



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 21, No. 6

Monroe County Historical Association

January - February 2011

Happy 175th Birthday, Monroe County! Amy Leiser, Executive Director

On April 1, 1836, after nine long years of debate and discussion, Monroe County was formed from pieces of land cut from Northampton County and southern Pike County. Although settled by some of the earliest-arriving European colonists, Monroe County was not one of the earliest-formed counties in Pennsylvania. It was the 53rd recognized county out of 67 statewide. Years before its official recognition as a separate entity, residents living in this developing area petitioned the legislature to create the new county.

Joseph Ritner, the Governor of Pennsylvania from 1835 to 1839, with an Act by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, acknowledged that the area known as "north of the Blue Mountains of Northampton County" had been settled for long enough and that its population had grown enough to be considered an independent county. Ritner and, more importantly, the residents of this area, felt that the region was too far away from either Easton or Milford for those county seats to care about the local populous. So, the early townships of Chestnuthill, Hamilton, Pocono, Ross, Smithfield, Stroud, and Tobyhanna of Northampton County along with townships Coolbaugh, Middle Smithfield, and Price of Pike County were made into a single county.

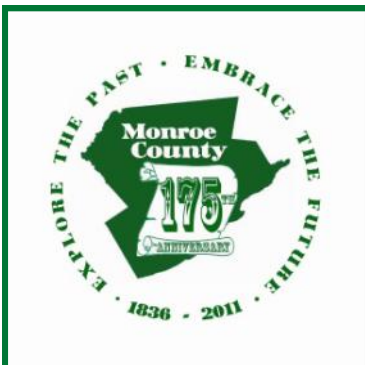
This new county needed a name. Between 1830 and 1836, many names for the new county were suggested. The first name to be proposed was "Fulton" County. Robert Fulton, a Pennsylvania native, was an engineer and the inventor of the submarine, and he is credited with developing the steamboat into a commercial success. In January 1831, dozens of petitions supporting Fulton County were taken to Harrisburg to the House of Representatives. The House

created the The House created the Fulton County bill and sent the bill to the Senate, where it failed. In 1835, the Fulton County bill was again resurrected, but it failed to receive the necessary number of votes. Other petitions for names for the new county included "Evergreen" County, for the many conifer trees and "Jackson" County after President Andrew Jackson. Neither of these names, however, received enough support for adoption.

It is unclear how exactly the name "Monroe" was suggested for the new county, but it is clear that it is named for President James Monroe. James Monroe was the fifth president of the United States. He served as a popular two-term president in 1816 and again in 1820. Having years of public service, Monroe served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, was the governor of Virginia, a United States senator and the minister to Spain, France, and Great Britain. President Monroe died July 4, 1831. Public support for the popular late president created enough votes to secure the new county's name as Monroe. In March 1836, the Monroe County bill was introduced and was passed easily in Harrisburg.



James Monroe never traveled to the area north of the Blue Mountains, but his dedicated service to the country earned him a place in Pocono Mountain history.



The year 2011 marks the 175th anniversary of the creation of Monroe County. Led by Monroe County Commissioner, Suzanne McCool, members of the 175th Committee have been working to ensure that both residents and visitors will have numerous opportunities to learn about our rich history. An active calendar of events is already in the works and features county-wide celebrations, lectures, events, and more.

The kick-off of the year-long celebration will be on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, following the Monroe County Commissioners' meeting. Join us in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room 203 for cake and music from the Chorus of the Poconos. Watch for upcoming articles and notices regarding Monroe County's 175th celebrations in future editions of *The Fanlight*.

MCHA Sponsors

Many thanks to our Sponsors.
Please let them know you
appreciate their support of the
Monroe County
Historical Association.

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Bailey's Steakhouse
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The Frogtown Inn & 6 Acres Restaurant
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Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

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Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs

*The Monroe County Historical
Association receives generous
support from the*

***Pennsylvania Historical &
Museum Commission***

and the

***Monroe County
Commissioners.***

Thank you!

