



NEWSLETTER

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During the Age of Reason a Nation is Born

By Darryl Speicher

The United States of America is about to celebrate its Semiquincentennial. On July 4th, 1776, the Second Continental Congress meeting in the city of Philadelphia voted unanimously to declare our independence from Great Britain thereby creating a new and sovereign nation. Some consider it the culmination of a period in Western civilization known as the Enlightenment or the Age of Reason.

Beginning in the late 17th century there was a paradigm shift in philosophical expression built on the work of men like Isaac Newton. They said that natural laws govern the world around us. His pioneering work in science encouraged others to look for reason in the functions of civil society as well as those of nature. Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, and Emmanuel Kant began to argue that the people could and of right should govern themselves without the need for a Royal class divinely appointed to their position. Just as importantly they argued that religion and the church should not play a role in governance at all.

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Presidential Message

As we move into fall, there is one thing that is always the same; it's change!

This year we have had a number of really successful public events. Events at the Cresco Station Museum have enjoyed nice visitor traffic during our weekly hours. With the former Friendly Community Center building for sale, our monthly presentations have moved to the Weiler Community Room of the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. These programs have been well received and well attended. Several new volunteers have joined the Society and we have several other new members we anticipate may become active members. Our presence on social media has become frequent and regular and we have gained many followers. Most importantly, our membership is beginning to increase. These are really exciting changes.

The Train Station has seen improvements to the Septic System and we have added a Handicap Ramp at the Library Research Center. As we progress into 2026, the 250th Anniversary of our Nation, we look forward to a busy schedule in the coming year.

Of note, I hope that all members will consider coming out for our Holiday Buffet Luncheon at Carrazza's on December 13th at 1 pm. We have tried to make this an affordable event for all with the cost being \$25 per person. Everyone will be receiving an invitation to attend with an RSVP. Last year's Holiday Gathering was a wonderful event. This year promises to be more so.

Barrett Township is blessed to have so many volunteers working in a variety of community groups and capacities. If you are not already helping, I would encourage you to consider volunteering with the Historical Society. If you are interested in helping us, please give me a call at (570) 977-0514 or speak with an existing member of our executive committee. I assure you that you will find it fun and rewarding! Our focus is to create successful public events that highlight our history as a township and the many ways that day to day life have changed.

Finally, as a member of the Barrett Township Historical Society, I would encourage you to share our membership application, which you will be receiving soon, with a friend or neighbor.

Thank You,

Walter Lewis
BTHS President



(`)/- Whoops, a Mistake...

If there is something that needs to be corrected, speak-up. Please email me at alesiagallo@yahoo.com or give me call/text at (570)972-6422.

2025 Board of Directors

Jayne Blair Mary Price Patti O'Keefe Dotty Telesky Laurie Dunlap

2025 Executive Officers

President	Walter Lewis
Vice President	Darryl Speicher
Recording Secretary	Ellen Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Patti O'Keefe
Treasurer	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox

2025 Executive Committee

Acting Curator for LRC	Jayne Blair
Archivist for LRC	Laurie Dunlap, Patti O'Keefe, Mary Price and Susan Seese
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller
Co-Curator of CSM	Marge Babaz and Patti O'Keefe
Digital for CSM and LRC	Dottie Telesky
Docents or Cresco Station Museum	Marge Babaz and Patti O'Keefe
Finance	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox
Grants	Cherylyn Rushton
Historian	Jacqueline Magann & Laurie Dunlap
Hospitality	OPEN
Information Systems	Jim Bibber
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann and Committee of Seven
Membership	Cathy Stout
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo, Editor & Darryl Speicher, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs
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 monthly at LRC

October 13

November 10

December 8

January

General Membership Meeting Dates

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library
Weiler Community Room

October 17 @ 2pm (@ Promised Land State Park)

November 21 @ 2:00pm

December 13 @ 1:00pm (Christmas Luncheon at Carrazza's)

January (No Meeting)

Committee Reports

Station Museum Mickey Miller

The Cresco Station Museum will be open all Sundays in October from 1 pm – 4 pm. Winter days and hours for November, December, January, February, March and April will be on the second Sunday of the month from 1 pm - 4 pm (weather permitting).

The print donated by artist J. Craig Thorpe, who did our August program, has now been framed and is on display in the Cresco Station Museum. Feel free to stop by any Sunday we are open to enjoy seeing all the many displays the museum houses. Extra prints are available by contacting Walter Lewis, President, by e-mail @ lewiswjl@ptd.net or by phone at 570-977-0514.

Library Research Center Jacqueline Magann

A big "thank you" to the Pocono Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America for the display of early sewing artifacts and purses they mounted in our antique display cases. The stitchers will be demonstrating embroidery on "Train Day", October 12th, at the LRC. This will take place regardless of whether or not the train is able to arrive due to the government shutdown.

