



HISTORIA

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2002

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND ENJOY A TALK ON REVOLUTIONARY WAR ARCHAEOLOGY IN BUCKS COUNTY

The Northampton Township Historical Society's annual dinner meeting will feature member Vivian Braubitz who will share her slide program featuring the discovery of a Revolutionary War cemetery in Langhorne, PA. The cemetery was discovered from details given in a diary written in 1869; the remains of 29 graves were uncovered.. She will also have artifacts and reproductions from the colonial and Revolutionary War periods on display.

Vivian has been an archaeologist for 15 years and has participated in a wide range of archaeological projects and work ranging from excavation, artifact analysis, and preparation and writing of reports. She was senior archaeologist for Hunter Research, Inc. based in Trenton, NJ until her retirement this year.

Currently she is conducting programs at local park and recreation centers, and libraries. Vivian will also lead the NTHS sponsored dig at Clyde Cobb's home, the Willett-Knight House, in the spring of 2003.

The dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday November 20th. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert dish. All are welcome at our meetings. Come and join us for an archaeological trek into history and bring your friends! NTHS meetings are held at the Northampton Senior Center, Township and Upper Holland Roads, Richboro.

PRESERVATION UPDATE

By mid November you should notice shutters on the Spread Eagle Inn. They were purchased and painted using Historical Society funds, most of which were raised from the sale of the Ranulph Bye Spread Eagle print. The beautification of downtown Richboro is slowly moving forward. Next steps are the landscaping of the area around the Spread Eagle and the completion of the intersection. The Richboro School move is currently being detained by a State Historical Commission permit to allow the move. Once it is moved to the rear of the property a Burger King and Commerce Bank will be built. At some point the historical society would like to contribute a sign and/or plaque at both the Spread Eagle and old school sites.

We continue to hear many positive comments about the Spread Eagle restoration. I want to take the opportunity once again to thank the Historical Society, the Township of Northampton, and the public for your support in this project.

This HISTORIA marks the 40th issue published over 10 years. It is hard to believe I have been doing it that long! Thank you for your support.

Your editor, Doug Crompton

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We are pleased to present the following slate of officers for 2003 for the approval of the general membership at the November 20th dinner meeting.

President:	Debbie Glessner
Vice President:	Mary Seader
Secretary:	Linda Daly
Treasurer:	Michael Tomkins

Profiles of the candidates can be found on page 6.

WILLETT-KNIGHT HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

Fifteen students registered for the NTHS sponsored archaeological dig to be held on October 12-13, 2002. The activity was canceled that weekend due to rain and rescheduled for the rain date of October 26-27, 2002. Again, amidst drought conditions, a second weekend of rainy conditions necessitated a second cancellation. Clyde Cobb has graciously agreed to allow us to reschedule the dig in the spring of 2003, to be led by Vivian Braubitz and Michael Tomkins.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

I want you to know how deeply grateful I am to have served as your president for the last three years. It has been an enjoyable experience. Because of you and the officers of this organization, we have accomplished some preservation in our community.

Quite soon the holiday season will be here. Every evening, at dusk, we'll be seeing the lights and decorations. During this busy time, remember all the goodness in our lives. Be kind to one another, and walk safely.

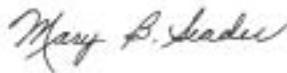
Please let me know what type of speakers and programs you would enjoy for future meetings. Such as information on antiques, restoration of furniture, houses, gardens, care of old linens, papers, tour of houses, and trips to interesting sites.

I want to thank the supervisors of Northampton Township for their support in preserving the Spread Eagle Inn and Richboro school. Without their help we would not have been able to preserve these buildings.

Our meeting dates for 2003 are March 19, May 21, September 17, November 19. In addition our board meetings are February 18, April 22, August 19, October 21.

Wishing you all health, happiness, and joy.

With affection,



**Emily's Baked Apples with Vanilla Custard
(my grandmother)
submitted by Pat Komelasky**

4 apples 1/4 Cup brown sugar
2 tsp butter 1 Cup Water

Set oven to 375.

Remove cores from apples. Set apples in a baking dish. Stuff the holes with brown sugar and butter. Pour water around apples. Cover and bake 50 minutes. Serve warm with cream poured over top or with Vanilla Custard.

