

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Spring 2018

Fulton Co. Historical Society Spring Dinner Meeting to Feature Talk on Underground Railroad and Related Topics for Area

Annual Fulton County Historical Society Membership Dinner and Meeting will be held at Hustontown Firehall, Hustontown, PA 17229, on March 31, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.



Featured speaker, Mr. Cooper Wingert, will talk about the struggles over slavery and abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Central Pennsylvania. Much like the rest of the nation, South Central Pennsylvania struggled with slavery. The institution lingered locally for more than fifty years, although it was virtually extinct everywhere else within Pennsylvania. Gradually, antislavery views prevailed.

The Appalachian Mountains and the Susquehanna River provided

natural cover for fleeing slaves, causing an influx of travel along the Underground Railroad.

Mr. Wingert is the author of 11 books including *Slavery and the Underground Railroad in South Central Pennsylvania*, *Abolitionists of South Central Pennsylvania*, *The Confederate Approach on Harrisburg: The Gettysburg Campaign's Northernmost Reaches*, and *Harrisburg and the Civil War: Defending the Keystone of the Union*.

He is the recipient of the 2012 Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Award for Confederate History, and has appeared on C-SPAN Book TV and Pennsylvania Cable Network. He is a student at Dickinson College, in Carlisle, Pa.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$ 7.50 for children ages 4-11, children under 4 are free. Reservations and payment must be received by March 23, 2018. For reservations, contact Monica Seville at 717-485-4454.

Election of Officers set at March 31 Meeting

President Richard A. Miller will call for the nomination and election of officers.

The election will include president, vice-president, secretary and two (2) board members.

There are no term limits for Society secretary, but the by-laws limit the president and vice president to three consecutive one-year terms and directors to two consecutive three-year terms. This opens the opportunity for new leadership, so think of your many friends and acquaintances who have an interest in Fulton County history and nominate them.

Offices slated for election this year are: president (Richard A. Miller, completing his third term as president, and term limited.); vice-president (Monica Seville, completing a third term as vice-president, and term limited); secretary (Ken Keebaugh); director (Mike Crampton, completing first three-year term); and director (Linda Garber, completing first three-year term). [See nomination form on reverse.]

Of course, there are many opportunities for active service without being an elected officer, so don't hesitate to volunteer your time and talent. You may find this rewarding, and the Historical Society will become a stronger organization with the participation of more local volunteers!

New Life Members Welcomed

Our newest life members are:

Virginia Covalt of Santa Barbara, CA. became Life Member #279 in December. Family names of interest to Virginia are: Covalt, Fisher, Truax/Truex, Hart, Mann, Palmer, Pittman, and Stillwell.

Emma Rosebrock, Archbold, OH, converted from an annual member to a life member (#280) in February. Her family names of interest include: Sipes, Deshong, Cutchall, Pittman.

Larry G. Mellott, Needmore, PA, converted from an annual member to a life member (#281) in February. His family name of interest is Mellott.

The Life Membership Endowment of the society, now with 281 members, totals \$42,650.

High School Yearbooks Scanned

The Fulton County Historical Society has scanned to DVD a complete collection of all McConnellsburg High School yearbooks from 1939 through 2017, and all Hustontown/Forbes Road High School yearbooks from 1949 through 2017. All high school students and staff are included, and names are searchable for each year. Discs sell for \$20 plus mailing costs, and can help bring back memories of former friends.

The Society has started the copying process for the Southern Fulton yearbooks, but we are still seeking some missing years. (1944 through 1952, and 1989, '90, '91 & '95). Next up for scanning will be Green Hill yearbooks, but as of date we have few books for that school. If anyone has some of the missing Southern Fulton books, or a Green Hill collection to loan, please let the Society know. Contact Glenn Cordell at 717-485-3172.

Historical Society's Museum Annex Renovations and Exhibits Proceed

It hardly seems possible that a little over a year ago we began working on the first portion of the Museum Annex – painting ceilings and walls, installing new lighting, laying flooring, and creating our first exhibits. We've also been blessed with monetary donations from our generous society members along with volunteer efforts and donated materials and artifacts.

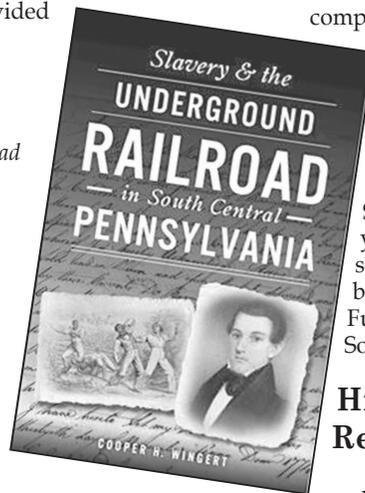
We are currently working on the second phase of our renovations, which includes more painting and lighting and floor installation. The second phase also includes creating our first permanent exhibits of "Main Street" businesses: the Fulton Democrat Print Shop with an interactive display on printing, Stoner's Tin Shop with period tools and Stoner tin artifacts, and the Stoner Furniture Shop with period tools and Stoner painted chairs.

