



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

Union County Historical Society Newsletter

May 2026



Historical Society Gallery
15 N. Water Street , Lewisburg, PA



Historical Society Museum
12 Market Street. Lewisburg, PA



The Tavern Great Room,
newly renovated, in the Museum



The Courtyard
between the Gallery and Museum



LAC Arts Exhibit
in the Gallery

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2026

The UCHS Capital Campaign to fund improvements at the Union County Museum and Gallery continues. Significant improvements have been completed at the Gallery including roof repairs, upgrade of the HVAC system, and the addition of an ADA compliant restroom. We have recently begun interior upgrades to the former Packwood House on Market Street to become our primary museum and exhibition space. We are anxious to open this facility in early summer, in time for our America 250 celebration on July 4. The society also wishes to create an endowment to provide funds for future operating expenses of the property. Nearly \$68,000 has been received toward our goal of \$200,000.

Individuals interested in making a donation are encouraged to contact the UCHS Office at 103 South 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA. Contact can be made by phoning 570-524-8666 or emailing info@unioncopahistory.com.

Please help us realize our goal by contributing toward the Campaign.

UCHS Board of Directors
Matt Wagner & Phyllis Dyer,
Campaign Co-Chairs

Dale-Engle-Walker House

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. The original house is a symmetrical building with two rooms flanking a central hall. 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 uncoursed, 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 to David and Marcia (Kantz) Milne's property in Lewisburg. In 2019, the cabin was donated to the society by Marcia Milne, and reassembled at the Dale-Engle-Walker site.

Donations towards maintaining this important historical property are gratefully accepted.

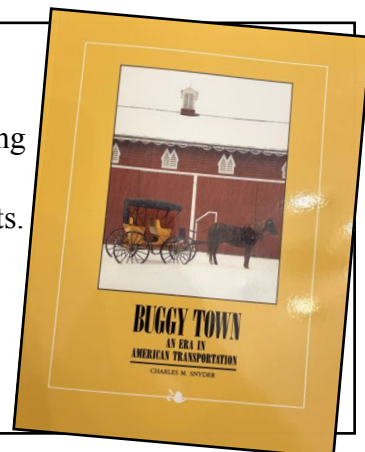
Tours of the Dale-Engle-Walker House are scheduled of the following dates:

May 10 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst	July 26 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. with Bruce Teeple
May 17 at 1 and 2:30 p.m with Bruce Teeple	August 9 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst
May 24 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst	August 30 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst
June 7 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. with Bruce Teeple	Sept. 6 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. with Bruce Teeple
June 28 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst	Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst
July 12 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst	October 11 at 2 p.m. with Bill Brobst

Buggy Town: An Era in American Transportation

The Union County Historical Society and the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum have reprinted Charles M. Snyder's outstanding history of carriage making in Mifflinburg, PA, originally published in 1984 as part of the UCHS Oral Traditions Projects. Included are many wonderful photographs and a thorough account of Mifflinburg's buggy- making heritage.

Available at the UCHS office and at the Gallery for \$30, and by mail order from our website (\$30 +\$4 s/h).



Members and Friends,

We have a diverse line-up of programs scheduled for this year.

In two months, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of this country's independence. How much do we know about the eight weeks of backstories surrounding that unprecedented event? How and why did Pennsylvania's politicians change their minds about breaking free? We'll explore those questions and more at the UCHS program **"Independence and Beyond: The Lost Lessons of William Maclay"** in the Gallery on Sunday, June 14, 2:30 p.m.



Dr. Ed Slavishak, history professor at Susquehanna University, will present the program **"Slippery: Eels in the Susquehanna"** on the history of eel fishing in the Central Susquehanna River Valley. He will explore the regional traditions around eel fishing as both a pastime and a source of livelihood. And he will chronicle the cat-and-mouse game that ensued when the desire to catch eels ran up against the long arm of the law. The talk will be given in the Gallery on Sunday, July 19 at 2:30 p.m.

UCHS and the Public Library for Union County will co-sponsor a program on **"Dorothy Dennis, A Woman Ahead of her Time,"** in the Gallery on Sunday, August 16 at 2:30 p.m. An exhibit highlighting her remarkable business career will be in the Gallery from August 16 until September 16.

The West End Library, 45 Ball Park Road, Laurelton, will host our programs on **"History of Pennsylvania German Family Names"** on Tuesday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m.

The West End Library will also host **"History of Pennsylvania German Powwow Practices,"** discussing how people across the "Deutsch Belt" used to deal with sickness, crop failures, and desperation, on Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Once we confirm dates and times, we also plan to sponsor programs on metal detecting in the region, plant history in the Susquehanna Valley, bootlegging in the area, and barbershop memories. All UCHS programs are free and open to the public.

Hope to see you soon! *Bruce*

Railroads and Railroaders: North and South: The railroads that ran along the Susquehanna River from Shamokin to Newberry Junction, and up to Eagles Mere and Tioga County. Exceptional photos and description of on the people who designed, built and travelled the lines: the railroaders.

Railroads and Railroaders: East and West: The main railroad lines from Montandon to Tyrone, PA, the logging railroads, and narrow gauge lines from Winfield to New Berlin and White Deer to Loganton, and the Lewisburg-Milton-Watsontown trolley. Detailed narrative with astounding photos.

Purchase at the UCHS office or the Gallery at \$60 each, or on our website at \$60 + 7 s/h.

COMING SOON: ***Railroads and Railroaders: People, Equipment and Infrastructure:*** general railroad operational history including construction, control, motive power and rolling stock, with local railroader's biographical sketches including career men, photographers and artists, and the history of our local Central PA Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

**Union County Historical Society
Board of Directors**

Bruce Teeple, President
Christine Sperling, VP
Phyllis Dyer, Treasurer
Susan Rapp, Secretary
Bill Brobst
Mike Molesevich
Darren Rhyne
Kathy Swope
Matt Wagner

**The society is thankful for
donations from**

Christine Sperling of Lewisburg
Linda & Wm Poulton of Muncy, to the
Oral Traditions Ptoject, in memory of the
Sypher and Stees families
**and those who donated to UCHS
during 2026 Raise the Region**

Welcome new members

Kay Bitner, West Milton, PA
Brandon Lepley, Lewisburg, PA
Roger Thomas, West Milton, PA
Citizens' Electric Co., 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 family): \$60 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 – per page fee; minimum \$10.
- Obituary search and copy (please provide year and approximate month of death) – \$5/person.
- Property deed searches are negotiated on an individual basis. Please inquire.

For the library/archives: 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” Oral Traditions Fundraising Initiative

The Union County Historical Society collection of interviews with county residents documenting skills, experiences, and craft traditions were recorded on reel-to-reel tapes from 1974 to 1984. The tapes will be digitized with searchable transcripts to provide a valuable resource for the public, researchers, and scholars.

This fundraising campaign will allow community members to “sponsor a story,” based on wanting to hear a family member’s voice once again, or choosing a topic of interest, such as home remedies, powwowing, quilting, one-room schools, superstitions, the suffrage movement, the Great Depression, blacksmithing, and barn raising. Contributions can be made via cash or check, as well as via online apps such as Venmo and PayPal.

Read more about the project, including a list of catalog topics and names of interview participants on the website: <https://sites.google.com/bucknell.edu/uhs-oral-traditions/home>.

Recent Genealogy Research

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

- EVANS, Captain Charles R., Company E, 142nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Battle of Gettysburg., attended Lewisburg University (Bucknell), graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia 1867. Buried in Lewisburg Cemetery (March 29, 1839-Sept. 23, 1867).
Seeking photo. Scott D. Hann, wutheringheights@msm.com
- BETZ, Solomon d. Oct 23, 1837, Dreisbach Cemetery. [sent Letters of Administration, deeds].
Philip Scaglione, Ebensburg, PA; philiphscaglione@gmail.com
- MOYER, Henry died c. May 1839 in West Buffalo Township, Union County, daughter Mary Moyer + Conrad Shively (died in OH). [found will, deeds] Michael Holland, Bremerton WA; M_Holland3801@comcast.net
- SANDERS, George b.1841 White Deer Twp + Elizabeth, Dewald and Anna Sanders, Lehigh County c.1833-35, Kelly Twp, moved to KS [will for Dewald, wife Ann, sons Henry and David + Elizabeth; referred to 1850, 1860, 1870 census]. Christy Nylander, Elk Grove, CA; egbunny@hotmail.com
- YODER, Melchior, Washington Twp., Union County, daughter Catherine Yoder (Liest), settled in OH. [provided LOA, Orphans Court record, deeds]. Mary Fortson, Lithia, FL; mary.e.fortsson@gmail.com.
- SYPPER, Jane, died Gregg Twp., Union County May 10, 1883. {sent Letters of Administration}.
Pamela Frintzi, York, PA; printzi01@gmail.com.
- SWINEHART, Henry, d. 1827/29 Union Twp., Union County + Mary Barber, children include Samuel, John, Wm, Henry, Andrew, Mary, Lewis [found Orphans Court record, deeds].
Charles Boetsch, 55 S. 800 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102; cboetschmd@gmail.com.
- Aqueduct on Chillisquaque Creek, its location. [In Northumberland County, on the east side of the Susquehanna. Referred to Northumberland County Historical Society]. Leslie Warriner; lwarriner@unionco.org.
- Pike School [two schools so named: one near Vicksburg, another near Hartleton per Lontz's Union County Schools.] Guy Graybill; guyoldt@gmail.com.
- Buffalo Creek and Bull Run, and New Berlin history [sent info on waterways, and referred to Annals of Buffalo Valley by John B Linn, *A Bicentennial History: New Berlin 1792-1992 (New Berlin Heritage Association)*, and *The History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys*. Roy Froemming; froemmingandjohnson@gmail.com.

