

The

Cedar Tree

Vol. 16 No. 4 Fall 2013



200 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15228 • 412-563-1941 • info@lebohistory.org • www.lebohistory.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Fall is upon us. Summer is now the past, but what a historical summer it was. From the Pirates breaking their "historic" losing streak to a future King of England being born to the first Brit winning the men's singles title at Wimbledon since 1936, it's been a historic time. What history making events occurred in your life this past summer?

A history-making event in my life this past summer was revisiting Gettysburg National Park. Just like Robert E. Lee and George Meade, I spent three days walking up and down, over and around the town of Gettysburg and the battlefield. I haven't been there in more than 15 years. The changes are fantastic. The Gettysburg Foundation and the US National Park Service have embarked upon a decades-long campaign to restore the battlefield back to its appearance in July 1863. Trees have been planted; others removed. Fences, which impacted the battle, have been restored. Motels, souvenir shops, and tourist traps are being torn down and the land restored to its 1863 appearance. These efforts make it easier for visitors to understand and interpret the battle. And isn't that what we, as supporters of history, want to strive for; to help others better understand and interpret history wherever we find it?

The new visitor center and museum is not to be missed or rushed through. I was there for almost four hours and didn't see it all. It's a great example of how to blend original artifacts, museum displays, and modern videos to tell a complex and

captivating story of what occurred there and why. A displayed object, artifact, or document can impact you in a special way. For me, it was seeing the litter used to carry Stonewall Jackson after he was mistakenly shot by his own troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville. It was torn, worn, and bloodstained. It moved me. (OK, my wife Peggy wasn't impressed, but I certainly was!)

Another significant part of the trip for me was walking over the ground that the Confederate soldiers from George Pickett's division passed on the afternoon of July 3, 1863. While not readily apparent, it's an uphill climb from the Confederate lines to the Union lines. Those fences I mentioned earlier are now present, although the Park Service has conveniently left some gaps to make my "charge" much easier. (Of course I wasn't being shot at by canon fire or thousands of Union forces at the time either!) After crossing that great divide, I had a much better appreciation for what the participants on both sides experienced that July afternoon, 150 years ago.

While not as glorious as Gettysburg, my hope is that when you stop at the Mt. Lebanon History Center and see one of our exhibits, or attend one of our Speakers Series lectures, or find your house in the background of one of our photographs from the 1920s, you will have one of those special moments that makes you smile just a little bit and causes your heart to skip a beat.

Enjoy your Fall!

Jim Wojcik, President

UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES LECTURES

ALL LECTURES ARE FREE

ANNUAL MEETING: PITTSBURGH DURING THE CIVIL WAR

7 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Author Arthur Fox will be the speaker. Please note, this is a reschedule of a canceled talk from this past winter. More information inside this newsletter.

WE LOVE REUNION GROUPS! CONSIDER SCHEDULING A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE HISTORY CENTER AND A WALKING TOUR FOR YOUR REUNION.



MT. LEBANON HISTORY CENTER

200 LEBANON AVENUE

HOURS

10 A.M. TO 1 P.M., THURSDAYS & 9 A.M. TO NOON, SATURDAYS

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT:

