

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Spring / Summer 2014

First Fulton County Heritage Days Held June 14-15, 2014

Scenic, rural Fulton County holds a unique place in Civil War history – it is the site where the first two Confederate soldiers were killed north of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1863 and the site of the last Confederate bivouac north of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1864. In June 1863, Gen. Imboden's troops were in Fulton and western Franklin counties as part of Gen. Lee's Gettysburg Campaign. W.M. Moore of Virginia and F. A. Shelton of North Carolina were killed one day before one of the worst battles of the Civil War – the Battle of Gettysburg. On July 30, 1864, Generals McCausland and Johnson bivouacked in Fulton County after they burned the town of Chambersburg, Pa., earlier that same day.

A Proclamation Ceremony led by Dwight Washabaugh was held on June 13, 2014, to kick off the annual Strawberry Festival and the first ever Fulton County Heritage Days. Loy Garber provided an eloquent invocation and benediction. Elected federal and state officials along with local officials, including county commissioners and township supervisors, gathered to proclaim the start of a weekend of historically-themed activities commemorating the Last Confederate Bivouac north of the Mason Dixon Line, which occurred in Ayr Township, Fulton County.

Girl Scouts from Troop 80334 and Cub Scouts from Pack 43 led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. Students from Central Fulton, Forbes Road, and Southern Fulton School Districts under the direction of Southern Fulton band director Ben Arnold played the National Anthem.

The Fulton County Commissioners read an official proclamation that pointed out that history is a source of pride for our families and our communities, and that countywide activities would be a time for families to come together and remember the events that occurred within our county's boundaries. U.S. Congress Rep. Bill Shuster entered an account of local events in 1864 into the Congressional Record; these comments were not only shared with fellow members of Congress but also President Barack Obama.

Pa. Sen. John H. Eichelberger and Rep. Jesse Topper also shared their messages on the importance of history. Ayr Township Supervisor Thurman Nesbitt III urged attendees to visit several historical locations in the county, including the monument to the Confederate soldiers on Route 16 east of McConnellsburg, the marker south of McConnellsburg on Great Cove Road at the Patterson Farm where the Last Bivouac occurred, and the Big Spring and Union Cemeteries.

Reenactment events occurred on June 14-15 at the Moore Farm, 16937 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg, Pa. Activities included a Living History Village and Living History educational speakers. The Living History Village had first-person demonstrations of Medical, Christian and Sanitary Commissions, Cooking, Ladies Relief Societies, Seamstresses, and Fulton County Civilians. Hourly history programs were presented in the barn, including: Union and Confederate Generals and their respective staffs, including Confederate Generals Lee, Longstreet, McCausland and others, and Union Generals Meade, Williams, and Doubleday; tales of Civil War spies; medicine; task of the cavalry; a period church service; and how to become a Civil War reenactor or living historian. A reenactment was held at 2:00 p.m. on both June 14 and 15. Additionally, Steve French and Jeff Whetstone, authors of books pertaining to the Civil War, signed books at the reenactment site.

In 1929, the United Daughters of the Confederacy Elliot Grays Chapter, Richmond, Va., the North Carolina Division, and the Virginia Division erected a monument to honor the first Confederate soldiers killed north of the Mason-Dixon Line, W.B. Moore of Virginia and F.A. Shelton of North Carolina. At 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2014, the UDC in conjunction with the Fulton County Historical Society held a ceremony to rededicate the monument that marks their graves.

County Commissioner Craig Cutchall was the emcee; Commissioner Irvin Dasher and Ayr Township Supervisors Thurman Nesbitt III and Marlin Harr represented local government. Lois Marlow, President of the North Carolina UDC, and Suzanne Townsend, past president of the Virginia Division, UDC, rededicated the monument. Steve French, historian and author, was the keynote speaker, and he spoke about the Battle of McConnellsburg that occurred on June 30, 1863. Nancy Faxon, Elliott Grays Chapter UDC President, presented certificates of appreciation from the State of Virginia to Ray Miller, who has maintained the monument site for approximately 30 years, and to Linda Garber, President of the Fulton County Historical Society. Reenactor George King participated in this ceremony as the Chaplain and the 3rd Maryland, Company D, provided the Honor Guard and gun salute. Members of the Mercersburg Area Community Band provided the bugler and played "Dixie," "Bonnie Blue," and other Civil War songs as part of the ceremony.

