

Volunteering

You can help preserve the historic heritage of Somerset County and rural western Pennsylvania in many ways. Volunteer opportunities are plentiful – just a few of the possible ways volunteers can assist the Historical Society are listed below.

◆Docents offer tours of the Somerset Historical Center and its outdoor exhibits to visitors daily and during special events such as Mountain Craft Days.

◆Volunteers assist the Historical Society staff in providing educational programs to community groups and local schools – school programs are conducted both in the classroom and at the Historical Center.

◆Volunteers assist the Historical Center staff helping clean, catalogue, research, and preserve the extensive collection of artifacts held by the Historical Society.

◆Library volunteers help researchers in the Society's Genealogical Library uncover family roots using the Society's extensive document collection.

◆Volunteers are invited to work with Society staff on many research, restoration, and interpretive projects discovering and documenting the wonderful history of the region.

Membership Application

Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County



Preserving our past for the future

Historical and Genealogical Society
of Somerset County, Inc.
10649 Somerset Pike
Somerset, PA 15501

(814) 445-6077

An Associate Group of the
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

History

The Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc. is dedicated to preserving the history of Somerset County, its customs, and its lifestyles. The Society was established in 1959 and has been a leader in local historical preservation and education since its formation.

The Society is an associate group of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) and its local site, the Somerset Historical Center. The Society provides support to the Historical Center through staffing and programming but remains an independent entity with its own collections and research projects.

The history of the Society is one of continued expansion and improvement. Within a year of its foundation the Society started a quarterly local history and genealogy publication, the *Laurel Messenger*. In 1967 the Society became an associate group of the PHMC. Early Society leaders Earl and Betty Haupt generously donated land and several buildings including a log house, a covered bridge, and a sugar camp to the PHMC. In 1970 the first Visitors Center was built at the Historical Center by the PHMC with the Society raising funds for the genealogical and research library. The new site allowed programs including Mountain Craft Days to be held. The Society also developed an award-winning

series of educational programs on local history for elementary school students.

The Society and PHMC worked together to design and build a new Visitors Center showcasing displays and exhibits on the changes in agricultural life and practices over time. The new Visitors Center was completed in 1997 and is home to the Society's Genealogical Library, the Museum Shop, and the award-winning agricultural exhibit *Patterns on the Land*. Additional outdoor exhibits and program areas have been constructed. Long term plans include the continued development of outdoor exhibits depicting farm life from the 1770s through the 1920s.



As we continue to expand and improve our programs and facilities we need your help and support. Please consider becoming a member of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County!

Member Benefits

Join the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc. and help collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Somerset County!

◆ **Free Admission to the Somerset Historical Center**

All regularly scheduled activities at the Historical Center (special events, workshops, and Mountain Craft Days excluded).

The Historical Society Library containing family genealogies consisting of books and over 1,000 family files, microfilm copies of Somerset County Courthouse records (including wills and estate records, birth and death records, deeds and land grants, tax assessments and census records), microfilm copies of early area newspapers, and county church and cemetery records.

◆ **The Laurel Messenger**

Members receive a free subscription to the Historical Society's quarterly publication featuring articles on local history and genealogy. Members may also place genealogical queries and submit articles for publication.

◆ **The Glades Guardian**

Members receive a free subscription to the Society's quarterly newsletter reporting on Society events and activities.

◆ **Society Lectures and Events**

Members are invited to attend the Society's annual membership banquet and program, the annual membership meeting, and other Historical Society events. The Society regularly hosts speakers on topics of historical interest at the Somerset Historical Center.



◆ **Workshop Series**

Discounted enrollment in the Society's ongoing series of historic trades workshops teaching such vanishing folkways as coopering, wooden rake making, rug making, and open hearth cooking.

◆ **Museum Shop Discount**

Members receive a year-round 10% discount in the Museum Shop on purchases over \$10.00.

Activities

In addition to our workshop series our many regularly scheduled activities include:

Mountain Craft Days – a three-day festival held annually in September the weekend after Labor Day. More than 125 craftspersons offer demonstrations and sales with an emphasis on those skills practiced by our pioneer ancestors. Delicious home-made foods are available.

Lantern Light Tours – Themed evening programs held amid the Historical Center's restored historical structures lit entirely by lantern and candlelight. Past lantern tours have focused on Somerset County's participation in the American Civil War and the telling of Somerset County folktales.

Camp Living History – a three-day summer camp for avid young historians. Participants will study the early settlement period of life in Somerset County, learning how settlers came to the region, cleared the land, planted their crops, and skillfully crafted items for their own use or to sell.

Changing Exhibits – a series of short-term temporary exhibits on various topics of local interest drawing from the Society's extensive collection of artifacts. Exhibits are held at the Somerset Historical Center.

Membership Application

I would like to become a member of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County! Please enroll me in the following category:

___ Student (age 18 and under) \$5.00
___ Individual \$ 25.00
___ Family \$ 35.00
___ Sustaining \$ 55.00
___ Life \$ 1000.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to: Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc.

Mail completed application to:

Historical & Genealogical Society
of Somerset County
Somerset Historical Center
10649 Somerset Pike
Somerset, PA 15501

The official registration and financial information of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. This notice is required by Act 202.