

Our Opinion

SRAC: Another fine historical group dedicated to preserving the past

Among the many advantages possessed by the area are groups of people dedicated to preserving the past and sharing it with the community as a whole.

Thus we have the Bradford County Historical Society, as well as the Sayre Historical Society, both of which have been invaluable in maintaining a strong link to our past. We also have the museum maintained by the Bradford County Historical Society in Towanda, as well as the Tioga Point Museum in Athens, two centers that provide many excellent historical displays and items for people to see and enjoy.

Added to these fine groups is another organization looking to preserve the area's heritage, as well as encourage exploration of the past in the Valley. The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native American Studies (SRAC) was recently incorporated by a number of local historians and archaeologists to collect and catalog artifacts discovered in the area over the years. In addition, the SRAC intends to provide a base of knowledge for those wanting to research the history of the Valley.

"I was appalled that we let our history fade away," said Deb Twigg, SRAC executive director. "That's what this group of people is about, people that feel strongly about our history and want the next generation to know it."

History is like many other things — it has to be properly maintained in order for it to survive. Without people willing to maintain artifacts, historical records and other similar items, all these valuable links to the past would eventually be lost in the mists of time, and all we would be left with is speculation about what has come before us.

The SRAC has already assembled some collections of historical artifacts from its members and is looking to construct a building for a center in which to house and display them. In addition, the center would eventually be used to promote new archaeological research through connections with local universities and museums.

The SRAC is facing a challenge, because many of the collections remain in private hands, and are scattered over a large area. Still, the idea of displaying and cataloging such collections, as well as encouraging historical research is a sound one, because if the SRAC succeeds in its mission, it will have performed a great service to the community, from a historical standpoint, and a cultural one as well.