

# Conococheague Pioneer Times

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

2nd Quarter 2022



Volume 28 Issue 2

## ***Good Day to you...From the Executive Director***

Warm salutations to you all! This has been the busiest Spring for the Conococheague Institute, and we've squeezed as much detail into this Pioneer Times as we can. We hope you've enjoyed hearing all the great news, whether by phone, email, social media or in person. If this is your first update since the March Newsletter...then we have A LOT to share with you!



Days after the last Newsletter, CI was awarded Non Profit of the Year by the CVBA. This was a great honor as the CVBA has over 900 members across the Cumberland Valley. As a result of the awards, we've made networks with so many great community businesses and organizations. At the awards we sat with Carla Christian of the Chambersburg Memorial YMCA who won the Athena award, and we're pleased to say we have 2 weeks of YMCA Summer Camps booked with us in June now! Word spreads fast!



This Spring we had more bookings asking for Nature and Conservation themes. With our historic gardens we are able to entwine conservation and history, and students used recycling techniques to build trellises for our crops.

As we focus equally on History and Nature, Cultural and Conservation we are seeing an increase in visitors who love both. The birding group SOAR enjoy walks at CI in Spring and Fall, and this Spring we were lucky to have nesting Green Herons and Red Headed Woodpeckers.



Walkers will have also noticed a lot of turtle and snake activity. Four giant snapping turtles were caught mating back in April and egg clutches have been spotted all over. If you see a creature you are uncertain of while walking, just give it a wide berth. It'll leave you alone too!



Like all the plants budding, this Spring also saw a new bloom of volunteers. Lots of new faces joined us for educational programs and workshops, and came out in force for our May 28th History and Nature Celebration. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports CI's mission to preserve and interpret the cultural and natural resources of the frontier. Whether that is through volunteering, donations, membership, or simply visiting the programs and staying up to date on the latest happenings we thank you!

**Ready to read on? In this issue we'll recap donations and happenings, spotlight the unique "Can You Live 18th Century" program and announce new events and the Summer 2022 Members Match Campaign!**



# Spring Activities: A Snapshot

## **The 6 Weeks of Program Bookings Every Day:**

There is no denying that our education programs are popular. From April to mid May we had education bookings EVERY DAY. Some were small groups like the JBHS students studying Revolutionary Politics, some large like Fountaindale Elementary and some were off site entirely: We performed programs for entire grades at Greencastle Antrim Middle School and even as far away as Gettysburg Montessori.



## **Student Volunteers:**

Many hands make for light work. Every Thursday this Spring students from James Buchanan Middle School volunteered in our gardens to help weed, water and plant. Every Tuesday students from the Mercersburg Academy volunteered with tree plantings and conservation work. Our grounds have never looked as good thanks to energy of these helpful youth!



## **Native Tree Plantings**

As partners of the **Chesapeake Bay Foundations K10M Trees** project, we receive trees to restore our habitat with native plants. This Spring rather than squeezing all the trees into one day we planted them over the course of a month. Persimmons, Plums, Maples, Elms, Blueberries and many more were planted in our woods, along the stream and in the orchards. Thanks to everyone who helped, young and old alike. We plant now for the next generation to enjoy.





## Spring Donations

We'd like to thank the following people for their recent (March 21st to June 2nd) donations and memberships. Whether \$10 or \$10,000 you are the reason that a student can learn how to write with a quill, spot a new bird, or harvest radishes in our garden!



*Kay Boward, Brenda Shaffer, JeanMarie Walz Jr, Erica Delp, Michele Crown, Phyllis Wertime, Jane Hershey, Daniel and Lois Long, Martha Miraglia, Gail Elias, Nicole Hartman, Lisa Lunny, Chuck Holland, Karen Metz, Karen Sourbier, Lee and Jan Davis, Jean Woods, Eric Holtzman, Arlin Eby, Richard Bell, F&M Trust, The Mercersburg Academy*

**While a shorter list than last issue, the total of these contributions was \$10,240. Thank you!**

**We are also noticing more and more anonymous donations in the gift shop from visitors who enjoyed our programs and wanted to give more.**

As a Non-Profit, monetary contributions enable us to fulfil our mission but there are many ways to give. In-Kind donations are also tax deductible, and recently we have been receiving a lot of those.

