

Conococheague Pioneer Times

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

2nd Quarter 2021



Volume 27 Issue 2

Good Day to you...From the Executive Director

Since the first quarter we have seen some incredible progress at CI, so this edition of the Pioneer Times it going to be jam packed with updates.

First and foremost we are incredibly grateful for everyone's support this Spring. We have been joined by new staff and student interns, we've had fully booked educational programs repeatedly, new members and visitors to the site, and of course we give thanks to everyone who supported during the Spring \$50,000 Matching Campaign.

Whether you have supported in financial contributions, given your time and expertise in volunteering, or simply by visiting our programs and spreading the word of CI, every action taken strengthens us as a community.

In the sense of community we have been working hard with our local partners to share the resources and strengthen the education capacity of our organization. We filmed a program with Sheila Snider at *The Tuscarora Wildlife Education Project* back in February, and have been working with the early childhood and teen librarians at the *Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library* to engage the youth.



We did presentations at several clubs such as Kiwani's, local Rotary's, and the Appalachian Chapter of the Maryland Surveyors.

We've been working especially close with the Institute of Waynesboro. Their educators and volunteers assisted at our Nature Weekend back in March, and our joint Homeschool Days in April and May were fully booked both times!

We've had numerous school bookings, a stargazing party with *Tri State Astronomers*, our exhibits and renovations have continued, and as a partner of the *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* we planted 150+ trees to sustain the stream health.

Of course the \$50,000 Matching Campaign was running this entire time, and it culminated with a Colonial Community Celebration event April 29th.



Many of CI's original founders came out on this special day which also served as a ribbon cutting for our Memorial Bake Oven project. Gay Buchanan (pictured above cutting the ribbon) talked about the legacy of those who came before us in making CI what it is today: A place where the local community can come together to celebrate our cultural heritage and natural resources around us.

Giving to the Future of the Frontier: \$50,000 Matching Campaign February to June 2021 - The Results!

Every donation made to the Conococheague Institute is tax deductible, and every contribution is used wisely to further our mission to develop and foster awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the cultural and natural history of the Appalachian frontier.

Every donation is APPRECIATED, whether big or small. The fact that you support us means an incredible amount. As you are all aware, for the last few months we have been running a Matching Campaign sponsored by Doctor John Stauffer. Dollar for dollar every donation during the period has been matched up to \$50,000.

In the campaign we were outstandingly supported by our inner circle of Members. In the first month alone **\$13,925** was donated. We even had to open a new tier of donation level 'Heart of Oak' named for long time supporter Lee and Jan Davis who donated **\$5,000** (but who were not the last to give such a sum). The name combines both the History and Nature which CI is focused on, and the Davis' own background with the Navy (both in service and in naval re-enacting).

As the campaign continued we reached out to a wider network, contacted papers and news outlets, reached out to 100's of churches and businesses. As more and more people visited our programs we received donations that far exceeded program prices or tours. People have been impressed with what the Conococheague Institute has to offer.

Some have donated in memory of their family past, like Mary Ruth Reis in honor of her founder mother Dorothy Royer Seibert. Some like Ed Leisinger, donated with appreciation for the videos we have been posting. Some people from further afield donated despite having visited just once such as Christopher Husson from New York. The support has been overwhelmingly positive for the future of CI.

As the donations and messages of well wishes have come in we have been extremely warmed to learn what makes CI special to each of you. Dr Stauffer has been kept apprised of the progress and is appreciative of personal messages. Back in Pennsylvania for the close of the campaign, the growth at CI made a great impression on him.

As of the time of writing, we are still tallying final donations and allowing for donations mailed up to June 1st.

However our donations during the campaign thus far total **\$28,996.94**! Despite not reaching the full \$50,000 this is still an incredible feat and show of support. Most Matching Campaigns of this scope don't reach the halfway mark at all.

Due to this, the strong community support, and the improvements at CI, Doctor Stauffer pledged and donated the full **\$50,000** to end the campaign! This puts our current total for this donation period at **\$78,996.94**

These donations allow us to continue our mission for another operating year, for which we are incredibly grateful! As always we will continue to accept tax-deductible donations, in-kind donations of treasured artifacts, write grants for funding, and accept estate bequests. This last is an incredible way to give to the next generation.

Consider leaving an endowment in your name to CI to secure funding for decades to come!

For now please join us in thanks to everyone who contributed during this Campaign.

