



HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Fall, 2006



October Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2006 @ 7:30 PM

Llanerch Presbyterian Church
Lansdowne Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

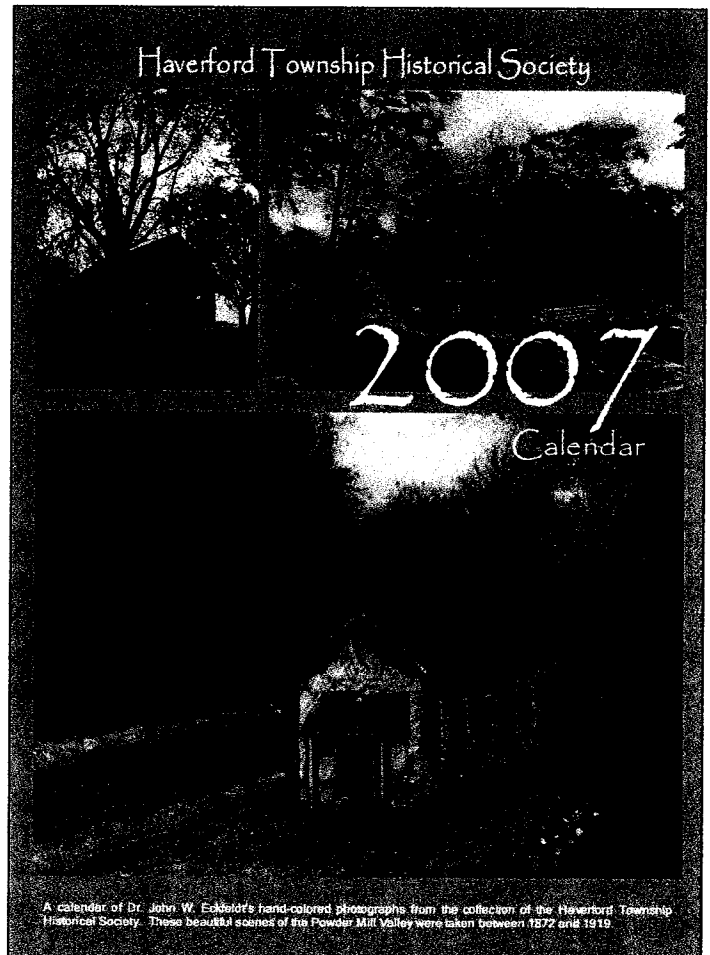
Clang, clang, clang goes the trolley...

Featured at our October meeting will be speaker Stan Bowman, who will present an illustrated discussion of trolley cars that ran in Delaware County and Chester County from the 1930's through the 1960's, with emphasis on Haverford Township. Stan's presentation is a real crowd-pleaser and often draws a large crowd. Don't miss this opportunity to see and hear about the trolleys that played such an important part in shaping Haverford Township.

Membership meetings are free and open to the public. Please join us for this great presentation on a favorite topic of many local residents. Light refreshments will be served.

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2007 HTHS Calendars Now Available!

For the first time, Haverford Township Historical Society has published a calendar of photographs from our collection. The 2007 calendar features hand-colored photographs of the Powder Mill Valley taken between 1872 and 1919 by Dr. John W. Eckfeldt.

John W. Eckfeldt, born in 1851, was a medical doctor who traveled by horse-drawn carriage along the roads of the Cobbs Creek Valley to treat the people who lived there nearly a century ago. He was a member of Temple Lutheran Church and is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill. His photographs describe the inhabitants and landscape of Cobbs Creek in his own words, from the "eastern line of Pennfield to Ardmore Junction on the Philadelphia and Western Railway."

(cont'd on page 2)

2007 HTHS Calendar

(cont'd from page 1)

Dr. Eckfeldt was a man of diverse interests and great talent. As a botanist, he built an extensive lichen herbarium of some four thousand species, which he donated to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He served as curator of the collection until failing eyesight forced him to retire. In 1917 he wrote and published Cobbs Creek in the Days of the Powder Mill, illustrating the historical sketch with his own photography. About 300 of his black and white photographs may be seen in the Philadelphia Collection of the Print and Picture Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

After Dr. Eckfeldt's death in 1933, his widow donated his personal album of hand-colored and annotated photographs to the Haverford Township Historical Society. The photographs in this calendar are selected from that album.

Calendars are on sale now for \$15 and will be available for purchase on Haverford Township Day (October 7) and at upcoming HTHS events. Calendars may also be purchased at the Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Department on Glendale Road, or by contacting Haverford Township Historical Society at 610-446-7988 or by e-mail at nitrehall@aol.com.



A Work in Progress...

Most of us have tackled ambitious projects at some time or another in our lives, sometimes with lots of help, and sometimes not. It takes extraordinary effort and persistence to stick with projects that have no end in sight.

These are the kinds of thoughts we have when we consider the work that HTHS member Gail Schneck has put into the grounds at Nitre Hall. Neither weeds nor poison ivy nor heat and mountains of mulch have deterred her this summer. Retired from her job as a school nurse and currently enrolled in a Master Gardener program, Gail has logged many hours in contributing her expertise to caring for our local treasure. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Gail for all her efforts. Thank you Gail!



The cemetery at the old Odd Fellows Hall, formerly a Methodist Church on Manoa Road.

Summer Strolls a Great Success

This past summer the Delaware County Historical Society, eight local historical societies (including HTHS) and the Delaware County Transportation Management Association (DCTMA) sponsored a series of "Summer History Strolls," eight walking tours of historic neighborhoods and sites. Haverford Township's stroll was held on July 28, and included sites in the Richland and Bon Air sections of the Township.

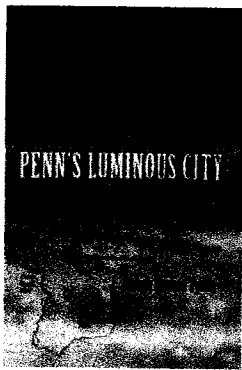
Beginning at the site of the "Battle of Llanerch Crossing" (West Chester Pike and Darby Road), President Mary Courtney led a group past an 1883 schoolhouse, an 1832 Methodist church and cemetery to the "Narbeth" farmhouse on Manoa Road, parts of which date to 1697. Included in her discourse was background about the railroads and their contribution to the Township's growth from 1870-1910 as well as local lore and stories about influential people who shaped our Township.

Undaunted by a late afternoon thundershower, a dozen hearty souls hiked the three mile route and a good time was had by all. Even longtime Haverford Township residents appreciated hearing stories and background about these sites. Pedometers provided by the Delaware Transportation Management Authority were distributed to participants.

A second walk of the Powder Mill Valley is planned for the spring from the Grange Estate to the site of the Castle Hill Mills.

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity."

- Cicero (106 B.C.-43 B.C.) *Pro Publico Sestio*



Penn's Luminous City

by Joseph Howard Tyson

Until 1997, author and HTHS member Joseph Howard Tyson did not know that he descended from Germantown's original settlers. This realization deepened his concern for Philadelphia

and his appreciation of William Penn's legacy. During the past eight years, he has tried to view the city through Penn's eyes. *Penn's Luminous City* is Tyson's record of that journey.

Joseph Tyson has taken William Penn's vision for the city he founded as a blueprint for renewal. He cites Penn's prescription for a green country town that would be wholesome, a place where its people could live in tolerance and peace in Penn's words, "a holy experiment." Tyson's early chapters describe in some detail the Quaker philosophy which guided Penn as he designed the city which he called the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. The rest of the chapters lay out plans to increase green space, and to make use of the various streams and rivers which he points out Pennsylvania has in greater abundance than any other state except Alaska.

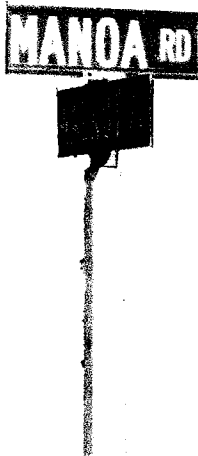
His plans for the various neighborhoods of west Philadelphia, Germantown and the Northeast are based on a vision inherited from William Penn but going beyond that to make suggestions for urban renewal based on spiritual values. He makes specific suggestions for increased park land, trails, renewed streams and enhanced green space. Further he provides ideas for how these goals might be met. The book could prove useful to city planners and citizens alike.

Joseph Tyson's *Penn's Luminous City* is available on amazon.com for \$18.95

- Reviewed by Alice Hoffman

Did You Know...

We recently learned from an e-mail sent to HTHS that the word "Manoa" means "wide or vast" in Hawaiian. Although we're not exactly sure how Manoa Road got its name, this translation makes some sense to us!



Cobbs Creek along Karakung Drive.

