



Coming Events

- **Saturday, May 9—Tea with Dr. Agnes Kemp, 2:30pm.**
- **Friday, May 29—Program & Book Signing, *Bethel Heritage Trail*. Panel discussion and an exhibit of family histories, 5:30pm.**
- **Thursday, June 4—A Night at the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, 5:30pm.**
- **Sunday, June 14—2nd Sunday Program & Book Signing, *Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River*, presented by Erik Fasick, 2:30pm.**
- **Wednesday, June 24—HSDC Annual Meeting, 5:30pm.**
- **Saturday, July 4—July 4th at the Mansion, 10:00am-2:00pm.**
- **Wednesday, July 15—HSDC on the Pride, 6:00pm.**
- **Sunday, Sept. 13—Gallery Walk, 11:00am-6:00pm.**
- **Saturday, Sept. 26—Smithsonian Museum Day, free admission to the Mansion with tickets from the Smithsonian website. Tours at 1, 2, and 3pm.**

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 a Dauphin County Groundbreaker

This Mother's Day weekend you are cordially invited to afternoon tea and an open house on **Saturday, May 9 at 2:30 pm** at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The tea will be hosted by Dr. Agnes Kemp, portrayed by Marcia Martin of The Pennsylvania Past Players. Dr. Kemp was the first licensed female physician in Dauphin County and the first female member of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

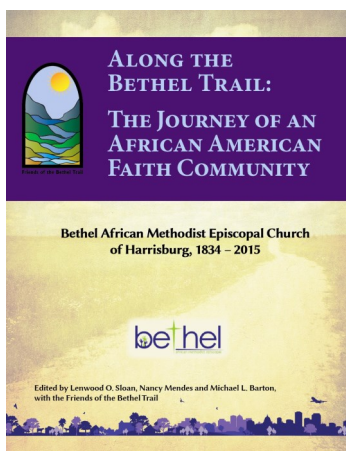


Dr. Agnes Nininger Kemp was born November 4, 1823 in Harrisburg. At age 56, Agnes graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was the first female physician admitted to the Medical Society of Dauphin County. As a member of abolitionist, temperance, and suffrage groups, Agnes lectured with William L. Garrison, Lucy Stone, Sojourner Truth, Julie Ward Howe, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. In 1898, she was a delegate to the International Peace Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Agnes died in 1908 at the age of 85 and is buried in Harrisburg Cemetery.

Tickets for the event are \$20, (\$15 for HSDC members). Seating is limited. Please call the Historical Society of Dauphin County at 717-233-3462 or email office@dauphincountyhistory.org to reserve your seat.

Bethel Heritage Trail Book Release and Program

In conjunction with the Dauphin County CivilWar150 anniversary celebrations, HSDC will host a presentation on the new book *Along the Bethel Trail: The Journey of an African American Faith Community* on **Friday, May 29 at 5:30 pm** at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.



This new book is an anthology of articles by area authors, scholars and humanists that guides readers through the history of this resilient congregation in relationship to the legacy and impact on the community that it serves. The Bethel AME Church was founded in 1835 and had five locations over its history.

The program will feature a panel discussion by authors Todd Mealy, Georg Sheets, Dorothy King, Calobe Jackson, and Lenwood Sloan, and editors Nancy

Mendes and Dr. Michael Barton.

Along with the book release and program, an exhibit of family histories will be opened. Admission is free.

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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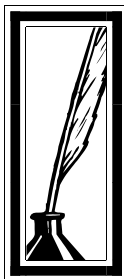
The Oracle is prepared and
edited by Howard Parker



A Word from the President

This spring and summer we are beginning to make plans for 2016, the 250th anniversary of the building of the Harris-Cameron Mansion in 1766 by John Harris, Jr. Thanks to facilities chair Ruthann Hubbert Kemper and executive director Nicole McMullen and with the support of the Board of Trustees, many projects in preserving and beautifying the mansion and grounds have been completed or are ongoing. Is there a way in which *you* would like to help in our celebration? We'll need docents and hosts to greet visitors for tours and events; researchers; photographers; marketing and communications experts; exhibit preparation assistants; office helpers; gardeners; and more. If you are able to lend your time and your talents to this once-in-a-lifetime celebration, please call our office at (717) 233-3462. Then plan to join us for a year of festivities!

John K. Robinson
President, Board of Trustees



From the Director's Desk ...

We are so excited to see the spring flowers blooming at the Harris-Cameron Mansion! We have had a number of successful programs already this year. If you enjoyed our program on the Lincoln Funeral Train or William Howard Day, or you are looking forward to our Mother's Day weekend tea, the new Susquehanna River photo exhibit, or the July 4th at the Mansion festival, please consider becoming a member of HSDC during our Spring Membership

Drive!

Your membership support is what makes our programming possible, as well as supporting the preservation of the National Landmark Harris-Cameron Mansion and our artifact and archival collections. Don't forget to visit our website and "like" our Facebook page for updates on all that is happening. Already a member? Thank you from all of us at HSDC! Please share this newsletter with your friends and encourage them to join and help keep our community's history alive!

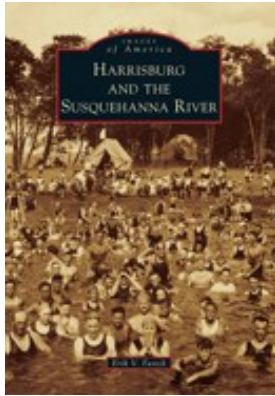
Nicole McMullen
Executive Director

HSDC Needs Volunteers!

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, we invite you to join our growing corps of volunteers. We have a great need for people to help in the garden and in our office. Of course, people who want to do mansion tours or help out in the archives and research library are always welcome! Call 233-3462 for more information.

Program & Exhibit Highlights the Susquehanna River

Author and HSDC Vice President **Erick V. Fasick** will present a program on *Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River* on **Sunday June 14th at 2:30 pm** at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The program will feature the opening of an exhibit of photographs from the HSDC collections.



Mr. Fasick will be signing copies of his recently published book about Harrisburg and the river.

Admission is free for members.

A \$5 donation is suggested 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.

A Night at the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey



Join us at the **Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey** on **Thursday, June 4th at 5:30 pm** and enjoy wine and beer tasting and hors d'oeuvres...and support HSDC at the same time! Tickets are \$35.

For more information or to purchase your ticket, contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org or 233-3462.

Parking is FREE at the Mansion!

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.

July 4th at the Mansion

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 readings from the front porch of the Mansion will take place at 10 am, 11 am, noon, and 1 pm. Mansion tours at special holiday rates will begin after each reading.

The day also includes special guest remarks and activities for children. As in previous years, there will be a used book sale. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

HSDC on the Pride



Join **Erik V. Fasick**, author of *Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River*, for a special river tour on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat on **Wednesday, July 15 from 6-8 pm**.

Food and drink will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$25.

For more information or to purchase your ticket, contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org or 233-3462.

HSDC Annual Meeting

Make plans to attend the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County on **Wednesday, June 24th at 5:30 pm** in the parlor of the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

The agenda includes reports on the state of HSDC, election of officers and recognition of volunteers. There will be an exhibit of artifacts that are not normally on display. Refreshments will be served.



In the Stacks

Greetings from the Warren W. Wirebach Research Room! It's been a busy spring 2015 here at the Alexander Library.

Saturday, March 21, Kathy Hale, supervisor for public services and government documents librarian at the Pennsylvania State Library, hosted HSDC's second annual Genealogy Workshop for beginning family historians. With few seats left vacant, Kathy was her usual font of information. Exploring both Internet resources, as well as PSL's vast microfilmed Pennsylvania newspaper collection, her precaution to beginning researchers to always follow-up their findings with secondary sources, is probably the best advice a novice could hear. Kathy's program was even more educational than last year's event.



For four Tuesday's in a row, March 31 through April 14, Dr. Michael Barton of Penn State Harrisburg, brought by his American Studies graduate students for what has been an annual spring research night. Availing themselves of the HSDC Archives, this year's projects include (1) a study of the former Harrisburg City Grays using the Rawn journals; (2) also using Rawn, a comparison of May 1831 with May 1864 in the city; (3 & 4) crime, using the 1915 and 1919 Dauphin County Prison logs; (5) death in the city: a comparative look at 1906 and 1916 using the Harrisburg Death records (which HSDC uniquely offers in searchable, spreadsheet form); and (6), a study of the former home of the Norcross greeting card family at Sterrett's Gap, Perry County.

