

## Operation Welcome Home

The Heritage Center construction project is scheduled to be completed in late winter and plans are in the works to begin moving back into our headquarters at 900 Main Street. The move will occur in stages with the office and library furniture and equipment first, followed by the museum and library collections a few weeks later.

The addition of the Heritage Center will allow the high-traffic areas to be moved out of the historic building into the new space. The offices, library, and community room will now be located in the Heritage Center, leaving 14 rooms open in the Stroud Mansion for exhibits and displays.

The temporary office and library closure will begin on Friday, January 31. Appointments, research, and other services will be paused as our dedicated team embarks on the significant task of moving back and preparing the museum and library for visitors. This transition is a crucial step in ensuring that we can continue to provide an engaging envi-



Historic view of the 1795 Stroud Mansion painted by Dee Huxster. ronment for all who wish to explore our rich historical offerings.

To stay informed about our progress, reopening, and upcoming events during this exciting time, please follow us on social media and subscribe to our email newsletter. We encourage you to stay engaged with us during this time and thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the Monroe County Historical Association.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

## County's presidential connections: Jackson and Polk

By Amy Leiser  
Executive Director

Last year, I had the opportunity to travel to Richmond, Va., for a museum conference. While there, I visited the grave of President James Monroe, for whom Monroe County is named.

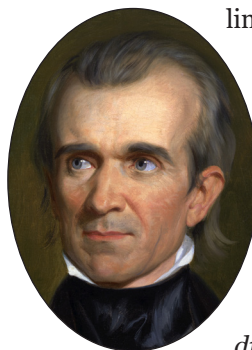
Recently a family vacation took me to Nashville, Tenn., and I discovered the burial sites of two other U.S. presidents with a Monroe County connection: Andrew Jackson and James Knox Polk.

Here is a brief history of the townships that bear the names of these presidents.

**JACKSON TOWNSHIP** was incorporated on December 13, 1843, and was likely named for Andrew Jackson, who served two terms as the seventh president, from 1829 to 1837. Court-appointed commissioners Peter Shaw, Stogdell S. Stokes, and John Huston were responsible for creating the boundary



Andrew Jackson,  
7th president,  
1829-1837



James K. Polk,  
11th president,  
1845-1849

lines to create Jackson Township and separate it from Pocono Township. The men reported:

*Beginning at a stone on the Hamilton Township line, one hundred and eighteen perches west of the Pocono Bridge, near Jermev Mackey's, and running thence north forty-five degrees west seven miles and one hundred and twenty-two perches to a stone in Tobyhanna Township line west of White Oak Run. We are also of the opinion that a new township is necessary for the accommodation of the citizens residing*

*within the bounds of the said district, and accordingly set off that part of Pocono Township southwest of the above mentioned line as a new township, to be called Jackson Township.*

Story continues, Page 4



### MCHA Officers

**President** | Robert M. Moses  
**Vice President** | Douglas Arnold  
**Treasurer** | Patricia J. Saylor  
**Secretary** | Precie A. Schroyer

### Board of Directors

Michelle Bisbing  
Linda Post Bushkofsky  
Charlie Eyer  
Lois Gilroy  
Raymond Hartzell  
Ron Kimes  
John Lefante  
Ken Sandri  
Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo

### Staff

**Executive Director** | Amy Leiser  
**Administrative Assistant**  
Julia Burns  
**Curator** | Bret Fowler  
**Research Librarian/  
Social Media Coordinator**  
Tania Shelton  
**Bookkeeper** | Karen Doherty  
**Newsletter Editor/Webmaster**  
Kim de Bourbon

### 2025 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of most months at 7 p.m.

#### Meetings are held online via Zoom

January 28  
February 23– Annual Meeting  
March 25  
April 22  
May 27  
June 24  
July – No meeting  
August 26  
September 23  
October 28  
November 25  
December – No meeting

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present.

## SAVE THE DATE

# Annual Meeting and Luncheon February 23



Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph

The 103rd Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held Sunday, February 23, 2025, at Terraview at Stroudsmoor Country Inn. (Snow date is Sunday, March 2.)

Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, assistant professor of history at Wilkes University, will discuss the creation of the 19th Amendment and the women's suffrage movement. Her academic focus is on early American social, cultural and economic history, especially "Godey's Lady's Book," a magazine published from 1830 to 1898.

Invitations will be mailed in January, so check your mailbox and plan to attend this fun, informative event.



Facilities Chair Bill Leonard, left, and Historical Association Construction Manager David Policelli take delivery of 31 new museum display cases, purchased with a grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau.

## New museum display cases arrive

The Monroe County Historical Association received a \$20,000 2024 Tourism Impact Grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau to purchase new display cases for the Stroud Mansion Museum, Library, and Heritage Center.

