

# The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 12 Issue 1

January 2020

Our past annual newsletters have highlighted the plans and accomplishments of the society's members, directors, volunteers and financial supporters. When we formed the Society in 2005, one of our original goals was to keep fundraising to a minimum by utilizing grants to help fund our projects whenever possible. Successful grant applications submitted to the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Lackawanna Heritage Valley, The Bradford County Regional Arts Council and Pa Humanities Council have resulted in just over \$90,000 from 23 successful grant applications. This supported our Beacon Fire Cemetery Theater and Chautauqua Weekend, three Humanities presentations, renovation of the one-room Hoover School, the transformation of the township building hallway and two former classrooms into an impressive Museum of Local History and the two continuing projects of renovating the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci farm and creating a history-based Children's Garden adjacent to the Clifford Community Park. The required match for this grant funding, approximately \$65,000, was supplied by volunteers donating hundreds of hours of their skills, time and hard work and from donations of materials and monetary donations of all sizes. Our book sales, jam and jelly sales, and two fundraisers, a wine tasting event and a raffle, have helped cover annual expenses. Obviously, the historical society owes a huge part of its accomplishments to the fantastic local support it has received over the years.

Grant writing, however, is a demanding process. It's hard on the nerves to write the grant and to fulfill all the requirements for a funded grant.

So the directors of the society are thankful that alternative funding has become available to help with their renovation work at the old Yarns cider mill. An anonymous donor, whose ancestors were great-great-grandfather Perry Yarns, great-grandfather William Yarns, grandparents Raymond and Jessie Tuttle and John and Inez (Yarns) Snyder, has offered to work with the Society to get the mill back as close as possible to its original operating condition. He and his wife have made a wonderful \$5000 donation to the project so far. Also, they would like to start another donation challenge.

For every dollar contributed to the cider mill project between now and the end of 2020, they will match total donations dollar for dollar up to \$5000.

This extraordinary support from our anonymous benefactors will make it possible for this project to be completed much sooner than if more grants and fundraising were used to cover the additional costs to accomplish the major task of returning the apple press equipment to original condition. Donations to match this most appreciated \$5000 challenge can be sent to: Clifford Township Historical Society, P. O.



**Old Yarns Cider Mill**  
By artist Michelle Jaconia McLain

Box 161, Clifford PA 18413.

Work continues at the Museum of Local History. We have space for pictures or any type of interesting paper artifacts you might have that we could copy and display in the Museum. The Museum is open the third Sunday each month, 1 to 4 pm, or by appointment anytime by calling 570-679-2723.

Come enjoy the very interesting tour of the Clifford Baptist Church and the renovated one-room Hoover School, both are open the third Sunday each month, May through October, 1 to 4 pm.

*New Features at the Children's Garden*



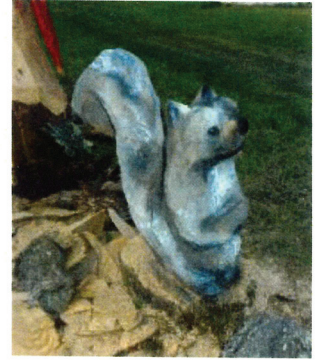
**Blackboard**



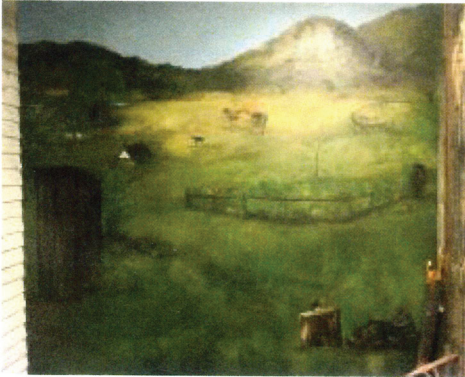
**Paved Pathways**



**New Signage**



**Wood Carvings**



**Mural of 1890 farmstead in the Museum started by Kathryn Elkins and finished by Pat Wildenberg**



**John Chernesky and Abbe Blodnikar applying a fresh coat of paint to the Hoover School, thanks to sponsor Adams Cable Service**

Plans for the Children's Garden this year include building a barn at the Miller homestead and working on a bluestone exhibit. The paved pathway and several signs explaining the historical aspects of the Garden were added last year. The Garden is always open for all to enjoy!

The popular Agricultural Museum will be open to the public during the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic July 23, 24 and 25. Stop by to see what's new this year.

The directors welcome Debbie Hameza as a new director of the Society. We still need one more person to fill the current vacancy on the board. If you are interested, please contact any director: Sandra Wilmot 570-679-2723, Pat Peltz [peltz@nep.net](mailto:peltz@nep.net), Linda Parlanti 570-222-3162, Ruth Knighton [jrknight@nep.net](mailto:jrknight@nep.net), or Debbie Hameza [dhameza@echoes.net](mailto:dhameza@echoes.net), or Shirley Granger [shirleyg6@comcast.net](mailto:shirleyg6@comcast.net). Members are always welcome and needed ... \$10 individual, \$25 family, \$100 lifetime, \$250 corporate, payable to CTHS, P.O. Box 161, Clifford PA 18413.

Do you order from Amazon? If you select Clifford Township Historical Society as your charitable organization at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) then .5% of the value of all your purchases at Amazon will automatically go to us. Amazon has donated \$156,109,909 to non-profits since the start of that program. We receive about \$100 a year but with your help we could surely increase that amount. Then Amazon could help cover more of our fixed annual costs of \$2800, mostly for insurance.

See website [cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) or download our app at <https://arcg.is/1XqSjc> or check Clifford Children's Garden facebook page for more information during the year.

We're looking forward to another productive year and sharing our love of local history with you. We hope to see you at one or all of our venues!

[cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)



**Civil War exhibits in the Museum of Local History highlighting our Civil War hero Owen Phillips. Framing and arranging done with the help of area artist Sharon Campbell.**

