



SCHUYLKILL HERITAGE

A Newsletter of the Schuylkill County Historical Society



Volume 12, Issue 6

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

November - December 2017



Schuylkill County Historical Society 2018 Annual Appeal *“History tells us who we are”*

Dear Supporter of the Schuylkill County Historical Society:

Yes. It's time for the end-of-the-year annual appeal. 2017 is coming to a close and this year was certainly an exciting and productive year at the Society. The World War I Exhibit is receiving great reviews. In fact, the Schuylkill County Bar Association became a sponsor after learning that a departed colleague, Robert B. Woodbury, was the only local attorney to have died in military combat. The Republican Herald, the South Schuylkill News, radio station WPPA, our website and Facebook page have given coverage to the Exhibit which has increased the number of visitors that arrive from all parts of the country. If you have not seen the WW I Exhibit, please do so.



The Schuylkill Gallery has come to life, depicting the region from the days of the Lenni Lenape Native Americans onward into the 20th century. The era of the Molly Maguires now has its own Exhibit area with the highlight being a larger-than-life mural of “the day of the rope.” Walking tours have also started and will continue.

More great changes will be coming in 2018!

To me, history is very important as it grounds us in our roots and also helps us understand change. It also makes us more empathetic. For instance, our WW I Exhibit depicts the story of Henry Scott, a lonely black draftee from Shenandoah, who boarded a military train alone, as segregation was in effect. However the townspeople of Shenandoah rose to the occasion and gave Mr. Scott a magnificent Schuylkill County send-off with his own parade!

The Society has been the recipient of many unique artifacts and documents from the public –rare civil war records for instance. Our genealogy and research department has a steady flow of users. The Society has a superb educational program that school administrators recognize as a destination for cost –effective field trips. Students will hopefully realize the importance of history when heading into the future. Your donations are put to good use!

Yes, I realize there are many requests for donations this time of year. Operating one of the oldest buildings in the county, the grand former Female Grammar School, has many expenses that can only be met by the generosity of people such as you. **Please keep the Historical Society on the move!** The form to make a donation is located on the last page of this newsletter. Lastly, best wishes for the New Year from everyone at the Society.

Sincerely,

J. Robert Zane, Esq.,

Schuylkill County Historical Society, President

Schuylkill County Historical Society



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J. Robert Zane, Esq.

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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.



Join us for a great holiday experience at our 8th annual

Holiday Marketplace

Schuylkill County Historical Society
305 North Centre Street,
Pottsville, Pennsylvania
(570) 622-7540

Saturday, November 11, 2017
10am to 4pm

*Below is a list of artists and vendors
participating in this annual event*

Henny Faire gift by Erica Vinskie Cinnelli

Sweet Barista by Teresa Houck

Neat Stuff by Barbara and Steve Conage

Just a Taste by Angela Sweigert

Bird on a Wire by Kim Shappel

Sargie's Scrumptious Snacks dog treats by

Thomasina Niadna

Ann Marie DeFrank Double Nickel Creations

Watercolor Artist Marybeth Harvey

No Place like Home Crafts by Dorothy

Rising Heart Art Studio Prints and note cards

Sinful Creations by Heather Sinn Wensel

Anthracite Imagery by Lawrence Vinskie;

Schuylkill County T-shirts, Skook items,

Historical books and so much more

**Come find the unique Holiday
gifts by local artisans, enjoy the
spirit of an old time Christmas,
light refreshments available.**



BOOK SIGNINGS

Dear Ma

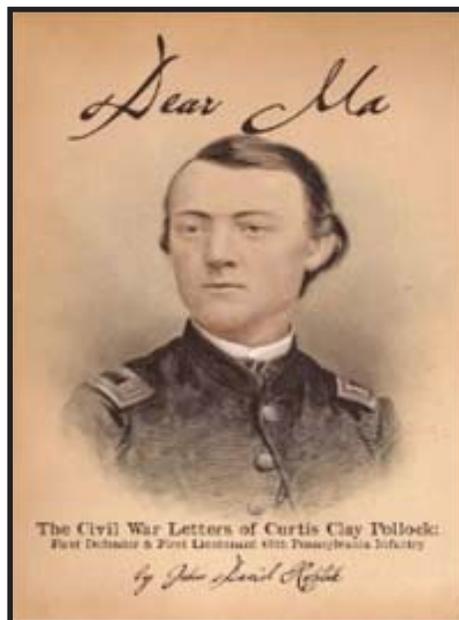
With the author

John Hoptak

*Saturday, November 25, 12-2 pm.
Schuylkill County Historical Society
305 N. Centre Street, Pottsville*

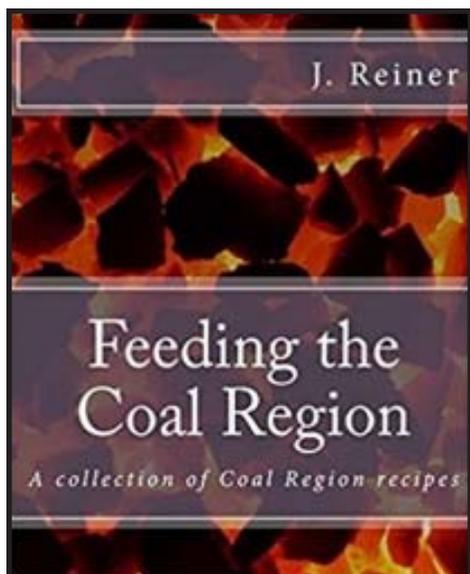
For additional information call
570-622-7540

Curtis Clay Pollock: First Defender, First Lieutenant, 48th PA Infantry. His letters home enable us to gain a glimpse of the Civil War from the inside. They chronicle the actions, experiences and thoughts of a brave young man who ultimately gave his life in defense of his country.



Feeding the Coal Region

A collection of Coal Region recipes



With the author

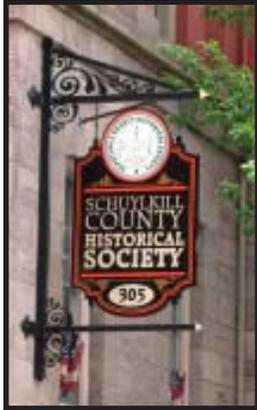
J. Reiner

*Saturday, December 2, 12-2 pm.
Schuylkill County Historical Society
305 N. Centre Street, Pottsville*

For additional information call
570-622-7540

Inspired by the much-loved food and unique history of the area, this is more than just a cookbook.

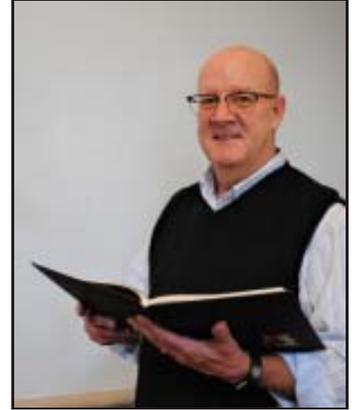
Come meet the author and taste-test some real coal region cooking!



2017 In Review

They say time flies when you're having fun! Well, that certainly applies to the Schuylkill County Historical Society. It's hard to believe that 2017 is quickly coming to a close. This year has been one of growth, renewal, and fun!

Here's the short list of events, activities, and achievements that have occurred during the year thanks to the tireless help of many, many volunteers, an inspired Board of Directors, and you the members of the Schuylkill County Historical Society.



Mr. Thomas B. Drogalis
Executive Director of the
Schuylkill County
Historical Society.

- Newspaper microfilm conversion to digital media project completed
- New interior lighting throughout the museum
- Exhibits: The Women of Schuylkill County, The Molly Maquires (Day of the Rope), Schuylkill Gallery Makeover, 100th Anniversary of WWI Exhibit, (special thanks to JoAnn Chuba and Tom Demspey for their great work on these exhibits)
- Map inventory cataloged and stored (special thanks to Todd Graybill)
- Numerous educational programs at assisted living facilities and for community groups (special thanks to John Walsh)
- Schuylkill County Historical Society Coalition – History Fair (special thanks to Diana Prosymchak)
- Baber Cemetery History Walk presented by SCHS President J. Robert Zane, Esq.
- Annual Holiday Marketplace Craft Fair
- Third Brigade Band History and WWI Concert
- Haunted History Walking Tours
- Book Signings: "Dear Ma – The Civil War Letter of Curtis Clay Pollock by John Hoptak" and "Feeding the Coal Region: A collection of Coal Region recipes by Jennifer Reiner"
- 18% growth in Membership
- Visitors from over 35 states and 3 foreign countries
- High School and College interns
- And many, many, historically significant items donated to the Schuylkill County Historical Society's archives.
- New and improved Webpage and Facebook page (special thanks to Mary Ann Lubinsky)
- And hundreds of Genealogical Research Projects!!!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success achieved during 2017!

Schuylkill County Bar Association sponsored WWI Exhibit

Robert B. Woodbury, Esquire (1886 - 1918)

For thousands of years, mankind has had a need for heroes that act as inspiration to others with their integrity, courage, and idealism. In this digital age, too much publicity is given to the anti-heroes, such as some professional athletes, business and professional leaders, rock stars and movie stars who may be talented, gifted, and financially successful but who lack an internal moral compass as they are driven by a desire of self-aggrandizement and an voracious appetite to accumulate more money and more material things.

The Schuylkill Bar Association posthumously recognized one of its own true heroes of the past, Attorney Robert B. Woodbury.

Robert Woodbury was born on September 11, 1886 in Pottsville, the son of Attorney Wesley and Anna Woodbury. His family home was at 1023 Mahantongo Street. He was a Pottsville High School graduate who then entered Amherst College where he graduated with honors. He took a special law course at the University of Pennsylvania as he was determined to be a lawyer. After admission to the Schuylkill County Bar, he began a practice with his father on the fourth floor of the Thompson Building, Pottsville's first skyscraper.

On March 4, 1916 Robert Woodbury left his Pottsville law practice and enlisted in the United States Army as a private. The nation, at that time, was engaged in skirmishes along the Mexican border. After he entered Company F, Fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, he did the work assigned to him and soon received several promotions.

On June 16, 1917, after the United States entered the world war, Woodbury received his commission as first lieutenant, Co. C, 103 Engineers and was transferred in February 1918 to the 111th Infantry.

When the Germans began their drive across the Marne on July 15th, Woodbury's company was

at Chateau Thierry. It was during these summer months that most of the American casualties occurred.

Woodbury fought at Fismette in early August when he was wounded. The battle of Fismette is considered

unique in military history because of the extreme violence and street fighting that occurred, as well as the presence of storm trooper attacks and the use of flamethrowers.

Novelist Lt. Harvey Allen, who survived the battle, wrote that the 111th Infantry had been fighting the Germans for about six weeks and had not received rations for several days. The infantry crossed the stone bridge just after midnight leading to the village under a cloud of churning smoke created by gunfire and explosions. The men prayed that they would not be noticed as they entered the village, much of which was controlled by the Germans, where house to house combat ensued. German machine gun fire aimed at them as they reached the northern edge of the village by dawn trying to capture the hills on that side. However, the enemy fire was too great and the doughboys retreated back to the village.

The military dispatch later related that Lt. Woodbury, by his example and energy, kept his men at their posts, going for three days without sleep and walking up and down the lines encouraging his men. He died in a French hospital several days



See **WWI Exhibit** on page 6

Letter from the grandchildren of Robert B. Woodbury to the Schuylkill Bar Association

Mr. Stanley J. Burke, Esq., President
Charlotte Green, Executive Director
Schuylkill County Bar Association

Dear Mr. Burke and Ms. Green,

Recently, Mr. J. R. Zane, President of the Schuylkill County Historical Society, kindly notified me that the Schuylkill County Bar Association will be posthumously honoring my grandfather, Robert B. Woodbury, for his service to our country during World War I in a historical society exhibit. I cannot express adequately what an unexpected gift this is for me, my brother, and our families. As you know, my grandfather gave his life for his country and for the freedom enjoyed by all of us to this day. I have always emphasized with my own children how this freedom was never truly free—it was purchased with the blood of their own family and so many others in World War I and the battles since then.

As President Harry S. Truman said, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” In this divided world in which we currently live, I am encouraged that there is still respect for veterans and the generations that came before us. How wonderful that there are individuals and organizations that still, nearly 100 years later, remember and show gratitude for those who served and sacrificed for our great nation—and also recognize those who still serve today.

My father (who lived until 2009 and the age of 90 and was also named Robert B. Woodbury for the father he never knew) would have loved this recognition, as do I and my family. Again, our sincere thanks to the Schuylkill County Bar Association and Schuylkill County Historical Society for this wonderful, thoughtful remembrance of World War I and my grandfather.

Warm regards,
Kathy Woodbury Belfiore Chatham, New Jersey



J. Robert Zane, Esq.

WWI Exhibit continued from page 5

after he was wounded on August 9th. He was survived by his parents, wife, Ruth, and six-month old son, Robert, Jr.

Woodbury was laid to rest in Plot B, Row 5, Grave 61 of the American Cemetery in Belleau, France. His date of death engraved as August 14, 1918. His family erected a memorial

marker for him in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Pottsville with his date of death engraved as August 12, 1918.

The local veterans of Pennsylvania memorialized their fallen comrade in arms by naming the Pottsville American Legion Post after him, which no longer stands. The minutes of the

Schuylkill Bar Association for the year 1918 only list Robert B. Woodbury with his date of death followed by three letters, KIA. Not much of a farewell for the only Schuylkill County attorney to have died in military combat for his country. In 2017 the bar association rectifies this oversight.

Music, Memories, and the Military: Honoring the 100th Anniversary of WWI



Arlin Kramer, Pine Grove, PA, a WWII veteran points to a photo of his father, Joseph J. Kramer, Company K, 11th Infantry Division, WWI. Both father and son served under the command of 1st Lt. Mark Clark during their service to our country.

On September 19th, the SCHS sponsored a special program to highlight our WWI Exhibit. The evening included guided tours of the exhibit as well as a presentation and concert conducted by the 3rd Brigade Band. Over one hundred guests enjoyed the evening of history and song.



A presentation and concert by the 3rd Brigade Band at the Majestic Theater was enjoyed by over one hundred guests.

LEST WE FORGET Schuylkill County in the Great War



Visitors to the Historical Society enjoying the WWI exhibit.

The Schuylkill County Historical Society has created a comprehensive exhibit to commemorate the service of Schuylkill County soldiers who served during WWI.



WELCOME

The Schuylkill County Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

John M. Matz
Albert J. Pfeffer III
Roth B. Evans
Barbara & Dan Myers
Sandy Sorlien

Dale & Linda Cantrell
Myles Ethan Lascity
Loyal & Helen Weaver
Christine Tamalavage
Caryl Hughan
Barbara Oaks
Judy Temby

Kathryn P. Kramer/
John Miller
Thomas Madigan
Michell Troutman
Kenneth Madl
Jerry Bonanno
William Hillanbrand
William Hearter

William Anthony
Allan Arnold
Anita Roberts
Barbara A. Stolz
Colleen Wilson
John Coleman
Karen M. Jones
Kathy Vitullo



The Schuylkill County Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the memorial donations made by Rick Tomko in memory of Greta Derbes and Catherine C. Clifford in memory of Pauline Gallo.



Bits and Pieces



Retired General George Joulwan recently paid a visit to the Society



“What is it?” Send us an email with your guess. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for an item from our gift shop.



Our great volunteers are always willing to lend a hand or in this case an “arm”. Thanks to Diana Prosymack (Gift Shop Mgr. and Secretary of the S.C.H.S. Board of Directors) and Larry Vinsky, S.C.H.S. volunteer.

Haunted History

Tour takes educational, spooky look at Pottsville

Vicki Terwilliger / Published in the Pottsville Republican Herald October 1, 2017

Melanie Weicikosky hadn't heard the spirited stories about her hometown.

"I was just curious about the haunting in Pottsville," Weicikosky said. She, along with her husband, Stephen, and 10-year-old son, Elijah, attended the first "Haunted History: A Walking Tour of Pottsville's Historic District" on Saturday.

Coordinated as a program fundraiser for the Schuylkill County Historical Society, the event attracted 20 people.

Throughout the one-mile walk through the city's downtown, guests were able to relive some of Pottsville's and Schuylkill County's most infamous hauntings.

"We have curses, hexes, murders, witches, executions and ghost stories," John Walsh, education director for the historical society, said. Walsh served as the night's tour guide.

Thomas Drogalis, the historical society's executive director, introduced Walsh, who's also a teacher in the North Schuylkill School District.

Walsh said gathering the information for the walk had been a collaborative effort with Drogalis. "The Miner's Journal" was used for some of the historical research, Walsh said.

Meghan Loftus, Saint Clair, said her sister, Jennifer Curran, Pottsville, saw the event posted on social media and thought it would be a fun event to attend with Meghan's son, Brady.

"Brady has an interest in history and haunting, and I thought there wasn't a better way than to take the tour through Pottsville," Loftus said.

Most of those attending Saturday's walk were first-time visitors to the society.



JACQUELINE DORMER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tour guide John Walsh, education director at the Schuylkill County Historical Society, talks to the group at the Majestic Theater during "Haunted History: A Walking Tour of Pottsville's Historic District" on Saturday in Pottsville.

"That's what we want is new people coming to see us," Drogalis said. He shared some of the resources available at the society's facility in the former female grammar school.

The walking tours will run at 6 p.m. every Saturday in October. Due to the demand, a second tour time at 8 p.m. has been added for the Oct. 7 and Oct. 14 dates. If the other weekend slots also fill up, a second tour time will be added for Oct. 21 and Oct. 28, if needed. The society wants to

keep the tour group size to 20 or 25 people, so that participants can hear the tour guide and follow along during the hour and 15 minute excursion.

The walks leave from the society's gift shop, 305 N. Centre St. Visitors are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the walk, wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

The tours cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 7 to 12. The walks are not recommended for children under 7. Although walk-ins are accepted, upon availability, visitors are encouraged to reserve their spot on the tour by calling 570-622-7540. Shirts, featuring a photo of the county prison and the "haunted" tour title, are available in the gift shop.





GIFT SHOP specials for the Holidays



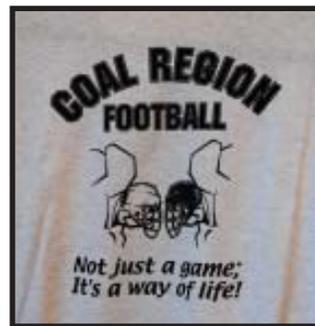
Visit our gift shop for that unique gift. A large variety of prints, photos and handcrafted items are available in our gift shop.



Throughout the gift shop, visitors will find displays showing a variety of books, tee shirts, glasses, prints, stickers (SKOOK), and many other items that have been arranged by Diana Prosymchak (above), a board member and manager of the gift shop.



Historic Old White Church Ringtown, PA Tote Bag (includes pen and note pad)
GC 183 - \$10.00



Coal Region Football Shirt
S068 - Sm. Med. Lg. XL. \$14.00
2XL \$15.00



FireFighters Kick Ash Shirt
S221 - Sm. Med. Lg. XL. \$13.00
2XL \$14.00



Coal Region Culinary Institute Apron
One size fits all
S900 \$14.00



Polish Power Shirt
S038 Sm. Med. Lg. XL. \$13.00
2XL \$14.00



Super Slovak Shirt
S039 Sm. Med. Lg. XL. \$13.00
2XL \$14.00

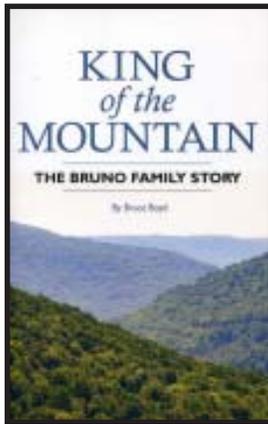
Tee shirts with various logos make great gifts.



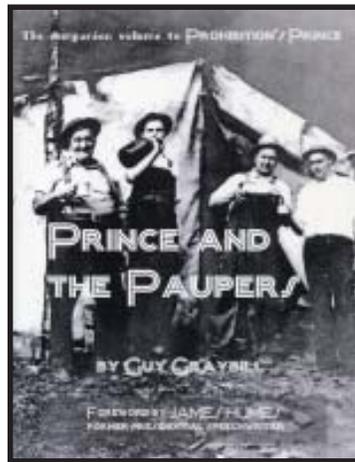
Give a great gift from the Historical Society of Schuylkill County



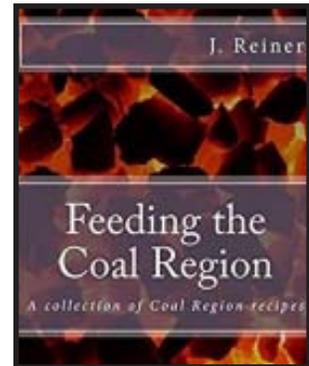
Board Member JoAnn Chuba demonstrates how the computer terminal, located in the gift shop, is available for visitors to view 1000's of Schuylkill County historical photographs.



King of the Mountain
By Bruce Boyd
B-0117 \$16.95



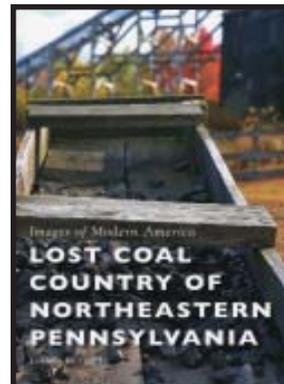
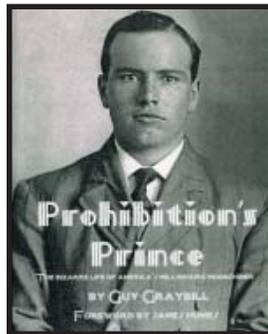
Prince and the Paupers
By Guy Graybill
B-183 \$14.95



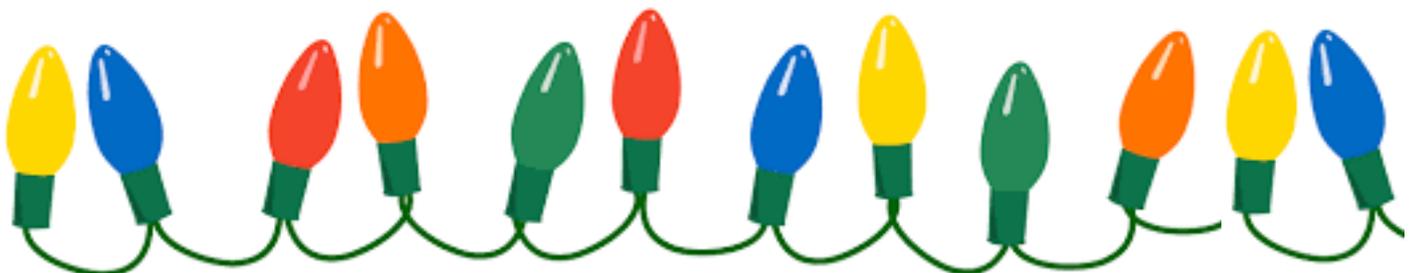
Feeding the Coal Region
By J. Reiner
B-500 \$16.85



Prohibition's Prince
By Guy Graybill
B-182 \$19.95



Lost Coal of Northeastern Pennsylvania
By Lorena Beniquez
B-226 \$22.99



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

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Permit # 485



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Or current resident



Schuylkill County Historical Society
2018 Annual Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (____) - _____ - _____ Email address _____

Enclosed is my check of \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 other _____

PayPal and credit card donations accepted on our website! schuylkillhistory.org

Note: Please make check payable to “Schuylkill County Historical Society”

Return to: Schuylkill County Historical Society
PO Box 1356
305 North Centre Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

Gift given in memory of: _____

Donations may be tax-deductible as the Society is a 501(c) 3 – non-profit corporation.