

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Issue 28, FALL/WINTER 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings!

Autumn is finally upon us, and with it, the start of our public programs for the year. We have an exciting lineup planned for this year thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Program Chair, Leona Baker. Check out the meeting section of the newsletter to see what we have in store for you! We are always on the lookout for new program ideas, so please reach out to us if there is something you'd like to learn about.

This newsletter is chock full of historical tidbits including excerpts on the Nickel Mines, Nathaniel Burt and the Waterloo Farm, Buyerstown school, William Chester Ruth and information and photos of the three Pennsylvania Historical Markers that can be found within Salisbury Township.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the founding and current members of the Historical Society. Without all of you, vital pieces of our township's history would have disappeared without a trace. We are working hard to grow our membership, and we need your help. Our programs are all free and open to the public, so feel free to invite your family, friends and neighbors!

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Andrea Lingenfelter
Vice President: Brett Snyder
Secretary: Sherry Bagshaw
Treasurer: Leonard Groff
Elected Members: Anna Mast, Paul Herr,
Alfred Gerhardt
Artifacts Chairs: Anna Groff, Anna Mast
Museum Chair: Vacant
Historian: Joan Lorenz
Membership Chair: Sue Snyder
Planning Committee Co-Chairs: Andrea
Lingenfelter, Sherry Bagshaw
Program Chair: Leona Baker

In mid-September we mailed the Society's new brochure to residents in Salisbury Township. If you did not receive one or would like one, they are available at any of our monthly programs and also at the Township building in White Horse.

I hope to see you all soon at one of our meetings and invite you to join us for our annual Holiday Dinner and gathering in December. I wish you all a blessed holiday season and a safe journey through the winter.

Warm Regards,
Andrea Lingenfelter
President



GAP NICKEL MINE

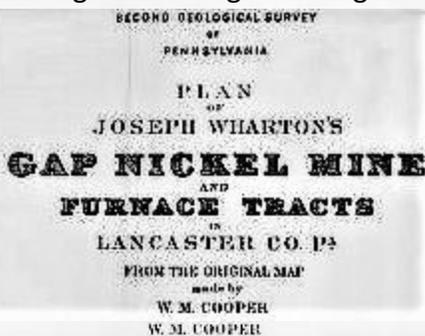
Though originally only a source of copper speculation from about 1740 to 1850, the 30 acres of metal-rich magma located in Bart Township proved to be a worthwhile endeavor. From about 1850 to roughly 1860 the on-again, off-again mining operation conducted by a contingent of local entrepreneurs was dubious at best in what it was expected to accomplish. But change came; mostly due the insights of Charles Doble, an immigrant from England whose previous experience included working in the metal mines of Denmark where nickel had been worked successfully. The main reason this initial 10-year mining effort failed was due to lack of determination and lack of money. Some nickel was processed; clobbered and smelted locally and leached out in chemical processes in Camden, New Jersey.

Little by little the exploits of the nickel mining operation began to become general knowledge. It got the attention of Joseph Wharton by the late 1850s, who was then the manager of the Lehigh Zinc Company and knew all about metal processing for profit. He came to Lancaster County several times and spoke to Charles Doble who communicated to him that he believed the deposits of an ore body like this extended much further down than had already been explored - not very far by this point. Believing in this theory Wharton began buying up shares of the existing stock. By 1860 he became the sole proprietor of the Nickel Mine.

Over the next 33 years, with Doble in command of the local operation, tons and tons of nickel - along with other metals - were mined. Twelve shafts, some reaching depths of 250 feet, brought up an unbelievable amount of the precious metal. Hand-in-hand with bringing up and processing the ore Wharton endeavored to make the United States Government the mine's biggest buyer. Having already experimented with composing the American Flying Eagle pennies with nickel to improve its quality, Wharton pressed mint officials - with offices near his home in Philadelphia - to begin using nickel in the three-cent pieces too, which they did. His greatest accomplishment though was to have them establish an Act of Congress to create a new coin for the American public - a five-cent piece. Beginning in 1866 nickel coins, using 25% nickel, provided the mine with a business venture that could potentially use every ounce of nickel the mine could put out. Millions of nickels were made in the subsequent years; millions of dollars were made by Wharton! It was sure genius!