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Historical Coalition of Monroe County Meeting

9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Mansion

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Sweetheart Serenade Concert

at the Stroud Mansion

Pocono Vocal Arts Society

7:30 p.m. at the Stroud Mansion

The Pocono Vocal Arts Society Ensemble Singers
under the artistic direction of Melissa Knierim will present operatic arias,
from Bizet's Carmen, arias of Paisello and Marcello,
and a medley from Jerome Kern's and Oscar Hammerstein II "Showboat."
The performance will feature Pianist Ruth Kochera and guest violinist Adam Barth.

Admission: \$10.00 per person

\$7.00 seniors and students

benefits the PVAS and MCHA

For additional information, please call (570) 476-4126.

Sunday, February 27, 2011

MCHA Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort

Sixth Annual Awards Presentation – Silent Auction – 50/50 Drawing

Program: Wayfarers and Company

performing and telling the history of songs from the American Civil War using guitars,
hammered and lap dulcimers, fiddle, flute, mandolin, harp, and banjo.

noon – 4:00 p.m.

Reservations with payment will be accepted until Friday, February 18, 2011

(Snow Date: Sunday, March 6, 2011)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

19th Annual Victorian Tea and Luncheon

Skytop Lodge

Program: "Unlacing the Victorian Woman"

presented by Barbara M. Darlin

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost for each ticket: \$28.00 MCHA Members/\$30.00 for Non-members

Cost for table of eight - \$224 MCHA members/\$240 for Non-members

(table must be paid in full at time of reservation)



Raffle Winners

Congratulations to this year's raffle winners. The MCHA raffle is held annually, and the winners were drawn on December 17, 2010 during the Silent Auction Wreath Raffle and Concert held at the Smithfield Township Municipal Building. Over \$3,300 was raised!

1st Place -- 1 pair of 14K white gold earrings with blue chalcedony stones and diamonds created and donated by local jeweler, Daniel Varipapa of Findings Jewelry.

Winner: Lori Cerato, Stroudsburg.

2nd Place -- framed print of the Stroud Mansion by local artist, Dee Huxster.

Winner: Dee Kappenhagen, Stroudsburg.

3rd Place – Liztech Fanlight pin.

Winner: Eugene Whitesell, Branchville

Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser!



**Welcome
New Members!**
as of November 1, 2010



John H. Abel

Ila Jean Clark

Carol Counterman

Andrew McFarlane

Mark Gibson

Joel E. Hahn

Peter & Dorothy Leeds & Family

Donald A. Stevens

Lilah Swink

New addition to MCHA library

The MCHA is very pleased to announce that a transcription of the Laurelwood Cemetery is now available in the MCHA library. Volunteers are working to index the book by surname to make searching for that elusive ancestor a bit easier. A very special thank you is extended to dedicated MCHA member Janet Niceforo, who has worked for several years to compile this important local resource for genealogists.



Can you help?

We are trying to uncover additional information about an “eight square school-house” that apparently existed in Hamilton Township. A reference regarding this building can be found in Cecil P.E. Pottinger’s book, *Jacob Albright, Beyond the Blue Mountain* on page 67. The reference is under the heading “School Houses As Preaching Places” and reads:

Many school houses were used by the Evangelical preachers, according to Dr. William S. Lesb. Such places as Shafers School House was used, as well as the Kellersville school, mentioned above. The Eight-Square School House, so called because of its shape, was likewise used, after 1826.

Can you help? If you have any information about this unique structure, please contact the MCHA office at (570) 421-7703 or mcha@ptd.net.

Benefits of Membership

Pride in preserving the history of
Monroe County

Free Admission
to all MCHA sites

10% discount in our Gift Shop

The Fanlight, our newsletter,
issued 6 times a year

Volunteer Opportunities

Genealogy Assistance

Discounts on MCHA events

Advanced notice of all MCHA
programs, events, workshops

Discount Research Assistance

DISCOVER
NETWORK

Discover Card now accepted at MCHA

In addition to accepting VISA and MasterCard, the Monroe County Historical Association is now able to accept your Discover Card. Use your credit card to renew your membership, purchase tickets for fundraising events or to make a donation to our organization.



