



The Oracle

MARCH 2009

Number 87

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Dauphin County

Upcoming Events at the HSDC:

- **March 16, 7pm; East Meets West ~ The Indian Community in Central Pennsylvania**
A panel discussion on experiences of the local Indian community, led by Dr. Nirmal Joshi.
- **April 13, 7:00 pm: HSDC 140th Anniversary Annual Membership Meeting**, followed immediately by *"History Day Presentations"*
A presentation of history projects prepared by local students for the national History Day Competition.
- **May 7:** Spring bus trip to Maryland's Hampton National Historic Site and Ladew manor and Topiary Gardens.
- **May 13:** Annual HSDC Golf outing at Blue Ridge country Club.
- **May 18, 7:00pm:**
"Philadelphia to Hollidaysburg on the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal and Public Works"
Steve Runkle, Susquehanna River Basin Commission' Public Information and Outreach Program volunteer.
- **July 19; 6:00 to 11:00pm:**
The second Annual HSDC Blast from the Past—A celebration of the 40th anniversary of Woodstock. Find your bell bottoms and await further details.

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From the Director's Desk ...

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

Dear Friends,

This is our first newsletter since the 2008 Deck the Halls and Harris Award celebration, by far the Historical Society's most successful and meaningful ever. Those of you in attendance may have noticed that the program for the evening was to end with my closing remarks. However... our Harris Awardee, the Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman's own remarks provided such a wonderful & natural end to the program, that when he finished, the crowd surged forward, the piano player immediately struck up a tune and continuing was out of the question.

I can't say that I was sad to abandon my time at the podium. Our Honoree is a tough act to follow even in ordinary circumstances. But I did miss the opportunity to make a few important announcements and I learned an important lesson... Always thank those in attendance and those responsible for the success of an event at the beginning of a program, not the end.

We were honored to have with us for the evening the Honorable Marjorie Rendell, Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed, Dauphin County Commissioners Jeff Haste and Nick DiFrancesco, Cumberland County Judge Michael Eakin, Representative Sue Helm, and Retired Dauphin County Judges Warren Morgan and William Lipsitt. We were also honored to have representatives of our many sponsors, including Robert Reese of Hershey Trust Company, John O'Brien of the Milton Hershey School and Robert Hall of the Hall Foundation. A full listing of the DTH sponsors can be found on page 2. Income from Deck the Halls helped the HSDC end 2008 in a sound position and energized us for the beginning of new projects and programs in 2009.

One of those new projects is to inventory, re-catalog and enter vital information on all of the artifacts stored and displayed in the Harris-Cameron Mansion. Begun under the guidance of Curator Steve Bachmann, with the support of key volunteers, the work has picked up speed with the addition of Meta Duevell to the HSDC staff in late January (article, page 6).

Another new project underway is publication, in concert with Historic Harrisburg Association, of the long awaited history of the building and buildings of Harrisburg, by Ken Frew, HSDC librarian and long-time HHA volunteer. The book will be in our hands and yours early in November.

I hope you will find time in the months ahead to attend an event or program, volunteer for a project or effort or just stop in to revisit the mansion, the library or archives. Until then...

Kathryn W. McCorkle

Recent Grants and Gifts Received

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

Artifact Catalog Project:

The Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
The PA Historical & Museum Commission
"Building Harrisburg" book publication:
John Crain Kunkel Foundation
David Hoffman
William Rhoads
AIA of Central Pennsylvania
David Morrison
Michael & Jane Barton
McKissick Associates
Martin & Lucy Miller Murray
Charles Peguese
The McCormick Family Foundation

Library Services:

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities

Mansion Repairs:

PA Dept. of Community & Econ. Development
Hunter Myers Redus Foundation

Archivist Services Grant:

McCormick Family Foundation

Operating Support:

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Undesignated:

LeRoy Zimmerman
Hershey Trust Company
Warden Asphalt Co.

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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 Recognizes the Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman

The highlight of the annual HSDC Holiday Gala is always presentation of the John Harris award to a Dauphin Countian whose accomplishments and contributions have made history. This year, Deck the Halls made a bit of history itself. The Historical Society of Dauphin County – or should we say John Harris, and Simon and Margaretta Cameron – welcomed 300 people to the mansion. The second floor was open to guests for the first time ever and the event raised almost twice as much as in previous years. We appreciate the very generous support of the following sponsors and contributors:

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Special thanks to David A. Smith Printing Inc. for providing the invitations at no cost to the Society.

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

2008 Deck The Halls

2008 John Harris Award Presented to the Honorable LeRoy S. Zimmerman

The John Harris Award is given annually at Deck the Halls to a person whose efforts and contributions will leave a legacy of lasting impact on the history of Dauphin County. No one fits that description better than the 2008 honoree, LeRoy S. Zimmerman. Included among his many associations and accomplishments: Senior Counsel, Chairman, Board of Directors, and Member in Charge, Harrisburg Office, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC; Chair, Board of Managers, Milton Hershey School; Chair, Board of Directors, Hershey Trust Company; Chair, Board of Directors, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company; Member, Board of Directors, The Hershey Company; Member, Board of Managers, The M. S. Hershey Foundation; Member, Board of Counselors, The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University; President of Council, The Pennsylvania Society; Co-chair, Society of Attorneys General Emeriti; Trustee, The Hall Foundation; Member, Alexis de Tocqueville Society of the Capital Region. Former District Attorney of Dauphin County, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Presidential appointee to the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America. Pictured below are a few of the meaningful moments of the evening.



Kim Payne, Frank Pinto, LeRoy Zimmerman, and Jeff Haste



Frank Pinto shows Harris Honorees plaque to Mary & LeRoy Zimmerman



Ray Gover congratulates LeRoy Zimmerman on receiving the Harris Award

Do You Know a Living Legacy?

Speaking of leaving a Legacy... In 2010, Harrisburg will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation as a city. To recognize that milestone a Sesquicentennial Committee has been hard at work planning projects, events and programs. The most significant and meaningful of those efforts is the Living Legacy Project, supported by a grant from Highmark Blue Shield. The Committee is now seeking project participants or "Living Legacies". A Living Legacy can be anyone with a story about Harrisburg to tell. He or she can be someone who made a contribution to the history of Harrisburg, witnessed a particular event, or has knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. A Living Legacy can be associated with, but not limited to, a church or community group or grass roots movement; an organization or association; the political process. He or she can be a neighbor or relative who has general knowledge of a particular era or event such as floods/natural disasters; entertainment (the first time I saw...); or the personal effects of change (segregation, discrimination, immigration, WW II, the 60's, etc.). First person accounts aren't a requirement. Stories that have been handed down over the generations are also important to record as part of the project. If you or someone you know has an interesting story about some aspect of life as it related to Harrisburg, and are willing to be interviewed and/or filmed, the Committee wants to hear from you. **A nominee does not have to live in Harrisburg, and self-nominations are encouraged.** To nominate a Living Legacy, please see the nomination form on the back page of this issue of *The Oracle*, complete it and submit it to the committee.

HSDC Annual Members Meeting and History Day Presentation

Please join us on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion for the Society's Annual Members Meeting. At the meeting, HSDC members will elect officers for the 2009-2010 Board of Trustees. Nominated are: Frank Pinto, President; Tom Gacki, Vice President; Sarah Fisher, Treasurer; and Edith Walsh, Secretary. Retiring board members Jim Close, Kim Payne, Linda Lefever and Harry Marsh will be recognized, and new board members Kathryn Bard, John Enos, Marcia Gobrecht and Calobe Jackson will be introduced.

The April Mondays at the Mansion Program will follow the meeting. The program will feature presentations by local high school students of their annual History Day Competition projects. History Day project presentations are always an annual highlight. It is amazing how much skill, hard work, attention to detail, and knowledge of history the students put into their projects. We hope you will plan to attend.

From the Archives

In the last issue of the "Oracle" I wrote about a letter written by Alexander Graydon during the War of 1812. This time, I want to introduce readers to his father, William Graydon, who served in the militia during the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794.

William Graydon was a son of Alexander Graydon and Rachel Marks Graydon, born in Bucks County in 1759, educated in Philadelphia, and studied law under Edward Biddle. He came to Harrisburg at the time of the organization of the county of Dauphin in 1785 and practiced law after being admitted to the bar in 1786. He was the author of several books on law, was a notary public, member of town council and one of the burgesses. At the time he served in the militia in 1794, he was married to Eleanor Scull and had two children, Alexander and Susan. I give you these personal facts so that you are aware William Graydon was a prominent man of the community in his mid-thirties with a family at the time he marched off to serve his country. The Society has two letters he wrote to his wife which are not dated, but believed to have been written during the fall of 1794.

In the first letter written from Carlisle he writes about their late arrival in the town without any accommodations. Quarters were finally found for their company in houses around the town. He estimated there were about three thousand men gathered in Carlisle. He then describes the scene in the town when the officers and the governors "waited on" the President. "They made a string a mile long – Each one walked in bowed received a shake of the hand (in silence) and walked out again." He writes "His Excellency is in full uniform and looks charmingly."

He writes the second letter from Bedford with the news that he may not be able to write again when they move from that place. Rumors were that they were to move on to Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties. In the meantime, insurgents were brought in daily from a distance of forty and fifty miles. They were committed to jail, but their trials were set at a future day. He states that it appeared to be all that they were to do. On a lighter note, he writes about his problem of finding someone to do his laundry. He was down to his last clean shirt and could not find a soul to wash for him. "So chaste a camp was never seen," he writes with no women and "women are absolutely necessary for the purpose of washing." He also devotes a full page to write his complaints about a servant of his tent-mate who constantly lost their coffee pots, frying pans and other food supplies (it was more likely the servant sold the items). Soldiers of that time period supplied their own food and prepared their own meals so that servants were quite common among the troops. These two somewhat amusing episodes illustrate some of the changes that have taken place in the life of a soldier.

In both letters William Graydon expresses his deep love for his wife and his beloved family and wishes for nothing more than to be home with them. That wish of a soldier serving his country and away from his family has never changed.

Louise Owen, Archivist

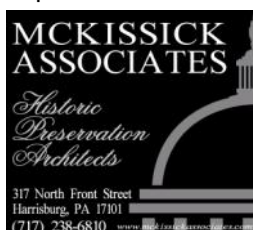
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Susquehanna Journal— coming soon to your mailbox

The next issue of *Susquehanna Heritage: A Journal of the Historical Society of Dauphin County* will be published in April 2009. The Journal is titled "Central Pennsylvania's Personal Civil War" and will be edited by Dr. Michael Barton of Penn State Harrisburg. The issue will feature Dr. Barton's graduate students' research on Civil War soldiers' personal documents. Included will be Robert Hill's editing of Alexander Bergstresser's diary and Raymond Chrobak's editing of Libor Winter's diary, both documents found in the collections of the historical society. The issue will also present Luther First's diary, edited by Jason Jones and held by the U.S. Army's Military History Institute in Carlisle, and the interesting Civil War memoir of Matthew Taylor, located at the Pennsylvania State Archives and edited by Linda Ries, Lou Waddell and student Christine Geiselman.

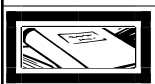


In the Stacks

Mary Bradley, who recently retired from the Patriot-News, has donated the research materials and notes used to craft her former *Cornerstone* articles that ran weekly in the Patriot-News for years. Mary's husband, Jim Bradley, a volunteer with the Society, is organizing the files, removing sticky notes and irrelevant material prior to the files being inventoried and added to the research files in the Library. In conjunction with Mary's gift, The Patriot-News has provided digital copies of all of the columns. All who are familiar with Mary's work know that this is a wonderful addition to our facility, and we are grateful for her generosity.

We also have added a few books to the library—"Passenger Arrivals at the port of New York 1820-1829", also "1830-1832", "Irish Passenger lists, 1803-1806" and "Irish Emigrants 1833-1839". We continue searching for the Harrisburg City Directories that are not in our collection, as well as "Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore..." Should you have any of these in your attic, we would be most grateful for your donation of them to our Library.

Ken Frew, Research Librarian
(And Architectural Historian)



"Building Harrisburg" Subscription Order Form

We are pleased to announce that "*Building Harrisburg*", Ken Frew's history of the architects & architecture of Harrisburg is on its way to publication, and we are ready to take orders for this epic account (450 illustrated pages) of the history of Harrisburg's architects, builders and buildings.

Please join the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Historic Harrisburg Association and the "*Building Harrisburg*" publication committee to celebrate Ken Frew's documentation of the development of the city of Harrisburg, from the days of John Harris to World War II. The book will be available in early November, 2009.

You may pre-order your copy of the book and pick it up either at the author's reception and book signing on Sunday, November 8th, or at our office if the date of the event is not convenient for you. The pre-order price is \$75.00. If you need to have the book shipped to your home address, there will be an additional fee, as yet undetermined, to cover cost of shipping & handling. We are sorry, no member's discount can be offered on this book.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to obtain a copy of what is sure to become a classic volume of Harrisburg history.

Payments should be made to The Historical Society of Dauphin County (HSDC) and mailed to HSDC, 219 S. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104.

I want to order _____ copies of "*Building Harrisburg*" with a pledge of \$_____, payable by October 15, 2009.

Name _____

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I prefer to make my payment now:

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made out to H S D C.

or Please bill my credit card # _____ (VISA, MC, AE)

Exp Date ____/____/____ for \$_____.

Name on card _____

Signature _____

New and Renewed HSDC Members

HSDC thanks the following for joining our efforts in recent months to preserve Dauphin County history:

Penn Circle

PA Automotive Association

Harris Circle

Virginia Eaton

McInroy-Shefer People Trust

Cameron Circle

C21 At the Helm, Hon. Sue Helm

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David Sweet

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Bill & Ellen Warren

Wayne Titus, III

Family

Dan & Chickie Bayer

John & Kathy Beistline

Curator's Corner

Just because the mansion is closed to tours during the winter months does not mean HSDC has not been buzzing with activity. And despite economic conditions, the preservation needs of the mansion and its contents remain a priority. During this season, we can confidently report there has been progress on two sizable collections endeavors.

We're Getting CAPped

In January, a conservator and an architectural assessor spent two days at HSDC to examine our collections and historic structures. This visit was part of a grant-funded Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) evaluation, which HSDC last underwent in the early 1990's. With 15-plus years of staff changes, collections acquisitions, storage re-configurations and the continued wear of time on the Mansion, we decided to take advantage of this program again.



*Catalog Project Coordinator Meta Duevell,
hard at work in our cataloging room*

CAP is intended to help prioritize needs and to give advice on how to best address various collections and architectural issues. To that end, in the coming weeks HSDC will be getting a report from each assessor that will cover everything from archives and artifact storage to housekeeping, environmental control, and structural integrity. This information will not be an end in itself, but rather will provide a foundation for long-term collections planning and more detailed assessments in the future. The reports will also assist us in making storage decisions for a project that is already underway...

Mansion Cataloging Project in Full Swing

Recently HSDC was one of the lucky recipients of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Collections Management grant. Applied

for this past November, the grant was part of a highly competitive museum assistance program that may be eliminated next year to due state budget cuts. While we would prefer this extra dose of motivation to come from elsewhere, we are thankful for this opportunity to improve our collections care and management, and we will be sure to squeeze every last drop of progress out of both grant dollars received and the equal number of dollars HSDC must match.

The scope of this project is considerable. Not only are we in the process of researching and describing the objects in the mansion, but we are also going to be arranging and re-housing (or in some cases housing for the first time) objects in preservation-appropriate storage containers. With many thousands of artifacts needing attention, we have enlisted several volunteers without whom it would be impossible to complete the project within the grant time-table.

In February we also welcomed a new employee to fill the role of project coordinator: Meta Duevell, a Dickinson College graduate who spent a semester in France and worked at several New York art galleries brings with her a wealth of registration and cataloging experience. HSDC is very fortunate to have her on board. Already energizing our collections efforts in a short time, Meta will undoubtedly make our ambitious plans and challenging tasks ahead a success.

In Case You Missed It

Last year the PHMC (and HSDC) commemorated the 75th anniversary of the start of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal." Of course, history repeats itself given the recent economic climate. If you missed HSDC's 2008 exhibit, *Dauphin County in the New Deal Era*, you can now see a selection of the photographs used in the exhibit on our website. Visit www.dauphincountyhistory.org/newdeal.

Stephen Bachman, Curator

New and Renewed HSDC Members (Continued)

Family (Continued)

Carl & Joan Dorko
Charles & Mary Fager
George & Brigid Grode
Mary Johnson & Vicky Weldon
Mark Jordan & Alfreda Potrafke
Don & Michelle Kingsbury
Mr. & Mrs. Calder Kohlhaas, Jr.
Frederick & Nancy Leuschner
Howard & Marcia Parker
Jim & Patty Schmick
J. Thomas & Janet Shelley
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Swartz
Fred Voight

Individual

Walter Baker
Kathryn Bard
Bruce Bazelon
Debra Benner
Arlene Benson
Bonnie Blessing
Earl Blust
Nathan Bolton
Harvey J. Bomberger
Donald Bruaw
Allen County Public Library
Donald Clapper
Doris Coyne
James Dietrich
Jeanne Domuret
Dennis Dreier
Tita Eberly
Robert Ehrhart
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Susan Fevola
Duayne Forsberg
Ken Frew
Murvin Grunden
Richard Hartman
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Alfreda Potrafke
Lee Diane Rhea Kunkle
Charles Laverty
Jean Layne
Marx Leopold
William McCurdy
Mary Lou McDowell
Mary Ellen Martz
J. Franklin Meehan
Helen Metzger
Anna Neely
Christine Newton
Beth O'Brien

14th Annual HSDC Golf Outing the John Harris Open May 13, 2009

The HSDC annual Golf Outing will be held again at the Blue Ridge Country Club, 3940 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg. The schedule will be:

11:30 am — Registration, Putting Contest, Driving Range Practice

Noon — Lunch

1:00 pm — Tee-Off, Shotgun Start

A post-round reception with beer, wine and soda will begin when the first foursome is off the course.

6:00 pm — Prize Announcements

You may call the Society office at 233-3462 to register, or to ask any questions you may have.

Sponsorship and play Opportunities include:

Lunch or Dinner Sponsor . . . \$ 1500

Harris Sponsor \$ 1000

Cameron Sponsor \$ 500

Foursome Entry \$ 500

Hole Sponsor \$ 250

Individual Entry \$ 125

We look forward to seeing you on the course.



New & Renewed HSDC Members (Continued)

Audrey Parman
Bonnie Pepper
Charles Peguese
G. Gary Phillips
Richard Placy
Sandra Prah
Chuck Reed
Stephen Reed
Ron Reynolds
Paul Sanders
Jayne Shipman
Constance Shover
Sandra Snyder
Arthur Thomas
Kathy Buffington Willett
Warren Wirebach
Charles Yordy
Anna Zimmerman

Student

Jeff Rohrer
Carrie Rummel

We thank



Gannett Fleming

again for their Sponsorship in 2008 in honor of Dick Parsons, whose career was with them.



