



103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-524-8666

info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org
www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org

August 2020

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

Dear Society Members and Friends,

We all have a passion for the past, but what do we expect from our history? Revising our perspectives about the past isn’t a bad thing; it’s what historians do. Just as you try to re-establish your health when you’re under the weather, the same goes for the body politic. In this case, though, the medicine we take involves correcting the story, finding appropriate contexts, and righting the wrongs.



When I was a kid, we only saw revolutions as political power grabs in other countries; they didn’t happen inside your head. Shades of gray, either as a concept or as a book title, were unimaginable.

Musical and gastronomic changes were just two of the hammers used to smash down the walls. With a Marine veteran of Guadalcanal heading our household, rice and fish never appeared on our dinner table; only “they” ate that stuff. We never heard of tacos, sushi, or granola. Big Macs were slowly entering the scene; pizza was as exotic as it got.

Television had pushed aside radio’s disembodied voices. Even though the cameras lingered longer on the actors, and the dialogue became more thought-provoking, the new medium tossed out idealized images like candy in the gutter along a parade route. The nation chain-smoked until a stew of post-war paranoia, conformity, and material excess erupted into outrage over “his story’s” distortions and deletions.

Cultural storms usually occur because we fail to ask questions and search for remedies. As humanity’s perspectives cross-pollinate and mature, each generation learns to embrace and absorb another set of “others.” Newly polished mirrors reveal the ultimate absurdity that we, too, all along were just another “them.”

That’s why we need to take local history seriously. The field has moved well beyond the comfort gained from tiresome tales told beside the campfire and the cracker barrel. No retelling of the past covers everything, but we can’t afford to ignore or suppress our stories, regardless of how beautiful, bland, or brutal they are. Our stories aren’t a kaleidoscope endlessly manipulating pleasing shapes and color combinations. Nor are they mosaics with little bits of stone locked forever in an unchanging picture. Every story we gather adds another layer of complexity to breathe life back into those realities.

When we share our stories, we can control the direction of any changes hurtling toward us. If you haven’t done so yet, try shaking hands with the future. It’s not so bad.

Bruce

OFFICERS & BOARD 2020

Bruce Teeple, President
Kathy Swope, VP
Eli Reiff, Secretary
Matt Wagner, Treasurer
Phyllis Dyer
Barb Franck
Mary Kay Harper
Louise Knight
Mike Molesevich
Jeff Reber
Darren Rhyne
Conor Emery, *ex officio*
Sarah Mahoney, *ex officio*

The society is grateful for a donation from The Catherine and Paul Ernst Fund of the InFaith Community Foundation

PROGRAMS

Since the spring, society programs have been cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions and the Governor’s guidelines for community safety.

We will email members about upcoming programs and events, and updates will be posted on our website.

Also watch for listings in the local newspapers, on the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau website: www.VisitCentralPA.org, and Union County Library website: www.unioncountylibraries.org.

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay safe.

The Dale's Ridge Trail

The Dale's Ridge Trail, on the Union County Historical Society's Dale-Engle-Walker property, was the first conservation easement of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. The 2-mile loop trail begins at 1471 Strawbridge Road at the small parking area and trailhead kiosk. Recently several large, interesting fossil-filled limestone boulders representative of the geologic rock formation that forms Dale's Ridge were placed there – donated and transported by New Enterprise Stone and Lime, Winfield.

According to the Linn Conservancy, "The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Linn Conservancy maintains a monitoring site and boater access as part of its Buffalo Creek water trail. The creek side riparian zone and floodplain host beautiful wildflowers each spring and a shallow pond where frogs and turtles make homes. The ridge top offers more wildflowers, excellent birding, scenic views of Union County farmland and the valley and ridge topography of central PA. Mature forest, open fields, active farmland and the historic Dale house add to the pleasure of your experience on the trail."



Recently, Ryan Gilmore, a junior at Lewisburg High School, rerouted a portion of the Trail for his Eagle Scout project, bypassing a steep and often slippery section with a 700-foot extension of the trail. This makes for a safer and more pleasant stroll on this part of the trail. Still, be cautious on the switchbacks which are delicate.

The Dale's Ridge Trail is open dawn to dusk for human foot traffic and pets on leash. Please be courteous to others and remember that this is private property – you are a guest. Brochures for the Dale's Ridge Trail and other trails (downloadable to your phone) can be found on the Linn Conservancy website: www.linnconservancy.org.

