



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 25, No. 2

Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Spring 2014



Heavy snow and ice dam build ups on the aging roof of the Stroud Mansion caused leaks and damage to second and third floor ceilings, drywall and paint. Fortunately, no damage to historical items.

The ice dam cometh ...

Wintry water leaks damage Mansion

By Ken Sandri
Facilities Chair

Heavier than normal snowfall this winter caused issues for the Monroe County Historical Association in February, when the Stroud Mansion experienced some interior leaking and water damage due to a condition called ice damming.

Ice damming, which many homeowners became familiar with this winter, occurs when fluctuating temperatures create a pattern of melting and freezing where newly melted snow cannot run off the roof in a natural manner. Instead, the water meets the resistance of the iced area at the edge of the roof. The flowing water is backed up or directed sideways to escape. In this case, the water found its way

under the flashing and shingles and into the attic of the 1893 addition of the Stroud Mansion.

Water infiltrating the building under the shingles can cause significant damage until the ice dam is melted, all the snow is removed from the roof, or spring arrives.

At the Stroud Mansion, water was first noticed causing a small stain on the hallway ceiling of the addition on February 17. In the attic, water was dripping down the exposed west wall of the stone mansion. As that stain on the ceiling grew from 3 inches to 12 inches, the implications grew apparent to the director and the staff put aside work for the annual dinner meeting and immediately address the new priority.

Story continues, Page 2



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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.

April 22

May 27

June 24

August 26

September 23

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.

MCHA Calendar

April 18 — April 22

**Easter Break –
MCHA offices closed**

Re-open Tuesday, April 22

Sunday, April 27

**22nd Annual Victorian
Tea and Luncheon**

1-4 p.m., Versailles Ballroom,
The Château, Tannersville

Program: "Curves, Carpets and Color: Victorian and Romantic Gardening in America" presented by Marta McDowell, gardener and author.

Tickets: \$30/MCHA members
or \$35/non-members

Table of 10: \$300 MCHA members
or \$ 350 for non-members

Tables must be paid in full at reservation



Saturday, June 21, 2014

History in Bloom Garden Tour

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Featuring the gardens of South Stroudsburg. *See flier in this newsletter.*

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour.

July 4 — July 7

**Independence Day Break –
MCHA Offices closed**

Re-open Tuesday, July 8

Winter damages Stroud Mansion

Continued from Page 1

As the day progressed, leaks showed up in MORE rooms. As chair of the Facilities Committee, I arrived and determined that the water was entering under the counter flashing and was finding its way down the wall into the offices and hallway below. The damage began to grow as the water found new paths into other spaces adjoining this shared leaking wall. This melted snow continued to run down walls and across ceiling joints, dripping through cracks in plaster in new areas all day Tuesday.

The MCHA staff scrambled to catch the dripping water and divert flowing water into any available containers. Duct tape, plastic sheeting, and plenty of buckets and rags captured most of it, and the tide was stemmed by Wednesday.

Responding to a request from the

director, Ryan Meissner, owner of RTM Construction, brought his crew to Stroud Mansion and cleared the roof of heavy snow and ice, making it possible to reestablish normal drainage.

Luckily, no damage occurred to the historic artifacts or collections that are housed in the mansion. We are assessing the damage to drywall, plaster and paint, and it appears the damage is limited to the second and third floors. The insurance company was contacted immediately and estimates are being prepared on the costs of removing the damaged areas and restoring them.

Additional considerations for ice dam prevention will be entered into the specification package for the new roof contract in order to avoid this type of damage from occurring again.



MCHA members meet up **92nd Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

This certainly has been a very difficult winter to plan any type of event. February 2014 will go down in the record books as the snowiest February in history.

Fortunately for the members and friends of the Monroe County Historical Association, the winter weather took a break and the 92nd Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was held as scheduled at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort on February 23.

Following a delicious meal and a brief business meeting, Roger Spotts, Environmental Educator from the Monroe County Conservation District, gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on Monroe County's natural resources and how local residents were able to harness these resources to develop area industries, businesses and recreational opportunities.

For the ninth year, the MCHA presented three Preserve Enhance Promote (PEP) Historic Preservation Awards to businesses and individual owners who have shown their dedication to preserving and enhancing Monroe County's wealth of historic structures.

This year's winners:

Commercial Property – Shawnee General Store, Smithfield Township

Publicly-Funded – Josie Porter Farm/CSA Distribution Center, Stroud Township

Residential Property – "The Gatehouse" owned by Gordon and Cindy Way, Smithfield Township.

The MCHA also presented the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award to Frank and Marie Summa of East



2014 MCHA Board of Directors: Seated, from left: Marie Conklin Young, Pat Saylor, Clarence Murphy, John Abel and Jim Werkheiser. Standing: Marty Wilson, Russ Scott, John Layton, Jeff Wright, Ian Ackroyd-Kelly, Ken Sandri, and Melissa Lambert. Not present for photo were Connie McCool, Ed Flory and Jennifer Sibum

Stroudsburg and the 2014 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Anda Staab.

Thank you to county commissioners John Moyer, Charles A. Garriss and Suzanne McCool and to state Rep. Mario Scavello for presenting the awards. Having the support of our elected officials is so important to our organization.

This annual February event is an opportunity for the members to come together for food and fellowship and to keep up-to-date on the happenings at the historical association. Make plans to attend next year's event on Sunday, February 22, 2015 (snow date March 1) and be part of the fun!



PEP winners: From left, "The Gatehouse," Shawnee General Store, Josie Porter Farm



MCHA Sponsors

*Many thanks to our Sponsors.
Please let them know you
appreciate their support of the
Monroe County
Historical Association.*

Small Business | \$150

Bailey's Steakhouse
Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.
Frailey Insurance Agency
Huffman's Electric
Smuggler's Cove
Thomas Funeral Home

Corporate | \$250

AMD Leasing
ESSA Bank and Trust
Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn,
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Pocono Living Magazine
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Borough of East Stroudsburg
Borough of Stroudsburg
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Pocono Township
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township

Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University of Pa.
Northampton Community College
Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor | \$500 or more

PPL Electric Utilities - \$1,000
Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs - \$500

In-kind contributors

Hartzell's Auction Gallery
Pocono Living Magazine
Printing Craftsmen, Inc

*The Monroe County Historical
Association receives generous
support from the Cherry Lane
Foundation and
the Monroe County
Commissioners.*

Thank you!

Endowment Committee Report 2013-2014

Many thanks go to these donors who together donated \$4,029 to our 2013-14 Endowment Fund, which provides the stability essential to assure MCHA's future. We offer our sincere appreciation to our supporters for their generosity. *Your contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year!*

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Shirley Young



Welcome to our newest members

Catherine Folio
Viola Fusciardi
Edward & Linda
Harpel
Claire Learn
Valerie Perry
The Shamburger
Family

5 + 1 Membership Initiative

Sign up five new Monroe County Historical Association members by the end of the year, and receive your renewal or new membership FREE!

To receive credit, just add "sponsored by" with your name to the membership applications, and submit by December 31, 2014.

Applications are available online at www.monroehistorical.org or call us at 570-421-7703.

Need an anniversary, retirement, birthday, graduation, get-well gift? Give a membership to the MCHA, and do something easy for your community!

*The MCHA needs YOU
and your family and friends.*



MCHA speakers have something to say

MCHA members have formed a speakers bureau, volunteering their time to groups looking for programs at their meetings.

A sampling of available topics:

CANNONS OF COURTHOUSE SQUARE: For more than 100 years, the cannons remained a mystery to the average visitor. Finally, in 2009, recognition of their Civil War heritage was granted.

THE AMERICAN LONG RIFLE: Its development and the role of Eastern Pennsylvania and Monroe County.

WORTHINGTON MOWER COMPANY: From 1920 to 1960, Worthington Mower was a thriving Stroudsburg manufacturer of mowing machines.

RMS LUSITANIA: Detailed account of the May 1915 sinking of the American liner and its effect on the entry of America in World War I.