The Fulton House Museum was open June 13-15, 2014 with exhibits pertaining to the Civil War and over 130 visitors. Museum volunteers were dressed in period costume. Todd Alexander gave free horse wagon rides at the Court House Square on Saturday.

The historic Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church, Thompson Road in southern Fulton County near Hancock, Md., was used as a Union hospital. It was open on Saturday, June 14, 2014, from 3 to 5 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., John Mentzer, author of the book *Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk*, gave a presentation about the soldiers' names written on the church walls. The Fulton County Library had an open house on June 13 and 14, along with a book sale open to the public.

The 2nd South Carolina String Band and caller headlined the wonderful Civil War-era barn dance on Saturday night in the beautifully renovated barn at the Moore Farm. Fun was had by all who attended.

No Summer Membership Meeting

The Society's Board of Directors, being heavily involved with the planning and implementation of the Fulton County Heritage Days, made the decision that there would be no general membership meeting this summer, and that the next general membership meeting for the society would be the fall meeting, which is normally held near the Fulton Fall Folk Festival in October. The particulars for the fall meeting will be in the next newsletter in mid-September.

Fulton County Veterans of the Civil War Volume III is now available

Volume III includes names of 282 veterans, 227 photos and 185 pages with surnames from Laley through Reese. The most extensive surnames of veterans included in volume III are 28 with the surname Mellot; 18 Millers; 14 named Moore, including W. Moore the Confederate killed and buried in McConnellsburg before the Battle of Gettysburg; the 8 sons of Dr. James Moore of Wells Valley; and 10 with the surname Ramsey are also included. Interesting stories include that of George McQuade, a Confederate soldier who left the army and ended up in Fulton County, and the obituary of William Mosby, who lived in Wells Valley and was the nephew of noted Confederate raider John Singleton Mosby. Volumes I, II and III are \$26 each plus \$4 postage if mailed. Checks to Friends of Tonoloway for these books can be sent to Marlin Douglas, 215 Meadow Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202.

Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk, and *Civil War Veterans Volume I* (158 pages), *Volume II* (162 pages) and *Volume III* (185 pages) can also be purchased at the Fulton County Treasurer's office, the Yankee Mercantile in Webster Mills, and from the Fulton County Historical Society in the Fulton House. If you have information about Fulton County Veterans and are willing to share, please contact John Mentzer. (Each volume has an erratum chapter that includes updated information about veterans in the earlier volumes that descendants

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have forwarded, so it is not too late.)

For additional information about this or other Friends publications, contact Marlin Douglas 717-263-9860 email dougmar2@comcast.net or John Mentzer 717-328-9279 email mentzer30@embarqmail.com.

New Life Members Welcomed

On April 3, 2014, **John Wesley Miller** became life member #264 of the Historical Society. John, named after his great-great grandfather, is the son of life members Richard and Esther Miller. John loves local history and spent many hours restoring the Merrill Nace desk on display on the second floor of the Fulton House Museum. John and his wife, the former Danielle Deshong, live in the Harrisonville, Pa. area.

On June 14, 2014, **Carolyn Linkous** of Crossville, Tennessee, became life member #265. Family names of interest include Logue, Daniels, McNutt, and Bowhay.

The Life Membership Endowment of the society, now with 265 members, totals \$38,650.

Bus Tour planned of Bedford County, Pa.

The Fulton County Historical Society's fall bus tour is being planned for Friday, October 17, 2014, and will travel west to Bedford County.

The itinerary will include: a covered bridge near Breezewood; the Old Train Depot at Everett; Fort Bedford Museum & Gift Shop; lunch buffet at Homewood Spring House Estates; the Coverlet Museum; and other stops being planned in Bedford or nearby.

Watch local newspapers and the society's fall newsletter for more details.

Museum's 2014 exhibit continues

The Fulton County Historical Society Museum 2014 summer displays in the Fulton House are now open through August, then will reopen for the Fulton Fall Folk Festival. Curator Edie Coleman says that the featured display is "anything and everything Civil War."

Also, local artist Brian Tucker has loaned some of his personal artwork for a display. Brian has worked with the Historical Society to produce their series of prints, which have been a very successful fund raiser over the years. The originals of these prints will also be part of the Tucker display.

Call Edie Coleman at (814) 735-3039 for more information.

