

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Fall 2009

A Local Boy Goes Far

James Buchanan served his country well for many years before becoming the 15th President of the United States in 1857. He frequently stopped at the Fulton House for meals when traveling to Bedford Springs.

Professor Karl Reisner of Mercersburg Academy will address members and friends of the Fulton County Historical Society on "James Buchanan: A Misunderstood Leader" on Thursday evening, October 15, 2009, as the opening event at the annual Fulton Fall Folk Festival. The McConnellsburg meeting will open at 7:00 p.m. with the location to be

announced in the newspaper. Mr. Reisner has given over 300 talks on the life and times of James Buchanan and feels he was a better leader than most historians believe. Reisner was selected as the primary presenter to portray Buchanan on C-Span's documentary series on the American Presidency.

The meeting is free and open to the public and will follow a brief quarterly business meeting conducted by President Dick Miller.

Folk Festival Weekend

The Fulton House museum will be open throughout the three-day weekend of October 16, 17, and 18 with free admission. Curator Edie Coleman has an interesting toy display and an exhibit of local Civil War items including those belonging to LaFayette Baker who directed the hunt for John Wilkes Booth after Lincoln's assassination.

In the log cabin you may purchase homemade beef barley soup and other food during mid-day on Friday and Saturday and take home tee shirts, magnets and mugs picturing the Fulton House. Proceeds will benefit the museum fund. Also available will be a 30-year selection of Historical Society publications (books, maps, historic prints, postcards) to benefit the Society. The Country Cousins will entertain with a free music program outside the log cabin over the noon hour Friday.

Winegardner School will be open on Saturday and Sunday for tours. The committee has purchased period

James Buchanan was born in 1791 in this log cabin where his father had a trading post along the road between McConnellsburg and Mercersburg.



school desks and Ken Keebaugh added exterior shutters for additional security. Donations of Fulton County one-room school artifacts will be accepted. Contact Dick Newman (814) 685-3497 for details.

Monica Schall has arranged another of our annual House Tours for guests to enjoy the hospitality of local residents who open their homes to visitors. Houses in this year's tour fall into two groups which you may want to do on consecutive afternoons (Saturday and Sunday), each a mix of historic and modern. In McConnellsburg you will be welcomed to the Peck/Pistner home, the UCC Church now celebrating 175 years, and the Wakefield home near the Golf Course. In the Southern Fulton area you may visit the early 1793 Klingerman farmhouse, the Burkin/Kirk mansion, and historic Damascus Church. Pick up descriptive brochures at various businesses around the community. Donations for the full tour will be \$10 with tickets available at the Fulton House. For those whose schedule allows limited time, a half-tour of three places is available for \$6. As usual, this is a major fund-raising project for the Historical Society so your participation is appreciated. Please express your appreciation to the hosts as you visit. Contact Monica (717) 485-4554 for questions.

The Society's Festival events will close at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 18, with a raffle drawing for 5 donated prizes. Crampton Manor (www.cramptonmanor.com) will give as grand prize a free night with full country breakfast at The Carriage House, an intimate retreat for a couple or a family during a visit to Fulton County as scheduled with the owners. The two-story accommodation with private wrap-around deck has two bedrooms, bath, full kitchen, great room and includes wireless internet, TV, stereo, DVD and washer-dryer. Other winners will receive a framed watercolor scene from Towne Framing of McConnellsburg, a set of colorful holiday postcards mailed 100 years ago to Kendall-Nesbit families of Ayr Township, a folk art hand-painted cheese box, and an original unsold 1786-1936 Sesquicentennial of McConnellsburg booklet. We think these prizes will appeal to all Historical Society members so enclosed are 3 tickets for

Peck/Pistner home in McConnellsburg, built in 1922.

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Raffle Prizes to benefit the Society.

Below: grand prize is a free night with full country breakfast at The Carriage House.

At right: a set of 8 colorful holiday postcards mailed 100 years ago.



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your consideration. To increase your chances of winning, we will fill out for you additional tickets based on the amount of your donation received by October 17 and enter them in the drawing.

The Library is Open

The newly-renovated Fulton County Library at 227 North First Street in McConnellsburg is a truly great asset for a small community such as ours. Your Historical Society Library collection of local history and genealogy is housed in a new room on the third floor with service by elevator. We appreciate the local volunteers who helped move boxes of books from summer storage. Mary Black spent much of early September arranging books on the shelves. Ruth Reeder completed an inventory so all books are accounted for. Materials do not circulate outside the room which has a continuous security camera. The room is not staffed but is available 54 hours each week upon registration with photo ID at the main library desk. No charge is made to patrons who use the room although the Society makes an annual contribution of \$1,200 to the public library. Benefactors who would like to help maintain this free service may send a tax-deductible gift to the Historical Society. We also welcome donations of any family or local history material on Fulton County people and events.

Lutherans in Fulton County

Settlers of German background comprised 30% or more of Fulton



County's population in the 19th century. Many of these were members of the Lutheran Church. For your 2010 annual book, Historical Society life member Patricia George of Schuylkill Haven has transcribed names of 19th century communicant members as recorded in the early Lutheran church books, along with lists of baptisms, marriages and burials. Before Gene Leese completes the final layout, we would like to use any 19th century photographs of these people, their homes or any item related to local Lutheran history. A few common family names are Ott, Unger, Bechtel, Lehman, Glenn, Eitemiller, Sigel, Stahle; to find other likely members, enter "Lutheran" in the cemetery "search" block on www.fultonhistory.org to find 12 pages with 566 names of people buried in the McConnellsburg, Big Cove Tannery and Buck Valley Lutheran cemeteries. Please scan any old photos and e-mail them as attachments to director@fultonhistory.org or have the photos copied for use in the book. Illustrations always add interest and could include family stories about church life. A December deadline is necessary for inclusion in the book which will be mailed free to all Society members in March.

Membership Growth

Enclosed is a newly-printed membership brochure which you are encouraged to give or mail to an

acquaintance as an invitation to join the Historical Society. We are currently approaching 500 members. More supporters help strengthen the financial base of your organization and provide funds for additional services. Some upcoming features already approved by your Board of Directors will be an individual log-in password for our internet web page which will allow members to post family queries and help each other with research, post old photos, make updates and access some private material not available to everyone. Members will be notified when this becomes available. Contact the Society for volunteer opportunities if you have web skills to help with these items.

by Glenn Cordell

Fulton County Historical Society Treasurers Report April 25 - July 10, 2009

Income:	
Contributions	\$40.00
1873 Map sales	56.60
Books	731.88
Shipping & handling income	18.00
Membership dues	540.00
Dividends & interest	1,273.13
Div./int. - Winegardner	195.02
Special events	158.49
Total Income (loss)	3,013.12

Expense:	
Supplies	\$27.79
Electronic transaction fees	8.52
Postage and box rental	83.94
Printing and copying	375.00
Mowing	400.00
Meals - Annual banquet	692.75
Conference expense	130.00
Misc. expense	60.00
Total Expense	\$1,778.00

Net Income (loss) \$1,235.12

Gene Leese, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

___ \$15 Individual/Family

___ \$250 Individual Life

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

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

E-mail: director@fultonhistory.org
Web page: www.fultonhistory.org

2009-10 OFFICERS:
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Monica Seville, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
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