



# The Locust Grove Estate

## Newsletter

A Publication of the  
The Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society

The Locust Grove Estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located alongside the mouth of Conoy Creek, bordering the east bank of the Susquehanna River in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is home to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Haldeman Mansion, the birthplace of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman who "epitomized the early 19th Century generation of scholars who advanced American science and letters to a position of cultural independence from Europe" (Sorenson). The mansion is at the heart of five documented, noncontiguous Native American settlements.

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ISSUE 1

May 2021

### Remarks From The President

The Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society continues to make progress despite the canceling of events last year due to the corona virus. We will be scheduling a Victorian Tea, Geology Walk and Apple Festival this year (page 9) anticipating we will be able to safely carry them out. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned!

Our progress is due primarily to the very active support of the highly respected architectural firm Citadel DCA and strategic planning and capital fund raising services of First Preservation Services (See page 2). I find inspirational the following statement on Citadel DCA's facebook page concerning its work on our Grand Staircase Foyer:

*"It had lost about 35-40% of its plaster. Master plasterer Todd Nauman brought it back. Two Dudes painting completed the finishing. We have some floor repairs, lighting and hardware to address, then on to the next rooms."*

We thank the Clark E. Hess Estate. On February 28 they presented a check for \$18,755. Clark was a well known Lancaster County native, an enthusiastic historian of Pennsylvania German culture and Mennonite family history. We are thankful his estate saw fit to recognize our Society.

We thank member Fay Burke for her article "The Other Haldeman Mansion" (page 6). Four E-town College engineering students (Aegis: Center for Community and Civic Engagement) prepared Fay's hand drawn diagrams of the mansion and farm for publishing with her article. Thank you for your great work: Lauren Comly, Ruth Jacob, Drew Riley and Ethan Vallone!

We encourage you to stop by the mansion and observe our progress. Have a seat on our new overlook and enjoy the much enlarged view of the river. The view of the sunset is spectacular!

Ken Beard, President

## **Haldeman Mansion Interior Restorations Update**

Professional interior mansion restorations began over the winter months. In reaching this milestone, we want to recognize the critical work of the two below mentioned companies who are now in their 10th year of support. They have devoted substantial time and energy to guiding our exterior and now interior restoration efforts. Together, they have taken the Society from a position of barely maintaining the buildings and property to initiating extensive internal restorations, to potential revenue growth, to fulfilling our long term objectives.

The architectural firm Citadel's Ana De la Fuente & Scott Paden compiled, four years ago, after considerable study and evaluation of our property, "THE LOCUST GROVE ESTATE HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT, a 541 page document setting forth an in-depth history of Locust Grove and a master plan for restoring the mansion, its associated buildings and its grounds. At no cost to the society, they are helping to qualify, select, meet with and guide highly specialized historic restoration contractors.

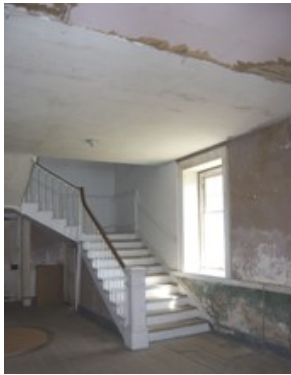
First Preservation Service's Tim Smedick is essentially volunteering his time to procure grants and coordinate restoration efforts. Recently, with an increase in restoration activity, Tim has offered to serve as an Interim Operations Manager. He has successfully procured a number of grants.

Three grants are currently funding interior renovations: a Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission Keystone Construction Grant (\$30,000), the National Trust for Historic Preservation Louis J. Apple Jr. Fund (\$15,000) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (\$2,469). The latter is funding the restoration of exterior doors. A fourth grant from the Lancaster County Conservancy (\$5,700) helped to finance the construction of the River Overlook, pictured in our last newsletter, and to restore the mansion's scenic river view by clearing selected trees and brush from the Susquehanna riverbank

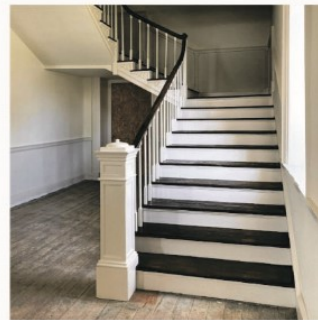
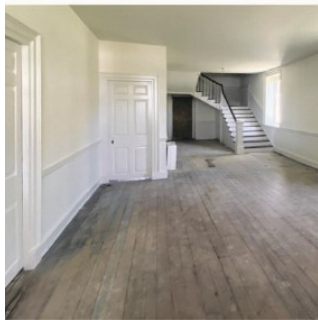
The interior restoration (See Grand Staircase Foyer before and after photos on next page) has been made possible by the installation of a temperature and humidity control system in the Grand Staircase Foyer, Ball Room and Museum Room. Of the three rooms, the Grand Staircase Foyer is now newly plastered and painted, including the stairs up to the second floor. Its flooring, once fully inspected and repaired, will be finished (See below before and after photos). The Ball Room and Parlor will require less extensive restorations and, hopefully, will be finished by the fall.

