



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 4

Fall 2010

Scotia – Lost in History

Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Foxdale Village Auditorium

Scotia, a once dynamic community integral to the iron industry in Centre County is now a ghost town. Relive the history of Scotia on **Thursday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Foxdale Village Auditorium (500 East Marylyn Avenue, State College) for a collaborative program with the Centre County Historical Society and the Centre County Genealogical Society. Bob Hazelton, who serves on the board of both organizations, tells the fascinating story of Scotia, illustrated with historic and current slides.

The Scotia area, in Patton Township, was a significant part of Centre County's iron industry that spanned from the early 1800s through to the 1940s. Scotia, itself, operated for 30 years beginning in 1880 with 250 workers removing countless tons of iron ore using the latest technology of that era.

Andrew Carnegie, through the Edgar Thompson Steel Company, leased large tracts of iron ore in the area. While small-scale mining had taken place there since the late 18th century, Carnegie organized a major effort to utilize the deposits in 1880.

Prior to the Scotia operation, the way that iron was mined left behind quantities of ore that was covered in clay. The ore washer was invented to remove the clay, but the lack of running water near the mines meant that the heavy clay-laden ore would need to be hauled to the furnace site. There, running water was always present in order to power the furnace bellows. Transporting the ore and the clay was not very efficient as it increased manpower and expenses. The Scotia operation eliminated these concerns by using an on-site ore washer powered from

steam engines and pumped wells for the water source.

Scotia was also once a community that had company housing, stores, a post office, and railroad station. The Bellefonte Central abandoned its line to Scotia in 1915, and the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1927. The village had already been vacated in 1922 or 1923.

There was a brief attempt to revive mining at Scotia during World War II, and the Bellefonte Central received Reconstruction Finance Corporation money to build a new branch from Alto to Scotia to serve the new facilities. However, the mine was only briefly in operation, and soon ceased permanently. Today it is all but gone and now encompassed by Pennsylvania State Game Lands No. 176. Bob Hazelton is part of a group currently researching Scotia and trying to keep its history alive.



About the Centre County Historical Society

Centre County Historical Society
Centre Furnace Mansion
1001 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
814.234.4779
info@centrecountyhistory.org
http://www.centrecountyhistory.org

The Centre County Historical Society operates the Centre Furnace Mansion as an historic house museum. The Mansion is open to the public for tours and library use on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. The Society's hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

✦ Board of Governors ✦

Jacqueline J. Melander, *President*
John H. Ziegler, *Vice President*
Patrick Morse, *Treasurer*

Allen Baney
Jeffrey M. Bower, *Emeritus*
James Broyles
Robert B. Donaldson, Jr.
Katie Frieden, *Garden Coordinator*
Carol Gentry
Steven Gentry
Robert B. Hazelton
Judith Heald
Felicia Lewis
Waneta Lingenfelter
W. Douglas Macneal, *Centre County Heritage*
David W. Miller
Ann Moellenbrock
Mary Osborn, *Docent Coordinator*
Beth Ricker
Ralph Seeley
Lois Smith, *Emeritus*

✦ Staff ✦

Mary Sorensen
Executive Director

Rhiannon McClintock
Program Coordinator/Website Administrator

Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is the oldest and largest history organization in the county, serving as the official historical society of Centre County. It is a community and volunteer based non-profit educational organization that works collaboratively with local, regional, county, and state organizations in helping to preserve and promote the area's historic, cultural, and natural resources.

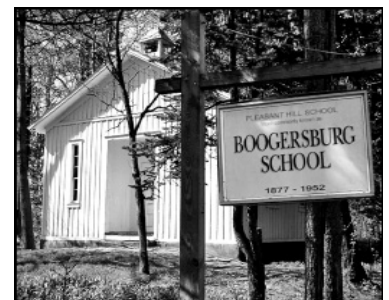
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th century beginnings of Penn State University, originally located on furnace lands. The site offers more than eight acres of landscaped grounds and gardens.

CCHS disseminates historical information about Centre County; offers programs and exhibits of historical and cultural interest for children and adults; marks and helps preserve and protect the Centre Furnace Mansion property and grounds, our newly acquired Boogersburg School, and other historical sites and landscapes in Centre County; maintains a collection of artifacts, books, manuscripts, maps and photographs; and publishes and promotes interest in historically significant publications relating to Centre County.

