



The Historian

A Man's Life – A Nation's History

A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson

September 2019 Issue 22

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

The Schoolmaster Exhibit

Carol Little

Our new exhibit, The Schoolmaster, held its official Opening event on Wednesday, August 28. The exhibit offers many artifacts from Christian Sanderson's teaching career in both our Entry room showcase, and throughout the Museum. Most of these items have not been on display before. As Chris taught or became principal at ten different schools over twenty-nine years, the collection displays several items from each school in chronological order. Of course, they are only a small percentage of what Chris saved!

After graduating from West Chester Normal School in 1901, at the age of nineteen, Chris secured his first job teaching in a one room schoolhouse, Garwood School. It was north of his own alma mater, Port Providence, outside of Phoenixville, but located in Montgomery County. Although Chris involved his students in musical performances, small plays, and recitation of poetry, as well as swinging his beloved Indian clubs, his employers did not appreciate his extracurricular activities. Look for the tickets and programs he had printed for many events, as well as the photo in a binder in the Chadds Ford Room of the school as it appears today. Chris' next position, from 1902-05, was in the Port Providence School. Here in his hometown he flourished at first, but again was dismissed.

Chris had read Bayard Taylor's "The Story of Kennett" while at WCSNS, and applied for jobs in southern Chester County. He answered an ad for the Chadds

Ford School (later purchased by NC Wyeth, and now on tour as Andrew Wyeth's Studio). Chris taught there from 1905-1908. He moved into the Ring House-which was Washington's Headquarters during the Battle of the Brandywine, with his mother in 1906. Chadds Ford became his central location for the next sixteen years, and later his entire lifetime. He continued to offer lectures to school groups and any other available audience on the history of the Battle and its environs until the year of his death in 1966. Chris was the consummate educator, whether it was playing the violin, fiddling, square dancing, or swinging the clubs. Many Museum members and local community residents of a certain age remember him visiting their schools to present his variety of topics!



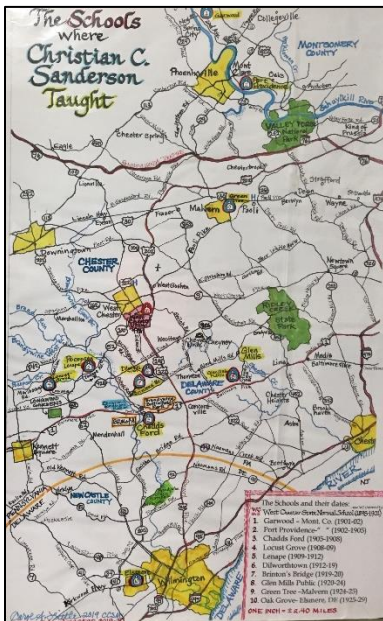
The remaining seven schools await your discovery and there is a map available in the Entry room which features the location of all ten of Chris' schools. Smaller copies of the map are available, with a "Seek and Find" on its back of items in every room-or hallway-to locate and examine. The School Room has the largest group of these – as well as the beautiful

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original map of Chester County which Andrew Wyeth created in collaboration with Chris. Besides his many events and performances, Chris sponsored Boy Scout Troops, and developed sports teams and many other extracurricular and community activities. He took his students on historic field trips and selected special students from each school to participate in small group trips. Find his "Boston Trip" album with the Oak Grove School.

Chris maintained a close relationship with dozens of students, and he continued correspondence with them until he died. He observed their birthdays and



anniversaries, and became a beloved part of their families. His Museum is a testament to his eclectic collections, passion for history, and the encouragement he gave his students to cherish their country and become an active member of their communities.

May his legacy continue to be observed and appreciated!

We will continue the Schoolmaster Exhibit into the 2020 season, with a formal Event to be held in the spring when the Locust Grove School in Pocopson Township has its renovations completed. Please watch for an Announcement of the date and time! IF you have interacted with Chris as a teacher, please attend and contribute to our program. Please contact Mary Hewes (through the Museum), or event chair, Carol Little, at calart128@verizon.net. We welcome your recollections and anecdotes!

