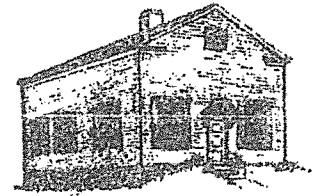


# Hunter-Martin Settlement Museum

Off Route 611 North on Church Road, Martins Creek, PA



**Spring, 2017**

Dear Friends and Members,

The following officers were re-elected at our September 2016 meeting:

Elizabeth Bush, President  
Katherine DiFebo, Treasurer

Raymond DiFebo, Vice President  
Geraldine Gulick, Secretary

Both of our programs last year were so good, it would be nice if we could mention in detail what they were all about. In May, Melissa Hough, Slate Belt Heritage Center president and curator, educated us on "The Scotch-Irish and Damn Dutch". Her message really hit home since many in the room were descendants of that group, as are most of those buried in our old cemetery. This very interesting evening was shared with Joel Hoffner, a researcher at the Sigal Museum in Easton, who amazed us with the recently completed "Warrant Tract Map" for our area. One of those "have-to-see-to-believe" maps. It depicts 486 parcels from the 1700's in the townships of Washington, Upper and Lower Mount Bethel. Over 700 hours were spent to complete it and he explained how it was made and how it can be used. The details are now at the Sigal Museum in Easton.

In June, we had the pleasure of hearing Sharon Gothard, attendant at the Marx Room in the Easton Public Library, tell us about its history and the many interesting artifacts and research opportunities it has to offer. She would also like to know if anyone has, and would like to donate to the Marx Room, an Easton High School year book from the years 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982. These would allow her to complete their set. If you have any or all of these, contact Sharon at the Marx Room or someone from our museum.

Last October, the dedication was held for the memorial to the 31 local men who lost their lives in the Lehigh Cement Co. blast in 1942. For those not familiar, there were 20 tons of dynamite near the quarry that ignited accidentally. The memorial is in the Church Hill Cemetery--a very peaceful spot in the upper right corner. It looks out over the valley in the direction of the quarry at Sandt's Eddy where this catastrophe occurred. It was well attended and many were relatives of those who died. A lot of work went into making this happen and a lot of folks donated the money to cover the cost. All can be proud of this accomplishment.

Quite a bit happened last year and it's hard to condense it for you here. You may remember the old 1851 George Taylor map of Northampton County given to us by John O'Brien. It was sent to Philadelphia for an estimate of the cost to repair, restore, or copy. Well, the estimates were much higher than we expected. Joel Hoffner showed us a picture of the same map he down-loaded from the Library of Congress web-site. We decided to have that one copied and have a housing made for the original map to keep it from deteriorating further. Melissa Hough was very kind to transport the original back from Philadelphia for us. Both the old and new will be on display this summer so you must come see it. Joel also gave us information showing all 88 people who lived in LMBT in 1798. This shows type of house, land value, etc. We had a copy of the original Paul land grant made and sent to Joel to help show our appreciation for all he has done for us. The help we get from our friends and fellow history lovers are more appreciated than they can imagine.

The National Register of Historic Places in Washington, DC now includes a colonial log cabin on Del-Haven Road, built around 1711 and restored by Charlie Jacobs around 1978. It is now the residence of Russ & Rosie Kasterkoski and is part of the original "Paul" land grant we have in the museum from Richard & Thomas Penn, dated 1762. This was confirmed with Joel Hoffner and he sent information to Russ & Rosie to prove it.

*You may be pleased to know our Veterans Book has increased in size. All that nagging paid off. We still have more room for those who have yet to respond. It makes for interesting reading and looking at the old pictures of some of those veterans in their uniforms makes enjoyable viewing. We're very proud of all of them.*

*We're still receiving donations of interesting items: Ron & Nora DePue from Virginia, sent; Long, hand carved wooden needles, wooden clothespins, small figurines from Red Rose Tea bag boxes (that are now collectibles), wooden cane with a twisted shaft, and another with a black wooden ball for a handle, single piece pie remover, fish net shuttles, gold tone railroad spike with a miniature pewter train on a pewter track.*

*Quentin & Jennifer Carnicelli brought us a hand-operated wringer from an old washing machine. Katherine DiFebo donated some old magazines (Life, Time, etc.) with articles and pictures of special events from the past, picture of a minstrel at Centerfield School, pictures of the 1955 flood at Alpha Cement plant, old receipts for plots and bills at Church Hill Cemetery, and pages from 1942 Bethlehem Globe Times on the Lehigh Blast. Barb Allen gave some folding cardboard fans used at funerals and in church on hot summer days. Our mineral man, Justin Taylor, gave us a clear quartz crystal, an aragonite calcite formation (looks like a fat cauliflower), and an aragonite stalactite from a local cave. Fay Raub and her son Jim shared a flier advertising Martins Creek Airport with pictures of planes, people learning to fly, the pilots club at Foul Rift, etc. Mary Jane Oxford found an old assessment book from the area dated 1916. Her daughter, Sharon Gothard, made us copies of old 1911 newspapers reporting on the train wreck at Martins Creek, NJ. (Just across the river). This was the wreck that killed and wounded many school teachers from Utica, NY when the train caught fire. Dr. Reaser from Martins Creek, went over and helped care for the wounded. (Just a year after he opened his practice here.)*

*Cindy Smith delivered a book (gift from the Sigal Museum) titled "The Scotch Irish of Northampton County, PA". This was published by their historical society in 1926 and covers the Hunter and Craig Settlements. Many thanks to Sigal for the book and to Cindy for her help in our getting this gift. She helps us in many ways—when we don't know where, or which way to go, we ask Cindy.*

*Peggy Moser and Robert James, from Horner's Cemetery near Bath (originally Craigs Settlement) visited our museum and cemetery. Both of our cemeteries go back to the early 1730's. Peggy will be giving us a program in June about Horner's Cemetery and her help in getting it restored.*

*Linda Heindel from the Sigal Museum sent a request for local authors to write a history of their own experiences and research on areas of importance in the township. This is to help them compile a biennial history of the County. Anyone interested, the museum has a guide to help you. Sigal has also borrowed some old school items to use in an education project for young people to show what school was like "in the old days".*

*Andy Keller from Virginia visited looking for tombstones and information on Winters, McFalls, Kellers, and Rosenberrys. He sent us the genealogy he had on some of these ancestors for our files. Our Henry Winter wore many hats—one as a presidential elector, he rode on horseback to Washington, DC to vote for Andrew Jackson, then rode back home. Mr. Keller is also a descendant of the family involved in the infamous Keller Indian Massacre in 1757.*

*Betsy Hutchison Smith (9<sup>th</sup> generation from James & Agnes Hutchison buried here) and arranged with Rita for the reunion they had here several years ago. She lives in Washington state and has three daughters who are all military combat pilots. Daughter "Amber" wrote a book "Danger Close" about her experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have the book at the museum and can be borrowed. Makes interesting reading.*

*We are still assisting people around the country looking for information on their roots. Sometimes we can help, sometimes we can't. They are always very appreciative and will send us what information they have to put in our files in case others come to search. The location records of the burials in the old cemetery have been very helpful and we must again thank Lonny (and Gail) Miller for sharing this information with all of us.*

*Sadly, we are still losing members and friends: Louise Capriotti was 87 and Elwood Ayers was 94. They were both longtime residents of Martins Creek. H. Ben Freyermuth was 99 years old and just last year, his wife Doris, died at 89 years. Margaret (Peggy) Keck died at 93 years. Her husband, Winfield, died in 2013 at 95 years. These folks were loyal members from our very beginning. They contributed so much to the museum and their efforts will be long remembered and appreciated.*