

Exploring our 1880's Railroad History - Part 2

By Robert B. Hazelton

The last newsletter made mention of several railroad bridges in the Pennsylvania Furnace area. Local historian Elwood Homan adds to the story with his connections to the railroad.

In 1926 or '27, at the age of four or five, Elwood Homan remembers riding the train that would have crossed over the Pennsylvania Furnace railroad bridges. He left from the Pennsylvania Furnace railroad station with his mother, sister, and brother to visit his uncle and family in Altoona. With many stops along the way including one to change trains in Tyrone, the trip took all day, a contrast to the 45 minute drive that it takes today. They stayed in Altoona for a few days until Elwood's father met them to bring them back in his Model T Ford.

Their home had been built in 1858 by John Lyon, ironmaster at Pennsylvania Furnace as a wedding present to his daughter and son-in-law, Bucher Ayres. Elwood was born in an upstairs bedroom, and he still resides there in the family home today. The Bucher Ayres farm and house were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

As Elwood and his brother Earl grew older, they fished in the creek and in Hostler Dam in the shadows of the railroad bridges near Campbell Lane. It was a long bike ride from their home on Whitehall Road, made more difficult with a single bike and taking turns riding on the handle bars.

Elwood and his brother fished together over a few summers, often stopping at Ward's store in Baileyville to buy lunch - sardines for 5 cents. Sometimes they had a fire and cooked the fish they caught. The heyday of the trains traveling through Pennsylvania Furnace ended when the last train passed through in 1933. Elwood would have been about 11 and his brother, Earl, 13. One summer their dad said to enjoy it, as next summer you will be working on the farm.

Elwood's next recollection was of a snow storm. The winter of 1935/36 was a cold and snowy one. By March, a blowing and drifting snow storm buried the area. Elwood remembers standing on a snow drift high enough for him to reach out and touch the phone lines that draped between a

telephone pole and their barn. Since there was no machinery to clear the roads, the Township paid 35 cents an hour to anyone who would work to clear the roads using shovels. They could clear about a quarter-mile per day only to have it drifted back in by the next day.



The Bucher Ayres farm and house were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Then, sudden warm weather and the rains that followed resulted in heavy flooding. It affected Central Pennsylvania and beyond and became known as the Great St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936. Elwood recalls the Hostler Dam was washed away, but the railroad bridges remained intact. However, just west along Marengo Road, the railroad bed was washed out under the rails from runoff from the fields above. Since the trains had stopped running three years prior, there was no repair effort.

Eventually, the rails were removed and used elsewhere. The timbers were either salvaged or rotted away, leaving the "empty" bridge abutments. Traces of the Hostler Dam still exist today.

Elwood also tells the story of his father, Samuel Homan, teaching at a school house that was next to the Marengo railroad station and near the intersection of Marengo and Dry Hollow Roads. He stayed at a cousin's house just a half mile away toward Stormstown during the week. The story goes that he would catch a train after school on Friday afternoon to head home for the weekend. Home at the time would have been in State College near the present day intersection of Blue Course Drive and Whitehall Road. We all know the barn that seems dangerously close to the edge of Whitehall Road. That barn and adjacent house, built in 1851, were the Homan estate and where Samuel would have lived while teaching school at Marengo.

From 1896 to 1919 there was a Bellefonte Central Railroad Branch from State College to Pine Grove Mills. Elwood tells the story that the train would slow down so his dad could jump off the train and walk the rest of the way home. When he stepped off the train, it was probably into a field that would later become Sherm Lutz's Air Depot and is now CATO Park.

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
info@centrecountyhistory.org
 YouTube channel: <https://rb.gy/sfxzk7>
www.centrehistory.org
www.facebook.com/centrefurnace
www.twitter.com/centrehistory
www.instagram.com/centre.county.history

Public tours at the Centre Furnace Mansion are currently being delayed until further notice due to waterline and related landscape and walkway repairs. We are also continuing to monitor the local status of COVID-19.

The gardens and grounds remain open for strolling, but we ask that you use caution with repairs underway. CDC health protocols for wearing masks, hand sanitation and maintaining physical distancing apply.

CCHS Office Hours:
 MON-FRI, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Research at the Centre Furnace Mansion:
 Research requests can often be handled remotely by email. 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 emailing info@centrecountyhistory.org.

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

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



Special Announcement!