Membership Form

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER
Please check appropriate category.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65 and over) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple (65 and over) | \$20.00 |

Annual Contributions (Includes Annual Membership Dues)

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation/Municipal | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$500.00 |

LIFE

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life Membership | \$1,000.00 |
| Spouse joining (Life) at the same time | \$500.00 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

- Please call me about volunteer opportunities.

Please detach and mail to:
Monroe County Historical Association
900 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Referred by: _____

Thank you for your support.

Founding Families of Monroe County exhibit

In honor of the county's 175th birthday, the Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to announce the opening of the newest exhibit at the Stroud Mansion. The display, entitled, *Founding Families of Monroe County*, will feature artifacts from the first half of the 19th century including Quaker bonnets, a hand-stitched silk cape worn by Mrs. Rebecca Mifflin Brodhead (second wife of Colonel Daniel Brodhead), Daniel Stroud's pocket watch, and other items.



Because of the age of the pieces and the fragile condition of the textiles, this exhibit will be open only for four months. The *Founding Families of Monroe County* exhibit will open February 1 and will run through May 27, 2011. Be sure to stop by the Stroud Mansion to see these rare pieces dating to the time of the founding of our county. Photo: Daniel Stroud's pocket watch. Photo courtesy of David Coulter.

Coalition Corner

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association

Ice cutting on Mill Pond #1, 646 Lakeside Drive, Tobyhanna, PA on Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Coolbaugh Township Historical Museum will be open for tours. Guests will be given complementary hot chocolate. There is no admission fee for the harvest, and there is ample free parking.

Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township

The members of the Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township are pleased to announce a new exhibit titled, "Toys of History," that will transport you back to your childhood. Toys ranging from an 1880 rag doll and an original GI Joe to a tin barn set and a Flexible Flyer sled are all on display. This fun exhibit is on display in the main room of the Clymer Library on Firehouse Road in Pocono Pines. For additional information, please call Laura Laspee at (570) 646-0826.

Local history conference call for papers

The East Stroudsburg University History Department and the Monroe County Historical Association are co-sponsoring a local history conference on April 22, 2011, to help commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Monroe County. We invite speakers to present a talk on any topic that explores the history of Monroe County for the all-day conference. Please send a one-page proposal of the talk along with a short biographical sketch of the author to Dr. Martin W. Wilson, History Department, East Stroudsburg University, 200 Prospect St., East Stroudsburg, PA, 18301. For additional information, please contact Dr. Wilson at mwilson@po-box.esu.edu or call (570) 422-3991.

Proposals are due by March 1, 2011.



Christmas at the Mansion

Again this year, the holiday decorating at the Stroud Mansion began in November. The MCHA staff and volunteers must begin to “deck the halls” before Thanksgiving to ensure that the building will be ready for the Christmas season.



The 1795 Stroud Mansion was adorned with nine trees, sixteen wreaths, and fresh evergreen arrangements on every windowsill and on every mantel. This year, MCHA member (and retired florist) Ed Gerhard created amazing decorations using fresh greens. Gardeners Kathy Boyle, Denise DeVivo, and Gail Flory assisted Ed as he worked hours to create the beautiful arrangements. Thank you to these talented green-thumbed members who donated their time and talents to our organization.

The *Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion* fundraiser, held December 9 and 10, 2010, continues to be an enjoyable afternoon and the word is spreading about this exclusive event. Over 65 people attended each day. New faces attend each year and, because seating is limited, the tickets for the luncheon go quickly.

New this year, the adult culinary students from the Monroe Career and Technical Institute catered the luncheon. The students planned the menu, created the delicious meal, and even served our guests. The menu featured a mixed green salad with herb vinaigrette, sliced pork roast with apple jack gravy, apricot cornbread stuffing, smashed red potatoes, fresh green beans, assorted breads and rolls, and a selection of homemade desserts.



Another new addition to the menu was a complementary glass of wine, donated by MCHA Board Member, John K. Meixell. Needless to say, the food and the wine received rave reviews! Soft holiday music for the luncheon filled the room, and the overall spirit of our guests and volunteers was very merry. Thank you to the volunteers who worked so hard to ensure this event was enjoyed by our many guests.

