

The

Cedar Tree

Vol. 16 No. 1 Winter 2013



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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

If you had to pick a year to become President of the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, 2012 had to be one of the best. 2012 was Mt. Lebanon's Centennial. What an honor and privilege it has been to lead this organization this past year. Here are some of the highlights of 2012 that brought "value" to our municipality.

- We are approaching 300 members
- We have about 650 Facebook followers
- Every Mt. Lebanon School District student in the 2nd grade visits the History Center; that's more than 400 students
- We've sold 500+ copies of the *Images of America: Mt. Lebanon* book since its publication last fall

The Historical Society was literally "front and center" during Mt. Lebanon's Centennial Parade Celebration. We combined some fun with educating the parade viewers about some significant events and dates in Mt. Lebanon's History.

Our History Center currently features an exhibit focusing on Mt. Lebanon's first 100 years. Please don't miss it, and if you have seen it, please stop back for a second tour before it closes on February 2. Throughout February, we will be installing our next exhibit: *Mt. Lebanon Goes to War*. See page 6 for details about this next exhibit and how you can help us.

Our Speakers' Series last year dealt with a variety of topics from archeological excavations in the Mid-East, to the reason the streets in Virginia Manor and Mission Hills are curvy; to the glories of Mt. Lebanon Football under

Coach Art Walker, Sr. Details for the 2013 Speakers Series are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

In September, we had a wonderful Saturday morning tour of St. Clair Cemetery with some of our volunteers playing roles of the individuals buried there. What was really great about this event was the involvement of several Mt. Lebanon students who played a number of the roles. Their enthusiasm was evident and was really wonderful to experience.

More than 130 individuals attended our tours of Washington Road, our two cemeteries, and St. Bernard, Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian, and Southminster Presbyterian churches.

We are not just a place where people go to look at old pictures. Dr. Lorelei Stein, a faculty member at Point Park University, spent many hours this past summer researching our collection on Dr. Cyrus Schreiner. Her work on his medical practice in the late 19th century was accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science. Dr. Stein stated that "This work would not have been possible without the support of the Historical Society." Dr. Stein will be sharing with us the results of this work at our May 15 Speakers Series.

The Historical Society had a great year in 2012 and continued its mission to interpret and preserve the history of Mt. Lebanon. I thank you for your continued support and hope it will continue in 2013.

May you and your family have a wonderful and happy 2013!

Best Regards,
Jim Wojcik, President



MT. LEBANON HISTORY CENTER

200 LEBANON AVENUE
(CORNER OF WASHINGTON ROAD AND LEBANON AVENUE, ACROSS FROM SOUTHMINSTER CHURCH)

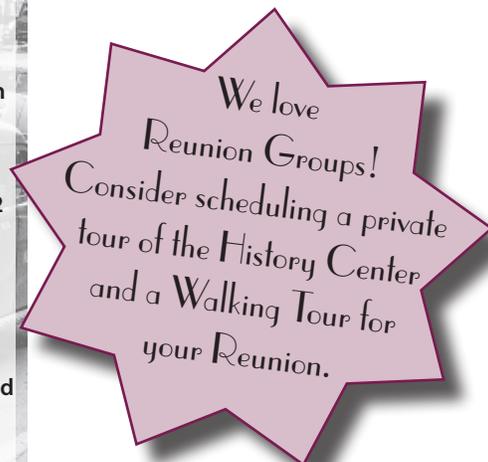
HOURS

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

SNAPSHOTS OF THE ANNUAL DINNER FUNDRAISER



The dinner committee from left: Anne Kemerer, President Jim Wojcik, Sandy Golomb, Stacey Jo Bonenberger, and Vice President Dave Redding. Many thanks for their hard work, ingenuity, and great planning!



Society volunteer Lucille Heckman and her son, Lee.



Peggy Wojcik and dinner speaker Ed Blank.



Joy and Edward Pajek.



Board member Gwyn Cready and her husband, Lester Pyle.

