

Fulton House News

Spring 2026



DERRY 3RD STREET ETHNIC FOOD FESTIVAL

AND

AMERICA 250TH CELEBRATION IN HISTORIC GOOSETOWN

★ ★ JUNE 20th ★ ★

Located E. 3rd St Derry PA 15627
From N. Ligonier to N. Chestnut



Derry Presbyterian Church



Derry First United Methodist Church



Nicely Homestead



Frank Cordi Store



Ethel Springs Lake

Small Town. Big History. One American Story

Derry Area Historical Society is proud to sponsor Derry's celebration of America's 250th anniversary, organized by the Friends of Derry. Check out page 2 for more information!

Upcoming Events:

All Meetings
Third Monday of
Each Month, 6:30 pm

Ice Cream Social
June 1st, 6:30 p.m.
Fulton House

Presentation on the
Unsolved Murder of
Emma Austraw by
Andrea Niapas
June 7th, 1 p.m.
Fulton House
*Pre-register by
emailing
derryareahistoricalso
ciety@gmail.com

Look for us at Derry
Ag Fair! July 12-18

Lammas Day
August 16th, 1-3 p.m.
Fulton House

For more events,
follow us on
Facebook
"Derry Area Historical
Society Official"

Join Derry in Celebrating 250 Years of America!

Coming June 20th, 2026 – Derry’s America 250 Ethnic Food Festival!

On June 20th, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the Friends of Derry, in conjunction with the Borough of Derry, and with the collaboration of churches and non profits in the area, will proudly help commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a brand-new celebration highlighting heritage, diversity, and the American story—told through the lens of our own community.

This festival will take place along E. 3rd Street, a historic stretch of town often known locally as “Goosetown,” a neighborhood shaped by generations of families whose traditions mirror the melting pot of cultures that define the United States.

Date: Saturday, June 20th, 2026

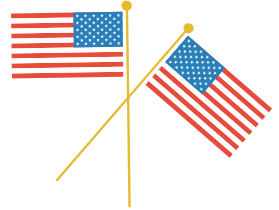
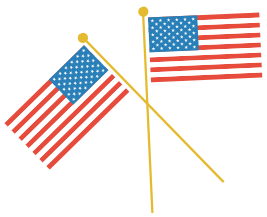
Time: 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: E. 3rd Street between N. Ligonier & N. Chestnut

To participate as a food or craft vendor:

nathan@friendsofderry.com

📞 724-217-2332



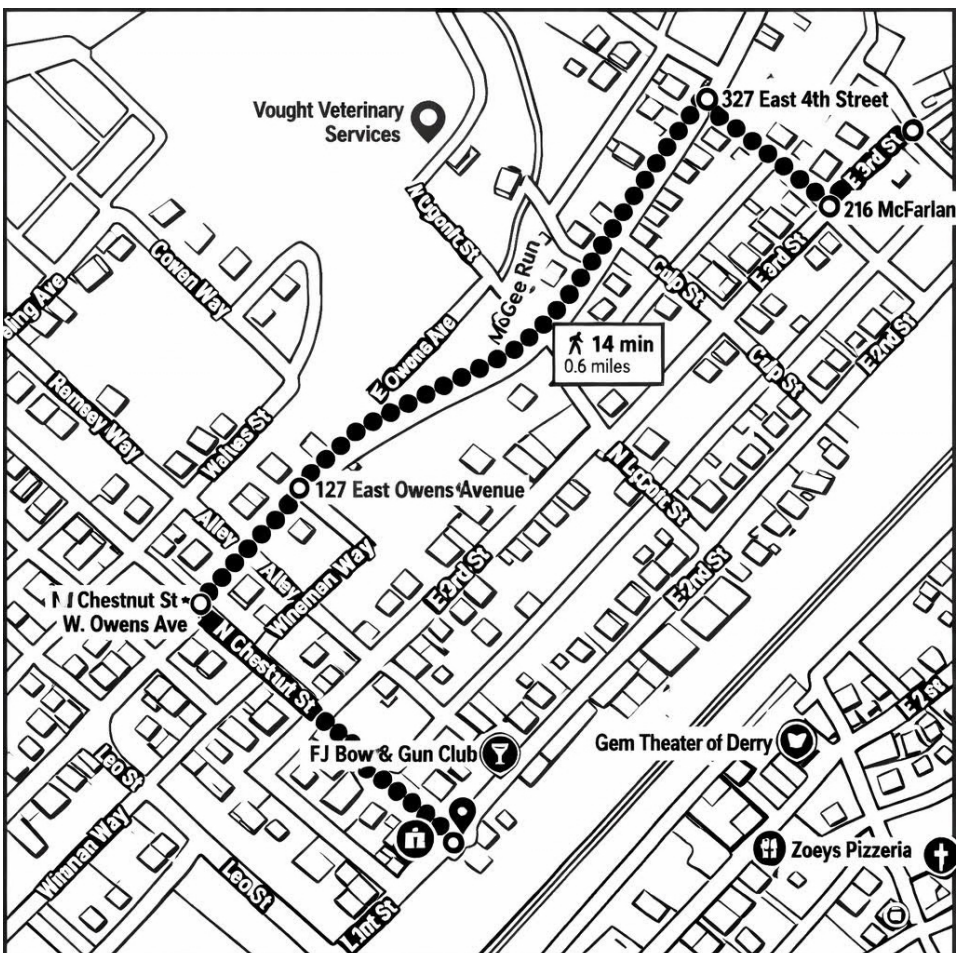
America 250 Parade Details

Join in on the celebration of America’s anniversary with a parade on Saturday, June 20, stepping off at 11 a.m.

Lineup begins at the DAYAA & Derry Community Pool parking lots. The parade route can be seen on the map shown here.

To march in the parade or enter a float or vehicle, contact Nathan Bundy at 724-217-2332.

Deadline to register is June 12.





Derry Area Historical Society board member Donna Showalter, in collaboration with the Latrobe Trinity Lutheran Church, recently secured a bench from the Nextrex Company to be placed outside of the Fulton House for guests to enjoy. For the past several years, Nextrex has sponsored a challenge for entities such as schools, churches and community groups to each collect 1,000 pounds of recyclable “number 2” or “number 4” clean plastic that would then be recycled into a bench. This incentive program has helped to decrease the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills- which often leaches into our water and soil and eventually even ends up in our bodies. Nextrex no longer offers a bench but has other incentives to collect plastic for their products. If you are a member of a group and wish to take the challenge to make our planet a little better, consider visiting their web site at www.nextrex.com.

Next time you visit the Fulton House, be sure to check out the new bench and say “thanks” to Donna for all of her hard work!

DERRY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JUNE 1ST, 2026
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
6:30-8:00 PM
THE FULTON HOUSE
357 PITTSBURGH STREET
NEW DERRY

Derry Presbyterian Church Celebrates 150 Years!

As submitted by the Derry Presbyterian Church

Derry Presbyterian Church was established in 1876, 5 years before Derry was incorporated as a borough. It was felt that there was a need for a house of worship to accommodate a number of people, mostly railroad men, who were of the Presbyterian faith. A meeting was called for and a resolution passed authorizing the organization of a Presbyterian Church in Derry. In the spring of 1876 the construction of a frame building was completed and the building was dedicated on April 2, 1876. The congregation was formally organized by a committee of the Presbytery of Blairsville on April 4, 1876 with a charter membership of 60 and with 3 elders elected.

The congregation grew rapidly and a larger building was needed. The present building was dedicated on March 29, 1896. By 1926 the membership had grown from the original 60 members to 662 members. Eventually there was a need for additional space and in 1985 the congregation voted to proceed with the construction of an addition to the present building. This addition would contain a multipurpose area, nursery, kitchen, pastor's study, secretary's office, music office and restrooms. The addition was dedicated on June 7, 1987.

