

JOHN HONEYMAN – INFORMANT, SPY, BUTCHER, WEAVER

Many incidents and people who aided the cause for liberty we will never know. Read on.....

John Honeyman, of Scottish descent, became a British soldier at age 29 and sailed to North America on the frigate Boyne approximately 1758. During that crossing he saved Colonel James Wolfe from a dangerous fall and Wolfe eventually named John his personal bodyguard.

In 1759, now a general in the British military, General Wolfe was killed during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. John was honorably discharged from service and by 1764 had relocated to Philadelphia and was married. Here he traded as a butcher and a weaver.

Honeyman was becoming sympathetic to the concerns the colonists had. He possibly met George Washington during 1776 and offered his services. His experience with the British in past years might have been incentive for Washington's interest in his knowledge. In 1776 John and his family moved to Griggstown, New Jersey and he continued his trade. With Tories using his services and his charade as a Tory himself, he was able to observe and overhear much.

The Continental Army was retreating across New Jersey and Washington needed information so John spied on actions and conversations as he traded. His cover was so well acted that at one point American Patriots raided his home thinking him a "notorious Tory". Only a note Washington had given him explaining his situation saved him and his family from further harassment or worse.

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A Semiquincentennial President's Message

This issue of the Barrett Township Historical Society's newsletter will fall directly on the period officially recognized as the time the United States of America was founded. The new nation that arose from the British Colonies in North America is oft described as a grand experiment in self-governance for which we are taught harkens back to the democratic constructs of the ancient Greeks. Although we may like to think this is true, the United States did not use the Greeks as a model for the new governmental structure; they used the Iroquois Confederation as their inspiration. The idea would not just appear one hot summer day in July of 1776. It would be two decades from the first attempt to persuade the colonies to form an Iroquois-like Union.

The first attempt would occur at the Albany Convention in 1754 when PA Delegate, Benjamin Franklin, would propose such a union in an attempt to foment inter-colonial cooperation and influence with the British Monarchy. Just prior to the Albany Convention, at which seven of the thirteen colonies sent representatives, Franklin published the famous woodcut of the severed serpent as a rallying cry for uniting the colonies in defense against the French. Using the six nations of the Iroquois as an example of how the independent colonies could band together for the common good, Franklin convinced the representatives of the colonies present to try and sway their provisional governments to adopt such a plan. It was soundly defeated as each colony feared losing their autonomy. His appeal to the British also failed for fear that it would foment a desire for independence from Great Britain but the spark of such a union, ratifying cooperation through a central council of the colonies, stayed alive.

By the time of the Second Continental Congress the colonies were in open rebellion against the British. The firebrands of the revolution, Sammuell Adams and Thomas Payne, would argue that taxes levied against the colonists by Parliament were unjust without the same representation that citizens living in the British Isles were afforded. The Declaration of Independance followed by the Articles of Confederation, which would guide the colonial transition to free and independent states, drew heavily upon the things folks like Franklin had learned, not by reading ancient texts but by studying the inner workings of Iroquois society.

Thirteen years later the newly founded States would gather once again in Philadelphia to ratify the new constitution. The Constitution's preamble is a pronouncement of exactly what the document would represent. Its purpose is to establish justice, promote domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense and secure the blessings of liberty not just for those present but for all of posterity. These are lofty goals indeed and precisely the reason the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora tribes created the Iroquois Confederation. The people that drafted the Constitution of the United States created a nation as viable today as it has ever been. I believe that our nation is engaged in a grand experiment to see if people can live in a society governed by representatives elected by them and not appointed by some sovereign to oversee their lives. But this is not a novel experiment, the Iroquois had proven that independent people could live in harmony by working cooperatively for the common good, promoting the welfare and protection of each other over the selfish desires of one over all others.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's creation, I think it is important to know where the inspiration for the United States and its constitutional form of government arose. This is why we love history and want to preserve it so ardently. We must always be striving to learn more about the events that have made the lives we live today possible.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Barrett Township Historical Society and our efforts to preserve the history of our beloved community. We hope to see you at all the upcoming events planned to celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial.

Darryl Speicher
BTHS President

Whoops, a Mistake...

If there is something that needstobe corrected, speak-up. Please email me at alesiaqallo@yahoo.comorgive me call/text at (570)972-6422.

Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org

2026 Board of Directors

Patti O'Keefe, Dottie Telesky, Sharon Rose, Laurie Dunlap, Ellen Davis

2026 Executive Officers

President	Darryl Speicher
Vice President	Walter Lewis
Recording Secretary	Janis Tafuri
Corresponding Secretary	Patti O'Keefe
Treasurer	Dottie Telesky

2026 Executive Committees

Acting Curator for LRC	Jayne Blair
Archivists	Laurie Dunlap, Jacqueline Magann, Patti O'Keefe, Mary Price, Barbara Roberts and Susan Seese
Cresco Station Museum Co-Curators	Patti O'Keefe and Marge Babaz
Digital for CSM and LRC	Dottie Telesky
Finance	Dottie Telesky
Grants	OPEN
Historian	Jacqueline Magann & Laurie Dunlap
Hospitality	Jean Bibber
Information Systems	Jim Bibber
Library Research Center	Jayne Blair
Membership	Dottie Telesky
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	Jacqueline Magann and Dottie Telesky
Publicity	Alesia Gallo
Research	OPEN
Ways & Means Committee	Walter Lewis
Ad Hoc Semiquincentennial	Jacqueline Magann & Dottie Telesky

Exec Committee Meeting Dates

Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Monday at 3 pm at the LRC monthly at LRC

July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12

General Membership Meeting Dates

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Weiler Community Room

July 12 @ 1 pm (BARC)
August 16 @ 1 pm (Parkside Chapel)
September 13 @ 2 pm (MUMC)
October 16 @ 7 pm (BPFL)

Committee Reports

Library Research Center

The Center will be open every Sunday from 1 pm – 4 pm through October 25th. Thanks to the Weiler Family the Library Research Center has a new coat of paint. We so appreciate! Also, check out the window box flowers. There is a collection of books on the American Revolution for browsing and the Ken Burns Revolutionary War documentary will be shown on the big screen from 1 pm – 4 pm every Sunday. The Pocono Mountain Embroiders Guild has mounted a “not to be forgotten” display of early samplers. Do stop by to see it. *(See also page 10 for photos of the display.)* The Betsy Ross and George Washington tableau shows the making of the flag. A collection of Colonial games is on display with some available for trying your hand!

Cresco Station Museum: Patti O’Keefe and Marge Babaz

The Cresco Station Museum will be open every Sunday from 1–4 pm through October 25th. The second train from Steamtown will arrive on August 28th. There will be live music, various craft vendors, classic cars, Barrett Paradise Friendly Library, Food Truck and much more.



(Continued from Cover JOHN HONEYMAN – INFORMANT, SPY, BUTCHER, WEAVER)

He was “captured” by Continental Forces later and was able to report important information on the British to Washington with the charade continuing with him being jailed and then “escaping” back to New Jersey. He reported to a Hessian commander, Colonel Johann Rall, that the Continentals would not attack Trenton due to low moral and conditions.

The story goes then that the Hessians trusted him and on December 25th and 26th the crossing of the Delaware River came about with the capture of Trenton.

Honeyman continued to act as a Tory until after the war ended supposedly to protect his family and himself. He did not leave the area as many Tories did.

When he died in 1822 he owned several tracts of land in New Jersey and \$12,000 in cash.

There is debate about John Honeyman and his role during the revolution.

There is very little documentation but was this due to his spying/informant role?

Washington would have recruited him as a sergeant which raised another question. However, several legal actions were dismissed when he was thought to be a Tory. Was he compensated with the high amount of money for his role to the cause? After all, he was a simple weaver and butcher with a large family.

Sometimes history ends up with more questions than answers.

From Wikipedia website, E.D.

Program Recaps

Our program for **April** featured the first and second place winners of the Essay Contest for school students on “What My Family Can Do For America”. Winning students were invited to come and read their essays for those attending the BTHS general meeting.

Essay winners from the Junior High were Danika Zigafoos and Fiona Liu. Senior High winners were Alexander Stirr and Madeline Skoz. They received certificates and prize money for their essays. Darryl Speicher then said we should top off the program with a history trivia. As usual, this was a lot of fun; and I think everyone learned a little more about the history of our country.

