



Exploring Union County's history to inform the present and future

Union County Historical Society News

August 2026



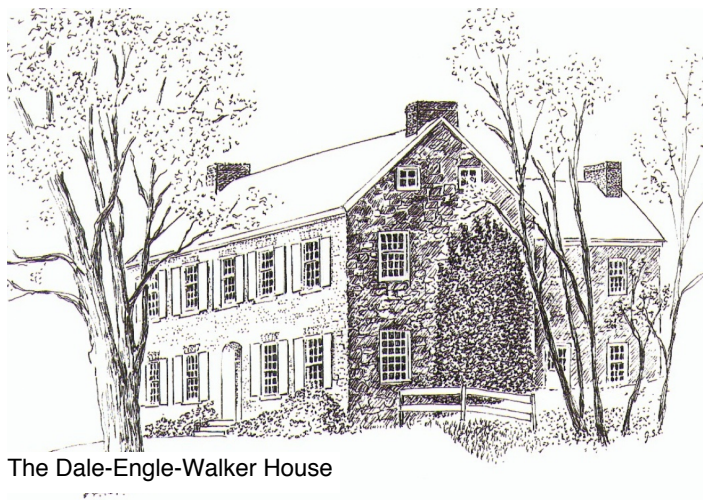
The Museum

Members and Friends,

Whenever this organization makes decisions or establishes priorities, one useful approach to resolving differences is to ask how adopting a proposal helps fulfill our mission. This involves creating a mission statement that succinctly summarizes what we do and why we do it. That's why we place ours – *Exploring Union County's Past to Inform the Present and Future* - at the top, front, and center of our communications.

Successful mission statements act as a guide, enabling us to make sound decisions.

It's crafted to be broad enough, yet specific enough, to acknowledge the significance and relevance of a person, place, or object in or from Union County. In other words, it gives others a reason to care about the past's impact on our lives.



The Dale-Engle-Walker House

Public history uses the mission statement to put a human face on the past by showing how and why people made decisions.

And the most effective way to pull a display, exhibit, or narrative together is to research and convey the background stories surrounding the people and objects of the past.

When stories provide meaning, context, and relevance, they heal communities, create connections, and

breathe life back into everyone and everything that preceded us, for without stories, the past remains dead.

Bruce

Union County Historical Society

Museum and Gallery, Market Street and N. Water Street, Lewisburg
Dale-Engle-Walker House, 1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg
Office and Research Library, 103 S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-524-8666 ~ info@unioncopahistory.com

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Thanks to calendar sponsors

Central Penn Bank
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Welcome new members

Cindy Avery, Lewisburg, PA
Suzanne Crocker, Manchester MA
Shane Kiefer, Lewisburg, PA
and volunteer courtyard gardener
Cindy Walker, Lewisburg, PA

**The Union County Historical Society
Research Library and Office**

103 S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-524-8666 ~ info@unioncopahistory.com

The library / office, located in the county courthouse, has an extensive collection of reference material and family histories, and access to county probate and land records. Open M, T, Th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except noon hour). Those not able to visit may send research questions to info@unioncopahistory.com.

Fees for services:

- General genealogical search (one surname / family): \$75 fee includes copying documents such as probate files and deeds, marriage and death data, tombstone listings, and family histories, as available;
- Copy of specific will, letters of administration, deed, orphans court record – per page fee; minimum \$10.
- Obituary search and copy (please provide year and approximate month of death) – \$5/person.
- Property deed searches: negotiated on an individual basis. Please inquire.

For the library: The society accepts donations of family histories (paper or digital files) and photographs of (identified) people, events, and places in Union County.

Society Publications: the office has a complete selection of UCHS publications for research and purchase.

“Sponsor a Story”

County residents past and present are invited to “sponsor a story” – and hear a family member’s voice again, or hear about home remedies, powwowing, quilting, one-room schools, superstitions, the suffrage movement, Great Depression, blacksmithing, and barn raising.

The Union County Historical Society with Bucknell University are digitizing the society's reel-to-reel tapes of interviews conducted from 1974 to 1984 documenting the skills, experiences and craft traditions of Union County residents.

