



# SCHUYLKILL HERITAGE

*A Newsletter of the Schuylkill County Historical Society*



Volume 10, Issue 2

*"to discover, procure, and preserve..."*

March - April 2015

## Annual Appeal Update!

Dear Schuylkill County Historical Society Members,

On behalf of our President, J. Robert Zane, Esq., Officers, Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Staff I send my heartfelt thanks to the nearly two hundred members and friends who made a contribution to the Schuylkill County Historical Society's 2015 Annual Appeal.

Total contributions received to date were in excess of \$21,000. In today's economically challenging times, it is uplifting to know that our members choose to strongly support their Historical Society. As was stated in our appeal letter, there are many significant needs that must be addressed in the near future to strengthen both our physical assets (building and artifacts) as well as our microfilm library. Thanks to your generosity, the Society now has some options from which we can choose to help with some of these needs.

Earlier this month the Board of Directors and several key volunteers conducted a long-term planning session which has begun to focus the Society's energies and activities through assuring a sustainable future. Armed with a clear vision and



**Board Members and Volunteers fueling up for a recent long-term planning meeting**

numerous action items, the task of building the Society's future is well underway.

Thanks again to everyone for all your generous contributions. Rest assured your investment will be put to good use.

Kind regards,

Tom Drogalis  
Executive Director



## The History of Schuylkill County: The Regina Hartman Story

One of the most moving accounts in history of the return of the Indian captives at Carlisle had as its principals the two survivors of an Indian massacre at Orwigsburg.

The result of a raid on the home of John Hartman in

September of 1757 – the reunion of a mother and daughter through a folk song the pioneer mother had crooned to her children at bedtime – was subsequently made the basis of historical stories by Elsie Singmaster, Hervey Allen, and other famous writers.

The historic incident had its beginning with Mrs. Hartman's

escape from death because she and a son, Christian, were at a grist mill when their home was burned and the other male members of the family killed. The mother returned to find her husband and a son, George, dead and her two daughters, Barbara and Regina missing.

Later she learned that both

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**Schuylkill County  
Historical Society**



**President**

*J. Robert Zane, Esq.*

**Vice-President**

*Richard J. Nagle*

**Secretary**

*Deb Reed*

**Treasurer**

*Linda Taylor*

**Executive Director**

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Bill Van Stone

Richard Tomko

Bill Webber

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.

# Schuylkill County Historical Society Showcases New Display Booth at the 2015 County History Fair



A steady stream of visitors stopped by the Schuylkill County Historical Society's booth at the 2015 Schuylkill County History Fair

Valentine's Day was a very special day for both those in love and those who love history! Over a dozen of the county's town oriented historical societies and the Schuylkill County Historical Society joined together in the main court of the Fairlane Mall to give visitors an opportunity to get a first-hand look at our county's history.

Hundreds of visitors young and not so young enjoyed a variety of displays that included artifacts, photographs and memorabilia from throughout the county. Members of the community had an opportunity to see for themselves the numerous historical societies located throughout the county and to familiarize themselves with the locations where they can visit to receive more in-depth historical knowledge.

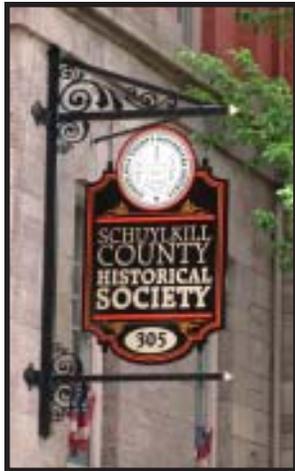
**Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped before, during, and after the History Fair**



Above, plenty of reading materials and items from the gift shop were on display



## Cyber Students and Families Visit the Museum



A brave group of students, teachers, and parents endured the cold temperatures and snow to visit the Schuylkill County Historical Society on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. This group was well prepared for their visit which was intended to



**Board Member Deborah Reed shows the Cyber School Student displays in the Civil War Exhibit**



**Students and parents were mesmerized by the artifacts on display in the Civil War Exhibit**

provide the students with an overview of our county's cultural heritage, industrial contributions to the industrial revolution, and transportation achievements.

The students were hosted by board members, Deborah Reed (Board Secretary), Richard Nagle (Board Vice President) and Executive Director, Tom Drogalis.

There were many ooh's and ah's as the group visited the numerous exhibits at the museum with special interest in The Schuylkill County Gallery and the Civil War Exhibit areas.

