

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of Camp Hill

Volume XV, Number 3

August 2018



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717-737-8522

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historicalsocietyof
camphill.org

The President's Message

A Look Ahead for HSCH

Some projects for future consideration by our Historical Society:

1. Clock. There is a clock at the curb of 2201 Market Street. Cordier Antiques is the owner of the clock. Cordier wants to get in contact with a good clock repairman. LET ME KNOW!
2. Electronic Sign. There is an electronic sign at 3045 Market Street Orrstown Bank was responsible for the sign's operation. The land belongs to Hempt Brothers. If anyone has a contact, LET ME KNOW!
3. Road Signs. The sign at 14th and Market and at S. 14th and State Street are in need of some paint. Both can be sanded, primed and painted in several hours. LET ME KNOW!
4. The Great Road Festival. Several Market Street business owners are interested in a mini Great Road Festival. LET ME KNOW!
5. Great Road Pole Banners. Many Camp Hill High School classes can still participate. LET ME KNOW!
6. High Water Mark Civil War Walk. Takes about two hours. LET ME KNOW!
7. Programs. The Historical Society has four programs per year. LET ME KNOW your ideas for programs.

LET ME KNOW at 717-737-8522 or a note to HSCH, 2145 Walnut Street, Camp Hill PA 17011.

-Wayne

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Welcome and Thanks to this Quarter's

New and Renewing Members:

Lynn & Dennis Jackson
 Janeal Jaroh
 John Metro
 Ruth & Stephen Nailor
 Ann Markley

Supporting Memberships:

Ginny Myers Meloy
 Col. Leo & Romayne McMahan Jr.
 Ron Sutton

Additional Gifts:

Dorothy Klemstine
 Jim Ramsey
 Milky Way
 Ginny Myers Meloy
 Pete White
 John Moore
 Besie Moyle
 Dan Drawbaugh

Thanks so very much for your support!

Check your address label. If the top line says "2018", you are up to date. If it says "2017", please send in your check to renew your membership of 2018. There are only 7 that have not renewed.

A Fond, Semi-Farewell

Dear Readers,

As Jinny-the-editor-and-treasurer, I'm bidding you a fond farewell. My heart and mind are filled to overflowing with the wonderful memories you have refreshed for me, throughout these fifteen years.

I've met wonderful "old timers", learned to research Deeds and Tax Records, and found countless fascinating photos and books, all while becoming reacquainted with or meeting you!

It is with great joy that I "hand you off" to Patricia Eby. You'll find her to be an experienced and energetic addition to our society's activities. She's been here all along! And spoke up just when we needed her!

I am not disappearing! I'm moving to the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown – I know I'll meet more Camp Hill friends there! I'll be back for many events and hope to write an article now and again.

Keep sending your ideas and reminiscences to Pat – these tidbits will make her day, as they did mine.

Keep in touch! My e-mail is the same: vaspringen@aol.com See you at the Picnic!

Jinny Springen (aka Jinny Long, CHHS Class of '56)

Mark your Calendars !

Annual Picnic - August 2nd in Prosser Hall 6:30 pm See Page 7 for details.

Annual Meeting & Covered Dish Supper - November 1st 6:30 pm

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the company of your "Historic" Friends.

A program will be presented. Held at Prosser Hall, Borough Building.

The Historical Society of Camp Hill Newsletter is produced four times a year. Articles or stories to be submitted for consideration should be either given to Pat Eby at Board or General Meetings or forwarded to Pat Eby, 19 N. 27th Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-379-8945, or patriciaeby@verizon.net. Suggestions and articles are always welcome.

HSCH is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

IN MEMORIAM

Nevin D. Miller was a founding member of the Historical Society of Camp Hill. He passed away Monday, May 28, 2018 at the age of 82.

He retired as a maintenance supervisor with Camp Hill School District. He was a former employee of Irwin Dairy and Harbold's Garage in Dillsburg. He was a US Army veteran of the Berlin Crisis and Vietnam War.

Besides being a member of HSCH, he was also a member of the Williams Grove Old Timers Club and the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing.

He had a tremendous passion for restoring cars.

He and his friends restored 21 vehicles. He often thought of it as his life's work. He will be missed.

His full obituary can be found on Pennlive.com May 30 and May 31, 2018. *This photo is from the HSCH, 2013 Activities, Memorial Day.*



Camp Hill's US Mail Truck



If you missed seeing the Model A Ford Mail Truck in the Memorial Day Parade this year or have ever wondered what the significance of it is to the Historical Society, it is an exact duplicate of the US Mail Truck used by the Camp Hill Post Office during the 1930's and 1940's. It has been in every Memorial Day Parade since 2004.

It has been maned by the above three men, all of which were founding members of the Society, until their passing, Paul Shaffer - October 2016, Chuck Traub - November 2017 and Nevin Miller - May 2018 who drove the truck in the parade. Paul and Chuck were retired former Camp Hill Postmasters.

Photo from Nead Miller's collection

Reminiscing! By Judith Wirt Messinger

I only lived in Camp Hill for eighteen years, yet every time I enter the Borough there is a tremendous feeling of nostalgia. I was born in the old Carlisle Hospital but moved to Camp Hill when I was five years old to enter first grade. I left Camp Hill when I was eighteen to go to Wilmington, Delaware for Nursing School. I settled there for 45 years before returning to the area in 2004.

My very first memories of Camp Hill are of a time in late 1943 when staying with my maternal grandparents, Harry and Ethel Bell, who lived at 25th and Lincoln Streets. The air raid sirens had just gone off and everyone was running around pulling the window shades down. The bedroom where my brother George and I had just been put to bed, suddenly went pitch black and we were all alone. To a three-year-old and a ten-month-old brother, this was beyond frightening. Eventually our Uncle Henry came and sat with us until the sirens stopped.

From the time we moved to Camp Hill our lives were characterized by family. There was another set of grandparents: George and Bertha Wirt who lived at 215 N 17th Street. My Aunt Elizabeth (Bailey) and two cousins lived in the Hillside Apartments, and for a while my Aunt Judy (Teasley) while her husband was in Korea, lived there as well. I had one other Aunt who lived in Mechanicsburg. All the Wirt family were associated with the Camp Hill School System. Grandfather Wirt was on the School Board. Aunt Elizabeth was School Nurse. I used to say if I did anything wrong my parents knew about it before I got home.

When I started school, I went to Schaeffer Elementary, now torn down. We lived around the corner from the Bells on 25th Street. To get to and from school I had to walk past Grandmother Bell's house, where on many occasions there were freshly baked cookies sitting on a window sill cooling, where a five-year-old could reach them and reach them I did. This caused me not to be able to eat my dinner and after a while my mother got suspicious and figured out what was happening. My Grandmother got quite a lecture about ruining a five-year old's dinner.

Another memory from those early years is being tutored in reading from someone (I later learned she was an elementary school teacher) who lived on 25th Street. I remember going every week and gradually learning to read and to enjoy what I read.

At the end of the summer she let me pick out one book to keep. I wish I knew her name, because of her I have had a life-long joy of reading. I wonder if she ever knew what an impact she had on an impressionable child.

My playmates in those years were Doug McKay, Jim Thompson, Joan Acker Kichman, Joan Egge Payne. Sad to say I have lost tract of Joan Payne. Her house is even gone, razed to build a bigger and newer one. Doug McKay is married to Linda Fulton and lives in Kansas. Unfortunately, Jim Thompson is no longer with us. We had such a carefree life going from house to house and yard to yard. My mother rang a cow bell to call us for dinner.

Many of us from Schaeffer Elementary went to Boro Hall for third grade. I have very few memories from my third-grade year. Perhaps someone else can tell us about their experience.

At the beginning of 7th grade my parents moved to Harvard Avenue. I still couldn't go anywhere or do anything that my extended family didn't know about, always being sure to let my parents know. I did however manage to get away with a few things, such as teaching myself to drive a 1947 vacuum shift Chevy.

