

Newsletter

Fall and Winter 2023

warriorsmarkareahistoricalociety.com

No. 9

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe Spring and Summer. We have been busy at the Historical Society, and I am anxious to share with you all that has been happening and what is yet to come.

We would like to start out by welcoming our newest members: Donna Hugh, Janet Hommer, Joyce Kobuck, Mary Shinglar, Clarence Hassler and Nancy McClure.

If you haven't been on our website lately, check it out. We now have someone who is doing a wonderful job posting events and updating information. On the website, you will find many pictures of what has been done around the building along with historical items located inside the building.

We have guest speakers scheduled for this September, October, November as well as next April 2024. Hopefully you can join us at the Warriors Mark Grange to listen and ask questions of these speakers. We video record each speaker so if you're not able to join us, please go to our website @ warriorsmarkareahistoricalociety.com and listen to them from there. Please note, we are not professionals so bear with us on the recordings. I have often said that we need to take time to listen to what these folks have to share. There is so much to learn and so much to appreciate, and when those with whom these stories belong to have moved on, their stories move on as well. In most cases, those stories are gone forever. Our history is incredibly important, especially in a time when some would like to see history blocked out or erased. Help us to keep it alive in our area. If you would like to be a guest speaker or know of someone who would like to speak, please pass their names on to me or one of our board members.

If you would like to share some area history or family history and write an article for this Newsletter, please contact me.

Eileen Long (Pres.)



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Directors: Terry Long; Linda Smith; Dan Durbin; Tim Nowlin.

Jesse Kulak; Stewart Neff-Liaison to township supervisors.

Warriors Mark Area Historical Society

The Warriors Mark Area Historical Society Museum is located at 1826 Centre Line Road, Warriors Mark, Pa 16877. The mailing address is PO Box 54 Warriors Mark Pa 16877.

Newsletters: Published bi-annually (Spring & Fall)

Mission: To awaken in the residents of the area an interest in an appreciation for the historical past of Warriors Mark and surrounding areas.

Warriors Mark Area Historical Society (WMAHS) is a tax-exempt, not for profit, educational organization as described in section 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code, Gifts, and deductible for income tax purposes.

Tax ID # 83-1272728

Board Meetings are normally held the second Monday of each month between March and November. Meetings are held at the Warriors Mark Grange and start at 6:00 pm. We encourage you to come and bring a guest. Feel free to call ahead to verify date, time, and location. (Sometimes during the summer months we'll meet at the Historical Society and have a cookout during our meeting).

Museum Hours

May 15th - October 15th

Wednesdays 9 am to 11 am - Sundays 1pm to 3 pm

For Appointments Call

Eileen @ 814-386-2774

Paul @ 814-919-2041

Linda & Larry @ 814-632-8465

Address: 1826 Centre Line Road

Warriors Mark, PA 1687

Up Coming Events And Guest Speakers

September 11th, Wayne Harpster- Wayne grew up in the Warriors Mark Area, his family-owned Harpsters Chevrolet Garage. See page 5 for more about Wayne.

October 9th Greg Murray lives on Ridge Road in Spring Mount. Greg is going to share with us the Clark family history.

November 13th, Pat Voyzey – Pat was born and raised in Warriors Mark, he will be able to share with us stories of growing up over the years in the area and of the first telephones and how the system worked.

April 2024, George Lake- George flew jets and was a commercial airline pilot. His wife Christy was an elementary teacher at the Warriors Mark Franklin School. George and Christy raised their family on a farm that he still farms in Franklin Township.

Our business meetings start at 6:00 pm and guest speakers follow the meeting around 6:30 pm. All these meetings will be held at the Warriors Mark Grange.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT AND BUSINESS MEETING

Warriors Mark Grange

October 9th 5:15 PM Starts early membership enrollment.

5:30 to 6:15 help yourself to soup, sandwich, dessert, and beverage...**NO CHARGE**

6:15 Business Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER GREG MURRAY @ 6:30 PM

Craft and Vendor Show

Warriors Mark Methodist Church

December 9th, 9 am to 2 pm

We will have homemade soups, and baked items for sale.

