History Uncovered
Dual Exhibits Mark Archaeology Month in Pennsylvania
Open October 2 - November 13

Archaeology Month, held every October, raises public awareness of the important prehistoric and historic sites around the Commonwealth. For 2011, the Centre County Historical Society marks this occasion with two exhibits opening on Sunday, October 2nd. One display investigates the lives of prehistoric peoples; the other uncovers a century old industrial complex. Completed with the help of many other county organizations, both show how turning over the ground can unearth remarkable histories.

Those Who Came Before – The Archaeology of Centre County’s Native Americans

This exhibit explores the rich history of the people who lived in Central Pennsylvania for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. Native Americans first came to the region at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,500 years ago. For thousands of years, they moved seasonally from camp to camp, hunting animals and gathering food. Eventually, they began fishing, gardening and settling down in permanent settlements.

About one thousand years ago, they lived in villages and survived by growing corn, beans and squash while continuing to collect the bounty of the forest and rivers around them. By the time Centre County settlers Andrew Boggs, James Potter and a few others appeared in the 1760s and 1770s, they found the original inhabitants gone. The tribes moved elsewhere in response to the encroachment of colonists and other native peoples on their territory and conflicts that ensued, as well as the spread of disease.

Because this exhibit interprets prehistory not written in a book, it must be reconstructed by archaeologists from the material found in long abandoned villages. The exhibit will include artifacts, photographs of regional excavations, and images depicting the lives of Native Americans.

Featured in the exhibit is a painting by Jennifer Shuey titled “Green Valley Dawn”. It will be on display and available for sale for $550.00. 20% of the proceeds of this painting will benefit the Centre County Historical Society.

On display in the Centre Furnace Mansion’s reconstructed Ice House, this exhibit is presented by the Centre County Historical Society, the Bald Eagle Archaeological Society, and the Matson Museum of Anthropology at Penn State. Graphic Design was done by Penn State student Kellie Waksminski.

Exhibit Committee members include Melissa Diamanti, Bob Donaldson, Mary Alice Graetzer, Jackie Melander, Claire Milner, Mary Sorensen and Kellie Waksminski.

Building on the Past
Building on the Past outlines the rediscovery of a 19th century iron ore washing operation at Benner Commerce Park. The park, opened in 2010, sits on the former Valentine Iron Ore Washing Plant, which was run by three generations of the Valentine family, from 1887-1898.

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About the Centre County Historical Society

Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is the oldest and largest history organization in the county, serving as the official historical society of Centre County. It is a community and volunteer based non-profit educational organization that works collaboratively with local, regional, county, and state organizations in helping to preserve and promote the area’s historic, cultural, and natural resources.

CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster’s home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th-century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th-century beginnings of Penn State University, originally located on furnace lands. The site offers more than eight acres of landscaped grounds and gardens.

CCHS disseminates historical information about Centre County; offers programs and exhibits of historical and cultural interest for children and adults; marks and helps preserve and protect the Centre Furnace Mansion property and grounds, our newly acquired Boogersburg School, and other historical sites and landscapes in Centre County; maintains a collection of artifacts, books, manuscripts, maps and photographs; and publishes and promotes interest in historically significant publications relating to Centre County.

Society members and others in the community are invited to support these activities by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by the Centre County Community Foundation.

Mansion Notes is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society, which is made possible through the Keatley Fund.

The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. Official registration and financial information about CCHS may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
**President’s Corner**

The Board of Governors has been holding extra meetings over the last several months to focus on the role the Centre County Historical Society is and should be playing in the 21st century. We are looking at our strengths and our weaknesses, as well as the challenges we face and the opportunities we have.

Society friend Michael Husband, Senior Planner and Historian with Heberling Associates, and Board member Lee Stout, Librarian Emeritus, former University Archivist, and Head of Public Services and Outreach for Special Collections at Penn State’s Libraries, are leading our discussions and guiding us in developing a plan to enhance the Society’s ability to carry out its mission.

The Society, now in its 107th year, believes its responsibility is to take the lead role in understanding, expressing, and preserving Centre County’s heritage to save our collective memory. Collaborating with other like-minded organizations:

- CCHS offers education to children and adults through programs, publications, tours, exhibits, and by operating historic sites and museums
- CCHS supports preservation of its artifact collections and historical records; it maintains public research facilities; it records the history of buildings, people, arts, institutions; it commemorates and celebrates local historical events and people; and it provides technical information on historic preservation to citizens and institutions
- CCHS serves as an advocate for Centre County history, operating as the official County historical society and as a leading advocate for the preservation of endangered historic resources

This is a very full plate of activities and responsibilities. As friends and sponsors of CCHS, your help is urgently needed. You are enthusiastically encouraged to offer your ideas, your insights, your energies, and your appreciated financial support as we all envision the future of Centre County history.