Samuel Dale (1741 - 1804) Statesman

For nearly 30 years, Samuel Dale served the citizens of north-central Pennsylvania, first as a state representative, then later as a state senator. He also served as the liaison between Governor Mifflin and both houses of the legislature.

In 1797, Dale voted to establish public schools in Pennsylvania, but this and similar measures didn't pass until 1834. Much of this opposition to publicly funded education came from the Commonwealth's German-speaking citizens holding a long tradition of church-run schools.

Two years later, in 1799, Dale sponsored a bill eliminating any vestige of English Common Law in Pennsylvania state jurisprudence. The language reflected his constituents' hatred of all things British. Unfortunately for law students, this bill also went down in defeat.

Even though Dale owned nine volumes of Shakespeare's plays, he voted with the majority to outlaw "building a playhouse theatre, stage or scaffold for acting, shewing (sic), or exhibiting any tragedy, comedy, farce, interlude, pantomime or other play." This vote wasn't necessarily because Dale disapproved of entertainment. It was probably a common public health measure intended to prevent the spread of diseases.

By the time Dale died in 1804 at the age of 63, he was one of the state's highest-paid legislators and owned over 1,100 acres across Central Pennsylvania. His higher pay rate compensated him for the distance he traveled when doing the people's business over such an expanse.

For more information about how the story of Samuel Dale and the Dale-Engle-Walker House are intertwined with the region's history, please look for the PowerPoint program soon available for sale on our website www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.



*Dale-Engle-Walker House
photo by Mike Molesevich*

The Union County Historical Society office is temporarily closed to visitors.

The county courthouse also has limited access for researchers at this time, due to Covid-19 precautions. Please call or email ahead of any visit so we can advise you on the current situation.

Research services are still being provided by our staff. Please email your research questions.

- Fees:
- General genealogical search (one family) – \$50 includes copying up to 20 pages of documents. Extensive searches requiring additional time can be arranged.
 - Search for willa, letters of administration, or orphans court record – \$5 plus \$1/copied page
 - Obituary search and copy (must know year and approximate month of death) – \$5 per person
 - Deed searches are negotiated on an individual basis. Please inquire.

See www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org / Research Resources for documents list and more.

Donations of Union County family histories (printed or digital) are accepted for the society's library. Please email to make arrangements.



Added to the library:

Our Treaster Family in America, compiled and donated by Melba Mauck Treaster.

History and Genealogy of the DeTurk/DeTurck Family, compiled by Eugene P. DeTurk, Kutztown, PA 1934 [related to the Printzenhoff, Koch families from White Deer], donated by Ardith Koch Wilkins.

Wertman Lines: Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association, June 2020

Recent Genealogy Searches and Their Researchers

If you have information to share, please contact UCHS or the researcher (address / email below)

HAYES, Wm d. 1843, Robert Hayes: Jennifer Shakshober, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; jennifer.shakshober@nehgs.org

JUNGMANN, Johan Jorg, Elias Jungmann (Youngman): JoAnn Youngman, 715 E. Sylvan Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53217; jcyoungman@wi.rr.com.

BROUSE, Henry, Peter: Charles McMurry, 7714 Foxfire Dr. SE, Hunstville, AL 35802; 256-882-0723; chasmcm@comcast.net

STEININGER, Jacob d. 1841 [LOA and Orphans Court records] also HILBISH: Alicia (Hilbish) Blackman; aablackman@gmail.com

WOLFE, George M. occupation in Lewisburg c.1909: Bob; onemoreroound69@gmail.com

WISE, descendants of Fred'k Weiss, from Montgomery County to Union early 1800s, thence to Crawford County, Ohio c.1833; including Israel & Adaline, Christopher and Elizabeth Herb, John, John Fred'k and Barbara Kurtz: Norma Yerkey; ndyerkey@aol.com.

BADGER, John Warley 1891 Mifflinburg -1969 S. Williamsport: Justin K. Houser, 107 Pebble Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823; jkhouser84@gmail.com.



Advice from researchers:
Talk with grandma and grandpa,
aunts and uncles to get the family story.
Write it down.
Future generations will thank you!

COLLECTION NEWS by Tony Shively

The Archives and Collections Committee obtains and maintains items promoting and fulfilling the Society's educational mission. Your gifts and donations to the collection of materials held by the Society supports its mission of enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history.

