



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 45, Number 3

Summer 2023

The Mystery of The Indian Steps

By Jeffrey Frazier

Climbing the southern face of Tussey Mountain in Henry's Valley of Huntingdon County is a series of stone steps whose origins have been a source of speculation and debate for generations. After making the strenuous climb up the steps, the determined hiker will reach the famous Mid State Trail which crosses the mountaintop and stands as a lasting monument to Tom Thwaites, its progenitor and proponent. The steps end there, but the Indian Steps Trail continues down the northern face of the mountain toward the Centre County villages of Rock Springs and Pine Grove Mills.

The stone stairway itself has been the subject of conjecture and mystery for decades, and to this day there is debate as to who might have built them and why. Neither J. Simpson Africa in his *History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties*, nor John Blair Linn in his *History of Centre and Clinton Counties*, mention the Indian Steps, and so it was left to Henry W. Shoemaker, that prolific collector of Central Pennsylvania legends and folktales, to record its story for posterity.

Shoemaker, however, has been discredited for his propensity for embellishing, and even inventing, many of the tales he preserved in his multiple volumes and articles on such accounts, and in this essay we'll critique his claims about the Indian Steps and try to establish our own theory as to its origins.

The stone stairway on Tussey Mountain is not unique in Pennsylvania, nor in the world for that matter. In the British Isles, for example, there is one flight of stone stairs that has captured the imagination of the inhabitants of that land of romance and legend for centuries. Located near Beetham in Cumbria, England, the narrow passageway is referred to as the "Fairy Steps" by locals.

These rectangular stone steps are so symmetrical and well-placed that they appear not to have been randomly fashioned by forces of nature. Leading up through a narrow crevice formed by two gigantic rock ledges, the steps are so small and the corridor so narrow that humans find

it impossible to walk up or down the passageway without touching its stone walls.

Hence the belief that the steps were placed there by fairies, and that if you make a wish at the top of the stairs and manage to walk down and not touch the walls, the fairies will grant your wish. I've chosen this stairway to serve as a nice segue into some mysterious stone stairways that can be found in the mountains of Pennsylvania.

I've never found any stone stairways on Pennsylvania mountainsides that are said to be the product of elfin hands, nor have I discovered any that are thought to be haunted in some way, but there are impressive flights of isolated stone

steps on different Pennsylvania mountain slopes that may present the occasional hiker who comes upon them unexpectedly for the first time with as much of a mystery as the Fairy Steps do to hikers initially encountering those odd stone steps in England.

To these Pennsylvania hikers the questions must naturally arise as to who built these "flights of fancy," that appear to be nothing more than that, and why did they do so in such out-of-the-way places. However, a little research usually confirms the reasons as to why they are there and who built them,

and there are several notable examples that can be cited to illustrate this point.

Of course one of the most well-known of these landmarks is the famous "Thousand Steps" in Huntingdon County, but Showers Steps in Berks County and Fox's Path in Perry and Cumberland Counties are other notable examples as well.

The Thousand Steps Trail is a section of the rugged Standing Stone Trail which passes through Jacks Narrows – a wild defile that itself is steeped in history and legendary lore and which passes between the local communities of Mount Union and Mapleton Depot.

The Trail takes its name from the many stone steps found here that extend up the mountainside, and, which

Continued on page 13



Left: The Fairy Steps (Cumbria, England). Photo courtesy of David Ross and Britain Express <https://www.britainexpress.com/counties/cumbria/countryside/beetham-fairy-steps.htm>. Right: A section of the Thousand Steps on Jacks Mountain. Photo courtesy of Rusty Glessner, Rusty Glessner Photography



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.

☞ 2023 Board of Governors ☞

Roger L. Williams, *President*
 Robert B. Hazelton, *Vice President*
 Deborah McManus, *Secretary*
 Beverly Lipski, *Treasurer*

Rebekah Dreese
 Jacqueline R. Esposito
 Ann Moellenbrock
 Alan Popovich
 Bob Potter
 Ford Risley
 Ann Hamilton Taylor

☞ Emeriti and Emeritae ☞

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

☞ 2023 Committee Chairs ☞

Budget & Finance: Ann Moellenbrock
 Collections: 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

☞ Staff ☞

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

2023 Business Sponsors

Panko Wealth Management
 Alex's ProScape, LLC

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.



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, 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:

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.

THUR 9:00 a.m. - Noon Weekly gardening at the Centre Furnace Mansion, weather permitting. All are welcome. Email msoresen@centrefurnace.org or call 814-234-4779 for more information.

SUN July 30, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Poe Valley State Park

SUN September 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.: Boogersburg School Open House

THUR October 5: United Way Day of Caring at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School

SUN October 15, 2:00 p.m.: Encyclopedia Live Talk: *History of Radio in Centre County* presented by David Dzikowski, Ph.D. Will be held at the Centre Furnace Mansion. RSVP.

SUN November 5, 2:00 p.m.: Talk and book signing for *Images of America, Bellefonte* presented by Marsha Ann Tate. Will be held at the Centre Furnace Mansion. RSVP.

FRI-SUN, December 1-3, Stocking Stuffer Magical Holiday Market at the Centre Furnace Mansion

Programs to See Again

See recordings of some past CCHS talks on our YouTube channel at: <https://rb.gy/sfxzk7>.

Stay Connected

www.centrehistory.org

E-Mail: info@centrecountyhistory.org

Facebook: facebook.com/centrefurnace

Twitter: twitter.com/centrehistory

Instagram: instagram.com/centre.county.history

YouTube: <https://rb.gy/sfxzk7>



President's Corner

By Roger L. Williams



Recruiting Jesse Arnelle

“Everything appears to be all set with Arnelle,” Assistant Football Coach Joe Paterno wrote to retired Head Coach Bob Higgins on July 20, 1951. “I went up and saw the boy and his family again Tuesday night and we had a very nice chat. However, they asked me to put our offer in writing. I told them that this could be done.”

But there was more to be done to recruit the outstanding young student-athlete, 17-year-old African American Jesse Arnelle of New Rochelle, New York. The 24-year-old Paterno was at the center of the action. He also invited Arnelle to dinner at his mother’s house in Brooklyn and persuaded him to shun other offers and come to Penn State. Time was of the essence. The 1951 season was due to open on September 29 against Boston University.

Then, too, there was the matter of law school. Even at 17 years of age, Arnelle, an excellent student, had his mind set on going on to law school after college. Penn State had no law school at the time, which presented an additional challenge to Paterno, Higgins, and Head Coach Rip Engle.

“Not knowing whether the business about law school should come from you or not,” Paterno told Higgins, “I told the boy that he would get a letter from you giving him his offer from Penn State, and that as far as the law school was concerned, he would get this offer in writing from someone in the alumni, probably Casey Jones.”

The “law school offer” was a sticking point. Paterno talked to Coach Engle via phone, suggesting that perhaps Casey Jones should write to Arnelle about law school. “Rip said to drop you [Higgins] a line and let you decide whether Casey should write the boy on whether you would make the complete proposition,” Paterno wrote. “I think that as soon as they get our offer down in black in white they will be satisfied. The boy definitely wants to go to Penn State and Mike Kaplan has him working in his television plant [to earn money for college].”

“Give my best to everybody especially Mrs. Higgins and the girls,” Paterno said. “I am having a nice time here in civilization but I’m very anxious to get back and see everybody. If you see Ginger [Bob’s daughter nee Higgins] and Steve [Suhey, former All-American guard for Penn State, who were married in 1949] would you tell them I’ll be back to bother them around Aug. 1st.”

Higgins replied to Paterno on July 25: “It was good to hear from you, and I am glad you have enjoyed the civilization that Brooklyn offers a young Ivy League graduate...I have written to Jesse Arnelle as you suggested and made my letter strong enough that, in my opinion, if he has any desire to come to Penn State he will come. Maybe this is just wishful thinking, but I certainly hope we get him. He must be a great athlete, and I was impressed with his manners and his modesty.”

After 18 years at the helm, Higgins retired from coaching in March 1949. In retirement, however, he continued to help with recruiting and fundraising, hence his role in recruiting Arnelle.



Joe Paterno.
Penn State University Archives.

Continued on page 16

Executive Director's Message

I would like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation to all who have made the second quarter at CCHS a success. We are proud of all the hard work and dedication that has gone into achieving our mission goals. While much of our work may be visible, there are numerous volunteers, including dedicated Board Committee chairs, who generously contribute their time and expertise behind the scenes. We are fortunate to have a small staff who handle many of the day-to-day administrative tasks, but we could not possibly do it alone.

The CCHS has been making significant progress in updating some of our core organizational documents. Thanks to the efforts of Governance Committee Chair Annie Taylor, we have been able to create a new CCHS Strategic Plan. Additionally, Human Resources Committee Chair Becky Dreese has led the effort to prepare a new Human Resources Manual. We are also grateful to Collections Chair Jackie Esposito, who is lending her expertise to update the CCHS Collections Management Policy. These updates are crucial for the success of our organization, and we are excited to be moving forward with them.

A million thanks to each of our Board Members and Committee Chairs for their invaluable contributions of time and effort that go into fulfilling their roles and commitment to our mission. Your expertise and dedication have been instrumental in helping us achieve our organizational goals; your work makes a huge difference.

