



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

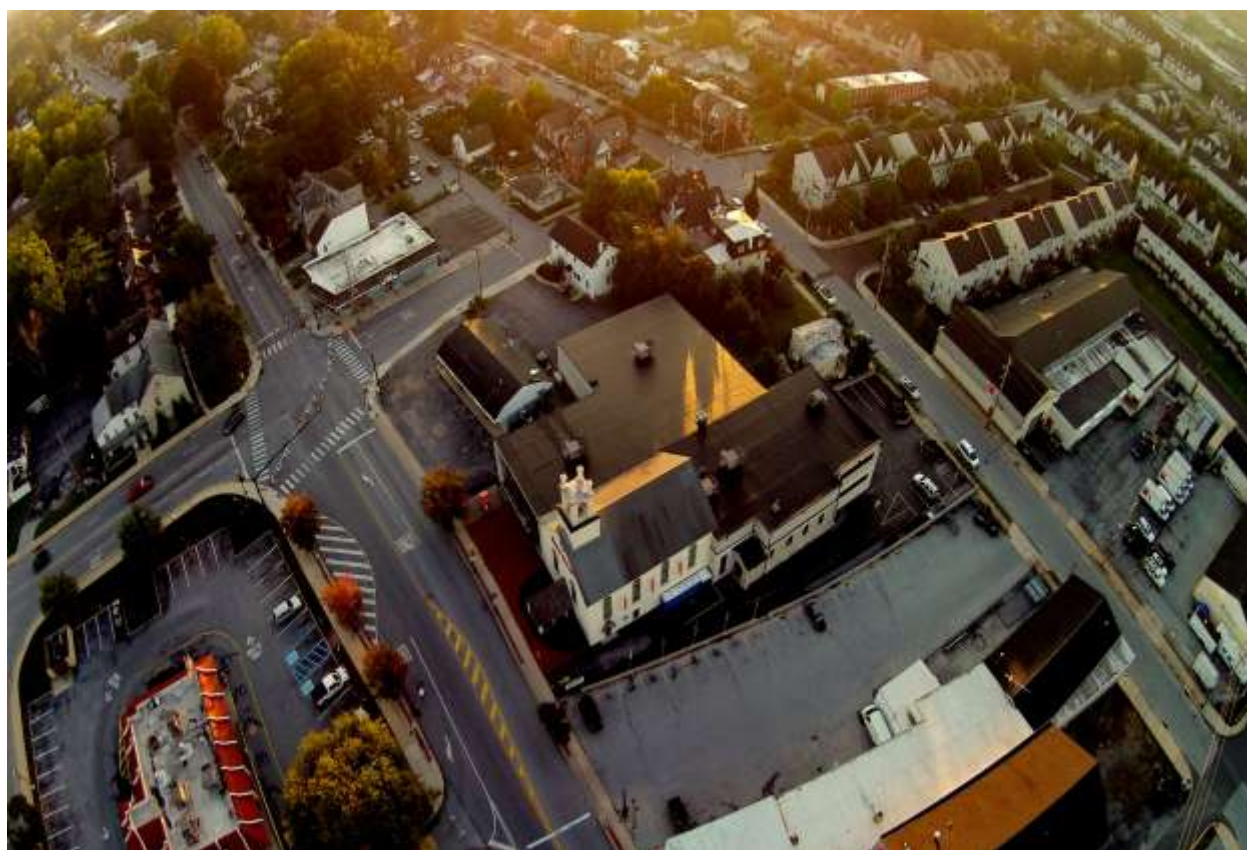
www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Vol. 5, No. 40

October 2, 2014

What Was This?



Tell us how the large, white building, with a bell tower on top, in the center of the aerial photo above was used during most of the 20th Century. The first person who identifies it correctly will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Help us save Ashbridge House; Please buy a restaurant raffle ticket

Time has taken its toll on Ashbridge House. We're not just talking about some wrinkles on the face of our 305-year-old headquarters that have begun to betray the 18th Century beauty located on Route 30 in East Caln.

No, the house needs major re-pointing surgery. That's because the decades-old mortar, which bonds the stonework on the house's exterior walls, has deteriorated and rain water is leaking into the house. We started the re-pointing process several months ago, when the mortar of the 1850s summer kitchen addition was repaired. That repointing job was done by Paul's Pointing of Kennett Square, a masonry contractor which specializes in working on historic buildings. It cost \$3,600.

The next re-pointing operation will be on the house's east side wall. That job will cost \$16,000, and it must be done ASAP.

And that's why all the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for re-pointing the east wall. The raffle winner will receive six \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,200, for meals at these six great local restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, and The Thorndale Inn.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of September 1962:

The **Janward Apartments** were opened at 499 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.

Plans to change to the zoning of a 32-acre tract on Lloyd Avenue in **Caln Township** from residential to industrial, in order to attract light industries to the area were withdrawn because of opposition from residents who lived nearby.

Reflective of the burgeoning suburban growth in the Downingtown area, the **junior high school's enrollment** was 756 student, while senior high school had 554 students.

Leaders of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School Association** were Mrs. James Martin, president; Mrs. Robert MacDougal, vice president; Mrs. Carl Kopenhaver, secretary; Mrs. Preston Rishaw, treasurer; Mrs. William Spence, membership chairman; Mrs. Alan Dewees and Mrs. Emil Tkachick, program chairmen; Mrs. Robert Feters and Mrs. Eldrow Reeves, ways and means co-chairmen; Mrs. Havard McCurdy and Mrs. Gilbert Cornog, hospitality co-chairmen; Thomas Trego, project chairman; Mrs. Thomas Gottier, transportation; Mrs. Calvin Wheatley, sunshine; and Mrs. James Wertz, publicity.

Officers of the Youth Fellowship group at **Glenmoore Methodist Church** were: Patty Pizii, president; Mary Jane Pizii, vice president; Ronald Hohl, secretary; Mary Ann Harple, treasurer; Nancy Harple, program chairman; and John Miller, publicity chairman.

Although the Whippets had a 13-0 lead in the second quarter, the **DHS football team** lost 26-13 in their season opener against Spring-Ford. Gordie Flowers' scored both Downingtown TDs, on long (53 and 74 yards) runs.

Officers of the **West Pikeland School PTA** were Mrs. John Henssler, president; Mrs. Harry Levering, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, recording secretary; Mrs. Harley Fink, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Knox, corresponding secretary.

Seen at the 60th reunion of the DHS Class of 1954



Seen at the recent, 60th reunion of the DHS Class of 1954 were, left to right: Marie Zittle Peazzoni, Louise Simpson Fisher, Rose Ann Pace Manetta, Martha Lowe Shanley and Ruth Moore Osborn. Twenty-four classmates and 19 spouses attended the reunion, which was held at the Whitford Country Club.

A delightful overnight at the Duling-Kurtz House

The write-up below was done by Karen and Ron Meacham, who won the first annual “A Taste of Chester County” restaurant raffle, conducted last fall by the Historical Society.

The Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn’s history starts with the original grant from William Penn to Richard Thomas in 1683. Thomas, the first settler in what is now West Whiteland Township, sold land parcels to gentlemen farmers. The Whitford Farm rose in importance when limestone and marble were discovered and quarries were developed. The land contained a grist mill, saw mill and an old stone house. George Hoopes purchased the property 1832, worked the quarries and mills, and sold products throughout the County. His son, Robert, kept the business flourishing until 1885 when the property was returned to the Thomas descendants and the land to farming. In 1905, a Thomas daughter, Martha, a very prominent cattle breeder, politician and suffragette inherited the property.

Today’s Duling-Kurtz House was named after Edith Duling Carr and Lena Kurtz Knauer, mothers of developers Raymond Carr and David Knauer, founders of the restaurant. With current proprietors Michael and Gertie Person, who were trained in Vienna, Austria, patrons are assured of excellent food and service at affordable prices.

Greeted warmly upon arrival at the Country Inn, we settled in the Mary Todd Lincoln room. At the restaurant, we were seated in an intimate dining room overlooking a beautiful garden. After our Lobster Bisque appetizer, we were treated to Caesar Salad, classically prepared at the table. The entrees of Pan Seared Colossal Crab Cakes and Lobster Crepes were elegantly presented and delicious. Our meal was topped off with a scrumptious, warm Apple Strudel and a decadent Cappuccino Ice Cream Truffle. The Inn offers a full complement of wine and liquor. The service was attentive and cordial.

A continental breakfast was part of our overnight package, thus completing our year-long dining experience as winners of the Historical Society’s first annual restaurant raffle. And what a delightful adventure it has been.

We want to thank the Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn for its kind donation to the Downingtown Historical Society’s “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser

Additional ways to access our free Hist-O-Grams

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And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society’s Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, October 5. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the Downingtown area gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you’re invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You’re welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

It was at the YMCA Camp in the mid-1950s



This is a mid-1950s photo of pre-teens participating in an arts and crafts class at Camp Castle, part of the YMCA camp complex in West Bradford Township, just south of the Downingtown border line. Carol Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site of the photo, which was provided by Ron Brackin.

Carol says she worked in the kitchen at the YMCA Camp, when she was a teenager, from the mid 1970's to the early 1980's, during the summer and on weekends at Camp Hilltop, which was open year round then. The other three camps in the YMCA complex were only open during the summer back then, recalls Carol. One of them was Ranch Camp, where the kids focused on riding horses, and they had a camp rodeo at the end of each two-week session.

When the Philadelphia YMCA formed the original camp in 1895, it was known as Dwight Farms because Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of farmland in West Bradford to the YMCA. According to a report published in 1897, "the expected patrons were young men who were poor and out-of-work, generally in despair and with no choice before them but beggary and crime," wrote Catherine Quillman in *Between the Brandywines: A History of West Bradford*. "The men would pay a small fee for the privilege of living along the Brandywine and building the grounds into a model camp."

Dwight Farms included a large fruit orchard and was later the site of an agricultural school run by the YMCA, according to Quillman. She also noted that a reporter claimed in 1910 that "the place is fitted up like a fashionable country club with tennis courts, an open air swimming pool, baseball diamonds, and facilities for all out and indoor sports."

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Hope For Helm Fundraiser

Matt Helm is paralyzed from the waist down, due to a recent kayaking accident. Matt was born and raised in Downingtown, and is known as an exceptional person and a tremendous athlete. He and his wife, Lindsay Helm, live in Downingtown and had a new son, Hunter Helm, in August. The family faces a difficult financial situation in the coming months due to the medical expenses incurred from the accident. To help alleviate some of their worries, everyone is invited to the first annual Hope for Helm event, to be held from 6-10 PM on Saturday, November 15 at the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford. There will be dinner and drinks, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. To purchase tickets to the event and for more info, see: www.hopeforhelm.com

Spaghetti Dinner

The Eagle-Glenmoore Lions Club will have a spaghetti dinner from 4-7:30 PM on Saturday, October 11 at the Mount Pickering Masonic Lodge at 218 Byers Road in Eagle. Tickets will be available at the door. Children under four are free. Proceeds will benefit the Diabetic Alert Dog Program, through the Canine Partners for Life. Diners are asked to bring donate a non-perishable food item for the Chester County Food Bank.

Fire Prevention Event

The Downingtown Fire Department will be hosting a Fire Prevention Event for the entire family from 11 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 4 on the Wallace Avenue parking lot of Kerr Park.

Family Fun Festival & Ghost Walk

Everyone is invited to the Fall Family Fun Festival and Ghost Walk, to be held from 5-8 PM Saturday, October 18 in Marshallton. The event, sponsored by the West Bradford Historical and Recreation Commissions, will include pumpkin and face painting, hayrides, and spellbinding stories told around a bonfire. Those who wish to help on the event as a volunteer should contact Mike Euler at 610-269-4174 or meuler@westbradford.org.

Roast Beef Dinner

As part of West Bradford's Family Fun Festival, Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have its annual Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM Saturday, October 18. Served family-style, the dinner will include roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom and beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children between 5 and 12. Dinners are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call 610-696-5247.

Soccer Program

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Hickory Park, 351 Park Rd., Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning on Sept. 6. The free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We also need high school students to help out as one-on-one buddies -- no soccer experience necessary. For more info and to register, go to: www.geyasoccer.org.

Golf Tournament

Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club will have a golf tournament on Wednesday, October 15 at Downingtown Country Club. Registration is at 2:30 PM., and the shot-gun start is at 3 PM. Corporate Package (\$425) includes foursome for 9 holes (scramble play), cart, name on one tee box or green on course and at reception, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. *Individual Golf (\$85) includes 9 holes, cart, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. Hole Sponsor (\$100) includes name on one tee box or green on course. Cocktail Reception (\$30) includes appetizers and one hour open bar 5 PM to 7 PM. Register via Chamber website: www.dtrcc.com.*

2 Winners Will Get a Playhouse

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous.

Log House Dinner Raffle

Winner of the raffle will win a dinner for four at the Downingtown Log House on Lancaster Avenue. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. To purchase raffle tickets—\$50 each—call Ginny Pierce, 610-269-2750. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Senior Center's Harvest Hop on November 8.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet Room for Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague and Phil Dague.

Help us save our 305-year-old headquarters



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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Vol. 5, No. 41

October 9, 2014

Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of October 1978.

Thomas Shirey, treasurer of the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League**, was arrested for embezzling about \$1,000 from the league's refreshment stand account.

Members of the **DHS homecoming** court were Sharon Clayton, Donna Storm, Dawn Brown, Carole Haigh, Lauri Brackbill, Maggie Von Hacht, Carol Harmon, Gina Rambo, Noelle Lennox and Lea Schreiner.

Many borough residents were wary of switching from paper ballots to **voting machines**, which would be used in the coming election.

Mary Holleran bought **Studio 3**, at 1 Park Lane in Downingtown.

Local **Cub Scouts** who qualified for the county-level physical fitness competition included Mark DelVecchio, Drew Bradley, Ricky Smith, David Preikszas, Chris Conner, Jeff Mowrer, Nate Hess, Jeff Lytle and Stephen Schaeffer.

Scott Thatcher, of Boy Scout Troop 8, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, was installed as an Eagle Scout.

New members of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Mr. and Mrs. John Bergstrand, Sally Frederick, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, Lady and Dawn Kaylor, Steve Marsh, Jan Mish, Mr. and Mrs. Paul O'Hara, Jennifer Reardon, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thompson and Cynthia Wood.

New officers of the Youth Fellowship group at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were Curt Schroeder, president; Becky Kring, vice president; Jim Fasel, treasurer; Sandy Bareford, secretary; and Georgia Newlin, ways and means chairman.

The **DHS football team** rallied from a 12-0 deficit at halftime and beat Spring-Ford 22-12. Quarterback Tim Burns, who ran back an interception for a score, was Downingtown's best overall player. Running back Steve Orth, who scored the first Whippet TD, was cited as the top offensive player, and linebacker Glennie Davis was named the best defender.

And Kurt Thompson's 40-yard field goal made the difference as DHS edged West Chester East 10-8. The Whippets' sole TD came on quarterback Tim Burns' 6-yard pass to Dave Kucera.

Paul Hurley, **DHS boys' soccer** coach, said "In the last two weeks, Mark Mathis has been outstanding," after the Whippets beat Boyertown 1-0. Mathis had an assist on Rick Altringer's goal in the Boyertown contest, and he had two goals against O.J. Roberts and one against West Chester East.

Recent **property transfers** included: 31 Rabbit Run Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$66,942; 211 Meadow Drive, Caln, \$49,340; 112 Llandoverly Drive, Uwchlan, \$50,900; 135 Oak Street, Uwchlan, \$82,000; 111 Firethorn Road, East Brandywine, \$64,085; 1342 Crestmont Drive, West Bradford, \$56,000; 122 North Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$108,500; 426 Sunset Drive, Downingtown, \$58,000; and 214 Robin Hood Lane, Wallace, \$88,270; 158 Whiteland Hunt Lane, West Whiteland, \$130,000.

Downingtown Fire Chief Robert Cumens said the fire that gutted the **Reading Railroad freight station** on Brandywine Avenue in the borough was probably caused by an arsonist.

Plans for **St. James Place**, a 40-unit residence for seniors, were approved by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department. The apartment building was to be built behind St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown, which owned the land.

Frank Marcocci, a graduate of DHS, the University of Pittsburgh and Temple University, was appointed to be East Brandywine's representative on the Downingtown Area School Board. Marcocci took the seat held for many years by Glen Wagner, who resigned because of ill health.

