



In the Months Ahead:

- **Saturday, June 29—Tea with Clara Barton, 2:30pm to 4:30pm.**
- **Thursday, July 4—Independence Day Celebration, 10:00am to 2:00pm.**
- **Sunday, Sep. 8—Gallery Walk, 11:00am-4:00pm.**
- **Saturday, Sep. 28—Smithsonian Museum Day, 1:00-4:00pm.**
- **Sunday, Oct. 13—Second Sunday program with Andy Lenker, 2:30pm.**
- **Sunday, Nov. 10—Second Sunday program with Dr. Michael Barton, 2:30pm.**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 4—Deck the Halls.**
- **Sunday, Dec. 8—Holiday Open House at the Mansion, 1:00-4:00pm.**

HSDC HOURS

Office

10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Library

1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday &
2nd Sunday of the
Month

Mansion Tours

1:00, 2:00, & 3:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

1:00 PM
Before 2nd Sunday
Programs

Other times available
by appointment

Join Miss Clara Barton for Tea

As part of Dauphin County Civil War 150 weekend, you are cordially invited to an open house and tea on Saturday, the 29th of June at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

Miss Clara Barton, of Washington DC, the *Angel of the Battlefield* will be our guest and speaker for the afternoon.

Miss Barton will tell of her early career as an educator and her time in the employ of the Federal Government, where she was the first woman to hold a government job. She will also discuss her significant and groundbreaking efforts, beginning with the Baltimore Riots in 1861, to provide and organize medical care for our wounded Union soldiers.

Finally, Miss Barton will share with us her activities in the years following the war, including her leadership of the Office of Missing Soldiers, her activism on behalf of woman's suffrage and black civil rights and her service as founder and first President of the American Red Cross.

You will not want to miss this opportunity to spend an afternoon with a remarkable humanitarian, a true history maker and woman of great substance.

Clara Barton will be portrayed by American Historical Theater actress, Pat Jordan, who has interpreted Miss Barton at venues throughout the United States.

Tickets for the event are \$15.00. Seating is limited. Call the Dauphin County Historical Society at 717-233-3462 or email office@dauphincountyhistory.org to reserve your seat at the table.

We would like to thank Dauphin County for their support of this event.



Clara Barton
Pat Jordan

3rd Annual Independence Day Celebration

Celebrate the Fourth of July at the Mansion! HSDC presents re-enactor and HSDC Board member David Biser as John Harris, Jr. in public readings of the Declaration of Independence from the porch of the Harris-Cameron Mansion. Readings will take place on the hour from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There is no charge to hear the readings.



David Biser as John Harris, Jr. and
Richard Fox as Benjamin Franklin

Re-enactors will occupy the mansion grounds as they portray daily life during the struggle for American Independence. There will be refreshments and children's activities. Tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion will be given at a special price of \$4.00. Children age six and under will be admitted free.

The event commemorates John Harris, Jr.'s reading of the Declaration to the assembled citizens of Harris' Ferry after a copy of the document arrived in July of 1776.

Join us to experience the hopes, struggles, and excitement associated with the birth of the United States of America!

Historical Society of Dauphin County

Mission Statement:

The Mission of The Historical Society of Dauphin County is to collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the public.

Board of Trustees:

John Tierney, President

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Librarian ~ Ken Frew

Office Assistant ~
Barbara Pollihan

Maintenance ~ Bill Snead

Docent ~ Howard Parker

And a dedicated and growing
group of Volunteers

The Oracle is prepared and
edited by Howard Parker



From the Director's Desk ...

Dear Friends of Dauphin County History,

Thank you for so warmly welcoming me as your new director. I am very excited and happy to be a part of this great organization. I want to thank the board of trustees, staff and volunteers, as well as Kathy McCorkle, for their assistance in helping me get started.

We have an exciting list of programs and speakers for the second half of 2013, including a Clara Barton re-enactor and historians Andy Lenker and Dr. Michael Barton. We are pleased to be a part of Dauphin County's Civil War 150 events this summer and hope that you will take advantage of the excellent programming to commemorate Harrisburg's important role in the Civil War. If you have not already, please be sure to visit the mansion and see our exhibit rooms and the exhibit, "Women's Fashions of the 1920s," open through September 26th.

