



The Warrior Run - Fort Freeland

Heritage Society NewSletter

September, 2026

President's Message

Hello all,

This summer has been busy at the Warrior Run Church. I'd like to start off by thanking the amazing crew that works tirelessly to ensure our grounds are beautifully maintained and ready for any event, whether that's for a wedding, a concert, or just community members walking around the drive enjoying a peaceful evening.

We were thrilled to host Van Wagner for a fantastic evening of folk music. Everyone present greatly enjoyed his performance and storytelling, with many bobbing their heads or tapping their toes to the beat.

The Church is also undergoing some major restorations on the inside this summer. The cracks in the wall plaster are being fixed, the pews will get refinished, and the paint will all be updated. Unfortunately, that means that the interior is off limits until it is completed to make sure everyone stays safe, but once the work is finished it will be worth the wait to see it back in its glory!

Heritage Days is also fast approaching, and we would love to see you there, whether that's as a volunteer or a visitor. With so much work going in to making each Heritage Days a success, we need everyone in all different capacities. Even if you can't make it this year, please let others know about the event to help increase the attendance.

Thank you all for your devotion to our mission of preserving the history and heritage of this area!

Heidi Eppenbach, WRFFHS President



Revolutionary War Patriot-John Hart

I selected Lieutenant John Hart as the subject of this newsletter's patriot research. Rather than being driven by family history research, my choice was by curiosity while cleaning his grave stone which is a prominent obelisk, alongside his wife's ornate headstone, which I thought a story is waiting to be told. My researched utilized Ancestry, Find A Grave, and Hathi Trust that revealed several individuals named John Hart living during that same era, including the notable signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Our John Hart was born in England in 1739, died on December 30, 1823, and was buried in the Warrior Run Church Cemetery. He was married to Mary Bruner Hart (1755-1827). In the 1790 Northumberland County census, John Hart was listed to have one white male above age sixteen years (himself), three white males under sixteen years (one son and two others) Jacob Hart (1791-1844), and three all females (his wife and two daughters). Unfortunately, his first daughter, Christianna, only lived to be 20 (1795-1815) and his second daughter, Sophia, also died in the same year at the age of 18 (1797-1815). Because Turbett and Chillisquaque Townships were caught in the center of an ongoing county boundary dispute between Columbia and Northumberland Counties at that time, the surrounding chaos led the local government to miss recording deaths and epidemics. Consequently, family Bibles and church ledgers were the most reliable records to preserve this information. Their son, Jacob Hart, moved to Guernsey County, Ohio, was married to Elizabeth Marie Hart and had eight children. Jacob is buried in the Jones Cemetery, Wheeling Township, Guernsey County, Ohio.

In 1776, Lieutenant John Hart served in the Army under Captain John McDowell's Co. 7th Regiment Continental Line. Prior to Captain John McDowell's service, he was a medical student, who then did resign his captaincy to address a shortage of military doctors and became a surgeon for the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment.

History of the regiment is as follows:

The 7th Pennsylvania Regiment (originally designated as the 6th Pennsylvania Battalion under Colonel William Irvine) was formed in late 1775, and officially renumbered as the 7th Pennsylvania in late 1776. Throughout the Revolutionary War, it drew its personnel primarily from Cumberland and York counties, with additional recruits from Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, Berks, and Northampton counties. The unit participated in the Canadian Campaign, seeing action at the Battle of Three Rivers and holding outposts at Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga. Later rejoining Washington's main army, the regiment saw active service in major engagements including the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, as well as minor actions at New Bridge and Bergen Heights. Following the Pennsylvania Line mutiny in January 1781, the 7th Pennsylvania was officially consolidated into the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment.

After his service, John Hart applied for a land warrant in 1805: John Hart of Turbutt Township, North County and Commonwealth of Penna former applies for fifty acres on the East branch of the waters of the Warrior Run adjoining Jno Pollock, Galloway, Foresman and Ferrell, including his improved consisting of one dwelling house, one barn, some fruit trees and twelve of thirteen acres cleared by the said Jno Hart, and fencede (Pennsylvania German, phonetic spelling for fenced). In January, 1806, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Governor Thomas McKean granted the land warrant to John Hart.

John Hart and his family continued to be listed on the Turbut Township septennial census of 1779-1863, and only him and his wife Mary on the 1820 Turbut Township census. Unfortunately, no other information on the family could be found in the Northumberland County histories, in newspapers.com or a proven Patriot in the Daughters of the American Revolution or Sons of the American Revolution.

Their cemeteries stones are worth a look the next time you visit!

Melissa Kilgus
WRFFHS, Vice President



Donations

Moorestburg Presbyterian Church for the donation for the Cemetery Wall Repair.

