



THE FANLIGHT

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Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Winter 2020

We are pleased to bring back *The Fanlight*, which has been on hiatus for a year. Thank you for your patience!

MCHA Board moves us into a new decade

By **Amy Leiser**

Executive Director

Happy New Year, and welcome 2020! I can't believe another year is in the history books. I am so pleased with the past year we had, and I can't help but be hopeful that the new decade will bring many more banner years for our organization.

Here at the Historical Association, we are moving full-steam ahead with no plans of slowing down. Whoever said history is boring never interacted with us! We have many events already planned for 2020. From lectures and workshops to luncheons and wine pairings, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Please see our calendar of events on the next page for upcoming activities!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of all of you. Our members and friends are what make the Monroe County Historical Association great, and I'm the lucky one who gets to lead this important organization as we move forward into the future.

There are so many people who step up over the course of a year and give in so many ways. Our members simply are the best! Whether you live locally and volunteer for our many events or bake a dessert for our fundraising functions, or whether you live across the country and support us financially with contributions or donate a copy of your family genealogy, you're making an important and positive impact on your Association.

This organization is led by a team of 14 dedicated volunteers – our Board of Directors. Each and every member of the Board dedicates his or her expertise, energy,



Standing, from left: Executive Director Amy Leiser, Robert M. Moses, Margot Waddington Vagliardo, Bruce Denlinger, Bill Leonard, Jerry Geiger, Anthony Stevens-Arroyo, Michelle Bisbing, Marty Wilson and Glenn Yetter. Sitting, from left: Precie Schroyer, Carrie E. Wetherbee, Russell D. Scott, III, and Jennifer Harlacher Sibum. Missing: Doug Arnold.

and enthusiasm to ensure that the Monroe County Historical Association is on the right track.

Board members lead the various working committees, and their efforts show positive results. Some Board members chair the “behind-the-scenes” committees, such as the Financial, Executive, Endowment, Library, and Personnel committees, while other Board members lead committees that are more in the public eye, including the Facilities, Marketing/Membership, History, and Education committees. Every committee and its members are vital to the

success of the organization, and we would not be where we are today without their ideas and guidance.

This past year in particular, there has been a strong feeling of camaraderie among the Board members. At their meetings, the Board members are able to strike the perfect balance of having serious conversations about important issues facing the Association while still having moments of great humor when everyone is laughing along in friendship. The mission of the Historical Association – to promote, protect, and preserve local history – is clearly a unifying task that brings us all together. There is a positive feeling of support for the work of all of the committees and an overall attitude of teamwork between the staff and the Board of Directors. It is a pleasure for me to work alongside these great people.

I wish everyone a very happy 2020, and I look forward to another great year working to assist our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present.



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Margot Waddington Vagliardo

Martin Wilson

Glenn Yetter

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Executive Director | Amy Leiser

Administrative Assistant

Julia Burns

Curator

Bret Fowler

**Research Librarian/
Social Media Coordinator**

Tania Shelton

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Kim de Bourbon

2020 Meetings

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

January 28

February 23 (Annual Meeting)

March 24

April 28

May 26

June 23

No meeting in July

August 25

September 22

October 27

November 24

No meeting in 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.

MCHA Calendar

Sunday, February 23

**98th Annual Meeting
& MCHA Awards Luncheon**

*Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort,
Shawnee-on-Delaware*

Noon — Social hour begins

1 p.m. — Luncheon served

Tickets: \$35 for MCHA members,
\$40 for non-members.

Thursday, March 26

Monroe County History Challenge

*7 p.m., Stroudsburg High School
Auditorium, Stroudsburg*

Join us for our annual question-and-answer history scholarship competition for area high school juniors and seniors. Audience members welcome — Free.

Saturday, June 20

Hiking Into History

Meeting place TBA

The MCHA and the Pocono Heritage Land Trust host a guided hike through the woods, with a historical destination. *Details to come.*

Put it on your calendar now!

Thursday, September 10

Raise Your Glass & Support the Past

*6-9 p.m., The Lodge at Mountain Springs
Lake, Reeders*

Annual wine-pairing dinner and auction. Our major fundraising event of the year.



American and German high school students gather for a photo at Stroud Mansion.

German exchange students tour Stroud Mansion

The staff at the Stroud Mansion was pleased to offer a tour to German high school exchange students and their American hosts on September 24.

Led by Stroudsburg High School teacher Matt Sobrinski and his German counterpart, Sebastian Beckmann, the students had the opportunity to view local artifacts related to the Pennsylvania German culture.

The students, who are part of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), spent the day meeting Stroudsburg Mayor Tarah Probst, touring the Monroe County Courthouse, and visiting many sites throughout Monroe County.





Jeff Gibbons entertains.



Enjoying the array of desserts at the Holiday Luncheon.



Erin McClelland plays.

Holiday Luncheon again a festive event

The weeks following Thanksgiving break are always a whirlwind of activity when staff and volunteers work to prepare for the holiday season, adorning the 1795 Stroud Mansion with trees, wreaths, and evergreen mantle and windowsill arrangements with electric candles. We would like to extend a very special thank you to volunteer Donna Bisset who worked tirelessly cleaning the Mansion in preparation for this event.

Traditionally our Holiday Luncheon fundraising event has been held on a Thursday and Friday, but after receiving feedback that some people could not attend on a weekday, a weekend seating was offered this season. It was wonderful to have new faces discover the museum and enjoy a delicious lunch, and we will certainly be sticking with a weekday and weekend dining option.

Musicians playing acoustic guitar provided lovely background music. Performing for the first time at the Stroud Mansion was Jeff Gibbons, who charmed guests at

both the early seatings. Longtime MCHA supporter Erin McClelland entertained visitors for the Friday late seating. Both gentlemen volunteered their time, and we thank them for sharing their musical talents for this event.

Again this year, Dave Cook from the Cook's Corner Family Restaurant in Henryville provided the delicious meal featuring stuffed chicken breast in a cream sauce with bacon, roasted sweet potatoes, and an assortment of delicious desserts donated by our many wonderful volunteers. No one left hungry!

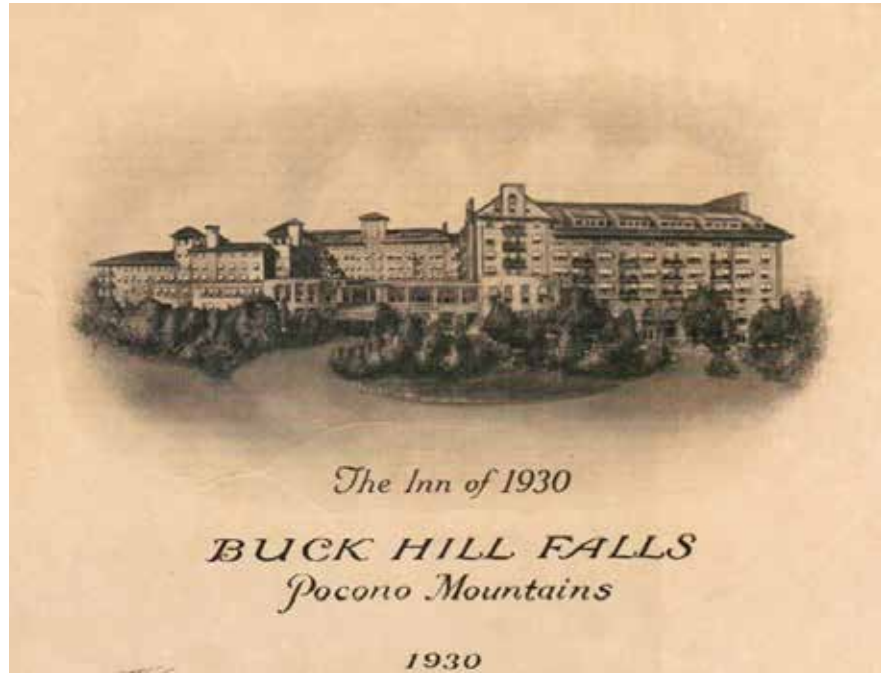
A complimentary glass of Riesling wine was offered to our guests. This wine was a donation from MCHA member and friend Barbara J. Lantz in memory of longtime MCHA Board member John K. Meixell.

The event was again a huge success, and the Monroe County Historical Association extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful event.





Buck Hill Falls was the 2019 Premier Sponsor of the "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" fundraiser.



An evening celebrating local history

On September 5, the Monroe County Historical Association hosted the 5th Annual "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" wine-pairing dinner and auction fundraiser at the historic Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake. Guests enjoyed good food, great friends, a beautiful venue, select wines, and a fun auction.

This sold-out event raised over \$45,000 to benefit the MCHA, with a portion to be used to help preserve the museum and library collections.

The evening began with butlered hors d'oeuvres donated by the Rader family. Musical entertainment was provided by Erin McClelland while guests perused the 82 silent auction and 11 live auction items.

