

# THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 31, No. 1

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

Winter 2021

10th Annual Mid Winter Dinner  
At Hotel Fenner - East Stroudsburg  
Jan. 15, 1923

Prayer, Rev. J. S. Kistler,  
Pastor.

Business meeting.

Minutes - App. of Tom. Carr.

Election of new members and officers

Violin solo - Angie LeBar.

The Brodhead family - Mrs. H. A. Croasdale

Sketch of the Smiths - Ruth Long.

Solo - Rodney Brodhead.

Presentation of History of Keller family

Reminiscences of Early Days Mrs. Laura Keller

Solo - Miss Alice Kistler

Presentation of relics -  
Mr. Robt. Keller.

Singing - America.

New. Com.

Mr. Edward Flagler.

Mrs. Evans.

Mr. Moray.

The agenda for the Monroe County Historical Society's first dinner meeting, held at the Hotel Fenner in East Stroudsburg on Jan. 15, 1923.

## Celebrating our Centennial

**By Amy Leiser**  
Executive Director

Happy 100th birthday, Monroe County Historical Association!

When members of the Stroudsburg Civic Club purchased the Stroud Mansion for \$20,430.50 in 1920, they intended to provide community space for various local organizations. Rooms in the historic Georgian structure served as headquarters and meeting place for many groups, including the Civic Club, the Monroe County Public Library, the Women's Club, the Junior Women's Club, the Red Cross, the Girl Scouts, the Jacob Stroud



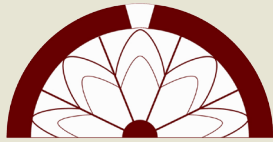
Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Monroe County Historical Society.

The Monroe County Historical Society was formed on April 8, 1921 when a group of 40 "deeply interested and enthusiastic" citizens met at the Monroe County Courthouse. The meeting was presided over by Robert B. Keller, who offered an "aspiring address" to the citizens.

Three speakers provided remarks to support forming a historical society.

Professor Joseph Hart, president of the Northampton

Story continues, Page 2



### MCHA Officers

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**Treasurer** | Patricia J. Saylor

**Secretary**

Margot Waddington Vagliardo

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**Social Media Coordinator**

Tania Shelton

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**Newsletter Editor/Webmaster**

Kim de Bourbon

### 2021 Meetings

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

#### Now meeting via Zoom

January 26

February – Annual Meeting

March 23

April 27

May 25

June 22

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 23

No meetings in July or 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.

# 100th Anniversary

## Centennial

Continued from Page 1

County Historical Society and former professor at Lafayette College in Easton; Mrs. Stocker, president of the Woman's Club of Bethlehem; and C.B. Eilenberger, treasurer of the Stroudsburg Trust Company, all spoke.

William A. Gilbert was named head of the organization, with Dr. Mary Erdman serving as his first vice president. Other officers elected that day were: Dr. Elwood L. Kemp, second vice president; Eleanor Croasdale, third vice president; Harry Schoch, fourth vice president; John A. Seguire, fifth vice president; Robert Brown, Jr., recording secretary; Mary Flagler, corresponding secretary, and Milton S. Kistler, treasurer.

An article in *The Morning Press* on July 14, 1920, stated that the Historical Society "will be given one room [in the Stroud Mansion] in which may be preserved records, and relics of the early days."

The Historical Society was given two rooms in the basement of the three-story Stroud Mansion to establish the museum and archives. When the Monroe County Public Library received the gift of the Keiper building and moved across Main Street, the Historical Society acquired the first-floor rooms the library had occupied.

The organization was officially incorporated on September 5, 1928.

As the community organizations that occupied space in the Stroud Mansion grew, they moved to other locations throughout the county. As the organizations moved out, the Historical Society expanded to those spaces.

### Annual Meeting online for 2021

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon will not be held at Shawnee Inn.

Instead, the MCHA Board of Directors is working to create a virtual event to celebrate the organization's 100th Anniversary.

Stay tuned for details and an invitation to join us as we kick off our centennial year!

Space was desperately needed as the Historical Society grew. Citizens from all over Monroe County donated thousands of locally-significant artwork and artifacts to the museum. The archives also grew. Residents added their family histories, census records, church histories, books, maps, journals, ledgers, and other primary sources to the Historical Society's library.

On March 8, 1990, the Monroe County Historical Society merged with the Monroe County Museum Association forming the present-day Monroe County Historical Association.

On May 16, 1994, the Women's Club of the Stroudsburgs transferred total ownership of the Stroud Mansion to Monroe County Historical Association.

For the past 100 years, the Monroe County Historical Association has served as the official county historical organization for Monroe County and has strived to preserve every aspect of Monroe County's rich history.

Here's to another 100 years!





# Keeping up with COVID-19: Stroud Mansion closed for now

In light of rising COVID-19 cases in our area, we have paused our library and museum operations until further notice. The safety of our guests, staff, volunteers, and community is our highest priority.

The Stroud Mansion may be closed, but we are always open online at [monroehistorical.org](http://monroehistorical.org), where you can:

- Explore historical photographs, local history articles, exhibitions, and more.
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel for stories from the collection, artist videos, and engaging lectures.

■ Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to discover something new and maybe rediscover an old favorite.