Long time member **Suellen Burkey** visited with her daughter **Annie Klebanoff** to donate a display her father had made containing original paper money issued by the American government during the Revolution. We were happy to give them both a tour of the site: As a **Mercersburg Academy** Alumni, Sue was especially pleased to see the Cemetery Restoration the students had performed last fall.

**Amber Shaffer** and her son **Jacob** (who is a wonderful student photographer during our events) donated a set of cutlery that had long been in the family. From the makers marks they are mid 19th Century from Sheffield and look wonderful.

**Randy Treichler** "retired" farmer donated a huge amount of garden supplies (and time) starting seeds for us in his greenhouse this year, and as a result the garden we keep for the community is laden right now with lettuce. Come pick some!

**The Conococheague Audubon Society** volunteered during our Nature event and was happy to present an entire box of binoculars to CI for our own birding programs. They had secured these by doing a donation drive through their own members and we are very excited to use them. Seeing how busy we were **Matt Baer** of **First Due Lawncare and Landscapes, LLC** made an in-kind donation of an entire Site Cut. If you have a business that can donate services, we are very grateful.

Finally scores of volunteers donated their time. The **United Way of Franklin County** brought out 20 Franklin County employees to help during their May of Caring Event. Thank you!



## Summer 2022 Members Match Campaign

Last year was a record year for CI. You were so generous during our Matching Campaign and End of Year Giving Campaign that 2021 equalled **\$122,488.80** in donations and our annual membership totaled **\$18,235.00**

**This Summer we are announcing our Members Match Campaign.** We've taken the sum of the three largest individual contributions of 2022. From John Stauffer, Robert Kurtz Jr and Lee and Jan Davis we have received \$65,000. If three donors can give this much what can all our combined love and generosity do?

Every donation made from now until the next newsletter will be tallied as we try to reach a donation goal of \$65,000 to match, ensuring CI has its operational funds met. Your Conococheague Institute is doing everything we can to inspire a love of history and conservation in the community. We are only able to do this with your support. Thankyou!



Pennsylvania  
Historical & Museum  
Commission

## Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Awards \$4000 to support 18th Century Education at CI

In understanding that CI is at the forefront of telling the everyday story of people who lived and persevered on the early American frontier, the PHMC has awarded us \$4000 to sustain and broaden the museum's educational capabilities by supporting key staff, allowing for us to reach a new frontier in who we can target for our Programs.

Thank you PHMC! We'll continue to keep history alive and accessible to all thanks to your support! Free programs every Saturday from 10am to 5pm year round!



# Can you Live 18th Century? Full on Frontier

In the last newsletter we announced that a generous contribution from **Robert Kurtz Jr (MA Class of '52)** had allowed for an exciting new program to be started at the Conococheague Institute, perhaps the first of its kind anywhere.

For two weeks, 9 Mercersburg Academy students (and 2 faculty) would live an 18th Century life at the Conococheague Institute, encouraging a love of history to the next generation and to **“Immerse, Imagine, Inspire”**.

**From May 23rd to June 2nd this program took place with outstanding success.** Each day had a different theme, and the students amazed us with how engaged they became.

**Day 1: Can you Dress?** A 1 hour clothing presentation, then 3 hours of dressing and Q+A all in the Lenfest Library at the Academy.. The students took to their new clothes with great enthusiasm. They had all been ordered new for each and our staff did a wonderful job matching colors. For the rest of the week they took their clothes with them and came to CI dressed each day.



**Day 2: Can you Cook like a Commoner?** After being taught the basics of hearth cooking, baking and fire starting the students foraged what was available and prepared meals from simple recipes. A plain cake, boiled asparagus, eggs served on lettuce and a pork and pease soup. For many this was their first time cooking over a fire, but for all this experience is one they will keep for a lifetime.





## Can you Live 18th Century? Full on Frontier... Continued

**Day 3: Can you Work?** A hard day of Laundry, Splitting Wood, Gardening, Carpentry...we had anticipated this to be one of the least popular days, especially in the heat. The student settlers loved it however, though they all agreed that it made them appreciate modern luxuries more. Singing helped pass the time with the monotony: The 18th Century equivalent of putting the radio on while you work! We ended this session with a discussion on gender inequality in the 18th Century. Most of the work we were doing was performed historically by women who weren't even paid.



**Day 4: Can you Think 18th Century?** Perhaps the most impressive program, we'd prepared court case transcripts from the 18th Century and the students spent the morning learning what the punishments were for different crimes. In the afternoon we acted the cases, with students taking the speaking roles of Witnesses, Defendants, Prosecutors and then acting as a Jury. Such thoughtful discussions occurred as these young citizens carefully weighed up their decisions. The cases (Theft, Murder, Infanticide, Violent Robbery) all had correlations with modern world issues. We then discussed the Revolution and where we would all stand both with our Frontier persona and where we were in our real lives.





## Can you Live 18th Century? Full on Frontier... Continued

**Day 5: Can you Frolic?** A fun way to end the first week. The students spent the morning watching clips from period music, dances and games in movies, and at CI we then made that a reality. We played cricket, whist, table games, sang, danced and revelled in good company!



**Day 6: Can You Feast?** To compare with the cooking like a commoner the students pulled out all the stops. Beef Stew, Roast Hen, 'Lamb' Kebabs, Cornbread, Artichoke Pie, Apple Pie, Rhubarb Pie, Lemon Cheesecake, French Biscuits, Lemon Drops were all made entirely by the group using recipes from Hannah Glasse, William Verral and Elizabeth Moxton. Everyone did extraordinarily well, and learnt too about how easy modern utensils make life! It was worth the wait, but the hour of hand whisking Stella had to do to bring the egg whites to a froth for lemon drops was an endurance test!





## Can you Live 18th Century? Full on Frontier... Continued

**Day 6-9: Personal Projects** After so many lessons and experiences, each student was tasked with delving deeper into a subject of their choosing and presenting it to the rest of the group.

This allowed for some more detailed studies, but also for some variety. **Oscar and Sam** chose to try their hand some more at woodworking. They learnt how difficult it is to turn a solid tree into an artform, but stuck with it and succeeded in making a Sword and Cudgel. Cudgel play was popular throughout the 18th Century with young and old alike!

**Maggie, Sophia and Stella** joined together to research and choreograph an 18th Century Dance for the group. This was a splendid display and showed their friendship and passion for the subject all in one.

**Ava** used some of our fabric and was able to make a handsewn (and embroidered) pocket in just 6 hours! Perhaps next time we have a project planned we'll ask Ava to help sew. **Dorothy** took her studies of law and crime and presented a synopsis to the class on 18th Century "Ways for Women to Survive their Husbands". This satirical look at the darker side of marriage is very fitting for the period. Finally **Chelsea** did watercolor sketches of plants in our gardens and researched their medicinal uses! This is a subject very close to our heart with our 18th Century Medicine and Surgery programs!



*This Program will hopefully be the first of many such Immersive experiences for students of all ages!*

### The Conococheague Institute and the Mercersburg Academy

We are extremely happy to work in conjunction with such a fine institution like the Mercersburg Academy. Both the Community Engagement team and the Intensive "Can you Live 18th Century" contained students who were thoughtful, compassionate and wise beyond their years. We are enriched by their participation! In addition, Mercersburg Academy generously donated \$2500 becoming a 2022 Event Sponsor! Now that is Community support! Thank you MA for all you do for the students and the region.





### Our Staff: Visitor Experience Team Members at CI

Following Shippensburg University's **Deanna Grove's** successful spring Internship, we were pleased to offer her a paid summer internship as a Visitor Experience Team Member.

At the same time we welcomed on long time volunteer (and another Ship Uni Student) **Amelia Craven** in the same role.

With more and more bookings occurring at CI, it has become clear that we need more people on hand at the most important times: When there are 60 students onsite ready to learn about their Colonial History!

Having **Deanna** and **Amelia**, in addition to **Matthew** means no matter when you book we'll be ready for your students... Though we are still happy to have volunteer presenters too!

