

Fulton County Historical Society News

Fall 2006

Fall Festival Events

An October highlight for the past 32 years has been our annual Fulton Fall Folk Festival when our mountains are full of color and our communities are alive with a variety of activities. Join us this year for these Historical Society events:

FULTON HOUSE - Our Fulton House museum with its collection of donated treasures and a temporary display of loaned World War II memorabilia opens at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 20, for the 3-day weekend. Museum entry is free to all. A special treat this year will be personal visits with local veterans who will come to the Fulton House at various times in the afternoons to tell some of their experiences. As staffing permits, children are invited to learn and practice basic quilting on a demonstration quilt in the upstairs bedroom. The 1873 Fulton County Map reproduction will be on sale along with our fine collection of books and historic prints.

QUARTERLY MEETING - The fall meeting of the Historical Society will be held at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 20, in the former Fulton Theater. President Dick Miller will open with a short business meeting. Film buff Larry Springer returns with a nostalgic 1940s film program featuring a Gene Autry movie with all your favorite songs. The show begins with an old color cartoon, a Laurel and Hardy comedy and a few preview trailers. The program, including popcorn and soda, is free to the public but a donation box will be available. We expect a capacity crowd and are asking local people to bring chairs, or pillows for children who may want to sit up front.

HOUSE TOUR - The Society's annual house tour is a highlight for many on Saturday and Sunday afternoons of Festival weekend. A brochure is enclosed. Please invite



On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, July 16, 2006, the Bloody Run Historical Society of Everett hosted our summer meeting.

friends and neighbors to accept the gracious hospitality offered by these local families. Your contribution of \$10 is encouraged even if you can't visit all five places. This is a major fund-raising activity for your Society.

Genealogy Donation

The late Dorothy DeShong Leach (1915-1999) of Wilmington, DE, spent years compiling names on the DeShong, Mellott, Starr and numerous other Fulton County families. In July 2006 her son, Michael, deposited 200 notebooks of her research with the Fulton County Historical Society library. Linda Portanova processed these books for the shelf after the pages were numbered by Georgia Ross, Genny Stafford and others. With this addition, our shelves are almost at capacity. Our library is well used by researchers.

Two New Life Members

We welcome **Jean Brehm** of Euclid, Ohio, who became a life member on June 26, 2006. You will "make her day" if you can help her find the exact birth and death dates

for her g-g-grandfather, George Adam Younker, or any information on his father and grandfather, both named Johann Jacob Juncker. They migrated from Lancaster through Bedford and Somerset counties to Cambria County.

Local member **David L. Peck** changed his membership to life on July 14, 2006. In addition to his desire to support the Historical Society financially, he has connections in the Peck, Souders, Culler, Everetts, Bishop, Eader, Pittman and St. Clair families.

Fulton House Exterior Restoration to Begin

In 2001, the Historical Society Board paid for a professional evaluation on preserving the 1793 limestone Fulton House with its 1820 expansion along with the rebuilt log kitchen. The report found the building to be sound but recommended replacing the mortar and other exterior improvements to extend its life through another 200 years. Neither the Historical Society nor the Borough of McConnellsburg

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(owners of the building) had the funds to commit to this extensive restoration.

In 2002 the Fulton County Historical Society applied for a federal Transportation Enhancement Project grant based on the transportation history of the Fulton House which had always been an inn, a tavern, a stagecoach headquarters and hotel serving travelers along a main 19th century road. Our application was accepted with full funding if the Historical Society did all the preliminary planning.

We worked in earnest with volunteers during all of 2003 to prepare documents and specifications to submit to PennDOT. Our high school Voc Tech drafting class went to the Fulton House to prepare detailed blueprint drawings of the building. We consulted with the PA Historical and Museum Commission and received other necessary clearances. But with a change in administration in our regional PennDOT office in January 2004, we learned they no longer had a consultant available to help with formatting our submissions, that a practicing architect needed to be hired to sign our PS&E documents, and that the cost would increase with the application of Davis-Bacon wage rates. To rescue the project, the county's Director of Project Development grant writer Bob McKinley applied for and secured a new \$10,000 grant which allowed us to hire an architect to continue working on these items.

The story has a happy ending. The project was advertised this July and on August 17, 2006, bids from three qualified contractors were opened. The low bid of \$258,859 was submitted by Geo. S. Hann & Son of Ft. Littleton. After evaluation, the Historical Society board on August 28 approved this local contractor and asked PennDOT to prepare a

contract for this full amount without deletions. The total far exceeded our 2002 grant but PennDOT was generous in helping transfer additional funding. Work is to begin in October, go on hold during cold weather, and finish in the spring of 2007.

Perhaps if the Board had been aware in the beginning how much time and effort this project would require, they might have decided to put that effort into Society program enhancement instead. But we all are gratified that a prominent landmark building in our community has been strengthened and will be preserved as a result of this work.

2007 Book in Progress

A new publication is being prepared with names found in Fulton County newspapers listing people who married or died between 1865-1900. For most of this period, Pennsylvania did not require

marriage or death certificates so this data is not readily available. This summer Roy Shaw of Appomattox, VA, visited the library and offered to scan on computer the newspaper abstracts made by Sam Buterbaugh on a typewriter in the 1960s. They are now being proofread by several volunteers and need to be indexed. You may find missing relatives, along with an interesting glimpse into life and death during this period.

To illustrate the book, we would like to add wedding photos of Fulton County couples if any exist between these dates. Contact Glenn Cordell now or scan your photo and e-mail it to director@fultonhistory.org

Dues for 2007 remain at \$15 for an individual or family and may be mailed to the Society address. The annual book is a membership benefit and will be mailed in the spring. Please renew promptly and promote membership to your friends.

by Glenn Cordell, Administrator

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Membership renewal (see your mailing label for expiration date, 04-01-06 above your name means your membership ended on April 1, 2006.):

___ \$15 Adult/family; ___ \$25 Institution; ___ \$250 Individual Life

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Family names or other interest: _____

Annual memberships expire in April. Mailings are sent by bulk mail and are only forwarded by the postal service for an additional charge. Please notify the Historical Society promptly for a change of address.

PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773

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