

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Spring 2010

Hobo Stories to be Shared at Dinner Meeting

Matthew Dodd will entertain members and friends with "Songs and Stories of the American Hobo" at the Fulton County Historical Society's annual dinner meeting Thursday evening, April 22, 2010. A full-course meal with two meats will be served at the Hustontown Fire Hall at 6:00 p.m. with a \$12 charge to cover both the meal and the entertainment.

Fire hall cooks need a reservation count by April 15. Please mail your check now to Fulton County Historical Society, Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233. We will have a list with your name when you arrive. Contact chairperson Monica Seville (717 485-4454 daytime) or Society president Dick Miller (717 485-3412 evenings) for details or directions.

Business Meeting

Following the meal, your secretary and treasurer will open a short business session. President Dick Miller will report on highlights of the past year and conduct an election of officers for the new year. You are invited to submit nominations in advance for president, vice president, secretary and two directors. You may also nominate a person for Historian of the Year. If you are local, please consider volunteering to serve on one of our seven standing committees or offer new ideas for any Society activity. Your help is needed and appreciated!

News and Upcoming Events

A popular attraction has been a spring and autumn Tea held in the historic Fulton House. This impressive gathering is planned for Saturday, April 24, with tickets available around McConnellsburg or from Edie Coleman (814-735-3039.) We promise you won't be disappointed! Proceeds from the tea benefit the museum fund.

Museum docents have met to plan a new display of loaned needlework and old kitchen tools and utensils for the Fulton House Museum for the 2010 season. This display will complement the museum's permanent collection. More volunteers are welcome to help with staffing this summer. With enough support, volunteers may only need to report one or two afternoons a month.

Lion TV, a British production company, came to Fulton County in January from their New York City office to film an episode for PBS's popular "History Detective" series to air later this year. Israel Brown of Burnt Cabins joined the Union army during the Civil War and died in South Carolina. When he didn't return home, his widow asked J. Blair Welch of Burnt Cabins to write a letter to Clara Barton, who had promised to help locate missing persons. Ken Keebaugh helped fill in the local details for this Civil War story. Write to Ken (kwkeebaugh@hotmail.com) if you want him to notify you when he learns the date of broadcast.

For a rare glimpse of old McConnellsburg businesses and owners, the Society has located and reproduced an illustrated 1890s Business Directory. Printed on

semigloss 18" x 24" stock, the sheet is available in McConnellsburg for \$15 or by mail for \$18. The 50 advertisements include one female businessperson (Mrs. Little's Millinery Shop) and a respected African-American barber (Isaac N. Watson) with other prominent local citizens.

Friends of Tonoloway Church (Treas. Marlin Douglas, 215 Meadow Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17201) has reprinted their 2 books from the 1990s on the Mellott and Truax impact on Fulton County. They are \$5 each (\$6 with mailing). The Civil War history "Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk" is also available at the same address for \$25 (\$28.50 mailed.) Write John Mentzer (mentzer30@embarqmail.com) for details.



Hazel Harr enjoyed genealogy and helped others to research their family.

her papers were donated. Directors approved having a custom table built for the microfilm reader and computer, with a plaque in her memory. We were fortunate to have Hazel in our community.

In Memory of Hazel Harr

Widely known for her excellent help with family genealogy and as a dedicated librarian for the Fulton County Historical Society, Hazel Harr passed away on January 4, 2010. Many members remember how she would open the Fulton House on the coldest Thursday evenings and guide people to the best source for finding the information they needed. Her knowledge of local families and events and her memory for detail was outstanding. In appreciation, the Society recognized her as Historian of the Year for 1988 and gave her an honorary life membership following her retirement after many years of service. Her children asked that memorial gifts go to the Historical Society library, where many of

New Life Members

In January 2010, Gerald S. Mallott of Ohio joined the Society as a life member. His family has used the "a" spelling of Mallott for 4 generations. Gerald was born in Whips Cove and graduated from Bethel Township High School in 1946. He retired after nearly 39 years as an administrator at Defiance College. His great-grandparents are Riley F. & Amanda Bard Mallott; Nathan W. & Rebecca Jane Garland Mellott; Jacob C. Wertz & Mary Lake Sipes; and Caleb C. & Maria Welch Mellott. Write him at mallott@defnet.com if you have data on his Garland, Wertz or Lake lines.

On March 2, 2010, Donald R. Bard of Needmore changed his regular membership to life. Donald is a life-long resident of Fulton County and has been active in the political, business and religious life of our community. His interests are primarily in church history and political history. He expresses a concern that some historical places and structures are in danger of being lost.



McConnellsburg Business Directory from the 1890s.

Membership Book

The 2010 publication, 19th Century Lutheran Church Records, is enclosed with this newsletter as one of your membership benefits. Additional copies are available in the county for \$8 or by mail for \$10. Thank you for your continued support as a member of the Fulton County Historical Society.

by Glenn Cordell

Minutes for the winter membership meeting

The winter meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society was held in the Fulton Theater on January 16, 2010. President Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with nearly 100 people in attendance.

Minutes of the fall meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved on a Bill Spigler/Ron Mitchell motion. Treasurer Gene Leese gave a brief oral treasurer's report from October 16 up to January 16. The report was accepted on a Jane MacDonald/Brian Tucker motion.

Donations were solicited to add to \$300 already contributed for the Hazel Harr Memorial Fund to honor Hazel, who directed the genealogy library for 20 years at the Fulton House and recently passed away. Glenn Cordell announced the Society needs a librarian for the Historical Society research room in the Fulton County Library. Four boxes of genealogical papers from Hazel Harr were donated to the library and need to be sorted. Volunteers are needed to help with preserving old deeds and documents in acid-free paper.

Pres. Miller introduced Gene Niswander, who gave a presentation on Native American artifacts and culture.

President Miller announced we just received confirmation



Velma Leese shows speaker Gene Niswander an Indian scraping tool found along Licking Creek in Belfast Township.

from Attorney Stanley Kerlin of a bequest to the Fulton County Historical Society of \$5,000 from the will of William Hartmann. Miller thanked Monica Seville for making arrangements for the meeting and supplying refreshments. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth W. Keebaugh, Secretary, FCHS

For **2010-11 officers**, I nominate ...

for President - _____ ;

for Vice President - _____ ;

for Secretary - _____ ;

for Director to 2013 - _____ ;

for Director to 2013 - _____ ;

for Historian of the Year _____ .

Current officers appear at the bottom of this page.

Please reserve _____ adult meals @\$12 and _____ children's meals @\$6 for April 22; make your enclosed check payable to the Fulton County Historical Society.

Renew my membership at _____ \$15 annual or _____ \$250 individual life.

DEADLINE for meal reservations and nominations is April 15, 2010. Thank you for your support!

Fulton County Historical Society

Treasurers Report 01/15/10

October 16, 2009 to
January 15, 2010

Receipts:

Donations	\$186.75
Books, prints & other sales	897.56
Shipping & Handling	2.36
House Tour	426.00
Dues	525.00
Investment div. & int.	2,052.13
Special Events	702.28
Total Receipts	\$4,792.08

Disbursements:

Special assistance (individuals)	\$849.00
Supplies	113.49
Postage & Box Rent	383.73
Printing & Copying	50.00
Items for resale	30.00
Rent to Fulton Co. Library	600.00
Mowing Big Spring Cemetery	425.00
Program expenses	197.91
Total Disbursements	\$2,649.13

Net Gain for Quarter \$2,142.95

Gene Leese, Treasurer

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773 Web page: www.fultonhistory.org

2009-10 OFFICERS:

Richard A. Miller, President
Monica Seville, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Linda Garber 2012
Summer Stiffler 2012
Ruth C. Reeder 2011
John Mentzer 2011
Edith Coleman 2010
Dick Newman 2010