

Emmaus Historical Society

218 Main Street • Emmaus, PA 18049
610-966-6591 ~ emmaushist@ptd.net
www.emmaushistoricalsociety.org



November 2023 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Members,

The annual Emmaus Heritage Festival was held on September 16th with all of the Heritage Alliance members represented along with numerous craft persons and demonstrators in the backyard of the Society. Emmaus was busy with the Farewell to Summer Festival on the Triangle and the Knauss Harvest Festival also in full swing. The Shelter House was also open and a trolley was available for visitors to hop on and hop off at all of the celebrations.



Ruth Konrad at the loom

Ruth Konrad volunteered many hours of her time and energy over the summer setting up the Emmaus Historical Society's antique 1960s loom. She carefully placed each thread needed to begin the weaving that she so graciously demonstrated at the festival. We are grateful for her work and ability to create beautiful woven patterns for all to see.

The September program held at St. John's Lutheran Church, presented by Bill Barto, on the 1984 Homecoming

Parade was well attended with many in the audience pointing to younger versions of themselves in the video, which was taken from the side porch nearest Second Street of 218 Main Street, of almost 40 years ago. Bill invited special guests who participated in the Homecoming Celebrations of 1984. The 1984 Lil Miss Contest Winner for the Parade, Janelle McDonald Marple, came from Ohio with her family.



Bill Barto, Parade Chairman Bob Bastian, 1984 Lil Miss, Janelle McDonald Marple, and her sister, Katie, Lil Miss finalist

The October program was also quite interesting for attendees, seeing postcards of "Emaus" from the early 1900s. These postcards were what were used before Hallmark cards. The postcards showed various buildings and street views of the town as well as some portraits of Emmaus residents past. Much has changed since then and so has the look of greeting cards! Later in this issue, some recent postcard donations are featured in

the New Acquisitions article. We are grateful that so many of these postcards have been preserved!

We are looking forward to the November program on November 15th. It is the first program we are holding that shares the history of the Lenape Indians and their cordial relationship with the Quakers and the Moravians along with their later relationship with the other Euro Cultures. It will be presented by Carla J.S. Messinger, Director of Native American Heritage Programs. Ms. Messinger has spent years involved in presenting programs at schools and colleges as well as other organizations to ensure that the history and legacy of the Lenape people is known and to spread the word of the descendants of Native Americans today. She was named as one of Lehigh County's Office of Aging Unsung Heroes of 2022 for her volunteerism touching many people of Lehigh County.



Carla Messinger

December is a month of so much activity at the Society. We will be participating in the Old Fashioned Christmas activities in conjunction with the Emmaus Main Street Partners on Saturday, December 2 with the museum aglow with vintage Christmas décor and our Christmas putz - enjoyed by young and old alike. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and we will be participating in the Cheers Trail (12 p.m. to 5 p.m.) for the adults as well as the Candy Cane Lane (12 p.m. to 4 p.m.) for the children. On December 16, from 11 am to 2 pm, the Historical Society is happy to announce that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be paying a visit and would love to see children both big and small to give them an orange and a box of chocolates as they did many years ago. The Society's annual Christmas potluck will be held on Wednesday, December 20th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus starting at 5:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Main course and drinks will be provided. Please come and join us in sharing a meal with entertainment afterwards to celebrate the holidays. We look forward to seeing you soon as we celebrate the holidays with history.

Always yours in history,

Jane ☞



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for Historical Tidbits.



Visit our website for updates and other information at:
www.emmaushistoricalsociety.org

Celebrating Past Events and Never Forgetting the Thank You's!

We always enjoy the annual events hosted in the backyard of the Emmaus Historical Society each summer and fall. These events always involve preparation and work of numerous volunteers prior to and during each. We would like to take this opportunity to send out a big THANK YOU to each of the volunteers who assisted us in getting ready for the latest event, the Emmaus Heritage Festival. These volunteers helped with weeding the flower beds, trimming and mulching, cleaning the front and back porches, cleaning the Judge's outdoor bathroom, refreshing the garage displays, touching up the paint on some of the windows, helping with some of the grounds set up and tearing down and cleaning up after the event, planning some of the activities, and staffing the museum for the day. Thank you to Al Wieand, Teri Sorg-McManamon, Andrew Kerstetter, David Kerstetter, Robin Kerstetter, Mike Flynn, Rick Fox, Matt McCrae, Bill Parsell, Mary Parsell, Ruth

Kemmerer, Michelle Capehart, Patricia Mabus, Bill Barto, Alan Hawman, Linda Waddell, Meredith Waddell, Deb Hoffman and Richard Chartrand, as the town crier. ☞



Bill Parsell



Dave Kerstetter

THE EMMAUS HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN FULL SWING!