The Center will follow the Cresco Station Museum schedule for the remainder of 2025.

They will be open all Sundays in October from 1 pm – 4 pm. Winter days and hours for November, December, January, February, March and April will be on the second Sunday of the month from 1 pm – 4 pm (weather permitting). In addition the LRC will be open every Tuesday from 10 am – 2 pm (weather permitting).

It will be our Semiquincentennial year so look for EXCITEMENT! Contact Jayne Blair at (570) 595-7630 or Jackie Magann at (570) 595-9233 for questions or to VOLUNTEER!

Membership Cathy Stout

Malinda Bender has been filling in for Cathy in 2025. Membership renewal forms will be mailed out shortly for the year 2026.



Nominating Committee 2025

Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee include: Walter Lewis, Laurie Dunlap and Ellen Davis.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026:

President: Walter Lewis

Vice President: Darryl Speicher

Corresponding Secretary: Patti O'Keefe

Recording Secretary: Janis Tafuri

Treasurer: Dottie Telesky

Proposed Slate of Board of Directors for 2026:

Dottie Telesky

Patti O'Keefe

Laurie Dunlap

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the October 17th general meeting and the voting will take place at the November 21st general meeting.

Upcoming Programs

October 17, 2025 @ 2 pm
“Handcrafted Cherokee Baskets”
By Barbara Tracy

Barbara began collecting Cherokee baskets in the 1970's when visiting the Qualla Boundary of the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina's Great Smokey Mountains. On her many trips over the years to Western North Carolina to buy baskets, she has sought to learn the stories of the remarkable artists who made these beautiful artifacts, the

Cherokee myths, and the history behind why continuing to weave baskets is important to keeping Cherokee culture alive. The program will cover the variety of hand-collected materials used in basket weaving as well as traditional styles and shapes that have been handed down through generations of Cherokee families. She will have a selection of her baskets on display for everyone to enjoy.



November 21, 2025 @ 2 pm
“Ice Harvesting in Monroe County”
By Bill Leonard

Before the advent of refrigeration, ice harvesting from local lakes and ponds was a vital industry in the Poconos. Large ice houses stored blocks of ice for shipment to cities and delivery to household iceboxes by the iceman. Today, all that remains are the stories, photographs, reenactments and the remnants of foundations from a nearly forgotten trade. This presentation explores the origins of ice harvesting, the rise of the commercial ice industry, historic ice houses, the tools of the trade and Tobyhanna Millpond #1 ice harvest that continues today.

December 13, 2025 @ 1pm
“Christmas Buffet Luncheon”
at Carrazza's Located on Route 191, Cresco

The cost of the luncheon will be \$25 per person. Everyone will be receiving an invitation and RSVP with further details. Please save the date so you will be able to enjoy a time of getting together and celebrating the Christmas season.



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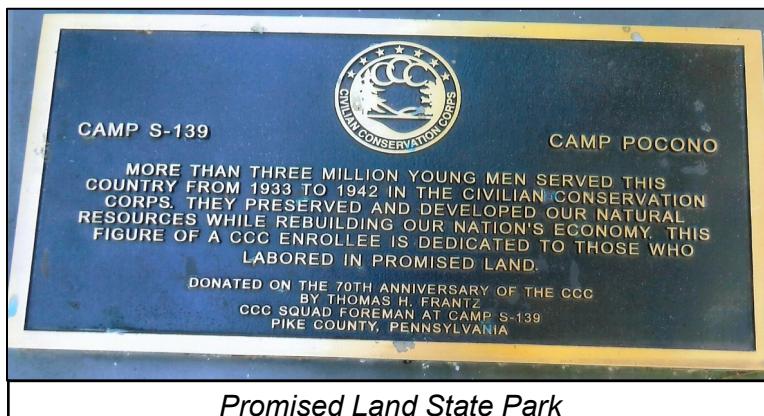


Program Recaps

Our program for July was “Promised Land State Park Field Trip” by Josh Heath, Promised Land State Park Environment Specialist. We met at the Masker Museum (formerly the Foremen’s Quarters) and one of only six original buildings remaining in the park. There has been an addition added to this building which houses various displays depicting wildlife, birds, etc. found in the park. The Civilian Conservation Corp was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 with a one page bill known as the Emergency Work Act. The stock market had crashed in 1929 and 1.3 million people were out of work. With this bill three million men between the ages of 18 and 25 were given work across the country. They were paid \$30 a month with \$25 of their pay sent home to their families leaving them only \$5 a month to spend. They were housed, clothed, fed, received medical care and learned a trade. Many were given the opportunity to learn to read in their off hours. For entertainment there were “shindigs” with dancing and music.

The first to arrive at Camp Pocono S-139 was the 337th Company, mostly enrollees from the Philadelphia area. They arrived at the Cresco Station and were transported by Army trucks to the Camp. There were anywhere from 600 to 1,000 men at any given time. There were segregated camps and for a short period of time even a women’s camp. Henry Masker was Road Forman in the area and employed local tradesmen to teach the men the jobs within the park including building trails, cabins, roads, culling trees, etc. This actually created a standing army of young men trained to work as a disciplined team; and, when the Camp closed in July 1941, many went on to fight in WWII. Their work at Promised Land State Park is said to have advanced the Park 60 years. We were also treated to a walking tour pointing out the remaining original buildings. A great program!

Fun Facts A beer cost 5 cents! Henry Masker owned the boat landing in the Park for 80 years with descendants still living today in the Barrett Township area!



Promised Land State Park



Promised Land State Park Masker Museum



Promised Land State Park—Masker
Museum Original Fireplace

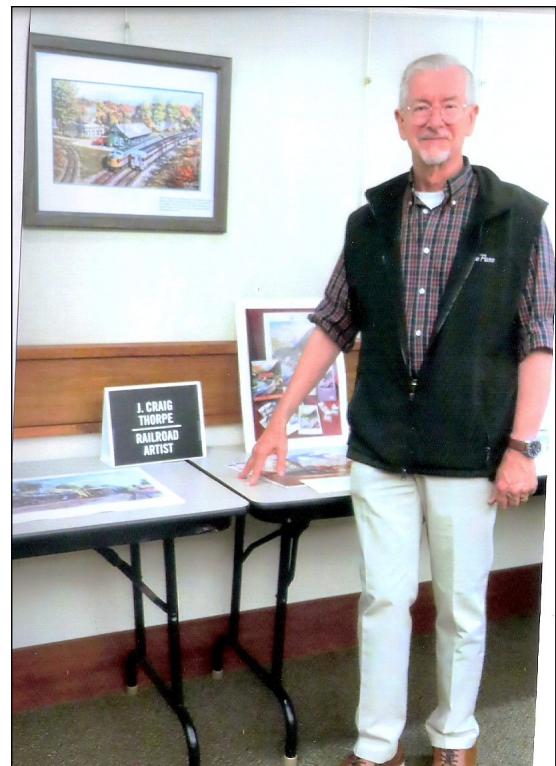
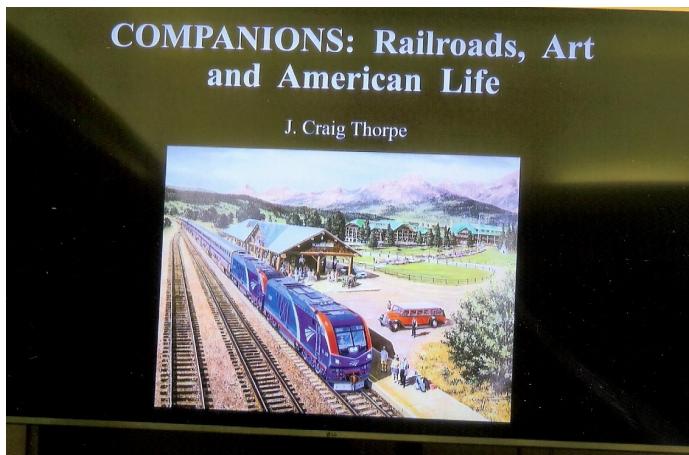


Promised Land State Park—Masker Museum
Wildlife Display



Promised Land State Park—Masker Museum
(Joshua Heath)

Our program for August was “Railroads, Art and American Life: An Artist’s Memoir by J. Craig Thorpe”. Mr. Thorpe grew up in Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh Area. He attended Carnegie Mellon University with an interest in architecture and railways. He currently lives in the State of Washington. He is an artist as well as an author. His power point presentation overviews his personal journey showing some of the artwork presented in his book as well as so much more. He has done some absolutely incredible paintings. He brought several prints of his work to display for sale. One of the paintings he was commissioned to do by a colleague happened to be of the Cresco Station showing the Phoebe Snow passenger trains on both tracks. He contacted the Library Research Center several months ago and gifted a print of this painting to the Cresco Station. This has been framed and now will be hung in the Cresco Station Museum. We also have prints (framed and unframed) available for sale. He is a very talented individual and a very interesting speaker. What a great program!



J. Craig Thorpe

**More photos from the “Railroads, Art and American Life: An Artist’s Memoir by J. Craig Thorpe” and Program Recaps continued on next pages.