Cathy Metzger
Treasurer

Newsletter Articles

Please email articles and photos to be included in the newsletter to kyhouser@outlook.com. 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 FRONTIER GAZETTE

HERITAGE DAYS

"A Colonial Compass Navigating Today Through Yesterday"

OCTOBER 3RD & 4TH, 2026

AT FORT FREELAND & THE HISTORIC WARRIOR RUN CHURCH



— CONTINUOUS ATTRACTIONS THROUGHOUT BOTH DAYS —

Historic Warrior Run Church & Cemetery Open • Bring Native American Artifacts for Identification & Appraisal to Kim Mattem in the Barn • Colonial Music with Susquehanna Travelers (Saturday) & Dulcimer Music (Sunday) • Interact with Mrs. Martha Washington • Encampments of the 3rd Battalion Pennsylvania Regiment & South Eastern Native Loyalist Confederacy • Traditional Apple Butter Boil • Ground Penetrating Radar Demonstrations by Susquehanna University Students • Children's Colonial Games with Seven Bridges Susquehanna Scouts Council • Self Tours of the Hower-Slote House & Barn • Frontier Living Demonstrations

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

HOURS OF DEMONSTRATIONS: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

— AT WARRIOR RUN CHURCH —

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Historic Church and Cemetery Open to Visitors

— AT FORT FREELAND / HOWER-SLOTE FARM —

10:00 AM: Raising of the Colors with the 3rd Battalion Pennsylvania Regiment

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Strolling Colonial Music performed by the Susquehanna Travelers

10:00 AM: Pig Crackling Rendering with Ethan Whitmeyer and Volunteers (Saturday Only)

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Apple Butter Boil with Jane Moser and Volunteers

10:30 AM: Herb Gardening by Dawn Shawley

11:00 AM: RE-ENACTMENT: THE BATTLE OF FORT FREELAND. Narrated by Roger Swartz, featuring Fort Freeland Co. of Independent Riflemen (Lynn Otto & 3rd Battalion PA Regt.) and South Eastern Native Loyalist Confederacy (Turtle Swartz)

1:30 PM: Mrs. Martha Washington (Meg Geffert) discoursing on her Life with Gen. George Washington

2:00 PM: RE-ENACTMENT: THE BATTLE OF FORT FREELAND. Full demonstration and tactical engagement with Narrator Roger Swartz

2:30 PM: Presentation on the Capitulation of Fort Freeland, delivered on the House Porch by Lynn Otto

3:00 PM: Herb Gardening with Dawn Shawley

3:30 PM: Grand Apprenticeship Parade across the Grounds

4:00 PM: Lowering of the Flag with the 3rd Battalion Pennsylvania Regiment

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

HOURS OF DEMONSTRATIONS: 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

— AT WARRIOR RUN CHURCH —

10:00 AM: Church Service with Pastor Sean McNett, Strawberry Ridge UCC

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Historic Church and Cemetery Open to Visitors

— AT FORT FREELAND / HOWER-SLOTE FARM —

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Strolling Music and Instruction of the Hammered Dulcimer by Robert Gatheize

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Traditional Apple Butter Boil with Jane Moser and Volunteers

11:30 AM: Raising of the Colours with the 3rd Battalion Pennsylvania Regiment.

12:00 PM: Herb Gardening by Dawn Shawley

1:00 PM: RE-ENACTMENT: THE BATTLE OF FORT FREELAND. Narrated by Roger Swartz, featuring Fort Freeland Co. of Independent Riflemen and South Eastern Native Loyalist Confederacy

1:30 PM: Native Trades Presentation at Native Camp Treepee, by Lynn Otto

2:30 PM: Herb Gardening with Dawn Shawley

3:00 PM: Public Apprenticeship Auction with Weaver's Auctioneering

3:30 PM: Grand Apprenticeship Parade across the Grounds

4:00 PM: Lowering of the Flag with the 3rd Battalion Pennsylvania Regiment



• § • ARTISANS, DEMONSTRATORS & TRADESMEN • § •

EXHIBITIONS OF TRADITIONAL TRADES & CRAFTS

Acquisition Room: Charlotte Welliver

Apple Cider Pressing: David Barky

Appointed Work: Kathleen Shuler

Blacksmithing: Lucian Spring (Appr.) & Brad Gray (Master)

Bobbin Lace: Iva Kessler, Faith Lynn & Clara Spring (Appr.)

Butter Making: Alicia Susan & Amanda Bridges

Candle Making: Laura Kessler Daniels

Children's Games: Seven Bridges Boy Scout Troops

Clear Toy Candy: Wayne & Samantha Jacobs

Colonial Artist: David Clark

Coopering: Colin Moore (Appr.), Asher Sooddy (Appr.), Cayden Snyder (Journ.), Levi Watson & Rich Nurnhold (Master)

Country Kitchen: Glenda Yost & Leslie Hartline

Fence Post Making: Ed Rooversolt

Flintlock Rifle Display: Steve Myers

Flintlock Rifle Knapping: Jacob Snyder

Fraktur Painting: Marie Burkhardt

Genealogy Research: SAR (Tadlagham) & DAR (Shakafino)

Grandma's Wash Day: Irene Anderson

Gunsmithing: Roy Houseknecht

Hearth Cooking: Maria Kilgus (Journ.) & Peggy Gelsett (Master)

Herb Gardening: Dawn Shawley

Horse-dish Preparation: Heidi & Sue Eppenbach

Ice Cream Making: Lisa & Brendan Mowery

Interpretive Center: Drake Owens (Sat.) / John & Daniel Bower (Sun.)

Johnny Appleseed: Randy Watt

Leather Work: Jeff Myers

Loom Weaving: Imogene Adams

Native Encampment: Roger & Turtle Swartz

Open Hearth Fire Cooking: Brian Kocher & Nancy Lewis

Paper Making: Garin Lott

PA German Flax Culture: Alice Schuck, Zulia Schuck, Ruben

Cris, Nicole Spring (Appr.) & Abigail Appleman Schuck (Master)

Pickled Cabbage & Sauerkraut: Student Demonstrators

Pie Making: Glenda Yost, Leslie Hartline & Madison Rooversolt

Popcorn & Potato Candy: Nicole Baskage

Potter: Fintian Spring (Appr.) & Robert Lee (Master)

Pump Making: Steve Moser

Quilting: Gail Moser

Rake Making: Kithen Susan (Appr.) & Brent Susan

Revolutionary War Encampment: Lynn Otto

Rope Making & Bed Stringing: Alex Kern, Chanan Susan, Sam

Dunkleberger, Tucker Davis, Ryder Davis (Appr.)

Spinning: Rebekah Richardson

Tape Loom: Tishah Susan (Appr.) & Frances Appleman (Master)

Tin Smithing: Scott Gelsett

Wheelwright: Brad Merts

§ PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH PROVISIONS UNDER THE BARN §

Homemade Ham & Bean Soup, Chicken Corn Soup, Ham BBQ Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Hot & Cold Cider, Bottled Water, Birch Beer, Root Beer, Pie by the Slice, Whoopie Pies, and Fry Pies!

* All Demonstrations and Schedule Events are Subject to Change *

For further intelligence and detailed schedule, inquire via Email: info@freelandfarm.org or Visit: <http://freelandfarm.org/heritage-days/>

Fort Freeland: 246 Warrior Run Blvd, Turbotville • Historic Warrior Run Church: 41 Warrior Lane, Watsonstown

Warrior Run Fort Freeland Heritage Society
Board / Special Meetings - 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
October 12	6:00 p.m.	Delaware Township Building
November 9	6:00 p.m.	Delaware Township Building
December 14	6:00 p.m.	Delaware Township Building

Calendar of Events - 2026

October 3-4	Heritage Days		Hower-Slote Farm
	Board Meeting Not to Immediately Follow Heritage Days		
November 9	Membership Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Delaware Township Bldg.
	Election/Regular		
December 12 (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)

2026-2028

Leon Hagenbuch
Sue Eppenbach
Doug Ertel
Mark Meyer

2025-2027

Steve Moser
Melissa Kilgus
Peggy Gelnett
Randy Watts
Alfred Reeves

2024-2026

Landon Koch
Cathy Metzger
Daniel Phillips
Heidi Eppenbach

(Student Members)

Officers

President - Heidi Eppenbach (570-428-3178)
Vice President - Melissa Kilgus (570-538-5593)
Secretary - Sue Eppenbach (570-568-1870)
Treasurer - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)
Assistant Treasurer - Alfred Reeves (570-538-1928)
Membership - Cathy Metzger (570-713-4816)

Audit/Finance - Scott Pawling (570-538-9582), Melissa Kilgus (570- 538-5593), Kent Kilgus
Nominating Committee - Mark Meyer, Doug Ertel, Landon Koch
Historian - Leon Hagenbuch / Randy Watts
Newsletter - Karen Houser (570-538-2557)

Committee Leaders

Church - 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 - Landon Koch (570-538-4588)
House/Property - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279), Steve Moser (570-649-5124), Rich Nornhold (570-238-3856)
House/Property - Leon Hagenbuch (570-490-8279), Steve Moser (570-649-5124), Rich Nornhold (570-538-9733)

Honorary Board Members

Janet Hause *	Jane Shuman *	Leon Hagenbuch
Betty Miller *	Virginia Hartman *	Jane Koch
Donna Meyer	Ruth Moser *	Randall Watts
Preston Webb *	Mike Slease *	
Hall Williams *	Bob Franks	
Richard Nornhold	Alfred Reeves	
Ruth Webb *	Sue Eppenbach	

* 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)