

Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

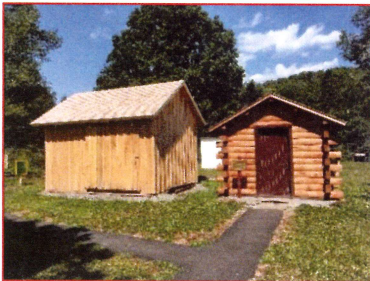
Volume Number 13



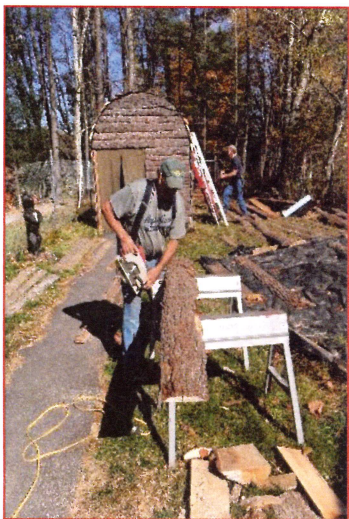
January 2021

Keeping Busy in 2020

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, much was accomplished in 2020. Many long-term plans were finally finished.



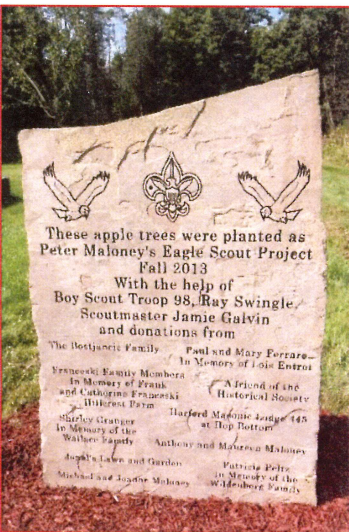
* A barn was built at the Children's Garden next to the log cabin completing the Miller homestead. Materials for the barn were donated by Ray Swingle, Mark Wilmot and Dave Prestys.



*The siding of the Native American Long House was completed. Slab wood donated by Kevin Cobb, Mr. Bronson and Ray Swingle.

*A mold prevention system was installed in the basement of the Children's Garden house.

*A red flagstone plaque was installed at the Yarns Cider Mill highlighting the Eagle Scout project of Peter Maloney.

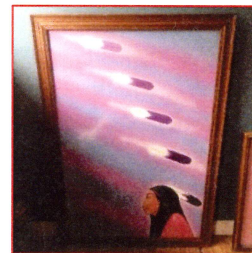


As always, these projects would have not been possible without the major financial support from so many, including the great, great grandson of Yarns Cider Mill founder, Perry Yarns. Also, Adams Cable Service, Dean Dolan, the Harford Historical Society, Maureen Warren, Matt Salansky, Jimmy Ketterer, and so many other donors.

Museum of Local History

2021 promises to be a year of seeing many long-term plans finally become reality!

The first project will see the remodeling of the canoe area at the **Museum of Local History** to display the gorgeous collection of Jeanne Katz's Native American family heirlooms. As soon as Covid restrictions allow, Jeanne has offered to give a presentation to explain the significance of her donated pieces.



Many more photos and printed items will be added to the birch tree panels this winter with the help of Sharon Campbell's artistic talents.

Hopefully we will be able to have the Museum and the **Hoover School** open to the public this season.

Check CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org for dates, times and locations.

Agricultural Museum at The Clifford Firemen's Picnic Grounds

Our newest addition to the Agricultural Museum at The Clifford Firemen's Picnic grounds is a completely rebuilt late 1800's Mail Delivery Sled. The metal runners of the sled were donated to the Society back in 2007 by Beth Henn at the former White's Farm south of Union Dale. *Special thanks to Ray Swingle* who rebuilt the entire enclosure. Another long-awaited project finally completed!! Hope you can join us at the **Firemen's Picnic on July 29, 30 and 31** and check it out!

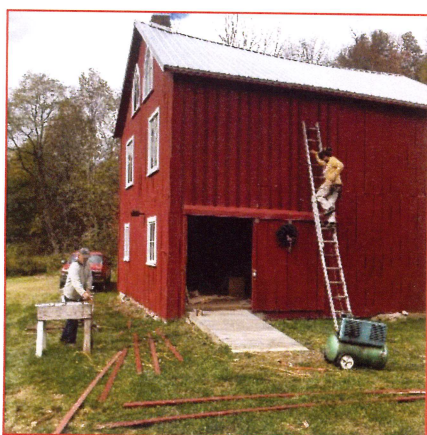


Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm

After eight years, our major project of bringing the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm back to operating condition is getting close to completion!! All the battens were finally painted and nailed to the exterior of the Cider Mill.



“The Painters”



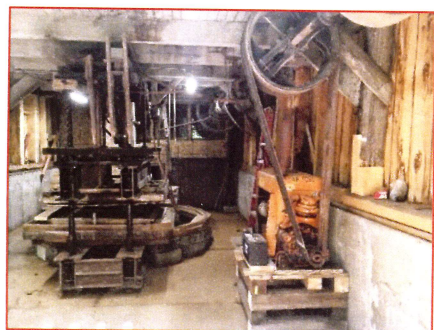
Volunteers
Paul Debish and
Price Muehleisen
finishing putting
battens on mill.



A new apple shoot was built.