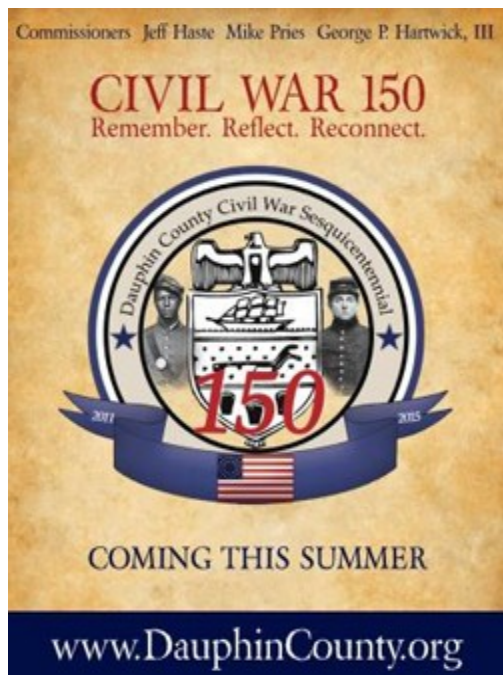
Through the generosity of the state, county and local foundations and individuals, we are ready to start the main phase in our renovations project that will include the front porch and windows of the mansion. Through the hard work of staff and board members, over \$350,000 in funds have been raised so far. We are fortunate to have Facilities Committee Chair Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper, former executive director of the Capitol Restoration Committee, leading the project. Look for more updates to come, and please come out and see the work being done, which is slated to begin in August.

I look forward to hearing from our members! Contact us any time at 233-3462, my email director@dauphincountyhistory.org, or on Facebook. Thank you!

Nicole McMullen

Civil War 150 Events throughout the Area

A weekend and more of activities are planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lee's attempt to capture the city of Harrisburg.



- **Saturday June 29th—*Rollick on the River* at Fort Hunter Park.**
- **Saturday June 29th—*Music of the Civil War* at Broad Street Market.**
- **June 29th-July 15th—*Firefighting during the Civil War* exhibit at the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum.**
- **Saturday June 29th—*Tea with Clara Barton* at the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion.**
- **Sunday June 30th—*Bethel Heritage Trail & Commemoration of African American Patriots of the Civil War* at Soldiers Grove behind the Capitol.**
- **Sunday June 30th—*Lincoln on the Lawn* at the National Civil War Museum.**
- **Tuesday July 2nd—*Marching Towards Harrisburg: Stories of the Civil War* Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.**
- **July 3-8—The Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra annual July 4th concert series will feature Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portraits*.**

For details visit www.DauphinCounty.org



COMING TO THE MANSION

Fashions of the 1920's Exhibit Runs through September 26



Harris-Cameron Mansion. Admission is free to HSDC members.

Women's Fashions of the 1920s is the current exhibit at the Mansion and occupies two newly-created exhibit spaces on the second floor. The exhibit contains clothing from the collection of the Shippensburg University Fashion Archives (SUFAM), which is cosponsoring the exhibit with HSDC.

"Many people have a fixed idea of how a flapper dressed, but the exhibit shows how clothing styles changed throughout the 1920s," says Professor Karin J. Bohleke, director of SUFAM.

The exhibit runs through September 26. Admission to the exhibit is included with the regular tour admission to the

Fall 2nd Sunday Programs:

Baseball on City Island

We'll be talking baseball with **Andrew Linker** on **Sunday October 13th**. Linker is an award-winning sports writer who has spent more than 30 years working for newspapers in central Pennsylvania with most of that time spent covering the Harrisburg Senators after their return to City Island in 1987. He is the author of *One Patch of Grass*, a chronicle of baseball on City Island from the 1890's to the present day.

City Beautiful

At the turn of the 20th century, the City Beautiful Movement spurred concerned citizens throughout the United States to take action to improve and beautify their cities to improve the quality of urban life for all residents. Spearheaded by local leaders such as Mira Lloyd Dock and J. Horace McFarland, Harrisburg's City Beautiful Movement counted among its achievements improved sanitation and sewage treatment and the development of Wildwood Park. With interest in the movement on the rise and City Beautiful 2 in the formative stages, make plans to

join **Dr. Michael Barton** on **Sunday November 10th** for a presentation on the history of Harrisburg's first **City Beautiful Movement**. Dr. Barton is a professor of American Studies and social sciences and is director of the Center for Pennsylvania Cultural Studies at Penn State Harrisburg. He is a member of HSDC's Board of Trustees.

