

Conococheague Pioneer Times

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

4th Quarter 2021



Volume 27 Issue 4

Good Day to you...From the Executive Director

I hope everyone is feeling as festive as we are at CI in time for the Holiday Season!



In the last few weeks we've been busy preparing for our Colonial Christmas Program (make sure you don't miss it December 18th from 10am to 4pm) and the whole site is decorated! Modern trees and wreaths at the Visitor Center, handmade natural decorations on the other historic areas, and the Sleigh is out filled with Nature's Bounty.

However, the main update we have for our members is on just how BUSY we've been over the last few months. During 2020 we had already noticed an increase in Education bookings, and we were glad to see that trend continued.

However we weren't expecting **quite so many!** From September to December we had at least one Education booking EVERY WEEK, with some weeks having multiple, and one very busy week in particular having FOUR. Homeschool Groups, Christian Academies, Brethren Schools, Mercersburg Academy and even JBHS High Schoolers enjoyed CI's education programs that are engaging and immersive.



Huge thanks has to go to Jacob Davis our Programming Lead for being so flexible with his schedule and leading most of them solo, as with the increased business I am more and more confined to the office with project meetings, donation acknowledgements, accounting and grants!

Our bookings are available year round, and we'll be developing some new programs for the 2022 booking season too, as well as some Winter Specific programs for January-February.

Also we will continue to offer **free Historic Programs EVERY SATURDAY throughout winter**, including having the gift shop and visitor center open from **10am to 5pm**.

On Page 3 you can read all about the Mercersburg Academy Community project, but I really can't thank them enough for their participation. Working with them was the highlight of the year for me.

Collaborations have continued, with CI being represented at TWEP's annual Woodcarver show, more SOAR birding walks at CI, and taking our games program on the road to the Fort Loudoun Christmas event.

We have also met with the Conococheague Valley Audubon Society and are in talks with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society to get more birders at CI. If you haven't walked the trails you'll be astounded.

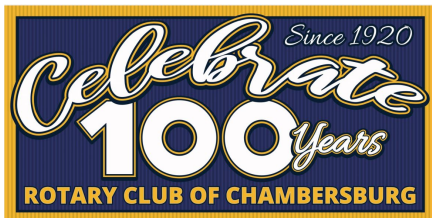
Talking of trails we have seen more dog walkers recently than ever before. I'm so glad to see people regularly enjoying CI with their families.

Whether you enjoy our Newsletters, support our Preservation Efforts, attend our Educational Programs, exercise on our Trails, or **love it all**, I thank you for being part of our Community. We are stronger with your support!



Fall Donations

We'd like to thank the following people for their recent (September 21st to December 7th) donations and memberships. Without your continued support we would not be able to offer the quality programming and services we do. Thank you!



