



Much to learn at museum conferences

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

Well, my to-do list just got a lot longer!

I am lucky and grateful that I was able to attend three professional conferences over the past four months. While all of the conferences had a museum and/or history theme, each one was very different. At each, it was easy for me to learn something new, to network with new peers, and to bring back LOTS of ideas that the staff, volunteers, and board members will be implementing at the Monroe County Historical Association.

The first one I attended was the Small Museums Association (SMA) conference in Ocean City, Md., in February. Because this is a small conference targeted to folks associated with small museums, I was able to interact with many like-minded individuals, all of whom run or are employed by organizations similar in size to our MCHA.

The bond between many of us was instantaneous; the attendees were welcoming and sociable, and I became fast friends with a number of them. I was delighted that MCHA Administrative Assistant Brianne Shamburger was also able to attend,

Story continues, Page 2



TOP: Amy Leiser and Brianne Shamburger at the Small Museums Conference in Ocean City, Md. Held over Valentine's Day weekend, participants were encouraged to wear red for the "Museums Amore" theme.

ABOVE: Amy and Brianne tour the Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore, where John Wilkes Booth is buried, as part of the National Council on Public History Conference.

LEFT: Amy traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the American Alliance for Museums Conference.

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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.

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.

Sunday, July 10

Bell School Opens for Season

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

Historic 1870s one-room school is open every Sunday in July and August, and other times by appointment. This small, brick schoolhouse was used until the 1950s.

Saturday, September 3

Olde Time Fun at the Stroud Mansion

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

Kid-friendly activities, crafts in Stroud Mansion backyard in conjunction with Stroud-Fest in downtown Stroudsburg. Free.

Conferences

Continued from Page 1

because the SMA conference offered so many sessions relevant to our work that I could not attend them all myself. Brianne and I reviewed the schedule and chose which sessions each would attend. At the end of each day, she and I came together to share what we learned. This was a wonderful conference, and I look forward to attending it again next year.

In March, Brianne and I headed to Baltimore to attend the National Council on Public History Conference. Again, Brianne and I divided our time to make the most out of the conference's offerings. I attended sessions ranging from how to make an organization's archives more available to researchers to ways to get the public interested in historic preservation.

The highlight of the conference was a workshop presented by the Association for Gravestone Studies, and both of us attended this one. After we were given a brief introduction to gravestone iconography and headstone preservation techniques, we traveled to Green Mount Cemetery for a guided tour of interesting and unique historic gravemarkers and cemetery architecture. After the tour, Brianne and I set out to find John Wilkes Booth's grave, which wasn't hard to find as some visitors had ironically

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.

Thursday & Friday, December 8 & 9

Holiday Luncheon at Stroud Mansion

900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Catered by Dave Cook from The Cook's Corner. Details to be announced.

placed Lincoln pennies on the assassin's small headstone.

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Conference was held at the end of May. With more than 8,000 attendees, this was indeed the mother of all museum conferences! Held in our nation's capital, the conference provided plenty of sessions for small museums. The AAM represents museums of all types (science, art, history) and sizes (meager to multi-million dollar budgets). The organizers made a great effort to balance themes and learning opportunities for those from every kind of museum, and again I found many sessions to be helpful.

The keynote speaker was Robert M. Edsel, author of "The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History." His moving presentation was informative, eye-opening, and relevant.

Thank you to the Monroe County Historical Association Board of Directors for realizing the importance of professional development for the staff and for encouraging us to attend. I look forward to developing improvements for our organization, maintaining friendships with other museum professionals, and applying some of the exciting ideas I learned at these conferences to our work at the Stroud Mansion.



3rd 'History in Bloom' garden tour largest to date

The Monroe County Historical Association hosted its third garden tour fundraiser, "History in Bloom – A Tour of Central Monroe County's Gardens" on Saturday, June 4. The overcast skies with occasional sun and intermittent breezes created a pleasant day for this event.

