

The Biery House Herald



www.hcpa.org

Newsletter of the Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association Fall 2013

Its that time of year when HCPA asks its friends and neighbors to join or renew their membership for 2014, helping us preserve the rich heritage of our community. Your contributions along with fundraising activities throughout the year provide the funds to maintain the historic properties along the canal between Union and Race: the Biery House and Summer Kitchen, the Deily Coal Yard and Scale House, the Mule Barn, and grounds. In the past year, your contributions have allowed us to grow the museum, provide regular open house hours and tours for children, begin planning for the 100 Year Anniversary Celebration of Old Home Week 1914, and help the George Taylor House advance its plans and programs. We've published quarterly newsletters containing history articles and organizational news consistently for the past four years. We've developed the fall festival to bring history alive for families and children, who will become the future preservers of history. HCPA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and your dues and donations are tax deductible. In 2014, we will begin providing discounts to members on rentals, tickets for the OHW House Tour, and books and CDs published by HCPA.

Old Home Week 2014 is an exciting undertaking for our community one which will help build/rebuild Community in addition to reminding residents of our important heritage. We are confident that there are many who share the vision and will help make this event a success by participating in planning committees (see page 4) and becoming sponsors (see below). The existing J4 Committee is also working hard to provide a parade, fireworks, etc on July 5th and will be selling raffle tickets and seeking sponsors – so please plan accordingly with your contributions.

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2014 HCPA Membership

___ Member \$25
___ Senior \$15
___ Business \$50
___ Benefactor \$ _____

1914-2014 Old Home Week Sponsorship

___ Blue (<\$50) ___ White(\$50-99) ___ Red(\$100-\$249)
___ Bronze (\$250-\$499) ___ Silver (\$500-\$999) ___ Gold (\$1000+)
___ I wish to make an in-kind donation of _____
___ Please direct my donation to (specify OHW activity) _____

Name _____ **Amount Enclosed** \$ _____

Address* _____

Phone _____ E-mail* _____

*Please send receipt to address _____ or email _____

Make Checks out to HCPA & send to HCPA, 8 Race St, Catasauqua, PA 18032
HCPA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Memberships & donations are 100% tax deductible.

HCPA thanks the following for their recent donations

- **Donators to Fest O' Fall** for their contributions of dollars, food, supplies, and time & talents as volunteers, including the many students from Catasauqua High School and the Lehigh Valley Christian School, without whom the event would not be possible. Everyone did a great job making this a fun day for families in the community. Also thanks to the following local merchants whose donations were used to plant mums in front of 8 Race St: The Cut, Poletalian, Catty Scrap Yard, Garden City and Steve Haas.
 - Mr. and Mrs. William Wehr - china book of 50th anniversary of Ladies Auxiliary East End Fire Co. 1932-86
 - Catasauqua centennial committee medallion 1853 to 1953
 - Lehigh County Sesquicentennial 1812 to 1862, ground breaking Lehigh County Court House medallion
 - Bryden Horse Shoe Co token
 - Catasauqua, Pa. 100th anniversary 1853 to 1953 stickers
 - Catasauqua, Pa. 100th anniversary plate
 - Scrapbook from Woman's Club 1972
 - Scrapbooks from Woman's Auxiliary East End Fire Co. 1956 and Photographs
 - Suzan and Keith Andrews - WW I Navy uniform belonging to Wm Heckenberger, early pharmacist in town
 - Dr. Elaine Husted - 1916 monthly time book (company unknown)
 - Mark Moats - new weed wacker for maintaining the towpath trail/canal
 - Buggy wheel repair by Pete Ellis
 - Brian Zettlemyer - Old Dutch shutters
 - Ben Ferenchak for fixing electric in mule barn, landscaping, and volunteering to join our Board
 - Larry & Kathy Moyer for hydrangeas. Ben Ferenchak Sr for perennial flowers.& landscaping
 - Tod Kern and the Scale House crew for work on the towpath and canal and repairs around the coal yard
- HCPA procured an antique iron cart, possibly originating at a nearby cement company. To view memorabilia, our museum is open by appt in the winter – call to schedule a visit!

David Thomas Family Bible

HCPA received a donation by John McVey of the Welsh Bible of the David Thomas Family dating from 1727. We were honored recently with a visit from John McVey and several of his CHS 1951 classmates. McVey is a descendant of Hopkin Thomas*, who ran the machine shop of the Crane Iron and taught many of Catasauqua's sons basic machinery and iron making technology. Mr. McVey created The Hopkin Thomas Project website, initially as a means of documenting the role of James Thomas (Hopkin's son) in the reconstruction of Alabama's iron industry after the civil war, correcting some of the confusion resulting from the fact that two Thomas families from the Lehigh Valley had interests in that reconstruction. However, Mr. McVey has grown the site to include the genealogies of the two Thomas families and the history of Catasauqua. This site has the most comprehensive history of Catasauqua available online, and new information is always being added.

Hopkin & David Thomas came from the same iron making area in Wales. Hopkin emigrated to America in 1834 and was active in the advancement of railcar technology prior to moving to Catasauqua in 1853 to become Chief Engineer at the Crane. His son James, after working at iron works in Parryville and Alabama, returned to Catasauqua to join his childhood friend George Davies in the foundry business (Davies & Thomas Foundry) supplying forgings for rail car wheels and axles being fabricated across the river in Fullerton. The two friends also were partners in the Wahleneta Silk and Electric Light & Power Co. He built the red stone mansion at 4th and Pine and championed the upgrades to the park following Old Home Week 1914.

