

# THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 30, No. 3

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

Fall 2020

## MCHA open, operating in age of COVID

**By Amy Leiser**  
*Executive Director*

Welcome, autumn! It is hard to believe another season is upon us as we all continue to navigate these surreal times.

The Stroud Mansion Museum and Library reopened in late June when Monroe County entered the “Green Phase.” All of us at the MCHA are delighted the building has reopened. Residents and visitors can once again tour the museum and conduct research in the library.

Of course, there are some changes as we adhere to the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Tours, library use, and donation drop-off are by appointment only.

And by now, we all know to wash our hands, stay home if feeling ill, socially distance, and wear face masks at all times. Following these guidelines ensures everyone’s safety and allows us to properly clean between visitors and provide data if contact tracing is necessary.

While in-person events such as the “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” wine pairing dinner and auction and the Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion have been canceled, we are confident these popular fundraisers will return in 2021. They may look a bit different than in previous years, but we remain optimistic.

Speaking of remaining positive, I am so proud of the Monroe County Historical Association staff, and you should be too! Curator Bret Fowler, Administrative Assistant Julia Burns, Librarian/Social Media Coordinator Tania Shelton, and Bookkeeper Karen Raub have worked so efficiently and diligently through the closure and subsequent reopening. Their flexibility in tasks, helpfulness toward each other, and willingness to do what it takes to move the organization forward is truly inspiring.

I also sincerely appreciate the members of the Board



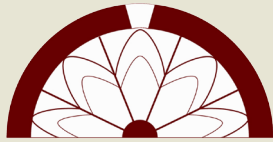
The MCHA staff in front of our banner at the February 2020 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. From left, Curator Bret Fowler, Librarian/Social Media Coordinator Tania Shelton, Administrative Assistant Julia Burns, and Executive Director Amy Leiser. Not pictured: Bookkeeper Karen Raub.

of Directors who continue to provide support and encouragement. Their guidance to see our organization through this challenging time is praiseworthy. Each has remained an active and reliable participant in the organization through meetings, committee work, and outreach.

Half of our weekly volunteers have also returned, and we are looking forward to the time when all can rejoin us at the Stroud Mansion.

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and our new YouTube channel to stay connected to Monroe County’s past and to receive up-to-date information on our events, workshops, programs, and fundraisers. We’ve been posting wonderful photographs and interesting articles daily that we know you will find entertaining.

As always, thank you for your support.



## MCHA Officers

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Bret Fowler

**Research Librarian/  
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Tania Shelton

**Bookkeeper**

Karen Raub

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Kim de Bourbon

## 2020 Meetings

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

*Now meeting via Zoom*

October 27

November 24

*No meeting in December*

The Monroe County Historical  
Association is a cultural and learning  
center that assists our diverse  
community of residents and visitors  
in connecting the county's past  
with the present.



The role of local women in politics is highlighted in the Stroud Mansion's current special exhibit. CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT to come see it — 570-421-7703.

## 100 Years of Monroe County Women in Politics on display at Mansion

The current exhibit at the Stroud Mansion, "From Suffrage to Service, Monroe County Women in Politics," celebrates a 100-year history of local women playing a political role.

From the women's suffrage movement to securing the right to vote and holding elected positions in the county, local women have long been active participants in the political process.

While before 1920 women were unable to vote, this exhibit highlights that in the ensuing 100 years, many prominent females have been elected leaders in our community.

Visitors will see political memorabilia, campaign materials and giveaways, photographs, and other ephemera representing women's importance in local politics.

This exhibition will be up until December 18.

## MCHA's holiday schedule

### Happy Thanksgiving!

CLOSED: Wednesday, November 25 – Monday, November 30, 2020

REOPENING: Tuesday, December 1 at 10 a.m.

### Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

CLOSED: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 through January 11, 2021.

REOPENING: Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.



# A collection for the ages

In April, the Monroe County Historical Association launched a contemporary collection campaign titled, "Collecting in the Time of COVID-19." Knowing the pandemic would be of significant interest to future researchers, the organization worked proactively to document the local response.

The Historical Association continues to collect firsthand accounts and materials to help tell the community's unique experiences during this challenging time. Every Monroe County resident can become a "citizen historian" by contributing stories, photographs, artwork, poetry, and artifacts to the MCHA. People of all ages, experiences, backgrounds, and professions are welcome to participate so the collection represents the diversity of voices within the community.

The goal is to make sure future generations will understand the struggles and triumphs that been experienced here during the pandemic.

