

2018 Meeting Dates

April 16
 May 21
 June 18
 September 17
 October 22

Our meetings are held at the Heritage Center, 2251 River Road,
 @ 7:00 pm.

All meetings are open to the public.

Please use the Heritage Center Parking lot which is accessed from Blue Rock Road

2018 Important Dates**Open House**

Sunday June 3
 1pm – 4pm

The Center will also be open the following dates:

July 8
 August 12
 Sept 9
 Oct 14
 1pm-3pm

Admission is free
 donation appreciated

Heritage Day

Saturday Oct. 20
 9 am-4 pm

The Center is open by appt by large groups – please contact Charlie Douts at 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com

Blue Rock Heritage Center Annual Open House

The annual Open House of the Blue Rock Heritage Center will occur on **Sunday, June 3 from 1-4 p.m.**

The Heritage Center showcases local history of the Washington Boro area with a focus on Native American artifacts.

The Dinkel Butcher Shop display and Roy Bender Indian artifact collection are two new additions this year. In 2017, murals depicting Lancaster County Indian heritage and additional local artifacts were added to our exhibits.

Circle Legacy will be onsite with an educational table, a kids crafts table, an Eastern Woodland social dance demonstration and also Barry Lee (Munsee Nation) will have his artwork and possibly even some flint knapping.

Admission is free, the Heritage Center is located at 2251 River Road with parking located at the Blue Rock river access.

Indian Artifact Display

Roy Bender of Washington Boro donated a small group of artifacts he collected from his garden along Second Street.

Jason Goe of Washington Boro, meticulously catalogued these items. They will be displayed at the Heritage Center and we thank Roy for this donation and Jason for his efforts.



Members/Volunteers needed

The Blue Rock Heritage Center is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers with a passion for the local area.

We need help with creating and maintaining displays and exhibits, volunteering to help with the annual Heritage Day, general maintenance and cleaning and miscellaneous other activities. We desire to have the Center open on a regular schedule and docents are needed to serve.

Please visit our website, or contact Paul Hoffer 717-951-0089 or Charlie Douts 717-684-9542.

Butcher Shop Exhibit at the Blue Rock Heritage Center

Do you remember buying fresh pork chops, sausage, or steaks at the local butcher shop in Washington Boro? You can visit our new exhibit at the Blue Rock Heritage Center which will be unveiled during the annual Open House to be held on June 3 from 1-4 p.m.

Fred Dinkel, who currently resides at the location of the Butcher Shop at 1942 Water Street, is the son of the late August Dinkel who operated the Butcher Shop. Fred has loaned items to the Heritage Center to create an exhibit. A large chopping block, sausage press, knives, crocks and other original items from the butcher shop are the focus of this display.



They represent a time and era when craft people and local businesses operated small custom businesses to serve the local community. Hogs and steers were purchased from

local farmers, slaughtered on-site and prepared for the preferences of each customer.

Your steak could be thick, thin or preferred cut prepared at your request. No preservatives and always fresh. Meats were

smoked on-site and ice was used to preserve them. An electric cooler was installed in the mid 1965 by the last operator of the shop, Ed Dinkel. The butcher shop has largely remained frozen in time since its closing in 1966.

It became cost prohibitive to compete with large slaughter houses with mass and automated operations, increasing regulations coupled with the changing shopping habits of consumers. Large one stop grocery stores with in house delis, bakeries and specialty items added convenience for the consumers versus home town individualized service.



Circle Legacy Events

March 31 (11a-4p) Porcupine Quill Work - basic course of quillwork application and finish off with a pair of earrings. Cost \$10 per person payable at the event. Please contact Mary Ann Robins (Onondaga Nation) to register at maryannrobins@comcast.net or call 717-435-5279. Bring bag lunch/snacks.

April 7 (12p-4p) Dream Catcher - learn how to make a dreamcatcher; supplies will be provided and instruction by Joann McLaughlin (Passamaquoddy Nation). Email joann.kachel@lsc.com for cost and registration. Bring bag lunch/snacks.

