



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 44, Number 4

Fall 2022

Autumn 1922: The Prime of Hugo Bezdek

By Richard W. Jones

Of all the descriptive terms ever applied to hard-shelled Penn State football coach Hugo F. Bezdek, surely the most unlikely is “churchman.”

But as members of University Baptist and Brethren Church (UBBC) in State College examined their records earlier this year in preparation for their 2022 centennial celebration, they discovered that Bezdek was among the “Faithful Forty” who started their congregation. The blunt, controversial, “my-way-or-the-highway” Bezdek a church founder? Who knew?

We should not be surprised that Hugo Bezdek continues to surprise us. Frequently described as abrasive, emotionally distant and overly demanding, he was perhaps the least orthodox of any major college football coach.

He remains the only coach to take three different teams to the Rose Bowl: Oregon, the Mare Island Marines, and Penn State. He is the lone man to manage a major league baseball team (the Pittsburgh Pirates) and coach a team in the NFL (the Rams). He had undefeated football teams at Oregon, Arkansas, and Penn State. He’s in the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach. As a player, he earned a third-team All-American selection at fullback in 1905 for Amos Alonzo Stagg’s University of Chicago Maroons.

A coach at the top of his game

And one hundred years ago, on the cusp of November 1922, he was at the peak of his powers, his Penn State team flying high at 5-0 with a Rose Bowl bid in hand. Between an October 18, 1919 loss to Dartmouth and a November 3, 1922 loss to Navy, his Lions put together a 30-game unbeaten streak, unmatched until Joe Paterno’s teams strung together 31 between 1967 and 1970.

A story in *The Collegian* on October 27, 1922, was the first public announcement that Penn State had accepted an invitation to play in the Rose Bowl game on January 1. The bid actually had been received by Penn State’s alumni-run Athletic Advisory Committee months before the 1922 season began. It was recognition for the Nittany Lions’ great play over parts of four seasons.

But as things turned out, the Rose Bowl bid would come with thorns. In fact, it would turn out to be a big mistake.

The collapse of the 1922 football season

Penn State’s 1922 gridiron fortunes promptly plunged. The Lions tied Syracuse 0-0 on October 28. The loss to Navy followed. Then they rallied to beat Carnegie Tech 10-0 before 17,000 at Beaver Field. That was the last piece of good news for the 1922 season.

The next week, before 50,000 at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, John Heisman’s Penn Quakers beat Penn State 7-6. Far worse was a 14-0 defeat the week after to a two-loss Pitt Panther team, coached by Pop Warner.

The Nittany Lions went to California having dropped three of their last four games and they lost the Rose Bowl also, 14-3 to Gloomy Gus Henderson’s Southern Cal Trojans. In retrospect, Princeton, and not Penn State, deserved the slot as the eastern rep in the Rose Bowl, notching an 8-0 record in ’22 against a tough schedule. Cornell also went undefeated.



Above: Photo of University Baptist and Brethren Church in State College taken by Richard Jones.
Below: Photo of Hugo Bezdek, taken in 1922 courtesy of Penn State Libraries.



What have you done for us lately?

Anyone who has had the doleful experience of listening to sports-talk radio after a game knows that college football fans are a hard and unforgiving lot. It was so a century ago, as well.

Despite the 30-game unbeaten streak alumni were vexed by how the season ended. Specifically, they couldn’t stand that loss to Pitt, which was Penn State’s great rival then and remains so today for a dwindling cadre of fans over the age of 60. In the otherwise successful seasons from 1919 through 1922, Bez beat the Panthers only once. The undefeated Nittany Lion teams of ’20 and ’21 both played 0-0 ties with Pitt. That was enough to make the alumni sullen, if not mutinous.

Penn State began 1922 with lopsided wins over five lesser foes: St. Bonaventure, William & Mary, Gettysburg, Lebanon Valley, and Middlebury. But when they ran into the heavyweights: Syracuse, Navy, Carnegie Tech, Penn, Pitt, and USC, their record against those teams was 1-4-1.

A mid-season distraction for the coach and his team

The primary reason the 1922 Nittany Lions crashed and burned is that they simply were not as talented as the unbeaten ’20 and ’21 squads. Only five starters returned from the ’21 team.

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About the Centre County Historical Society

☞ Contact Us ☞

Centre County Historical Society
 Centre Furnace Mansion
 1001 East College Avenue
 State College, PA 16801, (814) 234-4779

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

Research at the Centre Furnace Mansion:

Special arrangements for on-site research may be made by email or calling the office. For additional information, staff may be reached by calling 814-234-4779 or by e-mailing info@centrecountyhistory.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Mansion Notes is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society and is made possible through the G. Harold Keatley Fund.



Funding for this publication is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. Official registration and financial information about CCHS may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Upcoming Activities

Please note that reservations are needed for some programs by calling 814-234-4779.

Centre Furnace Mansion Tours:

Tours are available on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please call us at 814-234-4779 or visit CentreHistory.org/visit-us/visit for available dates and times.

FRI-SUN December 2-4, Stocking Stuffer Magical Holiday Market at the Centre Furnace Mansion. More details on page 5.

TUE December 13, 7:00 p.m.: Central PA Civil War Round Table & CCHS Joint Program at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Limited seating, RSVP required. More details on page 4.

SUN January 22, 3:00 p.m.: John H. Zeigler Historic Preservation Awards To be held at the American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte. More details on page 4.

Programs to See Again

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

Stay Connected

www.centrehistory.org

E-Mail: info@centrecountyhistory.org

Facebook: facebook.com/centrefurnace

Twitter: twitter.com/centrehistory

Instagram: instagram.com/centre.county.history

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



If you are not receiving our electronic newsletter and would like to, please contact Johanna Sedgwick at: 814-234-4779 or jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org. You can also visit CentreHistory.org and click on the sign up link at the bottom of the page.

President's Corner

By Roger L. Williams



A County Divided - part 2

In the summer 2022 issue of *Mansion Notes*, we wrote about the divisions in Centre County on the eve and into the Civil War, based on an article by the late historian Douglas Macneal in the fall 2007 issue of *Centre County Heritage*.

