



# MANSION NOTES

## CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 33, Number 1

Winter 2011

### *The Holidays at Centre Furnace Mansion*

#### ***Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale***

***Friday & Saturday, December 3 & 4, 2010  
from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.***

**G**et into the spirit of the winter holiday season by joining us at the historic Centre Furnace Mansion for our 8th annual Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale. The Mansion will be decked in holiday finery designed by our area's premiere floral decorators.

This holiday showcase will also feature 50 local antique dealers, artists and craftspeople. You are sure to find the perfect gift for yourself and everyone on your holiday list. Browse the handmade crafts, fine arts and antiques while enjoying music, hot cider and cookies. At the same time, support one of Centre County's Victorian treasures, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Centre County Historical Society books and publications of regional interest will also be for sale at special prices.

Memberships will also be available for sale and make great gifts! Major credit cards are accepted, while cash and checks are preferred. Admission is \$5.00.

#### ***Stocking Stuffer Preview Party***

***Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.***

**B**e the first to attend the Stocking Stuffer Antiques, Art & Fine Craft Sale. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and wine from area restaurants at the Thursday evening Preview Party. Party attendees will be able to purchase items before the event is open to the public. \$25.00 for CCHS members / \$30.00 for nonmembers.

#### ***Photos with Santa at the Centre Furnace Mansion***

***Saturday, December 11, 2010  
from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.***

**H**ere comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down...College Avenue to Centre Furnace Mansion?! That's right, Santa is coming to the historic Centre Furnace Mansion to help raise money for the Centre County Historical Society!

Santa will make his stop on **Saturday, December 11**

**from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** to sit for photos with boys and girls (of all ages). Photos may include more than one person.

The Mansion is handsomely decorated for the holidays and the grand Hearth Room is the perfect setting for a truly unique holiday photograph. These photographs of your children and grandchildren can be taken at this beautiful historic site, while helping to raise money for the preservation of the Centre Furnace Mansion as a community resource.

Because this is a fundraiser for the Centre County Historical Society, a \$10.00 contribution towards the Centre Furnace Mansion's holiday fund would be appreciated.

Photos will be printed and/or a high resolution photograph will be emailed or mailed via the U.S. Postal Service the following Monday, December 13, in time for your holiday greetings.

The Centre Furnace Mansion is located at 1001 E. College Avenue in State College (the parking lot is off of Porter Road, and overflow parking is off of College Avenue). In the case of inclement weather, please call the Centre County Historical Society at (814) 234-4779.



*Photograph by Sydney Schatz. Used with permission.*

## About the Centre County Historical Society

Centre County Historical Society  
 Centre Furnace Mansion  
 1001 East College Avenue  
 State College, PA 16801  
 814.234.4779  
 info@centrecountyhistory.org  
 http://www.centrecountyhistory.org

The Centre County Historical Society operates the Centre Furnace Mansion as an historic house museum. The Mansion is open to the public for tours and library use on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. The Society's hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### ✦ Board of Governors ✦

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*Executive Director*

Rhiannon McClintock  
*Program Coordinator/Website Administrator*

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.

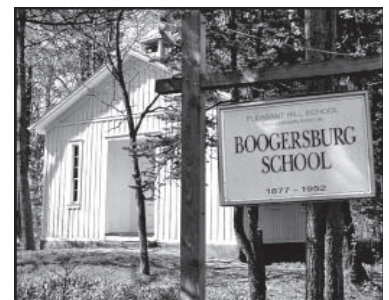
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th-century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th-century 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

With the end of 2010 appearing ever more persistently on the horizon, a brief CCHS look backward and then another one forward. They provide some significant current and future images.

First, a recap of the past:

- 2010 began at Centre Furnace Mansion with this large house having a sagging back ell and porch, and chimneys that needed serious re-pointing and repair. Approximately \$50,000 in funds were needed to make it happen. Through your generous support, along with a matching PHMC Keystone Grant and a grant from the Central PA Visitors & Convention Bureau, CCHS was able to acquire the necessary funds to complete the repairs and return the "Dowager" to her former degree of health and stateliness.
- The Boogersburg School and grounds also have received financial support to begin a replanting of the acre that adjoins the school, and to provide a brochure that tells the story of the Boogersburg site. CCHS, with sincere appreciation, received funds from the Lumber Heritage Region and from the State College Branch of AAUW to proceed with these two initiatives.
- More than 150 area volunteers gathered at the Mansion and school in October, as part of the United Way Day of Caring. They built paths, painted the mansion, and cared for the gardens and grounds (including planting and trimming trees), in a remarkable demonstration of community support and involvement.

Why are these sites important? They serve as a link with the past, but they also provide an opportunity to compare and better understand Centre County today. Hundreds and hundreds of adults and children who visit the mansion and school each year are able to step back in time to experience 19th century architecture, customs, furnishings and fabulous gardens at the mansion, and to sample time spent in an early one-room schoolhouse.

