



# Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

July, 2018

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## Message From The Brick Maker

This Article was taken from a notebook of the History of McEwensville compiled by LaRue Yost and Norma Allabach.

### OLD TURBUT HORSE PROTECTIVE COMPANY

Organized January 27, 1866

By George W. Armstrong and T.K. Wood

In Collaboration

In 1870, twenty-one citizens of Northumberland County, and almost exclusively of Turbut Township, petitioned the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of that county to grant them the privilege of associating themselves together "for the better protection of our horses and other property from horse thieves and other villains," under the title of the "Old Turbut Horse Protective Co." The petition for incorporation was signed by the following gentlemen: "W.B. Kemmerer, Wm. Savidge, John Roush, G.W. Armstrong, H.J. Reader, John McFarland,

D.C. Watson, Jacob Stitzel, Jacob Binder, W. Heinen, H. Reader, Wm. Hood, Peter Lilley, David Eschbach, John Balliet, G.W. Seibert, Samuel Derr, Peter F. Balliet, Levi Lynn, Wm. Waldron, John Haag." They had organized the company as early as 1866, and had made such a success of it that they now desired to acquire and enjoy the powers and immunities of a body politic in law. Their Constitution and By-laws, printed in a small green paper-backed pamphlet in 1893 (because of the great demand made on them for copies from similar organizations springing up elsewhere), contains the following selected items of interest:

The headquarters was to be at McEwensville. The management was to be vested in a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and five Directors chosen annually on the last Saturday of December.

Article 6. When any horse, mare or other property shall be stolen, it shall be the duty of the Directors, upon information of the party aggrieved, to notify all the members on duty, who shall proceed immediately and travel their respective routes in pursuit of the thief. The expenses of same to be paid out of the Treasury

Article 7. To obtain funds, "the officers shall from time to time assess each member a proportionate part according to the number of horses he or his family have branded and returned to the Company for protection." This brand consisted of the letters P.C. burned with a hot iron on the horse's neck about eight inches behind the ear and underneath the mane. After the brand had healed, the hair would usually come in white, though the scars could always be felt by the hand passed casually underneath the mane.

Article 8. Any member making a false alarm and afterwards finding his horse, mare or other property...shall pay the Treasurer one-half of all the expenses incurred by searching for such as aforesaid.

Article 9. States among other things that all members neglecting to attend the annual meeting without assigning sufficient reason for, shall pay a fine of one dollar. The initiation fee was also one dollar.

Article 10. In case a horse or mare shall be stolen and not recovered within three months, "then said property shall be paid for by the Association at three-fourths of its assessed value to the person aggrieved."

Article 13. The Treasured-elect shall give his note for double the amount of money that may come into his hands payable to the President of said Association.

Article 14. Suitable printed matter offering a reward of twenty dollars for the recovery of a horse stolen and conviction of the thief (one-half for the horse if restored and one-half upon the conviction of the thief) shall be provided. The "aggrieved" must see that these notices are broadcasted.

Lastly, the boundaries of the membership of the Company shall be confined to Northumberland County and the greatest distance from McEwensville shall not exceed eight miles. A horse must be worth thirty dollars at least if all the elaborate machinery for recovering it and prosecuting the villain is to be put into

motion. Members misbehaving at a yearly meeting can be made to pay a fine “not to exceed ten cents,” However, the “aggrieved” had the privilege of an appeal to the Company. That the Secretary take a description of all horses entered in the Company and give a copy to the owner, who shall present it to the person doing the branding.

Classes shall be formed whose duty it is, on notice given, to immediately start and ride the route laid down for him to ride with all diligence. A fine of ten dollars shall be paid by any member of the class who shall neglect or refuse to ride the route. At the yearly meetings no member shall introduce or bring any spirituous liquors of any kind into the room, nor smoke tobacco whilst on business.

Sec 19. Resolved, that the drawing of thirty riders alphabetically be for twelve months, and each rider shall have the authority to draught the most convenient member (so that they might hunt in pairs), who shall serve, furnish a substitute or pay.

