



Historical society purchases computers with Rotary grant



JACQUELINE DORMER/STAFF PHOTOS

Volunteer Dottie Loy, Pottsville, works on cataloging and scanning historical photos Wednesday at the Historical Society of Schuylkill County in downtown Pottsville. The Rotary Club of Pottsville donated funds to the society and they were able to purchase computers.

By STEPHEN J. PYTAK, STAFF WRITER

In May, the Rotary Club of Pottsville, Club No. 5319, donated \$2,000 to the Schuylkill County Historical Society.

On Wednesday, the club held its August meeting at the society's headquarters and had the opportunity to see how the society put the money to use.

"We bought three new PCs (personal computers) for our photo archive and material archive upstairs on the second floor. We bought them from Dell directly. And the computers came equipped with monitors and keyboards," Thomas B. Drogalis, the society's executive director, said.

On Wednesday afternoon, one of the society's volunteers, Dottie Loy, 88, of Pottsville, was using

one of the new computers to scan and catalog vintage photos.

"The computers we were using up there were very old computers, probably close to 10 years old. And the hardware and the software was not replaceable," Drogalis said.

Every year, the Rotary Club makes an effort to give "about \$10,000" to area nonprofit organizations, said Terry L. Bixler, funeral director at Lord-Bixler Funeral Home, Pottsville, and president of the Rotary Club of Pottsville since June.

Earlier this year, Drogalis sent the Rotary a letter, asking if the Rotary could afford to support the society's technological needs.

"We expressed our need to the Rotary Club and they were gracious enough to do this for us. It's really an integral part of the society's holdings. We have over 25,000 photographs that we've been scanning and archiving with museum software which we can use to find them if we do an inquiry search," Drogalis said.

"The whole objective of Rotary is to raise money and give it away. We try to give it to what we believe are worthy causes in our community and certainly the historical society here has been a worthy cause for years. And we hope that this helps them continue and maintain our history here in the community," Bixler said.

In December, the Rotary Club of Pottsville, which was established in 1915, merged with the Rotary Club of Minersville, which was established in 1936.

This article originally appeared in the Pottsville Republican Herald Friday August 12, 2016.

**Schuylkill County
Historical Society**



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Treasurer

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Executive Director

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Richard Tomko

John Walsh

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

Society Hours

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 4 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.

UNSUNG HEROINES: Women who shaped Schuylkill County



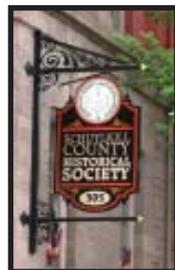
JoAnn Chuba, Exhibit Curator, addresses guests.

The curator, JoAnn Chuba, opened the exhibit with an overview of its content. "Traditional recordings of history have often ignored or minimized the contributions of women, but their achievements, leadership, courage and strength were as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. Considering the place of women in history does not just expand our understanding of events, but reshapes that understanding. This exhibition is an attempt to add some of their voices to the historical record."

Through a selection of over fifty photographs, artifacts and illustrations, viewers of the exhibition are invited to explore the influence of women on the history of Schuylkill County - from entrepreneurs, strike leaders and baseball players to those who kept the home fires burning while their husbands mined the coal that fueled the industrial revolution.



Visitors enjoying the photos of the Unsung Heroines at the exhibit opening.



WELCOME

The Schuylkill County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Philip F. Golden
Joseph W. Norman
Cynthia A. Stuart
Linda Guarnotta
Mary Ellen & Philip Steeves
Barbara Lindsey
Mark Connelly
Steve Higgins
Ann Kandis
Thomas Hale
Thomas W. Hinkle
Rob Morgenstern

Mark and Kristen DiCello
Michael Sholl
Shawn Kennedy
George Pesansky
Betsey Lord
Janna Reed
Lynn Tanquay
Robin Collins
Sally Bien
Jean Dando
Barbara Whitely
Kristen Spalding

Audrey Bradham
Dennis Sholl
Paula Bickelman
Marie Brady
Dorothy Stangl
Daniel A. Phillips
Diana Reeves
Charles Samuel
Greg Manhart
Richard Thaler
Ken Robertson
Michelle Schoenfelder

