

FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Winter 2017



“Black Jack Pershing” to Appear at Fulton County Historical Society Winter Membership Meeting

General John Pershing will make a rare public appearance at Fulton County Courthouse Court Room on Saturday, February 4th at 7:00 PM. (Snow date: February 11th) General Pershing will be portrayed by actor/historian David Shuey. Shuey offers his 1st person portrayal of one of America’s iconic heroes as his way of honoring this great military leader and the millions of men who served under his command, while educating and entertaining history buffs of all ages.



General John Pershing led African-American troops (Buffalo Soldiers) in campaigns in the Western States and against the Spanish in Cuba. He successfully engaged Islamic insurgents in the Philippines and defended our Mexican border against terroristic guerilla attacks. Throughout his four decades of service, he trained and led countless officers who went on to greatness, including Douglas MacArthur, George Patton and George Marshall, all of whom served under him as the American “Doughboys” brought an

end to World War One in 1918. The Centennial of the Great War is quickly approaching, with the 100th anniversary of the U.S.A.’s official entry into the war in April of 1918.

Pershing was a stoic figure in the eyes of the world and as he led his troops in many conflicts and expeditions. David Shuey’s portrayal of this complex man embodies that image while revealing a more personal side of the man. Pershing faced great danger leading troops in combat and later engaged political and societal changes in his various military assignments while enduring a tragic personal loss within his own family. Shuey, as Pershing, will speak to that loss and

the inner strength required to go on to lead the greatest military force in America’s history in the conclusion of “The War to End All Wars”.

“I’ve done extensive research on various military leaders from our nation’s past for my portrayals, but none rival Pershing’s variety of experiences and strategic successes,” said Shuey. “Telling his story enables me to honor this great leader while enlightening others as to his many patriotic contributions. He is someone from whom we could learn many lessons that would still serve us well today.” This will not be Shuey’s first appearance in the area. In 2014, for the 150th Anniversary of the Last Confederate Bivouac in the north, he portrayed the Confederate commander who had burned Chambersburg and moved his escaping force through Fulton County.

G.C. Murphy Building Report

Following the successful purchase of the old G. C. Murphy building, we spent December sealing roof leaks, repairing interior water damage and other maintenance repairs. We thank those of you who contributed donations toward this work. Deb Reed and Dick Miller have now submitted an application for a grant for roof replacement and a wheelchair lift, and are looking for another grant to purchase and install an efficient heating/AC system.

It is our intention to continue to share the building with a retail store and restaurant open to the public 40 hours a week. This will give far more vibrancy, exposure, and traffic to view our Society’s exhibits than normally happens in small museums. We want to continue using room settings in the Fulton House for our more valuable artifacts.

We may want to open our new display area in the G. C. Murphy building with short-term exhibits which can be rotated every 2-3 years to give us a new look so people return. These may have themes such as local community bands, family crafts, folk art including photos of Palmer chests, life and experiences during the Great Depression, CCC camps, building the PA Turnpike, World War stories, runaway trucks, friction brake design, etc. The flexibility to remove and relocate display walls would be desirable.

We’d like to make our exhibits interactive. Instead of hanging a molding plane on the wall with a label, we’d prefer to show what that tool was meant to do. Building a replica workshop would show tools in context.

Video technology can help bring displays to life. A good Eagle Scout project would be to videotape farm butchering, or the entire process of Green Hill apple butter boiling with interviews, etc. We’d like to set up a small video area with seats for visitors to view a segment from the History Detectives about the Clara Barton letter to a Burnt Cabins family, or other video clips showing local events.

Your counsel and help in setting up new museum displays is welcomed and will be appreciated. Feel free to share your design thoughts with the Board and president Dick Miller at (717) 485-3412 or offer to help with construction work through volunteer coordinator Glenn Cordell at glenn20002@gmail.com or director@fultonhistory.org.

Fulton County Historical Society Plans Spring Bus Trip to Johnstown, Pa.

Put This Trip On Your Calendar! The Fulton County Historical Society will be sponsoring a bus trip to Johnstown on Friday, April 28, 2017, where you can explore the history and culture from all periods of that city. There are several nationally significant events such as the 1889 Johnstown Flood and the beginning of the steel industry that occurred there.

Costs for your seat on the bus are: Fulton County Historical Society Members (Age 65 and over – \$63.00; Under age 65 – \$67.00); Non-members (Age 65 and over – \$68.00; Under age 65 – \$72.00)

(continued)

Cost includes chartered bus, admissions, dinner, and all gratuities.

Questions: Call Linda Mellon at 301-707-7053 or email: ljmellon@gmail.com

[See Tour Itinerary and Sign-up form on separate sheet enclosed with this mailing.]

Annual Spring Dinner Meeting Date Set

The Annual Spring Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Hall.

Spring Tea Set to Benefit Museum

The Museum Spring Tea will be held Saturday, April 8th at the Fulton House. Watch for more information in the *Fulton County News* closer to the date. Ticket prices will remain at \$10.00.

This may be the last time the tea will be held at the Fulton House. We anticipate that future teas will be held in the banquet room in our new annex, the former G.C. Murphy building.

For more information or reservations, call Edie at (814) 735-3039.

Society Museum's Summer Displays at Fulton House

The Fulton County Historical Society Museum in the Fulton House will open for the summer season on Friday, June 2. Hours will be most Fridays through August from 10 am to 2 pm.

This season we will be displaying baseball artifacts in honor of John Nelson's book 'Yanigans' about the Fulton County ball teams before WWI, which was the society's 2016 book of the year.

Also, Brian Tucker's Fulton County historical paintings will, once again, be on

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

___ \$20 Individual/Family

___ \$250 Individual Life

Please check your renewal date on the front of this mailing's envelope.

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

Payment may also be made through the society website.

display for the summer.

In addition, in our annex, the former G.C. Murphy building across the street, we will have some artifacts on display. As the renovation and design of this building proceed, we haven't decided exactly what will be first other than a 1916 sleigh and its packing crate generously donated by Mrs. Verda Schue Hockensmith.

The antique business currently there will continue and the museum displays may be viewed any time the store is open.

The museum would be delighted if anyone having baseball artifacts from our early history would loan them for the summer display at the Fulton House.

Please contact the society at: director@fultonhistory.org, or call Debbie Reed at (717) 485-4298.



Pictured, seated from left, are Schmidt trustees Paul Johnston, Denver Kuhn, FCHS President Dick Miller, FCHS board members Monica Seville and Edie Coleman; standing from left, FCHS board members Mike Crampton, Gene Leese and Ken Keebaugh. Photo courtesy Fulton County News

Society Receives Support for G.C. Murphy Project

Trustees of the Arthur and Ruth Schmidt Community Trust made an award to the Fulton County Historical Society.

As reported in the *Fulton County News* along with the above photo: "A \$27,000 award was given to the Fulton County Historical Society to help fund upgrades and improvements at the society's recently purchased 209-211 Lincoln Way East property in downtown McConnellsburg. The society plans to use the property, which at one time was the location of G.C. Murphy, a five and dime variety store, and now houses Lincoln Way Antiques, to expand its museum and storage space."

Also, as of this writing, in response to a fundraising appeal by the society, members and friends had contributed over \$5,000 to the G.C. Murphy project.

Society fundraising is ongoing, and the

community is welcome to join the effort by mailing a check to:

Fulton County Historical Society
PO Box 115
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Please write "G.C. Murphy" on the memo line of your check. The Fulton County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore all donations are tax deductible.

Minutes for FCHS Fall Membership Meeting held on October 13, 2016

The Fall Membership Meeting of the FCHS was held in the Fulton County Court House on October 13, 2016. President Dick Miller called a business meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 36 in attendance.

Minutes of the Summer Membership Meeting were approved with amendments (J. Cook gun was donated ... also donated by the Marshall Reeder estate was an 1862 Springfield rifle and a double barrel shotgun) on a Wayne MacDonald/Ron Mitchell motion.

Miller reported a gun case for securely displaying the society's gun collection is being custom made by local craftsman Leo Nead.

Other donations to the society were a type turtle from a local print shop and a ballot box.

Miller announced the the publication of Volume 37 for 2016 "Yanigans - Fulton County Baseball 1894-1917" by local author John H. Nelson. Nelson has published 13 books on local history. Miller presented him with a service spoon made from coin silver by Bancroft Woodcock, a silversmith from Wells Valley 1793-1817 in north western Fulton County. Nelson will be selling signed copies of his books during the Fulton Fall Folk Fest.

Linda Mellon reported the society still had seats on three separate, two hour, Barn Quilt Trail bus trips, one each for the northern, southern and central parts of the county, were still available for the following day.

Mike Crampton reported 125 applications for the Barn Quilt Trail have been received, and 102 are already on display.

Miller introduced the evening's featured guest speaker, Richard Hornberger, a local French and Indian War specialist associated with Fort Frederick, Md. Hornberger displayed and explained clothing and gear representative of that era. He also cited facts and figures from published books pertaining to local involvement during the French and Indian War.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, Secretary

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

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Gene Leese, Treasurer 2019

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