



The Locust Grove Estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located alongside the mouth of Conoy Creek, bordering the east bank of the Susquehanna River in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is home to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Haldeman Mansion, the birthplace of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman who "epitomized the early 19th Century generation of scholars who advanced American science and letters to a position of cultural independence from Europe" (Sorenson). The mansion is at the heart of five documented, noncontiguous Native American settlements.

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# Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society

ISSUE 1

June 2020

## IN MEMORY OF HENRY B. HALDEMAN

Audrey Haldeman recently informed us that her dear husband Henry B. Haldeman passed away on November 17, 2019. Henry was born on 07/18/1923. He was a Great Grandson of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman. His father Ray was the son of Victor M. Haldeman.

Thru the years, Henry and Audrey traveled within the U.S. and abroad tracking down the history of the Haldeman Family which they have kindly shared with the Society. It is an understatement to write they have been faithful supporters of our Society. In addition to sharing family history with the Society, they have donated hundreds of artifacts including family portraits, family letters and many personal items of the Professor.

Board members will always have fond memories of visiting Henry & Audrey in their retirement home in Lansdale, PA.



L to R: Norma Bair, Keith Shearer, Audrey Haldeman, Elaine Jackson, Henry B. Haldeman

We extend our deepest sympathy to Audrey and wish her well in her new home in Florida with her son's family.

## **Native American Heritage Recognized**

We are pleased to announce the National Park Service (NPS) has recognized the Native American Heritage of the Haldeman Mansion's property and three other properties in its vicinity. On May 28, 2020, NPS placed these properties on the National Register of Historic Places under the designation "The Locust Grove Archaeological District".

The District is now recognized as an ensemble of archeological sites representing what is known as a "persistent place"—that is, a location that attracts Native American's long-term, repeated uses. The factors that made this setting attractive were fertile and well-drained high river terraces near the mouth of Conoy Creek and the area being a nexus of lines of communication and travel. It offered land routes (Indian paths) in the cardinal directions and allowed movement by canoe up and down the river. This was a prime location for camps and hamlets of earlier periods, from the first settlers of the Late Pleistocene epoch through the Middle Woodland period, as well as the inhabitants of the local area in the post-European contact and modern eras. There are sites nearby the District with Paleoindian components representing the first human presence on the North American continent at least 16,000 years ago.

The District's known Native American settlements span the Late Prehistoric/Protohistoric/Early Historic periods (ca. AD 1250-1750). Here there were repeated settlements by peoples of the Shenks Ferry, Luray and Susquehannock traditions, as well as early historic refugee groups like the Conoy (Piscataway) who had migrated to the area under pressure from European settlement and related economic and political forces.

Although individual sites of the late pre-contact and early post-contact period have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, there are no comparable districts that document this time span, none considered as contributing resources in an archaeological district and none reflecting the same wide range of local and immigrant cultures. Two of the sites, Conoy Town and its Cemetery appear to be nationally significant relating to the theme of the European Contact period's interactions in the northeast.

The sequence of settlements documents the transition from Native American communities based on incipient agriculture and settled village life to the peoples who struggled to come to terms with the effects of disease, depopulation, conflict and forced migrations in the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. It illustrates the transition in settlement patterns from dispersed, undefended hamlets to larger,

## Native American Heritage Recognized (Con.)

The District overlaps Haldeman Mansion proper, which was placed on the National Register in 1977 in recognition of its Colonial, Early American and Scientific Heritages.

The Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society wishes to thank those who supported and made this achievement possible:

- The Lancaster County Conservancy, who helped fund the project with a Susquehanna Riverlands Mini-Grant.
- The Lancaster County Community Foundation's Extraordinary Give Program and all those who donated thru the program in support of the project.
- Tim Smedick, First Preservation Services, Lancaster, PA who successfully applied for the Mini-Grant.
- Paul A. Raber, Director of Archaeological Services, Heberling Associates, Inc., Alexandria, PA, who conducted the extensive research required and wrote the proposal (nomination) for the creation of the District.



Archaeological Digs & Selected Artifacts Found within the District

# **A Rare Books Librarian & Scientist Shed Light on Professor Haldeman and His Work**

**Dr. Iren Light Snavelly, Jr.** a retired Rare Books Librarian at the State Library of Pennsylvania, has written a fascinating article for the Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine entitled “Pennsylvania Polymath: Samuel Stehman Haldeman”. It appeared in the magazine’s Winter 2020 issue, Volume XLVI, Number 1 and includes a number of interesting photographs. The magazine can be purchased online for \$10.00 at: <https://shoppaheritage.com/products/copy-of-winter-2020>.

Dr. Snavelly is a graduate of Geneva College and received a Master of Library Science degree from Drexel University. He also holds an M.A. in European History from Temple University and a Ph.D. in Early Modern European History from the University of Chicago. He is author of numerous articles and book reviews on the Sixteenth-Century Reformation and early modern Europe. More recently, he has written articles on religion, science, and historiography in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Snavelly providing a presentation at the Haldeman Mansion entitled  
“Young Sam Haldeman, the Making of an American Scientist”

**Dr. Roger D. K. Thomas**, the John Williamson Nevin Professor of Geosciences, Emeritus, Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin & Marshall College has written a scientific paper with scientists from the STAT ASA Oil Company in Norway and the Department of Geosciences, Smith College in Massachusetts entitled “Skolithos linearis Haldeman, 1840 at its early Cambrian type locality, Chickies Rock, Pennsylvania: Analysis and designation of a neotype”. This paper can be acquired at the three following websites: <https://www.researchgate.net/>, <https://www.paleowire.com/> and <http://agris.fao.org/>.

Dr. Rogers has taught at F&M since 1975. Last year he was elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America in recognition of his substantial contributions to the geosciences over nearly four decades of research, teaching and service to the profession. After receiving his B.Sc. in geology from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, he studied paleontology and evolution with Stephen Jay Gould at Harvard University, completing his Ph.D. in 1971.



Dr. Thomas reviewing Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman materials

donated to our Society by Henry & Audrey Haldeman

#### **Did You Know**

Professor Haldeman's book entitled RHYMES OF THE POETS, written under the pseudonym FELIX AGO criticized poets for mispronouncing, even misspelling words to force rhymes. His book took to task over 100 notable poets including Byron, Longfellow and Tennyson. He claimed the rhymes they had created were vicious, and their diction to be coarse. Ex. Blood, blud.

## **2019 ExtraGive Campaign Results**

The Lancaster County Community Foundation (LCCF) issued its 2019 ExtraGive Final Report on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Funds received by our Society totaled \$5,085.88. This represents a very significant **55 percent increase over the 2018 campaign!** Seventy-seven donors participated, eight for the first time. We thank all those who have participated in raising funds to restore the Federal Façade's columns facing the river.

## **HVAC Installed, Interior Renovations to Begin**

We are delighted to announce the Haldeman Mansion now has climate control for three rooms (Grand Staircase Foyer, Museum Room, and Ball Room). This milestone represents a culmination of 53 years of effort. It has been achieved on the shoulders of many members, volunteers, and donors, beginning with those who had the vision to purposefully restore the mansion for future generations. We thank all those who have supported HMPS' many activities and other fund-raising projects, including most recently our Heating Fund.

Recent grants from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and Pa Historic and Museum Commission's Keystone Grant have been received for restoration of up to three rooms. We are in the process of securing proposals for carpentry, plastering, and painting. With Heat/AC we will now be able to carry out restoration work year-round.

