



HISTORIA

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY, 1997

FARMS AND BARNES OF BUCKS COUNTY Topic of May Meeting

The May meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society will feature a talk on FARMS AND BARNES OF BUCKS COUNTY by RICHARD B. NEWMAN, an historian and photographer from Newtown Township.

During the early 1980's, while holding the position of County Manager, Bucks County, Mr. Newman had the opportunity to traverse Bucks County from north to south and east to west during the period of major population growth and the advent of many housing developments within the county. It was during this time that he noticed the disappearance of several farms and, in their place, the creation of numerous communities where not long before cultivated earth had produced its bounty or open fields beckoned the eye of the beholder. A meeting was arranged with the Penn State Agricultural Agent in Doylestown. From this meeting Mr. Newman learned that during the previous two decades approximately 300 farms disappeared every five years, so, that by 1985 less than 900 working farms remained in Bucks County. Most of those were quite small. During the past 10 years almost a dozen farms have disappeared within a radius of 5 miles of Newtown Borough.

During the two years it took to research data, collect information, photograph the farms and interview the owners or tenants, Mr. Newman traveled 7,000 miles, and took more than 3,500 pictures (125+ rolls of color 35mm film) of 500 farms in Bucks County. To photograph the farms and barns Mr. Newman used a NIKON camera body with a Tokina 35-105mm zoom lens, a Tamron 70-210mm zoom lens, a Tamron 500mm mirror lens, a Nikor 35mm PC lens and a Nikor 28mm lens. The photographs of farms/barns shown in Mr. Newman's display will appear in his book "FARMS & BARNES OF BUCKS COUNTY."

Mr. Newman discovered a unique beauty and heritage which is being eroded by pressure from a continuing population growth. There were more than 2000 farms.....and then there were none.

The Bucks County Conservancy, The Bucks County Historical Society, numerous libraries, including Pennsbury Manor, were helpful in providing information or permitting research in their facility and Independent researcher and teacher, Kathy Auerbach, provided guidance in the project.

The meeting will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 21 at the Northampton Township Cultural Center, adjacent to the library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Visitors are always welcome. Please plan to join us for a great program.

SPREAD EAGLE PRINTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

The Northampton Township Historical Society is offering for sale prints of a watercolor by Ranulph Bye of the Spread Eagle Inn, Richboro. Two sizes are available. A full size (18" x 24") reproduction that is signed and numbered by Mr. Bye. There are 500 in the series. This print will sell for \$90 (\$75 to Historical Society members). A half size (7" x 11") print will be available for \$30 (\$25 to Society members). A booklet titled "The History of the Spread Eagle" by Roe Blumenthal published by the Historical Society will accompany each print. Booklets are also available separately for \$3

The prints are being sold exclusively at the Crafters Gallery at Northampton Nursery in Richboro. The Gallery is located at 100 Almshouse Road, behind the Spread Eagle. Please show your membership card for discounts. The gallery's phone number is 364-7040.

The Society has done very well in it's first month of sales. Sales to our membership however have been lower then expected. Please support the Society and display this fine print of our local history. They make great gifts.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I apologize for the reduced content of this HISTORIA. I have been very busy lately and unable to get articles together. I have a number of articles in the works for future issues. As always I can use your input. So if you have something in mind please contact me.

First month sales of the Spread Eagle print have been very good. Publicity in the Courier Times and the Advance helped us to get the sales campaign off to a great start. I am a little disappointed in sales to Society members though. I have saved a limited number of lower number prints exclusively for sale to Society members. If you are interested contact me at 355-5307.

The Spread Eagle history booklet, authored by Roe Blumenthal, will be made available to the local schools.

Unfortunately I have nothing to report regarding the Spread Eagle development. Amoco is not returning my calls.

The Henry Wynkoop paintings are just about ready for delivery but because of scheduling problems we may not make it this school year. If not they will be presented to the schools in the Fall. We will be pursuing the possibility of a grant to help cover the costs of this gift.

We have scheduled the Living Tree Award for this year in October. Dates and information will be in the September HISTORIA.

Join us for our May meeting presentation, Farms and Barns of Bucks County. Mr. Newman has done extensive research and photography of our farms. I am looking forward to some great pictures, sadly many of which will show farms that are no longer in existence. Please bring a friend.

We have a considerable number of members who are behind in their dues. Check the mailing label on this issue. If it does not say 97 or is marked in red, you dues are in arrears! At sometime in the future we will be reviewing unpaid membership accounts and dropping them from the rolls. If you would like to continue being a member and getting the HISTORIA please send in your renewal now.

Have a great Summer!

Douglas J. Cooper



Roe Blumenthal and Adelaide Crompton consult with Tom Wells, Restoration Carpenter, at the Bucks County Old House Restoration Exposition held at the Bucks County Community College in April



Kathy Auerbach, teacher and independent researcher, gives restoration and preservation advice to visitors at the April Exposition

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 19** - Putting your house on the National Register State and local level - Southampton Historical Society
- May 20** - Primary Elections - Vote YES to open space
- May 21** - Northampton Township Historical Society Barns and Farms of Bucks County
- June 2** - Schofield Ford Bridge reconstruction begins
- June 16** - Southampton Historical Society Social summer gathering
- June 23** - Historical craft day camp - weekly sessions - Mercer
- July 4** - Old fashioned Fourth of July Celebration - Fonhill
- July/August** - Under the stars film series - weekly - Mercer



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

WEBSITE: <http://www.resuba.com/bucks> EMAIL: nhhs@crompton.com

1997 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Secretary	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
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Director	Regina Tisone	860-9819
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Send articles to:	1269 2nd St Pike	
	Richboro, PA 18954	

HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Cultural Center, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** with refreshments, general meeting, and a featured speaker.

Meeting Dates for 1997

May 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM
September 24	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 19	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

PATRON:	Extra support for the society	\$35.00
FAMILY:	All members of one family	\$15.00
SINGLE:	Adult individual membership	\$10.00
SENIOR CITIZEN:	Age 65 years or older	\$5.00

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 1997 (January 1997 to December 1997)

Note - Applications received after October 31 will be credited for the following year.

This application is sent with all editions of the HISTORIA. Please check your mailing label for the expiration year.

Normal renewal time is in the first quarter of the year or when the March HISTORIA is received.

If your membership is current, please pass this application on to others who may be interested in our society.

Please consider a contribution of more than the minimum membership to help defray increasing society costs.

Send to : **Northampton Township Historical Society**
PO BOX 732
Richboro, PA 18954-0732

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

May we count on you to serve on one of our committees ? : Y _____ N _____ MAYBE _____

Please give us your ideas for speakers at future meetings : _____

Would you be willing to write an article for the HISTORIA _____

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed : _____