



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 3

Summer 2010

Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party Sweepstakes to Cupcakes Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Centre County Historical Society wants to sweep you off your feet with a chance to win three exceptional prizes at our newest fundraiser and garden party, ***Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party: Sweepstakes to Cupcakes***. You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of food, games, music and more on **Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**, where we will hold the drawing for these fabulous prizes.

What would sweep you off your feet?

First Prize – A relaxing week-end getaway for two at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort. Located near historic Old Bedford Village, the Bedford Springs Resort offers luxurious guest rooms, world-class spa and a restored golf course. The first prize package includes two nights stay and meals for the winner and guest. Choose from the Double Bubble Romance, Taste of Bedford Springs, Eternal Indulgence or Hooked on Golf packages.

Second Prize – A Penn State Football weekend. Cheer on the Nittany Lions with this package that includes two tickets to the Penn State – Michigan State game on November 27, 2010, two nights lodging at the Hampton Inn State College and a tailgate package from Damon's Grill.



Third Prize – Dinner for two at the award-winning Carnegie House. The winner and guest will enjoy an enchanting meal at the Carnegie House, an exclusive boutique hotel and restaurant. The Carnegie House is named for Andrew Carnegie, who purchased Centre Furnace land from ironmaster Moses Thompson.



Please find enclosed an application form for raffle tickets. Each \$25 ticket will admit one to the garden party on September 12, and each ticket will provide one chance to win in the drawing. The extra bonus is that each ticket sold will support the Centre County Historical Society as we work to preserve and promote our rich community heritage.

The drawing will take place at 3:30 p.m., but you do not need to be present to win. Even

if you are unable to attend the party, however, we hope you will purchase tickets. Please make out checks to the Centre County Historical Society and return your order form to the Centre Furnace Mansion, 1001 East College Avenue, State College, PA 16801 no later than September 10, 2010.

Don't miss this opportunity to be swept off your feet at the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Party: Sweepstakes to Cupcakes. Party highlights will include light appetizers, sweets (including cupcakes!), beverages, lawn games and garden tours. We hope to see you on September 12 in this unique historic setting for a fun-filled afternoon!

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 Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays 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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Mary Sorensen
Executive Director

Rhiannon McClintock
Program Coordinator/Website Administrator

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.

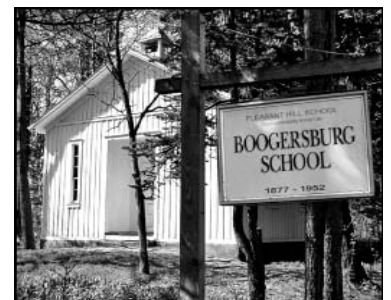
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th century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



President's Corner



As most of us have been feeling for the last several days, summer is here! And like the warming of the weather, the Centre County Historical Society has been heating up with some wonderful new faces and new projects.

First, the new faces:

We are delighted to officially welcome **Mary Sorensen** as the new executive director of CCHS. Many of you already know Mary. She is the person who has researched and, like the pied piper, led the development efforts of the Mansion's gardens and grounds for the past decade. You may not know that she also has been the overseer of the annual spring Plant Celebration, fall Day of Caring, and a host of other CCHS efforts in between. She has initiated the development of the "Gardens and Grounds" section of the website, <http://www.centrecountyhistory.org>, and is the creator of *The Gardens at Centre Furnace* exhibit now on view. Many contemporary CCHS photographs appearing in the newsletter and elsewhere have come through Mary's artistic eye and camera. If you haven't met her, you will recognize her by her engaging smile and warm personality. We feel exceedingly fortunate that Mary has agreed to step in to replace Angela Breeden to lead CCHS in new and exciting directions.

We also are welcoming new CCHS Board members:

- **Allen Baney**, a resident of Bellefonte and owner of Avánt Garden on Calder Way in State College.
- **Katie Frieden**, a Port Matilda resident, Penn State conference planner, and co-coordinator of the Centre Furnace Mansion gardens.
- **Waneta Lingenfelter** of Philipsburg, who recently retired as a world geography teacher from the Philipsburg-Osceola School District, and continues her active involvement in local and regional educational organizations.

We have said our goodbyes and thanks to **Jeanne Weber**, a valuable Board member who has served the Society well while also playing a major role in other local organizations such as a recent past president of the American Association of University Women. Also leaving, after years and years of committed involvement with CCHS, is **Bob Gruver**. It was Bob, his late wife, Norma Lee, and their daughter Lee who, with their vision and their support, provided the initial impetus for what the gardens and grounds at Centre Furnace could be.

And new projects:

CCHS does many things in the course of a year, but we sometimes are so busy doing them that we don't take the time to effectively highlight our accomplishments. We are going to be trying some new methods to underscore these projects and activities in this technical age, through e-mails and our website, as well as through more traditional methods of communication.