The following donations have been accepted by the Committee. We thank:

Forrest Showalter of Millmont for donating Mary Anna Hoffman's diploma from Mifflinburg High School in 1889; Prudence Walters diploma from Lewis Township High School in 1917, Mifflinburg High School in 1918, and Bucknell University.

Tony Shively of Millmont for donating the following items: large circa 1890's photograph album containing 72 photographs taken at the James Haus Studio (also Haus & Eaton) or J. C. Slear Studio in Mifflinburg, the Cornelius Studio in Lewisburg, and others that include numerous people from the West End of Union County including Richard V.B. Lincoln, Robert Miller (African American) and members of his family; a circa 1890's photo album that belonged to Helen (Schnure) Harter and contains 45 family photographs taken by area photographers; a circa 1890's photo album that belonged to Oscar & Anna (Coleman) Bowersox with 26 photos (including tintype); photo album that belonged to Oscar Bowersox dated Jan. 8, 1894 with 44 photos (including tintype); Pross Ginter & Cook cabinet photo of Oscar & Anna (Coleman) Bowersox; circa 1920-1940's photo album containing 260+ photos that belonged to Helen (Schnure) Harter; James Haus cabinet photo of W. A. Doebler; large Slear cabinet photo of the Lewis Township High School Class of 1915 (with names); Millmont Epworth League Record Book covering 1894 -1906; postcard with Mazeppa postmark from 1894; envelopes with White Deer Mills postmark from 1884, and Dry Valley X Roads postmark from 1906; postcard with Nathan Fees of Swengel (Logs and Lumber) from 1888; several envelopes with return addresses that include W. L. Burd & Co. of Swengel 1893, Geo. L. Schell of Vicksburg, *The Times* in Mifflinburg from 1901, Adams Manufacturing of Millmont from 1928; political cards from Archie Walter for U. C. Commissioner, Paul Miller Showalter for Judge of Union/Snyder counties (1961), C. E. Kerstetter for Associate Judge of Union County, and Harry Showalter candidate for PA Assembly;

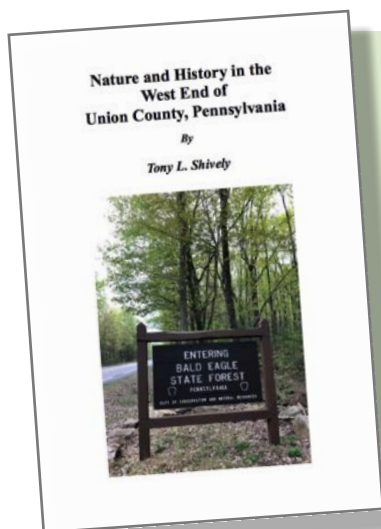
Ray's Church Primary Sunday School Class Roll booklet from 1904; Directory of Union County Teachers for 1949 -1950; c. 1880's school photograph taken by Jas. S. Brown Photographer of Lewisburg; Lewis Township High School Graduating Class of 1906; Rand School Photo (Mae Sanders, teacher); Salem School photographs (off Cold Run Road, Millmont) circa 1909 & 1912; RPPC of the Hartleton School Class of 1914; Spring Creek School Photo circa 1920's; Laurelton School photograph circa 1949 (with names);

invitation to the dedication of the new U. S. Post Office at Millmont May 21, 1961; pencil with advertising for Shively Brothers Dressed Meats of Mifflinburg; two photographs by Fregly Photo Service of Lewisburg showing members of the Mifflinburg Moose Lodge; photo of Kooltex Building in Mifflinburg circa 1930's; photo of the Mifflinburg Post Office c. 1940;

John Myers family photograph (from Hartleton); Slear Photo Studio photographs of John W. Lincoln, George Zimmerman (killed in France during WWI), Charles Hunter of Laurelton, Candice (Whitmer) Halfpenny, Clarence Schnure and daughter Helen, Kenneth, Keith, and Helen Schnure, Wilmer and Helen (Schnure) Harter, Charles Reeder, Anthony Doebler, Clarence and Grace (Whitmer) Schnure, graduation photographs of Wilmer Harter, Mary Margaret Ruhl, Arthur Lenhart Harter, Paul Mitchel, Fred Showalter, and Keith Schnure; photographs from the Donald Ross Studio of Lewisburg include

