Annual Report - 2012

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Mission

The Cumberland County Historical Society, founded in 1874, is dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the rich history of Cumberland County.

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2012: Year in Review

“May you live in interesting times.” This ancient Chinese proverb is especially true today. We can all agree with the lovely sentiment of these words, but most of us would also agree that we are ready for a change from these current “interesting times.” It is difficult to believe that just over a decade ago the country was experiencing a budget surplus and a 3.9% unemployment rate. Considering the economic changes we are experiencing, these are interesting times indeed.

It is a particularly interesting time for non-profit organizations. CCHS continues to be fiscally responsible while conscientiously caring for an important public trust. The times have presented many challenges but as the saying goes, if one considers the glass half full, they have also created new opportunities. For example, because of the economic times, the CCHS has undergone studies to find ways to become more energy efficient and sustainable. It is a pleasure to report that over the past five years approximately $40,000 has been saved by adjusting thermostats, insulating windows, changing light bulbs, participating in an energy consortium and converting the oil furnace to a gas furnace at the Two Mile House. We are proud that we have always done more with less but it is truer than ever as we get more and more creative in raising money and making those dollars stretch. The total amount of the CCHS budget has changed very little in the past six years in spite of rising costs. While we try to be more accountable, our members have been more generous than ever. The annual appeal in 2012 was a record high amount. Thank you.

Collaborating with partners in the area has also helped all of us in sharing and better utilizing our resources. We thank Dickinson College, Cumberland Valley Visitors Center, Historic Carlisle, Inc., Shippensburg University, the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle Borough and Cumberland County. Together we can become more successful.

We also thank David Smith, volunteer Journal editor, for another quality Journal and Ann Kramer Hoffer for generously opening her home for a successful holiday open-house event. An important and timely grant for technology was received from The G. B. Stuart Foundation. Elizabeth and George Gardner generously provided funding to install space-saver systems that were donated by Bosler Library. Other significant funding was received from The Stabler Foundation, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, The Progress Foundation, UGRR Network and M&T Bank. A complete list of donors can be found in the back of this report.

CCHS continues to be a destination for people from all over the world. Our visitation continues to increase and more and more patrons use our facility and its resources. We
always appreciate our faithful volunteers who assist so capably in all areas of our operations. Their loyalty and dedication inspires all of us.

Activities, statistics, accomplishments and other notable events are mentioned throughout this report. Thank you again to our Board, staff, members, volunteers and partners. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Linda Witmer  Executive Director
Hamilton Library

Summary of activities Jan 2012 – December 2012

<table>
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<th>Activities</th>
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Activities

The Hamilton Library provided introductions to the library for Dickinson College students. We also provided several class sessions to Shippensburg University Applied History program. We taught an introduction to archives class session and a museum technology session. The library was also able to provide a second three-part genealogy series taught by CCHS member, Deborah Sweaney. We also offered two genealogy workshops. Library staff also ran the three part series, Historical Research Certification Training, this fall for the first time in ten years.

Historical Society staff and volunteers are working with the county archivist to help make county records more accessible and better preserved. Current projects included work on the Register of Will’s renunciations, the poor house cemetery, and the Clerk of Court’s Miscellaneous Microfilm. Throughout the year, the county archivist has created displays in the library highlighting different county records.

The library received a donation of compact shelving from the Bosler Memorial Library. George Gardner funded the installation of the new shelving. Library staff and volunteers completed 156 research requests for patrons. Staff and volunteers worked on cataloging projects including the creation of a preliminary inventory for the Mary Bradley collection. Some other library projects for 2011 include: transcribing the minute books of the Female Benevolent Society, transcribing old accession records, and scanning of manuscript boxes 032 and 036.

