

2016 Draft Annual Report

Annual Report

December 11, 2016



The
Friends
of
Hopewell Furnace
National Historic Site

2016 Draft Annual Report

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President's Report

Dear Friends:

It has been a pleasure having the opportunity to serve as President this year. I'm especially appreciative of the contributions of all the members, each fulfilling their responsibilities. Gene Delaplane has been quite successful at planning, scheduling and providing very interesting 2nd Sunday of the Month Programs. Edie Shean-Hammond has been involved with numerous other partner non-profit organizations which represents and promotes the interest of the Friends in these organizations. In addition, she writes engaging promotional releases for all the Friends, as well as the Park's upcoming activities. Peter Hammond dutifully performs all the important aspects of managing the Friends funds, i.e. accepting donations, writing checks, reconciling the bank accounts, creating detailed reports of all the financial activities every month, and presenting the treasurer's report at the Board meeting. Louise Griffiths manages the membership, sending out membership cards, and sending reminder letters about renewing membership. The other Board members who dutifully fulfill their responsibilities i.e. Nancy McClelland as secretary, Charles Jacob as 2nd Vice-President, Becky Hughes as 1st Vice-President, Kevin Mitchell as Bylaws Committee Chairman, Davida Waters as Outdoors Chairman and Nominating Committee Chairman, Joel Moore as History Chairman, and Clare Hammond as Hospitality Chairman.

Some of the major projects that were accomplished during this fiscal year:

1. The Bylaws which had been developed by a committee chaired by Kevin Mitchell over the year of 2015 was approved December 13, 2015.
2. NPS Gallery released the approximate 18,000 digital pictures from the 79 Hopewell Ledgers, spanning 1800 to 1881. Jim McClelland offered his experience in working with large scale databases to facilitate in making the website a more user friendly site.
3. Berks County Historical Resources Report updates were completed, after getting funding through Carol DeWolf, we had the 155-page color report professionally printed, bound and then distributed. Peter Hammond made numerous editorial changes and took care of the printing and distribution. Jim McClelland both streamlined the document and added paragraph numbers throughout, improving its readability.
4. As the fiduciary agent, the funds for the Ticket to Ride program were managed by Peter Hammond
5. As the fiduciary agent, the funds for the Kiosks in Saint Peter's Village were also managed by Peter Hammond

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6. In addition, Dan Graham's new book on Mark Bird was proof read and published through the efforts of Peter Hammond. The book was released in time for the NPS 100 year celebration and Pennsylvania's 300 year iron celebration, which included Dan Graham's book signing at these celebrations.

Enough cannot be said about the numerous and significant contributions made by David Blackburn throughout this year. Of special note was the Pennsylvania 300th Anniversary of Iron and Steel held Aug 25 and the Celebration of the NPS Parks 100th Anniversary held Aug 27. David Blackburn was instrumental in planning and organizing these truly wonderful activities. The Park was filled with music from different groups including the Pine Forge Academy Choir and the Ringgold Band. Dan Graham held a book signing for his recently published book "Mark Bird", Christine Emmert performed her play "From Out of the Fiery Furnace", and outstanding theatrical portrayals of Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were performed. Also, there were live demonstrations of molding, casting, open hearth cooking, quilting, as well as other 18th century lifestyle activities.

Last but by no means least is an expression of our deep-felt loss of Frances Delmar who sadly succumbed to her illnesses this year. Francis made numerous significant contributions over her many years of dedicated service at Hopewell Furnace.

I am looking forward a productive upcoming year, though it may not be quite as busy as this year has been. I am confident that with everyone's continued dedication and support, next year will be an outstanding year.

James McClelland, President

Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site

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Mission Statement

The Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (hereinafter referred to as "Friends") is an organization whose mission is to support the preservation, maintenance and activities of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, (hereinafter referred to as the "Park"). The Friends shall be a voluntary, non-profit, incorporated association and shall have the following objectives:

1. To create public support for an expanding Park program.
2. To encourage gifts, endowments and memorials for the Park.
3. To intensify community awareness and use of the Park.
4. To provide direct financial assistance by purchasing special and unusual items which would be of benefit but cannot be purchased from the budget of the Park.
5. To sponsor programs designed to aid the mission of the Park.
6. To encourage people to become Park volunteers.
7. To sponsor educational seminars.
8. To author and publish pamphlets and books about the Park's History.
9. To organize social events at local establishments.
10. To bring together individuals and groups at local, regional and national levels.
11. To promote awareness of the programs and activities through social media.
12. To assist and/or advocate the protection of natural and cultural resources.
13. To comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the laws of the United States of America pertaining to the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3).