We will also be serving lunch.



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**Third bench added in memory of Doug Smith by
his parents Neil and Nancy.**

September 11th, Guest Speaker Wayne Harpster

6:30 pm @ Warriors Mark Grange

Serving light refreshments

"I set goals not just to be a farmer, but to create a large block of land that could be kept together so that future generations could grow up and love the land and enjoy it as much as I do!" - R Wayne Harpster



- Wayne Harpster started farming at a very young age in 1965, after he served our country in the U.S. Navy. His agriculture teacher taught him about agriculture and fueled his desire to be a successful farmer when he was starting out. His parents were also very helpful as they gave him the opportunity to begin farming by selling their limited cattle and machinery at market value and rented the land to grow feed for the dairy cows. Wayne started out his small farm with 17 Holstein cows and 18 heifers along with 100 head of Guernsey's.

Over the years, Wayne and his wife, Marjorie, rented land and bought farms that he had rented as the landowners exited their farm business. By the late 1960's, Wayne was milking at three different farms and decided to combine all of the herds at one location. He built a new parlor and expanded to 400 milking cows. Around the same time, he purchased his first no-till planter and used it on all his ground. In 1991, he had grown and expanded the farm with 1600 cows.

Today, Wayne's three sons, Abraham, Aaron, and Andrew, are equal partners in the farming operation managing a vast and diverse Agriculture Business.



Wayne and Marjorie Harpster with a few of the grandkids!

Visit the website for more information about the Evergreen Farms.

History of Colerain Forges Mansion

By Sue Smith, Historian

The Colerain forges Mansion was the home of the ironmaster of the Colerain Forges for over 100 years. The house was built in four stages between the late 18th century and the mid-19th century. The oldest parts are the dining room and hearth kitchen. The Library and Morning Room date to the 1830's, while the Great Room dates to the following decade. The summer kitchen, which is now the main kitchen, was added in about 1865. The caretaker's stone cottage probably dates back to 1761, with an extension remodeling in 1838.

From 1828 to 1874, the Colerain forges were manufacturing 1,200 tons of iron annually and employed about 25 men. The forges were the center of a larger iron manufacturing community that included a mill, store, post office, school, and worker's housing with ties to Huntingdon and Centre Furnaces. The foundations of many of these structures are still apparent. Today, all that remains of the mansion, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 is the stone house. According to the National Park Service, it is one of the few remaining ironmaster mansions which retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association.

According to Africa's History of Huntingdon County as well as a letter written by Judge William Porter, his grandfather, William McDermott, was manufacturing a form of steel called blister steel at Colerain in the early 1800s until his death in 1816. His son-in-law, David Porter, the ninth governor of Pennsylvania (1839-1845), and his wife Josephine, McDermott's daughter, lived here for a time. During that time, David Porter also served as the prothonotary for Huntingdon County. The Porters' son, Col. Horace Porter, would go on to serve as Gen. Ulysses Grant's aide during the Civil War, including at Appomattox.

In 1831, David Stewart the ironmaster of the Colerain Forges, and his growing family moved into the house and began building additions, expanding it into the mansion we see today. However, some of their work may not have survived; archaeological evidence, as well as maps and photos from 1919 suggest that a back wing existed where a lawn now stands. The Stewart family lived here until the death of the youngest daughter, Mararetta (Maggie), in 1919. The mansion was renowned for its hospitality as a center for music and the arts.

After Miss Maggie's death, the home was acquired by her property manager, Ben Everhart. In 1943, it was bought in turn by Louise Olds McMahon, who had moved back to the area from Manhattan. Louise began the process of renovation, which was continued by her son-in-law, John Pekruhn, a professor of architecture at Carnegie Mellon University. In 1988, John and his wife, Nancy, Louise's daughter, sold the house to Dorothy Gray Gurney, a historian and law professor from California.

Dorothy, author of Women of the West, was a pioneer in the fields of historic preservation and environmental protection, working her entire legal career to save these important cultural and environmental resources. Her husband, Hartley Gurney, worked by her side as a partner until his death in 2006. Together, they restored the mansion so that each room reflected the time period of its heyday, from the 1780s Hearth Kitchen to the 1840s Great Room.

