



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 20, No. 2

Monroe County Historical Association

March—April 2009

MCHA Officers

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Russell D. Scott III
Vice-President
Nominations pending
Secretary
Nominations pending
Treasurer
Patricia Saylor

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John Meixell
David Thomas
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Executive Director
Amy Leiser

Newsletter Editor
Kathleen Boyle

Museum Assistants
Thomas Famularo
Halle Smith

Bookkeeper
Mergie Manner

2009

Directors Meetings

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

March 24
April 28
May 26
June 25

July – no meeting
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 24

December – no meeting

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

The weather may have been cold and snowy, but the mood was cheery, warm and supportive at Shawnee-on-Delaware. The Monroe County Historical Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was held Sunday, February 22, 2009 in the Worthington Ballroom at the historic Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. The day began with an inspirational blessing offered by MCHA member, Dr. Frank Herting who encouraged all to work together to safeguard Monroe County's history.

The Silent Auction continues to be a fun part of the day. Again this year, the Auction Committee worked hard to collect desirable items on which people could bid. Gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses, antiques, gift baskets, artwork, and jewelry filled the auction tables. The items received bids, and the Silent Auction brought in \$1,100.00 for our organization. Thank you to Camille Breslauer (Auction Chair), Agnes Webb, Rose Ann Whitesell and Anne Robertson for serving on the Auction Committee again this year.

After lunch, President Russell D. Scott III thanked the membership and elected officials for their continued support of MCHA and commended the MCHA staff for their continuous hard work. He acknowledged the various projects happening at the Stroud Mansion, including the installation of exterior façade lighting to the building to raise visual awareness of our organization.

On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Clarence Murphy presented the following slate of nominees for the 2009 Board of Directors to serve their first term: William Leonard, Jr., Kevin McGrath, and Martin Wilson. Two current Board members, Charles Garris and James Werkheiser, were re-elected to serve a second term. President Russ Scott and Treasurer Greg Christine retired from the MCHA Board, and Executive Director Amy Leiser presented each with a framed print of the Stroud Mansion.

Following the brief business meeting, Tim Lubenesky, a living history re-enactor from the Jacobsburg Historical Society, presented a program titled "Boulton: Where History Lives." Dressed in period clothing, Mr. Lubenesky's presentation focused on the activities of the Jacobsburg Historical Society and the history of the Pennsylvania Longrifle. Audience participation was high with many questions about the history of this iconic rifle.

Dr. E. Ruth Dunning and Roger Dunning receive the 2009 MCHA Lifetime Achievement Award from State Representative John Siptroth.



(Continued on page 2)

MCHA Sponsors

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

Small Business (\$150.00)

Bailey's Steakhouse
Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.
Frailey Insurance Agency
Inn at Pocono Manor
Joseph P. McDonald, Esq. P.C.
Lombardo and Lipe
Schnaitman's Flooring America
Smuggler's Cove
Strunk-Albert Engineering
Thomas Funeral Home

Corporate (\$250.00)

A. C. Henning Enterprises, Inc.
BioSpectra Inc.
ESSA Bank and Trust
Great Wolf Resorts
Huffman's Electric
Keystone Nazareth Bank & Trust
Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn,
Wolfe and Fareri
Penn Security Bank and Trust
PNC Wealth Management
Pocono Living Magazine
Pocono Produce Company
Pocono Record
sanofi pasteur
Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort
Skytop Lodge

Municipal (\$250.00)

Borough of East Stroudsburg
Borough of Mount Pocono
Borough of Stroudsburg
Hamilton Township
Middle Smithfield Township
Pocono Township
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township

Educational (\$250.00)

East Stroudsburg University of PA
Pleasant Valley School District
Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor (\$500.00 and more)

Northampton Community College
PPL Electric Utilities - \$1000.00
Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs

*The Monroe County Historical
Association receives generous
support from*

*Pennsylvania Historical
& Museum Commission
and the
Monroe County
Commissioners.*

(Continued from page 1)

For the 4th year, MCHA presented three Historic Preservation Awards to businesses and individual owners of historic buildings who have shown their dedication to preserving and enhancing Monroe County's wealth of historic structures.

Three categories of buildings were judged: Commercial, Non-Profit and Private Residence. The 2009 winners in the three categories were: Commercial Property – Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee-on-Delaware; Non-Profit Organization – Antoine Dutot School and Museum, Delaware Water Gap, and Residential Property – “Pokona Farm” owned by Andrew and Carol Moore, Pocono Township. The Monroe County Historical Association presented the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award to Roger A. Dunning and Dr. E. Ruth Dunning, and the 2009 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to John K. Meixell. A new award category was added this year – 2009 Educator of the Year. The MCHA Education Committee developed this award, and this year's recipient was Mark Lemoncelli of the Pocono Mountain School District. Thank you to Commissioners Suzanne McCool and Donna Asure and to State Representative John Siproth for presenting the awards to the winners.

Ninety-eight members, guests and friends attended this year's event in support of the Monroe County Historical Association and its mission to promote, protect and preserve Monroe County's rich history. We hope to see you next February!

Annual Meeting speaker, Tim Lubenesky and his wife, Terri, pose with a Pennsylvania Long Rifle.



***The mission of the Monroe County
Historical Association is to promote, protect and
preserve the rich history of Monroe County.
Thank you for your continued support.***

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, and workshops
Discount Research Assistance



MCHA Endowment Committee Report 2008

Many thanks go to these generous donors. The Endowment Fund provides the essential stability needed to assure the future success of the MCHA. During 2008, contributions totaled \$10,149.00. We offer our sincere appreciation to our supporters for their generosity. Please remember that contributions and memorial donations are welcomed throughout the year.

AMD Leasing
Anonymous
Arthur E. Arnold II
B.J. Bachman
Dorothy Baldwin
Bruce E. Bartholomew
Kathy Boyle
Jane I. Brodhead
Randall E. Brown
Michael Carroll
William and Barbara Cramer
Dorothy M. Dittmer
Roger A. & E. Ruth Dunning
George Ellis
ESSA Bank and Trust
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Burton and Beverly Kleinle
Vertie Knapp

KNBT
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John and Amy Leiser
Lombardo & Lipe Electrical Contractors
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Carl and Marilyn Moritz
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Ann Super
Betsey Theune
George Warden
Jim and Agnes Webb
Todd and Shirley Weber
Jean T. Weichel
Rose Ann Whitesell
Kelly Williams
Martin and Susan Wilson
Susan A. Wilson



Welcome New Members!

Since January 1, 2009

Antoine Dutot School & Museum

Melanie Brodhead

George D. Butts

Mary Anne Clausen

Coolbaugh Township

Historical Association

Joan Dougher

Kim Kerrick

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirkwood

Marie Lohman

Margie Manner

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Warren

Roxanne Zeck

Corporate

PNC Wealth Management

Pocono Living Magazine

Member Get A Member

Elizabeth Malloy

Colleen Mosteller

Pauline R. Seese

Victorian Tea Update

Reservations are pouring in for the 17th Annual Victorian Tea and Luncheon at the Inn at Pocono Manor. The event now has a new location at the Inn, The Mountain View Room, which can accommodate up to 400 people! Tickets are selling quickly, so call or mail in your reservation today!

Tickets are \$28.00 for MCHA members and \$30.00 for non-members.
Tables can be reserved for groups of 8 only.



Membership Form

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER
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 Dues)

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

LIFE

- Individual Life Membership \$1000.00
- 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.

Calendar of Events 2009

Friday, April 10 through Monday, April 13
MCHA Offices Closed - Happy Easter!

Sunday, April 26

Victorian Tea and Luncheon

The Inn at Pocono Manor - Mountain View Room

Social Hour - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch - 2:00 p.m.

Program: "Here Comes the Bride"

Janet Wilson will present a wonderful fashion show featuring wedding attire for women, men and children from the early 1800s to modern day.

\$28.00 MCHA members/\$30.00 non-members

Tables will be reserved for 8 only.



Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7

Greater Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce EXPO

East Stroudsburg University, Koehler Fieldhouse
Stop by and visit the MCHA Booth #89, where we will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Lincoln's birthday!

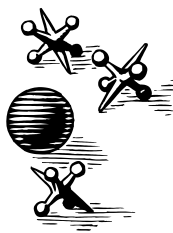
Saturday, June 6, 2009

Olde Time Fun in the Park

Driebe Freight Station

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg

10:00 am-2:00 pm (Rain or shine)



This event will feature historic games, activities, and crafts for children. The Education Committee is asking for volunteers who are interested in sharing any special talents, skills or interests with the children. Volunteer and be part of the fun!



