

# Wentz Post

A periodic publication of The Peter Wentz Farmstead Society in conjunction with The Farmstead Staff featuring news, views and activities.....

## *Elizabeth R. Gamon, Remembered*

*By Eleanor Bittle*

Elizabeth Gamon was born in Fredericksburg, Va, attended high school in Lewistown, Pa and subsequently graduated from Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing. She married the late Albert T. Gamon and while he was a student at Tulane University, New Orleans, Elizabeth worked for surgeons in various local hospitals. She would make all pre and post-surgical arrangements for doctors at one hospital and then do the same for surgeons at another hospital.

After Albert served a tour of duty in the United States Marines Corps, he and Elizabeth returned to Philadelphia eventually moving to Zieglersville where she resided until the time of her death.

Elizabeth was employed as a Registered Nurse for the Schwenksville School District later becoming a Visiting Nurse in the Norristown area.

Elizabeth and Albert operated a part-time antiques business out of their home. She took a course in Business Administration at West Chester University followed by courses in Textile Conservation and the Decorative Arts at Winterthur, Delaware. Both courses served her well over the years, particularly her textile conservation work with quilts, samplers and needlework. Elizabeth did work with sampler restoration for many antique dealers.

Albert and Elizabeth were members of the Montgomery County Historical Advisory Board and their persistence and determination resulted in the selection of the Peter Wentz Farmstead as an historical attraction. Albert was hired as the Director/Administrator of the site. He and Elizabeth begged, borrowed and purchased many of the decorative arts objects now on display in the house and barn.

It was during this time that Elizabeth helped train "Interpreters" to give tours of the house. She also started the Colonial Crafts Day Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders as well as assisting with the adult 18<sup>th</sup> century craft demonstrations. Often Elizabeth could be found at the Schwenkfelder Museum & Library in Pennsburg cataloging their textile collection. Or she could be found under a tree with a basket of tow at the Goschenhoppen Folk Fest spinning tow into linen tow cloth.

In 1974 Elizabeth was a member of a committee for the Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council planning a two-week encampment at one of the council's camps. For the Bicentennial, she chose 26 18<sup>th</sup> Century period craftspeople. Who better than Elizabeth Gamon to do this? She was well-qualified by virtue of her Girl Scout experience as a youth later serving as an advisor to a troop of Senior Girl Scouts in Schwenksville plus her additional experience as a Goschenhoppen Historian.

Elizabeth also volunteered at the Pottsgrove Manor in Pottstown. In addition, she and Albert planned historical trips of one day to one week to 18<sup>th</sup> century historical sites in the Eastern U.S. Elizabeth was well-known for these carefully planned outings.

(Continued on page 5)



Elizabeth R. Gamon

**Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Board of Directors Officers**

President - Sally Graybill  
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Nominating.....	Ruth Guimond
Publicity.....	Christine L'Ecuyer
Scholarship.....	Christine L'Ecuyer
Trip Planning.....	Frank Luther
Wentz Post.....	Dick Anderl Albert Fritz Richard L'Ecuyer

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society is to preserve and interpret the 18th century Pennsylvania German farmstead established by the Wentz and Schultz families, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's goal is to stimulate public interest and support the site's heritage through educational programs and public events focusing on the architecture, crafts, customs, and furnishings of the period.

**Peter Wentz Farmstead Hours of Operation**

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
 Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM  
 Last Tour 3:30 PM

Closed Mondays and holidays.

- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day
- President's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Election Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas

Reservations required for group tours.  
 Admission: FREE!

The Farmstead is located on Shearer Road in Worcester, PA, near the intersection of Routes 73 and 363 in Montgomery County.

**Inside this issue:**

Elizabeth R. Gamon, Remembered.....1  
 Organizational Structure.....2  
 Annual Spring Meeting & Scholarship Presentations.....3  
 President's Letter.....4  
 Welcome Mat.....5  
 Wentz Weeders Update.....5  
 Education in Montgomery County Part 2: School Buildings.....6  
 Trip Planning Committee.....7  
 Just Another Rock.....8  
 Funding for Fraktur Conservation.....8  
 Letter from the Administrator.....8  
 PWFS Upcoming Events.....9  
 Completed Ice house Dedicated.....9  
 In Memory.....10  
 Inquiring Minds Want to Know.....10  
 PWF 2008 Calendar.....11

**Wentz Post**

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# Annual Spring Meeting & Scholarship Presentations

By Christine L'Ecuyer

The Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Annual Spring Meeting was held Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Central Schwenkfelder Church. President Sally Graybill opened the meeting with a review of the Fall Meeting Minutes followed by the Treasurer's Report. Anne Condon spoke briefly about the donation matching program she is working on and plans to have the scholarship fund eventually reach "endowment" status. Sally thanked the Board of Directors and committee members for their continuing help.

Farmstead Administrator Dianne Cram then addressed the membership speaking first of the passing of Bettie Gamon and the long list of Bettie's accomplishments at the Farmstead. Dianne reported that Sheep Shearing Day the previous Saturday was a great success with over 600 visitors. Dianne thanked all of the volunteers involved in the event. She also thanked the Farmstead Society for the ice house reconstruction and spoke briefly about the upcoming program May 31<sup>st</sup> on historic house restoration. And last but not least, Dianne congratulated the new scholarship winners.

Sally then introduced the Scholarship Committee members. Chris L'Ecuyer then took the microphone to announce the recipients of the Society's 2008 Scholarship program. The winner of the \$5,000 Albert T. & Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship is Patrick Donmoyer of Kutztown University. The Gamon Scholarship is awarded to a college student who is pursuing a degree in Pennsylvania German History, Cultural Studies or Decorative Arts and/or related Museum Studies. The award is based on academic record, activities, leadership qualities and letters of recommendation. Patrick is working towards a Bachelors of Fine Arts/Fine Crafts degree with a minor in Pennsylvania German Studies. He has written an honors thesis on historic hex signs throughout Berks County photographing evidence of existing and previously existing signs and the barns they adorn. It is his intention to eventually catalogue all known signs in the entire Berks County Region. In addition, Patrick is in the process of restoring a damaged Pennsylvania German carpet loom which he hopes to carry to completion during the summer of 2008.

The winners of the \$500 Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Scholarships are Russell Dorand and Rosalie Hooper. Russell will be attending The University of New Hampshire in the fall and Rosalie as of this writing has not made a decision on her choice. The Society scholarship is based on academic record, activities, leadership qualities, letters of recommendation and significant volunteer hours at the farmstead. We wish to thank these students for contributions to the Farmstead. The Farmstead Society is very proud of these deserving young people and wishes each of them the best of luck in the future.

The final event of the evening was a presentation by John Karavage, the recipient of the 2007 Albert T. & Elizabeth R. Gamon scholarship. Using electronic slides and a dynamic speaking style, John recounted the volunteer work that he performed at the Kutztown University Pennsylvania German Heritage Center and how his interest in local history began with the restoration of a 1906 Landers caldron furnace. John showed photos of this and other projects he worked on

including restoration of two 18<sup>th</sup> Century log cabins. John has also devoted countless hours organizing artifacts at the Heritage Center under the direction of Dr. Robert Reynolds. An impressive presentation by a truly impressive young man!



Chris L'Ecuyer, Patrick Donmoyer, Rosalie Hooper  
and Russell Dorand



John Karavage

## The President's Letter

By Sally Graybill

The Society notes with sadness the death of **Elizabeth R. Gamon** on January 26, 2008. Always concerned with happenings at the Farmstead and Society events, even as her health deteriorated, Elizabeth will be sorely missed by her many friends. Thank you to all those who honored Mrs. Gamon's memory with a donation to the Society's Albert T. and Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship Program.

The reconstruction of the **ice house** has been completed and was presented to Montgomery County in a brief ceremony on April 12. This worthwhile project, totally funded by the Society at a cost of \$47,000, provides a new interpretive dimension to the Farmstead. Thank you to the New Projects Committee, Dick Clauser, Chairman, and Carol Allen and Rich L'Ecuyer who assisted him.

Congratulation to Society **Scholarship Winners**, Rosalie Hooper and Russell Dorand, and to Patrick Donmoyer, winner of the 2008 Albert T. and Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship. Best wishes from the Society to these outstanding young people as they continue with their education.