Dorothy passed away in January 2022. Before her health began to seriously decline, however, she worked with her family to establish the Colerain Center for Education, Preservation, and the Arts as a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation to honor the historic legacy of this property. In 2019, she donated the mansion and its grounds to the Colerain Center, so that it would be open to the public as a resource for educational programs celebrating the rich history of the region.

(All information is from the National Park Service, Africa's History of Huntingdon County, as well as Huntingdon and Tyrone newspapers of the time period.)



The Stone House, originally constructed before the Revolutionary War, and rebuilt in 1836.



Our latest completed project is our new pavilion. Completed July 28th, 2023.

The pavilion is in memory of Don Baney by his wife Peg.

Don was born and raised in Warriors Mark; his family owned a crop farm in Frog Town just past Conrads Farm. After completing school, he went on to college and studied Floral Design.

Peg and Don owned and operated Baney's Flower shop in Tyrone for 55 years before they retired.

Peg tells me that Don always loved Warriors Mark.

This pavilion serves as a lasting memory of Don.



Ore Holes

By Debbie Johnston

The Dry Hollow Sand and Ore Mine- The "Dry Hollow" probably came from the Shoenberger farm which was known as the Dry Hollow farm. In 1882 Robert Hare Powell purchased the farm. He organized the Saxton Furnace Company (Bedford County) to be smelted. The property was served by the Fairbrook branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Dry Hollow mine changed hands in 1943, it was sold to William D. Harkins of Philadelphia. He became the owner of the tract of some 50 acres where the mine stood and mineral rights.

Over one-half million tons of iron ore were shipped from the Dry Hollow sand and ore mine to the Saxton Furnace.

Water was needed to wash the ore after it was brought out of the earth. Two artesian wells were drilled and cased. The casings of these wells are still visible at the mine. At one time there were eight wood-plank water tanks behind these two wells.

A steam engine operated a hoist that brought the loaded cars of ore up from the track and dumped the ore into the washer. The washer was a wooden three-sided box with no top, and into this were placed two large logs with paddles nailed along the sides. Steam engine power rotated the logs, and their movement pushed the ore out the end and down a chute, it was then pulled up a side belt into the ore bin. As it was going up the belt, a group of men stood on either side "picking" flint. Flint was mud balls and sandstone which had to be removed from the ore. As it left the belt it fell-down into the ore bin. From here it went to railroad cars and was shipped to Everett.

At the spot where the ore was mined reveals the earth was dug into deeply. As one hole was being dug, the dirt was dumped into the previous one.

The iron ore mined here only assayed about 35% iron content. When the Masabi ore from Minnesota and the Lake Superior region became available with a higher 52% iron content, the Dry Hollow mines were no longer operated. It was about 1912 when the mine stopped operating. The last shaft was 35 feet deep; no iron ore was ever mined from it.

Other ore mines/holes:

Dunkirk Ore Mine located at the back of the settlement of Loveville. The company bought the land from James Love.

Frogtown Ore Holes. Little is known about the removal of ore from these two holes. They have been filled with water. They are on the present Lynford "Happy" Conrad farms and until early 1968 on the John Baney farm, when he sold the farm to Lynford.

Gatesburg Ore Mine. Iron ore was mined on a farm owned by Elmet Rider. It is located about one-fifth mile east of the Lutheran Church and cemetery. A gentleman by the name of Mr. Wigton was the operator. After mining for a while, they found too much dirt had to be removed in comparison to the amount of ore. Operations were forced to stop.

Hostler Ore Mine. This mine was between Marengo and Pennsylvania Furnace. The farm was owned by Edmund Woomer. Part of the Mud Dam was on this farm. The ore was sent to Pittsburgh on the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad.

Information about the Ore Mines, Sand and Clay Banks can be found in the ECHOES from Warriors Mark, PA, and surrounding areas on pages 111 to 120.

Sheridan Troop – National Guard and Armory

Submitted by Debbie Johnston.

