

# CCHS 2020

---

## SUMMER BULLETIN



Upcoming Programs & 2019 Year in Review





David L. Smith



Jason Illari

# Our message to you

## //Looking Forward//

THE YEAR 2020 will be the year when we establish a new normal. As the year began, plans were in effect to conduct the year much as in previous years. The 200th Anniversary of Two Mile House was going to be observed, the annual golf tournament plans were well underway, the biennial Indian School conference “Carlisle Journeys” was in the planning stages, among a variety of other planned activities. We then learned that Jason had colon cancer. His surgery went well, and he is now doing follow-up treatments. During this time the Executive Committee recommended that someone serve as acting Executive Director. As a former staff person this seemed like an obvious role for former librarian and current Secretary of the Board, David Smith to take on.

We were no more than settling into adjusting to Jason’s situation when the COVID-19 crisis hit. We were forced to close the Society to the public in March and even further curtail activities for staff by March 16. During this time we have continued to move forward as best we can. Jason, fortunately has been able to provide guidance along with the Executive Committee from the Board of Trustees. Many members of the staff with the capability to work from home have done excellent work to keep the Society and its mission in the public eye through Facebook, our website ([www.historicalsociety.com](http://www.historicalsociety.com)) and through eblasts.

Lindsay Varner has coordinated many of the online links for the Society with assistance from Cara Curtis, Rachel Knapp, Matthew March, Kim Laidler and Blair Williams. Lucy Wolf has been a great assistance with financial matters and Tim Bard has kept our buildings in good order.

The Board of Trustees authorized continuing payroll for the staff during the first four weeks of the closure. Additional pay will continue to be provided for an addi-

tional eight weeks because of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provided by the federal government.

Under the able leadership of Paul Hoch, the golf tournament has been rescheduled for September 18. The Two Mile House anniversary will still be observed and the new exhibit will be opening at a later date and continue through the end of the year.

Activities for March, April, May and early June have been either cancelled or postponed. We are all looking forward to the time we can emerge from isolation and re-engage with all of you. Social distancing and other mitigations will likely be part of our operation when we are able to reopen. This has been an unprecedented trial for everyone. The Cumberland County Historical Society will emerge from this tragedy, but like everything else, there will likely be a new normal. The long-term financial effects of this have yet to be realized. The federal grant will greatly assist us with financial worries, but it does not eliminate them. The Society you see this summer will likely be quite different from the one you experienced in 2019. There may be fewer public hours and less staff than you are accustomed to seeing.

The membership’s long-term support for the Society will be more important than ever. Your continued membership will be vital and the search to attract new members extremely important. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

David L. Smith  
*Acting Executive Director*

Jason Illari  
*Executive Director*

## \\ Looking Back \\

THE YEAR 2019 will likely be looked at as the last year of the old normal. A number of significant events happened during the year. We hired a new museum curator, Rachel Knapp, after a number of months without a curator. She has taken on the roll actively and we are fortunate to have her. We built partnerships throughout the year including the Mt Holly History Collaborative with the Carlisle Area School District, the Amelia Givin Library, and residents of Mt. Holly Springs. The Society partnered with the YWCA and Hope Station to host the first Racial Justice Forum where both Lindsay Varner and Cara Curtis made presentations.

CCHS received funds from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council via Pulitzer to present Democracy & the Informed Citizen as part of the Democracy & the Informed Citizen national initiative. Through our portion of the grant, CCHS partnered with Dickinson College to host Pulitzer Prize Nominee Jackie Jones. Three panel discussions were held and CCHS hosted a book group for “The Dreadful Deceit.”

Lincoln Cemetery Initiative is an ongoing collaboration of the Society, the Carlisle Borough, and residents & descendants of those buried at the cemetery. The group has been working to recognize the history of the site and honor those buried there.

The Whiskey Rebellion Education Project resulted in teachers’ workshops led by Matthew March and Lindsay Varner. Dill Tavern personnel assisted with these workshops as well as volunteer, Tad Miller. Teachers from the region explored ways to incorporate the county’s role in the Rebellion into their curricula.

The Preservation Roundtable continued to explore various preservation issues and the Watch List properties continued to be emphasized. Barbara Landis continued work with Dickinson College and the Indian School Resource site in anticipation of the 2020 “Carlisle Journeys” conference. Ongoing research initiatives include the United States Colored Troops Digital Project and the Mt. Tabor Church Preservation Project.

The society and staff received recognition with several awards including the Chairman’s Award from Preservation PA, the Institutional Achievement Award from PA Museums, the Award of Excellence for the Heart and Soul Initiative from AASLH and Lindsay Varner received the YWCA Racial Justice Award.

In August, after 25 years, the final annual McLain Celtic Festival was held on the grounds of Two Mile House. This long-standing tradition served as a signature event and fund raiser for the Society over the years. Declining attendance and demands on staff time led to the decision to end the Festival.



---

# Thank You

---

to our volunteers,  
members, and interns

---

We have one thing to say to our members and donors

---

## THANK YOU!

---

Membership at the Society is the lifeblood of our organization. Your membership empowers CCHS to make history relevant in today's world. Your support allows our staff, committees and volunteers to provide you with award winning programming and yearly museum exhibits & publications.

Please consider joining or renewing your membership today. We truly appreciate your support. It...

- Allows staff to develop public programming
- Creates smiles and memories for children
- Protects our Historic Properties
- And keeps our collections safe and open to the public

Like many organizations CCHS depends on the support of its members and donors.

This is a difficult time for many, so if you are unable to give further we understand.

However, if you can give in addition to your membership and regular year-end annual contribution, we are asking for a special donation to help us during these turbulent times.

Please click the "Give" button on our website. We've added a special option for our "CCHS COVID19 Donation Drive". You will have the option to give all at once or space out your special donation over a period of 6 months.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, thank you!

# 2019: A Year of Achievement

Edited by Lindsay Varner: Contributions by Cara Curtis, Rachel Knapp, Matthew March, Richard Tritt, Kim Laidler, Blair Williams, Barb Landis



CCHS Staff (front row: Blair Williams, Lindsay Varner, and Cara Curtis) and members of the Mt. Tabor Preservation Project (back row: Pam Still, David Toner, Carmen James) receiving their award at the PA Museums Conference.

Each year CCHS offers quality research, exhibits, programs, and services to researchers, patrons and visitors from across the country. We strive at CCHS to engage and educate the public on the history of Cumberland County with the mission of protecting the valued assets in our region. Yearly we host thousands of people who visit our facilities; whether they are attending a wedding at Two Mile house, conducting research in the Library, viewing our collections in the Museum, attending a program in Todd Hall, or shopping at History on High, visitors are greeted by a knowledgeable and passionate group of staff and volunteers. Our educational programming reaches thousands of people every year, from school aged children to the young at heart. Our

work to go digital through the Gardner Digital Library has expanded our presence and educational reach online with 13,601 visitors to the site to read articles or watch stories gathered from residents.

