

The History of the Boalsburg Tavern - and the Woman Who Saved It

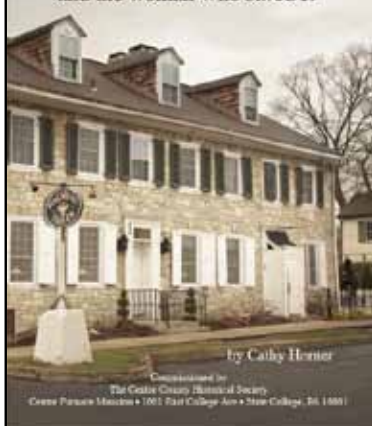
Duffy's Boalsburg Tavern is celebrating 200 years on the diamond in Boalsburg. This article, with excerpts from our recently published book, "The History of the Boalsburg Tavern – And the Woman Who Saved It" is written to help celebrate this amazing building's history.

Traveling near and far by stagecoach was the best way to get from here to there in Pennsylvania in the early 1800s. Colonel James Johnston knew that an Inn and Tavern situated on a busy stagecoach route would be a smart business investment. In 1819, James and his wife Hannah constructed the stone structure that still functions as a restaurant and tavern today. When you visit, be certain to look high on the building's front façade and see the original date stone with their initials still visible today.

"Using locally quarried and cut limestone, the construction probably took nearly two years to complete according to local architecture expert Richard Pencek. The extremely heavy cut stones would be lifted into place by a pulley system. Two horses would lift the stone fastened to the pulley and then two men on ladders would need to swing the stone into place. It was dangerous work often resulting in injury or even death. The tavern was built as a two and a half story Georgian center hall building with many additions added in the years following."

The Boalsburg Tavern saw many owners throughout its early history and most of them put their own stamp on the

The History of the Boalsburg Tavern – and the Woman Who Saved It



During the Great Depression it was owned by local dignitary Theodore Boal. Boal never ran the tavern himself but leased the premises to others wishing to run an inn. Fate would strike on Valentines Day, 1934 during the time of one of these leases.

"A townspeople noticed smoke and flames shooting out of the building's roof. Passersby, including Fred Lonaberger, rushed in to the tavern to notify Myrtle Thompson, the current innkeeper, who was working in the kitchen...everyone escaped with no injuries. The Boalsburg Fire Company arrived within ten minutes and immediately put out a call for help from the Alpha fire company in State College. It was 12:15 a.m. on a windy February night when the fire quickly engulfed the entire roof. As the fire was spreading, Boalsburg residents ran inside the building

and carried out many of the antiques, some of which were already damaged by smoke and water. Both fire companies fought the blaze for hours. Finding the two-inch water main inadequate for their needs, several members of the Boalsburg Fire Company stood for nearly an hour in 18-inch freezing water to dam up Spring Creek high enough so water could be pumped. The orange glow in the sky could be seen from State College, and many drove to Boalsburg to see what was burning. Finally, the fire companies were able to



The day the work began after the fire.

extinguish the blaze, but the damage had been done. As over 300 onlookers watched, the realization set in that their beloved town tavern was destroyed."

The stone walls survived the fire, but Theodore Boal had no funds available for reconstruction, so the building

Continued on page 9



Rear of the Tavern after the fire.

historic structure. The village of Boalsburg relied on its tavern as the center of information and entertainment for decades.

About the Centre County Historical Society

☞ Contact Us ☞

Centre County Historical Society
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State College, PA 16801
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info@centrecountyhistory.org

www.centrehistory.org
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www.instagram.com/centre.county.history

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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*We welcome David Panko as the new
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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 Iron Master'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 Boogersburg One-Room School House.

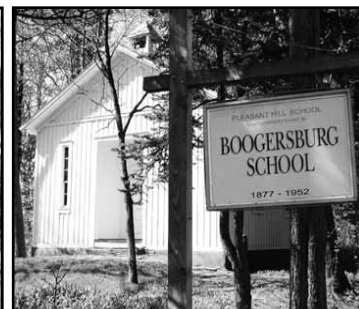
The Centre County Historical Society depends on financial contributions that help support our free public programs and educational opportunities for children, and provide necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of the Society's facilities and collections. Your membership and generosity are 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 *.

