

### *The Bellefonte Posse*

By Ralph Seeley

**B**ack in the 1820s, there were gangs that did highway robbery. One of these gangs was called the Lewis and Connolly gang. Besides thieving, this gang also passed counterfeit bank notes, an enterprise made easy because the Pennsylvania legislature had loosened restrictions on banks, so many banks sprouted up.

But the incident related here started with highway robbery. On 21 June 1820 a wagon train carrying goods of Bellefonte merchants broke down in the Seven Mountains, and the drovers went off to a Potters Mills tavern to forget their sorrows. So there was this tempting display of goods, and the eyes of the Lewis and Connolly gang lit up as they rode by the scene. They took whatever suited them and went on toward Lock Haven.

When this robbery was discovered, a posse was formed from Bellefonte citizens. They were sure they knew who did it, and as it was known that the stepmother of David Lewis lived in Sinnemahoning country, they headed off in that direction. They spent the night of 28 June in a Karthaus tavern, and several Karthaus locals added themselves to the posse.

The next day the posse headed across the Quehanna plateau toward the Bennetts Branch of the Sinnemahoning. They started off on an Indian path, but then got lost. They spent the night of 29 June "roosting in trees," for protection from panthers. [Which of course, did leave their horses unprotected.] The next day they got themselves off the plateau and down into the Bennetts Branch, but found no robbery gang. They went downstream to the junction with the Driftwood Branch,

where they met up with a man gigging for eels. [How long do you suppose it has been since there were eels in the Sinnemahoning?] He directed them up the Driftwood Branch, and soon enough they came upon their quarry, shooting mark at a drinking party.

After a brief fire fight, Lewis ended up with a musket ball in an arm, and Connolly with a musket ball in the groin. The two were bound and loaded into a requisitioned dugout canoe. That

was poled down the Driftwood Branch, then the main Sinnemahoning, then the West Branch of the Susquehanna, with the other posse members riding alongside. The two robbers were left at night lying in the water that had collected in the canoe, while an armed guard was mounted over them. Connolly died along the way and was given a cursory burial on July 2.

At a settlement above Lock Haven (which did not exist then)

Lewis was loaded onto a requisitioned wagon and trundled up to Bellefonte. Lewis refused to have his arm amputated, and died on July 12. He was buried in a Milesburg cemetery.

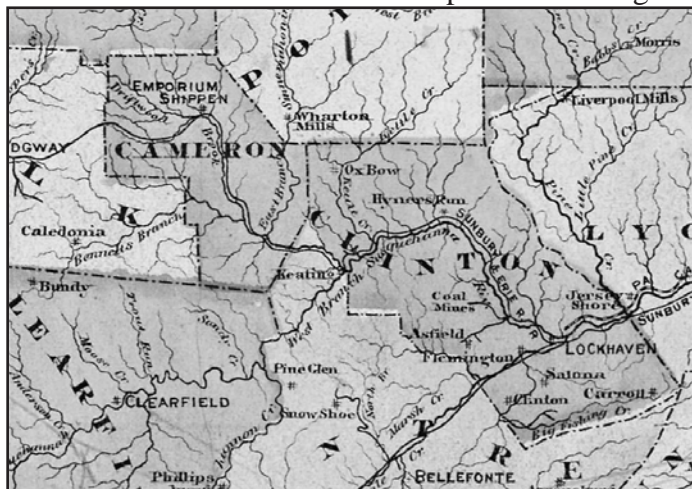
An inquest found that the "acts...of the posse were performed agreeable to laws, and their conduct was marked by humanity and firmness." Why was the posse searching around in what is now Cameron

County? Because that whole area was then under the administrative control of Centre County, the nearest place where there was sufficient population to support a court system and governmental services. Also, in 1822 Peter Karthaus hired a Medix Run man to open a bridle path on top of the Indian path that the posse could not follow—too bad the posse did not have that available in 1820.

1874 Pomeroy Atlas showing the area of the Posse travels.



*Men proudly displaying their eel catch. Pennsylvania.*



# About the Centre County Historical Society

## ☞ Contact Us ☞

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## Centre County Historical Society

Office Hours:

*Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Research Requests & Archives Use:

*By appointment.*

## Centre Furnace Mansion

Public Tours & Exhibits:

*Sun./Wed./Fri. 1:00-4:00 p.m.*

Group Tours: *By appointment.*

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

A community and volunteer-based organization, the Society is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, and 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 ironmaking. 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 Boogersburg One-Room School House.

