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New Boston, Pa - August 2018



## MAHANOEY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1-7 West Centre Street  
P.O. Box 127  
Mahanoy City, PA 17948  
570-773-1295

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mahsr@mahanoyvisitorscenter.com

www.mahanoyhistory.org

Francis Senglar  
President

Vice President  
**Peg Grigalonis**  
Financial Secretary  
**Ray Eichman**  
Historian  
**Robert Fallan**  
Museum Room Manager

**Patricia P. Brown**  
Secretary  
**Elizabeth K. Coombe**  
Treasurer  
**Francis Burke**  
Curator

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, January 29, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Bob Fallan, Bill Brown, Francis Senglar, Pat Brown, Joan Goodman, Swing Flamini, Kathy Wufsus, Peg Grigalonis, Dolly Wagner, and Ramon Soto.

President Francis Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Peg Grigalonis.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no treasurer's report in the absence of Treasurer Coombe, who was ill.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said an invitation was received from the Schuylkill County Historical Society asking if the group would like to participate in the Schuylkill County Historical Faire at the Fairlane Village Mall on February 10. Brown said she would take the responsibility of gathering items for the faire. and would respond that the historical society will take part in the affair. She asked for volunteers to help man the table

### Artifacts Committee

Rose Flamini had no report at this time because of the condition of the museum room. Peg Grigalonis said items had been donated to the Pottsville Library by a Mahanoy City resident, who recently passed away, and suggested someone contact Marion Webb to see if he had other items that were available. Grigalonis also suggested that churches be contacted to see if they would like to donate any objects to the society.

A history of Delano from 1861 to 1931 was donated by Daniel Skeath and a CD of Muhammed Ali from Gene Kilroy were both presented by Joan Goodman. Grigalonis said a disc of the records of Christ Lutheran Church were given to the Mahanoy City Public Library and suggested that Skeath be asked to present a program for the historical society.

### Book Committee

Senglar said some historical books had to be thrown out because they were water damaged by the flood waters.

### Community Preservation

Joan Goodman said a plaque had been installed at the Kaier Mansion and the Mahanoy City Public Library and there were write-ups in the local newspapers. She said discussions are underway and she has a partial list as to where more plaques should be erected. She said her committee will meet soon to make a decision, and asked if anyone had any suggestions to contact her.

Wufsus said she was disappointed that a plaque was not put on St. Fidelis Church, which is the oldest Catholic church in Mahanoy City and looks the same today as what it originally did. It was noted that the church's pastor, the Rev. William Glosser, declined the society's offer to erect the plaque. Wufsus said it is the church building itself that is historical whether it is in use or not.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grigalonis made a motion, seconded by Wufsus and unanimously approved, that three bookcases be purchased for the museum room. Senglar said perhaps the cases could be built for less money than purchasing them and they would be sturdier. The motion was rescinded by Grigalonis and Wufsus and Senglar was asked to have a proposal for building the cases available at the next meeting.

The 2007 budget was discussed and members were asked to submit any suggestions by February 19<sup>th</sup> to Betty Coombe or Peg Grigalonis, who will have an updated budget for the February meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Ramon Soto, seconded by Dolly Wagner

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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Curator

The February 27, 2007 meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was postponed until March 5, 2007 because of the inclement weather.

The rescheduled meeting on March 5, could not be convened because of the lack of a quorum.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2007.

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, March 26, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Bob Fallan, Bill Brown, Francis Senglar, Pat Brown, Swing Flamini, Ray Eichman, Betty Coombe, Tom Ward, Lois Griffiths, Dolly Wagner, and Alice Ann Moore.

President Francis Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Ray Eichman.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Ray Eichman, seconded by Rose Flamini.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Betty Coombe showed an ending balance as of February 28, 2007 of \$8,150.47. The memorial fund had a balance of \$1,442.92; the checking account had a balance of \$20, and the certificate of deposit had \$1,039.56. Secretary Pat Brown said a \$100 donation to the Memorial Fund had been received from Jane Yanitis in memory of her parents Leo and Marie Fritz; \$20 in memory of the Rev. Bernard Lazur from Natalie Gabuzda and son, Joseph, and another \$20 from Joseph and Monica Alansky and family. Also, a \$20 donation was received in memory of Elmer Volansky from Natalie Gabuzda, and son, Joseph. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Swing Flamini seconded by Dolly Wagner.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a copy of a book had been received from a professor at Auburn University depicting photos of several sites in Mahanoy City. The author thanked Ray Eichman for his help with the book.

### COMMITTEES

#### Artifacts Committee

Rose Flamini said many items had been received and help was needed to access them. She said she would try to get to the museum room to get some items accessed. Dolly Wagner said she would help and Alice Moore said she would come to the room the following Thursday to clean the large windows and help in any other way she could.

#### Auditing Committee

Lois Griffiths reported that she and Sally Irwin had completed an audit of the society's 2006 books and everything was in "A #1 condition." She presented a \$150 check to the society from the Mahanoy Area Women's Club.

#### Program Committee

Pat Brown said Jean Dellock would be available to speak at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the society on the topic of genealogy.

#### Community Preservation

Ray Eichman said various buildings were under consideration for historical plaques. It was noted that some property owners viewed the plaques as a liability. Swing Flamini said it could present a problem if the owner wanted to sell the property and it was deemed a historical site.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senglar said he and his partner, Joseph Gavula, had discussed constructing bookcases but it was their opinion that they could probably be purchased at a cheaper price than building them. Pat Brown was given the society's debit card and told to purchase two five-shelf cases along with other supplies needed for the museum room.

Bob Fallan said work is progressing on getting the room back in shape with each item being cataloged. A discussion was held on bringing the Quakake Post Office mail box, old stove and Morgan knitting machine back to the room.

Tom Ward said the Mahanoy City Library board was contacted by Henry Nyce of the Republican/Evening Herald and told the Record American newspapers from 1919 to 1969 could be transported to the library. He said volunteers were needed for the project and he was going to enlist the services of the Mahanoy Area Honor Society, which does two community projects each year. He said there would be three vans to shuttle the newspapers to the library. He said the project would entail a good deal of walking inasmuch as the newspapers were stored on the third floor of the building. He said the Mahanoy City High School Alumni donated some money toward the project and he was hoping the Mahanoy Township Alumni would do the same. He said he was asking \$75 from each group.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Swing Flamini, seconded by Tom Ward. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2007.

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, April 30, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Bob Fallan, Bill Brown, Francis Senglar, Pat Brown, Swing Flamini, Peg Grigalonis, Rose Flamini, Frank Selgrath, Betty Coombe, Kathy Wufsus, and Joan Goodman.

President Francis Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Peg Grigalonis seconded by Kathy Wufsus with by Joan Goodman clarifying a remark that it would be difficult to sell a property that had been deemed historical. Goodman said there would be no problem selling a property that had a historical marker on it. She also said she spoke with the Rev. William Glosser about putting a plaque on St. Fidelis Church, the oldest Catholic church in the community, but he would not change his mind and continued to decline the offer.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Betty Coombe showed an ending balance as of March 31, 2007 of \$8,800.44. The memorial fund had a balance of \$1,603.24; the checking account had a balance of \$20, and the certificate of deposit had \$1,039.56. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Peg Grigalonis, seconded by Robert Fallan.

APR 30 2007

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said sympathy card had been sent to Michael and Peg Grigalonis on the loss of each of their mothers. She said an e-mail had been received from Ray Eichman submitting his resignation as historian.

### COMMITTEES

Bob Fallan said he was planning to have the museum room opened on Memorial Day as a tribute to veterans and had many newspaper clippings and photographs pertaining to World War I and World War II. A discussion was held on when to hold the grand re-opening ceremonies and it was decided to do so on Memorial Day. The room will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rose Flamini will contact the Downtown Association regarding the re-opening.

Frank Senglar said he did not like the octagon-shaped cases and didn't think they were safe as a child could pull them over. He said he would like to donate them to someone and Kathy Wufsus suggested contacting the Shenandoah Historical Society regarding the cases. Peg Grigalonis said she recalled that the cases were very expensive when they were ordered for the room, and they were purchased with grant money.

Also discussed was bringing back the coal cooking stove, the Quakake mailbox and the knitting machine from Morgan Knitting Mills from storage in the Service Electric warehouse. Senglar said the mailbox and stove would be coming back but not the knitting machine. Grigalonis said she would rather have the knitting machine in the room rather than the Singer sewing machine if space was the issue. She said she would rather have things kept in storage if they were not being used at the present time rather than disposing of them.

Joan Goodman said the \$5000 grant the society applied for from the state Department of Community Affairs through State Representative Neal Goodman had been approved and she would need copies of invoices for work and items purchased for the room restoration.

Regarding the historical plaques, Goodman said she has to prepare a close-out report by June 30. She said the next plaques to be presented would be to the Mahanoy City Elks Lodge and St. Peter's Church and Christ Church, both in Locust Valley. The next plaques for consideration were the Silliman Home, the Washington Hook and Ladder Company, the West End Fire Company and she was thinking of the Heiser Store. Other structures are also under consideration, she said.

Peg Grigalonis said the Mahanoy Area Honor Society and others were supposed to move the old newspapers from Shenandoah to the Mahanoy City Public Library on Saturday. She said Thomas Ward has been working diligently on the project.

