

Leesport Area Historical Society



INCLUDING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4

October, November, December 2024

History of the Leesport Area Historical Society

This is the fourth and final part in the series on how we came to be and where we hope the society is headed in the future.

As we look at this past year and look to the future, the society has made many strides and is planning more things in the future.

We will continue to try and get more people to become members including students which we might refer as future historians. Our meetings are held at Bethany Church on Main Street, monthly and every other month we have interesting speakers to talk about history. The museum has open houses on the 1st Sunday of each month (unless it's a holiday weekend), and the 1st Saturday of each month April-October.

We will continue to have our annual events, Spring - Easter Flower Sale, June - Magical History Tour, September - Community Days, and November - Harvest Moon Celebration. Perhaps someone would like to suggest another kind of event we should try and/or sponsor. The Magical History Tour for 2025 will be of Bern Township. This year we did Ontelaunee Township with Woody Weist and Mike Potts as our tour guides. Their presentation was very interesting. We also started an annual dinner in January for all members to attend, you will find more reservation information in this newsletter.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the various tasks that need to be completed at the school. One example is the filing of all the artifacts that we receive and any kind of paperwork that seems to pile up. Renovations that need to be taken care of, new shutters, fire escape repair, and many other things that go with a building that age.

As you can see, we are trying to keep the history of the Leesport Area alive and well for future generations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THANKS FOR MAKING ME LOOK GOOD!

Thanks for making me look good as President of the Leesport Area Historical Society. This organization (LAHS) has made me look good for 20 years. I am not the main reason that we did so well. We have had, do have, and will have members that make "it" happen. I know who I am and that I need to put good people next to me so I look better. (I have a mirror!)

Good people are in the LAHS. We live in a great area. I don't need to list names. You know who you are... except on, Elaine Strause. She really makes me look good!

This is my last President report. I loved being your President and will support the next President in any way that I can. I hope I can help that person to look good like I was made to look. That person will need support like I had for all 20 years. I cannot begin to thank you enough! Keep the Leesport Area Historical Society going. It is a GREAT thing.

"The thing that we learn from history is that we don't learn from history" (someone said that). The LAHS must help tell the history. And... we are making history doing just that Thanks again for all you do and letting me do!

Rich Strause – President

THANK YOU FA LETTIN ME BE MICE ELF

NAME CHALLENGE

After having the name challenge in the three previous newsletters, a number of people commented by mentioning "I haven't thought about that individual for years", and asked if we had more names, we do and here is another challenge.

Nick Names

- A. Fat
- B. Rusty
- C. Legs
- D. Hon
- E. Connie
- F. Chubby
- G. Whitey
- H. Peanuts
- I. Peg
- J. Killer

Proper Names

1. Clair Berger
2. Carl Rickenbach
3. Paul Potteiger
4. Elias Riegel
5. William Fink
6. Solon Kunkleman
7. Walter Rahn
8. Alvin Balthaser
9. Raymond Adams
10. Otis Rothenberger

Answers on page 6!

PHOTOS FROM COMMUNITY DAYS 2024



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 5: 10-2 PM – Open House at the Museum

Sunday, October 6: 1-4 PM – Open House at the Museum

Monday, October 28: 7 PM – LAHS Business Meeting, Annual “Election of Officers and Budget Approval”

Saturday, November 2: 5-8 PM – 17 th Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Sunday, November 3: 5-8 – RAINDATE 17 th Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Sunday, November 3: 1-4 PM – Open House at the Museum

Monday, November 25: 7 PM – LAHS Program - Jean Davis – “Women’s Journey Across the Prairie”

Sunday, December 1: 1-4 PM - Open House at the Museum with special visit from Santa

JULY PROGRAM

July Program -Mike Lauter presented, “Reading’s Centre Park Historic District” on Monday, July 22 to a full house. Mr. Lauter shared the history of the historic district, and the formation of the organization to preserve it. Attendees learned that during the 1870s, Centre Avenue became a fashionable address for residential development by the wealthy new industrialists of Reading and continues to be a thriving community to this day. The CPHD holds several events annually including the Christmas home tour.



TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurers Report as of 8/25/24:

\$3,561.68 in the Harvest Moon Fund.

\$641.28 in the Acquisition Fund

\$1,965.19 in the General Fund.

\$6,168.15 in the Checking Account

\$20,823.38 in theThe Capital Reserve Fund /Trinity Repair Fund

\$6,391.49 in the General Fund

\$27,214.87 Total

PROGRESS

I have seen progress happen in Leesport right before my very eyes. In 1968, our house was built on a hill overlooking an empty field. Behind our house were also empty fields and to the left was an empty lot.

Eventually, the few existing houses in front of me were joined by the construction of more dwellings which became Leesport Gardens. A mass of roofs and occasionally a small tree was planted here and there. Now those trees have grown so tall that they form a small forest with a portion of a roof poking up as if to say “yes, I’m still there”.

As winter approaches, we as humans want to cover up with thick clothing to keep warm. Trees on the other hand get naked. When this happens, houses finally poke their way through the forest that lies before me.

Eventually a house was built on the empty lot to my left. Behind me, houses now rise high above me into what is known as Reeser Heights.

I have become the “sandwich house” that is nestled between major housing developments as progress happened right before my eyes.

The Word, History

The Word, History means different things to different people. As teenagers it is an unending study of dates and battles of some sort one is required to study in school. As we age and mature we begin to realize how our perspective changes. With our advancing years, phrases such as: “remember when” or “whatever happened to” become more common.

As senior citizens the need exists to convince our youth that the lives they are living in this day will one day be their history. It will be their memories to document, their memories that have molded their lives, their neighborhood and their community. Keeping the love of history alive by making our youth aware enough to care enough is very important.

Talk about the importance of history with the youth in your family. Get them interested and involved in caring about history, not only your own family but the community you live in. Come to the Leesport Historical Society Museum and see what helped mold the history of our country and our local community.

Millie Reber

NAME CHALLENGE ANSWERS

Answers: 1-F 2-G 3- I 4-A 5-J 6-D 7-C 8-B 9-E 10-H

LEESPORT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY DINNER

DATE: Saturday, January 11, 2025

TIME: 1-4 PM (meal served at 1:30pm)

PLACE: Ontelaunee Grange

COST: \$20 per person

Full course Hot Meal

Desserts provided by members

Gifts – Stories – Fun

RSVP: January 2, 2025

CALL: Mildred Reber

610-926-4432

MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM



Last Issue



New Mystery

Our mystery in the last issue is a Native American artifact that was found along the Schuylkill River. We were informed that it is a tool that was used for straightening arrows. This next one is a new addition to the museum which has recently arrived. Good luck, and you can stop into the museum when we are open to see it. You can also give your guess at one of our meetings and get the answer.

**18TH
ANNUAL**



Saturday November 2, 2024

Rain Date November 3, 2024

5pm - 8pm

Leesport Playground

27 Washington St, Leesport, PA 19533

Bonfire, Hayrides, Food,

Petting Zoo by Fluffy en Route

Music by Crow Hill,

Schuylkill River Trail Walk,

Fur Trader Camp at Soccer Field,

Hay Bale Maze.

Best family fun night of the year!

Presented by the

Leesport Area Historical Society

www.leesporthistory.org

LEESPORT AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
128 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 204
LEESPORT PA 19533

www.leesporthistory.org

LEESPORT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCLUDING

THE COMMUNITIES OF

BERN, CENTRE & ONTELAUNEE

MEETINGS @ 7:30

ON THE FOURTH MONDAY

AT BETHANY E.C. CHURCH

308 MAIN ST, LEESPORT

PARKING IN REAR OF BUILDING