



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

August 2024

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024**

Bruce Teeple, President  
 Christine Sperling, VP  
 Susan Rapp, Secretary  
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 Bill Brobst  
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**Welcome New Members**

Sydney Gabel of Huntley, MT  
 Lynda Storey of Lewisburg, PA  
 Thomas Kashetta of Lewisburg, PA  
 Michael McWilliams, Sr of  
 Northumberland, PA  
 and  
**New Life Member**  
 Darlene Kiefer of Mifflinburg, PA

**Thank you  
 for calendar sponsorships**

Citizens Electric Co.  
 Mifflinburg Bank & Trust  
 Penns Creek Pottery  
 Steins Flowers & Gifts  
 Weaver's Woodcraft  
 and for

**RR publications donation**  
 Central PA Chapter NRHS

Dear Society Members and Friends,

The number of volunteers any organization has is a good way to measure its relative health. UCHS is fortunate to have such a dedicated group, and we always welcome others who want to help. The easiest way to accommodate everyone, regardless of age, is by matching their talents and interests with UCHS's needs. The variety of tasks is endless, but here are just a few.

For example, members of the Susquehanna Valley's Spinners and Weavers Guild recently volunteered to create and maintain a garden at the Dale-Engle-Walker House. This will feature traditional plants used as sources of fiber dyes.

Others enjoy maintaining the courtyard and garden at the Museum and Gallery in downtown Lewisburg.

For those who like public speaking, you may enjoy helping with our tours.

If you have some financial expertise, our Development Committee could use you.

And we certainly won't turn away anyone who'd like to create an exhibit out of their collections or transform their passions into a public program.

Every property requires periodic maintenance and upgrades, and the Dale-Engle-Walker House, your Museum, and your Gallery are no exceptions. We are currently identifying and assessing our buildings' archival and physical plant needs before we solicit funding sources.

All of us began with little or no previous experience, but we have a good time working together, learning about this region, and fulfilling our educational mission.

So, if you'd like to join us, please visit the office or the Gallery and add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet.

With all of this, it's only a matter of time before we all turn our visions for these properties and this historical society into a reality. *Bruce*



## PROGRAMS

### **Twisted: Mindful Pretzel Consumption**

Sunday, September 29, 1 PM  
The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg



Jill Marie (Sturgis) Thomas, of Lewisburg, is the author of *Twisted: Mindful Pretzel Consumption*, based on the history of America's first pretzel bakery. As the great-great granddaughter of Julius Sturgis, founder of the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery in Lititz, Pennsylvania, and as a family owner of Tom Sturgis Pretzels in Reading, she has a lot to say about pretzel baking. The central Pennsylvania area is well known as the birthplace of the modern pretzel industry and is still a hub for pretzel baking. Since the mid-1800s, the pretzel industry has been a major part of Pennsylvania economics.

This informative and fun program is loaded with appealing visuals and hands-on pretzel twisting. An author book-signing opportunity follows the program.



### **Native Americans of Central Pennsylvania**

*There are two opportunities to hear the program*

Sunday, October 20, 1 PM

Northumberland County Historical Society, 1150 N. Front St., Sunbury, PA

or

Sunday, November 17, 1 PM

The Gallery, 15 N. Water Street, Lewisburg, PA

This program by Bruce Teeple will examine the Indigenous People of the Susquehanna Valley, the reasons why events in this region occurred during the 18th century, and how "land-grab" universities such as Cornell and Penn State benefited from the dubious acquisition and disposition of Native lands by the U.S. government.

The program, at either site, is free and open to the public.

### ***Need a presentation for your group, class, organization?***

The UCHS offers programs on a variety of topics including Native Americans, African Americans, German and Amish culture, early Pennsylvania history, the development of local towns, the Civil War, WWI, railroads, and more.



### ***Need a site for photos, events, meetings?***

The Dale-Engle-Walker property is available for family photographs, reunions, and weddings, and the house can be reserved for organizational meetings.

The Gallery Courtyard at N. Front Street, Lewisburg can be used for photo sessions, weddings and small group meetings.



