



Coming up at HSDC:

- **Saturday, August 14** — Research Library and Mansion open 1-4
- **Saturday, Sept. 13** — Research Library and Mansion open 1-4
- **Monday, Sept. 15** — Presentation & Book Signing 7:00 pm by Dr. Simon Bronner at the Mansion
- **Tuesday, Sept. 21** — Third Tuesday, *Central Pennsylvania's Personal Civil War*
- **Thursday, October 7** — Bus Trip to Baltimore Museum of Art & Homewood
- **Saturday, October 9** — Research Library and Mansion open 1-4
- **Tuesday, October 19** — Third Tuesday, *The US Colored Troops Who Called Dauphin County Home*
- **Friday, October 15** — Pre-USCT Exhibit Opening Reception & Members Night at the 2010 History Center

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From the Director's Desk ...

Dear Friends,

It has been a very busy first six months of 2010. We apologize for keeping you up to date via the web site, facebook, email and mailings rather than newsletters. Now that we've had time to catch our breath, and now that Howard Parker, 2010 History Center Coordinator, has taken on the task of writing the newsletter, we'll do better.

In this issue of the Oracle, you'll find a report on past and current efforts, as well as programs and events to come. Two of those activities, the 2010 History Center (article, page 3) and our collections project (article page 4) are major efforts we can point to with great pride.

The 2010 History Center will remain open through December 18th, with two more special exhibits to come. We remain grateful to M&T Bank for embracing our vision of a local history museum in the landmark ca 1839 Dauphin Deposit Bank building. Putting a museum together in a matter of months and rotating exhibits every eight weeks has been a challenge, but a rewarding one none-the-less. We have had a wonderful time celebrating what the HSDC and its third History Center Partner, *Harrisburg150*, call "Ourstory."

Our most recent members' night at the museum was on Thursday, August 5th. Dr. Simon Bronner, author of the soon-to-be-released history, *Greater Harrisburg's Jewish Community*, joined us that evening to sign copies of his book. Dr. Bronner and we are grateful to the Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania for their support of this project.

The HSDC collections continue to benefit from improved inventory and storage practices, as well as steps toward better climate control and accessibility both in-house and online. As a result, we are seeing a significant increase in donations to the Society's collections from both individuals and businesses.

Recent accessions include wonderful Haldeman family letters, portraits and artifacts, donated by James Armstrong of Kalispell Montana and his sister, Mary Lou Langdell of Shelburne Vermont. Jim and Mary Lou are direct descendants of John Haldeman, who was born in Haldemanstown, now New Cumberland, in 1821, and who died in 1865, in Denver Colorado, during a pre-railroad trip through the west with his good friend, Henry McCormick. The HSDC also recently took on the storage and preservation of the negatives of all of the photos taken by Patriot-News staff from 1994, when Allied Pix ceased to provide photography services, until early in the 2000's when the paper switched to digital photography.

Although storage space is at a premium, we are thrilled to be recognized as an appropriate recipient and conservator of local history and we will move mountains, if not shelving units and furniture, to accommodate the record of our past.

Kathryn W. McCorkle

Jean Pugh Leaves Generous Bequest To HSDC

Jean Pugh was a long-time dedicated HSDC volunteer, whose particular forte was making and presiding over the refreshments served at the Society's meetings and functions. Miss Pugh passed away in October 2009 at the age of 97 and, in her will, left a generous bequest to HSDC. In her honor, the dining room in the Harris-Cameron mansion will be rededicated to Ms. Pugh at the *Third Tuesday* program on September 21, 2010. The Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion will serve refreshments based on Ms. Pugh's recipes and the Victorian family tea set that Miss Pugh left to the Historical Society will be on display.

Historical Society of Dauphin County

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And a dedicated and growing group of Volunteers

All staff are part-time. Hours are arranged so that someone will answer the phone Monday thru Friday, 10 am—4 pm. If the person you need to speak with is not on duty, he or she will return your call at the first opportunity.

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.

2010 "Blast from the Past" Celebrates the Early 1960's



"Thank you! Thank you very much!"

