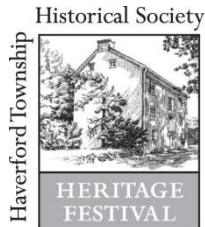




The Haverford Herald

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org



Look inside for more about this year's Heritage Festival on Sunday, June 4 from 11 to 4 PM!

Upcoming Events:

April 12

HTHS Annual Meeting
@ HTFL, 6:00 PM

-

World War I Memorabilia Night
@ HTFL, 7 PM

April 18

QUIZZO fundraiser for HTHS
@ Sam's Place in Ardmore
8 PM – 10 PM

June 4

HTHS Heritage Festival
11 AM to 4 PM

October (TBD)

Oktoberfest @ Nitre Hall
7 PM – 10 PM

December 10

Holiday House Tour
1 PM – 4 PM

Various (p. 7)

Nitre Hall Open House dates

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HTHS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 PM

@ Haverford Twp. Free Library

Haverford Township Historical Society members should plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 6:00 PM, downstairs at the Haverford Township Free Library.

The meeting will include brief reports on Historical Society activities and the election of board members. The meeting is being held ahead of the 7 PM public "World War I Memorabilia Night." Please join us! **New members welcome!**



"WORLD WAR I MEMORABILIA NIGHT"

Wednesday, April 12

(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!)

7:00 PM @ Haverford Twp. Free Library (6:30 setup)

The Haverford Township Historical Society and the Haverford Township Free Library are partnering to bring WWI exhibits and programming to the Township in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I. The Library was among 50 libraries nationwide selected as a host site for a traveling exhibit World War I and America, a national initiative of The Library of America presented in partnership with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and other organizations, with generous support from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Library programs have included World War I and American Art, a middle school history club tour of the traveling exhibit, and reading and discussion groups which run through April 23rd. Topics include: Why We Fight, Race and WWI, American Women at War, and At Home/Coming Home: The Toll of War.

Members of the Historical Society are currently developing a display to be used at various local events, including the Heritage Festival on June 4th. A World War I Memorabilia Night is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 at the Library. The Society will exhibit World War I artifacts both from the warfront and the homefront, and the public is invited to bring any artifacts they may have to share, as well as oral histories of the World War I era. **If you are bringing artifacts, please arrive at 6:30 for set-up.**

Don't miss a delightful trip back into our community history! Make plans to attend and join the fun on April 12th!

CURIOUS ABOUT THAT OLD HOUSE ON MILL ROAD? LEEDOM-DICKINSON MILL AND MANSION - BY IRENE COFFEY

The Historical Society has received inquiries about the house at 570 Mill Road which currently is for sale. The information below should satisfy some of this curiosity.

The valley surrounding Cobbs Creek and stretching from Eagle to Manoa Roads was a manufacturing center in Haverford Township in the 18th and 19th centuries. At least six mills operated along the creek, including grist, saw, fulling, dyeing, textile, and gunpowder mills. Damming Cobbs Creek and creating reservoirs or mill dams produced sufficient water power to drive the mill equipment for the various mills spread out down the valley.

One of the Cobbs Creek mills was the Leedom-Dickinson mill, in operation from approximately 1810 through the beginning of the 20th century. In 1810 Jonathan Miller bought land in a section of the valley called Echo Hollow. Miller built grist and saw mills there on the west side of Cobbs Creek near where Mill Road ends today. His mill seat – a suitable place for a water wheel – had a head and fall of 20 feet from the mill dam to the water wheel, quite adequate for powering the wheel. In 1827 Samuel Leedom took over the operation of Miller's mills and eventually purchased them in 1844. Previously, Leedom had managed the Humphrey family's mill, also known as Haverford Mill, located closer to Eagle Road.



Leedom-Dickinson Mansion - 570 Mill Road

After Samuel Leedom's death in 1872, his son Augustus B. Leedom became the owner and was succeeded briefly by a Mr. Lambert. George Dickinson, the last owner, purchased the property in February of 1879. During Dickinson's ownership the lane leading to the mill became a Township road and was named the Dickinson Mill Road, shortened today to Mill Road. Depletion of woodland and decline of the industry caused the mills to close. The land was sold to the Pennsylvania and Western Railway which built a power plant at this location and opened its railway in 1907. The dam was washed out about the same time.

The mill owners' home, now known as the Leedom Mansion, still stands on the north side of Mill Road, just west of what today is referred to as SEPTA's Norristown High Speed Line. The oldest, middle, section was built in 1725 with additions completed around 1750 and 1800. Now gone, there were a number of outbuildings including a large barn which stood where the driveway is to the Trinity Christian Church of Greater Philadelphia, formerly the Suburban Jewish Community Center B'nai Aaron.

According to the 1994 Historic Resources Survey for Haverford Township, the original 1725 two story building is made of coursed rubble fieldstone with two bays (window areas) and a chimney. The date for the small addition on the left is not known. The circa 1750 and 1800 two and a half story additions to the right, also of coursed rubble fieldstone, have gable end roofs, a total of five bays, and two more chimneys. There is a hipped roof entry porch spanning these additions, two dormers in the top level, multiple fireplaces, and much original hardware, woodwork, and flooring throughout. The 2½ story bank house sections are built into the hill at the back of the house. On a sunny day, the fieldstones glow with a golden hue.

The Leedom Mansion, along with Nitre Hall and its partly demolished gunpowder magazine or storage building, are the last extant remains of the Powder Mill Valley's 18th and 19th century manufacturing history.

Compiled by Irene D. Coffey from notes and articles by Margaret Johnston, former President of H.T.H.S.

ROY SANDSTROM THOUGHTFULLY REMEMBERED

Haverford Township lost a great friend recently at the sudden death of Roy Sandstrom. Roy was the Treasurer of the Friends of the Grange, as well as their ever-present gardener, dedicated groundskeeper, genial events host and advocate for the Grange. As a member of the Haverford Township Historical Society Roy was a faithful

attendee at general membership meetings, special events and fundraisers, representing the Grange annually at the Heritage Festival. As a member of the larger historical community Roy worked with the ECHO group (Eastern Coalition of Historic Sites) to promote historic sites throughout our area. As a friend he was intelligent, articulate, and always a gentleman. Roy will be greatly missed.



*Roy Sandstrom
photo courtesy of Jeanne Angel*

**HTHS THANKS
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WITHOUT YOU!**

Hoopty's Pizza
Wagner Real Estate
Erica Deuschle REALTOR
The Tot Cart

The Artifactori
Merje Design
Brew Your Own Beer
Suzanne Guelli Design
Mosquito Platoon
Sir Speedy

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT...DEBORAH LENERT

"I enjoy hanging out with cool people and learning about where I live" says Deborah Lenert, the newest member-at-large on the Board of Directors of the Haverford Township Historical Society.

Deb was raised in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. Along with husband Mike and their two children Deb moved from California to the Drexel Hill area ten years ago, and then to Havertown six years later. As a librarian Deb has worked at the Barnes Foundation and Haverford Township Free Library, and recently joined the staff at St. Joseph's University as the Manager of Library Digital Services.



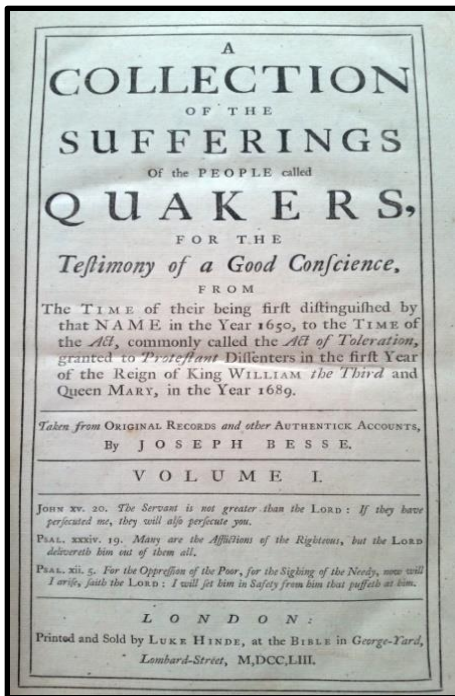
It was at a Nitre Hall summer open house two years ago that Deb (and husband Mike, an archeologist) was "drawn in." *"I was so impressed to hear about all of the work the volunteers were doing and learn about the ambitious projects they were looking to begin."* Deb started by helping out at the board's Tuesday workdays at Nitre Hall, assisting with the monumental archive organization project. Through the dedication and hard work of that team of volunteers the project is nearing its completion.

Like other board members Deb also volunteers in other capacities. *"I was concerned about the time commitment, but have found the board to be highly organized and efficient."* She looks forward to working with Township residents to expand the Society's collections, including oral histories. *"I'm interested in the untold stories of our Township" she says, and in "peeling back the layers of different periods of history under our feet."*

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

OLDEST BOOK IN THE HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S LIBRARY DATES FROM 1753 — BY IRENE D. COFFEY



“A COLLECTION of the sufferings of the people called Quakers, for the testimony of a good conscience from the time of their being first distinguished by that name in the year 1650 to the time of the act commonly called the Act of Toleration granted to Protestant dissenters in the first year of the reign of King William the Third and Queen Mary in the year 1689.”
by Joseph Besse

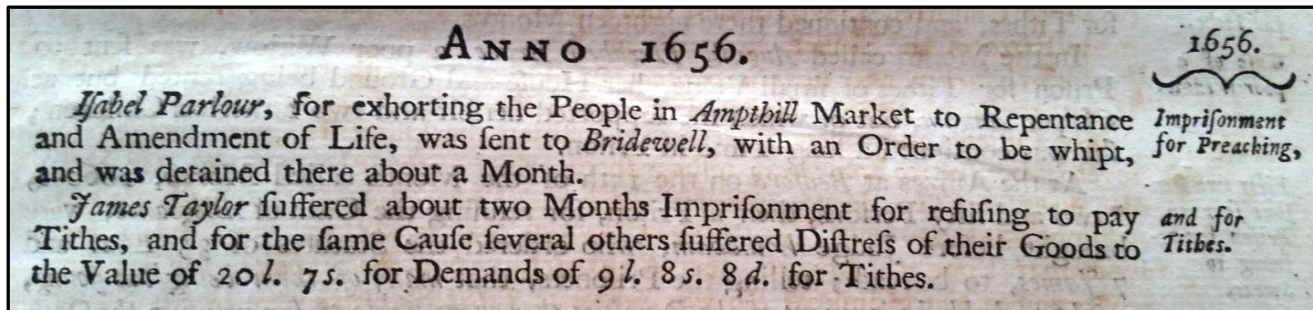
It's not the longest title in the English language. That distinction belongs to a book by Nigel Tomm (Selected works of Nigel Tomm) with 670 words in the title. Nor does the book recount the travails of a woman named Besse, as one might assume when hearing the book referred to as “Besse’s Sufferings”. Rather, Joseph Besse’s work is a two-volume historical account of the persecution endured by members of the Society of Friends from their inception around 1650 through the first 40 years of their existence.

Laws requiring tithing and oaths of allegiance to the Church of England had been in existence from the time of King Henry VIII, long before the emergence of the Quakers. However, between 1661 and 1665, Parliament was determined that the Church of England would be the only state religion in Britain. To achieve that goal Parliament passed a number of acts collectively referred to as the Clarendon Code which resulted in even harsher treatment for all non-Anglicans. The Code stipulated that all officials in towns had to be members of the Church of England, all clergy had to use the Book of Common Prayer, non-Anglican ministers were forbidden to come within 5 miles of an incorporated town, and religious assemblies of more than 5 people (unless part of the same household) were forbidden unless approved by the Church of England. A Declaration of Indulgence suspending these laws was issued by the Catholic King James II in 1687 and in 1689 Parliament passed the Act of Toleration permitting non-Anglicans their own places of worship and their own preachers. All non-Anglicans were still barred from holding government positions or attending universities. However, the years leading up to the Act of Toleration were difficult ones for the Quakers and other non-Anglicans.

The penalties imposed on Quakers as a result of the laws in effect up to 1689 included confiscation of goods, fines and imprisonment, banishment, and even execution. Individual meeting houses of the Society of Friends, under the committee name of Meeting for Sufferings, kept extensive records of the fines and penalties imposed on their members, referred to as “sufferers”. These are the records Besse drew on to produce his 1753 two-volume compendium of cases of persecution against Quakers between 1650 and 1690. It is interesting to see how far the Society of Friends had spread in that short period of time. The volumes are arranged geographically, beginning with British colonies in alphabetical order and extending to New England, Barbados, Nevis, Bermudas, Antigua, Maryland, Jamaica, Europe and Asia, Isle of Malta, Hungaria [sic] and Austria, Dantzic [sic] and Hamburg in Germany, and Ireland and Scotland. Note that Pennsylvania, founded by Quakers, is not included in the list.

...("OLDEST BOOK..." CONTINUED)

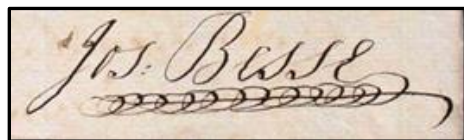
Some of the entries are quite long, extending over multiple pages and including detailed descriptions of events and court cases along with letters from the accused and other interested parties. The case of Mary Dyer, a Quaker hanged in Boston in 1660 for defying the law banning Quakers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, is a good example of a longer entry. By contrast, below is a typical shorter entry from Bedfordshire, England in 1656:



The two volumes contain over 1,600 pages of similar entries! There are also extensive indices to assist local historians or genealogists in their research.

The Historical Society's records don't tell us how this copy of Besse's book came into our possession. Joseph Besse (c. 1683-1757) was a convert from Anglicanism who gave up a church position entitling him to 400 shillings per year. By trade he was a writing master. He worked tirelessly to protest the tithes imposed on Quakers by the Church of England, addressing his arguments both to Parliament and to the ecclesiastical powers of the Church. However, while Joseph Besse was born, lived, died, and was buried in the southeast of England, his name and his work were known to the Quakers in Pennsylvania. Between the years 1737 and 1740 Joseph Besse's distinctive signature appears on several letters sent from the Society of Friends' London Meeting for Sufferings to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Also, some obituaries appearing in the Minutes of the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting indicate that the deceased was included as a "sufferer" in Besse's book.

So, if you can trace your Quaker ancestors back to the 17th century, come check out Besse's books to learn if you ancestor was a "sufferer".



"HAVERFORD SEMINARY NO. 1" BY AMY WOLFE

Did you notice that the tee shirts last year at the Heritage Festival had "Haverford Seminary No. 1 1849" on the front? Did you wonder why? It was taken from the frontispiece of the Federal School on Darby Road. It's because it was in 1849 that The Federal School became the first public school in Haverford Township, after having been a private school for 52 years. At that time the name was changed from the **Federal School**, which reflected the young country's pride in our new Federation of States, to **Haverford Seminary**, simply meaning a place of learning. The name Federal School, however, continues to be used in reference to one of our Township's greatest historical assets.



2016 Heritage Festival T shirts with the "Haverford Seminary" logo

...("HAVERFORD SEMINARY NO. 1" CONTINUED)

An Interesting Tidbit... The text below is extracted from the records of Alexander Symington and witnessed by John Lindsay, Justice of the Peace for Delaware County, November 7, 1797.

"To all People to whom these presents shall come, Alexander Symington of the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, Merchant, sends greetings:

Know ye that the said Alexander Symington for divers good causes and considerations and especially for and in consideration of the sum of Five shillings to him in hand paid by Philip Sheaff, William Brooke, Francis Lee, David Lyons and Benjamin H Smith all of the Township of Haverford in the County of Delaware in the State aforesaid ate and before the unsealing and delivery hereof, the receipt where of he doth hereby acknowledge, hath given, granted and confirmed, and by these presents doth give grants and confirm unto the said Philip Sheaff, William Brooke, Francis Lee, David Lyons and Benjamin H Smith and to their successors, in trust for the purpose of erecting a school house thereon for the use of the said Township of Haverford."



Frontispiece of the Federal School



Federal School, aka Haverford Seminary

And so the **Federal School** was born. It was the first building erected for the sole purpose of education in Haverford Township, and was used as a school until 1872, at which point it became a private home. It was then used as a storage shed until restoration began around the time of the Bi-Centennial in 1976. The Federal School is now the site of the 4th Grade Federal School Program, a One Room Schoolhouse Living History Experience run by the School District in cooperation with the Historical Society. Nearly 500 students and teachers visit the Federal School every year.

HAVERFORD HISTORICAL NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

We do like to focus on our history, but we have LOTS of cool images in our archives, and ephemera in our collection. Follow us on Instagram to see interesting posts about the often surprising and unusual history of Haverford Township that could be right underneath your nose!

Our Instagram handle is [@HaverfordHistorical](https://www.instagram.com/HaverfordHistorical)



Instagram post: c. 1907 Red Arrow Power Plant and Beechwood Amusement Park in background

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR A SUCCESS!

The ninth annual **Holiday House Tour 2016** was a great success. Attendance was high and the event drew people from surrounding towns. We received positive feedback and once again we're proud to highlight beautiful and historic homes. The Holiday House Tour 2017 will be December 10, so mark your calendars!

Upcoming Events

QUIZZO NIGHT AT SAM'S PLACE!

When: **Tuesday April 18 8 pm – 10 pm**

Where: **Sam's Place on County Line Rd (Ardmore)**

Come out for a night of fun, plus support Haverford Township Historical Society!

After several years of missing Quizzo Night at Peabody's Pub, a group of Havertonians have decided to organize a monthly Quizzo Night led by Peabody's Ace McGilvery. We will rotate to different restaurants, bars, and other public places, and proceeds will benefit a different Haverford Township non-profit group each month.

The Quizzo nights will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 8:00-10:00 pm. There will be three rounds. One of the rounds of questions will relate topically to the non-profit (Botanical for Tree Tenders, Township history for the historical society, etc.). The other two rounds will be general questions on geography, sports, movies and TV, history, music, etc.

Donation of \$10 per person at the door and proceeds from a 50/50 raffle will be given to the non-profit of the month. Teams of 3-6 people can participate. Groups larger than 6 should break up into two teams. Singles or couples will be matched with others to form a team.

The next one is **Tues. April 18 - at Sam's Place on County Line Rd. to support the Historical Society.** Come out for an evening of fun and contribute to your community! Hope to see you there!

NITRE HALL OPEN HOUSE:

2017 Summer Schedule for Open House at Nitre Hall

10 AM – 1 PM

Usually last Sunday of each month from June through September. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for Open House announcements

IITH ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL along Karakung Drive

When: **Sunday June 4 11 AM – 4 PM**

Where: **Karakung Drive**



HTHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTIONS:

When: **Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:00 PM**

Where: **@ Haverford Twp. Free Library**

HTFL & HTHS PARTNER TO BRING WWI HISTORY TO THE TOWNSHIP

When: **Wednesday April 12 7:00 pm**

Where: **Haverford Free Library**

BE A PART OF IT . . .

Is Great-Uncle George's doughboy uniform tucked away in the attic? Are love letters from a hundred years ago a prized family heirloom? Do you remember a vivid family anecdote from "over there"?

These and whatever treasures you may have from the World War I era are exactly what we're looking for! Bring your WWI era memorabilia and stories to the Library on April 12th for a show-and-tell style evening of sharing, listening and learning starting at 7 PM. Please arrive at 6:30 if you are bringing something.



Not sure if your items fit the bill? Contact us at info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org and we'll let you know!

HTHS OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER:

When: **October, 2017 7 PM – 10 PM**

(Date to be determined)

Where: **Nitre Hall**

HTHS HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR:

When: **Sunday, December 10, 2017 1 PM – 4 PM**

FIND US ONLINE!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Haverford.Historical

Instagram: [@HaverfordHistorical](https://www.instagram.com/HaverfordHistorical)

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

Flickr: www.flickr.com/haverfordhistorical

11TH ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL
ALONG KARAKUNG DRIVE
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 11 AM TO 4 PM

Join us for Haverford Township's favorite spring event! This year's Heritage Festival promises to be a great event! But we need your help!



YOU make it happen. 10 years of successful Heritage Festivals have been made possible by friends and neighbors in Haverford Township who have volunteered their time and expertise. Get on board now!

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Committee & Planning Members
- House Tour Guides
- Entry Greeters
- Clean-up & Set-up

E-Mail us at Festival@HaverfordHistoricalSociety.org to get involved!



*Send your comments and suggestions for this newsletter to us at info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
Editor - John Kirkland*



**HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 825
Havertown, PA 19083

NEW PHONE #:
(484) 452-3382

E-MAIL:
info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org