By 1893 the mine was producing very little ore but by then new nickel deposits were discovered in Sudbury, Ontario. Wharton began a tenuous relationship with the owners to buy and process the Sudbury nickel. It worked but there were difficulties with pricing. In 1902 Wharton formed INCO, the International Nickel Company. He and other wealthy industrialists began using their combined capital to buy Nickel ore from around the world; New Caledonia, Australia. His investments in nickel lasted until the end. He died in 1909.

Meanwhile Charles Doble, the Nickel Mine's only manager, became somewhat of a celebrity. Not needing to work after the mine closed in 1893 he went on a presentation tour. As far away as Philadelphia traveled, giving extensive lectures of what happened at the Lancaster County mine and telling all what a great thing it was to be a part of it.



--Christopher L. Haefner

NATHANIEL BURT PAPERS

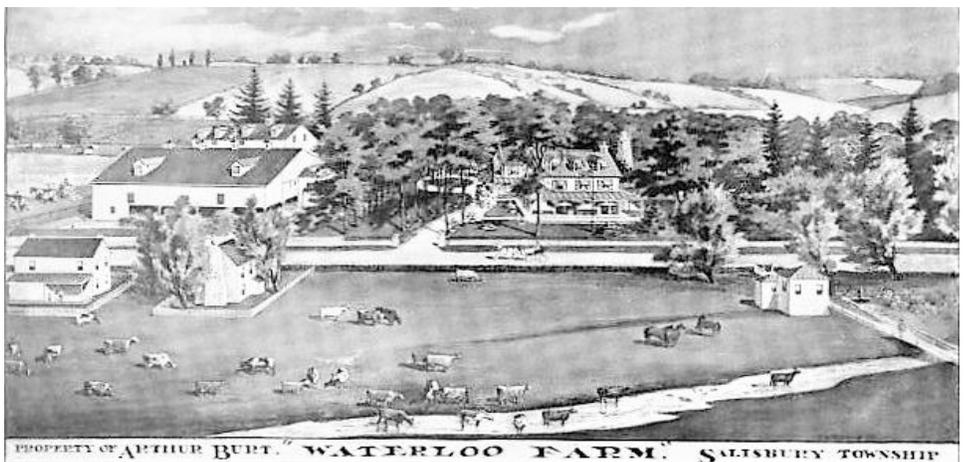
The Historical Society of Salisbury Township was given a rare opportunity to obtain letters and documents and photos of one of the leading families that chose to reside in our township in the mid-1800s. Located in the middle of our township was the "Waterloo Farm," the home place of the Burts for a good part of the 19th & 20th century. We are afforded glimpses of Philadelphia life, early train travel, genteel farm life, the hazards of owning real estate and a peek at slavery.



The job of translating the cursive script of that period was a challenge and also a joy. Living history in our hands allowed for many hours of trying to decipher the intent of the writer. The hardest writing to decipher was Thaddeus Stevens, whose scrawl is well known. With the help of the Lancaster County Historical Society staff, his three letters written to Nathaniel Burt were finally put into readable form.

Not all of the letters were translated but those that were have been given their own place among the Archives of the Society.
-- Herb Fisher, Society member

** On March 21, 2019 at our monthly meeting, Herb will be doing a presentation on the "Nathaniel Burt Papers." Please join us to learn more about Nathaniel and Waterloo Farm.



SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF OLD SCHOOLS of Salisbury Township

Work proceeds on the one-room school book, tentatively titled Now I Know My ABC's, One-room Schools of Salisbury Township. Each former Salisbury Township public one-room school will have a chapter of its own. Information on one of the schools has, as yet, eluded the author: the Salisbury school which briefly educated the children of Slaymakertown, the little settlement surrounding White Chimneys, west to Kinzers. There is a little house on the north side of Lincoln Highway, near Roamers' Retreat, that looks like a former school, and an 1824 map shows it on the north side of the road, west of White Chimneys. Any tidbit YOU may have would be most helpful.

