

August 2021

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The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Society Members and Friends,

As we look forward to celebrating our Heritage Days weekend on October 2 & 3, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., at the Historic Warrior Run Church, our thoughts can reflect the importance of the Church and how it continues to serve our community, as it did through William G. Murdock's poem.

William Gray Murdock, 312 N. Front St., Milton, has a worthy life history to share. He was born in Milton in 1881, graduated from Bucknell in 1905, graduated from Dickenson Law School, by 1907, was an attorney in Milton, helped establish the State Association of County Fairs, where he served as president, as well as being the first chairman of the Milton Red Cross, and president of the Milton Board of Trade. He was drafted in 1917, and was commissioned to direct the draft in Pennsylvania, which inducted a quarter of a million men into service in 14 months. He was asked by Col. Theodore Roosevelt to organize the American Legion in Pennsylvania. He served as Postmaster from 1911-1915, was an authority on the history of Pennsylvania, the United States Army, and the Presbyterian church, and was the evening desk clerk at the Milton Police Station until the age of 79. In December, 1961, a fire at his home destroyed many of his historical books and papers. Murdock died in January, 1962, at the age of 80 years old. Quoting Murdock from the May 28, 1960, Daily Item, "Youth is the best time physically, middle age is the best time intellectually and old age is the best time spiritually". His poem was published on April 26, 1956, in the Milton Standard newspaper.

Warrior Run Presbyterian Church

By William G. Murdock

Written in 1948

By Warrior Run's calm and peaceful flow, the Presbyterians of long ago,
Built, amid the primeval oaks, a House of Worship for their folks;
Close to the Susquehanna River it stood, this frontier Church of logs and wood;
But in the summer of 1778, Buler's Seneca Indians, sad to relate,
Burned the building to the ground, as they ravage the county for miles around.
When Freeland's Fort fell before McDonald's might, leaving the valley a desolate sight,
Many of the Church's members were slain or fled, or as captives into the wilderness led;
But a few years after the Great Runaway, the settlers came back determined to stay.
A new Church was built further up the Run, where a great Christian service was begun;
And here the forty years of more, its members found solace with its door.
These were the years of plenty and peach that brought the Church a steady increase;
In growth and faith and goodly deeds as it ministered to local wants and needs.
It was from here, more than a century ago, that Richard Armstrong went forth to sow,
The seeds of the Gospel in Hawaii, whose leading citizen he came to be.
Then, one hundred and ten years ago, was built the beautiful Church we know,
Which stands today with dignity and grace, amid old trees and its burial place.
Where three generations of Presbyterians lie, close to the highway which passes by.

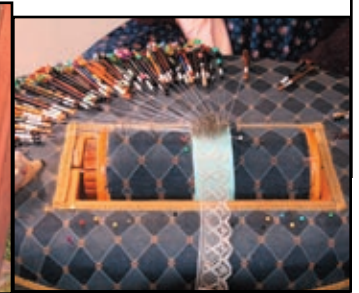


From the towns below to the Muncy hills, whose beauty always the traveler thrills.
 What sacred memories this Church could tell, of the joys and sorrows that befell;
 The People who came to worship here, under Pastors names we now revere;
 Bryson, Wescott, Herron, Sheddan and Marr were loved and respected near and far.
 Their force and vigor and orthodox views were always a source of interest and news.
 And what a sturdy list of Elders ruled here; men of true Faith, who knew no fear.
 Hutchinson, Ruckman, Watson, Guffy, McKinney, McKee, Durham, Armstrong, Hayes and Finney;
 Fulkerson, Gaston, Graham, the Montgomery brothers, Vincent, Wilson, Barr, McCormick, and others.
 When dissention at different times arose, their wisdom and tolerance brought it to a close.
 Strife between schools of old and new thought, of a century ago, to a speedy end was brought.
 Differences due to the troubles between the North and South, were not here seen.
 These men would not have tolerated for one minute Church modernism, with the poison that is in it.
 Now this Church's work is done, and it stands alone; a hallowed reminder of days that are gone.
 But its service was carried into every State, by sons and daughters as they would migrate.
 The greatness of our Country is largely due to the type of people old Warrior Run knew.



