

Society 2015 Newsletter

Museum and Visitors Center - 2nd Floor - 10 South Queen Street
Incorporated and 501c3 approved
Email: littlestownhistory@gmail.com Phone: (717) 359-5101 ext. 37

January - March 2015 - Sestercentennial Series



2015 Littlestown's Sestercentennial Celebration

250 YEARS PROUD

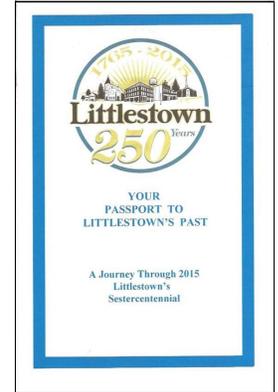
For the past year and a half, the Historical Society, members of the borough office, members of the borough council, community members and many civic organizations have been meeting and planning Littlestown's Sestercentennial celebration. On July 15, 1765 Peter Little sold the first six lots of the town that he laid out earlier that year. The original town plan contained 84 lots along East and West King Street.

In a motion by the Town Council, July 15, 2015 has been declared Founder's Day and July 12 through July 18 has been declared Founder's Day Week. The celebration actually kicks off on January 20, 2015 with the Historical Society's monthly program. Each month will be dedicated to some aspect of the history of the Littlestown Area. An example is January's program which will highlight the Digges Choice Land Grant (A Maryland Grant) that brought the first settlers into our area. It will end in December with a program about local Christmas traditions. Many events are planned throughout the year including a celebration dinner, a community wide picnic with fireworks, a program honoring all those who have served in our armed forces, a large parade on July 15 and many more. To keep track of the many goings-on around town, pick up your individual copy of "Your Passport to Littlestown's Past."

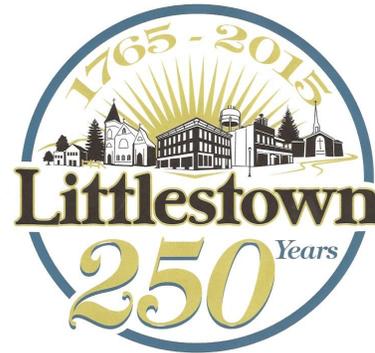
YOUR PASSPORT TO LITTLESTOWN'S PAST

This publication may be picked up at the Society's Welcome Center on the second floor of the Borough Building or at many other locations throughout Littlestown. This booklet is set up to keep track of the events that you have participated in. If you attend every event and you have your passport stamped during each of these events to verify your attendance, you will receive a tote bag full of Sestercentennial

memorabilia after certification at the end of the year. You will also receive a certificate for your outstanding participation and a chance to win one of several free dinners. This Passport will also be available at the January Historical Society's program.



LITTLESTOWN'S 250th LOGO CONTEST



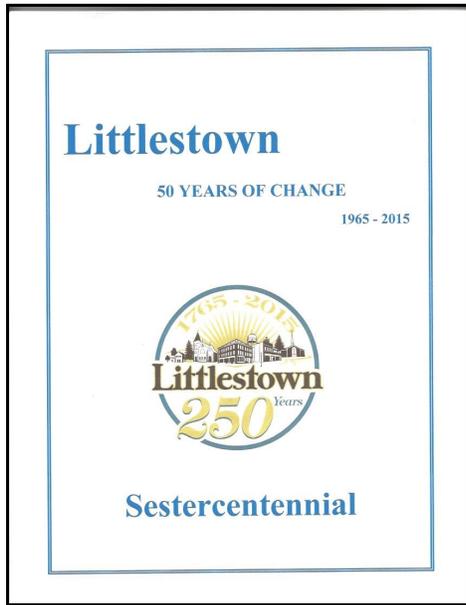
In early 2014, a contest was held to create a logo for our 250th Anniversary. There were four entries, and most were designs from former Littlestown students. The winning design was created by Jonathan

Jakum, Class of 1991. In describing his design, Jonathan explained, "I incorporated some basic illustrations of a few predominant buildings around town with a gold sunburst behind them to symbolize Littlestown's bright future. The navy blue, matched with the gold, somewhat resembles the school district's colors".

