



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 27, No. 1

Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Winter 2016



Executive Director Amy Leiser and board members out in the community. From left: With John H. Abel at an Eastburg Community Alliance fundraiser; with Ken Sandri in Harrisburg to meet with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, and with Marie Conklin Young at the Lehigh Valley Wine & Auction Gala.

Volunteers and board of directors: Wonderful support for MCHA and its mission

By Amy Leiser

Executive Director

Happy New Year! I can't believe another year is in the history books. I am so pleased with the 2015 we had, and I can't help but be hopeful that 2016 will be another banner year for OUR organization.

Here at the Historical Association, we are moving full-steam ahead with no plans of slowing down. Whoever said history is boring? We have many events already planned for 2016. From wine-pairings and garden tours to holiday luncheons and the History Challenge, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Please see our calendar of events for upcoming activities through the spring.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of all of you. You are what makes the Monroe County Historical Association great, and I'm the lucky one who gets to lead this important organization as we move forward into the future.

There are so many people who step up over the year and give in so many ways. Our members simply are the best! Whether you live locally and volunteer for events, like baking a dessert for a fundraising function, or you live across the country and support us with contributions or donate your family genealogy, you're making an important

and positive impact on your Association.

This organization is led by a team of 15 dedicated volunteers – our Board of Directors. Each and every one dedicates his or her expertise, energy, and enthusiasm to make sure that we are on the right track.

Board members lead the working committees, and their efforts show positive results. Some chair the “behind-the-scenes” committees, such as the Financial, Executive, Endowment, Library, and Personnel committees, while others lead committees more in the public eye, including the Facilities, Membership, History, and Education committees.

All are vital to the success of the organization, and we would not be where we are today without their guidance.

This past year there has been a particularly strong camaraderie on board. At meetings, board members strike the perfect balance between having serious conversations about important issues and having moments of great humor when everyone is laughing along in friendship. It is a pleasure for me to work alongside these great people.

I wish everyone a very happy 2016, and I look forward to another great year working to protect, promote, and preserve all of Monroe County's history with all of you.



MCHA Officers

President | Russell D. Scott III

Vice President | Sherry Payne

Treasurer | Patricia Saylor

Secretary | Jennifer Harlacher Sibum

Board of Directors

John H. Abel
Ian Ackroyd-Kelly
Melissa Lambert
Connie McCool
Clarence Murphy
Sunnie Randolph
Ken Sandri
Margot Vagliardo
James C. Werkheiser
Jeffrey L. Wright
Marie Conklin Young

Staff

Executive Director | Amy Leiser

Administrative Assistant

Brianne Shamburger

Collections Specialist

Bret Fowler

Bookkeeper | Margie Manner

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.

January 26

February 28

March 22

April 26

May 24

August 23

Septemebr 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.

History of the Endowment Trust, 1985-2015 *Giving the Past a Future*

By **Jeffery L. Wright**

In January 1985, the Monroe County Historical Society (now the Monroe County Historical Association) created an Endowment Fund to provide for the payment of the salaries of professional staff and for capital improvements.

The late Dr. E. Ruth Dunning was the prime mover in the creation of the Endowment Fund (now known as the Monroe County Historical Association Endowment Trust) with the view of providing for the continued operation of the Association for years to come. Without the Endowment, the Association would not be able to provide for the preservation of history of the county and to educate the community on the history.

The first donors to the capital letter fund were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ransberry Smith Flory. Mr. Flory descended from the first settlers of Monroe County, and he and his wife were active members of the organization for many years.

In 1986, Dr. Dunning personally solicited grants from Connaught Laboratory (now Sanofi Pasteur) in the amount of \$1,000, and from the Hughes

Foundation in the amount of \$20,000. In the early years of the Endowment, every member of the Board of Directors of the Association made a contribution. Over the years the Endowment has grown from annual appeals, bequests, and grants from foundations.

In 2014, the Endowment received substantial gifts from the trusts of Dr. E. Ruth Dunning and her husband, Roger Dunning.

Because of Dr. Dunning's forethought, the Association is recognized among the small town historical associations as being in the lead for providing for its financial future.

The Monroe County Historical Association Endowment Trust is an essential part of the Association. This restricted fund keeps the Stroud Mansion running and supports professional salaries and capital improvements.

