



The Haverford Herald

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

HTHS FALL MEETING

Wednesday, October 25

6:30 PM

@ Haverford Twp. Free Library

Haverford Township Historical Society members are encouraged to attend our General Meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 6:30 PM, downstairs at the **Haverford Township Free Library**.

The meeting is being held ahead of the 7 PM public presentation of **"The Mills of Delaware County"** The meeting will include brief reports on Historical Society activities.

Please join us! New members welcome. There will also be snacks!



"THE MILLS OF DELAWARE COUNTY"

Wednesday, October 25

(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!)

7:00 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library

Dan Campbell will be the guest speaker for the HTHS general membership meeting on October 25th at 7 pm at the Haverford Township Free Library. Dan will speak about the mills of Delaware County spanning several hundred years from the early Swedish and Dutch settlers to the Colonial English.

Dan will describe his process of researching these mills using maps and photographs past and present. Dan is an architect with 30 years of experience in historic restoration and currently the secretary for The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and the President of the Mid-Atlantic chapter covering PA, VA, MD, DE and D.C.

New members welcome.

DO YOU USE AMAZON TO SHOP?

Do you use air to breathe? Of course you do! AMAZON has a program called "Amazon Smile".

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Please make the **Haverford Twp. Historical Society** the charitable organization of your choice! **It costs you NOTHING!** Then all you need to do is use smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com when making purchases.

Go to our website for more information.



The Invasion of Haverford Township *(from the archives)*

By Andrew Morgan

During the British occupation of Philadelphia in 1777-8, the residents of Haverford Township were subjected to the only invasion by foreign troops in the history of the Township.

It appears that the British under Cornwallis did not prefer making raids on the communities surrounding Philadelphia. They would much rather have had the cooperation of our farmers to the extent that plenty of food for themselves and their horses would be brought into the city and sold in the market places. However, either from fear of personal injury and loss of their goods or from feeling of patriotic necessity, very little of the farm products reached Philadelphia during the British occupation.

Finally, the British, angered by what they considered a lack of cooperation, decided to take what they needed by force and during the winter of 1777 made four raids on the Haverford farmers and residents in general. It is recorded that they found our community an area of astonishing prosperity, barns crowded with stock and stores of crops, houses with large stocks of food and every evidence of a happy self-sustaining population.

The raids took place on December 10, 11, 12 and 17th, when not only were their homes robbed of food stuffs, but in addition, items of clothing, tools, livestock and even such personal items as combs, soap, kitchen implements, pots, pans and dishes. In fact, it appeared that every effort was made to prevent our home folk from being able to continue their existence except by being in dire need and if it had not been for the spending response offered by their neighbors who had escaped these raids, they would have been reduced to a very pitiful condition.

After the Revolution was over and peace once again was established, our government agreed to recompense all individuals for following notice was displayed in certain public places *"In pursuance of an act of assembly passed the 21st of September 1782, the commissioners of every county of Pennsylvania that had been invaded by the British, are directed to call on the assessors, to procure and return accounts and estimates of the damages that had been done by the enemy since the 18th of April 1775."*

The following accounts were settled for Haverford:

From Martin Wisp by Cornwallis		35 £	13 S	0
Jacob Charles	Dec. 17	135	10	0
Sam'l McClure	11	13	4	6
Philip Moor	11	41	17	6
Thos. Cornog	11	44	0	3
Mordecai Morris	10	27	3	6
Nicholas Pechin	12	285	6	6
Samuel Johnson	12	67	11	0
Christian Peterman	11 & 12	95	17	9
Elizabeth Davis, Widow	11 & 12	166	9	9
Griffith Davis	11 & 12	34	19	0
James Davis	11 & 12	23	5	0
Ann Davis	11 & 12	26	10	0
Total		1299	7	0

Volunteer Corner – by Amy Wolfe

In 1961 the dedication of the reconstructed Lawrence Cabin included a flag ceremony led by Havertown Girl Scout Troop 501. One of the Scouts present that day was Irene Coffey. Fast forward to 2017 and Irene “Renee” Coffey is the President of the Haverford Township Historical Society.

