



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 3

Summer 2009

Important Repair Work on the Centre Furnace Mansion

In May of 2008, CCHS applied to the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Grant** program for funds to perform several vital repairs to the ell section of the Centre Furnace Mansion. Having received notification of our award this past April for \$21,406, we immediately began raising money to match it. We also received \$15,000 from the **Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau** for a Capital Improvement grant that will help to meet this challenge, but we need the help of our members and friends to match the full amount. The restoration and care of the Centre Furnace Mansion is necessary to insure that it is available to future generations, and we hope that you will consider supporting this very important project. Please see the back cover for a form to send to CCHS or call our office to make a donation.



The ell was added in 1847 and is sagging due to wearing support columns under the covered porch. As a result, the roof is sagging, the shingles are splitting, and the outside wall is bowing. Also in dire need of attention are the Mansion's five brick chimneys, which have never been restored. If you contribute to this fund, your donation will be used to reinforce the ell, re-point or rebuild the chimneys, and replace the shingles on the ell side. Your gift will be recognized in all related publications about the funding of the project and in our upcoming newsletters. These are necessary and important repairs that are essential to the care of the Centre Furnace Mansion, and we hope that you will support it.

Recent Projects

Restroom Renovations

Volunteer **Kristin Bozella**, showroom manager and marketing director of **The Beautiful Bath** in State College, arranged for the donation of new supplies to provide a much needed face lift to the Mansion restrooms. **Folcarelli Supply Company** of State College and Altoona donated 2 new toilets; **Conestoga Tile** provided ceramic tile for the floors of both restrooms; and **Jalco** supplied us with new brass fixtures including faucets, grab bars and plumbing. Contractors **Tony and Nicolas Iachini** of **LHS Enterprise** of Altoona installed the restrooms free of charge and even went so far as to purchase new parts for us as needed. The generosity of all of the people and companies associated with this project is greatly appreciated and indicative of the community support that is necessary for non-profits like CCHS.



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.

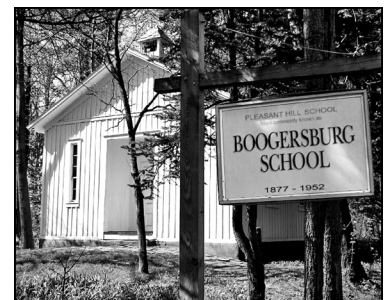
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th century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

🔊 “Des Marais: A Preservation Enthusiast”

Through July 31



Special exhibit on view at Schlow Centre Region Library. See page 8 for more information.

🔊 Annual Blueberry Picnic

Thursday, July 23, at 5:30 p.m.



See page 4 for more information.

August

🔊 A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Restoration Activities in Philipsburg

Thursday, August 13, at 4:00 p.m.

See page 5 for more information.

September

🔊 Centre Furnace Mansion Closed for Labor Day

Monday, September 7

President's Corner

A Necklace of Green - A Developing Strand on Mr. Thompson's Lands

In 1870, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted delivered a lecture in Cambridge, MA in which he stated:

We want a ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them . . .

Centre County and the Centre Region are not Boston, but I would venture that we all seek opportunities after our day's work is done, to stroll - "seeing, hearing and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets . . ." And, I also would venture that Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson never anticipated that a portion of his landholdings would some day play a role in such an effort.

But a Developing Strand of Olmsted's so-called Emerald Necklace of green is occurring on Mr. Thompson's land. Thompson Woods, Walnut Springs Park, Lederer Park, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center are a few of the jewels in the necklace, leading to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's beautiful gardens and grounds at Centre Furnace. And those gardens and grounds are now being redeveloped and maintained by the Centre Furnace Garden Committee, with as their distinguished centerpiece, the 270-year-old giant sycamore tree.

In addition, of course, is the adjacent University Park campus with its own collection of significant and historic trees, and emerging (up Porter Road and along Park Avenue) is the rich addition of the Penn State Arboretum, located on another of Thompson's farms. By following Porter Road until it becomes Fox Hollow and then Fox Hill Road we reach the Society-owned Boogersburg School, built by Moses Thompson, where another group of trees have prevailed over the years, and with the planting of others soon to be underway.

I suspect Frederick Law Olmsted would have approved our local version of his Necklace, and I suspect Moses Thompson would have too. So, as the lushness of summer is upon us, let us salute this Developing Strand in our own community's Emerald Necklace.



