

Putting "Life" Into Local History

Thirty three years ago, Jackie Melander was voted into the position of President of the Centre County Historical Society. In the January 1982 CCHS Newsletter, her first President's Message read:

"Putting "life" into local history...Historical societies and other history groups across the country have been attempting to meet a growing public interest in America's past by offering a variety of programs and services in local history and historic preservation. The Centre County Historical Society, entering its 78th year, is certainly not a newcomer to these endeavors. Through its programs, publications, exhibits, and genealogical help, it has been providing information and, we hope, an increased awareness of the special historic features of this county.

It has offered support for the preservation of its historic buildings and towns through such activities as the co-sponsorship of the Historic Sites Survey and, currently, the architectural awareness program for county school children, being produced jointly with the Historic Registration Project of the Centre County Library. And, as the oldest and the largest of the county's history organizations, it has attempted to encourage and support other local historical groups.

We plan to continue to respond to this interest and, if possible, to expand our offerings..."

Expanded offerings certainly did ensue. Jackie's commitment to the Society has exceeded three decades

of dedication to the historic, cultural, and educational enhancement of our community, our county, and our state. She has served on state as well as local governing boards, planning commissions, design review boards, and improvement advisory committees. She has given a multitude of presentations and drafted articles and publications on Centre County history, architecture, and historic preservation. She has herself become a

resource on such a broad range of historical topics.

Jackie and the Society's leadership oversaw a \$400,000 fund-raising effort and directed a restoration program for the Centre Furnace historic site to restore this treasure. The resulting groundswell of community support helped to save the Mansion and grounds for the tens of thousands of visitors that have benefited from Mansion tours and rich programming in these three decades.

We extend our warmest gratitude to Jackie for her extraordinary and gener-

ous gifts of vision, talent and leadership that she has brought to the Centre County Historical Society.

As we say thank you, but certainly not goodbye to Jackie, we heartily welcome Katie O'Toole as our new CCHS President. Katie comes to this position having been a producer and writer for Penn State Public Broadcasting, and is now a adjunct lecturer in Penn State's College of Communications. From this well planned place, we look forward to a bright future as we continue the early preservation and programming efforts of a vital, active Historical Society.



We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. ~Thornton Wilder

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@centrefurnace.org

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

Centre County Historical Society

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Research Requests & Archives Use:

By appointment.

Centre Furnace Mansion

Public Tours, Exhibits, & Library Use:

Sun./Wed./Fri. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Group Tours: *By appointment.*

Board of Governors

Kathleen O'Toole, *President*
Robert B. Hazelton, *Vice President*
Deborah McManus, *Secretary*
Dennis Sheehan, *Treasurer*

Allen Baney
Jeffrey M. Bower, *Emeritus*
Robert B. Donaldson, Jr.
Katie Frieden
Carol Gentry
Steven Gentry
Jean Gerber
Judith Heald
Sue Kellerman
W. Douglas Macneal, *Emeritus*
Jacqueline Melander, *President Emerita*
Ann Moellenbrock
Craig Morrow
Beth Ricker, *Emerita*
Ford Risley
Ralph Seeley
Lois Smith, *Emerita*
Leon J. Stout
John H. Ziegler, *Emeritus*

Staff

Mary Sorensen, *Executive Director*
Christine C. Tate, *Administrative Assistant*
Johanna Sedgwick,
Marketing & Events Coordinator

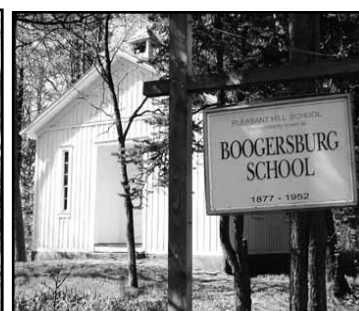
Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society, serving as the County's official historical society, is an educational organization that promotes the appreciation and research of Centre County's historic and natural resources through its properties, collections, programs, publications, and advocacy.

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

The Centre County Historical Society depends on financial contributions that help support our free public programs and educational opportunities for children, and provide necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of the Society's facilities and collections. Your membership and generosity are sincerely appreciated.

Society members and others in the community are invited to support these activities by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by the Centre County Community Foundation.

Mansion Notes is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society, 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.



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

President's Corner

Outgoing President's Message:



Katie O'Toole to Become New President of the Centre County Historical Society

CCHS Board member Katie O'Toole moved into a new role as president of CCHS on June 1. With a ready warm smile, quick wit, wealth of talents, and what seems to be limitless energy, Katie will bring new momentum and new ideas.

Katie and her family, residents of Lemont, have been actively involved in the Centre County community in so many ways. Katie has been an active member of many community organizations including serving on the board the Mid-State Literacy Council and the Friends of the Schlow Memorial Library.

Katie, more formally, Dr. Kathleen O'Toole, is a faculty member in Penn State's College of Communications. She also may be familiar in another role as a host, producer and director of WPSU's What's in the News. Katie will provide an insightful new voice in understanding, interpreting and promoting the message of the Centre County Historical Society. **There are exciting times ahead!**

As I bow out from my close involvement with the Historical Society, a variety of thoughts are emerging, pushing and shoving their way to the top. What a great adventure this has been, with the incredible involvement and wisdom and guidance of so many community acquaintances - and then emerged into friends.

Centre Furnace Renaissance: A History for Our Past, launched by CCHS more than thirty years ago, was an optimistic dream of turning a mostly forgotten and neglected historic site into a rich and rather dazzling community cultural and educational resource serving county residents and visitors, adults and children.

What CCHS set out to do, tentatively and nervously, has become a reality, and one that has taken its place on the community's cultural stage - ready to move into a new renaissance.

Katie O'Toole, the Society's new gifted and fearless leader, supported by Bob Hazelton as vice president, Deb McManus as secretary, and Dennis Sheehan as treasurer and a dozen Board members from across Centre County with special interests and skills will bring a new momentum in providing an understanding of Centre County's past, its relationship to the present, and how best to preserve the very best for its future. And, of course, none of this can or could have been done without a host of community volunteers serving in virtually every capacity as docents, gardeners, researchers, and much more; and particularly without the warmth, commitment and generosity of spirit of Mary Sorensen, our executive director, and her mansion top floor colleagues, Johanna Sedgwick and Christine Tate.

These are exciting time as we, as Centre Countians, look backward and look forward. It has been a wonderful personal experience for me to have been a passenger on this ever-changing and fast-moving vehicle through time. I plan to stay onboard and enjoy the travels. I sincerely hope you will too.

Thank you so much, wonderful friends of the Centre County Historical Society, for being such grand traveling companions.

Jackie



*In an enthusiastic and unanimous vote of the CCHS Board of Governors,
Jackie will continue as CCHS President Emerita.*

Our Forefathers' Workshop: Tools of the 18th & 19th Century

Leave your power tools behind and join CCHS **Sunday, June 14. 2:00 p.m.** for a family friendly, hands-on demonstration and program about the tools and building techniques of early Pennsylvania settlers by Richard Pencek, Penn State University Professor Emeritus of American Studies and assistants, Matt Salutillo and Chauntel Duriez. This program has expanded to include special guest blacksmith, Tim Bradford from the Dragon's Breath Forge in Pleasant Gap, and apprentice, Chenzie Grignano will be demonstrate crafting nails and other hardware used in building.

Every age will enjoy a blacksmith demonstration and learn how to make shake shingles, beams and pegs with a schnitzelbank, barking spud, adze and a variety of axes! This will be an outdoor demonstration - in case of rain, the rain date will be on Sunday, June 21 @ 2:00-4:00 p.m. For more information visit www.centrehistory.org, email info@centre-countyhistory.org, or call (814) 234-4779.