SUN/WED/FRI Through March 29, 2020

Exhibition: *Up, Up and Away: Sherm Lutz and the State College Air Depot*

SUN/WED/FRI Through September 22

Exhibition: *The Magic Mirror: Art of the Daquerreotype*

SUN August 25, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Boogersburg School Open House
*Fox Hollow Rd.

SUN September 8, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Music Under the Sycamore featuring Pure Cane Sugar.

SUN September 22, 2:00 p.m.

OHF On The Road – *Restoration of the Leonard Rhone House* presented by James Leshner
* At Rhoneymeade Arboretum in Centre Hall

SAT September 28, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

OHF On The Road – Window Restoration Workshop. Registration required.

THU October 3, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

United Way Day of Caring at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School

SUN October 13, 2:00 p.m.

Lady First: The World of First Lady Sarah Polk
Talk and book signing by author Amy Greenberg.

SUN November 3, 3:00 p.m. John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards of CCHS @ the Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center

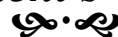
SAVE THE DATE!

FRI, SAT, SUN December 6-8, Stocking Stuffer, A Magical Holiday Market



Visit CentreHistory.org to check the CCHS event calendar and/or sign up for our e-letter to stay current on upcoming CCHS activities.

President's Corner



Back To School

At least since 1927 when it first appeared in print, this refrain can sometimes be heard on the last day of school:

No more pencils;
No more books;
No more teacher's dirty looks.

Sure, the years can add a glow to memories of childhood. Yet, to hear John Blair Linn tell it in his *History of Centre and Clinton Counties*, the children's ditty may aptly reflect Centre County's early school masters. For starters, they were also known as 'wielders of the birch.'

"With here and there an exception, the schoolmasters of the past generation were deficient in nearly all of the qualities that make the good teacher," Linn wrote. "They were intemperate, tyrannical, illiterate, and considered unfit for any business except school-teaching. We hear of many who used profane language in school, and had habitually a bottle of whiskey secreted somewhere about the school-house."

Linn maintained that the primary qualifications for teaching were "proficiency in writing, skill in making quill-pens, and physical vigor to thrash unruly boys." Not content with doling out mere dirty looks, the early teacher that Linn describes disciplined students in ways that would be considered criminal in the 21st century.

"He was more lavish than discriminating in meting out punishments. If some luckless urchin among a number of still more luckless mates fell into mischief, the teacher did not waste time endeavoring to discover the culprit, but seized one of the long rods and flogged the whole row simultaneously."

The transition to the intelligent, talented, inventive, and compassionate teachers who fill Centre County schools today began with the advent of so-called "normal schools" in the mid-19th century. These were institutions devoted to educating and training teachers. In the early 20th century, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took over the normal schools which became state teacher's colleges (before evolving into state colleges and universities such as Lock Haven, Slippery Rock, and Bloomsburg). The educators who graduated from the normal schools brought their professionalism, knowledge, and expertise in teaching methods to the one-room school houses that dotted Centre County.

Only a couple of one-room school houses have survived into the 21st century. One is the Boogersburg School on Fox Hill Road. In 1877, Moses Thompson, the iron master at Centre Furnace, deeded the property in Patton Township for the Boogersburg School. He wanted to make sure that the children of his iron workers and tenant farmers had access to an elementary education. The school was in operation for 75 years.

On August 25th, the Boogersburg School will once again open its doors for the annual back-to-school Open House. Beginning at 1 p.m., visitors will be greeted by one of the Historical Society's talented "school marms," a volunteer docent who will recreate the experience of attending a rural school a century ago. Soapstone, slate, and chalkboards will be the 19th century substitute for pencils and books. And as for teacher's dirty looks? At the Boogersburg School, that's a thing of the past. Expect plenty of smiles.



Boogersburg Docent Doyle Wilkerson

~ Katie O'Toole

Programs and Exhibitions

Up, Up and Away:

Sherm Lutz and the State College Air Depot

Through – March 29, 2020

Sun/Wed/Fri @1:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

We have enjoyed a busy spring and summer with our recently added *Up, Up and Away* exhibition. Special guests who were around during the evolution of Centre County's history of aviation have been sharing stories about Sherm Lutz and the State College Air Depot. One of those guests was Phyllis Lutz Barr, Sherm's niece, who donated the Sherm Lutz Collection to CCHS. Phyllis remembered how Sherm would fly over his parents' home near Black Moshannon on Sunday mornings when the weather was fair and drop off a Sunday paper.