Each year the volunteers come up with ideas to make the *Holiday Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion* even better. For the December 2011 event, we will hold two seatings each day. The Early Lunch will seat guests from 11:00 until 12:30, and the Late Lunch Seating will welcome guests from 1:00 until 2:30 each day. This schedule will allow us to offer additional seating and accommodate a greater number of people.

There was a change to the Annual Christmas Concert this year. The MCHA partnered with Smithfield Township to hold a Silent Auction Wreath Raffle and Holiday Concert on Friday, December 17, 2010. Over 50 wreaths (traditional and unique) adorned the Smithfield Township Municipal Building and were raffled to the highest bidder. Members from the Pocono Dulcimer Club played holiday music while guests enjoyed cookies and hot apple cider. This new event raised over \$500.00 for MCHA.



So many individuals come together during the holiday season to share the spirit of the season with hundreds of people. Thank you to everyone who helped make this holiday season for MCHA enjoyable.



MCHA Officers

President - David B. Thomas
Vice-President - Martin Wilson
Secretary - Eugenia S. Eden
Treasurer - Patricia Saylor

Board of Directors

Ruth Sibley Bensinger
Charles Eyer
Charles Garris
Joan B. Groff
John Meixell
George Warden
James Werkheiser

Executive Director - Amy Leiser
Newsletter Editor - Kathleen Boyle
Museum Assistant - Halle Smith
Bookkeeper - Margie Manner

2011 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Stroud Mansion.

January 25
February 27
March 22
April 26
May 24
June 28
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 29

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





Keeping Warm

Brr! It's cold! I am so fortunate to be able to adapt to a new environment. I am going to retreat to my nook in the basement kitchen and curl up under that strange looking thing called a radiator. Of course it was certainly cozier to take an afternoon nap in the corner of the fireplace, but times change. In Colonial homes, the fireplace was a center of activity from the modest one-room cabin to the grand Stroud Mansion. I certainly miss the crackle of burning wood and especially the scent of freshly baked bread.

In the Stroud Mansion, fireplaces in every room provided the heat for the comfort of the Strouds and their servants throughout the winter months. It is hard to believe that most of Pennsylvania was once heavily forested. Farmers had to work arduously to clear the land before they could till the soil to plant their crops. Much of the cleared wood found its way into home fireplaces. Wood was the major source of fuel until 1885 when coal surpassed it as heating fuel.

My mouse relatives in Philadelphia were always ready to expound on the genius of Benjamin Franklin when it came to home heating. Of course, cousin Amos takes most of the credit for Mr. Franklin's ideas, but then the family knew that Amos had a big ego.

Always aware of the dangers of an open fire, Franklin invented in 1742 the Pennsylvania Fireplace more familiarly known today as the Franklin stove. This stove was shaped like a fireplace and made of cast-iron. The metal baffles in the stove increased its heating efficiency dramatically.

Franklin's 1744 pamphlet, "An Account of the New-invented Pennsylvania Fireplace" was penned to increase demand for the new invention. Franklin shared the plans for his stove with his friend, Robert Grace. Grace had an iron-furnace and profited from casting the plates for the Franklin stove.

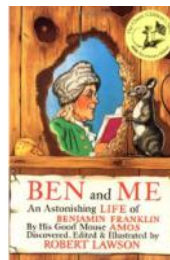
Franklin, interestingly, never patented any of his inventions. In his autobiography he wrote, "As we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any inventions of ours; and this we should do freely and generously."



As with most good ideas, the stove improved over time. The ten-plate three-leg stove (as seen in the Stroud Mansion kitchen) is a fine example of fine sand casting. The decorative plates (leaf and grain design) made a practical object an attractive addition to the home. The ten-plate stove has two compartments; wood went into the lower compartment and the upper compartment was an oven. The original owners of the Mansion stove were Samuel Rees (1816-1891) and Christianna Wallace Rees (1821-1910). Rees was a Register and Recorder of Monroe County, Justice of the Peace, and Tax Collector.

The combination of marketing and improved transportation increased the demand for cast-iron stoves. The advent of the railroad allowed stove manufacturers to ship their stoves great distances. Their market expanded, and by 1900, few homes used the fireplace for heating and cooking. It had been replaced by the stove.

