paterno Library.

-The Thompson and Related Families Collection in the Archives of the Centre County Historical Society: Folder 9 - Brief of Title for Centre Furnace lands dating 1784-1865, con-

Continued on page 17

New Interpretive Signs Installed

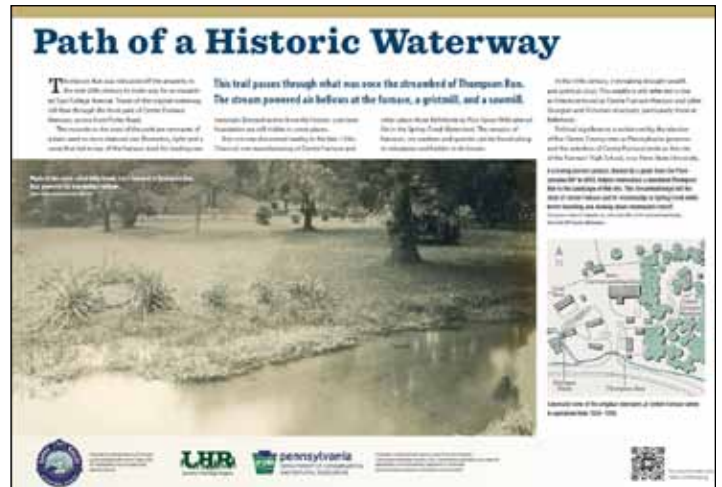
In fall 2023, three updated interpretive signs were installed on the grounds at the Centre Furnace Mansion: two on the furnace stack side of Porter Road and one near the Mansion's circle drive. Designed by David Lembeck, the new sign panels replaced weathered ones that were installed in 2011.

We are grateful for grant funding from the Centre County Board of Commissioners and The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau Tourism Grant, and the Lumber Heritage Region Mini-Grant program that supported the design and production costs. Interpretive signage helps enhance understanding of the site

for our visitors on a daily basis year-round and are especially important during non-tour hours.

Later this spring, a new fourth sign: *The Iron Industry and Pennsylvania's Forests*, will be placed on the trail to the Furnace Stack near the foundation of the historic Charcoal Barn to interpret charcoal making.

Special thanks to Roger Williams, David Lembeck, and Steven Walton for their research and editing, and to Frank Barksdale for helping with installation. Centre Furnace grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. The furnace stack is accessible via a path across Porter Road from our parking lot.



This project is made possible in part through a grant provided by the Centre County Board of Commissioners and The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau. This project is being financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Continued from page 16

sisting of lists of warrants, patents, and deeds for each parcel of land; and Folder 10 – Various handwritten notes concerning Centre Furnace lands including warrants, deed, patents, agreements, warrantees, will, etc.
 -Centre County Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Bellefonte.
 -Relevant articles in *Centre County Heritage*, 1956-75, and 1976-85, which are compilations

of articles published by the Centre County Historical Society. My first perusal has found nothing that addresses the question. "History of Centre Furnace Lands," by Douglas Macneal, in *Centre County Heritage*, 1996.

In the next issue, I will get back to you with my findings.

Grant News

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

- PHMC Cultural and Historical Support Grant
- Centre County Government






On February 13, Bill Blair provided a tour for the students in the Penn State Masters of Architecture Capstone Student Cohort.

Board News

We welcome William A. “Bill” Blair, PhD to the CCHS Board of Governors. Dr. Blair is a historian of the Civil War era, focusing primarily on the home front and political culture in the middle nineteenth century. His work has focused on the construction of Confederate identity during the war and the use of ceremonies such as Memorial Days and Emancipation Days after the war to reinforce and contest political identities. Dr. Blair is a professor emeritus of American history and emeritus director of the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State. He is also founding editor of “The Journal of the Civil War Era,” published by the University of North Carolina Press.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Rebekah “Becky” Dreese for her dedicated service on the Board of Governors since

2022. Becky has decided to step down from the Board to focus on her expanding human resources consulting business, ThriveHR. Becky served as a key member of the Stocking Stuffer Committee since 2014 and as a co-chair since 2018. Becky’s hard work, dedication, and expertise have been invaluable to CCHS and the Board of Governors. While we deeply regret to see her go, we understand and congratulate Becky on the success of her business. We are delighted that she will maintain her role as the Chair of the Human Resources Committee.



Becky Dreese

New Sustaining Membership Program Grows Quickly in First Year

In January 2023, the Centre County Historical announced a new Sustaining Member program, which enjoyed robust growth in its first year. By mid February 2024, the number of Sustaining Memberships stood at 24.

In this program, Sustaining Members sign on for a monthly electronic withdrawal of \$25 via from their credit or debit card, with security provided by Square. The 12 withdrawals, which amount to \$300 per year, provide a continuous flow of revenue to the CCHS to support its programs and operations. For Sustaining Members, the advantage is that they can forget about renewing their membership from year to year, although they may opt out of the program at any time for any reason.

