

Tri Area Heritage

Nant-Y-Glo Tri Area Museum & Historical Society

Vol. 2. No. 1 March 2001

Society Membership Steadily Increases

The membership of the Nanty-Y-Glo Tri Area Museum & Historical Society is slowly but steadily increasing. Many members are out of our area/state, but all have a desire to contribute to the growth and well being of the Society and to see it succeed.

At present, the membership consists of 25 Individual members, 15 Family members, 2 Students, 1 Lifetime and 1 Business. The total number now stands at 59. (The Family Membership counting as 2)

THE MEMBERSHIP ...

Baker, Bruce & Tammy.....Local
Barrett, Wanda.....Darby, PA
Bogovich, Sally.....CA
Bracken, Ruth.....VA
Butz, Marion.....Lancaster, PA
C & R Service Center.....Local
Cipriani, Robert & Janet.....OH
Davis, Donna.....Local
Debiase, Nancy.....Local
Devlin, Buck & Mary Beth.....Local
Dixon, Dennis & Cindy.....Local
Dixon, Mallory.....Local
Dropcho, Bernie.....Lady Lake, FL
Dropcho, John & Helena.....Indiana
Dropcho, J. Gary & Jan.....Wexford, PA
Dropcho, Janine.....Tiverton, RI
Dropcho, Ronald.....CO
Dugan, Zelda.....Local
Golias, Theresa.....Local
Gongloff, Milton & Ann.....Local
Hakanen, Rich & Barb.....Local
Hakanen, Isabelle.....FL
Haupt, Brian & Stephanie.....Indiana
Kennedy, Jon.....CA
Kupchella, Thomas & Carol.....Local
LaMantia, Adelaide.....Local
Lindrose, Walter & Carol.....Local
Lingar, Clyde R.....FL
McCotter, Dick & Donna.....FL
McDowell, Richard E.....Local
Martin, Bill.....Local

Mehalko, William & Hallie.....Local
O'Farrell, Greg.....Local
Primel, Esther.....Local
Prindle, Bernadine.....OH
Sago, Charles.....Rockville MD
Simmers, Joe & Vivian.....Local
Swanhart, Bo.....Pittsburgh, PA
Toth, Dennis & Anette Jo.....Local
Toth, Janet (Davie).....Loretto
Warholic, George R.....MD
Weber, Denise.....Indiana
Williamson, Deidra.....Local
Williamson, James & Kay.....Local

SEE "LATEST ADDITIONS" on back. A sincere **THANK YOU** to all of you who have chosen to show **YOU CARE** about our area and its future by supporting this newly formed Society.

We welcome all new members and ask that you consider joining us in collecting and preserving our rich history for future generations. You do not have to attend meetings or be an "active" member, but please consider a membership to help us financially. We would like to have a "home of our own" someday, where photos and artifacts could be on display permanently, along with family histories and genealogies, available for public research. Your membership will help us to reach that goal.

Membership Categories follow:

Student.....\$5.00
Individual.....\$10.00
Family.....\$15.00
(the Family Membership consists of a husband and wife and all children in that household under the age of 18)

Business/Organizations.....\$25.00
Corporate.....\$100.00
Lifetime (individual).....\$200.00

Recently, we have added the "Memorial," a wonderful way of honoring the memory of a loved one. We suggest that this gift be a minimum of \$50.00

Remember Charlie?

Charlie Sklarsky was known to almost everyone in the area as "Charlie the Shoemaker." He worked and lived in the cluttered chaos of his Shoe Shop, performing daily that amazing feat, of always



knowing just where your shoes were. Of course, they were not quite ready yet, so you would have to wait while he completed the task of cutting, sewing, nailing or gluing the shoe back to the "good as new" condition. (Charlie not only repaired shoes, he made them, as well).

In 1986 a young woman from German visited Nanty Glo for a

Continued on next page

REMEMBERING CHARLIE

Continued from previous page

few weeks, staying at our home home. One thing she wanted to take back to Germany was a pair of “penny loafers” and my husband knew just where to take her. Charlie’s!

Walking into the shop and hearing his accent, she recognized the dialect as one close to the place of her birth in Austria. She spoke to him, not in German, but in her native tongue and he eagerly responded in surprise and joy to hear the “Old Country” spoken again. He had tears in his eyes as they talked and laughed and the friendship instantly created was evident on his wonderful time worn face.

