

The Cumberland Gateway

Vol. 3 2023

Collecting
Engaging
Sharing
Stories

Cumberland County
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

2022 Year in Review

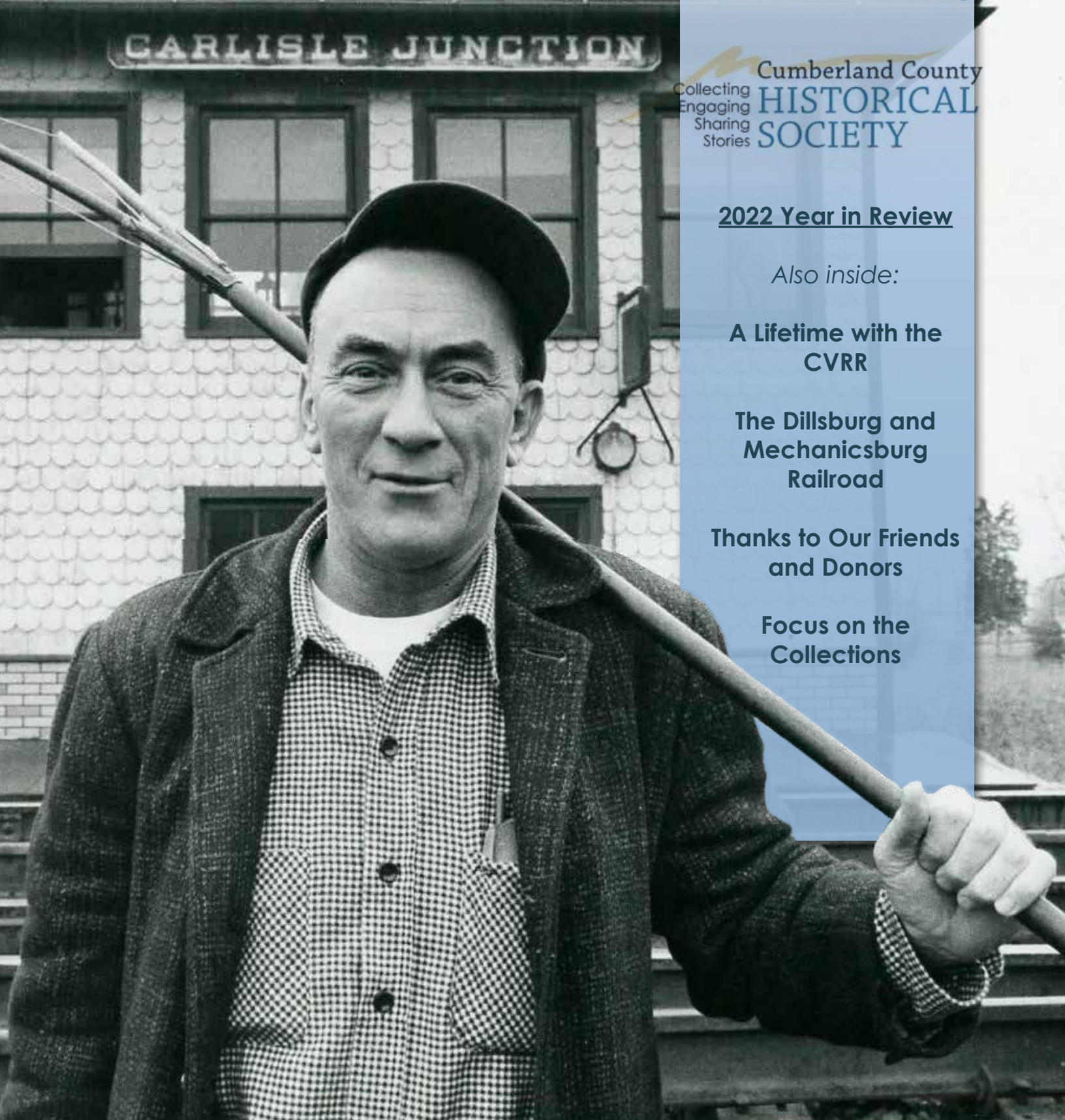
Also inside:

**A Lifetime with the
CVRR**

**The Dillsburg and
Mechanicsburg
Railroad**

**Thanks to Our Friends
and Donors**

**Focus on the
Collections**



Our Mission

The mission of CCHS is to collect, preserve, interpret and promote research and education about the history of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your support

CCHS is grateful for the continued support of the Borough of Carlisle, Dickinson Township, Monroe Township, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, area foundations, and CCHS membership. For more information about programs, call the Historical Society at (717) 249-7610 or visit www.historicalociety.com. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999.

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Photos in this issue were inspired by the theme "Railroading in the Valley"
 Cover: Jim Patton standing in front of Carlisle tower with train order hoop, 1964.
 Photo by Jim Bradley.

DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

Back in Business

It was an exciting and eventful year at CCHS marking the first full year of regular activities after almost two years of a pandemic. The challenges presented by 2020 and 2021 were weathered by our experienced staff and dedicated Board of Trustees. When I was hired in March of 2022, it was made clear to me that we needed to get back to what made CCHS so special for our members, patrons and guests; that being our programming, events, and accessibility.

In addition to our perennial events like the Golf Classic, the McLain Bash, and the Reed Architectural Lecture, we also partnered with West Shore Historical Society on a Veteran's Day Comedy Show benefit, we altered the format of the Annual Meeting to provide more opportunities for members to attend, and we moved the Gala to December for a holiday themed event. We partnered with the J. Sherwood McGinnis, Jr. War, Peace, and Justice project by hosting an exhibit and symposium helping to meet their goal of "illuminating the human drama of conflict, help better understand war as a human phenomenon, and illustrate the impact the use of force has had on a society." We also had a robust program calendar with numerous lectures and programs that not only complimented our key exhibit, "Heart of a Champion: Sports in Cumberland County" but also provided the community with opportunities to connect with their local history. It was a very busy year which ultimately saw us serve over 16,000 visitors at our downtown Carlisle campus.

