



Happy Birthday, Stroudsburg! Borough's Bicentennial bash planned for September 5



By Amy Leiser

Executive Director

This year marks the 200th birthday of the Borough of Stroudsburg and officials are planning a party for **Saturday, September 5**.

A celebration will be held during the annual StroudFest street festival. From hosting an old-time ice cream social and selling souvenir pieces to musical performances on Main Street and evening fireworks, the Bicentennial Committee has been working hard to commemorate this momentous event. In addition, a new time capsule will be buried with instructions to be opened in 2065.

The Bicentennial festivities kick off on **Friday, September 4** at 7 p.m. when the Trinity Centennial Band performs at the Sherman Theater.

Here at the Stroud Mansion, Collections Specialist Bret Fowler has created an amazing exhibit titled, "You Are Here: 200 Years of Stroudsburg's Main Street" in honor of the Bicentennial.

While the area now known as Stroudsburg was settled by Europeans in 1730, it was not until decades later, when Jacob Stroud purchased land, that it began to emerge as a developing town.

Daniel Stroud, Jacob Stroud's second-oldest son, was instrumental in laying out the streets, donating land for schools and churches, and helping his father sell plots to families and businesses. Stroudsburg officially

became a borough on February 6, 1815.

For this exhibition, we chose to focus on Main Street, because it is the heart of the community. Over the past 200 years, it has been a series of blocks where entire families lived, worked and played, their daily needs met within the brick and mortar of the local community.

Butchers, green grocers, bakers, confectioners, luncheonettes, diners and restaurants filled their pantries and their stomachs. Milliners, haberdashers, dry goods, footwear, and department stores kept their bodies clothed and their homes well furnished. Churches, theaters, newspapers and lodges provided for their spiritual and social needs.

And when it came time to leave Main Street, liveries, buses, taxis, trolleys, and even the undertaker could provide safe transport.

More than 100 images of these aspects of Stroudsburg's Main Street come together on the background of an enlarged 1930s Sanborn map for this display. Artifacts owned by the MCHA add to the exhibit.

The "You are Here: 200 years of Stroudsburg's Main Street" exhibition will be up until December 19, so you have plenty of time to view it!

Please plan to be in downtown Stroudsburg on **Saturday, September 5**, and make sure your first stop is the Stroud Mansion to view this fun display. I guarantee it will take local residents down memory lane!



"You Are Here: 200 Years of Stroudsburg's Main Street" is on display at the Stroud Mansion.



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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.

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

Saturday, July 4

Stroud Mansion/MCHA offices closed

Happy Independence Day!

Saturday, September 5

Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion

1 – 5 p.m. • 900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Join us as we help celebrate Stroudsburg's Bicentennial during the StroudFest downtown festival. Kid-friendly activities and crafts will be held in the backyard of the Stroud Mansion. Free.

Thursday, September 10

Raise Your Glass & Support the Past Dinner & Auction

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. • Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake Resort, 1315 Mountain Spring Dr., Reeders

Elegant fundraising dinner with wine pairings, followed by a live auction featuring local artwork and wine baskets. Tickets \$125 per person. Reservations now being taken.

Sunday, October 4

Historic Cemetery Tour

1 – 4 p.m. • Stroudsburg Cemetery, Dreher Avenue.

Learn about and honor local Civil War veterans in this educational walking tour. Adults \$10, students \$5, children 5 and under, free. A rain-or-shine event.

[Tentative] **Sunday, November 8**

Remembering the Flood of 1955

1 – 4 p.m. • Eastern Monroe Public Library, 1002 N. 9th St., Stroudsburg.

Program commemorating the 60th anniversary of the devastating flood that struck the Poconos. Free, but seating is limited and reservations required. Details in the Fall Fanlight.

Thursday & Friday, December 10 and 11
Holiday Luncheon at Stroud Mansion

Save the dates!

This year's holiday event will be catered by Dave Cook from The Cook's Corner in Henryville. Details in the Fall Fanlight.



Bell School opens July 5

The historic 1870s Bell School will be open for tours this summer from 1 to 4 p.m. every Sunday in July and August.

Located at 6183 Cherry Valley Road in the village of Stormville in Hamilton Township, this one-room brick schoolhouse was used until the 1950s.

Sit at the desks, write on the teacher's chalkboard, see the pot-belly stove that warmed the school during the winter, and learn about early education in Monroe County.



Olde Time Fun returning to Stroud Mansion

Join us for the 7th Annual Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion on **Saturday, September 5** from 1 to 5 p.m. as part of Stroudsburg's downtown festival, StroudFest.

(To better accommodate our visitors, the time has been moved to later in the day.)

This year, thanks to a grant secured through Northampton Community College from the National Endowment for the Humanities, additional activities will be offered. With the funding, the Education Committee was able to purchase wool carders, two lap and school looms, and four drop spindles so more children can experience making early textiles during this fun event.

Of course, favorite activity stations such as corn husking and cob throwing, colonial crafts and the mental math games, plus other activities, will also be offered.

As always, the Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion is free and open to the public. Bring your family and friends to StroudFest and be sure to visit us on the corner of Main and 9th Street for fun and free activities!



Above, volunteer Irma Galarza paints a flower on a young guest at last year's Olde Time Fun.

At left, the volunteers, many in costume, at the 2014 event.



New fundraising events coming this fall

We are very pleased to announce two brand-new fundraisers this fall:

■ On **Thursday, September 10**, the Monroe County Historical Association will host "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past," an elegant dinner with "Chairman's Selection" wine pairings at the beautiful Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake Resort in Reeders.

The event will run from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.

Hartzell's Auction Gallery has generously volunteered to run a live



auction during this event to help our organization raise funds to aid us in better preserving our collections. The auction will feature local artwork, gift certificates, jewelry and wine baskets from local wineries. The cost for this new event is \$125 per person. Reservations are now being accepted for this exquisite occasion.

■ Join us on **Sunday, October 4**, for a historic walk through the Stroudsburg Cemetery. The theme is "Honoring our Civil War Veterans" in remembrance of the 150th anniversary

of the end of the Civil War. Tickets to this new fundraiser are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, with children under 5 attending for free.

The cemetery tour is a rain-or-shine event — the tour will go on gloom or drizzle. In case of heavy rain, the tour will be cancelled and we thank you for your contribution.

Put these dates on your calendar now! You won't want to miss these exciting new events.

All proceeds from both events benefit the work of the Monroe County Historical Association.



Costumed guests of the 2015 Victorian Tea pose for a picture on the front steps of the historic Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort.



MCHA hosts 23rd Annual Victorian Tea at Shawnee Inn

The Monroe County Historical Association held its 23rd Annual Victorian Tea and Luncheon on April 19. More than 150 ladies and gentlemen attended this year's event, which was held at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in Shawnee-on-Delaware.

Everyone was delighted by this

year's venue, the delicious food, and the friendly staff. The event was definitely a fundraising success, and we appreciate everyone who showed their support by attending.

This year's theme, "Money, Myth, and Madder: Women and Quilting during the Civil War" was presented by the delightful Michele McLaughlin and Beth Bacher.

Guests learned about the extraordinary contributions women made during the war, with a variety of quilts and visual aids providing a more complete picture.

Free tickets to the 2016 Victorian Tea were given to three lucky guests who won "Best Dressed Woman," "Best Hat," and new this year, "Most Creative Hat."

Over 75 items were included in the tricky tray auction, from gift certificates and collectibles to jewelry and antiques.

Thank you to those who donated to our auction: Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly, Allentown Art Museum, American Ribbon & Craft Outlet, Arlington Diner, Jeanette Arnone, Dorothy Baldwin, Donna Bisset, BJ's Wholesale

Club, Rebecca Bucci, Crescent Lodge and Country Inn, Detrick's Vending, Eastern Monroe Public Library, Elevations Health Club, Dot Fabel, Gallery at Liztech, Connie McCool, No. 9 Mine and Museum, Olive Garden, Pocono Community Theater, Dot Roncace, Sarah Street Grill, Shear Design Salon and Day Spa, Evelyn Smith, Sparkle Car Wash, Anda Staab, State Museum of Pennsylvania, The Queen's Treasures, Theo B. Price Country Store, Margot Vagliardo, Victorian Tea Committee, Vocelli's Pizza, Agnes Webb, and Yoga House Stroudsburg.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the MCHA Victorian Committee members – Carol Detrick, Beverly Kleinle, Audrey Mitchell, Lynda Williams, Megan Williamson, and our newest member, Janet Bilecki for organizing a truly beautiful and successful event.

The committee is already planning next year's topic and has a date reserved: Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 17, 2016** at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort.

Welcome, New Members

Jeffery & Patricia Burke
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New Corporate Member:
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See Sponsors List, Page 6



High school juniors compete in first Monroe County History Challenge

The inaugural Monroe County History Challenge was a great success! Juniors from Monroe County high schools accepted our challenge and the possibility of winning scholarship money at the competition, held at East Stroudsburg University's Stroud Hall on April 23.

Each student was asked one question in each round regarding national and international, state, and Monroe County history, with a total of four rounds. There was a tie-breaker round to determine the second- and third-place winners, where responses were given both verbally and in writing.

Congratulations again to our

winners. The first-place winner of \$500 was Liam Weiss of Stroudsburg High School. The second-place winner was Joshua Porter of East Stroudsburg High School South, who won \$300, and the third-place winner was Eric Wolf of Stroudsburg High School, who won \$200.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors who helped make this event such a success!

- Blue Ridge Communications
- Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
- East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Mary Henning

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- Rotary Club of the Smithfields
- Ken Schurman of VIP Studios
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Standing, from left: Monroe County Historical Association Executive Director Amy Leiser; Tahira Zimmerman, Pocono Mountain East High School; William Bibbs, Pocono Mountain West High School; Joshua Porter, East Stroudsburg High School South; History Challenge coordinator John H. Abel; Evan Battisto, Pocono Mountain East; Trevor Lamb, Pocono Mountain West; Kilian Laverty, East Stroudsburg South, and History Challenge student coordinator Barbara Kopetskie.

