



The Haverford Herald

Spring 2024

Newsletter of the Haverford Township Historical Society

Our 85th Year

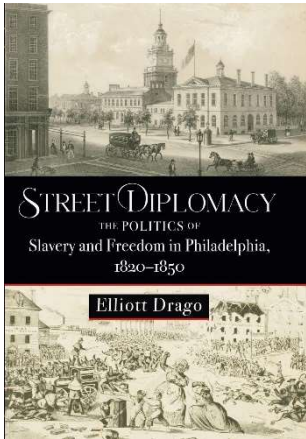
www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

HTHS Cobb's Creek Cleanup - SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 9 AM-NOON

On Saturday, April 6, 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 41st 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.dcva.org/watershed-cleanups, then meet up with us at Nitre Hall at 9 am. Please join in! Other park cleanups with plants are scheduled as well. Check out the list of events at the end!

Street Diplomacy: The Politics of Slavery and Freedom in Philadelphia 1820-1850

HTHS ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM — THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7:30-9PM



As the most southern of northern cities in a state that bordered three slave states, antebellum Philadelphia maintained a long tradition of both abolitionism and fugitive slave activity. Although Philadelphia's Black community lived in a free city in a free state, they faced constant threats to their personal safety and freedom. Enslavers, kidnappers, and slave catchers prowled the streets of Philadelphia in search of potential victims, violent anti-Black riots erupted in the city, and white politicians legislated to undermine Black freedom.

In *Street Diplomacy*, Elliott Drago illustrates how the political and physical conflicts that arose over fugitive slave removals and the kidnappings of free Black people forced Philadelphians to confront the politics of slavery.

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 at the Quadrangle, 3300 Darby Rd. Please register to join us for this presentation!

<https://haverfordlibrary.org/event/bad-things-happen-in-philadelphia-street-diplomacy-and-the-struggle-over-slavery-and-freedom-quadrangle/>

Havertown Antique Roadshow - SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1-4 PM

The Historic Grange Estate and the Haverford Township Historical Society Present Appraisals by Stephen Turner of Briggs Auction, Inc.

Come get your heirloom, antique, or attic mystery identified with a value estimate by the owner of Briggs Auction.

1 person/1 item- \$20, couple/1 item- \$30

Includes introduction to Briggs Auction and a general market overview, mansion tour, and light refreshments

Payment by check and Venmo in advance Registration required- 610-446-4958 or grangeest@verizon.net

<https://haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/havertown-antique-roadshow/> for more information

HTHS 16th Annual Haverford Heritage Festival

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

Haverford Township Historical Society will be hosting the 15th annual Haverford Heritage Festival on June 2nd, 2024 from 11 AM to 4 PM along Karakung Drive and beautiful Cobb's Creek.

The associated theme this year will be Classic Cars of Haverford Township, and will feature a Car show with the Historic Car Club of Pennsylvania, which started here in Haverford Township.

Featuring:

- Live Local Music and Entertainment on Two Stages
- Free tours of Nitre Hall, including weaving and quilting demonstrations
- Craft Beers from Conshohocken Brewing and Delicious Food
- Local Artists, Crafts People and Civic Organizations
- Meet Fascinating Historical Characters
- Candle dipping, blacksmithing, knitting, tatting and food prep demonstrations
- Colonial LUG with toy brick models of antique cars and Haverford landmarks

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

- A Family Favorite Event for 16 Years and Counting!

Have Fun & Show Your Support!

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

Main Stage Performers

- 11:00 **Seventh Heaven** (Haverford Middle School Choir)
- 11:30 **The Havertones Barber Shop Quartet**
- 12:00 **Alfred Poor & the Havertown Irregulars Blue Grass Band**
- 1:00 **Rob Simpson and Co.**
- 2:00 **Square dance caller with audience participation!**
- 3:00 **Black Eyed Suzies** featuring Sarah Larsen

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Heritage Festival

16TH ANNUAL



Celebrating the classic cars of Haverford Twp

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 | 11am - 4pm
JOIN US ALONG KARAKUNG DRIVE

More information: haverfordhistoricalsociety.org/heritage-festival/

Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin Master Gardening

LOCAL GARDENERS TRANSFORM THE POWDER MILL VALLEY

By Leslie Pugach

If you haven't taken the opportunity, check out the spring, summer and fall 2023 accomplishments of the Master Gardeners who have been hard at work throughout the unusual fluctuations of the weather over this past year.

First, the size of the Nitre Hall vegetable garden was doubled. All of the plants selected to be raised reflected what the residents of Nitre Hall may have raised in the 1800s. Items in the smaller herb/medicinal garden on the side of Nitre Hall were all clearly labeled and grouped according to how these plants may have been used by the residents.

Although they've made significant progress, volunteers remain engaged in a long-term effort to replace all non-native species with native plants. They're currently clearing invasives from slopes leading down to Karakung Drive. There is temporary signage on trees and shrubs that will remain.

Additionally, the team cleared an area behind the shed for use as a nursery/holding area.

Thanks to a group of student volunteers from Villanova University, who came to help with gardening on the national collegiate volunteer day, the heavy and unwieldy stone carvings from Lynnewood School that had been propped against the wall near the Nitre Hall entrance were moved to locations along the path that leads to the bridge into Nitre Hall's second floor. In this spot, they are more visible and contribute to understanding of the history of Haverford Township. Many of these Villanova students are in Villanova's engineering program so they were able to use their knowledge to find practical solutions for moving these items.



Villanova University Students move the large stone relief from Lynnewood Elementary School

Heritage corn in the vegetable garden



The gardeners group always needs additional hands. You don't need to be a Master Gardener or do any heavy lifting, but should enjoy working outdoors. Also, contributions of native plants are appreciated. Contact Lois Puglionesi at loisp11@verizon.net

Haverford Township School Programs at the Federal School and Nitre Hall

By Leslie Pugach

This spring, Haverford Township School District's fourth graders will be engaged in a full-day, activity filled program at the Federal School. Begun in 1972, this adventure brings a fourth grade class into the Federal School as imaginary students in 1849. Under the direction of costumed teachers, the children practice writing with period ink and pens, create their own books, learn the names (in chronological order) of the American presidents, complete arithmetic assignments, use period toys during recess times, and read from the McGuffey Reader. As students engage in these activities, they are asked to compare their experiences as students with the expectations for students in the mid-1800s, as well as the consequences for not following these rules.



Federal School with new steps

Fifth grade students will be returning to Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin. Small group activities, led by costumed guides, include examples of what residents of Lawrence Cabin would have needed to complete in their daily lives, such as drawing water from the creek, sawing logs, using a flint to start a fire in an open fireplace, and other chores. In the summer kitchen area, students dip candles, cook and bake on the summer kitchen's stove, churn butter, make soap, and learn more about Quaker settlers' table manners and behavioral expectations for children. Inside Nitre Hall, students hear about what life was like at different time periods for the various residents of this home as they tour the building and its displays. The group also learns about the history of the area around Nitre Hall, from the time it was a powder mill until the recent present.

The success of this highly active living history program depends upon the training, knowledge, and active participation of the adult guides. This group always needs more adults. If you are interested, please contact the Haverford Township School District at <https://haverford.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=2253>

New at Nitre Hall

A huge thank you to the talented volunteers who have:

- Installed a new stove in the summer kitchen
- Repaired and reorganized the exteriors of the summer kitchen and Rogers Storehouse
- Purchased a vintage cider press
- Worked on a permanent stage in the parking lot below Nitre Hall



Your donations at work

Part of the mission of the Historical Society is to preserve the buildings that are under our care. Nitre Hall, Lawrence Cabin, and the Federal School are owned by Haverford Township, and the Historical Society works closely with the Township on maintaining the buildings and on capital projects. Some of the money comes from the Township and some comes from membership dues and our fundraisers. Please thank your local commissioners and Township staff for supporting such historic treasures. We also thank you for all of your support and contributions.

Recently, we had Jeff Wolfe (you may recognize him as our blacksmith at the Heritage Festival) rebuild the front steps at Nitre Hall and the Federal School, fix the windows at Nitre Hall so they open using the sash weights and rebuilt the porch decking at the Federal School. See the Federal School photo in the School Programs article.



Nitre Hall's new steps



Repaired chimney

We also had BJK Masonry repair and repoint the chimneys at Nitre Hall (4 stories up!) as their poor condition was causing plaster and stucco damage. They did a great job!

You can check out all the changes to Nitre Hall the next time you come visit. Check out the event list or just stop by.

We're working on implementing the Preservation Plan for Nitre Hall and are planning on getting HVAC to protect the building and the collections and keep them in a good environment. Stay tuned for more updates!

Oktoberfest a Success!

On October 13, 2023, we had our annual Oktoberfest fundraiser with music by Bill Parkinson & Friends, seasonal food and drinks and a silent auction/ chance raffle. We had over 200 people come out to this event. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us and bid on wonderful items donated by local businesses. If you are interested in donating an item for this year's Oktoberfest, please email us.

Save the date for 2024 Oktoberfest- Friday, October 11, 7-10pm



Upcoming Events

April 6

DCVA (trash) Cleanup
at Nitre Hall, 9am-12pm

April 11

Spring meeting and public program
At the Quadrangle, 7:30-9 p.m.

April 13

Park Cleanup at Nitre Hall, 9am-12pm

April 21

Antique Road Show event
at The Grange, 1-4 p.m.

May 18

Park Cleanup at Nitre Hall, 9am-12pm

May 19

Open House at Federal School, 1-4pm

June 2

Haverford Township Heritage Festival
on Karakung Drive, 11am-4pm

June 30

Open House at Nitre Hall, 10am-1pm

July 28

Open House at Nitre Hall, 10am-1pm

August 25

Open House at Nitre Hall, 10am-1pm

September 29

Open House at Nitre Hall, 10am-1pm

October 11

Oktoberfest at Nitre Hall, 7-10 pm

We need volunteers for all of our events. Look for more information on how to attend and volunteer on our website

<https://haverfordhistoricalsociety.org>

50 Years Ago...

Printed in Summer 1974 HTHS Newsletter

Discovering History - A Cannonball in the Vegetable Garden

By Steve Boston

A new member of the Historical Society enjoys looking forward to learning about our past. It was the good fortune of this new member to learn about our Township's past in a very personal way.

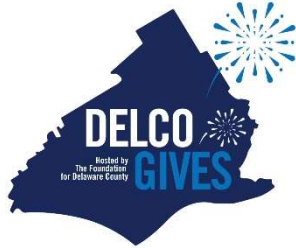
Early April days are good for preparing the garden for the coming season. The pitchfork cuts deep, and on this occasion struck a very solid object. It was thought to be just another of many rocks. But this object was shiny and more round than any regular rock. My immediate thought was that it was a cannonball.

Earlier in the day a map of the Powder Mill Valley as it appeared around 1840 had provided me with a feeling that my back yard may have been the back yard of the workers at the Powder Mill. From my study of the Williamsburg area, I knew that early residents dug garbage holes in their back yard. The thought of hitting a possible garbage hole while digging was in the back of my mind. When the cannonball was found, my thoughts were immediate discovery.

The neighborhood was excited. Kids brought shovels and began digging, hoping to find their very own cannonball. Their parents listened to the story of the Powder Mill Valley. History for my neighbors and myself came alive on that early spring day. Further excavation will have to await the Fall. My radishes and carrots would like not to be disturbed.

Further information about the Cannonball supplied by Margaret Johnston.

The cannon ball weighs 12 ¼ lbs. or 5.5 kilograms; diameter, 9.52 centimeters or 3 5/8 to 3 7/8 inches- it is somewhat irregular. If it were solid lead, it would weigh 14.7 kilograms. If iron, it would weigh 3.9 kilograms. We plan to have a metallurgist test it. The grain size of the black powder relates to the burning speed. Different characteristics for that used in rifles and cannon were tested by firing a cannon ball from a mortar. The length of the trajectory indicated the powder force, and we think this cannon ball may have been used for testing.



Have you dreamed of making history? Of course, we all have. And now we have a chance to be a part of Delaware County's day of giving - an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community.

We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$10,000! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On May 8th, visit delcogives.org and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in Delaware County. All giving will end at 7PM on May 9, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know at info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!

Find Us Online!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Haverford.Historical

Instagram: www.instagram.com/haverfordhistorical

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Send your comments and suggestions for this newsletter to us via email: info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org
Editors Spring 2024 – Leslie Pugach and Kate Clifford



**HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Founded 1939
Chartered 1964**

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