



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

August 2016

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The President's Thoughts

WATTS UP?

My pastor did a series of sermons on the topic of "the church". In his first sermon, he addressed the importance of "community" to the first churches. I like to think of that community concept in light of the Historic Warrior Run Church's early years in our community. This church was a central hub, especially socially. This was the first and only church for quite a few years and most people in our community attended. Then time saw the community grow to maybe 50 various churches; I can only guess here. The Historic Warrior Run Church remains as a reminder and encouragement for the "community value" of church attendance. Churches that are doing well have a good community besides providing a place for the importance for worship in one's life. Now, the Heritage Society is committed to maintain the Church, as well as that community spirit. Every so often consider a drive-through. Stop and take a walk. Sit at a picnic table and meditate. Do this with a friend or family. Have a family picnic at the church. And appreciate the role our organization has for preserving this special place.

The Heritage Society gives opportunities to provide "gatherings" at the church. Consider the social benefits and join in these events. The summer newsletter is timed **inviting you to attend annual pot luck picnic on August 14, at 4:00 pm.** We are planning to have a few of our apprentices share about the skill they are learning and demonstrating at Heritage Days.

Randy Watts, President

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OR freelandfarm.org



Looking Back - Spring April Banquet

Those attending the 2016 Society's annual spring dinner came to realize the special contributions Kris and Ron Wenning have made for preserving history. We got the full story of their marriage partnership from graduates at Ohio State University to Lewisburg, and creating their business called Wennawoods Publishing. For many years, they reprinted very old history books, for which the copyright dates had expired. We learned the very challenging task to reproduce these books and the demand these books became to history buffs. The purchase of these great books become the history section of many personal libraries.

We also received motivational thoughts on the reading of history and a great \$10-a-book going-out-of-business deal. Many of their republished books were originally sold at a cost of \$40 to \$50. On two earlier occasions, the Wennings had been friends to the Heritage Society by donating books to help in our fund-raising. A few of their books are still in our inventory, to be sold at 2016 Heritage Days.

Thank You, Kris and Ron Wenning for your commitment to preserving history. To think of the history that would have been lost if you had not responded to the vision of the republishing business. Thank you for the great evening of entertainment. Thank you for being friends of our organization.

Randy Watts

Karing Kidz Path

Karing Kidz is the name of a group of girls from Warrior Run Middle School who try to promote good character among their school peers throughout the school year. A reward for their efforts is to spend a few hours on a school day in May working on the grounds of the Historic Warrior Run Church. This is their third year coming to the church. This year they helped plant 12 new trees, besides picking up sticks and raking. These 12 trees were donated by Annulli Nursery. The girls also did some work on a path that goes beside the stream, that runs through the church property. This is a branch of the Warrior Run. During May, this path had the most beautiful display of wild flowers. Then in June, orange Day Lilies were everywhere. I encouraged the girls to adopt one or two of the planted trees, occasionally give the trees some water through the summer months, bring their friends to the path, and someday consider getting married at the church. The girls and I call the path to the creek "The Karing Kidz Path." If you visit the church sometime, try to find this path and enjoy the walk by the Warrior Run. The path can continue to become over a half-mile loop of the society's property and parking lot behind the church, and out to the Eighth Street side of the church property. Those of you who walk for exercise might consider using this loop.

Randy Watts

The McKnight Ambush Monument

A second plaque to be placed at the Fort Freeland site has now been given a final review and should be ready for dedication on Sunday, October 2, at 12:00 noon. This will be during our Heritage Days weekend.

Barbara Levergood, from Maine, had added her important research that included the Fort Freeland muster roll at the time of the McKnight Farm Ambush. This will enable us to give tribute to five patriots who died on April 26, 1779, while stationed for service at Fort Freeland. These patriots will have a place of honor near where they had been buried in a trench. Sad story that occurred over 236 years ago. Place of Honor - much overdue.

