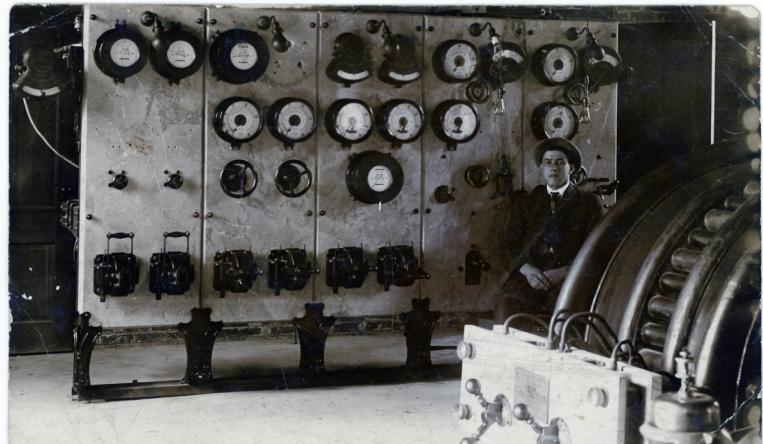




Lake and Legacy

Electricity Lights Up Eagles Mere

Pennsylvania Heritage (Fall 2008) recounts that “while urban Pennsylvanians benefited from alternating current electricity as early as 1883, more than a half-century later, in 1936, seventy-five percent of Pennsylvania’s farmsteads lacked electric service. There had been some enterprising attempts to establish ‘light plants’ powered by windmills, steam engines, and batteries, but the equipment was bulky, costly to purchase and maintain, and produced little electricity. For utility companies — as it remains today — it was prohibitively expensive to build and operate power lines to service customers in sparsely populated areas.” There was local production of electricity in Eagles Mere by the late 1890’s when certain hotels had their own generators. Horace McFarland reported in 1896 that “at 10 p.m. all electric street and cottage lights went out [at the Chautauqua Inn] because the generator on the grounds was stopped. This left the guests with moon-



Control Panel in Muncy Valley Powerhouse

light or candles for illumination.”

Eagles Mere, even at its most populated, could hardly be considered “urban Pennsylvania” which benefited from early centralized electric power production. It is surprising, then, to find that electrification came to the Town That Time Forgot in 1901 - well before other rural areas. Here’s what happened.

Hunters Lake held the power for Eagles Mere’s electricity

Maps dated 1806 and later 1872 show Hunters Lake and Eagles Mere Lake as

natural lakes. Shaped like a violin, Hunters Lake covers about 117 acres of land and is surrounded by a heavy growth of hemlock. Its fish population includes trout, pickerel, catfish, bass, bluegills, and perch. The elevation of Hunters Lake is 1,564 feet. Its outlet stream is called Trout Run.

The land around Hunters Lake was inhabited by Native Americans as they moved about the area hunting and fishing. Later, early settlers hunted deer and bear near the lake. They built floating log cabins, and at night they anchored

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EAGLES MERE MUSEUM

Lake and Legacy

Volume 23

May 2021

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The Eagles Mere Museum is an entity of the Borough of Eagles Mere, and contributions are tax deductible.

Annual memberships are \$50. The membership form can be found on page 15. Please send donations to PO Box 276, Eagles Mere, PA 17731. Payments may be made online at www.eaglesmeremuseum.com.

Museum Mission

The mission of the Eagles Mere Museum is engaging, informing and inspiring people as they learn about the history and heritage of Eagles Mere.

Museum Hours 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

April-May: Saturday and Sunday

June-August: Tuesday-Sunday

Please consult our website www.eaglesmeremuseum.com for details.

Like us on Facebook to find out what’s happening at the museum!



Continued from page 1

them offshore to keep off prowling animals. This activity suggested the name "Hunters Lake."

The lake's fortuitous geographical location combined with ingenuity and the perseverance of human endeavor enabled the development of impressive hydroelectric plants that provided alternating current electricity for Eagles Mere and surrounding areas until 1952.

A bucolic hunting area became a source of hydroelectric power

In the 1800's brothers Thomas and Joel Bennett came to Hunters Lake from Shrewsbury Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey; and Thomas worked for George Lewis. Around 1820 Mr. Lewis constructed a grist mill powered by water from Trout Run. This was the first commercial use of the lake's water. The grist mill lasted until the 1920's.

Later in the 1800's, Emile Geyelin, a French hydraulic engineer, came to Eagles Mere. He built a dam (called Penny Dam) across Trout Run below the present-day location of the Rines Road Bridge to power turbines for his saw and milling mill. He had a beautiful stone house built nearby to accommodate people tending to his lumber business. Hunters Lake and Penny Dam were the essential elements that formed the basis for generating alternating current hydroelectricity for Eagles Mere.

Benjamin G. Welch, who had promoted the building of the Eagles Mere Railroad in 1892 to provide a better means of transportation to the Eagles Mere ho-

tels, agitated for a public supply of water and electric light for Eagles Mere. C. Larue Mason, John S. Kirk, James V. Brown, and Steven S. Brown made plans to construct a light plant powered by the water of Hunters Lake.

According to *The Meter* (November 1954), the Eagles Mere Light Company was incorporated on September 14, 1900. The plant began operation on June 1, 1901. That plant and then its successor supplied electricity continuously until 1952. A close look at the dam and building construction that took place reveals the remarkably efficient progress of electrification for Eagles Mere.