*Student using a hand drill during a Fall
PSU INART 410 class*

Centre County Explorers - Program Preview

The "Centre County Explorers" program will complement the current CCHS website and driving map initiatives, will showcase and interconnect Centre County's historical, cultural and natural resources and inspire participants of every age to discover, celebrate and foster the rich cultural treasures that we have in our own county back yard.

Through a printed passport booklet, the program will encourage exploration of these resources in Centre County to learn their stories and promote the sharing of participant journeys and experiences through social media and by featuring stories on our website and Facebook page that can be shared with organizations.

The program is being funded from a grant from the Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Centre County Government and Enterprise Holdings Foundation. The program will launch beginning in the spring of 2016. More to come!

Grants

CCHS has been the recipient of several grants this quarter. It is with great appreciation that we extend our gratitude to the following organizations for their generosity and continued support.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
General operating expenses

The Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau and Centre County Government
2016 Centre County Explorers visitor passport and out-of-area marketing

Enterprise Holdings Foundation
2016 Centre County Explorers visitor passport program

Lumber Heritage Region
"Dollar-a-Day Boys" program in May



Centre Gives Online Giving Event

Many thanks to all who contributed to make Centre Gives 2015 a great success! The final contribution totaled \$12,030.00 to the Centre County Historical Society with 83 generous donors. Your gift demonstrates to the larger community your belief in and support of the importance of CCHS's historic preservation and educational outreach efforts as well as the preservation of its own historic properties and collections.

Our hats off and thanks to the Centre Foundation for making this day possible for Centre County non-profit organizations.

Warmest gratitude from the CCHS board and staff, and from the many others who volunteer their time and expertise, for helping to make the CCHS a truly rich community resource.

Upcoming Programs

*Programs are held at the Centre Furnace Mansion unless noted.**

Our Forefathers' Workshop: Tools of the 18th & 19th Century

by Richard Pencek
Sunday, June 14
2 p.m.

Buttons of the Past Exhibit

Pennsylvania State Buttons Society, Lynda Debrasky
Sunday, July 19
2 - 4 p.m.

Blacksmith Demonstration: live demonstrations of the art and science of working metal, during Ag Progress Days.

Tuesday - Thursday, August 18-20

*Pasto Agricultural Museum, Pine Grove Mills

Boogersburg School Open House

Sunday, August 30
1 - 4 p.m.

*1021 Fox Hill Road, State College

Exhibit: Wood, Iron and Steel: Tools and Tool Making for Agriculture

August - November

*Pasto Agricultural Museum, Pine Grove Mills

For additional program information, visit centrefurnace.org

Museum Store

The Museum Store in the Centre Furnace Mansion received a long awaited makeover this spring. This undertaking included a fresh coat of paint courtesy of Dave Horner, Inc., a new book fixture, new book titles donated by Cathy Horner and hours of cleaning, designing, decorating and reshelving from Deb McManus, Cathy Horner and Johanna Sedgwick.

With phase one completed, future plans include a custom sales counter, additions to the store inventory, space saving brochure rack and a dedicated donation box. We invite all visitors and members to check out the large selection of books and publications, ornament hand made by Jerry Jackson, exhibit related items, and themed gifts for sale.



If you can't make it into the Mansion, shop through our website (www.centrehistory.org/about-us/store) for select publications. CCHS members receive 10% off CCHS publications, enter MEMBERS10 in the discount box to receive 10% off these select publications.

Museum Store Committee: Cathy Horner, Deb McManus, Johanna Sedgwick



Cathy and Dave Horner

Thank you for a successful 20th Annual Centre Furnace Mansion Plant Celebration!

Everyone's hard work led to a successful and smoothly run day attended by roughly 500. Over 50 visitors went on a tour of the Mansion open house where they enjoyed the Everyday Iron exhibition as well as art exhibited by Lena Thynell in collaboration with the Art Alliance of Central PA who also hosted a children's activity. A gently used book sale focused on garden books that were donated by member gardeners.

Many thanks go to Katie Frieden for skillfully coordinating Plant Celebration efforts. And thanks to everyone involved with event planning, garden and sale prep, Master Gardener Q&A table, parking, set-up/clean-up, open house, book sale/museum store efforts: *Joe Banks, Susan Bowser, Becky Dreese, Joyce Christini, Laura and Mike Contino, Edna Dombrowsky, Elizabeth Dutton, Susan Toby Evans, Katie Frieden, Marshall Garrett, Judy Heberling, Cathy Horner, Mike Husband, Chris Igo, Lou Mayer, Deb McManus, Jackie Melander, Ruth Merritt, Ann Moellenbrock, Gloria Nieweg, Carol Phillips, Deb Raykovitz, Lynn Royse, Ford Risley, Joy Schon, Johanna Sedgwick-staff, Dennis Sheehan,*

Dolores Simpson-Rose, Peter Sorensen, Vicki Spadaccio, Nancy Stine, Theresa Tassotti, Christine Tate-staff, Betsy and Ted Taylor, Suzanne Thompson, Floyd Todd, Jan Villastrigo, Linda Wallace, Bonnie Walter, Linda Witmer.

Garden questions were addressed by the Penn State Master Gardeners of Centre County Cooperative Extension, delicious breakfast and lunch fare were available for sale by Edenvue Organics, and a broad variety of plants and garden related products were sold by a knowledgeable cast of businesses!

Special thanks to Young America Growers for their donation of Astilbe from their nursery, several we have planted in the Shrub Garden. And thank you to Jim Eisenstein with Jade Family Farm for contributing proceeds from tomato sales. A special thanks also to the family of Andrea Cotner who owned and ran the beloved Greenhouse on Rock Road and donated several clay and ceramic plant pots to benefit CCHS during the Plant Celebration.

CCHS views the annual Plant Celebration not only as an important fundraiser, but also as a harbinger of Spring at the Mansion when the community can come out to celebrate plants, the Mansion and its lovely Gardens, would not be possible without the hard work, vision and heart of the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the 20th Annual CFM Plant Celebration.



The Gardeners Corner

The Gardens at the Centre Furnace have been a beehive of activity this spring with Plant Celebration preparation, service days and other initiatives. So many thanks are due to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners whose hard work and efforts keep the gardens looking their best and so much more.

The CFM Gardeners have been gathering weekly starting in March through October on Thursday afternoons and early evenings to maintain the gardens, plan projects and sales, and to exchange tips and ideas for our own gardens for over 10 years now. New gardeners are always needed and welcomed. To receive information about getting involved, either stop by on a Thursday afternoon between 2:00-6:00 p.m. or contact us at gardens@centrefurnace.org.

Thursday Plant Sales through June

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Still in the market for plants? Thursday mini-plant sales will be held through June before we place them in their "nursery bed"!

CFM Gardeners will be about the Gardens to help you and offer gardening advice and tips for planting. Cash or checks are preferred to avoid processing fees. Proceeds benefit the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardens and Grounds maintenance and supplies.

Heirloom Bulb Sale

Thank you to Judy Heberling and Chris Igo who have worked together with the CFM Gardeners to plan an Heirloom Bulb Fundraiser. The bulbs are a sampling of varieties that would have been available to 19th century gardeners, and have also been planted at the Mansion over the past several years. To receive an order form, either visit the Mansion and pick up a form on the porch, or go on our website: centrehistory.org.

Fall Garden Renovation Workshop Series

The CFM Gardeners are planning a fall workshop. This workshop series is a hands-on program modeled after the program that we did a few years ago to renovate the Front Parlor Garden. It is for gardeners who would like to redo a garden, or portion of a garden but are reluctant to or unsure of where to begin. Hopefully 'digging in' with us here will give you tools to inspire you in your own home projects. Dates, times and workshop fee will be forthcoming! For more information or to be on an email list for the workshop, please email msorensen@centrefurnace.org.