These achievements are what our staff do daily to preserve, protect, and promote the history of Cumberland County. Yet, there are moments each year when departments and staff go above and beyond to engage the community and promote CCHS. In 2019, staff brought innovation and partnerships to the Society which strengthen our mission and inspire visitors to be protectors and advocates for the County's history. Our work was rewarded with three major awards. Preservation Pennsylvania recognized CCHS' preservation activities

with their Chairman's Award, and the Heart & Soul Initiative (administered by CCHS) received an award from PA Museums, as well as a national award from the Association for State and Local History. In addition, our Community Outreach Director, Lindsay Varner, received the Carlisle Area YWCA's Racial Justice Award for her work bringing awareness to marginalization within the historical narrative of the region, and was presented with a Citation of Special Recognition from the Pennsylvania State Senate for her work with the Mt. Tabor Preservation Project.

In April, CCHS was visited by US Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico. She toured the Society's Carlisle Indian School exhibit and reviewed archival holdings.



CCHS staff and Board members greeted Haaland, gifted her with a *Changing Images* book, and offered a personalized tour of the Society.

The Museum Department opened the WWI exhibit, and due to its popularity extended the exhibit until the end of the year. They also began planning and implementing an inspiring 2020 exhibit – Artifacts Speak! Working with cultural institutions from across the County, this exhibit features an array of contributions from local historical societies and museums, colleges and universities, and national institutions. There is no other exhibit where you will see a Mechanicsburg wagon wheel, Rolls Royce statue, a 19th century silk dress, and an image of football hall of famer Stan Jones. The Society’s work building relationships with our region’s cultural institutions provided a foundation for our new Curator, Rachel Knapp, to dive into the exhibit and work with staff to develop new marketing strategies. We are excited to unveil exhibit-related shop merchandise, including t-shirts and magnets. While COVID-19 may delay the exhibit opening in 2020, it will be worth the wait. It is truly an exhibit that showcases the historical depth of Cumberland County and we cannot wait to show it to you.

2019 was also a year of anniversaries and commemorations. Marking its 25th year, the McLain Celtic Festival was a staple of CCHS’ calendar. However, due to rising costs and lower attendance numbers the tough decision was made to end the Festival in 2019, but staff and volunteers came together to give the Festival the sendoff it deserved. The McLain Festival Planning Committee coordinated the event, and even in its final year they did not shy away from new activities and programs, including a hand fasting ceremony and an expanded pub.

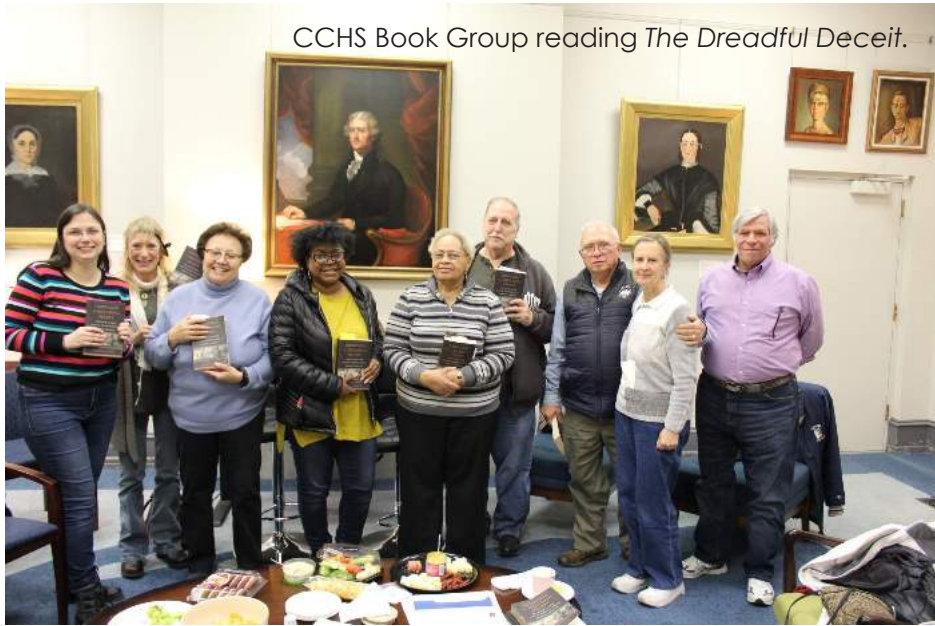


The Outreach and Education Departments also coordinated activities for the Whiskey Rebellion Living History Day to commemorate the 225th anniversary of Cumberland County’s role in the Rebellion. Along with a one-day celebration in October, Matthew March coordinated teacher workshops and classroom activities throughout the year. The workshop was an opportunity for teachers to earn ACT credits and learn how to incorporate our region’s role in the Rebellion into a classroom curriculum. In addition to these activities, volunteer Tad Miller gave a presentation on Rebellion-era weaponry at History & Hops, and Outreach intern Liz McCreary developed and led a walking tour around Carlisle.

Our annual Golf Classic fundraiser took advantage of the Whiskey Rebellion anniversary and held a Rebellion themed tournament in June. Sharon Filipovich worked closely with Paul Hoch and the Golf Committee to coordinate another successful event. Despite the blistering heat, golfers enjoyed a tippie of PA spirits with President Washington while raising over \$20,000 for the Society’s budget.

Throughout the year CCHS built relationships with community partners to embark on several projects. Thanks to a grant from Pulitzer’s Democracy and the Informed Citizen Initiative, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) partnered with CCHS and Chester Made in Delaware County for A Tale of

Two Cities. Through this program CCHS initiated conversations on inequity, presently and historically, in our community. Along with a series of panels, we partnered with Dickinson College’s Department of History to host Prof. Jaqueline Jones from the University of Texas to talk about her Pulitzer Prize nominated book *The Dreadful Deceit*. As part of this program we hosted a book group to read Dr. Jones’ book, with books provided free of



charge through the grant. The popularity of the book group and the conversations it introduced led to a regularly scheduled book group at CCHS. Events from the grant were wrapped up with a community potluck dinner at Second Presbyterian Church to celebrate our region’s past and present heritage through food. Diners were asked to share a dish that represented their heritage or had meaning to their family. Several dozen dishes were contributed and during the meal family stories were shared.

