

South Londonderry Township Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 9, 2018, 7:00pm

Presiding: Maria Pichini – Chair
Members Present: Rugh Henderson, Sid Hostetter, Trevor Kase, Lois Matarazzi – Secretary,
Members Absent: Susan Bucks, Cindy Skinner – Vice Chair

The South Londonderry Township Historical Commission (the “**Commission**”) met in the South Londonderry Township (the “**Township**”) Building in Campbelltown.

Motion passed to accept the minutes from June 11th.

General Discussion

- ✓ Pennsylvania Chautauqua continuing in their efforts to raise money to purchase a plot of land [18 acres] known as Soldiers Field in Mount Gretna. The Pennsylvania National Guard held training on this plot between 1885 and 1935 prior to moving out to Fort Indiantown Gap. Anyone interested in donating can contact Sid Hostetter or go to the Pennsylvania Chautauqua’s website @ pachautauqua.info.

Annual Preservation Award

The Mumma House/Farm will be the 2018 Preservation Award recipient. Susan to contact and coordinate the presentation. Maria will check with Jenna if the presentation could be conducted during one of the Township meetings and if so, will select the date and let Susan know.

National Night Out

National Night Out (“**NNO**”) will be Tuesday, August 7th. Plan on arriving by 5:30pm; bring a chair. Lois presented the brochure [see attached] and will bring 100 copies. Trevor finishing the power point and will email it for review. Maria will bring a back-up laptop. Maria will talk to Jenna and find out the approval deadline and to ensure the Commission will have a table next to the Township. Sid will donate an assortment of individually wrapped old-fashioned penny candy.

South Londonderry Township Area Historical Society of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania {“**SLHS**”}

SLHS will have a booth during National Night Out. They are currently organizing an event for the end of October. It will be a historical reading of the poem “*Legend of the Hounds*” penned by George H. Boker.

Residential History Research Workshop

No update

Newsletter

The next scheduled newsletter is planned on being sent in October.

Bell Memorial in front of Fire Hall

No update.

2018 Projects/Ideas

- *Annual Preservation Award - *Mumma House/Farm will be 2018 recipient*
 - *Updating/adding information to the South Londonderry Historical Inventory
 - * Participation in annual National Night Out
- Residential History Research Workshop [may be completed in 2019]

*Ongoing projects

Next Historical Commission Meeting

Monday, September 10th, 7:00pm, at the Township Building. **REMINDER – no Commission meeting in August!**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Matarazzi

A Brief History of South Londonderry Township

In 1768, the inhabitants of Derry Township, Lancaster County (Lancaster County being formed in 1729 from Chester County), Pennsylvania, petitioned the courts to divide Derry into two townships. The boundaries were very extensive, and the inhabitants labored under many inconveniences. As a result, Londonderry Township was born.

Londonderry, a name provided by the Township's "Scots-Irish" settlers, remained a part of Lancaster County until 1785 when Dauphin County was established. Almost three decades later, Lebanon County was formed in 1813, and the township became part of this newly established county. It remained a whole entity until a division was made into North and South in 1894.

Today, South Londonderry Township continues to retain its charm and personality through its very historic architecture, small community atmosphere and undeveloped nature. Current development along Route 322 has been increasing at a steady pace, and according to the 2010 Federal Census, there are a total of 6,991 Township residents. State Game Lands #145 can be found within the Township, as well as a few small parks and the Lebanon Valley Rails to Trails for the recreation of its residents. The governing body consists of a Board of Supervisors assisted by a Township Manager. The Township employs a total of 20 full time employees, supports a police force and 2 community fire companies.

What can you do for yourself?

Researching your property's origins:

Visit the Lebanon County GIS office located on the first floor of the Lebanon County Courthouse, Room 118.

Provide them your address and they will provide you with a copy of information in their database.

Ask what the printout shows, including deed references. Start with the earliest one. Take your information and visit the

Recorder of Deeds office and look for the reference material found in your list. Watch for deed references and previous owners.

South Londonderry Township Historical Commission

Who are we?
What can we do for you?
What can you do for yourself?



Find us on Facebook

South Londonderry Township Historical Commission

Telephone: 717-838-5556
Jenna Seasholtz, Township Manager

Who are We? Meet our Commission:

Maria Pichini, Chairman
Cindy Skinner
Susan Bucks
Sid Hostetter
Trevor Kase
Lois Matarazzi, Secretary
Rugh Henderson

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the South Londonderry Township Historical Commission is to identify, record, promote and preserve the rich historical assets of our community, including but not limited to, its architectural, cultural, economic, industrial, agricultural and social heritage for the benefit of its residents, business owners and visitors

What can we do for you?

We are a committee of volunteers, commissioned by South Londonderry Township, to preserve the historical assets of our community. We have been asked to research items of historical interest within our township and to create community interest in preservation and restoration of these historical treasures. We will be available to help answer any questions concerning your property and research that you may do for your property.

Interested in becoming a Historical

Commission Member?

**Contact Jenna Seeholtz, Township
Manager at 717-838-5556**

Visit us at www.SouthLonderry.org

2016 Preservation Award Winner Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Colebrook



The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colebrook located in Manheim Pennsylvania has evolved from roots that were planted deep in the history of the country. The congregation dates back to 1771; five years before the country became an independent nation. The current church structure was built in 1842. The church is surrounded by a cemetery. There is at least one existing tombstone that indicates the burial of a Joseph Porter in 1779. There is also a tombstone indicating the burial of a veteran of the American Revolutionary War.

Henry Melchior Muhlenburg, the father of Lutheranism in our country, came to the area and began organizing congregations. It is believed that Trinity Colebrook part of Lutheran Worship at Elizabethtown was founded by Muhlenburg around September 1771.

Johannes Derr sequestered Johann Christoph Heyne, a pewterer in Lancaster, to create the communion ware. The flagon is now in Yale University's Art Gallery. Muhlenberg's diaries state that in 1772 a delegate from a small congregation only seven miles from Manheim had requested the occasional services of his son, Friedrich Muhlenburg. His son, at that time was Pastor of congregations in Schaefferstown, Bricker-ville, Manheim and Penryn. The name of the congregation was Mondschein (Moonshine in German) but thought to also be a German English dialect now called Pennsylvania German for Mount Joy. It is unknown if his services were ever provided.