Senglar asked if letters had been sent to the various churches asking for artifacts. Pat Brown said she was waiting for a list of churches and their addresses.

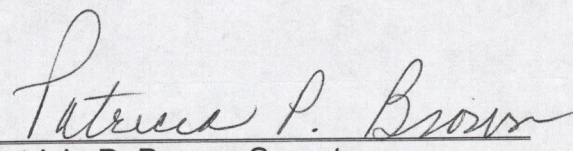
Joan Goodman invited everyone to a "Meet the Candidates" breakfast at the Kaier Mansion on Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m. and said juice, coffee and donuts would be served.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senglar said he spoke with Louis Truskowsky about getting the society's website, which had been canceled, up and running, but Truskowsky said he could not help. He suggested contacting students at the Mahanoy Area High School who may be able to help with the project. Senglar said his wife was willing to maintain the site if she could get someone to help her set it up.

Senglar asked for a copy of the duties of the curator and said he would speak with Francis Burke whether he wanted to continue in the position as he has not attended several meetings. He said the duties of the curator and museum manager were similar.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion by Swing Flamini seconded by Bob Fallan. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, because of Memorial Day falling on the usual meeting date. Jean Dellock will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

  
Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, May 21, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Bob Fallan, Bill Brown, Francis Senglar, Pat Brown, Swing Flamini, Peg Grigalonis, Rose Flamini, Kathy Wufsus, Dolly Wagner and Francis Burke.

President Francis Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Swing Flamini.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Betty Coombe, the treasurer's report was given by Financial Secretary Peg Grigalonis. The report was accepted on a motion by Francis Burke, seconded by Dolly Wagner.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said an invoice for \$171.76 had been received from Shirley Ryan for replacement of glass shelves and clips for the Mahanoy City High School Alumni case that were lost during the 2006 flood. An invitation was received from the Schuylkill River Heritage Association to view the Ethnic Heritage Traveling Exhibit from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. May 24 at the Yuengling Mansion in Pottsville. Peg Grigalonis explained that the exhibit included live music and ethnic foods.

Also received was an invitation to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Victorian Architecture and Preservation conference to be held June 1-3, 2007 in Warren, PA, and a request for a donation to the Shenandoah Area UNICO Band, which presents free concerts in the Mahanoy City and Shenandoah areas. It was noted that because of its IRS status, the society cannot give donations. A letter was also received from Jacqueline Sabo requesting information on her great-grandfather, who died in Mahanoy City on December 26, 1906. Swing Flamini suggested that she be given the name of John Mark Ambrosia, who takes care of the German Protestant Cemetery. Brown also said an e-mail had been received from Nick Yutko asking the society if it wanted to be included as a link to his web page as he had done in the past.

### COMMITTEES

#### Artifacts

Rose Flamini said she had just brought in a 331/3 album of the Mahanoy Area High School band concert.

#### Room Committee

Bob Fallan said he had spoken with Bill Paul, who will announce that the museum room will be open for a special veterans tribute between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and encourage everyone taking part in the Memorial Day Program and Parade to visit the center.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Francis Burke said he had been contacted by Frank Senglar inquiring if he was interested in keeping the position of curator inasmuch as he has not attended recent meetings. Burke said if the society did not have a replacement, he would like to keep the office and will try to get more involved.

Burke questioned when the knitting machine from Morgan Knitting Mills would be returned to the center. Senglar said it was still being stored at the Service Electric warehouse along with the Quakake Post Office and a small kitchen stove. He said he did not think the knitting machine should be returned to the museum room because it was too crowded.

Burke said if the society did not want the machine, he would look for another location for it to be displayed. Grigalonis said she was not in favor of giving the machine away because of its historical significance and the fact that so many Mahanoy Area residents made their living at the Morgan Mill. After a discussion on the matter, it was agreed not to make a decision on the machine at the present time.

Peg Grigalonis said copies of the Record American from 1935 to 1969 had been transferred to the Mahanoy City Public Library over the weekend, and were in pretty

good condition. She said the newspapers will eventually be microfilmed at a cost of 28 cents per page, estimating the cost would be approximately \$30,000. Grigalonis said the project certainly will preserve Mahanoy Area history and the microfilm will eventually be made available to the public. She said the library took on the project at the urging of the historical society and asked for monetary remuneration. It was noted the society cannot make a donation to the project, but if it is assessed a certain sum, they will try to pay it.

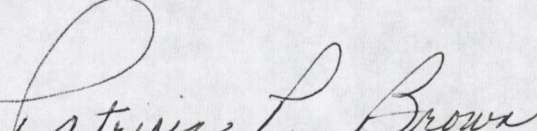
Burke will drive his antique car in the Memorial Day Parade representing the historical society and Rose Flamini and Dolly Wagner will ride with him.