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Officers

		Date Appointed Or Elected
1. President	Jim McClelland	January, 2016
2. Vice President	Becky Hughes	January, 2016
3. 2nd Vice President	Charles Jacob	January, 2016
4. Treasurer	Peter Hammond	June, 2015
5. Secretary	Nancy McClelland	January, 2015
6. President Emeritus (Programs Chairman)	Gene Delaplane	January, 2016

Directors:

7. Public Relations	Edie Shean-Hammond	January, 2015
8. Programs	Elissa Lewis	January, 2015
9. Membership	Louise Griffiths	January, 2014
10. Outdoor Activities (Nomination Chairman)	Davida Waters	January, 2013
11. Bylaws	Kevin Mitchell	January, 2014
12. Natural Resources	Jim Thorne	November, 2014
13. Hospitality	Clare Hammond	January, 2016
14. History	Joel Moore	June, 2016
15. Facilities	Butch Pfitzenmyer	November, 2016

NPS Liaison

1. Park Manager	David Blackburn	November 2015
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Sunday Afternoon Programs

Nov 1, 2015 to Oct 31, 2016

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Richard Nearhood, a local historian, dressed up as Belsnickel, for a standing room only audience of both adults and children Sunday afternoon at the Park. Charles Jacob dressed up as an Iron Master from nearby Joanna Furnace, introduced Rich. Rich i.e. Belsnickel wowed the children as well as the adults by approaching each child, hovering over them, and quizzing them if they were good. Very intimidated they decided it was best to answer yes and was then given a piece of candy. The children's reaction to this experience was priceless. After finishing with each child, Rich proceeded to explain the origin of Belsnickel.

Sunday, December 14, 2015

Christine Emmert, playwright and actress gave a stirring, emotional monologue at the Hopewell Furnace about several courageous women struggle to gain equal rights with men i.e the right to vote. It was quite shocking to hear the story of Lucy Burns and what she endured before the 19th Amendment was approved to our Constitution giving all US citizens the right to vote. Her acting skills enabled her to impersonate many personalities and bring to life their message. The following women were included: Lucy Burns (US Suffragist), Alice Paul (US Suffragist), Emmeline Pankhurst (British Suffragette), SoJourney Truth (freed Slave), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Social Activist), Germaine Greer (Australian theorist), Betty Frieden (Author), Maya Angelou (Poet), Susan B Anthony (Social Reformer), Virginia Woolf (English Author), Louise Wise (English Author), Margaret Mead (Cultural Anthropologist), Eleanor Roosevelt (First Lady), Abigail Adams (First Lady), , Jeannette Rankin (US House Rep), Marian Anderson (Singer), Hillary R Clinton (First Lady and US Sec of State), and Barbara Bush (First Lady).

Sunday, January 10, 2016

About 70 people bunched into Bldg 99 at Hopewell Furnace Park Sunday afternoon to hear Ron Sloto's talk. Ron retired from the US Geological Survey agency and is still with the Research Faculty at West Chester University. Ron's fascinating and highly informative talk was about the mines and how mining was performed in the 18th 19th and 20th century near Hopewell Furnace. He showed some of the beautiful minerals obtained from these mines. He included details about the Grace Mine in New Morgan township covering up until its closure in 1977. He has published a book "The Mines and Minerals of Chester County, PA" now available on Amazon.

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Sunday, February 14, 2016

Thomas Walsh, a local Historian, a retired History Teacher from Owen J Roberts High School, currently active in Real Estate, take us on a fascinating journey of Abraham Lincoln's ancestral roots in the local area. President Lincoln's ancestors had many significant connections to the earliest furnaces and forges in the area.

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Ken Biles, retired from teaching, presented to a completely full room his personal collection of Native American artifacts and gave live demonstrations of the ancient methods of making tools, utensils and weapons from stone, bones and other available resources such as hides, wood, bark etc. He gave a live demonstration of one of the throwing weapons and made a fire with flint and metal. He also presented models that he had constructed depicting the various types of structures made by the Native Americans.

