

Mr. Larry Valett, an exceptionally well-read historian from the Historical Society of Mount Airy, was the keynote speaker on February 14, 2023, at the monthly meeting of 4 County Lions Club of Mt. Airy at Memories Charcoal House.

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, MD, Inc. was established in 1998 by Travis Norwood and Mayor Jerry Johnson with the mission to foster interest in the town history and its various historical landmarks. The main goals were to establish and maintain a museum for the preservation and display of artifacts, photographs and other historical memorabilia related to the town's history, and to educate the public about the history. The volunteers of the Historical Society manage the museum, railroad caboose and the Rails to Trails hiking trail. Mr. Valett also provided a great overview of the town's evolution, especially the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Easement which required construction through the town center in the early 19th century establishing the beginning of commerce in the town. He explained that constructing a train tunnel with black powder and crude blasting methods required over 3,000 European immigrants utilizing picks and shovels cutting the grade to allow the first weak-powered steam driven locomotives to climb the first hurdle. The 1,000 feet elevation of the ridge was a major early 19th century accomplishment!

Thanks so much to Mr. Larry Valett for an outstanding lecture enjoyed by all in attendance.

Larry Valett & Lion President Jim McNeill