Docent Corner



Busloads of thanks to Centre Furnace Mansion School Tour Docents Gloria Nieweg, Deb Raykovitz, Lynn Royse, and Linda Witmer for sharing the history of Centre Furnace Mansion with nearly 300 elementary students this spring!

Thank you to Steve and Carol Gentry for leading tours on several service days at the Mansion to provide introduction tours to Penn State student and community volunteers.

Please note that our next docent meeting will be in September with the date to be determined.

Volunteer Field Trips

Thank you to Paula Ralph who generously hosted a walking tour of the Boalsburg National Register Historic District to our CCHS volunteer group in June!



Intern News

Trevor Brandt has been helping CCHS with rehousing the Historic Resource Survey Collection for the past two semesters. Trevor has been awarded Albert T. and Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society and will allow him to volunteer full-time over the summer at Frederick Muhlenberg's House in Trappe, PA. Thank you Trevor, we wish you all our best!



Service Days

Many Hands Make Light Work

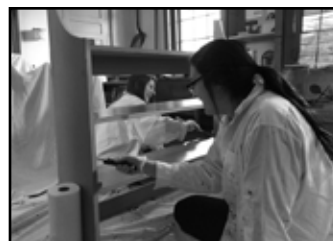
In the 16th century, when English writer John Heywood crafted the time honored saying "*Many handis make light warke*", I wonder if he imagined it would become such a staple adage over five centuries later?

During the spring quarter, over 75 much needed helping hands have assisted in a variety of tasks at the Centre Furnace Mansion this spring. Service opportunities provide a hands-on way for community members to contribute to CCHS, and a way that we can accomplish tasks that we would otherwise not.

Our special thanks to Keller Williams, Penn State Student Affairs Staff, Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority and Penn State Lion Ambassadors for their generous contribution of time and hard work! And sincere thanks to Katie Frieden and Marshall Garrett for helping to provide leadership on these days and to Steve and Carol Gentry for introducing the history of Centre Furnace through tours.



Keller Williams Realty



Penn State Lion Ambassadors



PSU Student Affairs Staff

Notes from Boegersburg



Sharing the story of going to school in nineteenth century Centre County with 21st century students is a unique experience that over 800 students got to participate at the Boegersburg School this year. This is a wonderful impact and we extend our special thanks to Boegersburg School Docents: Bonnie Abrams, Linda Forrest, Nancy Jacobson, Gloria Nieweg, Carole Rose, Nancy Silverman, and Linda Witmer. And special thanks to Sharon Childs for making the coordination of the school tours seem effortless when we all know better! Without all of your help and hard work, this program would not be possible.

Please contact Sharon Childs at ssc5@psu.edu or call 814-234-4779 and ask for Mary Sorensen if you or someone you know would like more information about being a docent at the Boegersburg School.

CCHS is working on collecting photos and information for an inventory of early Centre County one-room schools. If you have photos that you would be willing to share by email or that we could scan, along with any information about the school, please email Cathy Horner at research@centrefurnace.org.



Mark your calendars!

Boegersburg School Annual Open House, Sunday, August 30 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. It will be back to school time – learn about a day in a nineteenth century school students life in Centre County. We promise there will be recess and refreshments!



Cultural & Natural Heritage Events

Please visit the organization's website for complete details.

Through Fall

Boalsburg Heritage Museum
Sat 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
boalsburgheritagemuseum.org

June – August

Boal Museum and Columbus Chapel
Tues-Sat 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. / Sun Noon to 5:00 p.m.
boalmuseum.com

Through October

Penns Valley Historical Museum
Sat 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
pennsvalleymuseum.org

Through October

Rhoneymeade Arboretum & Sculpture Garden
Sun Noon – 5:00 p.m.
rhoneymeade-usa.org

Through August 16

Flora and Fauna Art Exhibition
Tues-Sat 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. / Sun noon – 4 p.m.
@ Palmer Museum
paltermuseum.psu.edu

July 7 - 12

Philipsburg Heritage Days
W/Th/F 10 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. / Sat 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
philipsburgheritagedays.com