Please consider giving to the Endowment Trust. Memorial contributions, bequests and general donations are accepted throughout the year.

MCHA Calendar

Through January 11

Offices Closed – Happy Holidays!

Tuesday, January 12

Offices Reopen – 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 28

Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

Noon-4 p.m. • Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort, Shawnee-on-Delaware

Please see enclosed flier for details.

Friday, March 25-Monday, March 28

Offices Closed – Happy Easter!

Thursday, April 28

Monroe County History Challenge

7 p.m. • East Stroudsburg University, Stroud Hall, Room 113 • See story, Page 3

Saturday, June 4 (Rain date: June 11)

History in Bloom Garden Tour

9 a.m.-3 p.m. • Monroe County
This year's tour will feature seven beautiful gardens in central Monroe County.

Thursday, September 8

Raise your Glass & Support the Past

6-9 p.m. • The Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake, Reeders • Wine-pairing dinner and auction fundraiser. Save the date!



Calling all competitors!

Monroe County History Challenge set for April

By **John H. Abel**
History Committee Chair

The History Committee is pleased to announce a competition and scholarship event to be held at East Stroudsburg University on Thursday, April 28 at 7 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 our area schools competing for scholarship dollars by answering four rounds of questions related to Monroe County and Pennsylvania history and government. The first-place student will be awarded \$500, while second place will earn

\$300, third place \$200, and honorable mention \$100.

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 25.

We are looking forward to another 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 a donation to the Monroe County Historical Association at 900 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, and indicate your donation is for the Monroe

County History Challenge.

The History Committee is seeking levels of sponsorship in increments of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250.

Contributors will be listed in the program and on all publicity surrounding the event.

And again this year, the Monroe County History Challenge will be televised by Blue Ridge Communications and contributor names will be a part of that programing as well.

The public is welcome to attend the night of the event. 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!

Yes, I would like to contribute to the 2016 Monroe County History Challenge Scholarship Fund.

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250
 Cash Check VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Card number: _____ Exp: _____ CSC: _____

Name (as it should appear in program): _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to MCHA, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

*Thank you for taking an active role in this event
and fostering an appreciation of history among Monroe County students*



2015 Holiday Luncheon

Wrapping up the year with a festive event

The weeks following Thanksgiving break are always a whirlwind of activity at the Stroud Mansion. Every holiday season our staff and volunteers excitedly work to prepare for the holiday luncheon.

We would like to extend a special thank you to volunteer Donna Bisset, who worked tirelessly cleaning the Mansion in preparation for this event.

The 1795 Stroud Mansion was adorned with nine trees, 10 including the Victorian gift tree which made its debut last year in the Victorian Parlor, numerous wreaths, and evergreen arrangements with electric candles.

Kathy Boyle along with Garden Club members Denise De Vivo, Sandy Dickl, Mary Jane Drake, Holly Gravel and Mary Ann LaPenna once again volunteered their time to decorate the second-floor rooms with lovely pink poinsettias, dried hydrangeas, and festive holiday greenery.

The Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion continues to be a popular fundraising event each December.



Volunteer Evelyn Smith and junior board member Liam Weiss serve coffee and tea at the 2015 Holiday Luncheon.

Our two luncheon seatings each of the two days allow us to accommodate a greater number of guests comfortably to this exclusive event.

Pianist Holly DeVivo kicked off the luncheon by filling the room with holiday music. Erin McClelland and his acoustic guitar provided lovely background music while guests dined

during the Thursday second seating. Da Capo, a flutist trio, charmed guests when they performed for the first time at the Stroud Mansion at the Friday early seating. We thank these musical volunteers for sharing their talents and hope to have them back.

New this year, Dave Cook from the Cook's Corner Family Restaurant provided the delicious meal, including fresh baked wheat rolls, cranberry walnut gelatin salad, a salad with apple cider vinaigrette, chicken roulade with savory apple, leek and Brie cheese stuffing, butternut squash, roasted garlic smashed red potatoes, and an assortment of desserts donated by our many wonderful volunteers.

A complementary glass of Riesling wine was offered to our guests, a donation from MCHA member and friend Arthur E. Arnold II in honor of John K. Meixell, who passed away earlier this year.



In 2010, Ruth and Alex "Buzz" Bensinger received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Monroe County Historical Association.

