

2006 Annual Report

We want to begin our 2006 report by saying thank you to everyone who helped to contribute to our “mortgage fund”. Because of your generosity, we raised \$16,015.00 which will be used to make mortgage payments for 20 months. We are still working on ways to completely retire this debt—and with the help of our supporters we will be able to do this soon.

Our first experience with a themed year was a great success beginning with the Fashion Show and Tea. We are indebted to the ladies of the 3rd Pennsylvania Light Artillery, Battery B. The ladies very gladly shared their knowledge and wardrobe with everyone who attended. We also had an excellent tea, thanks to the staff of the Carriage Corner who made Stonewall Jackson’s trifle and Abraham Lincoln’s sugar cookies. People who attended the programs at both the Museum and La Vieille Maison had the opportunity to meet some of the foremost authorities on the American Civil War—one of the most pivotal points in history. The museum was also able to rent its first exhibit through the generosity of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Union County Community Foundation and the Union County Commissioners Tourism Fund. The exhibit, entitled *Innovations in Transportation during the Civil War* came in crates from Sibley, Missouri. Everyone who viewed these original newspaper illustrations truly enjoyed them. We are looking forward to renting and borrowing more exhibits from other museums and exhibit companies.

Throughout the spring and fall, the museum sponsored monthly “First Thursday” Bingo games. A huge thank you to Linda Cooper, Gordon Klingman, and Jeff Mensch for spearheading this ongoing fundraiser for the museum. Each month they arrange for great food, great prizes and “good neighbor” gifts. A fun time is had by all and we encourage you to come and play from September through May. We also had great success with our “special bingos”. Our Cole’s Hardware bingo gave everyone a chance to win needed household and garden items—including ladders, power washers and bird baths. In November, the Museum offered a Remember When / Country Farm and Home Bingo. We really appreciate the generosity of Cole’s Hardware, Remember When and Country Farm and Home in making these fundraisers a success.

In 2006, although our admission numbers decreased to 2,430 {the lowest it has been in nine years} we still made 89% of our budgeted goal in admission revenue. Using the Union County Commissioners Tourism Tax, the museum has begun an advertising campaign in Susquehanna Life magazine, Happenings Magazine, Where and When Magazine and Mountain Home Magazine. We hope that these advertisements will help to bring people to our beautiful community. The museum also received funding for a new brochure which will be unveiled soon.

Membership support and donations continue to be a mainstay of the Museum. Our membership roll of more than 360 names contributes over \$7000.00 each year to help us continue our mission.

In 2006, the Building and Grounds Committee chipped brush in the upper parking lot; weeded and mulched the garden area above the wall in the upper parking lot; cleaned up the area along the split rail fence and mulched it; installed some new rails (there are never

enough good ones); mulched and planted the bed next to the east wall of the Factory; subdued the brushy growth at the Stable site; planted flowers on the bank behind the houses; installed a planting in the corner near the Carriage House; installed gutter guards on the south wall of the Repository; oversaw the mowing of the bank along Quarry Rd; rebuilt the porch to the Heiss House, making it safe for use as an exit; scraped and painted the lower half of the west wall of the Heiss house; trimmed the trees on Green Street in front of the Visitor's Center; and removed the walnut tree east of the Heiss house. In their spare time, they kept the shrubs trimmed; the lawns mowed; and the eaves troughs cleaned. They installed hardware cloth on the west window of the Repository basement; replaced the downspout from the rear of the Repository; cut a lot of brush; raked a lot of leaves; caulked a lot of cracks; *and still have a lot to do*. The committee members volunteered nearly a full month to maintenance in 2006. While this had an enormous impact, the Committee recognizes that there is much left to be done. They would like to reach a total of 200 hours of volunteer time in 2007. If you have any time and energy to share; please consider giving them a hand—on a regular basis; or however is best for you! Contact the Chair, Fred Swader, or any of the members—Bob Clark, Gary Coddington, Pete Gardner, Len Manbeck, Bill Sampsell or Dave Shrom. They'd be glad to get you started!! The Building & Grounds Committee and the Board want to especially recognize *Gene Manbeck* for mowing the lawn during those long, hot days of summer. *Thanks, Gene!!* and *Bill Sampsell*, who contributed in too many ways to enumerate! *Thanks, Bill!!*

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who pitched in to help Sue Odell and the board members run the museum during my extended maternity leave. Sue did a great job as our AmeriCorps worker and we truly appreciate all that she does for the museum.

Bronwen A. Sanders, Executive Director

2006 Donors

The museum is truly grateful for the generosity of our donors who help preserve this rare & significant site.

Rockaway Coach (>\$1500)

Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company
Union County Commissioners Tourism Fund
PA Humanities Council

Phaeton (< \$1500)

Jim & Jan Beckley
Union County Community Foundation

Surrey (< \$1000)

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Swineford National Bank
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Piano Box Buggy (<\$600)

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Sara Ellen Laubach
Dave & Sue Iddings
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