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, which is made possible through the Keatley Fund.

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.



Around



September

CRICKFEST

Sunday, September 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Penns Valley Conservation Association
<http://www.pennsvalley.net>

October

Spring Creek Day Family Festival

Sunday, October 3 from noon - 5:00 p.m.

ClearWater Conservancy
<http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org>

Boalsburg Columbus Ball

Saturday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Boal Mansion Museum and Columbus Chapel
<http://www.boalmuseum.com>

The Round Barn's 100th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, October 16

Penns Valley Area Historical Museum
<http://www.pennsvalleymuseum.org>

November

Fall History Dinner

Sunday, November 10

Penns Valley Area Historical Museum
<http://www.pennsvalleymuseum.org>

President's Corner



A Melodious Fall Medley

A look at this fall issue of *Mansion Notes* offers a melodious fall medley – a collection of events and accomplishments, worthy of the concert stage.

Two wonderful projects are part of the reason we all should be singing with joy: the soon-to-be completed repair of the Centre Furnace Mansion back porch, a part of the house that was put into 'play' more than 100 years ago; and the soon-to-be started replanting of the acre of CCHS land that abuts the Boogersburg School, to offer a welcome return of nature's green.

And then there is the All-Star event of the PNC Bank United Way Day of Caring in which more than 100 community 'musicians' (or, perhaps, we should call them magicians) converge on the Mansion and school properties for a day in October to offer their energy and enthusiasm by undertaking and completing a carefully orchestrated symphony of projects. How can we all at CCHS adequately thank and sing our praises to these wonderful people?

Please plan to stop by our two historic sites this fall to see what is underway. Music is truly in the air. If you listen carefully, you may very well hear a chorus of historic angels in the background.

The Loss of a Friend **Bill Hall**

We were so very sorry to hear about the loss of our good friend Bill Hall of Snow Shoe.

Bill, a past member of the CCHS Board of Governors, has been the preserver and promoter of Centre County's Mountaintop area and its history for years and years.

A gracious man, he generously shared his love and his knowledge of Snow Shoe and the region with us, readily providing answers to our many questions whenever we asked. One of his many accomplishments was in establishing the Lions David House Heritage Museum to preserve this beautiful area's history. He will be sorely missed.

~ Jackie Melander

Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party

Sunday, September 12 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



There are still tickets left for the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party: Sweepstakes to Cupcakes raffle! Hurry, as the event is just weeks away and only 300 tickets will be sold.

Purchase a chance to win one of three fabulous prizes and enjoy a late summer afternoon in the Centre Furnace Mansion's gardens with food, drinks, games, garden tours and more on Sunday, September 12, where we will hold the drawing for three fabulous prizes.

Tickets are \$25 each. Please send a check along with name, address and phone number for each ticket to: Centre County Historical Society, 1001 E. College Ave., State College, PA 16801. For more information, or to download the official form, please visit: <http://centrecountyhistory.org/events/gardenparty.html>

Boogersburg School Update

Earlier last spring, working with professors **Martin McGann** and **Dan Stearns** through the Department of Landscape Contracting, Penn State students **Kyle Pearman**, **Chris Lisiecki**, **Dustin Stoner**, **June Cunningham** and **Zach Miller** spent their semester developing a landscape plan for the Boogersburg School property as part of a group project.

CCHS has recently received word that it will be receiving a grant from the Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania to fund the beginning stages of this work at Boogersburg School. Initial projects include the installation of a water supply and the planting of several larger trees. The plan incorporates a natural setting that includes several interpretive possibilities with native trees, shrubs and a meadow area, as well as paths that will one day provide a place for the many children on school district sponsored field trips to enjoy and learn. Our hope is to be able to proceed with plans beginning in October on the PNC Bank United Way Day of Caring.

Day of Caring Thursday, October 7

The 2010 PNC Bank United Way Day of Caring is right around the corner, and we have many exciting projects planned at the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School for this year's event on **Thursday, October 7**. The Day of Caring is the largest service day of the year for CCHS. A number of Centre Furnace Mansion gardeners oversee grounds and garden projects and over 100 volunteers organized through the United Way generously give their time on this transformational day. Projects range from painting and carpentry to raking, mulching and other general garden activities.