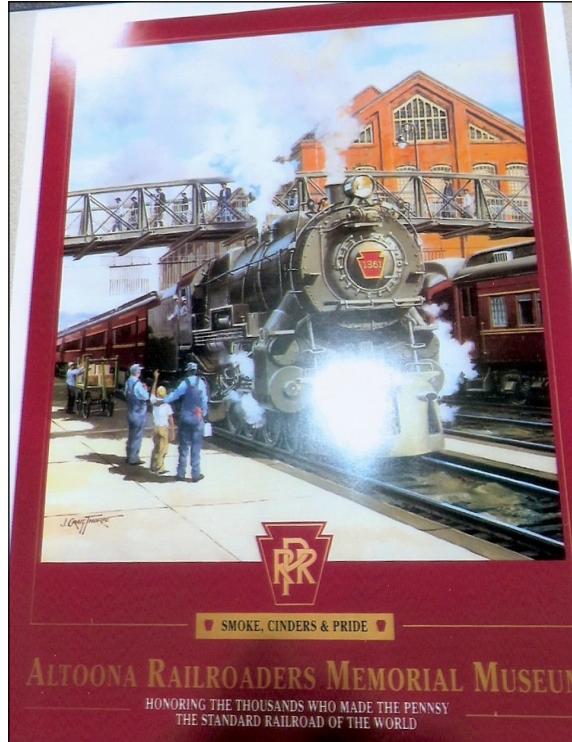
Program Recaps

(Continued from Pages 6-7)

“Railroads, Art and American Life: An Artist’s Memoir by J. Craig Thorpe”



Cresco Station by J. Craig Thorpe



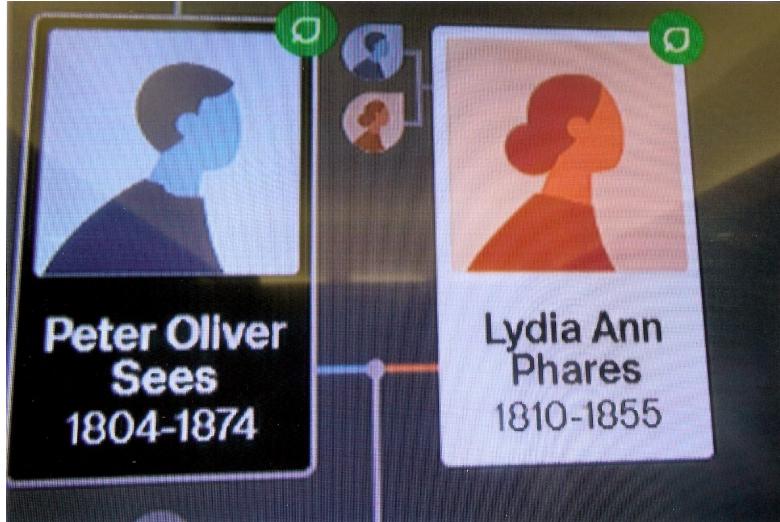
Artwork by J. Craig Thorpe

Our program for September was “Genealogy” by Claudia Shoesmith-Fox. The purpose of genealogy is to prove your descent from Kings. The Confucius family tree is the oldest known. For Americans, since we all are descended from somewhere else, it has become an “American Hobby”. Claudia traced her husband’s family tree using Ancestry.com. Peter Oliver Sees (original spelling of the last name) was the first Seese to settle in Barrett. There are many Seese descendants including other Barrett families up to the present day. If you have the surnames of Price, Labar, Bender, Duebler, Brush, Lewis and of course Seese in your family history, you can find out how you are related to everyone else with those names. It was amazing what we were able to find.

To get started on your journey in Ancestry.com, you will need to put as much information as you know about your family into their program. Places to look for this information would include census records (which only are published every 10 years); birth, death and marriage records; Military records; Passport applications, obituaries and gravesites; historical newspaper articles and church records and any existing research. There are two ways you can start your tree: Pedigree, which starts from the bottom up, and Descendants, which starts from the top down. As Claudia will tell you, this becomes the **“never ending project”**.

Aside from Ancestry.com there are other sites that you can obtain information from. One that Claudia went into and showed us by example was “Family Tree Maker”. You simply put your name in and someone else’s name in, and it will tell you if there is a connection. We got to try this out. One person in the room found out she was related to another person in the room but neither had any idea beforehand. Fascinating!

So, if you have time and want to check this out, go to the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library where you can use their computer and there is no charge for going into their Ancestry.com website. Have fun!



The beginning of the Seese line in America



Claudia Shoesmith-Fox

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“Stars and Stitches Forever” Quilt Challenge

Hosted by the Monroe County Historical Association to honor the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Throughout our country’s history, quilts have been made to keep people warm and to feed the soul as artistic expressions. Now it’s time to honor this momentous anniversary with quilts unique to Monroe County. Working within the challenge parameters, quilters are invited to interpret their journey (or their family’s journey) of migration or immigration to America and/or the area now known as Monroe County. This is a way to reflect on the past, honor the contributions of all people to Monroe County, and look ahead to a shared future.



