

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Summer/Fall 2022

Historical Society Museums open during Fulton Fall Folk Festival

The Fulton House museum and the Museum Annex are open from 9:00 to 4:00 on Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15.

The museums are open from 1:00 to 4:00 on Sunday, October 16.

Please read on to see what is new that can be seen during this year's festival.

Historical Society Museum Committee summer report 2022

The Museum Committee had another busy summer. The Annex was open Fridays and Saturdays, but because of a shortage of volunteers the Fulton House was only open when a tour was requested. We held a yard sale during Main Street McConnellsburg's Wellness Market and plan another one as well as a bake sale during the Fall Folk Festival.

Attendance was down due to the construction on Lincoln Way East, but new exhibits and the new exterior did interest those who stopped by. One couple from Pittsburgh who like to tour small towns and town museums said that ours was the best one they have visited by far. Another man from a neighboring county said touring our museum was like going back to school.

New displays included a 1920s era kitchen, the Metz Jewelry Store, a barber chair from the Fields Barber shop, a display on the Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike and pop up displays on Wells Tannery, Needmore, Knobsville, Ft. Littleton, Burn Cabins, Hustontown, Harrisonville, Saluvia and Green Hill. Additional village displays will appear at the Folk Festival. Charlie Harr started a mural depicting the original Central Garage, and hopefully an antique car will be on display in the front area of the annex for the Festival.

Significant new items included the original R&G Motors Chevy sign donated by Darron Butts; a cast iron kitchen stove donated by David and Nancy Bivens; a mid-19th century wooden desk on which papers were locally signed separating Fulton from Bedford County courtesy of Alan Kelso; Corporal George Wilds Civil War sword and scabbard, pistol and holster and spurs donated by Leland Wilds and his son Dustin; a James Clark Rifle and Benjamin Franklin Shives' Civil War Rifle and bayonet courtesy of Allen Cover; a Commercial yarn cabinet donated by Sandra Barton; and antique farm



Two new displays at the Museum Annex included the Metz Jewelry Store, and a 1920s era kitchen.

implements donated by both Larry Knepper and Ken Keebaugh.

In addition, a pedal driven scroll saw, a McConnellsburg Bottling Company flavoring crock and wooden crate, and a camera stand from the Clarence Seville photography shop were loaned by Alan Kelso, and numerous jewelry items, tools, clocks and shop furniture from the Metz Jewelry Store were loaned by Sherry Metz. Ed Leisinger loaned furniture and utensils for the kitchen display, and numerous others donated or loaned items to embellish other displays.

Members and the general public can help the museum committee by donating good items for the FFFF yard sale and baked goods for the bake sale. Volunteers are always needed to join the Museum Committee and more greeters and museum docents are desperately needed in order to keep both the Annex and the Fulton House open. Speak to Edie Coleman, Ruth Reeder, Tom Duffey, or any Society officer if you can help.

Committee Chair Edie Coleman has announced that she will be retiring from the Museum Committee after the Fall Folk Festival. She intends to finish a project of photographing items owned by the society and then will no longer be active with the museum. We thank her for her decades of service to the Historical Society. A new Museum Chair will need to be installed promptly. If anyone is interested in the position, speak to one of the officers or board members. They will be able to provide information on duties and responsibilities of a museum chair.

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Election of Officers held at spring meeting

FCCHS officer elections for the 2022-23 year were held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Those elected and their offices follows: Mark Sheffield, President; Eddie Sharpe, Vice President; Lisa Johnston, Secretary; Gene Leese, Treasurer 'til 2025; Jan Fraker and Erin Cromer directors 'til 2025

See complete list of directors on last page.

'Central Garage' taking shape

The 5500-square foot building that houses the Fulton County Historical Society (FCHS) Museum Annex has had a business presence along the Lincoln Highway for many years. Built in 1895, it also was formerly a G.C. Murphy Store. However, circa 1918 - 1930, 211 Lincoln Way East was home to the Central Garage where Mr. J.W. Linn sold Studebaker and Maxwell automobiles, tires, inner tubes, oil, and gasoline and repaired automobiles. The east portion of the building front was where the automobiles entered and exited the Central Garage.

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor funded FCHS's Central Garage Restoration project in April 2021. FCHS subsequently purchased materials and services that have resulted in the restoration of the eastern portion of the Museum Annex facade to the original 1920s Central Garage, once a well-known feature on the Lincoln Highway. The building was modified in 1947 to become the G. C. Murphy building. The 1947 modification of the east portion of the building front was in real need of repair.

This Central Garage Restoration project removed the eastern window and frame, display platform and 18" of brick under the window; fixed structural issues; leveled the concrete surface; replaced woodwork; modified the portion of the building surrounding the new garage door; constructed adequate infrastructure to hang swinging wooden garage doors; and installed a functional, period replica garage door like the original door from the early 1920 -1940s era, interior floor modifications, exterior lighting, and brick surrounding the garage door opening. With a revised sidewalk, FCHS will have the ability to feature/display various antique vehicles restored by Fulton County residents as part of our displays.

