For the last 22 years, Chester County has sponsored the summer Town Tours & Village Walks program. These tours are free to the public and allow everyone to experience summer strolls through history.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the iron and steel industry in Pennsylvania and it all started in this area. As a tribute to the iron and steel heritage of this region, the Town Tours & Village Walks program will concentrate on that industry this year.

Several years ago the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association hosted a tour at Joanna Furnace. It was a very, very hot Thursday evening and the turnout was poor. We have a second chance to host with the full hopes that the weather this time will cooperate. The tour will be held on Thursday evening, August 4th with the title of the tour — “Joanna Furnace an Archaeological Triumph”. The tours begin at 5:30 pm with the last tour starting at 7:00 pm.

There will be interpreters stationed at each of our historic buildings and sites giving a brief historical summary of the activities that took place in the iron making process. We will need tour guides to take groups of 15 to each of the historical stations where interpreters will talk for about 5 minutes. So if you wish to volunteer either as an interpreter at one of the stations or as a tour guide, please contact the Hay Creek office.

This year is proving to be another busy year for the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association. Educational programs for students have taken place, interpretive training classes have been held with volunteers giving walking tours at each monthly breakfast and Hay Creek volunteers have been giving their all each Thursday to make Joanna Furnace “show ready” to the public. Moreover, the construction of the new storage building in the engine area is set to begin while stonemasons have moved in to Joanna Furnace to restore the massive bank barn stone wall in the mansion area.

With all the Hay Creek volunteers being “busy as bees” there is one Association committee working behind the scenes to help tell the story of the Joanna Furnace Iron Works. Yes, the History Committee is feverishly working on Phase II of the interpretive signs for our historic site. Last year we started this project by creating three signs to help guide daily visitors on our site. These signs included our site rules and regulations, a “tour begins here” sign with brochure box, and 7’ sign that detailed the operation of Joanna Furnace. Thanks to your generous donations and a small grant from the Schuylkill Highlands this $9,595 project was completely paid for through our annual campaign.

Did you know that people are watching us? Yes, our visitors have noticed our new signs and have complimented on their educational use and their aesthetic nature to our site. However, its not only our visitors who notice what we are doing but we also have government agencies, granting organizations, educational groups, and the business community who follow what we are doing. You may ask why are these “on-lookers” important to the historic Joanna Furnace site? Well, if the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association is going to compete with other treasured historic sites we will need to maintain a certain character and integrity to encourage funding from the professional organizations that are mentioned above. Ultimately it will be these groups that will assist with the future development of Joanna Furnace.

The 2016 interpretive sign project at Joanna Furnace will bring eight new signs to our site. This year you will see signs for the Blacksmith Shop, Charcoal Barn, Mule Stable, Office/Store, Ore Roaster, Saw Mill and Wheelwright Shop. Pictured above is a preview of the 7-foot interpretive sign that will be placed in the Mansion area.

From the President,
Charles Jacob

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See 2016 Interpretive Signs on Page 3
Membership Information

Join our Picnic on Sunday, July 17th

The Hay Creek Valley Historical Association will host an old-fashioned picnic on Sunday, July 17th at Joanna Furnace. The picnic will take place at 5 pm in front of the Eagle Stable.

Please bring a covered dish dinner and a dessert to share. Hay Creek will provide the hot dogs and/or hamburgers, drinks and paper supplies.

Members will want to come out to this activity to see the progress on the many projects at Joanna Furnace. You will also hear the latest information on the upcoming 40th anniversary celebration of the Hay Creek Festival. See you on July 17th!

July / August Calendar of Key Events & Activities

(Ongoing event... Volunteer Day EVERY Thursday 9 am to 3 pm)

July

- 6 Society of PA Archaeology Meeting — 7 pm
- 8 Hay Creek Festival Marketing Materials Due / September Newsletter Article Deadline
- 13 Christmas in July Ornament Class — Reservations Required
- 16 Breakfast Buffet — 7 to 11 am
- Flea Market — Opens at 7 am
- 17 General Membership Meeting & Picnic — 5 pm (Bring a covered dish and a dessert to share)
- 21 Safe Site Training — 12:30 pm
- 21 Hay Creek Festival — Interpreter Ice Cream Social — 7 pm
  (Interpreters will learn about the new “Meet the Village Craftsmen Parade” and period dancing activities for the upcoming 40th anniversary festival)
- 25 Girl Scouts Scarecrow Sewing — 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- 27 Board Meeting — 6:30 pm