At war's outset, the county was divided ethnically. English and Scots-Irish predominated in townships north of Nittany Mountain while Germans held sway in the southern townships. Economically, the more highly populated northern townships were industrial—iron, mining, and lumber—while the German townships were thoroughly agricultural. After the Panic of 1857, the industrial north was struggling while the German townships remained prosperous. Politically, northern township residents were Whigs, Know-Nothings, and new Republicans, while their German township counterparts were conservative Jacksonian Democrats. Support for the war was enthusiastic in the northern townships, which sent many soldiers to preserve the Union, while German township men were largely unwilling to serve.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln won Centre County by 537 votes. In 1864 he lost it by 846 votes. *How on earth did that happen?*

Anticipating a Confederate invasion of the North, Lincoln issued a call in July 1862 for 300,000 new recruits. Already the war was wearing thin in the Union, demoralized by heavy losses in the failed Peninsular Campaign, the defeat at Second Bull Run, and the siege of the nation's capital. In addition, nine-month enlistments were running out.

Centre County leaders staged a war meeting in Bellefonte on August 2 to figure out how to meet their quota for enlistments. As Macneal tells it: "If Centre County's quota of the new call-up was to be met, filled in addition to county soldiers already in the field in lopsided numbers (heavy north of the mountain, very light south of it), a drastic change in Democrats' attitudes had to take place."

The meeting gave rise to a "Committee of Resolutions," which promoted the war's purpose as being the preservation of the Union and nothing more: "...preservation of the Government of the United States and the restoration of authority throughout...the land is the grand and only legitimate of the war..." Furthermore, the committee demoted slavery as a worthy object of the war and censured the Abolitionists: "...the preservation or abolition of slavery being a question of minor importance and a side-issue, we distrust the judgment and doubt the patriotism of those who seek to give it prominence..."

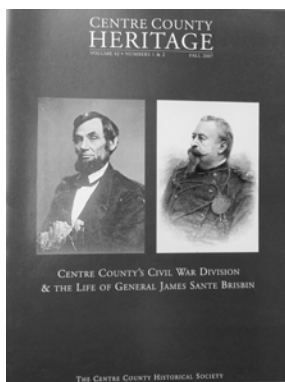
Macneal observed that "These biased resolutions, aimed to please the sullen Democratic townships lying south of Nittany Mountain, had their work cut out for them." Thus two more resolutions were added: a \$50 bounty for each volunteer and relief payments for dependent wives or parents. In addition, \$10,000 in collateral to support the bounty loan fund was raised on the spot.

The Committee presciently envisioned a national draft should enlistments fall short.

"The hated draft—the stick behind the carrot of the bounty—was to heighten tensions dividing the civilian population as nothing had before, Macneal writes. "Attorney Hugh N. McAllister of Bellefonte pushed successfully for another resolution: "That in the event of a draft we hereby pledge ourselves to raise and advance all the money required to relieve those who are not in position to leave and at the same time unable themselves to procure substitutes'."

Armed with these resolutions, county leaders pressed hard to enlist men from the German townships, specifically in Millheim, Rebersburg, and Aaronsburg. What turned the tide, however, was

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Copies of the 2007 *Centre County Heritage: Centre County's Civil War Division & the Life of General James Sante Brisbin* are available through our online museum store or by stopping by the Centre Furnace Mansion.

Director's Message

During this month of Thanksgiving there is much to be grateful for and celebrate in the past year here at the Historical Society.

There is a lot to stay on top of with a large mansion and a one-room schoolhouse and the properties that surround them. Volunteers have contributed this year in every way. Our Docent Committee have led individual and group tours for hundreds of guests at both sites. Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners have potted, planted hosted plant sales and led service groups. Yet others have assisted with events and activities, written articles, cleaned, organized, repaired and more.

With the help of nearly 200 volunteers during the 29th annual United Way Day of Caring, we were able to properly tuck in the gardens for winter, shine the silver, and clean the windows for the holiday season. With the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School now in great form, we are ready for another year of eager visitors.

We recently celebrated the first anniversary of the *Centre County Encyclopedia of History and Culture* made possible through the outstanding efforts of its all-volunteer co-editors Ford Risley and Lee Stout and dozens of authors who have generously written over 145 articles.

Through the John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Award program, we celebrate and honor the contributions and preservation efforts of individuals, organizations and businesses who have, in their own ways, preserved Centre County history.

We have received over twenty gifts for our Society's collections this year that help us interpret the stories of our past.

Our partnership with the Landscape Architecture Department at Penn State and the Hamer Center for Design has allowed us to start a new conversation and engage community members and organizations about the State College Area Connector transportation project.

None of this would be possible without dedicated CCHS members, donors to our Annual Fund, business contributions and others who generously give to support our mission. The extensive repairs and restoration that have been done thus far at the Mansion were only possible with the generosity of donors and granting agencies that have allowed us to complete the first phase and begin the second phase of restoration.

Next we will be holding our 20th anniversary annual Stocking Stuffer sale and look forward to returning and new vendors.

There is more to be said in the following pages about all of these and other gifts and efforts. We are amazed and grateful beyond words for everyone's support over this past busy and productive year.

With warm gratitude and best wishes for this holiday season,

~ Mary Sorensen



Upcoming Programs and Events

Central PA Civil War Round Table & CCHS Joint Program

Speaker TBD

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Centre Furnace Mansion. RSVP required

The Central PA Civil War Round Table and Centre County Historical Society will hold their annual joint meeting on Tuesday evening, December 13. The speaker will be announced at a later date. Light refreshment to follow. Due to limited seating, please RSVP at CentreHistory.org or call 814-234-4779.

John H. Zeigler Historic Preservation Awards of the Centre County Historical Society

Sunday, January 22, 3:00 p.m.

at the American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte

Congratulations to Award Nominees for the 34th annual John H. Zeigler Historic Preservation Awards ceremony that embody the vitality of historic preservation and "doing history" in Centre County:

- **Preservation and Restoration:** Chris and Jon Virgilio, the Gamble Mill, Bellefonte
- **History and Heritage:** Barbara Franco, Advent Historical Society, Milesburg
- **Education and Advocacy:** Patricia House, Bellefonte Art Museum, Bellefonte
- **Support and Volunteerism:** Jim Baldwin, Union Cemetery volunteer, Bellefonte
- **President's Award:** Beverly Lipski
- **Jacqueline J. Melander Award:** Joan Hawbaker Brower and Cathy Horner for their book: *Aaronsburg to Zion, The Amazing Centre County Postcard Collection of Joan Hawbaker Brower.*

Join us as we celebrate and learn about the amazing work and dedication of the award nominees. RSVP will be required. For full details visit centrehistory.org/awards.

For more information about this program or to RSVP, contact Mary Sorensen at (814) 234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org.



