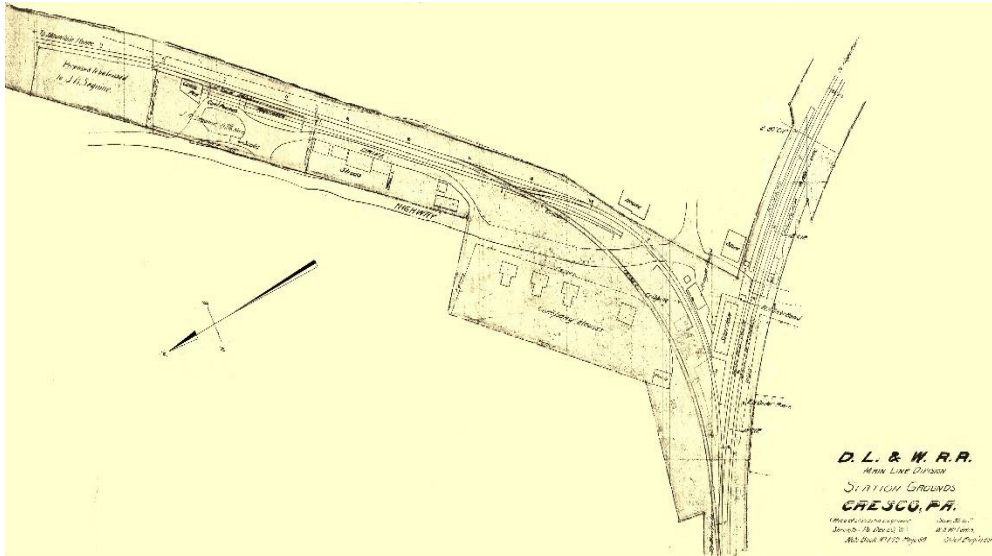




July 2020
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NEWSLETTER

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Cresco Freight House By Kendrick Bisset

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad built the "Southern Division" in 1856. Around that time, a separate (probably private) branch railroad was built to serve White's Tannery in present day Mountainhome. This railroad is shown on several early maps, such as the Beers Atlas of 1875, and is also mentioned in

several property deeds. The name was usually given as the Oak Valley (or Oak Valley Branch) Railroad. The Lackawanna bought the railroad in 1895, according to the Lackawanna's Valuation Map of 1918, and it eventually became known as the Mountainhome Branch.

Figure 1: December 1901 drawing of Cresco station area, Steamtown NHS drawing 51850-BK-001
Continued on page 9

Inside this Issue:

Cresco Freight House	Cover Page	Committee Reports	Pages 5 - 7
Presidential Message	Page 2	Programs	Page 6
Whoops, a mistake	Page 3	1918 Influenza: Mask Fatigue	Page 7 - 9
Board of Directors	Page 4	Cresco Freight House (Continues)	Page 9 - 12
Executive Officers	Page 4	Historical Recipe	Page 13
Executive Committee	Page 4	Condolences to our Members	Page 14
Exec Committee Meeting Dates	Page 4	Cresco Annie	Page 14
General Membership Meeting Dates	Page 4	Reminder: 2020 Membership Dues	Page 15
Treasurer's Report	Page 4		

Presidential Message

I'm writing this on the day Monroe County--and therefore Barrett and Paradise Townships -- have gone 'green' after more than two months of stay-at-home/quarantine rules. It's still not clear to me exactly whether the new rules are the same as the pre-Covid non-rules, since it seems to me that given our ages and other risk factors we will probably want to be cautious and self- and group-protective for a while. By the time you read this I hope we'll be moving back to a careful new normal.

For the BTHS, however, the most interesting set of questions will be those surrounding building a archive record for our descendants to understand what was like here in the year 2020, the year of COVID-19.

So, I invite all of our members to share their experiences -- good or bad -- by telling or writing stories of what life was like here for you, contributing documents or any kind of texts or pictures to the research center. Please consider contributing any artifacts that we could save -- masks come immediately to mind, but there must be other things unique to the quarantine situation. Pictures would also be good to collect as well. As you consider your contribution, try to imagine what people not yet born ought to know about what it was like to live without any of the easy things we had taken for granted. What was life like without the library, the community center, easy shopping, toilet paper and more. And, perhaps even more important without restaurants--except for take-out.

