



Maytown Historical Society

Rock Point School



Where was the Rock Point School? Is the building still standing? What common childhood disease caused the school to be temporarily closed in 1923? Why was there a rule that a school should be situated on a hill?



These questions and many more can be answered by attending the Maytown Historical Society's program on Thursday, October 16, at 6:30pm, at the East Donegal Township Building on Rock Point Road. Mary Nolt, a Manheim Central social stud-

ies teacher, will be answering your questions and sharing her journey in researching the history of this school in East Donegal Township.

This school was located just down the road from the Township Building! Following her research presentation, Jacob Ziegler, the current owner,

will share his journey in the restoration process. A question-and-answer session with refreshments will follow the program.

A short business meeting listing upcoming events will end the evening. Plan to come and hear this historical restoration journey beginning at 6:30pm on Thursday, October 16. You'll be glad you did!

Meet Sara Hinkel!

During the months of August and September, our archives group was happy to have Sara Hinkel as an additional member of our group. Sara, who is a 2021 graduate of Donegal, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with majors in Ancient History and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, with a minor in Archaeological Science.

She is currently pursuing a Master of Philosophy in Archaeological Science at Cambridge University in England and is planning to pursue a PhD there to eventually work as a curator or professor.

Being a member of the Ararat Plain Southeast Archaeological Project, she participated in various digs in Armenia and other



countries. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, kayaking, hammocking, and crocheting.

We gained valuable insights from our young archaeologist, and she promised to keep in touch and to visit us any time she is back in Maytown!

Upcoming Events

Community Days	Oct. 5
Society Meeting	Oct. 16
Christmas Party	Dec. 11
Soup/Sub Sale	January
Society Meeting	Feb. 19
Society Meeting	April 16
Mayfest	May 2

Special points of interest:

- Next Society Meeting Program
- Meet Sara Hinkel
- Update on Renovations
- News from Archive Committee
- Colonel Alexander Lowrey

Update on the Garage Project....

Since April, two trees have been removed, new concrete floor and walk were poured, the main structure has been reinforced, all new electric wiring, a new roof, siding, doors and windows. The interior has been insulated and drywalled. We are waiting for the drywall finisher to complete and electrician to finish up.

A second floor was added for more storage with a pull-down stairs. By the end of the month an air condition/heat split will be installed.

The next steps will be painting the walls, installing the flooring and



adding the trim work. We are looking for qualified helpers to finish the project. If you can help, contact Skip Nell. We have been researching cabinets and display/storage furnishings to aid in organizing the archives.

We have cashed in two of our CD's to complete the work so far and have used all the funds received from members, businesses, and community individuals. We are hoping to be able to move forward and that funds will become available to reach completion soon.

We are thankful for all the contributions that have been received. Many of the contractors have very generously given us good deals.

We are so near done! See page 4 on how to contribute to help us finish before winter.



News & Updates From the Archives Corner....

Our latest acquisition is an amazing original document from 1841! This "equal share half-right title" concerns the lot #24 at High and Queen Streets in Maytown.

It appears that Owen & Mary Barr are selling an equal share to Owen's brother Jacob, for \$450. All necessary signatures of the day are present with important historic details concerning the layout of the

town and makes note of the "Jacob Shireman" estate on a previous document of 1801. The deed opens to 22 x 18. It will need to be framed and hopefully displayed.



"A picture is worth a thousand words."

Maytown Community Days



Old Fashion Christmas Dinner



On Sunday, October 5th will be the first Maytown Community Days from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Fuhrman Park. Stop by and said "hi" to our society members at the MHS table. You may just receive a small gift!

Mark your calendars and join us for an "Old Fashion" Christmas potluck dinner. MHS will be hosting the event at the St. John Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share, pulled pork, turkey, place setting and drink will be provided. No cost for the dinner but we will have a "donation" jar to help with museum monthly expenses.

Plus there may be a "special" visitor!

Colonel Alexander Lowrey

By Noel Wingard

Many have heard the tale of the legendary Witness Tree, courtyard of the Donegal Presbyterian Church near Mount Joy in Lancaster County, PA. During worship services in on a Sunday in 1777, a communication was sent to Alexander Lowrey that General Washington's troops were forced to retreat to Chadds Ford, and that British General George Howe would soon invade Pennsylvania. In response, Lowrey gathered the congregation around a large oak tree, joined hands, and pledged their allegiance to American independence.

Alexander was born in 1726 in Londonderry (Derry), Ireland to Lazarus and Etta Lowrey. When he was six years of age, his family emigrated to America, and he was raised in Donegal, PA. His father Lazarus purchased land which eventually became Elizabethtown, where he bought The Sign of the Bear Tavern, in 1751.

Lazarus was an Indian trader, along with his sons, and traveled frequently between what is now Pennsylvania and Ohio, and as far south as Missouri. His health soon began to decline and in 1755, Lazarus passed away in Philadelphia, PA. His significance to Elizabethtown is noted on a brass plaque in the Elizabethtown Square.

Trading with Indians, Alexander worked with fur trader Joseph Simon of Lancaster, who sold furs for overseas through Barnard Gratz in Philadelphia. Alexander added to 333 acres of his father's in nearby Marietta, Bainbridge, and Maytown. He built three properties: a stone house near Bainbridge, a small home for his third wife, which is now Marietta Tavern, and a large home on Old Colebrook Rd.

Alexander served as one of General John Forbes' guides on the 1759 march to Fort Duquesne, and

allegedly escaped the massacre at Bushy Run by swimming across the Susquehanna. He also served as a guide during Colonel Henry Bouquet's Expedition in 1764.

Alexander had great character. He once returned home after dealing with business affairs to discover his second wife had emblazoned the carriage with his family's crest. Alexander tore it off, avoiding the appearance of aristocracy. Alexander was deeply attached to the natives of the land, and learned many native tongues. While advocating for independence, he was eager to break with the colonial aristocratic past.

An early working draft of the Declaration of Independence was found in belongings of Alexander's great nephew, Brigadier General Hugh Lowrey. This copy was validated by the Thomas Paine National Historical Association, and numerous Declaration scholars.

Colonel Lowrey served as a delegate and signed the PA Constitution in 1776. Alexander was a fierce advocate for independence. He was a member of the Committee of correspondence for Lancaster County, and directed the PA General Assembly to take action towards independence. He served with George Ross and Benjamin Franklin at the PA Constitution Convention.

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Colonel Lowrey commanded a battalion of PA militia in 1777, and again in 1780. He fought in the battles of Germantown and Brandywine, the New Jersey campaigns, and commanded the battle of Brandywine in September 1777.

He was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly for Lancaster County from 1776-1781, was appointed commissioner to the United

States Army for procuring blankets in 1777, and commissioned by Governor Thomas Mifflin as Justice of the Peace from 1789-1805, and elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate as a Federalist in 1791, where upon he resigned from public life.

Colonel Lowrey was married three times: in 1752 to Mary "Polly" Waters (Alexander Jr., Elizabeth, Mary, Lazarus, and Margaret), Ann West Alricks in 1774 (Fannie Lowrey, daughter), and Sarah Cochran (no children) in 1793. Alexander died in 1805, at age 79 and is buried in Donegal Presbyterian's now historic cemetery in Mount Joy, PA.

One prominent descendant, Lillian Slaymaker Evans, from nearby Columbia, PA was the first woman in the commonwealth to join the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1890 and organized the Witness Tree chapter of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution).

About the Author: *Noel Wingard, PhD, MS. 6th great-granddaughter of Colonel Alexander Lowrey. Noel is a retired scientist, poet, and artist. She now owns and operates a natural perfumery and boutique in Elizabethtown, PA on the land once owned by Lazarus Lowrey. She has been engaged in genealogy since 2000, supports her local libraries, is a member of the Winters Heritage House and member of the Donegal Society.*



Treasurer's Report

August 1, 2025

Checking Acct. Beginning Bal. \$ 3,043.07

Income:

Transfer from savings \$ 11,700.00
 Campaign funds/Gift shop 354.00
 Total Income \$ 12,054.00

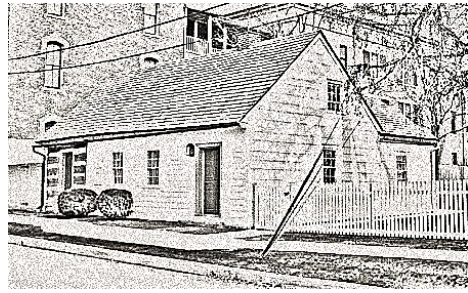
Expenses:

Museum Expenses \$ 946.40
 Garage Renovations \$11,720.59
 Total Expenses: \$12,386.99

Balance in checking acct. \$2,710.08
 As of August 31, 2025

Money Market Savings balance \$ 3,137.56

A Certificate of Deposit will be coming available in the beginning of October and the funds will be used to pay for renovations on the archive storage garage now being completed.

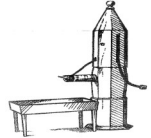


MHS MUSEUM

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A SPECIAL THANKS to MHS Events Committee for a successful House and Garden Tour fundraiser. Many thanks to the home owners who shared their homes and gardens.

The Events Committee was co-chaired by Monica Cressman and Heidi Hinkel. Also on the committee were Linda Good, Deb Gepfer, Janie Garber and Skip Nell.

Thank you all that supported the event!

Crocks, to commemorate Maytown's 265th birthday, and a pattern for Ann Francis Breneman 1855 sampler are still for sale. Contact the museum to purchase.

Support the Maytown-East Donegal Township Museum Archive Building Campaign to help preserve and display area artifacts and to educate the public on our community's history. Please consider a gift for generations to come.

I/We pledge to the campaign a total gift of \$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks **payable to: Maytown Historical Society**. Note on the check "Capital Campaign." Contributions are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes. Mail to: Maytown Historical Society, PO Box 293, Maytown, PA 17550.