COLLECTION NEWS cont'd

Kenneth and Freda (Delcamp) Schnure, and Wilmer Harter in uniform during WWII; Elizabeth Sterling Diehl's graduation photo; Helen Schnure's graduation photo; RPPC of Swengel School circa 1918; Harry Mitchell's (Millmont) autograph album from 1887-1888; Helen Elizabeth Schnure's (of Millmont) Autograph book (1928); circa 1920's photo album containing photographs from the Lewis Township High School at Millmont, the Swengel School, along with family photos of the Ruhl, Whitmer, and Schnure families; Mifflinburg High School Class of 1931 reunion photo held at Colonial Crest; Mifflinburg Class of 1934 reunion photo; photographs of Harter's Tobacco Store front in Mifflinburg; photo of Lewisburg showing an unknown church; soldering iron (in box) patented by Jacob G. Shively of Millmont in 1937; *History of the Ray's Church 1801-1965*; canceled checks from Shively's Broom Factory in Millmont and the Laurelton State Bank; Christmas card of Laurelton State Village Cottage signed by Effie Ireland; Official Union County Road Map of Union County issued by the U. C. GIS Department from 2003; Union & Snyder Counties Map compliments of Big Earl's Bike Shop in Mifflinburg; Hartleton 4-H Club Secretary Book from 1961 & 1962; Scrapbook from the Pleasant Grove 4-H Club and the Hartleton 4-H Club from the 1950's; Lewis Township High School Reunion photographs at Hairy John's Park from 1950's and 1960's; photograph of R. Ernest Ruhl and siblings from the 1960's; wedding invitation for Sharyn Hoffman and Samuel Zimmerman (1980); Pik Rite Inc. calendars from 2019 and 2020; 2011 Union County Facts for Voters guide; handout from PA State Representative Fred Keller; political handouts from Billy Allred and David H. Rowe; brochure from Evangelical Community Hospital from 2018; ballpoint pens with advertising for SBDC of Pennsylvania located at Bucknell University, Evangelical Community Hospital, "Elect Bossert & Brouse County Commissioner", and Pik Rite Inc.; Susquehanna River Valley from 2019; the 94th Annual Union County West End Fair Booklet, August 4-10, 2019; Evangelical Community Hospital Annual Report from 2018; flyers and literature from: Penns Creek Pottery, Roller Mills, Kelly RV, Street of Shops, Outdoor Furniture of Mazeppa, Railside Furniture, Central Oak Heights, Susquehanna Valley Growers' Market, Brookside Bikes, Carriage Corner, Loose Ties Rail Road Club, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, The Gutelius House, Bucknell University Visitors Guide, Milton Community Band Concert at Central Oak Heights June 2018, and the Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau.



Nature and History in the West End of Union County, Pennsylvania.

Heritage 2020, Volume XXVII, by Tony L. Shively is FREE to UCHS members who have renewed for 2020. If you have not received your copy, please contact us via email to info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org or call 570-524-8666.

If you would like an additional copy for friends or family, please inquire. Member price is \$20 plus \$5 shipping.

Students Join the Union County Historical Society Board

The Union County Historical Society welcomes two area students to the Board of Directors:

Conor Emery is a rising Freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, a 2020 graduate of Mifflinburg High School. History is a favorite subject in school, and he enjoys learning about all types of history. When his high school teacher told him the board was looking for students to become involved, he was greatly interested. He believes preserving and learning about local history is very important, and looks forward to helping the board find better ways to spread information about local history, including to students like himself.

Sarah Mahoney is a rising senior at Lewisburg Area High School, and is excited to be a member of the UCHS board. She is involved in school and the community in leadership positions, notably as Student Council President and as a Girl Scout Gold Awardee. One of her greatest interests is the rich military history in our area; she enjoys discovering the ways that our noble past has influenced our present. She looks forward to learning more about the history of our area and working to create a better community through service on the UCHS board.

Continuing Union County Historical Society Board Members

Barb Franck, Mary Kay Harper, Mike Molesevich, Jeff Reber, Eli Reiff, Darren Rhyne, Kathy Swope, and Bruce Teeple.

NOMINATIONS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

The Nominations Subcommittee recommends the following for the September 2020 election for the Board of Directors. According to the UCHS bylaws, UCHS shall send ballots to members with the newsletter in August, so that members may vote for board candidates. The election will take place at the UCHS board meeting on September 8th.

