

The Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project

by Dr. Sally McMurry, PSU Department of History

Pennsylvania now has a state-wide resource to help those who want to assess farm properties for historical significance, and especially to find out whether they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It's called the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project. Technically this tool is known as a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), but an easier shorthand term is "context." The appearance of an agricultural context is timely. A lot of prime farmland is under severe development pressure; meanwhile, a local foods movement is reviving interest in small-scale diversified farming. Many rural community planners and

historical organizations are looking for guidance on how to understand, protect, and reuse their historic barns, farmhouses, outbuildings, archaeological resources, and farm landscapes. The context (accessible at <http://phmc.info/aghistory>) will help a variety of users. It provides high quality analysis that will help transportation planners, and also inform the many initiatives across the state that seek to protect historic open space, farmland, and natural historic resources. The context can also provide an authoritative source of reliable background for heritage tourism and education projects.

The context was created by Penn State faculty and graduate students under my direction as Principal Investigator. Over ten years we did the basic primary source research and field study that underpins the project. The job presented daunting intellectual challenges! It was important to consider not just commodity production, but also a wide range of other factors that shape a farming landscape: production for farm or household use, land

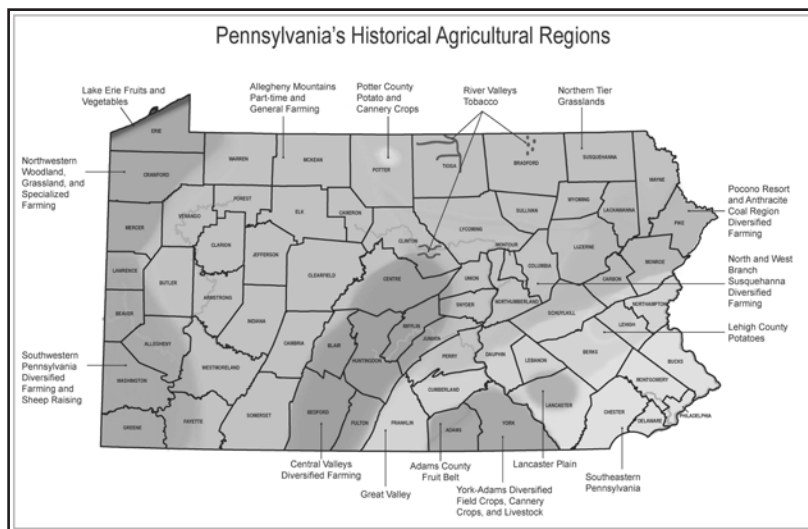
tenure patterns, labor systems, gender patterns, soil and climate, cultural repertoires, and even political factors.

Looking at Pennsylvania's history it was obvious that commodity production couldn't be our sole focus. It dominates most scholarly agricultural history, but it can't explain everything about the landscape. For example, it doesn't capture production for use (as opposed to sale). Over the years Pennsylvania farm people created many products that would not necessarily show up on farm ledger books because they were bartered, consumed by the family, or used by animals. These might involve raising feed and bedding for farm animals, tending

poultry flocks, cutting cordwood, or making maple sugar or home cured hams. These activities frequently fell outside strictly monetary calculations of "farm income", yet they were important aspects of a farm family's life and took up a good deal of family members' time. We can't understand the historic agricultural landscape without acknowledging these

activities, because they so often took place in the smokehouses, poultry houses, root cellars, summer kitchens, springhouses, and workshops that appear so frequently in the rural Pennsylvania landscape. These spaces might not be well accounted for (if at all) in a conceptualization that emphasizes commodity production, but they become more readily comprehensible when we take into account the broader diversity of farm productions. Another important benefit of this perspective is that it preserves—indeed reclaims—contributions that a preoccupation with specialized market commodities tends to obscure, for example those of women and children.

...continued on page 12



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

www.centrehistory.org
www.facebook.com/centrefurnace
www.twitter.com/centrehistory

Centre County Historical Society

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 9:00am - 5:00 pm

Research Requests & Archives Use:

By appointment.

Centre Furnace Mansion

Public Tours, Exhibits, & Library Use:

Sun./Wed./Fri. 1:00-4:00pm

Group Tours: *By appointment.*

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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.

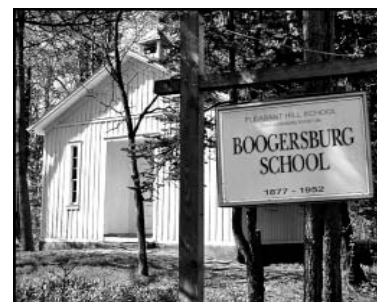
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th-century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th-century 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, 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 G. Harold 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.



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Upcoming CCHS Events

November

Now - Dec 22

Exhibit: A Common Canvas
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
1pm - 4pm • Sun./Wed./Fri.

Now - Dec 22

Exhibit: "Building on the Past: The Archaeological Story of a 19th Century Ore Washing Site"
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
1pm - 4pm • Sun./Wed./Fri.

Nov 10

History Talk: Evaluating PA's Agricultural History, c. 1700-1960
Speaker: Dr. Sally McMurry
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
2pm • Sun.