As many of you may be aware, Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell released the proposed state budget for 2010. In this budget, state funding for historical organizations was eliminated. In fact, not only has the governor recommended \$0 for this budget year, he also would like to remove the program entirely from future years.

In the past, the Monroe County Historical Association has received \$10,000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) in Harrisburg. Our organization relies on this funding to operate. The financial support from the PHMC's grant program has provided invaluable assistance to our organization since 1985 and is integral to the programs and operations of the Monroe County Historical Association.

All state agencies have experienced cuts in funding, but cultural and historical sites face the largest cuts. There are roughly 160 other Pennsylvania historical sites and museums that will be affected by this proposed budget. Washington's Crossing Historic Park, Ephrata Cloister and the Daniel Boone Homestead are already planning to close.

I am certainly aware of the current economic climate of our county, state and nation. Personally, my family and I have cut back on spending and we are working to stretch every dollar. This rule also applies at the Monroe County Historical Association.

The MCHA budget was passed recently at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon in February with the \$10,000 grant funding anticipated from the state. Our annual budget for 2009 is \$132,495.53. As you can see, we are a thrifty organization, and the money from the State makes up almost 8% of our budget.

My hope is that Governor Rendell will be able to return a portion of the funding for historical organizations and will not remove this important line item from the state's budget. I understand that having the full \$10,000 may not be possible this year, but even half would greatly help us and similar historical organizations across the state.

Local elected officials have been contacted. Letters have been written and phone calls have been made. The budget will be voted on June 30th.

Pennsylvania, including Monroe County, has an extremely rich history that cannot be forgotten. We will continue to carry out our mission to promote, protect and preserve Monroe County's history. If the 2010 budget passes with no support for museums, we will rely on additional fundraisers and the continued and generous support from our community to ensure Monroe County's history is not lost. Ultimately, we are a non-profit organization, and public support is critical to our survival.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to this year's raffle winners. The MCHA raffle is held annually, and the winners are drawn in December. Over \$1,200 was raised.

1st Place - "Dresden Plate" quilt.

Winner - Martin S. Price

2nd Place - Framed Print of the Stroud Mansion by local artist, Dee Huxster.

Winner - Mimi Mikels

3rd Place - MCHA Gift basket.

Winner - Joan Shafer

Baskets Wanted

Do you have baskets taking up valuable space in your home? Please consider donating them to the Monroe County Historical Association. We use these baskets to create gift packages for our silent auctions, for prize baskets or to hold exhibit catalogs.



Thank you!





Spring is just around the corner, but who would believe it? Here at the Mansion everyone thinks it is time for spring cleaning. I am not very excited about this, but on the other hand, I am not one to be left out. I know there will be something for me to do. I'll lend a hand in the Reading Room and Library. There are nooks and crannies there that only I can reach.

This was a better idea than even I thought. What discoveries I made! I had always relied on my rather extensive memory to relate the history of the Strouds and the Mansion. However, most of our visitors to the Mansion don't have my reservoir of information. As I dusted corners and removed dust webs from behind furniture, I started to pay attention to what happens on a daily basis in these two rooms.

Amy got down on the floor and pulled out a huge ledger for one visitor. Both she and visitor donned white gloves to go through the contents. The earliest of these ledgers belonged to the Strouds.

Another person had Tom help her use a strange machine that sat in the corner. I always questioned why this contraption was in the Stroud home. I heard them mention microfilm reader. I could not believe what I saw when pages from old newspapers appeared. I discovered that we had whole cabinets of these rolls of film that include Monroe County newspapers back to 1840.

The more I scurried about with my duster the more I learned. The Library has more than 13,000 family files, 19th century maps, an extensive collection of church and cemetery records, and boxes of Monroe County photographs and postcards. There are shelves of



reference books, many of which will not be found elsewhere. The good news is that these books will eventually be part of the on-line catalog of the Eastern Monroe Public Library thanks to the work of volunteer Diane Crow who is inputting that information.

The Monroe County Historical Association is a treasure trove for genealogists. It can also be a wonderful resource for the classroom teacher, not only for lessons but also student projects. The Education Committee is here to help in that effort.

