

# The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

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January 2015

The past year has been very productive for the Clifford Township Historical Society. February and March brought out the wonderful volunteer spirit that Clifford Township is known for.

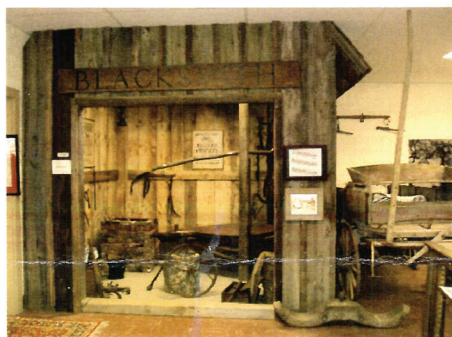
The main project was adding wainscot to the entire historical society section of the Community Center. A 50% donation of butternut boards from Price's

## MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY



sawmill got the project underway. The boards, produced in the early 1960's, needed planing, edging, sanding and staining. A total of 26 volunteers helped with this work. The results are spectacular!

A reproduction of Lott's blacksmith shop was added to the Local History Museum in late April. Again, donations were essential to this project. James and Janet Corey donated all the vintage wooden boards and beams for the shop. The interior items came from folks throughout the township. The original bellows were from Lott's blacksmith shop which stood near Clifford corners in the 1800s. The bellows were donated by Walter S. Spedding who had stored them in his garage in Connecticut for many years.



The museum exhibit of our treasured Elk Mountain fire tower map has been complimented by a colorful mural of the westerly view that would have been seen from atop Elk Mountain during the fall fire season by the wardens stationed in the fire tower.



Painted by Michelle Jaconia McLain

The reconstruction of the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm was taken up in late fall. The entire exterior of the building now has new hemlock doors and siding (batten and red paint to be added in 2015) and a new steel roof. The original windows were restored by Hank Wildenberg, who also restored all the Hoover School windows. He does an amazing job. We are so lucky to have his patience and skills at our disposal.



The mill parking area is nearly complete; fieldstone work, a large sign and macadam walkways are all being worked on at present.



Jeremy Bean, Mark Wilmot, Ed Marquez, Jerry Lewandowski

**Fieldstone bridge and walls are being done by Stonework by Cathy**



*Mill owner Gloria Suraci Bilotta has graciously offered to cover the cost of this sign painted by Pat Wildenberg*



Renovation work will continue this year on the original equipment inside the mill with the goal of pressing cider once again. The Endless Mountains Heritage Region has provided grant opportunities for this project; and donations of time, material and money have fulfilled the dollar-for-dollar match of the grants. The land across the road from the mill has been cleared by the mill owner's son in anticipation of skeet shooting and fishing derby fund raising events this summer.

All in all, this major renovation project is progressing at an amazing pace and will add a truly first-class tour site that the whole area can be proud of.

Other ambitious plans for the Society in 2015 include adding a verbal narrative to the canoe display at the museum and an exhibit portraying the typical family farm at the end of the nineteenth century.

We will continue our sale of homemade jelly, jams and apple butter, available for sale at Endless Mountains Pharmacy, Clifford Supply and Country Hearth Antiques in downtown Clifford.

Our Society has been asked to establish an agricultural museum in the large building at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic Grounds. This will be another long-term project, but this year will see many farm implements on display. We are looking for any old farm items, from machinery to hand tools and pictures, to be loaned or donated for the agricultural museum.

The Society will again arrange for Kevin Treat, chainsaw carver, to perform all three nights of the picnic, culminating in an auction of his work. This year the Historical Society is hoping to enlarge the auction with donated wooden or antique items to sell. Last year

the auction and raffle yielded \$3800 for our deserving firemen. We hope to increase that amount this year!

The picnic is July 23, 24 and 25, so mark your calendars now. If you have any items to donate or would like to underwrite the cost of the carver, please contact Sandra Wilmot 570-679-2723.

The Hoover School, Baptist Church, and Local History Museum will again be open to the public the third Sunday each month (1 to 4 pm), or by appointment by contacting Sandra Wilmot at 570-679-2723 or Pat Peltz (peltz@nep.net). Historical Society representatives will be available to answer questions and relate stories about the exhibits.

The Nicholson Heritage Association has invited us to participate in their "Mile of History" on Saturday, September 12, as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct with a parade and street fair.

Karen Bernhardt Toolan has joined the Society as a professional writer to help us with publicity. She will be writing articles for area publications each month.

Visit our newly designed website at [www.cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) for more pictures and information, including how to become a member of the Society. Whether you help us with major monetary donations, yearly dues, your time and talents, or fundraisers, or you donate items to be displayed in our museum or one-room school, or you purchase our jams and jellies, we truly appreciate the support that keeps us motivated to be "the little society that does big things!"

We are looking for old Clifford Elementary School class pictures or pictures of teachers to display in the hallway of the Community Center. If you have photos you would like to share, please contact Sandra Wilmot at 570-679-2723 or Pat Peltz at (peltz@nep.net).



KEVIN TREAT  
CHAINSAW  
CARVER



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

Donations and Memberships are tax deductible.