412-563-1941 OR

INFO@LEBOHISTORY.ORG

the historical society of mount lebanon . . . looking forward to the past

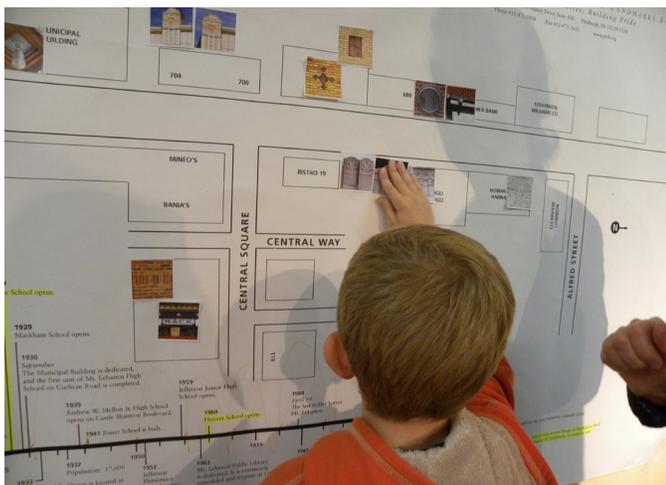
second graders on tour

Since 2001, the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon—in conjunction with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Mt. Lebanon School District, and the Mt. Lebanon Library—has participated in the second grade walking tours of Washington Road. Every second grader in the Mt. Lebanon School District participates, and the Mt. Lebanon History Center is one stop along their trip. Greeting them at the center's front door is Society member and volunteer Dave Frankowski in his Whiskey Rebellion period soldier attire. Inside, volunteer Judy Sutton or Colette Frankowski talks to the students about what it was like to be a student in the early days of the Mt. Lebanon School system, showing them photos of students and examples of early clothing. The students seem especially captivated by the shoe with buttons for fastening and no Velcro or laces! They also get a brief view of whatever exhibit we currently have in place. During one visit, a student spotted a photo of his dad on display in our Mt. Lebanon Soccer Exhibit and brought him back the following week to show him.

At the end of the visit, each second grader leaves with a pencil and a Mt. Lebanon bookmark that contains interesting facts about Mt. Lebanon's history. Because we now have a History Center, the students can really see their community's history on display.

We willingly participate in this program because it exposes about 425 young people every year to the wonders of history, especially the history of their community. We hope the short visit will encourage them to bring their parents into the Center as well.

— Photos courtesy of PHLF



Above: After the tour, students return to the library where they use their newly found knowledge to fill in a map of Washington Road with architectural images.

Top: Students, led by Lousie Sturgess of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, head out on their tour from the library.

Middle: Historical Society member and volunteer Dave Frankowski tells students about how the Whiskey Rebellion impacted the South Hills.

Bottom: Society member and volunteer Judy Sutton discusses the center's exhibit with students.

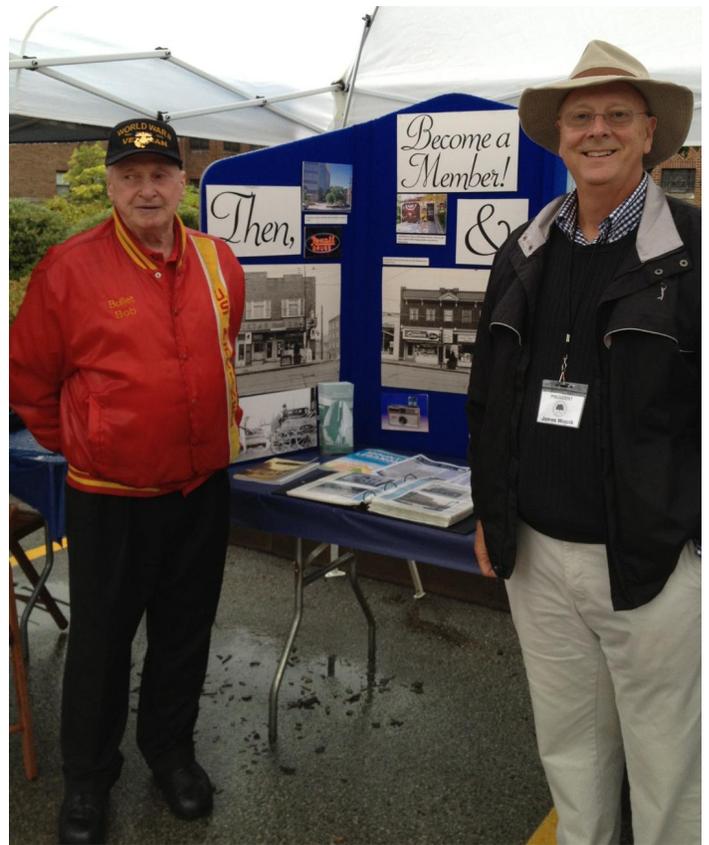
Out & About with the Historical Society

Saturday, September 21st was a cold, wet, and gloomy day weather-wise in Mt. Lebanon. But the weather didn't stop us from participating in two community events.