Renee’s father grew up in the Township. She grew up listening to his stories of the ‘20s, which led her to develop an interest in her paternal genealogy. An affinity for historical fiction and an invitation from long-time volunteer and board President Margaret “Peg” Johnston found Renee joining the HTHS Board around 1994. Over the years she has served as a Director at Large, Vice President and President.



A career librarian, Renee’s work at the libraries of Temple University, The University of Pennsylvania, Rosemont College and The Franklin Institute left her eminently qualified to tackle the cataloguing of the 600 volumes of the Historical Society collection. The collection primarily addresses the history of Haverford Township and Delaware County, and also includes old educational materials. The collection, housed in the library of Nitre Hall is important, says Renee, because “it reveals the social culture in generations past. The books give a whole different view of standards, values and norms of previous times.”

Renee’s work at the Franklin Institute fostered her interest in historical research. A project of which she is particularly proud concerned the Sheaff family. They were Haverford Township residents whose two sons fought in the Civil War. As a result of her research Renee was able to connect a pair of third cousins who previously were unknown to each other.

Over the years Renee has been involved in grant writing for the Nitre Hall stucco, the reconstruction of the front porch, and the CAP (Conservation Assessment Program) Grant, which resulted in the Nitre Hall Preservation Plan. As President, Renee has worked tirelessly to further the interests of the Society with Haverford Township, fostered relationships with the Haverford Township Free Library and local civic and historical organizations, spearheaded improvement and restoration projects for Nitre Hall, Lawrence Cabin and the Federal School, and dealt with the countless details necessary for the functioning of a vibrant and successful organization. Husband Jim, Renee says, is “extremely supportive of my activities.”

Renee states that her greatest satisfaction comes from the progress that the Society has made in reaching out to the community, her work on the filing and records projects, the restorations to the buildings and expansion of the collections. “I think for a small, volunteer organization we are doing an impressive and valuable amount of work.”

Eagle Project at Nitre Hall — by John Kirkland

On a scorching hot August Saturday, Boy Scout Aidan Wilds of Troop 144 and dozens of volunteers laid a new brick path from Nitre Hall, through a garden, to the stairs leading up from the lower parking lot. This new path will make accessing Lawrence Cabin easier, and is a first step to making it more accessible for folks with wheelchairs or strollers.

The project turned out great, and the Historical Society is very happy with the results of this young man's efforts.



Do you have any old candles??

Did your children enjoy colonial living in fifth grade? Would you like to help today's fifth graders have a terrific colonial living experience? Donate your old candles - any variety - to be used for our living history program. They will be melted down and re-dipped into "new" candles. Simply leave the candles inside the screen door at Nitre Hall, and thanks!



**HTHS thanks sponsors
of the 2017 Heritage
Festival. We couldn't
do it without you!**

**Sir Speedy Havertown
Hooty's Pizza
Wagner Real Estate**

Please take a moment to remit your 2017 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

You may also pay online using PAYPAL. [Visit our website.](#)

Native American Artifact Collection by Amy Wolfe

Visitors to Nitre Hall are invited to examine the Society's newly mounted Native American Artifact Exhibit. This exciting collection is on permanent display in the library.

In the spring of 2017 local archeologist and volunteer Mike Lenert, husband of board member Deb Lenert, completed an examination of nearly one hundred artifacts recovered in Haverford Township and gifted to the Society. He identified each item by age, material and function. They include projectile points, knives, hand mauls, stone axes and pestles, and were used for woodworking, hunting, butchering and food preparation. Also in the collection are a few pottery sherds and an ornamental pendant.

The items were crafted by the Lenni Lenape, the indigenous people of the region. Mike found that the artifacts date from a few hundred to several thousand years ago, a humble reminder that the history of our area did not begin with the arrival of Europeans. "We live in such a wonderfully historic town," says Mike, "and now this collection clearly documents a human past in our township that stretches even farther back into history!"



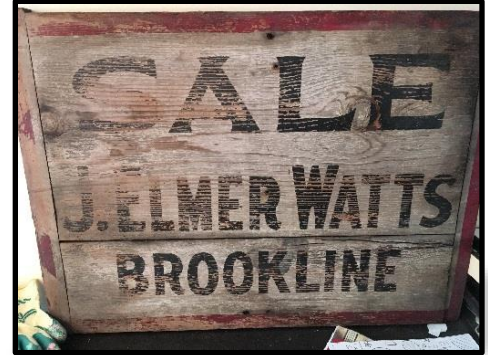
Nitre Hall Decorative Changes by Terri Dougherty

Many of you may not be aware that NITRE Hall has undergone several decorative changes recently. A new sign on KARAKUNG drive welcomes visitors to our historic building. A national historic register plaque has been added to the facade. We have replaced the carpets in the parlor, library and center hall. The antique sofa in the formal parlor has been reupholstered and many decorative items have been added. It is an exciting time for board members as we see many projects moving forward. Please stop by at one of our open houses, or the upcoming Holiday House Tour. Check our website for details.



Do you have Hidden Treasures... by Deb Lenert

While cleaning out her garage, board member Deb Lenert and her husband found this original sign, possibly for their own house on the 300 block of Kenmore Road. *J. Elmer Watts* was a real estate developer active in Haverford Township in the early 1900's. Photographs of a number of homes in the Brookline area were donated by Watts' granddaughter and are now available to search on the Society's website. To browse items from this collection go to www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org.



Then choose Photos from the main menu and enter "watts" as a search term. If you have historic photographs of our township, contact us by email: info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org.

Old News is FUN News... by John Kirkland

Thanks to HTHS Member, **Betty Murta Graham**, we now have access to a whole slew of old news periodicals from the township. Betty was able to loan us these treasures which we carefully scanned, and now we will be able to make them available digitally.

Below is a snippet from the "Manoa Herald" January 5, 1940 edition! Lots of fires in Haverford Township! It's a real hoot reading these old papers. Among the collection are a few copies of Eagle Herald, Manoa Herald, Evening Bulletin and the Haverford Township News. Members like Betty are a treasure – we'd like to extend our sincerest thanks to her for taking the time to organize these old newspapers, keeping such good care of them and loaning them to us so we can share these treasures with YOU! **THANK YOU BETTY!!**

MANOA HERALD

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN MANOA

Vol 1., No. 21 Manoa, Pa. Friday, January 5, 1940. Two cent^s

Automobile Fire In Westgate Hill's

Last Friday evening at 8:15 p. m. the new car of J. F. Keinz, 143 Fairlamb Ave., Westgate Hills, caught fire with total damage^s amounting to about \$150. The fire is believed to be caused by a short circuit in the light wiring.

The automobile was only 3 days old. A passerby noticed Mr. Keinz's new car blazing in the driveway and called the firemen, whose prompt arrival prevented a much greater loss.

Allan Postlewait of the Manoa Co. suffered painful burns on the hand that necessitated treatment by a doctor.

WILLIAM GUTHRIE

William Guthrie, 83, died last

CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE AT EAGLE BALL FIELD

Next Tuesday evening at 7:15 p. m. there will be a huge Christmas Tree fire at the center of the Manoa Baseball Field. Everyone is urged to drag their trees next Monday or Tuesday to the center of the field. The pile will be lighted as a sort of grand finale to the holiday season. However if it rains the conflagration will be held the same hour on the first possible evening after the 9th and you

Continued on page 4

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ORGANIZE FOR NEW YEAR

On Monday evening January 12th five elected commissioners were sworn in at Haverford Township's annual organization meeting.

CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE AT EAGLE BALL FIELD

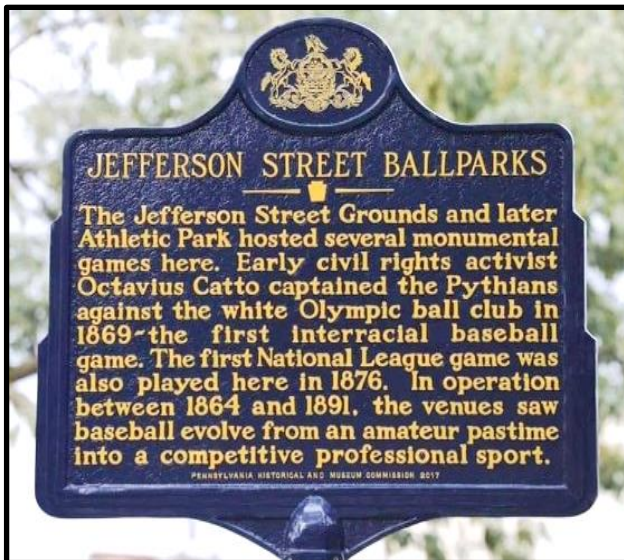
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will be notified of the evening by three blasts of the fire siren given at about 7:15 p. m.

If you live too far from the field and will advise the Township Building where the trees are being piled temporarily on Monday and Tuesday a township truck can haul your trees to the ball field on Tuesday.

Jefferson Street Ballparks Historical Marker

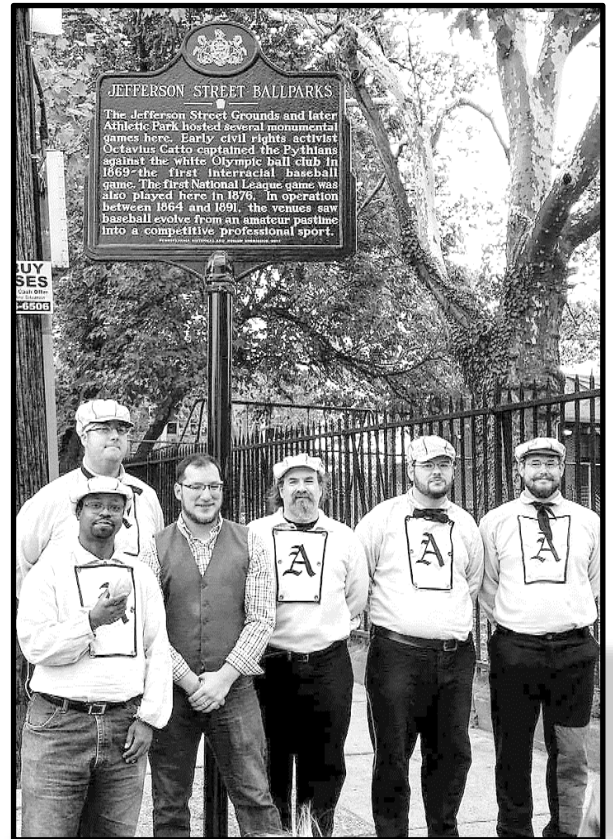
On Saturday, September 30, 2017, a new Pennsylvania Historical Marker was dedicated to the Jefferson Street Ballparks, located on Jefferson Street near the Athletic Recreation Center in Philadelphia. The dedication was the culmination of a year-and-a-half long research and fundraising campaign led by **Havertown resident Matt Albertson**, a Villanova alumnus and member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Matt is also an active member of the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia (pictured right) as well as our Historical Society.



The sign reads "The Jefferson Street Grounds and later Athletic Park hosted several monumental games here. Early civil rights activist Octavius Catto captained the Pythians against the white Olympic ball club in 1869 - the first interracial baseball game. The first National League game was also played here in 1876. In operation between 1864 and 1891, the venues saw baseball evolve from an amateur pastime into a competitive professional sport."

FIND US ONLINE!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Haverford.Historical
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/haverfordhistorical
 Twitter: [@HaverfordHist](https://twitter.com/HaverfordHist)



Members of the Athletic Base Ball Club – from left to right: Tyan "Bowtie" Smith, Ed "Lighthouse" Skirkie, Matt "Stoke" Albertson, Matt "Metal" Walsh, Tim "Toots" Rinehart and Dan "Victory" Gordon

UPCOMING EVENTS

HTHS Annual Meeting:

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
 6:30 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library

HTHS presents... "The Mills of Delaware County"

(open to the public)
 Wednesday, October 25, 2017
 7:00 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library

HTHS Holiday House Tour:

Sunday, December 10, 2017

12th Annual Heritage Festival

along Karakung Drive
 Sunday, June 3, 2018 11 AM to 4 PM

Upcoming Holiday House Tour Sunday December 10th

The tenth annual Holiday House Tour is **Sunday December 10th from 1-4pm**. This is a special tour and not to be missed so mark your calendars! Tickets can be purchased at NITRE HALL on the day of the event. They may also be purchased ahead of time from our website.

Check our website for second ticket location or call Terri Dougherty at 610-449-1571 for details!



Send your comments and suggestions for this newsletter to us via email:
info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
Editor - John Kirkland



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org