CCHS joined forces with the Amelia Givin Library, Mt Holly Springs Elementary School, Mt Holly Springs residents and the Carlisle Area School District to form the Mt

Holly History Collaborative. The Collaborative is working to build a sense of place among youth in the town by fostering local history projects within the school’s programming and curriculum. Matthew and Lindsay represent CCHS at the Collaborative, using Amelia Givin as the theme for 2019’s history curriculum. Traditionally, students would have a walking tour of downtown Carlisle, but in 2019 they learned about history in their own backyard. Matthew March developed a walking tour of Mt Holly Springs and students interviewed him for an educational podcast shared throughout the school and available on the Gardner Digital Library. In addition to the walking tour CCHS attended activities at the Elementary School and provided summer camp placements for the winners of the Collaborative’s essay contest.

In the fall, CCHS was asked to host the first Racial Justice Forum with the YWCA and Hope Station. Nearly 100 participants attended the forum, many of whom never visited CCHS before. At the Forum, Cara and Lindsay presented their “Telling Difficult Histories” lecture which discusses how history informs our community today. Staff are also leading the major research projects in the County. Building on the work of volunteers seeking overdue recognition of African American Civil War veterans, CCHS launched the USCT Digital History Project. This on-going digital project, hosted on Gardner Digital Library, provides a biography of each identified veteran





Tad Miller gives a talk.

# By the Numbers

Each year CCHS engages thousands of people. Here are a few of the highlights from 2019.

**1,123** active CCHS members

**\$52,835** funds contributed by members



**1,395**  
Archives &  
Library Patrons



**1,994**  
Museum  
Visitors



**80+**  
Programs,  
Lectures &  
Tours



**209**  
facebook posts

OUR  
PROGRAMS



**29,614**  
website users



**84**  
Rentals across  
CCHS facilities



**3,000+**  
Educational Engagements  
with school-aged children



**2,000+**  
Volunteer hours

and is shedding light on a historically underrepresented community in the County. Thanks to a grant from PHC and the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, CCHS launched the Lincoln Cemetery Community Art Project. Joining residents, descendants, and the Carlisle Borough in their efforts to recognize those who were buried at Lincoln Cemetery in Carlisle and come to terms with the history of the site, CCHS is leading the art project and conducting a complete history of the site. While COVID-19 will delay the opening of the art exhibit in 2020, we plan hopefully to display the names of every known burial at the site by Juneteenth.

We hosted our second Cumberland Pathways Symposium from October 25-26 with great success. On Friday two workshops were held - an introduction to Genealogy and tools and tricks for reading older documents. Saturday consisted of two panels - Tracing your Roots Far & Wide and Uncovering Lost History through Genealogy. James M. Beidler was our keynote speaker and spoke on "History & Genealogy: a Two-Headed Coin." We enjoyed learning from our presenters and the symposiums attendees, and we are looking forward to the next Cumberland Pathways Symposium and Workshops in 2021.

Throughout the year staff engaged with residents in the Shop and GB Stuart History Workshop. Sharon Filipovich and Kim Laidler worked to organize activities during major downtown events, including the Amani Festival, the Bunny Hop, Harvest of the Arts, and Trick or Treat. During the Holiday season Rachel and Peggy transformed the GB Stuart History Workshop for a Nutcracker themed family day. Visitors enjoyed crafts and the chance to have their picture taken with Carlisle Youth Ballet's Sugar Plum Fairy. Throughout the year,



Volunteer Pam Still and board member Carmen James at the Speakeasy.

the Shop hosted authors and artists for Downtown Carlisle's First Friday activities. Throughout the year Kim welcomed over 5,000 visitors to the Shop.

None of these activities could be achieved without our volunteers. Combined, our volunteers donate over 2,000 hours to CCHS every year. Last year photo archives volunteers processed 57 orders and 61 new accessions, and through a collaboration with students from the South Middleton School District, Jim Bradley photos are being scanned and placed online. With an estimated 1 million images in this collection, it is a big project that they are contributing towards for the Archives. Without our front desk volunteers, museum docents, library cataloguers, shop helpers, Two Mile House volunteers, and our committee members we would not achieve what we do. Without the work you do, 2019 would have been bereft of many programs and lectures, including a Speakeasy in Odd Fellows Hall and the popular McLain Bash.

All the staff want to thank our volunteers and committee members for

everything you bring to CCHS. While 2020 holds an uncertain future for in-person programs and activities, we are confident in your commitment to CCHS. Thank you, and we look forward to working with you to provide another year of extraordinary achievement at CCHS.



Sharon Filipovich in the visitors center.





Mary March and Blair Williams move a Bloser painting.

# Focus on the Collections

by CCHS Staff

## MUSEUM

One of our most prominent accessions for the year 2019 is a Paul Bloser(1891-1971) painting which depicts Dickinson College in the year 1875. This painting is part of the Hotel Argonne Series which also includes the Hessian Guard House at the Carlisle Barracks, the Cave and Conodoguinet Creek, the Normal Jail of Cumberland County, Fort Louthier, and the Carlisle Public Square of 1840. He completed the Hotel Argonne Series, which are large oil on canvas paintings in 1934. He was able to complete this project with the assistance of the Society’s archivist, Charles Gilbert Beetem who helped him research the subjects of the series.

Mr. Bloser was born at Newville and he later studied art the Industrial Art School and the Chase School, both

in Philadelphia. He painted several portraits of Cumberland County judges and presidents of Lebanon Valley College, Shippensburg State Teachers College, and Dickinson Law School. He also painted murals at Allenberry Resort, the former Molly Pitcher Hotel, and at the Empire Hook and Ladder Company (now CALC). He was a member of the Harrisburg Art Association and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Thanks go to the Bosler Memorial Library for helping us to add to this important series.

—Mary March,  
Collections Manager

## LIBRARY

In 2019, we added many interesting items to the collection. This year we received a very interesting small collection of materials from the McBeth

family from the Walnut Bottom Area. The collection includes some scrapbooks, a diary kept from 1943-1945, and a membership card for the 83rd Infantry Division Association. The two scrapbooks cover WWII and Vietnam. Scrapbooks are amazing as they always capture a moment in time. In the archives world, scrapbooks are complicated as they contain many different types of media that needs different attention when it comes to preservation. The scrapbook that starts in 1942 follows the McBeth family particularly Kenneth and his brothers Royce and Richard – but also follows other local soldiers from the area. Clippings from the newspaper include achievements and loss of the soldiers from our community. The scrapbook ends with a typed copy of a poem “For the One I love” by Pastor Lowman that was read over

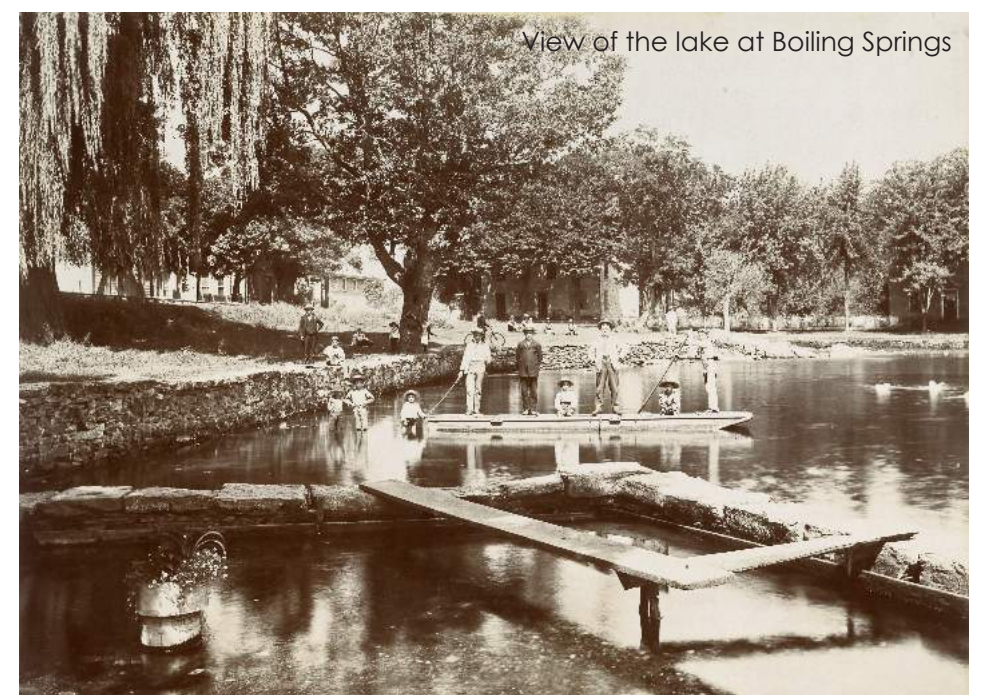
the air in February of 1945. The first verse of the poem reads, “If I had wings like a bird to fly, I would take to the air and the sky; and never stop ‘til his side I reach, In the fox-hole, the barrack, or beach.” This scrapbook like so many wartime scrapbooks was treasured. This particular one has something unlike any other scrapbook I have seen in my years as an archivist. It starts with a notice, “Any body that takes pictures out of this album will be sent to prison for life or maybe death, this must be taken care off for too show too the next generation. These pictures are off our brave boys now are fighting for are lives and freedom.” We will take that notice seriously and make sure that we take care of the scrapbook. We will make sure future generations learn about veterans like Kenneth McBeth.

—Cara Curtis, Librarian



## PHOTO

One of my favorite places is Boiling Springs. I’ve lived there since 1965 and was immediately fascinated by the beauty of the area and its history. That interest led me to write a book with Randy Watts entitled *At*



View of the lake at Boiling Springs

*A Place Called the Boiling Springs* that was published in 1995 for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. This year is the 175th anniversary of the founding of Boiling Springs. A number of programs and special events were planned for 2020 but that has all been changed by the corona virus. I’ve selected this photo to focus on because for me it reflects the spirit of the Boiling Springs community.

The photo was donated to CCHS in 2011 by Audra Ahl Dusseau and her husband Thomas W. Kennedy of Medford, Oregon. Audra is a direct descendant of Cary Ahl who was an important figure in the history of Boiling Springs. At one time he co-owned the lake, tavern, mansion and ironworks with his brother Daniel. In 1872 Cary had the first stone wall built around the lake, part of which is shown in this photo. He also planted trees around the lake that were enjoyed years later by visitors to the Boiling Springs Park. Audra and her husband have been extremely generous with many Boiling Springs related photos, photo albums and archival materials that they donated to the Society over a four-year period.

This photo of the lake is not signed but has been attributed to photographer John N. Choate who also produced an early stereoview card series of the village in 1876. This view was likely taken around the same time period, c. 1880. Choate appears to have liked people and he encouraged them to get into his photos. In this scene we see a number of men and boys of all ages who are enjoying the lake by boating, wading or sitting on the shore. In the center of the background is the Boiling Springs Tavern, founded in 1832. To the left is the stone Breckbill family farmhouse and on the far left two houses on Front Street, one that is now Café 101. On the far right is a building that once stood on what is now the tavern parking lot. This building was a church, school, and lastly a store than burned in January of 1905. The boat on the lake appears to have been navigated with poles. And on the lake on the far right of the photo there appear to be several ducks, without which any photo of the lake at Boiling Springs would be incomplete.

—Richard Tritt, Photo Curator



# Date Changed



Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic the determination was made to postpone Carlisle Journeys until 2022. We believe it is in the best interest of all our participants to wait until a time when we can safely gather together.

Despite the postponement, plans to hold virtual programming about the Carlisle Indian Industrial School are underway. We are exploring ways to include participants with a book group, virtual tour, and virtual discussions. The book group will discuss Denise Lajimodiere's recent publication, *STRINGING ROSARIES: The History, the Unforgiveable, of the Northern Plains' American Indian Boarding School Survivors*. Books will be available soon or you can purchase on your own, and we plan to hold an online discussion September 14, 2020. Keep an eye on our website for more information as our plans move forward.

The entire Journeys Planning Committee was heartbroken to postpone the meeting this year. The Symposium met biennially since 2014 and aimed to engage descendants of the School and offer a space to reflect and discuss the difficult history of CIIS. Many collaborations and partnerships have grown from Carlisle

Journeys, especially with our neighbor Dickinson College and among Indigenous communities across the country. Since 2017, CCHS participated in a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant-funded project with Dickinson College designed to share Carlisle Indian Industrial School programming with Native American communities.

Over the course of the past three years, a small team, consisting of Dickinson College and CCHS staff, has visited several dozen American Indian reservations as part of the project. This exposure to Carlisle Indian School photographs and archival sources, found in CCHS collections, resulted in a larger descendant audience at the 2018 Carlisle Journeys Symposium.

Since the next Carlisle Journeys Symposium will be the final in the biennial series, we believe it is important to host the Symposium in person. While we will not see everyone in 2020, we look forward to October 2022 when we hope to have more participation from descendants with whom we've developed friendships over the years.

—Barbara Landis

## Donors to the Collections 2019

Anonymous  
Army Heritage Center  
Foundation  
Arrival Video  
Baish, Nancy Goodyear  
Barner, Christopher T. & Paul  
Baumgartner-Brasington, Marie  
Beam, James  
Behr, Steve and Rosie  
Bell, Janet L.  
Bone, Beverly  
Bosler Memorial Library  
Bounds, Pierce  
Bowman, Pamela F.

