



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 26, No. 1

Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Winter 2015



A view from the new slate roof on the Stroud Mansion as it was nearly complete.

Ken Sandri photo

Look what you did! New slate roof adorns Stroud Mansion

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

I take great pride in being able to report that the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion has a beautiful new slate roof!

The replacement of the roof began in October, before the cold winter weather arrived. The Facilities Committee awarded the job to Paul Wright Roofing of Bethlehem, and it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Wright's team. His crew of skilled workers were not only professional and friendly, but they did an amazing job with both the installation and with cleaning up the mess after the work was complete.

In addition to the slate roof of the 1795 section of the mansion, a new composite roof was placed on the 1890s addition. Special attention was given to the flashing where the two sections of the buildings meet – the location where leaks caused a great deal of the water damage from melting ice last spring.

New copper flashing now shines in the sun. Eventually

with exposure to the elements, the flashing will patina to a green color.

Of course, none of these renovations would have been possible without 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, money from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's Local Share Accounts, and donations from you, our MCHA members and supporters.

I could never have taken on this immense task without the support of Ken Sandri, chair of the Facilities Committee, who oversaw all aspects of the slate roof replacement project. His years of preservation experience proved invaluable, and I am so very thankful he was the leader of the team. I'm especially thankful that he volunteered to climb the scaffolding to document the project with his camera. I'm afraid of heights so you'd NEVER see me up there! Thank you, everyone!



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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.

January 27
March 24
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

Sunday, February 22

MCHA Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Noon – 4 p.m. • Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee on Delaware

Dr. J. Wayne Heckert will speak on "The Pennsylvania Long Rifle: Myth and Reality." \$35 MCHA members/\$40 non-members

Saturday, April 18

Monroe County Historic Coalition Meeting

9 a.m. • Heritage Center at Western Pocono Community Library, Brodheadsville

April 3-April 6

Stroud Mansion Closed

Easter Break

Sunday, April 19

23rd Annual Victorian Tea

1-4 p.m. • Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee on Delaware

Michele McLaughlin speaks on "Money, Myth and Madder: 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. (See story on Page 3)

Seeking George E. Labar Descendants

MCHA members Janet and Michael Gesner have been regular visitors to the library over the last decade, working to trace their family tree. They have already published many books on family genealogy, and a new one, "George E. Labar and His Descendants," is expected later this year.

George E. Labar and his wife, Christine Ernestine Leist, probably represent the largest of all branches of the Labar tree, with the number of descendants closing in on 20,000. George lived to be 105 years old ... and his son, George Jr., lived to 111. One of the earliest families in Northampton and Monroe counties, the Labars married everybody.

The Gesners invite all of George E. Labar's descendants to be in the book — and for individuals still living, birthdates are not necessary!

mgесner@yahoo.com • 908-689-1048 • www.gesnergenealogy.com

Coalition Corner

Barrett Township Historical Society

www.barrethistory.org | 570-595-6157

Friday, February 20, 2 p.m., *The Business of Beekeeping*, The Friendly Community Center, 6683 Route 191, Mountainhome

Heritage Center of the Western Pocono Community Library

www.wpcl.lib.pa.us | 570-992-7934

2000 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville
LECTURE SERIES — Free, but pre-registration required

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m., *Topic to be announced*, by Lee Hoffman

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

Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township

tobyhannatwpshistory.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, March 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., *Eggs, Rabbits and Trees: A Pennsylvania German Easter Workshop*. \$10 members/\$15 non-members.

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



Calling high school juniors!

Monroe County History Challenge set for April 23

By John H. Abel
History Committee Chair

The History Committee is pleased to announce a competition and scholarship event to be held at the Stroudsburg Courthouse on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 6 p.m.

The members of the History Committee have been working on this event for more than a year and hope to raise awareness about the importance of local history for the next generation.

The "Monroe County History Challenge" will feature high school juniors from area schools competing for scholarship money by answering four rounds of questions related to Monroe County and Pennsylvania history and government.

The first place student will be awarded \$500, second place \$300 and third place \$200.

If you know an area high school junior who would be interested in participating in the Monroe County History Challenge, please encourage them to visit their high school's guidance office for information and details.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2015.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable and interesting evening, and we need your help to make this event happen.

Please consider adding your name to our growing list of contributors. Help us reach our scholarship goal by sending



Pocono Record

The MCHA's historic one-room Bell School in Cherry Valley.

a check to the Monroe County Historical Association, indicating that your donation is for the Monroe County History Challenge. *Please use the form below.*

The History Committee is seeking sponsorship in increments of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250. Names of contributors will be listed in the program and on all publicity surrounding the event. We anticipate the event being televised by Blue Ridge Communications, and your name will be a part of that programing as well.