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.

Society members and others in the community are invited to support these activities by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by the Centre County Community Foundation.

*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 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

Programs are held at the Centre Furnace Mansion unless noted.

### Through September 24, 2017

*Unraveling the Threads of History: Needlework Samplers of the 19th Century*  
Wed/Fri/Sun 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

### July 23, 2017

*CCC Legacy Day: "Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps."*  
Exhibits, programs and a CCC inspired lunch  
10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Poe Valley State Park  
Please RSVP to attend the Lunch

### August 6

Music Under the Sycamore  
featuring music by Pure Cane Sugar  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### August 27

Boogersburg School Open House  
1021 Fox Hill Road  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

### September 10

*An Afternoon with Clara Barton*  
2:00 p.m.

### October 1

Jackie's Joinery Tool Exhibit Re-Opening Reception  
2:00 p.m.

### October 15

*Consumed Nostalgia: Memory in the Age of Fast Capitalism*  
Henszey-Pyle Author Series  
Presented by Dr. Gary Cross  
2:00 p.m.

## Butterfly Release

Centre HomeCare Inc. & Centre Crossings Hospice will be having their 18th annual Butterfly Release on **Sunday, July 30 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Centre Furnace Mansion. The Butterfly Release is to honor the lives of our passed Hospice patients families, but all are welcome. To purchase a butterfly to remember a loved one, contact Kurt Knauff at 237-7400.



Visit [CentreHistory.org](http://CentreHistory.org) to check the event calendar on our website and, if you do not already receive it, sign up for our e-letter to stay current on upcoming CCHS activities.

## President's Corner



### A Little Crooked House

Historic preservation is perhaps the major mission of the Centre County Historical Society. But what happens when an old building with an interesting history simply can't be saved?

Milesburg resident Benjamin Fehl has considered that question for the past 13 years. In 2004, he bought an old house at auction. Not just any old house. This was the home of Abigail Miles whose uncle, Colonel Samuel Miles, was one of Centre County's founding fathers.

Abigail's house was a simple structure, built probably in 1857. It didn't have the colorful history of the older house across the street occupied by her sister Hannah Green. That house, which is now the site of the Milesburg Historical Society, had been Hannah's private residence, then a tavern licensed to Hannah, and finally the first meeting house of the Baptist Congregation that was established in 1821.

By contrast, Abigail's tiny house was simply a home. That was part of its attraction to Benjamin. His initial goal was to restore it and live there while he pursued a couple of advanced degrees in architecture and art at Penn State. So he began to strip away layers of accumulated paint, paneling, and wall paper.

Then came the surprises. The good one? Hidden behind a plastered wall was a massive stone fireplace that was part of the original structure. The bad surprise? The house was developing a noticeable tilt. The more interior layers he stripped away, the more the house began to lean. He soon determined that the structural issues were beyond repair. The crooked house could not be saved. But what could be preserved were the newly-discovered hearth and fireplace, along with the concept of home that had attracted Benjamin to Abigail Miles' simple abode in the first place. Restoration abruptly ended. And an art project began.

Benjamin and other devoted volunteers painstakingly cut the original façade from the "Crooked House," taking care to preserve the tiniest details—from the stressed wood to the square nails to the period trim. In April, he created a fiberglass mold of the façade. When filled with concrete, the mold will become a life-sized sculpture of the original façade. Benjamin's plan is to erect the sculpture in "Homecoming Park" on the original site of Abigail Miles' home. Visitors will be welcomed to sit in front of the fully restored fireplace, and with no walls or roof to contain their thoughts, they can contemplate their own meaning of home.

"Why not memorialize the home?" Benjamin asks. It deserves a tribute, he says, not because of its historical value or because of who lived there or designed it, but because of both its universal appeal and its individual meaning and memories for each of us.

For more on the Crooked House project, visit the website at [thecrookedhouse.net](http://thecrookedhouse.net) or listen to the podcast on Dead Centre. Or visit the site on Market Street in Milesburg where the project is underway. One might even say that it's in the home stretch.

~ Katie O'Toole

## CCHS Programs & Events

### Legacy Day of the Civilian Conservation Corps

July 23, 2017

10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Poe Valley State Park, pavilion near the beach area



*CCC Boys at Company 1333 Camp S-63 near Poe Valley receive lunch in the field.*

CCHS is pleased to partner with the PA DCNR and local historian, Bill Marcum to host a history day about the Civilian Conservation Corps: Company 1333, Camp S-63 on July 23. You may come and go as you please - the program will take place next to the lake in the quiet mountain valley that surrounds Poe Lake, a perfect place for a family day.

