Holiday plans are well underway for this year’s Stocking Stuffer tradition and we invite you to join us at the Centre Furnace Mansion for shopping and holiday cheer! Take the opportunity to give a little piece of history, art and charm this holiday season! Enjoy a delicious array of holiday cookies and hot mulled cider donated by local restaurants, markets and CCHS bakers. Made close to home, a fabulous collection of gifts await you from over 50 area fine artists, antique dealers and crafters.

CCHS has a new fundraising offering this year in the Mansion museum store. The latest in a series of pewter commemorative ornaments by local artist, Jerry Jackson, is a miniature Centre Furnace Mansion that captures the Mansions signature gables, porch, and Victorian grace. The ornament celebrates its 30th year since the ‘Thompson House’ and grounds were opened as a public museum by the Historical Society. For more information on the ornament series, see page 5.

For the history and book lovers on your list, here are three new must buys!: A War, Three Women and a Tradition: The History of Boalsburg in the Civil War, researched and written by local historians: Susan Evans, Bob Hazelton, Cathy Horner and Nancy Taylor, looks closely at the lives and families of three Boalsburg women credited with starting Memorial Day. The book also gives a fascinating look at the connections Boalsburg and all of Centre County had to the major players of the Civil War including President Lincoln. Bob Hazelton, Nancy Taylor and Cathy Horner will be available for book signings at certain times during the event. Check our website for dates and times. This book is published as a fundraiser for CCHS and the Boalsburg Heritage Museum.

Antiques to Die For, according to author P. L. Hartman, is both a murder mystery and a glimpse into the dynamics of a thriving antiques business. Set in the Appalachians of central Pennsylvania, the story combines history, antiques lore, lively shop interplay, and collectors’ obsessions to tell its tale. Hartman, a local antiques dealer for 20 years and Stocking Stuffer dealer, will be available for book signings at on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2:00 p.m. Proceeds of copies sold at the Stocking Stuffer benefit CCHS and sell for $24.50 [includes tax].

Just in time for the Stocking Stuffer, exquisite holiday finery will grace the Mansion’s dining room, grand front hall and parlors for the holiday season with the generosity of some of our areas finest florists: Avant Garden, Daniel Vaughn, and Woodrings Floral Gardens. Boughs, berries, bulbs and bows will bedeck the Mansion’s exterior and Hearth Room contributed by the CFM Gardeners and Tait Farm Christmas Trees.

Special thanks to the 2014 Stocking Stuffer Committee Members: Jill Aller, Susan Bowser, Pam Calkins, Rebekah Dreese, Cathy Horner, Honey Jaffe, Deb McManus, Jackie Melander, Lynn Royse, Linda Wittmer, Linda Wallace and staff members Johanna Sedgwick and Christine Tate.

Preview Party

Irresistible holiday savories and sweets generously donated by fine local restaurants, wineries and CCHS Bakers will be ready for guests of the Stocking Stuffer Preview Party on Thursday, December from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Preview Party reservations are $25/members or $30/non-members and you may RSVP by contacting Christine Tate at 814-234-4779 or ctate@centrefurnace.org.
About the Centre County Historical Society

Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society, serving as the County’s official historical society, is an educational organization that promotes the appreciation and research of Centre County’s historic and natural resources through its properties, collections, programs, publications, and advocacy.

A community and volunteer-based organization, the Society is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This site includes the restored and furnished ironmaster’s home, furnace stack, and landscaped grounds and gardens. Centre Furnace was home to the earliest 18th century industry - charcoal ironmaking. In the 19th century Centre Furnace played an important role in the beginnings of Penn State University. The Society also owns and operates the nearby Boogersburg One-Room School House.

The Centre County Historical Society depends on financial contributions that help support our free public programs and educational opportunities for children, and provide necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of the Society’s facilities and collections. Your membership and generosity are sincerely appreciated.

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 G. Harold 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.

Funding for this publication is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
President’s Corner

The President’s Award on behalf of the Board of Governors has been awarded annually for twenty-five years to individuals or groups of individuals who have made a special commitment to CCHS over an extended period of time through the sharing of their caring, energy, and expertise. This year the Board gave a second award to the President. While surprised and honored by that award, I want to emphasize that it would never have happened without past President’s Award winners and a host of others who should be recognized.

The Society’s accomplishments over the last 30-some years have been remarkable: the rescue and restoration of the Centre Furnace Mansion; expansion and development of its landscaped setting; a collection of period furnishings, photographs, historic research documents; ongoing programs, exhibits and publications that recognize and celebrate Centre County’s sense of place.

These accomplishments, however, were built on a strong foundation that was put in place by many whose dedication and leadership preceded the establishment of the President’s Award: early pioneers Marvin Lee and Jane Beaver; “in the trenches” planners and doers to get the restoration project underway - Dr. Philip S. Klein, Blair Bice, Marjorie Dunaway, Wayland Dunaway, Judge Roy Wilkinson, Merle Campbell, Candy Dannaker and many, many more.

The President’s Awardees provide a glimpse of the generosity - and expertise - that has powered our thirty-some year old initiative - Centre Furnace Renaissance: A Future for Our Past.

1989 – Everett McLaughlin – Board, Overall contributions
1990 – Jim Deeslie – Landscape design
1991 – Richard D. Hoy – Centre Furnace Mansion Miniature
1992 – Betty Johnson – Editor, Story of Scotia
1993 – Jeff Bower – Board, Overall contributions
1994 – Bob Gruver – Board, Overall contributions: membership, program, tours, publications
1995 – Margery Johnstone – Board, Overall contributions: Sideboard, gardens
1996 – Lois Smith – Board, MITs organization
1997 – Centre Furnace Mansion Docents
1998 – Doug Macneal – Board, Editor, Centre County Heritage
1999 – Carolyn C. Smith – Board, docent coordinator, photographer, miniature mansion
2000 – Dick Pencek and American Studies students
2001 – Beth Ricker – Board, docent, docent coordinator, program, education, Sideboard
2002 – Beth Sweetow – Board, Overall contributions: program, finances
2003 – Master Gardeners
2004 – Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committee – (Mary Sorensen, coordinator)
2005 – Charlotte deLissovoy – Board, docent, education committee/chair
2006 – Boogersburg School Docents (Sharon Childs, coordinator)
2007 – David Lembeck – Graphic designer - publications, exhibits
2008 – Grant Sherritt – Board, Overall contributions: docent, chair, book sale managements
2009 – Bob Hazelton – Board, History sleuthing – researching the stories of forgotten communities
2010 – Bob Donaldson – Board, special knowledge of the area as the county planning director
2011 – Sharon and Eric Childs - making the Boogersburg School an educational centerpiece,
2012 – Judy Heberling and Mike Husband - expertise in collections management, strategic planning
2013 – John H. Ziegler, Board, leadership as vice president, founder of the Preservation Awards initiative
2014 – United Way Day of Caring participants for their remarkably generous contributions

With thanks, Jackie Melander, President
Annually, on the first Thursday of October, the United Way dispatches nearly 1000 volunteers representing dozens of organizations to over 60 Centre County non-profit project sites each year. Many use their vacation time to volunteer, which speaks to the spirit of our community and the tone of the day.

The Centre County Historical Society extends sincerest thanks to everyone who helped make the 2014 Day of Caring at the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School a great success.

21 years of hosting the Day of Caring can be quantified conservatively at over $300,000 to CCHS alone in service, business and individual donations, materials and food. The community partnerships established through these years have been invaluable and lasting.

This year, the Mansion and School were bustling with over 200 individuals from a diverse group of organizations who arrived ready to do mulching, plumbing, tree work, electric work, clean, paint, plant, walkway repair, weed, organize, clear brush, and much more.

Thank you to the over 40 Historical Society colleagues who planned, organized and led and help do the work of the day. Special thanks to the CFM Gardeners who are integral in the planning and preparing for this day.

With great appreciation, Mary Sorensen

| Business and Organizational Partners who sponsored with materials and in-kind services: |
| David Horner & Associates, Inc.  |
| David Horner  |
| Chris Garbrick  |
| Brian Volk  |
| Home Depot, State College  |
| Lowe’s Home Improvement  |
| Store State College  |
| Penn State Office of Physical Plant, Landscaping and Arboiculture  |
| Drew Beben  |
| Forrest Burghard  |
| Corby Fetterhoff  |
| Ken Hockenberry  |
| Wayne Gates  |
| Don Hassinger  |
| Nate Haupt  |
| Steve Kutches  |
| Norm Parks  |
| Sherwin Williams State College  |
| Subway State College  |
| TRB Construction  |
| Ted Brown  |
| Dave Winters  |
| VMB Tax Services  |
| Vicki Brown  |

| CCHS Volunteers and Contributors: |
| Cathy Horner, Deb Raykovitz & Deb McManus  |
| Jill Aller  |
| Carol Baney  |
| Susan Bowser  |
| Pam Calkins  |
| Sharon Childs, Coordinator  |
| Monty Christiansen  |
| Joyce Christini  |
| Ed DeBrasky, Photography  |
| Bob Donaldson  |
| Elizabeth Dutton  |
| Susan Toby Evans  |
| Katie Frieden  |
| Marshall Garrett  |
| Steve and Carol Gentry  |
| Judy Heberling  |
| Linda Hershey  |
| Cathy Horner  |
| Mike Husband  |
| Chris Igo  |
| Annie Klodd  |
| Felicia Lewis  |
| Beverly Lipski  |
| Lou Mayer  |
| Deb McManus  |
| Jackie Melander  |
| Jo Merrill  |
| Ruth Merritt  |
| Ann Moellenbrock  |
| Katie O’Toole  |
| Martha Orland  |
| Megan Orient  |
| Carol Phillips  |
| Deb Raykovitz  |
| Lynn Royse  |
| Johanna Sedgwick  |
| Dennis Sheehan  |
| Mary Sorensen  |
| Vicki Spadaccio  |
| Christine Tate  |
| Betsy Taylor  |
| Suzann Tedesco  |
| Vin Tedesco  |
| Floyd Todd  |
| Jan Villastrigo  |
| Linda Wallace  |
| Bonnie Walter  |

Visit centrehistory.org for photos and the complete list of over 200 volunteers!
2014-15 Upcoming Programming

Please see website for winter delays or cancellations!

Stocking Stuffer Preview Party
Thursday, December 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
RSVP to Christine Tate @ ctate@centrefurnace.org or 234-4779

12th Annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art and Fine Craft Sale
Friday, December 5 &
Saturday, December 6
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Please note that parking will be available on the grass or the Mansion grounds next to E. College Ave.

The Christiana Riot - First Battle of the Civil War
Talk by Larry Alexander
Central Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table/CCHS Joint Meeting
Tuesday, December 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Barns
Talk by R. Thomas Berner
Sunday, February 1 @ 2:00 p.m.

Exhibition: Everyday Iron, Iron Objects of the 18th & 19th Centuries
Sunday, March 1 - November 22
Open during regular Mansion tour hours Sun·Wed·Fri 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Programming at Centre Furnace Mansion unless noted.

Art that Gives

Artwork from our popular 2014 exhibit, “Rural Landscapes: Exploring rural heritage through the art of the Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania” will continue to be available through the Stocking Stuffer sale until December 23!

Owning a piece of original art not only supports the preservation of farms and the landscape, but creates a lasting memory of the county’s heritage. An equal percentage of the art sales go to the Art Alliance, the Farmland Trust and the Centre County Historical Society.

For more information on the Farmland Preservation Artists, visit www.farmlandpreservationartists.org.

CCHS Commemorative Ornament Series

Collect all three! In addition to the miniature Centre Furnace Mansion, the first two ornaments remain available.

The first was the historic furnace stack. The Stack's monolithic structure is represented in this ornament by individually formed pewter stones each outlined in a black patina.

