



THE FANLIGHT

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Winter 2017

Help make history: Volunteer!

By Amy Leiser

Executive Director

Happy New Year and welcome 2017! It's hard to believe another year has passed. As we say goodbye to 2016, I look to the new year with excitement and promise.

This organization has accomplished a lot over the past 365 days, and it would not have been possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers and Board of Directors.

I am so lucky to work alongside amazing and professional co-workers. Curator Bret Fowler continues to make improvements to the exhibition areas in the museum, and Administrative Assistant Anna Underwood works hard to ensure the office duties are being handled efficiently. I'm looking forward to working with our new bookkeeper, Karen Doherty Raub, to learn all that she can bring to the table! As marvelous as the staff is, all of us would agree that we could not do our jobs as proficiently without the support of our wonderful volunteers.

There is no doubt in my mind that volunteers are among the greatest assets of the Monroe County Historical Association. I am fortunate to work in conjunction with these dedicated

individuals who help make sure this organization thrives. Our volunteers have so much to offer, and I appreciate each and every one who shares his or her talents.

We have volunteers at every



commitment level, and each volunteer is incredibly valuable. Some individuals volunteer on a weekly basis, assisting the staff with cataloging artifacts into the museum or helping researchers in the library. Others offer informative tours of the Stroud Mansion, while some volunteers prefer behind-the-scenes work by performing light office duties such as copying, filing and typing.

Volunteers who aren't available

on a weekly basis contribute by dedicating their time for special events, workshops, and fundraisers. Many serve on committees, provide delicious desserts for our Holiday Luncheon, decorate (and clean) the Stroud Mansion — and so much more.

While volunteers do get a great deal of work done and assist the staff in so many ways, they also have opportunities to meet people they may not have otherwise met. Some of our volunteers have formed such great friendships with each other that they get together for activities outside the Stroud Mansion setting.

Each year when we mail the membership renewal forms, volunteer opportunities are listed on the form's reverse side. Please

take a moment to review this list and consider joining our team of volunteers. I'd love to have you become part of the family of volunteers!

According to Independent Sector, a coalition network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations, a volunteer's value is \$23.56 per hour. Personally, I think it's much higher.

2017 MCHA Calendar



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Anna Underwood

Collections Specialist

Bret Fowler

Bookkeeper

Karen Doherty Raub

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Kim de Bourbon

2017 Meetings

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

January 24

February 26 • Annual Meeting

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

No meeting in July

August 22

September 26

October 24

November 28

No meeting in December

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

Through January 10

MCHA Offices Closed

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sunday, February 26

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

*Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort,
Shawnee-on-Delaware*

Annual meeting of the Monroe County Historical Association begins at noon with social hour, followed by luncheon and awards program at 1 p.m.

Friday, April 14 to Monday, April 17

MCHA Offices Closed

Happy Easter!

Thursday, May 11

3rd Annual Monroe County History Challenge

*Cecelia S. Cohen Recital Hall,
East Stroudsburg University*

Local students compete for scholarship money in quiz contest featuring questions on local, state, national and international history. 7 p.m.

*Mark your calendars now
for these two popular MCHA events!*

Thursday, September 7

2017 Raise your Glass & Support the Past

The Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake, Reeders

“Chairman’s Selection” wine-pairing dinner and fundraiser. Live and silent auction. 6–9 p.m. Ticket sales will be announced.

**Friday, December 15
and Saturday, December 16***

Holiday Luncheon at the Mansion

900 Main St., Stroudsburg

Early lunch 11 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Late lunch 1–2:30 p.m.

Annual holiday luncheon at the Stroud Mansion in a festive atmosphere with live entertainment. Meal catered by Dave Cook from The Cook’s Corner. Ticket sales will be announced.

**Note: New Saturday luncheon options*



Members of the Stroudsburg High School Class of 1963 raise their glasses in festive cheer during the Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion.



Festive and successful event wraps up 2016

More than 150 guests enjoy Holiday Luncheon at Mansion

The weeks following Thanksgiving break are always a whirlwind of activity at the Stroud Mansion as staff and volunteers excitedly work to prepare for the Holiday Luncheon. We would like to extend a very 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 10 trees and many wreaths and evergreen arrangements, with electric candles in every window.

Kathy Boyle along with Garden Club members Denise De Vivo, Sandy Dickl, Holly Gravel and Mary Ann LaPenna once again volunteered their time to decorate the second floor rooms. This year's decorations had a natural theme and featured pinecones and a simple berry garland nestled into the evergreen arrangements. Baldwin brass candlesticks complemented the three mantle arrangements. Even red cardinals could be spotted among the festive holiday greenery.

Thank you to MCHA member Karen McLoughlin for donating the many garlands, wreathes, ribbons and other holiday items used for this year's decorating.

