

More than just a fresh coat of paint



The children's toy room on the third floor of Stroud Mansion has been renovated and currently features a LEGO display.

Stroud Mansion's third floor reopens

By Bret Fowler | *Collections Specialist*

MCHA is happy to announce the reopening of the third floor's exhibition spaces.

As many know, the third floor was closed for two years while we reevaluated, reorganized, and rehoused what had been very cramped and crowded storage spaces. Through deaccessioning, demolition, and a generous grant from the Costume Society of America to purchase new textile storage shelving, we have addressed the majority of our storage needs, and now have functional storage with adequate and accessible shelving and work space for collections maintenance.

We also decided to take advantage of this down time to revitalize and refresh our dated exhibition spaces. Through



A meticulous Pennsylvania Dutch housekeeper's bedchamber, circa 1800, is now on display on the Mansion's third floor.

the efforts of staff, board members, volunteers, and interns, rooms have been repurposed. Disused cabinetry has been demolished and removed, worn carpeting removed and floors scrubbed or painted, while plaster walls and ceilings were patched and painted, the attic cleaned and reorganized, and furniture and display cases relocated, all to provide a more vibrant and enjoyable tour experience.

Story continues, Page 4

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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Contributor | \$500 or more

PPL Electric Utilities - \$1,000
Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs

*The Monroe County Historical
Association receives generous
support from the Cherry Lane
Foundation and
the Monroe County
Commissioners.*

Thank you!

MCHA Calendar of Events

Saturday, August 4

Monroe County Historic Coalition Meeting – 9 a.m., Stroud Mansion

Wednesday, August 29, Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31

Hungry for History? – Ruby Tuesday, 1055 N. 9th St., Stroudsburg

Eat at Ruby Tuesday in Stroudsburg on any of these three days and the restaurant's Community GiveBack program will donate 20 percent of your check to the Monroe County Historical Association. **MUST PRESENT FLYER TO SERVER;** flyer enclosed with this newsletter or may be downloaded online from www.monroehistorical.org

Saturday, September 1

StroudFest in downtown Stroudsburg – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free tours of Stroud Mansion, Olde Time Fun children's activities in the yard.
Part of the borough's downtown fall festival.

Coalition Corner

Barrett Township Historical Society | www.barretthistory.org

Cresco Station Museum, Rts. 191/390 and Sand Spring Road, Cresco
Free programs include ice cream social. Outdoors, weather permitting. Bring chair.

Sunday, July 22 *Ted Satterthwaite*

Singer-guitar player performs folk-style and old-time music.

Sunday, August 26 *Theatrical Gems: Jacob Shoesmith and Friends*

Selections from recent New York theater productions, some musical and some not.

Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township | www.tobyhannahistory.org

Wednesday, August 8, 11 a.m., Austin Blakeslee Park, Route 115

Fish fry and covered dish lunch and update on the progress and mission of the Austin Blakeslee Open Space Park.

Thursday, August 23, 6 p.m., Clymer Library

Lincoln at Gettysburg with historian Fred Lehrer. Co-sponsored by Clymer Library.
Information: 570-972-6812.

Middle Smithfield Township Historical Interest Group

Monday, July 23, 7 p.m., Middle Smithfield Township Building, Route 209 North.
Historical Overview on American Natives in Middle Smithfield by Mal Law of the Pocono Indian Museum.

Information: Email paramedic256@verizon.net.



From the Executive Director

By Amy Leiser | Executive Director

On April 12th, I had the pleasure of attending a special lecture given by Dr. Doris Kearns Goodwin, noted presidential historian, political news analyst, and Pulitzer-Prize winning author. This opportunity was granted to me because the Monroe County Historical Association is a Community Sponsor in a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant that was spear-headed by Northampton Community College (NCC).



Executive Director Amy Leiser, right, with Dr. Doris Kearns Goodwin before the noted historian's April 12 lecture at Northampton Community College.