Patrons

Student scholars visited the library to conduct their research. Students came from several local schools: Boiling Springs, St. Patrick’s, and Carlisle. We also had students and faculty members visit the library from at least fourteen colleges and universities including: Cal State – Northridge, Dartmouth, Dickinson, Georgetown, Gettysburg, IUP, Marquette, Miami Ohio, Penn State, Penn State Harrisburg, Queens University Belfast, Shippensburg, UC Davis, University of Pennsylvania

The library had visitors from thirty-eight different states and three countries. The states that sent the most patrons were California, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Patrons came from California and Maryland during nine months of the 2012. During six months of the year, the library had visitors from Ohio, New Jersey, and Arizona.

Respectfully submitted,
Cara Curtis
The CCHS museum cares for over 9,000 artifacts related to Cumberland County history. Through our changing exhibits, we are able to use these artifacts to attract, engage, and educate our visitors. The museum received a total of 38 new accessions this year. Thank you to all of the generous donors who have improved our collections. In 2012, we had 2,740 visitors and hosted 17 group tours. Volunteers and interns donated 1,828 hours of their time to the museum.

Our main exhibition for 2012 was Pine Grove: A Lasting Legacy, which covered three centuries of history. The exhibit was created alongside the South Mountain Partnership and Pine Grove Furnace State Park, who also supported a CCHS picnic and activities day at Pine Grove Furnace in May. This day was also the grand unveiling of the permanent exhibit at the Ironmaster’s Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The museum department created this series of panels as part of our Mini-Grant from the South Mountain Partnership. In September, many families also came out to Two Mile House for the free Pine Grove family day.

Our Messiah College intern, Hillary Carter, helped us create the Pine Grove exhibit as well as a Window to History. Volunteer Winnie Brandt also helped us kick off a series of windows highlighting our mechanical bank collection. Interns Tiffany Weaver, Rachel Williams, and Chelsea Rahal worked in the museum’s photo gallery this year. They created an exhibit telling the story of one African-American family’s experiences in the county. Todd Hall hosted the archives of the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Central Pennsylvania. Their exhibit celebrating 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting this year complemented our Pine Grove exhibit very well. This year’s holiday exhibit and family program, with the theme of Civil War Christmas, was a preview for next year’s 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Cumberland County. 2012 was also spent in planning next year’s major Civil War exhibit: 1863: Invasion in the Valley. Part of this planning involved a partnership with Dr. James Hoefler and his Dickinson College students to produce a series of videos based on CCHS’ Civil War collections.

Notable achievements this year included expanding our use of technology and collaborations with other organizations. The museum department continued to provide graphic design support for CCHS as a whole. Our use of technology in the museum expanded to include mobile QR codes, which allow visitors to access exhibit-relevant information on our website from inside the museum galleries. Our partnership work for the year was not limited to the groups mentioned above. We taught two sessions on museum and collections management for the Shippensburg University class this year and also began to develop a Student Docent Program. The museum began partnering with the Letort Quilters for their Cumberland County Quilt Documentation project. Carol Reed led the Molly Pitcher Stitchers in a flag conservation project for 2013’s Civil War exhibit. Finally, special thanks goes out to the committees, artifact lenders, docents, and volunteers who make the museum, special exhibits, and museum programming possible.

Rachael Zuch, Curator
Himes Education Center

Educational outreach is one of the most vital aspects of the historical society’s mission. Here in the Himes Education Center, we strive to provide fresh, accurate programming based on primary source research.

In spite of the troubled national economy, area school districts continue to utilize our supplemental educational support, which correlates with Pennsylvania Department of Education curriculum standards for social studies. The education department gave presentations to over 8,000 area students and adults, providing well over 500 program hours. Areas of notable increase came from regional home-school consortiums and retirement communities. We continue to be approved for the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (E.I.T.C.). This additional funding helps maintain quality educational programming and opportunities for all school-aged children.

