

MCHA staff visit the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art located in Chadds Ford, west of Philadelphia.



MCHA staff in a 1912 Stanley Model 87 at the Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights, near Wilmington, Delaware.

## *MCHA staff hits the road to learn*

**By Amy Leiser**  
*Executive Director*

It's hard to believe that one year ago, the Board of Directors stood in the backyard of the Stroud Mansion, shovels in hand, celebrating the groundbreaking ceremony for the Heritage Center. So much has been accomplished since shovels first hit the ground, and everyone is excitedly looking forward to the Heritage Center's ribbon cutting ceremony, tentatively scheduled for Spring 2025.

With the construction phase of the project moving along nicely, the staff is beginning to focus attention on the interior spaces of both the historic Stroud Mansion and the new Heritage Center. The complete renovation allows us to reconfigure the exhibition and gallery rooms. What a wonderful opportunity to reimagine the spaces and better tell Monroe County's story!

Of the 14 exhibit rooms in the Stroud Mansion, only three are returning to their pre-construction appearance: the Colonial Kitchen, the Stroud Family Room, and the second floor Gallery. All of the other rooms will have new themes. The new spaces will include rooms on Women's History, First Nations, Founding Families, Our Diverse Community,

Mourning in Monroe County, Vacationland, and so much more!

In preparation for the reopening of the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, the Historical Association staff traveled to suburban Philadelphia and to Wilmington, Del., to visit the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art (formerly known as the Brandywine River Museum) and the Marshall Steam Museum. This professional development trip provided a wealth of information and allowed the staff to connect with other professionals in the field who were able to share some tips and tricks.

The first stop was the Brandywine Museum of Art where we visited with Lillian Kinney, the manager of the Walter & Leonore Annenberg Research Center. Lillian showed us their library space and allowed us access to their archival high-density storage area. She happily shared their cataloging system, discussed climate control standards, and described their organization's library policies.

We then met with Daniel Krull, lead preparator, who works closely with the curators to mount the rotating art exhibitions. His helpful tips on the best way to hang heavy

Story continues, Page 2



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### 2024 Meetings

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

#### Now meeting via Zoom

January 23  
February 25– Annual Meeting  
March 26  
April 23  
May 28  
June 25  
July – No meeting  
August 27  
September 24  
October 22  
November 26  
December – No meeting

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

### Thursday, July 18

#### Third Thursday Lecture Series Topic: "History of the SS United States, America's Greatest Ocean Liner"

7 p.m. Ray Price Community Room, Stroud Ford Lincoln Auto Park, 6320 Route 209, Stroudsburg

Dan McSweeney describes continuing efforts to save the ocean liner which still holds the transatlantic speed record.

### Thursday, July 25

#### Spirited History Tour

5 p.m., downtown Stroudsburg.  
Cost: \$45 per person

(See the article on Page 3.)

### Thursday, September 5

#### Raise Your Glass & Support the Past

6-9 p.m., Skytop Lodge, Skytop, Pa.  
\$175 per person

Our biggest fundraiser of the year! Join us for an evening of elegance and philanthropy. See Page 3.

### Thursday, September 19

#### Third Thursday Lecture Series Topic: "History of the African American Community in Monroe County"

7 p.m., Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center, 5200 Milford Rd., East Stroudsburg

Jeffrey Wright will discuss where some of the area's earliest people of color came from, and the importance of the Little Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Stroudsburg.

### Thursday, October 17

#### Third Thursday Lecture Series Topic: "History of the Monroe County Public Defender Office in the 20th Century"

7 p.m. Monroe County Bar Association, 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg.

Hon. Michael Muth will discuss the right of the accused to a free lawyer, and the concept of the public defender.

## Museum trip

Continued from Page 1  
pieces of artwork and advice for display labels were invaluable, and we plan to implement these best practices. We even got a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's art storage. We were all in awe of their collections.

In the afternoon, the staff traveled to northern Delaware to the Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights, which "offers visitors a chance to step back in time and experience life at the dawn of the automotive age." We visited with Executive Director Susan Randolph and Director of Public Programs Alli Schell. Friendly smiles greeted us as this two-woman operation shared how they do so much with so little — a common theme in small museums! We had an in-depth review of their payment systems and discovered new technology for our new museum store. Susan shared how they

sourced parts to create professional looking informational kiosks.

We had an incredible day filled with useful information, valuable guidance, and plenty of helpful suggestions. Representatives from both museums were extremely supportive and encouraged us to stay in touch. Of course, I promised them a tour of our facility once we reopen, and I look forward to returning the favor and showing them around.