The State provided schools for the Civil War soldiers' orphans, furnishing food, clothing, instruction, and care until the age of sixteen. Names of those who were determined to be orphans within the township from 1867 to 1871 were found in James Laughery Paul's 1876 book, "Pennsylvania's Soldiers' Orphan Schools." In addition to the names, it includes birth dates, placement dates and the name of the school to which they were sent. Further research is needed to learn about the school provisions of that long-ago day. Jacob, Isaac, Joseph and Mary Buzzard, George and Catherine Gordon, Mary E. Layley, William and Isaac Means, Hiram Nocho and Howard Rogers are the names from Salisbury Township. When Hiram was aged out of Bridgewater, a colored orphan school in Bucks county, he went on to Normal school. Mary Buzzard attended "Lancaster Home" and did housekeeping.

Any information our readers might have of those who were considered eligible would be quite interesting and we welcome your input on any of the students, teachers or the school conditions which they experienced.

BUYERSTOWN SCHOOL

As the Historical Society's book on the former one-room public schools of the township progresses, the pace of progress also continues. The old 1880 Buyerstown school, for years a private residence, succumbed to the ages and was razed this past summer. As you drive by the corner of Amish Road and Route 772 you now find a newly built private home. All that remains of the old building is a muddy outline of what had been there. The Buyerstown school closed in 1926 and students then went to Gap Consolidated school.



Photo at right: Buyerstown school >>>



Those whose ancestors entered that old building when it was a school can thank Rachael King for her 2016 book of memories that includes stories of the former school as well as of many families in the area. To order [Buyerstown, Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, PA](#) by Rachel King, edited by Anna Groff, you may get in touch with Rachael King, 5133 Amish Road, Kinzers, PA 17535 or call 717-442-4041.

<<< Photo at left: Clock from the Buyerstown school

A SALISBURY TOWNSHIP INVENTOR

William Chester Ruth – Inventor and Entrepreneur was born July 19, 1882, in Ercildoun, PA. He was the 9th of 12 children born to Samuel Ruth, a freed slave and Louisa Pinn Ruth, a freewoman.

As a child, he was very inquisitive with a need to understand how anything mechanical worked. He spent endless hours 'tinkering'. In 1894, at the age of 12, he began to learn the blacksmith trade, perfected it, and in 1923 opened his own blacksmith shop in the village of Gap, PA. There in the midst of the farming community, he observed that many tasks were very laborious. He diligently worked and was successful in inventing devices to automate and create a safer work environment.



Photo above: William Chester Ruth

On October 18 at our monthly meeting program, Gwen Dickinson, his granddaughter, will explore his life and tell of his many inventions, some of which gained world-wide use in the 20th century.

VETERANS DAY – HONORING ALL VETERANS

Veterans Day is a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.” Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938.

Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.



VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Have you wondered what happened to the officers who have served your Society for the past 18 years?

The Historical Society of Salisbury Township was initially formed of those who helped Joan Lorenz in her search for the book, *History of Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, PA*, printed in 2002. They realized that much of the old life in the Township was disappearing and recognized a strong desire in the community to form a more permanent way to preserve what remained.

Several of those founding members have retired from active volunteering but continue to have a devoted interest in the preservation of this township's rich history.

Anna Skiles, the first president, 2000-2002, and her husband still keep watch over the many artifacts we have collected. Anna also served as Secretary to the organization both in 2006-2007 and 2010-2011. She was always on hand for the annual Gala and served in various positions for the annual tour. Though Anna takes a back seat now she continues to attend the monthly member meetings.

Doris Wambold, the first Vice President, 2000-2003, also served in 2003-2004 as President. Her talks on the Outhouses of the area are well remembered. For 17 years Doris was always the first to volunteer, whether for the annual GALA preparation or hosting at Society events. With all this, she also co-chaired the Archive Committee with Anna Groff. Doris and her husband, Herb recently moved to Brethren Village in Lititz.

Bob Lorenz and Janet Crosson, early officers, have both passed away. Their service in forming the by-laws and mission statement stabilized the Society; their guidance as we grew were invaluable to the organization.

Wayne Thomas, Vice-president from 2010 to 2012, has also passed away. His help with the first Balloon Festival helped make that a huge success.

Another founding officer, Lois Schrock, always first with ideas for generating interest in the Society, has taken a hiatus after the recent passing of her husband.

Anna Groff was Treasurer off and on for several years, moving on to become co-chair of the Archive committee with Doris Wambold. Anna Mast has stepped into Doris' position.

When Robert Shivery became President from 2007-2009, after two years as vice-president, he took us to the next level when we became incorporated, earning our non-profit status.

