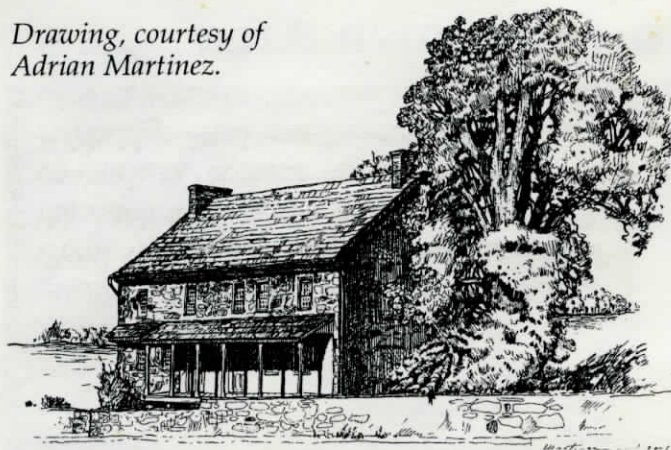


Drawing, courtesy of
Adrian Martinez.



The TURNPIKE TIMES

Volume 7, Number 1
Winter, 2002

A PUBLICATION OF THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The President's Message

by Roger Grigson

We are finally going ahead, making plans for the capital campaign. We are close to signing a contract with MacIntyre Associates, who will act as consultants in this campaign. We hope to raise enough money, not only to finish the building, but also enough to build an endowment so that we will not have to continually fund raise.

I urge you to keep some dates marked on your calendars. Our next meeting is on a Thursday, March 14 at Simpson Meadows.

Following two days later at Simpson Meadows, Ron Pook of Pook and Pook has agreed to do a benefit appraisal to raise funds for the Ashbridge House. The annual dinner has been scheduled for May 5, and a spring open house, with antique cars, programs for children, and flower sale for Mother's Day will be May 11.

To make all of this successful, we need each and every member to commit his/her time and talent to the Society. Hope to see a great number of you at these events. ♦

DUDLEY LIGHTY

Our good friend, Dudley Lighty, passed away in December. A man very concerned about saving the Ashbridge House from the wrecker's ball, Dudley spent many hours preparing the papers to prove that the Ashbridge House would qualify for the National Register and would therefore qualify to receive the Keystone Preservation Grant. Apparently, Dudley made his love of the Ashbridge House clear to many of his co-workers, because upon his death, the Ashbridge Fund was the recipient of a total of \$745, given in his name. He will certainly be missed by all.

Our Website: Thanks to the diligent efforts of Jay Byerly, DHS has an attractive, informative and expanded-upon website which is connected to several Chester County links by simply keying in "downingtown historical society" or <http://www.downingtownhistoricalsociety.org>



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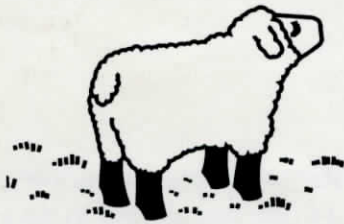
Officers: Roger Grigson, president; Don Greenleaf, vice president; Nancy D'Angelo, secretary; Wesley Sollenberger, treasurer. Board: Jay Byerly, Carol Grigson, Harry Helms, Ernie Jameson, Bob Kahler, Dr. Richard Lehr, Ruth Lowe, Melissa Newton, and Bill Woodruff. *The Turnpike Times* Editors: Carol Grigson and Ruth Lowe.

1840 Farm Life – Downingtown Area

by Ruth Lowe

In 1840 a farm of 200 acres in East Caln and surrounding townships had fifteen cows, a yoke of oxen, twenty sheep, an old white horse, a dozen pigs, fifty hens, ten geese, a few ducks and a flock of turnkeys. Downings' Town was a part of East Caln Township in 1840.

The farm produced almost everything the family needed in the way of food and clothing. The sheep provided the wool, which was carded at Downings' Fulling Mill. Fulling made the wool usable by cleansing and thickening it.



At home the wool was spun into yarn and woven on a hand loom. Blankets for beds were made from wool left in its natural color. Dyes were made from logwood,

indigo or cochineal which were used to create colors for everyday clothing for the family. The wool of the black sheep could be used alone for black or mixed with the natural colored wool to produce gray.

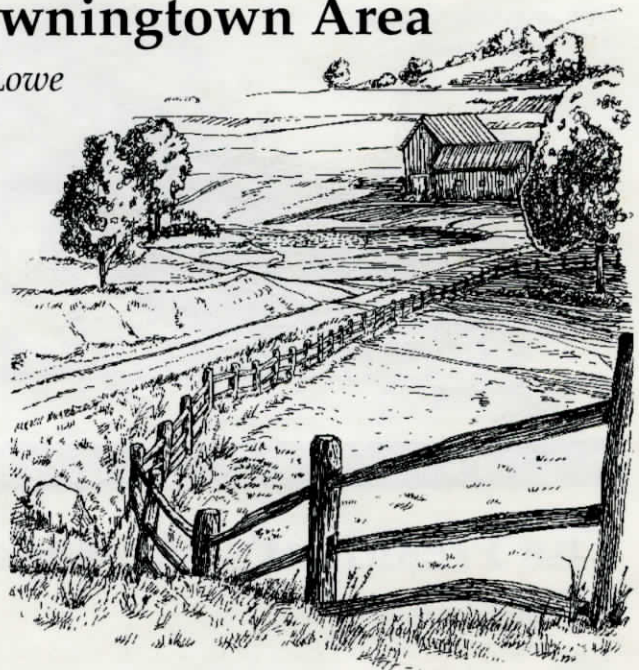
Linen was a strong cloth used for summer clothing. Linen was made from the flax plant. The field of flax was cut and laid down until the fiber loosened from the woody part. Then the fiber was put through the heckle, a comb-like instrument, worked by hand and then spun and woven into linen. The seed was saved for next years crop and it was also used to make flax seed tea (a medicine) or to make a poultice for bruises.

The spinning wheel was a household implement of domestic industry. In the evening a lighted candle was pleased on the little round candle stand in the sitting room and two or three flax spinners sat around it with their wheels.

A tailor or dressmaker came to the farmhouse for a week or more to make the finer or Sunday go to meeting clothes which were made from imported fabrics and cost money. People took very good care of these clothes and they lasted for many years.

Several cows were killed and butchered each year as needed. There was a tannery nearby where skins were tanned. The shoemaker came to the farmhouse to make new shoes for the family or half-sole and mend old ones.

All the family's food was produced on the farm as fresh meat, potatoes, beets, cabbages, parsnips, pumpkins and apples which could be kept until spring. Apples were used to make pies and cider.



Cider could be made into vinegar or cider champagne.

In the fall six pigs were killed to provide ham, bacon, lard, sausages and salt pork. The ham and bacon were hung in the smokehouse. A small fire produced plenty of smoke and little heat to give the hams and bacon a smokey flavor.

There were plenty of chickens for roasting and potpies and of course eggs. They had turkeys for holiday meals and occasionally a roast goose with applesauce for holidays.

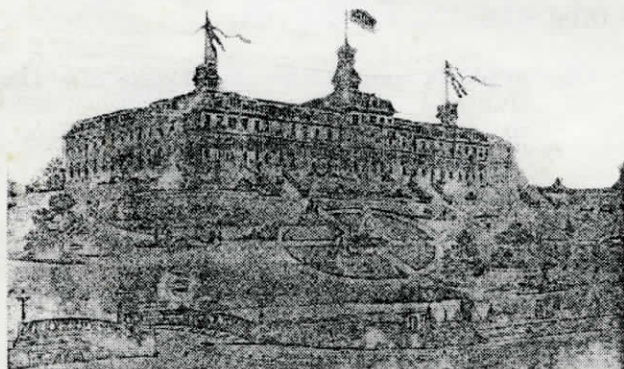
Butter and cheese were made from the cow's milk on the farm. Excess butter and cheese could be taken to Downings' Town to be sold. Butter sold for 12½ cents a pound. Cheese was sold for 5 to 6 cents a pound. Extra eggs were taken to the village store and sold for 10 cents to 12 cents a dozen.

Each farm family made their own soap, called soft soap. It was soft to the touch but very strong. It took the dirt off your hands and face and sometimes some skin unless you were careful.

Little news was heard of the world at large. The four horse stagecoach came everyday bringing the mail. There were few newspapers or magazines. The telegraph was unknown. The Atlantic cable did not come until 1866. Local news and gossip was gathered at the mill, village store and church. The tailor, dressmaker and the shoemaker were also a source of news for the family. They related news from the previous clients and collected news to pass on to the next family.

That was what farm life was like in 1840 in the rural area that surrounded Downings' Town, a well-known mill town. ♦

ASTON TERRACE HOTEL



The Aston Terrace Hotel, considered at the time to be a resort hotel, was completed in June, 1870. Located west of Downingtown, the hotel was situated where the present railroad repair yards are found. Fearing a catastrophic loss, insurance for the building could only be obtained by pooling coverage among 10 Philadelphia companies. As a pool, they agreed to insure the building for \$66,000.

Designed to be elegant and large by its developer, Joshua Kames, the hotel had a two story veranda and ornamental towers. A 300 foot front facing the railroad, it was 200 feet in depth. The cost of building reached \$110,000, and the grand opening was scheduled for July 1, 1870.

Suddenly, on Saturday, June 25th, the building burst into fire—unsavable, a total loss.

A \$500 reward for "the culprit arsonist" was offered, but it is unclear if the reward was ever paid.

A year later, the Pennsylvania Railroad paid \$20,000 for the choice 20 acres. A quarry followed, employing 100 men. Later, railroad repair shops were built to relieve the repair shops of West Philadelphia.

Today the stone cliffs on route 30 are all that remains of the quarry. This area is soon to be part of the Keystone Opportunity Zone. ♦

ANNUAL DINNER

Mark your calendars now! The date and place for the annual dinner has been determined. Sunday, May 5 is the date and the place is Luigi and Giovanni's (St. Anthony's Lodge). Details will be sent at the end of March.



MARCH ANNUAL MEETING

Because of scheduling difficulties, the March annual meeting will be on Thursday, March 14 at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza Drive, Downingtown. Refreshments will be served starting at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting before our scheduled speaker. At this annual meeting, the slate of candidates proposed by the nominating committee will be put to a vote. The speaker for the evening is Ed Hill, Township Manager of East Caln for many years. East Caln, which is also the location of the Ashbridge House, will be his topic. All are welcome. Admission is free.



DUES

Many thanks to those who have responded to their dues notice. This is a reminder to those who have not yet gotten around to putting the form and the check in the mail. Our annual dues has not changed for the last ten years. You might think they are insignificant, but almost all the dues goes to pay for the postage and printing of the newsletter.

We have also appreciated those who filled out the form and volunteered skills as we move towards the capital campaign. All skills, great and small, are needed. If you have not returned the form, it is not too late.

POOK & POOK APPRAISAL

The long awaited appraisal by Pook and Pook will take place on Saturday, March 16 from 11-2 at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza Drive, Downingtown. All proceeds will go towards the restoration of the Ashbridge House. Refreshments will be served and will be free.

Items to be appraised will cost \$10 for the first item and \$5 for each additional. Get those coverlets out of the trunks, pictures off the walls, and grandfather's pocket watch out of the drawer and bring them for a fun time! Not only will you be helping the restoration, but you will know the value of the item.

For additional information call Bob Kahler at 610-269-7339.



Slate of candidates to be presented to annual general March meeting March 14, 2002, Simpson Meadows, 7:30 p.m.

Operating under the current by-laws, the nominating committee makes the following recommendations.

