



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

May 2020

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Grist Mills on the Warrior Run Creek

There were four mills on the WR Creek. Jacob Freeland built a mill in 1773-1774 with irons he brought with him from New Jersey. Hower's and McFarland's were later in about the same area. Next mill downstream was Wilson's built around 1795 at the north end of McEwensville. This would later be owned by Dave Gold, Mr Bennett, Mr. Fetzer and H.L. Shuman. Truckenmillers Mill located between McEwensville and Pioneer would later become Warrior Milling Co. In Pioneer you had Vincent's Mill and later it would be Keiser's Mill.

There were two dams, may have been more, on the WR Creek. One was called Dreisbach Dam located across the railroad tracks about where they do butchering on Heritage Days. Parts of the dam can still be seen. The dam ran water to Hower's Mill by a mill race. Hower's Mill was located in front of Mr. & Mrs. Ted Menges brick house. Henry Wesner, a mill wright by trade, came here from Berks County to help with the building of Hower's Mill in the 1840's. While doing this, he lived in the home of Stephen Amos Glazes at Warrior Run (now Henry Martins on Glaze Road) where he met Elizabeth Hill a niece of Mrs. Glaze. They were married and began housekeeping in a log cabin owned by Jacob Stitzel north of McEwensville. Jacob Stitzel and Dave Gold had an agreement made March 18, 1849, that specified the maximum height at which the water level should be maintained. The remuneration was twenty-five cents to be paid yearly on April 1st of each year. This continued for eight years.

The Hower Mill would be purchased by John McFarland, one best known early residents of this section, was a native of the north part of Ireland and was born in 1817. He came to this country when about sixteen years of age, and soon developed the sterling, industrious and ambitious qualities of his race. After working for a number of years on a farm, near what is now the city of Reading, he became a contractor on the Little Schuylkill Railroad, and assisted in laying the first strap-iron rails on that road. Later he was a contractor on the Catawissa Branch of the P. & R.R.'s, building a portion of the road and of the Big Mountain tunnel, near East Mahanoy Junction.

After completing this work, Mr. McFarland came to this section, purchasing two farms and the grist mill near Warrior Run Church. These properties were greatly improved with new buildings and the mill placed in first-class condition.

In 1868, Mr. McFarland built the Watstown Flouring Mill, operating it and dealing in grain for over twenty years, during which he refitted the mill with a complete equipment of full roller process machinery, making it one of the best in this part of the state. In 1890 he sold the mill to Follmer, Fowler & Co. and retired from active business. This mill on Eighth Street would later be owned by the Hefty Family.

Mr. McFarland built the handsome home, corner Main and Eighth streets, and in many other ways showed his progressive spirit. He died in 1897, loved and respected by all who knew him. The two farms are now owned by Leon W. Hagenbuch and Ted Menges. John



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McFarland would sell the farms to Dr. Maul from Turbotville. The mill had a steam engine installed but never turned a good profit. It was torn down and rebuilt in Turbotville by the railroad by Harry Dye. He would run the mill till he died and his wife would run it for two more years. Around 1941, Joe Clark from Shamokin would take ownership. His son Ned, would continue the feed mill until it was torn down. The Clark family has an Ag Store in town at the present time. Dr. Maul was related to Ruth (Kramm) Moser and her sister Jane (Kramm) Schuman. Ruth was born on the farm that I live on. My grandfather moved on this farm in 1936 and bought it in 1938 after Dr. Maul went bankrupt.

By the Brickmaker with help from LaRue Yost and Sherry Wolf



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

2020 Raise the Region

Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society would like to thank the generosity of all the donors who were there to help our society during the Raise the Region event for a total of \$1,116.10.

Have a good summer and stay safe and healthy. Thanks again for your support as always.

Cathy Metzger
Treasurer

Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Donations for Spring 2020

Lorrain Miller	Thomas Snyder
Kathleen Shafer	Peggy Gelnett
Richard Williams	Jane Koch
Watson Lioness Lions Club	

Cake and Pie Pans for Sale

The Society is selling cake and pie pans with the Warrior Run Church on the lids. If you would like to purchase them, contact:

Cathy Metzger

570-713-4816

Prices are as follows:

9 x 13 Non-stick pan & cranberry lid	\$40.00
9 x 9 Traditional pan & green lid	\$32.00
9" Pie pan & blue lid	\$30.00

Church Grounds

Wow...the guys are doing a wonderful job keeping the Church and cemetery property well groomed. We just had the zero turn engine rebuilt. The repair bill was \$1400.00, but well worth it compared to a new mower. Al Reeves took the smaller tractor and repaired it as well. Now we are ready for the weekly mowing.