Minutes for FCHS Winter Meeting

The Fulton County Historical Society held its winter membership meeting on January 31, 2014 in the sanctuary of the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church. Society President Linda Garber called a brief business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She made announcements pertaining to the Civil War reenactment to be held during the Strawberry Festival weekend in June 2014.

The minutes of the Fall Membership Meeting were approved on a John Mentzer/Dick Miller motion.

Gene Leese gave an oral treasurer's report that was approved on an Edie Coleman/Ruth Reeder motion. The 2014 FCHS publication mailed to all members in April will be a compilation by local researcher Bill Turner containing three e-books on a CD of the 1920 census, early Fulton County marriages and Fulton County wills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS--MUSEUM: Edie Coleman reported Calla Hill paintings, Native American arrow heads and Civil War era artifacts from the 1860s will be on display in the Fulton House museum during the summer of 2014. Also, some of Brian Tucker's personal paintings will be on display. The Spring Tea will be held Saturday, April 12. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children.

HERITAGE DAYS: Edie reported the Civil War Reenactment on June 14-15, 2014, will be the same weekend as the Strawberry Festival.

The Fulton House museum will be open all three days, and docents will be in Civil War period clothing. Volunteers will be given a free ticket for the reenactment at the Moore Farm at Webster Mills. There will be wagon rides in McConnellsburg, and the Alumni Building will be open. The Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church, which was used as a Civil War hospital, will be open on Saturday, June 14. The reenactment at the Moore Farm will be a "living historical camp." The Fulton County Historical Society will have a tent for selling our Civil War publications. The Grease, Steam & Rust organization will sell food. The reenactment will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Educational speakers will be in the barn. The 2nd South Carolina String Band will perform at the Saturday evening dance. Tickets cost \$5.00. Two newspapers will be printed in March and May including a program of events. Donations over \$250 to the FCHS are tax deductible. Donations of camp firewood and bales of hay are needed. Daughters of the Confederacy rededication of the monument will be held at the bandshell on the Court House lawn on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

BUS TRIP: Linda Mellon reported on the Spring Bus Trip to Winchester, Va.

CIVIL WAR BOOKS: John Mentzer reported Vol. I and II are completed and for sale.

SPRING BANQUET: Will be held April 3 at McConnellsburg Fire Hall. The guest speaker will be Kurt Davis, who will talk about the reenactment.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:30 on an Edie Coleman/Ken Keebaugh motion.

FCHS Administrator Debbie Reed introduced the evening speaker, Steve French, a retired history teacher and author from Berkeley Springs, who spoke on Confederate raider John Imboden's campaign, giving detailed accounts of invasions into southcentral Pennsylvania and Fulton County.

Minutes for FCHS Spring Banquet Meeting

The FCHS held its Spring Membership Banquet on April 3, 2014 at the McConnellsburg Fire Hall. President Linda Garber called the business meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She read the mission statement for the society and gave updated details for the Civil War reenactment.

Ken Keebaugh read the minutes for the Summer Membership meeting which was held on July 26, 2013 in the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Gene Leese gave the Treasurer's report. New Life Member, John Wesley Miller, was announced.

OLD BUSINESS: The Fulton County Jail restoration project is completed. A sign at the Fulton House was installed in the flower garden maintained by the North End Garden Club. A fall bus tour of northern Fulton County and Broad Top Mountain, and a Fall Tea Social were successful.

Membership dues were increased from \$15 to \$20 per year.

Linda Mellon reported on the Bus Tour on April 25 to Winchester, Va.

Edie Coleman requested Civil War items to be displayed in the Fulton House Museum during the summer.

NEW BUSINESS: HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR: FCHS research librarian Naomi Waite, a Knobsville native, was recognized by Dick Miller and Glenn Cordell as the Historian of the Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The following slate was approved: President - Linda Garber; Vice President - John Mentzer; Secretary - Ken Keebaugh; Director - Dick Miller (one year to finish the term for Helen Overly); Directors, three year terms - Edie Coleman and Connie Barton.

After the meal, Monica Seville introduced Kurt Davis, who spoke on Civil War activities in Fulton County.

Ken Keebaugh, recording secretary

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2014-15 OFFICERS:
Linda Garber, President
John Mentzer, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Edie Coleman 2017
Connie Barton 2017
Becky Brackbill 2016
Linda J. Mellon 2016
Richard A. Miller 2015
Monica Seville 2015