As you consider your personal story, include the things that affected you, such as: no schools -- or colleges and universities-- except online. How did that work out for the students? the teachers? the parents? the grandparents? (I got quite good at 4th grade math.); Were you isolated because there were no religious gatherings -- except online? No clubs or organizations met, except online. Did you have sports withdrawal?, or were you satisfied with all the sport replays on TV? How did your TV habits change? More TV, more binging, how was it different, was it better? Did you limit your TV?; Were you able to start a new hobby, get back to one, or finally finish that project that has been on the back burner?

Other things to consider in your personal story are how you and your family stayed in contact. Personal zooming! Zoom is not just for businesses. My extended family on my father's side have had more contact with Zoom than we ever do except for weddings and funerals. And my not so extended but relatively nearby families still couldn't/didn't celebrate holidays together except via zoom.

Funerals changed dramatically. Personal stories would be well worth recording.

Include your personal story on Social distancing. What was that and why/how did it work? Did you get Testing for the virus? Were you, or someone you know sick with the virus, and how did that effect you?

Everyday services that you had to do without such as Haircuts, Manicures, Massages, Therapists, and seeing your Health Care Provider. How did you manage?

What was the economic impact here in Barrett Township? Lewis' market has been a busy lifeline for many and they became a relatively safe place to be, as they wore masks and gloves, and had Purell at the entrance.

Were you someone who transitioned to a “work at home” environment? What was it like to learn to work at home? (In 2050 that may be the norm --so describing the transition could be important.)

The idea is to build an archive. A collection of snapshots of and reflections on how our lives changed. How the normal was shifted -- which also means that the old normal needs to be described as well -- remember part of your audience is not yet born

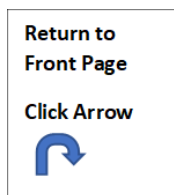
I expect I've left some categories out -- and you can and should certainly recruit others to share their experiences.

I'm looking forward to trying myself, I hope many of you will join me. Don't worry about being profound, the idea is to provide data for future historians to study and interpret.

Stay safe everybody,

John S. Mayher
President

Factual information regarding the Corona Virus, and your actions to stay safe can be obtained at the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov



-_("/)_/- whoops, a mistake...

Corrections to the April 2020 Newsletter

April was my first electronic newsletter, although some of you received it in paper form. My Co-Editor caught some mistakes and we have them corrected, so hopefully you will no longer be confused about Board Members vs Board of Directors, and Executive Committee vs. Committee Chairs. I have now updated page 4 to reflect the correct nomenclature and page 1 matches. Yeah!, a win. However, I am open to suggestions for improvements. Please e-mail me at mkreeves@ptd.com or give me call at (570) 350-8760.

2020 Board of Directors

Jacqueline Magann	Charlotte Parks	Loretta Quarmley	Shirley Lansdowne
Malinda Bender	JoEllen Chadwick	Marie Guidry	

2020 Executive Officers

President	John Mayher
Vice President	Darryl Speicher
Recording Secretary	Donna Bisset
Corresponding Secretary	Hannelore Gaupp
Treasurer	Stu Malin

Treasurer's Report

Stu Malin, Treasurer	
	DATE: 6/24/20
Checking	\$3,721.20
Money Market	\$6,140.42
CD ESSA	\$8,126.04
CD ESSA	\$5,692.68
Total	\$23,680.34

2020 Executive Committee

Archivist for LRC & CSM	Consolidated
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese
Curator for LRC & CSM	Joanne Seese
Finance	Stu Malin
Historian	Jacqueline Magann
Hospitality	Sharon Kuhns
Information Systems	Kendrick Bisset
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann & Joanne Seese
Membership	Marty Price
Newsletter	MaryKate Reeves-Hoché, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	OPEN
Publicity	Marie S. Guidry
Research	Jim Berger
Ways & Means Committee	Donnie Kuhns, Sharon Kuhns, Jackie Magann, John Mayher, MaryKate Reeves-Hoche

Exec Committee Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 14th at 10:00 am	CANCELLED
Tuesday, May 12th at 10:00 am	CANCELLED
Tuesday, June 9th at 10:00 am	CANCELLED
Tuesday, July 14 th at 10:00 am	by ZOOM
Tuesday, Aug 11 th at 10:00 am	

General Membership Meeting Dates

Friday, April 17th at 7:00 pm	
Friday, May 15th at 7:00 pm	
Friday, June 19th at 7:00 pm	
Friday, July 17th at 7:00 pm	Cancelled
Friday, Aug 21st at 7:00 pm	Cancelled

Committee Reports:

Archivist for LRC & CSM

The Archivist role is now a combined role with those roles responsible for the LRC and CSM.

