

January 2021

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# The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter



## MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,  
Happy New Year 2021!

This past year has been a first for many things in all our lives. As the Covid-19 world-wide pandemic continues, we are hopeful that a vaccine will be distributed quickly and we can safely resume our annual events and family traditions.

I decided to glance through the WRFFHS library, looking back in the history of the Warrior Run Church and Fort Freeland. Both historic sites had many firsts in this frontier area, and it continued to prosper despite all the challenges. With the help of the WRFFHS members and volunteers, the history continues for future generations.

The Society, unknowingly at the time, started events that would later become annual traditions. The first Strawberry Festival was held in 1980 to support historical research and preservation of this region and our Revolutionary War era culture; in July of 1979, the Society held a small event to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fort Freeland (which later changed to the Heritage Days); and the first Candlelight Service was held in 1978, and has been a blessed tradition to usher in the Christmas season. In talking with many people, these annual events were truly missed by Society members and the community this year.

I want to share with our members some highlights of the past decade from board minutes, most referencing preservation of our sites from the work of the Society members, the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission (PHMC), and volunteers, as well as some other notable facts (and this is by no means a complete list!!!):

- 2011-The Boy Scouts painted the service buildings at the church.
- 2011-Volunteers removed and painted a few the church windows while the weather was good.
- 2012-Shively's Electric updated electrical service at the Warrior Run Church.
- 2012-PHMC contracted with HEPCO Construction to replace the shingled church roof.
- 2013-Church windows, trim, flag pole, and service building were painted by volunteers.
- 2013-Additional apple trees were planted below the Hower-Slote barn.
- 2013-2014-Maris Kilgus completed her Girl Scout Silver award by planting historic vegetable gardens at the church (2013) and the Hower-Slote House (2014) for Heritage Days. The produce was used for cooking demonstrations with Peggy Gelnett.
- 2014-Leon Hagenbuch fixed the roof on the service building after a large tree limb fell on it.
- 2014-PHMC contracted with Ressler Construction to make repairs to the cemetery stone wall.
- 2015-The PHMC had eleven trees removed or cut down from within and around the cemetery.
- 2015-WRFFHS worked with Delaware Township to install an elevated drainpipe and stone fill on the east side of the church for better drainage and added an electrical line to the rear



parking lot for a dusk-to-dawn light.

- 2015-The rear church parking lot was resurfaced with new stone.
- 2015-Carl Forman donated and spread new stone in front of the church service buildings, with Kyle Whitmoyer spraying the weeds.
- 2015-Security systems were installed at both sites.
- 2015-Rick Gold replaced the Hower-Slote shaker roof with a standing seam roof with snow guards, and replaced rusted spouting at no additional cost. The roof replacement cost was shared between the WRSD and the WRFHHS.
- 2015-Braydon Pawling completed his Eagle Scout Project with other scouts by mortaring the stone foundation of the barn.
- Randy Watts, Steve Moser, and Leon Hagenbuch repurposed gutters that were removed from the Turbotville Community Hall and reinstalled on the barn.
- 2016-The McEwensville Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Marker and garden at the Warrior Run Church, honoring all men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.
- 2016-Leon Hagenbuch helped install a new roof on the funnel cake building from donated materials from John Marr.
- 2016-The PHMC had Alvin Reiff make 8 new pairs of church shutters from cypress wood.
- 2017-Austin Koch completed his Eagle Scout project by leveling and up-righting tombstones throughout the Warrior Run cemetery.
- 2017-PHMC had Bobbie Jean Owens Preservation paint exterior areas of the church.
- 2017-2018-Pete Reasner completed his Eagle Scout project with other scouts and Leon Hagenbuch to remove/repair and paint the shutters on the Hower-Slote house.
- 2018-The church window sills, windows, and new shutters were painted by several volunteers and the Boy Scouts.
- 2018-The church service building roof was replaced with metal roofing by volunteers and the sink in the open alcove area was replaced.
- 2018-The Warrior Run Church deed transfer was completed from the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission to the Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society and recorded in the Northumberland County Courthouse.
- 2018-2019-Leon Hagenbuch started repairing and reglazing windows on the Hower-Slote house with the help of the Boy Scouts.
- 2019-Vanities were replaced in the church restrooms.
- 2019-Older ice cream freezers were repaired.
- 2019-Randy Watts cleared a walking trail below the church near RT 180.
- 2020-Leon Hagenbuch repaired/painted the service building interior ceiling because of prior water damage.
- 2020-A new Warrior Run Church sign by the Sign Shop of South Williamsport was installed at corner of Eighth Street and Susquehanna Trail.
- 2020-A commercial slicer was purchased for the Strawberry Festival.
- 2020-A new ice cream freezer was ordered for the Strawberry Festival.
- 2020-All annual WRFHHS events were canceled due to Covid-19 world-wide pandemic.
- 2020-Ethan Whitmoyer used farm equipment to spray weed killer on the rear church parking lot.
- 2020-The Shikelimo Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution used a biologically safe cleaner to start cleaning tombstone (and plans to come back to clean more).
- 2020-The Northumberland County Conservation District planted trees with Randy Watts by the walking trail below the church.

