

H'THS



610-446-7988

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2000

Annual Meeting and Elections

Thursday, April 27, 2000 at 8:00 PM*

Llanerch Presbyterian Church

Election to the Board of Directors for 2000-2002

Candidates: Rene DeFiore, Elaine Halberstadt, and Dick Walker

Speaker: Jan Whitlock, textile designer, collector, dealer, and owner of Antiques, Textiles, and Interiors, 1699 Fairville Rd, Chadds Ford, PA.

Topic: *Household Textiles in Colonial America*

Textiles from the Society's collection will be highlighted including the Lukens coverlet, samples of homespun, a crib quilt, and a star pattern quilt top.

*Please note that the meeting is one week later due to the start of Passover and Holy Thursday. ❀



Elisabeth Rozin of Havertown at the February General Membership Meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Herb Garden Dedication at Nitre Hall
- 2 Darby Road Wall to be Repaired through State Grant
- 2 Historic Brookthorpe Station
- 3 Nitre Hall Update/ Calendar of Events
- 3 Dues Are Due!!
- 3 Old St. Denis School to be Leveled
- 4 Opportunities to Volunteer

Food Historian Shares Stories and Recipes

Food Historian Elisabeth Rozin, M.A., of Havertown spoke about "*Eating Salsa, Ketchup, and the American Experience*" on February 17. The speaker told the audience about early American and Mexican foods, particularly the origins of familiar condiments.

According to Ms. Rozin, the explorer Cortez "discovered" salsa in Mexico in 1512. The New World quickly adopted the Spanish contributions of lemon, lime, and coriander. Ketchup, however, actually came here with the British, by way of Malaysia. The Heinz Company produced the first commercial sauce in 1878.

Refreshments prepared by Barbara Wetzell and Elaine Halberstadt echoed the theme of the talk. Several treats came from recipes in Ms Rozin's books. ❀

Herb Garden Dedication at Nitre Hall

Saturday May 6 at 1:00 PM

The Honorable W. Curtis Weldon will present the Society with a flag flown over the Nation's capitol at the dedication of the Nitre Hall herb garden created in memory of Dorothy Speedy. The flag will be raised over the newly planted herbs donated by Orner's Nursery in Havertown. The Oakmont Boy Scouts installed the original garden, using a design by Dorothy Speedy, former HTHS member. The scouts are also responsible for installing the lower walkway between Nitre Hall and the Lawrence Cabin garden.

Join us for this special free event at 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 6. The cabin will be open and refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the lower lot. A limited number of handicapped spaces are available on the upper level. Please call Mary Courtney at 610-789-5169 by May 3 to reserve a space. ❀

Darby Road Wall to be Repaired through State Grant

Senator Richard Tilghman presented Haverford Township with a check from the state for \$300,000 for the restoration and preservation of the historic Darby Road wall. The wall is approximately 100 years old.

Anyone driving along Darby Road has surely seen the poor condition of the old wall across from the Allgates properties near The Quadrangle. Stones have fallen out onto the road in some sections and other sections have collapsed inward. Substantial restoration and preservation work is needed.

In 1997, our own Peg Johnston wrote to Allgates residents about the deteriorating condition of the wall, but no interest was expressed at that time. PennDOT had been planning to demolish the wall for the safety of the travelers on the roadway. ❀

Historic Brookthorpe Station on Haverford State Hospital Grounds

by Carolyn Joseph

At the end of the township at 300 Marple Road on the grounds of the Haverford State Hospital, is a property called Brookthorpe Station (at Marple and Darby Creek).

Originally, the 1790 section of Brookthorpe was a "one over one" having only one room with a large fireplace on the first floor and a bedroom above. It was a late 18th century-style house. Philip Moore owned the 1790 property.

The house was called Brookthorpe Station because, in 1875, the right-of-way for the Philadelphia and Chester County Railroad ran by the house. The railroad ran through the property and the trestle behind the springhouse carried the tracks that went on to Newtown Square. Today, it falls within the Blue Route area.

The 1790 stone house, now the rear section of the home, has a large walk-in fireplace with heavy lintel and its original crane, windowsill drawer, and winder stairs. (Winder stairs are stairs having one end wider than the other as in a spiral staircase.) The front section of the house was built around 1840-1850. Both sections have rare Pennsylvania yellow pine floors.



Wall... Continued from column 1.

The grant will provide for repair and the installation of drainage to prevent future deterioration.