For now, the Historical Association staff and volunteers are continuing to work behind the scenes, conducting research, and collaborating with each other and with other groups to create a history museum that represents all aspects and people of Monroe County's past. This is an exciting time, and I can't wait to welcome you to the new and improved space!



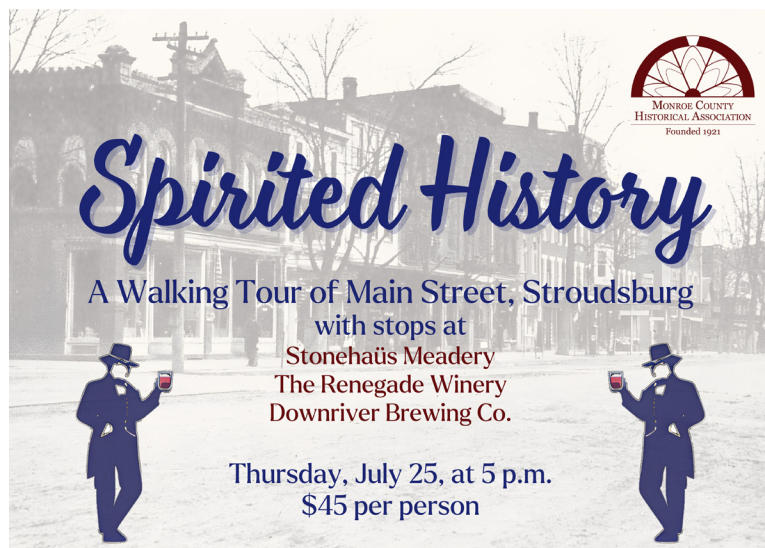
## Join the 'Spirited History' walking tour in Stroudsburg

Step into a world of flavor and history and join our "Spirited History" walking tour down Stroudsburg's Main Street on **Thursday, July 25** at 5 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the art of mead-making at Stonehäus Meadery, savor the rich notes of wine at The Renegade Winery, and indulge in finest brews at Downriver Brewing Co. Uncover the secrets behind the craft as you explore the historic buildings that house these renowned establishments.

We'll be serving light refreshments to keep you energized throughout the experience. Don't miss this unique opportunity to sip, stroll, and savor the best of Stroudsburg's libations!

NOTE: *Because of limited space, the Spirited History Walking Tour is limited to 15 adults, aged 21 years and older. Cost: \$45 per person. Buy tickets at [www.monroehistorical.org/spiritedhistory.html](http://www.monroehistorical.org/spiritedhistory.html).*



### SAVE THE DATE



### Get ready to Raise Your Glass

The Monroe County Historical Association invites you to our biggest fundraiser of the year: Raise Your Glass & Support the Past. On **Thursday, September 5**, join us at the stunning Skytop Lodge for an unforgettable evening of elegance and philanthropy. Savor exquisite food and expert wine pairings as you enjoy live music and mingle with other history enthusiasts. Participate in exciting live and silent auctions and don't miss your chance to win a wine raffle basket. Make a difference in preserving our community's rich history while having a fabulous time!

Visit <https://monroehistorical.ejoinme.org/raiseyourglass24> or call 570-421-7703 to reserve seats. (Note: This event always sells out.)

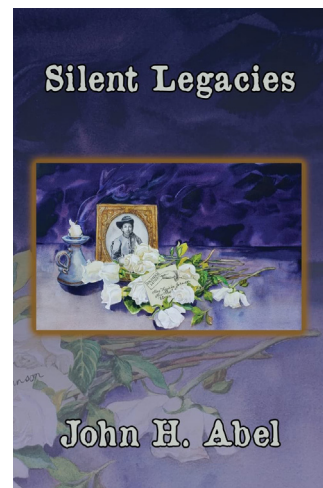
## MCHA receives Pa. Library grant for virtual programming

For the fourth year in a row, the Monroe County Historical Association was recognized for virtual programming and awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Library Association through their PA Forward initiative.

The award recognized John H. Abel's program, "The Story of Horatio Howell: A Water Gap Minister Killed at the Battle of Gettysburg," based on his second historical fiction novel, "Silent Legacies."

His first publication, "The Murder of Theodore Brodhead," is a highly-rated work. Both are available in local bookstores and online. John's virtual presentation is available on the Historical Association's website and YouTube channel, and across all libraries in the Pennsylvania system.

