



# 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.

ISSUE 1

May 2022



**Sixteenth Annual  
Strawberry Festival  
Sunday, June 5, 2022  
12 Noon to 4 P.M.**

At the Historic Haldeman Mansion

230 Locust Grove Road, Bainbridge, PA

Hot Dogs, Groff's Bratwurst, Chicken Corn Soup, Chili, Chips, Strawberry Shortcake with Turkey Hill ice cream, Cheesecake with local Strawberries, Milkshakes, Sundaes, Strawberry Lemonade, and other Drinks.

\*Tours with Tina Mark and Judy Kay Bard

\*Silent Auction of local donors and Businesses

\*Entertainment: Blue Grass Music all afternoon

\*Activities for the children

Proceeds benefit the mansion. Enjoy the beautiful Susquehanna. Bring your lawn chairs and relax. \$5.00 Parking Fee to cover some of the expenses.

717 426-3794 with questions

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## Remarks From the President

I announced the retirement of our valued Board member and Treasurer Dick Keesey in our Fall 2021 newsletter. Dick passed away in January. Little did we know we would lose him so soon. We will remember Dick for his dedication to our Society's mission and in a larger sense to the community in which he lived (Page 3).

We recently learned of the passing of Audrey Haldeman. Audrey and her husband Henry were among the most dedicated advocates for the preservation of the Haldeman Mansion and its Haldeman Family history. Their generous donations thru the years have strengthened our ability to tell the remarkable Haldeman story (Page 3).

Sonia Forry a granddaughter of former mansion owner Benjamin F. Hoffman donated antique furniture to the Society in April. We appreciate her generosity and the help of her daughter Anita Lohin in assisting with their delivery to the mansion (Page 4).

Conoy Coffee, offering breakfast and lunch items from the Summer Kitchen, continues to help generate interest in the Locust Grove Estate. It was featured in Lancaster County's Best Kept Secrets Tour April 7-23 (Page 5).

Mansion renovations continue. We are now focused on the Ball Room fireplaces and transforming the courtyard between the mansion and summer kitchen into an appealing locale for small events. Locust Grove Estates as a wedding venue is seeing increased interest. (Page 6).

The Bainbridge Lions Club's held its annual Benefit Breakfast for our Society in February 19. Their time and dollar donation are appreciated. Their donation will go towards the renovation of the Mansion Ballroom's fireplaces (Page 6).

We will be losing two Board members in June. Please consider offering your time and talents to support the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society's mission. I am VERY concerned that we are close to losing our momentum and could reach a point where there just are not enough hands to keep our Society going (Page 7).

Please mark your calendars: Sunday June 5, 2022, the date of our annual Strawberry Festival. Invite your friends and neighbors (Pages 1&8)!

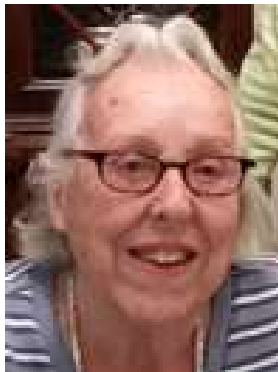
Ken Beard, President

## **Richard L. “Dick” Keesey (1948-2022)**



We lost a valued friend, volunteer and former Board Member and Treasurer all to soon on January 18, 2022, of natural causes. Dick will be remembered for the invaluable and constant support he provided not only to our Society, but other important community-minded non-profit organizations. An active member of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, he also served as director on the boards of the Samara Nurture and Education for Parents, Elizabethtown Child Care Center, Winter Heritage House Museum and Elizabethtown Community Housing & Outreach Services. To echo the words of those who knew him well “Dick was a quiet understated man that possessed great wisdom. He had a subtle, but keen, sense of humor”. Above all we remember him for his dedicated service to Community.

## **Audrey Haldeman (1925-2021)**



We recently learned of Audrey’s August 31, 2021, passing in Florida from her son David Haldeman. Audrey and her husband Henry Brenneman Haldeman (1923-2019), great grandson of Prof. Samuel Stehman Haldeman were avid supporters of our Society.

Their extensive family research within the United States, Canada and England has enriched our knowledge of the Haldeman Family. Their donations have been invaluable from donating over 160 19th Century personal family letters, to some of Professor Haldeman’s original scientific writings, to Horace Leander Haldeman’s extensive family history collection.

(Continued on next page)

We have fond memories of Audrey's hospitality during board members' visits to her and husband Henry's retirement home outside of Philadelphia. Audrey always had drinks and snacks waiting for us. They were always interested in news about the Society and enjoyed revealing the many Haldeman Family mementos they had collected over the years.

We have much to remember them by, including the placing of the Pennsylvania Historic Society marker in the memory of Professor Haldeman along Route 441 close to the mansion within which their contributions and spirits still reside.



## 2021 Extraordinary Give Results Announced

We thank our faithful donors for their contributions during The Lancaster County Community Foundation's (LCCF) 2021 Annual Extraordinary Give event last November. LCCF reported in January our members and friends contributed \$4,675 to help defray the costs of the Ball Room's double fireplaces' renovations. Since the inception of the ExtraGive event in 2012, over \$37,000 has been raised for important projects. Donations were made:

In Memory of:

Ann Haldeman Brandt

Charles Jackson

Edna Brandt Haldeman Clawser (1888-1918)

Sally Williams

In Honor of:

Claudette Garber

Henry & Audrey Haldeman

Margaret Hunt Landis

## Hoffman Descendent Makes Important Furniture Donations

Sonia Forry, daughter of Pauline Stauffer Hoffman Longenecker (1897-1994) and granddaughter of former Haldeman Mansion resident and owner B. F. Hoffman (1863-1935) has donated to the Society a cradle, blanket chest, chest of drawers, four poster bed and a cannonball rope bed (see below photos). These important pieces of Locust Grove's Hoffman era 1899-1928 are a very welcome addition to our collection.