Sixty-five Society members have indicated their willingness to receive Society news via **e-mail**. This is a small beginning in helping to "go green" and cut back on postal expense. Please join the effort by submitting your e-mail address to **mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org**.

**Keep the date, July 16.** The Society will host a picnic for members at the Central Perkiomen Valley Mill House. Directors, Carol Allen, Dini Vigliano, and Chris L'Ecuyer and are working out details and you will be receiving an invitation in June. We're looking forward to meeting new members and renewing friendships with "veteran Society members."

Enjoy your summer and we hope to see you July 16!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**If you enjoy history, antiques, historic houses and people –  
We need you!**

**The Farmstead is recruiting any and all interested in becoming historic house  
guides – no prior experience necessary.**

**We will train you!**

**We have morning and afternoon time slots, both weekdays and weekends  
available for anyone who wants to help with guiding our visitors  
through the Farmstead.**

**Choose the time that best suits you.**

**Please contact Dianne or Kim at 610-584-5104**

**This is an opportunity for you to learn and enjoy  
while helping others appreciate the specialness of the Farmstead.**

## The Welcome Mat

*By Donna Armstrong*

The Farmstead Society extends a very warm welcome to our newest members:

Winifred L. Faust

Kate Pike

Fay Jakoby

Abigail Ray

Chandler & Patricia Crawford

Mary Lou Gray

David & Barb Manilla family

Robert & Margaret Rissinger family

Bob & Betsy Wilt family

Joseph & Jennifer Petusky family

Warren & Amelia Stetter family

Glen & Patricia Sosnader family

Kenneth & Nancy Shreiber family

Tim & Vanessa Hooper family

Robert & Holly Jean James family

Michael & Karen Browne family

Davis G. Phelps, Jr. family

Steven & Maureen Kahn family

## WENTZ WEEDERS UPDATE

*By Janet Riemer*

Another year, another Spring with the daffodils and tulips blooming in full glory. Now the time has come to clean up the Kitchen Garden and get it ready for the planting of flowers and herbs. The center beds will be roto-tilled so we can plant lots of vegetable seeds. Since we lost some very good volunteers last year, we are in need of more people who like to work in gardens. We meet every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM, weather permitting. If you are interested in joining us, call the Farmstead office @ 610-584-5104 or Janet Riemer @ 610-584-9085. It is a very rewarding job when you can see and taste the vegetables that were planted earlier.



The Kitchen Garden in mid-summer splendor.

(Elizabeth Gamon - Continued from page 1)

Following the death of Albert in 1987, Elizabeth was asked by the late Honorable Judge Alfred Taxis to become the next Executive Director/Administrator of the Peter Wentz Farmstead. Elizabeth accepted the offer and held that position until her retirement in 2000. For a time Elizabeth also performed similar duties at Pennypacker Mills splitting her time between the two sites. She maintained this difficult schedule until an Administrator was hired at Pennypacker.

Elizabeth was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a charter member of Perkiomen Dahl Questers and, of course, the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society.

Elizabeth passed away on January 26, 2008 at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. She is survived by one son, Thomas IV husband of Cheryl Gamon, one daughter, Patricia D'Abruzzo and one sister, Patricia Mackey, five grandchildren, Thomas V and wife Kari Gamon, Danielle Gamon, Alycia D'Abruzzo, Jessica D'Abruzzo, Robert D'Abruzzo and three great-grandchildren, Kali, Shelby and Thomas VI Gamon.

## Education in Montgomery County Part 2: School Buildings

*Paraphrased by Morgan McMillan from a paper by Allison Edgren*

Early residents of Montgomery County thought educating their children was worth overcoming many obstacles, including finding a place for a school to meet. Building a school took land and money. Often land was donated for schools and churches – for instance, John LeFever and Jacob Wentz donated land in 1760 for a church in Worcester (now Wentz’s UCC) which had a parochial school from 1765-1858. On June 8, 1717, Matthias van Bebber gave 100 acres in perpetuity to a group of trustees for a minimal annual rent, in order that “it shall be lawful for all ...the inhabitants of the above s’d Bebbers Township [now Skippack] to build a school house...there to have their children and those of their respective families taught and instructed...” It was also possible to seek land grants from the state government. The April 1, 1789 *Independent Gazetteer* reported that the people of Montgomery County petitioned the General Assembly for a grant of public lands to build a school, and a committee had been appointed to bring in a bill to grant their request.

Although some schoolhouses existed in the early colonial period, many schools were held in private homes. The Schwenkfelders opened two schools in the fall of 1764, in the homes of Christopher Schultz and George Anders. Both schools operated nearly continuously until 1823. Henry Antes hosted a Moravian boarding school on his property in Upper Frederick Township from about 1745-1750. As time progressed, more schoolhouses – both parochial and non-parochial – were being built. When a single church could not afford to maintain its own school, two congregations could cooperate to form a union school, or members of the community could join together regardless of denomination and build a school.

Raising money to build the school house and pay the teachers was a challenge. It was possible to seek money from the state, or raise money from the community by subscription. People might donate their skills and labor to build a school. Lotteries were a popular and well-established method of fund-raising for various purposes, including funding schools. By the mid-1700s, the colonial governments had some control over the practice and lotteries had to be licensed. Many townships in Montgomery County, including Sumneytown, New Hanover, and Worcester, obtained permission to raise money for schools via a lottery.

The Abington Friends Meeting school is believed to be the oldest continuously operating school in Montgomery County, begun around 1697. Early schools in Worcester Township include the German Reformed school at what is now the Wentz UCC, a school at Bethel Hill Methodist Church, Frick’s or Union school at Potshop Road, and a school near Water Street Road and Grange Avenue known as Johnson’s or Green Hill school. The Methacton Mennonite Meeting School opened in 1771, not just for Mennonites, but for any students living in the neighborhood. Throughout the county, schools of various sizes and types, funded by various methods and groups of people, sought to educate the children of the area.

*If you would like to read Allison’s original paper, please contact Kim or Morgan at the Farmstead.*



18th Century School Woodcut

## TRIP PLANNING COMMITTEE

By Frank Luther

First, as many of the members of the Farmstead Society are aware, the Trip Planning Committee has a huge void. Through the death of Elizabeth Gamon earlier this year and the retirement of Eleanor Bittle, the Trip Planning Committee lost two extraordinary committee persons. Both ladies were instrumental in the founding of the then Ways and Means Committee in 1976. This group arranged trips with a historical perspective; however, they both adhered to Elizabeth's philosophy that every trip should also include a whimsical site to visit as well. How many people can say that they had the opportunity to visit the belfry of the Old North Church in Boston? Elizabeth arranged that visit during the Society's most recent trip to Boston! Elizabeth and Eleanor were well versed in the information about the sites that were visited. The loss of their input, talent and knowledge, indeed, leaves void in our committee and in the Society as a whole. We are grateful for their many contributions.

The Trip Planning Committee endeavors to carry on the legacy developed by Elizabeth and Eleanor. Trips for 2008 and even for 2009 are being prepared. Our first trip for 2008, planned by Janice

Muller, was the visit to the Red Mill Museum Village and the Clinton House in Clinton, New Jersey on April 24. Twenty-six members of the Society were able to step back in time and enjoy the ambiance of earlier days.

Following lunch in the Clinton House, the Society members visited The Old Barracks, a State and National Landmark located in Trenton, New Jersey. Built in 1758 by the Colony of New Jersey during the French and Indian War, the Old Barracks was also a witness in 1776 to the Battle of Trenton, the turning point of the American Revolution.

Our next trip, arranged by Margaret Schweitzer, will be a visit to the Daniel Boone Homestead and other sites in the Oley Valley on June 23. The Germanic culture and architecture of the Oley Valley are favorite topics of our guide for the day, Jim Lewars, who is the administrator of Daniel Boone Homestead. Jim will share his knowledge of the three sites and the Valley in general. Our day will include a tour of Daniel Boone Homestead, birthplace of the legendary pioneer; a tour of Exeter Meeting House, built in 1759; luncheon at the Historic Yellow House Hotel; and a visit to the Jacob Keim Farmstead which fea-

tures two stone houses (one built around 1753), a barn, and a cider mill.

Society president Sally Graybill has been busily engaged in preparations for the planned three-day visit to the Hudson Valley.

Frank Luther has been working out plans for our Holiday Trip on December 2. The original idea was to visit Victorian Cape May, but when the cost of this one-day trip was reviewed by the committee, it was decided that such a visit would be cost prohibited. Our plan now is to take in the Holiday Show at the American Music Theater to be followed by dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. Constantly compared to Radio City Music Hall, the American Music Theatre's Christmas Show is widely hailed as one of America's best.

Trip Planning Committee members include Sandy Biddle, Dianne Cram, Bill Ditter, Sally Graybill, Janice Muller, Margaret Schweitzer, and Frank Luther, chairperson. We look for your suggestions for future trips as we aim to continue the legacy developed by Elizabeth and Eleanor and other Society members who served on this committee over the years.

### *Please Help Us Save Paper and Postage*

Farmstead Society members wishing to receive future editions of the Wentz Post may do so by sending an email to [mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org](mailto:mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org)

As an added bonus, email recipients of the newsletter see the newsletter in living color. The paper version is reproduced in black and white for reasons of economy.

## LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

*By Dianne M. Cram*

The Peter Wentz Farmstead has experienced a passing of an era with the recent deaths of former Administrator Elizabeth Gamon, and former Director of the Montgomery County Dept. of History and Cultural Arts Howard Gross.

“Bettie”, as Elizabeth was known to most, was one of the key players in the preservation and restoration of the Farmstead from the time the County first acquired the property in 1969. She, along with her husband and first Administrator Albert Gamon, were instrumental in conducting historical research, supervising the restoration process, amassing a collection of furnishings and decorative arts for the site, establishing a corps of volunteers, and developing educational programming and site interpretation. Even past her retirement in 2000 Elizabeth continued her active interest in the Farmstead.

Howard W. Gross was best known to most volunteers and the public as “General Washington”, a character he deeply loved to portray. For many years the central figure during our Candlelight Tours was that of General Washington, in full regalia, conferring with his aids and greeting each visitor as they entered the room. Howard steadfastly steered the County department that oversaw all facets of operation of the County historic sites. Howard once confided with me that Peter Wentz Farmstead was his “favorite” site. Perhaps he told the others the same, but there is no doubt of his commitment to historic preservation and educational programs of all the sites in his charge.

These two strongly committed individuals guided the Farmstead through three decades to what we have today and that will long remain a tribute to their dedication and hard work.

## Not Just Another Rock

*By Morgan McMillan*

Pennsylvania farmers plowing their fields turn up more than dirt and earthworms – sometimes they turn up stones. And sometimes those stones aren’t just rocks. Stone tools appear that were left behind by the people who lived here long before Europeans settled along the Atlantic coast. The upcoming exhibit in the visitor’s center at the Peter Wentz Farmstead will display a private collection of Native American artifacts found in Pennsylvania.

Most of the items commonly thought of as arrowheads should more correctly be called projectile points. Points for spears or stone knives are more likely to be found than true arrowheads. Larger tools can surface as well, hammers, ax heads, and pestles for grinding. Sometimes a stone tool can look a lot like a river rock, but if you know what to look for, you can see signs that it has been used as a tool.

When you come to visit the Peter Wentz Farmstead this summer, be sure to stop into the exhibit area in the visitors center to learn more about early Native American artifacts.

## Funding for Fraktur Conservation

The Questers of Pennsylvania recently awarded \$400 to the Peter Wentz Farmstead to go toward the conservation of two pieces of fraktur donated to the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society by Dr. Richard Godshall. This grant is a match to funds awarded by the Hope Lodge Questers #1394 for the same project, bringing the total Questers contribution to \$800. The remainder of the conservation cost is being covered by the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society. Thank you to all those who are making this project possible.

### ***SAVE THIS DATE!***

A picnic for Farmstead Society members is being organized for the evening of **Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**. Full details will be sent to the membership when plans are finalized.

