

# Haldeman Mansion Quarterly

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**Test Your Knowledge**

1. How long is the Susquehanna River ?
2. Who lives at the Haldeman Mansion ?
3. Samuel S. Haldeman corresponded with what famous wordsmith ?

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**U p c o m i n g E v e n t s**

**May 13, 2006**

**DOGGIE TEA**  
1 - 4 PM

A fun event for all dogs, their owners and spectators. Dog Experts, Food for People and Doggies. Special Contest Events for canines.  
Prizes for: Best Costume, Most talented (show off all those unusual tricks), Longest Tail, Shortest Tail, Biggest Dog, Look-Alike (owner & dog) Red Hat Prize (for dogs over 8 years of age).

Dogs must be kept on leash at all times. Register your dog with Ellen Rhoads at: 717-427-1173.

**May 21, 2006**

**Annual Meeting - 2PM**  
You are invited



**August 12, 2006**

**Haldeman Mansion  
Reunion Get-Away**

**October 14, 2006**

**Annual Fall Fest**

**June 4, 2006**

**Strawberry Festival**  
12 - 5 PM

At the Haldeman Mansion

Strawberries, Strawberry Shortcakes, Strawberry Milkshakes, Strawberry Cheesecake, Strawberry Ice Cream, Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers (without Strawberries) will also be available.

Barb and Bill Stallsmith will have the Summer Kitchen Oven and Fireplace and will have samples. Entertainment with music will be announced upon confirmation.

**B o a r d o f D i r e c t o r s**

**President :**  
Allan Kenyon

**Past President :**  
Jason Shuff

**Treasurer :**  
Elaine Jackson

**Recording Secretary :**  
Phyllis Crum

**Corresponding Secretary :**  
Sally Williams

We Saved A Spot For You !

**Members :**

Jill Bartles, Norma Bair, Ken Beard, Wayne Brooks, Lorraine Gangemi and Nathan Kenyon.

## Journey Through Time

The afternoon was rainy and slightly chilly, but the warmth, dancing candlelight and the scent of wood smoke lured me inside the Summer Kitchen behind the Haldeman Mansion. A fire burned in the large walk-in fireplace. On the table nearby sat a fresh pan of gingerbread and another of cornbread. A pan of fried apples and a pot of peanut soup stayed warm near the fire and added their scents to the air, beckoning me to make a closer inspection. Barbara and Bill Stallsmith had been busy! They had come into the Mansion grounds in their cozy travel camper the day before to get the fire going in the squirrel tail oven. The fire would have to burn for hours to get the oven hot enough to do the baking. They also set up their cooking tools, many of them from Barbara's grandmother's kitchen. A legged frying pan, called a spider sat off to one side. Long handled forks, ladles and an interesting collection of different sized pots and pans sat neatly about. "Mr. Brooks made that," Norma said pointing to a long fork. "Years ago in the Blacksmith Shop." I said, "I have learned that the leading cause of death among women during this time period was having their skirts catch on fire as they cooked over the open fire." Barbara nodded. That's true. Life was hard. A squirrel tail oven gets its name, they told me, from the shape of the chimney. The oven, located behind a metal door high on the wall behind the large walk-in fireplace, opens into a deep box that looks much like a pizza oven. The fire is made in this oven and pushed far to back. Behind the fire the chimney curls around to join with the walk-in fireplace chimney, much the way a squirrel's tail curls. The fire has to burn for hours to heat the oven. Then, whatever is being baked must be turned so that it doesn't burn on one side. There is no such thing as a temperature knob or even heat in a squirrel tail oven! Barbara's interest in cooking the old fashioned way comes from her grandmother. It was all she knew growing up on the family farm. Cooking over an open flame was the way her grandmother cooked. "She made the best fastnachts in a heavy cast iron pan," Barbara said.

**"The fire would have to burn for hours to get the oven hot enough to do the baking."**

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Her husband Bill has been cooking since he was 13 years old. He cooked for the Boy Scouts and he has catered part time for 30 years. He learned cooking from his father. Barbara and Bill Stallsmith first got to know about the Mansion when Barbara started working with Norma. Bill was an excellent pastry chef who made the mistake of sending a birthday cake for one of the employees. When the next birthday rolled around, a request was given for another cake. Before he knew it, cakes became an expectation. He volunteered to try out the fireplace in the Summer Kitchen back in the 1970's and was quickly booked to make a board appreciation dinner. Everything served came from the squirrel tail oven or the open fire. It was delicious! For me, the highlight of the festival was visiting this working exhibition. Talking with the Stallsmiths and learning about daily life in the 1800's gave me such an appreciation for the hard work of the cooking family long ago. Touching the cooking tools Barbara's grandmother used all those years ago connected me to her spirit. It is important that we remember. Thank you Barbara and Bill, for my journey back in time.

