



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 825 — HAVERTOWN, PA. 19083

NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 1991

President—Betty Stellar (Mrs. Elliot)
Vice President - Dorothy Kelly (Mrs. Francis J.)
Treasurer - Kenneth A. Tiss
Recording Secretary - Gladys B. Tiss (Mrs. Richard)
Curator - Margaret Johnston - (Mrs. Robert)
Colonial Living Consultant - Susan Kratzinger (Mrs. Richard)

***** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING *****

Thursday, April 18, 1991
Temple Lutheran Church
Brookline and Eagle Roads
8 P.M.

Speaking to the membership this evening will be Justine Hocker, member of the Haverford Township Historical Society and former librarian for the township. Her topic will be "Pennsylvania Firsts - Pickles and Pretzels." Mrs. Hocker declines to elaborate on the content of her talk, so you'll just have to come and hear for yourselves!

We will also vote for the new 1991-92 board of directors, so please mark your calendar for this important meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We can finally look forward to the promised May 1 completion date of the Federal School and the start of the Colonial School Program for the fourth grade students in our township. This 18th century school day will be complete with McGuffey's Readers and two hand-crafted desks, made especially for the Federal School by Haverford High School senior, Steve Poole. This newest educational program and the Colonial Living Experience for Fifth graders held at the Lawrence Cabin and Nitre Hall are coordinated by Susan Kratzinger.

To acquaint the neighbors and the township commissioners with the work that has been done at the Federal School, a reception is planned for June 8 and an open house will be held on Sunday, June 9 from 1 to 4 PM for the Historical Society membership and the public to celebrate the restoration. Be sure to register that day to win a beautiful school-house design quilted pillow, stitched by member Carolyn Joseph.

We can be very pleased that we have an outstanding program for the Township. The Senior High School participates in a two-week summer research program under the Margaret E. Johnston Fund. During the winter holiday season Mrs. Johnston, Curator, along with Charlotte Prichard and Terri Dougherty held eight story hours around the storybook theme Christmas tree for 165 Nursery and Kindergarten children. Mrs. Johnston also conducted a six-

week course about our community history at the Haverford Twp. Adult School.

A committee is gathering background information toward publication of a history of the township. We need to interview older residents to include their recollections. Call Randy Kline at 449-8320 if you know of anyone who can help.

Regular member programs, lectures, tours, and workshops are open to the public. All this points out that the Haverford Township Historical Society is an organization of which we all can be proud.

Betty Stellar

CELEBRATE HERITAGE MONTH AT NITRE HALL

Art and Antique Appraisal Clinic
featuring Raymond M. Spiller, fine arts appraiser
Saturday, May 4
1 to 3 PM
Rain or Shine

*** Free admission to Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin!

Mr. Spiller will be at Nitre Hall parking lot Saturday afternoon to give verbal appraisal for collectibles of all sorts, including antiques, paintings, prints, jewelry, and china, but please no stamps or coins. The fee for the appraisal is \$5 per item and \$3 per item for members of the Historical Society. This is an excellent opportunity to find out just what grand-mother's rocking chair is really worth, or maybe there's a valuable painting or an historic document behind that flea market print. Why not find out at the Appraisal Clinic at Nitre Hall.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Gilbert Buffinton, Dr. & Mrs. Blumenthal, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard DeCurtis, Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Dibble, Mrs. Richard Dougherty, Joseph C. Hilly, Frances Mann, Mr. & Mrs. William R. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. David Sparks, Mrs. M.J. Sproat, Mr. & Mrs. William Toal, Barbara Wade, Marcia Wertime, and Mr. & Mrs. Warren Williams.

Congratulations to member Bill McDougall who was recently named manager of the Commerce Bank office in Newtown Square, scheduled to open this month. Bill is a graduate of St. Joseph's University, and he and his wife, Chris have been members of the HTHS since 1989.