The next priority is the installation of a piazza or interior courtyard between the mansion and summer kitchen. Coupled with the new river overlook, it will become a location for small events, e.g., birthday parties and weddings.

**GRAND STAIRCASE FOYER BEFORE**



**GRAND STAIRCASE FOYER AFTER**



## **ExtraOrdinary Give 2020 Final Report**

In February, we received a final report on donations received during the Lancaster County Community Foundations 2020 ExtraOrdinary Give Campaign. They totaled the most ever at \$5,424. They will be used to help meet our matching grant requirements. Among the 14 nonprofits supporting history-related causes last year, the Society ranked ninth in value of donations received and sixth in the number of donors participating.

Since the inception of this annual campaign in 2012, we have received over \$32,000 in support of a variety of projects: 2012-2014 a new slate roof for the mansion, 2015 adult and children educational programs. 2016 establishment of a nationally recognized Locust Grove Archaeological (Native American) District, 2017 a promotional budget, 2018 interior restorations, 2019 front porch columns repair and 2020 grant matching funds (for interior restorations).

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### **Part 6**

#### **Locust Grove Heritage Series**

#### **Early American Heritage, The Haldeman Family**

##### **Locust Grove Land Purchase**

We learned in Part 5 of our Locust Grove Heritage Series<sup>3/</sup> John Haldeman (1753-1832) purchased an undefined half of the Samuel Scott Family's Locust Grove property on September 20, 1785. A Bertram Galbraith claimed the other half. John then appealed to the Lancaster County's Court of Common Pleas for a review of his property rights. On January 18, 1786, he was awarded 246 acres plus 6 percent allowance for roads and Bertram 205 acres plus allowance.

John's larger share of the acreage included the valuable land surrounding the confluence of Susquehanna River-Conoy Creek (where he would build his grist mill, saw mill and distillery) and land on both sides of the creek about a half mile inland and on the east bank thereafter giving him important water rights. We can speculate Bertram may have benefited by receiving more, most or even all of the Court of Common Pleas reported improvements<sup>4/</sup> on the land to arrive at a decision more equally benefiting both men.

##### **Locust Grove Federal Tax Assessment of 1798**

A 1798 Federal Tax Assessment<sup>5/</sup> provides us with a description of three contiguous properties John owned bordering the Susquehanna River. They included his Locust Grove property; land it abutted to the southeast, land purchased from his father-in-law Melchior Brenneman on April 13, 1784; and a third property purchased from a Christian Brenneman on April 4, 1794.

The property purchased from Melchior became known as the Haldeman Homestead Farm<sup>2/</sup>, located at the present day Billmeyer Quarries (see below photo). This is where the family cemetery (now along Route 441) was originally located. The quarrying operations destroyed the Haldeman Homestead's Mansion c1947. The cemetery was moved in 1934.



The 1798 tax records, report the following buildings on John's three assessed properties:

1 Stone Dwelling w/new Bldg adjoining	1 Smoke House 3 Log Cabins	1 Saw Mill 1 Stone Mill
1 Back Building	1 Stone Barn	1 Log Barn
1 Stone Kitchen	1 Stone Still House	

Horace Leander Haldeman reported one large and one small stone house were on Melchior's property when he purchased it from a William Chesney on May 11, 1767.<sup>2/,6/</sup> Melchior's sale to John included only the larger dwelling. Melchior retained the smaller one for himself and his wife in their retirement. In 1798, the stone dwelling with new building adjoining was then on the Haldeman Homestead Farm, not at Locust Grove, as previously thought.

The new building adjoining was added by John (see photo, extension with columns, page 6). The other buildings associated with the Homestead Farm would have included at least those of stone, with the exception of the mill, built at Locust Grove in 1790.

