

# The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 9 Issue 1

January 2017

The directors of Clifford Township Historical Society are proud of the many accomplishments this small society has spearheaded.

In 2016 a general store with a doctor's office/barber shop was added to the Museum of Local History within the Community Center building. Artifacts on display and merchandise for sale line the shelves of the old general store.

This winter an exhibit area is being constructed to display pictures and other historic paper items from Clifford Township and surrounding areas.

Ray Swingle, one of our most loyal volunteers, worked in the heat of last summer building a stone pathway from the parking area to the mill. He cracked stone off large blocks from his quarry for the pathway. Grecco Supply also donated larger pieces of stone for the project. The fieldstone sitting walls are now complete. The smaller flat bluestone rocks incorporated into the walls will be engraved with names of project donors. An additional thanks to Kochmer's Quarry for their contribution of materials.

This year our plan is to renovate the front area of the mill building and create a Museum of Local Industry where artifacts relating to mining, lumbering, stone quarries, road building, etc., will be displayed. Jerry Lewandowski Construction and the great volunteers of our township will be hard at work to complete this project by late summer.



*The exterior of Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm was painted by John Chernesky and Keith Wilcox. Work will continue as weather permits.*

A dinosaur nest area was added to the Children's Garden thanks to contributions made in memory of Glen Lowry. The society purchased a large dinosaur egg from which the children can "hatch," and Tyler Keating constructed a grapevine nest to hold the egg. Dinosaur bones and a small brontosaurus will complete the area.

This season's plans include planting raspberry and blueberry bushes, adding educational signage to all areas of the garden, and completing the Native American village.

The Children's Garden is open to the public, so feel free to explore the area. When entering and exiting, please make sure the gates are closed behind you to keep the children in the garden and to keep the deer out!



*Brandon Freely offered his exceptional talents, painting a fabulous 8 by 24 foot mural that will be permanently installed at the Children's Garden.*



*Each slat of the pencil fence is inscribed with a donor's name.*

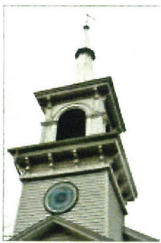
\*\*\*\*\*



As in the past, Hoover School, the Museum of Local History, and the Clifford Baptist Church will be open to the public the third Sunday each month, 1 to 4 pm, May through October or by appointment. Contact Pat Peltz at [peltz@nep.net](mailto:peltz@nep.net).



## MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY



The Agricultural Museum, which is located at the firemen's picnic grounds, will be open again this summer during the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic, July 27, 28, 29. Additional hands-on farm tools will be added this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

As many of you already know, the Society has made use of available grants, mostly through the Endless Mountains Heritage Region funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Grants have provided over \$20,000 for our Hoover School project, \$4,000 for the Children's Garden, and \$12,000 for the hallway transformation and development of the Museum of Local History in the Community Center. So far, \$10,000 of grant money has been spent on the Cider Mill renovation project. All of this grant money had to be matched dollar for dollar by the Society. Thus far, we have been able to provide matching money through merchandise sales and the generous donations of our members and friends.

In 2017 and 2018, another \$16,000 in grant money will be available which will require matching funds. This total of \$32,000 will make it possible for our Society to complete work at the Museum of Local History, create the Museum of Local Industry, finish the Children's Garden and restore the motor and press equipment to operating order at the cider mill.

To that end, the Society will be conducting a 50/50 raffle of 1000 tickets at \$50 each, with 20 prizes to be awarded. The drawing will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, September 10, 2017, during an open house at the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm.

Raffle tickets will be available at many area businesses and will be printable from our website.

[cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)  
or contact Sandy Wilmot at 570-679-2723  
or at [swilmot@echoes.net](mailto:swilmot@echoes.net)

We sincerely hope our efforts to preserve the history of the area will merit your support for our raffle.

Clifford Township Historical Society  
P. O. Box 161 Clifford PA 18413

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

### OPEN HOUSE

**Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2017 1:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**with a FISHING DERBY at the mill pond.**