

Conococheague Pioneer Times

The Newsletter of The Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage

1st Quarter 2021



Volume 27 Issue 1

Good Day to you.... from the Executive Director

New Year, Snowstorms, Valentines, Black History Month, St David's Day, and now Women's History Month...

Welcome to the 1st Quarter Edition of the 2021 Pioneer Times! It has not been long since our Christmas edition, but things sure have been moving fast.

Where to begin?

Well, the last PT was focused on Christmas, Holiday Celebrations, and Membership renewals. We hope everyone enjoyed the special season with those they loved.

You all showed a Christmas spirit in your end-of-year donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed. December-February Membership renewals for 2021 have been astronomically high as well (due to the new Cards and Perks?). **If you have not renewed your membership and received your 2021 Membership Card, please do so today.** We count on your continued support.

Since Museums re-opened in PA, we have had programming in the Visitor Center and Cabins every Saturday, and the Library open on Wednesdays.

We are pleased to say that despite Snow, Ice, and COVID the visitor center has seen new families every weekend. By doing different programming on different weeks, it has been great to see first-time families become repeat visitors.



The most popular was our Valentine's celebrations that taught 18th Century Calligraphy and literacy, by allowing visitors to recreate original love poems with their own flair!



Exhibits have continued to evolve and change. This collection of Halberds, Spontoons, and Polearms has long been a hidden treasure at CI and now is displayed proudly in the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center.



At the beginning of February, we were joined by a new Shippensburg Intern Sarah Hoffeditz whose title "Museum Management and Archiving Assistant" does not even begin to cover the scope of the experience she has brought. In just a few short weeks. Sarah will be with us until May, and we look forward to what she will accomplish.

Though not hired yet, our growth continues with the announcement at the beginning of February of a new job position at CI "Historic Warden and Programming Lead". This position will enable CI to continue to expand its membership and community impact through more programming, educational development, and behind-the-scenes maintenance that ensures the visitor gets the best possible experience every time.



And finally, the last month has seen the commencement of our \$50,000 Matching Campaign...



\$50,000 MATCHING CAMPAIGN



Thanks to the generosity of our
Founder Dr. John Stauffer, your donation
to The Conococheague Institute will be
matched up to \$50,000.

Dollar for dollar, your gift will have
double the impact.

Give to the future of the frontier.





Dear Conococheague Institute Supporter,

Since its founding in 1994 by Dr. John Stauffer, the Conococheague Institute has strived to serve as a steward of the cultural and natural history of the West Conococheague and Welsh Run region. Well known for its preservation and research of the early Welsh, Scotch Irish, and German settlements of Franklin County, CI also maintains important natural habitats (with some rare and endangered species) across its 30 acres.

Despite the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, CI has persevered and actually come out stronger than ever. By providing a safe place for families to learn about their cultural heritage, and a relaxing natural environment to explore the beauty of nature when so many people were stuck at home our presence in the local communities has grown.

To give back to the community that has supported us through the decades, in 2020 we held five free "Open Air" events with demonstrations of 18th Century crafts and skills as well as Birding and Botany walks. Each was widely received with visitor numbers growing at each event. Large gatherings being unavailable these smaller events proved an enormous success.

We also increased our commitment to education: After making revised programming for COVID, we opened up to School Programs on Labor Day, and had a school booking EVERY WEEK from September to December. In fact, the number of children participating in tours from October of 2020 actually exceeded the total number in 2019!

We will continue to inspire a life-long love of History and Nature by providing unique opportunities to create and explore. But, like the founding families of this County, we can't do it alone, and that's why we need YOUR help!

Thanks to the generosity of our Founder Dr. John Stauffer, your donation to The Conococheague Institute will be matched up to \$50,000 through June 1, 2021. Dollar for dollar, your gift will have double the impact.

CI serves families and communities throughout the Tri-State, and with your support, we will be able to continue to grow. Our hope is to blaze a new frontier and reach communities this year that so far have not experienced what CI has to offer. Take advantage of this opportunity to double the amount of your donation.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to The Conococheague Institute so we can continue to foster visionary, hands-on learning for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Matthew Wedd
Executive Director
The Conococheague Institute
Museums, Library and Gardens



I would like to support the future of the frontier by making a tax-deductible donation to the Conococheague Institute.

