

2024 History Weekend Themes (Final)

Air Heritage, Inc. Museum and Aircraft Restoration Facility

The Harmonists were always in the front of technology as they were heavily interested in the railroads and had a steamboat built in the 1820s when that form of transportation was new. As the Harmonists dissolved in 1905, they were probably aware of the first Wright Brother's plane that had been flown. Highlighted this year will be a small scale Wright Brother's plane.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

B. F. Jones Memorial Library

663 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa 724-375-2900 www.beaverlibraries.org/aliquippa.asp

The Harmonists funded the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad, which was a factor in the building of the Jones & Laughlin Aliquippa plant. Early books and photos will be available about the history of the P & LE Railroad

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Beaver Area Heritage Museum

1 River Road Extension, Beaver 724-775-7174 www.beaverheritage.org

The bustling community of Beaver contained the county's courthouse. The legal issues that faced the Harmonists, brought them on a number of occasions to visit the county courthouse. These court verdicts were sometimes for the good as well as the bad for the history of Old Economy. Several cases that brought the Harmonists across the Beaver River into Beaver will be highlighted.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: March 23 thru November 26, Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beaver County Genealogy and History Center

Beaver Station, 250 East End Avenue, Beaver 724-775-1775 www.beavercountyhistory.org

Secession, Diaspora and Concert Stages. Where did members of the flourishing Harmony Society go after the arrival of Count Leon and the ensuing secession of a third of the Society? The exhibit will feature the history of St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in present day Monaca as well as the musical activities of Trustee John S. Duss on national concert stages.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: April 1 thru November 30, Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

December 1 thru March 31, Thursday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beaver County Industrial Museum

801 Plumb Street, Darlington 724-624-8244 www.beavercountyindustrialmuseum.com

The Harmonists were instrumental in bringing many industries to Beaver County and growing them, including: buying The Pittsburgh Cutlery Company in 1867 and developing it as Beaver Falls Cutlery for mass production; investing in the construction of the P&LE Railroad in 1877 in order to move steel throughout the county; and giving striking glass workers the means to open Cooperative Flint Glass Company in 1879. The Harmonists also brought higher education to Beaver County when they made it possible for Geneva College to relocate to Beaver Falls from Ohio in 1880. These examples are at the center of the Beaver County Industrial Museum's special exhibit for 2024.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Regular Hours: Sundays in May, June, July and August from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Also any day by appointment by calling 724-624-8244

Beaver County Model Railroad and Historical Society

416 6th Avenue, Monaca 724-544-0739

Unlike many religious dissenters who came to America, the Harmony Society embraced technological advances believing they were a fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Being shrewd businessmen they invested in the new steam powered trains and the coal that powered them to accumulate money to fund God's Kingdom. Locally the Harmonists invested in the following Beaver County railroads: Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway, the Darlington and Cannel Coal Railroad, Beaver Valley Railroad and Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad. The Ho Train display typifies the railroads and communities of 20th century Beaver County.

History Weekend Hours: Sunday May 5 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Beaver Falls Historical Society and Museum

***At Rochester Area Heritage Society Museum, Model Railroad and Fry Glass Rooms
for History weekend**

350 Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Rochester

The quiet town of “Brighton” changed drastically when the Harmonists brought in a surveyor who transformed the land into new housing lots for future workers and designated lots for businesses, thus forming the new borough of Beaver Falls. Maps, photos and artifacts will showcase the largest manufacturing town in Beaver County in 1868.

History Weekend Hours: : Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Regular Hours: Beaver Falls Historical is temporarily closed, but can be reached by contacting 724-774-6229, 724-777-5890 and leave a message.

Colonial Dames XVII Century, Beaver Town Chapter

***At Vicary Mansion 1235 Third Avenue, Freedom, PA 724-775-1848 for History weekend**

Membership information will be available to interested women ages 18 and over. To qualify for membership, your ancestors must have been residing in the colonies by 1701.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m..

Contact Information: 724-774-4537 and leave a message

Enon Valley Community Historical Society

1084 Main Street Enon Valley

enonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com and Enon Valley Community Historical Society on Facebook

The Historic Community building, which was built in the 1860s has seen many changes occur within its walls throughout history. It has been a shoe store and a Gulf Gas Station. Visitors will see photos and artifacts from homes and businesses, such as the PA Railroad, the Enon Telephone Company and others.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: By Appointment Enon Valley Community Day is held the 3rd Saturday of July

Fort McIntosh Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

***At Vicary Mansion 1235 Third Avenue, Freedom, PA 15042 for History weekend**

Membership information will be available to interested women ages 18 and over. To qualify for membership, the applicant's ancestor must have served during the American Revolutionary War.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m..

Contact Information: 724-774-4537

H.C. Fry Glass Society

***At Rochester Area Heritage Society Museum, Model Railroad and Fry Glass Rooms
for History weekend
350 Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Rochester**

Although we have no sales records that survived many of the glass factories that Mr. H. C. Fry was a part of, we are confident that Old Economy purchased glass locally because it was close by, of high quality, and known worldwide. After numerous ventures in a variety of glass factories in Western Pennsylvania, he eventually built the Rochester Tumbler Works in 1872. After a fire, the H.C. Fry Glass Company emerged in North Rochester. Over 1,000 pieces of Fry Glass are on permanent display in Rochester. Fry Glass was a premium glass product sold world wide.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Regular Hours by appointment: 724-987-0335 and leave a message.

Ladies Grand Army of the Republic

***At Hookstown Fair Grounds, 1198 State Route 168 Hookstown 724-573-4420**

<https://suvcw.org/allied-orders-of-the-grand-army-of-the-republic>

The mission of the Ladies G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) is to teach patriotism & preserve the history of our ancestry. In 1910, this group had an active membership in 29 states and over 60,000 members. Displays will highlight the civic groups and their ceremonies and activities that occurred in 1916, when the state acquired the OEV site. In addition current ceremonies of today which reflect freedom of religion (also vital to the Harmonists) will be shared

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Second Saturdays April – October 11:00 – 3:00

Hookstown Fair, “The Evening of Music,” “The Community Christmas”

Little Beaver Historical Society Complex

710 Market Street, Darlington 724-843-4361 www.littlebeaverhistorical.org

Have you heard of Cannel Coal? The history of the Economite’s early investments in cannel coal and the Cannel Coal Railroad will show how that history was advanced by Ira Mansfield and developed Cannelton as an early industrial town. This community is abound with interesting stories and legends.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: May through September, weekend to be determined

Logs Town Associates Historical Society

***At Vicary Mansion 1235 Third Avenue Freedom 724-775-1848 for History weekend**

Part of the 1750 Logs Town site became the property of the Harmonists in the early 1800’s. Today this is a large scale industrial site that is privately owned. There are only 11 acres of land that remain undeveloped. Because of its historical significance efforts are being made to acquire this site. A diorama of the village will be on display.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: By appointment

McKinley School

McKinley Road and 37th Street Ext. Chippewa Township, Beaver Falls
724-843-8177 www.facebook.com/McKinleySchoolhouse

The Harmonist children were taught by the Pestalozzi Method of teaching. Joham Heinrici Pestalozzi was a Swiss philosopher and educational reformer whose notable idea was the “Four Sphere Concept of Life.” Information will be shared about these “Four Spheres”, how the Harmonist children benefitted from this style of education, and what famous scientist was taught using the Petalozzi Method of education.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m.. – 4:00 p.m.
Regular Hours: By appointment

Merrick Art Gallery and Museum

1100 Fifth Avenue, New Brighton 724-846-1130 www.merrickartgallery.org

History Weekend Hours: Saturday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Edward Dempster Merrick was busy in the latter 1880s gathering his impressive collection of Romantic Period Art, including many fine Hudson River School paintings. The Harmony Society at this time also collected paintings, mostly of a religious nature. Their business leader, Frederick Rapp, had a private art museum in his Economy home. Visit to enjoy the collection of art, clothing, furniture, musical instruments and other artifacts of the era, as well as to enjoy the lovely spring garden.

Regular Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday, Saturday, Monday Closed

Monaca Hall of Fame

1098 Pennsylvania Avenue, Monaca 724-774-7320

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Regular Hours: By appointment only

Monaca (then Phillipsburg) became a refuge for 241 Harmonists who left Old Economy Village in 1832. Their beliefs were similar to the Harmonists, but slightly more liberal. Two main differences were their opposition to celibacy and the use of tobacco. A large collection of books, papers and other artifacts relating to Phillipsburg’s connection to the Harmony Society will be available.

New Brighton Historical Society

***At New Brighton Public Library 1021 3rd Avenue, New Brighton 724-622-8877 for History weekend**

Pictures and artifacts from the early to late 1800's will highlight what the Harmonists would have seen as they traveled through New Brighton to get to their Beaver Falls business investments. Additional information on the Underground Railroad will also be available.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: For information on the Irish Townsend House 724-312-5740

Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad, Library & Museum

1225 Merchant Street Ambridge 724-266-4787 www.ohiovalleylines.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OhioValleyLines>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKZakZw_mig1i12iobIvl-w

A common interest is shared with the history of railroads and the Harmonists from long ago. However, our trains are much smaller, don't create any dirt, and a visit with us will let you view and learn about our whole line! It is possible we are sharing what was Harmonist property--but almost 100 years after they first settled here.

History Weekend Hours: **Not Participating**

Regular Hours: Thursdays 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Closed major holidays

Old Economy Village

270 16th Street, Ambridge 724-266-4500 www.oldeconomyvillage.org

Old Economy Village celebrates the bicentennial of the Harmony Society establishing the town of Economy in 1824. This influential and industrious group of people made a significant contribution to Beaver County, Western Pennsylvania, and the United States. Visitors can take guided tours to learn more, experience the gardens and see demonstrators.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bicentennial Celebration: June 8, 9

Erntedankfest: September 21, 22

Christmas: December 7, 8

Admission: Adults \$10; Senior \$9; Child \$6 and under 2 free

Richmond Little Red School House

245 Park Road, Brighton Township, Beaver 724-774-8292

www.facebook.com/brightontownshiphistoricalsociety

The focus of a one-room school house is education. During bygone days the educational system prepared local youth for the future. As a museum, the Richmond school enlightens our knowledge of the past and will share handouts about the Harmony society.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours by appointment: 724-774-8289

Rochester Area Heritage Society Museum, Model Railroad and Fry Glass Rooms

350 Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Rochester 724-777-7697 or 724-814-0853

Nunnie1951@gmail.com

The Harmonists played a large part in the development of much of Beaver County. But, from the information we have been able to find, their role in Rochester seems limited to the selling, buying, trading or transferring of some smaller parcels of riverfront land. Explore the 1830's maps of Rochester and compare the past to the present.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours : April through October Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Christmas hours are every Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving until New Years;

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Or by appointment

Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

***At Beaver Area Heritage Museum 1 River Road Extension, Beaver 724-775-7174**

www.beaverheritage.org for history weekend

Life as a soldier of the 1st American Regiment at Fort McIntosh in 1784 began at sunrise and with a cannon fire and roll call. It ended with the same cannon fire at the end of the day. But what did a soldier do all day? The daily routines of guard duty, work details, fort maintenance, chores, food preparation and leisure will be shared by a Revolutionary soldier throughout the day.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: By appointment, 724-775-7174 and leave a message.

South Side Historical Village Association

Hookstown Fairgrounds 1198 State Route 168 Hookstown

SSHVA Secretary: 724-573-4569 www.facebook.com/southsidehistoricvillage

When the Harmonist were farming and selling their produce to the Pittsburgh area, citizens of South Side were farming and producing provisions for their community as well as the Washington County area. The Village with its log house, barn, doctor's office, black smith shop, schoolhouse reflects the rural community south of the Ohio River. Get your Penny Candy at the General Store!

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Second Saturdays April – October 11:00 – 3:00

Monthly Evening Artisan Workshops: May - September 6-8 PM

Special Events: Hookstown Fair, "The Evening of Music," "The Community Christmas" Summer and Fall "Socials"

Or by appointment 724-573-4569 and leave a message

Vicary Mansion

1235 Third Avenue Freedom 724-775-1848 www.bchrlf.org

Captain William Vicary formed a close friendship with George Rapp and other members of the Harmony Society following their return from Indiana. Not only did Vicary shop at the Economy store, but his son attended school there. Discover more about the Vicary family that has been researched from his journal.

History Weekend Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regular Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Vicary Day: August 10

Applebutter Fest: October 19

Hauntings and Ghost Stories: October 26

Moslener Ceremony and Christmas Open House: December

History Weekend May 4th and 5th, 2024

The theme for 2024 is

“Our Ties to Old Economy Village.”

In 1824 the Harmonist Society moved from Indiana to Economy (now Ambridge.) Under the efficient management of Frederick Rapp, the society members enjoyed such prosperity that they eventually dominated the trade and markets of Pittsburgh and down the Ohio River. They were supportive of the arts as they had a museum with fine art and antiquities, orchestra, deer and floral park, and even a labyrinth maze. The Harmonists were industrious and aided in the construction of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, established a savings institute, brick works, cutlery, planing mill and lumber company. They even donated land for the construction of Geneva College.

Many of our sites had ties to the village – either purchasing items from their stores, or providing valuable resources for their business ventures.

Each of our 25 participating sites will share their connection with the Harmonists. In 1916, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired 6 acres and 17 original Harmonist buildings. The Village was designated as a National Historic Landmarks District in 1965.

During this special anniversary year, there will be displays and events that will highlight the history of this unique historic settlement. Please check their website for additional information: www.oldeconomyvillage.org

