



# THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 27, No. 2

Monroe County Historical Association • [www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

Spring 2016



## *P.E.P. Awards highlight annual meeting at Shawnee Inn*

The 2016 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was a huge success! One hundred thirty-eight members and friends gathered at Shawnee Inn on an unseasonably warm February afternoon.

Following lunch and a brief business meeting, the 11th Annual P.E.P. (Preserve, Enhance, Protect) Awards were distributed. New this year to the awards ceremony was the program featuring detailed descriptions and an informative slideshow of each property to show why it was selected and the special architectural features that helped the structure stand out.

The four winning properties were:

- ❶ **Commercial Property** – The Wallace Block, presented to Ed Henning, owner.
- ❷ **Publically-Funded** – The Stroudsburg Post Office, accepted by Stephen LaBargo, postmaster
- ❸ **Residential Property** – The Whitman House, owned by William and Deborah Whitman
- ❹ **Heritage Resource** – Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, accepted by Janet Mishkin, administrator and curator.

The Monroe County Historical Association also presented awards for the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award to Henry McCool of Stroudsburg and the 2016 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Barbara Kopetskie.

Thank you to Ken Sandri, Connie McCool, Sherry Payne, Margot W. Vagliardo, Martin Wilson and state Sen. Mario Scavello for presenting the awards to the winners.

This annual event is held the last Sunday in February and is an opportunity for members to come together for food, 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 26, 2017 (snow date March 12) and be part of the fun!*





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## 2016 Meetings

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

April 26

May 24

June 28

August 23

September 27

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.



### 2016 MCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Seated, from left: James C. Werkheiser, Marie Conklin Young, John H. Abel, Margot W. Vagliardo, Ken Sandri, and Executive Director Amy Leiser

Standing, from left: Sherry Payne, former director Ian Ackroyd-Kelly, Russell D. Scott, III, Clarence J. Murphy, Glenn Yetter, Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, and Martin Wilson.

Not present for the photo: Sunnie Randolph, Patricia J. Saylor and Jeffrey L. Wright.

## MCHA Calendar

### Thursday, April 28

#### 2nd Annual Monroe County History Challenge

7 p.m. • Stroud Hall, Room 117, East Stroudsburg University,

Join us as 16 area high school juniors compete for scholarship dollars.

Free parking and admission.

### Saturday, June 4

Rain date: Saturday, June 11

#### History in Bloom Garden Tour

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Begins at MCCD Kettle Creek Nature Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg.

This year's tour will feature nine beautiful gardens in central Monroe County. Special activities, music, and demonstrations will be held in the gardens throughout the day. Tickets: \$15 per person before Wednesday, June 1. \$20 day of the tour.

### Saturday, July 2

#### Museum and Library Closed

Happy Independence Day!

### Saturday, July 10

#### Bell School Opens for Season

1 to 4 p.m. • 6183 Cherry Valley Road, Stormville (southwest of Stroudsburg)

Historic one-room schoolhouse is open every Sunday in July and August, and other times by special appointment.

### Saturday, September 3

#### Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion

1 to 5 p.m. • Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Kid-friendly activities and crafts will be held in the backyard of the Stroud Mansion in conjunction with StroudFest in downtown Stroudsburg. Free admission.

### Thursday, September 8

#### "Raise your Glass & Support the Past"

6 to 9 p.m. • The Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake, Reeders

"Chairman's Selection" wine-pairing dinner and fundraiser. Live and silent auction!

Tickets \$125 per person.





An MCHA exhibit on the Marshalls Creek mastodon is at the Hughes through May 31.

## Monroe County's prehistoric claim to fame Mastodon display at Hughes Library

By **Gabrielle Ferrera**  
*MCHA Intern*

The Monroe County Historical Association recently installed an exhibit at the Hughes Library in Stroud Township regarding the discovery of the Marshalls Creek Mastodon.

The 12,000-year-old paleontological find has captivated the minds of scientists and the heart of community members for 48 years. The Marshalls Creek Mastodon is the most complete specimen of a prehistoric elephant ever found in Pennsylvania.

The significance of these remains has led the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission to receive a historical marker to be placed near the discovery site off Route 209.

On July 5, 1968, the skull of a mastodon was accidentally unearthed by John Leap and Paul Strausser while they harvested peat from the Lake Side peat and humus bog in Marshalls Creek. The State Museum of Pennsylvania was immediately contacted, and the search for the rest of the bones began on August 8.

Although the team of volunteers and scientists were able to recover more than 90 percent of the skeleton, the excavation abruptly ended two weeks later due to a heavy rainfall and flooding.

For more information, visit our exhibit on the second floor of the Eastern Monroe Public Library. The display includes a visual narrative of the excavation process, specific information about the Marshalls Creek Mastodon, photographs of the articulated skeleton (now located at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg), and fun facts about mastodons and mammoths.

A replica foot from the Marshalls Creek Mastodon and a replica tooth are also on display. The foot is on loan from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission.

The excavation of the Marshalls Creek Mastodon and the information derived from the scientific study of the bones are important pieces of Monroe County history.

The Marshalls Creek mastodon exhibit is display until May 31. Don't miss it!