The Sheridan Troop platoon stationed in Warriors Mark was part of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry which served in the Spanish American War. The troop was founded July 15, 1871, in honor of General Phillip Sheridan of the Civil War. The founder was C.S.W. Jones, grand uncle of Brigadier General Benjamin C. Jones of Tyrone.

The Armory was a large, frame, one-story building made of wood. The building featured a high cone roof, high windows on both sides, a wooden floor, plus double doors at the street entrance, and was heated by a pot-bellied stove. Light was furnished by oil lamps placed on the walls. They were protected by wire cages. The building stood on federal government land. No picture is available.

The Fetterhoof barn once stood on this site. At the time it was moved to the Ben Reed farm. Clayton Fetterhoof was 12 years old (1873). The home of Charles and Bertha Taylor stands on part of the ball and drill field which extended to the Murray line. Here the Troopers drilled their horses. In the back of the Armory was a long post-up roof where the horses were sheltered and fed. Most of the Troopers owned their horses and cared for them a home.

When the Troop dissolved some of the members joined the Tyrone platoon. Sometime following this the Armory was sold to John E. Bell, husband of Ann Buck. The lumber from the building was used to build their home on the same site. Paul Biddle and Clyde Rider became owners, and in 1964, William Johnston bought from Clyde Rider. The Harold Hagie family lives here.

The Armory became a great asset to the community. It was used for many activities frowned upon by the church. Christmas parties, box socials, cake walks, ice cream festivals by the Ladies Aid, and square dancing were enjoyed. Both men and women had teams which played the popular sport of basketball. It also served as a regular meeting place of a local organization called the

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"Sons of Veterans." No history of this group has been found. In 1892 and 1896 the Grange held Farmer's Institute here, paying \$10 rent. It was here Ella Ralston gave her beautiful paper, "Warriors Mark Fifty Years Ago," at a Farmer's Institute meeting. A copy of her paper is on display at the Warriors Mark Historical Society.

On June 8, 1897, "The Sheridan Troop purchased an outfit of uniform horses. One June 8 the lot went to the Warriors Mark Platoon. Horses for enlisted men were dark bay in color; the officer's horses differed somewhat in color. Each officer paid for and became sole owner of the horse, the State having nothing to do with the matter. The horses were purchased from the Altoona Horse Exchange Company.

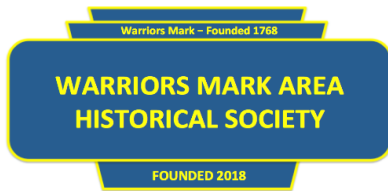
Information is from the Echoes of Warriors Mark and Surrounding Areas



Members Gone but Not Forgotten!! Obituaries

Lorna F Barto, 94 formerly of Warriors Mark, passed away Friday May 12th in Beaufort, S.C. She was born in Warriors Mark, the only child of George C and M. Pauline (Lehman) Beck. There will be a grave side service on October 7th at 11:00 am at Burket Cemetery. Lorna was a guest speaker 3 years ago at the Historical Society, you can see her video on our web site. She also wrote some articles for the newsletter a couple of years ago.

Rose Cox, 92 of Warriors Mark passed away on March 16th, 2023. She was born on November 16, 1930 in Marengo, the daughter of Eugene W. and Lillian R. Ellenberger. Married to James W. "Bud" Cox. He passed away in June 1977. She is survived by two sons, Bruce E., and William S.: a daughter Jody M. Friling. Rose taught elementary school in the Tyrone School District with most of her time at Warriors Mark Elementary School as a second-grade teacher.



*PO. Box 54
Warriors Mark, Pa 16877*

To:

Supporting Business and Organizations

*Warriors Mark Township
B & D Acres- Bill & Deb Hoover
Town & Country Animal Hospital
Spring Mount Church of the Brethren
Sickler Tarpey & Associates: Randy Tarpey CPA
Simondale Excavating
Martin Oil Company
Warriors Mark Grange
Fry's Construction
Simondale Salon*

FALL 2023

Many Thanks To All Our Supporting Members

New Shutters

June 6th, 2023