Seated, from left: Eric Wolf and Liam Weiss of Stroudsburg High; Richard Kovar-Leitz, Evergreen Community Charter School; Joseph Schuon, East Stroudsburg High School North; Kiara Valderrama, Evergreen Community, and Mindy Rinker, Pocono Mountain East.

Not pictured: Joseph Geoghegan of Pocono Mountain East High School.



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 and Museum Commission

Spring Appeal 2015 raises more than \$4,000

Thank you to the many members and friends of the Monroe County Historical Association who have contributed to this year's Spring Appeal. Through your generosity, \$4,350 has been raised!

This fund serves as the General Operating account for the organization and is used to keep the doors open at our museum sites and library.

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 for your generosity, and remember:

Contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year!

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Benefits of Membership

- Pride in preserving the history of Monroe County
- Free admission to all MCHA sites
- 10% discount in our Gift Shop
- *The Fanlight*, our newsletter,
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Genealogy Assistance
- Discounts on MCHA events
- Advanced notice of all MCHA programs, events, workshops
- Discount research assistance





Big excitement – Stroudsburg Bicentennial!

Stroudsburg is 200 years old this year! How historic! Of course, we know people and mice were living in the area WAY before that.

Two important years related to this year's celebration are: 1815 (of course!), the year Stroudsburg's charter was accepted by the state legislature; and 1836, the year Monroe County came into being — so I was interested in finding out what was happening on the Pocono frontier at that time.

After the Revolutionary War, many people from New York, New Jersey and southern Pennsylvania moved to the Poconos. Villages cropped up where “first settlers” found good land and ample water. Soon other newcomers added to their populations. Antoine Dutot, a French refugee, founded Dutotsburg (now Delaware Water Gap) in the late 1700s, George Keller set up Kellersville in Cherry Valley in 1812, and in 1833 Joseph Barton's settlement became ... you guessed it ... Bartonsville.

Jacob Stroud, “the original proprietor of Stroudsburg,” returned from war and quickly became a successful businessman and landowner in the area soon to be known as “the Strouds.”

Jacob's second son, Daniel, who worked as a lawyer in Easton until he was 28, shared his father's interest in creating a pleasant and prosperous community and returned home in 1797 to help. By 1810, Daniel laid out wide streets in a grid system and began selling lots “as occasion offered.” Buildings had to be set back 30 feet from the sidewalk, creating an orderly, open and airy settlement.

Streets were named after members of the Stroud family, like Sarah, Ann, and Thomas. (And Main Street was originally called Elizabeth Street after Daniel's mother.)

Stroudsburg was then a part of Northampton County, and by 1815 it was an important stagecoach stop between Easton (the county seat) and Milford, and was also between Easton and Wilkes-Barre, which provided a substantial amount of commerce to the area.

In 1815, Daniel traveled on horseback to Harrisburg to



present a charter for the Borough of Stroudsburg. I like to imagine going on that trip with Daniel — I could have hidden in his saddlebag, peeked my head out, and felt the wind blowing through my whiskers! The charter was granted on February 6 that year, and Stroudsburg officially became a borough!

A local committee was appointed, chaired by Daniel, and its first duty was to “provide school and teachers for youth.” Daniel had already established an academy at 8th and Main streets and helped his fellow Quakers build an elementary school!

The area continued to grow and local industries such as tanneries, sawmills and gristmills were prospering. The population of the borough was about 400.

In 1827, noting that “... owing to the bad condition of the roads and distance from the seat of justice at Easton, it is almost impossible for justice to be obtained by those residing north of the [Blue] mountain,” a petition was sent to the state legislature requesting a new county be created from Northampton and Pike. Meanwhile, the first newspaper, *The Stroudsburg Gazette*, appeared in 1832, followed by *The Monroe Democrat* four years later.

Finally, on April 1, 1836, a new county named after James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States, came into being. The next step was to choose, by popular election, a county seat. Dutotsburg, Kellersville, and Stroudsburg competed for this important designation and all the benefits it would bring. The election itself was a “curious and interesting contest” that I can report on later. Suffice it to say that Daniel Stroud and his colleagues ensured the choice of Stroudsburg as the county seat.

As is often true, I just didn't want to stop finding out more about the events and people that made Stroudsburg what it is today. I thank Amy Leiser, Robert Brown Keller and John Appel for their publications, along with other interesting resources at the Stroud Mansion. I'll share more with you in the next *Fanlight*. Meanwhile, enjoy the Bicentennial — and see what YOU can find out about Stroudsburg and Monroe County!



**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 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
10 am - 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 11 am and 2 p.m.

DRIEBE FREIGHT STATION

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg

THE BELL SCHOOL

6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville
Hamilton Township
1-4 p.m. every Sunday in July and August
Other times by special appointment

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT EVENTS

The Membership Committee is looking for people to help promote the historical association with informational tables at community events throughout the year. Community events provide an opportunity to share local history and to raise awareness about our organization.

If you would like to be added to the contact list, please call the office at 570-421-7703 or email 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.

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