



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 30, Number 3

Summer 2008

75th Anniversary of the New Deal

by Dave Lembeck

This March marked the 75th anniversary of the New Deal — the name given to a variety of programs begun in 1933 to speed the recovery of the economy during the Great Depression. Despite the fact that New Deal era programs touch us on a daily basis, it's striking that so many people have only a vague sense of what the New Deal was. My interest in the New Deal began many years ago. I had several neighbors who were in the Civilian Conservation Corps in their youth and shared stories about their days in the CCC camps.

My curiosity about this period was heightened about 13 years ago when I began to really notice the art and architecture of New Deal-era post offices in central Pennsylvania. The beautiful brick post offices were very different from the 1960s post office building on Fraser Street. These post offices, along with courthouses, schools, hospitals, bridges, and dams, were among the thousands of projects built by the Works Progress Administration (later named the Work Projects Administration) to provide employment for millions of unemployed Americans.

When I actually entered these charming buildings, I discovered a surprise. In towns like Selinsgrove, Danville, and Northumberland, post office lobbies housed beautiful murals and sculptures created specifically for these towns. The Treasury Department, which appropriated the funds for federal buildings, established several programs to commission artists to create unique works of art for newly constructed post offices. The artists selected had to choose a theme appropriate for the town. In Pennsylvania this meant a lot of artworks related to farming and industries like railroading, coal and steel. Often these agricultural and industrial scenes depicted a way of life that has long since vanished. The more I studied and enjoyed the murals and other works of art that exists in the post offices of the Susquehanna Valley, the more intensely curious I became about our local history, in general, and about our connection to the New Deal, in particular.

These works have aesthetic and historical value and deserve to be documented. Jackie Melander was an early champion of this effort, and in working with her and the Historical Society I learned how this art could be presented to people in a variety of formats. I teamed up with local photographer Michael Mutmansky, and we began to photograph and research post office art in earnest. We were especially happy when the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) asked us to participate in their New Deal anniversary celebration. The PHMC, through a grant administered by the CCHS, has commissioned a website, an article in the summer issue of *Pennsylvania Heritage*, and an exhibit of post office art at the State Museum in Harrisburg which will open in November.

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Agriculture and Industry
Augustine Jaegers, 1937
Plaster relief

This panel, "Agriculture and Industry", was created for the McDonald Post Office in western Pennsylvania. Artist Augustine Jaegers also sculpted the two enormous reliefs that flank the entrance to Pattee Library.

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.

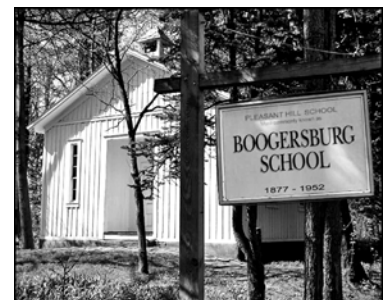
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th century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

July

☞ **Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration - CANCELED**

☞ **Blueberry Members Picnic & Program**
Thursday, July 17

August

☞ **Thompson Society - All Sports Museum Tour**
Wednesday, August 13

See page 4 for more information.

☞ **Boogersburg School Open House**
Saturday, August 23 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

See page 9 for more information.

☞ **Tentative Program "How the Circus Helped Folks During the Great Depression"**

More information will be available shortly.

September

☞ **Centre Furnace Mansion closed for Labor Day**
Monday, September 1

☞ **Tour of the Lemont Granary**
Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

See page 6 for more information.

☞ **Thompson Society - Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum Tour**
Tuesday, September 30

See page 4 for more information.

President's Corner

An Independence Day celebration has been a yearly event at the Centre Furnace Mansion for the last twenty-five years. Before gathering for a shared picnic, the Centre Furnace bell has been rung; Sam Bayard fified up the flag for many of those years; Art Goldschmidt has read the Declaration of Independence; we have joined in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner; and frequently Doug Macneal has provided thought provoking comments on the contemporary meaning of:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —

It is with regret that this traditional Historical Society recognition of Independence Day will not be held at the Mansion this year. The ever increasing number of events associated with the 4th of July fireworks events at "the top of the hill" along Porter Road and across from Beaver Stadium have introduced logistical challenges to holding the two events on the same day and in such close locations. But, the importance of Independence Day, whether honored in its 19th century version or in a more contemporary one, remains. We invite you to savor this day as you share it with your family and friends, and to take a minute to reflect upon the words of the Declaration of Independence and the timeliness of its meaning. A Happy Fourth of July to You All.

