



The Manor

A Newsletter of The
Equinunk Historical Society
Calder House Museum
Calder Gift Shop
Joel Hill Sawmill



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Telephone: 570-224-6722

P.O. Box 41, 1972 Pine Mill Rd., Equinunk, PA 18417-0041

E-Mail: EHS22@verizon.net

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Website: www.equinunkhistory.org

THE EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We are very pleased to announce that, after several years of vacancies, we have finally filled those spots and now have a full nine-member Board. We look forward to working together in the coming season.

Pictured, front row, seated, left to right: Donna Burrowes, Carol Ann MacMaster, Vicky Bradshaw, Donna DuBois; back row, left to right: Tim Wilson, Art Flynn, President John Schror, Bob Wood, and Dick Stowe.

CURATOR

When you turn the page and look at our “Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers” section, please note that for the first time in several years, the Curator position has a new name listed by it: Roberta McLane! We are excited to report she has joined the staff part-time and will be working on organizing accessions and preparing new exhibits for next season. More about Roberta and her progress in the May 2020 issue.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD



The Wayne County Historical Society Historic Preservation Awards ceremony took place on October 19th at their headquarters. Carol Ann MacMaster, a chair on the committee, nominated presented an award to The Equinunk Historical Society for the creation of The Thomas Cleveland Museum of Vintage Machinery, and preservation the vintage equipment. Robert Wood, Chair of the Hill Sawmill accepted the award on behalf of the Society and Museum, complimenting Mr. Cleveland and the crew, and the fine work they have done to get these machines up and running.



and
of
Joel

Also receiving awards this year were: Linda Dix Lee and Dennis Favello, for their book, “Orson, History of a Pennsylvania Village;” “Bethany, In the Beginning,” by Ferne Keesler; The Bethany Bandshell; The Dunkleberg/Stark House; and the Galilee Methodist Church.

President's Message



Dear Members & Friends of EHS:

Yes, it is me again! I have been voted back in to be your President. I would like to thank the board members for keeping me in office. I also wanted to thank those who attended the annual meeting!

It is that time of year, when our great summer weather is fast coming to an end. The end of another year is fast approaching. But with this comes the beginning of our First Fridays! The first Friday of each month, we encourage our local talent to come and perform at the Calder Café. Playing instruments, lending their vocal talents, etc... I may even get up and sing one song this year!

As usual, we have lost several close friends and neighbors this year. But, most recently, a beloved and long-time member has left us, Wellington Lester. He has donated so many items, and knowledge, but, most importantly, his love of our area.

We would like to wish, with saddened hearts, our best to the families of our friends and neighbors who have passed this year, including Ann Preston Vail and Kuni Holbert.

Our programs this year have been well received! I want to thank those who put them on and those who attended them. With that being said, I encourage, no, stronger than that; we *need* your input! This is as much your E.H.S., as it is those who volunteer here! By all means, please bring any new ideas or thoughts to us! Ideas for programs, improvements, even your time! There are plenty of things we all can do to build this place to a point of being around for a long time. We are always seeking volunteers, and I do encourage everyone to come and visit our E.H.S., often!

Also, a hearty thank you to Sherry Zona, Lisa Muth and the gang for all the time and energy they have put into the improvements of the grounds and the Calder Shop! Other than the major work shown in photos on page 6 (done by Jesse Glosenger, pictured below), this has been all done by our volunteers!

Best wishes for the coming New Year!

John Schror, EHS President



EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers
2019-2020

President	John Schror
Vice President	Tim Wilson
2 nd Vice President	Donna DuBois
Recording Secretary	Carol Ann MacMaster
Treasurer	Donna Burrowes
Directors	Victoria Bradshaw, Art Flynn
Office Manager	Carol Ann MacMaster
Building/Grounds	Harold Butler, Blair Kobelin, Greg Quaglio
Bookkeeper	Donna DuBois
Calder Shop	Sherry Zona
Curator	Roberta McLane
Corresponding Secretary	Victoria Bradshaw
Genealogy	Carol Ann MacMaster
Head Sawyer	Chuck Heyn
Hospitality	Carol Ann MacMaster, Kathy Quaglio
Membership	Carol Ann MacMaster
Photography	Don Kaszner
Program Coordinator	Carol Ann MacMaster
Publications	Chris Kobelin
Sawmill Committee	Robert Wood
"The Manor"	Donna DuBois, Editor
Proofreaders	Kathy Quaglio Donna DuBois
Honorary Directors	Marjorie Anderson, Margaret Snyder

