



The Haverford Herald

Fall 2022

Newsletter of the Haverford Township Historical Society

Our 83rd Year

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

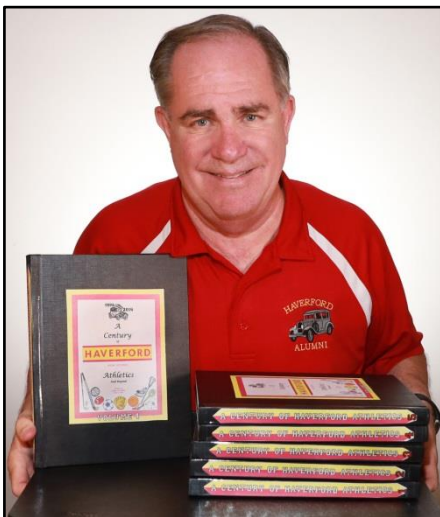
HTHS OKTOBERFEST IS OCTOBER 7

Join us at our annual Haverford Historical Society Oktoberfest night on Friday, October 7, 2022 from 7pm to 10pm, held again at Nitre Hall, 1682 Karakung Drive in Havertown. As always, it will be a relaxed evening of camaraderie with outdoor live music, snacks, beverages, a silent auction and a chance raffle. Share in the *gemütlichkeit!*



For more information see haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/oktoberfest/

“A CENTURY OF HAVERFORD HIGH ATHLETICS” HTHS FALL MEETING AND PUBLIC PROGRAM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 7PM (LIVE AND ONLINE)



Come to the Haverford Township Free Library or link in online for our Fall general meeting and public program, partnering once again with our friends at the Haverford Township Free Library. Our featured presentation will be given by Art Sciubba, the researcher and author of “A Century of Haverford High School Athletics (and beyond).” Art will present the highlights from what is now a unique five-volume compendium on sports and athletics history in our township school district. He covers it all, from grade schoolers to championships, plus grads who went on to be Olympians and pro sports athletes.

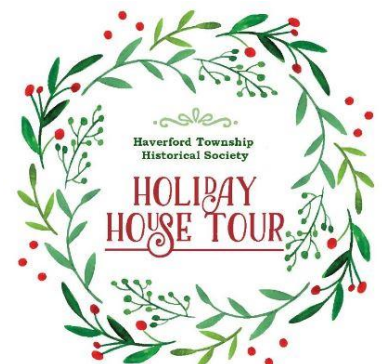
FREE and open to the public! Seating at the Library is limited, so you need to register whether planning to attend in person or online.

To register, go to haverfordlibrary.org/event/a-century-of-haverford-hs-athletics-and-beyond/ or call the Library at 610-446-3082.

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

We’re organizing our annual Holiday House Tour, which is now marked on the calendar for Sunday, December 4 from 1pm to 4pm. Enjoy the holiday season with us by taking part in our annual HTHS fundraiser.

Details will be forthcoming on our website.



NITRE HALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE HONORED



Master Gardeners Nitre Hall committee and helpers (l. to r.) Pam Lewis, Gerry Hart, Catherine Corson, Bill Kewley and Gene Linkmeyer. Not pictured are co-chairs Lois Puglionesi and Steve Rodgers, Hazel Delikatny, Leslie Pugach, Barbara Reese, Lucia Schlossberg and Janet Steiner.

We have been blessed to have an ongoing partnership with a group of Delaware County Master Gardeners who for years have adopted the grounds around Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin. While we are on township property, improvements beyond the norm fall upon volunteers like them and us. These good folks have stepped up outside the buildings, while we tend to focus on the buildings and their contents. HTHS has helped fund historical gardening consultants and the purchase of historically appropriate native plantings, as well as with the major cleanup of wooded areas, vines and invasive species.

Last year the Master Gardeners Nitre Hall committee submitted their work in the Delaware county Master Gardeners' Community Garden contest and received Honorable Mention. This year they literally "dug deeper," expanding their already impressive work, and earned Third Place honors in the annual contest. We want to show you their good work here.



The perennial and shrub garden beds between Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin nicely frame and set off both buildings.

The group took a very sensible approach, starting close to Nitre Hall and gradually expanding their work outward, including the improvement of the beds shown on this page.

The Master Gardeners try to preserve pre-existing native and period-appropriate plants and shrubs. They seek to use older non-cultivar perennials and pollinator-friendly plants.

In keeping with the Master Gardeners' educational mission, they installed signage identifying plants. They hope to provide additional material stressing the importance of using native plants in home gardens.





The gardens on this page are used in conjunction with our HTHS teaching programs. These are in addition to our front rain garden. The herb garden above is along the south end wall of Nitre Hall. It contains various classic herb plants used historically for cooking and medicinal purposes.

In the front lawn of Nitre Hall are a square of four raised bed gardens, with vegetables including cauliflower, cabbage, kale, potatoes, chard, eggplant and various peppers.

Want to help the Nitre Hall Master Gardeners? Email us at info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
For more info on the Delaware County Master Gardeners program see
<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/delaware>

1925 OAKMONT FIRE COMPANY TRUCK RETURNS

By Richard Kerr

Hats off to the Oakmont Fire Company, which managed to pull off the highly unlikely feat of relocating a 1925 fire truck, which it had sold off in 1952, and bringing it back home to Haverford Township. Not only that, the truck is largely intact and in remarkably original condition. It still wears the red paint it left with, complete with black and gold striping and "Oakmont Fire Co. No. 1" lettered in gold on the hood.

The truck, a pumper, was built by the American LaFrance Co. and features brass and nickel trim. It went through several private owners, ending up in Missouri. The fire company purchased the vehicle on July 3 and brought it home. It can still run, and on September 10 was driven the quarter mile or so from the fire house to be displayed at the "First Fest" in Oakmont, a music festival honoring first responders. Oakmont Fire Company plans to restore its historic treasure for display and parade use. Want to help? Donations can be made to the all-volunteer Oakmont Fire Company. Specify that the donation is for the fire truck restoration.



Back home again – Oakmont Fire Co.'s 1925 American LaFrance fire engine.

THE ROGERS STOREHOUSE SERVES HTHS WELL



Rogers Storehouse, built by HTHS volunteers.

We wanted to share a photo of the Rogers Storehouse, now that it is completed and has been placed in full use. The road to project completion has been protracted, but it has proven to be well worth the effort. Construction drawings had to be prepared and township approvals had to be secured. Then there was a wait until the concrete pad could be poured at favorable cost and electrical lines could be run out to the building. Finally, construction could be undertaken by volunteers. (Did we mention COVID-caused delays?)

Naturally, the storehouse filled up immediately, housing Historical Society and Civic Council supplies and materials used for festivals and events. We are no longer beating up Nitre Hall and ourselves by carting materials up and down from the attic.

The Rogers Storehouse, named for resident partner William Rogers of the Nitre Hall Powder Works, is located behind the Summer Kitchen. It was designed and built with materials to harmonize with the rustic look of the kitchen building. Our thanks to HTHS Vice President Chris Whiting, who spearheaded the project, and to all of the skilled workers and volunteers who helped make it a reality!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP (OR JOIN) FOR 2023 !



It's now time to renew (or join) the Haverford Township Historical Society for 2023. A renewal form and addressed envelope are included with this issue for your convenience, or you can handle this online on our website. We are a non-profit depending entirely on members, donors and volunteers. Although we are housed in historic buildings owned by Haverford Township and bring them to life (and contribute to their care and costs), no township funds enter our organization's budget. We rely on our members and donors. Please join us and support our work in 2023 and beyond!

HTHS WEBSITE UPDATED AND EXPANDED

We have performed a substantial overhaul of our website (www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org). The top menu navigation (with drop-down sub-menu items) has been improved. All pages now have a uniform look. All of our activities and projects have been incorporated, listed, and made available in a single location. The website now works well with smartphones and tablets, as well as traditional computer screens. (It's still best to use a larger screen to see and study formatted documents, maps and other larger, detail-packed files.)

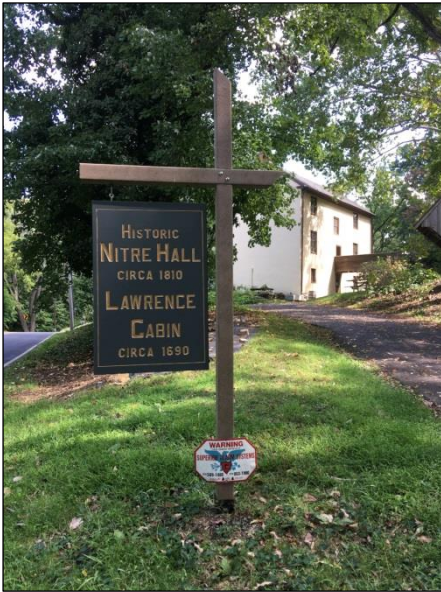


Check out the improved HTHS website! Take the time to see all of the material that it now contains.

You can access over 50 history articles, more than 100 mini-biographies, a guide to Haverford Township's historic resources, our Online Archives of over 3,500 items, information on the buildings we use and our educational programs, all of our projects (including our 2003 book, the Haverford Heritage Trail, the HTHS YouTube channel, and interactive online maps), our events, membership and volunteering information, back newsletters and more!

Our Online Archives (haverford.pastperfectonline.com) also continues to grow, with entries and images being added on a regular basis as we continue to sort through and organize our historical holdings.

NEW SIGNS



Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin, the Historic Powder Mill Valley, and the Federal School now have stylish new matching signs.

These replaced old signs that had gotten...well...really old, and that were from different vintages and did not match each other in appearance.

We want to thank Haverford Township for working with us on this effort.



2022 HAVERFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate in or attend the 2022 Haverford Heritage Festival! We had great weather for the event along Karakung Drive, and it was a refreshing return to normality. Special thanks must go to all of the vendors, volunteers, re-enactors, the High School volunteers, entertainers and others who make the day a fun event that works out smoothly.

If you didn't attend, make plans to do so next year. It's on our schedule for Sunday, June 4.

Hope to see you there!

An Additional History Pop Quiz Answer!

A year ago we asked how many women commissioners Haverford Township has had.

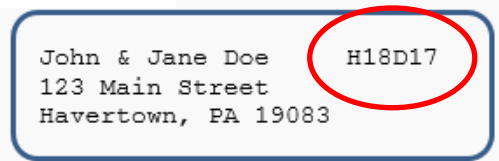
Last issue, our answer was “We know of 5: Edith Hannum, Joan Genthert, Carolyn Parker, Jan Marie Rushforth and Jane Hall. At present, we have a record 3 female commissioners: Laura Cavender, Sherry Forste-Grupp and Judy Trombetta.”

Now we add another two: Mary March and Carol McDonald, who replaced her husband John (Jack) when he died.

Check your mailing label to determine your HTHS membership or financial donation status. Here are the codes:

- Ixx **Individual** member and 2-digit year for which dues were paid (\$15)
- Hxx **Household** member and 2-digit year for which dues were paid (\$25)
- Dxx **Donor** and 2-digit year of most recent general donation
- Nxx **Nitre Club** donor and 2-digit year of most recent donation (\$25)
- Lxx **Lawrence Club** donor and 2-digit year of most recent donation (\$50)
- Fxx **Federal Club** donor and 2-digit year of most recent donation (\$100)
- COMPL. **Complimentary** newsletter (other history groups and some officials)

Sample label:



All 2023 memberships are now due. Please renew today! (Send check to “HTHS” or use Paypal on our website.)

Find Us Online!

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

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 Send your comments and suggestions for this newsletter to us
 via email: info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
 Editor Fall 2022 – Richard Kerr



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Founded 1939
Chartered 1964**

PO Box 825
Havertown, PA 19083
(484) 452-3382

See us at:

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

Email:

info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org