



The Oracle

FALL 2013

Number 99

Newsletter of the Dauphin County Historical Society

Coming in 2014

- Sunday, Jan. 12—Second Sunday program with Wayne Motts, 2:30pm
- Jan. 27-June 26—Reily Family Portraits Exhibit
- Sunday, Feb. 9—Second Sunday program with Laurene Buckley, Ph.D., 2:30pm
- Sunday, Mar. 9—Second Sunday program with Matthew Pinsker, 2:30pm
- Saturday March 22—Genealogy Workshop
- Sunday Apr. 13—Second Sunday program with David Klinepeter, 2:30pm
- Saturday, May 10—Tea with Maggie Cameron, 2:30pm to 4:30pm.
- Sunday, Jun. 8—History Day presentations by High School Students, 2:30pm
- Wednesday Jun. 25—HSDC Annual Meeting

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

2013 John Harris Award to Honor the Founders of the Harrisburg Young Professionals at *Deck the Halls*

On Wednesday, December 4th, the National Landmark John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion will once again be the setting for the region's premier holiday celebration and recognition event, the Historical Society of Dauphin County's 19th annual Deck the Halls.

This year, the Historical Society will present the 2013 John Harris Award to the founders of the Harrisburg Young Professionals: Eric M. Morrison, J. Alex Hartzler, W. Greg Rothman, John A. Norton, and Dan Schwab, for their commitment to our community that will be part of Harrisburg history for generations to come.

The Harrisburg Young Professionals was organized in the spring of 1998 by five friends who recognized the need for young professional men and women to come together and take action in the city of Harrisburg. The organization has grown rapidly and now has over 1,500 members. The mission of the Harrisburg Young Professionals is to serve as a catalyst in making Harrisburg a better place to live, work, and play, while developing and retaining future leaders.

For ticket information, see the insert in this issue or visit our website.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

December 8, 2013 - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Santa will be coming to the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion on December 8th! The mansion will be open from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Come and see the mansion beautifully decorated for the holidays including a special exhibit of antique toys.

Light refreshments will be served and museum shop items will be available for purchase.

Admission is a \$5 suggested donation for adults and children 12 and under are 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.

Board of Trustees:

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Nicole McMullen

Curator

Stephen Bachmann

Librarian ~ Ken Frew

Office Assistant ~
Barbara Pollihan

Maintenance ~ Bill Snead

Docent ~ Howard Parker

And a dedicated and growing
group of Volunteers

The Oracle is prepared and
edited by Howard Parker



From the Director's Desk ...

Dear Members and Friends,

As we prepare for the busy holiday season, we reflect on the summer and fall happenings at the Historical Society of Dauphin County. We welcomed visitors from near and far, even as far as Australia. We celebrated the Civil War 150th anniversary with an afternoon tea with Clara Barton. Many people visited the mansion in September during our open house for Harrisburg's Gallery Walk and on Smithsonian's Museum Day. We had an excellent series of speakers for our Second Sunday programs, including Andy Linker and Dr. Michael Barton. We even had some spooky fun on our first Ghost Tour of the Mansion in November!

Thanks to generous contributions to our capital campaign from Dauphin County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, many local foundations and individuals, the mansion had a facelift! The construction that began in August is finished. The front porch has been authentically restored through the work of McCoy Bros Inc. of Carlisle and Historic Restorations of Lancaster. The much needed mansion renovations project continues with work on the windows and shutters. You can even follow the progress of the renovations on our Facebook page.

Don't miss our 19th Annual *Deck the Halls* fundraiser, the premier holiday event of the region, on Wednesday December 4th. This year we honor the founders of the Harrisburg Young Professionals with the John Harris Award. Call or visit our website for tickets today! We are also having a holiday event for the whole family, *Christmas at the Mansion*, on December 8th. Santa Claus will even be stopping by!

Thank you all for your support. Please send us your e-mail address for the latest news and events at HSDC. We have lots of exciting things planned for the New Year. We hope to see you soon!

