

HTS NEWSLETTER



Volume VI Number 1

Spring 1977

HOW WAS YOUR BICENTENNIAL?

We of the Haverford Township Historical Society feel that we did ourselves proud with our four sites being open - The Grange, manned by The Friends of The Grange, Nitre Hall (see other story), The Lawrence Cabin Museum, and the Federal School, thanks to the fine efforts of the Optimists.

Now, we have a new challenge to face. Many of us found a real pleasure in visiting these historic spots, both locally and further afield. Hopefully we will want to continue this practice.

It would be more than a pity to have to keep our own special places closed for want of a guide. Don't get scared - this doesn't mean any more than a person keeping the place open and willing to greet any visitors. Information is supplied as needed. We need volunteers to spend a few pleasant hours at the Lawrence Cabin, the Federal School, and Nitre Hall. Last year's guides were supplied by the County Bicentennial Fund. This year, we must depend on YOU. Then we can have our places open Sunday afternoons and possibly on Saturdays. After all the time spent on getting them ready, we can't just sit by and close up.

If you can find a possible time to spend a few pleasant hours in the summer months some fine afternoon, why not drop a line to our Curator, Mrs. Margaret Johnston, 805 Lawson Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083, or to the editor, Miss Sue Loder, 307 Joseph Court, Upper Darby, Pa. 19082. A post card will be fine. Or try phoning the editor at FL2-0611 - the editor just might be home.

You may have signed up to help at our April meeting, but we need reassurance! Also, while you are doing yourself the favor of getting interestingly involved, if you can help in any way at Heritage Day (May 21 - see other story), add this to your note. We need people to take tickets, sell at the Powder Keg table, and donate goodies of all kinds.

One more thing! if you would be interested in helping with filing and/or helping organize the material to go into the office at Nitre Hall, please put that in your note.

Thanks, and the editor is really looking forward to some mighty interesting mail! Don't disappoint her!

Allgates in Its Heyday: The Personages Surrounding It.

By Howard Greenburg

(Allgates has been in the news lately as the home of the Alternative School for the Haverford Township Senior High School. This property was acquired by the School District in 1968 - two parcels of land were obtained. One was approximately 15.6 acres from the Little Sisters of the Assumption, in March. In November, 27.4 acres were purchased from the Lloyd's. The Alternative Program has been open to any student of the Senior High School on a voluntary basis. Approximately 100 students have attended from 9:45 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. with four teachers. Additional classes were held at the regular High School as needed. Four teachers were available. Five large rooms on the first floor have been used. The second floor of the building has been used for coordinators' offices and staff pupil services.

The following article was written by Howard Greenberg in November 1976 for English 10. With his permission, it is presented, slightly abridged, as a most interesting view of a not too distant past. Mr. Greenberg is now attending George Washington University.)

Foreward

Last year I had the good fortune to attend Allgates Alternative Program of the Haverford Township, Pennsylvania, School District. This program is located on, and is named after, an old estate.

During one of my classes, I glanced up at the stained glass window which I had been sitting under since the beginning of the school year. And realized, while enjoying the sun shining through the multitude of colors in the shape of a Spanish galleon on the sea that Allgates must have been an extraordinary place in its day. It was then that I decided I would investigate some of the history of Allgates. This paper is the result of that research

"One of the estates that has brought fame to Pennsylvania is Allgates belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Gates Lloyd of Haverford, Pa." So said James Boyd in his book, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 1827-1927. Today, Allgates is not the place it used to be. This writer will describe Allgates as it was in the time that Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd resided there.

Allgates was named by Mrs. Lloyd. The name's derivation comes from the fact that there were eleven gates on the original property. Mrs. Lloyd's maiden name was Windgate as is the middle name of one of her sons, Richard Windgate Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd's middle name was Gates as is their other son's name. Therefore the name Allgates

The building was designed by the leading architect in Philadelphia at the time, Mr. Wilson Eyre. It was started in 1910 and completed in 1912.. Additions were made in 1924 and 1930. This is the basic structure as it exists today. (short biography of Wilson Eyre follows.)

Allgates is hidden from the road by a long relatively high stucco wall, constructed of New Jersey sandstone. One enters the property through wrought iron gates that were made by Samuel Yellin in 1917. Once inside the gates, a road leads to a forecourt which is bounded on two sides by a low stucco wall. The third side is bounded by the house. The road runs parallel to the house. Opposite the house is an elevated terrace. Inside the forcourt, and planted all around the property, are varieties of rare trees. In the center of the forecourt is a pool with an urn, which has rams heads carved on either side. These heads face the elevated terrace and the entrance to the house.

