

COMPANION

MAGAZINE

Partnership to Help Tell Complete History of Adams County

-Page 10

Adams County's First Female Officer

-Page 4

Dedicated Canner Pushed Herself Beyond High School

-Page 7

Travel Amidst the Pandemic: Local Firm Offers Advice, Help

-Page 12



~ Complimentary
January/February
2021 Issue ~

Margaret (Mag) Palm



Community spirit

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



BY ALEX J. HAYES

the history of our Black neighbors was often overlooked. A new partnership between the museums will help push these stories to the forefront.

Many stories in Companion come from our readers. An email from a reader introduced writer Ashley Andyshak Hayes to Cytha Grissom, Adams County's first female police officer. Grissom worked in Gettysburg for more than 20 years and she recently told Andyshak Hayes how it was important to her that she be held to the same standard as other officers.

Dani Johnston was a standout Biglerville Canner but she didn't back down when she got to the highly-competitive world of Division 1 sports. Johnston was of five former Bucknell players recently selected to represent Bucknell's all-decade team of the 1990s. Josh Martin recently talked to Johnston about her stellar career.

Cabin fever is a staple of almost every winter, this year more so than ever. The pandemic will still be around when the weather breaks and Michael Cooper-White recently spoke to travel agent Kathy Harrigan about what to expect.

Thanks, as always, for reading Companion. We hope you are all doing well during these stressful times and the stories in this edition give you a little escape.

The front cover of this edition of Companion features Margaret (Mag) Palm.

Palm was a Gettysburg washerwoman targeted by slave catchers in 1858. She fought them off and by one account bit one of her assailant's fingers off. Here she is demonstrating how they tried to bind her hands during the attack.

Palm's story is just one of many the Gettysburg Black History Museum is excited to tell. The Historical Society has been telling the story of Adams County for decades but, by its own admission,

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Local Spotlight:

Adams County's First Female Officer.....Pg 4

Sports Spotlight:

Dedicated Canner.....Pg 7

Cover Story:

Partnership to help tell complete history of Adams County....Pg 10

COVID-19: Travel During The Pandemic.....Page 12

Adams County's first female police officer enjoyed fulfilling career



STORY BY ASHLEY ANDYSHAK HAYES • SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS

Cytha Grissom doesn't think of herself as a groundbreaker.

Now retired, the first female police officer in Adams County says her career choice was about doing something that mattered.

As a student at Gettysburg Area High School in the 1970s, Grissom considered joining the military, but a guidance counselor advised her to go to college first.

Heeding that advice, she enrolled at Shippensburg State College (now Shippensburg University) in 1976. As a senior there, she landed an internship with the Ocean City, Md., police department, becoming the first woman to ride a motorcycle for the department.

"I liked knowing that I was doing something of

importance," she said of her first policing experience.

She also learned that being a police officer meant being in the know, and she liked that.

"I knew what was going on. If something was going on, I was there," she said.

Upon graduating from Shippensburg, armed with a bachelor's degree in administration of justice, she decided to make policing her life's work. She applied for a position with the Pennsylvania State Police and was accepted, but she wanted to stay close to home in Adams County. In September 1981, she was hired by Gettysburg Borough Police Chief Ronald Wells as the first female officer in the department and in the county.

At first, her fellow officers

were protective, she said, often stepping in front of her in potentially dangerous situations. Grissom said she had to tell them to let her fend for herself. At 5 feet, 3 inches tall, Grissom knew she "was not going to get anywhere by threatening people, so I had to develop my verbal skills."

"I didn't think of being a groundbreaker," she said. "I thought, 'I have a full-time police job, I need to make the most of it.' The public was a little wary, but honestly they were pretty accepting."

Grissom's assurance about her career choice was evident from the beginning, as she told the Gettysburg Times for a 1982 profile article.

"Confidence is 99 percent of the answer to anyone's success,"



she said at the time. "I have faith in myself that I'll be able to handle whatever comes along. I don't want to be left out of anything. I want to be involved in all aspects of police work."

During her career in Gettysburg, Grissom participated in several large investigations, including homicides. Sometimes it was difficult to leave her work at the office, she said, like the times she responded to catastrophic traffic accidents. But overall, she felt a sense of fulfillment when she and her colleagues could help bring about a positive outcome.



"Any time where we could do something good, like get a child back with their parents, anything with a good outcome, it made me really glad I'm in this business."

During her 22 years with the Gettysburg Borough Police Department, Grissom was promoted several times, from patrolman first class to corporal to sergeant. She was recognized for her service by local Jaycees chapters, and received numerous commendations from the borough. She also initiated several programs within the department, including bike patrols, and supervised the Special Emergency Response Team.

In 2002, when then-Chief Fred Gantz retired, Grissom served as interim chief of the department. When a new chief was hired, she served the rest of her career in Gettysburg as master sergeant, and retired in December 2003.

"Gettysburg's a great town, it was a wonderful place to be," she said. "My career in law enforcement has been blessed."

After retiring from Gettysburg, Grissom decided she wasn't finished with police work. She took a position as chief of police



for Shippensburg University, where she worked until January 2019.

Policing for the university was similar to her work in Gettysburg in many ways, she said, but the university was also very focused on community policing. Her department of 16 officers developed educational programming for students, provided escorts, and dealt with myriad parking issues.

"We wanted to get students to know us as something other than a uniform," she said.

Looking back over her decades of police work, Grissom notes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



some significant changes.

"Police work has become much more of a science than it used to be," she said, citing the increased use of DNA as evidence and advances in video surveillance and other technology. For example, the Shippensburg campus had 200 cameras that needed to be monitored, she said.

Stricter requirements for

training have also advanced the profession, she said.

"I was on the road with Gettysburg for three or four months without going to the Academy," she said. "Now you can't do that. (The training is) such a great thing."

Grissom also stresses the importance of education; she obtained her master's degree from Shippensburg toward the

end of her career in Gettysburg.

Despite increased scrutiny of police practices nationwide, Grissom said she believes respect for the profession still exists.

"I think there still is respect for police officers. I think it's been diminished because of certain incidents," she said. "It's not just about wearing a uniform and bossing people around. We need to be the voice for people who sometimes don't have a voice. We have a responsibility and we need to take that seriously."

"It's not an easy profession. You need to be dedicated to it, you need to know how to talk to people. You can't run around with a chip on your shoulder."

Grissom hasn't stopped pursuing her passions even after retiring from her second law enforcement career. A lifelong animal lover and proud owner of a Labrador Retriever and a Basset Hound, she recently attained her certification as a veterinarian assistant.

"I've always enjoyed animals and caring for them," she said.

She currently spends her days caring for her grandniece while her niece works during the day. Her oldest niece, Heather Bushey, has followed in her footsteps as a research analyst for the Pa. State Police. Much of her family lives in the Gettysburg and Cashtown areas, and she enjoys having everyone close by.

Support from her family made her long career in law enforcement possible, she said.

"I have to credit my parents with never telling me that there were certain things women didn't do," she said.



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Dedicated Canner pushed herself beyond high school

STORY BY JOSH MARTIN • SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS



Dani Johnston never shied away from a challenge.

In the classroom or on the athletic field, Johnston eagerly embraced challenges, sprinting head-on into anything that would provide an opportunity to be tested or develop growth. The Adams County native grew up competing in sports year-round, simultaneously honing skills and fueling a competitive drive that helped her become one of Biglerville High School's most dedicated and decorated female athletes.

Never satisfied, Johnston continued to push herself mentally and physically at Bucknell University, where she was determined to play

Division I field hockey.

Undaunted despite coming from a small program at Biglerville, Johnston, who has since become Dani Goodman through marriage, carved out a remarkable career that placed her among the greats in Bison history. She began as a walk-on but finished as a four-year starter, two-time All-Patriot League first-team pick and team captain, and was one of five former players recently selected to represent Bucknell's all-decade team of the 1990s.

"It was definitely an honor," said Dani of being included on the team of the 90s. "I had fun, I was super competitive, and I feel like my presence

on the field was more lead by example."

The youngest of four children, Dani got her abilities honestly as she hailed from a family with a rich athletic background. Her father, Vance Johnston, was an all-conference quarterback at Gettysburg College. Sister Keary set track records at Biglerville High School, oldest brother John won a state title in wrestling and brother Matt was a multi-sport standout for the Cannons.

"I was immersed in it; it was just a way of life," she said.

Dani made an immediate impact on the varsity level at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Biglerville where she competed in field hockey, basketball and track & field. She helped lead her teams to numerous postseason appearances and finished with 12 varsity letters, something that remains a rarity. Never one to slow down and reflect upon achievements, Dani was constantly looking ahead to the next practice, game or season.

"The times themselves were different, so if you had any athletic inclination you were a three-sport athlete," she said. "You did it just because you were athletic."

Directing the basketball team as a freshman point guard was a difficult endeavor, but one she readily accepted. Dani credited Sue Kuhn, who coached her in field hockey and basketball, as well as older teammates who helped her make the transition to the varsity level.

"Getting pushed up my freshman year definitely helped shape me, and the upperclassmen couldn't have been more welcoming," she said.

