

# The Cumberland Gateway

Vol. 4 2024

Collecting  
Engaging  
Sharing  
Stories

Cumberland County  
**HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

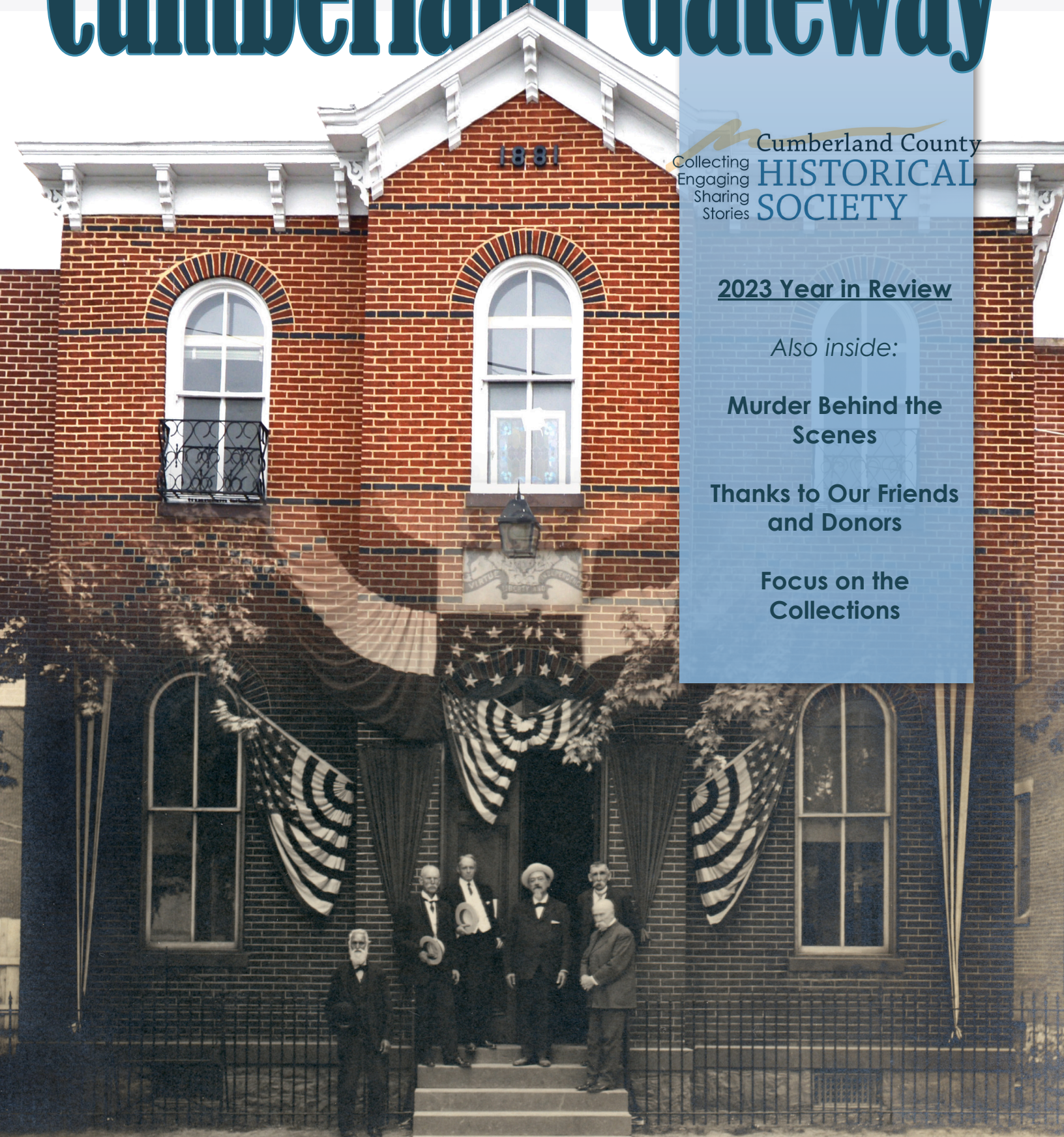
## 2023 Year in Review

*Also inside:*

**Murder Behind the  
Scenes**

**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](http://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.

### *board & staff 2024*

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Pat Ferris  
*President*

Kevin Hess  
*Vice-President*

David Smith  
*Secretary*

Tom Coolidge  
*Treasurer*

Alvin Blitz

McKenzie Clark

Randy Heishman

Carmen James

Tad Miller

Alison Ross

Merri Lou Schaumann

Don Paul Shearer

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Julie Young

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Cara Curtis  
*Interim Executive Director*

Cijianna Berry  
*Associate Curator*

Beverly Bone  
*Archives & Library Assistant*

Cara Curtis  
*Archives & Library Director*

Sharon Filipovich  
*Community Outreach  
Director*

Kim Laidler  
*Museum Store Manager*

Matthew March  
*Education Director*

Jen Patel  
*Associate Archivist*

Richard Tritt  
*Archives & Library Photograph  
Curator*

Michael Jean  
*Facilities Manager*

Blair Williams  
*Archives & Library Asst. Director*

Lucy Wolf  
*Bookkeeper*



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*Photos in this issue were inspired by the theme "CCHS 150" and show details of our original 1881 building and grounds.  
Cover: CCHS composite.*

# DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends of the Cumberland County Historical Society,



As I pen this final message as your Executive Director, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together over the past two years. When I joined the Cumberland County Historical Society, I was inspired by its rich history and the potential for growth and community engagement. Today, as I prepare to take on a new role with the Pennsylvania History

and Museum Commission as the Site Director for the Landis Valley Farm Museum, I am heartened by the strides we have made and excited for the future that lies ahead for CCHS.

During my tenure, we have seen remarkable growth in our membership, increasing from just under 800 to 1,000 members. This 25% increase is a testament to our enhanced programming, robust outreach efforts, and strategic partnerships with fellow historical societies in East Pennsboro, Newville, Shippensburg, and our newly formed collaboration with the West Shore Historical Society. Our joint venture to create a “History Center” has broadened our reach, enabling us to better serve the community and expand our programs, retail offerings, and research services.

Engagement and visitation have also soared, both physically and virtually. We welcomed 27,000 visitors in 2023, the highest during my tenure, and our virtual presence has grown significantly, with our Facebook followers increasing by 2,000 to a total of 7,200. Exhibits such as last year’s

“Railroading in the Valley” and this year’s “Echoes of the 1870s” have captivated audiences, while partnerships with the J. Sherwood McGinnis War, Peace and Justice Initiative and the upcoming Traveling Hook Rug exhibit have enriched our offerings in the G.B. Stuart Exhibit space.

A major highlight of our recent achievements includes the rebranding of CCHS. We shifted our focus from marketing the Society to promoting a variety of distinct experiences under the CCHS umbrella. These experiences include The

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*I am heartened by the strides we have made and excited for the future that lies ahead for CCHS.*

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Museum of Cumberland County History; the Hamilton Library, Archives, and Reading Room; History on High – the Museum Shop; the G.B. Stuart Exhibit and Education Space; the West Shore History Center; the Two Mile Historic House and Event Venue; and the forthcoming Would Work Innovation and Trades Center. This strategic shift has allowed us to engage new audiences and establish meaningful partnerships, ensuring a vibrant future for CCHS.

In collaboration with Facilities Manager Michael Jean and Board President Pat Ferris, we have also addressed critical structural issues in our historic buildings. Starting with the sidewalk in front of the Pitt Street building in 2022, we have undertaken numerous projects to rectify years of

deferred maintenance. Significant achievements include installing a new HVAC system in the High Street building, addressing roof leaks and floor stabilization, and making essential repairs and improvements at the Two Mile House. The “Raise the Roof” project, which stabilized the floors in Todd Hall and repaired the roofs on the Pitt Street building, was a monumental effort made possible by a successful capital campaign led by Pat Ferris and supported by our dedicated members and donors.

As Cumberland County continues to grow as one of the fastest-growing counties in Pennsylvania, CCHS is poised to become a cornerstone of a thriving historical community, ready to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary. The opportunities for further engagement and growth are boundless, and I am confident that under new leadership, CCHS will continue to flourish.

It has been my distinct pleasure to lead the Cumberland County Historical Society, and I am grateful for the support and dedication of our members, staff, volunteers, and partners. I look forward to seeing the continued success and impact of CCHS in the years to come.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,



Shawn Gladden  
Executive Director  
Cumberland County Historical Society



Matthew March giving a presentation in Carlisle's Old Graveyard.

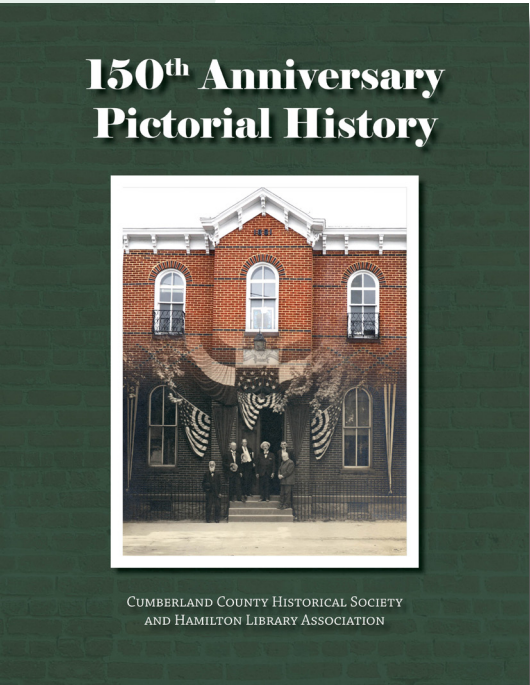


# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Archives and Library

The Archives and Library department had a very busy year of collaborating with old partners and working with new friends. We continued to work with classes from Shippensburg University and Dickinson College. We had some fun with one of the Carlisle Arts Learning Center's Summer Camps giving them a tour around the town discussing some history that got turned into art. The Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania held part of their conference at CCHS. We were very excited to host them. One of their board members has done extensive research on barns in the archives and library collections.

Mount Holly Springs celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They received a POPS grant from the Historical Society towards the publication of a new photo book. Their team spent hours in the library



researching the photographic collections to select photographs for the book. We were also able to celebrate with a lecture on the history of their community in Todd Hall.

Union Cemetery is going through a revitalization, and we have been able to play a small part in that. We were at the clean-up day in May of 2023 to make sure the cemetery was in tip-top shape for Veterans Day. We continue to work to make sure the history of the historic black cemeteries in Cumberland County is known and recognized.

We had an amazing group of interns during the summer of 2023. They helped us process, inventory, and scan a variety of collections. While the work is not glamorous, all this work helps make the collections more accessible to researchers. We are incredibly thankful for the work that they produced over the summer months! Our volunteers also cataloged, processed, and created content for the Gardner Digital Library. The Archives & Library collections are more useable because of all the hours the interns and volunteers spent in the reading room figuring out how a collection all fits together.

As part of highlighting some of the collections we began to share a daily image taken from the Jim Bradley Photo Archives on our Facebook page. Starting in October with Jim's "Tales of a Spooky Night" series we continued with an

image taken on that day in the past. Some of the highlights have been images documenting local sporting events, crazy weather, old general stores, and of course his many railroad photos from wrecks to those who worked on the railroad.

The Elizabeth V. and George F. Gardner Library also saw its highest level of visitation since it was launched in 2016. Volunteers and staff added new entries to the encyclopedia including "Snuff and the family of Robert Hamill Sr. of Hopewell Township" and "Earthquakes and Tempests in Carlisle." Our oral history collection also added the stories of two longtime railroad employees, Jim Leonard and Robert Monath, in time for the "Railroading in the Cumberland Valley" exhibit. Both stories were played extensively over the course of the exhibit in Todd Hall.

During the course of the Railroading in the Valley Exhibit we were able to have wonderful programming about but not limited to railroading throughout the year. Beyond railroading, we learned about the great artist Ross Braught. We also learned about the Schoeppe Murder Trial. This lecture was filmed by CSPAN! Many of these lectures are available on our YouTube channel or by going to Past Talks & Presentations on our website - [www.historicalsociety.com/past-talks-presentations/](http://www.historicalsociety.com/past-talks-presentations/) .

➤ CARA CURTIS, Archives & Library Director

## Photo Archives

The Photo Archives had a busy and productive year with 24 new and varied accessions added to the CCHS Photo Collection. Nine volunteers assisted the Photo Curator to accession, organize, research, edit and catalog new, as well as past accessions. Our 2023 volunteers were Mike Getter, Mark Irvin, George Johnson, Sandy and Beth Mader, Dennis McBurney, Sharon McDonald, Merri Lou Schaumann, and Catharine Van Wyck.

We had a good year for photo sales. We processed 52 photo orders that amounted to \$3,692.50 in income for the Society. Our Carlisle Indian School Collection is of interest throughout the country, and we provided photos for a number of films, books, and other publications.

We received a wide variety of new accessions. Several of the larger accessions included the following:

- Mary Bloser Berwick donated a large family collection related to the Bloser family of the Bloserville area.
- The Society purchased at a public sale five family photo



Frame containing 30 carte de visite photos

albums and misc. loose photos related to the Hays/Smead family of Carlisle.

- Pat Strickler donated a collection of family photos and a unique handmade frame containing 30 carte de visite photos, all related to the Wise family of Boiling Springs.
- Lanette Morrow Yohn donated an album of identified student groups at the Lines one-room school in the 1930s.
- Betty Carson donated 24 CDs of photos with descriptions of tombstones located in numerous cemeteries throughout Cumberland County taken between 1995 and 2005. The data on these CDs was used to produce the numerous books that she made and donated to the CCHS Library and Archives in the past.
- Carlisle Tire and Wheel donated a large collection of photographs related to their business that closed recently. More items are still to come.
- Dan Russo donated a large collection of color prints that he took of various Cumberland County towns in the 1990s.

VOLUNTEERS

MEMBERSHIPS

4,233  
hours given

1,000

- Dorothy Byrne of East Berlin loaned us her large family collection of cased photos, tintypes, Bibles, and family albums for copy purposes. Her ancestors lived in the Newville/Carlisle area. We made high-res scans for our collection as well as for the Newville Historical Society. Thank you to all our photos donors for their donations and to all our talented and faithful photo volunteers for your time and work.

