

The Clifford Township Historical Society's Newsletter

Volume Number 1 Issue 1 Date: February 2009

Clifford Township Historical Society's First Annual Newsletter

2008 Highlights

Last year began with a well-attended January meeting where directors and officers were reelected, donated pictures and historical items were on display and the dvd "Our Barns" was shown.

Carol Gargan, society director from Elkdale, had proposed the presentation of a play to help celebrate our bicentennial in 2006. The staging of this play was postponed, however, due to the scope of events that were already planned for the bicentennial celebration. Last July 12 and 13, Carol's cemetery theater play "Beacon Fires" was the highlight of our Chautauqua weekend events, being staged Saturday and Sunday evenings at the **Willow View Cemetery** in Clifford. An audience of over 400 was thoroughly impressed with the quality of the presentation and the history presented.



Cast of "Beacon Fires"

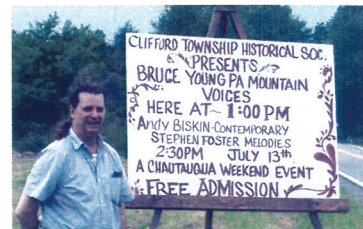
We have since produced a DVD of "Beacon Fires" to share with local schools and libraries and elderly housing residents in our area.

The Chautauqua Weekend began with a presentation by First Nation member Frank LittleBear. Mr. LittleBear's knowledge, sprinkled with humor, impressed the crowd of nearly two hundred on the lawn of **Wiffy Bog Farm B&B**.



Frank LittleBear

The Steven Foster music incorporated in "Beacon Fires" was continued on Sunday afternoon at **Fern Hall Inn**. Bruce Young entertained his audience with traditional tunes on dulcimer and fiddle. The Andy Biskin Jazz Quartet from New York City entertained with his truly unique interpretation of Foster classics. Three grants were applied for and, luckily, fully funded so all the Chautauqua events were presented free to the public.



Other highlights of 2008 included: the donation of a dugout Indian canoe, dated around 1600, from the Cole family, the completion of our fifth DVD of area history—Clifford Township Geology: Diversity Unearthed, receipt of an honorable mention award from the Pa Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations for our bicentennial book Clifford Township Two Hundred Years 1806-2006, the formation of the Clifford Township Historical Society Endowment fund within the Community Foundation of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties and the production of our fourth collectible calendar highlighting pictures of area schools and students.

2009 Expectations

Our 2009 Chautauqua event will find a Civil War encampment assembled at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's grounds on Friday, July 24, during the Firemen's annual picnic. Saturday afternoon, July 25, a battle re-enactment will "shake the hills" with cannon and battle cries! Tom Jolin will add to the event with civil war music. This event will be free of charge so all can learn and enjoy.

After two and one half years of effort, our society is anticipating the completion of our Hoover school renovation project. Hopefully, by late summer the remaining work will be done, including interior painting, floor refinishing and furnishing a parking area. Thanks to the great volunteer spirit that is still alive and well in our township, we have made amazing progress on this project. Again, grant funding helped stretch our treasury dollars. The society thanks the Marcho family for establishing a memorial fund, in remembrance of Pete, which has provided for the rebuilding of the school bell tower. Bernard and Agnes Brozonis have donated the use of the original school bell, which will be installed within the new bell tower atop the school. Soon the sound of that old bell will once again resonate through the valley, announcing the school doors being opened once more!

**Look for the announcement of our open house
when the school is completed.**

The mission statement of our society states our mission to be "**the collection, documentation and preservation of historical information and memorabilia relating to the early settlement of Clifford and surrounding areas with the goal of fostering in our residents an appreciation of our area's rich history through community programs, exhibits and events which reflect and fulfill those interests.**"

Our society's directors, officers and volunteers are working hard to achieve this objective.

We hope you enjoy being a part of the Clifford Township Historical Society. Your ideas, recommendations and suggestions are always welcome! Please visit our web site Cliffordpa.com, graciously hosted by Hill View Inc., to view pictures and additional information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Wilmot, President -
For the directors and officers of the Clifford
Township Historical Society

Officers:

Kim Bostjancic, Board chairman
Mary Hoehing, Treasurer
Marvis Searle, Secretary

Directors:

Carol Gargan,
Fred Lyon,
John Swetter,
Patricia Peltz
and Laurence Wilson