The Presidents were selected from the most prominent citizens in the community. It was considered a high honor to occupy this office. A list of the Presidents contains the names of William Kemmerer, Gen. D.C. Watson, David Eschbach, William Savidge, James Bannen, Hon. Robert Montgomery, Robert Buck, E.L. Matchen, John R. Cooner, John P. Dentler, and the last President H.P. Raup. George W. Armstrong and his son, the present Mr. George W. Armstrong, were the only Secretaries, the father retiring in favor of the son in 1887. The office of President was bestowed on some prominent citizen as a mark of honor, but on the Secretary, who also served as cashier, fell the whole responsibility of the organization. He was the driving force and the one to whom all looked for action in an emergency.

Even at that time there was a telegraph office at McEwensville, but it aided only slightly. The telephone coming into general use lessened the importance of the Company, to be followed later by the automobile, which diverted the attention of the villains to more profitable and speedier booty. McEwensville at that time was the center of perhaps the richest and most prosperous farming community in this part of the state. It was a town of much importance, a trading and grain center, and its hotel, the Washington House, under the management of the Reeder family, was a famous tavern. The hostelry is now rejuvenated and will soon be opened to the public under the new name of the “White Horse Tavern.” The rich gentlemen farmers expressed their affluence in their display of fine horses, both carriage and riding horses. It was these which the thieves coveted, as they could travel fast, and they brought high prices. Some of them were valued at \$250.00 to \$350.00, and even \$400.00 apiece, while carriage teams brought as high as \$500.00 and \$600.00. All stables were kept padlocked, but often to no avail, as they were stolen easily by the professional thieves. Work horses were seldom molested. Paradise, the early name given to this section, finally became so favorite a field for these depredations that this organization (at one time having 290 members) was formed to put a stop to it if possible. So aggressive were they and so well organized that they actually did drive the thieves into other fields. A very notorious leader, Abe Buzzard, and his gang made their headquarters in the Welch Mountains in Lebanon County. They had a chain of accomplices strung along the way, which made it almost impossible to trace the route of a stolen horse. The robbers disposed of the stock to Lebanon County farmers and livery stable owners, who were said to have accepted them with no questions asked. Yankee Joe was another.

There were fifteen patrol routes laid out. Immediately upon the receipt of news that a horse had been stolen, the patrols would swarm over every road in the district, and comparatively few horses got out of the valley. Many arrests were made and villains jailed, but the jails were poor, evidently, for they soon broke jail and escaped. The judges never failed to give them the limit. But the main purpose of making the section too hot for the thieves was attained all the same. For example, a very valuable driving horse was stolen in 1877 from William Kemmerer, and R. Cooner and J.F. Wagner were the “riders” on the particular route taken by the thief. They traced it through Muncy to Hills Grove and on to Troy, Towanda, and finally caught up with it at Waverly, N.Y. The thief by that time had three horses. He waived extradition and they brought the four back to McEwensville. Great excitement prevailed, of course. The men were heroes. The two strange horses were not claimed, though widely advertised for 30 days, and were sold for \$200.00, which sum was turned into the Company Treasury. The thief was put in jail and as promptly broke out, and all were satisfied.

A word about the “Yearly Meetings” in closing. The last Saturday in the year was a gala day in McEwensville. With a membership of 290, the town was filled. Aunt Eliza, colored wife of Bob Hecker a slave who had been owned and freed by the Reverend John Bryson many years before prepared the dinner at the Washington Tavern. A long table seating one hundred was spread, and made a great sight. Those eating at the “first table” one year were expected to take the “second” the following year. Mr. Reeder, a noted hunter, always provided haunches of venison, which alternated with roast turkeys. A great outside bake oven was used by Aunt Eliza, who baked her loaves of cabbage leaves. Sad to relate, there was much drinking in spite of their Constitution as now and, of course, public speakers became rampant and fighters more so as the day wore on. When the multitude had departed, this “smallest incorporated borough in the State” knew that they had a big day, but, what of it, they had a whole year in which to rest up for the next one.

