

Winters Heritage House Museum



# Member Newsletter

*We are Elizabethtown History!*

Published quarterly by the Elizabethtown Preservation Associates, Inc.

Spring 2022

*In This Issue —*

- ◆ *A Pioneer's memories*
- ◆ *A new spinner at the wheel*
- ◆ *A sad goodbye*
- ◆ *And more....*

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Winters Heritage House Museum  
 P.O. Box 14  
 47 East High St.,  
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
 (717) 367-4672



# PROPERTY PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN



The following goals will be met through the \$100,000 campaign;

- ◆ Museum roof renovations
- ◆ Exterior siding repairs
- ◆ HVAC upgrades
- ◆ Artifact storage area improvements
- ◆ Technology upgrades
- ◆ Restoration of two Wayne Fetto murals; *Donegal to Donegal* mural in the East High St. municipal parking lot and *Four Centuries of Elizabethtown History* mural in the South Market St. municipal parking lot

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

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

City /State: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed amount: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also contribute safely through our website:  
[www.ElizabethtownHistory.org](http://www.ElizabethtownHistory.org)

Please submit this form to:

Winters Heritage House Museum  
P.O. Box 14

## Events Calendar for Spring 2022

April 5—**Garden Planning meeting, 7pm** — Considering joining in our efforts to care for the museum’s herb garden and vegetable beds? Stop in and meet the crew!

May 1-31 — **Annual May Quilt Show** — Open during museum hours (or by appointment) throughout the month, don’t miss this annual burst of color, history, and beautiful quilted works of art! It’s sure to be a *crazy-amazing* show this year!

May 21 — **Vintage Quilts 10am-12pm, 1pm –3pm** — Do you have an old quilt that you are curious about? Perhaps, you want to know how old it is or how it was made. Local quilt historian Barbara Garrett will help you answer those questions during a sharing program. Note, while this program will provide historical information, it cannot assign a monetary value to your quilt. Barbara has been active in numerous county documentation projects in Pennsylvania for the last 35 years and acts as a consultant for several projects Cost to attend is \$10 for the first quilt, and \$5 for each additional quilt. To register, contact the office. Spaces are limited.

Watch our website for summer classes and family activities!

## Seibert Library

Free with your museum membership come unlimited hours for perusing the stacks of Elizabethtown History stored in the Seibert Genealogy Library. Our research librarian is on hand to assist you with any subject; from your family tree, to background on local organizations, structures, or events.

Library hours follow those of the museum, and area also available by appointment. It is a good idea to call ahead to be certain a volunteer can be here to assist you.

(right) Ruth Seibert, library founder, and her mother Lillian. 1923



## Dear Elizabeth

Our Historic Advice Column

The spirit of our town founder, Elizabeth Hughes, residing here from 1750 to 1760, offers her advice to our generation.

Please send your questions to:

Dear Elizabeth,

c/o Winters Heritage House Museum  
email;

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Winters-HH @ElizabethtownHistory.org

Dear Elizabeth,

My young daughter has a strong reaction to cow's milk. Our pediatrician has told me that we could try lactose-free options, which I imagine will be pretty hard to find and expensive. All that aside, the situation has me wondering if lactose intolerance is something you had to deal with in your Colonial times, and if so, how did you manage? I can purchase lactose-free formula, but surely you had no such option.

Dairy-free Mom

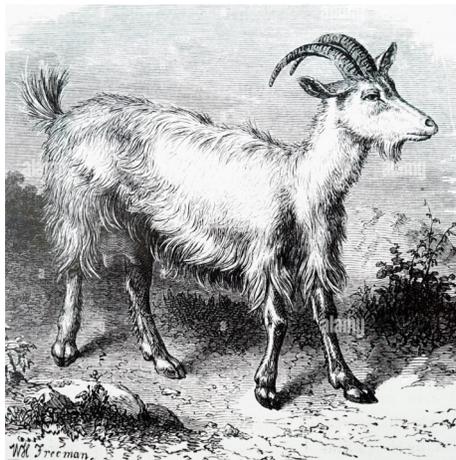
Dear Dairy-less,

Milk aversion is quite uncommon in my era, however, our native friends do tend to do better avoiding milk. It seems to disagree with them, and truly I have noticed they have no dairy in their typical diet.

