

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2, 2026

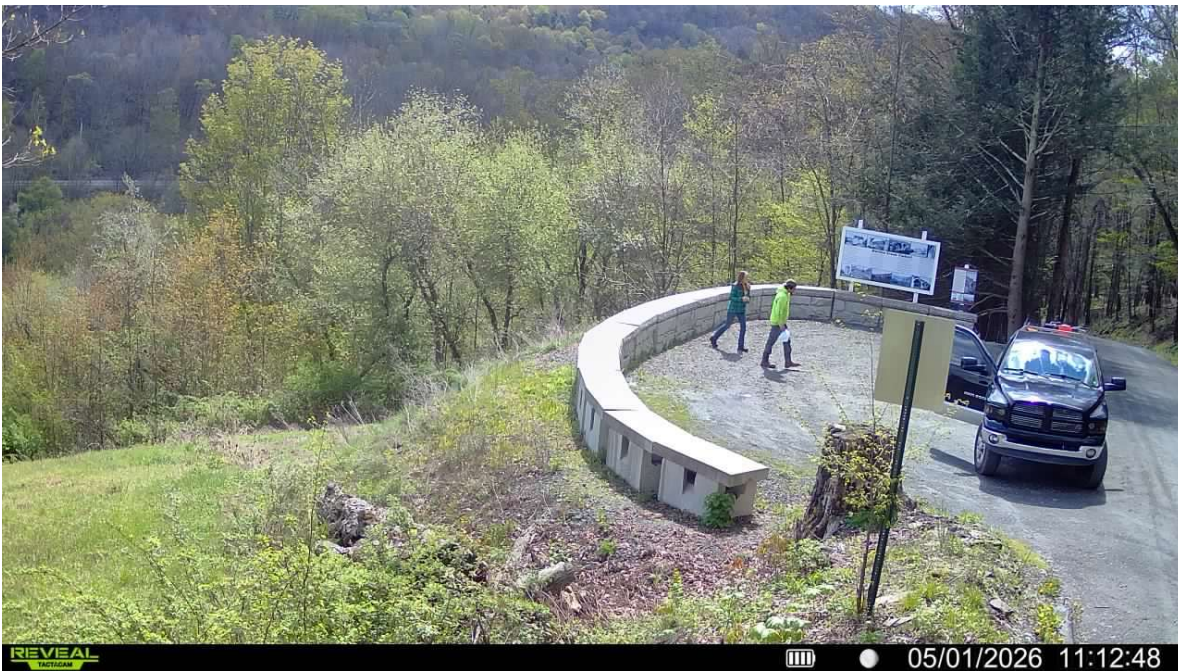
We have had another busy year since our meeting last July and one that speaks volumes about the value of a small rural-based historical society that is dedicated to preserving our rich heritage for future generations to enjoy and be proud.

In September, our society participated in the annual history day display at the Viewmont Mall in Scranton, attracting the attention of thousands of shoppers with our publications and paraphernalia. Also, in the Fall some BHS members planted some hybrid American Chestnut trees on the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust (DFCLT) with the permission of Denise Dennis.



Planting of American Chestnut Hybrids on the DFCLT

The Scenic Overlook of the Martins Creek Viaduct continues to draw significant attention and welcomes visitors to it every day (and some evenings) as witnessed by the covert camera at the site. For example, today (while writing this) I checked the camera feed on my cell phone, and we have had eight different visitors the past two days. The value of this site proved itself on the weekend of October 4, 2025, when we participated in the county wide Susquehanna County Heritage Trail 2025 Tour.



Martins Creek Viaduct Scenic Overlook, May 2026



Richard Zick at Heritage Trail Event October 2025

The Susquehanna County Historical Society and the Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency sponsor it. This effort is part of the America250PA celebration leading up to the July 4th, 2026, Semiquincentennial across the entire United States. This inaugural event included approximately fifteen other historical societies and the like, hosting motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on day long visitations. Planning is underway to repeat this event in October 2026 as a two-day event. Stay tuned.

