



# GREENE-DREHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Peggy Bancroft Hall  
465 South Sterling Road  
South Sterling, PA 18460

Mailing  
P.O. Box 176  
Greentown, PA 18426

[www.greenedreherhs.org](http://www.greenedreherhs.org)  
[info@greenedreherhs.org](mailto:info@greenedreherhs.org)

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Mission

To preserve, protect and promote the history of Greene and Dreher Townships and to assure that this legacy is passed on to future generations.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The publishing of our Annual Report is a comprehensive way for the Greene-Dreher Historical Society as well as its members to take stock of the year past and all that was accomplished.

In 2022 we were able to operate at close to pre-pandemic levels. Beginning with our Spring Soup Luncheon in April, we were able to return to a robust program schedule during the summer and fall. Our annual Community History Seminars focused on the Lenape people native to this region with a related new display on the first floor of the Peggy Bancroft Hall. We were able once again to provide guided tours of local historic sites, which has proven to be popular with members as well as those new to the area.

We continued our outreach into the community by hosting a booth at the Canal Festival in Hawley hosted by the Wayne County Historical Society. On a more local level, we participated in both the Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair and the Local History Day at Promised Land State Park.

Museums and Collections once again had an exciting year. Approximately 200 items were accessioned and catalogued in 2022. A wooden bobsled, circa mid-1800s was donated to us this past year and is now on permanent display in the barn. Additionally, the 1873 Haag's Bridge date stone found a permanent home along the walkway between our out buildings, having been placed into a native stone dry wall.

We received a grant to digitize and translate Hopedale Moravian Church correspondence from 1836 to 1878, the majority of which were written in German. In partnership with the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, they are being translated and will be uploaded to the PA Power Library upon completion.

Our Cemetery Preservation Program continues to care for abandoned cemeteries within our townships. The grounds are maintained by volunteers participating in our Adopt-A-Cemetery Program. These endeavors were supported this year by targeted fundraising activities, including a highly successful quilt raffle.

When drafting our budgets, we take into account both short-term and possible long-term expenditures. To help meet these expenses we added a new fundraising event this year, a Plant Sale held in June at Carlton Drake Park. It proved to be so successful we plan to offer it again in 2023.

We continue to be mindful of the financial health of our organization as the majority of our income comes from our membership. We have been fortunate to receive sizable monetary gifts from generous donors, for which we are grateful.

It is because of the loyal support of our members, Business Partners, volunteers and donors that the Society continues to succeed and move forward.

—Carla Smith, President

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## MUSEUM AND COLLECTIONS

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The Historical Society collects objects that relate to the history of the Greene-Dreher area—items that were created here, reflect the history of our residents over time, or have a connection to an important event or prominent person. Our permanent collection includes artifacts, photographs, archives and a library of early books, ledgers, pamphlets and other publications.

About 200 items were accessioned and catalogued in 2022, including farm implements and a wooden bobsled dating from the mid-1800s. We plan to preserve these items with the highest standards of care so they will always be accessible to the public.

One item in our collection, the 1873 Haag's Bridge date stone, found a new home when member Roger Altemier laid a native stone dry wall in which to place the historic date stone. It is now on display in front of the agricultural barn.

We share our collected objects through rotating displays and exhibits at Peggy Bancroft Hall and Museum. One of our four new displays, "Welcome to Lenapehoking," shows the boundaries of the Lenape Nation and highlights their culture.

Knowing that more and more information is being sought online, we have begun implementing strategies to digitize some of our archival resources to make them more accessible to the public. In 2022, we received funding from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission's under their Archival Records Care grant to digitize and translate the correspondence of the Hopedale Moravian Church from 1836 to 1878. In collaboration with the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, approximately 700 pages of correspondence, most written in German, have been scanned at high resolution and are being translated. When the project is completed, the files will be uploaded to the PA Power Library.