Admission to all Second Sunday programs is free for members and by donation for non-members. Members and non-members alike are welcome to tour the mansion and visit the research library beginning at 1:00 pm on Second Sundays.

Where Do I Park?????

Free parking is available on-site for all programs and events at the Mansion. Free parking is also available on evenings and weekends in the Pinnacle Health physicians' lot off River Street behind the Mansion property.

SAVE THE DATE!

2013 Deck the Halls Gala

Wednesday December 4th



HSDC Members

LIFE MEMBERS

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- Richard Abrams
- Michael & Jane Barton
- Virginia Eaton
- Patricia & Walter Foulkrod
- Jack Krill
- Kenneth Lehman
- David & Kathy McCorkle
- Charles & Suzie Merrill
- Martin Murray
- Patriot News
- Marian Warden
- Anne Yellott

LeRoy & Mary Zimmerman

HALDEMAN CIRCLE

- Janice Black
- W. Franklin Bohn
- Marie Boyer
- William Caldwell
- Lenore Caldwell
- Civic Club of Harrisburg
- Shawn & Meghann Connor
- David Cordier
- Bill Coup
- James Cowden
- Jean Cutler
- Anne S. Davis
- Linda Detweiler
- Derek & Erica Dilks
- Robert Fierer
- Robert Forney
- Fay Geegee
- Goods Tree Care
- Lois Lehrman Grass
- Peggy Grove
- Richard Hartman
- Pat Hartranft
- Herman Family
- Sharyn Herzog
- Gary & Patricia Houck
- Ellen Hughes
- John Hyams
- Vladimir Karabcievschy
- Jean King
- Robert Knupp
- Carolyn Kunkel
- Louise Kunkel
- Henry & Katie Long
- Cathy & Jack Lotwick
- Joe Macri
- Jonathan & Jane Mansch
- Mary Ellen Martindale
- Nancy Mendes
- George & Ann Moffitt
- William Murray
- Spencer & Helen Nauman



In the Stacks:

Since our last issue, a number of new books in the Alexander Library are of local interest:

Historic preservation enthusiasts may want to search out their own copy of *Revolutionary War Historic Houses of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania* by the Harrisburg Chapters of the DAR and SAR, a color-photo extravaganza of some of this area's most incredible 18th and 19th century domestic architecture.

From acclaimed narrative historian, David Stashower, *The Hour of Peril: the Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln before the Civil War* touches on Lincoln's only visit to the Pennsylvania capital in 1861, and how differently the Civil War might have gone had the nation's 16th president been assassinated in Baltimore.

Enola-based Civil War historian Cooper Wingert meanwhile, whose seemingly indefatigable research capabilities outpaces even some veteran historians, adds *Harrisburg and the Civil War* to his growing oeuvre of fine regional war studies.

Finally, *Mira Lloyd Dock & the Progressive Era Conservation Movement* by Shippensburg University's Susan Rimby is an excellent companion to a resurging interest in Harrisburg's turn-of-the-century City Beautiful Movement.

The HSDC school yearbook project continues apace. Over 600 volumes at last count are now available in the combined Archives/Alexander Library collection. Visit our website for an updated list—as always, we're grateful for any missing books you may wish to donate.

When Simon Cameron died his personal library at 219 South Front was dispersed by his grandson, James M. Cameron. One of the General's books given to the Harrisburg Public Library was *A History of Bradford County* published in 1878. Recently, while de-accessioning some of its older volumes, Dauphin County Library System returned the well-worn, still serviceable leather-bound tome of nearly 500 pages to us—a round trip of only 125 years. Now if books could only talk!

Ken Frew, Research Librarian

Mansion Restoration Project Update

The first phase of HSDC's ongoing project to repair and restore the Harris-Cameron Mansion is complete. A new roof has been installed on the solarium and an ahistorical wall between the study and the library that had been put in place when the society was using the Mansion as its administrative offices has been removed. The second phase will begin in August. That phase will include restoring and repairing the front porch and the windows.

All of this would not be possible without the generous support of:

Anne M. and Philip H. Glatfelter III Family Foundation

Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation

John Crain Kunkel Foundation

McCormick Family Foundation

The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation

Thomas and Linda Pheasant

Keystone Historical Preservation Grant (PHMC)

Dauphin County Gaming Local Share Municipal Grant

Many thanks for their support of HSDC and the Harris-Cameron Mansion!