Lutz with farmer, and investors at the Pine Tree, c. 1930.

Another visitor remembered Sherm as an excellent pilot, but when it came to driving a car, that was another matter! A recently retired commercial pilot used to call down to Sherm when he was flying over State College in Sherm's later years, and Sherm would always answer. All who have stopped in and knew Sherm remembered him being generous to a fault and always staying connected with his student pilots.

Our gratitude to David and Randi Blauth, Chris Groshel, L. Suzanne Kellerman, Thomas and Sara Songer, Gene Stocker, and Nancy and Archie McDonnell for their financial support of the *Up, Up, and Away* exhibition and the Sherm Lutz Collection. We continue to

If you have not had a chance to visit *Up, Up and Away*, we hope you will stop by soon!

We are working on collecting oral histories related to Centre County's history of aviation and Sherm Lutz. If you or someone you know has a story you would like to share, we invite you to reach out by contacting Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or email at msorensen@centrefurnace.org.

Dead Centre Podcast

Katie O'Toole has been working on her latest *Dead Centre* Podcasts focused on Centre County Aviation and has recently completed Episode Eight: *Centre County's First in Flight*. Listen and dive into the adventures of the early airmail pilots who flew blindly across the Allegheny Mountains, stopping in Bellefonte, PA, on the first leg of the transcontinental airmail route, and hear from Bob Hines whose Uncle Dan wrote an early history of the airmail pioneers.

Listen to all of Katie's *Dead Centre* podcasts at: <https://www.centrehistory.org/podcasts/> or subscribe to *Dead Centre* on your phone or other device.

Mansion Exhibition Series

Sun/Wed/Fri @1:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Through September 22, 2019

The Centre County Historical Society Exhibition Series features smaller, temporary exhibitions from CCHS and private collections. These exhibitions will be on display in the Centre Furnace Mansion Hearth Room and first floor period Kitchen during regular tour hours of 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

The Magic Mirror: Art of the Daguerreotype

Featuring artifacts from CCHS and private collectors, this exhibition looks at the timeline and process of daguerreotype photography and early photography equipment.

Louie-Jacques-Mandé-Daguerre introduced the daguerreotype process in 1839, a process that was widely used from the 1840s until the late 1850s in the U.S. Each daguerreotype image was one-of-a-kind; there was no negative. Each one remains an individual artifact and unique as a painting. After 1860 the process was quickly replaced by the ambrotype, tintype and paper negative. Thank you to Ann and George Moellenbrock for their work in developing this exhibition.



Daguerreotype of Moses and Mary Thompson.

The Evolution of the Camera

The Hearth Room display case currently showcases early cameras from a private collection that are part of a collection gathered over several decades by Jim Walter. Jim's interest in collecting is focused on the evolution of design – how iterations of camera and accessory designs changed subtly as their manufacturers responded to changes in available materials, rival companies' designs, and the desires of their customers. The collection on display largely ranges from the late 1800s through the 1940s. Curated by Cody Goddard.



Full plate view camera and stereo view camera.

Boogersburg School Open House

Sunday, August 25 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Located at 1021 Fox Hill Road, State College on the road to the University Park Airport



Schoolmarms, slates, and sack races! Celebrate going back to school 19th century style with this special open house at the historic Boogersburg School, a period one-room schoolhouse. While many Penn State students are starting classes and local school children are about to enter into their new school year, children of all ages can experience a rare glimpse of school life in the 19th century. Hosted by the Centre County Historical Society, this is an event for the whole family. Free and open to the public.

Come any time from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., join us for refreshments, learn about the school's history, enjoy recess games, try your hand at "mental math", and even ring the school bell! You might even meet alumni of Boogersburg School or hear stories from others who attended a one room school as a student.

Boogersburg School was built in 1877 for Patton Township children on land given to the Township by Centre Furnace iron master and farmer Moses Thompson. The school was in operation until 1952.

Whether you attended Boogersburg or another one-room school, or are simply interested in early school life in a one room school setting, we hope you will join us!



