

Restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion

By Cathy Horner

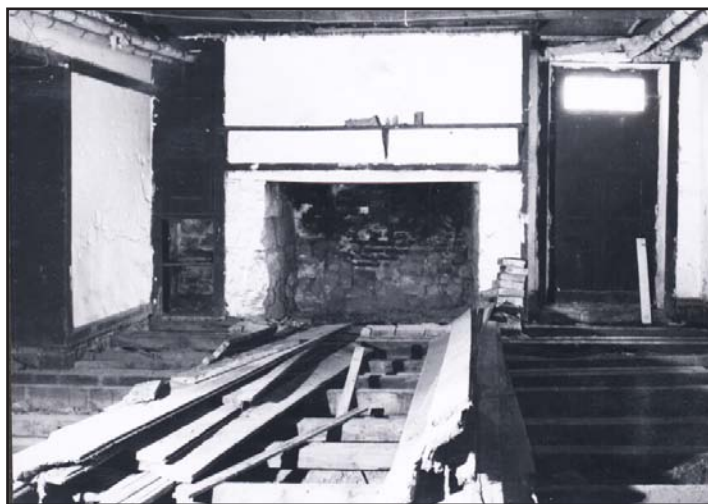
This year marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion by the Centre County Historical Society. Once the mansion was listed in the prestigious National Register of Historic Places in 1979, it served as a signal to not only its local, but its state and national significance. After four years of evaluating the buildings and grounds and deciding on the ways the mansion would be used and undertaking a major fundraising campaign, it was full steam ahead.

I recently read back through all the CCHS newsletters from 1984 forward. For those of you, like myself, who have only been involved with the mansion for the past few years, you would find it amazing to read about the hard work, countless meetings, and decisions that the membership and Board at that time accomplished. A true labor of love!

For those of you who were Board members, members and contributors to the Historical Society in its efforts that decade, a genuine thank-you. You realized the dream of saving a beautiful piece of Centre County history and in doing so have made it possible for generations to learn about local history and cherish the wonderful grounds and house that is the

Centre Furnace Mansion.

Journey with me through past newsletters to relive the repair and restoration process that began 30 years ago.



Centre Furnace Mansion hearth room - 1984

March 1984: "Investigation and de-modeling at the CFM is underway. Since the ground level meeting room is one of our first priorities, work has begun in stripping this area or de-modeling it of its 20th century additions. Makeshift wiring and plumbing are being removed along with the ceiling. The main floor hall and stairway paneling, paneling in the east rooms, linoleum, and carpeting will be removed."

July 1984: "Contractor Bob Womer and his crew have been checking the condition of the roof, gutters, trim, chimneys and windows. They have shared their birds-eye view with a family of falcons who resided in the eaves at the mansion's southeast corner."



Centre Furnace Mansion hearth room - 1985

September 1984: "Converting the mansion's original kitchen with its huge open fireplace into the Hearth Meeting Room has begun. Walls will remain whitewashed, trim will remain simple, and floors will once again be of wood plank. A functioning fireplace is also part of the plan."

...continued on page 5

About the Centre County Historical Society

Contact Us

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Centre County Historical Society

Office Hours:

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

Research Requests & Archives Use:

By appointment.

Centre Furnace Mansion

Public Tours, Exhibits, & Library Use:

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

Group Tours: *By appointment.*

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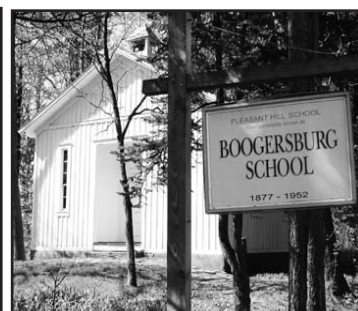
Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society, serving as the County's official historical society, is an educational organization that promotes the appreciation and research of Centre County's historic and natural resources through its properties, collections, programs, publications, and advocacy.

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

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

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

Mansion Notes is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society, which is made possible through the G. Harold Keatley Fund.



The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. Official registration and financial information about CCHS may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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CCHS Programs & Events

Ongoing

Now - Aug 31

Exhibit: The Veiled Arts of Victorian Women, Domestic Arts of the 19th Century

@Centre Furnace Mansion

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. • Sun./Wed./Fri.

Now - Nov 14

Exhibit: Rural Landscapes, Exploring rural heritage through the art of the Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania

@Centre Furnace Mansion

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. • Sun./Wed./Fri.

September

Sept. 21

Farmland Preservation Artists Presentation by Sarah Walter & Jennifer Shuey

@ Centre Furnace Mansion

2 p.m. • Sunday

October

Oct. 2

United Way Day of Caring

@ Centre Furnace Mansion

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Thursday

November

Nov. 9

Historic Preservation Awards

@Centre County Visitors Center

3 p.m. • Sunday

December

Dec. 4

Stocking Stuffer Preview Party

@ Centre Furnace Mansion

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Thursday

Dec. 5 & 6

Stocking Stuffer

@Centre Furnace Mansion

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Fri./Sat.

For details, see pages 4 or visit:
www.centrehistory.org.

President's Corner

...and the community rallied to rescue its faded heritage. Today's restored mansion seems to invite a return visit by guests of a century ago. Indeed, yesterday has accepted today's hospitality in this historic preservation project. Now as the old mansion again serves the community as it had during generations long departed, tomorrow will become acquainted with yesterday. That's history alive. - (taken from article, p. 5)

I am not sure that even newspaper publisher and past Society president, Blair Bice, fully appreciated when he wrote those words back in the mid-1980's for a state preservation award, how alive that effort would become in the ensuing years.

The partially restored mansion, with only the Hearth Room completed, opened with a holiday dinner (in a snowstorm) in December, 1984 to a large group of enthusiastic Society members. Long tables with linen cloths were set in the dining room and founder's room (still being finished), as inside candlelight meshed with the sparkle of the newly falling snow. The evening's highlight was the unveiling of the Hearth Room as a new meeting space. It was the inaugural event of returning this historic resource back to the community that had believed in and supported its reintroduction.

As a result, the once neglected old mansion became a finely furnished house museum, the neglected grounds have been restored to salute its collection of historic trees and its gardens with heritage plants, reflecting their 19th century past. The site itself has increased from an initial two acres to nearly nine, with property easements to the east and especially to the west on Penn State land, to reunite the mansion with the furnace on the other side of Porter Road. With the Society purchase of the property in front of the mansion, replacing a gas station and pavement with a landscaped corner of green, the Centre Furnace Mansion had a new way to tell its story.

An equally important purpose in the preserving of this site was to strengthen its role as the headquarters of the Centre County Historical Society, the county's oldest and largest historical organization, serving to foster better understanding and preservation of the rich heritage of its unique ridge and valley landscape.

The community has continued to rally over these efforts during these last thirty years. Persons by the hundreds have continued to commit their energy, talent and expertise. The award-winning Centre Furnace Mansion represents a centerpiece in the county's historic preservation efforts. Its educational programs, exhibits, research opportunities and a wealth of other enticements have provided Centre County residents of all ages and a growing number of visitors with experiences that highlight the rich past, present and ongoing heritage of Centre County. A worthy set of accomplishments over these thirty years – and indeed a outstanding example of That's History Alive.

Jackie Melander

Upcoming CCHS Programs & Exhibits

The Col. Gerald Russell - PNC Bank - United Way - Day of Caring

Thursday, October 2
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. @ Centre Furnace Mansion

The Day of Caring is a countywide day of service that has been benefiting a host of Centre County non-profit organizations for 21 years. The Centre County Historical Society has had the good fortune to be a recipient of this amazing gift for most of that time and we look forward to it each year with great enthusiasm!

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Hosting over 150 service volunteers between the Mansion and Schoolhouse requires thoughtful planning by many, preparation and supplies. Here are some of the ways you can contribute:

- Volunteer to help lead efforts with specific groups or take a shift at the registration area, help with preparation the week before.

- Not able to attend, but would like to help? While many supplies are donated, many are not and you could help through your contribution of gift cards for Subway or any home/hardware or grocery store for supplies.

Contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or msoresen@centrefurnace.org to contribute, volunteer or to get more information.



2010 United Way Day of Caring

Save the Date!

John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Program of the Centre County Historical Society

Sunday, November 9
3 p.m. @ the Penn State/Centre County Visitor Center.

The Centre County Historical Society has recognized 167 individuals and organizations for their outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Centre County's rich history for 26 years. Join us as we honor the work of our 2014 Preservation Award recipients.



*The Centre County Genealogical Society receiving a 2013
Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation*

12th Annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale

Friday and Saturday, December 5-6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Admission \$5.00

Now in its twelfth year, the Stocking Stuffer has established itself as one of the area's premiere holiday events featuring the finest quality work of local artisans, craftsmen, and antique dealers. This is also a signature fundraising event for the Centre County Historical Society.

Preview Party

Thursday, December 4
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - \$25 memb./ \$30 non -memb.

Restoration continued from page 1

A kitchenette, rest rooms, and storage and coat room will be located in an enclosed corner of this ground level area.”

April 1985: “The grand opening of the newly restored and renovated Hearth Meeting Room.”



Main hallway and staircase after renovations.

May 1985: “Work is now beginning on the main floor. Wallpaper is carefully being removed so that we may preserve and date traces from the past. After plaster is patched, missing trim replaced, and floors cleaned, we will be ready to decorate these period rooms. They will be furnished to reflect the period of Ironmaster Moses Thompson and his family’s residency. The east side of the house will include the Founder’s Room – to acknowledge the signing of the papers that resulted in the establishment of the Farmers High School on donated Centre Furnace land.”

June 1986: “Work is now completed on the ground level, main floor and second floor. Joe Stowell and Bill Butler continue their skills as accomplished magicians, turning what look like overwhelming challenges into neatly revived handsome rooms.”

February 1987: “Next spring, changes will begin to occur on and around the grounds at Centre Furnace. The three small outbuildings to the east of us also will now become ours along with the land upon which they are located, through a permanent property easement with our neighbor, W.E. Esber. Development of the garden to the east of the mansion also will continue next spring as the result of a gift, and ground cover will be planted on the bank to the left of the new Hearth Meeting room entrance. The development of a parking area will be the next project on the agenda.”



Removal of the “modern” kitchen from the current Library

“Some historic restoration projects turn into happy, exultant experiences for a whole community. Here is a long-lost treasure found, a failing member of the family regaining the glow of health, a shattered love affair restored. When it was willed to the CCHS in 1978, time, the elements and indifference had taken a heavy toll. It had been saved from demolition for highway purposes...and the community rallied to rescue its faded heritage. Today’s restored mansion seems to invite a return visit by guests of a century ago. Indeed, yesterday has accepted today’s hospitality in this historic preservation project. Now as the old mansion again serves the community as it had during generations long departed, tomorrow will become acquainted with yesterday. That’s history alive.” (Blair Bice, 1986)



The Centre Furnace Mansion today.

Do you have a memory of the early 1980’s restoration period of the Centre Furnace Mansion? Let us know! Contact Johanna Sedgwick at 814-234-4779 or jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org.

Plant Celebration Volunteers

Our sincere thanks to all who have helped in some way with the 2014 Plant Celebration:

Susan Bachman	Michael Lipski
Joe Banks	Laura Lynch
Susan Bowser	Lou Mayer
Lucy Boyce	Jackie Melander
Pam Calkins	Deb McManus
Laura Contino	Jo Merrell
Michael Contino	Ruth Merritt
Joyce Christini	Ann Moellenbrock
Ed Debrasky	Gloria Nieweg
Marie Doll	Carol Phillips
Becky Dreese	Sharon Phillips
Michele Ebaugh	Deb Raykovitz
Marie Feden	Johanna Sedgwick
Katie Frieden, Co-Chair	Irmgard Seidl-Adams
Marshall Garrett	Vicki Spadaccio
Jean Gerber	Lee & Dee Stout
Bob Hazelton	Susan Toby Evans
Judy Heberling, Co-Chair	Jan & Rick Villastrigo
Cathy Horner	Christine Tate
Mike Husband	Teresa Tassotti
Chris Igo	Suzanne Thompson
Lynn Jaffe	Floyd Todd
Carrie Koch	Bonnie Walter
David Lembeck	Steve Wheeler
Beverly Lipski	John Ziegler



19th Annual Plant Celebration

Thank You!

To ALL who made the CCHS Plant Celebration possible -- from planning, planting, preparation, painting, selling, educating, baking, and clean up, generous donations and time given as well as all of you who arrived and left with armloads of beautiful plants -- we cannot thank you enough!!