Enjoy talks, memorabilia displays, an authentic CCC film and a free lunch featuring menu items from historic CCC menu boards sponsored by Husqvarna, Martech and Millheim Small Engine & Hardware. CCC veterans, families, CCC history buffs, and local historians, are encouraged to attend and bring your CCC stories, questions and step back in time! It is said that the "boys" were better fed at the CCC camp than they would have been at home. While lunch is free, we would appreciate an RSVP.

Learn how events brought about the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps program that included the construction of Poe Valley State Park and about life in a CCC camp. Visit the site where the camp was erected and see the original "officer's quarters" building and enjoy a stroll along Poe Valley Lake that resulted from the construction of an earthen and masonry dam through the works of CCC Company 1333 Camp S-63 located near the park

Bring any photos or mementos you have that you wish to share with others. This is an event for everyone and all ages. CCC veterans, sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, extended family members, CCC history buffs, and local historians are encouraged to attend. Bring your CCC stories and questions and step back in time!



*Event attendees browse the CCC artifacts and photographs at the 2016 Legacy Day.*

### Program Schedule

- **10:30–10:40 a.m.** Welcome by Mary Sorensen, CCHS & Josh Bruce, Park Manager, DCNR
- **10:40–10:50 a.m.** Introduction of Veterans, Bill Marcum
- **10:50–11:35 a.m.** CCC Company 1333, Camp S-63 Introduction, by Jack Yarnall, current property owner & local historian, Bill Marcum
- **11:35–12:00 p.m.** Regional CCC Camps – Vonnie Henninger
- **12:00–12:45 p.m.** Free Lunch (same menu served in camp) To RSVP for lunch call (814) 234-4779.
- **12:45–2:15 p.m.** CCC Company 1333, Camp S-63 History, Bill Marcum
- **2:15 – 2:30 p.m.** Break
- **2:30–2:40 p.m.** Showing of Camp S-63 Motion Picture dated July 1936
- **2:40–3:30 p.m.** CCC Company 1333, Camp S-63 History, Bill Marcum
- **3:30 p.m.** – Visitors may visit the original CCC Camp site, including Officers Quarters and Forestry Quarters on their way home

### Event Supporters



Husqvarna®

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**Please RSVP, if you will be attending lunch, at 814-234-4779 or at [info@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@centrecountyhistory.org)**

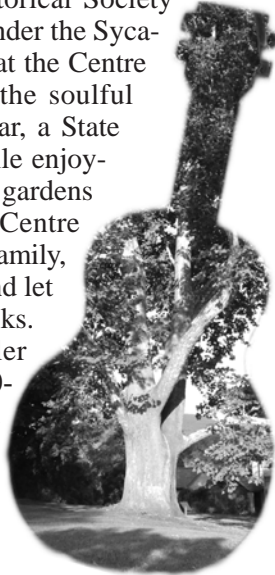


## ***Music Under the Sycamore*** ***Summer Party at the Centre Furnace Mansion*** Sunday, August 6 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



**T**he Centre County Historical Society invites you to Music Under the Sycamore, a summer party at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Take in the soulful harmonies of Pure Cane Sugar, a State College Americana band, while enjoying the beautifully landscaped gardens and grounds of the historic Centre Furnace Mansion. Bring your family, friends, chairs and blankets and let us provide the music and snacks.

The Mansion and sampler exhibition is open from 1:00-4:00 p.m., come early and enjoy tours and stroll the beautiful gardens and grounds. Ticket prices are \$15 per person or \$25 for two and may be purchased at CentreHistory.org or by calling Johanna or Mary at 814-234-4779. Proceeds from Music Under the Sycamore benefit the Centre County Historical Society.



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

Sunday, November 5

3:00 p.m.

@ the Penn State/Centre County Visitor Center.

**T**he Centre County Historical Society has recognized 207 individuals and organizations for their outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Centre County's rich history for 28 years. Join us as we honor the work of our 2017 Preservation Award recipients.

Award recipients will be featured on our website in October. For more information contact Mary Sorensen at [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org) or 814-234-4779.