Quilts are due by Friday, February 27, 2026.

Challenge quilts will be exhibited in the Monroe County Historical Association’s Hughes Community Room in the new Heritage Center from April 1 through July 31, 2026.



Visit monroehistorical.org/250pa.html or scan the QR code for complete instructions and an entry form.

For more information, please contact the Monroe County Historical Association
900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-421-7703 admin@monroehistorical.org

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Barrett Township Historical Society Display Case

The Society Display Case at the BPFL from mid-October through November will feature "Old Toy Miniatures" found in our storage unit this summer. Everyone was surprised by all the hidden "treasures"! The Library will also loan a Mother Goose for the display. Next time you are at the Library be sure to stop in and enjoy!

The Society Display Case at the BPFL for December and January features a diverse collection of "Cardinals" which were amassed over a number of years. This unique collection will include both winter and spring settings. Be sure to stop into the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library and enjoy!



(Continued from Cover—During the Age of Reason a Nation is Born)

In Great Britain this all came to a head long before the North American colonies rose in rebellion. In the fall of 1688 King James II was deposed, primarily due to religious orthodoxy, and was replaced with his daughter Mary and her Dutch husband William III of Orange. When William and Mary rose to power they were required to sign what is now known as the Bill of Rights in England and forever changed the monarchy's power as absolute. This established the Parliament as the seat of power and the creation of what is known as the Constitutional Monarchy.

All of this happened just a few years after William Penn arrived in the new world. As a Quaker and philosopher he would establish the colony of Pennsylvania and lay out the new city of Philadelphia, the location where so much of America's early history would take place. The changes underway in British Society were being exercised in the new colonies, in particular the separation of religion and the government. It was not that they did not practice religion but that they also practiced religious tolerance so that no specific sect, denomination or religious expression should rule the governance of the people in civil society.

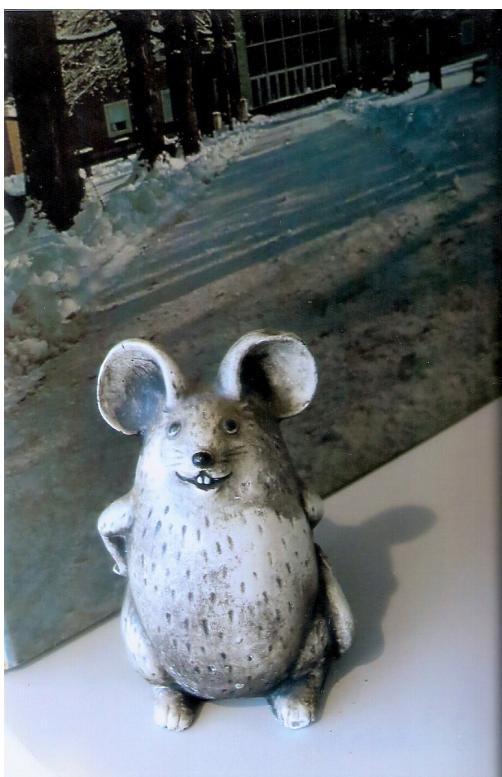
During the 18th century a new generation of people born on the North American continent and informed by those critical thinkers of the Enlightenment began to expand on their education and act on the principles laid out by those espousing reason over dogma. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson would become the voices of this generation. Others like Thomas Paine, who was born in England but emigrated to the colonies, would join the call for a clean break from Great Britain.

Although the Glorious Rebellion of 1688 called for the creation of the Constitutional Monarchy, the King still held considerable power over the affairs of state. It is important to remember, as the representatives of the 13 colonies met, that they did not advocate for anarchy. They recognized the need for a government but it was the type of government with which they had an issue. They were not opposed to taxes. It was the imposition of taxes without representation in Parliament, the body that imposed the taxes in the first place, that swept them into rebellion.

So it was that in the summer of 1776 the colonies came together to declare their independence. The United States of America was born of great compromise and division but predicated on the Enlightenment ideal of self-determination that the advancement of society will be driven not by divine intervention but the reason of man. There is perhaps no greater expression of the philosophy of the Age of Reason than the words of Thomas Jefferson when he wrote, "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."

