



THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 20, No. 4

Monroe County Historical Association

September - October 2009

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Halle Smith

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2009 Meetings

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

September 22

October 27

November 24

December -- no meeting

From the Executive Director

Amy Leiser

One of the important aspects of the Monroe County Historical Association's mission is to preserve the history of Monroe County. In the previous edition of the *Fanlight*, I focused on the importance of our mission statement and on how the staff and volunteers work to ensure that Monroe County's history continues to be promoted, protected and preserved.

In one of our ongoing projects, staff, along with the Collections Committee, continue to sort through various papers, letters, and photographs to place these valuable items in archival sleeves and envelopes. We are also ensuring that our thousands of artifacts (especially textiles) are wrapped in acid-free tissue paper before being placed in acid-free boxes. This will be a major project for many years to come as we update our current storage and apply the utmost care to new donations to the museum.

The Monroe County Historical Association was recently given an outstanding collection of hand-blown and hand-decorated eggs that belonged to Earl and Ada Robacker of Hamilton Township. These eggs are certainly an important piece of Monroe County's history. MCHA member, Forrest Bonser donated all 300 eggs to our organization. These beautiful eggs, from a variety of birds including; chicken, goose, guinea fowl, duck, etc., come in an array of old Pennsylvania Dutch designs. There are a few eggs with unique designs and some blank eggs that the Robacker's had not yet decorated.

These eggs were donated at the end of last year, and we were finally able to find an appropriate, museum-quality storage container to house them. Thanks to a new product, offered by Gaylord, our archival supply store, I decided the best storage box would be one with individual compartments so the eggs would not touch each other. Interestingly, the box available through our supplier is marketed to store valuable holiday ornaments. I thought it would also be useful to protect breakable hand-blown eggs. One has to think outside the box (*so to speak*) when it comes to creative storage options!

Most people do not realize the cost associated with storing artifacts in a museum. Using the eggs as an example, 12 storage boxes with 24 compartments, and one storage box with 12 compartments (for the larger sized goose eggs) had to be purchased. The Monroe County Historical Association also had to purchase three pounds of shredded acid-free tissue paper in which the eggs would sit in each compartment. The total up-front cost to store the Robacker eggs was \$581.65, and this price does not include the constant care the eggs receive once in the possession of the Monroe County Historical Association.

The costs to run a non-profit organization are numerous. The obvious costs include those associated to keep the museum open, such as utility bills, insurance coverage and salaries for employees. Often, the many little costs quickly add up, and these are the expenses that many people do not even realize exist.

The Monroe County Historical Association relies heavily on your membership dues, along with donations and proceeds from special events, workshops, and fundraisers to pay all of the bills, both the obvious and the not so obvious. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thank you for contributing directly to the preservation of valuable Monroe County artifacts.



Halle Smith and Tom Famularo work to preserve and protect the delicate hand-blown Robacker eggs by placing them in archival storage boxes.

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)

Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.
Frailey Insurance Agency
Huffman's Electric
Inn at Pocono Manor
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Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort
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Borough of Mount Pocono
Borough of Stroudsburg
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Pocono Township
Smithfield Township
Stroud Township

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Pocono Mountain School District
Stroudsburg Area School District

Contributor (\$500.00 and more)

Northampton Community College
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

Third Annual "On Par with History" Golf Classic

Monday, September 21, 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Great Bear Golf & Country Club, 1 Great Bear Way, East Stroudsburg

Entry Fee: \$125 per person - Costs include green fees, cart,

All-American luncheon, dinner, auction, tax and gratuities.

Not a golfer? Join us afterward for the Dinner Auction for only \$35 per person.

SCHEDULE:

11:30 a.m. - Registration and All-American luncheon

1:00 p.m. - Shotgun start

5:30 p.m. - Cocktails

6:30 p.m. - Dinner Auction

Second Annual "8K Run/5K Walk for History"

Sunday, October 4, 2009, 7:30a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Antoine Dutot Museum and Gallery, Main Street, Delaware Water Gap

Enjoy the autumn scenery as the route winds through beautiful Cherry Valley. Unique prizes will be given to top runners in all age groups, as well as overall male and female runners and walkers.

Pre-register by September 22, 2009: \$18.00

(all pre-registered participants receive a long-sleeved tee-shirt)

Race day Registration: \$25.00

MCHA Offices Closed

November 26 through November 30

Happy Thanksgiving!

Christmas Luncheon at the Stroud Mansion

December 10 and 11, 2009

Enjoy a hot buffet luncheon catered by Everybody's Café

Seating 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$15.00 per person

Christmas Concert at the Stroud Mansion

December 18, 7:30 p.m.

Dave Russell & Friends

Free and open to the public

Driebe Freight Station Holiday Open House In conjunction with the Stroudsburg Fire Department

Christmas Light Display

Special exhibit by the Pocono Photo Club

Dates to be announced later

MCHA Offices Closed

Thursday, December 24, 2009 - Monday, January 11, 2010

Happy Holidays!



Stroudfest 2009

The Monroe County Historical Association participated in the 3rd annual Stroudfest on Saturday, September 5. The MCHA booth was located at the corner on Main and Williams Street, not far from our historic headquarters.

Thousands of people attended Stroudfest and it was a great opportunity to share Monroe County's history with residents and tourists alike. The MCHA booth featured a display of old photographs, that caught the

eye of many people. Local history books were sold in addition to our Fanlight pin, created by Liztech.

Thank you to the following people who gave up a couple of hours on the Saturday of their Labor Day weekend to volunteer: Kathy Boyle, Eugenia S. Eden, Leslie Goyne, Joan Groff, Connie and Henry McCool, John Meixell, Evelyn Smith, Anda Staab and Jim Werkheiser.

(l-r) Museum Assistant Halle Smith, Volunteers Evelyn Smith and Anda Staab, and Executive Director Amy Leiser welcomed people to the MCHA booth at Stroudfest.



MCHA at EMPL

The Monroe County Historical Association has an informative exhibit on the second floor of the Eastern Monroe Public Library. EMPL Library Director, Barbara Keiser, offered the space to our organization, and we gladly accepted the opportunity to share Monroe County history with the library patrons.

Halle Smith, MCHA's Museum Assistant, embraced the chance to display artifacts from the MCHA collection. Halle worked to gather a wide array of interesting objects that represented Monroe County's history and would have

a wide appeal to the general public. From a man's beaver-skin top hat and ladies elbow-length kid gloves to an early typewriter and postcards, the small display case is packed with items.



Display case at Eastern Monroe Public Library



Welcome New Members!

Since July 1, 2009

Genevieve Battisto

Craig G. Campbell

Carole DeMarco

Fanlight Pin by Liztech is Back



The MCHA Liztech Fanlight pin is back and available for purchase. Having sold out years ago, Liztech Jewelry has remade this popular fundraiser pin for our organization.

Long before electricity, the decorative window above the front door of the Stroud Mansion would allow sunlight into the hallway. This window is called a fanlight.

The Fanlight pin is available for \$55.00 at the MCHA Museum Store or at the Liztech Gallery in East Stroudsburg. The pin makes a great gift and is in limited supply. Proudly wear the pin and show the community that you support local history.



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.

Web site keeps improving

The Monroe County Historical Association launched its new website in November 2008 and it keeps improving! We have had over 6,500 visitors (at the time of the newsletter's printing) to this site that is less than a year old! That's great news, and the Board and staff are delighted that so many individuals are using this tool to learn about all that MCHA has to offer.

If you have not been there (and you have access to the Internet), please stop by and visit us at <http://www.monroehistorical.org> today! People are visiting the website for various reasons, including checking the hours that tours are offered and when the library is open for researchers. Others visit to read historical articles or to learn more about upcoming events.

We are constantly updating the site to ensure that the most accurate information is available to our guests. The MCHA Education Committee has jumped on-board and has developed information directed toward students and teachers. Two new tabs on the navigation menu have been added: "For Teachers" and "Young Historians." Monroe County educators can now sign up for workshops offered by the Education Committee and book their next tour on-line. Photos of previous teachers' workshops and information on the traveling trunk are available.

MCHA mascot, Monroe Mouse, waves and welcomes our younger guests to the site. Under the "Young Historians" tab, children can read Monroe's blog and check out photos from kid-friendly events. Eventually, Monroe will offer games and activities for children in attempts to get our youngest generation interested in preserving local history.

The goal of www.monroehistorical.org is to streamline information for everyone including current MCHA members, local educators, students, and visitors. The web site is ever-changing; please use it to learn more about the happenings at MCHA!

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



Spring Appeal raises much-needed funds for MCHA

Thank you to the many members and friends of the Monroe County Historical Association who have contributed to the Spring Appeal. Through your generosity, \$4,095.00 has been raised.