Cresco Station Museum

Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese

The grand reopening was cancelled due to the pandemic, watch this space for announcements for future plans for a grand reopening which will be delayed until 2021.

Curator for LRC & CSM

Joanne Seese

The LRC has been closed during the pandemic.

Finance

Stu Malin

During our quarantine for the Corona Virus we only had our fixed expenses: phone service and Internet Service.

We received a \$2000.00 grant from the Pocono Visitors Bureau to be used for our summer music program and grand re-opening celebration for the museum.

Our total income to date is \$4,679 which includes The American Legion Donation and the grant. Our total expenses to date are \$2,624.89. Without the American Legion's generous donation and the grant, we would be running a deficit.

Historian

Jacqueline Magann

Nothing to report.

Hospitality

Sharon Kuhns

Since we have not had any general membership meetings we have not relied on the generosity of our membership for refreshments. A big thank you to all that volunteered. When we do get back to meeting as a group in 2021, I will once again ask for volunteers.

Information Systems

Kendrick Bisset

Nothing to Report

Library Research Center

Jacqueline Magann

The Library Research Center is currently closed because of the Coronavirus.

Membership

Marty Price

Perhaps the pandemic has gotten people off their stride. Our membership is at 89 members compared to 163 this time last year. Please remember to send in your membership for 2020. A membership form is on the last page of the newsletter.

Newsletter

MaryKate Reeves-Hoché, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor

Your newsletter editor is moving to California. Moving in the midst of a Pandemic is not a feat to be taken lightly. However, family issues call, and we are rising to the occasion. I will continue to be the editor of the newsletter because the newsletter is primarily electronic at this point, making it relatively easy for me to continue to do it regardless of where I am located.

Deadline for submission to the Oct Newsletter is Sept 28th. Send by email to: mkreeves@ptd.net or to PO Box 2664, Carlsbad, CA 92018

Oral Tradition OPEN Chair Needed

Programs OPEN Chair Needed

Programs Scheduled During the General Meetings for the second Quarter:

- April 17 at 7:00pm: ~~The Poetry of Susan Akers Reichman~~. Cancelled due to the Pandemic
 - May 15th at 7:00 pm: No Programming scheduled due to the Pandemic
 - June 19 at 7:00pm: ~~John Abel "The Murder of Theodore Brodhead"~~ Cancelled
 - July 17 at 7:00pm: ~~The Poetry of Susan Akers Reichman~~. Cancelled due to the Pandemic
 - August 21 at 7:00 pm: ~~Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche & Fred Ruben "From Pox to Pandemics"~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
- ALL General Meetings for the rest of the year are cancelled. Stay Tuned for 2021!

Musical Events Scheduled at the Cresco Station Museum: All events at 1 – 4 pm

- May 24: ~~Grand Re-Opening of the Cresco Station Museum~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
~~Lexington Entertainment and Doug Smith~~
 - June 28: ~~Kelly Planer & the Perks~~ (previously scheduled train has been cancelled) Cancelled
 - July 26: ~~the Steamtown Train and Uncle Pete Tawney~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
 - August 23: ~~Ted Satterwaite~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
 - September 27: ~~Jonah Talbot~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
 - October 18: ~~the Steamtown Train and John James & Friends~~ Cancelled due to the Pandemic
- ALL Musical Events for the rest of the year are cancelled. Stay Tuned for 2021!

Publicity

Marie S. Guidry

Follow the Barrett Township Historical Society on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Barrett-Township-Historical-Society-814825878582400/>

Research

Jim Berger

Nothing to Report.

Ways & Means Committee

No activity to report. A Ways and Means Committee was formed with the following representation: Donnie & Sharon Kuhns, Jackie Magann, John Mayher, Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche.

