



# HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Fall, 2008



## Join us for the Premier of "Heritage Festival"

A documentary of the 2008 HTHS  
Heritage Festival by Alfred  
Ventura

At October's General Membership Meeting, we will be rolling out the red carpet to celebrate the premier of a film by high school student Alfred Ventura. Footage from the 2008 Heritage Festival, along with interviews by Haverford High student Kevin Shields of the organizers and families who attended are edited together with vintage photos from the Haverford Township to give a great sense of what the Heritage Festival seeks to accomplish. Come enjoy popcorn and refreshments as we celebrate this film.

**HTHS Membership Meeting**  
**October 17, 2008 @ 7:30 PM**  
Temple Lutheran Church  
Earlington Rd. & Brookline Blvd.  
Havertown, PA 19083

## Historical Society Organizes House Tour

**December 13, 1-4 PM**

Mark your calendars for the first ever Haverford Township Holiday House Tour. On Sunday, December 13, some of the most historic and interesting houses around the Township will open their doors to the public for tours. Look for more information in November. Tickets will be available for \$25 by mail in advance and at the Federal School on the day of the event. Questions may be directed to Terri Dougherty at 610-449-1571.



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## Silent Auction & Beer Tasting

**Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008**  
**7- 9 PM at Nitre Hall**

Come enjoy live music, great beer and a silent auction of items donated by local businesses! Proceeds will fund the 2009 Heritage Festival along Karakung Drive. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Return the enclosed card to reserve your tickets today! Any questions, please contact Tricia Woodman at [johnwman@msn.com](mailto:johnwman@msn.com).

## New Officers Selected for HTHS Board

At the May Board of Directors' meeting Amy Wolfe, Coordinator of Colonial Living, assumed the duties of President. Mary Courtney will take on the position of Recording Secretary and co-chair the membership committee with Curator Carolyn Joseph. Tricia Woodman will chair Special Events and continue to produce the newsletter. Terri Dougherty is organizing a Holiday House Tour for December 13, which may become an annual event. The other officers remain unchanged.

## Officers

President	Amy Wolfe
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Dick Walker
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Renee Coffey
Treasurer	Vincent Snyder
Curator	Carolyn Joseph

## Welcome New Members

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Recording Secretary    Mary Courtney

**Committees**

Programs	Dick Walker
Education	Amy Wolfe
Membership	Carolyn Joseph & Mary Courtney
Newsletter	Tricia Woodman
Web Site	John Kirkland
Publicity	Bette Ferrill
Special Events	Tricia Woodman/Terri Dougherty
Member-at-large	Donna Lunny



Penfield Station

## "Piggeries in Penfield"

From the Writings of Oliver T. Higgins, edited by Mary Courtney

Reading the following memoir suggests a possible source for the mysterious nick name "Pig and Whistle" used for the Norristown Trolley Line of the Philadelphia and Western. Today residents of Brookline will recognize Pig & Whistle as the new name of the former Butch's Deli.

"In 1917, I was married and moved to Haverford Township that had become a first class township in 1916. I became a charter member of the Penfield Civic Association and was active in highway, police, lighting, health and recreation committees.

The original Penfield tract was developed by Clifford B. Harmon & Co. of Boston and I believe named after ambassador Penfield of Boston. In their efforts to create a purely, high-class residential division, development homes were sold under a restricted stipulation that there would be no business building of any sort or the conduction of business from any homes with the exception of the professional practice of Medicine or Dentistry. The territory of Penfield specified the following boundaries: the rear of the property line on the west side of Larchmont Avenue from Lawson Avenue to Ashurst Road from the rear property line of the south side of Ashurst Road to the right of way of the Philadelphia & Western railway thence along the property line of the right of way of the P&W for trains running into 69<sup>th</sup> Street Terminal extending along the rear property line on Lawson Avenue to an imaginary line to the right of way at the junction of Lawson Avenue and the dead end of Larchmont.

Penfield was at that time a small segment of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward and very little attention was given us by the then board of Commissioners. I attended their monthly meetings and presented by protest or

took residence at

my location in August of 1917, we had a very bad situation called Piggeries covering the whole north and east side of Penfield.

On the north side the Lawrence farm along Mill Road and along the P&W side there were quite a number of pig pens. East of the P&W right of way between Beechwood proper and Old Manoa Road was a very large pig farm. Of these two piggeries, the main subsistence was garbage. Below Manoa Road, on what was known as the Williams estate, now Carroll Park, Mr. Williams raised pedigree pigs as a hobby and did not feed garbage. From his project there were no complaints.