## **What a View!**

In 2018 the HMPS received a Riverlands Grant from the Lancaster County Conservancy to enhance the view of the Susquehanna River from the Mansion by removing invasive vegetation (brush & trees). That task has been completed. The second component of the project, the creation of a small patio to the immediate southwest of the Summer Kitchen will start this summer. Upon its completion visitors will be able to sit ponder the beauty and tranquility of the mansion's location by the



## Mira's Story <sup>1/</sup>

Our awareness of Mira's story began with a phone call three years ago from Maggie McKaig (<http://maggiemckaig.com>) who lives in Northern California. She learned of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society (HMPS) when happening upon the Lancaster County Historical Society's (LCHS) "Haldeman Family Letter Abstracts" on the internet. Mira was a cousin to Eliza, daughter of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman. Maggie believes she may be descended from Mira Haldeman Black's illegitimate son.

Mira and Eliza were frequent correspondents. The above-mentioned letters donated by Henry & Audrey Haldeman to the LCHS contained seven letters from Mira to Eliza. Mira is mentioned in five other letters. In case you are unfamiliar with Mira's story, I provide the below narrative retrieved mainly from the following website: [www.murderbygaslight.com](http://www.murderbygaslight.com):



During the (Civil) War years Mira Haldeman Black blossomed into beautiful young woman and attracted the attention of a William McKaig upon his return to Cumberland, MD from his participation in the war. He began a very public courtship with Mira and the Black family had no reason to believe that his intentions were anything but honorable. But McKaig abused their trust and seduced Mira. He then used the threat of exposure to keep her under his domination.

In 1866 McKaig married a Miss Hughes, of Jefferson County, Virginia, but he continued his relationship with Mira in secret. When another man proposed marriage to Mira, McKaig put a stop to the marriage by revealing to the groom that he had seduced Mira and ruined her in the eyes of the world. McKaig's relationship with Mira continued until the spring of 1870 when she became pregnant.

Mira was sent away to have the baby and in June 1870, her father, Harrison Black, confronted McKaig at a public fairground. McKaig not only denied seducing Mira Black but declared that she was a strumpet and had been a prostitute "from her earliest girlhood." This was too much for Harrison; he took out his pistol and shot McKaig, hitting him in the arm.

<sup>1/</sup> Mira & Eliza were second cousins. Mira's Grandmother was Mary Ann Haldeman,

The family was able to keep this news from Mira's brother Harry Crawford Black during his brief and infrequent visits back to Cumberland. When he was home on Saturday, October 15, 1870, he was out with a friend, who happened to ask if Harry's father had been indicted yet. Harry knew his father was in trouble but could not get a straight answer from his parents, so he asked his friend to explain. Harry was told what had happened at the fairground and the next day he went to his mother, demanding the whole story.

Two days later, Harry met McKaig on Baltimore Street, the principal thoroughfare of Cumberland, and shot him three times in view of at least twenty witnesses.

A murder trial ensued:

Public sentiment in Cumberland was so strongly in Harry's favor that the State of Maryland did not believe that they could find an impartial jury in Allegheny County and had the trial moved to Frederick County. Impartialities aside, the state felt that they had an open and shut case of first-degree murder against Harry.

Harry had a first-rate defense team led by Daniel W. Voorhees, a distinguished criminal attorney and U. S. Congressman from Indiana. It was a sensational trial that ended in Harry's acquittal, largely on the grounds that he had been defending his family's honor.

Harry went on to change his name to H. Crawford Black and to run the Baltimore Sun publishing empire, own coal mines, and when he died in the early 1920's was one of the wealthiest men in the country. His descendants continued to run the Sun and manage all the other assets until the end of the 20th century.

As to Mira's fate, she disappeared from public record. She never testified. She was sent away, made to disappear. She was 28 years, old, not exactly a young woman by 1870 standards. In fact, she could be considered a spinster.

If Maggie is descended from Mira's illegitimate son, Mira would be her Great Great Grandmother. Maggie, a musician and playwright, was so fascinated by Mira's story, she created the "Cumberland Suite" (<http://maggiemckaig.com/the-cumberland-suite>). It's a musical and spoken word presentation inspired by a journal kept by Maggie's Great Great Great Grandmother Priscilla McKaig' and the trial transcripts.