Special thanks to the Centre County Government for C-Net sponsorship.

Grants

The Centre County Historical Society is grateful for grant support from the Lumber Heritage Region Mini-Grant program provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. This grant will help fund interpretive signage and Centre County Explorers Passport materials.





20th Annual Stocking Stuffer A Magical Holiday Market

Friday and Saturday, December 2 & 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 4, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$5.00 Admission

Twenty years and going strong, the Stocking Stuffer continues as one of the area's premier holiday events featuring the finest quality work of local artisans, craftsmen, and antique dealers. This is also a signature fund-raising event for the Centre County Historical Society that raises critical operating funds to complement membership, annual and planned giving, grants, business support and other fundraisers. Whether shopping for gifts for family and friends or something beautiful for yourself, the Stocking Stuffer offers an opportunity to give twice!

The Stocking Stuffer will feature a variety of holiday gift giving ideas including:

- Art, antiques and crafts made regionally.
- Books on local history.
- Antiques and vintage gifts that have been donated by members and friends to benefit CCHS.
- Garden related and other items hand crafted by CCHS volunteers.

Member Appreciation Pre-Sale Thursday, December 1, 12:00- 6:00 p.m.

Current CCHS Annual and Life Members are invited to a members-only day to shop the Stocking Stuffer! Admission fee is waived as a token of thanks for your support of CCHS.

Christmas at the Curtin Village Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4.

Mark your calendar for December 3rd and 4th when we open the Mansion for "Christmas at Curtin" -- a pop-up photography opportunity for folks to have their holiday photos taken in the beautifully decorated parlors. Contact Curtin Village for reservations and for more information at curtinvillage@gmail.com or visit curtinvillage.com.

Boalsburg Heritage Museum Tours & Holiday Open House

The Museum is open for tours every **Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** and by appointment. The Holiday Open House at the Museum will be held Saturday, December 10, featuring children's activities, a gift raffle, music, refreshments and tours. boalsburgheritagemuseum@gmail.com

Lemont Village Association - Lemont Christmas Market Friday, December 9, 5:00-8:00 p.m. & Saturday, December 10, 10:00a .m. - 4:00 p.m.

Calling all vendors! Local artists, crafters, and merchants with a niche product are wanted to display and sell at the Lemont Historic Granary. Contact: Elisa at emydezigns@yahoo.com. Visit lemontvillage.org for more information.



Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters:

Stocking Stuffer Event Sponsor
Mimi Barash Coppersmith

Professional Holiday Decorating by:
Daniel Vaughn Designs
Avant Garden, Inc.

Stocking Stuffer Room Sponsors
Candace and Robert Dannaker
Becky Dreese - Thrive HR Management
Ann Hamilton Taylor and Betsy Taylor
Mary Watson

Stocking Stuffer Event Supporters
William and Deborah Asbury
Rebecca Elman - The Hidden Hostess
Beverly Lipski
Mary Osborn
Jean Slear

As this event has grown, sponsorship is even more important to provide an event of this scale. Join Mimi Barash Coppersmith in supporting the Stocking Stuffer this year through being a sponsor or supporter. Supporting in this way will help offset expenses associated with the event and allocate a larger percentage of the profit to CCHS's mission work.

Here are a few options:

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

For information on contributing in any way to the 2022 Stocking Stuffer, please contact:

Mary Sorensen: msorensen@centrefurnace.org
Johanna Sedgwick: jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org
Or call us at: 814-234-4779.

Full event details at
CentreHistory.org/events/stocking-stuffer.

Boogersburg School

There was plenty of activity at the schoolhouse this fall, starting with a corporate service day with volunteers from Blue Mountain Quality Resources. Thank you to BMQR for your ongoing service support and for staining our pedestrian bridge at the school! Thank you to JustServe Elders also provided a service day to help tidy up the landscape before the Boogersburg Open House held in September.

The open house was attended by nearly 40 guests eager to learn the story of the school or just take a look around. Two Boogersburg School alumni were in attendance including Bob Hartswick and Joe Johnstonbaugh.

Many thanks to Dick Hayes and Roger Williams for helping out with the open house. And special thanks to Doyle Wilkerson, in her role as “Miss Lee” for greeting students of all ages visiting on that day! Doyle chose the name “Miss Lee” in honor of J. Marvin Lee, a Boogersburg School teacher and local historian.



Doyle Wilkerson as “Miss Lee”

School Timeline:

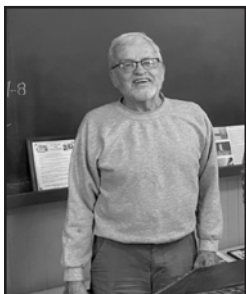
1877: Schoolhouse is built on land owned by Moses Thompson.

1952: School closes its doors to students and is purchased by Joseph and Sybil Barsky Grucci in 1953 to be used as her sculpting studio.

2001: School is purchased by Bob Struble and Susan Crary from Sybil Barsky Grucci.

2004: Bob Struble and Susan Crary gift schoolhouse to Centre County Historical Society.

To learn more about the Boogersburg School, visit CentreHistory.org/boogersburg. To schedule a visit, contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779.



Top left: Blue Mountain Quality Resources, Top right: JustServe
Lower left: Joe Johnstonbaugh, Lower right: Bob and Sue Hartswick

Designing the Future: Exploring Options for 322 and Penns-Brush Valley

The Centre County Historical Society and Hamer Center for Community Design have been working in partnership with the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn State to explore alternative design options for the proposed State College Area Connector. The first program in September was held at Centre LifeLink EMS and presented by Dr. Dan Marriott and the Penn State LArch 414 upper-level studio course, using the State College Connector Project as a case study for his students to engage with community members in developing context-sensitive designs, including a charrette meeting held on October 30. These programs are the first of what we envision as multiple conversations to articulate a clear vision of residents and advocacy organizations for the corridor.

For updated information on the Route 322 corridor project, visit CentreHistory.org/connector.



Charrette meeting participants

Thank You

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

Special thanks to Matt Maris for arranging a tour and talk in August about the Gamble Mill and its recent restoration.



Matt Maris at the Gamble Mill



Tom Range and Lew Lazarow

And many thanks to Tom Range and Lew Lazarow for their presentation about the history of the Penn State Blue Band.

Penn State Blue Band can be purchased at CentreHistory.org or at the Centre Furnace Mansion Museum Store.

United Way Day of Caring - Thank You!