To each volunteer and member who contributes to CCHS in myriad ways, enthusiastic cheers and thank you to all who make the Centre County Historical Society a success.

~ Mary Sorensen



2023 Volunteer reception (the scaffolded entrance was an unexpected bonus!) Left to right: Katie and Rob Frieden, Judy Heberling and Mike Husband, Steve and Carol Gentry.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps: Company 1333 – Camp S-63, Poe Valley

Sunday, July 30, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
@ Poe Valley State Park

The CCHS is pleased to partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and William Marcum, local historian, author, and research authority on the Poe Valley CCC Camp, to host a day-long program about the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Presenter Bill Marcum gives us a glimpse into the workings of the CCC program, and the day-to-day bustles of Camp S-63. Other presenters include educator, author, and folk guitarist Van Wagner and museum educator Jennifer Haines from the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum. There will also be time for attendees to share their own personal stories.

A collection of memorabilia will be on display starting at 9:30 a.m. If you have artifacts you would like to display, please arrive at that time if possible. Lunch, inspired by authentic CCC menu boards, is provided on a donation basis to help cover costs.

Please RSVP for this program and indicate if you will be joining us for lunch. For details and to RSVP, visit CentreHistory.org or call (814) 234-4779.



Company street, Company 1333, Camp S-63



Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and individual donations, this is a free, family friendly event; donations are both important and appreciated to keep this event free of charge. Donations may be made at the event or along with RSVPs at <https://www.centrehistory.org>



Ring the Bell! Boegersburg School Open House

Sunday, September 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
1021 Fox Hill Road, State College

Join us for a journey back in time at Boegersburg School's Open House! On September 10th from 1:00-4:00 p.m., experience the historic charm of the one-room schoolhouse that once welcomed students during the late Victorian Era, two World Wars, and the Great Depression. Now it offers children of all ages a glimpse back in time. Boegersburg School is often overlooked by passers-by. Pausing for a moment in its midst reminds us of a simpler time when children walked to school across open fields, studied side-by-side with siblings, and learned morals and arithmetic with McGuffey Readers.



Boegersburg School interior, May 2023

Bring your family and friends to share stories of attending a one-room school, learn about local history, and try your hand at arithmetic lessons. Don't forget to ring the bell and enjoy recess in the field! Who knows, you may even get the chance to meet Boegersburg School alumni. Don't miss this opportunity to step into the past and maybe even ring the school bell!

The Boegersburg School is located at 1021 Fox Hill Road between Toftrees and University Park Airport.

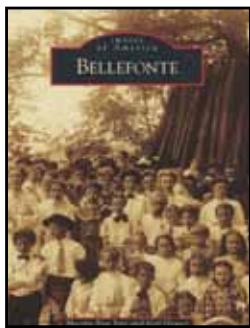
Maintenance of historic sites is critical and only possible with the support of funding and volunteers. Maintenance projects are currently being planned for the schoolhouse and surrounding school yard. One of the most pressing needs at the moment is tree work. If you would be interested in knowing more about how you can help, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org.

History of Radio in Centre County

Encyclopedia Live talk by David Dzikowski. Sunday, October 15, 2:00 p.m. at the Centre Furnace Mansion, RSVP at CentreHistory.org or call 814-234-4779. Limited seating.

Images of America: Bellefonte

History talk and book signing by Marsha Ann Tate. Sunday, November 5, 2:00 p.m. at the Centre Furnace Mansion, RSVP at CentreHistory.org or call 814-234-4779. Limited seating.



Centre County Explorers Passport

We are happy to announce the successful launch of the Centre County Explorers Passport at the Centre Furnace Mansion on June 4.

Guests had the opportunity to tour the Mansion and engage with representatives from various sites featured in the passport.

We extend our appreciation to docents Gloria Nieweg, Jude Larkin, Elliott Abrams, Elizabeth Dutton, and Linda Witmer for their support in making this event a memorable one. Special thanks also go to Dick Pencek and his assistants, Logan Sedgwick and Haiyu Rhoads, for interpreting the 19th century tools at the Jackie's Joinery tool exhibit.

We would like to acknowledge David Lembeck for his creative graphic design work on the Passport, as well as express our gratitude to The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, the Lumber Heritage Region, and the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources for their generous funding of the Passport booklet.



Centre County Explorers Passport are free and available at the Centre Furnace Mansion, and if we are not open, you can find them in the parking lot kiosk. Discover the rich history and beauty that Centre County has to offer!



Clockwise from top left: David Lembeck and Dick Pencek learning how to make pegs on the schnitzelbank; father and son learning how to use an early drill; Barbara Franco with Advent Historical Society and Sue Hannegan with Eagle Ironworks at Curtin Village; Melina Porro talking with guest about the Matson Museum of Anthropology at Penn State; Debbie Arnold and Connie Cole from Milesburg Historical Museum.

Stocking Stuffer Save the Date!

Friday, December 1 - Sunday, December 3, 2023

Stocking Stuffer Sponsors & Supporters Needed

The Stocking Stuffer is the Historical Society's largest fundraiser and is critical to providing 15% to 20% of CCHS's annual budget. As this event has grown, sponsorship is even more important to provide an event of this scale. Join Mimi Barash Coppersmith in supporting the Stocking Stuffer this year through being a sponsor or supporter. Support in this way will help offset expenses associated with the event and allocate a larger percentage of the profit to CCHS's mission work.



Here are a few options:

- Stocking Supporter – @ \$50-100 – Your name [and logo if business] will go on the event website page and in the CCHS newsletter.
- Stocking Stuffer Room Sponsor @ \$200 – Supporter benefits plus your name/logo on a panel in a period room for the duration of the Stocking Stuffer as hundreds of guests stroll through.
- Event co-sponsor @ \$1,000 – Your name [and logo if business] will go in all promotion and paid advertising, and will be prominently displayed in a recognition poster on-site.
- Volunteer! We have over 200 time slots that we need to fill to set up, carry out and clean up during the Stocking Stuffer!

For information on contributing in any way to the 2023 Stocking Stuffer, please contact: Mary Sorensen: msorensen@centrefurnace.org or Johanna Sedgwick: jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org or call us at: 814-234-4779.

Stocking Stuffer Co-Chairs:

Deb McManus: celtickick@aol.com

Becky Dreese: becky@thrivehrmanagement.com

Current CCHS members will once again have the opportunity to attend the Stocking Stuffer before it opens to the general public. Save the date for Thursday, November 30. Watch your mailbox in November for a postcard with the full details!



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3Bx37ZH to become a Stocking Stuffer sponsor or supporter. Or call the CCHS office at 814-234-4779 for more information.

Plant Celebration Thank You



CFM Gardeners preparing for the Plant Celebration

We extend our sincere gratitude and enthusiastic cheers to all who helped with and shopped at the 2023 Plant Celebration, making it a great success!

Many thanks to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners for their expertise and hard work that contributed to the Plant Celebration. Countless hours have been spent here in the spring on planning, potting, preparing labels, watering, organizing plants for sale day, and myriad other tasks. There is an extraordinary amount of time and passion that goes into this event. We cannot thank our volunteers and contributors enough for donating beautiful plants, helping us tidy the gardens, welcoming guests at our open house and doing all of the hard work before and during sale day.

Thank you to Blue Mountain Quality Resources volunteers for all of their help on set-up day and to JustServe and Penn State Circle K volunteers for help with garden clean-up and preparation ahead of the sale.

We are also grateful to the vendors who bring a grand assortment of plants and garden related products. Proceeds from this sale help support the gardens and grounds of the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School.

With special thanks:

Elliott Abrams	Chris Igo	Krystal Rutter
Andrea Bechdel	Kathy Johnston	Maddie Shaffer
Lisa Bowman	Beth Kalenak	Luke Sherbondy
Susan Bowser	Jude Larkin	Melissa Sherbondy
Lucy Boyce	Ginny Lee	Stephanie Shrewsbury
Corey Buckner	Beverly Lipski	Peter Sorensen
Mike Canich	Ryan Martin	Nancy Stewart
Joyce Christini	Louis Mayer	Suzanne Thompson
John Dillon	Deb McManus	Jan Villastrigo
Becky Dreese	Jo Merrell	Rick Villastrigo
Elizabeth Dutton	Ruth Merritt	Steve Wheeler
Michele Ebaugh	Gloria Nieweg	Jane Whitaker
Rina Eiden	Brandon Noldy	Kirk Whitaker
Susan Toby Evans	Fran Nuhfer	Malachi Wienecke
Shannon Ferenchick	Tyler Paul	Roger Williams
Katie Frieden	Sharon Phillips	Paula Wilson
Carol Gouty	Mark Pishak	Frank Wolyniec
Derrick Haines	Geri Reeve	Pam Zimmerman
Judy Heberling	Ford Risley	
Michael Husband	Lynn Roysen	

Organizational Contributors:

American Philatelic Society
Blue Mountain Quality Resources
Penn State Circle K
JustServe

Gardeners' Corner

The dog days of summer are here after an incredibly busy spring in the gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion! The Centre Furnace Gardeners have outdone themselves again with a record-breaking Plant Celebration, potting more than 1,000 plants for this year's sale and working tirelessly to keep up with weedy gardens.