July 9 - 12

Central PA Festival of the Arts
@ Downtown State College & PSU Campus
arts-festival.com

July 9 – 12

People's Choice Festival of Pennsylvania Arts & Crafts
@ PA Military Museum grounds
peopleschoicefestival.com

July 18 & 19

Vietnam Revisited Living History Combat Bivouac
@ PA Military Museum
Sat/Sun 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
pamilmuseum.org

Collections Investigation

by Betsy Taylor

Spring is here, and with it all the enjoyments the season brings to our lives. But such was not the case for the Victorian household! Spring-cleaning was the order of the day, dreaded by the perceived inconvenience of the male household members, and an added burden to the women of the household. Emily Dickinson probably said it best when she stated, one spring, "House is being cleaned. I prefer pestilence".

So pity the Victorian matron who, unless she was financially secure enough to have helpers (in the late Victorian era the word "servant" was considered distasteful), approached spring with her meager cleaning supplies. Every spring the house was cleaned from the attic rafters to the depths of the cellar and every nook and cranny in between. Varmints and bugs beware! Oil lamps, coal residue, wood ash soot, all residue from the constant need of warmth and light in the cold, dark, winters, left floors, woodwork, walls, and even ceilings thick with dirt. All surfaces had to be scoured, then, often, repaired, repainted, or even repapered to make the house fresh again for warm weather. But the floors were the worse! Rugs were removed, placed on heavy lines outside, and beaten by heavy clubs or rug beaters. Then the bare floors were scrubbed clean with hot, soapy water, which was often laced with lye and potash. Once scrubbed they were rinsed, again with hot water, And once thoroughly dried, covered with the freshly beaten rugs, if desired, or the rugs were stored until fall, leaving the clean floors uncovered. Some rugs could be reversed, in which case the lighter color was selected for the side to show in summer.

Imagine the excitement when the Sears Roebuck Catalogue was delivered in 1897, describing as follows: "Carpet Sweeper: New! Cheap as a broom, and does away with the need to broom sweep carpets. Goes into the nap where brooms never reach. Bissell's "Grand Rapids" best known and widely used carpet sweeper in the world. "\$2.30. And on the same page, the catalogue became even more euphoric over the new Schmuck's Mop Wringer. The lady of the household could forget her work gloves and let the wringer receive the dirty water when the mop was wrung. The wringer: \$2.25. The mop: 25 cents!

The House Beautiful, by Clarence Cook, addresses the treatment of wood furniture at spring-cleaning time: "Wood should be cleaned with a little bit of linseed oil, rubbing so well that the whitest handkerchief could continue the rubbing and get no stain."

The "Heloise" of the day in 1861, Isabella Beaton, wrote detailed instructions in her book, *The Book of Household Management*, minute instructions on all facets of housekeeping for the wealthy Victorian matron and her "staff". Mrs. Beaton assumed one has a Head Housekeeper who would oversee spring-cleaning! And described additional chores such as washing and bleaching all linens, including all bed coverings. She also suggested all curtains be taken down, cleaned, and, then, stored. Window coverings were then to be replaced for the summer with white window treatments. And, in most households, upholstered furniture covered with summer slipcovers. All winter coverings, once cleaned, were stored in paper or linen and wrapped with camphor to prevent the invasion of moths. All preparations, according to Mrs. Beaton, were necessary for "the house putting on, with the approaching summer, a bright appearance, and a new face, in unison with nature."

Getting tired? Well, according to the spring 1991 issue of *Victorian Homes*, there's still more work to be done! Clothes to be aired, lace curtains to be soaked overnight in tubs of shaved soap and ammonia, plaster figurines to be dipped in thick liquid starch and then brushed dry, porch floors to be swept and then rubbed with linseed oil with coarse woolen. Yes, spring-cleaning was not for sissies! *The Girls Own Annual of 1887* says it all:

Cleaning House

A flame is in her glassy eye, a broom is in her hand; aloft she lifts a sudden cry that sounds like a new brass band. Her dress is reefed about her knees, as through the house she cuts a path, and in every stranger sees a being of majestic wrath. Step- ladders scale the papered heights, and tubs of water flood the floor: her voice is heard from morn to night, rising above the awful roar. Fly from her presence, dog and cat: fly from her presence man and mouse: it is the vernal frenzy that posses her- she's cleaning house.