GREATLY MISSED: Ruth Sibley Bensinger, 1921-2015

The Monroe County Historical Association has lost a wonderful supporter with the death of Mrs. Ruth Sibley Bensinger, who passed away on November 7, 2015.

She came to Stroudsburg at the age of 2 and graduated from Stroudsburg High School in 1938. In 1943, she was employed in the offices of Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians in New York City.

Returning to Stroudsburg in 1947, she worked at Shawnee Inn and County Club, which was then owned by Waring.

In 1995, she was included in the publication of "Women Who Made History in Monroe County." She also authored a book about her business life encompassing three careers, titled "It Started with a Song."

She served on the Board of Directors for the Monroe County Historical Association and as board president in 2007.

Ruth remained an active member and friend to everyone involved with the historical association, and she will be greatly missed.



Cemetery Walk fundraiser a grave success

The Monroe County Historical Association hosted a walking tour of historic Stroudsburg Cemetery in October, honoring our Civil War veterans.

Earlier in the week Hurricane Joaquin threatened to put a damper on the event, but on the day of the event we were graced with a perfect day to spend outdoors with blue skies, sunshine, and a light autumn breeze.

Ten stations highlighted local soldiers, women on the home front, the U.S. Colored Troop and headstone preservation techniques, as well as the Pennsylvania 142nd Company G Civil War reenactors with a showcase of authentic Civil War artifacts and a hands-on display.

Donna Bisset, cemetery tour volunteer, organized two free programs in a series leading up to the event.

The first one, "Emotions in Stone," was presented by historian and photographer Tammy Schane, who discussed the meanings behind 19th century cemetery symbols and iconography found on headstones and family plots.

The second program was an interpretive reading from the 43 letters written by Lewis Shrader, a local Civil War soldier, to his wife, Susan, who remained on the home front.

This fundraiser would not have been possible without all of our many wonderful volunteers and supporters who came together to share their time and enthusiasm.

The MCHA staff would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the cemetery tour volunteers John H. Abel, Donna Bisset, Kathy Boyle, Barbara Braithwaite, Barbara Kopetskie, Lettie Lladoc, Ken Sandri, Evelyn Smith, Mark Tramontina, Monica Tramontina, Bill Watson, Jim Werkheiser, the Pennsylvania 142nd Company G Civil War reenactors, and the MCHA Junior board.

From the preliminary research to guiding visitors throughout the cemetery, volunteers dedicated many hours to make sure this event was a success!

Plans are in the works for this educational fundraiser to be a yearly event. Look for information in upcoming editions of *The Fanlight*.



Top right: Junior board member Tahira Zimmerman diligently cleans a headstone at the preservation station during the Cemetery Walk.

At right: MCHA board member Jim Werkheiser poses with Monica Tramontina from the Pennsylvania 142nd Company G Civil War reenactor at the station highlighting Col. John Schoonover.





More research on stitchery in the Mansion

In the last *Fanlight* I shared my new interest in finding out about “old time” stitchery after seeing framed samplers hanging in the Stroud room — one stitched by Jacob Stroud’s daughter Jemima and the other by his granddaughter Sarah. An exciting aspect of researching something is that the deeper you go, the more questions you have and the more you realize what you don’t know. So, let me tell you what I have found out about two other pieces of stitchery in the Stroud Mansion.

First of all, I found that there are different types.

The pieces stitched by Jemima and Sarah can be called “technical” samplers — “practical projects” that include basic stitches and experiments in technique, usually depicting numbers and alphabets, poems, sayings, or Bible verses, border designs and some objects like buildings, flowers, or animals.

A girl stitching the sampler usually included her name, the year, sometimes the school or place where she created the piece, and occasionally her teacher’s name.

Samplers that feature “pictorial content” are “storytelling” pieces, such as the one finished by Emaline Eagles, age 14, in 1832. It shows a building in the center of a scene bordered with glorious, colorful flowers of silk and wool thread, all on linen fabric.

Emaline moved to Stroudsburg the year after, and lived in the Stroud Mansion where her family ran a hotel called Mansion House! In 1847, Emaline married a peddler named Jacob Wyckoff, who later founded Wyckoff’s Department Store. My research also revealed that Emaline worked on the sampler for two years while attending Mary Ralston’s Private School in Easton.

