

The
Portage Area Historical Society
Newsletter



814-736-9223

P. O. Box 45 Portage, PA 15946

October 2005

This summer the Portage Station Museum opened its doors to "The Artwork of Barbara Yetsko." Our gracious Barb set up a display of 21 of her favorite paintings on the first floor of the museum. Most pieces she borrowed from the people she had painted them for, but several were from her personal collection. The show also brought attention to her window painting on the first floor, the 140' mural on the building adjacent to the museum, and her huge painting of the Allegheny Portage Railroad Plane #2 on the second floor. Sunday afternoon, August 14th, Barb hosted a reception with violinist Lois Morris and organist Cheryl Sherbine playing soft music in the background. The display was open to the public from August 12th, the opening of Summerfest, through the end of the month. Over 150 people visited the museum during that time to view Barb's beautiful artwork. Thank you Barb for all of the hard work collecting the paintings, setting up, and taking down the display. Thanks to you we had visitors from all over the country visit our small town museum.



railroad and steelworkers, their lives, struggles and their enjoyment of music. Over 40 people attended the performance, many of them first time visitors to the museum. Many also strolled through the museum to view the scouting, mining, and other displays.

Youth Awareness Projects

This fall almost 600 Portage elementary students received bookmarks with pictures of the Portage Station Museum and the mural next door. Bookmarks were black and white so the youngsters could color them. Third graders will once again participate in the mural coloring contest. These projects are to increase awareness of both the museum and local history among the younger

members of our community. From "Portrait of a Town": Members (of the board) see a time when the organization serves as a resource for educating our children. Thanks to Irene Huschak for overseeing both projects.

Style Show

On November 6th the PAHS will once again host a fashion show, this year's theme, Wedding Belles- Women's Fashions 1770-1900. Ladies from the Blair County Historical Society



will model the wedding gowns from days gone by. Peggy Fields, a national expert on period clothing, will narrate the program, discussing wedding trousseaus, cakes, veils, honeymoons, wedding customs, and much more. Last year's show exceeded our expectations with such a wonderful turnout. So join us at the museum for another fun filled afternoon.

Songs & Stories of SW PA

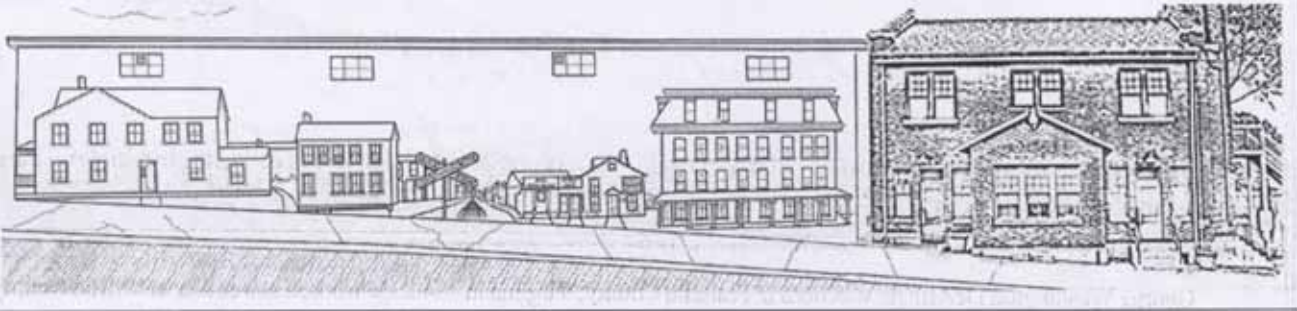
On September 11th Paula Purnell performed at the Portage Station Museum, thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Paula, an IUP professor and musician, had hands clapping and feet stomping. The audience sang along to her wonderful medleys and volunteers from the audience accompanied her with delightful songs. Paula told stories of Western Pennsylvania's Indians, miners,



Stop Light Market Collectible

The Stop Light Market, the most recent collectible, is going fast, so get yours now. Created by Hometowne Collectibles, Inc., Bowmansville, PA, they are a true

PORTAGE STATION MUSEUM



Bookmark Front

collectible! The price is \$16.00, tax included. Stop by the museum or the Portage Public Library on Main Street to purchase yours. During Summerfest weekend Ginny

McDonnell set up a stand at the park and sold 33 collectibles. Thanks Ginny for your time and effort. Jerry & Janice Bolton once lived above the Stop Light Market.



