

# FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Fall 2005

## STORIES FROM VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, the Fulton County Historical Society invites members, friends and the community at large to a meeting on Friday evening, October 14, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the former Fulton Theater, North Second Street, McConnellsburg, where local veterans will share first-hand stories of their activities in the Second World War. While history books give facts and dates for these events, we want to hear the personal experiences of our young men and women during their overseas service, viewpoints from their participation in these worldwide events, their personal feelings, and memories they never forgot. A table will be available to display any mementoes they brought home and any medals or certificates they earned. Veterans who do not wish to speak publicly may have a family member speak for them, or remain at the display table to talk informally of their experiences.

For the past several years, history teacher Brown Cutchall has asked his Forbes Road students to listen to veterans' stories and has a number of video tapes which could be shared with our group or perhaps transcribed as one of our annual publications. We need to remember the sacrifices made by this generation, and want to preserve their stories with their local interest. To keep the meeting from becoming too long, veterans (or a family member of a deceased local veteran) are asked to contact President Dick Miller at 485-3412 or program chairperson Monica Seville at 485-4454 to be listed on the evening's schedule. Light refreshments will conclude the meeting.

## FULTON FALL FOLK FESTIVAL

Again this year, your Society has a full schedule of activities for Festival weekend. Members from out-of-town who plan to attend the Friday evening membership meeting on October 14, may want to arrive earlier in the day and tour our Fulton House museum between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, or return over the weekend when it will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. We are featuring tools and tin ware items made by Albert Stoner (1841-1920), many of which are in our permanent collection with others on loan. A display room downstairs will show chairs and caskets made by Rev. Will Truax (1859-1929) of Pleasant Ridge, and a loaned display of baskets made by Emil Mellott (1908-1991) of Brush Creek Township. Edith Coleman has begun arranging these display rooms. We need volunteers to staff the downstairs and upstairs rooms when open to the public.

As our major fund-raising feature during the Festival, we are privileged again to have local families



## SUMMER MEETING

*John Nelson speaks at the summer meeting on June 30, 2005.*

willing to open their home for our annual House Tour. If you aren't able to attend, share the enclosed brochure with someone who may enjoy the experience, or help us by sending in a donation; we'll mail tickets to you in advance (no charge for postage) and you can offer them to friends as a gift. If we have a beautiful fall weekend with bright sunny skies and colorful leaves, driving through our countryside will be memorable in itself, but you are sure to be delighted with each of the outstanding homes on the tour this year. Get tickets in advance or at the Fulton House on the day of the tour.

## AN ACTIVE LIBRARY

Your Historical Society library is a busy place many days with Bill Turner, Genny Stafford, Marian Seiders, Peg Kerlin and others working on obituaries and making use of our resources. Since we didn't have a summer student worker this year, Betty Daniels cut, sorted and pasted newspaper obituaries on file cards. Mary Black then added them to our cemetery listing on [www.fultonhistory.org](http://www.fultonhistory.org) before filing them in the cabinet. Mary has started answering inquiries from researchers who live too far away to visit the library in person. These volunteers are a great asset to our Society. Thanks to all!

## NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mike Horton of Florida became a life member of the Historical Society in August 2005. Mike is very active in genealogy with a data base on 20+ major surnames of Fulton County families which he generously shares with researchers. In 1994 he printed a 650-page surname index based on work of his late

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brother, Tom Horton. In 1998 he did a printout of 4,000 Mellott names and prepared a CD in 2004 on the Descendants of John and Sarah Stillwell Mellott. While his material is copyright, our members may look at copies Mike donated to the Historical Society library, or write to him at hortmike@verizon.net. As an interesting footnote, Mike's dad, Vaughn Horton (1911-1988) wrote the popular country music song "Mockingbird Hill."

*by Glenn Cordell*

## MINUTES

Approximately 75 members and friends attended the summer meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society on Thursday evening, June 30, 2005, at Big Spring Graveyard in Ayr Township. President Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Treasurer Jane MacDonald gave a financial report showing a beginning checking account balance of \$820.37, quarterly receipts of \$4,669.58, quarterly payments of \$5,150.96 with a deficit of \$481.38 and an ending balance of \$328.99. An endowment fund of life memberships contains \$25,900 along with other investments.

Under old business, President Miller noted estimates have been requested for a new roof, foundation work and other repairs for Winegardner One-Room Schoolhouse using funds from the estate of Historical Society member S. Kay Beach. Big Spring Graveyard continues to be maintained at a cost of \$800 a year.

Noting the importance of Big Spring, Miller stated the long-standing belief that murdered settlers from the 1755 Indian massacre were brought here for burial 250 years ago. In 1777 the only school in the Big Cove was

here, with parents accompanying their children for protection from wolves. He then introduced speaker John Nelson, former president of the Fulton County Historical Society, current curator of the Jonathan Hager House, and author of many publications.

Speaker Nelson began by describing the early colonial fur trade between Europe and the New World. He discussed early wars in 1689-1698, the Queen Anne war from 1702-1713, conflicts in the Ohio valley in 1746 and at Ft. Necessity (Pittsburgh) in 1754. Gradually, American Indians joined with the French against British settlers. A band of Delaware and Shawnee Indians came into present-day Fulton County in the fall of 1755 intending to kill all the families living here. Another raid in January 1756 was directed at the Fort Coombe area south of Warfordsburg. As a direct result of the Fulton County raids, the provincial government of Pennsylvania appropriated money for the first military fort in 1756 at Ft. Littleton, followed by Ft. Loudon and others along this frontier area. The French and Indian War of 1756-1763 where European nations along with Indians fought in America might be considered a world war. Isolated Indian massacres in Pennsylvania were largely ended by 1790. John Nelson told of his work in restoring Big Spring Graveyard where seven Revolutionary War veterans are buried. He and his volunteers reset 50-60 tombstones, and cleared brush and thorns from the one-acre lot officially deeded in 1803 as a public cemetery.

To the delight of the crowd, Patrick McKinley, 2005 high school graduate, played a number of Scots-Irish tunes on his bagpipe. President Miller introduced special guests:

representatives from the Pioneer Historical Society of Bedford, Bill Patterson of New Jersey who descends from the early Pattersons buried at Big Spring, and Esther Dunlap of Oregon who has early Kendall ancestors in Fulton County. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. to allow time to tour the cemetery and talk with family historians about the people buried here.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ken Keebaugh, Secretary*

## Fulton County Historical Society

### Treasurers Report 6/30/05

Beginning Balance	\$ 820.37
Receipts 4/1/05 to 6/30/05	
Dues	\$1,995.00
Books	\$823.00
Spring Dinner	\$724.00
Quilt Names	\$645.00
Donations	\$39.00
Postage	\$33.75
Interest - checking	\$1.28
S-Berry Festival	\$100.00
Cemetery Disks	\$25.00
Life Member	\$250.00
Books- no tax	\$32.00
Postcards	\$1.55
Total Receipts	\$4,669.58
Disbursements	
Printing	\$145.00
Annual Dinner	\$1,149.00
Mowing Big Spring	\$400.00
Postage & Box Rent	\$332.16
Fulton House	\$139.63
Sales Tax	\$32.61
S-Berry Festival	\$112.12
Misc.	\$65.00
Administrator	\$667.60
Library- rent	\$600.00
Website	\$1040.00
Transfer to Life Member	\$250.00
Museum	\$227.84
Total Disbursements	\$5,160.96
Net Gain (loss)	(\$491.38)
Balance	\$328.99

*Jane MacDonald, Treasurer*

**PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233**

**E-mail: [director@fultonhistory.org](mailto:director@fultonhistory.org)**

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

### 2005-06 OFFICERS:

Richard A. Miller, President  
J. Scott Alexander, Vice President  
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary  
Jane MacDonald, Treasurer 2006

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