*Leon Hagenbuch, President*

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Watsonstown, PA 17777

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(570) 490-8279

OR [info@freelandfarm.org](mailto:info@freelandfarm.org)



## Spring Banquet

From life member, WWI program presenter, Carol Sones Shetler

The Spring Banquet program cited locals in WWI during this Centennial year. Attending in honor of their WWI veterans were the families of Ralph BAYLOR, Charles BITTNER, Nurse Helen FAIRCHILD, Allen & Thomas HARTMAN, Ralph SATTESON and Hunter WATTS.

The 65 attendees could win a pack of Poppy seeds by correctly answering the following questions. (Test your knowledge, answers at end).

1. In April 1917, the U.S. entered WWI. The declaration was given by which President?
2. At first, the war was not identified as WWI, what was its original name?
3. The U.S. joined the Allied forces. What name was given the opposition?
4. Three initials identified troop divisions sent abroad. What does AEF mean?
5. Assigned to a Canadian medical team, John McRae penned the poem "Flanders Fields." This occurred in what country?
6. At Boalsburg, the military museum honors a PA Division. Its emblem is a red keystone and is known as 'The Bloody Bucket.' Identify the division's number?
7. In Nov.. 1918, horrific battles raged in the Meuse River area of France. The peace was signed in what famed forest?
8. Along America's eastern coastline, troop carriers sailed in and out of ports in NY and Philly. Identify New Jersey's Deportation site?
9. WWI veterans formed two organizations. One is the American Legion, name the other?

(ANSWERS) 1. Woodrow Wilson 2. The Great War 3. Central Powers 4. American Expeditionary Forces 5. Belgium 6. 28th 7. Argonne 8. Hoboken 9. 40 & 8.

### *Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Annual Picnic At the Historic Warrior Run Church*

**Sunday August 12th 2018  
4:00pm**

*Bring a covered dish, place settings,  
a chair, your family and friends  
And please join us!*



#### Newsletter Articles

Please email articles to be included in the newsletter to [kyhouser@windstream.net](mailto:kyhouser@windstream.net). You can simply write the report in the email or copy and paste from another document. The best format is a Word document or an Open Office document. PDF files cannot be used in the producing of the newsletter.. 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*



Frank Satteson (center), son of WWI soldier Ralph Satteson, Frank's wife Janet (left) of Potts Grove, and the soldiers niece Linda Satteson of Milton. The quilted wall hanging has a photo transfer of Ralph, (lower left), also fellow soldier Hunter S. Watts of Limestone Township at time of war. With 42 other recruits, the two left Milton train station destined for Camp Meade and eventually France.

Photo taken at the 2018 WRFHHS banquet by  
Carol Shetler.



## Heritage Days

Always the first Saturday and Sunday of October



**Rain or Shine!**

Present this card at the admissions gate and save \$1.00 on an adult admission. One discount per person please. Not to be used with any other special offers.

First Saturday and Sunday of October



Stroll among hundreds of period costumed crafters, tradesmen and demonstrators as they explain the skills used in central Pennsylvania daily life from 1770 to 1870.

Taste foods prepared on antique cook stoves and open hearths. Battle re-enactment each day.

Visit the 1835 Warrior Run Church and the 1829 Hower-Slote House.



Walk among Revolutionary War and Native American encampments. Rain or Shine!

Located at : 246 Warrior Run Blvd. Turbotville, PA 17772

An interactive festival your family will enjoy!

For more Information go to:  
Website: [www.freelandfarm.org](http://www.freelandfarm.org)  
Email: [info@freelandfarm.org](mailto:info@freelandfarm.org)

**FREE PARKING NO PETS NO SMOKING**  
Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society



***Come support us at Heritage Days on Saturday, October 6, and Sunday, October 7, 2018. There is much to see and lots of food to taste.***

### *Warrior Run Church Deed*

***As of Monday, July 16, 2018, the Warrior Run Church deed is in the WRFHS's name.***



### *History Repeats -- Society Tree Planting*

More than 25 years ago, our heritage society had a project of tree planting. The walnut tree across from the barn was the only tree on the Hower-Slote property. Apple trees were planted to make an apple orchard to the east. Several types of shade trees were planted around the Hower-Slote House and a tree grove was established along the field hockey side. At about same time, evergreen trees were planted to help form the north property line of the Heritage Society property at the far side of the parking lot at the Historic Warrior Run Church. Also, two trees were planted on each side entering the parking lot from Susquehanna Trail. Much credit for the growth of these trees was thanks to Preston Webb, who faithfully watered them.

