

The Gretna Chronicles NEWSLETTER

Mount Gretna Area Historical Society Chair Report By Susan Hostetter

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It was October 2003 when the article appeared in the *Lancaster New Era*.

A museum in Mount Gretna? They thought it sounded “a tad ambitious for the tiny resort community founded by iron ore magnate Robert H. Coleman, but at least one Lancastrian thinks it’s possible and is doing his best to make it happen.”

That Lancastrian, Fred Buch, along with a dedicated group of directors, persevered and established the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society in 2004. The Museum was dedicated and opened to the public in July 2008.

On September 9, we celebrated by burning our mortgage. In attendance at the event were officers and directors of the Historical Society, along with contributors to the organization’s recently completed capital campaign that allowed for the retirement of the mortgage on the Mt. Gretna Museum. We are so grateful to the many donors who contributed to our capital campaigns. Your contributions have made it possible to go forward with renewed commitment to ensuring the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society will be here for a very long time. ☞

Shown on the steps of the Museum at the conclusion of the mortgage-burning ceremony are, first row from left, Joyce Ebright, representing the Ebright family, donors of the Thomas R. and Joyce Ebright Museum, and Steven Gible, representing the Anne Brossman Sweigart Foundation, which is the donor of the Anne Brossman Sweigart Center for History. In the second row from left are Lynn Brossman Redcay and her brother, W. Craig Brossman, with the Anne Brossman Sweigart Foundation; Joan Brown, daughter of Jack Bitner representing the Bitner family, donors of the Jack Bitner Library/Research Center in the Museum; and Susan Hostetter, Historical Society Board Chair. In the third row are Fred Buch, Historical Society Founder and Director Emeritus, and his wife, Ruth.



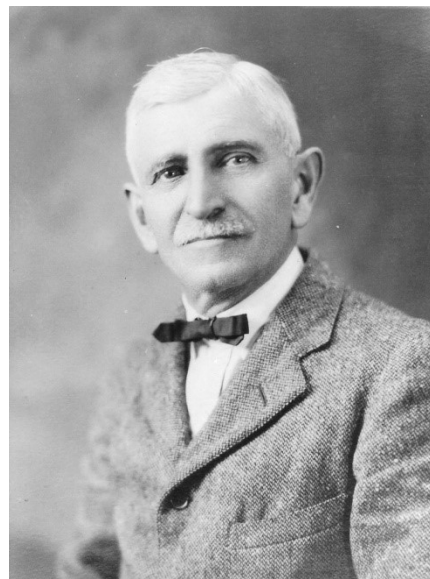
*MGHHS members
celebrate the 125th
and the end of the
mortgage! ☞*

Finding Its Way Back Home:

*The Curious Journey of a Carousel Animal from Kauffman Amusement Park
by Curtis Royer*

July 4, 1926, was a celebratory day for Abraham Lincoln Kauffman (1863-1933). It was both the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Independence Day and Kauffman's sixty-third birthday. Additionally, the date served as the opening of Kauffman's amusement park in Mount Gretna. An advertisement in the *Lebanon Daily News* stated, "All the amusements are new and of the most modern type. All the latest equipment for the modern amusement park can be found here and you can find no better place to spend the holiday." Visitors to Kauffman Park experienced the "finest roller coaster in the country," a sizeable swimming pool, and a carousel.

The carousel first appeared at Euclid Beach in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1905, and was relocated to Laurel Springs in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1909. The Philadelphia Toboggan Company, founded in 1904 by Henry B. Auchy (1861-1922) and Chester E. Albright (1859-1949), constructed the merry-go-round, christened PTC #9, in Germantown, Pa. The ornate menagerie figures, of which there were three rows, became a hallmark of PTC #9. One of the figures that made its debut at Euclid Beach in 1905 was a deer.



Abraham Lincoln Kauffman (1863-1933) opened his Kauffman Park, later renamed Laurel Park, on July 4, 1926.

In those days, either master carvers or secondary carvers constructed the notable menagerie



figures found on merry-go-rounds. It is possible that well-known master carver Daniel Muller (1872-1952) created the deer. The beautifully crafted deer features a decorative saddle and a naturalistic frame which includes brown glass eyes and authentic bone antlers. The carver originally designed the deer to be a prancer, meaning the figure's back legs touched the base of the carousel and remained stationary. However, the carousel returned to the factory where many of the animals, including the deer, were repainted and converted to jumpers in 1925.