Thank you to over 170 individuals, organizations and businesses who volunteered and contributed to the 2022 United Way Day of Caring at Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School! It was a highly successful and productive day and included much weeding, mulching, polishing, cleaning, window washing, vacuuming, mopping, and good cheer! Special thanks to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners for their leadership and donation of 850 spring flowering bulbs that were planted. And many thanks to Annie Taylor and Becky Dreese who lead indoor efforts to wash windows and polish silver.

We planted 27 native shrubs and trees that were donated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light. Mulch and compost were donated by Penn State Office of Physical Plant, Buildings and Grounds, that enabled us to put a fall blanket of mulch on the Mansion's gardens.

The Day of Caring is a special gift to the Historical Society, and we are ever grateful. The impact on the maintenance and beautification of the sites, seen especially in the landscape, has been immeasurable. Both the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School look splendid, spruced up and ready for another year of visitors and activities!



BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS WHO DONATED MATERIALS AND IN-KIND SERVICES:

Cafe Lemont
Penn State Office of Physical Plant

VOLUNTEERING ORGANIZATIONS:

To all whose leadership, community spirit and contributions have made the day's activities productive and memorable:

- Arize Federal Credit Union
- Centre County Historical Society Volunteers
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light
- First National Bank
- Just Serve
- KBB Realtors
- OLLI
- Penn State Health and Human Development
- Penn State Office of Physical Plant, Buildings and Grounds
- Penn State Naval ROTC
- Penn State Women's Lacrosse
- Reliance Bank
- State College Area School District, Delta Program
- Middle School



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| Katie Frieden | Ann Mollenbrock | Suzanne Thompson |
| Dick Hayes | Gloria Nieweg | Floyd Todd |
| Judy Heberling | Sharon Phillips | Jan Villastrigo |
| Mike Husband | Gerri Reeve | Linda Witmer |

Gardeners Corner

We owe a debt of gratitude for the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee for an incredible year! From a successful spring Plant Celebration, a multitude of service days, including the Day of Caring, to two successful Thursday plant sales in September, it has been a most productive garden season.

A lively garden season is coming to graceful close with beautiful fall leaves blanketing the landscape and gardens tucked in for winter. Garden hats off to Beverly Lipski, Katie Frieden, Judy Heberling, Chris Igo, Jo Merrill, Joyce Christini, Jan Villastrigo, Ruth Merritt, Sharon

Phillips, Mike Canich, and Carol Gouty for all of their weekly efforts since our last newsletter!

For more information about getting involved with the gardening efforts at the Mansion, contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call 814-234-4779.

Many thanks to service organizations that have been leaning in during August through October including:

Clockwise from left-

CCHS Gardeners

CCHS Gardeners and JustServe Sisters

The Bridge Initiative Penn State

Penn State ServeState

JustServe Elders (holding up their Klondike bars!)

AURORA Outdoor Orientation Program - URSA



Docents Corner

This summer, we welcomed 5 new members to the CCHS Docent Committee: Dick Hayes, Jude Larkin, Larry Miles, Patty Mutzeck, Elliot Abrams and Melissa Gundrum whom we look forward to working with! Our Docent Committee is integral in helping to tell the story of Centre Furnace and its place in Centre County history and beyond.

Many thanks to Lynn Royse, Linda Witmer, Gloria Nieweg, Lou Mayer, Bonnie Walter, Jude Larkin, Karen Hazel, Steve and Carol Gentry, Dick Hayes, and Elizabeth Dutton for all of their help over the late summer and early fall with visitor tours and other activities.

The Mansion is open for tours on Sunday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you have a small group and would like a tour beyond these times, please give us a call at 814-234-4779 or email Johanna Sedgwick at jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org



CCHS docent meeting in September

Property Update

With the first phase of restoration projects on the Mansion complete, we are in the final process of planning the next phase which will include window and shutter restoration, preparation and painting the body of the Mansion and repairs and painting on the west porch. We will also be installing historically sensitive UV protected storm windows for the windows that will protect the sashes and the collections inside from light and help exponentially with energy efficiency. Many hours of preparation have gone into measuring, photographing and documenting each window and door in preparation for this in order to facilitate the project. In addition to staff time, we thank APArchitects, LLC and volunteer Emily Kostenecki for their hours on task. Anders Olsen Construction and Restoration, Inc. from Centre Hall will be working with the Historical Society on this phase. Winter is a perfect time for restoring the shutters and hardware off site, so you may notice that the Mansion is looking a little bare this winter as shutters and hardware have been painstakingly removed and documented for restoration over the winter months. When the weather warms in the spring, exterior on-site work will begin. We thank David Grove for providing a generous lead gift for the second phase of restoration.

We were also able to make some necessary repairs at the Boogersburg School this fall as the corners of the eaves had become damaged.

Images clockwise from left:

Overview of the Mansion, by Chris Sorensen

Damage to eaves at the Boogersburg School repaired by Veronesi Building and Remodeling

Planting of the tree planted in honor of Paul M. Heberling and the tree in place



In Honor of Paul M. Heberling

September brought a new addition to the ivy bed next to the Mansion. Having outgrown its location, an old Norway maple tree was removed in 2020. The branches and root system were getting precariously close to the Mansion and its foundation. The timing of the removal helped to facilitate the installation of the Mansion's new roof.

The ivy bed now has a new feature tree thanks to a generous gift from the family of Paul M. Heberling in Paul's memory. Paul and Louise Heberling have been long time CCHS Members. Judy Heberling and Mike Husband have been dedicated CCHS members and volunteers on the Garden, Collections and Development Committees for nearly two decades.

A ten-foot tall, multi-stem Paperbark maple tree, *Acer griseum*, was purchased with this gift and professionally installed recently by Alex's ProScape. The maple will live to be up to 150 years old, reach a manageable 25-30 feet tall at maturity and have year round interest with beautiful bark, and brilliant fall color that will grace the Centre Furnace Mansion for many years to come.



