



Upcoming Events at the HSDC:

- **2nd Sunday Mansion Open Homes: November 16th.** Exhibit of 19th & early 20th century music boxes from the Society's collection.
- **November 17, 2008**
"Musical Entertainment in the 1800's & early 1900's ~ the collections of the HSDC"
Dennis Byrne, Mechanical Musical Instrument Collector.
- **Deck The Halls, Wednesday December 3, 2008:** Annual Holiday Gala, this year honoring Leroy S. Zimmerman, Esq. for his contributions to the area's present & future.
- Mansion is closed to individual tours **on Fridays only** beginning November 1, 2008.
- Mansion is closed to **all** individual tours December 22, 2008 thru March 31, 2009. Mansion will remain open for private events, programs and group tours. The Society Office, Archives and Library will also remain open Monday thru Thursdays during these winter months.
- **January 12, 2009** *"Elizabeth S. Drinker: Mothers, Daughters, and the Horizons of Birth in Colonial Pennsylvania"*
Stephanie P. Gilbert, M.A.
- **February 9, 2009** *"The Families of Midland Cemetery:*
Barbara Barksdale, Local African-American Historian.

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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Fall is always a busy time at the Historical Society of Dauphin County. The articles in this issue of the Oracle reflect that. Our Mondays at the Mansion and Sunday Afternoon Mansion Open Houses begin again. We shift into high gear for planning our annual Deck the Halls and Harris Honoree event, to be held this year on Wednesday, December 3rd and recognize the Honorable LeRoy Zimmerman.

We clean the summer's accumulation of bugs off the windows of the Mansion, make sure the aging furnace still works, complete our fall outdoor projects, wax the floors, touch up the paint and begin to plan our spring exhibits and efforts.

Right after Labor Day, we contact schools about our educational programs and welcome our fall round of students and teachers to the Mansion and Carriage House. This year we will host over 550 young and "older" visitors to the mansion on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from mid-October to mid-December, with a few openings still available.

...And, we manage to find time for all of the HSDC efforts that are "business as usual"...

Included in those "business as usual" efforts is the vital, and often behind the scenes, work of the Historical Society's Librarian Ken Frew, Curator Stephen Bachmann and Archivist Louise Owen. In this issue, you will find a report from each of their "corners" of the Margaretta Cameron Stable, which houses our offices, archives and library.

Ken reports on a meaningful recent accession to the library and archives, one that is dear to his historic preservation heart. Stephen reports on our soon to be implemented artifact cataloging project, the ongoing Allied Pix negative project, and the Penn State Harrisburg – HSDC Rawn Journal effort, transcribing a significant Society manuscript archive consisting of 35 years of records kept between 1831 and 1865 by Harrisburg Attorney Charles Coatesworth Pickney Rawn. Louise treats our readers to an excerpt from one of the letters in the Graydon family manuscript group, a collection that spans the late 1770's to the early 1840's when the Graydon family was a leading presence in Dauphin County, prior to their move to Indiana.

Not only do their articles make great reading, they make a great point about the value of assuring that historic family and business documents and artifacts end up where they are well cared for and available to enrich the lives of future generations.

It isn't easy to spend the working day surrounded by such a rich trove of local history and focus on the challenging task at my hand ... assuring adequate funding to maintain the mansion, provide our programs and care for and share our collections ... especially in these challenging times. However, just because I can't abandon myself in the archives, cruise the Rawn Journal website, snoop in the stacks or wander the mansion doesn't mean you can't. I invite you to spend an afternoon in the library, access our website, visit the mansion, attend a program or event and take every opportunity to enjoy it in my stead.

Kathryn W. McCorkle

P.S. As we go to print, the Board has announced that the 2nd annual Blast from the Past will celebrate the 40th anniversary of that "One small step for (a) man, one large step for mankind" taken on July 20, 1969. Stay tuned for the date and the details.....

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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.

Deck The Halls December 3, 2008 to recognize The Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman

Plan to join the Historical Society of Dauphin County as we celebrate the start of the Holiday season and recognize the Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman, recipient of the Society's 2008 John Harris Award at the annual **Deck the Halls** celebration, to be held in the Harris-Cameron Mansion on Wednesday, December 3rd from 5:30 to 7:30. Invitations will be in your mailbox soon, but please mark your calendar now.

Deck the Halls has been a holiday tradition at the Historical Society since 1996. For the past seven years, the celebration has been the setting for presentation of the John Harris Award to a community leader whose accomplishments: past, present and future, will "go down in Dauphin County history". No-one fits that description better or gives us greater cause to celebrate than our 2008 honoree, the Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman.

We are pleased to announce that The Hershey Trust Company will be Lead Sponsor for the 2008 event. To assure a celebration worthy of our honoree, we have expanded our corporate and individual outreach significantly and have made plans to accommodate a capacity crowd of well over 200 community leaders and friends.

Deck the Halls promises to be a very special evening. We hope you will help us celebrate "The General's" leadership in a manner befitting the breadth and significance of his contributions to our community.

Parlor Ceiling Restored to Cameron Era Grandeur

Each winter we close the Mansion to tours from mid-December through March. During this down time, we try to refurbish a bit of the Mansion so that it doesn't all need to be re-done at one time. Last winter we experienced an exciting bit of history in the Parlor. Albert Michaels Conservation, Inc., had taken paint samples from the crown molding plasterwork on the ceiling of the parlor to determine the original colors. Armed with this information they proceeded to restore the ceiling to Simon Cameron's era. In the process, they peeked behind the pier mirror between the two front windows and discovered remnants of Simon's original wallpaper running in from the windows about a foot from either window. Eureka. We now have swatches of his wallpaper and a new project to contemplate—possible restoration of the entire parlor to his design. The white wainscot on the lower part of the parlor walls, it turns out, is actually canvas glued to the wall with molding strips tacked on top to make the panels, and enameled white, a process that dates to the very early 20th century, during the time that Cameron's daughter Margaretta owned and lived in the home.

Gretchen Giordano paints molding



Kathy McCorkle & Jeff Johnson study Cameron wallpaper samples (see below)



Shawn Vennell paints gold on molding



**We thank the Dauphin County Commissioners and the
PA Historical & Museum Commission for their annual operating support.**

FREDERICK KELKER PORTRAIT BY JACOB EICHHOLTZ HAS BEEN RESTORED

Frederick Kelker, born in 1780, died in Harrisburg in 1857, was a hardware merchant. His father came to America in 1743 at the age of 10 years. His mother was a Moravian. Frederick attended school at The Reformed Church in Lebanon. In 1805 he moved to Harrisburg and established a hardware store which was continued by his sons as Kelker & Brothers. He was a director of the first bank established in Harrisburg, and a director of the first common school in Pennsylvania.

A frame house at 9 S. Front Street in Harrisburg was the Kelker family home for more than 100 years. This house was later occupied by The Historical Society of Dauphin County until it was demolished in 1941 for construction of the Dauphin County Courthouse.

Jacob Eichholtz, 1776-1842, was originally a tinsmith and later became a well known painter of his day. He lived and worked in Lancaster, PA and in 1814 he painted Frederick Kelker. The portrait was a bequest to The Historical Society of Dauphin County by Kelker's grandson, William Anthony Kelker.

Time had not been kind to the portrait and much work was needed to restore the frame, the canvas and the canvas stretcher. The work was recently completed by John David Wissler of Lancaster Galleries.

Katie and Henry Long, both originally from Lancaster and interested in the work of Eichholtz, provided the funding for this project.

Frederick Kelker's portrait is hanging again in the dining room at the mansion.



Grants and Gifts Received

The Society gratefully acknowledges all contributions of \$100 or more received in 2008 and not tied to special events. Special Event gifts are acknowledged in event articles.

Anonymous
Drs. Michael & Jane Barton
Baturin and Baturin
Virginia Eaton
Charles Latham
Henry & Katie Long
Kathryn & David McCorkle
Sandra Prahl
TYCO Matching Gifts Program
for Karen Patterson's gift
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Philip Walsh, Jr.
Floyd A. Whalen Trust of BNY
Mellon

HSDC Receives Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) and Collections Management Grants

On January 12 and 13, 2009, Samuel Harris, Preservation Architect with S. Harris & Co. of Philadelphia, and Brian Ramer, Conservation Consultant with Aiken & Ramer of Baltimore will be on site at the John Harris Mansion to conduct Conservation Assessments of the Mansion and the artifacts in the Society's collection.

CAP is a technical assistance program that brings conservation professionals in to study institutional policies, practices and conditions that affect the care and preservation of historic structures and collections, identify issues or deficiencies, and develop a plan of action to address the issues.

The CAP assessments are step one in an HSDC effort to assure that the artifacts in its possession and stored or exhibited in the Mansion are preserved for the education and benefit of future generations. Step two in the effort is a PHMC grant funded project to inventory the artifacts, update and expand catalog information on the artifacts, enter the information into a permanent database and store the items in an archival appropriate manner. The project is due to begin in early 2009 and will utilize pairs of volunteers working together, room by room or item category by item category. A pilot project was begun in the Spring of 2008 to work the "kinks" out of the systems. If you love history or antiques, find a fellow volunteer and call 233-3462 to participate.

HSDC Comments on Kelker/Eichholtz Restoration

Many thanks to Henry and Katie for their generous "take charge" attitude about this portrait. They noticed its deteriorated condition at the 2007 Deck The Halls event and committed to its restoration. Henry made arrangements with Lancaster Galleries, transported the painting to them, picked it up when finished, returned it to the Society and placed it again in the Dining Room / Gallery of the Mansion. Frederick Kelker's portrait now shines in comparison to the other portraits in our gallery. If you would like to sponsor a portrait restoration, please call Kathryn McCorkle at 233-3462

Library Corner

Through the generosity of the Historical Society of Camp Hill, Barbara McGeary, President, the Historical Society of Dauphin County has received a wonderful collection of architectural drawings from the firm of Lawrie & Green, which designed the Dauphin County Courthouse. Included are renderings and floor plans for the proposed, but never built, legendary circular courthouse, designed in 1938, for a site on Walnut St.

Ultimately, it was decided to build the Courthouse at its current location at Front and Market Streets in 1941-43. Selecting an architectural style, and a final design, was the job of the county commissioners. Lawrie & Green, led by its newly-hired Modernist designer, George Nicholas Pauly, Sr. (1897-1978), developed some 50 picture plans together. Pauly was fresh from New York where he had helped design such famous structures as the original RCA Building and the mall at Rockefeller Center.

The Historical Society is proud to now have about half of these renderings, which vary between the traditional Georgian and Colonial revival and the Modern styles. Also included in the collection are sketches, blueprints, and floor plans for various Lawrie & Green and George N. Pauly projects, still to be inventoried.

City Directories Wanted

The Historical Society's Alexander Family Library is seeking a copy of *Boyd's* Harrisburg city directory for 1897 in good condition. The current copy is in poor condition and cannot be rebound. The Library is also missing Harrisburg directories for 1948 and 1957 and the Library is also looking for the a copy of the "First Annual Directory of Penbrook, PA." published in 1907.



*Ken Frew, Research Librarian
(And Architectural Historian)*

Recent Accessions to the Alexander Library

1. *Great Maps of the Civil War*
-William J. Miller (Donated by Arlene Benson)
2. *Simon Cameron: Lincoln's Secretary of War*
-Erwin Stanley Bradley
3. *Behind the Scenes with a Newspaperman*
-E.J. Stackpole
4. *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia 1800-1819* -Michael H. Tepper, editor
5. *Johannes Buck; Christian & Catherine Buck & Their Descendents* -Edith Buck Fisher
6. *Clarks: From Pennsylvania and Allied Families, Early 1700s to 2008* -Eunice Newbold Clark, compiler
7. *A History of Silver Spring Township* -Bicentennial Committee of Silver Spring Township
8. *Early Architecture in Upper Allen Township*
-Upper Allen Heritage Committee
9. *Lower Allen Township: A History* -Robert Grant Crist
10. *New Cumberland Frontier* -Gilbert Beckley
11. *To a Harmony with Our Souls: A History of Jazz in Central PA* - The Central PA Friends of Jazz, Michael Barton, editor
12. *A Celebration of Millersburg's Bicentennial 1807-2007* - Nancy L. Wert and Edwin D. Schlegel, editors
13. *Images of America - Hershey Park* - Pamela Cassidy Whitenack
14. *Images of America - Hershey* - Mary Houts and Pamela Whitenack
15. *Steelton* - Michael Barton and Simon J. Bronner
16. *Literature in Stone: the Hundred Year History of Pennsylvania's State Capitol* - Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee

D A R makes memorial gift to HSDC Library Shelves

The Harrisburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution suffered a significant loss recently, when long-time member and Past-Regent Peggy Grove died. To commemorate Peggy's years of service to the Chapter and the community at large, members of the Chapter presented several research books to the Alexander Family Library. Historian Joan Romig of the Chapter consulted with Librarian Ken Frew to determine what local history books were needed in the Library, and began to gather together several from his "wish list".

