

# FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

January 2009

## Songs and Stories of the Railroad

In the 19th century, railroads crisscrossed Pennsylvania and were viewed as desirable and necessary for local prosperity. Many Fulton County business people wanted a railroad here. Andrew Carnegie dug a tunnel in Fulton County in the 1880s planning to run a South Penn line through the northern part of this county but the project was never completed. In 1915 many people invested money in a proposed McConnellsburg to Fort Loudon railroad but lost all their cash due to shady financial dealings.

To bring railroad lore to life, Matthew Dodd will take listeners on a journey through time at the winter meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society on Friday evening, January 23, 2009, held in the Fulton Theater,

McConnellsburg, at 7:30 p.m. He will offer stories of famous trains, train wrecks, engineers, brakemen, famous passengers and railroad builders, railroad legends and lore, jokes and more. He will sing railroad songs while playing an acoustic guitar, harmonica, banjo and mandolin.

Light refreshments will be served following the program. A freewill offering will cover Matt's fee. Snow date will be the following Friday evening, January 30.

Program chairperson *Monica Seville* (717) 485-4454 weekdays

## Festival Report

The Historical Society events were profitable during Folk Festival weekend. The offering at the high school program was \$1,311.82 before expenses, food sale receipts were \$472 before expenses, house tour ticket sales of \$750 were all profit, and \$472 was received for the house raffle with the winning ticket going to Joseph Croyle of Imler, PA. A special thanks to house tour hosts and all participants who helped make this possible.

## New Life Members

On September 15, 2008, Louise Houck of Greencastle received a life membership gift from Richard Johnson of Wells Tannery. Louise has family interest in her Johnson, Stunkard, Earley, Chamberlain, Figard, Mort, Ranck and Sprowl ancestors. Louise was an active helper and a donor at the museum tea in the log cabin this fall. Her e-mail is [weasie@pa.net](mailto:weasie@pa.net)

While attending the Fall Folk Festival, William A. (Bill) Downs of Mansfield, Ohio, changed his annual membership to life. Bill is a direct descendant of Michael Downs who arrived in the Colonies in 1773 and settled here about 1790. He received a land grant first in Belfast Township, then purchased an original plot in McConnellsburg in 1796 and worked here as a carpenter until his death in 1841. Both his son George (carpenter, painter and glazier) and his grandson Albert (carpenter) lived in McConnellsburg for many years. Bill, who has Albert's original

tool chest and tools, is a retired university professor with family interest in the Downs, MacDonald, McIntire and Campbell lines. His e-mail is [wadowns@aol.com](mailto:wadowns@aol.com)



## Upcoming Events

Your program chairperson has made arrangements for the annual dinner to be held April 24, 2009, at the Hustontown Fire Hall with a program on the Forbes Trail. You are invited to submit names now for new Society officers to be elected at that program. Your next mailing will include the 2009 annual book plus an updated membership list; send any changes now to [director@fultonhistory.org](mailto:director@fultonhistory.org) Also you may mail your membership renewal check now if your mailing label shows an expiration date before April 2009; only members paid up for 2009 will receive the 2009 book. The Historical Society library room is now scheduled to close in late January for renovation. Heritage Quest will continue to be available free to all members having a Fulton County Library card.

## New Sales Items

An unusual item from the CCC program during the Great Depression is a Spring Menu and Recipe book "offered as suggestions for men who cook for men" by the Kellogg Company. Have you thought of adding corn flakes to scrambled eggs, rice krispies to stuffed peppers or making all-bran muffins? In time for the 75th anniversary of the CCC camps at Cowans Gap and Wells Valley, the Historical Society has reprinted this book on card stock with 2 rings similar to the original. Copies for \$5 each are available in McConnellsburg or for \$7 each if mailed. Also watch the Society's web page for Fulton House and Winegardner School mugs, key rings, refrigerator magnets and other items offered by your museum committee.

by *Glenn Cordell, Volunteer*



## Minutes

The fall general membership meeting of the Fulton County Historical Society was held in the auditorium of the McConnellsburg High School on Thursday, October 16, 2008. A standing room only crowd of around 700 appeared to hear featured guest speaker Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson.

Former Society president and current board member Dick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced the Winegardner one-room school would be open Saturday and Sunday for the Fulton Fall Folk Festival on October 18 and 19. New life member Louise Houck was announced, with her membership a gift from Richard Johnson of Wells Tannery.

Volunteers will be needed to help move books during renovations at the Fulton County Library. House Tour tickets will include the Fulton County Jail; future renovations will remove the 20th century addition of cell blocks at the rear of the

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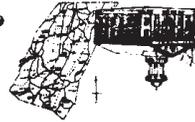
January 2009

**NEWS**

Society  
Historical  
County  
Fulton

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
 BOX 115  
 McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17233

*Fulton County  
 Historical Society, Inc.*



Non Profit Org.  
 Standard Mail  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 McConnellsburg, PA  
 Permit No. 6



*John Nelson of Hagerstown, MD, gets his copy of Saturday Evening Post autographed by Peggy Ann Bradnick after her presentation at the society's fall meeting.*

*(Minutes continued)*

original building.

The Fulton House museum will be open throughout the FFFF and museum curator Edie Coleman will have museum fundraiser items, yard sale items and will sell beef barley soup and scones in the log kitchen at the rear of the Fulton House.

Minutes of the summer meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved on a Robert Snyder Sr./Paul MacDonald motion. Treasurer Dan Swain gave an abbreviated report from the July 25 meeting up to the present; his report was accepted on an Edie Coleman/Lyle Duffey motion.

Fulton Co. Commissioner David Hoover II gave an accounting of events that preceded and occurred during the kidnapping of Peggy Ann

Bradnick in the spring of 1966. Appearing in person, Peggy Bradnick Jackson talked about this experience, centering on compassion for needy individuals in society. During the two-hour program she fielded questions and listened to recollections from audience members. Before and after the meeting, she posed for photos and autographed memorabilia.

The meeting disbanded about 9:30 p.m.

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.

**PO Box 115, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 E-mail: [director@fultonhistory.org](mailto:director@fultonhistory.org) Phone (717) 485-3172**  
**Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization #23-7453773 Web page: [www.fultonhistory.org](http://www.fultonhistory.org)**

2008-09 OFFICERS:  
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