"Magic fluid"

On November 1, 1900, *The Sullivan Review* proclaimed: "A dam will be built at the outlet of Hunter's Lake and a cable will conduct the magic fluid to Eaglesmere [sic] where it will be converted into light." A hand-drawn map from that time shows Hunters Lake with the spillway from the dam. The original dam was made of stone, and parts of the foundation remain today. In fact, one can still make it out. It has survived all these years. Along the shoreline are numerous land springs that feed into the lake. A powerhouse to enclose a generator which supplied the electricity was built near an old watering trough about half-way down the hill from Eagles Mere toward Muncy Valley near the confluence of Trout Run and Roach's Run (which flows from present-day Keystone Mountain Park along Edkin Hill Road). Electricity generation was started

AN ORDINANCE granting to the Eagles Mere Light Company the right of way, and privilege to erect and maintain poles and place electric wires thereon in the Borough of Eagles Mere, and to use the poles already erected and regulate the same.

Be it ordained by the Council of the Borough of Eagles Mere, Sullivan County, Pa., and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same, that the Eagles Mere Light Company be and is, hereby given permission, license and authority to erect the poles and place thereon wires on the streets and avenues, lanes and alleys of the Borough of Eagles Mere, and also to place wires on any poles over which said Borough may have control already erected in said Borough.

Section 2. That the said poles and wires are not to be placed so as to in any way obstruct or interfere with the free passage of water in, over, through or upon any gutter, drain, culvert or water course or with any street crossing in the said Borough of Eagles Mere, and that the said poles and wires, shall be so erected as not to impede or obstruct the passage of horse, carriages, vehicles and foot passengers. Provided, however, that due care must be exercised so that poles are not placed in objectionable places, and provided further that the said corporation shall repair all damages occasioned to the said streets, lanes, roadbed and sidewalks by reason of the erection of said poles and the running and placing of said wires on the said streets, lanes and alleys and maintaining the same thereon, as well as any damage caused by the necessary repair and maintenance of the same.

Section 3. That all wires strung within the Borough limits shall be carefully insulated, and inspected from time to time for the safety of the general public. And it is hereby made the duty of the Chief Burgess to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 4. That unless the said corporation has its plant in operation furnishing light to the general public within two years from the passage of this ordinance, the ordinance shall, by such failure, become null and void.

Approved, March 1st, 1901.

E. V. INGHAM, Chief Burgess.

Attest: A. DUNHAM, Clerk of Council.

Continued on page 4

in 1901. While earlier steam and gasoline motor-driven plants had furnished electricity to a limited number of facilities, with this new plant there was enough electricity to supply Eagles Mere and surrounding areas.

Harnessing the power of Hunters Lake

The shoreline landscape and the lake itself changed when the dam was built to enlarge Hunters Lake. In addition, Penny Dam was improved. A wooden penstock (pipe from dam to generator) wrapped with metal rods was built from Penny Dam to a valve house that controlled the water's flow to the generator. Various surface structures and trenches supported the penstock to the first powerhouse. This first generator provided electricity from dusk to dawn from 1901 to 1908. There was a surplus of power, so lines were added to Muncy Valley, Sonestown, and even to Picture Rocks and Hughesville.

Workers at the sites were key to the operation. During the early 1900's the Phillips family lived at Hunters Lake to maintain that area and to release water to ensure a sufficient supply for Penny Dam. Others lived in the stone house and maintained the dam, valve house, and penstock to the first generator. They used a telephone connection between the houses to communicate the need to release lake water to Penny Dam. When required, boards were removed from the spillway allowing water to flow. Occasionally, a net was even put in place to catch escaping fish while the water was being released! If the water was below the spillway, a gate valve in a pipe was raised by turning a

on Tuesday.

—The Eagles Mere Electric Light Company are preparing to raise the water in Hunter's Lake, which furnishes the power for their lights, to increase the capacity of their power.

The supply of water last summer proved abundant for the demand of lights at Eagles Mere, and the company is now convinced that they can supply electricity for all the surrounding towns as far distant as Hughesville. This will give the county seat with the county buildings, three hotels, five stores, four churches a printing office and probably a dozen dwellings to light and also furnish power. The several windmills and engines in town could profitably be dispensed with. Under ground wires could easily be maintained and but little additional cost made in supplying the extra power. It is now up to Laporte to investigate and learn what can be done with the Eagles Mere Light Company along these lines.

The above item appeared in the *Republican News Item* on February 27, 1902.

wheel at the end of a wooden walkway. Sometimes the lake's water was so low that a ditch was dug from the edge of the water to the pipe's entrance.

Eventually there was more demand for electricity. To ensure sufficient water to the powerhouse, in 1906 another dam was constructed on a nearby stream, Rock Run, and a feeder canal was built to direct the Rock Run watershed into Hunters Lake. Forty to fifty men worked 2 months to complete it.

In 1907 construction of a new power plant was begun in Muncy Valley. R.D. Kehrer managed the construction. He maintained uninterrupted electric service while moving key components from the old plant to the new one.

The new plant was located 8,400 feet from Hunters Lake with a fall of 502 feet from the lake to the floor of the powerhouse. A metal penstock directed the flow of water down the mountain from the old powerhouse location to the new powerhouse. The elevation difference between Penny Dam and this second powerhouse more than doubled the pressure head available to the turbines. The pressure was increased from 98 pounds per square inch to 217 pounds per square inch. As the water left the powerhouse, it flowed across the ground to rejoin Trout Run.

The Muncy Valley plant began operation in 1908. This building, a brick and stone structure with a slate roof located next to Route 42 where the highway starts its ascent to Eagles Mere, is still visible today. Harry Hacker lived in a nearby house and maintained the generators at this powerhouse. With the advent of the new plant, 24-hour electric service was rendered. The Muncy Valley plant had water wheels with a capacity of 462 horsepower. They were connected to two 240-kilowatt Stanley induction-type generators.

As electrification expanded, the electrical power companies were consolidated. The Eagles Mere Light Company, which included operations in other local townships, was sold to the Sullivan County Electric Company Number 2 on January 1, 1928. The

Whitmoyer family maintained operations at the lake, Penny Dam, and the powerhouse from around 1940 until the plant closed in 1952. David Smith, president of Northern Pennsylvania Power Company [eventually changed to Pennsylvania Electric Company] which later owned the Eagles Mere Electric Light Company said that at the time this plant was by far the highest pressure turbine in their system. However, he indicated that the water supply pipes were a problem because they leaked. After the plant was closed in 1952, the two generators eventually went to a low-head dam on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River near the towns of Susquehanna, Oakland, and Lanesboro.