For fees and scheduling, please contact the Historical Society office at 570-523-8666 or [info@unioncopahistory.com](mailto:info@unioncopahistory.com)

## Dale-Engle-Walker House Tours

1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Saturday August 3 at 1 PM with Bruce Teeple

Sunday Aug 11 at 2 PM with Bill Brobst



The c.1793 limestone house was built by Ulster Scot immigrant Samuel Dale. Tours focus on the Dale family and their tenant farmers, the Engle's dairy farm, and the Walkers, as well as early Pennsylvania history and architecture.

The c.1789 Kantz Log Cabin is an example of early settlers' homes.

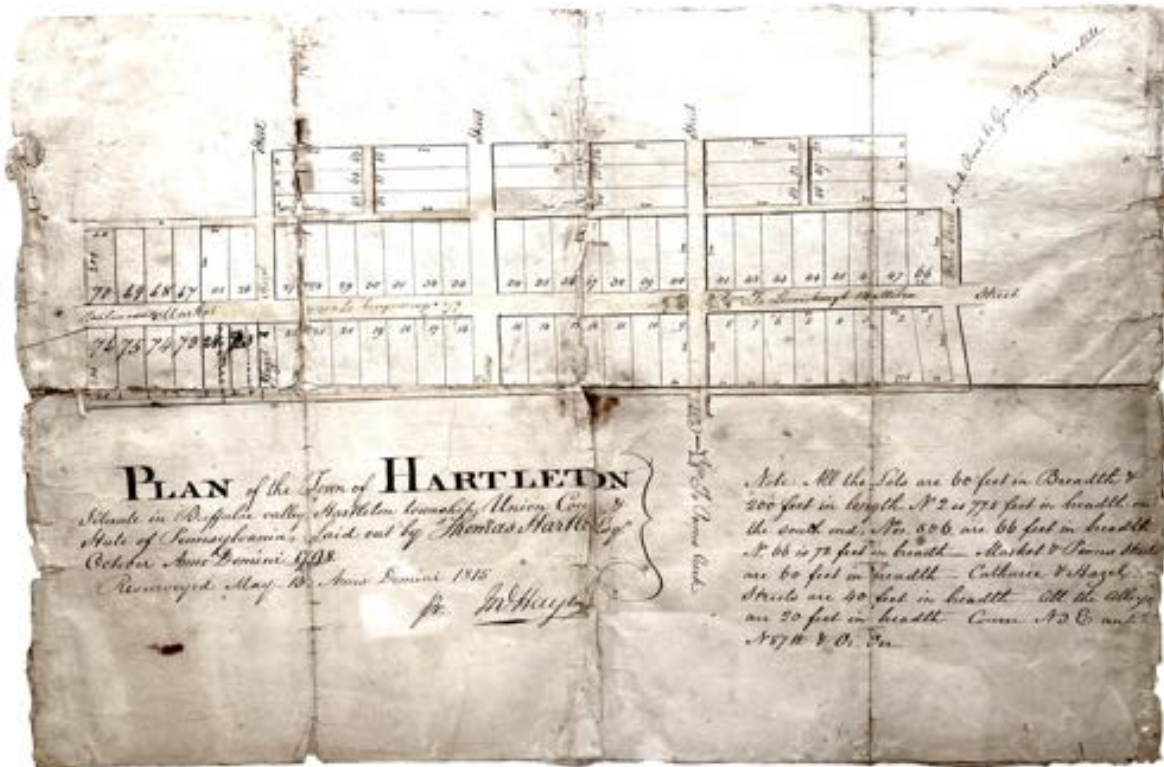
Also on site is the restored dairy shed, and a replica wagon shed displaying farm implements.

Tours are free and open to the public. Books about the property and other topics of local history are available for purchase.

Schedules of tours and programs are posted on our website [www.unioncopahistory.com](http://www.unioncopahistory.com).

## Archives and Collections

**Archives Purchase:** A framed *Hartleton Survey Map* signed by M. Hayes from May 13, 1815, showing a layout of the lots in town as well as the street names.



## 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:*

**Northumberland County Historical Society in Sunbury** for donating 42 books handcrafted by LeRoy Keefer (1886-1964): the history of West Milton (1955-1964); What to See in West Milton by LeRoy Keefer 1946; Lewisburg (1935-1964); Union Seminary; Indians in Union County; Early Schools of Union County; Union County Public Schools 1930s-1950s; School Days at West Milton 1930s-1940s; Union County History from 1941; History of Mifflinburg; D. P. Stapleton's Diary; Spott's School 1934-1935; Poems and Poets of Union County; Old Buffalo Church history; Great Men of Union County; Christina or Christian Van Dusen's Law Suit; A Romance of Buffalo Valley by Dr. Lincoln Hulley; Penns Folklore Society; Bits of Area History Vol. I & II by William G. Murdock; Stories of West Branch Valley by Katherine W. Bennett; The Indians are Coming by Dr. Lewis E. Theiss; Letters from Dr. Lewis E. Theiss; About John B. Deans; Owens Writes (articles by Dr. William G. Owens); Album of Architecture by Milton S. Osborne; Philip P. Bliss – Dr. Adam Geible & Rev. Robert Lowry; Thirty Years With Bucknell by Dr. John H. Harris; articles by Lewisburg resident Wade Earle during WWI; History of Lewisburg Churches by LeRoy Keefer. Pamphlets: Sudden death of Judge H. M. McClure, The Great Runaway by Prof. Bromley Smith, and a pamphlet on Bucknell University. Also included in this donation were deeds, indentures, and draughts from 1815, 1817, 1821, 1846, 1852, 1953, 1857, & 1898 for tracts of land in Beaver, Buffalo, Centre, Chapman, Gregg, and Union townships in Union County; ten original handwritten letters from 1855-1888; stock certificates for the Lewisburg Bridge Company from 1817; bond documents for resident of Kelly Township from 1938-1842; the final issue of the Lewisburg Saturday News from September 9, 1946; Pennsylvania Folk Festival at Bucknell University (magazine) from 1936; several papers published by Joseph Miller of New Berlin from 1827, including Union Telegraph & Pennsylvania Genius; and a three-page biography of LeRoy Keefer (1886-1964).

**Linda (Stuckey) Baum of Mifflinburg** for donating a large color aerial view of the Buffalo Valley Shopping Plaza from 1975 as well as a series of black and white photographs taken during the construction of the IGA and the plaza from the 1960s and early 1970s.

**William Criswell of Mifflinburg** for donating Gary Slear's Dale-Engle-Walker Tour Book and Acquisition Sheet.

**Joan Brubaker of Sugarloaf, PA** for donating the birth and baptism certificate of Salome (Sarah) Mühloff born November 16, 1821, in what is today Snyder County, but in 1821 was Union County.

**Elsbeth Steffenson of Lewisburg** for donating the bronze plaque erected in honor of Robert N. Parker, long-time president of the Lewisburg Chair Factory, later Pennsylvania House Furniture Company, that was at the entrance to the main manufacturing facility in Lewisburg. We are especially grateful that her husband, Richard Steffensen, was able to remove and preserve the plaque following closure of the furniture company.

**Daniel J. Russo of Mechanicsburg, PA** for donating his collection of 233 original color photographs of historic homes, businesses, as well as street scenes in the boroughs of Mifflinburg, Lewisburg, and New Berlin that were taken between 1990 and 1995.

**Natalie Preston of Royersford, PA** for donating a photograph album containing 27 carte de visite photographs from the late 1800s that were taken by Lewisburg photographers William Ginter, John F. Nice, and J. Wesley Cornelius.

**James and Brenda Ocker of Mifflinburg** for donating an original Mifflinburg Telegraph newspaper published on October 4, 1892.

**Sarajane Snyder of Mondragon Books in Lewisburg** for donating two books authored by Jeannette Lasansky and published by the Union County Oral Traditions Project: To Cut, Piece, & Solder – The Work of Rural Pennsylvania Tinsmith 1778-1908 and To Draw, Upset, and Weld – The work of the Rural Pennsylvania Blacksmith 1742-1935.

