



SCHUYLKILL HERITAGE

A Newsletter of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County



Volume 7, Issue 1

“to discover, procure, and preserve...”

January - February 2012

2012 Block of Art Exhibit Will Feature Nick Bervinchak

We are pleased to announce that we will exhibit the artistic works of Nicholas Bervinchak, a native son of Schuylkill County for the 2012 Block of Art. The exhibit will take place on the weekend of April 20th to 22nd.

Nick Bervinchak was born in 1905 in Shenandoah, the oldest son of Ukrainian parents. His father was killed in a mine accident when he was a child. He completed the fifth grade and then out of necessity worked in a silk mill and then as a breaker boy to help support his family.

He became interested in painting while still working as a miner in the 20's. It was at this time that he was

influenced by Hungarian artist Paul Daubner who did church decorations and George Luks a native Pottsville artist. Daubner taught Bervinchak the etching process and they worked together on church decorations.

Bervinchak went on to become an internationally recognized artist with his works being displayed in museums and galleries throughout the world.



Nicholas Bervinchak

Exhibit Portrays the Life of General Joulwan



General George A. Joulwan

The General George A. Joulwan exhibit formally opened on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2011

General Joulwan along with family and friends opened the exhibit which is located on the second floor of the Historical Society.

The exhibit features narrative panels and his personal collection of memorabilia that guide the visitor through the General's illustrious career.

“My goal would be for this exhibit to be an inspiration to young men and women in Pottsville and the area, and to encourage them to think about service to their country,” General Joulwan said.

The exhibit portrays the life and military career of General Joulwan

from his early years living in Pottsville through his forty years of military service. From his cadet years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to his final assignment as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, he served with distinction.

His contributions to his country are depicted throughout the exhibit from his student days in Pottsville High School where he excelled in academics as well as football and basketball. He learned the meaning of both leadership and teamwork in those formative years that carried on throughout his career.

His career took him from the days that the Berlin Wall was built to the time when it was torn down. He held

every command position in the Army from platoon commander up through NATO. He served as Special Assistant to Presidents Nixon and Ford.

In addition he held a variety of staff positions at the Pentagon and for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his career he faced innumerable challenges. With the adoption of Dayton Accords that stabilized peace between Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was instrumental in implementing the first joint United States-Russian military operations since World War II.

We are pleased to have this exhibit as it will act as the center piece of our other exhibits.

The Annual Appeal fund raising campaign is drawing to a close. We are pleased to announce that at this writing we have raised \$15,384. This surpasses our previous high of \$12,185 for 2010. We are thankful for all that have contributed. A complete list of the generous contributors is on page 3.

Volunteers for 2012

We have many volunteer opportunities available this year. Perhaps you would like to support our Society's mission with a few hours of your time instead of a financial donation. We can use help in the following areas.

- Developing and updating our web site.
- Genealogy and historical research.
- Exhibit tour guides for this spring and summer.
- Developing youth educational programs for weekends and the summer months.

Reception, cashier and gift shop management. Training will be provided and flexible hours are available.

- Light housekeeping.
 - Collection management.
 - Digitizing our photo collection.
 - Hours are flexible and training will be provided.
- Please contact Dave Derbes at 622-7540 or sch.hist@comcast.net

New Acquisitions

Vietnam War: POW bracelet, POW/MIA stickers, POW/MIA literatures and letters from the Vietnam War. Donated by Jo Ann Schuster in memory of Edward Backert and all soldiers.

World War II artifacts: German maps and photos, German leather pilots cap with throat microphone, Nazi

flag, Flare gun, medals, youth T-shirt. Donated by George Roxandish, Pottsville.

Pottsville Sesquicentennial 1956 items: pins, ladies and men's hats.

Brick recovered from the remains of the James B. Neal mansion located in Buck Run, Foster Township. The Great Chance: the story of James B.

Neale and the Anthracite's Forgotten Experiment written by Rev Father Elijah T. Bremer donated by Rev Father Elijah T Bremer.

The Shelhammer, Kelcher, Dunckiel, Snyder, Wotring, Burghalter & Meinhold Families and Allied Family Lines by David R. Silcox.

We Are Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary and Looking Ahead to 2012

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our move to our present location at the Female Grammar School or the Centre Street School as many of us know it. We are looking forward to another ambitious agenda for this coming year.

We plan on having several events such as the Bervinchak Exhibit which will be part of the Block of Art event on April 20th to 22nd. We also are planning the Schuylkill Baseball program that we had to cancel last fall.

We had a Road Rally event planned for a Sunday in October which was also cancelled due to lack of entrants. Hopefully this will take place this year as it is a fun event and a lot of thought went into the planning.

We continue to have the monthly Civil War Roundtable meetings with Stu Richards and Tom Shay sharing the programs. These are very interesting especially to Civil War buffs. Both Tom and Stu are very knowledgeable

on so many aspects of the Civil War and willing to share this knowledge with us.

They are planning on talking on the major battles of the war as their anniversaries come up.

We are also in the process of redoing the Civil War exhibit. As some of you may know we have a great collection of artifacts from the war. However, we need to display them in a manner that tell the story of the men of Schuylkill County.

We could use some input from you the members on what programs or events you would like for us to have. Please call us at 6227540 or drop us a line at sch.hist@comcast.net with any of your ideas.



Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal fund raising campaign is drawing to a close. We are pleased to announce that at this writing we have raised \$15,384 thus far. This surpasses our previous high of \$12,185 for 2010. We are thankful for the below listed contributors for their generous support.

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Thanks

to our many volunteers

We would like to say “Thank You” to the many volunteers that have helped us over the years. If it weren’t for their willingness to help we would not have what we have today.

Thanks!!!

Genealogy Researchers: Tom Dempsey, Charles Joyce, Jean Dellock, Nancy Pauzer, Andrew Ulichny

Historical researcher: Wes Schwenk

Curator: Bill Webber

Photo collection & digitizing project: Dot Loy, Bill Van Stone, Dawn Bicht, Al Frantz, John Bambrick

Library: Jean Dellock

Newsletter Layout: Joe Hupka

Network Supervisor: Mark Van Stone

Programs & Events: Kris Miller Siple, Jill Salmon

Membership: Cindy Hand

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Summer Internships Are Available

We will have a few student internships available this summer. These are non-paying internships designed to help the student with their college academics and course requirements. Areas of interest are:

Marketing

Program and special events development

Exhibit development

Library and archives

Great Gift Ideas In Our Gift Shop



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If you’re from Schuylkill County
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Historical Society of Schuylkill County



**Tourists, Historical
Researchers, Scholars and
Genealogists are Welcome**

**305 North Centre Street,
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(570) 622-7540**

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Peter Yasenchak, Ph.D.

Sch.hist@comcast.net
www.schuylkillhistory.org

Society Hours
Wednesday 1:30 - 6 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Purpose of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County is to discover, procure, and preserve the records of the history of Schuylkill County and any data or materials which may establish or illustrate that history.