Many thanks to gardeners Beverly Lipski, Katie Frieden, Judy Heberling, Mike Canich, Joyce Christini, Jane Whitaker, Chris Igo, Sharon Phillips, Jo Merrell, Ruth Merritt, Jan Villastrigo, Carol Gouty for turning out routinely on Thursday gardening days! And special thanks to Beverly, Katie, Judy, Jo, Chris and Joyce for their donations of supplies and plants.

And a special shout out to JustServe volunteers for helping us out in the gardens as well!

Keep an eye on your email for Thursday Plant Sales starting in September. Details will be forthcoming.

We are always eager to welcome new people who can lend a hand with weeding, mulching, potting, planting, edging, organizing, and tidying in the gardens. Garden time is Thursday starting at 9:00 a.m. – just come out to the Mansion with your garden gloves, sun screen and bug spray on - snacks and iced water are provided!



Thank you to Katie Frieden for keeping the iron planters at the Mansion looking their best!



Overview of the Kitchen Garden at Centre Furnace Mansion

Improvements and repairs are in the works for the Mansion's Kitchen Garden area. This garden is a Mansion favorite that has been out of service for some time due to the restoration work. The brick work on the porch and walkway to the Ice House Archives building will be repaired and the garden edging redone. Find out more about this project! We are grateful to Linda and David Witmer for kicking off of donations for this project and to Alex's ProScape for their partial donation of this work. Donate or learn more at CentreHistory.org/kitchen-garden-spring-house or contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779.



Recent Acquisitions

March 1-July 12, 2023

- 2023.03 Two diplomas from State College High School.
Gift of Rosemarie Calgione
- 2023.04 Antique bed linens and women's clothing.
Gift of Martha Gallagher
- 2023.05 Antique glass salt cellars, "The Old Pine Tree A Landmark A Legend," by Ruth Corter.
Gift of Paula Wilson
- 2023.06 Askey Deed.
Gift of the Cambria County Historical Society
- 2023.07 *Benner Family History* and *The History of Rock*.
Gift of Robert Benner
- 2023.08 Collection of silver pieces and china, many attributed to Mabel Thompson Woodcock.
Gift of Peter Bennett and Douglas Bennett
- 2023.09 CCC trunk and related materials.
Gift of Greg Sheffer
- 2023.10 Hand colored memorial mourning print for Civil War soldier George Showers.
Gift of Paul Brown
- 2023.11 48 photographs of SCI Rockview farms.
Gift of Megan Elmer
- 2023.12 Five silhouettes from the Hamilton Family.

From "Grandma Beaver's" 1892 diary: "July 30 1892 – Very hot all week everywhere. The children had a dance in the parlor. Had cake and lemonade. 4 of the Dale family spent the evening here."

CCHS Collections



Penn State School of Theatre's Fashion Archive interns visited the Centre Furnace Mansion and textile collection. In the above photo, instructor Charlene Gross points out materials and construction details of a dress attributed to Anne Hamilton Henszey from 1899. Left to right: Emma Houston, Beatrix Stickney, Catherine Adams, Johanna Sedgwick, Carolyn Lucarelli, and Charlene Gross.

Docents' Corner

We would like to express our gratitude to CCHS Docent Committee members who helped us through a busy spring season. We are thankful for their talents in leading regular visitor tours, open houses for the Plant Celebration and Centre County Explorers Day, and special group tours for The Rotary Club of State College, Harris Township Lions Club, and the Palmer Museum Docent Committee.

Additionally, school tour docents Lynn Royse, Gloria Nieweg, Judi Kur, Doyle Wilkerson, Linda Witmer, and Carol Gouty played a vital role leading school tours that brought nearly 250 elementary students to Boogersburg School and Centre Furnace Mansion from area school districts. Special thanks to Lynn Royse for coordinating Mansion school tours!

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the new docents who quickly learned how to assist with visitor tours and beyond, and to our long-time docents and greeters for their guidance. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to CCHS.

Many thanks to those of you who have been helping out this spring: Elliot Abrams, Bill Blair, Elizabeth Dutton, Steve and Carol Gentry, Carol Gouty, Judi Kur, Lou Mayer, Patty Mutzek, Gloria Nieweg, Lynn Royse, Joy Schon, Bonnie Walter, Doyle Wilkerson, and Linda Witmer.



Lynn Royse leads a school tour through the Mansion.

Docents, mark your calendar!
Docent Committee meeting Thursday, August 24
at 1:00 p.m.



Docents from the Palmer Museum of Art toured the Mansion on July 29.

A "Decent" Docent



Betsy Taylor, Annie Taylor and Stevie Rocco, 2022 Volunteer Reception

More about the title later... Betsy Turner Taylor started volunteering at the Centre Furnace Mansion in 2012 soon after moving to State College. Always one to stay busy, she got right to work becoming a docent. Upon learning the story of Centre Furnace and the Mansion, she discovered a family connection through John Hamilton who was married to Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson. This fueled her interest in working on her family's genealogy and learning more about the Mansion's history.

Even during the pandemic, after lockdown, Betsy would come to the Mansion in her mask to polish silver or handle other aspects of collections care, because it needed to be done. She also enjoyed writing articles about artifacts at the Mansion and Victorian life for *Mansion Notes*, coordinating the CCHS volunteer appreciation reception like a master, and calling upon her development and event planning skills to gently offer advice and support. These things, it turned out, were what she enjoyed most.

Last fall, CCHS received a large collection of papers and ephemera related to John and Elizabeth Hamilton from Ken Pyle and Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle. Betsy and Anne re-connected through the Historical Society and would fondly refer to one another as "cousins." With help from CCHS Board member Jackie Esposito and intern Megan Kelby, Betsy enjoyed delving in to this collection, which reflected some of her ancestors. The conservation of Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson's wedding dress was possible through Betsy and Ted's generosity.

Whether it was leading tours, caring for collections, organizing the volunteer appreciation reception, or garnering the Lady Lions Basketball Team to clean windows and chandeliers on the Day of Caring, Betsy never hesitated to roll up her sleeves.

About that title. Betsy would tell the story of being introduced (inadvertently) as a "decent docent" at an activity she had attended. So, with a giggle, she would often use that term to describe herself! She was indeed a decent docent and so much more!

We will all miss Betsy and remember her in many ways, but mostly as a dear friend who shared her passionate energy, imagination, wry sense of humor, talents and time with us for the past decade. She genuinely made a difference.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Betsy Turner Taylor from all of us at CCHS.

Remembering Elwood Homan

By Bob Hazelton

Centre County lost a living legend when Elwood Homan of Pennsylvania Furnace passed away on May 16. He was a remarkable man, having turned 100 last June. His mind was crystal clear and he got around physically as if he were half his age.

In 1922, Elwood was born in a house completed in 1858 by John Lyon (1782-1868), the ironmaster at Pennsylvania Furnace. Lyon had it built for his daughter Jane and her husband, Bucher Ayres, as a wedding present.

Last year for his 100th birthday there was a big party at his farm with several hundred folks attending. He and his wife, Eileen, who died in 2011, were not your traditional farming couple. Elwood owned his own plane. The couple was heavily into flying and active members of the Flying Farmers organization. In fact, several party guests arrived by small plane, and his funeral was graced by a three-plane fly-over.

I've spent many hours listening to his recollections.

One year, Eileen (aka "Cookie") filled a milk can with ice tea for visiting Flying Farmers. The next day, the milk truck driver picked up still-nearly-full ice tea can along with their other milk cans. Elwood and Cookie worried that the ice tea would be inadvertently dumped in with the other cans, ruining hundreds of gallons of milk. The next day, the cans were returned with a note: "Thanks for the ice tea. It was delicious."

Larry Harpster of Ferguson Township recalls flying with Elwood in his Piper Cub when he was in his 80s, yet always felt safe. "Elwood's 1946 J3 Piper Cub was another story. Sometime in the 1970s a tornado went through the farm and damaged some houses in the 'Meadows.' The small shed the Cub was in was completely destroyed and the Cub was literally bent into a 'U' shape. Elwood worked for several years restoring the plane, and then had it recertified as air worthy. He told me he nearly gave it up several times, but eventually he finished it.

Nephew Dave Grove, a retired commercial airline pilot living in Bellefonte, recalls: "When I was seven or eight years old, we were at the Homan farm for a family gathering. Uncle Ellwood gave me my first airplane ride. I sat on my Dad's lap in the front seat of his J-3 Cub. He took off from his grass strip and we flew over his farm fields spotting deer.

"Twenty years later, when I was towing gliders at Ridge Soaring Gliderport, I took the tow plane over to his field and gave him a ride in the Piper Super Cub. I let him take off and land, and I can still see the grin on his face when he crawled out of the Super Cub and waved me goodbye on my trip back to the gliderport.

"Ten years later, in the early '90s, Uncle Ellwood, Cookie, and my mother came to visit me at Minneapolis-St. Paul. Somehow, I managed to get them into the Northwest Airlines Flight Training Center. Uncle Elwood and Mom flew the DC-9 flight simulator."

I will miss Elwood. But the stories he leaves behind will keep him close to us.



Elwood Homan and Bob Hazelton at the 2018 CCHS Historic Preservation Awards.



