

Celebrating America 250 Years



We are excited to officially unveil the logo for the Huntingdon County America's 250 PA.

A special thank you to Huntingdon County America250PA Committee and Fred Lang for his assistance in developing the logo.

Warriors Mark Hometown Celebration June 5th and 6th

See page 2 for a list of events.

Guest Speakers:

April 13th 6:30pm John & Kare Gilliland

John and Karen own and live in the Lowrie Mansion. After years of renovation, they will share with us some history of the Mansion and renovations they have made.

May 11th 6:30pm Stewart Neff

Stewart "Stew" a lifelong resident of Warriors Mark. Stew will be sharing his early years of growing up in the Warriors Mark Community and stories of his mom and dad who were also lifelong residents of Warriors Mark.

September 14th 6:30pm Terry Ellenberger

Terry has been with the Warriors Mark Water General Authority for 39 years. He will share with us the history and some interesting facts about our water company.

October 12th 6:30 pm Dave and Linda Hershey

November 9th Dan Durbin

Dan has been with Warriors Mark Grange for 58 years. He will share with us the history of the Grange and his involvement in the Grange over the years as a member.

Warriors Mark Area Historical Society meetings and Guest Speakers will be at the Warriors Mark Grange. Meetings starting at 6:00 pm. Followed by our guest speakers at 6:30 pm.

Index
Pg. 2.... 250 th EventsObituaryNew Summer Hours
Pg. 3Donations
Pg 4 & 5 Warriors Mark Path by Thomas Whinhimer
Pg. 6 & 7 Dave Petit
Pg. 8..... New Shed &Supporting Business

Donations:

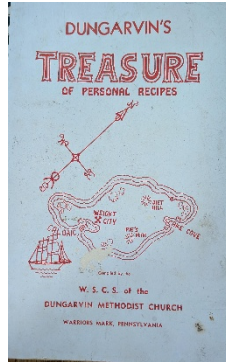
Snow Cone Maker Donated by Heidi Bohan.

Made by Logan & Strobridge Iron Co. of New Brighton, PA. Ice shaver No. 33: Patented July 4th, 1893. A saw-toothed blade inside the bowl is used for shaving ice off a block of ice. The filled bowl would then be tipped out into a familiar form of a snow cone, then flavored with maple or fruit syrup.



This tool was handed down to Heidi Bohan, Lowrie descendent, from her paternal grandmother who grew up in Minnesota and remembered its use. Heidi donated it to the Historical Society in recognition of the 'icehouse' at Warriors Mark 'Lowrie Mansion' where it is likely that an identical tool was used for the same purpose.

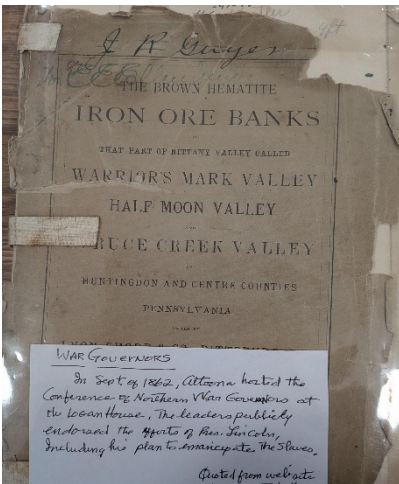
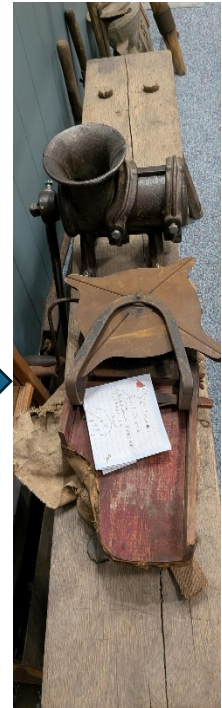
A few more items were donated:



Lazy E Ceramics donated by the family of Susie Evers



*Meat Grinder and Seed Sower
Water Ram.
Pumps water from stream or pond to the house or barn.
Donated by James Nearhoof. Both items from a local farm.*



*Iron Ore Banks
Warriors Mark Valley, Half Moon Valley and Spruce Creek Valley.
Dated 1862*

