One hundred years ago in 1917, war had been raging in Europe since 1914. Theodore Boal of Boalsburg was friends with former President Theodore Roosevelt and Gen. Leonard Wood who worried that Americans were not prepared for war if America should get involved. General Leonard Wood spoke to Pennsylvania State College students to encourage the military training he felt was necessary. In response, Theodore Boal organized a volunteer mounted machine gun troop on his estate grounds. The men and boys spent the summer drilling without pay. Boal supplied much of their material needs. The men called themselves “The Boal Troop.”

With the political help of General Wood and others, Boal managed to get his troop accepted into the PA National Guard. They were sent in the fall to guard the Mexican border in Texas while Pershing chased Poncho Villa. The next year war was declared and the Boal Troop was incorporated into the 28th Division U.S. Army as part of a machine gun battalion. Theodore Boal was detached and put on the staff of the 28th Division. Both Boal and the troop served in the war where they received honors.

Boal returned from France with a railroad carload of military relics for a planned 28th Division Officers’ Club and Museum on his estate. The troop was reformed and stables built on the property. As part of the Officers’ Club, Boal designed and started construction of a World War Memorial. Although the Officers’ Club and cavalry troop were disbanded, the memorial was expanded and evolved into the present 28th Division Memorial and Pennsylvania Military Museum in Boalsburg.

Philip Sauerlender became interested in the Boal Troop through friendship with a former member. He has done extensive research in the Boal family archives, General Leonard Wood papers in the Library of Congress, PA Archives, U.S. Army archives in Carlisle, and many other sources. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians, founding member of the Society of the Military Horse, member Friends of the PA Military Museum, and officer of the Centre County Civil War Roundtable. He is a native of State College where he graduated from Penn State with a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Boalsburg’s Rough Riders: Terry Boal and the Boal Troop

By Philip Sauerlender

Sun. February 21, 2016
2:00 p.m. @ the Centre Furnace Mansion
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.

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.

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.
When sales of e-books rose 160% in the first quarter of 2011, some were quick to proclaim the death of print and bookstores. Why bother with cumbersome tomes when entire libraries could be downloaded onto a ridiculously compact device? Yet, when I surveyed my media history class last month, only five hands out of 80 went up when I asked if they preferred to read their books electronically. For the overwhelming majority, the experience of reading a hard copy trumped the convenience of a Kindle.

Our discussion had been sparked by a look at the transition two millennia ago from the scroll as a reading/writing platform to the codex—pieces of parchment stitched together to create pages that could be turned. The codex was the forerunner of the book. As my students discussed their preference for reading books they might have been describing the superiority of the codex over the scroll. With books, for example, they could bookmark a page. They could skip forward or re-read an earlier passage. They could easily compare passages on different pages. Yes, that could be done with e-readers, but with books, they didn’t have to…well…scroll. We concluded that new technology can have unintended drawbacks.

I mention this because of the impact of another electronic device on Centre County history—the digital camera. Ironically, the rise of technology that has made picture-sharing ubiquitous and instantaneous (think Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram) corresponds with a decline in the photographic collection of the Centre County Historical Society. The visual history of our neighborhoods, our skylines, and the development of our farms and businesses are well-documented up to the late 1970s. But the past 35 years are a void. You can guess how this happens because we’ve probably all done it. We take hundreds—maybe thousands—of pictures, but we print few if any because it’s just too convenient to carry all those scrapbooks on our phones or store them on laptops. And then the phone breaks or the laptop dies or we lose track of what we’ve relegated to the Cloud. Gradually, many pictures disappear into a digital abyss.

There’s another possibility. Maybe there are plenty of photographs from the Digital Decades in collections all over Centre County. That’s our hope. And our other hope is that you’ll be willing to share shots that capture aspects of Centre County’s recent past. We are currently in the process of determining the most effective means of collecting, scanning, and archiving photographs. Watch for details of the 20th & 21st Century Photo Project which will take place later this year. In the meantime, as you browse through your own scrapbooks and digital files, take note of any pictures that prominently display a neighborhood, street, building, landscape, or community event.

With your help, we can fill in the visual timeline of Centre County’s history, so that the 21st century is as accessible as the 19th!

~ Katie O’Toole

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**Upcoming Programs**

Programs are held at the Centre Furnace Mansion unless noted.