As her scholastic career was coming to a close Dani had a difficult decision to make: What college would she attend?

Two certainties were her desire to play on the Division I level, something few athletes pursue to fruition, and her steadfast stance that academics would always remain her top

priority. She considered Lehigh, Lafayette and William & Mary in addition to Bucknell. During a tour of the Lewisburg campus Dani met with then-head coach Heather Lewis, who couldn't have had an inkling as to the type of ferocious competitor that was about to join her program.

"I knew that I wanted to play at the Division I level and was hoping ability-wise I could play and have a role," she said. "I didn't want to go to a school where athletics trumped academics and I didn't want to be in a position where I had to choose. I'm just not wired that way, I felt I could excel at both."

That she did, and immediately, despite the increased intensity and uncertainty that came from competing on the highest level against more-heavily recruited athletes.

"It was humbling because regardless of division, when you're playing at the collegiate level you're playing alongside standouts who were captains, all-region, all-state or champions," she said. "I didn't have any trouble with the work ethic part. Conditioning is a new intensity to some but I was ready to be challenged and it was just another step up."

She vividly recalls those first preseason practices where players were being sized up not only by their coaches, but teammates as well.

"It was intense being a walk-on and not knowing anybody; you step on the field eying people, wondering how you fit into the team and if you'll have a role," she said, adding she was asked to play a new position as well, shifting from the midfield to right back

initially. "It took a bit re-learning the game. That was a new level of intensity."

Despite making an impressive 13 starts as a freshman, Dani pointed to her sophomore season when things felt like they truly fell into place. She credited an offseason spent working summer sports camps in New England, where she was able to train with international players and senior level coaches, as critical to her development as a collegiate player.

"Walking into my sophomore year of preseason wasn't difficult because I had been playing at a high level for four weeks," she said. "I was in the starting lineup and moved to center forward and stayed there the rest of my career. At that point I knew it, I knew this feels right. I could feel (her coach's) feedback and knew my role and what was expected."

At the conclusion of her junior season, she was named not only First Team All-Patriot League, but also a Second Team Mid-East Region All-America honoree. For someone who prided herself in meticulous



preparation, she wasn't prepared to receive any awards.

"I was completely in shock when I was named first-team that year," she said. "My coach said to me 'you deserved it, coaches know who you are in this league.' I was absolutely floored."

The honors rolled in again following a senior season in which she led the team in scoring with seven goals and two assists, including three game-winning tallies.

When flipping through her mental Rolodex of memories Dani pauses at a game against Lehigh during her junior season when the Bison were victorious in overtime.

"It just feels so good when you're that exhausted and you've won," she said.

She also fondly recalls a messier moment during her senior year when a Homecoming weekend game against Colgate was rained out. Captains got the call in the early hours of the morning ahead of the afternoon contest, and instead of trudging back to their rooms they gathered their teammates for a session of mudslides on the field.

"It was just awesome," said Dani. "I was walking back with the other two seniors and we were in a funk and disappointed that it was cancelled, so we decided we just needed to be with our team. We did mudslides all through that field."

When her playing career concluded upon graduation in 1997, Dani focused her energies on acquiring her master's degree in physical therapy, a field that drew her interest while rehabbing an injury as a sophomore. She became

certified in 1999 and moved to Boston the following year where she did outpatient work until 2006. She transitioned to contract work and home care for four years, moving to Frederick, MD with her husband Mike, before switching to school-based physical therapy.

"I'm now in the pediatric world of PT and I love it," said Dani, who works with individuals from pre-school age up to 21. "I work in the school system, which is amazing. There are a lot of high-need kiddos, some who may be wheelchair bound who have equipment needs and I do assessments for home equipment. The potential to get a kid at 3 and build a relationship and know that child and their family potentially until they're 21 is so

incredibly rewarding."

Dani and Mike have three daughters, Michaela (11 years old), Sara (10) and Evalyn (7). In addition to Dani's accomplished athletic career, Mike was a collegiate swimmer. Their girls have enjoyed athletic outlets including soccer, lacrosse and horseback riding, meaning sports have been, and are likely to remain, a part of Dani's routine.

"I hope so," said Dani, who has coached her daughters at the rec league level. "The girls have been exposed to swimming at an early age, they've all played basketball and I've coached all of them for several years. I coach enough to keep the kids happy and make sure it's a good fit. We're just trying to expose them to things that interest them."

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Partnership to help tell complete history of Adams County

STORY BY BY ALEX J. HAYES • PHOTOS COURTESY OF GETTYSBURG BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

The history of Adams County is rich. Many people of several different races have formed the county we have today.