In our next newsletter we will consider for whom and when the Haldeman Mansion was built. Questions readers of this article may have can be addressed to Dale Good, Tel: 717-940-5560, Email: [dale\\_good@hotmail.com](mailto:dale_good@hotmail.com).

Foot Notes:

1/ James C. Landis is a native of northwest Lancaster County, PA. His passion for historical research encompasses more than forty years of experience. He is a long-time member, active researcher and volunteer of the Lancaster County and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Societies. Since 1992, Jim has taught classes on a number of genealogical topics with Pennsylvania Colonial Tax records being a special area of expertise.

2/ Horace Leander Haldeman (1847-1920) in the early 1900's compiled a loose leaf hardcover ledger entitled "Haldeman And Brenneman Families of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania And Their Connections, the Stemens, Snyder and Lindemuth Families With Notes on the Early Settlers of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania" The title page contains the statement "Printed for Private Distribution." The draft is in the possession of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, a donation by Henry and Audrey Haldeman.

Foot Notes (Con.)

3/ See HMPS newsletter Locust Grove Heritages Series: "Native American Heritage", 1st issue 2016, "Colonia Heritage", 3rd & 4th issues, 2016 and 1st & 3rd issues 2018.

4/ The court reported the following improvements"

3 Dwellings	2 Orchards	227 Arable land acres
2 Barns	13 meadow acres	150 Woodland acres

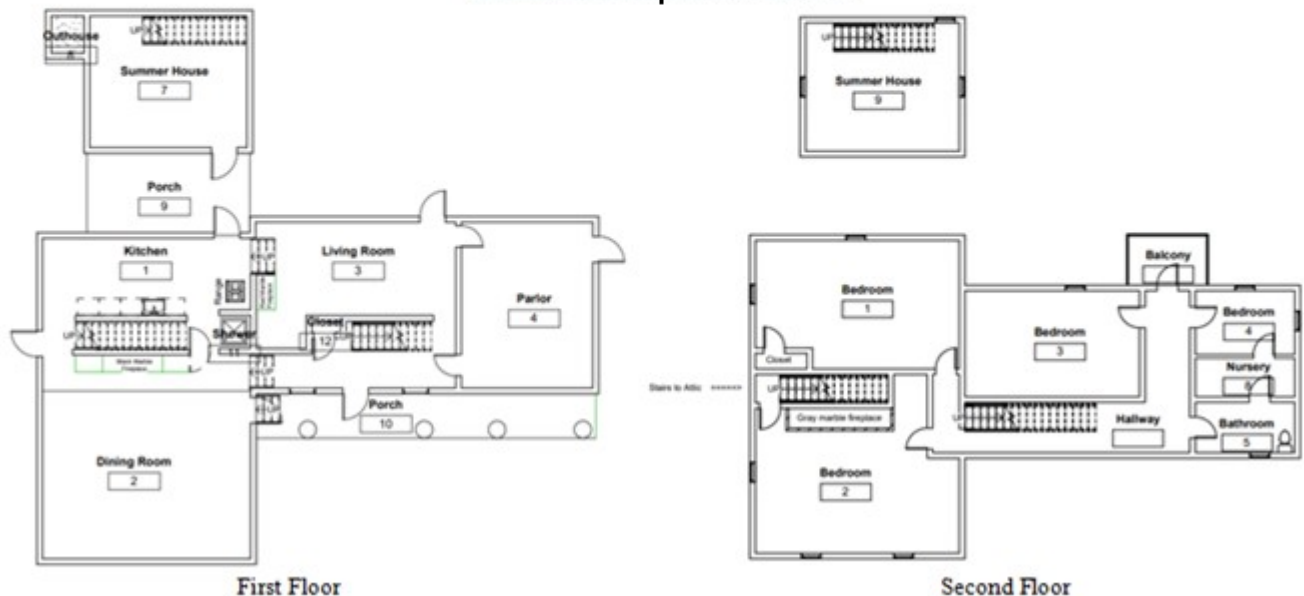
5/ The 17908 Federal Tax Assessment was comprised of 5 forms. Previously, historians studying Locust grove may have relied on Form A for interpretations. It contains dwellings and associated buildings, but not acreage, which would have indicated assessments were based on the three contiguous properties, not just Locust Grove.

6/ The stones houses had two stories. The small house was listed on a Sheriff's 1758 sales bill advertising the property of "the late James Lowrey", an Indian trader. The sales bill, also, indicates "one part of it having been formerly an Indian Town".

## Memories of the (Homestead) Other Haldeman Mansion

by Fay Landis Burke (2019)

Sometimes when I am alone with my thoughts, I go back to the mansion in my daydreams (See below). Possibly because I am getting up in years. I just had my eighty-sixth birthday. When I was about six years old we moved from a small house near Bainbridge on the property of J.E. Baker to the mansion nearby. He also owned the Town of Billmeyer and the quarry and surrounding farms. My father farmed for him for about eleven years (See farm buildings diagram page 9) and loved every minute of his work. We lived there for about fourteen years until the quarry was about to absorb the house.



I remember the day we moved into the house. I was enthralled with its spaciousness. It had two stairways. You could go up one from the kitchen and down an ornate open stairway to the vestibule at the front of the house. It was like moving from a cottage to a castle! And I felt like a princess!

It seemed like one room was as large as our former house! The kitchen was large enough to hold a "cook stove" and a table for eight people. There were built in cabinets, a sink with running water where I recall standing on a stool to wash dishes. I remember begging my mother to let me wash dishes. I loved to help her.

On the northside of the kitchen, you passed the shower and steps to the basement in a small hallway and came to a swinging door that entered the dining room. There were steps on the opposite side of the north wall of the kitchen that led to a door opening to a short hall where the steps led to the upstairs and and through the hall to the dining room. I would often sit between mother's plants on the deep window sills and read my books.

The living room is was where we spent most of our time as a family. The floor model radio was there usually playing news or soft music and Fathers roll-top desk and Mother's Singer sewing machine where she made clothes for our dolls out of feedbags that were patterned and did repairs on our clothing. The furniture included a comfy sofa and chairs and a bookcase. The wall adjoining the kitchen held a magnificent black marble fireplace. A lovely ornate chandelier, with painted flowers on the globes, hung from the ceiling. A door on the southside opened onto a small porch that had lattice on both sides, a roof and benches. On the northside, a door led to a vestibule that contained the open stairway and a small hallway to the steps leading to the dining room door and the front door that opened onto a long porch with stately columns that ended under the roof of the house.

At the westside of the living room was a door leading to the "parlor" which was rarely used. This room, also, had a chandelier with delicately painted flowers on the milky white globes. Here was the rarely used sofa and two matching chairs and end tables, etc. On the westside of the parlor was a door leading out to another small porch like the one outside the living room. My sister, Doris, and I would play there with our dolls and sometimes get needles and thread to string tiny berry like red seeds from the boxwoods that grew on both sides of the porch. That was our version of jewelry. We would watch and count the cars coming from Billmeyer at the end of the workday. At one time there were hundreds of people working there.

The dining room held Mother's china cabinet filled with delicate glass dishes and other treasured vases, etc. The fireplace was of polished red marble with built in cabinets on each side where china and linens were kept. An ornate chandelier hung above the dining room table. To the left of the fireplace was a door opening to the short hall that led to the kitchen and the steps to the upstairs.

At the top of the stairs was a short hall where my brothers' two bedrooms were located. The one on the left had the only closet. To the right was the other bedroom. This room had a shining polished grey fireplace on the southside of the room. On that same side were the stairs leading to the spacious attic.

As you entered you could smell the aroma of patent smoke used to cure the hams, bacon slabs and bolognas hanging from the rafters. On the west side of the hall was another long hallway that led to the bathroom and another hall that led to two other bedrooms. The one on the left was Doris's and my bedroom. On the right was my parents' bedroom with a small nursery that connected to the bathroom. At the end of this hall was an outside door leading to a small balcony which was over the porch of the living room. Upon entering the porch from the kitchen door on the south side to the left were the cellar steps where the coal furnace was located.

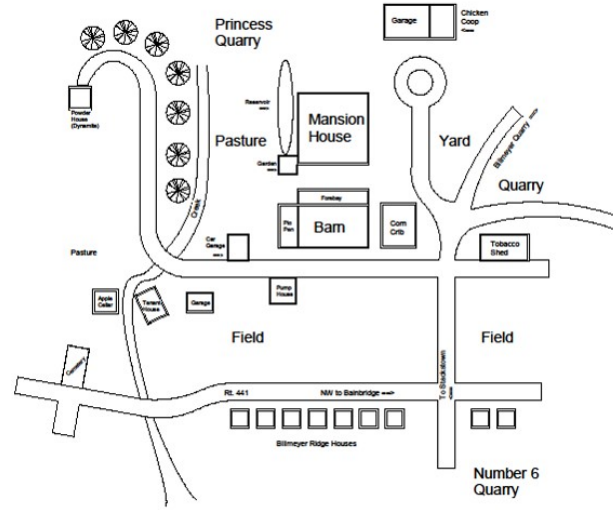
A two-story summer house was across the porch from the kitchen. My Mother used it in the summer for canning and cooking using the kerosene stove that had four burners and an oven. It was much cooler in the summertime than the mansion where she would have had to use the "cook stove" that heated the whole kitchen. The upstairs held canning jars, crocks and a large copper kettle used to make apple butter plus other essentials needed for canning.