Richard Chartrand



Woodside Avenue



Bill Barto



Spinning Wheel



Backyard



Quilters

NEWS FROM THE EMMAUS "PRE-HISTORICAL" SOCIETY?

By Patricia Mabus

In our August Newsletter we told you about acquiring a sandstone fossil, found on Dalton Street in Emmaus, with velociraptor footprints – or not. We asked visitors to take a look to decide for themselves – did they “Believe it or Not?” The votes are in – both popular and scientific: thirty four visitors cast their ballots. Twenty four said “YES”. Ten said “NO”. Somewhat encouraging...

Then the scientists weighed in: Eleanor Nothelfer, a member of the Emmaus Historical Society and a retiree of Lehigh University, emailed and told us about a 1978 Lehigh University dig at the Lehigh – Bucks County line where dinosaur tracks were found. In the 1980s Moravian University students also visited the site. The schools and the Appalachian Mountain Club had a marker placed at the site commemorating the Coopersburg Dino Trackway. Sadly, vandalism removed the marker and many of the tracks. Eleanor saw these tracks as a student, taking a Lehigh geology course, on a field trip to South Mountain.

Not only did Eleanor provide us with firsthand information, but she referred us to the two “dinosaur” men at Lehigh University. We reached out to them and Frank Pazzaglia was kind enough to give us even more insight. Frank explained that the rock beneath Emmaus is 400 to 500 MILLION years old. What!?! That precedes both the Lenape Indians and the Moravians!

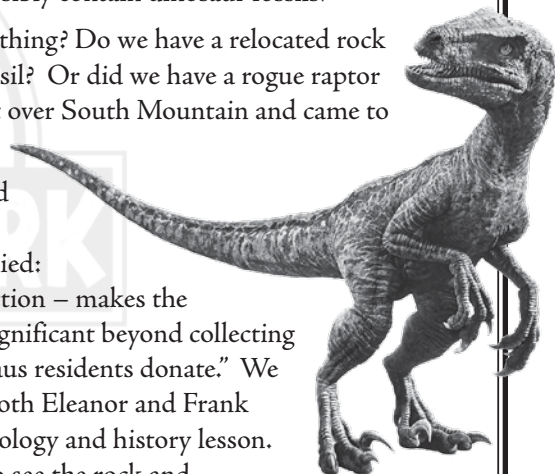
That is far older than rocks containing dinosaur fossils, so he said, “It is very unlikely that you have a dinosaur footprint if it was collected from a property in Emmaus. People move rocks all of the time, so it is possible that the rock in question was transported from outside of Emmaus to the property where it was discovered...You would need to travel SE from Emmaus to the other side of South Mountain to find natural out crops of rock that could possibly contain dinosaur fossils.”

So, do we have nothing? Do we have a relocated rock with a dinosaur fossil? Or did we have a rogue raptor dinosaur who went over South Mountain and came to Emmaus?

When I forwarded Frank’s comments to Eleanor, she replied:

“Interesting interaction – makes the historical society significant beyond collecting the stuff the Emmaus residents donate.” We agree! We thank both Eleanor and Frank for this amazing geology and history lesson.

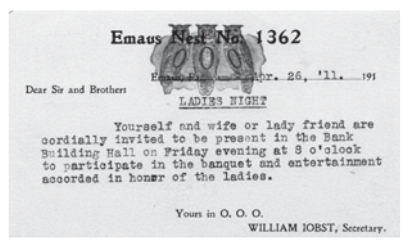
If you would like to see the rock and decide for yourself, join us on Saturday, December 2nd for Old Fashioned Christmas. The rock will be displayed in ‘Santa’s Workshop’ on ‘Candy Cane Lane.’ ☞



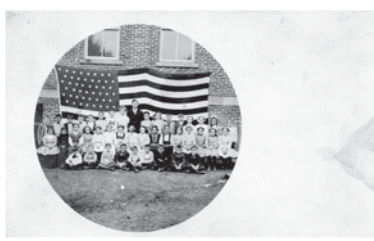
Velociraptor rendering

New Acquisitions

Recently, the Emmaus Historical Society received donations of several unique postcards of Emaus, each from a different donor. The postcards date from 1911 into the early 1920s. One, from 1911, is an invitation to a banquet at the Order of the Owls. Another, from 1916, is an image of the Emaus Train Station. The postcard with students and their teacher with the version of the U.S. flag flown after 1912 until 1959 was taken in front of Central School. The postcard with the A La Mode Restaurant on the Triangle as well as the one featuring the Emmaus Historical Society house on Main both exhibit the cars of the day, which are most likely from the late teens to early 1920s. The photo of the Bakery is in the same building as Kline’s Paint Store, owned by Howard Kline which is the same location of the future Wentz Hardware, now Altitude Marketing. The Society is so grateful to the donors who are allowing us to preserve these treasures in the collection. ☞