Previous local winners include: "Ice Harvesting in Monroe County" presented by Bill Leonard; "Mastodons, Myths, and Marshalls Creek" by Gabrielle Ferrara; and "The Origin and Evolution of the Pennsylvania State Police, 1905-1937" by Michael Chaplin.



# Have your name go down in history

The Monroe County Historical Association is thrilled to announce the upcoming installation of the Kinsley Family Courtyard at the Stroud Mansion as part of the Heritage Center addition. This beautifully landscaped area will complement the historic charm of the Mansion, providing a tranquil space for visitors to enjoy.

With only \$50,000 left to raise to meet our fundraising goal, please help us pave our way to success!

Reserve a personalized engraved paver or brick that will become a lasting part of the Stroud Manion. Whether you want to customize a piece with the name of your family, business, or organization; honor a loved one; memorialize an ancestor; or give a unique gift, your contribution will help us create a meaningful legacy that will be admired for years to come.

## ORDER ONLINE

[monroehistorical.org/heritagectr.html](http://monroehistorical.org/heritagectr.html)

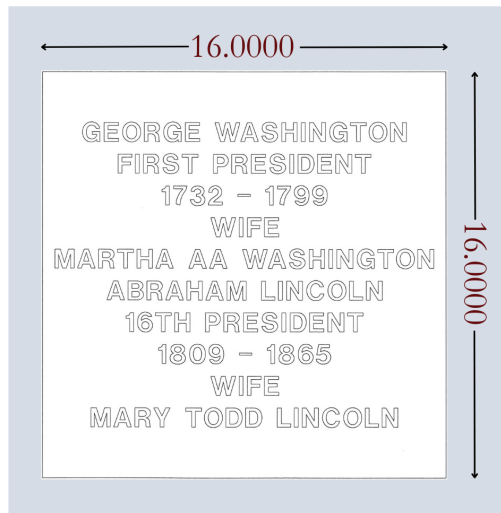
■ **Donate \$1,200 for an engraved 16-inch x 16-inch paver** — Includes a maximum of 10 engraved lines with a maximum of 20 letters and spaces per line. The font size is 0.75-in.

■ **Donate \$250 for an engraved 8-inch x 4-inch brick** — Includes a maximum of 3 engraved lines with a maximum of 15 letters and spaces per line. The font size is 0.625-in.

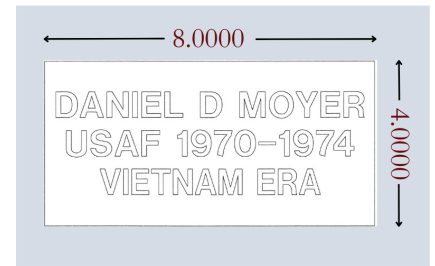
## New Members

Eric and April Bankit  
 Clifford Coffyn  
 Marijane Coffyn  
 Judith Goetz  
 Carson Horvath  
 Lisa Johnson  
 Matthew Long  
 Jacob Pride  
 Scott Trethaway, II

