



THE FANLIGHT

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Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Fall 2014



At left, some of the rusty old pipes removed from the mansion during the plumbing project, which featured the removal and replacement of the 1966 furnace, right.



Overhead and underfoot: Multiple makeovers at the mansion

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

The corner of 9th and Main streets in Stroudsburg is always bustling with activity. Lately, there is even more to see and hear than usual. From top to bottom, the Stroud Mansion has begun to undergo renovations that will affect every floor. Two major projects have been completed, and the biggest endeavor will begin in October.

In August, Leon Clapper, Inc. received the contract to replace the outdated 1966 furnace with an energy-efficient gas unit. It took four men two days to dismantle the old furnace, but installation of the new one went smoothly, and after a few days, the new Triangle Tube boiler was in.

While this was going on, the old electric hot water heater became an issue. Since the plumbers were already working in the building, they were able to install a new energy-efficient, on-demand, tankless gas water heater.

September saw its fair share of projects as well. Last winter's roof leaks caused one of the ceiling fixtures on the second floor landing to short out. We had hoped to replace only that one, but 13 fixtures needed to be removed and updated. The new LED recessed lighting in the hallways and stairwells is more energy-efficient and brighter than the old ones.

Repair and removal of the ruined plaster and drywall on the second and third floors continues, as the contractors do their best to keep the dust and noise to a minimum. A new coat of paint from the third floor landing all the way down the stairs, through the front hallway to the front door will certainly freshen things up.

During all this work, the building has been without a front door, which was removed so that it could be repaired, painted, and fitted with appropriate hardware. The entry

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2014 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of most months at 7 p.m. at the Stroud Mansion.

October 28

November 25

The mission of the Monroe County Historical Association is to promote, protect and preserve the rich history of Monroe County, Pa.

Makeovers

Continued from Page 1

remains boarded while we await the hardware, but we expect the parts to arrive soon. The door will return in its original color — a vibrant royal blue. We are very excited to see the final results and know that the door will not only be pleasing to the eye, but historically accurate as well.

The roof work will begin before the winter sets in. After reviewing bids and conducting a great deal of research, the Facilities Committee awarded the job to Paul Wright Roofing of Bethlehem, who will replace the slate roof on the 1795 Stroud Mansion and put a new composite roof on the 1890s addition. Special attention will be given to the flashing where the two sections of the buildings meet, where melting ice caused so much damage this spring.

Of course, none of these renovations would have been possible without the generous donations and contributions from the community.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the ESSA Foundation and the R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation, and to you, our MCHA members and supporters who have contributed so much.

We have also received grant money from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's Local Share Accounts, part of Monroe County's share of gambling revenues from Mount Airy Casino Resort.

Note: We expect to close the mansion for a week while the slate roof is being replaced. So please call ahead or check for updates on our Facebook page if you plan to stop by to conduct research or take a tour.

MCHA Calendar

Saturday, October 18

Gift Shop Liquidation Sale

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg. Join us for a backyard sale of gift shop items, with drastically reduced prices. Members will receive an additional 10 percent off, so stock up on holiday gifts! (Some exclusions apply.)

November 27 through December 2

Stroud Mansion Closed

Happy Thanksgiving!

December 11 & December 12

Holiday Luncheons at the Stroud Mansion

Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg. \$22 per person • Two seatings each day
Early lunch: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Late Lunch: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

December 21 through January 13, 2015

Stroud Mansion Closed

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year!



Our Holiday Luncheons

will not be the same without the music of local organist Eleanor Bender, who passed away

in August. She was also a longtime MCHA member and local historian.

While no one can replace Eleanor's dedication to this fundraiser, we are looking for volunteer musicians to help make the events on Thursday, December 11 and Friday, December 12 more festive.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to perform, please call the Monroe County Historical Association offices at 570-421-7703.





The group poses in front of a photo of Highclere Castle before heading into the "Costumes of Downtown Abbey" exhibit at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library near Wilmington, Del.

Bus trip to 'Costumes of Downton Abbey' a smashing success

By Brianne Shamburger

Administrative Assistant

The Monroe County Historical Association led a group of enthusiasts to see the "Costumes of Downton Abbey" exhibition at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Del., on August 12.

The day started with an early morning departure from Stroudsburg, with a secondary pickup in Easton. The ladies buzzed with excitement despite the rainy, British weather, which only added to the appropriateness of the day.

After a two-hour bus ride we arrived safe and sound at our destination, where our group received intimate guided tours of Winterthur, former home of Henry Francis du Pont. Following the house tour, we were given an hour to explore the museum and have lunch.

In the afternoon we were greeted by a member of the curatorial staff and given a 30-minute in-depth look at the

creation of the "Costumes of Downton Abbey" exhibition. This behind-the-scenes presentation explained how the curators chose the costumes, why they were chosen, and the efforts the staff went to secure the pieces. From there, we were off to the main event!

"The Costumes of Downton Abbey" features exquisite designs from the award-winning television series. Forty historically-inspired costumes from show are displayed and supplemented by photographs and vignettes from the program.

After our time in the exhibition rooms, we had another hour of free time before we were back on the bus to head home. Along the way, our participants shared their positive comments about the entire trip. From the delicious lunch at the museum to the special exhibition, we could hear whispers of enthusiasm praising the entire day.

While traveling home, we watched a few episodes of the last season of

"Downton Abbey." Many of the ladies loved seeing the costumes onscreen that we had just seen in real life. This truly was a fun-filled day and we are grateful to everyone who shared this experience with us.

The "Costumes of Downton Abbey" exhibit continues through January 4, 2015. Tickets may be purchased online at www.winterthur.org.

Monroe County Historical Association survey in the works

The Comprehensive Planning Committee is working on creating a survey for our members and friends.

Be on the lookout for it in the next few months, then please take advantage of this opportunity to give us your feedback so that we can better our organization.



John Summerfield Staples | In the Shadow of History

A Meeting with President Lincoln

PART 3 of 5
By John H. Abel

Editor's note: This is third part of the story of John Summerfield Staples, a young man from Stroudsburg who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Installments will appear in each edition of THE FANLIGHT through Spring 2015 and the anniversary of the ending of the Civil War.

Washington, D.C., July 1864 — Life in the nation's capital was unlike life in Monroe County's seat of government. John Staples, Summerfield's father, experienced a period of adjustment, but was now accustomed to the traffic, heat, humidity, and the crowds of people, to say nothing of the mosquito population.

Once a month for 10 months, he walked the five blocks from his boardinghouse to the train station and traveled home to Stroudsburg, checking on the family, the business, and visiting those who had lost loved ones in the war. But today he climbed the steps to the train platform and waited in the shade of the roof's overhang. Summerfield would be on the 3 o'clock train from Baltimore.

During his June visit home, Summerfield had expressed a desire to join his father in D.C. and make his own contribution to the war effort. Summerfield was fully recovered from his bout with typhoid, and his father readily agreed. Mother required further persuading. Eventually she relented, understanding their need to be of service and imbued with her own sense of self-sufficiency. She supported both husband and son in their dedication to the Union cause. Like so many other women, this unselfish and unheralded act would be her contribution to the abolition of slavery.

As the sun moved across the sky, John Staples followed the shade and the platform became increasingly crowded as the hands of the large, round station clock neared 3 p.m. John Staples was not a man given to idle thoughts, but he allowed his disciplined mind to contemplate time and circumstance. A year had passed since Rev. Howell had been killed at Gettysburg. It was difficult to comprehend the amount of death and suffering that had occurred over the past three years.

He heard the whistle and saw the train in the distance. He made his way through the crowd and stood at the edge of the platform, relieved that Summerfield had come safely through Baltimore, a hot-bed of southern sabotage activity.

He glanced again at the clock and felt a twinge of northern pride: "Their trains are a casualty of war – ours still run on time."

He was not an impatient man or a needless worrier, but as the platform cleared and the baggage area emptied, he couldn't help but wonder where his son could be. At last, Summerfield appeared; an old woman attached to his right arm, her bulging travel bag securely held in his left hand. Pride replaced concern and he walked quickly across the platform to be of assistance.