### NEW BUSINESS

Senglar said on Wednesday he will meet with a man from Shenandoah who is working on the Shenandoah Historical Society website and he was confident the Mahanoy historical website would be up and running in the near future.

A grand reopening of the museum room was discussed and Senglar said he would like to see it happen on a day when there would be a good amount of people in the downtown area. It was suggested that perhaps it could be held on Ethnic Day, which is June 2, when various ethnic groups from the community would have foods and other items for sale in the Citizens Fire Company.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 25, with Jean Dellock speaking on genealogy and where records can be found in Schuylkill County. It was agreed to have the executive meeting at 6 p.m. and have the program begin at 7 p.m.

  
Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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The Mahanoy Area Historical Society met at 6 p.m. Monday, June 25, 2007 for its monthly meeting to accommodate the program scheduled for 7 p.m. Because of the early meeting start, there were not enough members present for a quorum. Attending the presentation were Frank Senglar, Bob Fallan, Alice Moore, William Brown, Patricia Brown, Peg Grigalonis, Betty Coombe, Rose Flamini, Joseph Flamini, Kathy Wufsus, Jean Dellock, Eleanor Nixon, Jean Rooney and Albert Silveri.

An informal session was held wherein President Frank Senglar said he had received a request from Membership Chairman Marjorie Fletcher for clarification as to the payment of dues. Senglar said he will check the by-laws.

Senglar also said the society's website had been set up by Mark Bucker of Shenandoah and he was quite pleased with it. Senglar said the website would cost \$185 for two years. He said Bucker had difficulty getting the mahanoyhistory.org website because it was personally owned by Ray Eichman; however he spoke with Eichman who gave the society complete access to the site.

The museum room is now open and staffed usually with two people from noon to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the summer. Senglar reported that all old Record American newspapers had now been moved from the Republican/Herald office in Shenandoah to the Mahanoy City Public Library with the last few books having to be wrapped in brown paper because of their fragile condition for their trip to the library.

Jean Dellock of Frackville, who served as the first president of the Frackville Historical Society and is active with the Schuylkill County Historical Society, was the guest speaker for the evening. Jean discussed genealogy and where to locate information on one's ancestors. Among the places she suggested were the Schuylkill County Courthouse, Schuylkill County Historical Society, mining records, Ashland Hospital, which has a book on deaths and various websites. Following her presentation, she was presented with a book on the history of the Mahanoy Area by Secretary Patricia Brown.

Patricia Brown, Secretary



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The Mahanoy Area Historical Society met Monday, July 30, 2007 in the first-floor classroom of the Mahanoy Downtown building. Attending were: were Frank Senglar, Bob Fallan, Kathy Wufsus, William Brown, Patricia Brown, Peg Grigalonis, Betty Coombe, Rose Flamini, Joseph Flamini, Charlotte Maurey, Francis Burke, Joan Goodman and Tom Ward.

### MINUTES

Senglar said due to a misinterpretation of the by-laws, the group did not think they had a sufficient quorum for the June meeting; however, when the by-laws were checked, enough members were present to constitute a quorum and the June session could be deemed a meeting. A motion was made by Peg Grigalonis and seconded by Kathy Wufsus to accept the printed minutes of the June and July meetings with the correction in the July minutes that Mark Zuckor not Mark Bucker was assisting the society with the website.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Betty Coombe indicated there was a balance of \$14,248.92 in the general fund of the society. She said a certificate of deposit at the M&T Bank in the amount of \$1,039.56 will be renewed when it becomes due on August 31. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Rose Flamini, seconded by Swing Flamini and filed for audit.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a letter had been received from Casey Purkiss, granddaughter of Victor Schertzinger, containing a \$50 donation and asking if a video of the presentation of her grandfather's plaque last September was available for

purchase. It was noted that Francis Burke videotaped the event and was selling DVDs for \$10. Burke gave a DVD to be mailed to Ms. Purkiss, one to Kathy Wufsus, whose brother, Frank Whalen, provided musical entertainment at the event and another to the society. He was thanked for his generosity by a round of applause.

Brown also said that David Truskowsky donated a DVD with scenes of Mahanoy City to the society. Bob Fallan said he tried to get Truskowsky's DVD to play on the computer in the historic room but was unable to do so.

### ARTIFACTS COMMITTEE

Rose Flamini said she received some artifacts and would try to bring them to the room on Thursday. Pat Brown said a copy of the history of St. Fidelis Church was found in the historic room, but no one knew who brought it there. In addition to the church history, she said it contained very interesting information including names of those who served in the Civil War.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES Christmas Committee

Mrs. Flamini said she and Kathy Wufsus were working on a program and would keep the group informed of their progress.

### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

Joan Goodman said all plaques that will be purchased with a \$5,000 state grant secured for the society by Rep. Neal P. Goodman have been ordered. She said a plaque was ready to be presented to the Mahanoy Township Water Authority that now owns the Silliman building at 44 North Main Street. Kathy Wufsus will check to see when the plaque can be presented. Goodman said she will be out of town for awhile and asked Senglar to present the plaque. She also asked any society members who would be available to be on hand for the plaque presentation. Goodman also discussed other buildings that will receive plaques in the coming months. She said a final report on the grant must be submitted to the state by the end of August and she will have the report filed by the closing date.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senglar said the society's website is now up and running - [www.mahanoyhistory.com](http://www.mahanoyhistory.com); however, ideas are needed as to what to put on the site. He asked that suggestions be e-mailed to him, and noted that the guest book will be monitored daily and nothing would get on the site without his approval to prevent the problem that happened with the last website.

Senglar said in the past the society had talked about making a \$1,000 pledge to the Mahanoy City Public Library to help with the preservation of the old Mahanoy City

newspapers that are presently being stored in the library. A motion to do so was made by Tom Ward, seconded by Joan Goodman and unanimously approved.

Ward said 54 large bound binders were transported from the Shenandoah office of the **Pottsville Republican/Herald** to the library. He said some of the earlier editions were in poor conditions and actually had to be wrapped in brown wrapping paper before they could be transported.

Peg Grigalonis, who is also a member of the library board, said she spoke with a firm relative to having the newspapers digitized, which will enable anyone throughout the country to access them on a computer. She said all the person has to do is type in a name and they will get a list of all articles containing that particular name. Grigalonis said she is not sure just how the program will be handled by the library. She said there are 127,000 newspaper pages from 1916 to 1969 and it would cost \$1 a page to have them digitized. She said she is looking into grant funds and was hopeful she would receive donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation to this fund can send it to the Mahanoy City Public Library, 34 West Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City, PA 17948 to the attention of Peg Grigalonis.

Kathy Wufsus said there is a good deal of money in the society's treasury and suggested purchasing a DVD player for the historic room. Her motion was seconded by Swing Flamini and unanimously approved. Bob Fallan will check prices and report back at the August meeting.

Senglar said the by-laws must be revised and asked for members to serve on the committee. Volunteering were Swing Flamini, Bob Fallan and Pat Brown. Past President Frank Selgrath will also be asked to be on the committee inasmuch as he originally drew up the by-laws.

Senglar said the "Tribute to Veterans" display in the historic room's window was very attractive. Pat Brown said a "Back to School" theme is planned for September and Bob Fallan said a tribute to fire personnel will be displayed in October in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Swing Flamini seconded by Kathy Wufsus. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, August 27, 2007.

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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July 30, 2007

Ms. Peg Grigalonis  
Mahanoy City Public Library  
34 West Mahanoy Avenue  
Mahanoy City, PA 17948

Dear Peg,

Members of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society were happy to hear that the final editions of the "Record American" were recently moved to the Mahanoy City Public Library.

Enclosed is a check for \$1,000 representing the pledge made by the Mahanoy Area Historical Society toward the preservation of the older editions of the newspaper that contain such a wealth of historical information.

We understand that you will soon begin the process of having the newspapers put on microfilm so the contents of the newspapers can be made available to visitors of the library who are searching their genealogical history or those who want to see what went on in the Mahanoy Area during the early to mid-1900s. Our very best wishes are with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society

# MAHANoy AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1-7 West Centre Street  
P.O. Box 127  
Mahanoy City, PA 17948  
570-773-1295

mahsr@mahanoyvisitorscenter.com  
www.mahanoyhistory.com  
Frank Senglar  
President

Peg Grigalonis  
Treasurer  
Francis Burke  
Curator

Patricia P. Brown  
Secretary  
Elizabeth K. Coombe  
Financial Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, August 27, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were Charlotte Maurey, Joan Goodman, Lois Griffith, Rose Flamini, Joseph Flamini, Frank Senglar, Patricia Brown, William Brown, Bob Fallan, Kathy Wufsus, Mark Zucker, John Sabol, Frank and Joanne Pangonis.

President Frank Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

Frank Senglar and Joan Goodman then presented a historical plaque to Frank and Joanne Pangonis, owners of Heiser's Hardware, which has been in continuous operation for 153 years at 31 East Centre Street. The store was originally opened by Edward F. Smith, one of the town pioneers and a petitioner of the borough charter.

## MINUTES

Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Charlotte Maurey.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Elizabeth Coombe, there was no treasurer's report.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a letter had been sent to Joan Harris thanking her for the school project completed by her daughter, Laura, on her great uncle Jerome Szematowicz, Mahanoy City's first serviceman killed in World War II.

Brown said an invitation had been received to attend the August 16 Schuylkill County Historical Meeting, but the invitation arrived after the meeting. She said she will contact Jennifer Bowen-Frantz and ask her to contact her via e-mail prior to the next meeting so members will know when it will be held. Brown also showed two different sized 2008 calendars to see if the society was interested in purchasing any calendars for the coming year. A decision will be made at a later date.

## Community Preservation

Joan Goodman said she had submitted the required information to Harrisburg for closing out the \$5,000 grant the society received through the office of Rep. Neal P. Goodman for a number of plaques that were or will be presented to various locations in the Mahanoy Area. She said some plaques were given out in 2005 and 2006 and the rest either were already presented or will be given in the near future. She said the next plaque will be given to the First Methodist Church on East Mahanoy Avenue.

Goodman said if future grant funds are received and someone wants a plaque for their building, they will be required to submit the necessary information. She said securing the history of the buildings was the most difficult part of the entire program.

## Book Committee

It was noted that there were only 22 historical books remaining. Pat Brown was instructed to purchase more of the Mahanoy Area history books from Arcadia Publishing. It was agreed to continue the past policy of giving a history book and a year's membership for a \$25 donation.

## Membership Committee

Membership Committee Chairman Marjorie Fletcher said she had been contacting members delinquent in their dues via e-mail asking that they reconsider their membership in the society. She said she hopes to receive some replies in the coming weeks. The 2005 members who have not paid their dues have been eliminated from membership. As of August there are 325 members with 132 of them not paid for 2007.

## Special Committee

In anticipation of the Christmas program, Rose Flamini said she and Kathy Wufsus met with Leonard Ludinsky and Dr. Homer Boysen, members of the First Methodist Church, where the program will be held. Kathy Wufsus said everyone is welcome to attend the church service, but will have to purchase tickets for the social that will follow. Flamini said the program will be held in November or December.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

As instructed at the last meeting, Bob Fallan said he checked prices for a television with DVD and VSH player and found the best deal at Sears, where it could be purchased for \$248 with another 10 per cent discount. A motion to purchase the TV set was made by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Swing Flamini and unanimously approved.

Frank Senglar said a committee consisting of Bob Fallan, Swing Flamini, Frank Selgrath, Pat Brown and himself were reviewing the by-laws. He said several meetings had been held and some small revisions made. The next committee meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, September 6. The final reading of the revised by-laws will be done at the September meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

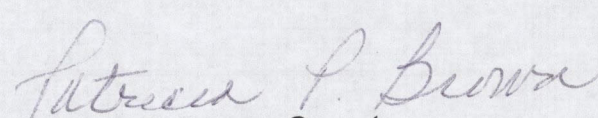
Senglar said the society had received an offer of the cash register that had been in the Huebner Store in the 300 block of East Pine Street. He said the building had been sold and if the society wanted the cash register, it would have to be removed this week. The group agreed to accept the cash register and Senglar said he would make the arrangements to have it transported to the historic room.

John Sabol was introduced as a new member and said he would be willing to help the society in any way he could. A Mahanoy City resident, Sabol spent time in Hollywood where he appeared in many films, and is the author of several books. He will be the guest speaker at the October meeting, speaking on Ghost Encounters in the Mahanoy Area.

Mark Zucker of Shenandoah, who developed the society's website, lauded the society for holding such an informative meeting. He asked for ideas to put on the website and among those offered were where the historical book was being sold, that dues were now payable for 2008 and other items. He said the minutes of monthly meetings were already on the site and there was a photo album capable of having pictures put on it. He asked that any suggestions or information be sent to him via e-mail at [mark@mahanoyhistory.com](mailto:mark@mahanoyhistory.com) or [mark@462DF.com](mailto:mark@462DF.com)

## ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 on a motion by Swing Flamini, seconded by Rose Flamini. The next meeting will be held Monday, September 24, 2007.

  
Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society



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Curator

Peg Grigalonis  
Financial Secretary  
Ray Eichman  
Historian  
Robert Fallan  
Museum Room Manager

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, September 24, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Bill Brown, Francis Senglar, Pat Brown, Joseph Flamini, Rose Flamini, Betty Coombe, Mark Zucker, Lois Griffiths and Peter Chrusch.

President Francis Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the August meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Joan Goodman, seconded by Swing Flamini, with two clarifications by Goodman in the previous Community Preservation Committee report that there were a total of 16 plaques previously given to various locations in the Mahanoy Area and that "in the near future" meant before the end of 2007.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Betty Coombe reported there was a beginning balance of \$12,408.92 with receipts of \$180 for books and \$110 for memberships. Expenditures were \$20 to Westfield Insurance, \$26 to Verizon and \$41 to the US Post Office for a total of \$87.03, bringing the balance to \$12,611.89 as of August 31. There was a balance of \$1,624.91 in the Memorial Fund savings account, \$20 in the checking account, and \$1,081.55 in a certificate of deposit that will renew 10/6/08 and is garnering 4.64 percent interest. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Rose Flamini, seconded by Swing Flamini.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a letter was sent to David Huebner thanking him for donating the cash register that had been in his parents grocery store. Joan Goodman said the cash register should be moved to a different location for insurance purposes because it could fall and injure someone.