A legacy of outdoor recreation

In 1961, 2,591.5 acres around Hunters Lake were purchased by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission from the Pennsylvania Electric Company. Four years later, trouble developed. On June 25, 1965, a large hole developed under the Hunters Lake dam at the spillway. The placement of many

sandbags and opening the gate valve prevented a major flood going down the valley to Muncy Creek. A new dam was built in 1970 just below the old dam. This 1970 dam raised the water level above the remains of the old dam. When walking across the present dam, you can see remnants of the old dam. Since then, a new concrete boat launch has been built midway up the lake off Brunnerdale Road. An emergency spillway was also built at the north end of the lake allowing water to enter Rock Run when needed.

Hunters Lake, located in Shrewsbury Township, is currently owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Fish and Boat Commission.

Electricity and commerce: A final reflection

Electricity was good for business, but the noisy generation of electric power would have been detrimental to the beauty and tranquility of Eagles Mere.

In a thesis by Bob Wise (“Façade Elements: A Preservation Alter-

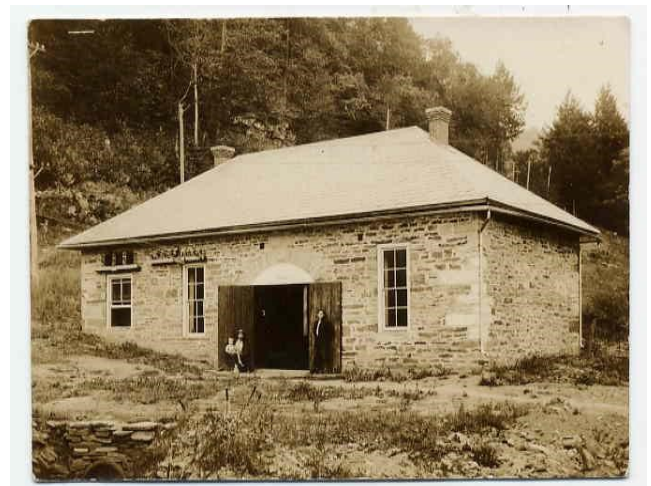
native for Historic Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania,” 1993) we read the following observation: “The Hotel Eagles Mere’s 1900 or 1901 brochure states, ‘The house is brilliant with electric lights at night and on cloudy days.’ Electrical power was introduced to Eagles Mere [in] 1901, the year [after] a company was organized by members of the syndicate to produce power. This was quite early for a rural community to have electrical power. Once again, however, Eagles Mere was spared the possible onslaught on nature that a power-generating station could inflict. The syndicate in this case purchased control of nearby Hunters Lake, built a dam, and piped water down to a powerhouse in Muncy Valley. ... [E]lectricity was a powerful advertising tool, as well as a moneymaking convenience for those members of the syndicate who summered on the mountain.”

Ruth Rode



(Left) Penstock to Muncy Valley powerhouse

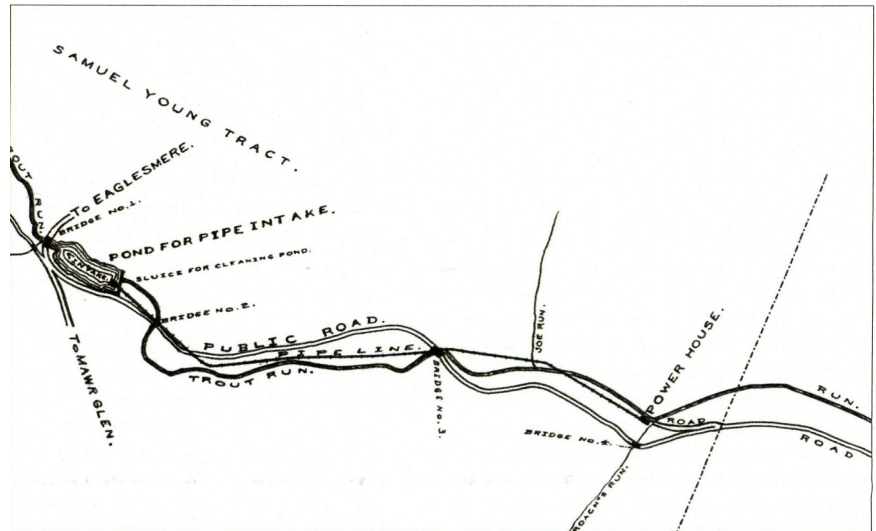
(Right) Muncy Valley powerhouse





Along the Rock Run - Hunters Lake sluiceway last Sunday afternoon. When Hunters Lake was used to provide power for a hydroelectric generator, and water was in short supply, the trench was opened to supply water from a Rock Run creek impoundment about a mile away. This ditch was dug by hand, pick and shovel and wheel barrow and maybe a horse shovel. Signs are evident that blasting was used here and there.

(Above) Canal from Rock Run to Hunters Lake



(Above) Map showing location of first powerhouse

(Right) Stone supports for penstock to Muncy Valley powerhouse



Taxation and the 19th Amendment

There are many facets of our museum: meticulously crafted visual and aural exhibits, programs for all ages, the train room with its accurate model railroad display, and stores of artifacts carefully curated and conserved for the future.

Electronic preservation

Another aspect of museum conservation is the electronic preservation of municipal records. Electronic storage of documents of interest to those who are researching the past through public records and genealogies of individuals and families is a vital part of the museum's collection. For example, the tax records from Shrewsbury Township (1854-1899) and Eagles Mere (1899-1944) have been conserved by scan-

ning the records to PDF files. Records for all people listed in those records have been transcribed to an Excel spreadsheet for future use in museum research. They will be incorporated into an ongoing project to document the genealogies of people associated with Eagles Mere.

More taxpayers

Tax records can reflect changes in the law and make for more taxpayers! Last year our country observed the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment declares that women, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is interesting to note the law's effect in Eagles Mere between the

1920 tax records (which were filed at the end of 1919) and the 1921 tax records (which were filed at the end of 1920).

In 1920 the list of **resident taxpayers** (identified for school tax purposes) included **57 individuals**, listed for both occupation (e.g., laborer \$100, painter \$150, etc.) and ownership of real estate (which included 2 women).

In 1921 the list of **resident taxpayers** jumped to **133 individuals** of which 55 were newly-added housewives taxed at \$50 along with a number of single women taxed for occupations listed as domestic \$50, seamstress \$50, nurse \$75, and teacher \$100.

Jack Leo

Electricity for Health: Margaret Hagan's Eagles Mere Spa

Mrs. Hagan is now at Eagle's Mere, where she will remain during the heated season, attending to her large and ever-growing practice, and where you can be afforded an opportunity of testing her curative powers if you are a victim of any disease flesh is heir to." *Williamsport Sun-Gazette, June 29, 1895*

Margaret Mahammit Hagan was an electrotherapist with a very active practice in Williamsport, conducted in a 17-room spa called "The Electric Baths." She boasted that she served the "best families" and for a number of years proudly followed them to their summer homes in Eagles Mere. Margaret brought along her young grandson, Thomas Gregory, for the summer.

The medical use of battery-generated electricity at that time was supported by medical professionals and taught in medical schools. It is used today in physical therapy and other therapeutics. A low charge of electricity coursing through the body can help restore weak muscles, damaged tissue, and aid in digestion and other body functions, in addition to relieving pain.

Margaret said she had a large cottage in Eagles Mere. She may also have practiced at one of the hotels. At one point she recruited a manicurist to join her.

Margaret was born in Frederick, Maryland. She was the daughter of Po Mahammit, who came to the United States from Madagascar on an educational tour in the early 1800's. He purchased Margaret's mother, Serena, a mulatta, from a Frederick family, and they were married. Family oral history states that Margaret's mother was a daughter of Supreme Court Justice Roger Brooke Taney. While the truth of this may never be known, it is a fascinating piece of history, because Judge Taney is best known for the Dred Scott decision, handed down by the Supreme Court, that decreed that "African Americans were



not citizens and had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

Margaret Hagan had come to Williamsport with her husband George Washington Hagan, a mechanic, at the time of the Civil War. Before she established her electrotherapeutic practice, she ran a professional laundry and sold upscale women's fashions.

The Hagans had several children, including a daughter, Fannie Emma. Instead of sending Fannie to Williamsport's segregated schools, sixteen-year-old Fannie attended historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C.. A few years later she married her professor, Oberlin

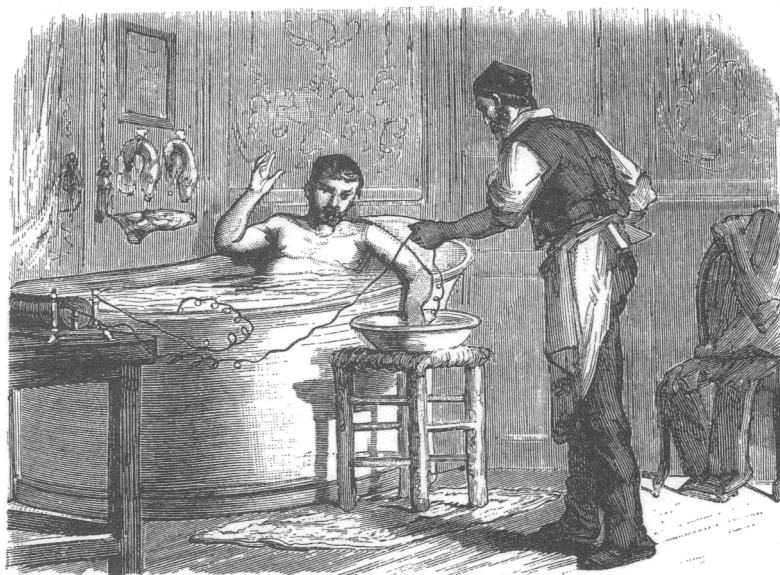
graduate, James M. Gregory.

Their son, Thomas Montgomery Gregory, born in 1887, who spent many summers with his grandmother in Williamsport and Eagles Mere, grew up on the Howard University campus. Thomas finished high school at Williston Academy in Easthampton, Massachusetts, and graduated from Harvard in 1910 (T. S. Eliot was a classmate). He returned to Howard to teach like his father. He had a notable career as a dramatist, educator, social philosopher, and activist.

Margaret lived in Williamsport until 1903 when she moved to Bordentown, New Jersey, to be with her daughter, Fannie. Fannie's husband, James, had earned his master's degree at Harvard and was the headmaster of the Bordentown School, a residential high school for African American students, often called the Tuskegee of the North. Margaret died there in 1914 at the age of 88.

The museum would welcome comments and additional information about Margaret Hagan.

Mary Sieminski



In the late 19th century, the electric bath was used to treat severe headaches and muscle pains.

Activities Lost to Eagles Mere - Some Permanently, Some Temporarily

In this time of pandemic and “new normal,” the Eagles Mere Museum created a “missing traditions” display in its central gallery. Some of these items represented ongoing traditions that could not happen in 2020 because of the pandemic, and some depicted past traditions that have fallen by the wayside in years gone by. We hope they brought you fond memories or sparked your curiosity to find out more of the wonderful community of Eagles Mere.



Toboggan slide diorama constructed by Kay Wilson

Did you know that a thriving theater existed in Eagles Mere for more than forty years and presented productions including *The Crucible*?

That vibrant inter-community baseball games were the order of the day with teams from Williamsport and Hughesville vying against one another? Or that the first Water Carnival premiered as far back as 1899 on Eagles Mere Lake? We presented playbills, sports equipment, photographs and more. Here's a sampling

Theater

Alvina Krause started the Eagles Mere Playhouse, located at the Forest Inn Park, in 1948. For twenty years students and distinguished actors entertained audiences with plays including *The Crucible*, *Brigadoon*, and *The Chalk Garden*. The Playhouse closed in 1963 when Mrs. Krause retired.

The Eagler Theater was located on Mary Avenue near Sullivan Avenue. It was originally a dance hall and roller rink before becoming a movie house.

The Ensemble Theater Community school was started in 1984 by Ann Klotz and her husband Seth Orbach to bring theater back to Eagles Mere.

The two presented at least two plays per summer at the DeWire Center through 2007.

Water sports

The first Water Carnival was held in 1899, and prizes were awarded starting in 1902. Participants row their canoes around the lake and stop at appointed spots to perform their competitive routines based on pre-ordained themes. Families reconvene yearly to celebrate this popular event. It was missed in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Each summer the Eagles Mere Athletic Association sponsors Sports Week, a week of events in July and again in August. Events range from the zany (cannonball splash) to the serious (the lake swim where swimmers compete in a swim across the lake – nearly one mile).

The recently-reconstituted Sailing Regatta has brought back the excitement and elegance of racing sailing boats on Eagles Mere Lake. After a 20 year hiatus the Eagles Mere Regatta was restored on August 16, 2008. The next

year the Regatta returned to its traditional date of the last weekend in July. Participation has ranged from 25 to 35 boats.

Eagles Mere Fire Company events

The Eagles Mere Fire Company has long been involved in community events. Two of these were missing in 2020.

The toboggan slide can be built only if the temperature stays cold for weeks at a time and the lake freezes to a minimum depth of twelve inches. There has been no toboggan slide for the last five winters because these conditions were not met.

The Fireman's Carnival kicks off the biggest weekend of the summer. Antique fire truck rides, bingo, and wheels of chance highlight the evening. 2020's was the first Carnival ever canceled.

Baseball

Baseball began in Eagles Mere as early as 1890 according to one newspaper source. In 1894 it was also noted that games were played near the grounds of the Hotel Eagles Mere. Games moved to a new playing field near the beach—today called the Field of Dreams— in 1895. The all-Eagles Mere team was comprised of the best players from the surrounding area, and they played Bernice, Hughesville, and Williamsport, to name a few. After the Eagles Mere Athletic Association was formed in 1909 teams sponsored by the various hotels also competed against each other. By the 1940's competitive baseball was gone, but the Field of Dreams still hosted summer and pickup games when teams could be mustered.

Noreen Shanfelter

Bringing a Little of Edith Berry's Artwork into Your Home



Edith Berry

The Museum Shop had the grand unveiling of the Eagles Mere Toile over the 2020 Thanksgiving weekend. This was the culmination of a collaboration of sorts between Edith Berry and Eileen Devine. The story of this toile begins almost 50 years ago when Edith opened her art studio in Eagles Mere. Edith, a renowned artist in Bucks County, sketched and painted in and around Eagles Mere. She also taught two current local artists, Pat Liebowitz and Carolyn Hirsch. Edith's artwork adorns the walls of many cottages in Eagles Mere. A longtime patron of the Eagles Mere Museum, Edith permitted prints of her art to be sold to benefit the museum, and she participated in a retrospective of her work in the museum several years ago. Even though Edith passed away in 2020, she has left behind a rare reminder of the essence of Eagles Mere in her art.

Years later, Edith's iconic sketches of Eagles Mere inspired Eileen Devine, an interior designer in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and summer Eagles Mere resident, to create a toile featuring her scenes. Linda Berry Gould, Edith's daughter, was instrumental in making Eileen's vision a reality. Linda provided a treasure trove of Edith's images of Eagles Mere which made it challenging to winnow it down to eight different yet complementary images. During this complicated process, Edith passed away and then Covid hit. Despite these setbacks, Linda and her brother, Harry, authorized the use of their mother's artwork and Eileen and her company, Devine Designs Incorporated, set to work configuring the layout of the images in consultation with

the mill in West Chester which would print the fabric and manufacture the products to be offered in the Museum Shop.

The extended Berry family was thrilled by the choice of "Blueberry" as the first color of the Eagles Mere Toile products. The products created from this blue toile fabric are poufs, accent pillows in two sizes, tea towels and zippered pouches. We anticipate offering a selection of table linens in black this summer as well.



Eileen Devine

The Museum Shop is thrilled to be able to offer such unique and timeless creations which will continue Edith's legacy in Eagles Mere and wherever the toile products end up -your family room back home, a dorm room or wherever you need a reminder of the beauty and joy of Eagles Mere. The museum is extremely grateful to Eileen Devine for sharing her tremendous creative talents to benefit the Eagles Mere Museum and to Linda Berry Gould and Harry Berry for their support of this project through the use of their mother's artwork.

Please stop in the Museum to view and appreciate the quality of the Eagles Mere Toile products. If you can't wait till you're on the mountain, check out the museum's website for photos of the toile items. Please email shopemmuseum@gmail.com for additional information.

Ruth Craig

Museum Shopping

The museum shop has many "antique" newspapers from the grand hotel days as well as past editions of the "Treetop Eagle" and Water Carnival programs. Did your copy of the 1989 Water Carnival program end up in the Lake? The shop may have a copy! Maybe there's an article about grandpa winning the Club Championship in 1958. Check out our selection of memorabilia to complete your collection.

MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN

Celebrate some anniversaries with us!



