

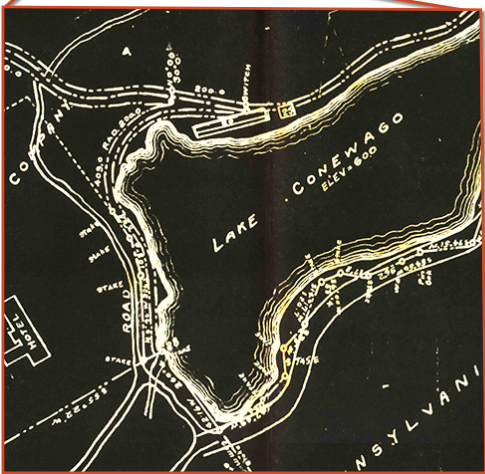
THE GRETN Chronicles

PUBLISHED BY MOUNT GRETN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY • OCTOBER 2025



Mapping the Past: 1916 Blueprint Reveals the Attractions of Another Era

by Margaret Hopkins



A maze of crisscrossing lines, a cluster of tiny hand-drawn shapes and a numbered list of almost three-dozen 'References'—these appear on a '1916 Cornwall and Lebanon Property Map, Mount Gretna, Pa.'

Nothing else on the map has the same detail as that which is found in Tract No. 1, a 74.56-acre parcel that once was Mt. Gretna Park.

Most of the numbered structures are long gone.

—continued on page 4

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Gretna Chronicles

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The Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society is a non-profit 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 from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend, 1-4pm, or by appointment. We offer school and group tours, summer walking tours, and research assistance by appointment throughout the year.

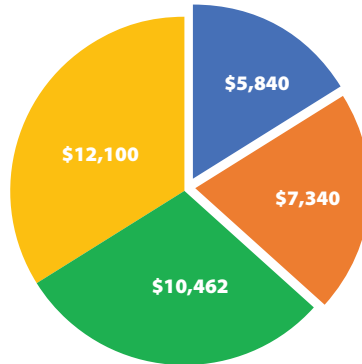
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MGAHS 2024-2025 Financial Report

by Bob Eynon, Treasurer

It's been a great year thanks to the financial support of our members, and our finances are positioned well to support our goals. Don't forget, as a charitable organization, donations of cash or equities to the Historical Society are tax deductible and many employers offer matching gifts. Please reach out to us for help if you have any appreciated assets you would like to send our way. We have a brokerage account ready to accept them! The chart below shows the general breakdown of donations which totaled \$35,742 over the last twelve months.



Dues and Donations Last 12 months ending September 2025

- Membership Dues
- Donations along with Dues
- Other Non-Restricted Donations
- Restricted-Use Donations

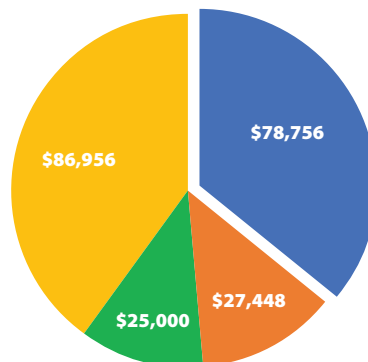
The restricted-use donations partially consist of generous grants and gifts from the following:

- The Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation: \$7,500 that is added to the endowment.
- The Mount Gretna United Methodist Church's Drendall Grant: \$2,000 for historical booklet publications.

The breakout of our financial accounts is as follows:

- Total financial accounts: \$210,087. (This is an increase of about \$30,000 from last year.)
- Endowment: \$78,756. (Up almost \$10,000.)
- Other funds restricted by donors for specific uses: \$27,448.
- Board of Directors emergency reserve: \$25,000.
- Funds available for general use: \$86,956. (Up \$21,000.)

This breakout is shown in the chart below.



Financial Accounts Breakdown as of September 2025

- Endowment
- Restricted-Use Donations
- Emergency Reserve
- Funds Available for General Use

Once again, thank you all for supporting us!
Bob Eynon, Treasurer



About Reverend P. T. Croll

Phillip Columbus Croll was born in 1852 in the area of Kutztown, Pa. He grew up in White Hall Township, Lehigh County, studied at Keystone Normal School, Pennsylvania College, and at the Theological Seminary of Gettysburg, Pa.

He was a local pastor of congregations in Womelsdorf, Schuylkill Haven, and Lebanon. As a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society, he edited their monthly magazine, The Pennsylvania-German. He translated and authored many articles and papers, including Ancient and Historic Landmarks in Lebanon Valley.

Mt. Gretna in Winter or, A Visit to Fairy-Land

by Rev. P. T. Croll

(Thank you to Fred Schaeffer, who shared this poem, given to him by a friend. The poem, originally in German, was translated by Rev. P. T. Croll and was published in *The Pennsylvania German*, Vol. IV, July 1903, No.3)

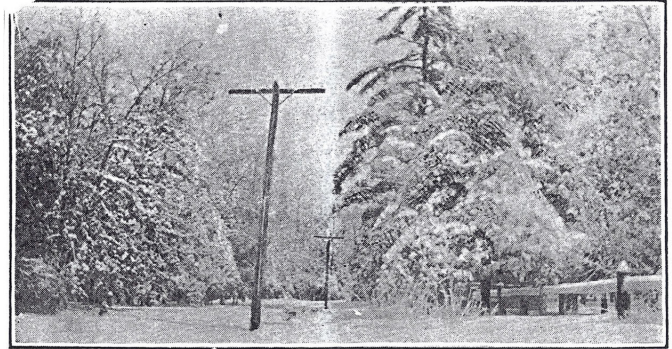
Last week I broke a fixed rule;
I kept my ten-year boy from school
To visit, fairy-land.
A chilly rain, the day before,
Had caught and held the landscape o'er
In Frost-king's icy hand.

While orchard-trees and shrubs and grass
Stood clad in armor of clear glass,
And weighted down quite low,
The mystic weavers of the sky
Sent down a blanket from on high,
Of woolly, flaky snow.

When morning dawned quite brisk and clear,
And snow and ice clung everywhere,
I thought of Gretna's hills,
Where goblins, sprites and fairies all,
Such days must dance through sylvan hall
And play by pearly rills.

On iron horse the mount we scaled,
To find the forest-trees regaled
With crystal glories bright;
No palace ever looked so grand!
No glass emporium in the land
E'er shone in such a light!

Cathedrals grand and towers high,
From snow-white earth to soft-blue sky,
Reared up their charming walls;
While candelabra, set with pearls,
And diamond stars ne'er worn by earls
Lit up their magic halls.



A SNAP-SHOT TAKEN AT MT. GRETNA,
February 17, 1903.

The brooklet flowed 'round isles of snow,
While birch and maple bending low,
Built crystal arches o'er.
A hundred huts the pines supplied,
By elfin all were occupied,
From glassy roof to floor.

A myriad Christmas-trees stood decked,
Whose brilliants did the sun reflect
Like thousand tapers bright.
Such glory ne'er did wealth command;
No palace-halls were e'er too grand,
Illumined by such light.

Where churches camp, Chautauquans meet
We waded through each sylvan street
Of alabaster snow.
No song or eloquence was heard;
No note was stirred by man or bird,
Save one by lone Jim Crow.

Echoes now woke slumbering breeze;
To harps he turned the tops of trees,
And deftly picked their strings.
Then played a glass harmonica,
Ten sylvan tumbleronica-
An orchestra on wings.

Reluctantly we turned away,
Where acres of choice diamonds lay,
Where music passed all rule.
But as we homeward turned our way,
I heard my little youngster say;
'Twas worth a day in school.

MGAAHS

Mapping the Past: 1916 Blueprint Reveals the Attractions of Another Era

—continued from page 1

The telegraph (#5) was replaced by the telephone, the icehouse (#17) by home ice boxes and later, refrigerators. The ‘stabel’ (#22) disappeared as well—also made obsolete by new technologies.

But the building housing the general store (#18) still announces an entrance to Mt. Gretna Park on its second-floor eave, and the exhibition building (#14) continues to welcome skaters to the Mt. Gretna Roller Rink.

Picnics, Dancing, Boating and More

Developed in 1884 as a station stop on the Cornwall & Lebanon (C&L) Railroad, the park initially was a picnic grove with rustic tables and benches, swings for children and woodland walking paths. Even in its first summer, those simple attractions drew more than 50,000 visitors, according to news reports of the day.

Recognizing the park’s potential as a go-to destination, railroad magnate and park developer Robert H. Coleman added a pavilion for dancing, bowling alley, lawn tennis and shooting gallery for summer 1885—and folks from Lebanon and neighboring counties flocked to Mount Gretna.

Next, he had Conewago Creek dammed, and Lake Conewago was opened for boating. A scenic narrow-gauge railway followed. Mount Gretna, declared the *Lebanon Daily News* in July 1898, “has become without question, the most attractive park in Pennsylvania.”

A decade after its start in 1884, Mt. Gretna Park had a carousel ‘of the latest improved pattern,’ an auditorium that could seat 3,500 and 16 large platforms for dinner parties and other activities, according to the C&L brochure, Mount Gretna Park: 1884-1891.