## PWFS UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>May 21, 2008</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting (Central Schwenkfelder Church)</b>
<b>June 23, 2008</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Daniel Boone/Oley Valley Trip (Exeter Meeting House, Joseph Keim Farmstead)</b>
<b>July 16, 2008</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Society Picnic (Central Perkiomen Valley Park Mill House)</b>
<b>Sept 16, 17, 18, 2008</b>	<b>7am</b>	<b>Fall Trip to Hudson Valley (West Point, New Paltz, Kykuit, etc.)</b>
<b>September 24, 2008</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting (Central Schwenkfelder Church)</b>
<b>October 15, 2008</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Annual Fall Meeting/Dinner (Central Schwenkfelder Church)</b>
<b>November 19, 2008</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting (Central Schwenkfelder Church)</b>
<b>December 2, 2008</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>Holiday Trip to Lancaster (American Music Theater)</b>

## COMPLETED ICE HOUSE DEDICATED

*By Rich L'Ecuyer*

On April 12, 2008 Peter Wentz Farmstead Society President Sally Graybill presented Will Brobst, District 3 Manager, Montgomery County Department of Parks and Heritage Services, with a plaque which read, "This Reconstructed Ice House Donated to Montgomery County by the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society, 2008". The plaque will be permanently mounted on the structure. This concluded the ice house reconstruction project which commenced October 18, 2007 as documented with photos in the Winter 2007-2008 edition of the Wentz Post.

"This is yet another example of constructive cooperation between the Farmstead Society and Montgomery County who share a goal of accurately preserving 18<sup>th</sup> Century Pennsylvania Germanic farm history", declared Sally.

Despite the vagaries of winter weather, the project proceeded smoothly and was completed without delay and on budget. Said New Structures Committee Chairman Dick Clauser, "The contractor, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Restorations, Inc., was a pleasure to work with. We relied on the experience and expertise of the owner, Wesley Sessa, to reconstruct the ice house to its original specifications as best we could determine".



## IN MEMORY

### HOWARD W. GROSS

Director, Dept. of History and Cultural Arts, 1983-2005

Howard Gross, who served as Director of the County department charged with overseeing the County's historic sites died on March 18, 2008 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Gross turned his love of American history into a career in 1983 when he became Director of History and Cultural Arts for Montgomery County. In that role, he was instrumental in overseeing the preservation, restoration and the continued enhancement of all the County sites. He will be remembered, perhaps most fondly, for his portrayal of General George Washington at our Candlelight Tours and other historical re-enactments. Howard retired from the County in 2005.

### LAURA SNYDER

Farmstead Volunteer

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death on April 25, 2008 of our volunteer Laura Snyder, age 33, daughter of Linda Snyder. Laura and Linda have been regular guides one Saturday a month and for all our special event for many years. Laura's enthusiasm for history and her accurate costumed interpretation added a great dimension to our programs. Her cheerfulness brought pleasure to the Farmstead staff and visitors alike. The staff extends our heartfelt sympathy to Linda and her family. Laura will be greatly missed, but remembered with much fondness.

## ?? INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW ??

QUESTION: What is the difference between the Peter Wentz Farmstead and the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society?

ANSWER: The Peter Wentz Farmstead is owned and operated by Montgomery County which makes all decisions relevant to the site. The Farmstead personnel are employees of the County.

The Peter Wentz Farmstead Society is an all-volunteer, autonomous, tax-exempt (501(c)3) organization governed by a Board of Directors who are elected by the Society membership. The goal of the Society is to work with the Farmstead staff to stimulate public interest and support for the site's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Pennsylvania German heritage.

This distinction is important when considering a donation and it is incumbent upon a donor to select his/her preferred recipient.

*Do you have a question about the Farmstead or some aspect of local Pennsylvania German history? If so, send an email to [mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org](mailto:mail@PeterWentzFarmsteadSociety.org) and we'll put the experts to work.*

## Peter Wentz Farmstead 2008 Calendar

### EXHIBITS

#### May-October:

*Native American Artifacts from a Private Collection*

A display of Native American artifacts from the Mid-Atlantic region of North America.