Thanks to the generous support of CCHS Board of Trustees Vice President Pat Ferris, we were able to tackle

some crucial infrastructure issues last year, namely the renovation of the sidewalk and brick walkway leading to the Historical Society's main entrance. This is the first of many projects that we have identified around the Carlisle campus that need to be addressed. The buildings in our care date back to the 1800s and, like many historic properties, present

The strength of a historical organization is in its members, volunteers, staff, and visitors

significant challenges to our organization. We are identifying these issues now and together with our new Infrastructure Committee will develop plans to improve and modernize our buildings. As we head into our 150th year as an organization, we are committed to taking care of our properties so that future generations can enjoy them for another 150 years.

My first year at CCHS was quite a ride, I was fully embraced by staff, the Board of Trustees, and the Community as a whole. I was able to make great contacts throughout Cumberland County, especially with our partner historical



organizations, like Shippensburg History Center, Newville Historical Society, the Historical Society of East Pennsboro, the Mechanicsburg Museum Association, and West Shore Historical Society. By building relationships with our colleagues and partnering on future events and activities, we can provide services to the county while supporting and promoting our partners. We are all tasked with the mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting items of enduring value for future generations, working together is a great way to promote that shared mission to a much wider audience.

The publication efforts included a new book on Jim Bradley's railroad photographs compiled by volunteer, George Johnson. The book, entitled "Iron Horse Rambles," reveals Bradley's photographic documentation of steam train excursions during the 1960s.

As we look ahead to 2023—a year that has already started off red hot with our very popular "Railroading in the Valley" exhibit which opened in April and will run into December—we want to continue the positive and successful trends from 2022 into 2023 with even more events, lectures, and programs. Thanks to our wonderful staff who have put together an impressive and very busy program schedule for this year. Most of our programming coincides with the Railroad exhibit and includes our Annual Meeting speaker, noted railroad historian Dan Cupper, and Reed Architectural Lecture speaker James Fouchard who will talk about CVRR Station Architecture. In addition to these history themed programs, we are also working on some new outreach events

designed to bring new guests to our Two-Mile House Historic Property and reach new audiences. We will be hosting a family friendly Food Truck and Blues Music Festival on Saturday September 9th at Two Mile House, an "80s" night music themed event with the Carlisle Theater on October 27th and a "Historic Holiday House Bus Tour" in December.

We are also looking ahead to another busy year in 2024 as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of CCHS. We are working hard on putting together a yearlong celebration with an exciting new exhibit and a very exciting keynote speaker. There is a lot of excitement here at CCHS with the positive direction that we are moving in and the return to regular public hours and programs.

The strength of a historical organization is in its members, volunteers, staff, and visitors; our continued goal in 2023 is to focus our efforts on engaging with the community and continuing to develop engaging experiences. We cannot accomplish this without the continued support of our members, sponsors, and the Cumberland County community. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

SHAWN GLADDEN
Executive Director



Newville's C.V.R.R.
passenger station

A LIFETIME WITH THE CVRR

When Alexander Wilt of Newville died in 1902, he was the longest serving employee of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. His services for them having covered more than sixty years. In 1902 a friend wrote that Alexander "...has been on the pay roll of the company since he was twenty-one years old. Some years ago, he was retired on half pay, which he still receives."

The Cumberland Valley Railroad Company was incorporated in April 1831. The railroad was to be built from Carlisle to the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg. The charter expired, but it was renewed in 1835 allowing the railroad to extend to Chambersburg.

In May of 1836, the Carlisle Weekly Herald reported that the Cumberland Valley Railroad Company "are pushing on their work toward completion with great energy. A large force is now busily engaged on the different sections of the line...It is expected that by the commencement of the winter

season the road between this place and Harrisburg will be ready for the use of cars."

In August 1837, the first train ran from Carlisle to within a mile and a half of Harrisburg. Work on the portion from Carlisle to Newville was going full steam ahead. Dr. John P. Geddes of Newville wrote a letter to his sister-in-law in August of that year with news of the railroad.

"Our village is full of bustle all summer. The Railroad 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 railroad within two miles of town." Although not one of the "80 wild Irish" workers, Alexander Wilt was also working on the railroad.

Fast forward to the 150th anniversary celebration of Carlisle and “Old Mother Cumberland” that was held in Carlisle on Wednesday and Thursday, October 23 and 24, 1901. Stores and buildings in Carlisle were draped with flags and bunting. The Cumberland Valley depot was thronged with arriving visitors and people participating in the parades and events.

Reporting on the parade, the Carlisle Evening Herald mentioned Alexander Wilt. “There is one of the Cumberland Valley Railroad Company’s old employees who was unable to march in Wednesday’s parade in this place. It is Mr. Alexander Wilt, of Newville who is 86 years of age, and remembers when the first train ran over the road. Mr. Wilt, for many years has been an employee of the company and is still on the pay roll although his duties this late in life consist only in keeping in order the passenger station at Newville.”

In the summer of 1902, Alexander “suffered a slight paralytic stroke and his few surviving relatives thought it better that he should go to the County Home where he could have constant kindly care and attention.” As a result of gangrene of the foot, Alexander died there on Sunday morning September 29, 1902. He was brought “to Newville on Sabbath morning and the funeral was held from the home of his brother Joseph. Interment was made in the Presbyterian graveyard, of which he was in charge for so many years.”

We know something of the life of Alexander Wilt as an employee of the Cumberland Valley Railroad from several items in the newspaper and two obituaries, but much more is revealed about him from a letter written by J. T. R. in 1902 and published on the front page of Newville’s Valley Times-Star newspaper. The headline in the paper ran: “The Ancient Steward of “God’s” Acre. He Covered the Remains of Most of Those Who Sleep in the Presbyterian Graveyard.”

