



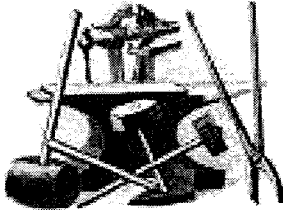
HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Fall, 2007



HTHS Membership Meeting

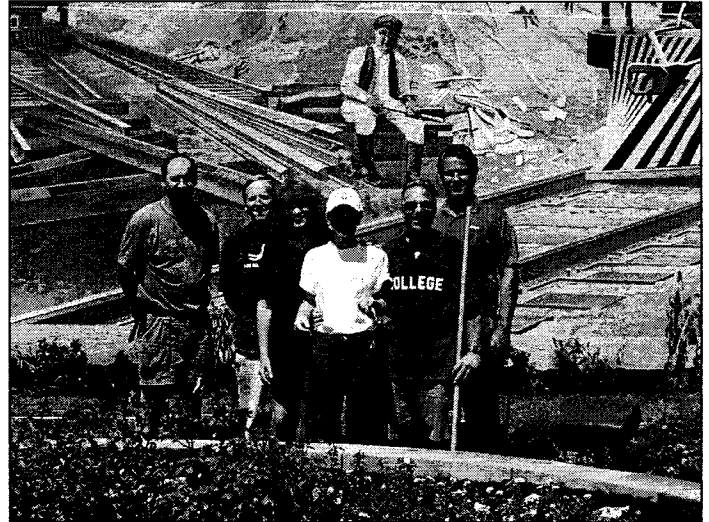
Thursday, October 18, 2007 @ 7:30 PM

Llanerch Presbyterian Church
Lansdowne Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

Blacksmithing

Local history enthusiast and colleague Bob Klinger will make a presentation about blacksmithing history and methods at the October membership meeting of Haverford Township Historical Society.

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.



Llanerch Crossing Park Committee members Rick Miller, Chris Madden, Jeanne Angell, Mary Courtney, Tom Mininno and Mario Oliva.

Llanerch Crossing Park Dedication Friday, October 5 at 7 pm

*The era of the trolley -
the modern answer to the horse and buggy*

Transformation of the triangular property at West Chester Pike and Darby Roads - long an eyesore - is nearing completion. The dream of a welcoming park has been accomplished through the efforts of 2nd Ward Commissioner Mario Oliva and an energetic and dedicated band of citizens, Boy Scouts and township workers. This highly visible corner at the southeastern edge of our township now commemorates the battle of Llanerch Crossing, a railroad rights fight between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the West Chester Traction Company in 1895. Railroad historian and author of The Red Arrow, Ronald DeGraw noted that the West Chester Traction Company was the only private company to successfully make inroads on PRR territory.

For commuters and leisure travelers, Llanerch Junction was long a rail transportation hub with connections to be made to Philadelphia, West Chester, Newtown and Ardmore Junction. The Ardmore Line lasted well into the mid 20th century, and the rail bed of the PRR can still be seen paralleling Railroad Avenue and behind the present Kohl's store on West Chester Pike.

(cont'd on page 2)

Inside This Issue...

Silent Auction & Beer-Tasting at Nitre Hall	2
Stroll Through Karakung Valley	2
Fundraiser to be Held at Nitre Hall	2
Map Reproductions for Sale	3
2007-2008 Membership Directories Available	3
Recent Additions to the Library at Nitre Hall	3
Welcome Back, Terri Dougherty!	3
From the Archives... Brookthorpe Mansion	4
Welcome New Members	5
Maintenance and Upkeep	5
- 1797 Federal School Treated for Termites	
- Lawrence Cabin Area Improved	
- Fireplace and Chimney Restoration	
- Herb Garden Moved	
A Poem of Thanks	5
Upcoming Events	6

Llanerch Crossing Park (cont'd from page 1)

In addition to railroad enthusiasts and writers, the gateway site fascinated photographers Wilbur Hall and Bob Fox, both of whom captured this important junction in numerous photographs, which may be seen in the photograph collection at Nitre Hall.