**61** photo donors

Bradley, Jim  
Brehm, Edna  
Buffington, Elaine  
Byers, Dr. Kenneth A.  
Camp Hill Historical Society  
Carlisle Borough Offices  
Carlisle Travelers Club  
Carson, Elizabeth Landis  
Caverly, Dennis and Mary  
Cianciulli, Sandra  
Civic Club of Carlisle  
Clark, David  
Clarke, Maud  
Collins, Mickey  
Cress, Joseph David  
Crider, Jacob G.  
Cumberland County Chapter  
of the DAR c/o Maria Reedy,  
Regent  
Cumberland County  
Commissioners Office  
Darr, Ellen  
Day, Gerry  
Del Duca, Frances  
Dickinson College Archives  
Dively-Wenger, Sherry  
Donkinson, James  
Duggan, Mary M.  
Durain, Mary Ann  
Duxbury, Mary Faller  
Egolf, June  
Emanuel, Michael C.  
Failor, John  
Faith United Church of Christ  
Fenton, Dolores

Former Cumberland County  
Odd Fellows Represented by  
Darrell Ulsh  
Foster, Lillian  
Fowler, Brenda (Palmer)  
Fralish, John C., Jr.  
Freeman, Guy  
Garman, Denise  
GeeGee, Glenda  
Goodyear, Virginia  
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania,  
Independent Order of Odd  
Fellows  
Green, William  
Grugan, Eulah (Cookie)  
Gruver, Kathy J  
Gsell, Guy  
Guido, Sandra  
Gumby, Harriet  
Hauptman, Laurence M., PhD

**24** museum donors

Heberlig, Donna  
Heinze, Kathy  
Heisey, Daniel J.  
Henry, Wendy  
Hersh, Charles and Tandy  
Hirt, Mary Jane Kuffner  
Historical Society of Camp Hill  
Hollinger, Dorothy Westfall  
Hopkins, Marie  
Hoss's Restaurant, Carlisle, Pa.  
Huganir, Frederick I.  
Hutcheson, Joann  
Independent Order of Odd  
Fellows  
Ingalzo, Leslie Wian  
Karns, Andrea Zold  
Keller, Earl  
Kerns, Crystal  
King, Carolyn  
Kovacs, Don  
Kruger, Barbara  
Largent, James  
Lehner, Christina  
Lemke, Timothy  
Lightner, Susan  
Lippert, John  
Lutz, Suzanne M.  
Manring, Wendy  
Masland, Beth

Massachusetts Department of  
Conservation and Recreation  
Matthews, Nancy  
McBeth, Ronn  
Meehan, Frank and Susan  
Mentzer, Cindy  
Metcalf, James & Christine  
Miles, Barbara D.  
Miller, Debbie  
Miller, June  
Miller, Nead  
Miller, Tad  
Montano, Vince  
Mose, Ken  
Mumma, Mary  
Nevin III, John D.  
O'Brien, Jack  
Ocker, Carl  
Oyler, Fred  
Reid, Robert  
Richards, Jim  
Righter, Arlene  
Rosenberry, Edward L.  
Rowe, Marcia  
Rowe, Robert  
Rutz, Bonnie  
Rutz, Doris S. – estate of  
Schaumann, Merri Lou  
Second Presbyterian Church

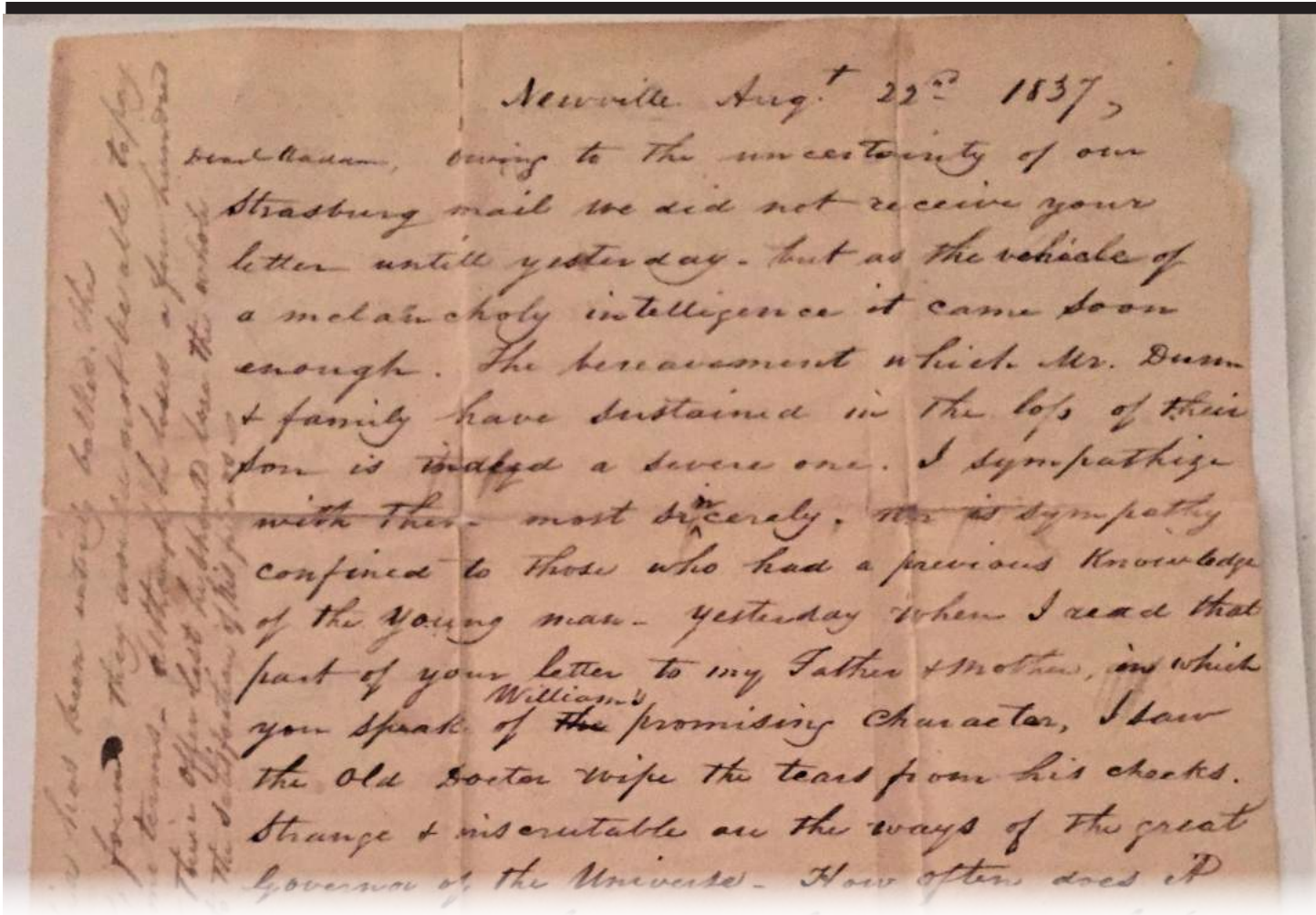
**83** archives donors

Smith, David L.  
Smolan, Rick  
Snyder, Ann  
Spahr, Paul C.  
Stahl, Cathy  
Stone, Charles  
Straub, Carl Benton  
Sunday, Joan  
Tritt, James Richard  
Tritt, Leonard  
Tritt, Marlowe Claude  
Tritt, Nancy S.  
Tritt, Richard  
Wagner, Dorothy  
Wagner, Ken  
Watts, Randy  
Wert, John and Rudelle  
Willman, Tom  
York County History Center  
Zettle, Jerry