Nov 28-30

CCHS offices Closed for Thanksgiving

December

Dec 1-4

Centre Furnace Mansion Decorating & Stocking Stuffer Set-Up
To volunteer, contact Megan.
234-4779 | morient@centrefurnace.org

Dec 5

Stocking Stuffer Preview Party
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
6:30 - 8:30pm • Thurs.
Music, wine, heavy hors d'oeuvres
\$25/Mbr (\$30/Non-Mbr). *RSVP to*
234-4779 | morient@centrefurnace.org

Dec 6-7

Stocking Stuffer
Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale
Caroling, hot cider, cookies
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
10am - 4 pm • Fri. & Sat.
\$5.00 admission

Coming in 2014...

Mar 16 - Aug 31

Exhibit: Veiled Arts of Victorian Women
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
1pm - 4pm • Sun./Wed./Fri.

For details, visit: centrehistory.org.

President's Corner



Board Happenings

CCHS has honored historic preservation achievements across the county in a formal way for twenty-five years. The person who has spearheaded this program for all of these years is John Ziegler. He, with colleagues Bob Gruver, Bob Hazelton and others, has traveled the county to gather information about individual and organizational efforts in preserving the county's cultural and environmental richness. But, as many of you know, this is just one of a multitude of ways in which John has contributed to the richness of Centre County. A CCHS Board Member for three decades, he also has played a major role in organizations like ClearWater Conservancy and as a College Township Council member. As John moves from an active to an emeritus role in the Society, its annual Historic Preservation event will be designated as the John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Program. A small way to thank you, Mr. Ziegler!

Moving into the vice president position is Board Member Bob Hazelton. Again, as many of you know, Bob has been researching forgotten communities and industrial sites across Centre County – from Pennsylvania Furnace to Harmony Forge in Boggs Twp., from the Scotia iron mining operation to Philip Benner's Rock Iron Works in the Canyon along Spring Creek. Using old photos and documents, combined with on-site investigations looking for clues (often mostly below ground or covered in heavy brush) he has been able to reconstruct the story. A master with maps, Bob has been able to retell this history in context by overlaying old maps onto current ones.

A third Society Board Member, Doug Macneal, who has served as the editor of Centre County Heritage, is also taking on an emeritus role after years of providing the "publications face" to CCHS. Heritage issues have ranged over a variety of locations and subjects that have included James Potter's Empire, Centre County's Civil War presence, the sculptor George Gray Barnard and his images of Lincoln and relationship to Andrew Gregg Curtin. Doug's carefully researched and documented articles have represented some of the best local history writings by historical societies across Pennsylvania. They represent a core of writings that CCHS continues to offer through library access, and for purchase at the Mansion and on the CCHS website. Sincere thanks are due Doug as well.

Two new Board members offer new insights in communication--Katie O'Toole and Ford Risley, both faculty members in Penn State's College of Communications. Katie is a lecturer in Broadcasting and formerly was a producer/writer at Penn State Public Broadcasting. Ford, the head of the Dept. of Journalism, has a strong interest in media history and has served as the national president of the American Journalism Historians Association. The Society is privileged to have persons of such experience and stature on its Board.

~ Jackie Melander

25th Anniversary Historic Preservation Awards

Re-named in Honor of John H. Ziegler

As expressed by Darwin Braund, the awards program master of ceremonies, the Historic Preservation Awards is our local “historical hall of fame” for individuals and organizations, and their various historic preservation projects. This year, on the 25th anniversary, several new worthy recipients were added to the long list of 165 honorees to date. The 2013 award recipients are:

- **Centre County Genealogical Society**
- **Robert B. Hazelton, Historic Research**
- **Historic Flour Mills Map:** Robert McLaughlin
- **James Irvin Farm:** Lewis & Gail Biddle Family
- **Robert Valentine House:** Michael & Tara Immel
- **Salt Lick CCC Camp S-121 Historical Marker Committee:** The Howard T. “Jim” Davy Family, and the Curtin Township Board of Supervisors

At the awards program, a special presentation was made by the CCHS Board of Governors announcing the annual Historic Preservation Awards Program will carry the name of John H. Ziegler. John has been involved since the beginnings of this awards initiative twenty-five years ago and has served as its chairman since then. This naming of the program is to honor John who has in so many ways furthered the Historical Society’s mission over the years by encouraging community members to better understand, experience, appreciate and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of Centre County.



From this point forward, the awards will be named the: **John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Program of the Centre County Historical Society.** Each award in the program is to be identified as a John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Award. Pictured above is John (front row, center) surrounded by his family, to include his wife Jane (front row, left).

We extend our thanks to the Preservation Awards committee members* and those who volunteered to help with event preparation, refreshments, and clean-up:

Darwin Braund*	Dick Pencek*
Elizabeth Dutton	Johanna Sedgwick
Katie Frieden	Dolores Simpson
Bob Hazelton*	Mary Sorensen*
Jackie Melander*	Betsy Taylor
Ann Moellenbrock	Kitty Wunderly*
Megan Orient*	John Ziegler*

Penns/Brush Valley Rural Historic District

In 2002, the PHMC Bureau of Historic Preservation determined that the Penns/Brush Valley Rural Historic District was eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It was based on a nomination that had been submitted by the Centre County Historical Society that highlighted this large and still intact rich agricultural area in the southeastern portion of Centre County.

An eligibility listing offers protection under Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966. A rural historic district emphasizes its contextual relationships and components that include structures, as well as tree lines, woodlots, crop fields,

pastures, and natural features such as springs, streams, view sheds and vistas. These components are in keeping with the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project guide, the subject of Dr. McMurry’s talk on Nov. 10 at the Centre Furnace Mansion.

