A sultry summer day, given to an occasional downpour, did not stop over 200 CCC enthusiasts from attending the commemorative event. It was easy to think about how challenging it would have been to be in the CCC and work so hard on such a day. Three CCC Veterans who attended included Randall Boob, Ed Kolisinski and John Coutts. They had no trouble recalling and sharing their experiences. Two realized, after looking at photos displayed, that they had been in the same CCC Camp together in Sunbury.

Over half of those in attendance had family ties to the CCC. All enjoyed a meal that included authentic CCC menu items while sitting on the grounds of the historic Poe Valley CCC camp. Displays from private collections and other exhibitors, including CCHS, were available. And the still-standing Officers Quarters was open for tours that were given by owner Jack Yarnell.

Bill Marcum’s interest in the CCC began with a rich treasure trove of stories and memorabilia from his grandfather, one of the first foremen for Company 1333. This evolved into a passion for organizing reunions since the 1980’s to honor veterans of the Poe Valley CCC Camp.

The CCC provided young men with opportunities for education and acquiring trade skills, room and board, and pay to send back home to their families. It was a way to help rebuild from the Great Depression with dignity.

If you have stories about Centre County CCC Camp experiences and would like to share them with the Historical Society, please contact Mary Sorensen at msorensen@centrefurnace.org or call 234-4779. They would be added to our archives and used in future CCC events promotion.

Thank you to Bill and Mary Marcum and daughter Nikki for their long time dedication in preserving these stories. Many thanks to presenters Bill Marcum, Paul Fagley from Greenwood Furnace and Vonnie Henninger from the Penns Valley Area Historical Association. Event partners included the County Historical Society, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Bill and Mary Marcum. Thank you to CCHS volunteers Ed Debrowsky, Melody Fleck and Peter Sorensen for help with the day.

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