After ending the school year with a very busy May, the education department kicked off summer with a return visit from students of the Indian Community School of Milwaukee, an all Native- American private school. Thirty-five young men and women, representing the nations of the Oneida, Menominee, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Stock-Bridge, Munsee, and Potawatomi, made their annual pilgrimage east to visit various cultural and historical landmarks. Along with Gettysburg National Battlefield and the National Museum of the American Indian, the students visited the CCHS for research on family members. Education curator, Matthew March also led them on a walking tour of the former Carlisle Indian Industrial School grounds, where some of their relatives had attended. This cultural sojourn marked a significant awareness of the legacy of these students, helping them bridge the past and present in a very tangible way. We thank them for their visit and look forward to many more.

2012’s Civil War and World War I history camps were a big success. We had many new campers this year. All four camps were full of students from central Pennsylvania and even some from neighboring states. There were many fun-filled activities that gave campers a unique perspective of some aspects of history that are not often covered in classroom learning.

This past August, the Education Department received visitors from Nanzan University in Japan. These visitors consisted of students from Dr. Yoshimitsu’s American Studies class, in which they enjoyed an engaging talk from educator Matthew March about the Carlisle Indian School coupled with a museum tour.

In May, Shippensburg University student Gilbert Reinhart completed his marathon 240 hours internship with the education department. His service was invaluable to many of our educational programs and in particular to the Medal of Honor hands-on program. We want to thank him and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.
In collaboration with Shippensburg University, CCHS started the 2012 fall semester with the inaugural offering of its’ second Masters level class Museum Education. The class led by Linda Witmer and Matthew March combined traditional academic training in museum education with hands-on activities and experiences in a museum setting. It included lectures, class discussions, educational projects and visits to other museums to learn various learning styles and interpretative techniques. We would like to thank those institutions and educators that provided their facilities, time and expertise to further our students learning. In particular many thanks go to Jeffery Hawks of A.H.E.C., Jason Zimmerman of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and Deborah Hilty of Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.

After presenting several programs over the past three years, CCHS has been approved as the official provider for supplemental curriculum for the Central Dauphin School District chapter of Gaudenzia, a residential drug and alcohol treatment center.

Just as winter began, the education department, in collaboration with museum staff, hosted A Civil War Christmas. This event was free to the public and focused on the rich history and holiday traditions celebrated during one of the most turbulent eras of the county’s history. Many families enjoyed the presentation, craft projects, holiday snacks and of course a visit from the most famous gift giver, Santa Claus. Holiday oranges were graciously provided by James Bartoli Inc.

2012 was an auspicious year for receiving grants for future education programming. One grant from M and T bank provided for the technology to expand CCHS online educational content in the form of pre and post lesson plans and activities. Another from the PA Humanities Council provided the funding for a service/learning backpacking trip focused on the Underground Railroad in Cumberland County. This excursion focused on helping underserved students foster an in depth relationship with those freedom-seekers in the past, while helping their community in the present.

The education department could not provide the myriad of quality programs it does without the help of its gracious volunteers. Many thanks go out to these men and women who donate their time and expertise to help foster a passion for history in our children.

In addition to providing supplemental educational programming to school age children, the department is continually exploring new opportunities for adult and family based presentations, along with collaborations with several of the areas fine educational institutions. We are excited about and committed to these new possibilities that will continue our reputation as a quality resource to the community into and beyond 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew March
PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR 2012

HISTORICAL TRIPS

Twenty people enjoyed our first “Small Towns USA” bus trip to Lititz, PA. The trip included a tour of the Wilbur Chocolate Factory, Strugis Pretzel Bakery, and the Moravian Church & Archives.

Twenty-two people participated in our second “Small Towns USA” bus trip to Boalsburg, PA on May 24, 2012. We had a wonderful tour of the Pennsylvania Military Museum and the Columbus Chapel and Boal Museum.

Our third “Small Towns USA” bus trip had 51 people traveling to Chesapeake City, Maryland. Our step-on-guide gave us an orientation of Chesapeake City, a tour of The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Museum, and a narrated tour around the Thoroughbred Horse Farms. A great day shared by all.