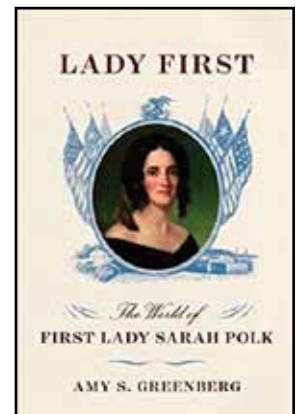
Henszey-Pyle Distinguished Author Series

Sunday, October 13 @ 2:00 p.m.

Lady First: The World of First Lady Sarah Polk

Presented by author, Amy S. Greenberg

Amy Greenberg, a professor of History and Women's Studies at Penn State, will deliver a biography of Sarah Polk, an influential yet not well-known 19th-century American woman. "She argues that Polk, as first lady from 1845 to 1849, was powerful, popular, and publicly political. Liberal women supported the emerging women's rights movement, but the more conservative Polk acquired power by manipulating female deference—remaining outwardly subordinate to men—to advance her own power." —Publishers Weekly



Our many thanks to Henszey-Pyle Distinguished Author Series authors and presenters for their spring and summer programs at the Centre Furnace Mansion based on their recent books:

- Dr. Peter Gilmore presented *Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania*.
- Dr. Roger Geiger presented *American Higher Education since World War II: A History*.

Award for Advocacy

We are pleased to share that Dick Pencek has been chosen to receive the Vernacular Architecture Forum's (VAF) 2019 Award for Advocacy on May 29 at their annual conference in Philadelphia. The award recognizes all that Dick has done to advocate for historic resources in Central Pennsylvania.

VAF is a North American organization "dedicated to the appreciation and study of ordinary buildings and landscapes." The Advocacy Award recognizes exemplary efforts and achievements on behalf of our vernacular built heritage. The award honors individuals and groups for exceptional contributions toward the interpretation, appreciation, and protection of vernacular buildings and cultural landscapes, and recognizes outstanding initiative, commitment, and action to promote and protect vernacular resources. To read more, visit: VernacularArchitectureForum.org/Advocacy



Music Under the Sycamore

Summer party at the Centre Furnace Mansion
Sunday, September 8, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.



The Centre County Historical Society invites you to our summer concert: “Music Under the Sycamore” on Sunday, September 8 at the Centre Furnace Mansion from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Wind down the summer on the beautifully landscaped grounds of the historic Centre Furnace Mansion, the birthplace of the Pennsylvania State University, and enjoy the soulful harmonies of Pure Cane Sugar, an Americana band that calls State College home. Bring your family, chairs and blankets and let us provide the music and snacks.

The Centre Furnace Mansion, on the National Register of Historic Places, and surrounding gardens and grounds will all be open for guests to explore and enjoy.

Proceeds from Music Under the Sycamore benefit the Centre County Historical Society to help maintain the historic sites in its care.



Thank you to our refreshment donors:

Mt. Nittany Vineyard & Winery, Tait Farm Foods and Philly Pretzel Factory

Tickets may be purchased in advance online at CentreHistory.org/music-under-the-sycamore/ or by stopping by the Centre Furnace Mansion.

The music starts at 4:00 p.m., please plan to arrive prior to 4:00 p.m. for the ease of parking and to check in. The Mansion will be open 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for tours.



MOUNT NITTANY
VINEYARD & WINERY



 **TAIT FARM FOODS**

Tourism Grant

We are thrilled to share that the Centre County Historical Society has received \$18,500.00 from the CPCVB Tourism Grant. With this funding, we plan to give our website: CentreHistory.org a fresh new look and improve navigation and security for the site. The grant will also help us improve the focus and scope of our social media posts and out of area marketing and provide a fresh new look for our Centre Furnace Mansion rack card and Centre County Explorers driving map. Work on all fronts is underway and we enthusiastically thank the Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Centre County Commissioners for their ongoing support!



Plant Celebration Thank You



Thank you to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners and everyone who made the 2019 Plant Celebration possible - from planning, potting over 1000 plants, inventorying, labeling, setting up, selling, educating, baking, clean up, and your generous donations of supplies, beautiful plants and time given and, of course, shopping! We are so grateful for your contribution, and even the weather helped out!

Your warmth, generosity and hospitality made it possible to welcome hundreds of visitors to the Centre Furnace Mansion and beautiful grounds to make the 24th CCHS Annual Plant Celebration run smoothly and highly successful! Critical funds raised from the Plant Celebration are used to help to support the Mansion's gardens and grounds.

Our sincere thanks also go to Blue Mountain Quality Resources, our Centre Furnace Mansion Docent Committee, the Penn State Master Gardeners of Centre County.

Thank you

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

Cathy Horner – new computer

Bob Malcom – office supplies and exhibition supplies

Business Service Days:

Blue Mountain Quality Resources

Altria

Business Donations:

Mikes Video and Appliances – a new refrigerator

Programming and Activities:

Philip Ruth – Talk: *Old House Research in Centre County* for the Old House Fair on the Road

Bill Marcum – Talk: *The Foreman's Boys*

Roger Williams – *Evan Pugh's Penn State, America's Model Agricultural College* at the reunion for descendants of Moses and Mary Irvin Thompson

Betsy Taylor – For beautifully orchestrating our CCHS Volunteer Reception with Ann Taylor, Marty Gutowsky and Stevie Rocco

Old House Fair on the Road

Sunday, September 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

Restoration of the Leonard Rhone House, presented by James Leshar, at Rhoneymeade Arboretum in Centre Hall

James will provide a detailed overview of the restoration that has been done and continues at the Leonard Rhone House, including the history of Rhoneymeade. James Leshar is the Executive Director at Rhoneymeade.

This program is free and open to the public.



Saturday, September 28 @ 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Window Restoration Workshop by Kenneth Nuttle at the Centre Furnace Mansion, State College

Join the Centre County Historical Society to welcome Kenneth Nuttle who will present a thorough demonstration of the craft of wooden window restoration. Using two windows at the Centre Furnace Mansion, Nuttle will walk attendees through gently restoring historic windows from removal and reinstallation of the sashes, painting and glazing techniques to repairing broken cords.

Techniques required to restore deteriorated windows can be learned by the average homeowner. Through this day-long workshop, Nuttle hopes to provide enough hands on experience, information and inspiration to encourage homeowners and professionals alike to embark on a rewarding DIY home improvement project.

The workshop cost is \$50.00 per person.
For more information and to register online visit
www.centrehistory.org/ohf



We thank the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Borough of Bellefonte, American Philatelic Society, Centre County Historical Society and the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association for their support for the Old House Fair On the Road series.



Membership

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

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

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

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

Can't remember if you renewed? Check the outside of this newsletter – your membership expiration date will be noted on the lower right-hand corner. No date? It's time to become a member!

Join or renew on our website at centrehistory.org by going to the “Become a Member” section or simply call us at 814-234-4779. The annual membership period is January through December.



Rob Zimmermann working on plaster in our archives storage room and second floor bedroom. Your membership support and Centre Gives donations help with critical repairs such as this.

Centre Gives



Thank you to 89 generous donors for contributing \$17,025.00 to the Centre County Historical Society and to Centre Foundation for hosting and contributing an additional \$2,846 from their stretch pool!

We cannot begin to thank you enough for your generous donations that exceeded 2018 by over \$3,000! With ongoing repairs and maintenance, this critical funding is immensely important.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Georgia & Kevin Abbey | Jacqueline & Gene Melander |
| Bonnie & Elliot Abrams | Margaret Meloy |
| Jill Aller & Robert DeVoss | George & Ann Moellenbrock |
| Carol & Joel Anderson | William Moyer |
| Robert Anderson & Kim Tait | Frances Nuhfer |
| Cheri Banks | Charles & Debra Nydegger |
| Jeffrey Bower | Carol & Joseph O'Neill |
| Susan Bowser & Ben Drain | Mary Osborn |
| Joan Brower | Kathleen O'Toole & Gary Gray |
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| Lynn Klees | Shannon Wright |
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| Kenneth Martin | |
| William & Nancy McCormick | |

Foreman's Boys

Bill Marcum, was first introduced to the works of the CCC through many stories told to him by his grandfather, who was the Senior Foreman in the Poe Valley CCC Camp S-63 Company 1333. Bill and Mary Marcum started having reunions for the Veterans of this Camp starting about 35 years ago, with the most recent held in July. There are fewer CCC Veterans now, so it was a special honor when Mr. Alfred Maddas was able to attend this year. He is pictured below with Bill Marcum presenting a CCC Veteran's certificate of appreciation for Mr. Maddas's service in the CCC.