The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic: Mask Fatigue

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche

The 1918-1920 flu pandemic came in three major waves. After the first wave in the US, the virus subsided, and Americans were restless to have businesses reopened and for social life to resume. There was a growing movement to stop wearing masks, which had become ubiquitous - so much so that San Francisco residents formed an Anti-Mask League in about 1919. These were protests from those who thought the public health ordinance violated their liberty.

The virus came back with a vengeance in the fall and was much deadlier than the first wave, eventually killing more than 675,000 Americans and killing around 100 million of the 500 million it infected worldwide before it was over. This was before vaccines existed for influenza (which were developed in the 1960's).

World War I was in full progress and in the US, entire training platoons of young men were wiped out, dying within days of contact with the virus once reporting for training at Fort Benning and other training camps. In small towns and large cities, entire families died from the flu, sometimes within days of each other.

In 2020 we have mask fatigue from corona virus pandemic. A hundred years ago, our ancestors were fighting a similar virus pandemic. They experienced mask fatigue just as we are now experiencing. Although we have mask fatigue and social isolation, we are blessed with electronic means of communication with the outside world, as well as with our friends and family. Ah, the miracle of the handheld or desktop enabled devices that allow us to see our family, colleagues, classmates, and friends.

Factual information regarding the Corona Virus, and your actions to stay safe can be obtained at the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov . Each of us need to take responsibility for ourselves and to help protect others by wearing a mask.



Sign Advertising an Anti-Mask Meeting in San Francisco



No Mask, No Ride on the Trolley



Pro-Mask Demonstrators 1919

(Continuation) Cresco Freight House

By Kendrick Bisset

Sometime after December 1901, the track connecting to the Oak Valley Railroad was re-aligned, easing the curve and making more room for parking around the station. The drawing in Figure 1 shows the old and new alignments of the connection to the Mountainhome branch. Also shown is the old rectangular freight house near the station. A new rectangular freight house was shown near the re-aligned track, but seems to have been erased. Based on the date of the drawing, the 'new' freight house was built in 1902 or later. Per letters from the Steamtown NHS Archives, the freight house was demolished in April 1960.

Scaling the valuation maps, the freight house was about 58 feet long on the track side. The short end (about 10 feet long) and long end (about 39 feet) were perpendicular to the track side, and the fourth (angled) side was about 65 feet long. These dimensions are approximate; keep in mind that the scale of the drawings are 1 inch equals 100 feet, so are pretty small scale. The lines showing the buildings are about three feet wide! As a comparison, the station scales to about 65 feet by 19.5 feet; it was measured at 67'- 4" by 20'- 4".

Another plan from the Steamtown NHS archives shows proposed changes to the landscaping in the area around the station. This drawing was undated, but apparently drawn to a scale of 1 inch equals 20 feet. The scale was determined by printing the relevant area at 100% and measuring the depot. This drawing shows the freight house at 60 feet long along the main tracks, sides 10 feet and 40 feet, and the angled side as about 70 feet long. The length of the angled side can be calculated using the Pythagorean

Theorem; this results in a length of 67 feet 1 inch. Note that the meridian ("North arrow") is nearly straight down in this drawing.

