

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Summer 2018

South Penn Railroad Historian to Address Historical Society

The Fulton County Historical Society's Summer Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the FCHS Museum Annex Banquet Room.

The Banquet room is located at the rear of the building, with parking available at the McConnellsburg Firehall parking lot.

The speaker will be Russell Love, who has been researching the South Pennsylvania Railroad for the last 15 years. A grandly planned railroad from the late 1880s through 1900, the South Pennsylvania Railroad was to cross over and tunnel through multiple mountains and traverse over rivers, and would include Fulton County. Despite much work done to create the beds to lay the rail ties, the line was never completed. Love became aware of the railroad while traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and, after learning of its history, was hooked on tracing the proposed route that was later to be abandoned.

Love will present his years of research on what is called The Railroad That Never Was. He will use maps and illustrations to show where the route was started and work was completed. This meeting is open to the public. If you are interested in the history of railroads in Southern PA and Fulton County, you don't want to miss this presentation.

Summer Exhibit on Display at Fulton House

"An Overly-Raker Retrospective" is the title of the Fulton County Historical Society's summer display at the Fulton House.

The exhibit depicts the creative business journey of Helen Overly and Freda Raker from a small in-house gift shop to a multimillion-dollar soft sculpture industry known throughout the nation and beyond.

Countless examples of Overly-Raker products will be on display including soft sculpture, dolls, 'sculpy' creations, watercolors, prints, cards and jewelry, including an example of the soft sculpture that was used to decorate the White House for Christmas in 1986.

Also, there will be magazines, scrapbooks and catalogs of O-R products available to browse through, covering the early 1970s through the 90s.

Helen Overly's book, *Making Friends in*



Helen Overly and a "friend" at the FCHS Museum in the Fulton House.



Andrew Carnegie (middle front) visits the Rays Hill Tunnel's eastern portal work site in Fulton County in 1880.

Business, will be for sale, and at some point in the summer Helen will give a book talk about her experiences in business.

At the end of the summer, some of the items will move to the Historical Society's annex in the old G.C. Murphy building as part of a permanent exhibit.

"An Overly-Raker Retrospective" will run through the end of August, with hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to sit with the exhibits. Anyone interested should call Edie Coleman at 814-290-8899 or Tom Duffey at 717-360-5622.

Society sets Fall Auction Date

SAVE THE DATE – The Fulton County Historical Society will host their Annual Dinner/Auction on Saturday, November 10, 2018, at the Needmore Bible Church, Needmore, PA. A silent auction will begin at 4:00-5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. A traditional auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the auction will be used to help fund a badly needed new roof on the Historical Society Museum Annex building (formerly the G.C. Murphy building).



Pictured above is a beautiful, handcrafted cedar chest donated by Donald Snyder of Snyder's Woodworking Shop of Needmore. This is one of the many items to be placed on

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the auction block, along with hundreds of items ranging from handcrafted furniture and crafts, to antiques, hunting and fishing gear and supplies, household decorations, framed prints, jewelry, and much more.

FCHS is currently soliciting donations for both the silent and traditional auctions. Auction items may be antique, collectibles, new or gently used, but must be in excellent shape. A list of donors will be included in the program, and as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible, and a receipt for tax records will be provided.

For additional information or to donate items to either auction, you may call 717-573-2805 or 717-372-0061.

New Life Member Welcomed

Our latest life member (#282) is **John Fraker**, Harrisburg, Pa.

The Life Membership Endowment of the society, now with 282 members, totals \$42,900.



Wilmer Burke stands beside a 1923 Chevy touring car in front of the Charles and Sallie Cuff Burke home along Cito Road.

Annual Book in Preparation

John Nelson and Ken Keebaugh have done extensive research on the African-American community in Fulton County. Members whose dues are paid for 2018 will receive a copy of this Volume 39 for the current year. This comprehensive history will be titled *Poetry Not Yet Written* based on a phrase from the movie "Glory". Chapters will include a few known slaveholders, the Heritage Heights community, the Hunter Road community, the Underground Railroad, Civil War incidents, and family names from the U.S. Census for Fulton County. Also included will be names of veterans, including a family who sent four sons to fight in World War II, one of whom gave his life for our country.

Museum Annex Business Exhibits

With 50% matching funds from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, we started constructing replicas of three local shops from the late 1800s in our new Museum Annex.

The three buildings were located along the Lincoln Highway and were selected based on a large quantity of donated items, which will fill a newspaper print shop, a woodworking shop, and a tinsmith shop. Brian Tucker prepared scale drawings from original photographs, and Mark Sheffield with other volunteers started constructing facades this spring. We'd like the shops to be a "step back in time" but also offer possibilities for interactive teaching projects.



Fall Tea Set at Museum Annex Banquet Room on September 22

The Fulton County Historical Society's Fall Tea will be held September 22, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. in the Banquet Room at the Museum Annex, 211 Lincoln Way East, McConnellsburg, PA. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12.

For reservations, contact Edie Coleman, iecoleman@frontier.com or 814-735-3039 or Tickle Your Fancy Tea Shop, Lincoln Way West, McConnellsburg, PA.

Fundraiser Underway for Museum Annex Building

Listed below are those who have donated to the 'G.C. Murphy' building fund to date. The society's next major project will be a new roof. Please consider joining these civic minded individuals and help us preserve this building for future generations by mailing a check to:

Fulton County Historical Society
PO Box 115
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Please write "G.C. Murphy" on the memo line of your check. The Fulton County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.

	2017 (cond.)	2018 (cond.)
2016	Thomas Glenn	Mary Haubrick
Roger Bloomfield	John Hann	Tom Heefner
Joyce Cover	Willa Weller Keel	Miriam Johnston
William A. Downs	H. R. Largent	Travis Kendall
J. Faye Elvey	Steven Mellott	Colleen King
Nancy Evans	Ron Richards	Alva Lynch
J Douglas Miller	Wayne Schmidt	Sandra & John Malone
Craig Nitterhouse	James Sheffield	Chauncey & Polly McGarvey
Rena Ott	Connie Hann Strock	Larry G. Mellott
Gerald H. Peck	Lenore Swain	John Mentzer
David E. Peck	Marilyn Terlvik	Joland Mohr
Ruth Reeder	Brian & Joyce Tucker	Carolyn Moseby
Joseph Zamoyta	William Turner	David E. Peck
	Charles & Marian Walker	Estate of Leona Reeder
2017	Joseph Wolfe	Elizabeth Rudifer
John Akers		Gail Schmeidel
William Alexander	2018	Wayne Schmidt
Connie Barton	Duchesne Clark	James Sheffield
John Culler	Daley Family Eye Care	Gary & Penny Shives
Dana Signs	Sylvia De Lozier	Dorothy Spade
Betty Daniels	J. Faye Elvey	Valerie Sprowl-Taylor
Joann Denton	Barbara Fore	Naomi Waite
Tom Duffey	John Hann	Ellis & Shirley Yingling
Loy & Linda Garber		

Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Bus Tour – Friday, Oct. 19, 2018

On tap for this year's Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Bus Tour, not only will we be seeing nearly 40 new and unique barn quilts, we are also offering two festivals for one. Yes, not only will you get to enjoy the Fulton Fall Folk Festival, but we will also be visiting the Akersville Fall Festival with over 50 vendors featuring a broad spectrum of crafts, apparel, antiques, vintage farm equipment and more.

Lunch will be available, featuring delicious homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts and all by donation only, provided by Akersville community volunteers to raise funds for upkeep of the historic Akersville School House and the Akersville Community Church.

Before and after visiting the Akersville Fall Festival, we will be viewing nearly 40 barn quilts located throughout the western portion of our beautiful countryside. This is a bus tour you do not want to miss.

Leaving the Giant parking lot at 10 a.m., we will arrive in Akersville around 10:30 allowing for 1-1/2 hours of shopping, display watching, and lunch. Having beat the very busy lunch crowd, we will be leaving Akersville, heading south on some of the most beautiful rural countryside in the Appalachian Mountain Range. The majority of barn quilts we will be viewing are quilt blocks we have never seen before on previous tours. Our plan is to return to the Giant parking lot around 3:30 p.m.

More information and tickets are available by contacting Mike Crampton at 717-830-5953 or email at info@frontierbarnquilttrail.com or by contacting Linda Mellon at 301-707-7053. Sign up soon, as tickets will be going fast.

Minutes for FCHS Spring Membership Meeting and Banquet held on March 31, 2018

The Fulton County Historical Society held its Annual Spring Membership Banquet Meeting at the Hustontown Fire Hall on March 31, 2018. President Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES: of the Winter Membership Meeting as printed in the Spring Newsletter were approved on a motion by Mike Crampton, seconded by



The sleigh donated to the society by Verda Schue Hockensmith has been refurbished and is again on display in the Museum Annex.

Mark Sheffield.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Leese reported the society raised approximately \$80,000 for the G.C. Murphy project since it began in December 2016; has spent approximately \$63,000 remodeling the Murphy Building; leaving the FCHS with a balance of about \$17,000 in funds dedicated to the project. The appeal for donations has brought in \$5,101 in 2018, and a refund of \$1,600 came from the electrical provider for upgrades.

Dick Miller announced this was his last year as president. He introduced board members and officers Mike Crampton, Monica Seville, Linda Mellon, Linda Garber, Mark Sheffield, Ken Keebaugh, Doug Brown, Gene Leese and Debbie Reed.

Volunteers who helped in the Library, Fulton House and Murphy Building Museum Annex were Glenn Cordell, Tom Duffey, Edie Coleman, Naomi Waite, Bonnie Keefer, Brian Tucker, Wayne MacDonald, John B. Nelson, Chris Sheffield and Debbie Reed.

Miller introduced distinguished guests Pennsylvania Senator John Eichelberger and former Fulton County Commissioner Dan Swain.

Miller expressed appreciation for the recent donation by Harold Comerer of a delivery wagon used in the Comerer hardware business circa 1910. It was too big to accept until the society acquired the Murphy Building. Earl Sipes of Harrisonville donated a hand carved J. Cook gun probably manufactured at Harrisonville. The Fred Wible estate donated a Stunkard gun made in New Grenada. John Gracey had donated a Stunkard gun acquired in Iowa and refurbished at Williamsburg, along with photos of family veterans.

Verda Culler Schue Hockensmith of Southern Fulton donated 1) a one horse sleigh circa 1910 including its original shipping crate. Wayne MacDonald worked on restoring the sleigh. 2) a water jug from Center one room school, 3) a wooden washing machine, 4) two ladder back chairs and a rocking chair made by Jonas Mellott, and 5) a 1947 Green Hill High School yearbook.

Miller announced the society has for sale full collections of McConnellsburg and Hustontown - Forbes Road High School yearbooks on CD.

Ken Keebaugh displayed a map of Wells, Taylor and Dublin Townships, tracing the routes of Burd's Road of 1755, Forbes Road of 1758,

the South Penn Railroad of 1884, and the Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike of 1815-1913.