From the Collections A Paperweight Tells the Tale

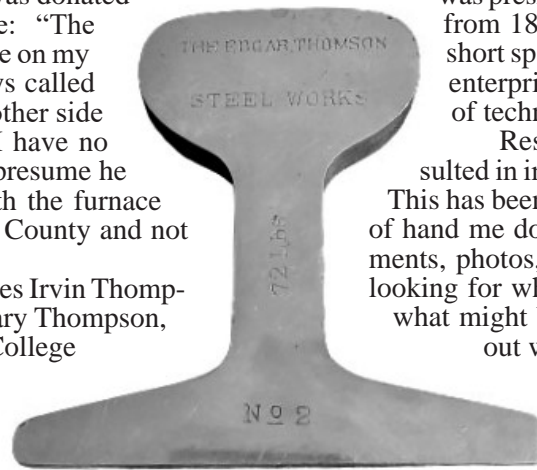
By Bob Hazelton

In 1986, an unusual paperweight was donated to CCHS with the following note: “The enclosed paperweight was a fixture on my grandfather’s desk at what we always called ‘Centre Furnace’ but located on the other side of the highway from the Mansion. I have no information on Edgar Thomson but presume he must have had some connection with the furnace so this souvenir should be in Centre County and not Texas.”

The donor’s grandfather was James Irvin Thompson, youngest child of Moses and Mary Thompson, who lived across what is now East College Avenue from Centre Furnace Mansion.

And now the mystery is solved. The paper weight came about because of a significant business deal that Moses Thompson of Centre Furnace struck with steel magnate Andrew Carnegie in 1880. The deal was the selling of Thompson’s River Hill Tract, (now known as Scotia) to Carnegie’s company, the Edgar Thomson Steel Works. Located in North Braddock, Pennsylvania, the Thomson Works was the first steel mill in the Pittsburgh area as well as the first Bessemer process plant in America.

The paper weight is a souvenir cross-section of a railroad T-rail, which the Edgar Thomson Steel Works produced in massive quantities for the Pennsylvania Railroad. What is unusual about Carnegie’s using the Edgar Thomson name is that Thomson was the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Carnegie’s biggest customer. It is a strange practice to name your company after the person who is your customer. But Carnegie was known



*Paperweight from the Edgar Thomson Steel Works.
CCHS Collection 1986.06*

for his unorthodox business dealings. Ironically, Thomson died in 1874, the same year in which his eponymous steel mill was constructed.

In his earlier years as an engineer, J. Edgar Thomson was a co-designer of Altoona’s Horseshoe Curve. He was president of the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) from 1852 until his death 22 years later. In that short span, Thomson made it the largest business enterprise on the planet and a world-class model of technological and managerial innovation.

Researching local history can and has resulted in interesting finds thanks to many residents. This has been the case with Scotia history in the form of hand me down stories, newspaper clippings, documents, photos, and even a few objects. This writer is looking for what might still be out there. So don’t let what might be stored away in your attic get thrown out without a check.

This is part of a project to save Scotia history in the form of a book. The newsletter article about the paperweight being a sample. Another example will center around the the WWII era iron ore mining at Scotia.

The Scotia archival material will be donated and be on file with the Centre County Historical Society. It’s all about saving our history.

Note the markings on the paperweight. The number “2” being the second such souvenir produced. The “72 lbs” is the weight of a 36 inch section of track. 72 is a relative light track intended for relatively light traffic as opposed to the higher speed main routes.

Author’s note: My thanks to Johanna Sedgwick, marketing and events coordinator for the Centre County Historical Society, for finding the paperweight in the CCHS collections and drawing it to my attention.

MATPRA Program

The Centre Furnace Mansion was a stop on a Centre County tour for the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) which is an organization of public relations professionals and travel journalists encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia. Also highlighted was Curtin Village, Bellefonte



Art Museum, Gamble Mill, the Pennsylvania Match Factory, Train Station and Curtin Statue in Bellefonte, and the Crooked House in Milesburg. We thank the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau for the opportunity to be a part of this tour.



Happy Anniversary!

October marked the first anniversary of the *Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture!* Thanks to 54 all-volunteer authors and co-editors Ford Risley and Lee Stout, the encyclopedia now features over 140 articles about Centre County History. Read the latest articles here: <https://centrehistory.org/encyclopedia-welcome>.

New articles include the Penn State Armory, the Gamble Mill, Jesse Arnette, the Old Iron Kettle, Mary Willard, Milton Eisenhower, the State Correctional Institution at Rockview and many others. View the full list of articles at [CentreHistory.org/article](https://centrehistory.org/article).

Recent Acquisitions

April - October 2022

2022.07 Collection of historical tax collection books from Patton Township of Centre County.

Gift of George Homan

2022.08 Cardboard advertising and informational poster for State College, PA and a historic postcard folder of State College and Penn State.

Gift of Larry Miles

2022.09 Portrait of Rachel Newell Hunter, shell cameo, ceramic saltbox, and two oil lamps.

Gift of Nancy Foye-Cox

2022.10 A flip-top table, small marble-topped table, mahogany stained side chair (2), wooden wall cabinet, wooden table and a child's luncheon set.

Gift of Ron and Sue Smith

2022.11 Woman's black hat.

Gift of Virginia Poirier

2022.12 Five boxes of correspondence and documents from the family of Elizabeth and John Hamilton.

Gift of Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle and Kenneth Pyle

2022.13 Photographs: 1917 Aaronsburg High School commencement, class photo Millheim School 1933-34, St. John's Lutheran Church in Millheim, and a collection of people/events in Millheim.

Gift of Bill Marcum

2022.14 1954 and 1955 State College High School yearbooks and State College High School class of 1955 scrapbook. Also, photographs of Jacob Ward and George Washington Ward in Union officer's uniforms.

Gift of Riggs Griffith

2022.15 Items from the collection of Ilene and Frank Glenn including a portrait, lamp, rocking horse, genealogical materials, photographs, books and children's items.

Gift of the family of Ilene and Frank Glenn

2022.16 Collection of mid-20th century USGS topographical maps of PA

Gift of Samuel Hawbaker

2022.17 Seven scrapbooks of newspaper clippings about the State College High School Class of 1957

Gift of the State College High School Class of 1957

2022.18 State College postcards from the 1920s

Gift of Carol Walker

2022.19 19th century scythe

Gift of Lorraine and JoLaine Teyssier

2022.20 19th century hay rake and building tools

Gift of Patty Zarkower

2022.21 Silver tea service that belonged to Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson

Gift of Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle and Kenneth Pyle

Elizabeth's Tea Service



Tea service of Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson in the northwest parlor of the Centre Furnace Mansion

Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson (February 14, 1841-November 6, 1915) was born to Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson and Mary Irvin Thompson. She grew up in what is now the Centre Furnace Mansion. Elizabeth, or "Lizzie" as she was known, was married to John Hamilton on October 27, 1875.