According to Commissioner Joseph Kelley, "Senator Tilghman is a powerful advocate for Haverford Township and has sponsored numerous grant applications for us in the past. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf." ❀

NITRE HALL UPDATE

Look for scaffolding to go up on April 17th in preparation for the stucco removal. Township Manager Tom Bannar and contractor Ted Nichols signed a contract on March 6th. The building will be closed for safety probably until the end of June. There will be lots of dust. Windows will be boarded and sealed with plastic to protect them and keep out some of the dust. Paintings and artifacts will be moved away from the outside walls. The two yew trees on the north side of the Nitre Hall will be removed for access to the building.

Renee Coffey has worked tirelessly to bring the many players together for this project and is happy to see the start of the renovation work. Funding is provided through the Township and through a grant from the PA Historical and Museum Commission.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

PLACE: LANERCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TIME: THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000 AT 8:00 PM

HERB GARDEN DEDICATION

PLACE: NITRE HALL, KARAKUNG DRIVE
TIME: SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 1:00 PM

TOURS

PLACES: FEDERAL SCHOOL, DAIRY AND COOPERTOWN ROADS
LAWRENCE CABIN ON KARAKUNG DRIVE
TIME: FIRST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
THROUGH JUNE, PENDING AVAILABILITY OF GUIDES

Book Recommendation:

So Serve It Up: Eighteenth Century English Food Ways in Eastern Pennsylvania by Clarissa Dillon. Ms. Dillon is an HTHS member and a well-known speaker on colonial domestic activities. The book is available from the author at 768 Buck Lane, Haverford, PA 19041 ☼

Old St. Denis School to be Leveled

St. Denis Parish is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. Unfortunately, they will also see the loss of their original school building on the land of Denis Kelly's daughter, Sarah O'Connor on the east side of Cobb's Creek on Old Powder Mill Lane. Samson, Inc. will raze the old home to build new houses. The Society is working to document the site by photographing it and arranging for architect-volunteer Igor Kiselev to measure the building. Mr. Kiselev plans to make a detailed study, similar to one of the Grange, a copy of which he has donated to the Historical Society. It is on file at Nitre Hall. Without a preservation ordinance, such as the newly adopted measure 13-1 in Lower Merion, Haverford Township can expect to lose other unprotected historic buildings to developers. In 1997, an ordinance was drawn up for the township to establish a Historic Architectural Review Board, but it was never adopted. ☼

Federal School Gets Chilly Start

Responding to an increased demand, Mary Courtney and her assistants opened the Federal School program earlier than usual, on March 20. The chill in the air made the students' one-day 19th century school experience more realistic. The children also learned that in the 1850s, parents could pay tuition by providing firewood to heat the school. This year's early participants appreciated the roaring fire without having to cut any firewood.

In addition to the fourth-grade classes from the Haverford Township School District, who attend the one-room school for a day each year, groups from the Haverford Homeschoolers, Eddystone Elementary School in Ridley School District, and Waldron Academy are taking part in this hands-on educational experience. The Federal School will be busy until mid-May. ☼

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Call our message line at [610-789-5169](tel:610-789-5169) to volunteer.

Green Thumbs: Planting and mulching of the new herb garden. Saturday April 29, weather permitting. Rain date: Sunday April 30.

Cooks: Try your hand at the colonial waffle iron. Hearth cooks wanted for the May 6th garden dedication.

Library Aides: Curator Carolyn Joseph, with the assistance of Rene DeFiore, could use help organizing files at Nitre Hall on Sunday afternoons.

Historian: Were you living in Haverford Township during World War II? Randy Klein, who is working on the history of the township, would like to hear from you. *

Haverford Township Photos Getting Attention

Look for photos of old Haverford scenes decorating the new Marina's Restaurant, which opened on Brookline Boulevard in March. Similar prints are on view at Super Fresh in Manoa Shopping Center and have created much interest among business owners and private citizens around the township. *



Dues are Due!!

If your mailing label has a **green** dot, we have not received your 2000 dues. You can bring your dues to the April 27th meeting, use the envelope sent with the February notice, or send them to the address below. Individual memberships are \$10.00; Family memberships, \$15.00; Organizations, \$25.00.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



HTHS



610-446-7988

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2000

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 8:00 PM

Llanerch Presbyterian Church
Lansdowne and Park Avenues

Household Textiles in Colonial America

Speaker: Jan Whitlock, textile designer, collector, dealer, and owner of Antiques, Textiles, and Interiors in Chadds Ford, PA. *This program was originally scheduled for the April meeting, however, illness prevented the speaker from presenting.*

Ms. Whitlock is a collector of 18th and 19th century fabrics, and a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

The speaker will discuss textiles from the Society's collection, including the Lukens coverlet, samples of homespun, a crib quilt, and a star pattern quilt top.

