



# HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Fall, 2009



**HTHS  
Membership  
Meeting  
October 22  
@ 7:30 PM**  
The Historic  
Grange Estate  
Myrtle Avenue  
Havertown, PA  
19083

The Haverford  
Township  
Historical Society  
General  
Membership  
Meeting will be  
held at the  
Grange Estate at

7:30 PM on Thursday, October 22. The Guest Speaker is Robert Wittman who will make a presentation entitled "International Art Theft: Tales from the FBI's Real Indiana Jones". Mr. Wittman is a former Senior Investigator and Founder of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Art Crime Team. The art industry is one of the largest unregulated businesses in the world generating more than \$200 billion annually in business revenues. The United States alone is responsible for more than 40% of \$80 billion of that industry. The illicit art market represents a \$4 to \$6 billion annual criminal enterprise with victims coming from all segments of the art and cultural artifact community.

Robert Wittman Inc. is uniquely positioned to protect collectors, institutions, nations, and galleries from losses involving internal and external theft, fraud, forgery, and fakes. They are also actively involved in the recovery and restitution of stolen and illicitly acquired art and cultural artifacts. Mr. Wittman has an upcoming book "Pursuit of the Priceless", which will be published by Random House.

Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

The Historical Society invites you to join us for our annual fundraiser at Nitre Hall on Thursday, October 8. The HTHS Oktoberfest is one of our favorite fall events. Guests enjoy a crisp evening on the grounds of Nitre Hall with live music, a variety of beers from Victory Brewing Co., light fare and a silent auction of items donated by local businesses and individuals. Proceeds from this event will fund the 2010 Heritage Festival.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. To get yours, send cash or a check made payable to "HTHS" to HTHS, PO Box 825, Havertown, PA 19083. Please include your phone number or email address so that we can confirm your tickets.

If you have questions about this event, or if you'd like to make a donation to our silent auction, please email Tricia Woodman at [johnwman@msn.com](mailto:johnwman@msn.com).

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## From the Archives...



### Capturing the Moment for Future Generations

The Historical Society appreciates contributions to our archives from local history-lovers. By sharing photographs and others of items of historic interest with us, you can help us build a meaningful portrait of the culture and heritage of Haverford Township for future generations. Most recently, we have received the following:

- Three 1956 Photographs of Belvedere Road from the collection of Tom Fay.
- Paul Kelly's photographs of Holiday House Tour sites on Strathmore and Shawnee.

If you have photographs or artifacts that may be suitable for our collection, please contact our Curator, Carolyn Joseph, at [info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org). Thank you!

### Historic Preservation Ordinance Proposed for Haverford Township

On September 14, 2009, Haverford Township Commissioners were presented with the first reading of an Historic Preservation Ordinance for Haverford Township. The Zoning and Planning Commission, with assistance from the Delaware County Planning Commissions, have been working for months on this proposed ordinance. While it does not create historic districts or a HARB, it does address demolition of historic properties in detail and establishes a historic commission. We hope that you join us in support of this plan to help protect and preserve our cultural and architectural

# The Federal School Program – Helping 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Re-Live History

By Amy Wolfe



bestowed on the Constitution Center, Longwood Gardens and other prestigious area landmarks. Why not join



## Haverford Township History Class Offered

September 30 - October 28, 2009 ( Wednesdays ) -

A course covering "The History of Haverford Township from 1681-1921" will be offered at the

High



School from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Registration is through the Haverford Township Adult School. Call 610-446-8022 for further information.

visitors from around the nation in enjoying a local treasure. Stroll the grounds, take a tour and enjoy this piece of history preserved by the efforts of Haverford Township residents and dedicated local history lovers.

The historic Grange Estate is open for tours on Saturdays and Sundays through October from one to four PM and weekends in December, when a holiday train display will be open in the Carriage House. The Grange will also be part of this year's Holiday House Tour on December 13. For more information, please visit the Grange's website at [www.thegrangeestate.org](http://www.thegrangeestate.org).

## Visit the Grange this Fall – Our Own Piece of History

Fall is a great time to enjoy a little piece of history in our own back yard. The historic Grange Estate dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with an illustrious history which includes visits from George Washington, General Lafayette and others.

Merion Golf Club will be hosting the 2009 Walker Club this month and has included the Grange on its list of must-see sights in the area, an honor

Can you imagine a school with no lockers, computers, or even electricity? This old time reality is what Haverford Township fourth grade students experience when they visit the Federal School each spring.

The Federal School Program is a living history experience run by the Haverford Township Historical Society in partnership with the school district. Starting in April of each year, every fourth grade class spends a day in our historic one room school house studying the fourth grade curriculum as it might have been in the year 1849. Two guides, attired as school masters or school mistresses, lead the class through the day.

Students are encouraged to dress in period attire - girls in long skirts with hair in braids, and perhaps a bonnet, and boys with pants rolled up knickers style, with vest and a cap. They start the day to the sound of the school bell - a hand bell, of course - and are seated in the tiny one room school according to size, the smallest in the front, representing the youngest students, and



the biggest in the back, representing the oldest.

Over the course of the day students learn the history of the Federal School, which was built in 1797 as a private or subscription school, and became a public school in 1849. They hand sew their own copy books to be used for handwriting exercises. Handwriting, which was extremely important before the advent of typewriters and computers, is practiced with nib pens (descendants of quill pens) and India ink. An elaborate style of cursive, called script, is copied from hornbook samplers, and ink spills are not an uncommon event.

Students use slates and chalk for their cyphering exercises, which is what we call math. They read aloud from McGuffey's Readers, memorize and recite either the first twelve presidents or a saying from Poor Richard's Almanac, and end the day with an old fashioned spelling bee, often the highlight of the day.

There were many rules for proper behavior for students in a one room school house, and students delight in learning about the many punishments for breaking those rules. These include the liberal use of the hickory stick, "pegging"- which is nailing the offending party's hair to the wall while he or she stands on tip-toe, and hanging by overalls or suspenders from coat hooks (the origin of "off the hook"). The students' favorite punishment, though, is not one related to behavior at all. It is the wearing of the infamous dunce cap, which resulted from poor academic performance.

The popularity of the Federal School Program extends beyond the local school district. In addition to Haverford Township schools, Rosetree Media and Ridley Park fourth graders, as well as some private school groups take advantage of our unique, one room school house experience. This is

testament to program, of are extremely proud.

the quality of our which we



**WANTED: Guides for the Colonial Living and Federal School Programs.**

Must love history, enjoy working with children and be available to work several days in the fall and spring. Employment is through the Haverford Township School District. For further information contact Amy Wolfe at [info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@haverfordhistoricalsociety.org).



## STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!

Free and open to the public.

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Phone: 610.446.7988  
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[www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.haverfordhistoricalsociety.org)

### Upcoming HTHS Events

**September 30 - October 28**

*Haverford Township History Class*

Registration is through the Haverford Township Adult School. Call 610-446-8022 for further information.

**October 8 7 to 9 PM**

*Oktoberfest at Nitre Hall*

Live Music, Silent Auction and Beers from Victory Brewing Co. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 at the door

**October 22 7:30 PM**

*Membership Meeting at the Grange Estate*

Speaker Robert Wittman presents "International Art Theft: Tales from the FBI's Real Indiana Jones."

**December 13 1 to 4:30 PM**

*Holiday House Tour*

Tickets \$20 Members, \$25 Non-members For advance tickets, call Terri Dougherty at 610-448-1571. During the tour, tickets can be purchased at Nitre Hall.

### Welcome New Members

Sandra Bollinger  
Chris Connell  
Mary Dickter  
Flo Faggen

Andy Lewis, IV  
Robert Gove Family  
Warren Harrop  
Elton Koroly

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.