After several awkward minutes of meaningless conversation, they were joined by a young Army officer who apologized for his tardiness, thanked them for their help, and quickly escorted the old lady to a waiting carriage that obviously belonged to an officer of higher rank. No carriage awaited the Staples men, so each lifted a suitcase and Summerfield followed his father through the congested streets of the nation's capital.

The talents of John Staples had been quickly recognized at the Navy Yards, and he was now functioning as a supervisor. He arranged a job for Summerfield, removed from his own area of responsibility, so the boy could function without accusations of privilege.

They fell into a comfortable routine: up at 5 a.m., breakfast at 6 a.m., work at 7 a.m., knock-off at 5 p.m. Dinner at their boardinghouse was served promptly at 6 p.m. and the table was always plentiful.

The Potomac River offered an array of food items vastly different from Summerfield's usual Pocono Mountain diet, but he ate what was served and, for the most part, enjoyed the meals. Evenings were spent on the wisteria-draped porch or in the large, comfortable parlor, writing letters home, reading newspapers or conversing with the other boarders, all transient, war-time laborers like themselves.

Because Saturdays were full workdays, Friday afternoons, when possible, were given over to "father and son" time.

Story continues, Page 5



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They strolled the streets of D.C., father pointing out sites of interest. On Sundays they attended services at the Presbyterian Church near the boardinghouse. The minister there, also a friend of the late Rev. Howell, had been instrumental in arranging employment and lodging for Summerfield's father. July and August vanished in the haze of a D.C. summer and grueling six-day work weeks.



By September, Lincoln was acutely aware of the manpower shortages facing the Army of the Potomac. Convinced he could not win re-election, and unwilling to ignite another round of draft riots, Lincoln set his mind to devising a less dictatorial method of raising troops. During his regular carriage ride with Mary, an idea began to crystalize. The concept revolved around men not eligible to serve due to age, physical condition or government position, recruiting men to serve in their place. Unlike the paid substitute program that put a man in the field while allowing one to stay out, this program would put a man in the field where one would not have been. Liking his idea of a representative recruit, Lincoln turned the idea over to his trusted secretary, John Hay, to embellish and implement the plan. Lincoln made sure young Hay understood that a candidate was to be found to represent the president of the United States.

The assignment to find Lincoln a suitable representative quickly found its way to the desk of Noble Larner, president of the 3rd Ward draft club. Larner was already under pressure to meet his monthly quota of new soldiers and this additional task, directly related to President Lincoln, added greatly to his burdens. He wanted the job completed quickly and off his desk. He decided a leisurely stroll around the city would calm his nerves, so on Friday afternoon, he started down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Summerfield and his father were also out for their Friday afternoon walk-about when Larner approached them. He explained the program and asked Summerfield if he would serve. He did not get the "yes" he was hoping for, "I will if my father consents" was the reply. Anxious eyes darted to the father's face. "I consent," Staples replied. Larner hurried them off to the draft club office and Summerfield was sworn in. He made arrangements for them to meet President Lincoln on Monday, and they parted company. Larner's relief was visible; he was quite pleased with himself. He reached down, opened the lowest drawer of his small desk and removed a bottle of his favorite beverage. Years later, the true character of Noble Larner would surface in an interview with a reporter for a D.C. paper.

Although not as formal, there was, then as now, a

protocol in place for meeting the president of the United States. John Hay briefed father and son, and then escorted them into the small room where Lincoln stood. Hay made the introductions; first the president followed by Provost Marshall Fry and then Larner. A reporter stood by the window; he was not introduced. Lincoln shook hands with Summerfield and asked if he had been sworn. Larner replied that he had, absorbing a glare from Hay. The president reached in his pocket and handed young Staples \$60, saying "I hope you will be one of the fortunate ones." He extended his hand again and Summerfield shook Lincoln's hand a second time. With that, the president glanced at Hay, and father and son were ushered out of Lincoln's presence. Summerfield was again paid \$500 for his service and his father received \$50 for his consent. Far in the future, this diary entry would come to light: "Abraham Lincoln took no small interest in his Representative Recruit, and often inquired about the young man from Stroudsburg, Pa."