DETAILS OF THE DEDICATION:

Friday, October 5, 2007 at 7 PM

Llanerch Crossing Park

West Chester Pike and Darby Road

Speakers, Music and Commemorative Tokens

Stroll though Karakung Valley

Haverford Township's Recreation Department will be giving hay rides along Karakung Drive on Sunday, November 11 from 1-4 PM to celebrate the final Karakung Drive closing of the year. Many Haverford Township residents and visitors have enjoyed the closings, held 11 AM - 5 PM every Sunday since early May.

In related news, Boy Scout Alex Hartley has completed his Eagle Scout project to install a multi-use trail from the parking lot at Nitre Hall to Manoa Road. The project used ground-up asphalt, woodchips and other recycled materials to create a path 60 inches wide suitable for walking, running, pushing a stroller or even riding a bike. This project will offer Township residents greater access to this beautiful area without the hazards of being on the street and vulnerable to car traffic.



The Historical Society is grateful to Alex for choosing this project and hope that it will encourage more people to enjoy this scenic area of the Township.

ENJOY A TASTE OF "VICTORY"



HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Silent Auction & Beer Tasting

Thursday, October 11, 2007 7-9 PM at Nitre Hall
\$20 HTHS members, \$25 non-members

CELEBRATE FALL IN ONE OF HAVERFORD
TOWNSHIP'S MOST HISTORIC SETTINGS...

Fundraiser to be Held at Nitre Hall

HTHS will be hosting a fundraiser for our next Heritage Festival on Thursday, October 11, from 7 to 9 PM at Nitre Hall. The event will feature live music, food and a sampling of beers from Victory Brewing Company as well as a silent auction of items donated by local businesses and supporters of HTHS. Come make your bid on a Jamis beach cruiser bike, hand-crafted jewelry, restaurant gift certificates and more.

A souvenir beer coaster and response cards to reserve your tickets are included with this newsletter. Join us as we celebrate Oktoberfest HTHS-style. For more information, check the HTHS website or contact Tricia Woodman at 610-924-0658 or by e-mail at johnwman@msn.com. Tickets are \$20/members and \$25 for non-members.



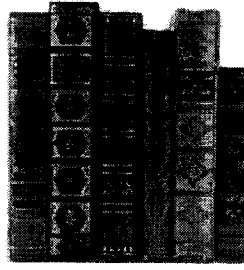
Map Reproductions for Sale

Retired area resident Al Holcombe has put his skill and time to use by creating reproductions of a Historic Map of Haverford Township in a print with an early rendering of the area near the current Manoa Shopping Center. Prints are available framed in black metal for \$125 or unframed for \$65. A portion of the proceeds of each map sold will be donated to Haverford Township Historical Society. Contact Mr. Holcombe directly to get your print at 610-558.8219.



2007-2008 HTHS Membership Directories

Be sure to pick up your copy of the new Haverford Township Historical Society Membership Directory at the October 18 Membership meeting.



Recent additions to the Library at Nitre Hall...

Madame Blavatsky Revisited, by Joseph Howard Tyson

A study of exotic theosophist Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, who spent a "tumultuous seven months in Philadelphia" in 1875, residing at the site of the famous White Dog Café on Sansom Street.

The Chronicle, a quarterly journal and "Shavings," the newsletter of the American Industries Association

Articles on bricks, bucksaws, Windsor chair-making, antique tool symbols and even corn husking pegs are just some of the interesting and useful information in these publications.

"Pioneer Americana Collection of Dr. & Mrs. Donald A. Shelley," a beautiful hardbound catalogue from the Pook & Pook, Inc. auction in April, 2007.

Other periodical publications received by the Historical Society include:

- *Past Masters News*
- *The Quarto*, published by the University of Michigan's Clements Library

Welcome Back, Terri!

HTHS is happy to welcome Terri Dougherty back onto our Board of Directors. Terri was very involved in the planning and execution of last spring's Heritage Festival and has volunteered considerable time to both gardening at Nitre Hall and archives projects in recent months. Look for Terri's creative expertise at the October 11 event at Nitre Hall where she will be in charge of flowers and decorations.