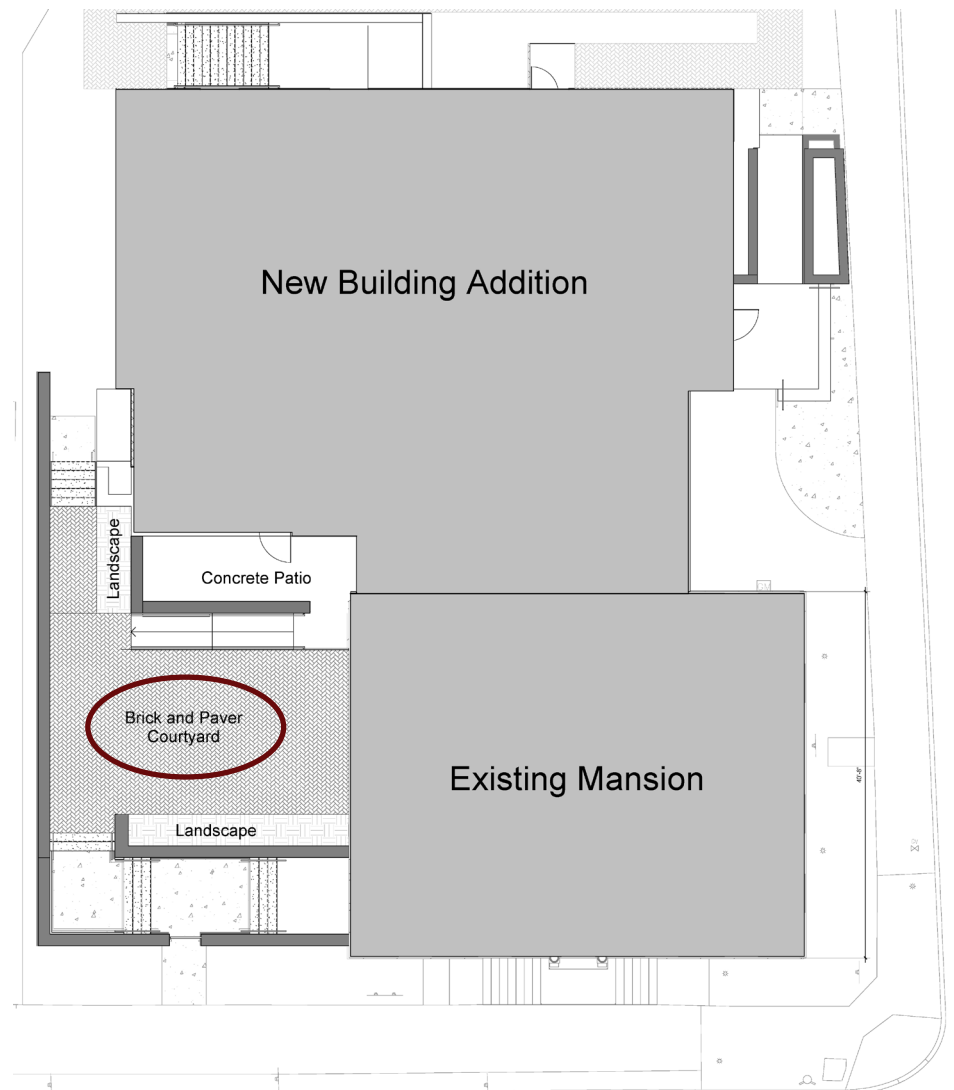
### ENGRAVED PAVER



### ENGRAVED BRICK



*If you have previously donated to support the Heritage Center Cornerstone Campaign and wish to apply that contribution toward a paver or brick, please call the office at 570-421-7703 or email [admin@monroehistorical.org](mailto:admin@monroehistorical.org).*



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# Heritage Center construction update

**By Bill Leonard**  
*MCHA Facilities Chair*

After years of planning, design, and permitting, in May 2023 the MCHA awarded a contract to RLS Construction Group from Mechanicsburg to construct the Heritage Center addition to the Stroud Mansion. The project is progressing well, and is approximately 40% complete.

The Heritage Center will consist of 13,000 square feet of floor space across three floors and a basement, with 7,000 square feet dedicated to public access. The new building will include a 125-person capacity community room for educational programs, a 900-sq. ft. research library, curatorial storage with controlled temperature and humidity, offices, a lobby, an outdoor courtyard, and an elevator accessing all floors of the new structure and old mansion. The project also will enhance the Stroud Mansion by adding air conditioning and other improvements.

With any large construction job, especially those involving existing structures, we anticipated some challenges, and set aside contingency funds to account for unforeseen site conditions and contract changes.

The project included the removal of the 1893 addition, which was in deteriorating condition. Construction began in June 2023, and upon demolition of the addition, it was discovered that the north wall of the 1795 Stroud



Mansion was unstable and required significant masonry repairs. We also encountered unsuitable soil conditions and foundation problems.

Other challenges included meeting firewall and other building code requirements, HVAC system controls, ductwork revisions, upgraded security systems, coordination with a new electrical provider, and some weather-related delays.

Construction manager David Policelli from Bangor is overseeing the project, ensuring that the work meets contract specifications, and is doing an excellent job coordinating between the contractor, architect, and the MCHA to keep everyone on-task and moving forward.

Biweekly meetings involve the contractor, architect, construction manager, MCHA staff, Facilities Committee, and Financial Committee to discuss open issues.

We also are working on other improvements to the 229-year-old Stroud Mansion, including refinishing the exterior, interior renovations, deep cleaning, and a new security system. The MCHA staff and board are securing grants to cover this additional work.

Thanks to the collective efforts of all involved, and, most importantly, the generous financial support and community donations, this project is poised to exceed expectations. Construction is expected to be completed in December, with a grand opening scheduled for next spring.



