



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 23, No. 2

Monroe County Historical Association

March - April 2012

Annual Luncheon was enjoyed by all

Executive Director Amy Leiser

The Monroe County Historical Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was held Sunday, February 26, 2012, in the Worthington Ballroom at the historic Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. More than 100 MCHA members, guests and friends participated in this year's event to show their support of the Monroe County Historical Association and its mission to promote, protect and preserve Monroe County's rich history.

The day began with an inspirational prayer offered by MCHA member, Rev. William Ramsden who encouraged all to work together to safeguard Monroe County's history.

This year's Silent Auction brought in a record amount - over \$2,400.00 for our organization. Thank you to Halle Smith (Auction Chair), Agnes Webb, and Rose Ann Whitesell for serving on the Auction Committee again this year.

President Russell D. Scott, III thanked the membership and the current Board of Directors for their continued support of MCHA and commended the MCHA staff for their hard work. Treasurer Patricia Saylor presented the 2011 financial summary and reported the organization ended the year with a positive balance. Saylor offered the 2012 Budget report which was accepted unanimously by the membership.

On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Ruth Sibley Bensinger presented the following slate of nominees for the 2012 Board of Directors to serve a first term: John Abel, John Layton, Clarence Murphy, and Michael Shepard. Current Board member, Dr. Martin Wilson, was re-elected to serve a second term. Charles A. Garriss and James Werkheiser retired from the MCHA Board, and Executive Director Amy Leiser presented them with a framed print of the Stroud Mansion.

In celebration of Black History Month followed by Women's History Month, Dr. Susan Klepp presented an interesting talk titled, *Johanna, the slave who risked her life for freedom*.

For the 7th 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. The 2012 winners are: Commercial Property – Skytop Lodge, Barrett Township; Publicly-Funded – Yeisley-Pearce Log Cabin, Smithfield Township; and Residential Property – “Brinton Cottage” owned by Michael and Carol McGuinness, Pocono Township.

The Monroe County Historical Association also presented the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award to Carol Kern of Chestnuthill Township, the 2012 Educator of the Year Award to Dr. Martin Wilson of East Stroudsburg University, and the 2012 MCHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Bret Fowler. Thank you to Commissioners John Moyer, Charles A. Garriss and Suzanne McCool and to State Representatives Rosemary Brown and Mario Scavella for presenting the awards to the winners.

Fellowship and a delicious luncheon made for a delightful afternoon. We hope to see you at next year's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2013!

Visit the MCHA website www.monroehistorical.org for more photos.



The 2012 MCHA Board of Directors (missing from photo are John Layton, Michael Shepard, Jennifer Harlacher Sibum and George Warden)

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
Huffman's Electric
Inn at Pocono Manor
Smuggler's Cove
Strunk-Albert Engineering
The Frogtown Inn & 6 Acres Restaurant
The Stone Bar Inn
Thomas Funeral Home

Corporate (\$250.00)

A. C. Henning Enterprises, Inc.
ESSA Bank and Trust
KNBT, Division of National Penn Bank
Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn,
Wolfe and Fareri
PNC Wealth Management
Pocono Living Magazine
Pocono Produce Company
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 Area School District
East Stroudsburg University of PA
Northampton Community College
Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor (\$500.00 and more)

PPL Electric Utilities - \$1,000.00
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

Friday, April 6 – Monday April 9, 2012

MCHA Offices Closed

Happy Easter!

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Historic Coalition Meeting

9:00 a.m. - Stroud Mansion

Sunday, April 29, 2012

20th Annual Victorian Tea and Luncheon

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Versailles Ballroom, The Château Resort, Tannersville

Program: "Titanic Memories"

Join us for an entertaining living history presentation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the *R.M.S. Titanic*. Our guest speaker, Victoriana Lady Lisa, will be dressed in authentic period clothing while presenting the fashions of the day, etiquette aboard ship, and the history surrounding the ill-fated vessel

Cost: \$30.00 MCHA members, \$35.00 non-members

Cost for table of ten (10)

\$300.00 MCHA members, \$ 350.00 non-members

Table must be paid in full at time of reservation

Saturday, June 16, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

History in Bloom,

A walking tour of historic Stroudsburg's gardens

Details to follow

Newsletter Editor is needed

After 20 years as volunteer newsletter editor, Kathy Boyle would like to "retire" from the job. Kathy will work with the new editor for the next year, so the new editor has time to acclimate. The job is not hard, but takes someone with a critical and creative eye. The newsletter editor must be proficient in Publisher. Please contact MCHA, mcha@ptd.net or 570-421-7703, if you have time to donate and are willing to help us keep our members and friends up-to-date about all of the exciting happenings at MCHA.



New MCHA exhibit celebrates 100 years of Girl Scouts

On March 12, 1912, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low gathered 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of their homes and into the community, young girls began to experience the outdoors by hiking, playing sports, going on camping trips where they learned how to tell time by the stars, and by studying first aid.

Within a few years, Low's hope for a female-centered organization was fulfilled and the organization has grown to a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults. Today's Girl Scouts learn much more than outdoor activities. The organization empowers girls to realize their full individual potential through educational, social and civic activities.



In celebration of the Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary, the Monroe County Historical Association, with help from Kathy Leight and Girl Scout Troop 50429, mounted an outstanding display of Girl Scout memorabilia. The exhibit highlights uniforms from 1928-1984, sashes filled with badges, Girl Scout handbooks and an official pocket knife. Two Girl Scout collector dolls from the 1950s are also featured.

Be sure to stop by the Stroud Mansion to see this great collection of Girl Scout items.
The exhibit runs through April 27, 2012.

Local Couturiere group visits Stroud Mansion Members receive a special tour of clothing exhibit



Fifteen members of the Easton Couturiere Group traveled to the Stroud Mansion in January to take a tour of the historic building and view MCHA Collection Specialist Bret Fowler's collection of vintage clothing. Bret's collection, titled, *Don We Now*, featured a selection of winter and holiday attire from the 1920s through the 1950s and included evening gowns, cocktail dresses, day suits and custom millinery from designers Pierre

Balmain, Bonnie Cashin, Oscar de la Renta, Irene, Charles James, Traina-Norell, and Joset Walker. The ladies enjoyed a mini-workshop led by Bret and the chance to view these amazing textiles up-close.



Welcome New Members!

as of January 1, 2012

David and Marleen Dymond

Diana Dymond

James and Marjorie Lawless

Charles E. Lutte, Jr.

Member Get A Member

Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly

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



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.

MCHA members and friends give generously to Endowment Fund

Many thanks go to these generous donors. The Endowment Fund provides the essential stability needed to assure the future success of the MCHA. During the 2011-2012 campaign, contributions totaled \$12,260.00. We offer our sincere appreciation to our supporters for their generosity. Please remember that contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year.

AMD Leasing	Philip D. Lee
B.J. Bachman	John & Amy Leiser
Dorothy Baldwin	William Leiser
Bruce Bartholomew	Patricia Litts-Young
Randall Brown	Kevin & Janice McGrath
Frank L. Burnett	Gary & Karen McLoughlin
James Cahill	Janet Mishkin
Stephen P. Carey	Jacqueline G. Mock
Cherry Lane Foundation	Carl and Marilyn Moritz
William Cramer	Susan Morris
Glenn & Mildred Detrick	Henry & Sylvia Moulton
Denise DeVivo	Clint Palmer
Roger & Ruth Dunning	Janice Parlette
George A. Ellis	Louise Pipher
Enelow Family	Roy P. Pipher
Charles Eyer & Linda Wallach	Richard & Evelyn Primrose
Miller	William & Elsa Ramsden
Dorothy & Suzanne Fabel	Paul Reisch
John Fetherman	Ruth H. Shook
John & Kathleen Field	Paul & Evelyn Smith
Pamela Fite	Lawrence Squeri
Joan B. Groff	Anda Staab
William & Mary Grumbine	Betsy Theune
Margaret Heller	Jim & Agnes Webb
Mary Henning	Todd & Shirley Weber
Frank & Barbara Herting	David & Lisa Weiss
Jay E. & Barbara Huffman	Rose Ann Whitesell
George & Dolores Kappenhagen	Martin & Susan Wilson
Peter & Carol Kern	Shirley B. Young

Thank you for your generosity.



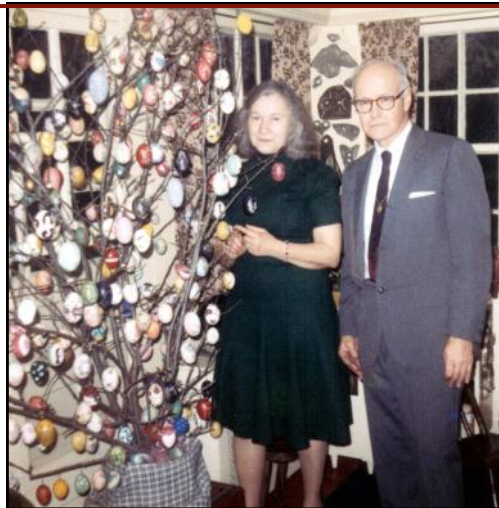


Robacker Eggs displayed at Stroud Mansion *Egg-citing chance to see this hand-crafted art*

Halle Smith, Museum Assistant

Egg decorating has a long and interesting history. The decorating that we are most familiar with today originated in Europe. By the late 17th century, egg decorating was common among local Pennsylvania Germans.

During the weeks before Easter, eggs were collected and saved to be dyed and eaten during the holiday. Eggs were originally dyed with dried onion skins which would produce a deep, rich red-brown color, as well as a faint onion taste. Other natural resources were used to produce different colors. Alder catkins yielded yellow, madder root produced red, and coffee and walnut shells gave the eggs a brown color. Eggs that were not to be eaten had small holes poked at each end, the contents blown out and left to dry before decorating. Once decorated, the eggs were hung from an Easter egg tree. These "trees" were simply branches wrapped in cotton and weighted down for display.



Ada and Earl Robacker displayed an egg tree in their home. - April 1970.

Many long-time Monroe County residents will remember Earl and Ada Robacker and their love for anything Pennsylvania German. The entire Robacker egg collection was donated to MCHA several years ago. It includes a variety of hand-blown eggs which date from the 1940s through the 1960s. Earl and Ada Robacker hand-decorated each egg in the following styles:

Binsa-graws eggs - made by extracting the wooly-looking pith from the binsa-graws reed, wrapping the pith around the egg with flour paste, and attaching small pieces of shaped calico to the dried surface.



Scratched or incised eggs - eggs were first dyed black or very dark colors, then etched with a pen knife or single edged razorblade. Motifs included flowers, hearts, houses, birds, trees, beehives, initials, names, dates, etc.

Pysanky eggs - Ukrainian Easter eggs made by using the wax-resist method, where beeswax was heated and scooped into a stylus and applied to the bare egg. The egg was then dipped in various colors, always starting with the lightest color and ending with the darkest color. Once dry, the egg was dipped quickly into boiling water, which melted the wax and revealed the usually complex geometric designs.

Easter Birds (oschter-foggel) - eggs that have been dyed, blown, and pierced with 4 holes- one for the beak, one for the tail, and two for the wings. Pieces of paper were colored the same as the egg and folded to make the wings and tail. These intricate eggs were hung by a window or near a gentle breeze to simulate flying.

The Robacker egg collection will be on display in the Erdman Room of the Stroud Mansion through December 21, 2012. Make a point to stop in and see this egg-strordinary exhibit!



MCHA Officers

President - Russell D. Scott, III

Vice-President - Martin Wilson

Secretary - Eugenia S. Eden

Board of Directors

John Abel

Ruth Sibley Bensinger

Joan B. Groff

John Layton

Connie Mc Cool

John K. Meixell

Clarence Murphy

Bonnie Rudeski

Michael Shepard

Jennifer Harlacher Sibum

George Warden

MCHA Staff

Executive Director - Amy Leiser

Museum Assistant - Halle Smith

Collections Specialist - Bret Fowler

Bookkeeper - Margie Manner

Newsletter Editor - Kathleen Boyle

2012 Meetings

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

March 27

April 24

May 22

June 26

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.



Musings from the Mansion

as told to Kathy Boyle

Reporter in Residence, Monroe Mouse



Illustrated by Joan Groff

Another road trip - how exciting! My mouse ears really perked up when I heard the destination - Philadelphia. How could I help but recall Daniel Stroud's journeys there to purchase goods for his home and store. I, of course, definitely intended to go along - invited or not. Having always found a nice place to nap in Daniel's saddle bag, I was quite familiar with the route. This group of travelers would need me to keep them on the right path and certainly to make them aware of the few inns to stay overnight. However, that might be a problem since inn accommodations are for men only. Oh well, maybe the women can stay at a home of friends. Daniel always graciously invited visitors to Stroudsburg into his home.

I had no idea how travel had changed. The trip was nothing like I expected. The Native American trails that Daniel would have followed had been replaced by wide stretches of road. In the first segment of Daniel's trips, he would have had to dismount and lead his horse along narrow paths. Also, nowhere in sight was the dust or mud that he would encounter. Of course it took some getting used to the number of vehicles on the road with us. We were in Easton in 30 minutes and thus had no reason to stop and spend the night as Daniel often did. Philadelphia in less than two hours! Unbelievable!

I was ecstatic when some familiar sights came into view - the State House (Independence Hall), brick townhouses and cobblestone streets. Our destination was also in an area that was familiar to me. However, the seaport area has definitely changed since the early

1800's. From the conversations I heard from my traveling companions, we were here to purchase fabric for new window treatments for the Stroud parlor. Daniel frequently ordered fabric from Philadelphia and was very specific in what he wanted. On June 17, 1804 he wrote re-

questing that a suit be made for him of jean. "I request the favor of thee to purchase a good piece of *jean of an olive color or as near may be, and make for me a suit of clothes [sic]."

Well, after much consideration, fabric was purchased and we were on our way home to Stroudsburg. Daniel would never have dreamed that such a trip could be made in one day.



* Jean is a type of fabric that dates to the 1600s and is named after the sailors of Genoa, Italy, who wore clothes made from it.

Can you Identify these photos

Volunteers at MCHA have been working on the photo collection and came across these two images of a house. Unfortunately, there is nothing identifying the home, the people, or the location. We believe both images are of the same house, but taken at different angles. The home is located next to a rail line, and there is a station/depot in the one photo, but we are unable to figure out which one.

Can you help us identify where this Monroe County structure stood (or stands today) ?



Accessioning/Deaccessioning 101

Joan B. Groff

I repeat the words and then define them for friends who wonder what kind of museum work this is! Fellow Board member Connie McCool and I have been accessioning, adding items to the MCHA collections, and deaccessioning, removing items from the MCHA collections, for over two years. That doesn't sound too difficult, does it?

Accessioning:

A donor offers an object, for example, a souvenir plate from the Pocono Wild Animal Farm or several pieces such as a china tea set from a prominent local family's dining room or a collection of items as photographs from one year's Laurel Blossom Festival. Ideally, a Gift Form is completed with as much helpful information as is known for each object. Sometimes unexpected mail delivers surprise gifts from people across the country who find something and think we should have it. Hopefully, there will be contact information to gain more details of the gift. If not, we begin researching in various ways.



Connie and Joan spend hours each week engaged in the painstaking task of accessioning and deaccessioning.

Identification of an object is made, any provenance, i.e., the source of the item...owner, maker, location where it was owned, time period...then, we refer to the Museum Nomenclature book for the correct category number and title, sub-classification and specific title to begin the paperwork! The Accession Sheet requires as complete information as we can learn. Measurements are made and recorded; condition is evaluated and noted. A cataloguing number is assigned

and this number is attached to the object itself, usually in an inconspicuous place. Finally, a photograph is taken from all relevant views accompanied by a cm ruler to denote scale. All this data is copied to a catalogue card and the sheet is also filed. The information is then added to PastPerfect, the museum cataloging software. Based on our improving storage system, the donation is carefully placed with similar items using appropriate conservation materials.

Deaccessioning:

After 80 years or so of accumulated objects in the Stroud Mansion, Bell School and Driebe Freight Station, we were running out of space! Closets, shelving, drawers and trunks filled the overrun storage rooms, attic and basements! Many things had no Monroe County provenance or relevance, i.e., a book about Gettysburg tours or a deteriorated silk umbrella with no information. Occasionally many duplicates were found and some pieces had no accession numbers at all. Therefore, we had input to determine which things to save and which to deaccession.

If an item had an accession number, we tried to find the matching file card. Early nomenclature categories have changed, causing us to spend extra time to search for the card. Often, none is found leading us to research the original record books, labeled by year. Very early records list items without any numbers, so we read a lot to locate the described object. The deaccession sheet reverses the process by removal of the catalogue card, noting the approved reason to deaccession, stamping, signing and dating it, then finding the piece to remove its accession number.

The Collections Committee and the MCHA Board of Directors review and approve the listed pieces and they are assigned to auction when profits go to the Acquisition Fund. At this date, we have had two successful auctions which also have created new, clean spaces, better to store the collections. Cataloging and storing such donations as deeds and photographs, postcards and local business papers, family bibles and ledgers require different accessioning procedures, so if you see Connie and me some day, delighted to have finished work on more than two items in six hours, please give us a thumbs up!

MCHA hires part-time employee

Welcome, Bret Fowler!

The MCHA Board of Directors hired Bret Fowler as a part-time employee at their January 2012 meeting. Bret's title is Collections Specialist and he comes to the organization bringing a wealth of knowledge regarding textiles, tailoring and costuming. Bret received his B.A. from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and has worked in their curatorial department for 10 years. The staff and volunteers are all very enthusiastic to have Bret as a member of the MCHA team!



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
Closed Wednesday, July 4, 2012
Other times by special appointment.

MCHA Wish List

- ◆ Ceiling Medallion - \$49.00 - for the chandelier in the Victorian Parlor
- ◆ New upright vacuum cleaner - \$169.00
- ◆ Display case with mirror back and locking doors for Children's Toy exhibit room - \$1,000.00

We hope you can help.



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 addressing 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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