Telling the story and highlighting the importance of other historic sites and landscapes also has been part of CCHS's activities each year, and during 2010 the narrative ranged across Centre County from the Spring Creek Canyon (Benner Township) to the Peale Tunnel (Rush), from McCoy Dam (Spring) to Scotia (Patton).

And now to the future:

Major goals are to continue to maintain and improve the Society's properties, to tell the story of Centre County through enhanced educational opportunities, and to help preserve its historic and cultural richness through more programs, more publications, and more exploration of Centre County's historic landscape.

These goals become attainable only through the community's support. Maintaining two 19th-century properties and making them available for public involvement is, of course, a challenge. While CCHS has benefited from funding through the commonwealth and other granting sources in the past, those funds are becoming increasingly rare, and support from the Historical Society's membership will become more and more essential.

We will be mailing out membership renewals soon and sincerely hope you will continue to be part of the vitality of CCHS, the county's oldest and largest history organization. In addition to your own support, we hope you will consider inviting others to join or to provide them with gifts of membership for this holiday season.

Thank you so much for your role in being a Centre County ambassador.

~ Jackie Melander

### *Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards*

*Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.*

Please join us on **Sunday, January 9 at 3:00 p.m.** for the 2010 CCHS Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards. The afternoon's festivities will include the 2010 Preservation Awards honoring Centre Countians for their excellent work in preserving the county's heritage a review of the past year's accomplishments, and a merry party in the festively decorated Mansion featuring an array of refreshments. We look forward to sharing your company on January 9. An RSVP at (814) 234-4779 or [info@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@centrecountyhistory.org) would be appreciated. Happy New Year!

## 2010 Centre County United Way Day of Caring

The corners of Porter Road and East College Avenue, as well as Fox Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road, were beehives of activity on Thursday, October 7, as the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School received the overwhelming and productive support of nearly 150 volunteers during the United Way Day of Caring. Many who volunteer for the Day of Caring do so by giving up a vacation day.

The Day of Caring is an enormous yearly gift to the Centre County Historical Society and one we eagerly anticipate and host with great enthusiasm and gratitude. Historic buildings and properties, of course, require extensive and ongoing care. There can never be enough ways to say thank you for the kind of generosity and can-do spirit that we see on the Day of Caring at the Centre Furnace Mansion and Boogersburg School.

We give all who participated in this transformational and inspirational day loud applause and cheers! Please enjoy a full reporting and photo documentary of the day on our CCHS website at: <http://centrecountyhistory.org/gardens/volunteers/doc.htm>.

Again, CCHS extends our sincerest thanks to participating businesses, organizations and individuals who donated materials and labor and gave up time from your busy schedules to join us on the Day of Caring to make this incredible gift possible:

**Centre County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program**

**Centre County United Way Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network**

**David Horner & Associates, Inc.**

**Donald Marks Family Dental**

**Fox Hill Gardens Nursery**

**Glenn O. Hawbaker**

**Lowe's Home Improvement**

**PennDOT**

**Penn State organizations:**

**Master Gardeners of Centre County Cooperative Extension; Men's Baseball Team; Office of Physical Plant, Landscaping and Arboriculture; Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies**

**Sherwin Williams**

**Stadler Nursery**

**Subway**

**The Village at Penn State**

Jill Aller  
Cliff Bastuscheck  
Beth Betts  
Susan Bowser  
Jim Broyles  
Cassandra Burke  
Pam Calkins  
Sharon Childs  
Blaise Contino  
Laura Contino  
Holly D'Angelo  
Bob Donaldson  
Elizabeth Dutton  
Susan Evans  
Katie Frieden  
Marshall & Jim Garrett  
Tammy Gentzel  
Bob Hazelton  
Judy Heberling  
Barrett Hoffman  
Chris & Bob Igo  
Cheree Jones

Bob Leonard  
Felicia Lewis  
Beverly Lipski  
Lou Mayer  
Captain Ryan McCombie, USN Ret  
Mae McQuaide  
Gene & Jackie Melander  
Jo Merrell  
Ruth Merritt  
Ann Moellenbrock  
Lloyd A. P. Rhoades, Jr.  
Amanda Roberts  
Colonel Gerald F. Russell, USMC Ret  
Maureen Russell  
Rick Shultz  
Dolores Simpson  
Vicki Spadaccio  
Pam Steranka  
Suzann Tedesco  
Suzanne Thompson  
Jan Villastrigo  
Bonnie Walter  
John Ziegler



## *Keystone Grant Update Mansion Restoration is Complete!*

September marked the completion of almost a year of work on the Centre Furnace Mansion. The project began with the meticulous restoration of the chimneys, provided by **Brian Bastress** and the crew from **Bastress Stone Works**. The shoring up of the Mansion's ell and restoration of the covered porch was carried out under the thoughtful guidance of architect **Art Anderson**, structural engineer **Bob Barnoff**, and especially through the careful oversight of project manager **Chuck Heilig** of **Poole Anderson Construction**. Our historic columns on the porch were sensitively rehabilitated by **Frank Stroik** of **The Country Homestead** in Kreamer, PA.