SESTERCENTENNIAL BOOK

It has been decided that rather than rewrite the history that has already been told in the Littlestown Bicentennial Book, we would collect the history of our town during the past 50 years since the Bicentennial in 1965. So much has changed. We are calling this publication, "Littlestown - 50 Years of

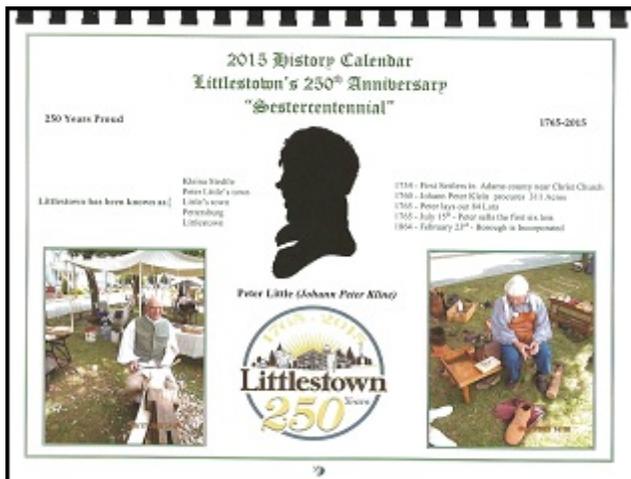
Change, 1965-2015.” It is being published along with a reproduction of the Bicentennial Book so you can purchase both books if you do not have a copy of the Bicentennial book, The reprint of the Bicentennial Book will be in soft cover to distinguish it from the original. The Sestercentennial Book will be printed in hard cover. To keep the cost down, it will be produced in black and white.



The Sestercentennial book will be a limited edition of 600 copies and will be individually numbered. It will be available during Founder’s Day Week. (An order form is attached to this newsletter.)

Littlestown 2015 History Calendar

The 2015 History Calendar is filled with historic information about Littlestown, our state and our country. In it are included many historic pictures of the Littlestown area.. The Sestercentennial events are listed on one page and also at each date during the year. It is in full color and a must for those who are



interested in the history of our area. (Cost is \$10)

SESTERCENTENNIAL MEMORABILIA

There are different items that we now have available for our Sestercentennial, and more will be available as this celebration year moves along. We have t-shirts and tote bags that can be purchased now at the Museum and Welcome Center. We are considering having mugs, cups, banners and possibly a few other items available for sale. We are seeking input from the community on additional items to sell. Suggestions can be given to members of the Historical Society, or you can email Ken Thomas with your thoughts at ken@thomasnetwork.net



250th Littlestown Wine Festival

We are presently working on plans for a Wine Tasting Festival to be held on May 16 from 12 noon to 6 pm. This event will help raise funds for our 250th anniversary. Our plans are to hold the Wine Festival at the carnival grounds aka playground. Cost will be \$20 a person at the gate or \$15 if tickets are purchased in advance. Designated driver entrance fees will be \$10. Coded wrist bands will be provided as will wine cups for tasting. Entertainment will be provided, and food may be purchased at the fire company building. This event is being jointly hosted by the 250th Anniversary Committee and the Fire Company. Funds



raised will be split between both entities. No food or drink may be brought to the festival. There will be a number of craft vendors at the festival for those who wish to do some shopping. Attendees to the festival may bring along pop ups (Small canopy tents) to sit and watch the entertainment.

ADDED EVENTS

Other events may be added throughout the year. Different ideas are being considered and interest is being weighed. A possible costume ball and different competitions such as horse shoes, log cutting, or an old timers' baseball game are under review. If you have any ideas, let us know.

SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

The collection of artifacts that the Society has is growing. We are constantly receiving items from a variety of sources. We have received a number of items by mail, from those who have moved away and decided to give back to the community; from those who find and donate local items purchased at auctions both in and outside Littlestown; from those clearing out homes and other building who find old Littlestown related items they have no interest in keeping. We thank all those who keep the Littlestown Area Historical Society in mind in these different circumstances.

We receive items from local people who are interested in the preservation of our history and provide valuable and significant artifacts for our museum.



BLOCHER BUGGY

The buggy, shown here, was manufactured during the winter of 1909 by carriage manufacturer T. S.

Blocher Sons, 32 West King Street, Littlestown and purchased by an individual known only as M.H.B. on April 1, 1910. Examination of the buggy's interior revealed the name John Robinson and the date of Feb. 24, 1910 on the back of the buggy seat's upholstery. Also, under the seat appears the following, written in pencil: "This buggy was built the winter of 1909 received April 1, 1910 by M.H.B. "

T. S. Blocher Sons began carriage manufacturing in the late 1800s and continued in business as late as the 1920s. The business produced upwards of 75 buggies and carriages annually. The factory had a reputation for producing the best and most durable class of fine work. It employed between 10 to 12 employees. According to archival material, the T. S. Blocher factory was one of the most important industries in Littlestown, and its owner Thaddeus Blocher was known countywide as an enterprising and reliable business man and citizen.

Restoration of the buggy, which was purchased years ago at Norm's Auction on Route 116, was financed mainly through donations from the descendants of the Blocher family, including Amy Z. Bahel, Charles Blocher, James Blocher, Paul Blocher, Virginia and William Fisher, MENET LLP, Janet Wilson McKee, Shirley Spangler, Judith Ellen Stitt, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Strevig, Amy G. Wilson, Catherine Wilson, Virginia Wilson, and Marilyn and Scott Zanger. Persons involved in the physical restoration of the buggy include John Zinn of Littlestown who donated all the prep work and painting of the vehicle. Upholstering the buggy seat and repairing the folding top were done by Christian Petersheim, an Amish man from Nichel Mines, Pennsylvania, in Lancaster County. The buggy, known as a runabout, was donated to the Littlestown Area Historical Society by Bruce and Betty Jakum of Littlestown.

RAILROAD PLATFORM SCALE

The platform scale that was on the platform of the freight station in Littlestown was bought by Allen DeGroft, when the building was sold several years ago. This scale is being donated to the historical society in honor of Allen by his wife Barb. Allen passed away suddenly this past fall. We will be picking this scale up in the spring and will refurbish it for display. For ease of transportation, it is now in pieces and a few of these pieces (wooden pieces) need to be replaced. (If you have or know about a picture of this scale we would like a copy.)

A TIME LINE FOR THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

January 20 - The Digges Choice Story -
Methodist Hall - rear of 50 East King Street 7:00
pm

February 17 - The Andrew Shriver Story
- Methodist Hall - rear 50 East King St. 7:00 pm

March 17 - Peter Klein's Story - Methodist Hall -
rear 50 East Street 7:00 pm

April. 21 - Littlestown Transportation - Methodist
Hall - rear 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

May 16 - Wine Festival - Carnival Grounds, 12
noon through 6:00 pm

May 19 - Early Churches of our area - Methodist
Hall - rear 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

June 16 - Early Education - Methodist Hall - rear
50 East King Street 7:00 pm

July 12 - Sunday Morning Worship at your church
of choice and old fashion service at Crouse Park at
3:00 pm

July 13 -Pick up Sestercentennial Book at Square
and tour of historic cemeteries. .