We are thrilled to share with you that, just as this newsletter was about to be printed, we received wonderful news that the Centre County Historical Society has been awarded a 2020 **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grant** for \$100,000 toward significant restoration and repair work on the Centre Furnace Mansion. This grant requires a cash match and will enable CCHS to move forward on projects to address urgent repairs to stabilize the Mansion including the replacement and repair of the 33 year old cedar roof and extensive repair on the Mansion's attached porches.

We will look forward to keeping you posted on progress as we move forward with fundraising and projects.

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.

Activity Calendar

History Talks will be held online on the Zoom meeting platform for now unless noted below. Any on-site activities later in the year should be considered tentative, with the possibility of cancelling or transitioning to a virtual platform depending on the status of the pandemic at that time. Please check the CCHS website: CentreHistory.org for program updates and more information and links for the program.

Thursdays, September 17 & 24

Thursday Plant Sales by CFM Gardeners.
Visit CentreHistory.org/fall-plant-sale for online ordering and more information.

Sunday, September 27, 2:00 p.m.

The Rowland Story: Beauty from Ashes
Virtual talk by Rebecca Inlow, online via Zoom.

Sunday, October 18, 2:00 p.m.

A Two-Newspaper Town
Virtual talk by R. Thomas Berner, online via Zoom.

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

Tentatively at the Penn State/Centre County Visitor Center
Harriet Tubman reenactor, Barbara Pinder –
Joint program of CCHS and the Central PA Civil War Round Table

Please feel free to contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrehistory.org or 814-234-4779 with any questions concerning about how to access virtual programming



STAY CONNECTED

If you are not receiving our email updates for programs and other activities and would like to, please contact Johanna Sedgwick at jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org and let her know your email address. You may also go to our website to sign up:

CentreHistory.org/about-us/support

Can't remember if you renewed your membership? 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!

President's Corner



So how does the Penn State Alma Mater go?

“When we stood at boyhood's gate.” That happened to me in the fall of 1962 as I moved into 328 Thompson Hall. That 3rd floor wing of the building became the home for several of us for many months and we became a rather close-knit group. No doubt, that scenario has played out for the other parts of the building and other dorms over many years for perhaps thousands of students. Several of our group kept in touch as we scattered into living downtown. I remember playing “Hearts” with Dave, George, and Nick upstairs in a rooming house along College Avenue. Up into the 80's we had Thompson Hall reunions with dwindling numbers at each event. Sadly, to this day I am only in contact at Christmas with George who lives in Latrobe. Through all those years no one ever wondered about the name Thompson. Every Penn State student knew of Thompson Hall even if they never lived there. But I doubt few knew who Thompson was.

Sorry to say, some 40 years after I lived at Thompson Hall, I pieced it together. It was then that I got into local history through the Centre County Historical Society and started giving thanks to Moses Thompson for helping to create Penn State. I am grateful for my degrees in Electrical Engineering. They have served me well and kept me in the area. But somehow I also acquired a history gene.

Maybe they should have named it “Moses Thompson Hall”. (This same story can be said for nearby Irvin and Watts halls, for the nearby halls named for James Irvin and Frederick Watts, both of whom also played significant roles in the establishment of the Farmers' High School.)

I shared this with Lee Stout for edits who added that he moved into 227 Thompson Hall in the fall of 1965 and added the following perspective.

West Halls are all named for the “Old Boys” -- early trustees, faculty, and supporters: Watts, Irvin and Jordan were built in the '20s, and McKee, Hamilton, Thompson and Waring Dinning Commons were added in the late '40s. One piece of trivia, Irvin was originally “Varsity Hall,” the dormitory for varsity athletes, right across the street from New Beaver Field and the rest of the athletic plant. Pollock and East Halls were named for Pa. governors; South for notable women faculty, staff and alumni; North and the Eastview Terrace dorms for celebrated faculty members, and the White Course apartments for celebrated modern administrators, some of whom had been faculty. It is also notable that the only two dormitories named for those who were related, were named for Moses Thompson and his son-in-law John Hamilton. The biggest and worst omission from campus buildings is that there is no building named for Evan Pugh!

For more information there is a link to the Thompson Family on our webpage, and there's also Emily Rupp's paper on the Thompson's on the PSU Libraries page. Emily was one of our Historical Society interns. <https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/unearthing-past-student-research-pennsylvania-history/thompson-family-centre>

The above link provides several images and, importantly, links to important source documents including Moses Thompson's will, etc.

The Penn State buildings were well named and are a reminder of our history.