Thank you to the Centre County Government for their sponsorship of the CNET filming



## ***Ring the Bell!*** ***Boogersburg School Open House***

Sunday, August 27

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

1021 Fox Hill Road, State College



**T**he Boogersburg School (1877 to 1952) once welcomed students in grades one through eight during the late years of the Victorian Era, two World Wars and the Great Depression. Now it offers children of all ages a glimpse back in time. The historic charm of the Boogersburg School is often missed by those passing 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.

Bring your family and friends and join us as we go back to school for an afternoon in a one-room school house, and maybe even meet a Boogersburg School alumni. Share stories of attending a one-room school, learn about the local history, try your hand at arithmetic lessons, enjoy recess in the field and even ring the bell!

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



## CentreGives 2017

A million thanks to all who contributed during Centre Gives to the Centre County Historical Society. Your support means everything. This important gift enables the Society to keep the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School vital places where history can come alive for visitors of all ages. These special sites provide a unique learning environment for curious elementary age students, a rewarding research experience for college interns, and an intriguing public program location for topics ranging from Centre County and Pennsylvania history and culture to woodworking, and antique collections to period gardens. Your donations also help CCHS to reach out into the community through rich collaborations of programs and partnerships. You need only page through this newsletter to see a sampling of activities that your support makes possible.

Together, you helped to raise **\$11,540.00!** Along with Centre Foundation's contribution and good work in Centre County, the total received by CCHS reached **\$13,163.57.**

It is with warmest gratitude that we thank you from the Centre County Historical Society and all who graciously volunteer their time and expertise to make the CCHS a truly rich community resource.

## Docent and Volunteer Field Trip

Thank you to Bob Cameron and the docents at Boal Mansion and to James Leshner of Rhoneymeade Arboretum for hosting tours of their facilities for our CCHS group. Tours like this help us to make connections and gain a better hands-on understanding of our county's history and we hope to reciprocate!



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## Docent Meeting Dates for 2017

**Friday, August 11, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, October 10, 1:30 p.m.**

Docent meetings are held in the  
Centre Furnace Mansion Hearth Room.

## Plant Celebration Thank You



Thank you to everyone for a successful 2017 Plant Celebration! The weather was certainly better than predicted, and everything ran very smoothly thanks to the many, many hours of careful planning and preparation of all involved.

Special thanks to Beverly Lipski and Katie Frieden [and of course Noo Noo] for their many hours of planning and coordinating preparation hours this spring. And many thanks to CFM Gardeners Judy Heberling, Mike Husband, Marshall Garrett [and Marshall's truck], Jan Villastrigo, Ruth Merritt, Chris Igo, Lou Mayer, Jan Villastrigo, Mike Canich Joyce Christini, Vicki Spadaccio, Jo Merrell, Floyd Todd, Judy Heberling, and Carol Phillips, Suzann Tedesco, Susan Toby Evans, Fran Nufer, Susan Bowser.



A special nod to Mike Husband and Floyd Todd for bringing order to the parking lots in the morning! And also to Carol Phillips for working for a whole day to clean up the Kitchen Garden last week and for creating an educational handout and giving tours of the Kitchen Garden during the sale. And thank you to Jan Villastrigo for keeping the master file of all of the plants sold at the sale and overseeing labeling for nearly 1000 plants.



Nicole Packard, Art  
Alliance of Central PA

And, of course, kudos to the Kokedama team that made well over \$300 - go moss balls! Thank you Ruth Merritt, Beverly Lipski, Chris Igo, and Katie Frieden for your time and donations for this project, it was a good one!

Many thanks to those who handled over 30 Mansion and exhibition tours - Betsy Taylor, Pam Calkins, Elizabeth Dutton, Bonnie Walter, Diane Farr and Ann Moellenbrock. And for popping in with plant donations, thank you to Steve Wheeler, Michele Ebaugh, Lucy Boyce, Suzanne Thompson, and Shari Edelson.



## Gardener's Corner



*The Centre Furnace Mansion gardeners.*

The period charm of the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardens have offered a succession of interest, fragrance and abundant color this year from February's dainty Snowdrops to May's bountiful Lilac blossoms. Now lilies grace the gardens along with summer self-sowing Larkspur, Silene and newly budding blossoms of the Vitex Tree, or summer lilac.

