

Herr House Happenings

Amos Herr House Foundation and Historical Society

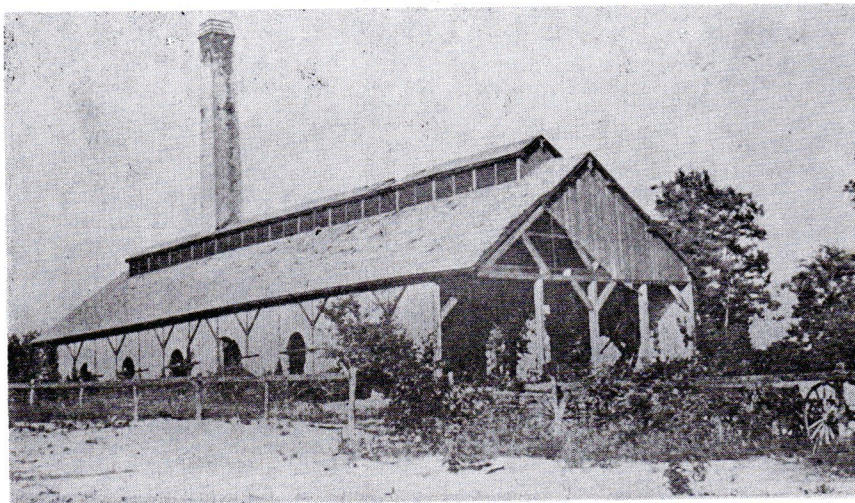
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Fall 2016

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Country Fair

Everyone was thankful that the rain held off until after the 37th Annual Amos Herr Park Country Fair on Sunday, September 15, 2016. This was the first time that the tobacco barn on the Herr Homestead was open to the public. John Houston, president of the foundation, spent four hours cleaning the barn in preparation of the visitors. Faye Forwood, Emeritus board member, devoted the day to sharing information about tobacco growing and harvesting. Faye's grandfather was a well-known tobacco farmer who lived in Manor Township and she had a very interesting display of items related to tobacco farming. Everyone who toured the tobacco barn was impressed and came away knowing much more about the process of raising tobacco. Ninety visitors took a self-guided tour of the Herr Homestead during the Country Fair. We hope that sometime in the near future, those people will return for a more in depth tour of the house.



Bamford Zinc and Lead Smelter, as it appeared about 1888 after being abandoned some years earlier. The brick stack survived in a ruined condition until the late 1940s. Smelting furnaces were located along the walls of this building. Ore buggies can be seen among weeds at right.

Pictured above: a newspaper clipping of the Bamford Zinc and Lead Smelter, date unknown. Read more about the History of Landisville on page 3.

Closing the House and Gardens

Friday, October 14th was the last day the gardeners worked this year. Thanks to all the gardeners for the many hours they devoted to making the grounds look beautiful.

The last day for house tours will be Sunday, October 30th. Thank you very much to all volunteers and docents for keeping the house open for tours.

Annual Meeting

All members are invited to attend the Annual Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 pm in the basement of the house for the purpose of electing officers to serve on the Board of Directors of Amos Herr House Foundation.

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17th Annual Amos Herr 5K Honey Run

On Sunday, August 28th, 2016, the Amos Herr House Foundation and Hempfield Rec Center presented the 17th Annual Amos Herr 5K Honey Run, sponsored by Dutch Gold Honey. A field of 309 runners and walkers participated in this popular event on the beautiful, but hot, evening. The Sardina Dental Group sponsored the Kids' Run, which drew more than 100 runners ranging from 5-11 years old. The annual Honey Run benefits non-profit organizations Amos Herr House Foundation and Hempfield Rec Center.

Special thanks to all of our Amos Herr Foundation volunteers, including Hempfield Rec Center's Race Director, Jeff Book, staff and volunteers, and the Hempfield High School Cross Country Team. Our pace truck was provided and driven by Amos Herr Board president John Houston.



Goody Bag donors included Bavarian Pretzels, Dutch Gold Honey, Integrity Bank, Keystone Pretzels, Sardina Dental Group, and Dr. and Mrs. Paul Heimer. The runners appreciated other in-kind donations including water from Integrity Bank and bananas from Stauffer's of Kissel Hill.

Join us next year for the 18th year, Sunday, August 27th, 2017.



Suggestion for a Christmas Gift

Many people who have moved into the Hempfield area and have never heard of Amos Herr ask "Why was he so important that a historic house is named after him?" Amos Herr was a schoolteacher at Hempfield High School. He played sports when he was young, including football at Franklin & Marshall College, and he was a basketball and baseball coach at Hempfield High School. He and his wife loved children, but since they had no children of their own, they decided to donate their property to East Hempfield Township. Today, families can enjoy the Amos Herr Dream Park and watch their children play soccer and baseball on the ground that was donated by the Herr family. The AHHF's mission statement is to oversee the renovation, maintenance, and usage of the historic house, barns and adjoining gardens of the Amos Herr House and to preserve the history and traditions of the greater Hempfield area.

Why not join us in helping to preserve this history and tradition by becoming a member of the Amos Herr House Foundation? Consider giving the gift of membership to a family member, friend, or neighbor as well. An individual membership is \$15.00 and family membership is \$25.00. You may send a check to the AHHF, Box 52, Landisville, PA 17538. Thanks for your consideration in helping to keep the history and traditions of our community alive!

A Brief History of Landisville – Part II

An article continued from the Summer 2016 newsletter.

Roads and Travel

In 1798, the Minnich family owned the eastern end of what was to later be called Landisville, while the Heistand family owned all the land west. The road that went through the Heistand and Minnich lands, now called the Harrisburg Pike, was named the King's highway in 1792. Later, the King's highway became known as the Lancaster and Mount Joy turnpike. It was a toll road with toll booths located along the length of the highway. One of the tollbooths stood at the corner of Nissley Road and Harrisburg Pike. The tollbooth marker is pictured below. (We have a photo of this tollbooth and one of the tokens in our library.) The "highway" became a free road in 1918.

In 1834, the Pennsylvania Railroad came through town. Trolley service eventually ran from Elizabethtown and Mount Joy, through Landisville to Lancaster. If you have ever wondered why Bank Street in Landisville is so wide, it is because that is where the trolley tracks went through town.



Bits and Pieces

In 1921, the Landisville Speedway was the place to be on Sunday afternoons. Located on the Nissley farm on Nissley Road, right down from what is now A. Herr Park, the auto races attracted spectators from up and down the east coast. The cow barn became the changing room for the drivers and the hayloft was the sleeping quarters for many of the out-of-state drivers. Our library has much more information if you are interested.

The Bamford Lead Mines operated from 1860 to the mid 1870's (from cover). The mines were located at the end of Bamford Road. The smelter was on Yellow Goose Road where Kellogg's is now. A complete history of the mines (including photographs) is in the Herr House library.

The Landisville Camp Meeting was organized in 1870 by the Methodist Church on 20 acres of land on the east side of Church Street. It was not unusual for 10,000 people to attend. The camp meeting still exists as an independent organization.

The 1890's saw the era of town bands in Landisville. It was not unusual for towns to have several bands. (The Coronet band is pictured left). Landisville also had a public croquet court where teams competed against each other.

The house with the double porch at Yellow Goose Road and Harrisburg Pike was built as an inn in 1810.



Notes From Emma's Diary

Thursday, November 8, 1917

"I must get busy & work -go over house & dust - downstairs & up -- & mend a bit & pick up sticks."

-Emma Herr Revised 9/2008.

Notes From Amos' Diary

Thursday October 21, 1971

"80 degrees – 5:30 clear & warm. Chores. Feed the horses for Ed. To village. P.O., Benders for coffee with Jack B. etc. Usual gossip, mostly banter. Learn that Bob Brubaker is in the hospital with some heart damage. It's still a beautiful, sunny, warm morning. Ethel went to the Church to sew. I went to Lanc. For slides and shopping, Lunch at Roy Rogers. Mow lawn. How tall grass keeps growing. Stubble corn, afternoon coke. Work in the cornfield after supper. Certainly does not feel or look like autumn. Deskwork. Music TV theater "Lemonade." Bill Snively visited with us for about an hour. He was interested in getting more information about the Perfect Committee job."

Board Members

John Houston, President

Robert Wildasin, Vice President

Millie Brubaker, Secretary

Kitty Glass, Treasurer

Laura Dalton

Delphine Heimer

Elam Herr

Jessie Long

George Marcinko

David Morrison

Jim Stauffer

Faye G. Forwood, Emeritus

E.Eileen Johns, Emeritus

Amos Herr House Foundation
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