April 7 (1p) Introduction to Blue Grass Guitar - join Barry Lee (Munsee Nation) for a beginner to intermediate guitar class designed for those who love Blue grass music. The class will give you the basic rhythm style, vocal accompaniment and flat picking techniques for novice guitarist. Limited to 10 students, cost \$20 and please bring your own guitar. To register, please contact Barry Lee at 610-850-4059.

April 7 (9a-4p) Wigwam construction - Mary Ann Robins (Onondaga Nation) and Heiland Benedict (Mohawk Nation) will be supervising the construction of a traditional native wigwam. This is an outdoor activity, please dress accordingly and bring gloves. This is open to adults and supervised children. No fee and please bring a bag lunch/snacks.

April 14 & April 28 (10a-2p) Brain Tanning - Learn how to tan hides using this native technique at this 2 day course. Heiland Benedict (Mohawk Nation), will be the instructor. \$50.00 per person and please contact Heiland Benedict at 717-723-7122 to register and for details. Bring a bag lunch/snacks.



The Great Train Wreck

Over the years there have been several train derailments between Columbia and Washington Boro. The majority were minor with very little damage. One significant wreck occurred on December 18, 1956 at the current crossing of Rt. 999 at River Road. A freight train derailed and 24 boxcars were split open, spilling contents along the tracks and into the river. Locals tell of apples, grapes, celery, potatoes, and hams as some of the items spilled along the river. Several cars landed along the water's edge and if the items were in the water, they were free to firstcomers. Stories are told of locals diving and boating for the spoils. When the PPR railroad cops showed up, people were more cautious and some had already left with their newfound groceries.



Chris Vera from the Columbia Historical Society which maintains copies of the Columbia News was gracious to research and find the news story. It was estimated that damages to the freight cars and contents were in excess of \$500,000. The 68 car freight train was heading to New York City with fresh produce. All the cars were refrigerated boxcars and the article notes some split in pieces like match sticks.



The photos show the boxcars with work crews and cranes untangling the mess. A railroad cop is in one of the photos keeping order. Jere McDonald, son of Joanne and John McDonald is shown posing with his mother in front of the wreckage. I am certain many other locals have photos and memories as well. His father John shared with Glenn Henry that his duck boat docked along the river shore was damaged.

If you visit the railroad crossing at Rt. 999 today, you can see the base of one the large railroad electric poles which juts into the river and mostly buried by silt. Additionally, fragments of railroad cars are visible during low water events in this area as well. Ask Glenn Henry about his youthful days in the summer, retrieving fishing lures from the submerged electric pole.

As a trivia question, the station wagon with the Bob's Diner sign is delivering food to the workers. Did you ever eat at Bob's Diner in Columbia and do you know where it was located? Here is a hint: it was a few doors away from the former Ford Dealer in Columbia and across from Joe's Texaco. The Diner was a chrome silver modular unit was located at 134 Lancaster Avenue. The Ford dealer and Joe's no longer exist at these sites. The Ford Dealer is currently Abels's Notary.



Heritage Day 2018

October 20th 9am-4pm

Plan to join us for the annual River Heritage Day event and local FFA Tractor Pull. The weather was spectacular for the 2017 event and fingers are crossed for another delightful day in 2018.

The event is free with a special emphasis on family activities. Hayrides, craft/flea market vendors, displays and educational programs such as Zoo America make up this event.

Food and drinks are available for purchase and the proceeds benefit the Blue Rock Heritage Center.

It will be held at the Community Park located the intersection of Rt. 999 and River Road.

The generous contributions of the following donors allow us to provide this free event.

Please thank and support these businesses and organizations:

Arcing Rod and Gas, Blue Rock Fire and Rescue, Interiors, Kleen-Rite Corporation, Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Penn Manor Future Farmers of America, Rettew Engineering, R.S Hollinger, Slaymaker Electric and Turkey Hill.

Want to Reserve Free Exhibit Space?

Plenty of room has been reserved for anyone wishing to display antique equipment, or other items of interest.

To reserve a space, free of charge, contact:

Doug Kramer 681-9832 or doug.kramer@pennmanor.net.

Artisans, Craft Vendors and Flea Market Stands

We're pleased that popular artisans, craft vendors and Flea Market stands will be available offering a wide selection of gift items, trinkets and services.

To reserve a stand please contact:

Charles Douts 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com

