

# HTHS NEWS

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

## General Membership Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2005 7:30PM

Llanerch Presbyterian Church  
Park and Lansdowne Roads  
Llanerch

### **HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS**

Sandra Momyer, past Executive Director and present Archivist of Historic Yellow Springs Society, will present the story of this historic village in Chester County, which spans 275 years as a colonial health spa, a Revolutionary War hospital, a famous art school and movie studio.

Refreshments \*Well-lighted Parking  
\*Open to the Public\*

### **New Membership Chair**

Tricia Woodman, elected to the Board in April has enthusiastically assumed the duties of membership for the society. She has already made her talents

*(Continued on page 2)*



Box 62, 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425  
Dedicated to the Historic Preservation and Environmental Protection  
of the Eighteenth Century Village of Yellow Springs

*I take history  
To represent us  
As in a glass  
Or as if the dead were returned  
To report to us  
The actions done in their time;  
It is a sort of pre-existence  
Making us  
To have always lived  
Or to have lived*

*And had knowledge before we were born.*  
William Penn

See page 3 for excerpt from research paper on Joshua Humphrey by Dick Walker. The entire paper and more on this Haverford "native son" is available to read at Nitre Hall.

known by organizing a "get to know us" reception for prospective members in August at Nitre Hall. More than sixty people enjoyed sipping wines from Chadds Ford Winery and listening to jazz guitar and saxophone in the glow of candlelight. In the library guests studied vintage maps and chose from several opportunities to get involved with the society, such as research, landscaping, exhibits and plans for a Heritage Festival in 2007. Jen Hufnal, who attended with her husband, returned the next week to plant our herb garden. Basil, thyme, parsley and chives will season the cooking pots of the Colonial Living Program this fall.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 2, 2005 Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin Open House 1 to 4 PM. Karakung Drive will be closed to traffic for this event.

Sunday, December 11, 2005 \*Holiday Open House 1 to 4 \* Nitre Hall \* Entertainment \* Refreshments  
Karen MacKay returns by popular demand.

Thursday, February 16, 2006 Membership Meeting

Spring, 2006 Haverford Township Adult School Six Site Tour including the Grange, Collenbrook, Massey House and the Swedish Cabin in addition to our own HTHS sites.

Thursday, April 20, 2006 Annual Meeting 7:30PM

May 20, 2006 HTHS at the Grange - Junior Girl Scout Program "Local Lore" Badge

Also in May: Dinner at the Massey House with the Lower Merion Historical Society

## Welcome New Members in 2005

The following individuals and families joined HTHS to date:  
Elizabeth & Arthur Borst  
Ginger & Gunther Carrle  
Janet & Larry Chrzan  
Laura Connelly  
James Coyne  
Monica & Steve Durfee  
Maureen & James Fay Family  
Jim Frank  
Deborah & Paul Goodyear  
Sally & Joe Lynch  
Norman MacAfee  
Robert Seeley  
Kristen & Martin Weis  
Rosie & Malcolm Woodman

### IN MEMORIAM

Martha Zerfoss

### LLANERCH SCHOOL 100 YEARS OLD

The Llanerch School, built in 1905 served the community as an elementary school and as the Township's first high school. The building, located at the corner of Darby and Llandillo Roads is now the Stratford Friends School. Sue Poth is scanning photos of people and events related to the history of the school for a celebration planned there.

**HTHS and Friends at LMHS Visited Harriton House in June.** As part of a program to reach out to neighboring historical groups, Gerry Frances and members of the Lower Merion Historical Society were our hosts at the Bryn Mawr home of Charles Thomson, "first and only" secretary to the Continental Congress. The historic 1704 house and park were originally part of the "Welsh Tract." Director Bruce Gill led the tour. Cool drinks and the spontaneous songs of Jan and John Haigis were enjoyed in the shade afterward.

## **Joshua Humphrey of Haverford: the Crucial Role of his Ships During the Infancy of the New Republic** by *Dick Walker*

During the twenty years from 1795 to 1815, the newborn United States came under attack by three different foreign powers: the Barbary States, France and England. The U.S. response to these attacks owed much of its ultimate success to the genius of a Philadelphia Quaker and naval architect, named Joshua Humphrey, born in Haverford Township. Joshua, grandson of Daniel Humphrey, who emigrated from Wales in 1682 and settled in Haverford, was apprenticed to Philadelphia ship carpenter (Penrose) and because of his talent was placed in charge of the shipyard upon his master's death.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, piracy and the white slave trade were the major industries of four Arab states on the north coast of Africa. Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, known as the *Barbary States*, were attacking merchant ships in the Mediterranean. These states acted independently, although they were supposedly part of the Turkish Empire. The "Christian Infidels" that they captured were held for ransom or sold as slaves, and made to work in chain gangs. Women were put into harems. Great