CCHS is serving as a Consulting Party for the Potters Mills Gap transportation project and will be providing comments to PennDOT and project engineers McCormick-Taylor related to Penns/Brush Valley’s historical significance. The *Draft Abbreviated Determination of Eligibility Report* is available online at paprojectpath.org. We will share additional project information with you as it becomes available.

Collections Investigation

by Betsy Taylor

It has been almost three years since my husband and I moved to State College. And while I had visited my father's "Cousin Anne" a few times here while growing up in the Chicago environs, I knew very little about her. She was older than my Dad, and I knew that her father had helped to send my father to Penn State. But after I married in 1953, I never returned to State College until our daughter moved here 20 years ago. My father's cousin, much older than he, was no longer living, and that ended the family connection, or so I thought.

And then, we also moved to State College to be near our daughter, who was named at birth for that long ago family cousin, Anne Hamilton Henszey. Those familiar with that name will know of her connection to Centre Furnace Mansion, but I had nary a clue! And, so, it was with amazement two years ago while touring the Mansion for the first time to learn that the large framed charcoal portrait, located on an easel in Moses Thompson's parlor, was of his daughter Elizabeth, who in 1875 married John Hamilton, my father's uncle. And the little girl in the portrait with chopped off hair, done to provide coolness to her head when she had scarlet fever, was Anne Hamilton Henszey – the very cousin of my father I had visited as a little girl!

So now I began my own quest: What was my family connection, if any, to Centre Furnace Mansion? Or to the Thompsons? Or, for that matter, to "Uncle John Hamilton"?

In searching family records, I discovered that John Hamilton's father was Hugh Hamilton of Juniata County, Fermanagh Township. His mother, Sarah Getts McDowell, died when John, the oldest of two, was only four years old. Two years later his father was remarried to Sarah Ann Kless and, in time, they had 8 more children. Combining his two families, they continued to live on the old Hamilton family farm. One of the younger children was Francisca Blair Hamilton, my grandmother! What a fun investigation my hunt turned out to be!

So now, as a volunteer, when I lead a tour at Centre Furnace Mansion, I cannot shake the haunting feeling that I am walking in my grandmother's footsteps! Even though the family connection is remote, I feel a tug of personal history! Was my grandmother in the wedding party when her half brother, Professor John Hamilton, married Elizabeth Thompson on October 27, 1875 with a ceremony performed by the Reverend Robert Hamill?

Did my grandmother call Elizabeth "Lizzie", as the wedding register indicates she was called? Did she dine in the lovely Thompson dining room? Or help Elizabeth put on her beautiful wedding dress that is now part of the Museum's collection? Or did she visit John and Elizabeth and their little girl Anne in their lodgings in Old Main, where the family first lived while John served in a variety of agricultural and financial leadership positions. As recorded, Old Main was the main building of the original Farmers' High School, which evolved into the Pennsylvania Agricultural College and later became Pennsylvania State College.

As I was only three when my grandmother died, my questions will never be answered. But next time you visit Moses' Parlor in the Mansion, look at the framed picture of Elizabeth Thompson Hamilton and her daughter Anne. Then, in the East bedroom upstairs, look for two round wooden hatboxes with Francisca Blair Hamilton's hats. Recently gifted to the Museum by my family, I like to imagine that, just maybe, my grandmother spent the night in that room as a family guest. Now, you can't blame me for dreaming!

From the Archives

by Cathy Horner

From our Places and Spaces collection: This undated photograph was taken at the corner of Beaver and Allen in downtown State College. Notice the traffic light and parked car behind the pedestrians, indicating a two-way street!

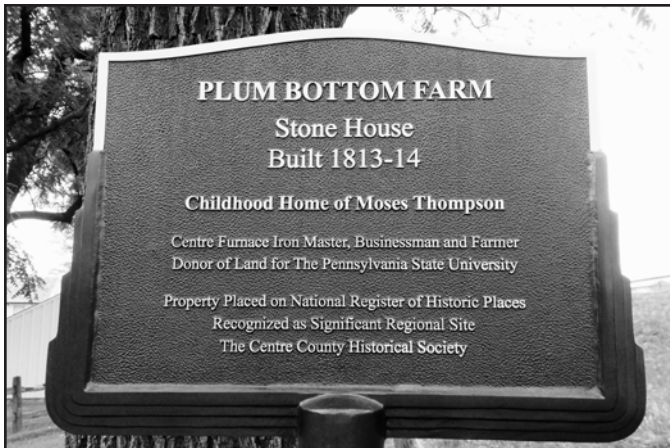
"Griffith Building at the corner of Beaver and Allen, looking west down Beaver Avenue. Kaye's Korner is the shop at the corner, Margaret's Drygoods shop is to the right".

The current businesses located here are Growing Tree Toys and Kitchen Kaboodle.



Plum Bottom Farm Historic Marker

by Jackie Melander



There are several historic connections in the Centre Region that relate to Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson. The Centre Furnace Mansion, of course, is one. It was the home of the Thompson family for more than fifty years. Thompson's relationship with Penn State is noted in the historic marker that the Penn State Alumni Association placed at the walkway entrance to the Mansion to commemorate the University's 150th anniversary. Another marker is located at the Lemont Granary, highlighting the role of Moses and his son John in the early development of Lemont.

