



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 4

Fall 2009

Railroad Lecture Series at the Centre Furnace Mansion



The Horseshoe Curve, Altoona, October 12, 1934

The Big Fill: Emigh's Gap

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Centre Furnace Mansion for a special presentation by Luther Gette.

No, The Big Fill is not a mass grave. It is Centre County's own Horseshoe Curve up the escarpment of the Allegheny Front to Emigh's Gap, opening the coal plateau to commerce. Built up wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow, the Fill carried rails around a curve so tight that trains had to be pushed downhill around it. Based as much on wish as on science, the curve was an 80-year-long headache to the coal train engineers and brakemen linking Philipsburg with Tyrone and the world. Luther Gette's love for railroads and for his home town bring life and joy to this great county story.

continued on page 5



Deep Fill Curve, Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad

The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in Railroad City

Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

On **Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.** guest speaker Dennis P. McIlroy, author of the regional best-selling book, *The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in Railroad City* will hold a special presentation and book signing at the Centre Furnace Mansion.

The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City tells the true story of the Nazi plot to destroy the Horseshoe Curve rail site near Altoona in June 1942. In this riveting book, the author brings history alive with the stunning tale of three interconnected - but little-known - events in American history. Part World War II spy story and part historical epic, this book seamlessly blends information from over 300 sources, including diaries, biographies, military records, histories, engineering studies, court briefs, and FBI files acquired through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Nazi plot to destroy the Horseshoe Curve during World War II - a mission that Hitler himself conceived - was one of the deadliest acts of terrorism in history. Had the Nazis succeeded in demolishing the Horseshoe Curve, they could have crippled the American war machine.

continued on page 7

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 Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 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.

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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, 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 non-profit, 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 Events

October

- ☛ **"Victuals and Vicissitudes of Early New England" exhibit**
Through November 22
- ☛ **"The Big Fill: Emigh's Gap"**
Wednesday, October 14 at
7:00 p.m.

November

- ☛ **"The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in Railroad City"**
Thursday, November 19 at
6:30 p.m.
- ☛ **Closed for Thanksgiving**
November 26 to 29

December

- ☛ **Mansion closed for tours**
November 29 to December 7
- ☛ **Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale**
December 3 to 5
- ☛ **Photos with Santa**
Saturday, December 12 from
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- ☛ **CCHS & Central PA Civil War Round Table joint meeting**
Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Richard Sauers and Peter Tomasak will speak on *The Fishing Creek Confederacy*. They are co-authoring a book on this subject and the draft resistance in Columbia County.
- ☛ **Closed for the holidays**
December 24 to January 3, 2010

President's Corner

Friends In Need Are Friends Indeed

We recently sent out an SOS to Society friends seeking help in matching the promised funds awarded to CCHS last year through a PHMC Keystone Grant to make some major repairs on the Centre Furnace Mansion. The response has been heartwarming. More than one hundred people have made contributions to match the grant, and thus the Mansion chimneys will be repaired and the back ell will be realigned to successfully stabilize its connection to the main portion of the house.

This is one of the many times that Society friends have stepped forward to make a difference. It happened, of course, when the Mansion was restored in the 1980s; it happened again when the Society and the county each celebrated anniversaries (100 years for CCHS; 200 years for Centre County in 2000), and it has happened over and over again through the years with other financial gifts as well as gifts of property and collections.

CCHS has received tremendous caregiver and caretaker help over the years as well. Countless folks have provided their time and their expertise: docents; committee members; board and staff; Penn State Master Gardeners of Centre County; members of the larger community through Day of Caring; and frequent other local community and business support. As fall and a new set of initiatives get underway, we offer just a few current examples:

- Do check out the redesigned garden in front of the Mansion. Up to two-dozen gardeners, meeting in a four-week session, have taken on the challenge of rethinking and replanting this now handsome garden, under the leadership of CCHS garden coordinator Mary Sorensen.
- The Mansion was freshly painted in historically correct colors more than twenty years ago, with occasional touch ups undertaken since then. A Day of Caring project this year involved the repainting of the entry areas and many of the shutters, under the direction of painting contractor Dave Horner and crew, and with the donation of paint from Sherwin Williams.
- The Centre Furnace iron furnace stack across Porter Road has its own set of stories to tell. Interpretive signs will be connected with new paths, made possible through Day of Caring help from several sources: Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (Barry Scheetz, Tim Ziegler, and Steven Bloser); the Office of Physical Plant (Jeff Dice and Mike Croyle and crew); and materials from Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc.
- At the Boogersburg School: Penn State senior landscape contracting majors, working with faculty member Martin McGann, will be developing some educational reforestation plans for the additional acre that adjoins the school property. A goal is to recreate a small forest to reflect what grew at the site when it was part of the landholdings of the Centre Furnace ironmaking operation.