**Exhibit: Everyday Iron:**
**Iron Objects of the 18th & 19th Centuries**
Through March 20
W/F/Su 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Boalsburg’s Rough Riders:**
Terry Boal and the Boal Troop
In commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Troop’s founding.
By Philip Sauerlender
Sun. February 21
2:00 p.m.

**Life in Happy Valley:**
The Name and the Paterno Impact
a discussion based on the first chapter of newly released book: “Wounded Lions”
By Ronald A. Smith
Sunday, March 13
2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to info@centrecountyhistory.org, or call 814-234-4779

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**President’s Corner**

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**21st Annual Plant Celebration**
Sat. May 14
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Old House Fair**
Fri./Sat., April 29 & 30
@The Match Factory, Bellefonte
www.centrehistory.org/ohf2016

**Exhibit: Arts Festival at Fifty: Stories of the Early Years**
May 22 - October 15
W/F/Su 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For updates and additional program information, visit Centrehistory.org
Old House Fair
April 29 & 30
@ The Match Factory, Bellefonte

The “Old House Fair” is being hosted by the Bellefonte Historic and Cultural Association in partnership with the Centre County Historical Society and the American Philatelic Society. CCHS is pleased to be a partner in this exciting educational initiative being held on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, 2016 at the historic Match Factory in Bellefonte.

The two day event will feature a marketplace of ideas about the built environment left to us by our predecessors. It’s about cozy craftsman cottages, stately Second Empire dwellings, exuberant Queen Anne houses, simple stone structures from George Washington’s era and the joyful amalgam of historic buildings that constitute the downtowns of many Pennsylvania communities.

The Fair has two complementary foci serving distinct audiences. On Friday, the Fair offers three programs dealing with the health of historic downtown commercial districts designed for citizens and professionals alike. On Saturday, the Fair turns its attention to individual buildings with sixteen sessions including one extended learning tour on house styles and another on masonry issues, a panel about developing home maintenance plans, individual expert consultations on specific building issues and presentations dealing with historic window preservation, ancient electrical systems, appropriate house colors, landscaping for historic homes and many other topics.

To Register: Online registration and additional information is available at centrehistory.org/ohf2016/. If you need any assistance in registering, please feel free to contact Mary Sorensen at 814-234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org

Plant Celebration
Saturday, May 14
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The 21st Annual Centre Furnace Mansion Plant Celebration is around the corner and plans are underway with new vendors, wonderful plant selections! Last year we tried a new and gently used garden book sale and also featured other tools and supplies that would be interesting to gardeners. It was a big hit, so we would like to do this again and ask that if you have any gently used books or gardening items that you would like to donate, please contact Johanna Sedgwick at jsedgwick@centrefurnace.org or call at 814-234-4779.

Upcoming Exhibit
Arts Festival at Fifty: Stories of the Early Years
May 22 - October 15

Happy 50th to the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts! In commemoration of this milestone, committee members from CCHS and the Arts Festival are planning an exhibition beginning on Sunday, May 22 through October 15, 2016 at the Centre Furnace Mansion to be open during tour hours W/F/Su 1:00-4:00 p.m. The exhibition will feature a historic timeline, stories from and about the people who were involved, and artwork of interest produced by artists from early Arts Festivals. Programming in the works will include an Arts Festival history talk and exhibit reception, an Arts Festival show and tell program and a children’s program and activity. Stay tuned!

Above: A street performer entertains the crowd, date not given.

Do you have an interesting story or early Arts Festival purchase you would be interested in sharing? Contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call 814-234-4779.

Centre Gives Online Giving Event
Tuesday, May 3, 6 a.m. - Wednesday, May 4, 6 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the fifth annual “Centre Gives” online giving event, hosted by the Centre Foundation. Last year, through this event and the generous donations of 68 friends and supporters, CCHS received over $13,200 in donations and matching funds combined! These contributions have been critical in helping CCHS to preserve the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School historic sites and collections as well as supported programming for all ages. Watch for more details!

Below: Browsing the artist works, 1973

Photos are from the CCHS State College Centennial Collection, donated by the CDT.
**Gardeners Corner**

Gardening season has already begun with a parade of snowdrops and winter aconite at the Centre Furnace Mansion that were tempted by warm days that have marked this winter.

We are pleased to welcome in a new role, Beverly Lipski who will be co-coordinating the CFM Garden Committee with Katie Frieden’s continued support. Beverly’s recent retirement is truly our gain! She has been a Penn State Master Gardener since 1996 and has been actively involved with the development of the Mansion’s Gardens since 2000. Great thanks to both Beverly and Katie for their dedicated and many years of leadership.