➤ RICHARD TRITT, Archives & Library Photograph Curator

## Museum



The museum has undergone a few minor changes in 2023. Last year, we opened our rotating exhibit, *Railroading in the Valley*, where the exhibition inspired nostalgia in many of our visitors, bringing them back to the high days of railroading in Cumberland County and America. For some, this exhibit was a way to remember loved ones who worked on the railroad. By the exhibit's closing, we saw approximately 16,729 visitors, and we hope to grow that number in 2024 with our two rotating exhibitions *Echoes of the 1870s: Cumberland County Unveiled* and *Cabinet of Curiosities*.

As the museum grows in visitation, the collection grows as well. In 2023 we accepted 40 new accessions, totaling 383 artifacts. We have also been working on ongoing projects, such as rehousing artifacts and updating the permanent exhibit spaces in the main museum. 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 investigated in 2022 and 2023, and we can officially inform you that we have started the rolled textile project in 2024.

We are also working on growing our volunteer museum teams of Docents, Museum Department Volunteers, and Interns. As of 2024, we had five interns: one in the winter



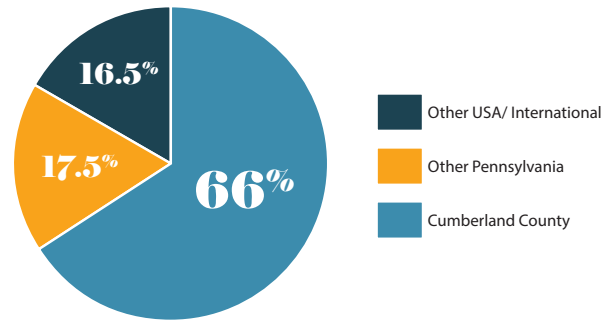
and four in the spring. The students were busy creating Windows to History, learning how to create miniature versions of an exhibit, and assisting with the current rotating exhibits mentioned previously. They also received hands-on experience processing collections, rehousing projects, and building a proper mannequin.

At the end of 2023, we began the process of creating a Mentorship Program, that has been graciously funded by Ann Kramer Hoffer for the next two years. At the beginning of 2024, we welcomed former 2023 summer intern and recent Shippensburg University Graduate, Daniel Lewis, B.A. 23' – M.A. 24', as our new Ann Kramer Hoffer Curatorial Mentee. Daniel assists in training and supervising interns, updating main museum exhibits, rehousing projects, and processing incoming donations. Recently, he accompanied our Associate Museum Curator with Educational Programs in partnership with the Shippensburg History Center, talking about various topics such as the French & Indian War, Camp Michaux POW Camp, and the importance of historic preservation and material culture.

Looking forward, we are excited to see how the museum will continue to grow this year with the new rotating exhibits, *Echoes of the 1870s: Cumberland County Unveiled* and *Cabinet of Curiosities*. We are also excited to meet all of our new potential volunteers and interns joining us this summer,

VISITORS

**16,904**  
total



2024, who want to learn or continue their growth in the history field. Finally, 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.

➤ CIJANNA BERRY, Associate Museum Curator

## Outreach

As we said goodbye to 2022 and were excited to say hello to 2023, the Community Outreach Department at CCHS was working hard on new and exciting projects and events.

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

Our 10th Annual Golf Classic was held once again at the Carlisle Barracks Golf Course on May 19, 2023. We were happy to welcome 128 golfers to the course for an exciting day with a golf theme of the History of the Carlisle Barracks. Each hole had a fact about the Barracks and golfers were able to test their knowledge with trivia during dinner. We raised over \$30,000, which benefits the Historical Society



and our History POPS program. A special thank you to the generous sponsors and players.

Once the wind died down, the weather was perfect in July for our annual McLain Bash, and guests dined on dishes from

WEBSITE

35,555  
users

170,989  
page views

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. A very special thank you to Helen Scott, F&M Trust, Wentzel and Weitzel Gifts, Larry and Annette Keener-Farley, and Bess Jamison for their support and sponsorships.

We had a number of special events including Whiskey America Experience at the Historic Heishman's Mill, the annual Reed architecture lecture, multiple lectures, and tours.

We had our Annual Meeting in October and welcomed Dan Cupper, Railroad historian & editor of *The Journal of Railroad History* who provided a lecture to those in attendance. Congratulations to our award winners: Milton E. Flower Award - André Weltman, M.D., M.Sc.; Roger K. and Helen E. Todd Distinguished Service Award - E.K. Weitzel; William Foshag Preservation Award - Jim Leonard, Barbara Gertzen and the Historical Society of East Pennsboro for the Enola Miller House; Special Project Recognition Award - Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Association Tom Kuffa, James Kievit, Frank Castrina, and Paul Caldwell; Special Project Recognition Award - Michael Jean; Special Project Recognition Award - George Johnson; Leadership in History Award - Colonel R. Scott Buran, USMC (Ret.)

We held our first Holiday House Tour in December with the start being at Two Mile House. The guests on the tour visited seven homes, learned a bit of the history of each home, and enjoyed a special treat given out from the homeowners.

Rentals at Todd Hall kept us busy during 2023. We were honored to have students and educators from the Carlisle War College and Leadership Cumberland in Todd Hall on various days holding classes and meetings. Todd Hall also



Tad Miller with colonial games

held many lectures and smaller events over the year. Our final event in Todd Hall was our annual member holiday party in December. This was our final event before we closed Todd Hall for renovation. It was the perfect way to say goodbye 2023.

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 all year. Guests hosted countless weddings, bridal and baby showers, picnics, and parties. Our holiday season was quite busy, and each guest admired the beautiful decorations by the Carlisle Garden Club. We are looking forward to another busy rental season and welcoming many people to the grounds again.

— SHARON FILIPOVICH, Community Outreach Director



Shopping at History on High

## History on High—The Shop

“I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks.” (William Shakespeare). Last year our Retail sales were \$42,440.24, plus we earned \$15,780.69 with Consignment sales, and the E-Commerce sales came to \$3,839.27 after paying postage. This is all because of you; thank you from the bottom of my heart. We tallied 5,971 shoppers in 2023 with February being the busiest visitor month due to the Ice Festival. June, September and December are the months with the highest sales.

Our wonderful volunteers offer so much of their time and energy, and I truly enjoy their company and talents. Lisa Brousse, Lynda Cook, Pat Figueiredo, Maryann Haft, Jo Ann Hutcheson, Ann Sheehan, E.K. Weitzel and Kirk Wilson helped in the shop and donated 745.5 hours in 2023.

