



## *From the president*

# Remember the First Defenders, and take a look at our Civil War Room

By J.R. Zane

On April 15, 1861, the presidential proclamation was received by telegraph in Pottsville. The Capitol was being threatened; help was needed.

Quickly, Captain E. McDonald of the National Light Infantry and Captain James Wren of the Washington Artillery Company telegraphed Governor Curtin offering the services of their companies totaling 113 men in the Infantry and 131 men in the Artillery.

When the volunteers departed from Pottsville's Philadelphia and Reading railroad station, the streets were filled with huge crowds of well-wishers on a day that was unseasonably cold and raw. The Pottsville Cornet Band provided musical accompaniment, with "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" heard as the train pulled away.

With several other companies from Eastern Pennsylvania, the men disembarked and marched through Baltimore under a police guard. Still, an angry crowd of secessionist sympathizers hurled insults, threats, and rocks upon them.

Someone in the mob deliberately hit Nicholas Biddle, a man of color assisting Captain Wren, on the head. Thus, a Pottsvillian shed the first blood of the Civil War.

Biddle's wound was substantial but not deadly. Little did anyone realize that there would be hundreds of thousands of casualties in the coming years.

The men soon arrived in Washington. Henry Clay Russel, an orderly sergeant of the Artillerists from Pottsville, was reported to be the first to enter the Capitol building, followed by Albert Bowen, a drummer, and Thomas Severn, a fifer.



They walked up the marble stairs and went to the north end. Major Irvin McDowell, assistant adjutant general, received the men and showed them their quarters, which were the Halls of the House of Representatives, lighted and warmed for them. The fires under the boilers were used for frying bacon, toasting bread and heating coffee. Chairs of the secessionist representatives were moved to the halls for the comfort of the volunteers. Finally, before sleeping, they all gave out three cheers for President Lincoln and nine cheers for the Union.

The next day Secretary of War Simon Cameron visited and thanked his fellow Pennsylvanians for their assistance before the commander in chief, President Lincoln, addressed the volunteers, as James Wren recalled:

"Officers and soldiers of the Washington Artillery, I did not come here to make a speech, as the time for speechmaking has gone by, and the time for action is at hand. I have come here

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305 North Centre Street

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### Society Hours

Wednesday-Friday 10-4

Saturdays 10-2 (except January  
and February)

*Our purpose is to discover,  
procure and preserve the  
historical records, data and  
other relevant materials of  
Schuylkill County.*

### Continued from page 1

to give you a warm welcome to the city of Washington and to shake hands with every officer and soldier in your company, providing you grant me the privilege."

As an attack could occur at any time, the company moved 250 barrels of flour into the hallway, leaving a passageway 4 feet wide. Fortification of the perimeter then began, with cement bags, scraps of iron and railroad ties used. For several weeks, the men remained garrisoned in the Capitol and would later be known as the legendary "First Defenders."

History does repeat itself, and knowledge of history can help us make sense out of current events that are often confusing.

This year, we salute our First Defenders on their 160th anniversary of protecting our nation!

Remember Lincoln's words: "With malice towards none and charity towards all...to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve...a just and lasting peace among ourselves..."

We hope you will visit our upgraded Civil War Room, which tells the story of Schuylkill County's involvement in the tragic conflict. I guarantee that you will leave the room with a sense of awe and appreciation. While battles are features, the exhibit also covers the Mahantongo Street Underground Railroad, the draft resistance, the Navy, the Sisters of Charity, the Tamaqua area gun powder industry, and so much more.

\*\*\*\*\*

March is Women's History Month. Our **Women's Suffrage Exhibit** has been extended through June due to the pandemic. Stop in and learn about the county's most noteworthy suffragist and other important figures in the women's movement.

March is also the first anniversary of the pandemic in Pennsylvania. I remember the date well as my family gathered to help me celebrate a milestone birthday. Not many believed that it would last into 2021. We hope that the pandemic will have no more anniversaries.

Our **Annual Appeal** was a huge success. Thanks to all those who contributed and also to those who purchase items from our gift shop.

A joyous Passover, Easter, Earth Day and St. Patrick's Day to all of our readers!



# From breaker boy to Church cardinal

By J.R. Zane

Homesville, also called Holmesville, is a mining patch about a half-mile west of Girardville on the road to Ashland.

Dennis J. Dougherty was born there in 1865, shortly after the assassination of President Lincoln. One hundred years ago, he reached the top hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

He was the sixth of 10 children born to Gaelic-speaking Patrick and Bridget (Henry) Dougherty, both immigrants from County Mayo. Patrick was a miner, and Dennis, who attended the Girardville public school, worked as a breaker boy during the summer.

Dennis' spiritual calling began at St. Joseph's Church in Ashland, where he received encouragement from Father Michael Sheridan as well as his parents.

After his ordination in 1890, he immediately became a professor at the Philadelphia Seminary due to his fluency in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French. He eventually would speak 12 languages and dialects.

After the Spanish-American War ended, Dougherty was dispatched to the Philippine Islands and installed as a bishop. There, he was known to ride horseback through the jungles and canoe in the rivers to carry out his duties among the scattered missions and leper colonies.

After 12 years, he was transferred to Buffalo, N.Y.

In 1918 Dougherty returned to Pennsylvania and was installed as Archbishop of the Philadelphia Diocese, which then included Schuylkill County.

He soon began a tremendous building campaign, creating 92 parishes, 89 schools, 48 churches, seven hospitals and several orphanages that included St. Francis, near Orwigsburg. For this, he would be known as "the Great Builder."

Pope Benedict XV announced his elevation as cardinal in February 1921, and on March 7, the traditional red cap was bestowed upon him in Rome. He was only the fifth American to be so honored.

When he returned to America, his formal title became His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

On May 12, the former breaker boy stepped down from his special train car at Girardville's Reading Station to thousands of friends, relatives and well-wishers, described by the Shenandoah *Herald* as "a sea of humanity." Whistles blew, guns shot off, and houses were decorated with patriotic Stars and Stripes as well as the papal colors of gold and white.

Dougherty, seated in an automobile, waved his red cap to the excited audience that lined both sides of Main Street during the large parade that made its way to St. Joseph's parish hall. Nearly everyone wore a badge adorned with his picture and the words, "Wel-



Cardinal Dennis Dougherty

come Home."

After an introductory address by local attorney Michael A. Kilker, the guest of honor spoke, reminding them that, at heart, he was still Father Dougherty from Homesville.

During his tenure, Dougherty raised more than \$100,000 to support Irish independence and steered the faithful during the turbulent Depression and World War II years. In 1937 he became the only Schuylkill County native ever to be featured on the cover of *Time* magazine.

On May 31, 1951, at age 85, he succumbed to a stroke after celebrating a 6:30 morning mass on the 61st anniversary of his ordination. He was laid to rest in a crypt beneath the main altar at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia, which incidentally, was designed by Napoleon LeBrun, the architect of the Schuylkill County Prison.

*Spotlight on ...*

# Stanhope School Restoration Project

*In this issue we are premiering a new section focused on a local historical society or group. Our friends at the Pinegrove Historical Society are kicking off the series with a feature on its Stanhope School Restoration Project. We hope you enjoy it.*

2020 was the year the Stanhope School Restoration Project of the Pinegrove Historical Society was unable to make much progress because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some trees were removed from the wooded area, but other projects had to be put on hold.

Plans are developing to resume the restoration efforts, which will result in significant progress in 2021. These plans include working with one Boy Scout Eagle and three Girl Scout Gold Award projects.

These projects include restoring the floor, fixing the exterior screens, painting the exterior, landscaping, and building a replica of the outhouse.

Two of the Gold Award projects will focus on preparations for opening to the public and providing programs.

We expect to develop lesson plans so school-age children can learn more about the era of 1876 to 1952, when the Stanhope School was open.



**Top: Volunteers unload slate blackboards. Lower left: The original Stanhope School bell. Lower right: The Stanhope School building.**

We will also collect information about the former students and their families, as well as the historical events that took place during that time.

### **Help needed**

- The original Stanhope School bell is available for us to return to the schoolhouse. However, before that can happen, we must find and obtain a bell 18 to 24 inches in diameter that we can trade for it.

- The restoration project has received donations of slate

chalkboards and needs a craftsman to install them.

If you or someone you know can help us with those efforts, please contact Tina at 570-516-2414 or Linda at 610-207-9600.

We continue to sell tote bags and Rada cutlery to help raise funds for the restoration efforts. Thanks for any support you can provide.

More information is on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stanhopeschoolrestoration>.

## **Help the SCHS with a 'Smile' and stay up to date on Facebook**

**If you shop on Amazon, you can donate to us by buying on Amazon Smile. You just have to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate the Historical Society of Schuylkill County as your charity of choice. We'll receive 0.05% of the purchase price. And don't forget to like us on Facebook so you can stay informed about our news and upcoming events!**

# Mary Kingsbury, a doctor and hero

By Lisa Von Ahn

When two New Philadelphia men were overcome by fumes in an underground mine in January 1950, 75-year-old Dr. Mary Kingsbury became a local hero for her role in saving them.

She treated Albert Galasky after rescue crews brought him to the surface of the Collins drift at the west end of Pottsville. But first-aid experts had to work on his fellow miner, Joseph Flannery, for nearly four hours before they could move him.

Dr. Kingsbury kept vigil above ground. "Oblivious of fog and darkness, she stomped in mine boots and hard miner's hat, pleading to go down inside to minister to the stricken man," the *Pottsville Republican* reported.

At one point, she prepared an injection stimulant for the rescue crews to give Flannery. Later she went inside, marching through slush for almost a mile to inject him with life-saving drugs, the paper said.

"Some might call her performance above and beyond the call of duty," a *Republican* editor wrote a few days later. "But 'Dr. Mary,' more spry and hardy than most women - and men - of considerably younger years, lives conscientiously by the solemn creed of her noble profession, that time and circumstance do not matter."

## Twice honored

The Pottsville physician was honored by the Schuylkill County Medical Society in May 1956 for her 50 years of practicing medicine. Four months later, the Pottsville Business and Professional Women's Club named her woman of the year and presented her with its Orchid Award.

She said she alone didn't deserve it. "All general practitioners should receive an orchid," the *Republican* quoted her as saying.

Dr. Mary was born in Pottsville on March 27, 1874, the daughter of Charles W. and Mary (Kear) Barker. Her father was a prominent banker and stockbroker, and the family lived in a spacious home at 525 Mahantongo Street.

Mary attended a private school in Pottsville and was an accomplished tennis player and



Dr. Mary Kingsbury in 1950

horsewoman. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1898 and went on to study medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Before receiving her degree, she married Homer Kingsbury, a California politician and jelly manufacturer who had also attended Johns Hopkins, on Nov. 1, 1900. The couple settled in his hometown of Redlands, California.

Mary left her husband a couple of years later, completed her studies at Johns Hopkins in 1906, and started a practice in her family home. She later opened a separate office downtown. Although she was divorced, she was generally known as a widow.

Her father died in 1920, and her mother in 1930. She herself suffered from a long illness.

She spent her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Pottsville's Warne Hospital, where she had been a patient for several years. She told a *Republican* reporter that she attributed her longevity to hard work and a zest for living.

She died on April 11, 1968. "In her pursuit of duty, her courage was unlimited," the *Republican* wrote. "She worked day and night, often without pay, to help the sick and dying."

## 10 Questions/ 10 Answers



Board member and Civil War pundit **Thomas Shay** answered the 10 questions.

### Q. Who inspired your interest in local history?

**A.** Leo Ward, past Society president, wrote a series of "Historical Musings" articles for the *Pottsville Republican* in the late 20th century, which were inspirational. He did a lot to promote local history.

### Q. Which teacher inspired you?

**A.** In the late '60s, Mrs. Murphy was my seventh-grade history teacher at the Patterson School in Pottsville. She was a wonderful teacher who encouraged me to read and share history. I can't remember her first name but the school was built in 1909 and razed in 1979.

### Q. Tell us about an overlooked person from the county's past.

**A.** Emergildo Marquis, a

Mexican orphan, was brought back to Pottsville by James Nagle. He received a formal education and learned the house painting trade, which was James Nagle's profession. During the Civil War, Emergildo served in the 6th PA Infantry and the 3rd PA Cavalry. He is buried in Pottsville's Presbyterian Cemetery. I am part of an ongoing effort to restore his gravestone.

### Q. Name a favorite county sports team.

**A.** Undoubtedly, the Pottsville Maroons! Their personal stories are fascinating. The Maroons gained national prominence by winning the 1925 NFL Championship, then had that title taken away. Interest in their legacy was rekindled in 2019 when the NFL celebrated its 100th season.

### Q. What county business do you miss?

**A.** As a young boy, I enjoyed visiting Pottsville's Army & Navy Store at 16 North Centre Street. I spent many enjoyable hours perusing their vast array of military materiel.

### Q. Name a favorite county event.

**A.** The Clover Irish Festival in Heckscherville always featured a grand assortment of local bands playing Irish music. I enjoyed listening to the ballads, jigs, and reels played by the Irish Lads and the Irish Balladeers.

### Q. Is there a county legend that intrigues you?

**A.** Yes, that of the "Peddler's

Grave" along the Catawissa Trail near Mahanoy City. Jost Folhaber was a peddler murdered in 1797 by Benjamin Bailey, who was hanged for his crime. Legend says that the peddler's ghost appears on the trail riding his horse.

### Q. What are some of your favorite local foods?

**A.** Our county's diverse ethnic background certainly offers a vast array to pick from. I was fortunate that my mother emigrated from Germany and brought wondrous recipes. Among my favorites were knödel (bread dumplings), bratwurst, sauerkraut, and delicious Black Forest cake.

### Q. Name a favorite American historical figure.

**A.** John "Black Jack" Kehoe was a miner, an Irish community leader, and active supporter of the rights of miners. I believe his "trial" was a miscarriage of justice. He received the death penalty for the murder of Frank Langdon and was hanged in the courtyard of our county jail in 1878. In 1979 Governor Milton Shapp posthumously pardoned him, but it was 100 years too late.

### Q. Why do you volunteer at the Society?

**A.** I have always been an avid student of our local history and enjoy sharing my knowledge with others. I am creating a series of online videos to garner interest in our local Civil War personalities. I have also assisted in a recent redesign of our Society's Civil War room. You must see it.

## Test your knowledge of doctors from our county's past

The Society salutes doctors, nurses and all those on the front lines during this pandemic.

1) Dr. Mary Romeika was the first female chief of staff at which hospital?

A) Coaldale B) Locust Mountain C) Good Samaritan D) Pottsville

2) Dr. Herman Zwerling is honored with a town clock in which town?

A) Lost Creek B) Schuylkill Haven C) Cressona D) Pottsville

3) Author John O'Hara's parents were Dr. Patrick O'Hara and \_\_\_\_\_.

A) Maureen O'Hara B) Ella Fitzgerald C) Mary Mallon D) Katherine Delaney

4) Elizabeth Shippen and her brother Samuel Shippen

founded this hospital.

A) Pottsville B) Good Samaritan C) Coaldale D) Locust Mountain

5) The Warne Clinic was named after \_\_\_\_\_ Warne.

A) Lemos B) Lenore C) Joseph D) William

6) What was Dr. Francis M. Dougherty's specialty?

A) Podiatry B) Pediatrics C) Plastic surgery D) Psychiatry

7) The Good Samaritan Hospital's original name was

A) A.C. Milliken B) J.W. Cooper. C) A.J. Gillars D) None of the above

8) Which of these men was a Civil War doctor?

A) Webster Bland B) William H. Schlitzer C) William Walters D) Joseph Leskin



9) Dr. Mary Malishaucki had her practice in

A) McAdoo B) Minersville C) Frackville D) Tamaqua

10) This Mahanoy City doctor was elected to the U.S. Congress.

A) Donald Malick B) Mark Holland C) Ivor Fenton D) Leslie J. Schwalm

**Answers on page 9**

## The Society acknowledges these deeds of gift

**Donna Dougherty** - Long family Bible.

**Richard Purcell** - Tumbling Run boundary map.

**Schuylkill Haven Historical Society** - Schuylkill Haven High School yearbooks 1924 through 1927, 1932, 1957 and 1966.

**Tim Leitzel** - Masser family memorabilia in memory of the **Masser family**.

**Joanne Schwalm** - Johannes Schwalm genealogy books in memory of **Elvin & Mildred Troutman**.

**Marian E. Pounder** - vintage stereoscope and stereoscopic images in memory of **Petrona C. Wagner-Pearson**.

**Andrew J. Chard** - Three old Pottsville Club dinner plates.

**Carl Yeich** - City of Pottsville Courtesies Card and Pottsville Moose Lodge receipt in memory of **Charles Loeder**.

**Diane L. Howe** - Photos and documents of Howe Chiropractic Clinic, Pottsville, in memory of **Dr. Douglas N. Howe**.

**Ruth Ann Leonard** - 3 Missi Brenneman prints on canvas.

### Donation Wanted

We are looking for an icebox from the 1920s or '30s to complete our Schuylkill Room's kitchen exhibit. If you have one, we'd be grateful if you would donate it to us.



## Thanks to all the generous donors to our Annual Appeal

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**Continued on page 9**



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**Pottsville  
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 March  
 1977**

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**Answers to the quiz on page 7: 1. B, 2. B, 3. D, 4. A, 5.A, 6. B, 7. A., 8. A, 9. D, 10. C**

**Corrections from our Jan-Feb. issue** - We misspelled the name of Jim Boulden, who donated historical materials. And the county History Faire was first held in 2002, not 2003.

# Loved ones remembered and honored

## *In Memory Of*

**The Lilley family** of moulders, who worked the foundaries of Schuylkill County, from Ann Cassel

**Ruth Y. Davidson** from Dr. William Davidson

**Olga Davis** from Elizabeth Davis

**Joseph & Anna Green and Frank & Mary Marcavage** from Teresa Gilbert

**Grace E. Ferguson** from James Ferguson

**Helen Hiczan & Stephen Drahuschak** from Cynthia Kofskie

**John H. Clifford** from Catherine Clifford

**Hinks, Hughes and Baylor ancestors** from David A. Dissinger, 1 Sergeant, U.S. Army, Ret.

**The Herb family** from LaVerne Havash

**William L. Bachman** from Joanne Alcorn

**John R. Fenstermacher** from Dad

**Candy Webber** from William Webber

**Daniel and Sarah Phillips** from Daniel A. Phillips

**Ryan/McCartney families** from James McCartney

**Joseph and Mary Lescavage** from Admiral Nancy Lescavage

**Jacob E. Fertig-Holfenstein**, Pennsylvania Civil War soldier, from Margaret Fertig-Downing

**George Mazloom** from Linda Baldinger

**Samuel/Davies families** from Charles Samuel

**The Cavanaugh family** from Mrs. Judith Fruhwirth

**James Joulwan**, brother, from Mary Ann Joulwan

**Johann Thaler and family** from Richard Thaler

**Erika Stanal-Seasock** from Dorothy Hahner-Stangl

**David M. Devlin** from Jayne Devlin

Grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather from Margaret P. Engard

**Richard McHale** from James McHale

**Sarah Masteller Tomlinson**, who died at 100 years old, from Martha Tomlinson Underwood

**Lester and Isadore Krasno** from Jason Krasno

**John H. Lishman** from Ruth O. Lishman

**Thomas Lubinski** from Mary Lou Lubinski

**Helen McCoog McClafferty** from Rosanne White

**Herb and Kate Shriver** from James Roland

**Mary McCarthy Hartman**, grandmother, from Lynne Davis Medley

**Anthony Scatton** from Ernest Scatton

**John Hester** from Nancy Hester

**The Holt family** from Joseph Holt

**Jeanne M. Hill** from George R. & Sharon M. Connell

**Reilly and Groody families** from Sara T. Preslar

**The Meyricks and Schleys** from John W. Thornton Jr.

## JOE JORDAN

On Jan. 20, Joe Jordan, passed away at age 79 due to complications from the COVID-19 virus. He achieved musical fame in the rock band, The Jordan Brothers, along with his brothers Frank, Bob and Lew. The Society is grateful for his talent, his energy and the fun, danceable music. The Jordan Brothers remain an important part of our county's great musical history. R.I.P., Joe Jordan.



**Bruce Wesner** from R. Leland and Sandra K. Wesner

**Evans and Lord families** from Patti Lord-Heffner

**Johann Adam Zehner** from Paul J. Zehner

**David A. Vinskie** from Lawrence Vinskie

**Joseph M. Prosymchak Jr.** from Diana J. Prosymchak

**Lamar and Helen Lindenmuth** from Jane Lindenmuth

**Lois Mackin** from Kathryn Rubin

**Gilda Matz** from John M. Matz

**The Minarick family** of Schoentown from Jean E. Minarick

**Frances Guditas** from Michelle Straub

**William Lucid** from Louella Williams

**Chester & Helen Karas** from Chester Karas

**Catherine Mootz** from Mary Ellen Larose

**Peter Woll** from Margaret Williams

**Miles & Anna Kiehner** from Michael Kiehner

**Ralph B. & Peggy D. Jaeger** from Paul & Joanie Dimmerling

**Jacques R. Ebling** from the Schuylkill County Historical Society

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# It was a swinging Easter Monday in 1946!

We Fought! We Won! So Let's  
**DANCE** with **AMVETS**  
MINERSVILLE POST, No. 72  
 Easter Monday, April 22, 1946  
**UNION HALL** Music by Ray Brown and His All Veteran Orchestra  
Dancing 9 to 12:30 P. M. Adm. 60c Tax Included  
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**Walter Cooper**  
 And His Orchestra  
**Easter Monday Dance**  
**WASAITIS' HALL**  
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 After the Easter Egg Hunt—  
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 C'mon along—have fun! Meet the folks  
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 And—There's No Advance in Prices!

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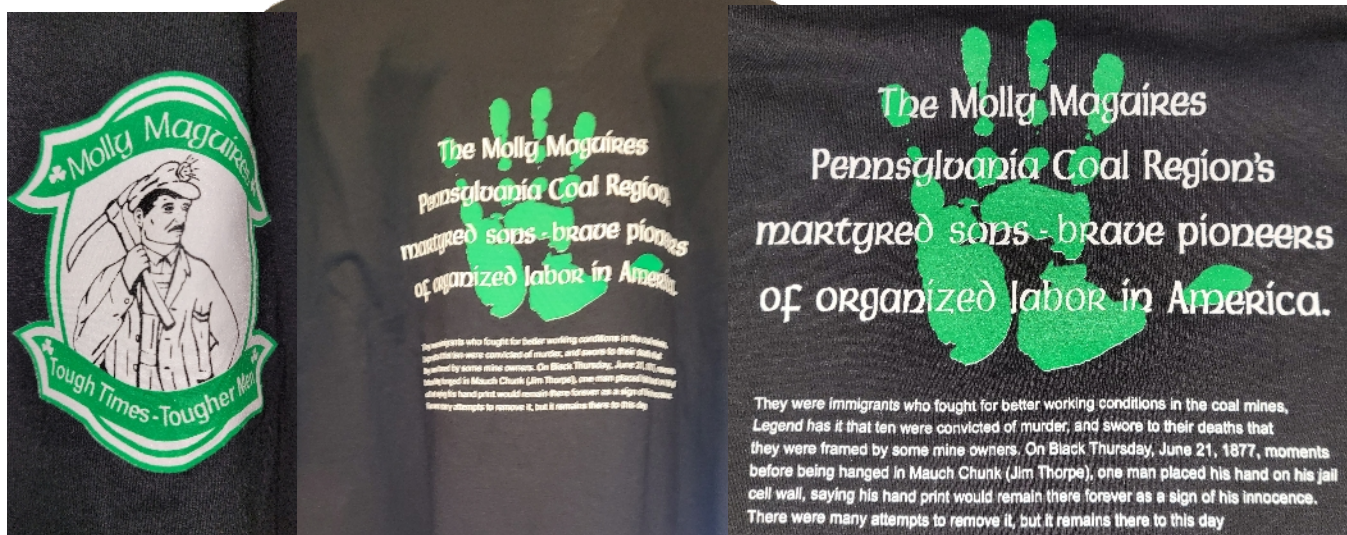
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