



The Greater Dover Historical Society, Inc

September 2007



Regular Meeting Dates

October 18 — 7 pm — Guest speaker will be Jeff Holder of Dover Borough who is a Civil War re-enactor. He will discuss the occupation of Dover during the war.

Nov. 15 — 7 pm — election of officers and Board of Directors

Dec. — no meeting

All meetings are being held at Dover UCC on W. Canal Street, Dover until further notice. Please come and show your support for preserving our Dover history!



Pathways By Lucia Hrinnyak

I must admit, I'm not one to deal well with life's little adversities, so when I learned that Brad Lentz, Dover Borough manager, was out early in the week of September 16, I immediately thought that our project was doomed, at least for the time being. The hammering of rain on a metal roof early Saturday morning gave me my second panic attack. Hadn't forecast after forecast predicted early morning fog followed by clear skies? Take a look at the freshly laid brick paths at the GDHS storage shed, and you will know that my concerns were for naught, as they so often are.

Brad returned by mid week, allowing me to access the borough's supply of crusher waste and screenings, the underpinnings essential to the successful laying of a brick path. He and I filled numerous five gallon buckets with these materials and loaded them into my pickup where they were stored until project day.

Saturday morning, September 22, after the very isolated shower had passed through several hours earlier, a half dozen volunteers gathered at the GDHS storage shed for what was to be a long but successful work day. Tools scattered about - a socket set, a circular saw, a mason line, a sledge hammer just to name a few - would strongly suggest that GDHS members could open a tool rental business.

The preparation building stage of the brick path from the storage shed side door to the macadam walkway progressed fairly smoothly until a buried stump surfaced. Not to be deterred, Randy Worley yanked out the recalcitrant stump with his ever faithful truck and chain. By the time the second stump made its appearance, the work day was well underway and with it had come sore muscles and aching joints. The consensus quickly reached by the brick layers was to leave the stump in place as an artistic and surprise element in the walkway.

The most rewarding step in the project was the placing of the bricks which slowly took on the appearance of a basket weave pattern. A final sweep of fine sand into the cracks and the path was complete. As a bonus, volunteers laid a rustic brick path through the garden at the back of the building.

Volunteering can bring unexpected rewards. As we gathered around the picnic table in the park for our well deserved lunch break, we noted a family poking around the storage shed. I investigated and discovered that they were geocaching. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game in which players use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to play a form of hide and seek, searching for containers hidden anywhere in the world. This family was hunting intently for the clue we had just removed, the GDHS sign which had stood behind the shed but was now stored in the rafters of the building. A quick look at the sign gave them the clues necessary to move them along in their quest. Our society members assisted them in their game and introduced them to their local historical society. We, on the other hand, learned about geocaching, an adventure game for young and old alike. Hmm. Anyone know where I can purchase a hand held GPS device?



2007 Nominations for Board of Directors and Officers

At our September 16 regular meeting, President Madelyn Shermeyer appointed the following members to the nominating committee:

Ron Botterbusch 292-7894
Jeff Koch 292-6223
Lori Koch 292-6223

Elections for the following offices will be held at our November 15 meeting:

President – 1 year term
Vice President – 1 year term
Secretary – 1 year term
Treasurer – 1 year term
Historian – 1 year term
Board of Directors – 2 year term / 2 members

If any GDHS member is interested in running for any of the offices listed above, please contact one of the committee members no later than October 14. Copies of the job descriptions for each office may be obtained by contacting President Madelyn Shermeyer at 292-2018.

FINAL ADOPT A HIGHWAY LITTER PICKUP OF THE YEAR

Saturday, October 20, 8:00 a. m. (Rain date - Sat., Oct. 27)

Meeting place is at GDS Controls, 5301 Carlisle Rd. (intersection of Temple School Rd.)

Approximate collection time is 2 hrs.

Please contact Lucia Hrinyak at 717 308-2158 or at loosh45@comcast.net to participate in this worthwhile community event.

Blacksmithing Alive and Well

Come see a blacksmith ply his trade! The Greater Dover Historical Society's newly reconstructed Blacksmith Shop will be open to the public the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in September, October and November. Following a winter break, activity will resume in March 2008. The Blacksmith Shop is located in Alda Ketterman Park along Butter Road in Dover Borough. Ted Ziegler, our in-house blacksmith, will be working at the forge and will happily share his knowledge of the trade with visitors. Hand forged articles will be available for purchase.

**President's Column
By Madelyn Shermeyer**

The year 2007 will soon be ending and for the GDHS, WHAT A YEAR! The years of 2005/06 saw the rebuilding of the Blacksmith Shop. So many volunteer hours accrued in 2005/06 were hours spent on this undertaking. It is truly remarkable that a group of volunteers in an organization could accomplish a project such as this. Yes, we did have Ken Brown overseeing our efforts, but as Ken said, these GDHS volunteers are truly workers; sometimes organizations have too many supervisors and not enough workers. With the GDHS volunteers, it was all about having workers.

On April 29, 2007, an Open House was held at the Blacksmith Shop. All of the donors were invited, and those attending were given a memento which was forged in the Blacksmith Shop. Without all the donations, from bricks to food, this project could not have been accomplished.

