



103 South 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-524-8666
info@unioncopahistory.com

Exploring Union County's history to inform the present and future.

Union County Historical Society Newsletter

January 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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Welcome New Members

John Coukart, New Berlin
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New Life Members

Daniel Hyde, Lewisburg
Bernadine Richard, Lewisburg
Ann Brouse, Horseheads, NY
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We appreciate donations from

Tim Bittner, Lewisburg
Ann Brouse, Horseheads, NY
Lois Dale, Delaware, OH
Ben Foster, Wallingford, CT
Lois Huffines, Lewisburg
Daniel Hyde, Lewisburg
Mary Lou Kiefer, Lewisburg in
memory of William Haas
Louise Knight, Lewisburg
Sharon McCarty, China Grive, NC
in memory of William Haas
Maryellen Paulhamus, Lewisburg
Bernadine Richard, Lewisburg

Dear Society Members and Friends,

How do we define an "essential service"?

We know healthy communities support hospitals and fire and ambulance companies that perform life-saving services,

Schools, museums, and art galleries are just as invaluable, performing what we could best call *life-affirming* services. They feature contemporary artistic expressions, they showcase items crafted by hands and minds long since gone, and they transmit stories from our collective present and past.

We are the sum of those stories. By hearing them, we learn how to question our perceptions, thus strengthening our democracy. This, in turn, allows us to shape the future and transform our shared sense of community.

Your new Gallery offers unparalleled opportunities to tap into its potential and demonstrate the power of collaboration. The Susquehanna Valley Spinners and Weavers Guild's Holiday Sale at the Gallery in December is a perfect example of cooperation among diverse community groups. In addition to the Lewisburg Arts Council renting space to exhibit various programs, we have the Photography Club and the Sunrise Rotary Club using the facilities for meetings.

We anticipate 2025's exciting line-up of program and exhibits. Once we obtain new glass cases to ensure the security of displayed items, members of both our Archives & Collections and Outreach Committees will plan how to exhibit and interpret pieces from the UCHS Collections.

Everyone connected with this organization is united by a passion for the past. When we fulfill our educational mission and provide our varied services, your historical society achieves meaning and relevance.

So, please consider giving us your ongoing support.

Thank you!



Bruce

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THANK YOU

The Society is pleased to report that the Capital Campaign for improvements at the Museum and Gallery is progressing favorably. Since the campaign was launched in November 2023, we have raised nearly \$68,000 toward our goal of \$200,000.

We thank those individuals who have generously donated or pledged donations to the fund.

Dorothy McCulloch Trust
Helene & Vince Basile
Linda Bollinger
Tom & Lois Clark
Nada & David Warren Gray
Lois Huffines
Louise Knight
Kathryn Irwin Lentz
Attorney Andrew Lyons
Craig Miller
Maryellen Paulhamus
Robert & Susan Rapp
Bernadine Richard
Barbara Ritchey
Bruce & Michelle Teeple
Marc Thayer, Meixell-Diehl
Jeanne & Ken Hafer Family Fund
Wendy Wehr in memory of Karl & Hertha Wehr
Elsbeth Steffensen in memory of Richard Steffensen
Dan & Mary Jane Hyde in memory of mother, Mary Hyde
Deborah K. Holmes Family Foundation (Van Gosse) in memory of the Ruhls
and several anonymous donors.



Photo by Dan Hyde

Join the Capital Campaign – Matt Wagner

As we enter the second year of our capital campaign, the Historical Society invites individuals and businesses who wish to support the organization's mission to donate toward the fund for the new Union County Museum and Gallery at N. Water and Market Street, Lewisburg.

The complex was purchased to create a museum for all of Union County, including meeting space for UCHS programs and community groups, and to provide secure storage for the society's archives. In addition to providing exhibit areas for the society's collection, UCHS has partnered with the Lewisburg Arts Council to create gallery space for art exhibits and programs.

Significant renovations have been made at the N. Water Street property including an ADA-compliant restroom. Future projects include a handicap access ramp, upgrades to the HVAC system, and roof repairs. Long-term plans include the restoration of the Market Street building as the primary museum and exhibition space, with an endowment for future operating expenses.