We sponsored many noteworthy events at History on High throughout the year. Elaine Haag did a Nuno Felting Demo, creating an origami hat during the Ice Festival. In September she created a scarf during Harvest of the Arts. In February Bess Jamieson did a goldsmith demonstration of chain making, Bonnie Tweedy Shaw held a Nuno Felting class, and Jeffrey E. Finegan Sr. joined us for a book signing on his George Washington series. In March, Ellie and Aiden Swank did a Pysanky Egg painting demo. Tom Benjey did

a Craighead talk in April and Sherry Knowlton did a book signing. In June, Ashley Kauffmann and Bonnie Tweedy Shaw did a children’s book signing together. Joan West

FACEBOOK

**765,003**  
posts seen

**503**  
posts

**6,163**  
followers

held a book signing in July for her Carlisle Crime series, and Jonathan Frazier joined us for plein air painting in the shop in August. Shand Stringham did a book signing in September, Jerry Clouse did a power point on Barns, and later, Deborah Sweaney did book signing for her new book, and Donna Bert held a natural fiber spinning demo in October. In November we had an eight author book signing for “American Roulette,” and Pat LaMarche, Sam Rob and

Holly Cameron did a book signing for a new children’s book. David Peiffer came in December for the new Shopp book and Jody West did a book signing while Pat LaMarche held a gift wrapping.

We had such a busy year and it is such a pleasure to meet and represent so many interesting and wonderful people.

➤ 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.

Last winter, Boiling Springs High School intern Wesley Hartle 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.

Throughout the year, programming and tours commemorating the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Mt. Holly Springs were very popular. These events included the

Holly Heroines historic pageant, the publishing of a picture book, a newly created walking tour of the borough, and museum exhibit in the G.B. Stuart History Workshop.

The Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands and World War II Adventure in History summer camps were a big success. We had many new campers. All three camps were full of students from central Pennsylvania and even some from neighboring states. There were many fun-filled activities that gave campers a unique perspective of some aspects of history that are not often covered in classroom learning.

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



Michael Jean (left),  
Facilities Manager.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Members who have passed away in 2023*

Connie Middelton - January 7, 2023

John Layne - January 28, 2023

Mildred Otstot - March 12, 2023

Lei Lani "Loni" Rickert - April 6, 2023

Susan McCrea - May 10, 2023

June Shomaker - May 17, 2023

Larry Shenk - June 7, 2023

Betty "BeGee" Staub - June 9, 2023

Margaret E. Raudabaugh - September 17, 2023

James F. Miller Jr. - September 28, 2023

Jean Keefer - October 3, 2023

William DeMoss - October 30, 2023

June Reed - November 7, 2023

Raymond McGeery - November 14, 2023

John Steigleman, Jr. - December 16, 2023

John Griffith - December 17, 2023

## Facilities

What we've been up to:

### High Street

IT - IT back room rewired and reorganized

IT middle room - discarded outdated equipment  
(285 pounds of hazardous recycle)

Basement - Removed construction debris

2000 pounds recycled

Repaired and upgraded (to LED) lights

Treated fungal growth

Concrete contract - closed coal chutes

Recovered storage space by discarding outdated files

HVAC - replaced filters - first and second floor

Code - Installed three electrical panel placards

### Pitt Street

Code - Installed 8 electrical panel placards

Removed shrub in front of gas meter

Installed new gas meter

HVAC - Replaced filters - first and second floor

Replaced two rooftop units



CCHS Board

Added economizors to both  
 Serviced and recalibrated all units  
 Raise the Roof - Level the floor in Todd Hall  
 (raised the center 3.5 inches)  
 Painted walls and ceiling  
 New carpet and vinyl flooring  
 Installed new TPO membrane  
 Repaired or replaced rotted rafters, load  
 bearing elements, fasica and soffit

New paint on korbels, fascia, frieze board  
 and exterior trim.  
 New gutters and down spouts  
 Secured concrete windowsill over  
 High Street entrance  
 Replaced all exterior lights with LED  
 Converted north entrance light to LED  
 and added photo cell  
 Replaced lights in collection room to meet  
 museum standards

YOUTUBE

**11,619**  
views

**325**  
subscribers

**1,171**  
hours watched

**Two Mile House**

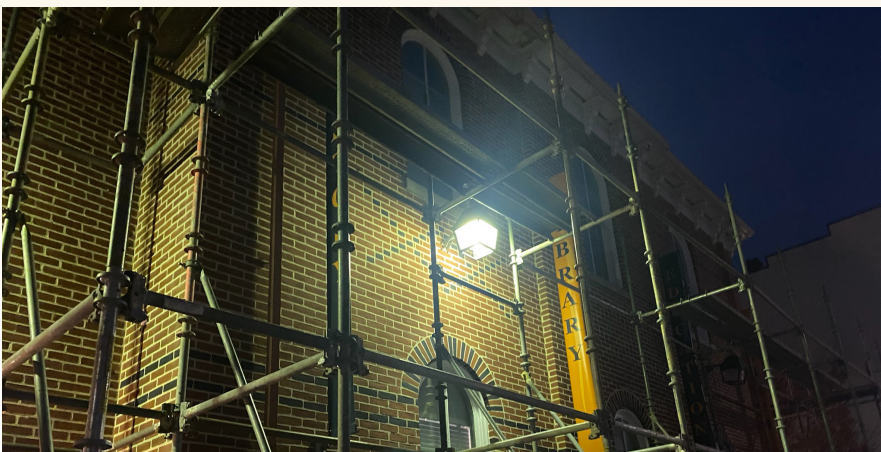
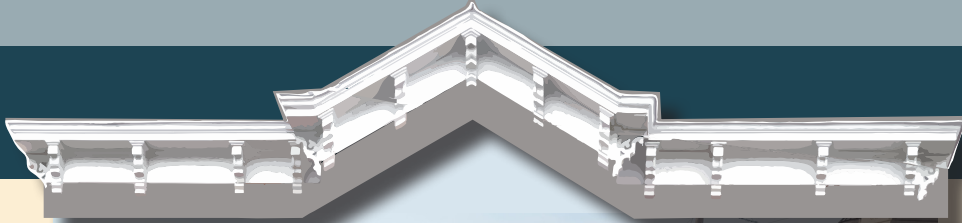
Installed new concrete walkway and patio  
 Treated Hemlocks for infestation.  
 Removed Maple tree blown over in storm

**Odd Fellows**

Followed up on Mckessick concerns regarding  
 structural issues,  
 no immediate action required.

➤ MICHAEL JEAN, Facilities Manager

# RAISE THE ROOF & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



We were blown away this year by the help of our members, volunteers and donors to our campaign for capital improvements. You've done so much to strengthen the physical presence of the Cumberland County Historical Society this year. Facilities maintenance is an ongoing and often thankless task — but we hope to thank you with the plaque (next page) which will be installed in Todd Hall.

*Photos at left, top to bottom:*

Working on the roof.

Leveling the floor in Todd Hall.

Scaffolding at night.

# 2024

## Cumberland County Historical Society Raise the Roof Campaign

Tom and Beth  
Coolidge

Merri Lou  
Schaumann

The Rolen E. and  
Patricia H. Ferris  
Foundation

Pat Strickler

Don Paul Shearer

Elizabeth (Bessie)  
Jamieson

W. R. Unger

Jim Simms

Rahal  
Family  
Foundation

Ann  
Kramer  
Hoffer

Historic Carlisle,  
Inc.