We also would like to salute the descendents of Moses and Mary Irvin Thompson who will be traveling from across the country to gather for a family reunion at the Centre Furnace Mansion on Saturday, August 1. We warmly welcome them and are pleased, indeed, to be able to host them in their ancestral home.

~ Jackie Melander

Summer of Service, Year of Generosity

On June 22, the White House launched the “United We Serve” program that urges people to serve their communities during the summer months of 2009. Whether you have a week or an hour of time to donate, CCHS would love to have you take part in some of the activities we have planned.

United We Serve July Work Parties

We will be holding mini indoor work-sessions in July that will make a big difference in the appearance of the Mansion. You can spend as much time as you wish and while we welcome your participation in both sessions, it is not required.

Tuesday, July 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Silver Polishing Party at the Centre Furnace Mansion

Tuesday, July 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Interior Painting Party at the Centre Furnace Mansion

All supplies will be provided and you will receive a small gift in recognition of your help. Please RSVP by **July 20** to let us know that you will be attending. (814) 234-4779 or info@centrecountyhistory.org.

Thursday Nights at the Mansion - Not Just for Gardening Anymore!

Every Thursday night, starting at 5:00 p.m., the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee meets to plant, prune, and care for our beautiful and educational gardens. We would like to expand this evening of volunteering to include outside painting projects to work on some of the most pressing issues of the Mansion and related buildings.

Among the projects will be the scraping and priming of the front porch. It is essential that we protect this architectural feature, and a few hours a week will go a long way to its preservation.

Weekly attendance is not required; simply attend when it is convenient for you. If interested, we ask that you let us know when you will be volunteering so that we can prepare the supplies. Please call (814) 234-4779 or email info@centrecountyhistory.org for more information.

Spring-UP Day

On Sunday, April 19, the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee took part in the 2009 Penn State WE ARE Campaign’s Spring-UP community service event. Organized by **Mary Sorensen**, and led by **Katie Frieden**, **Judy Heberling**, **Beverly Lipski** and **Jo Merrell**, the purpose of the day was to spruce up the grounds after a long winter and prepare them for the season ahead. Fifteen Penn State students worked the entire day picking up sticks and raking leaves.

Jason Contino helped to organize the creation of a border on the south east corner of the property as part of his Eagle Scout project by working with Mary Sorensen and several members of the faculty and staff at Penn State. **Jeff Dice**, supervisor of ground maintenance at Penn State, donated trees, equipment, mulch, and personnel to the project. **Derek Kalp**, landscape architect, and **Martin McGann**, associate professor of landscape contracting, donated their time while **Scott’s Landscaping, Inc.** and **Larry Kuhn**, professor emeritus of ornamental horticulture, donated trees. We thank all of them for their help as well as our neighbors, **Chet and Alania Esber** for consulting with us in advance.



One Berry, Two Berry, Come and Share Your Blueberries

Thursday, July 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Happy National Blueberry Month! Please join us for a picnic supper on the Mansion lawn for this year’s blueberry celebration, a repeat of last year’s successful event. Bring your individual picnic suppers and then share your own creative dessert and beverage delicacies, with blueberries as the theme.

Local blueberries should be available for picking or at the various area farmers’ markets, or from farther a field at your favorite grocery store. So, gather up family, friends, and blueberries and join in an early evening of picnic camaraderie in a 19th century garden setting on the Mansion’s handsome grounds.

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Restoration Activities in Philipsburg

Thursday, August 13, starting at 4:00 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity for CCHS friends and residents from throughout Centre County to learn about a community's preservation efforts, in this case through active citizen participation and the Philipsburg Main Street Program. The Main Street Manager and other specialists, including members of the Philipsburg Historical Foundation, will be on hand to share information on what occurs in the restoration/rehab of historic buildings to enhance and economically revitalize historic communities. What, for example, does it mean to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places? What are the advantages of such a listing - how does environmental impact protection and the possibility of restoration tax credits come into play?

(If 4:00 p.m. is too early for your schedule, you can join in the activities along the way.)

4:00 p.m. - Meet at Newly Restored Philips Hotel for Walking Tour: Centre & Front Streets

We will begin with a walking tour of Centre Street, including a special stop at the beautifully restored Carlisle-Lorraine house (Queen Anne/Stick Style - 1889). Retracing our steps, we will head for Front Street and a stop at the Louis Finberg Building (Dry Goods Store - 1919). Before and after pictures will be on display at each building.

5:30 p.m. - Philips Hotel (established 1921)

An additional special highlight will be a tour of this handsome hotel, a Philipsburg centerpiece, including the 7th floor grand ballroom, balcony, and a sample of guest rooms.

6:00 p.m. - Dinner at Philips Hotel Restaurant

The restaurant has a fine kitchen! We will need some indication of how many will be staying for dinner, so please call (814) 234-4779 or email CCHS at info@centrecountyhistory.org with your reservation.

The Legacy of Victorian Kitchen Gardens

By Susan Bowser

CFM Gardener and PSU Master Gardener of Centre County

The kitchen garden may currently be experiencing a revival among American families; however, for most of our country's history, setting aside space for a vegetable garden was essential for providing fresh produce to a family's diet. Gardeners interested in establishing a kitchen garden today have a vast range of vegetables to choose from. Hybrids, disease resistant strains, and "new" heirlooms offer us choices for every climate, planting zone and culinary taste. Throughout history, American gardeners have been quick to take advantage of native plants, adapting to the new limitations of climate and making the most of the transition to an industrialized country.

During the 19th century, great efforts were put into exploring, researching, and documenting the bounty of the North American continent. Nurserymen and horticulturalists, such as Bernard McMahon (who cataloged the plant findings of the Lewis and Clark expedition), began publishing gardening guides and seed catalogs. Thanks to their efforts, Native American peppers, corn, beans, and squash could be firmly rooted in their neat Victorian beds next to Old World favorites like cabbage, salsify, turnips and the much-loved garden pea. McMahon made significant contributions to the native vegetable crops at the gardens of Jefferson's Monticello, and published *The American Gardener's Calendar*, the first gardening guidebook specific to the American continent. Initially published in 1804, it ran for 50 years.

In the latter half of the 19th century, as the country moved toward industrialization, families left the farm for the city and the kitchen garden was no longer a practical solution for all. Market oriented vegetable farms, also called truck farms, developed in the decades after the Civil War to fill the vegetable needs of urban centers. Guides such as Peter Henderson's *Gardening for Profit* (1865) offered practical advice on how to become a commercial vegetable grower. New varieties offering high "early" yields of "mammoth" produce were increasingly available from seed producers such as Vick's Seed Company of Rochester and W. Atlee Burpee & Company of Philadelphia.

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A Note From the Gardens

by Mary Sorensen

CFM Garden Coordinator



Late spring into early summer is often a battle of the wills in the garden. This year our spring rains have not been enough to replenish our aquifers, but have been plenty adequate to germinate endless amounts of weed seeds and encourage all the “vigorous” perennials that are usually kept at bay by the normally dwindling precipitation common at this time of year in Central Pennsylvania. When out looking for plants for your garden, note that when you read the tag and there are words such as “spreads vigorously,” “robust” or “exuberant,” these are all code words for “invasive,” just so you go in with a complete understanding of what you are about to get into. Know that after a couple of years of having this enthusiastic perennial, you will then be digging it out by the pail-fuls to give to unsuspecting friends. Gardening friends will start to wince when they see you coming with a pot or a bag filled with, let’s say, bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*), common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) or the common orange daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva* (L.) L.). These and several other familiar garden plants have the dubious honor of sharing a place with purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) on the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Pest List. (Exotic is a euphemism in this context.)

What may be invasive in one person’s garden, however, may not be necessarily so in another’s. *Ajuga reptans*, as an example, is a mannerly, interesting groundcover under the drip line of a maple tree if indeed it will survive there at all. However, put the same *Ajuga reptans* in a fertile mixed perennial garden and, if you stop paying attention, you will soon have an escaped garden thug on your hands that will be determined to clandestinely spread until it is far too late for civilized means of control.

Each year at the Centre Furnace Mansion Plant and Garden Sale we deliberate about whether to sell some of these “robust” offerings that many of us grow and love in

our own gardens. They have a place; just not every place. We have, in the past, relegated some plant sale donations (ones that actually made the USDA Invasive Plant list) to the compost pile. We chose others, that are slightly less notorious, to sell with appropriate cautions. In any case, it is a good idea to spend a little time researching a plant that is described with words that imply that it could spread through a small country within a single growing season.