It is the enthusiasm, good cheer and hard work of the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners that make this possible. Every week on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-5:00 p.m. you will find a group tackling the garden areas that are most needy! They coordinate the potting and sales for the annual Plant Celebration, lead efforts for about 10 community service days per year including the **Day of Caring coming up on October 5**, decorate the Mansion's exterior and prepare plant gifts for the Stocking Stuffer sale. There are not enough words to thank you for what you do weekly and nearly year round. It is a gift to CCHS and to all who visit the Mansion.

The Gardeners are offering an **Heirloom Bulb sale** this year to benefit the Gardens and Grounds. If you are interested in planting bulbs this fall and supporting this effort, keep tuned in to the Society's e-letter or call Johanna or Mary at 814-234-4779 – we can email you an order form or you could pick one up at the Mansion.



## Jackie's Joinery

### *Exhibit building receives new roof*



The early 20th century outbuildings at the Centre Furnace Mansion add charm, color and interest to the grounds, but they also serve a vital purpose. The lower shed provides critical storage for our garden tools and other supplies. Named for our emerita CCHS Board President, Jackie Melander, the upper "Jackie's Joinery" shed contains the Richard W. Pencek Collection of carpentry and wood working tools donated by Dick Pencek.

Dick went on to use the outbuildings as a hands-on educational tool in his Penn State American Studies class to teach the old ways of approaching building techniques while implementing much needed repairs to the buildings. Jackie's Joinery has continued to provide educational opportunities through CCHS programs and Penn State Integrative Arts. The most recent project was a past due roof replacement for Jackie's Joinery. We owe a debt of gratitude to newly graduated Penn State History major, Jim Belko who spearheaded this project with Dick's guidance and donation of materials through his emeritus teaching fund at Penn State.

No stranger to construction, Jim generously contributed his knowledge, initiative and passion for history to the project. Many special thanks to Jim and Dick for their time and talent in this effort. Special thanks to Steve and Carol Gentry and Alan Popovich for their donations as well. And to Chenzie Grignano, Katie O'Toole, Floyd Todd, Johanna Sedgwick, Peter Sorensen, Marshall and Jim Garrett, thank you so much for your hardwork!

The exhibition will be updated and reinstalled this summer and we invite you to join us for an outdoor reception on October 1 to re-introduce the display!

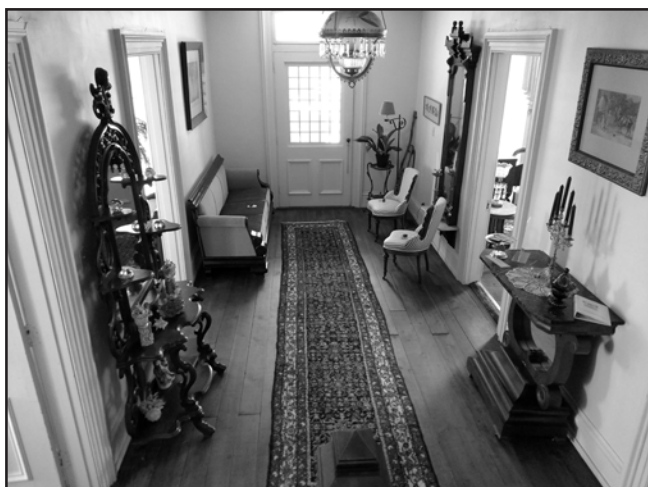
**Jackie's Joinery  
19th Century Building Tool Exhibition  
Opening Reception**

**Sunday, October 1 @ 2:00 p.m.**

## Collections Investigation

By Betsy Taylor

When you were a child, did you ever indulge in a game of “lets pretend”? I invite you to “pretend” with me now as we enter the Centre Furnace mansion during the Victorian era in the years following the Civil War:



The Mansion is the center of local activity - from hosting the new land grant college’s dignitaries and visitors as well as farm and businessmen dropping by with proposals or concerns for Moses Thompson.

Most visitors arrive by horse and buggy, climbing the long exterior staircase, and entering the spacious front hall. (Mind those hoop skirts on those perilous stairs!). A servant greets you, takes your cloak and hat and in turn, you produced a calling card. The card would indicate whether this was a social or business call and in either case, the card was placed in a receptacle on a nearby table.

As you wait to see Mr. or Mrs. Thompson, you can feel the breeze in summer from the doors open not only at the front entrance but also at the back of the long hallway. The open doors also allow light to enter this normally dark space. The hallway, when not being used for company, is a gathering place! It provides a recreational space for games in the winter and women’s sewing bees in the summer. It is also a pleasant space to sit, read, sip tea, or visit.

