

Conococheague Pioneer Times

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

3rd Quarter 2022



Volume 28 Issue 3

Good Day to you...From the Executive Director

We wish you well with this Fall Newsletter, and hope everyone has enjoyed a blissful Summer. As always we are thankful for your support during these incredible times. If you hadn't heard, CI received some great news and accolades recently.



As a result of the growth in education bookings and the development of the "Can you Live 18th Century" program, your Executive Director was named CVBA Young Professional 'Educator of the Year'. What an honour! At the ceremony we were joined by family, Board Members Ellen Kinzer and Bob Schwartz, and CI Founding Family John and David Stauffer.

That's three awards now...what is next for CI? Perhaps in the next Newsletter we'll have news of another award!



With your continued support there is no limit to what we can do.

It was a long hot, dry summer as you're all probably aware, but that didn't stop the Chambersburg YMCA from booking 2 solid weeks of Colonial education programs with us. So many bookings would have been a handful, but fortunately new volunteers joined our ranks to help.

Joining longtime volunteers Sam Cathey and Mary Poscover were Erica Delp, Sandra Bloom, Molly Willis and Oscar Su (in addition to CI Team Members Deanna and Amelia).



In the Summer we lose our School volunteers from JBMS and the Mercersburg Academy, so we were really pleased to be joined by Molly and Oscar for their youthful energy.

Though certainly energy isn't solely limited to our youth. On even the hottest days of Summer if you visited CI you'll have likely have seen John Stauffer nurturing our fruit trees, and David Stauffer unreeling the hose.

I'm personally very grateful for everyone's support. CI is running so smoothly now with its Board, Staff, Interns and Volunteers, that I was able to take a two week holiday to England to see my family without anyone noticing!

With your help either onsite, through donations, membership and community support, CI is able to offer AWARD WINNING educational programs, preserve the region's history, cultivate our natural resources, and encourage the next generation of historians and naturalists.



Eager to turn the page? Read on for recap of our Militia Event, Harvest Faire and Fall Fundraiser, New exhibits, donations and much more.

Summer Donations

We'd like to thank the following people for their recent (June 3rd to September 21st) donations and memberships. Whether \$5 or \$15,000 you keep this history of the region alive, and help preserve our environment. The stewardship of both is critical for future generations.

Lynda Thomason, Jack and Barbara Demuth, James Rogers, Robert Kurtz Jr, John Stauffer, Mercersburg Academy, Matt Stonebraker, Paul and Shirley Lehman, Caroline Tassey, Tracy Bartlett, Dorothy Skuba-Gray, Cynthia Fair, Austin and Shannon McAvinchey Rock, Visit Hagerstown - Washington County Visitors Bureau, Linda Garbner, Tiffany Weaver, Richard Negley, Jack and Betty Seburn, Deanna Grove, Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Mary Sanders, Kay Boward, Paul and Phillis Mummert, Jean Woods, Jane Hershey, James Buchanan Hotel, Shirley Glatfelter, Karen Krista Morrow, Gregory Pierce, Franklin County Government, Crystal Cassesa, Jessica Yount, Matthew Baer, Erica Peck, Gary Stallings, Old Home Week Committee, John Folk, Kermit Hicks, Tom Steichen and Tom Finucane

Every contribution is important and we're so grateful for your generosity!

Of course everyone who attended the Fall Frolic Fundraiser heavily influenced our donations, with part of the Ticket being tax deductible and the Raffle and Auction contributions.

100 people attended with ticket purchases under the names of

Rob Brogaard, Suellen Burkey, Crystal Cassesa, Kitty Clark, Jan and Lee Davis, Mary Delaney, Melane Desmond, Will Dupuis, Kateri Fikar, Tom Finucane, Crystal Fries, Debra Kaminski, Allan Kaplan, Ed Leisinger, Betsey Lillard, Aaron, Moats, Bob Newmyer, Fred Nugent, Denise Ordway, Jay Ouellette, Emily Parson, Gregory Pierce, Jack and Betty Seburn, Will Sheppard, Larry and Jacki Smith, Gary Stallings, Lois Steichen, Geoff and Barb Suiter, Keith Taber, Lynda Thomason, George White, Carol Zehosky, Brenda Shaffer, Ricky Czar, Sam Cathey, Mary Poscover and Zach Angle

Our Event Sponsors were the Mercersburg Academy at \$2500, Visit Hagerstown - Washington County CVB at \$1000 and the Franklin County Visitors Bureau at \$500. GearHouse Brewing Co donated the cost of the production of the Historic Ale and their time, Carousel Treats & More donated Candy Floss and Funnel Cakes, Martin's Grocery Stores donated gift cards for drinks and Hicksville BBQ donated their tips back to the site. Our Memberships are available to businesses, and we'd like to thank and welcome the James Buchanan Hotel in Mercersburg. Thank you for your support!