Plans are already underway for an exhibit on the carousels of Mount Gretna. The display will include both the history of Mount Gretna Park's carousels and Kauffman Park's carousel. The deer and a horse will be incorporated in the display.

Cauousel in Mtt. Gretna

Jumpers are known to have all sets of limbs in the air which enables them to move up and down during the ride. Unlike most carousel menageries, the deer still possesses its early-Twentieth Century factory paint. This paint is most visible on the multi-colored saddle.

When the newly painted deer and remanufactured carousel, renamed PTC #74R, arrived at Kauffman Park, Mr. Kauffman's finances were already in bad shape. He based his financial stability on the success of the park. Unfortunately, inclement weather spoiled most of Kauffman Park's special events. Over the next three years, Farmer's Trust Company took possession of the park and renamed it Laurel Park. According to *The Carousel News & Trader*, the Philadelphia Toboggan Co. refurbished PTC #74R for a second time in 1929. The park owners sold the carousel, serial PTC #86R, to Twin Grove Park at Pine Grove, Pa. in 1935. All traces of PTC #86R would never be seen again in Mount Gretna, or so it would seem.

In 1980, carousel dealers hiked up a dirt path to the abandoned PTC #86R. The dealers sent most of the menagerie figures to California and both the frame and mechanism to Dalls-town, Pa. Remarkably, on March 6, 1989, Americana Antiques sent Bill Harrington, a long-time Mount Gretna resident and carousel figure collector, a letter informing him about the sale of the deer. Americana Antiques based out of Oxford, Md., notified Harrington "because of the wonderful old paint and because of [his] own interest in the Mt. Gretna [carousel]." Harrington purchased the deer in the summer of 1999. On June 26, 2017, Leane Harrington, widow of Bill, generously donated the deer to Mount Gretna Area Historical Society.



Sources: Bitner, Jack. *Mt. Gretna: A Coleman Legacy*.

The Carousel News and Trader. Vol. 23, No. 3 & Vol. 26, No. 6.

Advertisement for The Kauffman Park, *Lebanon Daily News*, July 1, 1926.

The William and Leane Harrington Collection.

The Jack Bitner Collection.

Philadelphia Toboggan Company first constructed PTC #74R in 1905. The merry-go-round was refitted in 1925 for its appearance at Kauffman Park. The carousel was later sold to Twin Grove Park in Pine Grove, Pa.



COOKIE EXCHANGE AND VICTORIAN PARLOR GAMES

Bring 3 dozen cookies to exchange/take 3 dozen.

Bring an empty container.

Cookies available by advance order for non-bakers!

REGISTER WITH NAME & PHONE NUMBER

December 2, 2017

3-5 p.m.

ADMISSION: **\$1.25** includes drinks

SPONSORED BY:

The 125th Committee

WHERE: MOUNT GRETTNA FIRE HALL

5:30 P.M. ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING -

MCANNEY/HEWITT HOME, CORNER OF PRINCETON & RTE 117



To register or for more information email: info@MtGretnaHistory.org or call 717-964-1105



GretnaTheatre
OutreachProgram

and



proudly present



Gretna Theatre is pleased to partner with Mt. Gretna Historical Society to present
Life on the Mississippi

Based on Mark Twain's autobiographical coming-of-age classic, ***Life on the Mississippi*** recounts the story of a young Samuel Clemens as he leaves home to become a steamboat pilot. In the process, he learns about life; death; love and writing...all while navigating his way from boyhood to manhood; from Sam Clemens to Mark Twain.

THURSDAY NOV. 16, 2017 – 7PM

MT. GRETNA FIRE HALL – Boulevard St. Mt. Gretna

TALK BACK AND REFRESHMENTS POST SHOW

TICKETS

\$10 REGULAR

\$8 GRETNA THEATRE SUBSCRIBERS & MT. GRETNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

\$5 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

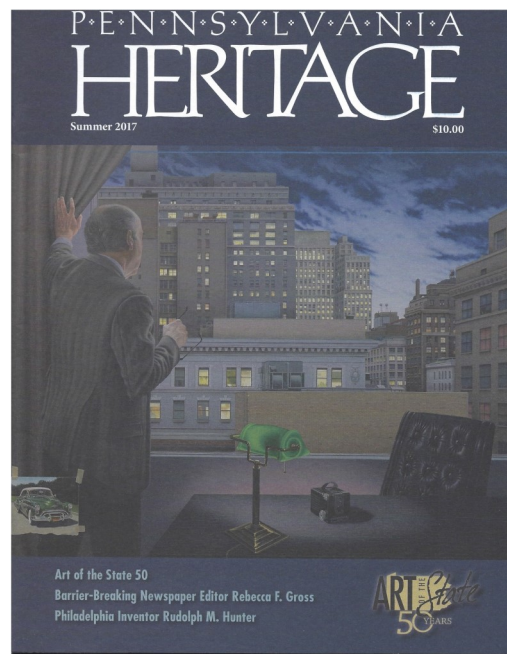
CALL (717) 964-3322 TO RESERVE TICKETS – OR AVAILABLE AT DOOR

Both Gretna Theatre and Mt. Gretna Historical Society are registered 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations

Mt. Gretna Featured in Magazine

“Mount Gretna’s Spirit Lives On – 125 Years of Pennsylvania Chautauqua and Campmeeting” by Bridget McQuate was the title of a six-page feature article that appeared in the Summer issue of *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine, which is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. The article included an array of historic and current photos of the Campmeeting and Chautauqua areas, Mount Gretna Lake, the National Guard Encampment, the former railroad station, the Post Office and other sites.

The impetus for the article was this year’s celebration of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Mount Gretna’s Campmeeting and Chautauqua areas. Highlighting many aspects of Mount Gretna’s rich history, the article discussed the history of both the Campmeeting and Chautauqua, the Coleman family’s iron manufacturing business, the Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad and the narrow-gauge railroad that both served and helped grow this resort community, and the tranquil setting and exceptional quality of life that characterizes Mount Gretna. Email us at infor@mtgretnahistory.org for a link.



Mt. Gretna—Celebrating Oktoberfest



Oktoberfest attendees found it impossible to sit still for long as they listened to the lively music of the Alpenlaenders

Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society Board of Directors

Susan Hostetter, Director & Chairperson
Ralph Zimmerman, Director & Vice Chairperson
Connie Dwyer, Director & Secretary
David Wood, Director & Treasurer
Jack Anderson, Director
Glin Atkinson, Director
Linda Campbell, Director
Scott Carr, Director
Dr. Patricia E. Gible, Director
Dwayne Heckert, Director
Ron Hontz, Director
Don Miller, Director
Cindy Myer, Director
Tina Shank, Director

Dr. David Bronstein, Director Emeritus
***Fred Buch, Past President &
Director Emeritus***
Kerry Royer, Newsletter Editor



***Visit the Mt. Gretna Historical Society Museum where a bell has
been installed to honor the memory of
former Director Pat Pinsler.***

Junior Historians Welcome!

Do you know a young person who would like to become a junior historian? MGAHS offers a position to anyone attending Grade 8 - 12 in any public/private school, anyone homeschooled who has attained this grade level or anyone age 18 - 21 who is attending a public or private post-secondary school. Potential historians must submit a verbal or written request to any current MGAHS board member.

Historians must express an interest in the history of the Mt Gretna area and a willingness to work with other individuals and the public as a representative of the organization. They should attend one meeting of the Board of Directors per year with the goal of understanding the responsibilities of a Board of Directors and how it works. Participants should present one project to the board each year that would increase the interest of young adults in learning about local history. This project would be reviewed and approved by the board. Its members will provide direction and support in completing the project.

Historians will volunteer as docents at the MGAHS Museum at least once per year. This would consist of one three-hour shift. Overall the individual should invest a minimum of 10 hours per year in this position (includes the docent shift).

MGAHS will provide guidance and training to allow this individual to learn about our organization and public service. This individual will be formally recognized each year with a document outlining their service and contribution.

MGAHS will be responsible for providing the proper child clearances through the state so that at least one member working with any student under the age of 18 has these clearances.

