

SULPHUR SPA NEWS

P.O. Box 161
York Springs, PA
www.yosshs.org



May 2017

Next Meeting Date: **May 15, 2017**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Society Building
408 Main St., York Springs
Program: "Camp Michaux"
David Smith of the Cumberland County Historical Society will be discussing this WW II POW camp.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: **June 19, 2017**
Time: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner
Place: Y.S. Lion's Pavilion/Building
Program: This will be our family picnic. Meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish and your place settings with you. Come early, so we can be ready to eat at 6 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine.

Plan now to join your fellow members for an evening of fellowship.
Please RSVP Donna King (528-8691) by June 12 so the correct amount of meat and beverages can be purchased.

Directions: The Lion's Pavilion/Park is located just behind the Museum.

September 18, 2017

Time: **7:00 p.m. (NOTE THE EARLIER TIME)**
Place: Sunnyside Cemetery
Townhill Road, York Springs
Program: This will be the premier of the "Cemetery Tour".

Please park at the bottom of the hill and walk to the top. The tour will begin at the top and work its way down. Following the tour, we will reconvene at the museum for our regular business meeting.

Meeting Notes

- Members enjoyed sharing their historical memorabilia in February. Some articles of interest included: a bottle from the Spa, a cane carved by Frank Feather (an area hobo) with the 23rd psalm on it, old tools, a picture of the 1947-51? explosion of the Texas Eastern Pipeline, and a huge skeleton key.
- The new slate of officers was voted into office. They will serve for the next two years. Their names were posted in the last newsletter.
- 41 members and guests attended the annual meeting in March and enjoyed a most interesting presentation by the Rev. Leonard M. Gardner aka Thomas Aaron.
- We had quite a geology lesson at our April meeting with Jeri Jones. It is so nice to have our own projection system and large screen. They make our speakers very happy. Mr. Jones graciously donated a copy of his geology CD "Your Backyard Geology" to the Society. It can be loaned out for personal viewing.
- *"Hello Everyone! Here Come the Yanks". Our new WW I exhibit in honor of America's participation in WW I from April 1917 to November 1918 is now in place. Stop by the museum to view the exhibit and share you own family stories.*
- Members who prefer to receive their newsletters via e-mail need to send me an email at elainekgilbert@embarqmail.com. Thanks for sending them- it does save us on postage.
- Also, our website address is yosshs.org. Check it for updated information.

Thank you to:

- Those members who sold tickets for our "Spring Spectacular". Without your help the event would have not been a success!
- Donna King for decorating the tables for the annual meeting.
- Cathay Snyder for providing the decorations and programs for our Annual Meeting.



This year's **Memorial Day** program will be, as in the past, held on May 29th, Memorial Day, at 10 AM at Sunnyside Cemetery. In case of heavy rain, it will be held at the Fire Hall.

Since this is the 100th anniversary of America's entrance into the first World War in 1917, we will be covering that time period for the presentation called "Over there".

The presentation "Over there" will feature President Woodrow Wilson, American and French citizens, the writer of "In Flanders Fields", and an American soldier then known as a doughboy. The skit will tell the story of the Great War and America's involvement. The highlight of the service will be the honoring of America's veterans both living and deceased.

A shuttle will transport attendees to the service location at the top of Bonners Hill overlooking the beautiful Adams County countryside. For your comfort, a lawn chair should be brought to the service. Civil War and WW II Re-enactors will have displays and a USO tent will be set up for refreshments. The YS Lions and IOOF members will have WW I artifacts on display as well. Come early and enjoy the day. The Lutheran Church will be holding a Chicken B-B-Que following the service at Griest Park and YOSSHS will be open from 11:30 to 1:00 following the service.

President's Report on the State of the Society
March 2017

Tonight, I would like to take a few minutes to update you on the state of our society, its museum and archives. Our outgoing President, Donald Miller, in these past ten or so years, has grown our little society from one that held meetings at the Bank Building to one that now functions as a museum and archives, meeting in their own building, and carrying out their mission in promoting and encouraging the study of the historical and cultural aspects of Northeast Adams County. He is leaving us much stronger than we were at the beginning of this century.



Today, our society has 102 members with an average meeting attendance of 25. While there are two major repairs needed, the ceiling in the meeting room as well as a new walkway outside our main entrance, the building has been low maintenance otherwise. We have heard the Treasurer's Report. We have been fortunate in receiving several large monetary donations in 2016 as well as bringing in some income from holding our second annual Hoss's night, having a table out during the Senior Citizen's yard sale, and having a table at the Craft Fair at the Fire Company.

We continue to collect and accept donations for preservation in our archive and museum. We had several donations of manuscripts, deeds, and other paper items through the year as well as several artifacts. Recent acquisitions include a WWII pilot helmet and gas mask donated by Harrison Fair, a copy of a young Reverend Gardner from 1863 (thanks to tonight's speaker, Tom Aaron), E.E. Nell's Feed Store sign by Sarah and Charlie Gembe, to name a few. In 2016, work in the collection included: the newspaper collection was sorted and stored for easier access. All of the family files from the Ditzler Genealogy collection were brought upstairs, removed from binders, placed in archive folders and boxes and now reside in the Archives. Our collection of education materials and photos has also been organized. More importantly, the collection has been organized into major categories which has made searching for items much easier. In fact, we can now go right to a file and pull items for people when they inquire on certain topics. Currently, the major project underway is the organization of what will be an extensive obituary collection of Adams County residents. This collection includes obituaries that had been collected by the Society, those found in the Ditzler collection as well as a large collection received from a private donor. And, we spent time conducting research within our archives as well as at Adams County and York County on the Pondtown Bridge, Trostle's Quarry, and other people and events in Northeast Adams County. Speaking of the Pondtown Bridge, the Society became involved as a concerned entity, and generated some community support through letter writing, emails, and phone calls to various officials for the repairing rather than replacing of the bridge as PennDot proposed.