Summer 2022 Members Match Campaign: The Result

In the June issue we announced our Members Match Campaign. We'd taken the sum of the three largest individual contributions of 2022, and challenged our Members to Match it. The total contributions for this period equalled **\$31,616.60!**

This is an incredible show of support from our members during the summer period, when most people are on vacation. We'll be launching an End of Year Giving campaign this Winter to bring the total up to the goal of \$65,000

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. Thank you!



**MERCERSBURG
ACADEMY**



Our Fall Frolic Fundraiser had items donated from the following persons and businesses in the community:

Bistro 11, Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Grease Monkey, Meadows Frozen Custard, Mercersburg Inn, Modnurs Pharmacy, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Theater, Snider's Jewellers, Schmankerl Stube, Sweetsies Treats and Eats, TWEP, Warehouse Cinema Leitersburg, Fikar's Finest, Carol Zehosky, Betsey Lillard, Kitty Clark, Ellen Kinzer, Bob Schwartz, Melanie Desmond, Will Sheppard and John Stauffer

Summer Activities: A Snapshot

Fort Loudoun Market Fair: Outreach Activities

We are always happy to participate in partner events that increase awareness of the Frontier history of the region, and we couldn't ask for a better host than Fort Loudoun, PA. We were invited out to perform our popular 18th century games program for the entire 3 days of their Market Fair June 24th to 26th and despite some sweltering heat, we had a lot of fun with visitors of all ages. We received compliments from visitors and sutlers alike, and the weekend was also a time for planting a memorial tree at the Fort for a mutual volunteer Tim McCown who passed away this Spring.



July 2nd Militia Muster

We had a smaller turnout this year for our event celebrating the Nation's birthday, due to an extreme day of heat. As National parks start hosting large scale events again, CI has more competition on this National Holiday. For 2023 we'll revisit the calendar and see what works best. Those present were happy to learn about the role Civilian Soldiers played in ensuring America's Freedom...and seeing Spitfire the CI Swivel Gun announce that Freedom!



Franklin County TQLEG Grant: Historic Preservation for the Piper Cabin

As mentioned in previous issues, the Franklin County TQLEG program had provided funding for historic preservation of the Piper Cabin. A late 18th Century cabin that was relocated to CI from Amberson Valley, it has served as a major hub of our programs. Switching it's metal sheet roofing for a historically accurate Cedar Shingle not only maintains the historic integrity of the structure, but helps the visitor be immersed in the period we are trying to capture. It's hard work, but volunteers Chuck Holland, Keith Taber, Aaron Moats, Evan Moats, Tim Ware, Sam Cathey, and Christian Jones have kept on nailing all Summer long.



CI in the News and Community

Connecting with our community is the best way to grow as an organization. Despite our small staff we try to take every opportunity to do outreach, support other sites, events and collaborate with community partners.

We've had great relations with the local media. WRGG 93.7 in Greencastle often features us on their radio segment 'Around Your Community' with host Lois Steichen. This summer we recorded an interview about the Summer activities and happenings.

The free community Magazine "At Home Places" has been publishing CI articles every issue for 2 years now, and the latest was a double dose. One article on the Harvest Season proved to be a great free advertisement for our September 17th event with many first time visitors saying the article is what brought them to the site. ANOTHER article in the same issue about perspectives on local travel included CI's Executive Director explaining how you don't have to travel far to encounter some great cultural tourism.

Americana Corner (who awarded CI a grant to support our educational programs this Spring) were so pleased with our progress that they featured us in a Grantee interview on their website and channels.

It was a great honour, as the other sites featured include great names Like Colonial Williamsburg and Patrick Henry's Red Hill.

Americana Corner



GRANT PROGRAM

You can view these videos at

<https://www.americanacorner.com/preserving-america>

We've had ads in local publications like the Mercersburg Journal and Merchant for our Fall Event series, and a National Magazine has featured our programs in an article for the December issue (released Mid-October).

