



The Manor

*A Newsletter of The
Equinunk Historical Society
Calder House Museum
Calder Gift Shop
Joel Hill Sawmill*



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RECENT ART EVENTS AT EHS



Tom Holmes, an artist and sculptor working in stone, metal, wood, light, ice and water, set up an amazing, interactive melting ice event at the historic Calder House on July 27th. An abstract ice, fire, and water sculpture was on display on the front lawn of the museum for visitors to observe its metamorphosis. We viewed its changing form throughout the afternoon as it melted and the natural elements within shifted and offered different perspectives to enjoy. A big "Thank you!" to Tom for sharing this interactive art with us! Tom Holmes can be visited at Earth's Burnt Crust Art and Sculpture Park on Chicopee Road by calling (516) 965-6633. You can check out more of his incredible work on his website, www.tomholmes.com.

On August 2nd, Mike Sergi, another local talented artist, presented his program called "Rustic Art with Natural Materials." Mike described his step-by-step method of creating a handmade concrete sculpture of a giant eagle with an 8' wingspan. No molds were used in the process. Mike also included in his program an intuitive guide on how to maintain or refurbish deteriorating masonry structures, using as an example the restoration of the outdoor fireplace at the Calder House.



Equinunk Historical Society is happy to be partnering with the Wayne County Arts Alliance for their 2025 Summer Arts Project entitled "Chairs." There are 36 artists participating. You can download the map for the hosts and more information at the WCAA website, www.waynecountyartsalliance.org. The chairs will be on display through Labor Day and then auctioned as a fundraiser for WCAA. EHS is proud to be stop #1 on the map and to display artist Phyllis Chekenian's design which showcases the beautiful waterfall at the Joel Hill Saw Mill. Enjoy the search to find them all!

EHS BUSINESS PARTNERS: TOWN & COUNTRY ENERGY – CITIZENS BANK – HOOK WELL DRILLING

President's Message



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Happy summer everyone! I hope you all are taking advantage of the long days and incredibly beautiful surroundings we are part of here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. There is so much to see and do in our area and I hope you are all making the great outdoors and EHS a part of your summer activity plans. With so much going on to choose from through entertainment, festivals, celebrations and community fundraisers, please make sure to support EHS and join us for an upcoming program at the Calder House or demonstration and tour at the Joel Hill Sawmill.

We have already had several exciting events for our summer season. We celebrated our annual Art Appreciation Day on July 27th with Tom Holmes that included an interactive art event "Melting Ice". Tom is a sculptor working in stone, metal, wood, light, ice and water. At the same time, many enjoyed some BBQ chicken next door at the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company. On August 2, artist and stone worker, Mike Sergi presented "Rustic Art with Natural Materials". To complete our season, the Mill held tours and demonstrations on August 9 and 10, and will be doing additional ones on September 13, 14, October 4 and 5. Our all-volunteer crew has continued to make improvements to bring you an historically accurate demonstration of water-powered wood cutting. On September 6, Susan Mickley presents "Genealogy DNA". Come learn how to search your roots.

There has been a change in our schedule for the August 23 program. We are excited to have young artist Nedelya Simeonova perform for us on August 23rd. She is heading into the 8th grade, but she's already been making music for most of her life. Nedelya picked up the violin at age 3 and joined the Old Time Fiddlers just 2 years later. She loves playing old-time fiddle and traditional tunes, and

here's the fun part - she learns them all completely by ear! Please join us for this afternoon of foot tapping, hand clapping music and camaraderie.

This is my final letter as President of the Equinunk Historical Society. I am pleased and proud to have had this role in continuing to preserve and protect our local history and bring new exhibits and experiences to our community. Thank you to all the EHS board members and volunteers who have worked alongside me and supported our mission to keep history alive. Hope to see you all out and about and thank you to our members for your continued support.

Be well, take care and stay curious!

Vicky Bradshaw

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"The Manor"	Donna DuBois, Editor
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The Equinunk Historical Society Newsletter "The Manor" is published seasonally, three times a year and sent to all members. Additionally, copies are available through the office at the Museum. Materials for publication are always welcome and sought after. Please email submissions to Donna DuBois c/o EHS22@verizon.net or mail them to EHS, PO Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417

EQUINUNK OF YESTERYEAR

We thought you might enjoy a stroll back through the years during a much busier time in Equinunk!



Top row: Cain Lord's Store, Isaac Lord General Merchandise, Original Church and Parsonage

Bottom row: Barret's Wagon Shop, General Store, C.E. Woodmansee Store and Post Office

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



James McMyne, 71, of Equinunk, passed away on June 6th. He spent 37 years as band director and music teacher at Carbondale Area High School, played professionally at area resorts, took part in many parades, and eventually moved to Duck Harbor Pond, a place he loved since childhood.

A former EHS member, he and his wife Pat were supporters, and also friends of the Joel Hill Saw Mill. They loved to travel over the years, and helping neighbors and friends with anything they needed. Many times, they enjoyed sunsets on their pontoon boat with friends and family, taking his best friend Skip waterskiing, and so much more. Duck Harbor will never be the same without him.

He is survived by his wife Pat Harrison, daughter Carrie Grant, (Michael), three stepchildren, and three grand-stepchildren.

JOEL HILL SAWMILL AND CLEVELAND MUSEUM

The first in our series of 2025 tours took place the weekend of July 12 and 13. The weather forecast was not encouraging, with hot, muggy conditions and showers possible on both days. Although we did get storms Saturday, spirits were not dampened. With over eighty people in attendance, the weekend was a great success. The modifications, adjustments and improvements that were made over the winter to the turbine support structure, bearings and drive train, provided a flawless sawing demonstration to the delight of our audience.

Weather for our August tours could not have been better. The sky was clear with seasonable temperatures. As anticipated, Saturday's attendance was a bit less than normal as it was the last day of the Wayne County Fair. Sunday, however, was an overflow crowd with about sixty people attending the 1 pm demonstration. Upon completing the mill segment, the group moved to the Cleveland Museum and were treated to a surface planing demonstration powered by our beloved '42 Case tractor, Darla.



Our display table was recently sanded and refinished. A new photo exhibit showcasing changes at the sawmill since its donation to EHS in 1988 is now on display.



Two 10X10 tents were in place to help protect attendees from the sun or rain. Two new benches were constructed with more on the way, replacing some of the less stable ones.

In mid-July, EHS was contacted by John Alaimo, a producer at WVIA Public Television. Mr. Alaimo is producing a piece called "Short Takes" designed to showcase various aspects of small communities, whether they are historical in nature, interesting people or unique places of business. Mr. Alaimo stated, "With regard to the Joel Hill Sawmill, I felt that the fact it is still in operation and dates back to just after the Civil War was an important story to tell, as well as the dedicated volunteers that keep it running. My objective is to make people aware of the important contributions that the local history of these places have made to the surrounding communities and the sawmill is one of those places". On July 29th, Mr. Alaimo and videographer, Kris Hendrickson, came to the mill and spent all morning interviewing volunteers, photographing and videoing, including drone footage



John Alaimo interviews Greg Quaglio as Kris Hendrickson handles the video recording.

When the video segment of the mill is completed and published, it will be posted on YouTube before completion of the greater project. A link will be posted on the EHS web page to provide access for viewing.

JOEL HILL SAWMILL AND CLEVELAND MUSEUM

Last autumn our mill crew brainstormed a list of 44 items that we would like to consider as improvements in the Cleveland Museum and Hill Mill. Many of the items were necessary, others a wish list. After careful scrutiny of the list, a few were eliminated for various reasons and others are of an ongoing nature such as monitoring, inspecting, cleaning, adjusting and lubricating. After roughly nine months of work, 31 of those list items have been completed or are ongoing. The scope of work completed in that time period is nothing short of remarkable. The most significant was the stabilization of the turbine support structure and drive train work. Without these, the saw wouldn't be functional, but there were many things that were undertaken that lead to much more impressive and safer tours. For example, scrap lumber in the basement was removed, old pulleys were organized and put on display, since the cutoff saw is not used, the cage around the transfer shaft on the mid level was removed providing more room for guests and an unobstructed view of its wooden bearings. The list is quite extensive, but the reader can see how these things are beneficial. Several items on the list were more significant and are detailed below.



The log ramp, originally constructed as a test in 2024, was rebuilt using donated timbers.



A long-overdue tool/storage shed is in construction.



The safety fence overlooking the penstock was repaired and a new one constructed at the spillway.



Sandy and Art Flynn spent many hours cleaning and applying a finish to the hand saws in this display.



Since the chop saw is not in use, the cage around the transfer shaft on the mid-level, was removed allowing a close-up view.



Additional lighting was installed at the mid level illuminating the labyrinth of structure and supports in the basement of the mill.



Following our public tours, on Tuesday afternoon July 15th, we hosted a group from the Central United Methodist Church in Honesdale. At 97 years, the senior member of the group proved that age should not be a limitation. They were a remarkable group of individuals indeed!

Our next public tour dates are September 13 at 10 am and 1pm, and 14 at 1 pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.

MY CONFUSING SEARCH FOR JOSIAH “BOS’N” PARKES

By Mrs. George C. Nielson (Lola)

In April, May and August, Mrs. Nielson (no relation to our local Nielsons) wrote to Robert Wood detailing her search to prove her relationship to Josiah Parks, noted as the first person to settle in our area, and a skilled rafter. Excerpts from these letters follow (previous references to Josiah in our publications list his name as “Josiah Bos’n Parkes” but we are leaving Mrs. Nielson’s spelling as it was in her letters.):

April 28, 1982: Since 1950 I have been trying to prove the legend in my mother’s family that Josiah “Bosun” Parks is our ancestor. Great-grandmother’s Bible, which contained the record, was lost many years ago, with no one in the family having a copy.

(Here she mentions Melvin Parks, who had been interviewed by Bob Wood; he is the known great, great grandson of Josiah Parks. She and Melvin had been corresponding since 1955. They believe they are cousins but can’t prove it.)

The letter continues with this quote from the Hancock Herald files beginning on July 4th, 1901. “Josiah Parks built a small log house at Equinunk. In the fall, in the year of the Tories and Indians, (1775-1783) he went down the river with his family in a boat to Minisink. Late in the winter he sent two sons from Minisink driving his only two cows up the river on the ice. When they arrived, they found their log home burned. They took refuge in the cave in the rocks just below Equinunk. When the ice broke up in the spring, Parks, anxious for the safety of his boys, placed his wife, family, and household goods in the boat, and between walls of ice he pushed the boat against the stream with his pike. The cave which formed a welcome shelter was on the Pennsylvania side of Delaware, in the curve below Equinunk. There the family remained until another log cabin could be erected.”

The two sons who drove their father’s cows upstream from Minisink are not named in this article, but they are proof of Josiah Parks having two older sons.

History records his sons only as William, born 1775, and Moses, born 1788. These could not have been the two sons who drove their father’s cows upstream from Minisink to Equinunk during the Revolutionary War, a distance of over 60 miles. The 1850 census, Hancock, NY lists both of Josiah’s sons, William and Moses, born in NY.

Therefore, I believe the two un-named sons were my great, great grandfather Robert Parks, 1758 -1840, and his brother Laban, who may have been his twin, and who died in Ohio in 1812. Laban and Robert Parks came into Ohio Territory early (1775 or earlier); Laban settled in Jefferson County Ohio in 1800. My Robert’s land was also first listed in Jefferson County, but due to later boundary changes is described in Tuscarora and later in Harrison County, where he died in 1840. I have not yet found a record of his place of birth. But a record of Laban states he was born in NY. During the years, when I tried to find early information about Josiah Bosun Parks, the more I tried, the more conflict in history I encountered!

SEARCH FOR JOSIAH PARKES CONTINUED

I seriously doubt the tangle can ever be accurately untangled.

Some believe Josiah was born in 1744 in Connecticut, a son of Josiah of Preston. There are articles naming Silas, Ebenezer, and George “Hamp” Parks as his brothers, yet none of these appear in the list of family of Josiah of Preston.

One account states Josiah Bosun Parks was the first permanent settler in Hancock, NY, and “coming from England,” he first settled in Connecticut.

Early Cushetunk records state Josiah Parks “an Irishman” was a very early resident of Cushetunk.

Some maintained his nickname came from being promoted to boatswain while serving aboard a British Man O’War during the capture of Havana, Cuba. (His brother Silas, died of wounds suffered in battle and was buried at sea.)

A curator in New Jersey expressed the opinion to me that “an early historian got two Josiah Parks mixed up.” This seemed logical to me, especially when I found more than two Josiah Parks in the general area in early days.

Still another version (which EHS believes to be true) - The origin of Josiah’s nickname “Bosun,” was given to him during his early rafting days with Daniel Skinner. The river-men dubbed Skinner “Lord High Admiral of the Delaware” and his forehand, Josiah Parks, “Boatswain” which was shortened to Bos’n or Bosun. This nickname remained with him throughout his life.

Yet another version, “Josiah Parks was Boatswain on one of the Lost ships during the Battle on the Lakes during the French and Indian War. He swam to shore and made his way to the Delaware Water Gap.”

Some historians believed Josiah was twice married. First to “Anne Weekly in Connecticut” and second to “the widow Jennings.” The latter was proven to be an error, and Connecticut found no record of marriage to Anne Weekly. In any of the articles I’ve read, no mention is made of Josiah’s wife’s maiden name, or her people. She is referred to only as “Mrs. Parks” and is described as being “small, rather fiery, and very courageous.”

One historian stated Bosun lived to be “about 100 years old.” It is said he spent his last years at Fishes Eddy, NY.

There is a record of the death of a Josiah Parks in 1829, age 84; and a Thankful Parks in 1827, age 82. Some believe these were Bosun and his wife. I....don’t....know.

Estanya Lloyd Logan recalled visiting Bosun’s grave, marked by a native stone with crudely cut lettering and the date 1849. She visited the grave in company with her granddaughter, Lucinda Cordelia Parks Lord, to whom Estanya was related via the Lord family.

(to be continued)

~ Carol Ann MacMaster

EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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**MEMBERSHIP INFO:
DUES PER YEAR**

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family	\$ 30.00
Junior	\$ 2.00
Lifetime	\$125.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: Since we need a quorum of 15 to conduct business, please support EHS with your attendance at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 30. Please bring a snack to share at noon; meeting will begin at 1:00. The museum will be open until 4:00, so if you haven't seen our exhibits lately, you can do that the same day!