Less well known are the Thompson connections to other locations, such as Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, which is located on the site of one of Thompson's tenant farm properties. Also, a collection of one-room schools was built on Thompson lands to meet the educational needs of the children of those tenant farmers.

Plum Bottom Farm on Branch Road provides another rich piece in Thompson history. A log house, Moses' birthplace in 1810, was replaced with the current stone house in 1813-14 by his father John Thompson. Due to its historic significance, fine architecture, and accompanying setting, the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Because of owner Fred Kissinger's interest and generosity, Plum Bottom Farm now has an historic marker designating it as the childhood home of Moses Thompson. CCHS assisted Mr. Kissinger with the wording and in arranging for the marker to be made through the Erie Landmark Company. CCHS also added its name to the marker to acknowledge this historic property's regional significance.

While CCHS is not in a position to finance markers such as this one, we can help connect the "historical dots" of these important local stories related to already-listed National Register properties and districts around Centre County.

Exhibit News

Through December 22:

A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals.

A Common Canvas was designed as a traveling exhibit in 2008 by the State Museum of Pennsylvania in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Featuring themes of agriculture, industry, and airmail, the content of *A Common Canvas* combines the research and graphic design by David Lembeck with photography by Michael Mutmansky.

Through December 22:

Building on the Past: Bringing 19th Century Innovation to a 21st Century Industrial Park.

First exhibited in 2011, *Building on the Past* tells of the discovery of a 19th century ore washing operation on the former Rockview State Correctional Institution lands being developed as the new Benner Commerce Park. Initially part of Bellefonte's Logan Furnace, ore washing at this site was an important part of Centre County's early industrial history. The exhibit is based on archaeology and documentation by Heberling Associates, Inc., Gary Coppock, senior archaeologist and principal researcher. The complete archaeology report is now available to the public at the CCHS Library, and will also be added as a fully linked, searchable PDF on the CCHS website at: www.centrehistory.org/exhibits/building-on-the-past/.



March 16—August 31, 2014:

Veiled Arts of Victorian Women

This exhibition will examine the role of women in the Victorian period when Moses and Mary Irvin Thompson were raising their family at the Centre Furnace Mansion and serving as a center of hospitality during the development of the Farmers High School. Rules of etiquette, hidden languages and tradition of flowers, fans and calling cards will be explored as well as the more practical side of daily life including the challenge of safely preserving and storing food. Watch for more details in the winter edition of *Mansion Notes*.

Stocking Stuffer is Going Green

Though our signature event color is bright red, this year's Stocking Stuffer is a very green occasion. Shoppers will delight in the number of vendors who specialize in growing, reusing and recycling – perfect gifts with the least impact on our environment.

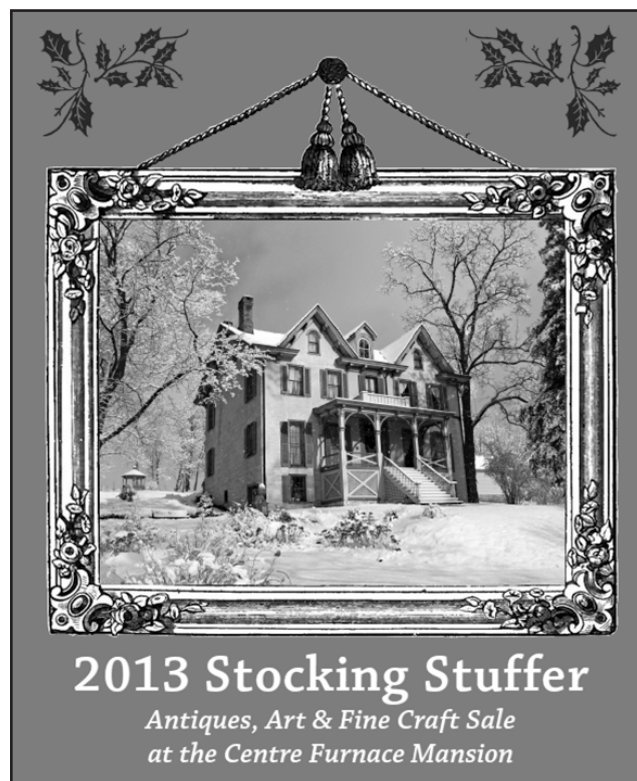
Aside from our many antique vendors, who specialize in the best of “new to you” collectibles, new to the Stocking Stuffer this year is Flotsam & Jetson artisan Carol Baney who salvages vintage watch parts and turns them into timeless jewelry pieces. Also new to participate is Teresa Timmerman who creates stylish stockings, festive flowers, and more from recycled vintage fabrics, wool, and cashmere.

Back this year by popular demand are a few favorite vendors. Second Season Mittens, crafted by Susan Wise and a few elves, are made from upcycled sweaters and lined with warm, cozy fleece. And every lady needs a special place to keep her mittens and other treasures, which is why Lisa Packer's ‘pocketBOOKS’ are so popular. Lisa repurposes hard book covers, lines them with charming coordinating fabrics, and attaches equally catchy handles to convert them into purses.

Locally grown gourds are carved and cleverly hand-painted into birdhouses and ornaments by returning artisan Stephanie Gush. Her decorative paintings on repurposed barn wood and recycled roofing slate are also a wonderful addition. And a gift everyone can enjoy is a delicious package of Cooke Tavern Soups - all natural soup mixes without salt, MSG or preservatives.