WILKES BARRE & EASTERN RAILROAD: Monroe County's backyard rail line (1894 – 1939), and a look at the human side of the tumultuous construction years.

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG: The dramatic influence of the historic November 19, 1863 speech.

JOHN SUMMERFIELD STAPLES: Stroudsburg native who served a

three-month tour of duty in the Union Army as President Lincoln's substitute during the Civil War.

CLARA ADAMS: World-renowned air traveler of the 1920s and 30s, but practically a stranger in her hometown of Tannersville.

COLONEL SLEE AND HIS WAR MEMORIAL: The story of the 1921 Swiftwater War Memorial and the man responsible.

ICE HARVESTING IN THE POCONOS: Stories of local people who were involved in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

EVOLUTION OF TANNERSVILLE: From the effect of the Walking Purchase of 1737 to the population explosion of the 1990s.

STONE AGE IN THE POCONOS: A chronology of cultural periods of local Indian history during the last 10,000 years.

A complete listing and names of the presenters, is available upon request.

MCHA member Jim Werkheiser is chairman of the Speaker's Bureau committee. Contact him at the MCHA 570-421-7703, or in writing to MCHA, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360. ATTN: Jim Werkheiser.

This year's lucky raffle winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year's MCHA raffle!

First Place: Pam Hoy of Stroudsburg won custom designed earrings set with blue sapphires in 14k white gold. Hand-crafted by Daniel S. Varipapa of Findings Fine Jewelry and Art.

Second Place: Janet Niceforo of Bangor won a round of golf for four at the nationally-known Country Club at Woodloch Springs.

Third Place: Barbara Lee of Mechanicsburg won a "Mr. Stroud's Town" woven throw blanket.



Roger Dunning 1916-2014

Longtime supporter will be greatly missed

The Monroe County Historical Association has lost a wonderful supporter in the passing Dr. Roger Dunning, who passed away February 17 at age 97.

Roger and his wife, Ruth, who died in 2012, always kept the mission of our organization close to their hearts. Roger served as president of the Monroe County Historical Association Board of Directors from 1955-1960 and dedicated thousands of hours to the museum and library.

He and Ruth were both instrumental in establishing the MCHA Endowment Fund to ensure the future success of the Monroe County Historical Association.

Roger will be greatly missed.





Monroe goes on another road trip

Oh my — something to look forward to this spring! The Education Committee is going to do a workshop at an off-site location and I am going, even though I haven't been invited. I have had enough of being curled up in a warm corner of the Mansion during this long cold winter. I need to get out and about.

While listening to their planning, I decided I could make a contribution by sharing my knowledge of early transportation. Our destination would be East Stroudsburg University, better known to me as East Stroudsburg Normal School.

Would we walk, take a horse-drawn carriage, or even a trolley? Well, I overheard that we would be going in a SUV, whatever that is. Never intimidated, I was willing to try something new. In the interim, I could do some research on early transportation that the committee might use on a future project.

Trolley transportation today is probably most associated with the city of San Francisco. However, trolleys played a significant role in Monroe County for a short period in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The trolleys were not the type we associate with San Francisco. The electric street railway was first introduced in Richmond in 1887. It replaced the



horse drawn omnibus. During a snowy winter the wheels of the omnibus would be replaced with sleigh runners. They were a costly to operate with the number of horses that had to be fed and sheltered.

Trolleys had an initial positive economic impact. Affordable transportation allowed families to locate beyond the town and city.

Workers no longer had to live close to the site of their employment. For the Poconos, trolleys became a vehicle to promote early tourism, as the area's natural beauty became more accessible to city residents. Trolley lines connected Philadelphia to Portland and then to Delaware Water Gap where city visitors enjoyed the summer months in a pristine setting.

By today's standards the trip was long, lasting more than six hours, and in the early years made at least three trolley changes. Trolleys stopped at hotels on the southern portion of the route for a meal. The trolley companies made an effort to make the journey as comfortable as possible for its passengers. Leather seats, carpeting, ice water, and even a tour guide were common on the Water Gap portion of the route. The round trip from Philadelphia to Delaware Water Gap cost \$2.40 in 1915.