The Centre County Historical Society has needed a host of friends over all of these years. And yes these Friends in Need have, with sincere thanks, been *Friends Indeed!*

~ Jackie Melander

Mansion Repair Work to Begin

As stated in the President's Corner, the response to our request for help with the repair work on the Centre Furnace Mansion has been incredible. As a result of the generosity of our friends and supporters, we are able to begin repairing the Mansion's five chimneys this October. **Brian Bastress** and the crew from **Bastress Stone Works** have been selected to do the restoration.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors to this project:

Ms. Martha A. Adams • Kent Addis • Joyce Adgate • Art & Anne Anderson • The Antiquists • Davies & Walt Bahr • Mimi Barash Coppersmith • Dorothy J. Barnes • John & Henrietta Baylor • Mary Lou Bennett • Dr. Michael Bezilla • Martha L. Bissey • Seth Blumsack • Virginia Brickwedde • Rosalie Bloom-Brooks & Jeffrey Brooks • Joan & Ralph Brower • Charles C. Brown, Jr. • Joyce & John Buck • Jean Smith Campbell • John & Joan Chernega • Anne Cornell & Tom Houseknecht • Dr. & Mrs. Robert F. Custard • Janet Fowler Dargitz • James R. DeTuerk • Bob Donaldson • Mary S. Eagleton • English Speaking Union • Mrs. Fred Ferguson • Ronald Filippelli & Sandy Stelts • John & Lurene Frantz • John L. Frehn • Peg & Joe French • Blake & Linda Gall • Eleanor Gardner • Anita Genger & Eric Boeldt • Steven D. & Carol Gentry • Mr. David C. Glossner • Louise & Art Goldschmidt • Elizabeth Goreham • Dianne Taylor Gregg • Donald Hahn • Falene & Gordon Hamilton • Marian Hammond • Dr. & Mrs. John A. Hargleroad • Helen M. Haugh • Ernest Hawk • Robert B. Hazelton • Carol Herrmann • Elisabeth Herzog • Lamartine & Lina Hood • Marian B. Jones • Barbara Kasales • Jim & Jo Keiser • Joy Vincent-Killian & Richard Killian • Walter Y. King • James A. & Bonnie J. Knapp • John & Gretchen Leathers • Felicia Lewis • Jane M. Linsky • Steve & Janice Livingston • John & Joyce Lucas • Bob & Ellen Malcom • Diana & Blair Malcom • Roberts R. & Valeria J. Martin • Archie & Nancy McDonnell • Mae & Mandy McQuade • Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Meyer, Jr. • David W. Miller • Ann Moellenbrock • Jane & H. Louis Moore • William & Patricia Moyer • Patricia O. Mutzeck • Charles H. Ness • Harold & Nancy M. O'Connor • Mary Osborn • Howard & Katherine Palmer • Anne Hamilton Henszey Pyle • Jim & Christy Rambeau • Herman & Jane Richey • Anne L. Rohrbach • Anne Louise & Russell Ruhf • Harry E. Salmon • Pete & Carol Schempf • Ralph Seeley • Jane G. Sheeder • Leslie Shelleman • Grant Sherritt • Dolores Simpson • Jean Slear • Barbara J. Smith • Josephine Smith • Mrs. Lois Smith • Ron & Sue Smith • Dean & Jan Snow • Tom & Sara Songer • Dr. Lee & Dee Stout • Elizabeth Sweetow • Walter M. Swoope, Jr. • James F. Tammen • Guy & Carolyn Thompson • Everett & Mary Linn Tiffany • Mr. & Mrs. James Toothman • Don & Marcile Tressler • Jeanne B. Weber • Alan & Marjorie Weisel • Paul & Margaret Welliver • Doyle Wilkerson • Nelson M. Williams • John Woodcock



CCHS Receives Community Foundation Grant

The Centre County Community Foundation has awarded CCHS with a grant in the amount of \$4,179 to install historic garden signs around the property. Next spring 7 permanent interpretive signs will be placed on the 9 acres that surround the Centre Furnace Mansion. They will contain information about the people, trees, plants, structures and archeological remains that help to tell the story of the site and Centre County.