I would like to contribute:

March Update! In just one month you have contributed \$14,000!
Thank you to those who have given. Continue to spread the word and help us reach our \$50,000 Goal

- ___ Settler and Seedling: \$100
- ___ Pioneer and Pollinator: \$250
- ___ Surveyor and Sanctuary: \$500
- ___ Colonial and Conservation: \$750
- ___ Founder and Forest: \$1,000

___ Heart of Oak \$5000

Due to the Generous donations of Dr Lee and Jan Davis and other anonymous donor, all donations of \$5000 will be in the new \$5000 tier in the end of Campaign announcements.

Other Amount: _____

We would like to acknowledge all of our donors publicly. If you wish to remain anonymous, check here: _____

Support with a check payable to the Conococheague Institute. Send to:

Attn: Matthew Wedd
The Conococheague Institute
12995 Bain Road
Mercersburg, Pennsylvania 17236

To make an online contribution, please visit: www.cimlg.org and click on "Donate"

Use a credit card by returning this paper. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or Discover.

Name on credit card: _____ Card #: _____ Exp.: _____

Security Code: _____ Zip Code: _____ Contribution Amount: _____ Signature: _____

Please email Mwedd@cimlg.org to discuss other sponsorship and giving opportunities.

Telling Everyone's Story – Slavery on the Frontier

The Conococheague Institute has always been on the frontier of research and interpretation. From its inception, it understood that we are who we are today due to the diversity of our ancestors and their interactions with each other. With the Families of Rock Hill Farm being a mix of Welsh, Anglo-American, Scotch-Irish German, and the original Native habitation of this land providing their own cultural impact we have always had a rich and varied story to tell.

As part of February's Black History Month, we researched and produced a Virtual Program on the story of Slavery on the Frontier. Though a less known part of our CI's history, the research showed its true scope and will affect how we tell our story going forward.

Pennsylvania was not one of the leading Slave States. In the Mid-18th Century, its 6000 enslaved blacks paled in comparison to Virginia's 180,000. And of course, Pennsylvania passed the Gradual Emancipation Act of 1780 becoming the first State in the country to begin to recognize freedom for all.

But even on the Frontier, slavery played a big part in early settlement.

While many imagine Frontiersman as ‘simple buck skidders living off the land’, this is simply not the case. An analysis of the Probate Inventories of the founding families of Franklin County shows a surprising amount of material wealth for these settlers. Phillip Davis owned 611 acres in Southern Franklin County (and half of CI’s land today). His most valuable single possession was an alcohol still at £20, but close behind were his Colts and his slaves at £10 each.

Slave's move into the other Davis family at CI both through marriage and purchase. We know in 1768 that David Davis owned a slave named Diana that had been willed to him from Philip.

The adult slaves on the Davis farms ranged from £50 to £65.

The Davis farms were larger plots than most of the others in this area, but even smaller farms like Robert Smith nearby who owned just 25 acres in 1787 had as his most valuable possession an unnamed female slave at £55.

Other than prices and occasionally names we know little more about these slaves. What their conditions were can only be surmised by contemporary accounts and conjecture.



The following is an inventory made by Samuel Smith & Oliver Smith
Late Co-executors of the Estate of Robert Smith Deceased

5 Negroes worth —	25	0	0	2 Set of Groins	2	2	6
do do "James"				1 pair of Stockings	0	2	6
1 Old bay horse	1	0	0	1 Curn	1	10	0
1 Horn sheep 8 years old	12	0	0	1 foot	0	2	6
1 Red Roan Colt	6	10	0	1 ditto	3	15	0
1 Horn Mare and Foal	16	10	0	2 Crookes	0	50	0
1 Horn Bore 2 years old	13	0	0	1 bed and bolstered	3	75	0
1 black horse 11 years old	18	10	0	1 ditto	6	6	0
1 Appaloosa high 12 years old	11	0	0	1 ditto	1	15	0
				Clothes	4	50	0
22 Hops	7	10	0	1 Saddle	0	50	0
				1 pair of boots	0	10	0

young negroes in Dixie		
X negro Sam age 16 year		75-0-0
X Little George age 14		60-0-0
X Little Manu age 12		50-0-0
X Little Lab age 9		40-0-0
Little John age 6		35-0-0
Little Joe age 6		35-0-0
Little Eva age 5		15-0-0
	Robert Smith	310 0 0

by me Philip Davis Exc ^{ts}				
	negro Slaves			
1	Ditto named. Rene		53	0 0
1	Ditto Cate		56	0 0
1	Ditto Jane		53	0 0
1	Ditto Bill		72	0 0
1	Ditto Jake		93	0 0
	negro, born after the law having past for the abolition of slavery			
	ball	Provided the within Six young negroes be Recorded according to law	25	0 0
1	Ditto Simon		30	0 0
1	Ditto George		30	0 0
1	Ditto Beck		20	0 0
1	Ditto Tom		20	0 0
1	Ditto Let		15	0 0
1	Ditto Joe		7	0 0
1	Ditto Ruth		3	0 0

Only Names Remain

In 1786 David Davis owned 7 boys aged 5 to 17. Their names were **James, George, Nance, Sal, John, Joe and Enos**. He also owned 2 females he bequeathed to his wife. Their names were **Hannah** and **Jean**.