Our historical preservation and maintenance are never-ending work to the grounds and buildings which is not possible without private donations, membership dues, grant monies, and many, many, volunteer hours. With this, the WRFHHS Board personally thanks all of you!

Let us make the next ten years as productive with the younger generation learning, and preserving our vibrant local history and traditions.

All the best,

Melissa Kilgus

President, Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society



**Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society**  
**2021 Raise the Region**

The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania is excited to announce Raise The Region 2021. The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society has registered for this event. It is a 30-hour event beginning Wednesday, March 10, 2021. at 6:00 p.m. until Thursday, March 11, 2021. 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 ([www.RaiseTheRegion.org](http://www.RaiseTheRegion.org)). All donations are tax deductible and will help make your favorite nonprofit's mission possible. We appreciate your support as we always have. It's been a rough year with cancelling all of events, so donations will help.

Cathy Metzger  
 Treasurer

**Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society**  
**Donations for Fall 2020**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Ruth Thomas (in memory of Alice Cotner) |                       |
| John & Viola Pfleeger                   | Barbara Wood & Family |
| Donald Rovenolt                         | William Hartman       |
| Kathleen Shafer                         | Carol Chaapel         |
| Sue Lewis                               | Alan Hackenberg       |
| Leon & Sherri Golder                    | Kathleen Shafer       |
| Drake Owen                              | Barry Bryson          |
| Richard & Joyce Williams                | John Varner           |
| George & Rita Freeland                  | John & Nancy Marr     |
| Daniel Phillips                         | Cathy Metzger         |

**Website updates!**

Stay up to date with the Society's newsletters, fund raisers, board members, and events at [www.freelandfarm.org](http://www.freelandfarm.org)! Pictures, and content are regularly added!



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Heritage Days!**

With COVID-19 still in our midst, the board has been having meetings via email discussion, but plan on meeting in person soon to discuss events for the 40th anniversary of Heritage Days. Stay tuned!

Melissa Kilgus



**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" Pie Pan & blue lid              | \$21.00 |
| 9 x 9" Traditional pan & green lid | \$22.40 |

**Newsletter Articles**

Please email articles and photos 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.. 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>
January 11	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
February 8	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
March 8	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
April 12	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
May 10	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
June 14	6:00 p. m.	WR Church
July 12	6:00 p. m.	WR Church
August 9	6:00 p.m.	WR Church
September 13	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
October 11	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
November 8	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
December 13	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building

### Calendar of Events - 2020

April 27	Spring Dinner (last Tuesday of April)	6:00 p.m.	Country Cupboard
June 13	Strawberry Festival (second Sunday in June)	11:00 a.m.	WR Church
August 8	Annual Picnic (second Sunday in August)	4:00 p.m.	WR Church
October 2-3	Heritage Days (Board meeting will not immediately follow Heritage Days)		Hower-Slote Grounds
November 8	Membership Meeting Election/Regular Board Mtg.	7:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Bldg.
December 11	Candlelite Service (second Sat. in Dec.)	7:00 p. m.	WR Church



The black and white photos in this newsletter were taken by Skip Westley at Heritage Days, October, 1992. All copyrights to these photos are held by West Branch Heritage.

## *Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society*

### Board of Directors

(Terms run from January 1 to December 31)

#### 2019-2021

Steve Moser  
Melissa Kilgus  
Peggy Gelnett  
Randy Watts  
Al Reeves

#### 2020-2022

Leon Hagenbuch  
Jane Koch  
Sue Eppanbach  
Doug Ertel  
June Moser

#### 2021-2023

Landon Koch  
Cathy Metzger  
Daniel Phillips  
Heidi Eppanbach  
Ethan Whitmoyer

(Student Members)

### Officers

President - Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)  
Vice President - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279)  
Secretary - Heidi Eppanbach (570-568-1870)  
Assistant Secretary - Sue Eppanbach (570-568-1870)  
Treasurer - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)  
Assistant Treasurer - Al Reeves (570-538-1928)  
Membership (appointed) - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)  
Audit/Finance - Scott Pawling (570-538-9582), Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)  
Nominating Committee - Randy Watts (570-437-4048), Steve Moser (570-649-5124)  
Historian - Vacant  
Newsletter - Karen Houser (570-538-2557)

### Committee Leaders

Church -Jane Koch (570-538-1756), Landon Koch (570-538-4588), Doug Ertel (570-538-5711)  
Church Grounds -Jane Koch (570-538-1756), Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279), Randy Watts (570-437-4048)  
Weddings - Traci Pawling (570-490-9895)  
Strawberry Festival - Committee  
Heritage Days - Betsy Watts (570-437-4048), Jane Koch (570-538-1756)  
Candlelight Service - Al Reeves (570-538-1928)  
House/Property - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279), Steve Moser (570-649-5124), Rich Nornhold (570-538-9733)

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