

# The Maytonian

September 2022

## MHS Program

### Shafer to speak....

The Maytown Historical Society will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at the East Donegal Township Building on Rock Point Road. The evening begins at 6:00 pm with a special program presented by Peggy Hicks Shafer. Peggy grew up in Maytown and will talk about what it was like to live in our town 80 years ago. She will share her experiences with a program entitled "Growing Up in Maytown". Oral history is a special way to keep history alive.



There will be refreshments and a time for questions after the program. A short business meeting will follow with a preview of MHS upcoming events including Museum Opening dates, a sausage, pancake & egg breakfast in October, Halloween Happenings and a Christmas gala! The Maytown Historical Society meets on the third Thursday of the month at the East Donegal Township Building in Maytown at 6:30 pm. For more information, call the Museum, (717-426-1526), and let a message. Join us and become a part of the group that works hard to learn about and to celebrate the history of our small and unique town.

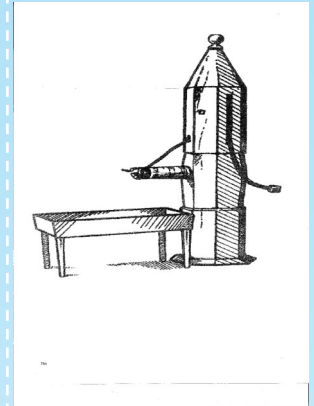
### Message from the President:

Hi everyone,

It's hard to believe we are starting September and summer is now headed toward fall.

We have had several very successful events and fundraisers so far this year, starting with a sub/sandwich sale in January, food stand at Hostetter Hardware in March, food stand at Paramount Senior Living in April, Mayfest in May (and although the weather wasn't the best, we had great society support and turn out for a rainy May Day).

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### MHS MUSEUM

4 W High Street

PO Box 293

Maytown PA 17550

717-426-1526

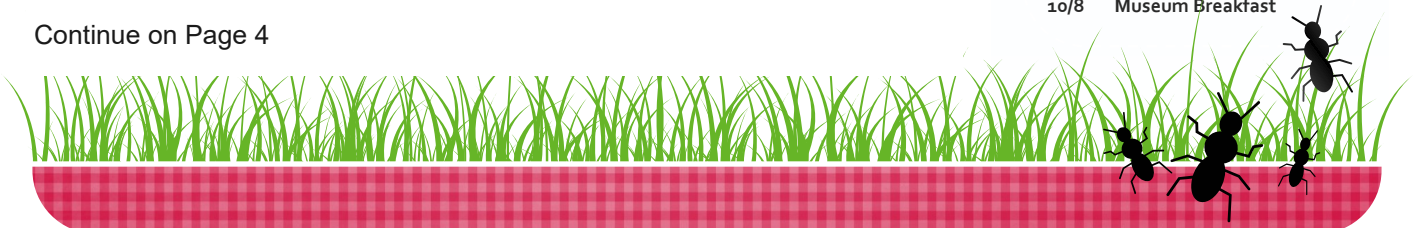
[www.maytownhistory.com](http://www.maytownhistory.com)

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### Important Dates

09/08	Sub Delivery
09/10	Museum Open 1:00-4:00
09/11	Museum Open 1:00-4:00
09/13	MHS Meeting at 6:00 EDT
10/8	Museum Breakfast





1930 Ford

The Nell family purchased the 1930 Ford from Jack Frank and is traditionally entered in the Maytown Memorial Day Parade.

Riding in the car is Gordy Nell and grandson Ryan Nell driving..



### DUES ARE DUE

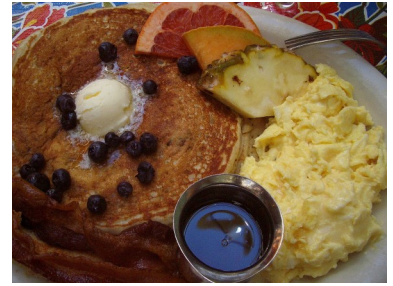
If you are a yearly paying member of the Maytown Historical Society, your dues are due.

You can mail your \$10 to MHS at PO Box 293, Maytown, PA 17550. OR consider becoming a Life member for just \$50.



## Breakfast at the Museum

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8, 2022 for a breakfast in the back yard of the Museum. Serving will begin at **7:30 to 10:00 a.m.** The menu is scrambled eggs, sausage, pancake, fruit cup, coffee and orange juice just for \$8.00. Baked goods will also be for sale. Tickets can be purchased from MHS board members or on the day of the event.