And, with a sincere thank you for \$1300 in grant support this year from AAUW, we will be developing a brochure about the Boogersburg School – its past, present, and future.

Please keep an eye out for the goings-on of the more than 100-year-old CCHS, as we continue to move forward in our second 100 years and into the second decade of the 21st century.

In the meantime, we hope you will stay cool and savor the observations of Henry James: *Summer afternoon – Summer afternoon . . . the two most beautiful words in the English language.*

~ Jackie Melander

Thursdays in the Gardens – Exhibits – And More

By Mary Sorensen

After ten years as the Centre Furnace Mansion gardens coordinator, it is with honor that I have accepted the position of executive director of the Centre County Historical Society that Angela Breeden held with integrity for the past five years.

While I can still be found in the gardens at the Mansion on Thursdays, **Katie Frieden**, 8 year gardener at Centre Furnace Mansion, has graciously agreed to handle gardens coordinating responsibilities as well as serving on the CCHS Board of Governors.

It was the history and development of the gardens and grounds that first peaked my interest in the Centre Furnace Mansion and, in subsequent years, I have found many other facets of CCHS that are irresistibly interesting as well. The history of Centre Furnace and its relationship to the community, the collection of decorative arts and furniture, the treasures I have yet to discover and the people I have yet to know are all things I look forward to in the coming months and years.

I look forward to seeing you at this exhibit reception and on a regular basis at Centre Furnace.

Thank you to **Mary Osborn** and **Rhiannon McClintock** for putting together a two part program about the history of Centre Furnace Mansion and for leading a tour of the mansion for twelve people who have been

involved in the development of our gardens project at CFM. The program was helpful, informative and enthusiastically received.

Speaking of our gardens, a cool spring with ample rains has given way to heat and very dry weather here in Centre County, a combination that creates anxiety in a gardener. Keeping the CFM gardens looking their best with weather like this is no small task in the several large gardens here. Though we keep supplemental watering to a minimum, the survival of the plants depends on it when rain is scarce. The good news is that weeds do not tend to thrive in this sort of weather either. But enough is enough, so do wish for rain soon!

Some of the highlights in this year's bloom line up were lilacs, now four years old, in Laura's Lilac Bower along with Red Bud, Serviceberry, Viburnum and Dogwood. Many colorful daffodils and spring bulbs were planted over the past 6 years as part of our effort to introduce bulbs that would have been familiar to 19th century gardeners. Bulbs were followed by roses, peonies and over 150 varieties of perennials, annuals, shrubs continue to surprise us as the summer unfolds.

The Front Parlor Garden that was redone as part of a garden renovation workshop last fall is doing well and is simply beautiful this year. The trees and shrubs in the border that were installed as part of an Eagle Scout project in the spring of 2009 are showing new growth and looking great.

Thanks to the efforts of the CFM Gardeners, and a little supplemental watering, the gardens are looking well despite the lack of rain this garden season. I hope you will stop out soon to enjoy the grounds.



I hope you will join me on **Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m.** for a reception for *The Gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion* exhibition. This retrospective exhibit that opened earlier in May tells the evolving story of the gardens and grounds at Centre Furnace Mansion from the 19th century to the present. A large collection of old, and new, photographs help tell the story. A special bonus for this evening – blueberries in various variations will be featured in the refreshments fare.

PHMC Grant Updates

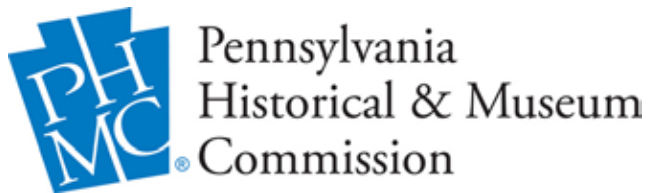
Keystone Grant

As reported in the spring issue of *Mansion Notes*, restoration work on the Mansion's chimneys resumed this March. **Brian Bastress** and the crew from **Bastress Stoneworks** used bricks made of appropriate materials that were common at the time of the Mansion's construction and then "aged" them to appear in keeping with the era of the building.

Poole Anderson Construction was selected to work on the stabilization of the ell, which began in May. After a careful investigative phase, they repaired floor joists and supporting beams, and realigned the roofline; we are now in the final stages of the project and expect to be finished in the coming weeks.

CCHS would like to thank Bastress Stoneworks and Poole Anderson Construction for their careful and sensitive approach to the continued restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion and for always making the historical integrity of the building their first priority.

These projects were made possible though a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant, the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitor's Bureau Grant, and the contributions of many CCHS members and friends.



