



The Haverford Herald

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events:

October 2

Oktoberfest @ Nitre Hall
7 PM – 10 PM

October 21

HTHS Annual Fall Meeting
@Haverford Twp Free Library
6:30 PM

“Railways in Haverford Township”
@ Haverford Twp Free Library
7 PM

December 6

Holiday House Tour
1 PM – 4 PM

June 5

HTHS Heritage Festival
11 AM to 4 PM

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HTHS FALL MEETING

Wednesday, October 21 6:30 PM
@ Haverford Twp. Free Library

Haverford Township Historical Society members are encouraged to attend our Annual Fall Meeting on **Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 6:30 PM**, downstairs at the **Haverford Township Free Library**.

The meeting is being held ahead of the 7 PM public presentation of “**Railways In Haverford Township.**” The meeting will include brief news and reports on Historical Society activities as well as a “members only” showing of Jenna Miele’s video on historic buildings, programs, and collections of the Haverford Township Historical Society. Please join us!

“RAILWAYS IN HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP”

Wednesday, October 21 7:00 PM
@ Haverford Twp. Free Library

The Haverford Township Historical Society and the Haverford Township Free Library are teaming up again to host an evening of “**visual history**” entertainment at **7 PM, October 21, 2015** at the Library (Mill Road and Darby Road, Havertown). HTHS history researcher, Rich Kerr, will be presenting “**Railways In Haverford Township.**”



Photo from “Havertown Then and Now” mashup series from Facebook group “[Growin’ Up In Havertown](#)” West Chester Pike by Manoa Shopping Center

Included will be the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad (part of Pennsylvania’s early “Main Line of Public Works”), the later Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) main line, the PRR Newtown Square Branch, the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company (“Red Arrow”) trolley lines to West Chester and Ardmore, the Philadelphia and Western Railway line to Strafford and Norristown, and the never-built PRR Darby Creek Low Grade Line. Don’t miss a delightful trip back into our community history!



Llanerch Junction - West Chester Pike (looking west) and Darby Road (heading north). The corner building in the center is where Llanerch Park (with its mural) is now

Coming attraction: Jenna Miele's video HTHS

The Historical Society is very grateful to Jenna Miele, a senior at Haverford Senior High School, who has spent three months planning, filming and editing a video highlighting the historic buildings, programs, and collections of our Society.

The idea for a video originated with Board member Rich Kerr. Nancy Diamond, consultant to our Board, contacted the School District's Public Relations Director Amanda Larsen who led us to English teacher Elyse Barrett. Ms. Barrett identified Jenna as a student with the talents and interest needed to take on the project.

Jenna began the project by outlining specific shots and scenes to include along with the required scene transitions, determining interview topics, and selecting the music. Next, she filmed interviews with Board members Irene Coffey (President), Rich Kerr (Historical Researcher), and Amy Wolfe (Education Director and Treasurer) and also with Haverford High English teachers Elyse Barrett and Sarah Chaga Crispin. In the video, both Ms. Barrett and Ms. Crispin, long time Haverford Township residents, enthusiastically recounted their experiences as students in the Colonial Living and Federal School programs. The video includes a lively "selfie" of Jenna who shared her teachers' excitement for the school programs. Backing up the interviews are wonderful images of our historic buildings and collections and of the Heritage Festival.

Jenna has loved filming and editing since she was a child and she plans to major in broadcast journalism in college. This is the largest project she's undertaken but she says the challenge of working with so much footage, striving to edit the scenes to create the impression she envisioned, and deciding what to cut and what to retain were great experiences.

The video was totally a volunteer project for Jenna. It was not part of a class or a club activity and she didn't receive any course credit for it. But she has earned the respect and gratitude of the Historical Society's Board, of her teachers, and of all those affiliated with Haverford Township.

Plans are in motion to air Jenna's video on Haverford Township's cable channels 10 (Comcast) or 38 (Verizon) and on YouTube under the title "The Haverford Township Historical Society". Look for it in the near future!



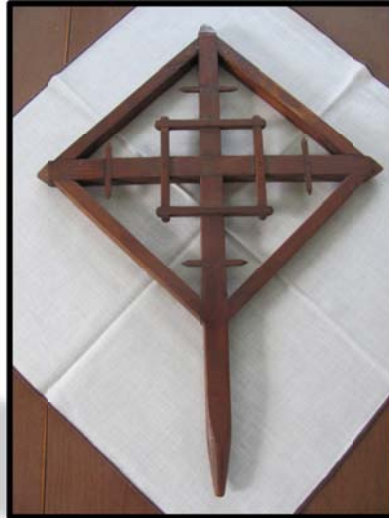
From left to right: HTHS president, Irene Coffey, Jenna Miele, & HTHS Treasurer, Amy Wolfe

Please take a moment to remit your 2015 Historical Society Membership Dues.

Your ongoing support allows us to continue our efforts to preserve and promote local history in our community! Individual Membership: \$15, Family Membership: \$25, Contributing Organization: \$40
Send your check made payable to "HTHS" to PO Box 825, Havertown, PA 19083

Mystery Item! Can you help us identify this artifact??

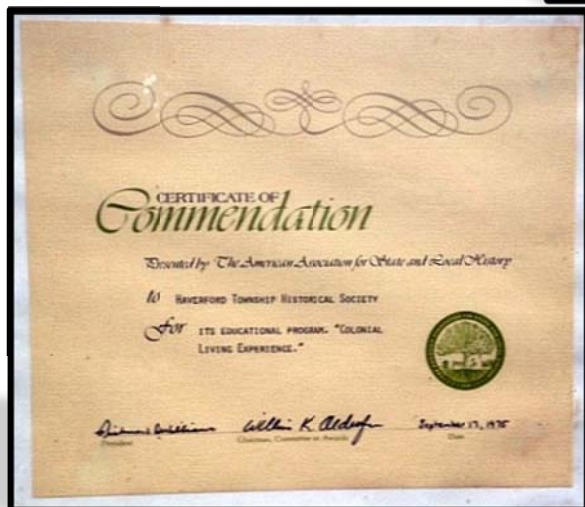
"This attractive artifact is part of the Historical Society's collection but its purpose is a mystery. Can anyone identify this item? You may email us at info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org to let us know what you think it is. Next newsletter, we will let you know what we found out. There are many mysterious items in our collection! This is but one of them! We are always looking for assistance with this type of work!



What is this item??

DID YOU KNOW...

The Colonial Living Program, a living history experience for fifth grade students run by the Haverford Township Historical Society in collaboration with the School District of Haverford Township, was awarded a **Certificate of Commendation** by the American Association for State and Local History in 1975. The program, conceived in 1973, immediately caught the attention of the wider historical community, and has been a favorite among students and teachers for over forty years.



Certificate of Commendation by the American Association for State and Local History in 1975

HTHS thanks sponsors of the 2015 Heritage Festival and the Historical Society. We couldn't do it without you!

Hoopty's Pizza

Wagner Real Estate

Vernalicious

Judy Winters, Frameworks of Delaware County

Jeffrey Wolfe, Carpentry

Suzanne Guelli Design

Merje Design

The Artfactori

Brew Your Own Beer

Mosquito Platoon

Haverford Township Civic Council

FROM OUR COLLECTION

The Haverford Township Historical Society is fortunate to curate a large collection of textiles, photographs, books, tools and many other items of historic relevance to our community. Many are unaware, however, of our collection of original artwork produced by Haverford residents.

One such resident was Wilmer S. Richter, who lived with his family on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Brookline section of the township.

Richter began drawing at an early age. Seeing his artistic talents, his mother encouraged that interest. His father, however, wanted him to be a pianist. Only after practicing piano for one hour a day was he allowed to bring out his paints. The piano lessons paid off, however, when Richter paid his way through art school by playing piano in his brother's orchestra.;



A31. Cobbs Creek at Ford

*Cobbs Creek at Ford (half way between Manoa & Mill Rds)
May 31, 1942 William S. Richter*



A30. Cobbs Creek at Ford Pencil Sketch

*Cobbs Creek at Ford (half way between Manoa and Mill Roads)
May 31, 1942 William S. Richter*

At age 18 Richter made \$18 a week working in an engraving shop. He also drew opera scenes for a German magazine published along with the records produced by the Victor Talking Machine Company, later known as RCA. Richter attended the Philadelphia State School and the Philadelphia School of Fine Arts. While in the service in World War I he made many sketches of war scenes. After the war he began to market his artwork, notably to the Saturday Evening Post. He joined the Philadelphia Sketch Club in 1918, an organization known for mentoring and exhibiting many of our nation's top artists and illustrators.

Wilmer Richter became a highly successful commercial artist, and resided in the Philadelphia area until his retirement in 1947. He took a teaching job at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, where he taught drawing, advertising art, landscapes and still life. Richter continued to draw and paint into his late 90's, when failing eyesight forced him to give up his life's work. He remained active in the arts, however, even headlining a one man art show in Florida. He passed away in 1994 at age 103.

Richter's reputation as a fine artist presented him with the opportunity to judge art shows at both the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarasota, Florida. He received the Life Class Medal from the Philadelphia Sketch Club, and is listed in the Who's Who in American Art.

The 38 pencil sketches and four water colors in our collection include scenes from the Cobbs Creek area of Haverford Township, and date from 1924 to 1940. Richter said of these sketches, "As I write this, I am occupied making pencil drawings of certain, sometimes unknown spots, often missed by tourists because of lack of time, or not being aware of these interesting places."



A29. Karakung Drive just beyond Nitre Hall
Pencil Sketch 1942 William S. Richter



Nitre Hall pencil sketch – William Richter 1932

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

“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 US 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-manuever and out-shoot any ship on the ocean. The new frigates defended merchant ships against the French in the West Indies and on Lakes Erie and Champlain in the War of 1812. In May 1801 President Jefferson refused to pay more tribute and sent a squadron of ships to Tripoli. In 1805 US Marines stormed the harbor and raised the flag over Tripoli.

Over the next ten years, the US 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, release of all prisoners and merchandise taken from U.S. ships and payment of damages. The many victories that Humphrey's ships and their crews achieved gave the US 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.

*USS Constitution**Joshua Humphrey's headstone – Old Haverford Friends Meeting Burial Ground*

Upcoming Events

HTHS Oktoberfest Fundraiser:

Friday, October 02, 2015
7 PM – 10 PM @ Nitre Hall

This year marks the 8th Annual Oktoberfest Fundraiser Event featuring, our annual beer garden (with 5 seasonal beers), light German themed refreshments, and music by Slippin' 50.



Friends and non-members are welcome to attend this event at the regular price. It's best to purchase tickets ahead in case the event fills.

If you are not currently a member or you need to renew, you can purchase or renew your membership to take advantage of the discounted ticket price.

\$20 / ticket for member & \$25 / ticket for non member. Check our website for more information.

2015 Holiday House Tour:

Sunday, December 06, 2015
1 PM – 4 PM

Tickets are \$25 for non-members, and \$20 for members. Ticket locations will be Nitre Hall and 500 E. Manoa Road the day of the tour.

The Holiday House Tour 2015 is December 6, so mark your calendars!

Please call Terri Dougherty @ 610-449-1571 with questions.



HTHS Fall Meeting:

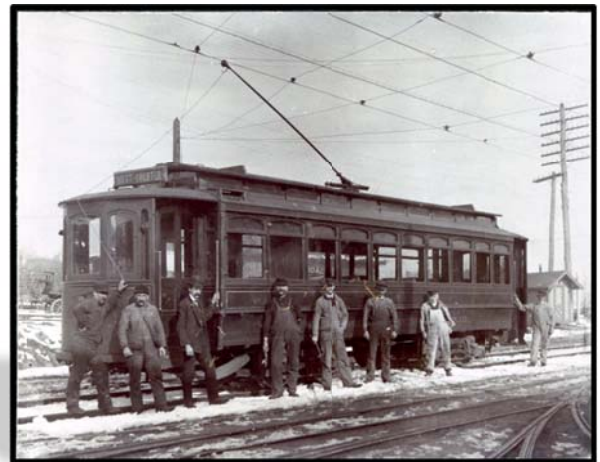
Wednesday, October 21, 2015
6:30 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library

HTHS presents...

RAILWAYS IN HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP

(open to the public)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
7:00 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library



10th Annual Heritage Festival along Karakung Drive

Sunday, June 5, 2016
11 AM to 4 PM



FIND US ONLINE!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Haverford.Historical

Flickr: www.flickr.com/haverfordhistorical

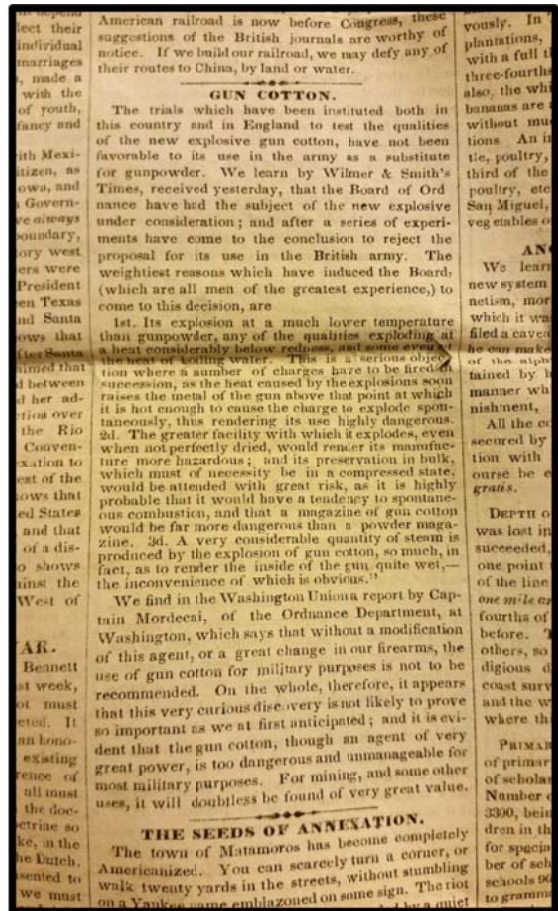
Twitter: [@HaverfordHist](https://twitter.com/HaverfordHist)

YouTube: Haverford Township Historical Society

Newspaper Clipping from 1846!

This is an article in an old Philadelphia newspaper called The One Dollar Paper. The One dollar Paper boast on its front page that it is a "Family Periodical – Devoted to Literature, Domestic and Foreign news, Agriculture, Education, Finance, Amusements, &c. – INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS." It was published by A.H. Simmons and Co., at the corner of Third and Chestnut Streets. The name The Dollar Newspaper comes from its price, which cost one dollar for a year. This particular edition was Volume number IV, Number 48 and was printed for Wednesday morning, December 16, 1846.

The article itself is about gun cotton, an explosive material that both the United States and England were experimenting with at the time. It explains that gun cotton is much more volatile and will explode at lower temperatures. A quote from the article states that they will not be using gun cotton any time soon. "...a report by Captain Mordecai, of the Ordnance Department, at Washington, which says that without modification of this agent, or a great change in our firearms, the use of gun cotton for military purposes is not to be recommended." The article continues to explain through that even though it may not be used for military purposes it probably could find great success in the mining industry.



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org