Take Tea with a Dauphin County Groundbreaker

This Mother’s Day weekend you are cordially invited to afternoon tea and an open house on Saturday, May 9 at 2:30 pm at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The tea will be hosted by Dr. Agnes Kemp, portrayed by Marcia Martin of The Pennsylvania Past Players. Dr. Kemp was the first licensed female physician in Dauphin County and the first female member of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

Dr. Agnes Nininger Kemp was born November 4, 1823 in Harrisburg. At age 56, Agnes graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was the first female physician admitted to the Medical Society of Dauphin County. As a member of abolitionist, temperance, and suffrage groups, Agnes lectured with William L. Garrison, Lucy Stone, Sojourner Truth, Julie Ward Howe, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. In 1898, she was a delegate to the International Peace Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Agnes died in 1908 at the age of 85 and is buried in Harrisburg Cemetery.

Tickets for the event are $20, ($15 for HSDC members). Seating is limited. Please call the Historical Society of Dauphin County at 717-233-3462 or email office@dauphincountyhistory.org to reserve your seat.

Bethel Heritage Trail Book Release and Program

In conjunction with the Dauphin County Civil War 150 anniversary celebrations, HSDC will host a presentation on the new book Along the Bethel Trail: The Journey of an African American Faith Community on Friday, May 29 at 5:30 pm at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

This new book is an anthology of articles by area authors, scholars and humanists that guides readers through the history of this resilient congregation in relationship to the legacy and impact on the community that it serves. The Bethel AME Church was founded in 1835 and had five locations over its history.

The program will feature a panel discussion by authors Todd Mealy, Georg Sheets, Dorothy King, Calobe Jackson, and Lenwood Sloan, and editors Nancy Mendes and Dr. Michael Barton.

Along with the book release and program, an exhibit of family histories will be opened. Admission is free.
**A Word from the President**

This spring and summer we are beginning to make plans for 2016, the 250th anniversary of the building of the Harris-Cameron Mansion in 1766 by John Harris, Jr. Thanks to facilities chair Ruthann Hubbert Kemper and executive director Nicole McMullen and with the support of the Board of Trustees, many projects in preserving and beautifying the mansion and grounds have been completed or are ongoing. Is there a way in which you would like to help in our celebration? We’ll need docents and hosts to greet visitors for tours and events; researchers; photographers; marketing and communications experts; exhibit preparation assistants; office helpers; gardeners; and more. If you are able to lend your time and your talents to this once-in-a-lifetime celebration, please call our office at (717) 233-3462. Then plan to join us for a year of festivities!

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**From the Director’s Desk ...**

We are so excited to see the spring flowers blooming at the Harris-Cameron Mansion! We have had a number of successful programs already this year. If you enjoyed our program on the Lincoln Funeral Train or William Howard Day, or you are looking forward to our Mother’s Day weekend tea, the new Susquehanna River photo exhibit, or the July 4th at the Mansion festival, please consider becoming a member of HSDC during our Spring Membership Drive!

Your membership support is what makes our programming possible, as well as supporting the preservation of the National Landmark Harris-Cameron Mansion and our artifact and archival collections. Don’t forget to visit our website and “like” our Facebook page for updates on all that is happening. Already a member? Thank you from all of us at HSDC! Please share this newsletter with your friends and encourage them to join and help keep our community’s history alive!

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**HSDC Needs Volunteers!**

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, we invite you to join our growing corps of volunteers. We have a great need for people to help in the garden and in our office. Of course, people who want to do mansion tours or help out in the archives and research library are always welcome! Call 233-3462 for more information.
**Program & Exhibit Highlights the Susquehanna River**

Author and HSDC Vice President Erick V. Fasick will present a program on *Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River* on Sunday June 14th at 2:30 pm at the Harris-Cameron Mansion. The program will feature the opening of an exhibit of photographs from the HSDC collections.

Mr. Fasick will be signing copies of his recently published book about Harrisburg and the river.

Admission is free for members. A $5 donation is suggested for non-members. Members and non-members alike are welcome to tour the mansion and visit the research library beginning at 1:00 pm on Second Sundays.

**July 4th at the Mansion**

On July 4th, bring your whole family for fun, tours and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by John Harris, Jr. (portrayed by HSDC Board member Rev. David Biser). The festivities will take place from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

The readings from the front porch of the Mansion will take place at 10 am, 11 am, noon, and 1 pm. Mansion tours at special holiday rates will begin after each reading.

The day also includes special guest remarks and activities for children. As in previous years, there will a used book sale. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

**A Night at the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey**

Join us at the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey on Thursday, June 4th at 5:30 pm and enjoy wine and beer tasting and hors d’oeuvres…and support HSDC at the same time! Tickets are $35.