Pressed flowers, home canned foods, herbal delights, vegetable glycerin soaps, nature-inspired art, and pottery Santas made from vintage chocolate molds...so many of our vendors have a bit of green in what they do.

By shopping locally and purchasing the hand-made crafts of our community's artisans, you also contribute to caring for our environment, and support a non-profit organization that in turn supports our community.



Preview Party

Thursday, December 5

6:30-8:30pm @ Centre Furnace Mansion

\$30/person (\$25/member)

RSVP by Monday, Dec. 2nd

Be the first to peruse and purchase from this year's Stocking Stuffer Sale. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and desserts before and after you shop, while enjoying music by a fiddler – a Mansion tradition dating back to the Thompson times.

This is CCHS's major annual fundraiser. Ask a friend to join you for the evening. Can't attend? Admission makes a lovely gift for a neighbor or employee as well. Or consider a donation in your absence.

11th Annual

Stocking Stuffer

Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale

Fri. & Sat. December 6-7

10:00am - 4:00pm @ Centre Furnace Mansion

\$5/admission

Every shopper will enjoy the ambience of this historic house and get in the spirit of the holiday season. Take in the sights, smells, and refreshments – including the complimentary hot cider and delicious cookies. This year, community carolers will entertain you, and author Ken Hull will be on-site to autograph copies of his book *Going Local II*.



On-Going

Weekly

Line Dancing in the Schoolhouse
@ Rock Hill School House
7pm Tu & Th
rockhillschoolatlindenhall.blogspot.com/

Now – Dec 1

Faculty Collections: School of Visual Arts Alumni Works
12pm-6pm Tu-Th, 12pm-4pm F-Sun
@ Robeson Gallery, HUB

Now – Dec

New “Hearth Cooking” Exhibit
@ Boalsburg Heritage Museum
2pm-4pm Tu & Sat, or by appt.
boalheritagemuseum.org

Now – mid-Dec.

Museum Tours
@ Milesburg Museum
9am-12pm Sat
milesburgmuseum.weebly.com | 364-1755

Now – Dec 8

American Block & Burin: Wood Engravings
@ Palmer Museum of Art
10am-4:30pm T-Sat, 12pm-4pm Sun
palmermuseum.psu.edu

November

Nov 9

Kids’ Day: Dress Up & Discover
@ PA Military Museum
10am-3pm
pamilmuseum.org

Nov 9

Native Plant Program, Dr. Doug Tallamy
@ 101 Ag Science & Indus Bldg, PSU
2:00pm
panativeplantsociety.org

Nov 9

Fun & Frolic at the Philharmonic
@ Eisenhower Auditorium
7:30pm
www.nvs.org

Nov 11

Veterans’ Day Open House
@ PA Military Museum
10am-4pm
pamilmuseum.org/events/event-schedule

Nov 17, 24

Home Football Sunday Programs
@ Pasto Ag Museum
1pm-4pm
<http://agsci.psu.edu/pasto>

Nov 17

AIR DYNAMICS Concert
@ Centre County Library, Bellefonte
2:30pm
bellefontearts.org/library_concerts.htm

Nov 24

Tea at the Museum
@ The Bellefonte Art Museum
1:00-3:30pm
bellefontemuseum.org

December

Dec 1 – Jan 26

Holiday Show and Fine Art Sale
@ The Bellefonte Art Museum
1:00-4:30pm Fri-Sun
bellefontemuseum.org

Dec 5

Stocking Stuffer Preview Party
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
6:30pm Thurs
centrehistory.org/stockingstuffer/

Dec 6-7

Stocking Stuffer Sale
Antiques, Art & Fine Crafts
@ Centre Furnace Mansion
10am-4pm Fri & Sat
centrehistory.org/stockingstuffer/

Dec 6-7

Boalsburg Hometown Christmas
@ Heritage Museum, Lions Club & Twp Bldg
2-9pm Fri, 8:30am-9:00pm Sat
boalsburgvillageconservancy.org

Dec 6-7

5th annual “Weihnachtsmarkt”
German-style Christmas Market
@ Lemont Village
5-8pm Fri, 10am-4pm Sat
lemontvillage.org

Dec 7-8

The Nutcracker Princess
by Centre Dance @ The State Theatre
7:00pm Sat, 3:00pm Sun
<http://thestatetheatre.org/centre-dance-the-nutcracker-princess/>

Dec 12

Gaslight Gala
@ American Philatelic Society
6:30pm
bellefontevictorianchristmas.com

Dec 13-15

32nd Bellefonte Victorian Christmas
@ Downtown Bellefonte
Craft Show Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4
bellefontevictorianchristmas.com

Dec 13, 14, 20, 21

Scrooge
@ State College Community Theatre
7:30pm Fri, 2:00 & 7:30 Sat
scctonline.org

Dec 13-15

Scrooge the Musical
@ The State Theatre
7:30pm F, 2pm & 7:30 Sat, 3pm Sun
<http://thestatetheatre.org/calendar/>

Dec 14

‘Twas the Week Before Christmas
@ Millbrook Marsh Nature Center
9am-12pm
crpr.org/sp-events/specials.html

Dec 14 & 15

Classic Christmas Display
@ Rock Hill School at Linden Hall
Times TBA
rockhillschoolatlindenhall.blogspot.com/

Dec 14

State College Choral Society Concert
@ Pasquerilla Spiritual Center
7:30pm
scchoralsociety.org



Volunteer Corner

CCHS volunteers have continued to expand their Centre County heritage knowledge through a series of site visits. Our August educational trip took us to the **Boalsburg Heritage Museum** for a tour of the house and barn, and special program about early American cooking related to the exhibit *The Hearth: The Heart of the Home*. Thank you to Janice McElhoe, Barbara Grignano, Elsie Hall, Earl Kessler, and Debbie Nydegger for this full day!