(Continuation) Cresco Freight House

By Kendrick Bisset

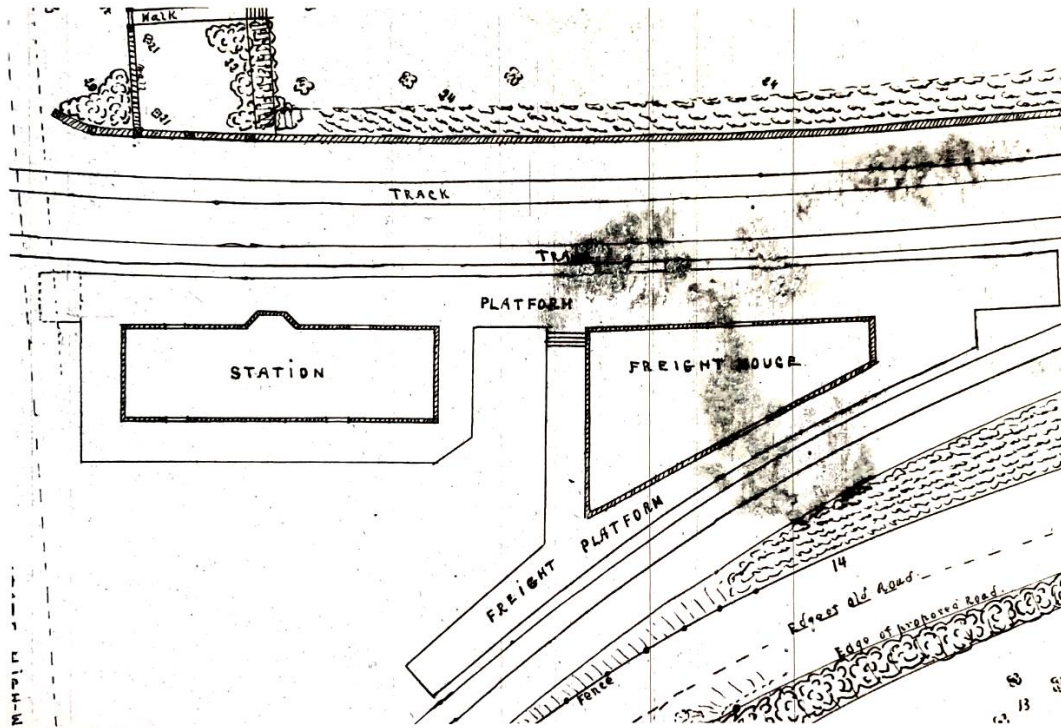


Figure 2: Portion of Steamtown NHS drawing 52269-BL-001

The building has a very unusual shape. It fits between the mainline and the diverging branch line, and has a hip roof with a large overhang. Pictures are uncommon, but a few have been found which provide useful information.

Figure 3 provides one of the better overall views of the freight house. The exact date is not known, but two events give a rather narrow range. In 1954, the present highway overpass over the tracks was built, and the grade crossing next to the station was closed. In March of 1958, the canopy along the platform blew down in a heavy snowstorm. This picture shows the closed crossing and also the canopy.

Careful examination of other pictures reveals that some changes were made during the life of the freight house. Pictures from 1916 show that the high level freight platform along the branch track extended west of the building, around the shortest side of the building, probably by around 20 feet. This was removed by the time of the 1950s picture. Likewise, the bottom edge of the door on the mainline side of the building (the south side) was lowered; the early pictures seem to show that the door threshold was about 4 feet above track level (the height of the high level platform and the thresholds of the other doors). That door had been lowered by the time of the 1950s picture; the trim along the lower edge of the building on this side had also been lowered.

(Continuation) Cresco Freight House

By Kendrick Bisset

The shape of the roof is very peculiar. The ridge beam is not horizontal; it is higher at the east end than at the west end. Details of the construction are not available, but it must have been complicated. With the large span at the east end, one would suspect that a column might be included.



Figure 3: The Freight House, after 1954 and before March 1958.

The shape of the roof is very peculiar. The ridge beam is not horizontal; it is higher at the east end than at the west end. Details of the construction are not available, but it must have been complicated. With the large span at the east end, one would suspect that a column might be included.

The roof had a large overhang, perhaps 8 feet, supported by heavy timber brackets. One bracket was installed at each of the four corners; these were longer, and installed at an angle to support the corner of the roof. Additional brackets were installed straight out from the walls, evenly spaced except with slightly wider spacing at the freight doors. The short west side had two brackets; the south side had eight; the east side had six; and the angled north side had ten. The freight doors on the north and south sides were centered on the wall, while the freight door on the east wall was offset to the north, as seen in Figure 4.

(Continuation) Cresco Freight House

By Kendrick Bisset



Figure 4: Freight House cropped from C3403, Steamtown NHS Archives, 7 April 1916

More pictures of the freight house would be helpful, as would descriptions of the interior. I am anxious to review our collection of drawings to see if more information is hidden there.

Return to
Front Page

Click Arrow



Historical Recipe side by side with today's version

Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

This edition of the newsletter does not have a side by side recipe as the LRC was closed due to the pandemic. No worries, I have a wall of cookbooks, and history of cooking available to me.