On June 2, 2007, the Dedication of the Blacksmith Shop took place in conjunction with the Dedication of the Alda Ketterman Park. Such a beautiful day with so many attending and Smithy Ziegler at the forge made the occasion so much more memorable.

In the coming year the GDHS hopes to sponsor a craft festival at the Blacksmith Shop site. The society has a couple of fund raisers planned such as the sale of calendars with scenes of the Dover area and note paper with a pen and ink sketch of the Blacksmith Shop.

The society continues to receive articles from the Dover area for the archives and encourages further donations from anyone "cleaning out their attics" of old Dover related items. Some of the donations received thus far include agricultural hand implements, a horse drawn road drag used on Dover Township dirt roads, and an engraved knife from the Dover Borough Dover Bakery.

One of the Society's continued concerns is finding a building that can be used for a museum to display so much that has been donated. Hopefully this museum would be used not just by adults but by children who would gain knowledge about how numerous items were used in an earlier era.

With the new year approaching, the GDHS will be entering into its 7th year of existence, and with this new year comes the installation of Officers and two members of the Board of Directors. In this newsletter there is an application for anyone that is interested in serving as an Officer or Board Member. Please look over the list of offices; if interested in serving, please call one of the following society members: Ron Botterbusch at 292-7894 or Jeff or Lori Koch at 292-6223, all members of the GDHS nominating committee. If anyone has a question regarding the duties for any of the listed offices, please call Madelyn Shermeyer at 292-2018.

**GDHS at the Dover Firemen's Fair
By Kay Stitley and Lois Slothower**

The Greater Dover Historical Society (GDHS) had a display at the Dover Firemen's Fair from September 1 through September 8.

This year's display cases housed many school pictures and artifacts donated by Janet Myers Schwalm who was a former Dover resident and now resides in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Jacob Joner Society items, also on display, included a table flag with forty eight stars used at meetings, name pins worn for meetings, membership application forms dated from the early 1940's and a New Testament in the original box with the owner's name inscribed on the box.

Some of the items available for sale were the Blacksmith Shop replicas, the jail and carousel replicas from the township, handmade wares forged by Ted Ziegler, our in house blacksmith, and photos of the old Blacksmith Shop. The Society took in over \$350 as interested visitors were eager to take a piece of history home with them.

Adding dollars to the society's coffers is only one of the benefits of sharing Dover's history with fair goers. This year's event attracted three new members. Each new member represents another individual who supports keeping history alive.

As usual we spoke with many people who had questions concerning Dover and the area. Several inquired about the Indian tribes (Iroquois and Susquehannock) who inhabited the area. Seeing a picture of the Dover Cigar Factory, several inquiries were made as to the building's location, and as in previous years, people wanted to know how, when and where to place articles in the archives.

As in the past, many members volunteered hours (234 total) to help make this a successful week. Thank you to all who worked at the Dover Firemen's Fair. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Kay Stitley, Co-chair, Lois Slothower, Co-chair, Carol Leathery, Co-chair

October Blacksmith Shop Demonstration

By Jo Ott

“Good job!” “Very interesting.” “Excellent.” These were just some of the comments expressed by guests who attended the BLACKSMITH SHOP open demonstration on Saturday, September 8, 2007.

GDHS volunteer and resident smithy, Ted Ziegler, and his assistant, Shannon Smith, kept visitors interested by demonstrating how they make cup holders and explaining their process to the onlookers. Ted described in detail the significance of the blacksmith’s anvil to his audience, and explained how important it is to enable the smithy to create, or forge, the hot metal into a useful item. Using some of the many different blacksmith tools in the shop, the two artisans hammered, chiseled, and, using various types of tongs, twisted and turned the rod of hot iron held by the vise into the finished product.

Several of Ted’s products were for sale along with tees, replicas and other Society merchandise.

Among the more than a dozen visitors were Dan Robinette who brought along his grandson, Alex Robinette, and George Emig and Gloria Marley. Lester and Julia Walker from the West Manchester Historical Society stopped by. So did Charlie Zimmerman, James Ware, Shannon Smith and Bob Crist from Hellam Township.

Two of the visitors, Joe Becker and David Lease, from New Oxford, are WWII re-enactors . Joe is the owner of an auto body shop and David is a retired Hanover Police Department detective sergeant. Most of the re-enactments take place at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum next to the Reading Airport and more information about the museum or the re-enactments can be found on the museum’s web site or by calling Joe at 717-624-2518.

Joe Becker has more than just a passing interest in blacksmithing. His great-grandfather was a blacksmith in New Oxford, and he has a nephew whose great-grandfather was a blacksmith in Hanover. You can talk to him about his military roles and about his great-grandfather’s smithing at the next open demonstration Ted holds on October 13, 2007 from 10:00 until 2:00. Joe hopes to return then.

The final session for this year will be November 10, and Ted will be back in the shop the second Saturday of each month starting March 2008.