Jeryl Voegtly, Mary Sanders, Harriet Gilbert-Hurd, Charles Angle, Barbara Danowski, Richard Negley, Kay Boward, Alva Lynch, Joanne Thomas, Thomas Durkin, Eric Ardjewski. Douglas Foreback, Daniel Long, John Dickson, Jason George, John Morton, Lois Steichen, Tim Iten, Philip Schaff, Cecil Snyder Joanne Snyder, Aaron Moats, Annie Klebanoff, Sandra Pardun, Tomi Kotowich, Tom Finucane, Ed Leisinger, Lee and Jan Davis, Chuck Holland, Miriam Johnston, Richard and Susan Bell, Pam Knepper, Ronald Jones, Derek Small, Barbara Fore, Ben Haldeman, Frank Walizer, Tad Miller, Kathy Hawbaker, John and Betty Seburn, John Tosten, Larry Williams, Brad Fulton, Marion Kaplan, Craig Rockwell, Richard and Laura Anderson, John and Susan Bortniak, Tonya Longacre, Rotary Club of Chambersburg, Gary Smith, Robbery Newmyer, Brent White, Vince Newell, Mark Devecchis, Wayne and Miriam Hawbaker, Mark Thomas, Jack and Barbara Demuth, Mary Sanders, Phyllis Wertime, Anonymous, Toni Zimmerman, Marilyn Sauer, Bruce Winter, Jane Hershey, Betsey Lillard, Robert and Rhodena Eckstine, Mary Poscover, Larry Smith, Joyce Horst, Sally Haver, Robert and Dorothy Harbrige, Lynda Thomason, Eric Holtzman, Lee Morris, Joan Mohn, Peggy Tuten, Paul and Shirley Lehman, Donna Catling, Phyllis Cherry, Julie Alice Johnson, Ann Allen, Dean and Lynne Wigfield, Barry and Charlotte Elliott, George Mogle, Robert Weir, Richard Keller, Richard and Suzanne Rice, Jody Smith, Susan Etter, Suellen Burkey, Robert and Marian Winslow, Claudia Mooij, Carol Mellott, Linda Cummings, Pat and Dominick Pece, Bob and Doris Goldman Armstrong, Ken Shannon, MaryRuth Reis, Richard and Rebecca Johnston, Josh Faust, Ronald Chamberlin, Melanie Desmond, Barbara Rice, George White, Brian Engle, Renee Kendle, Ann Hull, Patricia Novack, Roger Felix, Scott Longstreth, George White, Jim and Rebecca Rogers, Debra Kaminski, Tammy Boyce, Barbara Gift, Carol Zehosky, Susan Swope and Shirley Tannebaum, Steve Hatleberg and Jack and Susan Webb.

An awe inspiring show of support! These contributors all gave in the last 3 months!

We'd like welcome new local Business members and Sponsors too. **Mercersburg Inn, B+J Ventures/Liberty Auto and Tire, and Rockwell Construction Inc,** have all chosen to support our mission! **THANK YOU!**

The **Rotary Club of Chambersburg Foundation** have also awarded \$1095 for 3 new interpretive panels! We'll share them with you in the next issue!

2021 End of Year Giving Fund

CI has always been support generously by it's donors. To end a brilliant year, we launched an End of Year Giving Campaign on November 1st, mailing out 400 campaign letters to every donor and member from the last 4 years.

We have been absolutely blown away by the result!

In November 2021 we received **\$12,805.15** in tax deductible contributions, and **\$7845** in Memberships.

To put this in perspective in Nov 2019: **\$618.43** in contributions, **\$195** in Membership and in Nov 2020: **\$353.32** in contributions, **\$402** in Membership...It is quite the stark difference!

2021 Total Memberships from January to November so far are **\$16,345** (double last years total membership!)

What a sign of the faith and support our members have in CI's growth! Thank You

All Donations made before December 31st are Tax-Deductible for the 2021 Annual Fund.



Give here >

In Memory Of...

As part of the Giving Season, some of you gave in memory of loved ones.

Donation were made in memory of **Don Boward, Chris Ecton, Indian Trader John Van Metre, Larry Klase and Earl E Jones.**

The children of **Henry Bowles Angle** (pictured) donated to CI and paid for a plaque and Red Oak tree dedication in memory of their late father with the following words.

"We dedicate this tree to the late Henry Bowles Angle, born October 4, 1929, and who died December 1, 2020. It is planted for us to remember his dedication to his family and their history. It keeps alive a recognition of the Angle's and their contribution to the settling and development of Welsh Run and the surrounding communities. Despite being born in Chicago, in his childhood he spent time with extended family here and often visited this area, his ancestral home. This tree's placement at the Conococheague Institute also recognizes a dedication to learning and teaching that he showed throughout his life and that continues through the work of this institution."



Mercersburg Academy Community Engagement Program

As we mentioned at the beginning of the Fall newsletter CI partnered with the Mercersburg Academy to provide outreach opportunities for their Community Engagement Students.

Volunteering every week for 2 months these young philanthropists showed an incredible passion and zeal for helping us preserve our cultural and natural heritage.

