

# FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Winter 2019

## Winter Meeting to Include Meal and Speaker

The Fulton County Historical Society's Winter meeting will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019. This year's meeting will have a different format and location. Ken Keebaugh will be the guest speaker and will discuss the various transportation routes through Fulton County and various landmarks along the routes.

The Society will host the meeting in the auction/banquet room at the rear of the museum annex. You can park in the parking lot across the alley from the back door. We are also going to offer an open house and a meal prior to the speaker's presentation. The open house and meal will cost \$7.50 per person. The meal will consist of baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, dessert, and a drink. The open house will start at 5 pm and will offer guests a chance to view the annex exhibits and review the work accomplished since the building was purchased in December 2016. The meal will start about 6. The open house and meal will be limited to 60 people.

Those not wanting to participate in the open house and meal can still attend the guest presentation. The doors will be opened at 6:45 for the presentation.

Please come join us for an evening of learning and fellowship.

Contact Mark Sheffield at 717-485-4191. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

## FCHS Main Street Museum Displays Open to Public

On October 19, 2018, the Fulton County Historical Society Museum Annex officially opened its first three "Main Street" permanent displays: The Fulton Democrat, A. Stoner Stove & Tinware, and Wm. Stoner's Furniture Rooms. These displays have been furnished with antique tools and furniture from these Fulton County businesses when they were in their prime during the 1800-1900s. Over 400 people visited these exhibits during the October 19-21 Fulton Fall Folk Festival.

The Fulton Democrat's storefront featured the platen from one of the newspaper's original presses from the mid-19th century, as well as original type-cases containing several large fonts of wooden type, and smaller fonts of lead type, a collection of dingbats in wood, brass and lead, a large collection of etchings of photos and line art used in letterpress printing, a collection of the equipment used to set letterpress jobs, work table and newspaper clippings from that time. Gene Leese of the Historical Society demonstrated the use of a rotary proof-press by inking, then printing on paper, several of the items (etchings, wood type, hot lead molded advertising items) from the collection during the Fall Folk Festival open house.

Stoner's Furniture featured tools used by store owner William Stoner. Decorated chairs and a child's bed Stoner made by hand were displayed. Other Fulton County ladder-back chairs are displayed along with a key to the finials - the signature - that identified the chairmaker. County chairmakers each had a signature finial that identified the craftsman.

Albert Stoner's Stove & Tinware shop display featured tools and work benches used in the original workshop. The Historical Society's Glenn Cordell has donated all known



*The Wm. Stoner's Furniture Rooms display in the FCHS Museum Annex.*

Photo courtesy of The Mercersburg Journal

Stoner tinware, which came from the old store and was on display with two tin hats crafted by Stoner for the 1886 McConnellsburg town centennial celebration.

This first phase of exhibits was made possible by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Cultural and Historic Support Program and a Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor "Mini-Grant", which originated with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Phase two is planned when funding becomes available. The second phase is to include a post office/general store, a hotel lobby front, and a display of the Fulton Theatre from the 1920s, where a few of the original theatre seats will be on exhibit.

## Spring Tea Set to Benefit Museum

The Museum Spring Tea will be held Saturday, April 13th, 11:30 a.m. at the Banquet Room in the Museum Annex (in the rear of the former G.C. Murphy building at 211 Lincoln Way East, McConnellsburg). Watch for more information in the *Fulton County News* closer to the date. Ticket prices will remain at \$10.00.

For more information or reservations, call Edie at 814-735-3039.

## Newspaper Scanning Effort Underway

To find information on family members and local events in old newspapers, it is now possible to search for names in seconds if the newspapers are digitized - instead of tediously reading each issue. Thanks to several generous donors, our entire collection of *Fulton Republican* newspapers from 1865-1921 are searchable. (Sadly, years 1888, 1890 and many scattered issues after 1903 are missing.)

The Library of Congress made the first 20 years of the *Fulton County News* searchable from 1899 to 1918. (Missing are 1912 and 1913.) Again through generous donors, we were able to continue digitizing years 1919 through 1948.

