Book Acquisitions:


Manuscript Acquisitions:

Framed and matted Ephrata High School diploma of Eva Gertrude Fisher, daughter of Richard B. and Amanda E. (Smith) Fisher, 1894. Eva, born in Womelsdorf, was one of the eight members of the first graduating class of Ephrata High School; the high school initially offered a three-year course of study. The diploma is in a simple wooden frame, painted black. (Donation—Peg Myers)

Diary kept by Emanuel K. Duck (1852-1926) of Brownstown, and, after his death, by his daughter Mary; entries date from April 24, 1882 through December 8, 1959. The diary occupies a ruled book in marbled boards; there are approximately 149 filled pages. (Donation—Fern Martzall)

Release, Eliza (Becker) Nissley to her brother, Ezra Becker, for money due her according to the terms of their late father Samuel Becker's will, 1870, year of the release not provided. This is an unsigned copy. (Donation—Bob Dickersheid)

Bill of sale, Ezra Becker of Schoeneck to Sarah Becker, itemized goods including livestock, farm machinery, a saw mill and circular saw, lots of timber, etc., February 25, 1874. (Donation—Bob Dickersheid)


Small ruled record book, in marbled boards, kept by Frank M. Edwards of Hopeland. Entries begin in 1898 and deal initially with charges for butchering and later with assorted accounts. (Donation—Bob Dickersheid)
The following manuscripts were donated by Mike Sharp:

Manuscript "Conditions for Raffling . . . a large Hog by Chs [Charles] Ream," Ephrata, January 4, 1844: "Each subscriber to have three throws with seven coppers commonly called 'cents,' out of a cap or hat . . . Each subscriber to pay fifty cents to entitle him to three throws . . ."

Document signed by a representative of the Ohio Adjutant General's Office, September 27, 1886: " . . . the records of this office show that Milton H. Bowman was enrolled as a Private in Company A 19 [th] Regiment Ohio Vol Inf, on the 10 [th] day of September 1861 at Canton, Ohio . . . and was mustered in . . . for a period of 3 years, on the 26 [th] day of Sept 1861 at Alliance O . . . he was Corporal Apl 14 1863 Died Nov 30 [th] 1863 at Chattanooga Tenn." Bowman was a native of Ephrata, a son of David and Margaret Bowman.

Civil War discharge certificate issued to Thomas Moore of Ephrata: "Know ye, that Thomas M. Moore a Sergt . . . of Company K, 27th Regiment of Penna Vol. Militia who was enrolled on the 16th day of June one thousand eight hundred and sixty three to serve during the existing emergency [Gettysburg] is hereby Discharged . . . this first day of August, 1863, at Harrisburg . . . by reason of Expiration of Enlistment . . . said Thomas Moore was born in Montgomery Co in the State of New York, is 42 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair, and by occupation when enrolled a carpenter."

U.S Department of the Interior Bureau of Pensions application card pertaining to the Mexican War service of Thomas Moore, February 1, 1893; the claim was filed by Moore's widow, Mary J. Moore, following his death in 1892. Bureau of Pensions letter confirming the original granting of Moore's pension, December 13, 1887; printed Bureau of Pensions envelope inscribed with Moore's name and the name of his unit, Company B, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers

Copy of the will of Eliza Ann Bitzer of Lancaster City, written in 1853 and certified as a true copy of the original April 12, 1854. Letters testamentary granted to Jacob S. Sharp of Ephrata in the estate of Eliza Ann Bitzer, April 12, 1854.

Lease between Samuel Heinicke of Ephrata and the president (R.W. Bickley) and secretary (Samuel L. Sharp) of the Ephrata Gun Club, April 19, 1892. The club leased a meadow bordering on the Cocalico Creek and adjoining the Heinicke farm "for the purpose of Shooting Targets thrown from traps erected in said meadow and for general shooting purposes, either with Shot Gun or Rifle and to have the right to erect a club house in the field adjoining the said meadow . . ."

Copy of the charter of the Clay and Hinkletown Turnpike Company, recorded at Lancaster April 30, 1884, Charter Book No. 1, p. 271.

Envelope with an Ephrata ("Ephratah") postmark, mailed to Samuel L. Sharp of Ephrata at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, ca. 1880.