July 14 - pick up copy of Driving Tour Guide for
one room schools. History program at Mud College
along route 97 at 7:00 pm

July 15 - dedication of 250th memorial at 12 noon
at the Square - Founder's Day Parade starting at
6:30 pm

July 16 - Pick up Industrial Tour Guides at 12 noon
- Pick up Historic Church Tour guides at 4:00 pm

July 17 - Historic window displays - Walking tour
of old town and attend the "Honoring Our Heros
Program" (Those who served in our military) at
7:00 PM place to be announced

July 18 - Community Wide Founder's Day Picnic
at the community Park beginning at 2:00 pm and
ending with fireworks

August 3 through August 8 - Attend the annual
Fireman's Carnival

August 14 - Entertainment by the Bittle Brothers
- Location to be announced - 7:00 pm

**August 15 Good Ole Days at Crouse Park,
Glenywn Drive and the Playground 8:00 am -
4:00 pm**

August 18 - History Program at Union Mills -
Andrew Shriver moves from Littlestown - May
include picnic.

August 22 - Celebration Dinner - will have a
number of historic displays and the opening of the
time capsule from the Bicentennial in 1965. A new
Sestercentennial time capsule will be created.
Winners of certain events will be announced.
Recognition of the many people who have been
working on our celebration. Many have put in
countless hours to make this all possible. The
Dinner will be catered.

September 15 - Utilities come to Littlestown -
Methodist Hall - rear 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

October 20 - Newspapers in Littlestown -
Methodist Hall - rear 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

November 17 - Littlestown and the Civil War -
Methodist Hall - 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

December 15 - Christmas Traditions - Methodist
Hall - rear 50 East King Street 7:00 pm

December 31 - Have your Passport verified for your
tote bag full of free memorabilia and a chance to
win a free dinner.

***More details About Fonder's Day Week will be
forthcoming in the April - June Newsletter.***

BEARD GROWING CONTEST

A Brothers of the Bush Challenge has been issued to
all males living in the Littlestown Area. Are you
capable of growing an award winning beard?

There are two separate divisions.. Division I is for
those who have a beard before December 1, 2014, and
Division II is for those who begin growing their beard

as of December 1, 2014. In each division there will be three categories; Partial Beards, Just Mustaches or Full Beards. Sub categories may be determined at the time of judging. Judging will be on July 18 at 4:00 pm at the Founder's Day Picnic. Presentations will be made on August 22 at the Celebration Dinner. Entry Fee \$1.00.



If you do not grow a beard, you may be stopped during Founder's Day Week and asked to show your shaving permit. If you do not have a shaving permit, you may be fined \$1.00 or thrown in the Kangaroo Court Jail.



You may pick up a Shaving Permit at the Historical Society Welcome Center or at the history programs before July. The permit fee is \$1.00.

Reasons for not growing a beard:

Physical impossibility

Wife or girl friend won't let me

Afraid it will spoil my looks

Boss won't let me

OUR 250TH ANNIVERSARY KEYSTONE KOPS

During Founder's Day Week keep your eyes peeled for our Keystone Kops. You could end up in our Kangaroo Court Jail. We are looking for Littlestown's ten most wanted..

Offences for which you may be stopped:

Men - clean shaven faces without a shaver's permit. **Anyone** - harassment of our fine Kangaroo Court Kops. **Girls** - flirting with one of our fine Kangaroo Court Kops. **Anyone** - walking down



the wrong side of the street. **Anyone** - people who are not in colonial style clothing during Founder's Day Week. **Everyone** - anything that our Kangaroo Court Kops feel you are doing wrong.

During Founder's Day Week our kops will be given times to be on duty on the streets near the square. They will also be on duty at certain times at the Founder's Day Picnic on Saturday July 18. Anyone who is unfortunate enough to be arrested by these outstanding kops will have their mug shot taken by our photographer. From this collection of mug shots, we will chose the ten worst looking troublemakers, and they will have the distinction of becoming Littlestown's most wanted. These ten will then receive special honors at our celebration Dinner on August 22nd.

DO YOU HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS WE NEED?

We are looking for at least two individuals who would be willing to serve as our Keystone kops. We also need someone to serve as our Kangaroo Court Judge. All of these individuals must be well respected and serious persons, who will bring truth and justice to our Kangaroo Court. If you would like to step into one of these non-paying positions for which you will be well loved, please apply at the Littlestown Area Historical Society Welcome Center and Museum.

