



The Oracle

SPRING 2014

Number 100

Newsletter of the Dauphin County Historical Society

Coming Events

- Saturday, May 10—Tea with Maggie Cameron, 2:30pm to 4:30pm.
- Wednesday, Jun. 4—Portraits of the Mansion 7pm (Membership req'd).
- Second Sunday, Jun. 8—History Day presentations, 2:30pm
- Sunday, Jun. 22—An Evening at Mount Hill Tavern.
- Wednesday Jun. 25—HSDC Annual Meeting
- Friday, July 4—Independence Day Celebration & Book Sale, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Saturday, Sep. 13—A Star Spangled Celebration!
- Sunday, Sep. 14—Star Spangled Banner Program & Exhibit for Gallery Walk.
- Saturday, Sep. 27—Smithsonian Museum Day.
- Second Sunday, Oct. 12—Historical Societies of Dauphin County.
- Friday, Oct. 31—Mansion Ghost Tours.
- Second Sunday, Nov. 9—100th Anniversary of Bethesda Mission, 2:30 pm.

HSDC HOURS

Office

10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Library

1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday &
2nd Sunday of the
Month

Mansion Tours

1:00, 2:00, & 3:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

1:00 PM
Before 2nd Sunday
Programs

Other times available
by appointment

Take Tea with Maggie Cameron on May 10th

This Mother's Day weekend you are cordially invited to afternoon tea and an open house at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The tea will be hosted by Margaretta "Maggie" Cameron, daughter of Simon Cameron, portrayed by re-enactor Elizabeth Dillon. Ms. Dillon will be sharing stories of the Cameron family's travels across Europe, as recorded in Margaretta's diary.

The Mansion passed to Margaretta after Simon Cameron died in 1889 at the age of 90. She was the widow of Richard Haldeman, a local newspaper publisher and Congressman. Upon her passing in 1915, the house was inherited by her son, Richard. He was the last of the Cameron family to live at the Mansion. His sister Elizabeth Wright donated the house and other family items to the Historical Society in 1941.



Tickets for the event are \$20, (\$15 for HSDC members). Seating is limited. Call 233-3462 or email office@dauphincountyhistory.org to reserve your seat. Free parking is available in lots behind the Mansion.

John Harris + Patty Kim + Book Sale = Glorious 4th!

On July 4th, bring your whole family for fun, tours and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by John Harris, Jr. (portrayed by HSDC Board member Rev. David Biser). The festivities will take place from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

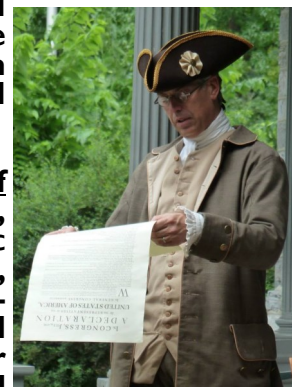
The day will begin with an Independence Day address by State Rep. Patty Kim and will feature John Harris, Jr. reading of the Declaration of Independence from the front porch of the Mansion as he did for the citizens of Harris's Ferry in 1776. The readings will take place at 10 AM, 11 AM, noon and 1 PM. Mansion tours at special holiday rates will begin after each reading.



As in previous years, there will be a book sale to benefit the preservation of the Mansion and the work of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

We need your donations of books on local, state, national, and world history, historic preservation and architecture, art, antiques and cultural subjects, recent travel guides and tour books, history-themed or classic fiction, CDs of classical

and folk music and DVDs of classic films. Contact us at 233-3462 or office@dauphincountyhistory.org to arrange drop-off during normal open hours Monday-Thursday, 10AM-4PM.



Historical Society of Dauphin County

Mission Statement:

The Mission of The Historical Society of Dauphin County is to collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the public.

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And a dedicated and growing
group of Volunteers

The Oracle is prepared and
edited by Howard Parker



From the Director's Desk ...