~Bob Hazelton

Director's Message

In times like these, we try to focus on the silver linings, and there have been many here at the Historical Society this summer. During our recent waterline emergency, we have been reassured and grateful during an overwhelming time by the generosity of members and friends who provided critical funds for these efforts. To all who have donated and extended words of support, we truly cannot tell you what this has meant.

Down time due to the pandemic quickly forced us into remote work and now we know that it is not only possible, but manageable. Committees shifted to virtual meetings and, most recently, our history lecture programs are now being held online. We will be experimenting with an online curbside plant sale for members and friends in September - see page 9! And while our beloved winter Stocking Stuffer Magical Holiday Market would be impossible to hold with physical distancing restrictions, we are planning a smaller scale Holiday Market with curbside offerings in December. Stay tuned!

Office hours continue to be covered partly remote and partly on site to minimize unnecessary exposure but staff can still easily be reached by phone and email. While we have had to re-prioritize projects, be more patient and re-think how we approach activities, transitioning to online platforms has helped facilitate our business and mission efforts in a way that would not have been otherwise possible.

Is any of this perfect? Of course not. Like many, we are Zoom weary and crave the spontaneous connections and collaborations that are richer and more gratifying in-person. But can we do this? Yes, because of the foundation and dedication of CCHS members and friends.

We all have had to make a sea change in our normal activities this summer and fall as so many have suffered the pain and hardships that have gone hand in hand with the pandemic. I hope that you too can find the silver linings during these times. For now, we will do our best and look forward to the time when we can gather again safely for events and tours at the Centre Furnace Mansion, Boogersburg School and beyond that have given our organization and programming structure.

Best wishes for your continued good health and well being,

Mary Sorensen

Upcoming Programs and Events

Please remember to check items of interest on our website: centrehistory.org for the most current updates.

Henszey Pyle Distinguished Author Series

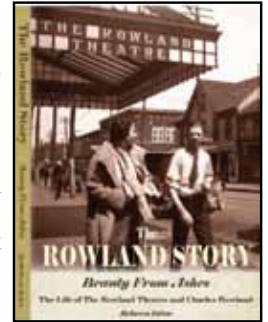
The Rowland Story: Beauty from Ashes

Virtual talk by Rebecca Inlow

Sunday, September 27, 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a presentation by author and Rowland Theatre volunteer Rebecca Inlow for a story of coal mines and railroads and a 1,000-seat single screen movie theatre that has defied all odds to survive more than a century in a small town. Rebecca also will share images of small treasures from the past century that have been found as work has continued on the lower balcony floor.

The book *The Rowland Story: Beauty from the Ashes* may be purchased at centrehistory.org/about-us/store.

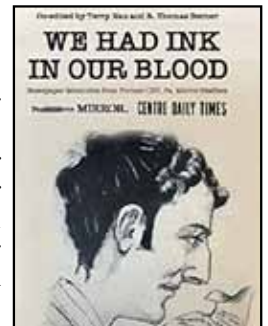


A Two-Newspaper Town

Virtual talk by R. Thomas Berner

Sunday, October 18, 2:00 p.m.

Even though the newspaper industry was contracting as newspapers merged or went out of business in the late 1960s, Centre County welcomed a new newspaper and became one of the rare two-newspaper towns in the United States. Retired journalism professor R. Thomas Berner, who worked for both newspapers, the Pennsylvania Mirror and the Centre Daily Times, shares some memories of those days.



Virtual presentations are held on the Zoom meeting platform and will last for about 45 minutes. There will be an opportunity to ask questions afterward using the Zoom chat feature.

These programs are free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated. The program has a limit of 100 registrants, but it will be recorded and made available on the CCHS YouTube channel. Please contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org if you have any questions. **Current CCHS members will receive advance notification of program link by email. Please confirm your email if you are not receiving CCHS email updates by contacting Johanna at jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org.**

These programs are a part of the distinguished author series underwritten by the Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle and Kenneth B. Pyle Educational Fund for Regional Heritage Preservation (Henszey-Pyle Fund.)