From the Archives

A Visit to Centre County 150 Years Ago

The following is part of a first-hand account written 150 years ago by a writer for the New York Evening Post on his journey to Centre County in 1863. The article was discovered in old files and reprinted by the CDT in 1968.

The writer left New York by train on a Thursday morning and arrived in Snow Shoe Saturday night, traveling in what he called "short and easy stages". From Snow Shoe the writer went to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania and nowhere does he mention a town, although he speaks of the prosperous farms in the area.

Pennsylvania appears to have beaten her sister states in the erection of a farm college. Almost every one of the Free states has projected such an academy, but this one was the first to open, and is, so far as I know, nearly the only one open at this time. Impressed with the 400 acres of college farms where the rules were that every scholar had to labor three hours every day outdoors. They were arranged in gangs or details, each one taking three hour shifts. He spoke of the gardens, the livestock and barns and said that last year the 100 students in attendance raised more than enough wheat to supply the bread for the establishment.

The college was then new – he said the rubbish of the builders of the great building had not yet been cleared away and the carpenters were still working the many of the lower rooms. Boys weren't admitted to college until they were 16. The college year had only one term and the two-month vacation was in the winter when farm operations were impossible. The course was four years. The entire expense for the 10-month term, books and clothing excepted, was \$100. Students rose at 6 a.m. and breakfast was at 6:30 a.m. year round.

The New Yorker noted that Pennsylvania Dutch was spoken everywhere in the area and that many of the farmers were of German descent.

27th Annual John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards

Nominations are being accepted for individuals or organizations who have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to preserve Centre County history whether through structural or environmental preservation or through a project or program. This years ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 25, 3:00 p.m. at the Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center.

Contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or 814-234-4779. The nomination form is also available on our website.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who have generously contributed funding, materials, time and talent in the past quarter. We have had an ambitious roster of events, programming and initiatives and it is your support that makes this possible. Below we recognize businesses and individuals for their extra time and support during the Spring of 2015:

Business Donations:

Dave Horner, Inc. - professional painting services for the newly updated Museum Store
David Lembeck - graphic design
Penn State Office of Physical Plant - landscaping

Collections :

Judy Speedy, Judy Heberling, Gloria Long, Vinnie Scanlon, Betsy Taylor

Docents: see page 8

Donations:

Cathy Horner - books for the Museum Store
Fran Mihalek - ladders
Bonnie Walter - garden birdbath

Gardens: see page 7

Research:

Cathy Horner, Ed DeBrasky, Monty Christiansen, Betsy Taylor

Office:

Christopher Sorensen, Fran Mihalek

Property: Rick Shutz, Ed DeBrasky, Brian Sedgwick

Museum Store Committee: see page 5

Membership: Jean Gerber

Programs:

Bob Hazelton, Boalsburg Heritage Museum, Bill Jamerson - Dollar-a-Day Boys

Interns and Students:

Trevor Brandt - See page 8
Rose Miller - Library work with Judy Speedy

Service Days: Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority, Keller Williams Realty, PSU Lion Ambassadors, PSU Student Affairs



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

New members welcome anytime.



Your membership and gifts support all aspects of 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; 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.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

☐ Gift Membership to: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email(s) _____

☐ Individual	\$35
☐ Family	\$50
☐ Friend	\$100
☐ Patron	\$250
☐ Benefactor	\$500
☐ Steward	\$1000
☐ Ironmaster	\$1500
☐ Additional Gift	\$ _____

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

☐ I would like my membership / donation to remain anonymous.