Elvis was in the building as over 120 attendees had a "Blast from the Past" at the former Brenner Cadillac dealership on Paxton Street. The annual fundraising event was held on April 23rd and featured an early 1960's theme. Guests enjoyed an amazing buffet of "drive-in" food prepared by HSDC Board Member Cathy Lotwick, bid on items at a silent auction and channeled their favorite characters from "Mad Men". The attendees danced to recordings of the era and the vocal stylings of Charles Lee. Vintage automobiles were on display throughout the grounds and showrooms. The event raised over \$5,000 to benefit the programs and mission of the Historical Society of Dauphin County. Thanks to all who contributed to the evening's success and a special tip of the felt fedora to Mike Brenner.



LEFT—What says the early 1960's better than the proverbial pink Cadillac?

RIGHT—HSDC President Frank Pinto and wife Barbara allow their inner children of the Sixties to come out and play.



Harrisburg Giants Honored at Vintage Baseball Exhibition

The Harrisburg Giants, a Negro League baseball team which played in Harrisburg, were honored after the Harrisburg Senators game on Sunday, June 6th. Former members of the Giants were introduced prior to the game and the Senators wore vintage uniforms to honor the occasion. After the game, two teams from the Mid-Atlantic Vintage Baseball Association took to the field for a three inning exhibition game using 1860's rules and period uniforms. The Historical Society of Dauphin County was announced as the host of the vintage baseball game, and Board members Calobe Jackson, Jr. and Phil Walsh staffed an information table promoting the historical society.



Historical marker commemorating the Harrisburg Giants. The marker is located outside Metro Bank Park on City Island.

EVENTS PLANNED TO HONOR UNITED STATES COLLORED TROOPS

In addition to an exhibit at the 2010 History Center, numerous events are planned to celebrate the valor of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War, including a reenactment of the Grand Review that was held for the United States Colored Troops in Harrisburg in 1865. The events will run from November 4th through November 7th, and will include the annual Pennsylvania colloquium of the Underground Railroad Society on Thursday, November 4th and an HSDC and PinnacleHealth sponsored USCT symposium at the Brady Hall Auditorium on Friday, November 5th. A white carnation dinner honoring descendants of USCT soldiers and featuring nationally known USCT speakers will be held at the Hilton on Friday Evening following the symposium. The Grand Review Procession will take place on Saturday morning November 6th followed by a Chautauqua family fair in the atrium of the Keystone Building and a special reception in the 2010 History Center. The weekend will conclude with a women's luncheon at the Hilton on Sunday November 7th honoring the contributions of African American women to the cause of freedom. There will also be presentations and conservation projects at the graves of USCT soldiers in the five county region. The conservation efforts will be undertaken as a part of the United Way Day of Caring activities. Efforts are now underway to locate and invite descendants of the men who served in the USCT.

BECOME A FAN OF HSDC ON FACEBOOK!

Joining the Dauphin County Historical Society's many Facebook fans is a great way to keep up to date on programs, events, and all things Dauphin County history. Our page can be reached at <http://www.facebook.com/>

2010 HISTORY CENTER TELLS "OURSTORY"

The **2010 History Center**, located in the old Dauphin Deposit building at 213 Market Street in Harrisburg, opened on April 17th. The center, a joint venture of the Dauphin County Historical Society and *Harrisburg150*, is part of the City of Harrisburg's *SusqueCentennial* celebration. M&T Bank has generously provided the building to house the center. History Center Curator Nancy Mendes has designed permanent exhibits featuring the history of Harrisburg with historic objects, including many that are not normally accessible to the general public, on display. Panels trace Harrisburg's history in pictures and rotating exhibits highlighting various facets of "Ourstory." The center opened with an exhibit on Harrisburg from native American habitation through 1860, followed by an exhibit spotlighting Harrisburg's "Living Legacies." Opening July 31st is "Harrisburg Comes of Age" featuring slices of life and major events in the city from the 1860s to the present day. The final rotating exhibit will honor the bravery of the United States Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War. Admission is free. Donations are gratefully accepted.



