

The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 18

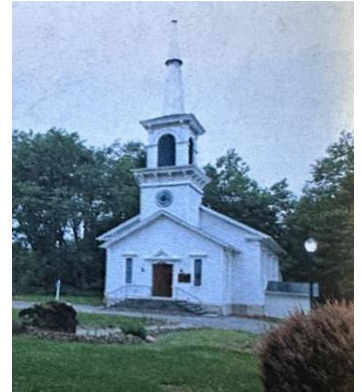
February 2026

The Clifford Township Historical Society is looking forward to a very enjoyable year starting with our annual meeting on Sunday, February 15 at the Local History Museum in the township building at the Community Park, 119 Cemetery Street in Clifford.

The meeting will be held at one o'clock. At two o'clock, a presentation by Jean Katz will include heartfelt and impressive descriptions and fascinating stories of the Native American items she has donated to our museum. Hope you will join us at one o'clock for the meeting and/or two o'clock for the Native American presentation - whatever your Sunday schedule allows!

The Susquehanna County America250PA Committee is heading up the planning for events to celebrate this special year. Several of our society members will attend a meeting in early February at our Museum of Local History to discuss our participation in these events. Our society will also be participating in this year's Heritage Trail which will be held a full weekend in October.

A milestone this year is the two hundredth anniversary of the construction of the Clifford Baptist Church, the oldest existing structure in our township. The celebration of this milestone will be celebrated on the afternoon of Sunday, June 21. Sunday church services have been held continuously since 1817! Prior to the building of the church, President Harding's ancestors held services in their barn. The Congregation draws its lineage to the First Regular Baptist Church in 1806. Long time Clifford Township Supervisor Barry Searle, has devoted an immense amount of time in support of the church and grounds. Seven generations of Barry's family have been members of the church dating back to 1881. Mr. Searle gives a most interesting presentation filled with historical facts and stories as tour guide during the historical society's Open House Weekends held the third Sunday of each month, May thru October. Please take the time to visit the Clifford Baptist Church as part of the Clifford Township Historical Society Tours, and plan to attend the two-hundred-year celebration of the church building on June 21st, 2026.



(L-R) Carley Green, Anya Yasnovitch, Mountain View Art Teacher Diana Lombardi, Sierra Testa, and Malakai Sansky.

These students of Mt. View Art Club designed and painted this mural for the Children's Garden

The main goal for this year is to do minor additions and repairs to the Agricultural Museum at the firemen picnic, the Hoover School and the Local History Museum but mostly to catch up on maintenance at the Children's Garden. Last year's wet weather followed by the extreme heat made maintenance of the Children's Garden a challenge.

The Clifford Township Historical Society was formed in preparation for the township bicentennial in 2006! So, this year also marks twenty years for our society! Time does fly!! The society's most immediate goal is to fill the four needed director seats. Our bylaws require eight. Basically, our directors vote on major expenditures and projects by telephone texts or emails and attend meetings during the year when necessary. Pat Peltz, Debbie Hameza, Ruth Knighton and myself, Sandra Wilmot, are directors. If you might consider serving a one year term please contact me at 570-960-2723 or mnswilmot@gmail.com.



We lost Shirley Granger last April after her courageous battle with cancer. Shirley was a great teacher, friend and society director who gave so much to so many. The she-shed at her home was her happy place. Donations from many of Shirley's friends have made it possible for us to build a she-shed in our Children's Garden in her memory -- to keep her spirit alive.



Shirley's she-shed.

Children love our unique Garden. Hundreds of little ones have visited our Garden since it was created ten years ago. More donations are needed to cover the rising cost of materials to maintain the Garden. Volunteers have been vital to that maintenance! A QR code will be added to the Garden to make donating quick and easy!



This mural depicting Shirley's life will be on a wall inside the she-shed.

The Children's Garden is open to the public 24/7 free of charge. The fenced in acre, based on local history, allows all children to run and play while their adults relax! Our Local History Museum, Hoover School and the Baptist Church are open every third Sunday, 1 to 4 o'clock, May through October with tour guides at each location. Our Agricultural Museum will be open during the Clifford Volunteer Firemen's Picnic July 24, 25 and 26. Operating the corn sheller, bone grinder, weaving loom, dog treadmill and other tools of our grandfathers has become a favorite activity for all ages!

Hopefully our local apple crop will be much better than last year so we can make cider at our cider mill this Fall!

As always information about our society can be found at these websites, Cliffordtownshiphistorical.org and wearecliffordtownship.org

If you would like to support the historical society with a donation, volunteer time, or become a member please complete the form below and mail it to Clifford Township Historical Society PO Box 161 Clifford Pa 18413

The Historical Society is a 501c3 organization so all donations are tax deductible

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

I would like to support the efforts with a donation- any size donation is gratefully accepted!!

I would like to volunteer

I would like to join the society

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