



**Website:** [dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org](http://dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org)

**Email:** [dfhistorical1735@gmail.com](mailto:dfhistorical1735@gmail.com)

# ***Dingmans Ferry – Delaware Township Historical Society Newsletter***

## **Summer, 2026**

*Editor: Susan Ridyard*

### **President's Message**

Hello again to all our members and Society guests!

The events that have been presented and those that are still to come have again exceeded our expectations. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we will present **James and Dolley Madison**, portrayed by Kyle Jenks and Elissa Paulissen, at 2pm at the Township Municipal Building. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we are very pleased to present **'Dingmans Ferry Village – The Gateway to the New Frontier'** by Ted Parsell, past Society Board member and long-time resident of Dingmans Ferry. We also have a major event scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>! The event is the **'Living History of Dingmans Ferry'** to be presented by reenactors portraying Dingmans Ferrys past residents who will highlight the history of the community. This event is sponsored by the Smith / Orr Foundation. Lastly, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Society's dear friend and one of our favorite storytellers, Johathan Kruk, will entertain us with **'A Christmas Carol'** – one not to be missed.

As in the past, the Society has been and continues to be subsidized by Delaware Township Supervisors to whom we extend our sincere gratitude and thanks. We have again this year been very fortunate to have received a \$10,000.00 Grant from the Smith/Orr Foundation to whom we also extend our sincere thanks, especially to Trustee Bobby Orr, a resident and very active member of our community. I must also remind you that the Society exists only through the generosity of Grant providers, the Township, you, our membership, and general donations. Without this support, we would not be able to continue our programs or maintain and grow our museum. We are very proud to share that last year we had over 400 visitors to our museum and over 800 attending our presentations. As many of you know, presentations are free of charge and open to the public as are tours of the museum. Again, none of this would be possible without our supporters.

*President's Message continues page 2.*

### ***Table of Contents***

#### ***Page 2:***

- Our Museum & Schedule
- Programs Listing
- Executive Board
- Board Meetings
- President's Message (continued)

#### ***Page 3:***

- Description for Upcoming Programs
- 2026 Membership
- Our Mission
- Smith-Orr Grant

#### ***Page 4:***

- In Memory

### ***Renew Your Membership!***

Membership is yearly, starting in January. Be sure to fill out the Membership form that's on the website and also available at the meetings.

Also be sure to add our email to your address book so our emails to you won't be marked as spam:

[dfhistorical1735@gmail.com](mailto:dfhistorical1735@gmail.com)



## Dingmans Ferry- Delaware Township Historical Society Museum at Akenac Park

- Free with 10 rooms of over 3,000 artifacts
- Watch out for our banner announcing open days. In addition, we are always open whenever Akenac Park has an event.
- Open from 11am-3pm, typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Self-guided tour with Audio Recording
- The upcoming summer dates are: **June 28, July 11 and 26, August 8 and 23, and September 12, 20 and 27.**
- Visit our table at Akenac's Harvest Fest on **September 19.**
- **New Merchandise at the Museum General Store.** The T-Shirts are \$20, and 2X/3X are \$25. Hats are \$25.



*Beige T-Shirt and Hat: Dingmans Ferry Established 1735*



*Reverse Side of T-Shirt with Historical Society Bridge Logo.*

## Executive Board

- President: Tim Singleton
- Vice President: Skip Meyerhoff
- Treasurer: Diane Meyerhoff
- Recording Secretary: Patrice Singleton
- Corresponding Sec: Robert Gibbons

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

Lastly, our museum opened in April. The open dates of operation are listed on page 2 of this newsletter and on our website, [dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org](http://dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org). We are continually updating displays and do hope you stop by! Also, we are still accepting 2026 membership applications. If you are planning on joining but have not done so yet, the membership application is also on our website.

Wishing you all a very safe and pleasant summer and looking forward to seeing you at our July presentation!

*Sincerely, Tim Singleton, President*

## Upcoming FREE Programs: Time: 2pm for all Programs Unless Noted

**Location: Delaware Township Building – 116 Wilson Hill Rd. Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328**

- July 19: *James & Dolley Madison*
- Aug 16: *Dingmans Ferry Village- The Gateway to the New Frontier*
- Sep 20: *Living History – At the Museum in Akenac Park 11am-4pm*
- Nov 8: *Members Annual Luncheon*
- Dec 6: *A Christmas Carol*

## Board Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly. Join us on the **first Saturday** of each month at **10am** at the museum.

These meetings are open to all. We encourage your feedback and participation.