I am really looking forward to my new adventure even if it isn't in a trolley. These outings are always an opportunity to spread the word about the resources of the Monroe County Historical Association. And I know I can make myself useful by taking notes for the committee.

Monroe used the Antoine Dutot Museum and Gallery's web site, dutomuseum.com to do his research.



History in Bloom

A Tour of Historic & South
Stroudsburg's Gardens

Saturday, June 21, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ticket sales & pick-up

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Tickets available at:

Stroud Mansion \$15.00 Prior to Event

Bryant Park \$20.00 Day of Tour

Discover ten beautiful gardens located in the historic district and south Stroudsburg. Talk with homeowners about gardening ideas and get tips from experienced gardeners who will be stationed at some of the gardens. Learn about the history and architecture of some of the homes on the tour.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed(\$15.00 pre-registration/\$20.00 day of event): _____

Payment type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Credit card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

All proceeds benefit the Monroe County Historical Association. In case of gloom or drizzle, the tour will go on. In case of rain, the tour will be cancelled and we thank you for your contribution. ***Pre-registration with payment must be completed by Tuesday, June 17, 2014.*** Please return bottom portion with payment to MCHA, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. For more information, please call (570) 421-7703.

**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

570-421-7703 mcha@ptd.net

Fax 570-421-9199

www.monroehistorical.org

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

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6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville

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1-4 pm every Sunday in July and August

Other times by special appointment



Free wireless Internet service

is available to researchers

in the Elizabeth D. Walters Library.

The secure Wi-Fi connection is helping
genealogists and others with their research.



Visit the MCHA Web site

www.monroehistorical.org

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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.

The Fanlight is a quarterly publication of the Monroe County Historical Association and is distributed in January, April, July and October of each year.

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In the Shadow of History

By: John H. Abel

PART 1 of 5

This is the story of John Summerfield Staples, a young man from Stroudsburg, PA., who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He sought neither fame nor fortune for his unique experience and none has been afforded him. This series endeavors to recognize him, his legacy, and the unusual military position he occupied as the "Representative Recruit" of President Abraham Lincoln. Installments of this series will appear in each edition of the *Fanlight* through Spring 2015 and the anniversary of the ending of the Civil War. The entire publication will be available on our web site www.MonroeHistorical.org. Enjoy!

Part I

Off to War

Stroudsburg, Pa. 1845

From early morning until dusk a relentless sun bore down from a cloudless sky and heat shimmered and danced off buildings and streets. Flowering plants and shrubs, long a symbol of pride and prestige in the Borough of Stroudsburg, went without water so vegetable gardens could produce food for families.

Local streams were as low as anyone could remember. Some men harvested large quantities of native brook trout. They were salted down or hung-up in smokehouses alongside slabs of venison and carcasses of wild turkeys.

He walked past the hardware store on lower Main Street and glanced at his reflection in the large window. Hat, coat, collar and tie; he was sweltering but he was the mayor and would not consider conducting a borough council meeting without being properly attired.

He crossed the street at Fort Penn, unused and deteriorating and continued up Main Street, past the barbershop where one lonely horse stood hitched to a post. He nodded to the barber, the barber nodded back. He moved along, a slower gait than usual but commensurate with the heat and he pleasantly greeted the few pedestrians he encountered. They greeted him in return and called him "Mr. Mayor" and he liked that.

He turned the corner at 7th Street, his shirt drenched in perspiration, and saw two men unloading an ice-wagon at the Stroudsburg House. They called out to him and he raised his hat in recognition. *Beer, ice, not a bad idea - Maybe after the meeting*, he thought. He crossed the square where a single flag hung limp in the motionless air and proceeded up the courthouse steps. *It'll be hot in here*, he thought.

The members of the borough council were already seated when he entered the second floor room. The Mayor appreciated their punctuality and said so. They sat in comfortable chairs around a large, highly polished oak table and waited for him to open the meeting. They all knew the agenda, it had been the same for months. Change was coming in this year of 1845. Good change, important change. Telegraph lines, railroad lines, new hotels. Prosperity was in the air and the council wanted in on the action.

