



WINTERS HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM

A Message from the Executive Director...

What we put our attention on grows, and that philosophy was clearly evidenced by the builders and sustainers of Heritage House in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

The volunteers who researched the log buildings on East High Street, raised money for the start-up project, recruited other volunteers, invited interest and in-kind support from local businesses, and formed a membership association to oversee the living history operation did so for many reasons. Most of the museum's organizers were either native to Elizabethtown or firmly established residents. Thus, guiding this ambitious effort was a sense of *community*. The blending of individual talents shaped the vision for a newfound local history resource and led ultimately to its realization. Through the process, camaraderie and a feeling of fun were as important to Heritage House becoming *A Doorway into History* in the spring of 1991. Leading into the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year 2011, people resources continue to be most vital in sustaining the mission of the museum.

In this special anniversary issue, we recognize three prominent museum build-

ers: Louise Baugher Black, retired Associate Professor of English, Elizabethtown College; Mary Conrad, Head Docent and retired Museum Manager; and Mary Karnes, local historian and Genealogy Librarian, Seibert Library. I met **Louise** in 1979-1980 when I, a freshman English major, was her student at Elizabethtown College. She became my mentor, and we remained friends for years after my graduation in 1983. In the 1990's when I moved to Elizabethtown with my family, Louise introduced me to the Heritage House. The local preservation project was one to which both she and her husband Merle had been long dedicated. In 1998, when I joined the museum staff, Louise was an active interviewer in the Oral History Committee and an ardent fundraiser for the biennial *Messiah* benefit concert in which her daughter Carolyn was a featured soprano.

The **Marys** became my co-workers and friends that same year. **Mary Conrad** was the Head Docent (tour guide), Museum Manager, and Quilting Committee chair. She had to regularly ward off laryngitis with a string of enthusiastically told tales during annual third grade walking tours, Story Hours, and sum-

mer Heritage Camps. Mary was and is a true storyteller, and she recounted for me, a newcomer then, every detail of the museum's and town's history. **Mary Karnes**, Genealogy Librarian, was a familiar face from the Elizabethtown Public Library. Mary, like Louise and the other Mary, was an important contributor to start-up operations for both the museum and genealogy library. Our personalities were immediately compatible, as we bonded over a fondness for writing precision and proper spelling. Mary grew up on a farm in the Donegal Springs area—adjacent to Donegal Church and the Cameron Estate Inn. With an incredible memory and excellent organizational skills, Mary, herself, is a solid resource for researchers of the past: people and places, dates and times, and stories and events. Each one of these women has devoted positive energy, contagious enthusiasm, and a strong sense of citizenship to their respective roles within Elizabethtown's local teaching museum. Their personal stories appear inside this issue.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Three stories of prominent women involved with the museum
- Seibert Library & Genealogy Nook
- Become a member at the museum
- **New** items in the Nogging Shop
- Upcoming events at the museum

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Winters Heritage House Museum  
**Annual Plant Sale**  


On the porch @ 33 E. High St., Elizabethtown  
**Saturday, May 15**  
**8:30 a.m. to noon.**  
 Annuals, perennials, herbs, & indoor plants

Interprting our past through activitizs that build skills for the futurz.

Winters Heritage House Museum  
**ANNUAL QUILT EXHIBIT**



May 1 through May 31, 2010  
 \$5 pp-tour donation

Save the Dates!  
**May** 1-31 - Annual Quilt Exhibit & Show  
**June** 30 - Heritage Camp/History Detectives  
**July** 1 - Heritage Camp/History Detectives  
 7-8 - Heritage Camp/Our Town  
**September** 11 - Volunteer Picnic  
**November** 13 - The Roast of Ted Long  
 Elizabethtown College President  
**December** 3-4 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Show



WINTERS HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM  
 41-47 East High Street  
 P.O. Box 14  
 Elizabethtown, Pa 17022  
**(717) 367-4672**

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## GENEALOGY NOOK

It seems hardly possible that the Seibert Library has been in existence for nearly 20 years. One of the earliest suggested uses for the museum's preserved and restored building was to create a genealogy library. It was particularly observed at our town's public library that there were often requests, but difficult to fill, for information about early Elizabethtown residents. These queries increased as more persons took up the search for their roots. Much was due to the book *Roots* written by Alex Haley—that was a bestseller and was followed within a short time by the lengthy commercial film by the same name in serial form on television. It sparked an explosion of "root" searching.

A committee was named that included persons known to be history (and family history) buffs, including Phares Risser, Henry Gingrich, Melissa Seitz, Ray Dieffenbach, and Mary Karnes. All of these people had been compiling family and local history over a long period of time. They consented to be the committee and named Mary as the librarian for the effort, due to her interest and many years' experience at the Elizabethtown Public Library. The committee had a wealth of books on local history that they immediately contributed as a nucleus of information. Many of these would have been pricey to purchase, but contained very essential family and local history for initial basic research.

