

# The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 16

January 2024

Our newsletter last year said that the main focus of the historical society for 2023 would be to finish our major projects. We are happy to announce that that goal has been reached!! After eleven years of hard work, unique challenges, grant writing, fundraising, and seeking donations of money, materials - and volunteer time the Yarns Cider Mill at the Suraci Farm renovation project is completed!! Despite the poor apple crop last year, we had two highly successful pressing events in September and October.



The press will again be operating several weekends this Fall. Hopefully there will be a good apple crop so more folks can bring a quantity of their own fruit – apples and pears- to have pressed into cider. The cider we made last year was delicious. This year's should be even better!



The museum portion of the mill has gold name plates of all who have taken part in this ambitious project. One of the larger plates recognizes Kim and Linda Snyder, direct descendants of the Yarns family. They joined the project in 2019 and their support kicked this renovation project into high gear. The results include the excavation of two acres of land, making a parking area with a flagstone bridge to the mill with stonework, putting up a border fence with apple trees. Then came the total reconstruction of the mill building itself, the complete rebuilding of the original 1898 pressing equipment, drilling a well, adding a furnace and a museum area in the front portion of the mill.

The wonderfully successful “BIG SQUEEZE” in September and the second pressing in October were true community events-- and a culmination of years of effort, patience, and determination! This historically significant renovation project will be a shining star for Clifford Township to be proud of for many years to come. A video shown on WNEP-TV of the Big Squeeze can be seen on our website [Cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://Cliffordtownshiphistoricalsociety.org).



The Children's Garden- adjacent to the township Park on Cemetery Street, just off state Route 106 -has also been a long-term project of the historical society. Our garden started out as nothing more than a fun place for kids to play and use their imaginations while learning about our area's history. Our Garden was modeled after a similar park in Ithaca NY. Much to our delight, the Clifford Children's Garden has grown to be a unique and special place that compliments the beautiful thirty plus acre Community Park. Our newly completed glacier is truly a unique addition to the Garden. A fence surrounds the garden, creating a special place for children to be safe, run free, laugh, and learn. The Garden is free to all and open 24/7. After an Easter Egg hunt was held here for children with special needs, we were touched when we were told by several parents of autistic children that we had built their families a little piece of heaven where parents could relax and watch their young ones play like normal kids! Folks have often asked how the Historical Society volunteers keep motivated to do all we do – what more motivation does anyone need than to hear comments like that!

The only complaint we have heard about the Garden is that when parents bring their children to the garden on their way home from work, the kids never want to leave so supper is always late!!



Our other three venues, the Hoover School, Museum of Local History, and the Agricultural Museum are basically completed. Our volunteers will only be needed for general maintenance and adding newly donated items for display. We need to train more docents when these venues are open the third Sunday of each month, May through October. 1 to 4 o'clock.

Since the society's formation in 2006, these five projects have been the main priorities of the society's officers, directors, and volunteers... Now we need to put our efforts toward the future. Officers, Directors, committee members and other volunteers dedicated to the operation of the society will be needed to ensure the viability of the society for the future.

Our number one priority is making an email list of members, supporters and folks interested in the society so we can improve communications. Emails sent to any interested folks will inform them of the society's plans and activities. Our first email going out to the new list will be information on the fundraising opportunity we have been offered by **JUST SOLD AUCTIONS** Main Street Clifford. They are willing to sell items free of charge for us that have been donated to society specifically for that purpose. They have two auctions a month so if you have any small items to donate, please call Marvis Searle 570-222-4503. Arrangements are being made so donations can be dropped off at area business.

Until now our annual newsletter sent just to members was the main source of information from the officers and directors. This year's newsletter will be mailed to all mailboxes in the Clifford area plus all landowners out of our area. We hope this effort will result in a better knowledge of the activities of society and generate more interest and support to sustain our level of accomplishment. Additional committees for membership, programs, advertising, correspondence, and filing will help significantly.

Our annual meeting will be held Sunday January 28 at 2 o'clock in the Community Center building 119 Cemetery St Clifford Twp. Pa 18421. Extreme weather postponement date Feb 4. If you have been meaning to visit the Museum of Local History but have not yet done so this is your chance to finally enjoy the tour! A special power point presentation of pictures of the entire Yarns Cider Mill renovation will be shown after the short business meeting. Light refreshments and friendly conversation will top off the meeting! Monthly meetings are planned for the fourth Saturday of each month, January through October, with special local history-based presentations. Hope to see you there!!

Sincerely, CTHS directors Shirley Granger, Debbie Hameza, Sandra Wilmot, Patricia Peltz, and Ruth Knighton

*Thank you to all of the folks who supported The Clifford Township Community Alliance, The Clifford Township Historical Society, and The Berean Baptist Fellowship with the Santa in the park event!*

## **Clifford Township Community Alliance Sponsors**

A Family Tree Farm	Craven's Tree Service	Halstead's Angus Beef & Honey	Les Bronson Custom Sawing/Amsoil	Seamans Sand & Gravel
Adams Cable Service	Crystal Pines	Happy Oaks Farm	Linda Parlanti	Shifler Parise Funeral Home
Andys Pizza	Dave Potis Plumbing & Heating	Hidden Village Greenhouse	Brad McAlla Family	Shipsky's Sweet Corn
Barber Stone Supply	Dave's Smoke Shop	Idlewild Ski Shop	Michelle McLain Custom Art	Six Pac Shack
Barhite Excavating	Dean Dolan	JBK Auto Sales	Mike & Karen Prestys	Snuff's Body Shop
Barhite Sales & Rentals	DeNike & Son Plumbing	Jerry Lewandowski Construction	Mt. View Tavern, Coffee House	Stan Wierzbicki Woodworking
Blueberry Hill Green House	Donald & Sheri Ransom	Jerry's Garage / Dave Counterman	NEIM Service Tom Virbitsky	State Line Quarry
Bob Salansky Construction	Dr. Russell & Cherie Swetter	JoAnn Hall	NEP Telephone	The Berean Baptist Fellowship
Brozonis Excavating	Dunniers Country Store	Joe Carlo Painting	Paradise Valley Plaza	Victor / Victoriana Antiques
Bryan Wech Forestry	E. Kozlowski Towing & Repair	Johnson Motor Sales	Pass Realty & Appraisals	Wagner Clifford Pharmacy
Clifford Baptist Church	Elk Dinner	Just Sold Antiques	Pat & Jerry Verboys	Whites Garage
Clifford Home & Auto Center	Ellie Defazio's Hair Station	Karen's Poultry Processing	Pat & Tom Williamson	Whites Mobile Home Park
Clifford Twp. Historical Society	Four Seasons Tree & Landscaping	Knowlton & Sons Construction	Roy's Porketta	Wood Frame Homes Inc.
Clifford Twp. Ladies Aux.	Franceski Metal & Recycling	Kochmer Graphics	Pine Hurst Auto Body	In Memory of Andrew Mazza
Clifford Twp. Supervisors	Gerber Associates Real Estate	Lapera Gas Station	Route 247 Power Coating	In Memory of Martin Barhite
Clifford Twp. Vol. Fire Co.	Grecco's Supply Co.	Lenox Propane	Satunas Farm Seasonal Produce	In Memory of Mike Caputo
Clifford United Methodist Church	Greenfield Power Equipment		Scranton Craftsmen	In Memory of Rachel Kochmer

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot volunteer at this time, but I would like to receive emails about society activities. \_\_\_\_\_ .

If you are not yet a member and wish to join yearly dues are \$10 individual \$25 family \$100 lifetime \$250 corporate Return to CTHS  
PO BOX 161 Clifford PA 18413