Invitation Postcard



School Postcard



Train Station Postcard



A La Mode Postcard



EHS House Postcard



Bakery Postcard

Preserving Our History: Emmaus's Past on Display at Borough's Three Historic Sites

By Teri Sorg-McManamon

The Emmaus Historical Society has been preserving Emmaus history since 1992. We often say our museum is "where history comes alive." Our visitors can be heard saying "I remember that..." or "I had no idea of Emmaus's roots."

There are sites in Emmaus where the sentiment of "history coming to life" is also true. The people of Emmaus in partnership with the Borough, own and share in the administration of three historic house museums - **Shelter House, Knauss Homestead** and **1803 House**. The sites are where our story started and contain the rich heritage and historic value that are representative of the region and our nations defining periods when the houses were built.

These beautiful properties were once owned by founding fathers and leadership of a unique Moravian community:

The **Shelter House** (Zufluchtshaus, a house of shelter) is a two-story, eight-room Germanic log structure located on the northern slope of South Mountain beyond the end of 4th Street on the southern edge of Emmaus. Surrounded by scenic property, the Shelter House is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places (built by early settlers around 1734). The house is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited dwelling in the Lehigh Valley. Resident curator, board members and members



Shelter House

at large of the Shelter House Society maintain the historic log structure, opening it to the public by appointment and during annual and special events.

The **Knauss Homestead**- the Knauss family played a central role in the history of Emmaus. Sebastian Knauss, along with Jacob Ehrenhardt, donated a large tract of land for the congregational village that took shape in the mid-eighteenth century. The Knauss House is situated on part of the original two hundred acres and survives as one of the best-preserved 18th century buildings associated with the 1747 founding of the Moravian community of Emmaus. It was erected in 1777 by Heinrich Knauss, the eldest son of Sebastian.

The picturesque property and two and one-half stories of



Knauss Homestead

the house has undergone alterations since its original construction and was inhabited for one hundred fifty-eight consecutive years by descendants of Sebastian Knauss, with seven generations born within its walls. Open by appointment and during annual events and festivals, the Knauss Homestead is a work in progress with dedicated board members and volunteers who look after it with great pride.

The story of the **1803 House** began with German settlers who made their way north from the port of Philadelphia, following the Perkiomen Trail into the fertile valley we know today as the Lehigh Valley. One settler was Jacob Ehrenhardt, a blacksmith and farmer from Marstadt, Germany, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1739, and settled onto this land. His son, Jacob Ehrenhardt Jr. was the 10th child and born in 1760. His mother died when he was 17 years old and the ownership of the house was an outcome of her settlement of her estate with her children.

The Friends of the 1803 House, Inc., was formed in 1977 with the mission of preserving the homestead and promoting an appreciation for local history. Work continues on this restored house, finished to the period and open to the public during annual events.



1803 House

One can walk through the door to Jacob's home and enter into the early 19th century beginnings of Emmaus.

At the Emmaus Historical Society, we believe that the spirit and fortitude of the original Moravian village is maintained through our mission of keeping our history alive for current and future generations. These special sites all have major significance to the history of our community and have become symbols and beacons of hope and opportunity for the Borough we call home. ☺



MYSTERY PHOTOS IDENTIFIED!

MYSTERY SOLVED

Thank You to our Readers



This is a Mother's of Twin's Club from the East Penn Area. Back Row L to R: Mary Ann Miller, ?, and Catherine Bouchet. Front Row Unknown as of now. Photo taken in 1976.



Rodale Manufacturing event: Possibly the Electrical Union, L to R: Allen Yocum, Robert Horstman, ?, Michael Fatula and Carl George, Jr. Taken in late 1960s



This is the Claude E. Fischer Emmaus VFW Post 7088. They are L to R: Richard Fenstermaker, Edwin "Goom" Miller, ?, Clement Fenstermaker and ?. Taken in late 1950s

100 Years Ago

Cake Walk and Dance
- The Emmaus Athletic Association will hold a cake walk and dance in Widder Bros' hall Saturday evening. All those wishing to donate cakes for the occasion are requested to notify the committee, who will call for them. Any assistance of this kind will be greatly appreciated by the association. The Melody Land Serenaders will furnish the music. The Morning Call, Friday, November 30, 1923



Still a mystery!