General Operating Support Grant

We are also pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has approved our 2010 annual General Operating Support Grant. These funds are used to help offset expenses, such as utilities and salaries, and are dependent on annual matching funds designated by the Centre County Commissioners. The Society is appreciative of both the County Commissioners and the PHMC for their continued support.

Museum Assistance Grants are currently on hold until the Commonwealth Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 is passed. At this time, the proposed FY 2010-2011 Commonwealth budget eliminates funding for the Museum Assistance allocation that supports this program. The Museum Assistance allocation supports the majority of PHMC grant programs, and elimination of this funding will greatly affect CCHS.



Northwest chimney before restoration.



Northwest chimney after restoration.

Thank You for a Successful Plant Celebration!

A beautiful job was done on every aspect of the Plant Celebration & Garden Sale this spring, even through persistent and gusting high winds! Everyone's efforts contributed, once again, to a very successful day.

The Plant Celebration depends on and is enriched by all who contribute to the many weeks of preparation. Many winter and spring hours were spent creating detailed plant identification labels and handsome informative signage. We potted nearly 1400 plants, made 60+ Mother's Day planters and started 3000 seeds. Additionally, the week prior to the sale was spent setting up, organizing and putting on the finishing touches.



Thank you to the following people who gave their time for the Plant Celebration:

Jill Aller, Joe Banks, Angela Breeden, Susan Bowser, Lucy Boyce, Jim Broyles, Cassandra Burke, Pam & Chris Calkins, Lisa Coggins, Katie Frieden, Marshall & Jim Garrett, Lynn & Jeremy Garskof, Bob Hazelton, Judy Heberling & Mike Husband, Connie Horne, Tina Hyde, Chris Igo, Karen Kotlowski, Bob Leonard, Beverly Lipski, Lou Mayer, Rhiannon McClintock, Jackie Melander, Jo Merrell, Ruth Merritt, Ann Moellenbrock, Mary Osborn, Fran Nuhfer, Carol Phillips, Cindy Shultz, Barbara Sarra, Peter Sorensen, Vicki Spadaccio, Pam Steranka, Molly Sturniolo, Susan Toby Evans, Jan & Rick Villastrigo, LaDonna Weiler, Teresa Tassotti, Suzanne Thompson, Bonnie Walter, Dixie Witt, John Ziegler.

Thank you also to gardeners who purchased plants for baskets, donated plants from your gardens to sell, and purchased and donated seeds and supplies this spring. In addition, we also received donations of plants to sell from **Jay Young of Young American Growers** and

the "Dandy Lion Greenhouse" that is part of the State College Area High School's Career and Technical Center's Ag Science department via CTC Instructor **Paul Heasley** and CTC Director **Barry King**.

Silent auction items were generously donated by **Lucy Boyce, Beverly Lipski, Rose Franklin, Teresa Tassotti, Marshall Garrett, Shuey's Market, Fox Hill Nursery, Deb Fisher, Cooks Tavern/Mary Kay Williams, Penn State Landscaping Department/OPP via Jeffrey Dice.**



Thank you to the local businesses who graciously participated and helped to create sense of community that is so important in this event.

Many donated delicious baked goods for the volunteers – I know the treats and lunch were a very welcome gift for everyone that was working on such a brisk day. Thank you to those who contributed including **Katie Frieden, Bonnie Walter, Suzanne Thompson, Ruth Merritt, Ann Moellenbrock, Mary Osborn, Angela Breeden.**

Tables, tents and transportation were graciously provided by **University Brethren Baptist Church** (arranged by **Bob Leonard**), **Chris Igo, Suzanne Thompson, Judy Heberling, Marshall Garrett, Bonnie Walter, Teresa Tassotti, Cassandra Burke, Bob Hazelton, Suzanne Thompson, and Lisa Coggins.**





Thank you

Thank you to **Joe Banks** for tending to a few repair projects over the past several weeks, including the repair of a broken light and sign, and putting a fresh coat of paint on one of our benches!



Car Wash Fundraiser

The Development Committee is pleased to announce a new fundraising campaign in collaboration with **Team Blue Hand Car Wash** in State College.

When you redeem our certificate at Team Blue for an Exterior Hand Car Wash, CCHS will receive a check for \$3 for each Exterior Hand Car Wash purchase.

This is a great way to help CCHS while also helping to take care of your vehicle. Not only will your car look more attractive, but regular cleaning also helps to prevent corrosion, especially from road salt. By keeping your vehicle in a clean state, you can prolong its life and slow the depreciation of value.

Certificates are available at the Centre Furnace Mansion and can also be downloaded and printed from our website: <http://www.centrecountyhistory.org>.