They were also an incredible joy to work with: Good humoured, compassionate, and intelligent (discussions on the Philosophy of John Locke were a welcome surprise, when we were covered in mud and lichen scrubbing headstones)!



The primary objective was the restoration of the Old Welsh Cemetery at CI (or the God's Acre of Phillip Davis).

It was in extreme disrepair before the work began, with most headstones toppled over and lichen build up so heavy you couldn't read the inscriptions. We were unsure how well it would rejuvenate.

However without giving up (and lots of scrubbing) the students got them clean. Then the delicate process of resetting the stones by digging the foundations followed, and finally a protective layer of whitewash was added to deter future biological growth.

For the descendants of the Bowen, Blair, Lawton, and Ross families (and many others) in our Cemetery, make a point to visit. The students work for your Ancestors really paid off!

And they didn't stop there. The Academy also whitewashed our Garden Fence, Ordinary, painted the Birding Platform, planted trees, attended our Surgical program, and helped us pick fruit in their time with CI!

Thanks to **Emily Parsons, Director of Community Engagement and History Faculty** for working with us and the students themselves:

Zain Qureshi, Maddy Gillner, Nathaniel Gotera, Kaori Graham-Myrie, Leilani Isel-Register, Iseo Yun, Roy Kang, Eric Liu, Taimur Rehman, Devin Rotz, Haruto Kitagawa, Corbin Kelly, Axel Fleury, Shin Miyamichi, Eric Herring, Jonah Lee, Moritz Degen, Robert Sellery, and Moonsung Kang.



The Conococheague Institute and the Mercersburg Academy

We are extremely grateful to the Academy and their students and look forward to sharing future programs with them. We are already planning a Intensive class in 2022, more Community Engagement projects and other possibilities!





CI in the News

Our Pioneer Times reaches you Quarterly, but we continue to find new ways to tell our story.

Our Facebook, Youtube and Instagram have all been growing a steady following, and the videos being produced have helped us reach new audiences.

The videos have also served as free marketing, as our Bonfire Night and Christmas videos serve as both informative education and advertising for the program itself.

Our Director has written articles all year for the tourism magazine 'At Home Places', and the latest issue for the year features an article on Colonial Christmas Traditions. Pick it up for free at local stores or [read it online](#). We can also announce that we have already submitted the article for the first edition of 2022, and it is exciting! We can't wait.

The **Franklin County Visitors Bureau** invited CI to participate in its **Festival of Trees** event. Local businesses decorate trees, which are then auctioned off to benefit **Cumberland Valley Breast Care Alliance**.

We wrapped our branches with candied oranges, cinnamon, and gingerbread for a rustic look, and then sweetened the deal by including some 'presents' under the tree for the auction: A child's frock coat and hat, a girl's bonnet and book, a pewter goblet, quills and more! We are really pleased to say that the tree sold for **\$260!**

One of our great local supporters is the Greencastle Radio station **WRGG 93.7 "We are GA"**. Their evening show "Around Your Community" spotlights the various non-profits in the region and the work they are doing, and host **Lois Steichen** regularly invites CI to talk. On September 30th we talked for 30 minutes re-capping the Summer, and trying to squeeze it all in just reminds us how much we have accomplished with your help! Next time we're on the air, we'll be sending Jacob Davis to give a deeper dive on our historical interpretation of Frontier Life. WRGG is supported by the community so visit wrgg.org to donate and listen online straight from your computer.



2021 Annual Members Meeting Recap

Thank you to those who attended our Annual Members Meeting on October 9th. As well as being able to share the success of the last year with our program attendance, new additions and financial statements, the assembled members voted on new incoming Board Members.

Sam Cathey, Kitty Clark, Sean Considine and Melanie Desmond join our existing Board and each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Board Leadership.

Since joining they have already hit the ground running in working with our Committees to develop new events for 2022 and budget recommendations.