And now more than ever, the support of our community truly makes a difference. Please consider a gift to the Monroe County Historical Association to help inspire an appreciation to preserve local history now and for future generations.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep our community safe and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library in the future.

## Thanks for your patience

All MCHA packages and letters are mailed promptly, but some have not reached their destination yet because of the postal service delays.

We are also just now receiving letters and donations dated November 2020.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to track mailed items and process gifts and requests as we receive them.

## Eagle Scout project benefits Driebe Freight Station

The Driebe Freight Station is getting an exterior renovation, thanks to a local Boy Scout. The station on Ann Street is owned by the Monroe County Historical Association and is rented by the Zion United Church of Christ for their Miracles Happen Thrift Shop.

In the fall, Brian Rogers began working at the station as part of his requirements to earn his Eagle Scout ranking. Brian's project includes scraping off the loose old paint on the ramps, steps, lattice, and landing, sanding any rough areas, and replacing boards if necessary. A new coat of anti-skid paint will be applied to ensure the safety of guests.

Brian also will weed the gardens and thin out the overgrown plants and groundcover before placing mulch in the beds.

Brian and his father worked to overcome an obstacle and devised a clever plan when the exterior spigot was not functioning.

Brian writes: *From all of the scraping and sanding of the porch area we needed to power wash the area to make sure it was clean and free of debris for painting and priming.*

*We, however, ran into a snag when the outside faucet didn't function. That didn't hold us back. I came up with a solution like none other. I filled a 55-gallon barrel with water and stuck a garden hose into the top. That hose was then connected to a little electric water pump that pumped*



Boy Scout Brian Rogers power washes the steps at the Driebe Freight Station on Ann Street as part of his Eagle Scout project.

*the water to the pressure washer through more garden hose. We ran the power washer off a generator so we would have power. The idea worked better than we could ever expect. With this plan in operation, we washed off the porch area and let it dry for multiple days to ensure it was dry.*

We appreciate Brian's work and creative thinking and look forward to attending his Eagle Scout ceremony in the future.







## *Crumbling mansion chimney had to go*



The 225-year-old stone chimney atop the Stroud Mansion had to be painstakingly removed after water leaks damaged it beyond repair. John Anderson of Anderson Masonry made the determination, and he and his crew worked to remove the stones and stabilize the roof.





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# \$30,000 project strains budget

After two centuries of weathering rain, snow, ice, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural events, the Stroud Mansion's roof now looks very different. The massive stone chimney that supported seven flues had to be removed after it was found to be dangerously unstable.

During the spring COVID-19 lockdown, a large piece of stucco fell from the Mansion's west side, and the Facilities Committee found that water was infiltrating the wall near the chimney. The insurance company determined the damage was due to the "old age of the chimney," and was not eligible for insurance coverage.

The MCHA Board of Directors took action and hired Anderson Masonry to repair the chimney. After a week of work, John Anderson reported that the 225-year-old chimney could not be repaired and had to be removed. After consulting with other professionals, it was determined that the best course of action was to remove the chimney to the roofline, install a temporary roof, and reevaluate the structure in the spring.

This unexpected disaster cost the MCHA \$30,000, as each stone had to be carefully removed by hand.

Although the chimney was non-functioning, the Board plans to use the original stones and return the Stroud Mansion silhouette to its former glory.

*Donations are graciously accepted to help to defray the costs of this project.*



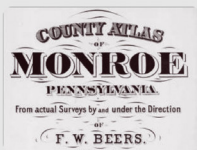
**Above:** The first sign of trouble was when a large section of stucco fell from the Mansion's west side, and water was found to be infiltrating the area near the chimney.

**Left:** A look down the chimney from above shows flues from the seven original fireplaces in the mansion.





LOCAL HISTORY



LOCAL HISTORICAL MAPS



ARTWORK & PRINTS



KEEPSAKES



HISTORIC DOCUMENT  
REPLICAS



ARTS & CRAFTS BOOKS

## Gift Shop online

We are pleased to announce that our gift shop is now open through our website! This is a great place to find unique historical gifts and books, and every purchase benefits the Monroe County Historical Association's mission.

The MCHA Gift Shop at the Stroud Mansion offers local history books and vintage maps, artwork, keepsakes, and historically-themed craft books, stickers, and coloring books for children. Additional items will be added in the coming months, so be sure to check back often.

## Fall Appeal 2020

The Board of Directors and staff are overwhelmed by the generosity of the following individuals who donated to this year's Fall Appeal.

The combined impacts of COVID-19 and the unexpected Stroud Mansion chimney expenses have been incredibly

financially difficult for the Monroe County Historical Association.

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

John H. and Beverly Abel  
Ian & Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly  
Thelma Adelmann  
AMD Leasing  
Anonymous  
Jeanette C. Arnone  
Michele Auster  
John and Roberta Bach  
B.J. Bachman  
Bentzoni Machine, LLC  
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## Past Premier Sponsors

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## History Maker | \$2,500

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ESSA Bank and Trust

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Monroe County Bar Foundation  
Saylorsburg Lumber Company  
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## Library Supporter | \$500

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East Stroudsburg Borough

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Stroud Township

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Northampton Community College

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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



**MONROE COUNTY  
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**STROUD MANSION**

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

**Stroud Mansion is CLOSED to the public  
during COVID-19 restrictions.  
Information: 570-421-7703**

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