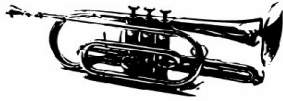


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



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HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF FOX HUNTING

Submitted by Lou Ann Miller

Fox hunting is an old and established sport in Great Britain. As early as 1340, medieval laws spoke of hunting foxes as well as deer. Foxes were considered vermin because of the harm they caused farm animals. King Edward I was believed to have had the first royal foxhound pack. In 1670, the oldest British foxhunt, the Bilsdale was founded in Yorkshire. In the 1830's fox hunting grew in popularity as the expanding railways allowed horses and hunters to travel across the country.

In America, the first recorded fox hunt occurred in 1650 in Virginia. Englishman, Robert Brooke imported his pack of hunting hounds and horses. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson joined in the sport. Hunting parties at Mt. Vernon were said to have lasted for weeks. In America fox hunting is also called fox chasing when the purpose is not to actually kill the fox but to enjoy the chase. The red fox was the preferred prey. Before the growth of highways and developments, fox hunting was common across Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Berks and Lancaster counties. With rolling hills and woodlots these counties were the perfect habitat for foxes.

The Rose Tree Hunt Club was established in 1859 and is the oldest subscription hunt in America. In 1960 the club relocated to York County from Delaware County and in 2015 merged with Blue Mountain Hunt.

The River Hills Foxhounds, based in Kirkwood, PA, still hunts in southern Lancaster County and southwestern Chester County.

Remember, today the fox is not killed, just chased and hopefully captured. In some clubs or localities following the British traditions, the fox hunt attire is formalized during the official hunt season. An equestrian riding helmet or top hat is required, followed by a plain black or dark navy blue jacket with black buttons or club buttons if awarded

by the masters. Breeches are to be beige or buff. A white or cream stock tie, properly tied and secured with a gold pin placed horizontally is appropriate for the ladies. A vest of canary or tattersall may be worn as are black or brown dress boots with no laces. Only the Master of the Fox Hounds, the person responsible for the hunting, the hunt staff and men who have been awarded hunt buttons wear the red jacket. It is ironic that the red coats are called "pinks." Ratcatcher refers to informal attire, a tweed coat, worn during cubing which is a pre-season event to train hounds or horses. One tradition practiced by many clubs is the Blessing of the Hounds. It is usually held on Thanksgiving

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the New Holland Area Historical Society is to collect, organize, and preserve information and historical materials that give insight to understanding the life and times of the New Holland area and to share these findings with others through Museum exhibits, lectures, and educational outreach programs.

Day by a local church and asks blessings for the fox, the hounds and the riders. Foxhound breeds most commonly used are American, English, and Blue Tic. A very popular type of American foxhound is the Penn-Marydel breed used in Pennsylvania and the Eastern Shore, and known for its deep voice and black and tan coloring.

Registered hunt clubs still exist in south central Pennsylvania. The Rose Tree Hunt Club which was established in 1859 and the Blue Mountain Hunt Club established in 1999 merged in 2015 and have an active calendar of activities. In Chester County, the Kimberton Hunt was established in 1870 and remains active.

FOXES AND HOUNDS IN NEW HOLLAND

Submitted by Lou Ann Miller

Although not as formal in attire and protocol, the local fox hunters were just as enthusiastic about the hounds and the chase. Mrs. Vickie Martin of New Holland, the daughter of Richard (Rit) and Dorothy (Dot) Geist, has wonderful memories of the fox chase as being both a family and community event. She remembers her father riding while the family and community would follow in cars. Hundreds of people came to these events. Rit's father, Parke Geist, owned the old Eagle Hotel on Main Street and kept the red foxes and hounds in a large barn behind the hotel, foxes on the second floor and hounds on the ground floor. Vicki remembers her grandmother, Mae Geist, preparing bologna sandwiches at the hotel and stacking them in a wash basket for Rosene, the daughter and her brother Ronnie to hand out to participants. At the end of the chase, people came back to the hotel or wherever the host was having the party for food, drink and music. She clearly remembers a hillbilly band consisting of accordion player, a fiddler and a man who played the jug! Earla Rutt began riding at the age of 2 or 3. Her first mount was a Shetland pony named Mischievous Sue. When she was 16, she was permitted to attend fox chases and rode with the Cochran Hunt Club for about two years. One of her most humorous memories was getting into trouble for not following the proper protocol. When the bugle was blown the process was to be foxes, then hounds, the Huntsmen and finally the mounted riders. Riders were not to interfere with the work of the hounds. Because her horse was a race horse, Blue Bar, the bugle inspired the horse to go faster. To her embarrassment, she passed the Huntsman a few times. She would walk and exercise horses for 4 to 6 hours at a time. Her riding habit is on display in the Museum.

The Cochran Hunt Club used land owned by the King Ranch. In the early 20th century, the King Ranch of Texas bought up land in Chester and southern Lancaster County to fatten up their cattle before selling to the slaughter houses of Philadelphia. They allowed the Cochran Hunt Club and Andrews Bridge Hunt Club to use their land. Hunts would not start until around Thanksgiving to make sure the land would not be damaged by the horses' hoofs. The owners would open gates so that riders would not have to jump fences to participate in the chase.

Earla's father, George (Buffy) Rutt and grandfather, Lloyd Rutt lived in the Blue Ball area and were instrumental in organizing hunts. She remembers hundreds of people coming to the events with food and entertainment making the hunt a festive day. The hunts would have as many as 100 riders at a time. Karen Northeimer remembers her uncle, Jim Northeimer, as a host to many hunts. As he grew older and gave up riding, he still participated and kept the foxhounds. At one time Jim had 20 foxhounds. They were English foxhounds as opposed to the American breed. The coloring is a black and tan and they are known for their baying. Jim could identify each dog by its baying. Although he loved the animals, they were kept in kennels. These were not house pets, they were working dogs. After Karen's father stopped riding, he would drive the family to chase the fox in the car. They would stop and open the windows to listen for the hounds or hope to spot the fox. Foxes would be trapped during the week to release on Sunday. The fox was not killed, only captured, to be

released again the following Sunday. Hunt season lasted from Thanksgiving to March, every Sunday. Soup and sandwiches were served at the Northeimer's after the chase and all were invited. Karen remembers these events as quality family and community time.

Not all participants had horse trailers and many riders would leave early in the morning to ride their mount to the meet, participate in the hunt then ride home late at night.

There are different breeds of hunting hounds: American, which was mostly used locally, the English and a newer breed, Penn-MaryDel. With the loss of foxes' habitat and the encroachment of roads and homes during the 70's and 80's, the hunts in the area dwindled, but the memories of the families and friends of the hunt are still strong.

This Exhibit could not have been possible without the kindness of our community members and businesses through their generosity of time, memorabilia, and financial support.

The following people have given graciously to the wonderful display:

Earla Rutt Cochran, Jack Craven, Ken and Judy Gingrich, Don Horning, Wilbur Horning, Allen Hummer, Jane Johnson, Linda Kling, Ben Lapp, Yvette Lee, Vicki Geist Martin, Lou Ann Miller, Nature's Accent Taxidermy in Narvon and Karen Northeimer.



Top left photo: Vickie (Geist) Martin explains some of her Family's Fox Chase memorabilia. Bottom left photo: Wilbur Horning spearheaded the entire display and welcomes guests at the unveiling of the Museum's Fox Chase exhibit.

New Holland Area Historical Society Newest Exhibition

Submitted by Lou Ann Miller

NHAHS's latest exhibit opened to the public March 24, 2016. The display is a collection from current and former residents including pictures, invitations, outfits and memorabilia of the time when fox hunting/fox chasing was a popular pastime in this community.

The Historical Society hosted an Opening Reception March 19th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to thank the people who contributed to the latest exhibit. Mr. Wilbur Horning was the master of ceremonies explaining how the origin of the idea for the display. Ms. Vicki Geist Martin approached Mr. Horning regarding a large collection of labeled pictures of fox hunting that she received from her parents, the late Rit and Dot Geist. Mr. Horning was amazed at the number of people involved and thought this would make an interesting display, one not found in other local museums.

Following Mr. Horning's introduction at the Opening, Ms. Martin spoke about the large community participation in the fox hunts, either riding horses, following in cars or attending the party after the hunt. The events were open to the public. Ms. Karen Northeimer spoke of her family's pack of 20 fox hounds. She, too, fondly remembers the large number of community members who would participate and the thrill of windows down in the car listening for the baying of the hounds or capturing a glimpse of the fox. Ms. Earla Rutt Cochran, an experienced equestrian, rode in fox hunts when she was 16 and her riding habit is on display. It was unusual in this area, to have a woman ride in the hunts. Her family also was very active in the local hunts.

There were over 50 people in attendance for the Opening and many were newcomers to the Museum. Our Opening and Exhibit were graciously sponsored by Mr. Jack Craven.

Visit the Museum, Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., where the past and present meet! You won't want to miss the red riding jackets, red foxes on loan from Nature's Accent and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gingrich, invitational post cards to the events, newspaper articles and wonderful pictures of a family and community sport. The display is in the West Hall of the Museum and will be on view through the summer.

Meet the Docents

Submitted by Connie Greer

NHAHS is lucky to get two for the price of one. Gloria Hollinger and her spouse, Don Hollinger, are two of our loyal docents, and have been since the museum opened. Although Gloria didn't move to New Holland Borough until 1957, she is a home grown girl having lived on farms in and around the areas of Intercourse, Strasburg, and Parkesburg. She is a graduate of Garden Spot High School.

Gloria also volunteers for her church, is an avid bridge player, and was the first president of the New Holland Area Woman's Club where she was a charter member and held numerous positions in the club. She was a secretary for Earl Township before her retirement. The one room school house exhibit is Gloria's favorite because she attended a one room school until she was in fourth grade.

Loyal and dedicated, Don has been a member of the NHAHS since its inception, serves on the Board of Trustees, and is a docent along with his wife. He attended school in New Holland all twelve years and played trumpet in the band and soccer on the field. Don worked at the New Holland Farmers Bank before moving to High Steel, working there until his retirement after thirty years of service. He keeps busy as a driver escort for High Steel, and as a driver for airport transportation - to and from airports. Don is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and has sung in the choir for over sixty-five years. He is currently serving as treasurer. He loves to play golf and bridge. A favorite exhibit of Don's is the New Holland Machine Company as his dad worked there for many years, and it brings back many fond memories. Reading is another favorite past time and two of Don's favorite books are by Ken Follett - Pillars of the Earth and, the sequel, World Without End. Thank you Don and Gloria for all you do for the NHAHS and the community.

NHAHS welcomes anyone who is interested in becoming a docent at the museum. The museum is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00-2:00. You can do a two hour shift or a four hour shift, once a month, once a week, or once every other month. I will train you and stay with you on your first shift. The museum is lovely and interesting, and meeting and greeting people is fun. Call me or email me if you are interested. jgreercg@frontiernet.net or 354-0797.

NHAHS BUSINESS PARTNERS ALLIANCE

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BENEFACTORS **Gene and Mary Lowry, Charles and Jane Zimmerman**

If you would like to become a Partner, please contact one of the Trustees. Thank You!

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Type of membership requested (please check one)

Lifetime Membership (\$500) Annual Corporate Membership (\$100)
 Annual Individual/Household Membership (\$20) Other Gift

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New Holland Area Historical Society, PO box 464, New Holland PA 17557

NEW HOLLAND

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WWW.COMMUNITYSURE.COM

Thanks to Community Insurance for
sponsoring this spring 2016 newsletter

The New Holland Area Historical Society Museum is available for your class get together, baby shower, wedding shower or other similar event! It is a great venue with lots of ambience in the historic 18th century Kauffman's Hardware building. Contact Wilbur Horning for more information 717-575-3148 or by e-mail whorning118@Comcast.net

SOCIETY MEETINGS - 2016

Historical Society Meetings are held in the Chapel of Garden Spot Village every **3rd Thursday** of the month at **7:00 p.m.** Here is the list of the upcoming dates:

April 21 – Lancaster's Good Man – John Piersol McCaskey presented by Dolores Parsil

May 19 – Brian Frankhouser – New Holland Victorian Advertising Cards

June – no program

July 9 – New Holland Machine Company Vintage Equipment Show - New Holland Park

August 18 – annual picnic in the Park

The Museum is open weekly, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 AM-2 PM. 207 E. Main Street. For those who have trouble with stairs, there is an elevator at the rear entrance of the building. There is no regular admission charge for the Museum [donations accepted].