Wentzel-  
Weitzel Gifts

Kevin and  
Connie Hess

Don and Ann  
Franklin

John and Karen  
Lyter

Robert F. Long

Roland and  
Dolores Fenton

Jeff Scott

Tad and Eileen  
Miller

Helen Scott

Sandy, Jim and  
Elizabeth Mader

CAEDC

Paul and Lois  
Hoch

Donald and Marjorie  
Mowery

David and  
Jennifer Metz

Garvin and Jill  
Rumberger

Jay and Joan  
McBride

Martson Law  
Offices

Ed and Carmen  
James

Alvin and  
Diane Blitz

Partnership for  
Better Health

David and Ann Smith • Alan and Sherry Kreitzer • Randy and Dr. Angela Heishman • Sally Hamilton • Jim and Nanette Reames • Jane and Charlie Austin  
Joseph T. and Helen M. Simpson Foundation • Virginia Springen • Mary and Hubert Gilroy • Leonard and Connie Tritt • James Yenzow and Patricia Shaffer • Brian Fritz • André Weltman  
Charles Allen • Dave and Linda Kutz • Joseph and Mary Jane Russellburg • Dave Rohrer • Devera Lang • Joanne Bear • Glenn Stambaugh • Jacqueline Ferguson • Sharon Filipovich  
Cheryl Parsons • Gerald Brandt • Davis Watts • Hope Gregor • James Oakes • Jane Black • Christy and Andrew Hoover • Joseph and Lorraine Luciano • Pat Markowski  
William and Lois Roney • David and Cheryl Way • Jane Burke • Barbara Goodyear • Mary Long • Terry Nickey • Malinda Triller-Doran • Sandra E. Ush • Kenneth Wagner  
Dawn Flower-Webb and Bruce Webb • Wendy Gebb • Nancy and Donald Lozier • Mark Podvin • Dennis Minnich and Shari McMeen Minnich • Mary Lou Secrist • Mervie Lee Price





The former James Hamilton residence after renovation as a business. Photo shows Monyer's Restaurant, later, Farabellis Confectioner, and subsequently the Peerless Candy Company.

# MURDER BEHIND THE SCENES

*Excerpted from "A Murder in the James Hamilton House"*  
by Susan E. Meehan

James Hamilton, Jr. (1793 - 1873), was born in and was a lifelong resident of Carlisle. His father was a wealthy attorney and James followed in his footsteps after graduating from Dickinson College. Beyond law, James was also interested in education, science, and history, and became an active philanthropist in support of those interests. His \$1,000 donation in 1871 was the first American bequest to the newly founded Smithsonian Institution; it was to endow a prize for 'a contribution, paper or lecture on any scientific or useful subject.' When he died in 1873, one of the provisions of his will was a \$2,000 bequest to Cumberland County for a library and the land on which to build it. ...

The section of the parking lot that is located behind the High Street entrance gate to the property and which is bounded to the east by the wall of the adjacent building, is a palimpsest, a place with layers of history - the pavement of the parking lot covers over what was once the

basement of the Hamilton house but also holds a much more sinister history. The Hamilton house was a brick row house with two front doors, one of which was a separate street entrance to Hamilton's law office. The building was conveniently close to the courthouse and was located along a row of buildings that constituted, before and during his lifetime, a premiere address in town.

The houses in this row gradually became commercial properties as the population of Carlisle grew and there was an increased need for centrally located shop and office space. By the time of Hamilton's death in 1873, the original character of that first block of High Street was quite altered and with no heirs to claim it, the Hamilton house was soon converted to business purposes. By the turn of the century, part of the building had become "Monyer's Restaurant." ... By 1909, the restaurant in the Hamilton house had been displaced by a confectioner-ice cream parlor, owned and operated by one of the many newcomers to Carlisle. The former home of one of Carlisle's illustrious sons was to become the scene of a sensational crime. ...

## THE MURDER

On the evening of Monday, April 12, 1909, Annie and John Pishotta were in the store and must have been discussing the success of the Easter trade; the drawer receipts totaled about \$380 [the 2008 equivalent of \$8,933]. Having this amount of money at hand must have prompted John to once again ask Annie for money which she refused to give to him. A verbal disagreement ensued, and he said he was going to Ohio on the first train he could get. They closed the shop shortly after midnight and John retired to their room in the house. Annie followed fifteen minutes or so later, and the “warm discussion” resumed and escalated. The couple began yelling at each other in Italian and he began to beat her. When John threatened her at close range with a .32 caliber revolver, she called out for help and ran down the stairs into the kitchen screaming in Italian, “My Mother, he is going to kill me!” John followed her.

Her brother Angelo had been lying on his bed in his room and heard the yelling and his sister’s cries for help. He grabbed his trousers along with the only weapon he had on hand, his folding straight-edged razor. He ran down the stairs to the kitchen and found the door closed. Angelo opened the door and saw John with the gun; John wheeled around and Angelo closed the door just as John fired a shot, which hit the door. Angelo crouched down and tried opening the door again, but John was ready and shot again, hitting the door once more. Annie ran out into the back yard and Angelo could hear her cries. “Then he pushed open the



JOHN PISHOTTA.  
From a Picture Taken at the Ohio  
Penitentiary. Copied by Hensel.

---

### *“The Principal Characters”*

#### **ANNIE TORNATORE PISHOTTA**

*42-year old Sicilian immigrant.  
Owner of the Peerless candy  
business & boarding house.*

#### **JOHN PISHOTTA**

*Annie’s husband, with a reputation  
for bribery and abuse.*

#### **ANGELO TORNATORE**

*Annie’s brother, just arrived in  
Carlisle from Chicago.*

#### **JAMES GARJULAKOS**

*Greek immigrant and shoeshiner  
who rented rooms from Annie.*

---

door quick. John had his back toward him”. According to Angelo’s testimony at the trial, “he grabbed the barrel of John’s gun with his right hand, entwined John’s left arm in his, and meanwhile opened the razor, threatening Pishotta on the hopes John would let the gun go. That action did not deter John and the fight for the gun continued. John was trying to shoot backwards but Witness controlled the direction of the gun.” The two men struggled and Angelo slashed

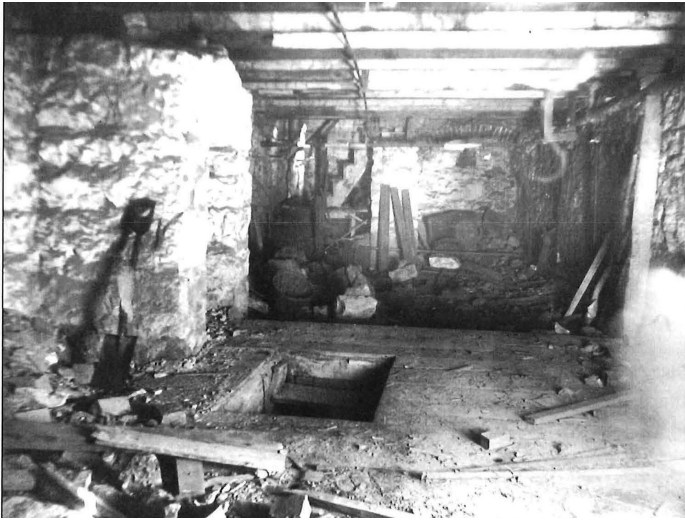
John several times with the razor, including one long cut across the front of the neck. When that happened, John dropped the gun and Angelo grabbed it and hit Pishotta in the head with it. Both men fell in the struggle. Pishotta’s head hit the sink and then the floor, fracturing his skull. “Realizing the danger [Angelo] ran upstairs to get some towels. He got many things and came back to John, putting something under his head. After doing so he realized that John was dead.”

Meanwhile, in the backyard, Annie had fainted when she heard the gun shots. Angelo did not want his sister to know her husband was dead and felt too ashamed of what he had done to go to search for her. He dragged John’s body to the basement stairs and then down the steps; in so doing, he lost his footing and he and Pishotta

fell into a large sub-cellar or vault,<sup>1</sup> a hole that Angelo had not known about. Now the body was out of the kitchen, but Angelo was dirty and blood-covered, as were the stairs, the kitchen, and any surface he had touched. He tried to

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1. Believed to have been used by James Hamilton as a wine cellar.



Crime scene photo of the basement of the former Hamilton home showing the “wine cellar” where John Pishotta’s body was found.

clean up everything so that his sister would not know what had happened; he scrubbed the floors, washed the walls in places, and even washed his clothes and the stained sheets and towels he had grabbed earlier to stem the blood flow.

In her third floor room at the front of the house, boarder Ann Souders heard nothing. In his room on the second floor, next door to Angelo’s, James Garjulakos heard noises around 1:00 a.m. and was wide-awake and scared. He feared for his life and blocked his locked door with furniture. He stood at the door holding an unlit kerosene lamp as a weapon until 5:00 a.m. He was aware of Angelo’s many trips up and down the stairs and the scrubbing. There was a small slit in the partition wall between his room and Angelo’s, making it possible to see movement in the room, but no details.

### **THE MORNING AFTER**

Annie, having apparently fallen asleep after fainting, awoke and came back into the building early in the morning. She went into the kitchen to prepare breakfast and found Angelo there. He told her that John had “gone away,” but he did not know where. Garjulakos slipped out the back door at 6:00 a.m. and took his place at his bootblack stand. About 8 o’clock, Angelo and Annie asked Garjulakos to join them for coffee, but he feared that they would kill him if he entered the kitchen. He instead headed across High Street to the Mansion House, and tipped a “colored boy” there to go back to his room to get his coat. When he had his coat, he crossed the street to the Cumberland Valley Railroad Station, changed a dollar and used the public phone to call his step-brother Harry DeMaras in Hagerstown. After informing him of the night’s happenings, Garjulakos went down a

back alley [Dickinson Alley] to the Presbyterian Church. He asked an electrician on the street about the location of the police station. Then he proceeded to a second confectionery business, located in the Y.M.C.A. building (several doors east of the Pishotta business) and owned by Leftani (Alex) Janavaris, a Greek man who had lived in Carlisle for some time. Janavaris accompanied Garjulakos to the “Squire’s Office,” [the office of Justice Warren G. Hughes] where he related his story to the officers on duty. The police quickly went to the Peerless Candy Shop and apprehended Angelo and his sister Annie Pishotta, returning with them to the police station. The police then took James Garjulakos to the scene of the crime where they searched the premises and found evidence supporting the Garjulakos account, including a bloody knife and a razor. They found the gun in a trunk in the bathroom and John Pishotta’s body in a large square hole in the basement, in a seated position, partially covered with stones and dirt.

Brother and sister were then arrested and jailed, as was Garjulakos, on the grounds that he was a material witness. (The lens of time permits one to question whether this might have been primarily because he was Greek.) He was released after paying “bond” and went to Massachusetts, where he remained until the trial. The Chief of Police, Daniel Fought, was proud to have made arrests in the case within two hours of the initial report.

Following the Coroner’s Inquest at 3:00 p.m. on April 13th, Carlisle undertaker Osterhout removed the body to his morgue where Dr. J. C. Davis conducted an autopsy for the police. ... Undertaker Osterhout quietly buried the much-examined body of John Pishotta at seven o’clock on the morning of April 16, in the graveyard adjoining the Catholic Church on East Pomfret Street. Rev. Father Brandt, assistant rector, conducted the services at the grave. The widow covered the expenses for the burial and had requested to attend the services, but was refused permission because Father Brandt believed it would be too sensational.

### **THE TRIALS**

The September 1909 Cumberland County court docket was quite full, with thirty-one cases listed, including a robbery of the U.S. Express, several other high-profile robberies and a case of horse theft, in addition to the two separate trials for the murder of John Pishotta. The session opened on September 13th, in what is now called the “Old Courthouse,” with the Honorable Judge Wilbur F. Sadler presiding. On September 16th, the lengthy process of jury

selection began for the Tornatore trial. Many potential jurors were challenged because of “fixed opinions” about the case. Jurors had to be willing to convict on circumstantial evidence, could not be against capital punishment, had to be free of prejudice against foreigners, and could not belong to any secret society with an antipathy to foreigners. In order to find the twelve members needed, 119 men were examined. ... The trial proper began on Friday, September 17th, and continued the next day. When Judge Sadler adjourned court on Saturday afternoon, he said that the court would allow jurors to attend church the following day saying, “I think you better go to church, perhaps some of you have not been there for some time. Testimony resumed on Monday and continued on Tuesday; depositions from character witnesses Capitelli, Russo, Spedale, Pipitore and Dipicera of Chicago, and Salvatore Arrigo of Pittsburgh, were presented on behalf of Tornatore. The case closed at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22.

The jury agreed on a verdict in about four hours and court reconvened the following day, at 9 o'clock in the morning. When the verdict, “not guilty,” was pronounced, Frank Tornatore threw his arms around the neck of [his brother] Angelo and kissed him repeatedly refusing to release his embrace. All at once he became hysterical, and threw his arms toward the jury and said, “Hurrah for American men”... All the women sobbed audibly and went up to Angelo, who was also sobbing. Angelo then arose and addressing the jury said between sobs, “I thank you for the sincere and judicious judgment you gave in my behalf in this supreme moment and I wish to shake hands with all of you.” Several of the jury did then shake hands with him. Angelo again sat down while his attorneys and relatives surrounded him and talked. His brother continued to weep and came up and held Angelo’s hand.

Court was then adjourned for an hour, and then reconvened at 10 o'clock to begin Annie Pishotta’s trial. The District Attorney then announced that he and his associates had consulted, and in view of the outcome of the Tornatore trial, and with no additional evidence to present, he would make a motion for nolle prosequi [the relinquishment by a prosecutor of all or part of a suit] for Mrs. Pishotta. A jury was called and under instructions from the Court rendered a verdict of not guilty. Ultimately, the Tornatore jury had been convinced that the defendant had acted out of self-defense and brotherly concern; Annie was considered totally innocent.



1936 photo of Orpheum Theater.

