

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Fall 2004

“IMAGINING FREEDOM ON THE PENNSYLVANIA FRONTIER”

The treaty of 1754 opened the land of present-day Fulton County to legal settlement by the McConnell and other pioneer families. What were conditions like on this new western frontier exactly 250 years ago?

Paula Zitzler, Research Director for the Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, will discuss this topic at the fall meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society on Thursday, October 14, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fulton House, McConnellsburg. Zitzler holds degrees in Anthropology and Public Archeology and has wide experience directing heritage projects and archeological investigations.

Drawing from first person accounts and archival material, the illustrated program will reveal the impact of the signing of the Treaty of Albany which made our area part of the province of Pennsylvania for the first time. Funding for this program comes through the Currents of the Juniata Valley 1754-2004. The meeting is free and open to the public as the introductory event for the annual Fulton Fall Folk Festival weekend.



SUMMER MEETING

President Ken Keebaugh presided at the summer meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society on Saturday, August 14, 2004, held at Winegardner one-room school in Taylor township. The building was purchased and restored by schoolteacher Lois Madden who donated it to the Society in her will. A large number of desks and other school items filling the interior are owned by Forbes Road teacher Carol Curfman.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY PHOTOGRAPHS

A free exhibit of transportation photographs will be featured in the Fulton House museum from Friday, October 15, through Sunday, October 17, 2004. The enlarged, mounted photos are on loan courtesy of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor program. Local volunteers who can help staff the exhibit should contact Dick Miller 485-3412 or Glenn Cordell 485-3172. Festival weekend is a busy time for everyone but the Society really needs your help to cover the Fulton House from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

COME VISIT OUR HOMES

Five local families extend a welcome for you to visit their homes during Festival weekend between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. either Saturday or Sunday afternoons, October 16 and 17. A private retreat lodge is also included which welcomes guests who want to spend some relaxing days here as a family. This is a wonderful opportunity to see a variety of houses built over a 150 year period which showcase gracious living in our Fulton County community.

The house tour is the Historical Society's major fund-raising event for 2004. Please share the enclosed brochure and help us promote this activity. If you are available to help sell or check tickets either afternoon, we can offer you a complimentary tour ticket to use the other afternoon.



FULTON HOUSE REPAIRS

The Historical Society has been awarded a grant to repaint all the stonework on the Fulton House, replace a few rotted window frames, add new exterior doors, and put new wood shakes on the log kitchen roof. Currently, the Society is working on a grant to cover the cost of architectural specifications which need to be signed and sealed by a professional architect before bidding. In August the Historical Society paid \$2,780 to have the steel terne roof power washed, rinsed with detergent, coated with iron oxide primer and then a hand application of two coats of oil paint in dark bronze.

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LIBRARY HELPER

Jennifer Helmstaedter began working June 28 in the Historical Society library as a summer employee of the Fulton County Employment and Training program. Jen worked on book inventory and updated the large cemetery file before beginning to copy 100-year-old tax assessment books to be made available on the Society's web page. Her help was very beneficial to the Historical Library.

LIFE MEMBER

On July 28, 2004, Geraldine deShong Dorman of Newark, Delaware, became the newest life member of the Fulton County Historical Society. Geraldine is a granddaughter of Thomas O. and Julia Capel DeShong and a member of the DAR. She has a fine line of early Mellott, Starr, and DeShong ancestors. Her email is gerid@magpage.com

CEMETERY DISK AVAILABLE

An on-going project of the Historical Society since the late 1970s has been to write down names and dates from all the tombstones still standing in Fulton County, and to clip recent obituaries for a cemetery file. Many people helped make this possible. This summer Dennis E. Fields turned in a copy of the Wells Presbyterian cemetery which completes our list of known existing graveyards.

Jennifer Helmstaedter, our summer intern, added obituaries through June 2004 to the file and did a rearrangement of the names and dates to make it easier to read. While not perfect, the file should help you locate graves of ancestors or relatives where you can verify the data for yourself. You may also send corrections to the Society at FCHS@fultonhistory.org and we

will update the master copy on the library computer.

The file of cemetery names has 1,480 pages. It has been burned to a CD as a PDF file (use the free Adobe Reader to open it.) In addition, we are including the inventory of Historical Society books, a list of family surnames from our genealogy folders, and the microfilm list of newspapers and courthouse documents which are available to researchers at our Historical Society library. This CD of files can be purchased at the library for \$10 or by mail for \$12.

CIVIL WAR INTEREST

Former president of the Fulton County Historical Society and current life member, John Nelson continues his publication of Civil War material with a recent release on computer disk titled "As Grain Falls Before the Reaper." John has individual data on each of the 12,651 Federal casualties from the Battle of Antietam (the bloodiest battle in U.S. history) and details of the 120



SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM

Local collectors loaned small but interesting items for an exhibit at the Fulton House museum which was open every Sunday afternoon through the summer of 2004.

nearby sites used as Federal hospitals. The historian at Antietam National Battlefield describes the 449 pages of material as "one of the most important studies of the Civil War that's been done in years." Copies of the CD are available at our Historical Society library for \$20 or by mail for \$22 from John H. Nelson, 813 Maryland Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740.

By Glenn Cordell, Administrator

Fulton County Historical Society Treasurers Report 6/30/04

Receipts 4/1/04 to 6/30/04	
Dues	\$1,720.00
Books	\$375.00
Spring Dinner	\$840.00
Dividends	\$51.75
Donations	\$21.00
Postage	\$10.20
Interest - checking	\$5.14
S-Berry Festival	\$417.00
Calendars	\$5.00
Cemetery Disks	\$5.00
Life Members	\$500.00
House Tour	\$260.00
Books- no tax	\$28.00
Postcards	\$3.00
Total Receipts	\$4,241.09
Disbursements	
Printing	\$257.00
Annual Dinner	\$740.00
Mowing Big Spring	\$400.00
Postage & Box Rent	\$274.56
Fulton House	\$116.07
Sales Tax	\$235.68
S-Berry Festival	\$201.14
Misc.	\$239.00
House Tour	\$45.00
Administrator	\$737.00
Library	\$39.22
Dues & Publications	\$25.00
Total Disbursements	\$3,309.67
Net Gain	\$931.42
Balance	\$8,371.00

Jane MacDonald, Treasurer

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773

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