

Leesport Area Historical Society



INCLUDING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

April, May, June, 2024

History of the Leesport Area Historical Society

This is the second of a four-part series on how we came to be and where we hope society is headed in the future.

In this issue we will talk about the artifacts we have and who donated them.

Milton Blatt was a former teacher at Schuylkill Valley High School and owner of Blatt's Printing in Morhsville. He had a collection of antique printing equipment which he utilized in his business. Milton also was the author of many historical books pertaining to the area, and collected records from many of the Berks County cemeteries. While in the printing business he printed pictured postcards from all over Berks County.

After Milton passed his son & grandson, Larry and Oliver respectively, continued with the printing business. Sometime in 2009 Larry approached the society and asking if we would like the entire collection to be displayed at the museum. The collection included all the postcards, his published books, and all the antique printing equipment. All his postcards and books are available for purchase at the museum.

Also in 2009, Rocky Santilli, the former manager of the Sunner's Softball Organization donated a good portion of the team's history. The collection includes trophies, photos, equipment, uniforms, etc.

Local historian Mervin Moyer acquired various historical items, original clock, George Washington photo, a teacher's desk, students' desks, and other items pertaining to the West Leesport School, the building where our museum is located. He also collected many artifacts from local businesses, a kerosene light from Scheck's store, a market wagon & a butcher sleigh from his butcher shop. The sleigh was made by Adam's Carriage Shop in Leesport. Among his collection he had many articles and photos from newspapers pertaining to the surrounding areas. Many of these articles that he donated came from his employment over the years at Scheck's Store, Schuylkill Valley School district and his butcher shop.

Members and local residents have donated smaller collections and memorabilia. If you have anything you wish to donate, please contact us.

All the previous items and collections that were mentioned are on display at various times at the museum.

In the next issue of the newsletter, we will talk about all the community activities we sponsor or are involved in.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

WE NEEDED SOMEBODY

When we were young, we needed somebody to help get the Leesport Area Historical Society to succeed. The year was 2003. The Jaycees had folded and the Leesport Jaycee Foundation Incorporated had a building without a cause. Help was found in the some great people in Leesport.

The LAHS was started by people who care about our area. They wanted to save the history of the Schuylkill Valley area. They built a great organization and saved the West Leesport School. There were times we were feeling down, but these people helped us get our feet back on the ground. And we appreciate that they were around! We said: “Please help” and they came through.

It takes dedicated people who are willing to work hard to make this organization thrive. The officers have been great from the start. Thanks, they helped. The members have helped. The entire area helped.

So... we said “HELP, WE NEED SOMEBODY, NOT JUST ANYBODY “. And many concerned bodies came to help.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED US OVER OUR 20 YEARS.

Thanks

Rich

NAME CHALLENGE

Below is a list of nicknames of people who lived around Leesport in the past. Try and match the correct name to the nicknames, answers are on page seven.

Nick Names

- A. Smokey
- B. Wimpy
- C. Mishty
- D. Peachy
- E. Puss
- F. Flicker
- G. Scoop
- H. Babscht
- I. Soddy
- J. Pikey

Proper Names

- 1. Lloyd Clemens
- 2. Bill Marks
- 3. Elwood High
- 4. Solomon Rickenbach
- 5. Donald Kauffman
- 6. Claude Rank
- 7. James Snyder
- 8. Mervin Moyer
- 9. Leroy Wenrich
- 10. George Wisler

BERKS HISTORY CENTER

Berks History Center ambassador, Brian Engelhardt, delivered an engaging presentation titled “Stop it, Mr. Mayor” on January 22nd. The Politics of the Creation of Lake Ontelaunee to the Leesport Area Historical Society. The event saw a fantastic turnout. The audience was particularly interested in the topic, as many had relatives or connections to those who lost their land to the eminent domain process during the lakes creation. Attendees were keen to share stories of those involved at the time, as well as their own experiences. There was also a discussion on how this differed from the situation that occurred at Blue Marsh, which deviated from the typical eminent domain process. The conversation was lively, informative, and received very well by all.



LEESPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PARTICIPATING IN THE LEESPORT COMMUNITY YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

8 AM TO 1PM

ON THE PARKING LOT IN THE REAR

WEST LEESPORT SCHOOL

LAHS MUSEUM BUILDING

128 MAIN STREET

LEESPORT, PA

\$10 PER SPACE

SPACES LIMITED

CALL TO RESERVE: 610-926-5131

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 6: 10-2 – Open House at the Museum

Sunday, April 7: 1-4 – Open House at the Museum

Monday, April 22: 7 - PM LAHS Business Meeting - "Show and Tell"

Saturday, May 4: 10-2 – Open House at the Museum

Sunday, May 5: 1-4 PM - Open House at the Museum

Monday, May 20: 7 PM – LAHS Program - Barry Webb – Eagle Mountain Hiking Club History

Monday, May 27: 1 PM - Memorial Day Program at Leesport Playground

Saturday, June 1: 10-2 Open House at the Museum

Sunday, June 2: 1-4 PM – Open House at the Museum

Saturday, June 8 - Magical History Tour "Step Back in Time" – Lockhouse

Saturday, June 15 – Magical History Tour for Event Volunteers

Monday, June 24 - 7 PM – LAHS Business Meeting - "Show and Tell"



ONTELAUNEE TOWNSHIP BUS TOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024
BUS LEAVES AT 9 AM AND 12 NOON
FROM THE UNION FIRE CO., LEESPORT
ONLY 40 SEATS FOR EACH BUS
RESERVE SEATING
CALL 610-926-5770

RETURN TO THE LEESPORT LOCKHOUSE
TO CELEBRATE
“STEP BACK IN TIME”
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
FOOD - KIDS ACTIVITIES - DEMONSTRATIONS
HISTORY LIKE IT WAS
BACK IN THE DAY
9AM TO 4PM

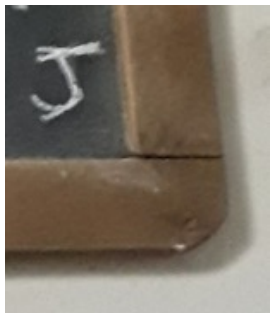
MEMBERS

Broken Arrow
Transport
Lawley's Disposal Inc.
Vist Bank-
Leesport Farmer's Market
Schuylkill Valley
School District
SOS Business
Machines, Inc.
Leesport Borough
Penny Hill Farm
Baer's Accounting
Services
Cross Keys
Millwork
Steve Moyer
Subaru
Reitnour Inc.
M/M Ronnie Adam
Mabel Adam
James Althouse
Joseph Antanavage
Drake Armao
M/M Mark Baer
Ruth Bagenstose
Alysa Bainbridge
Karen Bausch
Jim & Bonnie Bausher
Ruth Beamer
Marlene Bender
Lois Berg
M/M Ron Bieber
M/M Larry Blatt
M/M Walt Bohnenblust
Donald Borkey
Avalion Bossler
Mary Ann Bowman
Michael Brady
Cheryl Bressler
Cheryl Bressler
Ronald Buckley
M/M Ben Bucks
Isabelle & Lily Burch
Kim Cherry
M/M Marcus Cherry
Dennis Clemens
Douglas Clemens
James Dailey
Mary Danenhower
Allen Daub
M/M Richard Dautrich
Ronald Davidheiser
Jean Davis
Harry Deitz
M/M Tom Dillman
M/M Dave Dissinger
Augustus Dorman
Edith Dreibelbis
M/M Terry Eddinger
Brian Engelhardt
M/M Elmer Fair
Brad & Robin Faust
M/M James Freeman
M/M Brian Freeman
M/M David Freeman
Terrance Fritz
Louise Gabel
Daniel Gassert
Debbie & Pearl Gavaghan
M/M Marty Goetz
Oliver & Yvonne Graeff
M/M Gary Gunkel
Jean Haag
M/M Mike Harle
Sue Harman
M/M Ray Haslam
John Hayes
Raymond Heffner
M/M Niklas Hemdal
Lyn Heydt
Robert Hill
Emily Hocking
M/M Bob Hoffman
Chris Holland
Roger Hoover
Jane Hornberger
Brian Huey
Debra Huey-Walker
Eric Jackson
Robin Jamison
M/M J.J. Johnson
Arlene Miller
Kerry Mohn
M/M Charles Moody
M/M James Moquin
Doris Moyer
Brody Musser
M/M Don Muzyka
Lex Muzyka
M/M John Nagle
M/M Robert Noecker
Gail Orr
Diane Paxson
Willow Peters
Logan Peters
Michael Potts
M/M Robert Rahn
Stan Raugh
Mildred Reber
Barbara Reed
Sue Reiber
M/M Jason Reitnouer
Cindy Reppert
Joyce Ann Rhoads
M/M Norman Rickert
Sandy Romich
Vincent Rose
M/M David Rose
Linda Roshong
Marcia Rowe
Charles Salvitti
Beverly Sander
Rocco Santilli
Ruth Saylor
Robin Schappell
M/M Jordan Schappell
M/M Harry Schmeer
Colleen Schulze
Paul Schumann
M/M Jim Schwank
M/M Steve Seyfert
M/M Whit Shoenfelt
Janet Slawecki
Anna Smith
Tammy Smith
Jean Smith
Lily Smith
Susan Snyder
Carl Solarek
Sandra Spatz-Wiszneaukas
M/M Karl Stoudt
Dana Stout
M/M Randy Strause
M/M Richard Strause
M/M Ronald Strause
Ryan Strause
Joyce Strause
Ellia & Ethan Strause
M/M Mark Stump
Joy Sweeney
M/M Jeffrey Sweitzer
Lisa Szymczyk
Diane Thuss
Bonnie (Kline) Troxell
David Unger
M/M Rodney Wagner
Terry Waid
Cindy Walls
M/M Ron Walls
Thomas Werley
Mike Werley
Judy Wert
M/M Eric Weyandt
M/M WM Whitehouse
M/M Phillip Whitmoyer
M/M Harry Yocum
Phyllis Yoder
Henrietta Ziegler
Zachary Zimmerman

