



# THE SOUTH PARK HISTORIAN

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## Exciting Programs



Norene Beatty presented us with a fascinating program on March 28. She shared her research about the colorful history of the old Stone Tavern in the West End. Following her presentation, Norene introduced the present owner. Generously, he shared his plans of the preservation and future for the oldest building in Pittsburgh.



The April 18 program “The Mt. Washington Transit Tunnel Disaster” was presented by Mary Jane Hirt. The disaster took place on Christmas Eve, 1917 when a Knoxville trolley, with a capacity for 59 people but was overcrowded with 120, lost control on a steep downhill grade of the Mount Washington Tunnel. Careening off the tracks, it overturned and slammed into a crowd of pedestrians.



Karen Lehr presented an outstanding program at our May 16 meeting. It was a 1928 unsolved murder mystery in the village of Snowden. The murder and motives of Mrs. Lehr's great-aunt, Mary Komatz, were explored through her extensive research. The program was illustrated with photographs, newspaper articles, neighbors' statements, coroner's reports, and maps. Members and visitors attending the meeting thoroughly enjoyed the program.

## The Society Takes a Hiatus

July 18, 2023 – August 15, 2023 – Summer Hiatus; no meetings are scheduled. Meetings will resume on September 19, and the program will be one of our favorites, “Show And Tell.”

## Library VFW 6664 Observes Memorial Day



The Library VFW Post 6664 held its annual Memorial Day remembrance with a parade, memorial service at the Archie Mathis Monument, and a community lunch at the Post.

This year VFW life member Tom Smith was invited to speak at the memorial service on the Cold War. Tom is a retired army veteran and has served in Germany and Korea. He is also a member of the Historical Society.

We thank Tom and all of our veterans for their service.

## Society Garage Sale in May

The Society held a fundraising garage sale on May 19 and May 20 at the Museum. Even though the rain put a damper on things, everyone who came to the Museum to shop found bargains and had fun. They browsed through the rooms of new, vintage, and miscellaneous items.

Thanks to Jean Brodt and her committee for their hard work. Society members met old friends and made new ones.

The Society greatly appreciates the support of everyone who donated items or came to shop.

Some of the happy customers are pictured below:



*George and Rita from Gastonville found many interesting items.*



*Sue and her family from South Park checked out the many bargains.*



*Terry from Hidden Ridge was happy finding several new and collectable items.*

## Discovering Local History

The South Park Historical Society has published two books about the history of our community: "Historic Snowden Township (South Park Township)" and "History of Allegheny County's South Park: Farm Lands to Park Lands." The books are \$20 each (tax included) and can be shipped anywhere in the United States for an additional \$5.00. You can also purchase a copy at the South Park Township Library or by contacting Ruth at 412-835-9529 or jimru@verizon.net.

## Join Us At The Museum

The community is invited to bring family and friends to see the displays of coal mining, railroads, schools, veterans, county fairs, sports, and much more at the museum.

The museum is open on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, except for holidays. It is located at 6425 Pleasant Street, South Park, at the corner of the Port Authority Park and Ride parking lot.

# ARCHIVED HISTORY

Pittsburgh Press  
December 21, 1979

## Consol Coal Closes Mine in Library

“Consolidation Coal Company will close its Montour 10 Mine in Library tonight because its mineral reserves have been depleted, putting 61 hourly employees out of work.”

“Sixteen other hourly employees are being retained temporarily to remove equipment from the mine. Nine salaried employees will stay on during the closing, and six will be transferred to other Consol operations.”

“In July, the company laid off all 111 miners because of the economy’s instability. However, most of the workers were called back later in the summer. At the time, the mine had only enough coal to keep it going for several months.”

“Montour No. 10, which produced a high-grade coal used in making steel, opened in 1919 and employed 500 workers during World War II. The mine was closed from 1957 to 1970 because of a low demand for high-grade coal.”

“Consol also today cut back on production at its Westland No. 1 mine in Washington County because of general economic conditions in the coal industry. The cutback affects 14 hourly employees.”

(Note: Summit Station housing development now occupies the old Consol Montour No. 10 mining operation area.)

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Pittsburgh Press  
July 13, 1945

## Broughton Private a Veteran

“Pvt. George Wielgoleski, Box 429, Broughton, is a veteran of 20 months overseas duty. He holds the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Certificate of Merit, and five battle stars. Pvt. Joe Wielgoleski, a brother, is training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama.”

Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph  
May 18, 1953

## Broughton Gets New Honor Roll

“Broughton residents yesterday dedicated a new honor roll to commemorate the services of their fellow citizens in two World Wars and the Korean conflict. The new honor roll, inscribed with the names of the newest group of veterans—those of Korea, was presented to the community by Lt. Col. Herb Morrison, U. S. Air Force.”

“The new roll is located on Lick Run Rd., several hundred yards from the old honor roll, on McGovern Road.”

“William E. Babcock was master of ceremonies for the dedication and memorial services and Lt. Col. Hal C. Kestler, of the Western Pennsylvania Military District, delivered the main address.”

## Vets of 3 Wars

“The Rev. Edward A. O’Neill gave the invocation and Joseph Morrone’s band supplied the music.”

“Broughton veterans of three wars answered the roll call at the services. Joseph Cusic, John Bretschneider and Charles Rooney represented the men of World War I. For World War II veterans, James Armany, Joseph Bruno, Michael Bookie, Robert Kurawski, Robert Mathias, Anthony Swatko Jr. and Leonard Wisneski answered the call. Korean veterans were represented by Joseph Moranche, Frank Locke and Walter Hallam.”

“Wreaths were placed at the new honor roll by Broughton veterans’ organizations, their auxiliaries and local clubs.”

“The Rev. Elmer McGibbeny Jr. gave divine blessing at the services and the Broughton Drum and Bugle Corps played taps.”

“Mary Martha Briney, Pittsburgh soprano, led the community in singing the National Anthem at the close of the dedication.”



## Membership/Renewal Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership - \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Family Membership - \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ Senior Membership (65 & over) - \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ Student Members - \$ 5.00

\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to:*

**South Park Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 555**

**South Park, PA 15129**

## Upcoming Meetings and events

**June 20, 2023** – “Discovering a Family History: From the Famous and Heroic to the Infamous and Notorious” with Carleton Young.

**July 18, 2023 – August 15, 2023** – Summer Hiatus, no meetings are scheduled.

**September 19, 2023** - “Show And Tell,” attendees are encouraged to bring items to show.

**October 17, 2023** - “Ghosts and Legends of Western Pennsylvania” with Thomas White.

**November 14, 2023** – “A Vanishing Piece of American History – The Outhouse” with Len Marraccini.

**December 12, 2023** – “Annual Christmas Party.” An evening of food, entertainment, and lots of fun.

Meetings are held with no charge and open to the public, at 7:00 pm in the Library Fire Hall, 6581 Library Road, South Park, PA 15129.

For more information visit us at:

[southparkhistoricalsociety.com](http://southparkhistoricalsociety.com)

Or on Facebook at:

[facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety](https://facebook.com/southparkhistoricalsociety)

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