Development Committee

The Board of Governors has charged the development committee with coordinating all fundraising and membership efforts within the Historical Society. The committee has been asked to increase Society membership and to create programs that will provide new sources of funds. The members of the development committee have been meeting since the spring of 2009 and have worked on both short and long-term goals. Our membership goal is to double the number of paid members to 1,000. The committee has also implemented several new initiatives to generate revenue: an annual direct mail campaign; creation of an advertising and holiday program guide to accompany our Stocking Stuffer; and adding a food vendor to the spring Plant Celebration sale. Our most ambitious effort will be held in July 2010: a sweepstakes and lawn party. The Society will sell a limited number of tickets for the opportunity to win a new sportscar. More details about the raffle and lawn party will be released in January 2010.

Members: Jill Aller, Angela Breeden, Jim Broyles (Chair), Carol Gentry, Steve Gentry, Bob Hazelton, Jackie Melander, Ann Moellenbrock, Jeanne Weber, John Ziegler.

Membership Corner

The membership committee was established under the development committee to oversee the management of the Centre County Historical Society membership. This committee's duties are to recruit new members, conduct periodic reviews of membership levels and related benefits, and monitor the renewals of current memberships.

This summer, the committee completed a review of membership levels and made recommendations to the Board of Governors for changes. The Board approved these recommendations, which include never-before-offered privileges and behind the scenes opportunities. A new brochure outlining them, along with a letter, will be sent to current members before the end of the year.

We do want to emphasize that cost of individual annual memberships ***will not be raised***. We are simply adding new and exciting ways to get to know and enjoy the Centre County Historical Society.

Currently, planning for 2010 membership related events is underway. If you have suggestions for recruiting new members, please contact Membership Chair Jill Aller via email at jillandbob327@gmail.com. All suggestions are welcome.

Mayor Bill Welch, 1941-2009

It is with great sadness to report the passing of long-time mayor of State College, Bill Welch, who died on September 4, 2009 at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, after suffering complications from surgery. He was 67.

Bill Welch was born in Philadelphia, but spent most of his life in State College. He was a graduate of State College Area High School (1959) and Penn State University (1964), and formerly worked as a reporter and editor of the *Centre Daily Times* and the American Philatelic Society's *The American Philatelist*. Bill was elected mayor in 1994 after four years as a borough councilman.

He was never afraid of conflict or disagreement, and was known for his intelligence, wit and calm nature. Penn State President Graham Spanier referred to him as "a dedicated public servant and community leader," and in 2002, Bill was named Penn State's Renaissance Man of the Year - an honor that recognizes people who have made a positive impact in the community.

Mayor Welch was loved by many and will be greatly missed. The Centre County Historical Society gives its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

"The Big Fill"

(continued from the front page)

Built through the rugged western portion of Centre County between 1858 and 1862, the Tyrone & Clearfield Railroad required some spectacular engineering to climb the Allegheny Front to the 2,040 foot summit of Emigh's Gap near Sandy Ridge. There were steep grades and plenty of curves, the sharpest of which crossed high above Mt. Pleasant Run on nearly one hundred feet of fill, dug from borrow pits along the mountainside by Irish laborers making around a dollar a day. Known as the Big Fill, this tight curve was poorly laid out by the Tyrone & Clearfield chief engineer James E. Montgomery, and hampered railroad operations during the 107 years it was in service (1862-1969). Still, following its takeover by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1862, the line carried to market upwards of four million tons of Moshannon Valley coal.

Using a power point presentation that includes numerous photos, Luther Gette will tell the story of the many wrecks that occurred on or near the Big Fill, including the famous circus train wreck of May 30, 1893. There will also be a short photographic tour of the T&C from Tyrone to Grampian, a song about the Irish laborers on the T&C and a poem about the Big Fill itself.

Luther Gette, born in 1938, grew up along the Tyrone & Clearfield in Philipsburg, just in time to be smitten by Pennsylvania Railroad steam power in its last days of glory. He holds degrees in French literature from Penn State and the University of Wisconsin. He spent the best part of his life riding freight trains across the U.S.A., and in 1995 was elected King of the Hobos at the National Hobo Convention in Britt, Iowa.



