



The Oracle

FALL 2010

Number 90

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Dauphin County

Coming up at HSDC:

- **Saturday, December 4—**
“*Building Harrisburg*” book signing by author Ken Frew at the BookWorm, West Shore Farmer’s Market, 2nd flr, Lemoyne, 10:30 AM -1:00 PM
- **Wednesday, December 8 —**
Deck the Halls Gala, 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- **Sunday, December 12 —**
Mansion open, 1:00-6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, January 18 —**
Third Tuesday, *Family Research & Historic Building Research & Preservation*, 7:00–8:30 PM
- **Tuesday, February 15 —**
Third Tuesday, *History of Markey Square Church* with Reverend James D. Brown, 7:00–8:30 PM
- **Sat -Tues, February 19-22 —**
Civil War 150 Commemoration Weekend featuring free admission to the Civil War Museum and the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion, a re-enactment in Market Square, and lunch at the Harris Mansion-Cameron House

2010 *Deck the Halls* to Honor Calobe Jackson, Jr.



Calobe Jackson, Jr.

Please join the Historical Society of Dauphin County as we celebrate the start of the holiday season and present the **2010 John Harris Award** for contributions to the community to **Calobe Jackson Jr.**, Harrisburg native, former Harrisburg School Board and Board of Control Member, HSDC and *Harrisburg150* Board Member, Highmark BlueShield “Living Legacy” honoree, author and pre-eminent local historian of national reputation.

The 16th annual **Deck the Halls** celebration and Harris Award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 8th 2010, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion. Valerie Pritchett will be the Emcee for the evening. The Mansion will be resplendent with holiday decorations and some of the areas finest purveyors of food and treats will be on hand to please the palate.

Deck the Halls Sponsors and Patrons to Date (as of November 23, 2010)

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Inside This Issue:

Dr. Simon Bronner	2
Blue Orchard	2
Candlelight Tour	2
Chef Joe Randall	2
Douglass Exhibit	3
Mission Statement	2
Third Tuesdays	2
USCT Event Highlights	3
USCT Grand Review	3
USCT Symposium	3

Deck the Halls Reservation Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone, Day (____) _____ Evening (____) _____

Please reserve _____ at \$75.00 (\$50.00 tax deductible)

_____ Patron at \$100.00 (\$75.00 tax deductible)

Includes recognition at the event and one ticket

_____ Sponsor at \$250.00 (\$200.00 tax deductible)

Includes recognition at the event and two tickets

Please make your check payable to

The Historical Society of Dauphin County

Visa, MasterCard and American Express are also accepted

Card # _____

Exp Date _____ Signature _____

The Proceeds from this event will be used
In support of the Society's Mission.

Deck the Halls HOST COMMITTEE

William & Marion C. Alexander
David & Ellen Brown
Carmine & Tonia Finestra
Homer Floyd
Les Ford & Sheila Dow Ford
Nathaniel & Patricia Gadsden
Herbert C. “Corky” Goldstein
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Historical Society of Dauphin County

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Office Manager ~ Evelyn James

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History Center Coordinator

~ Howard Parker

**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.

The Blue Orchard & the Burg November 11 at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore

On Thursday, November 11th Jackson Taylor, author of the incredibly popular Harrisburg based novel *The Blue Orchard*, was joined by Chef Joe Randall, Harrisburg native and the son of Dr. Joseph Randall, and Calobe Jackson, Jr., Harrisburg native and community historian, in a conversation about the people, places and politics of the city of Harrisburg during the years before World War II through the postwar era.

The program, sponsored by HSDC and the Dauphin County Medical Society, was held at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore. Prior to the program, Jackson Taylor mingled with 120 guests who attended a reception in the second floor gallery of the bookstore. An additional 120 plus people joined us later for the program. Everyone thought the evening was a resounding success and a great first collaborative event with the Midtown Scholar.

A Taste of Heritage Chef Joe Randall and the HSDC Stir up the Past at The Kitchen School at Channels

Chef Joe Randall, nationally-known director of Chef Joe Randall's Cooking School in Savannah, Georgia, and author of "A Taste of Heritage: The New African-American Cuisine," presented a cooking demonstration and food tasting of Southern cuisine for the HSDC at the Kitchen School of Channels on Friday, November 12th.

