



The Manor

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



Volume 43, Issue 1

P.O. Box 41, 1972 Pine Mill Rd., Equinunk, PA 18417-0041

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We welcome everyone to the new 2025 season of the Equinunk Historical Society. Many things have taken place since the last issue of the Manor. The next several pages will provide updates to winter activities and programs. We hope to see you soon!

CAROL ANN



Carol Ann MacMaster has announced her retirement as Office Manager after twenty years of dedicated service to the Equinunk Historical Society. In that time, Carol Ann has been involved with much more than managing the office. She has been on the Board of Directors for many years and served as President several times. In her time as Office Manager she has chaired the car show, mentored volunteers, accepted historical items for display in the Calder House, and written countless articles for the Manor. She has ensured that the building and grounds are maintained, met with contractors, assisted at the Joel Hill Sawmill, developed program schedules, organized the set up for educational programs and made certain that refreshments were available. Additionally, Carol Ann has assisted with genealogical research, participated in numerous round tables promoting EHS, been a liaison to several other historical societies in the county and been a good friend to all whom she has encountered.

Carol Ann may be stepping down as Office Manager, but we look forward to her continued involvement in EHS activities. Her extensive knowledge of Equinunk and local history, has been an asset to this organization.

Carol Ann's years of service are greatly appreciated and we sincerely say "THANK YOU" for your dedication, time and hard work.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Hello everyone! I hope this message finds you all safe and well. We have scheduled a full and exciting season of presentations here at EHS and we hope everyone is excited to get out and about and enjoy all our community has to offer. Our season opener begins Memorial Day weekend on the 24th honoring local veteran and Hill Mill volunteer, Fred Blauth. An Ice Cream Social and tour of the cemetery with Chuck Heyn will follow. Summer offers a glass workshop with Trish Blauth, a presentation with Dessin Animal Shelter, Art Appreciation with Tom Holmes and Mike Sergi, music with Maitland and Karen Peters, our Annual meeting in August and Genealogy with Sue Mickley. The mill has four demonstration weekends to choose from and our Annual Chili Sale, Christmas Open House Weekend and Calder Cafe 1st Fridays continue. We have something for everyone! The "Hill Mill Crew" have been hard at work all year round to fix, maintain and make improvements to everything the Joel Hill Sawmill and Cleveland Museum has to offer. This is such a popular event that an extra demonstration date has been added to the calendar! Stop by to see what's new and bring a friend. We hope something piques your interest and you will join us for these programs. Or, just stop in and visit the museum. Exhibits are always being updated with new donations to our collection being added to our displays. Please share the schedule of events with others who may be

looking to learn something new about our area and history. Remember all, you are what keeps our history alive and our community thriving! Be well, be safe and stay curious!

Victoria Bradshaw, President

EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers 2024-2025

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Vice President	Tim Wilson
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Curator	Robert McLane
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Genealogy	Carol Ann MacMaster
Hospitality	Donna Capone Kathy Quaglio
Membership	Anna Sergi, Sherry Sona
Photography	Don Kaszner
Program Coordinator	Vacant
Publications	Chris Kobelin
Publicity	Linda Wescott, Donna DuBois
Sawmill Publicity	Chuck Stroble
Sawmill Committee	Blair Kobelin
"The Manor"	Donna DuBois, Editor
Proofreaders	Carol Ann MacMaster, Donna DuBois

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 or mail submissions to Donna DuBois c/o EHS22@verizon.net or mail them to EHS, PO Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417

EHS PROGRAM CALENDAR 2025

May 24
Museum Reopens
Honoring Fred Blauth
Tour of cemetery – Chuck Heyn
Ice Cream Social

June 21
Trish Blauth
“Lantern Making at Glass Studio”
Call 570-224-6722 for information

June 28
Kathy Adams
“Compassion In Action-
What We Do And How We Do It”
Dessin Animal Shelter

July 12, 13
Joel Hill Mill /Cleveland Museum
Tours*& Demonstrations

July 27
Tom Holmes
Art Appreciation Day

August 2
Mike Sergi
“Rustic Art With Natural Materials”

August 9, 10
Joel Hill Mill/ Cleveland Museum
Tours* & Demonstrations

August 23
Maitland & Karen Peters
“Music through The Ages”

August 30
Annual Meeting

September 6
Sue Mickley
“Genealogy DNA”

September 13, 14
Joel Hill Mill/ Cleveland Museum
Tours* & Demonstrations

October 4, 5
Joel Hill Sawmill/Cleveland Museum
Tours* & Demonstrations

November 15
Annual Chili Sale; First 100 orders

December 5, 6, 7
Museum Open House
Calder Shop Sale
All three days Noon-4PM
Sunday Refreshments and Music

All programs start at one—Museum Opens at noon

First Friday – Calder Café Event
November – April
6:30 – 9:00
Call Pat at 570-224-0223

*** Joel Hill/Cleveland Museum Tours**
10:00 am and 1:00 pm Saturday;
1:00 pm on Sunday.
Call Greg at 570-798-2420 for information.

FIRST FRIDAY

The Calder Café is held the first Friday of the month from November through April. Our sincere thanks to all performers who made the Calder Café a success. Please plan to join us the first Friday next November and enjoy the music, fellowship and snacks. This year we welcomed back our regulars and had a few new performers. Great to see you all!



JOEL HILL SAWMILL AND CLEVELAND MUSEUM

The 2025 season comes with the Joel Hill Sawmill exhibiting several major improvements. The mill crew worked through the fall and winter on several projects and the mill is in top condition for our summer tours and demonstrations.

Most noteworthy is the completion of structural work in the turbine area. The fall issue of the Manor detailed the replacement of a concrete pier, a white oak turbine-support beam and splicing two lower sections of 12X12 posts, all of which were badly rotted. That work was successfully completed in early November. Our attention was then devoted to the posts (verticals) closest to the stream. A few years ago, those two posts were “sistered” with four, 2X12 boards, 10 feet long and held in place with four threaded rods in each to provide bracing until permanent repairs could be made. We are grateful to Al Day who volunteered to cut the remaining three logs with his band-saw mill for this project.

Longer posts and a cross beam using mortise and tenon joinery, made this project a considerably more challenging, but as usual, our talented crew was able to complete the first set of timber installations in a timely manner. A series of chains and “comealongs” were used to lift the timbers, some weighing close to three hundred pounds. By the middle of December, the second set of timbers were in place and X-bracing was added for structural stability. The new timbers have provided new stability and smooth operation of the saw with an overall reduction in vibration in the entire building



Blair Kobelin and Tim Wilson unload 10 foot beams.



Ron Costantini makes a final cut forming a tenon.



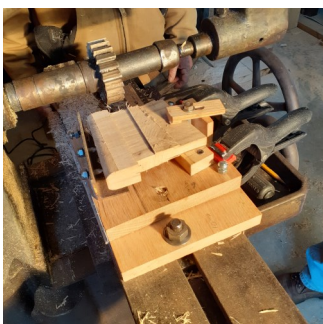
The tenon is cleaned using a belt sander by Fred Blauth..



The hoisted beam is guided in place by Jim Morrison.

After the October tours, we discovered that about half of the wooden teeth on the horizontal bevel gear were destroyed. Structural stability and bearding integrity, allowing significant vibrations, were to blame and those issues have now been eliminated. Although we have plenty of replacement teeth, they are rough cut and as such, are unusable until refined.

There are two sections to each wooden tooth; the base, that inserts into a slot in the steel gear casting and the actual tooth that meshes with the steel teeth on the mating bevel gear. A jig was designed and constructed to hold the wooden teeth which was used on the horizontal milling machine in the Cleveland Museum. The tooth contact surfaces were cut using a hand plane and a wood-rasp file. After installation, the teeth must be fine tuned by hand to achieve proper contact with the teeth on the opposing steel gear. This is a tedious process, but critical if proper tooth contact is to be achieved.