## A Special Thanks

to Old and New Schuylkill County Historical Society Board Members

**Board Members Expiring Terms:**

Ron Rozansky	Kris Miller-Siple
Tom Dempsey	Stu Richards
Howard Merrick	Jill Salmon

**New Board Members:**

Bill Webber	John Powers
Pat McKinney	Randy Lindenmuth
Linda Taylor	

# WELCOME

## New Members

The society welcomes the following new members:

Jack Gallagher	Curtis S. Risley
Karl Heitzman	Lynda Schiffer
Christopher Huegel	Daniel Stultzman
Dr. Ray N. Leidich	Jeffery Tierney
Diane Gayeski Mesmer	Walter Wallace

## Research Library Makeover

A significant portion of January and February were spent remodeling the Schuylkill County Historical Society's Research Library. The research library is one of the Society's richest assets and is heavily used by both on-site genealogical researchers as well as our team of research librarians.



Above: "Research Library before new shelves and lighting" Left: "Research Library with new shelving and room layout"

The primary goal of the Research Library remodeling was to better organize, store, and present the numerous archival documents in the library. Previously, a large portion of the library's content was stored on warehouse style racks that

were not conducive to both storage and access. Thanks to the purchase of items from the closing Sears store in our area, new book shelves, filing cabinets and display cases now have the library up to contemporary standards. An improvement in lighting quality has also added to the user friendly environment of the remodeled Research Library.

Be certain to stop by the museum to see first-hand the upgrades and improvements!

## *Thanks* Recent Acquisitions

- Photos of Schuylkill Haven High School Class of 1919, Jefferson School 1919, and Auburn
- Copies of the Historical "Sketches" of the Tamaqua First Presbyterian Church's Anniversary. Donated by Janice Graham Walker, Salem, Oregon
- Kerosene Lantern, one gallon kerosene can, two kerosene carriage lamps, 2 cloth irons with trivets. Donated by Dave Derbes, Pottsville, PA
- Schuylkill County Centennial metal lapel pin (1811-1911) July 2-8, 1911. Donated by Franklin Jenkins. Goochland, Virginia
- Booklets and pamphlets in memoriam of Fergus Farquhar, Esq. Re-dedication Service of Trinity Lutheran Church November 10-17, 1935 and Historical Pageant of One Hundredth Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church, June 21, 1934. Donated by Terry and Beth Boyer, Litiz, PA
- Schuylkill County History, Volume 1 and 2. Donated by Jeff Smilko, Pottsville, PA
- Library of Walter Kraus Jr. – an assortment of books covering mining, railroads, Schuylkill Canal, history of local communities and surrounding counties. Donated by Kate Richards, Valrico, Florida

**S.C.H.S. Programs and Events for March & April**



**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**How Do You Think You Are?**

Genealogy Workshop hosted by Jean Dellock (Historian and Author)

10 AM – Noon at the

Schuylkill County Historical Society headquarters, 305 North Centre Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

\$18 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Seating is limited - call early for reservations.

(570.622.7540)

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Southern Schuylkill Bus Bash (SOLD OUT)**



**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**A Miner's Tale**



Written and Performed by Robert Thomas Hughes

The Miner's Tale tells the story of the Anthracite coal miner from Northeastern Pennsylvania, through seven characters played by Mr. Hughes.

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2PM

Majestic Theater 209 North Centre Street, Pottsville, PA - \$5 admission

**Block of Art**

Friday, April 10 thru Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>



The Schuylkill County Historical Society will be the lead host for this annual weekend of all things art. Conducted in numerous venues in downtown Pottsville this is a great weekend event.

**Wednesday Evenings in August  
George Blum Presents:  
Antiques and Collectibles Course**

Learn from one of the country's leading antique appraiser. This series of classes will intrigue its participants and will be certain to advance their knowledge of antiques and collectibles.



Different areas of interest will be presented each evening and include: Introduction to auctions including real estate, gold and silver, coins, understanding E-Bay, Bid Board Auctions, jewelry, and negotiations.



Toys, Dolls, and Trains  
Furniture, Art, Carpets, Mining Items, Primitives  
Guns and Military  
Glass & China, Pottery, Clocks & Watches

Participants are asked to come to each session with questions and some show and tell items for each class.

\$75 registration fee includes admission to all (5) classes, program handouts and information sheets and limited free appraisals.



