



# The Greater Dover Historical Society Inc.

**JUNE 2010**



## **President's Column by Madelyn Shermeyer**

The first half of 2010 is almost here and as in previous years the GDHS continually moves forward, although at varying paces, but is continually looking for opportunities in the community where its members can make a difference.

The GDHS is always on the lookout for a building that it could use for an archive museum. If anyone has any knowledge of a site that would be available and affordable for the Society, please contact any member of the Society, who will in turn direct the information to a member of the Board of Directors or one of the Officers. If you have access to a computer, you will find phone numbers for all officers and board members listed on the Society website at [www.gdhspa.org](http://www.gdhspa.org). After accessing the site, click on the OFFICERS/MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP INFO link, or send an email to [doverhistorygdhspa.org](mailto:doverhistorygdhspa.org), which will be directed to the President of the Society.

The first Blacksmith Shop open house for 2010 was on April 10; the shop will continue to be open on the second Saturday of each month through October.

The annual Historical Walk will be held on June 15th. I frequently hear how interesting the walk participants find the event to be. Many newcomers on the walk remark that they weren't aware of all the homes and sites of historical value in their community. Quite a few of them have been born and raised in the Dover area.

Don Baughman of Baughman Memorials will do a power point presentation on the history of Baughman Memorials at our GDHS membership meeting on June 17th.

The annual GDHS picnic at Lehr Park will be held on July 15th. This is a members' only event.

At our August 19th meeting, Ron Botterbusch will have a presentation on 'muzzle loaders', their use in the early days and their transition to the present time. Mr. Botterbusch will have a display of his private collection.

The GDHS will again be responsible for the refreshment stand at the Family Fall Fest at Lehr Park on October 2. This Fest is sponsored by the recreation department of Dover Township and ties in with the Dover Township Volunteer Fire Department's open house. There are fire engine rides, carnival rides, face painting and 'goodies' for the children.

Again we are asking for articles to be submitted for the newsletters. Those wishing to write an article for inclusion in the newsletter must FIRST send it to Lucia Hrinjak for editing. Once the editing process is complete, the author may then forward the edited article to Lori Koch. Lucia Hrinjak's email address is: [loosh45@comcast.net](mailto:loosh45@comcast.net). Lori Koch's email is: [jkoch8@verizon.net](mailto:jkoch8@verizon.net).

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## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Just a reminder! Don't forget to pay your 2010 dues. Send your check payable to GDHS Inc. to Bill Coleman, 3083 Jodi Lane, Dover, PA 17315 or you can pay at the next meeting.

The dues are \$10.00 for individuals, \$20.00 for couples, \$25.00 for a family, and \$50.00 for businesses.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

June 15 (Tuesday) - Historical Walk, 6pm @ Blacksmith Shop

June 17 - Regular meeting—guest speaker

July 15 - Annual Members GDHS picnic 5:30 PM @ Lehr Park

August 19 - Regular meeting — guest speaker

September 4, 6-11 Display at Dover Carnival

September 16 - Regular meeting

October 21- Regular meeting

November 18 - Regular meeting; election of officers

December - no meeting

All meetings are held at Calvary Lutheran Church on the square in Dover at 7:00 PM. Please come and show your support for preserving our Dover history.

The story that follows is Part II and the conclusion of "Big Mount Boys Captured by the Rebels" which appeared in the York Gazette and Daily in the late 1930's or early 1940's. Part I appeared in the January 2010 Greater Dover Historical Society newsletter.

Submitted by Lucia Hrinyak

## PART II — BIG MOUNT BOYS CAPTURED BY THE REBELS

by G. W. Harlacher

Tuesday morning June the thirtieth Joe said that some of us couldn't sleep for we were home-sick. He said that the hoot owls and the whippoorwills were howling all night. That morning they broke camp and started homeward. They portioned out their food which gave each four crackers for their breakfast.

They planned to come home by a round-about way, so that they would not meet up with any Rebels. They also expected to be home about one o'clock for dinner. They came by Mount Royal along the Conewago Creek toward Emig's Mill (now Detter's Mill). Down the creek from the mill toward Kimmel Farm where the road ran near the creek they stopped to water their horses. While they were carrying water from the creek for the horses, some one heard a noise, over the brow of the hill. Jokingly another said "The Rebels are coming!" In a few moments some Calvary (sic) Rebels came riding with drawn sabers. Inquiry was made who was foreman of the group. They said that they had no organization. The older ones of the group acted as the spokesman. The first question asked was, "Where are you going?" "Home." "Where do you live?" "Near Big Mount." "Where have you been?" "When we heard that the soldiers were coming, we took our horses and the store-keeper sent this load of goods along with us to hide in the Conewago Mts. until the soldiers were gone. We got word yesterday that General Lee had sent a message to General Early, a few days ago to retrace towards Gettysburg." They said, "That is true, and we need all of those things that you have to help win the war." I know that the group felt badly being captured, in the end.