“As far back as my memory extends, Mr. Wilt has been a highly respected and useful citizen of Newville...For years...Mr. and Mrs. Wilt...lived in the frame house, the first house next to the Presbyterian graveyard, opposite the schoolhouse...one of the cleanest, neatest, and most comfortable in the town. And they owned it too.”

“Mr. Wilt was in the employ of the Cumberland Valley Railroad Company for many years, both as a foreman of a body of white men, as well as having worked for a number of years prior thereto, under the foremanship of that faithful servitor of the same company, old Mr. Brown...whom Mr. Wilt succeeded. The fact that a colored man was foreman over a number of white men, provoked no comment, or caused any dissatisfaction, any more than Mr. Wilt’s color or that of his wife created any comment. Neither one suffered the slightest indignation from a single person in the community by reason of their alliance.”

“Mr. Wilt was also for a number of years in charge of the Big Spring Presbyterian church, and the graveyard adjoining...Many a grave he has dug...perhaps the majority of them, and tenderly has he lowered and

covered the remains....At the approach of the funeral he would toll the old church bell, and then hasten to open the new-made grave to be the first on hand when the tearful, mournful procession arrived.”

Alexander Wilt was the son of Thomas Wilt, a free person of color, and his wife Mary. A search of the U. S. Census records for 1850 through 1880 gives varying ages for Alexander, but the most reliable information about him was obtained from the 1900 census taken in Newville two years before his death. It recorded his age as 85, his birthplace as Maryland in August 1815, and his race as “black.” His occupation was listed as “foreman R.R;” he owned his own home, and he could read and write.

Alexander’s obituary stated that he was interred in the graveyard at Big Spring Presbyterian Church. There was no marker standing when the stones were copied in the first decade of the 1900s, and again in 2004. The stone for Alexander’s wife reads ‘Hannah H. Wilt, d. 5 Sept. 1887; 75 yrs. wo wife of A. Wilt.”

*“Mr. Alexander Wilt, of Newville
...remembers when the first train
ran over the road.”*

MERRI LOU SCHAUMANN
for the Gardner Digital Library

Sources for this article are listed
in the Gardner Library entry.

Trick photo of a man pushing himself in a wheelbarrow.
Photo by Brady S. Reeder



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Archives and Library

The Archives & Library continues to help people who are conducting research whether in person or through paid research requests. We continue to work with students' research requests starting with middle and high school National History Day projects to Ph.D. research. There are so many stories waiting to be told within the archives. Part of that Archives & Library department responsibilities is the behind the scenes work of processing and preserving the documents. Processing and cataloging new materials can be very time-consuming. A well processed collection makes it easier for our patrons to utilize the resources that we have. It also allows the staff to better help our patrons

by pulling the items that will best help with their research.

CCHS Archives & Library is also looking at the importance of the records within our collections to make sure we are sharing the fullest version of Cumberland County's history. We are trying to fill gaps within our collection so we can better tell our history. We hope to gather more records and stories of people who call Cumberland County their home. One way we were able to do this was by partnering with a Dickinson College class led by Dr. Karl Qualls to collect stories from the local Bosniak community. The interviews where the interviewee has provided permission have been made available online through the Gardner

Digital Library. We are very thankful for Dr. Qualls and his students for collecting these important stories.



One of the most significant events that the Archives & Library was able to help make happen in 2022, was the addition of five names to the Civil War monument. These men were all members of the 54th Massachusetts:

Pvt Henry King Co H, 54th Mass. c. 1836 - 1863
Pvt Augustus Lewis Co H, 54th Mass. c. 1823 - 1863
Pvt Edward Parks Co I, 54th Mass. c. 1820 - 1863
Sgt Alfred Whiting Co I, 54th Mass. c. 1840 - 1865
Pvt Stewart Woods Co I, 54th Mass. c. 1836 - 1865

Photo Archives

The Photo Archives had another productive year with 23 new accessions added to the Photo Collection. Ten volunteers came in weekly to assist in a variety of ways to organize, research, edit and catalog new and old accessions. Current volunteers are Mike Getter, Mark Irvin, George Johnson, Sandy & Beth Mader, Dennis McBurney, Sharon McDonald, Merri Lou Schaumann, Catharine Van Wyck, and David L. Wyche. We miss volunteers Nead Miller and "Cookie" Grugan who are no longer able to travel from the West Shore to volunteer. We appreciate all their years of dedicated service.

We had several very large accessions this year. The largest was a collection of approximately 9,000 35mm color slides of railroad related subjects that were taken in the Cumberland County and Harrisburg area by Randy Watts. Randy also donated several indexes to his slides that make them more readily accessible. The slides were taken

The sacrifice of these men was not acknowledged on the Civil War monument when it was created in 1871. We can now make sure to remember their names and honor their sacrifice. Many people came together to make this long overdue day very special.

Many people love historic cemeteries and tombstones. These sites are incredibly important to descendants and the communities that surround them. We held a tombstone cleaning workshop in October in the Bonny Brook Graveyard.

We are excited to announce newly expanded library hours: Monday 3-7, Thursday & Friday 10-4, and the first Saturday of the month 10-2. We still strongly recommend making an appointment to use the library. This allows us to provide the best research service. This includes having items pulled in advance for the research so that they can make the best use of their research time. Appointments can be made on our website or by calling (717-249-7610 x105).

As 2023 is the year of the railroad, we are looking to collect more railroad oral stories. When it comes to business and industry, the archival record is often missing the stories of the workers. If you or you someone you know has stories from working on the railroad to share, please contact us – blwilliams@historicalsociety.com or 717-249-7610 x117.
✓ CARA CURTIS, Archives & Library Director



Newburg photographer Brady S. Reeder with his camera.

between 1977 and 1999. They are a perfect addition because they document railroading in the time period after the railroad-related images found in the Jim Bradley Collection.

