



HISTORIA

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2000

JOIN US AT OUR NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING FEATURING A TALK ON HISTORIC BRISTOL

The Northampton Township Historical Society's annual dinner meeting will feature a talk on Historic Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener. They are the authors of the book, *"Images of America - Bristol."* Their talk will include slides of Bristol and a description of the process and research they used to write their book.

Harold Mitchener graduated from Bristol High School, West Chester University and The College of New Jersey; his wife, Carol, graduated from Delhass High School, Bristol, Kutztown University and Boston University. Both were classroom teachers, Harold in Bensalem Township and Carol in Bristol Township.

Both Carol and Harold are very active in the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, and the Grundy Library, where they volunteer, doing requested historical research, classifying and building the historical files, and identifying and preserving photographs.

Harold does public speaking for various organizations and enjoys visiting classrooms and talking with children about historical subjects. They host foreign teachers in their home for several weeks during the summer, helping them improve their English and knowledge of American history.

Come have dinner with us, hear a great talk on Bristol, and enjoy a nice evening with your Historical Society friends. The Mitcheners will have copies of their book at the meeting. Visitors are always welcome. Please bring a friend.

The meeting will start with dinner at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 15th at the Northampton Cultural Center, adjacent to the library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert dish.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



SOCIETY MEMBERS ENJOY A RIDE ON THE NEW HOPE AND IVYLAND RAILROAD AND BRUNCH AT THE WYCOMBE INN

Twelve members of the Northampton Historical Society had a delightful tour on Sunday October 15th. We boarded the New Hope and Ivyland train at the Warminster station and took a 40-minute ride to Wycombe for brunch. The weather was perfect and the leaves were almost at their peak. The ride went through Ivyland, over the 400-foot bridge that crosses Sackettsford Road and the Neshaminy Creek, then through Rushland and on to Wycombe. This was really a breathtaking look at areas seldom seen, through huge rock cuts and much wide-open space. Brunch was great. We ate on the enclosed front porch. A fundraiser for Jim Greenwood occupied the adjoining room and we had a brief visit by him to our table. Everyone agreed that we should do more things like this to bring our members together. Thanks to Diane Amadio for making the arrangements!

More Pictures on Page 2

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Just returned home from a leisurely train ride aboard the New Hope and Ivyland train. The fall foliage was spectacular, red, gold yellow, orange with a few tints of green that had not yet turned. I wish more of you could have hit the rails with us!

It is that time of year when we are all very busy trying to accomplish numerous tasks to prepare for the holidays. Remember to be kind to yourselves during this hectic pace.

Our annual dinner meeting is Wednesday November 15th and I hope all of you will be able to attend. Our members and guests are asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish. The board and Society supply the meat and drinks.

Please keep in mind another holiday in November. We celebrate Veterans Day on Saturday November 11th. Thank you to all that served in peace and in war, and remember those that did not return.

Mary B. Seader



Posing before the ride back to Warminster.



Crossing the Neshaminy Creek on the 400 foot stone bridge. Sackettsford road in the background.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15

Northampton Township Historical Society
Dinner meeting - Bristol History 6:30 PM

Thru December 9th

Parry Mansion tour - Fridays - Sundays
45 Main St. New Hope 215-862-5652

Thru December 31st

Crayola Factory tour - The Vision of Jim
Henson - 610-515-8000 - www.crayola.com

Thursday, December 7

Christmas at Aldie - 5-8 PM
Aldie Mansion
85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown

**Warwick Historical Society
Encampment 2002**

Plans are underway for the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Campaign of 1777. Volunteers and participants are needed. For further information call 215-345-6439



Wycombe station taken from train. The station has received a substantial grant and is scheduled to be restored.

HOLLAND PENNSYLVANIA

By Betty Cornell Luff

Early in the 19th century a group of yeoman (farmers) whose Holland Dutch fathers had settled in New York, came to Northampton Township, Bucks County, to claim the land they had received from William Penn. The 1,000 acres of rolling farmland had much woodland and the roads were no more than Indian trails. The huge plantations were worked in part by negro slaves. These Hollanders settled around the old Bensalem Dutch Church, now the North and Southampton Reformed Church.

The farmer's grain had to be ground by pre-Revolutionary mills at Spring Garden Mill, southwest of Newtown, but their grandsons, who inherited the land, wanted a mill nearer home. So, in 1797, Mill Creek was dammed just where it emerges from the jointure of the Ironworks stream near Buck Road, and a gristmill was built.

At the same time, in 1787, a basement store was built across the road from the mill, with rooms above for the proprietor's home. The place was called ROCKVILLE because of the many rocks along the banks of the creek.

The name was changed to HOLLAND, honoring the settlers' fatherland, when the first post office was established in the store in 1870. From 1876 until 1961 the mill store and post office were operated by three generations of the Finney family. The mill and store closed in 1961 and mail is now delivered from Southampton. Today, just about every farm in Holland has been developed, the mill and store are both popular restaurants, and traffic lights have been installed on each side of Mill Creek where farmers once crossed a covered bridge. There are also two shopping centers on each side of the creek. Many descendants of the first Hollanders still reside in Holland; this writer is still here thirteen generations after her ancestors helped clear the land and open the roads around 1700.

Our fertile soil attracted about twenty farm families to this area just 300 years ago, and apparently many others are still being attracted to this beautiful area. According to the postmaster, today there are approximately 8,000 households with the address of HOLLAND, PENNSYLVANIA.

Several years ago, HOLLAND REALTY was contacted by the Chamber of Commerce of Holland, Michigan, asking for a brief history of Holland, Pennsylvania. Apparently there is a Holland in almost every state, and they wanted to do some kind of publication in connection with their Spring Tulip Festival. When this story was written the old Finney store was a popular restaurant called "The Holland House", which is now being remodeled. The "Mill Race" has had much damage due to a recent flood. This was the history sent to the Holland, Michigan Chamber of Commerce by Betty Cornell Luff.



**Rocksville store (Holland) in 1875. Joseph Finney's Store.
Store was in basement where horse and wagons are parked.**



**Rear view of Tenant house.
180 Buck Road, Holland
Taken 1940's**

PICTURES OF HOLLAND, PENNSYLVANIA



**Brass Tenant House, Buck and Old Bristol Road.
It has many additions.**



Two small Tenant Houses on either side of the Rocksville covered bridge. Demolished in 1932. Mill Race on left.



1677 Chinqapin Road. Date stone 1799.



**Holland Mill in 1900.
Now the Mill Race Resturant. Built in 1787.**



Theodore Cornell Victorian Mansion

A typical Holland farm house. The original stone house was replaced by a modern victorian home in 1885. This tract is now Windmill Village, behind St. Bedes Church on Holland Road.

Picture shows Hector Ivins' farm taken in the 1940's. Formerly the famous Cornell farm which Edward Hicks painted from the south in 1848. Garages, spring house and bridge still remain.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

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

2000 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Janet O'Neill	355-2107
Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
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Social Committee	Doris D'Ardenne	968-5507
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Director	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	355-5307
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. Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available at our web page.

Meeting Dates for 2000/2001

Nov 15	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM
March 28	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 23	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Sept 26	General Meeting	7:30 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 2001 (January 2001 to December 2001)

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: _____ SINGLE: FAMILY:

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 : _____