



# HTHS



610.446.7988

Haverford Township Historical Society

Spring, 2008

## Today's News, Tomorrow's History.

Do news photographers just record history as it is happening, or do they sometimes influence the course of history? What if there had been a press photographer at the Boston Tea Party? Would the public reaction have been different? What if a photographer had been with Lewis and Clark? How photogenic would Saccajawea have been?

Our speaker at the April meeting will be Staff Photographer **Anne Neborak**, of 'The News of Delaware County'. In one of her articles Anne wrote: "Sometimes you touch greatness and don't realize it. I find it often in the people I meet. In my pursuit for the picture I don't see it until after the fact". In her assignments she sometimes puts herself at risk in order to get the best angle for a shot.

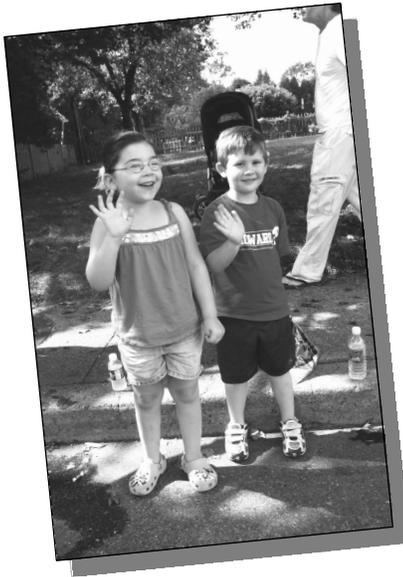
In speaking of the changes in photography Anne says "...it's good to look at the past. Photography has changed immensely...today everything is digitally created....There are even experts who decipher whether or not a photo is real or digitally enhanced...so one should always be aware that the girl on the cover of Shape Magazine does not look like that."

The meeting is free and open to the public.

### HTHS Annual Membership Meeting

**Thursday, April 17, 2008 @ 7:30 PM**

**Llanerch Presbyterian Church  
Lansdowne Avenue  
Havertown, PA 19083**



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## From the archives...Wilbur Hall



*By Carolyn Joseph, Curator*

In an interview with Margaret Johnston in 1968, Wilbur Hall spoke about his life living and working in Llanerch. Wilbur Hall was born in Kemblesville, Chester County which is south of West Grove near the Delaware line. Mr. Hall, born in 1879, worked originally for Consolidated Edison in West Chester. He came to Llanerch in 1901 to work as an oiler for the Philadelphia and Western Traction Company. Before long he was promoted to night engineer, then chief engineer. In 1908, he and his parents moved into a row house on the southeast corner of West Chester Pike, in Llanerch, now razed. This was quite convenient since he could walk to work and come home for the mid-day meal. About 1912 he built a home on Tenby Road. When he married Alice Logan, they continued to live with his parents at that residence.

Wilbur Hall photographed what were his work and his passion. It is our good fortune that he recorded the local scenes, railroads, railroad buildings and details of the machinery and trains used during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Scenes of the countryside can be seen meshing with the railroads and transportation in Haverford Township and beyond. Trolleys and steam engines, long gone, are depicted in the photos as are winter storms, homes, businesses and schools of interest, and everyday family and community events.

Many years ago this collection was donated to the Haverford Township Historical Society. Some of the photos from this collection were used in the book "Images of America Haverford Township", written in 2003 and published by Arcadia Publishing. Copies of the book are available through the Historical Society and at local bookstores.

More recently the cataloguing and preservation of these pictures has been completed, with the help of volunteer Libby Hawes. This work involved the cataloguing of over 200 glass plates and hundreds of photographs. These photos have been scanned and entered into the museum program, PastPerfect.

It is our hope that residents capturing ordinary events in the Township will continue to provide us with photographic wealth for the future. What will be common today will be extraordinary in the next 100 years. If you are thinking about throwing out those old photos and ephemera of the past, do think of us. And if you are handy at taking pictures, do photograph what is happening now. It will be history soon!

Ways to preserve our past are to volunteer your time, donate your collection, become a member, or give a gift to the Haverford Township Historical Society.

## Accession Received from Henle Estate

In December, HTHS received personal property from the estate of Mary Henle. The items donated will help us furnish the soon to be restored kitchen at Nitre Hall. The donation was a Pembroke Style Country Drop Leaf Table, made in Pennsylvania, c. 1800, a Windsor hoop back armchair of oak, pine and maple, c. 1840, a six board blanket chest, a set of four arrowvack side chairs and a small chest of two drawers.

There is also a Schoolmaster's desk of pine and oak, made in Pennsylvania, c. 1810 which we hope to incorporate into the furnishings in the library. Prior to this, Mary also gave HTHS a small handmade copper beaker made in early 19th century.

## 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.

### Kitchen Work at Nitre Hall

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

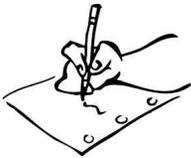


### Herb Garden at Nitre Hall

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.

### Welcome New Members

Michelle Corallo  
Roger Crockett  
David and Gale Dewsnap  
Steve and Monica Durfee  
Lauren Feldman  
Anne Garnett  
Stacey Bartels & Matt Kaufhold  
Maria and Eugene Smith  
Tom and Beth Thornton



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.

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**Upcoming HTHS Events**

**April 17, 2007 7:30 PM**  
Annual Membership Meeting at Llanerch Presbyterian (open to the public) featuring Photographer Anne Neborak of "The News of Delaware County" who will speak about a photographer's role in preserving history.

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

**June 1, 2008 11 AM - 4 PM**  
Membership Meeting at Llanerch Presbyterian (open to the public) featuring presenter Bob Klinger who will speak about blacksmithing.

**June 12, 2008 6-9 PM**  
Wine & Cheese and Fine Arts Show at the Grange Estate.

**Haverford Township Historical Society**

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**STEP INTO HISTORY WITH US!**