

NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



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TREMBLAY HISTORY AND ARTWORK TO RESIDE IN THE NEW HOLLAND MUSEUM

This Spring will see another chapter of NHAHS unfold as a new display on the life and art of Myrtle Tremblay, titled **THE UNSEEN WORKS OF MYRTLE TREMBLAY** will be opening on May 19

VISION AND PROCESS FOR DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY AND ART OF MYRTLE COBB TREMBLAY

Submitted by Don Horning

In July of 2017 the New Holland Area Historical Society (NHAHS) became the recipient of what remained of Myrtle Tremblay's personal collection of art. (There being no heirs to her estate.) Included were originals, sketches, examples of experimentation and prints. The NHAHS discussed at length how to proceed given we are an historic society and not an art museum. We consulted numerous persons from the artistic community including representatives ranging from Garden Spot High School Art Department to prominent members of the art community located in the Lancaster City Art District. What emerged was a plan to make the NHAHS the home and keeper of the MYRTLE TREMBLAY STORY. This will include the written narrative history and representative examples of a long career in art by this treasured local artist. With assistance from knowledgeable artists and galleries, it was decided which art to retain to support this history and which art to return to the community via sale. The proceeds from the sales will be used for the long overdue processing and preparation of the artwork. The vision has periodic displays of the historic Tremblay art in the NHAHS Museum, and possibly traveling art displays. It is also anticipated that over time, local artwork might be made available to NHAHS to further enhance the collection. With the public's interest and support, the history of Myrtle Cobb Tremblay will be kept alive in the community where she was much loved and appreciated and where she spent much of her adult life.

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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.

WHO WAS MYRTLE TREMBLAY?

Submitted by Lou Ann C. Miller



Circa 2005 at Garden Spot Village

Myrtle displaying her artwork in front of New Holland Farmers National Bank in the 1970's

Her watercolors of stone barns, bridges, the streets of Lancaster and People's Restaurant are typical of what we associate with the art of Myrtle Tremblay. Recently, the New Holland Historical Society was given examples of early Myrtle Tremblay works, watercolor, pencil and ink, acrylic, oil and pastels of lands far away. But who was this iconic local artist?

Born Myrtle Cobb on December 9th, 1908 in Albion, Michigan, she was an only child. Because her school did not have an art class, she taught herself to draw by copying illustrations. She used many mediums in early works. In 1923, at age 15, she attended Bay City Junior College in Michigan. She earned her BS and Certificate of Art Life from Central State Michigan University, in 1929. While attending Central State Michigan, she was asked to be the art editor of the 1927 school yearbook, Ivanhoe. In 1931, she attended her first formal art training with a summer course at the Art Institute in Chicago and later the PA Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and the Art Center in New York.

Ms. Tremblay taught art at Bay City Jr. High School for 15 years. In 1937, at age 29, she started her solo worldwide travel adventures, painting in many locations: South and Central America, Europe, Asia and North America. From her notes and stories, we find that her first destination was Colombia. Her father had contacts in that country. Meeting with a banana boat ship Captain, she persuaded him to make her his ward for the trip. She could eat her meals with the Captain and had an empty state room. As a ward of the Captain, she was protected. She would abandon her own personal safety, however, to take her paints and wander into the jungle to sketch. Her early paintings emphasize her talent for seeing design, even before she had any formal art training. She would de-emphasize parts of a painting that she felt were unimportant, no matter the title of the work or the setting. In the 1940's, she was commissioned to sketch active service men and women for the USO in Detroit. She also assisted the police by sketching criminals.

In 1948, Myrtle married Louis Roland Tremblay, a photographer. Louis took a job with Sperry and they moved to New Holland in 1952. Myrtle continued her love of traveling and painting. She traveled to Peru, Guatemala, Greece, Turkey, the Caribbean, Norway, France and Mexico. Louis died in 1972. They had no children.

Myrtle spent the last 16 years of her life as a resident of Garden Spot Village, dying at age 102. Her later paintings done at GSV, are remarkable in their imagery and choice of color. Her style became looser, as she transitioned to using a wet on wet technique. Four paintings hanging in the hallways at Garden Spot Village are very large and have similar palettes. In 2004, she stopped painting. Her art memberships included a signature membership in Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Old Bergen Art Guild, and the Lancaster County Art Association. Today her artwork is prized by many for its detail, use of color and design. The Historical Society will now be a repository for her work and a place to honor her artistic genius.

