



# The Manor

*A Newsletter of The  
Equinunk Historical Society  
Calder House Museum  
Calder Gift Shop  
Joel Hill Sawmill*



Volume 33, Issue 1  
Telephone: 570-224-6722

P.O. Box 41, 1972 Pine Mill Rd., Equinunk, PA 18417-0041

E-Mail: EHS22@verizon.net

Website: [www.equinunkhistory.org](http://www.equinunkhistory.org)

May 2016



Two views of a dear friend of the Equinunk Historical Society, Tony Seccia of Pine Mill, who died on January 27<sup>th</sup> of this year at the age of 101. Admittedly, we shaved a couple of years with these portraits of Tony – he was only 97 in the first, and the second was taken during his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, arguably on of the happiest events in his long life. I wish we could credit the photographers, but many pictures were taken over his long tenure, and more than a few have found a way into our archives without attribution. The picture with the Boy Scouts was very dear to him. The caption calls him the oldest Boy Scout in the world. Unfortunately, we lack a fact checker, but we can certainly vouch for him as the most fervent and enthusiastic Boy Scout any of us will ever meet. And the Scouts are equally proud of their association with this kind and gentle man who could and did recite the Scout oath with the least encouragement. That affection was very evident at his giant birthday party at Bethany Village a year ago last November.

An arborist in his earlier days, Tony could grow anything. He was also an enthusiastic cook who taught this writer how to stuff and eat an artichoke. Brother Tom was the major donor who helped to fund the beautiful addition to the Calder Museum that we enjoy with such pride. We will honor Tony and his four brothers who fought for our country in WW II at our annual Memorial Weekend Program on **Saturday**, May 29<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon. The Pine Mill Community Hall claimed Tony as a member for decades. A memorial Pot Luck Luncheon will be held at the Hall at 919 Pine Mill Rd. on **Sunday** the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please put both of these events on your calendar and plan to help honor this beautiful person who contributed greatly to making Equinunk and the surrounding area the best place on earth to live.

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

I can't believe the difference, comparing last year's winter weather to this year's. It seems so long ago that we were removing snow and hearing about Boston and other large cities being buried in snow.

At this writing, the Calder Cafe only has one more First Friday night to go and the ones we have already had have been *wonderful*. The talent we have and variety of music is so incredibly entertaining for everyone. I hate to see it coming to a seasonal end. I want to thank everyone for participating and a big thank you to all of the help in the kitchen and especially to Pat Wilson for organizing a wonderful event.

Sandy and I attended the Historical Society's play on February 21st, "**Shakespeare's Will**" by Vern Thiessen. Tannis Kowalchuk performed the role of Anne Hathaway in the lively, song-filled, solo performance about Anne Hathaway, the wife of William Shakespeare. The performance was very well attended with about 50 people there. (We had room for only a handful more.) Everyone said they enjoyed the play and many were asking if we would be hosting another one in the near future. Again, thank you to Pat Wilson for all she did to make this happen.

Sandy and I did some sightseeing in Philadelphia in early February.

## EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers 2015 - 2016

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*The Equinunk Historical Society newsletter is published seasonally, three times a year, and sent to all members. Additional copies are available through the office at the Museum. Material for publication is always welcome and sought after. Please e-mail (c/oEHS) or mail submissions to Linda Wescott, c/o EHS, P.O. Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417.*

We visited the Eastern State Penitentiary and had a interesting self-guided tour using a personal audio player. It was a very cold and windy day, but we enjoyed the tour and seeing the way prisoners were housed and treated from 1829 to 1971. We purchased a book that contains many pictures to show what it looked like when in use. It was vacant for a couple of decades and suffered a lot of decay, but they are working to "clean-up" certain sections for tourists.

Hope we have a nice spring and summer so that the sawmill and museum have another successful season.

*Can we talk? Both the Sawmill and the Calder Museum are in need of more volunteers. Call Carol Ann at 570-224-6722 - Your help is needed in the Gift Shop too!*

## *Farewell to Friends*

Each year at this time we remember neighbors and friends who have left us over the winter months. It's always a sad time because the list seems so very long, but we must keep in mind that several months have elapsed between our last issue in November and this spring issue. We remember them here and recall what they have contributed to our lives. If you know of someone who has passed and see that their name has not been listed, please call the us. This list is continued on page 4.

