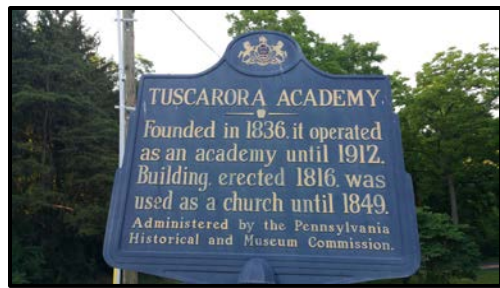




In the main entrance of the building, you will find postcards, and local history books for sale. All proceeds are used to operate the Juniata County Historical Society.

The Tuscarora Academy was acquired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with help from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission because the Society wanted to preserve the 200 year old building. The Academy costs about \$6,000 a year to operate and maintain. If you would like to make a donation towards its maintenance, there is a donation jar in the main entrance of the building.



## *Juniata County Historical Society*

### About Us

Founded in 1931, the year of the County's Centennial celebration, the Juniata County Historical Society's Mission is the discovery, preservation and publication of Juniata County's history.

Our Archives Room is located in the lower level of the County Library in Mifflintown, where all of the Society's resources for historical and genealogical research are located.

The Society utilizes an all-volunteer staff to provide public hours of operation on Tuesdays from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., except for the winter months.

### Contact Us

**Phone:** 717-436-5152

**Address:** 498 Jefferson St. Suite B  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

**Email:**  
[jchs1931@juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:jchs1931@juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Web:** [www.juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.juniatacountyhistoricalsociety.org)



# Tuscarora Academy

## 1836 - 1912

### Hours of Operation

Sundays in

June, July & August

1:30 - 4:00 P.M.

**Address:** 472 Academia Road,  
Mifflin PA 17058



*Enjoy Your Visit!*

Thank you for visiting the Tuscarora Academy! We hope you enjoy your visit, exploring some of the interesting history that Juniata County has to offer.

Here is a description of the Academy from its 1854 advertising catalog:

*"In a secluded portion of the Tuscarora Valley, noted for its beautiful scenery, healthful climate, and freedom from causes of local disease, the Institution is freed from the temptations, distractions from quiet study, and many other objections of a city or village location."*

-Tuscarora Academy Catalogue, 1854



The Academy, built in 1816, is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the Juniata Valley. It is also the last remaining building that comprised the school when it ranked high among the educational institutions of the state and nation. Today the Academy is the Juniata County Historical Society's museum with many items donated from county residents depicting life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Tuscarora Academy was the first institution in the county owing its existence to the Rev. McKnight Williamson, who was pastor of the Lower Tuscarora Church at Academia. In 1836 he conceived the idea of an academy to prepare young men for the ministry and to train teachers for the public schools of the area.



John Patterson, a local merchant, donated \$2,000 and local residents contributed funds as well. A building was erected and Tuscarora Academy opened October 1839, with Prof. David Wilson as principal. In 1849, Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church erected its fifth church. The old stone church was then enlarged, a second floor was added with twelve dormitory rooms. By 1854 a four story brick dormitory, boarding hall, and teachers' residence was completed. Unfortunately, this building was destroyed by a fire in later years.

The 1854 *Catalogue* of the Academy shows that tuition was \$110 per annum; fuel and light were extra, as were books, stationery, and other necessities. Each student was asked to provide towels and a fork and spoon, all marked for identification. The Academy then had 150 students from several states, some of whom attended both winter (November through March) and summer (May through September) sessions. Female students were admitted beginning in 1878 after the closing of the Tuscarora Female Seminary. The Academy continued to operate until 1912 when it was converted to a public high school. The building was abandoned in 1916.