This beautiful tea service was given to CCHS by their daughter and Elizabeth's great granddaughter Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle and Kenneth Pyle who lovingly had the set restored to be displayed in the Mansion. The Pyles also donated a large collection of correspondence, photos and documents related to Elizabeth and John Hamilton and they will be processed in the spring as part of an internship.

We extend our gratitude to Anne and Ken, not only for these gifts that are so closely tied to the "Thompson house," but also for the other gifts and meaningful support they have given to CCHS over the years.

Students and Interns

Many thanks to student volunteer and spring 2023 intern Megan Kelby a Penn State junior majoring in digital and print journalism with a minor in history and English. Megan has been working with CCHS Board member Jackie Esposito this fall to process the Nadine Kofman collection of historical materials. Being nearly done with this project, Megan and Jackie will continue in the spring to process the extensive collection of correspondence and documents of Elizabeth McFarlane Thompson and John Hamilton.



Autumn 1922

Continued from cover page

But there was another factor too. During the second half of the '22 season as his team's fortunes spiraled, Coach Bezdek was weighing a job offer.

The Philadelphia Phillies of baseball's National League were searching for a replacement for "Kaiser" Wilhelm who was forced to abdicate as manager after leading the Phils to a 57-96 record in 1922 and a seventh-place finish. They dangled the job in front of Hugo Bezdek.

Football coaches are always bellyache about "distractions" and how they cause a team to lose focus and games. The temptation of the Phillies job was a very public distraction, playing out in the newspapers.

It may have led to dissension among the players. Consider the quote, offered by Newsh Bentz, Penn State's center and captain, to *The Los Angeles Times* after the Rose Bowl loss. It's an unmistakable dig at Bezdek's Phillies flirtation:

"Had I been in the game sooner there would have been a different story to tell. Coach Bezdek probably means well, but he is a good baseball coach." By way of context, the angry Bentz did not start the Rose Bowl game due to a pre-game training violation.

Was he serious about leaving Penn State?

It is hard to know how seriously Bezdek took the Philadelphia job offer. He loved the diamond sport and had strong baseball chops. He had played second base as a collegian. He was a highly successful baseball coach for six seasons at the University of Arkansas. Still, it was a shock to the sporting world when Pirates owner Barney Dreyfus hired him away from his football coaching job at Oregon to manage the Bucs late in the 1917 season. He skippered Pittsburgh to its first winning season in six years in 1918 and followed that with another winning campaign in 1919. (Yes, for a couple of years he managed the Pirates AND coached the Nittany Lion gridders before taking the job at Penn State full time). At Penn State he coached the baseball team for 10 seasons and his record was 129-76-1.

Perhaps Bez really weighed the Phillies offer. Like prominent coaches then and now, he was an experienced job hopper. Since graduation he had held posts as football coach at the University of Oregon (twice), football and baseball coach at the University of Arkansas, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and football and baseball coach at Penn State. In both of the "big two" sporting professions, he undoubtedly had a solid idea of his economic worth.

According to Ridge Riley in *Road to Number One*, Bezdek was making big money in 1922. He was paid \$14,000 to coach football, another \$4,500 to be director of physical education for the college and was awarded a \$2,000 bonus for a total compensation of \$20,500. That's about \$362,000 in 2022 money. On top of that he was operating in the first year of a 10-year contract.

Would the parsimonious Phillies better those terms? Bezdek said they would. In his statement saying he would remain at Penn State he let it drop that by doing so he was foregoing several thousand dollars in increased compensation, as noted in Lou Prato's *The Penn State Football Encyclopedia*.

A "staring contest" with the alumni

It's most likely that Bezdek used the Philadelphia offer as leverage to solidify his position at Penn State. Was he calling the bluff of alumni critics upset by the team's late-season fade? If indeed it was a staring contest between Bezdek and the alumni, the old grads blinked first.

In a November 28 telegram, a prominent Pittsburgh alumnus, James Milholland, wired Bezdek this message: LISTEN OLD FELLOW WHEN I SAY I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU AT PENN STATE ALWAYS I AM SPEAKING FOR THE VERY GREAT MAJORITY OF THE ALUMNI MAY YOU SEE YOUR WAY CLEAR TO STAY WITH US.

Milholland, class of 1911, was not blowing smoke. A well-known attorney and later a judge, he was a major voice in the Alumni Association and fully authorized to speak for that group. And the alumni ran the athletic program at Penn State in those days through an "Athletic Committee" that in a de facto sense hired, fired, and paid coaches.

The decision and how it was reported

Within days of Milholland's telegram, Bezdek made his decision to stay at Penn State. The choice was framed as a triumph of educational idealism over crass commercialism.

Bezdek saved a letter from one Mary Onyx of Swarthmore, Pa., the mother of a Penn State freshman who wrote on December 7, "I cannot resist the temptation to send a word of thankfulness and praise to you for your glorious decision to remain in college work and character building rather than merely entertaining the public. In this day, when moneyed positions are put above everything else, it is indeed rare to find a man truly great enough to turn aside and live up to his ideals..."

Fifty years later, many of the same sentiments were expressed during the "Don't Go Pro, Joe" campaign aimed at showing Coach Paterno how much he was loved and valued by Penn Staters as he weighed a job offer from The New England Patriots. The media coverage when Paterno decided to stay largely mirrored the attitudes expressed by Mrs. Onyx in her letter.

The several sides of a complicated man

While no one ever called Bezdek a hale fellow well met, he did have his supporters. Sportswriters generally treated him fairly because he was good about granting them access although he was a polished practitioner of "coach speak" and rarely uttered anything of substance.

Bez was popular with the majority of students, first for his early success as a coach and later for his accomplishments as an administrator. When he was considering the Phillies' job offer the students carried a "Don't You Go, Bezdek" banner. The 1922 *La Vie* yearbook was dedicated to Bezdek. As director of physical education for the college he started an exemplary intramural sports program, built tennis courts all over campus, laid out the golf course and oversaw the building of Rec Hall. Students appreciated the amenities.

Prominent Penn State professors such as Stevenson Fletcher, author of 11 books on agriculture; Wayland F. Dunaway, the well-regarded historian; and Carl Marquardt, who brought the Phi Beta Kappa chapter to Penn State and started the Artists Series,

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Autumn 1922

Continued from page 12

apparently saw a spiritual side to the man and included him as a founder of their new University Baptist Church. A century later, it is called University Baptist & Brethren Church, 411 S. Burrowes Street, and has dual affiliation with the American Baptist Churches USA and the Church of the Brethren.