Bill Welch (far left) at the unveiling of the Penn State Alumni Association's Centre Furnace historical marker.

© 2004, Penn State Live

A Note From the Gardens

by Mary Sorensen

CFM Garden Coordinator

Summer has been a lively season in the Centre Furnace Mansion gardens this year, wrapping up with the renovation of the Front Parlor Garden as part of 4 educational workshops, and what turned out to be the most outstandingly productive United Way Day of Caring in CCHS history.



The Front Parlor Garden renovation workshops were held weekly in September. Talks and demonstrations throughout the workshops were given by **Beverly Lipski**, **Chris Igo**, **Ruth Merritt** and **Jan Villastrigo** and **Mary Sorensen**. Over 130 hours and 18 volunteers went into the planning, preparation, and implementation of the educational and physical components of the workshops. Thank you to everyone involved in this project for all of your hard work and skill.

The Front Parlor Garden was so named because of its view from the front parlor of the Centre Furnace Mansion. The garden renovation workshops addressed issues such as increasing the garden's visibility through enlarging it by removing sod and creating a new border. We increased vertical interest by adding a Lilac Tree (*Syringa reticulata*), donated by **Jeffrey Bower**, and, with funds from the spring Plant Celebration, we purchased a large concrete pillar with a pineapple finial. The pineapple has symbolized hospitality from the time of the early American colonists in the 17th century making this an appropriate welcoming symbol for a garden near the grand front entrance of the Mansion.

A Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum dissectum atropurpureum* - 'Tamukeyama') has been generously donated by **Peter Stadler**, owner of **Stadler Nurseries** in Laytonsville, MD. This referral came from CCHS friend Richard Pencek, professor in Integrative Arts at Penn State. This donation will complete our Front Parlor Garden.

Improvements to the garden implemented through the workshops included removing or dividing plants as needed and planting new plants or transplanting appropriate plants from other gardens. We dug in soil amendments including peat moss, compost, manure and fertilizer per soil test results and redirected drainage out of the garden from the Mansion. The stone steps were significantly improved, visually and structurally, and the garden was finished with a light coat of mulch.

Special thanks for donations of bulbs and plants throughout the season go to **Beverly Lipski**, **Ruth Merritt**, **Marshall Garrett**, and plants by **Chris Igo** and **Cassandra Burke**. And thank you to the many that share plants from their gardens. Special thanks also go to **Katie Frieden**, **Bob Leonard**, **Pam Calkins** and **Cassandra Burke** who may often be found among the flowers in the CFM gardens outside our regular gardening times!

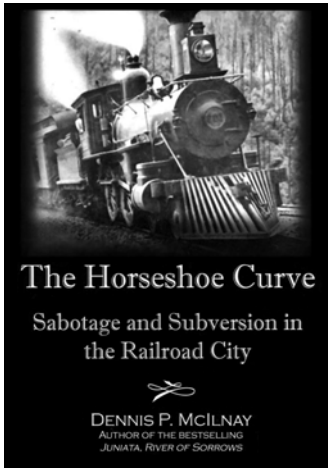
Many thanks also to CFM Gardener **Jo Merrell** for leading the effort to have embroidered shirts created that feature the new Centre County Historical Society logo. The logo was created and t-shirts made by **Brad Herman** of **Triple G Design Group, Inc.** in Belleville, PA.



Thank you CFM Gardeners for your hard work during weekly gardening, special events and for your generosity this season! You have made this summer a great success!

"The Horseshoe Curve"

(continued from the front page)



Most Americans know of the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II, but few know that this nation also interned 15,000 German and Italian Americans during the war. Even fewer people know that on July 1 and 2, 1942, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested 225 residents of Altoona,

Pennsylvania, home of the Horseshoe Curve, as "alien enemies" - suspected Nazi sympathizers.

Founding the Pennsylvania Railroad and building the Horseshoe Curve are two of America's greatest achievements in transportation, feats that conquered the long-insurmountable Allegheny Mountains and opened the country to settlement in the west. But before the historic Pennsylvania Railroad was completed, bitter personal, political, and organizational battles threatened to destroy the railroad and halt the westward march of the United States.

The Horseshoe Curve has won several national and regional awards, including the 2008 Gold Medal - Best Regional Non-Fiction Book in the Mid-Atlantic.