One Berry, Two Berry, Pick Me a Blueberry

As July rolls around, blueberries become an abundant crop locally and far beyond Centre County's boundaries. But did you know that nearly a decade ago (1999) the U.S. Department of Agriculture designated July as National Blueberry Month? We learned this recently as we searched for another July holiday to be honored to replace the far more traditional Old Fashioned Independence Day celebration at the Mansion.

The idea of a picnic on the increasingly beautiful grounds of the Mansion will be continued as a summer event, but it will be offered slightly later in July. We encourage you to bring your individual picnic suppers and then share your own creative dessert and beverage delicacies, with blueberries the theme. A program will provide a bit about the history of berry picking as part of the reliance on local food sources by area residents from Centre County's earliest 19th century settlers well into the 20th, and perhaps even the 21st century.

The date is scheduled for **Thursday, July 17**, with additional details coming in a separate mailing. We anticipate that this new event will include an early evening of picnic camaraderie on handsome 19th century grounds and in a garden setting, highlighted by a bit of history and an abundance of blueberries. Please stay tuned for additional details. Red and white will be missing at the mansion this July, but we definitely anticipate a wonderfully BLUE-berry event.

~ Jackie Melander

New Program Exclusively for CCHS Members

Thompson Society

When the Mansion was undergoing restoration and emerging as a community resource, a dedicated group of people met every month to share in the excitement of each new discovery. Friendships were formed and interests were shared all while engaging in projects and events that related to their common love of history.

Over the years the needs of the Mansion and this group have evolved, and now it is time to form a new way to come together. Therefore, we are very pleased to announce the creation of the Thompson Society, a social group that is open to every Historical Society member, and carries with it the opportunity to connect with others who share your commitment to history.

While our monthly programs are available to the community at large, Thompson Society events will only

be offered to our members as a benefit of membership. This year, our focus will be on visiting other local museums in order to highlight all of the unique resources that are available to our community. A different site will host us each month for a special program for the Thompson Society, beginning with those on the campus of Penn State.

On **Wednesday, August 13** the All Sports Museum in Beaver Stadium will welcome us on the eve of another year of Penn State sports; and on **Tuesday, September 30** the Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery will open their new storage location for a behind the scenes tour of their impressive and eclectic collection. Each of these events will include refreshments at the Mansion to truly make it a fun time for all.

Detailed information will be shared as the events approach but please mark your calendars now, as we will ask that you register in advance. We hope you will take advantage of this new program and look forward to once again sharing the excitement of discovery and having a few laughs along the way.

Plant Celebration Thank Yous

Even though the morning of the 13th annual Plant Celebration got off to a wet start, the rain didn't seem to affect the many plant enthusiasts who showed up to support the CCHS spring fundraiser, and by afternoon, even the weather decided to cooperate, making for a very pleasant day. We are pleased to report that the Plant Celebration fundraiser sale raised slightly more money than last year's sale, rainy weather and all! The proceeds go to support the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee's garden projects. We would like to give a generous Thank You to the following people for all of their help:

Lucy Boyce, Angela Breeden, Cassandra Burke, Pam Calkins, Crystal & Doug Copella, Elizabeth Dutton, Susan Toby Evans, Katie Frieden, Marshall Garrett, Carol & Steve Gentry, Bob Hazelton, Judy Heberling, Chris Igo, Michele Klopff, Bob Leonard, Felicia Lewis, Beverly Lipski, Rhiannon McClintock, Jackie Melander, Jo Merrell, Ruth Merritt, Deborah Mezaros, Karen Myford, Fran Nuhfer, Ray Nungesser, Mary Osborn, Lynn Pursell Garskof, Beth Ricker, Barbara Sarra, Johanna Sedgwick, Grant Sherritt, Sue Stark, SuzanneThompson, Susan Urion, Jan Villastrigo, Bonnie Walter, Mary Kay Williams, Jay Young, John Ziegler.

