

The Cameron House Chronicle

A publication of the
Milton Historical Society



Our mission: To maintain the Cameron House, to preserve Milton History, and to provide information and education to the public.



Merchants of Milton Exhibit!

Thank you Deb Owens for putting together an excellent Sept/Oct exhibit, and thank you to John Ficks, Ficks Hardware for the loan of some fantastic Milton pieces!

Upcoming Dates:

- Holiday Open House & Pennsylvania Christmas Traditions Exhibit Dec 9 & 10, 1 - 4:00 pm
- Winter Lecture Series—Sundays, 2:00 at Milton High School Library—Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 17.
- April 18, 2024—Annual Governor James Pollock Dinner (details to come)



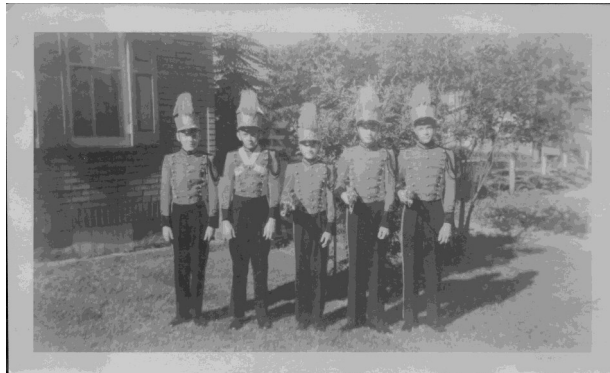
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Thank you to these generous donors!

- Central Vision Eyecare, Lewisburg ~ glass display cabinet
- Randy Straub ~ Grain Cradle (farm was Shimer, Hastings, then Straub)
- Systematic Filing Products, Danville ~ 5 large archival boxes
- Dionne Eckert ~ 1902 Milton school manual & 1946 Milton directory
- Lorraine Miller ~ 1948 Milton Jr Drum Corps photo & 1948 (?) 9th grade class of Central Grammer School
- Dick Winters ~ chair from Pollock School & Milton Steel pieces
- John Bower ~ Lahr Family Bible
- Joe Brostowski ~ Dynamite box from Dupont to ACF



1948 Milton Junior Drum Corps
 Clinton Robenolt
 Don Miller
 Dave Miller
 Nevin Beaver
 #5 ?

9th Grade at Central Grammer School
 Clarence Clemens Sam Sisler
 John Weliver Clair Jolley
 Charles Cole Dean Zimmerman
 Bill Cameron Edward Baylor
 Don Miller



Harvest Fest 2023

We congratulate the Harvest Festival Committee for another wonderful event this year! We enjoyed the chance to talk with so many people at our stand on the first Saturday.

And a big congratulations to Maria Painter, the Princess Pageant Candidate we sponsored this year!





We were thrilled to have Holly & Kate Shimer join us to discuss Shimer history with our visitors!

They're pictured here with their great great grandfather, Samuel Shimer.



Shimer Exhibit—Summer 2023

What else have we been up to? A message from our president, Tim Bittner:

The board of the Milton Historical Society is continually investing in the preservation of the Cameron House, and the artifacts of Milton's rich history.

Some of the work we performed on the Cameron House this year: We removed a tree which blew over in high winds and ended up against the house and on the roof. We also removed another tree to avoid possible future damage. We had the metal roof on the house painted, did numerous small odds & ends inside and outside, stoned the parking lot, replaced the fence timbers, and installed a mini-split AC/heat unit in the gallery for climate control and visitor's comfort. We're now installing another in our archives room upstairs to make that climate controlled.

What's in Our Backyard? A history minute by Tim Bittner

Taking Airport Road alongside the Cameron House, directly behind the Cameron House property we first drive over what remains of the West Branch Canal prism. The original prism was 40' wide at the top of the water, 28' wide at the bottom, and had a water depth of 4'. The first commercial canal boat arrived in Milton in 1831 and the last one left in 1901.

Going a little farther east on Airport Road we would cross the Buffalo main line tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad, formerly the Sunbury and Erie Railroad and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad. The first train on these tracks arrived in Milton in December 1854. In 1909, sixteen passenger trains stopped daily at the passenger station, now the Milton police station.

After crossing the railroad tracks, we would arrive at the Milton Airport. The airport existed for thirty years (1941-1971). Two planes and the Clemens were featured in our 2023 calendar for April. In a 1965 aerial photo I own, one large hanger and three smaller buildings are pictured. The airport consisted of a grass runway. In April 1943, members of the U.S. Army Air Force at Susquehanna University began flight training at Milton airport. The airport was selected for its smooth landing field and the openness of the location. Today it's the site of the Conagra warehouse complex.

Now you know what's in our backyard. Hope you enjoyed the trip back Airport Road!

Upcoming Events & Happenings

Christmas Open House & Pennsylvania Christmas Traditions Exhibit!