~ Jackie Melander
A
s we get ready to put the gardens to bed for the winter, CCHS extends its thanks to the many Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners for making 2011 another wonderful year. The gardens have never looked better!

Some of the 2011 garden program and event highlights include:
• Old House Garden’s Scott Kuntz presentation: “Heirloom Bulbs for Everyday Gardens” (Mar.)
• Heirloom Bulbs workshop, CFM Gardeners (Apr.)
• Penn State’s We Are Campaign “Spring UP Day” service day (Apr.)
• 16th Annual CFM Plant Celebration (May)
• Centre County United Way Day of Caring (Oct.)

The CFM Gardens have continued to grow and change in 2011 with hundreds of white Narcissus and Anemones were planted in the Shrub Garden and the bed looked exceptionally beautiful this spring. The Kitchen Garden is looking more and more Victorian thanks to Carol Phillips who has adopted the garden.

Plans for this year’s Day of Caring include general cleanup, finishing touches to the Front Parlor Garden and removing invasive species from the Wildlife Garden and of course more bulbs.

The gardens and wooded 19th century inspired landscape at Centre Furnace Mansion are especially lovely in the soft light of autumn – we hope you will stop by for a stroll this fall!

**Intern News**

CCHS welcomes two student interns from Penn State this semester. Shannon Devlin, continuing the work of intern Meghan Sherman from last spring semester, will complete the cataloging of the Clarence Bauchspies architectural drawing collection. Shannon will then work on a research paper that will provide information useful in creating an exhibit of this collection in the future.

Olivia Perdew is currently working with CCHS, American Studies professor Dick Pencek and CCHS member Diane Farr to plan the content of a March 2012 exhibit called “Everyday Objects: Fancy Forms and Familiar Functions”. It will feature objects regularly used for housekeeping during the 19th century. The exhibit, to be on display throughout the Centre Furnace Mansion, will take advantage of objects in the CCHS collections as well as additional pieces from local collectors. They will be shown in the context of their use in the home. Olivia will then play an integral role in the mounting of the exhibit and in development of the accompanying handout during her continued internship in the 2012 spring semester. AAUW State College Branch has provided funding for the handout and exhibit and also to allow CCHS to purchase several new books focusing on 18th-19th century decorative arts that might have been used in Central PA.

Penn State Student Fall Interns Olivia Perdew (left) and Shannon Devlin (right)
2011 Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale
by Mary Osborn & Cathy Horner, Co-Chairs

December 2 and 3 will celebrate the ninth year of Centre County Historical Society’s Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale. This event is recognized as one of the area’s premiere holiday events, promoting the unique work of local artisans and featuring some of the finest antiques, art and crafts showcased in the decorated grandeur of historic Centre Furnace Mansion. The Stocking Stuffer committee is busy getting ready, and would like to let you know how you can help:

Attention All Shoppers – Please help spread the word to your friends and families about this amazing event. Local floral designers will again decorate inside the Mansion, gardeners will bedeck the outside, more than 50 artisans will participate in the sale, and shoppers can enjoy holiday music, cookies and warm cider during their visit. Look for Stocking Stuffer brochures and posters throughout the area in early November. Those who wish to get an exclusive first peek are invited to attend the Preview Party held on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. Party attendees will be able to purchase items before the event is open to the public while enjoying hors d’oeuvres, desserts and wine from the area’s top restaurants. More details to follow and on our website at www.centrecountyhistory.org.

Calling All Volunteers – CCHS takes great pride in its lengthy tradition of loyal and enthusiastic volunteers. You will be needed again to help set-up the Mansion, to check in vendors, to be on hand to aid shoppers and artisans, and to spread good cheer throughout the weekend. Contributions of baked goods and cider will also be welcome. We’ll be calling on you in the next few weeks to find out how you can help.

Become a Stocking Stuffer Supporter – This year we are asking our friends and members to assist Stocking Stuffer in another way: Become a Stocking Stuffer Supporter. This event is our major annual fundraiser, and the proceeds go toward preserving, enhancing, and sharing the Centre Furnace Mansion as a community resource. Since state and federal funding has diminished over the past year, we are looking to you to help us by making a financial contribution. We appreciate any amount you can donate from $25 (or less) to $100 (or more); whatever your contribution, we will recognize you as a Stocking Stuffer Supporter. More details to follow and on our website as www.centrecountyhistory.org.

Thank you for however you can help!

Commemorative Ornament

New in 2011, CCHS has commissioned pewter artist Jerry Jackson to create an original commemorative ornament in the image of the historic Centre Furnace iron making stack to offer for sale by the time of this year’s Stocking Stuffer. The pewter ornaments will be available later in November at the Centre Furnace Mansion for $19.95 per ornament. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the Historical Society’s efforts to preserve the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School.

Clay mold for commemorative ornament
New Interpretive Signs

To be installed on the United Way Day of Caring this fall, several new interpretive signs and wayfinding plaques will grace the grounds both at Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School. Replacement fiberglass panels tell the story of Centre Furnace and of the iron industry; new signs and plaques -- constructed of sturdy stainless steel and featuring a durable photo quality finish -- identify and interpret some of the Mansion’s gardens and offer directions to visitors. Funded by the Centre County Community Foundation together with the Lumber Heritage Region, the new signage is both a meaningful and beautiful addition to the grounds. Their creation has been a collaborative effort led by Mary Sorensen, with text and design assistance from Jerry Schumacher, Dave Lembeck, Megan Orient, and Jackie Melander.

Centre County Heritage update

The 2011 issue of Centre County Heritage will highlight the early industrial history of Centre County, launched with the charcoal ironmaking operation at Centre Furnace in the 18th century. The industry developed quickly along Spring and Bald Eagle Creeks and beyond, with the addition of new furnaces and forges, and new communities and industries. Together these ironmaking enterprises offered the political and financial clout that contributed to the establishment of Centre County’s major industry of the 19th century – Penn State.

Each one of the iron furnace locations along these two major waterways and their tributaries has left visible imprints on the surrounding landscape, and with those clues to the past provide a sense of community identity and uniqueness. With this Heritage, readers will be invited to become history sleuths as they look for past traces and their linkages with today.

Boogersburg School Open House

by Sharon Childs

On Sunday, August 22, CCHS welcomed the local community to the Boogersburg School Open House. In spite of a torrential downpour that hit just as the open house began, over 50 folks of all ages braved the storm to participate in the event. Their efforts were certainly rewarded as they were greeted by delicious treats from fresh fruits and cheeses and homemade cookies and the opportunity to step back in time.

Mary Sorensen, CCHS Executive Director, welcomed the soggy group and shared updates about the historic landscape project, funded largely through Lumber Heritage Region monies, that is underway at the schoolhouse.

Blaise Contino was recognized for completion of his Eagle Scout Project, a sturdy, attractive walking bridge which spans a large drainage swale and connects the schoolhouse property with the emerging historic landscape. In addition to a meticulously constructed bridge that should withstand a “100 year” flood, Blaise cleared and mulched a trail that leads visitors to the bridge and the ‘growing acre’ beyond. We are so thankful to Blaise for choosing the schoolhouse for his project, an effort which will allow us to expand our programming for children and adults.
The program continued with the introduction of Bob Struble, the man responsible for restoration of the school. Bob entertained the group with his stories of artifact discovery and hard work, and it is because of his passion for history and children and his creative energy that the schoolhouse is now open for the public to enjoy.

Boogersburg docents and retired elementary school teachers, Gloria Nieweg and Linda Witmer, then lead the visitors through a role play – complete with mental math on slates – of what it was like to attend a one-room schoolhouse. Several other docents including Bonnie Abrams, Linda Forrest and Helen Roback, were on hand to answer questions.

We were pleased to welcome several former Boogersburg students who graciously shared their stories and recalled their teachers including Hazel Garbrick, Mildred Sweet, T. A. Hostermann, Marvin Lee and Helen Egler. What better way to end the afternoon than to have the chance to listen to their memories of learning in a one-room schoolhouse!

To become involved as a docent or for program information, please contact Sharon at the Centre County Historical Society: (814) 234-4779 or email boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org.