On the east side of the porch was a tall maple tree with a rope swing where I spent many hours swinging and reciting to myself the poem "How do you like to go up in a swing, Up in the air so blue? Oh, I do think it is the pleasantest thing ever a child can do". I memorized many poems on that swing, and I sang many songs. Down four steps on the westside of the porch the sidewalk led to a driveway. On the right of the sidewalk was the other cellar that was not used. There was however a very large door that was never opened at the bottom of the steps. On the other side of the sidewalk were a huge apricot tree and grape arbors. Next to them were the garage and another building that was used as a chicken house.

The lawns held many large locust trees and one weeping willow in the center of the driveway cul-de-sac. There were Iris, peonies and many other flower beds. On the east and north sides were fences with rows of sweet smelling lilacs in front of them. At the south end of the east row were steps leading to a vegetable garden and a huge enclosed concrete reservoir that held water used on the farm and the quarry. A worker named Harry Smith spent every weekday in the "pump house" in back of the barn manning the pumps (See Farm Buildings image next page).

Behind the barn was an orchard of twenty-four trees, a variety of peaches, pears, plums and cherries. One lone black berry tree stood along the lane. Needless to say, I climbed trees of one kind or another quite often. There was also an apple orchard with twenty one assorted kinds of apples.

My Mother said, jokingly of course, Johnny Appleseed planted them. What a wonderful place to grow up! We had many kinds of fruits, vegetables and all the meat needed from butchering hogs, beef and chickens. Free milk from the cows! Who could ask for more? This was and still is my "Dream Home" ... the former Haldeman Homestead.



## HMPS 2021 Events Schedule

Aug 7	10:00 am	Locust Grove Geology Walk with Geologist Jeri Jones
Sep 4	4:30 pm	Victorian Tea in the Haldeman Mansion Ballroom
Oct 10	Noon-4:00 pm	Fall (Apple) Festival

## Have You Noticed Our Driveway's New Conoy Coffee Sign?

Conoy Coffee is a new HMPS venture to provide coffee, cold drinks and snacks on a donation basis to help those in Bainbridge who have suffered a sudden and unexpected loss. Using our Summer Kitchen facilities, our hours of operation are: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 7 am - 2 pm. Saturdays on a select basis. Come enjoy a warm or cold drink in a rocking chair on our porch while you watch the river flow by!

## Spring Cleanup

A big THANK YOU to those who volunteered to help cleanup are Locust Grove property on Saturday, March 27th: Ken Beard, Tom Burke, Dale Good, Joe Hottenstein, Elaine Jackson, Gina Mariani and Keith & Kyle Shearer.

# New or Renewal Membership Application

2021

Name _____	Circle	Your Amount	Benefits*
Address _____	Student	\$ 10	1
_____	Individual	\$ 25	1
Telephone _____	Family	\$ 40	1
Email _____	Patron	\$100	1,2
	Sponsor	\$250	1,2
	Life	\$500	1,2,3
	Associate	\$1,000	1,2,3,4

Do you want your newsletter sent by email or surface mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Donations: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute to HMPS Matching Fund for grants requiring a match  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute to HMPS Property Maintenance Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute to HMPS Endowment Trust for preserving its artifacts  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Donations made to the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society are tax deductible under Section 55 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Service. The official registration and financial information of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not mean endorsement.

Return this form with your check to: HMPS  
P.O. Box 417  
Bainbridge, PA 17502

\* Benefits by Type of Membership Fee:

1/ Free Newsletter Subscription

2/ Free Parking at Events

3/ Two Personal Tours for Family and Friends

4/ Fifty Percent Discount for Events having Fees, e.g., Victorian Tea, Tavern Dinners

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Interested in becoming a member? It's easy, just fill out the form on the next page and become part of the HMPS family. Enjoy discounts on events and keep up to date on all the latest news and events.

Newsletter Editors: Elaine Jackson & Dale Good



HALDEEMAN MANSION PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

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