New officers of the **Woman's Community Club of the Uwchlans** were Mrs. Lacey Lackey Jr., president; Mrs. Richard Newman, first vice president; Mrs. Walter Hurst, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Fegley, recording secretary; Mrs. William Isinger, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Elmer Matthews, treasurer.

Kathleen Fiedler, a DHS senior, was selected as Chester County's Junior Miss for 1978. She did a ballet routine for her talent program.

The **DHS doubles team** of Deb Hannum and Kim Hess qualified for District I tennis competition.

Amani's BYOB is helping us save Ashbridge House

As we noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, needs major re-pointing because the decades-old mortar, which bonds the stonework on the house's east side walls, has deteriorated and rain water is leaking into the house. Re-pointing that wall will cost \$16,000, and it must be done ASAP.

That's why all the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for the re-pointing work. The raffle winner will receive six \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,200, for meals at six great local restaurants. Beginning with this edition of our Hist-O-Gram, we will provide a write-up on one of the participating restaurants in the coming weeks.

This week we're featuring Amani's BYOB, located at 105 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, which is owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Jonathan and Jeanine Amann. The restaurant has been part of the Downingtown community since 2009.

Chef Jonathan Amann, earned the title of "Best Chef in Chester County" three years in a row by winning the "Culinary Cook Off" at the Chester County Restaurant Festival.

Amani's BYOB menu incorporates the best local ingredients available each season in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Over the years, Amani's BYOB has created relationships with local farmers and business owners, which enables them to bring the freshest local offerings to their menu. Amani's BYOB puts a twist on the traditional BYOB theme by offering a creative selection of mixers to be paired with the various spirits provided by their guests. They also offer outdoor seating on their patio during the warm months.

Amani's BYOB features monthly pairing dinners featuring craft beers and wines, as well as local seasonal fare. The restaurant also provides full service, on and off premise catering for any occasion.

Amani's BYOB is open 7 days a week: Mon-Fri; Lunch, 11:30-3, Sat-Sun; Brunch, 10-2, Mon-Thurs; Dinner, 5-10, and Fri-Sat 5-10:30, and Sun Dinner 5-9. For reservations, call 484-237-8179. For more information about Amani's BYOB, check out: <http://amanisbyob.com/>

The other participating restaurants are: St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, and The Thorndale Inn.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

19 borough sites accepted by PA Historical & Museum Commission

The October 12, 1978 edition of the *East Branch Citizen* noted that Downingtown historian Jane Davidson had learned that all 19 of the structures she recommended were accepted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission inventory of historical places. And 11 of them were nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Davidson noted that historic preservation is the “best type of soft insurance for a town that wants to maintain its property values and prevent property deterioration.”

The properties, all along East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, which were accepted by the state commission, included:

Hunt Downing House, 420-422 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1802. There were many changes later in the 19th Century, when the building was converted into two residences. And when a Philadelphia architect supervised the removal of 40 paper-thin, smoky-colored glass panes from the house, they were placed in the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.

Downing was an inn keeper and part-owner of a stage coach line. He was a quartermaster during the Whiskey rebellion, helped create the military commissary during the American Revolution, and was Chester County's first postmaster.

William Todd House, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., which now is the Downingtown Library. Built for Dr. Todd in 1800, it was converted into the Thomas sisters' boarding school, which was in operation from 1837 to 1877. The library bought the building in 1913.

Ellis Y. Brown House, 328 E. Lancaster Ave., was built by George Irwin in 1894. Brown was a leading Quaker, and his diary covered life in the Downingtown area over a 50-year period.

Thomas E. Parke House, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1875 for Dr. Parke. Parke and members of his family had practiced medicine in the Downingtown area for eight decades, as far back as the Colonial period.

George Washington Inn, Uwchlan and E. Lancaster Avenues, now Pook & Pook auction house. Built in 1761 as an inn, the original owner was John Downing. It was then known as the King George prior to the American Revolution, when it was a military commissary for American troops. And in 1796, it was the first post office in the county. Since it was half-way between Philadelphia and Lancaster, it was a famous stop-off point for stage coach lines.

Jesse Meredith House, 447 E. Lancaster Ave., was erected as a store in 1815. In the 19th Century, it was a furniture store operated by William Rogers, one of the founders of the Downingtown National Bank, and supporter of the incorporation of the borough in 1859.

St. James Episcopal Church, 409 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1843, was named after a Philadelphia church, which gave much support to establishing the Downingtown parish.

Milton Hoopes Pottery, 413-423 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1830. Hoopes operated a pottery there from 1841 until 1864, when he started working for Vickers' pottery.

Dr. George Fairlamb House, 435 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1815 for Dr. Fairlamb, one of the founders of the Chester County Medical Society.

William Stauffer House, 346 E. Lancaster Ave., built in 1890. Stauffer was a merchant who specialized in stoves and tinware.

Breese Court, 517 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1909 by John Gilbert McIlvaine, a Philadelphia architect, for Mrs. M.C. Breese, daughter of Gov. Andrew Curtin, Pennsylvania governor during the Civil War.

Jug House, 736 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1804 for Joshua Kerswey, a physician. It was a custom back then for artisans involved in construction to be given ale while working. Since

Kerswey didn't believe in the consumption of spirits and refused to offer workmen any alcoholic beverages, they used limestone to create a jug in the façade of the stone house.

John Taylor farm, Brown Avenue, was built in 1738, the property has been operated as a farm since the early 18th Century.

John Webster House, 425 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1830 for Webster, who lived on the west side of the house and operated a store out of the east side in the late 1830s.

Thomas Moore House, 341 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1729. In the mid-19th Century, Zebulon Thomas, who was an Underground Railroad "conductor" and whose daughters operated a boarding school (now the library) across the street, lived there. It was known as the Tea House in the early 20th Century, when it was a restaurant known for its chicken and waffles.

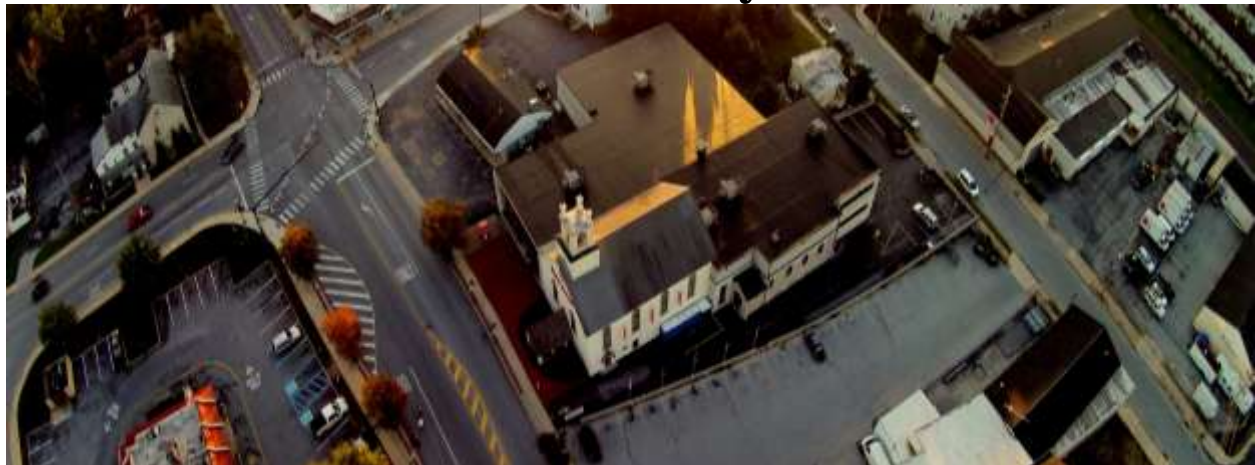
The Carriage House, 343 E. Lancaster Ave., behind the Thomas Moore House, was built around 1730. It probably was an outbuilding of the Moore property, possibly a springhouse or washhouse.

Richard Webster House, 429 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in the early 1830s for Webster, who was a mason.

Downingtown Friends Meeting House, 700 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1806, making it the oldest house of worship in the borough. Its graveyard was established in 1813, and the nearby school was constructed in 1919.

Downingtown National Bank, 408 E. Lancaster Ave., was built in 1862, a year after the bank was established. The bank was located there until 1901, when its headquarters was opened at Center Square in 1901.

It's the former Central Presbyterian Church



Steve MacCall-Carter is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly tell us that the former use of the white building with the bell tower in the above photo had been Central Presbyterian Church. In 1973, the Hamilton family opened Dane Décor, a furniture store, in the former church, after Central Presbyterian built a new church on Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113). Construction of the church started in 1863. However, completion of building, which cost \$7,000, was delayed until September of 1964 because so many local construction workers left the area to fight in the Civil War. The photo was provided by Phil Dague's new drone/camera.

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Downingtown Library Programs & Activities

The Film Forum is held at the library at 6:30 PM every second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who enjoys watching and discussing films is welcome to join. Incentives include occasional free movie passes and/or credit for movie rentals. The discussion on October 14 is Abbott & Costello "Meet Frankenstein," and on November 11, it's "Cleopatra" (Liz Taylor version).

A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion on Oct. 28 will be on Amanda Coplin's *The Child's Child*, and on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone* at the Nov. 25 session.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

Family Fun Festival & Ghost Walk

Everyone is invited to the Fall Family Fun Festival and Ghost Walk, to be held from 5-8 PM Saturday, October 18 in Marshallton. The event, sponsored by the West Bradford Historical and Recreation Commissions, will include pumpkin and face painting, hayrides, and spellbinding stories told around a

bonfire. Those who wish to help on the event as a volunteer should contact Mike Euler at 610-269-4174 or meuler@westbradford.org.

Roast Beef Dinner

As part of West Bradford's Family Fun Festival, Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have its annual Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM Saturday, October 18. Served family-style, the dinner will include roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom and beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children between 5 and 12. Dinners are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call 610-696-5247.

Soccer Program

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Hickory Park, 351 Park Rd., Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning on Sept. 6. The free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We also need high school students to help out as one-on-one buddies -- no soccer experience necessary. For more info and to register, go to:

www.geyasoccer.org.

Golf Tournament

Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club will have a golf tournament on Wednesday, October 15 at Downingtown Country Club. Registration is at 2:30 PM., and the shot-gun start is at 3 PM. Corporate Package (\$425) includes foursome for 9 holes (scramble play), cart, name on one tee box or green on course and at reception, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar.

Individual Golf (\$85) includes 9 holes, cart, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. Hole Sponsor (\$100) includes name on one tee box or green on course. Cocktail Reception (\$30) includes appetizers and one hour open bar 5 PM to 7 PM. Register via Chamber website: www.dtrcc.com.

2 Winners Will Get a Playhouse

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous.

Log House Dinner Raffle

Winner of the raffle will win a dinner for four at the Downingtown Log House on Lancaster Avenue. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. To purchase raffle tickets—\$50 each—call Ginny Pierce, 610-269-2750. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Senior Center's Harvest Hop on November 8.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet Room for Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

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An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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Help us save our 305-year-old headquarters



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Vol. 5, No. 42

October 16, 2014

Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of October 1978.

Marshallton Methodist Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Before the church was built in 1828, an itinerant preacher conducted services in a barn, and later in a wheelwright shop in Marshallton. Original members of the church were Dr. Charles Parrish, Alice Ann Clayton, Moses Hiddleston (one of the carpenters who helped build the church), Joseph and Sarah Burton, Abraham Paulson, Thomas Gibbons, Carline Lewis, Hannah Jones, George Anders, Sarah Ferrell and Lydia Monks. In 1891, the church was remodeled, at a cost of \$4,262. Electric lighting replaced the church's gaslights in 1924. The original parsonage, used for Sunday School classes in later years, was built in 1877. Members of the sesquicentennial committee were Jayne Ellis, chairperson, Robert Ellis, Mildred Wickersham, Nancy Busby, Eleanor Roberts and Rev. Joseph Herr.

The Downingtown Rotary Club honored members of four local fire companies. Receiving **Outstanding Firemen** Awards were: Jerry Keen, Alert Fire Co.; Vince Panetti, Minquas Fire Co.; Ronald Rambo, East Brandywine Fire Co.; and Eric Shoemaker, Glenmoore Fire Co.

Officers of **Downingtown Junior High's** Student Council were Joe Sciandra, president; Jeanne Hessinger, vice president; Dana Jenkins, secretary; and Bill Mayo, treasurer.

Members of the newly-established **Downingtown Historical Society's** charter committee included James McGowan, Stanley Landis, Jane Street, Ray Waechter, Harry McDonald, Donald Greenleaf, Lois Fern and John O'Brien.

A hook-and-ladder play, featuring Gregg Jackson's lateral to the trailing Ricky Stonewall, worked for one TD. Otherwise, the **Whippet football squad** didn't have much success in the Homecoming game, played on a wet, sloppy field, as Boyertown beat DHS 26-8.

Several long-time employees were recognized by **Downingtown Borough Council**. They included: Lew Wilson, police chief, and Warren Showalter, superintendent of the water works, 30 years; Lt. Vernon "Zeke" Osborne, police department, 25 years. Those with 20 years of service were: Quindie Mento, payroll and billing clerk; Charles Lewis, maintenance; Lt. Frank Steidler, police detective; Harold Reifsnyder, recently retired street crewman; and Bill Woodward, chief waterworks operator.

Recent **property transfers** included: West Bradford, 1322 Walnut Ridge Drive, \$57,900; East Brandywine, 8 Sussex Place, \$76,795; Caln, 3306 Summit Ave., \$49,900; Uwchlan, 716 Brainerd Road, \$92,500; Downingtown, 419 Washington Ave., \$40,000; East Caln, 303 Norwood Road, \$69,400.

Officers of the Luther League at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Karen Lammey, president; Amy Parkhurst, vice president; Eric Edwin, secretary; and Kim Clift, treasurer.

Woman's Club celebrates its 100th anniversary

The Downingtown Woman's Club recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centennial luncheon at the Whitford Country Club. Members of the anniversary committee were Cynthia Lyman, Susan McClure, Mary Alice Kottmeyer and Ruth Patterson.

Mrs. George Fisher, Jane Ringwalt and Susan Hoopes were the club's founding members. The first meeting was held in the Minquas Fire Co. parlor in 1914. Subsequently, meetings were

held at the Downingtown Library. The club's first officers were: Mrs. A.H. Standley, president; Mrs. Joseph Johnson, first vice president; Mrs. D. Edgar Hutchison, second vice president; Mrs. Roy Irwin, recording secretary; Maude Dixon, corresponding secretary; Mabel Stauffer, treasurer; Mrs. Theodore Hallman, Mrs. Howard Sides and Mrs. George Fisher, directors.

When members of the club participated in a straw vote on women's suffrage in 1915, the outcome was 17 in favor of women voting and 14 were opposed. In 1922, the clubhouse at 121 Manor Avenue was purchased. To meet expenses and pay the mortgage, fundraising efforts for many years included: card parties, bake sales and suppers.

Over the years, the club offered financial aid and hours of service to the: Coatesville Veterans Hospital, Embreeville State Hospital, Pocopson Home, Salvation Army, Needlework Guild, Red Cross, CARE program, U.S Olympics, Special Olympics, American Field Service Foreign Exchange Student program, and Downingtown's Log House.

As costs related to maintaining the clubhouse continued to be prohibitive, members decided to sell it in 1989. However, the fruits of the property sale, plus two willed endowments, have enabled the club to provide, more than \$220,000 in educational and community grants to organizations such as the: Downingtown Library, Downingtown Area Historical Society, Good Neighbor Day, Meals on Wheels, Downingtown Senior Center, Brian's House, local fire companies, Association for the Blind, Brandywine YMCA, Bridge of Hope and Good Works.

Contributions of particular note in recent years have been scholarships worth a total of \$175,000 to graduating seniors from four local high schools, and \$15,000 toward the 1998 construction of the concert gazebo in Kerr Park.



The Woman's Club of Downingtown recently celebrated its 100th anniversary at a Centennial Luncheon at the Whitford Country Club. Current officers, pictured at the luncheon with Downingtown Mayor Josh Maxwell, are, left to right: Ruth Brookover, recording secretary; Cynthia Lyman, president; Carol Ann Jewitt, finance chairwoman; Jean Manning, vice president; and Marie Hill, treasurer.

St. Anthony's Restaurant is helping save Ashbridge House

The restaurant at St. Anthony's Lodge, at 259 W. Church St., Downingtown, is one of the six local restaurants that are helping the Historical Society pay to have the leaking stone walls of our 305-year-old headquarters re-mortared. And all the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for the re-pointing work.

St. Anthony's Restaurant is part of St. Anthony's Lodge, which was established by 40 Italian male immigrants in 1919. Most of the men and their families had settled in the Johnstown section of the borough, where they built the Lodge in 1929. The Lodge includes a second floor banquet hall, which can accommodate 180 people at private parties. Although it was named after St. Anthony of Padua, where many of the original members had come from, the club is often called the Italian Social Club.

The Lodge sponsors many local sports teams, supports local charities, and its swimming pool is the site of many team competitions.

The club also hosts the annual "Frog Party" which is attended by 1,000 men. The party was started in the 1930s by men from the Johnstown area, who cooked the frog legs they caught in the Brandywine Creek.

And although only males of Italian extraction can be beneficial members of the Lodge, the organization has a huge social membership and women play a major role in the club. Better yet, the restaurant always has been open to the public.

One of the women who is in a leadership role at the Lodge is Rose Mascherino Ciarlone, who has a four-generation connection with the restaurant, and now manages it. Rose started working at the restaurant when she was a 14-year-old bus girl, and she continued in that role until she was in her 20s. Her connection with the restaurant includes the days when her father, Louis "Rounnie" Mascherino, was a popular waiter who "tormented" restaurant customers.

Among the restaurant's unique attractions are its Ladies Night and the family-friendly, all-you-can-eat Pasta Nights on Thursdays.

The restaurant's hours are: 5-9 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and 3-8 PM on Sundays. Call 610-269-9039 to make a reservation. For more info, access: www.saintanthonyslodge.com/#.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: Amani's BYOB, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, and The Thorndale Inn. Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
- Buying them at one of the participating restaurants.

You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

DHS Class of 1964's 50th reunion



The DHS Class of 1964 recently had its 50th reunion at St. Anthony's Lodge. Classmates who attended included: On the floor: John McGuckin; sitting in first row, Fern (Murray) Knight, Janet Hamilton, Velma Warren, Sally (Galt) Riddle, Chris (Kelly) Short, Tom Hill, James Jackson, Andy Harden, Flo (Tracey) Colby, Faye Miller, John Miller, David Landis; second row, standing: Mike Dorsey, Janine (Davis) Dorsey, David Manley, David Downing, Ken Matthews, Bob Lloyd, Jim Duca, Jack Moyer, Ralph Emery, Joan (Seeds) Beggs, Hilda (Casella) Nastase, Pricilla (Brown) Cumens, Joy (Emery) Fink, Beverly (Mitchell) Haas, Brenda (Wilkerson) Holland, Linda (Gabel) Levine, Dan Lee; third row, sitting: Rob Reyling, Mary Ellen (Crosby) Mull, Bonnie (Moore) Swartzentruber, Don Myer, Linda "Shrimp" (McElroy) Chappell, Barb (Hadfield) Myer, Linda (Baker) Piccole, Jan (Fetherolf) March, Mike Myers, Liz "Cookie" (Stewart) Raddi, Dianne (Curry) Tracey, Tom Haas, George Ciarlone; fourth row, standing, Jim May, Russell Dillow, Rich Staneski, Steve Wenzel, Larry Forrester, Tony Cozzone, Bob Poore, Margaret (Harrison) Helms, Lloyd Asparagus, Eileen (Smith) Lightcap, Judy (Ker) McWilliams, John Lauffer, Raymond Barry, Judi (Grubb) Supplee, Mike Pollack, Jack Supplee.

Additional ways to access our free Hist-O-Grams

Some people have had difficulty accessing their weekly Hist-O-Gram for a variety of mysterious reasons. However, you will **always find** the latest edition on the left side of the home page of our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/.

And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at:
www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html

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It's at Hopewell Road and Route 282 in East Brandywine



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the house at 1199 Hopewell Road, at the intersection of Route 282 (Creek Road) in East Brandywine Township. The house was built in 1845.

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Harvest Hop

The Downingtown Area Senior Center's annual Harvest Hop at the Ludwigs Corner Fire Hall from 7-11 PM Saturday, Nov. 8 will feature an Italian dinner, including wine (must be 21 to attend), from 7:30-9 PM. The event will include music, an auction and raffles. Tickets, \$40 each, can be bought by sending a check to: DASC, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Reservations also can be made by calling Sue at 610-269-3939 or via www.downingtownareaseniorcenter.org.

Hope for Helm Fundraiser

Matt Helm is paralyzed from the waist down, due to a recent kayaking accident. Matt was born and raised in Downingtown, and is known as an exceptional person and a tremendous athlete. He and his wife, Lindsay Helm, live in Downingtown and had a new son, Hunter Helm, in August. The family faces a difficult financial situation in the coming months due to the medical expenses incurred from the accident. To help alleviate some of their worries, everyone is invited to the first annual Hope for Helm event, to be held from 6-10 PM on Saturday, November 15 at the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford.

There will be dinner and drinks, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. To purchase tickets to the event and for more info, see: www.hopeforhelm.com.

Annual Luncheon

The Old Caln Historical Society will have its annual luncheon at 1:30 PM on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Thorndale Inn. Reservations close on Oct. 24. Tickets are \$24 per person. Checks, made payable to OCHS, should be sent to: Doreen Jacoby, P.O. Box 72083, Thorndale, PA 19372.

Halloween Parade & 5K Dash of the Living Dead

Downingtown's Halloween Parade and the 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race both will be held at Saturday, Oct. 25.

The parade begin at 3 PM Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, and east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM, and they will need a number, distributed at the staging area, in order to be judged. They must be part of the parade to be judged. For more details, call 610-269-4203 or send an e-mail to: dtownhalloween@aol.com. The 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race, sponsored by the Downingtown Main Street Association, will begin at 2 PM, before the parade. There will be prizes for the fastest men and women, as well as winners for both genders in various age brackets. To register and for more details on the zombie-themed road race course see: www.runtheday.com/registration/race.

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Lindbergh's landing in W. Bradford was a historic event

Charles Lindbergh became the world's best-known celebrity during the Roaring Twenties, after he was the first pilot to make a solo, non-stop, trans-Atlantic flight on May 20-21, 1927.

So when "Lucky Lindy's" plane made an emergency landing, due to poor visibility because of a dense fog, almost a year later in a field on the farm property of Emmor Way, in the Romansville section of West Bradford Township, that was a major event in Chester County history.

And local residents were astounded when they learned that Lindbergh and New York attorney Henry Breckenridge had landed in Lindbergh's plane *Lone Eagle* on March 13, 1928, according to news reports a day later. Lindbergh's plane was a duplicate of *The Spirit of St. Louis*, the plane he had flown from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, NY, to Paris on the historic flight in 1927.

According to the *Coatesville Record*, the two men were flying from Long Island, NY, en route to a dinner in Washington, DC, where they were to be guests of Nicholas Longworth, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The article in the *Record* also reported that 17-year-old Frank Elvin, grandson of Emmor and Sarah Way, was working on the Way farm with a team of horses when he saw the plane making several low passes before it finally landed in the field. Lindbergh and Breckenridge climbed out of the plane, and Elvin guided them to his grandparents' nearby Way farmhouse. As the visitors entered the house, and Sarah Way got over the shock of who was on her doorstep, she said, "Why you're Lindbergh."

"A lot of people take me for Lindbergh," he replied cryptically, but then he dropped his head and smiled.

A few minutes later, Edith Marks, a housekeeper at the neighboring farm of Charles Elkington, arrived at the Way farmhouse, wondering if anyone had been hurt when the mysterious plane had landed.

And when the possibility of the two visitors staying overnight at the Way farm came up in a conversation, Mrs. Way said they could stay there, and the men were agreeable to that option. But Marks suggested that they stay at the larger Elkington farm on Chestnut Lane, which was later owned and operated for about 25 years by movie actor Claude Rains.

Not until Lindbergh and his companion arrived at the Elkington farm did he acknowledge his identity. And he informed Mrs. Elkington that he wanted the utmost seclusion and pledged her to secrecy.

However, soon after Charles Elkington arrived home from his Philadelphia brokerage office, it was obvious that secrecy had vanished. Many major newspapers telephoned the Elkington residence and reporters on site were constantly knocking at the Elkington's door, in an unsuccessful effort to determine if Lindbergh was inside and asking for an interview. While looking through the Elkington's dining room windows, the reporters finally verified that Lindbergh was one of the people who had landed in the plane that afternoon. And Lindbergh finally met briefly with the reporters, but other than shaking hands with several of them and constantly smiling, he never answered any questions.

Immediately after dinner, Lindbergh called Sarah Way and confirmed that the flier who visited her that afternoon was Lindbergh, and explained that he was only trying to avoid the limelight, as usual, when he didn't reveal his true identity to her. Then the two guests, carrying oil lamps, went to their rooms on the second floor.

In the meantime, word of the two visitors had spread across Chester County and way beyond. People were swarming over the Elkington property when Lindbergh woke up at 5:30 the next morning and ate breakfast. Lindbergh graciously shook hands with many in the crowd of curiosity-seekers before he and his lawyer climbed into the plane, which had been guarded over night by young Elvin, and continued on their flight to Washington, DC.

Lone Eagle Road, near Romansville, was named to commemorate Lindbergh's accidental, but historic visit.

Student newspaper provides info on Class of 1956

Ron Tipton, Class of 1959, recently donated a slew of stuff from his days at DHS. They included many copies of the *Blue and Gold*, Downingtown Junior-Senior High School's student newspaper. Interesting tidbits retrieved from the winter and spring editions in 1956 include:

- Members of the cast of the Junior Class Play included: Bud Rennard, Warren Reese, Jane Louise Davis, Stella Karahalís, Dotty Fisher, Barry Wickersham, Vaughnie Yarnall, Bob Manning, Doug Hedrick, Joe Bird, Dolly Luminella, Joan Quartucci, Tom Hughes, Ruth Hall and Gwen Curry.
- Irv Rubincam, Jack Dawson and Joan Piersol were named to the District Band.
- Members of the varsity basketball team were Tony Price, Joe Whiteman, Harry Watson, Jim Walton, John Bousum, Donnie Mull, Bob McClure, Johnny Chilla and Jack Skiles.
- Eighth graders Walter Supplee and Tommy Booker won awards in the Chester County DAR's public speaking competition.
- Members of the decorations committee for the Soph Hop were Mena Massimini, Rosalie Sarmiento, Bill Pierce, Susie McClure and Lee Shepard.
- Despite the scoring efforts of Tony Price and John Chilla, the Whippet basketball team succumbed to Coatesville in a 49-46 heartbreaker.
- The Class of 1956 had 126 seniors, making it the largest graduating class in DHS history. Commencement speakers were Joan Piersol, Philomena DiBerardinis and John Dawson. Virginia Stayer won the \$4,000 McIlvain scholarship.
- Bud Rennard won the Student Council presidency for the 1956-57 school year, beating opponents Barry Wickersham and Joe Bird, who was named Judge of the Tribunal and elected president of the Class of 1957.
- Noteworthy according to their 1956 classmates were: Carol Bruton and Ed Delio, best artists; Nancy Hadfield and Irv Rubincam, best musicians; Connie Osborn and Bill Davidson, noisiest; Wanda Farra and Page Brown, cutest couple; Pat Snyder and Donald Runk, quietist; Connie Osborne and Joe Whiteman, best dancers; Joan Peirsol and John Bousum, best all-around and most likely to succeed; Linda Edelen and John Carmichael, best actor and actress; Betty Jesse and Sam Matthews, best personalities; Patty Gasbarro and Bob McClintock, most courteous; Mary Jane Mascherino and John Chilla, most athletic; Wanda Farra and Jim Walton, wittiest; Kathy D'Atillio and Bob Hamilton, best dressed.

Thorndale Inn is helping us save Ashbridge House

The Thorndale Inn is one of the six local restaurants that are helping the Historical Society pay to have the leaking stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters, re-mortared. All the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for the re-pointing work.

The Thorndale Inn is a former farmhouse, built in the late 18th Century. The building has housed a restaurant since 1938; it has been known as the Thorndale Inn since 1974. Owner Sam Estephan has operated the restaurant for 29 years.

Renowned for its consistent quality food, exceptional customer service, reasonable prices, and an array of culinary delights, the restaurant offers a wide selection of prime steaks and seafood dishes, as well as Italian specialties.

The Inn features a main dining room, a comfortable bar with a casual atmosphere, private banquet rooms and a spacious outdoor deck. It can host all types of events, from wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners to anniversary celebrations, luncheons, holiday parties and company meetings.

The Inn, located at 430 Bondsville Road in Caln, is open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Discounts are offered to seniors. Call 610-269-5455 or email info@thorndaleinn.com to make a reservation.

Hours for Monday through Saturday are: Lunch-11:30 AM to 4 PM; and Dinner-4:30-10:30 PM. Sunday hours are: 1-9 PM. Bar hours on Sunday through Thursday are 11:30 AM through midnight, and 11:30 AM to 2 AM on Fridays and Saturdays.

For more information about the Inn, check out: www.thorndaleinn.com/.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, and The Orangery.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
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You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

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The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

1937 Alert Fire Co. fair featured Human Rocket Man

Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. celebrated its 50th anniversary by holding a fair in July 1937, according to a special edition of the *Alert Fire Company News*, printed by Walton Studio. Proceeds from the fair were to be used to build a new fire hall.

Grand prizes at the fair were: a 16-foot long Covered Wagon Trailer, with a steel chassis and body; a 1937 Oldsmobile from Usher Motor Co.; and a boy's deluxe bicycle. Also, one of these gate prizes was awarded each night: a Universal washer-drier, a Delco console model radio, an automatic ironer with "feather touch control," a Toastmaster with a hospitality tray, two Sunbeam Mixmasters, and \$50 cash.

In addition to a ferris wheel and a merry-go-round, entertainment at the fair included "Pickard Family of Radio Fame." The main attraction apparently was the Human Rocket Man, who climbed in a projectile and then was shot 80 feet into the air and a distance of 170 feet.

Where the fair was held was not included in the promotional newspaper. However, it's not likely that the site was on the Alert Fire Co. property—located on Downing Avenue in the borough back in 1937—because there wasn't much room at the fire station for the Human Rocket Man to be projected that great distance.

It's at 1575 Shadyside Road in West Bradford



Not one person even tried to identify the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above. Built in 1796, the house is located at 1575 Shadyside Road, near Waimea Drive, in West Bradford Township.

Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers

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www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Ghost Walk

The Downingtown Paranormal group will conduct a Ghost Walk at the Historic Yellow Springs Inn, 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs, from 4-10 PM on Sunday October 26. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. All proceeds will benefit the preservation of Historic Yellow Springs.

Harvest Hop

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Halloween Parade & 5K Dash of the Living Dead

Downingtown's Halloween Parade and the 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race both will be held at Saturday, Oct. 25.

The parade begin at 3 PM Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, and east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM, and they will need a number, distributed at the staging area, in order to be judged. They must be part of the parade to be judged. For more details, call 610-269-4203 or send an e-mail to: dtownhalloween@aol.com. The 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race, sponsored by the Downingtown Main Street Association, will begin at 2 PM, before the parade. There will be prizes for the fastest men and women, as well as winners for both genders in various age brackets. To register and for more details on the zombie-themed road race course see: www.runtheday.com/registration/race.

Annual Luncheon

The Old Caln Historical Society will have its annual luncheon at 1:30 PM on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Thorndale Inn. Reservations close on Oct. 24. Tickets are \$24 per person. Checks, made payable to OCHS, should be sent to: Doreen Jacoby, P.O. Box 72083, Thorndale, PA 19372.

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A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion at the Nov. 25 session will be on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone*.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet Room for Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

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Help us save our 305-year-old headquarters



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Vol. 5, No. 44

October 30, 2014

What and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Rotary Club seeks volunteers to help move books in 'little red wagons' to new library

The new Downingtown Library facility at 122 Wallace Avenue in the borough is expected to be ready for occupancy by the end of this year. And the Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club is

planning and coordinating the move from the old library on East Lancaster Avenue to the new facility.

That's why the Rotary Club is asking members of the community to participate in the Wagon Train by bringing "little red wagons" to transport boxes of books to the new library on Saturday January 3. The snow date is Saturday, January 10.

The Rotary Club also will use the Wagon Train event as a fund raising effort for the new library, by asking participants to get sponsors for their "little red wagons". Prizes will be awarded for the best-decorated wagons, most-uniquely named wagons, and other categories to be announced.

And those that who can't actively participate in the Wagon Train project can play an important role in the historic event by "sponsoring" a box of books to be moved by donating \$5 to the library. Help will also be solicited from the community—from corporate sponsors, local organizations, merchants willing to donate prizes or provide "grub" for the people pulling the wagons. Also, participation in the wagon train event is a great opportunity for school students to fulfill their community service project obligation.

A Boy Scout from the Central Presbyterian Church troop is helping to plan the coordination and packing of book boxes at the library as an Eagle Scout project. Local contractors are being organized to move library's furniture. All of those efforts will occur during the Christmas holidays.

If you can help with the Wagon Train project in any way or wish to be a book box sponsor, please provide information on how you can help by contacting the Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club at info@thorndalerotary.org or thorndalerotary@gmail.com. Registration forms and other information will be available by November 10. Information of your interest can also be provided to the Downingtown Library, 610-269-2741.

The Downingtown Library has served local residents for 100 years. So, the move to its bigger quarters is an historic event, especially when you realize that one of a community's strengths is its support of basic human needs, such as library services. The Downingtown community has made a statement in providing a great new facility for its library. By helping with the Wagon Train move to the new facility by the community provides everyone in the community with an opportunity to be a participant in a local historical event.

St. James' rectory had been a Masonic Hall and was once owned by Catholic Church

On several occasions, we had heard that St. James Episcopal Church on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown once had some kind of connection with the Catholic Church and a Masonic Lodge during the 19th Century. But we were always mystified about those institutions' connections.

Caroline Ash, a Downingtown native who has spent most of her adult years in the Chicago area, helped clarify some of those mysteries when she recently donated a copy of a history on St. James, which was published in 1994. .

The history notes that the church's cornerstone was laid on June 20, 1843, "on a plot of ground next to the Masonic Hall," and construction of the church was completed four months later.

The Downingtown Masonic Lodge 174, organized in 1821, had occupied the Masonic Hall on East Lancaster Avenue until the Lodge was vacated in 1837, according to the history of its successor, the Williamson Masonic Lodge No. 309, which was established in 1857 and now is located at 210 Manor Ave. in Downingtown. After the Masonic Lodge 174 folded, the building

was purchased by Joshua Hunt, who rented it for several years to Rev. George Kirke, a missionary who ministered at the “Alms House and Jail.”

Although we don’t know when Hunt bought the property and converted it into a dwelling, the St. James’ history noted that Hunt sold the building to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in Philadelphia, and that the Hunt family soon bought the property back. Perhaps that buy-back occurred before the archdiocese established St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in the west end of the borough in the early 1850s. To support that theory, it was noted in St. James’ history that the Episcopal parish bought the former Masonic Hall property in 1851 and turned it into a rectory, after spending \$1,600 on renovations.

The future rectory was significantly larger than the church next door. However, that anomaly was rectified in 1863, when the church was enlarged, and the wings, sanctuary and steeple were built, memorial stained glass windows were installed, and the church building took on the Gothic Revival appearance it still has today.

The rectory was razed in 1955, and Rev. Richard Bartholomew (the pastor from 1962 to 1992) and his family moved into a new rectory at 351 E. Lancaster Ave.

Tom Lee’s scrapbook provides details on first LL season in Downingtown

Before Tom Lee became a life-long member of the Alert Fire Co., he was a member of the VFW team in 1950, the first year Little League baseball was played in Downingtown. Tom recently donated the scrapbook, full of articles about that first Little League season, which he donated to the Historical Society.

The sponsors of the four teams in the league that first year, and their managers were: The Loyal Order of Moose, Bus Phillips, manager; Russell Davis, assistant manager; Pepperidge Farm, John Donofrio, manager; Dominic Ore and Francis Tweed, assistant manager; St. Anthony’s Lodge, Yerkes Peoples, manager; and Phil Burns and Pepper Petrella, assistant managers; VFW, Chad Campbell, manager; and Don Greenleaf and Jack Helm, assistant managers.

Pepperidge Farm won the league with a 14-4 record in 1953. Carl Smith won batting crown, with a .544 average.

Members of the league’s all-star team, selected to play in the Eastern Pennsylvania District playoffs, were: John Chilla, Mike Sciarretta, Francis Valentino, William Stringer, Lloyd Price, Bob Hamilton, Donald Mull, Don Miley, Harry Watson, Tom Woodward, Joe Mingione, Robert Thomas and Nip Westmoreland. Alternates were Eddie Aumiller, Larry Dampman, Bill Davis and Jimmy Charles.

(Editor’s Note: Here’s some of the information about the founding of the Downingtown Little League in the first edition of the Hist-O-Gram, October 18, 2010:

Several community leaders formed the Downingtown Little League on June 30, 1949. It was the first Little League in Chester County, and one of only six leagues in the Philadelphia District.

The founding officers were: Dr. George Bousum, president; Francis Tweed, vice president; Charles Emery, secretary; Vinton Smedley, treasurer.

Games were played on the vacant lot on the southwest corner of Manor and Pennsylvania Avenues; where a backstop, dugouts, scoreboard and fence were installed.

The first official games, a doubleheader, were played on June 10, 1950. Opening day ceremonies included musical selections by the DHS marching band and an invocation by Father Daniel Hoy of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. Burgess Lee Hamilton threw out the first ball.)

The Kimberton Inn is helping us save Ashbridge House

The Kimberton Inn, located at 2105 Kimberton Road in the sleepy village of Kimberton, was built in 1796. The elegant eatery offers a gourmet seafood-centric menu along with a huge wine list. The ambiance is charming and cozy, with several burning fireplaces and elegant decorations.

Jeff Efgan, who bought the Inn 33 years ago, has assembled a management team that has successfully served clients at the Inn for decades. Chef Jim Trainer, a graduate of the Restaurant School in Philadelphia who has worked at many notable restaurants in the Philadelphia area, has been preparing and developing ideas for tasting menus, private parties, seasonal specials and the solid dinner menu since 1990. And Jason Irrgang has been managing the staff and keeping customer happy for 13 years.

Their goal is to offer a diverse yet balanced cuisine, which reflects a determination to prepare dishes with only the finest ingredients.

Dinner is served from 5:30-9:30 on Tuesday through Saturday evenings, and 5-8:30 on Sundays. Sunday brunch, which includes a three-course meal, can be enjoyed from 11-2.

Reservations can be made by calling 610-933-8148, or via: www.opentable.com/kimberton-inn-reservations-kimberton?rtype=ism&restref=97570.

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For more information about the Kimberton Inn, check out: www.kimbertoninn.com/.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: Thorndale Inn, Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, and The Orangery.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
- Buying them at one of the participating restaurants.

You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

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Clip joint will be open on Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, November 2, when scads of volunteers will remember that Daylight Saving Time had ended the night before and wake up in time so they can participate in our monthly newspaper clipping and pasting session. The sessions are held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

It was at Brandywine and Washington Avenues in Downingtown



Paul Backenstose is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above as Brandywine Avenue, near the intersection of Washington Avenue, in Downingtown. That was the easy part, because the combination of the trolley tracks, the tree-lined street and the church steeple on the upper right section of the turn-of-the-century photo made it a comparatively easy guess. However, several people were perplexed by the buildings along the right side of Brandywine Avenue, which were close to Downingtown United Methodist Church. Those folks apparently are too young to remember that the location of the DNBFirst operations building and its parking lot were occupied many decades ago by several residences and stores, plus the borough jail. And others mistakenly insist that the first building on the left side of the photo was where Wagner's Store was located. And next to the house on the left, what was behind that picket fence at the intersection of Washington Avenue? We suspect we'll hear more on this photo, which was provided to us by Rahn Brackin.

Vince Panetti solved Alert Fire Co. fair site mystery

In last week's Hist-O-Gram, we mentioned that the promotional material for the Alert Fire Co. fair in 1937 didn't note where the fair was held. We wondered about the location because it had to be a site where the Human Rocket Man could be projected a distance of 170 feet. Well, Vince Panetti came to our rescue when he noted in an email: I heard over my 44 years with the fire department that the Alert Fire Co. had their fairs at the corner of Stuart and Manor Avenues, where a field still exists.

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Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of November 1978.

DHS athletes named to an all-Ches-Mont League team included: Larry Williams, cross-country; Scott Dailey, Mark Mathis, Leigh Hannum and John McClung, soccer; and Greg Peters, Eric Meyers and Brad Weiss, golf.

Officers of the **Whitford branch of the Needlework Guild** were: Eva Wilson, incoming president; Jeanne Greene, outgoing president; Edith Thompson, vice president; and Myrtle Butterman, secretary-treasurer.

Lois Brown Walters was the **DHS marching band's** drum major in 1930. In fact, she was the first female drum major of a high school band in Chester County. Formed in 1928, the 27-piece band was directed by Amos Miley.

Winners of the Halloween costume competition at **St. Joseph's School** in Downingtown included: April Bossert, first grade, prettiest; Michelle Kelly, second grade, most original; Patricia McBride, third grade, most original; and Billy Steinmetz, fourth grade, most original. Rita McCreesh, Doris Fiore and Gail McCahon were the judges.

Nancy Williamson, a home economics major from Uwchlan, was chosen to be the homecoming queen at Albright College.

Steve Wisdom, a DHS senior, won a writing award from the National Council of Teachers of English.

For the second time that season, a Kurt Thompson field goal enabled the **Whippets** to win a football game, beating O. J. Roberts 17-14. DHS touchdowns were scored by Gregg Jackson and Ricky Stonewall. Junior linebacker Todd McNeill led the Downingtown defense with 10 tackles.

Billy Null was named the Outstanding Wrestler after he won the 65-pound, elementary-level competition by pinning two opponents at the Spartan Wrestling Tournament, at North Schuylkill (PA) High School.

Recent **property transfers** included: Upper Uwchlan, 12 Carriage Drive, \$71,000; Uwchlan, 582 Westwood Drive, \$80,000; Downingtown, 227 Highland Avenue, \$42,500; West Pikeland, 9 Skyline Drive, \$119,000; Caln, 5 Marshall Drive, \$51,650; East Brandywine, 80 Hilltop Drive, \$68,500; West Bradford, 1323 Walnut Ridge Drive, \$60,850; East Caln, 102 Woodmont Drive, \$112,500.

Officers of the resurrected retail division of the **Greater Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were John Riccardo, president; Al Samero, vice president; Linda Brown, secretary; and Bob Shoffner, treasurer.

Wallace Township received \$10,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Development to make improvements at Wagenseller Park. The money was to be used to resurface the tennis and basketball courts, and install fencing and lights.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 461** who visited the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia were: Karen and Michele Lewis, Christine and Jennifer Kerrick, Mindy McWilliams, Kim Fichter, Carrie Dell, Michelle Hartzell, Kathy Rissell, Elaine Craig, Jackie Petko, Karen Klunk and Jennifer Newman.

Members of the committee responsible for the Downingtown United Methodist's bazaar included Traudi Stevens, Mabel Davis, Lee Bradley, Fran McAllister, Louise Bruton, Gladys Brookover, Betty Brookover, Marilyn Walter, Dorothy Pollock, Emily Lewis, Florence McGuckin and Ruth Brookover.

Chic Chiccino honored by DHS Alumni Assn.

Charles “Chic” Chiccino, former DHS coach and teacher, was honored by the DHS Alumni Association at halftime of the recent West vs. East football game.

Chiccino graduated from Berwyn High School where he was an all-round athlete--earning nine varsity letters. (The T.E. Conestoga Football Association will have its annual banquet and Hall of Fame induction Friday, Nov. 21 at the Knights of Columbus Building on Route 252 below Paoli. See www.teconestogafootball.yolasite.com for details.)

He played fullback and linebacker for the legendary football great W. Glenn Killinger at West Chester University, and he was a member of the 1957 WCU undefeated team. He served in the U.S. Army in Gallenhausen, Germany from 1959 to 1961.

Chiccino taught Health and Physical Education at Downingtown High School, from 1963 to 1997. He was department chair for 25 of those years. He coached many sports and was advisor to several faculty and student organizations including the Lettermen’s Club, the School Spirit and Involvement Committee, the Middle States Evaluation Committee, and the National Honor Society.

He was assistant football coach to Ed Campbell from 1966 to 1970. He became head football coach in 1971. In his first year as head coach, after a successful 7-4 season which included many upset victories and a five-game winning streak at the end of the season, Chiccino was named the Ches-Mont League’s Coach of the Year. He also was chosen Coach of the Year in 1976, after leading his team to a Ches-Mont League co-championship. And his 1979 team came close to winning the league championship on Thanksgiving, but a 0-0 tie left the team one point short in the final standings.

After that game, Chiccino said, “Although not a league champion when the Thanksgiving mud had dried, there remained respect for an outstanding group of young men, a feeling of success and many fond memories for them to recall throughout their adult lives.”

Mark Kenworthy, president of the Downingtown High School Alumni Association, presented a certificate to Chiccino, in appreciation for all he has done for the students of Downingtown.

Alumni Association seeks candidates for 2015 Hall of Fame

The DHS Alumni Association’s Hall of Fame Committee is looking for candidates to consider for the 2015 induction class. The 2015 nomination period is open, through January 1. Selections will be made by end of January, and the finalists will be inducted at the alumni banquet in April.

DHS grads who were inducted in the inaugural class of the Hall of Fame last year were: Dr. Todd Stong, 1958, Humanitarian and Military Service; Dr. Richard Whittaker, 1958, Medicine, Humanitarian Service; James (Hank) Hamilton, 1968 - Business, Community Service; Bonnie MacDougal Kistler, 1971 - Law, Literature; and Curt Schroder, 1979 - Politics, Government.

For more details and access to the updated Hall of Fame nomination form, check out: www.downingtowntalumni.org/halloffame.html.

Also, regarding the Alumni Association, Donna Kneisley, secretary, tells us that several people have asked about the lyrics to the “Blue and Gold” song, which the DHS West and DHS East marching bands have played for many years. In fact, Donna remembers “singing something” to that pep music decades years ago, but she can’t remember what they were. And

both of the high school band directors claim they don't know the lyrics either. So, if you can recall the lyrics, please send them to us via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org and we'll pass them on to Donna.

Gen. Warren Inne is helping to save Ashbridge House

The Historic General Warren Inne offers the perfect blend of old world charm, excellence in American cuisine, and fine wines. The facility also includes the Warren Tavern, a spacious bar for dining and spirits, and where guests can enjoy live music on several nights each week.

The inne also provides its Spring House Terrace, a year-round heated, secluded space, which is a wonderful spot for a cocktail party, reception area prior to a dinner or wedding rehearsal dinner or reception, a casual lunch or dinner "al fresco", or just to relax with your favorite beverage.

And the facility has a bed and breakfast operation, with eight guest suites that have been authentically restored to provide 18th century charm.

Executive Chef Jonathan Fahey has been creating fine dining experiences at the inne since 2010. Trained at Le Cordon Bleu, Jonathan has been a fixture on the local culinary scene since his return to Chester County following several years as a chef in Florida. Popular classics on the menu include: Beef Wellington, Snapper Soup, Crab Cakes, Wiener Schnitzel and Bananas Foster, made at tableside.

The inne is located at 9 Old Malvern Road. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Friday. And dinner is served from 5 PM to 10 PM, Monday through Saturday. For more information about the General Warren Inne check out: www.generalwarren.com or call 610-296-3637.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: **Thorndale Inn, Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, Kimberton Inn, and The Orangery.**

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
- Buying them at one of the participating restaurants.

You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

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www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Regarding the Oct. 30 Hist-O-Gram

- Last week's Hist-O-Gram should have noted that Rev. Alfred Vail, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church and his family moved from the old parish rectory—once a Masonic Lodge and briefly owned by the Catholic Church—to a “new” rectory at 351 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.
- Frank Landrum, who had lived in the Milford Mills (now underneath the lake at Marsh Creek State Park) as a kid and now lives in Eugene, OR, has informed us that these members of the Downingtown Little League all-star team in 1950, noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, went on to play for the DHS baseball squad, which won the Ches-Mont League title in 1956: John Chilla, Mickey Sciarretta, Francis Valentino, Lloyd Price, Don Mull, Nip Westmoreland and Eddie Aumiller.