Additionally, local artist Charlie Harr has painted a mural of the Central Garage inside the Museum Annex to be used as a backdrop for any vehicles or garage related exhibits.

Book on grist mills and tanneries coming in 2023

Once upon a time, buckwheat was king in Fulton County. Early farmers realized the county's soil was perfect for buckwheat and so grist mills



The original 1919 Central Garage being painted by Charlie Harr shows men outside the garage as it was before Mr. Linn closed in the front part of the building in 1920.

were needed to produce flour. Grist mills existed in Fulton County by the mid 18th century.

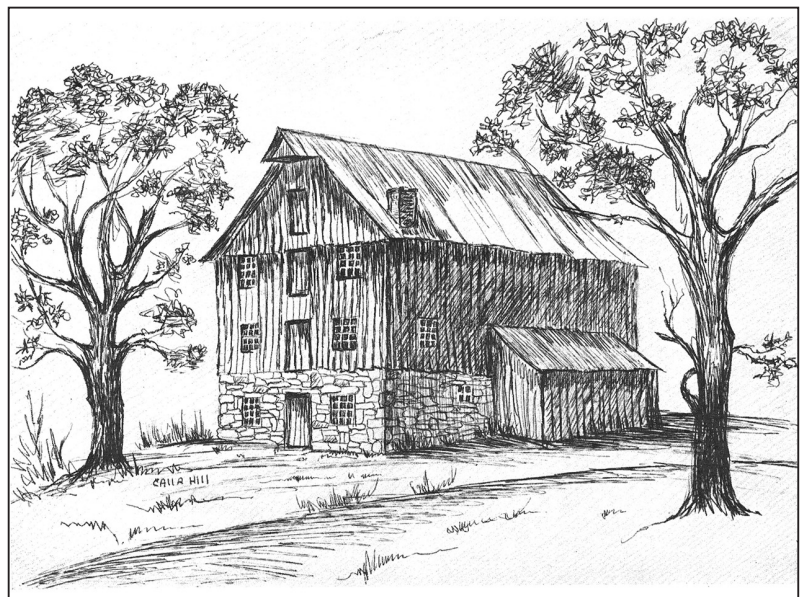
John Nelson has written the history of Fulton's 73 known grist mills as well as its 13 tanneries and they will be the subject of the Society's next book. Today, four mills are still standing and only one still operates; however, only one building connected with a tannery still stands.

The book will include photographs of many mills.

FCHS Museum Teas at a crossroads

The annual Autumn Tea was held on Saturday, September 10 with Fred Mars speaking about plants that have been and are used for dyes. Edie announced that it would be the final Historical Society Museum tea that she will host. She began the teas nearly thirteen years ago to earn money to support the museum. They have been remarkably successful and have benefited the growth of

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BALDWIN'S MILL -- At Fort Littleton, was operated for many years by Elijah Baldwin. (Artwork by Calla Hill).

the museums in many ways.

The teas began in the log cabin and graduated to the meeting room of the Fulton House. The last few years we have used the Community Room of the Annex which has a small kitchen, making the preparation and cleanup much easier.

A special 'thank you' to the many helpers over the years: Donna House and Summer Pittman for decorating, Donna also helped to clean the rooms we used over the years, Edie's daughters Liane and Erin, Sylvia Smith, Dixie Divens, Ruth Reeder, Kim Zajac and ALL the ladies who made our famous desserts.

We would like to see the Spring and Autumn Teas continue. If anyone would like to take over, please contact Edie for information.

New Life Members Welcomed

Our latest life members joining are:

- **George K. Slayman, Jr.** (#319)

of Falling Waters, WV, joined in March 2022.

- **William A. Downs** (#320) of Mansfield, OH, joined in April.

- **Julia M. Berkstresser** (#321) of Harrisonville, PA, joined in April.

- **David B. Bivens** (#322) of McConnellsburg, PA, joined in June.

- **Nancy I. Bivens** (#323) of McConnellsburg, PA, joined in June.

The Life Membership

Endowment of the society, now with 323 members, totals \$53,150.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Society

The Fulton County Historical Society recently had a position on the board of directors open up. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved in the society's governance, please consider volunteering to fill this position. The board currently meets monthly at the Museum Annex in McConnellsburg.

Other volunteer opportunities include being a docent for the museum, either at the Fulton House or Museum Annex, where both summer hours, and Fulton Fall Folk Festival hours are planned for 2023. And, other events will be planned

throughout the year.

Contacts:

- FCHS President: Mark Sheffield at 717-485-4191

- FCHS Museum: Edie Coleman at 814-735-3039

- FCHS Library: Naomi Waite at 717-987-3757

- FCHS Executive Assistant: Debbie Reed at director@fultonhistory.org

- FCHS Mailing Address: PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Facebook Pages

- <https://www.facebook.com/fultonhistory.org>

Go to the above Facebook page for upcoming events and photo galleries.