Here is a promotional piece on "Cumberland Suite":

*Friday, for one night only at the historic Nevada Theatre, award-winning singer-*



## **Help Us at No Cost (Effortlessly) Everytime You Make a Purchase at Amazon.Com**

Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, enter your Amazon.com username and password and select the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society. In less than two minutes you are signed-up and Amazon.com will donate 0.5 % of your purchases to the Society.

## **Special Events This Year**

(Depending on COVID-19 Policy & Guidelines Directive)

Geological Walk	Saturday, August 15	9 AM to 11 AM
Victorian Tea	Saturday, September 11	4 PM to 6 PM
Apple Fall Festival	Sunday, October 11	Noon to 4 PM

# HALDEMAN MANSION PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

President	Ken Beard	717.367.0248 kenbeard17502@yahoo.com
Vice President	Keith Shearer	717.419.0208 keithshearer@rocketmail.com
Recording Secretary	Tina Mark	717.426.2166 conoyindian3@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Jackson	717.426. 3794 elainekjackson1936@comcast.net
Treasurer	Richard Keeseey	717.576-3101 sprucecpa@aol.com

## DIRECTORS

Dale Good	dale_good@hotmail.com	717.426.2099
Joe Hottenstein	joenjoyceh@gmail.com	717-426-2227
Gina Mariani	mayorgigi@aol.com	717.278.8484
Kyle Shearer	kyleshearer73@gmail.com	717.419.0207
Karen Wenger	kwenger1950@live.com	717-940-8213

Interested in becoming a member? It's easy, just fill out the form on the next page and become part of the HMPS family. Enjoy discounts on events and keep up to date on all the latest news and events.

Newsletter Editors—Elaine Jackson & Dale Good

## New or Renewal MEMBERSHIP Application for HMPS 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your amount.

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Individual     \$ 25

Family         \$ 35

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting     \$ 50

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining     \$100

Patron/Corporate- \$500/\$1000

Do you want your newsletter sent by email or regular mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Life Member Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Heat Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations made to the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, Inc. are tax deductible under section 55 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Service. The official registration and financial information of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not mean endorsement.

Return the form with your check to:

HMPS

P.O. Box 417

Bainbridge, PA 17502

# 2020 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

(When you show your card)

<b>Individual Members Enjoys:</b>	one free admission to Sunday Tours,  free Newsletter subscription, and  \$2 discount for a paranormal investigation.
<b>Family Members Enjoy:</b>	one free admission for the family to Sunday Tours,  free Newsletter subscription, and  \$2 discount for paranormal investigations.
<b>Supporting Members Enjoy:</b>	All of the above plus,  10% discount in our store,  \$2 discount to the Victorian Tea, and  \$5 discount for paranormal investigations.
<b>Sustaining Members Enjoy:</b>	All above plus,  free pass to our Victorian Tea and  free pass for a paranormal investigation.
<b>Benefactor members enjoy:</b>	All above plus  Free Parking for Strawberry and Fall Festivals.

## **We Are An All-volunteer Organization.**

**If you have time and the inclination to help us preserve our beautiful grounds and building you would be joining us in assuring their preservation for future generations!**

**Please check your area of interest:**

**Serve on the Board \_\_\_\_\_**

**Write grants \_\_\_\_\_**

**Solicit Businesses \_\_\_\_\_**

**Serve on an event committee \_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact volunteers \_\_\_\_\_**

**Help at events \_\_\_\_\_**

**Donate food items for events \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do repairs \_\_\_\_\_**

**Help paint \_\_\_\_\_**

**Help clean inside \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pick up sticks \_\_\_\_\_**

**Other \_\_\_\_\_**



HALDEMAN MANSION PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

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