Small memorandum book ("1901 / Compliments of Conestoga Park Management") owned by Samuel L. Sharp, superintendent of Ephrata Borough's light and power plant. Contains Sharp's notes and several drafts for Borough properties, though most pages are filled with printed advertising, information regarding the park, Conestoga Traction Company timetables, etc.
Pocket diary belonging to Samuel L. Sharp, 1917; near-daily entries note tasks completed by Sharp on behalf of the Borough while in the Borough's employ as superintendent of its light and power plant.

Pocket diary belonging to Samuel L. Sharp, 1918; near-daily entries note tasks completed by Sharp on behalf of the Borough while in the Borough's employ as superintendent of its light and power plant.

Book of coal consumption and inventory accounts kept by Samuel L. Sharp while superintendent of Ephrata Borough's light and power plant; entries date from July 6, 1918 through September 1, 1924.

Book of coal consumption and inventory accounts kept by Samuel L. Sharp while superintendent of Ephrata Borough's light and power plant. Entries date from June, 1939 through February 1, 1940; most of the book is blank.


"Bushnell's Perfect Letter Copying Book," mounted on a wooden dowel, filled with onionskin copies of business letters written by Samuel L. Sharp of Ephrata during the period in which he operated a cigar factory. Letters are primarily dated 1889, beginning May 31; towards the back of the book there are letters dated 1890, 1892, 1895, etc. Most of the correspondence pertains to the cigar manufacturing business, but several letters dated 1892 have to do with orders for rifles, shotguns, and accessories. (Sharp was secretary of the Ephrata Gun Club at this time.) There are also occasional letters written on behalf of Civil War veterans (John W. Peiffer, George W. Fahnestock, Martin W. Snyder through his guardian) pursuing pensions, besides scattered unrelated correspondence.

The following receipts were donated by Bob Dickersheid:

Cloister Country Store to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, April 21, 1967; for the hanging Victorian light, with prisms and painted shade, which is still a part of the Historical Society's collection and which hangs in the Connell Mansion kitchen.

George W. Fair General Merchandise (Hinkletown) to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley (2), November 11 and November 27, 1967, for fund-raising candy.

Joseph S. Harris Department Store (Ephrata) to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, May 24, 1966, for oilcloth.

Ray B. Gockley lettering (Ephrata) to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, June 18, 1966, for lettering oilcloth used for Ephrata's Diamond Jubilee.

James and Mary Snyder Antiques to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, April 8, 1966, for picture frame.

S.R. Heller, carpenter (Ephrata) to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley for various repairs (2), September 1966 and June 20, 1967. An invoice for base molding is attached.
Photograph Acquisitions:

Five 4” x 6” color photographs of the house at the southeast corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Rt. 322, east of Ephrata, just prior to and in the process of being demolished, January, 2015. The house was owned, in succession, by Peter Lied, Samuel Stoner, Benjamin and Elizabeth (Stoner) Wenger, and possibly others. Elizabeth was a daughter of Samuel Stoner and his second wife, Elizabeth Nolt. (Donation—Milt Haldeman)

The following photographs were donated by Mike Sharp:

Mounted 8 1/4” x 10” photograph of members of the Ephrata Gun Club (eight of them posing with their rifles and/or shotguns) outside the group's clubhouse in Samuel Heinicke's meadow along the Cocalico Creek at the present location of the Ephrata Park, ca. early 1890's.

Mounted 5 7/8” x 7 1/4” photograph of members of the Ephrata Gun Club posing with their rifles and shotguns in Heinicke's meadow along the Cocalico Creek; inscribed on the reverse of the mount "Ephrata Rifle Club / S.L. Sharp / 1892" and, in another hand, "Site of present swimming pool."

Photograph of Abe Harnish at work at a telephone switchboard, ca. 1940's; Harnish was an employee of the Bell Telephone Company, Lancaster.

The following photographs were donated by Fern Martzall:

Mounted Stoner Studio (Ephrata) photograph of a first-grade class at the Washington Avenue School, Ephrata; individual students are not identified.

Mounted Stoner Studio photograph of a second-grade class at the Washington Avenue School, Ephrata; individual students are not identified.

Mounted Stoner Studio photograph of a third-grade class at the Washington Avenue School, Ephrata; individual students are not identified.

Elongated photograph of the employees of the Husin Shirt Company, Ephrata, grouped outside the factory building on Rose Avenue/Street, Ephrata, May, 1953. Individual employees are not identified.

Elongated photograph of the employees of the Husin Shirt Company, Ephrata, grouped outside the factory building on Rose Avenue/Street, Ephrata, May, 1963. Individual employees are not identified.