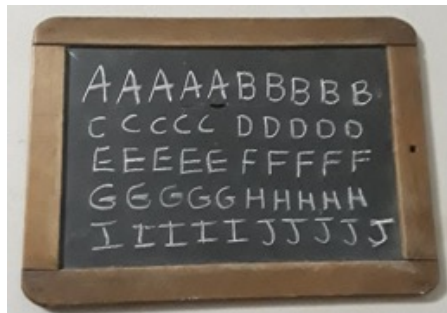
THE LEESPORT HISTORICAL DINNER (JANUARY)



MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM



Last issue Photo



Last issue answer



This issue mystery

In the last issue we had a photo of the corner of a hand held slate board that individual students would have had in earlier days. This is on display in our classroom at the museum. If you have a guess for this issue's mystery you can email your guess to leesporthistory@aol.com or you can stop by the museum whenever we are open and see the item.

ANSWERS FROM NAME CHALLENGE

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

LIVING ON THE FARM

This is the last article of three by Millie Reber

How can you possibly live on a farm and not get experience dealing with animals? This is not to say that all animals take kindly to those who try to care for them. Let me tell you a few examples.

Collecting eggs from our chickens was a daily chore that was one of our many responsibilities. However, we had some mean chickens who did not want to give up their eggs. While most of us were petrified of these chickens pecking our hands, my oldest sister “the expert mean-chicken-manipulator” would have a way of hypnotizing the chickens while she charged into the nest and scooped up the eggs. It was her gift.

During the summer months when our dairy cattle would be taken out the barn and put into the pasture to graze, someone was needed to herd them back to their stalls for milking time. This was my job mainly because I could control the cows, unlike my younger sister, who would run in the opposite direction every time a cow looked at her. She claimed she could tell the cow was thinking about attacking her just by the look in their eyes. Maybe!!

My dad had bulls on the farm for a period of time to use for breeding the cows. Sometimes I was scared for my dad’s safety because the bulls could get violent. As Daddy would try to corral the bull to get it inside of the barn, all kinds of loud banging noises were heard, and you wondered who the victor would be. Thank God, it was always my dad. Eventually he chose to eliminate the bulls and go with artificial insemination. Wise choice!

Some animals love attention and also the people who give them that attention and care. However, there can be the rest of us who will just have to deal with the mean chickens, devious cows and the violent bulls.

MEMORIAL DAY



MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM
“IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED”
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024
1PM.
WALTER A. PEARSON MEMORIAL
THE LEESPORT PLAYGROUND



TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer’s report--as of 2/20/24, the General account shows
the Harvest Moon Festival Fund = \$ 3,361.68

Acquisition Fund = 641.28

General Fund = 1,773.35

TOTAL = \$ 5,776.31

The Capital Reserve Fund = Trinity Repair Fund = \$ 32,770.88

General Fund = 6,391.49

TOTAL = \$ 39,162.37

Leesport Area Community Days = \$ 11,657.76

Elaine Strause, Treasurer

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