They moved there in 1972 when Janice was pregnant with their son Dan. They were the first renters after Kline changed the pool hall into a residence. Janice said, "People use to walk right into our place. It was back in the days when no one locked doors. No one knocked, they just assumed it was still the pool hall. Needless to say, it didn't take us long to start locking our doors."

Upcoming events:

November 6: *Fashion Show - Wedding Belles*
December 10: *Light Show*
December 31: *Museum doors close for the year*

Check the Portage Dispatch for details!!

Many Thanks

The Portage Area Historical Society offers many thanks to the Stager family for their continued support of the Portage Station Museum. It was the late Francè Stager who helped us acquire the old railroad station some 15 years ago. Since then, the Stager family has given us use of the building rent free. They paid for the paint for the large mural on the building next to the museum and they have supported all of our projects, both financially or with donations from the store. Again, many, many thanks to the

generosity of the Stager family, for without them, there would not be a *Station* Museum!

Historical Loss

It was a week after the Kopper script was stolen from the museum that a local resident found one of the coins in the alley above the museum. Since then it has been our hope to recover the rest of the 124 coins, but to no avail. Thank goodness for the security system at the museum, the person who stole the script only broke the window and did not enter the building. The insurance covered the cost of a new display case, something we definitely needed, but needless to say, the Kopper script cannot be replaced.



Board Resignation

In July the PAHS accepted the resignation of Barbara Prostejevsky. Thank you Barb for your many years of service and best wishes to you.

Memorial Plaque

Elena Bandzuh of Portage purchased a \$100 plaque in memory of Lloyd Plummer. A plaque is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or friend, so keep it in mind. Prices of the plaques are \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1000.

Visit our Website @

www.portagestationmuseum.org

Museum Hours: Wednesday & Saturday - 1 pm - 4 pm

Portage Area Historical Society Board

Regis Huschak - President
Ruth Richardson - Vice President
John Havrilla - Treasurer
Mary Kostan - Recording Secretary
Irene Huschak - Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Havrilla, Betty Cann, Ginny McDonnell, Mary Lou George, and Tom Gaudlip.

The PAHS recently received this Biographical Sketch of George Washington DeArment from William Callahan of Cedar Falls, IA. It began with this letter:

Enclosed is a bio of a Civil War Vet from Portage, I think he lived in Puritan. He is one of the Civil War vets pictured on page 324 "Portrait of a Town." Also, on page 324 he is listed as being in Co. 'A', 22 Regt. He was in Co. 'D', 20 Regt.

George Washington DeArment was born in Franklin County, Virginia in 1840. He worked as a collier in Mifflin County, PA and married Barbary (sometimes referred to as Barbara) Howser on October 28, 1869. George and Barbary had ten children.

George had two enlistments in the Federal Army. The first enlistment was with the Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. He signed up in Lewiston, PA on June 30, 1863 for a period of three months and received a bounty of \$85.00. During this enlistment George was assigned to Company H, 36th Regiment, under the command of Colonel R. McClay and was sent to Camp Curtin in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for uniforms, weapons and training. After a week at Camp Curtin, the unit was ordered to march thirty-five miles to Gettysburg, PA and arrived there on July 9, 1863.