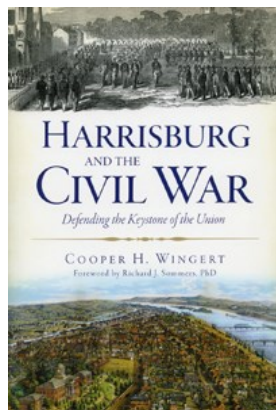
Nicole McMullen



GIVE HISTORY THIS YEAR!



Made your list? Checked it twice? Just found out that your favorite history buff already has the new Doris Kearns Goodwin book? Don't despair! HSDC has one-of-a-kind solutions to your gift-finding quandary!



Our gift shop boasts a wide and eclectic selection of books and publications, photographs, art and imagery and map reproductions. Visit in person during our office hours or on-line any time at our website.

OR

Give the gift that keeps giving throughout the year: a membership in the Historical Society of Dauphin County. Use the form on the last page of *The Oracle* or online at www.dauphincountyhistory.org.



COMING TO THE MANSION

Spring 2nd Sunday Programs

January 12—*Treasures of the National Civil War Museum* presented by Wayne Motts

February 9—*The New Susquehanna Art Museum* presented by Laurene Buckley, Ph.D.

March 9—*Civil War Hallowed Ground Project and Website* presented by Matthew Pinsker, Dickinson College

April 13—*Andrew Curtin, Civil War Governor* portrayed by David Klinepeter

June 8—History Day Presentations by Local High School Students

Admission to all Second Sunday programs is free for members and by donation 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.

Where Do I Park?????

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.

Save the Dates!

Saturday March 22
Genealogy Workshop
By Kathy Hale, Librarian
Pa. State Library

Saturday May 10
Tea with Maggie Cameron,
Daughter of Simon Cameron

Wednesday June 25
HSDC Annual Meeting

Thank you to the following donors for contributions in 2013.

Dauphin County
 Pa. Historical and Museum Commission
 Michael Barton
 Friendship Force of Harrisburg
 Anne M. and Philip H. Glatfelter III
 Family Foundation
 Kelley Kaufman
 Thomas Neale
 Norristown Garden Club

David and Kathryn McCorkle
 McCormick Family Foundation
 George and Ann Moffitt
 Barbara Pollihan
 PNC Foundation
 Hunter Myers Redus Foundation
 Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
 Phillip Walsh Sr.
 Jed Zaitz



Curator's Corner:

So far in the cataloging of artwork in our collections, we have described more than 125 paintings, 75 prints, dozens of drawings, 15 samplers, and seven silhouettes. There are also several more unusual mediums, such as a pair of miniature wax portraits. As we progress with this portion of our cataloging project, we look forward to being able to share more of this artwork with the public.



In addition to a handful of paper items and postcards as well as several yearbooks, we added to our collections an early 19th century silk pocketbook made for Rudolph Kelker by one of his aunt's servants when he was a child. This was donated by Gail and Peter Ochs. Among recent photograph donations is an image of the Dauphin Baseball Club, dated July 4, 1903 courtesy of Jim Wilson.

Accompanied by a photograph of the couple in their wedding day dress, we received from Lois Herr a wedding gown and coat worn by Kathryn Harper Nisley for her marriage to Ira Risser Herr in 1937.

Adding meaning to a tablecloth from the Pickwick Tavern at the Hotel Harrisburger is a color postcard of the main seating area, a red theme noticeable in the chairs, booths, place settings, and, indeed, our tablecloth. These items were donated by Angela Orsini.



From Rev. Rochelle S. Lewis of the Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church, we add to the archives blueprints, specifications, and other architectural information from the church's initial 1927 construction as well as later additions. We also received from Marian Peifer a collection of photographs, letters, and ephemera related to the family of Edwin Johnston.

Fit to join the millions of images in our Allied Pix negative collections are hundreds of prints of sports images from the Patriot-News, courtesy of Paul Vigna. Subjects are mostly players/participants and coaches with connections to Dauphin County and surrounding areas. Many played sports while attending local high schools or colleges and later became well-known athletes.

We acquired an 1849 Harrisburg tax collector's ledger as well as a Dauphin County sheriff's journal from 1805 to 1809. The latter lists criminal cases conducted in Dauphin County with the names of the defendants, victims, witnesses, and other relevant parties as well as, of course, the nature of the crime. These base facts of public record are in overall fine handwriting.