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MCHA Library Mouse on the Shelf

Snapshots from Inside the New Monroe County Historical Society Heritage Center



Library Shelf in the new MCHA Heritage Center

Barrett Township Historical Society Semiquincentennial Committee



Co-chairing the Barrett Township Historical Society Semiquincentennial Committee are Jackie Magann and Dottie Telesky. The committee is busy planning the yearlong activities for the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday in 2026. Our January 2026 newsletter will have a specific calendar for all the programs and activities. As of now, we plan to sponsor an essay writing contest, a bus trip to the Revolutionary War Museum in Philadelphia, a "Patriot Recognition Day", and host speakers John L. Moore, published author on the Revolutionary War, Russ Cramer, collector of American Indian artifacts, Jacqueline Magann (former living history volunteer at Valley Forge National Park for the 1976 Bicentennial) on "Quilts of the American Revolutionary Period", and present a concert titled "Music of 1776" at the Mountainhome United Methodist Church.

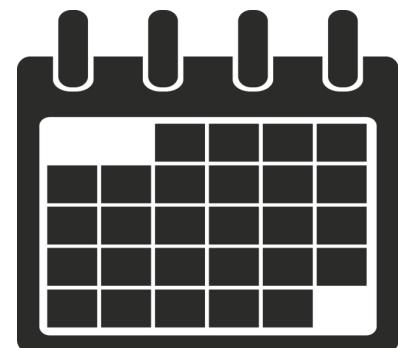
Our committee has partnered with the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library, the Barrett Township Supervisors, the Jacob Stroud Chapter of the DAR, the Monroe County Chapter of America 250, the Paradise Township Historical Society, the Paradise Township Supervisors, the Friendly Community Center, the Pocono Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America, Parkside Chapel, and the Rotary Club of the Poconos to ensure these, and many more activities from all groups are successful. We thank everyone in advance for this collaboration!

If you are the descendant of a Patriot, we would like to honor you on Patriot Recognition Day, July 12, 2026. A Patriot is defined as "someone who is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to and rendered acceptable service in the cause of American Independence." Please contact Jackie Magann at 570-595-9233 or email Dottie Telesky at BarrettHistorical@gmail.com to be included in our celebration.



Calendars for 2026

Calendars for 2026 will be available at Ace (Steele's) Hardware and at the general meetings of the Barrett Township Historical Society starting November 15th. Our meetings are held the third Friday of each month at 2 pm. in the Weiler Community Room of the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. Calendars will be in color, and the theme will be Semiquincentennial with a cost of \$10.00 each.



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“Bells Across PA” – Monroe

The Monroe County Commission, Arts and Culture Team, accepted design submissions from Monroe County artists for the “Bells Across PA” art series to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026. Selected artists executed their designs on bell sculptures. These fiberglass bells were magically adorned and judged. Linda Stockman won the contest for the Stroudsburg bell. In a few weeks the bell will be placed in the Garden on the Monroe County Historical Society property at the Main and Ninth Street side of the building.

It was a beautiful fall day for the unveiling of the bell which took place on Friday, October 3rd, 2026. This event was held at the Monroe County Historical Association’s newly constructed Heritage Center on their outdoor patio. Dignitaries from the America 250 PA Monroe County were in attendance. David Parker representing the Monroe County Commissioners was one of the speakers as well as Amy Leiser, Director for the Monroe County Historical Association. Members of the Jacob Stroud Chapter of the DAR were present as well as representatives from various other organizations. During the beginning of the program we were visited by an American Bald Eagle circling above the court yard. What an amazing sight!

At the end of the presentation we were able to tour the new library on the second floor of The Heritage Center. Although everything will not be completed until April of 2026, what we were treated to was certainly very impressive!



Unveiling of the Monroe County Bell



Monroe County Bell



Liz Bensinger/The Pocono Record

Blanche Besecker Henry got her post card just a bit late...74 years to be exact

Mailed from Cresco to Paradise Valley

Post card only 74 years late

By FRED SEITZ

Special Writer

PARADISE VALLEY — The bad news is that the post card addressed to three-year old Blanche Besecker arrived 74 years late.

The good news, maybe, is that Besecker, who for 56 years has been Mrs. William Henry, did not need to have it read to her.

The card, from Mrs. Henry's Aunt Emma and Uncle Bert, was originally postmarked Cresco, 8 p.m., July 19, 1909.

Stamped with a second, Lehigh Valley, Aug. 14, 1983 postmark, the card reached Mrs. Henry on August 15.

It couldn't have traversed more than five miles during the unexplained 74-year lapse.

At least the time of year was approximate. And the card's condition, apart from slightly dog-eared edges, is remarkably good.

"The postman first had taken it down the road there," Mrs. Henry said Thursday, pointing to a house about two hundred yards from her own. "Those people are named Besecker, but are not related.

"They sent him up here when they recognized my name, and he gave the card to my husband, Bill. He came in and told me 'Have I got a surprise for you.' I thought maybe he had a soap advertisement or something. I couldn't

believe it, and neither could he.

"And people I've shown it to think...well, they don't know what to think."