Take a breather during the holiday hustle and bustle and come learn more about Pennsylvania’s longtime Christmas Traditions. Join us on **Saturday or Sunday, December 9th & 10th from 1:00–4:00.**



2023 Winter Lecture Series - 2:00 at the Milton High School Library

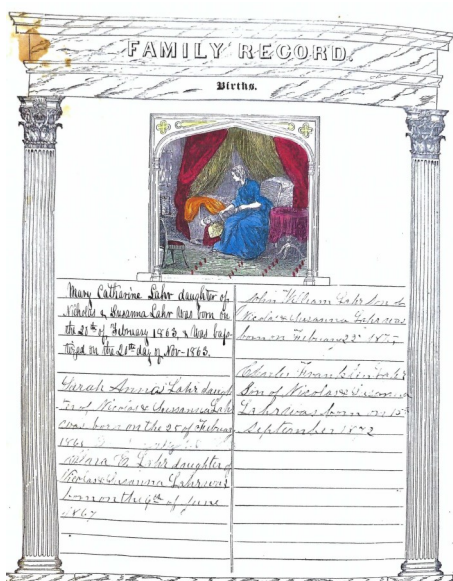
Sunday, January 21st—“Plans Cut Short: Gettysburg National Cemetery”
by Tyler Beckwith, a National Park Service intern from St. Francis University

Sunday, February 18th—“The Five Most *Interesting* Presidents of the Twentieth Century”
by Dr. Greg Ferro, independent scholar from State College

Sunday March 17th—“*This is Your Land...: A Brief History of the American Protest Music Tradition*” *by*
Prof. Daniel Letwin, Penn State University Department of History

A big thank you to John McWilliams for arranging this interesting line up of lectures!

The Lahr–Schrack Bible - contains surnames Lahr, Schrack, Dunkle, Pawling, Bordner



This Bible, recently donated by John Bower has ties not only to Milton but also to the Cameron House. It belonged to Nicholas C. Lahr, son of Paul & Mary Magdalena Lahr, born 5 Oct 1834, and wife Susanna Schrack, daughter of John S & Catherine Schrack. They married on 29 Oct 1861. A genealogist’s treasure, the Bible also details the births, deaths, & marriages of their parents as well as their 5 children—and even the info of Nicholas’s siblings!

I always say that when you dabble in genealogy, you realize how small the world is. It turns out that Nicholas & Susanna are the great grandparents of our long time board member, Deb Owens, who shared that they moved into the Cameron House as tenant farmers in 1861, shortly after James Cameron died in the Civil War.

Related and would like copies? Email us!

These big old Bibles often end up in thrift stores, flea markets, and the landfill—and those records are lost! Have one and want to ensure that those records are always preserved? Email us for more info. We’ll be glad to help with scanning your Bible and forwarding the records to the appropriate places so they are preserved for all time. miltonpahistoricalociety@gmail.com

Criteria for Donations to the Milton Historical Society

The Milton Historical Society is always grateful for the artifacts and items donated to us. However, due to space limitations for our archives, we must be selective of the items received and we must reserve the right to use the item(s) for the best use of the society.

The society will happily consider the following items:

- ✓ Documents, photographs, portraits, and artifacts with a direct connection to Milton and the surrounding area.
- ✓ Documents, photographs, portraits, and artifacts with a direct connection to the Cameron House and/or the Col. James Cameron family or other inhabitants of the Cameron House.
- ✓ Documents, photographs, portraits and artifacts with a direct connection to Governor James Pollock.
- ✓ Business ledgers and records related to Milton area businesses and industries.
- ✓ Advertising items and ephemera which represent Milton area businesses and industries.
- ✓ Products and furniture manufactured in Milton area businesses.
- ✓ Milton Area School District sports and school memorabilia including Orange & Black booklets (but no yearbooks please as they can be found at the Milton Public Library).
- ✓ Personal diaries of Milton area residents.
- ✓ Family Bibles of Milton area families. The society is particularly interested in copying genealogical data from area Bibles, even if the Bibles are retained by the family.
- ✓ Guns crafted by Milton area gunsmiths.
- ✓ Quilts and coverlets crafted in Milton area.

In view of our space limitations, we cannot accept some items. The following are things we will not generally accept - but may consider on a case by case basis:

- ✓ Records of clubs and organizations which are currently active. An exception may be made if our acceptance of such records is the only way to preserve them.
- ✓ Clothing, hats, uniforms.
- ✓ Military weapons after 1900. (Guns crafted earlier by Milton gunsmiths would be welcomed)
- ✓ Hymnals.
- ✓ Yearbooks from Milton Area High School. However, we will accept Orange and Black booklets from Milton School District.

Potential donors who have further questions are welcome to contact us!

You can: Leave a message on our answering machine at 570-742-7057

Email us (for faster response) at miltonpahistoricalociety@gmail.com

Contact us through our web site at miltonpahistoricalociety.com

Send a message through our Facebook page.



Milton Historical Society

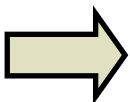
P.O. Box 5
5340 State Route 405
Milton, Pennsylvania 17847

Phone: 570-742-7057 (answering machine)
Email: MiltonPAHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
Website: MiltonPAHistoricalSociety.com

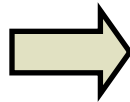


2024 Calendars for Sale!

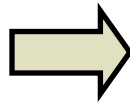
Available at the following locations:



2 Owls



Fedder's Jewelers



Fullmer Office Supply

Tastecraft

2024 MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$5.00



Merchants of Milton

"When you're alone and life is making you lonely,
you can always go...DOWNTOWN." - Petula Clark, 1965

A hearty *Huzzah!* and Thank You to our wonderful 2023 calendar sponsors!

Baldwin & Baldwin
The Coup Agency
John Meckley
Joan Nunn

Robert E. Benion
Fedder's Jewelers
The Milton Moose
Fran Simko

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Hudock Capital Group
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