Weekly Donations Boxes, Monthly Facebook tallies, and Individual Donations less than \$100

Facebook Contributors \$600+

Gift Shop Donations \$700+

Larry Smith

Marilyn Sauer

Lynda Thomason

Elizabeth Jones

Jacob Davis

Diane Gott

Allen Dieterich Ward

Bob Failor

Susan Swope

Jefferson Boyer

Elaine Stonebraker

Lawrence Borland

Donald and Debra Kaminski

Barbara Hartman

Mary Poscover

Kathryn E Hawbaker

Joan McKean

Mary Sanders

Tim Howley, *Fast Ink Screen Printing and Embroidery*

Pioneer and Pollinator \$250-\$499

Michael Davis

Richard and Mary Ruth Reis (*in honor of Mother Dorothy Royer Seibert*)

Ann Allen

Sean Considine

Oliver Goetz

Kathleen Wolfinger

Mark and Becky Shubert

Donna Catling

Trump and Darlene Vanderau

Ed Leisinger

Carol Zehosky

Surveyor and Sanctuary \$500-\$749

Jack and Barbara Demuth

Dennis Kubicki

Paula Dawson

Ron Jones

Tom Finucane

Brent and Jody Smith, *B & J*

Ventures/Liberty Auto & Tire

Jean Woods

Settler and Seedling \$100-\$249

James and Melodie Smith

Brad and Jill Fulton

James E and Rebecca Rogers Sr

Jerome K Harness

Vince Newell

Paul Schultheiss, *Schultheiss & Associates CPA*

Lois Steichen

Robert Weir

Ken Shannon

Richard Keller

James Failor

Richard and Susan Bell

Adriane Neidinger

Linda Cummings

Linger-Fries Funeral Home

Wayne Twigg

Alice Brumbaugh

Rick Twine, *C&T Industrial Supply Inc*

Shirley Shatzer

JoAnn Richards

John and Betty Seburn

Chad and Lisa Michael

Jane Hershey



Founder and Forest \$1000+

James Rogers \$1,000

Christopher Husson \$2000

Heart of Oak \$5000

Lee and Jan Davis

Anonymous Couple

Anonymous Donor

**Doctor John Stauffer
\$50,000**

Campaign Total: \$78,996.94 (with more coming in)

THANK YOU ALL!

Photos and Memories from Spring 2021: The Garden



1000's of Heritage Seeds donated by Doris Goldman Armstrong were started in the Visitor Center in the cold months by Staff and Board (Ellen Kinzer pictured)

Through the care of our volunteers and staff, and the attention shown by Warden Jacob Davis, the Garden has become an incredible community resource to show sustainable growing techniques used by our ancestors that are still applicable today.



Warden Davis and Volunteer Mary Poscover harvesting Radishes



We've enjoyed sharing the joy of gardening with young students and old visitors too. As a community resource, we have offered our spring harvests to all for free, and many families sent us their Rhubarb Pie photos! The garden is a constant labour of love so if you want to help please let us know. We are always willing to welcome eager hands in weeding and watering. Greg and Elaine recently donated 300ft of hose to help, but it is still a daily chore...and the heat of summer is ahead!

Our own seedlings were supplemented by a huge donation of plants by the Penn State Extension of Franklin County Master Gardeners "Growing for the Community Project".



Photos and Memories from Spring 2021: The People

This spring we opened a new paid position 'Historic Warden and Programming Lead' to maintain the grounds and buildings and lead our educational programs.

After a very competitive application process Jacob Davis was the successful candidate. With a B.S in American History from Frostburg University, and work experience at several historic sites and non-profits, Jacob has already proven himself a worthy addition to our staff and made quite the impression!



After the incredible impact that our Spring Intern from Shippensburg Sarah Hoffeditz made at CI, we decided to open 3 summer internships. The successful candidates were Scott Seburn of McDaniel University, Dan Corcoran of Temple University and Sarah Hoffeditz of Shippensburg University (in a new role!) As Living History and Historic Gardener Interns they are developing skills and crafts from the 18th Century under Jacob's tutelage through themed training weeks, and providing much life (and youth) to our programming. We look forward to telling their full Summer Story in the next Pioneer Times!



Our Board and Certified Volunteers give so much of their time and expertise to assist CI in its mission for which we are grateful. Planning committees, cleaning and repairs, programming, conservation, and public relations are all important parts of keeping CI moving in the right direction.



So much couldn't happen without the volunteers so let's look a bit more at them...



Photos and Memories from Spring 2021: Volunteers

In Spring we held our 2021 Volunteer training, which included an orientation to CI, a breakdown of the roles and responsibilities of volunteers, information on background checks and our policies.

Everyone has no doubt seen Kori Taber from the modeling photos she took for CI's leaflets. This young professional has helped in a range of roles from tree plantings to early childhood education!



Sean Considine kicked started the lectures of CI via Zoom with his well researched and well attended 'Plaid in PA' presentation. A consummate craftsman, Sean has donated and created multiple items for our interpretive programs and exhibits, and is a regular with his adorable family in the homestead during our programs.