Near the western end of Main Street, the Pocono Creek cut through a large stand of willow trees. In the shade of their long weeping branches, a group of young boys were busy constructing a dam from rocks and fallen tree trunks. The pool was already knee-deep and their efforts were soon well-rewarded. They sat in a circle with only their heads exposed and were cooled by the refreshing water of the stream. Talk centered on how easy it would be to catch frogs and salamanders in the pool they had created. That conversation naturally migrated to a lengthy debate on how to best startle the neighborhood girls with their amphibian captives. No one imagined that in less than 20 years four of these five boys would perish in a war to abolish slavery and preserve the Union.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with the temperature over 100 degrees in council chambers, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn early. All departed by the rear door, closest to their elegant and spacious homes two blocks north of Main Street. The Mayor, exiting the front door, changed his mind about the beer. There was an election coming in November and more votes could be garnered outside the tavern than inside.

As he approached Main Street, the Mayor was met by the Methodist minister and he extended his hand in greeting while silently acknowledging his good judgment on the Stroudsburg House tavern. The minister informed him that the wife of John Staples had just delivered a baby boy. Both were well and the child would be christened John Summerfield. Parting company with the minister he decided to visit the Staples family and congratulate the new parents. They were a prominent family and could always be counted on for a vote.

The heat broke Monday night, the rain came Tuesday morning. Dust turned to mud, summer gave way to autumn, and quietly, but predictably, the winter snows encased the little town of Stroudsburg.

By 1860, the prosperity talk of 1845 had taken root. The telegraph hummed and the trains arrived daily, redistributing wealth throughout the county. Hotels seemed to spring from seeds and rail passengers disembarked at stations that dotted the landscape from Delaware Water Gap to Cresco.

John Staples was a respected wheelwright and also served the area as a supply pastor. He used a sharpened wood chisel with skillful precision to create a perfect spoke for a wagon wheel. Well-trained muscles and dexterous hands seemed to work by themselves today for his heart and mind were preoccupied. Just two weeks earlier he had given his son, John Summerfield, now 18, permission to enlist in the Union Army and on Monday the boy would be leaving. Stocky, barrel-chested and strong, he looked like a soldier, but John Staples knew his son. He was slow to anger, good-natured, and kind. Shooting a squirrel is one thing, shooting a man is another. But youth has its own perception of battlefield glory.

As woodchips fell to the factory floor, he let his mind wander back to earlier times. He smiled as he recalled happy events from the boy's childhood. His heart filled with a father's understanding as he remembered his son developing feelings for a childhood friend named Rachael Barry. The name Barry interrupted his reverie and abruptly returned his thoughts to the present. Robert Barry, Rachael's uncle, had recently paid young Summerfield \$500.00 to act as his substitute in the Union Army. Although a common practice, there were not many paid subs from the area because there weren't many volunteers willing to fight in "Mr. Lincoln's War."

He closed his shop and began the short walk home. The aroma of simmering stew and baking bread mingled with the chill of autumn and he felt thankful to be in this place. Tomorrow he would travel to Delaware Water Gap to fill the pulpit at the Presbyterian Church for his friend, the Rev. Horatio Howell, who was already serving with the 90th Pa. Infantry. He and his wife would spend the rest of the day with their son.

Coffee brewed and breakfast telegraphed its scent throughout the house. He joined his son at the table and picked at a piece of warm bread, his appetite diminished at the thought of the boy's departure. Summerfield was not experiencing any decrease in appetite as he wiped his plate clean with a second slice of thick-cut bread. Earlier he had made a simple entry in the family Bible: Nov. 3rd, 1862. John Summerfield departed, Co. C, 176th Reg., Pa. Vol.

It was time. The boy shouldered his rifle and swung his pack to his back. His mother turned his collar up and kissed his face. He felt his father's hand on his shoulder. The heavy oak door creaked as it swung open to a carpet of early morning frost.

John Summerfield Staples stepped out of his family's home and into America's Civil War.