We look forward to seeing familiar faces, as well as new ones at Heritage Days, and hope that everyone stays safe for the duration of this Covid-19 pandemic. Please visit the www.freelandfarm.org website for updates, as we will follow Federal and State pandemic guidelines.

Melissa Kilgus
 Warrior Run-Fort Freeland, President
 570- 538-5593



Donations

The Society would like to express our gratitude to the estate of John Hefty for his generous monetary donation. John enjoyed attending our events, especially the Strawberry Festival. This money will be helpful at fulfilling the mission of preservation, conservation and presentation of our local heritage of the Warrior Run and surrounding areas, as well as providing high school scholarships, and supporting our youth through the apprentice program.



WR Church Walkway

The Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society was awarded a grant of \$11,200 from the Ralph and Josephine Smith Fund from the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania to install a beautiful slate walkway at the Historic Warrior Run Church, 41 Warrior Lane, Watons town, PA, 17777. The historic church was built in 1835, and was acquired by the Society from State of Pennsylvania in 2018. The walkway leads from the church steps to and around the service building. The sidewalk was installed by Mr. Tony Graybill, owner of Cornerstone Landscapes and Design.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the Historic Warrior Run Church on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society would like to thank the Ralph and Josephine Smith Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania for funding this project. This is a wonderful asset for its beauty, as well as safety.

The Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society's annual Heritage Days will be held on October 2 & 3, 2021, at the Historic Warrior Run Church from 10:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m. each day. Construction at the Warrior Run School District complex has made it impossible to hold the event at the Hower-Slote House this year.

To keep informed about the Society, visit our website, www.freelandfarm.org or you may call 570.538.1756.

Apprenticeship Program

If anyone has middle school aged children, or know of students that are interested in becoming an apprentice to learn an American trade or skill, please contact Francie Appleman at wfappleman@windstream.net and she will connect the student with an adult master craftsman.



David Seybold Christmas Print Fund raiser

David Seybold has graciously donated his first 20 Christmas prints of *Heritage Sleigh*, a picture of the Hower-Slote house with the sleigh and pumpkins. The picture itself is 6"x14", with a white boarder. The print is available for \$125. If you are interested, and want to reserve a numbered print, call David at 570.524.5237. He also has proofs available for \$150, and the original, but those are not included in the first 20 donations. If the first 20 sell out, he also has 50 additional prints for sale. At Heritage Days, David will have a print for viewing inside the Historic Warrior Run Church with a sign up sheet. Prints will be available for pickup in November. For the first 20 prints, checks need to be written out to the WRFFHS.

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. 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 - 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
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 - 2021

October 2-3	Heritage Days (Board meeting will not immediately follow Heritage Days)	Warrior Run Church
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

HERITAGE DAYS
OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
HISTORIC WARRIOR RUN CHURCH



Adults \$5.00 Students \$2.00 Under age 5 Free
No smoking No pets on grounds

This year, because of construction of the Warrior Run School District Elementary School, the event will be held at the Historic Warrior Run Church at 41 Warrior Lane (intersection of Susquehanna Trail and 8th Street Drive) Watsontown, PA.

Visit the Historic Church built in 1835, built using bricks made along the Warrior Run Creek. Watch as the brick master, Leon Hagenbuch, demonstrates this craftsmanship of times gone by. Visit the church and local historian Robert S. Franks as he portrays WR Church minister Reverend Bryson, with a presentation in the church each day at 1:00 p.m.

Walk through and hear tales of revolutionary patriots buried in the cemetery. Visit Revolutionary encampments and Indian encampments as they tell you their stories of life during the Revolutionary times. Watch as crafters demonstrate their skill with cooking, preparation of foods and needlework skills. Watch as Wheelwright, Bradd Mertz, demonstrates his wagon wheel setting. Visit the Apple butter demonstration, watching the ladies snitz apples and the men stir the boiling pot. Stroll through the grounds and see, hear and smell the sights, sounds and aromas of the 1700's and 1800's.

See the apprentices as they demonstrate rope making, pump making, coopering, paper making, shingle making, woodworking, flax culture, and much more.

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 Eppenbach
Ethan Whitmoyer

(Student Members)

Officers

President - Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)
Vice President - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279)
Secretary - Heidi Eppenbach (570-568-1870)
Assistant Secretary - Sue Eppenbach (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@freelandfarm.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)