From the archives...Brookthorpe Mansion

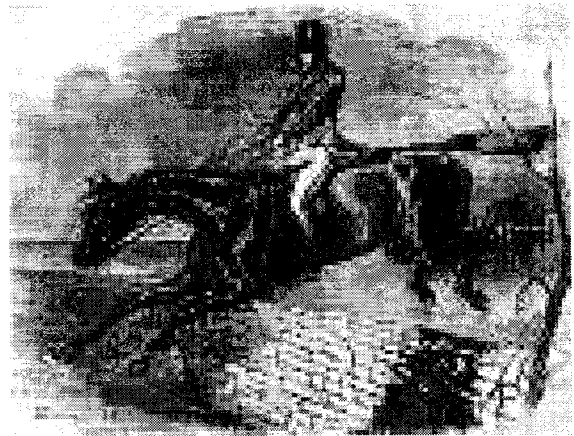


By Mary Courtney

The gracious mansion once just off Darby Road at College Avenue and known as "Brookthorpe" from 1921 until 1967, stood on land originally granted to John Bevan as part of the Welsh Tract. Over the next two hundred years, the acreage was divided and became the farms of John Lindsay and William Brooke, known as the Lindsay Farm and "Greenbank." Eventually the descendants of these early settlers added to the parcel creating "Brookthorpe Farms." Merion Cricket Club purchased some of this land for golf links; the estate of Stuart Wood and Atwater Kent's "Foxcroft" were carved from it. The Haverford State Hospital grounds are on the tract. Brookthorpe itself became The Mitchell School, was owned for a short time by Mr. and Mrs. H. Gates Lloyd and eventually was purchased by Marriott Corporation for the Quadrangle cottages. Brookthorpe, the mansion designed by architect George Shephard was even a Vassar show house in 1967.

Perhaps the most interesting residents of Brookthorpe were the J. Stanley Reeve family. Mr. Reeve and his wife, built their home in 1921 and lived there until 1961. In the prosperous era following WWI, life at Brookthorpe revolved around tennis, riding, lavish entertainment requiring numerous live-in servants, the beautiful gardens and above all the hunt. The Radnor Hunt was nearby and Mr. Reeve was an avid member. Born in 1878, J. Stanley Reeve was a Quaker from New Jersey. In 1908 he published "Rhubarb The Diary of a Gentleman's Hunter" and the following primer in *The Sportsman* in 1929, entitled "Fox Hunting Formalities." The complete article may be found online at www.time.com or in the archives of the historical society at Nitre Hall.

Mr. Reeve may have been a stickler for formality, but his rules for hunt behavior seem all in good fun today. The next time you sight a fox or hear its cry, remember that foxhunting was once a passionate pastime in our township.



FOXCATCHER DONT'S

- Do not wear a ratcatcher to an opening meet or scarlet on a cub-hunting morning.
- Nothing looks worse than a big flask on one side and a sandwich box on the other. Do not strew the paper from your sandwich box all about the countryside.
- Arrive ten minutes before the hounds are scheduled to start...do not take a short-cut through likely coverts.
- When the Master walks past you, lift your hat to him as you do to a lady or when passing a coach and four...Don't ask him where he expects to draw....Where he intends hounds to draw is his and his huntsman's affair, and not yours.
- Let the M.F.H. ride to covert side alone. Keep at least a hundred feet behind him; then if a hound is emptying itself, you won't be so likely to override it.
- Never smoke a pipe until you are hacking home.
- If you override the hounds, do not tell the Master you could not hold your horse. Simply say, 'Sorry'...Remember for the rest of your hunting life that a horse you cannot hold is the poorest of excuses for overriding hounds.
- When you sight the fox say, "Yonder he goes." Say it quietly and make sure first that it is a fox and not a cat or a cur dog. Don't say 'There is goes.' Don't get excited.
- Remember that foxes have been viewed and hallooed away for centuries. It is nothing new.
- When the fox goes to ground, do not ride up to the earth and try to look into it. There is nothing to see, only a hole. If you insist on making yourself useful, ask the huntsman if you may hold his horse for him.