Other large accessions included 271 color slides of people, places and events in the Carlisle area taken during the year 1976 by Holly Maxson, a Dickinson College Senior. Caroline Winslow donated a collection of 120 photos that were taken by a young semi-professional photographer named Brady S. Reeder who lived in the Newburg area. Lee Shenk, a longtime collector, donated a collection of 88 photos of the Boiling Springs area. Kim Largent donated an album that contained 84 photos of her father, Jim Largent, and his career on the railroad.

Other accessions included 18 photos related to Doyle Dunlap Ashburn, a young soldier from the Newville area who was killed near the end of World War I. Earl Schorpp donated 28 photos of the various locations of the Rufe Chevrolet business. A number of family photos were donated, including the surnames of Barrick, Guise, Strong, Reeder, McCord, Irvine, Hollenbaugh, Kingsborough, Clippinger, Burkholder and Allan. New additions to our postcard collection numbered 158.

Thank you to all our photo volunteers and photo donors for making our photo collection one of the best in the state.

➤ RICHARD TRITT, Archives & Library Photograph Curator

Museum

The museum is steadily returning to life in 2022 as we escape the 2020 pandemic. Last year, we started to see growth after we opened our rotating exhibit, *Heart of a Champion: Sports of Cumberland County*. The exhibition inspired nostalgia in many of our visitors, bringing them back to their high school days for some and reliving childhood memories for others. By the exhibit's closing, we saw approximately 10,500 visitors, and we hope to grow that number in 2023 with *Railroading in the Valley*, our current exhibition.

As the museum grows in visitation, the collection grows as well. In 2022 we accepted 46 new accessions, totaling 270 artifacts. Some of the new artifacts will help us tell new stories, and others will help expand upon old ones, such as the crystal industry and military stories. One of the latest collections that will be helping us develop old stories was donated by Bobbie & Donald Goodyear. The donated artifacts were ten ledger paintings by the artist Michael Horse, which used Carlisle Indian Industrial School magazines and letterheads as the canvas. Currently, four of the ten paintings are on display in the museum, and we hope to display the rest of them in the future.

Other ongoing projects are rehousing projects. With such a sizeable 3-D collection, we always look for new and creative ways to store our artifacts safely. Our rolled storage was one of the most significant rehousing projects we looked into in 2022. Every year we are offered textile-related artifacts, such as quilts or coverlets, and as those areas in our collection grow, we find ourselves looking at new storage methods in already-filled spaces.

We are also working on growing our volunteer museum teams of Docents, Museum Department Volunteers, and Interns. As of 2022, we had five interns: two in the spring and three in the fall. The students were busy creating Windows to History and learning how to create miniature versions of an exhibit. They also received hands-on experience processing collections, rehousing projects, building a proper mannequin, and

marketing museums using social media. We also welcomed a new museum department volunteer. The department volunteer has been helping us update our collection files into the database system, Past Perfect, and will be helping with processing and rehousing soon.

In July, we said goodbye to our Museum Curator, Rachel Knapp. Rachel was with us here at CCHS from August 2019





until July 2022. She has since taken another job elsewhere in the non-profit field, and we wish her the best of luck. From August to December 2022, our Executive Director, Shawn Gladden, assisted the museum department in a mentorship role to help transition our Assistant Curator, Cijianna Berry, to Associate Curator, which she accepted in January 2023.

Looking forward, we are excited to see how the museum will continue to grow during 2023 with the new rotating exhibit, *Railroading in the Valley*. This exhibit covers various facets related to railroading, from the history of

the railroad in the Cumberland Valley to how the railroad touched many lives and still does today. We are also excited to meet all new potential volunteers and interns joining us this summer, 2023, who want to learn or continue their growth in the museum field. Last but not least, we are very interested in all the new and old stories that might come our way through collecting and preserving so that we can continue to learn about our ever-changing Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

➤ CIJIANNA BERRY, Associate Curator



Alternative 80s Night at the Carlisle Theater

*October 27th, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm,
Carlisle Theater*

SAVE *the* DATE

Annual Meeting & Open House

*Oct. 22, noon-3pm,
CCHS*

Whiskey America at Heishman's Mill

Oct. 14, 4-7pm, Heishman's Mill





Outreach

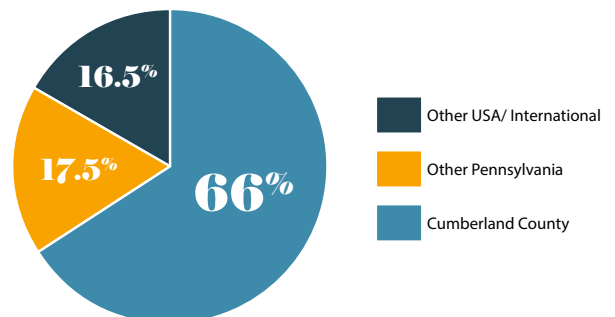
As we said goodbye to 2021 and hello to 2022, the Community Outreach Department at CCHS was working hard on a variety of exciting projects.

Our Two Mile House saw the completion of two Eagle Scout projects. Connor Lindsay finished his project towards the back of the property by adding perennial flowers, mulch, pavers, and a bench. Our first wedding of the year exchanged their vows in this area and the area has been enjoyed by many.

We were also honored to have Anthony Santos complete his Eagle Project by designing and building a sizeable three-bin compost structure. The compost bin has been handy and allows us to turn cuttings and leaves back into mulch. Both of these young men earned the title of Eagle Scout and we could not be prouder to be a part of their accomplishment.