Your warmth, generosity and hospitality welcomed hundreds of visitors to the Centre Furnace Mansion and beautiful grounds to make the 19th CCHS Annual Plant Celebration run smoothly and end with great success. Funds raised from the Plant Celebration help to support the Mansion's gardens and grounds.

Our garden hats off to the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners who have spent many chilly spring weeks, led by co-coordinators Katie Frieden and Judy Heberling, preparing and potting plants from the Mansion gardens and home gardens. The organization of the many aspects of the Plant Celebration while keeping the gardens looking their best is an amazing juggling act and we thank you for all that you do throughout the year.

Special thanks to Shari Edelson of the Arboretum at Penn State for a wonderful and well attended talk about "Happenin' Hydrangeas" that highlighted care information and Hydrangea varieties available for our growing area.

Many thanks to our Centre Furnace Mansion Docent Committee for hosting dozens of visitors inside the Mansion throughout the day.

Activities during the day featured Mastered Gardeners who answered many questions and insect-plant disease issues addressed at the "Ask a Master Gardener" table. A hands-on-children's activity "Paint a Pot, Plant a Pot" led by Beverly Lipski was a hit with several children!

Our sincere appreciation to our business and organizational partners: The Arboretum at Penn State, The Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania, Avant Garden, The Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania, First Media Radio, LLC, WZWW-FM/Cable4News/Nittanyliving.net, The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Centre County, and Young American Growers

Thank you to the Farmland Preservation Artist members for the paint-out in the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardens. The paintings were diverse and beautiful, and certainly added much to the Plant Celebration!: Brienne Brown, Anne Kenyon, Cinda Kostyak, Susan Nicholas Gephart, Jeff Mathison, R. Thomas Berner, Cinda Kostyak

Last but not least, thank you to the businesses graciously participated helping to create sense of community that is so important in this event. For a full listing of participants, visit centrehistory.org.



Art Alliance
of Central Pennsylvania

Penn State Extension
Master Gardener

Docents are needed!!

The word docent came into English by way of German, tracing back to the Latin word docere, meaning "teach."

Are you interested in Centre County History? Do you enjoy learning, teaching and working with people? Do you have a little time for an interesting and meaningful way to volunteer? Join our dynamic docents at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg Schoolhouse!

CCHS is looking for individuals to lead visitor tours who have teaching skills or simply good people skills and enjoy working with the public. Docents play an important role in visitor education at the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg Schoolhouse for both regular visitor tours and for spring school tours. At the Mansion, we are also looking for people who can serve as greeters who assist docents during tour hours.

FAQs:

- **How much time does it take?** *Tour times at the Mansion are on Sun/Wed/Fri from 1-4pm. We ask that docents cover one or two tour times per month (3 to 6 hours). There are also quarterly meetings and other optional activities that you can take part in.*

- **What about training?** *We will provide training materials and you can work with experienced docents. There will also be scheduled trainings and meetings that you can attend.*

- **Do I need to have a teaching background?** *No, this is not necessary for regular visitor tours. For elementary school tours, it is very helpful to have teaching experience, but not required. There are always teachers and other adults with the students.*

- **What does a greeter do?** *Greeters assist docents by welcoming guests that arrive when a tour is in progress. Being a greeter is a great way to learn the information needed to be a docent!*

Why wait? Be a docent/greeter at the Mansion or a docent at the Boogersburg Schoolhouse! Contact Mary Sorensen @ 814-234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org for more information.

Boogersburg School Docent Introduction Training

Saturday, October 18

10:00 a.m. @ the Boogersburg Schoolhouse

1021 Fox Hill Road, State College



Veiled Arts Victorian Tea

CCHS hosted a Victorian Tea in June which concluded the successful exhibition programming series for "The Veiled Arts of Victorian Women".

Beautiful summer weather welcomed nearly 50 teetotalers who enjoyed a variety of period inspired finger sandwiches and desserts, some from recipes of the Thompson family of the Centre Furnace Mansion. The event provided hands on engagement with a period of history that was of great importance and influence in Centre County. Guests, many in period dress, had the opportunity to learn about and make their own fans and calling cards.