## Archives and Collections Report continued

**Isabella O'Neal of the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University in Lewisburg** for donating 24 deeds, indentures, and agreements for property in the Borough of Lewisburg between 1808 and 1928; receipts and a check from Adam Gundy dated 1867 – 1879; Historic Preservation Plan of Union County, Pennsylvania, Part II dated June 1977; booklet on the U. S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg; 24-page report “Derrstown-Lewisburg Past and Future” from 1986; booklet – A Call to Labor – Charity Lodge No. 144, Lewisburg; booklet – Shikelimo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution - The Forty Eight Yearbook – 1940/1941; booklet – “The Barretts of Wimpole Street” by Rudolph Besier; pamphlet – Third Annual Community Standard Leadership Training School from 1930; program from the Lewisburg High School 1922 – Eighth Alumni Association Banquet; Friday Flyer newsletter from Lewisburg Borough – July 1970; several panoramic views of Lewisburg; cabinet photo of Harry Weidensaul in front of his home at the corner of 3rd & Market Streets in Lewisburg; real photo postcard (RPPC) aerial view of the campus of Bucknell University c. 1960; linen postcard of the Lewisburger Hotel (interior and exterior); five RPPCs of Homecoming Parade in Lewisburg following the end of WWI (taken by Swanger); cabinet photo of the Weidensaul Bakery located next door to the Lewisburg Opera House; cabinet photo of the home located at the corner of 3rd and Market Streets in Lewisburg (site of the present day post office); VHS tape of Lewisburg Homecoming from 1980; Lewisburg Women's Club document; and Lewisburg Civic Club yearbook 1949-1950.

**Nathan Johnson, President of Citizens Electric Company of Lewisburg** for donating agreements, blueprint, plans, and maps between the electric company and the Pennsylvania Railroad, Reading Railroad, Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, West Shore Railroad, and P.P. & L. from 1914 through 1985 where their transmission lines intersected; along with a copy of the book from Citizen's Electric 100th Anniversary 1911-2020.

**The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area of Pennsylvania** for donating an invitation and name card from the Lewisburg High School graduation ceremony of 1887, which belonged to Minnie Gilby.

**Carol Nelson of West Peterborough, NH** for donating a packaged bundle of paper napkins that were made by Royal Imprints of Lewisburg and came from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Land (Polaroid Corporation) who once resided in Peterborough.

**Rudy Ritter** for donating three maps from 1980 identifying the locations of members of the Union County Old Order Mennonite community, and a map from 1964 showing the political subdivisions of Pennsylvania.

**Palmer Wright of Lewisburg** for donating a shovel (for display in the Wagon Shed at the Dale-Engle-Walker property).

**John and Nancy Showers of New Berlin** for donating a Jacob Doll & Sons baby grand piano to the society for use in the new Gallery on N. Water Street in Lewisburg.

**Larry Means of Lewisburg** for donating a Cannon CanoScan 9000F Mark II scanner, which is being used to digitize slides, negatives, and photographs.

**Michael McWilliams of Northumberland** for donating a carousel slide projector and several slide trays for use by the Archives Committee.

**Lois Huffines of Lewisburg** for donating two laptop computers for use by the Historical Society.

**Tom and Nancy Neilson of Lewisburg** for donating an HP laptop computer for use by the Archives Committee to digitize the society's extensive slide collection.

**Mike Molesevich of Lewisburg** for donating a GDB Docubind spiral binding machine along with supplies; as well as hundreds of topographical maps covering Pennsylvania.

### **Union County Quilts Display by Helene Basile**

Two signature quilts in the collection of the Union County Historical Society were recently on display (July 19-20) at the Quilt & Textile Show organized by the Muncy Historical Society and held at the First United Methodist Church in Muncy. One signature quilt was presented to Annie Fisher in 1890. The other signature quilt, from 1995, was made for the “Ban The Burner” efforts of the Organizations United For the Environment, a fundraising effort to prevent the construction of a waste incinerator near Allenwood.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY and OFFICE

Located in the county courthouse at 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA  
info@unioncopahistory.com ~ 570-524-8666  
Open: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-3 (closed noon -1)

We have 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 copying documents such as 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.