### COMMITTEES

#### **Artifacts**

Rose Flamini said there had been 11 accessions in September, bringing the total to 171 for the year.

#### **Book Committee**

Reporting for the Book Committee, Pat Brown said 40 books had been ordered from Arcadia Printing at a cost of \$11.99 per book and five extra books would be received for ordering during a promotional period.

#### **Community Preservation**

Joan Goodman said she needed various invoices for items purchased and for renovations costs to close out a \$5,000 state grant received to help with flood damages.

She said there are four remaining plaques to be distributed to the First Methodist Church, the First Congregational Church, the Washington Hook and Ladder Company and the home of Charles Savage on East Mahanoy Avenue near the Methodist Church.

#### **Membership Committee**

Frank Senglar said Membership Committee Chairwoman Marjorie Fletcher said she dropped all members who had not renewed their membership for the past two years and would like to drop those who have not paid their 2006 dues. She said she was able to contact most of those people personally. It was agreed to drop them after information is sent out regarding 2008 membership.

#### **Special Committees**

Lois Griffith and Rose Flamini discussed the Christmas Program that will be held December 8 with a program at the First United Methodist Church followed by a social. Swing Flamini will handle the printing of the tickets.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Joan Goodman presented an album with information compiled by the late Ann Maff. Swing Flamini said there are two groups who would like to see the museum room. He was told to make arrangements with Room Manager Bob Fallan.

Frank Senglar said the by-laws of the society had been revised mostly for clarification but the office of curator was deleted because it is a term that was associated with a museum and similar duties are now handled by the room manager.

Members read the by-laws and approved the printed version. The revised by-laws will be officially accepted at the October meeting.

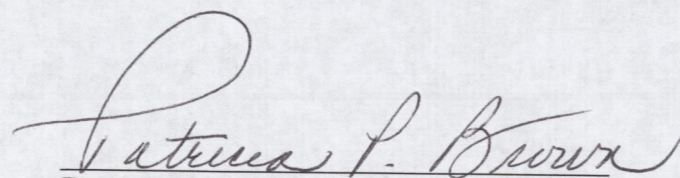
Mark Zucker said the website "mahanoyhistory.org" was not renewed by Ray Eichman and he was able to get it. Mahanoyhistory.org, mahanoyhistory.com and mahanoyhistory.info are all sites that will take a viewer to the historical society's website. The official website will remain "mahanoyhistory.org". Senglar said that Zucker had paid for the website and asked if the society would donate one of its historical books to Zucker, which was agreed upon by those in attendance.

Senglar said the executive committee had discussed the possibility of getting a calendar for 2008 featuring photos of local sites for the various months. Pat Brown is waiting for information from Jack Fowler, who said he can get the calendars printed for the society. Senglar said if anyone joins the society at this time they receive a 2008 membership card, but they cannot vote for the remainder of 2007.

### NEW BUSINESS

Lois Griffith read a letter to the society from Attorney Robert Bohorad and herself, who are trustees of the Mary D. Comerford Estate and presented a \$300 check to the society. Because it is a \$300 donation, Ms. Comerford's name will be added to the Memorial Plaque. Frank Selgrath will get brass name plates for both Ms. Comerford and Victor Schertzinger, whose granddaughter had also contributed \$300.

Because of the Halloween program being presented at the October meeting by John Sabol, the next meeting of the society will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, October 29, 2007

  
Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society

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Financial Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, October 29, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center.

Attending were Francis C. Senglar, Joseph Flamini, Rose Flamini, Peg Grigalonis, Kathy Wufsus, Robert Fallan and Ramon Soto.

President Frank Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

In the absence of Secretary Patricia Brown, minutes were taken by President Senglar.

## MINUTES

Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Swing Flamini.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Elizabeth Coombe, the financial report was given by Financial Secretary Peg Grigalonis. The balance of \$12,611.89 as of August 31<sup>st</sup> was increased by \$451 through membership dues and books. Expenditures totaled \$309.86, leaving a balance of \$12,672.03 as of September 30, 2007. The financial report was accepted on a motion by Wufsus seconded by Fallan.

## CORRESPONDENCE

A note was read from Leonard Ludinsky stating that the members of the First United Methodist Church were honored to receive the bronze plaque presented by the society. It also complimented the society for its "outstanding services."