Britain and France were paying huge sums of "protection money" to the pirates so that their merchant ships would not be seized. When the U.S. became independent from Britain, American ships became prime targets. In July, 1785 two American ships were seized and twenty-one Americans were forced into slave labor. John Jay in Philadelphia instructed John Adams in London, to negotiate with the Barbary States. The treaty with Tripoli cost 30,000 Guineas plus L.3,000 for the Sultan's Envoy. Still, the U.S. did not have a Navy and in 1793, eleven US merchant ships were taken by the Algerians, their crews enslaved. Because of these atrocities, President Washington asked Congress for money to build warships to protect US shipping. Finally in March, 1794 Congress passed a bill to provide funds for six frigates for a navy. (After the Revolution, the first U.S. Congress had been reluctant to provide a standing army or navy because it did not want to give power to the central government.) Secretary of War, Henry Knox chose Humphrey and his partner, John Fox to design the ships. Together these two Quakers designed the strongest and fastest warships built at the time. The six ships were each to be built at different ports: the USS Congress at Portsmouth,

USS Constitution at Boston, USS President at New York; USS United States at Philadelphia; USS Constellation at Baltimore and the USS Chesapeake at Norfolk. These six frigates slid down the ramps in 1797 and soon proved to the world that Humphrey's designs for longer, wider vessels, rising low from the water, could out-run, out-maneuver and outshoot any ship on the ocean. The new frigates were first sent to the Caribbean against the French fleet attacking U.S. interests there and caused trouble for England in 1812. In May 1801 President Jefferson refused to pay more tribute to the Pasha and sent a squadron of ships to Tripoli. In 1805 U.S. Marines stormed the harbor and raised the flag over Tripoli. Over the next ten years, the U.S. alternately fought and made treaties with the pirates. Finally in 1815 President Madison sent Stephen Decatur with a squadron of ten ships to the Mediterranean and forced a surrender, including release of all prisoners, return of merchandise taken from U.S. ships and payment of damages. The many victories that Humphrey's ships and their crews achieved gave the U.S. the freedom to trade world-wide without interference, to become a world power and to establish its economy. Joshua Humphrey lived the last 30 years of his life at Pont Reading in Haverford.

### **Raggedy Ann 90 Years Old!**

According to the September *Smithsonian Magazine*, this beloved childhood icon celebrated her birthday in 1915. Look for Ann and her friends at the December 11th holiday open house party at Nitre Hall.

### **Happy Birthday Pennsylvania 1681 - 2006**

2006 will be a year-long celebration of 325 years of life and liberty, in cooperation with the Delaware County Heritage Commission. Historic government re-enactments and an early arrival by Penn at next year's River Ramble are some of the events planned.

### **Brent Paintings at Library**

The Haverford Township Library is currently displaying several of the works of artist Edwin Brent (1921-2004). Brent's minimalist landscapes and paintings of houses in the township were donated to the society last year and were showcased at the Tyme Gallery, with a reception in October, 2004. Mr. Brent, who was born in Mt. Carmel, PA lived in Havertown and painted many local scenes. He mixed his own bold, primary acrylic colors using a "secret recipe." Proceeds from sales benefit both the library and HTHS.

HTHS accepts gifts that reflect the history of the township. Thank you to *Laura Connelly - A Book of Shops* by Clare Bridgeman, illustrated by Charles Robinson, J.M.Dents & Co. London, 1902. *Ring-A-Round-A-Rosy* by Mary A. Lathbury, R.Worthington, New York, 1885.

*Matt Hufnal* - 100 photos and slides from the Haverford Township Police Department documenting township businesses, street scenes and transportation.

*Haverford Township School District - 1976 Bi-centennial Dixie cups.* 2006 is the 30th anniversary of this memorable event celebrated in the Township and County.

*LMHS* - 8 x 10 photo of the George Dickinson Grist Mill by H.G. Kurtz.

*Susan Kratzinger* - "The History of Oakmont School" May Day, 1976, booklet and

"The Future Use of Allgates", 1981.

**HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 825  
HAVERTOWN, PA 19083**

### **Officers and Directors**

**President** *Mary Courtney*

**First VP** *Dick Walker*

**Second VP** *Irene Coffey*

**Treasurer** *Vince Snyder*

**Curator** *Carolyn Joseph*

**Secretary** *Susan Facciolli*

**Membership** *Tricia*

*Woodman*

**Publicity** *Bette Ferrill*

**Education Coordinator** *Amy*

*Wolfe*

### **Members at Large**

*Sally Boyer, Donna Lunny*