### PROGRAMS

#### *Historic Restoration Symposium: Caring for Your Old House*

**Saturday, May 31st 9:30am-4pm**

To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the building of the historic Wentz house, we invite you to join us for a day of learning about the proper techniques used to restore historic structures. This all-day program will feature local restoration architect, stone mason, and preservation consultants. Program held at the Fairview Village Assembly Hall on Valley Forge Rd. in Worcester, PA. **Pre-registration required & fee charged.**

Please call for more information.

#### *Colonial Treats with Martha Washington: Celebrating 277 Years*

**Saturday, June 7th 10am-3pm**

Enjoy learning about the preparation of colonial era foods and about the life of First Lady Martha Washington, celebrating her 277<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### *Colonial Day Camp*

**Monday-Friday, June 23rd-27th 9am-2pm**

Students entering fourth through sixth grade are invited to attend a week-long, hands-on camp to learn about childhood of the colonial period. **Pre-registration required & fee charged.**

#### *From Birth to Breeching*

Guest Speaker: Clarissa F. Dillon

**Sunday, July 13th 2pm**

Learn more about the lives of young children in colonial Pennsylvania from historian, Clarissa F. Dillon, Past Masters founding member & president.

#### *Wentz Wonder Kids Camp*

**Monday-Friday, July 21st-25th 9:30-11:30am**

Geared towards kids 4-5 years old, this half-day camp will educate and entertain about topics related to the historic Farmstead. Snacks provided. **Registration is FULL**

#### *Pretzels of the Colonial Period*

**Saturday, September 20th 10am-3pm**

Try twisting pretzel dough as you learn more about the long history of this delectable Pennsylvania German treat.

#### *Laerenswaert*

**Saturday, October 18th 10am-3:30pm**

A hands-on colonial crafts fair with demonstrations of early American domestic and agricultural skills "worth learning." Also includes house tours by costumed interpreters, military camp life, and open-hearth cooking.

#### *Architecture of the Oley Valley Region (Berks County, PA)*

Guest Speaker: James Lewars

**Wednesday, November 12th 7pm**

Explore the diverse architectural heritage of the English, German, Swiss, French Huguenot, and Welsh Quakers who settled in the Oley Valley during the 18th century. Lewars, Site Administrator of the Daniel Boone Homestead, has been researching the surviving structures of the valley for nearly twenty years and will share some of his findings during this presentation.

Program held at the Farmers' Union Hall of the Worcester Township Historical Society on Rt.363 (Valley Forge Rd.).

#### *Apple & Scrapple Day*

**Saturday, November 8th 10am-3pm**

Visit the site to learn about seasonal foodways common during the colonial period. Highlights include using the smokehouse, preserving meats in the form of mincemeat and enjoying fall fruits & vegetables.

#### *Candlelight Tour*

**Saturday, December 6th 2-8pm**

The Farmstead will be all aglow and offer the experience of a traditional Pennsylvania German seasonal celebration, including a visit from *Belsnickel*, St. Nicholas in furs.

# Membership in the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society

Our Society continues to grow, and if you are not already a member, please join us. There are two meetings a year which feature speakers and/or slides and movies on subjects of historical interest. Your membership fee entitles you to discounts on our day trips to historical sites, discounts on selected museum shop purchases, and a subscription to our newsletter. Join us in the worthwhile project of preserving the 18th century way of life at the Farmstead. The PWFS is registered as a 501(c)(3), not for profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

**Please Print:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Company, if applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(Town and State)

(Zip)

Check if:  Wentz descendant  Schultz descendant

Check one:  New member  Please renew my membership

Check one:

- Student ..... \$10.00
- Individual ..... \$20.00
- Senior Family (both over 65) . \$25.00
- Family Membership ..... \$30.00
- Life Member..... \$500.00
- Business Sponsorship.....Contact us for details

Additional donation: ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed:..... \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me concerning volunteer activities

Mail to:  
Peter Wentz Farmstead Society  
P.O. Box 679  
Worcester, Pa. 19490-0679  
  
610-584-5104

WENTZ POST

Peter Wentz Farmstead Society

Route 73 and Shearer Road

P.O. Box 679

Worcester, Pa. 19490-0679