There is no need to sit in front of your computer this summer. Zoom outdoors and support the Eagles Mere Museum by celebrating some of our electrifying events. When you see this flag in and around Eagles Mere, you will know one of our special events is happening. So don your mask and join us. Eagles Mere Museum members will receive a discount off the non-member price for all events in 2021. (Make sure your name is on our 2021 membership list.)

June 26 (rain date June 27)

"It's Electric"

Old Eagles Mere Airport
3:00-5:30 PM

One hundred twenty years ago - in 1901 - the Eagles Mere Electric generating plant supplied electricity to the borough, illuminating Eagles Mere Avenue. Although Ben Franklin wasn't a part of our Eagles Mere history, his kite-flying experiment and its connection to the study of electricity is well known. Join us for this family event at the old Eagles Mere Airport to make and fly your kite. The Pocono Kite Symphony will make a special presentation and then help you craft your own kite to soar over the airport. Learn some "explosive" information about our airport's creation and how electricity and our history are connected.

This event is open to the public for an \$8.00 per person donation for non-members (\$7.00 for members), including a kite and a non-alcoholic drink.

July 11 and August 22 (rain or shine)

"The Laurel Path's Hidden History"

Edgemere Dock
11:30 AM, 12:30, or 1:30 PM

One hundred thirty-five years ago, Captain Chase laid out the path around the lake. Its legacy holds hidden treasures we often "zoom" by while walking its route. Join a small group of people for a historical hike starting at the Edgemere dock and ending at the Crestmont dock. There you can decide to take the *Hardly Able* back to Edgemere or leave us at Lee's Landing. Midway on your walk, enjoy a hotel delicacy, "bacon bats," at Gypsy's Landing. Each of the three small tours (no more than ten people) will begin on the half-hour starting at 11:30 AM at Edgemere dock.

This event is open to the public for an \$8.00 donation (\$7.00 for members). Please pay and sign up in advance at the museum before the walk.

August 17 (rain date August 18)

"The Forest Inn through the Decades"

Forest Inn Grounds
4:30-6:30 PM

Approximately one hundred twenty-five years ago, the Chautauqua Inn became the Forest Inn. When did electricity become part of our hotel's history? Learn about the Forest Inn through the decades by traveling to different "stations" related to this unique piece of property. View its history through the lens of several presenters while you enjoy a popular drink and appetizer from the decade. Play some games and maybe purchase a memorable Forest Inn piece of history along the way.

Make reservations at the museum for this fundraiser starting at 4:30 with a \$35.00 donation (\$28.00 for members). Open to the public.

President's Message

I am sure no one would question the fact that 2020 was an extraordinary year. The pandemic, social unrest, and politics have invaded our lives in ways none of us had imagined.

Yet, the Eagles Mere Museum has continued to operate and even thrive in so many ways. Throughout the year we have been able to keep the doors open when state law allowed, albeit socially distanced, masked, and restricted by the regulations required for operation. We owe this success to the hard work of our faithful volunteers and board members in addition to our staff members Lisa Frey and Elaine Olsen.

Creative exhibits have continued to delight and inform our visitors. The museum shop has thrived with new offerings such as the historically significant toile items designed by Eileen Devine from the drawings of Eagles Mere's beloved artist, the late Edith Berry. Membership in the museum is robust (please renew yours for 2021 if you have not already done so), and grant money has supported our operation and new programs.

This year we will open beginning in April through the summer. In this newsletter you will see a description of the programs we have planned to once again celebrate Eagles Mere's fascinating history. Enjoy learning about the advent of electricity in our town (in 1901!), reminiscences from the Forest Inn, and our wonderful Laurel Path's history. We are also planning to introduce some new technology to enhance your museum experience. Stay tuned and visit your museum both in person and at eaglesmeremuseum.com. You are in for a treat!

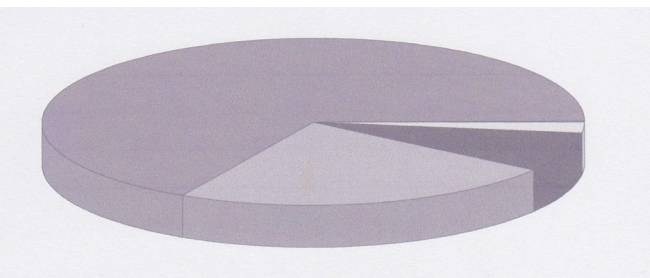
Bob Grabarek

Treasurer's Report

Restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic negatively affected our museum financially in several ways in 2020. We were unable to open until late July, and we were required to close in December. Therefore our in-house donation income was reduced. We also had to cancel all fund-raising events. Thanks to grants totaling \$13,800 from the Eagles Mere Foundation and welcome support from our members, we ended the year with a surplus of \$2,069. Total income amounted to \$51,283. Our year-end audit took no exceptions to our bookkeeping.

The museum's Finance Committee is hard at work implementing our strategic plan and developing fund-raising opportunities. We appreciate your support. If you would like to request more detailed information about the museum's finances, please contact the museum office and leave a message for me.

Dave Carson, Treasurer



The pie chart at left shows the distribution of our expenditures (\$49,214). The largest category was our direct operating expenses, followed by shop expenses, non-operating purchases and cost of goods sold.

Welcome to the Museum!

A round of applause is in order for the 2020 docents who donned their masks to greet the museum visitors, made them feel welcome and answered questions.

Thanks go to Rob Bidelspacher, Karen Gardner, Kathleen Deasy, Lee Middleton, Kathy Martin and Mary Smith who worked many hours. I have not forgotten Dale Hastings, Tom Graff, Judy Huhn, Ruthie Hild, Barbara Swinick and Linda Roman who all worked several shifts at the museum. Gail Meyer, Arnie Dahm, Marria Walsh, and Susan Schreckengaust also volunteered for a shift.

They were an immense help to Elaine Olsen who was the hard-working shopkeeper for the museum during 2020. We are very grateful for her help during this unusual

year and we look forward to seeing her in 2021.