I headed the committee for the extinction of the piggeries and had a very good reason for doing so. We were having a 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic on my place and quite a few friends and relations came out to the sticks to enjoy the day. It was hot and sultry in the morning until we were about to enjoy our picnic lunch when the wind spring up and blew in from the east, carrying with it the results of garbage-fed pigs. Yes, the estimated one hundred pigs and the very thought of hunger was gone with the wind. Our guests, on leaving suggested we rename our locality "Pigfield" instead of Penfield.

That day started an action that even made headline news in Philadelphia. Mr. Cookenbach, Wheeler, myself and a couple of others on the Piggery Committee, got in touch with the state health department, and on the following weekend, the state man visited the big farm across the way from my home. We found that most of the pig excrement was piled up in a mound over your head

and to supplement the smell were three dead pigs, swollen by internal decomposition to twice their normal size. The inspection went no further and by nightfall pigs were running wild in Beechwood and surrounding areas. The health board vet found hog cholera; every pig was thoroughly examined and those infected, killed. All the pens were burned and the surrounding territory disinfected. You could have had a pig of your choice if you could of caught one. It took some time to round them up. We pressed hard and at the order from the State as well as the County, we settled with the other pig owners and Mr. Williams, by giving them a time limit for final disposal of their stock.”

Mr. Higgin’s memoir, which continues with his efforts to improve the roads of Penfield, may be read at the society’s library at Nitre Hall. Time to do research or read in the archives may be arranged by calling the office at 610-446-7988 and is free to members.

**Just for Fun...** Words of humor and wisdom from the records of the Brookline Women’s Club

The anatomy of any organization is made up of four kinds of bones:

1. Wish bones, who want someone else to do the work;
2. Jaw bones, who talk a lot but do little else;
3. Knuckle bones, who knock everything others try to do;
4. Back bones, who get behind the wheel and work.

**Recent Gifts to the Society – Thank You**

- Penfield Development Brochure from the Lower Merion Historical Society
- *Images of Rail The Wilmington & Western Railroad* by Gizela Vasquez ; maps and copies of the PRR newsletter *The High Line: Newtown Square Branch* donated by Len Beck
- 1948 Manoa Shopping Center ground-breaking shovel and writings of his father, Oliver T. Higgins “Concerning his early life in Penfield from 1917” from O. Warren Higgins
- The Papers of life-long Llanerch resident, Ethel B. Haven from her family
- The Papers of Jane Galloway
- Records of the Brookline Women’s Club

- Memoirs of Dave Andersson *The Early Years*
- Red Arrow Lines Trolley DVD and companion booklet from Ben Rohrbeck

**Visit this site for a film clip of the newly-restored and working fireplaces at Nitre Hall, made at the December Open House by Gloria Esposito.**  
[www.mainlinevideoguide.com](http://www.mainlinevideoguide.com)

### Site Maintenance



Members of Cub Scout Troop 462 (and a couple friends) volunteered last spring to get Karakung Drive and Cobbs Creek cleaned up in preparation for the 2008 Heritage Festival.

### Archives

Thank you to new volunteers, Libby Hawes and Janet Kim who have helped us in the archives over the summer. Curator Carolyn Joseph has been able to complete the cataloguing of the Civil Defense photographs which were recently donated and identify and archive the glass plates of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century photographer, Wilbur Hall.

#### **Welcome New Members**

Mark D. Anderson  
Gordon J. Bergelson  
Vince and Maily Cunningham  
Paul and Phyllis Gibson and Family  
Mike and Marybeth Hagan and Family  
Jim and Ellen Hagan  
Jay and Sherri Jenkins and Family  
Anne S. Neborak  
James A. Segrave-Daly  
Tim and Erin Schanne  
Ken Tiss - Welcome Back.

### Deeds and Other Historic Records Available for Purchase

Mr. Jim Reese of Ambler has 18<sup>th</sup> century real estate documents pertaining to Haverford Township which are interesting and valuable to the historian and collector. Some of the more famous signatures which may be found in his collection are of Bishop William White, Samuel Garrigues, Jr., Joseph Hopkinson, whose father signed the Declaration of Independence, artist Jacob Rush, Jacob Humphreys,

## **Upcoming HTHS Events**

**October 2 7-9 PM**

Silent Auction and Beer Tasting at Nitre Hall  
Tickets: \$20 members. \$25 non-members

**October 12 1 - 4 PM**

Open House at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin

**October 16 7:30 PM**

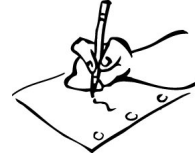
General Membership Meeting  
Temple Lutheran Church

**November 2 1 - 4 PM**

Open House at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin

**December 13 1 - 4 PM**

Haverford Township Holiday House Tour  
Tickets \$25, contact Terri Dougherty 610.449.1571



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

## **Haverford Township Historical Society**

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**STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!**