### SHOP AWAY! 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://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Monroe County Historical Association.

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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://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

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# The Asbury Church and its Minisink influence

By Lois Williams  
MCHA Member

I was a young teen visiting my grandparents' farm in New York State's Tioga County in about 1950 when I came across a newspaper clipping about our ancestors in a drawer. I found the same clipping among my mother's papers after her death in 1993.

Ten years later, I began researching family history, and in a visit to the Monroe County Historical Association, I came across a book that included the text of the old clipping, curiously titled *The Asbury Church and Its Minisink Influence*.

The Asbury Church near Nichols, N.Y., is a torturous 125 miles from Stroudsburg – over the Poconos, through Scranton and then up the Susquehanna River a few miles beyond the Pennsylvania border. The area was not opened to European settlement until after the Revolutionary War, and once the war was over, many Minisink families followed this route to a new life.

The Minisink – an area along the Delaware River between Stroudsburg and Port Jervis, N.Y. – took its name from the Minisink tribe of native Americans.

Early Minisink pioneers were descendants of Dutch settlers in the Kingston area of the Hudson River valley who had come to New Netherland before 1664. After a few generations in Orange County, N.Y., land-hungry Dutch followed the Old Mine Road southwest to the Minisink. After two or three generations in the Minisink, many young families followed the Susquehanna River northwest to the Nichols area in Tioga County, N.Y.

While most of these Minisink settlers belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, most early churches

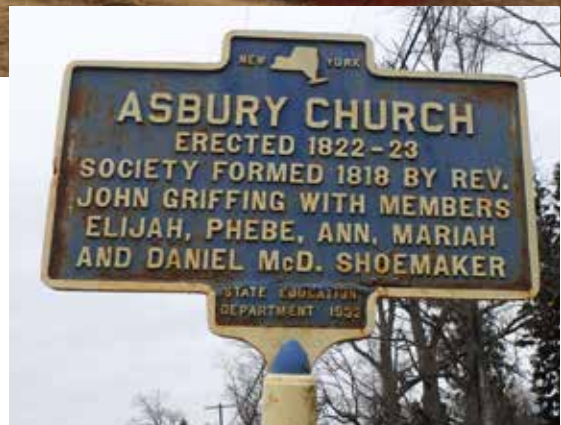


in the Nichols area were Methodist, including Asbury Church. The little white country church was built in 1822, with preaching discontinued in 1917, but the building continued to host community functions and now serves as the practice hall for Nichols' famous Kirby Band.

The book's author, Charles Cafferty, was the Tioga County historian, an unofficial title reflecting his interest in and knowledge of local history. Much of the text of Cafferty's book was printed in installments in the *Owego Gazette* in 1938, and the newspaper published the book in 1943.

The typewritten Cafferty manuscript is on a shelf at the Tioga County Historical Society research library. The book is also there, but still carefully kept in the plain protective cover with which it was sold – in contrast to the Monroe County Historical Association, which openly displays *The Asbury Church and Its Minisink Influence*.

In order of appearance in the book,



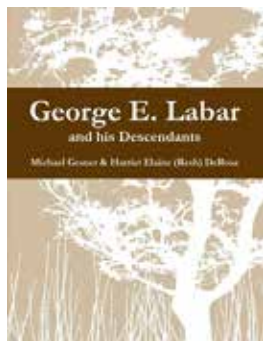
patient readers can learn about the families of Nicholas DePuy, John McDowell, Jacob Stroud, Benjamin Shoemaker and Samuel Broadhead. Other "founding ancestral families" listed are Daniel Shoemaker, the Deckers, the Bensleys, the Cortwrights and the Swartwoods, John Smyth and the Catlins. Cafferty's 54-page book has a thousand or more names!

Many of Cafferty's family write-ups include considerable anecdotal material that sets persons in the context of their time. However, the inserted genealogies make the narrative hard to follow. Only through many readings can one whose ancestors were among the early settlers grasp its wealth of interconnected information and appreciate the document as the rich resource that it is.



# New Labar book now available in MCHA library

A new genealogy authored by Michael Gesner (co-authored by Harriet Elaine Resh DeRosa) titled "George E. Labar and His Descendants" is now available for use in the Monroe County Historical Association's library.



This is the eighth book by Gesner, who is now working on his ninth through 12th.

More than a decade in the making, Gesner estimates over a thousand hours were spent on this 730-page volume in the last year alone. DeRosa's

work also helped the final product as she was the Labar Reunion historian, and her four-decade dedication to recording family facts was invaluable. "Be careful who you talk about because they might be related," Gesner noted.

No matter where Gesner and his wife, Janet — she is a "triple" Labar descendant — are researching, he invariably asks people he meets about their ancestors. Quite often he will find that the person is already in his database of more than 550,000 names.

Also fairly common is when Gesner asks the person: "You do know you married your cousin, don't you?" It's all in fun, he says — it happens all the time, although he notes that "cousins" generally translates to fourth to sixth cousins, so they are distant relations.

The Labar genealogy traces both sons and daughters down to the present day, when possible, and approximately 40,000 people are listed in the book. As one of the early families in the area, Labars and their descendants married into nearly every other early local family.