In September, fifteen individuals participated in our **Annual Volunteer Orientation & Refresher**. Special thanks to presenters Sharon Childs, Steve & Carol Gentry, Deb Raykovitz, Mary Sorensen & Megan Orient.

In October, we wrapped up our learning with a most interesting visit to the **Special Collections at Pattee Library, Penn State**. Here we had the opportunity to see original maps, photographs, day books, and ledgers all relating to Centre Furnace operations. Plus, a behind-the-scenes tour offered a glimpse into the archives room. A very special thanks to Doris Malkmus and Jim Quigle for arranging this educational tour.

Can you spare one afternoon each month? For history sleuths, storytellers or educators with an interest in leading tours: We are always looking for people who can help us share the history of the Centre Furnace Mansion, the ironmaking story, or the Boegersburg Schoolhouse with visitors. For information or to volunteer, please contact us: 814.234.4779 or info@centrefurnace.org.

Volunteers: Save these dates!

JAN 15 - Boegersburg Docent Training
FEB 12 - Docent Meeting
APR 16 - Volunteer Appreciation Reception
MAY 10 - Plant Celebration

Boegersburg Back to School

by Sharon Childs

When fall colors begin to dot the hillsides, educational programming gets back in full swing at the Boegersburg One-Room Schoolhouse. The fall season began with our annual Open House. A beautiful sunny yet cool day welcomed over 50 people. Children and adults alike participated in activities including horse shoes, sack races, Graces, and writing with a feather pen. We thank Linda Forrest, Gloria Nieweg, Carole Rose, and Megan Orient for leading the fun and sharing the history in their beautiful period clothing.

We are now gearing up for visits from elementary school children as well as from local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops. We are fortunate to have a very talented and committed group of volunteer 'school mistresses' to lead these programs, but we are always looking for more folks to join our Boegersburg 'faculty'. If you enjoy working with children and sharing history, what better opportunity than to become an 1800s school mistress or master, and bring history to life for our young people.

If this sounds like something you would like to explore, please plan to attend our training on **Wednesday, January 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at the Boegerburg Schoolhouse. No need to RSVP, just come! For more information, please contact Sharon Childs at 234.4779 or boegersburg@centrecountyhistory.org.

Thursdays in the Gardens

The Gardeners at the Centre Furnace Mansion are winding down and the Gardens are bundling up for winter! Heirloom bulbs have been planted to add to the thousands already donated over the years. All but the late fall bloomers have been clipped back to get ready for their spring performance.

Our sincere thanks to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners for their dedicated weekly leadership and work devoted to maintaining and enhancing the Mansion's 19th century inspired gardens. The Gardens have truly never looked so good.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: December 1, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. for holiday decorating of the porches, doors and Hearth Room! We are seeking your help and your donations of a variety of greens and pine rope, berries, dried flowers and materials like yarrow and pods, and interesting twigs like curly willow and red twig dogwood that are suitable for decorating. It should also be said that there will be cookies, cider and holiday cheer!

2013 PNC Bank Centre County United Way Day of Caring



Now celebrating 25 years, the Day of Caring is a countywide day of service that benefits qualifying non-profit organizations. Locally, the Centre County United Way engages individuals, businesses, and organizations to help improve our communities. Each year, CCHS benefits from the gift of their generous spirit, talents, contributions of materials, and good food to help accomplish a long punch list of projects. Many volunteers use vacation time or personal time to contribute to the Day of Caring.

On Thursday, October 3, nearly 250 volunteers arrived at The Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg Schoolhouse throughout the day. After signing in, and after getting their assignments, a cup of coffee, and donuts to fuel their morning, everyone went right to work!

The Gardens and Grounds at the Mansion were already buzzing at sunrise with equipment, landscape professionals and arborists from Penn State's Office of Physical Plant (OPP), Landscaping and Arboriculture. Arborists worked on several trees at the Centre Furnace Mansion, a gift that helps minimize storm damage, improve the landscape and increase the longevity of the Mansion's trees. Landscaping crews led grounds improvements including the installation of a beautiful stone patio in the Shrub Garden to provide visitors with a place to enjoy the gardens and Mansion view. The Gazebo



Garden is now graced with new steps to provide a more stable entrance. Less visible, but of great importance, is a rain drainage system that was installed to help redirect water that has been pooling near the Hearth Room door during unusually heavy rains.

Penn State OPP Landscape Department has been contributing to the Day of Caring for eight years and it is easy to see not only the visual improvement, but enhanced public accessibility of the grounds at Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School over these years.



Centre Furnace Mansion (CFM) Gardeners led much work throughout the Day of Caring, with the assistance of United Way volunteers, to help prepare the gardens for winter. Gardeners also donated over 300 heirloom bulbs, several trees, shrubs and plants. The CFM Gardeners work weekly throughout the growing season to plan, plant, and maintain the gardens, and help with our spring Plant Celebration. Across Porter Road, brush was cleared from around the trail and the drainage swale, and the historic Furnace Stack was weeded! Energetic, strong Penn State students leaned in with a sea of wheelbarrows and shovels, willing to spread mulch and compost and do whatever needed to be done. The Day of Caring is a huge boost that helps get heavier work done to keep the gardens looking their best. The 19th century inspired grounds at Centre Furnace Mansion never looked so lovely!

