



THE FANLIGHT

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Fall 2016



Olde Time Fun co-chairs Linda Rogers and Margot Vagliardo pose with Connie McCool, in costume as Mrs. Stroud.

MCHA's September events vibrant and vital

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

Visitors often ask, "When is the busiest time of year at the Stroud Mansion?"

I can honestly say that there is never a time when we're NOT busy! And that's a good thing. There are some seasons when the library is full of researchers and other seasons when the museum is chock-full of guests; regardless, there is always a buzz of activity at the Monroe County Historical Association. From offering research and tours to our visitors to planning for our next big outreach event, there is always something exciting happening.

For example, the first week of September is proving to be a wonderfully busy time that represents all that the Historical Association strives to accomplish. This year, within a period of five days, we held our annual free family-friendly event followed by an exquisite wine pairing dinner and auction. The two events compliment one another —

one raises the funds to support the other, the other focuses on teaching our history to the community while fostering interest and participation in our mission and events.

The 9th Annual Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion was held September 3 in conjunction with downtown Stroudsburg's StroudFest. The event always falls on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. This event gets better and is better-attended each year.

Dressed in our MCHA polo shirts and our most comfortable sneakers, the staff and volunteers scurried to set up activity stations featuring historic games and crafts for children. New this year was "Ye Olde Selfie Station," where guests of all ages could dress in historic costumes and take a photo of themselves. Adding to the festivities, the Pocono Dulcimer Club performed traditional songs and tunes for visitors and volunteers to enjoy all day.

The historic 1795 Stroud Mansion was open to the public,

Story continues, Page 2

MCHA Calendar



MCHA Officers

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Executive Director | Amy Leiser

Administrative Assistant

Anna Underwood

Collections Specialist

Bret Fowler

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Kim de Bourbon

2016 Meetings

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

October 25

November 22

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

Saturday, October 15

History EXPO 2016

*Western Pocono Community Library,
131 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville.*

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FREE family activities and performances. Local historical organizations will have informational displays and outreach opportunities. Call 570-402-1906 for details

Saturday, November 5

Monroe County Historical Coalition

*Dansbury Depot, 5 S. Kistler St.,
East Stroudsburg.*

Meeting begins at 9 a.m. All welcome.

Thursday, November 24

— **Monday, November 28**

Stroud Mansion and offices closed

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday & Friday, December 8 & 9

Holiday Luncheon at Stroud Mansion

900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Hot buffet luncheon served in a holiday atmosphere. One of our most popular annual events! Two seatings each day:

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.

Catered by Dave Cook, The Cook's Corner.

\$22 per person. *See Page 7 for menu and details.*

Events

Continued from Page 1

and guests were able to interact with “Mrs. Stroud” herself (thank you Connie McCool!). The Education Committee works very hard each year to pull off this free community event. Thank you to co-chairs Margot Vagliardo and Linda Rogers and all the volunteers who helped make this a fun-filled and educational day!

Five days later, on September 8, Board members, staff and volunteers ditched their casual wear to dress in cocktail attire for the second annual “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” wine pairing dinner and auction. Held at the Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake in Reeders, the event was attended by 146 guests who enjoyed an excellent meal, with each of the three courses accompanied by different “chairman selection” wines.

Highly desired auction items included artwork from local artists, vacation get-a-ways, gift certificates, appraisal services, wine baskets, and much more.

This year’s “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” dinner and auction raised \$30,000 for the Monroe County

Historical Association, a tremendous amount of money for an organization whose yearly budget is just under \$160,000.

We rely on these events for the special programming we offer, such as Olde Time Fun. We rely on them to help keep the museum and library of the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion open and operating. And we rely on them to provide the capital necessary for our staff and volunteers to share our history with everyone. The Stroud Mansion is open to all, and a varied event schedule allows all our diverse visitors to explore, learn, and develop an appreciation for our local history in their own way.

Thank you to the countless number of individuals — the Board members who steer the Association, the committee members who step forward to run our events, the weekly volunteers who help keep the Mansion running, and the folks who take part in our programs — for supporting the Monroe County Historical Association. The dedication our supporters demonstrate to ensure Monroe County’s past is not forgotten is commendable and is greatly appreciated.





Volunteer Irma Galarza paints butterflies on two young visitors during the annual Olde Time Fun event held at the Stroud Mansion on September 3 in conjunction with the StroudFest festival.



The "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past 2016" committee members, from left: Lori Cerato, Annie Lambertson, Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, Theresa Yocum, Amy Leiser, Susan Yetter, Meredith Rettaliata, Marie Conklin Young (chairperson), Janet Weidensaul, and Jessica Zugel. Missing from photo is John Hartzell.