These new lighted cases will be used to properly house, protect, and showcase the unique artifacts, photographs, and archives in the exhibition rooms.

Funding from this grant was derived from the hotel and occupancy tax collected from guests visiting the Pocono Mountains.

Thank you to the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau for this grant and for helping us preserve local history!





AT LEFT: The Heritage Center addition exterior is almost complete, as seen from 9th Street. ABOVE: Workers cut ceiling tiles to cover the conduits for heating, air conditioning, plumbing and electricity above them in the new addition.

## Heritage Center nearing completion

**By Bill Leonard**  
*MCHA Facilities Chair*

The Heritage Center construction project at the corner of Main and 9th Streets is nearing completion. Interior work is proceeding well, with multiple trades finishing drywall, painting, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing, and installing bathroom fixtures. Outdoor courtyard construction is under way, and MetEd is making the power connection to the building.

Furnishings and equipment installation are also moving along. The Hughes Community Room will feature a state-of-the-art audio-visual system for programs and presentations.

A high-tech security system will fully protect the interior and exterior of both the Heritage Center and Stroud Mansion. Preparation work is under way for new shelving systems for the library, and a high-density storage system for the curatorial storage areas to properly store

artifacts, artwork, and archives.

### **Mansion work ahead**

While the Stroud Mansion is empty, now is the time to complete some much-needed work on the 230-year-old structure. We have begun a project for the complete interior refinishing of the mansion, which includes plaster patching, painting, miscellaneous repairs, and lighting improvements.

In early spring, we will begin a project to completely refinish the exterior of the Stroud Mansion by deGruchy Masonry Restoration, a nationally renowned expert in historic preservation using sustainable building mortars, plasters, and paints.

We are arranging for local moving companies to begin moving our offices, library materials, museum artifacts, and displays back into the Heritage Center and Stroud Mansion. We anticipate the Heritage Center to be completed in late winter and the exterior Stroud Mansion refinishing by summer.



A worker joins drywall on the Heritage Center addition, with a peek at the herringbone accent panels in one of the new restrooms.



# Presidential connections

Continued from Page 1

The first settler to reside permanently in the area now known as Jackson Township was Frederick Miller, who purchased 400 acres before 1765 and established a saw mill.

John Possinger settled in 1811 and established the first school, while Benjamin Van Horn, who arrived in 1812, began a lumber business. Michael Butz came in 1838 and erected the only grist mill, and Joseph Rinker built the local tavern. Many farmers also settled in the township, such as the Hay, Wolbert, Doll, Woodling, Kresge, and Singer families.

The first general store in Jackson Township was located at Jackson Corners and was run by John Osterhock. Jackson Corners also boasted the first post office in the township, with mail service starting in 1861 under W. H. Rhinehart, the first postmaster. The first school was a log structure, but there is very little information known about it except that it was known as the Middle Borough School District.

Lumbering and farming were the main industries for the people of Jackson Township; the township's fertile soil and abundant trees drew many settlers to the area.

Ice harvesting in Jackson Township's two major lakes also played an important role in early industrial history. Trout Lake and Mountain Spring Lake supplied ice not only for local businesses but for home use as well. Icehouses lined the shores of these lakes and many tons of ice were harvested each winter. Railroads were used to ship the ice to destinations as far away as New York City.

The Wilkes-Barre and Eastern Railroad traveled through Jackson Township with a stop in the small town of Rinkers, named for the family that lived nearby. The far-reaching railroad caused significant expansion in the agricultural industry by opening new markets. Business in the township flourished, contributing to the township's growth and prosperity.

The census report for Jackson Township in 1900 was 711 individuals; by 2020 that number had increased to 6,578.

**POLK TOWNSHIP** is located in the western portion of Monroe County and was formed on September 26, 1846, when it was removed from Chestnuthill Township. The new township was named for James K. Polk, the 11th president, who served one term from 1845 to 1849 and was in office when the township was formed.

It is believed that the first European settler in Polk Township was Philip Shupp, who built a small log home around 1750. Most of the earliest European settlers in present-day Polk Township were of German ancestry and included Conrad Dotter, Conrad Dreisbach, William Kresge, John Kunkle, and John Serfass. The land is very fertile, attracting many farmers to this portion of Monroe County.



The graves of both President Andrew Jackson, left, and President James K. Polk, right, are in Nashville, Tennessee.

Roughly 100 years before, settlers faced an uncertain life. Tensions between Europeans and native peoples escalated during the French and Indian War (1756-1763). Due to this tension, Benjamin Franklin ordered forts to be built to protect the colonists, and Fort Norris was located in present-day Polk Township. The structure no longer stands, but it is believed to have been located behind where the Polk Elementary School stands today. Fort Norris was named for Isaac Norris who was the speaker of the Provincial Assembly. The fort was commanded by Captain Weatherhold.