Inside, the walls in the Mansion's Dining Room and Founders' Room received two fresh coats of paint led by David Horner & Associates, Inc. with paint donated by Sherwin Williams – both of whom have been generously donating services and products on the Day of Caring to CCHS for 5 years. A rug cleaning for the two reversible woven rugs in these rooms was donated by Clean Sweep Professional Cleaning Services, Inc.

Painting outside focused on the trim work of the outbuildings led by Ray Forziat of Lowe's Home Improvement Store in State College with paint donated by Lowe's and by Valspar Paint.



The Boogersburg Schoolhouse was the recipient of much maintenance work led by Sharon and Eric Childs, Bob Donaldson, and Suzanne Thompson. Outside, the pedestrian bridge was re-stained, picnic tables sealed and outbuildings painted with paint donated by Lowe's, Olympic Paint and Sharon and Eric Childs. The trail and tree bases were given a good coating of mulch and the inside of the Schoolhouse received a thorough cleaning. The Schoolhouse is now ready for the hundreds of students that will be "attending school" for programs over the coming months!

Much good food was donated by Subway of State College and our CCHS members and volunteers. The choices were delicious and abundant and enabled us to show our great appreciation to all who volunteered on the Day of Caring.

On behalf of all of us at the Centre County Historical Society, we extend our sincerest thanks to the participating businesses, organizations and individuals outlined below who have graciously donated materials and labor and took time from your busy schedules to join us on the Day of Caring to make this incredible gift possible.

~ Mary Sorensen, *Executive Director*



Business & Organizational Partners
who sponsored materials and in-kind services:

Clean Sweep Professional
Cleaning Services, Inc.
David Horner & Associates Inc.
Flynn Stone
Fox Hill Gardens
Giant Food Store State College
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Valspar Paint
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Morgan Academic Support
Center for Student Athletes
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Penn State Smeal
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Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
RJ Reynolds
RSVP of Centre County
Reliance Bank
Schreyer Institute for Teaching
Excellence
Sigma Nu Fraternity

**CCHS Volunteers
& Contributors:**

Jill Aller
Susan Bachman
Allen Baney
Carol Baney
Katie Baney
Jeff Bower
Susan Bowser
Sharon Childs
Eric Childs
Monty Christiansen
Joyce Christini
Ed DeBrasky
Bob Donaldson
Elizabeth Dutton
Katie Frieden
Marshall Garrett
Bob Hazelton
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Cathy Horner
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Ruth Merritt
Ann Moellenbrock
Megan Orient
Martha Orland
Carol Phillips
Deb Raykovitz
Lynn Royse
Johanna Sedgwick
Mary Sorensen
Vicki Spadaccio
Lee Stout
Suzann Tedesco
Vin Tedesco
Suzanne Thompson
Floyd Todd
Steve Wheeler

For event photos, a complete report, and list of all individuals who volunteered at Centre Furnace Mansion, visit:
www.centrehistory.org/2013-day-of-caring-thanks/.

PA Ag. History Project cont'd....

Taking multiple influences into account allows us to understand how cultural repertoires shape the way a farm looks. A c.1800 three-bay barn in Berks County looks different from a c. 1800 three-bay barn in northern Pennsylvania. Both served similar agricultural production regimes, but they derived from Pennsylvania German and Yankee cultural repertoires respectively. Thinking broadly about social patterns helps us understand building qualities that might otherwise escape our attention. Here in Centre County, for example, tenancy rates were very high in the 19th century. A peculiar Pennsylvania German form of share tenancy prevailed in which fathers were landlords to sons (or sons-in-law). The tenants farmed for a share of the crop, and family members often pooled architectural as well as agricultural resources. So, we find shared barn spaces, marked out by divided granary bins and barn floors. We also find paired “mansion” and tenant houses. Labor patterns are often important determinants of farm landscape features. During and after the Second World War, for example, severe labor shortages on the farm led many growers to hire migrant workers. They were housed separately in barracks, some of which remain today as a reminder of this phase in Pennsylvania farming. It’s easy enough to think of political factors that affected the farming landscape. Dairy regulation is a good example; there would be no milk houses without the municipal and state rules about milk sanitation that were passed beginning around 1910.

The full flowering of distinctive agricultural regions in Pennsylvania occurred only in the mid-19th century. The census shows that almost all Pennsylvania farms produced the same array of crops and livestock; what made them vary was the proportions within the basic mix, along with local traditions, physical factors, and cultural repertoires. Regional differences appeared when thousands of farms in a given area raised products in a characteristic proportion. So for example, a typical farm in the Susquehanna North and West Branch region carried far more swine than in the southwest, where the favored animal was likely to be the sheep. A typical farm in the Northern Tier had far more hay and pasture land than in Centre County, where cropland took up a much bigger percentage of farmland. Some areas were much more mechanized than others, and in turn that meant more buildings like machine sheds. Local cultural factors also exerted a powerful force. Pennsylvania Germans and Yankees preferred different house types and barn types, and in the more ethnically diverse northwest people borrowed from various traditions.