Nine unique gardens were featured on this year's driving tour, with gardens located in Hamilton, Jackson, Pocono, and Stroud townships. The tour began at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center in Bartonsville. Special thank you to the Conservation District staff who assisted with the garden tour!

Homeowners and volunteers at each garden were enthusiastic to share information about the various plants, different gardening methods, and fun ideas for garden decor. The hospitality at every site was truly heart-warming, with refreshments provided at the different locations for attending guests.

Visitors were fortunate to see historic buildings as well, including the 1830s barn on Vivian Morris's property and the historic 1780s house and outbuildings that Liz Tilley has devotedly cared for.

This fundraiser would not have been possible without all of our many, wonderful volunteers and supporters who came together to share their time and gardening enthusiasm. MCHA was fortunate enough to have 118 people in attendance, almost double the number that attended the tour in 2014!

The MCHA staff would like to thank the History in Bloom committee members: Kathy Boyle, Donna Bisset, and Evelyn Smith.

Chairwoman Kathy Boyle worked diligently to organize and execute every detail of this event. She secured the gardens that were featured on the tour, developed the driving tour, recruited volunteers to be stationed at each garden, and gathered the many sponsors that supported this event. Donna Bisset organized the delightful reception at Vivian Morris's historic barn to thank the volunteers and garden owners for supporting this fund-raiser and MCHA.

We would also like to thank Weber's Rimrock Gardens and the Gallery at Liztech for their partnership in this event. Liztech generously donated the beautiful "Tussie Mussie" pin, as well as 10 percent of the sales with the presentation of an exclusive coupon back to MCHA. Rimrock Gardens donated 10 percent of plant sales to MCHA through the month of June.



Joan Leonard shows off a section of beautiful garden.

Thank you to our garden tour sponsors

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Thank you for our time together

By **Brianne Shamburger**
Administrative Assistant

I write this farewell letter with mixed emotions. This summer I will start a new chapter in my life and move to Virginia. I just wanted to let all of you know how much I have enjoyed spending these last three years together. I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest and talented people during my time at the Monroe County Historical Association.

Thank you to our wonderful Board of Directors — the Association is such a wonderful place to be a part of because of your support. Thank you to the many members whose constant encouragement continues to grow and strengthen MCHA.

Thank you to all the outstanding volunteers and interns, without whom I would not have been able to accomplish half of the things I have done during my time here. It has been a privilege working with these dedicated and enthusiastic individuals.

Thank you to Bret Fowler, our *amazing* curator. Your knowledge and talent is beyond compare, and I am so lucky to have met you.

Finally, I would like to thank Amy Leiser, the most *incredible* boss and executive director anyone could ask for. I have learned so much under your tutelage; your guidance and support have been invaluable.

Thank you all for the wonderful experiences you have given me. I know that the MCHA has great things in its future, and I look forward to seeing them when I come back to visit!



Robert Logan, 1905-1972, above, was an illustrator who made his home in Monroe County. Local artist Fredrick Beaver recently donated "Scale of Smiles," an original Logan illustration, right, to the Monroe County Historical Association.



Local artist remembered with donation

Robert Dwight Logan was born in Milwaukee, Wisc., in 1905. After graduating from art school in Minnesota, he moved to New York City where he studied at the Art Students League with his friend and contemporary, Norman Rockwell.

During the Great Depression, Logan joined the Works Progress Administration, working alongside Jackson Pollock on public projects. In 1945, he moved to an 1860 Monroe County farmhouse, where he worked as an illustrator for books and public murals, including those at the Pennsylvania State House, the Minnesota Capitol Building, and the Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia.

During his later years, Logan contributed to the community by creating works of art for Fred Waring, Fredrick Duckloe & Bros, and the Pocono Hospital. After his death in 1972, his farmhouse was purchased by artist Fredrick Beaver, who continues to work from Logan's original studio.