The Centre Furnace Bell is the second in the series. Our iron bell is considered among the first castings from the Furnace so we wanted to commemorate this artifact. Also, bells were important communication and warning tools at that time so they were important to a community. Jerry finished these bells with a hand scraping technique used by 18th century pewterers. Each pewter bell ornament has a black onyx stone clapper that makes a pleasant ringing sound.

According to Jerry, “Pewter objects, both utilitarian and decorative, have been treasured since antiquity. These pewter ornaments have been made in the spirit of medieval pilgrims’ badges and Renaissance pendants. These miniature sculptures were for the enjoyment of the user and often carried special significance because of the person who gave them or the place where they were acquired.”

Many special thanks to Jerry Jackson for his generous contribution of time, passion for history and creativity to the Centre County Historical Society for the production of these miniature pieces of art to serve as a fundraiser for the Society.

These limited edition ornaments are available at the Mansion's Gift Store for $24.95.
Many thanks to the 2014 Preservation Awards Nominating Committee: John Ziegler, Bob Hazelton, Katie O’Toole, Kitty Wunderly, Jackie Melander, Dick Pencek, Ford Risley, Darwin Braund who spotted worthy nominees, researched and compiled thoughtful narratives for each award. Special thanks to Katie O’Toole and Bob Hazelton for their talents and extra time to bring the awards ceremony together in a meaningful way.

For baking, making, selling, photo taking, greeting, coordinating lighting, set-up and clean-up, we extend our warm appreciation and kudos to Gloria Nieweg, Ed Debrasky, Deb McManus, Linda Witmer, Cathy Horner, Katie Frieden, Johanna Sedgwick, Christine Tate and Peter Sorensen!

Sincere thanks go to our Centre County Government for sponsoring CNET filming the Awards Ceremony.

Since 1988, CCHS has recognized outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Centre County’s rich history. Categories for award nominations include preservation and restoration, history and heritage, education and advocacy, and support and volunteerism. This year’s worthy award recipients include:

**History and Heritage:**

Talleyrand Park Committee of the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association and the Borough of Bellefonte: In the Park’s 40th anniversary year, the Talleyrand Park Committee was central to reclaiming, conserving, and enhancing the area around Spring Creek that is the historic natural center of Bellefonte. This award honors the Committee’s tireless efforts to rescue the area from decades of neglect and industrial decay and to create a park as beautiful as the name of the town it graces.

**Preservation and Restoration:**

Happy Valley Brewing Company and Greg Somers for the renovation and reuse of the historic Klinger Farms Barn in College Township to a new life as a popular watering hole and to Tom Horner in recognition of the original rehabilitation of the Barn in 1985 as an upscale retail furniture business.

The Rossman House in Penns Valley. Barbara Rossmann and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Rishel are recognized for the preservation of the trompe l’oeil Italianate wall paintings of 19th Century artist Daniel F. Luse. Luse was born August 3, 1837 in Centre County.

**Education and Advocacy:**

Book: *A War, Three Women & A Tradition: The History of Boalsburg in the Civil War*

Susan Evans, Robert Hazelton, Cathy Horner & Nancy Taylor have researched and authored this outstanding book. The book is the story of Emma Hunter, Sophia Keller and Elizabeth Myers and the village they called home during the Civil War.

**CCHS President’s Award:**

The Col. Gerald Russell PNC United Way Day of Caring

The United Way Day of Caring is one of the largest volunteer service days in Centre County bringing nearly 1000 volunteers together at over 60 project sites for 21 years. CCHS has benefited from community efforts on the Day of Caring during each one of these years at the Mansion and, more recently the School, and it is a critical component in keeping these historic treasures looking their best.
CCHS Lifetime Achievement Award: Jackie Melander

The CCHS Board of Governors presented the first award of its kind given by the Society to honor CCHS President, Jackie Melander. Jackie’s name has become synonymous with the Centre County Historical Society with her commitment and dedication to the Society spanning three decades since she became CCHS President in January of 1982. She has served on planning commissions, design review boards, state and community improvement advisory committees in support of the Society’s mission and efforts. Jackie has also been actively involved in authoring listings of sites and districts in the National Register of Historic Places, including most recently, the Brush/Penns Valley Rural Historic District eligible nomination. She has given countless presentations and written a multitude of articles on Centre County history, architecture, and historic preservation.