In the intervening years, our collection of resources has expanded constantly, much of it by donations, but also by purchases. Our *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, by its weekly account of happenings, has provided much essential material, with most issues of the past 50 years having been clipped and filed or kept intact. Obituaries, having a wealth of family information, also have been clipped and filed with a database allowing easy reference.

Since the Internet has become an increasingly enormous wealth of intricate information, we are very fortunate to have as a volunteer, Gail Frey, who is extremely adept at accessing those resources, particularly census records of many years. At one time, we thought we were fortunate to have books that listed Lancaster County deeds by seller and purchaser. Now, the complete writings of Lancaster County deeds, as well as many other such records, are Internet available.

We urge you, our readers, to take advantage of Gail's expertise in researching and compiling your genealogy, by appointment, if possible. She then could devote her efforts to one request at a time. Or you are welcome to do your own research or browsing in our extensive collection any time the museum is open.

Another outstanding recent contribution has been whole issues of many, mainly Lancaster, newspapers, dating from as far back as the death of President Roosevelt in 1945. All are special editions of national and county events, such as wars and floods, as well as other presidential elections or deaths. These had been carefully stored by family members and were given to our library by Bernard Thome.

Supplementing the library's print collection of books and family history files are cds such as Heritage Books Archives' early Pennsylvania vital records and special cds for Pennsylvania German and Hessian information.

We also have Family Tree Maker's archives of Pennsylvania records through the 1800's, including the 1850 Pennsylvania census, a donation of John P. Ranck.

Another cd is antique maps of Lancaster County given by Harvey Eshelman. All of these resources may be used in the Seibert Library at any time.

Written By: Mary Karnes

## MARY KARNES

At a recent Board event, one Director commented, "We need to clone Mary Karnes." He could not have been closer to the truth. Mary possesses an extensive knowledge of local history information that she shares with others while working in the Seibert Genealogy Library. "When I first became involved with the museum operation, Elizabethtown did not have a genealogy library, so the museum's founding committee decided to establish one." Within a year after the museum opened, Mary was appointed head librarian of the fledgling genealogy library, which opened to the public with a collection of materials generously donated by area residents.



"I have always liked helping people," Mary explained. And helping people is what Mary does each and every week on Thursdays and Saturday mornings in the museum's genealogy library. Mary relies upon the unique and varied print and electronic sources in the Seibert Library as well as draws upon her vast firsthand knowledge to assist researchers. Anyone who is curious to learn more about the history of a house, a business, or a family in the Elizabethtown area should plan to visit Mary.

## MARY CONRAD

Mary Conrad is full of energy and loves to learn. She was very active in her children's lives, but as they grew older, she sought out a new hobby. She had heard about a local museum project and attended a slide show presented by Jean Leicht. Afterwards, she was very impressed and very excited to begin working with the museum volunteers. At first, she served as docent, or tour guide, conducting the Heritage House tour as part of the annual third grade historic walking tour. She eventually joined the museum staff as Manager from 1996-2000. Continuing until today as Head Docent, Mary of-



ten finds that she cuts her talk short because she has so much information to share but never enough time. Mary explains, "I've learned so much from the community. If I'm good at my tours, it's because the community has helped me." Mary also remains involved with the Quilting Committee and recently participated in food preparation with the Hearth Cooks for the Tavern Dinner. "I just love the museum, and there are great people there. It's a fun place," Mary said.

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**LOUISE BAUGHER BLACK**

In the late 1980's, Alethia White and Jean Leicht, museum founders, invited Louise to get involved in a special preservation project. After learning about plans for Heritage House, Louise believed it "was a good idea and that the town needed something like it."

She started by raising funds through her community and Elizabethtown College connections and recruited others to get involved. Eventually, Louise was instrumental in organizing the biennial *Messiah* benefit concert and acquiring a level of sponsorship monies and matching funds necessary to make the event worthwhile.

When she reflected upon the early days, she commented, "We didn't have much to start with...just a little building, but today, the museum is a sophisticated operation. It looks inviting and professional." Louise actively supported the museum as a member and



Louise Black with Executive Director Lori B. Donofrio-Galley



**NOGGING NEWS**

Around 1860, an independent but attached 2-1/2-story commercial establishment was built against the East wall of the original Heritage House log cabin at 47 East High Street. It was made of "timber and nogging" construction. Nogging is brick mortared into the hollows of the wall before plastering, which may have been an early form of insulation. The attached construction became known as the Nogging Shop when the

Heritage House opened in 1991. Locally handmade crafts, artwork, and other products are all part of the museum store's regular inventory, including framed artwork, hand-dipped candles, collectible mugs, woven placemats and table runners, prints of Elizabethtown buildings, turned wooden candleholders, a shaker bench for children, original edition 1864 Lancaster County At-

las pages, wooden bowls, exotic wine corks, heirloom seek packets, forged iron products, handspun wool, wooden candle boxes, painted porcelain boxes, gourd art, potpourri, roving, and quilted items.