HSDC Members cont'd

Thomas A. Neale
Benjamin Olewine, III
Tom & Linda Pheasant
Frank Pinto
Sandra Prah
Henry Rhoads
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Constance Shover
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Daniel Bayer
John Beistine
Jonathaan Blasenak
Duryea Cameron
Cheryl Capitani
Derry Street United Methodist Church
Scott Doyle
Russell Faber
James S. Facinelli
Charles Fager, Jr.
Carole Forker Gibbons
Susan Fortini

Curator's Corner:



The summer months have brought new volunteers and the reinvigoration of several collections projects. Morgan Voth and Rachel Bell are cataloging glassware, china, and artwork in the mansion, joining Fred Voight who has been helping HSDC with artifact cataloging since 2008.

Nancy Spiker and Sue Hillegass have resumed the summer artifact photography project, which aims to establish photographic documentation of all objects in the mansion. With thousands of photos already taken in the past two years, docent Donald Schwab has been helping with the effort to relate all these images to our database records. In the archives, Carol Buck and Veronica Smith continue to work on describing and arranging manuscript groups including the Masonic, City of Harrisburg, Deed, and Civic Club collections.

Recent acquisitions include an 1839 woven coverlet from Hanover Township (this being three years before they were divided into East and West), a 1959 wedding dress from the Mary Sachs Shop, and numerous photographs including a portrait of Simon Cameron, the likeness of which is new to our collections. We received four volumes of photographs showing dozens of buildings in Dauphin County and throughout the east coast that were made from Hummelstown Brownstone Company product. Additional material from the American Association of University Women also has been added to our stacks, the AAUW having first donated their archives to HSDC in 2011.

From the cataloging-is-never-finished department, we received a 1931 notarized statement by Louisa Bliss deWitt explaining the provenance of the John Harris, Jr. crib and William Maclay cradle we have in our collections. The two pieces passed from the Harris and Maclay families to the Wallace family. Mary Wallace married William Radcliffe deWitt, father-in-law of Louisa, who donated the pieces to the Historical Society over 80 years ago.

Also new to our collection is a telescope that Rudolph Kelker gave to his son, William in 1868 when he was about age 15. What a wonder to imagine what William gazed at through its lens. A lover of nature and an amateur meteorologist, William kept journals on the weather from 1874 until the day he died in 1908. Besides general remarks on the weather, the temperature and barometric pressure were faithfully recorded four times a day, the river levels thrice daily.

Wherever the inspiration came from, to make up for his early years when he was not tracking the weather, Kelker consulted the 1850s and 1860s journals of druggist John Heisley to compile a ledger of events. He noted the "brilliant aurora borealis" on the 8th of January, 1858. On the 4th of September, 1861: "Meteor 8 pm from NE elevation 45 degrees." One page in the spring of 1865 was particularly busy. In March, ice closing the Susquehanna broke up, and two weeks later, while snow still covered York Hills, a great freshet saw the river rise to 23.5 feet in the St. Patrick's Day flood. He follows with the evacuation of Petersburg, General Lee's surrender, and the assassination of Lincoln.

Kelker also distributed annual weather bulletins where he would note the first appearance of mayflies (always too soon), summer warblers, and other birds and insects. It was while making such observations during a spring walk through Wetzel's Swamp with Dr. John H. Fager that he died after only 54 years.

Stephen Bachmann, Curator

HSDC Wish List:



We are currently looking for donations of the following items:

Digital projector	Microsoft Office 2013
Giant Gift Cards	Case of 8 1/2x11 paper
Legal Sized Hanging Folders	

Items can either be dropped off at the HSDC office during our normal business hours or you can contact us to arrange for pick-up.

HSDC Members cont'd

Paul Friling
Miles & Carole Gibbins
Kathleen Gifford
Marcia Gobrecht
Nancy Gotwalt
George Grode
William Grove
Frank Haas
Suzann Hatch
Patricia Hay
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Sydney Gabel
Michael Geiger
Elsie Godwin
Jane Gregory
Richard Gribble
Murvin Grunden
Priscilla Hart
Rick Hawn
Lois Herr



Volunteer Spotlight

Velma Jaminet

Visitors to the Alexander Research Library see people hard at work poring through books, documents and records. Some are researching family history. Some are gathering information for an academic paper or a book. And on any given day, at least one or two are dedicated volunteers who give hours of their time to organize, index and catalogue materials so that those using the library, be they amateur genealogists or professional historians, have the easiest access possible to all the varied resources.