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Spring! The HSDC board, staff and volunteers are looking forward to the warmer weather and new programs. Don't miss Tea with Maggie Cameron in May and a special fundraising dinner at the Mt. Hill Tavern in June. We are also planning a festive July 4th family event, which will include the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence by John Harris Jr., activities for children and a book sale!

Thank you to everyone who has supported HSDC by attending our events and programs. Our annual *Deck the Halls* fundraiser in December was very memorable and successful. We are grateful to Louise Reily Kunkel for the donation of her family's paintings and the organization of the Reily Family Portraits reception and exhibit. The exhibit will be up until June 26. I would like to thank Kathy Hale of the State Library for her very interesting genealogy workshop in March. We are also continuing to raise funds for renovations of the exterior of the mansion. Follow us on Facebook and see the progress!

We are very excited to welcome new Curator, Janet Bowen! If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and introduce yourself to Janet. She brings wonderful skills to complement our staff team, and we are very excited to see the advancements that she will bring to the Society.

Please be sure to read the insert on the *Spring Membership Drive*. Without your support, we could not offer these exciting programs and events and fulfill our important mission of preservation. Please join, renew, or purchase a gift membership by May 31st and take advantage of great new benefits.

Wishing you all a good spring and summer, and thank you for supporting HSDC.

Nicole McMullen
Executive Director

HSDC Needs Volunteers!



You are invited to join the ranks of HSDC volunteers. There are many ways that you can help the Society including:

- Give tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion
- Work in the library or archives
- Exercise your green thumb in the gardens
- Perform hosting duties at HSDC functions

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, you will be a valued member of our corps of volunteers. To become a volunteer call 233-3462 or contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org.



COMING TO THE MANSION

2nd Sunday Programs

June 8—History Day
Presentations by Local High School Students.

September 14—Star Spangled Banner Program & Exhibit/ Gallery Walk.

October 12—Showcasing the Historical Societies of Dauphin County.

November 9—100th Anniversary of Bethesda Mission.

December 14—Christmas at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

Admission to all Second Sunday programs is free for members and by donation for non-members. Members and non-members alike are welcome to tour the mansion and visit the research library beginning at 1:00 pm on Second Sundays.

Where Do I Park?????

Free parking is available on-site for all programs and events at the Mansion. Free parking is also available on evenings and weekends in the Pinnacle Health physicians' lot off River Street behind the Mansion property.



Portraits Tour

Art historian and HSDC board member Nancy Mendes will conduct a special members only Portraits of the Mansion tour on Wednesday June 4th at 7:00 pm.

Space is limited so make plans now to attend this unique and fascinating glimpse at the many fine examples of 19th century portraiture that adorn the walls of the Harris-Cameron Mansion, including the Reily family portrait exhibit. Contact the HSDC office for details and to reserve a space on the tour.

Reily Family Portraits Exhibit



If you have not visited this showcase of the portraits and mementos of one of Harrisburg's most prominent families, the Reily Family Portraits exhibit will be on display through June 26th.

Admission to the exhibit is included in your tour of the Mansion.

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In the Stacks

Until recently, old newspapers were largely an untapped resource for family history. So much history locked away and so hard to retrieve.

Searching on microfilm was like treading a minefield without a map. Unless you knew the complete death date for say, Great Uncle Morris (month, day, and year) you had to literally crank the film by hand, hoping to get lucky. Considering that some newspapers published obituaries as glorified filler, death notices could be buried anywhere inside.

Welcome to the digital age! The Alexander Research Library is proud to offer its members access to not one but two searchable newspaper sites. GenealogyBank.com offers Harrisburg's first newspaper, the *Oracle of Dauphin* issues dated from 1799 to 1825; while the *Daily Patriot* covers the period 1854 through 1922. Via Newspapers.com you can search the *Harrisburg Telegraph* (1866-1948) and *The Evening News* (1917-1948). And there are papers all over the globe. Free use of the Alexander Research Library is a benefit of membership. So save some money and do your research here. Patron computers are available during regular library hours Monday through Thursday from 1 to 4 P.M.

