



The Warrior Run - Fort Freeland Heritage Society Newsletter

February, 2024

President's Message

Hello, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself; my name is Landon Koch and I am the newly elected president for the Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society. I have been active with the Society for 26 years helping with events as such. I've been an active board member for over 8 years. This society was founded with the mission to preserve our local rich heritage as well as promote the education of that heritage and history for all people. It is that mission and that belief that has fueled my passion and what drives my involvement with the Society. This association, this historical society, is only successful because of all the members and volunteers who faithfully attend and come out to help with our mission and I would like to thank everyone of you from the bottom of my heart for your involvement in some way. It is my hope that we continue to grow and succeed in preserving our past for future generations.

In an attempt to keep up the maintenance of the Warrior Run Historical Church and the Hower-Slote house, we rely heavily on volunteers. I'd like to mention that we will have projects and events coming this spring and that if anyone is available and would want to help, we would certainly love for you to participate in anyway you can. Our normal labor force could always use more volunteers and more help as time goes on. So, if you have an interest, and you want to help please reach out and we can give you the details on times and what we have in the works. We do a lot, and we will continue to do more. Your help will certainly be needed.

We also have several fundraiser events coming. I know during these times, things can be tight. We understand this because we are just average people trying to make a difference and keep something alive, the strain can be real, and we understand. We operate on a low budget relying on membership, our events, and grants which are highly competitive and increasingly harder to get. That being said, we have the Raise the Region event coming up soon on March 13, and 14. If there's anyway you can find any donation, even small amounts can help with our cause. I know some people might not have the internet or aren't available to do a donation online, and that's okay. You can donate directly to us by mail. Again, the smallest amount could help us. We rely on your generosity to help us keep this alive. Please remember this.

I hope this newsletter finds you starting 2024 in the best possible way and that I see you all at the upcoming events, I have high hopes that we have some new volunteers come out to lend a hand. I have high hopes for you!

Have a great day, and a better tomorrow!

Landon Koch,
Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society, President



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society
Raise the Region 2024

The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania is excited to announce Raise the Region 2024. The Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society has registered for this event again this year. It is a 30-hour event beginning Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. till Thursday, March 14, 2024, 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 fundraising. If you would like to donate, go to the following link (www.RaiseTheRegion.org). All donations are tax deductible. We at the Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society appreciate all your donations which help us to keep up with the upkeep of the Hower-Slote House and also our Warrior Run Historical Church.

Cathy Metzger,
Treasurer



History of the Split Rail Fence – A Historic look at Heritage Days

Back when the earliest settlers came to Warrior Run in 1770, the split rail fence was an early type of fencing used to keep livestock in a confined area. Wood was plentiful in the process of clearing land for cultivation of crops. Horses and cows were common to most of the early settlers needing the fence. It is recorded that the early settler, James Watts, had a herd of sheep on his farm at Warrior Run. In April, 1759, James Watts bought a tract of land of 300 acres that was west from Rt. 54 to Five Points. He was a Sargent at Fort Freeland so he relocated his sheep to be near the Fort. During the night before the capture of the Fort on July 28, 1779, the Indians made wolf sounds which was a concern. In early daylight James Watts left the fort in search of his sheep in the direction of Warrior Run. James Watts encountered an Indian, he yelled to alarm the fort and was tomahawked. The Battle of Fort Freeland began with the sound of many Indians and the firing upon the fort.

With interest in the earliest settlers an idea came to have animals and the split rail fence at our Heritage Days. Some of us can recall when a lawyer, Bill Koch, and his wife Sue owned a farm that was once owned by Rev. John Bryson, who pastored the Historic Warrior Run Church for fifty-two years. This farm is on Church Street off Rt. 54 on to Rt. 44 which goes through the farm. Mr. Koch wanted to give the historic look around the house and barn, so he purchased tractor trailer loads of split rail fence at Lancaster. The fence came from chestnut trees and was around 200 years old. Chestnut trees were a common tree of the past and worked well for split rail fencing.

After Bill Koch died, his son Fred inherited the farm, and the old fencing was starting to deteriorate. In a conversation at a soccer meet Fred offered some of the fence to the Society to be used at Heritage Days. This is mostly the fence we have used for the last 20 years. The fence is preserved in storage except for use at Heritage Days. There is a set method of stacking the rails which is two short pieces make an X at each over-lap. A top rail is placed on top of the X to help hold everything in place. This becomes an impressive historic look when all is in place.

One year we had a volunteer demonstrate the hard task of rail splitting. The post and rail type of wood fence is demonstrated, drilling three or four holes in the post used to hold the cross rails.

If interested in learning or helping to demonstrate wood fence making for future heritage days pass your interest along to the Heritage Days committee.

Randy Watts



Membership Dinner

Tuesday, April 30, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Location, Menu and speaker
will be shared later in an email.



Newsletter Articles

Please email articles and photos to be included in the newsletter to 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



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society
Board Meetings - 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
January 8	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
February 12	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
March 11	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
April 8	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
May 13	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
June 10	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
July 8	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
August 12	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
September 9	6:00 p. m.	Hower-Slote House
October 14	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
November 11	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building
December 9	6:00 p. m.	Delaware Township Building

Calendar of Events - 2024

April 30 (Last Tue)	Spring Dinner	6:00 p. m.	To Be Decided
June 9 (Second Sun)	Strawberry Festival	11:00 a. m.	Warrior Run Church
October 5-6	Heritage Days		Hower-Slote Grounds
	Board Meeting not to immediately follow Heritage Days		
November 11	Membersjip Meeting	7:00 p. m.	Delaware Twnshp Bld
	Election / Regular Board Meeting		
December 14 (Second Sat)	Candlelite Service	7:00 p. m.	Warrior Run Church



Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society

Board of Directors

(Terms run from January 1 to December 31)

2022-2024

Steve Moser
Melissa Kilgus
Peggy Gelnett
Randy Watts
Al Reeves

2023-2025

Leon Hagenbuch
Jane Koch
Sue Eppenbach
Doug Ertel
June Moser

2024-2026

Landon Koch
Cathy Metzger
Daniel Phillips
Heidi Eppenbach
Ethan Whitmoyer

(Student Members)

Officers

President - Landon Koch (570-428-4588)
Vice President - Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)
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 - Heidi Eppenbach, Doug Ertel, Ethan Whitmoyer
Historian - Leon Hagenbuch / Randy Watts
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 - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816), Daniel Phillips (570-713-4816)
Heritage Days - Committee
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)