The 36th Regiment was in charge of gathering the dead and wounded from both the Union and Confederate armies. They collected dead horses, cast off equipment, arms, and clothing. The regiment also sent Union stragglers off to their units and imprisoned any Rebels left behind. Upon completing their tasks at Gettysburg, the 36th Regiment was then ordered to Harrisburg, PA for discharge as they had completed their three-month tour of duty.

George Washington DeArment's second enlistment also commenced from his signing up in Lewiston, PA on February 1, 1864. George was assigned to Company D, Pennsylvania Calvary, 20th Regiment under the command of Lt. Colonel G. Middleton. He received \$300.00 bounty, payable in increments of \$60.00 a month in addition to his regular military salary.

The 20th Regiment participated in many engagements, from the Battle of New Market to the surrender at Appomatox. During a portion of this second enlistment, Private DeArment was listed as sick from August 1864 until October of 1864 and was hospitalized in Clarksville, MD. He was promoted to Corporal in October of 1864 and upon recovering from his illness, returned to his unit and served until June 28, 1865. Upon his discharge, George received a pension of \$12.00 a month.

Following his military service, George and Barbary moved from Mifflin County to Huntington County to Bedford County and in their latter years they settled in Portage, Pennsylvania. These moves were in an effort to follow his trade to make a living. However, due to deteriorating health, George found himself unable to work full time. He did manage to work part time though and depended upon his government pension to make ends meet and provide for his family.

George DeArment died in February 1901 and is buried in Portage, Pennsylvania. Barbary DeArment received a widow's pension upon George's death in the amount of \$8.00 per month. She died in March 1911 and is buried in Portage, PA as well.

Addendum

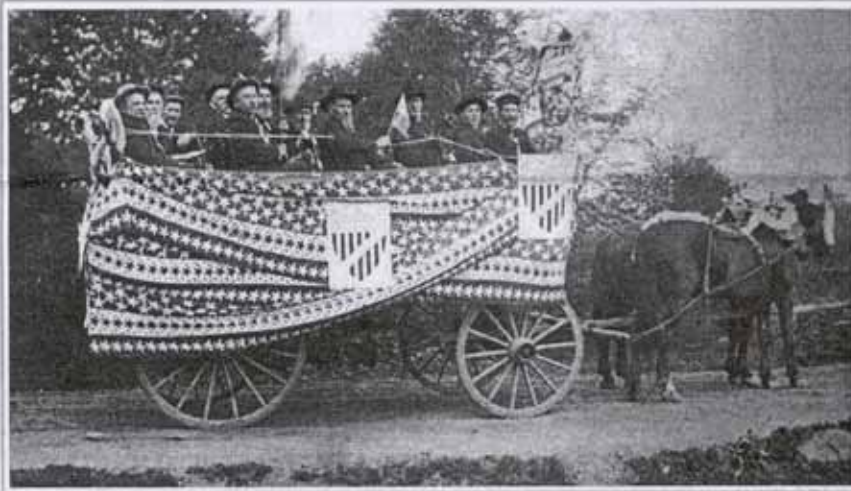
United States government records reflect several different spellings for the last name of DeArment but the initials of G. W. is the clue to the identity of the record.

Private DeArment was issued a smoothbore model 1842, 69 caliber as a member of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. As a member of the 20th Regiment Calvary he was issued a Burnside Carbine, 54 Caliber.

Acknowledgements

Help in the effort to research and record the history and military life of George Washington DeArment came from many sources. Thanks to Kristy Haukoos, the National Park Service, the National Archives, Robert E. Nale, Jean A. Suloff and the Mifflin County Historical Society. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

William P. Callahan
Cedar Falls, Iowa



From "Portrait of a Town": As the research progressed for this book, a pattern began to appear that could not be ignored. We kept finding the same names in the early maps, the town offices, the school boards, and the early papers. These citizens, middle aged to older men, had something else in common besides their interest in Portage. Many were veterans of the Civil War. As young men and boys, they had served their country at a time of internal conflict. Now they were again serving their fellow citizens as organizers of the infant community. (page 325)