MCHA can benefit from your online shopping

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Monroe County Historical Association every time you shop online, at no cost to you.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same prices, selection and convenience as on Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Monroe County Historical Association.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), from your web browser, and to add a bookmark to make it easy to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select the "Monroe County Historical Association" before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will automatically remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

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You shop. Amazon gives.





HISTORICAL MARKER:
MARSHALLS CREEK MASTODON
In 1968, John W. Leap and workers at a nearby peat bog discovered the bones of a large mastodon that died about 12,000 years ago. These large, tusked mammals (Mammal americanum) lived throughout North America from 5.2 million to 10,000 years ago. The Marshalls Creek specimen, now in the collection of the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, ranks among the most complete mastodon skeletons found on the East Coast.

Mastodon marker dedicated Oct.12

The new historical marker noting the 1968 discovery of a mastodon skeleton in Marshalls Creek was dedicated October 12. The marker is located on U.S. Route 209 near Wendy's. Present, from left: Mark Oney, Middle Smithfield Township supervisor; Amy Leiser, MCHA executive director; Annette Atkinson Middle Smithfield Township supervisor chair; Carrie Wetherbee, Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission chair; Chantal Wilder, Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission liaison; state Rep. Rosemary Brown; Bob Lewis, PHMC State Historical Marker Selection Committee chair; and Keith Farrar, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area superintendent.



Welcome, New Members

- John M. Bersch
- Gary G. Burch
- Rebecca E. Christian
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cook
- Steven Crane
- William Gouger
- Cathy Hartley
- Don Remy
- Barbara Teats
- Linford Werkheiser

Welcome, Anna!

Hello! My name is Anna Underwood and I am happy to have joined the Monroe County Historical Association as the new administrative assistant.

I am beginning to feel settled into my new job, and am learning something new every day. I am a native of the area and am in the senior year of my studies in history at East Stroudsburg University.

I especially enjoy researching the history of the Delaware Water Gap. Some of my other interests include reading, travel, and spending time with my border collie, Shep. As a history major and lover of local history, working at the Monroe County Historical Association is a perfect fit for me, and I am thrilled to be a part of this organization's efforts.

I look forward to getting to know all of you!



Anna Underwood



German exchange students tour Stroud Mansion

The staff at the Stroud Mansion was pleased to offer a tour to 13 German high school exchange students and their American hosts on German-American Day on October 6.

The day commemorates the date in 1683 when 13 German families landed in Philadelphia and subsequently founded the Germantown community there.

Led by Stroudsburg High School teacher Matt Sobrinski and his German counterpart, Sebastian Beckmann, the students had the opportunity to view local artifacts related to the Pennsylvania German culture.

The local host students will have an opportunity to go to Germany this summer.



American and German high school students tour the Stroud Mansion on October 6, which was German-American Day.

Sponsors of the MCHA

Small Business | \$150

Deer Head Inn
Dunkelberger's Tree Service
Floral Boutique
Franklin Hill Vineyards
Frederick Duckloe & Bros., Inc.
Huffman's Electric, Inc.
Jeremy Smith Landscaping
Mountain Springs Lake
Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn,
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Parker Realty Co.
Pocono Medical Group
& Nephrology Associates
Sorrenti Cherry Valley Vineyards
Tolino Vineyards
William H. Kresge Funeral Home, Inc.

Corporate | \$250

Alaska Pete's Grill
AMD Leasing
Bailey's Steakhouse
Bensinger & Weekes, LLC.
BioSpectra
Camelback Resort
Cramer, Swetz, McManus & Jordan, P.C.
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GAK Construction
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McKeown Real Estate
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office
Mountain Landscaping, LLC
Moyer & Papillon
PNC Bank
Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau
Pocono ProFoods
Ray Price Cars
RGB Custom Builders
Riley and Company, Inc.
The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shebelsky
Skytop Lodge
Smuggler's Cove
Trout Lake Retreats, LLC
West End Fair Association

Municipal | \$250

Borough of Stroudsburg
East Stroudsburg Borough
Eldred Township
Hamilton Township
Middle Smithfield Township
Pocono Township Commissioners
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township Supervisors

Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University
Northampton Community College
Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor | \$500 or more

Barley Creek Brewing Co.
Big Brown & Paradise Fish Hatcheries
Camelback Resort
ESSA Bank & Trust
First Keystone Community Bank

J.D. Eckman, Inc.
Lake Naomi Club
Monroe County Bar Association
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Newman
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Grants

ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation
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Monroe County Board of Commissioners
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and Museum Commission
R. Dale and Frances Hughes Foundation





Ways to connect in Victorian Times

A recent nightly scamper brought me to a new and fascinating exhibit in the Erdman Reading room — a massive collection of beautiful little (almost mouse-sized) cards. Called “visiting” or “calling” cards, their colorful pictures of flowers, lace, and animals caught my eye.