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**Barbara J. Brown**, (61), of Damascus, PA, a retired Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Wayne Highlands Middle School, died peacefully on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. The wife of Richard Brown, she was sister-in-law to Gerald (Jerry) Brown and his wife Margy. Jerry is the esteemed Webmaster for the Equinunk Historical Society. Barbara and Richard were married for 40 years. She was a graduate of Damascus High School. She was an avid member of the Abrahamsville United Methodist Church, a Club Leader and member of the Advisory Committee for Tri-Gal 4-H Club for 24 years; and was a member of the Equinunk Volunteer Fire Company and a Cooperative Extension Board Member. Excerpted from The Wayne Independent, Nov. 13, 2015

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**William "Bill" Douglass** of Honesdale passed away on Feb. 13. A geologist by training, he graduated from Vestal High School, and the University of Pennsylvania. He leaves his wife of 33 years, Mary Ann Kelly, RN, and a large family. Bill was very active in the life of Wayne County, serving as a Wayne County Planning Com., the Oregon Township Planning Com., and was a board member for Wayne Memorial Hospital. He was Executive Dir. of the Upper Delaware River Council, and served many local organizations in different capacities, more than we can include here. He was a good friend to EHS's Carol Ann MacMaster. Carol says, "Obituaries relate the general facts about the deceased, but not the facts about the man I knew. Bill's dedication to his work was legendary. He was honest, hard-working, calm and level-headed in the face of adversity, and still was always there for his wonderful family. I highly valued his opinion on any subject and learned much from him. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by many, but will leave a lasting legacy to any endeavor he was part of. I feel honored to have known him."

**Michael Pedone**, husband of our former curator, Rev. Alice Pedone, passed away on March 13, 2016. Michael was a good friend to EHS, helping out whenever asked. We fondly remember his vegetarian chili which he made in large batches when we had a February chili sale a few years ago. This writer couldn't imagine that a good chili could be concocted without some sort of ground meat, but Michael's was outstanding. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was retired from the publishing industry. He volunteered with many organizations; Meals on Wheels, Wayne County Emergency Food Pantry, Dessin Animal Shelter, and the Soc. of Saint Andrews. Rev. Alice Pedone served as Pastor of the Equinunk United Methodist Church and was deeply connected with this community.

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**Raymond (Ray) Pulis** - We fondly remember one of our favorite historians who died on Dec. 20, 2015. A dairy farmer and lifelong resident of Wayne County, Ray served in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict, and for 40 years, was a supervisor in Oregon Township. He was a member of the American Legion in Lookout, the Hickory Grange in Rileyville, and the PA Farm Bureau. Ray actively supported many area organizations and was especially fond of the Old Time Fiddlers and square dancing. He kept a large scrapbook filled with photographs and articles which he happily shared if you had some interest and a little time. He provided an interesting story to The Manor several issues back about his father, Calvin Pulis, who had an encounter with the then First Lady of Pennsylvania, the wife of Governor Gifford Pinchot. Gov. Pinchot served as governor twice, and was the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

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**Grant Teeple** died on March 13, 2016. He was the husband of the late Barbara Teeple, well-known musician, music teacher, and past board member of EHS. She also served as bookkeeper for the Society for an extended period. Grant and Barbara resided across from Faymont Farm in Equinunk, which Grant farmed with his son Dale and grandsons William and Justin. He attended Calvary Baptist Church in Cadosia, NY where he was a member of the Deacon Board and taught Sunday School for over 60 years. He was President of the Wayne County sub-district of Dairylea Cooperative. As patriarch of a very musical family, Grant supported his family's many musical events. Barbara led the Teeple Family Singers, as they entertained locally. Son Dale, accomplished keyboardist, is an integral part of "Fiddling Around", the group which will conduct a benefit concert for the Joel Hill Sawmill on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Daughter Cindy is a former member of the EHS Board of Directors.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE, 2016 "OUR HERITAGE"

Saturday programs normally begin at 1 p.m. and run to around 3 p.m. Please note some exceptions in the program times. Call 570-224-6722 for more info.

**May 28** - Noon to 4 p.m. -

**Memorial Weekend Program** honors the memory of the **Seccia Brothers**. The program is followed by the **Annual Ice Cream Social**

**June 11** - 1 p.m. **Carol Ann MacMaster "Genealogy 101, Then and Now"**

**June 18** - 10:00 am – 3:00 pm - **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Equinunk Car Show**: Pine Mill Rd., 1 mile south of the Historical Society Museum. No registration fees, no admission fee. Food, entertainment and prizes.

**July 9 & 10** -11:00 am – 3:00 pm **Joel Hill Water-Powered, Civil-War-Era Sawmill** open for tours and demonstrations - Off Creek Rd. in Lookout, PA

**July 31** - Noon to 4:00 pm

**Art Appreciation Day with Hana Marritz**. See her lovely collages and wire sculptures. Also - plan to visit the **Equinunk Fire Company Barbecue**

**Aug. 13 & 14** - 11:00 am – 3:00 pm - **Joel Hill Sawmill** open for tours and sawing demonstrations. (See July 9 & 10 for details.)

**Aug. 14** - 12 - 4 p.m. The **Wooden Canoe Heritage Assoc.** returns. These canoes, displayed on the grounds outside the museum, are truly graceful works of art. proudly displayed by their creators. A popular event for the whole family.

**Aug. 20** - Noon – 4:00 pm - **Equinunk Historical Society Annual Meeting** at the museum. Members are requested to please attend if possible in order to reach a quorum and conduct the business of the Society. Also, please bring a plate to share at lunch.

**Steve Jacobi & "Fiddlin' Around" concert** at 8:00 pm at the Equinunk Fire Hall to benefit the Joel Hill Sawmill.

**Aug. 27** - 1 p.m. - **Alice Scott "Breakthroughs in Genealogy"**

**September 24** - **Ken Parks "Genealogy & DNA"** A noted musicologist, Ken returns to EHS, to express a love of science as it relates to genealogy.

**Oct. 1** - 11:00 am – 3:00 pm - The **Joel Hill Water-Powered Sawmill** opens for the last tours and demonstrations of the season. This is traditionally **Cider and Doughnuts Day**. Join the mill crew in "buttoning" up the old mill for another year.

**Dec. 2, 3, and 4** - Noon - 4:00 pm - Time to think about the holidays. Plan your holiday shopping with a first stop at the **Calder Gift Shop** in the Museum, fully stocked with gift and decorative items and gentle on your pocket-book. **EHS's Annual Holiday Open House** takes place on Sunday at noon. Please bring a plate of goodies to share with friends.

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***As you can see, the Calder Gift Shop will need helpers to cover the holiday season as well as the summer hours. The shop is organized by Deborah Wiwczar who has a background in retail sales. Deb spends long hours in the shop especially around Christmas, decorating and arranging the inventory. If you haven't stopped in lately, please come by. The shop did well during the last holiday, and the aim, of course, is to do even better this year. Can you help it happen?***

### *Farewell to Friends continued -*

**Gladys Collins Stenger** passed away on Jan 9, 2016. She was the wife of the late Jerome (Jerry) Stenger for 56 years. (Jerry was a member of the Equinunk Historical Society Board of Directors.) A graduate of Vassar College, she studied psychology at Catholic University. She was a world traveler. Jerry, as a member of the U.S. Foreign Service, moved his family to Sweden, Finland, France, Japan, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Gladys was a member of St. Joseph Church in Rileyville, and the St. Joseph Altar and Rosary Society.

# Shakespeare's Will



Tannis Kowalchuk as Anne Hathaway

By Vern Thiessen

*Tannis Kowalchuk performs the role of Anne Hathaway in a lively song-filled solo performance about the life of Anne Hathaway, the wife of William Shakespeare. The play begins on the afternoon of Shakespeare's funeral. Anne knows she must read her husband's will, but before she does, the widow relives her life as mother, wife, and woman in 17th century Stratford-Upon-Avon. Basing the narrative upon the little information known about the Bard's wife, playwright Vern Thiessen has written a sensitive and humorous text in verse, taking great delight imagining and inventing the robust, earthy, and intelligent character of Anne Hathaway. (Text excerpted from the NACL Theatre's webpage - with apologies but full attribution.)*

NACL, the (North American Cultural Laboratory) is a professional, non-profit company that has created 18 original ensemble theatre productions and countless public spectacles since 1997. Founded by Canadian-born Tannis Kowalchuk and American Brad Krumholz, NACL operates a theatre space and a retreat center in Highland Lake, NY, located two hours from New York City in the southwestern Catskill region. Tannis and Brad serve as Artistic Directors. (Also adapted from the NACL website.)

The room was full of bemused play-goers. They filled every available chair and a few extras hastily retrieved from the basement. No one knew quite what to expect, as EHS proudly introduced an entirely new way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Equinunk in February. A Play? Really? Historical subject, yes, but quite different from any previous program. The "set" consisted of a chair, a rug, a lamp, a sheaf of papers – not much else. And then Tannis entered the room, and it became her parlor, her stage, and an afternoon out of her life – only it wasn't her life. Before our eyes, she became Anne Hathaway, the wife of William Shakespeare. It was a powerful moment.

