

Fayette County Historical Society



Reenactors gather during a Civil War Encampment.

Courtesy of Fayette County Historical Society.



Pennsylvania State Museum Commission iron puddling marker dedicated in 2017.

Courtesy of Fayette County Historical Society.



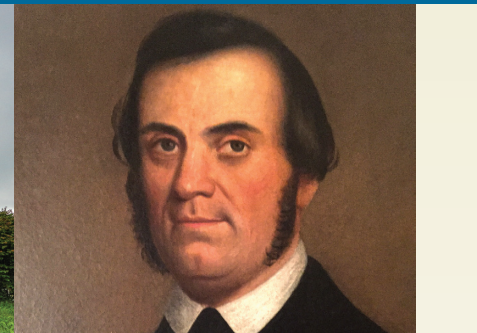
South and east elevations of Abel Colley Tavern and Museum.

Photo by Edward J. Donnelly, III.



Searight Tollhouse.

Courtesy of Fayette County Historical Society.



Portrait of Peter Uriah Hook by David G. Blythe.

Courtesy of Fayette County Historical Society.

- The Fayette County Historical Society was founded and incorporated in 1982. It was first organized as the Uniontown Area Historical Society but changed its name to reflect the need for a county-wide focus.
- The early history of Fayette County is the history of the United States. The spark that started the French and Indian War occurred at Jumonville Glen in 1754 near Uniontown in Fayette County. Fayette County farmers rebelled against the tax on distilled spirits that led to the Whiskey Rebellion in 1793. The town of Brownsville in Fayette County once rivaled Pittsburgh as an industrial and transportation hub. Brownsville was also a major stop along The National Road, the country's first interstate highway. Finally, Fayette County coal mines and coke ovens fueled Pittsburgh's blast furnaces in the late 19th century.
- The Society is dedicated to preserving the rich history of Fayette County in addition to bringing together "people interested in history and especially in the history of Fayette County." This mission is accomplished by discovering, collecting, and maintaining, when practical, "any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area."
- The Society maintains strong affiliations with other organizations including the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, Heinz History Center, the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, National Road Heritage Corridor, and numerous historical societies. The Society also works closely with California University of Pennsylvania, Penn State Fayette, West Virginia University, and area high schools.

- Individuals can support the Society's work in different ways. Authors of historical articles and stories — especially if photographs are available — are encouraged to contact the Fayette County Historical Society. Also, membership to the organization can be purchased for as little as \$30 a year. Members and volunteers are encouraged to assist the Society in the areas of finance, maintenance, event management, museum work, public relations, research, and writing.
- The Society hosts many important events and programs each year including "In the Spirit of the People," about President James Monroe's 1817 tour of the northern states, a celebration of America's First Puddling Furnace, and a recreation of eighteenth-century tavern food served at the historic Abel Colley Tavern. This site hosted the Heinz History Center's traveling exhibit, *We Can Do It! WWII*, from March 24, 2018, to May 22, 2018, in conjunction with additional and associated exhibits, public programs, and receptions.
- To learn more about Fayette County Historical Society's activities, events, memberships, and volunteer opportunities visit www.fayettehistoricalsociety.org or call (724) 439-4422.



The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, History Center Affiliates Program (HCAP) Coordinator, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.