This fund serves as the General Operating account for the organization and is used to keep the doors open at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, the Driebe Freight Station and the Bell School. From paying the various utility bills to supporting staff salaries, the General Operating account is an essential part of our organization.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and your gift to our annual fund drive, made out to MCHA, no matter what size, will further the Monroe County Historical Association's mission to promote, protect and preserve the rich history in Monroe County. **Thank you again.**

Rev& Mrs Thomas E. Anderman	Robert Evans	Ms. Mary Lee and Edward Vican	Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Robinson
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Garden Thyme

It is amazing how gardeners are always planning for the next season, before the current one has even ended. This is especially true for the MCHA garden volunteer regulars. There is nothing more inspiring after a cold, dreary winter than to see beds of daffodils welcoming spring. We have received one donation to purchase daffodils. Additional donations will be most welcome as well as an additional wheel barrow. We have a lot of mulch to move!

Plans for this fall include: spreading mulch, transplanting some shrubs, planting spring bulbs, and of course raking leaves. Since our last newsletter, we have been most grateful to the individuals who have donated time, garden expertise, monetary donations, plants, mulch, and a wheel barrow. Special thanks to Susan Kovarick, Jean

Eden, Maryann LaPenna, John Meixell, Joan Groff, Cindy Covington, and the borough of Stroudsburg, and Stroud Township.

The MCHA Board and several visitors toured the garden this month. The plantings on the west side of the Mansion are a pleasant surprise for many. Our visitors' favorable comments inspire our volunteers to do even more. Come join us on Tuesday mornings; we welcome your help. Call (570) 421-7703 or e-mail mcha@ptd.net for information. Please send donations for the garden to MCHA at the 900 Main St. address.



When visiting the Stroud Mansion, take time to relax and stroll through the garden.





School Days

I am delighted the school year has begun because I have missed the class visits to the Stroud Mansion. The youngsters are delightful, and always ask interesting questions, and make intuitive comments.

I just wonder if students today realize how different schools were from a

long time ago. Fortunately, William Penn, founder of the colony of Pennsylvania realized the importance of education. He wanted children to become productive members of the community. In Colonial times this meant learning a trade or skill. Children, especially boys, were apprenticed to skilled craftsman in the community, such as blacksmiths, coopers (barrel makers), silversmiths, wheelwrights, etc. In the course of learning the trade they would learn to read, write, and do arithmetic, all important skills if you were to have a business of your own. Younger children were often taught in a home in the community by a female member of that family. This type of school was called a dame school.

In the Quaker colony of Pennsylvania, as in many of the other colonies, reading was taught through passages from the *Bible*. Not only did the children learn to read, but they also learned moral lessons. In addition to reading and writing, girls of affluent families were taught needlework at home or in special schools just for that purpose. Even very young girls completed intricate samplers to demonstrate their skill with a needle. Samplers were also learning tools. Girls stitched numbers and letters, religious verses, mathematical tables, and even maps. The sampler in the Stroud Room was completed by Sarah Stroud at the age 12.

As a community grew, land was often set aside to build a school. Daniel Stroud and his family promoted education in the new community of Stroudsburg. Stroud donated property at 8th and Main where the stone building was used by several religious denominations on Sundays and as a school during the

week. It was known as the Stroudsburg Academy and was chartered in 1814. Community families financed the school. The first school house was built on Keeve's Hill just beyond the Stroudsburg Cemetery. This was similar to the Bell School (located in Stormsville and owned by MCHA) where students of all ages were taught in one room. Many of the first teachers were young men not much older than their students. Some were itinerant ministers. Unmarried women were also teachers. In some areas of what is now Monroe County, the language of instruction was often German. Many of the early settlers came from that area of Europe, now known as Germany, and continued to speak German in their homes and churches.

All this reminiscing about school days takes me to the children's room in the Mansion to look at the collection of classroom tools. I think today's students might have a difficult



time identifying some of the items. One of the time consuming tasks of the school master was to sharpen goose quills that students used to practice their writing skills. Students would copy sentences from the *New England Primer* that not only improved their penmanship, but also their behavior. I vividly recall this example; "The idle Fool is whipt at school". Because paper was scarce, other lessons were completed on a slate with a slate pencil. Books were rare and children memorized lessons from a horn book. This was a wooden paddle to which was attached a paper with a prayer and/or poem and covered by a transparent sheet of animal horn. The alphabet and numbers were often found on the reverse side of the horn book.

I enjoy the students' visits to the Mansion so much I think I might have enjoyed teaching in a one-room school!

