

# Historic Schneck House gets modern touch

By SUSAN RUMBLE  
Press writer

The first Sunday in August is always a memorable time in Schnecksville as descendants of Adam Schneck gather from around the country to celebrate their family's heritage.

This year, 140 Schneck relatives and friends gathered at the Schnecksville Grange Hall for the 86th annual Schneck Family Reunion.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, a group of Schnecks met at the Schneck House, a restored log cabin along Route 873, for the special unveiling of a Memory Medallion.

The small round device is mounted at the front door of the Schneck House.

Although it resembles a doorbell, the medallion contains a computer chip that holds information on the history of the house.

Laurine Schneck Williams, of Waynesburg, Greene County, presented the medallion to the Upper Lehigh Historical Society for installation on the Schneck House.

Williams, co-author with Henry Schneck of the Schneck family history, "Im Schneckengang,"

explained the background of memory medallions.

Glenn Toothman, an attorney in Waynesburg, invented the medallions for placement on tombstones.

He said that the information on a tombstone, primarily birth and death dates, is not enough.

The memory medallion gives families a chance to include a photo and other material on the gravestone.

Williams said the medallion, which is programmed and will soon be easily accessible with a laptop computer, would be appropriate for the Schneck House.

At the present, a special wand is available to obtain the information from the medallion.

The historical society has a wand and one will also be available from the Parkland Community Library.

Williams said when the wand is held at the medallion, information appears in five seconds on a small, hand-held screen.

The medallion, which can hold 1,200 words, can also include a photo, which reduces the number of words.

Williams said Prince Andrew intends to use the

medallions in cemeteries in England.

"But it's not just for cemeteries," said Williams. "You [historical society] are the only people in this part of the country to have one."

She noted the Rock of Ages Co. is now programming and distributing the medallions.

Sharon Haas, president of the Upper Lehigh Historical Society, said the medallion will be very useful for school children who come to the Schneck House to do projects.

Information on the Schneck family will also be helpful to many people, she explained.

Curtis Schneck, who recently retired as president of the Schneck Family Reunion, installed the medallion with epoxy and said it should withstand high and low temperatures.

Forefather Adam Schneck arrived in Philadelphia in 1749 after leaving his home in southwest Germany.

His grandson, Daniel Schneck, is considered the founder of Schnecksville.

The Schneck log cabin appeared on tax records in 1798, but in all likelihood, was built prior to that, said



Laurine Schneck Williams shows how to use the medallion during the presentation of the device on Aug. 6. The small device, implanted in the doorway of the Schneck house on Route 873, contains a detailed history of the family.

PRESS PHOTO BY HAYDEN MITMAN

Haas.

The house was expanded to two stories in the early 1800s. The structure is restored to an early nineteenth century era.

The building, which was covered with 1950s-style siding and was occupied until the 1990s, was situated on what is now the King's Weis shopping cen-

ter property.

In 1994, the house was stripped of its newer facade and moved to its present location.