Linda Mellon presented a plaque to outgoing president Dick Miller as an

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Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report	
Income/Expense for the 2016/2018 Fiscal Year (May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018)	
<u>Income:</u>	
Donations (general)	\$111,953.14
Donations (Frontier Barn Quilt)	9,889.35
Donations - GC Murphy bldg	11,407.60
Agency (government) grants	9,000.00
PA Sales Tax discounts earned	4.00
Cookbook sales (jail funds)	37.73
Books, prints & other sales	4,015.20
Shipping & Handling	62.00
Dues	2,630.00
Life membership dues	1,250.00
Investment div. & int.	6,341.78
Misc. Revenue	1604.72
Special Events (bus tours, etc.)	9,422.08
Rent - GC Murphy bldg & apts	19,441.00
Total Receipts	\$187,058.60
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Special assistance (individuals)	\$3,594.00
Supplies (Barn Quilt)	3,929.29
Supplies (other)	536.70
Office Equipment	2,409.54
Telephone & telecommunications	49.95
Electronic Transaction Fees	106.78
Postage & Box Rent	194.62
Printing & Copying	2,441.52
Books, subscriptions, reference	100.00
Website	616.00
Items for resale	3,436.00
Rent & other occupancy	1,417.00
Mowing Big Spring Cemetery	370.00
Building Maintenance (other than GCM)	119.72
GC Murphy expenses - all	58,032.61
Travel and meeting expenses (bus tours, tea parties & quarterly meetings)	6,302.21
Insurance	2,816.00
Membership dues	240.00
Advertising expenses	1,520.00
Misc expenses	134.98
Business expense (misc.)	100.00
Total Business Expenses	\$88,466.92
Net Ordinary Income	\$98,591.68
Museum Collection purchases	(350.00)
Unrealized gain (all accounts)	7,227.07
Net Gain for fiscal year	\$105,468.75
<i>Gene Leese, Treasurer</i>	
Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report	
Account Balances at the end of the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year (April 30, 2018)	
Fulton County Checking	\$17,247.29
PayPal Account	1,307.40
Life Member Endowment	42,650.00
Main Investment Acct.	69,958.11
Investment Money Market	82,705.97
Winegardner Invest. Acct.	32,964.72
Museum Account	859.43
Fulton Co. Hist. Library	1,927.46
Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Acct.	9,512.30
Total Checking/Savings	\$259,132.68
<i>Gene Leese, Treasurer</i>	

expression of gratitude from the board of directors for his many years of dedication to the FCHS.

FRONTIER BARN QUILT TRAIL: Mike Crampton reported Fulton County now has 195 barn quilts, making us the largest in the state of Pennsylvania. A brochure and book picturing the quilts is planned. The Murphy Building Museum Annex facade will have a refurbished sign including a barn quilt.

AUCTION REPORT: This Fall's auction will be held at the Needmore Bible Church on November 10, 2018. All proceeds will go towards the Murphy Building roof project, estimated to cost about \$100,000. Twenty-five percent of the Marshall and Leona Reeder Estate, or \$106,000, was donated to pay for the Murphy Building. A plaque acknowledging their generosity will be placed in the Murphy Museum Annex.

HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR: Glenn

Cordell introduced Mark Sheffield, who has worked untold hours restoring the Murphy Building, including the front showcase windows, installing over 5,000 feet of oak flooring, and running off yearbook CDs at his home, bringing the cost of each yearbook down to \$0.30 per year on disc. Sheffield thanked his family for their support.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: President - Mark Sheffield; Vice President - Dick Miller; Secretary - Ken Keebaugh; Director (2021) - Mike Crampton; Director (2021) - Bonnie Mellott Keefer.

Followed by the nomination: Director (to finish Mark Sheffield's term - 2020) - Monica Seville.

All candidates were approved by unanimous acclamation.

RAFFLE TICKETS: Edie Coleman announced the winners.

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER:

Miller introduced Cooper Wingert, who spoke on his research discoveries about the underground railroad.

ADJOURNMENT: Newly elected society President Mark Sheffield delivered a few closing remarks before the meeting adjourned at 8:50 on a Doug Brown - Dick Miller motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

___ **\$20 Individual/Family**

___ **\$250 Individual Life**

Please check your renewal date on the front of this mailing's envelope.

Send your name, address, e-mail, and family interest names to the Society address along with your check.

Payment may also be made through the society website.

**PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 E-mail: director@fultonhistory.org
Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773 Web page: www.fultonhistory.org**

2018-19 OFFICERS:

Mark Sheffield, President
Richard A. Miller, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bonnie Mellott Keefer 2021
Mike Crampton 2021
Monica Seville 2020
Carolyn Hollenshead 2020
Linda J. Mellon 2019
Doug Brown 2019