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## CEMETERY PRESERVATION

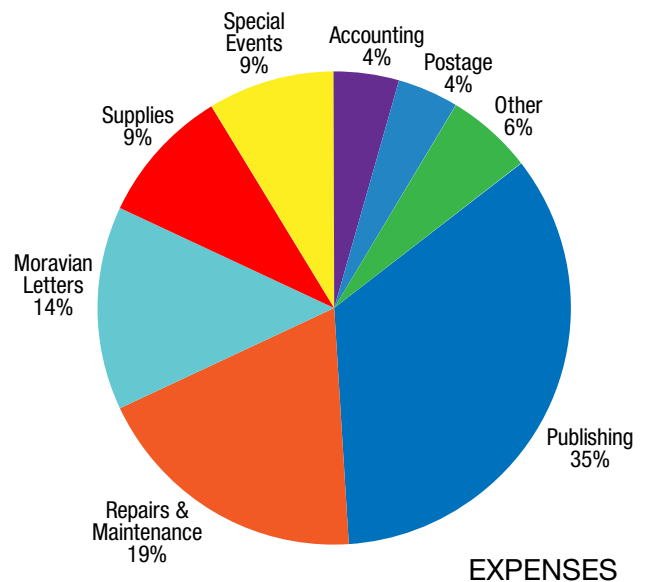
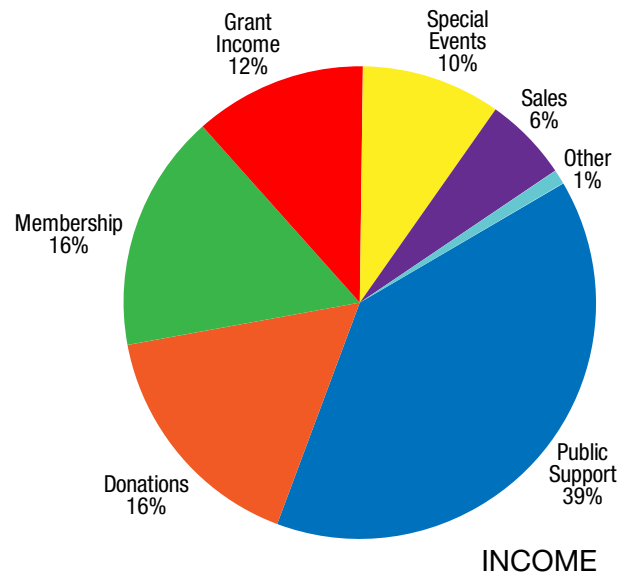
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The Society operates a Cemetery Preservation Program for four abandoned cemeteries in our area—Gilpin, Hazelton, Wolfe, and Kiptown Cemeteries. Their grounds are maintained on a regular basis by volunteers with our Adopt-A-Cemetery Program. The Society has established a special Cemetery Preservation Fund supported by donors as well as targeted fundraising activities. In 2022 we held a holiday wreath sale and a quilt raffle which together raised more than \$4000 to support the restoration and preservation of these four abandoned cemeteries. We also publish a booklet about all of the cemeteries in the Wallenpaupack Valley.

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## FINANCIALS

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**Income**—As in previous years, the majority of the Society's income was derived from membership dues and public support, including generous donations from individual members and our Business Partners. We received a \$5000 grant from PHMC for a two-year special project. Most of the remaining income came from the sale of our publications and other special fundraisers.

**Expenses**—The largest expenditure was for the Society's publishing program, including its quarterly newsletter and a new book, followed by repairs and maintenance of Peggy Bancroft Hall, the agricultural barn and other outbuildings and grounds. Finally, the ongoing preservation of four historic cemeteries is an important part of the Society's work, and this expenditure is offset by donations to the GDHS Cemetery Preservation Fund.

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## TELLING OUR STORIES

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Founded in 1982 the Historical Society preserves and celebrates the rich history of Greene and Dreher Townships in the Wallenpaupack Valley. We believe that the stories of the people who lived here and their cultural and economic experiences are worth remembering and preserving for tomorrow's generations. This year we expanded our focus to shed light on the Lenape people, on whose land the first European settlers built their homes and farms.

