

The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

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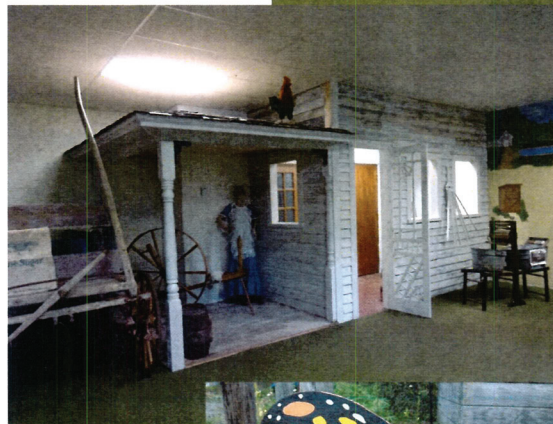
January 2016

As we always seem to state in our newsletter, we can say that the past year was a busy and productive one for our society. Again, community support in the shape of volunteer time, materials and financial backing enabled our little society to do big things.

Every winter we turn our efforts toward the Museum of Local History. Last winter Jerry Lewandowski constructed a replica of an 1890's farmstead house and cow barn in our museum. Art work by Kathy Elkin adds depth and interest to the farmstead. Donated materials from Bill Lloyd, Colin Landrigan, Gerald Collum and Jim Corey helped reduce the cost of this construction. This winter we will continue to add artifacts and details to this farmstead exhibit. A general store modeled after several former township stores will be constructed with a barbershop/doctors office attached.

Recently, an audio presentation with lighting was added to the canoe display. Grant funding through Bradford County Arts Council and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority made this project possible. Frank Little Bear and his son Thomas Little Thunder performed for us in April. Frank then made a 15-minute recording that addresses the canoe mural and the history of the Native Americans who lived here. Our faithful and most appreciated supporter Adams Cable Service again helped to make this happen. Thanks to JL Studios and Madgon Music of Olyphant who did a truly professional job of taping and installing the audio and lighting features in our canoe display. We plan to add the recording to our website cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org soon.

Spring saw the beginning of the Children's Garden project. So far, 22 area kids from age 2 to 18, plus Harford Junior Girl Scout Troop 50774, have volunteered their time and talents to design, paint, plant, rake, shovel, seed and help any way they can to make the Children's Garden a very special place. Twelve areas of the garden based on the heritage of our area allow "kids" of all ages to create, learn and have fun while using their imaginations to "play" in our garden. Seventeen monetary donations, a mini grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region and volunteer hours from 26 adults demonstrate that wonderful Clifford volunteer spirit that is so alive and well in our community. Good ideas coupled with good people result in good projects! We hope to have the grand opening of our Children's Garden later this year. The highlight of this project will be a weekend when Frank Little Bear will again be in Clifford to build a long house with the kids in the authentic building methods of Native Americans. See more about the Children's Garden on Facebook and our website. Thanks to the support of our township supervisors who leased the one acre of land to the historical society so the Children's Garden could happen.



*Barn and
Farmhouse at
the Museum of
Local History*

*Children's
Garden*



Mid-July saw Jerry Lewandowski again hard at work turning the old dance hall/pizza stand at the Clifford Volunteer Fire Company picnic grounds into an Agricultural Museum. Adams Cable Service once again gave us the money to do a quality job at the building. Special donations for the museum were a bone grinder, cider press, sausage stuffer, corn sheller, cream separator, horse-drawn cultivator, buck rake, milk can cart, Sulky plow, dog tread mill and numerous small farm items. This museum will be open to the public during this year's Firemen's picnic July 28, 29, 30. The historical society will again host Kevin Treat, chainsaw wood carver, at the picnic. (UGI Energy Services pays for him!) On Saturday evening we will hold an auction of carved items and antiques with a special children's items auction added this year. The auction last summer netted the firemen close to \$4000. This summer we hope to do as well to show our support for our dedicated fire company volunteers.



Agricultural Museum at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's picnic grounds

The Yarns Cider Mill renovation was put on hold this summer due to received grant funds being delayed until December. This year work will continue on the pressing equipment, landscaping and rebuilding of the interior of the front portion of the building.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the monthly articles written by Karen Bernhardt Toolan that further explain the activities of the society. All her articles are available to read on our website. Our website and Karen's efforts come to you via a grant from the Susquehanna County room tax grant program through the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau.

The abundant apple crop last Fall made it possible for our ambitious ladies to make over 300 jars of apple butter. Other donated fruit yielded 400 jars of other flavors of jelly and jam. These goodies are available for sale at Endless Mountains Pharmacy, Open Hearth Antiques, Clifford Supply, Dunniers Country Store and Idlewild Ski Shop. We appreciate your support with this our yearly fundraiser.

The Hoover School, Clifford Baptist Church, and Museum of Local History 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 at each site to answer questions and relate stories about the exhibits.

We are still looking for old Clifford Elementary School class photos or pictures of teachers to display in the hallway of the Community Center. If you have photos we could copy, please contact Sandra or Pat at the Historical Society.



Kevin Treat's chainsaw wood carving exhibition at the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's picnic during July 2015



Ray Swingle transporting a second outhouse to the Hoover School. This "new" outhouse was donated from the Lavriha family homestead. All of the Lavriha children attended the Hoover School in the 1930s and 40s. The school had two outhouses, one for girls and one for boys.

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Membership Levels: Individual \$10 Family \$25 Lifetime \$100
Donations and Memberships are tax deductible