



HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Spring, 2009

HTHS Membership Meeting April 19, 2009 @ 2:00 PM

Llanerch Fire Hall
Township Line Rd. at West Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083



Join us as Haverford Township Fire Marshall Bob Gove speaks to us about the history of fire departments in the Township. Of special interest at this meeting will be a tour of the underground maze at Llanerch Fire Hall that is used to train firefighters in our Township in rescue operations.

Refreshments will be served. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Haverford Heritage Trail

In the late summer of 2007, inspired by the well-received Sunday closing of Karakung Drive, Eagle Scout candidate Alex Hartley completed a stretch of trail along Karakung Drive from Nitre Hall to Manoa Road. (See HTHS News, Fall 2007, page 2.) This December, a second leg of the trail was completed on the Grange Estate from the Carriage House to Grove Place, by Scout Greg Hiebert. It seems hikers and historians mix well, as a project group has now formed to map out a loop trail connecting historic sites throughout Haverford Township. The trail as envisioned will travel along established roads and parkland, linking with the Haverford Preserve trails and walks along the Darby Creek. Another goal of the committee is to print a guide and descriptive brochure. For more information, or to attend the next meeting, call Mary Courtney at 610-446-7796 or email nitrehall@aol.com.



Sunday June 7, 11 AM to 4 PM along Karakung Drive

Planning is underway for the 2009 Heritage Festival. This year's activities will include:

- Open House/Tours of Lawrence Cabin and Nitre Hall
- Historical Re-enactors
- Photography Exhibition inside Nitre Hall featuring photos taken in Haverford Township
- Live Music/Entertainment
- Artisans/Crafters
- Antique Cars on Display, Model Train Display
- \$1 Pony Rides
- Booth/displays by local organizations
- Food provided by Boy Scouts and local businesses
- Scavenger Hunt and other activities for children
- Beer and wine tasting tent

The Historical Society welcomes all local organizations to participate in the Heritage Festival. Contact Tricia Woodman at johnwman@msn.com to reserve space at the festival for free. Artists and artisans are invited to reserve space for \$20.

Join us as we celebrate the natural beauty and unique character of our township and document it through photography for future generations. Submit your favorite photos taken in Haverford Township to be part of a Photography Exhibition held inside Nitre Hall during the Heritage Festival. Entries to the exhibition will be juried and prizes awarded to the winners. Contact Tricia Woodman for more information at johnwman@msn.com.

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From the Archives...



ARTIFACT RETURNED AFTER 30 YEARS

By Mary Courtney

When the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team won the pennant in 1910, the city of Philadelphia gave each player a large silver cup engraved with the team emblem, an elephant. In 1913, when the team was again “World Champions,” the winning players received a gold pocket watch. Many years later, Center fielder Amos Strunk donated these mementos and an 8X10 photograph of the “A’s”, bowling against the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Team, to the Society. Connie Mack and A. Merritt Taylor competed at a two-lane bowling alley in Llanerch. The artifacts were displayed proudly at Nitre Hall, until 1979 when the pocket watch went missing. No one active in the Society today remembers seeing the watch and its location remained a puzzle to Curator Carolyn Joseph. Now, thanks to the FBI’s art-crime team, the engraved watch has been returned. It is a Federal offence to steal artifacts from a museum.

In a 1975 interview with Margaret Johnston of the Society, Amos Strunk illustrated an early 20th century image of Haverford Township and its sparse settlement. The year was 1922 and he had been invited to visit Japan as part of a team “made up of players from various teams in the League.” They demonstrated American baseball in Seoul Korea, Shanghai, Manila and Hong Kong. In Tokyo, at the Imperial Hotel, Mr. Strunk was recognized by a young man who called to him, “Hi, Amos; I’m Lieutenant Cook.” When Amos could not place him, Lt. Cook replied, “I live just up the corner from you.” Mr. Strunk lived with his new wife at 25 Valley Road in Llanerch, and nearby on Manoa Road, “just up the corner”- with few if any other buildings in between - was the Edward Cook family home, known to many in Haverford Township as the “Jaworsky” house. Today it is being restored.

Amos Strunk, born January 22, 1889, played baseball from 1908 to 1924. He won four World Series – three with the Philadelphia Athletics and one with the Boston Red Sox in 1918. He lived in Llanerch, Haverford Township from 1915 until his death in 1979. The full interview with Amos Strunk is available to read at the historical society library in Nitre Hall.

Recent Gifts to the Society – Thank You

- Hand painted china stick pin holder, with gold gilt trim from Laura Connolly.

- The Pig and Whistle, by Ronald DeGraw published after the author’s death in 2007, donated to the archives by Chris Connell.





Holiday House Tour a Success

Saturday, December 13 was brisk and sunny - a perfect day to tour eight of Haverford Township's distinctive homes and support the historical society at the same time. Volunteer docents from the society greeted ticket holders at each home. Tour goers also stopped by the 1797 Federal School house for refreshments and to see the colonial toy display presented by Steven Pierce.

Sincere thanks are in order to all who made the tour possible, especially the homeowners who so graciously opened their doors and local florists, who donated poinsettias. Terri Dougherty and her committee hope to make the Holiday House Tour an annual event.



Colonial Living Fifth Grade Students Step into History

By Amy Wolfe

Colonial Living is a living history program provided to all fifth grade students attending public schools within Haverford Township School District. This unique and award winning program is run by the Haverford Township Historical Society in partnership with the school district.

Students at Colonial Living spend a day doing some of the chores and activities that early 18th and 19th century children did long ago. Colonial Living takes place at both Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin, which allows students the opportunity to compare and contrast lifestyles between the centuries.

The costumed students are all hands on when it comes to sawing and splitting wood, preparing a noon day meal, churning butter, hauling water in wooden buckets, and dipping candles. They enjoy helping with open hearth and cast iron stove cooking, a soap making demonstration and picking herbs from the herb garden. The day is capped off with tours of both Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin.

Guides attired in colonial garb lead the students through the day's activities, while sharing information on colonial children's lives and local history. Much of the information that's shared with the students at Colonial Living was common knowledge for the original inhabitants of Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin, but with time, progress and technology it's been forgotten. With that in mind, we offer some long lost Colonial Living "fun facts".

Did you know . . .

- That butter is churned from cream?
- That churning time is greatly influenced by the air temperature?
- That buttermilk is the byproduct of the butter churning process?
- That candles were made from beeswax, tallow, spermaceti, or bayberries?
- That it takes about 60 dips to make a decent sized candle?
- That candles dipped in a copper pot take on a pale green patina?
- That simple soap is made from beef, pork or lamb fat, lye and water?
- That simple soap is very good for removing grass and dirt stains from clothing?
- That simple soap starts out white and turns brown as it ages?
- That wooden buckets leak until they've absorbed enough water to swell the wood?
- That water buckets were carried on wooden yokes straddling the shoulders?

These are a very few of the "fun facts" the children at Colonial Living learn. For recipes used at Colonial Living visit the HTHS website at www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org.

The Brookline Club of Haverford

by Jill Leonardi



1/20/1960 The "coffee Hour" to benefit the high school scholarship fund was held 9:00 to noon at the home of Mrs. Simmitt J. Leoper of 516 Kathmere Rd, education chair. Orange juice, coffee, and a variety of home made buns and coffee cakes were served. A total of 53 women attended for a profit of \$34.30.



Dessert bridge parties were started by Mrs. Simmitt J. Loepper, Ed. chairman in 1959 and parties were continued in members' homes during the winter months. The profit from these parties was expected to amount to \$300.00 and was to benefit the Brookline Scholarship Fund.



1955 photo from the dedication ceremony for Mrs. A.P. "Hilly" Johnson. A monetary gift was given from the Brookline Club to construct a Swedish fire place at Camp Sunset Hill, Girl Scout camp. Mrs. Johnson was involved with the Brookline Club from 1939, served as chairman of committees, president, advisor and director until her death in 1954.

While going through a recent donation to the Historical Society, I made an important discovery concerning the history of the 20th century woman. Women's clubs have contributed significantly to help keep communities strong and vibrant. They are powerful, tireless guardians of our community. It is the Brookline Club of Haverford, Pennsylvania in particular to which I give my most humble and sincere thanks for this profound discovery.

Though no longer an active organization, the women of this club donated their time and energy for over 70 years in selfless service to the needs of their community. Organized in 1912, the Brookline Club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1926. They served Haverford faithfully until the club disbanded in the mid-1980's.

Through this volunteer organization, these women were able to weave a security blanket big enough to reach nearly every corner of our community. They funded scholarships for local girls to attend college, knitted afghans for the hospital and stump woollies for amputees coming home from WWII. The kind of support the women at the Brookline Club gave was at times as simple as donating glasses to students in need or it could be as demanding as their tireless efforts during WWII to help raise money for the war. All this they did and much, much more.

To truly understand the impact this club had on our community we need only to look at today's women's clubs. They are still here, tirelessly weaving that security blanket.

I leave you with a quote from Mrs. Frank D. Wilson found in her May 3, 1944 Brookline Club President's Report:

*"I bring to you no message graced
with the wonders I have done,
No great achievements can I show
at this years set of sun,
But Humbly I submit to you the
daily record of my task,
And if you please to say it's good,
'tis all that I shall ask,
I've tried to give my best, with
heart and courage strong,
While I've prayed for keener
vision, that my acts might not be
wrong,
Perhaps I've erred in judgment,
have not clearly seen the way,
Yet I'm sure you'll judge me kindly,
by what I've tried to do each day."*

Volunteer Jill Leonardi has been working with Curator Carolyn Joseph to sort through the records of the Brookline Club.





UPenn Fraternity Pledges Dig into History

The Historical Society is grateful once again for the hard work and community spirit of pledges from the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at the University of Pennsylvania. On Saturday, March 21, a crew of nineteen young men arrived at Nitre Hall to put in a day's worth of work to assist the Historical Society. The group hacked down a bamboo grove and did a spring clean-up of the site as well as cleaning up the summer kitchen and Lawrence Cabin in preparation for the June 7 Heritage Festival. Special thanks to Kevin Olsavksy (and his daughter Erin!) who coordinated the pledges and spent his Saturday helping us too!



Help for Researchers: Online Sites to visit



NewspaperARCHIVE.com to research The Newspaper Archives of Delaware County Library. The

Chester Daily Times, Chester Evening Times, Chester Reporter, And Delaware County Daily Times are some of the papers available. Search by date, name or keyword. The top search is obituaries, followed by WWII, earth quakes, births and weddings. Death Certificates on line. There is a grassroots movement underway to get older Pennsylvania state death certificates available online. The group working on this asks that anyone interested in genealogy and history writes to State Senator Edwin Erickson and Governor Rendell. Visit the site at <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHr-Access.htm> for information and sample letters.

Friends of the Grange

Myrtle Avenue, Havertown, PA

35th Anniversary Season 2009 Spring/Summer Program Calendar

April 4, 9 AM – 1 PM

Attic Treasures & Spring Flower Sale

Special Welcome Spring Mansion Tours 10 am -4 pm

April 26, 1 - 4 PM

Arbor Day Ceremonies Tree planting and Choral Concert by Seventh Heaven conducted by Seth Gardner

May 3, 1 PM

Mimosa, Tea and Tour presented by FOG \$25/pp

May 7, 7 PM

Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Managers

May 16, 10 – 11:30 AM

Composting Workshop, \$5 donation pp

May 28, 6-8 PM

"Savor the Flavor of Haverford" Local Restaurants present their specialties! \$20/pp

July 3, 7 PM

Independence Eve Celebration with Carl Homan as "Marquis de Lafayette"

August 5, 7 PM

Magic Show and Ice Cream Treat with Chad Juros

August 29, starting at 9 AM

Honey Harvest at the Grange Estate

September 26, 9 AM – 1 PM

Baked Goods and Attic Treasures Sale

For more information, please call the Friends of the Grange, 610-446-4958, and leave a message and someone will be happy to return your call.

Deeds and Other Historic Records Available for Purchase

Mr. Jim Reese of Ambler has 18th century real estate documents pertaining to Haverford Township which are interesting and valuable to the historian and collector. Mr. Reese has numerous deeds and other 18th and early 19th century documents, many with notable signatures, available for sale. Some of the more famous signatures which may be found in his collection are of Bishop William White, Samuel Garrigues, Jr., Joseph Hopkinson, whose father signed the Declaration of Independence, artist Jacob Rush, Jacob Humphreys, Henry Lewis and William Whelan. Mr. Reese may be reached at 215-542-8600. **Page 3 of the Fall 2008 Newsletter listed Mr. Reese's phone number incorrectly. Please take note of the correct number as listed here.**



STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!

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www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming HTHS Events

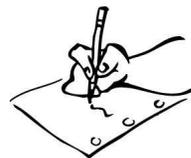
April 19 2 to 4 PM
Annual Membership Meeting featuring speaker
Bob Gove, Haverford Township Fire Marshall
@ Llanerch Fire Hall

May 17 3 PM
Llanerch Crossing Park Sign Dedication

June 7 11 AM to 4 PM
2009 Heritage Festival along Karakung Drive

Welcome New Members

Cynthia Porrini
Helene Hutelmyer
The R. Scott McClatchy Family
George & Valerie Harding



Send your suggestions, comments
and feature ideas for the HTHS
Newsletter to Tricia Woodman at
johnwman@msn.com or leave a
message at 610.446.7988.

*Check out the Spring/Summer Issue of Hav-a-Good Times to
find out when Karakung Drive Sunday closings will begin!*