A number of years ago, Sonia donated a Middletown newspaper article describing the November 13, 1911, evening wedding of her younger sister Olivia, which took place in the Mansion. The last sentence of the article reads “The clear blue sky with stars twinkling love to each other and the smiling moon seemed to be in harmony with the occasion and the beautiful environment in the mansion”.

Sonia's latest contributions will go towards helping the Society recreate such an environment. We want to thank her for her generosity and her daughter Anita Lohin for contacting the Society and overseeing the furniture's delivery to the mansion.



## Conoy Coffee Enters Second Year

Conoy Coffee, an all-volunteer nonprofit café seeks to build community and serve those who have faced catastrophe. Operating out of the Haldeman Mansion's Summer Kitchen, it was featured in Lancaster County's Best Kept Secrets Tour April 7-23. Tours of the mansion were featured, as well. New this year is the Summer Kitchen's upper floor furnished in a classroom fashion for special children's story telling times.

Since its opening on May 1, 2021, the efforts of its volunteers and donations received have benefited seven families facing difficult setbacks due to catastrophic events.

We encourage members and their friends to stop by the café and enjoy special coffee brews, cold drinks, hot foods (quiche, breakfast sandwiches, sliders and weekly specials and baked goods). It is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 8AM-2PM. Seating is available inside and outside of the Summer Kitchen, as well as rocking chairs on the Mansion's porch overlooking the river.

Is there a better place to have breakfast or a snack? Everything is served for donations, only. For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ConoyCoffee/>.





## Weddings' Promotion

Word is spreading, Locust Grove Estates offers a beautiful wedding venue overlooking the Susquehanna River next to the Historic Haldeman Mansion (see photo above). If you have friends or family looking for a great wedding venue, we suggest you direct them to the following website: <https://www.eventective.com> and have them click on "find a venue" and type in Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society.

They will learn "The Haldeman Mansion has one interior room with staircase restored and two more to be finished next year (Ballroom with double fireplaces and parlor). Larger events and weddings are provided with a tent and full use of the grounds. Pricing for weddings range from \$150-\$3,000 with accommodations for 25 to 150 people.

We are hopeful plans to refurbish the courtyard between the mansion and summer kitchen, creating a special environment for events, will be completed by the end of this year.



## Bainbridge Lions Club

Community Service

The Conoy Lions had their winter breakfasts at the Bainbridge Fire Hall the 3rd Saturdays in January, February and March and supported different organizations. The Haldeman Mansion was the recipient in February. About 160 people came to the breakfast. and 3 HMPS board members helped including Ken Beard, Sheila Hunter, and Elaine Jackson. We received a check for about \$650 to help support the Mantel Fund started in memory of Dick Keesey. Thank you to the Lions' Club for your support of the mansion.



## Our Magnificent Red Oak Tree

If I did not know better, I would think Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918) received inspiration for his famous poem “Trees” from Locust Grove Estates’ majestic red oak tree. Overlooking the Haldeman Mansion, it has stood sentinel over one of the Lower Susquehanna Valley’s most historic and beautiful scenes for more than 250+ years.

It is featured in “Tree Treasures of Lancaster County” (<https://www.lancastercountytrees.org>) with the comment “With a trunk circumference of 17 feet 6 inches at breast height, this stunning tree might approach 250 years old. Samuel Steman Haldeman was born in 1812, and the budding naturalist and philologist of such future eminence may have played and rested within its shade.”

It was certainly witness to the building of the Haldeman grist mill & mansion, Conestoga wagons carrying grain to the mill and the building of the riverside canal & railway. Unfortunately, it is now suffering from the fungus Hypoxylon Canker and cannot be saved.

Fearful of falling branches and limbs, the Society has selected a firm to take the tree down and is considering preserving its memory by bronzing its stump and having cutting boards made from some of the wood. If the interior of the stump is sound, we may be able to determine its exact age by counting its growth rings.



We encourage you to come to our Strawberry Festival Sunday, June 5, Noon-4PM to forge a lasting memory of this Locust Grove Estate icon.



## **Momentum In Jeopardy**

Our Society over the years has seen transitions and sometimes struggled to maintain momentum towards its goals. From our first days thru to the present we have relied on those willing to donate their time and monies. Momentum is built and depends on the persistence of concerned individuals dedicating their talents.

Within this year three Board members and some longtime volunteers have for assorted reasons had to move on. Our future now hinges on a dwindling few at a time when significant professional guidance and services are available to reach our goals. We encourage you, our members and friends, to consider joining our Locust Grove preservation efforts.

Archaeologists have labeled Locust Groves Estate as a “persistent place”, a location that attracts long-term, repeated uses. It was first a hunting and fishing locale for Native Americans, later the establishment of a small agricultural community, then fortified villages, the building of the Haldeman mills and mansion and now a community gathering place and museum. Today, our Society and its members are working hard to restore the mansion and its property, recognizing this historic locale has important stories to tell. Visitors to this site marvel at the beauty of the location and the grandeur of the mansion most often commenting on the need to preserve it and its history.

We encourage you to come and see the changes taking place within and outside the mansion and join our ongoing efforts to honor this historic landmark.

# HALDEMAN MANSION PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Interested in becoming a member? It is 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

# New or Renewal Membership Application

**2022**

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Special Donation in memory of Dick Keeseey ( Former HMPS Board Treasurer)

(This Donation will go towards the two Ballroom fireplace mantels.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute to HMPS Matching Fund for grants requiring a match

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



**HALDEMAN MANSION PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY**

**PO BOX 417**

**BAINBRIDGE, PA 17502**

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