Apologizes to anyone we missed - your help certainly was not missed. Thank you, thank you!

The event was sponsored by **Moon Borthers Landscaping.**

Growers and Vendors who Participated: **Sarah Berndt, Better Forest Consulting Services, Blackhawk Homestead Nursery, Sherry Bloom, Cindy Hiles Herbal Products, ClearWater Conservancy, Common Ground Organic Farm, Deb's Flower Farm, Effie's Common Scents, Jane Ireland, Penn State Master Gardeners, 2nd Generation Antiques/Donnelly's Antiques, Shuey's Market, Tait Farm Foods, Tree Peony Garden.**

We must especially thank the members of the **Centre Furnace Garden Committee** for the many hours spent preparing plants from the Mansion gardens for the sale. Each year the event gets bigger and better, and it is mostly due to the hard work of the garden committee, led by **Mary Sorensen.** Thanks to all who attended, and we hope to see you again next year!

CCHS on the Web

Haven't been to the Centre County Historical Society's website lately? Check out our updates, especially in the gardens section: <http://www.centrecountyhistory.org>. CCHS is also on myspace: <http://myspace.com/centrefurnace>.

New Docent Coordinator

The Centre County Historical Society is proud to welcome longtime volunteer **Mary Osborn** as the official Centre Furnace Mansion Docent Coordinator. Mary was introduced to the Mansion in 2003 by Dick Pencek and has since become a trusted docent and Volunteer of the Year award recipient. After recognizing that there was a need for someone to fearlessly lead the docent committee, Mary graciously stepped in. It could not have been a better fit!

Since taking over the duties of docent coordinator this spring, Mary has effectively managed the docent scheduling, offered to train and recruit new docents, and jumped head first into organizing the State College Area School District 3rd and 4th grade school tours. Through the efforts of Mary and the docent committee, the tours were slightly modified in order to enhance the educational experience of the children. The new tours included a short video on the history of Centre Furnace that was produced by Penn State students several years ago. In an effort to make the tours more interactive and to give an example of Victorian life, the students were asked to bring home-made calling cards with them to leave at the Mansion.

Approximately 350 students visited the Mansion in May, and students, teachers and docents gave a very favorable response to the new tours. A huge thank you is in order to all the docents who offered to help with the school tours, sometimes giving two tours a day: **Cliff Bastuscheck, Carol and Steve Gentry, Rhiannon McClintock, Gloria Nieweg, Pat Potter, Beth Ricker, Grant Sherrett, Betty Shields.**

Want to know how you can get involved in the fun? Now is the perfect time to learn more about becoming a Mansion greeter or docent. We encourage all who are interested to contact Mary at docent@centrefurnace.org, as we anticipate many great things in the future!



Recent Acquisitions

Victorian Doll Bed



This walnut Victorian doll bed is an excellent example of the types of accessories that were available to children in the 19th century for their dolls. It has decorative head and foot boards and seven slats that support the feather mattress. The linens, handmade quilt, and bed were given to CCHS by Elaine B. Wickersham this spring and are currently on view in the children's room of the Centre Furnace Mansion.

Grants Received

In April 2008, the Centre County Historical Society received a Technical Assistance Grant from the **Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations** to have a professional conservator evaluate two documents in our archival collection. The Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts in Philadelphia is currently examining the 1774 deeds and will make recommendations for their care and display.

CCHS also received a \$1,000 grant from the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** to create an exhibit to take part in the year long celebration of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal. Based on the research of historian William Pencak, which was completed through the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's Public Scholar's Program, this exhibit will explore how the Great Depression and the New Deal affected Centre County throughout the 1930s.

Tour of the Lemont Granary

Please join us on **Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.** for a special tour of the John I. Thompson Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds in Lemont, followed by a stop at Alto restaurant for dessert. We will meet at the Mansion first for a brief introduction.

The Lemont Village Association *by Sue Smith*

Located at the foothills of Mount Nittany in College Township, the village of Lemont was established in 1870 by Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson. The small community had been called "End of the Mountain" prior to 1870.