In 1996, 100 years in the current building, a centennial celebration was held. The following message, penned by the Rev. F. Neal Galley (pastor of Derry Presbyterian Church from 1994-2004) for the 100th anniversary:

“Anniversaries can be exciting times, especially when we reflect upon what has been and then use that reflection to strengthen our hope and promise for what is to come. As we think back over these last 100 years that faithful people have gathered for worship in the sanctuary of this church, it is cause for us to be excited about the future. Over 100 years of ministry has been brought forth by the faithful people of this congregation and nothing has been able to stop that despite what struggles and adversities can arise in a century. The faith that has allowed the church to persevere over the past 100 years remains today in all of us who gather to give glory to God in worship and that faith leads us toward a bright future in Jesus Christ. As we take this opportunity to celebrate our history and life together, we can surely draw hope and strength as we move toward a new century of faithfulness.”

Rev. Galley's words continue to hold true as we celebrate 150 years in this building in 2026. Current plans for our celebration include a concert by “New Journey,” a Christian band, on Saturday, September 12th, and a recreation of the 1896 dedication worship service followed by a light luncheon on Sunday, September 13th. All are invited to come and celebrate with us. More info TBA. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date!

Our building often reminds us that it will have been serving this community for 150 years. As the building aged, maintenance/repairs were inevitable. After years of roof repairs, other issues arose, including the need to replace the furnace a few years ago, masonry repairs to the chimney and damage to the plaster from leaks. In just a couple of more years the entire roof will need to be replaced.

As we are now a congregation of under 50, we find ourselves challenged to meet the costs of the ongoing repairs and maintenance. Thankfully we have had successful fundraisers and ongoing donations to maintain and continue to grow our “Major Repairs fund” to be able to repair/restore our building to continue serving Christ and our community.

If you are interested in donating to our Major Repairs fund, donations can be made by check to Derry Presbyterian Church & mailed to: 108 West Third Street, Derry, PA, United States, 15627.

Cheers to 150 years and many more!

Have you heard of Mount Carmel Cemetery?

Mount Carmel Cemetery, located between New Derry & New Alex, is the burial place of some of the earliest Catholics in Derry Township. The former Mount Carmel Church, a log building erected in 1822 by James McGuire held services until about 1898. In that years that followed, the old log church fell into ruins & was torn down. The only remains are the cornerstone which was moved to the current Saint Martin's property & marked with a plaque.

Unfortunately for the cemetery, it suffered a similar fate when its stones were destroyed by acts of vandalism & subsequently removed. All that remains now is a single monument, marking the cemetery's location & a military headstone for a Civil War soldier interred there, Jonathan Kinnan.

List of those burried buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery:

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Brannigan
Miss Anna Bridge
Mrs. Elizabeth Bridge
Mrs. Margaret Bridge
Mary G. Bridge: born 10/22/1844, died 7/19/1863
Michael Bridge
Mr. Simmon Bridge
Mrs. Anna Donahue (McGuire)
Mr. J. Donahue
Infant Boy Feasel
Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Flowers
Mrs. Garrigan
James Garrigan: born 1829, died 4/24/1850
Michael Garrigan: born 1792, died 7/16/1844
James Hayden: born 1811, died 1/26/1890
Mrs. Mary Hayden
Michael Hayden
Theresa May Jones: born 4/4/1890, died 11/10/1908
Francis Kelly
Mrs. Cathern Kennan
Jonathhan Kennan, Co. G, 76th PA Infantry, Civil War
Kennan Twin Boys, Infant sons of James, died 1914
Mrs. Catheryn Kennedy (Shannon)
Rebecka Kennedy
John McAfee Jr.: Born 1801, Died 11/1/1812
John McAfee Sr.
Mrs. McAfee
Mrs. Anna McDermot: Born 1800, Died 11/25/1860
Patrick McDermot
Mr. James McGuire
John McGuire
Mrs. McGuire
Mr. Patrick Murphy
Mrs. Francis Murphy: Born 1802, Died 12/10/1881
Miss Margaret O'Hara: Born 1886, Died 1904
John Osterling
John Paints: Born 1793, Died 1/6/1855
Sarah Patterson: Born 3/8/1831, Died 3/7/1833