It was Kochel's Garage in Lionville



Allen Puy is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify last week's Where & What photo of Elmer Kochel's garage, when it was still located at the five-point intersection in Lionville. The photo was taken many years before the garage was moved from Lionville's five point intersection, as part of the state's plan to straighten out Route 113, down to where Village Avenue ultimately met the new Route 100, which opened in 1962. The building was razed later.

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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Harvest Hop

The Downingtown Area Senior Center's annual Harvest Hop at the Ludwigs Corner Fire Hall from 7-11 PM Saturday, Nov. 8 will feature an Italian dinner, including wine (must be 21 to attend), from 7:30-9 PM. The event will include music, an auction and raffles. Tickets, \$40 each, can be bought by sending a check to: DASC, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Reservations also can be made by calling Sue at 610-269-3939 or via www.downingtownareaseniorcenter.org.

Barry Rabin to speak

Attorney Barry Rabin will talk about current events when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM Tuesday, November 18. The meeting will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting will be free and open to the public.

Downingtown Library Programs & Activities

The Film Forum is held at the library at 6:30 PM every second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who enjoys watching and discussing films is welcome to join. Incentives include occasional free movie passes and/or credit for movie rentals. The discussion on November 11 is "Cleopatra" (Liz Taylor version).

A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion at the Nov. 25 session will be on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone*.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

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Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

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Banquet Room for Rent

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welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Last chance to help us save our headquarters



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Vol. 5, No. 46

November 13, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news originally published 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers which were published in May 1947.

The 97 **graduating seniors** from DHS went on a class trip by train to New York City and West Point.

Dr. Anthony Ricci, William Harris and Allen Hughes, representing the recently established **Downingtown Young Men's Association**, told Borough Council they were planning to conduct the annual Fourth of July celebration in Kerr Park. They also said they wanted a macadam basketball court to be installed in the park. Council both projects were under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

The Downingtown Lions Club arranged for a **DHS band concert** in the high school auditorium to be broadcast over Radio Station WDEL, Wilmington. A brass quartet, comprised of Raymond Kipp, Diane Kline, Nancy Walleigh and Robert Lillard, played "The Lord's Prayer" during the 30-minute concert.

Eighth grade pupils from **West Bradford School** who took a field trip to West Chester were Rosemary Laugdon, Lenore Dunn, Peggy Lied, Edward McCue, Nils Edwards, Robert Busby, Joseph Nichols, Martha Newman, Lillian Myers, Jane Romig, Raymond Fellenbaum, Freddy Martin, Peggy DiMatteo, Anna Mulroy and Peggy Gee.

George Proctor, who won the shot put with a 40-foot, 9-inch heave, was the sole Whippet to score a first in a **track meet** against West Chester High School.

Mrs. Herbert Ash, new president of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary**, made these committee appointments: Mrs. Nelson Dennis, Mrs. Richard Johnson, and Mrs. C.O. Brown, membership; Mrs. William Mittel, social service; Mrs. Shartle Brookover, Chester County Day; and Mrs. Robert Plank, horse show.

Participants in the program put on by students in the **Upper Uwchlan School District** included: Peggy, Johnny and Alice Trego, Penrose Styer, Mary Jane Huss, Sonnie and Nancy Mathias, Eddie Popjoy, Aletha Hershey, Anna Lammey and Diane Hoffman.

Children who were models in a fashion show put on at West Ward School by the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Bonnie Plank, Susie Norris, Jerry Ross, Virginia and Doris Law, Denny Williams, Ruth Moore, Billy Hoopes, Linda Hadfield, Laverne Moore, Bucky Rogers, Judie Allen and Mary Staneski. Members who modeled adult clothing were Dorothy McGowan, Mrs. Ogier Norris, Doris Eachus, Mrs. Nelson Norris, Mrs. W.I. Pollock, Betty Pollock, Mrs. Anthony Ricci, Mrs. Horace Miller Jr., Mrs. Harry Simmons, Marie Hertel, Mrs. Evelyn Frantz, Mrs. Vinton Smedley and Mrs. Penrose Davis.

Officers and committee chairmen of the Garden Class of the **Woman's Community Club of the Uwchlans** were Mrs. Daniel Bean, program; Mrs. George Benham, secretary; Mrs. Bertha McCardell, treasurer; Mrs. Ira Smedley, garden hints; and Mrs. Earl Leslie, publicity.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Charles Osborne, governor; Francis Francella, junior governor; Morris Seeds, prelate; William Warren, treasurer; George Crosley, trustee; James Dolan, secretary; Earl Lemmon, sergeant-at-arms; Marshall Nuse, inside guard; and Samuel Judd, outside guard.

Woodland Products' new sawmill on Boot Road has a 50 hp motor, the only electrically powered sawmill motor in Chester County.

Trimble's Cabinet Shop in Marshallton was producing white pine Adirondack and Pocono model lawn chairs.

Access to the trailer for “The Blob”

We provided a bunch of info about the 1958 movie “The Blob,” which included several scenes at the Downingtown Diner on West Lancaster Avenue in the September 4, 2014 edition of the Hist-O-Gram.

You can find that info via:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/September%204%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Now, those who never saw the film can access its trailer via:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdUsyXQ8Wrs. The trailer provides scenes in the Downingtown Police Department, the Downingtown Diner, as well as the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

Perhaps you shouldn't watch the trailer while you're alone.

The Orangery is helping us save Ashbridge House

Many people have bought tickets for the Historical Society's restaurant raffle so the leaking stonework of the east wall of Ashbridge House, our headquarters, can be repaired. An additional reason why people have purchased raffle tickets is because they want to have an opportunity to have dinner at **The Orangery at Glen Isle**, one of the six local restaurants participating in the fundraiser.

Located at 130 South Lloyd Avenue, a short distance below West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, **The Orangery** has one seating for a fixed-price dinner, Thursday through Saturday nights, starting at 6:30. It closes at 9 PM during the winter months. The BYOB restaurant also is open for special events such as weddings, birthdays and anniversaries.

The Orangery's cuisine was inspired by the legendary recipes passed on to Chef Sabrina Lutz, a native of Toscana, Italy, by her “Nonna.” Tuscans are known for using the freshest of ingredients, cooked in simple ways, to bring out the natural flavors of food.

Sabrina's husband, Paul, built the intimately enclosed 40-seat sunporch, which serves as **The Orangery's** main dining room.

During the American Revolution, the restaurant was the site of the Original Ship Inn Tavern, which is now located in Exton. And **The Orangery's** history includes connections with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

For more information about **The Orangery** and each week's set menu, see:

www.orangeryatglenisle.com/, or call 484-401-5554.

The other restaurants participating in the raffle are: **The Thorndale Inn**, **Amani's BYOB**, **St. Anthony's Restaurant**, **Kimberton Inn**, and **The General Warren Inn**.

Raffle tickets cost \$50 each. **Tickets can still be purchased from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, November 15 and from 1-3 PM on Sunday, November 16 at Ashbridge House, located next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.**

The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

STEM Academy is PA's top school again

The Downingtown Area School District's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Academy was the state's top school, based on Pennsylvania's new School Performance Profile, for the second consecutive year.

The performance profiles covered 2,947 public elementary and secondary schools, including all charter schools. They measure academic achievement, promotion and graduation rates, academic growth, and how well schools are closing the achievement gap.

The STEM Academy, whose score was 101.4 points for the second year, opened in the fall of 2011 and is the school district's third high school. DHS East's score was 97.3, and DHS West's was 94.1. And all three Downingtown high schools scored a perfect 100 points in several areas.

It's at 801 Marshall Road in Glenmoore



Bonnie Radford of Wallace Township is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to identify the photo above. The house had been owned by the Albert Greenfield family since 1957. The farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is historically significant because it was the home of Edward Hunter, a 19th century leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) movement. The property is also significant as the home of the local economic leader John Cornog, who owned the nearby quarry, the township forge, and played a major role in the construction of a railroad.

Noted below is an article, entitled “When Mormonism thrived in the Glenmoore area,” which was part of the September 7, 2011 Hist-O-Gram.

Wallace Township is a place where tranquility usually prevailed. However, there was controversy in that part of the Glen Moore area in the mid-19th Century, when Mormons wanted to hold church services in the Wallace Seminary school house.

That momentary problem was settled by Edward Hunter, who had allowed the stone school house to be built on his 210-acre farm in 1830. He had supported construction of the school, with the caveat that any religious denomination could use it for worship on weekends.

The Mormon sect, officially called The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS), was founded by Joseph Smith in upstate New York in 1830. Nine years later, Mormon missionaries created a settlement in a section of the township that’s still known as Mormon Hollow.

And when Wallace officials and neighbors claimed the Mormons were “very dangerous people” and tried to ban the Mormons from conducting services in the school house, Hunter stepped in and threatened to shut down the school if the missionaries weren’t permitted to use the building.

The officials and other residents relented, the Mormon branch in Wallace thrived, and Joseph Smith preached there in 1840. Soon the branch had 200 members, and one of them was Hunter.

Hunter sold the farm in 1842 and led a contingent of Mormons from the Wallace branch to a large Mormon settlement in Nauvoo, IL. When the Mormons left Nauvoo in 1847, Hunter led a large wagon train in the cross-country migration to the Great Salt Lake. From 1851 until his death in 1883 at age 90, he was the Mormon’s presiding bishop, the church’s highest office. He served in that capacity longer than any other person in the history of the LDS Church. Reportedly, he had 55 wives, but 10 of them divorced him.

Other people from the Wallace branch also headed for Nauvoo shortly after Hunter moved there. They included Jacob and Agnes Baum, the great, great, great uncle and aunt of John Miller, a retired Downingtown teacher and community leader in the Glen Moore area. John provided much information about the Baum family’s involvement with Mormonism.

They and their four children left their farm (located in an area that’s part of East Brandywine Township today) and headed west in 1841. Agnes’s father was so upset about his daughter joining the Mormon Church, he disinherited her.

The Baums spent several years in the Mormon settlement in Nauvoo, where they had a farm. After Joseph Smith was killed there and many other Mormons were persecuted by the Nauvoo locals, the Baums and most of the other LDS members headed west once again, in 1846. The Baums’ next stop was in Iowa, where Agnes died in 1846.

After Jacob remarried in 1850, the Baums journeyed to Salt Lake City, where he had a leadership role in the church’s early days. He died in 1883.

But the Baum family’s Mormon connection to Chester County continues to this day. That’s because Baum kept his seven-and-one-half-foot-tall clock, made in Chester County in 1794, throughout his westward travels, even though space was at a premium in their wagon.

And although the clock’s body and base were abandoned somewhere along the cross-country trek, new ones were made after the Baums arrived in Salt Lake City in 1852. The clock has been enshrined in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers’ museum in Salt Lake City museum since 1917, a year after Jacob’s and Agnes’s daughter, Elizabeth, died in Ephraim, UT. Elizabeth, who was born in Chester County in 1834, willed it to the museum.

Most of the information on the Jacob Baum family was accessed from Ancestry.com. Sources of information on Edward Hunt include: a story by Catherine Quillman in the May 15, 2000 edition of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and an article by Mark E. Dixon, in the April 2008 issue of *Main Line Today*.

Who knows the rest of the lyrics to the DHS fight song?

As noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, Donna Lang Kneisly of the high school's Alumni Association, informed us that several DHS grads are trying to recall the lyrics to the DHS fight song, which is often played after a touchdown is scored by the Whippet or Cougar football teams.

Well, Sheila "Hoot" Moyer, Class of 1969, who now lives in Chapel Hill, NC, has come to the aid of those DHS grads. Sorta.

Sheila recalls the lyrics below, but she acknowledges there's more to the fight song. Can anyone else help us? Please send us at least one more stanza via:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

*Oh when the blue and gold men fall in line
We're gonna win this game another time
For DHS we yell we yell we yell
And for the team we love so well we yell we yell
We're gonna rush right through that forward line*

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Book Sale

The Friends of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs, will host a book sale from 9:30 AM to 4 PM Saturday, November 15, and there will be a bag-of-books sale from 1-4 PM Sunday, November 16. For more on the sale, call 610-321-1700.

Holiday Fair

St Paul's United Church of Christ, at Worthington Road and Route 100 in Lionville, will host a Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, November 22. There will be baskets for auction, a bake table, lunch, white elephant items, pictures with Santa and a make-it, take-it room for children, plus some vendors selling items they made. The hospitality table will feature hot cider and doughnut holes, along with a basket which will be raffled off at the end of the fair.

5K Road Race

The DHS West cross-country team will host the 13th annual Chester County Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving, November 17. There also will be a 1-mile walk (kids' race). The race also will benefit the Cure4Cancer Foundation. The race will begin at 8 AM at DHS West. For more info, access: www.chestercountyturkeytrot.com

Barry Rabin to speak

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Details Below:

How to Buy Downingtown Historic Site Xmas Tree Ornaments



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Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Activities at **Downingtown High School** dominated local newspapers' coverage of the area in the early part of October 1962.

Due to Downingtown's **new curfew hour**, students had 15 minutes to return to their homes after school dances at DHS ended at 11 PM.

Members of the **jayvee cheerleading squad** included Marty Menas, Donna Hilton, Linda Pyle, Margaret Harrison, Sally Galt, Janet Rigg, Linda McCombs, Ann Griffith, Sandy Barlow, Janet Tipton and Cathy Thomas.

Officers of the **Future Teachers of America** chapter were Xandra Koppenhaver, president; Susan Whittaker, vice president; Gwen Habecker, secretary; and Janine Davis, treasurer.

Officers of the **DHS Student Council** were Randy Reeves, president; vice president; Mary Ann Smedley, treasurer; Maryann DiMatteo, secretary; Donna McElroy, assistant secretary; Jeff Smith, tribunal clerk; and Harry Hilton, sergeant-at-arms.

Elected as officers of the **National Junior Honor Society** were Kathleen Martin, president; John Shafran, vice president; Linda Lammey, secretary; and William Inslee, treasurer.

The **Whippet football team** bounced back, after losing its first two Ches-Mont League contests, to Spring-Ford and Phoenixville, by upsetting West Chester 12-7. Grant Smith, a 6-1, 204-pound, senior tackle, starred for the Blue and Gold in Downingtown's first league win. Also winning accolades from head coach Ray DiSerafino were backs Gordon Flowers (two TDs), and Beanie Williams (47 yards in 10 carries).

However, the **DHS cross-country squad** succumbed to West Chester 22-38. Downingtown's Jeff Smith finished second, and Lloyd Asparagus came in fourth in the dual meet.

Other local news

There were only 10 lots left in the **Highland Crest Homes** development on Highland Avenue, in the west end of Downingtown, according to Smedley and Aumiller, real estate agents. The down payment for the \$13,590 homes was \$390.

The dedication of the new **East Brandywine Fire Co.** facility in Guthriesville included a parade of 30 fire companies. Bill Hart, Philadelphia TV personality who lived in East Brandywine, emceed the dedication ceremonies.

Mrs. David Ross was the leader of the newly formed **West Ward Brownie Troop**, which met on Monday afternoons at the First Baptist Church, Downingtown. Members of the troop committee were Mrs. Robert Cozzone, Mrs. Charles Davis and Mrs. Albert Skiles. Other committee members were: Mrs. Harry Foreman and Mrs. Joyce Hensen, typing; Mrs. Irving Geschwindt and Mrs. Mrs. John McDonald, telephone; Mrs. Robert Forrest, publicity; and Mrs. Jay Wasmuth, cookies.

Members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** who earned perfect attendance pins were Vinton Smedley and Louis Lear, 15 years; Maurie Davis, Elton Weikle and William Reed, 10 years; and Bill Woodruff, Dick Hutchison and Ben Valocchi, five years.

Preliminary plans for the **Pickering Valley Elementary School** on Byers Road in Upper Uwchlan were unveiled by the Pickering Brandywine School Board. The school was to be built behind the Windsor School. It was projected to be opened during the 1963-64 school year.

Downingtown Junior High seventh graders who made **rock displays** for a science project were Val DiEuliis, Martha Brown, Bruce Jones, Lillian Echols, Kathy Boyle and Mary Ann Hipple.

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Michael Moran wins Restaurant Raffle

Francine Dague, who chaired the Historical Society's second annual Restaurant Raffle, thanked everyone who bought tickets and the six restaurants which each provided \$200 meal vouchers to the winner. Michael F. Moran bought the winning ticket.