The Gardeners meet weekly during the growing season on Thursdays from 2:00-7:00 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to come and go during that time to suit their schedule and, if you enjoy gardening and would like to receive more information about getting involved with Gardens at the Mansion, please contact Mary Sorensen msorensen@centrefurnace.org.

In case you missed it, the front page of the CDT on Christmas morning was a full page photo by Christopher Weddle of the Mansion’s side porch decorated by the CFM Gardeners!

**Thank You**

**For your membership!**

Thank you to all who have responded to our call for 2016 membership renewals and to new members! Your membership truly provides a critical foundation of support making possible the ongoing explorations of our shared history and heritage through preservation and programming.

As our thanks to you for partnering with us on our mission to discover, explore, preserve, and interpret Centre County history, your membership benefits in CCHS include:

- 10% off CCHS publications
- Lending privileges that allow you to check books from the CCHS research library
- Quarterly Mansion Notes Newsletter
- Notification by mail and / or email of upcoming programs

If you haven’t had a chance to renew, we invite you to use the membership remittance form included on the back of this newsletter for your convenience. You are also welcome to renew on our website at centrehistory.org by going to the “Support” section. **The annual membership period is from January through December 2016.**
The Boogersburg Schoolhouse – Docent Spotlight

In the past newsletters we have explored the programming and restoration of the Boogersburg Schoolhouse, these programs however would not be possible without the dedicated Boogersburg docents and volunteers. In this issue we ‘shine the spotlight’ on Doyle Wilkerson, retired teacher with the State College Area School District (SCASD). In 2003 Doyle led one of the first school programs to be held at Boogersburg with children from Grays Woods Elementary School. We are thankful for Doyle’s continued commitment and that of the other docents who bring the past alive for our community’s children.

“A monument to a small world” is the way Marvin Lee, a teacher at Boogersburg School from 1933 to 1936, referred to the charming and cozy one-room schoolhouse that has become so important in my life.

My first docent experience at the school was in May of 2003 and it was at that time that I “became” Miss Marvina Lee. I had read an article written in 1977 for Town and Gown by Marvin Lee. His heartwarming description of the ups and downs of life in a one-room schoolhouse inspired me to honor him by becoming Miss Lee.

Today, when children who live in our fast-paced electronic world enter Boogersburg School to spend a morning with Miss Lee, I want them to experience and understand the simple existence of life in central Pennsylvania one hundred years ago. I also want them to experience the warmth, the camaraderie, and the feeling of family that the one-room schoolhouse provided. How very fortunate we are to have and to share this “monument to a small world”!

To become involved as a docent or for program information contact us at (814) 234-4779 or boogersburg@centrefurnace.org

Docent’s Corner

Docents play a vital role in the visitor experience at the Mansion and the Boogersburg School and we need help in this area. At the School, docents assume the role of a 19th century school teacher to give tours to elementary age students during the warmer months of spring and fall. The Mansion offers regular visitor hours as well as elementary school and other group tours.

If you have a little time and are looking for an interesting and meaningful way to contribute, we hope you will consider joining our dynamic group of docents. For more information contact Mary Sorensen @ 814-234-4779 or msorensen@centrefurnace.org for more information.

Thank You!

CCHS Volunteer Appreciation Reception
April 7 | 5 p.m.

CCHS will host a reception to recognize the work of the dedicated volunteer colleagues that are involved with giving tours, making events run smoothly, planting gardens, doing research, writing articles, and helping with repairs and much more! We are truly appreciative and invite you to join us for refreshments. Please RSVP to Christine Tate at ctate@centrefurnace.org or by calling 814-34-2779.

Annual Docent Meeting
Friday, March 11
10:00 a.m.
Centre Furnace Mansion Hearth Room
Collections Investigation  
by Betsy Taylor

Mansion Furnace Mansion has the outward appearance of being a very stately, adult house. As visitors tour the Thompson home, they only see in the upstairs Nursery a collection of children’s items typical of the period. In reality, only a few books and one pull toy are the only items in the collections that remain in the house from when the Thompson children lived in the Mansion. What, then, did the six children do to amuse themselves?