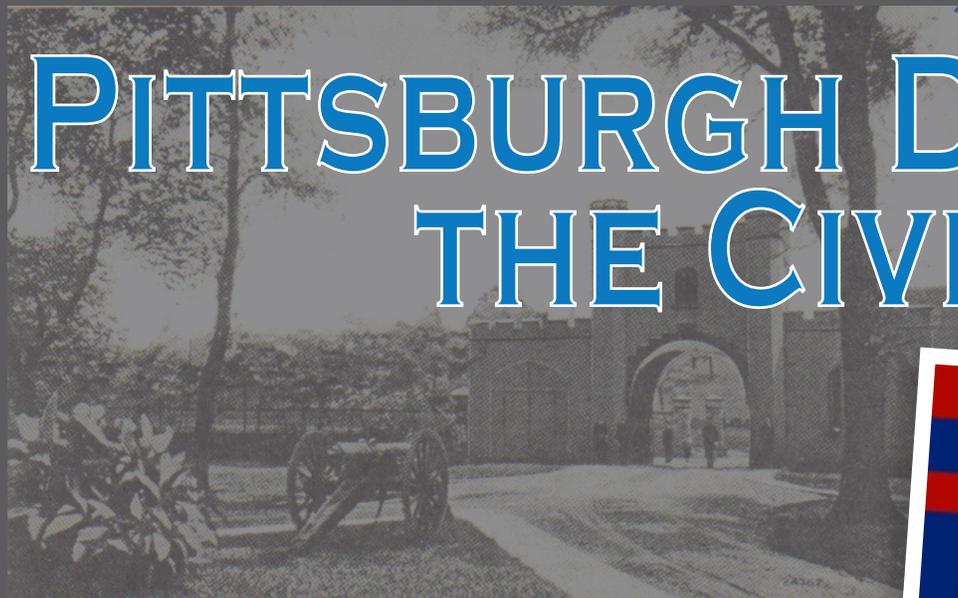


Kate Simmons Thomas and her husband, Rollie.



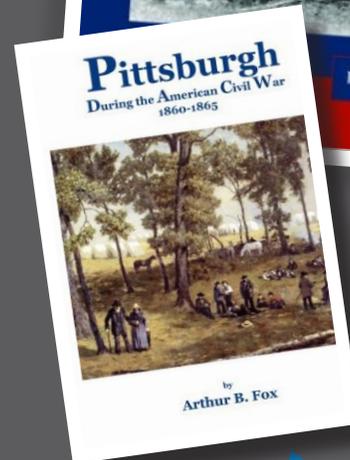
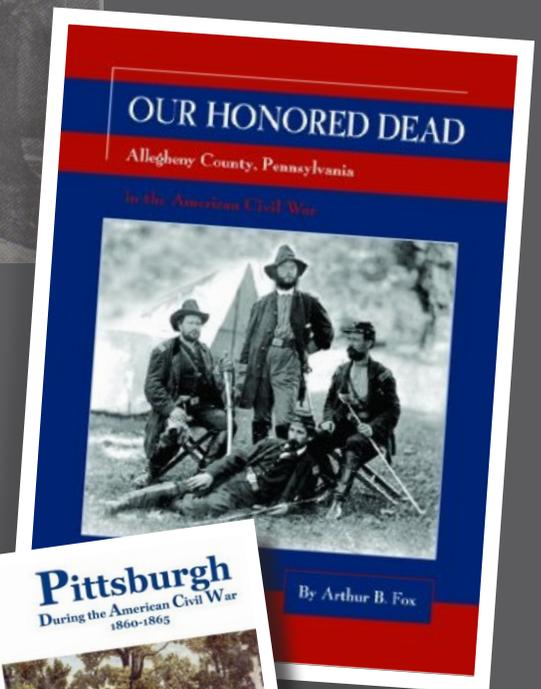
Past board members Wilma Novogradac, Ginny Nicklas, and Bill Simpson.

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 (June 2013) manuscript, *Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Gettysburg Campaign: Human Interest Stories*.



7:30 p.m.,
Wednesday, January 16
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building,
710 Washington Road (across from Sesame Inn)



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOUNT LEBANON
200 LEBANON AVENUE, 15228



WWW.LEBOHISTORY.ORG • INFO@LEBOHISTORY.ORG

412-563-1941

2013 SPEAKERS SERIES

We have been working on a diverse program that we hope will appeal to our many members. Please note that not all programs will take place at the library, so read the information below carefully.

Updated information will be included on the fliers you will receive before each program, and also can be found on our website, www.lebohistory.org.

ALL PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M., UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

PITTSBURGH DURING THE CIVIL WAR

JANUARY 16 **MT. LEBANON MUNICIPAL BUILDING,**
710 WASHINGTON ROAD (see flier on previous page for details)

PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN

MARCH 27

MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Just west of Pittsburgh, near Settlers Cabin Park, one of the largest botanic gardens in America is taking shape. At this program, a member of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will talk about how the organization is converting a site of abandoned coal mines into a nearly 500 acre, world-class botanic garden. Information about the history of the site also will be covered. Pittsburgh Botanic Garden expects to open its first phase of 60 acres to the public in 2013, and, when fully completed, the site will have 18 distinct gardens, five different woodlands, a visitor center, an amphitheater for cultural events, a center for botanic research, and a space for corporate meetings and weddings.



