

THE FANLIGHT

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Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Summer 2022

Walk through the museum at home

Virtual Tour of Stroud Mansion open

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

The Monroe County Historical Association received \$2,000 from the Stroudsburgs Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs to create an online tour of the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library.

The funding allowed our organization to develop and launch an engaging and educational online experience available to all audiences.

Over 2,000 people visit the Stroud Mansion each year. We realize, however, that many would-be guests may not be physically able to visit the Stroud Mansion. Other potential guests may look to online resources as a means to plan in-person visits or to have more in-depth experiences. Still others may be seeking online-only resources about museums.

Embracing online technology as a method to serve our mission, we believe that the Virtual Tour will be an invaluable tool to serve our community, expand our reach to new audiences, and even attract more people to visit the museum in person. This notion is supported by both MuseumNext and the American Alliance of Museums, which have indicated that virtual experiences increase in-person visits to museums.

The “Virtual Tour of the Historic 1795 Stroud Mansion” provides a free interactive journey through the collections of the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library. Visitors can



Welcome to the Stroud Mansion A Virtual Tour



This virtual tour is made possible by a grant from the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs.



take a self-guided tour using their desktop or mobile devices.

Accessible through the MCHA website and maintained by MCHA staff, the tour allows visitors to “walk” through each room of the historic, 227-year-old structure. Once in an exhibition room, visitors explore each “gallery space” to learn more about noteworthy objects found in that room.

For example, as they enter the Stroud Room, visitors see the overall layout and decor of a receiving room in Colonial America. Visitors “touch” a highlighted

artifact by tapping their screen, and a high-resolution photograph of the artifact appears along with a detailed narrative regarding that item.

Striving to be inclusive, the MCHA staff chose ThingLink as our hosting platform. In addition to supporting the virtual tour, ThingLink allows guests to have the text of the narrative sections enlarged for more effortless reading and provides audio for visitors with vision limitations.

Because of the generosity of the Stroudsburgs Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs, the virtual tour is free and accessible to everyone, so all citizens can experience the museum with its unique artifacts that tell the rich history of Monroe County.

Take the virtual tour on MCHA's website:
www.MonroeHistorical.org



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2022 Meetings

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

Now meeting via Zoom

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

MCHA events and community events where we will have a table this year

Saturday, July 16

Music in the Valley

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Quiet Valley Living
 Historical Farm, 347 Quiet Valley Rd.,
 Stroudsburg

Thursday, July 21

Third Thursday Lecture: The Delightful Dinkey Railway

7 p.m., Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St.,
 Stroudsburg

Thursday, August 18

Third Thursday Lecture: Ice Harvesting in Monroe County

7 p.m., online only, via Zoom

Friday, August 26

West End Fair

2-9 p.m., West End Fairgrounds,
 570 Fairgrounds Rd., Gilbert

Thursday, September 8

Raise Your Glass & Support the Past

Skytop Lodge, 1 Skytop Lodge Rd., Skytop.
 Annual wine-pairing dinner and auction.
 Our major fundraising event of the year.
Details and invitation now online.

Thursday, September 15

Third Thursday Lecture: The Forebay Barn

7 p.m., Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St.,
 Stroudsburg

Thursday, October 20

Third Thursday Lecture: Edgar Allen Poe

7 p.m., Stroud Mansion, 900 Main St.,
 Stroudsburg

Calling All Members!

We are gearing up for another "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" wine pairing dinner and fabulous auction on September 8.

Do you have something special you'd like to contribute to help ensure a successful fundraiser? We're soliciting donations of items, services, and experiences for the auction.

*If you have anything you'd like to donate, please contact us at
 570-421-7703 or admin@monroehistorical.org.*

Thank you!

Welcome, New Members

Darrell Aubert
 Joan and Stephen Barnwell
 John Beljeau
 Penny Countermand
 Nancy Davies
 John DeCusatis
 Maureen DeQuevedo
 Ian and Emeline Diener
 Richard Dunning
 Diana Dymond
 Tom Ford
 and Maureen Cosgrove
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 Darcy Elmer Hawk
 Bill Koehler



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 Monroe County
 Historical Association

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 Lisa and Bart Williams



Collections Corner

Cup Plates and Carpentry

Editor's note: This column highlights some of the Historical Association's recent donations to the museum and library.