The HSDC yearbook project continues apace. Thanks to Bishop McDevitt High School and Central Dauphin East High School for their generous donation of some missing volumes of the *Pridwen* and *Oriens*; Harrisburg Academy for the *Spectator*; Milton Hershey School for the *Acropolis*; and Hershey-Derry Township Historical Society for the Hershey High School *Choclatier*. Carol Bretz Bartoski of Camp Hill donated some early Lower Paxton Vocational High School *Torch* and *Ranger* yearbooks. And we're still on the hunt for many more. See our Facebook page for a current complete inventory.

Lastly, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. A. Leeds for their donation of the wonderful birds-eye-view map of Steelton, now gracing our library wall. First published in 1894, it shows the old West Side, sadly now only a memory in the wake of Tropical Storm Agnes.

Ken Frew, Research Librarian

HSDC WISH LIST

- ♦ Books on history, arts, and culture for July 4th Book Sale.
- ♦ Leaf blower.
- ♦ Computer battery backups.
- ♦ Label maker.
- ♦ Money for archival supplies.
- ♦ Copy paper.

To make arrangements for your donation, contact us at 233-3462 or office@dauphincountyhistory.org. All donations are greatly appreciated!

In Memorium

Long-time member of the Historical Society of Dauphin County Dorothy Kenter Anderson passed away in February. Ms. Anderson was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of the arts community of Central Pennsylvania. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family and friends.

The tavern keeper's wife, portrayed by Audrey Biser, makes the guests feel welcome at the recent *An Evening with John Harris, Jr.* at the Mount Hill Tavern.



Save the Dates!

Sunday, October 11—Second Annual History Fair.

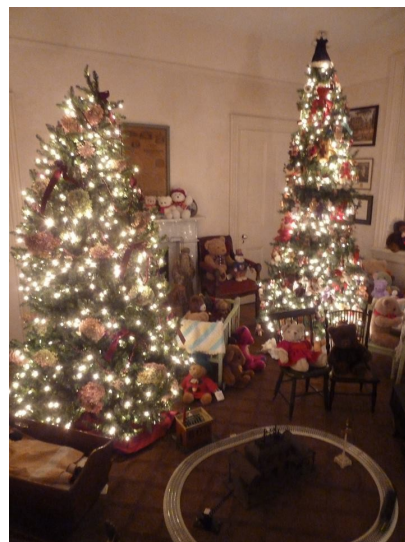
Friday, October 30—Ghost Tours of the Mansion.

Sunday, November 8—Second Sunday Program on Simon Cameron.

Saturday, November 14—Reenactment and Commemoration of the Grand Review of the United States Colored Troops in Harrisburg in 1865.

Sunday, December 13—Christmas at the Mansion and Holiday Market, 12-4 pm.

Tuesday, December 15—Deck the Halls fundraising event, 5:30-7:30 pm.



Holiday magic at the Mansion in December 2014.

Thank You to All Who Donated to HSDC's Year-End Appeal!

These funds helped with the cost of the Mansion's new HVAC system.

Richard & Marilynn Abrams

Bruce & Barbara Bazelon

Jeffrey Blanche

Edward Blandy

William & Lenore Caldwell

Patricia B. Cameron

Carl & Joan Dorko

Ginny Eaton

Charles & Mary Fager

Laura Gifford

Marcia & Goby Gobrecht

Frances Sue Hetrick

Ruthann Hubbert Kemper

Don & Marnie Lapple

Barbara Long

Wendy Matarese

Cynthia McKeever

Nancy Mendes & Louis Gatling

Sandra Novotni

Louise Owen

John Pringle

William Rhoads

John & Susanne Robinson

Elizabeth Shevitz

Alyce & Morton Spector

John & Carol Taylor

Arthur Thomas

Marian Warden

Bill & Ellie Warren

Carl & Barbara Wilson

Charles Yordy

Eileen & Bob Young

Charles Zwally

Spring Membership Drive!

Incorporated in 1869, 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.

The support of our members make it possible to fulfill this mission and preserve the National Historic Landmark Harris-Cameron Mansion for our community. Membership benefits include free admission to the Mansion and research library, as well as discounts on HSDC programs and museum shop purchases.

We hope that you will consider joining us as a member during our Spring Membership Drive!

Join during our Membership Drive by **May 31** and you'll receive:

Two additional guest passes to the mansion (a \$16 value) for family and friends to use.

You will also be **entered to win a free rental** of the mansion for up to 25 people (regularly \$150 an hour) for a private event such as a birthday party or bridal shower.

For more information on rates and benefits and to become a member, please see the Membership Form on the last page of the last page of the newsletter or visit www.dauphincountyhistory.org.

