



Awards Luncheon 93rd Annual Meeting held at Shawnee Inn

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

The 2015 Monroe County Historical Association Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was a huge success! Over 140 people attended, a record number. The threat of February's unpredictable winter weather loomed leading up to the event, however, the day came and it was a warm (if 40 degrees is warm) although slightly overcast Sunday afternoon.

Following a delicious meal and a

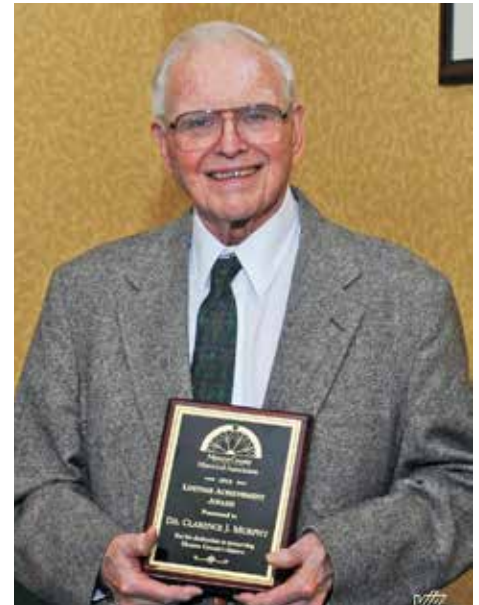
brief business meeting, Dr. J. Wayne Heckert, Ed. D., an avid firearms collector, researcher and writer for over 50 years, presented the origins of the Pennsylvania long rifle in a wonderful narrative that kept the audience enthralled.

For the 10th year, the historical association presented four Historic Preservation Awards, including the new Heritage Resource Award, to those who have shown their dedication to preserving and enhancing Monroe County's wealth of historic structures.

Read about the winners on Page 3.

The MCHA also presented the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Clarence Murphy of Stroudsburg, the 2015 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Ken Sandri, and the 2015 Educator of the Year to Irene Duggins of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Thank you to Kathy Boyle, county commissioners John Moyer and



VIP Studios

Dr. Clarence J. Murphy, winner of the MCHA's 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charles A. Garris, state Rep. David Parker and state Sen. Mario Scavellio for presenting the awards.

This annual event is held in February and is an opportunity for 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 28, 2016** (snow date March 13) and be part of the fun!



From left: MCHA Executive Director Amy Leiser, Ginny Kirkwood of Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort, and MCHA board President Russell D. Scott III.

Congratulations to our 2015 raffle winners!

More than \$2,400 was collected for the benefit of MCHA through the annual raffle at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. Thank you!

Here are the lucky winners:

FIRST PLACE — An overnight stay in the Fireplace Cottage at The

Crescent Lodge & Country Inn. *Winner: James Werkheiser.*

SECOND PLACE — Golf for four at Skytop Lodge. *Winner: Carol Kern.*

THIRD PLACE — Handmade quilt, "Pastel Chain," from Pocono Mountain Quilt Guild. *Winner: Carol Counterman.*



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2015 Meetings

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

April 28
May 26
June 23
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 24

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

MCHA Calendar

April 3-April 6

Stroud Mansion Closed
Easter Break

Saturday, April 18

Monroe County Historic Coalition
9 a.m. • *Heritage Center at Western Pocono Community Library, Brodheadsville*

Sunday, April 19

23rd Annual Victorian Tea
1-4 p.m. • *Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee on Delaware*
Michele McLaughlin speaks on "Women and Quilting During the Civil War." \$30 MCHA members/\$35 non-members. Table of 8: \$240 members, \$280 non-members.

Thursday, April 23

2015 Monroe County History Challenge
6 p.m., *Monroe County Courthouse, 610 Monroe St., Stroudsburg*
Competition and scholarship event for Monroe County high school juniors.

Saturday, May 2

MCHA Garden & Gift Shop Sale
8 a.m.-3 p.m., *Stroud Mansion*
Plants, seeds, tools, decorative pots, garden slates, books, baskets..

Coalition Corner

Heritage Center of the Western Pocono Community Library
www.wpcl.lib.pa.us | 570-992-7934
2000 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville

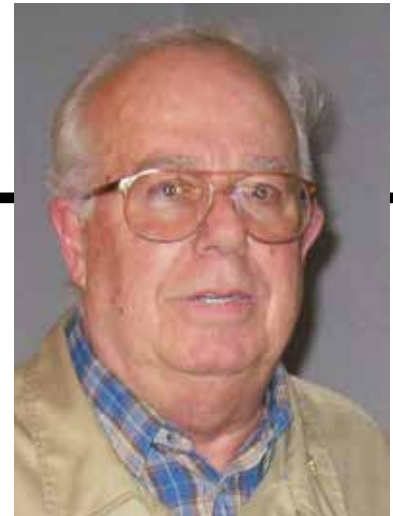
Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m., Lecture:
History of Monroe County, Amy Leiser.

Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township
tobyhannatwphistory.org | 570-646-7235

Thursday, April 9, 5:30 p.m., *The Country Store of the 1800s*, by John Layton. Clymer Library, 115 Firehouse Rd., Pocono Pines.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm
www.quietvalley.org | 570-992-6161
347 Quiet Valley Rd., Stroudsburg

Saturday, April 11, 1-3 p.m., *Beginners Quilling Workshop*. Learn the art of paper filigree. \$25 members/\$30 non-members.



John K. Meixell
1932-2015

Longtime supporter will be greatly missed

The Monroe County Historical Association has lost a wonderful supporter with the death of Mr. John Koop Meixell on February 7, 2015.

John became a member when he was in junior high school, and remained an important part of our organization for decades.

He served on the Board of Directors, where he chaired the Collections Committee. An avid collector and certified appraiser, John loaned thousands of items from his personal collection to supplement both the temporary and permanent exhibits at the Stroud Mansion.

John remained an active member, friend, mentor and educator to everyone involved with the historical association. He will be greatly missed.



2015 Historic Preservation Award Winners

Nonprofit Organization | The Friendly Community Center

The former Barrett Friendly Library in Mountainhome is a wonderful example of vernacular architecture, a category based on local needs, construction materials, and local traditions. The original stone structure was built in 1912, its stone façade and native materials such as a slate roof, wood beams and yellow pine flooring creating a rustic look in keeping with the area. The library was founded by citizens of Buck Hill Falls in 1909, and a crew from the Buck Hill Falls Company, supervised by Dr. Albert Vernoy, completed the original building in 1913 on land donated by the Schaffer family. An addition was built in 1965. The Friendly Community Center has just completed its first year of operation, providing programs for older adults and families.



Friendly Community Center, Mountainhome

Commercial | Weitzmann, Weitzmann & Huffman, LLC

This former home in Stroudsburg's Courthouse Square dates to 1873. Renovations uncovered a cornerstone referring to the original owner, Jesse Albert who served as "overseer of the poor." It is believed that Mr. Albert invited needy residents to stay temporarily. After years of neglect, the building has been restored to incorporate historic elements while remaining functional as a law office. The original entry doors have been refurbished, and new porch railings constructed to replicate the originals. The interior has largely been preserved, with existing hardwood floors sanded and stained on the first floor. Nineteenth century door hardware and room-dividing window panes were retained, and a unique decorative iron radiator was refurbished in the entranceway. The main staircase, which had been carpeted, was stripped and stained to showcase the woodworking.



Weitzmann, Weitzmann & Huffman, Stroudsburg

Residential | The Drake/Wagner Home

Constructed on Analomink Street in East Stroudsburg in 1900 by the Drake family, this Queen Anne style home features design concepts typical of that period, including stained glass, a large wraparound porch and ornate exterior woodwork. This home has been occupied by only four owners in its 115 years. The Drake family lived there from 1900-1937, raising two boys whose "growth chart" can still be found on the attic walls. The Wagner family lived there from 1937-1999. They raised three children, all of whom attended East Stroudsburg High School, where Mrs. Wagner was a teacher. From 1999 until 2004 it housed several sorority sisters attending East Stroudsburg University. Current owners Brian Crawford and Scott Bartolacci have lovingly restored both the exterior and interior. The wood siding has been restored, and a new slate and copper roof has been added.



Drake/Wagner House, East Stroudsburg

Heritage Resource Award | Jonas Bake Oven Preservation

The Jonas Bake Oven was built around 1790 in an area once known as New Mechanicsville. In 1859, Jonas Snyder purchased 120 acres where this large, open-hearth bake oven was located, which included a small hotel that had been a stagecoach stop since the late 1700s. In 2005, the oven was donated to the Polk Township Historical Society, and in 2010, it was moved to its new home at the West End Fairgrounds. It has since been restored and a new building was constructed to protect it. In 2014, the oven was used to bake bread for the first time in many years during the run of the West End Fair. Future plans include offering private educational opportunities upon request for those interested, including school and Scout groups.