Football in The Fall: 130 Years of Penn State Fan Experiences

Many thanks to Lee Stout for bravely kicking off our inaugural virtual program with *Football in The Fall: 130 Years of Penn State Fan Experiences* in September. If you missed it, you can view the recording at: https://youtu.be/LY3OPQ9_a2A

The Other Liberty Bell

By Cathy Horner



*The Justice Bell as it traveled through Boalsburg in 1915.
Image from Joan Brower's Centre County memorabilia collection.*

This summer on August 26th, the nation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment – the one that gave women in our country the right to vote. Women had worked tirelessly for decades to earn this right that was finally signed into law in 1920. (Many states had passed women's voting rights on local and state issues much earlier, including Wyoming that had embraced women at its polls for thirty years.) The Pennsylvania legislature put a suffrage referendum on the ballot five years earlier, in 1915, and the suffragettes of our state were called to action to rally supporters to get it passed.

The Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association headquartered in Philadelphia devised an attention-getting plan. They commissioned a replica of the Liberty Bell, minus the crack, that was hauled through all 67 counties of Pennsylvania where rallies for suffrage were held. The 2000-pound bronze bell was put on the bed of a specially built truck and became known as the Justice Bell. This bell was silenced with its clapper chained to one side representing the silencing of women's voices. The bell would not be rung until women gained the right to vote. The Justice bell's journey through the state took four months and covered 5000 miles. Engraved on the side of the bell was:

Establish Justice

*Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all
the inhabitants thereof*

The two photos accompanying this article are part of Joan Brower's Centre County memorabilia collection and prove that the Justice Bell traveled through our county in 1915, stopping in Moshannon and in Boalsburg. Towns along the bell's route prepared for the arrival by decorating patriotically and the rallies drew large crowds. The accompanying text on the back of the Moshannon postcard (addressed to Jennie Lucas in Brisbin, Pa from Silas in Moshannon, Pa) reads in part "I know that woman's suffrage was defeated in N.J. I wonder if that will be the case in PA."

Unfortunately, that was the case in Pennsylvania in 1915. Interestingly though, it had wide support in the rural areas of our state, but not in the cities. In neighboring Union County, the editor of the Mifflinburg Telegraph urged men to vote in favor of women's suffrage. He argued that women played an important role in the community as workers, teachers and storekeepers and that women were invaluable in their role during the Civil War.

In the fall of 1920 when the 19th Amendment became part of our Constitution; the chains were removed from the Justice Bell and the bell rang out in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The bell is housed today at Valley Forge in the Washington Memorial Chapel.



*Postcard. Arrival of Woman's Liberty Bell, at Moshannon, Pa.
Image from Joan Brower's Centre County memorabilia collection.*



Museum Store

Online Store: CentreHistory.org/about-us/store

The Museum Store online is very much open for business! You can even order online and choose a pick up date and time rather than having an item shipped. Give us a call when you arrive and we can meet you curbside. If you would like to visit the store on-site, also, please call ahead.

Whether you are doing research or just curious about the history of Centre County, our Museum Store at the Centre Furnace Mansion and online has a wide variety of publications. We feature dozens of publications in our online shop and many more in our Museum Store at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Offerings include books, gifts, greeting cards and publications, including cemetery books, from the Centre County Genealogical Society.

Please schedule an appointment if you would like to make purchases on site. Protocols for COVID-19 are in place. CCHS Members can enter the promo code MEMBERS10 at check out online for a 10% discount on CCHS titles and merchandise.

Mansion Preservation

Summer has passed quickly with ongoing landscape projects at the Centre Furnace Mansion, both planned and unplanned.

The planned: The Norway Maple tree near the lower Hearth Room entrance was removed by **Cutting Edge Tree Professionals** in preparation for the eventual replacement of the Mansion's roof. While we will miss sitting under its shade, Norway Maple is an invasive species and this one was leaning uncomfortably toward the Mansion. The stump and roots that heaved the brick walkway were removed by **State College Lawn Care** to aid in the repair of the walkway and restoration of the ivy bed.



Top: Removal of Norway Maple by Cutting Edge Tree Professionals
Bottom: Stump removal by State College Lawn Care

And the unplanned: It all started with a call from **College Township Water Authority** back in early July wondering why we were using many thousands of gallons of water when we weren't even open. The culprit was found thanks to CTWA and **State College Borough Water Authority** and the water was shut off until we could address the leak.

In the weeks to follow, waterline repairs ensued. **Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.** replaced nearly 300 feet of antiquated waterline that had deteriorated. The trench for the line was dug at 4 feet deep and 2 feet wide and its path ran under sections of the brick walkway and patio. **Allied Mechanical & Electrical, Inc.** located the line connection and did related interior plumbing. Brick repair and lawn restoration work is now under way with **Alex's Proscapes**.