Contributions to this project can be made via cash or check, as well as online using PayPal (www.unioncopahistory.com). Read the list of catalog topics and names of interview participants on the website: <https://sites.google.com/bucknell.edu/uchs-oral-traditions/home>.

Programs and Exhibits

Admission to all programs and exhibits is free and open to the public

Exhibit: “Dorothy Dennis: The remarkable business career of a woman ahead of her time”

Presented by The Union County Historical Society and the Public Library for Union County.

Dorothy Dennis, born in Union County, owned and operated the famous Dorothy Dennis Restaurant in Elizabeth NJ for over 50 years. A special woman, she died at age 99 in 2006.

August 16 until September 16, Wednesdays and Fridays

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA



The Gallery

“Kate Neyhart: Vixen or Victim” by Mary Sullivan

The 1892 Lewisburg trials and tribulations of Kate Neyhart

Sunday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m.

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

“Lewisburg Barbershop Memories” by Steve Ziegler

Stories and gossip over the years at this landmark barbershop

Sunday, September 27 at 2:30 p.m.

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

“History of Pennsylvania German Powwow Practices”

Bruce Teeple discusses how people across the “Deutsch Belt” dealt with sickness, crop failures, and desperation.

Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m.

The West End Library, 45 Ball Park Road, Laurelton, PA



The West End Library

“What Lies Beneath: Metal Detecting in the Valley”

Members of the Susquehanna Valley Metal Detecting Club discuss what they've found, how and why they got into metal detecting, and how long they've been searching for hidden items.

Oct 25 at 2:30 p.m.

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

“Willard Leiby: Crime and Corruption in Central PA” by Mary Sullivan

Willard Leiby, a "native son" of Lewisburg whose extensive criminal history encompassed a five-county area: rum-running, illegal gambling, human trafficking, bribery, tax evasion and election interference, yet also described as a "man of the people.”

Is there more to this man than meets the eye? You decide.....

Sunday, November 8 at 2:30 p.m.

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

Archives and Collections Report by Tony Shively

The Archives and Collections Committee of the Union County Historical Society fosters the collection of Union County manuscripts, ephemera, local advertising, and decorative arts through gifts and purchases. Gifts and donations to the collection of materials held by the society help to support our mission of enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history.

WWII Photo Collection

This summer, Bloomsburg University student Emma Mitchell of Lewisburg is interning with the society. One of her numerous tasks has been organizing and cataloging the society's collection of photographs of WWII Veterans in uniform, approximately 115 Union County men and women who served their country. The photographs were donated to the society in 2020 by Agnes Rathfon.

The majority of these original photographs were posted during the war at the Selective Service office at 432 Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg by family members of those serving their country, a way of informing the public who was serving and in which branch of the military.

To honor local veterans during Cindy Avery's program on November 15, the society would like to acknowledge Union County residents who served in WWII by displaying photographs of each person in our collection.

We are asking for public support to expand the society's collection of photographs of Union County WWII Veterans in uniform. There are 2,260 names engraved on the WWII Monument in Mifflinburg Community Park, and the society has photographs of only 5% of those men and women in uniform.

Donate WWII photos to UCHS Archives

The society is encouraging residents to help us preserve the memory of our Union County heroes by donating a photograph of their loved one in uniform to our collection.

We encourage those who donate photographs to ensure each person is positively identified with the proper name and spelling on the reverse side of the photograph. All donated photographs will become part of the society's permanent collection for preservation and future displays.

Photographs can be delivered or mailed to the Union County Historical Society office in the Union County Courthouse at 103 South 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837. Or call 570-713-0798 to arrange to drop off your veterans' photographs at the Gallery at 15 N. Water Street in Lewisburg.

Seeking Information About Lewisburg

Rick Sauers is writing a detailed history of Lewisburg. He retired from the Western Museum of Mining & Industry in Colorado in 2024 and started writing; he's just completed the 1950s chapter. Rick would love to hear from anyone who has old photographs (old is anything before year 2000, lol!) they'd be willing to share, stories about growing up in Lewisburg they might like to share, or be willing to answer a brief set of questions with their opinions.

Feel free to contact him at rsauers@ptd.net or call 719-649-5260 (no texts).