Keeping in mind that our prime focus is to move ahead and restore the Ashbridge House, and keeping in mind that all advisors have told us that we must speak with the same resolve and purpose during a fund raising campaign, we recommend the following:

The board be comprised of the following people:

Present Directors whose terms expire in 2003:

Jay Byerly—special events	Robert Kahler
Carol Grigson	William Woodruff
Ernie Jameson	

Directors to be elected in March with expiring terms in 2004:

Nancy D'Angelo—archivist	Ruth Lowe
Roger Grigson	Stella Parry
Harry Helms	Wes Sollenberger
Neal Hurst	Greg Wittig
Dick Lehr	

Officers for the coming term of two years would be:

President—Roger Grigson
Vice-President—Ernie Jameson
Secretary—Carol Grigson
Treasurer—Wes Sollenberger

Submitted by the nominating committee:

Carol Grigson, Robert Kahler, Doris Keen and
Wes Sollenberger,

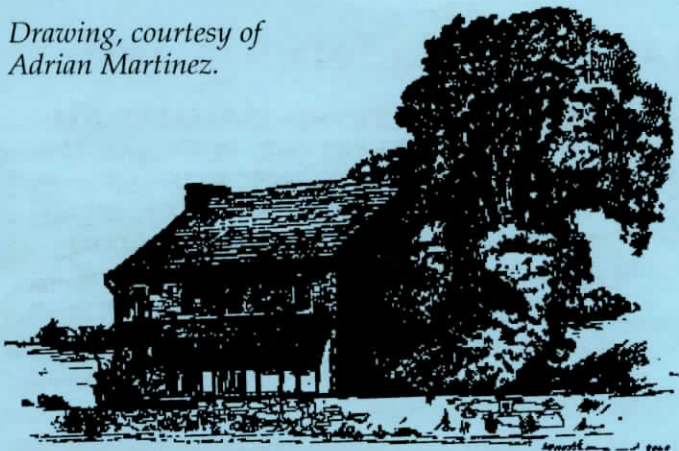
Passed unanimously by the Board of Directors,
February 11, 2002.



Downingtown Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 9
Downingtown, PA 19335



Drawing, courtesy of
Adrian Martinez.



The TURNPIKE TIMES

Volume 7, Number 2

Spring, 2002

A PUBLICATION OF THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The President's Message

by Roger Grigson

Plans for our spring open house suggest that it will be a wonderful success. Over 50 Society members are involved in various aspects of planning, all to make sure that everything happens according to the plans. One of the highlights at 11 a.m. will be the rededication of the 29th mile marker, originally place on the Lancaster Turnpike. Among the dignitaries to be present will be Senator Thompson, Rep. Curt Schroder, and

Commissioner Andy Dinniman.

The day will be a rather laid back day with something for everyone: sale of flowers and hanging baskets for Mother's day, free popcorn and balloons, antique cars, tours, book sales, and food. This is a good chance to meet friends and show people the Ashbridge House, which is the future headquarters of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. Come and be part of it. ♦

Publication Name Change

Downingtown, through various times, has been connected to a turnpike. The Ashbridge House, the society's headquarters, as well as the Downingtown Log House have been located on the main road from Philadelphia to Lancaster before our nation's first turnpike was completed in 1794. Both houses have seen four centuries of travelers from the early 1700's until today. The purpose of this newsletter is to report and educate today's society about what was happening in past times and their effects on the growth of the Downingtown area.

The recent name change of our newsletter to *The Turnpike Times*, seeks to include a broader readership and identify with the travel along the turnpike in earlier times, as well as promote current activities and events sponsored by the Downingtown Area Historical Society.

Our Website: Thanks to the diligent efforts of Jay Byerly, DHS has an attractive, informative and expanded-upon website which is connected to several Chester County links by simply keying in "downingtown historical society" or <http://www.downingtownhistoricalsociety.org>



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Officers: Roger Grigson, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, secretary; Wesley Sollenberger, treasurer. Board: Jay Byerly, Harry Helms, Neil Hurst, Bob Kahler, Dr. Richard Lehr, Ruth Lowe, Stella Parry, Greg Wittig, and Bill Woodruff. *The Turnpike Times* Editors: Carol Grigson and Ruth Lowe.

Old Lancaster Road, AKA the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, Route 30, Business Route 30

by Wesley Sollenberger

The Old Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was "the first extensive turnpike road built in the United States," according to Albert G. Rose, of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. A road did exist between Philadelphia and Lancaster, but that road was in poor condition.

In the 1780's, the farmers and merchants of Lancaster and Chester counties demanded a new road. From 1786 to 1792, a commission conducted a study of the old road. The report recommended the construction of a new road, but suggested reconstructing the old one and building new sections. On April 9, 1792, the State Legislature and Governor Thomas Mifflin authorized the incorporation of a turnpike company to build the new road.

In June and July 1792, a commission organized the turnpike company and the books were soon opened for subscribers to invest in the turnpike. Several leading citizens of the Downingtown area including Richard Downing, Hunt Downing, and Samuel Downing invested in the turnpike—subscribing for stock in Lancaster. In July 24, 1792, the first officers of the company were elected, and with the investors money pouring in construction quickly began.

The turnpike company had to follow specific instructions as noted in the incorporation papers. The road was to be 50' wide, 21' in breadth, with a crown or arch of 4 degrees. A solid base of large crushed stones faced with "gravel or stone pounded or other small-hard substance." Toll gates were to be placed approximately seven to ten miles apart and mileage signs were to be placed every mile. Guideposts were to be placed at all intersections. At each toll gate was the list of the tolls.

Also, established were rules of the road: weight limits set for the wagons; set number of horses, mules, or oxen pulling the wagons; and all drivers were to keep their wagons to the right-hand side of the road. The company imposed fines if drivers did not follow these rules. If a wagon was being pulled by more than eight horses, one horse would be forfeited to the turnpike. If you were driving on the wrong side of the road, you would pay a two-dollar fine. Also, a fine of twenty dollars was assessed

for defacing the mileage stones, guideposts and toll signs payable to the company. The turnpike introduced scales to weigh each wagon carrying freight.