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### PUBLISHING

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As part of its mission, the Historical Society maintains its own publishing program. The publications we make available add much to our knowledge and understanding of Greene-Dreher history. They include books and articles available in both print and digital format, a scholarly journal published from 1984 to 2020 from which reprints are available, and a quarterly newsletter.

*Echoes from the Greene Hills* — Our newsletter keeps members and others abreast of recent happenings and upcoming events at the Historical Society. Available in print or digital format, it contains announcements about the Society, its programs and activities, recent additions to its collections, spotlight on volunteers, new members, Business Partners, and other highlights. *Echoes* also features "Stories from the Past," a selection of carefully researched articles written to inform and entertain readers who are interested in the history of Greene-Dreher and its region. The articles, submitted by our members, cover all historic time periods and a variety of topics, and are illustrated with photographs and images from the Society's archives. The articles have sparked many memories and conversations which, when shared with the editor, are published under "Member Musings."

Print media — A new book, *Blueberry Time—Recipes and Reminiscences of the Poconos' Most Treasured Berry*, was published in the fall, just in time for the holidays. Part history and part memoir, the book is a lighthearted look at the importance of this native fruit, from ancient times when it was enjoyed by the Lenape, the first people to live on this land, to the large-scale commercial harvesting of "huckleberries" around the turn of the last century, up to the present day.

Digital media — Articles about local history are available on the Society's website, and our video recordings of recent presentations have had hundreds of views on the Society's YouTube channel.

Facebook — With more than 800 engaged followers, our Facebook page keeps members and friends up-to-date on what's happening at GDHS and connected with each other and the community.

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### PROGRAMS

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The Society resumed a nearly normal schedule of in-person programs and events this year. A "Stories from the Past" talk continued our Oral History Project begun 40 years ago. Guided tours of two historic sites made history come alive for participants and expanded outreach to new audiences.

Our 2022 Community History Seminar focused on the Lenape people, whose land encompassed eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and southern New York State. Following a flintknapping demonstration in the fall of 2021, this year's series of talks given by experts in their field covered such topics as:

- Lenape in the Upper Delaware
- Shared Lenape Plant Knowledge within Pennsylvania German Folk Cures
- Pennamite–Yankee Wars, 1769–1784
- William Penn's Treaties with the Indians
- Digging the Past: The Work of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Pennsylvania Archaeology Society
- Interpreting the GDHS Collection of Native American Artifacts

Our annual Historic Preservation Award recognizes the efforts of property owners to preserve the architectural integrity of their historic buildings. This year we honored the owners of the Rohrbacker homestead in Panther, which was called Hillcrest when it operated as a summer boardinghouse in the early 1900s.

Another way we increase awareness of our organization is by being involved in community events. We participate in the annual Canal Festival hosted by the Wayne County Historical Society, the Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, founded in 1915, and Local History Day at Promised Land State Park. These events attract thousands of visitors each year, and they serve as a venue for showcasing GDHS and Greene-Dreher history.

Since 2020, our increased use of technology has enabled us to serve a wider audience. Selected presentations were simulcast to reach participants who couldn't attend in person. And some presentations were video recorded to be viewed via our YouTube channel.

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## 2022 GENEROUS DONORS

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Audrey Williams

*Thank you to all those who supported the Cemetery Fund by purchasing holiday wreaths and quilt raffle tickets.*

### **Your Gift, Your Legacy**

To ensure our future financial stability, the Historical Society established a Legacy Fund in 2020. The fund is managed by the Wayne County Community Foundation. You can leave a lasting legacy to the GDHS Legacy Fund by making a donation in memory of a loved one, or by simply naming the Historical Society as a beneficiary on any of your assets, such as a life insurance policy or IRA, or through a will or trust. Planned Giving allows you to set up financial instructions that support the charities you believe in and ensure that they will continue to have a positive influence on the community far into the future. Certain types of Planned Giving may have the additional benefit of reducing estate taxes, taxes paid on capital gains and federal income tax. For more information on the GDHS Legacy Fund, please contact Bernadine Lennon at 570-857-0882 or [info@greenedreherhs.org](mailto:info@greenedreherhs.org).