With no way to really know their activities, we can only guess, based on articles and clippings found in the Centre County Historical Society library suggestions of playtime in the Victorian era for children. In all probability, time was spent in the summer running in and out, the many entrances to the outdoors and porches with deafening slamming of doors. Of course, as with all children, this running included taunts, chases, and loud merriment! In addition, time was spent playing hide and seek, games of tag, rolling down the grassy knoll on the front side of their house, berry picking in the woods, playing cowboys and Indians in those same woods, swimming in nearby Thompson creek, going on hayrides (also enjoyed by teenagers, who were very heavily chaperoned!). Summer day picnics were favorite pastimes, often ending with a song-fest or, maybe, an occasional hymn sing on the front porch.

Winter play was more centered indoors, although skating on the pond located on the property was popular as were winter sleigh rides. Toys, put away in summer months, when play was more rough and tumble outdoors, centered for little girls on paper dolls, dolls with real hair and painted china faces (often imported from Germany and beautifully dressed), who were feted with tea parties in the Nursery where pieces of doll size furniture were put to use. Dollhouses with beautiful scale size furniture were popular also.

Little boys favorite things to do centered often on toys made of cast iron: fire engines, trains (also made of tin rather than iron), wooden riding horses called Hobby Horses, wooden blocks, and “Sunday toys”, which were considered permissible for Sunday play as they were so called replicas of Noah’s Ark with the animals, two by two. A rowdier game was “horse” with one boy playing the horse while the other yelled “Giddy up! as he rode on his brother’s back through out the house.

Elizabeth Donaghy Garrett relates in her book, At Home, that for both boys and girls there were stories to be read, puzzles to be put together, lessons to be memorized, shuttle cock to be played (today we would call it ping pong, but in the Victorian era there wasn’t a table or net...just a wild game with paddle and ball in the spacious center hall, and a variety of old fashioned parlor games. Stereopticons, as we have on display in our Founders Room, were popular for all ages, as well as board games. One such board game,” The Mansion of Happiness” was based on an Italian game called” The Game of Goose”. The game was originally played in the 1500s by kings and noblemen and eventually spread to America. A game of “Morals” the instructions with an 1843 game board included the following:

A moral fit to improve the mind:
It gives to those their proper due,
And shows (while vice destruction brings)
That good from every virtue springs.

Large families, too many chores, not enough time, and no activities to keep children at bay for long, I can see why a certain Mrs. Scuyler created her own answer to chaos and retired every day for one hour to read in her closet! For many other weary households, 9:00 p.m. became the mandatory bedtime for all children, giving worn out parents (and staff) an hour of solitude before retiring to bed. Oh, my! Aren’t you glad you have TV to turn to when the natives get restless?
Museum Store

With the new year comes new projects. Have you decided to brush up on your local history or dive into your family genealogy? Our museum store has a variety of publications from John Blair Linn’s History of Centre and Clinton Counties published in 1883 to the 2014 published A War, Three Women, and a Tradition. Also available are the Centre County Genealogical Society’s publications including the 18 publications featuring the cemeteries of Centre County.

A collector’s edition reprint of the 1874 Centre County atlas; reprinted in 1998.

**The Centre Furnace Story: A Return to Our Roots** - Sylvester K. Stevens, Revised & Expanded by Philip S. Klein
The story of the charcoal iron furnace that paved the way for the economic and educational development of Centre County.

**The History of Centre and Clinton Counties** - John Blair Linn, 1883.
The definitive chronicle of the county’s early years. An invaluable resource for locating early residents and their roles in county history. Reprinted in 2000.

**The Story of Scotia** - Harry M. Williams, Edited by Betty F. Johnson
Former resident Harry Williams chronicles his long-gone village of Scotia, Andrew Carnegie’s once bustling mining community.

**The Fruit Grower’s Hand Book** - William G. Waring
A concise manual of directions for the selection and culture of the best hardy fruits in the garden or orchard. A reprint of the first book published in Centre County — 1851.

**Root, Leaf, Bud and Berry** - A Collection of Plants from Central Pennsylvania - Harrison H. Arnold & Rae Chambers
Enchanting collection of essays and illustrations of the beauty of our area’s natural environment.

Order these and other publications online at: www.centrehistory.org/about-us/store/ CCHS members receive a 10% on select CCHS publications. Enter MEMBERS10 at the checkout.

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**Around the County**

**Cultural & Natural Heritage Events**

Please visit the organization’s website for complete details.