On September 20, 2012 Wayne Wachsmuth lead a group of 15 people to Gettysburg. The bus trip was in conjunction with a talk that Wayne gave at the Historical Society on Captain William Miller. We traveled to many different areas around Gettysburg where significant battles took place. We visited the area where Captain Miller won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the third day of the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. We finished our trip with a tour of the cemetery where we visited the unknown graves, monuments and Captain William Miller’s grave.

CCHS hosted a 10 day European Trip with 26 people traveling around the Northern Coast of Ireland from October 5th through October 14th.

HISTORICAL TALKS & LECTURES

The Wednesdays in Winter series was very well attended with a total of 307 people attending the 4 sessions during February.

The Matinees In March series was also well attended with a total of 267 people participating in the 4 sessions.

On April 17, 2012 36 people were present for Dr. Noel Potter’s presentation on the 40th Anniversary year of the unforgettable, Agnes flood of 1972. The presentation showed the effects of this historic event on Cumberland County from the air and on the ground.

Jeff Wood presented our very popular Fall Series again this year. With much knowledge and great enthusiasm, Jeff had a total of 404 people participate in the 7 week Fall History Series.

Forty-nine people attended Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wayne Wachsmuth’s presentation on September, 11, 2012 on people from the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry with emphasis on Captain William Miller and the action at Gettysburg on July 3rd 1863 where he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions performed during the battle. In conjunction with the talk, Wayne led a trip to Gettysburg on September 20th.
This year continued to bring in new and repeat customers on the hunt to find unique local gifts in our sunny and friendly shop. We seek new ways to draw people into History on High by creating eye-catching window displays that reflect the season, and once in, try to have our customers feel welcome and comfortable; both a gathering place and a destination by offering a variety of artists’ demonstrations, trunk shows and book signings throughout the year.

We strive to reinforce our mission through educational labels on items and we work along with the various departments of CCHS to coordinate with events throughout the year. This year, we have had 7,061 visitors to our shop, representing visitors from all over the United States and other countries from around the world.

The shop has expanded events by hosting popular artists’ shows and demonstrations featuring Deborah Hershey, Paul Hoch, Bessie Jamieson, Gay McGeary, David Miner, Anita Pfeuffer, Joan Rhodes, Ellie Swank, and Felting Classes by Bonnie Tweedy Shaw. We also were proud to represent several authors for book signings and talks by Kate Buford, Dr. Daniel Felix, Chris Gavaler, Eileen Graham, Laura Strickler, Randy Watts, and Joseph Cress who also hosted several “History Walks”. We also hosted a special “Member Discount” evening and a free gift wrapping day, and held a Raffle with donated art from David Miner, Gay McGeary and Charles Clevenger, to whom we are very grateful. The First Friday events in the spring and summer are very popular and we also have extended hours during Carlisle Events car shows.

The Cumberland Valley Visitors Center in the rear of the shop provides a variety of maps and pamphlets offering information and events taking place in our beautiful valley. Through the Center we have seen an additional 2,013 visitors.

None of this would be possible if not for our wonderful and helpful volunteers. In 2012 we had 662 volunteer hours in the shop and 432 volunteer hours in the visitor’s center. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our shop and visitor center volunteers, as they often wear two hats: Kate Barr, Chuck Bassett, Lou Bistline, Lisa Brousse, Shirley Chamberlain, Elizabeth Ellis, Dee Fenton, Rosalie George, Betsy Hilliard, Lois and Paul Hoch, Jo Ann Hutcheson, Charles Kepple, Barbara Miller, Debbie Reitzle, Joanne Rice, Gary Roberts, Fran Sanders, Ann Sheehan, Sylvia Smith and E.K. Weitzel. I’d like to thank Margot Graham for her dedication and let her know she is missed, and I’d also like to thank our two Dickinson College work study ladies: Sofie Anderson and Olivia Chalakari. We would welcome new volunteers in the coming year and we hope all of our volunteers enjoy being a part of the shop and visitor center as much as we do. I’d like to add a special thank you to all of our business partners and consignment artists – thank you for your exceptional talents.

