

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Summer 2009

Step Back in Time

Members and friends are invited to see original Civil War signatures written in 1862 on the plaster walls and hear the stories uncovered behind the signatures at the summer meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society on Friday evening, July 10, 2009, to be held inside Tonoloway Meetinghouse at 6:30 p.m. Researcher and author John Mentzer will share highlights from his book "Tonoloway: If Its Walls Could Talk" which has photos of all the signatures. Since the Primitive Baptist building has never had electricity, visitors may wish to bring a flashlight to better read the inscriptions.

Light refreshments will be served following the meeting. The adjoining cemetery is also of interest with early gravemarkers for Perthenia Truax who died in 1781, delegate Rev. Joseph Powell, and other Fulton County pioneer families. We will have a list of burials in row order.

Directions: On the southern edge of Fulton County, Tonoloway Meetinghouse is located along Route 655. From the north, turn off Route 522 in Needmore on Thompson Road south. From Hancock, take Pennsylvania Avenue north at the traffic light.

An Echo from the Civil War

The Historical Society has reprinted a first-person account of the final days of the Civil War written by George Wilds Linn, born 1844, a son of Mary Wilds of Fort Littleton. Linn entered the war under the 107th Regt. Penna. Infantry Volunteers from Franklin County while living in upper Path Valley and was present outside Appomattox when the cheer rang out that the war had ended. He could see the white flag flying while Generals Grant and Lee discussed the terms of surrender.

The reprint of Linn's 25-page booklet "From Richmond to Appomattox" was printed from a 1911 original owned by Dave Gregory. Copies are \$5 in town or by mail for \$6.

Quilt Book Correction

The 1823 and 1826 Martin quilts were passed down to Miss Rhoda Kendall who was a daughter of John Francis Kendall and his second wife, Martha Nelson Kendall. Hadessa Martin Leshner was the first wife of John Francis Kendall and these quilts were purchased and donated to the Historical Society by granddaughters from the first marriage who were descendants of the quilt maker. Quilt books in color are available for \$5 plus postage.

Web Page for Members

Your webmaster has entered on the Society's web site 1950s and 1960s photos taken by C.B. Chubb and scanned by Society life member Michael McMeins of East Dundee, IL. Because these show local people, your Board of Directors felt they should not circulate throughout the Internet. For the present, you may view them privately at



Dated January 25, 1862, (until March 1862) Joseph Simon Forsyth of Connecticut served as a male nurse in Tonoloway Church treating Union soldiers wounded in battle with General Stonewall Jackson's troops.

www.fultonhistory.org/show while a log-in feature is being developed. Our vision is to have a secure site for members' e-mail addresses and the option to renew memberships online, a forum to post and answer genealogical queries, share old family photos, postcard views, gravemarker photos, etc. Mr. McMeins made a generous donation this spring to cover the cost of upgrading the web page.

Library and Museum News

Good progress is being made on the renovation of the Fulton County Library which may reopen around August 1, 2009. Please check with Historical Society librarian Mary Black (717) 987-3966 before making a special trip to McConnellsburg this summer.

Museum curator Edie Coleman has a volunteer crew of docents who will offer tours of the Fulton House museum every Friday this summer from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in addition to special openings such as during Strawberry Festival weekend, by other appointment, etc. Two new summer displays feature secret service agent and author LaFayette Baker in connection with the Lincoln assassination, and an exhibit of loaned toys. Museum admission is free.

New Life Member

LeEarl Bryant of Lubbock, Texas, became a life member of the Fulton County Historical Society on April 7, 2009. Her mother, Alice, has been a long-time member with family interest in the Hendershot, Beatty, Barney, Stillwell and other local families.

by Glenn Cordell

Minutes

The annual Spring Meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society was held at the Hustontown Area Volunteer Fire Hall on Friday, April 25, 2009. President Dick Newman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were 80 adults and 3 children in attendance. Rev. Donald Bard offered the blessing for the meal.

President Newman thanked the HAVFCO cooks and servers. He called a brief

business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A motion to accept the minutes of the winter meeting as published in the newsletter was approved. Treasurer Dan Swain gave his annual financial report (attached.) He mentioned Edie Coleman was selling mugs and magnets as a museum fund raiser. Miniature Winegardner school building reproductions are also for sale.

President Newman recognized treasurer Swain and director Dr. Joe Erwin who will be leaving their respective positions after serving three years each. The fall meeting filled the McConnellsburg High School auditorium to capacity for the Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson program. New life members joining the Society in 2008-09 were LeEarl Bryant of Texas, Linda Garber of McConnellsburg, Sonnie Ray Stenger of McConnellsburg, Bill Downs of Mansfield, Ohio, Louise

(continued)

Fulton County Historical Society Annual Treasurer's Report May 1, '08 - April 24, '09

Income:	
Contributions	\$3,465.36
Big Spring contract	500.00
1873 Map sales	291.13
Books	3,157.82
Prints	150.26
Winegardner building models	394.33
Shipping & handling income	43.50
Discounts received	2.20
Program related sales	390.29
House tour	720.00
Membership dues	3,150.00
Life membership dues	1,750.00
Dividends & interest	43.46
Misc. revenue	20.00
Special events	1,691.22
Total Income	\$15,769.57

Expense:	
Professional fees	\$1,645.00
Supplies	1,351.05
Postage and box rental	467.66
Printing and copying	8,072.37
Books, subscriptions, etc.	50.00
Website	200.00
Items for resale	1,006.00
Rent, occupancy exp.	1,368.11
Big Spring Mowing	800.00
Building maintenance	668.36
Meetings expenses	787.06
Insurance	675.00
Organization dues	55.00
Advertising expense	200.00
Program expense	220.15
Other expenses	740.00
Bank fees, etc.	33.34
Fixed asset purchases	144.00
Total Expense	\$18,483.10

Net Income (loss) (\$2,713.53)
Dan Swain, Treasurer

Summer 2009

NEWS

Society
Historical
County
Fulton

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MCCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17233
BOX 115

*Fulton County
Historical Society, Inc.*



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(Minutes continued)

Houck of Greencastle, Travis Kendall of McConnellsburg and Shiloh Sipe of Arlington, Virginia.

When the Fulton County Library renovation is completed, the Historical Society will have a larger room. It will reopen in August. FCHS library resources will be in storage until then. Committee chairpersons are needed for Grant Writing and a corresponding secretary for answering mail and maintaining membership. Winegardner School needs donations of desks, books, etc. Ken Keebaugh built and installed security shutters. Next projects are restoring the coal shed and outhouse. A future project may be a pavilion on the adjacent playground grove.

There was a tie for Historian of the Year. Ruth Reeder introduced Edie Coleman. She noted Coleman's work in keeping the Fulton House museum open, leading volunteers, grant writing and paper preservation. Edie is a genealogist and member of Bedford and Blair County historical societies. She does Fulton Fall Folk Festival fundraisers and hosts teas in the Fulton House. She has two new displays in the museum. She acquired storage

units for old papers to be inventoried and numbered. Coleman added she still needs more volunteers and is still selling tickets for the tea.

Lindsay Mellott introduced fellow Board Member from the Friends of Tonoloway, John Mentzer. The Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church is the oldest church in Fulton County. After two years of research, John authored "If These Walls Could Talk" about signatures of Civil War soldiers hospitalized in the church. This brought in \$7,000 in sales for the Friends. Mentzer majored in history at Penn State and published two family histories and is currently working on a 30-year Mentzer genealogy. He is a member of the Mercersburg Historical Society and is working to save the Jacobs Cemetery south of Waynesboro near the Mason-Dixon line. He has made significant contributions to Fulton County's written history. Mentzer thanked those who helped, especially his family's support. He said there are still books available for purchase.

The nominations for elections for 2009-2010 were as follows: President Dick Miller, Vice President Monica Seville, Secretary Ken Keebaugh, Director Dick

Newman (all for one-year terms); Treasurer Gene Leese, Director Linda Garber, Director Summer Stiffler (all for three-year terms.) All nominations were accepted by a vote of show of hands.

President Newman thanked Monica Seville for arranging the banquet, and introduced Forbes Trail author Burton K. Kummerow as the evening's guest speaker.

President-elect Dick Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Joan McCulloh of the Mercersburg Historical Society and Dr. Walter Powell from Conococheague Institute had a table of materials for sale after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth W. Keebaugh, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

___ **\$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.

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

2009-10 OFFICERS:

Richard A. Miller, President
Monica Seville, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Linda Garber 2012
Summer Stiffler 2012
Ruth C. Reeder 2011
John Mentzer 2011
Edith Coleman 2010
Dick Newman 2010