



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

February 2016

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The President's Thoughts

WATTS UP?

At our 2015 December board meeting, we tried to reflect on what had been accomplished this past year. The board shared many positive reflections; 2015 was a good year for our organization. Now we look forward to the new challenges that 2016 will present. I've been noted for my high energy and enthusiasm for getting things done. Age eventually slows one down – a fact of life. But my commitment remains strong to help guide our organization through another good year.

Your membership is important to us. Membership contributions meet about 20% of our operating expenses. Please check your membership status by looking at the newsletter's address label and update your dues to 2016. Please forward membership dues to Cathy Metzger. Also, invite others to attend our events and become members. Consider posting the Calendar in places so you and others can be aware of what is happening. Note the additional things we are planning for the year, including a gospel blue grass concert on May 22, and a fall cemetery walk in October.

Please be included in the Raise the Region campaign for the Heritage Society. This a great opportunity to increase our funds.

Our Spring Banquet speaker will be Ron Wenning. He will be sharing his thoughts on the reading of history. To make reservations, contact Cathy Metzger for a great meal together on April 26, at 6:00 pm.

Randy Watts, President

192 Gearhart Rd, Turbotville PA 17772

E-mail randallwatts@verizon.net

(570) 437-4048 (Home)

OR freelandfarm.org

Easter Sunrise Service

An Easter Service will be held at the Warrior Run Church on March 27, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. Reverend Paul Smith from the Watsonstown First Presbyterian church will be preaching. Please plan on attending and bring friends with you. The sunrise service is special in that the sun is just coming up and it closely resembles the time when Jesus' tomb would have been visited to find his body gone. Start your Easter day off rejoicing in the risen Lord.

Watsonstown Sesquicentennial

The Watsonstown Sesquicentennial Committee is planning many events celebrating Watsonstown's 150-year anniversary. We are hoping to have events beginning January, 2017, leading up to the town-wide celebration in the first week of August. This will be an event you won't want to miss.



May Concert at Historic Warrior Run Church

We have a special event scheduled for Sunday, May 22, at 3:00 p.m.. The Martin Family Gospel Blue Grass Ensemble, from Lancaster County, is scheduled to perform. This family of eight, using most of the string instruments, will be entertainment you won't want to miss.

Then at 4:00 p.m., the Elvin Martin Band will provide a second hour of Gospel Blue Grass music. The church, built in 1835, has near-perfect acoustics! We are looking forward to hearing the music within its walls.

The groups come to us by way of a goodwill offering. Please invite others who would enjoy this great afternoon of music.

Memorial for the McKight Massacre

This event resulted in the death of patriots serving at Fort Freeland in the spring of 1779. Our goal is to have a second monument honoring these patriots placed for dedication during Heritage Days 2016. We'll update our progress in the next newsletter.



Ways to be a Contributing Member

1. See if you would fit into one of the committee groups and if so, contact the committee leader and offer your help. Just a commitment to a single event, such as Heritage Days or the Strawberry Festival is very helpful. Call Betsy Watts at 570-437-4048 (Heritage Days) or Wayne Greiner at 570-604-7451 (Strawberry Festival).
2. Volunteer to help at the Historic Warrior Run Church. Plans are to organize three grounds crews this year. Each crew would be responsible for grounds maintenance for about two months. Consider joining one of the crews. Randy Watts will head up the Early Birds. Mark Keithan will organize a crew for June and July. The late summer and fall crew will be coordinated by Jane Koch. Each crew needs a person who can do the trimming. A phone call to a crew leader will make the recruiting of help easier.
3. An easy activity is picking up those little limbs that fall all year. This can be done by filling a small tarp and dragging it to the burn pile. I recall doing this with my kindergarden and 1st grade classes in the spring, and the kids loved participating. Make this a great family project at times throughout the year or a way grandparents can teach their grandkids about work ethic.
4. Dream up an idea that would help us meet our society's objectives to preserve our heritage and to educate, passing it on to others. Offer that idea to the board.
5. Place our events on your calendar and plan to be in attendance as often as possible. Invite other to our events.
6. Be a financial supporter. Your membership dues are valuable. If you are blessed to help more, please consider participating in the "Raise the Region" campaign.

