

The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 4

Issue 1

January 2012

Dugout Canoe and Mural Display: In April, Dr. Marshall Becker, Emeritus Senior Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, gave an informative talk to a large audience at the Clifford Fire Hall on the Lenape Indians and other local Native American tribes. On display was the dugout canoe mural painted by local artist Michelle Jaconia McLain.



Historical Society Director, Larry Wilson designed and constructed the exhibit case.



Larry, with help from other society members, assembled the mural and dugout canoe display in the Clifford Municipal Building hall.



Our Museum: The Clifford Township supervisors and our Society negotiated a 25-year lease that gives us the free use of the hallway and one room to be used as a local museum. As part of this rental arrangement, the Society agreed to replace the exterior windows and insulate the museum room so heating costs would not be totally prohibitive for the township. So, in August, Historical Society volunteers helped Jerry Lewandowski replace all of the old windows in the front of the building with new ones and insulate the surrounding areas. Our Society paid the cost of this update to the museum room while the supervisors handled the cost of the other two rooms.

In mid-December, volunteers again descended on the township building. Larry Wilson headed up the project of properly insulating the ceiling of the building. Once again the Society paid for the cost of the insulation that was installed above our museum room while the supervisors paid for the insulation for the rest of the building. The all-volunteer force placed 550 rolls of 10-inch fiberglass above the old flat roof in the building. These improvements should reduce the cost of heating the building by half. A substantial donation from Adams Cable Service made these improvements to our museum room possible. Thus, the Society has done its share to make the building suitable for their museum, as well as, for other community activities. We are very excited about the transformation of the municipal building into a one-of-a-kind local museum of historical artifacts.

The Dugout Canoe and Mural Display was first opened to the public on election day in May. The artist was present all day to discuss and answer questions about the mural. In the evening Dr. Carol Gargan gave a presentation on Native Americans who were known to have been in northeastern Pennsylvania during the previous centuries, including the Lenopi, the Tuscarora, Munsee and Shawnee, among others.

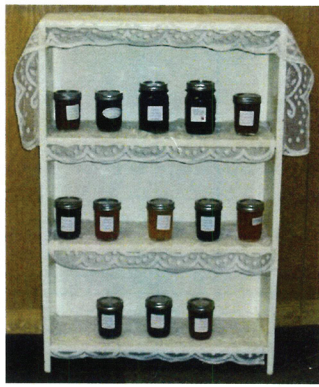
A core sample from the dugout was taken by Dr. Carol Griggs of Cornell University. It was hoped that the sample would provide a specific time frame that would help determine who may have carved the canoe. The core sample is being compared to those taken from other old growth trees. If anyone knows with certainty the existence of other specimens of old growth pine in the area, please contact Dr. Gargan at elkdale@nep.net.

New Grant: A grant from the Bradford County Arts Council has muralist Michelle Jaconia McLain back at work in her studio. Michelle researched and painted the panoramic mural for the dugout canoe display. The new grant funds will pay for five locally themed paintings to be completed and hung in the hallway of the Clifford twp building. One will portray Adam Miller and his family, the first permanent residents of the township. Another painting will depict the horse drawn wagons full of apples lined up and down the roads waiting for their turn at the Yarns Cider Mill.



Michelle Jaconia McLain, Mural Artist

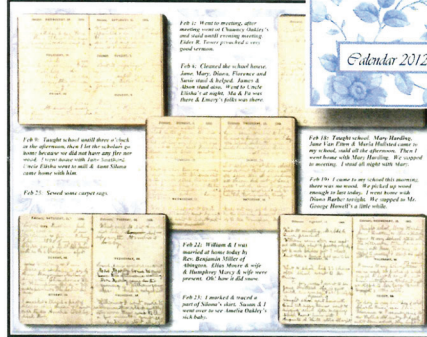
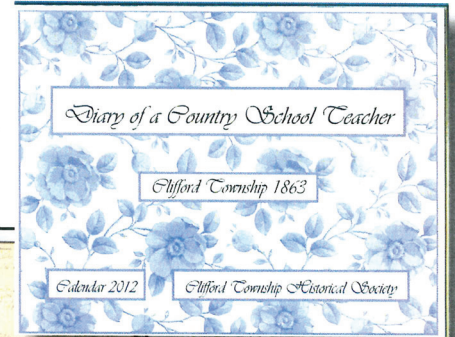
Sweeet! Our summer was the wettest on record and one of the benefits of all the rain was a terrific fruit crop. Our Historical Society took advantage of the bumper crop, as our forefathers would have done, and produced more than 600 jars of homemade jelly and jam to sell at local stores. Donations from The Spano Family Foundation which paid for the sugar, jars and pectin, coupled with much donated fruit, made this project a great success.



Thank you to all the pickers, to those who donated their excess berries and fruit, and to the stores who sold our jam and jelly at no cost to the society. Johnson Farms near Stillwater donated 600 pounds of apples at the end of their season. Applesauce was made from all those apples in readiness for a mass production of apple butter to sell next year.

2012 Calendar: Pat Peltz once again did a great job for the Society putting together our 2012 calendar, *Diary of a Country School Teacher*, which contains monthly excerpts from the 1863 diary of Martha Millard Hallsted. This Civil War era diary contains a treasure-trove of genealogical and historical information with Martha's daily interactions with family, friends and neighbors.

Martha was just 16 years old when she kept this diary. Two days after her teaching term ended she married William Hallsted, and they lived in Clifford Township near Lenoxville where William had a mill.



Calendars are available at Clifford Supply, on the website cliffordpa.com, by mail at CTHS P.O. Box 161 Clifford PA 18413, or email peltz@nep.net. Cost: \$10 plus \$2 postage, if applicable.

Website and Wanderlist: The Society was also awarded a grant by the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau through the Susquehanna County Room Tax Grant Program. This grant will help to finance our website cliffordpa.com and the Wanderlist that promotes our events far and wide. To sign up for the Wanderlist, contact steve@hillview.com. The grant also helps fund our newsletters that are sent to all 1350 property owners in Clifford Township.

Puppet Show: In July, the Historical Society sponsored a puppet show at the Clifford Firemen's Picnic which featured acclaimed puppeteer Steve Abrams performing Aesop's Fables. The event was an interactive puppet show which proved entertaining for both young and old.

Hoover School Flag: In October, the Society had the official flag raising at the renovated one-room Hoover School. The flag pole was rescued from the closed one-room school at Clifford Corners and refurbished by Mark Wilmot. Richard Burdick whose mother was a teacher in Clifford raised the flag at the ceremony. A donation from the Burdick family made this important addition to the Hoover School possible. A new flag was donated by the U. S. Postal Service, Archbald.



The Hoover School and the Dugout Canoe and Mural Display are open to visitors the third Sunday each month May through October from 1 to 4 pm. Admission is free and handicapped accessible.

Clifford Township Historical Society 2012 Membership

Levels: Individual \$10 Family \$25 Lifetime \$100

Name _____

Address _____ *sent 2/16/12*

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to:

CTHS
P. O. Box 161
Clifford PA 18413