

# The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

## October 2022

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Society Members, and Friends,

The Society expresses a big thank you to all the people that helped at our 2022 Heritage Days event! This event was not as well attended as years past, partly because of the weather, but we did have 922 visitors with many attending for the first time. Also, Professor Ed Slavishak from Susquehanna University is developing a new course that highlights the history in the region with emphases in a 50-mile radius from the university. Professor Slavishak had a few students this past summer tour the Warrior Run Church and the Hower-Slote house, but also came back to visit at Heritage Days. His future plan is to bring all his students to Heritage Days next fall and to speak with more of the demonstrators.

All of our board members each play an important role with Heritage Days and are working on what a future Heritage Days will be as we "work smarter, and not harder". As the Society continues its historical education mission, our events also have to serve the purpose to make a profit for much needed maintenance to the equipment, grounds and buildings that were built by many of our current family's forefathers. As we continue the Society's mission, we also welcome any suggestions from our members for forward thinking concerning historical outreach, special projects, grant opportunities, and promoting more volunteerism.

I want to give a shout-out to Betsy Watts to her many dedicated years as serving as co-chair with Jane Koch for Heritage Days. Betsy has assisted with grounds setup, finding volunteers to do work at the demonstrations and with the cookstoves, purchasing demonstration supplies, speaking at the school to recruit student volunteers, mending, washing, and assigning student outfits, conducting interviews/press releases with the local newspapers, working with the school district to have the grounds ready, and many more other behind-the-scenes tasks. With Betsy's retirement as co-chair, the Society is hopeful that someone else with the same dedication to history, the local area, and the tradition of this event tradition, will step forward to help the Society continue this important work. We also can't forget to thank Randy for being by her side to accomplish all that is on her list!

I also want to share how important John Marr's work has been for Heritage Days with all the pre-planning setup (with his official maps), grounds setup, tent assembly, marking all the tent poles, taking down tents, being in charge of the butchering demonstration, being a shingle demonstrator, working with the co-chairs, plus many other duties that are not seen, but have to be done to have a successful event. We want to thank John for his countless years of volunteering with Heritage Days and with the Society. With John also stepping down, we are looking for other volunteers to help continue this important mission of keeping our local history alive. John is genuinely our local history buff!

We will never be able to truly replace Betsy and John, but are hopeful that other volunteers will come forward to help in the Society's mission of "the preservation, conservation, and presentation of the history and heritage of the Warrior Run and surrounding areas."

Sincerely,

Melissa Kilgus

Warrior Run-Fort Freeland,

President

570- 538-5593

mk055@bucknell.edu



# Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

## Board Meetings - 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
November 14th	6:00 pm	Delaware Twp. Building
December 12th	6:00 pm	Delaware Twp. Building

## Calendar of Events - 2022

November 14	Membership Meeting Election/Regular Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Delaware Twp. Building
December 12	Candlelight Service	7:00 pm	WR Church

## Donations

The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society would like to thank the following people for their generous donations. Kathleen Shafer, Sue and Terry Snoddy, Kathleen Pino and John and Nancy Marr. It is very much appreciated and will be used to keep up with the maintenance at the church and at the Hower-Slote house.

Thanks

Cathy Metzger  
Treasurer



## Volunteers

The Society is always looking for volunteers. It does not matter if you are a behind the scenes person, have the skills to repair buildings, paint, lawn mowing, organized to setup events, inventory the collection, newsletter design, or just want to be with people keeping our heritage for the next generation alive! The WRFHHS Society is committed to practicing ongoing initiatives for diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to volunteers, students, interns, partners and members. Middle or High school students, Boy or Girl Scout groups looking for volunteer hours as part of their community are welcome too! Please contact us at [info@freelandfarm.org](mailto:info@freelandfarm.org)

### 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 information in an email or copy and paste from another document. The best format is a Word or an Open Office document. PDF files don't work well with the newsletter format.

We want you to be a part of our newsletter, so don't be shy. Help us to make our newsletter very interesting and informative.

*Karen Y. Houser*

The Shikelimo Chapter of the NSDAR is participating in Wreaths Across America at the Historic Warrior Run Church. The mission of Wreaths Across America is Remembering our fallen U.S. veterans, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children the value of freedom. To sponsor a \$15 wreath for the Warrior Run Cemetery, please use this web link <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/168597/Overview/?relatedId=150000> to place your order with online payment. You can also indicate a specific patriot's grave on the form. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call me at 570-538-5593, and I can process your request. We are also looking for volunteers to place the wreaths at each gravesite.

The national wreath dedication will be held on Saturday, December 17 at noon at the Historic Warrior Run Cemetery (rain, snow or sunshine). This is our second time hosting this event at the Warrior Run Cemetery and the DAR requested 99 wreaths for each veteran's tombstone. Thank you to our wreath sponsors, and volunteers who place the wreaths on the graves.

Thank you,

Melissa Kilgus

Shikelimo DAR member

Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society,  
President



The Society is holding its November board meeting in conjunction with the nomination of board members, and officers. Any member that is good standing with paid dues is welcome to attend. It will November 14th, 2022, at 6pm at the Delaware Township Building, Eighth Street, Watsontown.



**Annual Candlelight Service  
Saturday, December 10, 7pm at the  
Historic Warrior Run Church**

The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society cordially invites you to our annual Candlelight Christmas Service.

Please dress warm and bring a blanket and a flashlight as the church will not be heated.

After the service, please join us for warm mulled cider and cookies. This is the perfect way to begin your Christmas season!

The Historic Warrior Run Church, 41 Warrior Lane, Watsontown, PA 17777 (intersection of Susquehanna Trail and 8th Street Drive)

website [www.freelandfarm.org](http://www.freelandfarm.org)

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

phone. 570-538-1756

Contact. E. Jane Koch

Please join the Society with the Joe and Lauren Bryson family for an oak tree dedication in memory of Alice Cotner on Sunday, November 6 at 2pm. In addition, the family graciously paid to replace two apple trees that died at the Hower-Slote Farm apple orchard. The event will start at the Hower-Slote apple orchard at 2pm and then will move to the Historic Warrior Run Church for the dedication. Alice Cotner was Lauren Bryson's grandmother, and was a long standing member of the Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society. Joe Bryson is a direct (grandson) descendent of the Reverend John Bryson who was the first minister from 1789-1841. A cookie and cider reception will be held after the dedication.



## WATSONTOWN CABINET DIVISION OF PHILCO CORPORATION

This company had open house on October 19th and 20th, 1949. This information was on a pamphlet that was handed out. The power plant was two 1,000 horsepower steam engines drive electric generators which generate about ¾ of the plant's power requirements. The balance is purchased from the power company. Air compressor delivers 1,000 cu. ft. of high-pressure air per minute to spray guns and other air tools in the plant. The boilers use both coal (6,000 tons a year) and wood waste to generate steam for engines, plant heating, operation of 7 dry kilns and manufacturing processes in plant. The main manufacturing building consisted of 4 floors with nearly 9 acres of floor space. Double End Tenoner Has 13 motors totaling 90 horsepower. Costs about \$19,000 in 1949. Performs up to 10 operations on a piece of wood at one time. The plant has 6 of these machines. Electronic Heating Equipment-cures glues in 90 seconds by high frequency electric current which ordinarily required 10 minutes to 3 hours to cure. The electric waves heat only the glue joints but not the wood around it. Clamping Fixture- cabinet parts assembled in these fixtures and held in place until glue cures. We have about 10,000 clamps in use. Belt Sanders- Sandpaper and sand cloth belts travel at over a mile a minute rate to put a smooth scratch free polish on the wood. Automatic Vertical Boring Machines can bore up to 10 holes per stroke and make up to 30 strokes per minute. Four side Moulders but any profile on each of the four sides of a piece of wood. They are 40 to 50 horsepower. In 1949, they cost \$10,000 to \$13,000 each. Cutting Section contains rip saws and cut-off saws. Lumber is cut to size and defects are cut out. Wood Hog is a machine that grinds up wood waste for burning in the boilers. The waste is conveyed to the boiler house by blowers. Cabinet Assembly Dept. assembled console models and a few table models hand sanded and prepared for finishing. Finishing Dept. Consoles and table models progress down both sides of the room and many finishing operations are done. Rubbing Dept. Where cabinets are hand rubbed and polished. Packing Dept. where final hardware and ornamental trim are applied to cabinets before packing them for shipment. The railroad siding has six spaces for rail cars. The lumber Shed is 84 ft. wide and 500 ft. long. It holds over two million board feet of lumber. The lumber in the shed to air season from 16 to 40 weeks. It then goes to the dry kilns for final drying. It is then allowed to temper for at least two weeks before cutting. A crane travels the full length of the lumber shed and handles all lumber in packets. To keep the air in the plant fresh, it exhausts over 600,000 cubic feet of air every minute by a dust collector system and spray booth fans. This requires 555 horsepower of electric motors. Fresh air is brought in through 43 large heating and ventilating units. Thirty-five electric water coolers provide fresh and cold drinking water. Good lighting in the plant requires 4,000 light units which use 699 kilowatts of electricity. There were 318 woodworking machines in the plant. They vary from 1 horsepower to 90 horsepower. Their cost varied from \$800 to \$19,000 each. These machines were driven by 720 motors with a total rating of nearly 3,000 horsepower. Over 600 portable electric tools and 140 spray guns were used. Fire protection sprinkler system consisted of 21- 6" supply pipes feeding 6,000 sprinkler heads. The supply lines branch off the main water supply loop around the plant. This is fed by 6", 8" and 12" city mains. Two 1,000 gallon a minute booster pumps were connected to the 12" main. There were fire hydrants in the yard. An average daily requirement for the plant in full operation:

25,000 Board ft of lumber  
20,000 Square feet of cabinet plywood.  
4,000 Square feet of fir plywood.  
1,000 gallons finishing materials.  
3,000 Packing boxes.  
300,000 Screws and nails.

Leon Hagenbuch

# Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

## Board of Directors

### 2020 - 2022

Leon Hagenbuch  
Jane Koch  
Sue Eppanbach  
Doug Ertel  
June Moser

### 2021 - 2023

Landon Koch  
Cathy Metzger  
Daniel Phillips  
Heidi Eppenbach  
Ethan Whitmoyer

### 2022 - 2024

Steve Moser  
Melissa Kilgus  
Peggy Gelnett  
Randy Watts  
Al Reeves

## Officers

President - Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)  
Vice President - Jane Koch (570-538-1756)  
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 - Daniel Phillips (570-713-4816), 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 that 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

Email:  
[info@freelandfarm.org](mailto:info@freelandfarm.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  
2575 Turbot Avenue Watsontown PA 17777  
[cmetzger507@gmail.com](mailto:cmetzger507@gmail.com)  
570-713-4816  
(make checks payable to WR/FFHS)