The Lemont Village Association (LVA) was incorporated in 1978 as a non-profit organization to promote awareness, appreciation, preservation, and the significance of the historical traditions and architecture of the village of Lemont, which was formally included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

A primary mission of the organization has been to preserve the historically significant 1885 John I. Thompson Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds, located in the center of Lemont, and to create a Village Green on the Granary's adjacent one-acre lot. A significant amount of work has gone into restoring and preserving this beautiful structure but, even when the restoration work is complete, the LVA's work will only have just begun.

The "Granary", as it is commonly called, might well have gone the way of other nineteenth-century relics of a railroad industry that expired in the mid-twentieth century, had not local citizens seen the need to preserve a part of Lemont's prosperous past.

Moses Thompson financed the building's construction in 1885, and on July 6, 1892, his son, John I. Thompson, along with Elizabeth B. Thompson, sold the property (a lot of 23,810 sq. feet) to J. Irvin Ross for \$1,825.

Having gone through several owners, the property was sold to Ronald P. Lewis in 1968, who used the site to sell heating oil and gasoline. In 1983, the Beyer & Fortner Oil Company left the "Granary" property, and the Grain Elevator was soon sold to Roger and Anne Johnson for \$27,000. Three years later, Constantine (Chris) and Diane Exarchos purchased three parcels in Lemont, including the Coal Sheds, for \$5,000.

The LVA Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds Project is continuing to progress since the purchase of the property in 1994 for \$55,000. In 2000, the LVA applied for three grants: John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (\$50,000); Centre County Community Foundation (\$5,000); and College Township (\$1,000). Other important funding has come from a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission \$90,000 matching grant and a Department of Community and Economic Development \$10,000 grant, received with Rep. Kerry Benninghoff's help.

In the past 12 years members of the LVA have raised and spent about \$425,000 on the property. The next project includes security lighting, interior lighting, and an exit at the rear of the coal sheds building, which will open to an iron bridge to the railroad track. The LVA is thrilled to host the members of the Centre County Historical Society with a tour of these buildings so that you can see for yourselves what has been accomplished, so far.



Gourmet Granary Candlelight Dinner

The public is invited to the Lemont Village Association's fundraising dinner on **Saturday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m.**, in the historic Thompson Granary, catered by Chef Tom and Judy Everly, Keystone Yankee Catering of Lemont.

Seating will be limited and reservations are due September 1. Dinners are \$75 per person, or a table for 8 may be reserved for \$600. Make checks available to LVA, P.O. Box 546, Lemont, PA 16851. All proceeds will benefit the Lemont Village Association's rehabilitation work on the historic buildings and are tax deductible. Please call the LVA at (814) 238-0624 or visit their website: <http://www.lemontvillage.org> for more information.



ClearWater Conservancy

Picnic and Celebration at the Barbara & John Fisher Farm

Sunday, July 27, from Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Fisher Farm, 2929 Buffalo Run Road

Barbara is a founding member of the ClearWater Conservancy, and she and John recently completed a conservation easement on 197 acres of their property. Come help ClearWater celebrate with a potluck picnic, music by Richard Wylie, talk by Bill Hilshey and Jeffrey Marshall about conservation easements, and guided walk by the stream. Please RSVP to Sarah at (814) 237-0400 or sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org by July 23.

Spring Creek Day Family Festival

Sunday, September 28, from Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center

Fun for the whole family abounds when ClearWater and Centre Region Parks and Recreation partner up to host this annual free festival! Locals and friends are invited to enjoy live music, a comedy show, food concessions and children's crafts while learning about the environment through nature walks, boardwalk tours, hands-on outdoor demonstrations and exhibits and presentations by local conservation organizations. Check details closer to the event at <http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org>.

Declaration of Independence Garden Party

On **Saturday, July 5, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.** Boalsburg will celebrate its link with the Declaration of Independence with a garden party and special activities, held at the Boal Mansion Estate. A free guided tour of the Boal Mansion Museum will be offered at 1:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. the Declaration of Independence will be read, followed by a patriotic sing-along. Those who wish to partake in the potluck should bring a main dish, side dish or dessert. For more information, please call (814) 466-6210 or visit: <http://www.boalmuseum.com>.