Most of us already knew that Shakespeare willed his wife his "second best bed," but not *why* he did so. There has been much conjecture around that subject, and in Tannis's adroit hands, the drama unfolded and built to an extraordinary conclusion. We won't talk any more about the play's action, but we urge you to see it if you have an opportunity. It is spell-binding. Tannis has taken the play on the road, performing in New York City, and as far away as South Carolina – and many venues in between. Already known to EHS members as a participant in the recent "History in Bloom" program, she brought gorgeous flowers, skillfully arranged to depict a vignette from the Calder Museum. Tannis chose to interpret the Native American canoe and did so very successfully. She is the proprietor of Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus.

Editor's note: Congratulations to Pat Wilson who had the foresight to schedule this engaging program, and thanks to Carol Ann MacMaster and her staff who labored beforehand to product period-appropriate refreshments. Several play-goers commented, "Let's have more plays. We should do this again." We agree.

PS: Play-goers were very taken with the afternoon's performance. We are not just crowing; I attended a luncheon nearly a week later; the principal topic of conversation was – you guessed it – "Shakespeare's Will"!



## Another Opening, Another Show...

Oops – That’s the line from last November’s First Friday – and next November 4th’s as well. The curtain came down April 1<sup>st</sup> as First Fridays ended for this season. A balmy 70 degree evening brought out another full house. Some of us just don’t want to see these events end, but it’s time to make way for the regular informational historical programs that are part of the mission of the Equinunk Historical Society.

Several dear friends were missing that evening – Sandy Weaver was away and could not be with us. Barbara Gogan had to rehearse for a performance in Narrowsburg the following evening, and John Joyce could not come. So the rest of us had to let our hair down and sing and play as loud as we could. Here’s Pat’s report:

Carol, Linda and I led a sing-along on the old Monkees hit, “*Daydream Believer*.” It set the mood for a lot of sing-alongs that evening. (For those of you who don’t know, our little group started out with a foursome which included Sandy Weaver. We called ourselves “The One Time and One Time Only” girl group.) Back again by popular demand – snarky laugh – we retitled it the “So We Lied” quartet, although we had to soldier on without Sandy’s lovely soprano.

Art was up next. Because it was 4/1, he did “*Winter Wonderland*.” April Fool’s Day, get it? But - there really was snow in the forecast for Sunday evening! He led a few other sing-alongs including the popular, “*Country Roads*”. Katt & Larry finished the first half. They were in top-form with a more spring-time tune, “*Home-grown Tomatoes*”, and other favorites.

After intermission, the Silver Belles did some spring tunes and the more serious “*If I Had a Hammer*”. Mary DeDuke brought her lap dulcimer and did a couple short tunes including “*Little Liza Jane*”. John Snyder’s set included “*Almost Gone*”.

Danny tossed out some tunes I didn’t recognize and, of course, a rousing rendition of “*Grandma’s Feather Bed*”. Many of us have almost all the words down pat. To close the evening, Carol led the audience in singing

“*Thank You for the Music*” and Art did the traditional “*This Land is Your Land*” sing-along. Special thanks to all who make it possible: musicians, audience, food providers and folks who serve the refreshments. Already looking forward to November. *Pat Wilson*

## 17th Annual Car Show in June

After 17 years, you’d think the event would almost run itself, but not so. There is always lots to do in the months preceding the third Saturday in June. The work starts in March, checking with the sponsors from last year. In or out? In, of course! And as always, looking for new sponsors to spread the financial commitment around. This year we welcome Buddenhagen Ford in Callicoon. The sponsors’ early checks ensure that there is enough money to cover printing costs, deposits that may be needed to secure tent rentals, port-o-potties, etc. This year we are hugely privileged to have been given an assist with printing costs by *The Wayne Independent*. They have offered to print and distribute our usual flyer in the newspapers of several towns in early June. Over 20,000 copies! This is a huge assist, and we thank the staff of the *Independent* for their help. They have also printed placemats with a Car Show ad that we can use for this year and next at the Pine Mill Community Hall Breakfasts.

Now we must ask you, our Readers and Friends, as well as YOUR friends, to help with the next phase. There is a coupon on Page 8 that you can mail to EHS with your contribution to the cause. Every person who sends a donation will be mentioned in the day’s program. If necessary, we’ll add another page! Please make copies as needed and pass them out to your contacts. Please help. The Car Show is the Society’s biggest fund-raiser of the year. We can’t keep EHS going without it. THANK YOU!



