

*Volume Nine Issue Two May 2024*



- Genealogy Library & Family Files
- Research Library
- 13,000 catalogued photos & local postcards
- Museum Exhibits
- Public Events
- Website:  
[joycetice.com/histcent.htm](http://joycetice.com/histcent.htm)
- Open T W Th 11 Am to 3 PM  
or anytime we are here, which  
is most of the time.
- Stop in for a visit



*Director- Joyce M. Tice: President - Steve McCloskey: V.P.- Amy Welch*

## ***History Center Catalogs now online***

What's in our library? What photos and postcards do we have?? What records do we have? Do we have photos of your family or class? Now you can go exploring in some of the records of our collections and find them.

[Online Collections | History Center \(pastperfectonline.com\)](http://pastperfectonline.com)

While we have nearly 30,000 cataloged items, about 5,000 of them have so far been uploaded in our online catalog where you can see them. Do we have a copy of your class commencement brochure? If not, send us a copy so we can link your class photos to it.

Check out what we do to commencement brochures when we have them. [Subject Search for Commencement Programs | History Center \(pastperfectonline.com\)](#) In the 1920s to 1940s graduation programs, we have links to the biographies and obituaries of deceased class members. We are still working on more recent classes, but that is the goal, particularly when we have copies of commencement brochures to link them from. Scroll way down to see them.

Take a look. The ONLY way to learn your way around this utility is to read the guidelines and poke every link. Just explore, go wandering. You'll be surprised.

You will find lists of **people** (all by name at birth), lists of **subjects**, or try searching on **keywords** which is just about anything. Our genealogy database of local connections includes over 100,000 individuals. Over 11,000 of them are also included in our museum files with links to schools, cemeteries, businesses, etc. People are only included online if we have an object or photos associated with them, although they are in our files if they are/were local (lived here, buried here, went to school here). If your family is not shown, send us photos so they can be.

You can select **Random Images** and follow something that catches your eye.

Try searching for **advertisements**. They link to businesses and the life stories of the people who ran them, and even the buildings they operated in.

You can also link to the online catalogs through our landing page at [joycetice.com](#).

We have lots more fine-tuning and linking to do for our online presentation, but you'll be surprised what you find when you get lost in our files.

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***Voices from the Archives:*** Issue 15 sent out in March



Here's what's in the current issue of *Voices from the Archives* which goes to all History Center members:

Jennie Edwards Farrer's story of teaching in the rural schools of the 1870s which includes "boarding around" with the local families and even eating burned pancakes.

The story of Hiram Beebe Middaugh who built the original North Hall in 1874. He and his wife, Nancy Clark, pioneered in four states while they were still territories.

Thomas Hulslander's tales of installing telephone lines in the early nineteenth century.

A little bit of history and lots of photos of Powers Corners community.

If you are a 2024 member of The History Center, you receive your copy in March. If you are not a member, there's still time to subscribe or renew. Link below.

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Our Library is open any time the History Center is open. We invite you to stop by to browse, dip into volumes, do research, or just sit and read. We can search our database if you are looking for some specific book or topic. You can also check out a volume on loan to take with you.

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### ***What's in our Library?***

#### ***Pennsylvania's Solders Orphan Schools***

**by James L. Paul**

article by Linda Rashidi



Published in 1877, this volume tells the story of Pennsylvania's Orphan Schools. Among Pennsylvania's standing as "first among States" is the care for children orphaned as casualties of the Civil War and the establishment of Orphan Schools. An act of 1867 provided for the education and maintenance of soldiers' orphans. J.L. Paul's hefty book gives a full, detailed account of the

raison d'être for this act, how the system was organized, who ran these institutions, their goals, and the treatment of the orphans.

One such school was located here in Mansfield. On page 481 is an engraved plate showing the building, which stood on the northwest corner of North Main and West Wellsboro streets. It burned in 1912 and was replaced by the two story brick building there now. "Our" institution had its origin in a desire to establish a model school which needed more pupils than could be found locally. Fordyce A. Allen, its first proprietor, applied to the State for 25 boys and 25 girls. Thus, this Orphan School was an integral part of the Education Department of what was then Mansfield Normal School, and the teachers of these pupils were themselves Normal School graduates.

We also find in this account that music had an early prominent role in the Mansfield Normal School: "Two brass bands have been organized at this school, a set of instruments costing 285 dollars purchased, and the boys frequently discourse excellent music, to the evident delight of the inmates of the institution and the surrounding villages" (482).

We can see from this early account that Mansfield's Orphan School played a prominent role in both the community and the history of Mansfield University.



### ***High School Reunions 2024***

So far two reunions are scheduled to visit The History Center this summer:  
Classes of 57-58-59 on July 27  
Class of 64 on September 14.  
We will be glad to welcome all reunion classes. Just let us know you are coming and when.

### ***Volunteer Help Wanted and Needed***

Let us know what you think of our newsletters or just drop us a note to tell us about you and your family's time in Mansfield. We want to hear from you at [histcent83@gmail.com](mailto:histcent83@gmail.com)

### ***Renewed Members - New Members - Join us for 2024***

At The History Center, we rely on the support of the community to do what we do in collecting, preserving, analyzing and presenting the stories of our town and its people.

Every membership dollar is valuable for us. Some of our members have been with us from the very beginning in 2012 and 2013, and new people join us every year.

Membership dollars keep our building operating and allow us to stay in touch with members and non-members alike who care about Mansfield area history and appreciate the opportunity to see themselves and their families represented as part of the community. We also present Mansfield as a thriving community to visitors who drive through and stop in to see what Mansfield is about. We provide a gathering place for people to celebrate and learn about our town and each other.

Our 40-page quarterly journal which is mailed to members, tells the stories of some outstanding and some ordinary citizens like us who played a role here. In some cases, they get the chance to tell their own stories to a new audience through our *Voices from the Archives*.

[Be a Member](#)

We'd like to have twenty new members for 2024. As a bonus, we'll send each of them a journal issue from 2023 in addition to the 2024 issues as they are published. You can send a check or pay by PayPal. Directions link from the button at left.

Thanks also to our members who renew for another year. If you are due for renewal, your card is in the latest journal mailed in November.

You've thought about it. Now's the time.

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## ***Something New & Special***

In Development: We have added a feature to our museum cataloging software to upload selections of our records online. This will allow you to see some of what we have and follow the links to the people associated with it, including genealogical information. Take a sneak peak if you read this far down the newsletter. [History Center Catalogs Online](#)

## ***Regular Hours***

Normal Hours: We are open 11 to 3 T, W, Th or by appointment or any time we are here (which is most of the time).

We've been very pleased to see the High School Reunions resume after years of absence. In 2023, we hosted classes of 1973, 1959 and 1968. We are looking forward to more in 2024. Let us know when your class will be gathering, and we will make sure our doors are open to welcome you back home. If you've been here before, expect to see even more now.

So far we have scheduled classes of 57-58-59 on July 27, and Class of 64 on September 14. Let us know if your class will be in town.

## ***MHS Class Reunions***



If you are planning a reunion, consider a casual afternoon Meet & Greet at the History Center's Museum of Us. In an informal environment, you can chat with your friends, watch a slide show of Mansfield's historic photos, and find traces of yourself, your friends, and your family. Many of our exhibits are designed for those who grew up here. The Blue & Gold Room is full of MHS sports mementos. The pictorial display includes YOU along with all the other MHS graduates in its first

hundred years.

### ***Growing With YOUR Help!!! Your Town, Your Ancestors, Your History***

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**For the New Year. Consider a gift membership.** Members will receive our 40 page printed journal by mail 3 to 4 times a year with new articles that have never been researched before and outstanding photos to illustrate. Share your love of the Mansfield area with your friends and family.

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**Why do we ask for donations in every newsletter? Because we have to.** It's the only way we can continue offering our important services to the community. **Your help will make it possible.**

**Donate**



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**[Read Earlier Newsletters](#)**

The next issue of ***Voices from the Archives*** is in preparation. It will be forty pages of articles about the lives and activities of our town. Be sure your membership is current, so you don't miss any.

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## ***Membership- Renew for 2024***

Annual memberships are an important part of keeping us operating. Please consider a new or renewed membership.

**Members receive** four to six issues annually of our printed journal ***Voices From the Archives.***

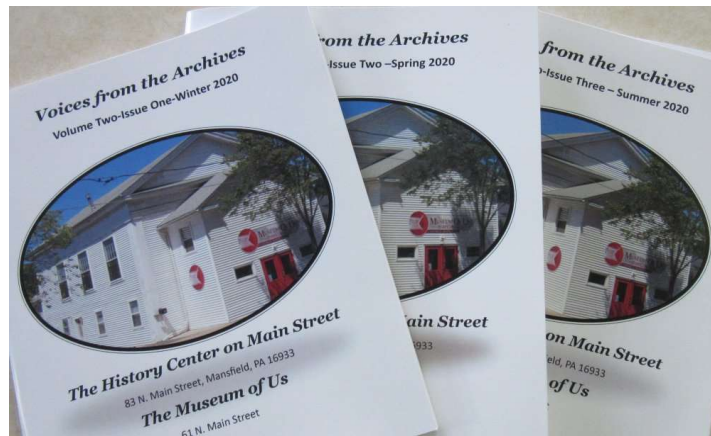
## Membership

Membership dollars are an important part of our operating resource. Be sure to **renew your membership for 2024** or **become a new member**. A renewal card will be included in the next journal which will be mailed this month.

### Annual Membership Levels

Family \$50  
Individual \$35  
Senior (Over 65) \$25  
Business Level \$100  
Lifetime \$500  
MHS Class Memorial \$200

Checks to  
The History Center  
61 N. Main Street  
Mansfield PA 16933  
or by the **PayPal Donate Button**



***A History Center Member  
is a History Center Hero  
Be A Hero***

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The History Center on Main Street  
570-250-9829  
histcent83@gmail.com  
[Website](#)

See what's happening on our social sites:



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