

# NEWSLETTER

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P. O. BOX 825 HAVERTOWN, PA. 19083

FALL 1989

Dr. & Mrs. Robt. Johnston  
12 Dundee Mews  
Media, Pa. 19063



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

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DON'T FORGET - - -

50th Anniversary Banquet - November 2, 1989 - 6:00 p.m.  
Llanerch Country Club

Nitre Hall - Christmas Open House  
- December 3, 10, 17  
1 - 4 p.m.  
Story hours for Pre-school children  
Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14.

COME

COME

COME

## THE 50 YEARS OF H.T.H.S.

The year, 1989, is a special one for the Haverford Township Historical Society and its members. It marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of your Society. To celebrate this milestone, a gala Banquet has been planned for Thursday, November 2, 1989, at the Llanerch Country Club. This dinner will take the place of our regular November meeting. There will be a cocktail hour (cash bar) beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. with a choice of two entrees.

Following the dinner, attendees will be treated to a slide presentation with commentary giving an overview of the highlights of the activities and accomplishments of the Society's 50 years.

The featured speaker of the evening will be the well-known historian, Dr. Stephanie G. Wolf, the Co-director of the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of History. The topic of her talk will be "Doing History With Material Cultures".

Susan Kratzinger, chairperson of this event, and her committee have been hard at work to assure that all who attend will have a memorable evening. Invitations will shortly be sent to all members. R.S.V.P. is requested by October 23. Don't delay - send in your reservations as early as possible and join your fellow members for wonderful reminiscences of the 50 years of this organization's history.

<u>General Meetings</u>
Banquet -
Nov. 2, 1989
Feb. 15, 1990
Apr. 19, 1990

PRESENTING -

H.T.H.S. Officers and Board Members elected at the Annual Meeting, April 13, 1989.

<u>Board Meetings</u>
Oct. 19, 1989
Nov. 16, 1989
Jan. 18, 1990
Mar. 15, 1990
May 17, 1990

President - Betty Stellar (Mrs. Eliot)  
 Vice President - Dorothy Kelly (Mrs. Francis J.)  
 Treasurer - Kenneth A. Tiss  
 Recording Secretary - Gladys Tiss (Mrs. Richard)  
 Corresponding Sec'y - Rosemary Kanavy (Mrs. Jerome) and Betty Stafford (Mrs. Frederick)  
 Curator - Margaret Johnston (Mrs. Robert)  
 Colonial Living Consultant - Susan Kratzinger (Mrs. Richard)  
 Past President - Joseph Reese

Board of Directors 1988 - 1990: Carl Flinterman, Dorothy Kelly, Jeanne Mulcahy, Betty Stafford, Barbara Wetzel.  
1989 - 1991: Neville Ehmann, Glenn Gray, Justine Hocker, Carolyn Joseph, Rosemary Kanavy, R. S. Klein, Charlotte Prichard, Joseph Wagner(Dr)

CHARTER MEMBER HONORED

We are fortunate to have among our members a founder of the Haverford Township Historical Society and one of the first Directors, Ethel Rich McCaffrey. In a recent (4/26/89) issue of the News of Delaware County, columnist Joe DeFeo suggested for Mrs. McCaffrey the title of First Lady of Delaware County. Included among the many credits attributed to this energetic woman are her involvement with the organization of the Girl Scouts of Delaware County, also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year (previously Girl Scouts in this area were a part of the Philadelphia Council) and her writing credits as author of several books, women's editor of the News of Delaware County as well as columnist of "As I See It".

At our April 13th meeting Mrs. McCaffrey was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and life membership for her continued interest and support of the Historical Society and its activities.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Haverford Township Adult School has scheduled a new course on Historical Haverford Township. These classes are scheduled for five Tuesday evenings beginning on September 26 from 8 to 10 p.m. They will be held in Room 114 of the Middle School on Darby Road and will be taught by Peg Johnston, our curator, assisted by Betty Stafford.