Thank you all.

Annual Strawberry Festival Canceled

The Annual Strawberry Festival held at the Historic Warrior Run Church on Sunday, June 14, 2020, has been canceled due to the Covid 19 virus pandemic. Due to the restrictions with limiting people and social distancing this would create a hectic climate. This fundraising event has always been about neighbors, friends and patrons relaxing and enjoying an afternoon in the grove. This event is always held the second Sunday in June so we will see you all next year.

We will miss you all!,



Ice cream machines

We wanted to update everyone about the ice cream freezers. We have a new ice cream freezer ordered but as yet we haven't been able to pick it up, the delay being the store in Lancaster is closed due to this Covid 19 virus. Also, the two freezers the Society owns have both been rebuilt and are ready to make ice cream! Next year will be so much easier with the new machine added in. We want to thank those of you who donated funds....thank you so much.

Watson town Nursing and Rehab center

The WRFHHS provided a supper of sandwiches and chips, made by The Breaking Bread company in Milton, for the second shift nursing staff at the Watson town Nursing and Rehab Center in Watson town, as well as snacks for the residents. We wanted to acknowledge these nurses and aides who tirelessly care for our neighbors and elderly who are so alone during these terrible times.



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. 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

Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Board Meetings - 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
June 8	7:00 p. m.	WR Church
July 13	7:00 p. m.	WR Church
August 10	7:00 p. m.	WR Church
September 14	7:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
October 12	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge
November 9	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge
December 14	7:00 p. m.	HS Faculty Lounge

Calendar of Events - 2020

August 9	Annual Picnic (second Sunday in August)	4:00 p.m.	WR Church
October 3-4	Heritage Days (Board meeting will not immediately follow Heritage Days)		Hower-Slote Grounds
November 9	Membership Meeting Election/Regular Board Mtg.	7:00 p. m.	HS Library
December 12	Candlelite Service (second Sat. in Dec.)	7:00 p. m.	WR Church

Warrior Run Church Sign

In February 2015, the WRFFHS received an endorsement letter from Senator John R. Gordner, and PA State Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver to assume the operation of the historic Warrior Run Church. The Society is committed to maintaining the Warrior Run Church, grounds and historic cemetery as an educational resource for the public. The process of signing over the church from the state and the county transferring the deed was official in the spring of 2018.

As a requirement, the state signs around the church had to be removed. The board approved the purchase of a new sign last fall. Prices were obtained from different area sign shops, but the job was given to The Sign Shop from South Williamsport. The hand carved, double-sided sign is made from heavy foam board (HDU), and at the bottom are hooks to hang smaller signs for the Strawberry Festival, Heritage Days, and the Candlelight Service. The cost was \$4,360, which included installation. It was installed during a snow squall on April 16, 2020, near the corner of Susquehanna Trail and Eighth Street. If you would like to help the Society offset the cost of the sign, please write checks to the WRFFHS and mail to Cathy Metzger, 2575 Turbot Avenue, Watsontown PA 17777. The burgundy color with gold leafed lettering sign is a wonderful addition to the church grounds!

Stay safe and healthy,

Melissa Kilgus
WRFFHS Secretary



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Board of Directors

(Terms run from January 1 to December 31)

2018 - 2020

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

2019-2021

Steve Moser
Melissa Kilgus
Peggy Gelnett
Randy Watts
Al Reeves

2020-2022

Leon Hagenbuch
Jane Koch
Sue Eppanbach
Doug Ertel
June Moser

(Student Members)

Maris Kilgus / Ethan Whitmoyer

Officers

President - Jane Koch (570-538-1756)

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)

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 (570-490-9895)

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

Alfred Reeves

Ruth Webb

* 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*

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
2575 Turbot Avenue
Watson town PA 17777

cmetzger507@gmail.com 570-713-4816
(make checks payable to WR/FFHS)