Contributions to the capital campaign are tax-deductible. Questions can be directed to the UCHS office at (570) 524-8666, or emailed to info@unioncopahistory.com.

We are grateful for the support of our members and the community.

The Dale-Engle-Walker House and The Union County Gallery

Need a site for a special event, meeting, or photo shoot?



Photos by Mike Molesevich



The Dale-Engle-Walker property on Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg is available for reunions, weddings, and family photo sessions, and the house can be reserved for organizational meetings.

The c. 1793 limestone house – built by Ulster Scot immigrant Samuel Dale – and the surrounding farmland cultivated over the years by the Dales, tenant farmers, the Engles, and the Walkers – provides a unique setting for outdoor events and indoor meetings.



Photos by Dan Hyde and Mike Molesevich

The Gallery Courtyard at N. Water Street, Lewisburg can be reserved for small group meetings and events, weddings, and photo sessions.

The c. 1850s brick building on N. Water, once serving as apartments and then the annex to the Packwood House, now provides space for programs and exhibits for the historical society and others. The c. 1790s three-story building on Market Street, once a tavern, hotel, private residence, and museum, will be restored to become the Union County Museum. The buildings provide a beautiful backdrop to the courtyard.

For fees and scheduling, contact the UCHS at 570-523-8666 or info@unioncopahistory.com

Need a presentation for your group, class, organization?

The historical society offers programs on a variety of topics including Native Americans, African Americans, German and Amish culture, early Pennsylvania history, the development of local towns (using Sanborn maps), the Civil War, WWI, railroads, and more.

Contact the UCHS Office at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncopahistory.com

Archives and Collections Report by Tony Shively

The Archives and Collections Committee of the Union County Historical Society fosters the collection of Union County manuscripts, ephemera, local advertising, and decorative arts through gift and purchase. Gifts and donations to the collection of material held by the society help to support our mission of enhancing the appreciation and visibility of Union County history.

We thank the following for donations and gifts accepted by the Archives Committee:

Glenda Sheaffer of Mifflinburg for donating a large ceiling light that was once used at one of the railroad stations in Lewisburg.

Helene and Vincent Basile of Lewisburg for donating two frisbees with advertising for The Purity Candy Company of Lewisburg and Clyde Peeling's Reptiland in Allenwood.

Union County Sheriff Ernest Ritter of Lewisburg for donating a large bolt cutter that was found inside the vault at the old county jailhouse inside the Union County Courthouse.

John Shedlock of Millmont for donating a large photograph of a wintertime view of Rooke Chapel on the campus of Bucknell University by Irvin Hoover; and an illustrated memoir of World War I.

Linda Poulton of the Muncy Historical Society for donating a cow bell with advertising for "Ban the Burner" used during the community effort to stop the construction of the waste incinerator by Union Pacific north of Allenwood.

The Northumberland County Historical Society in Sunbury for donating Excel spreadsheets containing information extracted from Robert Irwin's Store ledgers between 1790 and 1812.

Mike Molesevich of Lewisburg for donating a framed color photograph of Lewisburg Police Chief Donald L. Heiter; and a small color photograph of Mayor Lewis L. Hendricks Jr. and his wife Jeanne accepting an award from Lewisburg Police Chief Donald L. Heiter and Lewisburg Borough Council Member, Mike Molesevich.

Phyllis Dyer of Winfield for donating two Purity candy boxes; Verna's Fabric calendar from 2024; Evangelical Hospital booklet; UCHS postcard size mail piece; laminated pages from a "Welcome to Pennsylvania House" booklet; Union County Voters Guides and Fun Fact brochures from 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021; Playworld catalogue from 2006; small bag advertising Herman and Leiser Dry Goods and Notions Store in Lewisburg; Lewisburg Festival of the Arts booklet from 1987; booklet from the Lewisburg Council of the Arts – 1987 Art Exhibit; *Standard Journal* insert pertaining to the Lewisburg Arts Festival from 2003; brochure from the 2023 Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg; political handbills from Mark Bieber, Todd Wright, Dave Jacobson, and Dan Greak (all running for Union Township Supervisor); newspaper articles pertaining to the Packwood House Museum being purchased by the Union County Historical Society, Bechtel's Restaurant, and the history of the Lewisburg Cross-cut Canal.

