

Artifact, Archival, and Rare Book Resources at the Slate Belt Heritage Center

The Heritage Center collects, preserves, interprets and displays things made or used in the Slate Belt.

There are nearly 2200 artifacts at the Center, all gifts or loans generously made by people from the Slate Belt community. These range from full-size fire apparatus to bits of paper. Visitors and researchers can see historic photographs, documents, rare books, advertisements, the practical tools of everyday life and things made of slate. The following is a partial list of objects.

If you have a particular interest, please contact the Center in advance to insure that that the items are available for viewing.

Highlights of the Collections:

Community publications

- The Homefront Magazine, from the first issue in 1942 through the last in 1946, with an index and scrapbook with associated information.
- Locally published histories of municipalities: Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, Roseto, West Bangor, East Bangor, Flicksville, Mount Bethel Township, and Portland; Nazareth; regional histories: Slate Belt Bicentennial Heritage, Slate Centennial program, Place Names of Northampton County.
- Commemorative histories/booklets of local churches, social and business organizations
- Selected issues of The Bangor Daily News, the Pen Argyl Index.
- Slate Belt Heritage Center ethnic book series about local Native American, Jewish, Pennsylvania German, Welsh, Cornish, Italian and African American communities.

Slate-related materials

- Flory Manufacturing Company collection including wooden patterns, ledgers, photographs, advertisements, catalogs, and receipts from the Bangor foundry that produced internationally known hoisting equipment, c. 1885-1934.
- Jackson Slate Company, Pen Argyl, company store daybook.
- Fidelity Slate Company Supply Store Records, West Bangor.
- Parsons Brothers Slate Company, Pen Argyl, photo collection c. 1920 by Bliss Photo Studio, Easton.
- North Bangor Slate Company, Bangor, insurance records, receipts, c. 1960s.
- "Genuine Bangor" Slate Association board minutes, 1930s.
- Photo collections containing Griffin School Slate Factory images; groups of workers in various Bangor-Pen Argyl district quarries; quarry owners, c. 1920, newspaper articles and photos related to slate manufacturing, c. 1960; Angelo Polo splitting slate, c. 2002, postcards of quarries and workers, c. 1900-1930.

- Charles H. Behre, *Slate in the United States, Slate in Pennsylvania, Slate in Northampton County*.
- Marketing brochures for slate products; advertisements in local directories, newspapers, yearbooks, programs.
- Oral history transcripts with reference to the slate industry.
- Slater's time books.
- Slate products such as roofing shingles, Griffin factory school slates, East Bangor school slate, and Lincoln school blackboards
- Structural slate objects such as sinks, electrical panels, tiles, and the bathroom stalls and Gamewell alarm backboard original to the building (1907).
- Marbleized slate, including two fireplace surrounds manufactured by the Keenan Slate Company and original to the building, and one grained surround from the Chapman's Quarry area; marbleized game boards, picture frames, clocks, and book ends.
- Slate "whimsies" - slate fans, picture frames, trophies.
- Slate-making tools like beddles, chisels, picks, scrappers, wedges, dressing and punching machines, wires, and bars.
- Scale model of a slate quarry landing - Blaine Smith.
- Slate Belt Heritage Center publications:
 - *The Blue Hills* containing 1827 newspaper references to James Porter and earliest quarries; ethnic makeup of Bangor quarry workers in 1890 and transition from agricultural to industrial economy;
 - *Pennsylvania Slate Beckons the Cornish*, quarry owner Fred Doney's memoir, genealogical accounts of Cornish families in Great Britain and America, quarries in both locations, Cornish culture and folk traditions;
 - *From the Slate: The Welsh and Folk Art* containing accounts of Welsh immigrants to the Slate Belt, including R. M. Jones, Ivor Griffith, David Price, Thomas Jones, and others, with images of slate folk objects, accounts of Welsh cultural beliefs, traditions, and local practices;
 - *The Italian Experience in the Slate Belt*, with excerpts from interviews of Italian slate workers, Italian culture and traditions in Italy and America.
- Local histories with accounts of local slate quarry practices:
 - *The Centennial Book*, Bangor 1875-1975 and the *125th Anniversary Book*, Bangor, 2000.
 - *Portland Area Centennial*, 1876-1976.
 - *Slate Belt Bicentennial Heritage*, 1776-1976.
 - *Ring the Bells for Olde Pen Argyl*, 1882-1982
 - *Our East Bangor*, 1884-1984
 - *Wind Gap*, 1888-1988
 - *History of Flicksville*, 1791-1991

Textile, garment and needle trades

- Interior and exterior photos of Slate Belt mills, including Raub's, Kayser (originally the Sterling and the Crown), Blue Ridge textiles, blouse mills, 1936 Slate Centennial parade floats
- ILGWU materials, local and countywide.
- Vintage sewing machines, dress form, patterns, and measuring table, c. early 20th century.
- Samples of Kayser gloves and stockings.
- Knitter's tools
- Rosato family business ledger

Civic and organization archives

- Bangor Borough Records c. 1894-1910, ordinances, birth and death records, health ordinances, tax assessments, daybooks, receipts, oath of office copybook, voucher register
- Joel Serfoss Sons of Veterans of the Civil War membership records, cemetery maps
- Jewish Community Center Collection – Ralph Sobelson prayer shawl, prayer book, photos, and JCC documents, 1946-1966.
- St. John's Reformed Church, Bangor, Collection – photos, ledgers, membership files, bibles, hymnals, anniversary history, c. 1890-2000.
- Roseto Justice of the Peace records, c.1912-20.
- Roseto Columbus School – diplomas, flag, commencement program
- Flicksville Order of the Golden Eagle archives
- Flicksville Historical Society records
- Blue Valley Garden Club archives
- Slate Belt Heritage Center records, newspaper clippings, photos.

Family collections

- Marjorie Williams Collection – postcards, letters, ceramics
- Eli Keller family material including photograph, manuscript, published poems, and the Keller massacre story in the History of Delabole.
- Maryella Correll Collection of photographs, programs, military material, Correll Opera House material
- E.K. Eisenhart, Jr. collection, blue prints of drugstore, school records, assorted personal interests, Elks, Slate Belt Horse show, Dairy farming.
- Parry/Sleeper family collection – house plans, Parry/Lesher/Price family photos, books.
- Fred Doney family notes and research

- Dorothy and Nancy Muir photo album
- Kessler Family scrapbooks
- The Rev. Thomas Jeffery diaries, 1939-42, excerpts from 1917.

General objects

- 1860 Map of Northampton County
- 1874 Atlas of Northampton County
- Sanborn Maps for Pen Argyl (1899) and Bangor (1930)
- Selected Bangor and Pen Argyl yearbooks
- SBHC Postcard Collection of Slate Belt views and buildings
- Slate Belt Directories, 1906, 1938-43, 1953.
- Bangor Industrial Souvenir booklet, c. 1906
- 1950 map of Portland
- Stone Church inscriptions from Tombstones in Old Cemetery
- Flicksville "Our Friends" photo albums
- Family Photos – Werner, Young, Dech, Schock, Tucker, Correll
- Group Photos – Slaters in the Parsons, North Bangor, Columbia Bangor, and other quarries; World War I and II soldiers; various singing groups and bands including the Welsh Male Chorus, the Pen Argyl Male Chorus, the Apollo chorus, the Elks Chorus, the Roseto Cornet band, the Emlyn Evans, Yellow Jackets, and Blue Eagles Drum and Bugle Corps, the Bangor Band, The Pen Argyl Municipal Band, the East Bangor Band, School class pictures from the 1890s through 1960s; Baseball teams; Slate quarry owners; Textile mill interiors, exteriors, parade floats.
- Show Towel, 1809, Mrs. Mary Flick
- Coverlet from Myers-Flick family, by J. Cleever, Forks Township
- John Pysher's sawmill ledger, Flicksville, c. 1850
- Gould's Pharmacy prescription book, Bangor, c. 1900
- Copies of Cornish parish records, c. 1860s
- Blicky and lunch pale.
- Vintage household furniture and conveniences, 1890-1950
- Working model of a grist mill – Chris Matos

Works of Art

- Mural of Slate Belt history by Lois Neal's art students, 2001-2002
- Oil on Canvas – Pen Argyl Quarry - Bob Doney
- Pen and Ink drawing – Bangor Town Hall, and prints of local scenes and the Bangor Viaduct– Doug Wynne
- Oil on Board – Head of Christ, View of Venice - Anton Schaivone
- Wall montage - Flicksville Buildings – Sharon Ryan