

P.O. Box 173, Gap, PA 17527-0173

PURPOSE: "TO DISCOVER, GATHER, AND PRESERVE OUR HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 23, Fall/Winter 2016

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings from the Historical Society of Salisbury Township. Fall has arrived; the holidays will soon be upon us. With the blink of an eye, the new year will be here. Reflections of our present year bring many thoughts about our community. One of the biggest things I recognize is the impact of change.

First, it's been a busy year in our township. One of the largest, noteworthy changes has been the road project in down town Gap. We have watched our landscape change drastically as construction took away some familiar buildings [icons] in the village of Gap, as well as the very distinct and new road ways impacting routes 30, 41 and 772. Properties were changed and people impacted by what we now accept as new. Next, the historical society sold the property that was once planned to be an office and museum—filled with historical artifacts, furniture and pieces of our local heritage from within Salisbury Township. Our hope is to find a place where we can build a museum displaying our present as well as the past. We also hope to have room for an office and meeting space. Our goal is to procure momentum and build a larger membership and volunteer base for events as well as the work pertaining to the culture of our organization. Looking ahead there is much planning and good work to be done as we develop awareness, programs and education relevant to history and our society.

We continue to look for people to join us and serve in several capacities. Volunteers help us accomplish events and the work needed to grow the society. Education, genealogy, community awareness, and events all take people with a passion to serve and preserve our history. We also continue to receive treasures from our community that take hands and hearts to process and prepare for safe keeping. If you have a passion for history and this community, please join us. We'd love to work with you.

Thanksgiving will soon be here. It is with much gratitude that I say thank you to everyone that serves this organization. Membership, contributors, volunteers and board members—without you the organization would not exist. Life is busy. The time and gifts that you provide are not overlooked. It takes time and energy to continue growth for any organization. I'm looking forward to what 2017 holds for our organization. I wish each of you much blessing and peace as we move into the holiday season. Thank you again for your care and support for The Historical Society of Salisbury Township!

*Rodney Smoker, President*

### BOARD MEMBERS

President: Rodney Smoker

Vice President: Andrea Lingenfelter

Secretary: Sherry Bagshaw

Treasurer: Leonard Groff

Elected Members: Anna Mast, Brett Snyder, Alfred Gerhardt

Artifacts Chairs: Anna Groff, Doris Wambold

Museum Chair: Paul Herr

Historian: Joan Lorenz

Membership Chair: Sue Summers

Website: Wanda Smale

Planning Committee Chair: Andrea Lingenfelter

Planning Committee Co-Chair: Sherry Bagshaw

## WILLIAM PENN ROCK

William Penn Rock is located at the southern end of Chestnut Street in Gap

The story of the visit William Penn made to the Gap-in-the-Hills in 1701 has been much discussed. Much of the story is likely of legend only, strongly embroidered with time and oral history. It is said that the Penn Rock was visited by William Penn as a rest stop overnight on the way to Conestoga to sign a treaty of peace. He was met by three Native Americans who escorted him the rest of the way. At the same place but in the 1850's, a cave with a tunnel emptying out up the hill was a hideout for runaway slaves.

We do know for sure that William Penn came through Gap on his way to sign a treaty with the Indians who resided near Columbia on the Susquehanna River. We do know that the Indian chiefs met him in Gap. It would be logical that they camped in Gap overnight, for the Indians did have a trail through the area and an impermanent rest stop there.

The only surviving legendary artifact of this event is what is proposed to be the "table" upon which Penn and the chiefs inscribed their respective signatures. This rock, of sedimentary deposit, was firmly attached to bedrock since time immemorial. It juts into the sharp bend at the south end of Chestnut Street. A sign, erected by the Historical Society as one of its first actions in 2001, indicates the value the citizens of Gap attribute to this landmark. The Mennonite Historical Society's Spring tour makes a stop close enough for visitors to inspect the rock.



Because of the significance given to this particular piece of history, it has been carefully tended over the years by the John Milliron family who own the property on which the rock stands.

For years, in an effort to avoid the congestion at Route 41 and 30, large trucks have taken Chestnut Street as a fast shortcut to Route 41. Over the years these trucks with trailers have gotten larger. Three times in the last 5 years a driver, thinking to make the turn, has clipped off a wedge of the rock. One managed to dislodge the rock from its firm position attached to bedrock, moving it 8 inches and causing damage to the Milliron's home foundation.

Ever alert to the importance of historical artifacts in the township, when the elected officials learned the extent of the damage, they placed "low clearance" signs at the north end of the street, just off of Route 30, in a valiant attempt to prevent further large truck traffic damage to the rock and the home. The rock can never be re-attached to bedrock, but it may be protected from further damage. The Millirons continue to lovingly tend the site, for which the community owes them thanks.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to Wanda Smale on the passing of her mother, Irene May Moore Smale Hawk, on August 26, 2016.

### Artifacts and other material donations to the Historical Society since October, 2015:

Robert Bortfield: Letters and newspaper articles written by Sally Walker Hershey

Robert Gault: Genealogy of descendants of Robert Gault, early pioneer of Salisbury Township

Jeanne Glassey: Longabaugh family histories

Susan Walker Hedden: History of Mary Louisa Walker Roberts, township native and Civil War heroine.

Marie Kephart: Plate from the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pequea United Presbyterian Church

Robert Kurtz: Early photos and memorabilia from White Horse Mill.

Donna Mohr: Diaries from her grandmother, Catherine Pennock: farm life, 1906-1943.

Paul Smoker: Information and photos of the Cambridge airport

Jeanne Foulk Zeller: Histories of many of the homes and houses in Gap.

The following have given multiple memorabilia items and stories about their experiences in the one room schools of Salisbury Township:

Nancy Jacobs Arment, Betty Denlinger, Aaron Ebersol, Leon Ebersol, Jeanne Longabaugh Glassey, Frank Jacobs, Marie Kephart, Robert Kurtz, John Lacock, Paul Smoker, David Stoltfus, John Stoltfus, Kathryn Wise Trotta, Barbara Welsh, Kenneth Wise, Donald Yost, and Jeanne Foulk Zeller, and several who contributed stories but do not wish to be acknowledged by name.

### Interviews: One Room Schoolhouses

Interviews continue to reveal more and more stories of the one room school experiences that Salisbury Township children experienced in the "old days". Many share photos and names of their friends from those days. New Milltown Independent School is a new surprise discovery.

If you would be willing to share your one room schoolhouse memories, please contact me (Leona Baker) at **717-442-4071** or **fusser29369@mypacks.net**.

**\*\* If you have any information on the possible year of the photo on the right or the identity of the young lady, please contact Leona Baker (please see above).**



**WHITE HORSE CENTER SCHOOL & WHITE HORSE HIGH SCHOOL**

## GENEALOGY CORNER

\*We get many requests on our website from researchers who are looking for us to supply much needed connections. There are some questions that we can answer, and if it is of general interest we will print it here as an interesting tidbit for you. If you can help provide information or if you need some help with your research, please email Leona Baker at [fusser29369@mypacks.net](mailto:fusser29369@mypacks.net) or at 717-442-4071. Please remember to leave your contact information including email if you have it.\*

## MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

**BOARD MEETINGS:** The Board of Directors has six meetings a year to better address the business matters of the Society. They meet the second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 7 p.m. at the Township building. All members are always welcome to attend these meetings. Members may address issues of their own to the Board after first notifying the President of their intent one week before the meeting. The issue in question will be given 10 minutes at any one meeting, tabled until the next meeting if necessary due to time.

**DECEMBER 15, 2016:** Annual Society Christmas Dinner – Time and Place To Be Announced

### \* 2017 MEETINGS

**JANUARY 19** - Show and Tell

**FEBRUARY 16** - History of the Walker Mill, Gap PA. Speakers Robert Walker & Susan Hedden

**MARCH 16** - The historic Parkesburg Iron Foundry. Speaker Gerry Treadway

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SALISBURY TOWNSHIP PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

*History of Salisbury Township, Lancaster Co, PA* by Joan Lorenz - \$25.00

*Clemson, Buckley, Stoltzfus Property on the Pequea* by Joan Lorenz - \$2.00

*Buena Vista Revisited* by A. Groff and J. Lorenz - \$8.00

*The Jacob Mast Family of Salisbury Twp.* by Anna Skiles - \$4.00

*White Horse Revisited* by Dale Frankhouser - \$15.00

*Ancestry and Descendants of Nathan E. Howe* by Allen Beiler and Diane Pechart - \$24.00

*The Wolf Man of Kane, Pennsylvania* by Nancy A. Avolese - \$15.00

*Black Minqua: The Life and Times of Henry Green* by Anita L. Wills - \$23.00

*Pieces of the Quilt: The Mosaic of an African American Family* by Anita L. Wills - \$23.00

*Notes and Documents of Free Persons of Color: Four Hundred Years of an American Family's History, Revised Edition* by Anita L. Wills - \$23.00

*Reeser History: Descendants of Hans and Magdalena Reeser* by Robert L. Reeser - \$17.00

*Lancaster County Post Card Collection, Vol. 2* by the Lancaster Post Card Club - \$20.00

*WWII Honor Roll Poster, Servicemen of Gap* - \$15

--These may be ordered by calling 717-442-4071 or emailing [fusser29369@mypacks.net](mailto:fusser29369@mypacks.net). Please make sure you include your name, phone number, email address (if you have one), and mailing address. There are additional charges for postage.

**ARTIFACT DISPLAY**

The Township Building has a revolving display of artifacts donated by area families who want future generations to be aware of the rich heritage of this region. Displays may be viewed during Township business hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 p.m.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**ANGELS**

- Paul Herr
- C. John Bryer
- Joan Lorenz
- Lester Houck
- Karen Beecher-Winters
- Hostetter Realty – Gap

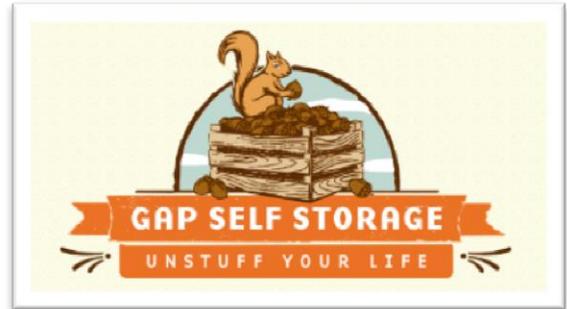
**SPECIAL FRIENDS**

- Beiler Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Gap Power
- Gwendolyn Dickinson

**FRIENDS**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Yvonne Styer       | Wayne & Frieda Reiter |
| Francis E. Horton  | Benjamin Ray          |
| Betty S. Denlinger | John A. Parmer        |
| Albert See         | Linnea Raffaele       |
| Lois Schrock       | Leon F. Ebersol       |
| Nancy B. Fisher    | Karen Mueller         |
| Edward Yancavage   |                       |

**CORPORATE SPONSOR**



875 Brackbill Rd, Gap, PA 17527  
 P.O. Box 56, Gap, PA 17527 - 717-442-3030  
 717-442-0559

**~ A WINTER SCENE ~**

Pequea Presbyterian Prayer House along the White Horse Run



Historical Society of Salisbury Township  
P.O. Box 173  
Gap, PA 17527-0173-

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE: [www.salisburytwphistory.org](http://www.salisburytwphistory.org) AND  US ON FACEBOOK!

-----Detach Here-----

**2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SALISBURY TOWNSHIP**

If you would like to join our society, please take a moment to complete this short application. Detach it at the dotted line and mail to: Attn: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 248, Gap, PA 17527, or bring it along to one of our public meetings held the 3rd Thursday of every month excluding December, June, July, and August at 7:30 pm at the Salisbury Township Municipal Building. We accept cash. Checks can be made payable to the Historical Society of Salisbury Township. Thank you for your support!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$25 Family (2 Adults & Children 0-12 in the same household) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$10 Individual                      \_\_\_ \$35 Friend                      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$5 Student (Ages 13-22)        \_\_\_ \$60 Special Friend            Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$30 Business                      \_\_\_ \$110 Angel                      Email: \_\_\_\_\_