The card also is affixed with a one-cent postage stamp which appears to contain a profile of George Washington similar to that on a penny.

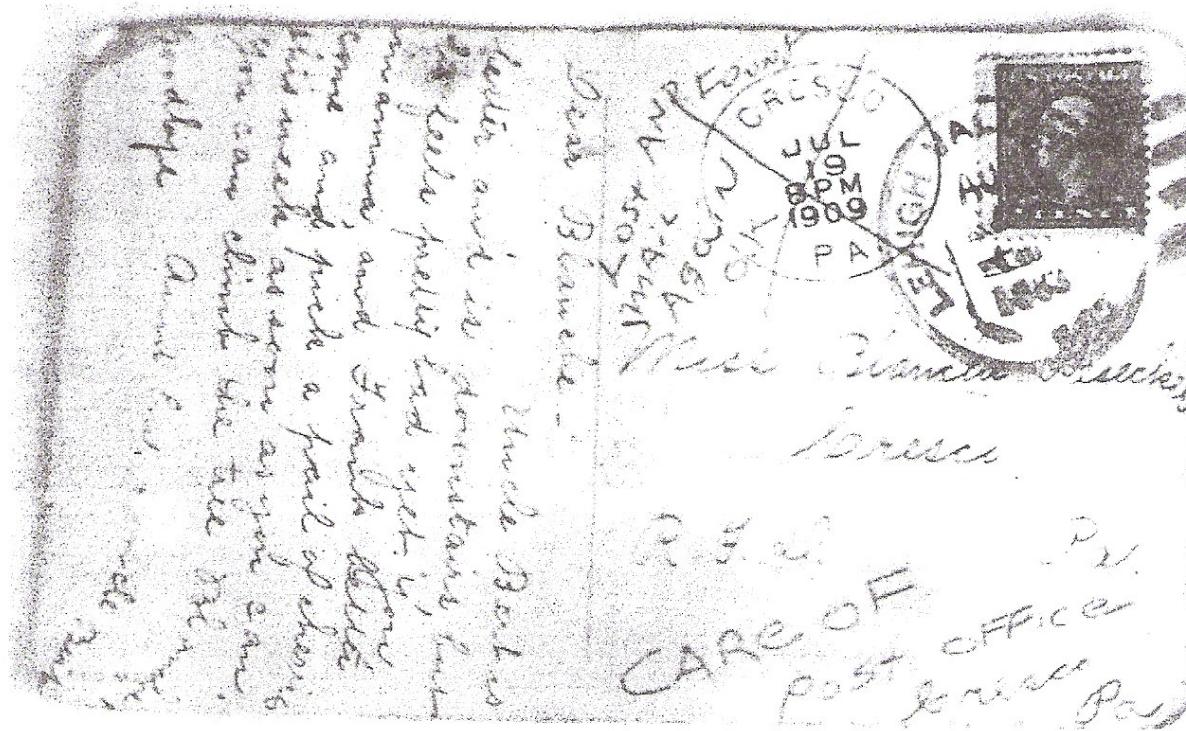
"I was a little surprised they didn't stick me for the postage-due," Mrs. Henry said, laughing. "Maybe they still will."

Fortunately, the message from Aunt Emma and Uncle Bert was not terribly urgent. In handwriting recognizable to Mrs. Henry as her Aunt Emma's, it comments on the health status of Uncle Bert, and implores Blanche to visit with her parents: "Your mamma and Frank better come and pick a pail of cherries this week...you can climb the tree."

Mrs. Henry, who is 76, said that she wouldn't have been any more interested in climbing the tree then than she is now.

Mrs. Henry's daughter, Ruth, who lives beside her, had taken the card to the Cresco post office, in search of an explanation for the delay; but none was available there, since it had come through Lehigh Valley, Mrs. Henry said.

"I guess we'll never find out where it's been," she added.



This is the postcard sent to Blanche Besecker 74 years ago. Note the July 19, 1909 postmark

No one knows for sure postcard's hiding place

By FRED SEITZ
Special Writer

STROUDSBURG — Postal authorities offered a variety of explanations Friday for a postcard which took 74 years to traverse about five miles.

The card, postmarked July 19, 1909, was addressed to Blanche Besecker of Cresco, who was three years old at the time.

Blanche Besecker, who is now 76, and has since 1927 been Mrs. William Henry, received the card at her home in Paradise Valley on Aug. 15.

The card had been postmarked at the Lehigh Valley postal office, near the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton airport, and from there it was sent to the local post office at Cresco.

Austin Wismer, director of mail processing at the Lehigh Valley office, said, "Obviously, the postcard got hung up in some old equipment which probably had

a back on it."

He explained that some of the bins formerly used to contain mail were partitioned with wooden slats, behind which a card or letter might have been lodged unnoticed.