A complete index can be viewed online at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com), an "on demand" printer where the book is available for purchase.



Monroe County  
Historical Association

## Welcome, New Members

Henry J. Bielefeld	Kent & Laura Hoffman
Elizabeth Bugaighis	Stephen & Laura LaBargo
Adam Bush	Bill & Maggie Mullen
Anna Campbell	Dan Steere & family
Michael Casey & Leticia DiPipi	Mike & Vicki Weaver
David Fox	Anthony & Jessica Zugel
Patricia Francis	

# 2016 Garden Tour



Photo and flower courtesy Bonnie Besecker Vogt

**SATURDAY**  
**June 4**

Rain Date June 11

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

## TICKETS

**\$15 in advance**  
**\$20 day of tour**

**Monroe County Historical Association**

**monroehistorical.org 570.421.7703**

**mcha@ptd.net**





## Surprises in office and in Marshalls Creek

I learned a lot about colonial stitchery from the research I did while writing my last two *Fanlight* reports on samplers, but I needed to take a break from my attempts at stitching (it's hard to do without opposable thumbs) and focus on another topic.

On a recent late night scamper through the mansion office, I came upon a very large and strange resin cast of a fossil. Looking closely, the fossil appeared to be a tooth with rows of cones (cusps) and valleys. What kind of animal could have teeth like that?

I had a feeling this tooth was REALLY old. Could it be from a prehistoric animal? Did such animals once live in this area? I was getting excited! How could I find out more? Since it looked like a chomping, chewing tooth, I thought about large prehistoric plant-eating animals like mammoths and mastodons. Did those animals live in Pennsylvania long ago?

Since I am a mouse, I definitely know how to use a mouse pad, so I went to the website of the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg and checked out the exhibits. There was a picture of a huge elephant-like animal in the "Life Through Time" exhibit, and I read "See the Marshalls Creek Mastodon, one of the most complete specimens of its kind in North America." A mastodon in Marshalls Creek? I have relatives in Marshalls Creek! Did the tooth in the office belong to a mastodon? Quickly I went to the MCHA website and there, under "Articles," was a piece about the mastodon written in 2006 by our director Amy Leiser! You can easily find this article too, so I'll just tell you a little bit about what Amy wrote on how the mastodon was discovered.

During the Pleistocene Era, which lasted from 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago, some of the animals living in our area did include mastodons and their cousins, mammoths — mammals known as proboscideans. These huge animals were elephant-like and distantly related to today's pachyderms. I'm proud to say that small mammals, including mice, appeared in the fossil record much earlier — about 230 million years ago — so my ancestors were probably running around under the feet of those big giants. I wonder if they were scared? Our area was covered with ice three different times during the Pleistocene Era. Mastodons

and mammoths roamed the land, although not at the same time, when the ice was receding. Mastodons lived in herds and were predominantly forest-dwelling animals that browsed and grazed on a mixed vegetarian diet.

So, how was the Marshalls Creek mastodon discovered? In the mansion library's files, I found copies of newspaper articles announcing the find. "Bones of prehistoric creature in area bog," "Pocono's own Mastodon: first such find in Pennsylvania," was the news in the summer of 1968. It happened like this: John Leap and Paul Strauser of

Lakeside Peat Humus Company were dredging a peat bog alongside Route 209 just east of Marshalls Creek. Some bones (later identified as part of the animal's skull) were found in four feet of mucky bog. The men called in a naturalist from the National Park Service and later, specialists from the state museum, who supervised the excavation. As the specialists uncovered more bones, Donald Hoff, then associate curator, stated, "Th[ese] great proboscidean[s], roamed in herds south of the ice sheets . . . with

white-tailed deer, moose, wolves, snowshoe hare and other animals [like mice, I need to add] as [the proboscideans] retreated and became extinct about 9,000 years ago." Close your eyes and imagine what it must have been like back then in the great forests of the land!

There is much more to learn about the mastodon and his prehistoric friends! How did mastodons get their name? What process was used to excavate the bog? How big was the Marshalls Creek mastodon? How do we know it was a mastodon and not a mammoth (and who was cuter)? How have the bones been protected? How are the bones displayed?

You can research trusted sites on the internet, read books, primary sources like the newspaper articles written at the time of the discovery or secondary sources — information based on others' research, and you can visit the State Museum in Harrisburg, AND you can stop by the MCHA display at the Eastern Monroe Public Library before May 31 to see photos, artifacts (the tooth and something even bigger is there!), and much more information about the Marshalls Creek Mastodon. Happy mastodon hunting!



# Endowment Trust Report 2015-2016

Many thanks go to these generous donors. The Endowment Trust provides the essential stability needed to assure the future success of the Monroe County Historical Association. During the 2015 - 2016 campaign, contributions totaled \$72,662.14. We offer our sincere appreciation to our supporters for their generosity.

*Please remember that your contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year!*

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**MONROE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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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.*

**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

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Call 570-421-7703 or email [mcha@ptd.net](mailto:mcha@ptd.net).



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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](mailto: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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Historical Association

Monroe County

