

Amos Herr House Foundation &  
Historical Society

Spring 2023  
[Herrhomestead.org](http://Herrhomestead.org)

# Herr House Happenings



## New President for Amos Herr House Foundation

Elam Herr was elected board president at the November board meeting, replacing former president, John Houston, who had requested retirement after 17 years of leadership.

Elam has served on the board since 2007 and is well versed in AHHF programs and activities and has been a resident of East Hempfield for 61 years. He recently retired from his full time job in Harrisburg with the PA State Association of Township Supervisors and is still active with the East Hempfield Zoning Commission and serves on the PA Transportation Commission along with some consulting work. We look forward to his leadership.

We are pleased to announce that John Houston will remain an active member of our board. John made many contributions to the organization during his 17 years as president including playing an instrumental role in restoring the barn and tobacco shed, and setting up various barn displays alongside Gary Bender. John ensured that many necessary repairs and upkeep to the Amos Herr House were completed.

Also at the November board meeting, Millie Brubaker was reinstated as secretary after a very brief retirement.

## Homestead Spring 2023 Opening

The Amos Herr House Foundation is pleased to announce the reopening of the house for tours on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from May through October. Tours will begin at 1pm with the last tour beginning at 3:15pm.

Some interesting things to see in the home include the Sun Quest Sundial, made by Richard Schmoyer. Ken Clark set this display up in the basement. Also of special note is the actual Salunga Post Office, also set up in the basement. Additionally, there are historical artifacts too numerous to mention. We invite our members to encourage their friends and relatives to enjoy some local history this spring, summer and fall.

The barn will also be open on the same schedule. Many agricultural implements from the late 1800's to the 1900's are on display in the barn, including a Herr family spring wagon and tractors. The tobacco barn features a stripping room along with a tobacco wagon and other items pertaining to raising tobacco.

## SWISS BEAR CLOCK



This unusual carved bear clock was carved and built by Mr. Peiler, a Swiss craftsman from the Bernese-Oberland area. He only made two of these clocks before he died in 1918 at the age of 82 years.

The clock is carved in solid walnut and strikes at fifteen minute intervals. In addition to the five carved bears, there are four wildflowers called "WaldenMeisters" (Forest-masters) carved on the rocks at the base of the clock. In season, the Swiss would gather these flowers and float them in punch bowls of white wine for several days. The wine absorbs the aroma of the flowers, giving it a distinctive flavor which is highly cherished by the Swiss.

The clock was purchased by Harry Hoyt Nissley, originally from the Landisville area and later of Detroit, Michigan. The Nissley ancestors emigrated from the Palatine of Germany

and earlier from Switzerland, coming to Pennsylvania in 1717. The original Nissley farm was on both sides of what is now Nissley Road, south of the Old Harrisburg Pike. Mr. Nissley researched and wrote a complete history of the Nissley family going back to the earliest recorded Swiss ancestors. This is available at the AHHF library if anyone is interested.

Until May of 1998, the clock was in the lobby of the Mellon Bank on Main Street, Landisville. Hoyt Nissley made the stipulation prior to his death that the clock should never leave the Landisville area. The clock belongs to the Lancaster County Historical Society and is on loan to the Amos Herr House Foundation for display at the 1852 Herr Homestead in Landisville. In 1998, the clock was valued at \$8,500.00. This is part of the collection.





**AMOS HERR HOUSE  
FOUNDATION &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEMBERS**

Elam Herr, President  
Robert Wildasin, Vice President  
Millie Brubaker, Secretary  
Kitty Glass, Treasurer  
Sheree Ampsacher  
Gary Bender  
Ron Cooper  
Laura Dalton  
Delphine Heimer  
John Houston  
Robert Kandratavich  
Jessie Long  
Tom Sardina  
Jim Stauffer  
Faye G. Forwood, Emeritus  
E. Eileen Johns, Emeritus  
George Marcinko, Emeritus

**NEW MEMBERS**

Herb & Becky Noll

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## NEW PROJECT

The Amos Herr Foundation and Historical Society is proud to announce a new project honoring veterans from the Hempfield Area. The Hometown Heroes Project will begin to install banners on utility poles in Landisville and Salunga in the spring of 2023. The banners will be a tribute to the men and women who have served or are serving in any branch of the United States Military.

Family or friends can order a customized banner of a loved one by completing an application and submitting it along with a check or money order in the amount of \$300, payable to Amos Herr HTH. Applications will be available April 1, 2023 online at [www.herrhomestead.org](http://www.herrhomestead.org)— click on Amos Herr HTH, [www.easthempfield.org](http://www.easthempfield.org), and [www.westhempfield.org](http://www.westhempfield.org), or in person at R.H. Copper & Son Garage, 115 Main Street, Salunga, as well as the East Hempfield and West Hempfield Township municipal buildings. Inquiries can be directed to Ron Cooper at (717)537-7311 or via email to [AmosHerrHTH@gmail.com](mailto:AmosHerrHTH@gmail.com).

This project will be ongoing. It is anticipated that the first banners will be ordered by late spring 2023, with installation beginning sometime during the summer of 2023. Several banners will be on display as examples on Main Street in Landisville/Salunga later this spring.

The committee, chaired by Ron Cooper, includes Directors on the Board of the Amos Herr Foundation: Elam Herr, John Houston, Jessie Long, and Robert Wildasin. Janet Booth is also serving on the committee. The committee would like to thank East and West Hempfield Townships for their support of our Hometown Heroes Project.

## COMMUNITY FESTIVAL REPORT

We are pleased to announce that last year's Community Festival which was held on September 18, 2022 was very successful for the Amos Herr House Foundation. It was fortunately a beautiful early fall day and we had over 115 people who toured the home-stead and countless more toured the barn and tobacco shed.

Consequently, we would like to thank the following people who contributed to the success. In the Amos Herr House, Eileen Johns served as receptionist and greeter. Manning various rooms and exhibits throughout the home were: Shirley Charles, Sue Kohler, Joanne Ellis, Jessie Long, Joyce Crider, Judy Flowers, Alvie Fetzer, Carole Fetzer and Ken Clark. The barn and tobacco shed were overseen by John Houston, Gary Bender, Elam Herr and Faye Forwood.

Last, but not least, Millie Brubaker and Phil Metzler occupied the visitors information table near the park entrance by the tennis courts. Del Heimer provided "shift relief" for Millie and Phil.



**Amos R. Herr**



**Amos Herr House Foundation &  
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1756 Nissley Road  
P.O. Box 52  
Landisville, PA 17538