

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Summer 2015

Summer Meeting Topic set

The Fulton County Historical Society Summer Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., at the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church, 116 South Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA. Mr. Ron Morgan from Robertsdale, PA, will be the featured speaker. Ron is one of the founders and 25-year president of the Non-Profit Broad Top Coal Miners Historical Society. The Society was formed in 1990 and currently operates from the former Robertsdale United Methodist Church. It was originally located in the Reality Theater, which the Society still owns and leases to the Reality Church of God. Ron Morgan is semi-retired from the *Huntingdon Daily News* and the weekly *Broad Top Bulletin* as a columnist, feature writer, and photographer for the past 45 years. A member of numerous historical organizations including the Fulton County Historical Society and several tourist promotion organizations, he has written numerous history books about the Broad Top Area and Central Pennsylvania. His



Ron Morgan

works include *When Coal Was King: The Roberstdale Story*. He also co-authored several books with the late Jon Baughman. He is a Vietnam Veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from September 1966 to September 1972, and he remains active in the VFW, Saxton, Pa., and the American Legion, Broad Top City, Pa.



Diminutive-size Palmer Chest Purchased for Museum

Historical Society member Niels Witkamp notified the Directors that a decorated chest attributed to Joel Palmer was to be sold at auction in Martinsburg, Pa., on New Year's Day 2015. Our museum was able to purchase it with Society funds, and it is on current display in the front room of the Fulton House. The museum is open every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for summer visitors.

The chest has three vases of flowers and initials "M.H." across the front on a red background. Paint on the flowers shows genuine aging with no touch-up, but the base shows rough wear and the top seems to have been replaced. The small size measures the same as the 1854 chest made for Palmer's brother-in-law, Nathan Truax. The seller from Bedford County said the chest was in her late mother's attic. She didn't believe it came from any family ancestor but said her mother would buy old things found at farm or barn sales.

Resources for Family Genealogists

With a generous donation from the estate of Archie Bergstresser, the Fulton County Library has purchased a year's subscription

to Ancestry.com for free community use on any of the library's computers. The site lists "billions" of records which can be searched by family name. Make room in your schedule to come to the library and see what might be available for your ancestors. The subscription will only be renewed if lots of local people are using it. You may well find that an unknown distant relative has already posted data on your family line.

Early Local Photos Donated

The late Sam Buterbaugh loved to find and copy old photographs taken in Fulton County from years ago. He would make 5" x 7" copies and return the originals to the owner. Now over 400 of his photos have been given to the Historical Society for preservation and use in publications.



Here is one from the late 19th century showing "Bender's Furniture" shop in downtown McConnellsburg. The decorated Bender chairs in our museum from the Divens auction may have been made in this building, which probably was located in the first block of North Second Street, although the building no longer exists today.

Museum's 2015 exhibit continues

The Historical Society's Fulton House Museum is now open for the summer every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until August 28.

This year the artwork of Charles Walker is being featured, along with the carpentry tools of Alfred Downs, who left McConnellsburg and moved to Illinois prior to the Civil War.

Everyone who works at the museum is a volunteer, and the work is becoming too much for the few current volunteers. We ask that volunteers work, at least, two days a month. There are varied jobs that need skills such as design, sewing, typing, labeling, inventorying, researching, filing, working with artifacts, fund raising, writing articles, computer, restoration and preservation, and even organizing teas. We also need people who like people and would enjoy showing visitors through the museum.

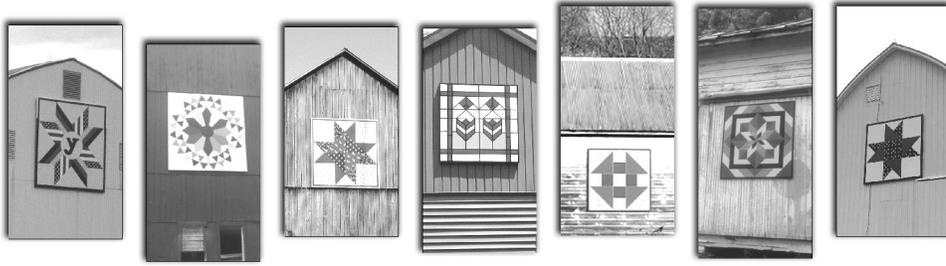
For more information call Edie Coleman at (814) 735-3039.

We need you. We are too few!

Barn Quilt Trail Well Underway

The Barn Quilt Trail in Fulton County which is organized as part of the Fulton County Historical Society and enjoys its 501(c)3 tax exempt status, works closely with the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, the Fulton County Quilt Club, the Fulton County Art Club, the Conservation District, the Farm Bureau, and others. It continues to move toward its goal of 65 Barn Quilts

(continued)



throughout the county. Presently the group has installed, or has commitments for, 51 barn quilts. They range from 2 ft. by 2 ft. in size up to 8 ft. by 8 ft. and are displayed on buildings or in front of buildings (not just barns) throughout the county.