100 Years Ago

Fell Down Cesspool - Lovie, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Laudenslager, of Macungie Avenue, fell down the cesspool on Saturday evening about midnight. Mr. Laudenslager, hearing the piercing cries of a child, rushed into the yard and after experiencing great difficulty was able to reach her hand and pull her from her perilous position. The Morning Call, Tuesday, October 16, 1923

NEW MYSTERY PHOTOS

We are once again asking for your help in identifying anyone in these photos. It is a reminder to write identities on your photographs for future generations. Do you recognize anyone? If so, please contact the Society at 610-966-6591.



100 Years Ago

Duck Dinner - A sumptuous duck dinner was enjoyed at the home of Silas Biery on Thanksgiving Day. This dinner was given to Mr. and Mrs. Georgiana Benner and her children in honor of Mrs. Benner celebrating. The Morning Call, Monday, December 3, 1923

Contributions to our Capital and General Funds

We acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has generously contributed to the *Emmaus Historical Society* during the period from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. Capital Fund contributions fund those major projects that are necessary to maintain and preserve our beautiful building and property, as well as our mortgage. Capital projects for 2023 include the interior garage renovations along with wiring and rear property improvements. Contributions to our General Fund provide for the expenses related to running the Museum as well as funding programs, activities and this newsletter.

Capital Fund

Moravians - \$500.00 - \$999.00
William and Eleanor Reichard, Francis and Vicki Gehman

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00
Bert Nelson, Robert Bastian, in honor of the Emmaus Historical Society, Mary Ann

Wotring, in memory of Howard and Mary Deischer

General Fund

Triangle - \$1000.00 - \$2499.00
Trexler Trust

Heritage - \$100.00 to \$249.00
Bob Boehmer, Cecilia Birdsell in memory of Charles and Cecilia Birdsell, Holly H. Graf-Culhane, Rev. Fred and Mimi Foerster, in memory of Nancy Reimert

Historian - \$50.00 to \$99.00
Tyler Dodds, David and Robin Kerstetter, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Gary and Mimi Gilbert, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Jeanne Harakal, in memory of Nancy Reimert

and Mary Kirk, Dolores Bortz, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Moll/Barone Family, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Thomas and Carol Gable, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Shirley Polster, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Michael and Ardyth Magruder, in memory of Mary Kirk, Bruce Fichter, in memory of Paul Fichter, William Barto, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Barbara Baringer, in memory of Mary Kirk, Robert and Corrine Durdock, in memory of Mary Kirk, Robert and Bonnie Burdette, in memory of Mary Kirk, Jack and Vicki Ward, in memory of Mary Kirk

Friends - up to \$49.00
William Hoffman, Patricia Zazo, Steven Morse, Patricia Mabus, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Teri Sorg-McManamon, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Lucy McLeod, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Andrew Kerstetter, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Joan Kollar, in memory of Nancy Reimert, William and Mary Parsell, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Brian and Renee Shelly, in memory of Nancy Reimert, Glenn and Jean Deischer, in memory of Mary Kirk

Membership

Our membership meetings and programs are open to the public and held the third Wednesday of the month (except January, Lenten Wednesdays, June, July and August) at 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5th and Chestnut Streets in Emmaus. Our members include individuals (local and from afar), as well as Emmaus-area businesses and organizations. We encourage members to help us "get a member" by spreading the word to friends and family.

Annual Membership

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Individual | \$15.00 |
| Family | \$25.00 |
| Junior (Under 18 - No vote) | \$ 3.00 |
| Business | \$40.00 |
| Charitable Civic Org. | \$25.00 |



Life Membership

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Individual | \$200.00 |
| Family | \$350.00 |
| Business | \$300.00 |
| Charitable Civic Org. | \$100.00 |

Welcome to our New Members - Thank you for Supporting Us!

Robert Graves

William and Marsha Hoffman

Andrew and Allison Walker

Deceased Members - We extend our condolences to the families of:

Nancy Reimert: Died July 5, 2023
Cherolyn Washburn: Died July 19, 2023

Rita Blyler: Died July 25, 2023
Ronald Stauffer: Died August 26, 2023

Dean Weber: Died: August 30, 2023
Mary Kirk: September 11, 2023

Please call the office at 610-966-6591 if you are aware of any member to whom we should send a Get Well, Sympathy or Thinking of You Card.

100 Years Ago

Acclaimed Hero - Samuel Merkel, of North Fourth Street, was acclaimed a hero, when he stopped a runaway horse on Tuesday noon. The horse came dashing down Fourth Street, and he ran into the street to stop the animal. The horse, however passed him, whereup Mr. Merkle dashed after the team, jumped into the buggy and stopped the horse. The Morning Call. Thursday, November 29, 1923

100 Years Ago

Escaped Serious Injury - Liveryman Chas. H. Miller had a narrow escape from serious injury on Thursday when one of his horses fell. Mr. Miller's entire body was almost being pinned underneath the animal, but due to his quick action, he avoided serious injury. The horse fell on Miller's foot, however, causing the fracture of a small bone. Mr. Miller is able to be about and follow his duties. The Morning Call, Monday, October 1, 1923

What's Happening?

November Program -- November 15, 2023-7:00PM

Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods), the Peaceable Kingdom



Presented by Carla J.S. Messinger,
Director of Native American Heritage Programs

This program will be an in-depth look at the cordial relations of the Lenape, Quaker and Moravians during the early settlement of Pennsylvania and at the later conflicts arising with other Euro Cultures. Once respected "Grandfathers", who counseled for peace and arbitrated among the Native Nation, the Lenape were forced to negotiate desperately in a bid to maintain their values and relationship to their part of "Turtle Island".



Program FREE to the public! Members and Non-members Welcome
St. John's Lutheran Church 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA

★ Old Fashioned Christmas ★ Saturday, December 2, 10am to 8:30pm

218 Main St, Emmaus, PA 18049

- ★ Train Putz & Special Holiday Hours
- ★ Beautifully Decorated Museum
- ★ Candy Cane Lane 12 pm - 4 pm
- ★ **Holiday Cheers Trail & Bonus Bites**



Please bring a new scarf, hat, gloves or socks to donate for our "help those in need" holiday project!



** Holiday Cheers Trail & Bonus Bites This is a ticketed event through Emmaus Main Street Partners to be held from 12-5pm. Must be 21 years of age to participate.

Santa & Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 16, 11am to 2pm

218 Main St, Emmaus, PA 18049



Remember when the children of Emaus/Emmaus would go to Town Hall or Fire Co. No. 1 for an orange and box of chocolates?

Join us as we replicate this tradition with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring your children and grandchildren to experience this Christmas memory from yesteryear.

First 50 children will receive an orange and chocolates.

Ho, Ho Ho!

Please bring a new scarf, hat, gloves or socks to donate for our "help those in need" holiday project!



Christmas Covered Dish Party!

Wednesday, December 20, 5:30pm

218 Main St, Emmaus, PA 18049



Let's gather for an evening of cheer, friendship and holiday entertainment. Please call the museum with how many will be attending and tell us if you will bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. We'll supply the main dish. Appetizers will be available as soon as you arrive for snacking and visiting before dinner.

Please bring a new scarf, hat, gloves or socks to donate for our "help those in need" holiday project!



Let's Eat, Drink, And Be Merry!

Save the Date!
Sunday March 10, 2024 • 2-5PM

LUCKY BUCKS
BINGO

ONLY 125 TICKETS
AVAILABLE!

St. John's Lutheran Church
501 Chestnut Emmaus, PA 18049



100 Years Ago

Christmas Tree – Robert Knauss of Chestnut Street boasts one of the largest and most interesting Christmas putzes in town. The entire front room of the home is taken up with the putz, representing entire towns and villages. The village is well lighted with incandescent lights, including the various homes.
The Morning Call, Thursday, December 27, 1923

Executive Board

President Jeanne Harakal
Vice President Linda Boehmer
Recording Secretary Linda Waddell
Corresponding Secretary Teri Sorg-McManamon
Treasurer Albert Wieand

Directors

Patricia Mabus Michael Henry Michelle Capehart
Mary Parsell Debra Hoffman Andrew Kerstetter
Solicitor/Parliamentarian - John Zettlemoyer, Esq.

Museum Hours

Open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm
Check our website,
Facebook & Instagram for updates

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Emmaus Historical Society is to collect, preserve and exhibit Emmaus artifacts, documents, histories, photographs and genealogy for displays and research and to offer educational programs and events throughout the year.



Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Programs and Events for 2023
Programs are presented at 7 p.m. at
St. John's Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted

- November 15th** – Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods), the Peaceable Kingdom - Presented by Carla J.S. Messinger
- December 2nd** – Old Fashioned Christmas at the Museum
- December 16th** – Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Museum
- December 20th** – Annual Christmas Potluck with Entertainment - 5:30 p.m.
- December 23rd & 30th** – Museum closed for the Holidays
- March 10th** – Lucky Bucks Bingo – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Doors open at 1p.m.



November 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Emmaus, PA
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