- <https://www.facebook.com/frontierbarnquilttrail>

Go to the above Facebook page for photos and more info on the Barn Quilt Trail in Fulton County.

Websites

- <https://www.fultonhistory.org>

The above website is the main site for FCHS with genealogy research information and sales pages for many items.

- <https://fultonhistorymuseum.org>

The above website contains photo galleries and more information.

- <http://www.frontierbarnquilttrail.com>

The above website contains photo galleries and more information on the Frontier Barn Quilt Trail of Fulton County Pennsylvania.

History of Fulton County in 15-minutes

The Fulton County Historical Society received funding from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to produce a 15-minute video of the history of Fulton County. The video, using video clips, vintage pictures, artwork and narrative, provides a snapshot of the rich history of Fulton County. The video starts from the early 1700s when current Fulton County was a desolate

wilderness crisscrossed by Indian paths.

It then takes viewers through the period up to and through the French and Indian War, which had an impact on the Great Cove

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Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report	
Income/Expense for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year (May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022)	
<u>Income:</u>	
Donations (general)	\$6,159.83
Donations - GC Murphy bldg.	8,250.00
Agency (government) grants	4,500.00
PA Sales Tax discounts earned	1.54
Books, prints & other sales	3,390.47
Shipping & Handling	78.00
Dues	3,080.00
Life membership dues	3,250.00
Investment div. & int.	11,012.04
Special Events (bus tours, etc.)	2,490.56
Rent - GC Murphy bldg & apts	19,960.00
Misc. - Reimbursements	450.00
Total Receipts	\$62,622.44
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Special assistance (individuals)	\$2,995.00
Legal & professional fees	4,775.54
Supplies	1,677.88
Office Equipment	127.18
Telephone & telecommunications	1,051.72
Electronic Transaction Fees	63.41
Mailing fees, Postage & Box Rent	588.58
Equip rental & maintenance	281.44
Printing & Copying	830.47
Website	800.00
Items for Resale	2,683.00
Rent & other occupancy	1,325.00
Building Maint. (other than GCM)	601.00
GC Murphy expenses - all	50,141.57
Travel and meeting expenses (bus tours, tea parties & quarterly meetings)	2,927.52
Insurance	1,656.25
Membership dues	85.00
Advertising expenses	777.00
Replacement monument (Ft. Coombe)	7,500.00
Business expense (misc.)	186.50
Total Expenses	\$81,074.06
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	-\$18,451.62
Unrealized loss (investment acc'ts)	-16,186.86
Net Gain for fiscal year (loss)	-\$34,638.48
<i>Gene Leese, Treasurer</i>	
Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report	
Account Balances at the end of the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year (April 30, 2022)	
Fulton County Checking	\$2,793.29
PayPal Account	1,353.61
Life Member Endowment	52,650.00
Main Investment Acct.	112,711.33
Investment Money Market	12,013.50
Winegardner Invest. Acct.	41,321.32
Fulton Co. Hist. Library	2,525.54
Museum Account	1,452.33
Undeposited Funds	2,589.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$229,409.92
<i>Gene Leese, Treasurer</i>	

plus more!

Grist Mills & Tanneries

● *Society announces book topic ...*

Summer '22 at the Annex

● *Museum Committee report on*

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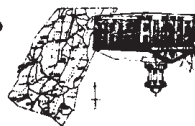
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Fulton County



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area of Fulton County. After GEN Braddock's defeat near Pittsburgh, the Indians tried to oust settlers and resulted in the Great Cove Massacre. The resulting Big Spring Cemetery was the first public cemetery in the area. The video discusses the formation and use of both private forts and British forts along the frontier in Fulton County for protection of the settlers. Also addressed in the video is that when the southern part of the Great Cove was settled, many thought they were living in Maryland until the Mason-Dixon line was struck and went across the southern border of Fulton County. The video further discusses that the land was merged into Cumberland Co until 1771,

when it became part of Bedford Co. In 1850, Fulton County was created from Bedford County. The video discusses Fulton county's beginnings as an agrarian society that was able to branch into other trades as the Indian trails and bridal paths were expanded to toll roads or turnpikes. One of which was the Chambersburg to Bedford Turnpike, which was built during 1815-1820 and was used until it was replaced by the Lincoln Highway in the early 1920s. The turnpike permitted skilled tradesmen to come to Fulton County. The video also devotes time to the impact of the Civil War on Fulton County, efforts to construct rail line service through Fulton County, and the range of military operations from

the Revolutionary War forward in which Fulton Countians served their country. This video is greeting museum patrons and will be made available to Fulton County schools, Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations for their use.

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*

2022-23 OFFICERS:

Mark Sheffield, President
Eddie Sharpe, Vice President
Lisa Johnston, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Larry Knepper 2023
Carolyn Hollenshead 2023
Open 2024

John Nelson 2024
Jan Fraker 2025
Erin Cromer 2025