The Equinunk Historical Society Newsletter "The Manor" is published seasonally, three times a year and sent to all members. Additionally, copies are available through the office at the Museum. Materials for publication are always welcome and sought after. Please email or mail submissions to Donna DuBois c/o EHS22@verizon.net or mail them to EHS, PO Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417

PASSING OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



WELLINGTON FRANK LESTER

April 16, 1924 – August 28, 2019

Wellington Frank Lester passed away on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. He was born prematurely to Edward and Bertha Scudder Lester on April 16, 1924 in Port Jervis, NY, weighing 2 1/2 pounds. Wellington often remarked that “he had been in a hurry as long as he could remember.” His father, Edward Lester, died in 1935. A sacrificing mother, an elderly grandmother, and caring neighbors influenced his early years. He attended the one-room schools in Equinunk for 8 years, with his mother being his teacher for grades 5 thru 8. He graduated from Hancock Central School in 1942. He worked for three years in Elmira, NY, for Andover Motors, who manufactured auxiliary power plants for U.S. Bombers, as a technical data clerk. He then entered Mansfield State Teachers College, graduating in 1949 with a B.S. Degree in Education with a major in the sciences. He attended Penn State University and received his M.S. Degree in Education with a major in the sciences in 1955. He received his administrative certification from Colgate University in 1966.

His public school career began in Clifton Heights, PA, where he taught sciences for three years. He came to Hancock Central School in 1952 and taught biology, chemistry, and physics. In 1956 he married Helen Forester and brought her to live at his family home in Equinunk, PA. In 1965 he was appointed vice principal with time divided between classroom duties and administrative duties. He served as the first full time high school principal from 1968-1978 (with a peak enrollment at HCS of 1305 in 1969-1970). Dedicated class room work was his joy as well as serving as class advisor and senior class chaperone to Washington D.C. for thirteen years. He retired from HCS in 1978. From 1980-1982 he was employed by the Deposit Central School District on a half day basis, working in the math lab. He served as clerk for the Hancock Central School District from 1982-2010.

Mr. Lester worked with Ronald DeLuca and George Elwood to form the Hancock Community Education Foundation. He became a member and served as secretary of the Board of Directors. Mr. Lester maintained ties at Mansfield where he served for several years on the Alumni Board and the Foundation Board. As a past director and charter member of the Equinunk Historical Society, he served as secretary and program director and was involved in ongoing projects. Personal satisfaction was evident in being a charter member of the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company. Membership with the Hancock Rotary started in 1965. He was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He was the principal author of the publications *THE BRIDGES OF LORDVILLE* in 1992 and the *EQUINUNK METHODIST CHURCH* in 1996. Memberships were held in the Wayne County Historical Society and the Hancock Historical Association, NYS Retired Teachers Association, AARP and the Hancock Emory United Methodist Church, where he served as financial secretary for many years. He was grateful to all who helped him along his life journey. He is survived by his wife and several cousins.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Hancock Central School for the Wellington and Helen Lester math and science scholarship fund to be awarded to a graduating senior who will pursue college studies in the field of mathematics or the sciences.

Perhaps Mr. Lester is best described by the comments made by the people who knew him: “Mr. Lester was a pillar of the community.” “I was very fortunate to have Mr. Lester as my home room teacher in ninth grade and my teacher in biology and chemistry after that. He was a very good teacher and friend, a man of character and a faithful churchman who served his Lord.” “He had compassion and humility, attributes he fostered in others. The quintessential life-long learner, Mr. Lester expected that ‘his teachers’ would make even difficult learning an interesting and enjoyable experience.” “Mr. Lester will be missed by generations of former students and townspeople. He was well liked and always very pleasant to speak with. He very giving of his time.” “... one of the finest I have known.” “You left a huge impact on all who knew you.”

