

# THE FAIRVIEW AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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## FALL NEWSLETTER, 2013

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This newsletter is quite late and my apologies to all. Summer is gone, Fall is with us, and the beauty of the season is falling on the ground. The August membership picnic was held at the Brugger House and it could not have been more perfect. There was a great turnout, delicious food and several 200 Club winners were picked: Lucy Fuller, Mark Kulyk, Fred Seidler (twice), Donna Fonda, Barb Wingerter, Laurie Strandwitz, and Louise Hutchinson. There were many surprised and delighted winners throughout the summer months too. Fun! Congratulations to all.

### CONCERNS

Memberships are declining. Participation is declining. Fewer members are carrying the load for all. Please step forward to lend a hand.

**VISITATION:** In June five classes of Fairview's second graders (about 100 students) not only visited the house and cemetery, but viewed the summer exhibit that had been completed prior to their arrival.

The summer exhibit "A Danger in Our Midst" was attended by about 90 people. Students from the Fairview High School Student Council - Emily Adrian, Samantha Beaver, Luke Frigon., Kevin O'Brien, Zeke Porter and Kathryn Susko - shared hosting duties throughout many of the summer Sundays along with our able-bodied docents - Karen Brady, Joan Fiesler, J.R. and Biney Freeman, Jim and Gail Getz, June Hetz, Isabel Hodgins, Louise Hutchinson, Pat Linkoski, Melanie Lion Jane Schwab and yours truly.

*Thank you, all, for offering precious Sunday afternoons.*

Joan Fiesler continues to be the genealogy resource person for people from all over the country. Thank you, Joan, for your efforts.

For the remainder of this year:

### MEETINGS

**October, 16** - Jack Mathay, a repeat guest speaker, *Medicinal Herbs and Their Uses; Past and Present.*  
**November 20** - our own Biney Freeman, *From Griswold Field to the Erie International Airport.*

(This program will be the climax to a short exhibit during the month of November: "Erie International Recollections." It will be on view November 3, 10 and 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. and we will need docents for it. June Hetz and Biney Freeman have been in contact with the gentleman who has the collection and had it on display during the recent open house at the airport.

Meanwhile, our Vice President, Karen Brady continues to search out interesting speakers.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Dec. 8, Noon - 4 p.m.**

Please donate cookies, jams, jellies, baked breads, baked goods of all kinds (EXCEPT CREAM PIES) to add to the festivities. As always, Wassail and cookies will be available to visitors.



***BE SURE TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!  
ALSO, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!***

**ANNUAL FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
LUNCHEON:**

**December 9, 11:45 a.m.**

Here's a special request to anyone who would like to decorate the house for Christmas Open House. And yes, we will be able to sell Christmas Wreaths again this year with the price remaining at \$20.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

The "OUT OF THE BOX" project (to take an exhibit into the schools) will soon be picking up speed.

RENOVATION work continues on the second floor with progress being made by J.R. Freeman and Richard Stachel. The electrical work is finished and dry wall installation is moving along. As with any house, repairs are ever needed, and your continuing support for the Sturgeon House is appreciated and very much needed.

**FINANCES**

This year's **Calendar Party** was a huge success under the leadership of Pat Linkoski and Joyce Getz. It generated about \$1,000 that will help with continuing construction/renovation costs, general maintenance, operations (utilities) and necessary purchases. We have received a second grant (this one for \$800) from ECGRA to help purchase a projector and screen to replace a 25 + year old slide projector. Next the slides must be put on discs. All this is an effort to preserve and present our history.

Our costs for repairs and utilities are met thanks to successful fundraisers, donations, book sales, and especially memberships. As rates for everything are in constant flux, our need to maintain our accounts in the black remains. New ways are needed to spread the word and activities of the historical society. New members, continuing involvement, and ideas from the membership can only boost the energy and reputation of this committed organization.

**FAIRVIEW BIOGRAPHY**

*John Kelso*, 1766 - 1819, was the son of an investor in the Harrisburg & Presque Isle Land Co. He first came to the area with Col. Thomas Forster and Capt. Richard Swan, who built the second sawmill (1797) and the first grist mill (1798) in the county as well as a log cabin for the mill overseer. Kelso took on that duty. In 1797 he was one of 12 men living in the township. His wife (Sarah Carson) may not have come until later, for the "first white male" in the township, Edwin Kelso, was born in 1800. Kelso also brought the first slave to the Erie Triangle - an elderly woman who was unable to care for herself, so he did not set her free. He moved to Erie later in 1800 after a new manager for the mills could be found. During the War of 1812 he was commissioned Brigadier General and placed in charge of Erie. Before and after that war he held several county offices and was highly respected.

- Warner, Beers

**MEMERSHIPS - 2014**

Please make checks payable to: **The Fairview Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 553, Fairview, PA 16415.**

**The Fairview Area Historical Society is a non-profit tax exempt organization. Memberships and contributions are tax deductible.**

**Memberships: Seniors \$7; Regular \$10; Family \$18; Patron \$30; Business Patron \$35; Life Membership \$250.**

Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_ . Donation (?) \$ \_\_\_\_ . (Please specify General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ or Special Projects Fund \_\_\_\_.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**