

# NEWSLETTER

HAVERTOWN TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 825

Havertown, PA 19083

SUMMER, 1993

## ELECTION RESULTS

At the annual membership meeting held in April of this year, the following were elected to the Board of Directors for two-year terms: Neville Ehmann, Rosemary Kanavy, Randy Klein, Charlotte Prichard, and Gloria Tarbuck. Please see the enclosed list of officers and committees for a complete update. This list replaces the first page of the membership directory.

Mrs. Dorothy Kelly is our new president. Mrs. Kelly has served the HTHS for twenty years as recording secretary, corresponding secretary, representative to the Haverford Township Civic Council, and as vice-president for four years. She takes over from Betty Stellar, who served as president from 1989 to 1993. During Mrs. Stellar's term of office major projects were accomplished for the Historical Society. Among these are the completion of the Federal School restoration, for use in the one-room schoolhouse program, including the building of the Necessary; restoration work begun at Nitre Hall, the redecoration of the tenant's apartment, and the building of the Summer Kitchen at Nitre Hall. Betty was instrumental in acquiring acid-free materials for the protection of textiles and documents in our collection. Appraisal Day and the writing of the Township History were begun while she was president. We wish to thank her for all that she has contributed to the Haverford Township Historical Society and we look forward to seeing more of her in her new job as archivist.

You may wish to pick up a copy of the Haverford Township Annual Report, available at the Township Building. It features a photo of the Federal School on the cover and a short history.



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Mr. & Mrs. William J. Prichard  
570 Kathmere Road  
Havertown, Pa. 19083



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The high quality of the programs offered through the HTHS resulted in an award last year and this year more schools are taking advantage of these unique, hands-on experiences. In addition to thirteen Haverford Township fourth grade classes, two classes from Waldron Mercy Academy attended the Federal School Day in April. The Colonial Living Experience in May at Nitre Hall and the Lawrence Cabin, drew classes from Ridley Middle School, Episcopal Academy, and Penn Wynne.

Six students from the Haverford Senior High School are involved in the Summer History Program conducted by Peg Johnston and Sue Kratzinger. This summer they are drawing and mounting maps of the United States and Haverford Township c. 1850 for use at the Federal School. The students are also researching information on everyday life during the mid-nineteenth century.

## WORKSHOPS

The first Battenberg Lace Workshop, conducted by Peg Johnston in March of this year at Nitre Hall, was so successful that a second workshop was requested. Those who attended were taught some basic patterns and then made lace angel tree ornaments to take home. Guide training was presented in June for volunteers at Nitre Hall and the cabin. These are valuable training sessions even for experienced guides to hear about new procedures and information. Another popular workshop which was given in the fall was on genealogy, directed by Gloria Tarbuck. Workshops are a way for members to meet, spend time at Nitre Hall, and learn at the same time. Watch for more of these offerings in the future.

## FUND RAISERS

We were blessed with glorious May weather for two very successful fund raisers held this spring. On May first, Carolyn Joseph arranged our third annual Appraisal Day at Nitre Hall. Mr. Raymond Spiller returned again to give value for personal "treasures" and in some cases to identify mystery items. Nitre Hall and the cabin were open for tours during the appraisal clinic and members worked on the grounds.

Also in May, Mr. and Mrs. D. Jeffrey Hallowell opened their lovely eighteenth-century home, Whitby Hall, to the society for a lecture-slide presentation and cocktail party. Guests then toured this historic residence armed with fascinating information researched by University of Pennsylvania graduate student, Brooke Wortham. Thanks to all the members whose efforts made these days so enjoyable.

Margaret Johnston  
Recipient of the Delaware County Historical Society  
1993 Annual Award

Peg Johnston's well-deserved reputation as a staunch supporter and advocate for history within our area, earned her this salute by the DCHS. We can all be proud of her tremendous contribution to our society and the community at large.

## PROPERTY UPDATES

Nitre Hall now has a new resident-caretaker, Peter Longworth. Pete, a retired teacher and history buff, moved in to the newly decorated apartment on the first floor of Nitre Hall in May.

We may yet find out what Nitre Hall really looked like one hundred years ago! Architect Michael Stern, working through a grant from the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, is providing technical assistance and studying plans to determine what kind of exterior covering existed on the building.

New coat racks and display cases have been installed at the Federal School and a proposed resolution has been presented to the Township Manager to authorize the society's sole use of the Federal School for a twenty-five year period. Such an agreement already exists between the Township and the HTHS covering Nitre Hall.

## ~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

OPEN HOUSE AND THE LUXURY OF LACE EXHIBIT AT NITRE HALL -  
July 3 & 4, August 7 & 8, and September 4 & 5.  
These are all weekends and the Lawrence Cabin will also be open.