Signing on for Sustaining Membership is easy:

1. Go to the CCHS website at centrehistory.org
2. Hit the “Membership” link at the top right of the home page.
3. On the Membership page, drop down to the bottom right and hit the Sustaining Member button.
4. Fill in the necessary information...
5. ...and the rest is history! You’re now a Sustaining Member.

Or, give us a call at 814-234-4779 and Johanna Sedwick can enter your information.

We grateful to the following couples and individuals, who compose the inaugural class of Sustaining Members. In combination, their monthly withdrawals will provide at least \$7,800 this year:

David and Ruth Bell
 David and Randi Blauth
 Patsy Cullen
 Ronald Dotts
 Rebekah Dreese
 Stephen Engroff & Diane Ray
 Jacqueline Esposito
 Dennis & Marilyn Gouran
 Ann Taylor & Marty Gutowski
 Richard Hayes
 Chris Hickey
 Cathy and Dave Horner
 William and Barbara Jones
 Beth Richards Kalenak
 George Moellenbrock III
 Kathleen O’Toole and Gary Gray
 David Panko
 Lynda and John Powell
 Kathleen Sillman
 Laura Glenn Steifer
 Col. Vincent and Suzann Tedesco
 John and Barbara Vandenbergh
 Paula and Greg Wilson
 Roger Williams &
 Karen Magnuson

Jacqueline J. Melander Legacy Society Invites Your Membership

The Board of Governors invites you to consider a legacy gift to the Centre County Historical Society by way of your will, bequest, or other deferred giving plan.

When you do so, you will be entitled to membership in the Jacqueline J. Melander Legacy Society. It’s easy to join. You only need to notify the CCHS that you have included us in your estate planning and provide a written notice to that effect. How you provide for your legacy gift is a matter for you to discuss with your attorney and/or financial advisor; the CCHS does not involve itself in the particulars.

Organized much like the

Campbell Society of the Centre Foundation, the Melander Society strives to build long-term financial support for the Society’s mission of discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, educating, advocating, presenting, and promoting Centre County’s unique history.

It honors Jackie Melander, president of the CCHS from 1980 to 2015. Jackie oversaw the first restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion, established it as a national historic site and CCHS headquarters, and advocated energetically for historical preservation in Centre County.

You need not be a millionaire to join. Legacy gifts are

for everybody, not just the very wealthy. Legacy gifts represent a meaningful way to express your values and strengthen a cause you care about for the long term.

The Centre County Historical Society hopes to be that cause for you. For further information, contact Executive Director Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrehistory.org or 814-234-4779.

An annual reception will be held for Melander Society members and those interested in joining on **April 21, 4:00 p.m.**

We thank the following Melander Society members for their commitment:

Jeffrey M. Bower, Esq.
 Mimi Barash Coppersmith
 Candace and Robert Dannaker
 Steven and Carol Gentry
 Bob and Jan Hazelton
 Jacqueline J. Melander
 Richard W. Pencek
 Dolores Simpson Rose and Arthur Rose
 Peter and Mary Sorensen
 Leon and Dee Stout
 Jo Merrell and Floyd Todd
 David Panko
 Gerard F. Jackson
 Deborah Raykovitz
 Katie O’Toole and Gary Gray
 Ford and Mary Risley
 Laura Glenn Steifer
 Ann Hamilton Taylor and Marty Gutowski
 Roger Williams and Karen Magnuson

Thank You for Supporting the 2023 Annual Fund

Many thanks to all who contributed to our 2023 Annual Fund campaign. The amount raised was \$32,634. We are especially grateful to Ron and Sue Smith of Lemont, who in December provided a \$5,000 challenge grant, which prompted a response totaling \$5,850. The Annual Fund is vitally important to the CCHS as it supports our operating budget, which in turn provides funds for nearly everything we do: programs and presentations, salaries and benefits for our small professional staff, maintenance of our buildings and grounds, and much more.

Bonnie & Elliot Abrams	Daniel & Suzie Hawbaker	Harvey Gilbert
Ellis & Lynn Abramson	Richard G. Held	Ruth Rishel
Anonymous	Sara Willoughby-Herb	Ford & Mary Risley
Clarence Bachmann	Edith Hertzog	Seda Sahakian
Charlie & Don Bainbridge	Linda Higginson & Susan Youtz	Linda Salandra
Henrietta Bayor	Susan N. Hochreiter	Carol & Pete Schempf
Mike & Deborah Bezilla	Patricia & Winand Hock	James Scott
Frederick Bisbee	Harvey & Ruth Holter	Wayne & Michele Sebastianelli
William & Mary Blair	Cathy & Dave Horner	Ralph Seeley
Ian Boswell	Judy Heberling &	James & Brucie Serene
Blannie & Cathy Bowen	Michael Husband	Anonymous
Gloria Briggs	Gina & John Ikenberry	Bernard Shockowitz
Rosalie Bloom Brooks	Jack & Karen Infield	Jennifer Shuey
Joan Brower	Lynn Jaffe	Jean Slear
Jane & Dennis Brown	Kathy Johnston	Elizabeth Smith &
O. Richard Bundy III	George & Ann Johnstone	Michael Bernosky
Anonymous	William & Barbara Jones	Jill Smith
Lee Ann & Jim Candor	Avis & Alfred Jones	Susan & Ronald Smith
Richard & Lori Carlson	L. Suzanne Kellerman	Graham & Sandra Spanier
Andrew Cole	Bruce Kendall &	Laura Steifer
Patsy Cullen	Caroline Ruwitch	Joseph Stitt
Thomas Daubert &	Lisa S. Kerns	Leon & Dee Stout
Nancy Crane	Walter Y. King	Elizabeth Sweetow
Bill & Barbara Dewey	Judith A. Larkin	Margie & Doug Swoboda
John & Donna Diercks	Gretchen Leathers	Jeff Taylor
Linda Doman	David B. & Joyce W. Lee	Ann Hamilton Taylor &
Nancy & Galen Dreibelbis	Dale & Beverly Lippincott	Marty Gutowski
Marti Franklin Duffy	Janice & Steve Livingston	Scott & Terri Thompson
Elizabeth & John Dutton	Ken & Sue Lower	Patrick & Christy Todd
Nancy Eaton	Janet & Timothy Magner	Marjorie & Phineas Tuthill, Jr.
Anonymous	Linda Marshall	Bonnie Walter
Tom & Katie Ellis	Deborah McManus	Sally & Paul Wangsness
Stephen Engroff & Diane Ray	John & Jodi Mentzell	John & Maureen Welesko
Julia & Todd Erdley	Jo Merrell & Floyd Todd	Susan Wheeler &
Jacqueline Esposito	Ann & George Moellenbrock	Derek Elsworth
Carl Evensen	Jane Moore	Steve & Connie Wheeler
Brenda Farrell	Hugh Mose	Jane Whitaker
Patricia Fox	Karl E. Moyer	David Whiteman &
John Frantz	Patty Mutzeck	Constance Kossan
Jeffrey R. Frazier	Paul & Teresa Nelson	Susan & Robert Wiedemer
Linda & Blake Gall	John Nichols	Roger Williams &
Martha Gallagher	Gloria Nieweg	Karen Magnuson
Roger Geiger	Kathleen O'Toole & Gary Gray	Paula & Greg Wilson
Louis & Judy Geschwindner	Sara & Henry Parks	Linda & David Witmer
Amos & Judy Goodall	Kimberly & Christopher Patti	Andrew Yablonsky &
R. Riggs Griffith	Jolene & Walter Peterson	Penny Dry
Anonymous	Bob Potter	Diane & Craig Zabel
Cynthia & Tom Hall	Anne Henszey-Pyle &	Patty Zarkower
Elizabeth Hanley	Kenneth Pyle	Pamela & Cal Zimmerman
Peggy & William Hartman	Heather Ricker-Gilbert &	

In Memoriam

Donations have been received in memory of the following:

Edna Dombrowsky from Justin Dombrowsky.

John and Jane Ziegler from Jill Shockey.

Patricia Potter from Gloria Nieweg.

Virginia Dale Ricker from Heather Ricker-Gilbert and Harvey Gilbert.

Betsy Taylor from:
Catherine Amundsen
Gretchen Leathers
Mary Jean MacNeil
Pardo Caring Fund

Alfred H. (Ted) Taylor from:
Bill and Sandra Beese
Sherrie Borden
The Dutton Institute
Lenore England
Gretchen Leathers
Nancy Gamble
Cari Gustafson
Michael Halverson
Kathryn Hart
Bruce Kresge
Pardo Caring Fund
Marie-Louise Parenti
Gail and Cliff Schob
Deborah and Hugh Sloan
John S. Steel Family
Karen Tranell
Nancy Wolf

Maryellen Hill from:
Charles Bowen
James and Vivian Cappucci
Douglas Fitzgerald
Ralph Garvelli
David Geary
Wendy Jo and Rob Hartssock
Denise and Max Hayden
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill
Michael Kabat
JoAnn Knupp
Mark Smith and
Christine Arbutina
Lora Zemanek

Thank You

We 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 that are not otherwise noted in Mansion Notes this quarter:

Judy Heberling, weekly collections processing activities; Kathy Johnston, data entry; Nancy Kress and Paula Wilson, collections care; Judy Speedy, weekly library projects; Tom and Kari Reyburn, collections repairs; JustServe Volunteers, ongoing weekly service activities.



JustServe Elders helping to prepare for Stocking Stuffer



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue

State College, PA 16801

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 95

Return Service Requested

Membership

New members welcome anytime.

New Member 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"/> Additional Gift \$ _____ | |

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>, or 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.

Increase your impact by becoming a Sustaining Member through an ongoing monthly contribution of \$25 per month. To join, visit our website at CentreHistory.org and click on “Membership” at the top of the home page.

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.