Added to the library:

RECOLLECTIONS: World War II Veterans – Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Compiled and edited by James C. Riley, M.D., Major, US Army Medical Corps, 1969- 1971. A listing of over 400 Armed Service veterans from Lewisburg, of biographies and description of war service, with photos and illustrations. Digital copy donated by Dr. Riley. “ *The purpose of this writing is not to glorify war but to fondly and rightly remember these mid-twentieth century Lewisburg servicemen and women who sacrificed themselves for a common good and purpose greater than themselves.....Each veteran’s story, briefly told here, is but a tiny but important piece of a mosaic of all the war’s participants’ stories that comprise the larger narrative of World War II. Each veteran is an important part of that great and tragic war.....*” An impressive book.

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.

We thank the following individuals for the donations and gifts accepted by the Committee.

Kathy Jolly of Weikert donated an admission ticket to the West End Fair from 1934 with the name of her grandfather.

Susan Wirth of West Milton donated a photograph of the interior of the home formerly known as the Revere House (a.k.a. The Pink House) located at the corner of 4th and Market Street in Lewisburg.

Tim Bitner of Lewisburg donated a framed aerial photograph of the Lewisburg Chair Factory c.1940; a real photo postcard of the College Park Motel in Lewisburg; and copies of newspaper clippings from March 1995 on the efforts by a local Boy Scout group (organized by Irv Bittner) to clear and restore the Clapp Cemetery in White Deer Township.

Estate of C. Irvin and Joyce Bittner (courtesy of Tim Bittner of Lewisburg) donated a coffee mug commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Dreisbach Church; booklets from the 100th anniversary of the Trinity United Methodist Church in New Columbia, The Dedication Services at the Hillside Bible Church of Mifflinburg, the 100th Anniversary 1879-1979 of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Lewisburg, and the Celebration of the West Milton United Methodist Church from 1996; papers related to the centennial celebration of the West Milton United Methodist Church as well as newspaper articles and other papers related to churches in Union County; a 1994 booklet "Advancing Excellence: A Campaign For Evangelical Community Hospital"; a booklet entitled "A Study of Our County: Union County, Pennsylvania: A Project for Students"

by Nada Gray for the Union County 1976 Bicentennial Commission; a list of the interments in the Klapp Cemetery in White Deer Township; newspaper supplement about the Union County Historical Society; a 1909 souvenir hand-book from the Union County Sabbath School Association; a wooden ruler with advertisement for the Union County Republican Women; nine black and white photographs from the 1960s taken by C. Irvin Bittner of several churches, a one room school in New Columbia, and photos of the Ceco Corp., and the New Columbia Post Office.

Chris Snyder of Lewisburg donated a vintage booklet from 1816 containing advanced mathematical problem solving and reasoning that appears to have been maintained by Daniel Pontius.

Craig Miller of Mifflinburg donated a booklet by Charles M. Snyder entitled "200 Years of Dreisbach Church."

Union County Government Center donated two large banners from the county's 200th anniversary celebration from 2013.

Attorney Graham Showalter of Lewisburg donated papers pertaining to the Board of Trustees of the Fetherston Foundation and the Fetherston Foundation Charitable Trust.

