



GREENE-DREHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Wood Carving and Whittling Exhibit



The theme of this year's July Open House was "Wood Carving and Whittling". One of our featured whittlers was William Fueglein whose great-grandchildren Caroyl Weed Weisel, Joyce Weed Garris and Robert Weed generously displayed examples of his whittling. Another of William's great-grandchildren and society member Sandra Fueglein Rutkowski who lives in Niagara Falls, NY brought William Fueglein to our attention and also had examples of his whittling on display.



William Ulrich Fueglein (1860 - 1938) created countless unique pieces of wood carvings and whittlings in his lifetime, most of which he gave away. Notable among them was a statue of George Washington made from a block of wood obtained from the holly tree under which President Washington often sat, a jointed cane that could be opened like an umbrella, and a forty foot chain carved from a single seven-foot plank. Later in life William began accumulating his pieces for display at the Fueglein store, Madisonville, Lackawanna County, shown to the left in 1932.

Born in West Pittston, William began whittling as a child and claimed to come by his talent through his Swiss ancestors. He married Edith Mary Sears of Carbondale and settled in Sterling Township, Wayne County where they raised a family of ten children on a farm, and William pursued his lifelong hobby of whittling.

As a child, William worked as a "breaker boy" in Dunmore, picking slate and other debris from coal for one of the many coal breaker companies in the Lackawanna Valley. In 1980, William's granddaughter Millicent Weed gifted nearly 200 pieces of the Fueglein Collection to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a major portion of which is fittingly located at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton.

**Greene-Dreher
Historical Society**

P.O. Box 176
Greentown, PA 18426
gths@att.net
www.greenehs.org

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and events.

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**Welcome to Our
Newest Members!**

Beischer Family
Franklin H. Butler
Frans DeQuillettes &
Steve Stevenson
Denise Eggert
Victoria Hoffmann
Matt & Sherry Kresge
Barbara Lange
The Swan Antiques

President's Message

It is hard to believe that summer has passed so quickly. Both our June Alumni and July Open Houses were enjoyable events, allowing us to greet old friends, meet new guests and welcome new members to our organization. All of our programs and events were well attended, and we gathered more information about our community through the comments and stories shared by our visitors.

At our August 7th membership meeting we announced the beginning of our election process for 2018 Directors and Officers. There are 11 Board positions, and they are open to all members. If anyone is interested in joining the Board or has a nominee they would like to suggest, please contact Election Committee Chair Carla Smith at 570-676-3631. The list of nominees will be reviewed and approved by the members present at the October 2nd meeting. Elections will be held at the November 6th meeting. Another order of business at the August meeting was the membership vote to change the GDHS Bylaws, specifically to change the statement "to publish *The Greene Hills of Home...*", deleting "quarterly" from the end of the statement. It was approved unanimously. The month of August also included the Society's presence at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Festival at Promised Land State Park and our participation in celebrating the 100th GDS Fair!

I am very pleased to announce our newest publication, *Mills on the Wallenpaupack* by Diane Smith. The 250-page book, printed in color and featuring more than 225 images, will be available for sale for the first time at our exhibit table at the GDS Fair. This beautiful book tells the history of the gristmills, sawmills and turning mills located along the Wallenpaupack Creek and its tributaries in the 1800s and early 1900s. It also covers the villages and hamlets that developed around the mills and the first families who settled there. It is a fascinating chapter in our local history, and the book will make a wonderful Christmas present!

And finally, check your GDHS calendars for upcoming events, including the October Open House featuring a Bluegrass jam session, free refreshments, homemade jams and jellies to purchase and a book signing for our new book! Our Holiday Luncheon and Historic Preservation Awards will be held December 4 at The Station House on Route 507 in Gouldsboro. They offer a delicious choice of entrees and plenty of room to accommodate our many friends, members and guests. Reservation forms with all the details will be mailed in September.

As always, thank you for your support and your donations. A special thank you goes to our volunteers who orchestrate everything for our benefit and entertainment. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Jeanne Brown

Save Our Cemeteries

Ruth Altemier, Cemetery & Genealogy Chair



Members of Newfoundland Daisy Troop 50749 learned about the history of Gilpin, Hazelton and Kiptown Cemeteries as they planted flowers and picked up debris under the guidance of their troop leaders Tracy Stender and Sherry Smith and Cemetery Chair Ruth Altemier. Thanks to Roger Altemier for building the flower boxes and PPL for providing funding for materials.

Since May, we received \$1234.00 in donations to care for neglected cemeteries in Greene and Dreher Townships. The fundraising campaign raised awareness about neglected cemeteries among society members and the community. Individuals and businesses have offered to donate topsoil, adopt a cemetery, and asked how to care for cemeteries in neighboring townships. The donations are a start but additional money will be needed to complete the work of removing large trees encroaching on grave markers which can cost up to \$1000.00 per tree, spreading topsoil in settled areas of the cemeteries and resetting leaning and fallen grave markers. We appreciate your continued support for this project.

July Open House



The French Manor Inn and Spa sponsored our July Open House and it was a grand success! Eight wood carvers and whittlers exhibited and demonstrated their craftsmanship working with wood. Cherry Ridge Carvers President Bob Muller was joined by fellow carvers Julie and Earl Smith who explained the difference between wood carving and whittling while working with wood.



Greentown resident Dale Rogers, Chief Warrant Officer 3, U. S. Army (Retired), learned his wood carving skills in Keyser, Mineral County, West Virginia. He and his brothers made toys from discarded wooden thread spools and scraps of wood. Each mark on the rattlesnake was made with 3 strikes using wood burning tools. Dale also displayed wooden Welsh Love Spoons, a mountain gnome, and other specialty items he carved from basswood, tupelo, cedar and pine. Tom Field is very active in our community, volunteering as Scout Master, Troop 129, Boy Scouts of America, Paupack and for the Promised Land Volunteer Fire and Ambulance. Tom's display of walking sticks and wooden neckerchief slides were carved from diamond willow and basswood while on camping trips with his scout troop.



July Open House



Lake Ariel resident Ben Coleman carves birds, butterflies and animals in butternut and won first place for his “Bust of Christ” in the 2006 Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair juried Arts and Craft Woodcarving exhibit. Trained at the David Calvo Wood Carving School, Gloucester, Massachusetts, Erwin Spector of Canadensis displayed basswood carvings of reef and fish scenes in relief and a four-sided relief of Holocaust images carved from a hardwood block. This year’s open house was by far the most successful with many visitors stopping by and with the support of our talented exhibitors, fantastic pie bakers, homemade ice cream makers Sam Conklin and Luanne Bailey and our volunteers who spent many hours preparing for the event.



Lange Family Visits Peggy Bancroft Hall



During the course of researching World War I veterans, we met Stacey Lange, great-granddaughter of Oscar Lange, Newfoundland who served during the war. The March issue of the Greene Hills of Home featured Oscar’s life and military service. Stacey, her brother Patrick, mother Amy and aunt Barbara viewed the World War I exhibit and tour our museum. Joining us was Doris Bortree Goerlitz (left) who knew Oscar when he taught at Lake Consolidated High School, Lake Ariel. There aren’t many people Doris doesn’t know through the various organizations she actively participates in.

While researching military veterans, we have met so many people on the internet and in person who have willingly shared information and photographs of their family members as a way to honor their service. Thank you, all!

Society Happenings



We met Dr Peter Wever, The Netherlands, via email when he contacted us regarding Army Private Harry Grimm whose World War I military tunic he purchased on ebay. Peter is a very good sleuth and through his research learned that Harry had lived in Greentown. After exchanging information and photographs of Harry's grave marker in the Greentown Cemetery, we put Harry's granddaughter and society member Barbara Blitz in contact with Peter and they have been corresponding since. The June issue of *The Greene Hills of Home* featured an article written by Peter about Harry Grimm's military service and Barbara provided the accompanying photographs. They recently had the opportunity to meet when Peter and his family vacationed in the United States. The Wever family spent several weeks this summer touring the western United States and stopped in Nevada where Barbara lives.



In June, historical society members visited Wallenpaupack South Elementary School and provided 4th Grade students the opportunity to card and spin wool, haul wooden buckets using a neck yoke, use a two-man saw to cut wood, and churn butter. Thanks to Principal Mark Kirsten for supporting local history education at the school and society docents Peggy Evans, Suzanne Urton, Nancy Simon (shown above), Ruth Altemier, Jeanne Brown, Ellen Drake, Bob Lederer, Barry Moore, Ted Nakielny, and Betty Roach. Each student received the booklet "History of Newfoundland 1830 - 1880" published by the historical society. GDHS local history education programs are supported with funding by **PPL**.



Mark and Nancy Walter (left), Colonial Reenactors Guild, arrived in period dress for our June program "Connecticut Settlers and the Pennamite Yankee Wars" sponsored by **Holley Ross Pottery**. A few days later we welcomed returning alumni to our annual Greene-Dreher Alumni Open House sponsored by **Stone Silo Foods**. Standing under his 1949 graduation photo is Jack Crocker and daughter Kellie Blystone.