Our sincere thanks to the Ladies of Battery B re-enactors Bonnie Barry, Casey Cook, Elaine Fisher, and Elsie Fisher who helped guests understand period dress and customs. And most floriferous hats off to all who helped make the tea a great success including Olivia Perdew, Katie Frieden, Linda Wallace, Jackie Melander, Linda Witmer, Gloria Nieweg and Johanna Sedgwick.

Our many thanks for the time and talents of the exhibition committee Olivia Perdew, Dick Pencek, Fredric Weber, Diane and Jim Farr, Candace Dannaker, Rita Graef, Winland, Patricia Hock and David Lembeck. Heartfelt thanks to Olivia Perdew who had an integral role in the exhibition and its programming. Her time here at the Mansion through internships, independent studies and volunteering since the fall of 2011 has been a great gift. We will miss her as we wish her well on her journey to England to pursue a graduate program in museum studies at the University of Leicester.

Funding for the Veiled Arts of Victorian Woman was generously granted by AAUW State College Branch and Karen Rugh-Richard Pencek Program Endowment for American Art and Culture at Penn State.

Visit the Veiled Arts exhibition at the Mansion before its ending day on Sunday, August 31.

With great appreciation from all of us at CCHS,
Mary Sorensen



Collections Investigation

The Sideboard

by Betsy Taylor

In most instances a tour of Centre Furnace Mansion begins in the lowest area of the house with a docent's explanation of the origins of iron making in Central Pennsylvania and the story of the iron making business here at Centre Furnace.

Then, the visitors are led by a docent up the stairs to tour the Mansion, restored to resemble what the rooms looked like in the mid 1800s when the Moses Thompson family lived here. The dining room is set as it was when Moses and Mary Thompson were not only living in the home, but also raising a family of 6 children and living an active social life as well.

By the late 1850s, Centre Furnace Mansion was the social center of the area. With Moses Thompson and his brother-in-law, James Irvin responsible for the beginnings of what would soon become Farmer's High School and then Penn State College, the Mansion was the hub of all social activity. Records indicate that Mary Thompson oversaw many large gatherings in the house, even entertaining 150 guests on at least one occasion. Some records kept every detail; her dinner menus and choices of table settings as well.

"How could one feed so many guests?" is the question so many visitors ask. Of course the Thompsons had servants and, in all probability, dining with a large number of guests meant dining in a buffet style. Books on entertaining in the Victorian era such as *Antiques For The Table* by Sheila Chefetz

state that "suppers" served in the buffet style were often popular in the Victorian Era. Dining table chairs were moved to provide space for serving and often grouped around the perimeter of the dining room or in informal groupings in adjoining rooms. The dining room table was covered with an elegant

tablecloth and held many candlesticks for as much light as possible. Silver platters would hold many choices of meats, salads, breads, and other sumptuous dishes. In addition to stacks of elegant dinner plates, the cutlery was often wrapped in linen napkins, making it easier for guests to transport to their chairs for dining.

By this period in time, a sideboard had replaced pairs of side tables used for additional serving and thus became the depository for bev-

erages and desserts. The sideboard also provided additional storage with large drawers and cupboards to hold silverware, glassware, and serving pieces. Space was provided for additional candlesticks to help brighten the room. Some sideboards, such as the one at Centre Furnace Mansion, had pull out sidepieces providing a flat surface for additional candlesticks. According to notes by Lois Smith and Beth Ricker, found in our research, these sidepieces are called candle slips.



The Sideboard in our Dining Room today.



Note the "candle Slip" with a ring pull.



Ionic columns on the Sideboard.

We are fortunate at Centre Furnace Mansion to have a beautiful sideboard typical of the Early Victorian Empire period. Built by Richard Thomas II "The Carpenter" for his grandson, William A. Thomas of Bellefonte upon the latter's marriage in 1817, the sideboard was in the historic William Thomas house in Bellefonte and was a bequest to

the Centre County Historical Society by Mary Miles Blanchard. The sideboard is made of crotch grain mahogany veneer and, typical of this style furniture, has four Greek columns and four-toed paw feet. School tour children often ask if they can stop to pet the feet, while adult guests usually resist the urge!



Paw feet on the Sideboard.

Records show that the sideboard came to CCHS before the restoration of the house was a reality. The deliverymen really struggled to get the piece in the house and left it standing in the center of the dining room. Once situated, it was covered and left where it was during the duration of the restoration. The sideboard had not only found a perfect home but, it is safe to say, became the centerfold of the restoration!