The entrance part of the building extends out under twin gables to the road which branches off and circles the pool. To the left of the entrance are two cathedral windows which reach to the three story height of the building. Further left, part of the building extends out to meet one of the low stucco walls. This extending out of the entrance and the extending out of the other part of the house forms an alcove which is bounded on the open side by a balustrade of carved Indiana limestone.

To the right of th entrance this pattern of the alcove is repeated. However, the extension on the right is only a story and a half in height, as contrasted to three stories on the left side of the entrance. If one takes in a whole view of the front, it will show an asymetrical facade. This is a mark of Mr. Eyre's design.

The house itself is made of a pale yellow, almost neutral New Jersey sandstone. The windows have "deep blue shutters," and the building is covered with ivy. The roof consists of intersecting

gavles, made of slate. The various gables slope down, occasionally pierced by third floor dormer windows. The pieces of slate range from small at the top to large at the bottom, and are colored in shades of red, blue, green, and purple.

The house is entered through a small enclosed porch, which is bounded by three archways which face the pool. Passing through the middle one, the front door is reached. The slightly oversized door is square, oaken, has huge decorative hinges and has a cluster of four frosted glass panes at eye level.

The first room entered is the vestibule. Here one notices the Mercer Tile floor, similar to the front porch. This is one of the first signs of Mr. Eyre's craftsmanship in construction. The walls are paneled oak. Directly across the vestibule are a pair of french doors which open out onto a landing. In front of the landing, down a few steps, is the sitting room. Parallel to the steps are columns of hand-chiseled, beveled oak. The columns are connected by alternating hand-chiseled large and small gothic arches. This is another sign of Mr. Eyre's care for craftsmanship in his structures.

In the sitting room, directly across from the entrance, is a pair of tall french doors. Here is seen a view of the gardens, and a magnificent view of the Pennsylvania countryside. The Lloyds called this simply, "The View." The ceiling is exposed beams and plaster. The beams are similar in composition to the aforementioned columns. To the left is a fireplace with a black marble hearth, an intricately carved wood mantle, and a hidden doorway which leads to the dining room. To the right are entrances to the logia and living room.

The logia runs parallel to the living room and takes a right turn to follow the living room. It terminates at a hall which leads to the part of the house that was added in 1924. In warm weather, the windows of the logia can be removed to admit fresh air. The floor is also Mercer Tile.

The living room is reached from the sitting room through a pair of large paneled oak sliding doors. On the side adjacent to the logia are four pairs of french doors. The ceiling is the same exposed beam and plaster as the sitting room. At the end of the room is a fireplace, which has a hearth of Mercer Tiles and a pair of praying angels carved into the wood mantle. To the left

of the fireplace a pair of French doors that open into the logia. To the right of the fireplace, a pair of paneled oak doors open out into the hall where the logia ends. Again, the floor is made of Mercer Tile. However, the tile is larger and more colorful than most of the other tile found throughout the house. To the right of this exit from the living room is an elevator which connects the basement with the second floor library. To the right of the elevator is a door that gives access to one of the alcoves in front. Continuing to the right of the elevator is Mr. Lloyd's study or "The East Room."

The East Room is entered through an oversized gothic arched, paneled oak door. The end of the room has a fireplace with a hearth of Mercer Tiles. The ceiling is wood, with posts dropping down at regular intervals from the wooden beams. The windows, as are those in most of the formal part of the house, are leaded glass. Intermittently there are stained glass windows inside of the regular windows. These stained glass windows show another side of Mr. Eyre's craftsmanship in construction. Throughout the room are oak shelves. Across from the elevator is Mrs. Lloyd's library.