Vanilla Custard

1/4 Cup Corn Starch 1/3 Cup sugar
2 Cups milk 2 eggs
1 tsp. Vanilla

Mix cornstarch, sugar, milk, and beaten eggs in saucepan over moderate heat until thickened and bubbly. Add vanilla AFTER it cools.

CALL FOR RECIPES

Please bring your favorite recipe to our dinner meeting for inclusion in a future HISTORIA and/or a cookbook to be compiled for our membership. If you cannot make the meeting please mail to: Pat Komelasky, 42 Larch Circle, Holland, Pennsylvania 18966

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS IN DOYLESTOWN

Holiday House Tour, Boutique, and Greens Sale
December 6 and 7, 2002
Friday (6pm - 9pm), Saturday (10am - 4pm)
Advance tickets \$15.00 — \$18.00 at the door
215-348-5511

CHRISTMAS IN HISTORIC NEWTOWN

40th Annual Open House Tour
Saturday, December 7, 2002
10am to 5pm
Featuring 12 homes and historic sites
\$15.00 per person

UPCOMING EVENTS MERCER MUSEUM

Pine and Ashland Streets, Doylestown, PA
(215) 345-0210 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. Noon-5, Tues. until 9.
Admission: \$6, \$5.50 Seniors, \$2.50 Ages 6-17 Free to members and children under 6

Antique Tool Discovery Day

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
This annual family program features hands-on activities for children as well as displays and demonstrations by area tool collectors. Bring your old tools to be identified by museum staff.

Open Hearth Cooking Workshop

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Foodways historian Susan Plaisted recreates the first Thanksgiving as documented by historians at Plymouth Plantation. Course fee is \$40 (\$35 BCHS members) with a \$6 materials fee payable to the instructor. To register, call 215-345-0210.

Teddy Bear Birthday

Saturday, November 23, Noon-3 p.m.
Celebrate the 100th birthday of the Teddy Bear with special displays, stories, hands-on activities and a birthday cake.

Log Cabin Open House

Friday, November 29, 2-4 p.m.
Our reproduction of an 1800s Log House will be open to the public with a costumed interpreter as your host. Free with museum admission.

Early American Craft Demonstration

Saturday, November 30, 2-4 p.m.
Mrs. Harriet Walk and daughter Kim Walker, members of the Lenni Lenape tribe of Pennsylvania, create a variety of woodland Indian crafts. Demonstration is free with museum admission.

Tower Tour for Families

December 1 **Saturday, 10:30 & 11:45 a.m.**
Children and parents explore Henry Mercer's castle from basement to tower and learn about Mercer's creative ideas through stories and prints. Children must be age 6 or up and able to climb steep stairs. Reservations required, call (215) 348-9461, ext. 10. Included with admission.

The David Library Of the American Revolution

1201 River Road Washington Crossing PA
215-493-6776

Thursday, November 21 - 7:30 PM - Reservations required
Joanne Freeman, Professor of History, Yale University
"Slander, Poison, Whispers and Fame: Political Combat in the Early Republic"

“HULL HOME”

by Margaret C. Hull

From “The Descendants of James Carrell and Sarah Dungan” 1690-1928

Carrell Family History

Early in the book is a chart listing Reverend Thomas Dungan’s ancestors including the Emperor Charlemagne (742 - 814), Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, and Edward I, King of England.

The ancestors of the Carrell family were Presbyterians in Ireland. James Carrell, the pioneer of the family in America, was a linen weaver in the north of Ireland and took an active part in the religious wars of that period. He was imprisoned within the walls of Londonderry during the noted siege of one hundred and five days. William of Orange helped win the war, and soon after that James Carrell came to this country and married Sarah Dungan prior to 1700.

They first lived at Warminster on a 100-acre farm. The next property was bought from his brother-in-law and is known as “The Old Homestead.” He bought it in 1711, and it stayed in the Carrell family for over 200 years – passing from father to son in a direct line. The property consisted of the house, which was added onto twice. There was also a summer kitchen off the easternmost room. In a will, the two-story section with the summer kitchen was given to the Carrell widow and specified that she would receive all the wood she needed, and the use of one milk cow for as long as she lived.

Please turn to page 4



The Hull home as it looks today. Picture taken in the 1970’s.

HULL HOME from page 3



The “Old Homestead” as pictured in the book “Descendants of James Carrell and Sarah Dungan 1690-1928.”