Snapshot of Graybill’s Mill and the covered bridge on the Conestoga River between Brownstown and Talmage, 1917

Snapshot of high water at the Sandy Beach Park at the intersection of today's Rt. 272 and the Cocalico Creek, West Earl Township, August 24, 1933.

Snapshot taken at Sandy Beach, n.d.; ca. 1940's.
Snapshot of Myer's Garage and the Cora Myers home, Rt. 272 (then Rt. 222) near Shaum's Corner, ca. 1940's.

Snapshot of the trolley station at Brownstown, February 2, 1947, with a Conestoga Transportation Company car on the tracks; travel on the line ceased a week later.

Trolley bridge over the Conestoga between Brownstown and Talmage, February 2, 1947.

Conestoga Traction Company trolley passing by the Fred Duck home at Brownstown, February 2, 1947.

Snapshot of Mary Duck on the Conestoga Transportation Company tracks at Brownstown; a portion of the Duck residence can be seen to the right.

Snapshot showing the construction of the Reading Railroad one-track branch line between Millway and Brownstown, March 24, 1910. The line was constructed by a firm interested in the manufacturing of cement, but the business venture quickly failed and the rails were removed in the spring of 1911.

Snapshot of the Evangelical Cemetery at Brownstown Evangelical Church, n.d., ca. 1920.

Printed postcard ("Albertype Co.; Published by Aldus E. Sheaffer") showing the Brownstown Hotel, southeast corner of Main and State Streets; the hotel, later the Brownstown Restaurant, has since been demolished.

The following photographs were donated by Bob Dickershied:

Two small copy photos of Bolton's Hatchery, Schoeneck, ca. late1930's or early 1940's; each features a parked delivery vehicle. One photo includes owner Ralph C. Bolton and five identified employees.

Small mounted photograph of members of the Hopeland United Brethren Ladies' Aid quilting in the Hopeland Park, ca. 1911-1913. Subjects include Mary Ann Oberlin, Kathryn Fidler, Sarah Enck, Emma Wertsch, Emma Ruth, Mary Ann Habeker and (as girls) Ella Mae Hensel and Margie Miller.

Mounted 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" photograph of a group of unidentified women and babies in the Hopeland Park for the Hopeland U.B. Sunday school picnic, 1910.

Real-photo postcard portrait of Mark Kline, as a toddler, clutching a stuffed animal, ca. 1907; the subject is thought to have been a son of Harry E. and Alice (Wolf) Kline of Clay Twp.

Small mounted "Ernst" (Lancaster) studio portrait of Harvey and Ida (Hensel) Buffemoyer/Buffenmoyer of Lititz, ca. 1895-1900.

Mounted portrait of Isaac and Cassie Christ of Ephrata with their children Elsie and Lincoln, ca. 1907.

Strunk (Reading) cabinet card portrait of Benjamin G. and Mary Alice Bingeman, ca. 1895. Benjamin was a native of Clay Twp, a son of Jacob and Catharine (Goshert) Bingeman; Mary Alice died in 1896 at age 20.

"Strunk" (Reading) cabinet card portrait of Sarah Elizabeth (Hensel) Noll, daughter of Alexander and Catharine (Ruth) Hensel and wife of Michael H. Noll.

Small matted portrait of Rebecca Noll, daughter of Michael H. and Sarah Elizabeth (Hensel) Noll of Clay Twp., ca. 1930.

P.B. Koser (White Oak) cabinet card portrait of Priscilla (Fasnacht) Enck, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Gockley) Fasnacht and wife of Frank Enck, ca. late 1880's.

Cabinet card portrait of Lillie, Ada, and Minnie Bingeman, daughters of Jacob G. and Salinda (Celinda) Bingeman of Clay Twp., ca. 1898.

Mounted "Titus" (Ephrata) portrait of James and Lillie (Bingeman) Hirneisen, ca. 1910.

5" x 7" copy photo of Dr. James Y. and Catherine E. Kline of Clay Twp., ca. 1930.

Matted "Bucher" photograph of pupils at the Mt. Airy School, Clay Twp., ca. 1940.

Mounted photograph of pupils at the Mt. Airy School, Clay Twp., ca. 1942.

Mounted "Ferree" (Ephrata) photograph of a group of Washington Avenue School students, Ephrata, ca. 1930's.

Mounted "C.M. Rice" (East Petersburg) photograph of first-through-fourth grade pupils at the Hopeland School, ca. 1940.