Top: The waterline trench is dug by Glenn O. Hawbaker from the Dogwood bed across the walkway. Bottom: The trench as it follows the curve of the driveway. Notice the limestone that was removed.

This unexpected work comes at a considerable cost and at a time when we could not hold our usual on-site activities and fundraisers, so we decided it was the time to start a GoFundMe campaign. Incredibly, our initial \$12,000 fundraising goal was exceeded within a week. The scope and cost of our project then began to mount. Ironically, limestone was to blame – lots more than expected. Limestone was an essential ingredient for the iron industry in the 19th century, but it has presented a special challenge during this 21st century excavation. In addition to the added expense of rock removal, the area impacted

by this also increased the amount of brick surface repair and lawn restoration, well exceeding original estimates. As a result, we have reluctantly but necessarily raised our fundraising goal to \$19,000 to help cover increased expenses.

Funds that have been donated have made it possible to preserve and improve the aesthetics of the Mansion's landscape for future public events and activities through this work. It has, in turn, helped support local businesses during this difficult time. We thank the contractors that have already and continue to provide timely services for this project as well as CCHS members, friends and local media, **WTAJ, Centre Daily Times, The Centre County Gazette, and StateCollege.com** for helping to spread the word about this urgent repair need.



Top: Brick "patio" along the porch was removed before the trench was dug. Bottom: View of trench to the connection point at the rear of the Mansion.

We are grateful to Alan Popovich for his guidance with this project. And many thanks to Bob Hazelton, Roger Williams, Ford Risley, Mike Canich and Peter Sorensen who lent a hand to remove brick and stone in preparation for this work helping us to offset some of the cost.

Your generosity has truly enabled us to fully address the pressing waterline and related issues to get the Mansion's grounds back in even better shape

Thank You

Thank you to all who have generously donated to our emergency waterline repair fund this summer. We are humbled and grateful.

Joshua Adams	Mr. & Mrs. William Moyer
Jill A. Aller & Robert DeVoss	Mr. & Mrs. John Nousek
Mimi Barash Coppersmith	Drs. Patrick Parsons & Susan Strohm
Mr. & Mrs. R. Thomas Berner	Richard W. Pencek
Drs. Ingrid & Gordon Blood	Doug Popovich
Steve Brunner	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Popovich
Pam & Chris Calkins	Mr. Robert W. Potter
Larry & Lisa Campbell	Dr. Donna Queeney
Centre County Genealogical Society	Dr. & Mrs. Ford Risley
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Christini	Mr. Richard Rogers
Rachel Killoren Corp	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Royse
Ryan Dombrowsky	Ms. Thomazine Shanahan
Mr. Benjamin Fehl	Mrs. Marilyn Shobaken
John & Patricia Flohr	Kathleen & Carl Sillman
Ms. Vicki Fong	Mr. & Mrs. David Siphron
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Frieden	Patricia Slagle
Dr. Roger Geiger	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Steven D. Gentry	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry C. Sommerville
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Griffith	Nan Sorensen
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Mr. & Mrs. Lamartine Hood	Daniel B. & Pamela D. Thompson
Judy Heberling & Michael Husband	Judy Thompson
Leslie Jones	Molly Tomlin
Mrs. Bryce Jordan	Mr. & Mrs. R. Phineas Tuthill, Jr
Lara Kauffman	Taylor Tuthill-Todd
Anna Kochersperger	Ken Vermillion
Mrs. Peirce Lewis	Richard Wade
Mrs. Beverly Lipski	Bonnie Walter
Lawrence Lokman & Rhonda Seaton	Ms. Romyne Weight
Mr. & Mrs. R. Anthony Marcon	Mr. John E. Wetzel
Linda Marshall	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Wheeler
Pamela McCloskey	Hannah Williams
Milesburg Museum & Historical Society	Ms. Susan Williams
Dr. Claire Milner	Roger Williams & Karen Magnuson
Robert Minard	Mr. & Mrs. Cal Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. George Moellenbrock	And 19 Anonymous Donors.

Donations for the waterline repair are still being accepted at the GoFundMe page: <https://rb.gy/om6xji> or by sending a check to CCHS, 1001 E. College Ave., State College, PA 16801.



Roger Williams, Peter Sorensen and Bob Hazelton moving bricks from walkway so that the tree roots could be ground.