Early on, Paul Herr became the chair of the Museum Committee and served for more than 12 years. He negotiated for years with Amtrak to preserve the only station on the Philadelphia-Harrisburg line to be built in the Queen Anne style. Thanks to his dedication to that end, we have artifacts from the old Gap Freight Station, now demolished. Amtrak also published a history of the Gap Station for us. From 2012, when we acquired the Kennedy Tenant house at the corner of Route 30 and Newport Avenue, Paul worked in earnest to find a way to turn it into a place we could call home. Unfortunately, by the time the Gap by-pass and the new side road with its drainage field were completed there was not enough land to accommodate the required parking. Paul negotiated a sale that added much to our Museum Fund. He resigned as Museum Chair this year and has moved to Garden Spot Village in New Holland. He remains an at-large member of the Board.

Many other Founding members are still working to ensure the Society pursues the same goals as those other early officers. Today new, younger members, who have the same goals, are guiding us toward our 20th anniversary.

SELDOMRIDGE FARM SOLD

After being in the Seldomridge family for more than 150 years, the 133-acre farm on Seldomridge Road was sold at auction on September 7, 2018. Neighbors and others gathered to peruse and bid on old farm equipment and generations of family treasures. Memories of long-ago times found willing listeners as friends took time from the auction to reminisce with owners, Linda and Fred. The couple moved to Garden Spot several months ago, and are beginning to adjust to a life completely different from farm management.

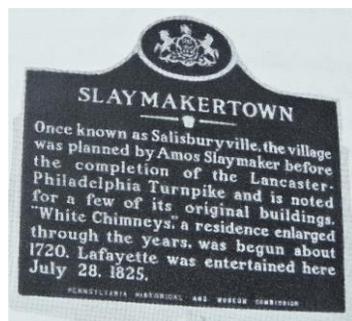
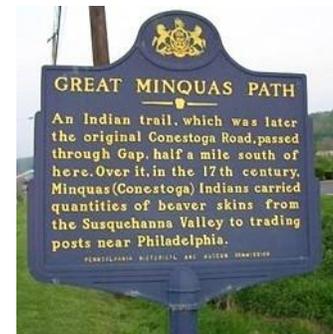


PA HISTORICAL MARKERS WITHIN SALISBURY TOWNSHIP

Historical markers capture the memory of people, places, events, and innovations that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians over the centuries since William Penn founded his Commonwealth. More than 2,000 cast aluminum markers tell the important and interesting stories that are part of the history of Pennsylvania. Three historical markers were originally within Salisbury Township, one of which has gone missing. They are listed below, in order of their dedication date.

The Great Minquas Path marker was dedicated on Thursday, August 23, 1951. It is located on the south side of Lincoln Highway just east of Route 41, near the present-day McDonald's.

"Great Minquas Path" ~ An Indian trail, which was later the original Conestoga Road, passed through Gap, half a mile south of here. Over it, in the 17th century, Minquas (Conestoga) Indians carried quantities of beaver skins from the Susquehanna Valley to trading posts near Philadelphia."

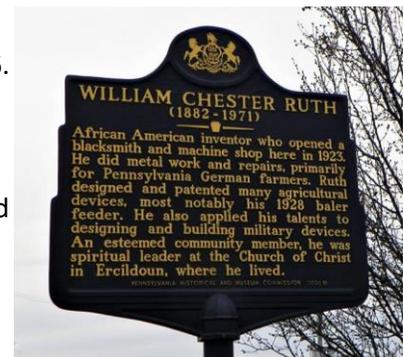


The Slaymakertown marker was dedicated on Wednesday, August 21, 1968 and has since gone missing. Its location was in front of "White Chimneys" on the north side of Lincoln Highway, just west of Gap.

"Slaymakertown" ~ Once known as Salisburyville, the village was planned by Amos Slaymaker before the completion of the Lancaster-Philadelphia Turnpike and is noted for a few of its original buildings. "White Chimneys," a residence enlarged through the years, was begun about 1720. Lafayette was entertained here July 28, 1825."

William Chester Ruth's marker was dedicated on Monday, October 02, 2006. It is located on the north side of Lincoln Highway just east of Route 41, in front of the present-day Dollar General store.

"William Chester Ruth (1882-1971)" ~ African American inventor who opened a blacksmith and machine shop here in 1923. He did metal work and repairs, primarily for Pennsylvania German farmers. Ruth designed and patented many agricultural devices, most notably his 1928 baler feeder. He also applied his talents to designing and building military devices. An esteemed community member, he was spiritual leader at the Church of Christ in Ercildoun, where he lived."



***If you have any photographs of the original Slaymakertown historical marker, please contact us. Thank you!**

SOCIETY MEMBERS DEVELOP PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

The Society is fortunate to have a few members whose interest in history has led them to develop regular programs which they present to interested groups around the county.

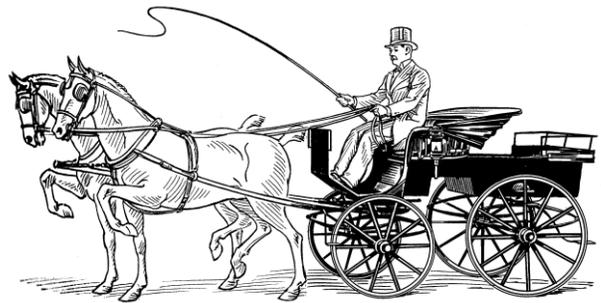
Brett Snyder from Gap, and our Vice President, is still enlarging his talk on the WWII volunteers who day and night searched the skies for possible enemy invasion. The number of people in this area who endured deep cold and high heat amazes today's listeners. Brett's list of stations in Lancaster and Chester county keeps growing as he takes his program to young and old alike.

Member Herb Fisher from Paradise, who shared his knowledge of the Conestoga Traction Company with our Society last year, has developed this into a full speaking schedule extending into 2019.

Member Gerry Treadway from Parkesburg often speaks to groups about the history of Uncle Sam, and enjoys sharing his considerable knowledge about the history of glass bottles. He also enjoys speaking on the Parkesburg Iron Works, once a principle employer of the Gap-Parkesburg area.

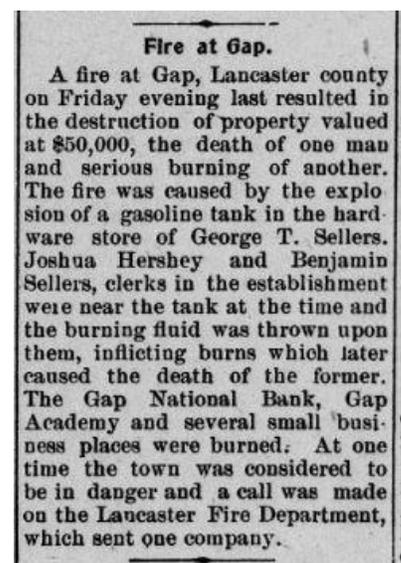
AMOS SLAYMAKER'S WHITE STEEDS

In the early 1820s, gossip about the valley had it that Amos [Slaymaker] had bought two white horses for his four-wheel phaeton. It was said that he dearly loved white horses and always had them for his stages. Shortly after being delivered, they were stolen. Anxious to drive in the new phaeton, he quickly bought two more and made do with black when white horses weren't available. On his first ride he was caught in a thundershower. In shocked disbelief Amos watched the trotting steeds turn white under the lashing of relentless raindrops.



The horses were his white ones, painted black and fenced back to him. Amos immediately became a member of the Lancaster County Horse Thief Detection Association, the organization that eventually laid low the thief. He was tracked down and shot to death in the Welsh Mountains.

– Excerpt from “Captives’ Mansion” by S.R. Slaymaker II, 1973



November 25, 1904
Midland Journal, Rising Sun, MD

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SALISBURY TOWNSHIP PUBLICATIONS AND ITEMS 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 Township by Anna Skiles - \$4.00
White Horse Revisited by Dale Frankhouser - \$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
Lancaster County Post Card Collection, Vol. 2 by the Lancaster Post Card Club - \$20.00
WWII Honor Roll Poster, Servicemen of Gap – Original 1946 poster (not a reprint) - \$25
"Buyerstown - Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania" by Rachel King, edited by Anna Groff -
**** To purchase, contact Mrs. Rachael King, 5133 Amish Road, Kinzers, PA 17535 or call 717-442-4041 to leave a message with your name and phone number.**
The 'gap' becomes Gap; The influence of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Gap, PA by Tiegan C. Lewis and John R. Bowie - \$10.00 **** To purchase this booklet, contact Paul Herr @ 717-442-8118**
Ezra Stoltzfus (1867 - 1944), Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, compiled by Leonard and Anna Groff - \$15.00 **** To purchase, contact Leonard Groff at lengroff@gmail.com or call 717-355-0454**