She visited Charlie many times during her stay and looked with pride at the wonderful penny loafers she would take back home. One of the last things she did before leaving was to go say goodbye to Charlie. I believe that goodbye was a sad one for both of them.

The Historical Society has been given a precious gift by Allen Farabaugh, the owner of AL’S PIZZA, now located in the same building that once housed Charlie’s Shoe Shop. Allen presented to the Historical Society the knife Charlie used to cut the leather. The knife is nothing special to look at. The handle nothing more than masking tape, the blade, though bent and worn, remains very sharp. As a knife, it would cut most anything you care to, but its value is not in its function. **The value is found in the memories it brings to us of its owner.** Thank You Charlie for all the memories and **Thank You Allen** for making sure that precious

old knife is preserved for the next generation..... BLH

DONATED ITEMS ...

Dorothy Kreskosky, a framed picture of NGHS Class of 1935.

Robert Miles, a large framed picture of the NGHS Class of 1938.

Kathryn Deetscreek, a coal miner’s dinner bucket (round) belonging to her husband, Wilmer.

Rich Ondriezek, funeral records of funerals done by George Ondriezek from 1909 to 1949. (This can be seen on the Blacklick Twp. Home page operated by George Warholic at www.geocities.com/gwarholic/

Greg O’Farrell, books too numerous to mention here, but including a 3-Vol set of The History of Cambria County by Henry W. Storey. Also, many maps, bottles, advertisements from years gone by. **Ann Gongloff**, a glass bowl with “Ivory Hill Supply Co.” stamped on the back; various calendar plates, bottles from Nanty Glo, Twin Rocks and other areas; a wooden clothes hanger with “Edelstein” printed on. **Garry Wurm**, a signed photocopy of baseball player James “Rip” Collins, dated 1932. **Janet Toth**, an old 3rd-grade English Lessons book from St. Mary’s School and a #3 Reading Book from Wehrum School. **Bill Martin**, 25 pictures of NGHS school students, clubs and sports teams. **Sylvia Brown**, the History of the First Baptist Church of Nanty Glo. **Marge Hricko**, “Pensioners in W. PA in 1883” and “National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution” Directory of 1993. **George Warholic**, the Transcription of Headstones of the St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Cemetery. A bound volume of indexes of the Obituaries published

in the Nanty Glo *Journal* from Oct. 26, 1994, through Dec. 2000. Two volumes containing the census information of Blacklick Township from 1870 to 1920 inclusive. This and more can be seen at www.geocities.com/gwarholic/

Rich Paskowski, pictures of the flood of 1936 and a picture of the employees of the Frank Castelli Garage. **Donna Davis**, a framed picture of John & Margaret (Evans) Lloyd and a framed map of Beulah. **Allen Farabaugh**, Charlie Sklarsky’s knife. **Betty Edwards**, picture of the old Honor Roll that hung on the old Capitol Theater. Picture of the NGHS Class of 1937. Many newspapers, one dated August 15, 1945, with a headline “WAR IS OVER.” A letter from Congressman John P Saylor dated July 1964. **Inez George**, pictures, documents and letters from her father, Dominick Gelotte. **Zelda Dugan**, pictures of St. Mary’s School Children taken in front of the School. Tim Williamson, six yearbooks of NGHS. **Caroline Vasas**, The Wagner-Shuman Family History and many early pictures of family and area. The **Folkemer** Family History; The **Grove** Family History, **Catherine (Sybert) Leonard**, pictures of the Sybert Family, Feed Mill and information.

ALSO: Monetary Donations:

Dick & Donna McCotter
Milton & Ann Gongloff
Helen Morrison

IF you have made a donation and it is NOT LISTED...PLEASE know that this is NOT a complete list see **LATEST ADDITIONS** on back.

OLD PHOTO DISPLAY A 'GREAT SUCCESS'

The Old Photo Display held at the Nanty Glo Public Library on Feb 23rd and 24th was a great success both for the Historical Society and our area.

A large variety of old photos and two glass display cases with artifacts were among the items seen by the many who attended. Photos of old area schools, coal mines and miners, sports teams, churches and just plain folks were abundant. Family photos of early settler **Solomon Wagner** were featured and a black dress and shawl worn by Solomon's wife **Rachel (Shuman) Wagner** was also displayed.