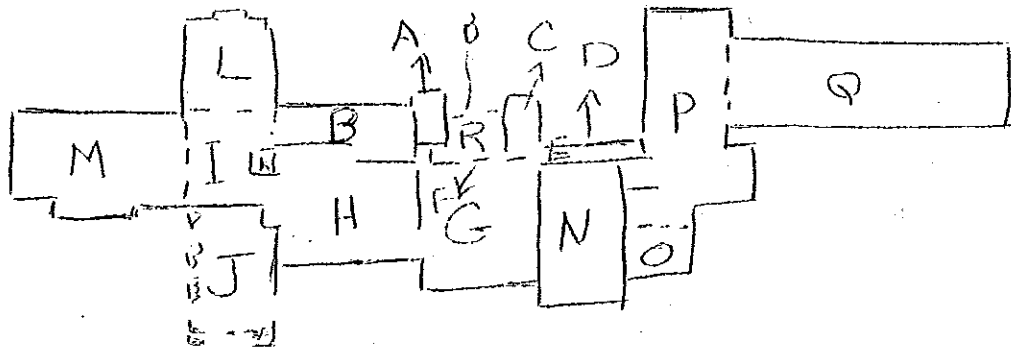
This library is entered through a pair of gothic arched, paneled oak doors, similar in style to the East Room door. Also, like the East Room, one of the doors has a decorative brass lever handle. At the end of the room are two large cathedral windows which look out over the Green Garden. On the right, in the middle of the wall, is a large stone fireplace with a gothic arch opening. The fireplace rises from the floor to the beginning of the gable ceiling, which is made of wood slats supported by wood beams. Opposite of the fireplace is a large bay window, composed of six separate windows, which looks out over the Iris Bowl. The library has the same oak shelves and paneling as the East Room. Mrs. Lloyd's library is the end of this part of the house.

At the opposite end of the house are the servants quarters and kitchens. Additions to the quarters and kitchens were completed in 1930. Between the kitchens and to the left of the sitting room is the dining room.

The dining room is entered through two sliding doors from the main hallway. At the end of the room is a bay window composed of three separate windows. It commands a view of the gardens. To

either side of this bay window is a pair of curved French doors. The doors to the left lead to the Rose Garden. Also to the left is the breakfast porch. The right wall contains a fireplace which has Mercer Tiles in the hearth. The room has white paneling.

(Mr. Greenberg continues with a description of the second floor, the gardens, and a biography of the Lloyds. If enough interest is shown, this part will be continued in a future issue.)



Allgates, first floor plan.

Legend

- A - Cloakroom
- B - Entrance with three arches
- C - Cloakroom
- L - Ballustrade of Indiana Limestone
- E - Alcoves
- F - Landing with carved gothic arches
- G - Sitting room
- H - Living room
- I - Hall
- J - Loggia
- K - Elevator that connects the basement with the second floor
- L - The East Room
- M - Mrs. Lloyd's Library
- N - Dining room
- O - Breakfast porch
- P - Kitchens and servants room
- Q - Servants rooms
- R - Vestibule

Lines are approximate - they are not drawn to scale.

Many of our members have attended the lecture and tour of Allgates. Since it is now in use, visits may be arranged by calling the School District and asking for the Maintenance Department

NITRE HALL - THE GRAND OPENING

As we proudly and officially opened Nitre Hall to the public in the summer of 1976, we felt a brief survey of the problems, growth, and remodeling (leaving out some of the very trying occurrences) might be of interest. As is said, "The mills of the gods grind slowly," but they do produce in time.

As a personal note, when the editor was taking groups of Fifth Graders from Brookline School down to visit the Lawrence Cabin, we would gaze in considerable awe at the outhouse, back of the cabin, which was in daily use. This seemed beyond possibility to the average pupil and we would speak of the great day to come when a bathroom would be INSIDE the house. (All former pupils, please note! This too has come to pass!

Nitre Hall was built shortly after 1800 by Israel Whelen, who started the powder mill. It was sold to Dennis Kelly about 1840. It was taken over by various owners who used the mills for the manufacture of cloth, and later spinning. Finally a Thomas Burns operated them until 1910 when the mills burned. He lived in the house into the late 1930's. From The Havertown Leader of August 25, 1976 comes the following:

In June 1927 a group of people headed by Miss Frances Wistar of Germantown purchased Nitre Hall and slightly over eight acres of ground, considering this site historically important. They installed Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Martin as caretakers in 1942. Following Miss Wistar's death the Board of Trustees, which included Benjamin Hoffman of the Grange and David B. Robb of Pont Reading, transferred the trust of a small amount of money, the building and the land, on January 21, 1958, "to the Township of Haverford to be held for park and parkway purposes in perpetuity for the health and enjoyment of the public."

In 1967 on May 6, a Haverford Township Heritage was held to start raising funds for the restoration of Nitre Hall. Lee H. Nelson of the National Park Service and a former vice-president of our Society was active in research of the house. The restoration project was under the supervision of John D. Milner, the Chadds Ford architect, with Robert L. DeSilets of Ardmore, the supervisor of the project.