*3 Store Ledgers donated by Kathy and Joel Branstetter
Inside cover reads
George Guyer,
Dated October 30th, 1854
Warriors Mark
Huntingdon County
Penn. 1856
We will share more about these in our Fall & Winter Newsletter*



The Paths of Warriors Mark

By Thomas Weinheimer

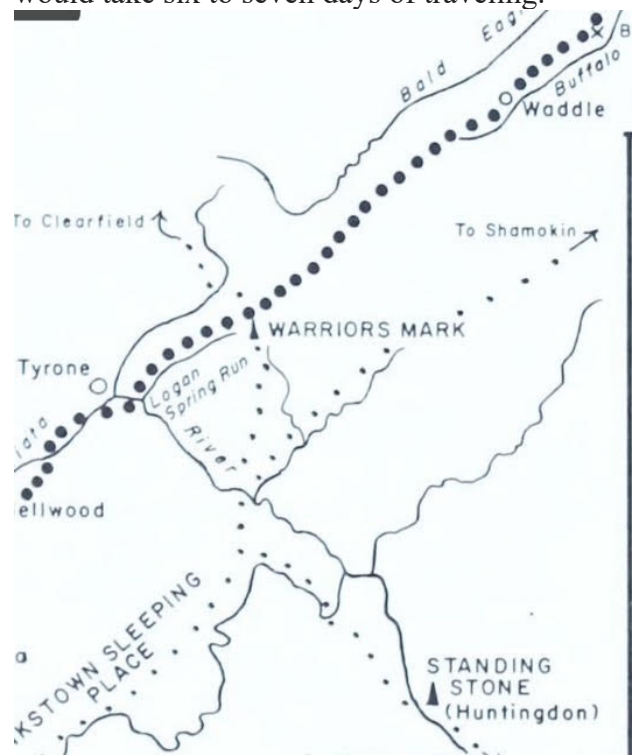
My wife, Susan and I would never guess the history that we landed on when we bought our house and property in Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania. Five years later, I bought Susan a metal detector that she has always mentioned having. We explored the pastures including a flat area 120 feet in diameter. This area produced some very interesting finds. The first items found were round balls that are used in flintlock rifles. The round ball sizes ranged from .32 caliber to .68 caliber and a total to this date being 65 of them. Most of the balls were not shot as there were no rifle marks and a few with the sprue still intact.

The next abundant item found in the flat area were flat buttons, lots of buttons! 36 buttons in total and ranged from the French Tombac type of buttons to the many British "standard" buttons. The buttons dated mostly in the 1760's to the 1780's with a few of the French buttons from 1730's to the 1750's.

The most significant finds were the coins which placed a date to the other finds. With the dates, the research began and is my strong suit. One of the coins found was a 1731 French West Indies 6 Sols with French King Louis XV. The Large cents in the flat area have dates of 1793, 1794 and two from 1797. The 1793 being the most significant since it was the very first coin minted by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia established in late 1792. The coins not only are a significant part of the research, but they were also found in the flat area just off an old Native American trail.

The Warriors Mark path came off Bald Eagle Ridge and down through what is now known as the town of Warriors Mark. Native Americans didn't name the trails as we know them today. Native Americans named the paths from the direction or destination, in this case most likely called Kittanning due to the large Native American village of the Lenni Lenape (Delaware) and even the Shawnee tribes along the Allegheny River. The path that crossed the Warriors Mark Path is now known as Bald Eagle Creek Path named by Paul A. W. Wallace in his book *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*. Bald Eagle being the Indian Chief at

the point of Bald Eagle Ridge which is now known as Milesburg. The Bald Eagle Creek path ranged from present day Lock Haven down to Frankstown. The path is also connected with many other paths that went to Kittanning, present day Lewistown and later to Fort Roberdeau area. The total mileage between present day Lewistown to Kittanning is just over 100 miles along the trail and would take six to seven days of traveling.



Bald Eagle Creek Path from Paul A.W. Wallace book "Indian Paths of Pennsylvania".

Traveling for several days would require locations where the Warriors would be able to rest and camp every night along the path. One of the sites is called Buffalo Lick and is located along Buffalo Run creek just off Buffalo Run Road and near Armagast Road. Another location was called Warriors Sleeping place and is located two miles northeast of Bellwood and most of the actual site is located under the road itself of Pleasant Valley Boulevard and not too far from DelGrosso's Park.