In 1794 David Davies owned 5 slaves who were born before the Gradual Abolition Act (meaning they would remain slaves for life. Their names were **Dinah, Kate, Jane, Bill, and Jake**. He owned 7 who were born after. Their names were **Sal, Simon, George, Beck, Jem, Let, Joe, and Ruth**

Robert Chambers in 1794 brought 6 unnamed slaves for £80.

Most slaves were listed with no names. Only
“Man, Boy, Wench, Woman with Child”

So how can we share the story of Slavery in a way that is both educational and meaningful?

Well, first and foremost, don't ignore it. Though it is a sad part of our history, it is part of the history regardless. This also means that if I am portraying an 18th Century man on the Frontier, the fact that I would be a slave owner becomes part of the narrative. The romantic Daniel Boone image for our farmers is both a disservice to history and the slaves whose story would be forgotten.

At CI we can recognize everyone's story using the incredibly diverse resources that form our site.

In our interpretation today we portray a rustic Ordinary on the frontier. In the Pennsylvania Gazette, many farmers describe keeping a small house on their property where their slaves and day laborers could buy food and drink. Thus, the story of the community in the Ordinary becomes one of all people.

This year the Garden is being planted primarily with Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs and Medicinal Flowers that is documentable to PA in the period. On the top border of the garden, we will be planting a variety of Spicy Peppers. Though not forming a large part of Anglo-American recipes of the time, a recent Yale University article detailed how Slaves would cultivate peppers on plantations for their own supplemental diet. It helped improve the flavor of the often-poor quality food they received and formed part of their own African Culture.

When people see a Spicy Cheyenne Pepper amidst Turnips and Beets, they will ask the question: "Why?" This then brings Slavery into the daily narrative.

The same is true of our extensive Textiles and Fiber Arts equipment. Currently the Wash House is serving as an exhibit on all aspects of Fiber production from spinning to dyeing. With the high proportion of Flax Farmers in this region with a single Young Female slave, this area can be used to talk about Slave and Women's roles in Frontier Farming.

By including these sad but intricate stories of our frontier history, we not only do justice to those who lived under these inhuman and terrible conditions. We also portray a more accurate version of the past for ourselves and future generations to build upon.

To learn more about the Slaves of Franklin County, visit the Walk Unabowed Project on the Franklin County Archives.

As we continue to learn more, we hope we can uncover more of these (and other) forgotten stories of our heritage, and hopefully encourage the next generation of students to be more culturally aware and embrace Everyone's Story.



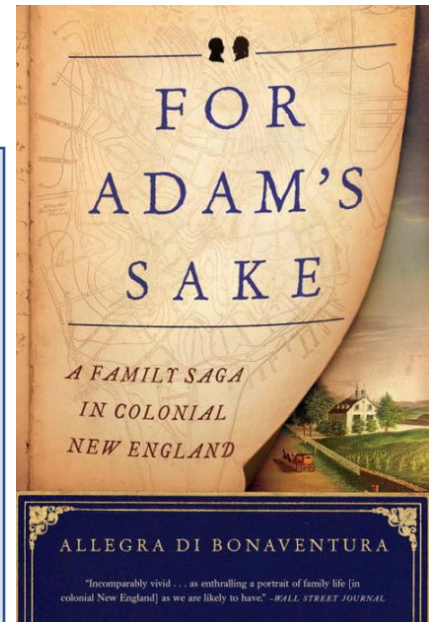
Library Leaves, March 2021 – By Mary Hartman

It's been a long winter, and we're all looking forward to some warmer weather. A good book is a great companion whether staying warm indoors or basking in the sun. Our 9000-book library is always expanding, and we look forward to finding the book that is right for you.

With Black History Month just past, here is an interesting read:

For Adam's Sake: A Family Saga in Colonial New England; by Allegra Di Bonaventura

"A groundbreaking narrative by one of America's most promising colonial historians, Joshua Hempstead was a well-respected farmer and tradesman in New London, Connecticut. As his remarkable diary, kept from 1711 until 1758 reveals, he was also a slave owner who owned Adam Jackson for over thirty years. In this engrossing narrative of family life and the slave experience in the colonial North, Allegra di Bonaventura describes the complexity of this master/slave relationship and traces the intertwining stories of two families until the eve of the Revolution. Slavery is often left out of our collective memory of New England's history, but it was hugely impactful on the central unit of colonial life: the family. In every corner, the lines between slavery and freedom were blurred as families across the social spectrum fought to survive. In this enlightening study, a new portrait of an era emerges."

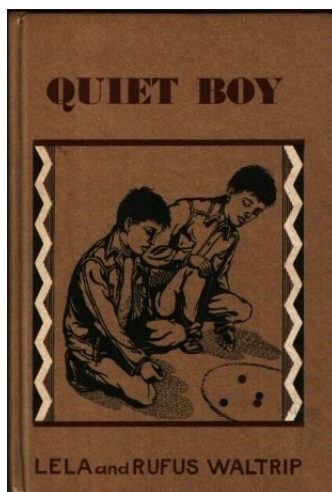


For relaxing reading:

High Elk's Treasure; by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

"Caught in a raging storm while trying to locate a valuable filly lost during a storm, thirteen-year-old Joe High Elk and his sister, Marie, seek shelter in the cave of their ancestor, Steps High Like An Elk, where they learn their family history and discover High Elk's hundred-year-old forbidden treasure."

Or,



Quiet Boy. By Lela Waltrip

"This is the coming-of-age story of a young Navajo boy and his struggle to reconcile his Navajo culture with mainstream culture. His father, a Navajo code-talker, died in WWII when Quiet Boy was 5, and now he's considered the man of the family, so he thinks about his father a lot. The book reveals a lot about Navajo culture, and a friend's father tells the children stories of the code-talkers of WWII."

Here's one I read several years ago because the title intrigued me, having eaten many slices of molasses bread growing up. I can't begin to imagine what this was like!! **Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919,** by Stephen Puleo.

Many, many different subjects have been added and it's difficult to know what will interest each individual. You'll just have to come browse the shelves and see what you find that intrigues you!!

Women of the Conococheague Institute

One of the things I love about the Conococheague Institute is how it enables Women's History to be told. As a man working in the Historic Field I've encountered so many sites that just focused on the Man's story (King's at Castles, Soldiers at Forts), despite the fact that in every time period women were there as well!

As a rural Homestead, the women's tales are at the forefront. As well as the incredible women that lived here over the centuries, CI is currently enriched by an incredible variety of women who work or volunteer in the Cultural and Natural fields.

As such, we thought it would be nice to learn a little more about them.

Sarah Hoffeditz – Museum Managing and Archivist Intern

You've been with us for a month now Sarah, tell me something you've been proud to accomplish.

Using my training to appraise an archival collection, getting to see and understand the details of Museum Management, and I look forward to what else I can accomplish. For women's history month I am going to be doing a comparative program between historic clothes and how it compares to my modern 'uniform'.

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

I am not sure where, but I **KNOW** I will be working passionately in a museum, archive, institution as an archival technician or leadership. My love for history, and the desire to preserve guarantees it.

What would you say to a Middle schooler looking for a career in the Historic Field?

It's not all about dates, and it's not all about the people,. it's about the experiences they had and how they changed or evolved from it (for better or worse)

What was your first dream job? Did you always have this passion?

Honestly? I think I wanted to be a meteorologist when I was 9. Until I realized I would have to work on a news network.



Sarah analyzing a collection of documents from the early 19th Century.



Betsey Lillard – President of the Board of Directors

Betsey, you've been on the Board for more than a year, and now you're the President! Where do you want to see CI at the end of your Leadership?

It is an honor to take up the leadership baton. I couldn't have imagined a better group of people for our Board of Directors, and they are making my job easy! If I have done anything at all for CI by the time my tenure is up, it would be knowing I left CI in a financially sound place, securing its future. If I can facilitate that in anyway, I will be happy.

What drew you to CI in the first place?

I have been fascinated by history since I was very young. My particular passion, and I couldn't tell you why, is the 18th century (and backward to ancient history.) CI offers a window; a unique glimpse into our past of that era. History is so remarkable, teaches us SO much, but can be fun. CI is just beginning to tap into what it can offer. I am personally very proud of that and from the beginning of my involvement, I have wanted to see the site not only blossom, but cared for. CI has drawn me like a moth to a light.

