



HISTORIA

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2008

November Meeting the 6th Annual Fred Holzworth Memorial Dinner



Our speaker for the November dinner meeting will be Civil War enthusiast, Harry Soton. Harry and his group visited the museum in Doylestown and the following is an account of their visit.

In February, twelve of our members visited the Bucks County Civil Roundtable Library and Museum in Doylestown. The museum is open free to the public on Saturdays or for special tours at other times. The museum houses many artifacts related to the Civil War on subjects dealing with Doylestown, the 104th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, as well as the war in general. The articles on display are on permanent or temporary loan from area collectors and history enthusiasts. We were warmly greeted by Beth Strecker, the Executive Director of the museum and the roundtable. Guides were Michael Moguls, a very enthusiastic local teenager, who became Johnny Glen; and Harry Soton, dressed in a Civil War uniform as Francis Channing Barlow, Brigadier General, shown to the left. They gave us an inspired and informative tour of the museum's collections. Featured were weapons, musical instruments, and uniforms of the Civil War, as well as Lincoln medals and tokens dating from 1870. Contributions from the Liberty Trail and King's Path Questers helped the museum purchase a Lincoln Life Mask.

The museum's library houses hundreds of books relating to the Civil War. The late Fred Holzworth generously left the Roundtable his vast collection. Books and records featuring: Battles and Leaders, Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, History of Pennsylvania, and the Official Records of the War of Rebellion are available for loan to researchers. The library now features CD's of the first season of "Civil War Talk Radio" hosted by Gerry Prokopowicz, a history professor at the East Carolina University in North Carolina. The program is an Internet radio show featuring one-hour interviews with Civil War authors, historians, and enthusiasts. We thoroughly enjoyed our tour and felt better informed about the history of the Civil War after spending time with our colorful guides and viewing the works of art, maps, photos, flags, and sculptures featured at the museum.



Margaret Carson Hull

June 5, 1919 - October 12, 2008

We are deeply sorry to report the passing of Margaret (Miggie) Carson Hull on October 12, 2008. Miggie was a founding member of the Northampton Township Historical Society and a dedicated participant since its inception in 1973. She and her husband Lew were ever present at our meetings

and very generous supporters. They invited our members into their home on many occasions and Miggie always enjoyed visits from friends. Stories about their home and life in Northampton Township since they first came here in 1950 appeared many times over the years in the HISTORIA.

A Tribute to Margaret Hull continues on page 3

Looking Back a Few Years

By Betty Cornell Luff

Since I attended the Richboro School from first grade until graduation and our classes were quite small, it's only natural that during the 1930's and 40's, we learned where every other kid in school lived, not just in town but also who lived on every farm.

A classmate and I speak often about school friends and another Richboro School Reunion coming up in May 2009 will bring back more memories.

I recall Caroline Hammond, who moved to California, living in the only brick farmhouse in Northampton Township. Her close neighbor, Helen Kumiega, lived next door in a very small stone cottage.

This story continues on page 4

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Folks,

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as vice-president and president of this wonderful organization. It's been fun getting guest speakers and sitting down and having dinner with them and learning about their backgrounds and interests.

Even better is being part of an organization that has such outstanding members. Sometimes I wish I could have you all to dinner and each of you could tell all of us about your lives from childhood on.

I wish you all the best and ask you to remember Miggie Hull, one of the dearest, straight arrow women on God's good earth. Such a fine lady, I miss her.



Did you know?

The entire collection of HISTORIA's (over 14 years) are available online and in color. Check it out at:

www.northamptontownshiphistoricalsociety.org

We need your input! Please consider writing and submitting an article for the HISTORIA. Your stories, reminiscences, and photos about "Northampton the way it use to be" are always welcome. Contact the editor listed on the last page of this HISTORIA.

Congratulations to the following NTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2007.