VISITORS

16,904
total



The Outreach Department was able to attend several events including Black Cultural Fest, Foundry Day, Juneteenth, Day at the Lake, Bluegrass on the Grass, School Family Fun Day, Harvest of the Arts, and Pumpkinfest to name a few. We enjoyed attending new events, speaking with those who stopped by our table, and sharing the mission of CCHS.

W E B S I T E

35,555

users

170,989

page views

Our 9th Annual Golf Classic was held for the first time at the Carlisle Barracks Golf Course on May 20, 2022. We were happy to welcome 128 golfers to the course for an exciting day, and despite a rain delay, everyone enjoyed themselves. We were honored to have Bobby Rahal Automotive Group, Morgan Stanley, Capital Blue Cross, M&Z Carpets, Synergy HomeCare, Slazmann Hughes, P.C., Paul and Lois Hoch, Mary Sachs Charitable Trust, Carlisle Theatre, FSA, Knisley's Pet & Farm Center, Inc, Gardner Digital Library, ADR Fitz, Wenger Meats & Ice, Martson Law offices, Tuesday Morning Golf Club in Memory of Wilbur Wolf, Kimberly Ann Fahnstock-Voetz memorial Post 7530, M&T Bank, and several anonymous donors sponsor our tournament. We raised over \$27,000, which benefits the Historical Society and our History POPS program.

The weather was perfect in July for our annual McLain Bash, and guests dined on dishes from area restaurants, tasted scotch whisky, enjoyed wine from Castlerigg Wine Shop (thank you Alan Tumblin), and were able to bid on raffle packages of gift cards from restaurants. Thanks to Helen Scott, F&M Trust, Wentzel and Weitzel Gifts, Edward and Carmen James, Larry and Annette Keener-Farley, and Bess Jamison for their support and sponsorships.

Our Annual Meeting was held in person for the first time since 2019. The meeting was held on Sunday, October 23, across our campus. Guests were able to visit the "War Amongst the People/From Swords to Plowshares" in our



F A C E B O O K

765,003

posts seen

503

posts

6,163

followers

G.B. Stuart History Workshop, enjoyed special savings in our History on High shop, and visited our education, library, and museum departments before the meeting. We welcomed a new board member, Alvin Blitz, as we said thank you to E.K. Weitzel for her many years on our board. We celebrated our award winners, Steve Doppes and Linda Lee Wells, who received our Special Volunteer Recognition Award; Mike Getter, who received our Roger K. & Helen Todd Distinguished Service Award; Joseph Cress, who received our Milton E. Flower Historian of the Year Award, Randy Heishman who received the William Foshag Preservation Award; and Randy Watts received the Director Award. The meeting concluded after a presentation by David Maraniss, author of *Path Lit by Lighting: The Life of Jim Thorpe*.

Our final event of the year was our Holiday Gala held at Whispering Pines of Carlisle on December 10, 2022. We enjoyed listening to music from the Keating Jazz Orchestra, dining on delicious food from Hickory Ridge, and bidding on silent auctions from various donors. A special thank you to Ron and Pat Ferris who were our marquee sponsors.

CCHS's activity on Facebook grew from 4653 "Likes" in January 2022 to 6163 by December 2022. We created over 500 posts which included photos, advertisements for events

and lectures, and our most popular in 2022 on the Boiling Springs Mill after the tragic fire. This post reached over 42,000, with 331 shares and 203 comments.

Rentals at Todd Hall kept us busy during 2022. We were honored to have Colonels from the Carlisle War College and Leadership Cumberland in Todd Hall on various days holding classes and meetings. Todd Hall also held many lectures and smaller events over the year.

The Carlisle Garden Club and Penn State Master Gardeners worked hard to keep the gardens at Two Mile House beautiful. Jay and Joan McBride have been especially helpful with keeping up with the grounds.

Our Two Mile House property was busy from late April thru mid-December. Guests hosted countless weddings, bridal and baby showers, picnics, and parties. We are looking forward to another busy rental season and welcoming many people to the grounds again. ✦ SHARON FILIPOVICH, Community Outreach Coordinator



Book sale in the parking lot.

IN MEMORIAM

Members who have passed away in 2022

Rude DeFrance ✦ January 13, 2022
 Orr Brenneman ✦ January 23, 2022
 Jan Reynolds ✦ February 3, 2022
 George Yuda ✦ February 6, 2022
 Carolyn Kenworthy ✦ February 9, 2022
 Victor Anthony Hart Jr ✦ February 13, 2022
 Barbara Ann Brehm ✦ March 7, 2022
 Virginia Goodyear ✦ March 18, 2022
 David Hukill ✦ March 19, 2022
 Sylvia Havens ✦ April 8, 2022
 Denny Middleton ✦ April 12, 2022
 Charlie Sanders ✦ April 28, 2022
 Kathryn Smith ✦ April 30, 2022
 Earl B. Swarner ✦ June 4, 2022
 Bud Long ✦ July 23, 2022
 Benjamin Ahles ✦ August 1, 2022
 John Augustine ✦ August 22, 2022
 Warren P. Williamson, III ✦ October 4, 2022
 Rosalind Bauchum ✦ November 5, 2022
 Kathy Wachsmuth ✦ December 3, 2022



McLain Bash

July 29, 2023, 6 – 10 p.m., Tickets \$50

Every year CCHS' Two Mile House hosts a supper party in honor of the J. McLain & Mary Wheeler King family and our region's Celtic past. Whisky tastings, music, delicious food and great friends abound. The party is open to anyone 21 years of age and up. Join us in 2023 for another great time.





History on High—The Shop

Our numbers increased all around for 2022. Thank you to everyone, our in-person and our E-commerce customers and visitors. In 2022, we counted 5,837 shop visitors up 1,104 from 2021, 1,968 sales made totaling \$78,154.75. Our E-Commerce Sales totaled \$3,207.22; books and prints were shipped all over the country. We also sold \$4,815 in Memberships at the Shop. The Visitor Center welcomed 529 visitors with July being the busiest month.