By Bret Fowler, Curator

Our museum collection recently received a sizable donation of local artifacts from Peter W. Hoffman, the great-grandson of the highly prolific East Stroudsburg civic and business leader Luther S. Hoffman.

Before his death in 1954 at the age of 98, Luther Hoffman was co-founder and president of both the East Stroudsburg Lumber Company and the Sun Printing Company, publishers of the *Morning Sun* newspaper. He also served as past president of the Monroe County Bank and Trust and the East Stroudsburg Board of Trade. Mr. Hoffman was a charter member of Grace Lutheran Church, the East Stroudsburg Knights of Malta, the Stroudsburgs Rotary Club, and one of the founders of the Monroe County General Hospital. With such deep ties to the East Stroudsburg business community, Mr. Hoffman built a large Victorian-style house on Washington Street to raise his family, and the home still stands today.

This recent gift consists of an impressive piece of locally-made furniture and all its contents. The large two-piece walnut chest-on-chest with 38 divided drawers was beautifully crafted by Oram "Dutch" Hoffman, son of Luther Hoffman and co-owner of the East Stroudsburg Lumber Company for 45 years. Dutch built the chest of drawers for his sister, Ellen, who had become quite the collector of a uniquely American antique, the



Walnut cabinet, below, and cup plates donated to the MCHA by Peter W. Hoffman.

pressed glass cup plate.

Many people in the two boroughs knew Miss Ellen Hoffman. What they may not have known was that within the stately Hoffman home, Ellen had amassed an extensively large collection of American pressed glass cup plates. Each of the 201 cup plates was lovingly tucked into its own cushioned space within the cabinet her brother had built.

During the first half of the 19th century, it had become the custom for many people in the young nation not to drink their tea directly from the teacup or tea bowl, which was often too hot to the touch, but rather to pour the tea into a saucer and sip it from the dish once it had cooled. The use of glass cup plates arose from the need to have somewhere to place the hot dripping teacup or bowl that would not damage the fine table linens or the wooden surface underneath.

While cups and saucers were usually part of a much larger and more expensive set of matching china, pressed glass cup plates were inexpensive to produce and were offered in a wide array of colors and patterns. Some cup plates included novelty designs to commemorate important dates or events. The uniqueness of design and color made collecting individual cup plates highly desirable to the early Victorian era



housewife, and it was not uncommon to find a variety of glass cup plates scattered throughout a well-appointed parlor.

The large assembly of cup plates collected by Ellen Hoffman is a fine example of the variety of patterns and colors used, and the cabinet built by her brother Dutch beautifully showcases them. Both will be permanently displayed in the alcove adjoining the dining room and meeting room on the second floor of the Stroud Mansion.



Spring Appeal 2022

Thank you to the following MCHA members and friends who contributed to the 2022 Spring Appeal. These contributions are to the General Operating Fund and help defray the day-to-day costs of running the organization.

Thank you for your support!

Please remember that your contributions and memorial donations are welcome throughout the year!

John and Beverly Abel
Ian and Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly
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and Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens
Edwin Upton
Joan Vican
George Warden
Agnes Webb
Todd and Shirley Weber
Bill and Sue Weitzmann
James Werkheiser
Susan and Martin Wilson
John and Nina Woodling
Bill and Margaret Yoniack

Sharing Stories: Monroe County's Oral History Project

The Monroe County Historical Association continues to collect oral histories from area residents through the "Monroe County Memories: An Oral History Project" initiative.


Since January, over 30 oral histories have been uploaded to the organization's YouTube channel.

The interviews vary in topic. From the creation of the Pocono Raceway and the history of the West End Fire Company to the stories about summer employment at a Pocono Township resort and downtown Stroudsburg's nightlife, all of the recordings relate to Monroe County's past.

These firsthand accounts are entertaining, informative, and heartfelt, and they provide the opportunity to allow listeners to reflect on earlier times.



MONROE COUNTY
MEMORIES
AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Share Your Stories

**Add your voice to our
Oral History Project**

Would you like to be included in "Monroe County Memories: An Oral History Project?" All histories are recorded at the Stroud Mansion by appointment during business hours, or ask for special arrangements.

If you are interested in sharing your story or know someone we should interview, please contact the office at 570-421-7703 or email us at admin@monroehistorical.org.