Thank you to the Stroudsburg High School students who volunteered their time in the Stroud Mansion gardens this summer: Sydney Cramer, Sydney Fritz, Tiffany Grohowski, Nadine Aly, Sean Savage, Nick Bradley, Kayla Henderson, Jenna Muscat Rivera, Delaney Pinson, Amanda Whitewood and Michelle Brodsky.





Standing, from left: Amy Leiser, MCHA executive director and competition moderator; Lucas Wesselius, Stroudsburg High School; Kailey Jackett, Notre Dame High School; Brooke Pridham, Pleasant Valley High School; Zachary Miranda, Notre Dame; Shamus Andrek, Pocono Mountain East High School; Jessica Geiger, East Stroudsburg High School North; and John H. Abel, History Challenge coordinator.

Seated: Jericho Pigon, Notre Dame; Nick Hess, East Stroudsburg High School South; Joseph O'Connor, Pleasant Valley; Hunter Martello, Pleasant Valley; Michael Medaugh, Pocono Mountain East; Michael Jesus, East Stroudsburg South.

Monroe County History Challenge ends in a tie

The 2nd annual Monroe County History Challenge was held April 28 at East Stroudsburg University. This competition was an opportunity for local high school juniors to test their knowledge about national, Pennsylvania, and local Monroe County history and compete for scholarship money.

Every student was asked one question in each of four rounds, resulting in an exciting and challenging tiebreaker for first, second and third place as well as honorable mention. The tiebreaker rounds required both verbal and written responses.

In reflection after the event, the committee agreed that the question used for the first- and second-place tiebreaker was worded too vaguely, and in the spirit of fairness awarded first place and \$500 to both Nick Hess of East Stroudsburg High School South and Jericho Pigon of Notre Dame High School.

Winning third place was Lucas Wesselius of Stroudsburg High School, who won \$200. The new honorable mention award was presented to Michael Medaugh of Pocono Mountain High School East, who received \$100.

Thank you to History Challenge sponsors

- Antoine Dutot Museum & Gallery
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- Wilson-Fischer American Legion Post 413





Toothache prompts dental history search

Owww! My little mouse tooth was really hurting. I suffered with a toothache for two days before I got see my favorite dentist (her dental practice is specifically for small rodents) and everything was put right with a drill, a fill and unfortunately, a bill. At least my teeth aren't as big as a mastodon's!

This got me wondering about dentistry in Monroe County during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Who was the first dentist in Monroe County? How did he or she learn about fixing teeth? What were the old-time dental procedures and how are they different from today?

First I looked online for information about the history of dentistry to get the big picture, and located some secondary sources (trusted sites, of course), including the American Dental Association and the National Institute of Health. I found out that throughout history humans in various cultures and geographic areas were interested in teeth and the maladies that befell them.

Did you know that a Sumerian tablet, 5000 BCE, listed "tooth worms" as the cause of dental decay? And that an interesting beginning to the practice of dentistry came from 13th century France, where barbers performed medical procedures such as bloodletting and tooth extraction that morphed into dentistry? (The familiar red-and-white barber pole is because of the blood!) And in American Revolutionary War times, Paul Revere advertised his work as a dentist in addition to being a silversmith.

Before the 20th century, mentoring with established dental surgeons was the first step to becoming a dentist on ones' own. The world's first dental school — the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery — and the D.D.S. degree were established in 1840. More colleges quickly came into existence, my favorite being the Chicago Tooth Saving College, chartered in 1892 (sorry, it no longer exists).

Now it was time to answer my local questions, which took a lot of night scampering. The City Directories in the Mansion only go back to 1892, so I returned to the internet, entering "Historical dentists Monroe County PA." I crossed my paws and whispered "Go, Google"!

I found a book on the history of Wayne, Pike, and Monroe counties published in 1886. The text of the book

is online and all "dentist" words were highlighted! I soon found Dr. Jackson Lantz, who established a dental practice at 717 Main St., Stroudsburg, in 1852. He may have been the first! Three Stroudsburg dentists were listed in the 1892 directory: Edward Brown, John Metzgar, and Nelson L. Peck, Main Street. W.H. Douglas appeared under East Stroudsburg listings, with an office on Crystal Street opposite "the Depot."