Maintenance and Upkeep

1797 Federal School

Just in time for last spring's Federal School Program, a new section of floor was installed by Greg Basile after Vince Cunningham of Cunningham Pest Control treated the building for termites. Mr. Cunningham provided his services free of charge, and the Historical Society greatly appreciates this community service. Thanks also to Mr. Basile, whose prompt attention to this matter allowed Federal School Program classes to take place without interruption.

Lawrence Cabin Area Improved

In another instance of the support HTHS receives from the community, Boy Scout Travis Wolfe completed his Eagle Scout project this summer in and around Lawrence Cabin. With the assistance of many volunteers that he recruited, Travis installed stairs, built a retaining wall and planted liriopie on the sloped bank behind Lawrence Cabin. This project allows for safer access to the cabin and will prevent erosion of the soil behind the cabin. Thank you, Travis, for all your hard work!

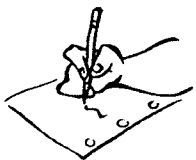
Fireplace and Chimney Restoration at Nitre Hall

The warmth of a cheery fire will greet guests at the December 2nd Holiday Open House this year. A year-long project to restore Nitre Hall's three fireplaces and two chimneys to safe working order was completed in September. In keeping with our long-range maintenance plan for Nitre Hall, the Historical Society engaged the architectural services of John Milner Architects, Inc. and The County Sweep, Inc. to accomplish this important task. The chimneys were pointed where necessary, capped and lined. New dampers were installed for each flu. Smoke chambers between the fireboxes and chimneys were lined with insulating mortar and the fireboxes repaired and finished with a simulated whitewash. The brick hearths were cleaned and reset.

Funding was provided by Haverford Township and the Historical Society. A complete record, documenting the repairs is on file at Nitre Hall.

Welcome New Members

Joseph & Christina Dolan
Brian and Bridget Dougherty
Logic Boardshop
Theresa O'Brien



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.



Herb Garden at Nitre Hall

Special thanks to Brian Dougherty of Dougherty Landscaping, who donated his time, expertise and materials to move the herb garden at Nitre Hall to a sunnier location. The herb garden's new location along the southeast side of Nitre Hall will allow for better light and easier access for watering.



A Poem of Thanks

By 4th Grade Students from Oakmont School who participated in the Federal School Program

*We at Oakmont want to say,
Thanks so much for a wonderful day.
To Mistress Mary and Mistress Ann, too,
Working with ink pens and meeting you
Was really fun. We learned so much
About older days. Our lives you touched.*

*Two recesses, copy books, and lunch
Were things we really liked a bunch
(We can't forget your yummy fruit punch!)*

*Ciphering, Presidents, and Spelling Bee—
Don't turn the necessary door's key!
There was so much to do and see.*

*Ben Franklin's quotations, Haverford's past
Our field trip really zipped by so fast...
But it sure was a blast!!!*

**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	Susan Faccioli
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Education	Amy Wolfe
Membership	Tricia Woodman
Newsletter	Tricia Woodman
Web Site	Carolyn Joseph
Publicity	Bette Ferrill
Member-at-Large	Donna Lunny
Member-at-Large	John Kirkland
Member-at-Large	Terri Dougherty

Upcoming HTHS Events

Sundays, 11 AM – 5 PM through November 11
Stroll, run or bike along Karakung Drive while the road is closed to traffic.

October 11, 2007 7-9 PM
“A Taste of Victory” Beer Tasting and Silent Auction at Nitre Hall. Purchase your tickets now! \$20 members/\$25 non-members.

October 18, 2007 7:30 PM
Membership Meeting at Llanerch Presbyterian (open to the public) featuring presenter Bob Klinger who will speak about blacksmithing.

December 2, 2007 1-4 PM
Holiday Open House at Nitre Hall

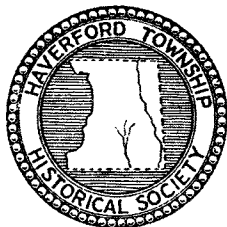
Haverford Township Historical Society

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www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org



STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!