2010 HISTORY CENTER



2010 HISTORY CENTER CURATOR
NANCY MENDES

HIGHMARK BLUE SHIELD "LIVING LEGACIES" HONORED AT 2010 HISTORY CENTER

The lives and recollections of the Harrisburg area's "Living Legacies" were recently showcased at the 2010 History Center. The exhibit featured short biographies of the 150 men and women nominated by area residents and selected by a citizen's advisory board. The digital video library (DVL) interviews of the honorees were available to be accessed and viewed on a large flat screen monitor. The "Living Legacies" represent a diverse cross-section of individuals whose stories provide insight into the history of the Harrisburg area in the 20th and 21st centuries. For many, it was a nostalgic journey down memory lane. For those to whom Hurricane Agnes, shopping in downtown Harrisburg, and having a cup of coffee at Davenport's are as remote as the story of John Harris Senior being tied to the mulberry tree, it was a journey of discovery.

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HARRISBURG COMES OF AGE

JULY 31 – OCTOBER 2

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

AND THE HARRISBURG
GRAND REVIEW

OCTOBER 16 - DECEMBER 11

HOURS:

11:00AM—4:00PM: Tues—Sat

FREE ADMISSION



SUSQUEHANNA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH JOHN
HARRIS PORTRAYED BY REV. DAVID BISER

HARRISBURG COMES OF AGE

The 2010 History Center now features the exhibit *Harrisburg Comes of Age*, which opened on Saturday, July 31st. The exhibit traces the history of Harrisburg from the mid 1860s to the present day. Exhibit sponsors are the HARSCO Corporate Fund and The Olewine Family Foundation.

The displays take Harrisburg from 1864, when the Broad Street Market opened, the stop by Lincoln's funeral train and the Grand Review of the United States Colored Troops and continues through the construction of the Walnut Street Bridge and the burning of the old Capitol building. The displays about the 20th century feature the City Beautiful Movement, the dedication of the new Capitol, the Great Depression, the establishment of Harrisburg Area Community College, Three Mile Island, Hurricane Agnes, the rebirth of downtown, and the city watching its sons and daughters march off to World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The exhibits on the 21st century show Harrisburg reacting to September 11, 2001, watching the country going to war again in Iraq and Afghanistan, and making history with the election of the city's first female and African American mayor in 2009.

The exhibit is open through October 2nd and offers a rare and exciting opportunity to watch the evolution of the Harrisburg area as it moved from carriages to hybrid cars, music boxes to iPods, and the Spot and Davenports to "Restaurant Row."

Wiconisco High School and worked in the Enola railroad yards before entering the Army in 1943. Serving in the 26th Infantry of the 1st Division, by the time the war was over he had fought in battles or campaigns in Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland (where he was wounded), the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He received A Purple Heart and a Bronze star among several other medals and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant before being honorably discharged at the end of the war in September, 1945.

Dr. Bronner is a professor of American Studies and Folklore and the founding director of the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies at Penn State Harrisburg.

All programs begin at 7:00 pm in the Harris-Cameron Mansion, 219 S. Front Street, Harrisburg, and are free and open to the public. Parking is available on-site and in the Pinnacle Health physicians' lot off River Street behind the Mansion property.

HSDC thanks the following for supporting our efforts to preserve Dauphin County history at patron levels of membership:

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In the Stacks

Since our last issue of the newsletter, the HSDC Library has had more activity than ever. Volunteers continue to computerize each and every book title for eventual listing on our website. Most of our church, cemetery, and Dauphin County court abstracts, plus many scrapbooks, atlases, and other library materials are now available in-house in an efficient, searchable PDF format. Scores of new names and necrologies have been added to the vertical surname file, which is also being re-catalogued, and for the first time hundreds of family names will be available online as well.

Many thanks to all who kindly responded to our July 2009 call for high school yearbooks from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Since then we've added some early *Rangers* from the long-since vanished Lower Paxton High School (1947-52), as well as the very first years of the Central Dauphin High School *Centralian* (1956-69) to our library. Still need lots more, especially from former Harrisburg Catholic High School and Bishop McDevitt, John Harris, and Central Dauphin East.