We also need someone who would be willing to work alongside them taking pictures and especially capturing the specialized mug shots. If this sounds like something you could do, let Ken Thomas know.

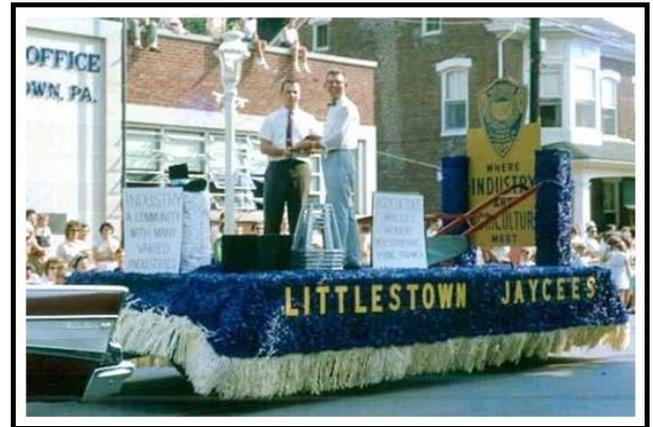
ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC ON JULY 18TH

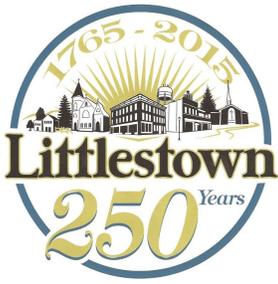
A stage will be set up at the Founder's Day Picnic for the purpose of entertainment and announcements during the day. We are beginning to establish a list of those who will entertain at particular times. At the end of the day the Municipal Band will play a set of patriotic music, which will be followed by fireworks. The friends of the Littlestown Library have agreed to provide a story teller to entertain the younger children, and the Bittle Brothers have agreed to entertain for a time. There are a few other entertainers we are hoping to enlist for our picnic. We still have a few time spots to fill. If you know of a group or someone who would like to provide entertainment as a service to our community for this great event, we would love to hear

about them and see how they would fit in our plans. Please contact Ken Thomas or one of the Bittle Brothers.

SESTERCENTENNIAL PARADE

The parade will be on Wednesday evening July 15 at 6:30 pm. We are hoping that the community makes this the best Founder's Day Parade we could possibly have. The Littlestown Lions Club and the Littlestown Jaycees are organizing and sponsoring this event. We hope to have a number of surprise entries in the parade. We also hope to have every organization, church, and many businesses provide a professional looking float for this parade. When we look back to the Bicentennial Parade in 1965 and at the floats that our town provided for that parade, we know that it can be accomplished. We are setting a dead line of June 1 when all entries have to be registered for the parade. There will not be any registration on the day of the parade. Every entry will be notified where their spot will be in the parade order and where they need to be located when the parade starts. This is the only way that a large parade can work smoothly. Below are some examples of floats from our Bicentennial Parade in 1965:





**Reserve your copy of the ‘Littlestown 50 Years of Change’
Sestercentennial Book - and/or the Bicentennial Reprint**

For \$10.00 per book, you can reserve your copy of the “Littlestown 50 Years of Change” Sestercentennial book and/or the Bicentennial Reprint. Each book will be hand-numbered in this 600-copy limited edition. Pay the full amount and get a lower number.

Retain for the LAHS.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ copies of Bicentennial Reprint soft cover @ \$30 ea.

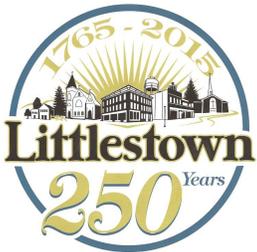
_____ copies of Sestercentennial “Littlestown 50 Years of Change” Hard cover @ \$25 ea.

_____ copies of both books @ \$50 per set

Signature _____

Order taken by _____ Amount Received \$ _____

Fold and tear off



**Receipt for Reserving your copy of the ‘Littlestown 50 Years of Change’
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(Give to the person making reservation)

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Amount Paid \$ _____

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