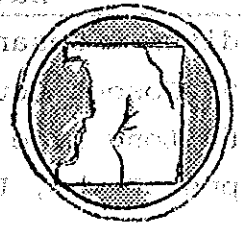


Haverford Township Historical Society Newsletter  
Volume III



VOLUME III

SUMMER 1974

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1974?

We hope you will join us on our Historical Society's Annual Field Trip to Greenwich, N.J. to visit the Cumberland County Historical Society. This will include a guided walking tour of Society owned buildings, including the Gibbon House, a delicious lunch served by the ladies of the local church, and an illustrated lecture.

We will meet at Temple Lutheran Church, Brookline Boulevard and Earlington Road promptly at 9:15 A.M. and return about 5:30 P.M. The entire trip will be \$10.00. BUT WE CAN ONLY GO IF:

- 1. If we can get a bus load of 35 persons.
- 2. If we know you will be coming by SEPTEMBER 5th. (Early date for a trip on October 19, but Greenwich has other interested groups.)

- 3. If you send a check with your reservation - see last page.

REMEMBER THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE OF THIS MOST PROMISING TRIP. All checks will be returned if we cannot get a sufficient number and what a pity that would be! So circle October 19 on your calendar and send your check and reservation now!

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ABOUT OUR HERITAGE DAY IN POWDER MILL VALLEY PARK ON JUNE 1, 1974

Thank you to all of you who responded so pleasantly and helped in giving time and donations.

IF YOU DIDN'T GET A PHONE CALL, it was either because you were not in when the editor called, or we couldn't find your phone number.

After attempting to get through the entire membership list, you will understand why you may have been missed. So a vote of appreciation to all members, friends, Citizens for a Better Community, scouts, exhibitors, cookie and candy makers, and ticket sellers. The cooperation was wonderful and many friendships were made or renewed on June 1, in spite of a damp day. Save the third Saturday in May, 1975, for next year and get a head start on inviting your friends to join you there!

Editor - Susanne Loder  
 307 Joseph Court  
 160 Long Lane  
 Upper Darby, Pa. 19082

in our area, written by a June graduate of Haverford High School, Steve Freilich.

WILL YOU HELP BY SIGNING UP?

In order to give all of our members a chance to really participate in our activities, will you sign up and send in the information sheet on the last page? As before mentioned, we do not have adequate information to contact you about our activities, and it would be appreciated if you would fill in and return the last sheet with any suggestions you may have.

#### WHY SO LATE FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

Firstly, the editor went gallivanting to Europe on an opera tour.

Secondly, the wheels of the gods move slowly, and matters in the restoration of Nitre Hall seemed to be at "status quo" when the fall season started, although the work has really begun

Now - suddenly - all has blossomed forth in many fascinating branches, and we have a wealth of material, so that we are really planning another edition in the early fall. We also have by-lines by some of our members and, as usual, our president, Peg Johnson, contributes much material. She has promised to write up some information on our own Colonial Day's Live-In at the Lawrence Cabin. In fact, a trial run with 12 children and a day's workshop with fifth grade teachers has already taken place. So do look forward to the next issue. We also hope to have a digest of an excellent paper dealing with the Welsh settlers

Recipe for Martha Washington's Great Cake (from Valley Forge Historical Society.)

Take 40 eggs and divide the whites from the yolks and beat them to a froth start work 4 pounds of butter to a cream & put the whites of eggs to it a spoon full at a time til it is well worked then put 4 pounds of sugar finely powdered to it in same manner then put in the yolks of eggs & 5 lbs. of flower & 5 pounds of fruit 2 hours will bake it add to it half an ounce of mace 1 nutmeg half a pint of wine and some frensh brandy. (If anyone tries this, let us know.) The above recipe was given by Miss Lula Watson of Mary Drexel Home.

**Discovering History - A Cannonball in the Vegetable Garden**

by Steve Boston

A new member of the Historical Society enjoys looking forward to learning about our past. It was the good fortune of this new member to learn about our Township's past in a very personal way.

Early April days are good for preparing the garden for the coming season. The pitchfork cuts deep, and on this occasion struck a very solid object. It was thought to be just another of many rocks. But this object was shiny and more round than any regular rock. My immediate thought was that it was a cannonball.

Earlier in the day a map of the Powder Mill Valley as it appeared around 1840 had provided me with a feeling that my back yard may have been the back yard of the workers at the Powder Mill. From my study of the Williamsburg area, I knew that early residents dug garbage holes in their back yard. The thought of hitting a possible garbage hole while digging was in the back of my mind. When the cannonball was found, my thoughts were immediate discovery.

The neighborhood was excited. Kids brought shovels and began digging, hoping to find their very own cannonball. Their parents listened to the story of the Powder Mill Valley. History for my neighbors and myself came alive on that early spring day. Further excavation will have to await the Fall. My radishes and carrots would like not to be disturbed.

Further information about the Cannonball supplied by Margaret Johnston.

The cannon ball weighs 12 1/4 lbs. or 5.5 kilograms; diameter, 9.52 centimeters or 3 5/8 to 3 7/8 inches - it is somewhat irregular. If it were solid lead, it would weigh 14.7 kilograms. If iron, it would weigh 3.9 kilograms. We plan to have a metallurgist test it. The grain size of the black powder relates to the burning speed. Different characteristics for that used in rifles and cannon were tested by firing a cannon ball from a mortar. The length of the trajectory indicated the powder force, and we think this cannon ball may have been used for testing.

**SAVE THE GRANGE-----AND WE DID!**

Thanks to the efforts of the Historical Society, the Save-the-Grange Committee, the Students for a Better Community, and all of the interested friends and neighbors, the Grange was saved from public auction! There has been so much publicity that everyone surely knows something about the historic site. However, there is still a lot to be done. Ken Tass, of the S.B.C. showed most interesting slides of the Grange up at the Cabin on Heritage Day. Now we offer you a chance to see for yourself. The Save-the-Grange Committee is planning an Open House at the Grange on Saturday, August 10 from 1-5 P.M. (Rain date-Sunday, August 11). Watch the local papers for more details.

In the meantime, the committee is working on plans to make this a cultural and educational center for the community. Donations are still being solicited and may be sent to Haverford Township Historical Society, marked Save the Grange, Box 825, Havertown, Pa. 19083.

Also, please indicate if you are willing to help "weed and seed" or in any other needed volunteer jobs. Don't let our interest die!

**NATIONAL HERITAGE CORPORATION**

On Sunday, April 21, at the second of our lecture series, we were privileged to hear William McC. Piggott, chairman of the National Heritage Corporation, tell us about the restoration and program at Fort William, on Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. John D. Milner, one of the associates in restoring Nitre Hall, is president of this private organization. Their booklet explaining their work states that "our history enables us to understand the present and prepare for the future." So often, in our accelerated society, we tend to place emphasis on the future and lose sight of the foundation formed by the past. National Heritage is an association whose objective is to preserve those reflections of our culture which identify our origins and afford the opportunity to determine which of our achievements have really been of value." Established in 1971, this association has been seen in both Canada and Eastern and Southern United States. The goal has been both restoration of buildings and way of life. Both architectural and historic research with master planning have been called upon to bring about

living examples of the way things were. Feasibility, archaeology, and interior planning and development of interpretive themes to give those restored projects significance and value have been achieved for visitors. Educational programs, craft demonstrations, and exhibits have been or are being prepared. Some of the more local sites are Franklin Court in Philadelphia, the Windsor Hotel in Cape May, Washington Crossing State Park and Valley Forge State Park in Pennsylvania, Lucy the Margate Elephant in New Jersey, Fairmount Park Houses in Philadelphia, Dilworthtown Inn and Primitive Hall in Chester County and the John Chad House at Chadds Ford.

After reading the article on the National Heritage Corporation, we can be proud to feel that we of the Historical Society are giving our own community a chance to participate in the crafts, skills, and ways of life of those who have passed by our way.

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HERITAGE DAY, JUNE 1, 1974

In spite of a slightly damp approach, "a good time was had by all." All of the participants for the day - craftsmen, exhibitors, sales people at the Powder Keg and ticket booths - are volunteers, and we are most grateful that so many are willing to give their time and share their skills.

Sailors were particularly interested in the work of Mr. Howard Cooper, sail and tent maker. One visitor spent the entire day with him. Barbara Baxter's quilling and the macrame and needlework of Britta Dickson occupied many visitors. We don't know how many went off happily with corn husk dolls they made themselves. Colonial Penmanship, marbleizing paper, string figures, and weaving were all activities taught by the young people of the community. Mrs. Mary Dunlap Hand had several lace patterns started on several different pillows and it was fascinating to watch as she manipulated the bobbins. An unexpected treat was provided by Bill McCauley of Gradyville Road, Newtown Square. He arrived with two handsome sheep and sheared them to the delight of all, especially photographers. One 5 year old

petted the Shropshires and was quite fascinated with the whole procedure, until she wrinkled her nose and said they smelled bad. (Did you know that sheep have no upper teeth?) Another activity not publicized in advance was soap making and we thank Joanne Morris and her husband, Dave, for this demonstration. We are looking forward to next year and would like to have even more of our members take part. Molding pots on the potter's wheel is one of our most popular activities and Fred Sumner, potter, does a great job. However, it is rather exhausting to help all of the interested young people and talk about what you are doing the entire period. We would like an experienced potter or an apprentice to volunteer to assist. Do let us know about this or any other skill you are willing to share. (See last page.)

WHAT'S TO SEE IN GREENWICH? Plenty. Thanks to the book, "This is Colonial Greenwich," by Josephine Polezzi, and published by the Cumberland County Historical Society in 1973, we have some excerpts to whet our curiosity.

After obtaining a grant of land from King Charles II of England, Major John Fenwick, a Quaker, sailed from England in 1675 on the ship, "The Griffin." With him came his three daughters, their husbands, and a group of men all interested in settling in the New World.

John Fenwick's grant of land we know today as Salem and Cumberland Counties. Major Fenwick founded New Salem and sixteen miles from New Salem, he planned a twin settlement on the banks of the river. His settlers desired their town be named after Greenwich, Connecticut, from which many of them had come. These two towns, Salem and Greenwich, were the first permanent English-speaking settlements on the Delaware River. Both are seven years older than Philadelphia. Happily, the land was bought peacefully from the Indians by its founder. Unhappily, John Fenwick became involved with financial problems and was forced to sell most of his land to William Penn for a very small sum of money. He died in 1683. "Ye Greate Street" was laid out in 1684 by his executors, one of whom was William Penn. (It goes from one hundred feet in width

to a mere eighty feet to the stream.) The first Friends Meeting House, (probably of logs) was built in 1690. . . . After it was destroyed by fire, the present brick Meeting House was built in 1771. Greenwich quickly became very important in the shipping trade. As early as 1701 this village was named as the official Port of Entry of the Colony of West Jersey.

Here, the first ferry in Cumberland County ran in 1733 between Greenwich and Fairton. Here, so tradition says, pirates often secretly and mysteriously hovered. . . . One tale tells of a pirate named John (who was chained in his own attic and left to die.) That house still stands on Greate Street and is known as the Daniel's House or the Pirate House.

The Freeholders and Justices met in Greenwich (by order of the Royal Governor of West Jersey) and the first court was held in May of 1748.

The first fair in Greenwich was held October 16th and 17th, 1695. These fairs were held in the Market Square where the Tea Burning Monument now stands and were discontinued in 1765. . . . The act of the Assembly. . . . stated that it should be lawful for all persons to buy or sell all manner of lawful goods, and to be free from arrest on the fair days and for two days before and after the fair days.

In December, 1774 the brig "Greyhound" came into the Cohansey River loaded with a cargo of tea. The captain of the ship had been warned that the tea would not be permitted to be unloaded in Philadelphia, so he secretly had it stored in the cellar of a home on the Market Square occupied by Dan Bowen. Early in the evening of December 22, 1774 a party of men, disguised as Indians broke into the storehouse, took out the boxes of tea and burned them in the open square. (The Boston Tea Party took place on December 17, 1773.)

The Gibbon House - This stately residence on Greate Street was build by Nicholas Gibbon in 1730 - two years before George Washington was born. This house is noteworthy for the brick work of the exterior, for the beautiful peneling of the drawing room, and for the nine foot fireplace in the old kitchen.

(The Gibbon House is, of course, one of the central attractions on the tour of Greenwich.)

Today the Gibbon House is owned by the Cumberland County Historical Society and is maintained as a living museum depicting life in Colonial America.

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THE HISTORICAL HORSE TROUGH OR WHO WAS ANNE LOWRY?

(The following appeared on the editorial page of The Evening Bulletin but some of you may have missed it.) by Margaret Jounston (edited)

The Haverford Township Historical Society has been given the only horse trough in the township, perhaps the last one in the county.

It was located in a position vulnerable to traffic, and it will be moved to the Powder Mill Valley Park. It was originally placed at

the corner of Burmont and Glendale Roads in memory of Mrs. Anne Lowry, Women's Pennsylvania S.P.C.A...The S.P.C.A. has given it to

the Historical Society, but we are still trying to find out something about Mrs. Lowry. Could you help us, please?

For those who have not thought through the idea of going back to the horse to save energy, here are some salient points:

1. Consider the space of a horse and buggy in a parking lot.
2. Recycling is great, but could we use all of that fertilizer?
3. Manure breeds flies and attracts birds, both of these spreading all sorts of interesting diseases and odors.
4. About 1900, 15,000 dead horses had to be hauled away every year.
5. Carriages were accident-prone with their high center of gravity.
6. Run-away horses were all too common.
7. A horse cannot be parked on the street at night, but requires housing; also food, whether in use or not.
8. Horses are not too intelligent or dependable (sorry, horse lovers) but are inclined to kick, fight, and bite.
9. A horse does not have reliable brakes.
10. As one last reminder of the pollution problem, in 1875, London had to remove 1,000 tons of its horse manure DAILY.

When one of the young geniuses experimenting with creating new supplies of gasoline through garbage, etc., comes up with THE great solution, then we might find it useful to bring back the horse!



In order to bring our membership and mailing list up to date, we would appreciate your filling in the form below and mailing it to

Miss Susanne Loder  
307 Joseph Court  
Upper Darby, Pa. 19082

Make checks to

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Any dues or contributions to Save-the-Grange will be forwarded to the proper destination. CHECKS FOR GREENWICH TOUR WILL BE HELD UNTIL WE GET THE NECESSARY 35 PEOPLE. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SEAT AND A TREAT.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to become a member \_\_\_\_\_

Dues - \$3. single, \$5 per couple

If you are willing to be called upon to help at Heritage Day on Saturday, May 17, 1975, please check \_\_\_\_\_.

If you are willing to help with refreshments at a winter meeting, please check \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you have a skill or craft to share?

Can you suggest anyone?

If you would like to be called upon for helping in work at Nitre Hall, the Cabin, or the Grange, please check \_\_\_\_\_.

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

THIS LIST IS FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS.

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RESERVATION FOR TRIP TO GREENWICH, N.J., Saturday, October 19, 1974.

Enclosed find check for \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations. This \$10.00 per person covers bus trip, lunch, and tour.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 5, 1974 so that we may confirm the trip.

You will be notified if we cannot get 35 people - please bring friends.

BOX 825  
HAVERTOWN, PA 19083

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 336  
Havertown, Pa.

your filling in the form below and mailing it to

Miss Basma Lober  
307 Joseph Court  
Upper Darby, Pa. 19083

HAVERTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

any dues or contributions to Save-the-Grange will be forwarded to the  
proper destination. CHECKS FOR GREENWICH TOWN WILL BE SENT TO THE  
SEEK THE WISCONSIN 32 PEOPLE. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A TRIP AND A TRIP

Address

I wish to become a member

single \$2 per couple

If you are willing to be called upon to help at meetings pay on  
Saturday, Jan 17, 1975, please check

If you are willing to help with refreshments at a winter meeting,  
please check

do you have a skill or craft to share?

Can you suggest anyone?

If you would like to be called upon for help in work at Home Unit,  
the Grange, or the Grange, please check

Phone number is

THIS LIST IS FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO FACILITATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

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CONTRIBUTION FOR TRIP TO GREENWICH TOWNSHIP, October 19, 1975.

Enclosed find check for \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

per person covers bus fare, lunch, and tips.

Name

Address

Phone

Thank you for your contribution to the trip.

You will be notified if we cannot get 35 people - please bring friends