Our program for **May** at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library was “Pennsylvania Women in the Revolution” by Doctor Sara J. Cornell. It is amazing all the ways women on the home front were able to contribute to the War effort. They raised money, supplied clothing and blankets for soldiers, rolled bandages and boycotted British made commodities such as “tea”, clothing, etc. Camp followers were often wives and mothers of the soldiers and served as washerwomen, cooks, nurses, seamstresses, spies, messengers and soldiers in disguise. Martha Washington, as well as other prominent women of society, could often be seen in the camps tending to their loved ones and lifting the spirits of the soldiers.

Our program for **June** was the Ice Cream Social with Music at the Cresco Station. As you can see by the photos included in this issue, Flag Day on June 14th was a fun day for all. Thankfully it was a sunny day! Maryann Lewis and Chelsea from the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library and our own Patti O’Keefe led Colonial games for the children visiting with help from Evergreen Community School students. Quill pens were available for signing a replica of the Declaration of Independence. Christine from Fun and Fancy face painting was kept busy. Ice cream supplied by Pocono Chill Company kept us cool. Ben Franklin paid us a visit in the guise of Darryl Speicher! Many of the ladies were dressed in Colonial costumes which added to the ambiance! Members of the Pocono Mountain Embroiders Guild demonstrated embroidery. Sandy Dietz of Paradise Historical Society demonstrated hand quilting. Carol Hillestad spun wool at her spinning wheel giving visitors their first touch of lamb’s wool! Jackie Speicher demonstrated leather working.



Photos
from
June 14th



Programs

July 4, 2026 @ 10 am “Independence Day Parade”

Barrett Township Historical Society will be hosting a float in the “Monroe County 250 4th of July Parade” beginning at 10 am at Stroudsburg High School. The float depicts the making of the American flag with Betsy Ross and George Washington. New arrivals Bill and Patty McKinley will play the parts of George and Betsy. We welcome them to Barrett!

July 11, 2026 @ 1 pm “Wreath Ceremony”

A short wreath ceremony will be held at McComas Cemetery, Route 447, Canadensis, to honor Patriot John Price who assisted in establishing American Independence. Bag pipes will be played by Bill McKinley.

July 12, 2026 @1-4 pm “Patriot Recognition Day at BARC”

Join us as we recognize descendants of Patriots who served our new country during the Revolution. Bring a lawn chair! We will welcome the Philly Fife & Drum Corp, representatives of the DAR and SAR and local dignitaries. In the event of rain we will move indoors.

August 16, 2026 @ 1-3 pm “Open House at Parkside Chapel circa 1893”

Located on Route 191 in Paradise Township. Parkside Chapel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2020. Join us for fellowship and familiar songs and hymns featuring Bob Riday and Gary Reish as accompanists. Open to the public. Come dressed as a colonial!

September 13 @ 2 pm “Music of 1776 Concert”

This concert will be held at the Mountainhome United Methodist Church under the direction of Ruth Kochera. Voices and instruments will blend to present music heard in Colonial days. There will be a musical dramatization of the making of the flag with Betsy Ross and George Washington. Come dressed as a Colonial!

October 16 @ 2 pm “American Revolutionary War”

By John L. Moore, Author and Historian, at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library.

We could use volunteers at these events! Please call Jackie Magann at 570-595-9233 or Dottie Telesky at 570-350-9189.

A Fun Facts Quiz on the American Revolution Era

*From the Book AMERICAN CREATION by Joseph J. Ellis found at the local library
Submitted by Ellen Davis*

1. Five points made the American Revolution a “Big Fuss”. Can you name a few??
2. The two failures of the Constitution were what?
3. A New England minister, Samuel Moody, came up with a doctrine that John Adams thought a jingle of words. What was the simple interpretation of this doctrine? John Adams thought it applied to the Second Continental Congress!
4. John Adams’ ego could get big. What did Abigail say to that ego and John?
5. Two Orders issued by General Washington were rather comical. Do you have any idea of the subjects of the orders?

Answers on [Back Page](#)

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL EVENTS

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Barrett Township Historical Society has scheduled a series of programs for 2026. We hope you will join us as we observe our country's accomplishments and gather with the rest of the nation to celebrate this milestone. We look forward to welcoming you, your friends, and family!

Saturday, July 4, 2026: 10:00 AM:

Stroudsburg, PA.

Barrett Historical Society will have a float in the Monroe County parade held in Stroudsburg.

Sunday, July 12, 2026: 1:00 PM: Barrett Township Municipal Building (BARC). Patriot Descendants Recognition Day featuring the Philly Fife & Drum Corps, American Legion color guard, DAR & SAR representatives, and local dignitaries. Bring a lawn chair – held rain or shine!

Sunday, August 16, 2026: 1:00 – 4:00 PM: Parkside Chapel, Henryville. Open house at the only building in Barrett and Paradise Townships on the National Register of Historic Places. Music will be provided.

Sunday, August 23: TRAIN DAY AT THE CRESCO STATION

12:00 – 4:00 PM. Steamtown Excursion Train, Dave Cook's Food Truck, Classic Car Show, Live Music, John James Art, and more!

Saturday, September 5: COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Labor Day Weekend flea market – spaces available for \$20.00. All proceeds benefit the Barrett Township Historical Society. Email barrethistorical@gmail.com for details.

Sunday, September 13, 2026: 2:00 PM:

Mountainhome United Methodist Church. A musical presentation entitled "Music of 1776" under the direction of Ruth Kochera, including a skit featuring George Washington and Betsy Ross.

Sunday, October 11: TRAIN DAY AT THE CRESCO STATION

12:00 – 4:00 PM. Steamtown Excursion Train, Dave Cook's Food Truck, Classic Car Show, Live Music, John James Art, and more!

Friday, October 16, 2026: 2:00 PM:

Barrett/Paradise Friendly Library. John L. Moore, author and historian, will present a program on the American Revolution in Pennsylvania.

Friday, November 20, 2026: 2:00 PM:

Barrett/Paradise Friendly Library. Jacqueline Magann, a Bicentennial Living History Volunteer at Valley Forge National Park, will present her program "Quilts of the Revolutionary Period."

Friday, December 18, 2026: 2:00 – 4:00 PM:

Barrett/Paradise Friendly Library. A Colonial Christmas Gathering featuring holiday refreshments, toys of yesteryear, and live music from the Mountain Winds, a woodwind quintet.

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Tribute to Russell H. Blitz

PFC Russell H. Blitz was killed in action on Okinawa on May 21, 1945. His parents, Laura and Lewis Blitz of Canadensis, were notified of his death by telegram. Russell was the second casualty of World War II in Barrett. James Evans was the first. The American Legion Post in Barrett honored both men by naming the Post the Evans-Blitz Post.

Russell attended Barrett Consolidated School. He enlisted on July 7, 1941. His service included campaigns in New Guinea, Bougainville and the Philippines.

Russell was buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. The United States flag used at his burial was sent to his parents.

Russell was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Metal, the Good Conduct Metal, American Theatre Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon and the Medical Badge.

Thank you to Priscilla Kice, niece of Russell Blitz, and to John Styk for helping to gather the information and produce the framed tribute donated to the Barrett Township Historical Society. The Library Research Center will display this side-by-side with that of James Evans.



PFC Russell H. Blitz

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

THE GREATEST SENTENCE EVER WRITTEN is the title of a recent book by Walter Isaacson, 2025, SIMON & SCHUSTER, explaining the reasoning of the wording of this sentence. Just now the book is on the new bookshelf as a 14 day loan at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library along with other recent books looking back at the times of struggles & formation of the United States of America. This is the perfect time, as we celebrate AMERICA 250, to reflect on how our country came about and books such as this one can give us pause to reflect on our country and its past. I highly recommend reading this book.

Ellen Davis, BTHS Board Member

We the People Display



The Society Display Case at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library continues to feature the display of WE THE PEOPLE until mid-August. The next display will feature canning jars used in the past and will end in late September. Please be sure to stop by the BPFL and enjoy these displays.



LILY OF THE VALLEY**Sharon Roses Garden***May 5, 2026*

I have always loved Lily of the Valley or Convallaria
My first encounter...
Running barefoot down the worn dirt path,
along the tractor path,
down a hill by the biggest oak tree.

All around the tree, grew hundreds of Lily of the Valley.
The smell in the air was intoxicating.
I just couldn't run by..I had to pick a few.
I put them somewhere in my shirt or pocket,
so I could smell them wherever I went.
On the way back,
I would pick a big bouquet to take home
to put up in my bedroom.