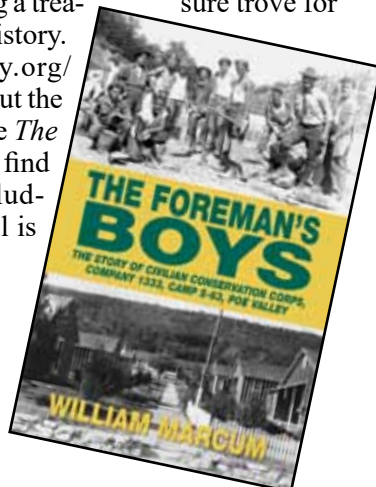


Bill Marcum with CCC Veteran Alfred Maddas.

Bill continues to share his grandfather's stories through this reunion, talks including one at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY. He has also recently been the subject of a PCN video, and will be doing book signings at the Grange Fair this year.

We can now enjoy the stories about CCC Company 1333, Camp S-63, Poe Valley in Bill's new book "The Foreman's Boys" which chronicles life in a CCC camp during and after work hours through stories as told by CCC veterans. The book also includes the names of rostered enrollees providing a treasure trove for those researching family history.

Go to: centrehistory.org/legacyday to read more about the CCC Legacy Day, purchase *The Foreman's Boys* book, and find CCC resource links, including the PCN video that Bill is featured in.



Recent Acquisitions

April - June 2019

2019.06.01 Jacquard coverlet woven by Emanuel Ettinger of Aaronsburg, PA, 1847

Gift of Dorothy Laume



2019.07 VHS tape – History of Bellefonte Armory; Colored poster – 1st Penna Cavalry Camp Hancock, GA, 1917; "The Historic Bellefonte, PA Horse Calvary Armory" prepared by Philip Sauerlender; Book – Pictorial Review, Seventy-Third Field Artillery Brigade, 1941; Loose-leaf notebook – photograph and newspaper clippings, Bellefonte National Guard cavalry troops 1920-2008; Photocopy – Centre Furnace grounds; Colored photographs (35) – Bellefonte Armory; Colored postcard (1) – Troop F 103rd Cavalry, Lock Haven, PA

Gift Philip Sauerlender

2019.08.01 Advertising Brass Paperweight Titan Metal Mfg. Co. Bellefonte PA. Circa Late 1920's.

Gift of Monty Christiansen

2019.09 Documents pertaining to the following: The Ferrees and the LeFevres, Boal Family, Leydon, State College photos, William LeFevre Foster (1853 – 1928), Mary Rice Olds Foster Married William LeFevre Foster 1892, Russell LeFevre Foster, Foster Family Stories, Family Photos at State College Foster Family Photos, Documents from Foster Estate

Gift of Patricia Sosinski

2019.10 Black and white photograph of Richard Kennard, Ken Mayer, Chet Dutton, Bill Ulbrich, and Sherm Lutz standing at the Boalsburg Air Depot in the summer of 1931; Rog Newcomb and Sherm Lutz in Fairchild KR-31 biplane. C. 1931; Sherm Lutz standing beside Waco F2 plane. C. 1933; Sherm Lutz in rear cockpit of Waco F2 biplane. 1933; Sherm Lutz in cockpit of Beckley College biplane. 1929; Ford Tri-Motor single wing airplane sitting at Boalsburg Air Depot. 1935

Gift of Roger Eisinger

Boalsburg Tavern

continued from front page

sat open to the elements for three years. A young Penn

State alumna purchased the burned-out structure at a sheriff's sale and began her journey of demolishing the ruins but saving everything that could be used again in the rebuilding. The story of Roanna Hill Winsor and her successful effort to bring the Boalsburg Tavern back to life by following the original floor plans is a testament to her foresight and fortitude. Without Mrs. Winsor, no doubt the ruined building would have eventually been torn down and the beautiful stone building would no longer be there today. It is with gratitude that all in our region should admire the work of this amazing young woman.