Karakung Drive – Our Own Treasure

It's been there all along, but just recently many local residents and visitors have come to appreciate the pristine nature and beautiful atmosphere of Karakung Drive along Cobbs Creek. Thanks to actions by Tom Broido and the Township Parks & Recreation Department, Karakung Drive was closed to traffic and open for recreation on many weekends this summer.

With no cars to worry about between Lakeview Rd. and Manoa Rd., residents enjoyed biking, running, walking their dogs and splashing in Cobbs Creek this summer. On several weekends, Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin were open for tours, with record numbers of visitors coming through.

Local resident Bill Kent waxed poetic about Karakung Drive in an article published in the September issue of *Main Line Today*. His essay, titled "Splendor in the Valley," expresses his affection for what he calls a slice of "sublime suburbia." With the sound of creek water tumbling over rocks and the mix of historic and modern structures nearby, Mr. Kent appreciates the sense of continuity – how everything seems to fit.

Haverford Township Parks & Recreation Department hosted a History and Nature Camp in Powder Mill Park this summer, which included a tour of Lawrence Cabin and plenty of time spent poking around the creek. The six and seven year old campers gave rave reviews about their experiences, and the Township hopes to host the camp again next year.

It's not too late for you to enjoy Karakung Drive this year. The drive will be closed for recreation from 11 AM – 5 PM on October 15, October 29 and November 18. Take advantage of these opportunities to enjoy the fall foliage and natural splendor of a treasure in your own neighborhood.

A look back...

The following is excerpted from an article that appeared in the November, 1919 edition of the "Bulletin of the Friends' Historical Society of Philadelphia." Since we have one of the milestones mentioned on the grounds at Nitre Hall, we thought HHS members would enjoy reading about the markers that were located on some of the roads in and around Haverford Township.

The Old Milestones About Philadelphia

By Joshua L. Bailey, Jr.

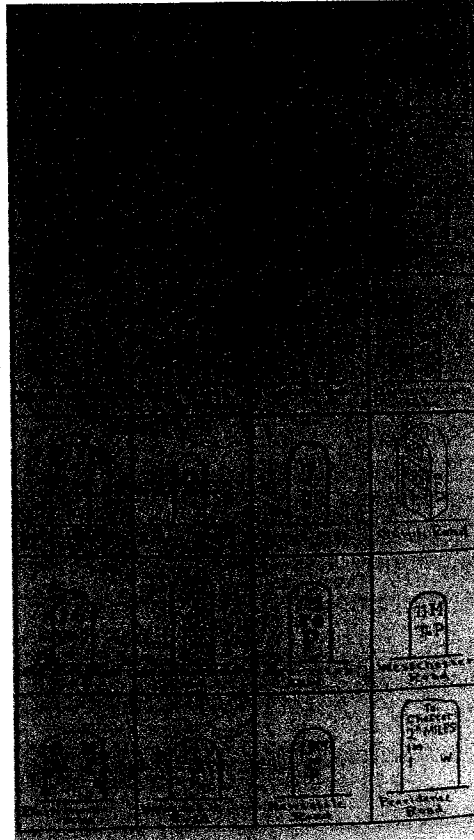
Many of the old roads radiating from the city of Philadelphia are guarded by milestones of upwards of a century and a half of service. These silent sentinels have seen the conestoga wagons of the pioneers migrating toward the sunset; the pillion saddles and sedan chairs of the revolutionary period; the intercity stagecoaches that preceded the railroads; the trolley cars, bicycles, and automobiles of the present day; and one of them, perhaps the oldest of all, daily sees the mail-carrying aeroplane break its journey between metropolis and the capital.

The critical date in milestone history is 1796, when the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, the first in America, was opened for traffic. In accordance with the stipulations of its charter, this company placed milestones for use in computing toll along its course. This provision was made in the charters of nearly all subsequent turnpike companies until 1859. These stones indicated the distance from the city limits, that being where the turnpike began, and so they can be distinguished from all earlier stones which measured from the old courthouse on Market Street between Front and Second Streets. Another point of difference is that the earlier stones were taken from local quarries, and in some instances were placed by private enterprise, so that they differ among themselves in size, shape, lettering, and material, while the turnpike stones are almost entirely of marble, a substance which came into use for the purpose with the turnpikes.