It was about ten o'clock and we were all getting very hungry, having had only four crackers apiece for breakfast. They readjusted our procession somewhat, and told us to follow the leader. A few of the Calvary (sic) men rode ahead and the others brought up the rear. We crossed the covered bridge at Detter's Mill, turned left at the end of the bridge, followed the Bermudian Creek to Trimmer's Mill, crossed Bermudian Creek, through the covered bridge passed by Bermudian Meeting House, turned right, crossed Red Run and entered Shippensburg Road, at the stone house now owned by Joseph Renoll. At that time the house was owned and occupied by a family named Sowers.

Some of the Sowers girls were standing on the porch watching the procession passing. When they noticed that the big Mount boys were with them, they started to weep. We traveled on the Shippensburg road by way of the Burkhardt farm, turned left at Hartman's blacksmith shop. There they waited for those at the rear to catch up. While waiting Charles Harlacher slipped back of the shop and hid his watch and buggy whip under the fence.

Another stop was made when they got to Bermudian (Bigtown) another stop was made. Here the boys complained to the General that they were very hungry. They were told to go to the Hotel there and order food, but before the food was ready they were told to march on. From there it was a continuous march via Deardorff's Mill (now Worley's Nursery). Prosser's Saw Mill to a field on the Jacob P. Lewrew farm (now owned by the grandson Paul Lewrew, of East Berlin).

In Latimore township, two miles north of York Springs, quite a number of Rebel Calvary (sic) joined the procession during the stay. Some of the generals were drunk, swinging in their saddles. At the Lewrew Farm, the Rebels, bivouacked for the night. The officers stationed themselves back in the field under a large tree. The soldiers began tearing down fences and building fires to cook the evening meal. The Big Mount boys were ordered to come down where the officers were. They were asked if they wanted to go home or if they wanted to go with them. The smaller boys were told that they could go home. They went up the road and sat on the fence to see what would become of their older brothers and the others. They saw the others lined up before the officers. First question was 'Your name' followed by such questions as: Are you married? Do you own your own horses? How do you vote? Result was – Two Democrats – the other Republicans. They were then told to raise their right hands, then they were sworn to not fight against the South.

Charles Harlacher asked the officers if they would leave the store books at Jacob Broughs. The books were left there; Epheru Mummert pleaded with the officer to permit him to leave his two year colt 'Bully'. The officer swore saying "We need him more than we need you." "Now boys you can go down to those girls that cried when they saw you pass."

They were given a guide with a pass, to go with them out of the camp. The young guide said "Now you can go home. I can not, a Battle is ahead."

They went to Charles Plosser's for supper, then walked to Big Mount. They got home around midnight – plenty tired.

## ON BECOMING A GRAVER

Submitted by Jo Ott

One of the many fringe benefits derived from conducting genealogy research over nearly a lifetime is the people with whom one comes in contact. In nearly fifty years of doing this work, the count must be in the hundreds throughout many states and in Ireland.

My earliest research began in Juniata County's Courthouse in Mifflintown by reading thru old ledgers. Some were in excellent shape, given their ages, and others had crumbling covers and spines. After spending most of their lives closed up and sitting on shelves, their handwritten contents inside were still very readable and always chocked full of hints of the area's early history.

The key to getting access to those old ledgers in those early research days was often determined by how willing clerks in courthouse offices would allow access to them. Territorial rights came into play at times so it helped to be related to the right locals to gain entry into what was then, a somewhat secretive world. This worked for me, but on occasion, I still had to explain why I wanted to read the contents of those old books. It was necessary, at times, for instance, to assure resistant and suspicious clerks that I wasn't there simply to look up old skeletons in anyone's history closet.

We have moved far beyond those dark, dismal and dusty days to one not even visioned fifty years ago. Today, the impersonal internet provides easy access to millions of records to anyone with access to a computer and a click of a mouse.