Visitors will enter each display through a façade designed to look like the original business store front. We have received grant funding from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor for building these 3 exhibits.

Our goal is to have the second portion of the renovations and these three exhibits completed for the Fulton Fall Folk Festival that is held every October. Other smaller exhibits are planned to be available this summer.

Spring Tea Set at Museum Annex Banquet Room for April 14

The Spring Tea will be held in the Banquet Room at the Museum Annex, 211 Lincoln Way East, McConnellsburg, PA, on April 14, 2018 at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made by calling Edie Coleman at 814-735-3039.



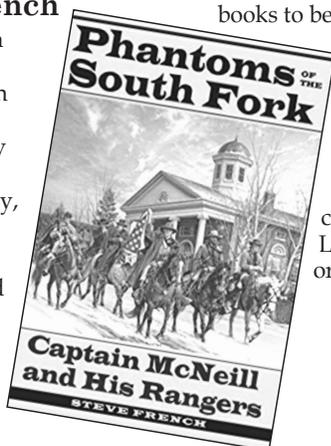
Spring Bus Tour to go to Gettysburg

Last fall the Fulton County Historical Society announced that the Spring Bus Trip would travel to Gettysburg. On April 27 we will travel to the National Military Park Museum and Visitors Center to view the Film and Cyclorama. Responce has been overwhelming, and at this point the tour is sold out. Thank you to all who have signed up for this interesting and fun filled day.

Book Talk and Book Signing by Author Steve French

Come hear Steve French discuss his new book and tell about some of the escapades in Fulton and Franklin Counties. Hear him at the Fulton County Library, 227 North First Street in McConnellsburg on Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Last December, Kent State University Press released *Phantoms of the South Fork: Captain McNeill and His Rangers*. The book, written by former Hedgesville High and Shepherd graduate



Steve French, chronicles the adventures and exploits of a small band of Confederate partisan rangers who roamed the Potomac Highlands of eastern West Virginia and specialized in attacking isolated Union outposts, supply trains, and interrupting traffic on the B&O Railroad.

In their most spectacular action, in the early-morning hours of Feb. 21, 1865, sixty-five Rangers entered Cumberland, Md., and captured generals George Crook and Benjamin F. Kelley from their hotel rooms. Former Antietam National Park historian Ted Alexander has called *Phantoms of the South Fork* "one of the most important Civil War books to be published in years."

Steve French is also the author of the several other multiple-award winning books on local Civil War history. Books will be on sale at the talk.

For more information, contact the Fulton County Library at fultoncountylibrary.org or phone 717-485-5327.

Minutes for FCHS Winter Membership Meeting held on January 12, 2018

The Winter Meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society was held in the Fulton County Court House in McConnellsburg on January 12, 2018. President Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of the Fall Meeting as printed in the FCHS Newsletter were corrected to read "The \$27,000 grant was for heat in the Murphy Building." and "The Stunkard rifle was repaired by Jan Fraker." The minutes, as corrected, were approved on a motion made by Wayne MacDonald and seconded by Mike Crampton.

President Miller made the following announcements.

The Fulton House museum now has four Stunkard rifles on display.

The Murphy Building was purchased a year ago for \$95,000. Repairs and improvements have been ongoing since then.

Some recent large acquisitions on display were a sleigh donated by Verda Shew Hockensmith and a 1910 wagon donated by Harold Comerer. The sleigh arrived in its original shipping crate and the wagon was used by Commerer's family hardware business in McConnellsburg.

FCHS Museum displays are located on the left side of the building, and Anthony Fetterhoff's antique store merchandise is located on the right side of the store. Future displays planned are a printing press used by the Fulton Democrat newspaper in McConnellsburg, a furniture store and tin shop that were located in the old Stoner building, and a display of items from World War II veterans.

Oak flooring was donated, installed and finished by volunteers. The roof still needs to be replaced.

Miller introduced the evening's guest speaker, Mr. Larry Garlock, who gave a very interesting and informative presentation on United States flags and the historical background of their period.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary

For **2018-19 officers**, I nominate ...

for President to 2019 - _____ ;

for Vice President to 2019 - _____ ;

for Secretary to 2019 - _____ ;

for Director to 2021 - _____ ;

for Director to 2021 - _____ ;

Current officers appear at the bottom of this page.

Please reserve _____ adult meals @\$15 and _____ children's meals @\$7.50 for Saturday, March 31; make your enclosed check payable to the Fulton County Historical Society.

Renew my membership at _____ \$20 annual dues or _____ \$250 individual life.

DEADLINE for meal reservations and nominations is March 23, 2018. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

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

2017-18 OFFICERS:

Richard A. Miller, President
Monica Seville, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mark Sheffield 2020
Carolyn Hollenshead 2020
Linda J. Mellon 2019
Doug Brown 2019
Mike Crampton 2018
Linda Garber 2018