Over time the state’s agricultural geography changed. In the 20th century, market production



became more important; specialized dairy and poultry raising accounted for more of the state’s agricultural income. Modern building types and materials meant that new barns, milk houses, silos, machine sheds, and garages looked much the same whether they were in Centre Hall or Towanda or Meadville. Even “traditional” buildings like smokehouses were executed in new materials like concrete block. The impact of ethnicity diminished. At the same time, four very intensely concentrated sub-regions developed. In Potter County certified seed potatoes and cannery crops were raised with large numbers of migrant workers. Along the Lake Erie shore, the Lake Erie Fruit and Vegetable Belt developed, taking advantage of suitable soils and a long growing season to produce fruits and vegetables, especially Concord grapes. First local women, then migrant workers furnished the labor force. In the Adams County Fruit Belt, favorable topography and soils fostered first a diverse fruit-growing region, then a specialized apple growing belt, with the product mainly destined for shipping and for processing. First local people and later Spanish-speaking migrant workers furnished the labor. These four specialized regions each developed their own distinctive landscape.

The end point for the Agricultural History Project was 1960, because normally to be eligible for the National Register a property must be at least fifty years old. So the context doesn’t cover recent developments.

The Agricultural History Project website is a “one-stop shop” of resources. For each region a narrative offers historical background, analysis of typical buildings and landscapes, and “registration requirements” for historic farmsteads, farms (buildings plus land) or agricultural districts. A researcher’s guide takes users step by step through the required documentation process. A field guide gives examples of historic barn, outbuilding, and landscape types. Maps show geographic patterns for 1850, 1880, and 1927. And a bibliography points users to further resources. We hope that the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project will encourage more nominations of farm properties in Pennsylvania and serve as a tool for decades to come.

History: It's Everyone's Business

The Centre County Historical Society extends thanks to SFC Asset Management, and all our sponsors, partners and individuals who contributed to the CBICC Business After Hours event on August 8! The evening was filled with activities to showcase the Centre Furnace Mansion, its gardens and grounds, along with a sampling of CCHS programming.

Guests were spirited from their vehicles to the festivities by pedicab service Vamos! LionChariot, while the Ladies of Battery B welcomed visitors and explained the various components of 19th century apparel. Tours of the Mansion were ongoing and visitors treated to period music by a trio from the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra. Historic CBICC memorabilia was on display, as was the exhibit *Building on the Past* - interpreting the archaeology of the Benner Commerce Park site.

Richard Pencek and Tammi Puskar helped 'CBICC apprentices' make wooden pegs the old fashioned way with a 19th century Pennsylvania German "schnitzelbank" and draw knife (pictured below) at Jackie's Joinery 19th century *Tools for Working Wood* exhibit. David Lembeck guided visitors through the current exhibit *A Common Canvas*.

CFM Gardener and Penn State Master Gardener Carol Phillips helped guests learn about the history of kitchen gardens and the plants that would have been used in the 19th century. Penn State's Croquet Club assisted players in a game of croquet.

Activities along with beautiful floral arrangements by Avànt Garden, and great refreshments donated by Otto's Pub and Brewery, Happy Valley Winery, Harrison's Wine Grill & Catering, and CCHS volunteers made for a lovely evening of 19th Century atmosphere at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Our sincere gratitude to all who helped make this evening a success.

For the complete story and photos, visit our website: www.centrehistory.org/category/news/.



Thank you!

We at CCHS extend our deepest appreciation for all who volunteer their time and contribute in so many different ways. Below we recognize individuals and organizations for their extra support in the third quarter of 2013:

2013 PNC Bank Centre County United Way Day of Caring Contributors: Please see pages 10-11

Business Donations: Brian Bastress, *Bastress Stoneworks*; Jim Goodwin, *Furniture Medic*; Jo Merrell, *Interior Design*; Jaru Associates, Inc.; *Miller Welding*; Elias Peachey, *Stone Mountain Upholstery*; Jay A. Yoder, *Cabinet Maker*

CCHS Office: Betty Arnold, Cliff Bastuscheck, Monty Christiansen, Cathy Horner, Johanna Sedgwick

Collections: Judy Heberling, Tammi Puskar, Vinnie Scanlon, Betsy Taylor

Docents: In recognition of our Mansion and Schoolhouse docents that have given extra time for special tours: Cliff Bastuscheck, Steve & Carol Gentry, Gloria Nieweg, Carol Phillips, Deb Raykovitz, Lynn Royse, Johanna Sedgwick, Dolores Simpson, Betsy Taylor, Linda Wallace, Linda Witmer

Gardens & Grounds: A special end of the growing season thank you to the CFM Gardeners for weekly tending and enriching the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardens through your contributions of time, and donations of bulbs and plants.

John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Contributors: Please see article on page 4

Program Speakers: Dr. Sally McMurry, Dick Pencek, Dr. Dean Snow, Kitty Wunderly

Property: Art Anderson, Jim Broyles, Erik Orient, Rick Schutz

Special Events: Jill Aller, Susan Bowser, Ed DeBrasky, Katie Frieden, Joel Greene, Cathy Horner, Honey Jaffe, Lauran Milideo, Lindsay Moore, Deb Raykovitz, Johanna Sedgwick

Students & Interns: Hilary Barlow, Julie Gomboc-Turyan, Olivia Perdew

CBICC Business After Hours: Please see adjacent article

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

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

You may also join or donate online at www.centrehistory.org.

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