As a subscriber to ancestry.com for many years, I have spent untold numbers of hours researching their files and have acquired hundreds of records. Additionally, continued use of local historical societies' records and files, courthouse records, county archives and many other online sources that are continuously updated, have all yielded many missing records. These same records are available to anyone making similar searches, many at no cost.

One recent internet contact from an Ohioan making an inquiry about a paternal ancestor, in turn, led *me* to a great discovery on one of these online resources and to yet another retirement "career."

After exchanging several e-mails regarding his inquiry, my correspondent suggested I look into findagrave.com to locate a gravesite I was unable to find. Aware of the website's existence but never taking time to investigate, I finally did and found exactly what myself and another spent a couple of hours searching in a large cemetery that was miles from the actual burial site. Findagrave.com led me to a tiny Mennonite cemetery behind the Meeting House, located several miles north of Reading. There, I found the gravesite for a woman and her husband, ending a search that went on for several years.

Findagrave.com is an invaluable resource to anyone seeking information about the burial site of ancestors, in particular. It is free to register on its website, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), and has available millions of burial records nationwide.

This website has several features that one can partake, such as setting up a memorial to a decedent, sending and receiving e-mails or participate in its online forums. One in which I especially became interested and now participate in is the website's network of photographer volunteers, called "gravers." This feature allows registrants to request a photo be taken of a gravesite and have it downloaded into the website for the requester to see. Requests are sent only if within the volunteer's home area and must be done free of charge. If payment is discussed or requested the volunteer is banned from the site.

Since beginning several months ago, I have fulfilled many requests to photograph gravesites from individuals living in Arkansas, Idaho, California, Florida and areas in Pennsylvania. Several of them were in cemeteries in Lewisberry, some in cemeteries in Dover and Newberry Townships and elsewhere.

Not all requests are about ancestors.

One especially poignant request for one of the sites in a Lewisberry cemetery hit hard. The woman did not know her childhood friend had died until she saw his name on the internet's "virtual" Vietnamese Memorial in Washington, D. C. He died in Vietnam in 1969 at age 20.

She sent me an e-mail after her friend's gravesite photo was downloaded, thanking me for taking the time to take the picture. Continuing, she wrote, "He lived about a mile from me when we were kids. I didn't know he was KIA in Vietnam...That was a Shocker. I will never forget him. He will always be a hero." In another e-mail she mentioned how they rode the same school bus and she thought he was the greatest kid. Her last message ended with, "It takes great people like you that care, that makes the world go around."

Receiving those e-mails made it easier to accept requests such as the one from the woman whose photo request was for a site in the same Lewisberry cemetery. After e-mailing her to tell her I was unable to locate the grave, only then did she reveal there is no marker or stone and that she had received a similar message from another volunteer. She wanted a photo of the site, but she had no idea where in the cemetery it was located nor did I. Without a marker, it was a fruitless search.

One request for a photograph was done in Dillsburg and proved to be a weeks-long project. The subject, Hugh McMullen, is one of Carroll Township's earliest settlers and he is buried alongside several family members in an old and small church cemetery behind the Dillsburg post office. The requester, a woman who is a self-described "cowboy poet" living in Idaho, became so excited over seeing the photo of Hugh's tombstone that I decided to see what else could be found and headed for the Historic Trust and its long-time volunteer and Doverite, Barbara Rudy.

Information found at the Trust took me back to the cemetery to photograph additional family members' gravesites and to the York County Archives. Hugh had a will and I discovered other documents on file in the Archives as well. Copies of them all were sent to Idaho and, in keeping with findagrave.com's conditions, I was reimbursed only for the copying fees charged by the Archives and the postage.

The occasional e-mail photo request for a gravesite in a cemetery around the Dover area continues to show up in my inbox. At times, I have relied on the GDHS' website and GDHS members familiar with cemeteries to assist with locations within the larger cemeteries.

When preparing for retirement eleven years ago it did not occur to me that I should also be prepping for yet-to-come consumer electronic gadgetry of all sorts and that I would have to understand coordinates and other GPS lingo. As a "graver," the knowledge and skills acquired using the GPS for adventurous trips to locate cemeteries in unfamiliar territories of northern and western York County, now facilitates my work with the U. S. Census Bureau in the most rural areas of York County. The location of cemeteries is noted.

**GREATER DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Website: [www.gdhspa.org](http://www.gdhspa.org)

Email: [doverhistory@gdhspa.org](mailto:doverhistory@gdhspa.org)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Susan Wertz, Dartagnan Wertz, Gregory Fink

**PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE**