



The Haverford Herald

Spring 2023

Newsletter of the Haverford Township Historical Society

Our 84th Year

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

HTHS COBB'S CREEK CLEANUP - SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 9 AM-NOON

On Saturday, April 15, from 9 am to noon, HTHS will again take part in the Darby Creek Valley Association's region-wide initiative to clean up streams in the Darby Creek watershed area. This year marks DCVA's 40th annual campaign to improve the quality of our streams in a direct, hands-on way. In our local area, an HTHS-led volunteer cleanup will focus along Cobb's Creek in the historic Powder Mill Valley. Everyone is welcome to come out and help. Simply sign a waiver beforehand at www.dcv.org/watershed-cleanups, then meet up with us at Nitre Hall at 9 am. Please join in!

HISTORY OF THE HAVERFORD COLLEGE ARBORETUM

HTHS ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM - TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 7-8:30 PM



Ca. 1886 view of the Carvill greenhouse arch, still on Haverford's campus. Credit: Henry Goddard.

Join **Jennie Kelly**, Haverford College Arboretum Program Coordinator, for a look back in time. The Haverford College Arboretum is the oldest planned collegiate landscape in the nation, dating back to 1843. This 216-acre property is home to a premier collection of historical trees, a sustainable farm, rain gardens, pollinator habitats and more. The Arboretum is a significant green space that provides abundant tree canopy and recreational space to the Main Line community. Come see how our landscape has developed over the past 180 years!

This **FREE** program is made possible through a partnership between the Haverford Township Historical Society and the Haverford Township Free Library. It will be held in the Library's Community Room. Please plan to join us for this presentation!

HTHS HISTORIC "PILGRIMAGE" TOUR - SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1-4 PM

A Pilgrimage is defined as "a journey, usually to an unknown place." The Historical Society has developed a journey to places that you may have passed by many times but have never been inside. These are the iconic churches, meeting houses, and centers of learning built in our township from the 18th to the 20th centuries. This year's Pilgrimage revives an early, traditional HTHS event held for many years, beginning in 1939 when we were founded.

You are invited to tour **our oldest one-room schoolhouse**, our **two Quaker Meeting houses**, a unique **church built from an 1876 brick schoolhouse**, our **oldest college building**, and a majestic **20th century cathedral**. Learn about their history from hosts who know these places best. Wander through two old **Quaker cemeteries** where our earliest settlers lie, and stroll down **Meetinghouse Walk**, the 19th century path between meetinghouse and school.

This is an HTHS fundraising activity. Admission is by ticket only at \$25/person, available beforehand on the HTHS website using PayPal, or on the day of the Pilgrimage at two of the sites (see HTHS website for updates) using cash, check or card. Please join us and fellow pilgrims to wander and learn!

HTHS 15TH ANNUAL HAVERFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023



Popular, laid back, and fun for everyone – the annual Haverford Heritage Festival along Karakung Drive.

Haverford Township Historical Society will be hosting the 15th annual Haverford Heritage Festival on June 4th, 2023 from 11 AM to 4 PM along Karakung Drive and beautiful Cobb's Creek.

The associated theme this year will be First Responders, including emergency response and firefighters.

Featuring:

- Live Local Music and Entertainment on Two Stages
- Free tours of Nitre Hall, including a new First Responders display
- Craft Beers from Conshohocken Brewing and Delicious Food
- Local Artists, Crafts People and Civic Organizations
- Meet Fascinating Historical Characters
- Candle dipping, blacksmithing, knitting, weaving, tatting and food prep demonstrations
- Colonial LUG with toy brick models of fire houses
- A Family Favorite Event for 15 Years and Counting!

Have Fun & Show Your Support!

- Make a Donation
- Become a Sponsor
- Be a Volunteer
- Be a Craft Vendor

Info: HaverfordHistoricalSociety.org

Volunteer: HaverfordHistoricalSociety.org/volunteer-opportunities/



PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

STOLEN ARTIFACTS RETURNED AFTER 44 YEARS

By Kathy Case and Irene Coffey

Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution hosted an amazing repatriation ceremony on March 13, 2023. The ceremony involved 50 stolen objects being returned to 16 institutions robbed in the late 1960s and 1970s. Most items were rare guns, but five were domestic artifacts returned to the Haverford Township Historical Society.

In April 1979, about 24 historic objects were taken from HTHS. A police report was made, but no one found the thief. The items ranged from lamps to plates to chairs, several of which had been in the Lawrence Cabin and dated from the 18th century or earlier. Emblematic of our items was a "rush light." This is a type of candle formed by burning the dried pith of a rush plant that has been soaked in tallow or beeswax. Although rush lights were extremely inexpensive to make and common in the British Isles, they were less numerous in North America and generally imported from Britain. The investigation also recovered and returned several drinking cups and plates stolen from HTHS.

The robberies remained cold cases until 2009, when a tip about a gun stolen from a Valley Forge site led the Upper Merion Police Department to re-open several old cases. What followed for the next 14 years was a nationwide investigation that involved DA's offices, U. S. Attorneys, the FBI Art Crime Team, and several police departments. HTHS interacted for over five years with K. T. Newton, Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Jake Archer, Special Agent for the FBI's Art Crime Team.

Confidential sources, tips, and other evidence led to a Newark, DE, residence in 2017 and a cache of guns and other artifacts. Matching items to the institutions involved several years and teams of experts, including those from the Museum of the American Revolution, combing through often incomplete institutional inventories. Some records read just "musket" or "Revolutionary-era rifle." Michael Corbett was indicted in 2021 for possession of stolen property and in return for a plea bargain agreed to help locate more artifacts.



Home again: The HTHS rush light is a combination light, with a hinged rush holder and a side-mounted candle holder.

Irene Coffey, former president and current board member of HTHS, represented the historical society throughout the investigation and the trial. Speaking at the repatriation ceremony, she emphasized the importance of small items like a rush light in teaching young people about Colonial living and their country's history. "Our collections represent a preservation covenant that goes beyond their financial value," she said.

In closing comments, Dr. Scott Stevenson, president of the Museum of the American Revolution, thanked the institutions for their roles as "custodians of the witness objects of American history." Several institutions had extremely valuable guns returned, and at least one curator returned home with police escorts, he noted. HTHS representatives brought our humbler recovered objects back to Nitre Hall in a cardboard box, home again after 44 years.

1682 1942

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP DELAWARE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAP

OLD HOMES, MILLS, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES - MODERN BUILDINGS

Scale
1/4" = 1 mile
1/8" = 1/2 mile

OLD WELSH TRACT
1682 Chester Co. - Delaware Co. 1789
Early Settlers in Haverford.
1682-1750
Henry Lewis John Leedom
Lewis David John Ashurst
William Howell Jr. Eckfeldt
Morris Ulenelyn Geo Dickerson
David Lawrence H. Garciques
William Jenkins Capt. Johnson
John Richard Dr. Geo. Smith
Richard Hughes Ebron Johnson
Daniel Humphreys James J. Brooke

KEY Removed

1 Covered Wooden Bridge 1814 replaced by Concrete
2 Lawrence Homestead T.D.L.
3 Three Generation House
4 Center built of Logs
5 Old Home in H.T. Park 1792
6 Township Incinerator 1938
7 Haverford Township Park
8 Mile along Darby Creek
9 Haverford Iron Mill 1787 Rileys Leedom's Mill 1830
10 Old Home of the Cooper
11 One Room Federal School 1797
12 Liddonfield Pennock home
13 France School 1859 by 2 1846
14 Haverford Cemetery 2 1846
15 Flatby Mill - Old house restored from Philadelphia - rebuilt in H.T.
16 Preston School 1876
17 Ye Oldie Duck Tavern GAY, sloop
18 German blocks used on Phila. B. Columbia R.R. found in H.T.
19 Abraham Lincoln st. op.
20 Old Main Bldg. Haverford College
21 Old Wm Penn tree 167 ft. trunk
22 Old mile stone 107 ft. to Pa.
23 Castle Bldg. Lewis Linn Homestead
24 Oakmont School 1912
25 Haverford Township Building
26 Township Senior High School
B.S.S. Block 24th was Wheelright