Thanks Recent Acquisitions

- 1920 Red Cross nurses uniform donated by Alice Rozetar, Minersville, PA
- Collection of employee records c1900-1970, from the Reading Coal Company donated by Michael Smith, West Lawn, Pa
- Post cards: 1909 Pottsville YMCA, 1908 Pottsville Hospital, 1953 Pottsville High School donated by Joel Frantz, Leesport, Pa
- Pottsville High School Yearbooks, 1950 & 1952, Hegins Township High School Year Book 1954 donated by Ivan Wellard, Pottsville
- Movie Posters: The Fabulous Dorseys, The Molly Maguires, and 10 North Fredrick donated by Jay Zane, Pottsville, PA
- Civil War era doll, donated by Sara M. Tomlinson, Monroe Township, NJ
- Painting of Mahantongo Street donated by Joanna Schuster, Pottsville, Pa
- Four (4) Department of Labor Projectionest Cards 1924, 1928, 1929, ad 1930, donated by Donald Smith, Myerstown, Pa
- Photo of VFW Post 129 Pottsville, Pa., photo of US Naval Training Station Company 137, August 13, 1943, Sampson, NJ donated by Edith Hoffman
- Employee photos of Target Manufacturing Dream City, Phillips-Jones, Pottsville, Target Manufacturing, New Philadelphia, donated by Mary C. Pellish, Pottsville, Pa
- Polish Book of Minersville donated by Joyce Starzetski, Reading, Pa
- Sewing basket belonging to Sarah Reid Morgan Mastellar (1863-1945), honeymoon trunk made by Albert Henry Mastellar (1860-1929), two promotion certificates from the Pottsville Presbyterian Church 1925 and 1928, and PA Dutch bonnet donated by Martha Tomlinson Underwood, Sanford, NC
- Picture of President Nixon and a newspaper article about President Kennedy's visit to Pottsville, donated by John Sullivan, Pottsville, Pa
- Book: News From the Land of Freedom, four editions of The Valley Gazette, donated by Donna Hawkins, New Oxford, Pa

Looking Ahead

September 28th

Shenandoah's 150th Anniversary presented by Andy Ulnicy

October 15th

West End Wandering Bush Bash with "Porcupine Pat". (See page 5 of this issue for additional information).



October 26th

Pow Wow, Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Medicine presented by Porcupine Pat

November 12th

Holiday Marketplace Schuylkill County Historical Society 10:00 am. - 4:00 pm.

November 30th

Antique Appraisals presented by George Blum

All presentations take place at the Schuylkill County Historical Society



Holiday Marketplace

Schuylkill County Historical Society **November 12, 2016**
305 North Centre St., 10am to 4pm
Pottsville, PA



*A Memorial Gift Received:
 In Memory of
 Laura and Chester Lane
 by Kay Lane Gray*

Pottsville native donates Civil War era doll to historical society

This article was originally published in the Pottsville Republican Herald July 20, 2016

By Stephen J. Pytak

While the Civil War was raging on 150 years ago, a little girl from Pottsville was learning to sew.

Her name was Sarah Ellen Reid. Born in 1856, one of her first accomplishments was making a doll and accessories for it.

"I think she made this and kept it for years because it was her pride and joy," Sarah Ellen's granddaughter, Sara Beatrice Masteller Tomlinson, 96, formerly of Pottsville, said Monday.

The "quilt behind the doll was Sarah Ellen's first quilt she ever made," according to an inscription on the back of the shadow box framing the artifacts.

The doll — which stands 17-inches high, has leather hands and feet, a porcelain head and a multi-layered dress — and the miniature quilt that matches its dress were delivered to the Schuylkill County Historical Society on Monday.

Tomlinson, 96, of Middlesex County, New Jersey, and her daughter, Virginia Mitchell, 66, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, brought the vintage doll and the quilted accessory back to Pottsville on Monday.

The shadow box containing the items will soon be showcased at the society's Civil War exhibit, which is on the second floor of its headquarters at 305 N. Centre St., Thomas B. Drogalis, the society's executive director, said.

"If you look at all the wonderful artifacts we have there, we don't have anything that represents the more feminine side of that time period or artifacts related to childhood. It's amazing to see a doll that was made by a child who lived in that particular time period," Drogalis said.

Tomlinson shared memories of her grandmother Monday while visiting the society.

"Grandma used to make clothes for all the rich people in Pottsville. She was sewing all the time



David McKeown/Staff Photo

Sara Beatrice Masteller Tomlinson, 96, left, formerly of Pottsville, and Thomas B. Drogalis, center, the Schuylkill County Historical Society's executive director, look at a photo of Sara in the Pottsville Area High School's 1937 year book at the Schuylkill County Historical Society in Pottville on Monday, July 18, 2016.

because the richest people in Pottsville were ordering their clothes from her," she said.

And her grandmother also made clothes for her family. Tomlinson tried to break from tradition when she was a freshman at Pottsville Area High School in the early 1930s.

"I really got the business when I was a freshman in high school. My grandmother had always made my clothes. But I saw this lovely coat in the window of this store and I decided I wanted that coat. I wanted my clothes store-bought. I went and told that to my mother and she gave me a lecture. That next Sunday when I went out to Hillside to Grandma's house, I told Grandma that I wanted my clothes store-bought. She and I had always been friendly and told each other things. And Grandma said, 'Tell me all about that coat you saw in the window.' So I told her the color, the make, everything I could tell her about the coat. And she said, 'Come back next Sunday and we'll have a fitting.' She was that good. I went back the next Sunday and saw it and it was gorgeous. And it was just like the one in the window. Same material. She was very, very good," Tomlinson said.

"She showed me her doll, this doll," Tomlinson said as she put her hand on the shadow box Monday.

"We put it in the shadow box about 10 years ago. Prior to that, my mother had it sitting on her love seat. Did your family give this to you when you were a little girl?" her daughter asked.

"I wasn't little when she gave it to me. But I wasn't old either. I was still in school when she gave it to me. I'm sure she gave it to me because I was named after her. Her name is Sarah. And my name is Sara. But I dropped the 'h' at the end," Tomlinson said.

Sarah Ellen Reid Masteller died in Pottsville on Nov. 25, 1945. The funeral was held at her home on Hillside. Her interment was in Forty Fort Cemetery, Luzerne County, according to the obituary published in the Nov. 27, 1945, edition of The Pottsville Journal.

According to "Hi-S-Potts of 1937," a Pottsville

Area High School yearbook, Tomlinson, then "Sara Masteller," graduated from high school in 1937.

Drogalis found a copy of the year book in the society's archives, and he read allowed the description of her near her photo:

"A versatile girl indeed is Sara. She's been a very busy and important person this year with clubs and all outside sports and activities. Beside this, she is a good student and a willing worker. Sara belongs to the musical organizations and through these has made friends with many of her underclassmen. Stick-to-it-iveness is what counts, and Sara has it!"

Tomlinson went on to earn a degree from Bloomsburg University and became a teacher.



David McKeown/Staff Photo

Sara Beatrice Masteller Tomlinson's, 96, formerly of Pottsville, grandmother's, Sarah Ellen, doll that she made during the Civil War over 150 years ago. Sara donated the doll to the Schuylkill County Historical Society on Monday, July 18, 2016.

West End Wandering Bus Bash

Some of the stops that will be made are:

- Visit a real working farm featuring soil and water conservation practices.
- See Swatara Furnace and the Ironmaster's Mansion.
- Take a "selfie" at the purple pump - a major West End landmark.
- Check out the Old Mill near Hegins.
- Where is the oldest church and cemetery?
- And much more.

The trip begins at the Schuylkill County Ag Center located along the Gorden Nagle trail. Ample parking is available on site. For more information or to register contact "Porcupine Pat" at 570.622.4124 ext. 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com

The trip is sponsored by the Schuylkill County Historical Society

Saturday, October 15th

9:00 am. to 4:00 pm.

\$19.00 per person



Swatara Furnace

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

Non-profit org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pottsville, PA 17901
Permit # 485



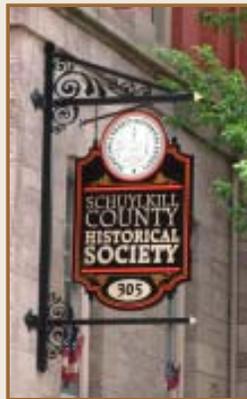
at what's inside

Rotary Grant 1
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New members 2
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Or current resident

Memorial Donations

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 2017
Schuylkill
County
Historical
Society's Annual
Appeal will be
coming soon.

More
information will
be available in
the next issue of
this newsletter.