## Mayfest 2022

Rain, rain, go away! Well it didn't...so a very rainy cold day was May 7th! By 6:30 a.m. the first canopy for a craft vendor was put up on the street and within 15 minutes had blown down. The committee started to rethink on how the day could safely happen. As the phones were burning up with cancellations, less than 20 craft vendors were placed inside at Shenk Store and the Distillery at the Thomas'.

Siegrist Automotive opened up their garage and preparations were made to move the students' singing and dancing and the wedding inside the garage. The food trucks arrived and people with umbrellas waited in lines. The children's games and quilt and yearbook displays were in the Maytown Church of God. Several families wearing rain gear even tried the scavenger hunt walking around town. Everyone that came said they had a great time despite the weather (which didn't let up all day!)

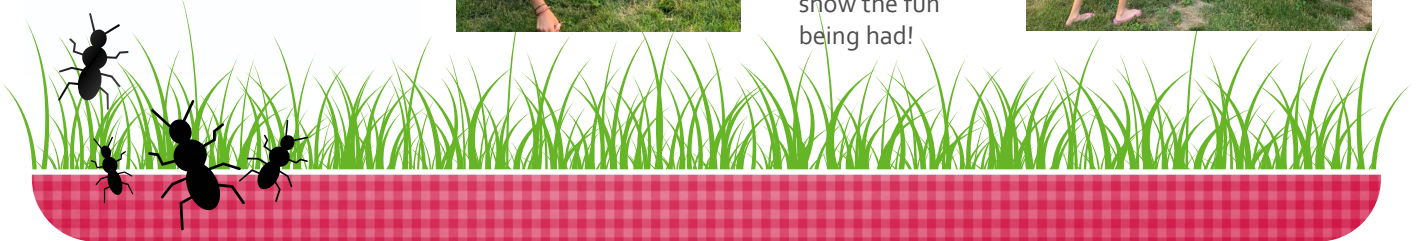
**The Maytown Spirit could not be squelched! Everyone is looking forward to Mayfest 2023!**

## Museum Picnic

On June 14, MHS held a picnic in the museum yard. About 25 people in attendance enjoyed good food dishes and hot dogs on the grill. Pastor Bob gave a brief account on the history of the museum building. There was a tour of the museum with the new coverlets display.



Linda Good had games for the children. Larry Garber entertained us with some accordion music. The pictures show the fun being had!



## Archive Committee

Do you wonder what is going on at the Museum on Wednesday mornings? It's just the Archivists, Pat Vogel, Gerald Lindemuth, Deb Gepfer, and Linda Good, doing their work. That work consists of recording EVERYTHING that is given to the Historical Society. They receive artifacts of many sizes and shapes, documents of all types – certificates, newspaper articles, obituaries, maps, school records, yearbooks, digital media, books, and anything else related to Maytown. Everything is described, sometimes even researched,

given a number, recorded in a book, and also on the computer, and then filed. It is a long, but very rewarding process!

### Will be missed....

MHS lost a great "Grill Meister" and friend. Our sympathies go out to Dave Barclay's family. We will miss his great sense of humor.



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*We are moving the MHS meeting day to the third Thursday of the month starting in October.*

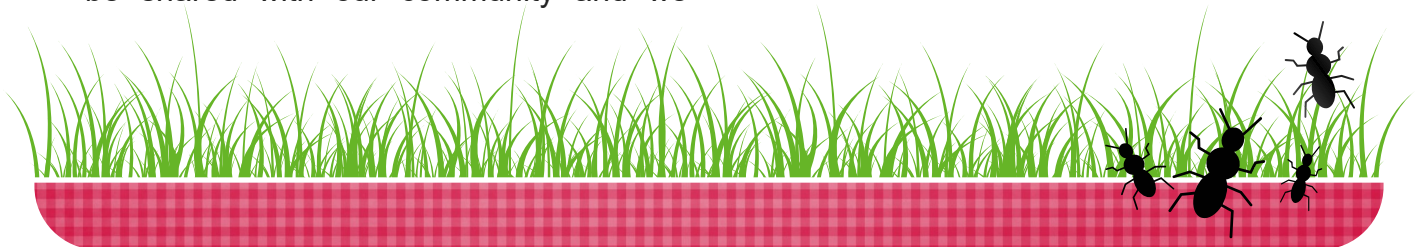
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We are opening our Museum to the public for one weekend each month starting in September and we need **YOUR** help! The new quilt/coverlet/textile exhibit is ready to be shared with our community and we

need people to be in the Museum during the opening times. Best of all - the Archive Committee has provided you with a laminated "cheat sheet" giving all the details about the Museum and the exhibits, so you will have the answers to all the questions! (almost)! As a Museum docent, your responsibilities would be: to hang out the OPEN sign, to be there from 1:00 – 4:00, to greet the people, and to keep an eye on our exhibit artifacts.

Dates are: September 10,11; October 1,2; November 5,6; and December 3,4. If you can volunteer for one of these dates, **PLEASE** contact Linda Good @ 717-725-2437 or [goodfarm1950@gmail.com](mailto:goodfarm1950@gmail.com). Do you have 3 hours to help out MHS?



## WHAT IS THIS?



This dish is part of a collection from the Jack H. Frank family. It is in the Shireman made cupboard in the Museum.

During the Civil War, Kate Peck (Jack H. Frank's Great Grandfather's sister) fell in love with a union soldier from the area, whose

name we do not know. Kate eagerly prepared a hope chest, as was the custom of period brides, and in the chest she placed the white, ironstone china in the Elsmore and Forster "Morning Glory" pattern.

Unfortunately, Kate's soldier boy was captured by the Rebs, and he died at Richmond's notorious "Libby Prison." Kate never married, dying in 1910 at the age of 75.

This piece of china in the picture (on the left) stands about 6 1/2 inches tall.

Can you guess what it was used for in the 1800's?



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*SAVE THE DATE... Christmas Gala will be held on Thursday, December 15th. More details to follow!*

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## From the President (cont.)

We are having another sub/sandwich sale this week, a sausage, pancake and egg breakfast with a fall theme baked goods sale in the back yard of the museum on October 8th and our Maytown Hauntings tour planned around Halloween, end of October,

We had an excellent turnout for our society picnic on June 14th with plenty of delicious food and desserts and are planning a society Christmas party, December 15th TBC.

We are saddened with the lose of 2 long term society members, Ruth Sweitzer and Davey Barclay. Our condolences to both the Sweitzer and Barclay families.

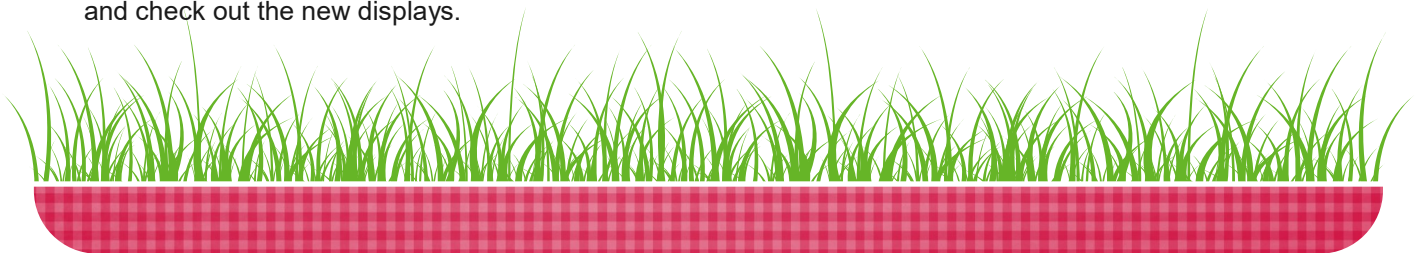
Our archives committee continues to meet Wednesday's. The committee has recently changed both displays in the museum and township building. Don't forget to stop by both locations and check out the new displays.

Our MHS membership continues to be a solid 174+. We encourage those reading this newsletter to consider joining if you are not a member and for those who are members, share with friends etc. to consider joining.

We continue to maintain our museum building and yard. Painting of the exterior siding, doors, windows and fence was completed in the spring. Our lawn mowing continues as needed with the dry weather. Our flower beds are in need of weeding and are overrun with poison. This is something being/needs to be discussed, how do we control and reduce the weeds, etc. in all the flower beds?

In conclusion, I want to thank you all for your continued support and in advance that you will do to help in the remainder of this year.

Skip Nell





### *Dr. George Harter*

George Alvin Harter was born in 1863, to descendants of colonial era German immigrants. He grew up in Coburn, Centre County, PA. He married Lydia Gaugler and in 1892 his dream came true as he answered a call of Maytown needing a doctor. The former doctor Dr. Withers had died, and Mrs. Withers had addressed an invitational letter to Dr. Harter, a recent graduate of Jefferson Medical College. Mrs. Withers would offer an office and clean it for \$4 a month and to rent him a sleeping room for \$12 per month. Dr Harter agreed to the terms.

The Harters purchased a house on the northwest corner of South River and Elizabeth Streets in which they would live and have his office. The house was the first house in town to acquire central heat and indoor plumbing. With two large porches and Horse Chestnut trees lining the street, the property consisted of a barn, stable “croquet field” and garden with an orchard. He was a father of three children, Charles, Helen, and Marie.

