



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****WWII German POW Paintings to be Returned to Cumberland County Historical Society****

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA, October 27th 2023 - In a remarkable gesture of historical preservation, a collection of paintings created by German prisoners of war during WWII is set to return to its original home in Cumberland County.

In 1946, Camp Michaux Inc., a joint venture by the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church, took charge of the former Pine Grove Furnace POW Interrogation Camp situated in Cooke Township. Among the numerous artifacts found were distinctive paintings made by German POWs during their interim stay before being relocated to other camps in the U.S.

When the church camp closed in 1972, some of these historical pieces of art were moved to Hartman Center, another United Church of Christ facility located in western Pennsylvania. With the closure of Hartman Center two years ago, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources took guardianship of these paintings.

The community is invited to witness the official return of these paintings to their original home. On November 2, 2023, at 10:00 am, these art pieces will be transferred to the Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) to join the museum's existing collection from the former POW camp.

A special exhibit showcasing select paintings from both the Hartman Center and CCHS's existing collection will be shown on the day of the transfer. The event is not just a testament to the significance of preserving art and history but also a homage to the stories and lives intertwined with these pieces.

For further details or press inquiries, please contact:

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