August

- 1 Hay Creek Festival Marketing Materials Mailed
- 3 Society of PA Archaeology Meeting — 7 pm
- 4 Town Tours & Village Walks — 5:30 to 7 pm
- 4 Prepare Chicken for Hay Creek Festival Soup — 8:30 am
- 11 Prepare Chicken for Hay Creek Festival Soup — 8:30 am
- 16 Morgantown Area Business Association Picnic — 6 pm
- 17 Hay Creek Festival — Vendor / Interpreter Passes & Map Mailed
- 18 Prepare Ham for Hay Creek Festival Soup — 8:30 am
- 22 Hay Creek Festival Vendor Food Prices Due
- 24 Board Meeting — 6:30 pm
- 25 Hay Creek Festival Volunteer Lists Due for Festival Passes
- 25 Prepare Beef for Hay Creek Festival Soup — 8:30 am
- 30 Hay Creek Festival Food Vendor Meeting — 7 pm
- 31 Hay Creek Festival — Mansion Tent Impression Set-up
- 31 Christmas at Joanna — Vendor Registration Deadline

SAVE THE DATES:

40th Annual Hay Creek Festival — September 9—11, 2016 — 10 am to 5 pm daily
Hay Creek Apple Festival — October 8—9, 2016
2016 Interpretive Signs, continued from on page 1

Store, Ore Roaster, Saw Mill, and Wheelwright Shop. These signs will be 18"x24" in size and will replace the existing old signs currently in place. The eighth sign will be a 7' sled unit in the mansion area that will provide new details on the ironmasters mansion, carriage house, bank barn and the terraced gardens.

The History Committee has been meeting since April to select photos and write the script for the interpretive signs. Currently the group is in the review phase of the project. Text is being checked and rechecked for grammar, punctuation and historic accuracy before allowing the design company to create a final product. This extensive review process has resulted in three-hour meetings for the History Committee which is necessary to ensure that the organization is putting out the best possible educational product to our visitors.

Hopewell Manufacturing of Waynesboro, PA has once again been contracted by our organization to create the Joanna Furnace interpretive signs. A $10,000 cash outlay has been allotted in this year’s budget by the board for this project. The History Committee has also applied for a $5,000 grant in May from the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program to assist with the sign project. The agency will announce its awards in July. Although this project is not part of the 2016 financial campaign, members who want to be a part of this endeavor are welcome to send a contribution to the Association.

Look for this exciting two-year project to come to a close in September! The eight signs — Blacksmith Shop, Charcoal Barn, Mansion Site, Mule Stable, Office/Store, Ore Roaster, Saw Mill and Wheelwright Shop — will be in place for our visitors to see at the 40th Anniversary Hay Creek Festival on September 9–11, 2016.

Historic Joanna Furnace Is a Safe Site

Today we can officially say Historic Joanna Furnace Iron Works is becoming a Safe Site for our children!

Whether they are homeschooling members, public school students, scouts or event summer camp attendees, youngsters visiting or working here and their parents can feel secure. The fact is that as of this date most of our staff has met the state requirements and our site is well on its way to being fully compliant with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? After the past two months of training, state criminal background checks and child abuse background clearances, most of our educators, interpreters and interpreting craftspeople have completed their SafeSite certification. Others are currently in process. A small number still need to attend training and submit applications for state criminal background checks and child abuse clearances.

Being a SafeSite will do three things. First, for parents and schools bringing students here, we can show that our staff has met the state requirements for keeping children safe. Secondly, our staff has been trained to recognize potential child sexual abuse and can readily report issues to proper authorities. Thirdly, the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association is soon to be fully compliant with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.

In this day and age, we have to be painfully aware that 25% of all girls and about 17% of all boys by the age of eighteen will be victims of sexual abuse. The Hay Creek Valley Historical Association is dedicated to protecting our member youngsters as well as our visitor youngsters from abuse. We have 94 staff members (educators, tour guides, interpreting crafts persons, interpreting technology volunteers) who are required by state law to have approved adult training and background checks. Without this certification, non-compliant volunteers will no longer be allowed to work with youngsters under the age of 18 in any Hay Creek program.

NEXT HAY CREEK PA SAFESITE MANDATED TRAINING AT THE FURNACE

For those staff members who still need to apply for clearances and/or attend training, a third training session will take place on Thursday, July 20 at 12:30 pm in the mule stable. To attend, you must pre-register by emailing Ron Schlegel at education@haycreek.org. You will need to pre-register so that we can have a prepared packet for you.
Meet Our 2016 Scholarship Winner

Each year the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association awards a $500 scholarship to a graduating senior who will continue his or her education at an institution of higher learning. This year’s recipient is Brendan Gard of Morgantown who plans to attend Penn State University in the Fall. Brendan has volunteered at numerous Hay Creek events including the Hay Creek Festival, Hay Creek Apple Festival, and Christmas at Joanna events.

What follows is Brendan’s scholarship essay:

I was never a stranger to Joanna Furnace. I was raised attending the yearly Apple Festival which as a kid always entailed the delicious witch brewed soups, the hay and barrel rides, and of course the pony rides that were always accompanied by a straw cowboy hat. As time passed my role at the festival altered from a consumer, to a volunteer, ultimately to an organizer. When I reached the age that I was able to volunteer at the festival, I took advantage of the opportunity. At first I helped with parking, surprisingly taking joy in learning the nuances that go along safely and efficiently directing cars. Then I transitioned to helping children and adults with the hay and barrel rides, once again taking joy in seeing the kid’s smile as they would pull around the final turn back to their parents. It was during this second year of volunteering that I was put in contact with Linda Ott. At the time I was newly inducted into the National Honor Society, and when Mrs. Ott expressed a need of more volunteer help, I suggested that in the future the Twin Valley National Honor Society could offer some assistance. The following year a hand full of fellow students joined me in service while in the span of the two day festival I accumulated about fifteen hours of volunteer work. While the student volunteer turnout for the first year was definitely not dismissible, they were minuscule when compared to the 2015 Hay Creek Apple Festival at Joanna Furnace. It was this year that I was once again called upon to gather members to help out and so I did. I was able to organize twenty-seven student volunteers that filled sixteen positions over the two day span for a total of eighty-seven hours of service. I have strived to go out of my way to help Joanna Furnace in any way I could because it is there that I have learned a lot of things that I value. It was because of my experiences there that I learned that volunteering is fun. Volunteering can seem pointless and a waste of time to some youth, but because of my love of learning new things, connecting with new people, and making new memories I could always look forward to giving my time to Joanna Furnace. Volunteering is incredibly important, especially at events like the Apple Festival where everything is run by volunteers. If it wasn’t for these volunteers, I would not have the fond memories I recalled earlier, and without new people being willing to give up their time, the children of today and tomorrow would be deprived of its great experience. Lastly, volunteering is refreshing. When you are always on the consumer side of the booth, it is easy to forget what a festival is really about. While it may seem that the Apple Festival is just a very particular food celebration, it is really an extraordinarily managed and organized fundraiser to maintain and upkeep the historic site as well as to educate attendees of the value of everything that is around them. This is something truly special in my opinion.

In conclusion, the world needs volunteers who are willing to sacrifice for the betterment of things greater then themselves. Thankfully my experiences at Joanna Furnace have enchanted me with its memories and opportunities, and I value these things for molding me into a community service member for life.

Member Len Smith talks to students about alpaca fur and weaving at a recent Joanna Furnace educational program.
Rave Reviews From Twin Valley Middle School

“No! It was the best in all the years we’ve done this” was the answer from one of the Twin Valley Middle School teachers when asked if there was anything you would like to see added or suggest we delete in the day’s visitation.

Since 2013, each spring we have enjoyed the arrival to our historic site of over 250 fifth grade students, ready to experience a hands-on interactive historical adventure. This year was no exception. Even the rain didn’t hamper the learning and fun. It was summed up in the assessments from chaperones and teachers as ‘wonderful, kid friendly activities, lots of fun with great variety’ meeting PA Standards and curriculum in Early America, Art, History and Simple Machines.

Students said they DISCOVERED and LEARNED “that pulley’s make things easier, cooking over an open fire was hard, a sawmill is loud, how to use a musket, a blacksmith’s job was hot and important to the furnace, charcoal is from wood, sewing with a needle is cool and the old buildings were fun to explore.” There were many more wonderful comments about ALL the classes that I can share with you personally as there is not enough space here.

One of the best answers to sum it up was “History is fun and you can learn a lot in one day!” So hats off to the 63-plus volunteers who helped to either set up for the visitation, labored over making lunches for all the staff, or shared their expertise and talents with well planned and executed lessons driving home some relatable historical information. Our 4-H members bringing their animals was an extra special treat.

Thanks to all. It is because of all of you that our last question…”Will you return for other educational events?” was answered with a unanimous YES, DEFINITELY, and ABSOLUTELY.

We can be proud; our mission was accomplished.

July Breakfast Buffet

The last breakfast of the summer will take place at Joanna Furnace on Saturday, July 16th from 7 to 11 am. Please take some time out of your summer schedule and come out to Hay Creek and enjoy our delicious homemade breakfast fare.

Our buffet includes country sausage, bacon, scrapple, chipped cream beef, pancakes, scrambled eggs, country fries, fruit, toast, coffee, juice and more! Cost is $9 for adults and children ages 5 to 11 eat for $4.50. Children under five eat for free.