As you wait to be received, you might notice the array of fire buckets, waiting for the off chance of a need to squelch a fire. In each bucket assembled might be a small removable pouch, as the fear of fire also meant the fear of the loss of valuables. In case of a fire, residents of the home would fill the pouches with their small treasures, and then fill the empty buckets with water to douse the flames.

As you wait to see the Thompsons, you start to admire the elegant furniture in the hall. A long pier mirror placed at the front of the hall provides an opportunity for a visitor to check his appearance. While not original

to the mansion, a pier mirror does hang in the Mansion Hall, and is flanked by two late 19th century Renaissance chairs given to the Mansion by Robert Thompson, great grandson of Moses and Mary. If you are a female guest, you may wish to check to make sure your petticoat is not showing. That would be a terrible faux pas! Moving down the hallway a bit you spy an Empire style table with a mirror at foot level. Yes! It is a petticoat mirror with a lyre base and a marble top. Given to the Mansion in memory of the Thompson’s great granddaughter, Mary Irvin Thompson-Stahle by her son and daughter.

And, lastly, you might wish to stop and admire the étagère, which holds all sorts of interesting “treasures” for your admiration. You notice some souvenirs from travel, a book, and a dried bouquet, perhaps from a daughter’s wedding. An interesting piece of Victoriana, the mansion’s étagère is a mid-1800 Rocco Revival piece, donated to the Mansion by the great-granddaughter of James and Jennie Thompson.



Here comes your welcoming host to greet you at last! But, as you depart to one of the adjacent parlors, you look up at the beautiful chandelier! The chandelier is original to the house and, in all probability, a light fixture that began first as a kerosene lamp before it was electrified by businessman David Garver and his wife, Anita Imboden Garver, who lived in the house for over 50 years (1920-1975).

While our pretend visit to Centre Furnace Mansion has ended, yours can now begin! Do come for a visit... you may not be able to enter by the front hall, or pull up in a horse and buggy, nor will you exit by the hall’s back door (larger than the front door to accommodate bulkier furniture and possibly the passage of a coffin) but we promise a good time will be had by all!

## Welcome Thompsons!

When John I. Thompson married Elizabeth Boal on October 12, 1870, it was a merger of two distinguished Centre County families whose homes, the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boal Mansion, are historic treasures and public resources. On August 12, the John I. Thompson branch of Moses and Mary Irvin Thompson’s family will be gathering for their reunion at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Welcome home!



Thompson Family, 2009



## Thank you School Tour Docents!

Spring brought over 1100 elementary age school students at the Boegersburg School and Centre Furnace Mansion from the State College Area School District. Students especially love the interactive components like wearing name tags with names of real Centre Countians of the 19th century, getting to play the piano at the Mansion, or writing on slate boards at the School.

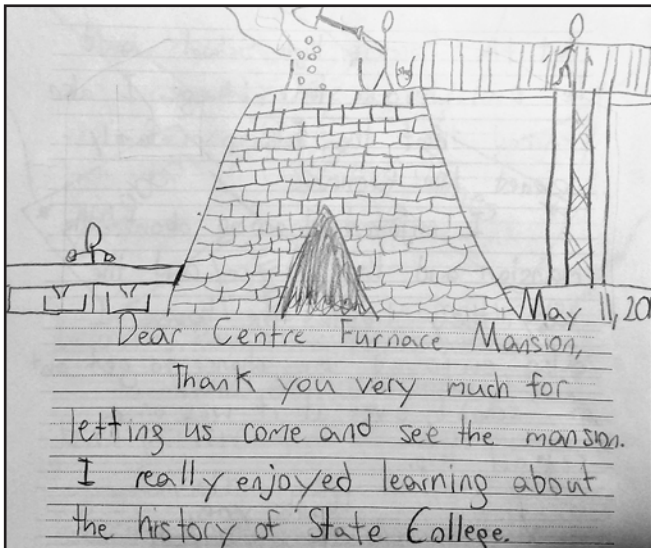


CCHS and Boegersburg school tour docents.

From an Elementary School Teacher:

*"As a teacher, I love the fact that it supports our history curriculum and really brings history home to our area. I also appreciate the balance between the big concept, the importance of iron to this area/time period, and small interesting facts, like the use of calling cards. When I discuss this trip with my students, they connect to this trip when they simulate the roles of the historic occupants. It helps them to understand the people and lifestyle of the era. The various ways the information is presented keeps the students involved and interested. From the role-playing, to the "find us" in the miniature replica, to the scavenger hunt in the kitchen, the students are asked to listen, think, relate, and discover to make meaning. I would like to commend you on structuring such a developmentally appropriate, historical experience. It is always memorable, educational, and fun. See you next year. Thank-you!"*

There is no better way to thank our School Tour Docents for their collaboration on curriculum for both sites and for their strong passion for teaching: Lynn Royse, Gloria Nieweg, Deb Raykovitz, Linda Witmer, Doyle Wilkerson, Linda Forrest, Nancy Jacobson, Bonnie Abrams and Judi Kur, and to Boegersburg School Coordinator, Olivia Perdew.



## Intern News

Priscilla Mariani is a History and Anthropology major at Penn State and is working with CCHS as a History Intern during the summer semester to research and help create a mini exhibit about the story of Hilda and Alice Thompson and their service in the Red Cross. It is the Centennial of the Centre Communities Chapter of the



Hilda Patton Thompson



Alice Irvin Thompson

Red Cross, and thus fitting that we highlight the Thompson women's role that spanned over WWI and WWII.

Many thanks to Priscilla and Virginia Brown, retired Executive Director of the Centre Communities Chapter of the Red Cross for their time and wonderful research!

**This display will be open  
August 13 through December 22, 2017.**

## Students Consulting for Nonprofit Organizations

CCHS had the good fortune to participate as a client with Penn State's Students Consulting for Nonprofit Organization (SCNO) during the 2016-17 academic year. We extend our sincere thanks to SCNO Business Club team members: Tommy Brewton, Kate McGrath, Mackenzie Anderson, Dan Mele, Frankie Haver. Over the past year, they helped us develop a more comprehensive marketing plan, no small task. SCNO team members carefully evaluated what we already had in place, genuinely listened to our challenges, and leaned in! They took the time to do a marketing review, complete a marketing plan template that can expand as we need, and helped us design an internship job description so that we might better address our ongoing marketing needs.

Our sincere thanks go out to SCNO. This team was devoted, talented and a joy to work with. Their commitment to CCHS during the 2016/17 Fall and Spring semester was an appreciated and meaningful contribution.



## Old House Fair Thank you!

**M**any, many thanks to all who prepared programs and helped out with the 2017 Old House Fair in April! As a partner organization with the Old House Fair, we are sincerely grateful for all of the time and effort that all of the Old House Fair speakers took to prepare relevant presentations and share professional expertise with attendees. Most of our speakers contributed their time and presentations to the event.

In its second year, over 100 people attended and we hosted a total of 25 individual programs/tours at the rehabilitated Pennsylvania Match Factory and historic backdrop of Victorian Bellefonte.

Again, we are grateful for your participation in what was clearly a very meaningful event and one we look forward to co-hosting again next year! We are currently in the planning stages for 2018 and will share that information when confirmed.



Own an old house?

If you have ideas for programs you might like to see or if you would be willing to sponsor one of the programs for the Old House Fair, please contact Mary Sorensen at [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org) or 814-234-4779 for more information.

View the keynote presentation of Ed McMahon *The New Formula for Community Revitalization* at [CentreHistory.org/OHF](http://CentreHistory.org/OHF). Thank you to the Centre County Government for their sponsorship C-Net filming.

**Partner Organizations:** Centre County Historical Society, Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association, American Philatelic Society

**Committee Members:** Joseph Griffin, Mary Sorensen, Ken Martin, Nancy Perkins, Jeanne Newlin, Melady Kehm, Johanna Sedgwick

### Sponsors:

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Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association  
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### Professional Program Committee:

David Albright, The Albright Studio  
Rodney Beard, Beard Law Company  
Robert Jacobs, Planning and Community Development  
Robert Lingenfelter, Weber Murphy Fox  
Pat Long, Keller Williams  
Tim Maness, Derck & Edson Associates  
Alan Popovich, APArchitects, LLC  
Glenn Vernon, Albertin Vernon Architecture, LLC

