



# The Historian

*A Man's Life – A Nation's History*

*A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson*

*March 2022 Issue 27*

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## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

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The Sanderson Museum is currently open! We have returned to our normal operating hours of Saturdays and Sundays 12pm-4pm. We also can open by appointment for those visiting our area during the week. To schedule an appointment please call 610- 329-7884. We normally will return calls within 24 hours.

As you may already know, the museum is 100% run by volunteers. We are always looking for more people to help us continue to share Chris' wonderful collection. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about joining our volunteer family.

## POCOPSON VALLEY BOYS – It's in the Details

Tom Hoey, Volunteer

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As with many people, Chris Sanderson had several sides to his personality. These sides are evidenced in the way he collected items and haphazardly left them around the house; how he carefully planned and taught lessons in schools or lectured to adult groups; how he lovingly took care of his mother and his attention to detail as he organized the Pocopson Valley Boys.

We know Chris was a musician. He played fiddle, a style of violin playing. He formed the Pocopson



*Pocopson Valley Boys, WDEL*

Valley Boys, most probably-named for Chris's valley home in Denton Hollow, Pocopson Township in 1932 and led it until 1965. Their first performance was broadcast on WDEL Wilmington radio on June 26, 1932. Their last performance was a dance at the Downingtown Junior / Senior High School on October 23, 1965, one year before he passed away.

Throughout the years, the group consisted of more than 100 musicians from which Chris would typically choose 6 – 12 musicians according to the needs of each performance. The music in their repertoire consisted of folk, popular and patriotic.

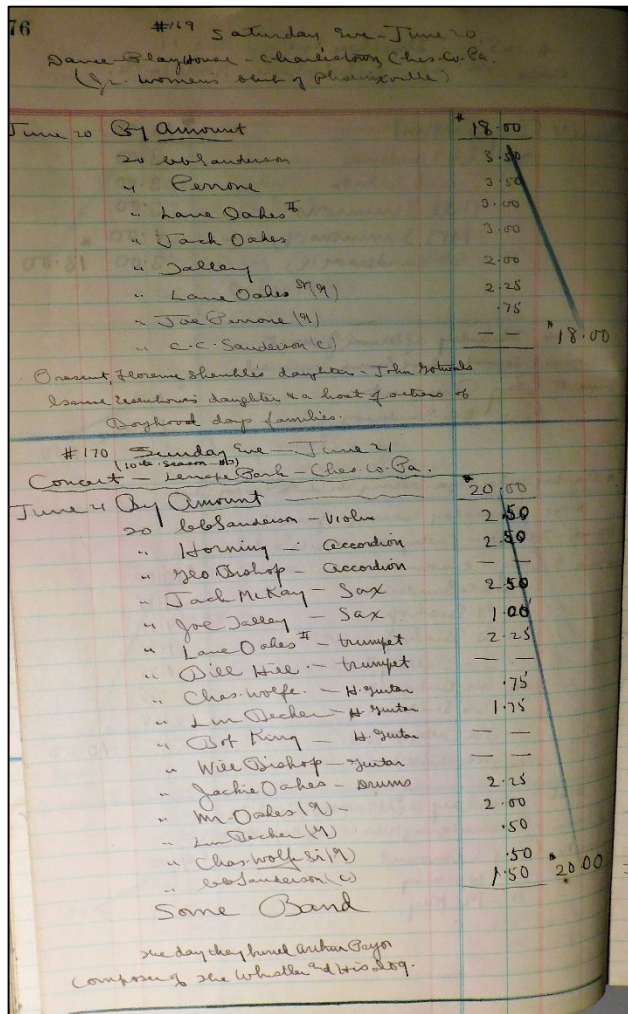
In the museum's archives, there are 34 record books for the Pocopson Valley Boys. These [ledger] books contain very detailed entries organized by year, month day and performance. Other pages also listed the musicians on each performance; instruments played; the pay for each musician - often 35 cents and later \$1.50 plus extra pay for

Please see *Pocopson Valley Boys* page 2

Pocopson Valley Boys from page 1

driving.

Let’s look at the year 1942. The book is divided into three sections: Month, Day, Earnings. There are hundreds of entries for 1942 and each entry is given a number. The Pocopson Valley Boys typically played 150 performances a year.



Pocopson Valley Boys Ledger, Lenape Park

For the **month** section, there is a listing of performances and rehearsals for each month, sometimes as many as 30 performances a month. That’s quite a busy schedule.

In the **daily** section we find a listing of performances (sometimes two in a day) the event,

the venue, the location, the musicians’ instruments and pay. For example, the Pocopson Valley Boys played a concert at Lenape Park on June 21, 1942. Looking at the picture of that page, you will see 16 musicians, and as Chris commented on that page, “Some Band!” He also added an historical comment, “The day they buried Arthur Pryor, composer of The Whistler and His Dog.”

In the **earnings** section, we find each musician and the pay for each performance; number of performances per month; and total performances for the year. Chris employed 85 musicians for the year 1942. For example, Lane Oaks played 80 engagements and earned \$253.45 that year.

Chris’s level of detail is incredible! His detailed records allow us to see his organizational skills for the Pocopson Valley Boys. And to keep the band running for 34 years is quite an accomplishment in itself.

Chris Sanderson, the man is in the details!

## MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

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Looking for a gift for someone who loves history?  
Look no further!

- Historical Map of Chester County
- Wyeth Note Cards
- Mugs
- Magnets
- Books
- And so much more!!

The Gift Shop is open 24/7 through the museum website: <https://sandersonmuseum.org/shop/>

## 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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Hollie Gorman, Private Client Advisor

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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
- Volunteer appreciation passes
- 10% discount in museum gift shop

If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or talents, email Mary Hewes at

[executivedirector@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto: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](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 Saturday & Sunday, 12pm-4pm, March through November.

Sanderson Museum  
1755 Creek Road  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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P.O. Box 153  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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