The participating restaurants were: **The Thorndale Inn, Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, Kimberton Inn, The General Warren Inn** and **The Orangery at Glen Isle**.

Proceeds from the Raffle will be used to help pay for the re-pointing of the leaking stonework of the east wall of Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

Louise and Katie recall DHS fight additional song lyrics

It took a village to retrieve the complete lyrics to the DHS fight song. The quest started several weeks ago, when Donna Kneisly, DHS teacher and Alumni Association officer, inquired if anyone knew all the words.

Then Sheila Moyer came to our rescue, from way down in North Carolina, when she provided us with a huge chunk of the lyrics. The retrieval process continued last weekend, when Katie Hallman Campbell, recently retired English teacher, added several more lines. And now we have all the words, because Louise DeMucci came through this week with all the lyrics (see below). Thanks guys! So, when are we going to hear those aged lyrics sung?

Oh when the blue and gold men fall in line

We're gonna win this game another time

For DHS we yell we yell we yell

And for the team we love so well we yell we yell

And we will fight fight fight for every yard

Circle the end and hit that line right hard

And we will throw old (whoever) on the side

Rah rah rah

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**DECORATE YOUR TREE WITH
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SITE ORNAMENTS**

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

Buy your tree ornaments at Ashbridge House (next to Chick-Fil-A)

1-4 PM SUNDAYS

Mail order info: www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Gift%20Shop.html



#1 Borough Hall



#2 Alert Fire Hall



#3 Minquas Fire Hall



#4 Old East Ward School



#5 West Ward School



#6 Jr-Sr High School



#7 Gazebo in Kerr Park

It's at the intersection of Dorlans Mill Road and Creek Road



Jamie Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the above photo, which was taken by Phil Dague.

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Holiday Fair

St Paul's United Church of Christ, at Worthington Road and Route 100 in Lionville, will host a Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, November 22. There will be baskets for auction, a bake table, lunch, white elephant items, pictures with Santa and a make-it, take-it room for children, plus some vendors selling items they made. The hospitality table will feature hot cider and doughnut holes, along with a basket which will be raffled off at the end of the fair.

5K Road Race

The DHS West cross-country team will host the 13th annual Chester County Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving, November 27. There also will be a 1-mile walk (kids' race). The race also will benefit the Cure4Cancer Foundation. The race will begin at 8 AM at DHS West. For more info, access:

www.chestercountyturkeytrot.com

Downingtown Library Programs & Activities

The Film Forum is held at the library at 6:30 PM every second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who enjoys watching and discussing films is welcome to join. Incentives include occasional free movie passes and/or credit for movie rentals.

A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion at the Nov. 25 session will be on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone*.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Vol. 5, No. 48

November 27, 2014

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site, shown in the photo above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news in early October 1962

Here's what Downingtown area residents were talking about 52 years ago, according to local newspapers.

Theodore Griffith, co-owner of Griffith's Hardware in Downingtown, revealed that a preliminary agreement of sale had been signed with Devitt's Hardware, which had stores in Coatesville and West Chester. Griffith's grandfather founded the Downingtown hardware store in 1872.

New officers of the Rebekah Lodge 512, elected at a meeting held in the Odd Fellows Lodge in Lionville, were Lois Thomson, trustee, and Jennie Twaddell, treasurer. Reinstated members were Eva Wheatley, Dorothy Lambert and Emogene Kinzinger.

Plans for a \$900,000 shopping center in downtown Downingtown were announced by W.P. Canby, president of Borough Council. The private enterprise was to be financed by a corporation headed by Roger Clipp, an official of WFIL-TV and Triangle Publications. The plans called for a large building with 20,000 square feet of floor space and at least six adjoining buildings.

Colonial-style homes in Pickering Hunt Estates, built in Chester Springs by Fred Schubert, were selling for \$23,990.

Downingtown girls, serving as Candy Strippers at Chester County Hospital, were Rojane Ellis, Sharon Fennelly, Ruth Ann Travaglini, Judy White and Judy Ralston.

Elected as officers of the Ladies Evening Missionary Society at First Baptist Church, Downingtown, were: Mrs. Vernon Jameson, president; Mrs. Thomas Gabel, vice president; Mrs. Wilbur Felten, recording secretary; Mrs. James Manley, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Melba Lynn, treasurer.

Winners in the children's division of the costume contest at a Halloween party held at St. Paul's UCC Church, Lionville, were: Kathy Shreiner, prettiest; Clair Koser, ugliest; Nancy Hoffman, funniest. The judges were Mrs. Leo Stewart, Mrs. James Young, Mrs. Dale Coover, and Mrs. Harry Weaver.

New members of Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, included: Hayes Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Detterline, Mrs. Marvin Hall, Mr. and Mrs. John Kiefel, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McDermott, Beth and Diane McDermott, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pyle, Mary and Sara Pyle, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Schwartz and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Walker.

Ernest Smedley, Minquas Fire Co., and Tom Lee, Alert Fire Co., were honored as Outstanding Firemen of the Year by the Downingtown Rotary Club.

Members of West Bradford's Democratic Committee, chosen to study the possibility of dividing the township into two or three precincts, were George Jefferis, Marshall Busby and M.M. Caffey.

School news

The DHS Lettermen's Club bought an oxygen tank and mask, to be available for emergencies at the school. To pay for the equipment, club members sold stationary and parked cars at home football games. Officers of the club were Ronald Brinton, president; Edgar Donnon, vice president; Dennis Luminella, secretary; and Clarence Wilkerson, treasurer.

Bill Pollock was elected president of the French Club at DHS. Other officers were Mary Ellen Crosby, vice president; Gwen Habecker, secretary; and Richard DiEugenio, treasurer.

The Blue and Gold, took second place in the judging of Pennsylvania high school newspapers. Members of the DHS student newspaper staff who were at the convention of the

state School Press Association in Bethlehem, where the award was presented, were Sharon Donaghy, Gail Dilworth, Mildred Miller, Connie Smedley, June Williamson and Gail Ziobro. Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton was the paper's faculty advisor.

Mary Ellen Crosby was elected president of the DHS Mathematics Club. Other officers were Ken Jordan, vice president, and Richard Staneskie, secretary.

Officers of the Future Homemakers of America Club at DHS were Lydia Belle Herr, president; Betty Spickler, vice president; Roberta Baer, secretary; Sally Pyle, treasurer; and Sally People, reporter.

Members of the Student Council at the Junior High were: Ninth grade—Richard Biondi, John Caldwell, Bob Geist, Linda Lammey, Carolyn Patrizio, Larry Smedley, Mike Welsh and Harry Wilson; Eighth grade—Phil Barlow, Mary Ann Brookover, Terry Davis, Connie Joyner, Cindy Kent, Alan Novak, Cathy Rogers, David Seek and Willy Von Hacht; Seventh grade—Ann Bishop, Linda Dilworth, Lynn Forbes, William Hardy, John Kline, Fred Pollock, Tom Stern and Charles Williams. And ninth grade class officers were Carolyn Patrizio, president; Cinda Davey, vice president; Frances Knight, secretary; and Linda Wheatley, treasurer.

Although George Murphy and Grant Smith ran back pass interceptions for touchdowns, the DHS football team lost to Pottstown, by a 26-12 score.

It's the Lancaster Avenue bridge in Downingtown



Paul Backenstose is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Lancaster Avenue bridge in Downingtown. The bridge in the photo was built in 1802. It was replaced in 1921. The building in the center of the photo was the Bicking Paper Mill, which now is a restaurant.

There are thousands of newspaper articles in our archives

Volunteers have been coming to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters, for the past four years to clip and organize articles and ads clipped from area newspapers. The clippings, which are ultimately pasted on card stock, and those cards are organized into two sets of newspaper files in our archival collection: **Family Files** and **Topic Files**.

The **Family Files** include articles about local people's births, deaths, marriages, retirements, engagements, awards, etc. Most of the articles in the Family Files were published since 1950. The Family Files now include 9,795 cards which have articles on more than 16,000 Downingtown area people. We have found that the most efficient way to list the articles is by arranging them by the last name first and the first letter of the first name.

Since the Family Files Index comprises 195 pages, it is split into two alphabetical sections on our website. You'll find those whose last names range from A to L at:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Family%20Files%20A-L.pdf. And those whose last names go from M to Z can be accessed at:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Family%20Files%20M-Z.pdf.

The **Topic Files** include articles on local municipal governments, businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and events. Some of the articles in the Topic Files date back to the 1930s. The 104-page Topic Files Index can be accessed via:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Topic%20Index.pdf

So, if you want to check out the huge number of newspaper articles we have in our archives, click on each of the online indexes noted above. You will quickly recognize many of the names, businesses, organizations, and bits of history.

Organization of the two file systems would not have been possible without the efforts of two groups of volunteers. Every Thursday afternoon, one group works on Topic File articles. That group is led by Carol Grigson; she is assisted by Terry Gaul, Marie Hill, June Reedy and Linda Lefko. Another group comes on the first Sunday of the month to update the Family Files. That group is composed of Hunter and Terry Gaul, Nancy Thompson, Donna Capriotti, Rahn Brackin, Kianna and Kevin Ly, Philip Hemcher and Parry Desmond. New volunteers are always welcome.

Michael Homan, now a West Chester University student, has been updating the Family Files Index ever since he was attending DHS East High School. And the Topic Files Index has been streamlined through the enormous efforts of Jordan Staub, with the assistance of Lauren McCauley.

Help the Historical Society by participating in the National Day of Giving

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, which is part of the National Day of Giving movement. On Tuesday, December 2, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Please support the Downingtown Area Historical Society by clicking on the link below to donate: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Donate.html. Thank you.

**DECORATE YOUR TREE WITH ORNAMENTS
DEPICTING HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SITES**

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

Buy your tree ornaments at Ashbridge House (next to Chick-Fil-A)

1-4 PM SUNDAYS

Mail order info: www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Gift%20Shop.html



#1 Borough Hall



#2 Alert Fire Hall



#3 Minquas Fire Hall



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#5 West Ward School



#6 Jr-Sr High School



#7 Gazebo in Kerr Park

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www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Christmas Carol Event

The Old Caln Historical Society will host a Candlelight Christmas Carol at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 2 at the Old Caln Meetinghouse on Route 340, Thorndale. The Fishers of Men from the Thorndale United Methodist Church, the Caln School Chorus and the Belltones and the Redmen from Coatesville Area High School will provide the entertainment. The program is free. Punch, hot cider and homemade cookies will be served after the program.

Christmas in Marshallton

Starting with Breakfast with Santa from 7 AM to noon at the West Bradford Fire Co., 1305 W. Strasburg Road, Christmas in Marshallton will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6. The Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will host a day-long program, beginning at 9 AM, when you can find unique gifts at the Christmas Shop, listen to Christmas music in the historic sanctuary, and have lunch between 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Also, the Marshallton men's group will sell holiday wreaths and greenery. You can finish your day by stopping by the Holiday Cottage Shop before heading down to Martin's Tavern for the tree lighting ceremony between 4 and 6 PM.

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Vol. 5, No. 49

December 4, 2014

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Thankfully, it still happens every Thursday

“It Happens Every Thursday” was the mantra of *The Archive*, because that was the day when Downingtown area residents enjoyed reading the weekly newspaper, which covered local events and personalities for almost 100 years before it went out of business in 1974. *The Archive*’s halcyon days were in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when it was edited and published by Bob and Jane McIlvaine.

“It Happens Every Thursday” also was the title of a 1952 book, authored by Jane McIlvaine, which provided a picture on what life was like for a small town couple who put out a weekly newspaper. And a 1953 movie, loosely based on the book, starring Loretta Young and John Forsythe, provided a fictionalized picture on what life was like for the McIlvaines.

You can see some excerpts from the film via: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkYo-OyWsMA.

And as many of you know, it still “happens every Thursday,” because that’s the day the Downingtown Area Historical Society’s free, online newsletter, the Hist-O-Gram, is electronically sent to some 1,000 households every week.

Some of you have been receiving the Hist-O-Gram ever since we cranked out the first issue on October 15, 2010. The only article in that edition was about the founding of the Downingtown Little League in 1949. Over the past four-plus years, the content has been expanded and photos of historical sites have been added, so the newsletter now is more entertaining as well as increasingly informative.

And some of the material in our Hist-O-Grams, which we retrieve from our ever-growing archival collection, is of recent vintage. For example, the Hist-O-Grams include articles originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* (1974-1982), which continued the It-Happens-Every-Thursday tradition. That’s because *all* stories about local people and events, are part of our local history.

Now we’re asking you to show your appreciation for the Hist-O-Gram, which is an integral part of our efforts to preserve local history and maintain Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters. We’re asking you to send us a generous donation because we’re an all-volunteer, non-profit operation, whose annual budget is only \$25,000. Much of that sum is absorbed by expenses such as utility bills, insurance costs and typical maintenance. And membership fees don’t come close to covering all those expenses. Also, we recently paid \$3,600 from our general operating funds to have the summer kitchen’s stonework re-mortared.

But we still need to re-pair the leaking the stone wall on the east side of Ashbridge House, a project that will cost \$16,600. So far, funds realized from our recent Restaurant Raffle, plus money in our capital reserve account, will only cover half that total.

That’s why we’re asking you to please send a donation to: DAHS, Post Office Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. We are most grateful for your generosity. And EVERY subscriber will continue to receive our free Hist-O-Grams every week.

Appreciatively yours,

Parry Desmond, President
Downingtown Area Historical Society

Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of November 1978.

Walter Hessinger, the Downingtown School District's director of special services, told the school board that "**school bus transportation** is becoming somewhat of a monster" because there were inequities in the system. One of the challenges, Hessinger noted, was that the current policy called for elementary students who lived 1.5 miles away and secondary level pupils whose homes were 2 miles away had to walk to and from school. Several adjustments to the school bus schedules were modified.

DHS field hockey players, named to the all Ches-Mont team, were Doreen Warihay, Joy Branyan, Tina Arcaro and Jeanne Minahan.

Norm McQuillin, Otto Preikszas and Bob McKee were appointed to the **Lionville Youth Association's** board of directors.

West Bradford's supervisors considered establishing a tax on newly constructed homes in order to pay for a new fire station in the western section of the township.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 79**, sponsored by Glenmoore Methodist Church, who helped at a dig being conducted by the Wallace Township Historical Commission, included: Doug Comstock, Bill Golding, Ed Harrop, Dave Lewis, Tom Miller, Jay Rutherford, Jeff Schoenberger, Joe Valentino, Charles Zeiders, Brian Firth and Chris Groth.

Downingtown School District pupils, who won awards in an **art competition** sponsored by the Downingtown Inn, included: High school artists-Carrie Kintner, first; Jacky Mento, second; Tina Talucci, third; Lionville Junior High artists-Mike McCormack, first; Michael Cominsky, second; Ryan Jensen, third; Downingtown Junior High-Theresa Lawn, first; Pam Clark, second; Charlotte Pietko, third.

Leaders of the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**, which provided gifts and a dinner to needy families, included Enid Brown, chairman, Shirley Schwartz, treasurer; and JoAnne, Ogborn, secretary.

Committee chairmen for the **Woman's Community Club of the Uwchlans'** Christmas Country Fair were Mrs. Walter Carpenter, Mrs. Elmer Matthews, Mrs. Oscar Pladek, Mrs. Fred Fisher, Mrs. E.L. Velte, Mrs. Robert Rodkey, Mrs. Max Morris, Mrs. Richard Newman, Mrs. Walter Hurst, Mrs. Edward Burghart and Mrs. Walter Uhler.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 2**, Downingtown, who were installed as Eagle Scouts, were Michael Moore, Richard Craig and Mark and Fred Longenecker.

Although Steve Orth gained 120 rushing and scored both Downingtown TDs, the **Whippet football team's** attempted two-point conversion failed, and the Whippets were edged 14-13 on Thanksgiving.

Property transfers included: 426 Grant Ave., Downingtown, \$38,000; 214 Autumn Drive, Uwchlan, \$105,300; 1417 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$59,900; 8 Hession Circle, East Brandywine, \$66,473; 165 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$33,990; 7 Marty Close Road, Wallace, \$70,372.