If you've heard of the magazine Early American Life you know it features great historic preservation stories, and living history resources. The next issue has a beautiful 8 page spread on our "Can You Live 18th Century" program, all about embracing Colonial Life. You can purchase a copy by visiting <https://www.ealonline.com/> or calling 440-543-8566

Early
American
Life

And finally, CI took part in the Greencastle Old Home Week Window Display competition and won 2nd place in the History Category! Thanks for State Farm for hosting our Mannequins for the week!

Mercersburg Academy



MERCERSBURG
ACADEMY

Community Engagement

Volunteers - Fall Conservation

With school back in session we can look forward to a busy booking schedule, but also welcome back student volunteers from MA!



This fall's theme is environmental conservation, as we take advantage of the weather to restore some areas of the site to native plantings, remove invasives ahead of our October CBF Tree planting, and use the students' design skills to build a Monarch Waystation.



The students are a wonderful group of young philanthropists and bring such energy every week they visit. We've already accomplished one major project! Deturfing the lawn around the rear of the bake oven and seeding in native seeds for a 'Grow Don't Mow' area. It'll give a historic look to the bake oven, and also provide essential native habitats!



The students love CI...partly due to the fact there are so many edible plants growing!

Rustic Chic at the Conococheague Institute: Site Rentals

Sharing our resources with the Community is one of the joys of being a hands-on regional learning center, and sometimes that is taken to another level with site rentals.

Though we maintain our grounds and gardens open to the public daily from dawn to dusk, we do offer private site rentals. They can range from simple rentals (\$200) for private use of a portion of the site, to more complex rentals (\$400+) entailing decorations, custom programs and more.

Whether you are looking for a Birthday location for your children, planning a large scale family reunion, Wedding, a corporate retreat or a faculty meal we have the perfect blend of Rustic Chic and Natural Beauty for you.

A Faculty meal is exactly what was held at our grounds with a Site Rental by the Mercersburg Academy on August 18th. The Piper Cabin became a serving area for an exquisite meal prepared by chefs from B-Street in Greencastle and the green of Rock Hill Farm became a canopied area for 80 faculties to dine.



Of course CI staff and volunteers were on hand to provide some evening education to these guests, and encourage future collaborations. Walking the Wetlands pond as the sunsets is a true joy, and evening activities like this make the perfect opportunity to discover that.



Our site bookings are subject to availability year round, so if you're interested contact us for more details on rental policies

Event Spotlight: Harvest Faire and Fall Frolic Fundraiser

September 17th

This year marked the start of real in person fundraising again, and we were so pleased to share this event with our Community. Having TWO events on one date provided its own challenges, but was important to spotlight where CI currently stands as an organization. Our primary mission to preserve, educate and interpret the everyday life of the frontier occurs every Saturday during our free programming, but the Harvest Faire was a wonderful opportunity to gather craftsmen and presenters from further afield to display an 18th Century community come to life.

We had Apothecaries, Bakers, Carpenters, Weavers, Spinners, Hunters, Brewers, School Masters, Gamesters, Scythers, Labourers, Cooks (and lots of children) to present hands-on engaging programs for our visitors. We were lucky to have a beautiful 80 degree day with an incredible visitor turnout. 50% of the visitors were new to the site too, and will be returning for more!



Outreach partners from the **Franklin County Government**, **Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library**, and **SwallowTail Forest Farms** were also present for activities and amazing hot food was available thanks to **Hicksville BBQ**.



The Evening Fall Frolic fundraiser was a ticketed event with Live music by **Cormorant's Fancy**, Historic Ale by **GearHouse Brewing Co** and a Hog Roast by **Hicksville BBQ**. Additional treats were donated by **Carousel Treats and More** of Greencastle.

100 guests attend this special evening, and through donations, raffles and auctions it looks like the first Harvest Faire and Fall Frolic Fundraiser brought in **\$7,037.40**....add to that the event sponsorships it comes to **\$10,137.40** We had only aimed for \$5000!

Thanks to our Main Event Sponsors: **Mercersburg Academy**, **Visit Hagerstown**, **Washington County CVB** and the **Franklin County Visitors Bureau**, and to all the businesses that donated raffle items!

Rob Brogaard kindly performed some wonderful photography for the evening.



Thank you to everyone who made this event possible, from volunteers to sponsors to attendees! For a full list of sponsors see the donations page

Our Interns: Visitor Experience Team Members at CI

We've been able to accomplish so much more thanks to the dedicated help of our Summer Interns. Amelia Craven and Deanna Grove were joined this Summer by Evan Moats, and the three of them were focused on researching, designing and developing a brand new exhibit in the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center.

You've been donating incredible artifacts to us for years, but space and preservation needs means many have been in archival storage. Thanks to a rearrangement of our storage spaces and a donation of Glass Cases we are able to beautifully display many artifacts, some for the first time in centuries!

The theme of this exhibit is to show a timeline of occupation at Rock Hill Farm, from the Indigenous People lithics dating back to 10,000 B.C.E which we house a large collection of. With the settlement period, tools and artifacts related to clearing and settling the land are displayed, followed by the items needed to turn the lands yield into usable goods with several of our textile devices.

The final theme is Life at Rock Hill Farm, showing many of the material goods households in the region owned. Including the preserved shoes that were discovered in the Negley House during the 1990's restoration!

The exhibit will feature changing touch tables for kids too, and all that is left is to final edits of the panel displays. We hope to give our Members the first real tour of this exhibit at our October 8th Members Meeting.

Deanna and Evan went back to College with the new semester, and we wish them all the best in their studies and careers. In August we were joined by Kasmira Zechman (also of Shippensburg University) and she has already proven a great asset to the team.



Donate to the Lucas Lapole Memorial Fund to Support Interns

We are pleased to announce that all our current interns are PAID interns. It is proving a museum fact, that unpaid internships while beneficial in the short term for the organization end up limiting the opportunity an intern can pursue, and marginalized minority and underrepresented students. As such CI hopes to provide a constant place where students can thrive in their educational career. We maintain a fund created in memory of former CI Intern Lucas Lapole, to which all donations made are tax deductible and ONLY benefit the students. Donate today by including the note "Intern" on any donation to CI.



Save the Date: Free Member Events

Saturday November
5th: **Bonfire Night**

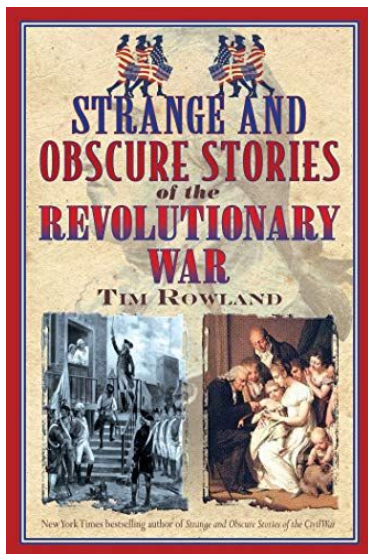
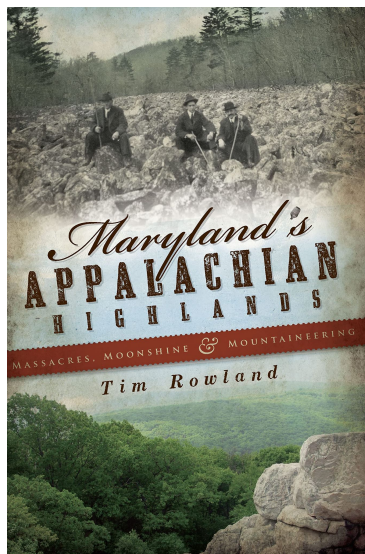
Saturday December
17th:
Colonial Christmas



The Conococheague Book Club

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

The Summer Book Club meetings in the comfort of the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center have been detailed expositions on the Life of William Penn, and early conflicts in the Colonies. Below are the books for the next 3 months. Come join us, it is free and open to all.



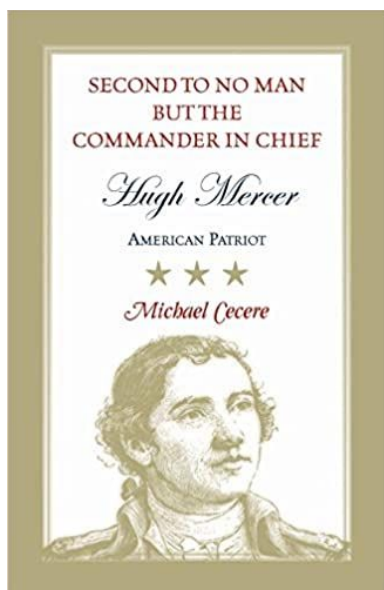
Thursday, October 20th, 1 PM

“Maryland’s Appalachian Highlands: Massacres, Moonshine & Mountaineering” (2009) by Tim Rowland
AND

“Strange and Obscure Stories of the Revolutionary War” (2015)
by Tim Rowland

Moderator: Lois Steichen

A rare treat to enjoy two local books with tales and anecdotes of the region!



Thursday, November 17th, 1 PM

“Second to No Man but the Commander in Chief: Hugh Mercer American Patriot” (2015) by Michael Cecere

Moderators: Betty Jane Lee and Joan McCulloh
The life of local hero and Patriot Huger Mercer is discussed in this book and we are pleased to welcome back as moderators the well regarded Betty Jane Lee and Joan McCulloh.

Come discuss Mercersburg’s Namesake, and perhaps look at CI’s incredible medical collection that Mercer would have been very at home with.



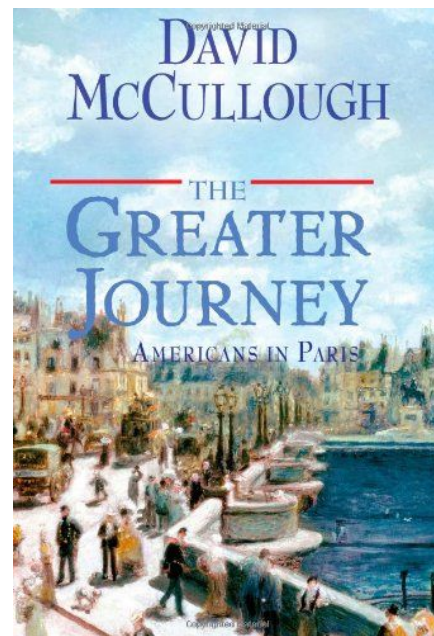
Thursday, December 15th, 1 PM

“The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris” (2011)
By David McCullough

Moderator: Lois Steichen

In this book, Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough tells the enthralling, inspiring—and until now, untold—story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and to excel in their work. As winter closes in on Pennsylvania join in the discussion on this book that traverses the world.

Readers may recognise McCullough from his most famous book 1776!



A Presidential Invitation: 2022 Annual Members Meeting

The Conococheague Institute
12995 Bain Road
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Greetings Valued CI Member!

It is time once again for our annual Members Meeting at the Conococheague Institute.
I'd like to invite you to attend! Please join us:

Saturday, October 8, 2022
2:00pm to 4:00pm
Welsh Barrens Visitor Center

CI has had the BEST year ever! We'd like to share that with you, re-introduce our staff and meet our new interns. We also have new Board Candidates for you to meet! They are local and should truly enhance our board membership. For housekeeping purposes, we'll also have one new Bylaw item to discuss and vote on. Won't you join us? Your participation is further support of this fine institution! Please stay after the meeting for a tour of the new exhibits and site, and to socialize with the team!

Sincerely,

Betsey Lillard

Board President
09/08/2022



Board Recruitment

Every Fall we seek new applicants for the CI Board of Directors, to increase our growth and community connections. Over the last few months our Board Nominating Committee has been receiving applications from persons of interest.

At the Annual Members Meeting our Members present are those who vote in favor of new additions, and this year, we'll be extending the invitation to nominate members present. They'll have to give a short introduction to the group about the reason for their interest, and Board recruitment (as with all volunteers) is pending a PA Background check, but we hope this will allow all possible candidates the chance to assist in our Mission.

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Lillard (*President*), Ellen Kinzer (*Vice-President*), Bob Schwartz (*Secretary*), Will Sheppard, Leighton Wolffe, Sam Cathey, Kitty Clark, 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

Amelia Craven and Kasmira Zechman, *Visitor Experience Team Members*

Contact us

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

Phone: 717 328 2800 **Email:** info@cimlg.org **Website:** 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! With different levels so you can PICK the one that works for you! CI Membership runs on a 'Valid through 12 month cycle', so whenever you renew you will receive a full year of benefits! Already a Member? Consider enclosing an additional Fall 2022 donation to support the Conococheague Institute.

Annual Membership/Donation Form

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/>