Board of Directors Meets to Brainstorm for the Future

By Mary Courtney, President

The mission of the Haverford Township Historical Society is clear: to preserve property, documents, and information of historic value and to promote and sustain interest in the history of the community through education. In an effort to administer our society and our historic sites to the best possible standard in the future the board met this summer for the first long-range planning session.

Now that Nitre Hall is getting a much-needed, exterior facelift and begins to look as it did when first built by Israel Whelen in about 1810, it is our hope to focus on the days of black powder manufacture and the Powder Mill Valley's unique role in this industry. Education about this period will be enhanced through interior displays such as graphic illustrations about the manufacturing process, period furnishings, and artifacts.

Another goal is to inventory and appropriately house the archives and library for public access. Policy for this and our collection must be written. A second strategy session is scheduled for November, when we will use the *Standards and Practices for Historic Site Administration* published by the Tri-state Coalition of Historic Places as a guide. The Standards provides a blueprint for actions as we strive to recruit new members, acquire funding for future projects, and reach out to the community.



Wanted: candle pieces and meat fat (no chicken fat) for the Colonial Living Program. Call 610-446-7988.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Colonial Village Meat Market Supports Colonial Living
- 2 The Baby Hospital
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 3 Have You Been to Our Web Site?
- 3 Progress at Nitre Hall
- 4 One-room Schoolhouse Guide
- 4 Welcome New Members

Colonial Village Meat Market Supports Colonial Living

By Mary Courtney

This Fall, with the help of Colonial Village in Manoa Shopping Center, fifth-grade students assigned to study the early nineteenth century lifestyle in Pennsylvania will prepare a different noon meal. Traditionally chicken soup, made with carrots, potatoes, and onions and seasoned with herbs from the garden, cornbread, and griddlecakes are enjoyed by both "Cabin" and "Nitre Hall" re-enactors. This year, to make the distinction between the centuries more dramatic, participants at the summer kitchen will prepare a beef stew and sweet potato bread along with the traditional Welsh griddlecakes and cider. All chicken and beef will be provided at a discount from Colonial Village Meat Market. Students will discuss the various ways of preserving foods such as smoking, pickling, and canning fruits and vegetables. During the day-long experience, differences in dress, tools, utensils, and commerce will also be noted. This field trip to our historic sites remains one of the most popular with students and teachers, and we are looking forward to seventeen classes from Haverford Township schools. Mike O'Kane will bring classes from Highland Park School and groups of home schoolers will also participate this Fall. ❁



Restaurant on Brookline Boulevard: from left are Renee Coffey and Sally Boyer, *front row*; Carolyn Joseph, Vince Snyder, Rene DeFiore, and Susan Faccioli, *back row*. Missing from photo are Mary Courtney, Dick Walker, and Sue Kratzinger. ❁

The Baby Hospital

By Carolyn Joseph

The next time you are traveling down Manoa Road from Havertown toward West Chester Pike, think of the Baby Hospital, which was nestled on the Haystack Farm. The main entrance to the farm is now Rockwood Drive. The buildings are long gone, due to two fires caused by arson. This country branch of the Baby Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1911. It operated until about 1939.

Many Haverford Township residents remember the hospital that was situated on the eight-and-one-half-acre property. Babies were brought out from the hot city of Philadelphia to camp out in the boondocks of Haverford Township. Five tents were divided into five cubicles each. Each cubicle could hold 10 babies. The idea was to use fresh air as medical treatment for the summer diseases of babies, particularly gastrointestinal problems.

The local community was involved in fund raising for the Hospital. A poster in the archives of the Haverford Township Historical Society announced a summer event for the Baby Hospital as follows.

Lawn Fete for the Baby Hospital

By the W.C.T.U. and Community
The Afternoon and Evening of JUNE 16, 1916.
(In case of rain, the Fete will be postponed to June 17th)

On the Fire CO. Lot, Cor, West Chester Pike & Darby Rd.
LLANERCH.

Cake, Candy, Fancy and Useful Articles, Fortune Teller,
Post-Office, 5 and 10 Cent Store, Rebecca's Well, Music,
Automobile Rides.

Supper from 5 to 8, 25 cents. Tickets entitling you to an
ice cream cone, 10 cents.

If you remember the Baby Hospital, drop us a line at
HTHS, P.O. Box 825, Havertown, PA 19083 or visit
online at <http://www.delcohistory.org/HTHS/>. We would
love hearing from you. ❁

After a planning session, Board members met for dinner at Marina's

Restaurant on Brookline Boulevard: from left are Renee Coffey and Sally Boyer, *front row*; Carolyn Joseph, Vince Snyder, Rene DeFiore, and Susan Faccioli, *back row*. Missing from photo are Mary Courtney, Dick Walker, and Sue Kratzinger. ❁

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP PRIDE DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 - BOOTH ON DARYN ROAD AT THE
SQUALLAM

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: LLANERCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIME: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000 AT 8:00 PM

FOURS: FREE FOR HTHS MEMBERS.