Stephen Bachmann, Curator



In the Stacks:

Check your attic, the basement, the garage. The Alexander Library is looking for the following school yearbooks in order to complete its collection:

Bishop McDevitt High, 1938, 1946, 1954, 1958, 1960-64, 1971-73, 1978-80, 1982-86, 1992-93, 2007-2012.

John Harris High, Feb 1930, Feb 1934, Jun 1935, Jun 1938, Feb 1939, Feb 1940, Jun 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1961-62, 1964-65, 1967, 1969-70.

William Penn High, 1934, 1938, 1946-47, 1949, 1954-55, 1960-61, 1964, 1969, 1971.

If you have a book to donate, or know someone who does call 233-3462. We can even arrange a pick-up if necessary. Thanks.

Ken Frew, Research Librarian



Volunteer Spotlight

Thanks to the volunteers who were docents, worked in the library and archives, and served on committees in 2013.

Myretta Anderson
 Rachael Bell
 John Bottonari
 Carol Buck
 Sharon Edwards
 Michele Grant
 Richard Gribble
 Peggy Grove
 Rick Hartman
 Sue Hillegass
 Velma Jaminet
 Ernie Kepner
 Sandy Prahl
 Don Schwab
 Veronica Smith
 Nancy Spiker
 Fred Voigt
 Morgan Voth

HSDC Needs Volunteers!

You are invited to join the ranks of HSDC volunteers. There are many ways that you can help the Society:

- Give tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion
- Work in the library or archives
- Exercise your green thumb in the gardens
- Perform hosting duties at HSDC functions

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, you will be a valued member of our corps of volunteers.

To become a volunteer or call 233-3462 or contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org.



Welcome New Members of the Historical Society of Dauphin County

Since June 2013



Cameron Circle

Michael Beatty

Haldeman Circle

Barbara Darkes
 Pamela Rogers
 Joseph A. Macri

Heritage Circle

Kelley Kaufman
 Howard Vincent Kurtz

Family

Andrew Linker
 Cindy & Lisa Fabian
 Jerry Feaser

Family

Nelson & Karen Tennis
 Robert Kain
 Suzann Hatch
 John & Barbara Harris

Individual

Angela Orsini
 Anna Elias
 Cathy Gedvilas
 Cynthia McKeever
 Daniel Vasconcellos
 Devin Manzullo-Thomas
 Greg A. Souders
 John Dapp
 Judith Forshee
 Kerch McConlogue

Individual

Lori Seaman
 Laura Barta
 Linda Fox
 Marcia Wilson
 Michelle Curry
 Nancy Lagyak
 Patricia Deimler
 Paulette Murphy
 Pete Tarbutton
 Randall Hoover
 Robert Chapman
 Stephen J. Suknaic
 Susan Hanna

Student

Anna Banks
 Stephanie Foster

Summer Programs at the Mansion



Clara Barton, portrayed by Pat Jordon, with HSDC Board member Barbara Barksdale at *Tea with Clara Barton* on June 29th



State Senator Rob Teplitz and son Ben meet Ben Franklin, portrayed by Richard Fox and John Harris, Jr., portrayed by HSDC Board member Rev. David Biser, at the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4th.

Autumn at the Mansion



Docent Howard Parker shares local spooky lore at the Ghost Tour of the Mansion on November 1st.



Andrew Linker, author of *One Patch of Grass*, talks City Island Baseball at the October 2nd Sunday program.

Mansion Front Porch Restoration



Mansion front while the porch components were at the restoration shop.



Column base while under repair at Historic Restorations of Lancaster.



County Commissioners George Hartwick III and Mike Pries present Dauphin County's contribution to the restoration project on November 20th.



A happy group of HSDC Board members, staff and dignitaries on the newly restored mansion front porch on November 20th

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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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 of special programs and events.

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 of-
fice@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

___ Full-time Student \$10

___ Family \$45

___ Heritage Circle \$55

___ Haldeman Circle \$100

___ 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