

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Winter 2018

Greetings:

With this mailing the Fulton County Historical Society is taking the opportunity to reach for a wider audience. Not only is this newsletter and the other enclosures going to the FCHS membership, but to others who would have an interest in the history of Fulton County and the preservation of one of its unique properties in downtown McConnellsburg – The former G.C. Murphy Building – which is now being renovated by the society. For this reason one of the enclosures in this mailing is a letter from FCHS president Richard A. Miller asking for support for this project.

To the non-FCHS members reading this, please take this also as an invitation not only to support the society with an end-of-year donation, but also to join the society as an annual member. Please note that non-members are welcome to join in the upcoming bus tour of Gettysburg now being promoted.

See the enclosures for more details on how to take part!

Fulton Co. Historical Society Winter Meeting Topic to be *The Historical Evolution of The American Flag*

The Winter Meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society will be held, weather permitting, on Saturday evening, January 13, 2018. This meeting will be held at the Fulton Co. Courthouse at 7:00 P.M. Our guest speaker will be Larry Garlock, a native of Bedford County.

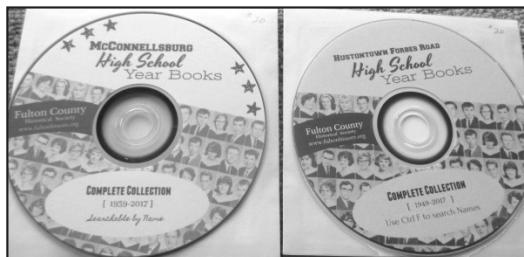
Mr. Garlock has worn many hats: Vietnam War veteran, public school teacher, historian and citizen of the year for Bedford Elks Lodge in 2010. He graduated from Penn State in the advanced R.O.T.C. Program and was in the army the next day. He was in the army for 5 years, serving in Germany and Vietnam.

Following his service, he began a career as a public school teacher at Bedford High School teaching language arts. While Mr. Garlock was president of the school board at Northern Bedford School District, Rep. Dick Hess hired him as a legislative aide. He thoroughly enjoyed working with him.

Last year he published a novel titled *Badger Bravo Six*, about small unit combat in Vietnam. This year, he published an anthology about the American flag, called *Pappy's Flag History*. His speech will be "The Historical Evolution of The American Flag". He will show 40 flags that demonstrate how our flag has changed over the years.

High School Yearbooks Scanned

The Fulton County Historical Society has scanned to DVD a complete collection of all McConnellsburg High School yearbooks from 1939 through 2017, and all Hustontown/Forbes Road High School yearbooks from 1949 through 2017. All high school students and staff are included, and names are searchable for each year. Discs sell for \$20 plus mailing costs, and can help bring back memories of former friends. The Society plans to scan Southern Fulton and Green Hill books also. If anyone has a Green Hill collection to loan, please let the Society know.



One-Horse Sleigh on Display for Christmas

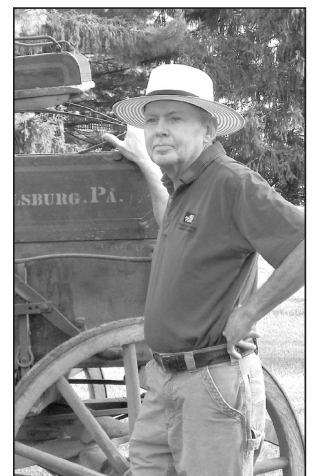
The display window in our Museum Annex features a "cutter" sleigh donated to the Society by Verda Culler Schue Hockensmith earlier this year. It had been purchased by her grandparents, Alexander and Sarah Jane McKee Mellott, about 1906 and stored in a crate in their family barn in Thompson Township. Over the years, Clyde Schue dropped moth balls and mice bait inside the crate, but varmints still chewed holes in the upholstery. Museum curator Edie Coleman received a donation of \$1,000 to purchase near-matching fabric and will take it to Lancaster County this spring for professional upholstery replacement.