**The following photographs were lent for scanning by Bob Dickersheid:**

Real photo postcard showing Walter J. Geyer's Maple Brook Inn, opened in 1926 off (then) Rt. 222, between Ephrata and Reamstown, in an existing stone house.

5" x 7" photograph of Hopeland Secondary School students with an unidentified teacher, n.d., ca. 1912.

4 1/4" x 6 1/2" photograph of Hopeland Secondary School students with teacher Allen P. Miller, January 16, 1902.

5" x 7" photograph of a group of 16 Hopeland-area men, mostly unidentified, ca. 1910-15. The group includes Allen P. Miller, Sunday School Superintendent of the Paradise (Hopeland) United Brethren Church; the other men may have been affiliated with the church as well.

5" x 7" photograph of Hopeland Primary School students with teacher Allen P. Miller, March 13, 1919.

6 1/4" x 8 1/2" "Wolfe" (Lebanon) photograph of Hopeland School primary and secondary students with primary teacher Allen P. Miller and an unidentified secondary teacher, n.d., ca. 1930.
5" x 7" photograph of Hopeland School secondary students with an unidentified teacher, n.d., ca. late 1930's.

7 1/2" x 9 1/2" "P.B. Koser" (Penryn) photograph of the employees of the S.H. Bingeman Cigar Factory, Hopeland, grouped outside the factory building, ca. 1890's.

8" x 10" photograph (copy) of the Hopeland School, n.d.

Artifact Acquisitions:

Iron road sign, 4" x 28 1/8", with applied riveted metal lettering reading "Stobers Mill 2 M"; a small arrow points towards the left. The sign is painted a creamy white; the lettering is black. Pierced at the center for mounting to a post. Stober's (Indiantown) Mill was located near the hamlet of Gockley/s on Indian Run in Clay Twp., at the border of West Cocalico Township. (Purchase)

The following artifacts were donated by Bill and LaVerne Hyman:

Silk souvenir textile square, perhaps intended as the facing of a throw pillow cover. The midnight blue silk is embroidered in metallic thread "C.B.I. / China / Burma / India / 1945 / To Sister," all around the embroidered central shield-shaped seal of the China-Burma-India Theatre. There is a backing of undyed, loosely-woven cotton-like material; a looped tape border helps join the backing and the silk facing. 15" x 16". A gift from Clarence R. Wise, a native of Ephrata Township, to his sister Helen (Wise) Brown.

Silk souvenir textile square, perhaps intended as the facing of a throw pillow cover. The burgundy silk ground is printed with large flocked roses, the "E. Pluribus Unum" seal, the words "U.S. Army" and "Fort Jackson / S.C.,” and a verse entitled "Friendship." The facing is backed with deep blue silk and bound with fringed woven green tape. 17" x 18" excluding fringe. A gift from Clarence R. Wise, a native of Ephrata Township, to his sister Helen (Wise) Brown.

Small ivory silk handkerchief embroidered in silk thread with a small pot of flowers, two tiny butterflies, and the notation "China 1945." The rolled hems are loosely bound with silk thread shading from scarlet to peach. 8 3/8" x 8 1/2". A gift from Clarence R. Wise, serving in the China-Burma-India Theatre, to his sister Helen (Wise) Brown.

White cotton souvenir handkerchief embroidered at one corner with Chinese children playing on a seesaw; worked in multi-colored cotton thread. 9 3/8" square. A gift from Clarence R. Wise, serving in the China-Burma-India Theatre, to his sister Helen (Wise) Brown.

Shield-shaped walnut plaque with beveled edges, 10 7/8" high, with affixed printed labels reading "Honorably / Discharged Veteran," "Cpl. Paul L. Wise," and "WWII." A fourth label is printed with the "E. Pluribus Unum" emblem beneath adhesive lettering reading "U.S. Army."

Miscellaneous Print and Print Artifact Acquisitions:

Late-Victorian calling card of Harry S. Summy of Lincoln. The small card has a crimped and scalloped edge and fits into a tiny envelope secured to a crimped and scalloped backing. The flap of the envelope is
covered with a die-cut sticker with full-blown roses and a wreath of forget-me-nots enclosing the words "Hope sustain thee ever!" (Donation—John Klopp)

Copy of "Reformed News," Vol. 8, No. 10 (July 1929). (Donation—Bob Dickersheid)

Copy of "The Ephrata Ensign," July 15, 1948. (Donation—Mike Sharp)