The event, sponsored by the Historical Society of Dauphin County and Channels, with corporate contributions from Giant Foods and the JDK Group, was attended by 36 guests who enjoyed a fabulous meal of dishes typical of Southern cuisine traditionally associated with the South Carolina Lowcountry and Georgia coast. The evening was so much fun that Chef Joe had to command attention from the participants each time he began a new demonstration.

Chef Joe was born in McKeesport, Pa., and raised in Harrisburg, attending William Penn High School. His father, Dr. Joseph Randall, was a prominent African-American physician in the city. Chef Joe was inspired by his uncle, Pittsburgh restaurateur and caterer Richard L. Ross, from whom he developed his interest in cooking. Later, he completed apprenticeships under legendary Hotel Harrisburger Chef Robert W. Lee and Frank E. Castelli at the Penn-Harris Hotel.

Chef Joe has received many awards and commendations for his contributions to the preservation and advancement of Southern cooking and has appeared in many national cooking shows, including several on The Food Channel and HGTV. Copies of his publication can be purchased on Randall's website at www.chefjoerandall.com.

Greater Harrisburg's Jewish Community

Featured on "Out and About"

Following the successful release of his book *Greater Harrisburg's Jewish Community*, Dr. Simon Bronner appeared on abc27's feature "Out and About with Chuck Rhodes" in early November to talk about the book and the many contributions by members of the local Jewish community. Inspired by the collection of photographs by Arnold Zuckerman in the HSDC photo archives, the book provides a photographic history of a vibrant community that has played a vital role in our community since 1825. The segment was filmed in the HSDC's 2010 History Center.

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.

HSDC Third Tuesday Programs for the Winter Months

The January 18th program will feature Ken Wolensky of the PHMC who will speak on how to conduct family research and historic structure research and preservation. Hands-on follow-up sessions will be held from 1:00 – 4:00 pm in HSDC's library on the two Saturdays following the program.

On February 15th, Reverend James D. Brown will speak about the history of the Market Square Presbyterian Church in celebration of the church's 150th year on the square.

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. Light refreshments provided by the Friends of the Harris Cameron Mansion are served at 6:30 pm prior to the programs in the Jean E. Pugh Dining Room.

In case of inclement weather, call 233-3462 for cancellation information. Please note that, due to the holidays, there will be no December program.

"A Journey in Memories" & A Stop at the Mansion

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 12, 2010 for Historic Harrisburg Association's 37th annual Candlelight House Tour. Enjoy a visit to eleven beautiful homes in the Midtown area, and the after party at the Harrisburg Civic Club. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 the day of the tour. Visit www.historicharrisburg.com for event details and to order tickets.

On the day of the Candlelight House Tour, the Harris-Cameron Mansion in all of its Victorian holiday splendor will be open for tours from 1:00PM to 6:00PM. There will be a discounted rate for tours of the Mansion: \$5 for adults and \$4 for ages 5-18. Children under 5 years of age are free.

A Celebration of Valor— USCT Grand Review Weekend

After the guns fell silent and America's bloody Civil War had finally ended, the nation's capital hosted a grand review of the victorious Grand Army of the Republic. More than 200,000 Union troops paraded through the city past the cheering crowds. The roster of troops participating in the parade had a glaring and egregious omission. The African American soldiers who had fought bravely in the Union cause had seen their units suffer grievously high casualty rates, and had faced the prospect of a return to enslavement if captured, but were not invited to participate in the celebration. A group of citizens in Harrisburg decided to right this injustice. In November of 1865, a grand review for the United States Colored Troops was held in Harrisburg with T. Morris Chester serving as Grand Marshal and Simon Cameron reviewing the troops from the porch of the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

In early November, Harrisburg was the scene of another United States Colored Troops Grand Review Weekend, which included a host of events commemorating this proud chapter in Harrisburg's history. The events began on Friday, November 5th with a day-long symposium, *Rather Die Freeman than Live as Slaves*, sponsored by HSDC, The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and PinnacleHealth System and a White Carnation League Dinner that evening at the Hilton Harrisburg. On Saturday, November 6th, following the Grand Review Reenactment, a Chautauqua and Heritage Fair took place in the Commonwealth Keystone Building with two free showings at 1 pm and 4 pm. Descendants of the soldiers of the United States Colored Troops were honored guests at the reenactment. The Grand Review Weekend culminated with a Legacy Women's Awards Reception and Luncheon on Sunday November 7th, also at the Hilton Harrisburg. Throughout the weekend, the 2010 History Center featured an exhibit on the USCT. This exhibit, which is currently on view until December 11th, features displays of the USCT muster rolls on loan from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, panels showing the history of the USCT, and memorabilia provided by descendants and two local collectors.