New additions to the stacks include *Peaceable Kingdom Lost*, a fine new history of the Paxton Boys by Boston College history professor, Kevin Kenny. And in what is a wonderful donation from the Pinnacle-Health System Library the Society also now boasts two shelves of mostly Dauphin County and Pennsylvania related medical histories, including the original standard reference for nursing, the four-volume *A History of Nursing* co-authored by Harrisburg's Lavinia Lloyd Dock (1858-1956). Lavinia, as you may already know, was a younger sister of famed Harrisburg City Beautiful advocate, Mira Lloyd Dock.

Building researchers will be happy to learn that we have acquired a rare 1905 *Sanborn Map of Harrisburg* to add to the many other atlases in our map collection. The Sanborn Map Company was the major publisher of fire insurance atlases in North America. Their much-sought-after "bibles" documented the plans and construction materials of more than 12,000 cities and towns across the United States. The Historical Society also has a number of other fine atlases for Harrisburg, as well as Steelton, Middletown, Millersburg, and Lykens, which are useful in dating house construction in Dauphin County.

Adopt a Book!

If any members would like to adopt a book, the library has many books that need to be rebound.

Ken Frew, Research Librarian (And Architectural Historian)

From the Archives

A very interesting booklet was recently donated to the manuscript archives. The title is "History and Evidence of the Passage of Abraham Lincoln from Harrisburg, Pa. to Washington, D. C. on the 22d and 23d of February, 1861." It was written in 1868 by Pinkerton's National Detective Agency and several editions were published in the following years. The foreword is a letter to the people of the United States from Allan Pinkerton, founder of the agency, in which he explains why the actions of his agency were revealed. Normally, silence is the rule, but historians were writing about the events of the previous years, and he thought the people should have the correct information.

The Pinkerton Detective Agency was engaged by S. M. Felton, President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, to investigate the activities of the secessionists who might attempt to destroy his railroad. While involved in the investigations relative to the safety of the railroad, it was learned that a plot was in existence for the assassination of Mr. Lincoln on his passage through Baltimore to Washington, to be inaugurated as president.

The information was forwarded to Philadelphia to Hon. Norman B. Judd, a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln who was accompanying the President-elect from Springfield to Washington. Mr. Lincoln was informed, but was not convinced of the plot until the same message was received from Frederick Seward who was sent by his father and General Scott to inform him of the danger of passing through Baltimore. Changes were made immediately to the plan to travel to Harrisburg and then on to Baltimore. The President-elect's associates wanted him to leave Philadelphia that same night for Washington, but Lincoln insisted upon traveling to Harrisburg. He did so, but returned to Philadelphia and then to Washington. Telegraph lines were cut so that news of Mr. Lincoln could not be sent from Harrisburg, and the plan was carried out successfully.

Mr. Pinkerton presents evidence of the involvement of his agency with a statement from Mr. Lincoln, and letters from all those concerned including a letter from Andrew Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania, describing Mr. Lincoln's visit to Harrisburg. Of special interest, also, is a letter from Andrew Wynne, the lineman from the American Telegraph Company, describing how he cut the wires to prevent all communication from passing over them.

The donor's father worked for Pinkerton's Detective Agency about 1947-1949 in the Buffalo office while living in Lockport, New York. Copies of the booklet were likely distributed to all Pinkerton offices. We appreciate his generosity in sending it to us.

Louise Owen, Archivist

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Calobe Jackson, Jr. to Receive 2010 John Harris Award



CALOBÉ JACKSON, JR.
AS T. MORRIS CHESTER

The HSDC Board of Directors recently announced that the recipient of the 2010 John Harris Award will be Calobe Jackson, Jr. He will be presented with the award at the annual "Deck the Halls" event at the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion on December 8, 2010. Mr. Jackson is an author, re-enactor, and lecturer on both African-American history and the Negro League Baseball. He is a trusted and valued resource and mentor to budding historians, young and old alike. Calobe is a member of the Historical Society of Dauphin County and the Society of American Baseball Researchers, and currently serves on the HSDC Board of Directors. He was one of the area residents chosen as a "Living Legacy" as a part of the Harrisburg 150 Celebration and will serve as Honorary Chair of the USCT Grand Review weekend. A veteran of the Korean War, he worked for the United States Postal Service for 35 years. He was elected to the Harrisburg School Board three times and served as chair of the Harrisburg School District Board of Control.

Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion Host Mothers Day Tea

The Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion hosted a Victorian Mother's Day Tea on Sunday, May 9th. The guests sampled various teas and enjoyed finger sandwiches and sweet treats in the Victorian splendor of the mansion. In addition to hosting the tea, The Friends are coordinating the hospitality at the mansion lecture series and serving as docents for mansion tours. In the planning stages are a Halloween event in October and photos with Victorian St. Nicholas tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. The next meeting of the Friends will be on Monday, August 23rd at 1:00 PM at the HSDC office. The Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion are always looking for new members and new ideas. The only dues are your time and your enthusiasm for the mansion and its history. For more information on how you can be a Friends of the Harris-Cameron Mansion, contact Howard Parker at hjparker406@comcast.net.

October 7 Bus trip to Baltimore Museum of Art and Homewood Museum

On Thursday, October 7, the HSDC Bus Trip will take participants to the Baltimore Museum of Art for a docent led tour and Historic Homewood on the campus of Johns Hopkins University. The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Lunch will be at Gertrude's in the museum. Then, it will be on to the Historic Homewood Museum. Homewood Museum offers visitors the chance to explore diverse interests in tremendous depth and provides an intimate look at life in early-19th-century Baltimore. The museum's collections consist of fine and decorative arts objects representative of the furnishings during the Carroll family's occupancy (1775–1825). Some works have direct affiliation with the Carroll family. The majority of the collection is American, with a strong concentration in high-quality Baltimore furniture of the period. English ceramics, silver, and furniture, as well as items of Chinese and French manufacture, are reflective of the imports available in early-19th century Baltimore. Participants will also enjoy a Madeira wine and cheese tasting while at Homewood.

This is one tour that has it all; history, art, architecture and gardens. It may be a sellout, so please register your intent early. For more information or to register, go to our website, www.dauphincountyhistory.org or call the Society office at 233-3462. The cost for members is \$108.00; for non-members \$120.00. As always, lunch is included in the cost of HSDC bus trips.

The bus will depart at 8:00AM and return between 5:30PM and 6:00PM.

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We also thank our many Family and Individual Members whose generous support makes HSDC's many programs and activities possible.

The Historical Society of Dauphin County thanks the Dauphin County Commissioners and the PA Historical & Museum Commission for their annual operating support.

Stephen R. Reed Honored at 2009 “Deck the Halls” Celebration

Mayor Stephen R. Reed received the 2009 John Harris Award at the annual “Deck the Halls” event on December 2, 2009 in the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion. Over 260 attendees joined in honoring the mayor for his life-long avid interest in the history of Harrisburg and his tireless efforts to promote and preserve the heritage of Pennsylvania’s capital city. The guests sampled a wide variety of culinary creations from the area’s finest chefs and enjoyed the mansion decked out in Victorian holiday splendor. The event raised over \$36,000 for the HSDC.



2009 honoree Mayor Stephen R. Reed and “John Harris”, portrayed by Rev. David Biser

Deck The Halls 2009 Contributors

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**We also thank the Dauphin
 County Commissioners for their
 annual support of *Deck the Halls*.**



Deck the Halls 2009 Sponsors

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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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YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. . .

- Program and book signing, *Greater Harrisburg's Jewish Community* on Tuesday, September 15th, 7 pm.
- Third Tuesday, September 21st at the Harris~Cameron Mansion to learn about "*Central Pennsylvania's Personal Civil War*", 7:00—8:30 pm. Dessert served at 6:30 pm.
- Members Night at the 2010 History Center introducing the fourth exhibit, "*The United States Colored Troops*" Friday, October 15th, 5:30 to 7 pm.
- Third Tuesday, October 19th at the Harris~Cameron Mansion to learn of "*The US Colored Troops Who Called Dauphin County Home*," 7 to 8:30 pm. Dessert served at 6:30 pm.

AND SAVE THIS DATE:

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 ~ for our annual DECK THE HALLS GALA