Honorary Board (Leadership Appreciation)

Possibly 25 years ago, the board provided a means to express continual thanks and appreciation to society individuals who have given years of leadership to our organization. The honor roll is listed in each newsletter. This leadership has helped us become a strong organization. In the beginning, the honor was given to individuals unable to continue being active on the board, but this is not a restriction.

I'm pleased to announce the board's recent approval to add to the names for honorary leadership, Richard Nornhold and Alfred Reeves. Their leadership and contribution over the years has been invaluable. It's impossible to express all that they have given over the years to our organization.

Richard Nornhold has demonstrated exactly why our organization was established - to preserve our heritage, to educate and pass this heritage on to others. Rich retired from Warrior Run High School, where he taught history and influenced many young people to be interested in our heritage. Rich has been a mentor for several wood-working apprentices and they have joined him in demonstrating at Heritage Days and other community events. Rich has represented the Society purchasing acquisitions, based on his research and knowledge of the Hower and Slote families and the early businesses of the period. Rich was a member of the very first Heritage Society Board. He served two terms as president (four years).

Al Reeves has also done work beyond what could be expected for one person. When the society created a lease for 10 acres of the land around the Hower-Slote house, we had the benefit of Al on our board and also president of the school board. His name is signed on the lease! Al has continued on our board, and has served as president for 4 terms (eight years). Al (and Ann) faithfully accepted the responsibility of making apple butter at Heritage Days every year, as well as, helping all of us begin the Christmas season with the society's candlelight service. For years, a team, including Reeveses, held weekly work days keeping the church grounds and cemetery looking wonderful. We still remember the society's parade floats on a wagon being pulled by only a John Deere tractor. Al is a leader in our community, including president to a number of other organizations, making one wonder how he finds time to keep up the work on his beautiful farm and enjoy his hobby restoring antique vehicles.

Sometimes Al and Rich have wondered how much longer they can keep working for the Heritage Society. We keep saying just keep trying to give a little more. But for the present, on behalf of the Heritage Society, thank you for giving so very much.

Randy Watts, President



Newsletter Articles

Please email articles to be included in the newsletter to kyhouser@windstream.net. You can simply write the report in the email or copy and paste from another document. Most formats are acceptable. If you have a photo you want to share, you can send that to me, as well. Thank you for all the information you send making our newsletter very interesting and informative.

