

# Eagles Mere Museum Lake and Legacy



www.eaglesmeremuseum.com

May 2019



The Corner of Laporte and Allegheny Avenues

The year is 1885; the place is Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania. At this time, in addition to the lake, there are only a few farming families raising cattle, horses and sheep and growing oats and potatoes. Apple trees remain from the George Lewis glassworks days. But changes are taking place. A group of men have bought the lake and 1,000 feet around it. They are selling lots to families who are looking for healthy places to vacation away from the hot cities. There are summer cottages being built, boarding houses, and three hotels in town. One of these hotels is the Allegheny House on the southwest corner of Laporte and The Allegheny Avenues. Allegheny House, a four-story structure, opened on July 2<sup>nd</sup> of that year with 44 rooms. The hotel was proud of its magnificent "eight An 1888 article in the seater." Muncy Luminary reported on a "sacred concert consisting of vocal and instrumental selections of a high order. " Apparently it was a gathering place for dancers who "loved to trip the merry waltz....or a

fantastic jig." An advertisement in 1909 stated that it was open all year, could accommodate 125 guests, and had new sanitary plumbing. The hotel differed from the others in town in that it was a "licensed hotel." This meant it served alcoholic beverages. It had two billiard tables which were listed on the receipt for its liquor license. Later, a tennis court was built in back of the hotel on Allegheny Avenue.

The hotel had eight different owners *Continued on page 2* 

#### Continued from page 1

over its lifetime, mostly members of the Christopher Peale family. Mr. Peale had arrived in Eagles Mere in 1858, and his family had various occupations, adapting their lives to the transition which occurred in Eagles Mere. His brother, Fred, was an owner as was his son, Sidney, whose descendants are still in Eagles Mere today. Due mostly to lifestyle changes the Allegheny Hotel closed in 1960 but was then used by the Eagles Mere Athletic Association as a youth center and dormitory for its employees. It was torn down in 1979. All that remains today is the tennis court (on Allegheny Avenue) and the Allegheny Cottage which was located next to and south of the hotel.

Meanwhile, the Playhouse in the Park had closed in 1969. Performing arts and theater had always been a part of Eagles Mere's summer life

and was missed. The Casino in the Park, another place for fun and entertainment, had also closed. The community needed something to take their place. The Friends of the Arts (EMFA), a group headed by Bob and Priscilla Ryan, was formed in 1975 to bring cultural entertainment back to Eagles Mere. A permanent place was needed for their performances. The Fire Company, in addition, was looking for more space, and the Athletic Association (EMAA) was looking for a Youth Center. David DeWire, a chemistry and physics teacher at the high school, a coach of many of the sports teams, a member of the Country Club, and the Fire Company stepped up and brought the three organizations together to agree on a building that would benefit them all. The land, formerly the location of the Allegheny Hotel, was donated by the EMAA; the Fire Company tore down the hotel, and

EMFA the new was to be responsible for the maintenance of the building. The building that opened in 1983 had a lower-level garage for a fire engine, a nice-sized room for the young people, and an upper level for the performing arts. It was eventually named for David DeWire who was killed when a small cannon exploded during the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1983, fireworks display. It was he who had had the dedication to bring these organizations together.

Today sounds "consisting of vocal and instrumental selections of a high order" as well as other light entertainment still emanate from the corner of Laporte and Allegheny Avenues.

Barb James

When you visit a museum, do you do what I do? I find that I use the Eagles Mere Museum as my standard when I consider how effective other museums are. This practice isn't just the result of civic pride – we actually DO have a wonderful museum, and it effectively tells the story of Eagles Mere. We can take pride in our museum,

There are exciting days ahead. This year we are updating our

#### **President's Message**

strategic plan in an effort to make the museum even more relevant to our visitors' experiences. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed and may be shared with any board member. I thank you for your membership and for your Your financial support. contributions vital are to maintaining and improving the museum. Another way to contribute and have fun at the same time is to volunteer as a docent. I can speak from experience - you'll

meet many interesting visitors, and you may even learn that their families have some connection with Eagles Mere. The pleasure you gain from meeting our guests will repay you many times over.