Rumors of the war drawing to a close abounded in the capital and the volume of work at the Navy Yards began to diminish. Satisfied with his contribution and proud of his son's position, John Staples decided to return to Stroudsburg. Although Summerfield missed his father's companionship, his duties did not allow him time to dwell on the matter. He clerked long hours in the office of the Provost Marshall and worked heart-wrenching shifts in the hospitals. Having proven himself trustworthy and reliable, he was also assigned to guarding prisoners, a duty of which he was not overly fond.

Summerfield was well aware of the responsibilities his position carried and knew his conduct had to be above reproach at all times. As he prepared for a prisoner escort job, he set his mind to preparing for his own future and a life without the cloud of war hanging over it.

Continued in Winter 2015 Fanlight

Welcome, New Members

Ella Baum	Laura & Richard Spinner
Ross & Valerie Blakeslee	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Thomas
Barbara Blitz	Bruce Tilden
Russ Cramer	Tina Tillov & William Thoms
Eileen Holder	James & Johanna
David Kless	Townsend
Richard & Lynda LaBar	Bill Weitzmann
Gregory Miller & family	Miranda Wilcha
William Rogers	New Sponsors
Joan Skoranski	<i>See Sponsors List, Page 6</i>



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Please let them know you
appreciate their support.*

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NEW: Ross Township
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PPL Electric Utilities - \$1,000
Buck Hill Falls Company - \$500
Rotary Club of Stroudsburgs - \$500

In-kind contributors

Hartzell's Auction Gallery
Pocono Living Magazine
Printing Craftsmen, Inc
NEW: Skytop Lodge

*The MCHA receives generous support
from the Cherry Lane Foundation,
the R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes
Foundation, and the Monroe County
Commissioners.*

2014 Summer Appeal

Generosity spells success

Thank you to the many members and friends of the Monroe County Historical Association who have contributed to this year's Summer Appeal. Through your generosity, \$6,096.66 has been raised!

This fund serves as the General Operating account for the organization and is used to keep the doors open at the Stroud Mansion museum and library and the Bell School.

From paying the various utility bills to supporting staff salaries, the General Operating fund is an essential part of our organization. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. *Thank you again.*

Summer Appeal benefactors

Ian & Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly	Michael Lee
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Musings from the Mansion

as told to Kathy Boyle

Reporter in Residence, Monroe Mouse



Illustrated by Joan Groff



All ages were delighted by the sounds of the Pocono Dulcimer Club.



MCHA extends a special thank you to our volunteers and guests. This event would not have been possible without them.



Shirley and Debbie engaged visitors in feeling, smelling, and tasting herbs.



Who would have thought children would be enthralled with shelling corn? I hope they save a few kernels for me.



Emily guided children in carding wool. I would love a wool coat for the winter.



I grabbed a camera and dashed outside to see why there was a crowd in the Mansion garden. It was the annual MCHA "Olde Time Fun" event. I hope you enjoy my photos. MM



How great to dress like a bee keeper!



Everyone got a turn with the apple peeler.



Our young guests enjoyed the legend of the Three Sisters



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg

10 am - 4 pm Tuesday-Friday

10 am - 4 pm 1st and 3rd Saturdays

Tours daily at 11 am and 2 pm

DRIEBE FREIGHT STATION

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg

THE BELL SCHOOL

6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville

Hamilton Township

1-4 pm every Sunday in July and August

Other times by special appointment

NEW TENANTS AT DRIEBE

The Miracles Happen Thrift Shoppe, run by the Zion United Church of Christ, is the new tenant of the MCHA's Driebe Freight Station at 537 Ann Street. The shop is open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We look forward to working alongside this preservation partner and are happy that another nonprofit organization is able to use the space.



Visit the MCHA Web site

www.monroehistorical.org

Become a fan of the Monroe County Historical Association through our Facebook account today and be sure to suggest it to all of your friends.

Has your address changed?

If you have a new mailing address due to the Monroe County addressing project, please let us know.

We don't want you to miss any of the exciting events, fundraisers, programs and workshops we offer.

Email mcha@ptd.net or call 570-421-7703.

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