My next encounter was at Goudies a high tone Department Store.
My Grandpa Buchner was the manager.
I would go to my Grandparents, for a week in the summer holiday there.
Gram and I would walk about 8 blocks, to mid city...quite a hike.
One of the places, we would stop was Goudies Department Store.
It had beautiful, clean wooden floors...
With wood and glass display cases full of jewelry or gloves or slippers.
I loved the smell.
My Gram said I could buy one thing.
Muguet...the heavenly fragrance of Lily of the Valley.
How did I know any thing about Muguet perfume?
Not sure...but that was my choice!
It became my prized possession.

Lily of the Valley...
You start seeing evidence of them in April/ May...
Sharp pointed little spikes...
that unfurl as they reach their full size of 8 inches.
The row of pure white tiny bells hanging
delicately on the the stem, captures you.

It is native to Europe and Asia.
They are used in Weddings...
Prince William and Cate Middleton...an example.
In France, the Muguet is a symbol of Good Luck.
In Finland it is the National Flower.
Thomas Jefferson had Lily of the Valley in his garden in the 1770's.

They are a spreader...a good groundcover.
I had them in a flower bed and they were taking over.
I decided to remove them...wow..a little hard.
Their roots are a 6 inch thick mat.
I planted them under an apple tree and also
in amongst my gathering of lilac bushes.
Sometimes the deer eat them and sometimes they don't.

I leave them in a vase till they dry up and
they still have the wonderful fragrance!

Such delicate perfection...with a most pleasing fragrance!

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Games Played by Colonial Children

Cup and Ball Toss: The object of the game is to swing the wooden ball into the cup.

Little Fish Toss Game: The object of the game is to toss the little fish in the air and catch it on the rod.

Buzz Saw: The buzz saw was developed so that the children of the time could safely play with a toy that imitated the buzzing sound of a real buzz saw blade.

Gee-Haw Whimmy Doodle: By rubbing the notched stick with the accompanying rod the propeller turns.

Spool Knitter: Also known as French knitting, it is a method of producing a continuous length of knitting (tubular) cord without knitting needles.

Other games included: Blind Man's Bluff

Frog in the Middle

Hide and seek

Hop Scotch

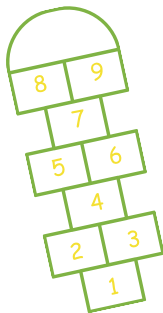
Hop, Skip and Jump

Jump Rope

Musical Chairs

Ring Around a Rosie

Top Spin



ANSWERS: A Fun Facts Quiz on the American Revolution Era

From Page 6

1. -The war was the first in the era of colonial independence to be won considering the most powerful army & navy of the British.
 - The first nation-sized republic was created.
 - Separation of church & state – another first.
 - Authority of governing was divided between federal and state power.
 - Political parties were to benefit the new republic by allowing debate.
2. Addressing the slavery issue regarding freedom & the Native America people and a just settlement regarding their lands.
3. “When men know not what to do, they ought not to do they know not what.”
4. ”Down Vanity!”
5. One was to stop shooting their firearms into the air & the other was to not relieve themselves or bath in the nude especially near the bridge in Cambridge where people passed by.



Mission Statement

Mission statement of the Barrett Township Historical Society is to promote the history of Barrett Township and surrounding areas. The service of the Society is dedicated to educating diverse audiences through a variety of resources and programs. Specific goals include:

- I. Preserve and disseminate information about the township and its people through the support and maintenance of a historical file and a research center
- II. Promote and encourage historical research and study, particularly the discovery, collection, preservation and publication of the history, historical records, data, writings and speeches pertaining to Barrett Township
- III. Collect and preserve archival materials including books, newspapers, maps, genealogies, manuscripts, letters, journals, film footage, radio and video tapes and oral histories.
- IV. Collect and preserve historical artifacts including portraits, paintings, engravings, relics and other objects and materials which illustrate various traditions and cultures of the township.
- V. Collect information relative to the growth and development of the population, wealth, education, agriculture, arts, manufacturers and commerce of the township. VI. Develop and present educational opportunities to all age groups, including on-site and outreach opportunities to school groups, elder groups, service clubs and the community at large.



Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org