I invite you to drop in, bring your guests, and enjoy a visit to our rotating exhibits.

#### Bob Grabarek



# Lake and Legacy

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Volume 21

May 2019

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The Eagles Mere Museum is a function of the Borough of Eagles Mere, and contributions are tax deductible. Annual memberships are \$35. Please send donations to PO Box 276, Eagles Mere, PA. 17731.

Eagles Mere Museum Board

> President Bob Grabarek

Vice President Joan Werner

Secretary Mary Anne Grabarek

> Treasurer Kay Wilson

Curator Barbara James

Events Kathy McCorkle

> Technology Jack Leo

Docents and Volunteers Trudy Whitmoyer

> Dave Carson Ruth Craig Noreen Shanfelter

Museum Mission To discover, collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the historical and cultural heritage of Eagles Mere and to provide educational opportunities for residents, schools, and other museums through programs of historical interest.

Museum Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Check for future events on our website, www.eaglesmeremuseum.com, or on Facebook.

#### Where in the World is Emma Pfeil?

My research into the ownership of the property at 22 Woodland Avenue in Eagles Mere Park involved the use of many Deed research resources. revealed that one Emma E. Pfeil of Philadelphia purchased the 999 year leasehold on a vacant lot from the Eagles Mere Chautauqua for \$100 on November 15, 1905, with the stipulation that a summer cottage be erected within one year (It was probably built in 1906.). On March 16, 1921, Emma Pfeil transferred her leasehold to Dr. Millard F. Thompson of Washington, DC. The only other Museum record for Emma E. Pfeil is found on a 1968 map of Eagles Mere Park, identifying the property of Emma E. Pfeil in deed book 33, page 17 related to lot 72 (today's 22 Woodland Avenue).

So the search began for a person who lived in Philadelphia in 1905 and spent \$100 on a piece of land. I guessed she had been born in 1860 or 70. The first hit was a January 21, 1916, passport application from Emma E. Pfeil, born October 6, 1870, in Carlinville, Illinois, who was traveling to Jamaica and the West Indies on January 29, 1916, on the Pastores. The passport was to be mailed to "The Marlyn," 40th and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. The passenger list for the SS Pastores included Emma Pfeil.

age 45, born 1870 in Carlinville, Illinois.

The 1900 census records for Passaic, New Jersey, listed Erma (actually Emma) Evelyn Pfeil, 35, wife of Civa Pfeil, married 15 years and mother of 2 children: Walter (14) and Herbert (12), both born in Missouri; however, her birth date was given as October 1864 in Illinois.

The 1910 census records for a Philadelphia hotel or boarding house on South 36<sup>th</sup> Street listed in order with many others: Herbert M. Pfeil, 22, of Missouri; Emma E. Pfeil, 44, of Illinois, widow, mother of 2; Rudolph Goldsmith, 47, of Missouri; and Lydia M. Goldsmith. 40. of Illinois, married 19 years, no children.

The 1920 census records for the Hotel Marlyn on Walnut Street listed: Emma E. Pfeil, age 54, Illinois, widow and, further up the page, Lydia A. Goldsmith, age 50, Illinois, widow. I then located a death certificate for Evelyn Pfeil, widow of C. A. Pfeil, age 65, born in Illinois, who died on July 8, 1928, at Hahnemann Hospital. Her father's name was not listed. The informant was John M. Wesley of 113 Chestnut Street.

The next day working through deeds related to 31 Woodland Avenue I found an assignment of lease dated May 28, 1957, from Shelby and Elsie Brinser to Lewis and Viola Kimmel which referenced the leasehold at Book 33 page 265. However, the referenced book and page had nothing to do with any Eagles Mere deed. I had hit a dead end.

