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Dingmans Ferry – Delaware Township Historical Society Newsletter

Winter/Spring, 2026

Editor: Susan Ridyard

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President’s Message

Well, it’s spring again and your Board is busy planning the new season of presentations, events, and Museum activities. This year is the National 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. It is also the 291st anniversary of the founding of Dingmans Ferry and Dingmans Village.

That being the case, we have planned our programs to include National history and our community’s past local history. I believe that you will find the programs and events will be both entertaining and informative. *(A bit of a teaser -- for instance, did you know that the Revolutionary War Battle of Conashaugh, was fought right here in Delaware Township in April 1780!!).* All programs will continue to be open to the public free of charge, as will be access to the Museum. As in prior years, the museum will be open twice a month, from April through November from 11am to 3pm. The Delaware Township Board of Supervisors have again voted to help us with our continued endeavors to serve this community. We are very grateful for their assistance as without their support, we would not be able to achieve our goals.

This past year was an exciting one. Our museum was extremely busy with over 400 visitors. The two-day Civil War Living History Event also had record attendance with guests enjoying live cannon and musket fire, increased numbers of reenactors with tents and hospital tents, and live fiddle music. President Abraham Lincoln was with us in person, greeting attendees. Mr. Lincoln also spoke to the attendees concluding with his Gettysburg Address.

Our annual “members only“ meeting was held in November. Those in attendance received a review of the 2025 activities and were provided with a fabulous luncheon catered by chef Doug Cosh. The Society Board elections were held during the meeting. The 2025 Board was unanimously re-elected for another two-year term for 2026-2027.

President’s Message continues page 2

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 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday of each month. Self-guided tour with Audio Recording
- The upcoming spring dates are: **April 11 and 26, May 9 and 24 and June 13 and 28.**
- Featured in the Fall 2023 issue of the Journal (formally called Milford Journal) on pages 20-22. [Click here](#) to open the article.
- Susan Ridyard has donated two vintage dolls to our collection. These dolls were loved by Rita Boyd, Susan's mother and they have found a new home with us in our antique cradle!



Executive Board

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

Upcoming FREE Programs:
Time: 2pm for all Programs
Location: Delaware Township Building – 116 Wilson Hill Rd. Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

- **April 19: *The Battle of Conashaugh in Delaware Township***
- **May 17: *The Calm Before the Storm: George Washington on the Eve of the Revolution.***
- **June 14: *Delaware Township Men Fight in The Civil War***
- **July 19: *James & Dolly Madison***
- **Aug 16: *Dingmans Ferry Village- The Gateway to the New Frontier***
- **Sep 20: *Living History***
- **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.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Sadly, we must say farewell to several members and long-time supporters who recently passed. These individuals are listed in the Memories section of the newsletter on page 4.

Lastly, I ask you to please consider serving on one of our many Committees. If none of the Committees is of interest to you, perhaps you might consider serving as a museum guide!!

On behalf of your entire Board, I hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

Sincerely, Tim Singleton, President

Upcoming FREE Programs at Delaware Twp. Bldg.



April 19 at 2pm. “Battle of Conashaugh in Delaware Township” The program includes details of the Revolutionary War, highlighting the battles of Minisink Valley, including the Battle of Conashaugh in Delaware Township and battles in the Port Jervis and Pike County area. Jonathan Kruk, Master Storyteller will portray a local colonial resident.



May 17 at 2pm. “The Calm Before the Storm: George Washington on the Eve of the Revolution.” Historical Interpreter and Philadelphia Tour Guide Stephen Pierce will be interpreting George Washington in 1775, before he became commander of the Continental Army. Hear Washington talk about his time as a soldier in the French and Indian War, home life at Mount Vernon, and his thoughts on the coming conflict between Britain and her American Colonies.

Photos Wanted: Dingmans Ferry Residents & Homes – Part 2: G-K



We are looking for photos of the following people and homes that were in Dingmans Ferry. As we endeavor to preserve the history of Dingmans Ferry, we are reaching out to everyone for their help. Our ultimate goal would be to have a photo or sketch of every business and home that existed in the town of Dingmans Ferry as well as the

people of the town. It would be fantastic if together we could expand our photo collection to cover all of the old town of Dingmans Ferry.

If you have a photo or know of someone who does, you can email a digital copy to dfhistorical1735@gmail.com, mail the photo copy or stop by when the museum is open and drop one off. In future newsletters, we will continue to list the photos needed. **Thanks, Brenda Synder**

Mary Grafenecker	Lillie and Pete Jagger
Eva Heimbrook	Harry Johnson
Leonard Herr	Andrew Jugan
Hodges/Carl Schueller	Anson Kintner Barn
Bessie Hollander	Eva Kintner
Carrie Hornbeck	Matt Kintner
Harry Hornbeck	Otto Kittel
Hornski	Anna and Adis Koschir
Florence Illjes	Herman Kostebader
Charles Jakelow	Hermine Kraft
Levi & Harriet Jagger owned by Claude Brown	Hermann Krutz owned by Harry Bluemer

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.

Photos Wanted (cont’d): L-R

Helen Labar	Charles Pandelaky
Sallie Lasser	Carlye Pangburn/ May I. Dye
Dorothy Lemperly	Lester Pitney
Kennard Lewis	Lydia Poliakoff
Peter Lucchelli	William Ramagosa, Sunnyland’s Inc.
William Marcussen	Walter Rechsteiner
Anita Martin	Rudolph and Adele Reese
David Matheson	Mike/Stella Reidy
Louis and Elizabeth Maus	Catherine Rogers
Fred and Mildred Middaugh	William and Marie Rorer
Nostrand spot, Stone house built by Andrew Dingman	Mildred Ross
Thorwood Olson	Robert Ross
Barclay Ogden/ Myers	Joan Ryan

We say goodbye to three active members of the Dingmans Ferry- Delaware Township Historical Society: Steve Bumball, Harold Arnold, and Tom Witter. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones recently.



Stephen Rickard Bumball
January 1, 1960 - October 19, 2025



Steve was a former Society member and supported the Historical Society while proudly serving as Delaware Township Supervisor from 1996 through 2001. Stephen was known as well for his love of antiques and collectibles. We appreciated his service and support for our historical society.

Harold Sayre Arnold, Jr.
March 14, 1945 - January 7, 2026



Harold was the owner of the Dingman Agency Real Estate for 47 years, Good Time Pizza for 22 years, and recently retired. Harold was a long-time member of the Historical Society and had a great knowledge of local history as a proud descendent of the Dingman family and shared many stories which his family enjoyed.

Thomas C. Witter
April 3, 1938 - March 6, 2026



We are deeply saddened to report the passing of Tom Witter on Friday, March 6, 2026. Tom started visiting Dingmans Ferry in his youth with his parents at one of our local campgrounds. After retiring from the service, he moved here permanently.

Tom was one of the Society's founding members; he was also a life member and one of the many Societies' local presenters. He worked diligently to recover misplaced films of the early times in Dingmans Ferry and was instrumental in producing a DVD comprised of reproduction of those films. Tom was an important asset to this community and to the Society. He will be very sadly missed and never forgotten. Tom was 87 years of age. Until tomorrow dear friend!