



# The Historian

*A Man's Life – A Nation's History*

*A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson*

*December 2015 Issue 15*

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## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT –

Sue Minarchi

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Happy holidays to everyone in the Sanderson Museum family! It has been a great year for our wonderful little museum and we are looking forward to bigger and better things next year!

2016 is going to be very exciting! To memorialize the 50th Anniversary of Chris Sanderson's death, we have some terrific activities planned that focus on Chris' life and interests. Everyone will get an interesting glimpse into the life, times and personality of Christian C. Sanderson. Be sure to watch the Historian for details. You'll definitely want to sign up as a member so that you can enjoy our special Members Only Events. They are always a great time!

No year-end would be complete without thanking everyone for their continued contributions. As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, funding is essential to our existence and we appreciate each and every one of your donations.

We are very happy to report that the environment in the museum is now stabilized thanks to the installation of our HVAC system. Next year, we will work toward our goal of conserving our Brandywine School art. We are very excited to begin the job of preserving these very important works for future generations. Please consider including the Sanderson Museum in your giving plans this year.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to all of you for being part of the Sanderson Museum family and for all that you do to support our unique museum. I hope that everyone will consider volunteering at the museum as museum guide, working on our facility, helping in the archives, or organizing special events. There's always a lot to do and all volunteer efforts are welcome and appreciated!

On behalf of the Sanderson Museum Board of Directors, best wishes for a very enjoyable holiday season, and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

## ASK TO SEE

Chuck Ulmann, Curator

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***"Chris Rides the Rails"*** The best part of being the curator of the Sanderson Museum is getting to do detective work. I find facts, pictures, items, etc. that I didn't know we had in the collection or discover how something happened.

Such was the case when Phyllis Recca dropped me a note asking for some information and pictures for her book, *Chadds Ford Then and Now*. I was asked to review one or two sections and it forced me to dig into our collection of train schedules used by Chris. I also did some research on the passenger trains that ran in the Chadds Ford area. So started this little discovery work.

Two railroads ran passenger trains through the area. The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) ran trains from Wawa to Oxford. This was known as the

Please see *Ask to See* page 2

*Ask to See* from page 1

Octoraro line. The Philadelphia and Reading (“The Reading”) owned and ran the Wilmington and Columbia Division (we know it today as the Wilmington and Northern) which went from Wilmington to Reading.

To research, I reviewed the schedules in the museum, my own collection of railroad documents, and the *Official Guide (OG)*. The *Official Guide (OG)* was a large book published monthly (think of an old style big telephone book that you sat on at the dining room table when you were too small to see where the food was at Thanksgiving) with schedules and details of EVERY railroad in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It was like reading a telephone book! Only train geeks read these guides and I fall into that category!

Let’s start with the Wilmington and Northern. At the beginning of the 20th century there were 8 trains a day each way between Wilmington and Reading. The Wilmington and Northern shared the B&O station in Wilmington with the B&O. By 1915, the *OG* only listed four trains per day each way. The line was down to two trains per day in the 1921 *OG*. The 1930 *OG* shows only one train between Reading and Coatesville each day. What happened to the rest of the line? It was only used for freight.

The PRR Octoraro line was somewhat more active. It had been there first and it had at least four or five trains per day each way. This is confirmed in the 1920 *OG* and in the schedules (“Ask to See”). It stopped at both Chadds Ford, behind what is now the Brandywine River Museum of Art (BRM), and at Chadds Ford Junction, located across from the unused railroad bridge that still goes over the Brandywine by the BRM. Chadds Ford Junction was where the two railroad lines crossed. In



*Chris at the Pennsylvania Railroad Wawa train station circa 1938.*

railroad ‘lingo’, this was called a ‘diamond.’ By 1930, the run was down to two trains each way.

By 1933, the PRR was running a gas-electric car (called ‘doodle bugs’) on the line. It sometimes pulled a coach. One of my favorite photos of Chris shows him standing on the triangular platform at the Wawa station next to the doodle bug (another “Ask to See”).

U.S. Mail contracts kept many of these low volume lines running. Right after World War II, the Post Office Department started canceling these contracts. In 1948, the mail contract on this line was cancelled and the PRR terminated passenger service. By then many people were picking up Chris and taking him wherever he had to go.

So “Ask to See” his train schedules located on shelf 19. In the library is one of my favorite photos of Chris hanging on the north wall. “Ask to See” that photo as well!

# SUPPORT THE MUSEUM & BECOME A MEMBER!

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The Sanderson Museum is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1967. Please consider making a contribution to keep this unique museum open for the enjoyment of future generations. Your membership will help to support the rich heritage of Chris Sanderson's country home filled with artifacts representing over 200 years of American history. Descriptions of membership levels and benefits are below.

To pay by check, complete the form below and mail to Sanderson Museum, P.O. Box 153, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. To pay by credit card, visit <http://sandersonmuseum.org/support-museum/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my tax deductible gift of:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200   | <input type="checkbox"/> My gift is: _____ |

I would like to join the Sanderson Museum:

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Patron \$100
- Benefactor \$500

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

### Individual: \$20/year

Free admission to museum

Free gift

Subscription to our quarterly newsletter

Invitation to special events

### Family: \$30/year

All of the above for a family of 2 adults and their children under 18

### Patron: \$100/year

All of the above plus:

Two Guest Passes to the museum (\$10 value)

\$20 Gift Certificate for use at the Museum Store

### Benefactor: \$500/year

All of the above plus:

Wyeth-Sanderson Historical Map of Chester County (\$95 value)

WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Christian C. Sanderson Museum  
P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



*Go Green and receive The Historian via email. Send your email address to [executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org). Thank you!*



The Christian C. Sanderson Museum - A Man's Life, A Nation's History. An eclectic array of art, military memorabilia, presidential artifacts, local history and collectibles. History like you've never seen it before! Open March through November, Thursday through Sunday, 12pm to 4pm or by appointment.

Sanderson Museum  
1755 Creek Road  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone:  
610-388-6545

Website:  
[sandersonmuseum.org](http://sandersonmuseum.org)

Email:  
[info@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:info@sandersonmuseum.org)

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