Mary Ralston “may have set the trend in eastern Pennsylvania for large samplers featuring impressive buildings surrounded by heavy borders worked in wool,” says Betty King in her book “Childhood Embroidery.” She would draw one flower at a time on a pupil’s work and then direct the pupil to fill it in with stitches.

Mary opened her school around 1812, and with her daughter continued to teach until the 1840s. Many samplers have been identified as being created by Ralston

School students. And our own Agnes Webb was the first to notice that large floral borders are common in samplers stitched by Ralston School students.

Another storytelling sampler hangs over the fireplace on the second floor in what is now called the dining room. It was stitched by Maria Poppel, age 13, in 1812.

When researching anything historic, there may be no person, book or mouse available that is “first person” familiar with the subject. In that case, one must rely on “secondary sources” that report what they heard from those who did know firsthand.

It reminds me of playing the game “Gossip” with my mouse cousins — we stand in a circle and one of us starts by squeaking into the ear of the closest mouse and then he or she squeaks to the next mouse and so on. When finally spoken aloud, the squeak usually has been changed so much it comes out a SQUAWK instead of a tiny mouse noise.

A history detective has to make sense of secondary information, relying on experts’ knowledge of the artifact and its context.

The information I found about Maria Poppel’s work states that she did the stitching and “probably painted the background herself.” But Brett Fowler, the MCHA collections specialist, isn’t sure. He pointed out that the scene, and especially the human faces, don’t look like something a young girl would be able to do.

The technique of stitching to embellish a piece of art was very popular in the 1800s, but most often the underlying piece was an already existing painting or etching made by someone other than the stitcher.

It is clear that Maria did the beautiful, fine stitching on the sampler, but unlikely that, based on Maria’s age, the sophistication of the faces and perspective, and the use of a different medium (oil paint), she did not create the background image.

Of course we can’t be absolutely sure, and no matter what, it is an exquisite piece! The next time you visit the mansion, I hope you will take the opportunity to look closely at the samplers on display.



MCHA needs tour volunteers!

By the MCHA Education Committee

The Monroe County Historical Association is looking for volunteers to help with school and Scout tours. Students of all ages visit the Stroud Mansion through planned school bus trips or to work toward a badge in Scouting throughout the year. We are looking for individuals comfortable interacting with young people and who are available to assist with tours and small activities offered to these groups.

We will train and no prior knowledge is required!

Please contact the MCHA office at 570-421-7703 or mcha@ptd.net. We will hold a short welcoming workshop in the spring when our current tour guides will be available to review the group tour information. Participants will receive a tour of the Stroud Mansion and an overview



Board member Connie McCool gives a tour of the Mansion to Cub Scouts.

of the activities we offer.

Please consider joining us as we strive to share Monroe County's rich history with the next generation. Feel free to share this information with anyone you think might be interested!

Sponsors of the MCHA

Small Business | \$150

Bailey's Steakhouse
Barley Creek Brewing Co.
The Deerhead Inn
Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.
Dunkelberger's Tree Service
Frailey Insurance Agency
Franklin Hill Vineyards
Hoffman Excavating
Huffman's Electric
Jeremy Smith Landscaping
Monroe County Bar Association
Mountain Springs Lake
Mountain View Vineyard
Mountaintop Lodge at Lake Naomi
Parker Realty Company
Pocono Medical Group
& Nephrology Associates
Ray Price Cars
Smuggler's Cove
Tolino Vineyards
Trout Lake Retreats
West End Fair Association
NEW: William H. Kresge Funeral Home, Inc.
Young & Haros LLC

Corporate | \$250

Alaska Pete's Roadhouse Grille
AMD Leasing

Bensinger and Weekes, LLC
Big Brown Fish Hatchery
Cramer, Swetz, McManus & Jordan, P.C.
Dein Properties
ESSA Bank and Trust
Frederick Duckloe & Bros., Inc.
Floral Boutique
Lori J. Cerato, Esq.
Martin's Homes
Momento Pizzeria and Restaurant
Moyer and Papillon
Newman, Williams, Mishkin,
Corveleyn, Wolfe and Fareri
Paradise Fish Hatchery
PNC Bank
Pocono Living Magazine
Pocono Medical Center
Pocono ProFoods
NEW: Riley and Company, Inc.
The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
Skytop Lodge

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
Bushkill Falls,
'The Niagara of Pennsylvania' - \$1,000
Buck Hill Falls Company - \$500
Lake Naomi Club - \$500
Rotary Club of Stroudsburgs - \$500
Saylorburg Lumber Co. - \$500

In-kind contributors

Hartzell's Auction Gallery
Pocono Living Magazine

Grants

Cherry Lane Foundation
R. Dale and Frances Hughes Foundation
Monroe County Board of Commissioners
Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission



**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



Free wireless Internet service

is available to researchers
in the Elizabeth D. Walters Library
at the Stroud Mansion.