Thanks to you all, for your continued patronage and support.
Two Mile House Annual Report 2012

Two Mile House rentals were down this year. There were only 5 wedding/receptions. There was 1 anniversary party, 1 birthday party, 1 rehearsal dinner, 3 showers, 7 Christmas parties and 4 other events. Rental income was $8,900. The apartment continues to be rented bringing in $700 per month.

In April I hosted a Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau FAM Tour that brought 4 tour directors from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In September there was a quilt documentation day that was very well attended. The Civic Club and Garden Club continue to have monthly meetings.

I did coordinate a very successful trip to Ireland from October 5 to 14. Twenty-six travelers had a wonderful time with beautiful weather everywhere we went. They are looking forward to another trip in 2014 – possibly to Scotland and Wales.

The McLain Celtic Festival was a great success again this year bringing in over $20,000. The hurricanes stayed away and we had good weather – although a little humid!

Looking forward to 2013 and changes next door with the sale of the Wenger property.
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Carlisle Area Newcomers Club
Carlisle Fortnightly Club
Carlisle Garden Club
Carlisle Tire and Rubber Company
Carlisle Travelers Club
Chamberlin, Rebecca
Cress, Joseph
Cressler, Walter L., Jr.
Cushner, Linda
Deardorff, Deborah
Drawbaugh, Dan
Eiss, Charlie
Emanuel, Michael
Ewing Family Association
Fenton, Chip & Dee
First United Church of Christ Archives
Fralish, Gloria A.
Fralish, John C., Jr.
Frankford Museum Society
Franklin County Historical Society
Fry, Carol
George, Nancy
Gobrecht, Sandra
Goodyear, Ginny
Graham, Daniel A.
Halliday, Dr. & Mrs. Herbert E.
Halliday, Dr. Herbert E. "Ted"
Halton, Nancy
Harris, Dr. John
Hatfield, Amy
Hemlock Girl Scout Council
Highlands, Bob
Himes, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph V. H.
Hoover, Donna Lee
Horvath, Gladys
James, Cheewa
Kanther, Margaret Richardson
Kenny, Maurice F.
Kent, Corey
Kocher, Willis
Kunkle, Richard & Lee
Laird, Robyn
Leppard, Dale J. J. and Susan Riley
Lighty, Robin G.
Longleaf Services Inc.
Ludt, Irene E.
Mack, Beula
Mainello, Shirley
Marshall, Jane
Masland, Albert H.
Mathna, Gary
McCaleb, Gary. S.
McElwee, Geraldine
Mechanicsburg Museum Association
Meehan, Sue
Miller, Tad
Mitchell, John
Murray, Robert
Neiman, Bonnie Thompson
Newville Historical Society
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Otstot, James
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
PA State Archives
Perry Historians.
Phillips, William Louis
Potter, Dr. Noel
Raudabaugh, Millie
Richwine, Elizabeth
Robbins, Gwen & Jim
Rogusky, Margaret
Rosenberry, Edward L., Pastor
Roth, Franklin
Rowland, Bob
Schrift, Brian
Schwartz, Wayne
Sheaffer, William H. (Estate of)
Smith, David G.
Smith, Rosemary
South Middleton Township
Springen, Jinny
Staub, Betty
Stone, Charles H.
Strickler, Laura L.
Styers, Georgiann
Tanger, Ronald
Thompson, Anna L.
Thrush, Margy
Trayer, Larry R.
Tritt, Richard
Trump, Charles E.
Vernon, Tom
Warren, Carol
Watts, Randy
Weigle, Robert A., Sr.
Wingert, Cooper
Wolf, Peggy
Wood, Brenda Lee
Woodruff, Jean
Zeigler, Kim