"Probably," he added, "when some of that equipment had been marked for destruction recently, the card was found inside it. We go over those old cases with a fine-toothed comb before they're destroyed."

"I'd be lying if I said it couldn't happen again, for something to lay that long. But it's very unlikely with the new equipment, which is made of metal and not partitioned like that."

John Turnbach, a manager at that office, offered a similar explanation: "From time to time, we've found mail in supposedly empty equipment."

"Sometimes it's pretty old. But 74 years is the longest I've

ever heard of," he said.

Gene Landi, postmaster at the local Cresco office, ventured another explanation: "My opinion is that it's probably been in someone's home all these years. Someone got it by mistake and decided to keep it as a memento."

"But for some reason, I guess they finally decided to put it in the mailbox. Or maybe it got accidentally re-mailed."

Whatever the explanation, the mystery is compounded by the fact that neither the Lehigh Valley or Cresco office existed at their present locations prior to 1964. It was at that time the Lehigh Valley office was occupied; the Cresco postal office assumed its present location about 1969.

And while Mrs. Henry wasn't too enthused about an invitation to climb a cherry tree, she was happy after all these years to hear from her Aunt Emma and Uncle Bert.

Historical Recipes side by side: Hasty Pudding

Edited by Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Hasty Pudding of Yankee Doodle fame, did you ever wonder what it was, or how it tasted, or was it real? If you will recall the song;

Yankee Doole went to town
A-riding on a pony,
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.

Hasty Pudding is a quickly made custard that is thickened with flour to speed or "hasten" its jelling into pudding consistency. These were easily made either savory or sweet over an open fire hearth during the time of the American Revolution. Hasty Pudding is listed in the 1747 cookbook by Hannah Glasse The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy which was the most popular cookbook in America during the time of the American Revolution.

1747 Hannah Glasse The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy
"Hasty Pudding"



Photo: Val Goodrich

Take a quart of milk, and four bay-leaves, set it on the fire to boil, beat up the yokes of two eggs and stir in a little salt. Take two or three spoonfuls of milk, and beat up with your eggs, and stir in your milk, then with a wooden spoon in one hand, and the flour in the other, stir it in till it is of a good thickness, but not too thick. Let it boil, and keep it stirring, adding some butter then pour into a dish. Take out the bay-leaves before you put in the flour.

21st Century Recipe

Alas, the 21st century doesn't have a matching recipe for Hasty Pudding. A search through my prized historical recipe books, as well as a deep dive into the internet came up with some surprising diversions from the 18th Century Hasty Pudding. Now you are most likely to find a recipe for a

sweeten corn mush that Eleanor Roosevelt loved and called Hasty Pudding, or another version of Hasty Pudding that is made with nuts has Baking Soda and is similar to a quick soda bread made in a frying pan. So to celebrate America's 250th Declaration of Independence, try making the Hasty Pudding as Hannah Glasse describes, its not much different than making a white sauce (less flour) but with the addition of egg yolks. Happy Cooking. Let me know how it comes out and whether you added sugar and vanilla to make it sweet, or kept it savory.

Sources:

1747 Hannah Glasse *The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy*

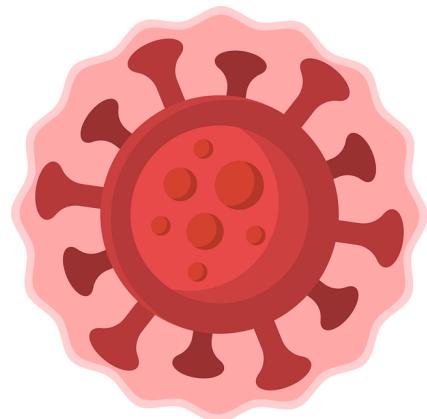


What's New with COVID-19?

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche

Against the advice of numerous medical advisory boards, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is sticking with his decision that COVID-19 vaccination is no longer recommended routinely in healthy children and adults. The decision goes against medical opinion and is not reflected in recommendations on the CDC webpage.

Vaccination against circulating strains of COVID-19 will continue to be recommended for those over the age of 65 years old, and for those with immune compromised diseases. However, for those wishing to be vaccinated, you must consult a health care provider. Fortunately, a pharmacist is considered a provider and can provide the pros and cons of vaccination. Accordingly, if you want a vaccine, you do not necessarily need to go see your primary care provider you can stop at your local pharmacy.



As a Reminder, it is flu season, and that Flu and COVID-19 can be confused, and you can have them both at the same time. They are both communicable, so stay home if you are sick.

Sources:

Commonwealth of PA <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/diseases-conditions/infectious-disease/respiratory-viruses/covid-19.html.html> accessed May 19, 2025

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/index.html> accessed Oct 7, 2025

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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.