While working to secure the grant, NCC reached out to local educational and cultural organizations to strengthen the impact this money would have on the community. The Eastern Monroe Public Library, the Stroudsburg Area School District, the Historic Bethlehem Partnership, the Bethlehem Area Public Library, and the Bethlehem Area School District are also community sponsors. Through the NEH grant, each organization works to enable public school students, college students, and other members of the community to explore several different themes of the humanities.

This past year's theme, titled "The Meaning of Freedom," was set in the context of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. At MCHA, our dynamic Education Committee developed a Civil War Traveling Trunk complete with lesson plans that highlight Monroe County's role during the War. The lessons focus on the use of primary sources in the classroom and include the Civil War letters of Stroudsburg native William D. Walton. In addition to the binders prepared for secondary school lessons, the Education Committee will distribute elementary lessons to county districts once school resumes in the fall. Through this grant, copies of children's books written about President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War will be donated to school libraries.

Dr. Goodwin's inspiring, captivating, and entertaining presentation about Lincoln and his "team of rivals" was a wonderful culmination to this year's Civil War theme. Over the next two years, MCHA will continue to work closely with the staff at NCC to generate interest in specific humanities themes and public programming. You will be able to read all about our next project in upcoming editions of *The Fanlight*.



Monroe County
Historical Association

Welcome, New Members

As of May 1, 2012

Murial R. Hildabrant
Pam Hudak
Scott Nutter
Andrew Worthington

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



Free wireless Internet service is now available to researchers in MCHA's Elizabeth D. Walters Library. The secure Wi-Fi connection is helping genealogists and others with their research.



Join or Renew Today

Please check appropriate category.

- ☐ *Student* \$10.00
- ☐ *Individual* \$25.00
- ☐ *Family* \$35.00
- ☐ *Senior Individual (65 and over)* \$15.00
- ☐ *Senior Couple (65 and over)* \$20.00

Annual Contributions (Includes Annual Membership Dues)

- ☐ *Patron* \$50.00
- ☐ *Supporter* \$100.00
- ☐ *Business* \$150.00
- ☐ *Corporation/Municipal* \$250.00
- ☐ *Contributor* \$500.00

LIFE

- ☐ *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.

Continued from Page 1

Visitors touring the Mansion on June 16 in conjunction with the garden tour provided uplifting response to the “new” third floor, proving the project to be well worth all the time and labor. First-time visitors, as well as those who had not toured the third floor for many years, were delighted with the redesigned exhibition spaces, which include a housekeeper’s bedchamber circa 1800 and a children’s toy room.

MCHA would like thank board member John Meixell for the time, effort, and donations he tirelessly contributed in helping to shape the third floor renovations, and especially his focus on providing an accurate depiction of the daily life of an early Pennsylvania Dutch housekeeper, as glimpsed through the bedchamber she would have kept.

This peek into the private life of the Mansion’s main domestic servant provides an alternate perspective to the life lived by the Quaker family she would have kept house for. From her elaborately hand-painted dower chest and intricately woven “snowball and pinecone” coverlet, to the simple rush-seated chair and brightly striped “rainbow” floor runner, no detail has been overlooked in presenting what can be called a truly colorful depiction of early Pennsylvania Dutch domestic life.

The children’s toy room has been renovated as well. Due to a severely deteriorated foam backing, the carpeting covering the entire floor had to be removed and the floors scraped and scrubbed to remove the residual debris.

This proved the perfect opportunity to redesign the layout and flow of the space. A storage cabinet that had been built in over the carpeting and partially enclosing the baseboard heater was removed and free-standing display cases were moved to provide better visibility to the objects inside. A sunny coat of yellow paint and fresh valances bring new warmth and brightness to a room filled with some of childhood’s happiest memories.

We would like to thank board member Bonnie Rudeski for her reevaluation and display of the antique doll collection. The children’s toy room walls are lined with permanent displays of toys and artifacts relating to childhood, as well as a central showcase for themed temporary exhibitions. Currently on display is an imaginative world made entirely of LEGO.