History on High is very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who return year after year. Lisa Brousse, Lynda Cook, Dee Fenton, Pat Figueiredo, Jo Ann Hutcheson, Ann Sheehan, Ann & David Smith, and E.K. Weitzel volunteered regularly, giving 725 hours. Maryann Haft came on board and works on Saturdays and filled in when needed. In the Visitor Center, Lisa Brousse, Jo Ann Hutcheson, Debbie Reitzel, Ann Sheehan and Kirk Wilson volunteered a total of 190 hours in 2022.

January we hosted a “When Pigs Fly” felting class by Bonnie Tweedy Shaw, in February during the Ice Festival

Elaine Haag presented a Nuno Felting demonstration and Ashley Kauffman and Bonnie Tweedy Shaw held a book signing, Bonnie held a Penguin felting class later in February and a Bunny class in April. June brought the Ford Parade to town and Jonathan Frazier painted a street scene in the shop. The Corvette Parade was in August, in September, Deborah Sweaney did a book signing for her new children’s book and we had the Harvest of the Arts Festival – Paul Hoch carved Santa’s, and Joan West and Joe Cress had book signings. October we held a book signing for “Magical Halloween” and Elaine Haag held a Nuno felting Necklace demonstration and in November she demonstrated a Twisted Wrap. We also had a book signing for the new “Priscilla” book, vol. 5. George Johnson did a book signing for the new “Iron Horse Rambles” in December. These events brought in a lot of people and are such fun!

Thanks again for our loyal customers and friends. We are very grateful. ♡ KIM LAIDLER, Museum Store Manager



Education

In an effort to increase outreach, the Education Department formed many new partnerships, especially within the regional retired and homeschool communities. All this was done while continuing to provide programming for our

traditional public, private and home school audiences. This expansion, coupled with increased walk-in patronage of the Stuart History Workshop, led to one of the best years for educational outreach for the department.

For PA Museums’ annual conference in April, CCHS assembled a team of presenters. Archives and Library Director Cara Curtis, Museum Curator Rachel Knapp, and Education Director Matthew March offered the program Building Bridges and Fostering Sense of Place: Community Outreach & Education in Cumberland County.

Last fall, Boiling Springs High School intern Robbie Ansley provided valuable research, programming, and exhibit design while learning about the workings of a multi department historical society. The Education Department would like to thank and wish him success in future endeavors.

In October, Education Director, Matthew March was honored to speak at the State Museum of Pennsylvania’s annual Pathways to the Past conference. He presented his

YOUTUBE

11,619
views

325
subscribers

1,171
hours watched

research on Underground Railroad activity in and around Michaux State Forest.

Throughout the year, programming and tours of the former Carlisle Indian School grounds were very popular, reaching groups from Gettysburg College, Georgetown Preparatory School, Kutztown University, and Saint Joseph's Children Hospital.

2022's Early America, Cold War, and adult history camps were a big success, with many new campers. All three camps were full of students from central Pennsylvania and even some from neighboring states. Fun-filled activities that gave campers a unique perspective of some aspects of history that are not often covered in classroom learning.

VOLUNTEERS

1,233

hours given

MEMBERS

900

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 community. ➤ MATTHEW MARCH, Education Director



Facilities

Services were provided for 16,305 visitors in 2022. Procedures were streamlined focusing on an improved experience for the people coming through our doors. Signage was redesigned and presented in a professional manner. Volunteers were invited for the reception desk and trained accordingly. The feedback from guests was almost all positive and was relayed to various members of the staff, who rarely hear the "Good Vibes" about their work.

Having been hired in October, I was tasked with assessing the condition of the two buildings downtown. Inspection revealed problems immediate and long term. Companies were contacted for bids on repairs and recommendations for replacement of the aging and poorly functioning HVAC units. The roof on 21 N. Pitt St. is leaking requiring extensive reconstruction. Bids were also sought to fix and improve the lighting throughout the common public areas. ➤ LOUIS M. WEISS, Visitor Services Specialist/Facilities Manager

THE DILLSBURG & MECHANICSBURG RAILROAD



The Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Railroad was built with the backing of the Cumberland Valley Railroad primarily to haul iron ore from the vast reserves around Dillsburg to furnaces in the Harrisburg region.

There were earlier attempts to build a railroad between Mechanicsburg and Dillsburg but they had been blocked by the CVRR. In early 1871 they agreed to provide financing for construction and the Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Railroad Company was officially incorporated on November 1, 1871. Construction was completed by October 1872 and the line was operated by the CVRR under a 99 year lease. It was intended to be a feeder line for the CVRR.

A picnic grove was built by the Williams family around 1850. This was expanded into Williams Grove Park after the coming of the railroad becoming a popular site for picnics and reunions. The park became the home of the annual Granger's Picnic in 1874. The Great Granger's Interstate Picnic and Exhibition, sponsored by the National Grange, became a national event and created extremely heavy excursion traffic for the CVRR and the D&M. At its peak the railroad frequently carried over 30,000 passengers on some days of the show.

In 1906, to accommodate the high traffic to the Granger's Picnic and to lower operating costs, the branch was equipped for electric operation. At this time the



Cumberland Valley Railroad owned a local trolley company and the equipment was based on that technology. Two powered cars were re-built from older passenger cars in the CVRR shops. The electric cars simplified operation at peak times and could pull an additional coach if needed. The last passenger train operated on the D&M ran on January 15, 1928 and the line became freight only.

