

Greater Dover Historical Society

August 21, 2008

The regular meeting of the Greater Dover Historical Society was called to order by Vice President Kay Stitley at 7:04 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church. Members present were: Lori Koch, Jo Ott, Kay Stitley, Gayle Heagy, June Kinsey, Harry Shermeyer, Chris Coleman, Bill Coleman, Cindy Snyder, Norma Botterbusch, Ron Botterbusch, Ted Ziegler, Lucia Hrinjak, Jeff Koch, Mel Miller, Zita Smith, Grace Trimmer, and Zee Kehr. President Shermeyer was absent due to a schedule conflict.

Other guests present were Robert & Marylyn Reisinger and Jim Avery.

Vice President Stitley presented the June 2008 minutes and asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Cindy Snyder and seconded by Norma Botterbusch. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Mel Miller gave a brief update on arrangements for the WMHS trip to Muddy Run Forks on October 19. They will be carpooling and meeting at 1p.m. at the old Neiman's Mill on Route 74 (it is currently a tattoo shop). Mel also has some pamphlets on the WMHS speaker, Don Billet, for their November meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for June 2008 was presented by Vice President Stitley (Joyce Law was out of town):

Balance as of June 1, 2008	\$9,741.37
Deposits for June	356.39
Expenses for June	468.55
Balance as of June 30, 2008	\$9,629.21

There was a motion by Lucia Hrinjak to approve the June treasurer's report as presented and seconded by Harry Shermeyer. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Balance as of July 1, 2008	\$9,629.21
Deposits for July	66.40
Expenses for July	242.08
Balance as of July 31, 2008	\$9,453.53

Vice President Stitley presented treasurer's report for July 2008. There was a motion by Cindy Snyder to approve the July treasurer's report as presented and seconded by Harry Shermeyer. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Archivist Report -- Dr. Drawbaugh was absent. Assistant Archivist Gayle Heagy reported she received an old magazine/newspaper rack donated by Lois Shermeyer. Gayle stated the rack was not exactly historic but Lois thought we could use it at the Dover Fair to display some items. Gayle reported that Jo Ott brought along several items tonight and asked Jo to tell the members about these items. Jo stated she was involved with the demolition of the Smittie's Soft Pretzel shack. She brought in 2 menu boards, a sign, a quilted wall-hanging and a lot of old photos which were donated by Todd Smith. Jo also brought in over 100 photos she took of the demolition. Gayle will email Jo a donation form for her to get signed by Todd Smith.

Norma Botterbusch introduced Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reisinger who brought several books on local cemeteries to donate to the society. Mr. Reisinger stated he and his wife are retired and research genealogy at cemeteries. They have a collection of approximately 2,000 photographs of tombstones. They published 2 books, one entitled Reisinger's Tombstones in York County and another entitled Bentzel's Tombstones in York County. Maryllyn Reisinger is a member of the Bentzel family of Shiloh. The Reisingers began a project of recording all the information from each tombstone in the Shiloh Union cemetery (new section), including the tombstone maker (Baughman, Spahr). Mr. Reisinger asked if anyone knew where the Spahrs were located in Dover. He was familiar with Baughman Memorials but not Spahr. He said there are numerous Spahr tombstones in the Lenhart-Gerber cemetery. The Reisingers then proceeded to record all the tombstones in the old section of Neiman's graveyard (Shiloh Union). Their next project was the Loucks cemetery beside the old schoolhouse which is across from the West Manchester Mall. It is a very interesting cemetery where the Pfaltzgraffs are buried and the cemetery is maintained by Susquehanna Pfaltzgraff. In 1932 or 1933 when an inventory was done at this location, there were 75 tombstones; today there are only 45 according to Mr. Reisinger. All of the books provided by the Reisingers have an index to assist in searching by the person's last name. Mr. Reisinger stated that copies of these books (3 on cemeteries & 2 on church registers) have been distributed to the historical groups at Shiloh Lutheran Church, Shiloh Reform Church, Shiloh United Church of Christ and Salem United Church of Christ. The Reisingers are now donating copies of the 3 books to the GDHS. The Reisingers are in the process of recording tombstone information from the Lenhart-Gerber cemetery. Maryllyn undertook a project of transcribing the handwritten church registers for the Shiloh Congregation Reform Church near Weigelstown for the years 1883 to 1919 and 1917 to 1949. Copies of these were also donated to the GDHS by the Reisingers.

Webpage Report – Brett Pfeiger was not present at the meeting. No report.

Historian Report – Cindy Snyder did not have a report but did extend her thank you to members who provide her with the newspaper clips.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blood Root – no report.