Velma Jaminet, the longest tenured volunteer in the library, began giving her time to HSDC in January 2003, originally working in the administrative office. She soon moved over to the library where she has worked diligently at making information as easily retrievable as possible.

Among her many projects are the creation of scrapbooks containing the newspaper columns of Mary Bradley and Paul Beers and information on Dauphin County buildings. She has worked on the library's family history cards and has indexed the materials on the Middletown Fair.

There are many opportunities available to volunteer at the Historical Society. Contact us to find out how!

The Historical Society of Dauphin County would like to thank the following for contributions in 2012 and 2013

Dauphin County
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
Hunter Myers Redus Foundation
Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
Paul Beers Estate
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Latham Trust
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Sheldon Munn
Kristin Scofield
Morton Spector
Paul Straede
United Way of the Capital Region
Michael & Jane Barton
Melvin Brownold
Pat Hartranft
Richard Richardson
Philip Walsh Sr.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the office with any corrections.

We will miss... Harry Marsh, Past HSDC President

Friends of Dauphin County History lost a wonderful supporter and comrade with the passing in March of Harry Marsh. Harry served as president of the Historical Society of Dauphin County from 2003 to 2005, leading the Society through a period of change and transition. Both before and after his term as president, Harry took a lively interest in the affairs of HSDC. He was ever ready to offer his advice and to lend a helping hand whenever needed, including working as a regular volunteer at the 2010 History Center in downtown Harrisburg.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Harry's wife Lyn and his entire family.

HSDC Members cont'd

William O. Hickok
Thea Hocker
Rosa Vena Homisak
Evelyn James
Frederick Jones
Wendy Juodikis
Marilynn Kanenson
Kenneth Keebaugh
Elizabeth Keitel
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Emily Hughes
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Cooper Wingert
Jake Wynn
Vanessa Zimmerman

***“Puttin’ on the Ritz”* - Blast from the Past 2013**



A dancer from Arthur Murray Studios demonstrates a dance move during “Puttin’ on the Ritz” at the Mansion on April 6th. The event was the 2013 model of the Historical Society of Dauphin County’s annual Blast from the Past spring fundraiser and had a 1920’s theme.



The dancers demonstrated not only dance moves but also flapper era dash and style.

Blast from the Past 2013 Supporters

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Bob & Judy Knupp
Jack Krill & Hannah Leavitt
Sandy Prah

Society Swell

Morton & Alyce Spector

In Kind Contributors

Jim Martin, The Garden Path
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Attendees mix and mingle in all their 1920’s finery.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

HSDC



219 SOUTH FRONT STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17104
P: (717) 233-3462
F: (717) 233-6059
www.dauphincountyhistory.org
office@dauphincountyhistory.org

The official registration & financial information of The Historical Society of Dauphin County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Your Membership Contribution Benefits HSDC and Pays You Back

As an HSDC member, you receive:

Unlimited Mansion Tours.

Unlimited Visits to the Alexander Family Research Library.

Free admission to general programs.

Discounts on purchases and HSDC sponsored activities and programs.

Free subscription to *The Oracle*.

10% Discount on meals & non-alcoholic beverages at the historic Mount Hill Tavern.

Advance notice of special programs and events.

Heritage and above membership levels enjoy additional benefits.

We're always thrilled to add new members to our rolls. Please help the HSDC grow its member base by sharing the form on the right with a friend or neighbor.

We would also like to communicate with our current members more quickly and easily. Please help us do so by providing your email address to office@dauphincountyhistory.org and write "My Email Address" in the subject line. Thank you.

Membership Form—Please Join Today

Check Level Desired:

- Individual \$35
- Full-time Student \$10
- Family \$45
- Heritage Circle \$55
- Haldeman Circle \$100
- Cameron Circle \$250
- Harris Circle \$500
- Penn Circle \$1,000

Payment Method:

- Check Amount: \$ _____
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Card Number

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Harrisburg, PA 17104

**Thank you for
your support!**