The MCHA staff would like to thank the board members, volunteers, and interns who devoted so much of their time and labor to helping make the revitalization and rehabilitation of the third floor come to fruition. It truly would have been an insurmountable task without their greatly appreciated efforts.



A fundraiser blossoms

‘History in Bloom’ Garden Tour big success

The Monroe County Historical Association’s new fundraiser, a walking tour of Stroudsburg’s gardens, was held on Saturday, June 16, an absolutely beautiful day to take a relaxing stroll through the borough’s Historic District. The event was a huge success.

Ten gardens were featured on the “History in Bloom” tour, which began at the Stroud Mansion, where guests could admire the newly-renovated backyard gardens. Did you know that we have more than 40 types of perennials, 16 distinctive shrubs, six species of trees, and a sprinkling of annuals? All of these except the trees were donated. This is a great improvement from three years ago when we had a brown yard and patches of dirt.

Homeowners and volunteers were stationed to share the methods, ideas, and materials used to create each unique garden. MCHA member Shirley Young held a workshop during the day at the Mansion to encourage the planting of herb gardens.

The saying “many hands make light work” certainly rang true for this special event. More than 50 people came together to make sure this new fundraiser went off without a hitch! Friends recruited each other to help, and new faces to the MCHA volunteer family quickly became fast friends with long-time members and volunteers.

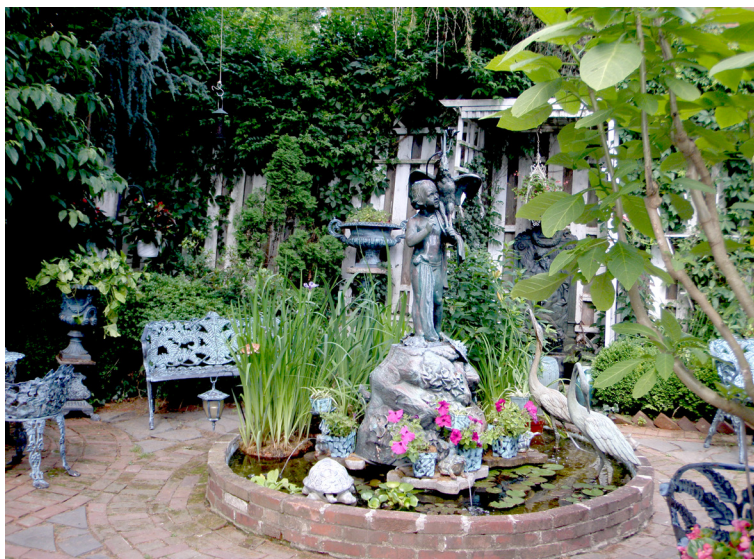
The MCHA staff would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the History in Bloom Committee:

■ Chairwoman Kathy Boyle developed the idea for this event and organized every detail, from securing the gardens on the tour to recruiting volunteers stationed at each one.

■ Evelyn Smith spread yards of mulch, dead-headed the flowers, and got the MCHA gardens ready to show.

■ Donna Bissett organized a charming reception to thank the volunteers and garden owners for their support.

■ Ed and Beryl Gearhart worked hard developing and selling the yummy baked goods to our guests.



Thank you to our “History in Bloom” sponsors:

Bloom Flowers and Gifts; Canfield’s Pet and Farm; The Farmer’s Basket; Interior Plant Care Company; Klingel’s Tree Service; Plantscape; The Potting Shed; Ross and Ross; Steele’s Hardware; Stonewall Garden Center and Country Gift Shop; Stout’s Mower Service; Vogel’s Flowermart; Webers Rimrock Garden; and Whispering Ridge Nursery & Farm Stand.





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2012 Meetings

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

July – No meeting

August 28

September 25

October 23

November 27

December – No meeting

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

2012 Spring Appeal

Much-needed funds aid MCHA

Thank you to the many members and friends of the Monroe County Historical Association who have contributed to this year's Spring Appeal.