Special WWII Programs

“My Father’s Journey: From American Pilot to German POW”

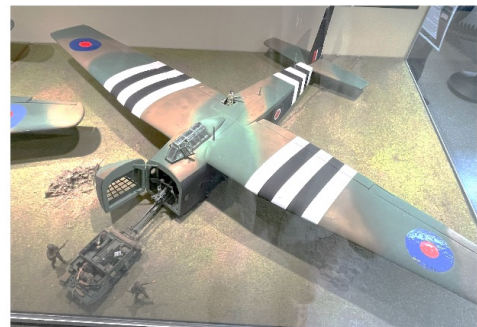
Sunday, November 15 at 2:30 p.m

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

Cindy Avery, will share her father’s poignant journey from an idyllic childhood to a desolate prisoner of war camp deep in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

To add to the evening, Cindy and Tony Shively have been archiving photos and stories of Union County’s World War II veterans, photos which will be woven into this educational and moving slideshow – with some amazing coincidences. After the presentation, there will be time for Q&A and for browsing the artifacts Cindy's father brought back from his service.

Drawing inspiration from her father’s favorite hymns and feeling the need to preserve this important time – for her father, America, the world, and ultimately her family – Cindy brought a long-held dream to fruition and published her first book, *My Father’s Journey: American Pilot to German P.O.W.* Cindy’s book is available on Amazon, at the Public Library for Union County, as well as at the presentation. She will donate 50% of all sales on Nov. 15th to the UCHS.



The D-Day Invasion of 1944: Reviewing History from England to France

Sunday, December 13 at 2:30 p.m.

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

Mike Molesevich will present a summary of the D-Day invasion by American and Allied forces on Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. His presentation will be based on his recent visit to England and France with *Smithsonian Journeys*, and will review their itinerary for those who are considering a similar trip.

During the program, Mike will discuss the roles of Winston Churchill and his war room, General Eisenhower, the codebreakers at Bletchley Park, and related sites in England. Included will be Sainte-Mère-Église, Pegasus Bridge, Normandy Beaches, monuments, museums and cemeteries in France.



Dale-Engle-Walker House

Tours of the Dale-Engle-Walker House are scheduled of the following dates:

August 9 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst

August 30 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst

September 6 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. with Bruce Teeple

September 20 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst

October 11 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst



The Dale house was built c. 1793 by immigrant Samuel Dale (1741-1804), the back ell added between 1820 and 1840 and the Victorian porch in the late 1800s.

Architectural highlights include the front door and fan light with original glass; first floor twelve-over-twelve windows and second floor eight-over-twelve windows; original chestnut and pine floors; the early

kitchen and hearth. The stonework is laid in an un-coursed, roughly squared pattern with larger stones at the corners.

The property stayed in the Dale family and was worked by tenant farmers until 1929. It was sold to the Engles, who operated a dairy and vegetable farm in the 1940's. Their milk shed is on the lane below the house. The property was then purchased by the Walkers as a private residence and bequeathed by the Walker estate to the Union County Historical Society.

The Kantz log cabin, dating to 1789, was a frontier trading cabin along the Tuscarora Indian Path at Middlecreek. It was restored by Kantz descendants in 1998 and moved to David and Marcia (Kantz) Milne's property in Lewisburg. In 2019, the cabin was donated to the society and reassembled at the Dale-Engle-Walker site.

It is with sadness that the historical society notes the recent passing of Marcia Milne of Lewisburg. Not only did she donate the Kantz log cabin to the society, she and her late husband David (who had served as UCHS treasurer) were Life Members and strong supporters of the society.

New Berlin Day

Saturday, August 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The historical society will be at the gazebo at Market and Vine streets with a selection of UCHS publications including *Railroads and Railroaders* and the 2027 calendar for sale.

Stop by to chat with our volunteers!

Holiday Sale at the Gallery, 15 N. Water St.

Saturday, December 4 from 4 - 9 pm;

Sunday, December 5 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m

Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild

will offer beautiful hand-crafted items for holiday gift-giving

Union County Historical Society

will have a wide variety of books for sale.

Recent Genealogy Research

If you have information to share, please contact UCHS or the researcher.