The players saw only one side of their coach

Any genial, accommodating, or spiritual qualities that Bezdek may have shown to others were entirely invisible to the Penn State football players that he coached. There were at least two near mutinies by players during Bezdek's tenure, both occasioned by grueling scrimmage-heavy practices. On the field, he was stingy with praise and lavish with criticism including public embarrassment.

"Players on our squads had mixed feelings about him, but none of us would ever jump for joy when he came on the field," wrote Judge John Pincura, who played quarterback from 1925-27, in a letter to Ridge Riley. "He rarely gave any credit, and this same shortsighted attitude was displayed toward his assistant coaches, former players, and other alumni."

He couldn't deliver the thing that mattered most

Still, the grads would have forgiven that and most other sins if Bezdek could have beaten Pitt. His 1919 team's victory over the Panthers was his only triumph in a dozen tries.

Although Penn State remained a respectable eastern football power throughout Bezdek's time as coach, his early years were his best. From 1919 through 1924, State lost only 10 games out of 57 played. From 1925 to 1929, the Lions went 18-15-3.

Alumni dissatisfaction grew steadily as Bezdek remained coach through the 1929 season. After that campaign he "resigned" and became the first director of the new School of Physical Education and Athletics at Penn State. The Pittsburgh-based alumni finally forced him out as coach.

Milholland, who gave Bezdek the vote of confidence in 1922, had a hand in Bez's ouster. He was a signer of a 1929 letter from the Pittsburgh Alumni Club to the Board of Trustees citing "...a general lack of confidence..." in Bezdek's coaching ability.

Bezdek may not have been too sad to leave the sidelines at that time. He knew full well what Penn State's recently taken administrative decision to abandon athletic scholarships would mean for future win-loss records.

The blame has to go somewhere

Bez remained Penn State's top athletic administrator, a post he took very seriously, until 1936. But criticism from alumni continued. The lackluster football seasons under his successor, Bob Higgins, often were pinned not on athletic de-emphasis or on "The Hig" himself, but on Bezdek. Alumni felt that "he was interfering with Higgins; he wasn't helping Higgins enough; he provided no leadership," wrote Ridge Riley in Road to Number One.

So, the alumni struck again with a 1936 report saying, "There exists within the School of Physical Education and Athletics, mistrust, fear for the future, and unrest." The

trustees gave Bez a year's leave of absence before his ouster, making his official departure date September 30, 1937, by which time he was already coaching the NFL's Cleveland Rams.

Bezdek was "bitter and disillusioned" when he left the Nittany Valley, according to Riley. The Rams gig lasted less than two unsuccessful years. He then became a chicken farmer in retirement in Doylestown, emerging once to coach the Delaware Valley College team to a 2-5 record in 1949.

Gauging the professional peak

He died in 1952 at the age of 68, seven months after the death of his son, Hugo Frank Bezdek. No official representative of Penn State attended the old coach's funeral. His grave is in Whitemarsh Memorial Park, in Ambler, Pa. beside that of his wife, Victoria, who lived until 1980.

Few of us can measure with precision the date when we were at our professional peak. For Hugo Bezdek that day may have been October 27, 1922. On that Friday, the future must have seemed incandescent. He was 38 years old. He was a newly minted churchman. His football team was undefeated at midseason. And a January 1 trip to Pasadena glowed on the horizon.

Mansion Exhibition Series

Sun/Wed/Fri @1:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment
At the Centre Furnace Mansion

We extend our thanks to Dick Pencek and Barb Pennypacker. for putting together two meaningful exhibitions.

Rural Life in the Penns-Brush Valley: Bear Meadow Farm

Through November 18

Artist Barb Pennypacker was a faculty member in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State love of old barns and they were disappearing at a rapid rate. "They are actually windows into our agricultural past and I wanted to paint them before they all vanished." She soon realized that the farmland she enjoyed during her career at Penn State was also rapidly disappearing.



What is it?

Through January 27, 2023

Over twenty items are on display in the cabinet in the period kitchen. Some are every day items, others are novelty or just plain interesting and it is your job to see if you can correctly identify them with the assistance of a worksheet you can take with you! Don't worry, we will make sure that you have some hints! Thank you to long time member and supporter, Dick Pencek for preparing this display and to Bob White and Dick for loaning artifacts for exploration!



A County Divided

Continued from page 3

the assurance that the men could select their own officers for their company. Recruitment was successful, and the seventh and final company of what came to be called the “Centre County Regiment” was formed. On August 30, 1862, the elected officers of the seven companies petitioned Governor Andrew Curtin to form the 148th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers with a Centre County colonel, Attorney James Beaver of Bellefonte, in command.

Then, as anticipated, things changed dramatically. The victory at Antietam in mid-September gave Lincoln the platform he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. To take effect January 1, 1863, the act would free all slaves in those states in rebellion. Two months later, on March 3, 1863, Congress passed the Conscription Act, enabling the federal government to draft all males between 20 and 45 into military service. Both acts altered the character of the war and the attitudes of many in the Northern states.

Despite the initial rush of enthusiasm the German recruits showed in August, news of the coming emancipation caused many to sour. Private Adam Miller, one of the 72 Miles Township men who enlisted, was, by October, already thinking about deserting the 148th: “If they stop the relief [for dependents], and if they wont manage the war better before long, they will not catch me fighting long, if I have to run away. It appears they are warring to make the niggers [sic] free and hundreds are running away. They say they don’t fight for the niggers. There are some more in our Company who are dissatisfied.”

In letters to his wife, Miller wrestled with his conscience about whether to stay or desert. “His deserting had to be on principle, not from cowardice or self serving,” Macneal writes. “...he convinces himself again that the distinction in principle between patriotism (saving the Constitution, restoring the Union) and Abolitionist self-righteousness (freeing the blacks, prolonging the war, and imperiling white labor in the north) is solid enough to act on.” Although feeling betrayed by the addition of emancipation to the war’s purpose, Miller chose to stick it out. In fact, only three or four men of the 94 in Company A (German township men) deserted, sharing Miller’s unease.

Then, on March 3, 1863, came the draft, which was “felt almost universally to be demeaning,” Macneal writes. “To be drafted was tantamount to be caught in the act of evading a duty—to be incriminated for exercising liberty of choice.”

In mid-July 1863, when the first names of the draft were being drawn, huge riots broke out in New York City. Fomented mainly by poor immigrants, the riots killed several hundred, including a large number of blacks, and paralyzed parts of the city for days.

But in Aaronsburg and Bellefonte, the draft “riot” occurred a month earlier, shortly before the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania and the ensuing Battle of Gettysburg.

As Macneal tells the story:

“The hated draft could be resisted illegally...by refusal to be enrolled in the first place, or by refusal to respond to the notice when drawn...or to serve when ordered, or finally by desertion from the service. The case of Charles Wingard, of Aaronsburg, was the first type. On June 15,

1863, enrolling officer John Hewes sought to enroll Wingard, 45, and was asked by Wingard to leave his residence, at gunpoint. That night, Deputy Provost Marshal J.B. Butts, accompanied by a small posse, arrested Wingard and took him to jail in Bellefonte. The next morning, a small army of Aaronsburgers marched on Bellefonte to free Wingard and got as far as Logan Branch Canyon before being persuaded to return, by the spectacle of a counter army, perhaps with a cannon, raised in the county seat.”

Bellefonte’s *Democratic Watchman* fanned the flames of anti-draft sentiment further. In February 1864, the newspaper printed an exaggerated estimate of the number of men, by township, who could be drafted. As it turned out, Macneal writes, “the Civil War draft was a paper tiger.” Of 148 Centre County men composing the list of draftees in late May 1864, 71 paid the commutation fee of \$300, 47 were exempted for disability, 18 were exempted for all other causes, 5 sent acceptable substitutes, and only 7 were drafted.

Nonetheless, the *Democratic Watchman* continued to agitate against the draft and the continuation of the war. In fact its editor, Peter Gray Meek, had been arrested in August 1862 during the countywide effort to raise the Centre County Regiment “on a charge of inducing men not to enlist in the army.” He was arrested again in March 1865 and brought to Harrisburg by military escort to be tried on unspecified charges before a military tribunal.

Without question, the Civil War produced sharp political divisions in Centre County—divisions that were present at the outset but which solidified in 1863 and intensified until war’s end. Is it any wonder that in November 1864 Lincoln lost, by 846 votes, the county he had won four year earlier?

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:

Penny Effrig
 Dave Lembeck
 Randolph Thomas
 Jo Merrell and Floyd Todd – plants
 Mary and Kent Addis
 Robert Malcom
 Frank Archibald
 Elena Schiano
 Patti and Addie Finkle

Thank you to Robbin Degaratu for all of her assistance and support over the years as the Administrative Director of the Centre County Library & Historical Museum. We wish Robbin well as she begins her new position as Public Service Director at the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport.

CCHS Membership Hits All-Time High: 879 Members for 2022

We offer profound thanks to our renewing and new members for enabling the CCHS to set a new record—879 members for 2022. This translates to a 14% increase in members, from 771 in 2021 to 879 this year.

After October 1, renewing and new members will count for the 2023 membership year, which begins January 1. Those who renew or join in the remaining months of 2022 will hold their memberships until December 31, 2023.

Can't remember if you renewed? Check the back page of this newsletter – your membership expiration date will be noted to the right of your name and address. No date? It's time to become a member!

To renew your membership, simply return the form on the back page of this newsletter or visit CentreHistory.org and click on MEMBERSHIP at the top of the page.

Your annual membership dues provide the means to our ends—discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, advocating, and promoting the history of Centre County. We do not take your membership for granted and will continue working hard to earn your interest and trust.

~ Roger Williams and Katie O'Toole, Membership Co-Chairs

Thank you to our new and renewing members for your support of the Centre County Historical Society.

Memberships received August 1 - October 21, 2022.

New Members:

Diane & Berry Bloom
Kathryn & Carmelo Ferrigno
Amy Frantz
Claire Lorts

Doris MacKenzie
Henry Pisciotta
Michele Rivera
Cheryl Seddon

Renewing Members:

Ellis & Lynn Abramson
Anonymous
Mary Dunn
Carl Evensen
Amos & Casey Goodall
Karen & Don Hazel
Helen Manfull

Albert & Sharon Matyasovsky
Lester McClellan
John & Jodi Mentzell
Jay & Joyce Rush
James & Brucie Serene
Paul & Sally Wangsness
Doyle & Ron Wilkerson
Greg & Renee Ziegler

2022 Annual Fund Campaign

In early October, the CCHS launched our 2022 Annual Fund campaign, with appeal letters being sent to members and friends.

We thank you for your support over the years. The Annual Fund Campaign has become our largest source of operating revenue. When the first campaign was launched in 2017, you and your neighbors provided \$6,690. Last year, that sum had swelled to \$32,000. This year, we hope you will help us raise \$35,000.

We are in the midst of a highly successful year, but with challenges aplenty in front of us. Topmost among them is our advocacy to protect the Penns/Brush Valley Historic District from being selected by PennDOT as the preferred route for the new State College Connector Project. This large swath of beautiful rural land was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the CCHS a quarter century ago.

Our other top priority is starting Phase 2 of the Centre Furnace Mansion Restoration Project.

Aside from that, the year has seen the growth of the new online *Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture*—which was awarded the PA Museum's Institutional Award of Merit—to more than 145 entries. We sponsored five major historical presentations, expanded our quarterly *Mansion Notes*, revamped our Stocking Stuffer event, and rebuilt the front stairs of the Mansion. We published *Aaronsburg to Zion: The Amazing Centre County Postcard Collection of Joan Brower*. Not least, we enrolled 879 members—a record high.

To help us continue this work, we hope you will take part in our Annual Fund Campaign. Your philanthropy will provide much-needed income to cover operating and maintenance expenses for our buildings and grounds, support our small professional staff, and otherwise pay for everything we do. As you might imagine, we too are beset with substantial price increases for goods, supplies, and labor.

Return envelopes were provided with the October mailing, but you may also give online by going to centrehistory.org and clicking on the "DONATE NOW" button.

However you respond, your generosity again this year will enable us to carry out our mission of discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, presenting, and promoting the fascinating history of Centre County.





CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 CENTRE FURNACE MANSION
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Membership

New members welcome anytime.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | | \$100 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward | | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ironmaster | | \$1500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Gift | \$ _____ | |

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

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

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

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

Join or renew at <https://centre-county-historical-society.square.site>, or fill out this form and send to CCHS, 1001 E. College Ave., State College, PA 16801 or call us at 814-234-4779. The annual membership period is January through December.

Name(s) _____

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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.