With new faces joining us we also saw two of our beloved Board Members roll off the board. **Carol Zehosky**, former President and long-time pillar of CI ended her term limit (as per our By-laws) after many many years serving. We are incredibly grateful for Carol for sticking with CI through it's journey and keeping it moving forward to where we are today. We're not saying goodbye to Carol though! Without the responsibilities of meetings and board emails Carol can focus on what she loves: **Greeting visitors to CI in the gift shop, and coddling our staff and volunteers like a kindly mother!**



Vice-President **Chuck Holland** is also rolling off the Board so he can spend more time with his family. Chuck only joined the Board “temporarily” and yet is one of our staunchest supporters. His practical sense and dedication was instrumental in 2020-21 in getting many projects completed from the Bake Oven project, construction and grounds projects.

Chuck will still be volunteering with his wife around CI. If Carol is the kindly mother figure, then Chuck certainly meets the sensible father figure requirement. **He's often had a good laugh with our staff as he sees us young 'uns tackling a problem in a difficult way that he'd simplify with one sentence.**



Fall Events: A Snapshot

October 9th Tree Planting:

While our historic activities were happening on October 9th we also had our Fall Tree Planting. As a member of the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation's K10M Tree Project**, and as a responsible steward of the natural environment, we are always happy to host tree plantings, both for the health of our riparian stream buffer, and to educate the public on the process. We were joined by Scout Troops, Mercersburg Academy Students and many others and planted 55 largestock trees including Pussy Willows, Dogwood, Red Oak, Chokeberry, and more.



Fall Craft Activities:

As well as our more conventional programs, over the last few months we have been offering a free craft program series. Designed to include sensory aspects for younger children and serve as an introduction to wider topics, these proved a great hit and fun for adults too! Painting with leaves, Scrimshaw Bananas (instead of powder horns), Hand Print Trees, and a special Jack-O-Lantern carving for Halloween. We'll be developing more programs in 2022, but if you want to get crafty, don't miss the 2pm **'Bows of Green and Garlands of Orange'** program in our upcoming Christmas Event on December 18th.



November 6th Bonfire Night:

'Remember, Remember the 5th of November' was our motto for our Fall Bonfire Night...except it was on the 6th (for a Saturday event).

This event was an incredible success with more than 250 people attending for the day activities and an immense crowd around the bonfire! Guy Fawkes/Bonfire Night has been celebrated for centuries as a community occasion (and only fell out of favor in America after George Washington banned it). In **2022, November 5th is a Saturday, so mark your calendars now!**



The Warden's World by Jacob Davis

Designing and Implementing a new Program: Survival Skills of the 18th Century "Thrive, Not Survive!"

Here at the Conococheague Institute we are always thinking about ways to better reach our groups and tours. Gone are the days when a school tour to a historic site could consist of simply watching and listening to a presenter.

Today's interpretive programming needs to be fun, interactive, and engaging. All of our programs meet certain aspects of this criteria. In the spirit of adaptation through experimentation we accepted a request from a homeschool group to develop a program all about survival skills of the 18th century. As the staff here at CI are not survivalists, but bookish nerds who love research, it was time to head to the library.

In the 18th century, many of the things we see as "survival skills" today were just common practices. Things like building a fire, erecting rudimentary shelters, cooking over an open fire, and foraging for food and medicinal herbs would have all been implemented in some way by people living on Pennsylvania's frontier. The program would use these everyday 18th century skills and would put modern children to work trying these skills themselves. It was decided that CI staff would demonstrate the skills and then hand the reins over to the students to make it happen.

In preparation for the program a well made brush shelter made from pine boughs was constructed on site. The students were to use this shelter as an example and then dismantle it and make two smaller shelters from the one. They were only given simple tools to complete this task. After lots of laughter and a quick realization that this was only going to work if our two teams acted as TEAMS there were two shelters and the students couldn't be more proud of their work.

