



The Historian

A Man's Life – A Nation's History

A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson

March 2020 Issue 23

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

We are excited to be open again following a relatively mild winter. Our exhibit, The Schoolmaster, will remain on display for the 2020 season. You don't want to miss it. We hope to host an event at the Locust Grove School House in Pocopson to share some of the featured exhibit items from The Schoolmaster from this one room school house. More details will be available as we solidify our plans.

It is hard to believe but 2020 kicks off our 53rd season. There is still so much to explore at the museum. Every time you visit you are guaranteed to see something new! In case you don't know, we are on Facebook. This year we have been sharing Hannah Sanderson's (Chris' mother) daily diary entries from 1937. It was an emotional time for Chris and Hannah as they were forced to leave their residence on Denton Hollow Road...but exciting times were ahead in Chadds Ford. Be sure to check it out!

Hope to see you at the museum!

ASK TO SEE

Chuck Ulmann, Curator

In the last "Ask To See", I described some of the many articles, brochures, etc. that Chris Sanderson had related to Valley Forge. One item was an issue of "The Picket Post" published in October, 1946. Chris wrote an article called "Martial Movements Prior to Valley Forge Camp. The part that interested me was the periods before and after the Battle of

Brandywine. There was a sub title that some added; "Washington's and Howe's Armies Traced In Marches and Battles Prior To The Valley Forge Camp."

Chris starts with the comment "Most Americans will say Trenton, 1776 then Valley Forge, but never take time to find out what happened in the months between." Chris sets the stage with the primary actions before the Battle of Brandywine for both American and British movements. The description of the Battle is the shortest one I have ever seen Chris write. The two paragraphs start with "Briefly one cannot help but mention that great afternoon battle..."

He then jumps back to right after Trenton and talks about General Howe's false attack move in early June, 1777 toward Philadelphia from New Brunswick NJ to try and draw out the Americans. Washington wasn't fooled. His pickets watched what was going on and the Americans stayed where they were.

Next, General Howe moved all his troops east toward Staten Island in late June. They boarded over 200 small sailing vessels and sailed out to the east. On July 28th, the British started turning south.

By the 31st, it became clear that the British were not going to sail up the Delaware Bay. Cesar Rodney then made his famous ride to let General Washington know that this possible option was not going to occur. The British then sailed down to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, turned north and then landed the troops near Chesapeake City and then began heading north through Elkton, Maryland, Newark, Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware and up to Chester, Pennsylvania.

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In the meantime, the Americans moved through Philadelphia towards Marcus Hook and stopped the British at a high point a bit north of Wilmington. After looking at each other for several days, the British started working south again and the Americans headed toward Chadds Ford believing that the British were going to try and cross the Brandywine there to proceed north to Philadelphia. By then the events were made ready for the Battle of Brandywine. The next issue Chris will go over what happened after Brandywine and the rather roundabout route to Valley Forge.

If you can't wait, "Ask to See" the full article in the October, 1946 issue of the Picket Post.

HISTORY MADE PERSONAL

The Tradition of Decorating Easter Eggs

Decorated eggs are often given as gifts to celebrate Easter or spring time. The history of coloring eggs goes back to ancient Egyptian times; however the history of decorating Easter eggs dates back to the years of early Christianity. Eggs were dyed red to symbolize the crucifixion. In 1610, the Christian Church adopted both the custom of decorating eggs and the symbol of the eggs as the resurrection.

It is possible, that the Easter egg tradition stemmed from the old custom of eggs, meat and dairy being forbidden during Lent. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, known as "Mardi Gras" or "Fat Tuesday", was historically the day to consume all your household eggs, meat and dairy before the Lenten season began. Easter was then the first chance to enjoy these foods after the long abstinence. In addition to decorating eggs, Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are also popular traditions.

An egg hunt involves hiding eggs for children to search for and find on Easter morning. The egg roll is usually done on a flat surface and the hardboiled eggs are pushed along with a spoon. This month marks the 136th annual White House Easter Egg Roll. The tradition was started by First Lady Dolly Madison who invited local children to roll hard boiled eggs down the lawn of the Capitol building. The egg roll moved to its current location, the White House lawn, in 1880. This year it is anticipated that over 30,000 people will join the festivities featuring live music, storytelling and other fun-filled activities.

Chris Sanderson enjoyed celebrating the holidays, and not surprisingly, he saved many Easter eggs that he and his family decorated throughout the years. Amazingly, the eggs he saved date back to 1886...128 years ago! You can find them on display in the Carmack Room on the second floor.



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Membership provides free admission to the museum, a free gift, a subscription to our newsletter and invitation to special events.

Visit www.sandersonmuseum.org for more information or contact us at 610.388.6545.

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

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. You can mail your tax-deductible donation to Sanderson Museum, P.O. Box 153, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Donations can also be made online at sandersonmuseum.org.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> My gift is: _____ |

PRIVATE TOURS AVAILABLE

Do you know a group that would like to tour the museum but doesn't meet on weekends or requires special assistance? The Sanderson Museum will gladly host your party and give them a private showing of the museum. Private tours will be arranged outside of normal museum hours.

Although there is no additional charge for private tours, donations are greatly appreciated. To schedule a tour, contact the museum at 610.388.6545 and please allow two weeks advanced notice.



Are you still receiving a hard copy of The Historian?
Please help us save money and trees and provide us with your email address (if you have one!).

Send your email address to Mary at
Executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org. Thank you!



The Sanderson Museum is run by volunteers just like you! We are people who are interested in history, delight in talking to other people, have a bit of the "pack rat" in them, and want to touch a moment in time. We offer great benefits:

- Volunteer training
- Invitations to museum events
- Several volunteer appreciation activities
- 10% discount in museum gift shop

If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or talents, email Mary Hewes at executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org or call 610-388-6545 or to join our volunteer family.

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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