To sum up Americans and their love of copying the mores of English society in the Victorian years, here is a wonderful quote from *Antiques For The Table* by an American just back from a visit to England in 1881. "The sideboard is always enormous and unwieldy, and upon it are somewhat set the affections and ambitions of the family. It is quite usually the most expensive piece of furniture in the house, and it is not only very big, very high, very wide, and very long, but it is elaborately carved and ornamented with brass trimmings. It is, in some sense, the symbol of hospitality."



The Sideboard during the Dining Room restoration.

Visiting Boogersburg Today

by Sharon Childs



The Boogersburg Schoolhouse

In the April 2014 newsletter, you read about a typical day for a child attending the Boogersburg School in the late 1800s. This is what children experience today when they visit the old schoolhouse.

As the school bell chimes, the children step down from the bus and are met on the stoop by one of our docent 'school mistresses'. Standing in line in front of the school, boys in one line and girls in the other, the children learn about the architecture of the building before they enter.

The warmth and smell of the woodstove greet the children as they file into the schoolhouse, hang their jackets in the boys' and girls' cloak rooms, and excitedly make their way to one of the wooden desks. After all of the children have settled in, the rules are shared and the school day begins.

First on the agenda is the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the first verse of *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. Surprisingly, the children know the words. In final preparation for the day's lessons, a Bible verse is read aloud to the children.

The lessons begin with a list of spelling words which the students recite aloud before practicing in cursive on their slates. Spelling is followed by mental math exercises and a short story from the *McGuffey Reader*. A game of Jack-in-the-Box or Eraser Tag completes the morning.

If the weather is cooperates, the children tour the woodshed, picnic area, and outhouse, and make their way through the woods and across the wooden bridge to the playground area. They may have sack races or play with Graces before they board the big yellow bus to return to the 'modern world' of brick school buildings, running water and white boards.

We can tailor programs to any age group. So if you are interested in more program information or in volunteering at the schoolhouse, please contact Sharon Childs: Phone (814) 861-6953 or email boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org.



Ongoing

Now – Oct

Guided Tours at Curtin Village and Eagle Iron Works, Howard
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
curtinvillage.com

Now – Oct

Penns Valley Area Historical Museum
2014 Exhibits
Saturday, 1 – 4 p.m.
pennsvalleymuseum.org

Now - Dec

Anna Wagner Keichline: Architect, Inventor,
Suffragist and Military Intelligence Agent
@ Bellefonte Art Museum

Fri/Sat/Sun 1 - 4:30 p.m.
bellefontemuseum.org

September

Sept 12-14

Aerophilately 2014 International Show
Sponsored by: American Air Mail Society
“Airmail Only” national philatelic exhibition with FIP Recognition and world-wide participation.
@ American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte
americanairmailssociety.org

Sept 13

Gourmet Granary Dinner
@ Lemont Granary
6:30 p.m.
lemontvillage.org

Sept 13

Historic Bellefonte’s 2nd Annual Antique Fair
@ Downtown Bellefonte
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
visitbellefonte.com

Sept 13

The Great Insect Fair

@ The Bryce Jordan Center
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
@ The Bryce Jordan Center
bjc.psu.edu/Events/the_great_insect_fair/

Sept 27

Public Lands Day
@ Black Moshannon State Park
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Call to register 814-342-5960

October

Oct 11

Dutch Fall Festival
@ Downtown Aaronsburg
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
aaronsburgcc.org

Oct 19

Bellefonte Fall Festival
@ Talleyrand Park
Noon – 4 p.m.
visitbellefonte.com

Oct 25

Philipsburg Harvest Fest
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
@ Downtown Philipsburg

Centre Gives

The Centre County Historical Society extends our most sincere appreciation who generously donated to CCHS during the May Centre Foundation Centre Gives online fundraising campaign. For the third consecutive year, the Centre Foundation held this innovative 36-hour online fundraiser. Through this event and the generous donations of 68 friends and supporters, CCHS received \$10,395 in donations and \$1,817 in matching funds, from the Centre Foundation, for a total of \$12,212! These contributions go far to help CCHS preserve its historic properties and collections and support programming for all ages. Thank you to the Centre Foundation and to all whose contributions assisted non-profit organizations throughout Centre County.