My parents had told me they were not going to let me learn to drive when I turned 16 in a few weeks, so I decided I would learn on my own. Very soon the opportunity presented itself as my parents were gone in the evening to visit my six-week-old baby brother in the Hospital. So out I went, key in hand, to begin this experience that I just knew I could conquer. I could get the car in first gear and go a few streets away but couldn't get it into second gear without stalling. I am sure I must have been a sight, barely seeing over the steering wheel "jerking" down Yale Avenue trying to get home. After several weeks of this I was quite good. Imagine my surprise when I turned 16 and Dad said, "now it is time to learn how to drive the Chevy." Instant panic.

There was one other episode that my parents never found out about (I think). My parents and Jean Keiser's parents both bought a 1956 Pontiac. Same model but different colors. Somehow Jean and I found out that the keys for these two cars were interchangeable. One evening my parents had driven their car to a PTA meeting at the High School. Jean got her parents keys and we

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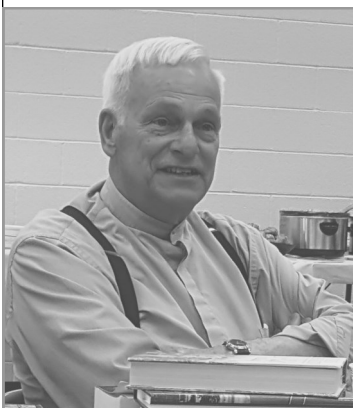
took my parents car for a joy ride never thinking what we would do if someone parked in their parking space. I guess the gods were with us as we were able to put the car back.

My time in Camp Hill is rich with so many other memories: Riding our bikes to the swimming pool, going to Hershey to ice skate, Mrs. Pealor's Girl Scouts, the high school dances. Arriving in Miss Wilt's Latin Class and Miss Wilt asking me if I was going to be as naughty as my father. (Both my parents graduated from Camp Hill High School in 1933.) Marching with the CHHS Band in the Memorial Day Parades. I played the French Horn which had the offbeat to all the marches. I hated playing the offbeat, so I pretended to play. Do you think anyone noticed?

Walking to the Presbyterian Church on summer Sundays. Marching with the Band to the football field. The Sunday dinners at the Grandparents Wirt, the picnics in the woods behind their house with most of our cousins. Ah to be back in those days just for a short time to visit with those that are gone. What a treat that would be.

As I look back on my time in Camp Hill I realize it was one of the happiest times of my life. In fact, I will spend all eternity in Camp Hill as I will be buried in the Columbarium behind Trinity Lutheran Church. Perhaps some of the rest of the Society's members have pleasant memories they would like to share in future articles for this publication. Contact Pat Eby and let us see how many forgotten memories we can revive.

May Program Lemar Mattews



He spoke on the role of Quakers in Northern York County, concerning the underground railroad and the freedom seekers.

His presentation included a short background of Quakers history and how they came to this country including the religious obligation to assist those in need.

A very informative and interesting presentation.

How Will We Manage Without Her!

An organization is supposed to be able to run when someone leaves it, but do you have any idea what Jinny Springen has been doing all of these years, other than being a friendly, smiling, curious and helpful person? We need 3 to replace her.

I don't know how many years she has been editing the Newsletter since Al Holiday started in 2004, but for quite a while. Her name was listed as a Board Member then and still is. I know this because she gave me all of the records that she had. There were a lot.

She has put her mark on this organization by cheerfully fulfilling her duties which included not only the Newsletter Editor, but also the Treasurer and Membership Chair. She was also the Secretary for a while.

But she seemed to pick up many duties behind the scenes too. I think that many of these duties were done by other members, but as they couldn't do them anymore, she just absorbed them into her routine. If something needed to be done and no one was doing it, she just did it. Who wrote the articles for the Borough Newsletter; bought, brought and stored all of the paper and plastic products that we needed at our meetings; stored and sold our Sales items? Jinny has. I'm sure there is more that I don't know about.