David Mensch of Lewisburg for donating two envelopes addressed to G. W. Goodman, Esquire of Lewisburg (George Woods Goodman) that were mailed to him from his brother in Colorado. The envelopes were postmarked Leadville, Colorado in 1898.

Linda Godfrey of Winfield for donating bound volumes (Vol. 1 through Vol. 13) containing copies of newspaper clippings and other materials (in chronological order) connected to the "Ban the Burner" effort in Gregg Township from July 19, 1990, through July 17, 1994.

Peggy Bouton of Lewisburg for donating a framed crewelwork made in 1980 by Ruth Warner Bouton (1911-1983).

Archives and Collections Report continued

Leigh Gruber of Annapolis, MD for donating a large cabinet photograph of the home owned by Rev. George R. Bliss (1816-1893), located at 63 University Avenue, Lewisburg.

Diane Valentine of Millmont for donating three large school photographs from 1908 and 1923 that were taken at the Lewis Township High School, the Pike School, and the Vicksburg School.

Annette Koppenhaver of Mifflinburg for donating a hand-forged wrought iron potato fork that was pre-severed and restored through the efforts of retired PennDOT employee, **Chipper Hommel**, also of Mifflinburg.

Dr. & Mrs. John Albright of Lewisburg a handcrafted child's cradle made from solid cherry wood along with the supporting documentation.

Dave Gutelius of Mifflinburg for donating a scrapbook compiled and maintained by Calvin W. Gutelius of Northumberland, PA that includes correspondence and other ephemera connected to Eleanor (Lescher) Gutelius; a booklet entitled "Northumberland – The story of an Old Town, 1829-1929" published by the Susquehanna Press in 1929; a small booklet entitled "History of the Gutelius Family – Descendants of Adam Frederick Gutelius" compiled by William Buckles Gutelius, 1916; and a printed pamphlet "Memorial Tribute to Moses A. Foltz" published in 1915.

Beverly Bone of Mechanicsburg, PA for donating the book about the Buffalo Valley Telephone Company 1904-1974 written by G. Howard Klingman.

Brenda Price of Riverside, PA for donating a land grant deed from Robert Lyon to William Cameron, which bears the signature of President James Buchanan.

Greg Meyer of Lebanon, PA for donating Arthur Dunkle's diploma from Lewisburg High School Class of 1931; brochures advertising Angels on the Tree Tops; a calendar from 1933 with advertising for Herman & Leiser; a three ring binder containing 216 carte-de-visite photographs from photographers across Pennsylvania and around the country, as well as several foreign photo studios; a photograph album containing 48 carte-de-visites from local photographers; a vintage oval photograph; and a tintype photograph.

Mark Jones of Kingston, PA for donating a 1960s era brochure pertaining to the Pennsylvania House division of General Interiors Corporation which includes numerous photographs of the assembly of the case goods and upholstery furniture operations at the two Lewisburg facilities.

Julie Schedin of York, PA for donating information and photographs pertaining to the Klopp/Clapp Cemetery located in White Deer Township.

Tony Shively of Millmont for donating over seven hundred items including photographs and real photo postcards pertaining to the West End of the county, school related material, trade cards, books and booklets, political memorabilia, letterheads, Union County issued hunting license, business cards, and more.

Elsbeth Steffenson of Lewisburg for her financial contribution to the society as well as an archival quilt storage box for use by the archives committee.

Marcos Colon of Lewisburg for donating an HP laptop computer for use by members of the Archives Committee.

Mike Molesevich of Lewisburg for donating a Sharp AR-1685 copier/printer/scanner/fax for use by the Archives Committee, and a Dell Laser Printer.

Questions about making a donation to the society's collection?
Contact the UCHS office at 570-524-8666 or info@unioncopahistory.com

A Dale-Engle-Walker House Dual Tour by Bill Brobst

On Wednesday, November 13, I led scouts Laila and Apollo on a driving tour of Lewisburg, featuring a wide variety of architectural styles – a required component for the completion of their Architecture Merit Badge. We began the session with a visit to The Dale-Engle-Walker House where I was able to combine lessons in building styles, local history, materials and construction techniques, geology, and a range of environmental considerations.



Photo by Scout leader Jo-Annie Muñoz

We had just arrived when a delightful couple, Dr. Patricia Dailey and Josh Cooperman, from Hillsborough, California, serendipitously appeared on the scene and asked if they might join in on the tour. Patsy explained that they were in the area for several days to do some genealogical investigation on her ancestor, Samuel Dale, in pursuit of her DAR recognition.

You can only imagine my delight in being able to host this ‘dual event’! Later that afternoon, we arranged for me to give them a much more in-depth tour the next day. As luck would have it,

on that Thursday morning, Bruce Teeple showed up, and we were able to share a wonderfully informative experience with someone whom we believe to be the most direct descendant of Samuel Dale that either Bruce or I have met in our conduct of tours at The Dale House. Patsy is actually the fifth great granddaughter of Mr. Dale on her mother’s side; thus giving her claim to both her patriot AND immigrant ancestor!

A truly rewarding meeting for all of us, and Patsy & Josh have now become valued Life Members of The Union County Historical Society.



RESEARCH LIBRARY and OFFICE

103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA ~ info@unioncopahistory.com ~ 570-524-8666

Research services: The society has an extensive collection of reference material and family histories, and easy access to probate and land records. Those not able to visit may send research questions to info@unioncopahistory.com. Fees for services:

- General genealogical search (one family): \$60 includes probate files and deeds, marriage and death data, tombstone listings, and family histories – as available;
- Copy of specific will, letters of administration, deed: per page fee; minimum \$10.
- Obituary search and copy (please provide year and approximate month of death) – \$5/person.
- Property deed searches are negotiated on an individual basis. Please inquire.

Donations of Union County family histories, paper or digital files, and photos of (identified) people, events, and places in Union County are welcome for the library and archives.

Added to the Library:

Marriage Records of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mifflinburg, Rev. W. E. Hesler et al (from 1800s on); *Marriage Records and Death Records of Reformed Church, Mifflinburg* (mid 1800s-mid 1900s). Donated by Robert Stoudt of Milton.

Recent Genealogy Research

If you have information to share, please contact UCHS or the researcher (address / email below).

HATFIELD, Reuben 1831 Berks Co.-1904 Milton, PA + Eva Angeny; Ella Hatfield 1855-1934 + Elijah Dewey Waters 1835 VT-1914 CA. [Peter Hatfield will 1846; deeds; census, marriages, deaths, cemetery] Valerie Turner, 2141 Night Sky Ln., Lafayette, CO 80026; valerieturner1@mac.com

CULP, Edward c.1828-? + Elizabeth c.1839-?, Norristown, Montgomery Co., PA. [Found in Union County in 1850, Ohio in 1860, earlier and later in Philadelphia and Montgomery County, PA; referred there for further research.] Mary Capece; marycapece@icloud.com

CASSLER, Theodore O. Jan 6, 1848-Feb 23, 1922 + Fanny Reedy Cassler Sep 3, 1854 - Nov 2, 1905, Mazeppa Cemetery. Confirmed dates on tombstones. Christine Cassler Greitzu; christine.greitzu@yahoo.com

OVERMYER, George. Missing tombstones /grave sites. Andrea Stine; AndreaStine@protonmail.com. Kim Mattern is working on this research with various interested parties.

REISH, Joseph. Article with photo in the Lewisburg Union County Journal, Aug 17, 1961 [found and sent]. Andrew Reish; areishupenn@gmail.com

WEAVER, Daniel 1849-1898 or 1893, Armagh township, Milroy area, seeking cemetery record. [Not in Union Co; referred to Mifflin Co.] Zachery Boyer; zboyer96@yahoo.com

SCHOCH, George LOA 7/19/1828; orphans court 2/14/1831. Adam Smith orphans court Sep. 1830. Jean Sears, Oxford, OH; searsjl@miamioh.edu

GOTSHALL/Gottschall, Daniel + Hanna (Dunkelberger), son Philip b. Johnstown PA 1815 (Union Co town?). Family in Northumberland Co., Washington Twp area; attended Himmels Church; moved to Ohio c.1822. Note: not the Daniel Gotshall newspaper publisher in Lewisburg in 1830. Dave Kinzler; dlk40031@gmail.com

STRAW / Stroh, Nicholas, Lieut. In Rev. War, in Buffalo Valley 1775. William Straw, PO Box 684, Tilsbury, MA 02568; iseau235@aol.com

McCORD, James d.c.1803 + Katherine. Seeking death/burial info. Not in Union Co. Referred to Cumberland County, PA. Trish Dudiak; tdudiak@yahoo.com

BELL, Charles 1827 Virginia - 1912 Lewisburg, PA. Worked at Bucknell, home on St. George St., buried Lewisburg Cemetery. Dylan Brucker; jb048@bucknell.edu

SCHNEE, Henry Dec 25, 1789 - Feb 11, 1834 + Anna M. Elizabeth, Aug 26, 1791 - April 6, 1861. Seeking to prove David Schnee was son of Henry. [find no probate records or deeds for Henry or Anna. Buried New Berlin.] Nedra Brill, Portland, OR; ndbrill@comcast.net

ROUTE 15, improvement of the Winfield – Lewisburg Road aka Rt 404 (c.1939), especially passing the stadium at Bucknell, Lewisburg. Robert Schmieder, rlschmieder@yahoo.com



GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

LEADERSHIP AWARD • In recognition of innovative examples of assistance that helped communities protect and preserve the historic places that matter to them.



UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALLERY & MUSEUM (FORMER PACKWOOD HOUSE)

15 North Water Street & 12 Market Street, Lewisburg

(UNION COUNTY)

HONORING

Union County Historical Society

The sad reality is that not all history museums survive. In 2022, Lewisburg's Packwood House Museum closed, and its contents were sold at auction. Its two buildings languished on the real estate market, as buyers were put off by the size, age, condition, lack of off-street parking, and residential zoning.

Seeing part of Lewisburg history at risk, the Union County Historical Society (UCHS) stepped up to become the new owner and reimagine the role of these properties for the community. Board members with financial expertise drew up a plan, structural engineers inspected the two buildings, and, after closing, renovation planning got underway.

The strategy was to focus on improvements to the brick building and its adjoining garden space at 15 North Water Street, constructed around 1850 as townhouses. It now serves as gallery and event space, in partnership with the Lewisburg Arts Council. The National Register-listed building at 12 Market Street will begin renovations in 2025 and will eventually house the Union County Museum.

After clearing out the basement and attic of 15 North Water Street, the organization removed old carpets, located electrical and water connections, painted walls, cleaned windows, serviced heating and cooling systems, refinished hardwood floors, and cleared an overgrown garden. They developed a schedule for ongoing improvements, repairs and replacements to the physical plant.

Improvements include construction of a spacious ADA-compliant restroom and lighting upgrades to enhance the space for exhibits and programs. Future plans include HVAC upgrades and further electrical system improvements.

One UCHS board member stated, "It is better that we try and fail to purchase the Packwood property than not try at all." This was an investment in the future to preserve and protect these two buildings. The building acquisition now ensures there is enough exhibit and storage space for the UCHS' ever-growing collection of county historic photographs, documents, artifacts, and locally made items.