At the Hower-Slote House and at the Church, a few of the trees had died and some of the trees in the Church grove had to be removed due to storm damage and other concerns. With money from the state, the big oak trees were removed from the cemetery, as well as a few that were making problems along the wall. You can see other dying evergreen trees along the Eighth Street church entrance.

So, in recent months, with credit to many people, we have repeated history by planting trees. Last fall, three beautiful red-leaf trees were purchased and planted at the front of the Hower-Slote tree grove, to replace three ash trees that had died. We now added 10 maple trees, transplanted from the Tom and Doris Benfer farm near Exchange. This was accomplished by Tom Benfer, Mike Benfer, Leon Hagenbuch, and Randy Watts.

Good timing worked to get 12 trees donated by the Annulli tree farm business. These trees were placed at locations on the Eighth Street area of the church and on the north property line. Delaware Township dug the holes and lifted the trees into the holes. Ted and Harris Menges helped replace ground back around the trees as well as move needed ground fill to other locations around the church property and in the cemetery. One load of mulch was donated by Ryan Ossont's landscape business at Turbotville. Except for four watering times for these 25 trees, God gave timely rains. The new trees are doing well. Your taking notice and watching them grow will help them mature and become beautiful.

Yes, once again, history was repeated. Thank you to those, past and present, who recognized the value of having trees to enhance both properties.

Randy Watts

## *Living History*

This term has been used to give present day experiences of history. Such experiences help to give a truer sense of history. This is what we do at Heritage Days. One experiences the look of the period as the students, the many workers, and the re-enactors of the Revolutionary and Indian encampments demonstrate things as done in the late 1700's and early 1800's with the tools, cooking, skills, etc. of that time.

Members of Turbotville Scout Troop 622 will once again present "living history" by participating in a Heritage Hike/Walk, along a historic route. Twice in past years, members of the troop slept at the site of Fort Freeland and the next day walked to Fort Augusta, remembering the 52 women and children who had to do the same on July 28, 1779, after the Battle of Fort Freeland. Twenty-four men and boys old enough to handle a gun became prisoners of war, and their walk was to Fort Niagara located at Youngstown, New York, a short distance north of Niagara Falls. On the first evening after their surrender, they were taken to the location of Fort Muncy. This is just west of the Lycoming Mall. Members of Troop 622 and some adults will be hiking this trail as a Heritage Hike/Walk from Fort Freeland to Fort Muncy.

This hike will occur on Saturday, July 28, exactly 239 years after the Battle of Fort Freeland. Members of the troop will camp at the Fort Freeland site the night before and at the site of Fort Muncy the evening of the hike. Written accounts from some of the patriot prisoners will be shared. Can you imagine what July 28, 1779 was like for these patriots? To say good-bye to their wives and children and wonder if they would ever see each other again.

This experience will help some boy scouts fulfill requirements towards a citizenship merit badge. A badge earned with a greater appreciation of being a citizen of the United States of America; earned with a greater understanding of the freedoms that we can enjoy today, at a cost by patriots who established our country. Our appreciation to them is to be patriotic in attitude and character.

Turbotville Scout Troop 622 has been a great friend to WRFHHS. Both the Warrior Run Church and the Hower-Slote House are the beneficiaries of Eagle Scout projects. Scouts have helped with spring clean-up at the Warrior Run Church, and for many years have helped put things away on the Sunday evening at the conclusion of Heritage Days. Many thanks to this outstanding local organization of adult leaders and young men.