MEDICINE IN THE LATE 1800s

MAY 15 **MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

Mt. Lebanon resident and Point Park University instructor Dr. Lorelei Stein spent many hours this past summer at the Mt. Lebanon History

Center researching materials that belonged to Dr. Cyrus Schreiner—who practiced medicine in the South Hills area between 1877 and 1900—for a paper she submitted to the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science. That paper, which she will deliver at the association's conference Charleston, South Carolina this February, focuses on the daily practice of medicine by physicians such as Dr. Schreiner and how the many medical and scientific discoveries of the 19th century impacted their practices. At this program, Dr. Stein will share her discoveries with us.

TEMPLE EMANUEL

7 p.m., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

TEMPLE EMANUEL,
BOWER HILL ROAD.

Join us for a tour of the synagogue and its nationally regarded garden. The tour includes an explanation of the symbolism of the synagogue's spaces and artifacts and a history of Jewish migration to the South Hills and Mt. Lebanon.



NOVEMBER 6 **MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Details have not been finalized, but we are working with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh on a program about Henry Clay Frick, that famous (or, to some, infamous) Pittsburgh industrialist.

SPRING CLEANING? DON'T FORGET THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Spring is traditionally the time when you roll up your sleeves and attack the clutter of the house. For all of you who are cleaning, downsizing, or moving, please think of the Historical Society before you toss items in the trash or send boxes of unwanted items to Goodwill. If you have items relating to Mt. Lebanon's past, please drop them off at the History Center for our collections committee to review. Items could include old Mt. Lebanon High School football programs, report cards, an old Mt. Lebanon Library card, church

bulletins, class rings and high school yearbooks, and, of course, photos. You might not think your old photos are relevant, but a picture of your house or street—even from the 1960s or '70s—are snapshots of our past, showing how we decorated, what kind of cars we drove, and what kind of clothes we wore. The collections committee will review the items and return any that are not in keeping with the Society's mission. If you have a question, please call 412-563-1941 and leave a message or email info@lebohistory.org.

Antiques Appraisal Event with Dr. Lori

On the evening of May 14, the Historical Society will welcome back Dr. Lori, a nationally-known antiques appraiser for an event to be held at the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center. The event is co-sponsored by Maniet Financial. Details are still being worked out and a time will be announced shortly, but if you would like to bring an item to be appraised, please reserve a spot on the appraisal table by calling Maniet Financial at 412-722-0150. When Dr. Lori was here two years ago, the event was a sell-out and many people found they had some amazing treasures.

Dr. Lori has a Ph.D. in art history and is a certified fine art and antiques appraiser with 30 books to her credit. She appears on the Discovery channel's *Auction Kings* and has appeared on Anderson Cooper's talk show, Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and NBC TV's *The Tonight Show*.

IT HAPPENED...

60 Years Ago (1953) "Battle of the Books." 250 residents turn out for an investigative committee hearing after Neulon Drive resident Kathryn Mitchell, PhD, a housewife/lecturer, claimed Mt. Lebanon Library was carrying subversive reading material with too many pro-communist books and not enough focusing on American democracy. Newspapers picked up the story and it became a highly emotional issue. An investigation, led by an appointed committee of five residents, later found in the library's favor.

50 Years Ago (1963) Mt. Lebanon School Board responds to the Supreme Court's ruling against prayer in school by discontinuing the morning exercises that include the Lord's Prayer and readings from the Bible. Commissioners note that they are doing this even though it "appears contrary to the wishes of most of our citizens."

20 Years Ago (1993) Mt Lebanon is named one of America's "50 Fabulous Places to Raise Your Family."

MEMBERSHIP

RENEWALS

Bruce and Toni Murray (family)
Richard Price (centennial)
Yvonne Rameas (senior)
The Romano Family (family)
Nancy Sofis (senior)
Alex Stevenson (centennial)
Lillian Leps (senior)
Paulette Kelly (senior)
Charles George (individual)
M.A. Jackson (individual)
The Gagliano Family (family)
The Taffe Family (senior)
Luetta Waddel (senior)
Eleanora Thomas (centennial)
Bette Mucha (senior)
The Morrell Family (family)
Ann Meyer (senior)
EJ McClain (senior)
Michael Lacy (individual)
William Kessler (centennial)
Margaret Hendrix (senior)
Marcia Grupp (individual)
Sylvia Garlitz (senior)
Lucille Fuehr (senior)
Claire Emery (senior)
Paul Dudjak (senior)
The DePastino Family (family)
Barbara Cusick (senior)
Jody Colby (centennial)
Bill and Peg Christopher (centennial)
The Brodbeck Family (family)
Jeanne Bereznicki (senior)
Sarah Beck (senior)
Wilmer and Jean Baldwin (senior)
Jean Atutes (senior)
Katie Anderson (senior)
The Early Family (family)
Nellie Ambrose (senior)
Lucille Heckman (senior)
Nancy Barkman (senior)
June Delano (senior)
David Maxwell (senior)
Emily McCann (senior)
Bunny Schorr (senior)
Elaine Wertheim (centennial)
Lee Veltri (individual)
The Thomas Family (family)
Judy Sutton (individual)
The McKibben Family (family)
Doreen Hurley (senior)
The Ferguson Family (family)
Bea Finke (centennial)
Marla Westfall (senior)
The Hurd Family (family)
David Davis (individual)