## *According to Wellington Lester*

From time to time as space allows, we like to feature stories from Wellington Lester, consummate historian and teacher. He has amassed a large collection of details about life in the Upper Delaware Valley, from north of Hancock, NY to south of Equinunk and environs, and east and west of everywhere in between. It's hard to pin Wellington down as his knowledge and recollection is boundless. As the annual Ice Cream Social is but a few days hence, it seems appropriate to feature some delicious tidbits about the creamy stuff here. This reverie is dated 1993, but reaches back to considerably earlier dates.

"References to summer life in Equinunk, found in the back issues of The Hancock Herald and in my files, indicate the same pleasures 70 years ago that we enjoy today. Starting in 1922, when the Equinunk United Methodist Church staged the play, OLD FASHIONED MOTHER, directed by Mrs. C.E. Woodmansee, the production was presented complete with handbills which included the following advertisements: Mrs. George Van Staden listed an Ice Cream Parlor and Soft Drinks. From John Harford, whose business was located in what is now the Equinunk Inn, a 'Meat Market and Ice Cream Parlor'.

The next year, Grace Bullock opened an ice cream parlor in her store on Grocery Hill, and Mrs. Fred Rivenburg sold Purity Ice Cream just three doors south in the former Fred Taft House, which at that time belonged to Yury Mirokhanov. (in 1993, the Bullock store building is owned by John Penny.)

Across the river at Lordville, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Zurn made their home facilities available for an ice cream social to benefit the Presbyterian Church. A profit of \$35.00 was added to church funds. In 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Holbert held the ice cream social benefit in their home. At Equinunk, John Harford continued his meat market business, but added a quick lunch stand where his patrons could enjoy Purity Ice Cream and soft drinks. To the west, Mrs. Lafayette W. Denio also served quick lunches and sold ice cream in her home, which was located at the four corners of the state road going to Hancock. (In 1993, this location is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Houghtaling.) In 1926, ice cream was sold by Mrs. Fred Taft at this residence, and Mrs. Lydia Adams sold ice cream at the former Isaac Lord house, (in 1993, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hanley). Bear in mind, these were summer endeavors.

In 1928, it was noted that Equinunk had three ice cream parlors, namely Mrs. Ralph Warfield sold it at a building across from John Fletcher's, now torn down, Mrs. Lydia Adams, (noted previously,) and Mr. Trick, who was now running the Bullock store on Grocery Hill.

The following year, 1929, one ice cream parlor was located in Buckingham Township, operated by Mrs. Clarence Stevenson in the building previously operated by Mrs. Ralph Warfield. On the Manchester side of town, Miss Katherine (Kit) Bullock added Smith's Ice Cream to her store inventory. As mentioned in **ONCE UPON A MEMORY**. Vol. III, Mrs. Mary Palmer also sold ice cream. At the Manor House (Ahem), owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Lord, home-made ice cream was available to the summer boarders, due to the efforts of Earl Lord and his use of the hand-cranked ice cream maker. Stored ice from the winter's ice-harvesting efforts made the making of this delicacy possible." *According to Wellington*, those of you who have not had the opportunity to eat ice cream from the paddles are missing one of life's finer moments.

**Help Wanted:** *The Equinunk Historical Society is in serious need of a **Volunteer Curator**. The duties are light - arranging and identifying displays, updating current materials on display (before they get too stale,) and taking an occasional bow when thanked for services rendered. Choose your own hours and spend as much time inside (and outside) of the museum as you choose. Volunteerism looks great on a resume' and you never know what new skills you may acquire!*

# EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 41  
EQUINUNK, PA 18417

## MEMBERSHIP INFO:

### *Dues - per year:*

Individual	\$15.00
Family	25.00
Junior	2.00
Lifetime	125.00
Corporate	50.00



## EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 17th Annual Car Show

**June 18 , 2016**

**Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**PATRON DONATIONS:** Diamond / Gold - Over \$100.00, Diamond - \$100.00, Platinum - \$50.00,  
Gold - \$25.00, Silver - \$10.00

Please list my name as follows:

*(For Society Use Only)*

Name

Date

Address

City, State, Zip

Tel. No.

Amt. of Donation



**Mail to: CAR SHOW COMMITTEE, EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 41,  
EQUINUNK, PA 18417**