Dennis P. McIlnay of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania is also the author of *Juniata, River of Sorrows: One Man's Journey into a River's Tragic Past* (2002). A Professor of Management at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, McIlnay holds a joint, tenured appointment in the Business Administration Department and the Master of Business Administration Program. At Saint Francis University, McIlnay received the Distinguished Professor Award from the National Alumni Association, the Distinguished Professor Award from the Student Honors Society, and the Outstanding Educator Award from the student body. He also received the Salute to Teaching Award from the Pennsylvania Academy for the Profession of Teaching.

He will be available to sell and sign copies of his new book at the conclusion of the presentation. For more information, visit <http://www.sevenoakspress.com>.

Centre County Heritage, Vol. 43 Leonard Rhone's Daughters

Did you receive your copy of the newest issue of *Centre County Heritage*? As a benefit of membership, all current members receive a complimentary copy of the Society's annual journal, *Centre County Heritage*. If you did not receive your copy, please contact the Centre County Historical Society by calling (814) 234-4779 or emailing info@centrecountyhistory.org.

Additional copies are available to purchase at the Centre Furnace Mansion or through mail order. Individual issues are \$15.00 plus tax and shipping (if applicable).

Photos with Santa

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down...College Avenue to Centre Furnace Mansion?! That's right, Santa is coming to the historic Centre Furnace Mansion again this year!

Santa has decided to take time out of his busy schedule to make a stop at the Centre Furnace Mansion on **Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** to sit with all the good little boys and girls in Centre County.

The Mansion will be freshly decorated for the holidays and the grand Hearth Room is the perfect setting for a truly unique holiday photograph. Why take your children and grandchildren anywhere commercial when you can take them to a beautiful historic site, all while helping to raise money for a good cause?

Because this is a fundraiser for the Centre County Historical Society, we ask that you leave a \$10.00 contribution towards the Centre Furnace Mansion's holiday fund in exchange for Santa's photograph.

In the case of inclement weather, please call the Centre County Historical Society at (814) 234-4779.



Photo by Valerie Sanders

“Victuals and Vicissitudes of Early New England” Exhibit ***October 1 - November 22, 2009***

Ponder well on this point: the pleasant hours of our life are all connected, by a more or less intangible link, with some memory of the table.

- Monselet, 18th century Gastronome



The implements of eating and the ceremony surrounding their use have changed over the centuries, though our purpose for using them has not. We celebrate, communicate, and connect at the table. It is one of the most basic of human experiences and one that is transforming dramatically in our own time.

The Centre County Historical Society’s fall exhibit investigates the way in which people ate and drank in New England between the 18th century and mid-19th century. It explores the tastes of the region and the influence of European design, before and after the American Revolution, as well as wares made abroad specifically for the American market. Three table settings and several chairs are installed in our exhibit building.

It is a companion exhibit to *Tea Time in Eighteenth Century Philadelphia*, on view in the Borland Gallery on the Pennsylvania State University campus throughout the month of October. Both exhibits are the result of a collaborative effort of Integrative Arts students, the Centre County Historical Society, and local collectors.

The “Victuals and Vicissitudes” exhibit will be open during the Mansion’s regular hours: **Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. until November 22, 2009.** There is no charge for admission.

“Tea Time in Eighteenth Century Philadelphia” Exhibit

The Borland Gallery is hosting its first town and gown exhibition, *Tea Time in Eighteenth Century Philadelphia*, featuring 18th century Philadelphia furniture and tea services, china, silver and pewter, displayed in six settings. The exhibition will be open **Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., until October 31.**

Inspired by the tea tradition of the period, the exhibition is a collaborative effort and independent study of Integrative Arts students Mary Sorensen, Helen Manfull and Jessica Templeton under the guidance of Dick Pencek.

All the pieces in the exhibit, graciously lent by private collectors in the region, represent objects that would have been used in Philadelphia and surrounding communities from 1730 to 1830. The city was a rich center of commerce, arts and culture. By 1775, Philadelphia was second only to London within the British Empire in size, importance and lavish living.