Landscape Committee – Lucia Hrinyak reported the committee met on July 21 (Hrinyaks, Worleys, June Kinsey) to do some clean-up in the garden area. Lucia and Jo Ott visited the lily farm a week prior to pick up the lilies donated by Betty Kinney and Jo also donated 2 knock-out roses. Lucia reported that she and Michael planted the lilies and they appear to be doing well. Lucia stated the committee will schedule time to do some trimming.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Gayle Heagy reported the Board met on July 31 at her home. Gayle reported there is a program available through the county entitled the Heritage Site Program. Gayle said that Jo Ott read about this program online at PennLive.com. Gayle contacted the York County Planning Commission staff to acquire an application to submit our blacksmith shop for this program. Gayle stated she spoke to the YCPC staffer today and has not completed the preliminary application yet because she wanted to use the GDHS website as a reference; unfortunately there is too much missing data on our website and Gayle said it makes us look like we are not up to snuff. Gayle reported she has approval from the Board of Directors to submit the preliminary application. All the members present agreed it was a good idea to file the application. Lucia Hrinyak asked how this program benefits the GDHS. Gayle responded that the Heritage Site Program is a statewide program which provides a list of historic sites for tourists. Gayle explained the Lancaster-York Heritage Region (Wrightsville, Columbia, Marietta) started about 10 years ago to get all the river towns into a heritage region and market the area for tourism. (FYI – there are currently 12 heritage regions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Visit www.lyhr.org for information). If our application is approved, the blacksmith shop would appear on the list of sites distributed to tourists.

Gayle reported the Board discussed the notepad design and made a final choice.

The Board also discussed steps to revise our by-laws if the need would arise. This matter is still being researched.

A thank you letter will be sent to Bob Stitley for building the inside security door for the storage shed at the blacksmith shop.

OLD BUSINESS

Dover Firemen's Fair – Jeff Koch reported arrangements will be made shortly to gather items for the display cases and metal rack. Jeff said he plans to change his work hours during fair week so he can be there to open up each day. Vice President Stitley brought up the issue of renting 2 tables from the fire company at a cost of \$10 instead of hauling our tables down from the blacksmith shop. A motion was made by Norma Botterbusch and seconded by Zita Smith to rent 2 tables. All voted in favor and motion passed. Set-up will be scheduled for Thursday or Friday night.

GDHS picnic -- Norma Botterbusch reported good food and a good time were enjoyed by everyone in attendance, approximately 60 people. Bob Stitley donated \$50 for the hot dogs and rolls. Donations of \$120 were received, and Bill Coleman provided some musical entertainment. Joan Concilio from the Weekly Record attended and added several photos of our picnic event to her YDR blog.

Sam's Club issue – Vice President Stitley reported on a few details from the discussion at last month's meeting on a membership for Sam's Club. The fee is \$35 instead of \$30 as previously reported. In order to save any money, we would have to spend about \$600 to save \$36 to break even with the membership fee. Ron Botterbusch stated he felt we do not need to purchase a membership since we have enough members who belong to Sam's Club and they can use their own personal cards to get the discount. Several members also said they do not believe the Society spends enough at Sam's to warrant a membership. Lucia Hrinyak reported that she had her own personal BJ's Club membership card switched to over to the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society for the duration of her time. Lucia thought that one of the GDHS members could do the same thing. Lucia said all she does is tell the cashier at BJ's which items she is purchasing, if any, are for the EBHPS. Gayle Heagy suggested we look into doing this at BJ's. Jo Ott stated she buys printer ink cartridges at Sam's Club, 5-6 per box, and it is much cheaper that way than buying individual cartridges. Gayle Heagy suggested we should patronize our local businesses. We can use our tax exempt certificate at any retailer, except Wal-Mart. Gayle Heagy made a motion to rescind the motion approved at the June meeting for the purchase of a Sam's Club membership. All members voted in favor and motion passed. There was a motion by Cindy Snyder to forego getting a Sam's Club membership and thereby use our tax exempt certificate or add the Society onto a member's personal card. All members voted in favor and motion passed. Harry Shermeyer questioned if the society by-laws legally permitted this. Gayle stated she felt we should wait until a situation arises because she did not feel our by-laws addressed this matter. After brief discussion on the issue, Vice President Stitley stated one of our members who currently hold a Sam's Club membership will have to ask if a membership transfer to the GDHS can be done. Jo Ott stated she will check at Sam's Club to find out if a member can transfer their membership to the GDHS. Harry Shermeyer stated his wife is a member at BJ's Club so he will ask her to check into this for the society at BJ's Club.

