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November 2021

“Exploring Union County’s past to inform the present and future.”

Dale-Engle-Walker House News

The Dale-Engle-Walker property welcomed more than 300 visitors for tours during June, July, August, September, and October 2021. Members and friends also participated in the dedication of the c.1789 Kantz Log Cabin, an important addition to this historic site.



Forest School Day Camp, a new outdoor education program for young homeschooled children was offered

on Thursdays in February through April at the Dale-Engle-Walker property. This community outreach program was a collaboration of the Union County Historical Society, Linn Conservancy, Bucknell University’s Education Department, Lewisburg Children’s Museum, and outdoor educator Susan Chlebowski.

Plein Air Painting events,

hosted by the historical society and the Linn Conservancy, were offered on April 25th and (for school students) on October 12th.



A discussion on *The First Reconstruction: Black Politics in America from the*

Revolution to the Civil War, was presented by author Van Gosse, Professor of History and Chair of Africana Studies, Franklin and Marshall College, on October 23.

The Dale-Engle-Walker site will be open for tours and other events of interest in 2022. We look forward to seeing you then.

The Union County Historical Society office is open to fully vaccinated visitors. Masks requested. Please call or email ahead of any visit so we can advise you on the current hours. Research services are provided by our staff for those who can not visit the office. Please email your research questions to our NEW email address research@unioncopahistory.com

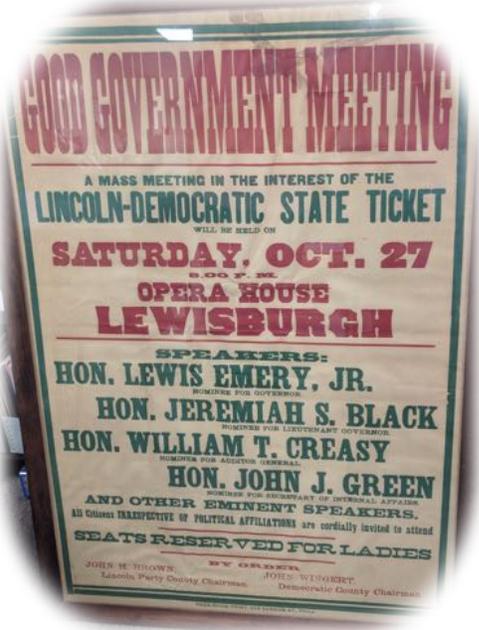
Our NEW website www.unioncopahistory.com offers a changing digital display of old photographs, a “Members Only” section with access to various historical records; a Marketplace to purchase books, maps, etc.; a section on volunteer opportunities; the opportunity to pay for your membership online, and much more. Please send suggestions to our NEW general office email address info@unioncopahistory.com

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COLLECTION NEWS

This wonderful framed 30” x 45” poster was recently donated to the society. Note the spelling of “Lewisburgh,” and the meeting location at the Opera House.





Dear Society Members and Friends,

You discover all kinds of perspectives when you dig through old newspapers.

We're currently combing through every available back issue of local newspapers, beginning in 1847. (Those vintage papers, thankfully, were weekly rather than daily productions!) The tentative name for this project is "Funky History." (That's "funky," as in "strange," "eccentric," or "unconventional.") We aim to gather and post these stories, advertisements, and what-nots on our new website, on the UCHS Facebook page, and/or in future publications.

From the 1840s, we've been reading about the local reaction to the discovery of gold in California. The lure of easy riches even led a group of young men from the Susquehanna Valley to hop on a wagon and head for those "forests of gold." In another issue from that decade, the editor congratulates Lewisburg for finally installing lead pipes to convey drinking water.

Before we allowed anger-fueled algorithms to control political discourse, newspapers served as mouthpieces for the nation's political parties. In one local paper, the editor proclaimed that he'd never acknowledge or mention Rutherford B. Hayes as a former president. That's because the election of 1876, a dozen years earlier, ended with Hayes winning the electoral count despite Samuel Tilden securing the popular vote.

Last year, a reporter asked if we had any information about Union County's V-E and V-J Day celebrations in 1945. The odd thing was that while skimming through the April 1945 newspapers, there were no reports of Franklin Roosevelt's death. In fact, not one issue of that paper from that year mentioned F.D.R. or Harry Truman by name. Any references to actions made in Washington, D.C. merely said "the government."

The best part of this project is in seeing how the passions of the past, while different on the surface, have so much in common with our times. From this sort of experience, you can begin appreciating humanity's timeless folly.

Bruce

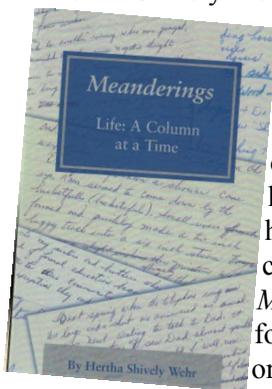


Newspapers provide insight into the past in these new books

Meanderings – Life: A Column at a Time

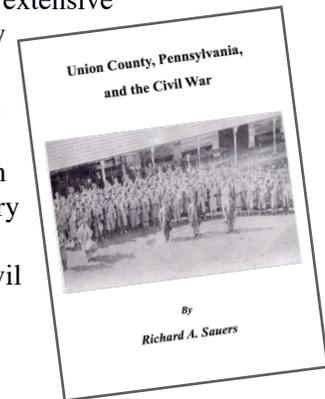
Hertha Shively Wehr's articles for *The Millmont Times* and *The Mifflinburg Telegraph* from the 1940s to the 2010s, are collected in this delightful book about rural life, Hertha's travels, and her observations of the changing world.

Meanderings is available for \$15 at the UCHS office, or by mail (add \$3 s/h).



Union County, Pennsylvania, and the Civil War,

Historian Rick Sauers used his extensive knowledge of Civil War history and his expertise in primary source research to comb Union County newspapers, diaries, letters, and other accounts from the Civil War era to tell the story and provide context for an analysis of Union County's Civil War experience. This new *Heritage* book is free to UCHS members who renew for 2022.



The **2022 Calendar** includes great old photos of the Witmer Covered Bridge, children sledding in Milmont and ice skating in Lewisburg, the Village Hearth Restaurant, Tastee Freez, Devitt Camp, PA House baseball team, Troop M 1st PA Cavalry reunion, Mifflinburg social club, Forest House, and scenes of Central Oak Heights, New Columbia, Dry Valley, and Mifflinburg. On the cover: Helen Huth's Lewisburg residence and Ice Cream Parlor & Candy Store in 1894. Available from the society office and selected local banks. Or order by mail: cost is \$7 plus \$3 s/h.