**March 2**
Friendly Fire in the WWII US Navy - Lecture
7:30 p.m.
@PA Military Museum, Boalsburg
www.pamilmuseum.org

**March 5**
American Philatelic Society Volunteer Fair
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
@American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte
www.stamps.org

**March 6**
Easterly Chamber Players
2:30 p.m.
@Centre County Library & Historical Museum
www.bellefontearts.org

**March 12 & 13**
Charter Day Weekend
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / Sun. 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
@PA Military Museum, Boalsburg
www.pamilmuseum.org

**March 19 & 20**
Maple Harvest Festival
@Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center
www.shaverscreek.org

**April 10**
Earth Day Birthday
2 - 5 p.m.
@Millbrook Marsh Nature Center
www.crpr.org/sp-events/specials.html

**April 23 & 24**
The Great War Remembered
@PA Military Museum, Boalsburg
www.pamilmuseum.org
It is with great enthusiasm that we at CCHS extend our most sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the 13th Annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art and fine Craft Show to make it the most successful ever!

Special thanks to Mimi Barash Coppersmith for her personal sponsorship and support of this year’s event. And many thanks to the businesses that contribute both through program advertising, in-kind food and other contributions.

Bouquets of gratitude to florists Avánt Garden, Daniel Vaughn Designs and Woodring’s Floral Gardens for decking the Mansion’s hall with stunning donated holiday finery. And thank you to Tait Farm Trees for donations of trees and the Centre Furnace Gardeners for their donations and time contribution in beautifully decorating the exterior of the Mansion.

The Stocking Stuffer event is only possible because of the many, many business contributors, CCHS members and volunteers who contributed time, supplies and amazing talents, and gifted artists, antique dealers and crafters who participate. As the event has grown, so too has this grand effort that has made the event a traditional community entrée to the holiday season.

Our special thanks to the 2015 Stocking Stuffer coordinators and committee along with members and volunteers and for their passion, generous donations, time, and organization to ensure the success of the Stocking Stuffer. Special thanks to CFM Docents and all who made pomanders, knitted gifts and baked goods for the event. We could not do this without you.

For a complete listing of donors and volunteers as well as to access event photos, go to: http://www.centrehistory.org/2015-ty/

STOCKING STUFFER COORDINATORS:
Cathy Horner, Event Co-coordinator
Deb McManus, Event Co-coordinator
Becky Dreese, Inventory Coordinator

STOCKING STUFFER COMMITTEE:
Jill Aller   Joni Arrington
Susan Bowser  Pam Calkins
Becky Dreese  Cathy Horner
Deb McManus  Ann Moellenbrock
Lynn Royse    Marsha Ann Tate
Betsy Taylor  Linda Wallace
Linda Witmer

EVENT SPONSOR:
Mimi Barash Coppersmith

STOCKING STUFFER SUPPORTERS:
Acoustic Brew Concerts
Pam & Chris Calkins
Centre County Genealogical Society
Centre Furnace Mansion Docents
Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners
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David Lembeck
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Penn Stater Conference Center & Hotel
Thank you!

Many thanks to all who have contributed funding, materials, time and talent in the past quarter. We would not be able to accomplish what we do without your generosity. Below we recognize businesses and individuals for their extra time and support during the winter of 2015/16:

Business Contributions: Mike Clitherow, David Lembeck, Graphic Design

Stocking Stuffer Supporters – see pages 10-11

Collections: Judy Heberling, Monty Christiansen, Vinnie Scanlon, Judy Speedy, Betsy Taylor, Hilary Barlow, Sue Kellerman

Exhibitions: Carol Baney, Ann Barton, Rick Bryant, Calli Dobrzynski, Diane Farr, Cathy Horner, Ann Moellenbrock, Dick Pencek, Olivia Perdew

Boogersburg School: Sharon Childs, Boogersburg School Docent Committee

CFM Docent Committee: Gloria Nieweg, Lynn Royse & Linda Witmer for December Mansion school tours and to all on the Docent Committee who have been involved in planning for the 2015 school tour season and helping to revise docent materials.

Gardens: CFM Gardens Co-Coordinators Beverly Lipski and Katie Frieden, the CFM Garden Committee for much planning and a great kick-off meeting for the 2016 garden season.

Interns and Student Volunteers: Calli Dobrzynski, Matthew McClain, Stephanie Panny
Membership
New members welcome anytime.

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; 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.

☐ New Member     ☐ Renewal
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