PASSING OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



ANN PRESTON VAIL

November 19, 1921 - September 14, 2019

Ann P. Vail, a lifelong area resident, entered into rest on Saturday, 09/14/19 at the home of her nephew, Edward Vail, in Middletown, NY. She was 97 years of age. The daughter of the late Archibald E. and Ruth Knight Vail, she was born on November 19, 1921 in Middletown, NY.

Ann was employed as a map and records clerk for Orange & Rockland Utilities in Middletown. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church for 83 years, joining in 1936. Ann was a 50-plus-year member of the Historical Society of Middletown and the Wallkill Precinct, of which she was secretary for 12 years and served on the Board of Directors. She was a Life and Charter Member, Honorary Member of the Board of Equinunk Historical Society of Wayne County, PA and a member of the Board of Directors of Hillside Cemetery in Middletown where she conducted historical tours. Ann was a descendant of Isaiah Vail, a Captain in the Militia fighting in the Battle of Fort Montgomery during the Revolutionary War who is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

Nephew Eddie Vail would like to thank Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties for the compassionate care given to Ann. Survivors include her niece, Marcia Skiff of Napanoch, NY; nephews, Edward J. Vail of Middletown and Thomas F. Vail of Monticello, NY; grand-niece, Toni J. Vail; step great-nephew, James Henry Osterhoudt; JoAnne Vail, widow of nephew Samuel P. Vail; 16 first cousins once removed. Ann was predeceased by her brothers, Roger B. Vail II and Archibald Vail Jr.; nephews, Roger B. Vail III and Samuel P. Vail, and sister-in-law, Teresa F. Vail.

Ann's cremains will be buried in the Stockport Cemetery in Wayne County, PA, family burial ground since 1804. Memorial contributions may be made in Ann's name to the Historical Society of Middletown, The Equinunk Historical Society, and the Wallkill Precinct, 25 East Ave., Middletown, NY 10940.

I first met Ann in the summer of 1983 when I drove over from our vacation house in Pleasant Mount to see what evidence I could discover on the ground of Henry Drinker's Union Farm, which was the subject of an article of mine that had just been published in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Failing to find anything near the Little Equinunk, I made my way north to Equinunk and then to what was left of the Stockport settlement. There, through a stroke of great good luck, I met Ann Vail who had come with a friend from Middletown, New York, to tend the family cemetery on one of her regular trips for that purpose.

Miss Vail — Ann, in due course — led me to the Preston monument in the cemetery and afterward on an extended tour of the remnants of the Cottage, the Preston mansion, and the nearby millworks. That represented my introduction to her ancestor Samuel Preston, which would soon result in another published article, this time focusing on Preston and the agitated relationship he had with Henry Drinker, a Philadelphia Quaker of intimidating rectitude.

Ann proved the source of valuable primary material for my research, some of which I am happy to learn has since been acquired by EHS. A strong supporter of EHS, she had a streak of independence traceable to both Samuel Preston and his wife, Marcia Jenkins Preston. Birthright Quakers, they were nevertheless disowned by the Society of Friends for the irregularity of their marriage conducted in Stockport in 1795 according to Quaker practice, but without the required approval of meeting.

In 1987 at EHS's annual meeting I had the pleasure of presenting to EHS a framed photograph of the original marriage certificate which I had been able to track down in the possession of a long-lost cousin of Ann Vail's living in Portland, Oregon.

~ DAVID MAXEY

PASSING OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

KUNI HOLBERT



Kuni Holbert, 85, Starrucca, PA, passed away on Friday, September 27, 2019. She was born in Germany in 1934, and escaped across the Iron Curtain from East Germany in 1949. It was there she married Calvin Holbert and immigrated in 1957 to become a United States Citizen. She still lived in the same house on Lake Shehawken where her husband was born. They had three children, Lothar, Paul and Laura. Surviving her are these children and several grandchildren.

