

Military Wing

The Military Wing contains extensive exhibits from the Revolutionary War through modern times.

Memorabilia includes a captured Nazi flag signed by two men from Warren County, a gavel that was part of the Old Andersonville Stockade, a variety of weapons including a Japanese bayonet and a cannonball from the Civil War, uniforms from various military branches and eras, medals, photographs, tools, musical instruments, and much more.

The Battle of Thompson Island, the only Revolutionary War skirmish fought in Warren County, is represented, as are the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the Persian Gulf War.

The recently renovated WWII room displays the Wall of Honor, and a Ken Porter exhibit memorializes the role of pilots in WWII.

Civilian Conservation Corps

This new space includes a recreated bunk room featuring an original CCC bed on loan from Robert A. Summers, a desk, banners, uniforms, models, photos, and more, much of which is on loan from Mike Schultz, in remembrance of FDR's organization designed to help the nation recover from the Great Depression.

The Old-Time Doctor's Office

Antique medical equipment gathered from the estates of local physicians including Dr. Richard Peters, is arranged in a old-time office setting. While some of the equipment was ahead of its time, others seem almost barbaric by today's standards.

An Era Gone By

The Victorian Era's style and elegance is evident in this exhibit highlighting the late 19th century's dress wear, household appliances, kitchen utensils, recreational items, and more.

Antique Gun Collection

Perhaps the most popular draw in the Era Gone By Room is the gun collection of Joseph DeFrees which boasts a selection of fine weaponry such as flintlocks and 1830s French dueling pistols.

National Forge Exhibit

Industrial testing equipment, products manufactured by the National Forge Co., steelwork commissioned by the US military, a 37 mm antitank gun, and Robert O. Wilder's 1963 Mercedes Benz are on display.

The Gift Shop

Make sure to stop in the new gift shop located at the end of the hall and check out the wide variety of items available for purchase including historical books, maps, and locally-crafted artwork such as paintings, woodwork, and jewelry.

Thank you for your support!

American Legion Hallgren-Wilcox Post #658

Brokenstraw Township Supervisors

Community Foundation of Warren County

Hal & Mary Conarro

Ellwood Group, Inc.

Joanne Oviatt

Sokolski Family Foundation

United Refining Company

This facility is monitored by Allied Alarm Systems, Inc.

Revised December 2024

Wilder Museum of Warren County History



\$5 per adult

\$1 per student

Members enter free

2025 Hours of Operation

Memorial thru Labor Day

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Friday & Saturday

from 1 to 5 PM

Additional Hours

Sept. 5 thru Oct. 11

Friday & Saturday 1 to 5 PM

Schedule a tour by calling

(814)723-1795

51 Erie Avenue/PO Box 144

Irvine, PA 16329

(814) 563-7773

www.warrenhistory.org

warrencountyhistory@aol.com

The Wilder Museum

The Wilder Museum was established in 1990 by National Forge Chairman Robert O. Wilder and was dedicated during the 75th anniversary of the company to honor Clinton E. Wilder, one of the company's original founders.

The museum, housed in the former Irvine Elementary School, is a holding of the Warren County Historical Society.

Enjoy your visit!

Four Flags Exhibit

The flags of the four nations that have claimed dominion over Warren County include the Seneca Nation, France, Great Britain, and the United States.

Map Room

Highlighting the beginning of Warren County as it is known today, the Map Room features a large mural of Warren County by local artist Joanne Oviatt, antique surveying equipment, a buffalo hide, and vintage maps.

Seneca Nation Exhibit

In honor of Warren County's original inhabitants, this exhibit includes artifacts dated to 6,000 BC, excavated from the Irvine Flats by the Archaeology Department from Mercyhurst College. Legend and lore tell of Native American habitats in this area as long ago as 10,000 BC.

The Wilder Museum would like to thank John Zavinski, field archeologist from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum and 40 year collector of Brokenstraw Valley Native American antiquities for his assistance with this exhibit.

Newbold Room

Gen. William Irvine claimed ownership of the area now known as Irvine in 1787 while on a surveying expedition. On display are a scale model of the Irvine-Newbold Mansion and a large variety of architectural pieces and furnishings from the now gone mansion as well as family heirlooms and artifacts.

Southern Hallway

This area exhibits a hutch made by Star Manufacturing with a display featuring the town of Youngsville; Joanie Phelps, a Warren native who climbed Mount McKinley blind; Warren breweries; a Piso's Cure for Consumption collection; a Gustav and Everett Borg photography display; one-hand clocks; antique bicycles; "The Way We Flew," Warren Airport exhibit; Girl Scout Camp Birdsall Edey bell; and agriculture.

Agriculture Exhibit

At the end of the hall, a hidden room contains an authentic 1860s covered wagon and farm equipment, reflecting country life.

Early Industries

As you return down the hall, turn into the Early Industry Alcove that starts with early Communications.

Furniture of Warren County

Warren County has produced its share of furniture, both hand-crafted and mass-manufactured. Dressers, vanities, chairs, beds, and tools used to make them are displayed. Antique toys are also shown.

Oil Heritage

Tools used in the oil industry, stories and photos, models, the boots worn by Henry Rouse, and other memorabilia reflect the county's rich oil history.

Railroads in Warren County

The first railroad arrived in Warren County in 1859, and four main railroads were quickly established. The 1st link ran from Philadelphia to Erie, the 2nd from Allegheny to Little Valley, the 3rd from Conewango to Jamestown & Dunkirk, and the 4th to Pittsburgh. The original desk form the Irvine Depot is on exhibit, as well as photos, luggage, departure/arrival board, the sign from the Warren Depot, lanterns, and more.

Lumber Room

Lumber raft models, tools, sawmills, a wide variety of wood, photos, and a display from Warren Axe & Tool trace the history of lumbering, an important early industry for Warren County.

Northern Corridor

As you exit the alcove, turn right toward the mounted elk, believed to have been secured in the early 1800s on the grounds of the nearby Irvine-Newbold Estate.

East Hallway

This long hallway is packed with history including the Underground Railroad, notable Warren County Women, the story of the Kinzua Dam, a National Forge periscope tube, Warren State Hospital history, intricate furniture, the Grandin Opera House piano, the original witness stand from the Warren County Courthouse, and the gun used by Norman Moon in the 1954 assassination of Judge Allison Wade.