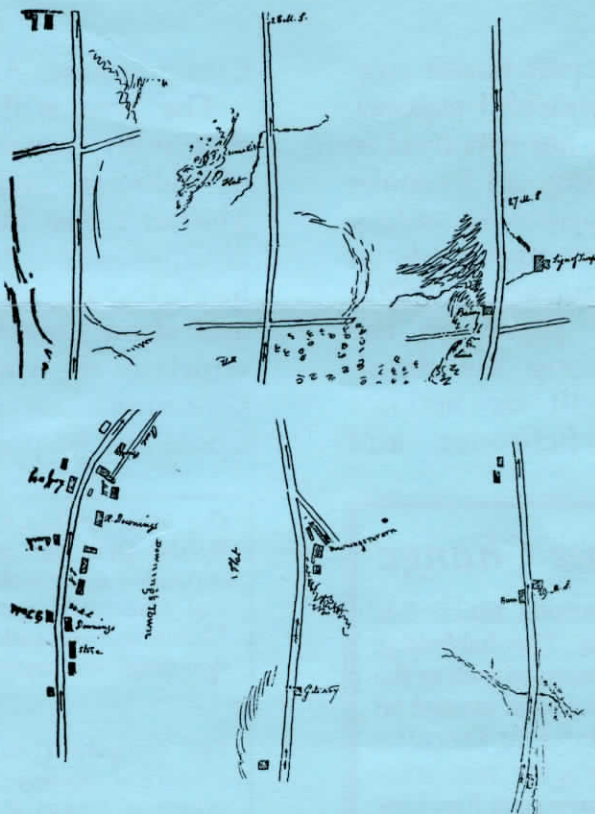
By 1794, the turnpike was for the most part complete. It took another two years to finish certain phases of the turnpike. During the years, the turnpike prospered, sixty-two taverns operated from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company would collect the tolls, maintain the road and declare a profit for its investors. Then in 1834 when the Philadelphia and Columbia Railway began operation, the turnpike went into a slow decline, for the railway could carry goods and people more quickly, cheaper, and comfortably.

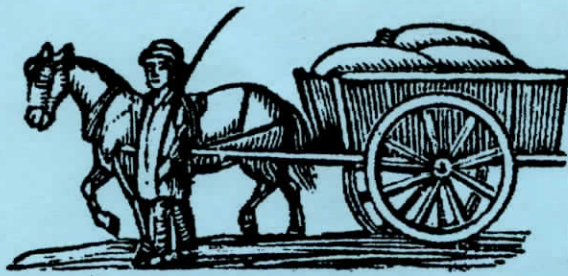
On April 11, 1866, the state legislature dealing with the declining turnpike road passed an act. The act mentioned that the Pennsylvania Railroad (successor to the Philadelphia and Columbia Railway) was the chief cause of the decline. This act called for the breaking up of the turnpike—into sections and selling them off. The act did not call for the state to purchase the turnpike road.

In October of 1867, the turnpike essentially turned over to the city of Philadelphia the first three miles of the turnpike within the city limits.

Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike.

89





In December of 1872, the company divided the road into three sections starting in Lancaster County: the first section from the city of Lancaster to the Newport Road; the second section started at the Newport Road and ended at the boundary to the city of Philadelphia; and the third section was the road within the city of Philadelphia. The first section sold was the Lancaster section. In December of 1872, the old company sold it to a new turnpike company (Lancaster and Williamstown Turnpike Company). On August 3, 1876, the portion of the turnpike within the boundaries of Coatesville was transferred to the borough.

The decline was so slow that it took more than eighty years before public officials removed the toll gates. Complaints about the road increased and citizens made demands that something had to be done about the old turnpike. People refused to pay the tolls because of the poor condition of the roadway. Many people avoided the toll gates all-together going on and off the turnpike just before coming to a toll gate. On March 22, 1880, the company sold the east end of the turnpike, from Philadelphia to Paoli, to the Lancaster Avenue Improvement Company. The company abandoned the section between Paoli and Exton.

Then the turnpike sold the Exton to Coatesville section to A. Merrit, President of the Philadelphia and Chester Valley Street Railway. No tolls were collected on the Exton to Coatesville section. On February 25, 1902, the stock holders called for the disbanding of the old Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company. Finally, the last section became a public road in 1918 when the state bought the twelve miles owned by the Lancaster and Williamstown Turnpike Company.

(Note to readers: I have included sectional maps detailing what structures could be found near each milestone. For the twenty-ninth mile stone the map clearly shows the Ashbridge house and a barn across the road from the house. Roger Brooke and Dewey Strickland in a survey did these sectional maps of the turnpike in 1806. The sectional maps appeared in an article by Charles I. Landis "History of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, The First Long Turnpike in the United States," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 42 & 43.) ♦

Tollgate & Tolls



The toll gate located on the Philadelphia and Lancaster Pike was just east of Downingtown. This gate was located on the north side of East Lancaster Avenue, near the Downingtown United Methodist Church, opposite the James J. Terry Funeral Home, known as the Jug House.

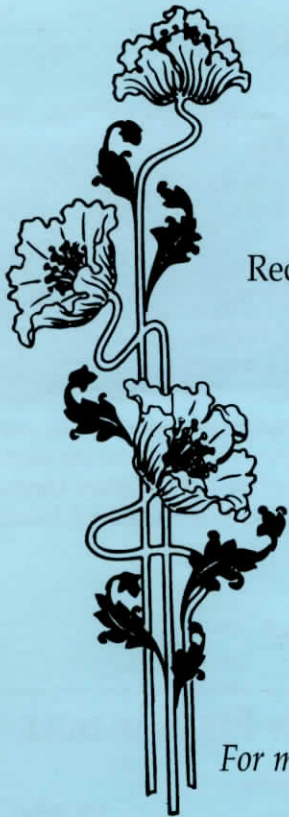


TURNPIKE COMPANY FEE SCHEDULE

Every sulkey, chair, or chaise with one horse and two wheels	1/8 dollar
Every chariot, coach, stage wagon, phaeton, or chaise with two horses and four wheels	1/4 dollar
Either of the above carriages, with four horses	3/8 dollar
Every other carriage of pleasure, under whatever name it may go, the like sums according to the same	
Every score of sheep	1/8 dollar
Every score of hogs	1/8 dollar
Every score of cattle	1/4 dollar
Every horse and rider or lead horse	1/16 dollar
Every cart or wagon whose wheels do not exceed the breadth of four inches	1/8 dollar
Every cart or wagon whose wheels shall exceed in breadth four inches and not exceed seven inches	1/16 dollar per every horse drawing the same

Toll gates were built to collect fees for the maintenance of the road. Toll gate #7 was at the 29-1/2 mile mark across from the Downingtown Friends Meeting. Area farmers using the road were excused from paying the toll. Tolls were collected every 10 miles.

Information obtained from *A History of Downingtown* by Jane L. S. Davidson



Spring Open House 2002

Celebrating Mother's Day

Ashbridge House, Downingtown PA

Saturday May 11, 2002 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rededication of the mile marker which sat in front of the Ashbridge House

Dedication at 11:00 AM

County and State Officials Presiding

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Geraniums, Hanging Baskets, & more

Antique Car Show

Enroll your child in Our Summer Seed Planting Project

Food by Kelly Caterers at the café 610-383-1900

Also Food, Music, Tours, and Memberships Available

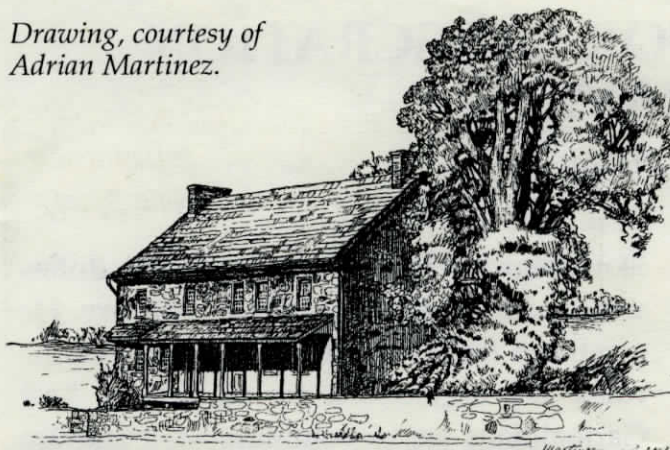
All proceeds go to the Ashbridge House Capital Campaign

*For more information on the restoration of the Ashbridge House and how you can help
call Deb Casagrande at 610-280-4714 or Roger Grigson at 610-269-5413*

Downingtown Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 9
Downingtown, PA 19335



Drawing, courtesy of
Adrian Martinez.



The TURNPIKE TIMES

Volume 7, Number 3

Summer, 2002

A PUBLICATION OF THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The President's Message

by Roger Grigson

The Downingtown Area Historical Society has been very busy this summer between outdoor activities, interior renovations to the Ashbridge House and finalizing plans for the Capital Campaign.

Our May Open House featured the rededication of the 29th mile marker, attended by 240 people and gaining many new members, a terrific success. We have also participated in Kids Fest (June 1), Good Neighbor Day (July 4), the Chamber Carnival (August 6-10) and finally Downingtown's

celebration of its involvement in the Revolutionary War (August 17).

July 4th was the kick off day for the sale of our 2003 calendars. Sales at Good Neighbor Day were brisk. We are indebted to Jay Byerly and his postcard collection for the images for this first calendar. These would make wonderful Christmas presents. Orders can be placed by calling 610-269-1167.

As we move into the capital campaign, we are counting on each of you to help make it the success it needs to be. ♦

Calendars Now Available!

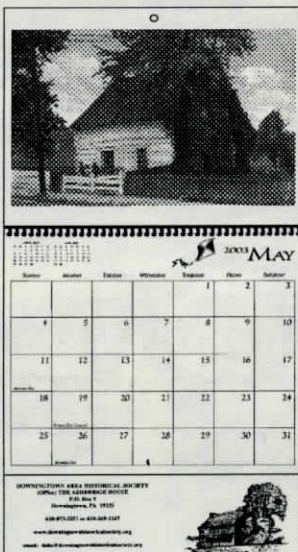
LIMITED SUPPLY!

Created from old postcards of Downingtown. Each month a different view.

Order yours now for \$12.

Would make a wonderful Christmas gift!

Call 610-269-1167



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PRIEST ARRESTED FOR DESECRATION OF GRAVE

By Carol Grigson

A Priest at St. Joseph's arrested?

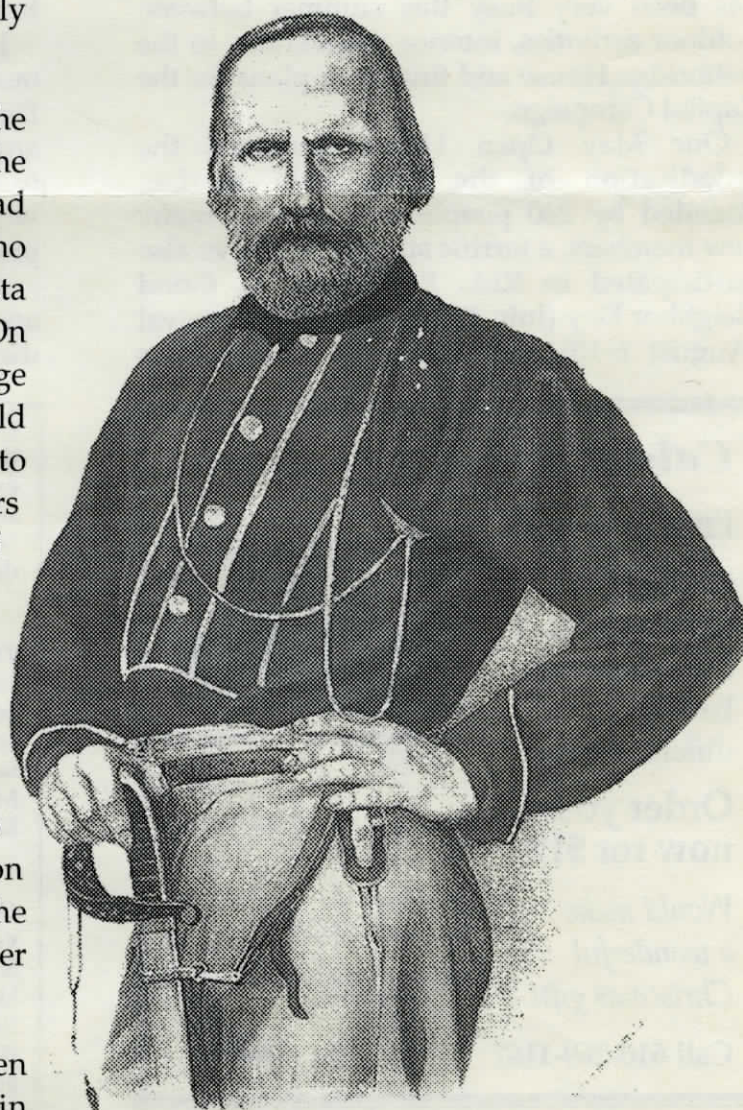
Arrested for desecrating a grave? Surely this news article from 1916 is a stretch of the imagination and a form of yellow journalism. Upon further investigation, one finds that the indictment reads: "Rev. Joseph A. Kelley, a priest at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Downingtown, wilfully and maliciously mutilated and removed from the grave of Francesco Zappacosta, in the church cemetery, certain flowers bound with a ribbon, in the form of a wreath, temporarily placed on the grave."