The Adams County Historical Society has prided itself on telling the county's history for 80 years. Its current leaders admit that history was often one-sided. Stories of minorities who played an integral part in Adams County's story were many times ignored.

Keziah Cuff was a longtime resident of High Street, Gettysburg and was among the first women to vote in the 1920 presidential election. When she was a young girl, she signed an anti-slavery petition circulated throughout the Black community in Gettysburg. She lived into her 90s.

Lloyd Watts was a farmer, minister, and veteran of the United States Colored Troops. After the war, he was one of the first Black schoolteachers in Gettysburg.

Margaret (or Mag) Palm was a

Gettysburg washerwoman targeted by slave catchers in 1858. She fought them off and by one account bit one of her assailant's fingers off.

Owen Robinson was one of the first Black business owners in Gettysburg. He ran an oyster saloon and ice cream shop on Chambersburg Street during the Battle of Gettysburg. Despite having to leave town for fear of being captured, and being robbed of his merchandise by the Confederates, Owen continued to run his business after the battle.

The Gettysburg Black History Museum has been working for 20 years to bring those and other stories to the forefront. The project informally started decades before that when Jane and Mary Alice Nutter's mother began collecting artifacts and stories. The group has a goal of one day opening a museum dedicated to Black history but for now it is excited about a new partnership with the Adams

County Historical Society.

The Historical Society recently kicked-off its campaign to build a new home on Biglerville Road near a portion of the first day's battlefield. The property formerly housed the Adams County Prison and was gifted to the society when the prison moved to Major Bell Lane in the early 2000s. Construction is expected to begin this year and the facility's opening is planned for fall 2022, Dalton said.

The 29,000-square-foot complex will house artifact-driven exhibits that explore centuries of Gettysburg and Adams County history through the eyes of ordinary citizens of all ages and backgrounds, including African Americans, women, and fruit growers.

"Our new exhibit - Black Voices of Adams County - will educate visitors about the important African American history in our community. This history spans nearly 300 years and is integral to



Keziah Cuff lived into her 90s. She was a longtime resident of High Street and was among the first women to vote in the 1920 presidential election. When she was a young girl, she signed an anti-slavery petition circulated throughout the Black community in Gettysburg.



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the larger story of Adams County. Together, we look forward to honoring the lives and legacies of some of Adams County's unsung heroes - the men and women who fought for freedom, justice, and equality," Historical Society Executive Director Andrew Dalton said.

Gettysburg Black History Museum President Jane Nutter said her organization is excited to support the Historical Society's endeavor. She also sits on the Historical Society's board and said Dalton's sincere desire to accurately share her community's stories helped build a bridge of trust between the two organizations.

"Everything he has ever said he has followed through on," Nutter said. "Seeing his work, seeing his actions was very different from what we experienced in the past."

The Gettysburg Black History Museum will have a permanent display area in the lobby of the Historical Society's new home. Three or four display cases will be used to feature artifacts and the display will be changed about every

three years.

"The new exhibit - 'Black Voices' will highlight the lives and legacies of a handful of Adams County's Black citizens. Through artifacts, images, and powerful human-interest stories, GBHM and ACHS will expand the narrative to include these fascinating perspectives," Dalton said.

Nutter says Gettysburg was a very segregated place once. Black residents had to open their own hair salons, restaurants, churches and veterinary offices because they were not welcome in other places. Despite those hardships, the Gettysburg Black History Museum prefers to focus on what she describes as "the Black joy" that emanated throughout their community.

"Even in spite of all that, a thriving Black community existed," Nutter said.

Even as segregation officially ended, historical segregation continued and Nutter and Dalton are both excited about taking a giant step towards a more equal society.

"We do not wish to sugar coat the past. Black history has been marginalized and misunderstood for over a century in our community. This is just the first step toward a more inclusive and representative history of Adams County - one that we all should strive for. We have important work to do," Dalton said.

The Historical Society has raised about \$4.5 million of the \$5 million needed for its new home. Donations can also be mailed to the Adams County Historical Society at P.O. Box 4325, Gettysburg PA 17325. Naming and sponsorship opportunities are available for a limited time, Dalton said.



FUTURE HOME — The Adams County Historical Society kicked-off the public portion of its capital campaign for a new home in December. Pictured earlier this week at the site on Biglerville Road are, from left: Board Chair Clinton Eppleman; Commissioner Jim Martin; Commissioner Randy Phiel; Executive Director Andrew Dalton; Commissioner Marty Qually; Board Vice Chair Heidi Gillis; and Campaign Chair Jacqueline White.

Travel Amidst the Pandemic: Local Firm Offers Advice, Help

STORY BY MICHAEL COOPER-WHITE

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From Dr. Fauci to Pope Francis, from governors to local health departments we hear a common message when it comes to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic: "Don't, if you can avoid it."

Nevertheless, either by necessity or conviction they can do so safely, millions of Americans continue to board airplanes, trains, subways, and other common carriers, as well as driving our own vehicles.

Beyond essential local trips for shopping, medical attention or commuting to work, even short interstate trips can pose complicated and constantly changing requirements and restrictions.

Accordingly, says Kathy Harrigan, owner of Harrigan Holidays travel agency in East Berlin, "It's best to use a travel adviser." Harrigan explains that she and her daughter and coworker, Meghan Brown, "keep up with information to help you make a decision."

Harrigan founded the business about 15 years ago as what she calls "my second career." Previously, she spent 25 years as a school secretary in the Bermudian Springs district.

"It's something I always wanted to do," Harrigan said. Her interest in travel was sparked in part by accompanying school groups on field trips.

Her personal profile on the company website (<http://www.harriganholidays.com>) explains further. "I always loved travel, but it wasn't until after taking my husband to Ireland to see Bruce

Springsteen I decided travel was what I wanted to do after retirement."

SOME PLEASURE TRAVEL POSSIBLE CURRENTLY

While many destinations, like Europe and other popular foreign tourist meccas, are off-limits for all but essential travel as of this writing (mid-January), Harrigan said that Mexico, Aruba and other islands are allowing tourists under careful health restrictions.

Harrigan advises that travelers accustomed to a do-it-yourself approach would be wise to consult with an experienced travel agent.

"We won't make decisions for people," she said, "but provide information and advice" on up-to-date restrictions and requirements like pre-arrival COVID-19 testing, quarantines, and proper documentation.

The East Berlin company uses the services of Book with Confidence, a firm specializing in offering tips on how to travel in safe and healthy ways.

A 30-page document provides detailed information on travel by any means of conveyance, navigating airport, hotels, restaurants, and understanding COVID-related guidance and requirements in countries around the world.

The guide has links to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization, Johns Hopkins and other sources that provide up-to-the-minute data on Coronavirus trends in locales worldwide.

Tips for sanitizing a rental car, where to sit in an airliner, how to safely use a fitness center, and discovering the safest venues and activities while on a trip are also provided.

TRAVEL BUSINESSES HOPE FOR REVIVAL SOON

Harrigan recounted the precipitous plunge in business beginning last winter as the COVID-19 pandemic's impact kneecapped the entire industry.

"From March through June," she said, "our work involved almost entirely cancellations and customer refunds." She

said that she and Meghan also scrambled to help a good number of their clients find ways to get back home as the U.S. and other countries began closing borders, and airlines and ships cancelled flights and voyages.

In recent months, Harrigan reports, "We're doing some little things, like individual

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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trips to Florida, Mexico or the islands." With vaccines on the horizon, the company is beginning to see some hopeful signs of revival. "People are so eager to get out and travel," she said.

While large-scale tours, cruises and similar group excursions may still be many months in the offing, Harrigan is hopeful more individuals and families will be able to begin pleasure travel soon. She indicates the firm is beginning to see an uptick in inquiries by email or phone calls. "People are saying, 'I'm ready to go as soon as we can,'" she said.

GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL

The overarching advice from the Center for Disease Control is: "Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19."

But even most who are scrupulous about avoiding non-essential travel must leave our homes for short trips to the grocery store, medical appointments, or work commutes.

Guidelines from the CDC and other sources offer practical suggestions for any travel by car or public transportation. They include the following:

- Don't travel if you are sick, have tested positive for COVID-19 or must accompany someone known to be infected or vulnerable.

- Recognize that while you and your companions may feel well and not have symptoms, you can be a spreader to others.

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- Delay travel if you are waiting for test results, have tested positive, are sick or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

- Seek information in advance on travel restrictions, especially if crossing state borders.

- If a vehicle has been driven by others, let it air out before jumping in, and sanitize steering wheel, gearshifts etc.

- Avoid traveling with or offering rides to persons beyond your immediate household.

- If you must travel with others, wear masks, sit as far apart as possible and drive with windows partly open to ensure maximum ventilation.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash hands thoroughly and use hand sanitizer.

- Try to make trips at times when occupancy in stores, gas stations and elsewhere is likely to be at its lowest.

- On buses, trains or airplanes, wear masks, maintain social distancing, avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces. Report threatening behavior by others to officials.

- On road trips, stops for food, using bathrooms or other reasons expand likelihood of virus transmission. If possible, carry along your own meals and minimize en route stopovers.

For additional up-to-date information, see the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus



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