Jeff Bastian of Millmont donated a narrow gauge railroad tie believed to have come from the Pardee Lumber Company or Whitmer which operated in the West End of Union County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The chestnut railroad tie was preserved by Bastian's grandparents, Benjamin and Leona (Sholter) Wirt at their cottage in Weikert.

Archives continued

Helene Basile of Lewisburg donated the Local Section from February 4, 2026, edition of The Sunbury Daily Item with an article about the efforts of Susan Falciani Maldonado of Bucknell University to digitize 357 reel-to-reel audio tapes from the 1970s and early 1980s that are preserved by the UCHS.

Gaye (Groover) Christmus of Columbia, South Carolina donated numerous photographs and documents of the Brown family of East Buffalo Township that was connected to Katherine (Brown) Groover, mother of Clair Groover (1891-1988), a longtime Lewisburg attorney; as well as documents on the Meek family of Allenwood.

Patricia Dupuis of Mifflinburg donated an itinerary from Marty Stahl's World's Fair trip in 1940 that began in Lewisburg and traveled to Queens, New York.

Darlene Rowe of Lewisburg donated a vintage album containing photographs of numerous students and faculty of Bucknell University taken by various Lewisburg photograph studios from the late 1800s; and hundreds of invoices receipts and papers pertaining to The Grove Store in West Milton from the early 1900s.

Robert Stoudt of Milton donated twenty issues of the New Berlin Heritage Association bulletins from 1997, and 1999 through 2017; eight Hometown Collectables wooden miniatures depicting building and places in and around the borough of New Berlin; and four black and white photographs (copies) of places in and around New Berlin.

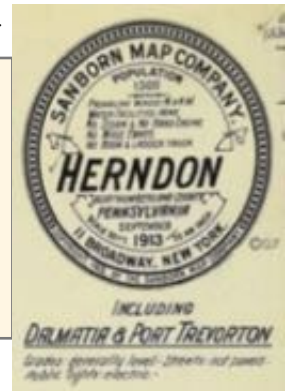
Emilie F. Jansma of State College donated two three-ring binders containing information and history on the Johnson, Goodlander, Pursley, and McPherson families of the "Tight End" of Union County; and a DVD of the Cracker Barrel Conversations planned and organized by Emilie, held at the Hartley Township Community Center in Laurelton on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, with moderator Dahle Bingaman. Those interviewed included Hertha (Shively) Wehr, Caroline (Bilger) Wenrick, Seibert "Herb" Teichman, Les Johnson, Harvey and Cora (Barnett) Boop.

Carris Kocher of Glen Mills, PA donated documents, papers and Civil War era letters that were in the attic of the Painter family of Lewisburg. Many of the personal handwritten letters were from Benjamin Frank Angstadt and mailed to his wife who was living in Lewisburg at the time. Angstadt enlisted as a private on February 24, 1865, and was subsequently promoted to 2nd Lt on March 3, 1865. He was mustered out of his regiment August 24, 1865.

Matthew Wagner of Mifflinburg donated a photograph of the Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg shortly after the building was erected in 1953.

Mike Molesevich of Lewisburg donated a DVD entitled "In Your Neighborhood" with Chris O'Rourke that includes video from a tour of the Dale-Engle-Walker house and the Gallery in Lewisburg. Mike also donated a 1 terabyte Seagate hard drive back up for use by the Archives Committee.

Mike Molesevich, UCHS Board member, will present a program for the Mahonoy & Mahantango Historical Society: **History of Herndon from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** on Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church, 2354 Route 225, Herndon. Mike will describe how to research and interpret these maps which show buildings, industries, railroads, canals and more. The program is free and open to the public



Archives Committee Welcomes New Volunteers

Margaret “Peg” McCluskey is one of our newest volunteers and has already become an integral part of our efforts, assisting with the organization and cataloging of the Society’s extensive photograph collection, as well as contributing to a variety of other projects.



Originally from Southampton, New York, Peg is a 1972 graduate of Bucknell University. She began her professional career with ASCAP (the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) in New York, where she worked from 1973 to 1980.

Peg and her husband John—whom she met while attending Bucknell—later returned to central Pennsylvania, settling in a rural area of Mifflinburg. She continued her education at Bucknell, taking accounting courses that led to a successful career as a Certified Public Accountant. Peg worked with Rogers, Huber & Associates in Lewisburg, Muncy, and Williamsport before establishing her own CPA practice on Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg. She retired in 2023.