As the facts of the case developed at the court hearing, it was discovered that the deceased was an Italian patriot who had served under Garibaldi, the Italian hero who did much to unify Italy. Frank Zappacosta died in America in January 27th, 1916. On Memorial Day of that year, the Italian lodge to which Zappacosta belonged, felt it would be appropriate, as was the custom, to decorate the grave. Thus, a spray of flowers were tied with a ribbon of the colors of Italy, along with a ribbon listing the president of the lodge in Downingtown, and an inscription in Italian, when translated said "a tribute from the lodge to a Garibaldian soldier."

Witnesses at the trial all attested to seeing Fr. Kelley tearing off the ribbon and throwing it to the ground. The interpretation of these facts was the matter for the legal process.

Fr. Kelley testified that he had been a priest at St. Joseph's Church in

Downingtown for 15 years. Part of his duties was as superintendent of the cemetery. He produced for the court record, a copy of the rules and regulations for all graves. "All Garibaldians are ex-communicated and are not regarded as Catholics." Under orders from the Archbishop, he was never to permit such insignia in the cemetery. In his defense, Fr. Kelley said he merely removed the offending ribbon and did little else to the grave.



The jury, after deliberation, returned the verdict of not guilty for the priest.

In writing about this case, the DAILY LOCAL NEWS did not try to give any reason for the actions of the priest or suggest why there was a dispute.

In 2002 it seems almost incomprehensible that anyone would have objected to anything connected with Garibaldi. After all, in all the history books of the last 50 years, he and his army of red shirts was portrayed as the hero of Italian unification. Most books suggest that he could have been the leader of a unified Italy. My own school day memories make me recall a teacher talking about his qualities as a hero, about how he was a humble man, inspired patriotism and spirit in his men, and how he turned over a united Italy to the Italian king, Victor Emanuel II, only to return to relative obscurity.

What then is the final part of this story? Why was Fr. Kelley told that all men who served with Garibaldi were no longer Catholics, that they had been excommunicated? Was Garibaldi a heretic in the genre of Joan of Arc?

The truth is actually more human and less religious in nature. It is difficult for us of the 21st century to remember that for most of modern European history, the Pope was a temporal ruler as well as a religious ruler. Many of the lands which Garibaldi was liberating, in fact, belonged to the Pope. The Pope, in protest, excommunicated all those men who had served with Garibaldi, and retreated to the Vatican as "a prisoner", remaining there until 1929 when Mussolini finally signed a treaty with the Pope acknowledging what had happened and what the future would then be. (Lateran Treaty of 1929) ◆

225th Commemoration of the Battle of Brandywine Events

Brandywine River Museum:

September 7 through November 24, 2002.

To mark the 225th anniversary of the conflict, a small but significant exhibition of paintings, drawings, and prints depicting the battle and battlefield has been organized by Christine Podmaniczky, associate curator. From John Vanderlyn's early 19th century view in the grand style of history painting to an evocative watercolor by Andrew Wyeth, the work of approximately 12 artists will be presented.

Birmingham Township:

September 11, 2002, memorial event and dedication at Sandy Hollow from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Cooch's Bridge:

Military reenactment and encampment will be held Saturday, August 24, 2002. For information, call 302 577-5044.

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates:

Revolutionary Times: September 22, 2002

Lecture Series:

(The cost of each lecture is \$5 with a \$1 discount for members of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associate members. They will begin at 7 p.m.)

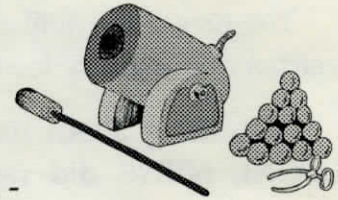
September 12, 2002: Paul Loane will speak on the Revolutionary War soldier at the Park Inn & Suites, Routes 202 & 1, in Concordville.

September 26, 2002: Author Harlow G. Unger of New York City will speak on his new book on Lafayette. He will also speak at the Park Inn & Suites.

October 3, 2002: Local historian Paul Rodebaugh will speak on Chester County in 1777. He will also speak at the Park Inn & Suites.

October 10, 2002: Noted General George Washington scholar Carl Closs will speak on Washington. He will speak at the Brandywine River Museum on Route 1 in Chadds Ford.

Milltown – The First Line of Defense & Log House 300th Anniversary Celebration Saturday August 17, 2002 • 10 AM - 5 PM



All events will take place at Log House Field. No parade is scheduled - but infantry troops will conduct marching drills on the field.