Not every Volunteer wants to be in the spotlight. Joe Murdoch often volunteers for the most thankless dirty work. Clearing invasives, digging holes for signs or identifying and creating habitats for wildlife. Joe has a true passion for nature and always has a fun fact about the creatures we find in muddier areas of CI. He recently purchased and donated Shoreline plants to plant around the Wetlands pond to provide a better habitat for the local Fauna.



Sam Cathey and Mary Poscover visited during a quiet day last year for a picnic. Like many of us, CI's unique charm soon won them over, and volunteering at events quickly evolved into regular assistance. On their own time they volunteered to repoint a damaged wall of the Springhouse with brilliant results. With a long history of living history dating to his youth at Old Sturbridge Village, Sam has crafted more 18th Century outfits for him and Mary than I own! Their love of bringing social history to students is infectious, and they are wonderful assets.

The list of Certified Volunteers continues to grow. Amelia Craven, Kitty Clark, Evan Moats, Katie Grahl, Emily Brantley, Melanie Desmond, and more recently joined us. Contact us if you too would like to help.

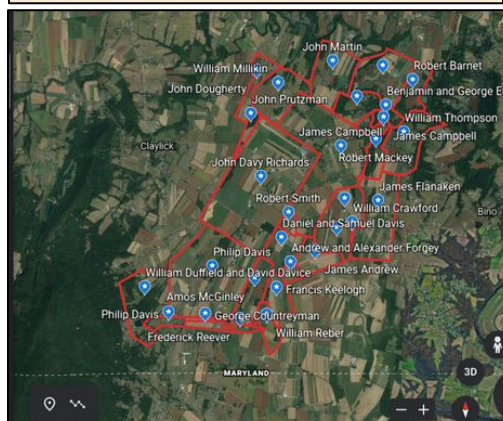
Photos and Memories from Spring 2021: The Library

A Library is far more than a collection of books. It's a resource that is constantly evolving and sparking new discoveries. In the last few months Barry and Charlotte Elliott have been reorganizing the stacks, adding more genre labels for ease of access, and collating all our Children's books.

For our Memorial Day event Carol Zehosky arranged the children's books into a welcoming kids corner; encouraging the next generation of learners is what will keep our history alive!



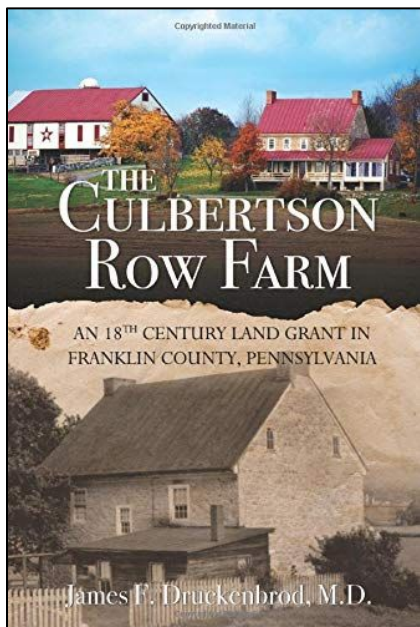
Our Genealogy Committee; Leighton Wolfe, Suellen Burkey and Eileen Hornbaker have been working on utilizing the resources of our ancestors to bring CI's message to a wide array of Davis, Chambers, Martin, Negley, Craig, Stauffer descendants across the entire globe. Where did your ancestors live in the 18th Century?



Barry Elliott has also been taking historic data to upload projects to Google Maps, including Frontier land plots of our earliest families. Head to our website to Resources section to learn more about it.

The Conococheague Book Club

3rd Thursday of every Month at 1pm at the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center
We are pleased to announce that the CI Book Club has been meeting regularly for some time, as always on the 3rd Thursday of the month. This spring they have discussed books on Naval History, Frontier Fiction, and Pioneer Primary Sources



A Special Book Club: June 17th 1pm

The book club is always looking for new members. Come to any meeting and meet like minded individuals and find out what book is going to be next. You don't want to miss the June meeting. The author himself James F.

Druckenbrod will be a guest moderator to discuss his book "The Culbertson Row Farm: An 18th Century Land Grant in Franklin County, Pennsylvania".

What a great chance to discuss something that is so close to CI's own story of early 18th Century Settlement.

Book Club regulars Lois, Gerry, Ken, Ron, Steve, and Jack will sure to be present, and we hope you will join them.

Spring/Summer Events: Past and Future

All year we have been offering free weekly programming. From small themed weekends like our Valentine's poetry writing, to collaboration events like our CBF Tree Plantings and our CI/Institute Homeschool Days, online Lectures and programs, sewing workshops and of course the Memorial Ribbon Cutting 'Colonial Community Celebration'. We are getting closer to the light at the end of the tunnel: When events will be fully laid out a year in advance. For now stay tuned to your social media/emails/mailbox and be sure we will inform you of upcoming events.