The flat areas became the campsites along the paths and were spaced according to the terrain. Most of the paths did not go along the ridge line nor did they follow the valley bottoms or along the creeks. The creeks would create too much of the muddy paths, and the ridge line would create too much elevation change and a challenge with the rocky conditions. These obstacles would place the trail about two thirds of the way down the side of the

mountain range where the path could also follow the contour of the land. This also places the paths where the most amount of fresh clean springs come out of the earth.

The flat campsite on the property along Ridge Road had everything. It had trees to protect those who were seeking refuge from storms. It had a consistent flowing sweet water spring. The Bald Eagle creek path also ran along the Northwest edge of the campsite. The site is also 15 miles from three other significant sites including Fort Roberdeau, Warriors Sleeping Place, and Buffalo Lick. The 15 miles is significant since that is the distance that Native Americans would travel in a day on foot. Even some of the old maps of the territory not only had the trails marked but also some of the campsites. The one site that is not marked is our flat area just outside of Warriors Mark.

The evidence of charcoal in the ground suggests that many campfires were built on the site. The fires were also used to melt the lead and cast the round balls there were found on site. Along with the lead round ball several flat pieces of lead were found. Flat pieces of lead made it easy not only to produce but also break smaller pieces off that could be melted in a campfire to produce the round ball. Once the lead is poured into the mold it solidifies quickly and the mold can be opened allowing the hot lead round ball to drop to the ground and at this time still with the sprue attached. The round ball is still too hot to hold and cut the sprue off creating a perfect round ball ready to shoot.

The Hunting shirt or Jacket of the mid to late 1700's would be the source of the buttons that were found on the site. The Canadian French of the 1750's would wear a more comfortable fit clothing unlike the French regular army that would wear the lighter blue coats. The later British made buttons of the 1760's and even to the 1790's most likely came from those who are just traveling through the area. The buttons would come loose from their sewing and fall off as the wearer would remove the shirt or place it back on at the campsite.

British buttons that are marked range from "standard colour" to the "standard Gilded". The buttons would have a small wire soldered in the center on the back of the button with the writing or

stamped with the makers' information around the center. Designs or rings would also be stamped into the buttons. A few of the buttons found in the camp had floral designs on the face of the button. All the French buttons were plain with a raised section on the back with a hole to be sewn onto the shirt.

Warriors Mark Path and the Bald Eagle Creek path crossed near a location that became known as Crossroads. The earliest maps show the Warriors Mark path turning right as you go up the mountain rather than the sharp left about 25 rods or 137 yards up the mountain. The Bald Eagle creek path also shows up on the maps 5-15 rods or 27 to 83 yards further down the mountain from the current Ridge Road. Note: rods were used on many of the earliest maps.

The earliest settlers built the first cabins or "shacks" about 20 rods or just over 100 yards on the southeast side of the trail. This allowed for some privacy from the travelers and in this location, it was further downstream from the spring and the flat campsite. This first cabin was built by Johann Rumbarger about 1805 and was used for about 50 years. The cabin was the only structure on the southeast side of the trail until the barns and other farm structures were built.

Bald Eagle creek path was last used in the 1820's since the road superintendent at the time placed Ridge Road in an area that would not disturb the early farms along the route. A few of the earliest houses like the first Buck farm and the Rumbarger house were constructed almost right along Bald Eagle Creek Path. The placement of the houses on the path allowed the houses to overlook their farm but also placed the path on the back side of the houses as they are seen today.

Studying the early houses of the late 1700's and early 1800's the kitchens were placed towards the rear of the house. The kitchens of the same houses today would now be on the front of the houses. The road versus the location of the Bald Eagle Creek Path also would place the great room and front porch to the rear of the house and still overlooking the farm and valley. It's not surprising that several of the large porches still stand due to the unbelievable views across the valley. On a clear day Spruce creek area can be seen along with Tyrone and State College.