We continue to make more exhibit space as we prepare another room, as well as place inserts within the windows along the front of the building for more wall space. We again set up a temporary exhibit on the York Springs High School for the YSHS reunion as well as for Memorial Day and the summer months. The Society's first exhibit, "Northeast Adams County in the Civil War," became a permanent exhibit, using the walls in the hallway outside of the Society's office, and officially reopened last April along with our newest exhibit: "Merchants, Mills, & More: Business & Industry in Northeast Adams County." We also made some slight changes in the Odd Fellows exhibit thanks to a new display unit.

We also continue to reach out and communicate to the community through our weekly Wednesday Wanderings in the Archives on Facebook. We have increased the traffic on our page, now having a total of 419 likes and a faithful following. Our Facebook page was helpful this year in garnering letters of support for the Pondtown Bridge. Other ways in which we are out and about in the community included our participation in the Senior Citizens Yard Sale, the Craft Fair, and writing articles of local interest for the Latimore Township newsletter.

We increased our availability to the public as our museum and/or archives were opened to the public 88 days for a total of 262 hours in 2016. We had a total of 141 visitors to the museum in 2016 which was a 64% increase in attendance from 2015 when we had recorded a decrease. The opening of new exhibits was certainly a factor in this increase as well as we had more foot traffic for research on Wednesday nights throughout the year.

None of the work accomplished by the Society could happen without our members who volunteer to help staff the museum during our open hours, help to research and accession various collections, provide carpentry skills and assistance in setting up exhibits as well as shovel snow and take care of the museum building. The Tuesday afternoon work crew did a tremendous amount of work in 2016 which helped to complete several projects. Volunteer hours increased by 23% in 2016 as we logged 905 hours. In 2016, the cost per hour associated with volunteer work was \$23.40, so our volunteers' in-kind donation of hours amounted to \$21,177.

Our neighbors up the hill, the York Springs Lions Club, continue to support us monetarily and through helping to care for the property by mowing the grass and plowing our parking lot. We are truly grateful for their continual corporate sponsorship.

Goals for 2017 include continuing to work on accessioning the collection, building our collection, preparing for the next exhibits, exploring ways in which to help York Springs celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2018-2019, and working on more fundraising.

Before I close this evening, there is one particular person who we need to recognize for his faithful dedication and service to this Society. Serving as our President for the past ten years was not the first time that Donald Miller led this society. He served as President back in 1980 and has been an active and supportive member of this organization. When Donald took the reins of this organization again a decade ago, he had one major goal in mind—to find the Society a permanent home. This he accomplished—and so much more. Yet, this is not the only organization within this community that Don has been active in—he is a Lion, an Odd Fellow, yes, a Senior Citizen, and a faithful Meals on Wheels driver to name a few. His service has also gone beyond our community as he was quite active in the Salvation Army for many years. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we recognize Don's service not only to this Society, but for all his work within our community, by naming one of the exhibit rooms in our museum in his honor. By a unanimous vote of the Board, the exhibit room that currently displays the Odd Fellows exhibit and in the future will be devoted to cultural life in Northeast Adams County, will now be known as The Donald R. Miller Cultural Life Exhibit Room. Don, Thank-you!

Cathay Snyder

Museum Happenings

- ☞ There have been 8 visitors to the museum since the last newsletter.
- ☞ 3 research requests have been handled.
- ☞ Donna King and Jim Plank continue to work on organizing our collection of local obituaries.
- ☞ A special exhibit of York Springs High School memorabilia was opened on April 15 for members of the YSHS Alumni Association prior to their banquet.
- ☞ We will host the Bermudian Springs gifted class on May 17th. This will be our first school tour!
 - ☞ Work continues to organize and accession the holdings of the Society.
 - ☞ Members with special needs may schedule a private visit to the museum by contacting one of the officers.
- ☞ The Museum will be opened following the Memorial Day events at Sunnyside Cemetery on May 29th.

Upcoming First Sundays

**June 4- Open
2-4**

July 2-Closed

We will be closed the entire week of July 2nd.

**August 6- Open
2-4**

**September 5- Closed
Labor Day Weekend**



CORPORATE SPONSORS:

York Springs Lions

If you are interested in volunteering to help open the museum to the public, please contact Elaine Gilbert (528-4869), Cathay Snyder (766-5899) or

info@yosshs.org

We will continue to open the museum on the first Sunday of each month and on Wednesday evenings. Any time you can give to help promote your society is most welcome. No experience or great historical knowledge is required- just a love of our area.

Spring Spectacular Wrap-up

We had a spectacular time at "Nonsense"! The event allowed the Society to make 70,000 cents or \$700 profit! With all of the tickets sold, the house was full. The crowd appeared to have enjoyed the food, fellowship and laughter. Thanks to all who supported this new endeavor, especially those who sold tickets. The following email was received from the director of the Gettysburg Community Theatre:

"The cast truly LOVED having your fun group in the audience. I greatly appreciate it. Come back any time."



Ye Olde Sulphur Spa Historical Society
P.O. Box 161
York Springs, PA 17372
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Civil War Living History

Saturday, June 10, 2017

4730 Oxford Rd., York Springs, PA

Exhibits open at 2:00 pm

(Reenactors)

Portrayal of James Maclay and
Church Service

3:00 pm

No Tickets required for exhibit or service

BBQ Meal 5:00 pm

At Church of God Pavilion

4521 Oxford Rd., York Springs, PA

Meal Tickets sold in advance \$10. (Eat-in or take-out)

Email: YSUMC840@centurylink.net

All proceeds will be used to maintain and refurbish Historic Rock Chapel Church