Gardener's Corner

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners for keeping the Mansion's garden activities vital this summer. With the absence of our normally held volunteer service days, a waterline leak that left us without water for weeks and, of course, the summer drought, this has been a commendable achievement indeed.

The gardens in early and late spring reflected the fruits of past years' labors and bulb and plant donations from our Gardeners. Any who stopped by would have been greeted by the abundant color and fragrance of bulbs, perennials and lilacs.

Thank you to Beverly Lipski, Katie Frieden, Joyce Christini, Mike Canich, Judy Heberling, Sharon Phillips, Ruth Merritt, Jan Villastrigo and Floyd Todd for their constant presence on Thursday garden days. This summer Sharon tamed the herb and flower beds in the Kitchen Garden. In addition to keeping a wheelbarrow moving most Thursdays, Mike Canich built two beautiful trellises for the Kitchen Garden, one for the Ice House where a climbing hydrangea donated by Beverly Lipski will call home. Floyd Todd and Jo Merrell did a beautiful job painting the Ice House entrance. Joyce Christini kept newly planted plants alive by bringing water in during the waterline repair. And Ruth Merritt tended the indoor plants throughout the summer. Special thanks to Beverly Lipski and Katie Frieden for their continued leadership in the Garden Committee. Also on the CFM Garden Committee: Chris Igo, Carol Philips, Lou Mayer, Suzann Tedesco, Suzanne Thompson and Susan Bowser.

It cannot be emphasized enough how much work the CFM Gardeners do on a weekly basis. We are truly thankful for their every hour, plant and other donations, and energy they bring to CCHS.



This spring, we bid farewell to long term friend and CFM Gardener Marshall Garrett and her husband Jim, whose companionship, generosity, and pick-up truck have been invaluable to CCHS in and beyond the gardens! Marshall has volunteered in the gardens and during events since 2003. We already sorely miss her good cheer, sage advice and wry sense of humor. In North Carolina, she will have close proximity to grandchildren and a new agricultural zone to explore. We all wish Marshall and Jim our very best and happy gardening in NC!



Marshall Garrett at the 2011 Plant Celebration

Volunteer!

We could use your help in the gardens and landscapes at the Mansion and Boogersburg School. We have not been able to host student and other service days this year that we would normally be able to. They represent hundreds of hours of good work that enable us to keep the Mansion, Furnace Stack and School landscapes looking their best for the public.

Weeding, raking, painting or clean-up projects can all be done outside masked and physically distanced or within your own family-friendly "pandemic-pod." With fall and cooler days in sight, it is the perfect time to roll up your sleeves and get outside for an hour or two!



Indoor projects can also be arranged. Call or email Mary Sorensen for more information at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or 814-234-4779.

Fall Garden Sale

Early Autumn is a good time to plant and the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners have been busy preparing perennials and even a few shrubs and trees to sell while there is still time to acclimate them to their new home before winter sets in.

The CFM Gardeners are planning a COVID-safe sale this month since we were unable to hold our annual Plant Celebration in the spring. The sale will be held online with curb side pick up on Thursday September 17 & 24, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Centre Furnace Mansion.

To place an order or to schedule a time to shop in person visit CentreHistory.org/fall-plant-sale. In-person time slots are limited to one sign up every 15 minutes to promote physical distancing.

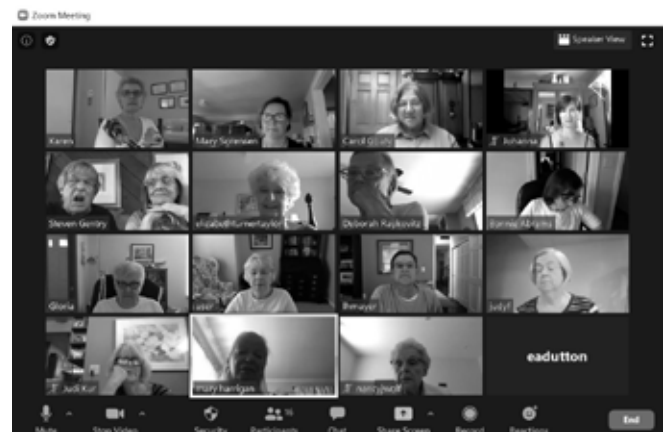
Knowledgeable gardeners will be available to help answer your questions and provide descriptions of the available plants.

Orders must be placed by Wednesday for Thursday pick-up. This will ensure that our volunteers have enough time to gather and organize order for easy pick up. Please call us for more information at 814-234-4779.