Nicholas Lamprinakos (senior)
The Tate Family (family)
Matthew Clark (centennial)
Jon and Carol Walton (centennial)
Louise Sturges (individual)
John and Lee Scott (senior)
Robert Mitsch (family)
George and Eleanora Freas (family)
Steve Feller (individual)
Nancy Bucey (senior)
James Baird (senior)
Julie and Rod Agar (centennial)
Ruth Foltz (centennial)
The Frankowski Family (family)
Marilyn Freed (senior)
Jane Johnson (senior)
Robert and Barbara Logan (centennial)
Bette Ruh (senior)
Peg Smith (centennial) In memory
of George C. Smith
Jane and Sam Morton (centennial)
Carol H. Gordon (individual)

NEW

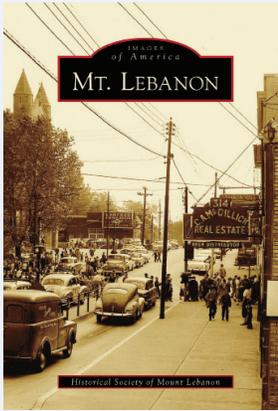
William and Nancy Kennedy (family)
Bill Goodboy (senior)
Helen and Thomas Taylor (senior)

LIFE MEMBERS

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

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS RENEWED!

If you have not yet renewed, please return your membership dues promptly so we don't have to send a reminder letter! If you did not receive a letter that means you are good through 2013. Questions?
412-563-1941 or
info@lebohistory.org



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!**



things that aren't there anymore

The Walker Pontiac car dealership was located on Washington Road at the top of Alfred Street. This picture was taken in 1964. The building is now home to the Walnut Grill restaurant. The building dates to about 1920 when Pete and Robert Schwartz purchased a seven-acre apple orchard for \$6,500 to build an auto repair shop. For a time the garage was used to store police vehicles.

Please consider sharing your photos of Mt. Lebanon's past. Email scans to info@lebohistory.org or drop them off at the history center—we will scan them and return the originals.



The Historical Society of
Mount Lebanon
200 Lebanon Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa 15228
412-563-1941
info@lebohistory.org
www.lebohistory.org

HSMTL TRUSTEES

James Wojcik, president
David Redding, vice president
Matthew Clark, treasurer
Gwyn Cready, secretary

Julie Agar
Stacey Jo Bonenberger
Mel Bickel
Todd DePastino
Dan Gigler
Joe Polk
Lisa White

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
M.A. Jackson



NEW EXHIBIT TO DEBUT MARCH 2 MT. LEBANON GOES TO WAR

Look out for our new exhibit, *Mt. Lebanon Goes To War*, to debut 9 a.m., Saturday, March 2, 2013. The exhibit will run through summer.

Mt. Lebanon Goes to War tells the story of a community whose everyday life changed dramatically and suddenly on December 7, 1941. Hundreds went into the armed forces, dozens never returned. But life was transformed even for those on the homefront. Rationing and scrap drives, Victory gardens and V-mail: these were the daily realities of Mt. Lebanon at war.

We'll tell the story through photos and artifacts, as well as through video interviews with those who experienced life at war in Mt. Lebanon. Items on display will include the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* from December 8, 1941, ration books, and a Mt. Lebanon air warden's helmet. We'll also tie Mt. Lebanon's WWII experiences with those of other wars—from WWI to the present.

If you have anything—photos, documents, discharge papers, uniforms, local papers, etc.—that you believe might be useful for this exhibit and you would be willing to loan or donate them to the Society, please contact the exhibit curator, Todd DePastino by email or phone (tdepastino@comcast.net or 412-388-1014) or leave a message at the Society (412 563 1941) as soon as possible so Todd can determine if the item can be incorporated into the exhibit.

PLEASE NOTE: The current exhibit, "Mt. Lebanon: The First 100 Years," will run through the end of January and closes at noon on February 2. Our hours are Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Special visits can be made by calling 412-563-1941 or emailing info@lebohistory.org. The History Center will be open during February, but there will be no exhibit as the new exhibit will be in the process of being installed.