# Dr. John Geddes Letter

by Merri Lou Schaumann



Letter from Dr. John Geddes to his sister-in-law, Eliza C. Dunn

The letter that Merri Lou Schaumann transcribed below was purchased by her on eBay. Merri Lou did research to learn about the writer, the recipient and some of the people mentioned in the letter. The letter gives some insight into life in the Newville area as the Cumberland Valley Railroad was being built in 1837. It also gives a view of early 19th century life from the perspective of an upper middle-class family. The mention of the Ege family is notable. It was written by Dr. John Peebles Geddes of Newville. He was born in 1799, the son of Dr. John Geddes

and his wife Elizabeth Peebles. He died four months after writing this letter at the age of 38. The letter was addressed to Mrs. Eliza C. Dunn, Carrick, Franklin Co., Pa. and postmarked at Shippensburg on August 26, 1837. Eliza Culbertson Dunn was Geddes' sister-in-law. She was the daughter of William Maclay (1765-1825), and Margaret Culbertson Maclay. William was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly 1807-1808 and later an Associate Judge. Eliza C. was born in 1796. She was married first to John Dunn and later to John Graham of Pittsburgh. She died in the 1860s.

Catharine Irwin Maclay was born in 1799. She was the sister of Eliza Culbertson Dunn to whom this letter is addressed. Eliza married Dr. John Geddes of Newville and died in Williamsport, PA in 1873. They had children including Dr. John Peebles Geddes who died in 1870. Another child was William Maclay Geddes who died in 1872 and Laura Geddes who was living in Williamsport. Other children included Charles King Geddes and Rev. Williamson Nevin Geddes of Williamsport. The Maclays, Laura and Nevin mentioned later in this letter are probably two of the Geddes' children.

Newville August 22, 1837

Dear Madam: Owing to the uncertainty of our Strasburg mail we did not receive your letter until yesterday—but as the vehicle of a melancholy intelligence it came soon enough. The bereavement which Mr. Dunn and family have sustained in the loss of their son is indeed a severe one. I sympathize with them most sincerely. Nor is sympathy confined to those who had a previous knowledge of the young man Yesterday when I read that part of your letter to my Father and Mother, in which you speak of William's promising character, I saw the old Doctor wipe tears from his cheeks. Strange and inscrutable are the ways of the great Governor of the Universe. How often does it occur that the young, the amiable and the promising are taken away and the old, dissolute and useless are left. We may puzzle ourselves to discover the reasons of these things, but almost always in vain, they are done in secret counsel of the Almighty, and we can only assure ourselves that no justice can proceed from him, and that the event is one in the series of that grand system (understood only to God) which is finally to eventuate in the triumph of virtue and the downfall of vice.

But I must turn from the dead to the living—your account of the good conduct of our daughter (who seems doubly precious to me since she is absent) was exceedingly gratifying. I believe she is sufficiently apt to learn if her attention can be fixed and interested. I hope she will try to be a good girl and give as little trouble to her friends as possible.

John and Maclay are going to school. Charles sometimes speaks of Laura. Nevin (the babe) has grown to be a fine fellow, he is so heavy Laura could scarcely carry him.

The girl that lived with us for more than a year past, went away in the

beginning of Harvest not to return. We have not been able until yesterday to supply her place. In a day or two we are to get one. We got along as far as I could discover, without Mary Ann as with her. We had all along a smart half grown girl who can milk, and nurse and cook too in a sort of way and then we got a wash woman as we needed one.

Our village is full of bustle all summer. The Rail Road will be completed to the Big Spring from the River, early in October and in November to Chambersburg. They have a loco-motive and two or three passenger cars at Carlisle which they are running up and down for pleasure over a distance of about (20) miles. We have about 80 wild Irish at work on the Rail Road within two miles of town. They do not seem much or any farther advanced in civilization than our American Indians.

Last week the whole of the personal property of Peter Ege and of his sons Michael and Joseph were sold by the Sheriff—the sale, including everything about the furnace and forge and in their houses amounted to about \$12,000. I believe the property was purchased for their use. But I am afraid my old friends are so completely smashed that they can never recover.

I believe it is true that our Dr. Rankin is to be married in September to a Miss Fulwiler in Shippensburg—so Cousin Sak is done with him! Tell her not to lament about it, the loss is not irreparable. It is also said & believed that our cousin Wm. M. Nevin is to be done here in September to take to wife our Cousin Hanna Jane Maclay.

Mr. McCachren's Sacrament was on last Sunday. It was assisted by Misses Wilson of Shippensburg & McKee of Newburg.

I have been wondering why James R. Maclay has not found time to visit us. Catharine wishes you

could come down and spend a month with her before returning to housekeeping. If James Maclay will procure a horse and carriage and bring you and Laura down next week or the week after, I will defray the expense and consider myself much favoured.

My health continues to decline, though so slowly as to be imperceptible from day to day or even week to week. I cannot forget Mr. Dunn and I place myself in his Father's situation and endeavor to realize the extent of his sorrow. Oh, it must be great indeed! It would be mere mockery to calculate his loss When I hear of a youth of such promising qualities of head and heart being thus snatched away, it always saddens me, but when he was the son of parents who occupy such a large share of my regards as Wm. Dunn's, I cannot but feel the loss as partly my own But there is a bright spark of hope in his death and I trust his lot is infinitely better than our who must linger out our few brief weeks, or months, or years surrounded only by vexatious care and toil. If you cannot come down next week, write to us and say when we may expect you. Remember us affectionately to our dear little daughter also to Mr. Dunn & family.

Yours affectionately, J. P. Geddes

This letter has been written at three sittings. Mr. Barr's project of going to Philadelphia has been entirely balked. The young men to whom he sold his store, found they would not be able to pay for it and offered it back to him on the same terms. Although he loses a few hundred dollars by their failure, he was inclined to accept their offer lest he should lose the whole he is now reinstated in his old shop, much to the satisfaction of his friends.



# *Our 2020 exhibit opening soon!*

ARTIFACTS SPEAK

Artifacts from cultural institutions  
in Cumberland County tell unique  
community stories.

Please check our website for the  
latest updates on the exhibit  
opening dates.

Exhibit sponsored by the family of  
MaryPat and John Wentzel.



