

**E.L. Rose Conservancy
2008 Annual Report**

**A PHOTO-AUDIO PERSPECTIVE OF
THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA PROJECT**



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Abstract:

Overwhelming support and interest in Jamie Herring's documentary video with Susquehanna County's critical landowners has prompted the start of a similar project. This oral history project, though still under development, is in its first steps of production. The project aims to develop an interactive, educational website regarding the history and importance of Susquehanna County's landscapes and residents. Individual interviews with landowners and residents will focus on personal stories, histories and land values. The collection of unique chronicles will build a comprehensive history of the area and its inhabitants.

Over the summer, board member Patty Bloomer was interviewed for practice and her recording was used to demonstrate the final production format. After receiving approval in late September, prospective interviewees have been sought-after. Last fall, Conservancy board members agreed to initiate the project with a history of the Fox School House in Silver Lake Township. Susan Barnes, the new owner of the schoolhouse, was interviewed in November and this spring interviews with alumni from the school will add new perspectives and stories to the topic. Photographs collected from the historical society and interviewees will provide the visual medium to be used in the final web-based presentation.

Following the Fox School House, the project will expand to incorporate residents from all townships and backgrounds.

Project Purpose:

- Directly involve residents in the perpetuation of the county's history
- Provide ELRC with an outreach tool for educating members of the Conservancy
- Create an educational and interactive web-page regarding Susquehanna County's history, residents, and landscapes through a combination photo-audio medium

Methods:

- Meet residents of all backgrounds and ask for participation in the project
- Conduct approximately 30-minute interviews regarding their history and land values
- Record interviews with digital audio recording equipment
- Transcribe interviews have interviewee review transcript for accuracy
- Condense and edit interviews into shorter clips
- Organize library of audio clips and photographs in MemoryMiner
- Upload library to final web-page production
- Archive original audio file, transcript and other related documents

Progress and Plans:

Completed:

- Patty Bloomer Interview
- Initial focus on Fox School House, Silver Lake: Interviewed owner, Susan Barnes (Fall)
- Met several prospective interviewees and received confirmation of participation (Fall)

Continuing:

- Interview alumni of Fox School House (Spring 2009)
- Initiate web-page production with Fox School House focus (Spring 2009)
- Expand focus to include more residents and topics of interest (Summer 2009)