NITRE HALL AND THE FEDERAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE - October 2 & 3

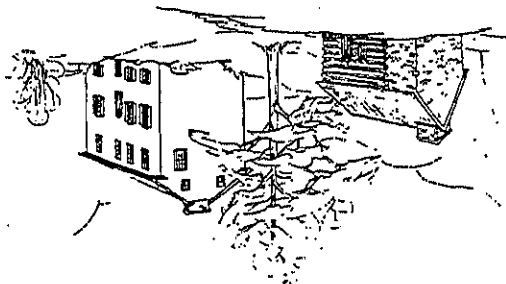
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Thursday, October 21, 1993  
8PM  
Chatham Park School

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FALL, 1993

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1993

8 P.M.

CHATHAM PARK SCHOOL

Allston and Glen Arbor Roads  
Havertown, PA

THE HTHS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCATION  
featuring  
CERAMIC PATCHWORK QUILT MURAL

During the spring of 1993, the "Artist in Residence" program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on the Arts, brought ceramic artist Lynne Denton to Chatham Park to create a permanent work of art for the school with the theme of Haverford Township history. Through research, field trips, and hands-on experience, students were inspired to apply our local history to a permanent ceramic mural. This patchwork quilt of fired clay tiles is on display for us to see on the second floor of the school. A teacher Rachel Fourer and Donna Hayden, who wrote the grant request to finance the work will speak about the process. In addition, Principal Dan Marsella will address our meeting and speak on his successful CARE program at the school. After the program, please join members and friends for "seasonal refreshments."

## NITRE HALL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE DATES

Sunday, December 5, 12, and 19

1 - 4 PM

Call Edith Cannon to be a guide.

NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1994

\*\*\* GUIDES \*\*\* GUIDES \*\*\* GUIDES \*\*\* GUIDES \*\*\*

Tour-guiding at our sites is a pleasant and rewarding way to help the society. Periodic training workshops are held, and written material is available to help you keep details straight. Bring a friend along; in the interest of personal safety this should be team work. If you are interested in becoming a guide, please call Edith Cannon at 356-5228 for more information. The next opportunity to guide will be the first three Sundays in December when Nitre Hall will be open.

VOTE YES ON KEY '93

Jean H. Cutler, Executive Director of the PA Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations urges us all to vote in favor of the bond issue to fund the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund on November 2, 1993. This question will appear on the ballot: Do you favor the incurring of indebtedness by the Commonwealth of \$50,000,000 to provide for the funding of nature preserves and wildlife habitats, and for improvements to and expansion of state parks, community parks and recreation facilities, historic sites, zoos and public libraries?

\$8 million of the money will be spent for improvements to state historic sites and museums and for grants to nonprofit and public agencies for the preservation and improvement of historic sites open to the public. In addition, the bond issue will fund a grant program to help local groups preserve and acquire sites of significant local interest.

THE OCTAGON IN ARCHITECTURE - A LECTURE

HHS curator, Margaret E. Johnston, will present this special program at the Haverford Township Library on Wednesday, October 20, 1993 at 8 PM. Polygonal forms in architecture have been used for centuries, but octagonal homes seem to have been an American development. This historical review will precede a slide presentation with views of a variety of residences, school houses, gazebos, and other buildings. Some of these have been razed, but there are slides of structures from as early as 1686. A collection of published material will be on exhibit also.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We now have 167 members and there are many ways for us to contribute to the society. Check your membership directory for a list of committees and call any of the chairs to offer your assistance. If you still do not have your directory, copies will be available at the meeting in October, or you may call Betty Sparks, Membership Chair, at 896-9360.

There will be a groundskeeping day at Nitre Hall on Saturday, October 23. Members are needed to give a few hours to fall clean-up of the site and the herb garden. This is always a laughter-filled morning with plenty of coffee and doughnuts available to keep us energized. A sign up sheet will be available at the general membership meeting or call Carolyn Joseph at 896-8469.

New committee chair, Terri Dougherty will be looking for all manner of gingerbread houses and associated paraphernalia for the Christmas display planned for Nitre Hall. Call her at 449-1571 or sign up at the October meeting.

PROPERTY UPDATE

On October 2 and 3, the Federal School showed off its sparkling coat of new white paint on the interior walls at a weekend open house, which was very well attended thanks to excellent publicity from Charlotte Prichard. Also in place now are the two display cases for artifacts. A special thanks goes to Neville Ehmman for coordinating these improvements.

New maps were drawn up for the fourth grade program by high school students in this summer's program conducted by Susan Kratzinger and Carolyn Joseph. A wooden pointer has also been donated to the school.

The Technical Assessment of Nitre Hall, completed for us by architect Michael Stern of the Historic House Museum Challenge Grant Program is a very thorough document complete with costs, illustrations and assessment of the existing conditions and recommendations for repairs both immediate and long term. A copy of this interesting and informative document will be available at the October meeting for you to see.