When we bought the “Old Homestead,” 12 acres of the property in 1950, there was a large Pennsylvania bank barn, a corncrib, 2 stone sheds and other wood buildings plus a stone springhouse and a 4-hole outhouse. The springhouse was useful when the electricity went off, and we had no water. A dug well with a pump on the front porch had been used for water, but several years later, it went dry, and we had a well drilled. Over the years, the developments in the area have made the water table lower, and we cannot dip water from the springhouse anymore.

The corncrib was falling down, and having no practical need of it, we removed it. It is interesting to note that corncribs are the only American buildings on all farms, since Europeans coming to this country did not grow corn in their native lands.

In May of 1955, our barn burned to the ground. Seven local fire companies could not save it. A line of buildings along side the barn also burned – they had made the barnyard closed in. At the house, the walk-in fireplace had to be altered to house the flue from a furnace that previous owners installed. That room had been the kitchen, but a regular modern stove was in the other end of the house.

Two boxed-in staircases were the way to get upstairs – one on up to the attic and the other just to two rooms over the kitchen. That end had a flat roof, which we changed to a peaked roof when, in 1961, we had a fourth child and needed a guest room on the first floor for overnight visitors.

The most prominent tree on the property is and was a Buttonwood Sycamore with a 14 foot girth, *Platanus Occidentales*, in the front yard, just a few feet from the front porch. It has multiplied, and we have several others in the woods near the springhouse. There was an orchard of mostly apple trees and a few pear trees, but a month after we moved in, a hurricane uprooted most of them. We planted several hundred white pines along the borders of the property for privacy and wind control. Over the years we also added pin oaks, a red oak, English oak, and a Tulip tree. There are many black walnut trees, sassafras, ash, linden, magnolia, dogwoods, catalpa, willows, chestnuts, silver maples, sugar maples, and Norway maples.

In 1973, several years after the barn burned, we took one of the walls of the barn and made a blacksmith shop, closed in and roofed with an open shed by it for storage and tractors. Another stone wall was roofed in 1992 for a wood shed and more machinery. The main section of the barn has been left open to the sky. Black walnut trees have grown up on the barn ramp, and countless ground hogs have made an apartment house of the ramp. They also live under most of the buildings, including the front porch of the house.

On one wall of the barn are three apple ladders. The concrete cow stanchions are wearing out, but add an interesting feature to the open walled garden. We have had families of skunks, possums, foxes, deer, and turkey living here – and pheasants years ago.

There is a bake oven niche on the porch, and a stone extending from a stone sink that was in the original kitchen. The inside part had been removed before we moved in.

Decorations around the second floor fireplace, above the first-floor walk-in fireplace, were made with a nail head hammered into the wood – shields, and butterflies, a big diamond and crosses. The fireplaces in the dining room and bedroom above on the second floor have pillar decoration similar to each other. They were boarded up for years, and Franklin Stoves were used. We had them opened up and dampers installed. There is plenty of firewood to use and share.

Please turn to page 5

HULL HOME from page 3

Over the fifty-two years we have lived here, we have had Carrell descendants visit unannounced and announced, to have a tour of where their ancestors lived. Carrells from Texas, Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, and other states have come to the "Old Homestead." We have enjoyed sharing our home with many foreign students for whom we were a host family through Rotary International and the International House in Philadelphia.

**Lewis and Margaret Hull are members of Northampton Township Historical Society.

If you live in an historic home and would like to share its history with the society members, please submit an article or idea to HISTORIA editor Doug Crompton.



**Top left - view of the springhouse today - right, in the early 20th century.
Bottom left - Barn and right - rear of the house in the early 20th century**

PRESIDENT – Debbie Glessner



Debbie Glessner was raised in Shippensburg, PA. where she graduated from Shippensburg State College with a Bachelor's degree in English and Library Science, and a Master's in Communications. She has been a resident of Bucks County since 1970, and of Northampton Township since 1977. Debbie is a library-media specialist at Hillcrest Elementary in the Council Rock School District. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, reading, writing, photography, computer technology, having new adventures, laughing with her friends, and riding her horse, Lark.

Debbie joined NTTHS in the fall of 2000. She has been active on the "Committee for Historic Preservation" since its inception in February 2001 and serves as transcribing and corresponding secretary for the committee. She spearheaded the formation of *The X-Squad*, a junior society being sponsored by NTTHS for children who wish to explore local history and become involved in their communities.

