

## Aston Township Historical Society 2008 Newsletter

The Aston Township Historical Society is beginning 2009. Here are some of the highlights from the year 2008. In February, Bridget McLaughlin was honored for her Girl Scout project Aston Historical Trail. She created a booklet and designed a patch to be given to those who completed the journey. Our speaker for the February meeting was Dabbs Woodfin who spoke about the operation of mills as well as the Newlin Mill.

In March, the society was asked to donate about a dozen scanned photos to a company who was creating a mural for the soon to be opened Applebee's on Pennell Road. Kenn Stark, who is a writer for the Daily Times, was put in charge of the Township Times published by Aston Township. Several photos were e-mailed to him, at his request, to be placed in issues when space permitted.

St. Joseph's Cub Scout Pack 225 came to visit the historical room in May. The replica model of the Village Green School was put on display outside of the library at the Aston Community Center. The program for the May meeting was Robert Bardsley. He spoke about Northern and Southern Zouave units in the Civil War as well as the 23<sup>rd</sup> PA Vol. Inf. Bob is the great-great-great-grandson of Col. John Glenn, who was the commanding officer of the 23<sup>rd</sup> PA Vol. Inf. Election of officers was held. The officers are as follows: President = Karen Micka, Vice-President = Pat Smith, Secretary = Ruth Ross, Treasurer = Carol Cannon. The directors are Betty Graham, Bob Farrell, and George Ormsby. During this time of year, the society learned that a developer wanted to build dorm rooms to lease to Neumann College on the Hall/Fisher property that is located at Fisher's Corner diagonally across from Ryan's Deli.

In August, Tom Smith passed away. He was the husband of former President, Pat Smith. A public meeting was held in September about the Hall/Fisher property. The developer applied for a demolition permit, and that was put on hold until the public meeting. The decision came at the September commissioners' meeting to grant the developer to continue with demolition. The program for the September meeting was Uschi Keszler, who spoke about the beginnings of Ice Works, which is located in Aston. And, she spoke about her cancer research program, Pennies in Action.

The first Saturday in October was the Aston Business Expo/Community Day. Several visitors came to the historical room. Paul Dougherty's son, Paul, had a laptop display of photos, which people enjoyed. The Expo was filled with people. The society raffled off store gift cards instead of actual food, and that went well. People liked that idea, so they could purchase what they wished. The society made \$368 from the raffle. The winner was John Firlein.

Aston resident, Mike Kane, and his daughter, Laura, placed flags at the Village Green School for us for Veteran's Day. The November meeting speaker was Ginny DeNenno who gave a nice presentation about Chester Heights. She had some assistance from Gary Koerner. At the end of November, Joe, the husband of former board member, Marge Osifat, had passed away.

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The month of December brought the first old-fashioned Christmas tree decorating party at the one room Village Green School. The event was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and only attracted one visitor. Society members in attendance were Karen Micka, Carol Cannon, Pat Smith, Ruth Ross, along with her husband, Gary, who played banjo for the event. Reporter Loretta Rodgers visited and had a wonderful time.

The next meeting of the Aston Township Historical Society will be on **Thursday February 12, at 7:30pm**, at the Aston Municipal Building. Loretta Rodgers is scheduled to give a presentation about the Underground Railroad in Delaware County.

It is now time to send in renewal dues for the year 2009. Checks are to be made payable to the Aston Township Historical Society. Please mail to Ruth Ross at 5 Red Hill Road Aston, PA 19014-1119. The dues are \$10/Individual Member, \$20/Family, and \$50/Business or Organization.