Although there were large scale efforts to develop some remaining iron ore and clay reserves around Dillsburg in the early 1900s these sources of traffic ended by 1910. Even before that revenue from the branch was not adequate to pay operating costs and debt service and the company was foreclosed in 1906. The Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Railroad Company was purchased by the CVRR at that time and became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad when they acquired the Cumberland Valley Railroad.



Ad (above) and Granger's exhibition photo from 1889's *Greater America*.

The line later became the property of the Penn Central Railroad which operated the line at a loss. The Dillsburg branch did not become part of Conrail when that company took over the assets of several bankrupt railroads in the northeast in 1976. The rails were removed in 1980.

In 1959 a group of local train buffs and collectors of steam traction engines revived the tradition of the Granger's Picnic as a way to display and operate their equipment. They subsequently formed the Williams Grove Steam Engine Association. This group later installed about a mile of track adjacent to the park where they now operate a retired PRR steam engine.



Abandoned Dillsburg branch at Williams Grove, 1980. Photo by Jim Bradley.

RANDY WATTS
for the Gardner Digital Library

Sources for this article are listed
in the Gardner Library entry.

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS & DONORS

Endowment contributions



For 150 years, the generosity of our donors has enabled the Cumberland County Historical society to collect, preserve, and share authentic content and artifacts that connect the public to our region's unique place in the American experience. Only through your financial contributions can we continue to provide resources and experiences through our museum, library, education programs, and statewide programming.

One way that donors can provide support for the long-term sustainability of the organization is through gifts to our endowment. Gifts to the endowment can take the form of one of the following:

- Cash Donations
- Gifts of Stocks or Securities
- Planned & Estate Giving
- Corporate Donations

Reach out to Shawn Gladden, Executive Director,
at 717 249-7610 ext. 103 OR sgladden@historicalsociety.com.

Ann Hoffer, seen in this picture as she receives her County Register Plaque for her recently approved application to be on the CCHS Historic House Listing.

Ann has been a long-time volunteer, board member, and supporter of the Historical Society. Ann was one of our very generous donors to the CCHS endowment in 2022.

*Thank you
in 2022*

\$5,000+

Ann Hoffer

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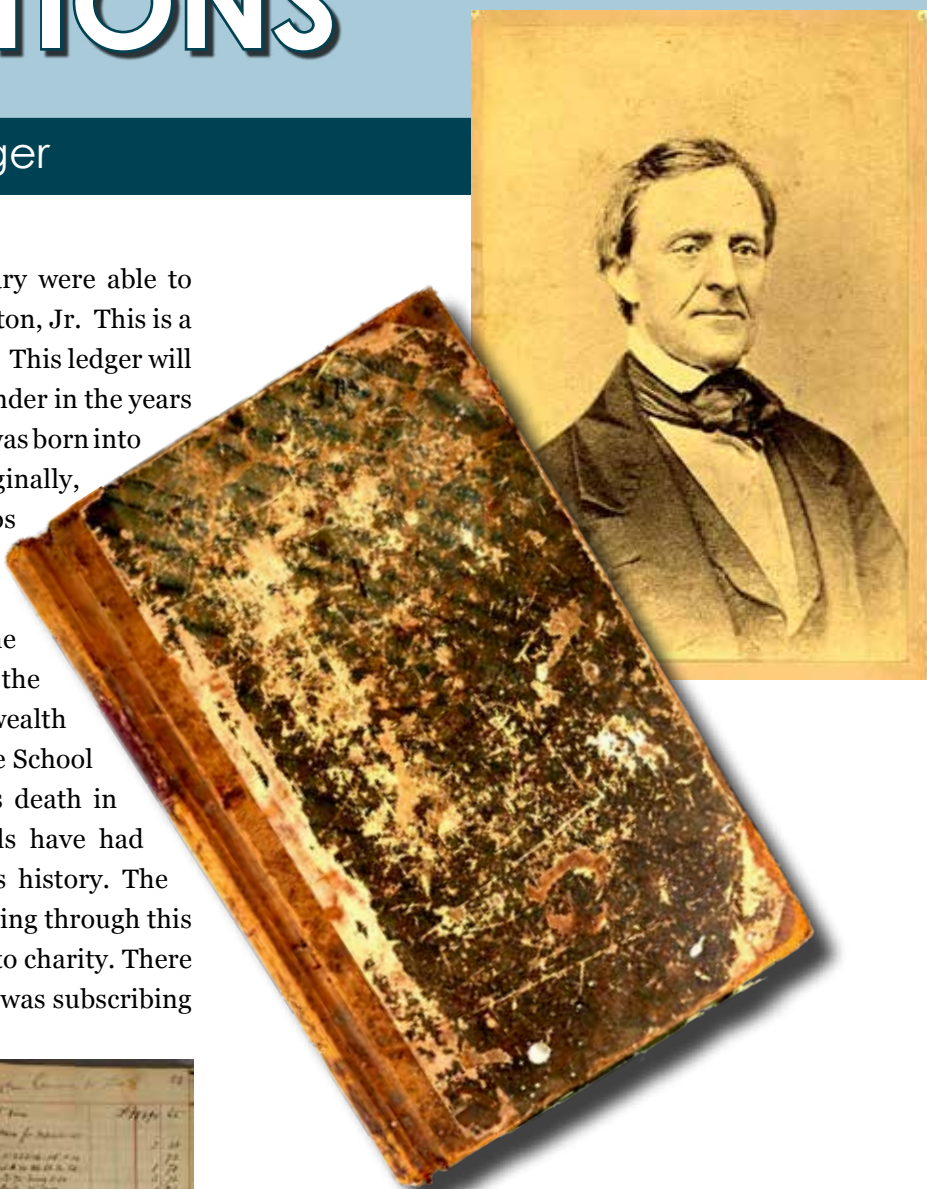
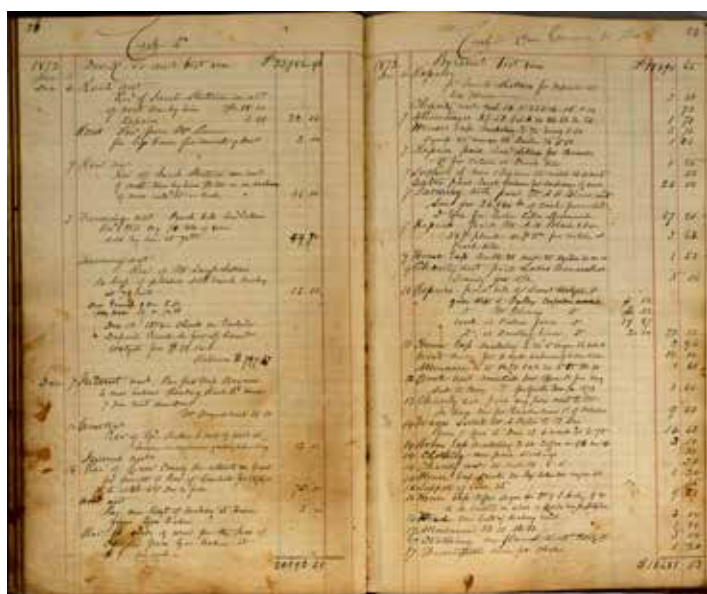
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FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS

James Hamilton, Jr. Ledger

In exciting news, the Archives and Library were able to acquire a new ledger kept by James Hamilton, Jr. This is a Day Book kept by him during 1871 to 1872. This ledger will provide greater detail of the life of our founder in the years just before his death in 1873. Hamilton, Jr was born into a privileged Carlisle family in 1793. Originally, he would follow in his father's footsteps and practice law. He only did this for a short period of time before pursuing other life work which his family fortune allowed him to pursue. He helped create the first public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served on the Carlisle School board from its creation in 1836 until his death in 1873. This is one reason Carlisle Schools have had several schools named Hamilton over its history. The one thing I was surprised to see while looking through this ledger was the amount that he was giving to charity. There is also a list of periodicals/newspapers he was subscribing



to in 1872: New York Observer, the Presbyterian, the Inquirer, Youth Companion, Pennsylvania School Journal, Scientific Annual, African Repository, American Volunteer, and the Carlisle Herald.

Another reason we are so excited about this recent edition is, 2024 will be our 150th anniversary! We would not exist without Hamilton's generous bequest. We are planning a fun-filled year to celebrate this milestone. It is possible you will be able to see this ledger on exhibit next year! - CARA CURTIS, Archives & Library Director

1890s Baby Carriage

In August 2022, we received a new addition to the collection, a late 1890s wicker baby carriage. This carriage fills in a time gap that we have yet to cover; however, a time gap is not the only interest that this carriage offers. This artifact also allows us to discover local African American history. As many people might not know or have an idea, certain areas of history are not heavily covered when it comes to small museum organizations. In most cases, it is the minority that gets left out. We are working on changing this narrative daily within CCHS and in our community because everyone deserves to have their stories told.



This particular story is of the Davenport family; Robert Thornton Davenport and Evaline C. Washington Davenport and their three daughters, Anna E. Davenport, Ethel M. Davenport, and Helena A. Davenport. Robert was born in West Virginia in 1867, and Evaline C. Washington in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1868. The two later met, married in their early 20s, and moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where they started their family.

Through research, we have learned that Mr. Davenport was a Butler for a local family. We learned this information through his youngest daughter's, Helena Alma Davenport, birth certificate in 1912. Later he became a laborer until his passing in 1930. Mrs. Davenport was a houseworker until her passing in 1937. Their oldest daughter, Anna E. Davenport, passed away in her early 30s from surgical shock following a uterine fibroid operation. We have yet to find information for Ethel M. Davenport. However, with Helena A. Davenport being the youngest, more information came to light.

Helena Alma Davenport was the longest-surviving member of the Davenport family, born in 1912 and passing away in 1992 at 80. Helena graduated from Carlisle High School and later she became a Licensed Practical Nurse, LPN, at Dunham Medical Clinic, Carlisle Barracks, for 25 years and retired in 1976. Helena founded the Combined Churches Nursing Unit and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary American Legion Post 826 and Friendship Fire Company Auxiliary, both of Carlisle, PA. During her life, she married twice and divorced once, and had six children; Allan S. Smallwood Jr. (1931-2013), Evaline K. (Smallwood) Goens (1933-2003), Eunice (Smallwood) Oliver (1936-2021), Ronald H. Smallwood (1938-2003), William H. Smallwood (1940-1998), Robert T. Smallwood (1942? -). Helena's second daughter, Eunice, eventually owned the baby carriage. Before Eunice passed away in 2021, she had mentioned donating the carriage to the Historical Society, and her daughter respected her wishes by doing so.





Baby Carriage

1890s

The Davenport family used an 1890s brown wicker reed baby carriage with a plush dark red velvet seating area on and off between 1893 and 1914. The wicker reed basket is attached to a metal suspension system. The carriage has four original wheels with rubber with a spare set of both front and back wheels made of wood. There is also a small dark brown/red leather attachable shade umbrella.

M. Oliver Collection

Nurse Feted At Dunham Army Hospital



MRS. HELENA ROBINSON

A sustained superior performance award of \$150 was presented to Mrs. Helena Robinson, LPN, Carlisle, during a recent ceremony at Dunham Army Hospital, Carlisle Barracks, where Mrs. Robinson has served more than 21 years.

The award was made by Col Roscoe Mason, commanding officer of the hospital. Attending the ceremony were Lt. Col. Velma Barkley, chief nurse of Dunham Hospital; Mrs. Jean Teaney, RN, supervisor of Ward I and Mrs. Margaret Lee, RN, permanent night nurse.