Debbie also participated on the NTTHS planning committee for Northampton Days 2001 and 2002 as well as co-organizing the 2001 and 2002 National Preservation Week poster contest. Debbie is eager to serve you as president, believing that while NTTHS is dedicated to stewardship in preserving the historical remnants in our community, the organization has an ongoing commitment to increase public awareness, reminding citizens that they have a civic duty to become involved in keeping historic icons alive as functional components of their community.

VICE-PRESIDENT – Mary B. Seader



Mary Seader has served as your president the past three years. Prior to that, she served as NTTHS's vice president for two years. Because we have not been able to fill the post of vice-president, Mary has graciously offered her time and talent to serve in that capacity again. Community involvement is important to her, and she loves working with people. She has enjoyed seeing positive change come about through the efforts of the Historical Society.

Mary was born and raised in New York City. She is one of six children and has fond memories of spending her summers in the family's old farmhouse in Dingman's Ferry. She attended Queen's College and graduated from St. John's University in New York with a degree in elementary education.

She and her husband, Bob, have lived in the area for 28 years. Mary has always been active in the community and has taught CDC religious education classes, was involved with Richboro's 4-H organization for nine years, and served as vice-president and president of Richboro Elementary's PTO as well as their Ways and Means chairperson. She is also a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to Council Rock School District. Mary looks forward to continuing to serve NTTHS as the society takes new steps forward in its mission to emphasize the importance of preserving our past.

SECRETARY – Linda Daly



Linda Daly was born and raised on the outskirts of Philadelphia and attended Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland for two years before transferring to Drexel University where she graduated with a BS degree in Interior Design. She lived and worked in Toledo, Ohio and Boston Massachusetts with her husband, Robert, who also graduated from Drexel with a degree in Physics. They started their family while living in San Francisco.

When they returned to Pennsylvania with their two daughters, they moved to Bucks County. Linda was fortunate to be commissioned to undertake the entire redesign of Ye Olde Temperance House in Newtown, PA. At the same time she was involved in the interior design of several old farmhouses in Bucks County. Linda was successful in having **Colonial Homes** magazine feature Ye Olde Temperance House and Willow Farm in their article about Newtown. She has since been published in **Country Living**, **Better Homes and Gardens** and **Bucks County Town and Country** magazines.

It was while working with these historic properties that Linda first became interested in studying historic preservation and owning an old home herself. The Daly's have lived in their old home for fifteen plus years, and Linda has completed all but the internship in the BCCC Historic Preservation certificate program.

Linda joined NTTHS in 1994 and has recently decided to become more active by volunteering to serve as secretary of the society. She endeavors to apply what she has learned about historic preservation in the framework of her business as well as in her community. There's not much time for relaxation, but when she does she enjoys reading historical fiction/mysteries - the current series by Lindsay Davis is set in Rome circa 70 A.D.!

TREASURER – Michael Tomkins



Michael Tomkins, President of *Tomkins Historical Research*, a historical research consulting business, has been participating in historical studies for over a decade. Shortly after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the State University of New York in 1990, he settled in the Delaware Valley area. It was here that he honed his research skills while participating in an array of environmental impact studies throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Michael believes "that every historic property has contributed in its own way to America's rich cultural history. Although not every property can be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it still deserves a certain degree of historical attention."

Michael joined the Committee to Save the Spread Eagle Inn in February 2000. He is presently a member of the Northampton Township Historical Society's Committee for Historic Preservation, which was an outgrowth of the Spread Eagle Committee. He is currently assisting the committee with the nomination of the Spread Eagle Inn to the National Register.

Michael and his wife Clare have been residents of Northampton Township for the past three years. They have two daughters, Sarah (age 6) and Elizabeth (age 4), who enjoy visiting and participating in the many cultural events throughout Bucks County and the surrounding region.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2002 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467	RJSTioga@cs.com	
Vice President	Debbie Glessner	357-2449	dglessner@earthlink.net	relay 800-654-5988
Secretary	Linda Daly	598-3345	LJDalyasid@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Michael Tomkins	504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net	
Membership	Doug Crompton	355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399	dianerealtor@enter.net	
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Director	Jean Gallagher	357-7833		
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547		

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. For more information visit our web page or email us at nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page - www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

Meeting Dates for 2002-2003

November 20 Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM	March 19	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 21 General Meeting	7:30 PM	September 17	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 2002 (January 2002 to December 2002)

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 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: \$ _____

EMAIL: _____

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 : _____