Docent Corner

Zoom meetings have taken the place of on site tours as a way for our Docent Committee to stay connected during the past few months. Docent led tours have been a mainstay of CCHS's interpretation of the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School and the absence of our docents and their tours have been deeply felt. A lot goes into giving a tour and there is a differentiation between them, not only between the two sites, but whether a tour is for individual visitors, elementary school groups, college age groups or special interest groups. Each of these tours vary in content, format and scope. Not every docent leads school group tours, and most docents lean toward volunteering at either the Mansion or School. New docents at both sites receive a manual that they can study and refer to, and are paired with one of our seasoned docents during tours until comfortable giving a tour on their own.



August Docent Committee meeting

Since mid-March, CCHS has had to put our tour program on hold, thus losing the opportunity to connect on-site with over 3,000 tour visitors that typically visit during this time frame. With the pandemic stubbornly staying put, we are working on ideas for virtual tours and other online ways to connect with the public and with teachers and students.

One of these ideas is to produce short, 3-5 minute, segments featuring CCHS docents, greeters, gardeners and other volunteers, sharing their favorite things. Favorites could be an object, a room in the Mansion or Boogersburg School, a garden or special plant, a bit of Centre County or Centre Furnace history, or related interest.

Our Favorite Things video segments will be shared on our social media and website. Not only entertaining but they can be referenced by other docents and volunteers to learn more about these topics and items being shared.

CCHS volunteers may email Johanna at jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org for more information on how to participate.

Intern Corner

Student internships and independent study projects have provided a meaningful contribution to CCHS over the years. In normal times, we host 1-3 students each semester who assist with academic endeavors ranging from research projects, and planning and mounting exhibitions, to cataloging and working with our archival collections. These projects help us stay curious and in touch with CCHS collections and Centre County History.

During the winter/spring semester, Penn State freshman History major Halle Richardson did her internship on Elizabeth MacFarlane Thompson Hamilton, wife of John Hamilton and daughter of Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson and his wife Mary Irvin Thompson. Little written information or family oral history exists about Elizabeth, but Halle let her curiosity and creativity guide her to looking into the Lawrenceville Female Seminary which Elizabeth attended as a student. Her research linked local connections to broader national and international attitudes and trends about women's education in the late 19th century. We thank Halle for a job well done and her graceful transition to a remote internship!



Halle Richardson, PSU Intern

We are grateful to host student interns like Halle and so many who have come before her for the dedication required to see these projects through, and oftentimes providing a critical link in more extensive long-term projects. A special thanks to Mike Milligan, Head of Undergraduate History Intern Program at Penn State.

To view Halle's research paper, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call 814-234-4779.

Board News

Congratulations to CCHS Board Member Dr. Ford Risley who has earned a lifetime achievement award from the American Journalism Historians Association. Distinguished Professor of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, Ford was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History.

We wish Dr. Edgar Farmer our best as he leaves the CCHS Board. We extend our deep appreciation for the service, time and insights he has brought to the Historical Society's Board of Governors.

John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards of CCHS

Do you know an individual, organization or business that deserves recognition for "doing history" or preserving a historic structure? CCHS is seeking nominations for the 2020 John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards. The Award Ceremony had fortuitously been moved to January 31, 2021 to give us a little more time between our normal fall activities. While difficult to predict what COVID-19 has in store for us in January, the program is currently planned at the Centre County Penn State Visitor Center, but with an alternate plan to shift it to a virtual platform as necessary.

More information about nomination criteria and a downloadable nomination form may be found at CentreHistory.org/historic-preservation-awards or by contacting Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or 814-234-4779.

Thank you

Generosity takes many forms whether donating a service or needed item, providing program support, or helping out in any number of ways. For those who have lent a hand over the spring and summer, thank you!:

- Cathy Horner, contributions to CCHS Facebook page
- Curt Chandler, consultation about virtual program-ming equipment and software
- Judy Speedy, for her work in the library
- Ed DeBrasky, repair of our address sign
- Bryce Boyer & Bob Hazelton, clean-up near the Furnace Stack
- Penn State Circle K, assistance with GoFundMe
- Penn State RPTM, student project for Centre County Explorers program evaluation
- Penn State Public Writing Initiative, student project with Notable Trees publication project.



The Centre County Historical Society is grateful for Tourism Grant marketing and resource improvement funding made possible by the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and the Centre County Board of Commissioners.

