



PO Box 265 Troy PA 16947 / 231 Gate #2 Lane, Alparon Park, Troy PA 570-297-3410

<https://theheritagevillage.org/pa-heritage-festival> contact us: heritagevillage231@gmail.com

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Pennsylvania Heritage Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Pennsylvania Heritage Festival a success. The museum's mission 'to educate and preserve' was well displayed throughout the grounds.

By Kate Montgomery, Mansfield University Intern

The annual Pennsylvania Heritage Festival took place at the Heritage Village and Farm Museum in Troy. Attendees came from all over our area experienced the demonstrations of living history, a variety of vendors, and hands-on activities for all ages. "It's an interesting conglomeration of events," said Sue Conner, a board member for the museum. When asking around the festival, everyone seems to agree on that. The number of different vendors, displays, and activities alongside history is as staggering as it is beloved by the community.

There were vendors up and down the rows of the festival along with living history displays. There was whistle-carving for children, haircuts in the old barber shop, and canon-fire twice a day from civil war reenactors. The village buildings were open, visitors could take a walk-through Dr. Campbell's office, Porter's Barber Shop, the General Store, the Thomas one-room Schoolhouse, the Children's Church, the Sugar House, the 1822 Gregory Inn, along with the museum building itself. Each building had a little special event along with someone stationed inside to teach about the history of the building. The Schoolhouse and the Children's Church held a scavenger hunt for the children, who could earn a penny to take to the general store, where the kind store clerk offered penny candy. On Sunday, you could get a haircut by barber Jason George, of Troy.

In the big tent in the center of the festival, children could enjoy hands-on activities, like cow milking, rope making, fishing, and more. Crystal Sherrard, a local mom of two, is a repeat attendee. Her children enjoyed the corn box as we spoke: "There's always something new here. They love it," she said, pointing out her kids as they operated the shovel and scooped corn. Meanwhile, another child was pulling on the udders of "Bessie" the cow while being instructed in the basics of cow milking. Small children in period dress enjoyed old fashioned games, learning how kids used to play while engaging with the activity. "We homeschool, so this counts as a school day for us," said one mom, "it's a great place for them to learn." The child attendees got the opportunity to learn while they played, providing valuable lessons for the kids while they had fun. The kids could learn both about the museum, and about history in general while they completed the scavenger hunt, which took them all over the festival looking for answers.

The museum is open through October, Tuesdays and Saturdays 11AM-3PM and by appointment.

Closing for the season Tues Oct 31.





After enjoying demonstrations of stone wall building, chair caning, and spinning, attendees could gather behind the festival to watch the Civil War reenactors. On the edge of the festival there was an encampment with multiple period-accurate tents and campfires. The soldiers would leave their camp twice a day to fire cannons at each other, reenacting a Civil War battle. From the safety of the festival, visitors could watch grey and blue uniforms fall on the makeshift battlefield. "It's cool," said Casey Smith, Union reenactor and board member of the museum, "it gets me involved with history." Getting folks involved with history is what the Pennsylvania Heritage Festival is all about.



Both Saturday and Sunday, visitors enjoyed a presentation by Rich Gulyas about early farming tools, a staple of the Heritage Village and Farm Museum. Visitors learned about the different tools and their various purposes, and the locations around the area where general stores once carried the tools. Tools were a theme of the festival; the Master Gardener's displayed a variety of historical gardening tools and gave lessons about butterfly pollination. Both presentations were a great success, showing that attendees of all ages could learn something new at the festival.



The 2023 Pennsylvania Heritage Festival was truly one to remember. People came from all over to experience the exciting events and the interesting vendors, and they came to learn history. We are all so grateful for everyone who volunteered, the event would not have been possible without you. This includes Troy High School eighth grade students earning community service credit, the students helped out and learned lessons in history, responsibility, public speaking, and leadership. Thank you also to the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, who organized the Maker's Market, which was new this year. If you missed the Pennsylvania Heritage Festival this year, don't worry! There's always next year, and the promise that with every passing year, the festival gets better and better.



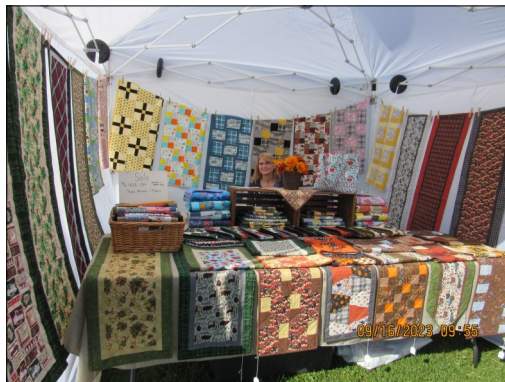


This year the PA Route 6 Alliance and the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) partnered with the Pennsylvania Heritage Festival.

The Maker's Market promoted regional crafters, artisans, and agricultural producers from a variety of artistic disciplines.

The Maker's Market is an extension of the PA Route 6 Artisan Trail, where northern Pennsylvania's rich history, diverse regions, and friendly people come together to produce a vibrant culture of craftsmanship and creativity.

"The EMHR is proud to partner with our fellow Heritage Area, the PA Route 6 Alliance, in putting on this Maker's Market," says Cain Chamberlin, the executive director for EMHR. "As part of our agricultural theme of 'Living with the Land', we strive to promote our rural culture and connect with those who continue the longstanding tradition of farming in our area. It is our hope this event will not only bring attention to our agricultural heritage and support local businesses along the Route 6 corridor, but also bolster the PA Route 6 Alliance's Artisan Trail program."





Thankyou all. Joan Reese-Smith of Bradford County United Way coordinated the 'Day of Caring' sponsors to help set up for the Pennsylvania Heritage Festival. **Chesapeake Energy** employees spent a morning setting up the large tents, **SPM Mobil and Gas** employees spent Friday morning moving all the props out. Alparon Park employees delivered needed tables and chairs.

Upcoming Events



Tuesdays 6PM
October 3, 2023 – April 30, 2024

Cost \$5 a person, 50% Museum / 50% Winning Team

Teams up to 6 players, no team? come anyway,
join a team in need of a player.

Bring your own snacks and drink.

(Ample parking, no steps, heat, bathrooms, well lighted)

This fun event follows the Big Pond Trivia Night format with some interesting twists

Each week will feature a mystery object for identification, and the museum will have a table of items for sale. Seasonal items such as scarecrow kits,



Troy High School is celebrating its 100th anniversary Oct. 6-7-8, 2023 check the alumni site for a full schedule of events troypaschoolfoundation.org or FB-Troy PA ,School Foundation and Alumni

The Thomas One Room School (in use 1954-1923) will be open at no cost. (complete museum and Heritage Village tour includes admission and can take a couple of hours).



Food Booth at Miller's Maze and children's hands-on activities

931 Sopertown Rd.
Columbia Cross Roads, Pa
Weekend of Oct 21st



Garage Sale—Alparon Park

Exhibit Hall
Saturday Nov 4
8AM-1PM

Wide variety of everyday items and a selection of estate items.



Don't miss our Fill-a-Bag table, for \$5 fill a bag



Christmas in the Village

Sunday December 3th 11AM– 3PM
Free Admission

Holiday Bake Sale, Unique gifts,
craft vendors, Santa & Mrs. Clause.
holiday music,

Story time with Mrs. Clause,

Free Kids Crafts, Free Refreshments

The public is invited to the next
BCHA Board meeting
Wednesday October 18, 1PM at the Museum
As in recent years the Annual meeting will be conducted via US Postal mail.