MCHA is an Act 48 Provider

Congratulations to the MCHA Education Committee. MCHA has been approved by the PA Department of Education to be an Act 48 provider. This means that educators will receive credit for MCHA workshops. A Traveling Trunk workshop will be offered in March under this new designation. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to integrate local history in their instruction and also receive credit. Contact mcha@ptd.net or 570-421-7703 for additional information.

Past Perfect Museum Software Training

Halle Smith, Museum Assistant

The Monroe County Historical Association is currently in the process of refining our collections. So, when the opportunity arose to attend a PastPerfect museum software training program in Exton, PA, I was more than happy to attend.

MCHA has been using PastPerfect museum collection management software since 2001, but only in a minimal capacity. Since we are entering a more intensive phase of collection management, this training seminar was extremely beneficial. Not only was I able to refine my basic operating skills of the program, but I learned all-inclusive skills that will provide practical experience based on standard museum practices. Also, by understanding the basic functions and principles of the software, MCHA will be able to move forward and use more and more of PastPerfect's advanced features.

Many diverse groups attended the seminar, ranging from small house museums like the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington D.C. and the

Washington County Rural Heritage Museum in Maryland, to historical organizations like the Trenton Historical Society in New Jersey and large institutions such as the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia. There was even an international attendee from the Toronto Historical Society in Canada.



Halle at workshop in Exton

After passing on what I have learned to the rest of the MCHA staff, together we will be able to move forward with our goal of uniformly refining our collection.



Needlework Tribute to Mary Hall on exhibit



Sampler made by Mary Hall in 1988

Mary passed away in December 2008 at age 90 after a brief illness. She was a charter member of the Pocono Mountain EGA and an exquisite and prolific stitcher. The exhibit showcases more than seventy of Mary's stitched pieces. Much of her work was from EGA programs, workshops, group correspondence courses, and regional and national seminars. Some of the stitching techniques used in her needlework include cross stitch, Hardangar, pulled thread, canvas work, Battenburg Lace, silk and metal, crewel, knitting and lace net weaving.

The Monroe County Historical Association, along with the Pocono Mountain Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA)-Pocono Chapter, is pleased to announce the opening of a special exhibit "A Needlework Tribute to Mary E. Hall." The exhibit is open until Saturday, March 21, 2009.

This is a unique opportunity to see a magnificent collection of needlework samplers, angels, flowers, table runners, and Christmas items. Most of the pieces were completed between 1980, when the Pocono Mountain Chapter of EGA was founded, and the late 1990's when Mary developed macular degeneration and could no longer see to stitch.

Be sure to stop by to view this amazing collection.



(l to r) Gertrude Lohman, Jane Hartley (Mary's sister), Marie Lohman and Agnes Webb, along with other members of the EGA, helped to mount the exhibit.

Garden Thyme

Volunteers Welcome

MCHA Garden Volunteers meet on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Mansion starting in April. They work for no more than two hours. Most of the major work was completed in 2008. This year we plan to enjoy doing finishing touches, maintaining and simply enjoying the gardening experience.

Come when you can. Your time, energy and enthusiasm are always welcome.

Donations Needed

If you have perennials that need to be divided and you would like to share, they are most welcomed. We also welcome monetary donations to purchase annuals to provide season-round color in the garden.

Contact mcha@ptd.net or 570-421-7703 for additional information.



IDENTIFY THE ARTIFACT

The mystery item in the last issue of *The Fanlight* was a hardtack, a cheap, long lasting cracker made from flour, water and salt. It was baked four times and, if kept dry, could last for years. It was carried by both Union and Confederate soldiers. Hardtack could be eaten dry, dipped in coffee or cooked into stews and skillet meals.



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
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Tuesday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Driebe Freight Station Art Gallery

537 Ann Street, Stroudsburg
Open *First Saturdays during the summer months*
and 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
Other times by special appointment.

MCHA on the web

Web site

www.monroehistorical.org

Our latest additions include all of Director's Amy Leiser's articles on Monroe County history published in the *Pocono Record* and the ability to purchase items in the gift shop using Pay Pal.



Facebook

Keep up-to-date on all of the latest happenings, events, fundraisers and activities at the Monroe County Historical Association. Join the MCHA group through your facebook account today!



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