

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Winter 2013

Pennsylvania's Governor Curtin to be topic of Winter Membership Meeting

The Winter General Membership meeting will be Friday, January 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom upstairs at the Fulton County Courthouse. The program for the evening will be a presentation by David J. Klinepeter portraying the 15th Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin.

David Klinepeter, born in 1926, has always had a strong interest in the Civil War, joining the Sons of Union Veterans in 1943, and 70 years later is still a member.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Then in 1949, he attended the Last National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Indianapolis, Ind. He also married that same year and helped raise four sons. Although he has lived his whole life in the Harrisburg area, one of those sons, Mike Klinepeter, made his way to Fulton County.

Over the years David has helped organize and participate as a re-enactor in countless Civil War events. In 1990 David was approached by Jim Schmick (founder of the Camp Curtin Historical Society), to portray Governor Curtin of Penna., on the Nov. 11, 1990, celebration of the 125th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin. And, so we will welcome David J. Klinepeter, as Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, to Fulton County.

What follows is a brief biography of Governor Curtin taken from Wikipedia.

"Andrew Gregg Curtin (April 22, 1817 - October 7, 1894) was a U.S. lawyer and politician. He served as the Governor of Pennsylvania during the Civil War.

"Curtin was born in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. His parents were Roland Curtin, Sr., a wealthy Irish-born iron manufacturer from County Clare, and Jane (Gregg) Curtin, the daughter of U.S. Senator Andrew Gregg.... He attended Bellefonte Academy and Dickinson College and the Dickinson School of Law and was employed as a lawyer. His first public office was as Secretary of the Commonwealth. In 1855, Governor James Pollock appointed him as Superintendent of Public Schools. He switched political allegiance from the Whigs to the new Republican political party in 1860, with his successful run for governor. He served in that office from 1861 until 1867.

"During the Civil War, Curtin organized the Pennsylvania reserves into combat units, and oversaw the construction of the first Union military camp for training militia. It opened in an agricultural school nearby Harrisburg as Camp Curtin on April 18, 1861, and more than 300 000 men were drilled there during 4 years...

"Curtin was very active during the Gettysburg Campaign, working with Major General Darius N. Couch and Major Granville O. Haller to delay Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and prevent it from crossing the Susquehanna River. Major General George G. Meade, a Pennsylvania officer whom Curtin had recommended for brigadier general and command of one of the Pennsylvania reserve brigades in 1861, defeated Lee in the Battle of Gettysburg.

"After the Battle of Gettysburg, Governor Curtin was the principal force behind the establishment of the National

Cemetery there. Through his agent, David Wills, Curtin procured the attendance of President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the cemetery. Governor Curtin was sitting with Lincoln on the platform on November 19, 1863, when Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address."

Do plan to attend this program on Friday, January 18. If inclement weather causes the program cancellation, it will be rescheduled for the same time and place on Friday, January 25.

Society is planning tours for 2013

The Society is again planning two bus tours for 2013. We will plan one for late spring and the other for the Friday of the Fall Folk Festival weekend. Ken Keebaugh and John Mentzer have already started organizing a tour of Northern Fulton, Huntingdon and Bedford County that will include the Coal Miners Museum in Robertsedale, the Russian Orthodox Cemetery, the Riddlesburg coke ovens, the Keystone Foundry in Hopewell and the Oregon Civilian Conservation Camp which includes the abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike section and some South Penn Railroad culverts from the 1880s.

The second tour is in the formulation stage at this time. It may be a continuation into Bedford County or another tour in Franklin County.

Historical Society Tours a Success!!

The two tours sponsored by the Historical Society were popular with the fifty-four individuals who joined the Society guides for the Franklin County and Southern Fulton County Tours in August and October. The covered bridges and the Cordell flower garden were perhaps the most talked about stops in the Franklin County tour.

It would be hard to say which stop got the most comments on the Fulton County tour - Union Church and Cemetery, Tonoloway Church, C & O Canal, National Pike Toll House, Fairview School or the Crystal Springs campground? Perhaps it was the meal at Weaver's. It was a full day. We didn't have time to get off the bus at the Campground, and some have expressed a desire to return there. I'm sure the Society will have the Campgrounds on its agenda in the near future. The scheduling of this tour for the Folk Festival weekend attracted out of the area guests from California, Texas, Georgia, and eastern and mid-state Pennsylvania. So we will schedule a tour for next year's Fulton Fall Folk Festival.

Friends of Tonoloway publishing new book

Following the success of their book, Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk, the Friends of Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church are now planning a series of books about Fulton County veterans beginning with the American Revolution probably through World War One. The sale of books in recent years has provided funds to maintain the church.

As these are the 150th anniversary years of the Civil War, they decided to start with the Civil War veterans. There will be three volumes covering the Civil War. The first volume, available in January, will identify three hundred of



David J. Klinepeter
as Gov. Curtin.



(continued)

these veterans from Abbott through Fulton. These are the veterans' named on the bronze plaques on the Court House portico in McConnellsburg, those listed in the Somerset, Bedford and Fulton County History published in 1884, and others found buried in Fulton County cemeteries. A total of almost nine hundred have been identified who served from a population of less than seven thousand.

Some very interesting stories are included such as Robert Boyles, killed at Burnt Cabins, and John C. Fletcher from McConnellsburg, who graduated from West Point with many familiar Civil War Generals including George Gordon Meade, Jubal Early and Montgomery Meigs, who fought in the Seminole Indian Wars and is buried in the McConnellsburg Presbyterian Cemetery. Included with several of the veterans are highlights of their regimental service. For example, the 126th Pennsylvania Infantry, a nine-month regiment of which one half of Company B was from Fulton County, just missed the fighting at Antietam and then was heavily engaged at both the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Virginia. This regiment had a very high casualty rate.

Almost all of the veterans have individual family information included. The veteran's parents, wives, children, military service dates and pension information is included where available. This information may be beneficial for those interested in further family research.

This book, available in January, is \$26. plus \$4. for postage. This book and other Friends publications can be purchased by contacting Marlin Douglas douglmar2@comcast.net or 717-263-9860 or John Mentzer mentzer30@embarqmail.com or 717-328-9279

Volume II of the Fulton County Civil War Veterans is planned for publication in 2013 and will include veterans from Garland to or through Mellott.

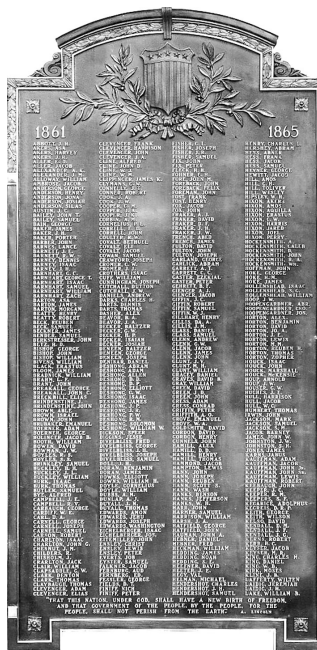
New Life Member

During December we welcomed to the society Joseph N. Gothie as a new life member. Mr. Gothie is the 255th member added to this list.

Society To Hold Special Meeting to Amend By-laws

At present the dues for society membership are numerically set in the by-laws. i.e. "Annual dues for individuals/family shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00)..." Likewise institutional and life membership rates are set at specific figures in the by-laws. The only way at present to change the dues amounts is to amend the by-laws. The board of directors wishes to ask the membership for the power to set these rates without having to amend the by-laws in the future.

Therefore, at the end of the regular quarterly meeting of the society on January 18, 2013, the president will ask the



Bronze plaque containing Fulton Co. veteran names.

membership to entertain a motion to call a special meeting of the society forthwith to approve four amendments to the by-laws of the society. The first two amendments, to be considered together, give the society the flexibility to raise membership dues for individuals and institutions by a vote of the board only. The membership will continue to have an oversight role, with the ability to set dues at the annual membership meeting. The third amendment will give the board, along with the membership as a whole, the ability to set the life membership dues at an annual membership meeting.

The fourth amendment will change the by-laws in the description of the duties of the treasurer to require that the annual report to the society be based on the "fiscal year" instead of the "calendar year." The society's fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30.

To better understand the bylaws, those with internet access may go to http://fultonhistory.org/other_pdfs/Bylaws.pdf for a file of the by-laws as they were last amended in August 1996. Or, you may call (717) 485-3162 to make other arrangements to receive a copy of the by-laws.

The Minutes For Fulton County Historical Society Fall Membership Meeting

The Fulton County Historical Society held the Fall Membership Meeting in the Court Room of the Fulton County Court House in McConnellsburg, PA on Thursday, October 18, 2012. Society President Linda Garber called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the Summer Meeting, as printed in the Fall Newsletter, were approved on a Dick Miller/Bonnie Mellott-Keefer motion.

Gene Leese delivered the Treasurer's Report, which was approved on a John Mentzer/Jim Hedges motion.

Dan Swain spoke about the Court House and Jail Renovation progress.

John Mentzer gave a report about the bus tours offered through the FCHS.

Edie Coleman gave the Fulton House Museum Report.

Dick Miller reported on the Jail Restoration Project. The brick facade will be installed in the Spring of 2013. Miller also reported the Stunkard long rifle on loan from John Gracey was donated by his estate and is now owned by the FCHS.

Ken Keebaugh reported four large bookcases were loaned by the Fulton County Library for the society's research library and will hold the family history collection for easy access.

Loy Garber reported a wreath laying ceremony will be held on Sunday, October 21, commemorating the new grave stone for the inventor of the friction brake by McConnellsburg farmer and wagon builder, George Diven. It will be held at St Paul's United Church of Christ in McConnellsburg, where Diven is buried. This ceremony is in remembrance of a similar event held in 1926 by the Westinghouse Air Brake Company and Mack Truck.

Dan Swain reported on changes being made to the society's web page.

It was announced that long time Executive Administrator, Glenn Cordell, has resigned, and McConnellsburg resident Deb Reed was hired as his replacement.

The business meeting was adjourned on a John Mentzer/Edie Coleman motion.

Linda Garber introduced the evening's featured speaker, Bob Windenmuth, who delivered a Power Point program entitled "The Lay of the Land" tracing local land use changes from the time of Native Americans.

Ken Keebaugh, FCHS secretary

**PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773**

**E-mail: director@fultonhistory.org
Web page: www.fultonhistory.org**

2012-13 OFFICERS:
Linda Garber, President
Richard A. Miller, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Linda Kelso 2015
Monica Seville 2015
Ruth G. Reeder 2014
John Mentzer 2014
Edith Coleman 2013
Dick Newman 2013