



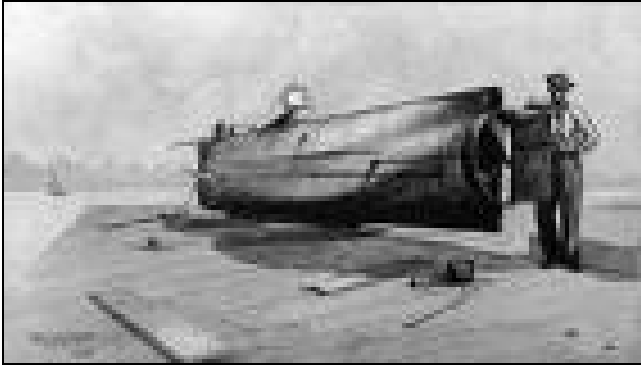
HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Spring, 2007



Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2007 @ 7:30 PM

Llanerch Presbyterian Church
Lansdowne Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

Fishboat: The Awakening of Stealth Technology

Bob Klinger will make a presentation about the Civil War submarine "The Hunley" at the Annual Meeting of Haverford Township Historical Society on April 19. Drawing on his own knowledge of forensic science, Mr. Klinger will shed some light on this amazing creation used during the Civil War. For more information about the Hunley, check www.hunley.org.

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.

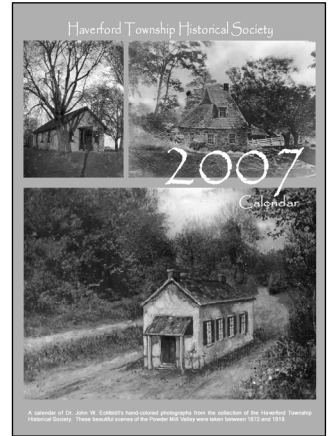
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2007 HTHS Calendars Still Available!

Featuring hand-colored photographs of the Powder Mill Valley taken between 1872 and 1919 by Dr. John W. Eckfeldt, the 2007 HTHS calendar is available for just \$10.

Pick up your copy at HTHS meeting and events, or at the Haverford Township Free Library. Contact HTHS at 610-446-7988 or nitrehall@aol.com for more information.



5K Run (or Walk) Through History

7:30 AM Registration
8:30 AM Race Begins

Lace up your shoes for a chance to experience one of Haverford Township's most beautiful and historic areas.



The HTHS Heritage Festival on Sunday, May 6, will begin with a 5K race at 8:30 AM. Run or walk this scenic route which follows the course of the Powder Mill Valley and passes through the historic Grange Estate. The first 100 participants will receive a Heritage Festival t-shirt and prizes will be awarded to top finishers.

The registration fee is \$15 in advance when you register online at www.runtheday.com and \$20 on race day. The Friends of the Grange will be setting up a water station for participants as they pass through the estate. Sponsors for the event include Havertown Health and Fitness, Wawa, Superfresh and biketopia, who will be leading the pack through the course.

See the race brochure for more information. Race brochures are available at HTHS meetings and on our website.



Step into history with us...there's something for everyone.

May 6, 2007 11 AM - 5 PM

Join us as we celebrate Haverford Township's cultural heritage and rich local history. The HTHS Heritage Festival will take place on scenic Karakung Drive along Cobbs Creek and in the setting of two of Haverford Township's treasured historic sites. With the support of Haverford Township and many local organizations and businesses, we will showcase the sense of community and natural beauty that have brought people to this area for over 300 years.

Live Music * Artists/Artisans * Food * Wine-Tasting * Antique Cars on Display * Children's Activities



Antiques Appraisals

Bring us your pieces of history! Local antiques expert Mary Lou Miller from "Den of Antiquities" in Gradyville will be on hand to assess your collectibles and treasured items. For \$5 per item, Ms. Miller will provide insight and an estimated value to your possessions.



Bike Valet

Ride your bike to the Heritage Festival! To help alleviate any parking issues at the Heritage Festival, HTHS is will offer a bike valet service run by local Girl Scouts. In a sectioned off area of the festival, bike riders will be able to park their bikes in a safe and secure place while they enjoy the festival on foot. Similar to a car valet service, riders will be given a ticket, which they will later use to claim their bikes. The service is free but donations will be accepted to benefit Haverford Township Historical Society.



Train Display

Weather-permitting, a thirty foot display of model trains will be running during the festival. Haverford Township resident Bill Parkinson will coordinate the display with the help of fellow train buff, Bill Morlitz. Paying homage to the contributions that the railways have made to the growth and development of Haverford Township, the display will feature references to Penfield and Beechwood Stations.



HTHS Photography Exhibition

HTHS is proud to sponsor a juried exhibition of photographs taken in Haverford Township to be displayed in Nitre Hall during the Heritage Festival. All photographers are welcome to enter their original work. The top 50 juried entries will be placed in the exhibition and winners will receive awards and be displayed at the Haverford Township Free Library for the month of May. All entries submitted with a digital copy will be shown on a slideshow on the HTHS website and preserved in the archives of Haverford Township Historical Society.



Jurors for the exhibition:

Erinn Aloi, Owner of "A Fresh Focus" Photography
Suzanne Guelli, Graphic Designer
Anne Neborak, Photojournalist, News of Delaware County
Janice Venuto, Freelance Photographer

Rules for entry:

- The entry fee is \$10 for the first photograph and \$5 for each additional entry.
- Entries must be framed, wired and ready for hanging.
- All work must be dropped off at Nitre Hall on April 21 between 12 noon and 4 PM.

Prospectuses with more information about the exhibition are available at the Haverford Township Library, Tyme Gallery, The Camera Shop at Manoa Shopping Center, through the Delaware County Camera Club and online via the HTHS website.

Children's Activities

Younger visitors to the festival will find lots to do. Pony rides will be available for \$2 as well as the opportunity to try out games and toys used by colonial-era children. Hosted by local Brownie and Girl Scout Troops, kids and adults alike will get a chance to try rolling a hoop, using a Jacob's ladder, playing marbles and more. Free crafts will also be available.



Exhibits and Displays from Local Organizations

- Haverford Township's Volunteer Fire Companies
- Darby Creek Valley Association
- Haverford Township Library
- Haverford Twp. Parks and Recreation Department
- Writers Club of Delaware County
- Llanerch Crossing Committee
- Friends of the Grange, Inc.
- Caleb Pusey House
- Friends of the Swedish Cabin
- Marple Township Historical Society
- Philadelphia Calligraphy Society
- Thomas Massey House
- Upper Darby Historical Society
- Haverford Township Civic Council
- Old Haverford Monthly Meeting
- Haverford Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Sponsors

The following organization and businesses have provided financial and logistical support to HTHS for Heritage Festival:

Beechwood Civic Association
biketopia, 2030 W. Darby Road
Fishers' Ace Hardware, State Rd., Drexel Hill
Friends of the Grange, Inc.
Havertown Health and Fitness, 34 Brookline Blvd
JD McGillicuddy's, 2626 E. County Line Rd.
Logic Boardshop, 2411 W. Darby Road
SJCC Bnai Aaron Lag B'Omer 5767
Superfresh, Manoa Shopping Center
Suzanne Guelli Graphic Design, sguelli@verizon.net
Temple Lutheran Church, Brookline Blvd.
Tyme Gallery, 17 W. Eagle Road
Wawa, Darby Road and Manoa Road



Federal School Program to Begin

Spring is here and so is the 2007 Federal School Program. Seventeen fourth-grade classes from Haverford Township School District and three non-township schools have registered. We are looking forward to another great year for the program, which gives children the valuable experience of a day on the life of mid-19th century students.