Kuni had a prolific career as a very active community servant. She sold real estate for more than 35 years and still served on many committees and non-profit organizations as well as local government entities. She was a compassionate person, yet vigorously supported her many causes. Among them was her dedicated service to the then-fledgling Equinunk Historical Society, where she was a director and long-time treasurer. She had a very active role in restoring the Joel Hill Sawmill.



Serving their community, passionate about history, strong in mind and heart, compassionate, fiercely determined to do things the way they felt was right and possessed of a dry sense of humor; these are all the things that Wellington, Ann and Kuni had in common. They all gave so much in so many ways to our Society, from the early days on. Kuni worked hard, alongside others equally dedicated, to help with the restoration of the Joel Hill Sawmill and was one of the organizational members in 1981. She was Treasurer for some time and also served as a director.

Wellington, also an organizational member, served in many capacities as well. He was Program Director for many years, and always insisted we have a theme for each season. He compiled at least five binders full of historical information on one-room schools, Manchester and Buckingham Townships, etc. and wrote two tour guides which he also led, on Equinunk and Lordville. He and Helen also donated numerous artifacts and gave monetary donations in memory of many individuals, along with a huge amount of paperwork and books dealing with other area history.

Ann was a major contributor to one of our books, *Samuel Preston, Buckingham to Buckingham*, and we now have many of the original documents in our archives. She also encouraged Lucile Howell who wrote another of our books, *John the Knight Who Came to Stockport*. She donated most of the artifacts in the Stockport Room upstairs in the original building, and journeyed up from Middletown NY every week in the summer to care for the Stockport Cemetery, until her health began to fail. Her last trip up while she was still alive was to bring us a corner shelf for inclusion in the room. Space does not allow me to extol more of the virtues of these stalwart Life Members of our little group of historians who contributed so much to preserve and protect our local history. Now it is up to the rest of us to educate others and keep that history alive in perpetuity.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CALDER HOUSE MUSEUM - BEFORE & AFTER



HAVE YOU VISITED LATELY?

It occurred to us that some of our members and friends may not have had an opportunity to visit us in a while, or perhaps there are rooms that you have never seen. Here are just a few photos to encourage you to schedule a visit soon. We think that during our Open House on December 6, 7 and 8 would be a perfect time!



JOEL HILL SAWMILL/CLEVELAND MUSEUM

As mentioned in the August addition of the Manor, one of the turbine structural support beams was slated for replacement. Shortly after the August sawing demonstration, the crew removed the existing beam, which came out in pieces as a result of rot, and installed a new white oak 12 by 12, seven feet in length. During the process, the two outer support vertical posts were also found to be compromised, undoubtedly due to their age and constant moisture conditions as a result of their proximity to the falls. As there was a sawing demonstration coming in October, the decision was made to provide additional support to the posts on a temporary basis to insure stability until the problem could be addressed properly next spring.

Many are unaware that the teeth of the drive gear on the vertical turbine shaft are made of wood. In case of a catastrophic failure in the drive system, the teeth will break protecting other system components from damage. Recently all 40 teeth were replaced since all were cracked, badly worn or partially broken. Each tooth has to be custom fit into slots in the cast-iron base. This is a painstaking job for the crew but one of critical importance to the safe and successful operation of the mill.

The October sawing demo was well attended and included a Brownie troop from the Mount Pocono area who traveled about an hour and a half to attend. The scouts enjoyed the tour, the sawing demonstration, the falls, the beautiful weather and the cider and doughnuts!



JIGSAW

The Cleveland Museum has seen some interesting developments recently. A few machines were rearranged to allow positioning of the jigsaw that was donated this past summer and which is now fully functional.

The blades will then have to be set in place and carefully adjusted. We hope to plane our first board soon!

Cutter knives for the four-sided planer, driven by our Case LA tractor are in the process of sharpening. The



4-SIDED PLANER

A two horsepower electric motor was attached to the 44" band saw, or "ship saw" as it is commonly called. A 20' saw band has yet to be secured, but should be forthcoming.