In 1973, funds were received from the restoration fund of the State Department of the Interior. Both the Historical Society and the Township combined to give a matching grant. Wiring was begun with plans for a new heating system and a public lavatory.

One of the first gifts of furniture for Nitre Hall was given in 1972 - a wooden settee, connected with the Lawrence family, from Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Bye of Wallingford. This stayed in the Johnston hall way. Many other articles resided there until quite recently, much to Dr. Johnston's joy at their removal.

Again, from The Leader, August 25, 1976, we have pictures of furniture being fork-lifted in Nitre Hall by the Township trucks. Much of the furniture has been described in previous issues of the Newsletter, but it is interesting to note that many lovely pieces were given by the Robbs, formerly of Pont Reading. Mrs. Robb is a descendant of Israel Whelen, who built the Nitre Hall Powder Mills. Also, an Empire sofa, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. James Linton of Springfield, was once in Stenton Mansion in Germantown, and now looks very well in the completed room in Nitre Hall. The building was officially opened to the public in August 21, 1976.

Two affairs were held to give the members and the public a chance to see the Hall in its new glory. A tea was held on Saturday November 6. At Christmas, with appropriate decorations, including trains from the Santoleri family and exhibits by the Betsy Ross Doll and Toy Club, the rooms were open on December 18 and 19. There was a very special story-book tree.

Hopefully, soon the curator's office, with reference library and a display of the many articles already given may be opened in Nitre Hall.

Remember the note you are going to send to the curator or the editor? Please jot down in what way you could help in Nitre Hall: scraping, painting, filing, sorting, cataloging. We need you!

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

Margaret Schissler, our membership chairman, reports there are 232 members plus 8 civic groups or clubs. If you are a paid-up member, why not invite a friend to join? Also, do you have some old but interesting items you would like to have shown in our future museum? It's a good place to really preserve them and give a proper value to them. And please don't forget that we need help in keeping our interesting sites open this summer.

But above all, turn over and read about Heritage Day!

SATURDAY, MAY 21 - 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1977 - THE DAY IN THE PARK - HERITAGE DAY

Finally we come to the real meat of this Newsletter - the thing which has been working at the editor every since pen was put on paper. And most of it depends on YOU!

Of course, we can never give enough credit to all of those who volunteer their time, efforts, and talents to give the whole community a pleasant memorable day. It is a time when parents can share with the children, especially those who have participated in the colonial living project. In fact, it is a time not to miss.

In 1966, we had all of nine demonstrations, plus three exhibits. In 1977, we have at least twenty activities, plus some very special attractions.

If the sheep cooperate, we have learned that Mr. William MacCauley has our DAY on his calendar for 10:30 A.M. Then, through very early arrangement, we are promised the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Bn, 112th Field Artillery National Guard, Cherry Hill, N.J., at 11:30 A.M. They will be led by Pipe Major James R. Ross of Broomall; Drum Major Blair C. Stonier, Ardmore; and Staff Sgt. Dennis Turner of Delran, N.J. This will tie in well with the Scottish Research Society at the Grange.

Have you any rare lace at home? Mrs. Mary Hand will enjoy seeing it as she makes some of her own. You can also help Mrs. Marie Hagner make dough toys.

They will be near the butter churning, which will be outside the cabin. Inside, johnnie cakes will be cooked over the fire, and they taste mighty good with the homemade butter. You can even dip a candle to light the way home.

Have you spotted the silhouettes often found in old houses? Mrs. Anne D'Allura cuts them for you just as the colonial artists did and you have a great souvenir of the day.

One of our new exhibits is stained glass, with Mr. Joseph Sheldon. You'll find this, like so many other items, is another old/new idea.

We are lucky to have with us one of the true scrim shanders of today - Mr. Dana A. Coffin of Prospect Park. His work on whale teeth is a dying art, being replaced so often with mechanical tools. Dana does it all by hand as the old-time whalers did, and will be able to

show you something of how it is done. In fact, he is planning to start a class for all of you - not artists - who want an interesting hobby and a chance to express something of yourself in a different way, Be sure to talk with him about this idea.

Many of the schools in Haverford Township will be represented by teachers and pupils, demonstrating some of the crafts they have learned. Corn husk dolls are among the most popular, although mar-bleizing paper and writing with quill pen prove quite fascinating.

Of course, weaving and spinning will be well represented. It is amazing how many parents are becoming spinsters!

You will be able to purchase lunch at the Narberth Hoagie Wagon, but even better - we have "The Powder Keg" which will in time be the regular gift shop at Nitre Hall. For this, we need YOUR donations, of goodies, plants, and hand-crafted work. You were really so wonderful and generous last year. Even if you don't get called, won't you please bring us a donation? Bring it when you come.

Maybe we had better have a place for those who forgot to sign up to be host or hostess at the cabin and Nitre Hall this summer on Sundays, and hopefully Saturdays. Bring a friend and make a picnic of it.!

Mr. Lynn McCall will demonstrate chair caning, which is being done for Nitre Hall. And Mr. Howard Y. Cooper will take us back to the sailing days with his tools from the past that he uses for us to show how a sail was made.

Above all, so you can see where your efforts have paid off, go up to visit Nitre Hall. Miss Isabelle Knepley and Miss Betty McClain will greet you, and Miss Betty Graham will discuss the idea of finding out about your "roots" by getting a start into geneology. After all, that is a real part of a historical Society. Start searching through your old books, hidden away in the attic. You never know what may turn up!

Looking ahead, as we always must, have you considered starting something to donate to our Christmas Boutique at our Winter meeting? We had some marvellous wool hats, and there have noted some really elegant snowflakes, both crocheted and quilled. Maybe you could fill up a few hot summer hours, when you are not at the Cabin or Nitre Hall, by doing a bit of elegant hand craft. Think on it!

OFFICERS FOR 1977-78

President - Harry Irwin
419 Valley Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

First Vice-President - Ruth Engle (Mrs. John O.)
405 Kathmere Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Second Vice-President - Betty Stafford (Mrs. Frederick)
525 North Manoa Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Recording Secretary - Ann Blair (Mrs. B. Franklin)
64 Princeton Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Corresponding Secretary - Dolly Kelly (Mrs. Francis J.)
512 Wynne Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Treasurer - Harry Ross Young
329 Valley Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Curator - Peg Johnston (Mrs. Robert)
805 Lawson Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Directors - *shows incumbent

Pat Bolger* (Mrs. S. G.)
715 Panmure Road, Haverford, Pa. 19041

Olga Campbell* (Mrs. Russell)
705 Hirst Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Kathy Foden - (Mrs.)
Manoa Park Apts. LE 114, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Leon Fretz*
518 Wales Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Jeanne Hughes (Mrs. Francis J.)
703 Beechwood Drive, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Susanne Loder*
307 Joseph Court, 160 Long Lane, Upper Darby, Pa. 19083

Laverne Middlestead* (Mrs. C. W.)
109 Fairfield Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Dot Speedy (Mrs. S. G.)
620 Beechwood Drive, Havertown, Pa. 19083

Linda Stellar (Mrs.)
371 W. Lancaster Ave., Haverford, Pa. 19041

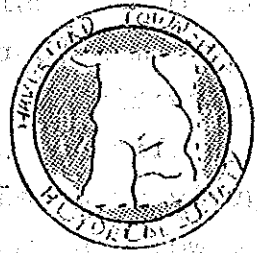
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HS NEWSLETTER



Volume VI Number 2

Fall 1977

Greetings from a fine cool Maine in the month of August 1977! We have, as usual, dreamed up a really fine trip for our Historical Society, so circle Saturday, October 15. Then save the day for a bus trip that will equal or surpass our previous ones.

We will go to Andalusia for a conducted tour of the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Biddle. Then on to Pennsbury Manor for a catered box lunch, followed by a tour of the house and grounds. More information follows on other pages.

We will meet at the Temple Lutheran Church, Brookline Boulevard and Earlington Roads, at 8:45 A.M. and leave promptly at 9:00 A.M. Our tour of Andalusia begins at 10:30 A.M. The entire cost of the trip, including bus trip, lunch, and admission is \$12.50. Please send reservations by October 10, 1977 so there will be room for you on the bus.

Either clip or copy the slip below and send it today, with check made to Haverford Township Historical Society, to Mrs. LaVerne Middlestead, 109 Fairfield Rd., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Mail by October 10, 1977 to
Mrs. LaVerne Middlestead
109 Fairfield Rd.
Havertown, Pa. 19083

Please reserve _____ seats for me for the Haverford Township Historical Society Fall Trip on October 15, 1977.

Enclosed is check for _____ at \$12.50 per person.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

COME TO ANDALUSIA

From a reprint of an article from the National Trust for Historic Preservation of Properties, 1973, we learn Andalusia was open to the public on September 15 of that year. The editor remembers vaguely of a beautifully illustrated article long before that in a woman's monthly, showing Andalusia and thinking what a lovely place to see. We decided to include Andalusia in our trip as it is probable that the property will be closed to the public as the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Biddle, are expected to take up residence.

Andalusia is "one of the outstanding examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in America. . . . Located near Philadelphia on a 220 acre estate on the Delaware River, Andalusia was the gathering place of noted American and European statesmen during the 19th century.

Presently owned by National Trust President James Biddle and his wife Louisa, Andalusia will be administered in cooperation with the National Trust. . . . The Trust will provide guides to show the house and grounds on a regular basis, but the property will remain in private ownership. . . .

Originally a modest late 18th century house, Andalusia was transformed into a country seat by Nicholas Biddle, who, in 1811, married Jane Craig, the daughter of the property's original owner, John Craig. In 1834 Biddle commissioned Thomas U. Walter.... to add two parlors to the house. The parlors were built within a three-sided colonnade, a copy of the Theseum in Athens. The library and kitchen wings were also added at that time.

The house contains furnishings and paintings owned by Nicholas and Jane Biddle and succeeding generations of the Biddle family. These include Philadelphia Empire furniture, Italian marble mantels and French girandoles and chandeliers. One architectural ornament on the grounds is a small Gothic Revival "grotto," built to simulate a ruin. The construction of such "ruins" was much in vogue in the late 18th and early 19th century in England. Other architectural elements are the huge stone walls of the original "graperies," also designed by Walter, which now border the rose gardens.

(Editor - A graperie is a building used for the cultivation of grapes)

THOMAS USTICK WALTER

As mentioned, Nicholas Biddle engaged Mr. Walter to enlarge Andalusia. In the Encyclopedia Americana we find the following about Mr. Walter.

He was born in 1804 and died in 1887. He studied architecture at the Franklin Institute and spent two years with the noted William Strickland, an outstanding exponent of the Greek revival period and designer of the First Customs House and the Merchant Exchange, among other prominent Philadelphia buildings.

Walter opened his own office in 1830 and designed, among other buildings, the Philadelphia City Prison and Girard College. In 1851, he became the Architect for the Capitol in Washington, D.C. and was responsible for adding the wings and the dome. He founded the American Institute of Architecture and served as its president from 1876 to his death.

NICHOLAS BIDDLE - 1786 - 1844.

Again from the Encyclopedia Americana Nicholas Biddle emerges as an outstanding writer and financier. He entered the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 10, later attending what is now Princeton and graduated in 1801. In 1804 he went to France as secretary for the U.S. minister. Two years later, he became secretary of legation for James Monroe, the minister to London. On his return home, he resumed his legal studies and served a short term in the Pennsylvania legislature. He then turned his attention to writing and worked on notes of the Lewis and Clark expedition for two years. This was given up as he became editor of Port Folio in 1812.

He served one term in the Pennsylvania Senate and was then appointed a director of the Second Bank of the United States and was elected its president in 1823. He supported a strong national bank policy. When the bank became a State Bank under Andrew Jackson in 1836, Biddle resigned three years later and retired to his estate on the Delaware River. He advocated such revolutionary ideas as shorter working hours, higher wages, and popular education. As president of the trustees of Girard College, he influenced its educational policy as well as its style of architecture.

PENNSBURY MANOR (AND WILLIAM PENN)

In researching William Penn, from my usual Maine source, the reader who already knows much of his life may be interested to learn that Penn, at 22, was sent by his father in 1666 to manage their Irish estates. He then acquired the suit of armor in which his only portrait was painted. Also in quoting from the Encyclopedia Americana, - "He took advantage of a little surcease from jails to marry, in his 28th year, Gulielma Marie Springett." She was much interested in his proposed home on the Delaware although she never saw America. After her death, he married Hannah Callowhill of Bristol in 1696.

Penn and his wife, baby John and Letitia were at Pennsbury only from the spring of 1700 until his return to England in 1701. The buildings fell into disrepair and were finally restored to their present beauty and are administered by The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The folder obtained from the Manor has valuable and interesting information which you will want to read.

Let us just remind you that the furnishings are of a period seventy-five to one hundred years before the American Revolution and it is the largest collection of 17th century furniture in Pennsylvania. Incidentally, Penn himself found that his manor was too far out of town for convenience and had to move to the city for a time.

Some of the outbuildings of this self-supporting plantation are conjectured but a tool shop and river barge are the latest additions for our edification. The gardens were planned by Penn who brought or sent many specimens from England. It is interesting to note that the front entrance was from the river through a formal garden. Be sure to see all of the different gardens on the property, including an Indian burial ground of to one side.

EDITOR'S PLEA

Ever since we heard that an amusement park had once been in Beechwood, our curiosity has been aroused. Anyone who has information about this would do a personal service by contacting editor -

Miss Susanne Loder, 307 Joseph Court, Upper Darby, Pa. 19082
Also try phoning at FL2-0611. Please do and also many thanks.

OUR HERITAGE DAY - 1977

Again, we thank all of you who so kindly and nobly helped us with donations and time on our Day in the Park. Although letters of appreciation were sent to our volunteers and exhibitors, this is a chance to thank all of you who did their bit, large and small.

We were delighted with the weather and all of our many fine plus factors. After much contemplation, the editor had decided to speak of our problems and hope you can come up with a solution.

Several of the exhibitors were unable to attend because of unexpected illness. Others promised to come next year but had previous commitments. So we need more demonstrators in order to avoid this in the future.

There was much discussion at the Executive meeting. The date, the 3rd Saturday in May, was questioned. After considering all angles, this still seems the best bet.

We even spoke of the idea of having Heritage Day every other year or even doing away with it, which is a very sad thought. We do feel that Heritage Day is of real value to the community and we thank "The Leader" for their fine editorial in the issue following our Day.

We decided to try even harder in 1978 to get more people involved and we already have several in mind. Here is where you can help.

If you know of anyone or any group who would be willing to contribute time and activity, please let us know.

You may contact the editor (address and phone on page 4) or the Curator - Mrs. Robert Johnston

805 Lawson Ave.

Havertown, Pa. 19083

or the president - Mr. Harry Irwin

419 Valley Road

Havertown, Pa. 19083

Another facet to consider is that our attendance has been dropping slowly but surely. We feel this activity is not just for children but is of real interest to all ages. Help us by telling your friends and neighbors. As the Bicentennial activities slow down and disappear, we have something to offer to all.

Circle May 20, 1978. Cancel or postpone all other engagements, reunions, or festivals and come to Heritage Day first. If you have company, bring them. Put off a visit until late Saturday or early Sunday. Above all, let's get some mail filled with ideas to the letter hungry editor. Even invest 9¢ for a penny postcard. It will be greatly appreciated.

VANDALS AT CABIN

One of the saddest things that has ever happened to our Society was to find that stones, bricks, and logs were thrown at the Lawrence Cabin early on July 2. It is all cleared up but it seems unbelievable that anyone should attack the Cabin that we have all grown to love.

Considering the number of children who have visited and enjoyed the Cabin, there should be a really sad feeling in the minds of all of those who have had such pleasant visits at that spot. Even though some thoughtless children fail to have the respect due its place in our community, hundreds of people have seen and profited by getting a glimpse of what life was like in days gone by.

We hope the Colonial Living Experience given to the Fifth Grades of Haverford Township will continue to give a real meaning to the lives of the pioneers who lived in our own neighborhood.

DOTTIE'S HERB GARDEN

In our next issue, we hope to have an article written by Dottie Speedy. She and her son, Chuck, planted a most attractive garden around the flag pole in front of the Cabin. She has also prepared a book which shows the herbs and how to identify them. We all owe her a vote of thanks. Also we owe ourselves the duty and pleasure of inspecting this garden. It was ready for us on our Heritage Day last May and we hope you have visited the Cabin since then and have noted that garden and how it grows.

The Cabin has not been open as regularly due to the vandalism and the clean-up following, but give Peg a call and offer your services for the fine fall weekends.

GLEANINGS FROM MAINE

When visiting in a pre-revolutionary farmhouse in Harriton, Maine, near the town of Waterford, one finds out many things, most of them new and strange to the editor. Hopefully they will be of interest to the reader, so here goes. Trivia holds forth.

When phoning, be sure to let the phone ring ten times. That takes all of one minute and that is not too long to give to a friend. Try it yourself! (The hostess did work for Bell at one time.)

Pig scrambles are a delight to see. Ten pigs and fifteen boys with sacks provide quite a show. The losers all got a dollar and one boy got five, as his bag which held one squirmy pig broke at the seam. He was given extra money to compensate for his loss. What would a mother say when confronted with one small live pig? Not all of the boys lived on a farm.

If you are peeling peaches in quantity, pour scalding water over the peaches and let stand for a minute just as you do for tomatoes. The skin slips off easily, and your nails can get quite dark, too.

One evening we went to the Lake Association Meeting. Never again can I look at a beautiful lake and regard it only as a thing of beauty and a joy forever. In fact, we learned of one formerly lovely lake that was killing itself with phosphorus from the earth without benefit of help from humans.

We must worry about the water level which depends on the rainfall. Some of the surrounding cottagers want it high, some low, depending on which end of the lake they live. A mark on the dam was supposed to be the desired level. Water depth can affect algae growth, good or bad. Also, no one owns the dam as the first builders are lost in history, but the state owns the lake and not the dam. It ends on two different properties and depends on the mutual good will of the land owners to keep the dam in order. This year, vandals added to the problem.

The state can supply answers to such questions as - what is the best mineral content? Is this particular algae good or bad? Do fish and mussels live out their allotted time or do they die an early death? The meeting ended with general agreement to ask two neighboring lake associations to meet with them and to get someone from the state to attend.

Another remarkable evening was spent in distributing food for the cooperative. We have such an arrangement for our local church but that deals in canned goods. This one had produce, rolls, and cheese, and covered quite a number of local groups. Some brave souls went to Boston, delivered the goods to South Paris, and these were picked up by another brave soul for five organizations therein represented. I was assigned to delivering cheese which had come in huge hunks. One lady weighed it, another wrapped and notated name of cheese, current price, and who ordered it. All the difference, plus or minus, was attached to the following order as you pay what you think it would be judging from the prices obtainable at time of ordering...Some of the cheese was short, so that an ounce here and there had to be removed. Then we ended with 3 pounds of unordered cream cheese which had to be disposed of. Thank goodness I missed the grain exchange which came two weeks later. That included honey and molasses to be weighed.

The whole procedure was held in the packing house of the owner of an apple orchard. I was shown the packing bins, which have a fork lift to completely fill a huge room with controlled atmospheric conditions to keep the apples through the year. When the temperature is brought down to the right level, the apple "breathes" so slowly that there is no deterioration. For some thirty thousand bushels, this is a necessity. There are government standards for size, and some of the smaller ones are sent abroad, especially to Denmark and Norway. About thirty pickers were in the process of being hired and all of the fruit is hand-picked.

The Waterford Historical Society had ready their ten-year history and it was being sold at the Waterford "World Fair" along with many of the local stores. True, it was a year late in coming out, but it was a handsome book with many photographs including the home of my host. Some of the historical societies are small enough that they meet in homes. Always there are some memorabilia to be displayed and discussed.

I cannot help but feel that Nitre Hall, in spite of the many problems connected with it, is something to be used and treasured.

BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES!

CALENDAR OF DATES FOR 1977-1978. PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE.

October 15, 1977. Saturday - Field Trip to Andalusia and Pennsbury.

Reservations in by October 10.

Regular General Meetings - Thursdays

November 17 - Mr. David Harry

Topic: Historic Homes in Ridley Park

February 16, 1978 - Reverend Knowers, Pastor of

Ebenezer Methodist Church

Topic: George Washington

April 20 - Mr. Albert Gamon, Member of Historical Advisory

Board of Montgomery County

Topic: Peter Wentz Farmstead

Regular Board Meetings - Thursdays

September 8

November 10

January 12, 1978

March 9

June 8

Heritage Day in the Park - Saturday, May 20, 1978

We expect to have our winter lecture series, so be prepared for some Sunday afternoons.

OFFICERS FOR 1977-1978

President - Harry Irwin

419 Valley Road, Havertown, Pa. 19083

First Vice-President - Ruth Engle (Mrs. John O.

405 Kathmere Rd., Havertown, Pa. 19083

Second Vice-President - Betty Stafford (Mrs. Frederick)

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Recording Secretary - Ann Blair (Mrs. B. Franklin)

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Corresponding Secretary - Dolly Kelly (Mrs. Francis J.)

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Treasurer - Harry Ross Young

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Curator - Peg Johnston (Mrs. Robert)

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