ASK TO SEE

Chuck Ulmann, Curator

Chris Sanderson took many visitors on visits to historical sites in and around Chadds Ford and other places as well. Based on reviewing our notes, a common trip was Battle of Brandywine, Valley Forge and Gettysburg...all in one day!

Any type of special event at locations with historical significance was fair game for a visit and collection of a document about the function. Valley Forge was no exception. In our file about Valley Forge we have the sampling of these items:

1879 - Dedication of the Washington Headquarters, Valley Forge (Chris wasn't there but he obtained a copy of the invitation!)

1927 - Guide to the Washington Memorial at Valley Forge (not part of the park) in honor of the 150th anniversary of the encampment.

1932 - George Washington Bicentennial Pilgrimage and Pageant at Valley Forge Park (Chris, Dr. Heathcote and Judge Wilmer MacElree were historical consultants to the event)

1937 - Letter to Chris from the WPA asked for information for a "partial restoration" of Valley Forge
1946 - An article written by Chris was published in the "Picket Post," a quarterly publication of the Valley Forge Historical Society

The article written by Chris was "Martial Movements Prior to Valley Forge Camp". An introduction to the article states that Chris "has lectured over five hundred times on historic Chester County and in more than one hundred addresses, recounted the conditions during Revolutionary days of 1777-1778." I'm sure Chris has a record of all these talks and when and where they occurred but I haven't found it yet!

So "Ask to See" our file of Valley Forge documents and notes.



PLEASE JOIN US!!

Monday, September 30
5:30pm – 8:30pm
\$25 donation, includes heavy
awesome hors d'oeuvres
Cash bar available

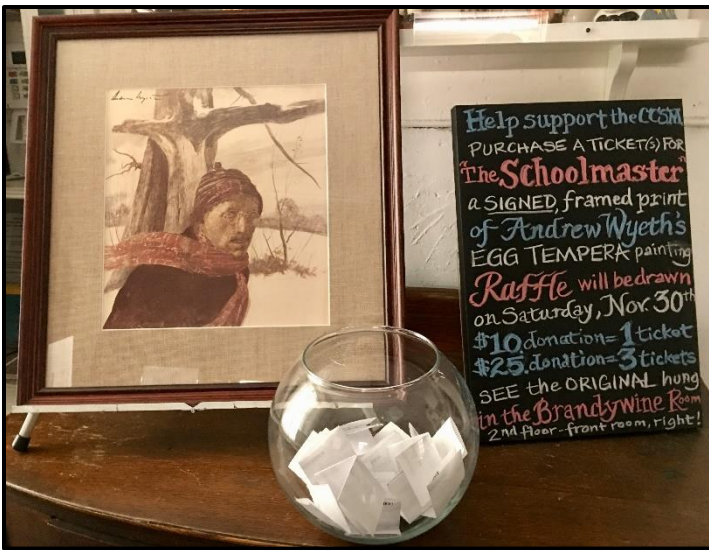


Brandywine Prime & the Sanderson Museum!

Please join us for awesome hors d'oeuvres under the stars at the Brandywine Prime patio and then visit the Sanderson Museum across the parking lot for the short presentation on our newest exhibit the Schoolmaster. The presentation will be held twice during the evening at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. You may start at either location.

Have a wonderful time at Brandywine Prime and the Sanderson Museum!

SCHOOLMASTER RAFFLE



Your donation to the Sanderson Museum is greatly appreciated. Donations as specified below will be entered into a raffle for a framed Country Schoolmaster print signed by Andrew Wyeth.

\$10 DONATION = 1 RAFFLE TICKET
\$25 DONATION = 3 RAFFLE TICKETS

The raffle will run from until Saturday, November 30. At that time, the winner will be selected and contacted.

Don't miss your chance to take home a piece of history while supporting a wonderful museum! To donate by check, complete the form below and mail to Sanderson Museum, P.O. Box 153, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. To donate by credit card, visit <http://sandersonmuseum.org/support-museum/>

Please indicate Schoolmaster Raffle in the memo section of your check or your paypal submission.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State Zip: _____

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. 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, Saturday and Sunday, 12pm to 4pm or by appointment.

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