*An article on the Hopkin Thomas family was published in the Biery House Herald in 2010.

The Flirt of Fourth Street

A history of Easton written in 1885 includes a story of an outsider moving to Easton, into what was then a small rustic settlement of Germans during the 1760s. The English with their pomp and fancy dress were generally scoffed at by the rural German farmers and tradesmen. The German women were perhaps even less accepting as recounted in this story. Even after the first courthouse was erected in 1766, the town remained a farming community: nearly 200 sheep would graze in the shade of the courthouse, pig pens opened onto the street and the pigs wandered freely between their sties and a pond by the court house, and cows returning from pasture would be milked in the street at the end of the day. George Taylor who was entrusted with building the first court house for Northampton County, moved to Easton in 1765 to do so. The timing of this move and the timeframe of the story suggested to Richard F. Hope of Easton (article for the Easton Irregular, October 2013) that the outsider in the story may have been the George Taylors', though let's hope it wasn't. The story, "Flirt of Fourth Street" written by Mrs. Elizabeth F. Ellet for Godey's Lady's Magazine, recounts the tale, with names changed to protect all those involved, of a Colonial Assemblyman, his English wife and son, who came to summer along the Delaware bringing with them a gardener, servant, and Philadelphia style furniture, clothes, and manners. They did not attend church with the locals, and the young wife was apparently quite coquettish attracting the attentions of the local men. When winter came, the wife and son stayed on, while the husband went to Assembly in Philadelphia. Throughout the winter, the young woman's flirtations with the men of the village reached a point such that the women of the village decided to teach the young woman a lesson, and, one night, drug her down to the pond, where they each took turns ducking her head underwater. Leaving her there, they scurried home, only to find the next morning that she had been found dead next to the water. The death caused much commotion, but no one was ever prosecuted. Though the story was written many years after the incident, the author introduces the story as factual and as recounted to her by those who witnessed the events. Ghost stories have survived to keep the tale alive.

Old Home Week Education Day Parade

On Tuesday of OHW 1914 there was a parade of all the school children of Catasauqua and North Catasauqua public schools and St Mary's and St. Lawrence Parochial schools, plus alumni of those schools. The group deemed the most beautiful was St Mary's as 312 students formed a 'human' flag, with thirteen students abreast and 24 deep representing the stripes and children in the upper corner wearing hats of stars. High school public school students dressed in white with their right shoulders covered in bunting to represent the Goddess of Liberty. The seventh and eighth grades dressed as Uncle Sam. Sixth graders were costumed as surgeons and nurses. Fourth and fifth grades were sailors and lassies. Third graders dressed as campfire boys and girls. Second graders were farm boys and milkmaids, and first graders were dressed as red tulips and buttercups. Alumni groups marched by class carrying maypoles with streamers of their re-

spective class colors. Children from St Lawrence dressed in white with trimmings of red, white and blue and carried flag parasols.



School Group in the
Old Home Week
Education Day
Parade, 1914

Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association
8 Race Street
Catasauqua, PA 18032



Fall 2013



The Biery House c. 1826

OUR MISSION

To encourage an appreciation of the historical and the architectural heritage of the borough; to encourage the preservation of the architecture in our historic districts and the borough at large as the houses and buildings are the tangible evidence of the events that made Catasauqua important as a contributor to the growth and development, not only of Pennsylvania, but also of the United States; to encourage the preservation of the architectural integrity of our neighborhoods and to foster pride of ownership in the houses and buildings in our historic districts.

Our Board Members

Debra Mellish	President
Betsy Hillenbrand	Vice President
Janice Lathrop	Treasurer
Bob LeFevre	Gallery Director
Ben Ferenchak	Museum Director
Larry Mouer	Director
Keith Shannon	Director
Brian Zettlemyer	Director
Dave Bernini	Web Master

OLD HOME WEEK 1914-2014

Events are being planned for June 27-29 and July 3-6, 2014. Mark your calendars and sign up for a committee to help with the event: Steering, Reunion, History, Arts, Music & Entertainment, Athletic Events, Publicity, Fundraising, Beautification, and Operations. Contact Deb Mellish to sign up at debmellish@gmail.com or call 610 231-0603. Events so far:

- June 27 – Music and Entertainment at Catty Park
- June 28 – 5K Race, Downtown Business Block Party, Video memproes, more TBA
- June 29 – Arts in the Park, sports, and Catty Palooza @ Park
- June 30-July 4 – Park Y sports, History displays
- July 3 – Pub crawl
- July 4 – Reading of the 'Declaration' at the GTH, tours and music,
- July 5 – J4 activities at the North Catty Park & "Reunion"
- July 6 – HCPA's House Tour

UPCOMING EVENTS

HCPA will **celebrate the holidays** on Friday, December 13, 7pm at 8 Race St. All members, volunteers, and sponsors are invited. Join us as we decorate for the holidays Tuesday Dec 3rd at 7pm, (in lieu of our normal business meeting*).

Open House hours for the Biery House and George Taylor House will resume the first Sunday in May, 2014.

RENTAL OF THE BIERY HOUSE

The Biery House may be rented for private parties/meetings. The rental fee of \$125 includes use of tables (seats up to 50), chairs, basic linens and a kitchenette. A discount is available for members. Email eshillenbrand@gmail.com or call 610 264-9716 for information.

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page 3: Flirt of 4th Street; Old Home Week 1914 Education Day Parade