Visit [www.monroehistorical.org/covid19.html](http://www.monroehistorical.org/covid19.html) for details about the project and to make a digital submission. Contributions may also be mailed to the Monroe County Historical Association, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

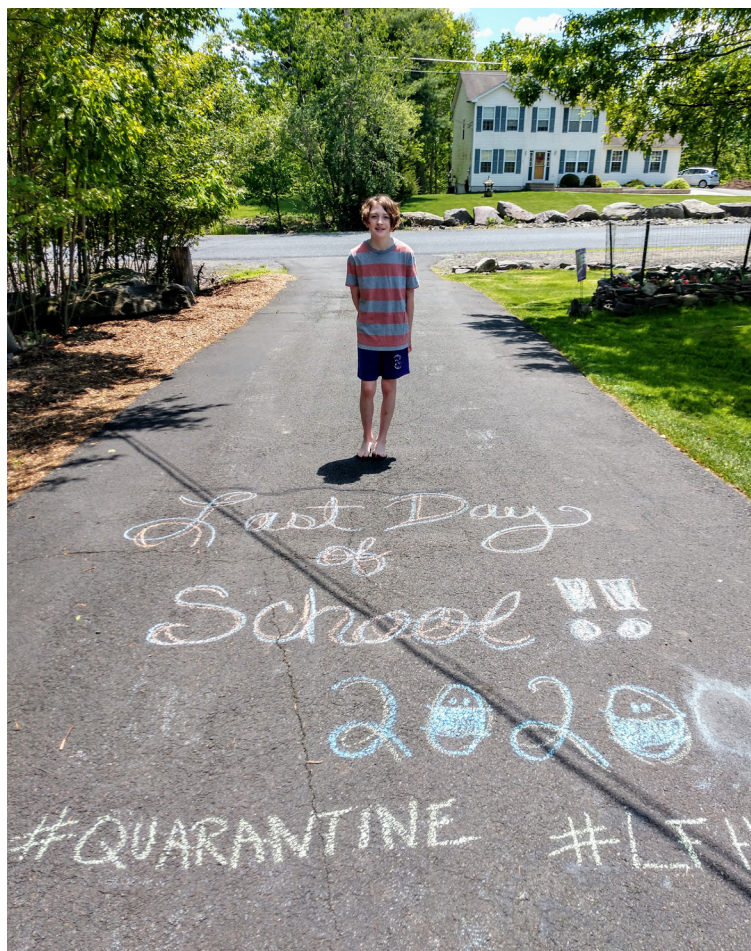
For additional information or questions, please contact Tania Shelton at 570-421-7703 or email her at [librarian@monroehistorical.org](mailto:librarian@monroehistorical.org).



Setting up emergency facilities at East Stroudsburg University.



Kelesihia Phillip with a sign thanking the East Stroudsburg School District and Middle Smithfield Elementary.



Jeremy Elling writes a chalk message marking the "Last Day of School."



# Third Thursday Lectures get virtual audience



Like almost every other seminar, workshop, and public program this year, the MCHA's Third Thursday Lecture Series went "virtual" via the Zoom video conferencing system.

From May through October, all six lectures were presented live online. Those who signed up received a link to join each session as it happened.

Recordings of all the lectures are available on the MCHA's YouTube channel, and you can also find them embedded on our website.

Also on YouTube are our Heritage Agriculture videos, and news stories featuring the Stroud Mansion and local history.

This digital content is available for viewing at any time, and videos are added as they become available. Subscribe today!

**1 May** "The Sinking of the Lusitania" by Rick Smith

**2 June** "The Era of Prohibition" by Dr. Brian Alnutt

**3 July** "Monroe County through the Camera Lens of Wallace Nutting" by John Layton

**4 August** "Epidemics: Lessons from the Past and a Look to the Future" by Dr. Joshua Loomis

**5 September** "A. Mitchell Palmer: Monroe County Politician" by Jeffrey L. Wright

**6 October** "Charles Willson Peale: Renaissance Man" by Julia Burns

## Welcome, New Members

Craig Bluestein  
Linda Bushkofsky  
Jessica Delfino  
John Fabian  
Scott Fabian  
Jim and Carol Hillestad  
John and Sarah Learn  
State Rep. Maureen Madden  
Mary Claire Megargle  
Patrick Millar



## Benefits of Membership

- Pride in preserving local history
- Free admission Stroud Mansion
- 10% discount in Gift Shop
- *The Fanlight*, our newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities
- Genealogy assistance
- Discounts on MCHA events
- Advanced notice of programs, events
- Discount research assistance



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# Spring Appeal 2020

Thank you to the following MCHA members and friends who contributed to the 2020 Spring Appeal. Your generosity has been overwhelming!

This fundraising drive is essential to our organization as it supports programming and the day-to-day operations at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library.

Your continued support enables the Monroe County

Ian & Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly  
Thelma Adelman  
Jeanette C. Arnone  
Michelle Auster  
B.J. Bachman  
Barley Creek Brewing Company  
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Sharon Carey & A. Victor Keen  
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& Jordan, P.C  
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Linda Wallach Miller  
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John & Laura Layton  
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Mr. Michael T. Lee  
John & Nicole LeFante  
John & Amy Leiser  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Leonard Jr.  
Kenneth LeSure  
Mrs. Suzanne Lloyd

Historical Association to serve as the area's cultural and learning center, assisting our diverse community of residents and visitors by connecting the county's past with the present.

Thank you to these individuals for taking an active role to ensure Monroe County's history is not lost. Donations are accepted at any time and are sincerely appreciated.