The highlight of our Spring events was a ribbon cutting ceremony for our Memorial Bake Oven. Gay Buchanan said some moving words about CI's past before cutting the ribbon and we then baked Welsh Cakes for several hours. Other highlights of the event were Colonial Games, Nursery Rhymes, 'Help Kneaded' bread making tutorials and of course our donation Tombola.



Remember our Grounds are open Daily from Dawn to Dusk, with Historic Programming every Friday and Saturday (or by appointment).



Conococheague Institute

The Militia Muster of Old Welsh Run

A REVOLUTIONARY WAR SPECIAL EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 3RD 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Celebrate the Birth of America in Revolutionary Style at the Conococheague Institute.

Join the Militia of Old Welsh Run as they gather at the Davis Homestead in preparation for War. All are welcome to join the the Muster! Learn all the skills of a soldier: How to March, How to Fight, What to Eat, and How to have Fun amidst it all

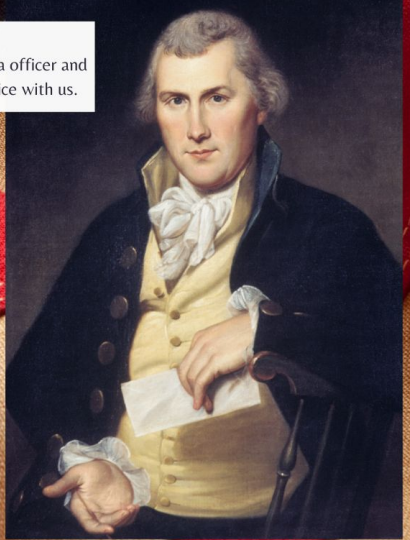
Your Country Needs You!!!

Participate in the Election of the Militia officer and go through all the steps of Militia Service with us.

Marvel at Military might with blackpowder weapons demonstrations throughout the day!



A Militia of the People is as varied as its populace!
Stand shoulder to shoulder with veteran soldiers, unkempt frontiersman, servants and slaves, and family and friends.



Immersive American Entertainment

The American Revolution was far more than battles and slogans. Learn more about the men and women who won our Freedom by joining in the activities that made up their lives. The smells of a soldier's meal over the fire, the laughter and camaraderie of song and games in the Tavern before leaving home, and the Duty and Drill that helped forge bonds between soldiers that would last forever.

Engaging hands on living history activities throughout the day with special timed programs every hour from 10am to 5pm.

The Conococheague Institute Museum, Library & Gardens

12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA 17236

www.cimlg.org | (717) 328-2800 | info@cimlg.org

Add this event to your calendar NOW! As a member of the Conococheague Institute we hope you will **share this event** and future programs with friends and family!

New 2021 Business Member: The Native Niche

Local proprietor of Native Plants *Becky Shubert* is a well known name at CI.. This year she supported CI through a business Membership, and so we are glad to support her by featuring her business information. Visit www.thenativeniche.com to learn more.

Beside Lumber Direct

10 E Walter Ave, Greencastle PA

"Providing native plants to restore the natural beauty of the Mid-Atlantic Region"



Elizabeth Lillard (*President*), Chuck Holland (*Vice President*), Josh Faust (*Treasurer*), Bob Schwartz (*Secretary*), Will Sheppard, Carol Zehosky, Leighton Wolffe, Eric Bryan, Ellen Kinzer, Dennis Kubicki

Dr. John C. Stauffer (*Founder and President Emeritus*), Avery Cook, Tom Finucane, Dr. Doris Armstrong-Goldman, Gay Buchanan, Martha E. Stauffer, MD, Roger Swartz

Matthew Wedd, *Executive Director*, mwedd@cimlg.org
 Mary Hartman, *Library and Genealogy Aide* mary@cimlg.org
 Jacob Davis, *Historic Warden and Programming Lead*, warden@cimlg.org

Sarah Hoffeditz, Daniel Corcoran, Scott Seburn

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/conococheagueinstitute/>
Youtube: [@coloniallivingattheconococheagueinstitute](#)

Annual Membership Application/Renewal 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ **Email:** _____

Newsletter Form, Email or Printed:

Student: \$10

Individual: \$25

Family: \$35

Patron: \$125

Corporate: \$200

Sustaining: \$300

Life: \$1000

Membership Level: _____

Additional Donation: _____

Make Checks Payable to The Conococheague Institute,
12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA, 17236

Thank you!

For more information on membership perks, visit our website at

<https://cimlg.org/join-the-conococheague-institute/>