*Exhibit Catalog Also Available!*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Appalachian Trail Museum • Archives of Messiah College • Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections • East Pennsboro Historical Society • Fashion Archives • Fly Fishing Museum • Mechanicsburg Museum Association • Newville Historical Society • Rolls Royce Foundations & Museum • Shippensburg Historical Society • Shiremanstown Historical Society • Trout Gallery • Union Fire Company • Wentzel Family • West Shore Historical Society



## In Memoriam

### Dennis C. Caverly

Dennis Cole Caverly, 85, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania died on April 20, 2020 at his home, in Vero Beach, FL, with his wife of 58 years by his side. Dennis excelled at sports and academics but was more frequently found in his studio with a canvas on his easel. He devoted his retirement to painting every day. A 1958 graduate of Cornell University with a major in fine arts, Dennis was co-captain of the Cornell fencing team and a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. After college, he followed his father's footsteps into banking, starting in the trust department at Farmer's Trust Co in Carlisle, and finishing his career as President of Waynesboro National Bank, a Financial Trust subsidiary, now M&T Bank.



by Dennis Caverly

A devoted community advocate, Dennis served on multiple local boards, including Cumberland Valley High School, Bosler Library, Carlisle's United Way, and more. As for the man that family and friends got to know best, he was a figure of myriad talents and a standard-bearer of patience, reason, and kindness. Mary, his wife of 58 years, was his constant companion, preferred portraiture muse and greatest love. Dennis and Mary have been involved with CCHS for decades and the Board of Trustees and Staff are grateful for their support for so many years.

### Martha Tandy Hersh

We are saddened that Martha Tandy Hersh passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020. Tandy was 99.5 years old and lived a wonderful life. She died peacefully of natural causes in her room at Arbor Ridge on the Riderwood retirement campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she had lived since Charles died nearly 7 years ago.

She was married for 70 years to Charles Martin Hersh (1921-2013), former Director of Academic Affairs at the U.S. Army War College. From 1974-2011, they lived in Carlisle PA. There, Tandy and Charles developed a fascination for Pennsylvania material culture and historical textiles. Over the years, they shared textile expertise with a generation of scholars and enthusiasts---presenting about 50 lectures, curating exhibitions, and contributing to the analysis of museum acquisitions for the Smithsonian Institution's Textile Department, Cumberland County (PA) Historical Society, and Winterthur Museum.

Their archives and selected textiles are at the Winterthur Museum. In 2006, Tandy and Charles were presented a lifetime achievement award from The Pennsylvania German Society. Their major publications are *Samplers of the Pennsylvania Germans*; *Rural Pennsylvania German Weaving 1833-1857*; and *Cloth and Costume: 1750-1800: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania*.

Charles and Tandy treasured each of you in their lives. With extended family, they shared family news and pursued genealogical connections. With those who love historical textiles and Pennsylvania material culture they studied and learned, volunteered, and marveled. With work colleagues, they shared friendships that endured in retirement. With neighbors, they shared the ups and downs of Walnut Bottom Road. We hope that you have happy memories of your time with Tandy and Charles.

With love, from her daughters -

Sarah Hersh & Winnie Coggins



Martha Tandy Hersh in 2016. (1920—2020)

## McLain Bash

August 28, 2020

McLain Whisky tasting. Please check our website for more details.



## Annual Dinner & Membership Meeting

October 27, 2020

All are welcome. We will be celebrating our Historian of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and William Foshag Preservation Award winners. Details to be determined. Please stay tuned for more information.



# Programs

Disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic mean CCHS' programming is changing and adapting with the guidelines laid out by the State. While our buildings are closed, staff at CCHS are still working and adjusting to programming differently. Because updates are occurring rapidly, we made the decision to communicate with our members through monthly program mailings, our website, and social media.

As we navigate reopening policies and conditions, we ask that you frequently check our website ([www.historicalsociety.com](https://www.historicalsociety.com)) for the latest updates. If you are on social media please like and follow us on:



Facebook

Cumberland County  
Historical Society



Twitter

CCHSCarlislePA



Instagram

@cchscarlislepa

Every day we are sharing content, from photos, stories, to sneak peeks behind the collections. Register for these events on our website or visit our Facebook page for more information.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person soon, but until then, we hope you'll join us for one of our virtual activities.

## Adventures in History 21+ Summer Camp Sampler

**August 15, 2020 10:00-3:00**

**Cost: \$75 Limited to 20 participants**

**Two Mile House**

**1189 Walnut Bottom Rd., Carlisle**

No more wishing you could do what the kids do! For the first time, CCHS will offer a one-day summer camp for adults. Come learn how to make a fire with flint and steel and use that fire to cook lunch. Other skills stations to include woodworking, fabric arts, military drilling, and leather craft. At the end of a long day of learning and fun, wind down with some tavern games and beverage tastings.

**Must be at least 21 years of age.**



## Virtual Programs (To register visit our website <https://www.historicalsociety.com/events/>)

### 10 MINUTE HISTORY

**June 4, 10 a.m., via Zoom**

Mt. Tabor Preservation Project

### PRESERVATION ROUNDTABLE

**June 9, 4 p.m., via Zoom**

Mt. Tabor Preservation Project

### FAMILY DISCORDS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

**June 11, 6:30 p.m., ONLINE**

"I find myself unable to agree with you in Sentiment upon the present Measures": The Revolutionary War divided families just as the Civil War did, but that perspective of the Revolutionary era is not as commonly known. During this talk, Dr. Jessica Sheets, Research Historian at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, will reveal the political opinions and personal thoughts of members of a divided family from Maryland, the Tilghmans. Would they permanently split, or would they overcome their political disagreements?

### HISTORY & HOPS

**June 25, 5:30 p.m., ONLINE**

Joe Cress will talk about his second self-published work, *World War II Memories: The Great Crusade in Europe* and share stories he gathered from seven US Army soldiers

and an Army Air Force airman who fought against Nazi Germany in the closing months of World War II. Copies of his book can be found on our shop website.

### BOOK GROUP

***Slavery in the North: Forgetting History and Recovering Memory***

**June 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., via ZOOM**

Join us to explore Marc Howard Ross's book and discuss how we remember and tell the history generally and within our own community. Thanks to an anonymous donation, the first 10 people to register get a free book.

### 10 MINUTE HISTORY

**June 18, 10 a.m., via Zoom**

Two Mile House

### 10 MINUTE HISTORY

**July 9, 10 a.m., via Zoom**

### 10 MINUTE HISTORY

**July 23, 10 a.m., via Zoom**

### "100 YEARS OF ENOLA"

**Aug. 20, 6 p.m., via Zoom**

Lecture by Jim Leonard of East Pennsboro Historical Society. Railroad construction boomed in the late 1870s and continued through

the early 1900s, becoming the main means of transporting goods through the county. Many towns were created due to this economic growth directly resulting from the presence of railroads, including Enola. Learn how Enola transformed from rural farmland to a major rail yard and became a major industry for our area.