Members of the Harris Township Lions Club during their April Tour of the Centre Furnace Mansion

Donations in Memory Of

Donations received from the following in memory of Elwood Homan:

- Susan & Kenneth Lower
- Don & Margaret Myers
- Edward & Diana Pask
- Dennis & Ann Sager

Donations received from the following in memory of Betsy Taylor:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sandra & Bill Beese | Joan Nessler |
| Ronald & Hope Coder | Sarah Saltzman |
| The Dutton Institute | Robert & Karen Shute |
| Lenore England | Trudy Smith |
| Nancy Gamble | Mary & Peter Sorensen |
| Anne Gross | Gertrude Steel |
| Cari Gustafson | Martha Strebel |
| Kathryn and Jerome Hart | Karen Tranell |
| Cathy & David Horner | The Village at Penn State: |
| Bruce Kresge | Friday Duplicate Bridge Group |
| Wilfred & Irmgard Lee | Paul & Sally Wangsness |
| Jacqueline Melander | Nancy Wolf |
| Linda Morrow | |

Mansion Restoration Phase 2 Proceeding Apace



The first phase of the Mansion’s restoration largely consisted of a new cedar shingle roof and related construction, with some painting. Phase 2 began with off-site work in October 2022, and on-site work in April 2023. This phase has been primarily painting, with some construction. But let us qualify the word “painting.” With every step of the way, Phase 2 has been carried out with great care for every detail. Window sashes, shutters and window frames have all been stripped using an infrared paint stripper and sanding down to the wood base to provide excellent adhesion for high quality oil-based primer and paint. This has been a time-consuming and, at times, arduous task, but one that will make the final finish last longer. The brick exterior of the building has been washed, scraped as needed, primed and painted, while masonry has been repaired throughout.

At this writing, painting at the Mansion is nearly completed. Missing shutter dogs are being forged at Fisher Forge in Hamburg, Pa. The window sashes that will be operable are being fitted with new cords along with many other final details. Low E storm windows will arrive within the coming weeks and will be installed along with the shutters.

We would like to extend a special thanks at this time to our general contractor, Anders Olsen Construction and Renovations, Inc. of Centre Hall and professional crew members Haven Tucker and Brendan Baez for their meticulous work.

Professional contributions-in-kind from Alan Popovich, AIA, APArchitects have made a huge difference in the success of both Phases of this restoration and projects beyond it.

We could not have accomplished this amazing work without generous grant funding from The Hamer Foundation and The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau Tourism Grant and the incredible generosity of our members and friends.



West and east elevations of the Mansion during various stages of preparation, priming and painting since April..

Mansion Restoration Campaign, Phase 2, In Final Drive

Heartfelt thanks to The Hamer Foundation and The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and Centre County Commissioners Tourism Grant and 110 individual donors who have contributed to Phase 2. The Centre Furnace Mansion Restoration Campaign for this phase began July 1, 2022. Restoration work will conclude by early fall 2023.

The goal for Phase 2 is \$205,000. As of July 17, the total raised was \$197,681 or 96% of goal. That leaves \$7,319 remaining to be raised. Thus we continue to welcome gifts from our members and friends who wish to see this iconic historical treasure restored for generations to come.

Gifts may be made online at centrehistory.org/join-support/restoration or mailed to Centre County Historical Society, 1001 E. College Ave., State College, Pa. 16801. We would greatly appreciate your continued support!



Left to right: Work on the south-front elevation of the Mansion, west porch door into the period kitchen after the paint had been removed from the door and door frame, preparation of the brick before priming and painting.

Thank you to our generous Phase 2 donors:

David L. Grove
Thomas L. Smith
Charles H. Smith
John B. Smith
Cynthia Dawso Van Druff & Robert Van Druff
Linda & Blake Gall
Sally & Richard Kalin

Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle & Kenneth Pyle
Sally & Richard Kalin
Katie O'Toole & Gary Gray
Estelle & Charles Bennett
Roger Eisinger
Karen Ross
Roger Williams & Karen Magnuson

Patricia & Winand Hock
Mary Lou Bennett
Edward DeBrasky
Judy Heberling & Michael Husband
Carol & Pete Schempf
Lee & Dee Stout
Pamela & Cal Zimmerman

Christine Allgood
Jean & Gert Aron
Henrietta Baylor
Sven & Carmen Bilén
Ned & Inga Book
Gloria Briggs
Rosalie Bloom Brooks
Kathy & Rod Burnham
Jim & Ellen Campbell
Mike & Katherine Canich
Nancy Chiswick & Arthur Patterson
Ronald & Hope Coder
Anonymous
John & Donna Diercks
Linda Domin
Joann Dornich
Nancy Eaton
Jacqueline Esposito
John & Marilyn Furry
Roger Geiger
Luther Gette
Carol & Lee Gouty
Mary Alice Graetzer
Robert & Ann Graves
Bill & Ann Gray
David & Diane Gustine
Irene Harpster

Mary & George Harrigan
Peggy & William Hartman
Dan & Suzie Hawbaker
Connie & William Hayes
Bob & Jan Hazelton
Dennis & Marcia Heitzmann
George & Sue Henning
Beverly Hickey
Chris Hickey
Susan Hochreiter
Catherine & Dave Horner, Tadpole Crossing
Gina & John Ikenberry
Ellen & Albert Jarrett
George & Ann Johnstone
Dick & Ann Jones
Avis & Al Jones
William & Barbara Jones
Neil & Joanie Kimerer
Harry Kropp & Ed Legutko
Jude Larkin
Kirk & Sandy Larter
Jerry & Esther Lauchle
David Lembeck & David Helsel
Christine & Benson Lichtig
Anonymous
Susan & Louis Mayer

John & Jodi Mentzell
Jo & Floyd Merrell
Ralph & Carol Mumma
Patty Mutzeck
Gloria Nieweg
Richard Pencek
Marcia & Gary Perdew
Alan & Kris Popovich
Bob Potter
William Reiber & Kathy Flannery
H. Wesley & Carol Reitz
Ford & Mary Risley
Dolores & Art Rose
Kay & Ernie Salvino
Sally Schaadt
Russell & Jeanne Schleiden, Penn's Cave
Tom & Sara Songer
Mary & Peter Sorensen
Graham & Sandra Spanier
Laura Glenn Steifer
Margie & Doug Swoboda
Ann Taylor & Marty Gutowski
Anonymous
Marjorie & Phineas Tuthill
Robert Veronesi
Mary Watson

Marjorie & Alan Weisel
Steve & Connie Wheeler
Susan Wheeler & Derek Elsworth
Mary Jane Wild
Doyle & Ronald Wilkerson
Terry & Pat Williams
Paula & Greg Wilson
Patricia Yearick

THE HAMER FOUNDATION



This project is being made possible in part through a grant provided by the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Happy Valley Adventure Bureau.

Indian Steps

Continued from cover page

it is said, actually number one thousand and forty-three. Their presence in such a remote spot may seem quite mysterious, but a large historical marker here sheds some light on that mystery.

The sign explains that on the mountaintop at one time was a large quarry where employees of the Harbison-Walker fire brick company quarried the vast deposits of ganister rock, or Tuscarora sandstone, found here. Initially a dinky train was used to transport the rocks to the fire brick refractories below, and workers could ride them up to the quarries. However, when trucks began to replace the trains, workers had to make the steep climb up the mountain to get to their place of work. Then, during an idle work period in 1936, the company had their men build the steps up the mountain to make their daily climbs easier.

Those are the steps that remain here yet today, and the pathway is considered by many to be one of the most popular hiking trails in that area. And the rewards, for those reaching the summit, are some of the finest panoramic views in the state. Vistas of Jacks Narrows, glimpses of Huntingdon, Mapleton, and Mount Union, and cascading mountain ranges fading off in the distance, make the climb worthwhile.

Similarly, Showers Steps on the Blue Mountain above the small town of Bethel in Berks County has a well-known provenance. Built in the 1930's by the Showers brothers in their desire to have an access trail to the Appalachian Trail on the mountaintop, this stone stairway provides a good aerobic workout for those who make the ascent to enjoy the panoramic view from the heights at the peak.

Then there is a stone-bordered pathway on the Blue Mountains near a scenic mountain pass called Sterrett's Gap that connects the counties of Perry and Cumberland. Residents of the nearby villages of Dromgold and Sherman's Dale refer to it as "Fox's Path," thereby preserving the memory of the man who built it.

It is not a staircase, but a dirt path demarcated on both sides its entire length by high stone walls that consist of loose boulders piled on top of one another. The pathway begins in Perry County near Fox's Hollow, a remote mountain glen named after the first settler here. He was a farmer or trapper who made frequent trips to Carlisle in Cumberland County, and who blazed this shortcut over the mountain. It was a rocky path, and in order to make it an easier trek, he threw the rocks on it to the sides until he had a smoother rock-free trip.

So the provenance of several seemingly out-of-place stone stairways found in the Pennsylvania mountains can still be found if the right sources are consulted (I'm indebted to locals in Berks and Perry Counties I interviewed in 1980 and in 2001 for the information on Showers Steps and Fox's Path). However, that still leaves us with that quite remarkable span of stone steps on Tussey Mountain of Centre and Huntingdon County whose origins are still cloaked in mystery.

The "Indian Steps" as they are called, seem to reveal their origin in the name assigned to them. In fact many early folklorists, including Henry W. Shoemaker, pro-

moted the idea that this man made staircase was built by Indians for military purposes. However, any research into the way Indians waged war will easily prove this theory to be nothing more than myth; a good story that adds to the romance of the mountains.