New board member: **Susan (Borden) Rapp** was born and raised in Lewisburg, graduating from Lewisburg High School in 1973 and Bucknell University in 1977. She and her husband, Bob, moved to Colorado, then to Wellsboro, then back to the Lewisburg area in 1983. After teaching in New Jersey, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, Susan taught Social Studies at Lewisburg High School from 1987-2017. Bob Rapp worked as a project manager in Bucknell's Facilities Dept. for nineteen years. Their three children, a son and two daughters, graduated from Lewisburg High School; two from Susquehanna University and one from Bucknell. Susan and Bob retired in 2017. Bob volunteers at Camp Karoondinha and at their church; Susan serves on the Board of Deacons and two committees. Susan says she is fortunate to be caring for her 91 year old mother and 4 year old grandson!

Running for another three-year term on the board are current members: **Phyllis Dyer** of Winfield, who volunteers for organizations in Winfield and Central Oak Heights, and at Evangelical Hospital; and **Matt Wagner** of Mifflinburg, retired Mifflinburg High School music teacher, president of the Mifflinburg Christkindl Market Board.

Returning to the board for a three-year term is **Lonnie Hill** of Lewisburg, attorney, who served on the UCHS board 2016-19.

Please return your BALLOT (by mail or email) by August 30.



**Please consider writing for TELLING THE STORY of Union County, PA
(formerly ACCOUNTS)**

The last issue of our online journal was published in fall 2018. The publication was put on hold 2019 because we didn't receive enough article contributors. I am attempting to revive the publication, begun by Tom Greaves in 2011, with a renewed call for writers, and introducing a new name – TELLING THE STORY of Union County, PA.

I am looking for stories of Union County people, places, and events. They do not have to be long. Short stories are preferable. There are many people who have recollections that are worth telling. Do you have a topic you'd like to develop into an article? Please contact Matt at mcwagner.mcw@gmail.com with your idea. Even if you have something in mind but aren't sure how to get started writing an article, contact me and I'll be happy to help you develop your idea.



Here are some things to think about:

- Consider simply “telling the story” as a way of beginning. Begin writing as if you’re telling the story to a friend or relative
- Sometimes an old photograph is a good starting point; tell a story related to the photograph
- Stories of businesses past and present (clothing stores, hardware stores, barbers, pharmacies)
- Memories of community holiday traditions from the past
- Memories of shopping in communities throughout the county, especially some of the small country stores that are gone
- Stories of family history
- Memories of farming activities (dairy, butchering, apple butter making)
- Memories of residents who have shaped the history of Union County
- Memories of the railroads and activities at railroad stations of Union County
- Stories from military personnel, especially those who served in Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, etc.

Matt Wagner, Editor
mcwagner.mcw@gmail.com
TELLING THE STORY of Union County, PA



Union County Historical Society Board 2020 BALLOT

According to the UCHS bylaws, UCHS shall send ballots to members with the newsletter in August.

*Members shall vote in August for board candidates. **Ballots are due back to the UCHS office by August 30***

Please mail to UCHS, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837. Or email to info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org.

The Nominations Subcommittee has selected the following to serve three-year terms on the UCHS board:

Phyllis Dyer of Winfield, volunteer for Winfield, Central Oak Heights, and Evangelical Hospital

Lonnie Hill, of Lewisburg, attorney, returning to the board

Susan (Borden) Rapp of Lewisburg, retired Lewisburg High School Social Studies teacher

Matt Wagner of Mifflinburg, retired Mifflinburg high school music teacher

I vote _____ (write in “yes,” “no,” or leave blank) to approve these nominations.

Union County Historical Society
Union County Courthouse
103 South Second Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Return Service Requested

Membership in the Union County Historical Society supports programs, the research library, and the growth of our collections. Membership helps maintain the 1793 Dale-Engle-Walker House, which offers tours, exhibits, and programs. The Union County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. Membership is tax deductible as allowed by law. In addition to membership, we gratefully accept donations promoting UCHS's mission. Volunteers are welcome. **Member benefits** include newsletters, a discount on society publications, free use of our extensive reference library with access to on-line resources.

New, renewing, and gift memberships: please mail this form to:
Union County Historical Society, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____
Membership level: Annual Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Student (K-12) \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (per person) \$800

Please visit www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org for events, articles, resource list, and more.