### McLAIN BASH

**Aug. 28**

The Festival may have ended but we're still celebrating Celtic culture!

**See page 19**

### BOOK GROUP

***Stringing Rosaries: The History, the Unforgivable, and the Healing of the Northern Plains American Indian Boarding School Survivors***

**Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Join us as we read Denise Lajimodiere's latest book which explores Indian boarding school survivors' stories. The book "presents a brief history of the boarding school programs for Indigenous Americans, followed by sixteen interviews with boarding school survivors, and ending with the author's own healing journey with her father". This discussion is part of Carlisle Journeys.

## Walking Tours (subject to cancellation depending on state regulations in July)

### WALKING TOUR OF CAMP MICHAUX

**July 11, 1 p.m.**

David Smith will lead the popular Camp Michaux walking tour. Meet at the furnace in Pine Grove State Park.

**Cost: \$10/member; \$15/nonmember; \$5/school-age-children.**

### NOTE:

All tours are limited to 10 participants each. Walkers will remain 6 feet apart and masks will be required.

### UGRR WALKING TOUR

**July 25, 10 a.m. - 12 noon,**

**Boiling Springs**

Education Curator Matthew March's walking tour will focus on the role of abolitionists and freedom seekers in Boiling Springs. Meet in Boiling Springs at the parking lot by the Mill apartments off Bucher Hill Road.

**Cost: \$10/member; \$15/nonmember; \$5/school-age-children.**



# Date Changed



has been moved to:

## Sept. 18, 2020



**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament • 128 Players**

Prohibition-themed tournament held at Eagles Crossing Golf Course directly benefits activities at CCHS, including our Awards & Scholarships Fund (HistoryPOPS!) Sign up your foursome online at <https://birdease.com/CCHSGolfClassic>

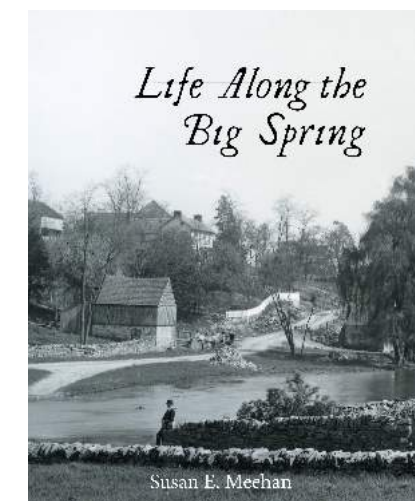
## Publications

### Coming Soon NEW PUBLICATION

In honor of Two Mile House's 200th Anniversary, CCHS is publishing a history of the house written by David L. Smith. This book is dedicated to the Memory of Mary Wheeler King and the Kramer Family by Ann Kramer Hoffer.

This history of one of the best-preserved Federal style buildings in central Cumberland County is well illustrated with both historic and modern photos. It contains information of the house's architecture, a handy timeline of notable events, and biographies of its owners.

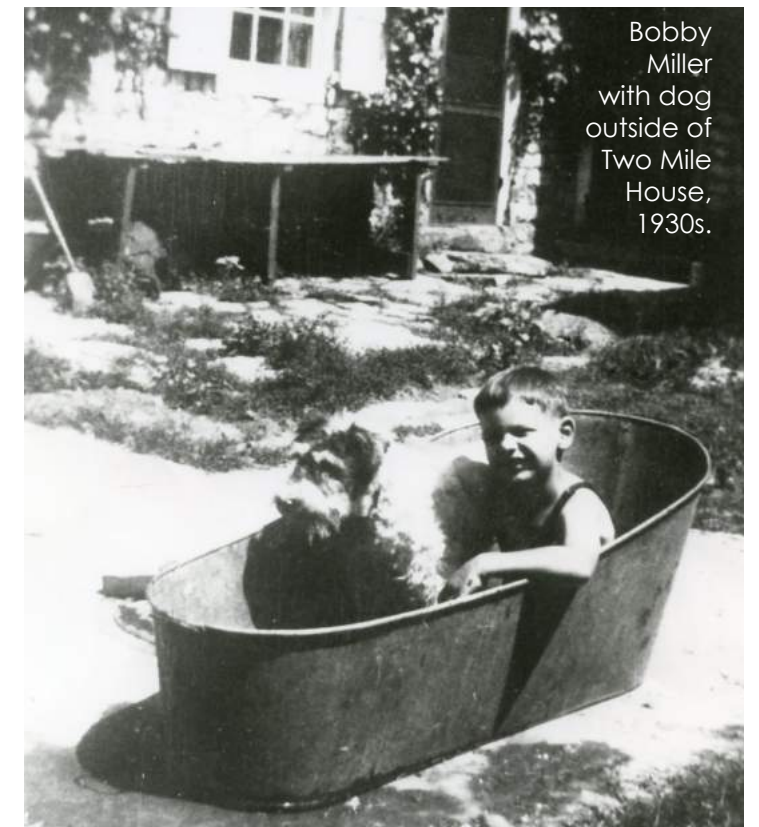
It will be available in History on High — The Shop.



### Now in Print LIFE ALONG THE BIG SPRING

This history of the Big Spring area by Susan E. Meehan is a must-read for anyone interested in the growth of early Cumberland County. Richly illustrated with local photos.

## Two Mile House



Bobby Miller with dog outside of Two Mile House, 1930s.

### TWO MILE HOUSE RENTAL TESTIMONIAL

“

When your daughter, the bride, tells you everything was perfect and she wouldn't change a thing, you know you made the right choice!

Sharon was so accommodating, enthusiastic, and caring about our scheduled wedding. The Historical Society's generosity in making the house available with very few limitations allowed us to design the perfect day for our daughter.

The grounds were beautifully maintained with a casually elegant feel. We felt like we were celebrating at our own home. We now just refer to it as "the house" and we feel like Two Mile House is a part of our family.

”



*The financial report for 2019 will be posted to the online version of this document when it is available.*



## Cumberland County during COVID-19: Archiving History As it Happens

by our residents



Stories are the threads that tie us together. During times of crisis and anxiety, stories enable us to reach out and share our frustrations, perseverance and moments of inspiration. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we are seeing people share stories of how their lives have changed since COVID-19. Stories are being shared via social media posts, through pictures and videos, and each of these document history as it is happening. This collection shares some of these stories from the community and archive history as it is happening in Cumberland County.

We are archiving the effects of COVID-19 as it happens. CCHS is collecting photos of our community at this time and you can submit your own. Follow the link on our homepage to enter ArcGIS StoryMaps.