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Now a researcher has offered to help fund digitizing the *Fulton Democrat* from 1866 through 1888. We'd like to continue with this. If you have an interest in making a donation toward this project, contact Glenn Cordell (glenn20002@gmail.com) for a cost estimate. Searchable scans from microfilm can be as low as 10 cents a page. With 8 pages per weekly issue, a gift of \$50 could scan a year of early Fulton County papers.

Our vision is to load these newspapers on the Society's web page for members to access at home. There is no better source of local information!

## Spring Bus Tour to go to C&O Canal & Harpers Ferry

Sign up for the Fulton County Historical Society's Spring Bus Trip. On Friday, April 26, we will travel by bus to Williamsport, Md., where the C&O Canal will be the main attraction, and then on to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Preregistering is greatly encouraged to guarantee a seat. To reserve a seat and pay, register by mail to: Linda Mellon, 923 Dolly Terrace, LaVale, MD 21502.

Please see insert for a complete itinerary and sign up form.

## New Life Members Welcomed

Our latest life members joining are:

• **William (Bill) Wright**, (#284) from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, joining on September 28, 2018.

• **Edward C. Sharpe**, (#285) from McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, joining on November 10, 2018.

The Life Membership Endowment of the society, now with 285 members, totals \$43,650.

## Volunteer Opportunities with the Society

The Fulton County Historical Society recently had a position on the board of directors open up. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved in the society's governance, please consider volunteering to fill this position. The board currently meets monthly at the Museum Annex in McConnellsburg.

Other volunteer opportunities include helping with the annual auction (which is being planned for Saturday, November 16, 2019), being a docent for the museum, either at the Fulton House or Museum Annex, where both summer hours, and Fulton Fall Folk Festival hours are planned for 2019.

And, other events will be planned throughout the year.

Contacts:

• FCHS President: Mark Sheffield at 717-485-4191

• FCHS Museum: Edie Coleman at 814-735-3039

• FCHS Library: Naomi Waite at 717-987-3757;

Glenn Cordell at glenn20002@gmail.com

• FCHS Auction Committee: Carolyn Hollenshead at 717-573-2805; Bonnie Keefer at 717-372-0061

• FCHS Executive Secretary: Debbie Reed at director@fultonhistory.org

• FCHS Mailing Address: PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233



## Society Receives Support for the Museum Annex Ongoing Project

Trustees of the Arthur and Ruth Schmidt Community Trust have once again made an award to the Fulton County Historical Society. This is the second time the society has received money from this community-minded fund, the first award being in December 2016.

As reported in the *Fulton County News* along with the above photo: "**Schmidt Foundation:** Arthur and Ruth Schmidt Community Trust trustee Denver Kuhn and Community State Bank loan officer Paul Johnston award Schmidt funds on Tuesday, Dec. 11. The Fulton County Historical Society (FCHS) received \$23,000 from the fund to aid in the replacement of the roof of the Fulton County Historical Society Annex on Lincoln Way East. The project is estimated to cost just over \$100,000. Receiving the check are Mike Crampton and Dick Miller of the Historical Society." (Crampton and Miller are to the left; Kuhn and Johnston, to the right.)

Society fundraising is ongoing, and the community is welcome to join the effort by mailing a check to:

Fulton County Historical Society

PO Box 115

McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Please write "G.C. Murphy" on the memo line of your check. The Fulton County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.

## Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) Cultural and Historical Support Grant Received

The society has received a second \$4,000 grant from PHMC; an earlier grant was for design and creation of the 3 permanent exhibits, and this second grant is for cabinets/racks to display our books, etc., in our gift shop. Two other areas this grant covers are equipment and marketing supplies.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

\_\_\_ \$20 Individual/Family

\_\_\_ \$250 Individual Life

Send your name, address, e-mail, and family interest names to the Society address along with your check.

Payment may also be made through the society website.

PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 E-mail: director@fultonhistory.org  
Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773 Web page: www.fultonhistory.org

### 2018-19 OFFICERS:

Mark Sheffield, President  
Mike Crampton, Vice President  
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary  
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2019

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bonnie Mellott Keefer 2021  
(Open) 2021  
Lisa Johnston 2020  
Carolyn Hollenshead 2020  
Linda J. Mellon 2019  
Doug Brown 2019