If you enjoy baking, there is always a need for baked goodies and other food items for those who are working. If you would like to be a part of the Day of Caring at Centre Furnace Mansion or Boogersburg School, please know that we will find a suitable way for you to help! Simply call (814) 234-4779 to find out more.

Even if you don't have time to participate, we hope that you will stop by during the day if you can, to see the amazing accomplishments of these Day of Caring participants. It is truly a remarkable example of a community in action.



E-Newsletter Mailing List

Are you on our electronic mailing list? Sign up to receive our e-newsletter, hosted by Constant Contact, and stay up to date on CCHS news, programs and activities. Send an e-mail to info@centrecountyhistory.org requesting to be added to the mailing list. We intend to keep our mailings to a minimum, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Thursdays in the Gardens

By Katie Frieden

CFM Garden Coordinator

June is always a popular month for weddings and this year the Centre Furnace Mansion grounds hosted two weddings. The gardens looked very romantic with the peonies, poppies and roses in full bloom. One of the lovely couples shared their vows under the arch in the upper garden, while the other shared their vows in front of the gazebo.



Photo © Jesse Lane Photography

Also in June, **Mary Osborn** graciously spent several hours giving the Garden Committee a brief history of the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Thompson family. Now we will be ready to answer questions when curious visitors stop by while we are working in the gardens.

In July, CCHS Vice President **John Ziegler** and his wife, **Jane**, hosted a Garden Committee Appreciation potluck dinner at their cabin on Spruce Creek. It was a hot and humid evening and just as everyone arrived, a large tree was struck by lightning and took the power lines down with it. Luckily, the lack of power didn't prevent anyone from enjoying the good food and the lovely scenery. The most memorable event was the sighting of a Bald Eagle perched high up in a tree above John's cabin. We all took the sighting as a good omen.

In August, the gardeners worked their way around the property sprucing the gardens up before the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party on September 12.

Many thanks to **Carol Phillips** for turning our messy, old kitchen garden shelves into a beautiful new exhibit space. Carol researched Victorian kitchen gardens and now the shelves are filled with tools, baskets and cloches similar to those used in Mary Irvin Thompson's time.

If you are interested in knowing more about the flowers that were grown in Victorian times, **Bev Lipski** and **Ruth Merritt** are planning an heirloom bulb workshop that will feature bulbs planted in Victorian times. We will keep you posted on progress.

Farewell and Thank You

Bob Leonard

This fall we bid farewell to Centre Furnace Mansion gardener and friend **Bob Leonard** as he and his wife, Joann, relocate to California to enjoy being closer to family. Not every day does someone come along with the kind of long-term dedication and level of commitment that Bob has given to CCHS. During his four years at the Mansion, he has initiated and completed numerous projects that have required his creativity, resourcefulness and skills, ranging from carpentry to advocacy.



Bob will be terribly missed on Thursdays in the gardens, but we know this is a great opportunity for the whole Leonard family. An enthusiastic thank you and salute to Bob for everything he has done at Centre Furnace Mansion.

PHMC Grant Update

After thoughtful consideration about how to proceed with restoration of the Mansion's porch columns, we have finally settled on a plan. There was a unique, but obscure, drainage system within the columns that had become plugged over the years, creating a moist environment perfect for carpenter ants to call home. After careful investigation of the columns, it became apparent that more serious work was ahead.

To provide support, structural steel rods will be placed, hidden from view, inside the historic wooden columns, whose design is unique to this region in the 19th century.

Work is now once again underway to continue this restoration that first began in 2008 when CCHS applied for grant support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Grant program and from the Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Thanks to the generosity of these agencies, and particularly to the many members of the community who generously donated funds to help match the Keystone Grant, the restoration work will soon be completed.





CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CENTRE FURNACE MANSION
1001 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 95

Return Service Requested

Membership



Your membership supports all aspects of the Historical Society's operations. Membership benefits include: quarterly issues of *Mansion Notes*, the Society's newsletter; *Centre County Heritage*, the Society's journal; advance notice of programs; and a 10% discount on all Society publications.

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

Membership year runs January 1 - December 31

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

_____ Individual	\$35
_____ Household	\$50
_____ Friend	\$100
_____ House & Gardens	\$250
_____ Director's Circle	\$500
_____ Business	\$500
_____ Ironmaster's Circle	\$1500

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