GEORGE WASHINGTON

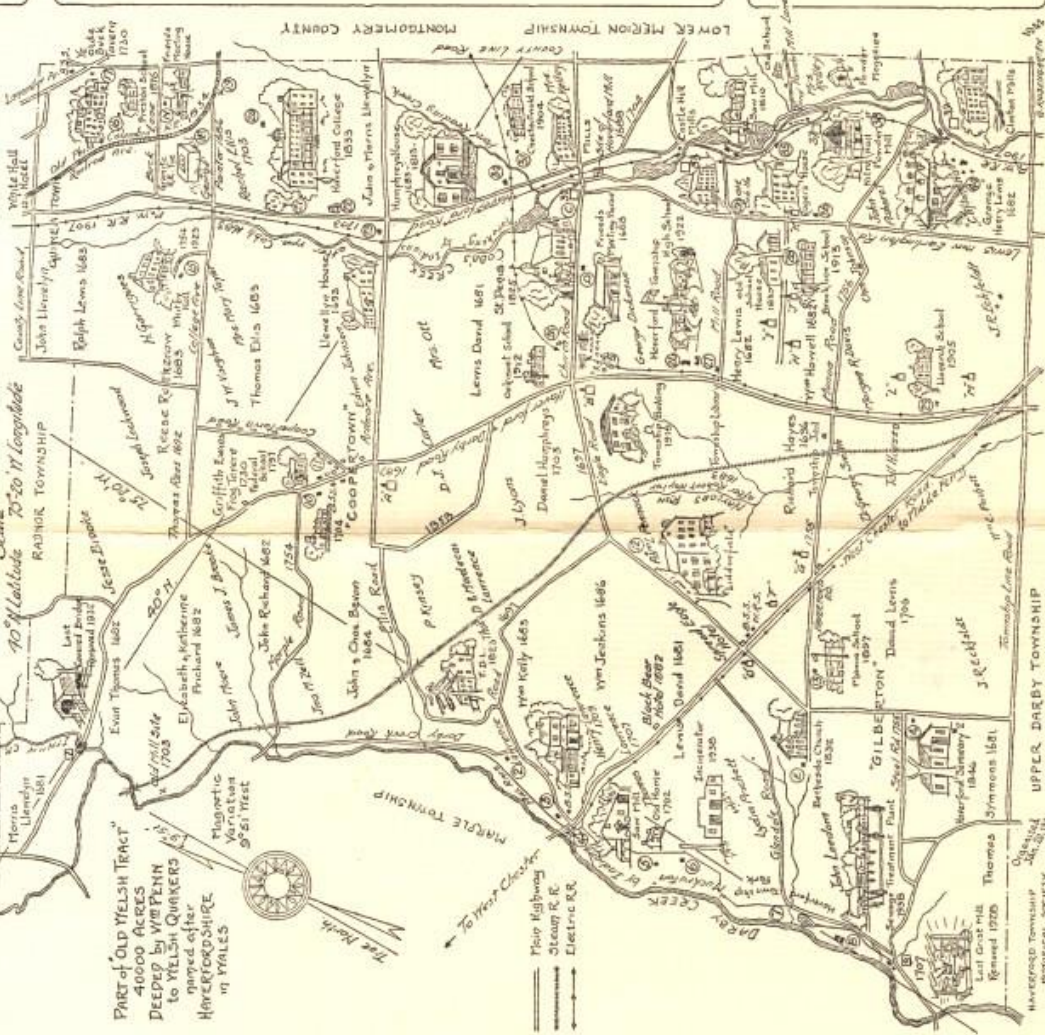
Built in 1780 by Thomas Penn son of William 48 years after Penn's Treaty with the Indians. Here Washington and his staff halted and spent night of 14th Sept 1777 and a portion of 15th while here Washington wrote to Continental Congress for supplies.

KEY Removed

27 Township Junior High School
28 Old School House 1830
29 Llanerch School 1905
30 Post 1860s house, home of John Humphreys designer of Frigate Constitution (Old Ironsides)
31 Chestnutwood School 1904
32 Old Mills - Demps Kelly owner
33 Humphreys Grist Mill altered 1826 by Dennis Kelly to Castle Hill Mill
34 Demps along Creek now removed
35 Millers Saw Mill 1810 Leedom 1844
36 Dickson 1879 - Removed 1907
37 Rogers House - Bowler Mill Owner
38 Brookline School 1913
39 Bowler Mill - Photo by Dr. Eckfeldt
38 Powder Magazine along Ex. Y.
40 Clifton Hooker Mills 1814
41 Homestead of Henry Lewis
42 St. George's Episcopal 1932
43 Grace Chapel 1908
44 St. Denis Catholic 1828
45 Haverford Friends Meet 1682
46 Bethesda Meth. Episcopal 1932
47 Trinity Lutheran 1902
48 Sacred Heart Catholic 1927
49 St. Faith's Episcopal 1932
50 Brookline Meth. Episcopal 1916
51 Annunciation Catholic 1927
52 Temple Lutheran 1916
53 St. Andrews High Episcopal 1927
54 Llanerch Presbyterian 1909
55 Haverford Pipefitters 1836
56 All Saints' High Episcopal 1934

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Railroad Ave. of Haverford College on this spot in 1861
PRESIDENT LINCOLN was cheered by Haverford College boys and stepped to address them.



Property of the Haverford Township Historical Society

ROSENGARTEN'S HISTORICAL HAVERFORD MAP

By Kathy Case



George Rosengarten

George Rosengarten took a walk in Haverford Township and wrote down what he saw. He kept doing this for 20 years, covering the township and building a list of historical sites that he “thought might be of interest to others.” In 1942 he published an illustrated map (see opposite page). We need to tell his story.

A resident of Brookline with a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, Rosengarten taught physics at West Philadelphia High School, and physics and mathematics at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. Deeply involved in civic affairs, he served as president of the Penfield Civic Association in the 1930s, and also as chairman of the Brookline Boy Scouts.

Rosengarten’s family, being Mayflower descendants, had a keen interest in history. His grandfather founded a large pharmaceutical firm in Philadelphia that later merged with the smaller Merck and Company. In 1938, Rosengarten joined with others seeking to combine their interest in local history and civic affairs to form the Haverford Township Historical Society, which they launched in 1939. Rosengarten served as our society’s first president.

The establishment of the Historical Society motivated Rosengarten to finalize and publish his hand-drawn and illustrated map. It shows over 40 existing and removed historic sites and modern buildings; 15 churches; names of early settlers and important residents; roads, creeks, and railroads; a population growth chart; dates for most entries; and notes about Washington and Lincoln. Rosengarten apparently did the drawings himself and had the original map engraved.

He had 500 copies printed in 1942, and he mailed or gave the map to everyone he thought might be interested, as well as to historical societies, schools, libraries (including the New York Public Library and the Free Library of Philadelphia), and people influential in Philadelphia business and academics. Beyond the value of its historical information and presentation, it doubled as a unique marketing effort for the new Historical Society. Many people donated and became members. A copy was hung in the Oakmont School and used in history lessons.

The Historical Society’s archive of Rosengarten’s papers contains many letters that Rosengarten received, praising the map after he had distributed it far and wide. Mrs. Arthur Thomas of Oakley Road noted that the listing of early settler Evan Thomas was the first time a location had been given for the home of her late husband’s ancestor. (It was where Ithan Creek joined Darby Creek.)

The curator of the Quaker Collection at Haverford College wrote to correct Rosengarten’s note that Lincoln stopped to talk to students on his way by train to his 1861 Presidential inauguration, which a sign near the campus and today’s Railroad Avenue claimed. The curator referred to a letter from eyewitness Thomas Battey, Haverford College Class of 1863, that described Lincoln doffing his hat, bowing to students from the rear of the train, but not stopping to talk. The letter is in the Haverford College archives. The erroneous sign on Railroad Avenue was subsequently removed, and Rosengarten corrected his map when continuing demand for it caused him to print another 500 copies in 1950.

On December 5, 1942, *The Evening Bulletin* of Philadelphia ran an interview with Rosengarten (quoted at top) in which he noted there was work still to be done on the map. He apparently had little time to do so, however; he died in 1953 at age 66. In 1982, the 300th anniversary of William Penn’s Pennsylvania colony, HTHS printed an updated third revision of Rosengarten’s map. It reflected demolitions such as the Buck Tavern and the relocation of part of the “Three Generation

House” as today’s Lawrence Cabin. The story of Rosengarten’s original large 1942 map, which today hangs on a wall in Nitre Hall, drifted from memory until recently, when Historical Society volunteers catalogued a box of his paper files.

Because George Rosengarten, a man with curiosity and a passion for history, took many long walks early in the 20th century, Haverford Township has two unique legacies: the Historical Society which Rosengarten helped to found and his wonderful map.

RECENT DONATIONS -

HAVERFORD PARAMEDIC / EMT EQUIPMENT



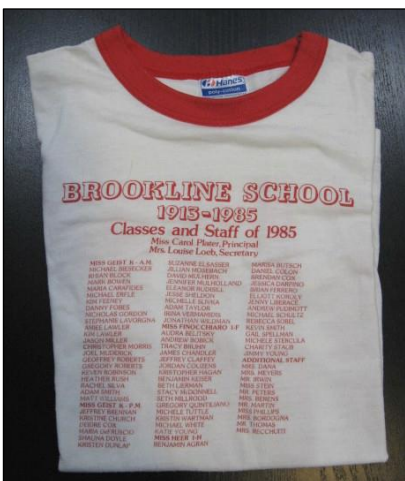
We are indebted to longtime HTHS supporter Chris Connell for the recent donation of some objects formerly used by the paramedic and emergency medical technician (EMT) services in Haverford Township. These are timely and will be on display at this year’s Haverford Heritage Festival, which has the theme of “First Responders.”



One item (left) is a yellow helmet for the Paramedic Unit 35-7. It was worn by Paul Hoffecker.

The other (right) is a portable “Biophone” contained in an orange case. The Biophone is a radio telephone that was used for verbal communication with the base hospital and could transmit data from a built-in “PMS Cardio-Alert” portable EKG machine. Today the Smithsonian Institution preserves a cousin to our unit. Theirs was originally from Los Angeles and became nationally famous for its use in the hit TV show “Emergency!” between 1972 and 1979.

BROOKLINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S LAST YEAR



We are indebted to another long-time HTHS supporter, Nancy Arthur, for another timely donation. Nancy was a teacher in the Haverford Township School District and some time ago had been given items from the recently razed Brookline Elementary School. Now she has thoughtfully passed them on to us. Both items come from, and commemorate, the final year of elementary school classes at the Brookline school building in 1985.

The first (left) is a T-shirt commemorating the school’s years (1913-1985) and listing the students, teachers and staff in 1985.



The second Brookline Elementary School item (right) is a copy of the final (June 1985) issue of a school newspaper, “The Bear Facts.” It features some teacher interviews; photos of school activities, including constructing a Brookline Bear mascot; and final thoughts from the school’s teachers and workers.

HTHS News & Notes -

- Did you miss our Fall 2022 public presentation by **Art Sciubba** on “**A Century of Haverford High School Athletics (and beyond)**”? Now you can watch it on the **HTHS YouTube channel** (www.youtube.com/@haverfordhistory) whenever you want! We are very thankful to Art and the staff of the Haverford Township Free Library, our presentation co-sponsors, for doggedly fighting through multiple technical glitches and challenges to produce this video of Art’s talk. Art’s research into Haverford public school district sports is so comprehensive that this hour-long slideshow can provide only an overview. If you want to delve deeper, he has donated his **five-volume book** to both the HTHS and HTFL libraries. HTHS also has copies of earlier editions available for sale, courtesy of Art.
 - In lieu of our Holiday House Tour last December, the historical society decided to host a **holiday season open house** at **Nitre Hall** for our volunteers and supporters. The township manager, about half of our township commissioners, professional historic preservationists, county historic preservation and archive staff, and many others with whom we interact stopped by to take part in an informal reception with our officers, board members and volunteers.
 - In our last issue of *The Haverford Herald* we notified you of a **membership dues increase effective in 2023**. We held off for years on any increase, and then held off implementing it until January 1st, allowing renewals and new memberships for 2023 to be made before the end of 2022 at the former levels. **Thanks** to those of you who took advantage of that opportunity! The new amounts are reflected on the next page and on our website.
 - Our volunteers are getting a lot done during our regular **Tuesday work sessions at Nitre Hall**, as well as by remote computer access from home. Kathy Case has immersed herself in our **vertical files**. Some years back, Rich and Donald Kerr had done a preliminary organizing and documenting of the file topics contained in the 16 filing cabinet drawers of paper, and now Kathy is taking the next step. She has **extracted photographs and archival paper items** which should be preserved elsewhere, and is now in the process of photocopying and putting **aging newspaper clippings** into archival plastic sleeves to protect them and also protect adjacent paper items from their damaging acidity. At the same time, Kathy is incorporating historic materials recently gathered from **civic associations** into the filing cabinets, as well as other boxed papers at HTHS not previously sorted through and filed.
 - Renee Coffey and Rich Kerr have been working diligently on our **historical library** in Nitre Hall. Rich physically went through each shelf unit, removing books and equalizing all shelf heights. He then performed an **inventory of the shelf contents** against our PastPerfect records, and has taken a **digital photo of each book** for our internal PastPerfect records, as well as for our online collection guide at haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/online-archives/ which now includes about 450 entries. Renee, our expert retired professional librarian, continues to **catalog books into our Library of Congress-based system**. You can go online and see at a glance what our ever-growing catalogued library contains. In addition to working through our existing library, Renee has recently **added a collection of over fifty titles specifically related to Haverford history**, collected by Rich and donated last fall, and is working on a similar number of historical books recently **transferred from the Haverford Township Free Library** to HTHS.
 - We want to keep historically true to the fact that **Nitre Hall’s floors were apparently never treated, oiled or varnished**, while trying to protect them at the same time, so we have been adding appropriate hallway runner carpets. We also have replaced some room carpets, having learned that we cannot use wool-based rugs or underlayments, which can serve as a home and nutrition source for moth and other larvae.
 - We have researched and added to our website a **complete listing of all Haverford Township commissioners**, from 1912 to today. Additional lists cover all Board of Commissioners **presidents** and **vice-presidents**, as well as **board secretaries and township managers** (see haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/introductory/).
 - While you are on our website, check out our collection of **interactive online maps based on Google Maps** at haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/online-interactive-maps/. Our maps cover listed [Historic Resources in Haverford Township](#), the [Haverford Heritage Trail](#), [Haverford Township Neighborhoods](#), [Post Offices and Coverage Areas](#), and [Catholic Parishes Serving Haverford Township](#).
-

AMAZON ENDS ITS “AMAZON SMILE” DONATION PROGRAM

Late last year, Amazon notified non-profit and charity organizations, including HTHS, that it would be discontinuing its “Amazon Smile” donation program. Under this program, purchasers could have 1/2 of 1% of their purchase cost on Amazon donated to a participating non-profit or charity of their choosing. The program ended earlier this year, so HTHS has removed Amazon Smile from its website. It did not generate a lot of income for us, but we will miss it!

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 (\$20)
- Hxx **Household** member and 2-digit year for which dues were paid (\$30)
- 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)
- Pxx **Powder Master Club** donor & 2-digit year of most recent donation (\$200)
- COMPL.** Complimentary newsletter (other history groups and some officials)

Sample label:

John & Jane Doe
123 Main Street
Havertown, PA 19083

H18D17

Find Us Online!

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

© Copyright 2023 Haverford Township Historical Society
Send your comments and suggestions for this newsletter to us
via email: info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
Editor Spring 2023 – 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