Centre Crossings Hospice Butterfly Release

Centre Crossings Hospice of Centre Homecare will hold its 9th annual butterfly release at the Centre Furnace Mansion on **Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m.** For \$25 a participant will receive a butterfly for release at the ceremony, and a butterfly bush to take home. The funds will help support the hospice program, which assists terminally ill patients. This event is free and open to the public. To sponsor a butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Centre Crossings Hospice at (814) 237-7400.

134th Annual Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair

"A Family Tradition", the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair (better known as "The Grange Fair"), will be held **August 21-28** in Centre Hall. The Grange Fair is a city within a town, as campers "move into" the Grange Park in Centre Hall to live for more than a week. A complete list of information is available online at <http://www.grangefair.net>.

Penns Valley Conservation Association's CRICKFEST

CRICKFEST will be held at Coburn Park on **Sunday, August 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Last year the terrific weather, stellar lineup of bands, outstanding local food and lots of great activities for kids brought out a record crowd. All profits from CRICKFEST go towards helping to support PVCA's Environmental Education program in the Penns Valley Area School District. For more information please visit <http://www.pennsvalley.net>.

Centre County Genealogical Society

The September CCGS meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be **Thursday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m.** at the LDS Church, 842 Whitehall Road in State College. The topic will be dating pictures through the elements they contain with Suzanne Elder. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paccgs>.

“New Deal”

(continued from page 1)

The PHMC also provided a grant for an exhibit on the New Deal in Centre County, which will open in the CCHS gallery in October. Penn State history professor William Pencak, who researched the impact of the Great Depression and the New Deal programs on the county, provided the basis for the exhibit. By 1932 wages in the county had fallen by more than half and unemployment rose to about 30 percent. New Deal funds along with state assistance provided the money for elementary schools, Penn State buildings, roads and other infrastructure projects. Not only did the New Deal help out-of-work Centre Countians, but these projects like Memorial Field continue to be used and enjoyed today.

SCCT’s “To Kill a Mockingbird”

Rhiannon McClintock (CCHS Program Coordinator by day, actress by night) will return to the Boal Barn Playhouse again this summer in the State College Community Theatre’s production *To Kill a Mockingbird*, July 23-26, and July 28-August 2.

Tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$9 for Seniors/Youth, and can be reserved by calling (814) 466-7141.

For more information, visit <http://www.scctonline.org> or contact Rhiannon at rhiannon@centrefurnace.org.



A competitor from the ISA Tree Climbing Competition, held at the Mansion on June 14, hangs from the historic sycamore tree.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI at Penn State)

Summer Courses at the Centre Furnace Mansion

🔊 Erbtown – Almost Lost in History

Tuesday, July 1, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Hidden in the woods and overgrown by thick brush lie the remains of a mid-1800’s town of 40 people and 10-12 buildings. Five years of clearing and exploring has revealed Erbtown. Enjoy a PowerPoint presentation of Erbtown’s story. Then visit the site. An optional tour of the Centre Furnace Mansion at noon will precede the presentation.

Instructor: Bob Hazelton, a retired engineer on the Centre County Historical Society Board, is heavily into local history, focusing on exploring existing sites coupled with historical documentation.

🔊 The Gardens at the Centre Furnace Mansion

Wednesday, July 9, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

The class will include a 20 minute slide show of a year in the gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion, followed by a tour of the gardens and grounds. Note: Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Instructor: Mary Sorensen, a 20-year Master Gardener, has been the Garden Coordinator at Centre Furnace Mansion since 2000.

🔊 Spring Creek Canyon – An Early History

Tuesday, July 22, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Though the future of Spring Creek Canyon has dominated our local news, its history has been largely glossed over. In this PowerPoint presentation, explore the 200+ year history that is the very root of Centre County. An optional tour of the Centre Furnace Mansion will follow the presentation.

Instructor: Bob Hazelton, a retired engineer on the Centre County Historical Society Board, is heavily into local history, focusing on exploring existing sites coupled with historical documentation.

Course Fee for each program: Member \$10/Non-member \$15. Participants must register through OLLI.

For more details about OLLI’s courses, trips and other activities, visit the website: <http://www.ollipsu.edu> or call (814) 238-2368.

Continuing Education . . .

