

# THE GREटना Chronicles

WINTER 2021

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## Seven Decades with the Gretna Timbers and the Briody Family

Joshua Groh

Some restaurants are more than just a place to grab a bite – they’re community institutions. Some families are like that, too.

Simply put, Mount Gretna would not be the same today if it weren’t for the influence of the Briody family, longtime operators of the Gretna Timbers and managers of various other enterprises over the decades. The family’s history is entwined with that of Mount Gretna – everything from the Playhouse to the Gretna Inn and more has been touched by Briody hands at some point. The four Briody siblings, including Bart, 66, Kathleen (“Tap”), 65, and twins Becky and Rachel, 63, recently gathered at the Timbers to reminisce on a storied past.



*The Gretna Timbers, originally constructed in 1952, has been operated by the Briody family since 1960.*

### In This Issue

Feature Story .....	1
Chairman’s Letter .....	2
A ‘40s Roadside Stand .....	5
Cottage History .....	6
From Our Archives .....	8
Oral History Project .....	8
Sponsors & Membership .....	9
Society Updates .....	10

The Briody family saga in Mt. Gretna begins with John and Joan Briody, née Sforza, both Lebanon natives born in the early years of the Great Depression. John, a 1948 graduate of Lebanon High School and Navy veteran, was a driven, headstrong personality from the get-go. “My dad might be the smartest person I ever knew,” said Bart. In his three years of college, John tackled a formidable double major of math and physics and earned straight As. He was nevertheless thrown out of Lebanon Valley College and later Elizabethtown College (he refused to follow dress code, according to Tap). A chance job at Lebanon’s Washington Tavern was John’s first step into the world of restaurant and bar management, the beginning of a passion that would shape his and his family’s futures for decades, even after his 2004 death.

Both John and Joan, who passed in 2021, were taken with Mount Gretna and began to establish a name for themselves there in the mid-1950s. The community was then mostly active only in the summertime and still struggling to recover from the Great Depression. In 1955, John purchased the Stober House and renamed it Briody’s, the first of many Briody-operated ventures. “Mount Gretna was very different back then,” recalled Bart, explaining that in the off-season the town was “very much a rural backwoods kind of a place.” According to Bart, John had to bar 100 people from frequenting Briody’s in his first month of business.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

## GRETNA CHRONICLES

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The Mount Gretna Area Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) organization and is registered as a charitable organization with the State of Pennsylvania. The MGAHS is charged with preserving the heritage of the Mount Gretna area, including Mount Gretna Borough, Campmeeting, the Pennsylvania Chautauqua, the Heights, Timber Hills, Conewago Hill, Stoberdale, areas of Colebrook once occupied by the PA National Guard, and areas of Cornwall involved with the Coleman family.

The MGAHS Museum is open in 2022 from Memorial Day weekend (**May 29**) until Labor Day weekend (**Sept. 4**). Hours are on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. We offer school and group tours, summer walking tours, and research assistance by appointment throughout the year.

Past issues of the Gretna Chronicles newsletter are available online at:  
[mtgretnahistory.org/membership/newsletter/](http://mtgretnahistory.org/membership/newsletter/)

The MGAHS also offers other publications, media, and merchandise at its address and through its online shop at:  
[mtgretnahistory.org/shop/](http://mtgretnahistory.org/shop/)

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## Chairman's Letter

Greetings dear members,

It was wonderful to be open for the summer of 2021. Mount Gretna experienced a surge in visitors across all its Tabernacle and Playhouse venues: music, theater, art, hiking and biking, many programs in the Hall of Philosophy, and more. People were joyful to be out and about after the summer of 2020 here with its eerie, uncharacteristic quiet. This past summer, the museum had over 1,000 visitors come through.

Without fail, the comments are always positive. The two displays on Sarah Tyson Rorer and Colebrook were well-received. Up next will be two new displays: one featuring the Briody family and The Timbers and another highlighting the Mount Gretna Fire Company.

As I write this, our Society has been contacted to be featured in a story about the history of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. One of our members, Lois Herr, has a connection to the original Farmers Encampment (now the Mount Gretna Roller Rink). Her grandmother, Mrs. E.O. Hassler, was one of its original founders. The Farmers Encampment moved to Harrisburg in or around 1916 to become the Pennsylvania Farm Show. You can read about Mount Gretna's involvement in our most recent publication, *Farmers in the Woods: Mount Gretna's Little Known Agricultural Background* by Lois Herr and Sue Bowman. This is the first booklet in a series we've created called *Glimpses of the Past*.

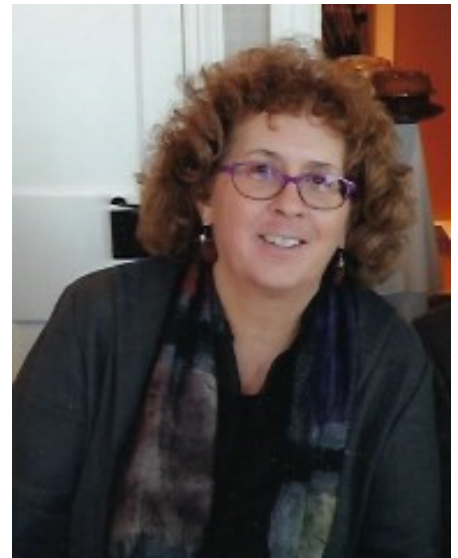
Our presentation *Old Mount Gretna As Seen Through the Camera Lens of Post Card Photographers* and based on the postcard collections of Morris Greiner, Karl Gettle and Gerald Hostetter, has been given numerous times to various groups in the Central PA area in the past four years. The next presentation will be this month in Hershey.



Our Oral History project has recently been revived. See the list of our interviewees on page 8. These interviews are available to listen to in our Jack Bitner Research Library.

As always, thank you for your membership in MGAHS – many of you give above and beyond your membership dues in time, advocacy and financially. We couldn't do what we do without your faithful support.

Susan Hostetter  
MGAHS Chairman



MGAHS Chairman Susan Hostetter



To maintain the image of Briody's and its clientele, John also briefly managed a second bar, the Web, in a building across the street. "[John] tried to weed out the people that were fit from the people who weren't fit," Bart explained with a grin. While Briody's was a place you might take a date for a nice evening, "the Web was more like a place where you might have to punch your way in or out." The building housing the Web does not exist today, but after John's ownership of Briody's, the establishment was eventually transformed again into the Mount Gretna Hideaway, as it remains today.

John sold Briody's in 1960, and in the same year purchased the Gretna Timbers restaurant, then owned by Fahrney Otto. Fahrney, a relative of Gene P. "Poppy" Otto Sr., built Timbers in 1952 on ground once occupied by the National Guard encampment. With the Ottos also operating the Gretna Playhouse at the time, Timbers existed in a sort of symbiotic business relationship with the Playhouse, serving audience members following an evening show. John was in fact one of Fahrney's first employees, having begun a bartending job there in 1953, which he continued to work while managing Briody's.

At the time of its construction, Timbers was about the only building standing in the neighborhood that eventually adopted the restaurant's name. It was originally open only in the summer and built with little to no insulation, which changed under John's management as he and his young family moved into the Timbers living quarters. The original concrete walls of the restaurant were decorated with figures from American musical history (a can-can dancer, ragtime couple Frankie and Johnny, and McNamara's Band), painted by Fahrney's mother, but were unfortunately covered up with the installation of insulation and wood paneling.

The Timbers purchase was also the second of John's community "projects." "For every decade that John was in town, he made sure that something happened," said Becky.



*Murals in the lower Timbers dining room are covered up by panelling now, but sketches of Lebanon landmarks can still be seen upstairs.*

In the '50s, the project was Briody's, which was followed in the '60s by the Timbers. The next big project began in 1969 when Gene P. Otto Jr. stepped down from his role as



*Though Timbers had begun as a summer-only business, its season expanded to year-round as the Briodys renovated and constructed additions and modifications.*



*This double-sided matchbook from the '50s advertised both of John's businesses.*

producer at the Playhouse. As he had done with Timbers at the start of the decade, John stepped up to assume a new role in the Gretna community. The seven-season tenure of Briody as a producer was occasionally marked with controversy, beginning with the retirement of longtime director Charles Coghlan after Briody's inaugural 1969 season. While the siblings remember Coghlan's shows and the man himself fondly, John held that Coghlan

was unsuited for the position, stating in the Lebanon Daily News that his decision not to renew Coghlan's contract was based "on his lack of business ability, and was not a reflection on his artistic ability." The Playhouse returned in



*John and Joan Briody.*

the early 1970s with a slew of popular shows until the time came to sign a new lease with the owners of the Playhouse, the Chautauqua, in 1975. John disagreed with the

terms of the lease, and in 1976, for the second time in Playhouse history, a season passed without a show. John had acquired a fondness for the theatre scene, however, and decided to build his own stage: the Timbers Dinner Theatre. Within the year, the stage was constructed and the first shows were being held.

An impulsive streak in John's personality runs through plenty of family – and Gretna – history. On one afternoon in the late 1970s, John took his usual motorcycle ride after a Saturday matinee. He stopped at a stately but run-down



*Hershey Hall became the Briody family home after a renovation period in the 1970s.*

three-story house on Kauffman Avenue, known then as Hershey Hall. The building was formerly the mansion of turn-of-the-century businessman Abraham Lincoln Kauffman (of Kauffman Park and other Gretna ventures). At the time of John's unplanned visit, it had clearly seen better days. Concerned that the historic building would soon face demolition, John quickly decided to purchase the house – another Briody project that took shape as it went along. “Let’s just go in, fix it up, preserve it, and sell it in a few years,” Tap recalled her father saying. “And we stayed there for 10 years!” The house, now the Gretna Inn, became an informal lodge for theatre acquaintances and family friends. “We had a lot of fun – lot of interesting people around, lot of New York people, lot of theatre people,” added Rachel.

The Briody reach extended beyond Mount Gretna, too. The family also claims a number of Lebanon restaurants in their past, starting in 1979 with the opening of Rachel's (8<sup>th</sup> and Maple streets, later revamped as the Maple Street Café), which was followed by the Tap Room in 1980 (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lehman Street, now occupied by Trattoria Fratelli), the Tap Room Too in 1982 (in the Lebanon Valley Mall), Beck's Mex in 1986 (also in the mall), as well as the Double Cup in 1983 (inside the Good Samaritan Hospital) and the aborted relaunch of the Seven Fathoms restaurant (7<sup>th</sup> and Reinoehl streets). Each has its own story – Seven Fathoms, another impulse purchase in 1979,

was quickly abandoned once the family entered to see the kitchen untouched since the previous owners had walked out mid-shift five months earlier, beans still in the pot on the stove and meat sitting at the cutting station. Beck's Mex, meanwhile, anticipated the Mexican food trend years in advance by introducing a cuisine then popular in New York to the Lebanon Valley. Unfortunately, it proved to be a bit too ahead of its time – “I mostly sold turkey bacon clubs and hamburgers there,” Becky lamented. Briody catering also fed thousands at Three Mile Island throughout the 1970s – including the workers present in the aftermath of the infamous 1979 meltdown. “We used to cater their refueling and when the accident happened we went over to see if they needed our help,” said Tap. “The first thing they said was, ‘Oh, there'll be about five or six hundred people,’” Becky added, “and in the first 24 hours we served 2,600 people.”



*The Tap Room prior to renovation.*

The responsibilities of managing the various restaurants, bars, and catering businesses along with John's own projects have added up to quite a bit of work for the Briody siblings over the decades. “I would say my dad was more of an ideas man,” said Tap, explaining that John often liked to jump from one project to the next while Joan settled

paperwork and managed other behind-the-scenes organization. “My mom liked to tie all the loose ends together.” Together, the two managed a small empire that they passed on to their children. Tap likened it to being raised on a farm. “That was the family way for years,” she said. “[A family was] born on the farm and they worked the farm.” And like a farm, versatility is a requirement for working in the restaurant business. “We've all done all the jobs,” Tap explained, though the siblings have gravitated towards certain skillsets over time. She and Bart often take up service and floor roles, while the twins are both accomplished cooks in



**TOP:** From left to right: Joan, Bart, Rachel, Tap, John, and Becky Briody, in a family photograph.

**BOTTOM:** Becky, Tap, Rachel, and Bart in 2022.



the kitchen. Rachel is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and Becky operates her own Gretna-based catering service, Chef on the Go. On the theatrical side of things, Tap has stayed behind the scenes managing sets and costumes, while Bart has occasionally appeared in front of the crowd – he boasts a bit of a rockstar past as a member of the late ‘80s band Galbraith, Briody and Friends, formed with local musician Scott Galbraith.

At the end of the day, though, it’s Timbers that has remained the most visible Briody legacy. It was an undertaking made possible thanks to a certain trait that runs in the family – fearlessness. “It’s the willingness to try stuff, to not be afraid,” said Bart of the Briody spirit. In a 1999 Lebanon Daily News feature on John and Timbers, John reflected that the original purchase of Timbers was not exactly what he had

planned to do: “It kinda got forced on me; you know how you do things because you have to?” Nevertheless, he committed to the job with a good attitude and a mindfulness for the community he inhabited. Between the Timbers, the Playhouse, the Kauffman mansion, and all the other Briody projects, it was this willingness to dive right into a new project that has made the family’s history so impressive.

Thankfully, the family’s work ethic and dedication to their community shows no signs of weakening anytime soon. “I’ve heard that we’ve been referred to as the Gretna Mafia, and I’m not offended,” Becky laughed. No guns or arrests were needed for the Briody “family business” to become a fixture in Mount Gretna – just a commitment to work hard, foster a community, and provide some good food, drink, and cheer.

*Sources listed page 9.*

## A ‘40s Roadside Stand

Society member Ed Landis submitted these photographs depicting a World War II-era Gretna business in Campmeeting started by three young entrepreneurs. The photographs were taken in 1943 and 1944 in front of the Landis family cottage at 611 Third Street, which is still owned by Landis’s sister Dorothy Gray.

Landis explains:

“The pictures show a roadside stand that Elliott Nagle, Bill Schick and I set up to feature and sell World War II Defense Stamps. We also sold used comic books and candy. We bought the Defense Stamps at the Mount Gretna Post Office and sold them at cost. The P.O. gave us a large poster to display. We sold used comic books for five cents, candy at a one-cent markup.

“Elliott lived in the yellow cottage next door and up the hill from my family cottage. His family was a second-generation



in the Pittsburgh area most of their adult lives; Jack and Violet Mae lived in the Norfolk area. Both families bought Gretna properties in their retirement years. Joan is the only current survivor.

“Bill lived in the yellow house across the street from 611 Third. Bill’s family was from Lancaster. Bill’s dad died in the late 1940s. After his death the family discontinued summers in Gretna. Bill lived in New York and later Hartford. When his children were young, his family returned to Mount Gretna annually. Bill died several years ago.”

The Society is fortunate to be in possession of a dollhouse constructed and donated by Elliott’s wife Joan, which is kept on the second floor. The dollhouse was also featured in our [Winter 2020 edition](#) of this newsletter.

**TOP:** The first year of the stand in 1943, with Bill Schick at left and Elliott Nagle at right.

**LEFT:** The second year, 1944, with Schick at left and Ed Landis at right. Landis explains: “Bill and I were twelve years old in 1944, Elliott was a few years older.”



*Lois Herr has kindly given us permission to print her cottage history, a submission to our ongoing project to collect information about homes in the Gretna community. It is included below, along with sources of information useful to anyone wishing to learn more about their home.*

## **IF COTTAGES COULD TALK: THE HISTORY OF MY MOUNT GRETNA COTTAGE/HOME**

Street address: 210 Lancaster Avenue

Current Owner: Lois K. Herr

My home is in the Chautauqua.

My cottage was built in 1946 and renovated in 1995.

The original owner, after the Chautauqua, was Ruth P. Forstburg (land), and then Laura M. Forstburg Schwartz (land and building?). First residents were Harry and Helen Shucker in 1946.

This home did not have a name to my knowledge until I named it Stone Tree Cottage after the stone sculptures created by Don Kensinger.

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Date of Purchase</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>
Chautauqua	—	—
Ruth F. Forstburg	6/10/41	\$750
Laura M. Schwartz and Morris Schwartz	3/12/43	\$1
Harry and Helen Shucker (deed mentioned a building)	2/21/46	\$15,000
Robert C. Vannucci and Susan J. Vannucci	7/25/77	\$59,000
William M. Barlow II and Julia Bucher (subsequently subdivided into the house and two separate lots)	9/15/10	—
Lois K. Herr (sale of 210 only)	1/24/11	—

### **Notes**

The original residents were Harry S. and Dr. Helen Batdorf Shucker. Their son Harry Shucker recalls moving to this house when he was 5 years old. He was at college and only a summer resident from 1962-66. Then he was in the army from 1966-68, and after that at Furman University in South Carolina. His parents sold the house in 1977 and moved to be closer to the children in SC.

Harry notes that they were among the few year-round residents, probably less than 50 families then. He never considered the house a “cottage” like those that had not been winterized. He remembers especially the huge hemlock in the front yard of 210 Lancaster.

From Harry I heard that the woman who had constructed this house also constructed a nearly identical house at the other end of Lancaster. I assume that is the Laura Schwartz mentioned earlier, but I do not know the actual date it was constructed. The date of sale of 210 to the Shuckers is 2/21/46 and a building is mentioned in the sale. Harry thought they bought the house in 1947. In any case, his parents were the original residents of the house at 210.

The next owners were the Drs. Vannucci. According to owner Susan Vannucci, she and her husband Robert enjoyed living here in this house with their daughter. In 1995 they added the deck in the back. And then in 1998-99 they undertook major renovations, changing the old open porch to a breakfast room, remodeling the kitchen, and altering the layout of the main floor. Thus they gave the house the open look and delightful design characteristics it now has. Lots of dinner parties enlivened the scene while the Vannuccis lived here. The house is rumored to have had a low-key and friendly ghost who occasionally turned on lights, but I’ve not seen any trace of her!

Also in the 90s, the Vannuccis bought a cottage on Yale as extra space for company and the kids (now the blue cottage at the western end of Yale Avenue.)

Susan remembered a story about the grove of rhododendrons behind the house — apparently the Shuckers had a landscape architect friend who called one day offering a truckload of rhodies he had salvaged from his work on a golf course at Penn State. That means they're at least 45-50 years old. In 2010, owners Bill Barlow and Julia Bucher subdivided the property into two lots, separating the one with the 210 Lancaster house from the lot that faces Lebanon Avenue and has the bulk of the rhododendrons. It's especially appropriate that the new owner of that lot, Jim Schaeffer, is a Penn State Graduate.

Lois K. Herr  
February 22, 2021

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You may go to the Lebanon County Recorder of Deeds office to search or you can search online for a fee at [www.landex.com/remote](http://www.landex.com/remote). You need to read each deed to see what deed is referenced before the current. You could also contact the assessment office at [lebcoassmt@lebcnty.org](mailto:lebcoassmt@lebcnty.org). They can provide the names and deed book and pages for your address. You need the Control # and Password from your real estate tax notice. You can then download the deeds for a fee from [www.landex.com/webstore](http://www.landex.com/webstore), or have the Recorder of Deeds office print them for you to pick up by appointment.

Below is contact information for the Recorder of Deeds office.

- > Dawn Blauch
- > Lebanon County Recorder of Deeds
- > Room 107, Municipal Building
- > 400 S. 8th St.
- > Lebanon, PA 17042
- > Phone: (717) 228-4447
- > Fax: (717) 228-4456
- > Email: [dblauch@lebcnty.org](mailto:dblauch@lebcnty.org)
- > Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm
- > Recording Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm



## Help us catalogue Mount Gretna's homes!

Have you got a history of an address that you'd like to share with us? Included with this newsletter is a copy of the cottage history form. If you are receiving this newsletter digitally, you can download the form, fill in information in Microsoft Word, and email it back to us — no need to print it out, fill it in, and scan it! Please feel free to include any images, documents, or other information that you think deserves to be collected with its history.

You can also fill in a secure Google Forms version of the form at <https://forms.gle/drBXh5DsTDxGczPr9>. Learn more about this project at [mtgretnahistory.org/2021/03/03/if-cottages-could-talk/](http://mtgretnahistory.org/2021/03/03/if-cottages-could-talk/). If you would still like to print out the document or if you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, please fill it out and mail it to us at the address below. If you have questions, call us at (717) 964-1105.

Mount Gretna Area Historical Society  
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Mount Gretna, PA 17064



## From Our Archives...

The archivists at the Society have dug out a few artifacts this winter. Below on the left we've included a postcard of a location in Mount Gretna, the "Chautauqua Gate to the Camp Meeting Grounds." To the right, we've included a photograph of a metal object holding four-liquid filled glass bulbs. If you recognize anything about the scene in the postcard, including possible dates, cottages, or addresses, [send us a message](#) via email or snail mail.

If you can identify the object or its purpose, tell us! In the next issue of the newsletter, we'll identify the object and share what we know about the place and time depicted in the card, along with any noteworthy responses from readers. Please feel free to include any images, memories, or questions you may have or that come to mind. Hope to hear from you!



*Do you recognize this setting or the object? Send us a message at [mtgretnahistory@gmail.com](mailto:mtgretnahistory@gmail.com)!*

## Oral history project continues

A long-running Society project is being resuscitated this season as we make a concerted effort to collect more oral history recordings from community members.

What's an oral history? It's simply a recorded conversation between a person and an interviewer that focuses on past memories, experiences, information, and anecdotes.

We already have an invaluable set of recordings made by dozens of community figures. The oral history subjects currently on file and accessible at the Society are listed on the right. For the subjects who shared their stories and the volunteers who made the process possible, we and the future researchers of Mount Gretna thank you.

If you are interested in participating in the oral history project and would like to share your memories and recollections of events, people, businesses, or anything in general about Mount Gretna, get in touch with us! We are also looking for volunteers to conduct the interview and recording process. We'll be conducting more interviews in the new year in whatever setting is safe and comfortable for all involved.

## Oral History Recordings

Mary Weidman Adams	Peter Hewitt
Chuck Allwein	Lois Hopkins
Ann Andrews	Donna Kaplan
Edna & Jeanette Barnes	Mary Ellen Kinch
Betsy Barnhart	Ray Kinch
Nancy Besch	DJ Landis
Joyce Boltz	Arlene Lentz
Pat Bowman	Merv Lentz
Dorothy Bowman	Karen Lynch
The Briody Family	Mary Ellen McCarty
Christina Wallace Decker	Ann McKenna
Betty Dissinger	Marie Meredith
Carl Ellenberger	Stanley Michalak
John Feather	Ruth Wallace Paul
Charles Fickes	Patricia Pinsler
Don Fowler	Elizabeth Wallace Schlenker
Marion Fritter	Patricia Shay
Myrle Gardner	Joan Smith
Bruce Gettle	Marie Smoker
Karl Gettle	Emi Snavely
Morris Greiner	Patricia Sullivan
Dale Grundon	Willy Sutcliffe
John Hambright	Barbara Tyndall
Mary (Polly) Harvey Dunn	Saylor Zimmerman
Nancy Hatz	Joel Zinn





**Thank You!**

*Chef On The Go!*



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## Join the Society!