Through your generosity, \$2,985 has been raised!

This money has gone into our General Operating account, which is used to keep the doors open at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library and the Bell School. From paying utility bills to supporting staff salaries, the General Operating fund is an essential part of our organization. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you again.

Ian and Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly
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Robert and Doris Wehe
James C. Werkheiser



Musings from the Mansion

as told to Kathy Boyle

Reporter in Residence, Monroe Mouse



Illustrated by Joan Groff

Monroe looks back at early farming

Now what is that? First a pizza garden and now another mystery to solve! I will just wait for Evelyn to leave for the day and then investigate those mounds of earth outside the kitchen.

Well, this really isn't a mystery, now that I have had a closer look. This is the beginning of a "Three Sisters Garden," something early settlers learned from Native Americans. Growing corn, squash and beans in combination had many advantages. It was often the Native Americans who provided the earliest settlers with food crops and taught them agricultural skills.

I recall how farming was so much of the life for early settlers in the area. For more than a century (1720-1840), Pennsylvania led the colonies and then the states in food production. Although local land was not as fertile as that in counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, farmers in our area grew crops for their families and neighbors.

Daniel Stroud knew that for a community to flourish, food crops had to be readily available, and he set aside a large portion of his property for agricultural purposes. In the early 1800s, locally grown wheat was ground into flour by grist mills along creeks in the area, including one in what is now the area of Ann Street in Stroudsburg.

Apple orchards were an essential part of most farms. Sarah Spider could tell us that many of the recipes from the Stroud kitchen contained apples which were stored for

the winter in the spring house (now part of the property adjacent to the Mansion). The hand -cranked apple peeler in the Stroud kitchen was always in use. Besides feeding the livestock, apple skins dried in the front of the hearth were a sweet treat for the family. Other apple products included apple butter and apple cider.

The entire family often worked side-by-side doing farm tasks. They tilled the soil, sowed seeds, harvested the crops, butchered livestock, and made apple butter. It was an effort that sustained the family and provided essential food products for the surrounding communities.

Now that I know we have a "Three Sisters Garden" at the Mansion, I will definitely help with weeding. I can't wait to share the results with our visitors.

Monroe and friends note areas of interest in the Mansion garden:

Sarah Spider says, *"Come see the pizza garden flourishing next to the*

mansion."

Caleb Cricket says, *"Don't forget to look for the mill stones at the Stroud Mansion."*

Monroe Mouse says, *"Come visit during Stroud Fest on Saturday, September 1 to learn about the Three Sisters garden."*

Source: Explore PAhistory.com



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Phone - 570- 421-7703
Fax - 570- 421-9199
E-mail address - mcha@ptd.net
Web site - www.monroehistorical.org

Stroud Mansion

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg
10:00 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

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg
Now serving as the headquarters
of the Jacob Stroud Corporation
Phone - 570-424-0325

The Bell School

Cherry Valley Road, Stormsville - Hamilton Township
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sundays, July and August

Other times by special appointment.

MCHA Wish List

BEATING THE DRUM FOR COFFEE CANS

The Education Committee needs your empty
metal 11oz. coffee cans with plastic lids.
Children will color a template, tape it to the can,
and make their very own Civil War drum.

Please drop off cans at Stroud Mansion



Visit the MCHA Web site

<http://monroehistorical.org>

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.

Has your address changed?

If you have a new mailing address due to the Monroe County read-dressing project, please let us know. We don't want you to miss any of the exciting events, fundraisers, programs and workshops offered by MCHA. Please contact Halle Smith by emailing your new address to mcha@ptd.net or by calling (570) 421-7703.

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HOW IT
WORKS

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, call us at

or visit us online at rubytuesday.com

Organization's Name: Prattville High School Megaphone Booster Club

Event Name: August 30, 2011

Date of Visit: August 30, 2011

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu,
visit rubytuesday.com

Ruby Tuesday

789 Business Park Drive, Prattville, AL 36067