The course will cover a review of the growth and development of the Township from the first Welsh settlement in 1682. The history of some of the people, the early mills, schools, and churches will be discussed and illustrated with slides. An exhibit of books and maps relating to the Township will be available to participants.

Also, a single program will be presented on October 17th as part of the course "Get to Know Haverford Township for Newcomers and Oldtimers." This session will be held in the Middle School Library from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

February 15, 1990 - Jeanne Mulcahy, our program chairperson, has secured Ralph Collier as the speaker for this meeting. He will talk on the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens and will bring several examples with him.

April 18, 1990 - The Annual Meeting. As of this writing the program for this meeting has not been firmed up. A panel discussion has been suggested as well as a report from the Senior High School students who did a special study this past summer on historic Haverford Township houses under the direction of Peg Johnston. Watch for future announcements!

#### FEDERAL SCHOOL

Restoration of this 1797 building is almost complete. The work contracted for exceeded the funds allocated and the Historical Society paid the \$850 bill for painting the interior. Erecting a small auxiliary building to house sanitary facilities, storage closet and an alarm system will complete the project. Hopefully this will be done in time to have an Open House before the end of the year.

Lesson plans have been prepared and each fourth grade class in the Haverford Township public schools is expected to spend a day in the Federal School, the oldest building remaining in Delaware County erected solely for educational purposes.

#### NITRE HALL

The Township has had a pathway for the handicapped installed from the back drive of Nitre Hall to the bridge entrance of the main exhibit level on the second floor. Still to be done is the erection of an appropriate fence along the top of the retaining wall and additional grading.

A wild flower garden is envisioned along this walk as part of our educational efforts. Any volunteers interested in planning and planting such a garden please phone Peg Johnston (353-1213).

#### LAWRENCE CABIN

The Township of Haverford awarded a contract to David Fisher for replacement of the shingled roof on the Lawrence Cabin. Work started September 5th and will be completed before the Colonial Living Experience begins. Sessions this Fall are being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. With this schedule all fifth grade classes will be served this Fall leaving the Spring months for the Federal School program.

#### THE HANNUM HOUSE

3110 DARBY ROAD

There has been a great deal of concern over the future of this property. The two story log section was built circa 1750 of chestnut logs with diamond notching. Originally there were two rooms on the first floor, one with a large cooking fireplace and a beehive oven. The smaller room, now divided in two, has a corner fireplace. There is a large fireplace on the second floor.

The house is listed in the 1798 Federal Glass Tax and was owned by Simon Litzenberg, blacksmith. It seems reasonable to assume that he worked at the Cooperage next door.

Architectural evidence suggest the front section of the house with exterior oak clapboards was probably built around 1850.

In 1883 William K. Hannum bought the house. At some time he had the log section covered with stucco. In 1980 the logs were exposed again by the owners who purchased the property from the Hannum estate. They were recognised by the Heritage Commission of Delaware County for the preservation work they had done.

Miss Edith Hannum was born here and owned the property when she died. She was the first woman to serve in an elected legislative position in Pa., serving as a Haverford Township Commissioner from 1922 to Dec. 1969. She was the first librarian for the Haverford Township Public Library and held this position from 1934 to 1968.

Historical Society Board members did not know the property had been sold in 1988 until foundations for a new house were begun adjacent. Every effort has been made to persuade the owners to apply for a subdivision and sell the old house, or request a variance to allow two houses on the 1.6 acres where 1 acre is the minimum. When it was evident that they were not interested in retaining the old house, a contractor who specializes in working on old houses was asked by us to examine it. On Sept. 5th, Lindsay Contractors notified us that they are now the owners of the house and will remove it in October.

On April 1989 a member of the Review Board of the State Historic and Museum Commission inspected the Hannum House and reviewed the documentation and other houses in the immediate Coopertown area. Subsequently, we were notified that the Hannum house, home of the Cooper, large barn at the corner of Marple and Darby Roads, and on the opposite side the farmhouse and the Federal School are eligible for Historic District designation.