The committee is using the name "Frontier Barn Quilt Trail of Fulton County" and has adopted the following mission statement: "To encourage a larger community involvement to help in barn preservation. To celebrate our rural culture, pride in farm property and conservation. To educate youth and visitors on the value of the agricultural economy. To celebrate the quilting tradition. And to create a year round attraction that fosters other community events and projects."

Future plans including defining the trails, creating brochures, promoting the trails regionally for tourism, and a book which would include a photo of each of the Barn Quilts along with the reason why the design was chosen.

To learn more about our Barn Quilt Trail, check out its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/frontierbarnquilttrail> and its webpage <http://frontierbarnquilttrail.com/> Both have many beautiful pictures and comments regarding the recently installed barn quilts, and both are constantly updated to keep visitors informed of Barn Quilt progress.

Minutes for FCHS Spring Banquet Meeting

The Fulton County Historical Society held its Spring Banquet on May 2, 2015, at the McConnellsburg Fire Company Social Hall. Society President Linda Garber called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Reverend E. Loy Garber gave the invocation.

A brief business meeting was called.

HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR: Executive Secretary Deborah Reed introduced the Historian of the Year for 2015, Monica Seville. Monica has served for a dozen years, setting up banquets and lining up guest speakers and entertainment for quarterly membership meetings. She has also served as director

and in officer positions for a decade. She sells society publications from the Treasurer's Office in the Fulton County Court House.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Leese gave a brief report for the fiscal year, with a line item report to follow in the Summer Newsletter. Five new life members joined since last year. The report was accepted on a motion by Edie Coleman and Bonnie Mellott Keefer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BARN QUILT TRAIL: Mike Crampton reported the barn quilt trail project has become part of the FCHS and raised \$6,431 so far with 40 quilts in process.

MUSEUM: Edie Coleman announced that volunteers are need to clean and man the museum rooms in the Fulton House for the summer hours. Summer displays will include paintings by Charles Walker and antique carpentry tools from the Alfred Downes collection.

PUBLICATIONS: The annual publication for 2015 will be *Memoirs of David Hunter Patterson*, as remembered by William Patterson.

OLD BUSINESS:

WEB SITE: Dan Swain reported the Web Site is now available for General Research.

NEW BUSINESS:

DUES are now \$20 per year.

ELECTIONS: The following slate of nominees was approved by unanimous proclamation on a motion by Bonnie Mellott Keefer and Deborah Reed.

President - Dick Miller; Vice President - Monica Seville; Secretary - Ken Keebaugh; Director - Mike Crampton; Director - Linda Garber until 2018.

GUEST SPEAKER

President elect Dick Miller introduced the evening's guest speaker, Justin Hartwood, former center for the Pittsburgh Steelers professional football team.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, secretary

Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report

Income/Expense for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year
(May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015)

Income:

Donations (general)	\$1,118.89
Donations (Frontier Barn Quilt)	6,431.00
Agency (government) Grants	500.00
PA Sales Tax discounts earned	2.81
Cookbook sales (jail funds)	199.68
Books, prints & other sales	3,603.51
Shipping & Handling	60.54
Dues	1,635.00
Life membership dues	1,250.00
Investment div. & int.	11,219.47
Misc. Revenue	3,769.83
Special Events (bus tours, etc.)	5,613.30
Total Receipts	\$35,404.03

Expenses:

Grants to others	\$1,600.00
Special assistance (individuals)	4,193.00
Supplies (Barn Quilt)	2,999.17
Supplies (other)	1,048.89
Office Equipment	45.00
Telephone & telecommunications	95.00
Electronic Transaction (PP)	58.86
Postage & Box Rent	366.85
Printing & Copying	877.58
Books, subscriptions, reference	30.00
Website	850.00
Items for resale	9,446.76
Rent & other occupancy	1,265.00
Mowing Big Spring Cemetery	222.00
Occupancy expense (other)	286.86
Building Maintenance	84.11
Travel and meeting expenses (bus tours, tea parties & quarterly meetings)	5,046.61
Insurance	819.00
Advertising	60.00
Program expense	234.21
Business expense (misc.)	100.00
Total Business Expenses	\$29,728.90
Net Ordinary Income	\$5,675.13
Museum Collection purchases	(4,580.00)
Unrealized gain (loss) (all investment accounts)	6,737.83
Net Gain for fiscal year	\$7,832.96

Gene Leese, Treasurer

Fulton County Historical Society Treasurer's Report

Account Balances at the end of the
2014/2015 Fiscal Year (April 30, 2015)

Fulton County Checking	\$215.32
PayPal Account	648.04
Life Member Endowment	39,650.00
Main Investment Acct.	134,262.54
Investment Money Market	715.92
Winegardner Invest. Acct.	28,313.22
Museum Account	1,044.94
Fulton Co. Hist. Library	2,166.81
Frontier Barn Quilt Trail Acct.	3,932.50
Total Checking/Savings	\$210,949.29

Gene Leese, Treasurer

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

2015-16 OFFICERS:

Richard A. Miller, President
Monica Seville, Vice President
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary
Gene Leese, Treasurer 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mike Crampton 2018
Linda Garber 2018
Edie Coleman 2017
Connie Barton 2017
Becky Brackbill 2016
Linda J. Mellon 2016