Doc Harter delivered more than 2,000 babies and treated many ailments. He was a servant of the community. Some of his noted efforts were a council member of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Road Master for the township, Maytown Fire Company president, board of directors of Maytown National Bank, president of Farmers’ Institute and member of the Lancaster County and Pennsylvania Medical Association.

A lover of music, the good doctor played trombone in the Maytown Citizens’ Band and cello in the town orchestra. He was a frequent visitor to the band hall in Arnold’s Garage. He was never happier than leading the choir at St. John’s Lutheran Church particularly in the “Hallelujah Chorus.”

One evening in March 1946, he was in his office as he had been in the past 55 years, and this would be his last day, for during the night he suffered a heart attack. His friend, Mervin Arnold was laying out the streets in a developing Maytown, he honored his good friend, neighbor, and doctor by calling one of the streets “Harter Avenue.” Harter is buried in the Lutheran Church Cemetery. Ref: Biography written by Hazel Crankshaw and Round the Square .book.

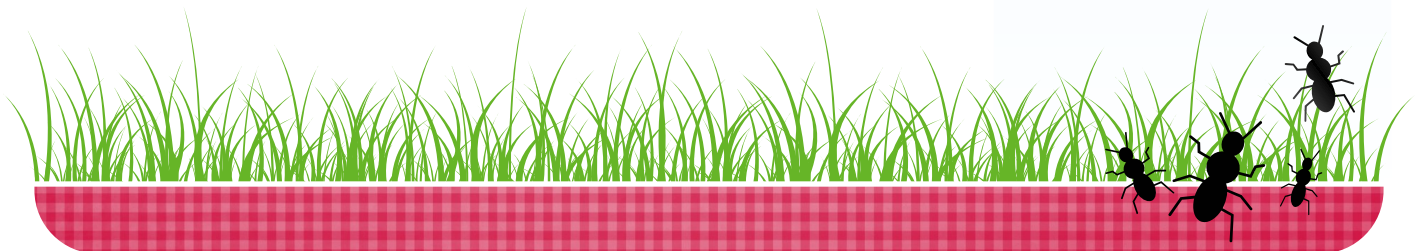


### *Harter’s House*

## COFFEE GOSS ROAD

Stretching from East Elizabeth Street into the countryside to the Southeast of Maytown, is a narrow lane which locals call “Coffee Goss Road” –or simply “The Goss”–but do you know why we call it that? If you spoke German, as the first inhabitants of the Goss did, you might guess. “Goss” is a Low-German variant of “Gasse” which means “alley”—and it is also a High German verb form for the verb “Giessen” which means “to pour.” Hence, Coffee Goss Road got its name from the German housewives’ practice of pouring out used coffee grounds into the unpaved dirt alley that bordered their dwellings! Aren’t you glad you now know!

Ref. Round the Square book.



## FRUIT CAKE RECIPE

1 lb. brown sugar  
1 lb. currants  
1/2 lb. pitted dates  
1 small bottle cherries  
1 cup buttermilk  
1 tsp nutmeg  
2 tsp cinnamon  
2 tsp vanilla

1/2 lb. butter (only)  
1/4 lb. citron  
1/4 lb. orange peel  
6 eggs separated  
1 cup crushed pineapple  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp ginger  
Whiskey

from Ruth Moreland Sweitzer

1 lb. raisins—dark  
1/2 lb. figs  
1/4 lb. lemon peel  
4 cup flour  
1 tsp cloves  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 cup nuts—chopped

Mix together. Add wine glass or a little more of whiskey. Beat whites separately and fold in last. Line 2 tube pans with aluminum foil or brown paper. Bake for 2 hours at 300 degrees.

**NOTE:** I sliver ingredients on previous day. I use less currants (about 1/4 lb. and add white raisins 3/4 lb. )

Let cool and then remove from wrappings. Next day I surround each cake with a piece of sheet saturated with whiskey. Every few days check it and remoisten cloth. After about 1 month the cloth no longer dries out and cake is ready to be sliced.

Don't forget to pick up your sub orders on Thursday, September 8th after 3:30 p.m. at the Museum.

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In order to keep up with all communications from MHS, please give us your email address if not already on file. It saves postage.



## MHS HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

What: Historical Haunted Tour"

Tour Guide: Robert Lescalette

When: October 21<sup>ST</sup> and 22<sup>ND</sup>

What time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where to meet: MHS  
Museum – 4 W.High St

Cost: By donation

**Reservations Needed :**  
Call 717-725-2437