The Schedule of Events for the day:

10:00 am	Living History Begins / Opening: Drum and Fife Corps / Artillery Fire followed by Infantry Drill / Log House and Grounds Open / Crafter Exhibits continuing all day	1:00 pm	General George Washington to address the troops
11:00 am	Tapestry Historic Dancers (pavilion) Peacock's Puppet Show (under tree)	1:30 pm	Tapestry Historical Dancers (pavilion)
11:30 am	Colonial Fashion Show (pavilion)	2:00 pm	Fashion Show (pavilion) Peacock's Puppet Show (under tree)
12:00 pm	Fife & Drum Corps / Artillery Firing	2:30 pm	Troop Skirmish & Mock Trial - Skirmish demonstration will feature a firing exchange between Continental troops and a British loyalist. The loyalist is captured and placed on trial.
12:15 pm	Infantry Drill	3:00 pm	Commissary Wagon Demonstration
12:30 pm	Welcome & Dignitary Speech (Log House) - Jamie Bruton, Downingtown Council President & Mayor Gary Gavin	3:30 pm	Infantry Drill
		4:00 pm	Artillery Firing
		5:00 pm	Troops' Marching Departure

Sponsored by: Downingtown Historical & Parks Commission

Downingtown Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 9
Downingtown, PA 19335

32 S. 13th Ave
Coatesville, PA 19330

Drawing, courtesy of
Adrian Martinez.



The TURNPIKE TIMES

Volume 7, Number 4
Fall, 2002

A PUBLICATION OF THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The President's Message by Roger Grigson

Dena Doroszenko, administrator of the Ashbridge House in Toronto Canada, paid us a visit last week. With her came much exhibit material, books, and information on the Ashbridge House in Toronto. From West Goshen, a branch of the Ashbridges went to Canada, eventually donating their home to the Canadian Heritage Program. A full report and pictures will be in the next newsletter.

We are receiving more and more donations of items from the Downingtown Area. All of this is valuable and exciting, since we will have a permanent place to house and make them accessible to the public with the completion of the Ashbridge House.

Much is going on within the House itself. Replacement and repairs to the windows should be completed in 4 or 5 weeks. The interior plaster on the walls and ceilings, (the plaster on one ceiling collapsed) is to be removed, removing dirt and mold at the same time. Arrangements for heat have been made and we now have a temporary functioning bathroom, thanks to Ernie Jameson, Bob Kahler and Swisher plumbing. With all the construction, the Christmas Open House for this year has been put on hold.

Our quarterly meeting is November 11 at Simpson Meadows. Details in this newsletter. ♦

Calendars Now Available!

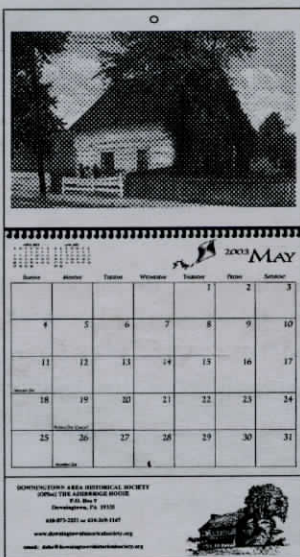
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Our Website: Thanks to the diligent efforts of Jay Byerly, DHS has an attractive, informative and expanded-upon website which is connected to several Chester County links by simply keying in "downingtown historical society" or <http://www.downingtownhistoricalsociety.org>

The Turnpike Times, ©2002 Downingtown Area Historical Society. Articles and information on events of historical interest welcomed, subject to editorial revision and approval. Send articles to DHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. Membership: \$10 individual; \$15 family; \$5 senior, \$3 student.

Officers: Roger Grigson, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, secretary; Wesley Sollenberger, treasurer. Board: Jay Byerly, Lauren Fagan, Harry Helms, Bob Kahler, Dr. Richard Lehr, Ruth Lowe, Stella Parry, Greg Wittig, and Bill Woodruff. *The Turnpike Times* Editors: Carol Grigson and Ruth Lowe.

IN AND NEAR MARSHALLTON

By Ruth Lowe

*M*arshallton was earlier known as Martin's Tavern. In 1805 the first post office was established. The village's name was changed to Marshallton in honor of Humphrey Marshall, who was one of America's first botanists, along with his cousin, John Bartram of Philadelphia. He traveled around the world to bring home trees he planted in front of his house. Marshall published his essay entitled "Arbustum Americanum; or, The American Grove" in 1785. It describes the trees and shrubs of America. Marshall was also a stone mason and built his house with his own hands in 1773.

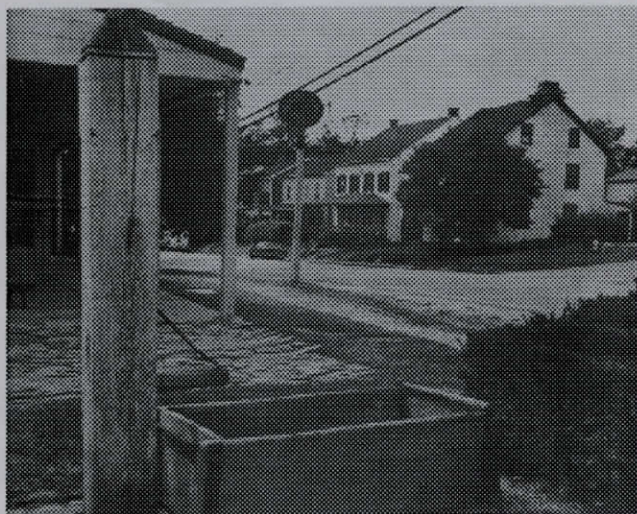
An important road runs through Marshallton. Strasburg Road or Route 162 was one of the main highways between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Travelers used this road to avoid paying the tolls on the Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike or Route 30. The wagon traffic usually used Strasburg Road. It was a dirt road which was easier on the cattle's feet. But when the road was muddy travelers used the turnpike which had a stone base. Conestoga wagons filled with a variety of merchandise were the freight haulers of the day cows, pigs and even turkeys were seen on their way to market. The animals

averaged ten miles a day and the drovers and cattle were housed and pastured at numerous inns along the way, including the Marshallton Inn and the Centre House being in the village of Marshallton.