Henry & Connie McCool  
Mrs. Suzanne McCool  
Tom & Ida McIntyre  
Sylvia Miller  
Anthony Molina  
Ms. Brenda Moore  
Robert M. Moses  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mullen  
Clarence & Betty Murphy  
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The Honorable Jennifer  
& Mr. Wayne Sibum  
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& Dr. Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens  
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Sue & Bill Weitzmann  
James Werkheiser  
Craig & Carrie Wetherbee  
Martin & Susan Wilson  
John & Nina Woodling  
Ms. Theresa Yocum  
Margaret Yoniack  
Marie & Alan Young

## *Penn State student our summer intern*

Meredith Constable graduated from Stroudsburg High School in 2018 and has lived in Monroe County her whole life.

She now splits her time between Monroe County and Centre County as a junior at Penn State University's Main Campus in State College.

Meredith is a double major in history and English. At Penn State, she is in the Schreyer Honors College and is involved with the Penn State School of Music.

After graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in library science and hopes to one day work in a library or museum setting. In her free time, Meredith enjoys reading, horseback riding, hiking, and painting.

While at the Stroud Mansion, Meredith created an exhibit celebrating the Borough of East Stroudsburg's 150th Anniversary. This exhibit is on display and will be available for viewing through next year.



Meredith Constable



# Sponsors of the MCHA

## Past Premier Sponsors

2019 | Buck Hill Falls  
2018 | Bushkill Falls  
2017 | Camelback Resort

## History Maker | \$2,500

BioSpectra, Inc.  
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Middle Smithfield Township  
Stroud Township

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East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Northampton Community College  
Pocono Mountain School District

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Bentzoni Machine, LLC  
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## Grants

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act  
COVID-19 Monroe County Relief Block Grant Program  
ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation  
Monroe County Commissioners  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Pennsylvania Humanities Council  
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation  
Stroudsburgs Rotary Foundation





## Learning a lot about the U.S. Census

Hello, *Fanlight* readers! Have you missed me? I have missed you. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

The year 2020 has been quite a year, right? I bet you all have stories to tell. I do, too, and I would like to share my story of being in the Mansion and learning a lot.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced stores, schools, cinemas, and workplaces to close, the Mansion closed too. The staff returned over the summer wearing masks and gloves. Sometimes I couldn't tell who was who! They carefully cleaned everything and then turned to work on the usual piles of things waiting to be done.

I must confess, I didn't help. I was lonely, sleeping during the day and jumping on the computer keys when it was dark. One night my tiny toes landed on an article with an interesting question:

*"Can I refuse to participate in the Census?"*

The answer printed was NO.

This made me very afraid because I had never even heard the word "census." Then I remembered what a special friend often reminds me: that "It's OK not to know; but it's not OK not to find out." So, I started researching the U.S. Census.

Surprisingly, the census is defined in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution, calling for an "enumeration to be made of the populace within every subsequent term of 10 years." The new Americans would be electing their peers to serve in the House of Representatives, with the number of representatives to be determined by the number of residents in each state, not exceeding one legislator for every 30,000 people.



The ancient Babylonians, Chinese, Egyptians, and Romans all conducted censuses, as did William the Conqueror who, in 1086, inscribed information about England's landowners into the so-called Domesday Book. Censuses are even mentioned in the Bible.

Why was a census included in the U.S. Constitution? I remembered that the colonists had been ruled by a king who made all the laws for the people. The founding fathers wanted citizens to be involved in governing their new country — "for the good of the people."

They didn't want another king. They wanted a democracy! The United States was one of the first modern countries to mandate a census every 10 years, using the population numbers to apportion political power. When its population grows, the state can elect more representatives, and political districts at all levels are drawn based on population data.

But *how is the counting done?*

The first U.S. Census was conducted in 1790. That was five years before the Stroud Mansion was finished. From 1790–1870, censuses were conducted by federal marshals appointed by the president. The marshals and their deputies would go to every house to

count and ask questions about the people residing there — just men, at the time! They then compiled the information to send back to Washington, D.C.

In 1880, specially-hired and trained enumerators took over visiting every household to conduct the census. Congress added questions after our fourth president, James Madison, suggested that census takers could help lawmakers better understand the nation's people, their activities, and needs.

Since then, the U.S. Census Bureau has been hiring census takers who reflect the diversity of their regions, intended to collect data on every person living in the United States and its territories. Women and children are now counted as well, of course. Are animals counted too, I wonder?

The first census cost \$44,000 to conduct. The 2010 census cost about \$12.9 billion, and much of the expense comes from residents who don't fill out their census questionnaires.

Robert Groves, the Census Bureau's 2010 director stated: "It costs us just 55 cents in a postage-paid envelope when households mail back their forms [and] about \$25 per person if we (the 2020 Census takers) have to go out and knock on the doors."

To help keep expenditures stable for the 2020 count, the census consisted of only nine questions to answer this time, and the bureau allowed residents to respond via the Internet!

I hope you filled out your survey and sent it in by mail or online. By presidential decree, field data collection ended October 15.

*Be well and be safe!*

MM



**MONROE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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**STROUD MANSION**

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

**Stroud Mansion is OPEN to the public  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
Call 570-421-7703**

**Has your address changed?**

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.

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or call 570-421-7703.

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*The Fanlight* is a quarterly publication of the Monroe County Historical Association and is distributed in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall of each year.

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