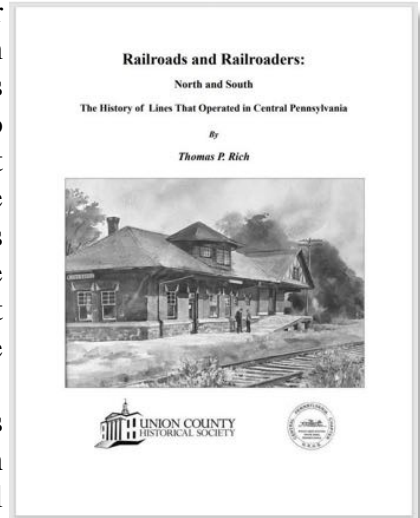
The Gallery, 15 North Water Street (left). For over a hundred years, the Union County Historical Society has promoted the history of Union County through educational programs, displays, publications, events and celebrations. In one year, the UCHS has renovated and improved the gallery building, hosting over 2,000 visitors for events and exhibits. The National Register-listed building at 12 Market Street (right) will become a museum. (Photo credits: Mike Molesevick)

Book 2 of the Railroad History of Central Pennsylvania is on the Horizon!

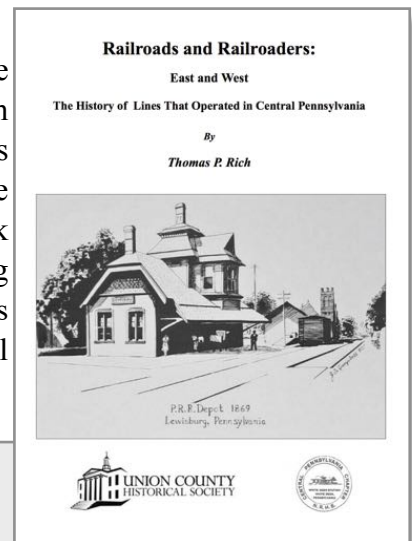
The Pennsylvania railroads running east and west (Lewisburg, Centre and Hollidaysburg; Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek; Lewisburg and Tyrone) took nearly fifty years to complete (1836 to 1885). The north and south lines (Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg; Philadelphia and Reading; Reading) were built within three years (1881 to 1883.) Why did it take so long for the east-west lines, and why were the north-south RRs built so quickly?

Railroads and Railroaders: North and South – The History of Lines That Operated in Central Pennsylvania addresses those questions. Book 2 in our series on central PA railroads is the history of the railroads in Union County that ran along the West Branch, and the connecting lines that went up to Eagles Mere, Newberry Junction and all the way to Tioga County. The book focuses on the people who designed, built and travelled the lines: the railroaders. It also provides stories of the equipment used to carry passengers and freight and the many towns that the trains passed through. Because of the unique position of the Newberry Junction, this book is one of the few histories that include all three main railroads that ran in the Eastern US: The Reading, Pennsylvania, and New York Central.

Railroads and Railroaders: North and South contains exceptional photos and descriptive text. Published by UCHS with support from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, the book will be available early 2025.



BUY NOW! Railroads and Railroaders: East and West – the story of the main railroad lines that ran east and west from Montandon to Tyrone, the logging railroads, the narrow gauge lines from Winfield to New Berlin, and White Deer to Loganton; and the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonstown trolley system. The book provides a detailed narrative with informative charts and astounding vintage photographs. If you haven't gotten your copy yet, this remarkable history of our railroads is available from the historical society office. *Stop in the UCHS office or order by mail.*



Railroads and Railroaders: East and West
The History of the Lines that Operated in Central Pennsylvania

An incredible value at \$53 for UCHS members /non-members \$60 _____
 Shipping at \$7 per book; \$2 for each additional to same address _____
 TOTAL (please make check payable to UCHS) _____

MAIL TO: Name _____
 Address _____

Send order form with check to Union County Historical Society, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837



*Historical Society Office and Library
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Membership in the Union County Historical Society supports programs, the research library, our collections, the Dale-Engle-Walker House, and the Museum and Gallery. The Union County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. Membership is tax deductible as allowed by law.

New, renewal, and gift memberships: please mail this form to:
Union County Historical Society, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ Lifetime Membership (per person) \$800
Annual Support: ___\$200 ___\$150 ___\$100 ___\$80 ___\$50 ___Student (K-12) \$10

Additional donation (specify amount) _____

Please visit www.unioncopahistory.com for events, articles, publications, resources, and more.