The Lancaster Turnpike

The first turnpike in America was opened in 1796 between Philadelphia and Lancaster. The former was the largest city in America at the time and the latter was the largest inland town. All traffic from the west came either by the Great Lakes or the Ohio River, and then by portages to the Susquehanna, being concentrated in Lancaster County. In addition to all traffic from the south came through Lancaster, as there was no bridge or ferry south of the county. When Elizabeth Drinker went to Virginia to see her husband, exiled because a conscientious objector, she went by way of Lancaster,

as did Dr. Schoepf, in his "Travels Through the Confederacy." But this was before the turnpike was built. Shortly after it was incorporated the yellow fever epidemic broke out and New York surpassed Philadelphia in population, and the opening of the Erie Canal permanently diverted western traffic from Philadelphia.



The milestones are of carefully dressed marble, and set the fashion for the stones of all subsequent pikes. They measure from the Market Street bridge, which accounts for the 14th stone of this series being west of the 16th stone of the Old Lancaster Road.

The Old Haverford Road

The Haverford Road was opened at a very early date. It began at about 20th and Vine Streets and ran in a northwesterly direction to the Schuylkill, which it crossed on the first suspension bridge in the United States. Just outside of the city limits is a large rock from which Rebecca Wood is said to have mounted William Penn's horse when he gave her a lift on the way to Haverford Meeting. The Pont Reading house of uncertain date, and the Llewellyn house, known at Castle Br'th where William Penn was seen at prayer and whose date stone announces that it was built in 1699, testify to the age of this road.

There was formerly a stone since removed to the Haverford Campus nearby that read "MD LL 1683." The letters stand for Morris and David Llewellyn, the former being William Penn's Deputy Surveyor.

The milestones on this road have been hit pretty hard by the souvenir hunter. One is in the basement of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, one is underground owing to a change in grading, two adorn private lawns, and only three remain on the road. One of these is on Haverford College property. These stones are similar to the Gulph Road stones in bearing the insignia of the Penn family.

The origin of these stones is wrapped in mystery. Watson, the annalist, assigns them to the Mutual Assurance Company. But that company was not founded until 1784, while one of the Gulph stones is dated 1770. Circumstantial evidence would involve them with the boundary stones between the domains of Penn and Lord Baltimore, for the stones marking the

western boundary of Delaware are almost identical. They were placed by Mason and Dixon in 1765. The stones in the southern boundary of Pennsylvania are altogether different.

The Haverford and Darby Road

This road is also known as the Coopertown Road. There is only one milestone on it, and that one is west of Grassland. It is one of the Penn Arm stones, numbered 10, and it stands just one mile west of the number 9 on the Haverford Road, so it must be considered a tributary of that system. The road between the two runs past old Haverford Meeting house built in 1700, the second oldest Friends Meeting house in the state, but the road is perhaps even older, and may have been originally laid out by the Dutch East India Company.

The Philadelphia and Strasburg Road

This road dates from about 1770, but its original course is hard to trace. Following the course of the present Westchester Pike to the vicinity of Darby Creek, it made its way via the grounds of the Radnor Hunt Club to Old Newtown Square, where William Penn intended to build the first town west of Philadelphia. The Meeting House at this point was built in 1711. Thence it made its way via the Boot and Downingtown to the Gap and Strasburg. Subsequently it was rerouted to pass through Westchester, and still later Castle Rock, the scene of the capture of James Fitzpatrick, the original of Sandy Flash in Bayard Taylor's "Story of Kennett."

The Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1848 and never extended west of Newtown Square. The stones were standing in 1807 according to Hill's map already quoted, and in their present position, which is somewhat remarkable as they measure from 32nd Street, where the turnpike began forty years later. They extend well beyond Westchester, and probably all the way to Strasburg. They are of Leiperville granite.



This milestone, which currently resides by a path at Nitre Hall, has the William Penn family coat of arms and indicates that it was 7 miles to the city of Philadelphia from its original location at the intersection of City Line and Haverford Roads. The stone was saved by Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Hoffman (who lived at the Grange Estate) when road improvements were being made in the 1930's.

Historical Society

Haverford Township



2007 Heritage Festival

Planning is in full swing for the May 6, 2007 HTHS Heritage Festival to take place along Karakung Drive.

Joint Fund-raising Event a Success

Many HTHS members attended a fundraiser for the Heritage Festival that took place at the Grange Estate in June. The event was a great success, with over \$2,000 raised for the festival. Please take note of the individuals and businesses on the following page who made donations to the silent auction for the event.

Needed: Local Artists

As we celebrate Haverford Township's heritage, HTHS is in search of local talent who want to display and sell their art at the Heritage Festival. We hope to represent a variety of media created by local artists including painting, glassblowing, ceramics and others. If you would like to participate, look online for a registration form at www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org. You can also visit our table at Haverford Township Day for more information. The registration fee to reserve your place at the festival is \$15. Proceeds from any art sales are yours to keep.

Ready, Aim, Shoot!

Photography Contest to be Held

One of the reasons many of us moved to Haverford Township is the beauty of its neighborhoods, parks and general environs. One of our tasks as a historical organization is to capture this beauty in photographs and preserve it for future generations. The Heritage Festival has inspired us to find a way to do just that.



In early spring 2007, HTHS will be hosting a photography contest. We will be looking for your favorite photographs of people, places and things taken within Haverford Township. Entries will be displayed at the Heritage Festival and prizes will be awarded to the winners. With the photographers' permission, a copy of each entry will be entered into the photograph collection of HTHS, preserved for future generations to enjoy. Look for contest details in 2007.

Step into history with us by becoming a sponsor...

HTHS is seeking sponsors for the 2007 Heritage Festival. If you or your business would like to become part of this event, please contact Tricia Woodman at 610.446.7988 or by e-mail at johnwman@msn.com.

Sincere Thanks to Our Silent Auction Donors...

Haverford Township Historical Society would like to express great appreciation to the many local businesses and individuals who made silent auction donations for our event at the Grange on June 15. Over \$4,000 was raised at the event, with proceeds funding the 2007 Heritage Festival planned by HTHS and preservation and restoration of the Grange Estate. Please take note of these generous donors and their support of local history:

Mark Freels

A Local Realtor
Havertown, PA
www.alocalseller.com

Amy Piergiovanni

www.mysilpada.com/amy.piergiovanni

Balloons & Banners

412 Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083

Barbara Pretz

Havertown, PA

Barnaby's of America

1901 W. Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083
www.barnabysofamerica.com

Belvedere Flowers

28 W. Eagle Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
www.belvederreflowers.com

Benglian Rug & Carpet

1025 W. Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083

biketopia

2030 West Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083
www.biketopia.net

Chaddsford Winery

Suburban Square Farmers Market
Ardmore, PA 19003
www.chaddsfordwinery.com

Crabtree & Evelyn

Suburban Square
Ardmore, PA
www.crabtreeandevelyn.com

Headlines Hair Designs

24 Brookline Blvd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Hollywood Video

427 W. Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083
www.hollywoodvideo.com

Jeanne Joseph

Kevin Sloan Soccer Academy
www.kevinsloansoccer.com

Main Line Soft Pretzel Factory

608 W. Lancaster Ave.
Bryn Mawr, PA

Mapes True Value

16 Manoa Shopping Center
Havertown, PA 19083
www.mapesstores.com

Michel Kersten

Swarthmore, PA

Nicole Tymoczak

www.nicolepaints.com

Oakmont National Pub

31 E. Eagle Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
www.oakmontnationalpub.com

Orner's Nursery

15 W. Eagle Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Pica's

7803 W. Chester Pike
Upper Darby, PA
www.picas-restaurant.com

Sampan Inn

8 Brookline Blvd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Starbucks

1280 W. Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083
www.starbucks.com

Stretch Funeral Home

E. Eagle Rd. and St. Denis Lane
Havertown, PA 19083
www.stretchfuneralhome.com

Superfresh

250 Lancaster Ave.
Wynnewood, PA 19096
www.superfreshfood.com

Taddeo's

22 St. Denis Lane
Havertown, PA 19083

The Bead Garden

2122 Darby Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
www.thebeadgarden.com

The Dairy Cottage

328 Woodland Ave.
Springfield, PA

The Soul Machine

www.thesoulmachine.com

The Technicolor Sheep

2227 Darby Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
www.technicolorsheep.com

Tiffany & Co.

The Plaza at King of Prussia
King of Prussia, PA
www.tiffany.com

Tom Broido, Realtor

tbroido@comcast.net

Trader Joe's

Suburban Square
Ardmore, PA 19003
www.traderjoes.com

Tyme Gallery

17 W. Eagle Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
www.tymegallery.com

Uniquely Yours

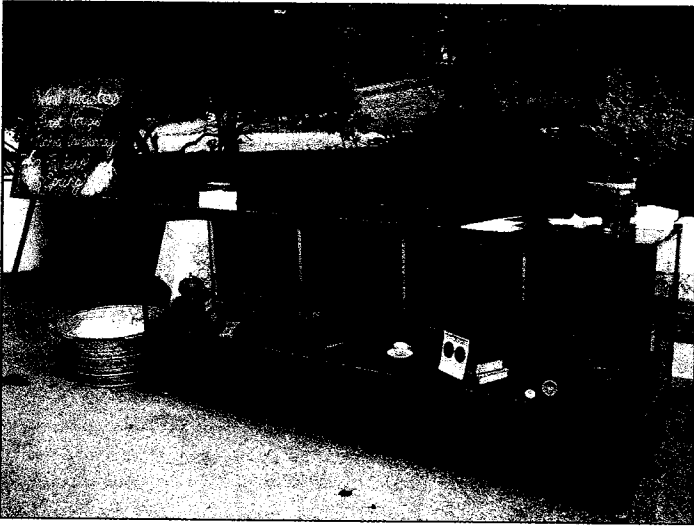
7 Brookline Blvd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Westgate Pub

1021 W. Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083
www.westgatepub.com

Williams-Sonoma

Suburban Square
Ardmore, PA
www.williamssonoma.com



(Another) Display Case Donated

Special thanks are in order for the Friends of the Grange, Inc. and especially Bob Lawson, for the donation of a wood and glass display case for Nitre Hall. The case, which served as the "bar" at our springtime joint event with FOG, had been in storage at the Grange Estate. It was originally procured from Strawbridge's when that department store was remodeling. It was too big to be put to use in the Grange mansion.

The case was offered to HTHS during our joint event in June, and after a few quick conversations among Board Members, we accepted their generous offer. Bob Lawson arranged for the transfer of the case to Nitre Hall, where it now stands in the ground floor hallway displaying various tools and artifacts from our collection. Plans are in the works to put the case to use for a gunpowder exhibit in the future. Thanks again to FOG for passing along this very beautiful and useful item.

Haverford Township Historical Society Board of Directors

Officers

President	Mary Courtney
1 st Vice President	Dick Walker
2 nd Vice President	Renee Coffey
Treasurer	Vince Snyder
Recording Secretary	Open
Curator	Carolyn Joseph

Committees

Programs	Dick Walker
Education	Amy Wolfe
Membership	Tricia Woodman
Newsletter	Tricia Woodman
Web Site	Carolyn Joseph
Publicity	Bette Ferrill
Member-at-Large	Donna Lunny
Member-at-Large	Sally Boyer
Member-at-Large	John Kirkland

Thanks to...

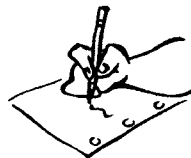
- Suzanne Guelli, for designing the Heritage Festival logo and for her ongoing assistance with projects involving graphic design.
- Ann Shuster and Carolyn Shaw, who donated six slide carousels from the collection of Alexis Anderson.
- Dave Anderson, Chris Farrell and students at Coopertown Elementary, who donated fat and candle stubs for the Colonial Living Program.
- Susan Kratzienger, for her contribution of *Remember William Penn 1644-1944*, a book published for the Pennsylvania/William Penn tercentenary that was deaccessioned from the Haverford Township Middle School Library and donated to HTHS.
- Sarah Bronstien and Sydney Jenkins, for their work last spring at the Federal School and Nitre Hall/Lawrence Cabin.
- Temple Lutheran Church, for the ongoing donation of candle stubs for the Colonial Living Program.

Welcome New Members

Thomas and Andrea Broido
 Channing and Rick Bushnell
 Kyle and Randi Conway
 Joe and Christina Dolan
 Erica Dougherty
 Sharon Eubank
 Remy and Wendy Fox
 Mark Freels
 Virginia Hannum
 Don and Christine Kelly
 Diane Leiper
 Christine Madison
 Mary P. Nield
 The Patten Family
 The Piergiovanni Family
 Barbara Pretz
 Chris Shelton
 Henderson Supplee III
 Simone Swantak
 The White Family

In Memoriam

Robert Hocker



Send your suggestions, comments and feature ideas for the HTHS Newsletter to Tricia Woodman at johnwman@msn.com or leave a message at 610.446.7988.



Upcoming HTHS Events

October 7, 2006

Look for the HTHS table at Haverford Township Day.

October 19, 7:30 PM

Membership meeting at Llanerch Presbyterian Church (open to the public) featuring speaker Stan Bowman, who will present an illustrated discussion of trolley cars in that ran Delaware County and Chester County from the 1930's through the 1960's, with emphasis on Haverford Township.

December 10, 1-4 PM

Holiday Open House at Nitre Hall

STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!

Haverford Township Historical Society

PO Box 825

Havertown, PA 19083

610.446.7988

e-mail: nitrehall@aol.com

Visit our website at:

www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org