In Memoriam: Remembering Friends

Walter D. "Doug" Macneal



Doug Macneal was a CCHS Emeritus Board member and editor of 24 issues of the Centre County Heritage journal. Friends share their memories:

Doug was like an old country gentleman. He was well educated, articulate, a gifted writer and careful researcher. But he chose to live a life on the land and two of his sons continued that life as farmers. For us, he was the careful editor and talented writer who always gave us work of intelligence, elegance and a deep feeling for the past. Like so many of us, he was a transplant who took root in our soil. We were especially fortunate that it did. ~ Lee Stout

Doug's love and respect for Penns Valley, all of Centre County and local history were unparalleled. His was a wonderful friend and we will miss him very much. ~ Jackie Melander

To those of you who didn't know Doug, he was a kind & gentle soul, but one with a backbone of steel when necessary. He loved our CCHS and gave so much of his time and talents to it through the years. We were blessed to have him among us. ~ Jeffrey Bower, Esq.

He really did the only and the important work on the Great Plains of Penns Valley. ~ Ralph Seeley

Paul M. Heberling



We remember Paul Heberling as a long time CCHS member and friend. During his time on faculty at Juniata College, then founder of cultural management firm Heberling Associates, Inc., he was a leader in the field of

archaeology and historic preservation. We extend our sincere gratitude to his family for directing memorial contributions to CCHS.

Janice McElhoe

The Boalsburg Heritage Museum has lost its longtime leader and advocate Janice McElhoe. Janice was the great granddaughter of Sarah Sweet, whose former home is the location of the museum. She authored several publications relating to Boalsburg history.



Donations and Memberships

Donations

Received during quarters 2&3 of 2020.

(Donations to the 2019 Annual Fund were listed in the previous newsletter.)

Joyce Adgate	Mr. Robert M. Kurtz, Jr.
Mimi Barash Coppersmith	Mr. Richard Moerschbacher
Joan Brower	Nancy Noll
Elizabeth & John Dutton	Nancy Perkins
Brenda Farrell	Elizabeth G. Shirey
Benjamin Fehl	Mr. & Mrs. David Siphron
Linda & Keith Forrest	Lee & Dee Stout
Carol & Steven Gentry	Mr. & Mrs. Rick Villastrigo
Joseph Griffin	Wendy Vinhage
Richard Heffner	Mary Jane & William Wild
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Homan	Doyle & Ronald Wilkerson
Mr. & Mrs. William Jones	Nelson M. Williams

Memorials & Honorariums

In memory of Dr. Paul Heberling:

Caran Aikens
Ira Beckerman
William Jones
Vinnie & Paul Scanlon
A. Roy Smith
Mary & Peter Sorensen
Paula Teacher & Tim Woods

Mr. John Coyle – In honor of Jackie Melander

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ducato – In honor of Roger Williams

Membership

Memberships received since last newsletter printing.

New Members:

Richard & Lori Carlson	Thomas & Pheobe Knepley
Robyn Cushman	Paul McMonigle
Joy & Patrick Drohan	Sue Moyer
Mary Dunn	Jane Munson
Jodi Eisenhooth	Barbara Pennypacker
Roger Eisinger	Alan & Kris Popovich
Holly Fountain	Mr. H. Wesley Reitz
Rita & Tim Graef	Mr. John Vandenbergh
Larry Harpster	Steven Walton
Daniel & Suzie Hawbaker	
Chris & Robert Igo	

New Business Members:

Alex's Proscape, LLC

Renewing Members:

Mr. Hubert Barnes	Linda Kao
Jane & Dennis Brown	Lynn & Daniel Klees
Dr. James & Dr. Gay Dunne	Gretchen Leathers
Marlene Ford	Waneta Lingenfelter
Linda & Keith Forrest	Mr. Michael Nead
John & Lurene Frantz	John & Mary Margaret Nousek
Heather Ricker-Gilbert & Harvey Gilbert	Lynda & John Powell
Irene & Kenneth Harpster	Dolores & Art Rose
Sally & Richard Kalin	Cynthia & William Shaler
Karen Hazel	Vincent & Suzann Tedesco
Anne Cornell & Tom Houseknecht	Carolyn & Guy Thompson
	Renee & Greg Ziegler



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New members welcome anytime.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward | \$1000 |
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- ☐ 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, Boogersburg School, and countless other explorations of our shared history and heritage – places that help us “get away” without even having to leave Centre County.

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

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

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

Join or renew 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.