— **Unless otherwise noted**, these may be ordered by calling 717-442-4071 or emailing 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.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY SINCE FALL 2017

Bellevue Presbyterian Church – various papers related to church activities
Chuck & Elaine Chalfant – “Bank of Gifts” wooden advertising sign
Family of Arthur Burt, Emma Jane Denlinger, Brenda Woolard Henry, Lois McKillips, Bill Rutter, Doris Wambold, Alicelynne Watson, Paul Herr, Deen McKillips, Leona Baker, Linda and Fred Seldomridge, Dorothy Sheaffer and Jean Foulk Zeller – each donated wonderful photos & memorabilia of Salisbury Township from early to mid-20th century with several aerial views
Herb & Jackie Fisher – CD of Conestoga Trolley member meeting presentation
Arthur D. Hershey, Linnea Raffael, Rodney Spotts, Bill Spotts, Ben Stoltzfus and Kathryn Trotta-Givler – each donated early 20th century Salisbury township school memorabilia
William M. Spotts – WW1 Uniform – coat, leggings, shirts, money belt and 2 photos
Leona Baker – album with Lancaster County news articles; binder of news articles chronicling the conflict between the Pennsylvania State Board of Education and Amish leaders re: mandatory school attendance in the 1950's

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 - 4:00 p.m.



CORPORATE SPONSORS



845 Houston Run Drive, Gap, PA 17527
P.O. Box 56, Gap, PA 17527 717-442-3030
717-442-0559



5117 Lincoln Hwy, Gap, PA 17527 –
717-442-1037
jessica@whitechimneys.com

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.

*** 2018 MONTHLY MEETINGS * All monthly meetings begin at 7 p.m. ***

OCTOBER 18 – William Chester Ruth, Salisbury Township Inventor. Speaker Gwen Dickinson. African American inventor who opened a blacksmith and machine shop in Gap in 1923. Ruth designed and patented many agricultural devices, most notably his 1928 baler feeder.

NOVEMBER 15: Historic Barns of Southeastern PA - Presenter Greg Huber. Sharing his passion for the historic barns in our area.

DECEMBER 20 – Member Christmas Dinner – 6:30 p.m. White Horse Fire Hall

**** 2019 MEETINGS ****

JANUARY 17 – Show & Tell

FEBRUARY 21 – Downingtown to Lancaster Rail Line, known as “the Dark and Lonely.” Speaker M. Hoffman. The D&L was a short rail line with a long-involved history, transporting local citizens and freight during the mid-1800's through the 20th century.

MARCH 21 – “Nathaniel Burt Papers.” Speaker Herb Fisher. Important and well known 19th century Salisbury Township resident.

APRIL 18 – “A Trip Back to the World of Tomorrow: The 1939/1940 New York World’s Fair.” Speaker Brett Snyder. The 80th anniversary of the New York World’s Fair. Bring along your souvenirs!

MAY 16 – “History of Uncle Sam.” Speaker Gerry Treadway. The surprising beginnings of one of our most recognized national symbols. Meet Uncle Sam in person!

JUNE – Annual member picnic

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

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE: www.salisburytwphistory.org AND  US ON FACEBOOK!

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

The Historical Society of Salisbury Township - 2018 Annual Membership Dues

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE PER PERSON WITH EXCEPTION OF FAMILY AND BUSINESS LEVEL MEMBERSHIPS

Adult: _____ \$10.00 (per person)	Friend: _____ \$35.00
Student: _____ \$5.00	Special Friend: _____ \$60.00
Family:* _____ \$25.00	Angel: _____ \$110.00
Business: _____ \$30.00	

*Family Membership = 2 adults & 2 or more children ages 12 and under, in the same household

Gift memberships are available, just the thing for that 'hard to buy for' person.

Make checks payable to: **THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SALISBURY TOWNSHIP**

Mail to: **PO Box 173, Gap, PA 17527-0248, Attn: HSST Membership Chair**

Note: Membership cards will not be sent