

News from the
Historical Society
of Dauphin County
Fall 2016, Number 108

Oracles The

Tavern Night, Gala Victorian Dinner to headline fall Anniversary Year activities

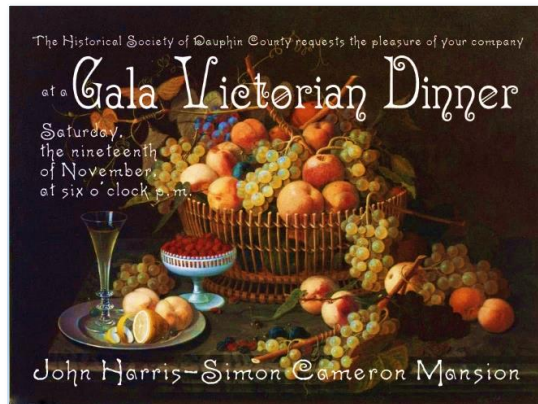


Our fall schedule is full of events to enlighten and entertain you. On Saturday, October 1, beginning at 7:00 p.m., a Colonial Tavern Night will be hosted by John Harris, Jr. (portrayed by David Biser) and friends in the mansion. The evening

will offer a glimpse into the life of the community at Harris' Ferry when Mr. Harris operated a tavern along the banks of the Susquehanna. Colonial games and singing will be interspersed with a special tasting of "the spirits of the Signers," with drinks served at Philadelphia's City Tavern in 1776, presented by Murray Small of Dillsburg. Whiskeys made from an 18th century recipe will be accompanied by tastings of mead and beer, common homemade drinks of the period. Snacks and other edibles will be provided. Tickets are \$30 per person (over 21, please), and reservations may be placed by calling our office at (717) 233-3462 or emailing office@dauphincountyhistory.org. Major credit cards accepted.

Dinner-Party includes lavish meal

The décor and music of the period will provide the setting for a Gala Victorian Dinner by the JDK Group caterers at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 19, in the mansion's public rooms. The evening will start with hors d'œuvres, followed by dinner of Spiced Red Lentil, Tomato and Kale Soup; Sole Meunière with Pommes Château; Chicken Fricasée with Farro Rissoto; pineapple mint sorbet, a palate cleanser; and Braised beef Short Rib. Chocolate Plum Cake garnished with rose petals will complete the evening's fare. Wine and beer will be presented by the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey. Formal attire or period dress are optional.



Tickets for the event are \$150 per person, or \$250 for supporting patrons (includes listing in program). For reservations, call (717) 233-3462 or email office@dauphincountyhistory.org by Wednesday, November 9. Seating is limited! Major credit cards accepted.

FOUNDED 1869

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the public.

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*With the able assistance
of many fine volunteers*

Fall events offer something for everyone

Sunday, September 11

GALLERY WALK AND HISTORY PRESENTATION

Art Association of Harrisburg's annual Gallery Walk on Sunday, September 11. The mansion will be open free of charge from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. New exhibits for the 250th Anniversary of the Harris-Cameron Mansion trace local history and the mansion site from the first Native Americans through 1941. In addition, there is a special temporary exhibition of historic clothing from the Shippensburg University Fashion Archives and Museum.



presentation on the Underground Railroad, slavery, and Harrisburg's African American community by local historian George Nagle will take place at 2:30 p.m. in the mansion parlor. Nagle is a graduate of PSU-Harrisburg and editor of the Afrolumens Project website. Donation of \$5 for program; free for HSDC members.

Saturday, September 24

SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE'S MUSEUM LIVE! DAY

Free guided tours will be available at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Non-HSDC members may download tickets and see other participating historic sites and museums on the magazine's website at www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2016/.

Monday, September 26

"BOB DAVIES: A BASKETBALL LEGEND"

Author Barry Martin will speak on Harrisburg native and basketball superstar Bob Davies at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor. Davies played a significant role in the development of modern basketball. Martin is a retired Administrative Law Judge who has spent seven years doing extensive research, including interviews with Davies' family members and former NBA players. A book signing follows. Donation of \$5 at the door; free to historical society members.

Continued on Page 3.

MEET TAMMY McCLENAGHAN, NEW HSDC TRUSTEE



Tammy McClenaghan of Marysville is the recently-retired manager of the Pennsylvania Governor's Residence, where, among many duties, she oversaw the house and gardens and was responsible for the docents who give tours there. We are so happy that Tammy has chosen another distinguished residence on Front Street where she can use her many talents. Welcome, Tammy.

Saturday, October 1 COLONIAL TAVERN NIGHT (see Page 1.)

Sunday, October 9

“B’NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE IN MIDDLETOWN, DAUPHIN COUNTY”

Dr. Matt Singer, professor at Tyler School of Art at Temple University, will present “Jewish-American Gothic: B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Middletown” at 2:30 p.m. in the mansion’s 19th-century Victorian parlor. B'nai Jacob was Middletown's first and only synagogue, designed and personally constructed by its charter members in 1906. Singer is on the faculty of Tyler School of Art at Temple University and was long associated with the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Question and answer period to follow PowerPoint. Guided tour at 1:00 p.m. includes admission to presentation. Donation of \$5 for presentation alone; free to historical society members.

