



# THE CEDAR TREE

## Newsnotes from

### The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

200 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (412) 563-1941

www.hsmtl.org

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WINTER 2011

#### **PRESIDENTS LETTER**

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the American Association of State and Local History conference in Oklahoma City with two members of the Heinz History Center and the president of the Fayette County Historical Society. At the conference, we presented a session titled "Getting a Second Wind: Making the Most of Community Outreach," in which we discussed how the Heinz History Center's HCAP program helps smaller museums in the region. I was there to talk about how the Heinz History Center has helped the Mt. Lebanon History Center volunteers learn to catalog and care for the items we have received and how we have passed on that knowledge to other societies. Our session had about 40 attendees and was well received.

While at the conference, I took advantage of the opportunity to network with other history professionals and swap ideas. Here is a run down of some of the sessions I attended:

**Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility—Lessons Learned from Violence and Terrorism** with speaker Lynne Roller, Director of Education and Research at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. I later toured the museum, which relates the story of the 1995 Murrah building bombing.

**Small Museum Luncheon:** David Anderson, Executive Director of the Creek Council House Museum in Tulsa, OK, discussed collaborations between small museums and their community partners.

**Mummies, Marketing, and Media Madness** Delaynna Trim, Curator of Collections, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, Oklahoma, discussed how Facebook and other forms of social media can help spread the word about museums and their programs, and the best ways to manage social media.

**Small Museums, Big Impact!** Chaired by Laura Casey, State Coordinator, Museum Services Program, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas. Representatives

from four successful small museums in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas discussed how small museums can use their resources wisely to positively impact their communities in areas that include funding, social media, events, and school programs.

**Creating Experiences Visitors and Communities Value** Chaired by Dale Jones, Principal, Making History Connections, Glenwood, Maryland, this session looked at how creating a case for support can lead to greater public value and how applying results of visitor research can lead to more responsive and engaging experiences that visitors and community value.

**Harnessing the Winds of Opportunity: Creating the Best Fit for Collections in the Space You Have** Chaired by Elisa Phelps, Director of Collections and Library Divisions, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado. This session focused on how in building the new Colorado History Center, a practical plan was needed for the center's collections storage and workspace.

**Building Community Connections: Collaborations for the 21st Century** Chaired by Scott Strainge, Curriculum Coordinator for the Humanities, Timberlane Regional High School, Paistow, New Hampshire. Here we discussed how museums can successfully collaborate with community and school organizations to create dynamic projects that reflect the collections and missions of all involved.

The three-day conference was informative and fun. I thank my board for their support in sending me and the AASLH Small Museums Committee that awarded me a \$500 scholarship to attend. I hope to use the information I gathered to make the Mt. Lebanon History Center the best it can be.

M.A. Jackson

### **COLORING BOOK**

Mt. Lebanon: A Town of Colorful History, the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon's new coloring book is now for sale! This lovely 76-page book was illustrated by 14 local artists—including architects, school art teachers, and cartoonists. The books are \$10 at the History Center and will soon be available in local stores (check our website at [www.hsmtl.org](http://www.hsmtl.org) for locations). For an additional \$5, we can mail the book to you. Dick Price deserves kudos for his work organizing and overseeing this project—which has been about a 18-month endeavor. Dick accepted nothing less than perfection, and the book is a testament to his hard work.

### **THANK YOU**

To the **Reis** family—**Matthew, Andrew, Jehnie and Mark**—for helping with the Halloween parade...To **Ginny Nicklas** for chairing the annual dinner committee, **Wilma Novogradac** for doing the centerpieces, **Sue Redding** for chairing the auction, and **Connie Lopez, Emmy Lou Ducray, and Elsie Waddel** for serving on the dinner committee...To **Bill Young, Kerry Solomon, Rod and Julie Agar, and Mark Johnson** for their work installing the soccer exhibit...Many thanks to our volunteers who man the center when we are open—**Dick Price** volunteered more than 200 hours at the center in 2010 and **Gwyn Cready** more than 100... **Lucille Heckman** was there about 80 hours and **Bea Finke, Barbara Jucha and Emily McCann** who all worked more than 20 hours...Thanks to **Mike Lacy**, who has started scanning old building permits so the originals can be files and protected.

### **ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTS AVAILABLE**

Thanks to **Jane Johnson** and her tireless efforts transcribing our oral history tapes, the History Center will soon have binders available for the public to peruse. The first one completed, is for David Rowlands—Mt. Lebanon's municipal manager from 1949 to 1952. The oral history of Jim Harrod, who worked for Mt. Lebanon's public works department for 35 years, will be completed shortly and will be followed by oral histories of several longtime residents. The transcripts will contain pictures relevant to the oral history and a picture of the subject. Each tells a different and interesting story about our community's past.

The oral history committee is seeking individuals interested in helping conduct interviews with long-time residents. If you are interested, please call 412-563-1941 or email [info@hsmtl.org](mailto:info@hsmtl.org).