Artifacts included a coal lunch bucket, bug lamp, mining hats and even a dynamite box. Several sales slips from past businesses included Costlows, Beck's House Coal, Ragley Lumber Yard and Garis Grocery Store.

A wooden clothes hanger from Edistline's, a bowl from the Ivory Hill Supply Store, plates marking special dates and occasions and several pop bottles from Nanty Glo Bottling Co. Big Bend, Ebensburg, E. E. Goss Bottling Co. Of Twin Rocks and a milk bottle from the Nipps Dairy.

Society board member **Greg O'Farrell** has devised a way to photograph old photos yet allow the owner of the photo to take the original back home.

It was a great two-day event that kept the Society members busy talking, looking up information and photographing. Many came with photos and family histories in hand.

Winifred Marsh Hunter, Merle Hunter— highlights of a Rexas family's history

Winifred Marsh spent her early childhood in Ebensburg, PA. On Halloween, Oct. 31, 1936 she became the bride of **Merle Hunter** in St. Charles Church in Twin Rocks, "The surprise came when we took off the masks" says Winnie with a twinkle in her eye. In 1937 the Hunters moved to Rexas just across the creek from Vintondale and have lived in the same house for 64 years.

The Hunters are the parents of three children. **Raymond**, who made the U.S. Air Force his career is a retired Lieutenant Colonel living in Ann Arbor, Michigan. **Bonnie Hunter**, married **Edward Lucas** and lives "within shouting distance" of her parents. **William** also retired from the U.S. Air Force joined the civilian work force and recently moved to Macon GA.

Winnie began working in the post office as a clerk in 1951 when stamps cost three cents. Soon she was expected to do all the duties including acting as postmaster when the need arose but this of course was not reflected on her paycheck. The post office at the time was on the corner of Main and Second St. Later it was moved to the bank building on Main St. By the time the new facility was built, Winnie had retired.

In 1917, **The American War Mothers** was formed and in 1925 the organization was recognized and incorporated by an Act of Congress. The

Vintondale Memorial Chapter was formed in 1949 and on November 8, 1950 Winnie joined the organization and became the corresponding secretary for the group. Some of the activities the ladies were involved in included holding parties and bingo for veterans. They sent packages and financial donations to various veteran's groups including the Red Cross. This Vintondale chapter served veterans at Highland Heights, Oakland, Aspinwall, DeShawn, Butler and Altoona. They provided grave markers and flags for those who had died. Winnie remained the corresponding secretary until the group disbanded in 1979 at which time she had 23 years of dedicated service.

Winnie has been a member of a group of ladies called the **Quiltaholics** since 1979. One of their projects is to make a quilt to be chanced off at the annual **Vintondale Homecoming**. They began displaying quilts in 1980 and the monies received are used for community projects such as the upkeep and improvements of the community park. Winnie has kept a scrapbook with pictures of the quilts and the names of the winners. There were two years when the Homecoming was canceled. Cancellation took place once because of flood repairs to the park and once because of lack of volunteers. A keeper of

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Hunter family

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records, Winnie had kept track of how many stitches has gone into some of the quilts and the numbers are mind-boggling to those of us with limited sewing skills.

As an informational service to the guests of the Homecoming, Winnie had kept track of local deaths for more than twenty years.

This very talented, community oriented lady, remains active in service to others and quilts and donates lap robes to the residents of Laurel Crest Manor where her daughter is employed.

JDT

LOOKING FOR ...

1. **BRACKEN, David** born 1815
Married: **Christiann Rager**
Born 1820
Child: **Jacob Bracken**
Married **Barbara Folkemer**
2. **WESS, Lewis** Born 1844
Married: **Louisa (?)**
Born 1850
Child: **Christina Wess**
Born 1-18-1872
Married: **David Bracken**
Born 1965
3. **PAUL, William** Born 1854
Married **Agnes Maud Zely**
Born 1865
Child **Elizabeth Paul**
Born 1897
Married **Joshua E. Bracken**
4. **KANE? CAIN? OR CANE?**
Samuel ... brother of the following ...
Mary Born 1810
in Baltimore, MD
Married: **George Wagner**
(Another sister name unknown)
Married: **Andrew Shaffer**

Rachel Married in 1842
Died 1886
Married: **Rev. Wm. Byers**
Born 1823 Died 1907

The above children could be the children of **William Kane?**, **Cain?** Or **Cane?**.