You receive a double benefit when you send funds to honor or remember a relative or friend because you are also helping your museum to meet its financial needs. We wish to thank the many donors who sent funds "In Memory of": Martha Switzer, Lois McConnell, the Watts Family, Sonny and Joanne Smith, Russ McConnell, Cortland B. and Margaret F. Manifold and Josephine Watts, Feigles and Raymond "Bud" Watts.

The museum was open only Friday, Saturday and Sunday from the last day of July through Columbus Day weekend and then just the weekends until mid-December when all museums in the state were closed.

We had a surprising number of visitors including Nadia Erhart from Paris, France who commented in our guest book "*Magnifique! Merci!*". We also had visitors from Hong Kong, Germany, and Thailand.

"Capt. Chase was my great, great grandfather" wrote Dean and Miranda Selby from Fairfax, Vermont. A couple from Dallas, Pennsylvania, wrote "Preservation of such history is rare and we are grateful to have a piece."

It is always interesting to meet and talk with our visitors. Please give me a call at 570-525-3276 if you would like to learn to be a docent at our "amazing" Eagles Mere Museum.

Trudy Whitmoyer

Thank you, Eagles Mere Foundation!

Foundation grants are an important source of support for operation of the museum. In addition, a recent grant allowed us to purchase a touch-screen monitor so that we can display archived items for viewing by our guests.

Guest Book Comments 2020

Amazing!
Lovely!
Magnifique! Merci!
Beautiful, friendly area
Amazing, a walk back in time
Always interesting!
Lovely
Awesome & informative
As good as always!
Lovely town. Immaculate.
Capt. Chase was my great-great grandfather!
Fun to be back!
Preservation of such history is rare and we are grateful to have a piece!
Well put together and friendly staff
Wunderbar!
We also had visitors from Hong Kong, Germany and Thailand!

Kinsey & Cassidy Statkiewicz, Spokane, WA
Sue & Bruce Bauer, Mt. Airy, MD
Nadia Erhart, Paris, France
Rick & Lynn Clar, Lehigh Valley, PA
Kay Moate, Quakertown, PA
Gail & Paul Landus, Williamsport, PA
Jen Weiland, Des Moines, IA
Steve & Julie Mutchler, Montoursville, PA
Hutchinson family, LaQuinta, CA
Pat Pape, Larksville, PA
Dean & Miranda Selby, Fairfax, VT
Sue Behm, Marion, OH
John & Kelly Cox, Dallas, PA

Mark & Trish Edwards, Columbiana, OH
Sheila & Terry Tryon, Lake Wynonah, PA

Eagles Mere Museum Members 2020

LIFE

This category was established in 1999-2002 to help with the museum's start-up. We thank you for your continued support and donations.

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

LEWIS GLASS GUILD

Cochrane, Andrew and Dorothy

EMRR ENGINEERS

Besecker, Laura and Don
Chevrier, Elie-Anne
Ganse, Suzanne and Gerald
Godley, Kathleen and Rick

COTTAGERS

Antram/Hillner, Shaun and Katrin
Bass, Judith and Carl
Basselgia, Nancy
Burkholder, Laurie and Tom
Byrne, Marj and Frank
Eater, Joanne and Charles
Gardner, Amy and Charles
Gosliner/Lurie, Kathy and Joseph
Johnson, Mark and Jill
Kell/Fetrow, Jacquelyn and Brian
McCorkle, Kathryn and David
Schreckengaust, Susan and Ray
Smythe/Reuben, Bryn and Jack
Vauclain, Edwina F.
Weber, Joanna and Richard
Wise, Catherine

FRIENDS OF EM MUSEUM

Allen/Sieminski, Richard and Mary
Anderson, Catherine and Ronald
Beaugard, Betsy and Mark
Baily/Scott, Susan and Buford
Brand, Dorrie
Close, Steve and Lisa
Clothier IV, Isaac H.
Conn, Joann and Walter
Coslett/Goldwater, Branch and Janet
Craig, Sally
Craig, Dennis and Ruth
Craig, Bill and Bernie
Dahm, Susan and Arnold
DeAngelo, Jim and Linda
Detwiler, Martha and Jack
Ecker, Denise and Herb
Fetrow, Brad and Bernadette
Freeland, Rita and George
Gardner, Karen and Kevin
Gaul, Brian
Grabarek, Mary Anne and Bob
Gray, Yardly and Burton
Hansen, Christina and Hardy
Henkel/Kirkpatrick, Glenn and Molly
Hilbert, Sue and Steve
Hodgson, Eva and Peter C.
Hunger, Douglas
Jensen, Barbara
Kassab/Johnson, Ed and Jan
King, Cece and Adrian
Kirkpatrick, Crawford
Lewis, Marc and Diane
Liebert, Nancy and Richard
Lingenheld, Betsy and Ted
Mast, Bob and Mindy
McElheny, Dee and Thomas
Middleton, Louise
Myers, Sue and Joe
Olejarsz/Crayton, Karen and John
Olsen, Doris
Schetroma, Beth and Frank
Sewell, Barbara and Leo
Shively, Rev. Deane and Jeanne
Simmons, Nancy and Zach
Smith, J. Stanley and Linda K.
Smith, S.C.
Sonies, Barbara Snively, Gladys and Jim
Sullivan Jeanne and Peter
Walsh, Marria O'Malley
Whitmoyer, Trudy