Jonas Bake Oven, now at West End Fairgrounds



John Summerfield Staples | In the Shadow of History

Legend and Legacy

PART 5 of 5

By John H. Abel

This is final part of the story of John Summerfield Staples, a young man from Stroudsburg who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. The entire series may be read online in the Articles section of www.monroehistorical.org.

I first heard of John Summerfield Staples in the summer of 1973 when I was 25.

Intrigued by and curious about his Civil War experience, I began researching his life and times as time permitted. The more familiar he became to me, the more fascinated I became with him.

Many have risen to positions of power and glory only to end up as footnotes in seldom-read history books. Staples is different — he's always been a footnote. His position as President Lincoln's representative in the Union Army is certainly unique in military history, but attempts to recognize and honor him have not exactly ignited the public's interest, although there have been some highlights.

Consider the following:

1909 — This year marked the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth and the nation's interest in the 16th president was awakened. Historians and biographers accommodated the public with books and articles, and Summerfield rode the same rising tide, to a much smaller degree, as Lincoln and his generals.

1910 — A. Mitchell Palmer, a prominent Stroudsburg attorney, was serving as a U.S. Congressman in 1910. He introduced a bill that would appropriate \$20,000 to erect a statue or monument to Staples on the courthouse square.

Honoring Staples while, at the same time, generating a few tourist dollars sounded like a good idea, so the local papers all came out strongly in favor of this endeavor. The bill, however, died in committee. Staples was not seen as a national figure and his service was not viewed as a national event. Consequently, no money, no statue.

1933 — The Pennsylvania state highway department constructed a new bridge over the Pocono Creek on West Main Street in 1933. The local Knights of Malta dedicated and named the bridge for Staples, ordered a plaque to be installed, and arranged a ceremony for the grand opening.



Politicians, dignitaries, marching bands and even Staples' great niece, 10-year-old Eleanor Symons from Dickson City, gathered at this well-attended event.

Little Eleanor pulled a cord, which unveiled the plaque and the President Judge of Monroe County declared the bridge open, after pouring a cup of water from the creek over the plaque.

This was the high-water mark of recognition for Summerfield. For more than 20 years, both bridge and plaque served their intended purpose and thousands of students became familiar with his name, if not his service, as they crossed his memorial bridge on their way to school.

The devastating flood of 1955 took the bridge downstream and the plaque went with it. The bridge was rebuilt, but the plaque remains lost.

Over the next 20 years, there was little activity honoring Staples.

1987 — In 1987, thanks to the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Staples' badly worn and almost illegible headstone was replaced.

The original grave marker from 1888 is now on display in the basement exhibit space of the Stroud Mansion, headquarters of the Monroe County Historical Association, a fitting and honorable final resting place for it.

1990 — In 1990, 35 years after losing the original plaque to the 1955 flood, a new plaque was installed on the bridge, and another dedication service was held.

Although not as elaborate or as well attended as the first, it demonstrated the good intentions of the local citizens toward their native son.

1995 — All seemed well until 1995, when a group of vandals, obviously interested in local history, stole the plaque off the bridge.

Story continues, Page 5



Thank you, volunteers!

Here's our "Honor Roll" of volunteers who came to the aid of the Monroe County Historical Association in 2014.

We couldn't do it without you!



Continued from Page 5

This plaque, like the original, was never recovered.

1999 — In an effort to combat the acts of nature and thieves, an official Pennsylvania State roadside marker dedicated to Staples [pictured above] was erected at the intersection of Dreher Avenue and West Main Street in Stroudsburg, where it stands today.

Today — It is astounding to me that Punxsutawney Phil gets an annual day of recognition, while acknowledgement for John Summerfield Staples remains sporadic at best. His unselfish service, like that of all citizen-soldiers, should not stand in the shadow of history, but in the bright light of a well-remembered legacy.

A legacy of service, without regard for recognition.



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See Sponsors List, Page 6

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

Endowment Committee Report 2014-2015

Many thanks go to these generous donors who contributed a total of \$5,256.50 during the 2014-2015 Endowment Trust campaign. The Endowment Trust provides the stability needed to assure the success of the Monroe County Historical Association. Thank you for your generosity, and remember: *Contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year.*

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Learn about agriculture

You are invited to a program on agriculture being held **Saturday, April 18**, sponsored by Northampton Community College and the Pocono Jackson Historical Society (PJHS).

Three lectures will be presented, followed by tours of working farms. The lectures will be held in Room 201 of Keystone Hall at the Monroe Campus, 2411 Route 715, Tannersville.