New acquisitions to the HSDC Archives include the fascinating diaries of Jacob (1784-1854) and Jeremiah Krause Greenawalt (1865-1942). These volumes are simply tremendous time capsules! If you really want to know what it was like to walk around in Harrisburg back on a summer's morn in 1896, then you're in for a treat. A photocopy is also available in the library.

New also to the Archives are the family photos, personal correspondence and news clips relating to former Harrisburg mayor John Kelker Royal (1858-1933) and his equally prominent son, former Dauphin County Circuit Court Judge John Douglas Royal (1892-1978). John K. Royal was also one of the founders of the Harrisburg Burial Case Company, which made the caskets of so many of our ancestors. There are photos of the workmen.

Finally, we are still searching for the following school yearbooks:

Central Dauphin High School, 1960, 1966, 1970-73, 1976-85, 1987-94, 1997-2013.

Central Dauphin East High School, 1964-67, 1971, 1974-76, 1978-2013.

Ken Frew, Research Librarian



Welcome Janet Mulligan Bowen New HSDC Curator

Janet Mulligan Bowen recently joined the HSDC staff as our new curator. Janet brings a strong academic background to the position. She earned a B.A. in history at Ashford University and graduated Summa Cum Laude, an M.A. in Library Science at Clarion University, and an M.A. in Applied History at Shippensburg University.

Janet has worked with the Appalachian Trail Museum and the Shippensburg Historical Society. She has been published in *Pennsylvania Library Association Bulletin*.

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Winter At the Mansion



Docent Don Schwab brought Santa to life for young visitors to *Christmas at the Mansion* on Dec. 8th.



B.Z. Reilly and Louise Kunkel with the portrait of their grandmother at the opening reception for the *Reilly Family Portraits Exhibit* on Jan.28th.



Kathy Hale of the Pennsylvania State Library with HSDC Librarian Ken Frew and Executive Director Nicole McMullen at the genealogy workshop on March 22nd.



HSDC Vice President Erik Fasick shapes the dough in preparation for our Faschnact Day sale on March 4th.



David Klinepeter portrays Civil War era Governor Andrew Curtin at the Second Sunday program on April 13th.

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HSDC Out and About



Docent Don Schwab and HSDC board member Barbara Barksdale at the State Museum for Charter Day on March 10th.



Board member Kelley Kauffman, HSDC Secretary Cathy Lotwick, and Office Manager Barb Pollihan promote the Mansion as the perfect wedding location at the Bridal Show at the Zembo Mosque on February 23rd.

Save the Date!

**An Evening at the
Mt. Hill Tavern
With John Harris, Jr.**

Sunday June 22nd

**Watch your mail and our website
for details!**



**Make the Harris-Cameron Mansion a Part of
Your 2014 Holiday Celebration**

**Deck the Halls Gala
Tuesday, December 9th**

**Christmas at the Mansion
Sunday, December 14th**



**Watch for detailed information coming
this fall!**

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John Harris, Jr. (portrayed by Rev. David Biser) with the 2013 John Harris Award honorees: Eric Morrison, Greg Rothman, John Norton, Dan Schwab and Alex Hartzler. The recipients were the founders of the Harrisburg Young Professionals. The award presentation was part of the 2013 Deck the Halls gala at the Harris-Cameron Mansion on December 4th.



Deck the Halls 2013

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

HSDC



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www.dauphincountyhistory.org

The official registration & financial information of The Historical Society of Dauphin County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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As an HSDC member, you receive:

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Research Library.
Discounts on HSDC sponsored activities and
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Free subscription to *The Oracle*.

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**Heritage and above membership levels enjoy
additional benefits.**

We're always thrilled to add new members to our
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by sharing the form on the right with a friend or
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