BARBER, Martha nee Henry d.c.1826 w/o Samuel Barber. Daughters Elizabeth + Wm Connell, Mary + Henry Swinehart, Susanna + Isaac Gill. [Deeds; Orphans court record for Lewis Swinehart; other references for Gill]. Charles Boetsch, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, cboetschmd@gmail.com

SERVIS, John; Wm Chamberlin d. 1817; John Lawshe 1751-1832 + Eleanor "Nelly" Chamberlin, daughter of Col. Wm Chamberlin and Elizabeth Ten Broeck. Servis, Chamberlin and Lawshe of Hunterdon Co., NJ, served in the 2nd Reg NJ volunteers. Seeking a family bible which passed to John Lawshe (John Servis birth record). Sean Servis; seanservis@gmail.com

POWERS, Donald Howard + Margaret Lathrop Sale, marriage record 12 Feb 1925, Lewisburg, PA. Aaron Gerratt, Zurich, Switzerland; apg@gerratt.ch.

SANDERS, George L. (1841-KS) + Elizabeth, children Anna Mary (1868), William Henry (1869), and Lilly May (1871) . Son of Dewald d. 1895 + Ann, children Maryann, Henry, Sarah, George, Charles, and Daniel, Allen and Emma Jane; White Deer. [Dewald Sanders' will 1895-15, census] Christy Nylander, Elk Grove, CA; egbunny@hotmail.com

SNYDER, Jane d. 1883 Gregg Twp. [Letters of Administration 1883]. Pamela Frinzi, York, PA; pfrinzi01@gmail.com

MOYER, Henry d.1839. Daughter Mary Moyer d. OH + Conrad Shively [Henry Moyer will 1830-4, deeds] Mike Holland; Bremerton, WA; M_Holland3801@comcast.net

YODER, Melchior + Anna, Washington Twp. Daughter Catherine Yoder Leist to OH. [Letters of Administration 1820-15; deeds, Orphans Court record].. Mary Fortson, Lithia, FL 33547; mary.e.fortson@gmail.com

KISTER, John, Hartley Twp + Catherine Bud [John Kister will 1826-23, George Bupp will (+ Marie Margt, daughter Catherine) 1826-1, George Bupp will 1826-1, deeds for Kister; Bub/Boop family file, other references].Sheyna Watkins, Boise, ID 83713. sheynawatkins@gmail.com.

RIEGEL, Johann Michael (Riggle /Reigel /Riegel /Rigle) d. 1827 Decatur Twp, Mifflin County; served in Col. Nicholas Haussegger's German Regiment; wife Mary Elisabeth; daughter Catherine + Jonathan Stump; Beaver Twp early 1800s. [no documents found]. T. Mark Menke; t.mark.menke@gmail.com

SHAMP, Jesse, 1774 Hunterdon Co., NJ -1824 (White Deer, Union Co., PA); son of John Malichi Shamp; wife Anna Cane, moved to OH after 1824; children Rebecca, Van Rensselaer, Moses Cane, Jesse, Jr, Rachel, Ezra, and Andrew J. [no Union Co. documents or tombstones – family moved to OH and IA; family file sent] Sherril Buckner; buckner365@gmail.com

Added to the library:

Old Union County Mifflinburg Cemetery: History, Lists and Map compiled by Matt Wagner

RECOLLECTIONS: World War II Veterans – Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Compiled and edited by James C. Riley, M.D., Major, US Army Medical Corps, 1969- 1971. This remarkable book provides information on more than 400 Armed Service veterans from Lewisburg, with biographies and description of war service, photos and illustrations. A hard copy is now available in the UCHS office library for reference use.



*Union County Historical Society
Union County Courthouse
103 South 2nd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Return Service Requested*



The UCHS Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

Support of the Union County Historical Society helps fund programs, the research library, our collection of Union County documents and artifacts, preservation of the Dale-Engle-Walker House and Kantz Cabin, and restoration of the Museum and Gallery. The Union County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please mail this form to: Union County Historical Society, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____Lifetime (per person) \$800
Annual Support: ____\$200 ____\$150 ____\$100 ____\$80 ____\$50 ____Student (K-12) \$10
Capital Campaign donation (specify amount) _____

Visit www.unioncopahistory.com for events, articles, publications, resources, and more.