Randy Watts



## *Strawberry Festival*

On June 10, the WRFHHS held their 38th annual Strawberry Festival. Wayne Greiner, Chairman of the event, did a wonderful job preparing for the festival. Thank You Wayne! Thank you Terri, Courtney, and All who have given up so much time and worked to support our Society. Thank you Patrons who came and supported us. You faithfully come....rain or shine...and this year it was rain, rain and more rain. We did make a profit of \$754.00, and we also donated a roaster of ham barbeque and rolls to the Kids Cafe in Watsontown for their summer lunch program. A huge Thank You to ALL!

Jane Koch





*Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society*  
*Calendar of Events - 2018*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
August 13	Board Meeting	7:00 p. m.	WR Church
September 10	Board Meeting	7:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
October 6-7	Heritage Days (Board Meeting not to immediately follow)		Hower-Slote Grounds
October 8	Board Meeting	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge
November 27	Membership Meeting (Last Tuesday of the month)	7:00 p. m.	HS Library
November 12	Board Meeting	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge
December 8	Candlelite Service (Second Saturday of December)	7:00 p. m.	WR Church
December 10	Board Meeting	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge



*If the Trees in the Grove at our Historic Church Could Speak!!*

Yes, you have heard this line before! Recently the trees would say how nice the grove has been keep through the spring and early summer. Too bad on the rainy day of our Strawberry Festival that more couldn't appreciate the grounds. But the trees and plants need a good drink of water from time to time and that timing is beyond our control. We appreciate those who still came to sit under the tent to enjoy a meal and participate in the church sing-a-long. Dale Chomas played the organ beautifully.

Mark Keithan and Rich Nornhold took the lead with the mowing schedule (May, June). Jane Koch and her family will be doing the ground work and mowing in August and September. Contact Randy Watts if you would like to help.

On occasion we see evidence of a few people who visit and wander the grounds, picking up fallen sticks and placing them in a pile at the foot of trees to be later picked up by the ground crew. We thank you for helping with this important task.

Also, the trees would have expressed mourning for the lost trees from the past, but now be celebrating the new trees that have come to join them. Again, a good reason for you to come visit the church grove, or consider taking a slow drive through!

Randy Watts



## *Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society*

### Board of Directors

(Terms run from January 1 to December 31)

#### 2016 - 2018

Steve Moser  
Melissa Kilgus  
Peggy Gelnett  
Randy Watts  
Al Reeves

#### 2017 - 2019

Leon Hagenbuch  
Jane Koch  
Bradd Mertz  
Doug Ertel  
Sue Whitmoyer

#### 2018 - 2020

Traci Pawling  
Ruth Webb  
Scott Pawling  
Cathy Metzger  
Landon Koch  
Wayne Greiner

(Student Member)

Maris Kilgus / Ethan Whitmoyer

### Officers

President - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279)

Vice President - Jane Koch (570-538-1756)

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)

Audit/Finance - Scott Pawling, Melissa Kilgus (570- 538-5593)

Nominating Committee - Randy Watts, Steve Moser (570-437-4048)

Historian - Vacant

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](mailto:info@wrffhs.org)*

*Check us out on the web!  
[www.freelandfarm.org](http://www.freelandfarm.org)*

**KEEP your membership current**

**\*\*Note your membership status on the mailing label \*\***

Membership is key to our group's mission. It's an important step towards funding our projects and goals. Your membership allows you to receive four annual newsletters which inform you of the calendar of events, our organization's achievements and ways to become an active member.

Please register me/us as:

- ☐ LIFE MEMBER (\$200 per person in one payment)  
☐ CONTRIBUTING MEMBER (\$20.00 per adult person per year)  
☐ STUDENT MEMBER (\$1.00 per year – having student status)  
☐ SUSTAINING MEMBER (\$50.00 or more per year as a special support member)

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

To update your WR/FFHS membership status, please mail this form with the proper amount to:

Cathy Metzger  
2151 Main St PO Box 176  
Dewart PA 17730  
[cemetzger02@windstream.net](mailto:cemetzger02@windstream.net)  
570-713-4816

(make checks payable to WR/FFHS)