For more information or to purchase your ticket, contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org or 233-3462.

**HSDC on the Pride**

Join Erik V. Fasick, author of *Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River*, for a special river tour on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat on Wednesday, July 15 from 6-8 pm.

Food and drink will be available for purchase. Tickets are $25.

For more information or to purchase your ticket, contact office@dauphincountyhistory.org or 233-3462.

**HSDC Annual Meeting**

Make plans to attend the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County on Wednesday, June 24th at 5:30 pm in the parlor of the Harris-Cameron Mansion.

The agenda includes reports on the state of HSDC, election of officers and recognition of volunteers. There will be an exhibit of artifacts that are not normally on display. Refreshments will be served.
Greetings from the Warren W. Wirebach Research Room! It’s been a busy spring 2015 here at the Alexander Library.

Saturday, March 21, Kathy Hale, supervisor for public services and government documents librarian at the Pennsylvania State Library, hosted HSDC’s second annual Genealogy Workshop for beginning family historians. With few seats left vacant, Kathy was her usual font of information. Exploring both Internet resources, as well as PSL’s vast microfilmed Pennsylvania newspaper collection, her precaution to beginning researchers to always follow-up their findings with secondary sources, is probably the best advice a novice could hear. Kathy’s program was even more educational than last year’s event.

For four Tuesday’s in a row, March 31 through April 14, Dr. Michael Barton of Penn State Harrisburg, brought by his American Studies graduate students for what has been an annual spring research night. Availing themselves of the HSDC Archives, this year’s projects include (1) a study of the former Harrisburg City Grays using the Rawn journals; (2) also using Rawn, a comparison of May 1831 with May 1864 in the city; (3 & 4) crime, using the 1915 and 1919 Dauphin County Prison logs; (5) death in the city: a comparative look at 1906 and 1916 using the Harrisburg Death records (which HSDC uniquely offers in searchable, spreadsheet form); and (6), a study of the former home of the Norcross greeting card family at Sterrett’s Gap, Perry County.

The HSDC yearbook project continues apace. Thanks to Bishop McDevitt High School and Central Dauphin East High Shool for their generous donation of some missing volumes of the *Pridwen* and *Oriens*; Harrisburg Academy for the *Spectator*; Milton Hershey School for the *Acropolis*; and Hershey-Derry Township Historical Society for the Hershey High School *Chocolatier*. Carol Bretz Bartoski of Camp Hill donated some early Lower Paxton Vocational High School *Torch* and *Ranger* yearbooks. And we’re still on the hunt for many more. See our Facebook page for a current complete inventory.

Lastly, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. A. Leeds for their donation of the wonderful birds-eye-view map of Steelton, now gracing our library wall. First published in 1894, it shows the old West Side, sadly now only a memory in the wake of Tropical Storm Agnes.

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**HSDC WISH LIST**

- Books on history, arts, and culture for July 4th Book Sale.
- Leaf blower.
- Computer battery backups.
- Label maker.
- Money for archival supplies.
- Copy paper.

To make arrangements for your donation, contact us at 233-3462 or office@dauphincountyhistory.org. All donations are greatly appreciated!

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**In Memorium**

Long-time member of the Historical Society of Dauphin County Dorothy Kenter Anderson passed away in February. Ms. Anderson was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of the arts community of Central Pennsylvania. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family and friends.
The tavern keeper’s wife, portrayed by Audrey Biser, makes the guests feel welcome at the recent *An Evening with John Harris, Jr.* at the Mount Hill Tavern.

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**Save the Dates!**

Sunday, October 11—Second Annual History Fair.

Friday, October 30—Ghost Tours of the Mansion.

Sunday, November 8—Second Sunday Program on Simon Cameron.


Sunday, December 13—Christmas at the Mansion and Holiday Market, 12-4 pm.

Tuesday, December 15—Deck the Halls fundraising event, 5:30-7:30 pm.

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**Thank You to All Who Donated to HSDC’s Year-End Appeal!**

These funds helped with the cost of the Mansion’s new HVAC system.

Richard & Marilynn Abrams  
Bruce & Barbara Bazelon  
Jeffrey Blanchek  
Edward Blandy  
William & Lenore Caldwell  
Patricia B. Cameron  
Carl & Joan Dorko  
Ginny Eaton  
Charles & Mary Fager  
Laura Gifford  
Marcia & Goby Gobrecht  
Frances Sue Hetrick  
Ruthann Hubbert Kemper  
Don & Marnie Lappley  
Barbara Long  
Wendy Matarese  
Cynthia McKeever  
Nancy Mendes & Louis Gatling  
Sandra Novotni  
Louise Owen  
John Pringle  
William Rhoads  
John & Susanne Robinson  
Elizabeth Shevitz  
Alyce & Morton Spector  
John & Carol Taylor  
Arthur Thomas  
Marian Warden  
Bill & Ellie Warren  
Carl & Barbara Wilson  
Charles Yordy  
Eileen & Bob Young  
Charles Zwally
Spring Membership Drive!

Incorporated in 1869, the mission of the Historical Society of Dauphin County is to collect, preserve, exhibit, publish, and promote interest in the history of Dauphin County for the education, enjoyment, and benefit of the public.

The support of our members make it possible to fulfill this mission and preserve the National Historic Landmark Harris-Cameron Mansion for our community. Membership benefits include free admission to the Mansion and research library, as well as discounts on HSDC programs and museum shop purchases.

We hope that you will consider joining us as a member during our Spring Membership Drive!

Join during our Membership Drive by May 31 and you’ll receive:

- Two additional guest passes to the mansion (a $16 value) for family and friends to use.
- You will also be entered to win a free rental of the mansion for up to 25 people (regularly $150 an hour) for a private event such as a birthday party or bridal shower.

For more information on rates and benefits and to become a member, please see the Membership Form on the last page of the newsletter or visit www.dauphincountyhistory.org.

Already a member? - Refer a friend and receive 2 guest passes to the Mansion.

Or consider giving a gift membership during our Spring Membership Drive.

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Thank you to our 2014 Deck the Halls sponsors!

**Susquehanna Sponsors**

- M&T Bank

**Cameron Sponsors**

- Drs. Michael & Jane Barton
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- David Cordier/Cordier Productions
- Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC
- Russell Harris & John Cassavechia
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- PA Housing Finance Agency
- PennLive/Patriot News
- PinnacleHealth
- Post & Schell, P.C.
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- -Ken Saul, Sr.
- WHTM/abc27
New and Renewed Memberships
October 2014 through March 31, 2015

Penn Circle
Carmen & Tonia Finestra
Sedgwick & Barbara Ward

Harris Circle
David W. Volkman

Cameron Circle
Chip & Suzie Merrill
Glen Bergert
Bill & Marion Alexander
Norman & Hanna Kelker
Roy & Mary Zimmerman

Haldeman Circle
David & Kathryn McCorkle
Henry & Charley Rhoads
Lois Lehrman Grass
Harold A. B. McInnes
Christ & Ricky Zervanos
Jerry & Hilary Simpson
Bill Coup
John & Susanne Robinson
Melvin & Janet Brownold
Pat A. Hartranft
Thomas & Marie Boyer

Heritage Circle
Virginia H. Eaton
Carl & Joan Dorko
Keith & Nancy Bittinger
Jeffrey Shirk
William J. Murphy
Charles Peguese

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George Enney
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John & Kathy Beistline
Russell & Andrea Faber
Vincent & Sandra Lamenza

Individual
Martin Healey
Donald Noss
Gerald Smith
Susan E. Hanna
Margaret Shirk Meyers
Bonnie Watkins
Neal Brofee
Patricia L. Deimler
Gina M. Douty
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Glenn A. Martin
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College Student
Scott Orris
Scott Moser
Your Membership Contribution Benefits: HSDC and Pays You Back

As an HSDC member, you receive:
Unlimited Mansion Tours.
Unlimited Visits to the Alexander Family Research Library.
Free admission to general programs.
Discounts on purchases and HSDC sponsored activities and programs.
Free subscription to The Oracle.
Advance notice and discounts on special programs and events.
10% discount in the Museum Shop.
Free tour of Ft. Hunter Mansion with your membership card.
Discount membership to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.
Heritage and above membership levels enjoy additional benefits.

We're always thrilled to add new members to our rolls. Please help the HSDC grow its member base by sharing the form on the right with a friend or neighbor.

We would also like to communicate with our current members more quickly and easily. Please help us do so by providing your email address to office@dauphincountyhistory.org and write “My Email Address” in the subject line. Thank you.

Membership Form—Please Join Today

Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________
Phone: ________________________________
   ___Home     ___Work
Email: _______________________________

Check Level Desired:
   ___ Individual $35       ___ Heritage Circle $55
   ___ Full-time Student $10 ___ Haldeman Circle $100
   ___ Family $45           ___ Cameron Circle $250

Payment Method:
   ___Check     Amount: $________________
   ___American Express
   ___VISA
   ___MasterCard

Card Number ___________________________  Exp. Date

Signature

Please detach and send with payment to:
HSDC, 219 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104