Until the Commissioners of the Township of Haverford enact appropriate legislation, there is no protection for any historic or architecturally important structure in the Township. This Society feels that such legislation is of utmost importance. Members are urged to make their feelings known to their Commissioners.

### CURATOR'S REPORT

A number of years ago the major parts of a wool wheel with a Miner's head were given to the Society by Miss Margaret Lukens. They have been "married" to an antique bench and legs and the wheel restored to good working order. It is on exhibit and is used for demonstrations in Nitre Hall.

Household utensils from the late 19th and early 20th centuries donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Gaumer are included in our current display, "Grandmother Has One...". Among them are a soap saver, a flint fire starter, and a cast iron can opener. Mrs. Gaumer gave the Society quite a few additional items that have not yet been catalogued.

Five books on the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 were given to the Society at our Annual Meeting by Harry Ross Young. They are in the library at Nitre Hall.

We are most grateful to these and all our other donors.

### DELAWARE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

As part of the celebration of the Bicentennial of Delaware County, each township and borough in the county has been asked to prepare an exhibit and assigned a week to display it in the showcase in the foyer of the Delaware County Government Center in Media. Our Historical Society has agreed to prepare an exhibit about Haverford Township for the week of Oct. 16 - 23.

The following events connected with the Bicentennial have already or will take place:

Sept. 24 - Bicentennial Parade, starting on State Street in Media and ending in Rose Tree Park. A full afternoon and evening of exhibits and activities including performances by various musical groups and ending with fireworks.

Sept. 26 - Ceremony at Government Center at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception to commemorate the date of the formation of Delaware County.

Oct. 12 - Tree planting Ceremony - 200 trees to be planted in Smedley Park.

Nov. 11 - 10:00 a.m. - Community Concert by the Delaware County Youth Orchestra and the Delaware County Community College Chorus at Upper Darby High School.

### WEEK-END OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

During the spring, summer, and autumn months beginning on May 6,7 and ending on October 21,22, we have been sponsoring week-end Open House Events at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin. The two buildings have been open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. on both days of every fourth week-end for a total of 7 week-ends. On several of these dates there has been a special craft demonstration in addition to tours of the two buildings and the continuing exhibit "Grandmother Had One...". Attendance has been good in general and the weather has been cooperative. However, attendance by our own members has been disappointingly slim. When was the last time you visited these historic treasures?

Following the Oct. 21,22 week-end, the next opportunity to visit will be for the annual Christmas Open House scheduled this year for the first three Sundays in December,--the 3rd, 10th and 17th. Do plan a visit to your site as part of your Christmas activities this year. The mansion will be decorated, and the traditional Storybook and Nursery Rhyme Christmas Tree will be up, and a Gingerbread Village will be the special exhibit.

Please see the following article.

### VOLUNTEER

### GUIDES NEEDED

### VOLUNTEER

Carolyn Joseph(phone 896-8469) is a new Board member and is in charge of scheduling guides for events at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin. As a Society and as individuals we have a responsibility to make the historic properties we are managing available to the public. This cannot be done without sufficient personnel. For the past few years a very small group of dedicated volunteers has been acting as guides for various events. They NEED YOUR HELP. There must be many of our members who could spare 3 hours some Saturday or Sunday at least once a year.

Do you feel you don't know enough about our sites to be a creditable guide? Fear not - a folder of historic and interpretive material has been prepared and is made available to those willing to serve as guides before the date for which one is scheduled.

We need your participation. Don't wait to be called. Please phone Carolyn to volunteer to be a host-guide on any of the following dates: Oct. 21, 22; December 3, 10, 17 or if Carolyn calls you, say, "Yes". It will be a rewarding experience and you'll be glad you agreed to volunteer.