The society accepts donations of Union County family histories, paper or digital files, for the library; and photographs of (identified) people, events, and places in Union County.

### Added to family histories:

Foresman, Lupold, McCormick, and Meek families files (digital format), donated by Judy Kathryn McCormick. jxm18@psu.edu



### Added to the Library:

*Centennial History of Lewisburg*, I.H. Mauser. Donated by Deborah C. Boldry of Glastonbury, CT  
*Lewisburg Architecture Project*, Bucknell University, Sanborn Maps, Parts 1 and 2.  
*History of Mifflinburg 1792-1927* compiled by C.M. Steese, with index.

## Recent Genealogy Research

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

BENFER, Daniel of New Berlin and Snyder County. Daryl Benfer, jake1039@hotmail.com.

DEWALL, Peter Dewall d.1890 [1891 Will] and Peter Dewall d.1899 [1899 LOA]. And Kurtz, Emanuel + Mary Etta Dewall. Lycoming Co. family. Referred to Lycoming Genealogical Society. Sydney Gabel, 2056 N 4th Rd, Huntley, MT. 59037; 406-855-4236; sydney.gabel@gmail.com.

MONTGOMERY, Thomas H. 1822-1891, moved to Arkansas by 1848, served in Confederate Army, died Arkansas; children Alexander, Martha Jane. Not found in Union County: no deed; no appropriate will or letters of administration. Nancy Wyatt; wyatts26@hotmail.com.

CARWELL: check for deeds 1840-60 – not in Union County. Cemetery listings in Snyder County.  
BRITTON, Joseph: check for deeds – none. Maryann Nardone, hbnardone@gmail.com.

MILLER, Jacob D. 1835-1894 [LOA] + Sarah Salome (1), Mary Ann Blyler (2) 1840-1903. (Parents?) Michael Miller 1796-1866 [Will] + Marg't Frock 1791-1877. Also ROCKWEILER, Mary Ann 1827-1903 + John Wohlhiere 1829-1892. Joe Miller; joem108@yahoo.com

British White Cattle / White Park or English Park Cattle. Relocated (Duke of Hamilton herd) from Britain to US c. 1939, to various zoos, and to the Lewisburg Penitentiary from where a herd was sold c.1966 to Joseph Williamson, earlier some cows sold to Alfred Nerhood. Seeking more information. Dr Jeffrey Owens of Tyler TX; 903-312-5916; jowe@tjc.edu.

**UCHS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**  
Matthew C. Wagner, Capital Campaign Coordinator

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. Donors will be acknowledged in an upcoming newsletter.

With the funds that have been given, UCHS has been able to make some important improvements at the Gallery property on Water Street. Construction of a spacious ADA compliant restroom was recently completed where the old restrooms had been. Lighting upgrades have also been made to enhance the space for exhibits and programs. Future plans include HVAC upgrades and further electrical system improvements on the property.



We are hoping to begin renovations next year of the main structure on Market Street – this important 3-story historic landmark building that will house the Union County Museum.

**Join the Capital Campaign**

Individuals interested in donating toward the Capital Campaign are encouraged to contact the UCHS Office at 103 South 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA. Contact can be made by phoning 570-524-8666 or emailing [info@unioncophistory.com](mailto:info@unioncophistory.com).

We are grateful for your support!



**Book 2 of the Railroad History of the Area is on the Horizon!**

While the east and west (Lewisburg, Centre and Hollidaysburg; Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek; Lewisburg and Tyrone; Pennsylvania) Railroads took nearly fifty years to come to fruition (1836 to 1885), the north and south line (Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg; Philadelphia and Reading; Reading) was conceived, chartered and built within a three year time period (1881 to 1883.) Why did it take so long for the first, and why was the second one 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 presents 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. As the title suggests, the book has a primary focus upon the people who conceived the railroads, built them and travelled over them: 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.

The north-south railroad book is in the final editorial process; publication by UCHS with support from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society is planned for later this year or in 2025.