### THE AFTERMATH

... Because it was concluded that it would be impossible to rent rooms in the house following the incident and all the publicity, the Hamilton building was razed during the summer of 1909, in the time between the murder and the trials. In its place, the Orpheum Theater was erected. (It is interesting that John Pishotta had once held a five-cent theater in the room of the building that became the ice cream parlor of the Peerless Candy business. The Coroner’s Inquest was held in this same room.) The Orpheum Theater was a very popular entertainment forum until destroyed by fire in 1938. A small part of the imposing arch at the front of the Orpheum Theatre survives as a visible reminder of its presence at the corner of the Historical Society’s parking lot. Underneath the parking lot/ theater site / commercial business / former-residence and law office is the filled-in hole of the sub-cellar vault that once held wine and later a murdered body. Perhaps fire cleansed the site?

Susan E. Meehan  
for the *Cumberland County History Journal*  
Full article and endnotes available in the Gardner  
Library entry [https://gardnerlibrary.org/journal/  
murder-james-hamilton-house](https://gardnerlibrary.org/journal/murder-james-hamilton-house).



"My role has been important in the struggle to organize the unorganized." Lauren Salisbury, Roseville, Ohio, USA 12 1/2" x 19," wool, 4 cut

# LIFT EVERY VOICE

FIFTEEN HOOKED RUGS REPRODUCED FROM THE "I AM THE BLACK WOMAN" SERIES BY ELIZABETH CATLETT, 1947

GUEST CURATED BY MADDY FRAIOLI

## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

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Marty Liptak	Lauren Salisbury
Laura Ponkos	Annette Dixie
Mary Austin	Tish Murphy
Gwen Hess	Deidra Pinnock
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## Related Events at CCHS:

### **"LIFT EVERY VOICE" OPENING RECEPTION & TALK**

**SEPT. 7, 1-3PM, G. B. STUART GALLERY**

Discover the profound impact of artist Elizabeth Catlett's iconic "I Am The Black Woman" series through the "Lift Every Voice" exhibit. Fifteen meticulously reproduced hooked rugs, created collaboratively by American and Canadian women, pay homage to African American struggles, resilience, and triumph. Curator Maddy Fraioli delves into the fascinating journey behind the creation of the "Lift Every Voice" exhibit.

### **PORTRAYING OURSELVES: NINETEENTH-CENTURY BLACK FASHION HISTORY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS, 1840-1900**

**SEPT. 21, 2PM, TODD HALL**

Dr. Karin Bohleke will explore what stories the clothing tells about otherwise unidentified portraits in the history of Black engagement with fashion.

### **THE JOURNEY THAT STARTED WITH A PHONE CALL**

**SEPT. 26, 6:30PM, TODD HALL**

The history of a little known church and cemetery (Mt. Tabor AME Zion) that supported Mt. Holly Springs' African American Neighborhood.

### **"THIS IS US" QUILTING MOVEMENT TALK**

**OCT. 5, AT 1PM, TODD HALL**

Rev. Yvette Davis, Director of the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity at Dickinson College, will share about the Center's work with Communities of Color at Dickinson & the "This Is Us" Quilting Movement,

### **THE HISTORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND ABOLITIONIST THROUGHOUT SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

**OCT. 12, 1PM, TODD HALL**

Documentary Screening by Keystones Oral History and Bryan Wade. This documentary will highlight a history of the Underground Railroad and the abolitionists throughout South Central Pennsylvania.

*Title graphic courtesy of Rokeby Museum*

Exhibit open Sept. 7 to Nov. 2, 2024  
Tues.-Sat. 10am-4pm

More details at: [historicalsociety.com](http://historicalsociety.com)  
717 249-7610 21 N. Pitt St., Carlisle PA 17013

# Holiday House Bus Tour

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 1-6PM



## *Scheduled Stops*

**Cumberland Hall**  
(Carlisle)

**Stuart Manor**  
(Carlisle)

**Mt. Tabor Church**  
(Mt. Holly Springs)

**Rendezvous Run Farm**  
(Carlisle)

**...more to come!**

*Space is limited!*

**Celebrate the Holidays with CCHS on a guided bus tour of beautiful, historic sites in Carlisle, PA**

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\$85 "Become a Member" Ticket\*  
\*includes a 1-year membership to CCHS

**Each stop will have:** A Docent-Led History Presentation  
• An Innkeeper Tour • Refreshments

11:30-1:00 Check in at: CCHS, 21 N. Pitt St., Carlisle, PA  
(History on High — The Museum Shop open for holiday shopping prior to the tour!)

1:00-6:00\* Bus Tour \*approximate schedule



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# FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS

Discover our Archives & Library treasures Online

We are thrilled to announce that our library catalog is now more accessible than ever! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Archives & Library Staff, the Library Committee, and our Executive Director, Shawn Gladden, you can now explore our extensive collections from the comfort of your home. Visit us at <https://cumberland.catalogaccess.com/> to dive into a world of history and knowledge.

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE NOW?

### Rare Books and Local Histories

For the first time, you can search our catalog online to find rare books and publications from Cumberland County and Pennsylvania. This includes a treasure trove of volumes that detail the rich history of our region.

### Church and Cemetery Collections

Our Church and Cemetery collections are now online, offering insights into the spiritual and communal lives of past generations. Whether you're researching your family's history or the story of a particular community, these resources are invaluable.

### Genealogy Files

Interested in tracing your family tree? Our genealogy files are now available in the catalog. Please note that these files contain previously conducted research on various surnames. While some files are extensive, others might be less detailed. And remember, the absence of a file doesn't mean the surname doesn't exist in Cumberland County – it might just not have been researched yet.

### Photo Archives

One of the most exciting parts of this launch is the access to portions of our Photo Archives. We've highlighted works from various photographers across different eras, capturing the essence of Cumberland County through the years. Featured photographers include:

- A. A. Line
- Charles Frances Himes
- J. N. Choate
- Charles Franklin Moss
- Clyde Laughlin
- James Steinmetz
- Jim Bradley



Home Keyword Search Advanced Search Random Images Archives Library Objects Photos Exhibits

## Welcome to our Online Collections!

**These are just some highlights from our collections! We will continue to add to the online catalog. If you do not see something, please email [info@historicalsociety.com](mailto:info@historicalsociety.com) to inquire if an item is part of our collection.**

## Tips for Searching

Many of these photographs have been scanned and are available for online viewing, allowing you to explore our visual history without leaving your home.

## WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

While the current focus is on our library collections, we have big plans for the future. Access to our archives collection will be rolled out in subsequent phases. Stay tuned to our eblasts and social media for future announcements!

Now you may be asking yourself, what about the archives collection. Do not worry, that will come in the future. For now, there is greater information about some collections our [Highlighted Collections page \(https://www.historical-society.com/research/highlighted-collections/\)](https://www.historical-society.com/research/highlighted-collections/). Finding Aids are invaluable tools for navigating archival collections. They provide detailed information that might not be included in a traditional library catalog. Even as we continue to add more into our online catalog, we will continue to add finding aids to our highlighted collections page!

## Explore and Discover

We're excited to share these resources with you and look forward to seeing how they fuel your research and curiosity. Stay tuned for more updates, and don't forget to visit <https://cumberland.catalogaccess.com/> to start your journey through our collections today!

➤ CARA CURTIS, Archives & Library Director



## Knights of the Golden Eagle



Knight, and Crusader. The society's motto is "Fidelity, Valor, and Honor," and rituals reflect the emphasis placed on the word of the Bible. In addition to giving moral and intellectual guidance, the society provides relief to sick or unemployed members and gives survivor benefits to widows and orphans.