Monday was the big processional day for the cattle drovers. Their journey going east was planned so that they would reach Philadelphia in time for Wednesday market day. Regiments of a thousand cattle passed through the village of Marshallton on the first days of the week. These regiments were usually divided into companies or drovers of 100 each, and the cries of the drovers made the village hum.

The Centre House built by Joseph Martin in 1764 is the older of the two hotels. It got its name because it was supposed to be in the center of the county. It is located at the west end of Marshallton at the fork in the road, Strasburg on the right and Clayton Road on the left. It was last used as a hotel in about 1877. Local legend was handed down that in Revolutionary times the British soldiers in the area, suspected several farmers of being Tories and imprisoned them in the Centre House, and set a guard over them. The farmers however, as the story goes, were released in a few days.

In the early 1800's travel along the Strasburg Road was steadily increasing. The Centre House had a monopoly on the profitable business of providing food and drink for the travelers. William Woodward, Jr., who lived about a half-mile east of Marshallton petitioned the court in 1812 for a license for a tavern. His petition was rejected. Abraham Martin, Woodward's son-in-law, who had a general store for several years applied for a tavern license in 1814. This petition had 75 signers but the license was refused. Martin applied yearly and in 1822 he was finally granted a license. The hotel was first named General Wayne Hotel. In 1858 it was renamed



Main Street of Marshallton Village (photo taken from the parking area of the Marshallton Inn) showing the wooden pump.

the Marshallton Hotel. Today it is known as the Four Dogs Tavern.

Imagine you are traveling by stagecoach in 1870 in and near Marshallton with Amos Seeds and Frank Fame are your drivers. You stop in and visit the cabinet making shop of Jacob Fisher at the east end of Bradford Meeting Yard. The cabinet maker was also the undertaker and coffin maker. But you have come to see the chairs made by Mr. Fisher. Next is Congress Hall where Marshallton's Coronet Band meets. Other shops are Jackson Hughes' Tailor Shop, Wilson Cheyney's Boot and Shoe Shop, William Loller's Tinsmith and Stove Shop, George McFarland's Place where he makes wooden pumps. (He made his first wooden pump about 1850.)

A special shop is James Embree's Cradle Factory. Mr. Embree is known for inventing a lathe for turning the handles of the cradle. He also made scythes.



The Blacksmith Shop run by George Maxton on Rt. 162 by the fork in the road.

You stop at the Centre Hotel where Robert B. Lilley is the innkeeper at the Marshallton Inn where John Steele is the innkeeper for something to eat or drink. Or you might want to stop and chat with George Maxton at his blacksmith shop.

Boarding the stagecoach, we go out of town toward Cope's Bridge passing Cope's Foundry and Machine Shop in East Bradford. Farther along on an island in the Brandywine is Bowers' Papermill.

Continuing on, we pass through Jefferis Bridge on the road where Cornwallis marched

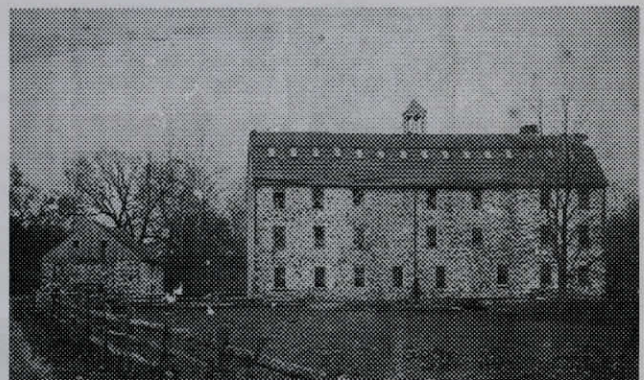
is Ebenezer Worth's Cheese Factory and the Carpet Weaving Place. Six hundred pounds of cheese are made daily at Worth's factory on the Brandywine. The milk of 200 cows is used daily.



Photo of Sugar's Bridge crossing over the Brandywine River from a postcard of 1911.

Near Sugar's Bridge is the Spinning Wheel Factory and on the hill between the factory and Marshallton is Marshall Chamber's Tannery. The tannery is a busy place. Farmers for miles around bring the hides of their cattle to be tanned, thousands of hides are converted into leather in a year's time. Bark for the tanning process is brought by wagon and ground by George Chambers at his nearby grist mill. It takes nine months for the tanning process to produce leather suitable to be made into quality calfskin boots, shoes or the strongest harnesses.

Arriving at our destination just beyond the tannery, we thank the drivers for their hospitality and pay them the fare as they handed us our packages. ♦



Bowers' Papermill on the Brandywine River.

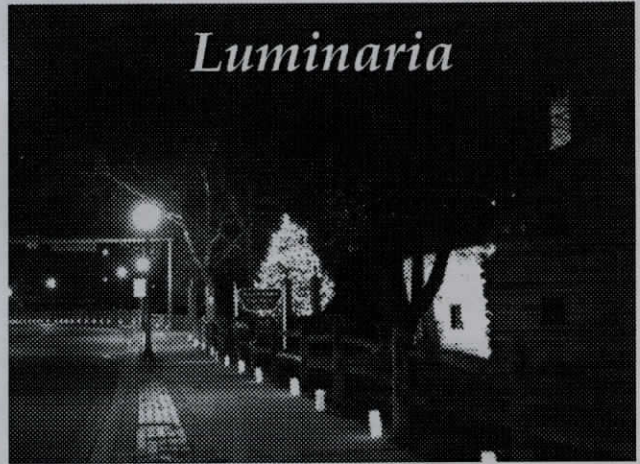
**NOVEMBER
QUARTERLY MEETING
November 11, 2002**

Simpson Meadows
101 Plaza Drive
Downingtown

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.
Speaker at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Bruce Mowday, author of
newly published book on the
Battle of the Brandywine, 1777.

Luminaria



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Downingtown Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 9
Downingtown, PA 19335

Nov 11, 2002
13th Ave
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