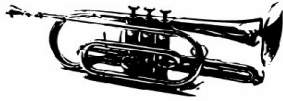


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



Volume 15 Issue 1

Winter 2019

“A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS” MUSEUM DISPLAY CASE

Submitted By Lou Ann Miller

For many of us, the iconic words, “Twas the Night before Christmas...” It draws our minds to sugarplums, a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. The poem officially titled “A Visit from St. Nicholas”, is attributed to Clement Clarke Moore. Mr. Moore was a professor at the time and the poem was first published anonymously by a friend of Moore’s in the Troy, New York *Sentinel* on December 23, 1823. In 1837, Moore acknowledged his authorship. Moore insisted that he wrote the poem not for publication, but to amuse his children. Recently there have been claims that the poem was written by a New Yorker, Major Henry Livingston, Jr., but this writer supports Clement Moore as the author.

The poem’s plot is very simple. On Christmas Eve, while his wife and children are sleeping, a father awakens to noises. Upon investigation, he sees an air-borne sleigh pulled by eight reindeer and the driver, Saint Nicholas. St. Nicholas appears as a jolly elf, chubby and plump with twinkling eyes. This Saint or “Santa” enters the house through the chimney with a sack of toys. St. Nicholas joyfully fills the stockings that were hung by the chimney with care, bounds up the chimney and as he flies away, wishes everyone a “Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.”

After the poem gained wide popularity, the American ideas about St. Nicholas/Santa Claus changed. It has stimulated gift giving and had Santa doing the work the eve before Christmas Day. Some of the language and imagery have changed over time. A sugar plum is not a fruit, but an edible seed that has been rolled in layers of sugar. Ma doesn’t wear a kerchief to bed nor Pa cap, but we can still see the Father at the window wondering what was the matter.

Our Christmas Display Case is inspired by the first six lines of the poem. We have children nestled all snug in their beds, sugar plums dancing, stockings hung by the chimney and a tiny mouse sleeping away. If you haven’t read the poem, a favorite Golden Book copy is there for you to read. The Display Case was created by Kay Raffensperger, Connie Greer, Audrey Koller, Robin Miller, and Lou Ann Miller. We especially appreciate the lovely and unusual items on loan from Kay’s private collection and her Village Doll Hospital in Blue Ball. And as the jolly old elf says, “Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.”

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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.



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

Mysterious Jim Madison

Submitted By Brian Frankhouser

Some old timers still refer to the property above the square at Blue Ball as “Madison Hill”. It was named after one of the town’s most unique and interesting characters. He wandered into Wallace’s store (less than half mile east of the square on Route 322) on a cold winter day in 1832 looking for a job. The storekeeper, John Wallace, said if he could rub two stones together until they were warm, that he would find work for him. The stranger knew his stones, and complied. He said his name was James Madison and he was born a slave, but was freed at age 20. Maybe that was his name, or maybe it was an important man’s name he remembered as a child. Maybe he was freed or maybe not. Regardless, Blue Ball welcomed James Madison, and it was his home for the next 30 years.

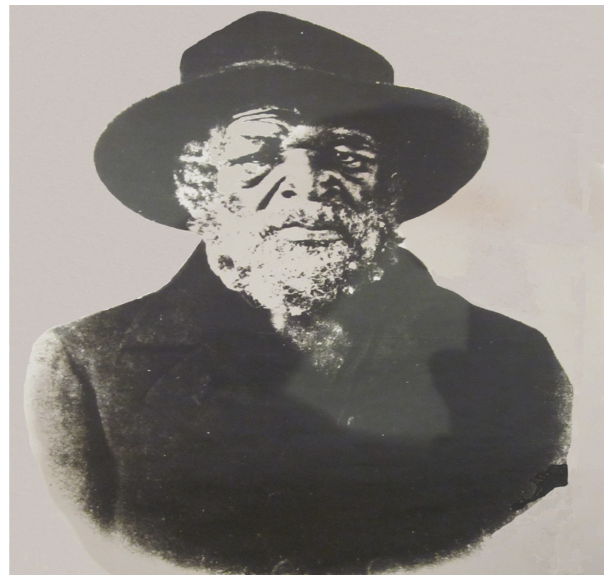
Madison went to work for George Rutt, who had a quarry near the square in Blue Ball. By 1830, the quarry discontinued burning limestone for fertilizer and was generating revenue selling stones to the local turnpike. Jim built a roof over the unused lime kiln located above the square, and made it his home. He lived there until building better quarters around 1840.

In those days, the mail was delivered by stagecoach. They would blow a bugle announcing their arrival so the postmaster, Amos S. Kinzer, knew when to come out for the mail. Jim hated the horn and his request to stop it was denied. He bought a similar horn and would occasionally run down the pike half an hour before the stage blowing the horn and fooling the postmaster. This annoyed the neighborhood, embarrassed Amos Kinzer, but brought great joy to Jim.

Madison’s weakness was his fondness of strong drink. In 1862 he invited a couple tramps into his home to share a jug of whiskey. A drunken brawl ensued and they knocked over the stove and burned down his house. Jim lived in the Lancaster almshouse the rest of his life and died in 1865.

In 1933, M. G. Weaver authored an article about the life of Jim Madison, and presented it to the Lancaster County Historical Society. If you’re interested in reading more about Madison, Weaver’s presentation is printed in its entirety in the November 10, 1933 edition of the New Holland Clarion. There is also an excellent article in the April 30, 1887 edition of the Clarion. Both articles can be accessed on the internet, or you can visit the New Holland Area Historical Society museum on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday between 10:00AM and 2:00PM. There is a personal computer and internet access at the museum.

This is the only known photograph of “Mysterious Jim Madison”. It was taken after 1862 when he moved away from Blue Ball. His age is unknown because Jim did not know when he was born. Because everyone else had a birthday, he chose September 20 as his. He refused to work on his “birthday” but would wander over to the quarry and set off several simultaneous explosions to celebrate.





Yundt Mansion Blue Ball 1907

E. H. Yundt, Esq., grew up in Blue Ball and remembered Jim Madison very well. Yundt bought the old property where Jim lived in a lime kiln, and contracted J. H. Townsley to build the mansion shown above on the site in 1883. The dwelling still stands. As a tribute to the man, Yundt enlarged and framed the photograph of James Madison. The picture hung in the attorney's office on "Madison Hill" until 1932 (17 years after Yundt's death) when it was donated to the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Putzing Around the Museum

Submitted By Lou Ann Miller

In many German-speaking homes, a small Christmas village with fences, barns and animals was carefully taken out of its boxes and lovingly placed under the Christmas tree or on a table nearby. Elaborate little displays with trees and frozen lakes would surround the wooden or cardboard stable. To the early German-speaking settlers who lived near New Holland, preparation for the Christmas Holiday would be extensive. Unlike the English Quakers or Mennonites who didn't approve of the festivities, the early Lutherans, Moravians and German Reform would bring greens into their homes, decorate a tree and, of course, baked batches of cookies. In German-American culture, the word "putz" has multiple meanings. The definition most aligned with our Putz, means to keep working on something until you are finally satisfied with the way it looks. The little villages with their fences, animals and trees would be "putzed around" right up until Christmas. Originally carved in wood, the 1920's saw Japan produce glittery cardboard houses. Some styles had holes in the back to insert tiny electric lights that would glow through cellophane windows. Animals carved from wood with their stick legs and fluffy fur were quite popular. As you put your decorations away for another year, do you have any Putz items that you would be willing to donate to the Museum? Our goal is to be able to

display our own Putz along with the other decorations we've come to enjoy in our Museum. Proportion and vintage had no meaning in the Putz and a camel might be much larger scale than the house. So, if you have an extra piece or two, please contact: Wilbur Horning: whorning118@comcast.net or Lou Ann Miller: lamiller@gmail.com
Danke und Frohliche Weihnachten.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE MUSEUM GO ROUND

Submitted by Wilbur Horning

Volunteers make our museum successful and many times we neglect to recognize and thank the people who are so generous with their time and talent. The last 60 days of 2018 involved so many people who donated their time and expertise we could not help but pay attention. Attorney Doug Good provided wise legal assistance, Craig Hicks repaired one of our locally produced Esterle grandfather clocks, Yvette Lee, Jane Johnson, Audrey Koller and Narene Dowlin decorated our museum for Christmas, LouAnn Miller, Connie Greer, Kay Raffensperger and Audrey Koller provided content for our display case with the theme of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and Bert Horning, Flower and Home Warehouse, Loeffler & Pitt and Optometric Associates decorated trees. In addition, Barb Houck, Carol Horning, Ann Overly, Judy Bachman, Vickie Martin and Bert Horning wrapped gifts for Flower and Home Warehouse customers as a fundraising project and Carl Zimmerman, Ron Dyer, Mitch Dissinger and Jack Schnader provided the labor to move decorations from the attic and displays in the museum. Finally, Dawn Fox organized the children's visit and pictures with Santa for the museum at Christmas on Main. Not mentioned are our invaluable docents who provided extra duty to cover the extended hours for the Farmers Fair, Christmas on Main and the holidays.

We would also introduce our newest docent, Jacob Musser and our latest addition to our board, George Weaver. Welcome and thank you to all!

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PO Box 464 New Holland PA 17557
www.NhHistorical.com



Another successful year having Santa in the historic “Kauffmans Hardware Building”. A huge thank you to Lowell Parkes for volunteering his time and talent for the 38th straight year. He was originally hired by Clyde Kauffman all those years ago and has been dubbed the “real” Santa in our beloved town of New Holland!

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 - 2019

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

February 21 – Matthew Dodd presents “Songs and Stories of the American Road”

March 21 – “Myrtle Tremblay – An Ever-Changing Scene” presented by Win Reber, President of the Garden Spot Village Art Guild, looks at the evolution of our local artist's painting styles, subjects and interpretations

April and May – to be announced

A profound thank you is in order from the New Holland Area Historical Society to Mitch Dissinger for his years and years of finding and coordinating all of our monthly programs!

The Museum is open weekly, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 AM-2 PM. 207 E. Main St