Sunday April 10, 2016

Gene Delaplane unveiled his play "Jenny" with the script read by Elissa Lewis and Richard Nearhood to a full house of people. The play depicts the life of Benjamin Franklin's sister giving an interesting insight to this time period. Gene is donating the rights to this play to the benefit of the Friends.

Sunday May 15, 2016

Archaeologist Jim Wosochlo presented his program "Mexican Petroglyphs". He gave a detailed explanation of the origin of these petroglyphs and showed numerous photos that he had taken while visiting these various sites in Mexico.

Sunday June 12, 2016

Danny Younger presented his program on the 18th century earthquake and the response of the Native Americans.

Sunday July 10, 2016

David Ray presented his archeological findings about the French and Indian PA Frontier Forts including Fort Northkill, Fort Franklin, Fort Lebanon, Fort Henry and Fort Dietrich Six. David is a volunteer archaeologist who has researched the forts that were built during the French and Indian War.

Sunday August 14, 2016

Mr. Mooney a Senior Archaeologist with AECOM, presented an overview of important archaeological investigations, which to date have recovered more than 1 million artifacts and

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collectively document nearly 6,000 years of Philadelphia history. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is currently undertaking extensive improvements to a three-mile section of Interstate 95 through portions of Philadelphia. Ongoing archaeological investigations in advance of construction have uncovered a wealth of information about the prehistoric and historic residents of the previously little explored Kensington, Fishtown, and Port Richmond neighborhoods.

Sunday September 11, 2016

The Director of the American Moravian Archives Dr. Paul Peucker presented “Moravian Education and Their School at Oley”. He discussed early American colonial education and the foundation of education in Berks County. Mark Bird who founded Hopewell Furnace and served as George Washington’s Quartermaster attended the Oley School as did his children. Perhaps it was from this early humanistic education that he both fought for American Independence and for a time became a successful businessman.

Sunday October 9, 2016

Robert Coffey and Thomas Ames gave an engaging presentation of the history of the American Long Rifle as well as how these guns were made. They brought with them several guns dating from the pre-American Revolution time period up to the Civil War.

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2017 Proposed Friends Annual Work Plan

1. Hopewell Ledgers data extraction and indexing of the digital pictures of the ledger's pages.
Lead: Jim McClelland
2. Provide announcements for the Friends Facebook page and the Friends website.
Lead: Jim McClelland
3. Review the Bylaws and prepare changes if needed
Lead: Kevin Mitchel
4. Continue to develop the play "Jenny"
Lead: Gene Delaplane
5. Continue to sell Dan Graham's book on Mark Bird and once completely sold out have the book reprinted.
Lead: Peter Hammond
6. Archive the Friends Past Presidents records in the Parks Archive Library
Lead: Elissa Lewis
7. Plan and conduct the Sunday Afternoon Programs.
Lead: Gene Delaplane
8. Create a CCC Display of photographs and List of names.
Lead: Jim Thorne and Edie Shean Hammond
9. Completion of St Peter's Village Kiosk and Brochure
Lead: Edie Shean Hammond
10. Elementary School Transportation to the Hopewell Furnace for educational purposes.
Lead: David Blackburn
11. Publish Dan Graham's book on Samuel Nutt
Lead: Peter Hammond
12. Provide hiking and/or outdoor programs.
Lead: Becky Hughes
13. Provide assistance in maintaining the Herb Garden.
Lead: Becky Hughes
14. Prepare, approve and sign a 5 year Memorandum of Agreement between the Friends and the Park
Lead: Jim McClelland and David Blackburn

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Member Count

The average active member count for 2016 was about 76 members which was about the same from last year.

Financial Position

Detailed monthly records are kept on record for review. The account balance as of November 1, 2015 was \$9774.51 and as of October 31, 2016 was \$10,581.59

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2014 Annual Financial Audit

1. A monthly review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
2. An annual review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
3. Cash donations collected at various activities are not possible to trace to a donor and are deposited identifying the activity that collected the donation.
4. The statement provided below about the monthly reconciliation account and the bank statements.

I certify that during my tenure as treasurer of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace NHS, the checking and savings accounts have been reconciled monthly and that any discrepancies or differences have been minor and were immediately corrected. The banking account statements are available for review.

Peter Hammond, Treasurer