



# The Greater Dover Historical Society Inc.

## JANUARY 2010



### President's Column by Madelyn Shermeyer

2009 - another year mostly spent catching up on projects that were previously planned.

The Landmark Committee has been meeting diligently for the past few months trying to decide which deserving structures will be in the first round to receive the brass historical plaques designating them as Greater Dover Historical Society sites of distinction. It was necessary to establish weighted (numerical) criteria for the list that the committee selected to look at for the first round. I might add that this is not an easy task as there are many buildings and sites in the Borough and Dover Township that qualify-some more than others. It was decided initially to concentrate more heavily on the Borough than on the Township. For the fourth consecutive year, the Society ran the concession stand at Dover Township's Fall Festival at Lehr Park. The many Society volunteers who participated and the profits received from a day of hard work made the event a success for the Society.

We were hoping to have more speakers in 2009 but unfortunately there was an unforeseen cancellation; hopefully this presentation will be accomplished sometime in the first quarter of 2010. The presentation will be on muzzle loader guns and the part they played in our history.

As in the past, the Blacksmith Shop will be open the 2nd Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. April through October. The Society welcomes individual visitors, families and groups to view its resident blacksmith working his trade.

Our Annual Historic Walk will be on June 15. The walk begins at the Blacksmith Shop in Ketterman Park on Butter Rd. and ends at this site with refreshments served.

Hopefully the GDHS will discuss an event that I mentioned last January: Blacksmith Shop Day in the park. This would be an event for craftsmen in the trades of broom making, candle making, weaving, etc. who would both display and sell their wares.

REPLICAS- It was decided by the Society membership upon the suggestion by the Board of Directors to reduce the price of the Blacksmith Shop replicas to \$12.00. This will be the selling price of the replicas henceforth.

Elections were held at the November 19, 2009 membership meeting. Wm.(Bill) Coleman was elected Bookkeeper/Treasurer. For the past year our Secretary, Lori Koch, has performed the necessary duties required for the Bookkeeper/Treasurer office. Doing the work required for two key positions in the Society was not an easy task. Lori deserves a very sincere THANK YOU from all of us. We all welcome Bill as our Bookkeeper/Treasurer, an essential position which he is sure to fill successfully.

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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!**

January 21- Regular meeting  
 February 18 - Regular meeting  
 March 18 - Regular meeting with guest speaker  
 April 15 - Regular meeting  
 May 20 - Regular meeting  
 June 15 (Tuesday) - Historical Walk  
 June 17 - Regular meeting  
 July 15- Annual Members GDHS picnic 5:30 PM  
 August 19- Regular meeting  
 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.

### **G.D.H.S. LITTER PICKUP**

The Dover Historical Society 2009 litter pickup is going very well. The first pickup was April 4, and 12 bags of trash were collected on our two mile stretch north of Dover on Carlisle Road. The second pick up was June 6, and 6 bags were collected. It takes about 1-1/2 - 2 hours each time. A big thank you to all of the workers! The last pickup was October 31. Any questions, call Melanie Green at 717-292-5133.

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In the late 1930's or early 1940's, the York Gazette and Daily ran an article of local interest recounting an event that occurred during the Civil War as Confederate troops moved north into southern Pennsylvania in 1863. G. W. Harlacher, grandfather of current Dover Township residents, Harlan, Donald, and Steven Harlacker, relates the story as told to him by his uncle. Due to its length, "Big Mount Boys Captured by the Rebels" will appear in two parts.

Submitted by Lucia Hrinyak

#### **BIG MOUNT BOYS CAPTURED BY THE REBELS**

by G. W. Harlacher

This story was often related to us children in our home by our Uncle Joseph Harlacher. He was a boy of fourteen during the Civil War. He lived with his widowed mother and family in Big Mount, in the house on the corner - later owned by Isaac Mummert. This was an exciting experience for a boy of fourteen. He went with a group of older men and boys, who took horses and other valuables, to the Conewago Mountains, to be in seclusion from the Rebels.

On his last visit to my house, shortly before his death in 1938, I asked him to again give me the details of 'the Rebel Story', as we called it, so that I could write it down.

Here is a bit of history that leads us to the story.

In June, 1863, reports were circulated in the vicinity of East Berlin and Big Mount, that General Early's Divisions were marching North, headed for York and Lancaster Counties – the land of plenty. His men were badly in need of food, clothing and horses. Some of General Early's troops scoured the country and gathered in many horses needed for their calvary (sic) and officers, for their own horses were tired and many of them were worn out.

On the morning of June 27, 1863, General Early marched from Mummansburg through Hunterstown, New Chester, Hampton and East Berlin and bivouacked for the night near Big Mount, in Paradise Township. General Early and his staff stayed for the night on the farm of Mrs. Jacob Zinn – present owner Lewis Mummert.

At this time her husband was deceased, thus it was that Mrs. Zinn provided food and shelter for them on the night of June twenty-seventh, 1863. Mr. Early, in 1893, related to Professor Prowell that he and his staff partook that evening of one of the best meals during the period of the war.

Saturday morning June twenty-seventh, 1863, when General Early's troops arrived in the evening of the same day, a delegation of Big Mount men and boys started for the Conewago Mountains with their horses and other valuables. Here is the personnel of the group: Charles Harlacher, aged sixteen, and Joseph Harlacher, his brother, aged fourteen, in charge of a two-horse covered wagon loaded with the silks and other dry goods such as boots and shoes, account books of the store, some jewelry, silk dresses belonging to the wife of C. A. Raf-fensperger, the owner of the store. The older of the Harlacher boys was clerking in the store at that time. Others that were along were Peter Altland's three sons, George, William and Ruben, Andrew Altland's sons, William and Jacob, Jonas Trimmer's son Clem, Joseph Beck's son Oliver, Issac Mummert's two sons, Lewis and Ephriam, Levi Wilt, Peter Himes, and Joseph Rentzel. They had a two-horse wagon, four four-horse wagons, thirty-three horses and one suckling colt. They loaded horse feed, food for about only a two-day stay, blankets, etc. They arrived in Strinestown about three-thirty in the afternoon.

They got word in Strinestown that, a division of Early's troops under Gordon, had headquartered south east of Big Mount about four miles and Early with three more divisions near Big Mount. On Saturday night June twenty-seventh, their first night, they camped in a field north of Strinestown. The first day when they got in the vicinity of Strinestown they met with a few Copper Heads, as they were called then, now we would say 'Fifth Columnists'. Sunday June the twenty-eighth, they remained in the same field, all day also Sunday night. In the evening of the twenty-eighth they heard a report that General Early's troops were taking the borough of York.

Monday morning June the twenty-ninth, they received word from big Mount that the Rebels had moved on to York. They then decided to start homeward, for their provisions and horse-feed were planned for only a two-day stay. Just before starting on their home-ward journey, a false report was circulated that General Hooker – a Northern General – was near and was pressing many into service. This put a scare into the camp, so they decided to play safe, they would move farther back 'into the Jungles' to a place they named 'Buzzards' Glory". They stayed there Monday night.

THIS CONCLUDES PART I

PART II, THE FINAL PART,

WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT GDHS NEWSLETTER



**GREATER DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Roger Flohr, Danny Wertz, Joshua Wertz, David Leppo, Sherry Young,  
Carl & Marian Sowers, Ramon & Harriet Langione

**PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE**