

# News&Views

from the

**Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum**

Vol. 3, No. 3

## Specialists to Digitize Columbus Family Papers

Beginning this fall, specialists in recording and archiving will begin digitizing the 150,000 pages of the Columbus Family papers, which date from 1450 to 1905. These are contained in a climate-controlled, fire-resistant vault in the Museum's Columbus Exhibit building, where a changing selection of documents is on display for visitors.

In 2017, Scott Robinson, President and CEO of US Imaging, Inc., participated in a tour of the Museum with 50 members of the Pennsylvania

Recorders of Deeds Association. US Imaging digitizes historic documents in recorders' offices across the nation. Mr. Robinson was very impressed with the Columbus manuscripts and suggested that his company might be able to assist with their digitization. His staff has since been on site to work out logistics and has set a start date of November.

All work will take place on site in a controlled environment with Museum oversight, to minimize handling of the documents.



Two packets of The Columbus Family papers

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2016

## Herb & Garlic Festival: Three Events in One!

The 2018 [Herb & Garlic Festival](#) on Sunday, September 9, 10 to 5, is the next special event to be held at the Boal Museum. Don't miss it! Wander among the perennial and herb vendors to find your autumn plants while sipping on

a delectable garlic milkshake. (The milkshake is made from roasted garlic, not raw, so it's sweet rather than savory.)



Lois Lewis displayed her handmade Teddy bears at the 2016 Teddy Bear Tea  
Photo by Cynthia Shaler

At 4 pm the [Teddy Bear Tea](#) begins: Kids will have live entertainment by Ms. Renée in the Mansion's beautiful Ballroom, while eating and drinking a traditional British tea (made kid-friendly) on antique china. Bring an adult and a Teddy bear. Reserve now or ask for more information at 814-876-0129 or leave a message at 814-466-6210.

Also in conjunction with the Herb & Garlic Festival is the [Penn/Del Tree Climbing Competition](#) on the Boal estate grounds. PA and DE state preliminaries are on Friday and Saturday and finals are on Sunday during the Festival. The winner qualifies for the national competition!

## 2018 Antique Faire & Berry Festival a Roaring Success

Turnout for the Antique Faire & Berry Festival, July 13–15, was fantastic! Now in its third year, the event continues to grow. In addition to the increased number of vendors this year, Apple Hill Antiques joined 7 Mountains Media as a corporate sponsor and provided an “Antiques Roadshow”-type appraisal event for guests. Free lectures regarding antiques and collectibles were offered to the public, including a show-and-tell by Frank Martinelli about the history of military firearms in the US.

Here and on the next page are some photos from the event, including antiques galore, the first-place Pie Contest winner, and a couple of pie “aficionados.”



“Doctor’s buggy” for sale at Museum tent  
Photo by Art Pence, 2018



Views of several antique vendors' displays

Photos by Art Pence, 2018



First-place Pie Contest winner Rosemary Gido

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2018



"I want that BIG slice!"

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2018

## Art Appreciation Tours Entice Visitors and School Groups

The Art Appreciation tours of the Museum that Art Director Lori Savage gives each Tuesday starting at 1:30 pm may cover works in either the Boal Mansion or the Columbus Chapel. Rather than a lecture, each tour is a learning experience, with Lori explaining how to look at a painting or a

sculpture, how to understand the artist's viewpoint, and where to find similar works in the Museum.

In addition, Lori offers Art Appreciation tours to school groups, which can be arranged by contacting Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and asking for a "School Art Tour" at the day and time you want.

Lori has spent much of the past year cataloging the Museum's artwork, which includes researching each item's history. Her background is in both art history and fine art. She recently discovered (or rediscovered) a very moving painting, which now hangs in the Columbus Chapel among other religious works. It depicts Jesus praying in the "Garden of Sorrows" on the Mount of Olives, his sweat "like drops of blood," as in Mark 22:44.



Renaissance statue of St. Mary,  
in the Museum's Columbus Chapel

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2017

## Why Be a Museum Volunteer?

What attracts a retired university physician to volunteer with an historical museum? This particular museum offers Dr. Lew Logan the opportunity to "do things I like," he says and, "it's better than creating a lot of stuff that ends up in my attic!" In turn, Lew provides the Museum with many things we need as well. It's a match made in heaven.

Lew and his wife live nearby in Boalsburg and went for a stroll one evening on the Boal Museum grounds. They encountered Museum Director Bob Cameron weeding one of the many gardens and introduced themselves. Lew asked whether Bob needed volunteers. That's music to a museum director's ears! Soon Lew began helping in the gardens, doing both fine and rough carpentry, painting, wallpapering, doing electrical work—just about anything that calls for his many handy skills.

For Lew, this is an opportunity to use his boundless energy (inherited, he says, from his mother) in a productive, satisfying way—without cluttering up his attic. And he has "found a new family to replace the one I left behind

when I retired from Penn State.” He’s always loved museums and recalls that his dad worked at the Planetarium in Pittsburgh, “which was lots of fun.”

For the Museum, Lew has been a reliable volunteer, always willing to sink his teeth into any new project our director has in mind. Creating new exhibits, for example, means making a stand for the antique dolls’ case, now on display in Mathilde’s room on the second floor of the Mansion. (The handsome stand looks as though it was made as part of the case, as you can see



Antique dolls’ case displayed in Mathilde’s room on the second floor of the Boal Mansion

Photo by Art Pence, 2018

at right.) Or building an outdoor shelter for some of the Museum’s carriages. Or laying out the paver stones at the base of the amphitheater in a compass orientation to symbolize Columbus’s journey. Or pulling weeds, planting bulbs, or painting a ceiling. Whether it’s everyday or extraordinary, Lew will try it!

## What Can You Do?

Here are some available volunteer projects that may interest you:

- » Maintaining the structures: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other DIY skills are always needed for these aging buildings.
- » Being a museum docent (tour guide) to share the history of this Museum with visitors, either for the standard tour or for special exhibit tours. Most docents work from May 1 through October 31, one or two afternoons a week. It takes some time to learn the tours, working with current docents, so plan well in advance.
- » Cleaning and caring for delicate artifacts under the watchful eye of an experienced “antique-caregiver.”
- » Refurbishing antique carriages and buggies. If you like old vehicles, this one’s for you!
- » Using your gardening skills: a wide variety of gardens need loving care from early spring through late fall.

These and more are waiting for extra hands during all seasons. More ideas are listed on the Volunteer page of the Museum website, [www.boalmuseum.com/volunteer-information.html](http://www.boalmuseum.com/volunteer-information.html). Call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and tell him your area of interest. Whether you want to give a half day a week, four days a month, or more, we'd love to have your help! Welcome to the growing group of Boal Museum volunteers!

## Regular Tours & Special Events Through December

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm for **Regular** drop-in tours through the end of October. We also take reservations for group tours, both on and off season.

These are the **Special Events** planned for the remainder of this year:

- Sun, Sept 9      **Herb & Garlic Festival/Teddy Bear Tea/PennDel Tree-Climbing Competition:** See accompanying article, page 1
- Sun, Oct 7      **Olde Europe Festival:** From Italian food to Celtic music, come enjoy the food, music and dance of the 6 European cultures with which the Boal family were affiliated. A Renaissance theme, including demos of sword fighting, falconry, archery, knights in armor, and more!
- Mon, Oct 8\*    **Columbus Chapel Mass:** The annual Mass is celebrated in our own Columbus Chapel by the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Very limited seating. (Reservations required)

The Boal Mansion decorated for the holidays

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2016



- Sun, Nov 25      **Hanging of the Greens:** Join us to decorate the Boal Mansion, Chapel, and the estate grounds for Christmas.
- Fri, Nov 30\*    **Home for the Holidays at the Mansion, Candlelight Tour:** Come enjoy a truly old-fashioned Christmas with an exciting candlelight tour! (Reservations required)
- Sat, Dec 1\*      **Home for the Holidays at the Mansion, Christmas Tea & Candlelight Tour:** Enjoy high tea, incredible food, live music, and an exciting candlelight tour of the museum! (Reservations required)
- Sun, Dec 2\*      **Home for the Holidays at the Mansion, Dickens Dinner-Dance & Candlelight Tour:** Join us for a traditional Dickens' Christmas dinner, followed by a candlelight tour and waltzing in the beautiful Mansion ballroom. (Reservations required)

\* Starred events require reservations. To reserve, or for more information, please call 814-876-0129 or go to [www.boalmuseum.com](http://www.boalmuseum.com).

## Memberships and Donations

We welcome new and returning members, and of course welcome large or small donations at any time, for either specific or general purposes.

Your 1-year membership (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) comes with these benefits:

- » Free admission for the Museum and Chapel regular tour for you and your immediate family, as often as you like!
- » Reduced admission to select Special Events (ask at the Visitor Center)

Along with books, pottery, handmade jewelry, and postcards of Museum artifacts, the Gift Shop offers bowls handmade from trees that fell on the estate in a May 2017 tornado.

Photo by Cynthia Shaler



- » A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop in the Visitor Center
- » Opportunities for training, service, and organizational development
- » Opportunities for interpretation and preservation of our historic past
- » Your membership card

Membership levels are:

- » Individual (\$30)
- » Student (\$15)
- » Family (\$50)
- » Patron (\$100)
- » Sponsor (\$250 or more)
- » Benefactor (\$500 or more)
- » Explorer's Circle (\$1,000 or more)

Send your membership or donation check to the address at the end of this newsletter, made out to Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, with "2018-19 Membership" or "Donation for [purpose]" in the Memo line.

## Join us!

You can participate in the growth and development at the Museum as a volunteer, a member, a donor, a sponsor for a special event, or simply by visiting with your friends and family. Use the walking trails around the Museum grounds at any time, schedule a wedding or reunion, or just admire all the gardens. Please keep in touch: call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the Visitor Center phone, 814-466-6210.

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum  
P.O. Box 116, Boalsburg, PA 16827

Email: [office@boalmuseum.com](mailto:office@boalmuseum.com)

Website: [www.boalmuseum.com](http://www.boalmuseum.com)

Facebook: [Boal Mansion Museum](https://www.facebook.com/BoalMansionMuseum)

Twitter: [@BoalMuseum](https://twitter.com/BoalMuseum)

Newsletter Editor: Cynthia M. Shaler

Photos below by Donald McAleer, 2018