Alumni in attendance at the Boogersburg School Open House. **Front row:** James Crust (1947-49), Bob Neff (1941-45), Shirley Neff Witmer (for 6 years), Kate Neff Spayd (for 7 years), Bill Spearly (1930 – 1st grade). **Back row:** Bob Hartswick (1951 – 2nd grade), Phyllis Rockey Neff, Carl Rockey (1933-1940), Eileen Cronemiller (1945 – 4th grade).
....History Uncovered, cont’d.
...continued from page 1.

The exhibit outlines the arrival of the interrelated Valentine and Thomas families in 1815 to take control of Logan Furnace.

For almost a century they set the standard for iron-making in Centre County and the country. Ore washing techniques developed by Abraham S. Valentine in the 1840s are still used worldwide. The second generation’s Robert Valentine introduced the drilling of artesian wells in the 1860s, the first in the county. Of the Quaker faith, the Valentines and Thomas had a hand in bringing the standards of modern life – roads, railroads and electricity – to Centre County.

Jerilynn Schumacher has written the text and David Lembeck provided the graphic design for the exhibit in the Centre Furnace Mansion’s Hearth Room. Educational materials are based on archaeological findings and historic research provided by senior archaeologist and principal investigator for the project, Gary Coppock, Heberling Associates, Inc.

Collaborators in the exhibit’s development were Mary Alice Graetzer, president of the Bald Eagle Archaeological Society; David Breon, chair, Benner Township Supervisors; Kitty Wunderly, curator of the Pennsylvania Room, Centre County Library and Historical Museum, Bellefonte; Sue Hannegan, assistant director, Centre County Planning and Community Development Office; and Centre County Historical Society’s Heritage Preservation Committee members Bob Donaldson, Bob Hazelton, Jackie Melander, Mary Sorensen, and Steve Walton.

Background for the Benner Commerce Park Exhibit

The U.S. Department of Commerce and Economic Development, one of the funding agencies for Benner Commerce Park, requested that archaeological research be undertaken and educational materials be developed to record the site. The purpose was to mitigate the loss of this important early industrial location when new development occurs. Serving as consulting parties, the Centre County Historical Society, Bald Eagle Archaeological Society, and Benner Township, took on the responsibility of developing the educational materials. The Industrial Development Corporation is providing funding support.

This exhibit, in keeping with federal and state legislative requirements reflected in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, represents one of the educational components. A brochure about the site is being developed, and the exhibit has been designed so that it can travel to other locations, including the Benner Township Municipal Building and the Centre County Library and Historical Museum. Additional educational materials are planned that will be available to Internet users.

Exhibit Receptions

Receptions to follow 2 p.m. programs

Oct. 9, Those Who Came Before - The Archaeology of Centre County

Oct. 30, Building on the Past

Coming In January

Sunday, Jan. 8th
Historic Preservation Awards & Reception @ Centre Furnace Mansion
3:00 p.m.
Centre County Is on the Move...

Centre County on the move sounds like an economic development statement, but in this case it refers to a richly detailed 1861 map of the county. This large and carefully framed map recently traveled from the Centre Furnace Mansion to the Penn State Libraries and back. Library staff removed the map from the Hearth Room wall, wrapped it in layers of protection, and transported it by a university van to the library’s Digitization and Preservation Department where it was carefully photographed for digitizing purposes, rewrapped and safely returned. Soon it will be available for use through Penn State and the Historical Society’s websites.

More about the map: Called the Tilden Map, the topographical 1861 map of Centre County, Pennsylvania was crafted from actual surveys under the direction of HF Walling, published by SD Tilden.

These maps traditionally were hung in county one-room school houses, one of several maps on rolls that were used for school geography lessons. Our particularly well-preserved and carefully framed map has traveled before. In 2008 it was returned to Centre County from Minneapolis, given by its donors John M. Bryson, Marty Jo Fleck and Martha Jane McIntyre in honor of James E. Bryson. And now, through this Historical Society/Penn State collaboration is will be widely available for researchers everywhere.

Donations & Contributions
~ Special Thanks

The Board of Governors and staff members wish to extend sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Historical Society over the past quarter. Your generous donations, in-kind services or materials, and dedicated time are integral to helping CCHS continue to preserve Centre County history and to make its historic properties and resources available for the public.

Businesses and Organizations:
Andrew Moore Tree Service, Centre Glass, Kohl’s Department Store, MAO Consulting, Penn State Office of Physical Plant Grounds Maintenance, Team Blue Car Wash, Jaru Associates Inc.