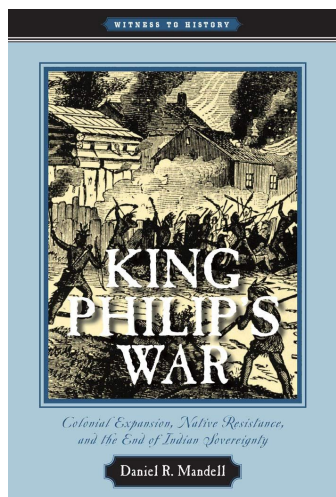


### Donate to the Lucas Lapole Memorial Fund to Support Interns

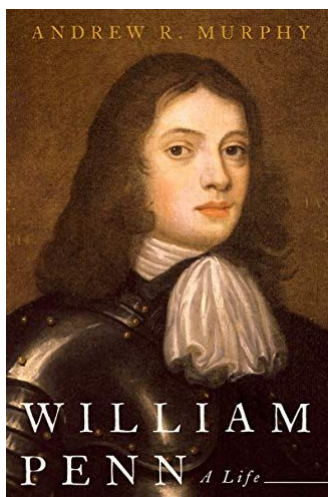
CI's interns are awarded bonus stipends on completion of their journey from our Intern Fund. Created in memory of former CI Intern Lucas Lapole, all donations made are tax deductible and **ONLY** benefit the students. Donate today by including the note "Intern" on any donation to CI. Checks can include it in the memo, scan the QR code for PayPal to the left and add "intern" in the note section, or stop by any Saturday and make a pledge, in Memory of Lucas, and to support the future of interns like Deanna and Amelia.

### The Conococheague Book Club

*3rd Thursday of every Month at 1pm at the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center*  
The Spring Book Club meetings in the comfort of the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center have been deep discussions on Slavery in PA, Emancipation and early American Small Pox epidemics! Below are the books for the next 3 months (**note there is no Book Club in August**). Come join us, it is free and open to all.



July 21st



September 15th

### Save the Date: CI Events

Saturday 2nd July: Militia Muster of Old Welsh Run  
Saturday 17th September: Harvest Faire and Fall Frolic Fundraiser  
Saturday 5th November: Bonfire Night  
Saturday 17th December: Colonial Christmas at CI

### Save the Date: Outreach events

**Fort Loudoun Market Fair:** June 24th, 25th and 26th  
**Chambersburg First Friday:** July 1st 5pm to 8pm  
**November 5th and 19th:** "SOAR" Bird Walks ("Studying Ornithology Around the Region") at CI. Meet at 8am at the Visitor Center. Free to all!



## The Conococheague Institute: Providing a Community resource that is supported by the Community

As a 501(c)3 Non Profit, we are indebted to the community for their support. **Without your donations** we could not provide free Events and Programs year round, keep our nature trails and gardens maintained and open, or provide the infrastructure to offer such incredible educational experiences for students of all ages.

Last year's donations were so generous they supported our annual budget, and while we have been busier than ever this Spring with tour bookings and tree plantings, donations have been slow. As such we are **asking you this Summer for your help!**

Consider donating to our Annual Fund through our **Summer 2022 Members Match Campaign** to keep The Conococheague Institute moving forward.

Our Annual Budget expenses are **\$115,000** and support the essential operations of CI. Utilities, Insurance, Wages and Accounting Fees may not seem exciting, but without them we couldn't do education programs, tree plantings and genealogy work!

Some items are outside of our normal budget, but were in dire need of.

The size and activity of our 30 acre site has demonstrated that **one old Golf Cart** is not sufficient for all the hauling duties it needs.

If you live on a farm or ranch, you know the value of good equipment.

**Consider an in-kind donation of a UTV or Skid Loader, or a special donation towards that cause!**



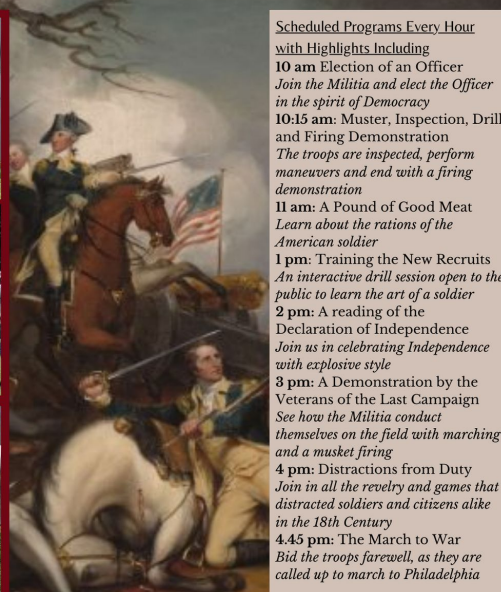
## *The Militia Muster of Old Welsh Run*



**SATURDAY JULY 2ND 10AM TO 5PM**

Celebrate America's Birthday weekend in Revolutionary style!

This event will allow visitors to experience a rural militia muster and marvel at the military prowess of the 18th Century soldier, the life of civilians following the army, and aspects of a rural Pennsylvania community. Centered around the Tavern at the CI, join the fun by partaking in drills, crafts and other activities. In addition to scheduled programs and vignettes, programming will be ongoing through the day such as cooking, local commerce, itinerant trades, signing oaths of allegiance and more.



**Scheduled Programs Every Hour with Highlights Including**  
**10 am** Election of an Officer  
*Join the Militia and elect the Officer in the spirit of Democracy*  
**10:15 am** Muster, Inspection, Drill and Firing Demonstration  
*The troops are inspected, perform maneuvers and end with a firing demonstration*  
**11 am** A Pound of Good Meat  
*Learn about the rations of the American soldier*  
**1 pm** Training the New Recruits  
*An interactive drill session open to the public to learn the art of a soldier*  
**2 pm** A reading of the Declaration of Independence  
*Join us in celebrating Independence with explosive style*  
**3 pm** A Demonstration by the Veterans of the Last Campaign  
*See how the Militia conduct themselves on the field with marching and a musket firing*  
**4 pm** Distractions from Duty  
*Join in all the revelry and games that distracted soldiers and citizens alike in the 18th Century*  
**4:45 pm** The March to War  
*Bid the troops farewell, as they are called up to march to Philadelphia*



This Event is Sponsored by F&M Trust Bank and by donations from people like you. Thank you!

Incredible hot food, beverages and treats will be available to purchase from Jenni's Knife and Spork located at our Central Parking Lot



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

The Conococheague Institute is a 501(c)3 Non Profit. Make a donation today at these QR Codes



## Summer 2022 Members Match Campaign: Stronger Together

The Frontier was settled by a community working together. Everyone had different skills that contribute to the success of all. We are always stronger together.

With that in mind, this Summer every donation is going to be tallied as we try to match the donations of our three largest donors. **A combined \$65,000 was contributed this Spring** by John Stauffer, Robert Kurtz Jr and Lee and Jan Davis.

So how can we make this \$65,000? Well, **if everyone following our Social Medias donated \$20** we would meet that total instantly!

**If everyone on our email list donated \$80, or each paper newsletter member donated \$500** we would reach our Summer Goal. Any donation from \$1 to \$100,000 is appreciated!

Our members have always been strong supporters, and **now is the time to grow**. Have you been supporting us as an individual but own your own business? Consider a 2022 Event Sponsorship! Donations of Stock and Estate Bequests are also tax deductible. **Contact us today to learn more.**



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



## **Board of Directors**

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

## **Staff**

Matthew Wedd, *Executive Director*, [mwedd@cimlg.org](mailto:mwedd@cimlg.org)

Deanna Grove and Amelia Craven, *Visitor Experience Team Members*

## **Contact us**

The Conococheague Institute, 12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA, 17236

**Phone:** 717 328 2800 **Email:** [info@cimlg.org](mailto:info@cimlg.org) **Website:** [www.cimlg.org](http://www.cimlg.org)

**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 runs on a 'Valid through 12 month cycle', so whenever you renew you will receive a full year of benefits! PICK UP A QUILL and renew today. Already a Member? Consider enclosing an additional Summer 2022 donation to support the Conococheague Institute.**

### **Annual Membership Form 2022**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter Format Preference, 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/>**