



# SCHUYLKILL HERITAGE

*A Newsletter of the Schuylkill County Historical Society*



Volume 10, Issue 3

*“to discover, procure, and preserve...”*

May - June 2015

## Schuylkill Area Community Foundation

**GIVE LOCALLY.  
HELP LOCALLY.**

Schuylkill County Historical Society established a charitable endowment fund at the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation (SACF) in August 2013. The fund earnings of the endowment are distributed annually to the Historical Society and used at the discretion of the Board of Directors to support the mission of the organization.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Schuylkill Area Community Foundation will accept donations for the fund at any time throughout the year and in any amount. If your preference is to make the contribution anonymously, the SACF staff will honor your request.

Ways to Give - Cash/Check or Credit Card using your PayPal account.

The donation form and PayPal information are available at [www.sacfoundation.com](http://www.sacfoundation.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- You can create a charitable request in your will? This is a simple way to make a lasting gift. Your attorney can add language to your will to



Schuylkill Area Community Foundation staff members left Eileen Kuperavage - Executive director, Sharon Koszyk - Program Mgr., Mary Beth Matz - Asst Program Mgr. have their photo taken with Thomas Drogalis Executive Director S.C.H.S.

describe your intent. Basically there are three choices: (1) give a specific dollar amount; (2) give a percentage of the residuary estate; or (3) give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.

- You can name the organization as the beneficiary of your entire life insurance policy or as the beneficiary of a percentage of your life insurance

See Schuylkill Area Community Foundation on page 2

## Becker History Donated to Historical Society



Barry Becker

Recently, the Historical Society received a gift from a

long-time member and researcher, Barry Becker. The gift is his first volume of research on the Becker family entitled *1738, The Year of the Destroying Angels: The Survival of Henrich Becker of Berks County, Pennsylvania and His Heirs*. The book covers the first four generations of the known offspring of Henrich Becker.

Henrich Becker arrived in Philadelphia in 1738. He lived in Berks County, where he and his wife raised ten children. As the family moved into the next generations, some stayed in Berks County, while others moved through Northumberland into Lycoming County and others moved into Schuylkill.

Barry's great great

grandfather, Henry Becker, married Sarah Wildermuth circa 1859 in South Manheim Township. Henry was a canal boat captain on the Schuylkill Canal his entire life. The family moved into Schuylkill Haven where they raised six children, among them Walter and Irwin. All the sons were carpenters,

See Becker History on page 2

**Schuylkill County  
Historical Society**



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*J. Robert Zane, Esq.*

**Vice-President**

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**Treasurer**

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Sch.hist@comcast.net  
www.schuylkillhistory.org  
305 North Centre Street,  
Pottsville, Pennsylvania  
(570) 622-7540

**Society Hours**

Wednesday 1:30 - 6 p.m.  
Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Tourists, Historical  
Researchers, Scholars  
and Genealogists are  
welcome*

The Purpose of the Schuylkill County Historical Society is to discover, procure, and preserve the records of the history of Schuylkill County and any data or materials which may establish or illustrate that history.

**Becker History**

with Irwin being a major developer in town. He built the town hall, the Trust Company building, many factories, railroad stations at Auburn and Minersville and much more.

This first volume of Barry's work firmly plants the Becker family in South Manheim Township. It is the second volume, due out later this summer, that finds the family

expanding into Auburn, Schuylkill Haven, Frackville, Minersville, Tamaqua and Tower City. Family names in that volume include Dewald, Schwenk, Eiler, Tyson, Sowers and more.

Barry's work has been greatly aided by resources found at the Historical Society. Currently, it may be purchased online at **www.lulu.com**.

**Schuylkill Area Community Foundation**

policy. Contact your life insurance agent or your attorney to help you complete a beneficiary designation form which is then submitted to your insurance company.

- You can name the organization as the beneficiary of your IRA and Qualified Retirement Plans - Contact your plan administrator or attorney to help you complete a beneficiary designation form.

Please contact Eileen Kuperavage at (570) 624-7223 for additional information to make a donation to the Schuylkill County Historical Society.

**WELCOME**

**The Schuylkill County Historical Society  
welcomes the following new members:**

- |                    |                  |                       |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Bob Doerr          | Richard Schoener | Nancy Pellish Sborz   |
| Thomas A. Phillips | John Knecht      | Brendan Clay          |
| Terry Steininger   | Stacy Crouse     | Judith Malick         |
| Trudy Umholtz      | Michael Siro     | Oscar Haertsch Family |
|                    |                  | Mark Harrison         |
|                    |                  | Edward Laughlin       |
|                    |                  | Ray Murhon Family     |
|                    |                  | Allison Sophy         |
|                    |                  | Mary Beth McHale      |

*Thanks* **Recent  
Acquisitions**

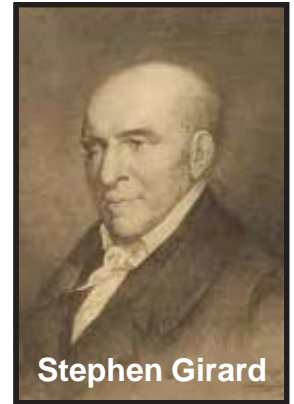
- Photo of the Henry Clay Monument, the Lynch Family Genealogy, and Allied Families donated by Theodore Thorn III, St. Clair, Pa
- Complete hardcover collection of the "Time Life: Civil War Book Collection", donated by Charles Dries, Palo Alto, Pa
- Three spine bound books: Kricks and Eidens from Violet Road, Buffalo Township, Union County Tress and Sources, and Story and Documents, donated by Ray Moyer, Pottsville, PA

## Town Names Tell A Lot About Our History

Have you ever wondered why communities have the names they do? Here are some answers, and in some cases, the years in which communities were incorporated. The main source for this information is "The History of Schuylkill County," published by the School District in 1950 (copies avail-

able for sale on-line or in our gift shop). Another excellent resource is Volume VI, No. 1, "Publications of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County." This document is available for viewing in our research library.

- Ashland – Henry Clay’s plantation near Lexington, Kentucky, 1847
- Auburn – the village in Oliver Goldsmith’ poem, “The Deserted Village,” 1857
- Barnesville – Barnes family of Philadelphia
- Barry Township – Commodore John Barry, a Revolutionary War naval hero, 1822
- Blythe Township – Judge Calvin Blythe, 1846
- Branch Township – the west branch of the Schuylkill River, 1838
- Butler Township – William Orlando Butler, a hero of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, 1848
- Cass Township – Lewis Cass, soldier and explorer, 1848
- Cressona – John Chapman Cresson, engineer and railroad executive, 1857
- Coaldale – coal industry, 1906
- Cumbola – from Cumburla in Glamoranshire, a county in South Wales
- Deer Lake – where once “extinct” deer made their reappearance, 1936
- Delano Township – Warren Delano, maternal grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1882
- Donaldson – coal operator and founder William Donaldson, 1837
- Eldred Township – Judge Nathaniel Eldred, 1849
- Ellengowen – wife of Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company President Franklin B. Gowen
- Foster Township – Judge Nathaniel Foster, 1855
- Frailey Township – Judge Charles M. Frailey, 1847
- Frackville – Daniel Frack Sr., founder of the borough, 1876
- Gilberton – John Gilbert, coal operator, 1873
- Girardville – Stephen Girard, 1873
- Gordon – Judge David F. Gordon of Reading, 1891
- Heckscherville – Landowner August Heckscher
- Hegins Township – Judge Charles W. Hegins, 1854
- Hubley Township – Judge Francis B. Hubley, 1853
- Kline Township – Judge Jacob Kline, 1872
- Landingville – its earlier name, Orwigsburg Landing, 1888
- Llewellyn – Welsh pioneer and founder, 1830
- Mahanoy City – Indian term “mahoni”, meaning a salt lick, 1863
- Mahanoy Township – Indian term “mahoni”, meaning a salt lick, 1850
- Mary D – wife of the owner of the property
- McAdoo – William G. McAdoo, a secretary of state under President Woodrow Wilson, 1896
- McKeansburg – Thomas McKean, who served simultaneously as Pennsylvania Governor and as a senator from New Jersey. He refused to give up either position
- Mechanicsville – settlers were mechanics, 1914
- Middleport – halfway between Pottsville and Tamaqua on the Schuylkill River, 1859
- Minersville – coal industry, 1842
- Mount Carbon – “mountain of coal”, 1864
- New Castle Township – a coal town in England, 1847



Stephen Girard

**New Philadelphia thru West Penn Township will be continued in our July/August newsletter.**

# Thank You!

## One and All for your support of the Schuylkill County Historical Society's Annual Appeal



Fred Miller (Miller Distributing)	Given in honor of Bob Miller Chevrolet
Dr. Robert Schiavone	Given in honor of Dr. Peter Yasenchak
Karen Gelling	Given in honor of Dr. Peter Yasenchak
Lois Walsh	Given in loving memory of her husband John (Jack) Walsh
Mary Ann Joulwan	Given in memory of James Joulwan
John and Ruth Lishman	Given in memory of Kim Ann Lishman
Loretta Joulwan Cairo	Given in memory of all residents of the late Minersville Street
Rhonda & Lynee Bower	Given in memory of all those who came before
Cancezio DiGregerio	Given in memory of Arthur & Elizabeth Connery
Elizabeth Tarone-Marsicano	Given in memory of Arthur Marsicano Sr. & James Tarone
Patricia Jerome	Given in memory of Aunt Annie
John Kantner	Given in memory of Bruce Kantner
Joseph Linkovich	Given in memory of Carl Schultz
George W. Heffner	Given in memory of Charles & Ross Heffner
Linda Greene	Given in memory of Clair J. Klouser
Gretchen Ulmer	Given in memory of Claude R. Rothermel
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Esposito	Given in memory of Coyle-Dougherty & Costello-Hocter
Chester Karas	Given in memory of Dennis Witrowski (killed in action Vietnam)
Rev. Harold Hand	Given in memory of Donald C. Hildenbrand
Carol Shultz	Given in memory of Dr. George Kohlbraker
James McCartney	Given in memory of Dr. Michael C. Ryan
Mary Ann Gursky	Given in memory of Ed Gursky
Barbara Conage	Given in memory of Evelyn Kull
Frank Berger	Given in memory of Francis & Eleanor Moore
Tersea Gilbert	Given in memory of Frank & Mary Marcavage
Frances Nagle	Given in memory of Gordon Nagle
Boyer's Food Markets Inc.	Given in memory of Harold S. and Doris C. Boyer
Louise M. Hutchinson	Given in memory of Honorable William D. Hutchinson
Bernard and Mary Ellen Marchalonis	Given in memory of Joan Williams
Joan Aldous	Given in memory of John & Elizabeth Harron
Raymond L. Beck	Given in memory of John & Margaret Beck/John W. & Emma J Weeks Stone
Joan DiSalle	Given in memory of John & Regina Malinowski and Conrad Malinowski
Adm. Nancy Lescavage	Given in memory of Joseph & Mary Lescavage
Judith Beam	Given in memory of Joseph E. Patterson and Heber Smith
Lois F. Wiley	Given in memory of Joseph J. Tiedler
Shirley Z. Dull	Given in memory of Larry & Joyce O'Rourke
Patricia Sarvis	Given in memory of Lawrence & Sylvania Gillespie
Dr. William Shugars III	Given in memory of Leah Shugars
Michael Cavanaugh Jr.	Given in memory of Leo Ward
Vincent Vaise	Given in memory of Mary Derescavage
William Bagley	Given in memory of Mary Fisher-Bagley
Lynne Barrett	Given in memory of Nelson & Florence Kehler
Leo Schneider	Given in memory of Regina McDonal
Charles and Audrey Lantz	Given in memory of Robert & Betty Shuman
Judy Hoffmeister	Given in memory of Robert & Sallianna Craig
Barry Siple	Given in memory of Robert A. Miller
Sylvia Nabholz	Given in memory of Robert L. Nabholz, Sr.
James C. Bohorad	Given in memory of Robert N. Bohorad



*Thank  
You!*

Jeff & Donna Spotts Given in memory of Robert R. Morris  
 Gary Roberts Given in memory of Schuylkill County Relatives  
 Louis & Joy Staup Given in memory of Stanley & Christine Shaup  
 Holly Marie Howard Given in memory of the Geisl Family  
 Ann Kienzel-Lee Given in memory of the Kienzel Ancestors  
 Barbara A. Welch Given in memory of William & Arlene Bensinger  
 Louella Williams Given in memory of William Lucid  
 David and Mary Hill Given in memory of Witchey Ancestors  
 Richard E. Tomko Given in memory of Phillip A. Podolick



William Pellis and Family (Gladys, Cathy, and Nancy) Given in memory Mrs. Irene Subasavage

David and Mary Silcox  
 Leo B. Dougherty  
 Roger Bailey  
 Thomas O'Reilly  
 Gayle Hartstein  
 John Brennenman  
 James Cooksey  
 Elizabeth Callery  
 Robin Harley  
 Charles Miller  
 Joseph Holt  
 Jones and Company  
 Christine Ambrose  
 Dale and Sandra Strouse  
 Jack Leary  
 Daniel Brennan  
 Dean Myers  
 Dwight Rieman  
 S. Regnal Leibensperger  
 Hon. Joseph McCloskey  
 John Thornton Jr.  
 Sandra Hirsh  
 Harold Furness  
 Anne Aregood  
 Edward Donahue  
 David and Jayne Devlin  
 Regina and Stephen Knowlton  
 Edward Fox  
 Larry and Mahala Kruger  
 SEDCO/Frank Zukas  
 Carl and Cynthia Shankweiler  
 Henry Nyce  
 Dolores Callahan  
 Joe and Nancy Schlitzer  
 Edward Donahue Jr.  
 Carol and James Pothering  
 Fanelli's You Store It  
 Naomi Ost  
 Beth Boyer  
 Paul and Joann Dimmerling  
 Frank Peron  
 Deborah Shuman Reed  
 Hon. & Mrs. John Domalakes  
 Ardith Kull  
 Ronald and Dolores Reaman


Bonnie Lee Bobbs  
 Ronald Greene  
 Mary Hurtubis  
 John Garrah  
 Rev. John Grabish  
 Doris Motley  
 Joan Harrison  
 Frances K. Miller  
 William F. Van Stone  
 John Lawrence  
 David J. Holley  
 Mary Ann Korant  
 Katherine E. Lord  
 Ray A. Wildermuth  
 Barbara Latko  
 Elwood Umbenhauer  
 John W. Telford  
 Edward Honicker  
 David R. Watters  
 Joseph and Susan Rikey  
 Thomas Slane  
 Anne Flaherty  
 Robert Stefanski  
 First Bank of Minersville  
 Schaeffers Sales and Service  
 Marty and Ann Hupka  
 Erin Brennehan  
 Russell Samilo  
 Richard Yuengling Foundation  
 Bonnie Oswald Fowler  
 Miller Brother Construction  
 Francis Murphy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Griffiths  
 Spencer Pope  
 Jay and Ellen Zane  
 Ruth Ann Sando  
 Larry Tschopp DDS  
 Joan & John Bower  
 Patrick McKinney  
 Francis J. Quirk  
 Edgar F. Kleffman  
 Richard Tomko  
 Jan Bennie  
 W. Anthony Major  
 Sally Reed

Joanne Zogby  
 Robert Miller  
 Dr. William Edmunds  
 Brian W. Obert  
 Margaret Bercher  
 Joseph McKenna  
 Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Ravitz  
 James Conville  
 Michele Kelly  
 Steven & Joan Katz  
 John S. Richards  
 Lewis Hoy  
 David Hardy  
 Elizabeth Pally  
 James E. Lehe  
 Howard Merrick Jr.  
 Myron & Gretchen Haas  
 J. Robert Zane  
 Larry & Hedy Davis  
 Anne Louise Van Nostrand  
 Rik & Sue Jochems  
 West Family Charitable Trust  
 Lara J. Cooper  
 Kenneth & Jeanne Porter  
 Paul Caputo  
 Brett Snyder  
 Michelle Miller  
 Kiehner Memorial  
 Gloria Rushanan  
 Richard & Carol Smith  
 James Greenleaf  
 Robert & Carol McGuigan  
 Nancy Glasser  
 Frank & Cheryl Messina  
 Margaret Jaeger  
 Carl & Patricia Sabold  
 Timothy R. Hall  
 Dave & Greta Derbes  
 Cynthia & Rob Steward  
 Susan Barnes  
 Joan Reedy  
 James R. Bohrman  
 Michael & Amie Tobash  
 Mrs. T's  
 Dave Crouse



## Events and Activities at the Schuylkill County Historical Society



On April 15 at the  Majestic Theater the Schuylkill County Historical Society and PADCO presented *Triumph and Tragedy: The Ending of the Civil War and Lincoln's Assassination - A Schuylkill County Prospective*.



To view a video of the entire Triumph to Tragedy program visit the Schuylkill County Historical Website at [www.schuylkillhistory.org](http://www.schuylkillhistory.org)

From the left the cast of the Triumph to Tragedy performance are Dave Matsinko (musical entertainment), Bobby Masso (John Wilkes Booth), Clifford Hutton (John Weaver), Geri Stranko (Mrs. Mary Lincoln), Tom Shay (Lewis Paine and Moderator), Alexis Rose (Fanny Seward), Parker Rose (Noah Brooks and John Mathews), John Sullivan (Abe Lincoln), and Tom Drogalis (Henry Clay Ford and Harry Hawk)

## Pottsville Area High School Students Learn Details of Famous Author's Life



Pottsville native John O'Hara



Local Historian - Jack Mansell - Shared his knowledge of the famous author and Pottsville native John O'Hara with students from Pottsville High School



Spring Has Sprung  
Time to Visit the  
S.C.H.S. Museum!



Visitors enjoying the Civil War Room Exhibit

## Robert Thomas Hughes presented The Miners Tale



Robert Thomas Hughes' presentation of *The Miner's Tale* memorialized a near capacity crowd Sunday, March 29 at the Majestic Theater.

Left, Robert Thomas Hughes

*The Miner's Tale* tells the story of the anthracite coal miner in Northeastern Pennsylvania through monologue. This forty minute one-man play is written and performed by Robert Thomas Hughes, a veteran actor from Clarks Summit, PA. Seven characters played by Mr. Hughes are colorful and human. This play is Mr. Hughes' tribute to the miners of Northeastern Pennsylvania and their families. Their commitment to family and hard work paved the way for the industrialization of our nation in coal and iron.

## Genealogy Workshop

Researchers new and experienced mine for ancestral data with the guidance of Genealogist Jean Dellock



## Block of Art



Schuylkill County Historical Society hosted the 9th Annual Block of Art. Nearly 400 guest enjoyed visiting the Schuylkill County Historical Society during the Block of Art weekend!

Featured was nationally recognized artist:

**Robert Stickloon**  
[www.stickloonfinearts.com](http://www.stickloonfinearts.com)

## INFERNO: The 70th Anniversary of Mahanoy City's Memorial Day Fire of 1945

*presented by the*

Mahanoy Area Historical Society  
Schuylkill County Historical Society  
and the Schuylkill Historical Fire Society

*Narrated by*

**Michael Glore and Michael Kitsock**



**Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 pm.**  
**Mahanoy Area High School Auditorium**  
**1 Golden Bear Drive, Mahanoy City, PA**

**Free and Open to the Public**



The Historical Society  
Of Schuylkill County  
P.O. Box 1356  
Pottsville, PA 17901

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**LOOK**  
at what's inside

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Or current resident



## Minersville Boy Scout - Edward Sheaffer - Completes Eagle Scout Project



Scout Master Jeff Hubler ,left, with Dianne Sheaffer  
(Edward's Mother) and Edward Sheaffer

“Lift and Learn” an interactive  
display of some little known facts  
about Schuylkill County