The female auxiliaries are known as "Ladies of the Golden Eagle."

At its height in 1900, the K.G.E. was active in twenty states with approximately 20,000 members. Membership began to decline with the onset of World War II. As of 2012, the organization had approximately 2,000 members and was functioning in only three states: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. There were at

least two orders in Cumberland County, PA, one in Carlisle, PA, and the other in Mechanicsburg, PA.

### Ceremonial Sash

1880s

Ceremonial sash for the Knights of the Golden Eagle made of various materials. Blue velvet outer material with metal trim lace and fringe. Red linen on the inside of the sash. On the front of the sash, near where the heart would be, is society's emblem. A golden eagle carrying a coat of arms with a knight on horseback wielding a lance. On the back intersection of the sash is an eight-pointed star. The star is made of brass and has a globe in the center with a chain design around the globe.

S. Catanzaro Collection



### Ceremonial Cuffs

1880s

Two leather wrist cuffs were part of the uniform for the Knights of the Golden Eagle. Both have three buttons to buckle the cuff. All three buttons have a knight riding a horse with a lance. Both have a blue shield attached to them on the outer face. The shield is trimmed with a metal thread. Within the shield is an emblem. The emblem has an eagle perched on a shield with the letter K.G.E.

S. Catanzaro Collection

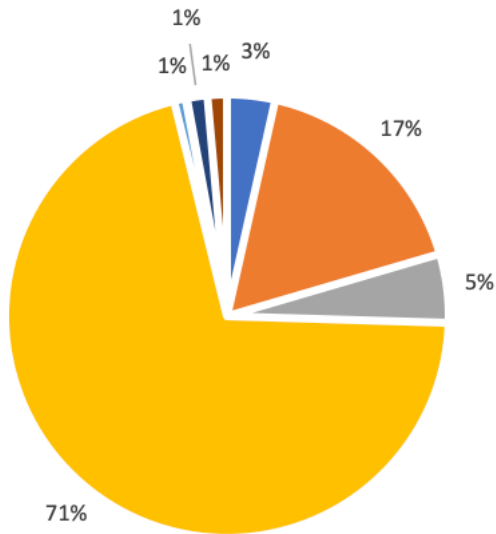
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 Wolf, Eileen  
 Wolfe, Ray and Dorothy  
 Wolfe, Curry Culbertson  
 Wood, Walter and Anne  
 Wylie, James and Janet  
 Yemzow, James  
 Zerbe, Dennis

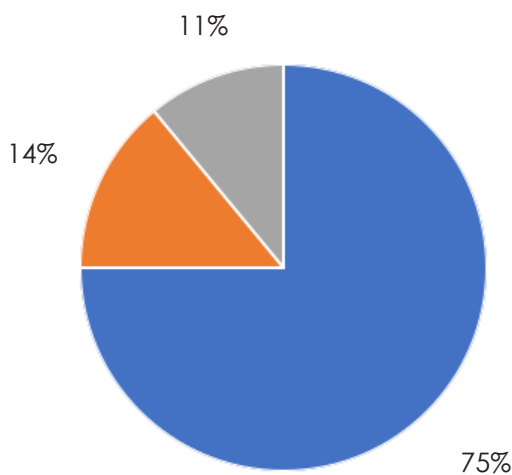
# FINANCIALS 2023

## Overview of Income



- Membership
- Contributions
- Program Revenues
- Investment Income
- Grants
- Gain on Insurance Claims
- Net Fundraising Income
- Net Rental Income

## Overview of Expenses



- Program
- Management & General
- Fundraising

## Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

Year Ended December 31, 2023

*NEW: Includes Restricted and Unrestricted Funds.*

### Support and Revenue

Membership	66,370
Contributions	322,042
Program revenues	95,119
Grants	15,988
Net fundraising income	28,081
Net rental income	26,833
Gain on insurance claims	1,929

**Total support and revenue 556,362**

### Other Income

Net investment return	1,341,673
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### Expenses

Program	679,139
Management and general	128,715
Fundraising	101,558

**Total expenses 909,412**

**Change in net assets +988,623**

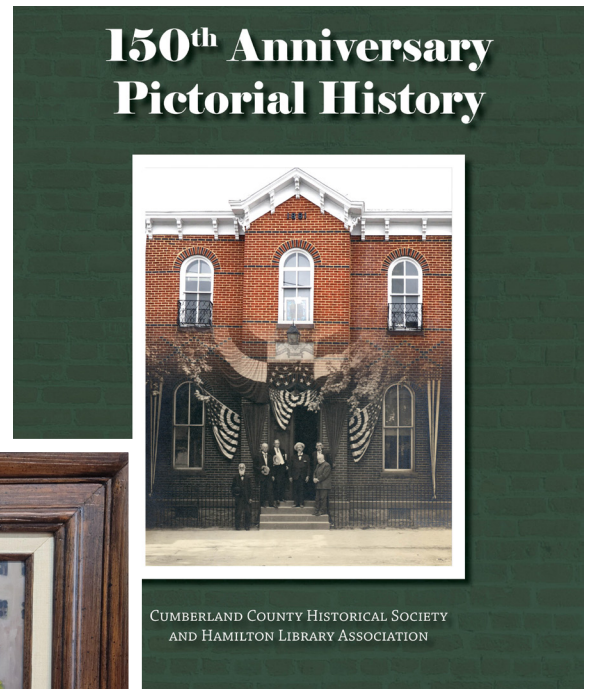
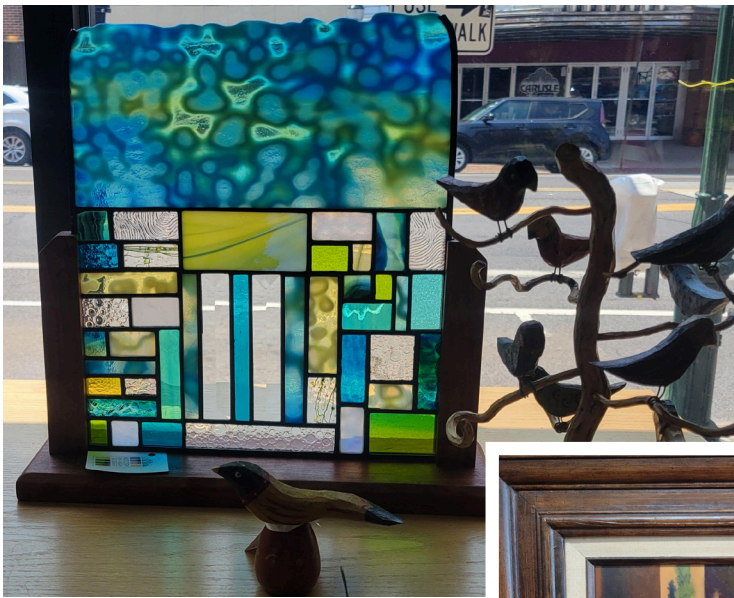
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Art Demonstrations



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Tue.- Fri. 10-5  
Saturday 10-4

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