The thinking and work towards this project dates back at least 10 years. Some have questioned why this event was not included in the 1990 monument honoring the Battle of Fort Freeland patriots. The study of recorded accounts of the ambush at the McKnight farm brought more questions than answers. We feel now the plaque will portray more complete information.

Multiple trips over the years have been made to the Northumberland County courthouse to try to locate the McKnight farm, where the ambush occurred. This past April, Dave Laidacker got involved. He has years of experience in research - studying and reading old deeds. The official records need to work with the recorded history and information from the descendants. With Dave, we worked through quite a few McKnight family property deeds. A key deed had to be a property, agreeing with recorded history placing the farm within a mile and half of the fort, and a descriptions of a creek and a hill. With Dave's research, we have a strong indication of the McKnight Farm Ambush location, which will be shared at the dedication.

This project has an estimated cost of \$2,500. We have started a fund- raising campaign to cover this expense. Individuals interested in making a contribution in any amount will be named as "Friends for the McKnight Ambush Monument." This list will be displayed in the Hower-Slote House. If you are moved to become a friend of this project, send a check payable to WRFFHS and write "Friend of the McKnight Ambush Monument" on the memo line. Please mail it to the Heritage Society at PO Box 26, Turbotville PA 17772.

Randy Watts



Cemetery Walk - Saturday, October 29, 2016 Historic Warrior Run Church and Cemetery

This is a "living history" evening you won't want to miss. We will meet in the church at 7:00 p.m. for a visit with Rev. John Bryson, who was called to pastor the Warrior Run Church in June, 1790. He will recall portions of his life and his 52 years of ministry at the church. Then, groups will be guided to four graves in the cemetery. At each location, someone from the past will "come alive," and you will learn his/her importance to the church and community. The groups will rotate to enjoy all the presentations. The evening will end with a social time and refreshments at the service building.

Randy Watts



Girl Scout Silver Award Received

Maris Kilgus received her Girl Scout Silver Award on December 3, 2015, and wants to thank the Heritage Society for giving her opportunity to accomplish it. In the two years of working on both gardens, Maris spent 65 hours on this project.

The project was initiated in February 2013 with Terry Lynn Beaver inquiring about having a garden as part of the Heritage Days weekend events. Terry Lynn suggested starting a garden at the Historic Warrior Run Church to compliment the encampment. Maris sought out several heirloom seed companies, research vegetables, and some flower varieties that would have been common to the area of the 1800's. She drew a garden plan to include the breakfast radish, Moon & Stars watermelon, Red Rock cabbage, Scarlet Runner beans, Hartman's Gooseberry tomatoes, and sunflowers. In addition, the timing of the planting was crucial so that vegetables were available during Heritage Days at the beginning of October.

With the help of Leon Hagenbuch tilling the church plot and Steve Moser dumping manure at the site, the work began with additional digging, and raking out stones and sod. Rows were furrowed and marked, and seeds were planted. Buckets of water were carried up from the service building every few days and weeds were pulled. To help with weeding and keeping the ground wet, grass clippings were raked, hauled to the garden, and laid between the rows. A small temporary fence was used to keep out the larger critters.

At the time of Heritage Days, there were many radishes, beans, a few tomatoes, and several watermelons to pick. The radishes were used as food samples in the Hower-Slote House and the watermelons were sold at the Apprentice Auction.

The second year, Randy Watts asked if a garden could be established at the Hower-Slote house. The same preparation went into starting a new garden, with the planning and digging up the ground. Water used was from the hand-pump on the porch and a lot more grass clippings were hauled in. Unfortunately, this garden had to have some of the seeds replanted because of the birds and the hot, dry summer. A portable fence was set-up, but it did not stop the deer, and the bear from eating what did grow! The few vegetables that were harvested were the Flat Boer squash, Delikatess cucumber, Bushel Basket gourd, and a few watermelons.

Maris had help from her parents, sister, grandparents and even her Aunt from Oregon on this project. She had the most fun with sharing vegetable and watermelon samples with visitors during Heritage Days.