First up was the Baptist Homes Community Day event in the early afternoon at the Baptist Homes on Castle Shannon Boulevard. Because of the weather, the event was moved inside the hallways of the main building. We staffed a table where residents, their families, and visitors could enjoy our "Then & Now" photos of what places looked like in the past compared to how they look now. They also could enjoy copies of our latest newsletter, fliers about upcoming events, our Mt. Lebanon coloring books, and our *Images of America: Mt. Lebanon* book. A special highlight was our copy of the December 8, 1941, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, published the day after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. What makes this special is it's a copy of the original newspaper, so you can actually turn the pages and read the information (or misinformation) about the events of the prior day as well as see advertising for Christmas and that the Steelers finished the NFL season in last place in the Eastern Division with a 1-9-1 record! (Note: This newspaper copy, as well as the original, is part of our current exhibit: *Mt Lebanon Goes to War*. Stop in our History Center and flip through these pages of history yourself!)

Although we were inside for the Baptist Homes Community Day, our participation at the 4th Annual Brew Fest was entirely outside. The event, a fundraiser to support maintaining the new Mt. Lebanon Veterans' Memorial and Veterans Breakfast Club programming, took place in the Academy Avenue parking lot behind The Saloon. We set up our table under a tent and stayed reasonable dry while in awe at the number of people who showed up to sample various local beers, listen to a live band, and generally have a fun—albeit wet fun. Many people, including WWII Marine veteran "Bullet Bob" Daley, stopped by to "talk history" and enjoy the various items we had on display. (They also may have wanted to get out of the rain!)

It was a long but successful day for the Historical Society as we helped others to better understand our past.



WWII Marine veteran "Bullet Bob" Daley, left, stopped by to "talk history" with Historical Society President Jim Wojcik at the Mt. Lebanon Brew Fest in September.

celebrating 60 years of hardware

Don't miss our November display at Mt. Lebanon Library about the history of Rollier's Hardware. The store, which is celebrating its 60th year in the South Hills, originally opened on McFarland Road as the first self-serve hardware store in the area. Rollier's "Kwik-Serv" Hardware also was the first store around to prepackage nuts, bolts, and nails for convenience. In 1976, the family renovated the store, turning a yellow brick building into a big red barn. In 1994, the store moved to Washington Road. The display will run through November.



MEMBERSHIP

**MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE
WHO HAS RENEWED!**

Please consider a membership
for your friends and family!

A membership makes a great
gift to former residents now
living in other states—and helps
the Society! Questions?

412-563-1941 or
info@lebohistory.org

LIFE MEMBERS

Mary Ann DePalma Burnett
Mr. & Mrs. David Fasulo
The Donald D. Mateer Foundation
Virginia Nicklas
Bertha Abbott Thomas
Jim and Nancy Lutz
Rollie & Donna Kae Simmons
Thomas

Annual Meeting

We will be conducting our annual general membership meeting 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, at Mt. Lebanon Library. The meeting will take place immediately prior to our speakers' presentation that evening (see flier page 5). There are no amendments to our constitution or by-laws under consideration this year, but the membership will be voting on recommendations from the nominating committee for board membership to begin in January 2014.

If you or somebody that you know would be interested in serving on the board of trustees, please submit the individual's name, contact information, a brief resume, and the reason why they are interested in serving on the board to info@lebohistory.org prior to October 15. If you have questions regarding board membership, you can email us at the same email address or call Nominations Committee Chairman Dave Redding at 412-327-6097.

McMillan House Update

Since the last newsletter, we have been moving along on our study of the possibility of acquiring the entire property we currently occupy from the Mt. Lebanon Municipality. As I said in the last issue of the *Cedar Tree*, the municipality does not foresee a need to continue to own the property. We are almost done with the feasibility study and restoration cost estimate being prepared by RSH Architects, the firm we hired for this phase of work. We now have initial concept schematics for the building and have completed a detailed cost estimate for the work required.

We are in the middle of discussions with the municipality regarding acceptable terms and conditions for our acquisition of the property. These discussions are in a fluid state; with both sides attempting to gain a better understanding of the needs and desires of each party. (If you see your commissioner, please take the time to thank them for their support for this effort.)

Knowing the acquisition and restoration costs, along with the impact of increased operating costs, gives us an idea of a fundraising goal. We have hired Karen Petrucelli of KP Associates to help us with an analysis of the feasibility of conducting a successful capital and endowment campaign. Results of this analysis are expected to be completed this fall. We will ask several of our members to participate in this study by agreeing to be interviewed by Karen. We hope you will agree to take the time to be interviewed if asked.

GRAVE & GOBLINS TOUR

1 p.m., Saturday, October 26

Take a tour of Mt. Lebanon Cemetery—see the beautiful headstones and mausoleums and hear some “haunting” stories. **Meet at the Cemetery’s front gate along Washington Road. Suggested donation: \$5, Society members; \$10 non-members. Reservations required at cready@gmail.com or 412-418-9348.**

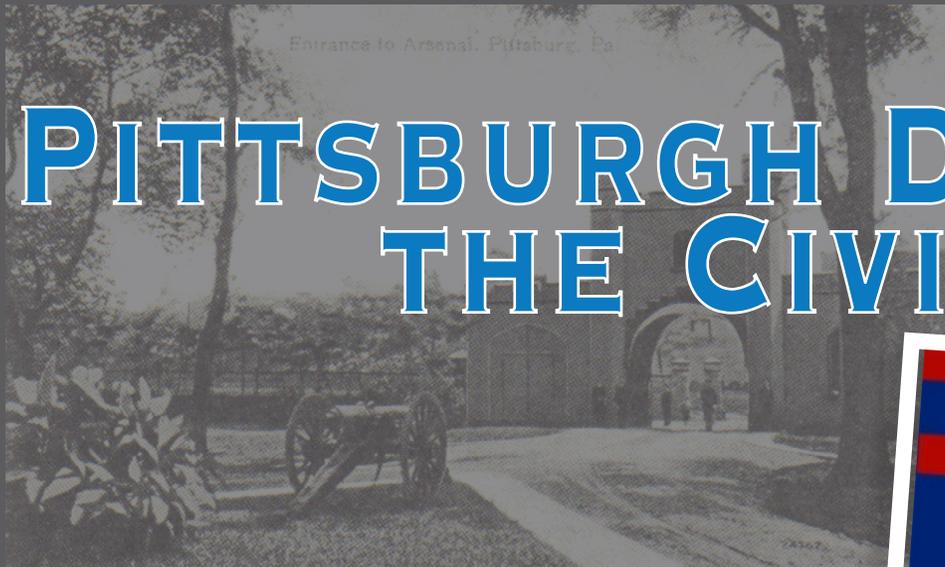
Great Gift Ideas

Don't forget you can purchase “I♥Lebo” T-shirts (adults, kids, and onsies), note cards, Mt. Lebanon history coloring books, Mt. Lebanon Images of America books, Christmas cards, and other great gifts at the