Well, this radiator thing does make a cozy place to nap! I can always dream of Ben and his stove.



Ben and Me: an Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by Robert Lawson will delight children and engage them in our history.

For teachers - Lesson Plans for *Ben*

and *Me* are on the web at

www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/ben/bentg.html

Wish List

The Stroud Mansion is in desperate need of four new area rugs. The current rugs in the library are the worst and are extremely worn, stained, and the binding has begun to fray. For both safety and aesthetic reasons, the carpets need to be replaced. We are gladly accepting donations to help defray the cost of the four new area rugs which total \$1,800.00. So far, two MCHA members have contributed to the new rugs. Any donation, whether large or small, would be greatly appreciated.

Free Stuff

Volunteers have been cleaning out a few closets at the Stroud Mansion. We are offering free lumber (some is painted) and a large mirror to anyone who wants it. The mirror is in excellent condition and measures 40 x 58 inches.

Please call the office at 570-421-7703 if interested.



Volunteers in 2010

The following volunteers deserve a round of applause for their dedication and support of the Monroe County Historical Association. This group of generous people donated over 3,632 hours to our organization! From offering tours, baking desserts, assisting researchers, completing light office tasks, working in the gardens and so many other jobs, these individuals helped us to share our history with members, friends and visitors through our many projects, events and fundraisers. Thank you!

Maureen Ace
Elaine Akroyd-Kelly
Kenn Anderson
Charles & Susan Armitage
B.J. Bachman
Dorothy Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Barrett
Genevieve Battisto
Eleanor Bender
Ruth & Alex Bensinger
Donna Bisset
Barbara Braithwaite
Camille Breslauer
Judith Brown
Rebecca & Jason Bucci
John & Carole Burrus
Rachel Frick Cardelle
The Cardelle Family
Nora Cilurso
Leah Connelly
Carlos Cordero
Diane Crow
Carole DeMarco
Mildred Detrick
Carol Detrick
Kim DeBourbon
Salvatore DeLuca III
Denise DeVivo
Eugenia S. Eden
Jessie Eisel
Charles & Linda Eyer
Dorothy Fabel
Patricia Fabel
Suzanne Fabel
Ed and Gail Flory
Bret Fowler
John Frailey
Charles Garris
Ed and Beryl Gerhard
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Russell Gladd
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Bill & Mary Grumbine

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Hartzell's Auction Gallery
John Hartzell
Raymond Hartzell
Rob Howell
Judi Jabara
Gene & Ginny Kerrick
Charles and Virginia Kirkwood
Beverly Kleinle
Vertie Knapp
Sue Kopczynski
Frank & Susan Kovarick
John Leiser
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Bill Leonard, Jr.
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Jennifer Selby
Nancy Seger
Laura Seifert
Michael Seifert
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Mary Warden
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Todd & Shirley Weber
Robert & Doris Wehe
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Jim Werkheiser
Rose Ann Whitesell
Lynda Williams
Phyllis Williams
Megan Williamson
Martin & Susan Wilson
Jeffrey Wright and Barbara Keiser
Shirley Young



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

E-mail address - mcha@ptd.net
Fax (570) 421-9199
Web site - www.monroehistorical.org

Stroud Mansion

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg (570) 421-7703
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Tuesday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Driebe Freight Station Art Gallery

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg
Open for special events throughout the year.

The Bell School

Cherry Valley Road, Stormsville - Hamilton Township
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sundays, July and August
Closed Sunday, July 4, 2010
Other times by special appointment.

Wouldn't you like to see this newsletter in color? Send us an e-mail at mcha@ptd.net with "Fanlight" in the subject and we'll add your name to the private distribution list.
Thank you for helping us to "go green!"



The Monroe County Historical Association has a "fan" page on facebook, and we would love to have your support. Keep up-to-date on all of the latest historical happenings, events, fundraisers, and activities throughout Monroe County.

Visit the MCHA Web site at <http://monroehistorical.org> and click on the facebook logo on the right. Become a fan of the Monroe County Historical Association through your facebook account today and be sure to suggest it to all of your friends. See you on the web!

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