Old Log Church

This old log church, named in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, was built in 1822 in Derry Township under the direction of Father Terence McGirr, who was pastor of Sportsman's Hall Parish at the time. It served the needs of a group of Catholic farmers who lived too far away to regularly attend services at Sportsman's Hall. Mass was celebrated at Mount Carmel Church monthly until the late 1800s. The building, located near the present-day Keystone State Park, fell into disrepair shortly thereafter.

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE



BUFFET DINNER & AMERICA 250 TRIVIA

Basket Raffle, 50/50, & more! Cash bar available.

Fundraiser

SUNDAY | **27** | SEPTEMBER

4-6 pm (Doors open at 3 pm)

A.V. GERMANO HALL (100 W. 2ND ST. DERRY)

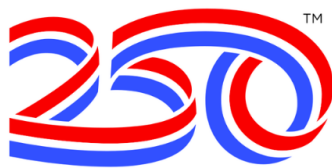
Ticket includes buffet style dinner &
6 rounds of Live Hosted Trivia with prizes.

Playing trivia is not mandatory.

Spectators are welcome!

TICKETS \$20 EACH | CALL 724-717-3187

AMERICA



2026 INNKEEPERS MAY ATTEND FOR FREE. JUST RSVP BY RETURNING THIS FORM!

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____ (NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAMES OF ANY GUESTS IN THE SPACE BELOW OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.)

CHECKS MAY BE MADE OUT TO DERRY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MAILED TO P.O. BOX 64 NEW DERRY, PA 15671

Bradenville's Dynamite Hill

By Joe Waggle, featuring excerpts of the 1904 Latrobe Bulletin

The Pennsylvania Railroad engineers were planning the right-of-way for the railroad from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia in 1850. When they reached Bradenville, just east of the town, they encountered a large hill. Instead of trying to go through the hill, they ran the tracks around the lower side of the hill. In 1903, the PRR decided to cut straight through the hill, which was about 80 or 90 feet high at the highest point. A contractor from Pittsburgh, the Kerbaugh Construction Co., was hired to do the job. A camp to house the workers was built near the PRR site. In carrying out the work, they had to drill the rock and use explosives to blast it loose. A powder house was constructed about a quarter of a mile from the operation to store the explosives.

It was still cold weather, and the company had a stove in the powder house to keep the dynamite from freezing and a watchman to look after the fire. The magazine was strategically positioned on a hill above the railroad cut to securely store large quantities of explosives. These storage sites were typically placed on higher ground to minimize the impact from accidental explosions on the excavation crews below. To supply this work, explosives were delivered by rail to a local siding on the Pennsylvania Railroad Bradenville Branch, where they could be transferred to wagons and hauled to the magazine and blasting sites.

The PRR Bradenville Branch supplied multiple mines, such as Derry No. 1 and No. 2, which needed large amounts of blasting powder and dynamite. The magazine was located in a field just east of Bradenville. This location would have made it a central explosives depot for multiple projects, including mine blasting, railroad construction, and quarry or grading work. Many historians suspect that Kerbaugh's powder house served both railroad construction and nearby mines, which is why it was placed there.

EXTRA **LATROBE BULLETIN.** **EXTRA**

VOL. 2, No. 64 LATROBE, PA.; SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1904 PRICE ONE CENT

TOWN OF BRADENVILLE DEMOLISHED

One Car of Dynamite and One of Powder in the Storage House Exploded,
Wrecking Bradenville, Latrobe and Surrounding Towns. Plate Glass
Fronts of Business Houses Damaged. Private Residences Damaged
For Miles Around. Everybody Horrified—Thought it Was
The Finish. The Earth Trembled. One
Man Killed and Many Injured.
Loss is Thousands.

KERBAUGH AIDING THE INJURED

At five minutes to five o'clock this afternoon, the big dynamite house of the H. S. Kerbabugh company, located in a vacant field just east of Bradenville blew up, killing one man, injuring several other persons, demolishing entire houses and breaking thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of glass in the windows of many of the buildings within a radius of four miles of the scene. The damage caused by the explosion will amount to thousands of dollars. The man believed to be dead was the watchman who was stationed at the powder house. Not a single trace of his body or any of his clothes has been found. In the powder house was stored a car-load of dynamite and a car-load of powder, which had been recently received.

The H.S. Karbaugh officials stated that they had no idea as to the explosion and gave it as their opinion that the cause would never be found They always had a man stationed at the house day and night to guard it and no one was allowed to approach within any distance of it. Connected with the powder house Kerbaugh company kept a complete stock of goods used in the company store, and consisting of shoes, clothing groceries etc. This stock alone amounted to \$3000 and all was lost, not a stitch of clothing or even a piece of tin can being left. The H. S. Kerbaugh officials announced that they had no idea as to the real cause of the terrific explosion. They will rebuild at once, and before six o'clock this evening they had men out looking for carpenters in order to start work on Monday morning. Wm. Saylor, the walking boss inspected the magazine fifteen minutes before the explosion. He found everything all right. It is said that Quinlan, was drying dynamite this afternoon, this may have been the cause of the explosion.

Continued on next page-

The officials of the Kerbaugh Company estimate that about fifty people living in Bradenville were more or less injured by flying glass and debris.

THE DEAD: Patrick Quinlan.

THE INJURED: Mrs. John Prestich, of Bradenville, badly cut by flying glass; The children of John Prestich, all more or less cut; Mrs. S. Queer, of Bradenville, cut by flying glass; Mrs. Maggie Armstrong, hit in side by flying door which was wrenched from the hinges and thrown for twenty feet; C. D. Colwell, of near Bradenville, cut about the face and hands; Jacob Squibbs jugular vein cut, dying; Boy 16, son of John Winebrenner, badly hurt.

Many persons are homeless. Elias Powers cut on head very badly hurt with flying glass. John McCune face badly hurt. Mr. Lacock head and face cut. Baby of Jacob Squibbs, cut about head and face. Laurie Colwell, both eyes blown out. John Squibbs, aged 24 injured about neck and back. Mrs. Levina Squibbs, aged 60 cut about head and face. Mrs. W. H. Flickinger, crushed by debris, condition serious. House completely destroyed. Constable W. H. Flickinger, painfully cut. William Doran, aged 43, cut and bruised. Mrs. William Doran, aged 40, cut about head and face. Ed Hughes, 18, right hand crushed. Jessie Armstrong, aged 5, of Bradenville, cut about head and face. John Winebrenner, aged 11 of Bradenville, cut about head and face. A. J. King, Bradenville, cut about head and face. Lizzie Stevenson, aged 15, of Bradenville, cut about head, neck and face, condition serious. John Squibbs, Jr., aged 5, cut about head and face.

Immediately after the explosion hundreds hastened to the scene but there was but very little to be seen. A big hole in the ground, at least 40 feet square and six feet deep while scattered over the field for the distance of 500 feet around were hundreds of bent and torn powder and dynamite cans. It is estimated that the dynamite exploded first making the greatest explosion. The second big explosion was caused by the powder which was stored in an adjoining compartment. The successive smaller explosions were caused by the stray cans of dynamite and powder going off. At least 20 explosions occurred. The crowds walked and drove promiscuously over the broken cans, and it is considered almost miraculous by Nappie Ganyon that someone wasn't blown up, as he said that it was probably that some of the cans had not exploded.

People walked over the field looking for traces of poor Patrick the watchman, but nothing could be found. Every house in Bradenville was damaged to a greater extent; Queer's house was completely demolished, the floors dropping into the cellar. C. D. Colwell's house was also completely ruined, doors being wrenched from their hinges and the walls being bulged out, so that the house threatens to fall at any moment, The house of John Pestrich is also a total ruin. It was a new house, and the nearest one to the powder house. The camp of the Kerbaugh company, located below the camp, was demolished. The stable was demolished and the cabins were badly damaged.

The operator in B. N. tower, near the scene was badly injured by flying glass. He was taken to Derry. Not a house in Bradenville escaped damage of some sort. Windows suffered the most and half hour after the explosion the prosaic foreigners were to be seen nailing boards over holes where had once been windows. The wind blew a hurricane and from every broken window there dangled curtains and blinds. All sorts of reports were current as to how many men had been killed. The only man killed however was the watchman. Jake Sqibbs was not killed nor was John Shrum, it is said Squibbs bad his jugular vein cut. Many of the people of Bradenville were rendered practically homeless by the explosion. Some of the houses are untenable. The clock in the station at Bradenville stopped at 4:55.

The force of the explosion reached Latrobe with a terrific crash. Nearly every house in town had one or more pieces of glass broken, and several houses had every pane blown out. Derry suffered from the explosion almost as did Latrobe. They heard from ten to 15 explosions. A large number of big windows were broken some of them being: Bank building, Fritz building, Seger hotel, Mowry's and Sipe building.

Dr. Catherman, the Kerbaugh company physician was early on the ground, were several of the physicians of the town. Every possible assistance was rendered to the injured.

-LATROBE BULLETIN: SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1904

THIS ISSUE OF THE FULTON HOUSE NEWS IS SPONSORED BY:

PLATINUM SPONSORS:



BOHEMIAN CITIZENS BENEFICIAL SOCIETY
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LOPATICH-BRINKER FUNERAL HOME

SHAFFER MEMORIALS

****BRONZE SPONSORS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE****

What Have We Been Up To?

October 2025: DAHS held a children's Halloween party at the Fulton House. Members of the group also represented the Society at Derry Borough's Halloween Hootenanny event, handing out candy to the community.

November 1, 2025: DAHS completed its "Adopt a Revolutionary War Hero" project, replacing the remaining damaged Revolutionary War era headstones in Old Salem Cemetery.

November 9, 2025: DAHS hosted local funeral director, Jason Brinker, who gave a presentation on the history of funeral directing and funeral homes in the Derry area.

November 22, 2025: DAHS hosted a High Tea, featuring guest speaker, Ginny Vayda who gave a presentation on the history of tea and tea parties.

December 2025: DAHS held its annual Old Salem Christmas sing-along, its annual Christmas party at the Fulton House, and partnered with local group, Friends of Derry to host a Children's Christmas at the Derry VFW.

December 5, 2025: DAHS presented its Pomeroy award for historical education and preservation to Chris & Judy Johnston, John Kerin, and the members of the Derry Township 250th Anniversary Committee, including the Derry Township Supervisors.



January 2026: Fulton House barn stairs re-done for safety and to make for easier access to the second floor.

February 2026: DAHS holds online silent auction & duplicate yearbook sale to help raise money for barn roof replacement.

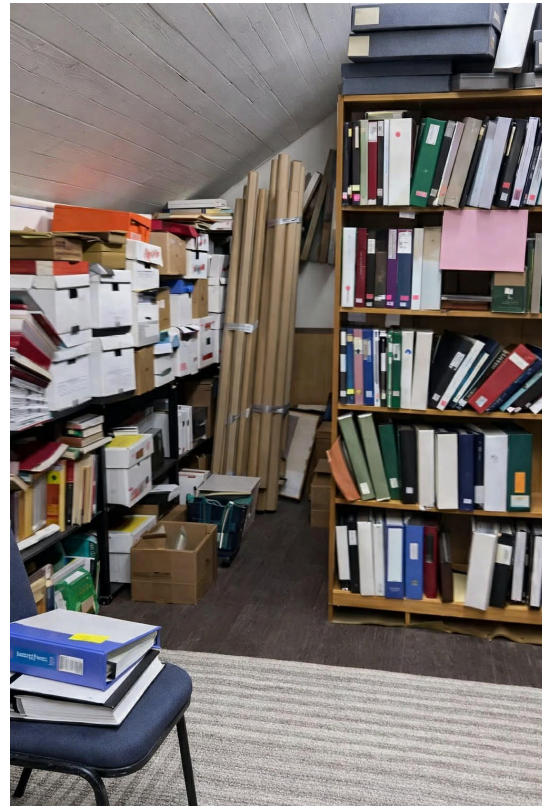
February 2026: Denise Wood & Diane Kerr put finishing touches on Fulton House library re-organization project.

Ongoing: DAHS consistently receives research requests from the community via email and Facebook and is working to assist the community with their historical questions.

****As you can see, we are constantly working on new projects. We could use YOUR help! Does any of this sound like something you could help us do? Send us an email derryareahistoricalociety@gmail.com*

Library committee members, Denise Wood & Diane Kerr have spent numerous hours unboxing 30 years of archives, moved from the New Alex library several years ago and reorganizing things into a more user-friendly space. We can't wait for you all to see our new set-up on the second floor of the Fulton House!

Before:



After:





WE WANT TO GIVE A HUGE THANK YOU TO DAVE KINDL & LAUREL THOMAS WHO BUILT & INSTALLED THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW SHELVING UNIT ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE FULTON HOUSE. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO BETTER EXPAND, ORGANIZE, & DISPLAY OUR HISTORICAL ARCHIVES & ARTIFACTS.

Building Renovation Fund

Over the last several years, we have begun to notice things that are in need of maintenance and repair on the Fulton House. As every homeowner does, we are beginning to experience surprise expenses and are now thinking about how to stay ahead of them. Looking ahead, we see that our next major need will be replacing the roof of our barn behind the Fulton House. The current asphalt shingles are rapidly approaching their life limitations and should be replaced with a metal roof, similar in style to the cedar shake look metal roof that we installed on the Fulton House a few years ago.

We are estimating this roof replacement to cost around \$15,000. We will be applying for grants to help with this project. But due to the competitive nature of grants, these are never a guarantee. Most grants are also “matching grants,” meaning they require the organization to come up with a percentage (usually half) of the expenses on their own. As a small and local non-profit, we receive no state or federal funding. Everything we do is accomplished through fundraising and generous donations from our members, friends, and community.

To begin addressing current issues such as our barn roof and stay ahead of future ones, we are holding a building renovation drive to establish a Building Renovation Fund. If you are interested in contributing to the cause with a donation of any amount, you can make a check out to Derry Area Historical Society with the words “Building Renovation” in the memo line & fill out the form below.

Yes, I would like to contribute to the building renovation fund!

Name: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Address: _____

DERRY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 64
NEW DERRY, PA 15671

Visit us at www.derryhistory.org

Board of Directors: Denise Frisko Wood (President), Judy Johnston (Vice President) Peter Wood (Treasurer), Rachel Ruffing (Secretary), Joanne Vicini, Donna Showalter, Patrick Showalter, Rebecca Gamble, Lidia Gamble, Fran Campbell
Newsletter designed & edited by Denise Frisko Wood

ATTENTION! THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES FOR 2026 IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY. THANK YOU!

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL (CHECK ONE)

YEARLY DUES: INDIVIDUAL (\$10)_____ COUPLE (\$15)_____ BUSINESS (\$25)_____

LIFETIME DUES: INDIVIDUAL (\$100)_____ COUPLE (\$150)_____ BUSINESS* (\$250) _____

*LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE ONE FREE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AS A GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR. BE SURE TO EMAIL YOUR BUSINESS LOGO.

Checks may be made payable to: Derry Area Historical Society PO Box 64 New Derry, PA 15671

2026 INNKEEPERS APPEAL

_____ I WANT TO HELP “KEEP THE LIGHTS ON” AT THE FULTON HOUSE AS A 2026 INNKEEPER.
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$175 MADE OUT TO THE DERRY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.