In the first place that meticulous historian Paul A. W. Wallace in his *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania* makes no mention of any such Indian path over Tussey Mountain and down to Rock Springs. Furthermore, the Indian origins of the steps was not supported by the gentleman I like to call, and who said he would not object to my doing so, "the grandfather of the Mid State Trail". In my conversations with Tom Thwaite, planner and developer of that highly popular hiking trail that spans across the state, I asked him about the famous steps and who built them.



*The author on the Indian Steps
(Tussey Mountain, Huntingdon
County)*

He agreed that it was not Native Americans and postulated that the best explanation for their existence seems to be that the landholder of that section of mountain timberland felt he needed to create a prominent boundary line between his land and that of a local iron company's adjacent lands. Driven by a fear that in their insatiable need for wood to fuel their iron furnaces the iron masters would indiscriminately cut down his timber, he built the steps in what must have been a back-breaking and seemingly endless task.

Then, of course, there is Henry Shoemaker's take on the matter. Although his stories are considered apocryphal by many, they are nonetheless entertaining and enjoyable, and it has proven just as enjoyable to me to try to discover Shoemaker's inspirations behind them. In this essay we will look at one of his most famous tales; one recorded in the chapter titled "The Indian Steps," in his volume of the same name.

Published by Shoemaker in 1912, this was the third volume in a twelve volume set, which he averred, in the introduction to his twelfth volume titled *More Allegheny Episodes*, "should be labelled, Pennsylvania Folklore Series Vols. I, II, II, IV, and so on, to properly identify them as scientific productions." In that same introduction he also confessed that "It might look as if the kernel of our stories has been too deeply imbedded in the local color and descriptions which have been woven about the narratives."

He then revealed more of what he defined as "the great glaring error of the series," by noting "If the stories had been printed word for word, in the language of the Pennsylvania mountain people who told them to him, then it would be exact, personal, definitive folklore."

In my opinion there is an even greater "glaring error"

Continued on page 13

Indian Steps

Continued from page 12

in many of Shoemaker's stories, and that is his disregard for or distortion of historical facts. It takes little effort to find out just how "footloose and fancy free" he was with those facts when writing his tales, and his "Indian Steps" is no exception.

For those who have never read the story, a brief summary is in order. Shoemaker, in his introduction to Volume III, states "The Indian Steps from which this present volume receives its name is an interesting landmark in the Tussey Mountains, not far from Pennsylvania Furnace, in Centre County. The Steps were made, so tradition states, to enable Indian warriors from the southern part of the State to quickly cross the mountains when they invaded their northern rivals. In this vicinity was enacted, about the year 1600, one of the bloodiest battles recorded in the annals of the Redmen. It only lasted for a day, but it ended by the southern Indians being driven out of the Spruce Creek Valley and across the mountains, their warriors being nearly annihilated."

In the highly romanticized and grossly exaggerated Indian Steps story that follows in the first chapter of the book, Shoemaker tells of an athletic contest between the two tribes, with precise counts of victories scored in each event and the exact number of animals served to the hungry warriors following the contest. Then, typical of many of Shoemaker's tales that often include love stories about a man and a maid, he expands the Indian Steps tale to tell of a thwarted love match between a chieftain of the southern tribe and the beautiful "Princess Meadowsweet" in the northern band.

The defeat at the athletic contest and anger over the refusal of the northern chieftain to countenance the love affair in question supposedly then led the southern Indians to decide to wage war against their northern rivals. As part of their war plan, says Shoemaker, the southern or "Kishacoquillas Indians" proceeded to build a flight of stone steps up the Stone Valley side of Tussey Mountain. According to Shoemaker, the Indians reasoned that by doing so they could ascend the mountain more rapidly and thus make a "flying attack" upon their enemies, thus increasing their chance of victory, and once having achieved that victory, would "finish the steps down the northern slope of the mountain".

Given Shoemaker's penchant for inventing and exaggerating his stories, it is most probably the case that his "Indian Steps" is just one more typical example of his "literary license." Indeed it's safe to say that his rendition is nothing more than a good story that adds a romantic touch to this particular area. So let's begin by looking at this story from three perspectives. First a geographical one as far as where Indian trail pathways were actually located in Pennsylvania. Then a look at the Native American strategies during war, and finally the locations

of actual iron furnaces that were once in operation near the Indian Steps.

The definitive source for information on the Indian trails of Pennsylvania can be found in that minutely-detailed volume titled *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*. Written by the highly-respected and trustworthy scholar Paul A. W. Wallace, it contains descriptions of the many Indian trails that once crisscrossed the state, along with detailed maps of where they were located in relation to present-day towns and roadways. Out of all those maps and descriptions there are only two paths that show the areas in which we are interested.

The first is the "Kishacoquillas Path" (page 78), which was used by the "Kishacoquillas" Indians, whose village was located at present-day Lewistown, Mifflin County. This path led over the Seven Mountains and into the present-day town of Milesburg, Centre County, where the infamous chief Bald Eagle's village was located. This is the only northerly path described in the book that shows a trail over the mountains from the Kishacoquillas' village in the south.

The second path in Wallace's book that is of interest is one he calls the "Penns Creek Path" (page 126), which ran from Sunbury, Northumberland County, to Frankstown, Blair County. On the map of that path Wallace shows the village of Rock Spring in Centre County. However, he does not show any path whatsoever that heads from that

small town and goes up and over Tussey Mountain to the south. This fact in itself casts strong suspicions about Shoemaker's "historical facts;" doubts which are further strengthened when other historical sources are consulted.

One of the most trusted sources for information on the history of the Lenni Lenape and other tribes of the mid-Atlantic region, is a treatise on that subject written by Reverend John Heckewelder. He was a Moravian missionary based in Ohio and Bethlehem Pennsylvania who preserved a record of his experiences with and impressions of the Native American tribes of these areas with whom he interacted during the eighteenth century.

Published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1818, it has been republished many times and includes invaluable details regarding the history of those tribes, their relations with other tribes and settlers, as well as their spiritual beliefs, government and politics, education, language, social institutions, dress, food, and other customs. It is in this volume that we find some accounts that are particularly germane regarding the Indian Steps.

On page 106 of Heckewelder's *History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations*, for example, he notes that "In their wars they are indifferent about the means which they pursue for the annoyance and destruction of their adversaries, and that surprise and stratagem are as often as employed by them as open force."

Then on page 177 he goes on to say "Courage, art, and circumspection are the essential and indispensable



Another view of the Indian Steps (Leading up from Harrys Valley Road on the south side of Tussey Mountain, Huntingdon County, and ending on the Mid State Trail on the mountaintop)

Continued on page 14

Indian Steps

Continued from page 13

qualifications of an Indian warrior. When war is once begun, each one strives to excel in displaying them by stealing upon his enemy unawares, and deceiving and surprising him in various ways. On drawing near to an enemy's country, they endeavor as much as possible to conceal their tracks; sometimes they scatter themselves, marching at proper distances from each other for a whole day, and more, meeting, however, again at night, when they keep a watch; at other times they march in what is called Indian file, one man behind the other, treading carefully in each other's steps, so that their numbers may not be ascertained by the prints of their feet.

"The nearer they suppose themselves to be to the enemy, the more attentive they are to choosing hard, stony, and rocky ground on which human footsteps leave no impression; soft, marshy and grassy soils are particularly avoided, as in the former the prints of the feet would be easily discovered, and in the latter the appearance of the grass having been trodden upon might lead to detection; for if the grass or weeds are only bent and have the least mark of having been walked upon, it will be almost certainly perceived, in which the sharpness and quickness of the Indians' sight is truly remarkable!"

Given Heckewelder's impressions, it would seem that there is little likelihood that Shoemaker's southern Indians would have gone to the trouble of building the "Indian Steps" in hopes of using them to surprise their enemy to the north in a lightning attack. The effort required to build the steps would have resulted in a flurry of activity, which certainly would have been noticed by hunters and scouts of the enemy tribe. We can safely conclude then, I propose, that building stone steps up one side of a mountain to use in a surprise attack on an enemy tribe right on the other side of the same mountain would not have been a strategy employed by Indians.

The final "nail in the coffin" for the idea that Indians constructed the so-called Indian Steps on Tussey Mountain can be found in a book written by Penn State folklorist Simon J. Bronner titled *Popularizing Pennsylvania – Henry W. Shoemaker and the Progressive Uses of Folklore and History*. In this interesting and comprehensive biographical study of Henry Shoemaker and the reasons he may have written his stories the way he did, Bronner addresses Shoemaker's Indian Steps.

Here Bronner categorically states (see pages 114-115) that John H. Chatham, one of Shoemaker's most prolific sources for his folktales and legends, and a former schoolteacher, "was responsible for the legend of the Indian Steps." Apparently Chatham wrote a letter to Shoemaker on January 12, 1911, in which he expressed his appreciation of Shoemaker's "Legend of Penns Cave" and suggested that Shoemaker could develop a similar tale based on Chatham's memory of an interesting landmark near one of his former country schoolhouses, located near Baileyville in Centre County.

"I think a plot could be designed for another good Indian story at the Indian Steps," he wrote. "He located the tale, says Bronner, 'just on the line of Centre and Huntingdon County at the head of Spruce Creek, thirteen miles west of Boalsburg and fifteen miles west of State

College.' Then in that same letter Chatham proceeded to summarize his idea for the story (sic).