The bell continues to ring at Boogersburg School (1877-1952)

Quietly nestled on a busy road between Bellefonte and State College, the historic charm of the Boogersburg One-Room Schoolhouse is often missed by those hurrying by. Pausing for a moment in its midst reminds us of a simpler time when children walked to school across open fields, studied side-by-side with siblings, and learned morals and arithmetic with McGuffey Readers.

On May 1, 1877, Moses Thompson, the ironmaster and owner of Centre Furnace, deeded property along what is now Fox Hill Road for the Boogersburg School. The schoolhouse was built that same year. Thompson wanted to ensure an education for the children of his tenant farmers who lived over two miles from the iron village. For the next 75 years, the Boogersburg School served first through eighth grade youth during some very significant times in our nation's history.

While there are no records to confirm it, strong evidence suggests that James B. Mattern was the builder of the schoolhouse in 1877. To put this timeframe in perspective, when the school was built, the town of State College had about a dozen houses most of which were along what is now College Avenue. Penn State had just been renamed the Pennsylvania State College in 1874 and boasted six buildings: Old Main, the President's house, two barns, and two faculty cottages. How things have changed!

After World War II, the population of Centre County grew and bussing of rural children to larger schools in town became more prevalent. One-room schoolhouses located in outlying townships downsized in a sense to accommodate only one or two grades per building. Such was the case with Boogersburg which housed only two grades during its final years of operation.

In addition to the grade level change, Boogersburg experienced another significant change during this era, the addition of electricity. In 1946, power lines were extended to the area and five electric lights were installed in the school. Until that time, lessons were conducted using oil lamps along with natural lighting provided by the "9 over 6" pane windows. Running water was another commodity missing at the schoolhouse. To this day, water still has to be transported to the school.

The Boogersburg School closed its doors in January 1953. In October of that same year, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grucci purchased the school at public auction and

Sibyl (Barsky) Grucci used it as her sculpting studio. Sibyl Grucci was an accomplished sculptor whose works are on display in museums across the country. Locally, she is most noted for the bust of Fred Lewis Pattee that is on display in Pattee Library. For nearly 50 years, Sybil Grucci owned the schoolhouse, and other than painting the interior walls white to better reflect the light, the building retained its 1953 integrity.

When she decided to sell the schoolhouse in April 2001, longtime Centre County Historical Society members, Robert and Susan Struble purchased the property with the intent to restore the schoolhouse to its original condition rather than raze it. Restoration became Bob Struble's passion, and the result of that passion is a functioning living museum that has been experienced by thousands of visitors, thanks to the gracious gift of the school to CCHS in 2004. Details of the schoolhouse restoration will be shared in the next issue of the newsletter.

Please contact Boogersburg School Program Coordinator, Sharon Childs, for more information about the programs offered at Boogersburg and volunteer opportunities by phone: (814) 861-6953 or email: boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org.



Boogersburg School Open House

On Saturday, August 23 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. the Centre County Historical Society will be holding an open house at the Boogersburg School. Educational reenactments of classroom activities are available for classroom visits and group tours, but rarely are community members given a chance to visit the Boogersburg School. If you are interested in the school, the artifacts on display and the programs that the historical society offers, please come out for this rare glimpse of life in the 1800's.

The Boogersburg School is located at 1015 Fox Hill Road, next to Fox Hill Gardens. Parking is available across the street.



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

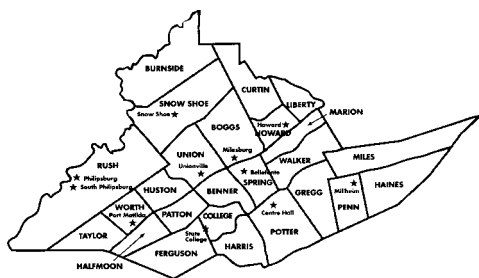
CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801

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State College, PA
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Return Service Requested

Membership



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ Annual (08)	\$35
_____ Friend (F)	\$60
_____ Business (Bus)	\$100
_____ Patron (P)	\$100
_____ Life (L)	\$350
_____ Benefactor (B)	\$500

☐ In addition, I also want to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____

☐ I am interested in becoming a CCHS volunteer.