Also, in October 2025 we conducted our first work session in our facility at the Curts and Margaret Stone House. Pat Darcy, Richard Zick and David Palmer spent a day establishing some orders for our archives and collection. Pat specifically worked on the Gere family collection. And, we have received a sizeable collection of donated genealogical material from Eileen Koppelam, some of which found a home in a lovely china cabinet donated by Joanne Gere. 😊



China cabinet donated by Joanne Gere

We need to assembly more volunteers to continue this work into the future.

The facility continues to be improved, including the install of a sink and toilet. Next will be the install of a door and wall/curtains for privacy. And soon a contractor will be replacing the gutters and downspouts on the house. A crew recently moved some of the larger items of our collection into a more secure area on the property and one safer from the elements.



New up flush toilet, installed by Mike Kamansky

Paid by generous donations

The development of the village park in Brooklyn after the demolition of the old school is another focal point for our society. The Brooklyn Township Supervisors successfully applied for a DCNR outdoor parks and recreation grant that will further expand and enhance the park. This effort is supported by the BHS and will include the erection of a monument on the site commemorating nearly one-hundred years of presence in the village and educating thousands of students. This effort by the BHS also includes having received a \$1,000 matching Mini-Grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) in the Spring of 2025. It is expected this entire effort will be a multi-year effort by the Brooklyn Township in collaboration with the BHS. Sadly, late last year we lost our own Kenny Mason, who had offered to help us erect the monument for free. We hope to now have his sons complete the effort, as they continue the family's masonry business.



Proposed location for the school monument

This spring the BHS also collaborated with the Susquehanna County United Way by providing a five-hundred-dollar cash donation to the United Way's first county wide Spelling Bee for 4th and 5th grades.



Mountain View Elementary Spelling Bee Winners

This year is the Semiquincentennial Year celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary and the Brooklyn Historical Society is engaged with supporting numerous America250PA events throughout the year. They include:

- Placement of "Wreaths Across America" seasonal wreaths at Veterans graves of the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust (DFCLT), and American flags on Memorial Day
- June 13th visit in NEPA by "Big Boy No. 4014" the largest operational steam engine/train in the world, Martins Creek Viaduct crossing expected the morning of June 13th.



Big Boy No. 4014

- Participation with the Susquehanna County America250PA Committee Float for the July 4th Float in Montrose (**any volunteer riders from BHS?**); and the Veterans Recall on June 14th at the Green in Montrose. **If you are a Veteran and wish to participate- contact David Palmer**
- Participation in the commemorative reading of the Declaration of Indolence on July 4th at the steps of the Susquehanna County Historical Society. **If you would like to participate contact David Palmer, BHS Secretary.**
- Rail fest at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, in September
- Regional historical societies gathering at the Viewmont Mall in September



4th of July Parade Float 2025

Our work at the BHS continues and we indeed have some challenges.

CHALLENGES

Our society's brick and mortar location here on the Stone Property continues to evolve thanks to Sara and Terri Miller. Sadly, Sara's husband Terri passed away late in 2025. The blessed basement location in the house is now ready for our filing and archival efforts of the documents, photos and other memorabilia that has accumulated here since our loss of the old schoolhouse. As we foresee it, this is our "Phase 1" effort. We need volunteers to continue this effort throughout the year.

"Phase 2" will be the old store building on the corner of Main and Maple Streets here on the property and "Phase 3" will be the barn on the property.

We have need for a volunteer who can maintain our new FACEBOOK page. Our previous page disappeared from FB (did not know that was possible).

We also need a volunteer to pick up the role of Publications Trustee. This position provides the graphic arts type of skill set that made our annual Newsletter.

And we need volunteers and Trustees (President for ex.) throughout the year for periodic efforts that come up, such as sign maintenance, office maintenance, cover camera maintenance, setting up for the Annual Meeting, etc.

A membership application/renewal form is part of this e-mail that sent this Newsletter as well. If you are a Life Member, no need to renew your membership. If you are not sure of your membership status, drop me an e-mail to confirm your status.

Speaking of Annual Meeting- more to follow on that as to the when and where. August is a candidate month. More- TBD.

Very Respectfully,

DAVID PALMER, Secretary
Brooklyn Historical Society