Boy Scout Troop 367 members:
Colin Andrew, Mary Andrew, Paige Andrew, Joel Balzer, Chris Boliek, Michael Boliek, Blaise Contino, Laura Contino, Michael Contino, Tom Dimick, Matt Foster, Martin McGann, Malti McKinnon, Jack Moen, Joe Moen, Ian Pierce, John Pierce, Matt Seeland, Elizabeth Stephenson, Lazer Stephenson, Scott Stephenson, Jason Wills

Summer program speakers:
Richard Pencek, Penn State Retired Professor of American Studies, Ronald A. Smith, Penn State University Professor Emeritus of Sports History

Individual contributors:
Bryce Boyer, Angela Breeden, Jessica Brockett, Eric Childs, Clare Daley, Katherine Daley, Diane Farr, Megan Fredericks, Katie Frieden, Bob Hazelton, Judy Heberling, Cathy Horner, Beverly Lipski, Ruth Merritt, Hugh Milner, Mary Osborn, Rick Shutz, Yvonne Templeton

CCHS Committees:
Boogersburg School Docents, CCHS Development Committee, CFM Docents, CFM Gardeners, CFM Publications Committee
The Centre Furnace Mansion has been a fortunate recipient of the Centre County United Way Day of Caring since its beginning in 1993. Over the years, projects have ranged from major painting jobs, carpentry work, tree work and garden/grounds efforts to the installation of a pedestrian trail to the historic Centre Furnace stack. CCHS would not be able to accomplish most of this work without the continued generosity of area businesses, organizations and individuals who give of their time and resources.

We are once again looking forward to hosting nearly 130 volunteers from around the county at Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School. Planning for the day involves identifying doable projects to coordinating the leadership and supplies needed to successfully carry them out.

How can you help this year? Contact CCHS at 234-4779, or e-mail info@centrefurnace.org if you can:

- Provide snacks, salads, dessert items
- Donate toward lunch for volunteers and supplies for the day
October

Oct. 4
Lecture: “Fort Sumter – First Blood in SC”
7 p.m. @ PA Military Museum (Boalsburg)
http://pamilmuseum.org

Oct. 5
Detective Story: Deserters & Loyalty in the Civil War
4 p.m. @ Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library (PSU)
http://alumni.libraries.psu.edu/libtodaySony.html

Now - Oct. 7
Home Front to Battlefront: The Civil War Legacy
8 a.m.-5 p.m. @ 104 Paterno Library (PSU)
www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/news.html

Oct. 8-10
Boalsburg Heritage Weekend
@ Boal Mansion Museum (Boalsburg)
www.boalmuseum.com

Oct. 22
Fall Market & Craft Show
11 a.m.-4 p.m. @ The Granary (Lemont)

Oct. 22-23
Fall Foliage Excursions
@ Bellefonte Train Station (Bellefonte)
www.bellefontetrain.org

November

Nov. 6
9th Annual Historic Harvest Festival
2-5 p.m. @ Millbrook Marsh Nature Ctr. (College Twp.)
www.crpr.org/sp-events/specials.html

December

Tues. & Sat.
Holiday Decorating - by Garden Clubs
2-4 p.m. @ Boalsburg Heritage Museum (Boalsburg)
www.boalsburgheritagemuseum.org

Dec. 2-3
Christmas Market
Fri. 5-8 p.m. / Sat. 12-6 p.m. @ The Granary (Lemont)
www.lemontvillage.org/christmas-market

Dec. 9-11
29th Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas
@ Town of Bellefonte
http://victorianbellefonte.com/BfVictorianXmas.html

Dec. 16-18
Santa Express Excursions
@ Bellefonte Train Station (Bellefonte)
www.bellefontetrain.org

Ongoing

Now-Dec. ~ Tues. & Sat.
Pennsylvania Folk Art
2-4 p.m. @ Boalsburg Heritage Museum (Boalsburg)
www.boalsburgheritagemuseum.org
Membership

Your membership supports all aspects of the Historical Society’s operations. Membership benefits include: quarterly issues of Mansion Notes, the Society’s newsletter; Centre County Heritage, the Society’s journal; advance notice of programs; and a 10% discount on all Society publications.

Thank you to all of our new and continuing members. We hope you value your membership in the Centre County Historical Society as much as we have valued having your support and participation. We invite you to return your membership renewal, if you have not yet renewed for this year. Make checks payable to CCHS and send to 1001 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801.

Membership year runs January 1 - December 31

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☐ I wish to help cut down on mailing costs and help the environment. Please send me information via e-mail!