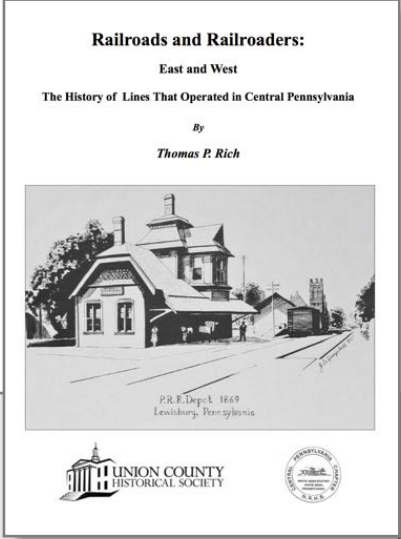
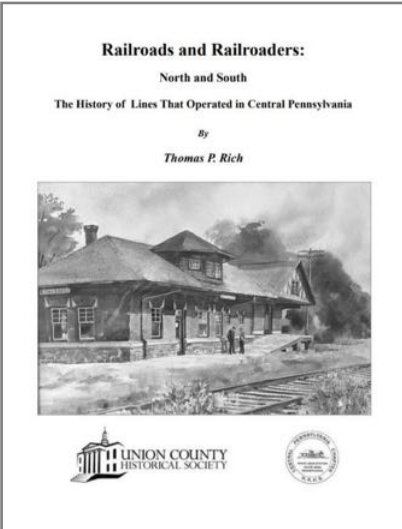
**Railroads and Railroaders: East and West –AVAILABLE NOW–** focuses on the main railroad lines that ran east and west from Montandon to Tyrone, PA, the logging railroads, the narrow gauge lines from Winfield to New Berlin, and White Deer to Loganton, PA; and the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonstown trolley 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 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 (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





## Railroad History is Alive at the Tyrone Area Historical Society



One of the major railroads to operate through Union County was the old L&T, the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad. It operated over what is now our local Rails and Trails.

As part of their outreach, the Tyrone Historical Society has posted a number of video clips of current train traffic by their station on youtube: [Train Station Live Stream | Tyrone, Pennsylvania \(youtube.com\)](#). In addition they have installed a live streaming camera to watch a view of a train roaring by. Take a look and see some impressive trains, and you can become a modern railfan! It is also a good way to introduce younger children and grandchildren to trains in action.

The history and numerous photographs of the L&T and the logging railroads that supplied their cargo is described in the UCHS book *Railroads and Railroaders: East and West*, which also covers the history of the New Berlin and Winfield Railroad, the White Deer and Loganton Railroad, the West Shore Railroad and the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsontown Trolley Railway. (See page of this newsletter for details).



### NOMINATIONS to the Union County Historical Society Board of Directors

According to UCHS bylaws, UCHS shall send ballots to members with the August newsletter so that members may vote for board candidates. Ballots are due to the UCHS office by August 30. *Vote counting will occur at the September board meeting, date and time to be announced.*

The Nominations Subcommittee recommends that **Barb Franck** of Mifflinburg, **Mike Molesevich** of Lewisburg, and **Christine Sperling** of Lewisburg be elected to continue on the UCHS board for three years 2025-2027.

**Members, you may cast your ballot via email or by mail.**

**Email Ballot** by August 30 *[copy and paste]*

To: [info@unioncophistory.com](mailto:info@unioncophistory.com)

Subject: Ballot

Text: The Nomination Committee has selected the following to serve three-year terms on the UCHS board: **Barb Franck, Mike Molesevich, and Christine Sperling**, continuing on the board.

I ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) vote \_\_\_\_\_ (“yes’ or “no’, or leave blank) on these nominations.  
your name



**Mail in ballot** by August 30 to UCHS, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837.

The Nomination Committee has selected the following to serve three-year terms on the UCHS board: **Barb Franck, Mike Molesevich, and Christine Sperling**, continuing on the board.

I ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) vote \_\_\_\_\_ (“yes’ or “no’, or leave blank) on these nominations.  
your name



*Historical Society Office and Library  
Union County Courthouse  
203 South 2nd Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837*

*Return Service Requested*

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](http://www.unioncopahistory.com) for events, articles, publications, resources, and more.