**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Schuylkill County Historical Society and PADCO Present:

**Triumph and Tragedy: The Ending of the Civil War and Lincoln's Assassination – A Schuylkill County Prospective**

6p.m. at the Majestic Theater  
209 North Centre Street, Pottsville  
\$5.00 Admission

# Jean Dellock, P.I.



Think “private investigator” and you might conjure up the literary images of Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot. If you are a fan of the golden age of television, you might remember “Peter Gunn” or “Sunset Strip” or even Paul Drake from “Perry Mason”.

Jean Dellock likes to think of herself as a kind of private investigator. Instead of searching for criminals, she searches for ancestors. Jean’s expertise is genealogy.

Jean’s interest in genealogy began in 1985 when she first went to the Schuylkill County Historical Society to research her lineage so she and her mother could join the Mahantongo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. After becoming a D.A.R. member, she enjoyed helping prospective members find their Revolutionary ancestors. As time went by, she took several D.A.R. genealogy courses, attended genealogical seminars sponsored by the State Museum Commission, and read any genealogy book she could lay her hands on. In the 1980’s, she began volunteering at the Historical Society of Schuylkill County when it was located on North Third Street behind the

Pottsville Free Public Library. When the Society moved to its current location on North Centre Street in 2002, Jean helped set up the research library.

When Jean receives a request for help in finding someone’s ancestor, she usually starts with church and cemetery records. These are primary

resources and are usually very accurate. Sometimes written family histories are already available. Knowing a lot of county history helps Jean assist those from outside the area, especially when they are looking for a particular place unique to Schuylkill County.

The biggest challenge Jean faces is finding information on the women. Today one can find

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## Schuylkill County in the Civil War – A Publication of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County (1961)

### *The Week Lincoln Was Shot*

The news of the Good Friday assassination of Abraham Lincoln was received Saturday and promptly business was suspended, doors and shutters of stores were closed, flags were placed at half-mast and were draped, and almost all private homes wore some vestige of black.

Odd Fellows lodges from Middleport Lodge 474 and General Grant Lodge 575 at Mahanoy City, to Miners Lodge No. 20 and Lily of the Valley Lodge No. 281 at Pottsville voted to keep their meeting rooms draped with mourning for six months and to require their members to wear badges of mourning for 30 days.

Perseverance Section No. 16, Cadets of Temperance, and all the borough councils adopted resolutions of mourning. At the court house, Congressman Myer Strouse led lawyers in words of regret.

On the day of the funeral, April 19, a solemn procession wound through the streets of Pottsville, led by First Defender Captain James Wren. Church bells tolled at noon as the band played dirges and soldiers and mounted officers filed slowly behind a hearse and pallbearers.

Wreaths and “other devices suggestive of sorrow” abounded – “A Nation Mourns A Father Slain”, “Fallen, But Enshrined,” “Though Dead, He Liveth”, “We Mourn, Our Chief Has Fallen” and “Dead, On the Borders of the Promised Land.”





# Memorial Donations

Historical Society is one way for families to keep their loved one's memory alive by helping the Society achieve its mission of honoring and

Looking for a meaningful charity to honor or remember a departed loved one? Look no farther. Memorial contributions to the Schuylkill County Historical Society is one way for families to keep their loved one's memory alive by helping the Society achieve its mission of honoring and promoting Schuylkill County's history. We will notify you of each gift made in your loved one's name, and acknowledge each person who makes a contribution. Donors will be mentioned in our newsletter and information given to the Republican Herald newspaper. Donations can be made directly to the Society for either current operating expenses or earmarked for the Society's Endowment with the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation.

## The History of Schuylkill County: The Regina Hartman Story

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girls had been carried away by the Indians. Months later the body of Barbara was found several miles from the house. It was surmised that she had become exhausted and, unable to keep up with her captors, had been cruelly murdered.

Regina, the stronger of the two, escaping a similar fate, was taken to New York, where she lived as one of the tribe, becoming "Sawquehanna," the White Lily. Throughout her captivity, she later said, she and

another white girl captive were continuously under guard of an old squaw.

With the end of the French and Indian War in 1765, Regina and other white children who had been captured were taken to Carlisle. After notice of the return of the prisoners was carried throughout Pennsylvania, Mrs. Hartman, who had never abandoned hope that Regina was alive, made the long journey to Carlisle. But the journey appeared to be in vain. Mrs.

Hartman saw among the captives no one who resembled Regina. Living with the Indians, the children had taken on many of the characteristics of their captors and many had forgotten the language of their mothers and fathers.