There will also be a flea market in July. For members wishing to set up a booth please call Kathleen Rhode - 610-914-8152.

Scarecrow Sewing & Committee Leader Needed

Scarecrow sewing kits are now available in the mule stable to pick up and complete at home. Each kit has 10 shirts with the needed patches, thread and hangers to complete the job of sewing three patches on each shirt. There is a check out form in each bag to fill out when you pick up the bag. Directions and information are there too. We are half way to our needed 400 shirts to be done!

Hay Creek is still in need of an interested person or persons to step forward to chair the Scarecrow making in preparation for the Apple Festival. It is a position that has written procedures that will ease your way into the “how to do” as well as a backbone staff that helps to man the tent and prepare needed materials. Past experienced volunteers are willing to shadow you through this first year (2016) . Half the 300 shirts needed are already patched and the jeans are being patched by member Rusty Fitts who has been a dedicated volunteer to the scarecrow area for many years.

Scouts will be meeting soon for workshops to make needed facial features and hair. Shirts are being picked up and patched by volunteers weekly.

Please call the Hay Creek office for more details.
Volunteers Step Forward

Looking for an area where you and your family can volunteer at the upcoming Hay Creek Festival? With this longtime community event only 60 days away we could use your help in the following areas:

- Apple Butter making — If you have a big family or a group of friends looking to oversee this original festival craft we would like to hear from you. Step-by-step guide will be provided to assist with your duties. This is a perfect area for those who like evening campfires!
- Bus Greeting Leader — Assist our festival visitors as they get on and off our festival busses and welcome them to our 40th annual celebration.
- Children’s Games — Volunteers of all ages are needed to help staff our old-time games area. Jen Weiler is overseeing this area but could use some hands throughout the weekend teaching kids the history of our early American games. The archaeology adventure area of the Festival is also in need of a leader to organize the set-up and supervision of the festival mud pie activity.
- Civil War Soldiers & Sutlers — The confederates are already here but we need a few union soldiers to complete our new Civil War encampment. Individuals with sutler impressions are also welcome. Note: the encampment has a new prime festival location on the flat area behind the festival stage.
- Kitchen organization — We need “behind the scenes” help with organizing the kitchen area and cleaning up each day at the festival.
- Early American Craft / Engine Exhibitors — Now is the time to step forward if you have a craft, trade, antique car, tractor, and/or engine that was handed down through your family in which you take pride and want other people to learn about.

Help us keep our heritage festival strong and join our festival volunteer base today by calling 610-286-0388.

Festival Needs

With the Hay Creek Festival set to take place on September 9–11, 2016 the festival committee is in need of specific items to assist with various festival impressions. Today we are calling out to our members for help with the following items:

- The festival laundress is in need of wooden buckets for the yoke, half wash barrels/tubs, sample “boxed” detergent of the time, and old-time irons.
- Chandler (candle maker) is on the lookout for a pot lifter, old-time looking baskets to display items, candle molds and/or holders to display, small cast iron pot with lid to melt wax, and fire brick.
- Trinkets for archeological mud pies are in need. Small coins, tiny toys, and such that fit into the small Dixie cup sized ‘pie’. We also need members to help us make 400 pies before the festival.
- Bread maker is looking for rye baskets to raise bread.
- Home grown flowers to help decorate our interpretive displays. Flowers should be picked fresh and brought to the Furnace on Thursday morning, September 8th.

If you can assist with any of these items please email the Hay Creek office at info@haycreek.org or call 610-286-0388.

Become a Part of History ... Join our Volunteer Program!

Select one of the following membership categories:

- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP $30
- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP $20
- INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP $250

NAME ____________________________ ADDRESS ____________________________

City/State/ZIP ____________________________ PHONE ____________________________ EMAIL ____________________________

BIRTH DATE ____________ OCCUPATION ____________________________

CIRCLE IF AVAILABLE ON: ____________ DAYS ____________ EVENINGS ____________ WEEKENDS

Can you help at events? Yes / No ____________ Are you interested in helping at our Thursday work party days? Yes / No ____________

Would you be interested in serving on one of our organization’s committees? Yes / No ____________

Can you do things at home to help the organization? (ie make phone calls and/or sew scarecrow supplies) Yes / No ____________

Family Memberships:

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAME ____________________________ DOB ____________

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAME ____________________________ DOB ____________

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAME ____________________________ DOB ____________

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAME ____________________________ DOB ____________

Please help us save postage and printing. Check here to have your newsletter emailed to you.

Make check payable to HCVHA and return application with self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Hay Creek Valley Historical Association PO Box 36, Geigertown, PA 19523. Memberships can also be paid online at haycreek.org.