Farm Wagon Added to Historical Society's Museum

A horse-drawn farm wagon with original stenciling was donated to the Fulton County Historical Society museum by Harold Comerer. The

wagon shows the name of his grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Comerer, who was born in 1856 and died in 1944. T. J. Comerer owned a hardware and implement store in McConnellsburg for more than 50 years which was continued by his son,



Harold Comerer

Nelson Comerer.

The wagon was moved by a crew of volunteers on October 7 to the Society's museum annex at 211 Lincoln Way East, where it is now on permanent display. It was a rare sight - Mark Sheffield, Paul Johnston, Greg Gress, Rachel Leese and Simon Blodgett pushed it up Lincoln Way while it was guided by Gene Leese. At the museum door in the old G.C. Murphy building, Dave Bivens stopped to help take the wagon apart, and put it back together inside the building. We love artifacts with locally documented names, and now have a place to display large items like this.



to guarantee a seat. To reserve a seat and pay, register by mail to: Linda Mellon, 923 Dolly Terrace, LaVale, MD 21502.

Please see insert for a complete itinerary and sign up form.

Spring Bus Tour to go to Gettysburg

Sign up for the Fulton County Historical Society's Spring Bus Trip to Gettysburg. On April 27 we will travel to the National Military Park Museum and Visitors Center to view the Film and Cyclorama.

There will also be a visit to the Eisenhower National Historic Site, where we are invited to tour the home and grounds, and take a walk to the cattle barns and skeet range.

The tour will include Civil War battle sites where Mr. Jack Keen, a retired local teacher, will be our guide.

Lunch will be at Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant where "Mamie Eisenhower" will join us at lunch for a living history performance and photo opportunity.

Pre-registering is greatly encouraged

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.

New Life Member Welcomed

Mark D. Mentzer, Avondale, Pennsylvania.

The Life Membership Endowment of the society, now with 278 members, totals \$41,900.

Minutes for FCHS Fall Membership Meeting held on October 19, 2017

The Fulton County Historical Society held its annual Fulton Fall Folk Festival meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2017, in the court room of the Fulton County Court House in McConnellsburg, PA. President Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of the Summer Meeting as printed in the Fall Newsletter were approved on a motion made by Ron Mitchell, seconded by Doug Brown.

President Miller announced the Grand Opening of the FCHS Museum Annex in the former G.C. Murphy Building will be held on Friday, October 20, 2017. The Building was originally constructed in 1885. On display will be temporary Poster Board Displays and the Comerer Wagon used by Nelson Comerer Hardware of McConnellsburg. Volunteers are needed to implement the five year Plan for the building.

Miller announced the FCHS was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Schmidt Fund for renovating the building. The building needs a new roof. Anthony Hollenshead's Lincoln Way Antiques will continue operating in the building.

Glenn Cordell and Edie Coleman

spoke about the displays in the museum: the Underground Railroad in Fulton County; a courthouse display; and three photos of employees of the former Sagner sewing factory.

Executive Director Deb Reed handed out copies to FCHS members in attendance their copy of the 2017 FCHS publication *Barn Quilts of Fulton County*.

Linda Mellon reported the Fall Bus Tours scheduled for Friday, October 20 are nearly full.

Miller reported the society's Robert Ferguson Bench Rifle will be repaired by Hustontown rifle maker, Jan Fraker. Four Fulton County made Stunkard rifles are now owned by the FCHS.

Dick Miller introduced the evening's featured guest speaker, James Hostetler, who gave a presentation on the French and Indian War of 1754-1763. Hostetler taught for thirty-seven years in Bedford County High School and was a volunteer at the Fort Bedford Museum and Old Bedford Village. He was author of the book *Forbes Road Through Bedford and Neighboring Counties*.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary

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2017-18 OFFICERS:

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Monica Seville, Vice President
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