Honoring Mt. Gretna's Flower Lady



Shown at the conclusion of the August 25, 2017 ceremony honoring Mary Hernley, affectionately known as "Mt. Gretna's Flower Lady," are, from left, Jean Zaun, artist of the painting featuring Hernley; Mary Hernley; Yasmin Brown, who organized the ceremony; and Joe Wentzel, who emceed the recognition ceremony.

Mary Hernley, affectionately known as "Mt. Gretna's Flower Lady," was honored by community organizations and residents from throughout Mt. Gretna for her fifty years of selling flowers to community residents, organizations and visitors. She was also recognized for her unselfish use of the proceeds from the sale of these flowers to support a number of charities, including one that assists orphaned girls in India.

Mary was presented with a check to be donated to one of the charities she supports. Also unveiled was a painting of Hernley at her Rt. 117 flower stand. The painting, by local artist Jean Zaun, was purchased with donations from community members. It was later replicated on notecards and prints. These were sold to generate the funds included in the check presented to Hernley. The painting was given to the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society, which will make it available on loan for display by area organizations and businesses throughout Mt. Gretna.

The notecards featuring Zaun's painting of Mary Hernley will continue to be available for sale at several locations in Mt. Gretna, including Mary Hernley's stand and the Visitor's Center.

Mary Hernley's flower stand in Mt. Gretna has been a fixture in Mt. Gretna for decades. The appearance of her white truck parked along Rt. 117 in this small community in Lebanon County and her tent filled with brightly colorful spring flowers is a sure sign each year that spring has arrived.

Hernley along with her husband of more than 60 years, Peter, own a crop farm of more than 150 acres in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. In the mid-1960's, Mary began planting a variety of flowers and vegetables in her family farm's garden, and in 1967 she began selling her flowers, including her signature gladiolas at \$1.50 a dozen, door-to-door in Mt. Gretna.

Please Support Our Business Sponsors

Ames Sales & Services

242 Hinkle Rd.
Annville, PA 17003
717-554-2163

Glin Atkinson,

Interior Design & Display

PO Box 252
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-3421

Scot Brown Painting &

Wall Covering

260 Crosswind Way
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-507-7921

Chef On The Go Caterers

P.O. Box 194
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-3541

Feather & Feather, P.C.

22 West Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
717-867-1200

Garver Insurance & Annuities

809 Holly Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-274-5810

Gretna Graphics, LLC

PO Box 112
113 Timber Cove
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-279-1433

Hershey Psychological Services

431 East Chocolate Ave.
Hershey, PA 17033
717-533-5311

Hickey Architects, Inc.

PO Box 5
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-2305

Jigger Shop

PO Box 520
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-3175

Jonestown Bank & Trust

PO Box 717
Jonestown, PA 17038
717-865-4246

Mount Gretna Realty

PO Box 338
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-2100

Mt. Gretna Lake & Beach

PO Box 100
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-2058

Penn Realty

PO Box 270
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-964-3800

Michelle Shay, Realtor

Coldwell Banker

PO Box 92
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-813-3880

SWC Financial Advisors

PO Box 456
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064
717-319-4043

Taylor Miller Pipe Organs

26 East 10th Ave.
York, PA 17404
717-845-6504

Timbers Dinner Theater

350 Timber Road
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064



*Thank you to our Constant Contact
sponsor, Gretna Moves
717-507-9249*

Mt. Gretna in Gingerbread!



RLPS Architects, Oregon Pike, Lancaster, has been constructing gingerbread scenes for 29 years. It was started as a fun feature for the annual Christmas party for clients and grew into a community event. This year, the company has chosen Mount Gretna to recreate in its annual Gingerbread Display. Come visit the open house Dec.14, 5-7 pm, to see our sweet town recreated even sweeter! *Photo credit Donald Reese Photography.*

Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 362
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064

The Society's Home is
206 Pennsylvania Avenue in Mt. Gretna
717.964.1105

We're on the web!
www.mtgretnahistory.org



Oral History Program

Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society catalogs the history of our storied town by recording the voices of people who lived and worked here through the decades. Visit the museum to listen to the archived recordings. Recently, Joel Zinn of Lebanon, recounted his summer working as a dishwasher at The Inn located in Chautauqua in the early 1950s. Joel lived in the dormitory underneath the building when he was 16 years old. Imagine the dampness and the humidity! But he didn't complain! It was a great experience in his teenage years. Hear more in the interview!