Following the cocktail hour, an exquisite three-course meal was served with quality wine. During the first course, guests were treated to a gourmet salad paired with Clos Noly Macon-Charnay 2016 donated by Board Members Doug Arnold, Michelle Bisbing, Bill Leonard, Robert M. Moses, Precie Schroyer, Margot Waddington Vagliardo, and Martin Wilson.

The entrée was a duet of grilled sirloin of beef paired with grilled scampied shrimp kabobs and a glass of Regio Cantina Donpa Aglianico del Vulture 2014 contributed by Young and Haros, LLC.

Dessert was a Boston cream pie cheesecake paired with Hermann J. Weimer Late Harvest Riesling 2016, sponsored

by MCHA Treasurer Patricia J. Saylor.

The evening ended with an exciting live auction filled with wonderful things, including a 10-day Florida vacation; tickets to see Wynonna Judd at Penn's Peak; a Duckloe saddle bench; an antique 12-gallon butter churn; and cooking classes with dinner for six offered by Kara's Kitchen at Pocono ProFoods.

Also up for auction were local artwork, restaurant gift certificates, wine baskets, jewelry, spa retreats, decorative artisan pieces, golf outings, designer handbags, brewery tours, and much more. Raymond Hartzell of Hartzell's Auction Gallery donated his services for this event.

The MCHA would like to thank "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" committee members for their hard work and devotion. From creating beautiful centerpieces and collecting auction items to securing sponsors and assisting during the evening, this event would not have been possible without Chairperson Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, Chair Emeritus Marie Conklin Young, Auction Chair Meredith Rettaliata, Julia Burns, Bruce A. Denlinger, Joann Farda, Mary Riley Frantz, Jerry Geiger, Stephanie Lefferson, Bill Leonard, Ken Sandri, Russell D. Scott III, Carrie Wetherbee, Susan E. Yetter, and Theresa Yocum.

Mark your calendars! The 2020 "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" wine pairing dinner and auction will be held Thursday, September 10, 2020, at the Lodge at Mountain Springs Lake!



Meet our new staff at the Mansion

JULIA BURNS

Administrative Assistant

Julia joined the MCHA team in June 2019. She loves Monroe County and has lived here most of her life. Julia attended the Notre Dame School system before graduating from East Stroudsburg High School – South.



Julia is a proud alumna of East Stroudsburg University. At ESU, she studied fine arts with a concentration in art history. While attending ESU in 2007, she completed an internship at Monroe County Historical Association and is grateful and glad to be part of this wonderful organization again.

In her role as administrative assistant, Julia handles everything from daily emails to processing donations to preparing for all our special events and programming.

When she is not at the Stroud Mansion, Julia enjoys landscape photography, painting, and hiking the many beautiful trails in the Poconos.

In her time at MCHA, Julia has met many enthusiastic and dedicated members and volunteers. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

TANIA SHELTON

Research Librarian

Tania is the most recent addition to the staff, filling the newly-created position of research librarian.

A graduate of the Master of Information in Library and Information Science program at Rutgers University, she previously worked at the Kemp

Library at East Stroudsburg University and at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. She is delighted with her new role in the Elizabeth D. Walters Research Library at the Stroud Mansion, and she is passionate about finding, preserving, and organizing information and making it accessible to all.

Originally from Tennessee, Tania and her family have made their home in Monroe County for over 10 years. She enjoys reading, traveling, technology, being outdoors, and spending time with her children.

Please stop by the Stroud Mansion to say hello to Tania, and bring your local history and genealogical research questions to her. She looks forward to meeting you and helping with your research needs.



MCHA partners with NCC for History Fair

Over 80 guests explored Pennsylvania's history November 14 at the History Fair at Northampton Community College's Monroe Campus. From colonization to chocolate, the free event focused on famous Pennsylvanians, with an emphasis on innovation.



The History Fair at Northampton Community College's Monroe Campus in Tannersville was well attended.

Guest speakers included history professor Dr. Michael McGovern, who gave a talk titled, "Mixing Profit with Progress: Pa. Capitalists with a Social Conscience." Dr. McGovern shared stories of Pennsylvania's first social entrepreneurs and their legacies.

Carrie Fischer Lepore, the state's deputy secretary for Marketing, Tourism and Film, shared the history of Pennsylvania slogans, and updated guests on the multifaceted approach to marketing in her talk, "Pursue

Your Happiness in Pennsylvania."