Friday, October 28

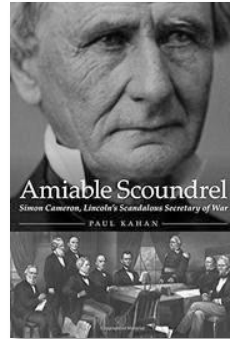
GHOST TOURS OF THE MANSION

At 7:00 and 8:30 p.m., come (if you dare!) for a ghost tour of the mansion. It’s fun and not scary, but you’ll hear some spooky stories gathered from around Dauphin County. This event is sponsored by Society member LeRoy S. Zimmerman. For tickets, call (717) 233-3462 or write to office@dauphincountyhistory.org. Places are limited, so reserve early! This event was sold out last year. Major credit cards.

Sunday, October 30

SCHOLARLY SYMPOSIUM: “SIMON CAMERON RECONSIDERED”

Author Paul Kahan’s biography of Simon Cameron has recently been published by the University of Nebraska Press. *Amiable Scoundrel* is also a portrait of an era that allowed – indeed, encouraged – a man such as Cameron to seize political control. Kahan and a panel of distinguished regional scholars will discuss the aspects of the mansion’s famous resident that made him controversial during his lifetime and into ours. This event is being coordinated by Dr. Michael Barton, retired professor at PSU-Harrisburg. Beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Cameron’s own European-inspired Victorian parlor. Tickets \$10 (\$8 students) in advance at (717) 233-3462 or email at office@dauphincountyhistory.org. More details soon on website.



Sunday, November 13

“ROBERT HARRIS, THOMAS ELDER, AND THE ELECTION OF 1840”

At 2:30 p.m. Howard Parker, Harris-Cameron Mansion docent and resident Thomas Elder reenactor, will discuss the impact that mansion owners Robert Harris and Thomas Elder had on the candidacy and eventual election of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) to the presidency of the United States. Harris' close friendship with Harrison resulted in Harrisburg's *Pennsylvania Intelligencer* becoming the first newspaper in the nation to propose Harrison as a candidate for the presidency. Guided tour at 1:00 p.m. includes admission to presentation. Donation of \$5 for presentation alone; free to historical society members.

Saturday, November 19 Gala Victorian Dinner (see Page 1.)

**Executive director
Smith has resigned**



Photo by The Burg 6.13

Nicole McMullen Smith has served the Historical Society as executive director since 2013, after serving as executive director of the Maui (Hawaii) Historical Society and Hale Hō‘ike‘ike, a mission home built in 1833. The Board of Trustees thanks Nicole for her service, and wishes her the best in the future. Nicole will be with us through November. Please take a moment to thank Nicole personally when you see her or speak to her.

Looking ahead

Sunday, December 11

**CHRISTMAS AT THE
MANSION AND
HOLIDAY MARKET**

Decorations, Santa Claus, and a first-class craft market featuring some of the region’s best artisans. Sponsored by Highmark. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are required at the door.

More on our website soon.



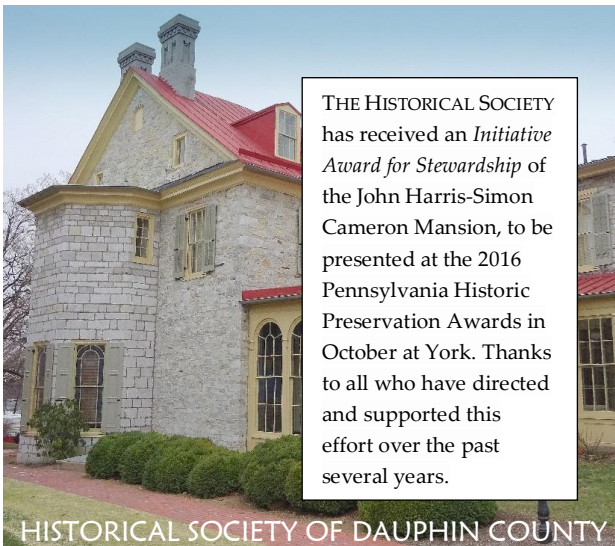
A new brick wall has replaced the historic 150-year old garden wall at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The old wall was crumbling beyond repair and had become a safety hazard. The new wall replicates the old in its style elements, and the opening has been widened to allow access for emergency vehicles.

First Adopt-an-Artifact donors step forward



Society members Jack and Rachel Bair have adopted a stick-style barometer commissioned in 1837 by the state legislature as the first-ever object to be restored under the new program. Every county in the state received a barometer from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia

“for the progression of weather patterns for the benefit of agriculture and the furtherance of scientific knowledge.” Both of the Bairs were science teachers for many years in Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County. “Jack taught physics, and I taught chemistry,” says Mrs. Bair, “so the choice of this particular artifact seems logical for us.” Many thanks to the Bairs for this gift. Please contact our office for opportunities to participate yourself!



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY has received an *Initiative Award for Stewardship* of the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion, to be presented at the 2016 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards in October at York. Thanks to all who have directed and supported this effort over the past several years.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY
219 South Front Street ■ Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 233-3462

For more information on hours and events, please visit
www.dauphincountyhistory.org
or www.hsdchappenings.blogspot.com

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