Later this summer, the CFM Garden Committee will be putting together plans for an early fall multi day lecture, presentation and hands-on workshop focusing on the process of renovating of one of the gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion. We will send out dates and details of this educational opportunity in the coming weeks when we have more information.

Enjoy your summer remember to stop by for a walk in the gardens!



“Victorian Kitchen Gardens”

(continued from page 5)

While initially seed companies may have not have been geared toward the small scale kitchen garden, there is no doubt that gardeners for generations have greatly benefited from their innovations. Seed companies gave brand name recognition to many of our standard garden vegetables and familiarized varieties like the Danvers carrot (late 1880s) and Detroit Dark Red beets (1892).

In fact, as more Americans break new ground this year to begin their very first kitchen gardens, it is highly likely that they will reach for seed packets with names familiar to our Victorian forbearers. Whether planting tidy rows of Black Seeded Simpson lettuce (1870s) or tying up the rambling potato-like leaves of an heirloom Brandywine tomato (1889), this year’s new kitchen gardener is recreating a bit of the nation’s history.

14th Annual Plant Celebration

The 2009 Plant Celebration and Plant & Garden Sale had all the makings of a great community day, thanks to everyone's hard work. Spring is a spectacular time in any garden and the gardens of Centre Furnace Mansion did not let us down. The fresh blooms of 35 Victorian era lilacs in Laura's Lilac Bower, plus spring bulbs and ephemerals like bleeding hearts, Virginia bluebells, corydalis and many others graced the gardens and grounds with color and fragrance, and the weather was particularly accommodating for the day.

Over one thousand plants were potted up during our weekly gardening times last spring in preparation for this year's Plant Celebration; some of them, no doubt, "vigorous!" We created several mixed perennial and annual baskets for sale as well. **Pam Calkins** led a group effort to start over 3,000 annual flower seeds this year for both the gardens and the Plant Celebration. **Tait Farm, Beverly Lipski** and **Chris Igo** generously donated seeds for this effort and the selections are representative of what was available to Victorians.

Many, many thanks to all of you who volunteered to help with the Plant Celebration or made delicious treats for the food sales tent and for snacks, including: **Katie Frieden, Ruth Merritt, Jo Merrell, Barbara Sarra, Jan Villastrigo, Susan Bowser, Cindy Shultz, Carol Baney, Deb Mezaros, Beverly Lipski, Judy Heberling, Lucy Boyce, Dixie Lee Witt, Lisa Coggins, Mary Kay Williams, Connie Horne, Chris Calkins, Susan Toby Evans, Bonnie Walter, Bob Leonard, Vicki Spadaccio, Teresa Tassotti, Tina Czajkowski, Molly Allan, Connie Horne, Rhiannon McClintock, Angela Breeden, Mary Osborn, Jackie Melander, Beth Ricker, Lynn and Jeremy Garskof, Johanna Sedgwick, Felicia Lewis, Elizabeth Dutton, Grant and Sue Sherriitt, John Ziegler and Bob Gruver.** Special thanks to **Katie Frieden, Ruth Merritt** and **Jan Villastrigo**, who volunteered all day at the Mansion on Thursday and Friday and helped to raise the tent, get tables, set up the silent auction, and create price and plant information labels; and **Mary Osborn**, who coordinated an effort to make lunch to rejuvenate us mid-day! **Chris Igo** and **Barbara Sarra** graciously let us borrow their tents for the Mother's Day Baskets, food sales and the Master Gardener Q & A tent.

Jennifer Kane and **Rita Graef** held the interest of many as they painted portraits of the Centre Furnace Mansion from different perspectives. Artists from the Art Alliance of Central PA were also featured at the Lemont Village Association's House and Garden Tour and Strawberry Festival. For more information about the Art Alliance '09 paintOUT, go to <http://artalliancepa.org> or call (814) 234-2740.

Many promoted our Plant Celebration including: **Rhiannon McClintock**, for her interview with 3WZ and the *Centre Daily Times*; **Nadine Kofman**, who gave us mention in her article in *Town & Gown*; **David Price**, host of the WPSU Lawn and Garden Q & A radio program; **Molly Sturniolo** and **Tom Butzler** of the Centre County Cooperative Extension, who all helped spread the word

about the Plant Celebration through the Master Gardener and Cooperative Extension avenues; **Carol Baney** and **Cindy Schultz**, who painted a colorful sandwich board sign to sit on the corner to make the sale more visible. Thank you to all who did a great job of getting the word out this year via word of mouth, e-mail and placing flyers around town. It really paid off!

