
OUR HERITAGE

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Ancestry



Wayne Fetto, the artist who painted HMPF's logo, was commissioned to paint the oil on canvas seen above. The title given to this brief article, **Ancestry**, is from the fact that the painting depicts three periods (ages 6, 18 & 78) in the life of someone from Manheim whose ancestry goes back many, many generations in our town. Attached to the back of the painting, in archival Mylar holders, are the three original photographs (one a tintype) from which the painting was produced. Ancestral information was also furnished. The person's maiden name was Emma Fry Ruhl and she was related to many of the early families in Manheim. The painting has been given to a great granddaughter living in Florida.

A Change of Plans

Some consideration had been given to a possible merger of HMPF with the Manheim Historical Society but too many unanswered questions arose and the consideration was abandoned.

HMPF was established by Elizabeth Keiffer for several reasons and to relinquish control to another organization might possibly end up being contrary to her wishes. Elizabeth saw her home, with Manheim's great Market Square, as a perfect location for HMPF. While Elizabeth passed away before she could have the pleasure of knowing about the treasures and activities her gift would bring to the community she did express great pleasure and amazement at being able to establish HMPF.

Elizabeth was very pleased that her garden would provide outdoor activities and that at the rear of the property would be developed a meeting room that members of HMPF and the public could derive pleasure from.

Fortunately, there is new and renewed interest in what HMPF provides for the community and it looks like our organization will have additional support and success in the near future. A number of changes are being considered whereby Elizabeth's Garden will be even more attractive than in the past. With new and renewed interest there will be many activities in the garden and programs in our carriage house meeting room. HMPF was not meant to be only a museum and research library but rather a place where activities would bring members and the public together. HMPF did that in the past and can and will do the same in years to come with new support.

A number of projects are underway for our organization and hopefully they will be of interest to our readers. The one that you see below represents only the start towards a design for a sweatshirt or — on which our logo can be seen. We are lucky, we will have a team of about five talented women working on this and other projects. When the final design is created it will appear in our newsletter with more information on the garment on which it will appear and a price. We will be taking orders.



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We are getting a new and expanded website. One of our directors has the technical expertise to create something really nice for HMPF. The new site will have a view of our small library and views of items exhibited in our museum. The new site promises to provide many new possibilities and is certain to increase our membership and participation in garden and carriage house programs.

We know of several early Manheim items that might coming up for sale in auctions and privately and we have hopes of acquiring them for our collections. Perhaps our patience will be rewarded. We have known about the items for thirty years.

Another project started is the re-landscaping of our Market Square area. We are also considering the future upgrading of our manually changed bulletin board to an electronically digital one similar to the one seen at the Manheim Hope Fire Co.

Over the years, our gazebo suffered the ravages of the squirrels living in the neighbors trees (all five of the trees were removed by the new neighbor as recently as Apr. 13 & 14) and the damage dictates that we replace the gazebo. The gazebo will eventually be replaced with a pavilion which will provide a much larger sheltered area for activities.

The fence along the east side of our garden is in need of being replaced. When HMPF was being developed, some people wanted vinyl fencing and others wanted treated lumber. The thought was that wood has the more rustic look so we went with lumber. BIG mistake!! We will be replacing our fence with vinyl fencing and it will be a combination of solid sections and lower picket fencing. With our wooden fence being six feet high for security it did not prevent vandalism in our garden. We had spindles in our gazebo broken out and four teakwood chairs totally destroyed. So much for security.

We recently received the gift of the antique ladder seen below. It has a metal plate identifying it as once belonging to Miles Keiffer. It's unusual, as it is a combination step/extension ladder. We are hoping to be able to use it occasionally as part of a display in our garden.