Frederick Hoeth and his family were Moravians who settled on 700 acres of land along the Pohopoco Creek in 1750. Five years later, in 1755, the Hoeths were either captured or murdered following an Indian raid on their house.

In 1760, the Moravians, a Protestant religious sect from Bethlehem, Pa., established two mission settlements in Monroe County to convert native people to Christianity. One of them was in Polk Township and was named "Wechquetank." Because of the ever-growing hostilities between the farmers and the Indians, Wechquetank was abandoned in 1763 after only three years.

The first school was built circa 1830 in Kresgeville on land donated by Nicholas Hawk. In 1855, Edward Hawk discovered a deposit of slate in Polk Township. He excavated a quarry to mine it, and sold the slate to area schools, so students had tablets on which to write their lessons.

The earliest road through Polk Township was the State Route, now Route 209, and the first church was St. Timothy Evangelical Church, which was built in 1866.

The largest village in Polk Township was Kresgeville. Within the town limits in 1880, there were stores, hotels, two gristmills, four blacksmith shops, a shoemaker, a saddle shop, and a furniture shop.

In 1940, the population was 1,005. By 2020, 7,384 people resided in Polk Township.



# PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED PAVERS AND BRICKS



To order your personalized engraved paver or brick that will become a lasting part of the new Kinsley Family Courtyard at the Heritage Center at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, please complete the attached order form and return with payment to:

**Monroe County Historical Association**  
**748 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

Please print clearly. Engraving is limited to text only (no images, logos, or iconography).\* Use additional pages for orders of multiple pavers or bricks. Payments may be combined.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

16" x 16" Paver     8" x 4" Brick     Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Method  Cash     Check     Credit Card

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ CSC Number \_\_\_\_\_

**16" X 16" PAVER (\$1,200 DONATION)**

Line 1:																			
Line 2:																			
Line 3:																			
Line 4:																			
Line 5:																			
Line 6:																			
Line 7:																			
Line 8:																			
Line 9:																			
Line 10:																			

**8" X 4" BRICK (\$250 DONATION)**

Line 1:														
Line 2:														
Line 3:														



**For more information or to order online, please scan the QR code or visit [monroehistorical.org/heritagectr.html](http://monroehistorical.org/heritagectr.html).**

\*The Monroe County Historical Association reserves the right to cancel any order that includes offensive or inappropriate text.

# Sponsors of the MCHA



**Premier Sponsor**  
\$5,000  
Monroe County  
Bar Foundation

## Past Premier Sponsors

2023 | Skytop Lodge  
2022 | Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono  
2021 | Pocono Raceway  
2019 | Buck Hill Falls  
2018 | Bushkill Falls  
2017 | Camelback Resort

## History Maker | \$2,500

Lester G. Abeloff Foundation

## Preservation Advocate | \$2,000

ESSA Bank & Trust

## Local History Enthusiast | \$1,500

Saylorsburg Lumber Company

## Curator's Friend | \$1,000

John Campbell and Jacob Petersen  
Charles Eyer and Linda Wallach Miller  
MKSD Architects

## Library Supporter | \$500

BioSpectra  
Gilroy Northeast, Inc.  
Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors  
Riley and Company, Inc.  
RLB Accountants  
The Sarajian Family  
Robert and Susan Shebelsky  
Strunk-Albert Engineering  
Thomas R. and Christine A. Wilkins

## Archival Ally | \$250

Blue Ridge Communications  
Lori J. Cerato, Attorney at Law  
Cramer, Swetz, McManus, Jordan & Saylor, P.C.  
Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.  
Nick and Barbara Fredericks  
MaryAnne and Chet Heeter  
Connie McCool  
Robert M. Moses  
Newman Williams, P.C.  
PNC Bank

John R. and Deborah A. Procopio  
Frank and Joan Revitt  
Wayne and Jennifer Sibum  
Stone Boylan & Associates, CPA  
Joan Vican  
West End Fair Association  
George W. Westervelt, Jr.

## Municipal | \$250

Hamilton Township  
Stroud Township

## Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Northampton Community College  
Pocono Mountain School District

## Small Business

Bentzoni Machine, LLC  
Deer Head Inn  
FRM Group Insurance and Financial Services  
Ken and Company Salon  
Pocono Magazines, LLC  
Ray Price Cars

## Grants

Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation  
ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation  
Julius and Katheryn Hommer Foundation  
Lester G. Abeloff Foundation  
Mattioli Foundation  
Monroe County Commissioners  
Monroe County Industrial Development Authority  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Pennsylvania Library Association  
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation  
The Weiler Family Foundation

## New Members

Malinda C. Bender  
Kevin and Melody DePuy  
Douglas Dixon  
Sarah Kerr Paynter  
Kate and Jim Petras  
Dottie and Ed Telesky





## Monroe Mouse visits resolutions of the past

Happy New Year from the Stroud Mansion! Monroe Mouse here. It's been a quiet start to 2025, giving me time to scamper up the street to our temporary offices and do some research. My goal was to find out what kind of New Year's resolutions people (and mice) made in the past.

The earliest known form of a New Year's resolution dates back 4,000 years to the Babylonians. Their New Year's celebration coincided with crop planting in March! They celebrated for 12 days and made practical promises such as paying debts and returning things borrowed.

The tradition was later adopted by the Romans after Julius Caesar moved the New Year to January to honor Janus, a two-faced god who looked forward with hope and back with reflection.

Romans made promises of good behavior for the coming year. In the Middle Ages, knights renewed vows of chivalry by placing their hands on a peacock before the New Year. Modern versions of resolutions from the 1700s in Christian settings focused on spiritual and moral improvement.

The first recorded use of the phrase "New Year's Resolution" was in a Boston newspaper in 1813, so I started reading 19th century issues of our local *Jeffersonian Republican* newspaper. While I did find many mentions of New Year's celebrations and traditions, I did not find articles about resolutions. However, many poems reflected on the year past and held optimism for the year ahead.

One such poem, from 1862, was an advertisement for Pyle's Easton Hall of Fashion. The final stanza read: "Ho!



For the glad New Year! For clothing cheap for all; For no man should lack a coat to his back, Who will buy at Pyle's Fashion Hall." I also read notices for New Year's "Donation Visits" inviting readers to visit the local minister's home with money to supplement his salary.

Determined to learn more, I scrolled forward and found myself reading *Pocono Record* articles from the mid-20th century. Here I found many and varied mentions of New Year's resolutions! There were invitations to make and discuss resolutions in churches, youth groups, and Scout meetings, and some newspaper columnists wrote thoughtful, even somber, promises to become better people.

A 1962 article asked readers to share their resolutions. Basil Butler, Stroudsburg businessman, responded, "To make this street (Main St.) the leading shopping district in northeastern Pennsylvania, and to keep people happy. I also will start, and I hope it spreads, saying something good about Stroudsburg once a day."

*Pocono Record* columnist Linda Pipher resolved to turn her recipes into a cookbook. Politicians, from township supervisors and county commissioners to President Lyndon B. Johnson, made New Year's promises. Johnson was inspired by a sermon asking the congregation learn from mistakes, vowing "I will try to be a new man."

The National Safety Council urged readers to resolve to drive carefully to reduce "a worse child killer than

Story continues, Page 8



A New Year's resolution cartoon from the December 29, 1952, *Pocono Record*.



# Monroe Mouse resolves

Continued from Page 7  
*polio – traffic accidents!*”

There were also New Year’s resolution-themed advertisements for stores such as A&P, Wyckoff’s, Flagler’s Pharmacy, and the IGA grocery. Businesses vowed to better serve and asked customers to resolve to shop with them! Les Abeloff for Stroudsburg Garage advertised, *“If you haven’t experienced the fun and enjoyment of driving the fabulous Pontiac, make this your top-priority New Year’s resolution! Go first class in ‘62!”*

A December 1961 article invited readers to a Sterling Strauser art exhibit. *“If you haven’t already seen this show, you should list it at the top of your New Year’s resolutions.”* By the 1960s and 1970s, articles outlining weight loss resolutions and health were commonplace. A 1968 article

encouraged people to grow their own fruits and vegetables and avoid the new “heat and eat” trend.

Along with resolutions came humor about how difficult they were to keep! A 1951 issue of the *Pocono Record* states, *“Zadok Demkopf says this is the first year in which he did not break a single New Year’s resolution. He didn’t make any.”* An illustrated article about broken resolutions was headlined *“Ah, New Year’s Resolutions! So beautiful but fragile!”* Another blurb read, *“It’s a sad situation but we fear some New Year’s resolutions didn’t last as long as did the Christmas trees.”*

Well, here’s a resolution that will not be broken: As the official mascot of the Monroe County Historical Association, I resolve that we will open a wonderful museum, rich with culture and history, a beautiful and spacious research library, and large community spaces. I ask you to resolve to visit us when we reopen! Happy New Year!

## MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

[admin@monroehistorical.org](mailto:admin@monroehistorical.org) • 570-421-7703 • [www.monroehistorical.org](http://www.monroehistorical.org)

**TEMPORARY OFFICES & RESEARCH LIBRARY** • 748 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*The Fanlight* is a quarterly publication of the Monroe County Historical Association and is distributed in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall of each year.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

748 Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAL  
**PAID**  
STROUDSBURG, PA  
ZIP CODE 18360  
PERMIT NO. 336