She not only edited the newsletter, but also researched the articles, put those circles on the newsletter so that the post office would mail them. Then there was the mailing labels and stamps to be put on before she took them to the post office.

She has been a gem in this organization and I hope you appreciate all that she has done for it. We look forward to her visits with us but we will miss her. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts!

-Pat

Information from other Historical Societies

Mechanicsburg Museum Assn.

www.mechanicsburgmuseum.org

717-97-6088

mechanicsburgmuseum@gmail.com

Sept 9 - PA Turnpike, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Carl DeFelo

Sept 23 - Canals & Canal Life in Susquehanna River Basin by Steve Runkle

Oct 3 - Henri Matisse - an Artist's Life by Selby Doughty

Oct 14 - Native American Survival Skills, Lessons Learned through Play by Sammi Lehman

Fee for non-members

Bus trip - Christmas Virginia Style to Mt Vernon and Old Alexandria—info call Faith Mathews 717-766-6023

Cumberland County Historical Society

21 N Pitt St Carlisle

historicalsociety.com

Traveling Exhibit - History and prominence of brass band movement in Cumberland County 19th and 20th century.

McLain Celtic Festival - 2 Mile House, Carlisle

September 1 and 2 heritagefest.historicalociety.com

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2145 Walnut Street, Camp Hill PA 17011

Membership Application / Renewal for 2018

We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

- Member \$10 Supporting \$50
 Family \$20 Life Member \$500
 Additional Gift _____
 I'd like to help at an event or with a project.

Please make checks payable to HSCH.

Name _____
Please Print Clearly

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Would you like to receive the Newsletter by email? Yes No



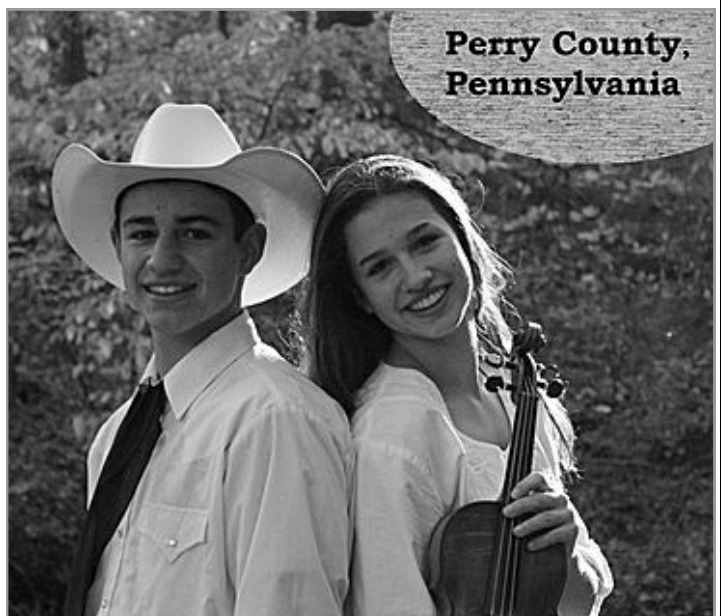
*Thank you
for your
support.*

Annual Picnic of Historical Society of Camp Hill August 2, 2018 at 6:30 New Venue - Borough Building 2145 Walnut St, Camp Hill PA

We will again supply an assortment of 6 foot subs and the usual drinks and desserts, The picnic will be held in Prosser Hall in the Camp Hill Borough Building. This is a **new venue** for our picnic. Due to increased attendance, we needed a larger room.

Entertainment will be the home schooled sister and brother duo called Buffalo Mountain Bluegrass Band from Perry County. Autumn and Canyon Moore will again thrill us with their many styles of music. They enjoy performing together and sharing their talent with others.

We thoroughly enjoyed their performance last year at the picnic. So if you missed them, please try to catch them in August. We would love to see you.



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c/o 2145 Walnut Street
Camp Hill PA 17011

A 501(c)(3) organization

Dated Materials

Newsletter



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