Colerain Forges Mansion

Past and Present

By Dave petit
Executive Director Colerain Center



Colerain has a history that dates to the late 1700s. Richard Ricketts, a land speculator, had the almost 400 acres surveyed in 1786. It was mentioned in the warrant that there was an improvement as early as 1781 on the property, but it is not known what the improvement was or located. By 1790, he had sold close to 100 acres to Shadrack Tipton; this 100 acres encompasses land that Colerain sits on today. Shadrack Tipton had a sawmill on this property, and perhaps this was the improvement. In 1792, he sold the property to Samuel Marshall, an Scot Irish immigrant who came to America in about 1790.

Samuel Marshall, an entrepreneur, purchased the land and partnered with John Walker. They developed it into a small town that later was called Marshall's Mill. Marshall's Mill also had the first post office in the Spruce Creek Valley. In 1801, Marshall placed an advertisement to sell the property of roughly about 100 acres. It had listed everything that was on the property. There

was a gristmill, distillery, cooper shop, a store and a tavern. One of the most interesting things listed was a newly framed house with its dimensions listed. This house was 28x28 and it has been discovered to be the beginnings of the actual mansion that is Colerain today.

In 1818, Samuel Marshall was unable to maintain the property financially due to the War of 1812 having a negative impact on the iron industry in Pennsylvania. The property was Sheriff sold and the buyers were John Lyon and Robert Stewart, the owners of Pennsylvania Furnace. They purchased all the buildings, including the Marshall's Forge that was built in 1814. They had also bought through Sheriff sale the upper and lower Sligo forges that were owned by William Patton.

Lyon and Stewart operated these three forges together. In 1821 the Postmaster General announced in the Huntingdon Gazette that Marshall's Mill was to be renamed to Colerain Forges. It is not known why the name Colerain was used. Robert Stewart managed Colerain Forges until 1828. Robert moved to Pittsburgh and opened Sligo Iron Works. The iron works was an operation that was owned by the Lyon, Shorb and Co. Colerain forges was also owned by the company and went from producing wrought iron for local use to

producing iron blooms that was shipped to Sligo to be processed into plate and bar. Between the years of 1828 to 1860, Colerain forges produced 29,616 tons of wrought iron blooms.

In 1831, Colerain Forges would receive a new ironmaster. David Stewart, half brother to Robert Stewart and brother-in-law to John Lyon took the position of iron master of Colerain Forges. David had been the ironmaster of Pennsylvania Furnace and his move to the Colerain Mansion created the mansion into the shape we see today. Lyon, Shorb and Co. had the mansion remodeled and built on to accommodate David's growing family. The Stewart family lived in the Colerain Mansion from 1831 to 1919. Margaret "Maggie" Stewart, the youngest of the Stewart children, passed away in 1919. After Miss Maggie's death, the mansion would pass through several owners, fortunately in 1988, the mansion was purchased by

Dorothy Gurney, who put a lot of time and effort into preserving the property.

In 1990, Colerain Forges Mansion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was Dorothy's wish to have the property preserved for future generations. In 2019 The Colerain Center for Education, Preservation and the Arts was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is the mission of the Colerain center to preserve the property's rich history through workshops, presentations, archaeology, and house tours. In keeping with the Stewart sisters' interest in bringing art and music to the mansion, the Colerain Center offers space for artist residencies through an application process.

If you are interested learning more about Colerain Forges Mansion or become a member you can visit our website at coleraincenter.org

Colerain Forges Mansion May-October 2026 House and Grounds Tours

Come learn the history of the beautiful Colerain Mansion and its role in the local iron industry.

1st & 2nd Sunday of each month May-October
Times are, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for 6-16
Visit coleraincenter.org to book a tour

Opening Weekend
May 2nd 2026
Living History Day

Warriors Mark - Founded 1768

**WARRIORS MARK AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 2018

*PO. Box 54
Warriors Mark, Pa 16877*

To:

Supporting Business

Warriors Mark Water Authority

Warriors Mark Township

B & D Acres- Bill & Deb Hoover

Town & Country Animal Hospital

Spring Mount Church of the Brethren

M & T Bank

Simondale Excavating

Martin Oil Company

Warriors Mark Grange

Fry's Construction

Kish Bank

SK Smith Consulting

John G. & Karen Gilliland



New Shed

Last fall we replaced our 8ft x 7ft shed with a 12 x 24 ft shed. We found that the little School House was just not big enough to store all of our treasures.