Collections Committee Report

Jeanne Brown, Chair, 570-676-3443

The Collection Committee thanks the **Gross Family** for supplying barnwood used for backing our narrative posters, **Roger Altemier** for tightening the wood slats on our wood buckets, and **Bill and Karen Zane** for donating a wood shelving unit. We appreciate the following donors for contributing to our knowledge of local history through artifacts and documents.

Kellie Blystone - Four World War II ration books; Greene-Dreher Community School Commencement invitations, 1943, 1944; Greene-Dreher Community School Graduation Program, 1946.

Haven Brown - Carom, checkers, and other game pieces for a Carom board game set, c. 1930.

Richard Bancroft - Ladies wood rocking chair from Mad-den's turning mill c. 1930, on loan

Jack Crocker - Pamphlet *Knots & Splices*, PA State College, School of Agriculture, 1938

Annabelle Dickinson - Civil Defense helmet and patch worn by S. Elmore Haag

Fran Drake - Wood laundry wringer; 1946 Greene-Dreher High School Diploma, LaVerne Ray Drake.

Doris Bortree Goerlitz - Diploma, Bachelor of Science, Arthur Richard Goerlitz, 1943, University of Scranton; Greene-Dreher Graduation Class of 1949 photo and class memorabilia; Greene-Dreher Community Band photo, 1949.

Carroll Krautter - *Enterprise* cherry stoner; *Henis* food press, c. 1940; photo, Richard Burrows Gilpin House, Salem Township, c. 1900; two tintypes of unknown women; five sad irons, c. 1900; corn planter; wood carpenter's gauge; 52-inch wood hand-screw clamp; five shoe lasts and two stands; metal cream separator with draw-off spout and gauge.

Matt & Sherry Kresge - Photocopies of Panther Cottage history, stories and correspondence compiled by Frances Victoria Huth Michl, 2003.

Bob Lederer & Judy Diacik - Scroll woodwork cat and pony bookmarks made by Roy Richmond.

Nancy McLain - Whittled miniature table, two chairs, candlestick and scrollwork wood cross depicting Nativity scenes, made by Roy Richmond.

Rocky Morwan - Colored postcard of Taylor Creek in LaAnna PA, original loaned for scan.

Madeleine Drake Reilly - Small sauerkraut slicer; two wire egg baskets; Brownie Holiday camera with box; various kitchen and decorative items from the Woodbound Cottage in South Sterling.

Sandra Fueglein Rutkowski - Book *Descendants of William Melchior Fueglein of The Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany*, by Sandra Fueglein Rutkowski, 2013; documents, photocopies and memorabilia relating to William U. Fueglein (1860-1938) and his whittled wood art collection.

Alice Sweeney - Soldiers folding shovel/pick entrenchment tool.

Floyd Thomas - Basketball playbook, 1969-70, Newfoundland Stags, Wayne County Amateur League.

Winifred Uhl Dressler - "Dancing man" wood toy jig, carved and whittled by Christian Uhl (1883-1969), c. 1950.

Marie Walter - World War II fatigues worn by Cpl. Charles John Walter, USMC.

Wayne County Historical Society - Postcards: Houck Dam and Falls 1907, Falls at LaAnna and Old Homestead, Hensel #783, colored Birds-eye View of LaAnna, 1912.

Peter C. Wever - World War I artifacts found in Bois de Brioules (Brioules Forest), France, in Meuse-Argonne region.

Paula & Allan Whitney - DVD *Tom Kennedy Local History Tour*, 2010.

Veterans History Project

Bernadine Lennon, Coordinator, 570-857-0882

Over 382 military veterans from Greene and Dreher Townships have been documented since we launched the society's Veterans History Project in September 2016. This information will serve as a record of our local veterans who served in peacetime or wartime, and may be used for scholarly and educational purposes by the Historical Society and general public. The following donors have been generous in sharing information and photographs of themselves or their relatives whom we identified through research since June 2017: Barbara Blitz, Franklin Butler, Jack Crocker, David Dickinson, Fran Drake, Doris Bortree Goerlitz, Eleanor Green, George E. Gregory III, Adam Hahn, Gail H. Madden, William J. Melville, William Mousley, Ronald C. Nier, Don Olsommer, Joseph Olsommer Jr, Madeleine Reilly, Don Simon, Nancy Simon, Scott Simon, John Sparks Jr, Steve Stevenson, Carl Stoddard, Milo Stoddard, Blaine Strada, Charles VanBenschoten, Paula Woltjen.

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