If you have info on any of the above people ... Contact the NGTAMHS at the Nanty Glo Public Library at 749-0111 or **Donna Davis at 749-7865**

JANE McCLUNG KELLY AND JOHN KELLY

Jane McClung left Ireland and came to America as a young girl, planning to meet her brother. This meeting never took place and she worked in New York as a maid for a few years before returning to Ireland where she eventually married **James McGuigan**.

It is believed, James & Jane emigrated to Canada around 1840. Three children were born to this union, the first being **Catherine McGuigan** (1846) in Canada, **John McGuigan** (1848) in Ohio and **Mary McGuigan** (1851) in PA. Jane's husband James died, but the cause and date are not known.

Jane then married **John Kelly** and the 1870 Census of Cambria County shows them in Jackson Township owning 27 acres somewhere between Fords Corner and the Vintondale Rd. To this union eight children were born. **Peter Kelly 1853-1930**, **James Kelly 1856-1901**, **William Kelly 1858-1937**, **Patrick Kelly 1861-1927**, **Anna Kelly 1863-1950**, **Margaret Kelly 1865- died young**,

Elizabeth Jane Kelly 1868-1947 and Clara Agnes Kelly 1871-1942.

Gathering info from **Margaret Kelly Stiles** and **Alice Bracken** of the William Kelly Family ... When the Kelly home caught fire, Peter ran through the fields to try and save his gun. **Edward Beard**, son of Elizabeth Jane Kelly Beard, rebuilt the house after the fire.

William Kelly owned land called "**Murphy Gardens**," which is to be believed to have been in the vicinity of Jack Rager School. Patrick Kelly farmed on Jackson Hill on the Fords Corner Rd. between Finntown Rd. and the Vintondale Rd. Anna Kelly Keating, James Kelly, and perhaps Patrick Kelly were living in Johnstown at the time of the 1889 Flood. Anna was very actively involved in organizations in Nanty Glo. Patrick Kelly's son, **Hugh Kelly**, was a prominent Nanty Glo businessman for many years and Patrick's great-grandson, **Rev. Robert Kelly**, is a priest in the Altoona Johnstown Diocese. **Emma Beard Mill-ward**, daughter of Elizabeth Jane Kelly Beard, tells how Jane Kelly would walk around with a newspaper under her arm, telling them about some of the articles in the paper when in reality she could not read.

John Kelly died at his farm in Jackson Twp. on Nov. 27, 1894 from pneumonia and is buried at Holy Name Cemetery in Ebensburg. Jane died Aug. 14, 1910 at the farm and is buried beside her husband. There are many descendants of this family

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JANE McCLUNG KELLY AND JOHN KELLY

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in our area and the Society would like to have more information on John Kelly.

If you know some of this history, please let us know by calling 749-9415 or 749-7865.

—ZD



L to R (men) Wm. Dunmire & Wm. Keating

2nd row; Gilbert Dinmire (?) Clara Dunmire, Jane Kelly, Anna Keating, Jane Beard.

3rd row down Albert Dunmire, Jennie Bread & James Beard
Front row Margaret Dunmire, Mary Dunmire, Rita Keating & Ann Beard.

Society, Nanty Glo Library have lots of research information available

The NGTAMHS has a bookcase and filing cabinet in the Nanty Glo Library filled with information to help the public with research. While these items can not be checked out of the Library, copies of the material can be made for a small fee.

Some items are...

Births & Deaths 1906-1921 (area include Belsano, Expedit, Twin Rocks, Jackson Twp and Nanty Glo) Denise Weber.

Marriages & Deaths from the Cambria Tribune (1853-1875)

History of Cambria Co., 3 Vol's by H. W. Storey

Blacklick Twp. Fed. Census (1820-1920) by George Warholic

Index to Obit & Death Notices in the Nanty Glo *Journal* 1994-2000

Ondriezok Funeral Home 1909-1949

St. Mary's Cemetery (transcription of Headstones)

Lloyd Cemetery 2 Vol's, by Donna Davis

Cambria Co. PA Cemeteries, by Des Warzel

History of First Baptist Church Nanty Glo

History of Congregational Church of Ebensburg from 1797-1947

Pensioners in W. PA in 1883

Annals of Jackson Township

History of C & I Railroad by S. H. Jencks.