An overhead driveshaft system for the horizontal milling machine is presently being designed by the crew. This will be a winter project and will bring the mill on line with the other machines in the building. It is hoped that this will be completed and functional by spring of 2020.

We look forward to seeing you at our next demonstration. Please plan to stop by in 2020.



HORIZONTAL MILLING MACHINE

Greg Quaglio

MISCELLANEOUS GOOD NEWS/UPDATES!

We didn't have room on our "Before and After" section on page 6 for this, but we want to brag on Sherry Zona and Lisa Muth for all their hard work on our landscaping. Their work was so impressive that they were asked to work on the grounds of the home across the street too! Maybe they should go into business as "Good Friends Landscaping!"



UPDATE ON AIRPLANE SPOTTERS

The 1943 Airplane Spotter Program article in our August 2019 issue was very well received. We have since received information from both Helen Adams and Linda Dix Lee about several more families who were involved in this program. We knew there must be much more on the subject in Wayne County and are excited about all we have gotten so far. We are unable to insert it in this issue, so we will include it in the upcoming May, 2020 issue, and hope to have accumulated even more information by then. Stay tuned!

LOCAL BUSINESSES



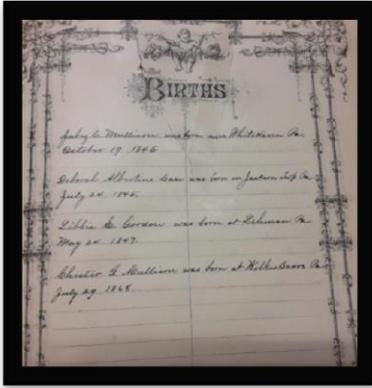
She's been there all year, but EHS would like to officially welcome Jutta Bishop as the new operator of the Equinunk General Store. If you haven't visited this summer, you're in for a nice surprise. Jutta stocks the store with all sorts of unique merchandise including yummy bakery goods, ice cream and milk, meats and cheeses, specialty coffee, delectable dark chocolates, handmade soaps, and the best part is that all of these items are from local businesses! And, she has lots of antiques. You can see full details on the Equinunk General Store Facebook page. But we hear she'll be closing for at least part of the winter, so you should visit before the end of December!

We've also just heard that a new eatery will soon be opening in the Village Barn Restaurant building. You probably know the great local cooks who will be running it - they are known as Connie and Grandma Laurie!

Our very own Calder Corner Shop will be open for your shopping pleasure during our Holiday Open House Dec. 6, 7 & 8 from noon to 4 p.m., and also that same Friday night from 6 to 7 pm right before our December "First Friday" acoustic music evening.

We encourage you to shop and do business locally as often as possible!

GENEALOGY GEMS



As we have mentioned before, we have a family Bible with information in it about the Mullison and Berry families. If anyone has information on these folks, please let us know. We would like to return this Bible to a family member.



In memory of Ann Preston Vail, we would like to work on a project in the spring to update the names of those buried there, and work in conjunction with the Stockport Cemetery Association to help clean it up during the summer as Ann did for so many years. Her nephew Eddie has expressed an interest in helping with this. We will provide more information on this in the spring. As always, volunteers are welcome to be involved.



And now... a bit of fanfare please... Best wishes to long-time member Mary K. VanDien, who celebrated her 97th birthday on October 1st! If you would like to send her a card, just contact us to ask for her address.



JUST A RANDOM THOUGHT: IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY,
BE SURE TO FIND AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



MONETARY DONATIONS

ANNUAL APPEAL: Hugh Rocks, Brenda Ramme, Patricia Wilson, Emma Varcoe, Jane Varcoe, Nicole Dennis, Katherine & August Stile, Helen Schuman, John Seccia, Patricia Baum, John E. Joyce, Wellington & Helen Lester, Ann O'Hara, Art & Sandy Flynn, Hana Marritz, Robert H. Dennis, Sr., Blair & Christina Kobelin, Elaine Hillier, Linda & Dan Wescott, David & Maxey, Greg & Kathy Quaglio, Edward Dixon, Lela Buchanan, Jennifer Rajoppi, Gerald & Virginia Wood, Michael & Barbara Leonard.

