



The Greater Dover Historical Society Inc.

NOVEMBER 2012



President's Column by Madelyn Shermeyer

As I did previously for the last newsletter of the year, I will re-cap some of the accomplishments of the Society for 2012.

A presentation by Scott Mings, 'York County in the Civil War with the occupation of Dover Borough and Dover Township included.'

The Greater Dover Historical Society (GDHS) voted to Buy-a-Brick for the patio at the rebuilt Carousel building in Brookside Park. The GDHS voted to have a stand at the dedication of the Carousel building where we sold the blacksmith shop replicas and the Brookside Park Books. Kay Stitley was at this stand for the entire evening.

The Society as in years past had a stand at the Dover Fair. There were a number of donations for our archives: a sign advertising Chris Lamparter's Rendering Service, hand held fans with advertising on them and 'plug-ins' from Anna Stambaugh's telephone switch boards.

Harry, Madelyn and Bob Byerts picked up a pew at Building 1 in Brookside Park and placed it in the Societies storage shed at Ketterman Park. These pews were not going to be used by the township and we were given permission to take what we wanted. This pew was from the UCC on W. Canal St.

The GDHS webmaster, Tom Miles, began the changes on the GDHS web site.

Bill Zech, woodcarver was the GDHS speaker in May. He demonstrated tools used in the art of woodcarving and showed some of his carvings.

At our October meeting we had the pleasure of Bill Fox impersonating Ben Franklin. This was a most enjoyable and informative presentation.

Barb Krebs, a correspondent with the York Daily Record was penning articles on Historical Societies in York County. Barb stated the GDHS web site is one of the best local historical society resources she has found in York County and was kind enough to pen the GDHS as her first report.

A decision by the membership to only have refreshments when we have a speaker, drinks will be provided at all meetings.

The annual picnic of the Society was held at Brookside Park. Approximately 20 people attended.

Gayle Heagy had the packs of information for each home that received the Historical Site brass plaques. The only homeowners to attend were Mr. & Mrs. Morgan, owners of the Bowersox home at 64 N. Main St. Gayle had copies of deeds and all of the information she could retrieve on these sites. Ken Brown attached these Historical plaques pro-bono on the homes as a contribution to the Society.

The York County Heritage Program is a network of natural, cultural and historic sites that are officially designated by the York County Planning Commission. These sites are made available to residents and visitors to enjoy York County's unique resources. Gayle Heagy submitted an application for the Dover Jail and the Carousel Building. Consequently, they were approved. Lori Koch and I attended the ceremony to accept certificates for these sites. The certificates are located in the lobby of the Dover Township Building for the public to view.

The 2007 Preservation Award received from Historic York, Inc. is on the counter at the Township building. Gayle and I accepted this award on behalf of the GDHS. This was awarded to us for the dismantling, relocation and rebuilding of the Dover Blacksmith Shop. I placed this award on the counter at the Township Building for the public to view. I've also been informed that there are many residents that look at it and if they have any questions our staff tells them to contact the GDHS.

HYSTERICAL HISTORICS - Submitted by Gayle Heagy

When the word "history" is mentioned, the thought usually heads for the Bubonic Plague or the Revolutionary War. However, as one gets older, history of a personal nature usually occurs. Going back to the 1940's & 50's is my personal history and the current thought is Halloween.

How many of us can remember Butch and Sarah Myers's Restaurant? Around the third week of October, "they" sneaked in during the night and covered the entire porch of the restaurant with corn stalks. You had to dig a tunnel to get in the front door. And, there was no use in removing it before Halloween, as "they" just brought it back again!

How about poor Bert Haas who lived on the Dover Square (where the apartment house is now). He had a bad temper which probably came from all the false alarms from the bells that rang and alerted him to a customer waiting for gas at his pump in the front of the house. He had an outhouse that faced E. Canal Street. Nearby, there was a pole with a light above it. I recall one night before Halloween when my mother and I heard a ruckus, looked out the kitchen window, and "they" had arrived and pushed over the outhouse

Yep, with Mr. Haas in it!

And, there was always the community outhouse! Every Halloween "they" sneaked in and deposited a working outhouse on the Dover Square. It sat there for several days. It always "wondered me" what the owner used until he discovered where his outhouse went!

My personal chuckle was my friend Tut Krone's father. Almost every night I walked to her house on the Dover Hill (that would be the lower half of Main Street) after supper. Then we walked up to Bertha Linebaugh's Restaurant on the Square (Taylor's Treasures) and met other friends. It was her dad's custom to go out to the outhouse after supper.

Since it was the week of Halloween, before I went in the house, I shimmied up the light pole, turned the bulb loose and then went in the house. Later, Mr. Krone came in and went to the closet and got a new bulb and the ladder. The second night he mumbled about the light not working properly. About the third or fourth night, he realized I always showed up before the bulb went out. Of course, I wouldn't admit it, but the whole family knew I had done it. Over the next several months, he would remind me that the light was working just fine!

History can be lots of fun when you tie a personal tag on it. Now that I've brought it up, I bet you can think of all kinds of tricks you played for Halloween that were fun, but not destructive. Be sure to tell your kids and grandchildren or write it down for them. That's how our local history lives on.

LANDMARK DESIGNATION – Submitted by Gayle Heagy

The Greater Dover Historical Society received a state grant to purchase ten plaques to designate properties of historic significance in the Greater Dover area.

A Landmark Committee was established to select these notable properties. The Committee developed a list of criteria to help make these selections. After months of discussions and research at the York County Archives, five properties were chosen. These properties are: 36 N. Main St., Dover; 64 N. Main St., Dover; 78 N. Main St, Dover; a private cemetery at the rear of 52 Mayfield St; and 3205 W. Canal St., Dover.

The property owners were contacted and, with the help of Ken Brown (our contractor who guided and helped the Society with the reconstruction of the Blacksmith Shop in Ketterman Park), the plaques were installed in a prominent place on the property. Judy and Randy Worley, accompanied Mr. Brown, helped meet with the owners to decide on the location of the plaque. The photographs were taken by Jo Ott. This was done during the 90 degree weather we suffered through in August.

The owners were invited to attend our annual picnic at Brookside Park at which time they would receive a packet of information describing the selection process and any historic background uncovered. Mr. & Mrs. Eric Morgan, the owners of 78 N. Main St. attended. We enjoyed their company and learned of another historic property they own in Dover Township. The other owners will receive their packets by mail.

The Committee has selected eight potential properties for the remaining five plaques. The selection process is expected to be completed shortly with installation expected by the spring of 2013.



36 North Main Street, Dover Borough



64 North Main Street, Dover Borough



78 North Main Street, Dover Borough



Ken Brown installing first historic plaque.



3205 West Canal Street, Dover Township

GREATER DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 S. Main Street, Dover PA 17315

Website: www.gdhspa.org

Email: doverhistory@gdhspa.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – SHIRLEY WEAVER



PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE