



Celebrate Wilkes-Barre gift will help Historical Society preserve maps

BY DENISE ALLABAUGH

STAFF WRITER

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WILKES-BARRE — Luzerne County Historical Society Executive Director Jesse Teitelbaum accepted a \$5,000 donation from Celebrate Wilkes-Barre's board of directors Tuesday to preserve a map collection.

The historical society has about 3,000 maps in its collection and less than 400 are catalogued and available for public view, Teitelbaum said.

"We want to go through the remaining ones, clean them up, catalog them, process them, inventory them, index them and house them appropriately so they are made available to the public," he said.

The collection includes maps of streets, railroads, mining, canals, underground, aerial views, topographical and surveying of areas in Luzerne County.

"They range from the earliest part of the 19th century to the 20th century," Teitelbaum said. "It's a huge collection. There are well over 2,000 maps that we still need to go through and a lot of them can be valuable to researchers."

Teitelbaum hopes to purchase a new case to house all the maps. He also wants to work on flattening the maps because many are rolled up. Some maps are large. Some are small.

"Some of them are really interesting and we would like people to look at them," Teitelbaum said. "Anyone can use them. A lot of people like to see where their families had lived on the streets, where they worked on the mines and what railroads went through the area."

Frank Pasquini, vice president of Celebrate Wilkes-Barre, said the \$5,000 was a surplus from the money that sponsors paid for the bicentennial celebration last year.

"It just makes sense that any surplus from the community celebration go back into the community," Pasquini said.

The check presentation took place at the Hughes Memorial Garden behind the historical society's building at 49 S. Franklin St. Mayor Tom Leighton, Assistant Solicitor Bill Vinsko and Celebrate Wilkes-Barre President Robert Thomas attended as well as Luzerne County Historical Society representatives Tony Brooks, second vice president; Mike Burnside, secretary and Stephen Killian, assistant treasurer.