For donating gifts for our silent auction, we are grateful to **Young American Growers, Fox Hill Gardens Nursery, State College High School Agriculture Science Department, Ruth Merritt, Daniel Vaughn Designs, Tait Farm, Deb McManus, Lucy Boyce, Susan Toby Evans, Patrick Williams,**

The Rock Garden Nursery, Susan Smith, The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, Beth Ricker, and Mary Kay Williams.

A sincere thanks to all of the businesses that helped make this year's Plant Celebration a success, including: **Penn State Master Gardeners, Tait Farm Foods, Shuey's Market, Sarah Berndt "Orchid Lady," Rose Franklin's Perennials, Effie's Common Scents, Common Ground Organic Farm, Deb's Flower Farm, Greenhorn Greeneries, The Rock Garden Nursery, Triple G Gift Shop.**

On behalf of the Centre Furnace Mansion gardeners and the Centre County Historical Society, hat's off to all who helped make the 2009 Plant Celebration and Plant & Garden Sale a success and we hope to see you all back in 2010! Visit <http://centrecountyhistory.org/gardens> for more pictures!

Mary Sorensen, CFM Garden Coordinator



Des Marais Architecture Exhibit

Throughout the month of July, “Des Marais: A Preservation Enthusiast,” a photo retrospective of the architectural legacy of M. Robert Des Marais, will be on exhibit in the **Schlow Centre Region Library** exhibition room. Coincidentally, this marks the fiftieth anniversary of Schlow’s own first building, which Charles Schlow commissioned from Des Marais in memory of his wife, Bella. The exhibit is the fourth in a series sponsored by the Centre County Historical Society.



Of the half dozen young architects on the Penn State faculty in the 1950s, Bob Des Marais was one of the most prolific in his public practice. He had two strong, seemingly diverse interests: historical preservation and contemporary home design.

Des Marais was involved in a dozen preservation projects in Pennsylvania, as well as some in other states. He was the lead architect for Old Bedford Village and consulted with the Curtin Village and Fort Roberdeau restorations. He strongly believed in the re-adaptation of historical structures for modern uses as well. Two wonderful adaptations that he led were the Boal Stone Barn for Mr. and Mrs. Allen Simpson and the Oak Hall Mill for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Humphries. He also adapted the smaller wood Boal Barn for a playhouse for the State College Community Theatre.

Des Marais grew up in Oak Park, IL, and attended the same high school as his architectural hero, Frank Lloyd Wright. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture from the University of Illinois, and joined Penn State’s architecture faculty in 1950, where he taught for 38 years.

Des Marais was also a talented painter, as well as an avid collector and traveler. He amassed a significant collection of books on architectural history and had intended to write a comprehensive history of the profession. He also collected a large number of models of famous architectural structures.

A closing reception for the exhibit will be held on **Saturday, July 25, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** in the community room of the library. The architect’s widow, Sally, and exhibit curator Robert Malcom will be available for questions.

The Docents’ Diary

by Mary Osborn

30 June 2009

Guests often ask about the colorful quilt that decorates the master bedroom. This is known as a “crazy quilt,” a popular hand-crafted creation in Victorian America that was inspired by decorative arts from Asia on view at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Americans fell in love with their asymmetrical designs, especially Japanese table china with a crackled glaze. The term “crazy quilt” is attributed to that “crazed” china.

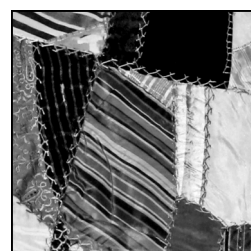


Women began to incorporate this new look into their quilts and with the help of popular women’s magazines the making of crazy quilts became quite the rage. Although crazy quilt patterns may appear haphazard they were carefully planned. Hours were spent cutting shapes and trying out various arrangements of the pieces before sewing.