Lee Stout, who has worked with Jackie on many preservation fronts once wrote this: “Her advocacy has been intelligent and effective, never strident or confrontational. Her warm and friendly personality has overcome unnecessary anxiety about formally recognizing our historic properties.”

John Ziegler said in a recent interview that “Jackie is the person who saved the whole thing. She is the person who said the Historical Society needed a home and that we should do this. Jackie pushed us into a lot of things I didn’t think we would be able to do.”

The Gardeners Corner

Fall brings winter preparation for the Gardens and Gardeners of Centre Furnace Mansion. Day of Caring is certainly a large part of this with mulching, raking walnuts, heeling in perennials in our nursery garden, trimming shrubs and trees and getting the garden shed in order for a long winter’s nap. But the CFM Gardeners hardly sleep!

This fall we included a plant sale component to our Thursday gardening days that was offered to the public and proved to be a popular success. Pumpkin and succulent arrangements made for the sale days were a big hit and created to last through the holidays.

The next project is decorating the exterior and Hearth Room of the Mansion in holiday greenery and then back to planning after the holidays for next year’s garden year and 20th Annual Plant Celebration!

We extend a heartfelt thanks and tip of our straw hats to our Gardener friends whose efforts can be clearly seen throughout the Gardens and Grounds at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Special thanks to those who are truly in leadership roles in the gardens and manage our weekly gardening days: Katie Frieden, Judy Heberling, Jan Villastrigo, Ruth Merritt, Carol Phillips, Marshall Garrett, Chris Igo, Susan Bowser, Beverly Lipski, Lou Mayer, Jo Merrell and Penn State Horticulture graduate student Annie Klodd.
**Collections Investigation**  
_by Betsy Taylor_

Travel with me down memory lane to a period at Centre Furnace Mansion when the Moses Thompson family resided in the house. By now Moses and Mary Thompson have enlarged the Mansion to accommodate their large family, bringing the kitchen up from the ground floor to the area adjacent to the dining room. The new Penn State College is flourishing. Moses Thompson is involved in many aspects of the college, acting as Treasurer as well as a Trustee. As a result, the Mansion is often the center of college related meetings, dinners, as well as a resting spot for many visitors. And the Thompson’s large family adds to the merriment of a busy household!

In the kitchen preparations are underway for Thanksgiving. The open fireplace is preparing cakes, pies, rolls, all to be stored in a pie safe located near by. Soon potatoes will be put to boil for later mashing, and the turkey is being stuffed for its turn to be roasted.

While we know that the Thompson’s had servants, it is also a fact that Mary personally over saw the work in her kitchen. Records and interviews of Moses and Mary’s descendents even reveal the menus of those Victorian celebrations at the Mansion!

According to Robert Thompson, as passed down by his grandfather, John Thompson, the oldest son of Mary and Moses, the traditional holiday menu included: turkey, chestnut or oyster stuffing, mashed white potatoes, dried corn, creamed pearl onions, cold-slaw, cranberry sauce, a variety of condiments, pies, hickory nut cake, nuts, fruit, and candy.

And, thanks to research done by Jackie Melander, President of CCHS Board of Governors, we also know that Victorian women paid equal attention to how their table was set, and the proper placement of their guests at the table. The adage “Children are to be seen but not heard” was an etiquette point to be followed! Important, as well, were the dinner table conversations, which could only cover topics that were “socially acceptable”!

And, incase you are wondering, Steampunk Victorian (a Google reference) reports that Victorians relished their leftovers, just as we do!

History records reveal that Thanksgiving was not an official holiday until 1863, when Abraham Lincoln designated the 4th Thursday of November a day of thanks!

It didn’t take long for Victorians to embrace the holiday, as we do today. Here at CCHS we wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. Bon Appetite!