Gayle Heagy reported on the barn the society can use as possible storage for the timbers. Last Sunday, Gayle and the Shermeyers visited the barn in Dover Township owned by Carol Jones. Gayle asked the membership if anyone had any objections to the society storing the timbers in this barn. Gayle stated that several people asked her if the society was sure we want to store our timbers in the Jones' barn because it has been known that Mrs. Jones' children have a tendency to take items from the barn property that do not belong to them. Harry Shermeyer reported that this barn is unsecure, dirty and a fire hazard. The particular space where Mrs. Jones suggested the timbers be stored is a makeshift platform with loose floor boards making it very dangerous to access while carrying the heavy timbers. Harry asked how long the timbers are and Gayle said they are about 20 feet long; there are 17 timbers. We currently have the timbers stored in the archive storage shed and the weight of the timbers is causing the shed to sink and shift. The members agreed the Jones' barn was not a good location to store the timbers and it was decided to search for a new location. Gayle Heagy will notify Mrs. Jones that her offer was appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

York County Heritage Trails site – Gayle Heagy reported this is the same issue she reported on under the Board of Directors' report.

Birth certificates online – Vice President Stitley reported that at the May Board of Directors' meeting it was approved to send a letter of support for this initiative based on approval of the full membership. The Board felt being able to access the name of the person, date of birth and place of death online was acceptable. There should be no private information accessible online, such as medical or personal history of the deceased. A letter of support would state this. Vice President Stitley said she thought there is a form regarding this issue that President Shermeyer will complete and send back. Vice President Stitley stated she thought President Shermeyer wanted the membership to know that this will now be online in the State of Pennsylvania for birth and death certificates.

Suggestions for speakers – Vice President Stitley reported that at the July picnic President Shermeyer asked members to submit suggestions for guest speakers for our GDHS meetings. Jo Ott stated she was at the Heritage Trust on Friday and Saturday where she spoke to June Lloyd on making a presentation on local fraktur. A suggestion was made for a presentation on genealogy. Gayle Heagy said that President Shermeyer wanted to make sure we thought about the pow-wow. Mel Miller stated that Don Billet will do a presentation at the WMHS meeting in November (3rd Monday) about Lancaster County. Mr. Billet did a presentation on the covered bridges of Pennsylvania, and Vice President Stitley said he does one on Amish weddings. His fee is \$100. Zee Kehr said she saw a presentation on presidents' wives. She really enjoyed it and has a card at home with the contact information. Gayle Heagy stated John Bucher does a presentation on the green renovation of historic homes. He was in attendance at the Historic York award ceremony in May and talked about this issue. Jo Ott stated Mr. Bucher just published a book on historic York homes' architecture. Mel Miller said Jim McClure just completed a book on one-room schoolhouses in York County. Gayle Heagy mentioned about an old schoolteacher (Rudisill?) from Starview who is well-versed on York County history.

Nominating Committee – Vice President Stitley asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for our November elections. Gayle Heagy, Lucia Hrinjak and Lori Koch volunteered to serve on the committee. Members who are interested in serving as an officer or as a board member should call one of these ladies to submit their name for nomination. Job descriptions for each position will be available at the September meeting.

Family Fun Fest craft festival – Vice President Stitley stated that the past two years the GDHS manned the refreshment stand. This year's event will be held on October 4 from 11am to 4pm. It was reported another vendor will be handling the refreshment stand and President Shermeyer is seeking input on the GDHS setting up a table inside to sell our items. Norma Botterbusch stated she feels it was a waste of our time since it was an event for kids and no one bought any items from our table or from the other vendors inside. The fee is \$10 for an indoor space and \$5 for an outdoor space. There was no interest by the GDHS membership in participating this year with a table at the festival. Vice President Stitley will let President Shermeyer know we will not participate this year.

Gayle Heagy reported she sent a letter to Ron Herschner, chairman of the York Heritage Trust, asking permission to borrow Bertha Linebaugh's parasol for the Dover Fair. She has not received a response to date.

Vice President Stitley reported there are quilt tickets available for the East Berlin Historical Society Colonial Days event on September 13. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Jo Ott reported that at the blacksmith shop open hours there were 13 visitors, Ted showed a new twisted rod, \$33 in donations were collected and Dr. Drawbaugh visited along with his son, Dean. Vice President Stitley gave Mr. Avery details on the blacksmith shop open hours and introduced Ted Ziegler as our in-house smithy.

There being no further questions or any suggestions from the membership, there was a motion to adjourn by Cindy Snyder. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Koch

GDHS secretary