



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 8, 2026
CONTACT: Mary Sorensen
PH: (814) 234-4779

[Boogersburg School Open House](#)

1021 Fox Hill Road, State College
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

State College, PA – The **Centre County Historical Society (CCHS)** will hold a public open house at the restored **Boogersburg School**, 1021 Fox Hill Road, State College, from **1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13.**

Stop in any time in the afternoon from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. to learn about the school's history, join in recess games, try your hand at "mental math" and even ring the school bell! You might even meet alumni of Boogersburg or hear stories from others who attended a one room school as a student. Whether you attended Boogersburg or another one-room school, or are simply interested in early school life in a one room school setting, we hope you will join us! Visitors may "walk to school" on the trail to the schoolhouse from the adjacent field where recess games will take place, weather permitting.

Over the years, thousands of elementary school children from Centre County and beyond have participated in the school's classroom experience, under the tutelage of CCHS docents—"schoolmarms" in period dress. Visiting children are summoned into the classroom by the ringing of the school bell, still crowning the rooftop cupola. Students relive history as they step into the school day of their youthful counterparts from the late 1800s and compare it to their own modern experiences.

"The Boogersburg School is one of the last surviving examples of the 180 one-room schools that once existed in Centre County," said CCHS President Roger Williams. "One-room schoolhouses were the physical expression of the 'common school' movement, which began in the 1830s and lasted up to the 1950s. Guided by the belief that the American democratic experiment needed a literate, educated populace to function properly, the common school movement provided America's youth with free elementary education in grades one through eight. Pennsylvania's Common School Law of 1834 left it up to local township school boards to accept the free schools and collect the taxes to finance their operation."

Intended for Patton Township children, the Boogersburg School was built in 1877 on land deeded by Moses Thompson, former Centre Furnace ironmaster and the County's largest and wealthiest landowner. Thompson had several such schools built to educate the children of tenant farmers living on the far reaches of Centre Furnace Village, which had its own one-room school. Serving three generations of children over 75 years, the Boogersburg School eventually became part of the State College Area School District until its official closing in January 1953.

Hosted by the Centre County Historical Society, this event is free and open to the public. The Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. and is located at 1021 Fox Hill Road, State College, Pa. (Patton Township) on the road to University Park Airport.

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue • State College, Pennsylvania 16801 • 814-234-4779 • centrehistory.org

Parking for the open house is available on the adjacent lawn near the School and along Pleasant Hill Road.

For information, contact Mary Sorensen at the Centre County Historical Society at Centre Furnace Mansion: (814) 234-4779, or email msorensen@centrefurnace.org. **For more info, visit:** <https://centrehistory.org/visit-us/boogersburg/>.

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Boogersburg School, Spring 2025



*Boogersburg Alumni Bob Hartswick and
docent Karen Hazel, Fall 2025*



Boogersburg School interior Spring 2025