CURATOR'S REPORT

May is Heritage Month and a perfect time to open our historic properties. Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin will be open the first weekends of the month from May to September from 1 to 4 PM and by appointment for groups at a \$5 fee. The Federal School will be open the first weekends of July, August, and September

from 1 to 4 PM. The special exhibit for the season at Nitre Hall will be "Hats Off to History," a display of millinery from our costume collection ranging from Quaker bonnets to top hats and cloches, spanning two centuries of head wear.

A committee is being formed to review our collections and to prepare and catalog new accession cards. We must also assess the need for shelving to provide proper storage. Anyone interested in working with the collection at Nitre Hall or in typing accession cards at home please phone Peg Johnston at 353-1213 or send a card to the Historical Society, P.O. Box 825, Havertown, PA 19083.

SPRING CLEANING AT NITRE HALL

On Saturday, April 20 we'll be cleaning up winter's damage to the grounds of Nitre Hall and the cabin starting at 9:30AM and extra hands will be welcome. Bring your rake and pruning shears; we'll provide coffee and doughnuts.

DOROTHY SPEEDY MEMORIAL GARDEN

The herb garden at the Lawrence Cabin has been renamed in honor of former Haverford Township Historical Society member Dorothy Speedy. In May Carolyn Josephs, Betty Sparks, and Mary Courtney will replant the herb garden doubling the number of colonial herbs in the wagon wheel shaped garden.

IN MEMORIAM

Olga Campbell, former board of directors member of the HTHS, died in January. Virginia Weissinger, dietitian and teacher and lifelong resident of the Manoa section of Havertown died in February. Both will be missed.

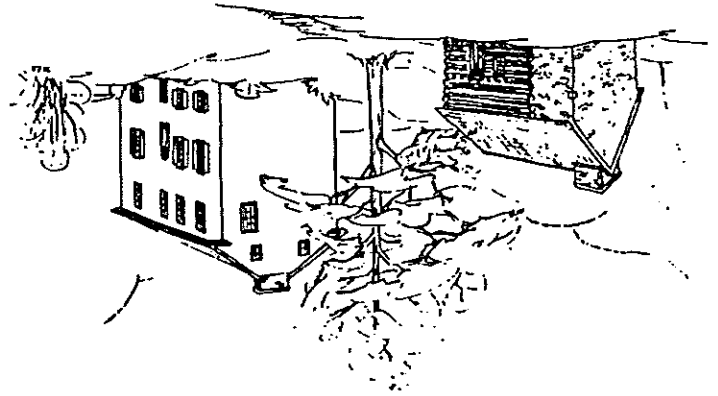
FREE CONCERT

**Please note: If you enjoyed the piano playing of John Davison at the February General Membership meeting, you can hear him again at the Bala Cynwyd Library Spring Concert Series on Sunday, May 5 at 3PM. This is his sixtieth birthday celebration and is free to the public. For more information, call 664-1196.

DON'T FORGET THESE DATES

<u>April 18</u> - Membership Meeting	<u>April 20</u> - Nitre Hall Clean Up
<u>May 4</u> - Appraisal Clinic Nitre Hall	<u>June 9</u> - Open House Federal School

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 1991

FALL FUNDRAISER INVITATION

TRIP TO ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Guided Tour of the
Mourning Art Museum
Sunday Afternoon, September 29, 1991
2:30PM

Join us to visit the beautifully landscaped gardens inspired by George Washington's Virginia estate, Mount Vernon, and tour a truly unique museum dedicated to the art of mourning. The collection includes watercolors, needlework, jewelry, poetry, broadsides, mourning clothes, and much, much more. The cemetery is located at Lansdowne Avenue and School Lane. After the tour, join members for cocktails and refreshments at Narberth, the historic, 18th century home of Betty and Fred Stafford. Narberth is on North Manoa Road. To make reservations, fill out the tear-sheet and return with a check for \$10 to the Historical Society P.O. box by September 24. We're looking forward to seeing members and meeting their friends and guests.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 17, 1991
Temple Lutheran Church
Brookline and Eagle Roads
8 P.M.

The speaker will again be the incomparable Tom McGuire, who teaches American History at Malvern Prep and has worked for the Park Service and the National Trust. Last year's program brought about an unusually large number of positive comments. We are fortunate that Tom is free on the evening of October 17 and will spend it with us to begin our new program year.