The exhibition coincides with *Moments of Change: The Late Eighteenth Century, 1776-1801*, a multidisciplinary initiative of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, and is a companion exhibit to the Centre County Historical Society’s fall exhibition, *Victuals and Vicissitudes of Early New England*. During the open hours, docents will be available to offer a history and explanation of the various pieces. To view the exhibition at other hours, appointments may be arranged by contacting Dick Pencek at (814) 865-8129 or rwp1@psu.edu.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards

The Centre County Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and 2009 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony at the Centre Furnace Mansion on **Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.** The Preservation Awards Committee will award individuals and groups for outstanding preservation work in the county.

Please join us for light refreshments, as we review and celebrate the past year’s accomplishments. In the case of inclement weather, please call the Centre County Historical Society at (814) 234-4779.

Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale

If, like Santa, you're making your holiday shopping list and checking it twice, you'll want to make sure to visit the Centre Furnace Mansion the first weekend in December for the Centre County Historical Society's 7th annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale.

Please join us **Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** for the Centre County Historical Society's annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale and holiday showcase. The Stocking Stuffer Sale has established itself as one of the area's premiere holiday events, promoting the unique work of over 30 local artisans and featuring some of the finest antiques, all in the decorated splendor within the historic Centre Furnace Mansion.

The Mansion will be festively decorated for the holidays, with exclusive designs by the area's top decorators and florists. We invite you to browse the handmade crafts, fine arts and antiques, enjoy the music and keep warm with the hot beverages and delicious desserts from local restaurants. If you haven't been to the Centre Furnace Mansion lately, this is the perfect time to visit this historic house museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Centre County Historical Society's bookstore and gift shop will also be open.

Whether your interests are jewelry, knitted wares, exquisitely designed wooden bowls, herbal scents, fine paper arts, candles, ceramics, fine china and glassware, original and antique furniture, holiday greens, linens or vintage collectibles, we have an extensive variety of items for sale. Find a truly special gift for everyone on your list this season.

Admission to the Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale is only \$5.00, which includes hot beverages and desserts.

For those who wish to get the exclusive first peek, while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, desserts and wine from the area's top restaurants, you are invited to attend the Preview Party held on **Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.** Party attendees will be able to purchase items and bid at the silent auction before the event is open to the public. Admission is \$20.00 for CCHS members and \$25.00 for non-members.

Proceeds from this annual winter fundraiser go towards preserving, enhancing, and sharing the Centre Furnace Mansion as a community resource.

Complete information is available online:

<http://www.centrecountyhistory.org>

Stocking Stuffer Volunteer Needs

The success of the Mansion's previous Stocking Stuffer sales were due in no small part to all of the volunteers who donated items, food, and their time. Being a Stocking Stuffer volunteer is a fun way to spend a few hours watching over items, conversing with guests, collecting admission or helping with checkout in a beautiful setting, while providing much needed assistance to committee members. Working even one shift would make the weekend run much smoother:

Volunteer Shifts

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Please let us know if you can work a shift (or 2 or 3!). We will offer a short informational meeting for volunteers before the event.

Another important aspect of the weekend is food! We are also seeking donations of cookies, cake, and other goodies. Please let Rhiannon know if you are interested in bringing something.

If you can help us with any of our volunteer needs, call (814) 234-4779 or email rhiannon@centrefurnace.org.



Day of Caring

Just when I think it cannot be possible to top previous years of Day of Caring, you all come along and out-do yourselves one more time. To United Way and to everyone who has made Day of Caring 2009 at Centre Furnace Mansion possible; our heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation.

Thanks to painting contractor **Dave Horner**, the grand front entrance of Centre Furnace Mansion and its main porch and entryways were given much needed face lifts with the extensive preparation and painting of the trim, steps, and shutters in these areas. Dave and 5 professional painters from his team led volunteers from **Keller Williams Advantage Realty**, CFM volunteer **Mike Heberling**, **Young Lawyers Division of the Centre County Bar**, and the **Penn State Baseball Team** in the task of meticulously preparing surfaces and painting. Paint was generously donated from **Sherwin Williams**.

With professionals from **Penn State's Office of Physical Plant's Landscaping and Utility Departments**, under the guidance of Penn State Supervisor of Grounds Maintenance, **Jeff Dice**, as well as the efforts of **Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies' Tim Ziegler**, **Barry Scheetz** and **Steve Bloser**, the first phase of an ADA accessible pedestrian trail system has been installed. Penn State donated personnel, equipment and many supplies needed for the trail. **Glenn O. Hawbaker** generously donated aggregate for the project. The trail will serve as an access to the Furnace Stack via Porter Road across from the Centre Furnace Mansion parking lot. This trail system was originally mapped out by Landscape Architect Mark Battaglia as part of a DEP funded project to combine storm water management with interpretation at an historic site.