### Program Presenters:

Lee Cowan, Lee Cowan Design  
Mindy Crawford, Preservation Pennsylvania  
Scott Doyle, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Ian Groy, Bartlett Tree Experts  
Sue Hannegan, County Planning and Community Development Office  
Brian Henderson, Envinity  
Michael Immel, Penn State  
Bonnie Mark, Delta Development Group, Inc.  
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Ken Martin, American Philatelic Society  
Ed McMahon, Urban Land Institute – Keynote Speaker  
Gil Morrison, Morrison Construction  
Mark Newman and Chris Brown, Derck & Edson  
Kenneth Nuttle, Kenneth Nuttle Historic Preservation  
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Olivia Perdew, Discovery Space  
Becky Roman, Consultant in historic preservation  
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Mary Sorensen, Centre County Historical Society  
Bryan Swistock, Penn State  
Glenn Vernon, Albertin Vernon, LLC  
Regis Will, Vesta Home Services  
Craig Zabel, Penn State

**Event Volunteers:** Joni Arrington, Pam Calkins, Marshall Garrett, Ann Moellenbrock, Deb McManus, Katie O'Toole, Peter Sorensen



2017 Old House Fair Banquet



## Thank you for your Service



*Penn State Homecoming Committee and Bridge Initiative*

The Centre County Historical Society relies on community service groups from local organizations to help us with gardening, painting, organizing, cleaning and a number of other projects inside and out. We thank the following Penn State student volunteer organizations for their hard work and generous spirit this spring and early summer!:

Penn State Circle K  
Penn State Homecoming Committee  
The Bridge Initiative  
Penn State Student Affairs  
Penn State Summer Day of Service

## Museum Store

New in our Museum Store are two sampler patterns designed specifically for CCHS that complement the current exhibit, *Unraveling the Threads of History*. The Centre Furnace Mansion sampler features the grand facade of the Mansion and was designed by Lynda DeBrasky. The Centre County sampler was designed by Ann Barton and uses elements present in samplers created circa 1820 by students of Bellefonte teacher Sarah Tucker.

*CCHS publications and local history publications may be purchased online at: [www.centrehistory.org/about-us/store/](http://www.centrehistory.org/about-us/store/) CCHS members receive a 10% discount on select CCHS publications. Enter MEMBERS10 at the checkout.*



## From the Archives

### *The Townships And How They Were Named*

*From Centre County Heritage, October 1968*



- Benner – In honor of Philip Benner, early ironmaster
- Boggs – In honor of Judge Robert Boggs
- Burnside – In honor of Centre County Judge and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Burnside
- College – Location of Pennsylvania Agricultural College, now Penn State
- Curtin – In honor of the Curtin family
- Ferguson – In honor of Thomas Ferguson, early settler
- Gregg – In honor of Andrew Gregg, prominent settler
- Haines – In honor of Reuben Haines, early land owner
- Halfmoon – From Indian marks on the trees
- Harris – In honor of James Harris, co-founder of Bellefonte
- Howard – In honor of John Howard, English philanthropist
- Huston – In honor of Charles Huston, Judge of Centre County and of Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Liberty – Patriotic sounding name, but reason unknown
- Marion – In honor of General Francis Marion who served in the American Revolution
- Miles – In honor of Colonel Samuel Miles, early land owner
- Patton – In honor of Colonel John Patton, early ironmaster
- Penn – In honor of the William Penn family
- Potter – In honor of General James Potter, early land owner and Revolutionary General
- Rush – In honor of Benjamin Rush, famous Pennsylvania doctor
- Snow Shoe – Place name of where a pair of Indian snow shoes were found
- Spring – Many springs of water within its boundaries
- Taylor – In honor of General Zachary Taylor, from the Mexican War
- Union – Origin unknown
- Walker – In honor of Jonathan Walker, early Judge in Centre County
- Worth – in honor of General William Worth, from Mexican War



## CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

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State College, PA 16801

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## Membership

*New members welcome anytime.*



Your membership and gifts support all aspects of the Centre County Historical Society's operations in our mission to "help people understand, experience, appreciate and preserve Centre County's cultural and natural heritage." Membership benefits include: *Mansion Notes* - the Society's quarterly newsletter; advance notice of programs; discounted special event admission rates, and a 10% discount on all CCHS publications.

Thank you to all of our new and continuing members. We hope you value your membership in the Centre County Historical Society as much as we value your support and participation. We invite you to return your membership renewal, if you have not yet renewed for this year. Make checks payable to CCHS and send to 1001 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801.

**You may also join or donate online at [www.centrehistory.org](http://www.centrehistory.org).**

☐ New Member      ☐ Renewal

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☐ I wish to help cut down on mailing costs and help the environment. Please send me information via e-mail!

☐ I would like my membership / donation to remain anonymous.