To find out what procedures were used, some treasures in the Mansion became my helpers. I found eight "day books" belonging to Dr. Peck. His books could reveal what an average dentist's days were like!

After "a good common school education," Dr. Peck learned dentistry under Dr. Lantz, and took some courses at a new Philadelphia dental college. In 1870, Dr. Peck, age 23, began his own practice at 618 Main St. and continued until 1920.

Dr. Peck's day books took careful study. Night after night, I climbed onto the latch, opened the door of the huge cupboard in the Erdman room, and gingerly pulled out the books. The graceful cursive letters put down in sepia ink chronicled each day's work, listing patients, treatments, and how much was charged. Familiar Monroe County names such as Staples, Wyckoff, Brodhead, Rush and Stokes are there. In the first book (1870-1876) I opened, an entry that caught my eyes was:

*April 12 Mifs Eliza Stroud Gold filling R U
[right upper] molar Pd \$2.00*

But I could see that Dr. Peck took care of other people not so prominent. There are entries of "stranger," "little girl," "visitor," "darkie," "young man," or "colored lady," individuals from different walks of life.

Dr. Peck often saw three to four patients a day. In the 1870s, the most common treatments were tooth extractions. The charge was usually around a dollar per tooth, but strangers often appeared to pay less; sometimes as little as 40 cents. "Gas" (referring to nitrous oxide, or laughing gas) was frequently administered during extractions. As time went on, fillings were more often noted, along with "art.", for artificial, or false, teeth. An "artificial set" for a tannery foreman, Arthur Samuels,



cost \$12 and a “full upper and under set” for Mrs. Andre Meixell, \$33.

In the 1901 directory, “Anna V. Peck, student” was listed at Dr. Peck’s home address, 705 Sarah St. Upon her graduation from Stroudsburg High School at age 16, Anna began a two-year study of dental surgery mentored by her father, followed by an acceptance to the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery in Philadelphia. In 1902, Anna graduated with a D.D.S. degree and became the first female dentist in Monroe County. She practiced dentistry alongside her father until she married Henry Selwood, a postal clerk.

Since I am no expert on humans’ handwriting, I’m not sure if Anna took over the day book entries. But to me, the writing begins to look different in the 1900s, and each book becomes more of a scrapbook, containing newspaper articles affixed with straight pins along with bills, tax receipts, and advertisements tucked between the pages, thus providing a lot of other information.

Now, there was one thing left to do — find some real dental artifacts. My nightly scamper brought me to the newly organized Military Room on the third floor, where I encountered many fascinating objects — artifacts displayed there by collections specialist Bret and intern Gabrielle. Included among the military pieces are historic medical

instruments including some dental tools. Not for the faint-hearted, there is a tooth extractor (1795-1845) displayed next to one of Dr. Peck’s day books. On another shelf, used from 1860-1818, lie several shiny plier-like tooth pulling tools. Each is specifically made to grab a certain type of tooth — incisors, bicuspid, molars, etc.

I’m glad my tooth was fixed with modern tools! And while I’m thankful I didn’t have to go to the dentist in the 1700s or 1800s, I enjoyed learning something about “olde time” dentistry and the progress made over the years. Doing historical research can be quite an adventure. I must remember that the primary sources I looked at told me about only one dentist’s work, but also gave me ideas of what others might have done.

It’s also important to:

- Use primary and secondary sources to get both big ideas and details
- Be extremely careful with one-of-a-kind fragile artifacts (wash paws first and turn pages carefully)
- Think logically about the information found
- Reconcile different (and maybe contradictory) findings
- Be thankful for donors who have shared their historic treasures to explore so that we history detectives with questions about the past can find answers!

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