SNICKERDOODLES

How this cookie got its name is vague. "Snicker" may have come from the Dutch work "snekrad" which means snail-wheel. On the other hand, "snicker" may have come from the German "schnecke," meaning snail. Whatever their name origin, these delicate cake like drop cookies soon earned a place in the colonial New Netherland (Manhattan Island) table moving into Connecticut, and Amish population in Pennsylvania.

Here is a recipe for Snickerdoodles that is derived from early days in New Netherland:

½ cup butter (softened at room temperature)

¾ cup sugar

1 egg (room temperature)

2 cups sifted flour

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup milk

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Put softened butter in large mixing bowl. Press with the back of a wooden mixing spoon until creamy and smooth. Add sugar gradually and continue creaming until well blended. Add egg and vanilla and beat well. Put sifted flour in another bowl and add baking powder and salt, and sift again. Combine milk and vanilla extract. Add one-third of flour mixture to butter, sugar, and egg mixture. Blend smooth. Add half the milk mixture and combine thoroughly. Add next third of flour mixture and blend; add second half of milk and mix well. Finally add last third of flour mixture and mix dough to smooth consistency.

In a small bowl combine 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon, and set aside. Butter a large cookie sheet. Using a spoon, drop a mound of dough into the cinnamon-sugar mixture and roll. Place dough balls about two inches apart on cookie sheet.

Bake cookies in three batches, about 15 minutes each, or until cookies are lightly browned around the edges and centers spring back when lightly touched. Remove to cooling trays. Store in tightly covered tin. Makes 45.

Do you have a Family Recipe from the 17th or 18th Century? Are you willing to share the recipe, and your family's story about the recipe for a future Barrett Township Historical Society cookbook on Historical Recipes? Please send your recipe and family story associated with the recipe to Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché at mkreeves@ptd.net or to PO Box 447, Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323



Condolences to Our Members

~*~

In these sad times, many people have lost friends and family members to COVID-19. We do not necessarily get the news of these passing's until many weeks or months after they have occurred. Please know that the Barrett Township Historical Society holds you and your family in their thoughts and prayers during these tough times.

Return to
Front Page

Click Arrow



CRESO ANNIE CHAPTER 13

Dear Reader,

My adventure continues. When last I wrote in my diary, I had awoken in a strange place. One with some of my friends, a lovely view out the window, an inside outhouse, a filled cookie jar, and almost no visitors.

Now, miracles do happen, and although I tried to stay awake to see all these new things, I must have fallen very sound asleep because when I awoke again, I was back in my store in the train station but it looked different. And the miracle, my hands are back. How can that be? I have no recollection of how I lost them or when they returned. I'm asking anyone who might know anything of this mystery to please let me know.

To continue, some of my Historical Society friends have been here to dust, rearrange things, hang pictures and just get everything ready for a reopening. I hear it won't be a Grand Reopening like they planned because something called the COVID-19 Pandemic has made it impossible for them to have a lot of people come to visit at the same time. I heard them talking about only a few people allowed to come in, everyone MUST wear a mask (even me), and do something called "Social Distancing" (staying 6 feet apart), no hand shaking, hand sanitizers will be supplied, and it will be a no touch museum. (Maybe something in that hand sanitizer make my hands come back).

I was glad when the Society folk left so I could explore my Station. There is a lovely big black stove in the Station Masters room, with chairs and the old checker board, and a coffee pot. A lot of the things from the old station are still there just moved around a bit. And I'm all alone, none of my family is here, and I miss them. Now that I have hands, I can touch all these lovely things – its funny how you don't recognize the smoothness of the china, or the softness of cotton until you can't touch something. I just realized, the next time John comes to visit, I can hold his hand. When I see baby, I will be able to touch her face.

Oh, I hear someone coming, I have to get back to my store. Wonder if they'll notice my hands?

BARRETT TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 358 Mountainhome, PA 18342

(570) 595-6157

2020 Membership and Dues Information 2020

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Renewal: _____ New: _____

E-Mail: _____ @ _____

Regular Membership		Sustaining Membership		Lifetime Membership	
Individual	\$15.00	Friend	\$51 – 99.00	Lifetime	\$500.00 and up
Family	\$25.00	Patron	\$100 – 249.00		
Business/Organization	\$50.00	Angel	\$250 – 499.00		