The public is welcome to attend. For those who will be unable to see it live, the staff will send out a notification when the program will air. Be sure to tune-in and see how many questions you can answer!

PLEASE FILL OUT AND SUBMIT WITH YOUR SPONSORSHIP CHECK

Yes, I would like to contribute to the 2015 Monroe County History Challenge Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my donation of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250

Name (as it should appear in program) _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Checks payable to Monroe County Historical Association, indicating Monroe County History Challenge.
Mail to MCHA, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360



John Summerfield Staples | In the Shadow of History

Joy and Sorrow

PART 4 of 5
By John H. Abel

Editor's note: This is fourth part of the story of John Summerfield Staples, a young man from Stroudsburg who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. The final installment will appear in the Spring 2015 edition of THE FANLIGHT, coinciding with the anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Previous installments may be read online in the Articles section of www.monroehistorical.org.

Waterloo, N.Y., November 1864 — Summerfield returned to Washington D.C. from a lengthy and stressful prisoner guarding sojourn to Ohio and found the Capitol celebrating the re-election of President Lincoln. He wondered how Stroudsburg would be marking the event. Parades and flag-waving were probably not on the agenda.

Over the summer, Summerfield had been busy with his varied Army duties. He wrote home regularly and always looked forward to letters from Rachael. He still read at least one newspaper every day, an old habit from his recuperation days at home in Stroudsburg.

He was friends with several other young men in his outfit, the 2nd D.C. Volunteers, and they spent their off-duty hours as soldiers do. They all walked to the steps of the Capitol on March 20th and were moved, as most were, by Lincoln's second inaugural address.

Later in life, Summerfield would recall that day and contemplate the fact that he had stood in the same crowd with John Wilkes Booth.

Events came in rapid succession now. The surrender at Appomattox and the assassination of Lincoln plunged the nation into joy and sorrow simultaneously. John Summerfield, like his father, realized this 'tour-of-duty' was drawing to a close. It would soon be time to return home and embrace the future.

Summerfield turned 24 in August of 1869. It was a happy time for him, and he was thankful for his blessings. He and Rachael married early that year, and he secured a good job with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad and

was assigned to Waterloo, N.Y.

Later in the year, they welcomed the birth of a son, Walter. Their home in Waterloo was small but comfortable and they began to integrate themselves into the social fabric of the little community. Their finances were in good order, and Summerfield's job made train travel very affordable. Regular trips to Stroudsburg were enjoyed and allowed both sets of grandparents to dote on the small child.

The typhoid that felled Summerfield during his initial 1862 enlistment returned from time to time, but he always managed to work through the malady. Rachael's disease was different. It struck her in 1874 and claimed her quickly. It remained undiagnosed.

Deeply saddened by the death of his wife, Summerfield considered returning to Stroudsburg with 5-year-old Walter, but he could not bring himself to leave the town where Rachael lay buried. Each Sunday after church he and Walter walked to the grave, and he tried not to weep in the child's presence. His character and faith helped him cope during this period of grief.

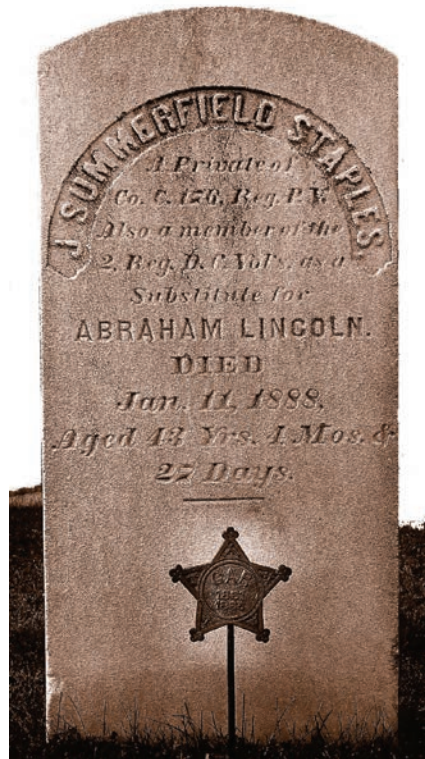
Summerfield immersed himself in work and Walter, but the indomitable human spirit is never content with sorrow and loneliness.

Anna Barber, a Waterloo native, was well-educated, sophisticated and pretty.