Tom has recently spent time in Wales and will share his thoughts on the early Welsh settlement in our area and its far-reaching affects.

For those who missed Tom last year, this will be a real treat. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

ACTIVITY AT NITRE HALL

18TH Century Restorations, builders of the necessary at the Federal School, began work July 1 on the "carriage" shed behind Nitre Hall at a cost of \$18,715. The shed, which will provide storage, is primarily to house a kitchen to properly interpret the progression from cooking on the hearth of the Lawrence Cabin to cooking on a cast iron stove a century later at Nitre Hall, will be used by the Colonial Living Experience program for all fifth grade students in the township, and should be completed soon.

The Historical Society is financing the building through donations and grants including an anonymous contribution of \$6,000 and a grant from the Quaker Chemical Company.

The public will be invited to an Open House in late October or early November. Nitre Hall will be open September 7 and 8.

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Senior High School participates in a two-week summer research program under the Margaret E. Johnston Fund. Sue Kratzinger and Peg Johnston worked with Joanna Boulder, Michele Genco, Amy Lauter, Katherine Lauter, Rachel Lemisch, Daniel Abrams, Sandy Peatross, Robert Koffler, and Amy Gardner on a study which included tours of the Lawrence Cabin and Nitre Hall, and comparisons of three Communicable Disease Record Books of Haverford Township from 1912 to 1942. The young people were surprised to learn about quarantine, necessary because many vaccines and antibiotics had not been discovered to combat infectious diseases. The students were graciously welcomed into the homes of Township residents Dr. Joseph Wagner, Dr. Walter Obold, and Mrs. Edmund Vigeurs. Public Health Officer Carl Spangler, James Richardson, long-time resident and a former commissioner, and Dr. Chi, a Vietnamese refugee all spoke to the students. The information gathered by the students and research they did at the Haverford College Library will help with the History of the Township being prepared by Dr. Randolph Kline.

THREE GOOD REASONS TO VISIT NITRE HALL SOON

- * "Hats Off to History" is still on exhibit.
- * The "Carriage" shed is in progress.
- * There is a new and attractive fence along the upper walkway thanks to the Public Works Department.

FEDERAL SCHOOL

The majority of work has been done on the school and the fourth grade students of the township all enjoyed their "1850's Day" this spring. Walkways and landscaping of the property are still to be completed. There are new road signs installed on

Darby and Coopertown Roads to help motorists find the entrance.
The school will be open on September 7 and 8 from 1 to 4 PM.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Richard and Stacey Chilcoat, Charles Fridy, Scott R. Loeb, T. Lindsay Leiper, Jean McFeeley, Mrs. Bobbie Morrison, Mr. and Mrs David C. Prospero, Roberta F. Reeves, Mrs. Estelle Siebold, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Spingarn, Mrs. J.R. Williams, and Richard Walker.

HAVERTOWN'S HERITAGE

This popular course will again be offered by the Township Adult School on Tuesday evenings from 8 to 10 PM starting September 24 and continuing on October 1, 8, 15, and 22. Registration brochures are available at the Library and at the Township Building.

CAN YOU HELP?

Fall Grounds Clean Up at Nitre Hall - bring your rakes and we'll provide coffee and doughnuts. We've had a lot of fun at the last two clean-up days and we'd like to do it again. Call Mary Courtney at 789-5169 to volunteer a Saturday morning.

Phone Peg Johnston at 353-1213 or send a card to the Historical Society, P.O. Box 825 Havertown, PA 19083 to work with the collection at Nitre Hall. There are a variety of jobs.

REGISTRATION FOR MOURNING MUSEUM TOUR
ARLINGTON CEMETERY
and
COCKTAILS AT NARBERTH
Sunday, September 29 at 2:30 PM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER IN PARTY _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____
(\$10 per person)

Send to Haverford Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 825
Havertown, PA 19083

Mary Courtney
14 Llandillo Rd.
Havertown, Pa.
19083

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