What would you say to a young girl looking for a career in the Museum and Natural Resources field today?

When I entered the work force, it was still very much a "man's world" in many respects. However, I observed that change palpably during my career as more and more women got placed in positions of management and leadership. So, to young girls and women I say- get out there and kick butt. Go for history if that is your dream. Education is very important, of course but DO NOT rely solely on your credentials. EQUALLY important is experience-getting that under your belt can sometimes just take time. If you are a "waitress" while you go to school, for example- that gives you experience dealing with customers- a valuable skill!

And, volunteer, volunteer, volunteer in the field of your choice.

Mary Hartman – Librarian and Genealogy Aide

Mary, you've been supporting CI for decades. Tell us about your proudest accomplishment in that time.

The best part for me was sitting in the original Negley log house with a group of students, sharing the daily life of the settlers and seeing the knowledge dawn on their faces of a bit of the heritage behind them that brought them to the life they know now and a bit of what it took to reach there. Second best was helping a genealogist or author find the missing bits for them to move forward.

What would you say to a Middle Schooler looking for a career in Museums, Gardens, or Libraries?

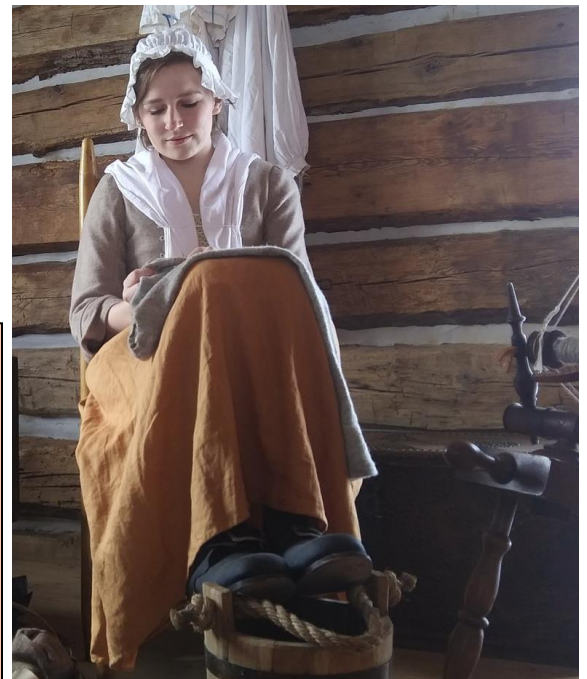
Realize that the benefits of the job you're interested in are likely not large financially but have many other compensations. You need to be totally invested in helping people find the information they're seeking be it child, ordinary adult, author or other professional and feel the satisfaction of being able to help farther someone's life on their path. Expect long hours and keep reading and reaching for more knowledge for yourself. It will all come together with rich compensation both personally and financial if done with a kind, willing spirit.

What was your dream job as a child yourself?

I didn't really have a "dream job" in mind as my life was so full of current work, schooling and church. Being raised on a farm as part of seven children there was always so much to do that I never really looked ahead until I graduated ~ likely because every moment I could sneak I was hid somewhere with a book in hand! After graduation I went to nursing school.

If you could go back to one single day in History, what would it be?

This one is a bit hard to answer as three events come to mind and I'm not sure. Do I want to see the signing of the Declaration of Independence when the nation was born; view the end of World War II and the emptying of the concentration camps, seeing the release of the people so many others fought and died for, plus the defeat of a selfish, depraved group of men and the deranged leader; or do I want to sit down one more time at the family kitchen table with my Mother and Dad and thank them for the rich Christian heritage they gave me, their love, support and guidance and then ask them for answers to all the questions I never thought to ask? This last may be the one that would win!



Come Join in the Fun!

*Historic Programs every
Saturday 10am to 4pm*

*Book Club 3rd Thursday every
month, 1pm at the Welsh
Barrens Visitor Center*

*Tree Planting Volunteer Day
April 17th and 18th*

Contact us for more details.

717-328-2800, info@cimlg.org

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Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage

Annual Membership Application/Renewal

*Dues are based on a calendar year
from January 1 thru December 31.*

**Please Renew NOW if you have not
received your 2021 Membership Card**

Please print your information.

- ☐ Student \$ 10
- ☐ Individual \$ 25
- ☐ Family \$ 35
- ☐ Patron \$ 125
- ☐ Corporate \$ 200
- ☐ Sustaining \$ 300
- ☐ Life \$ 1000
- ☐ Additional donation: \$ _____ *Thank you!*

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to Conococheague Institute.

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