Broken-hearted she was ready to abandon the quest when she remembered the German song she had sung to Regina and the other children. In a dry, cracked voice she sang the familiar words through the second line, when Regina, then 22, rushed to her with a cry.

## Jean Dellock, P.I.

Continued from page six

information in many civil records. This is not true of many records from the past. Jean often ends up looking at tombstone information, baptismal records, and any marriage records that may contain the woman's maiden name.

Nowadays most of those who come to her for genealogy help have already begun their research on the internet. They turn to Jean when their research hits the proverbial "brick wall". Jean notes that although there is much information on the

internet, researchers must verify the sources very carefully. Jean says the best part of researching is being able to meet so many interesting people. She enjoys helping these researchers find their Schuylkill County "connection".

In addition to working in the Society Research Room, Jean also serves on the board of directors for the Society. She is currently the treasurer for the Mahantongo Chapter of the D.A.R. She enjoys crocheting and reading in her free time.

Jean is one of many society volunteers who are here to help all of us. Thanks Jean!

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

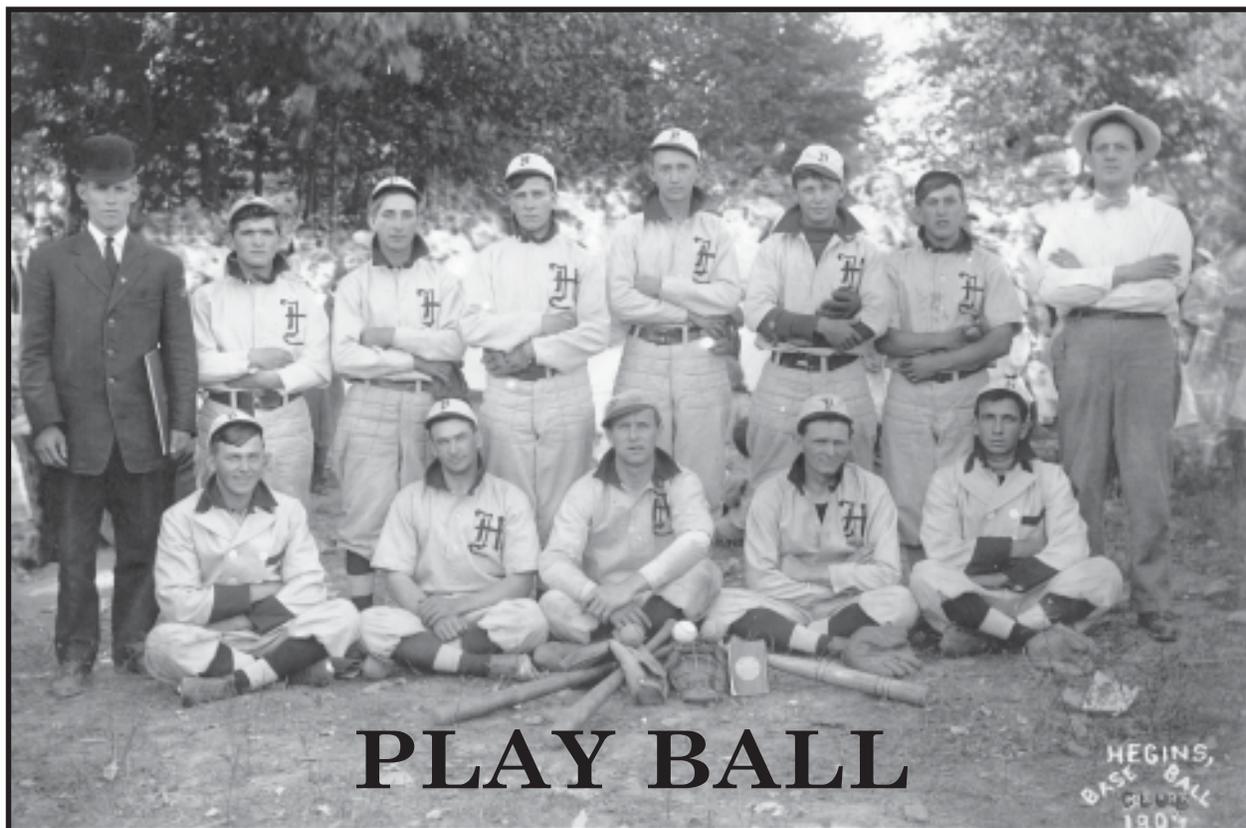
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Or current resident



**PLAY BALL**

HEGINS,  
BASE BALL  
1904