"Here for some reason the Indians did work, they built a stone road over the Tussey rut. Consisting of a series of stone steps from the top to the bottom of the Mountain, and the same passage is used by the present inhabitants in crossing the range to Stone Valley. . . I think we could get up an Indian war between the Susquehannox and the Kishacoquillas Indians and have the battleground on the Barrens about two miles from the steps. Then we could people the upper waters of the Susquehanna and Bald Eagle Creek and the vast region between the creek and river to Sumamohining, with the Susquehannox and the Juniata Valley and all that region to the Bald Eagle Mts with the Kishacoquillas Indians, and there would be ample room for them to fight on the glades and barrens of Spruce Creek."

The idea obviously struck a chord with Shoemaker, who without a doubt, picked up Chatham's idea, added romantic details, created fictional characters to fill out the story, then claimed "that it was told to him by the old folks."

It seems from Chatham's letter in 1911, that the idea that Indians built the "Indian Steps" was apparently a prominent belief when he taught school near the steps years before. It was a belief that carried on down to the present day, but to those who knew more about the area and its history, it was not an idea that they could espouse.

This notion was certainly not supported by Tom Thwaites, who agreed that it was not Native Americans, who built the steps, postulating that the best explanation for the steps' existence seems to be that the landholder of that section of mountain timberland felt he needed to create a prominent boundary line between his land and that of a local iron company's adjacent lands.

Driven by a fear that in their insatiable need for wood to fuel their iron furnaces the iron masters would indiscriminately cut down his timber, he built the steps in what must have been a back-breaking and seemingly endless task. Nonetheless, it would seem, given the iron furnaces that were once located near here, that he had good reason to worry.

Geographically, the Indian Steps on Tussey Mountain are located, "as the crow flies", about midway between Pennsylvania Furnace, Centre County, several miles to the northwest, and Greenwood Furnace, several miles to the southeast. Both of those locations were once the sites of, and named from, large and thriving iron furnaces:



The stone cairn along the Mid State Trail (Marking the intersection of the Mid State Trail with the end of the Indian Steps Trail on top of Tussey Mountain, Huntingdon County, the cairn frowns down upon the village of Rock Springs, Centre County, at the base of the mountain and to the north)

Continued on page 15

Indian Steps

Continued from page 14

Pennsylvania Furnace (in operation from 1813 to 1888) and Paradise Furnace (operated from 1834 to 1904). Likewise, about one mile southeast of the road (Harry's Valley Road) leading back to the Indian Steps Trail, along present-day Route 26 was once a smaller iron furnace named Monroe Furnace (in operation from 1846 to 1863).

All three of these working furnaces would have needed to harvest timber off the surrounding ridges to keep their furnaces burning. And at the same time, during the last decades of iron furnace operations, lumbering companies were harvesting timber off of those same ridges. Therefore it seems likely that the idea held by Tom Thwaites regarding the steps being constructed by the owner of a timber stand on Tussey Mountain to demarcate his land from that of lumbering or iron furnace companies seems more and more reasonable.

However, there is one last possibility that makes sense as well. In an article titled "The Indian Steps" published in the *Centre Daily Times* of State College on March 4, 2019, author Chris Rosenblum sites mapmaker Michael Hermann as having interviewed a 97-year-old gentleman about the Indian Steps in 1998.

According to that long-lived gentleman, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s sometimes constructed long rock stairways over former logging skidways in order to repair and use them for more logging operations. However, as this would have occurred many years after the time that John Chatham referred to the steps in 1911, the CCC cannot be credited with building the Indian Steps.

However, that does not mean that logging or iron furnace companies did not build similar rock skidways during their lumbering operations here during the 1880s and 1890s. What is interesting as well is that the steps only exist on the southern slope. There are no steps on the northern slope.


In conclusion then, it seems in my opinion that the best explanation for the existence of the Indian Steps on Tussey Mountain is that they are there as a result of timber harvesting operations of the late nineteenth and earlier twentieth centuries. Despite the name and the legend, they are not of Native American origin. However, that name and the legend will no doubt survive as a quaint reminder of Pennsylvania's storied past, and in doing so they might help to preserve this part of the state's natural beauty and its legendary lore, which no doubt will continue to provide the same sense of mystery and romance that have colored one of Pennsylvania's most impressive mountain landmarks over the years.

Footnotes:

- Ignoffo, Mary Jo, *Captive of the Labyrinth*, and at www.winchestermysteryhouse.com
- Toy, Sidney, *Castles, Their Construction and History*, 91
- Jones, Richard, *Haunted Britain and Ireland*, 80-81
- Jones, *ibid.*, 18
- Jones, *ibid.*, 102
- Brooks, J. A., *Britain's Haunted Heritage*, 93-94
- Jones, *ibid.*, 137-138
- Information obtained through interviews with local hiking enthusiasts in 1980 and 2001.

DD GPS Coordinates:

- Thousand Steps Trail: 40.39169, -77.91420
- Indian Steps Trail: 40.6608988, -77.9786145
- Showers Steps: 40.471331448, -77.1730371
- Fox's Path: 40.3242526, -77.1730371



Read more about Native Americans in Centre County at CentreHistory.org/encyclopedia and search "Native Americans." While you are there, check out the new articles that are being added each month.



Day of Caring

Preserving Historic Treasures One Day at a Time
Thursday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The 29th Annual United Way Day of Caring is around the corner and we are looking forward to welcoming volunteers for a productive day at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School!

The Day of Caring is the largest day of service that CCHS annually hosts. We have welcomed as many as 150 at the Mansion and 30 at the School over the years. It cannot be overstated how important this service day has been for CCHS for over two decades in its efforts to maintain the Mansion and School. We could not do this without the many volunteers, organizations and business who turn out to contribute and help us with projects ranging from landscape and garden work to painting, organizing and clean-up work.

We rely on our CCHS Volunteers and Members to help lead groups, plan or volunteer for the Day of Caring.

How can you help?

- If you can garden, do handy projects, paint, lead a volunteer project or can roll up your sleeves and dig in where needed, we can use the extra hands! We will provide information on specific projects.
- Assist with preparation the day ahead (set up registration tent and project areas) or help clean up at the end of the day when all of those who have been hard at it all day are ready for a break!
- Contribute garden tools like leaf and garden rakes, shovels, loppers, mulch forks, garden gloves, and hand tools. Also helpful are paint rollers and trays, vinyl gloves, buckets and microfiber cloths. All of these items are used frequently for service days through the year.
- Not able to attend, but would like to help? You can help through the contribution of a gift cards for groceries or for any home/hardware store for supplies and lunch and snacks for our volunteers.

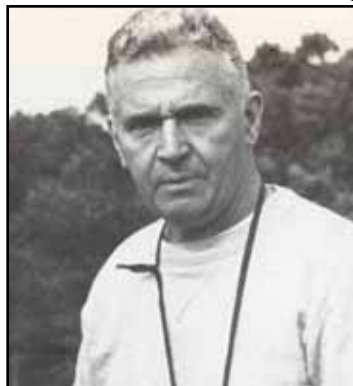
Interested in volunteering or contributing? Contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org for more information..

President's Corner

Continued from page 3

The Hig

Born in 1893, Bob Higgins was an excellent athlete, recruited by Penn, Harvard and Yale. Higgins chose Penn State, enrolling in 1914, starring in football, but enlisting in the Army in May 1917 as war was declared against Germany. He re-enrolled at Penn State in the fall of 1919, playing for Coach Hugo Bezdek and earning first-team All-American honors. After graduation, he coached at



Bob Higgins.
Penn State University Archives

West Virginia Wesleyan, played a year professionally for the Canton (Ohio) Bulldogs, and in 1925 was named head coach at Washington University in St. Louis. He came back to Penn State in 1928 as an assistant to Bezdek.

Higgins was named head coach in 1930, shortly after Penn State did away with football scholarships entirely, in hopes of being recognized as a national leader

in the nascent Carnegie Foundation-inspired movement to “purify” intercollegiate football of commercialism and unethical practices by returning to the amateur athlete ideal. Without scholarships, Penn State immediately slipped into losing seasons during the 1930s. Not until 1939 did Higgins begin to turn things around. After World War II, he finished with two nationally ranked teams and a record of 91-57-11 – all this still without scholarships! Like Bill O’Brien 64 years later in the wake of NCAA penalties imposed for the Sandusky scandal, Higgins coached with one hand tied behind his back—for 18 years.

Casey Jones

Casey Jones was a different kind of animal. Living in Pittsburgh—long the center of gravity for alumni influence on Penn State football—Jones was a major force for Higgins’s football program, albeit quietly so, working behind the scenes. He was Higgins’s close friend, former teammate, and World War I comrade. An executive at West Penn Power Company, Jones worked devotedly to bring football prospects to Penn State during the Purity years. One of his first recruits was Sever “Tor” Teretti from Monongahela in western Pennsylvania. Jones was well connected across the state and key to finding part-time and summer employment to support football players in lieu of scholarships. No doubt he could interest a good Pennsylvania law school in Arnelle.

Early Recruitment of Blacks

Higgins opened the door for the recruitment of African American football players at Penn State. He recruited brothers Dave and Harry Alston in 1941. Dave became a star with All-American potential on that year’s freshman team but died of complications from a tonsillectomy in 1942. After the War, Higgins recruited African Americans Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard.