The program is part of NCC's National Endowment for the Humanities program, "Agriculture and the American Identity."

- 10 a.m. — The Earliest Settlers of Pocono Township: 1737 to 1800, by Jim Werkheiser, PJHS
- 10:45 a.m. — The Gantzhorn Farm: 1820 to present, by John Frailey, PJHS
- 11:30 a.m. — The Future of Farming in Monroe County,

by Steve Hughes, Penn State Cooperative Extension

Tours will follow to Sterling Miller Farm, the Homer Smith Farm, and the Werkheiser and Price Farms. Transportation will be provided.

Farm utensils, tools and related photos will be display in Keystone Hall and around the campus during the day.

For more information, contact Erin Ward at 570-369-1937 or eward@northampton.edu.

Little League seeks photos

The Stroudsburg Little League is creating a commemorative yearbook to celebrate its 65th anniversary.

Do you have photographs, newspaper clippings or other items to share?

Contact Dan Boback at 570-460-9557 or dboback@gmail.com.





Monroe connects with videos and movies

It's been a long, snowy winter. Good thing the Mansion has many nooks and crannies where mice like me can warmly snuggle! I think back fondly on warm weather and all the outside activities at Olde Time Fun last September. It will be here again before you know it!

In the meantime, I hope you know about the videos that the Education Committee made last year thanks to an Northampton Community College-National Endowment for the Humanities grant. The videos were created by Karen Tetor and some of friends who participated in Olde Time Fun.

You can see them on the MCHA website — click on “For Teachers” and then “Agriculture.” Watching them will transport you back to the warm weather as you learn about herbs, beekeeping, fibers, and dulcimers!

After sneaking upstairs to the office in the Mansion to see the videos on Brianne’s computer, I got to wondering about moving pictures and the theaters that showed them in Monroe County.

When Jacob Stroud and his family were alive, the only way to get likenesses was to have someone draw or paint a picture. You can see portraits of some of the Stroud family and friends in the Mansion.

By the 1850s, cameras had been invented, but the process to print a photograph was very complicated. You had to stay still a LONG time to have your picture taken. The stereopticon in the Victorian parlor uses two still pictures put together to show a “3-D” image, but there was no way to show any movement.

I did some research and found that going to “the movies” didn’t start until the late 1800s-early 1900s. There have been many theaters in the Stroudsburg area, with such names as The Nickelet, Playhouse, Bijou, Stroud, Lyric, Plaza, and Dreamland! Some historic theaters still operate today: The Pocono Community Cinema (it was first called The Academy of Music and then the Grand Opera House), the Sherman Theater, and Casino Theatre.

Mouse family lore says the best snacks could be found at the Stroud Theater — Unfortunately, it doesn’t exist anymore. It was proposed in 1911 by the Stroudsburg Industrial Club (later the Chamber of Commerce) to be “An Opera House for the Borough” with a 1,000-seat theater, clubrooms, reading, card and billiard rooms, and



gymnasium. The completed structure at the corner of 6th Street and Quaker Alley cost \$35,000 and didn’t have all the extra rooms first planned. The Stroud hosted plays, vaudeville shows and movies. Admission to see “moving pictures” was just 5 cents when it opened! Until 1929, when the Stroud became the first theater in the area to show “all talking” movies, a piano player or other musicians accompanied the silent shows.

Unfortunately, 1938 brought a sad fate to the Stroud — a fire. The owner was not able to rebuild since recent improvements he had made were not covered by insurance.

Concession stands were not originally allowed in movie theaters because the owners didn’t want the distraction or mess of food. Then, during the Great Depression, owners added concession stands to help raise revenues. In the 1930s, snacks became an important part of attending a movie. Sugar rationing in World WarII boosted the popularity of popcorn and selling it became an easy way to make a bigger profit. Mice love popcorn!

Most of my research and quotes came from Roy E. Pipher’s book, *A History of the Movie Theatres in Monroe County, PA*. It’s for sale in the Mansion gift shop, so you can look for yourself!



**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

570-421-7703 mcha@ptd.net
Fax 570-421-9199

www.monroehistorical.org

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900 Main Street, Stroudsburg
10 am - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
10 am - 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 11 am and 2 p.m.

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537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg

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Other times by special appointment

WANTED: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON CATERER

Wendy Schroll of The Farmhouse Kitchen, who has catered our Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion for many years, has relocated and will be unable to cater this year's event. If you know of an individual or business who would be able to provide a beautiful spread at a reasonable price for the luncheon in December, please contact the office at 570-421-7703 or mcha@ptd.net.



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.

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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