Melissa Kilgus



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

What's Happening at the Church

A huge Thank you goes to Wayne Greiner and Terri French for another successful Strawberry Festival event! It was a beautiful day for good food, good friends, and a wonderful antique car show.

Thank you to all our volunteers, who faithfully support the WRFFHS and spend days making ice cream, ham BBQ, pies and more; who clean the grounds in preparation for the event; who mark their calendar to help prepare, serve, and just do it every year.

Summer months are very busy at the Historic Warrior Run Church. Starting in May, we have many educational tours from various schools etc. Thank you to our volunteers, Richard Nornhold, Leon Hagenbach, Randy Watts and many more who provide the lectures and historical facts that enlighten our students about the amazing history in our own backyards.

If anyone would like to volunteer for grounds work such as mowing and trimming please contact Jane Koch at 570-538-1756.

At this time, a bill was introduced to legislature in PA to transfer ownership of the church from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission to the Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society. The bill has not been voted on as of this date.

Jane Koch



ANNUAL PICNIC

August 14, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

At the Warrior Run Church Grove

Please join us for an afternoon of relaxing and visiting with new friends and old.

Bring a covered dish to share, a chair, place setting and family and friends.

Cheeseburgers and hot dogs will be supplied.

SEE YOU THERE!



Heritage Days 35th Anniversary

At the present time a special exhibit of local coverlets (early bedspreads), made and signed by weavers who worked in Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Centre, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties, is being planned. This will be a major exhibit featuring coverlets from every area county, and almost all of the weavers whose work has been identified will be on display in this very special exhibit.

When Heritage Days started 35 years ago, there were very few local artisans who could demonstrate crafts from the time period of 1770 to 1920. There were probably fewer than 15 crafts demonstrated. That has grown over the years, because of workshops we've run or encouraged members to attend elsewhere, and today there are nearly 100 exhibits, demonstrations, and lectures showing life of central Pennsylvania over a period of nearly 200 years. There is no other event like it in central Pennsylvania. Most demonstrators are dressed in period costumes appropriate to the craft and period they represent. The apprentices are probably the most knowledgeable about how the style of clothing they are wearing ties to the time period they are portraying.

The collections of the society have grown, and the number of young people making a commitment to learn a trade and present it accurately, is one of the unique things about Heritage Days. About two years ago I asked a lady, who had demonstrated for many years, how long she had been involved. She smiled and said she had been involved since back when the costumes "were really crappy." I smiled, as I knew she was commenting on how much more authentic everything had become (including the costumes) over the years.

Every year several thousand people visit from all over Pennsylvania, and at least a half dozen other states, and sometimes even foreign countries. I don't think there is any one thing that is most popular. Certainly children like the reenactment of the Battle of Fort Freeland or strolling through an 18th Century military encampment or an Indian encampment, but many like the hands-on activities, or sitting at a desk in our one room school. The musical programs are also popular. I think the men like the trades areas the best, and women seem to like the spinning and weaving and cooking demonstrations the best. There is truly something for everyone.

Rich Nornhold

Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Calendar of Events - 2016

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

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 - Saturday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Historic Warrior Run Church

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!



Attention Members

Well, here we are with another newsletter to let all our members know what is coming up and what is happening since the last newsletter. How have all of you been handling the heat that we have been getting?

I am asking all our members to make sure that you keep me updated with all the changes to your address, phone numbers and email addresses. Remember, I can email you the newsletter **IN COLOR**. We are always looking for new members, so if you know any family members or friends who would wish to join, please give them my address or phone number.

I was happy to see all the people turn out on such a beautiful day for the Strawberry Festival. Everyone looked like they were having a great time. I hope the rest of your summer is good to you, and hope to see you at our Annual Picnic on August, 14, at 4:00 p.m.

Cathy Metzger

Membership Secretary

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 (570-538-1756)
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
PO Box 176
Dewart PA 17730

cemetzger02@windstream.net

570-713-4816

(make checks payable to WR/FFHS)