A tooth base is machined on the horizontal mill.



Greg Quaglio shapes the tooth contact surface.



A blank on left and a finished tooth ready for use.



New teeth are in place in the horizontal bevel gear.

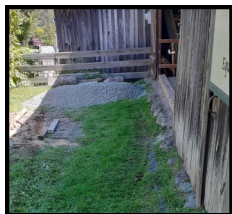
JOEL HILL SAWMILL AND CLEVELAND MUSEUM

After three months of work on the structure and drive train, the mill was once again ready for operation. On January 31 we made final adjustments to shaft alignments and tooth contact surfaces. At 3 pm we opened the water gate, ran the turbine and watched 150 years of history come alive once again!

Our next initiative was to inspect the two upper bearings on the vertical turbine shaft. Each was found to be deficient. Replacing these bearings meant that the shaft with the bevel gear attached, had to be removed and transported to the Cleveland Museum along with the bearing bases and caps. The mill uses Babbitt bearings throughout. Babbitt is a mixture of approximately 90% tin, and 5% each, copper and antimony. The process entails melting “old” Babbitt out of the bearing base and cap, then, after prepping, setting the bearing base horizontally with the shaft centered in it. This provides a void between both into which new Babbitt will be poured. The Babbitt material is melted and heated to about 800 degrees. The liquid metal is then carefully poured to form the new bearing. Prior to pouring, the bearing base and cap must be heated to several hundred degrees as well, or the cold metal will cause the liquid to quickly solidify without filling the space. If that should happen, the bearing is no good and the whole process must be repeated. Happily, we had four perfect pours.



L to R—Badly worn bearing; melting old Babbitt; bearing base, cap and shaft in place, about to pour; completed bearing.



We recently constructed a ramp out of “modified” stone. In addition to making log handling easier, it also provides a smoother and safer area for pedestrian traffic and an area for people to safely observe sawing demonstrations. Frank Iorio and his skid steer made the job easy.



Updates

A grant for the dredging of the mill pond has been awarded to EHS. We were hopeful that the work could be accomplished this past fall, but the contractor was unavailable. The work has been postponed and should be underway sometime this spring or summer.

Please note that a weekend in September has been added to our tour list. See the program calendar on page three for details. Private tours are offered by request.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

GEORGE J FLUHR 1935—2025 Our area has lost yet another friend and great historian. A resident of Shohola, George was very active in many pursuits reaching all of Pike and other nearby counties. He worked as a supervisor overseeing special education programs for 10 districts in the area. He became supervisor of Shohola Township after retirement in 1977. He was the first chairman of the Upper Delaware Council, working to preserve private property while maintaining a cooperative relationship with the National Park Service. His passion was history, and he was appointed Pike County Historian. He sought to preserve local history by recording stories of elderly locals, and his legacy lives on in the many books and articles he wrote about the local area history; authoring a weekly column for the News Eagle newspaper called "By George!" He also helped save the Zane Grey House, was involved with the annual commemoration of the Civil War train wreck and the Minisink Battle, and so much more, including the establishment of the Shohola Caboose Museum, and the preservation of historical markers including the grave of the Minisink Battle Union Soldier, and so much more. He was also a founding member of the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society.



Marilyn Anne Shaffer 1943—2024 Marilyn was born in Callicoon, N. Y. and lived in Lordville until she graduated from Hancock Central School in the Class of 1961. Marilyn worked at several summer camps and at the "Coil Factory" in Hancock until meeting Richard Shaffer of Hancock.

Marilyn and Richard were married at St. Paul's R C Church in Hancock and were together for almost 62 years. Marilyn retired from Nova Southeast University of Davie, FL in 2007 after many years as an Audio Specialist for developmentally challenged children at the University.

She was a longtime member of the Equinunk Historical Society.

Rev'd Robert Schwarz, 73, husband of long-time supporter Jeanne Schwarz, passed away on March 14 in Honesdale.