The secure Wi-Fi connection helps genealogists
and others with their research.



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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

900 Main Street

Historical Association

Monroe County





You are cordially invited to the
Monroe County Historical Association's
**94th Annual Meeting
& Awards Luncheon**

Sunday, February 28, 2016

The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA

(Snow date: Sunday, March 6, 2015)

**11th Annual Awards
Silent Auction
50/50 Drawing**

12:00 p.m. ~ Social Hour with Cash Bar

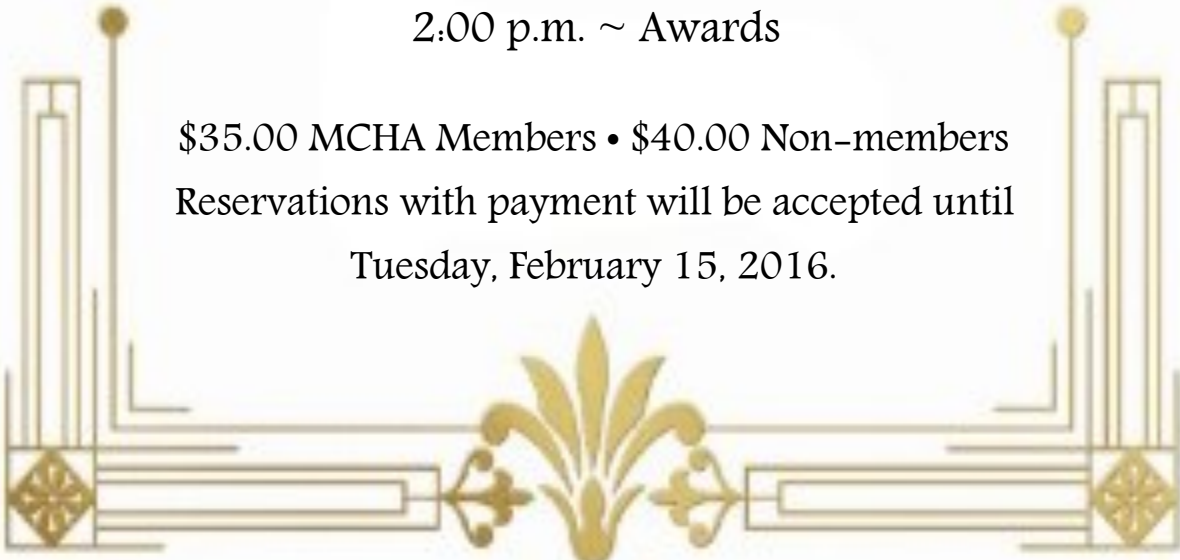
1:00 p.m. ~ Luncheon

2:00 p.m. ~ Awards

\$35.00 MCHA Members • \$40.00 Non-members

Reservations with payment will be accepted until

Tuesday, February 15, 2016.



RESERVATION CARD ON OTHER SIDE • MAIL IN WITH PAYMENT

Monroe County Historical Association's
**94th Annual Meeting
& Awards Luncheon**

Sunday, February 28, 2016

The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA

(Snow date: Sunday, March 6, 2015)

RESERVATION CARD

Mail in with payment
by February 15

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

\$35.00 MCHA Members ☛ \$40.00 Non-members

Number Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Payment Type: Cash Check Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____ CSC Number: _____

*Please indicate your meal choice(s) below. Meal includes house salad with organic mixed greens,
bakery basket, choice of beverage (including coffee & tea service, iced tea, & milk) & dessert.*

French Onion Sirloin *Pesto Grilled Chicken* *Parmesan-crusted Salmon*

*Please return this card with your payment by Tuesday, February 15, 2016 to:
Monroe County Historical Association, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.
For more information, please contact the MCHA office at (570) 421-7703.*