DHS students Kathy Williams and Sandy Bareford attended the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Penn State.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70**, Downingtown, who received recognition in a court of honor ceremony were Grant Angeny, Dave Bishop, Lester Doubts, Brian Gardiner, Joe Handoe, Jeff Holstein, Brian and Tom Horblinsky, John Hurley, Lane Jarvis, Bob McMillen, Scott Millward, Eric Skinner, Greg Steele, Joe Leofsky and Mike Raysor.

Tidbits found in *The Archive* of June 21, 1917

The June 21, 1917 edition of *The Archive* was published during World War I, and several stories in that 97-year-old issue of the Downingtown weekly were particularly interesting.

- The paper's editor, Harry Van Tassel, noted that, he was "surprised" by the "great number of foreigners" who had registered for the wartime draft. "Out of 414 names registered, there were 106 aliens, mostly Italians," continued the editor. "Of this total number registered, about 27 percent will be required for the first draft of 112 men as a quota from Downingtown."
- And the Downingtown Canning Club had been recently established. The news article noted that one of the club's goals was to have a large stock of canned fruits and vegetables in storage to meet local needs during the winter of 1917-18. Another target was to "add to the stock of evaporated fruit and vegetables, which the United States government has urged to be prepared for transportation to Europe."
- Another article in that edition enthusiastically focused on a new industry in Downingtown: "With the opening of the big sand quarries north of town, a new era of prosperity comes to our people. As the hill known as Rock Raymond gradually slopes back from the Horseshoe Turnpike and passes through several farms.....a hill thought to be a barren waste now proves to be a veritable gold mine. And it only remained for one of the richest companies in the state to prove it by becoming owners of the property, and they are now making preparations to manufacture fire brick on an extensive scale. The sand and stone of this hill, when ground, makes the finest product of silicate sand, from which fire bricks are made. The nature of these bricks resists a greater degree of heat than any other kind known, and for this reason are in great demand for furnace work in the steel mills. This enterprise is bound to become a big success, and eventually will mean a great growth to the town, and will very greatly augment its business.

Editor's note: This article was not making reference to Florey's Brick Works, established in 1893, and it didn't produce fire brick. Florey's plant was at the southwest corner of Green Street and Washington Avenue in the borough.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 7. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip (Did now-deceased comedian Joan Rivers own or lease a house in Caln Township?) as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

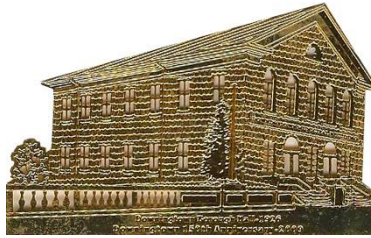
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1-4 PM SUNDAYS

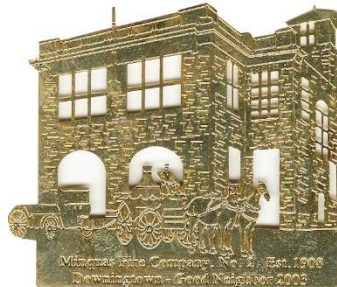
Mail order info: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Gift%20Shop.html



#1 Borough Hall



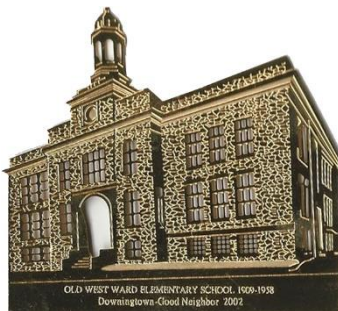
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It's at 475 Peck Road in Uwchlan



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo as the one at 475 Peck Road in Uwchlan. It may have been built in 1713 by William John, a cordwainer (shoemaker), according to "Uwchlan Township: 300 Years Above the Valley," authored by Susannah Brody and MaryLou Buchenauer and published by the Uwchlan Township Historical Commission.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Visit Santa

Children can visit Santa Claus from 1-4 PM Saturday, December 6 at the Log House on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown.

Christmas Parade

Downingtown's annual Christmas Parade will begin at 3 PM on Saturday, December 13. Other events that day will be: A Hospitality Suite, with refreshments and music, from 1-3 PM at the main branch of DNBFirst; Santa will be there from 1-2:30 PM. And the Touch of Class dancers will put on a performance at 2:30 at Lancaster and Wallace Avenues. Also at 2:30 PM. The Octorara Intermediate School Band will perform at the Armor Alley Pocket Park.

Toys for Tots

New, unused and unwrapped toys can be dropped off in the labeled box in the Downingtown Police Department lobby, next to Borough Hall, 9 AM – 11 PM, Monday through Friday. Deadline is December 15.

Christmas in Marshallton

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner

Where and What Is This?

Vol. 5, No. 49

December 11, 2014



The first person to correctly identify the site, shown in the photo above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news in early November 1962

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago.

The University of Pennsylvania Educational Service Bureau, recommended that the **Downingtown Area School District** should immediately expand two elementary schools—Lionville and Beaver Creek—so both could accommodate 700 pupils, and that a new grade school, to replace the Windsor School in Eagle, should be built. Penn's Educational Service Bureau study also suggested that the East Ward School should be replaced and that old school in

the borough should be converted into an administrative building. Another recommendation was that the high school's capacity should be doubled, so it could house 1,100 students.

Central Presbyterian Church's 100th anniversary celebration began with a dinner attended by more than 250 people. Edith Stauffer briefly outlined the church's history. And Charles Seibert and Lee Hamilton, co-chairmen of long-range planning, noted that the church would soon need more room to accommodate the growing congregation.

Officers elected to lead the **Minquas Fire Co.** in Downingtown were George Perry, president; Everett Hoopes, vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; Vinton Smedley, treasurer; William Wilmot, financial secretary; and Daniel Rothas, Trustee.

Edward Dazio, a member of Boy Scout Troop 2, was installed as an Eagle Scout.

The DHS girls' **field hockey team** beat Conshohocken 4-1, as goals were scored by Linda McElroy, Maya Spies, Sandy Oppenheimer and Susan Whittaker. Whippet coach Sonny Heller also cited the efforts of captain Donna McElroy and Anne Thompson.

The Mother's Group of **Downingtown Friends School** held a square dance and buffet supper at Camp Hilltop. Those responsible for the Affair were Mrs. Francis Brown, Mrs. Dale Hooper, Mrs. Robert Sommer, Mrs. William Goessel, Mrs. Fred Wooten, Mrs. Louis Seltzer, Mrs. Ralph Der, and Mrs. James McQuail.

Newly elected officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. Jack Hines, president; Mrs. Earl Barwell, vice president; Mrs. George March, secretary; and Mrs. John Trimble, treasurer.

Members of **Cub Pack 79**, sponsored by Fairview Presbyterian Church, Glenmoore, who won prizes for their costumes at a Halloween party, were Billy Hardy, Charles Keesey and Gary Raysor. Judges were William Funk, Louis Waldmann and Mrs. Charles Earnshaw.

Mrs. Theodore Noll, head of the **Downingtown branch of the American Red Cross**, appointed the following committee chairmen: Mrs. David Ross, volunteer services; Earl Stern and Mrs. Fred Pollock, disaster; Mrs. Lee Hamilton, Junior Red Cross; and Mrs. Robert Garrett, Grey Ladies. Chairmen re-appointed included Richard Franklin and Mrs. Stanley Seneff, blood recruitment; Dr. Herman Kramm, safety services; Raymond Lemmon, first aid; Mrs. Edward Campbell, nursing services; Mrs. Anthony Serafino, staff aides; Mrs. Nathan Eachus, nurses' aides; Mrs. Maurie Davis, canteen; and Mrs. Howard Fitzgerald, motor service.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Opti-Mrs. Club** were Mrs. Francis Swisher, president; Mrs. Donald Collier, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Lee, secretary; and Mrs. Gary Albright, treasurer.

Gilbert Cox Jr., Thomas Haas and Gene Martin were the editors of a newsletter published by the young people at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown.

Winners for their costumes at the Halloween party for seventh graders at **Downingtown Junior High** were Donna Usher, Benjamin Woodland, Doug Gindin, Kathy Fleming, Lynn Forbes, William Hardy, Diana Lynn, Daniel Hoxter, Daryl Moore, Cathy Thomas, Linda Sheesley, James Slonaker, Ann Bishop, Kathy Black, Martha Brown, Willard Bennett, Chris Pierson, James Reber, Cheryl Pitts, Ernie Cozzone, Patricia Dunn, Nick Costello and Catherine Cory.

Members of the **Junior High's Student Council** who attended the Suburban Student Council Conference were Gina Myers, Cindy Kent, Joan Acker and Joy Wertz.

Members of the Confirmation Class at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were Elaine Geiger, Lynn Forbes, Frank Gregory, Christine Jordan, Nancy Lawn, Neils Olsen,

Katherine and Mary Peoples, Stephen Phillips, Virginia Priest, Christopher Smith, Lauren Tweed and Marsha Waltz.

Those who came unmasked to the **Ladies of St. Joseph's** Halloween party were fined 25 cents. Winners of the costume competition included Mrs. Joseph Creamer, Mrs. Dominic Mascherino, Mrs. Frank Delio, Mrs. George Kalbitzer, Mrs. Joseph Cipollini, Mrs. Quindi Terriman and Mrs. Donald Lacy. New members were Mrs. Dominic Castaldi, Mrs. Raymond Dolan and Mrs. William Doohan.

Members of the safety patrol at **Beaver Creek School** were Capt. Steven Long, Lt. John Stoviak, Glenda Buckwalter, Helen Bittmann, Robert Ifert, Susan Patrizio, Brenda Habecker, Clair Koser, Joyce Robinson and Annawyn Menas.

Despite stormy weather, over 300 people came to the turkey dinner at **St. Pauls' Lutheran Church**, Lionville, which was prepared by Mrs. Charles Martin, Mrs. Jonathan Windle, Mrs. Louis Maga and Mrs. John Emberger.

Items found in 1917 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*

Noted below are examples of what was going on in the Downingtown area 97 years ago, according to the local weekly newspaper.

- Think Downingtown must have been a boring little burgh in 1917? Think again! One Friday night's entertainment at the Grand Opera House on Brandywine Avenue included: 10 vaudeville acts, with dancers, acrobats, singers and comedians, plus a concert orchestra and a "big silver" band. Tickets were only 25 and 35 cents.
- Another attraction were the basketball games played by the DHS boys' team, played at the Minquas Fire Co. In the first half of a game against West Chester High School, played in January 1917, Downingtown had a 17-14 lead, but the local team lost 27-26 in overtime. Also that month, the DHS girls' team travelled to Woodbury High School and were clobbered by the Jersey Girls, 30-5.
- In addition to basketball games, the Minquas also had a firing range, where the local Rifle Club practiced on Thursday nights.
- However, frivolity was constrained in the borough in March 1917, when the bars in Downingtown's two hotels—the Swan and the Pennsylvania House—were shut down by judges in the Chester County License Court.
- And that same month, Rev. Elmer Walker, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, presented a petition to Borough Council, seeking to prohibit the boxing exhibitions at the Opera House. Based on information about the boxing matches, which had been passed on to him by someone who had attended one of the bouts, the clergyman claimed they were a "stigma to the good name of the town." Subsequently, Truman Wade, Chester County's District Attorney, decided to shut down the "sparring exhibitions" at the Opera House.
- Also, brothers D. Edgar Hutchison, M.D., and Corbin Hutchison, Ph.D., purchased the drug store at 116 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, which had been owned and operated by their father, D.W. Hutchison, for many years. In addition to prescription drugs, the store also offered Victor Victrolas and Breyer's ice cream.

Please show your appreciation for our Hist-O-Grams

We started sending our Hist-O-Gram to friends and members of the Historical Society on October 15, 2010. And with few interruptions over the past four years, we've continued to send our free, online newsletter to some 1,000 households every week.

We suspect that's what Woody Allen meant when he said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up."

Now we're asking you make a tax-deductible contribution to the Historical Society, in appreciation for the Hist-O-Grams we've been sending you over the years. We're asking for a generous donation because we're an all-volunteer, non-profit operation, whose annual budget adds up to only \$25,000. Much of that sum is absorbed by expenses such as utility bills, insurance costs and typical maintenance. And our membership fees don't come close to covering all those expenses. Also, we recently spent \$600 to have new shelving installed in our Archives room, and paid \$3,600 from our general operating funds to have the summer kitchen's stonework re-mortared.

Now we need to re-pair the leaking, 3-story high, stone wall on the east side of Ashbridge House, a project that will cost us \$16,600. So far, funds realized from our recent Restaurant Raffle, plus money in our capital reserve account, will only cover half that total.

That's why we're asking you to please send a donation to: DAHS, Post Office Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335, (or to use Paypal: [click here](#)). We are most grateful for your generosity. And EVERY subscriber will continue to receive our free Hist-O-Grams every week.

Appreciatively yours,
Parry Desmond, President
Downingtown Area Historical Society

Forgot to order Luminaria candle sets?

You can buy luminaria candles and/or reuseable plastic bases from 1-4 PM on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1-4 PM on Sunday, Dec. 21 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln. Candle and bag sets and bases cost 75 cents each.

Christmas tree ornaments, depicting Downingtown historic sites, will also be on sale at those times.

Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our FREE Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

**DECORATE YOUR TREE WITH ORNAMENTS
DEPICTING HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SITES**

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

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1-4 PM SUNDAYS

Mail order info: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Gift%20Shop.html



#1 Borough Hall



#2 Alert Fire Hall



#3 Minquas Fire Hall



#4 Old East Ward School



#5 West Ward School



#6 Jr-Sr High School



#7 Gazebo in Kerr Park

It's at 700 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown



Linda Draper is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above, taken by Mike Dunn. For many years, it was the residence of Martha Englerth, a life-long Downingtown resident who passed away last August. She was a graduate of Downingtown High School and attended the University of Pennsylvania. She was a divisional personnel manager for Pepperidge Farm in Downingtown for 20 years and was the first female employee of Campbell Soup Co. to hold a titled management position.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague and Phil Dague.

Please donate to our Hist-O-Gram appreciation drive

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

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- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Christmas Parade

Downingtown's annual Christmas Parade will begin at 3 PM on Saturday, December 13. Other events that day will be: A Hospitality Suite, with refreshments and music, from 1-3 PM at the main branch of DNBFirst; Santa will be there from 1-2:30 PM. And the Touch of Class dancers will put on a performance at 2:30 at Lancaster and Wallace Avenues. Also at 2:30 PM, the Octorara Intermediate School Band will perform at the Armor Alley Pocket Park.

Toys for Tots

New, unused and unwrapped toys can be dropped off in the labeled box in the Downingtown Police Department lobby, next to Borough Hall, 9 AM–11 PM, Monday thru Friday. Deadline is December 15.

Roberts supports Downingtown Library

Roberts Subaru in Downingtown has named the Downingtown Library as its Hometown Charity for the 2014-15 "Share the Love" event. That means Subaru will donate \$250 for every Subaru vehicle it sells or leases between now and January 2, when the purchaser designates the Downingtown Library as their designated choice.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet Room for Rent

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Where and What Is This?

Vol. 5, No. 51

December 18, 2014



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Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of November 1962.

The new **Downingtown Post Office**, 45 W. Lancaster Ave. (now at the site of Priori's Mattress Factory) was dedicated. Jack Welsh, longtime postmaster, said the new facility had been planned since 1938.

A new wage schedule for part-time employees was approved by the **Downingtown Joint High School Board**. The minimum was \$1.40 an hour, and the maximum was \$1.66. And Mrs. **Mary C. Foreman** retired after serving for 12 years as secretary of the High School Board, as well as the superintendent of school's secretary. She received a gift from the school district's teachers and a silver cup from the school board.

Officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co.**, who were unanimously re-elected, were Walter Fetherolf, president; Jack Hines Sr., vice president; Clarence Moore, treasurer; M.M. Caffey, secretary; Kenneth Trimble, director. Edwin Hill was a new member of the board.

Members of the Arts and Crafts Club, supervised by Rebecca Casner at **Downingtown Junior High School**, were Bill Inslee, Kathy Black, Jacob Dewees, Ben Mento, Dolores Stewart, Lynn Forbes, Linda Sheesley, Patty and Cheryl Myers, Cheryl Peppernick, Alan Heugh, Martin Berkey, Bill Kline, David Emberger, Rusty Geare, Judy Slaad, Gary Hoxter, Joan Poffenbarger, and Ronald and Donald Moore.