And much more. **STOP IN!**

The Nanty Glo Public Library also has **the Nanty Glo Journal on Micro Film from May 1921 to 2000**. Great for looking up information on Births, Deaths Marriages, etc.

You Are Invited!

We want to invite you to join us for our "Fun/Work" Meeting held on the Third Thursday of each month at the Nanty Glo Public Library at 7:00 PM.

Our Business Meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month (same location and time) and is a time of paying bills, making decisions on upcoming events, and the inner workings of the Society.

You are welcome to attend both meetings, but we feel you will enjoy the Fun/Work meeting much more. It could be an evening of comparing information on an area or family history; clipping & filing items from the newspaper; recording newly donated items or organizing our many photos. But the best part of the evening is the time spent in getting acquainted and working with others who have like interests.

While you do not have to be a "member" to attend meetings, memberships are our main source of funds and your membership would be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming events!

We plan on being very busy in the coming months! One of the projects is to gather info for a CD about our area. The main portion of this work is being done by John Dropcho and a former art Student of his, who now lives in Philadelphia. As John says, "Imagine a computer CD that tells the story of our area. Kind of a 'Talking book' that includes text, photos, history and music". All the details are not complete at this writing so watch for news to come.

Also coming is our "Appraisal Day". Watch for date and location to be announced. You will be invited to bring an item (or several) and for a small fee, have it appraised by a professional appraiser. This will be kind of like our own "Antique Road Show". So check all those old items in your attic or that keepsake that Great Grandma gave you and bring it in for a professional appraisal. This should be a fun filled day of everyone.

"LATEST ADDITIONS"

New Members: Alma Burkhart, Delores Bracken, Nancy Shingle, Barbara Teeter, Loy & Betty Leonard.

Donations: Loy & Betty Leonard, Pictures of the Mundy's Corner Area & Pike Church.

Alma Burkhart, An awesome amount of research information.

THANK YOU

Items "FOR SALE"

Several of our sale items have been placed on **the Nanty- Glo Home Page** at **www.nantyglo.com** The Webmaster of this site is **Jon Kennedy** of San Jose, CA (formerly of Belsano). Jon is well known to those of us who frequent the Nanty Glo Home Page and is a great supporter of our whole area.

The items for sale are **Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Golf Shirts and Caps with our embroidered Logo** and these can be ordered through the Society on the internet, from one of the board members, or ordered at **O'Farrells' Creative Touch** on Lloyd St., Nanty Glo.

We also have **Key Holders Wall Plaques** made of wood from **Syberts Feed Mill**. This is a collector's item for sure. It contains a short history and a sketch of the Mill. There were **only 20 of these made** and they sell for \$20.00 ea. + 1.20 tax and 4.50 postage.

Another item we offer here is a postcard size photo of The Old Train Station in Nanty Glo. This is just ONE of several postcard photo's (not the postcard itself) we offer for sale through the generosity of board member Bill Martin. This is a matted photo ready for framing and sells for \$3.50 + .21 tax and .50 postage.

**The Old Train Station
in Nant-Y-Glo
Around 1910**

**Membership
Application**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

- Student \$ 5.00
- Individual..... \$ 10.00
- Family..... \$ 15.00
- Business/Org..... \$ 25.00
- Corporate.....\$100.00
- Lifetime\$200.00
- A "Memorial" Donation in memory of _____

(Minimum of \$50.00 suggested)
Mail with your check to:

**NGTAMHS
942 Roberts St.
Nanty Glo, PA 15943**

Board Members: Donna Davis, Nancy B. Debiase, Dennis & Cindy Dixon, John & Helena Dropcho, Zelda Dugan, Theresa Golias, Rich & Barb Hakanen, Bill Martin, Greg O'Farrell, Janet Toth and Richard McDowell. **Officers:** Barb Hakanen, *Pres;* John Dropcho *V-Pres;* Donna Davis *Sec;* Cindy Dixon *Tres.*

If you see any info in this Newsletter that is **historically incorrect**, call (814) 749-9415 or email **ngtamhs@hotmail.com**.