Summer intern says 'hello'

My name is Lauren Amori and I am an intern from Moravian University. I am majoring in history with a minor in French. My main areas of interest are the Victorian era with an emphasis on medicine, mourning and death, and women's history. My interest in the history of medicine has led to an interest in herbs and their uses in medicine. Experimental Archaeology, a hands-on approach to history, has given me the opportunity to recreate bygone medicines by making them.

I am a member of the University Choir and Women's Choir at Moravian, as well as the Wind Ensemble. During the summer, I am a member of the Trinity Centennial Community Band along with my father and brother. In my spare time, I bake, write, knit, crochet, and draw.

Come say hello!



Wedding bells in Barrett

Barrett Township Historical Society historian Jacqueline Magann recently coordinated the "Bridal Time Travel – Gowns Through the Ages" exhibition, with 20 local wedding dresses dating from 1908 to 2021 on display throughout June.

Included from the MCHA collection was a rare 1930s silk wedding gown bearing a National Recovery Administration "Blue Eagle" Union label.



History Happy Hour

We'd like to thank everyone who joined us at the Stroud Mansion on June 15 for our History Happy Hour membership appreciation event!

During this fun social gathering, guests enjoyed self-guided tours of the museum, tasty treats from Stroudsmoor Inn Towne, and the rockin' music of Hailez Cometz.

We're so grateful for the active participation and support of our wonderful members, and look forward more celebrations with them.



As part of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, the label was used to assure consumers that fair labor practices were used.

In March 1935 it was deemed unconstitutional and nullified, and all use of the NRA "Blue Eagle" label was abandoned.





Monroe County Archives reopens to public

The Monroe County Archives reopened to the public on July 5, and is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment.

The archives are dedicated to preserving the history of Monroe County through the management of permanent and historical records while providing the public with access for reference and research.

Available records include:

- birth records
- certificate of naturalization
- civil and criminal case records
- county commissioner minutes
- coroner records
- death records
- deed books
- divorce records
- maps
- mortgage records
- orphan court estates
- petitions for citizenship
- sheriff records
- tax records
- wills and related documents

The Monroe County Historical Association welcomes Gabrielle Ferrara as the new county archivist and looks forward to working with her to preserve and share the county's history.

For more information about the Monroe County Archives or to make an appointment, contact Gabrielle Ferrara at GFerrara@monroecountypa.gov or 570-517-3189.

IN THE NEWS

Executive director receives Rotary award

Monroe County Historical Association Executive Director Amy Leiser, a member of the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs, was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for her 12 years of volunteer service with the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA).

RYLA, held at Keystone College in LaPlume, is a five-day leadership training program for area young people. Students strengthen their relationship skills, build their self-confidence, and learn the skills they need to be leaders.

"I had no idea how fulfilling this job would be," Leiser said. "The students' commitment to one another and their sense of leadership through cooperation, communication, and friendship will continue to make the world a better place, and I am humbled to have had the chance to play a small part in their lives."



Amy Leiser, right, with Rotary Past District Gov. Karen DeMatteo.

Brian Rogers receives Eagle Scout Award

Brian Rogers' service project renovating the Driebe Freight Station in Stroudsburg helped earn him the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Driebe Freight Station on Ann Street is owned by the Monroe County Historical Association and is rented by the Zion United Church of Christ for its Miracles Happen Thrift Shop.

Brian, of Troop 102 in Saylorsburg, was honored during an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on June 25, which was attended by MCHA Board members Bill Leonard and Patricia J. Saylor.

Brian began working on the historic building in 2020, scraping old paint off the ramps, steps, lattice, and landing, sanding rough areas, and replacing boards. A new coat of anti-skid paint was applied to the ramp to ensure the safety of guests. He also weeded the gardens and thinned out the overgrown plants and groundcover before placing mulch in the beds.



New Eagle Scout Brian Rogers with MCHA Board members Bill Leonard and Patricia J. Saylor.





The Day the Liberty Bell Came to Visit

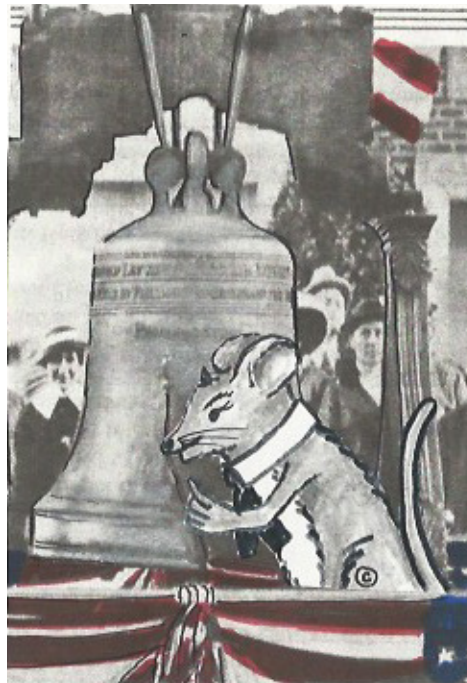
As our community celebrates the Fourth of July, this little mouse is reflecting on something big: patriotism. I'm so proud of our country and those who have fought to keep us all safe – both humankind and mousekind!

I'm always interested in learning more about our heroic past, so I've been doing a bit of research. On recent nightly scampers in the archives, I've dug through boxes revealing hats, gas masks, mess kits, uniforms, and medals from the "war to end all wars," World War I. It's fascinating to learn history from primary sources – in the research library, there are newspaper clippings and letters from this time. That's why the filing cabinets (I can enter from the back) and newspapers are such important sources for me.

The war began in 1914, but the U.S. didn't join until 1917. In 1914, the country was in turmoil over whether or not to join the fighting. I wanted to find out why. Two big reasons included President Wilson's stance and public agreement in favor of neutrality, as well as a lack of economic preparedness. But as the war got worse for the country's allies, and with the death of 128 Americans in 1915 when a German U-boat sank the British ship *Lusitania*, the U.S. government prepared for war, looking for ways to appeal to citizens' patriotism and conscience. Money was raised via advertisements, including beautiful "Liberty Loans" posters (one is on display in the Stroud Mansion) promoting the patriotic duty of buying bonds. A large sum of money was raised, but it wasn't enough. A "national loyalty miracle" was needed.

An exciting idea to increase interest, pride, and commitment to the war effort was developed – a tour of the Liberty Bell! (A grandmouse ancestor of mine once admitted that, acting on a dare from a squirrel, he hid in a hay wagon and traveled all the way to Philadelphia to squeeze into the Liberty Bell through the crack, so I was extra interested in how the bell helped the war effort!)

The Liberty Bell had traveled around the country before, and it just so happened that in 1915, over 500,000 school



children signed a petition to exhibit it at the San Francisco Panama-Pacific International Exposition. It was agreed that the trip would help unify the country. The bell was loaded onto a Pennsylvania Railroad flatcar, with just a few weeks allotted to construct the impressive "Liberty Bell Special" rail car. Adorned by American flags, brass railings, flowers, and electrical lights for nighttime viewing, the railroad car traveled throughout the United States. After four months at the Exposition, the bell headed east, making 275 short stops as a motion picture camera captured the trip.

And then, on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1915, the Liberty Bell Special came to East Stroudsburg! The day was filled with excitement as over 6,000 people waited for the train to arrive. Local bands, 2,000 school children waving miniature American flags, and automobiles carrying prominent residents escorted by National Guard Company G were in the crowd. They traveled across the bridge from Stroudsburg to the railroad station on Crystal Street. Although the Liberty Bell was 45 minutes late and stayed only 10 minutes, no one seemed to mind.

The crowd was stirred by patriotic speeches made by men such as Stroudsburg Mayor Clarence Edinger, who was credited with bringing the bell to Monroe County. Also in attendance was ex-Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer, attorney R.L. Burnett, and Normal School Principal Dr. E.L. Kemp, who spoke about the war raging in Europe and the need for Americans to join the fight.

"It seemed to have been a psychological moment" . . . "to give people an opportunity to show their love of flag and country," wrote a Philadelphia councilman who was on the train. Traveling through New Jersey, the Liberty Bell arrived back home in Philadelphia, with a quarter of the population of the U.S. having turned out to see it.

If you're as interested as I am in learning about our local history, stop by the Stroud Mansion library! Maybe you will see me scampering by with my doughboy helmet on.



**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

admin@monroehistorical.org
570-421-7703 | Fax 570-421-9199
www.monroehistorical.org

STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
Closed Noon - 1 p.m. for lunch

*Tours daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Appointments recommended*

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.



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shopping. Bookmark the page and go there for all your
Amazon purchases. AmazonSmile will then make a donation
to MCHA for every purchase you make. Easy!



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

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