PLACE: LAWRENCE CABIN AND NITRE HALL.

TIME: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1-4 PM

NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING CABIN TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

SUNDAY 8, DECEMBER 10 & 17, 1-4 PM. TEA AT NITRE HALL

2001 CALENDAR TO BE MAILED WITH THE FEBRUARY MEETING
NOTICE.

Have You Been to Our Web Site?

Our Web site (<http://www.delcohistory.org/hths>) is a subsection of <http://www.delcohistory.org>, a site devoted to the general history of Delaware County.

Dick Walker is coordinating our Web site. He would welcome your suggestions for what new departments, data, pictures, etc. you would like to see added to the site. Contact Dick at htsprog@aol.com.

The Delaware County Historical Society Web site is the creation of Rick Nicholson, a professional web developer. He wanted to provide each of the county's historic organizations a free home on the Internet. Mr. Nicholson is also transcribing Henry Graham Ashmead's History of Delaware County onto the Web site. He would appreciate some voluntary assistance with proof reading the chapters, which are now online. Anyone wishing to help can contact Rick via e-mail at rick@dca.net or call at 610-558-2996. 🌻

Haverford State Hospital Environmental Facts

220 acres (60 acres developed)
33 types of trees, some dating back to William Penn's time
31 species of resident birds
130 species of migratory birds
1 clear stream

Progress at Nitre Hall

By Mary Courtney

In 1998, the Society was awarded a grant for stucco removal and repair by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Historical Preservation Grant Program. Now the work on the exterior of Nitre Hall is nearly complete. Damaged stucco was replaced; stained stucco was cleaned, and the old and new were blended skillfully to present a seamless surface. Two coats of Finneran and Haley Weather Barrier paint in Lulled Beige were then applied. The wood window trim, doors, and shutters are now their original warm, brown color. This shade is a match to a scraping of the original early nineteenth century paint.

Stucco removal afforded Dan Campbell of John Milner Architects, Inc. an opportunity to study the area around the second-floor door on the East side of the building, the door that would have been the formal entrance. Evidence revealed the existence of a balcony supported on posts and reached by a stairway in the center bay. It is our hope to rebuild this entrance in the not-so-distant future. Further evidence for the style of this stair can be found in photographs and an etching of the Lower Merion Academy build in 1812, which has a very similar second-story entrance.

During renovation, the connecting bridge from the retaining wall to the second floor West entrance, also know as the "ramp", was found to be unsafe due to insect infestation and wood rot. This bridge is now closed in the interest of safety and must be replaced. Planned for this entrance is new exterior lighting with a freestanding, period-style lamppost and recessed lights in the sheathing of the bridge.

Nitre Hall Mills was the second largest black powder manufacturer in the United States in the early 19th century. Nitre Hall, home of the powder master and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, remains the only complete building in Powder Mill Valley from this period. It is an important component in the Colonial Living Program, coordinated by HTHS and is a major element in the social studies curriculum of the Haverford Township School District. It is our intention to restore Nitre Hall to a close approximation of its appearance in the days when it was a successful mill in Haverford Township. 🌻

One-room Schoolhouse Guide Coming This Fall

Under One Roof: a Travelers' Guide to America's One-room Schoolhouse Museums. The Pine-Strawberry Archeological and Historical Society, through a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council, will publish a directory of historic one-room schoolhouses located nationwide that are open to the public as museums. Of course, our own historic 1797 Federal School, Haverford Seminary No. 1, will be included.

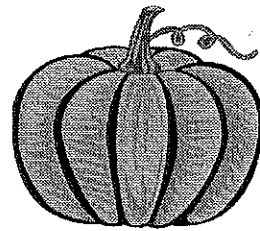
HTHS was also asked to include our familiar list of rules for a one-room school from 1798, which begins "Mind to have hands and faces washed and heads combed." Copies will be available at a discount for historical society members. We will also donate a copy to the Haverford Township Library.

To find out more visit their Web site at Pinestraw@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Members

Allan and Andrea Browne
Mike Barkheimer
Renee DeFiore
Charles and Lorayne Currie
Raymond and Marjorie Holstein
Michelle Hill
Billie Mniecznikowski
Joseph Razak
Jerry Sacchetti
Fred W. Sand

Welcome back Beverly Rorer



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

File Copy