A Book Week program was presented at **Brandywine Wallace School** by the following students: William Stevens, Philip Williams, Teddy Reed, Tommy McCurdy, Linda Wagner, Jimmy Dougherty, Andy Parsons, Frank Swarner and Joey Seeds.

Officers of the Sunday School at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Charles Feiertag, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Benjamin Russell, treasurer; Joyce Felten secretary; and Mrs. Olin Siever, secretary.

Students in Elizabeth Ezra's third grade class at **East Ward School** presented a program on American Indians. Those who sang "Ten Little Indians" were Michele Boggs, Meegan Echols, Billy Stamper, Nancy Estheimer, Kathleen Trego, Charles Hinkley, Stephen Walton, Kathy Bennett, James Peppernick and Kathy Wayne. And the Indian names of the months in the year were explained by Robin Massimini, Sheila Suleski, George Phillips, Joy McLucas and Mary Ann Ursini.

New members invested into **Brownie Troop 205**, Downingtown, were Christine Dailey, Pat Mento, Gail Dague and Susan Romano. Those earning membership pins were Denise Anderson, Ellen DiLuigi, Pat DiSante, Robin Lawler, Linda Showalter, Elizabeth Watts, Donna Fazzini, Mary Beth Kaminski and Lynn Loftus.

Jonathan Styer was installed as master of the **Uwchlan Grange**. Also installed were Edwin Smedley, overseer; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer and Isabel Acker, secretary.

Although the **DHS football squad** was the underdog when it faced visiting Coatesville on Thanksgiving morning, there was reason for optimism. Despite a disappointing start, the Whippets had upset Great Valley, nipped Boyertown, and clobbered O.J. Roberts in their most recent three games. And Coach Ray DiSerafino's team came through, beating the Raiders 12-0. Key to the victory was Downingtown's defensive unit, which held Coatesville to 46 yards rushing and only one first down.

Please support our Hist-O-Gram appreciation drive

Local news originally published 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers which were published in the early part of June 1947.

Four of the 97 seniors who graduated from DHS at the **Class of 1947's** commencement, were World War II vets. Joseph Doran, class president, made the welcome address, and Edwin Carpenter was the master of ceremonies. Those who earned academic awards in various subjects were: English, Katherine Mosteller; Social Studies, Stanley Russell; Mathematics, Robert MacDougal; Science, Joseph Hemphill; Language, Gilda Fazzini; Commercial, Josephine Flynn; Home Economics, Virginia Wallace; Industrial Arts, Curtis Newell; and Art, Margaret Mitchell.

Joseph Eby won the competition to attend the **International Boy Scout Jamboree** in Paris. Eby received \$600 to help cover the trip's costs. The money was raised by the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the VFW, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Moose Lodge, the Odd Fellows, the P.O.S of A., and St. Anthony's Lodge. A sophomore at DHS and a member of Troop 2, Eby competed against four other Downingtown Boy Scouts to take a boat to France for the Jamboree. The other four contestants won a two-week stay at Camp Horseshoe.

Fourth graders at **Lionville Elementary School** who went on a sightseeing trip to Philadelphia were Carolyn and Esther Supplee, Barbara Rosenbaum, Kathleen Levengood, Jack Benner, Rose Ann May. Shirley Matlack, Jerry Stinson and Shirley Drennan. Also, Lorraine received an award for perfect attendance. And Margaret Detweiler received an award for bringing the highest number of flower specimens for the school's flower chart.

Winners of races at the **Windsor School's** end-of-year picnic were Barbara and Bill Edwards, Larry Reed, Sammy Wimple, George Miller, Donald Powell, Doris Gottier, Shirley Wertz and Mark Sorenson.

New members of the **Lions Club** were Russell Curry, Frank Helm, James Fennelly John Priest, Lewis Lear and Herbert Kreider.

Font School students who received awards for perfect attendance were Doris and Janet Hoffman, Shirley Wenger and Alice Trego.

Members of the eighth grade, who graduated from the **Marshallton School**, were Robert Busby, Jane Romig, Anna Mulvoy, Raymond Fellenbaum, Horace Martin, Edward McCue, Margaret Gee, Rosemary Newman, Margaret DiMatteo, Lenora Dunn, Margaret Lied, Joseph Nichols and Nils Edward.

It takes a village to publish our Hist-O-Grams

Historical Society volunteers have been clipping, pasting and organizing newspaper articles about the Downingtown area for many years. But it wasn't until October 2010, that we realized what an asset those news articles are to us. That's when we recognized that lots of people are interested in reading about the recent past, especially when the news items are primarily about the people, churches, businesses, organizations and events they remember. And that's why we started sending Hist-O-Grams to members and friends of the Historical Society.

Sounds pretty simple. But it's not! It truly takes a village to crank out these Hist-O-Grams every week.

The articles originally published in local newspapers in the 1940s and 1960s, for example, have to be retrieved from local newspapers on microfilm at the Chester County Library. And although only a few of the articles we find on microfilm ultimately are included in a Hist-O-

Gram, many others are stored in our archival collection of newspaper files, which are divided into Family Files and Topical Files.

The Family Files include articles about local people's births, deaths, marriages, retirements, engagements, awards, etc., and they now include 10,000 cards which have articles on more than 16,000 Downingtown area people. The 104-page Topical Files Index includes articles on local governments, businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and events.

This is where the village aspect comes in: Organizing those thousands of articles would not have been possible without the efforts of two groups of volunteers, both of which are under the direction of our volunteer archivist, Carol Grigson. One group works on Topical File articles every Thursday afternoon. Another group comes on the first Sunday of the month to update the Family Files. The final step is handled by Michael Homan, who updates the Family Files Index. And the Topical Files Index has been streamlined by Jordan Staub, with the assistance of Lauren McCauley.

Now we're asking you to show your appreciation for the Hist-O-Grams, which are an integral part of our efforts to preserve local history. We're asking you to send us a generous donation because we're an all-volunteer, non-profit operation. Most of our annual budget is absorbed by expenses such as utility bills, insurance costs, our security system and typical maintenance. And membership fees don't come close to covering all those expenses. Also, we recently paid \$3,600 from our general operating funds to have the summer kitchen's stonework re-mortared.

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Appreciatively yours,

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Downingtown Area Historical Society

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Christmas tree ornaments, depicting Downingtown historic sites, will also be on sale at those times.

Please support our Hist-O-Gram appreciation drive

It's at 750 Little Washington Road in East Brandywine



No one identified the location of the house in the photo above, which is at 750 Little Washington Road in East Brandywine. The original section was built in 1830. For more info on the house, see: <http://www.liveinchestercountyarea.com/listing/mlsid/252/propertyid/6416445/>.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Santa coming to Borough & East Caln

Santa's friends at the Alert Fire Co. have volunteered to drive him around the streets of Downingtown Borough and East Caln on a fire truck, to visit with kids in their neighborhoods, on Saturday, Dec. 20.

And Santa's Elves from the Alerts will give candy canes to good boys and girls. Santa will start in the West Ward of Downingtown at 9 AM and enter the East Ward in the early afternoon. Then he'll be in East Caln Twp. in mid to late afternoon. Santa doesn't know exactly what time he'll enter each neighborhood, but listen for the fire truck's sirens and horns.

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Merry Christmas!



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How Downingtown area supported U.S. troops during World War I

World War I began in Europe in 1914, but the U. S. didn't declare war on Germany and its allies until April 6, 1917. Shortly after the first American troops landed in France in June 1917,

President Woodrow Wilson urged the nation's citizens to help the American Red Cross meet the needs of the thousands of young men fighting in Europe.

The response was overwhelming in Downingtown and all across America. Noted below are examples on how area residents reacted to President Wilson's plea for assistance in the summer of 1917, based on articles published in the *Downingtown Archive* at that time.

As soon as a Red Cross chapter was established in Downingtown in June, the leaders—Dr. Edward Kerr, President; B. F. Eckman, secretary; and Ellis Y. Brown Jr., treasurer—decided that the chapter would conduct a three-day campaign over a weekend to immediately raise \$5,000.

The total collected reached \$5,393.25 (nearly \$100,000 in today's dollars) by the third day of the campaign. In addition to individual donations garnered via volunteers' door-to-door efforts, that sum also included special collections at local churches during Sunday services, plus donations by local businesses and organizations.

To keep the enthusiasm going, "the finest parade Downingtown has ever seen" was conducted on a Saturday night in July. Many of the local men who had registered for the draft were in the line of march. And one of the floats in the parade demonstrated how surgical dressings could be made at home by women. Following the parade, a rally was held in the high school.

By early August, women were making surgical dressings two days a week in workrooms initially set up in Joseph Miller's house at 317 E. Lancaster Ave., and later in the Downingtown Library, at 330 E. Lancaster Ave. They also were making sheets, pillow cases, towels, operating gowns for doctors and nurses, pajamas and bath robes. Soon, four sewing machines were humming in the workrooms. For those who did not want to sew, there was much cutting and folding of surgical compresses to be done.

However, support for the Red Cross wasn't limited to the borough of Downingtown. Dr. Howard Pennell, who was responsible for medical supplies and surgical dressings, reported that many of the newly-formed auxiliaries in surrounding communities—including Brandywine Manor, Glen Moore and Milford Mills—also had begun to make bandages.

Widespread community support for the Red Cross during World War I was critical, because 18,000 Red Cross nurses provided much of the medical care in 54 military hospitals overseas. And 4,800 Red Cross ambulance drivers provided first aid on the front lines.

However, not all was hunky-dory in Downingtown back in the summer of 1917. There was continued labor strife at the Downingtown Manufacturing Co., because picketing representatives from the Moulders Union in Philadelphia were trying to organize the plant's employees. And the six-year-old Downingtown Business Men's Association had folded.

Worse yet, John V. Newlin, 19-year-old son of Richard M. and Alice E. Newlin, who lived on the Ashbridge estate in the Whitford area, died in a military hospital on August 5, 1917. Two days earlier, he had been severely wounded by a shell shot from a German airplane, while serving with the American Field Ambulance Corps in France. Initially buried at Fleury-sur-Aire, Meuse, Private Newlin's body was transferred to the Meuse-Argonne American Military Cemetery in Romagne, France. In addition to posthumously receiving the Croix de Guerre, Newlin also received the Medaille Militaire, France's highest award for bravery. While he was a student at Princeton University, Class of 1919, he had worked on the staff of the *Nassau Lit* with classmate F. Scott Fitzgerald. Newlin left college to join American Field Service on May 26, 1917.

Despite those challenges, however, Downingtown area citizens soldiered on in their efforts to support the war effort until November 1918, when the armistice was signed.

Local news originally published in December 1978

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown weekly, in the early part of December 1978.

The **Downingtown School Board** approved the construction of six additional classrooms at West Bradford and Pickering Creek Elementary Schools.

The **Downingtown Jaycees** were recognized by the organization's state and national leaders for doubling the size of the local chapter—to 47 members—in less than a month. Officers of the Downingtown chapter were Charles Shagren, chairman; Bob Young, president; Lee Hawthorne, vice president; Dave Swenson, treasurer; Joe Darlington, secretary; and Bob Cassidy, chaplain.

A Teen Center was one of the options considered by **Uwchlan Township** at a supervisors' meeting when a large number of residents came to a Gripe Night to complain about problems caused by teenagers.

DHS students named to the **District Chorus** were Jim Wychgel, Judy Honey, Chris Daghir, Amy Trego, Curt Schroder, Jody Cura, Art Freas, Dan Shutt, Mark Kottmeyer, and Kurt Thompson.

Members of the Blackfoot Patrol, **Boy Scout Troop 82**, Downingtown, which placed third in the District first aid meet, were Rob and Chris McClarin, Joe Swift, Bob Hausch and Ron Orr.

DHS football players who made the All-Ches-Mont team were Gregg Jackson, Jay Carbutt, Tim Burns, Bob Ricci and Dave Kucera.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League** were Jack Oberly, president; Mike Whiteman, vice president; Pat Murphy, secretary; Penn Frey, treasurer; and Jim Rainey, player agent.

Those who received pins at an investiture of the new Brownie Troop 931 were Holly Brown, Kelly Capriotti, Kim Harpel, Bonnie Lewis, Lynn Phipps, Erin Schaible, Kelly Smedley, Jill Smith, Jeannie Stone, Mandi Wilkinson and Vanessa Sommer.

Recent **property transfers** included: 227 Mary St., Downingtown, \$29,000; 575 Westwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$68,000; 1493 Glenside Ave., West Bradford, \$53,300; 214 Meadow Drive, Caln, \$45,900; 536 Whitford Hills Road, West Whiteland, \$140,000; 110 Holly Drive, East Brandywine, \$75,085; 5 Christine Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$63,400;

Keith Grant, Mike Stranere and Gene Anthony, all DHS students, received awards from the James Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation.

Members of the **DHS Class of 1978**, who took the Scholastic Aptitude Test, had average scores of 447 in the verbal test and 475 in the math test. The national averages that year were 429 in verbal and 468 in math.

New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Nancy Heriegel, Diana Cohen, Brenda McDade, Susan Piccone, Myrna Kidman, Kerry Menas and Dottie Matthews.

Downingtown area news 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers which were published in the latter part of June 1947.

Children who received awards for outstanding work, while attending **Windsor Baptist Church's** Vacation Bible School, were Linda Wells, Jesse Maxton, Tommy Gottier, Eddie Popjoy, Shirley Garvine, Doris Hoffman, Mildred Sorensen and Mary Valkenburg.

Downingtown's **Terry DiBerardinis** placed second in the evening gown and talent (She sang "How Deep Is the Ocean") competitions during the Miss Chester County Pageant, sponsored by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce. The pageant was held at the Acorn building (*Anyone know where that is or was located?*) in the borough.

New officers of the **Downingtown Women of the Moose** were Dorothy McClure, past graduate regent; Helen Babb, senior regent; Nellie Donovan, junior regent; Carrie Francella, treasurer; and Mary Algiers, recorder.

The following **piano students** of Margaretta Helm participated in a recital: Virginia Manley, Beatrice Jameson, Joan Garrison, Charles Bransford, Fay Stauffer, Peggy Flinn, Louise Bartelmo, Katherine Mosteller, Phyllis Griffith, Barbara Thomas, Joan Lenhardt, Dorothea Snyder, Katherine Moschitta, Shirley McClintock, Catherine Casner, Margaretta Sciarretta and Barbara Griffith,

Virginia Bare and Nelba Beamer won an essay contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Lions Club**.

Teachers on the staff of the Vacation Bible School, co-sponsored by **St. Paul's Reformed** and **St. Paul's Lutheran** Churches in Lionville, included Anna Dewees, Mrs. George Graham, Mrs. Schuyler Rennard, Jane Wallace, Mrs. Harry Dewees, Mrs. John Carmichael, Elizabeth Cornwall, Elizabeth Happersett, Caroline Matthews Hamilton, Mrs. George Harting and Harry Quay.

For the first time since before World War II, Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. sponsored a fair at the corner of Stuart and Manor Avenues. The grand prize, presented on the final night, was a new Buick Sedanette.

New officers of **Marshallton Methodist Church's** WSCS group were Mrs. Earl Johnson, president; Mrs. Clinton Griffiths, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Wickersham, social relations chairman.

There's still time to make a tax-deductible donation

Hist-O-Gram subscribers still have time to show their appreciation for our weekly newsletters by making a generous, tax-deductible donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society. We're an all-volunteer, non-profit operation, whose annual budget is absorbed by expenses such as utility bills, insurance costs, our security system and typical maintenance. And membership fees don't come close to covering all those expenses.

And we still need to repair the leaking stone wall on the east side of Ashbridge House, a project that will cost thousands of dollars.

That's why we're asking you to please send a donation to: DAHS, Post Office Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335 (or to use Paypal: [click here](#)). We are most grateful for your generosity. And EVERY subscriber will continue to receive our free Hist-O-Grams every week.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague, Phil Dague and Rahn Brackin.

It's at 107 Skyline Drive in Upper Uwchlan



No one guessed the location of the house in the photo above. If you look carefully, you can see a 1761 date stone between two of the second floor windows. For more info on the house, see: www.liveinchestercountyarea.com/listing/mlsid/252/propertyid/6455038/

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: vance_usher@netzero.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Skate For Books Fundraiser

The Caln Skating Center, 4533 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown is supporting the Downingtown Library by donating \$1 from each ticket sold between 10 AM and 2 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet Room for Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.