Updates to the CCHS Website

Remember to frequently check our CCHS website CentreHistory.org! A few soon-to-be added updates:

- Information for past exhibitions including “Centre County and the Civil War” and “Those Who Came Before: The Archeology of Centre County’s Native Americans”.

- A historic and cultural resources map featuring sites to visit in Centre County. Funded by the Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Grant, this interactive map will feature historic markers, districts and sites as well as museums and galleries in the Centre County region.
- Additional updates have also been made to our online bookstore. Now featuring over 25 CCHS and local history publications, visitors near and far can purchase these unique publications.

Outreach

Ag Progress Days

Packing period clothing, maps, an exhibition display from our 2012 “Everyday Objects; and publications, CCHS took our show on the road to Ag Progress Days with a display in the Pasto Agricultural Museum! Thank you to Curator, Rita Graef for inviting us to participate in this educational event that hosts roughly 45,000 visitors. Thank you to Steve and Carol Gentry, Ed Debrasky, Linda Witmer, Betsy and Ted Taylor, Katie Freiden, Lynn Royse, Michael Husband, Deb Raykovitz, and Annie Klodd for sharing your time and knowledge.

School Tours



The 2014 School Tour Season at the Centre Furnace Mansion was a hit this spring and early summer with a reconfigured and more participatory interpretation of the Centre Furnace and Mansion story. Throughout the summer, children who attended these tours have brought their families back to the Mansion to give their own tour! We owe a great deal of gratitude to the 2014 School Tour Committee Lynn Royse, Linda Witmer and Deb Raykovitz as co-coordinators along with docents Linda Wallace, Gloria Nieweg and Dolores Simpson for their commitment to this important CCHS program.

Volunteer Education

In June, CCHS volunteers enjoyed learning about the Lemont Historic District. Thank you to Ron and Sue Smith, Betty Shields and Mrs. Anna Mary Ishler for a fascinating interpretation of the District and its many points of interest such as the historic John I. Thompson Granary and the Spring Creek Presbyterian Church and their place in the history of both Centre Furnace and early Centre County. Thank you to docent, Linda Witmer for organizing the tour!



Thank you!

CCHS relies heavily on volunteerism and contributions from the community to carry out its many programs and preservation efforts at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg Schoolhouse. Thank you to individuals who have contributed extra time this summer!

Business Contributions: For over 10 years, Blue Mountain Quality Resources has contributed staff time to assist with various service needed at the Centre Furnace Mansion. July's task: helping us catch up in the Gardens! Our sincere thanks to Founder, President and CEO, Jim Erickson for encouraging this kind of community support both at the Mansion and throughout Centre County.

Collections & Library: Monty Christiansen, Judy Heberling, Cathy Horner, Vinnie Scanlon, Judy Speedy, Bonnie Walter

Collections Special Project: Docent, Betsy Taylor worked with intern, Kristina Brownshire throughout the spring to remake the artifact guides in all of the period rooms at the Mansion, an ambitious task they took on with enthusiasm! These important reference tools are now more complete and user friendly. Special thanks to you both for this contribution.

Docents: Betsy Taylor, Lynn Royse, Linda Witmer, Deb Raykovitz, Linda Wallace, Kristina Brownshire, Steve and Carol Gentry, Gloria Nieweg, Edna Dom-browsky, Patricia Potter, Lynn Jaffe

Gardens: See page 6

Interns: Michael Wilson, Kristina Brownshire, Olivia Perdew

Outreach: See page 10

Programs: Veiled Arts exhibition committee: Candace Dannaker, Diane & Jim Farr, Rita Graef, Dave Lembeck, Dick Pencek, Fredric Weber-photography, Patricia Hock, Olivia Perdew

Program Speakers: Avant Garden - Allen Baney, owner and The Ladies of Battery B

Property: Jack Rissio, Rick Schutz



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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New members welcome anytime.



Your membership and gifts support all aspects of the the Centre County Historical Society's operations in our mission to "help people understand, experience, appreciate and preserve Centre County's cultural and natural heritage." Membership benefits include: *Mansion Notes* - the Society's quarterly newsletter; *Centre County Heritage* - the Society's annual journal; advance notice of programs; discounted special event admission rates, and a 10% discount on all CCHS publications.

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

You may also join or donate online at www.centrehistory.org.

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