These projects could not have been done without funds from the PHMC's Keystone Grant, the Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau and the support of Historical Society members and friends.

For a complete report of the Keystone Grant project, please visit our website:

<http://centrecountyhistory.org/cchs/keystonegrant.html>

## *Lumber Heritage Region DCNR Grant*

A Lumber Heritage Region grant has allowed CCHS to begin work on greening the acre adjacent to the school, making the site more suitable for school field trips.

However, we would like to recognize that the grant came to us at a cost to another historic site. Grants very often come with the condition that the amount must be matched by the recipient. The Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program had to redistribute this grant because matching funding fell through for a project to install sandstone pillars to mark the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Salt Lick. Therefore, we are especially thankful for the opportunity to put this funding toward a site that benefits area children.

The beginning of the planting took place on the Day of Caring and will resume in the early spring. Materials for the water line will be purchased using this grant and we thank **Glenn O. Hawbaker** for committing to donate the labor and equipment. Stay tuned for updates!



## *News from Boogersburg School By Sharon Childs*

This fall, the Boogersburg School hosted a variety of programs and activities, in addition to the regular tours for area schoolchildren. Most recently, 45 participants in the Leadership Centre County program visited the schoolhouse as part of their History Day to learn of the school's history, restoration, and current contributions to Centre County. Just prior to their visit, a docent training was held for new and continuing volunteers. The small but dedicated and amazingly enthusiastic group had a lively exchange of ideas for how to engage children in an authentic one-room schoolhouse experience.

On an entirely different note, you may recall reading an article in the previous Mansion Notes announcing the award of a grant from the Lumber Heritage Region. This grant is funding the beginning stages of a landscape plan for the schoolhouse grounds and the adjoining acre of land. Under the direction of Professors Martin McGann and Dan Stearns of Penn State's Landscape Contracting program, senior-level students **Kyle Pearman**, **Chris Lisiecki**, **Dustin Stoner**, **June Cunningham**, and **Zach Miller** developed a landscape plan for the property. Work outlined in the plan will revitalize and restore the land and help it once again relate to the original property. The plan incorporates a natural setting that includes several interpretive possibilities using native trees, shrubs, meadow areas, and paths to provide a place for children and adults to learn and enjoy. With the expert guidance of **Holly D'Angelo** and **John Allegar**, of neighboring **Fox Hill Gardens**, and Master Gardener **Suzanne Thompson**, we proceeded with the initial stages of the landscape plan on the United Way's Day of Caring. Many wonderful volunteers from RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, scrubbed the interior of the schoolhouse from top to bottom, stained picnic tables, removed invasive plants, and planted native and other trees and shrubs on the property. This coming spring, additional landscaping plantings will be installed, and **Blaise Contino**, of Boy Scout Troop 367, will be working on his Eagle Scout project to include the coordination of more plantings and a pedestrian bridge that will join the school to the new acre.

We are very grateful to everyone who continues to devote so much time and energy to Boogersburg School. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity or having a program at the schoolhouse, please contact Sharon Childs at (814) 861-6953 or [boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:boogersburg@centrecountyhistory.org).

## New Faces

**C**CHS warmly welcomed the addition of several new faces at the Mansion over the past few months. **Jessica Templeton Brockett** and **Yvonne Templeton** have been working weekly on collections inventory at Centre Furnace Mansion. Jessica is a recent graduate of Penn State. With a BA in history and minor in architectural history, she will be pursuing a graduate degree in art history. Jessica and Yvonne decided that this would be an interesting mother/daughter activity, and we are so happy they did!



*Jessica Brockett and Yvonne Templeton working on the inventory.*

**Alex Broyles**, **Zoey Alderman-Tuttle** and **Diane Farr** have begun meeting and planning how best to research, sort, organize, catalog and store many of the linens and textiles that have been acquired by the Historical Society over the years. Their varied backgrounds and lively interest in textiles sparked this new committee that promises to grow and evolve in the future.



*Alex Broyles working on the linen collection.*

**Zoey Alderman-Tuttle** and **Tammi Puskar** are new additions to the docent team. Zoey recently graduated from Mercyhurst College with BA in anthropology/archaeology and a BA in English. She is taking a year to pursue volunteer interests before continuing with graduate school. Tammi is an adult student at Penn State majoring in art history. She spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy working as an Aircrew Survival Equipmentman and is now enjoying her coursework at Penn State!

**Rick Shutz** volunteered on the Day of Caring with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) to help create the shelving in the enclosed covered porch, and indicated an interest in helping throughout the year by serving our Property Maintenance committee. He kindly offered to fix our leaky faucet. Rick recently retired and spends part of his time in Washington, D.C. and part in Happy Valley.

We also welcome **Carol Phillips** and **Lou Mayer**, both Penn State Master Gardeners of Centre County, to our CFM Garden Committee this season. Carol has taken a special interest in the kitchen garden and will be doing research this winter to take a better look at its design and plant material. You will be hearing more from Lou outside of

the gardens with his interest in early to mid 20th century railroad timetables.



*Carol Phillips in the kitchen garden.*

## CCHS Holiday Wish List!

**K**eeping up with current office technology is often a challenge for non-profit organizations. This holiday season CCHS could currently use either new or gently used office equipment including:

- Computer with flat screen monitor (PC)
- Laptop computer (PC)
- Scanner
- Cordless telephones

If you have any of these items and wish to make a donation, please call (814) 234-4779 or email [info@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@centrecountyhistory.org). We ask that you please do not bring items over without speaking with a staff member first. Thank you!

## *Inventory of the Centre Furnace Mansion's Collection*

*by Jessica Brockett*

It is time again to take inventory at the Centre Furnace Mansion. Inventory – a list of acquired objects that must be physically located within the museum – is an important activity for the maintenance of object security and preservation, as well as the museum's legal accountability. CCHS tries to conduct a complete inventory of the museum's collection every two or three years.

Yvonne Templeton and I have been working on the project since September. So far, we have updated the location and condition of objects on the mansion's first floor. This relatively simple, yet time consuming, task is a big help for the staff because it will allow them to easily keep track of and schedule repairs for collection items. In addition to a basic inventory check, our goal is to update the Society's database. At the completion of our project, all of the collection's objects will be included in the database and accompanied by a photograph in order to facilitate easy access for CCHS staff and patrons. Our efforts this year will benefit the operation of the Centre Furnace Mansion for years to come.

## *Thursdays in the Gardens*

*By Katie Frieden, CFM Garden Coordinator*

When we celebrate Christmas with family and friends, we have the Victorians to thank for many of its joyful festivities and delightful customs. They revived old traditions, such as caroling, and invented new ones, such as sending Christmas cards. Santa Claus and Christmas crackers became very popular during Victorian times. They turned to nature for inspiration and found fresh, rich greenery, flowers, pinecones, berries, and fruit, which were all used to create colorful displays.

Here in Centre County, early in December, the Thompson family most likely would have begun decorating, covering every available inch of the mansion with greenery. Spruce, balsam, laurel, cedar, ivy, mistletoe and holly graced tables, banisters, chandeliers, archways, columns, and woodwork. Mistletoe dangled from the ceiling of the entry hall. Even picture frames and mirrors were wrapped with evergreen rope. Wreaths could be found hung on doors or behind windowpanes.

With the Victorian spirit in our hearts, the CFM Gardeners festively decorated Centre Furnace Mansion. In addition to decorating outside, the gardeners decorated the Hearth Room tree in natural materials, carrying on a tradition initiated by Lois Smith many years ago.

## *Thank you!*

CCHS extends our sincerest thanks to the organizations and individuals that have assisted us with projects over the past few months. Your generosity is greatly appreciated:

**Kohl's** department store has a corporate initiative to promote volunteerism and support organizations that benefit children. They have not only sent out hard working volunteers to work on gardening and cleaning our 19th century tool exhibit, but also donate money to be used for educational purposes for every five employees who volunteer their time.



*Volunteers from Kohl's cleaning the tool shed.*

Twelve gentlemen from Penn State's **Tau Kappa Epsilon** fraternity, led by **Kyle McFarland**, graciously moved nearly 200 boxes of CCHS publications from a storage unit back to the Mansion. We also thank **Jeff Bower, Marshall and Jim Garrett, Pam Calkins** and **Bob Hazelton** for their contributions. This move was no small task!

As part of their ongoing community outreach initiative, **Blue Mountain Quality Resources** generously sent several of their staff to help with a painting project in the restored covered porch. **Mike Husband**, of **Heberling Associates, Inc.**, repaired a broken window pane in this area.

When the covered porch was being repaired, the contents of our storage room had to be moved into the CCHS library. **Pam Calkins** and **Zoey Alderman-Tuttle** have worked tirelessly (and often) to help reorganize and clean both the storage area and our library.

CCHS buildings and property require constant upkeep, just like all of our homes, and we are ever grateful to all who have given of their time. If you have an interest in getting involved with the Historical Society, please email [info@centrecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@centrecountyhistory.org).



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue

State College, PA 16801

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## 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$35
- \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ House & Gardens \$250
- \_\_\_\_\_ Director's Circle \$500
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business \$500
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ironmaster's Circle \$1500

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