What were they for?

The cards got me to wondering about how humans (and maybe mice) connect with friends and acquaintances. How do you connect with friends? Cell phone? Text? Landline? Email? Snail mail? (Mouse mail would be faster!) Do you just go to the friend’s or acquaintance’s house, knock at the door, or simply barge in?

Since the cards in the Mansion’s display are from Victorian times, my research focused on that era — the later 1800s to early 1900s.

While mail service was available and “sound technology” was being explored, the formal and genteel ways of Victorian life set out specific ways of meeting friends, acquaintances, or business partners in one’s home. The use of calling or visiting cards, adopted from France became, the custom of the “well-to-do” and the “enterprising” middle classes. The general idea was that you couldn’t just drop in! Research took me deeper and deeper into the twists and turns of etiquette (think “Downton Abbey”), so in this report I will give a brief overview.

Here’s how it worked: If not previously invited, you set up a visit by leaving your calling card at the home of the person you wanted to see. You had to then wait to receive their card at your own home in response, which was a signal that your visit was encouraged. The absence of a response meant the visit was discouraged.

The first step of leaving your card was done in the morning hours. Either you — or your servant if you had one — would be welcomed in to leave the card in a “card receiver,” usually an elegant dish placed on a table or fireplace mantel (there are some in the exhibit). I must say, it seems to me that the idea often relied on servants delivering and servants receiving the cards!

Actual visits took place in the afternoon, between 4 and

5 if you and your acquaintance knew each other well, and lasted for 15 minutes or so. You might even enjoy a cup of tea together!

If you were not so familiar with the person you were visiting, you would arrive between 3 and 4 and not be given a snack. It appears that all this visiting primarily involved “ladies of the house,” although men and children also used visiting cards. Unfortunately, if the card bearer was told that “the lady (or man or child) of the house was out,” this meant they were visiting someone else, or were home but didn’t want to see you!

You will see the beauty of the cards when you visit the display. Some are very colorful and detailed while others are quite plain and simple. You may be able to recognize some familiar local surnames. I found several, including Weiss, Staples and Frable.

You will also notice different sizes and printing processes (Emily Post includes a list of specified sizes in her 1922 book “Etiquette,” text available online).

Very interesting are the “secret codes” used with visiting cards. The way the corners of the cards were folded provided important messages. A folded top left corner meant the visitor had come in person; if this corner remained unfolded a servant had delivered

it; a folded bottom left corner meant a farewell — the caller was going to be away or perhaps moving; a folded top right corner meant congratulations; and a folded bottom right corner expressed a condolence. A card with no pictures, painted and bordered in black, meant the caller was in mourning for a loved one.

How do you like my visiting card? What message did I send? Note: For mice, chewed corners were not allowed and still aren’t!

There is so much more to learn about the social customs of Victorians, especially those living in Monroe County. The Mansion’s collection also contains later versions of cards — postcards and greeting cards. The display may prompt you to think about and research the way technology has changed, and how it has stayed the same, in the way humans connect with each other. Come and see!



The Monroe County Historical Association proudly presents the
Annual Holiday Luncheon
at the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Enjoy a hot buffet luncheon catered by
Dave Cook from The Cook's Corner Restaurant
in a festive holiday atmosphere.

Thursday, December 8th and Friday, December 9th, 2016

Please choose a time to dine

Early Lunch: Seating begins at 11:00 a.m. and guests dine until 12:30 p.m.

Late Lunch: Seating begins at 1:00 p.m. and guests dine until 2:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Menu:

Fresh Baked Rolls with Whipped Honey Butter

Waldorf Salad in a Light Dressing

Fresh Baby Spinach Salad with Apple Cider Vinaigrette

Pork Tenderloin Roulade

Savory Apple, Leek, & Marspone Cheese Stuffing ladled with a Light Marsala Sauce

Tuxedo Potatoes—layered Sweet & Whipped White Potatoes

Roasted Garlic Vegetable Medley

Complementary Glass of Wine

Coffee, decaf and tea served at your table.

Please get your tickets early!

Seating is extremely limited.

Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the office at
(570) 421-7703 or email admin@monroehistorical.org

**This event will take place in the second floor meeting room which is not handicap accessible.*

This is a fundraiser benefiting the Monroe County Historical Association.

Tickets are non-refundable.



**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

570-421-7703 admin@monroehistorical.org

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

SNOW & LAWN

HELPER NEEDED AT MANSION

The high school student who mowed the lawn and shoveled the snow at Stroud Mansion has gone off to college, and we'd like to replace him before the snow flies!

*Know a local high school student interested in this **paid job?***

Call **570-421-7703** or email admin@monroehistorical.org for information.



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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

900 Main Street

Historical Association

Monroe County