The Historical Society of Dauphin County was proud to be a Host Committee Member, Treasurer, and Fiscal Agent for this historic series of reenactment events.

Highlights from the USCT Grand Review Weekend

October 15-December 11
United States Colored Troops
& The Harrisburg Grand Review Exhibit
2010 History Center
213 Market Street
11 am—4 pm (Tues—Sat)
Closed Thanksgiving Day

November 5
"Rather Die Freeman than Live as Slaves"
Symposium at HSDC and
PinnacleHealth System's Brady Hall

Battle Flags of the Civil War Exhibit
Capitol Preservation Committee Annex,
Market at Tenth Street

White Carnation League Dinner
Hilton Harrisburg, One N. 2nd Street

November 6
Grand Review Blessing and Dedication
Forum Building, 607 South Drive

Grand Review Parade
Downtown Harrisburg to the
Harris-Cameron Mansion and Capitol steps

Chautauqua & Heritage Fair
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street

November 7
Legacy Women's Awards Reception & Luncheon
Hilton Harrisburg, One N. 2nd Street



Frederick Douglass Traveling Exhibit Comes to Harrisburg

The Historical Society of Dauphin County has brought the national touring exhibition, *Frederick Douglass—from Slavery to Freedom: the Journey to New York City*, to the 2010 History Center for the month of November, 2010. The exhibit was developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and includes materials drawn in large part from the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The exhibit explores, in his own words, Douglass' early life, his life as a slave, and his escape to freedom. Images, broadsides, and letters are used to examine slavery and abolition through the example of the life of Frederick Douglass, one of the most famous men of nineteenth-century America.

Born a slave in Maryland, Douglass made a daring escape to New York City in 1838. Once free, he fought to end slavery and championed civil rights for all Americans. Harrisburg was among many cities to which Douglass brought his crusade.

In February, the Historical Society of Dauphin County will bring a second Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History exhibition, *Political Cartoons of Lincoln*, to Harrisburg for the month of February as part of the Dauphin County celebration of Civil War 150. Current plans are for the exhibit to be on display in the Harris-Cameron Mansion and at other Dauphin County locations.

USCT Symposium was held on November 5th

As part of the USCT weekend activities, HSDC hosted a day-long symposium, *Rather Die Freeman than Live as Slaves*, on Friday November 5th. Scheduled presenters included Dr. Leroy Hopkins, Dr. Michael Barton, Calobe Jackson, Joe Becton, Hari Jones of the African American Civil War Museum, Dr. Richard Blackett of Vanderbilt University, William Howard Day biographer Todd Mealy, Linda Ries of the Pennsylvania State Archives, Dr. James M. Paradis and Dr. James Horton.

Sponsored by HSDC and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the symposium events were held at the Harris-Cameron Mansion and PinnacleHealth System's Brady Hall with a special lunch at the Harris-Cameron Mansion for guests to view the Frederick Douglass exhibit and the USCT Muster Roll display.

USCT Grand Review Weekend Sponsors

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PA Tourism Council
Appalachian Regional Commission
United Way of Pennsylvania
Amtrak
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Dauphin County
Jump Street
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American Heritage
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PA Historical & Museum Commission
Sloan and Susan Auchincloss
PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development
Pennsylvania Civil War Trails
HERCO
PinnacleHealth



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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- **Saturday, December 4th, 10:30am to 1pm, author Ken Frew will sell and sign copies of his Book, *Building Harrisburg* at the BookWorm, 2nd floor, West Shore Farmer's Market in Lemoyne**
- **Wednesday, December 8th at the Harris~Cameron Mansion, "*Deck the Halls Gala*," 5:30 am to 7:30 pm. Tickets required, call 233-3462 for information.**
- **Third Tuesday, January 18th at the Harris~Cameron Mansion with Ken Wolensky presenting "*Family Research , Historic Building Research & Preservation*" program 7:00 to 8:30 pm with dessert served at 6:30 pm.**
- **Third Tuesday, February 15th at the Harris~Cameron Mansion with Reverend James Brown on the "*History of the Market Square Presbyterian Church*" program 7:00 to 8:30 pm with dessert served at 6:30 pm.**
- **Saturday through Tuesday, February 19-22nd, *Civil War Celebration Weekend* Stay tuned for more information.**