Visit Monroe Mouse
on the web
www.monroehistorical.org



Back to School: 1924 -1925

Joan Groff

Paging through a teacher's record book from 85 years ago, the simplicity of a one-room schoolhouse education is evident. Sixteen male students, aged 6-12, and six female students, aged 6-11, had their data recorded in separate sections of the standard ledger, issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction. Among these sixteen students, relatively few absences were recorded, despite having very few holidays. School was closed *only* on December 25 and 26; school reopened on Monday, December 29. As the school year ended April 29, no Easter/Spring break was given.

A teacher was obliged to note absences and tardiness as weekly achievement by grade levels. Academic study areas were added by grade promotion. Students gradually would have been taught Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Hygiene, Language, Geography and History. Textbooks and workbooks were issued, reused and replaced as the teacher requested in her end-of-year order.

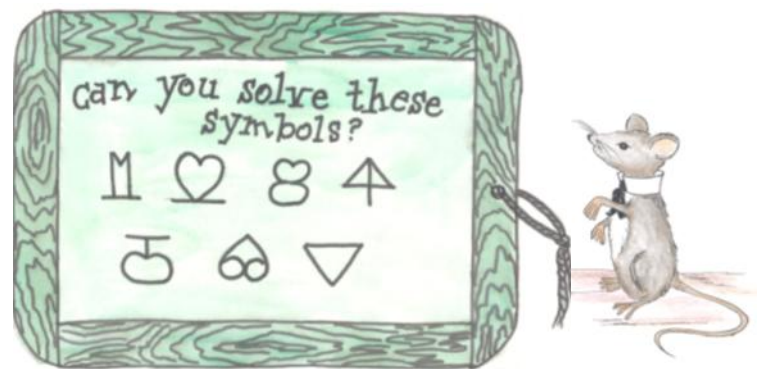
In beautiful, steel-penned handwriting, the teacher summarized the year, noting subjects completed and pages taught. She signed her pay receipt monthly in the same record book where this receipt was endorsed by her superintendent of schools. She earned \$96.31 per term/month, teaching 7 terms for the year. Another section of the weekly page shows visitors who signed

in, including parents, the school superintendent and East Stroudsburg State Teachers College teachers.

Preparing for the 1925-26 school year, a requisition was made for: 10 doz. pencil tablets, 1 box blackboard crayons, 1 pack exam paper, 1 bottle ink, 1 ½ gross lead pencils, 1 doz. spelling blanks and 1 pkg. drawing paper. Students still go through as many pencils today!

A final report of interest is from the Dept. of Health. For 1 ½ hours, a medical doctor checked students' vision, hearing (using the "Whisper Method"), nose, teeth, throat, hair, skin, eyelids and cornea. He advised the teacher as to proper seating of pupils, lighting and ventilation of the room and also noted the drinking water supply, the grounds and toilet provisions.

Of course, all of this was repeated in every schoolhouse location in the county, but it impressed me as being quite comprehensive and organized. The genders for teacher, superintendent and doctor would be changeable today; workbooks would not last as long, the student-teacher-parent contact may be less personal now, the class size larger and other comparisons readily made. What a year's educational history was revealed in just one, thin record book!



A Puzzle for You!

Workshop for Educators Travel Trunk Workshop

Colonial Stroudsburg - Link to Our History

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Act 48 credit, Fee \$12.00

Pre-register by October 9, 2009

Details at <http://www.monroehistorical.org>



MCHA Raffle

Be sure to buy your tickets for the MCHA annual raffle fundraiser! Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each OR 5 tickets for only \$20.00. Take a chance today to win one of three great prizes: 14K lemon citrine pendant and chain created by local jeweler, Daniel Varipapa of Findings Jewelry, framed print of the historic 1795 Stroud Mansion by Dee Huxster, MCHA gift basket (1-year family membership, ornament, t-shirt, books, and more) All of the proceeds benefit MCHA.

Good Luck!



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 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
(Closed Sunday, July 5, 2009)
Other times by special appointment.

Please renew your membership!

If there is a **colored dot near the mailing label** of this newsletter, your membership has lapsed and this will be your last MCHA mailing.

Please fill out the membership form and renew today! We wouldn't want you to miss any of the exciting and unique programs, workshops and fundraising events we have planned.

The Monroe County Historical Association values your continued participation and support. Thank you.



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

**Let friends know all the Monroe County Historical Association has to offer.
Please share this newsletter with them.**



Monroe County
Historical Association

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