Her husband had fallen at the battle for Richmond in 1864. She and Summerfield married in 1876 and Walter, now 7, loved her as the only mother he would remember.

For two years they enjoyed a happy standard of living and when Anna announced her pregnancy, the future seemed as

Story continues, Page 5



Continued from Page 4

exciting as it had ever been.

Late in 1878, Walter was presented with a baby sister, named Anna. The baby was healthy, but the mother weakened. She lingered for two weeks before dying. Summerfield buried his second wife in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Church members and local Civil War Veterans helped Summerfield with emotional support, tended to the children and pitched-in on household chores. The small, tight-knit community did the best it could to guide him through another period of sorrow.

Summerfield resigned from his job on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad and accepted a position at the Waterloo Wheel Manufacturing Company, where he was quickly promoted.

This news reached Stroudsburg and Theodore Schock, editor of a local paper, glowingly reported his "promotion to a responsible supervisory position." Summerfield found it odd that no mention of his unique military position was made, but he put that aside and sent Mr. Schock a thank-you note.

Life as a single-parent proved too difficult, so Summerfield relocated the children to Stroudsburg to live with their grandparents. He took a job in the railroad yards in Dover, New Jersey, and commuted regularly, though not daily.

He applied for a military pension, due to recurring bouts of typhoid, but his application was denied. The military bureaucracy claimed his war-time records had been lost; a little odd, considering the man was the president's "representative recruit."

He settled into a routine of work, commute, visit family and friends. Love and recognition eluded him.

As 1887 drew to a close, Noble Larner, president of the Third Ward draft club and the man who so willingly recruited Summerfield to be Lincoln's representative recruit, was interviewed by a Washington, D.C., newspaper. When asked to recall his impression of the young man who served as President Lincoln's representative recruit, Larner is quoted as saying:

"There lived in our ward the son of a clergyman, who bore the usual reputation given a minister's son. He was naturally a ne're do well and it is generally believed he was killed during the Wilderness Campaign."

It didn't take long for that to get to Stroudsburg, and when it did, Mr. Schock was stunned. He immediately fired-off this response to the D.C. newspaper:

"Gentlemen: President Lincoln's Representative Recruit was not killed, as supposed, during the Wilderness

Campaign. At the present time he is living here, in Stroudsburg, Pa., and is a sober, honest and upright citizen, and not a ne're do well as represented by your newspaper."

Summerfield, not given to anger and outrage, was bemused by the whole episode.

Summerfield spent Christmas and the new year in Stroudsburg. His family brought him joy. They rode on sleds down snow-covered hills and skated on frozen ponds. There was an ice-fishing excursion one afternoon, the result of which was marvelous chowder.

The whole family went to the Christmas Eve service at the Methodist Church, and his children, like all children, looked forward to Christmas morning.

He returned to his work in Dover, New Jersey, on January 8, 1888. He died on the 11th, alone in his boardinghouse room, of a heart attack.

After the coroner completed his duties and filled-out the paperwork, noting his age as 43 years, 4 months, 27 days, John Summerfield was carried by train to Stroudsburg for the last time.

A memorial service was held at the Stroudsburg Methodist Church on Main Street, and a wonderful piece of reporting in the local paper informs us that "the church was emotionally charged and densely packed, even though a freezing rain was falling." He was well-respected in his town.

Summerfield was interred in the Stroudsburg Cemetery, with full military honors, and he rests there to this day.

The conclusion in Spring 2015 Fanlight

Welcome, New Members

Lawrence Burnett

Maria Candelaria

Sharon Carey

Bruce & Trudi Denlinger

Trish D'Imperio

Josephine Friedman

Ed & Irma Galarza

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Giordano

Jennifer Palmer

Robert Smith

Dana Valley

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Danny Youngers

New Small Business

Monroe County Bar Association

See Sponsors List, Page 6



MCHA Sponsors

Please let our sponsors know you appreciate their support.

Small Business | \$150

Bailey's Steakhouse
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NEW: Monroe County Bar Association
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Mountaintop Lodge at Lake Naomi
Ray Price
Smuggler's Cove
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Young & Haros LLC

Corporate | \$250

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Pocono Living Magazine
Pocono ProFoods
The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

Municipal | \$250

Borough of East Stroudsburg
Borough of Stroudsburg
Hamilton Township
Middle Smithfield Township
Pocono Township
Ross Township
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township

Educational | \$250

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

Contributor | \$500 or more

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
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 Holiday Luncheon another joyful event

December at the Stroud Mansion is always a blur of festive activity, and this past year was no different. Following the Thanksgiving break, our staff and volunteers feverishly worked to prepare for the Holiday Luncheon. We would like to extend a very special thank you to volunteers Donna Bisset and Evelyn Smith, who worked tirelessly cleaning the mansion following our recent renovations in preparation for this event.