Karen Y. Houser

**WARRIOR RUN FORT FREELAND HERITAGE SOCIETY
SPRING BANQUET**

**THE TURBOTVILLE COMMUNITY HALL
APRIL 26, 2016 \$15.00 PER PERSON**

**MENU
BEEF W/GRAVY
BAKED HAM
MASHED POTATOES
PICKLED CABBAGE
BAKED CORN
GLAZED CARROTS
CAKE & ICE CREAM**

**PLEASE CONTACT CATHY METZGER FOR RESERVATIONS
PHONE (570)713-4816**

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY APRIL 12

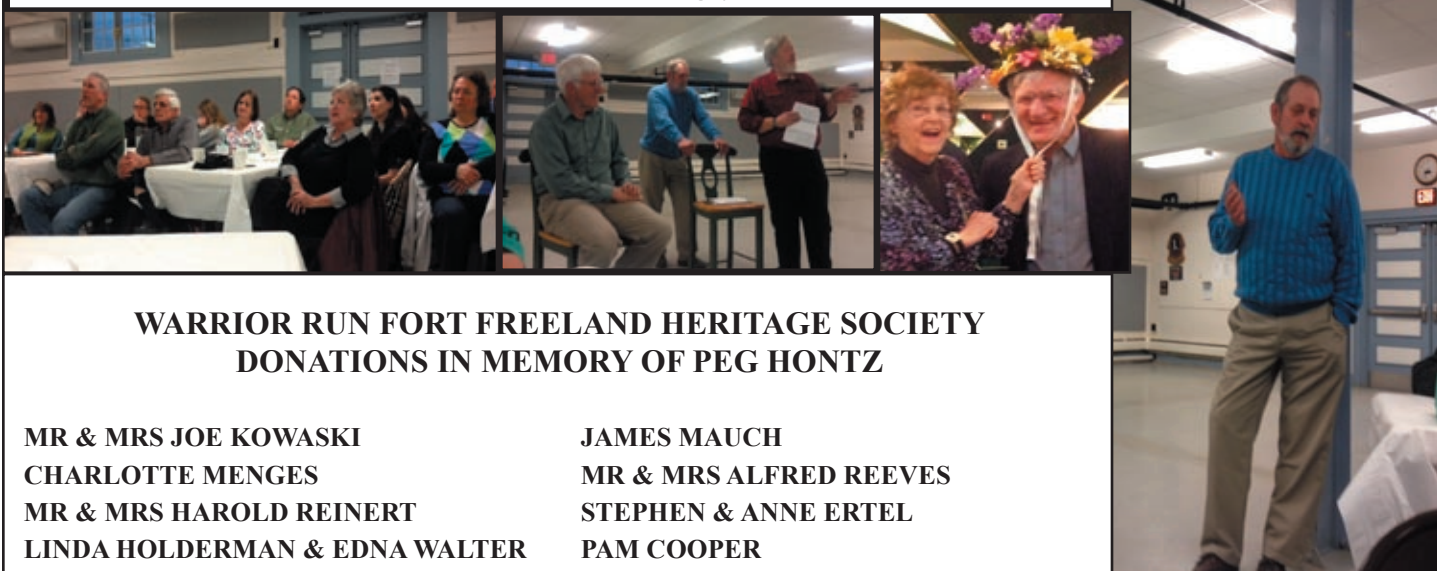
*******RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE/NO REFUNDS*******

Spring Banquet

You are receiving this newsletter about 7 weeks before the Society's annual dinner meeting. This meeting has been well-attended in the past and we hope a good number will be in attendance on Tuesday, April 26. Ron Wenning will be our speaker and he will be sharing motivating thoughts on the reading of history.

Ron and his wife, Chris, have had a business, Wennawoods Publishing, for many years. They have reprinted very old history books, for which the copyright dates had run out. They are in the process of closing out their business. Besides the entertainment that Ron will give us on this evening, he is making a generous offering to society members. Ron and Chris will have on hand some of the books that they still have on inventory for just \$10.00 each. This will be a great going-out-of-business deal, for many of their republished books were originally sold at a cost of \$40 to \$50.

This will be an evening you won't want to miss!



**WARRIOR RUN FORT FREELAND HERITAGE SOCIETY
DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF PEG HONTZ**

**MR & MRS JOE KOWASKI
CHARLOTTE MENGES
MR & MRS HAROLD REINERT
LINDA HOLDERMAN & EDNA WALTER**

**JAMES MAUCH
MR & MRS ALFRED REEVES
STEPHEN & ANNE ERTEL
PAM COOPER**

Plaque at the Watsontown Park
In Commemoration of the Warrior Run Church

The oldest account of the early History of Warrior Run Church is found in a Journal kept by Mr. Philip V. Fithian, a Presbyterian Licentiate, who visited in the neighborhood by appointment of Donnegal Presbytery, Sunday, July 16, 1775.

He preached from a wagon near the uncovered log meeting house, now the site of Watsontown Memorial Park.

(Erected by the citizens of Watsontown)

The above is the wording on a plaque in the Watsontown Memorial Park. This was the first Warrior Run Church. After the Great Runaway of 1778, this church was burned by the Seneca Indians. The second Warrior Run Church was built in 1789 on the grounds of the present church, directly across the driveway from the porch. In 1833, the second church burned. The third Warrior Run Church was built in 1835 at its present location.



**WARRIOR RUN FORT FREELAND HERITAGE SOCIETY
RAISE THE REGION 2016 EVENT**

The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania is excited to announce "Raise The Region 2016." The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society has registered for this event. It is a 30-hour event beginning Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. till Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. "Raise The Region" is to help the communities of Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties support local nonprofit organizations fund raising. If someone wishes to donate go to the following link. (<http://www.kimbiamatchday.com/index.php>) All donations are tax deductible and will help make your favorite nonprofits mission possible. We appreciate your support as always.

Cathy Metzger
Treasurer



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Calendar of Events - 2016

Church Spring Cleaning and Grounds Clean-up - Saturday, March 26, 1:00 p.m.

Warrior Run Church

Easter Sunrise Service – Sunday, March 27, 7:00 a.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

Service by Watsontown Presbyterian Church

Spring Banquet - Tuesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m.