Member **Steve Jones**, partner of Jean Cyrilin, also a member, passed away in August, 2024, in Allentown, PA.

PAT CHRISTIAN – STARLIGHT INN

On Sunday, May 16th, 1999, a testimonial dinner was held at the Starlight Inn in honor of Pat Christian, whose hard work and determination along with her love of history, was instrumental in helping to make the Society what it is today. Forty friends and neighbors attended, and some of them spoke of her many accomplishments over the years. Wellington Lester, Kuni Holbert, Bob Wood, Ruth Frederick, Kathy Shelly, Ed Dix, Mark Zimmer, Emily Paulson, Eleanor Keesler, and others were among them. She helped author many books and articles on local history and family research, planned programs, and so much more. Seldom do I research the files at the Society when I fail to come across her name attached to one document or another. I am proud to have known her, and to share this memory from our archives with you.

Sadly, the historic 116-year-old Starlight Inn was lost to a fire in February of this year, but I hope to see more stories like this shared by others of its remarkable history. This is how we keep the memories alive through the generations.

(Please see photo on Page 8)

Carol Ann MacMaster

JOSEPH SIDNEY TYLER

Known in the area as Sid Tyler, Joseph Sidney Tyler was born in Galilee, circa 1876, to Lemando Fuller Tyler and Emily (Sutliff) Tyler. He became a photographer and worked in the Honesdale area for many years and also lived in Afton, Oklahoma as well. He Passed away in Honesdale on October, 1970, at the age of 94.

I received an inquiry from Adam Forgash, also a photographer, from New York. Adam has a collection of photographic glass plates from Sid from Oklahoma. He and his wife are working on a project about Sid and are seeking information on him. He had been trying unsuccessfully for two years to gather information on this project. I learned from some local folks that Sid's home was still standing and they sent me to Stan Pratt, a local well-known photographer who has in his collection many glass plates of Sid's from this area. Stan developed and posted these resulting photographs on line eight years ago. I spoke with Stan and he was excited to meet Adam. I gave Adam his contact information and I met with them the following weekend in Honesdale. We then traveled to Galilee where Adam and Stan spoke with the present homeowner. Stay tuned for more on this topic in the coming issue (Photo courtesy of Adam Forgash.)



Carol Ann MacMaster

MEET ANNA SERGI

Hello everyone, my name is Anna Sergi and I will be the new Office Manager at the Equinunk Historical Society. I am originally from New York. I traveled around a bit after graduating college, where I earned a BA in sociology, among other things. I spent a couple years living in San Diego and after that spent six months in Italy. After moving back to Long island, I met my husband Mike.

In July 2024, we bought our home in Equinunk. We are very excited to have found such a wonderful place to call home. The community has been very welcoming, kind and helpful. We are also learning of the flourishing art scene that exists here and all the history that makes up this charming community. We are ready to learn about it all. We are especially excited and eager to learn about the art and history here, as Mike is a artist and we both love history.

I've spent most of my time working as a caretaker, working in nursing homes, caring for the elderly and the sick to working with newborns. I am eager to learn about this position and all it entails and would like to thank the Equinunk Historical Society for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to meeting you all soon.

OUR EQUINUNK

"Equinunk has no municipal regulations separate from the township in which it is situated. It has about three hundred inhabitants, has four stores, two hotels, grist-mill, blacksmith-shop, wagon-maker and undertakers'-shop, planing mill and various other industries.

The first laid out road to the place was that between it and Stockport. There is much uncertainty as to the date of its survey, and no one knows who was the surveyor. The road up the Equinunk Creek was extended by degrees, as the needs of the people settling upon or lumbering upon it, made it necessary, but was not laid out and worked through until 1845."

From "*History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties*", Alfred Mathews, 1886

EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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EQUINUNK, PA 18417

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFO:	
Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Junior	\$2
Lifetime	\$125
Corporate	\$50



1999 testimonial dinner honoring Pat Christian (center, front) at The Starlight Inn.

Article on page 6