And then Higgins and the Nittany Lions promptly went on to break the color barrier in the segregated South.

The University of Miami was on the roster for 1946. Like other Southern schools, it wouldn’t allow its teams to compete against opponents with integrated rosters unless they left their black players at home. When Miami discovered that Triplett and Hoggard were black, the school advised Penn State to arrive without them. “We’re Penn State,” said All-American lineman Steve Suhey. “We play all or none.” The issue was put to a team vote and the result was overwhelming. The game was canceled.

The following season, 1947, Penn State, then 9-0, was invited to play Southern Methodist in the 1948 Cotton Bowl in Dallas—a segregated city. To its credit, SMU welcomed the opportunity to play Penn State with its black players. But the city’s hotels wouldn’t accept them. So the team lodged at the Dallas Naval Air Station (the U.S. armed services were preparing to integrate under order of President Harry Truman in July 1948). But the issue of black players had been decided the year before: Penn State would play all or none. Penn State tied SMU 13-13 and finished the season 9-0-1, ranked 4th by the Associated Press. The 1948 team went 7-1-1, ranked 18th by the Associated Press.

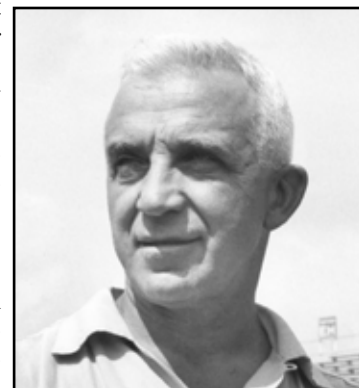
Penn State took the moral high ground with the Purity Movement in 1929, to no avail. It took its place at the head of what the school believed would be a long parade of institutions doing likewise, but no one followed (save Princeton and Lehigh). In the 1940s, Penn State again took the moral high ground with better results. Its early recruitment of black players—and its stance to play all or none—paved the way for integrating college football in the American South.

None of this history was lost upon young Jesse Arnelle, or young Joe Paterno or Rip Engle.

Rip Engle and Joe Paterno

In the summer of 1951, Paterno was wrapping up his first year as an assistant coach for Engle, formerly the head coach of Brown University. After Higgins and his successor, Joe Bedenk (1949), the student body lobbied for a “Big-Time Coach,” and with the encouragement of new University President Milton S. Eisenhower (who took office July 1, 1950), Engle was warmly received. At the same time, the University reinstated football scholarships and grants-in aid, closing the coffin on the Purity years.

Engle, who had turned down head coaching offers at Yale, Wisconsin, and Pitt, coached at Penn State through the 1965 season, finishing 104-48-1, with seven Top 20-ranked seasons and three bowl victories. He set the stage for Paterno and the Grand Experiment. “Rip has



Rip Engle
Penn State University Archives

Continued on page 17

President's Corner

Continued from page 12

built the program up extremely well and all I have to do is keep it going," Paterno said upon his appointment as head coach in February 1966.

Paterno had starred at quarterback for Brown. When Engle was hired, none of his assistants wanted to accompany him to Penn State, save Paterno, who thought he would give coaching a try for a year before heading to law school. It wasn't an easy adjustment. "I'll never forget Rip telling me on the way down how much I would like Penn State, how clean it was, you could even eat off the floors in the barns," he recalled. He originally roomed with Engle, but soon tired of the arrangement. "You'd better start looking for another coach because I'm getting out of here," Paterno said. "I'll go nuts in this town."

Paterno then moved in with the newlyweds Ginger and Steve Suhey, widened his circle of acquaintances, and got a better feel for the place. He was especially impressed with the students. "They were friendlier and more serious about getting an education. There was a much more wholesome attitude. Most of them came from poor or middle-class homes and they weren't snooty like so many kids I had come in contact with at Brown." Paterno decided to stick it out for another year.

The Cohort of Great Black Athletes

Jesse Arnelle did come to Penn State in the fall of 1951. He was part of a cohort of great African American players—Rosey Grier, Charlie Blockson, Lenny Moore, and others—all of whom who made their mark on Penn State football. "When I came on board," said Lenny Moore in his autobiography, "there were more blacks on the team, including Rosey, Jesse, Bob Pollard, and Sam Green. Although we represented only a small percentage of players on that team, we were actually one of the largest contingents of black players on a traditionally white football squad, at any college in the nation."

Grier, from Linden, New Jersey, was one of Penn State's great interior linemen. He went on to a brilliant pro football career with the New York Giants and Los Angeles Rams. As well, he was nationally known for his work in television entertainment, politics, and social work. He cradled Robert Kennedy in his arms as the presidential candidate lay dying from an assassin's bullet in June 1968. In 1974, Grier was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University.

Blockson, from Norristown, Pennsylvania, was a fullback and terrific blocking back. He was the true scholar of the group—"with a passion for learning that I never possessed," Moore recalled. Blockson went on to become a leading historian of African American culture, authoring 13 books along the way. He accumulated a stellar collection of rare materials that compose the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University. Blockson later gifted Penn State with another unique collection in 2008, The Charles L. Blockson Collection of African-Americana and the African Diaspora, located in Pattee-Paterno Libraries. Blockson was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University in 2007, along with Wally Triplett that same year.

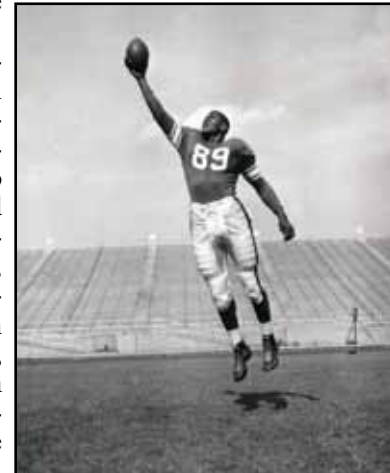
Lenny Moore, from Reading, Pennsylvania, was one

of the greatest running backs in Penn State history—the first back to gain 1,000 yards in a season for the Nittany Lions. In fact, his 1,082 yards in 1954 placed him second in the nation. The "Reading Rambler" went on to a legendary career with the Baltimore Colts. He is one of six Penn Staters elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Jesse Arnelle

And then there was Jesse Arnelle.

Recruited as a receiver for the football team, Arnelle was arguably the best three-sport athlete ever to wear the Blue and White. He was a two-way football player, with outstanding performances on both offense and defense, finishing the program as an Honorable Mention All-American. He was a starter on the baseball team. But it is for his contributions to



*Jesse Arnelle.
Penn State University Archives.*

Penn State basketball that he is most remembered. The 6-foot, 5-inch Arnelle was a First-Team All-American in 1953-54, the only Penn State squad ever to make it to the NCAA Final Four. He finished as the program's leading scorer with 2,138 points, a record unsurpassed until Talor Battle hit 2,213 from 2007-11. He also was the program's first All-American, a feat not matched until Jalen Pickett was named a second-team All-American in 2023.

On the gridiron, he set the individual pass reception record that stood for 13 years. Known for his crisp blocking, solid tackling and sure-handed pass receptions, he played his finest game in Penn State's 14-12 shocking upset of defending Big Ten co-champion Illinois in the 1954 season opener at Beaver Field. Arnelle recovered a fumble, caught a 24-yard pass for a touchdown and smothered the Illini on defense.

Arnelle's football exploits were good enough to get him drafted by the Los Angeles Rams. He turned down that opportunity to play professional basketball, with a short stint for the Harlem Globetrotters and one season with the Fort Wayne (now Detroit) Pistons of the NBA.

Life Beyond Sports

But Arnelle was so much more than a superb student-athlete. In his senior year, he was elected as Penn State's student body president with 75 percent of the vote. His popularity did not deter him from striving to promote racial justice on campus, his hero being Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

After his brief pro sports career ended, Arnelle entered the Air Force. Afterward, to pursue his true calling, he enrolled in the Dickinson School of Law, graduating in 1962. He then served a rotation in the Peace Corps (in Turkey).

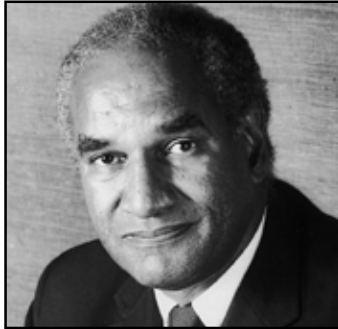
Continued on page 18

President's Corner

Continued from page 13

In 1968, he took time to work on Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign. After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that same spring, Arnelle was invited to Penn State to receive an alumni achievement award at the football team's annual banquet. Shocking everyone, he rejected the award and went on to criticize the University for its record on racial justice.

In his speech—entitled “I Love This Penn State—But Freedom is Dearer to Me”—Arnelle asserted that Penn State “must become a principal player on the field of social and education change.” He



Jesse Arnelle
Getty Images.

noted that, in addition to recruiting more black students, the University must recruit more blacks into academic and administrative leadership posts: “Should the University's president call his immediate staff in conference, there wouldn't be a Black face in the room. When the Board of Trustees meets, their deliberations have never been enriched by the contribution of a Black trustee member.”

The following year, Arnelle joined Penn State's Board of Trustees as its first black member, serving for 45 years. In 1996, he was elected president of the Board, the first black to assume that post.

