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BCHA Party Line Volume 13 Issue 3 March 2023

This year is a celebration of our *Country Stores* and are pleased to bring you stories researched and written by Dave Lenington and Chelsea Wagner.



The General Store in the Heritage Village

By C. R. Wagner

In 2015, the Bradford County Heritage Association (BCHA) was looking for another old building for their village at the Farm Museum in Troy. Steve Beers had an old two-story chicken coop located in Checkerville. He heard that BCHA was in need of another building and contacted Dale Palmer, one of the volunteers at BCHA. Dale went to look at the old chicken coop and decided it would be appropriate for an addition to the village. He contacted Steve Dziuba, a local building mover who was going to be moving Dr. Campbell's office from East Smithfield to the Heritage Village for BCHA. Dziuba looked at the chicken coop and told Dale that he could move it for them, but didn't know when.

One morning, Dale was surprised with a call from Steve Dziuba, who told him that the chicken coop was on his trailer and he needed to come and take the roof off so it could be moved.

Fortunately, Dale and Gary Pierce got over there with their tools and got to work on the roof. To their chagrin, they found the second story of the chicken coop was knee deep in chicken poop! The lower level also needed cleaning out, as it had been home to other animals as well.

Once the roof was off, and the building was cleaned out, it was moved to the Heritage Village in Troy.

Volunteers found that the building was in good structural condition, although remodeling was needed. A community of volunteers got busy.

A new roof was put on compliments of George Page.

The second floor was raised to give more head room. The interior was finished. Planks from Ralph Wilston were used for the interior wainscoting.

New walls and ceilings were put up and painted. Deb Lutz sanded and finished the floor.

A porch was built on the front and new ramps were added to connect it to the two neighboring buildings.

Pat Rogers donated tongue and groove boards for the new porch ceiling. The front of the building was re-designed to match the period of the village.





Dale Palmer was given the sign from the original general grocery store in Alba to put on the general store front in the village.

The large front window in the general store was the original window of the Troy Post Office, which was located in the old courthouse building – now the C&N Bank from 1928 until 1978. It was donated by C&N Bank in 1997.

Some of the general store items that had previously been inside the farm museum on display were moved to re-create a beautiful 1800's general store. It is now part of the historic Heritage Village in Troy.



The general store at the Heritage Village and Farm Museum is a beautiful example of many of the general stores in Bradford County. Come and see it!

A Glimpse into the Past General Stores in Bradford County
by David Lenington 2023

General stores are an institution as American as covered bridges.

They provided convenient locations for farming communities to barter their butter and eggs for other products available at general stores.

The general store's standard equipment included a pot-bellied stove, cracker and molasses barrels, and a cheese wheel.

Ralph Jennings, a customer from years past, described how as a young man he did all his Christmas shopping at H. J. Smith General Merchandise in West Burlington, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Smith, co-owner, knew everyone on his gift list and what each would like. She selected and wrapped every gift.

News traveled by salesmen and men from the community gathered around the pot-bellied stove, not via cable news or the internet. The "No Loitering" sign had not been invented yet.



**General Store and Train Station
Fassett, Pennsylvania 1907**

Fassett's general store also served as the train station.¹ George and Mary Strong operated the store until they sold it to Lewis and Fannie Benson in 1926.²

Mrs. Benson indicated "there were eight passenger trains a day,"¹ and they "would flag the train when" passengers were ready to board.¹



Welcome to the B.C.H.A,
Board of Directors,
Roberta Wood,

Roberta has been a volunteer since July 2022 assisting with Social Media projects. Currently working on our upgraded web site, building content pages.

Pennsylvania Heritage Festival

September 16 & 17, 2023

Route 6 Maker's Market



Sponsored By:



Hosted by the
Heritage Village &
Farm Museum
in Troy, PA

Meet Artisans & Craftspeople
at the PA Heritage Festival



Pan Cake Breakfast

Museum volunteers helping at the annual Big Pond Lions Pan Cake breakfast at Fay's Sugar House— Marilyn and Dale Palmer, Chelsea and Dan Wagner, Marie Seymour, Walt Wittie, Deb Lutz and Sue Ann Barrett

Among recent donations to the museum was a group of receipts from a General Store setting. The Print Butter reference required some additional research.

Print butter is an obsolete term for butter that was sold in wrappers printed with "some emblematic device" as a branding device as modern butter almost always is. Originally the wrappers were normally cloth and sometimes washed and returned for re-use by the retailer. By the late 19th century greaseproof paper took over from cloth. The term is found in American sources from at least 1791 to 1949. Packages of butter thus wrapped were called prints (for example, pound prints weighed one pound each).

The conceptual distinction of print butter, as opposed to any other type of butter, merited a separate name up until the mid-20th century, as before that time many people got their dairy products (milk, butter, cheese), eggs, and produce in ways that did not involve much branding or packaging—for example, either produced at home (in the case of family farms, which were formerly widespread), directly from a farmer that produced them (via either a regular delivery route or at the town market), or from any of various resellers who bought from farmers and resold (for example, grocer, huckster, or sutler).

Unlike today when even bulk foods at a supermarket are usually labeled to show who produced them, in the past, the pickles or peanuts bought from a barrel at the general store, or the produce bought from a huckster's cart, were usually not labeled, let alone branded. Thus the idea of prepackaged units with branded labels was worthy of a differentiating name, somewhat similar to how "name-brand merchandise" is still differentiable from "generic merchandise" or "bulk commodities" today. Print butter - Wikipedia

The public is invited to the next regular
BCHA Board meeting
Wednesday April 19 1PM
at the Museum



2023 B.C.H.A Membership Drive

Please consider supporting the Heritage Village and Farm Museum by becoming a member, renewing your membership or a financial donation.

Make checks out to B.C. H.A.

Single Membership— \$10

Family Membership— \$25

Small Business— \$100

Each includes unlimited admission to the museum.

Mail to: Barbara Barrett
309 W Keller St Lock Haven, PA 17745

Current members have been sent renewal notices

Thank you

To folks who have renewed their membership, become a member or have donated financially.

2023 BCHA Board of Directors

President— Karen Tworsky Vice President— Helen Mickley
Treasurer— Marie Seymour Secretary— Barbara Barrett
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