

# Sewickley Valley Historical Society *Signals*

XLVI, Number 4

February 2019

Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
7:30 p.m., at the Old Sewickley Post Office

## *“Wendell Freeland: A Quiet Soldier”*

*Celebrate Black History Month with a new documentary film  
directed by Billy Jackson*



**W**endell Freeland—Tuskegee Airman, civil rights attorney, powerful advocate for the poor and disenfranchised—devoted seventy years to fighting injustice wherever he found it, from the age of Jim Crow to that of Barack Obama. He blazed a trail for racial equality by working largely behind the scenes in America’s courtrooms, boardrooms, and political backrooms.

The half hour documentary “Wendell Freeland: A Quiet Soldier” will tell the story of a complex and courageous man, whose long career helped shape an era of historic change.

**B**illy Jackson is a national award-winning documentarian and principal owner of NOMMO Productions, which has produced more than 50 documentary, dramatic and promotional films. He earned his undergraduate degree from Northeastern University and M.Ed. from Harvard University. A devoted educator, Jackson was an associate professor at Emerson College, taught film courses at Pittsburgh Filmmakers and worked as a consultant/designer on educational curricula. He has also served as consultant, cinematographer and/or producer for government, private industry, independent production houses and television stations.

Jackson has made a lifelong study of youth education in media arts. He remains committed to documenting and teaching the history and culture of Africans in America, to increasing resources for media arts and multicultural programming and to providing greater opportunities for developing artists.

### *Please Note:*

If Quaker Valley schools are closed because of inclement weather, the Old Sewickley Post Office building is closed, and Historical Society programs are cancelled. Check KDKA, WPXI or WTAE television newscasts or the stations’ websites for closing information.

*The mission* of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society  
is to promote interest in and to record, collect, preserve, and document the history of the Sewickley Valley.



*From left, Leslie Linko, John Linko, and Sewickley Valley Historical Society Board members and staff Lori Kastan, John Poister, Susan Holton, Mary Beth Pastorius, Connor Cogswell, Harton Semple and Marty McDaniel at the dedication on October 19, 2018, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission historical marker on Camp Meeting Road commemorating the D. T. Watson Home for Crippled Children*

### *New Members*

Mary Barbour; John & Virginia Morrow; Oliver Rea; Mr. & Mrs. Sean Rollman—Sewickley  
Jeffrey Wahl—Greensboro, NC

### *Contributions in Memory of B. G. Shields*

Michael & Kathryn Bryson; Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier; Wayne & Mary Murphy  
Margaret Sickeler; Patricia & Malachy Whalen

### *Contributions to the SVHS Preservation Grant Fund*

David & June Nimick; Joe Zemba, in memory of Dr. Elizabeth L. Stein

### *Memorial Contributions*

Jean Henderson, in memory of Dr. Elizabeth L. Stein  
Charles Murdock, in memory of William R. & Anne McK. Murdock

### *In Memoriam*

Mrs. Simon Noel; Dr. Elizabeth L. Stein

## "With the Colors" in January 1919

*The end of World War I in November 1918 did not mean that all of the troops were home. The following appeared in the Sewickley Herald on March 1, 1919. The letter—reproduced here with all of its grammar and punctuation errors—was written by George W. Ohlman to his father, George E. Ohlman, who had an interior and exterior decorating shop at 504 Beaver Street, Sewickley, in 1918-19. Ohlman was in the 112 Ambulance Company, 103 Sanitary Train, American Expeditionary Force, "with the colors" in Allamps, a village in Lorraine in the north east of France, near Nancy.*

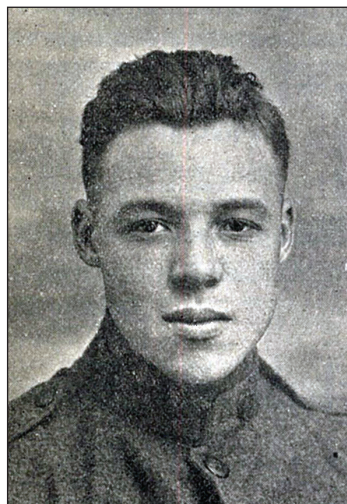
Allamps, France

January 28, 1919

Dear Dad:

Just finished standing retreat and don't have nothing to do til 5:15, then we have our beans, so I thought I would put in the extra hour by trying to write you a few lines. I guess you will be glad to know that I am enjoying pretty good health. Speaking about the weather, well the guy that named this Sunny France is all wrong, for the sun never shines. It has been pretty cold for the last few days. We had one snowfall but it didn't last because the wind blew it away. We had another about two nights ago and it was a dandy covered everything with about two inches of snow. This cold weather hits us pretty bad on account of wood being so scarce, but we manage to keep the home fires burning.

This town we are in is not much to speak about, in peace times it boasts of about 400 population, but all that's here now is the old women, few old men, a lot of kids and a few grown up girls, everybody owns a couple of cows, a few chickens, a goat or two, some sheep, with a few pigs, dogs and cats thrown in. It's a great sight to watch the sheep herder blow his horn in the morning and sheep come running from everywhere, when all there, he heads them out on the hillside to pasture. I guess he is taking a rest now on account of the snow.



The town boasts of two stores where you can buy anything you want, providing you don't want anything, but the cafes, they do a rushing business, selling beer and sour wine. The beer is not as good as you buy it in the states, but it's the best selling product France ever put out. It's the only thing a soldier can buy most everywhere he goes.

I guess business is kind of slack in the store at present, but I bet your looking forward to a fine spring. I would not mind to get in on your spring drive. We have rumors of going home, but that's all. But we should worry, we don't have much to do, anyway, it's pretty cold back there now. Well so long.

Yours in Allamps,

George

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Keep an eye out for your invitation to the annual joint dinner meeting with the Moon Township and Avonworth historical societies, scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019, at the Montour Heights Country Club, sponsored by the Moon Township Historical Society. The speaker will be Louise Sturgess, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and her subject will be "Pittsburgh, Quirks and All." Her PowerPoint presentation will reveal the quirks of fate and the quirky physical characteristics that have made—and make—Pittsburgh the unique city that it is. Stay tuned for details!

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### Friends, Sponsors, Patrons, Benefactors

*Thanks to the following, who, since the last newsletter, have supported SVHS with gifts in addition to basic dues.*

Mary Ann Baldrige  
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Bonnett  
David & Vickie Case  
Ron & Bonnie Casper  
James & Nancy Chaplin  
Margaret O. Childs

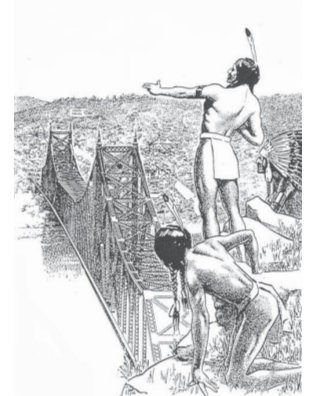
Richard & Susan Elste  
Amy & Michael Harkins  
Mary & John Hotchkiss  
Thomas & Polly Lechner  
Elsie Lewis  
Philip & Leslie Liebscher

Mr. & Mrs. David C. Monroe  
Oliver Rea  
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Rollman  
Rob & Tina Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wasco, Jr.  
Marvin M. Wedeen

**Sewickley Valley Historical Society**  
**200 Broad Street**  
**Sewickley, PA 15143**

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**February 2019**



**SEWICKLEY VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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## *Our apologies!*

When we mailed out our dues reminders in December, we included a remittance envelope but neglected to enclose a slip saying what the dues are. Many of you called us or looked up the dues schedule online, but if you didn't and still want to join, here's the information:

Sewickley Valley Historical Society is a federally tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization. **Donations in addition to basic dues are tax-deductible.** \*Contribute \$100 or more and receive a copy of either *History of the Sewickley Valley Found in Sewickley Cemetery* or *The Sewickley Caves: Illuminating the Darkness*. Memberships at \$250 and above are eligible to receive both books. Please indicate your choice.

- BASIC  
DUES**
- Individual (\$20)
  - Family (\$30)
  - Out-of-State (\$10)
  - Friend (\$100)\*
  - Supporter (\$250)\*
  - Sponsor (\$500)\*
  - Patron (\$1000)\*
  - Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your check to:  
**Sewickley Valley Historical Society**  
**200 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA 15143**

or join and donate online at [www.sewickleyhistory.org](http://www.sewickleyhistory.org)