Early quilts made in this style were more show pieces than functional and were often made as smaller lap robes used to decorate the parlor. They were fitting for the lavish interior decoration of the day. These quilts were usually made using velvet, silk and brocade fabric, cut and pieced in random shapes. Using silk thread, women placed lovely decorative stitches on each seam. Intriguing names like “feather,” “herringbone,” “fly” and “chain” describe just a few of the intricate stitches. Some quilters believed that embroidering a spider on its web would bring good luck to the quilter. Crazy quilts occasionally included embroidered verses and information recording family events.

Originally, crazy quilts were made by women of the wealthy class who had time and money for expensive fabric. Eventually, other women adopted the fad, using fabric from discarded fancy clothing. Packets of silk scraps from mills and factories were also sold inexpensively through mail order, making this style of quilting affordable for more women.

Enthusiasm for this quilting fad continued until about



1910. Crazy quilts made with silk are rapidly deteriorating, in part because many Victorian silks were embedded with metals to give skirts rustle and weight. This gives us even more reason to treasure our beautiful crazy quilt.

Continuing Education . . .

Boogersburg School (1877-1952)

by Sharon Childs

Another school year is coming to a close at Boogersburg One-Room Schoolhouse. Over 1,100 visitors participated in a variety of schoolhouse experiences including the fall Open House, the United Way Day of Caring, and a number of docent-led programs through which visitors relived a moment of history.

"Schoolchildren" of all ages from first and second graders to Penn State's Elderhostel participants experienced schoolhouse's charm. By far the largest number of children came from State College area elementary schools, who visit as part of their grade-level units on the lives of early pioneers and Pennsylvania's natural resources and history.

We are excited to note that we had several newcomers this year including a State College charter school, homeschoolers from the local area, fourth graders from Bald Eagle School District, third graders from Mifflin County, and the Tiger Den of Cub Scout Pack 45 from Milesburg, PA.

None of these programs would be possible without the energy and commitment of a very special group of retired school teachers, professors, and others who recreate the world of the 1800s schoolhouse. These volunteers include: **Bonnie Abrams, Nancy Jacobson, Dr. Henry Johnson, Dr. Frank McKenna, Gloria Nieweg, Freya Phillips, Helen Roback, Jane Sheeder, Nancy Silverman, Bob and Jackie Struble, and Doyle Wilkerson.** We extend a very special thanks to all of you for your commitment and your passion for keeping history alive and creating memorable moments for children.

Please contact Sharon Childs to become involved as a docent or for program information: (814) 861-6953 or boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org.



Spring 2009 School Tours

Centre Furnace Mansion

The Centre Furnace Mansion was full of life during May and June as bus loads of energetic State College Area School District 3rd and 4th grade students visited as part of our ongoing and collaborative local history education program. Before they "came calling," students created their own unique calling cards; during their visits they placed them on the silver calling card receiver in the front hall just as Mansion guests did when visiting the Thompson family in the 19th century. Each card is different and all are beautiful.



Our guests enjoyed the iron furnace story and most were prepared to explain the four elements essential to making iron. They were full of questions about the Mansion and especially its young inhabitants as they toured each room: Which children slept here? Who wrote on the wall? What was stored in the kitchen safe? Where did the children attend school? Who played the piano? Is there a mini-Mansion inside the mini-Mansion? How old is the sycamore tree?

Approximately 500 students comprised 32 tours graciously hosted (and questions answered) by docents **Cliff Bastuscheck, Carol and Steve Gentry, Rhiannon McClintock, Benjamin McNitt, Gloria Nieweg, Mary Osborn, Pat Potter, Beth Ricker, Grant Sherritt, Betty Shields and Dolores Simpson.**

4th Fest



Board members Douglas Macneal and Mary Osborn represent CCHS during 4th Fest on July 4, 2009



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

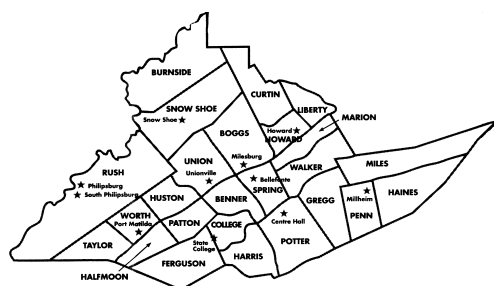
CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

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Membership



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ Annual (09) \$35

_____ Friend (F) \$60

_____ Business (Bus) \$100

_____ Patron (P) \$100

_____ Life (L) \$350

_____ Benefactor (B) \$500

_____ Contribution towards the PHMC Keystone Grant

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