**NEW!** Jamaican Me Crazy, Irish Crème, Kahlua Vanilla, Chocolate Hazelnut, and Morning Blend are among many gourmet flavors of Boston's Best now available for sale in 8 oz bags at \$6.75 in the museum store.

**INTERPRETIVE COMMITTEES**

A word from the Program Manager...

The committees that meet at Winters Heritage House Museum help to preserve historic skills and knowledge. We host quilters, hand-spinners, weavers, heirloom gardeners, open-hearth cooks, and historic artisans; gather and interpret our town's history; and conduct original research. We welcome anyone who is interested in these skills to join us at Elizabethtown's teaching museum. Newcomers can learn these traditions, help us expand our knowledge of them, and pass them on to others.

**HERB STUDY**

The Herb Study Group plants and maintains a PA German raised-bed herb garden as typical for the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The garden is used as an instructional tool to teach museum visitors about the types of herbs grown in that time period and their uses. The Herb Committee volunteers meet on the second Monday of each month. Members support the museum by sponsoring a May Plant Sale and producing herbal gifts for the annual Holiday Craft Show.

**QUILTING COMMITTEE**

One of the museum's first fundraisers was organized by the quilters. A signature quilt, which hangs today in the 1812 Room, was one way to raise money for museum start-up costs. Led by Mary Conrad, the Quilting Committee meets regularly on the second and third Mondays of each month. Recent fundraising projects have included quilt raffles, quilted ornaments, table runners, and wall hangings. An annual spring Quilt Show attracts visitors as well as museum donations. The group was organized to preserve and promote the tradition of hand-quilting by creating a fellowship of quilters and teachers.

**OPEN-HEARTH COOKING COMMITTEE**

Members of the Open-Hearth Cooking Committee demonstrate for the public using period recipes, authentic preparation and cooking techniques, unique equipment, and available foods specific to the 1700's and 1800's. Whether cooking in the open hearth or baking in the squirrel-tail bake oven in the museum's 1847 kitchen, the hearth cooks demonstrate on-site during special events, including the Tavern Dinner, Heritage Day, and the Hike for Health and History, or off-site for educational outreach programs. Ann Kratz, original committee member, notes: "I like history as well as cooking, and it puts me back in time."

**TEXTILE ARTS COMMITTEE**

The Textile Arts Committee, formerly known as the Spinning and Weaving Committee, was revived in 2005 by Nancy Landis. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month to work on fiber-related crafts, including spinning, weaving, crocheting, and felting. Members socialize, share tips, and practice their skills. According to Nancy Landis, the group demonstrates on- and off-site about six times a year "to keep the art

**HERITAGE ARTISAN'S GUILD (HAG)**

HAG members meet at the museum on the last Tuesday of the month. This year, the co-op, which officially began in 2008, totals about 17 active members. Its mission is to preserve historical skills with arts and crafts. Members participate in the annual Holiday Craft Show as vendors, host a fall Art Opening and Exhibit, and help to expand the museum store inventory with locally handmade products. A variety of artisans are represented, including blacksmiths, painters, textile artists, quilters, and people skilled at the delicate art of paper-cutting called scherenschnitte.

# 2010 Membership

We welcome New or Renewed!

## Members-Only Benefits for You and Your Family

Benefits	Individual (\$15)	Family (\$30)	Sustaining (\$50)	Patron (\$100)	Sponsor (\$250)	Benefactor (\$500)	Associate (\$1000)
Member Newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Annual Craft Show Preview Shopping Event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free Research/Consultation, Seibert Library	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
\$15 pp Heritage Camp Registration		✓	✓				
\$10 pp Heritage Camp Registration				✓			
\$5 pp Heritage Camp Registration					✓		
Free Heritage Camp Registration						✓	✓
\$1 pp Story Hour Registration		✓	✓				
Free Story Hour Registration				✓	✓	✓	✓
Interpretive Classes/Workshops			1 free	2 free	3 free	4 free	Unlimited

To join us, please complete the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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Visa/MasterCard: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please make checks payable to Elizabethtown Preservation Associates, Inc.

\*\*Annual memberships expire on December 31st

\*\*\*Your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## A look around Winters Heritage House Museum