Christmas Exhibit

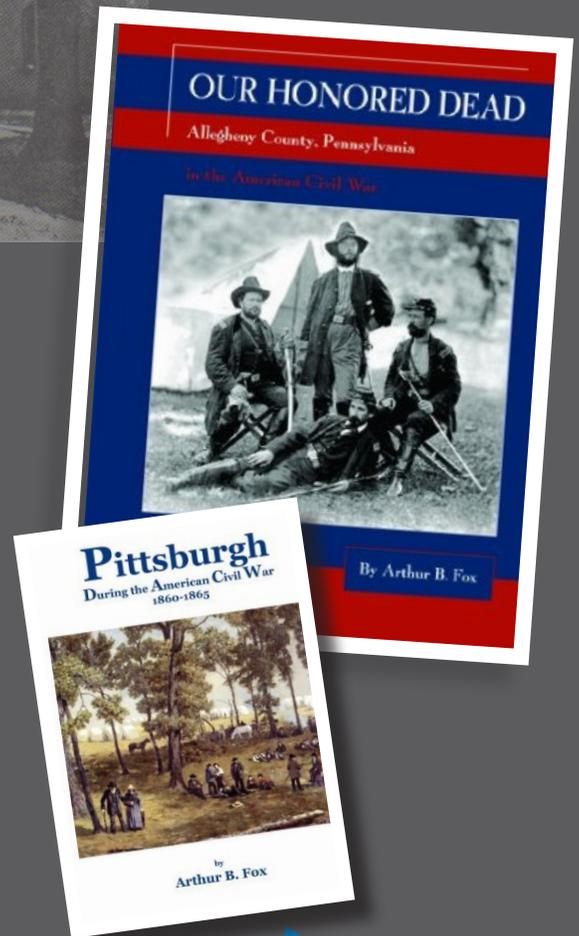
At the beginning of December, the Historical Society will mount a special Holiday exhibit in Mt. Lebanon Library's display cases on the main floor (near the checkout desk). The theme is a surprise, but we promise you won't want to miss it! The exhibit will run through December.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT LEBANON
PRESENTS...



PITTSBURGH DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Arthur B. Fox, M.A., professor of World Geography at CCAC - Allegheny Campus, will discuss his research on Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's role during the Civil War. His two published books, *Pittsburgh During the American Civil War, 1860-1865*, (2002) and *Our Honored Dead, Allegheny County During the American Civil War* (2008) will be discussed as well as his pending manuscript, *Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Gettysburg Campaign: Human Interest Stories*.



7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6

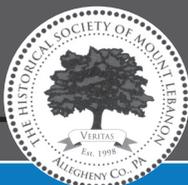
Mt. Lebanon Library

16 Castle Shannon Boulevard

This program was originally scheduled in January, but had to be canceled when the speaker became ill

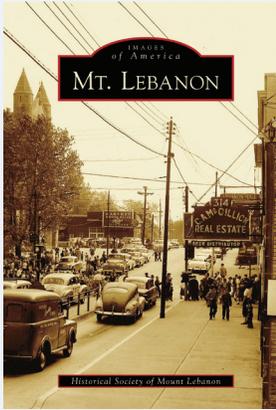


THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT LEBANON
200 LEBANON AVENUE, 15228



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412-563-1941



If you love old pictures, like the one at right, make sure to get a "Mt. Lebanon" book filled with 127 pages of black and white photographs. Books are \$23.50 at the History Center and the municipal building, 710 Washington Road. Or order online at www.lebohistory.org. **THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**



history mystery

This photo was found in the historical society's files. There is no information about who the people are or where the house was located. We're not even sure it was in Mt. Lebanon. If you know anything about this photograph, please contact us at 412-563-1941 or info@lebohistory.org.



The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
M.A. Jackson



Mark Your Calendars... Annual Dinner is October 30

Invitations have been mailed for our Annual Dinner Fundraiser. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN INVITATION no later than October 15 by emailing info@lebohistory.org or calling Dave Redding at 412-327-6097.

The event, which will be held at St. Clair Country Club, begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails; dinner follows at 7. Immediately following the dinner, we will welcome speaker Todd DePastino—noted author, teacher, historian, founder of the Veterans Breakfast Club, and Historical Society board member—for a talk titled *Veteran Voices From WWII: Mt. Lebanon War Stories*.

Tickets are \$60. The evening includes a raffle and silent auction, including a week's use of a house in Charleston, South Carolina. **You must reserve your seat by October 24.**

It promises to be a fun and enlightening evening. Don't miss out!



Todd DePastino