MEMBERS

Adams, Bonnie and Marlin

Aurand, Dorothy
Berger, Ted and Lori
Bickford, Anne
Bidelspacher, Rob and Elaine
Borish, Linda and Arnie
Brandt, Trevor
Brass, Peggy and Paul
Brown, Debbie and Jamie
Bryden, Ellen and Bill
Carson, Dave and Sherry
Cimmet, Wendy
Clemente, Ellen
Comfort, Frank
Davis, Bob and Kate
Davis, Nancy and Stan
DeWire, Emily
Dickinson, Rod and Robin
Engel, Marjorie
Farrell, Janine and Mark
Feigles, Charlotte and Sam
Ferguson, Winifred
Fleming, Constance
Gilliss, Karen and David
Godley, Gus
Godley, Maggie
Godley, Will
Haman, Lindsay
Hannan, Elizabeth
Hastings, Dale
Hastings/Lobo, Wendy and Yefri
Homer, Kay and Dean
James, Elizabeth
Kimper, Patricia
Koppels, Missy and Rene
Kruger, Linda
Lewis, Josephine
Lynah, Sue and Pete
McGinnis, Julia and Shannen
Mitchell, Laurie
Morris, Art
Palmer, Ann
Ranck, Fran and Terry
Reeder, Deborah
Rode, Ruth N.
Rutledge, Anne
Ryan, Steve and Janney
Scott, Susan and Buford
Selby, Homer and Janet
Sims, Jane C.
Swinick, Barbara and Peter
Theodorakos, Paul and Joan
Werner, Joan and David
Wetzel, Mary and Bob
Wever, Robert and Jane
White, Margie
Whitehouse, Rosemary and Sam
Writt, Renee
Zuckerman/Bernstein, Alan and Rita

Eagles Mere Museum Memorial Donations 2020

The museum gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made by Elizabeth Hannan in memory of Courtland B. and Margaret F. Manifold.

The museum gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made by Joanna and Richard Weber in memory of Josephine Watts Feigles and Raymond “Bud” Watts.

The museum gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made by Lois McConnell in memory of Russ McConnell.

The museum gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made by Amy and Charles Gardner in memory of Sonny and Joanne Smith.

The museum gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made by Wendy Cimmett in memory of the Watts family.

The museum gratefully acknowledges generous donations made by Cathy and Tom Shannon, John and Linda Lundy, Beth and Frank Schetroma, Katherine Albertini, Trudy Whitmoyer, Byron and Christine Huffman, Dave and Joan Werner, Stanley and Nancy Davis, Walter and Leah Haussman, Dave and Sherry Carson, Eleanor Peavey and Patricia Kemper in memory of Martha Switzer.

The museum gratefully acknowledges generous donations made by Beth and Frank Schetroma, Katherine Albertini, Bev and Jerry Potter and Trudy Whitmoyer in memory of Lois McConnell.

Exhibits: Seeing History with Our Own Eyes

Temporary museum exhibits give context to the permanent collection by showing tangible artifacts from a specific era or by celebrating a remembered event. In 2019 our museum benefitted from several displays which took us back in time for remembrance and illuminated specific aspects of the past.

The Fire Company

Hearing the scream “Fire!” will never be a welcome shout in Eagles Mere. The same beautiful forests that make up almost two-thirds of our county and provide us with building material are comprised of wood which can burn rapidly. We’ve lost several prominent buildings to fire and are dependent on our volunteer fire companies throughout the county to keep us safe. The museum honored our Fire Company and emergency personnel with an extensive exhibit which included an old chemical fire engine. **Thanks to the Fire Company** for their help with this exhibit and for keeping us safe!

World War I Veterans

While conducting research for an ex-

hibit to honor our World War I veterans on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles I found that the museum had limited information in our archives even though we have several veterans interred in our cemetery.

Thanks to Jack Craft at the War Memorial Museum in Sonestown who provided several items significant to World War I and items which had been donated to his museum belonging to a World War I service person who was from Eagles Mere. His name was Garrison Myers, or “Dutch” as most people called him. Born on December 8, 1885 (one of 12 children!), he lived on Allegheny Avenue with his wife, Ruth Brink. Garrison was known for his skill repairing Model T Fords. **Thanks to Barbara James** who found a picture of Dutch in his fabulous garden, we were able to put a face with the name of our WWI honoree.

The Allegheny Hotel

This small exhibit showed highlights of the Allegheny’s location from hotel to the current DeWire Center. The display included the Athletic Association’s facility and the Fire Company’s storage area.

Holiday Angels

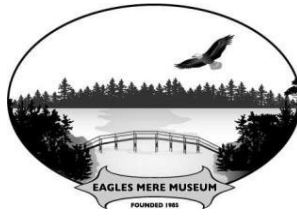
“Angels that Took Flight” delighted visitors **thanks to Joanne Wise’s** extensive collection with additional angels from **Lisa Frey** and **Joan Werner**. **Trudy Whitmoyer’s** collection of nutcrackers added the final touch to our shop window display.

Quilts

Warm memories enfolded us as we viewed a beautiful array of quilts. **Thank you to Kate Albertini, Ruth Craig, Joan Werner, and Kay Wilson**. Their spectacular quilts were exhibited throughout the gallery with a backdrop of our own 1895 crazy quilt donated by the **Dunhams**.

Your collections, heirlooms, and Eagles Mere memorabilia are always appreciated in the museum as short-term loans for our gallery exhibits. If you have something that might be of interest as a loan or gift, please talk with any museum board member. We would love to hear from you.

Joan Werner



Eagles Mere Museum Membership Form 2021

Help build Eagles Mere memories and become a member.

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 contribute online at eaglesmeremuseum.com/support or by completing and mailing the attached form.

Membership privileges include a 10 percent discount on purchases at the museum shop and a discount on admission to special events.

2021 Membership Application (January 1—December 31, 2021)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ Email _____

Phone _____

Captain Chase Circle (\$1500)

Cottager (\$250)

Lewis Glass Guild (\$1000)

Friend of the Museum (\$100)

EMRR Engineer (\$500)

General Member (\$50)

Membership includes spouse/partner and children under 20 years old

Donation \$ _____

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.)

Membership Collections management



Eagles Mere Museum
PO Box 276
Eagles Mere, Pa. 17731



Browse the museum shop for items old and new. Inform the clerk of your museum membership and receive a ten percent discount on all items.