### **THE SOCIETY ONLINE**

Would you like to receive this newsletter by e-mail rather than snail mail? Send your email address to [info@hsmtl.org](mailto:info@hsmtl.org) and let us know. We also have an e-newsletter we will send out about once a month when we have things to announce

that didn't make it into the newsletter (or that we'd like to remind you about). If you'd like to receive it, send us your email address. Please note: We will NEVER share your email address with any other organization. If you are on **Facebook**, please consider becoming a fan of the Society. Just search for "Mt. Lebanon History Center" page. We post pictures, print arcane facts about the community, and keep you up-to-date about our programs and activities. And, of course, we have a website at [www.hsmtl.org](http://www.hsmtl.org).

### **2011 SPEAKERS SERIES**

Thanks to **Nick Sfakianakis** for chairing our speakers series for 2011. All programs are 7:30 p.m., at Mt. Lebanon Library. Please mark your calendar now with the following dates:

**January 26** — Michael Stewart will talk about The Brady Stewart Collection--photographs of Pittsburgh from the early 1900s to the early 1980s. (Note: this program was originally schedule for September 2010 and was canceled due to a storm.)

**March 23**— Jim Stuber of the Mt. Lebanon Genealogy Society will speak about genealogy research.

**May 25**— We will meet at the Dormont Historical Society in the Dormont Borough Building (1444 Hillsdale) for a tour of the Dormont museum.

**September 28** —to be announced

**November 2**— to be announced

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

If you haven't sent in your membership renewal for 2011, time is slipping away. The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon membership runs on a calendar year basis. In November you should have received a renewal letter and form in the mail from us. If you have sent in your renewal form, "thank you" for your ongoing support. Without your membership, we would not be able to maintain a history center, sponsor five programs at the library, present a book award to an outstanding Mt. Lebanon High School junior, issue a quarterly newsletter, or properly protect and preserve our growing collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs.

Although we continue to seek grants and hold fundraisers, it is membership dues from caring people like you that enable us to preserve the history and outstanding accomplishments of this community. Renewing your membership means you will never miss an issue of our quarterly newsletter, *The Cedar Tree*, or a flyer announcing a new exhibit or one of our programs at the Library.

2011 promises to be another great year with plans that include walking tours of Washington Road, new exhibits at the Center, and a "Colorful History of Mt. Lebanon" coloring book project recently completed. We are also making plans to help with the Centennial Celebration of Mt.

Lebanon's Incorporation that will take place in 2012.

To make these plans a reality, we need your continued support. New this year, in anticipation of Mt. Lebanon's upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration, is a new membership designation, the Centennial Level. Membership at this level or higher will entitle you to select one of five special items the Society is offering (see the form).

If you've misplaced your renewal form, use the attached form or download one from our web site: <http://www.hsmtl.org/join-us>

With your help, the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon will be able to continue preserving and interpreting the history of Mount Lebanon for residents, visitors, and future generations. We look forward to your renewal and seeing you at our programs.

#### **GRAVE MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY**

October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a beautiful, crisp Fall Saturday morning where approximately forty people gathered at St. Clair Cemetery for a grave marker dedication ceremony honoring two War of 1812 and six Civil War Veterans. The ceremony was the capstone of a year's worth of work by Eagle Scout Stephen Crowe and Scout Troup #228. Stephen approached the Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon about the possibility of doing this as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He researched the military records of the eight veterans whose current grave markers were missing, weathered or vandalized. He applied to the Veterans Administration for new cast bronze grave markers and led his troop in preparing concrete bases and mounting the new grave markers. The existing grave markers were left intact. A Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon committee composed of Melissa Evans, Dave Redding and Jim Wojcik coordinated the dedication ceremony.

Members of Scout Troop #228; Mr. James Hill the Veteran and Military Affairs Liaison for US Congressman Tim Murphy; State Representative Matt Smith; Reverend Dr. Robert Maravalli, Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church; and Civil War Re-enactors from the 9<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves participated in the 40 minute dedication ceremony.

An especially moving part of the ceremony occurred when Tim Schumann, a descendant of one of the honored veterans, Reece H. Neeld, asked to say a few words to the gathering and especially to Stephen Crowe. Mr. Schumann explained how Stephen's application to the Veterans Administration was the key to his multi-year search to find the specific location of his long lost relative's final resting place.