Already a member? - Refer a friend and receive 2 guest passes to the Mansion.

Or consider giving a gift membership during our Spring Membership Drive.

Thank you to our 2014 *Deck the Halls* sponsors!

Susquehanna Sponsors



Harris Sponsors



Cameron Sponsors

Drs. Michael & Jane Barton
Boyer & Ritter, CPAs
David Cordier/Cordier Auctions
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Charles Gerow	Sandy Prah
The Hall Foundation	John and Susanne Robinson
Holiday Tour & Travel	Saul Restoration Artisans
	-Ken Saul, Sr.
	WHTM/abc27

New and Renewed Memberships October 2014 through March 31, 2015

Penn Circle

Carmen & Tonia Finestra
Sedgwick & Barbara Ward

Harris Circle

David W. Volkman

Cameron Circle

Chip & Suzie Merrill
Glen Bergert
Bill & Marion Alexander
Norman & Hanna Kelker
Roy & Mary Zimmerman

Haldeman Circle

David & Kathryn McCorkle
Henry & Charley Rhoads
Lois Lehrman Grass
Harold A. B. McInnes
Christ & Ricky Zervanos
Jerry & Hilary Simpson
Bill Coup
John & Susanne Robinson
Melvin & Janet Brownold
Pat A. Hartranft
Thomas & Marie Boyer

Heritage Circle

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Carl & Joan Dorko
Keith & Nancy Bittinger
Jeffrey Shirk
William J. Murphy
Charles Peguese

Family

G. Gary Phillips
George Enney
Robert Kain
Bill & Sue Rothman
Carl & Barbara Wilson
Glen Dunbar
Cindy & Lisa Fabian
Charles & Mary Fager
William & Linda Parkin
Jed & Carol Zaitz
John & Kathy Beistline
Russell & Andrea Faber
Vincent & Sandra Lamenza

Individual

Martin Healey
Donald Noss
Gerald Smith
Susan E. Hanna
Margaret Shirk Meyers
Bonnie Watkins
Neal Brofee
Patricia L. Deimler
Gina M. Douty
Deborah White Hershey
Jonathan Juffe
Debra E. Benner
Diane C. Beible
Jeanne Domuret
Evelyn L. James
Dana Christensen
Susan Fevola
Cynthia McKeever
Bill Brown
Carol E. Brikghtbill

Karen Diener Best
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Scott M. Steckley
Joseph N. Still
Ms. Joan Wells
Kathleen M. Swaim
Marilyn Logue
Mary E. Sharretts
Diane E. Shoop, PhD
Fred C. Voigt
Jane W. Chapman
Ms. Marie L. Kieffer
Thomas P. Leonard
Charles Yordy
Earl M. Henry
Shane Marino
M. Diane McCormick
Dolores A. Doud
Harvey J. Bomberger
Lois Herr
Leigh Ann Urban
Gary Crowell
Michelle Curry
Wanda Finney
Carolyn S. Shaffer
Christopher McNally
Jeanie Glasser
Anne Bailey Hackney
Glenn A. Martin
Steven M. Grove
College Student
Scott Orris
Scott Moser

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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Your Membership Contribution Benefits: HSDC and Pays You Back

As an HSDC member, you receive:

Unlimited Mansion Tours.
Unlimited Visits to the Alexander Family
Research Library.
Free admission to general programs.
Discounts on purchases and HSDC sponsored
activities and programs.
Free subscription to *The Oracle*.
Advance notice and discounts on special
programs and events.
10% discount in the Museum Shop.
Free tour of Ft. Hunter Mansion with your
membership card.
Discount membership to the Pennsylvania
Heritage Foundation.

Heritage and above membership levels enjoy
additional benefits.

We're always thrilled to add new members to our
rolls. Please help the HSDC grow its member base
by sharing the form on the right with a friend or
neighbor.

We would also like to communicate with our current
members more quickly and easily. Please help us do
so by providing your email address to
office@dauphincountyhistory.org and write "My
Email Address" in the subject line. Thank you.

Membership Form—Please Join Today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

__ Home __ Work

Email: _____

Check Level Desired:

__ Individual \$35 __ Heritage Circle \$55
__ Full-time Student \$10 __ Haldeman Circle \$100
__ Family \$45 __ Cameron Circle \$250

Payment Method:

__ Check Amount: \$ _____
__ American Express
__ VISA
__ MasterCard

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please detach and send with payment to:
HSDC, 219 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104