



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Gwen Chaar
VICE-PRESIDENT — Richard Crawn
SECRETARY — Dale Hart
TREASURER — Betsy Browder

TRUSTEES

Cindy Cassini
Phil Dzielski
Ray Lemasters
Joan Roehrich

NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Susan Morgan

The extraordinary circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic have precluded a normal election of officers and trustees for 2021. Therefore, the Executive Board voted to freeze all positions. Officer and Trustee nominations will be announced at the October meeting and elections will be held at the November meeting. At that time all terms will be reset so that the two-year terms of president and treasurer and vice-president and secretary are elected on alternate years and the three-year trustee terms are staggered.

The Executive Board voted to have long-time member Richard Crawn serve as interim vice-president until normal elections can be held this Fall.

CONTACT US:

Email — info@hackettstownhistory.com
Web — www.hackettstownhistory.com
www.facebook.com/HackettstownHistoricalSociety

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PLEASE NOTE: Social distancing and masks will be required.

September 7, 2021

"Bailey's Boys"

Presenter: John Covert

October 5, 2021

Nobody Owns the Sky

Presenter: Carol Simons Levin

November 2, 2021

The Bootleggers of Montana Mountain

Presenter: Richard Dalrymple, Jr.

ABOVE PROGRAMS HELD AT 7:00 PM

AMERICAN LEGION HALL

494 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the members of the Hackettstown Historical Society:

We are excited to welcome you back to our Museum, to the monthly presentations, and to just knowing that our house will be back to almost normal again.

There are a couple new rules in place: social distancing and wearing a mask at the Museum and at the American Legion Hall during programs.

Speaking of programs, beginning in September we have a full schedule planned for you.

We have kept busy during our closure putting together some wonderful new displays and rearranged the upstairs rooms in the Museum. There are also new curtains throughout the building to filter the sunlight in order to avoid damaging the

upholstered furniture, textiles, photographs, and documents.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented time. I hope you all are safe and healthy.

Hope to see you at the **September 7th** meeting.

Gwen Chaar

Meet Our Trustees

Trustees serve important roles within HHS. They advise the officers, exert fiduciary oversight, and act as ambassadors to the public at large by promoting the organization's initiatives and events. Perhaps the most important task of trustees is to ensure the organization's long term existence through board succession planning. To this end, trustees in effect look for their own replacements from among members and volunteers with the requisite interests. Here are some glimpses of our current HHS trustees. They are all friendly people! Introduce yourself to them at meetings and enjoy some interesting conversation about our common interests.

Cindy Cassini, a retired kindergarten teacher in the Mt. Olive School District and trustee since 2017, expresses very clearly what it's like to be an HHS trustee: "Being a trustee of the Society sounds quite impressive but it's actually easy. It involves one meeting a month to listen to future society plans, make suggestions and voice opinions. Any involvement after that is voluntary." Cindy is an avid reader of historical novels and finds that being a trustee gives her the opportunity to both meet many new people in the area with extensive historical knowledge and to learn about the history of Hackettstown.

Joan Roehrich, the owner of a local antiques business and a trustee since 2017, is a valuable resource about the people and the history of the town. "A trustee needs to know very clearly what is expected of them so that they can do it. I try to offer positive suggestions and honest opinions about what needs to be done. I do think we need to make some adjustments in the Society and how we do things. We especially need to pay attention to the members and their interests and to attract new people into the Society and to the Board."

Phil Dzielski joined us in 2020 as an interim trustee. Phil assembles scientific instruments, collects

books and tools, researches aspects of local history, and looks for ways to improve the exhibits at the museum. About being a trustee, Phil says "I enjoy helping make decisions based on what I believe will help the HHS grow, and to provide the resources to educate the public about the rich history of Hackettstown. To this end, I'd like to bring more attention to the HHS and the Museum by expanding our social media presence. I'd like to post some mini and full-length programs to show members and prospective members what we do, especially when we can't have in-person meetings like the past year."