Members are the lifeblood of our Society. Your dues help us to maintain the building and preserve the collection. Your yearly membership includes discounts on merchandise, updates about the Society's programs, newsletters with feature articles on area history. You will join a dedicated and growing group of folks who value our past and who want to preserve it for future generations.

Please use the link below or call **(717) 964-1105** to start your membership.

[mtgretnahistory.org/shop/membership/](http://mtgretnahistory.org/shop/membership/)

## Sources

Photographs courtesy Briody family.

Lebanon Daily News, 17 Oct. 1969, page 24  
Lebanon Daily News, 5 Feb. 1976, page 1  
Lancaster Sunday News, 13 Aug. 1978, page 53  
Lebanon Daily News, 20 Nov. 1988, page 9  
Lebanon Daily News, 9 Jun. 1992, page 23  
Lebanon Daily News, 14 Jun. 1994, page 5  
Lebanon Daily News, 8 Aug. 1999, page 19  
Lebanon Daily News, 31 Dec. 2004, page 2

## Help out fellow historians!

Our friends at the Dauphin Middle-Paxton Historical Society recently suffered a devastating fire and lost much of their contents. They have sent a letter of appeal for help in rebuilding.

MGAHS board has matched MGAHS funds to raise \$1,000 towards helping them. To contribute to this donation, please call or email us!

More ways to give can be found at this link:

[dauphin-middlepaxtonhs.weebly.com](http://dauphin-middlepaxtonhs.weebly.com)

## Legacy Gifts

IMAGINE what Robert Coleman would think if he could see Mount Gretna today? Many of our greatest community assets exist because someone thought it important enough to bequeath funds to develop and sustain them.

If you are interested in learning more about legacy gifts to the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society, email us ([mtgretnahistory@gmail.com](mailto:mtgretnahistory@gmail.com)) or call us at **(717) 964-1105**.

Consultation with a legal or financial advisor can help you to take advantage of any savings in inheritance tax.

Our Mount Gretna Area Historical Society representative will help you through the process and details.



**We extend a warm welcome to these new members of our community!**

Bruce Kurtz  
Karyn Rose  
Zena Nies  
Justin Williams  
Stacey Goldfarb  
Ali Perzel Peters  
Linda Eberly  
Garnet & Karen Heller  
Jim & Kathy Gates  
Eddie Daniels  
Jean & Lyle Miller

**Follow us on Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!**





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## Society Updates

- ◆ Our 2022 regular operating season will begin on Saturday, May 29 and run until Sunday, September 4.
- ◆ Oral history recordings are currently being conducted. If you would like to learn more, turn to page 8.
- ◆ The next display at the museum will feature the Gretna Timbers along with the Mt. Gretna Fire Company.
- ◆ Our next events are a long way off, but here's what we're planning:
  - ◆ July 1, 7:00pm, Hall of Philosophy: Jean-Paul Benowitz presents on the fascinating Sarah Tyson Rorer, once a Gretna resident and the leading dietician of the US.
  - ◆ July 29, 7:00pm, Hall of Philosophy: David Manuel discusses the Navajo code talkers who helped coordinate war operations in secret during World War II.
- ◆ History on the Porch is also planned to resume this summer. Join us on Saturday mornings (June 18, July 23, and August 13 at 10am) on the porch of the Historical Society for an informal discussion about all things historic in the area.
- ◆ The archives are still open for appointments by request. Please contact us to schedule a visit.
- ◆ Thanks for reading, and keep an eye out for our Spring 2022 newsletter!



**BACK IN STOCK!**

*Mt. Gretna:  
A Coleman Legacy*

by Jack Bitner

\$25.00