Turbotville Community Hall; Ron Wenning, speaker

Reservations: Call Cathy at 570 713-4816

Blue Grass Gospel Concert - Sunday, May 22, 3:00 p.m.

Martin Family from Lancaster

Annual Strawberry Festival - Sunday, June 12, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

Hymn Sing, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the Warrior Run Church

Annual Picnic - Sunday, August 14, 4:00 p.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

35th Heritage Days - October 1 & 2, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hower-Slote House grounds and Warrior Run Church

Heritage Days Worship Service - Sunday, October 2, 9:00 a.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

Cemetery Walk – Historic Warrior Run Church – Saturday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Fall Membership Meeting - Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.

Warrior Run High School Library

Includes election of officers / Program to be announced

Annual Christmas Candlelight Service - Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

Board meeting - 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Warrior Run High School Faculty Lounge

Warrior Run Church - May, June, July, August

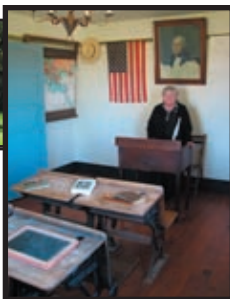
Hower-Slote House - September

The Gatherings

Think about the “group gatherings” in your life - family time, co-workers, church activities, sports teams, band, clubs, etc. Time together is valuable for cohesion of a group. In the “good old days” there were gatherings such as quilting bees, corn husking parties, and square dances, besides the frequent family get-to-togethers. Although most of us no longer participate in many of these, our Heritage Society holds several “gatherings” each year. Please save this list and join us!



United Way day of action, Ameritech employees from Williamsport



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Board of Directors

(Terms run from January 1 to December 31)

2014-2016

Leon Hagenbuch
Jane Koch
Bradd Mertz
Doug Ertel
Sue Whitmoyer

2015-2017

Traci Pawling
Ruth Webb
Scott Pawling
Cathy Metzger
Landon Koch

2016-2018

Randy Watts
Al Reeves
Peggy Gelnett
Melissa Kilgus
Steve Moser

(Student Member)

David Whitmer

Officers - 2015

President - Randy Watts (570-437-4048)
Vice President - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279)
Secretary - Melissa Kilgus (570- 538-5593)
Treasurer - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)
Assistant Treasurer - Al Reeves (570-538-1928)
Membership (appointed) - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)
Historian - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-4555)
Newsletter - Karen Houser (570-538-2557)

Committee Leadership

Church -Jane Koch, Landon Koch, Doug Ertel
Church Grounds - Mark Keithan (570-538-5610)
Weddings - Traci Pawling (570-538-9582)
Strawberry Festival - Wayne Greiner (570-604-7451)
Heritage Days - Betsy Watts, Jane Koch
Candlelight Service - Al Reeves
House/Property - Leon Hagenbuch, Steve Moser, Rich Nornhold

Honorary Board Members

Janet Hause *	Jane Shuman *
Betty Miller *	Virginia Hartman *
Donna Meyer	Ruth Moser *
Preston Webb *	Mike Slease *
Hall Williams *	Bob Franks
Rich Nornhold	Al Reeves

* denotes deceased member

CHECK THE YEAR ON YOUR CARD AND MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT

Bringing our history to life....

Place
Stamp
Here

*Warrior Run
Fort Freeland
Heritage Society*

*P. O. Box 26
Turbotville PA 17772*

E-mail: info@wrffhs.org

*Check us out on the web!
www.freelandfarm.org*

Keeping your membership current

It is the membership in any organization that enables it to attain its mission. For more than 20 years, membership has enabled the society to fund its many projects and achieve many goals. All members receive the society's newsletters and special discounts on publications and sale items.

Membership Form

Please register me/us as a:

- LIFE MEMBER (\$200.00 per person in one payment)
 CONTRIBUTING MEMBER (\$20.00 per person per year)
 STUDENT MEMBER ((\$1.00 per student per year)
 SUSTAINING MEMBER (\$50.00 or more per year)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail this with proper amount for your desired membership status to:

Cathy Metzger
2151 Main St PO Box 176
Dewart PA 17730
cemetzger02@windstream.net
570-713-4816
(make checks payable to WR/FFHS)