# Sponsors of the MCHA



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## Past Premier Sponsors

2023 | Skytop Lodge Resort  
2022 | Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono  
2021 | Pocono Raceway  
2019 | Buck Hill Falls  
2018 | Bushkill Falls  
2017 | Camelback Resort

## History Maker | \$2,500

### Preservation Advocate | \$2,000

Anonymous  
ESSA Bank & Trust

### Local History Enthusiast | \$1,500

Bushkill Falls  
RLS Construction Group  
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John Campbell and Jacob Petersen  
Charles Eyer and Linda Wallach Miller  
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Smithfield Township Supervisors

### Library Supporter | \$500

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### Municipal | \$250

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East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Northampton Community College  
Pocono Mountain School District

### Small Business

Barley Creek Brewing Company  
Bentzoni Machine, LLC  
Deer Head Inn  
FRM Group Insurance and Financial Services  
Ken and Company Salon  
Pocono Magazines, LLC  
Ray Price Cars

### Grants

Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation  
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Monroe County Industrial Development Authority  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Pennsylvania Library Association  
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation  
The Weiler Family Foundation





## Keeping cool in the old space of Stroud Mansion

Hello! Monroe Mouse here. As promised, I'm updating you on the goings-on at the Stroud Mansion and our Heritage Center. Today I have a chilling tale for you ... the story of air conditioning!

Scurrying around the attic the other day, I saw some BIG silver tubes filling the room! I heard it was called "ductwork." At first, I thought, were ducks planning to move into the Mansion? No one checked with me about this! I got a little hot under the collar for a moment but thankfully, that's not what ductwork means. It means they're bringing cool, comfortable air into my beloved home! I'm a curious mouse and I have a lot of time on my paws these days, so I did a little research.

Before the days of cool air streaming directly into your home, visiting our very own Pocono Mountains was a natural way to cool off! From the 1800s, city folk came here to escape the stifling summer heat in New York and Philadelphia. The abundance of trees, cool mountain streams, and clean air offered a shady retreat.

As the population and cities grew along with industrialization, so did the need to create artificial cold air. In 1902, the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographic and Publishing Company in Brooklyn, N.Y., faced printing problems due to the humidity. A 25-year-old engineer named Willis Carrier came up with a cooling system to reduce humidity around the printer. It worked – and people noticed how nice it felt to have cool air in the room!

The earliest efforts to create cold air date as far back as refrigeration attempts in Scotland in 1748, and experiments to hone a cold air system continued for decades after Willis Carrier's initial 1902 invention. (The Carrier brand continues to be among the most popular air conditioning companies today!) Air conditioning reached the general public in the 1920s when many American theaters began using Carrier cooling systems to draw more customers. Carrier's inventions even led to the creation of the perfect ice surface for hockey in Madison Square Garden in 1925!



Room air conditioners, particularly window units, were created in the 1930s by inventors H.H. Schultz and J.Q. Sherman. Air conditioning became a fixture in American homes in the 1950s and was seen as a symbol of prosperity post-World War II. Today, nearly 90% of U.S. homes use air conditioning, as well as the vast majority of businesses.

I wondered (as I do, because I love to learn), what it was like installing air conditioning in a building from 1795. I imagined that might come with challenges! I decided to be brave and ask around. Everyone was so eager to answer my questions! I learned that when engineers prepare to install ductwork to create airflow in a building, they create the plan, not knowing quite what they will find when they get there. Then they adjust their vision to fit the needs of the space. This is true of any renovation, but especially in an 18th-century home. For example, it might be an easy decision to cut a hole in the wall in a new building if needed – but not when the structure is 229 years old! The engineers had to be very creative.

Among the unique issues they faced in the Stroud Mansion were the single-pane windows and lack of natural insulation. The ductwork had to be made much larger to compensate for this. They also encountered challenges because the space behind the walls was very narrow. So, extensive ductwork, lack of traditional space – what to do? Our engineers were clever and utilized as much attic and closet space as they could, as it was very important to honor the historic building. (*See photos on the back page.*) The team also wants visitors to be as comfortable as possible while reducing visual impact, so they can focus on the artifacts, not silver tubes! The new system, which is indoor/outdoor, is very modern and energy efficient. I was so happy to hear that. Only the best for my home!

As the summer days grow longer and hotter, I can't wait until the new A/C kicks in... in the meantime, I'll be surrounding myself with all the fans I can find! Until next time ...





**NEW DUCTWORK  
IN OLD SPACES —**

Extensive ductwork for the new HVAC system in the Stroud Mansion is being hidden in the attic and closets to preserve the historic building's public spaces.

Monroe Mouse learns all about it! See Page 7.

**MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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