Here is a link to St. Clair Cemetery's website with photos of the project:

[http://www.stclaircemetery.com/view.php/page/Boy\\_Scout\\_Project-2010](http://www.stclaircemetery.com/view.php/page/Boy_Scout_Project-2010)

#### **HISTORY CENTER**

The History Center is located at the corner of Washington Road and Lebanon Avenue (across from Southminster Church), and our entrance is 200 Lebanon Avenue (by the driveway). Hours are: **10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursdays and 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays.** If staffing allows, we will take reservations for special tours (such as reunion groups). Call the Center at 412-563-1941 to make an appointment or to ask a question. **If you have donations for the Society, please drop them off during office hours, or call to arrange a pick up.**

#### **NOVEMBER 3, 2010 PROGRAM**

**Marilyn Holt**, from the Carnegie Library, presented a very interesting talk with photographs about Andrew Carnegie. Born in Scotland, he migrated with his parents to Allegheny, PA in 1848. His family came to the United States to seek a better life. Carnegie was a self-made man in both his economic development and his intellectual and cultural development. Rising through the ranks of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Carnegie learned much about management and cost control. One \$40,000 investment led to over \$1,000,000 in cash dividends, and petroleum from oil wells on this investment property sold profitably. He established a steel rolling mill and steel product and control of industry became the source of his fortune. In 1901, at the age of 66, Carnegie formed the United States Steel Corporation. It was the first corporation in the world with a market capitalization of \$1 billion. From 1901 until his death in 1919, he was a philanthropist. He had donated approximately \$351 million for various causes. The "Andrew Carnegie Dictum" says (1) spend the first third of one's life getting all the education one can. (2) Spend the next third making all the money one can, and (3) spend the last third giving it all away for worthwhile causes.

#### **RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS**

##### ***- Life Memberships***

Mary Ann Depalma Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. David Fasulo  
The Donald D. Mateer Foundation, c/o Charlotte M. Stephenson, Trustee -The Green & the White  
Virginia Nicklas  
Bertha Abbott Thomas

#### **NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS:**

##### **Renewing (Centennial--\$100)**

George and Barbara Schoeppner  
Eleanora Thomas  
Carol and John Walton  
Jim and Peggy Wojcik

**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS (cont'd)**

**Renewing (Centennial--\$100 - cont'd)**

Joleyne Colby  
Connie Lopez  
Bill and Peggy Christopher  
Bill Simpson

**New (individual)**

Sue Opp  
Marla Bracken Westfall  
Joan Trombetta

**Renewing (individual)**

Rita Levine  
Jacqueline Doyle  
Richard Price  
Paul Dudjak  
Toni Murray  
Emily McCann  
Geoffrey Hurd  
M.A. Jackson  
Sylvia Garlitz  
Louise Sturgess  
Lee Veltri  
Ron Block

**Renewing (Senior)**

Lucille Heckman  
Lucille Fuehr  
Nellie Ambrose  
Clifford and Lois Lane  
Barbara Cusick  
Bill and Claire Emery  
June Delano  
Joe Dimperio  
Yvonne Rameas  
Sarah Beck  
Marty Carney  
Julie and David Davies  
Jean Atutes  
Ardeth Tennyson  
William Keslar

**Renewing (Family)**

David and Cecelia McKibben  
Patrick and Claire King  
Nancy and Richard Laitta  
Robert Mitsch  
Lori and David Humphreys  
Jill and Chuck Brodbeck  
Elaine and Joe Wertheim  
Ken and Audrey Menke  
George and Peggy Smith  
Clarence and Helen Betlzer  
Palle and Joanne Ostergaard

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES**

We bid a fond farewell to **Dave Borland, Barbara Logan** and **Ginny Nicklas** and welcome **Kim Honath, Matthew Clark** and **Lisa White**. We also thank **Bill Simpson** for his hard work as treasurer during the last few years.

M.A. Jackson, president  
James Wojcik, vice president  
Dave Redding, treasurer  
Melissa Evans, secretary  
Jeanné Heid Bereznicki  
Mel Bickel  
Marty Carney  
Gwyn Cready  
Lori Humphrey  
Maggie McDermott  
Bill Simpson  
Wally Workmaster

Your Historical Society Membership expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope you will take the time to renew your membership now, using this form. Thank you for your support!



# The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon

200 Lebanon Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  
 New  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check applicable membership level:

- Individual..... \$20  
 Youth..... \$15  
 Senior..... \$15  
 Family..... \$35  
 Centennial\* .....\$100  
 Life\* .....\$1000

\*For this level, please fill out the bottom of this form to select your "Thank You"

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible check made payable to: The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon**

- Membership runs January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Life memberships are recognized upon payment of the total amount within any single 12-month period
- Names of donors will appear in newsletters and appropriate membership announcements
- The Society is classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization
- Please enclose a matching gift form from your employer if you believe your donation would qualify

**\*Dear Centennial or new Life Member, to thank you for supporting our Society at this level, please select one of the following:**

- Mt. Lebanon Scenes Note Cards (Set of 8)
- "I ♥ Lebo" T- Shirt – Solid Blue (Select Size)
  - Adult "Large"
  - Adult "Extra-Large"
- "I ♥ Lebo" Onesie (Select Size & Color)
  - Size
    - 3-6 Months
    - 6-12 Months
  - Color
    - Pink
    - Blue
    - White
- St. Clair Cemetery Booklet
- "A Colorful History of Mt. Lebanon" Coloring Book (Available after 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011)
- No thanks, I want my entire membership fee to go towards Historical Society Programs

**Note:** Items subject to availability. The Historical Society reserves the right to substitute another item should the item you selected is unavailable.