The 1968 Park plan yielded a reference for this lot to Lydia M. A. Goldsmith, deed book 33 page 20. This was a eureka moment for those Goldsmith names found while researching Emma Pfeil. Research on Lydia Goldsmith, in addition to the tidbits previously noted. revealed she also obtained a passport the same day as Emma Pfeil on which she stated she was born on October 26, 1875, in Carlinville, Illinois, and was taking the same cruise on the Pastores to Jamaica and the West Indies. The passport was to be mailed to "The Marlyn,"  $40^{\text{th}}$ and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. Additional research revealed that Lydia's first husband, Rudolph C. Goldsmith, died in 1914, and in 1923 she remarried. Her new husband was John M. Wesley (the informant on Emma Pfeil's death certificate). Lydia's 1953 death certificate revealed her father's surname was Achilles. Also of note: the informant was Herbert Pfeil, her nephew! *Continued on page 5* 

The 1870 Macoupin County, Illinois, census records show Victor Achilles, age 33, born Prussia, dry goods merchant; Lieber Achilles, age 27, born Prussia, keeping house; Emma Achilles, age 4, born Illinois; and Lydia Achilles, age 6 months, born October 1869 in Illinois

Fast forward some considerable research time to the clincher establishing a relationship between Emma Pfeil and Lydia Goldsmith: Rudolph C. Goldsmith's Funeral record from the Bair Funeral home in Philadelphia reveals, "Arrangements made by Emma Pfeil, sister of Mrs. Goldsmith. Charge to Mrs. Lydia M. A. Goldsmith, 40th & Walnut Streets (Marlyn Apartments)."

On August 1, 1919, Lydia M. A. Goldsmith transferred the "Idylease" cottage leasehold to John Howard Waldron and brother, Fred Sprout Waldron. On March 16, 1921, Emma E. Pfeil transferred the "Idle Hour" cottage leasehold to Dr. Milliard F. Thompson.

My conclusion: sisters Emma and Lydia purchased vacant lots directly across the street from one another in Eagles Mere Park in 1905 and constructed summer cottages probably in 1906 that they named "Idle Hour" and "Idylease."

Jack Leo

# Thank You!

It's time for my favorite task, thanking all the volunteers that make the Eagles Mere Museum a very special place. It's a place where vou always learn something new and interesting about the history of the community where you live or are just visiting. But most important, you want to come back and visit the museum again.

We thank the docents who make this happen by working many hours in the main floor gallery, they include: Susan Glaubitz, Mary G. Smith, Alice Weeman, Barbara Swinick, Lee Middleton, B.A. Moyer, Carol Feese, Lois McConnell, Dale Hastings and Judy Huhn. We are not forgetting to thank: Karen Gardner, Arnie Dahm, Kate Albertini, Kathleen Deasy, Anne Hoopes, Diane Spahr, Linda Borish, Susan Schreckengaust, Marria Walsh, Eileen Grossfeld. Nancy Hoffman, Barbie James, Carolyn Hirsch, LuAnn Ecker, Byrne, Marge Rob Bidelspacher, and Tom Graff.

The upstairs train room is always a favorite destination. Larry Keller of Williamsport is our official repairman but it's our train engineers who spend many hours providing our visitors with history of that era besides keeping the trains running. We give thanks to Bob Grabarek (for doing the scheduling) and his team members: Peter Glaubitz, Fred Weeman. Tom Burkholder. Linda Roman, Peter Hodgson, Phil McDermott, George Freeland, Bob Spahr, Rick Liebert, Joe Bird, Jim Moyer, and Barry Hopkins.

It is time to look forward to 2019. We want to increase our visitors, members and of course volunteers. Please consider joining this group by giving me a call at 570-525-3276.

Trudy Whitmoyer

#### **Building Eagles Mere**

Thwack, wham, whomp, tap...we often hear these sounds as we walk around Eagles Mere; but who is making these noises and why? Over a hundred years ago the men behind those hammers and saws were not only the physical builders and architects of Eagles Mere, but they actually helped to create the foundation of Eagles Mere Borough on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1889. They served on councils, owned stores, managed hotels, built roads and homes and fulfilled many other needs in the community and the county. Two very early prominent names were Little and Dunham, and they continue to impact our community to this day.



This year our center gallery exhibit celebrated these two families and their strong ties to Eagles Mere by highlighting their influence throughout history. Many of the homes they helped to build and restore still exist today making us a National Historic District. A. C. Little helped to



construct almost 20 homes along with churches and hotel additions, while Jerry Dunham helped to repair and build over 55 homes. This exhibit was made possible through the extensive family research done by our board member, Jack Leo, as well as help from Keri Little and Sandy Dunham. A special thanks to Christopher Eldridge for his help putting together the Raymond Hotel exhibit which included a creative history word find. We hope you have come in to see if your home was built by either of these Eagles Mere families.

Our second exhibit centered around the Roaring '20s, "A Decade of Change." Many objects were pulled from our archives to illustrate the contrast between those who lived and worked here year-round and

those who visited Eagles Mere and Sullivan County in season. This particular exhibit led to a presentation on December 29, 2018, on how these two very different families might have celebrated the holidays during the Victorian age. What traditions did they follow and why? A special thanks to Dave Carson for lending us his Fairy Lights which added a Victorian holiday touch to this exhibit. These lights were typically strung in a row along the driveways of wealthy people or along the sides of buildings.

This year our exhibits will focus on our Fire Company, the Allegheny Hotel, and Eagles Mere Friends of the Arts. There will be also a tribute to the end of World War I. If you



have any items of interest that you would like to share regarding these future exhibits, please let me know. Your gifts and loans help us to build and maintain interest in our museum.

Joan Werner

#### **Calendar of Events for 2019**

# June 16, 1:00 p.m. "All about Bees"

Buzz into the Eagles Mere Museum upstairs gallery and learn about bee pollination, about how hives are transported throughout the US, and about the overall importance of bees for our food production. Hackenberg Apiaries located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, will be presenting this free program during the Village's annual Garden Event. Hackenberg Apiary is home to Buffy Bee Honey featuring products such as beeswax, honey, and pollen. Their bees have contributed to the overall pollination activities in six states: Florida. California. Georgia, Pennsylvania, Maine, and New York.

#### June 22, 5:00 - 7:00 pm Open House

Drop into the museum, chat with friends, enjoy a drink and view some of our most recent upgrades in the museum and our office area. We thank the Eagles Mere Foundation for its grant to help us finance the transformation of our downstairs office to an additional viewing and research space. We are keeping our fingers crossed that by the end of June this will be completed.

#### June 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m. "Victorian Crackers"

Crackers were created by Tom Smith, a London sweet maker between 1845 and 1850, to celebrate Christmas in the United Kingdom. Legend says that one night, while he was sitting in front of his log fire, he became very interested in the sparks and cracks coming from the fire. Suddenly, he thought what a fun idea it would be if his sweets and toys could be opened with a crack when their fancy wrappers were pulled in half. Make your own July 4th version of a Victorian cracker. While making your red, white, and blue cracker, learn a little bit of Eagles Mere's history regarding our July 4th parade. The first cracker you make is free, but you are welcome to make more for only a \$1 donation each. We're sure everyone at your picnic table will want one.

#### June 29 OR June 30, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m., Eagles Mere History Walkabout

Take a little walking tour of our town and learn about our early glassworks history, our connection with Tiffany, and some littleknown stories behind some of our churches, schools, post offices, and roller rinks. Meet in front of the Eagles Mere Museum.

#### July 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Eagles Mere Through J. Horace McFarland's Lens

Dr. J. Horace McFarland was a well-known publisher, botanist, writer. preservationist, printer. photographer and president of the American Planning and Civic Association. The Smithsonian referred to him as "One of The Most Famous Man you've never heard of." Luckily, he became one of Eagles Mere's most notable summer residents, printing many of our early Eagles Mere brochures which often included many of his photographs. Join us on July 22 at 7:00 in the DeWire Center for a presentation by Barbara James and enjoy viewing this unique collection of his pictures of scenes in and around Eagles Mere. All are welcome with a \$5 donation.

#### August 31, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., "On the Corner of Allegheny and Laporte Avenues"

What do the Eagles Mere Fire Company, Eagles Mere Friends of the Arts, Eagles Mere Athletic Association and the Allegheny Hotel all have in common?

Learn about these connections by joining Eagles Mere Museum members, friends, visitors and guests on Labor Day weekend, August 31st, to celebrate the end of another historic summer in Eagles Mere. This brunch event will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the DeWire center and will feature recipes from the original Allegheny Hotel cookbooks, as well as a program on the history of the hotel and of the DeWire Center, now located where the hotel once stood.

A silent auction will be part of the event along with a toast to the summer of 2019.

Call the museum at 570.525.3155 to make a reservation, or sign up on the museum website. Tickets are \$18 per person for museum members and \$20 per person for non-members.

#### October 12, 1:00 p.m., "The Underground Railroad in North Central Pennsylvania"

The museum has chosen a different road to take for our annual village event, "Bi-planes, Trains, and Automobiles." Explore the Underground Railroad in North Central Pennsylvania with Dr. Spencer Sweeting who will speak about this fascinating topic. Dr. Sweeting is pastor of the City Alliance church in Williamsport and is a relative of Mamie Sweeting Diggs, direct а

descendant of Daniel Hughes who was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. Mamie was part of a program called "Follow the North Star to Freedom" created by Karen Frock, an area historian and documentary filmmaker. WVIA produced this film, and we hope to get a copy of it for viewing after the program.

#### Late December, Date and Time to Be Announced, Quilt Presentation

Enjoy a special presentation on quilts over the holidays this winter.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The museum worked hard to stay on budget and control spending, in Income Summary 2018. The audit has been Expense Summary completed with no findings, and January through December 2018 the adjusting entries have been January through December 2018 completed. The final balance shows a surplus of about \$4,450. This money will be earmarked for renovation. an office Board members are currently working on the plans, and this project will be completed this year. Membership has been declining and last year that line item fell a bit short of the budgeted amount. Shop sales were also under budget, but considering the rainy year and low visitor attendance, this was not surprising. 367 · Membership / Donations The museum has always been 38.70% frugal with of the funds it receives 380 · Shop Sales Income and will continue to balance its 26.81 needs with the demands in order to 354.07 · Grant Revenue keep the museum in step with 1763 100 . Gen Operation history. 85 760/ Kay Wilson, Treasurer

#### "Welcome to the Museum!"

This is a familiar greeting from our pleasant staff. This year is a bit of a transition time for us. As in the past, many of our younger employees move on to bigger and better experiences. Morgan Randall has been with us almost three years, bringing an artistic perspective to the museum. She finished working for us this past February and will graduate from Sullivan County High School in May. Her passion for dance has led her to teaching dance as well as making it a major or minor in college. Madison Glinski graduates from college this year and will soon be doing graduate work in addition to continuing her service in the military. Her attention to details and wonderful sense of humor will be missed, but we hope to have her through the summer. Thankfully, a very well-known face and local "friend" of the shops, Rose Dirocco, will be filling in any of the gaps left by Morgan and Madison. We also welcome back Gavin Siegfried who is now our assistant shop manager. His love of history has indeed brought new life to the museum. To reiterate, "Welcome to the museum!" We always look forward to seeing you, so please stop in and check out our ever-changing exhibits and say, "Hi."

The Museum Shop will have some new items this year. You can serve a fine charcuterie on an Eagles Mere slate cheese board while wearing patriotic socks, add our latest shot glass design to your collection, or try your hand at 'walking the dog' with an Eagles Mere yo-yo. We also hope to have a 'pop-up' at the Antique Market on July 6.

#### **Oral History Project - Recollections of Life in Eagles Mere**

So many stories about the history of Eagles Mere answer questions about what used to be. Here's an excerpt from an interview with Ruth Hild about the schoolhouse in Eagles Mere:

"I walked about a mile from our home. The school was on Laporte Avenue where Frank Comfort's house is now. Miss Ann Sperry was my teacher in the first, second, third, and fourth grades. Then for fifth and sixth grades I went into the other room, and my aunt, Elaine Hunter, taught those grades. There were two rooms. When my father was a kid in town, he also went there through high school in



that same building, but the high school was upstairs. He was the only one in his senior class. The school was a wooden building with outhouses in the back, but I never used the outhouses. By the time I went [to the school] there were indoor toilets. There were two students in the first grade."

Mary Anne Grabarek secretary of the museum's board, continues her oral history project by interviewing Eagles Mere people with stories to tell. If you would like more information about this project, please contact Mary Anne at <u>magrabarek@mindspring.com</u>, 919-757-9414 (cell/text), or 570-525-3951.

#### EM Welcome Wagon Weekend......Bring a Guest!

A small committee of representatives from many of our non profits in Eagles Mere is planning a Welcome Weekend June 28-30, 2019! SHARE THE LOVE...If you are a homeowner or Country Club member, please consider helping us show off this special happy place during a weekend tailor made for newcomers who might be looking for a summer getaway for their families. A community cocktail party, dance, hikes and activities at the beach, museum and Country Club will all be featured during this 3 day "Open House".

If you have a family or couple in mind, please email us at <u>EaglesMereinfo@gmail.com</u> and we will be happy to send you an itinerary outlining the weekend's special activities. We look forward to greeting you and your guests.

#### **EAGLES MERE MUSEUM MEMBERS 2018**

#### LIFE

Albertini, Kate Celestino, Joan & Chip Clark, Susie & Jack Godley, Mary & Fred Hallgren, Audrey & John Humes, Beth & Graham James, Barbie Johnson, Leslie Knox Klotz/Orbach, Anne & Seth Larson, Jane & Ted McDermott, Marie & Phil Montgomery, Bob Noone, Barry & Barbara Norbeck, Suzanna Reighard, Louise Kirk Robson, Lance & Peachy Smith, J & Linda Westphal, Jeff and Jeni Wilkinson, Jay & Laurie Wise, Joanne

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## **Eagles Mere Museum Membership Form 2019**

Dear Eagles Mere Friends,

You can stand, pretty much, on any street corner in Eagles Mere and find a piece of our history. Maybe it's a building, a plaque, the remnant of a wall or set of stairs. We walk the trails and Laurel Path, swim or boat at the beach, go to concerts, play tennis or games on the Field of Dreams, watch the 4th of July parade and the water carnival and gather for town parties, just as generations before us have done. Our village is full of wonderful memories, and the Museum and its board are dedicated to keeping those memories alive and available to all, both in our exhibits and behind the scenes. Preserving other parts of our history is the reason the Eagles Mere Museum was established.

Our mission is to preserve this history and our unique legacy. We also want to celebrate our present (because eventually, it will be our past) for the benefit of future generations who will look to Eagles Mere as their special place.

Our present activities and our very future depend heavily on our members' financial support. If you are already a museum member, thank you for your meaningful and continued support. If you are not yet a member, please consider adding your financial assistance to those who are. You may join or renew online at Eagles Mere museum.org/support or by completing and mailing the attached form.

To ensure that your support is used wisely, we are developing a three-year strategic plan. Your input is essential to our success. You will help us preserve the history and traditions you find on every corner in "the town that time forgot." so they will never be forgotten.

Member privileges include:

• 10 percent discount on purchases in the museum shop and discounts on special events

2019 Membership Application (January 1—December 31, 2019)	
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	Email
Phone	
	Cottager (\$250)   Lewis Glass Guild (\$1000) EMRR Engineer (\$500)   General member (\$35)
Membership includes spouse/partner and children under 20 years old	
Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?	Yes No
Would you like to volunteer?	Docent Publicity Exhibits Events
(please check one or more)	MembershipCollections management 11

Eagles Mere Museum PO Box 276 Eagles Mere, PA 17731



The Museum Shop will have some new items this year. You can serve a fine charcuterie on an Eagles Mere slate cheese board while wearing patriotic socks. Or, add our latest shot glass design to your collection. Or, try your hand at 'walking the dog' with an Eagles Mere yo-yo.