Bus Trip to Maryland's Hampton Estate & Ladew Gardens, May 7, 2009

Please join the Historical Society of Dauphin County on Thursday May 7, 2009 as we visit the Hampton Estate National Historic Site and the National Register Ladew Manor House and Topiary Gardens. The trip will depart from the Harrisburg East Mall parking lot at 7:45am and the Weis Market parking lot at 10th and Lowther Sts. in Lemoyne at 8:00am. We'll travel first to Towson, arriving with time to spare to walk the extensive landscaped grounds of the Hampton Estate. Hampton was acquired by the Ridgely family, beginning in 1745, and once encompassed 25,000 acres. The mansion was built in 1783, and the mansion and outbuildings on the remaining 43 acres have been a National Historic Site since 1948. Hampton has been recently restored and has just reopened to the public. The group will have a guided tour of the mansion and additional time to visit the grounds and gift shop prior to departing for Monkton and the extraordinary Ladew Manor House and Gardens.

The Ladew Café will provide lunch prior to our 1:00 tour of the manor house. Following the house tour, there will be plenty of time for self-guided tours of the Ladew topiary garden. The garden – named the most outstanding topiary garden in America by the Garden Club of America – encompasses 22 acres of flowers, plants and greenery organized around more than 100 larger-than-life topiary forms and scenes. We will leave Ladew at 3:30pm, arriving on the West Shore around 5:00pm and the East shore at 5:15pm.

The cost of the trip, including lunch, is \$75 for members and \$82 for non-members. Non-members may choose to take advantage of a special "tripper" offer of an annual HSDC membership at \$25 – a savings of \$5 over the regular rate, for a combined cost of \$100. HSDC members receive a 10% discount on gift shop purchases and bus trips, as well as a free tour of the John Harris Mansion and a copy of our annual publication, The Susquehanna Journal – a value of at least \$30. To register, call HSDC at 233-3462 to reserve a place. We will send you a registration form; complete it and return it with payment by April 10th to HSDC, 219 S. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17104. We hope you will join us. We look forward to traveling back in history with you. . .

Name: _____ Address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name(s) of those attending with you: 1. _____ 2. _____

HSDC Member: \$75 / person x _____ (# attending) = \$ _____

Non HSDC Member: \$82 / person x _____ (# attending) = \$ _____

Membership payment enclosed: ☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$40 Family **Total Check/Credit Card Amount: \$ _____**

Credit Card Number: _____ Circle one: VISA / MC / AMEX

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Signature: _____



219 SOUTH FRONT STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17104
P: (717) 233-3462
F: (717) 233-6059
www.dauphincountyhistory.org
office@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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Do You Know a Living Legacy?

Living Legacy Nomination Form: Nominations received before June 1, 2009 will be given preference.
(See page _ for details)

CATEGORIES:

- ☐ 1. Arts and Culture
- ☐ 2. Business/Commerce
- ☐ 3. Education/Schools
- ☐ 4. Entertainment
- ☐ 5. Law/Politics/Government
- ☐ 6. Immigrants/Refugee Experiences
- ☐ 7. Media
- ☐ 8. Medical/Science
- ☐ 9. Military/Wars
- ☐ 10. Natural Disasters
- ☐ 11. Neighborhoods
- ☐ 12. Newcomers
- ☐ 13. Religion
- ☐ 14. Social (Race, Class, Gender, etc.)
- ☐ 15. Sports
- ☐ 16. The Susquehanna River
- ☐ 17. Urban/Suburban

Mail Nomination form to:
Living Legacy
P.O. Box 150
Harrisburg, PA 17108
Or submit online at:
www.harrisburg150.com

Please remember it is important to be as specific as possible in the comment section below.

I am nominating: *(nominee information)*

Name

Address, City, State, Zip.....

Phone Best time to call

E-mail

Comments (why is this person being nominated?).....

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My Contact information *(Person making the nomination)*

Name

Address, City, State, Zip.....

Phone Best time to call

E-mail

Relationship to Nominee.....

Can we use your name when contacting the nominee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you talked to this person about being interviewed and filmed? ☐ Yes ☐ No