Four books (items 7 through 10 above), were located and formally presented by current Regent Debbie Hershey and Treasurer Joan Douglas.



DAR Harrisburg Chapter Regent Debbie Hershey presents books to HSDC Librarian Ken Frew

Archivist's Corner

I have recently been reading some wonderful family letters from the Alexander Graydon collection. One in particular caught my attention. It was written by Alexander Graydon III to his sister in 1814. He had enlisted in the service during the trouble with the British under Admiral Cockburn (War of 1812). His regiment was stationed at Camp Springfield, near Baltimore. He and a friend traveled to Washington and he describes the scene ...

(Spelling as used in his letter)

"When we got within 6 miles of Washington we were at Bladensburg the place where the battle was fought – between the British & our army – The trees are cut up a good deal and a house near the bridge has several cannon ball shots in it – numbers of the British are buried on each side of the road – I counted 10 or 12 graves each containing 6 or 8 bodies. A little farther up on a hill is the place where Commodore Barney was wounded & his horse killed – the latter is buried in the road. The first sight we had when we got within a few miles was the Capitol or rather the naked walls and Monsieur Gallatin's house, nothing of either standing but the walls..."

He writes, also, in the same letter about a visit to Mount Vernon and describes the gardens...

"We went into the gardens which are very spacious & elegant – the hot houses are very curious – they contain orange & lemon trees loaded with fruit – pine apples growing on a stock very similar to a cabbage stock – Coffee trees loaded with fruit very much like cherries, figs & almonds growing in abundance..."

He adds a very interesting postscript...

"P. S. There is a favorite song greatly [in] vogue here written by a Baltimorean who [was] on board the British fleet during the bombardment of Fort McHenry. It is sung to the [tune] of Anacreon in Heaven. You will find it in some late number of the Fed...Republican & I think it is a very handsome written thing. Eliza informs [me] in her letter that the soldiers returning it has become fashionable in Har'g I am [certain] it cannot be more than it is here as almost every night 2 or 3 messes collect in one tent and sing it over & over again. Although many of them I am certain never stretched their mouths singing before..."

Everyone knows, of course, the name of that song.

Louise Owen, Archivist

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13th Annual HSDC Golf Outing the John Harris Open Dedicated to the Memory of Founder Dick Parsons was a Great Success

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Linda & Dick Lefever
Tim Marsh
Tony Meadows
Dr. George Moffitt
Mike Parsons
Kim & Sue Payne



Dick Parsons, former Board member & Past President of the Board, to whose memory this year's event was dedicated.

HSDC Welcomes New Members

HSDC thanks the following new members for joining in our efforts to preserve our Dauphin County history:

Harris Circle
David W. Look

Cameron Circle
Cari & Craig Longyear
Nettie Parsons

Heritage Circle
Jeb Stuart, III

Family & Individual
Susan Abadie
Glenn H. Cermak
Carl Dickson
Duayne A. Forsberg
Jackie Frediani
Michael Freeland
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Thomas & Leslie Hoffman
Joyce L. Kent
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Robert MacFadyen
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Julie Quigley-Koch
Jeff Rohrer
Cindy St. John
Constance Shover
Daniel & Geraldine Sibbet
Greg Snyder
Mark Snyder
Allison M. Yerges



Last Chance to View the New Deal Exhibit

The 2008 HSDC Exhibit "The New Deal in Dauphin County" will remain open to the public through our November 16th Sunday Open House and Mondays at the Mansion on November 17th.

The photo exhibit, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Petroleum Products and Baturin and Baturin has been the highlight of group and individual tours of the Mansion since it opened in mid-April. If you've not already visited, please stop in to view the photos and revisit Dauphin County in the 1930's.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

HSDC



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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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Share your history with us ...

The Society is always delighted when someone shares a copy of their research on their family lines, or donates items that have come down through their families and are now in search of a new "home". If you have items of historical interest and Dauphin County provenance that you can no longer keep, please call our Curator to see if they are appropriate for our collections.

Share your time with us ...

The Society seeks volunteers for the following efforts:

- ◇ The Artifact cataloging project
- ◇ Transcription of the Allied Pix index
- ◇ Docents and Greeters for Sunday mansion Open Houses
- ◇ Office Support
- ◇ Library Research Assistance