In 2024, after reading a *Daily Item* article about the Union County Historical Society’s need for volunteers and through her connection with UCHS Treasurer Phyllis Dyer, Peg joined the Archives Committee.

Cindy Avery began volunteering with the Archives Committee in February after connecting with Peg McCluskey at a BILL (Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning) event. Cindy recently relocated to



Lewisburg to be closer to her granddaughter, whose parents are both Bucknell employees. She has deep roots in the Finger Lakes region of New York and a longstanding passion for local history and genealogy. Following a ten-year teaching career, she began a decades-long career in data entry, systems management, and fundraising for non-profit institutions.

Cindy hopes to help organize and standardize archival records and assist with fundraising events, leveraging her expertise to enhance the society’s operations. Her organizational expertise and enthusiasm have already made a meaningful impact, and we are grateful for her dedication to preserving our community’s history. Cindy is excited to explore her new surroundings, learn about the rich history of Lewisburg and Union County, and make new friends.

We are thankful for the dedication and support that Cindy and Peg have demonstrated on behalf of the Union County Historical Society.

Tony Shively

Bicentennial Quilts in the UCHS Collection

In 1994, a very special quilt was donated to the UCHS. It was an “album quilt,” which is a collection of many quilt blocks or squares that are sewn by different women, then joined to form one large quilt. It was created between 1974 and 1976 for the Bicentennial celebration by 21 staff members of the Mifflinburg Area Middle School. The Mifflinburg Bicentennial Quilt measures 100 by 120 inches and contains 30 blocks featuring scenes from local history and life. Some blocks were created using an appliquéd technique, in which pieces of fabric are sewn onto a larger piece to form patterns or pictures. Other blocks feature embroidery, where decorative stitching is used to add names or symbols to the larger quilt.



The blocks in this quilt include representations of many distinctive local features: the Elias Church built in 1806, the iron furnace at Glen Iron, the Hassenplug covered bridge in Mifflinburg, the Union County Courthouse, a buggy from Mifflinburg, the Mifflinburg Academy, farming scenes and plants and animals of the area.

Middle School staff who participated were Beverly Benfer, Shirley Bingaman, Betty Boop, Janet Chase, Joyce Dreese, Jan Edwards, Jan Erickson, Jane Fasano, Nancy Fraim, BettyLou Hadley, Rose Ann Koons, Barbara Lemon, Linda Minium, Judy Muchler, Val Orbison, Lois Packard, Kathy Rowe, Laura Lee Ruckle, Linda Stahl, JoAnn Stover and Elva Wilson. After assembly, it was hand quilted by the staff under the direction of Mabel Kistler, a local quilter.

Although there were many thousands of these commemorative quilts made for Bicentennial celebrations all over the USA, the lovely and distinctive UCHS quilt was selected for display at the Museum of the American Quilters Society, in Paducah Kentucky. It hung in the museum from December 1991 to April 1992 as part of their exhibit entitled “Fifteen Years Later: Bicentennial Quilts.”



Another Bicentennial Album quilt in the UCHS collection is a 9-block appliquéd quilt that was created by the Junior Civic League of Lewisburg. It was donated in 2015, but no additional information is included. Most blocks representing local sites have the makers’ initials. A block showing the Water Wheel on Buffalo Road has the initials BB and ET, for example. Other initialed blocks include Lamp Post in Lewisburg (PS), Bucknell’s Rooke Chapel (RJ), Lewisburg Inn (MPZ), Buffalo and Union County (JS), Mifflinburg Covered Bridge (BR), Lewisburg Academy (VS), Mennonite Farm (MJE) and Glen Iron Furnace (ZE).

Please contact the UCHS office if you have any additional information about the Junior Civic League and the makers’ names. It will be added to our quilt documentation records and greatly appreciated.

Helene Basile



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



The Dale-Engle-Walker House by MM

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 organizations. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please mail 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) _____ **Sponsor a Story** (specify amount) _____

BOOK ORDERS: Railroads and Railroaders: North and South ___\$60 (+ \$7 s/h)

Railroads and Railroaders: East and West ___\$60 (+ \$7 s/h)

Buggy Town \$30 (+\$4 s/h)

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