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed.

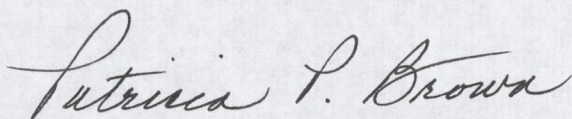
## NEW BUSINESS

Senglar said a nominating committee would be named at the November meeting to prepare a slate of officers for 2008. He asked anyone interested in serving as an officer to contact him.

## ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 on a motion by Fallan, seconded by Grigalonis. The next meeting will be held Monday, November 26, 2007.

Following the meeting, a program was held at the local Elks lodge with borough native John Sabol, former Hollywood actor and author of five books, discussing ghosts and folklore in the Mahanoy Area. The program was attended by approximately 100 people.



Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society

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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, November 26, 2007 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were Mark Zucker, Bill Brown, Swing Flamini, Rose Flamini, Dolly Wagner, Peg Grigalonis, Frank Senglar, Patricia Brown, Bob Fallan, Kathy Wufsus, and Charles Savage.

President Frank Senglar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Kathy Wufsus.

## MINUTES

Senglar said because the October meeting was very brief because of the program on ghosts presented by John Sabol, so there were no printed minutes.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Elizabeth Coombe, the treasurer's report was given by Peg Grigalonis, and showed a balance of \$12,627.26 in the general fund as of October 31, and a balance of \$1,675.27 in the memorial fund savings account. The memorial fund's certificate of deposit will mature on October 6, 2008. The treasurer's report was accepted by Swing Flamini, seconded by Bob Fallan.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown read a letter from David Huebner from China thanking the society for its fine comments on the cash register his family donated to the historical room. Grigalonis said she was of the opinion that the cash register was on loan, not donated.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Artifacts Committee

Rose Flamini said approximately 300 accessions were recorded so far in 2007. She said she is doing some of the accessions at home and bringing them into the room.

### Book Committee

The recent order of 40 books have arrived from Arcadia Publishing, according to Pat Brown.

### Room Manager

Bob Fallan said he had been in the room for the Community Christmas Tree lighting on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and some men from the Breaker Boys and Kathy Wufsus came in and were playing their guitars and singing. He said there were about 85 visitors in the room that evening and they really enjoyed the music. He said the room will continue to be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from noon until 3 p.m. Fallan suggested that the room obtain another mannequin. He also suggested that one of the society's programs could be a visit to the American Legion Post to view their war memorabilia. Kathy Wufsus said she would make an appointment with Jack Deesing for whenever the group decided.

### Special Committee

This year's Christmas program will be held December 8, according to Rose Flamin, in the First United Methodist Church beginning with a worship service at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. in the church basement. She said she had given the information to the newspapers and had it inserted in church bulletins and on the TV roll-around. She asked that a check for \$150 be issued for the First United Methodist Church.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Senglar said some new officers will have to be elected for the coming term. He said Treasurer Betty Coombe was not interested in serving a second term as treasurer; Pat Brown had served two terms as secretary and according to the by-laws was unable to serve again in that capacity, and the position of vice president had been vacant since he assumed the presidency. Rose Flamini agreed to serve as chairman of the nominating committee and will be assisted by Dolly Wagner and Swing Flamini.

Because of the brief October meeting, the revised by-laws were not formally accepted. A motion was made by Peg Grigalonis and seconded by Bob Fallan to accept the revised by-laws.

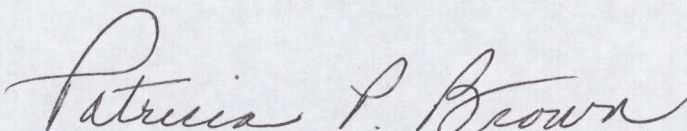
Senglar said there was some opposition to the adding of PayPal to the historical website which allows people to ask for books and pay dues using a credit card. He said PayPal is used by E-bay shoppers for on-line payments and is deemed reliable and secure and it is easy to make a credit card purchase. So far two books were ordered and payments are being held until the society designates where the deposits should be made and suggested the money be deposited in the general fund.

Mark Zucker of Shenandoah, who developed the society's website, said PayPal deducts what he believes is 35 cents for each transaction along with two or three percent of the total, and the remainder of money is deposited in the designated account. Zucker said the website is receiving an unbelievable amount of hits not only from the United States but some from Germany, Poland, France and other foreign countries.

Kathy Wufsus thanked Pat Brown for putting up the beautiful Christmas tree in the historical society's window.

## ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 on a motion by Swing Flamini, seconded by Dolly Wagner. There will be no December meeting and the next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, January 28, 2008. Senglar said an executive committee meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 24.

  
Patricia P. Brown, Secretary  
Mahanoy Area Historical Society