GENERAL DONATIONS: Julie Seaman, Pamela Arnold, James D. Daly, Art & Sandy Flynn, Faith Droppa, Robert Walsh, Patricia Wilson, Vicki Busch, Patricia Baum, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Knight, Thomas Bataille, Kurt & Gardie Mueller, (Equinunk Emporium,) Heather Clay, Ms. Rachele Cinque, Daniel and Deborah Crosby, Charles Ponall.

HILL MILL/CLEVELAND MUSEUM: Suzanne (Hill) Schneider, Kurt & Gardie Mueller.

ITEM DONATIONS

Tom Cleveland, 4 schoolbooks; **Art Flynn**, small school chalkboard, vintage washer wringer; **Family of Cecil Abraham** and **Joseph Abraham**, child's sled, copy of receipt to George Abraham from William Irvin & Son, Philadelphia, dated 1894, for labor and supplies related to rafting, wrenches, ice tongs, small keg with nails, cylindrical stone, flat on one side, copy of map of Cocheton - Cushetunk done by the Wayne County Historical Society, with assistance from Patricia Christian; **Peggy Simons**, copy of a letter from George Washington thanking The Union Sugar Company for the gift of maple sugar; **Kathy (Smith) Hunter**, lot of old deeds; **Ann O'Hara**, vintage celluloid box, and Stereoptican slides of Shehawken Lake and surrounding area, **Craig Benson**, two journals printed by The Susquehanna Historical Society with transcribed 1789 journal of Samuel Preston outlining his journey from Philadelphia to Harmony and the building of the Portage Road; **Kevin Bernitt**, Civil War exhibit items; **Jeanne Schwartz**, five of six volumes of book, *Pennsylvania Fireside Tales*, written by Jeffrey R. Frazier; **Perrin Ross, via Helen Adams**, various publications, written and/or compiled by Mr. Ross; **Willis (Sonny) & Teresa Johnson**, Farmer's Pocket Ledger, (3) Maps, Proposed Final Boundary of National Scenic & Recreational River boundaries - 1983; **Greg & Kathy Quaglio and The Altar & Rosary Society of St. Juliana's Church**, 10 vintage Mark Twain books.

AS ALWAYS, IF WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYBODY, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE. WE GREATLY VALUE YOUR DONATIONS AND WANT TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS.

We are pleased to note that for nearly 40 years, The Equinunk Historical Society has brought a wealth of resources, assistance, and leadership to the field of local area history. We know all our area history organizations are struggling to maintain their level of exemplary service in a tough economic environment. So you might wonder why you should contribute to our organization when you have to make decisions about fewer dollars yourselves. For us, history is the answer. We exist solely for the promotion of history. Read our mission statement: we collect, preserve and interpret the history of the Upper Delaware River corridor of Northern Wayne County, etc. We want to make the past more meaningful to all of us. Currently, we are facing winter with everyday expenses, and not quite enough income to meet these expenses. We have recently done a review of our income and expenses and have realized that we are presently experiencing a shortfall of about \$650 per month. We gratefully recognize that many of you support us throughout the year through periodic donations as well as our Annual Appeal. Perhaps some others would like to consider sending a year-end gift to the Equinunk Historical Society.

During the upcoming winter months, we will be planning programs for another great year of promoting local history! If you have any suggestions for programs that you would like to see, or for fund-raisers, we would certainly welcome them. Call 570-224-6722 or email us at ehs22@verizon.net.

EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 41
EQUINUNK PA 18417

MEMBERSHIP INFO:
DUES PER YEAR:

Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Junior	\$ 2.00
Lifetime	\$125.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00

*Celebrate the Holidays at the Equinunk Historical Society Open House
Dec. 8 Noon to 4 p.m., Music by Larry & Katt Judd
Please bring a plate of goodies to share.
Calder Gift Shop Open Noon to 4 p.m. & 6-7 pm on Dec 6,
And Noon to 4 p.m. on Dec. 7 & 8.*