Many a mother-less babe in my time has been raised on the milk of a goat or a sheep. 'Tis a softer dairy for one so little, than you



may take from a cow. I would surely pursue that, as goats are easy to keep and readily supply ample amounts of milk. A nice benefit is the abundance of which will also keep your larder filled with excellent cheeses. Simply tie her well in your own yard, and milk her fresh into the cup whenever your daughter so needs.



I wish you much luck,

*Elizabeth*

Dear Elizabeth,

Since the pandemic it seems prices have

risen tremendously. A trip to the grocery store is a major investment these days. Bananas, beef, and Breyers have all doubled and tripled in price.

When I scan our sometimes-empty grocery shelves, I appreciate the food struggles you colonists went through in the early days of our country. Do you have any advice for us?

Out of Cheetos

Dear Cheeto-less,

Well, I certainly can see that people of your time are completely removed from your proper place within the world! I believe a robin, raised in a cage and hand-fed its life long, t'would be less helpless surviving her freedom, than the lot of you with brains in your heads. Do you truly think your food comes as cheap as you have been in habit of finding it? That a fruit from the furthest corner of the globe might truly find itself in your hand at the pittance you are accustomed to pay? Do grown humans truly think that food from a store is the routine of things?

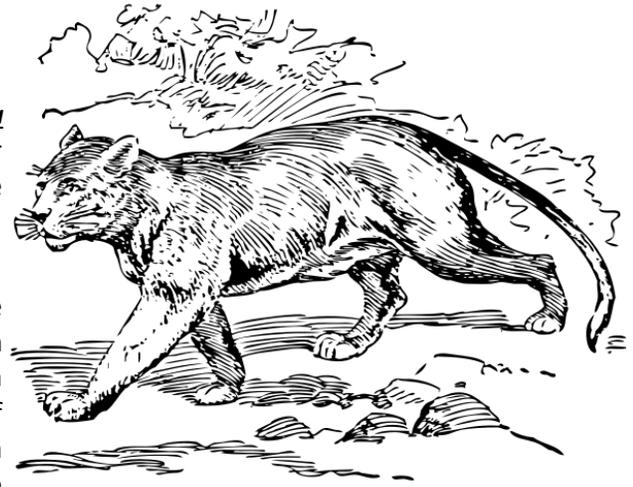
I tell you that freedom in your food supply is at the tips of your fingers. You have settled for store-foods with the goal of avoiding some of the nicest work man can know; providing for oneself. Simply turn up your soil and plant for yourself!

**If you're a newbie gardener. Consider joining our Garden Committee. Contact us and we will put you in touch with our fun group.**

## *Fun Findings in the Seibert Library*

The following is an excerpt from the book: *Pioneer Life or Thirty Years a Hunter* (1854), memoirs by Philip Tome, fifteen years interpreter for Cornplanter and Governor Blacksnake, Chiefs on the Allegheny River. We found it a fascinating and rare first-hand account of our colonial past.

I was born March 22d, 1782, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, near where the city of Harrisburg now stands. My parents were both of German extraction. They moved up the Susquehannah River about ninety miles in 1786, traveling in a keel boat, there being no roads or other mode of conveyance. They landed at a place called Farris creek in what was then Northumberland county, and remained there about four months, when the Six Nations of Indians began to trouble the inhabitants on the west branch of the Susquehannah. We then moved back into Cumberland county, five miles from Harrisburg, on the west side of the Susquehannah. These are my memories.



A woman belonging to a family residing on the bank of the creek, about half a mile above the first fork, was washing at the creek, accompanied by four or five small children, when one of them looking up the stream exclaimed, "What a handsome big red dog is coming!" The animal made a halt on the top of the bank within fifty feet of the children, and stood looking at them. Another boy cried It isn't a dog; it is a panther! " At that moment a cat came out of the house, and the panther made a spring at her, when she ran up a tree, followed by the panther. The cat leaped from the tree, and the panther seized her just as she struck the ground.

The family hurried into the house and closed the doors, and thus escaped. After the panther had devoured the cat he stood looking at the house and moved along the path. In about half an hour a neighbor came along with a dog and gun. The panther continued to move slowly off, and the woman came out and acquainted the neighbor with the circumstances. He immediately started in pursuit, and the panther being driven up a tree by the dog, was brought to the ground by a well-aimed shot. It was a very large one, measuring four and a half feet from the tip of the nose to the tail.

Two miles from that place, up Big Pine Creek, lived a family consisting of a man and three females. The house stood on a flat lying between the river and the rocky bluff, which rose to the height of forty or fifty feet. In the month of January the man was absent teaching school, and no one was left at home but the women. On the morning of a blustering day in the early part of the month, as one of the women was going to the river for a pail of water she heard a scream proceeding from the side of the hill, which sounded like the voice of a woman in distress. She returned into the house and told the others that she thought there was [a] woman on the hill in trouble. They all went to the door to ascertain the source of the cries, when they saw moving toward them an animal which they took at first for a dog.



When it had approached within fifty yards, they discovered to their horror that it was a panther. They retreated into the house and closed the doors.

Three geese which belonged to the family were on the ice of the river; the panther discovered them, and having captured one, he returned with it to his den among the rocks. After he had been gone some time, they went out together and procured wood and water enough to supply them until the next day. The following morning at about the same hour, the panther returned, uttering the same terrific cries, and carried away another of the geese.

On the third morning he again made his appearance and took the remaining goose. He had now become wonted to the vicinity, and the terrified women were at a loss what they could do.

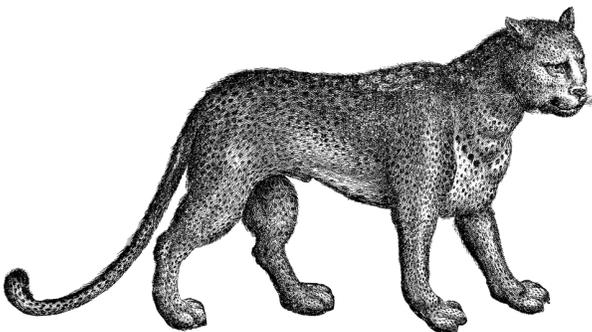
(Continued from previous page) Their nearest neighbors were distant two miles in one direction, and three in the other, and any attempt to procure succor from that source would expose them to an attack from the animal which was prowling near.

In order to prevent the panther from entering by the chimney, they covered it over with boards taken from the floor, and kept up a fire all night. The next morning, when the too familiar cries of their besieger were heard, they turned out the dog. The panther closed in with him, drove him against the door, and after a short struggle killed and carried him off.

The morning following, Rice Hamlin, who lived about three miles distant, and who had been engaged to call on them once a week, to supply them with fire-wood and render any necessary assistance, paid them his customary Visit. When he knocked at the door they demanded who it was that desired admittance. Upon learning who was at the door they opened it at once, and informed him of the visits of their unwelcome neighbor. He entered, and they cleared the house of the smoke, which had become almost suffocating. As he stepped to the door to see if the panther was near, Hamlin heard his scream.

He immediately started in pursuit, accompanied by his dog. As they came up, the panther jumped upon a rock about twenty-five feet high. Hamlin did not discover him at first, but kept up a search, supposing him to be up a tree.

The dog saw the panther, but being unable to follow, kept running around in an uneasy manner. Hamlin at length happened to look up the rocks and his eyes met those of the panther, just as the latter was about to make a spring upon him. Instantly bringing up his gun, he fired with an unerring aim, and the animal came tumbling heavily to the ground at Hamlin's feet. The ball had penetrated its forehead. It was a very large one, weighing about two hundred pounds.



For more exciting adventures from the perspectives of a 1700s huntsman, please contact the museum for a copy of this ebook.

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### **Our Honorary *Member of the Year* — Frank McArthur**



Frank McArthur was chosen as our *Member of the Year* when we noticed he has the most fore-running membership in our museum history! Frank has enthusiastically supported the museum for many years, sharing quilts made by his beloved wife with the museum's annual quilt show, attending our events, and giving us wonderful stories of his life.

Frank was active in the Naval Reserves, worked with Gentex Corp for 25 years, and now resides in the Masonic Village.

*Thank you Frank for your support!*

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Maryann Swartz  
Museum Director  
Malinda Miller  
Digital Media Manager

## Staff Changes at Winters Heritage House Museum



Malinda Miller,

**Welcome Malinda Miller** Malinda is the Winters Heritage House Museum's new Digital Media manager. She started in October 2021 and has been helping the museum develop a stronger presence in social media. She handles the website development and has been a great help as the museum seeks the most

effective way to reach younger audiences.

**A Change in Directorship** Nancy Landis has stepped down from her position as Museum Director to shift her focus and time onto her freelance artwork and family farm. Nancy signed on as



Nancy Landis,

Museum Manager in 2006 and took up the directorship in 2012. In her words; "I have absolutely loved working with the volunteers, board and staff here. The museum is certainly near and dear to my heart. I look forward to continuing as a volunteer to support this community gem."

**A New Leader** When the museum opens this March, it will do so with a new director at the helm. We are excited to report that Maryann Swartz, who has been serving as Museum Manager since 2017, will be stepping up to take on this role.

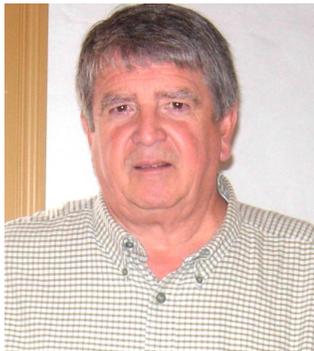
Maryann brings a wealth of experience to the Director's position, she served as Museum Manager for WHHM, and previously filled a similar role for the Elizabethtown Historical Society. It will be fun to see where the museum goes under her careful guidance.



Maryann Swartz,

## A Goodbye to Good Friends

The Board of Directors and Staff of Elizabethtown Preservation Associates sadly acknowledges the passing of two members of our Board of Directors; Meade Bierly and Richard (Dick) Keesey.



Meade Bierly

Both individuals had long connections to Elizabethtown and its history, a personal willingness to share knowledge and each gave extensive time to the preservation of area history.

Richard, who passed away on January 18, served on the EPA board since 2003. Meade, who left us February 18, joined the EPA board in 2010. Both leave a lasting presence in our hearts.



Richard (Dick) Keesey





Special thanks to our  
Winters Heritage House Museum  
Property Preservation Campaign Supporters



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Special thanks to these local businesses for their loyal support!



**Keep Your  
MEMBERSHIP  
ACTIVE!**



Memberships are our primary resource for maintaining the museum. Please take the time to renew your annual membership, or consider a 5-year membership. If you renew early we will add the membership year to your existing due date.

Membership Form  NEW  ReNEW

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level (circle one below)

Individual—\$25                      Patron — \$100  
Family — \$40                        Sponsor — \$250  
Sustaining — \$60                  Benefactor — \$500  
5-Year Individual Membership — \$100

**Thank you for your support!**

You may also begin or renew you membership via our website. The various level benefits are also listed there.

Please complete and send this form to the address provided below. The museum does not receive mail on-site.

*Winters Heritage House Museum*

*P.O. Box 14*

*Elizabethtown, PA 17022*

### Museum Wish List

- Pre-school Story Hour leaders (1xmonth Oct-April)
- 3rd Grade Walking Tour volunteers (1 very fun week each fall)
- Gardeners! Help us grow and harvest for the Elizabethtown Community Cupboard.
- 1900s-60s photos of Elizabethtown for historic reference (to scan and return).
- 12x12 Easy-up canopies for outdoor events
- A new garden shed—or one in great shape! (8x10 or so)
- A cabinet, shelf unit or other storage piece that would fit in a tall 22" wide x 14" deep space.



### **Winters Heritage House Museum**

P.O. Box 14 / 47 East High Street

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

717 367-4672

**Hours: March through November;**

Wed., Thurs., Fri., 10-3, and by appointment

**Classes scheduled at your convenience, see our  
website for ideas!**



[www.ElizabethtownHistory.org](http://www.ElizabethtownHistory.org)



[Winters-HH@ElizabethtownHistory.org](mailto:Winters-HH@ElizabethtownHistory.org)