Gardeners Corner



The CFM Gardeners are rounding out a busy summer in the gardens. A rainy garden season has brought a tapestry of lush foliage and color and an extra measure of weeding! Our most sincere thanks to the CFM Gardeners for their constant work and dedication to making the gardens a beautiful feature at the Mansion. Special thanks to Coordinator Beverly Lipski and Co-coordinator Katie Freiden for their work in leading this special effort.

The CFM Gardeners are currently meeting on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. until it starts to get cooler in the fall. They will then switch to an afternoon time. If you enjoy gardening or would like to learn from seasoned gardeners, we hope you will stop by on a Thursday and find out more about being a part of our gardening efforts at the Centre Furnace Mansion. For more information, contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call 814-234-4779.

Docents Corner

This spring, close to 900 elementary students visited the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School thanks to our exemplary team of School Tour Docents! We are thankful for all of our docents that provide personal, gracious and informative tours to visitors of all ages at these historic treasures.

As part of being a volunteer at CCHS, docents and volunteers have explored a rich variety of historical resources in Centre County over the past several years. We have visited several



county heritage sites and beyond, experiencing their unique and shared history in an effort to help understand connections and encourage our visitors to explore these treasures. Thank

you to Linda Wallace for coordinating this effort. Field trips this year have included Rock Hill School, Boalsburg Heritage Museum, Kishacoquillas Valley Historical Society Museum and the Belleville Mennonite Heritage Center.

Our next Docent & Volunteer meeting will be held on Friday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Centre Furnace Mansion.



Remembering Friends

This Spring and Summer, Centre County lost some of its most dedicated history sleuths and advocates. It is with sadness that we share the loss of CCHS friends.

Gene Melander was one of the original backers of the plan to restore the Centre Furnace Mansion to its 19th Century grandeur. His deep knowledge of history, his quick wit, and his warmth has enlivened countless CCHS events over the decades.



Gene Melander

Edna Dombrowsky faithfully served as one of the Centre Furnace Mansion's greeters – every fourth Friday of the month for nearly a decade. Edna knew everyone and was always interested in helping with our mailing crew. We will miss you Edna, especially on fourth Fridays.



Linda Witmer and Edna Dombrowsky working on a bulk mailing

Nadine Kofman diligently chronicled Centre County's history through her passionate research and writing in the *Centre Daily Times* and *Town & Gown*, among other publications. Nadine launched the effort in the 1990's to begin placing historical plaques on iconic State College buildings and she wrote the text for most of those plaques.



Nadine Kofman

Jo Chesworth was a free lance journalist. She wrote more than 240 features for *Town & Gown* and the *Penn Stater Magazine*. She prominently featured local history in her stories. In 1996, she wrote *Story of the Century*, a book that chronicled 100 years of State College history to mark the town's centennial celebration.

Each of these friends of the Historical Society will be sorely missed but never forgotten.



Constitution Day

Sunday, September 15
Tussey Mountain in Boalsburg, PA

Dick Pencek and CCHS intern Kristine Bender have been working together to develop a mini (but meaningful!) exhibition for Constitution Day. The exhibition, titled *Tea with Paul Revere* features a period appropriate tea service and will be on display from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Additional activities will be held until 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit: constitutiondaycentre.org.



Tea setting display

Student Corner

Student interns and volunteers are critical to the work we do. Interns Paul McGonigle and Terry Schiavone have continued the much needed work on processing the Sherm Lutz Collection. Kristine Bender has been assisting with a diverse range of projects including work on the Stocking Stuffer, collections indexing and working with Dick Pencek to develop a display for Constitution Day at Tussey Mountain on Sunday, September 15.



Kristine Bender at the volunteer reception

Wish list

Thank you for considering wish list items:

- The United Way Day of Caring is coming up and we are always looking for people to donate side dishes and cookies or bars for lunch and snacks!
- Garden tools – mulch forks, rakes, hand tools. Tools can be gently used ones!
- Special archival document and artifact boxes are needed and range in price from \$15.00 to \$50.00.
- Tools – new large tool box, cordless drill, drill bits, a variety of large and small pliers
- Conservation and digitization of 18 film reels from the Sherm Lutz Collection. The cost for each reel is \$210.00

For more information or to donate for a specific item, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call at 814-234-4779.



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CENTRE FURNACE MANSION
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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. The 10% discount applies online as well with code MEMBERS10.

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.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

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