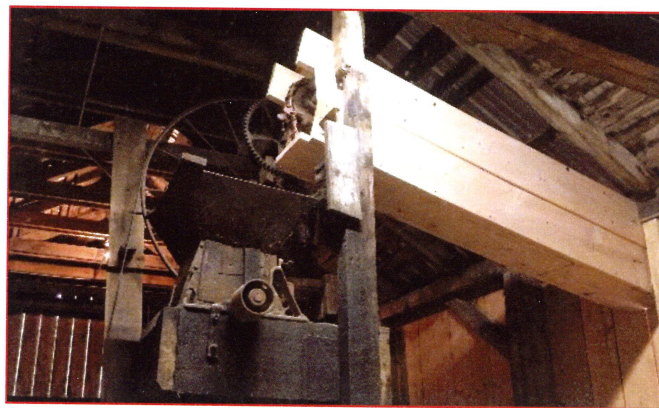


Andy Wildenberg is following in his father's footsteps painting the new apple chute at the mill. His Dad Hank restored all the windows in the mill!



Most of the press including the turntable has been rebuilt. This year juice pumps and grinder will be restored. The old drive belts will be replaced and the cheese racks and pumice chute will be rebuilt.

Apple Grinder and New Chute



Lighting will be added to the front portion of the building so this room can be used to display personal items from the Yarns family such as:

- *the original ledger of pressing transactions from 1902 thru 1916 donated by Marilyn Yarns-Sandell
- *tools used at the mill, and
- *other historical items of local businesses that were the foundation of our township.

We can't make any promises but with a little luck and a lot of work we hope to have the Cider Mill open to the public for our first "BIG SQUEEZE" on the weekends of late September and early October.

A good apple crop this year will help us bring the old mill back to life!!



We have sold *all* 1,000 originally printed copies of our bicentennial book:

Clifford Township 200 Years

We are looking into the cost of having more printed. We would like to have copies of Margaret Strohm's *History of Dundaff* also printed.

Watch our website
www.CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org for more information soon!!

Children's Garden

The first grant applied for of 2021 will provide funding for the building of a Glacier at the Children's Garden!



As you walk down the 'Prehistoric Pathway' at the garden the first area represented is the Dinosaur Play Area. Next comes the Bluestone Area that explains the development of bluestone in our part of the world. Then in correct chronological order will be the Glacier!!

The Glacier will be a unique masterpiece that will be the highlight of the entire Children's Garden. Life sized penguins will greet the visitors at the entrance to the Glacier. A wheel chair accessible path will meander through the glacier where children can hunt for fossils hidden in the cracks and crevasses of the interior walls.

We are SO excited that after five years of planning this glacier will finally be built. This impressive 40 by 20 by 12-foot structure will be built out of bluestone with the help of Rick Weida, Bill Brewer, and other local stone businesses, Mike Prestys, Ray Swingle, Barhite Construction and of course our main man, Jerry Lewandowski!

We will apply for a grant through the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority but it will require matching funds. So, when you see our jam and jelly for sale in area stores please consider purchasing a few jars to help match this grant!!



This prehistoric area of the Children's Garden represents our area from 252 million years ago to 15 thousand years ago. The rest of the Children's Garden is representative of more modern history, including the Coal Mine, Native American Village and first settler Adam Miller's Homestead including an apple orchard.

The Children's Garden is open to the public free of charge every day with a bathroom and parking at the house. It is located on the hill next to the Clifford Township Park on Cemetery Street.



Auctions & Flea Markets

Our Spring Auction & Flea Markets were very successful netting close to \$3,000! The onsite auction with volunteer auctioneer, Jeanie Tenzi from Honesdale was a great success with help from Adams Cable Service who installed a dedicated line at the last minute. A donated canoe with trailer from Phil and Vicky McHugh and a truck load of toys from the Lewandowski's were a major part of the flea market's success. Thank you to all who donated, worked and shopped!!



Lopatofsky's Auction LLC has offered to hold an auction *at no charge* to benefit our society on **Sunday, 1 PM September 19th**! We need a minimum of 100 items, but no more than 500 items to hold a successful sale. We currently have 40 items. If you have any items to donate – they do not have to be antique – we will accept any item with at least a ten-dollar value. Proxy bid will be used to allow interested bidders from across the USA to bid on items!! Please contact any director to donate:

Sandra Wilmot, President
swilmot@echoes.net
570-679-2723

Pat Peltz, Local Historian
peltz@nep.net

Ruth Knighton, Treasurer
JRKnight@nep.net
570- 222- 4410

Debbie Hameza
dbhameza@echoes.net

Shirley Granger, Children's Garden
Shirley6@comcast.net
570-521-4148

Perhaps one of the most important goals for 2021 is to increase communications between the directors and our many members and supporters. We hope to improve our communications through emails, phone contacts and a newly designed website. *Thanks to Steve Suraci of Hillview Inc. for all his work on our website in the past!*

So, we look forward to an exciting and enjoyable year for the Clifford Historical Society!
We would like to *thank Linda Parlanti* who has served as a director for several years and was an amazing asset to our group.

If you or anyone you know would like to fill her vacancy or just join as a member please fill out the form below. As you can see, we are very active and always looking for volunteers and donations.

Most Gratefully,
Directors of the Clifford Township Historical Society.

2021

**Upcoming
EVENTS**

Clifford Fireman's Picnic
July 29, 30 and 31

Lopatofsky's Auction for CTHS
September 19 – 1pm

Yarn's Cider Mill at Suraci Farm
Weekends of late September &
Early October

Museum of Local History & Hoover School
To Be Announced

Children's Garden
Open daily from dawn to dusk

Visit www.CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org
to keep up to date with the Clifford Historical Society's activities.
Or download our app at <https://arcg.is/1XqSjC>

2021 Membership Application
Please return with check to:
CTHS, PO BOX 161, Clifford PA 18413

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Information Phone _____

Email _____

Membership categories: \$10 Individual \$25 Family \$100 Lifetime \$250 Corporate