Bob Miller of **Miller Welding** skillfully created and graciously donated a sturdy new mechanism to hold the CFM Martin house that can normally be seen beyond Margery and Rae's Garden. Bob Leonard worked with Bob Miller to make this happen and saw carefully to its installation.

Penn State's Office of Physical Plant's Landscaping and Arborist Teams helped extensively in the garden projects that were going on throughout the day. Professional tree work was done throughout the property as well, from removing precarious tree limbs to neatening the appearance of the sycamores along College Avenue and much more.

Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners/ PSU Master Gardeners of Centre County led volunteers from **RSVP**, **Penn State's Research and Graduate School**, **Wegman's**, as well as the players and staff from the **Penn State Baseball Team**, whose constant rotation of fresh

volunteers throughout the day made a lot of heavy work possible when the rest of us began to wear out!

Amazing improvements also happened in the gardens with the expansion of the tree and shrub border that was the spring Eagle Scout Project of Eagle Scout Jason Contino. The border was expanded and forsythia planted to connect the shed area to the border and neaten the appearance of this area.

The front "dogwood bed" was also enlarged to accommodate two more dogwood and shrubbery. Bulbs for the garden were donated by **Marshall Garrett** (who then had to help plant them!). Mulch was applied to most of the gardens and many trees and large maintenance efforts were led in Margery & Rae's Garden as well as Marian's Kitchen Garden. "Jackie's Joinery" tool exhibit was carefully cleaned to help preserve the objects in this exhibit.

Thank you CFM Gardeners **Cassandra Burke**, **Ruth Merritt**, **Pam Calkins**, **Lisa Coggins**, **Bob Leonard**, **Chris and Bob Igo**, **Judy Heberling** and **Mike Husband**, **Katie Frieden**, **Sharon Childs**, **Jan Villastrigo** and **Marshall Garrett** for all of your help in preparing for and making this day at Centre Furnace Mansion a success. It is your leadership, care and organization that made the gardening projects all go so smoothly. Special thanks also to Centre County Historical Society's **Bob Donaldson** who stayed with the trail project all day and to **Steve and Carol Gentry** and **Beth Ricker** for helping with clean up efforts.

Lunch and food throughout the day was donated by **Subway**, **Jackie Melander**, **Angela Breeden**, **Mary Sorensen**, **Chris and Bob Igo**, **Katie Frieden**, **Beverly Lipski**, **Marshall Garrett**, **Beth Ricker**, **Susan Bowser**, **Melanie Bernier**, **Judy Heberling**, **Jan Villastrigo**, **Jo Merrell**, **Cassandra Burke**, **Pam Calkins**, **Silvi Lawrence**, **Barbara Thwaites**, **Mary Osborn**, **Cliff Bastuscheck**, **Joann McCormick**, **Joseph Leonard**, **Chris Pootjes**, **Felicia Lewis**, **Suzanne Thompson**, **Pat and Doug Macneal**, **Mary Eagleton**; paper products for lunch were donated by **The Village at Penn State**, and water was donated by **Nittany Bank**.

A million thanks to all of you for your gift of this awesome and transformational day at Centre Furnace Mansion! It was truly magical, and we continue to walk around the property in complete admiration of all that was done.

Most sincerely yours,

Mary Sorensen

Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee Chair

<http://centrecountyhistory.org/gardens/volunteers/doc.htm>

Photos by Pam Calkins





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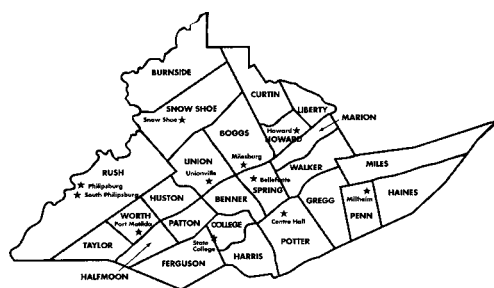
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Thank you to all of our new and continuing members. We hope you value your membership in the Centre County Historical Society as much as we have valued having your support and participation. We invite you to return your membership renewal, if you have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

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