Partnership with Garden Spot Village Resident, Winchell Sager Reber

Submitted by Lou Ann C. Miller

One of the side benefits of being a member and volunteering with the organization is the excitement and pleasure of meeting and working with specialists in their field. In March we partnered with Garden Spot Village to interpret and show Myrtle's early work. Through a series of fortunate events, we met Winchell Sager Reber, a resident of Garden Spot Village. Win, an artist himself and President of the Garden Spot Village Art Guild, embraced the beauty and joy in the artwork of Myrtle Tremblay. Win presented his research at a Historical Society Meeting March 21, 2019. His program, "Myrtle Tremblay – An Ever Changing Scene" guided us to see the evolution of Myrtle's styles, subjects and interpretations. His Power Point Presentation used examples from our recently acquired collection of her early works. A display and sale of some of her earlier works will hang in Garden Spot Village hallway through April. Win not only created the program on Myrtle's history, he has been invaluable in matting and preserving more than 70 of her paintings. His knowledge of removing acid bearing material like scotch tape has saved many of Myrtle's paintings. Win has been married to his wife, Carolyn, a college sweetheart since 1961. They have two sons and three grandsons. We honor Win's contributions to the New Holland Area Historical Society.

NHAHS BUSINESS PARTNERS ALLIANCE

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Don Horning, Elizabeth Hahn

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

IS THAT A MYRTLE??



Above: A lazy afternoon in Bogata Below: A Children's book illustration



Yes they are!! Come to the new display “The Unseen Works of Myrtle Tremblay” coming in May to the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum, 207 E. Main Street, 2nd floor.

NEW HOLLAND AIRPORT AND TOBACCO DISPLAY ENDING

Submitted by Wilbur Horning

For those of you who have been planning to view the displays featuring the old New Holland Airport and the Tobacco Exhibit but not made it happen, now is the time.

The Airport memorabilia will come down on April 22nd and Tobacco on April 29th.

In reference to the Tobacco Exhibit we recently received a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, residents of Garden Spot Village. The trove of items included a walking cane allegedly made from a tobacco stalk, two old cigar boxes, numerous cigar wrappers and cigar box wrappers, as well as a number of cigarette cards and silks.

Research informs us that, beginning in 1875, cards depicting actresses, baseball players, Indian chiefs, boxers, national flags or wild animals were issued by the U.S.-based Allen & Ginter tobacco company. These are considered to be some of the first cigarette cards. They first emerged in the U.S., then the UK, then, eventually, in many other countries.

Cigarette silks, a type of tobacciana, were premiums redeemable by mail order or found enclosed in packages of cigarettes. They became popular in the early 1900's, with trading cards being their predecessors. Most of these small fabric pieces were sewn together to fashion larger textiles such as quilt and table covers. Some cigarette packages even included instructions for industrious home makers to follow when piecing these together. While they were called silks, they were actually made from a variety of fabrics such as silk or silk satin, a cloth combination of silk and cotton, a cotton sateen or even a plain-woven cotton. The New Holland Area Historical Society greatly appreciates this generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Moore.



Portrait of Elizabeth Diller

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

Edwin C. Diller III is a direct descendent of some of the earliest settlers in New Holland, and four generations of his family owned the building that now houses the NHAHS Museum. When he contacted the Society in January to let us know he wanted to donate a family heirloom, our expectations were high. We were not disappointed! The portrait of Elizabeth Diller is now the oldest painting in the museum's archives. Although not signed, it has been attributed to Bass Otis, who produced the first American lithograph in 1819. Who was Elizabeth Diller? She was the daughter of Jonathan Roland, who sold the property to the first merchants of record in New Holland in 1779 where the Museum is now located. Elizabeth was born in 1767, and married Peter Diller when she was 16 years old. The Dillers lived most of their married life in the

stone mansion that was located less than 100 feet west of the museum (known to us as the "the first New Holland House"). Peter and Elizabeth were the parents of 13 children. They accumulated real estate in the late 18th century and worked as farmers, merchants, and innkeepers. After Peter died in 1816, Elizabeth supervised the operations at the farm, store, and tavern by herself! The store was located across North Railroad Avenue from the Museum and was razed in 1958 (Harris Brothers). Mrs. Diller's tavern was located where Stauffer's Drug Store has been doing business since 1913. Elizabeth died in 1830, but there are some good stories about the next generation of Dillers. Read more about her children, including Roland and Solomon, at the Museum library.

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



31 Diller Avenue circa 1912. Current residence of Allen and Stacy Wessel

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:

April 18 – The program will be on the restoration of a Vietnam-era Huey helicopter presented by Liberty War Birds Association.

May 16 – Mr. Matthew Skic, Associate Curator of the "American Revolution Museum" from Philadelphia will give a presentation about the museum located in Philadelphia

June, July, August – no program

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

There is an elevator for anyone who is unable to do a flight of stairs