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**Anna Elliott Thompson’s Yipser’s Gingerbread**

1 cup butter 1 cup sugar  
1 cup molasses 4 cups sifted flour  
3 eggs well beaten 1 Tablespoon baking soda  
1 Tablespoon ginger 2 Tablespoons cinnamon  
1 Tablespoon cloves  

After mixing all, add one cup boiling water. Bake at 350° for 45 - 50 minutes in a 9” x 13” pan. Dust with powdered sugar before serving. Wonderful on its own or serve with lemon pudding or ice cream.

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Anna Elliott Thompson was the wife of William Thompson, Moses and Mary’s son. William, Anna and their children resided in the Centre Furnace Mansion from 1891 until William’s death in 1912.

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**Boogersburg School**

lates, bag races, graces and over 60 engaged students of all ages highlighted the 10th annual Boogersburg School Open House in August. Boogersburg alumni Bill Spearly, Bob Hartswick, Wanda Steine Myers and Rosalie Henninger Hoy were in attendance and still remembered their cursive writing!

Thank you to Sharon Childs, Doyle Wilkerson (Miss Lee) and Gloria Nieweg (Miss Lotz) for their gracious 19th century teaching skills.

In October, we offered an open house for new Boogersburg docent/teachers. Several of our current docents attended, and we had a lively conversation and shared ideas for new ways we might recruit more volunteers. If you or anyone you know might be interested in observing a few classes to see how rewarding this volunteer opportunity can be, please be sure to contact the Center County Historical Society.

Once again, Leadership Centre County made the School a part of their fall history day programming. Gloria ‘Miss Lotz’ Nieweg put the group through the paces by requiring a spelling bee and mental math. Thank you to Gloria for holding class for nearly 40 adult LCC students!

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Sharon Childs and Bill Spearly

The Boogersburg School Docents.
Thank you to all who have represented CCHS through outreach efforts this quarter: Ed Debrasky, Katie Freiden, Judy Heberling, Michael Husband, Annie Klodd, Jackie Melander, Gloria Nieweg, Deb Raykovitz Lynn Royse, Johanna Sedgwick, Mary Sorensen, Betsy & Ted Taylor, Linda Witmer, and Linda Wallace.

Outreach

It is wonderful when guests visit the Mansion, but it is also wonderful to go for a visit! This fall CCHS colleagues have been getting out to share information about CCHS and Centre County history both in-house and on the road. Since August, CCHS has reached thousands of Centre Countians through county event representation and by providing group tours for several organizations at the Mansion and the School.

On the road events:
• Ag Progress Days
• Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair
• Liberty Hill Volunteer Fair
• Millbrook Marsh Harvest Festival
• Poe Valley CCC Legacy Day
• Shaver’s Creek Fall Harvest Festival
• State College Sunrise Rotary Club

Group tours and/or programs provided for:
• Leadership Centre County
• OLLI
• OLV Home School
• Northwest Railroad Suppliers
• Penn State Alumni Association Executive Board
• Penn State College of Education Childhood and Early Adolescence Education
• Penn State History Class: “Nature and History”

Now - Nov 30
Exhibit: Out of the Woods
@ Bellefonte Art Museum
Fri/Sat/Sun 1 - 4:30 p.m.
bellefontemuseum.org

Now - Dec 31
Anna Wagner Keichline: Architect, Inventor, Suffragist and Military Intelligence Agent
@ Bellefonte Art Museum
Fri/Sat/Sun 1 - 4:30 p.m.
bellefontemuseum.org

Now through Dec 21
Henry Varnum Poor: Studies for the Land Grant Frescoes
@ Palmer Museum of Art
Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Dec 5 & 6
Lemont Village Association Christmas Market
@ Lemont Granary
Friday 5 - 8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
lemontvillage.org

Dec 12 - 14
Bellefonte Victorian Christmas
@ Downtown Bellefonte
Visit their website for times and locations
bellefontevictorianchristmas.com

Dec 6
Aaronsburg Christmas Craft Bazaar
@ Aaronsburg Community Building
aaronsburgcc.org
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Volunteer Corner
Exploring Centre County
By Linda Wallace

Every day CFM Volunteers are reminded of the rich Centre County history that has influenced the daily lives of residents since the mid 1700’s. Mansion visitors continually inspire us to gain a better understanding of our local roots. Touring remarkable Centre County historical landmarks throughout the surrounding countryside led by knowledgeable historian guides is one way we achieve this.

