

# Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 15



January 2023

The Clifford Township Historical Society plans to have the Hoover one room school, the Museum of Local History and the historic Baptist Church open again on the *third Sunday of each month 1 to 4 o'clock May thru October* with free admission, ADA accessible and docents to make your visit an enjoyable and educational visit for all ages. Our homemade jelly and bicentennial books will be for sale at our venues and area businesses. Our website at [CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) has more information on all our activities.

Our society's main focus for 2023 will be to finish several major projects.

## Children's Garden

We will be completing the work on the glacier in the Children's Garden. The glacier turned into a major financial project with the rising costs of materials in the last two years. Grants from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley and Endless Mountains Heritage Region plus generous local donations received in the last few months will enable us to finish the glacier this Spring so we can offer local children of all ages a unique play and learning experience.



Glacier floor Mark Wilmot and Jerry Lewandowski hard at work

Finished interior of Glacier!!



## Museum of Local History

More photographs and written exhibits will be added to the display panels at the Museum of Local History. If you have any items to share contact any one of our directors, Pat Peltz – [peltz@nep.net](mailto:peltz@nep.net), Ruth Knighton – [Jrknight@nep.net](mailto:Jrknight@nep.net), Debbie Hameza – [dbhameza@echoes.net](mailto:dbhameza@echoes.net), Shirley Granger – [shirleyg6@comcast.net](mailto:shirleyg6@comcast.net), or Sandra Wilmot – [swilmot@echoes.net](mailto:swilmot@echoes.net) and also the Native American items on display will be labeled and described.



Display area in Museum of Local History

## Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm

The complete renovations of the Cider Mill was near completion last Fall, but barren apple trees due to Spring weather prevented our planned grand opening. Hopefully apples will be plentiful this year and we can plan for the initial "Big Squeeze" several weekends in late September and early October.



Our long-awaited stainless-steel trays added to the press.

We are thrilled to now be the proud owners of the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm



Sandra Wilmot, Richard Suraci, Gloria Suraci Bilotta

### Yarns Cider Mill Gifted to CTHS

On October 28, Gloria Suraci Bilotta, Richard Suraci and Sandra Wilmot met at the Brieche Law Office, Forest City to transfer the deed of the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm with two acres of land for the consideration of one dollar from the Bilotta Family Irrevocable Personal Residence Trust to the Clifford Township Historical Society (CTHS). The transaction was signed by Richard Suraci, Successor Trustee and Sandra Wilmot, president, Clifford Township Historical Society. The mill is located at 2520 State Route 2014, Clifford Township.

The society signed a 100 year lease for the cider mill with Gloria Suraci in 2012. Volunteer labor, wonderful donations, grants from the Endless Mountain Heritage Region and recent financial support from the great, great grandson of the mill's founder, Perry Yarns, has seen a complete renovation of the mill and the original 1894 Boomer and Boschert screw press. The Clifford Township Historical Society looks forward to a plentiful apple crop next year so the mill can once again make cider.

We are honored and humbled by the generosity of the gift of the mill by Gloria Suraci Bilotta to our society! Thank you so much Gloria, for helping us preserve an important historic enterprise of Clifford Township!

(Forest City News Article October, 2022)

### Agricultural Museum

We plan to add more demonstrations of old-time crafts at the Agricultural Museum at the Clifford Township Firemen's Picnic this year on July 27, 28 and 29.

Many volunteers, too many to list here!!, have been essential to all that our small society has accomplished since the township bicentennial in 2006, but know that we are so very thankful to you all!! We are hoping 2023 will be a year of additional interest and support to keep our society operation at its present level for many years to come. Additional (younger!) volunteers are needed to help maintain our venues. Help for even a few hours would be very appreciated. If you could offer your time contact Sandra Wilmot 570-679-2723 or [swilmot@echoes.net](mailto:swilmot@echoes.net). Additional financial support would make it possible to hire help!!

If you would like to be a member or volunteer a few hours for painting, cleaning, etc. please return the form below.

Clifford Township Historical Society

PO Box 161

Clifford, PA 18413

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to volunteer.

Yearly Membership Dues

\$10 Individual \$25 Family \$100 Lifetime \$250 Corporate

Return with check to:

CTHS  
PO BOX 161  
Clifford PA 18413

## Thank You for your support!