Ray Lemasters is a charter member of the Society. He has served as a trustee since 2005, when the Board also appointed him Museum archivist. It is difficult to briefly describe what Ray does as trustee/archivist. He sorts and catalogues incoming donations and assists in responding to in-person and mailed inquiries about genealogy, local history, and the history of Hackettstown homes. He assists the Display Committee when possible with exhibits and artifact signage. As he says, "All members should tell their friends or anyone with a potential interest in local history about the activities and programs of both the Society and the Museum." When not busy with HHS matters, Ray has written several books on local history. His pastimes are model building and collecting Hackettstown postcards. Ray has also served as Town Historian of Hackettstown since his appointment in 1991.

***A great big THANK YOU to our trustees
for all that they do!***

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Society, **Tim and Ingrid Wengert**. The Wengerts moved from Philadelphia to an historic stone house on Rockport Road. Tim is a retired history professor and Ingrid is a pastor. Welcome!

A reminder to members: We do not want you to miss any emails about program announcements or newsletter mailings. If you have had an address or e-mail change please let Treasurer Betsy Browder know at betsybrowder@earthlink.net.

Remember, your membership dues are excused for 2021.

HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

A lot of activity has continued to occur at the Museum during 2021 in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The family of **Leonard Frank**, a long-time Society member who passed away in January, donated Len's large personal library of state and local history books. A number of the books were selected to add to the Museum's reference library. The rest were sold and realized several hundred dollars for the benefit of the Society and Museum.

Michael, Harrison, a former Hackettstown resident, recently donated two pictures of a luncheonette once operated by his grandfather, **John Diehl**, along with two pieces of dinnerware once used in the luncheonette. Michael related an interesting story about his grandfather. John Diehl spoke German, so when the disastrous **Rockport train wreck** occurred on June 16, 1925, Diehl was called upon to interpret for the survivors of the wreck, all of whom were German tourists.

We have once again received a donation from a distant donor. In August former resident **Silas C. C. Wade**, now living in San Marcos, TX, sent a box of items. He is descended from the **Wade, Rusling and McCracken** families of Hackettstown, and the photographs and other pieces of memorabilia relate to those families.

During the spring and summer, the Display Committee has continued refining the second floor displays. Be sure to stop in and see the new "**Life in the 1880's**" room depicting life in the heyday of our town's development that gave it its Victorian identity.

Since the Museum's re-opening we have received visitors' compliments on the new displays and the increased exhibit signage. ***The Display Committee should take pride in their fine efforts!***

Please stop by to see what's new that's old!



Watch your emails for
notice of
October Lantern Tours

ADOPT A PROJECT

Several opportunities exist for members to assist with Museum projects, including some that may be accomplished at home.

Please consider how personally rewarding it can be to become actively involved in planning Society events or becoming involved with the Museum. We welcome suggestions for ways to improve existing exhibits, or ideas for future ones. Perhaps you might enjoy becoming a Museum docent.

We need one or two people to continue the work on our existing volumes of information about old houses and buildings in town. This is very important because we frequently receive inquiries about the age or history of a structure.

There is an opportunity to work with the Display Committee on new or existing exhibits, or to help sort museum holdings to make them more readily available for future feature exhibits. On the subject of exhibits, a new and permanent timeline exhibit is in the works, and all types of artistic talent are needed to make it as interesting and informative as possible.

There are many opportunities to serve on various committees. Please speak with an officer at the next meeting or visit the Museum to see how you may be able to help.

This is your Society, and your involvement is important to all of us!



THE MUSEUM STORE

"History Mystery Grab Bags & Boxes"

New! To deal with the growing accumulation of duplicate items and items otherwise not needed for the Museum collection, the Executive Board approved the assembling of grab bags and boxes. They contain old and not-so-old items related to Hackettstown. Take your pick of as many as you want for a donation of **\$5.00 per bag or box!**

Hackettstown Historical Society Presentation

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

7:00 pm

“Bailey’s Boys”

Captain Daniel Bailey



27th Regiment of New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Company F

Captain Bailey’s great-great grandson, John Covert, pays tribute to his ancestor’s memory as a Civil War re-enactor.

**American Legion Hall
Willow Grove St., Hackettstown**

Social Distancing And Masks Required