Written by Jill Bartles

### Test Your Knowledge Answers

500 miles

No one (unless you count the ghost) The Mansion is owned by the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society

Noah Webster, who credited him with many words and definitions in his dictionary. Mr. Haldeman also contributed to the Worcester's Dictionary, the National Dictionary and Johnson's Cyclopedia.

**P a s t E v e n t s**

*Considering the Weather,  
I talked to lots people.  
A very enjoyable day!  
Joyce Snyder*

For the recent Fall Festival, an art and essay contest was held at Bainbridge Elementary School. Students in fourth and fifth grades were invited to create a poster or write an essay that highlighted an aspect of the Civil War or of the Mansion. Many of the students participated! The winning posters were submitted by Cheyenne Bender, Morgan Williams and Maria Wilson. Maria actually spent a sunny afternoon sketching on the lawn to create her poster, a beautiful crayon drawing of the Mansion and grounds. Morgan, granddaughter of Sally Williams did a pencil drawing of the Mansion. It was obvious in her drawing that she has spent time at the Mansion.

The winning essays were written by Elsa Alleman, Molly Bartholomew and Jessica Auch. Molly wrote about Clara Barton, a nurse who was called the "Angel of the Battlefield" during the Civil War and who went on to found The American Red Cross. Elsa went to the Sunday open house at the Mansion, took photos and then wrote about what she learned., illustrating her words with her photos. Art work and essays were on display at the festival and were enjoyed by those in attendance. At a special ceremony, the winners were announced and each child was recognized with a certificate for a Book Buck \$ to be spent at the school book fair the following week.

We thank all the students who participated.

**Special Thanks**

**Contributions and Donations**

- Tom and Diane Burke
- Burma Leasing
- Conoy Lions Club, Derek Mathias - President
- Dr. and Mrs. Paul Ripple
- Ken and Karen Zeager
- Ken Kauffman
- Deb Lancaster
- Larry Young
- Village Homestead Restaurant
- Questers

- Larry Alexander, Norma Bair, Barbara Baker, Banjo Bob Balthaser, Jill Bartles, Ken Beard, Jeanette Bernhard, Fay Burke, Phyllis Crum, Bonnie Espenshade, Donna Eitnier, Sue & Erin Grab, Elaine Jackson, Rachel Jackson, Sharon Kain, Allan Kenyon, Nathan Kenyon, Tina, Dana & John Mark, Jackie, Amanda & David Miller, Keiffer Mullin, Kathy Ritter, Jason Shuff, Joyce Snyder, Bill & Barbara Stallsmith, Doris Stauffer, Heather Watts, Carrington Williams, Ben & Heather Williams, Dave & Sally Williams, Bainbridge Elementary School, Boy Scout Troop 162- Mark Forth, Richard Eichhorn, Ludwig UM youth group- Ed Keyser, Veteran Reserve Captain Walter Bosch & Sergeant John Heine, All those who baked !

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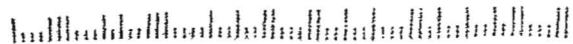
**Volunteers**

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT

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## Meet Board Member Wayne Brooks

### Board Member Spotlights

Wayne Brooks, a Bainbridge native, returned to the area in 1992 from Philadelphia. He is the owner of the Bainbridge Blacksmith Shop, one of the older buildings in town. He moved back to the family homestead. Wayne and his parents have been members of the Mansion Society since the beginnings in the 1960's. He served on the board since 1992. He served as vice president and is presently serving as data base coordinator. Wayne is also the person in charge of the grounds at the Haldeman Mansion.

Brooks has many interests in

collecting antiques, including furniture and all of the Alvis cars. His main hobby is pre war English sports cars. His interest in automobiles has enabled him to participate in 3 to 4 collector car rallies a year, including ones in New England, Texas and Florida.

When asked, "Why are you still involved with Mansion Society?" Wayne responded, "From the day I helped clean up the outside of all the overgrown trees and weeds, I have believed we will get it restored. It's not only a neat building, but a neat location." Thank You Wayne for all of your hard work and dedication.