The 1795 Stroud Mansion was adorned with 10 trees, numerous wreaths, and evergreen arrangements with electric candles, and a Victorian gift tree (a new addition this year). Kathy Boyle, along with Garden Club members Mary Ann LaPenna, Sandy Dickl, Holly Gravel and Debbie Sappah, volunteered their time to give the second-floor rooms extra holiday flair.

The holiday luncheon at the Stroud Mansion continues to be a

popular two-day fundraising event. Our two seatings each day allow us to accommodate a greater number of guests comfortably to this exclusive event.

After an open request to all of our members and friends for musicians to volunteer their talents during the luncheon, we were treated to five new faces. Holly DeVivo, Sheila and Mark Hamza, Judy Taylor Munoz and Erin McClelland each provided their musical gifts to one of the luncheon seatings. We hope to have them back at future events.

Wendy Schroff from the Farmhouse Kitchen provided the delicious meal and catered the event again this year. The menu included a holiday spinach salad, apple and cranberry stuffed pork loin, roasted root vegetables, butternut squash lasagna, whipped garlic potatoes, buttered rosemary rolls and an assortment of delicious homemade desserts. A complementary glass of wine was offered to our guests through a donation from John K. Meixell.

Once again this past year was a huge success! The Monroe County Historical Association would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our members, volunteers, and friends who help make this such a wonderful event and for their continued support.



Volunteers Margot Vagliardo and Linda Rogers serve at holiday luncheon.





Monroe shares a tasty treat

I was so taken by all the agricultural related activities at “Olde Time Fun” in August at the Stroud Mansion that I decided that I wanted to know more about farming here in Monroe County in the 19th century.

I didn’t have to leave the Mansion to do my research — the vertical files in the Mansion archives were a rich source of information on local agriculture.

Many of our townships including Hamilton, Polk, Jackson, Chestnuthill, and the area along the Delaware River were ideal for farming.

Farming dramatically changed in the late 1800s with improvements in farm tools. Hand-held tools, used for centuries, were replaced by machines such as power corn shellers, threshing machines, and other mechanized machinery that made it possible for the small farmer to cultivate more land and increase production. In Monroe County oats, corn, rye, and buckwheat outstripped the production of wheat that by then was being grown extensively in the Midwest.

Monroe County’s proximity to metropolitan areas made it possible to ship fresh milk and butter to cities by rail. Ice harvested from the county’s man-made lakes guaranteed fresh products on arrival in metropolitan areas. Local farmers focused more and more on supplying city dwellers, mining and lumbering communities and villages with milk, maple sugar, hay, potatoes, truck crops, poultry, eggs, and fresh meat.

At “Olde Time Fun,” children and adults alike were enthralled by the bee hive demonstration. Most people did not realize how important bees were to farm and orchard



production. Bees were essential to the pollination of fruit and vegetables.

Small apple orchards were found on most farms. In the fall, neighbors often gathered at neighboring farms to make apple butter and apple cider. Children had the chore of peeling the apples. They were enticed by the anticipation of enjoying the treat of sweet dried apple peels in the winter.

Peeling apples became much easier with the invention of the hand-cranked apple peeler. Hundreds of years later the contemporary apple peeler does not look that different than the one found in the Stroud Mansion kitchen.

For those who would like to taste this special treat, I did some research and found a contemporary recipe for dried apple peels. (Below) Enjoy!

Source: Early farming: Paper written by Vertie Knapp



DRIED APPLE PEELS

Heat oven to 225 degrees.

Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, combine cinnamon and sugar.

Sprinkle apple peels with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Toss to coat evenly.

Bake for 2 to 2 ½ hours or until peels are thoroughly dried and snap-crisp when bent.

Allow to cool for 10-15 minutes or until cool enough to touch.

Gently break dried peel into 1-2 inch pieces.



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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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

THE BELL SCHOOL

6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville

Hamilton Township

1-4 pm every Sunday in July and August

Other times by special appointment

WANTED: TEA HELPERS

The Victorian Tea Committee is seeking new members to help with our annual Victorian Tea, to be held Sunday, April 19 at the Shawnee Inn. This is a popular, fun-filled event for our organization and we welcome new faces to help make this occasion even better.

If interested, contact us at mcha@ptd.net or 570-421-7703.



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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