



Greene-Dreher Historical Society
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The mission of the Greene-Dreher Historical Society is to celebrate and preserve the history of Greene and Dreher Townships and its people and to assure that this legacy is passed on to future generations. To achieve this goal, the Society will preserve and display artifacts, documents and photographs that represent the culture of our community; collect oral histories; offer programs that educate and engage a diverse public; establish partnerships with schools; publish a quarterly journal; preserve historic cemeteries; maintain our museum buildings; and encourage the preservation of historic structures.

Greene-Dreher Historical Society

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Message From The President

2014 was a full year for the Historical Society with many new opportunities to share our Hall and Museum. Completion of the barn and pavilion has allowed us to develop outdoor exhibits of agriculture and farm-related artifacts. In addition to the barn, the grounds also featured a restored root cellar, an ice shed that houses ice harvesting equipment, and an “earth closet” (outhouse) slated for restoration in 2015.

A year-long exhibit at Peggy Bancroft Hall commemorated the 175th anniversary of the founding of Greene Township in 1839. The celebration culminated with a program attended by state and local officials that included proclamations, a talk on the history of the township, presentation of a map and poster to Township Supervisors, and a new publication by long-time resident Edward Parsons. Another milestone was the 30th Anniversary of *The Greene Hills of Home*, the Society’s quarterly journal established in 1984 by President Emerita Peggy Bancroft, who served as its editor for nearly 20 years.

In November we were honored to receive the 2014 Wayne County Historical Preservation Award presented by the Wayne County Historical Society for our work in preserving our historic hall and museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thanks to the work and generosity of many—the Board of Directors, the committee chairs, the talented volunteers, and the loyal membership which supports us in countless ways—2014 was a successful and gratifying year. Together, you enable the Society to keep our history alive!

—Jeanne Brown

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Businesses — It is important to have the support of the community. In 2014 we initiated a Business Partner Program that gave special recognition to local businesses who contributed monetary and “in-kind” donations to support the work of the Society..

Schools — In partnership with Wallenpaupack South Elementary School, the Society sponsors annual local history programs for third and fourth grade students, including:

- Local History Day for fourth grade students, featuring stations where students try their hand at using historic farm tools and household implements.
- Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm workshops for third grade students on “Food Preservation—From Salt to Canning Jars,” with hands-on demonstrations.
- Exhibit in lobby of school entitled *Farming = Good Food*, which illustrates planting and harvesting as well as food processing and preserving.

Community Organizations — The Society is the repository for the Greene-Dreher Alumni Association’s historical photographs and school documents, which continue to be processed as part of the Society’s permanent collection. In addition, the two organizations coordinate efforts each year to celebrate and welcome returning alumni, with special recognition given to the 50th Reunion Class.

TELLING OUR STORIES...

One of the most important goals of the Historical Society is to tell our stories. To that end, we maintain a museum with changing and permanent exhibits, offer public lectures, arrange group tours and activities, operate a genealogy research center, and publish a wide selection of articles and books on local history. Below are highlights of exhibits, events at our museum, lectures and educational programs, and recent publications.

MUSEUM & COLLECTIONS

We had many significant contributions to our museum and photographic collections in 2014, including 200 artifacts and more than 400 photographs and documents. Each item is another piece in the fabric of our social history and helps us understand the people who lived here and formed the community we share today.

New exhibitions shed light on important episodes from our past and engaged people of all ages. They included the GDS Fair, the Greene-Dreher Vocational School, and the story of Greene Township from the first settlers through the 1950s. Off-site displays were installed at the Greentown Post Office, the Dime Bank, and the Greentown Agway. Ongoing exhibits showcase the domestic arts, one-room schools, and fraternal organizations around the turn of the last century.

We saw an increase in overall attendance at our museum for our annual open houses, group tours and other special events, such as:

- Southern Wayne Ambassadors Tour for hospitality and business professionals.
- Alumni Open House and Welcome Back Luncheon.
- Ice Cream Social, featuring an exhibit on Blacksmithing and a vintage ice cream maker powered by a c. 1900 hit-and-miss engine.
- Harvest Open House and workshop to identify family farms in the 1800s.
- Group tours for participants in the Community Education Program of the Wallenpaupack School District; Cub Scouts; and the Wayne-Pike Local History Roundtable.

GENEALOGY & CEMETERIES

Gilpin Cemetery — The Society acquired the Gilpin Cemetery in Dreher Township and is developing a plan for restoration and preservation of the site.

Adopt-a-Cemetery Program — Volunteers work to document, preserve and maintain six historic cemeteries in Greene and Dreher. A tour of the historic cemeteries is conducted each spring and is open to the public. A booklet is available for self-guided tours.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- ***Growing Up in Greene Township: Collected Essays of Edward Parsons***. Edited by Diane Smith.
- ***Historic Cemeteries of the Wallenpaupack Valley***, with self-guided driving tour, by Ruth Altemier.
- Educational resources for teachers, including ***History of the Newfoundland Settlement, 1830–1880.***
- ***The Greene Hills of Home*** — The Society's quarterly journal which features oral histories, interviews, and scholarly research is mailed to 350 members.

SPEAKERS

Society members Bernadine Lennon and Diane Smith presented a talk on **“Hopedale Church Mission and the Newfoundland Settlement: 1830–1880.”** as part of the Dorflinger Glass Museum's Lecture & Lunch Series.

Bernadine Lennon presented an in-depth analysis of the **“Flood of 1955”** as part of the Wayne County Historical Society's Plain Speaking Series.

The Society hosts **“Stories From the Past,”** a series of talks given by long-time residents who share their life stories as part of an ongoing Oral History Project.

Other programs that were open to the public include:

- “History of Ice Harvesting” by Mark Crouthamel
- “Lincoln at Gettysburg” by Fred Lehrer
- “William Henry Peterson” by Rick Bodenschatz
- “The Life of McElvy Peterson, World War I Flying Ace” by Ab Rutherford

2014 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

At the sixth annual Holiday Luncheon in December, the 2014 Historic Preservation Awards were presented to:

Sigrid Wilshinsky – For her work translating more than 200 19th Century letters written in Old German Script by the Hopedale Moravian pastors to their Bishop in Bethlehem.

Charlotte Laing – For preserving the integrity of the c. 1900 Charles & Hannah Jane (Smith) Houck home in LaAnna.