



The Historian

A Man's Life – A Nation's History

A Newsletter for Friends of the Sanderson

June 2023 Issue 31

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Next time you're at the Sanderson or even driving by on a weekend, you'll see our new sign! The old one was wearing out, so volunteer and friend of the Sanderson, Stephen Pierce, lent us his talents.



Our Curator, Chuck Ulmann, observing the installation of our new front sign by Volunteer Stephen Pierce.

Our first Sanderson Museum sign (as far as we know) was painted by our late Sanderson Board Member and volunteer, John Silvasi (1915-2012).

A Warm Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Makenzie McGonigle, Administrative Manager

On June 1, the Sanderson Museum's Board of Directors unanimously elected Linda Banks and Michael Lynch to our already esteemed group of professionals. Let's introduce them to you:

Linda Banks has been a guide at the museum for 10 years and has also helped with group visits, sharing her extensive skills in childhood education to provide rewarding experiences to visiting groups

involving children and adults alike. Linda has also shared her skills as an English teacher to pen many interesting articles for us on various websites

Michael Lynch began volunteering with us last year as a guide and joined the Steering Committee soon after. As an educator, professor, and research director for Lincoln University, he brings much expertise and talent to the museum. Michael presented his projection creation, *Photo Portals into the Past*, at the museum last October; it was well attended and highly praised.

Linda's cheerful and supportive disposition along with Michael's experience and passion for history are going to be tremendous additions to the Sanderson Family. We are thrilled to have you!



Linda Banks



Michael Lynch

Remembering Chadds Ford Blacksmith Willard Sharpless

Sally Denk Hoey, Volunteer

We interpret the Sanderson Museum and property on many different levels, not just as the home of Chris Sanderson from 1937 – 1966.

A second interpretation recognizes blacksmith Willard Sharpless (1884 – 1959) who began renting

the front portion of the house in the early 1900's from Horace Quinby and later from Lottie Brittingham Eachus, while the Sandersons lived in the back wing.

Sharpless ran his blacksmithing business from 2 buildings arranged in an L-shape along the stone wall in back of the house. In the below picture of Mrs. Sanderson weeding her garden, you can see the back part of the blacksmith shop. In the far background you can see the barn which used to be part of the Chadds Ford Barn Shops until it burned down in the mid 1980's.



These photographs at the side porch gardens are separated by over 80 years.

Above we see Hannah Sanderson c. 1940 and to the right, volunteers Mary Ann Ulmann and Mara Sharp in April 2023.

Sharpless's smithing was a major part of the Chadds Ford community. His ledgers of work orders (kept in the Pocopson Room) show names like L.H. Brittingham, Dr. Cleveland, Irénée DuPont, H.G. Haskell (Hill Girt Farm), Peter Hurd, William and Sellers Hoffman, as well as N.C. Wyeth.

In 1944 Sharpless had to have one of his legs amputated above the knee. It was Chris Sanderson who started a successful fund-raising drive to raise money for his prosthetic limb.

According to the Sanderson's first curator, the late Tommy Thompson (1918 – 2014), while both blacksmith structures have been torn down (the

last after 1970) there are still remnants of these foundations visible in the back.

It has long been a dream of mine to create a planted area in the back corner of the property incorporating elements of the blacksmith shop foundations to honor Mr. Sharpless.

So, when we need to have any garden work done, our go-to person is museum volunteer Mary Ann Ulmann. Mary Ann has her degrees in elementary education as well as a two-year degree from the Temple University Ambler Campus in Horticulture and Landscape Design. Words like Clematis, Colchicum, Coleus and Liriope just fly off her lips. And watch out when she grabs at something and pronounces, "Invasive!"

In addition, Mary Ann and her work with the Delaware Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Society have won numerous ribbons at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

In the last few years, Mary Ann and her volunteers have cleared and started planting much of the area needed for the gardens. During the weeding and digging, more foundation rocks and a part of a water pump have been found.

There are now written plans for enlarging and adding to the garden this summer and fall. While it won't look like the OK Corral, there will be an item or two that might remind you of a blacksmith shop.

We also intend to have a rustic interpretive sign with a picture of Hannah Sanderson watching Mr. Sharpless shoe a beautiful gray draft horse in back of the side porch.

The work keeping the Sanderson gardens and flower boxes doesn't just happen by magic. Volunteers with garden gloves, loppers, rakes, watering cans, and hoses devote time and energy to their care. Thank you to volunteers Mary Ann Ulmann, Chuck Ulmann, Diane Camp, Gary and Mara Sharp, George Zahorcak, and Sally Hoey.

We invite our members to a free Walking Tour of Paoli Battlefield

Saturday, July 15 at 1:30 PM (weather permitting) 146 Channing Avenue, Malvern, PA 19355



Come out and walk the hallowed ground of the Paoli Battlefield! Learn what happened here on the night of September 20, 1777 that led to this battle being called the "Paoli Massacre."

Answers to your many questions await you on this walking tour of the battlefield.

Sanderson Museum Members – **FREE** Non-members - \$20 donation to Paoli Battlefield
Please visit sandersonmuseum.org to purchase tickets (for members and non-members)

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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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.

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

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



Robert and Joann Rossi
1 Taylor Road
NJ, 07747

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 Saturday & Sunday, 12pm-4pm, March through November.

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

Email:
info@sandersonmuseum.org

Board Members

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