The final presentation featured Doug Miller, director of Pennsbury Manor, who discussed the founding of Pennsylvania with "Seed of a Nation: The Social Entrepreneurship of William Penn."

Local and regional historical and community groups also hosted informational tables showcasing their organizations.

A special thank you goes to Dr. Elizabeth Tyler Bugaighis, dean of Education and Academic Success, for inviting us to partner on this event.

We plan to partner again for another History Fair this fall, so watch future issues of *The Fanlight* for more information.



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2019 Premier Sponsor

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R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation
Stroudsburgs Rotary Foundation
Sullivan Trail Questers



A high-wheel bicycle

Hi, *Fanlight* readers! I must tell you about the surprise I encountered during one of my recent third-floor night scampers — a VERY strange looking two-wheel bicycle with a huge (57 inch diameter) front wheel and, in comparison, a very small (17½-inch) back wheel. I haven't, in my whole little mouse life, seen anything like it! Of course I had to find out more about this fascinating historical object. Luckily, the accession tag told me what it's called and where it came from:

Penny Farthing bicycle, c. 1880s
(rebuilt, c. 1965)
Donor: Jere Hoover

With this important information, I immediately set forth on my research. As always, using only reliable websites, I found out that the name “penny farthing” comes from the size of two English coins that were circulated long ago: The English penny, made of copper, had a diameter of over an inch and was worth one cent in English money. The farthing, whose name came from Old English word *feorthing*, from *feortha* (a fourth), was worth ¼ of a cent and was much smaller. Aha, I get it — the front and back wheels on the bicycle match up with the names of the coins!

I was not too familiar with bicycles and their history. “The Chronology of the Growth of Bicycling and the Development of Bicycle Technology” provided a lot of information on these interesting vehicles and their evolution.

In the early 1700s, a German man, Karl Drais, invented a velocipede (my new favorite word), or dandy horse, which was propelled by the rider sitting on the seat of a straight line



two-wheeled wooden structure and pushing it forward by his/her feet. With no brakes and being hard to steer, the rider was challenged to keep control of this “boneshaker,” due to the lack of springs and the number of riders who “wiped-out.”

Through the 1800s, boneshakers were slowly but continually made safer and better, with the addition of pedals and growth of the front wheel to make steering easier.

In 1871, the penny farthing high-wheel bicycle was invented by Englishman James Starley. It was the first all-metal velocipede, sporting solid rubber tires and long spokes in the large front wheel which provided smoother travel. Riders soon realized that the larger the wheel, the farther you could travel with one rotation of the pedals. Because the rider sat so high above the center of gravity, when the front wheel was stopped by a stone or rut in the road, the entire apparatus rotated forward on its front axle, and riders, with legs trapped under the handlebars, were dropped

unceremoniously on their heads, thereby “taking a header.” But still there were no brakes. I spent a lot of time wondering how many people rode such a dangerous bike in Monroe County back in the olden days. Even though I’m too small to ride a bike, I’m glad they have brakes and are safer today.

So how did Mr. Hoover end up with this wonderful, historical object? Here’s what I know: As a young lad growing up in Stroudsburg, he lived through the flood of 1955 and witnessed the remnants of a penny farthing bicycle in a pile of debris being pushed by a bulldozer in the lower Main Street area where many houses had been ruined by the high water, including his. It’s gotten around that Mr. Hoover tells many stories that are interesting remembrances, revealing a close-knit local community of neighbors, shopkeepers, and friends who helped each other, especially when a boy wanted to fix up a strange-looking mangled bicycle. We in the Stroud Mansion call such stories “living history.”

I’ve heard that his remade penny farthing was ridden during the celebration of Stroudsburg’s Sesquicentennial in 1965. I wonder what actually happened, don’t you? As the Living History resources are under construction, I will check other resources in the Mansion’s library and collections for more local information. (I think I may have left some cheese over there for a snack).

I can’t wait to find out more about that strange bike, its rebuilding, and the people who were involved in such a difficult task.

Thanks, Mr. Hoover, for donating your penny farthing!



**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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www.monroehistorical.org

STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Tours daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Has your address changed?

If you have a new mailing address or email address, please let us know.

We don't want you to miss any of the exciting events, fundraisers, programs and workshops we offer.

Email admin@monroehistorical.org or call 570-421-7703.

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND HISTORICAL NEW YEAR!**



Visit the MCHA website
www.monroehistorical.org
and use our social media links

The Fanlight is a quarterly publication of the Monroe County Historical Association and is distributed in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall of each year.

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