

NEWSLETTER

HAVERTOWN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P.O. Box 825 HAVERTOWN, PA., 19083 SEPT. 1984

FIELD TRIP - Saturday, October 20, 1984 to York, Pa.

Leave 9 a.m., Brookline Blvd. & Earlington Rd., Havertown
Return 6 p.m., traffic permitting

York, Pennsylvania, was the Revolutionary frontier capita
of the United States from Sept. 30, 1777 to June 27, 1778
On this trip we will visit the York Court House, complete
in 1756 (replica now rebuilt). Here the French Alliance
and Articles of Confederation were debated and the first
Thanksgiving proclaimed.

Guides will tour us thru the Historical Society of York
County's restored and furnished Golden Plough Tavern,
constructed c. 1741 in half-timbered style. We will also
visit the home of General Horatio Gates where General
Lafayette was entertained in 1778. This 18th century
English style furnished home features the Gohn collection
of delft ware. The Barnet Bobb log house, c.1811, is fur
nished with painted furniture popular in early 19th c.

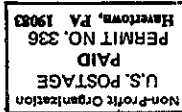
Lunch will be provided and served by the Womens Auxiliary
in the York County Historical Society Museum meeting hall.
This institution has excellent exhibits on Indians of the
area, the Revolutionary period, 18th and 19th century
clothing, transportation, including barges, Conestoga
wagons, York made autos and a street of recreated shops.

Also open is the Bonham house built c.1840, the town
home of Horace Bonham, lawyer and genre painter, now
furnished in the style of 1875. It features examples
of painting and a collection of oriental art compiled
by Horace's twin brother who was active in the China and
Japan clipper trade.

This is not a fund raising trip. Member cost \$23/person;
guests \$25, including lunch and snacks. Join and enjoy
the companionship of old and new friends as you travel to
and from historical York thru the Pennsylvania countryside

Fill out the form on the last page and
mail your reservation TODAY for the

OCT. 20, 1984 - FIELD TRIP



Havertown Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 825
Havertown, Pa. 19083

HAVERTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 825, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Bring a friend and come to any or all of
our activities. If not a member, we in
vite you to join. Contact above or

Visit NITRE HALL and LAWRENCE CABIN

Open Sundays 1-4 p.m. or by appointment
HTHS members Free. Visitors \$1, Children 50¢

Karakung Drive, Powder Mill Valley Park
Havertown, Pa.

FEDERAL SCHOOL

The Society has been concerned for years about the preservation of the Federal School on Darby Road near Coopertown Road, part of the Allgates property. We provided architectural services and cooperated with the Optimists Club of Havertown in the excellent work they did in restoration in 1975-76. We prepared interpretive material and arranged for guides in 1976-77. Took groups thru by appointment and have arranged for Christmas decorations and guides each December in conjunction with our December open dates.

The Haverford Township School Board has received an offer to purchase Allgates. The bidder has proposed giving the Federal School and 24,000 sq.ft. of ground to the township of Haverford. We have requested meetings to discuss this proposal. It is important that adequate provisions be made for the maintenance of this 1797 building which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

IN APPRECIATION

Thru the years as restoration of Nitre Hall proceeded, volunteer hours and special skills were donated by Harry Irwin, Tom Cramp and Ed Warner in building the bookshelves and cupboards in the library and Neville Ehmann in reproducing missing spindles for the stairway. Victorian furnishings in the library were given by Mary Martindale Cifuni and Edward Martindale in memory of their mother, Mary Haywood Hackett Martindale. The rug and several items of furniture in the parlor were gifts from Mr. and Mrs. David B. Robb. Mrs. Robb is a direct descendent of Israel Whelen, first proprietor of the Nitre Hall Powder Mills.

A few recent accessions on display: examples of unfinished quilts, templates for quilting, patterns, a small loom, Jaquard woven coverlet, several atlases, a wedding gown and a Victorian wicker baby carriage with parasol. The large blue rug, now in what was the master bedroom, will add to the comfort of the school programs and workshops besides protecting the floor. Donors of the above gifts are: Mrs. Mary Stuart, Miss Marguerite Lukens, Mrs. Sidney Forstall and Mr. and Mrs. William Toal.

COLONIAL LIVING EXPERIENCE at the Lawrence Log Cabin

This program, offered by the Society to Haverford Township fifth grade students, is normally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in late September and October. Dates scheduled for this fall: Sept. 25th, Oct. 2nd and 23rd. Due to the split school sessions, bus transportation schedules have caused problems.

It is difficult to replace Kathe Foden, a devoted volunteer for seven years, since she has gone into a business of her own. We need help and assistance with this excellent Colonial Living Experience for the twelve students at the cabin each session. Please volunteer to assist.

Now that the useable space is available in Nitre Hall, plans are also being made to expand the program to permit an entire class to participate. This program will be less physically demanding of volunteer helpers. Those with special skills can volunteer for shorter periods of time with the program tailored to their specialties. Quilting, weaving, stenciling, rug hooking and some type of woodwork have been suggested as possibilities. This expanded program will not begin until spring. Plan to join in. Contact Peg Johnston 446-1026 or Betty Stafford 449-3585.

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HELP WANTED

We have need for a variety of skills. Our library needs organizing. We need typists for recording accessions, Newsletter editor, guides and hostesses for Sunday openings. We could use educational aids for the Colonial Living Experience. We welcome program suggestions for our meetings and volunteers for our research in township history. Step forward - speak up - enjoy!

We have been asked about needed furnishings for Nitre Hall. In the refurbished space we need lamps, folding tables and chairs. Keep this in mind during your fall house cleaning!

NITRE HALL RENAISSANCE

The celebration for the restoration of Nitre Hall, held outdoors on June 23, 1984, was well attended. Margaret Johnston, President, welcomed Society members and guests and gave a brief history of the mansion, acknowledging special donors, Township officials and members who had contributed time, effort and work at Nitre Hall in the past. Lee Nelson of the National Park Service, a former resident and member, spoke on the importance of preserving our heritage and commended the Township Commissioners for their interest and support of our work in the Powder Mill Valley and also the Grange estate.

Joseph Kelly, Haverford Twp. Board of Commissioners President, assisted Mrs. Ethel Rich Mc Caffrey, a Society founder and charter member, and Jennie Mague, a junior guide in costume, in cutting the ribbon to open the new bridge entrance to Nitre Hall. Refreshments were served and hostesses in each room greeted guests and answered questions. Bookmarks with a Nitre Hall sketch and logo of the 1837 mill were given out to guests.

Chrm. Betty Steinar and committee members, Kathie Foden, Charlotte and Bill Pritchard, Betty and Fred Starford, Jeanne Mucanay, Libby Irwin, Marguerite Reese and Frank Whitten did an excellent job and are to be commended. Thank you's also to all who prepared the delicious sandwiches and cookies.

On Sunday, June 24th, the following day, the mansion was open to the public and there was a constant stream of appreciative visitors. A Press Party had been held previously to gain publicity. Charlotte Pritchard and Margaret Johnston arranged brochures, literature and refreshments for participants.

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Summer Event

A Mini-Trip notice was mailed to interested members inviting them and friends to join a car pooling tour on Friday, August 10, 1984, to center city Philadelphia. Free parking at Friends 4th & Arch St. Meeting was generously offered. Places visited: Atwater Kent Museum (Phila. history displays), Balch Institute (story of Phila. emigration and exhibit of ethnic advertising), and the Gratt House with Jefferson film and restored suite where the Declaration of Independence was penned. After Dutch Treat lunches at the Bourse, the group attended the 40 min. outdoor theatre "A Visit to 1784", at the 2nd Bank building.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The major Nitre Hall restoration, including the rear entrance bridge and refurbishing of interior rooms, has been accomplished under the Community Development grant township funding. However, there are items still to be completed and funds raised by our Society activities in the past have been allocated for this work. As this proceeds we are in a good financial position to assume our commitments. Our current balance is \$3930, plus our C.D. investment.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Mark your calendar and join in

Regular meetings of the Society: Thursdays, Nov. 15, Feb. 21, 1985 and Annual Meeting April 25, 1985. Board Meetings - members welcome: Oct. 18, 1984; Jan. 17, March 22 and May 16 @ 1985.

October at Nitre Hall, Sundays 1 to 4p.m.; participation in Museum Showcase will be in the form of an exhibit of Tools and Household Utensils of yesterday, plus craft demonstrations in adjacent log cabin. December: Christmas decorations will welcome visitors in Nitre Hall. Story hours for kindergarten age, by appointment. Volunteers needed to help with light refreshments and entertainment. Phone 446-1026.

RESERVATION FORM - Please cut off and return

(This will be the only mailed notice of this event) FIELD TRIP - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1984

Tour via bus to York, Pennsylvania historical district, including lunch and snacks.

Number of reservations: @ \$23/person, members; \$25/guest

Make checks payable to Hav. Twp. Hist. Soc. Mail to: P.O. Box 825, Haverford, Pa. 19083

Amount enclosed \$

I cannot attend but would like to contribute to HTHS preservation efforts \$

Name

Address

HAVERTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thurs., Nov. 15th, 1984 at 8 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Temple Lutheran Church
Brookline Blvd. & Earlington Rd., Havertown, Pa.

Program for Fall Meeting will take us far afield to the history of other eras. Declan Murphy, our speaker, holds a degree in archeology from Columbia and is currently on the staff of Wharton School, Univ. of Pennsylvania. He will present an illustrated talk about his recent trip to Turkey. His comments and photos are of age old mosaics, restored art of cathedrals in Istanbul, homes carved in rock at Cappodocia and more. You will enjoy this unusual and lively presentation.

Come, bring friends and join the sociability following the program on Thurs., Nov. 15, at 8 p.m.