Following this we moved on to building a fire. For this activity each of the teams had a representative that volunteered to use flint, steel, and char cloth to spark a fire. Each team cheered on their firestarter until *WHOMF!* there were two fires.

The final part of the program of the day was all about hunting and for this I demonstrated loading and firing a flintlock rifle and Matthew showed off how to use a bow and arrow. The students were welcome to take up the bow themselves and loose a few arrows. Students stayed for almost an hour after the program time to keep loosing arrows and anytime students don't want to leave is a success for us.



Interpretive programs are the best way to bring history alive to the young generation of students. If you would like to donate specifically to program supplies (more 'Flint and Steel Kits' for kids to try, or child sized bows for archery), then add the note **'Program Supplies'** when you make a tax-deductible donation!

**Don't miss the last free event of 2021!
December 18th from 10am to 4pm.
Members will enjoy a special 20%
discount in the gift shop so if you
haven't renewed you can do it in
person on the day!**



Colonial Christmas At The Conococheague



Conococheague Institute

Colonial Christmas at the Conococheague

DECEMBER 18TH, SATURDAY 10 A.M TO 4 P.M

All throughout December we will be having a special Stocking Stuffer Sale in our Gift Shop.

On December 18th join us on the homestead and learn about the food and traditions that surrounded Christmas time during the 18th Century. Pick up a Gift of Membership for 2022 in the Visitor Center while your children write last minute letters to Santa with Quill and Ink!

Ongoing activities and hourly programs including:
11am and 3pm: Wassail!

Experience the historic traditions of Wassailing as they would've been practiced in the 18th century. Used for both harmless mischief and a blessing for future harvests, Wassailing dates back hundreds of years and brought the community together.

12pm: Preparing a Christmas Feast

Join us by the hearth and learn about the food that people of the 18th century would've enjoyed to celebrate Christmas.

1pm: Gingerbread!

Gather around the warmth of the oven and learn about the timeless Christmas tradition of baking gingerbread. Gingerbread was just as much a decoration in the 18th century as it was an enjoyable treat! Make your own gingerbread man or woman or anything to bake in our earthen oven!

2pm: Bows of Green and Garlands of Orange

Decorations in the 18th century were much simpler than their modern counterparts. Join us at the Visitors center to make traditional decorations made from pine, Oranges, and more!

4pm: Wassail Bowl! at the Ordinary

Join us at the Ordinary and witness as we make a traditional Christmas punch, a Wassail Bowl! We'll be making punch that is both alcoholic and non alcoholic. Visitors must be 21+ to taste the Alcoholic variety. Recipes will be given to all so you can make it yourself at home too.



Programs are free to all but donations are appreciated
Donate here To support our 2021 End of Year Giving Fund



The Conococheague Institute Museum, Library & Gardens
12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA 17236
www.cimlg.org | (717) 328-2800 | info@cimlg.org

Special Event

Christmas Gift Shop Sale

10% for all visitors

20% for Members only!

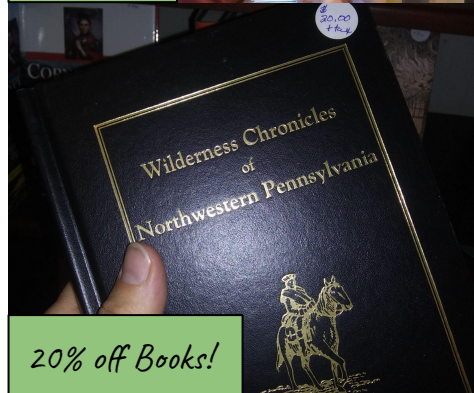
Don't miss this one day chance to pick up those last minute stocking stuffers!



20% off Toys!



20% off
Historic
Souvenirs!



20% off Books!

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

Library and Genealogy Assets

Looking for a good read this winter? As a Member benefit you may borrow books from our immense 9000 book library. If you have never been inside our library you'll soon realise that there is something for everyone!

Contact us at 717-328-2800 or info@cimlg.org to make a library or genealogy appointment.



Intern Announcement!

In January 2022 we will be joined by Deanna Grove, a BA History Undergraduate from Shippensburg University.

Deanna will be taking on the role of a '*Museum Operations Internship*' and we'll be sharing her Journey in the March Newsletter.

Donate to the **Lucas Lapole Memorial Fund** to support Internships for people like Deanna Here



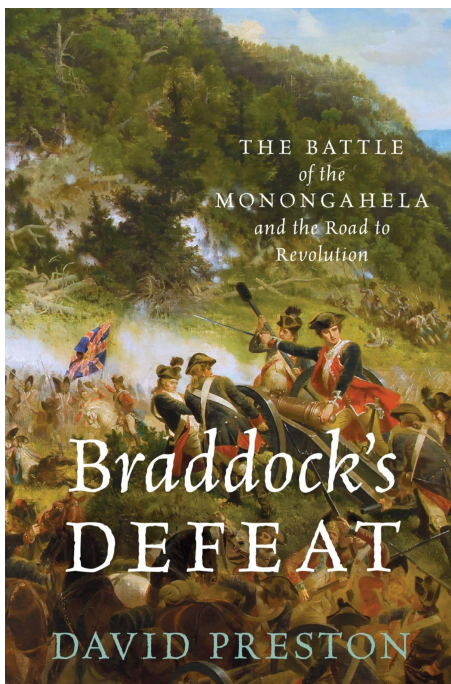
(note 'Interns' in your donation)



The Conococheague Book Club

3rd Thursday of every Month at 1pm at the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center

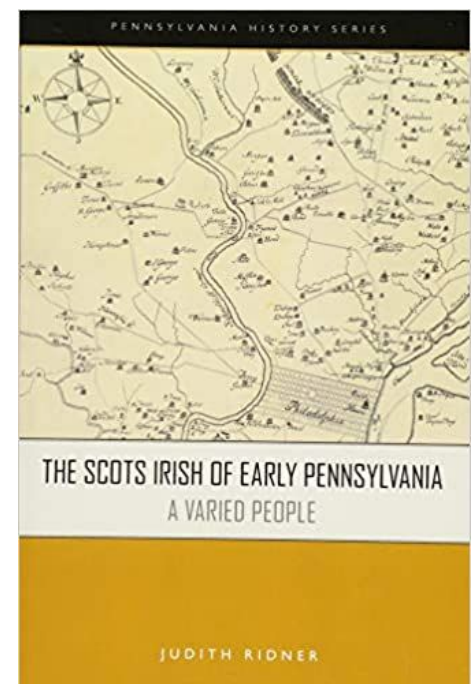
The Fall/Winter Book Club meetings in the comfort of the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center have been riveting discussions on Religion in PA, the careers of the Founding Fathers, and Culloden and its aftermath for the participants. Below are the books for the next 3 months. Come join us, it is free and open to all.



January 21st: Moderated
by J.Davis



February 17th: Moderated
by K.Shannon



March 17th: Moderated
by L.Steichen

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Lillard (*President*), Josh Faust (*Treasurer*), Bob Schwartz (*Secretary*), Will Sheppard, Leighton Wolffe, Eric Bryan, Ellen Kinzer, Sam Cathey, Kitty Clark, Sean Considine, Melanie Desmond

Advisory Board

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

Staff

Matthew Wedd, *Executive Director*, mwedd@cimlg.org

Jacob Davis, *Historic Warden and Programming Lead*, warden@cimlg.org

Contact us

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/conococheagueinstitute/>

Youtube: [@coloniallivingattheconococheagueinstitute](https://www.youtube.com/@coloniallivingattheconococheagueinstitute)



Your Membership support allows us to continue in our mission! Renew today for your 2022 Membership Card. CI Membership now runs on a 'Valid through 12 month cycle', so whenever you renew you will receive a full year of benefits!

Annual Membership Application/Renewal 2022

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/>