A casino, skee-ball gallery and ten-pin alley were among the amusements in place when the map was drawn in January 1916.

But the park also contained more practical structures including refreshment stands, bakery and café. Some of these may have been added by Frank Dissinger & John Lesher, two Campbelltown businessmen who, starting in 1897, were the ‘park caterers’ and operated dining halls.

At some point, the two men took over management of all of the park’s dining facilities as well as the amusements although when this occurred isn’t clear in news reports.

By summer 1901, Dissinger & Lesher were leasing the ‘park privileges’ which apparently meant they managed all the amusements and even Lake Conewago. As lessees, they added “a very fine, artistic roof over their merry-go-round,” according to the *Lebanon Daily News*, as well as a number of bath houses at Lake Conewago.



Park goers would disembark from C&L trains and enter the park through these gates. (Photo provided by MGAHS).



Likely a 1930s photo of the general store on SR 117. Note the sign for ‘Mt. Gretna Park’ on the second-floor eave (Photo provided by MGAHS)

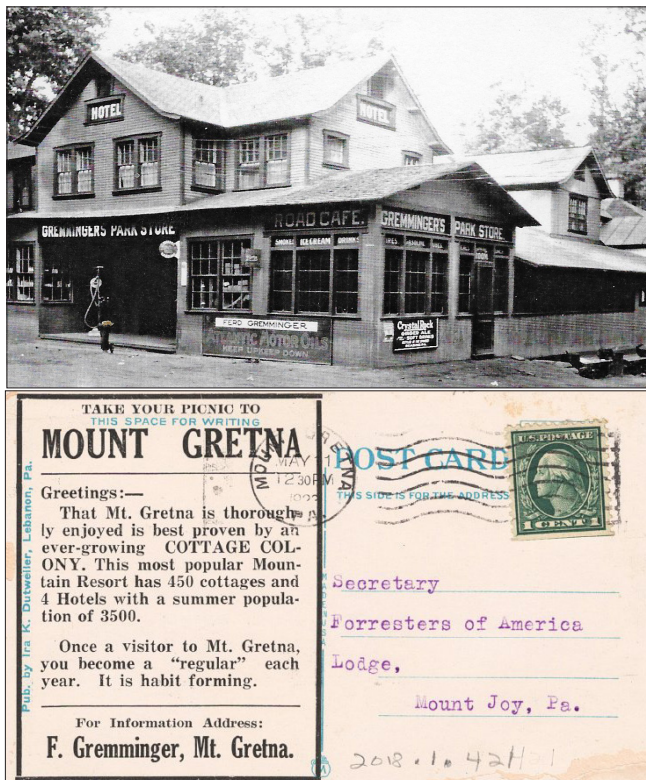
Dissinger & Lesher leased the park until 1912 at which time Dissinger became the sole manager. Either he or his brother, E.R. Dissinger, operated the park until 1915 when the ‘park privileges’ were sold to Ferdinand Gremminger, a Swiss émigré who had settled in Lebanon in 1906.

As the new leasee, Gremminger pledged to “develop the park in a manner never known before,” according to the March 22, 1915, *Lebanon Daily News*. The overhaul included improvements to the grocery store, bakery and café. Gremminger also opened a news stand and relocated a Cumberland Street barber shop to the park.

Perhaps the most surprising of his intentions was to bring to the park what could well be a forerunner of today’s urgent care centers—namely, an emergency drug store.

Missing, Lost or Transformed

While the map places the bakery (#19) and barber shop (#2), no reference exists for that emergency drug store. Perhaps this was #36 or #38, both of which appear on the map but are missing in the ‘References.’



Ferdinand Gremminger, who purchased the park in 1917, expanded the general store, adding rooms on the second floor (Photo provided by MGAHS)



The park was laid out with avenues and streets as this postcard shows (Postcard provided by MGAHS).

Some of the numbered references have present-day iterations like the skee ball gallery (#9). Invented in 1908, skee ball was initially played on 32-foot alleys. Contests and competitions were held frequently and before spectators. Mount Gretna had its own team, and one contest featured a ‘lady roll(ing) on the Mt. Gretna team against a man,’ according to the *Lebanon Daily News*.

‘Shooting chutes’ (#24) is not pictured on the map but likely is a variation of ‘shoot the chute,’ invented in 1884 and with

recognizable counterparts in amusement parks today. The original shoot ride involved greased tracks and flat-bottomed boats that would slide down the track and into a body of water, splashing and soaking occupants. Others, like hoopla (#34), don’t even appear in history books.

Among the numbered references are several—diving pier (#35), diving post (#27), boat landing (#23)—that suggest they were located at Lake Conewago, but none of them appear on the map. Nor does the bath house (#26).

Despite its name, the ocean wave (#7) is not at the lake. A July 1916 *Lebanon Daily News* story mentions this attraction has been added to the grounds with the caveat that ‘it must be seen to get a correct idea as to what is really is and does.’

The description suggests swings attached to a revolving center socket with the up-and-down motion of ocean waves. But that description also might fit the circle wave (#33).

It is possible that the ‘pirate ship’ was the ocean or circle wave. Debuting in 1897 in amusement parks across the country, this attraction involved a vessel-like contraption that swung back and forth like a pendulum.

Anyone familiar with Mount Gretna will recognize #14 identified as the Exhibition Building. Also called the ‘park auditorium,’ this roofed structure was erected by Coleman in 1890 for the Farmers’ Encampment and could seat from 3,500 to 6,000, depending on the news source.

Another remaining vestige of the park is the sandstone fountain (#4). The fountain located on the path leading from the former C&L station was a popular gathering place as one entered the park.

The Map

The 30”X36” map, dated 1-25-1916, likely was copied from a blueprint. Who drew, labeled and printed the original is unknown. Only three tracts have defined acreages: Tract 1, 74.56 acres; Tract 2, 25.21 acres; and Tract 3, 37.94 acres. Adjacent property owners are identified by name, but the size of their parcels is not included.

Although the map is titled “Cornwall and Lebanon Property Map,” the three tracts likely belonged to Anne Coleman Rogers, sister to Robert H. Coleman who started the C&L Railroad and who developed Mt. Gretna Park and Lake Conewago.

Both were part of the Colebrook Estate, estimated to have included at one time about 5,000 acres. This estate was deeded to Anne. Robert managed his sister’s financial affairs and served as trustee of Anne’s real estate and personal holdings.

—continued on page 6

Mapping the Past: 1916 Blueprint Reveals the Attractions of Another Era

—continued from page 5

Parcels of that estate went to the training grounds of the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1885, and the Pennsylvania Chautauqua and the Mount Gretna Campmeeting Association in 1892. A portion also became the park.

In 1903, Anne Rogers had the trust voided, and she became sole owner of the remaining Mount Gretna real estate. The map may well have been made in preparation for the sale of the park, its buildings and the other tracts to Gremminger.

Sometimes called 'Fred,' 'Ferd' and 'Freddie,' Gremminger was well-known in Lebanon as proprietor of the Casino bowling alleys in the basement of the Mann Building on Cumberland Street. Even before he purchased the park privileges in March 1915, Gremminger had operated several attractions at Mt. Gretna Park including the Casino, a branch of his Lebanon business.

Designed to "meet the desires of the sportsman," the Casino offered billiard tables, cigar stand and dormitory to "accommodate gentlemen that desire to spend the night on the grounds," according to the *Lebanon Daily News* which lauded the attractions as a "step in the direction of progress for followers of sport..."

What Gremminger might have added to the park's amusements in 1916—and perhaps even purchase of the park—was derailed when on April 24, he was shot by a man ejected from the Casino bowling alleys because "of a liquor inflamed brain," according to the *Lebanon Daily News*.

For days, Gremminger's condition and prognosis were front-page news. Although he underwent surgery, physicians couldn't find the bullet fired into his abdomen, so he didn't fully recover and spent most of the summer 1916 season confined to his bed in his cottage at the park. No cottage is listed on the 1916 map although there was a boarding house.

In September 1916, he traveled to a Philadelphia hospital where the bullet was successfully removed.

Sale of the Park

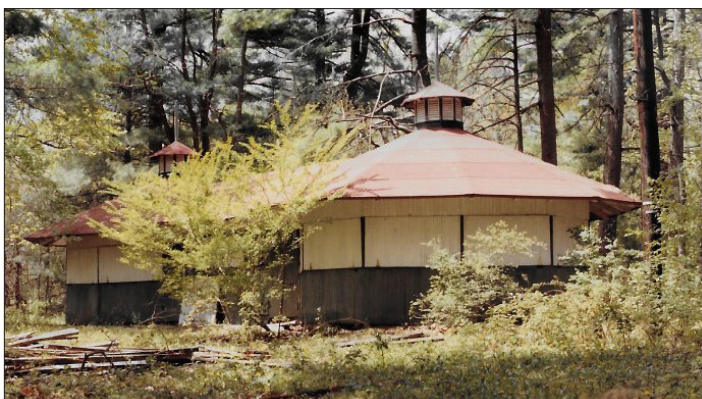
In April 1917, after three months of negotiations, Gremminger purchased from the Rogers estate the three tracts shown on the 1916 map. These included Mt. Gretna Park, Lake Conewago, 25 acres north of the station and 35 acres leased to the Brownstone company. The cost—\$27,000.

For 10 years, Gremminger apparently operated the park as sole owner, improving the grounds and adding amusements. In May 1926, a charter for the Mt. Gretna Park Company was approved, and Gremminger became a co-owner with C.F. Zimmerman, Lebanon County Trust Company, and P.L. Weimer, manager of the Conewago Hotel Property. In November 1926, Gremminger stated the company was insolvent, and the business went into receivership. MGAHS

The park had several refreshment stands. This two-story stand sold 'smokes' and 'candies.'
(Photos provided by MGAHS).



This is likely Gremminger's Casino building with second-floor dormitory or living quarters.



Pictured here is likely the map's #11, 'double-round stand.'



The park's last-remaining carousel.

Volunteer Creates Displays that Show Mount Gretna's History

by Susan Wagner

Robin May, one of the Historical Society's valued volunteers, has served as a docent and board member. She also has created about a dozen of the museum's rotating displays that change yearly. The subjects of Robin's work have included the Spanish American War, the hotels of Mt. Gretna, fires and fire companies, Gretna Music, the Art Show, the Timbers, Governor Dick (the man), and the Colebrook Iron Furnace. As part of her process for creating the displays, Robin interviews people and visits sites. She also collaborates with the Historical Society's directors and board members on topics and content.

Next year Robin will focus one display on the Farmers' Encampment that was held in Mt. Gretna Park from 1890 to 1916 and was the precursor to the Pennsylvania Farm Show. The current Mount Gretna skating rink was one of the original structures built for the encampment and will be highlighted. The second display will feature prominent women and women's organizations in Mt. Gretna including Sarah Tyson Royer, Winterites and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Robin is a fourth-generation Mt. Gretna resident whose great-grandparents built a cottage in the Campmeeting in 1905. Much of that cottage remains the same with a few updates such as extending the kitchen area into a lattice porch space and adding a propane heater. Some of the Victorian furniture remains.

Her grandfather, Col. William Hicks, served as Superintendent of the Mt. Gretna National Guard Encampment for approximately 20 years, so Robin's mother grew up in Mt. Gretna. The military uniforms and many of the military artifacts on the second floor of our museum belonged to Robin's grandfather and were donated by her family.

Although Robin grew up in Massachusetts, she has fond memories of visiting her grandmother at the family cottage every summer. Robin's grandmother always came "for the season," living in Mt. Gretna from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Robin remembers her mother often saying, "Pennsylvania is God's country!" After their retirement, her parents moved to the area, and then Robin came to live in Mt. Gretna in 2001.

For Robin, the area's history is intertwined with her family's history, and she communicates both with respect and reverence. For example, she once donated her grandfather's tent from the encampment to the Mt. Gretna Museum. When she was unfolding the tent, she found an old quilt packed inside it.

Robin shared that this moment made her feel close to the grandfather she never knew.

Robin credits Pat Pinsler, family friend and founding historical society member, with inspiring her interest in Mt. Gretna history. "The more you learn of Mt. Gretna history, the more interesting it becomes, and the more you want to know!" Robin said. Thank you, Robin, for your interest in Mt. Gretna history, and for your thoughtful and generous contributions to our Historical Society! 



Above, Robin is at work on a MGAHS museum display; Below, we find her in the museum's Military Encampment room, seated with a historic Mt. Gretna National Guard flag at her back. Photos: K. Donahue

MGAAHS Membership Retention

by Susan Hostetter

Dear Members,

MGAAHS uses a software program called PastPerfect – it's where we store the digital versions of our collection and how we can search our collection but it's also how we keep track of our membership. Our dedicated volunteer, Barbara Close, asked PastPerfect to run this report of just how many of our total membership are 20, 15, 10, and 5 year members. The result is shown in this pie graph.

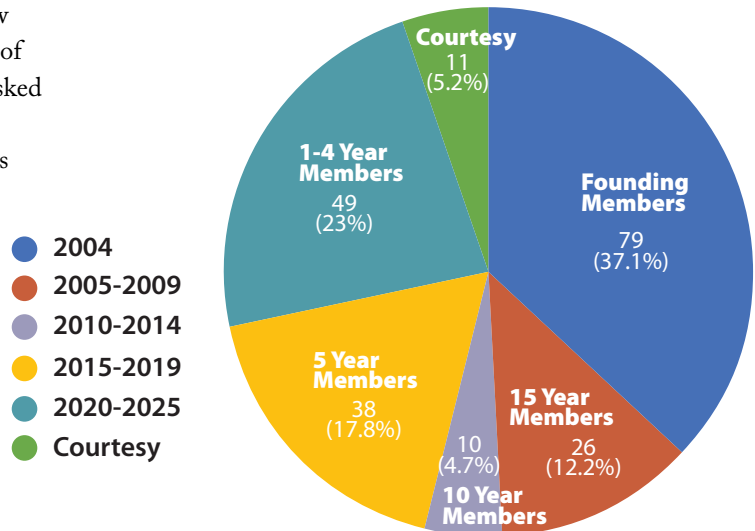
We'd love to hear from you now and then about how you think we are doing and if you have suggestions for programs or events (mtgretnahistory@gmail.com).

Look for a fun winter program coming in January or February.

Sue Hostetter,

Membership Chair 

Maintaining Our Membership Retention Report: 213 Members



An Unusual Acquisition

by Patricia E. Gible, Ph. D.

When archivists at Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society (MGAAHS) receive a donated item from the public, we have a set of criteria that we use to determine if we can include it in our collection. Because our archival space is limited, we consider things like: is it an historical item 50 or more years of age; does the item pertain to a present or former member of the Mt. Gretna public; does the artifact or document broaden our understanding of our community's past; do the items represent contextual information pertaining to recreational locations, military events, churches, entertainment, schools, municipal construction, festivities or special events?

Recently, a representative of the South Hanover Twp. Historical Society gave MGAAHS an unusual, but important artifact—a WWI gas mask and carrying case. WE accepted the donation because it expands our historical information regarding the 40 years when Mt. Gretna played a role in training the Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers. The item is the only example we have of the military personal protection United States soldiers would have used to safeguard them from Mustard gas or other dangerous inhalation gases during WWI. The gift expands our understanding both of the extensive training for Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers, but also the importance of such training and equipment. 



The donated Gas Mask equipment includes: a Gas Mask with yellow oxygen Canister, Repair Patches for Mask Tears, Decontamination Wipe Canister, Canvas Carrying Bag and a Rifle Cartridge Belt. Photos: K. Donahue, MGAAHS

COMING IN SPRING 2026

Sarah Tyson Rorer: The Pure Food Movement and Mount Gretna's Rorer Hall of Cookery

by Sue Hostetter

She's been described as an "early Martha Stewart," "America's first dietitian," and a "pioneer of domestic science," yet in many ways, Sarah Tyson Rorer defies these comparisons.

An early Mount Gretna and Colebrook resident, Rorer was internationally known for her pioneering food research and education of the public, exhibiting at two World Fairs. It is Sarah Tyson Rorer we can thank for starting Home Economics/Family & Consumer Science classes in schools.

Sarah Tyson Rorer: The Pure Food Movement and Mount Gretna's Rorer Hall of Cookery uncovers remarkable facts and artifacts about this early food expert who campaigned to reform the food we eat, how we prepare it, and how we teach culinary arts.

With plentiful imagery and archival material, the story will keep you turning the pages.

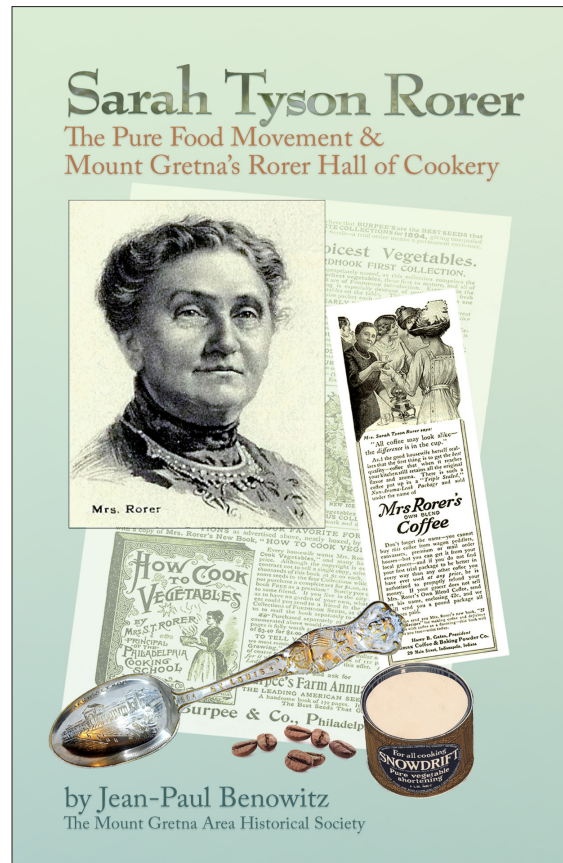
Available in spring, the book was researched and written by Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Public Heritage Studies at Elizabethtown College; designed and illustrated by Kristi Donahue, Mount Gretna Area Historical Society; and indexed by Michael Trump, Lebanon County Historical Society.

If you would like to sponsor this literary work in honor or memory of a loved one, contact the Mount Gretna Historical Society mtgretnahistory@gmail.com or call 717-964-1105. 

NEW BOOKLET FOR SPRING 2026

Glimpses of the Past: History of Mount Gretna Heights

A new addition to our Glimpses of the Past publications is in-process, to be released in Spring 2026. A story of the history of the Mount Gretna Heights is being written by Elizabeth (Gatland) Wein, who lives seasonally in the cottage "Saylor's Harbor" in the Heights. Stay tuned for details in our Spring 2026 edition of *Gretna Chronicles*. Copies of all MGHS publications are available for sale in our museum and online at <https://mtgretnahistory.org/shop>. 



In 1894, customers who purchased a minimum of \$3.00 in seeds, bulbs, or plants from W. Atlee Burpee Seed Company were given Mrs. Rorer's paperback version of *How to Cook Vegetables*.



At right, an 1894 Burpee Seed Catalog advertisement offering Mrs. S.T. Rorer's "How to Cook Vegetables" book with purchase of Burpee Seeds. Mt. Gretna Historical Society.

Above top, W. Atlee Burpee Seed Catalog, 1894. Smithsonian Institution Collection.

Above, bottom, "How to Cook Vegetables," by S.T. Rorer, published by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, 1894. U. S. Library of Congress.

From Our **MGAAHS Bookshelves** *Take home a bit of history...*

DON'T MISS OUR STORIES OF MOUNT GRETTA,
as told by local authors — historians, MGAHS members,
seasoned researchers and emerging new writers.

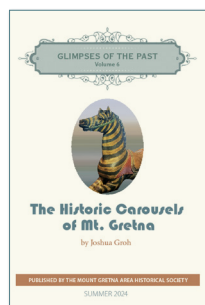
All are illustrated with images, objects, and information
gleaned from our MGAHS Collections. Our authors and
archivists strive for authenticity; they spend countless
hours researching these topics making new discoveries.
(And we're still adding to our collection. Ask us about our
research in-process.) MGAHS publications are available
at the MGAHS museum and from our secure website at
<https://mtgretnahistory.org/shop>

The Historic Carousels of Mt. Gretna

by Joshua Groh

Over the years Mt Gretna has been home to
three carousels: the "Flying Horses," intro-
duced in June 1886; the "Palace of Flying
Animals," appearing in June 1891; and the
"modern" carousel, arriving in June 1917.
Learn about the manufacturers, the owners,
and the demise of Mt. Gretna's "Golden Age
of Carousels," including photos, facts, and a
few unanswered questions.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.

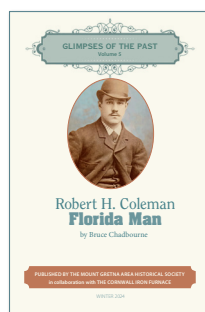


Robert H. Coleman: Florida Man

by Bruce Chadbourne

Beloved son of Lebanon and Cornwall,
Robert Habersham Coleman would ignore
the advice of trusted advisors and risk all in
pursuing his passion for all things railroads
and trains. Despite his foibles, his legacy is
a life well lived, in the midst of tragedy, and
for that he was and still is admired.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.

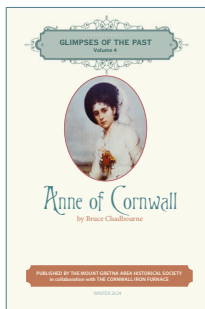


Anne of Cornwall

by Bruce Chadbourne

Robert H. Coleman is well known for his
wealth, the railroad he built, his philan-
thropy, and the founding of Mt. Gretna.
But what about his sister, Anne Coleman
Rogers? Spanning the timeframe of L.M.
Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*
series, you'll see that "our" Anne lived an
equally remarkable and romantic life.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.

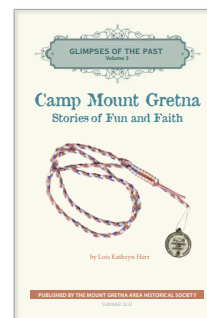


Camp Mount Gretna: Stories of Fun and Faith

by Lois Kathryn Herr

Many of us, in our younger years, have gone to
a camp. The experience can be life-changing,
or at least memorable. Whether it was the
songs, the crafts, the games or the friendships,
camp can leave an indelible impression. From
1949-1970, Camp Mount Gretna did just that.
Includes first person accounts and photos.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.



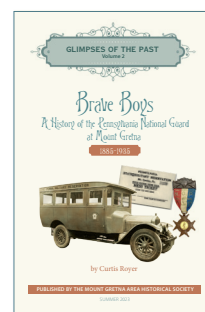
Brave Boys:

A History of the Pennsylvania National Guard at Mt. Gretna

by Curtis Royer

From 1885-1935, thousands of troops
converged annually in Mt. Gretna for military
training and to hone their marksmanship.
Beginning with 125 acres donated in 1885, it
served the Pa. National Guard and the U.S. Army
until 1935. Visitors and dignitaries came to view
troops preparing for a war with Spain, a Mexican
border war, and WWI.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.



Farmers in the Woods:

Mt. Gretna's Little Known Agricultural Background

by Lois Kathryn Herr

Imagine thousands of visitors with their prized
poultry and livestock, converging on Mt.
Gretna for a 'Farmers' Encampment.' It was an
annual August event, from 1890-1916, held in
the building now used as the Mt. Gretna Roller
Rink. After the last Encampment in 1916, the
Pa. Farm Show appeared in January 1917 (often
considered a sequel to this early Encampment).

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.

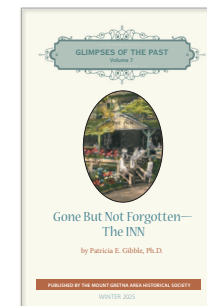


Gone but not Forgotten: The INN

by Pat Gible

In 1897, the Pa. Chautauqua Association
drew up a plan for building lots and public
services, featuring a hotel in the center of the
layout. It was designed and constructed by
John Cilley and Miller Construction Co. of
Lebanon. For 72 years that hotel, "the INN,"
provided rooms and meals for guests of Pa.
National Guard Soldiers and for those who
came to enjoy the "new" park and resort.

\$8 MGAHS members; \$10 non-members.



Available for purchase at the MGAHS Museum and from our secure website at <https://mtgretnahistory.org/shop>

If a Cottage Could Talk...

One of the most often asked questions asked at the Historical Society is, "What can you tell me about my cottage?"

We have a collection of cottage histories, so we might be able to provide some history. But if your cottage isn't in



our database, we can help you get started on learning the history of your property. Call the Society for an appointment. 717-964-1105.

Once you have completed your research, please share what you have learned. We have both an Online

Input Form (located at: forms.gle/drBXh5DsTDxGczPr9) and a Printable Input Form. If you wish to submit the printable History of Your Cottage, stop into Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society on a Tues. or Fri. morning. 

MGHS 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, call us at (717) 964-1105 or email us at info@mtgretnahistory.org

Consultation with a legal or financial adviser can help you to take advantage of any savings on inheritance tax. Our Mount Gretna Area Historical Society representative will help you through the process and the details. 



BUSINESS MEMBERS

A warm thank you to our business members. Consider supporting them and thanking them for their generous support of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society.

Chef on the Go

PO Box 194, Mount Gretna, PA
717-964-3451
rbchefonthego@verizon.net



Colebrook Crossing

1550 Mt. Wilson Road, Lebanon, PA
www.colebrookcrossing.com



Feather & Feather, P.C.

22 W. Main St., Annville, PA
717-867-1200
jef@featherlaw.com



Garver Insurance

809 Holly Lane, Lebanon, PA
717-274-5810
eigarver@comcast.net



Jonestown Bank & Trust Co.

PO Box 717, Jonestown, PA
717-865-4246
tpeters@jbt.bank



Michelle Shay Coldwell-Banker

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Mount Gretna Magazine

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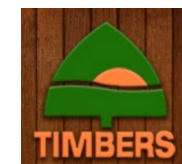
Penn Realty

PO Box 270, Mount Gretna, PA
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Timbers Dinner Theater

PO Box 10, Mount Gretna, PA
717-964-3601



Gretna Graphics

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Learn about our
Mount Gretna History
and help to preserve it

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

OUR MEMBERS are the lifeblood of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society. Your dues help us to maintain the MGAHS building and preserve our collection.

Your yearly membership includes discounts on merchandise, updates about the Society's programs, and newsletters with feature articles on area history. You will join a dedicated and growing group of people who value our past and who want to preserve it for future generations.

There are several ways to begin or renew your membership:

- complete an online membership form at <https://mtgretnahistory.org/membership/>
- print our membership form (at right), complete it and mail it to us at P.O. Box 362, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064;
- call us at (717) 964-1105 to provide your information.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube!



Join Mount Gretna Area Historical Society

- ☐ \$20 Individual Membership ☐ \$30 Family Membership
☐ \$75 Business Membership

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E-MAIL _____

- ☐ Check enclosed (payable to Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society)
☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 362, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064