Team Blue Hand Car Wash is located at 117A West Cherry Lane, State College (behind Blockbuster Video on Atherton Street). Hours of Operation: Monday – Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Sunday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit them online: <http://www.teambluehandcarwash.com>, and please spread the word!



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Boogersburg Donation

Picnic tables have been a wish list item for some time by Boogersburg School coordinator Sharon Childs and the school docents, so that students can have lunch when there for field trips. When Mary Sorensen mentioned at a meeting that we needed to find sturdy but inexpensive or donated tables for the school, Chris Igo said she had spotted some in her travels. There were only 4 left and we needed 3, so Mike Husband and Judy Heberling secured them and Chris arranged for their transportation by Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network.



Many thanks go to **Balfurd Cleaners** and **CRDN**, via **General Manager Linda Bowman**, for generously donating the delivery of those tables to the school. Cheers also go to drivers, **Blake and Buck** for handling the heavy tables and to Chris Igo for arranging this!

Once delivered to the school, **Sharon and Eric Childs** moved the (heavy) tables to their final spot and arranged for mulch to be delivered to provide a comfortable lunch area for students. A great effort on everyone's part!



The Docents' Diary

By **Mary Osborn, Docent Coordinator**
Spring 2010 Mansion School Tours

From late April until early June Centre Furnace Mansion hosted young visitors from six State College Area elementary schools. This experience is one of the most important annual education programs CCHS offers and is a partnership with the school district to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of local history. The program has been in place for many years; this year marked the largest number of participants with 24 tours connecting close to 600 third and fourth graders with 19th century life in Centre County.

In preparation for their visits, classroom teachers shared background information about Centre Furnace and the Mansion. During their visits, students were able to explain the four elements essential to making "pig iron" – iron ore, limestone, charcoal, and swiftly flowing water. Some created their own unique calling cards, which they placed on the silver calling card receiver in the front hall, just as Mansion guests did when visiting the Thompson family. All students were full of interest, energy and questions for their gracious volunteer docents.

Many thanks to those wonderful docents who each hosted multiple tours: **Cliff Bastuscheck, Carol & Steve Gentry, Cathy Horner, Rhiannon McClintock, Gloria Nieweg, Pat Potter, Beth Ricker, Grant Sherritt, Betty Shields, Dolores Simpson and Bonnie Walter.**

Special thanks to SCASD school coordinators **Sheila Abruzzo, Diane Reed** and **Nancy Tamminga** for their remarkable scheduling and synchronized coordination, and to the parents and aides who accompanied the students. They and the classroom teachers they represent help support our educational mission: To increase the public's awareness, understanding and appreciation of the role this site played in the history of Centre County, and to be an advocate for its preservation and the development of its historic story through educational interpretation.





Genealogy 101 – Plus Who do you think you are?

This fall the Centre County Genealogical Society is offering a series of four classes on how to begin research on your ancestry and tips to boost what you are already doing. The sessions will be held **Saturdays – September 11, 18, 25, and October 2 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Please provide your own lunch (there will be a 45 minute break for lunch).

\$30 covers all 4 sessions with handouts including a CD database for organizing your research and a beginner book. \$10 per class individually (student scholarships are available). Four experienced researchers will be able to give you some one-on-one time following the classes.

Class 1 – Begin with yourself! Who do you think you are?

Class 2 – Extend your search to the web and other resources.

Class 3 – Learn to use Centre County resources.

Class 4 – Learn to use a database to organize it all!

If interested, call (814) 422-8657 or email president@centrecountygenealogy.org. Class sizes are limited to 10, and registration is on a first come first serve basis.

The sessions will be held in the Miller Room of the Centre County Library and Historical Museum, 203 North Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, PA. Sponsored by the Centre County Genealogical Society with the support of the Centre County Historical Museum Library.

25th Annual Black Moshannon Summer Festival July 17-18 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Join the Friends of Black Moshannon and Black Moshannon State Park for this fun-filled weekend. On Saturday, enjoy live music, lumber day events, the craft fair, then dance the night away at the beach party. On Sunday, try to win the canoe races, enjoy the live music, visit the craft fair, or bring the kids to the beach for some water games. For more information, call (814) 342-5960 or email blackmoshannonsp@state.pa.us. Black Moshannon State Park is located at 4216 Beaver Road, Philipsburg, PA.

Centre Crossings Hospice Memorial Butterfly Release Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Centre Crossings Hospice of Centre HomeCare will hold its 11th annual butterfly release the Centre Furnace Mansion on Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 p.m. To sponsor a butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Centre Crossings Hospice at (814) 237-7400.



Mary Sorensen and Angela Breeden at Angela's farewell get-together on June 30.



Gardeners Bonnie Walter and Marshall Garrett were some of the guests in attendance.