FROM ROSSVILLE TO LANGHORNE AN UNUSUAL AND CIRCUITOUS PATH INTO HISTORY

By Jo Ott

The journey began a few years ago while I was waiting for the busy printer to complete the task holding his attention. This was in a small, one-man print shop located next to that ersatz Rossville post office. It sat in the middle of a cluster of other small businesses where routes 74 and 177 intersect, at the lone traffic light between Dover and my home east of Lewisberry.

As I rummaged through the pile of assorted magazines and other literature sitting on a table in the small waiting area, two publications caught my eye. One, the *Greater Dover Bicentennial Celebration*, looked interesting, and so I picked it up and began leafing through the pages. After only a short wait though, my business with the printer was completed, and I left without seeing very much of the Dover book. A return visit in several days would be necessary, and this would give me another opportunity to absorb more of it.

When I returned and, again had to wait several minutes, I went searching for those two books. I found the Dover bicentennial book, continued looking for the other one and found it too. *A History of Dover Township, York County, Pennsylvania*, was published in 1993 by the Dover Township Board of Supervisors to commemorate the township's 250th anniversary. Preparing to leave several minutes later, I inquired as to where I might purchase the two books if they were, in fact, still available. The printer didn't know, didn't think either was any longer available but suggested checking at the jewelry store on the Dover square which I thought was a peculiar place to seek out history books. Then, it *is* Dover, I thought.

The printer kindly loaned me his copies of the two publications; I wasted little time reading and rereading them both. I possess my own copies now, and they are highly prized for their content and for their high-quality, well-written text on the history of Dover Borough and the Township.

How could I have ever known that these stop-overs on the way home to Lewisberry would lead to the unusual and the unexpected beginnings of an adventure into the history of several Dover families?

Although born and raised in central PA, I'm not from Dover, having never lived in the township nor in the borough. My connections to Dover, however, do include the recent discovery of maternal ancestors once owning a farm in the far northern section of the township and not too many miles from where I presently reside in Fairview Township. It was a surprise for me to discover I am not the first in my family to live in this neck of Penn's Woods.

In 1947, and for the next ten years, my family lived in Shiloh, and the family doctor was Dover's Dr. Lewis Herrold. When anyone in our family needed to see a doctor, it was by bus up the (Carlisle) Pike as Rt. 74 was called back then. Other than this, I never remembered much about Dover over the years. My faint memories of Dover after a forty-five year absence from the area are intensified by what lies along the Pike between Butter Road and Shiloh, so I welcomed any opportunity to learn more about Dover Borough and Dover Township and their people, particularly after discovering the two publications mentioned earlier.

I first heard about George Daron and his turn-of-the-century Dover general store a few years ago after mentioning to a friend my discovery of, and later, new connection to the Greater Dover Historical Society. Almost simultaneously, an advertising item from the *Daron's of Dover* store appeared in an auction on eBay. My curiosity was piqued by the advertising auction item and by the information related previously to me about George and his family. It was time to begin further exploration. There was no way to know at this time, however, what was in store for me.

The mere mention to the friend of the advertising post card's auction and my winning bid opened up an entire family's history for me to explore. But **which** family is what is most surprising. In my forty years of genealogical research, this kind of surprise has happened only one other time, in 2005, when I unexpectedly discovered the obituary for a woman who eluded me after many years of searching.

Barbara Zepp George is a friend who lives in York City, and like many others around York County, has lived here all her life. Barbara was in her late teens in 1952 when her mother, Clara Diehl Zepp, died. A year later her father, Raymond Franklin Zepp, married Anna L. Daron who earlier had been the first grade teacher of his younger daughter Jane at the Shiloh Elementary School. Anna was the daughter and only child of George and Lily Daron of Dover. She was born in 1912, raised in Dover Borough and was a member of the 1929 graduating class at Dover High School.

After talking to Barbara at great length about what she knew of the Darons, initially, I set out to research the Daron family's history. I began internet inquiries on Ancestry.com and discovered early census and other records for the family in Hellam and Paradise townships in York County and later records on the family in Dover Borough.

Conducting genealogical research is best done methodically and, thanks to the massive volume of materials available on dozens of internet web sites, it's become easier and faster. Ancestry.com, for instance, now has all names indexed for all the U. S. census enumerations up thru the latest census released to the public which is the 1930 census. This means one merely has to plug in any name for any area and most likely information on that individual will appear.

As I would discover facts about the Darons and pass them on to Barbara something would jiggle her memory, new information would be offered by her, and my research would continue.

One of these "jiggles" turned out to be the sort of WOW! researchers occasionally hit upon and that keeps them awake, thinking far into the night. Friend Barbara has the unnerving habit of giving information in dribs and drabs, and when she dropped this next one on me it was big enough for the Darons of Dover to be placed in the Save mode on the computer and had me heading for the turnpike.

To Be Continued

GREATER DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 South Main Street
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Website: www.gdhspa.org
Email: doverhistory@gdhspa.org

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR 2008

**NANCY MURPHY
STEVEN AND SUZANNE HARLACKER**

A smile is a light in the window of the soul indicating that the heart is at home.



If any member has a new or current email address, please forward that information to the GDHS secretary so our records can be updated. This information is kept confidential and only used for GDHS contact purposes. Please email your information to jkoch8@verizon.net. Thank you!