Outreach...Connecting with the Community

Brownies at Nitre Hall



Spring was in the air as 24 members of Chatham Park's Brownie Troop #1346 visited Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin on March 15. After a picnic lunch, the girls enjoyed a tour

of the buildings given by HTHS Curator Carolyn Joseph and a chance to play with colonial toys from the historical society's collection. The girls also interviewed long-time Township residents Rosie Woodman and Cathy Cox. The activities were part of a history "Try It" – the Brownies version of merit badges.

History Talk at the Quadrangle

HTHS President Mary Courtney and Board Member Bette Ferrill visited the Quadrangle in February to give a presentation on the history of Haverford Township.

Coffee, Tea and History

The first in a series of Coffee, Tea and History sessions hosted by Donna Lunny and Sue Faccioli at the Haverford Township Free Library was deemed a success. Attendees enjoyed looking at original realtor photographs of houses in the Brookline and Penfield sections of the township as well as a diagram of the old Beechwood Amusement Park. March's session, called "Trash to Treasure", focused on found objects with historical or sentimental value. **The next Coffee, Tea and History will take place in the Board Room of Haverford Library from 10 AM to noon on April 24.**

Shedding Some Light

Mary Courtney

Daylight Saving Time arrived three weeks early this year. As intended, we have gained useful hours of light in the evening, creating the illusion of a longer day, and soon it will be light in the mornings too. For now the dark, early mornings of late winter, remind me of the challenges people have faced in the past to extend their days and light their work.

Beyond stars and moonlight, fires provided the first light after darkness fell. It is little wonder that the hearth was the heart of the home in past centuries, the obvious, family gathering place and source of warmth, cooked food and the glow of firelight. Before candles became commonplace, oil-rich “fat wood” or “candle fir” splinters were stripped from trees and lighted, creating some of the first torches. Another source of artificial light was the tall, cylindrical rush, *juncus effusus*, which grows near marshy land or ponds. Gathered, dried and soaked in fat or oil it burns with a smoky flame. Burning fat for light, whether from candle fir or rushes, required holders to protect hands and make the light portable. Eventually oil lamps were fashioned from stone, clay or bronze and other metals; these lamps are essentially containers for fat. Lamps could be re-filled with oil or fat and were portable and durable.

The Romans first dipped tallow candles. They were inexpensive, readily available and easy to make. *Tallow* is the body fat from beef or mutton, i.e. the fat lying between the skin and muscle – distinguished from *lard*, which is the fat around interior organs, like the kidneys, which is more often used in cooking. Pork fat, while fine for soap, is too soft for candles.

On family farms animals were slaughtered and butchered in the autumn, a messy, smelly outdoor activity most suited to cold, but not freezing weather. There were fewer flies at this time of year also. Fat rendered in large vats of water required less monitoring than frying, which could result in burned fat. The pot with water and fat could be left on a low flame overnight. Any remaining meat solids would sink to the bottom. (This also explains why fat people are more buoyant in the water!) The fat rendered in this way hardens when cooled and is virtually odorless and very white. It keeps for years and stays relatively hard even at room temperature.

To make candles, tallow must be melted in a pot large enough to accommodate the length of wick desired. Interestingly, the fat is not kept over a flame. If kept too hot, the melted tallow will strip off subsequent layers of fat before they can adhere and the candle takes on a bean shape, being tapered at both ends. Dipped tallow candles “build” the same way wax

candles do and need 40 to 50 “dips.” The best weather for candle making outdoors would be about 38 degrees and breezy. The brisk temperature hardens the fat on the wick and the wind helps to dry and set up the candle for the next dip.

We know that the best wicks are made from braided cotton fibers. Cotton burns cleaner than linen and braiding makes a wick that bends into the flame to consume itself, requiring less trimming.

The quest for better lighting centered around making candles that dripped and smoked less and burned brighter and more slowly. To this end beeswax, and spermaceti (fat from the sperm whale) candles were ideal, but very expensive. Spermaceti candles are the benchmark for determining “candle power.” In 1948 the Sperm whale was listed as endangered and the last remaining spermaceti on hand was made into candles. Haverford Township Historical Society member and Past Master, Clarissa Dillon, who presented an excellent tallow candle workshop at the Thomas Massey House last year, bought one pair of these candles at auction, paying \$48!

Alum was first added to fat to make candles burn more slowly and take on a somewhat “waxier” consistency. In 1823, stearin added to the fat yielded firmer, less smoky candles, which burned brighter. In the late 19th century, paraffin - a by product of the petro-chemical industry - was added to obtain similar results.

Bayberries were found to be very waxy and when large quantities were boiled they yielded a wax both pleasant smelling and green colored. These surprisingly were “poor man’s candles” because while they could be made for free, were labor intensive. The children of farm families gathered the many tiny berries needed. Today’s “bayberry” candles have little or no real bayberry wax and are scented wax candles.

Some interesting facts gathered from candle history:

- The Tallow Chandler Guild was founded in 1462.
- Both the candle-making and soap-making require tallow. These skills were frequently combined in one family business. Benjamin Franklin’s family were chandlers in Boston. Another example is Proctor, a chandler and Gamble, a maker of soap, became Proctor & Gamble.
- In the 17th c. the candle tax was repealed in England to stimulate the candle trade. Farmers continued to use rush lamps with their free fuel.
- Hans C. Andersen wrote a charming short story, “Lysene” – “The Candles” translated by Jean Herschalt about a dipped tallow candle and a molded beeswax candle.

For a delightful article on the history of lighting, visit

www.bergencountyhistory.org



Karakung Drive Closings

At their March 12 Meeting, Haverford Township Commissioners discussed the closing of Karakung Drive for recreational purposes part of the day each weekend from May to November. The Drive was closed a number of times last summer, sometimes coinciding with open houses at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin. Many residents enjoyed walking, biking and running along this scenic route. Comments and suggestions from residents, including traffic and parking concerns, are being considered before a final vote is taken on this issue.

Maintenance and Upkeep

- HTHS recently received confirmation from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that proposed work on the chimney and hearth at Nitre Hall falls within acceptable restoration practices. This great news will allow HTHS to proceed with repairs to make the fireplaces usable.
- Investigation continues into the extent of the termite damage to the floor of the Federal School. Following the Federal School program in April, sections of the floor will be removed to look for evidence of a swarm. After the appropriate treatment, damaged sections of the floor will be replaced.
- To the delight of Board Member and Education Chair Amy Wolfe, the woodstove in the summer kitchen of Nitre Hall has been repaired. The stove, which is used in the Colonial Living program each fall, had fallen into disrepair and was not functioning properly, complicating the woodstove cooking inherent in the Colonial Living Program. The newly repaired stove will allow HTHS to continue to provide a high-quality, realistic colonial experience for students.

Welcome New Members

Howard Bender
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hartnett
Andy Lewis
Fred Sand

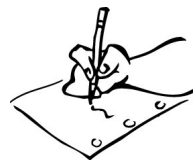
In Memoriam

Roberta Cramp
Effie Haven
Jerry Sacchetti
Marjorie Weest

Thanks to all members who have paid their 2007 dues.

Dues can be remitted to HTHS at PO Box 825, Havertown, PA 19083 and are as follows:

Senior/Student.....\$5
Individual.....\$10
Family.....\$15
Contributing Organization.....\$25



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.

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

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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

Upcoming HTHS Events

April 19, 2007 **7:30 PM**
Annual Membership Meeting at Llanerch Presbyterian
(open to the public) featuring speaker Bob Klinger.
"Fishboat: The Awakening of Stealth Technology"

April 24, 2007 **10 AM - Noon**
Coffee, Tea and History in the Board Room at the
Haverford Township Free Library

May 6, 2007 **11 AM - 5 PM**
HTHS Heritage Festival along Karakung Drive

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