## Upcoming FREE Programs at Delaware Twp. Bldg.



### July 19 at 2pm. "James & Dolley Madison"

Historical interpreters, Kyle Jenks & Elissa Paulissen, present the life, social aspects, and legends of James and Dolley Madison. James Madison was an American statesman, diplomat, and Founding Father who served as the fourth president of the United States from 1809 to 1817. Dolley Madison is widely remembered as the most lively of the early First Ladies. As a

prominent entertainer and hostess, she helped shape the role of First Lady and served as the model for every future First Lady to come.



### Aug 16 at 2pm. "Dingmans Ferry Village: The Gateway to the New Frontier."

Ted Parsell presents The life and times of the Village of Dingmans Ferry before Government intervention and destruction. The colonial village of Dingmans Ferry (then called Dingmans Choice) began with its settlement in 1732 by Andrew Dingman and extended for

230 years until its removal and incorporation into the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Ted Parsell was one of the founding members of the Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society and a former Township Supervisor.

## Special September Program at the Museum at Akenac

Sep 20 from 11am-4pm "Living History at the Museum." Join us at the **Museum** to see historical figures from Dingmans Ferry come to life. Meet Andrew Dingmans, a School Marm, and as well as many other people important in our local history. Refreshments will be available. The program will run continuously and groups will move through the museum with costumed tour guides in the rooms to explain the history. This interactive program was made possible by our generous grant from the Smith/Orr Foundation.



Storekeeper at the General Store/ PO



School Marm

## 2026 Membership:

Membership begins annually each January and is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for family membership. Be a supporter of local history and join. The 2026 Membership form is on our website and is available at the meetings. **Please volunteer for committee as help is always needed and appreciated!**

Your member benefits include:

- Annual meeting & luncheon
- Private tours of our museum

## Our Mission:

The Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1994 to preserve the rich history of our area.

The Historical Society is dedicated to preservation of the records of the early settlers, and to the commemoration and preservation of artifacts, institutions and landmarks that constitute the history of our area.

The repository for the artifacts, books and files is the Society's Headquarters and Museum located at Akenac Park, Route 739 in Dingmans Ferry, PA.



## Smith-Orr Foundation Grant

Our appreciation and thanks go to Bobby Orr, Trustee of the Smith-Orr Foundation for the generous grant we recently received. This grant helps us with programs and advertising.



Bob Orr, Jr (center) and son Robert, present the grant check to Skip Meyeroff (left) and President Tim Singleton (right) for the Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society.



**We say a sad goodbye to several of our  
Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township  
Historical Society long time members. They  
will be missed.**



---

**William P. Kiger**  
**March 9, 1942 – February 18, 2026**



Milford lost one of its greatest civic leaders this winter when Bill Kiger died after many years of heart issues. Bill attended Milford Elementary, in the old Schoolhouse on West Harford Street, and after a career in publishing, he eventually returned to his family home in Milford. Fortunately for Milford, he devoted more than two decades of service and extraordinary volunteerism to the town and area, working with a wide range of organizations and endeavors. Last fall, Bill suffered a severe bout of pneumonia that left him weakened. He passed peacefully at Delaware Valley Skilled Nursing just before dawn, with his family at his bedside.

---

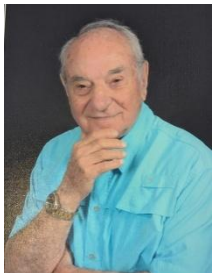
**Verna Rickard Bumball**  
**July 2, 1928 – March 12, 2026**



For over 97 years, the world was blessed with the kindness, compassion, and gentle spirit of Verna Rickard Bumball. Her happy summers and weekends were spent in Dingmans Ferry at the log cabin built by her father on Rickard's Lake. Later, she and her husband Stephen also built a summer home on Rickard's Lake. In 1978, Verna fulfilled a long-held dream and made Dingmans Ferry her permanent home. Upon retirement from a nursing career, Verna enjoyed the quiet life she loved on Rickard's Lake. She greeted each day with joy as she looked out over the water watching her "diamonds" shimmering across its surface. Devoted mother, dedicated nurse and friend to all, Verna passed peacefully on, leaving behind a lifetime of love and care that touched countless lives.

---

**Giuseppe “Joe” Candido**  
**February 26, 1930 - March 18, 2026**



In March, we said a sad goodbye to an old friend, Giuseppe “Joe” Candido. Joe was born in Sicily. He came to USA with his wife Carol and son as part of the American Company he worked for in Europe. Joe was a pilot in the Italian Air Force and trained in Texas and Canada. He was a chemical engineer by profession and worked for oil companies as well as pharmaceutical companies. After retiring, Joe and Carol traveled all around the world, spending winters in Florida. Carol and Joe were married for 62 years. Joe was a vivid reader of history books and enjoyed attending the monthly programs at the Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society. He is greatly missed by his family and friends.