Arnelle also held strong affection for the Dickinson School of Law. He created the school's first scholarship earmarked for diversity and played a pivotal role in its 1997 merger with Penn State.

After practicing criminal law for 15 years, Arnelle undertook a major change in his professional life. In 1984, in San Francisco, he and partner William Hastie formed one of the first minority-owned *corporate* law firms in the United States. Historically, black lawyers had found little acceptance among blue-chip companies, but Arnelle & Hastie dove headlong into corporate law, with great success. Among their clients were AT&T, Coca-Cola, du Pont, Chrysler, Merrill Lynch, and the FDIC. They were recognized by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the nation's top 12 black-owned law firms.

Arnelle died at age 86 on October 21, 2020, in San Francisco. Steve Dunham, former General Counsel at Penn State who once worked with Arnelle, recalled him thus: “He was so impressive in every way—physically imposing, intellectually powerful, with enormous poise, grace, and integrity. When Jesse spoke, people listened. He was a great man on any stage.”

Flashing back to the late summer of 1951: One wonders what expectations Paterno, Higgins, and Engel held for the newly recruited 17-year-old Arnelle. However high, their expectations surely were well exceeded. Named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University in 2016, Jesse Arnelle wielded a profound impact on Penn State, on the Dickinson School of Law, on American corporate law, and on the long struggle for racial justice in American life.

Sources:

Donnell, Rich. *The Hig: Penn State's Gridiron Legacy: The Bob Higgins and Steve Suhey Families*. Montgomery, Alabama: Owl Bay Publishers, 1994.

Fitzpatrick, Frank. *Pride of the Lions: The Biography of Joe Paterno*. Chicago: Triumph Books, 2011.

Higgins, R.A. Letter to Joe Paterno, July 25, 1951. Private Collection of Heather Dale Ricker-Gilbert.

Hyman, Mevin D. and Gordon S. White, Jr. *Joe Paterno: Football My Way*. New York: Macmillan, 1971.

Moore, Lenny with Jeffrey Jay Elish. *All Things Being Equal: The Autobiography of Lenny Moore*. Champaign, Ill.: Sports Publishing L.L.C., 2005.

Paterno, Joe. Letter to Bob Higgins, July 20, 1951. Private Collection of Heather Dale Ricker-Gilbert.

Prato, Louis. *The Penn State Football Encyclopedia*. Champaign, Ill.: Sports Publishing L.L.C., 1998.

Prato, Lou and Scott Brown. *What it Means to be a Nittany Lion*. Chicago: Triumph Books, 2006.

“Remembering H. Jesse Arnelle, 1962, and his many contributions to Dickinson Law” <https://www.psu.edu/news/administration/story>.

Rice, Jeff. “Jesse Arnelle,” *Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture*. Centre County Historical Society, June 10, 2021.

Sandomir, Richard. “Jesse Arnelle, Pathbreaker in Corporate Law, Dies.” *New York Times*, November 3, 2020.

Weinreb, Michael, “A Great Man on Any Stage,” *The Penn Stater* magazine, January/February 2021.

Weinreb, Michael, “Men Among Lions,” *The Penn Stater* magazine, November/December 2009.

From the Archives



Mike Canich and NROTC students Donovan and Peter moved and assembled the shelving units in the new archives space in the Ice House.

The shelving for the new CCHS archives building has arrived and, with the help of Captain Charles McCole, several students with Naval ROTC at Penn State turned out to help us bring 1000 pounds of shelving to the building and helped put them together!

We are thrilled to get them installed and look forward to moving the archives in August with the help of upcoming service groups.

Many thanks to Captain McCole, Donovan, Peter, Kyle, and CCHS volunteer Mike Canich for all of their work!



Centre Gives Thank You

We are thrilled to announce that the Centre County Historical Society's recent participation in Centre Gives was a huge success, thanks to the support of 133 generous donors who contributed a \$12,755 and another \$5,696 for the Mansion's Restoration. Additionally, you helped us win a \$500 prize and the stretch pool funds exceeded \$2,600 giving us a grand total of \$21,121. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our donors for their incredible generosity. Your donations will help us to continue our mission of preserving and promoting the history of Centre County. We would also like to express our thanks to Centre Foundation for hosting this wonderful giving event. Without its support, this success would not have been possible. Thank you once again for your support and for helping us to make a difference in our community.

Elizabeth Hanley	Martin & Joan Duff	Winand & Patricia Hock	Kate & Jared Oyler	Donnan Stoicovy
Robert Anderson & Kim Tate	James Dunne	Harvey & Ruth Holter	Nancy F. Parks	Lee & Dee Stout
William Asbury & Dr. Deborah Atwater	Eric Durante & Meghann Devlin-Durante	Lam & Lina Hood	Patrick Parsons	Ann Taylor & Marty Gutowski
Eleanor & Dave Baker	Elizabeth A Dutton	Kathleen & Sam Hume	Marcia & Gary Per dew	Martha Taylor
Carol Baney	Rod Egan	Chris & Bob Igo	Nancy Perkins	Vincent & Suzann Tedesco
Mary Lou Bennett	James & Diane Farr	Rebecca Inlow	Bob Potter	John & Christy Thompson
Michael & Deborah Bezilla	Benjamin Fehl	Bette B. Jackson Smith	Tammi Puskar	Molly Tomlin & Scott Yabiku
William Blair	Linda Feltman	Alfred Jones	Steven Putterman	Jennifer Tucker
Jeffrey Bower	Victoria Fong	Richard & Sally Kalin	John Mark Rafacz	Beth Van Horn
Susan Bowser & Ben Drain	Lara Fowler	Gail Kamon	Paula Ralph & Jay Maynard	Lydia & David Vandenberg
Fran Brower	Barbara Franco	Linda Kao	Beth & Ken Raney	Nancy & Wade VanLandingham
Ben Drain	Katie & Rob Frieden	Robert & Virginia Kline	Herman Richey	Justin Vreeland
Fran Budris	Joseph & Nan Geise	Molly Kunkel	Mary & Denise Ricker	Richard Wade
Pam & Chris Calkins	Judith Goetz	Kay Kustanbauer	Ford Risley	Leslie Wagner
Roy & Joyce Christini	Marilyn & Dennis Gouran	Elinor Lewis	Jerry & Jean Ross	Chris Watson
David Coggins & Lisa Kinyon-Coggins	Lee & Carol Gouty	Beverly Lipski	Jay & Joyce Rush	Mary Watson
Catherine Cohan	Mary Alice Graetzer	Linda Littleton & Mel DeYoung	Cecilia Rusnak	Douglas Weirauch
Chris & Stephanie, Dry Colonial Press	Barbara & Innocenzio Grignano	Kenneth Martin	Steven & Stephanie Sattinger	Theresa Welch
Laura & Michael Contino	Cari Gustafson	Lynn Martire	Paul & Vinnie Scanlon	Walter Wells
Scott Dennison & Shari Edelson	Eric & Ester Haffner	Meg Meloy	Peter & Carol Schempf	Steven Wheeler
Kristen Devlin & Matthew Bugaj	Ryan Hamilton	George & Ann Moellenbrock	Elizabeth Shirey	Mary Jane Wild
Doreen Diehl	Mara & Cody Hartzell	Marolyn Morford & John Boswell	Jennifer & Chris Shuey	Roger Williams & Karen Magnuson
John Dillon	Carla Hass	Fran Nuhfer	Josephine Smith	Greg & Paula Wilson
Becky Dreese	Robert & Jan Hazelton	Charles & Debra Nydegger	Thomas Smith	Nancy Jane Wolf
	Judy Heberling & Michael Husband	William & JoAnn O'Hern	Thomas & Sara Songer	Lois Wolfe
	Carolyn Hedges	Carol & Joe O'Neill	Mary & Peter Sorensen	Patricia Yearick
	Lynn Herman	Katie O'Toole & Gary Gray	William Speedy	
	Susan Hochreiter		Kathryn Stager	
			Sandra Stelts & Ronald Filippelli	

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. In addition to those who help with and contribute to events and other activities, we thank the following for their contributions: Kent and Mary Addis, Frank Archibald, Amandeep Cheema, Kathy Johnston, David Lembeck, Paula Wilson, and JustServe Volunteers,



Thank you for contributions to:

The Jacqueline J. Melander Society Fund

Alfred H. Taylor Jr. and Elizabeth Turner Taylor
Dolores Simpson Rose and Arthur Rose

Thank you to our Spring Speaker

We to extend our enthusiastic thanks to Charles Fergus for his May 2 book talk and signing at the Centre Furnace Mansion for his latest book *Lay This Body Down* attracting nearly 50 fans!

Many thanks to Charles for encouraging donations to CCHS for his nature books that he brought as giveaways to customers.

Special thanks to Elaine Meder-Wilgus and Webster's Bookstore for donating all of the proceeds of the evening's sales to CCHS.

We are grateful for the donations and to Charles and Elaine for their generosity.

This talk was part of the Henszey-Pyle Distinguished Author Series.



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
- Individual \$35
 Family \$50
 Friend \$100
 Patron \$250
 Benefactor \$500
 Steward \$1000
 Patronmaster \$1500
 Additional Gift \$ _____

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.

Your membership in the CCHS also makes the preservation possible for the Centre Furnace Mansion, Boegersburg 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.