The Holiday Luncheon, held December 8 and 9 in 2016, continues to be a popular fund-raising event. Our two seatings each day allow us to accommodate a greater number of guests comfortably.

Da Capo, a flutist trio, 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 Late Lunch seating. Pianist Holly DeVivo charmed guests at the Friday early seating and Daniel Ferrara, in his inaugural performance, treated guests to holiday music on his guitar. We thank these volunteers for sharing their musical talents and hope to have all of them back.



Again this year, Dave Cook from the Cook's Corner Family Restaurant provided the delicious meal, and our legions of talented volunteers contributed a delicious array of desserts.

A complementary glass of wine was offered to each guest, thanks to MCHA member and friend, Mrs. Barbara Lantz, who made the donation in honor of the late John K. Meixell, who began the tradition years ago.

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.

2017 Holiday Luncheon on Friday and Saturday

There have been many requests to offer a Saturday date for the Holiday Luncheon, so the 2017 event will be held on **Friday, December 15** and **Saturday, December 16**.

Save the dates on your calendar now. Plan on getting your tickets early as this event sells out quickly!





West End students tour Stroud Mansion

Fifth grade students from Pleasant Valley Intermediate School gathered on the stairs following a tour of the Stroud Mansion. The enthusiastic class was fully engaged and interacted with the tour guides by asking great questions. Thank you to the teachers and administrators for helping to reinforce the importance of learning about local history.

New face at Stroud Mansion **MCHA hires a bookkeeper**

The Monroe County Historical Association is very pleased to introduce Karen Doherty Raub as the organization's new bookkeeper. A graduate of Villanova University and SUNY Stony Brook, Karen has a background as a CPA in addition to working with nonprofit organizations.

Karen is the group sales manager at The Shawnee Playhouse and also facilitates a mommy & me tumbling program. She has performed on stage, most recently in the dance ensemble of "Mary Poppins" at the Shawnee Playhouse.

The Personnel Committee was impressed with Karen's experience, motivation and organizational skills and the staff is delighted to have her join the team. Welcome, Karen!



Ancestry.com now available in library

Through a generous bequest from the Dunning Estate, Ancestry.com is now available to researchers visiting the genealogy library in the Stroud Mansion.

Known as the world's largest online family history resource, Ancestry.com houses billions of records vital to tracing an individual's family tree. If you're tracing your Monroe County family, be sure to stop by the library and take advantage of this additional resource.





Heritage Room established at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church

By **John Field**

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church in Hamilton Square near Sciota traces its beginnings to 1755. Early services were held in the Bossert-Gumm farmhouse. By 1775, a log church served as a place of worship before the present edifice was built in 1829-1830.

The church has recently established a special room, or mini-museum, to celebrate this rich heritage. The Heritage Room houses many artifacts, books, documents and art works related to the church's history.

Examples of the latter are an oil painting of the church done by George Kitchen and a watercolor done by Fred Beaver. Photographs of the pastors — Lutheran and Reformed — are also on display. A diorama of the buildings

and grounds, created by the church-sponsored Scout troops, is a focal point of the exhibit.

A committee chaired by Karla Tomlin was responsible for organizing and preparing the room. Other committee members include Janis Bechtel, Claudia Hill and church historian, John Field.

A separate room dedicated to genealogical research is adjacent to the Heritage Room. Church member Joel Hahn has been active in that endeavor and has compiled an extensive tracing of the Casper Metzgar family. Metzgar was a Revolutionary War soldier and a member of the church, arriving in Cherry Valley in 1789.

For further information, please contact the Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church office at 570-992-4085 or email jefield4psu@gmail.com.





Thinking about butter

By the time you read this report, the December holidays will be over and cold winds may be piling up snow in Monroe County. During the winter, I find cozy spots in the mansion and think about the crumbs of warm food I may be able to find when the staff finishes their lunch break.

Bread and butter crumbs are one of my favorites, and I try to imagine the life in the 1790s, with the big basement fireplace warm and steamy as the Stroud servants are busy making soup, baking bread and churning butter. You can see a butter churn in the kitchen, as well as a fascinating display of beautiful wooden butter mold presses.

I wondered what the mold presses were used for. Flat, usually round or oval, and handmade from poplar, soft pine, or sometimes walnut wood, they are carefully decorated with carved images of Pennsylvania German folk symbols like flowers, animals, wheat, eagles, six-pointed stars, acorns, and hearts.

So, it was time to do some research. Books and the internet helped me find some surprising information about the role of butter and mold presses in colonial Pennsylvania.

Farm families lived in widely scattered homesteads and produced much of their own food, furniture and tools. They didn't rely much on money to procure the products and materials needed to establish and maintain a comfortable life. Instead, things made, cut, or caught — like animal skins, eggs, lumber — were commodities the families traded, or bartered, with shopkeepers or neighbors to get what they needed.

Butter was a food that was always in demand that maintained a stable price and could be traded for goods or sold for cash.

Very interesting, but how does it relate to the mold presses?

There's more to the story! I needed to learn more about 18th and 19th century farm life in Monroe County. I found out that a farm wife's daily jobs included milking cows, churning the milk into butter, dividing the butter into different quantities, storing it in stone crocks or cheese cloth, and stamping the butter with a specially chosen butter mold press.

And here's why stamping the design was important:

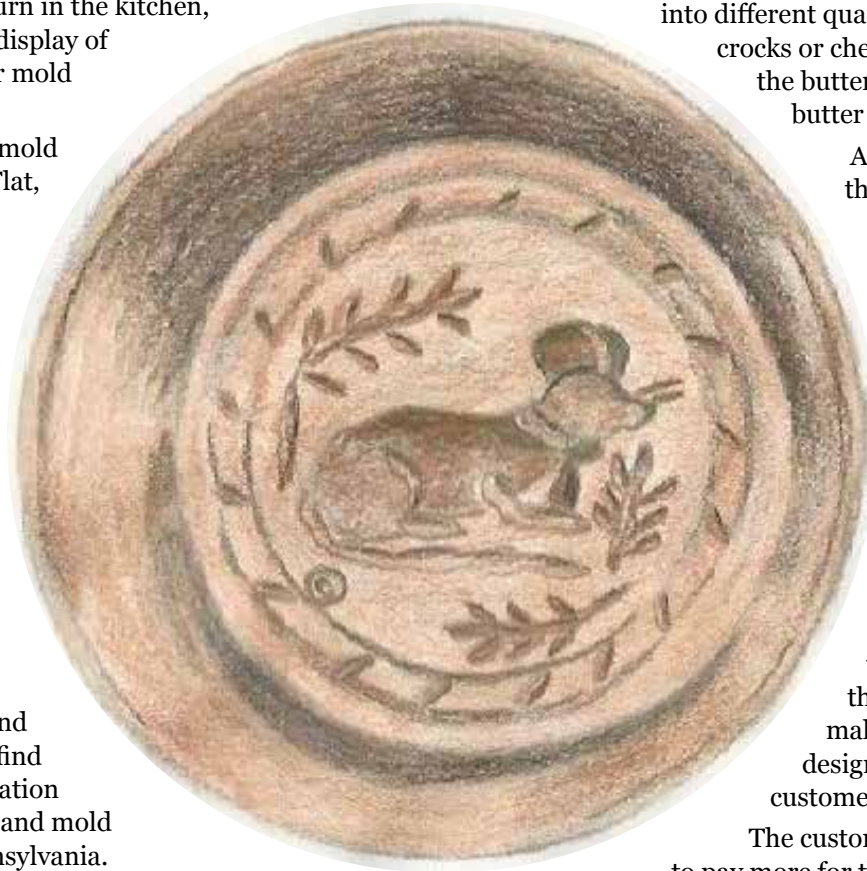
The quality and taste of butter varied from farm to farm. Families were proud of their butter — its flavor, color, and consistency — and chose a favorite design to mark their product.

Storekeepers and customers looked for the design from the farm who supplied their favorite butter, making the mold pressed design important to both the customer and the supplier.

The customers would be willing to pay more for their favorite butter, and the supplier would be happier as well. Isn't that what we now call branding?

Here's my butter mold press. What do you think of it?

Be sure to stop by the Stroud Mansion to take a look at the butter mold presses and all the other cooking equipment in the kitchen as you keep learning about the history of Monroe County. Stay cozy!





This crazy quilt was made by Ida Huffsmith Metzgar

'All snug in their beds' New exhibit features quilts

Now that the cold weather has blanketed Monroe County, a timely exhibit featuring MCHA's collection of quilts will be on display. From traditional patchwork to crazy quilts, each piece is not only practical but a true piece of art.

The quilts will be on exhibit in the newly-refurbished display case on the first floor at the Stroud Mansion from Tuesday, January 24 until Friday, April 28.

Special thank you to the employees of Effort Woodcrafters, Inc. who renovated the exhibition case. In addition to replacing the old pegboard wall with a more modern and easier-to-work-with slat board, they also installed improved lighting and a new floor.

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**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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10 am - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
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1-4 p.m. every Sunday in July and August
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If you have a new mailing address or email address,
please let us know.

We don't want you to miss any of the exciting events,
fundraisers, programs and workshops we offer.

Email admin@monroehistorical.org or call 570-421-7703.



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

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and be sure to suggest it to all of your friends.

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