In 2014 our docents visited:
- A Lemont National Register Historic District guided walking tour led by Sue and Ron Smith and Betty Shields which highlighted the Granary, Spring Creek Presbyterian Church, historical sites on Berry and Mary Streets, and a personal display of Victorian memorabilia at the home of Betty Shields.
- A guided walking tour of Bellefonte’s renown Union Cemetery led by gatehouse owner Malady Kehm as well as a personal in-house tour led by Candace Dannaker of her Howard Street stone home with emphasis on its significance to the underground railroad and abolition movement in the 1800’s.
- Presqueisle Street, Philipsburg and beyond walking tour led by Mary Ellen McMahon and Kevin Conklin showcasing the Mudd Church, Simler House, Rowland Theatre, and Philipsburg Historical Museum, as well as other special sites, churches and landmarks along the way.
- An in-depth guided tour led by Anne Riley on the history and renovation of Penn State’s Land Grant Art Frescoes located on the mezzanine of Old Main on the University Park Campus.

As 2014 comes to a close, we look forward to expanding our knowledge of local history with additional field trips planned in 2015. As Matt Wise, a 2014 member of the Leadership Centre County class stated in a recent Centre Daily Times news article, Centre County’s rich cultural past “is the history of our family, neighbors, co-workers, and communities (that) helps us to know one another and helps shape our decisions every day.”
**Signs of Time**

Visitors periodically tell us that they drive by the Centre Furnace Mansion all of the time and have not realized the Mansion was here. This certainly happens less frequently since the Mansions painterly engraved and gold leafed signs by artist Graham Curtis were installed in 2006. Weather takes its toll on a painted sign however, and the Porter Road sign next to our parking area was showing particular signs of wear. Graham readily and graciously agreed to repair the sign as a partial donation to the Historical Society. We extend our most sincere thanks for this generous contribution.

![Sign by Graham Curtis](image)

**Thank you!**

We at CCHS extend our deepest appreciation for all who volunteer their time and contribute in so many different ways. Below we recognize individuals and organizations for their extra time and support in the fall of 2014:


**Collection donations:** Nancy Fay, Judy Glasgow, Judy Heberling & Mike Husband, Mr. & Mrs. William McKinnon, Connie & Lefty McIntyre, Pamela Milholland, Susan Smith, Betsy Taylor

**Boogersburg School:** see page 8

**Exhibitions:**
Our sincere thanks to the Farmland Preservation Artists for their help in mounting the popular “Rural Landscapes” exhibition. See page 5

**Gardens:** See page 7

**Service to CCHS:**
- Blue Mountain Quality Resources service day
- Fresh Start Penn State freshman volunteer day
- United Way Day of Caring, see page 4

**Programs**
- Farmland Preservation Artists, Jennifer Shuey-Clearwater Conservancy, Sarah Walter-Centre County Farmland Trust
- Bald Eagle Archaeological Society, Artifact Identification Day
- Historic Preservation Awards, see page 6 & 7

**Outreach:** see page 9

**Property:** Ed DeBrasky

**Interns and Student Volunteers:** Natalie Kapustik, Trevor Brandt

**Remembering a Friend**

We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of CCHS member and friend, Bonnie Barry. Bonnie’s enthusiasm and passion for teaching and re-enactment contributions through the Ladies of Battery B will be remembered with fondness and great respect.
Your membership and gifts support all aspects of the Centre County Historical Society’s operations in our mission to “help people understand, experience, appreciate and preserve Centre County’s cultural and natural heritage.” Membership benefits include: Mansion Notes - the Society’s quarterly newsletter; Centre County Heritage - the Society’s annual journal; advance notice of programs; discounted special event admission rates, and a 10% discount on all CCHS 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 value 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.

You may also join or donate online at www.centrehistory.org.