NTHS Circle - Doug Crompton, Lois Craven Ferguson
Patron - Elinor Crompton, Roy and Gail Reinard

Sponsor - Margaret and Lewis Hull, Nancy Turner, Kevin Kruse

Sustaining - Charles and Muriel Briggs, Kathryn Ciaverelli, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Rena Goldhahn, Marion and Dallas Kane, Louis Leitenberger, Fred Stewart, Virginia Smith

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

**NTHS Dinner Meeting
 Wednesday November 19, 6 PM**

Spring Mill Manor

6th Annual Fred Holzworth Dinner
 Harry Soton, Civil War enthusiast

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

Through May 13th, 2009

Everyday Rhythms: A New Exhibit

Everyday Rhythms will trace the evolution of musical instruments using the Mercer Museum's collection of 19th-20th century artifacts. The exhibit is free with museum admission.

Tuesday December 2 - Sunday January 4

Winter Wonderland Holiday Decorations
 At Fonthill

Saturday December 6, 2008

10:30-noon or 1-2:30 PM
 Graham Cracker Castle Workshop

Sunday, December 7 - noon-4 PM

Holiday Festivities for the Family
 Fonthill and Moravian Tile Works

Saturday, December 13th - 6:30 -9:30 PM

Fonhill Holiday Lights Meander

Saturday December 27th & January 3

Candlelight Holiday Tours
 Fonthill Museum - 7-9 PM

We are happy to report that Jim Burt has recovered and is out of the hospital. He is now living at Wynwood nursing center, Richboro in the Covered Bridge section. Mail can go to Larice on Beth Drive in Richboro

**Your NTHS
 Membership
 is due for 2009**

Margaret Carson Hull

1919 - 2008

Miggie was born in Germantown. She graduated from Germantown Friends School and the Ambler School of Horticulture. She had many skills and creative endeavors including woodcarving, sculpting, oil painting, quilting, and flower arranging. She loved nature and growing things and nurtured her family and friends as well as all of the trees, flowers and animals on her and Lew's wonderful property on Bristol Road. I always enjoyed visiting her there. She loved to show the many beautiful facets of her home and property and could tell you the names of every tree and plant, not just the common name but the proper name also. She would always readily share a plant or seedling with you. I have three nice shrubs along my driveway that she shared on one of my visits. Miggie was a kind and generous woman and so interesting to talk to. We will miss her dearly. The community has lost a wonderful woman.



The cover of a beautiful pressed flower card that Miggie often sent to her family and friends.

Margaret was the daughter of the late Robert James Carson and Anna Knight David Carson. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Lewis Hull, her sister Dorothy Slack and four children, Arthur Hull and his wife Mary of Lawrenceville, Martha Halvonik and her husband Terry of Kalispell, Montana, Stephen and Maria Hull of Evergreen, CO, and Rebecca Hull of Wernersville, PA; her two grandchildren and their

wives, Mathew and Tracey Hull of Bellevue, WA, and Timothy and Amanda Green Hull of Philadelphia; and two step-grandchildren, Daniel Wenner of Hoboken and Rachel Wenner of Virginia Beach, VA. She took delight in her great-grandchild, Tallulah Jamieson Green Hull. She left many nieces and nephews who fondly remember her as "Aunt Miggie" She loved her family and they loved her in return. They miss her thoughtful ways and celebrate the memory of her many kindnesses.

There was a memorial service and celebration of Margaret's life was held on October 18th at the North and Southampton Reformed Church in Churchville. Donations may be made to the Germantown Friends School Development Office, 31 West Coulter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144 or to the Churchville Nature Center at 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville, PA 18966.



Miggie and Lew Hull at the September Historical Society Meeting. The last meeting she attended.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
to Betty
from Miggie and Lew Hull
2002



Miggie and Lew Hull in a 2002 Christmas Card and in 1999 in front of the tree house Lew made for her.



Dotty Glessner, Miggie Hull, and Betty Luff, at Miggie's home, Christmas 2001

Looking Back a Few Years

By Betty Cornell Luff

It is recorded that Aaron Feaster had the bricks for his 1812 mansion imported from England. When the Hammond family lived at the house there was an old American Ash tree in the front yard which a tree expert had estimated to be 300 years old. A great wind storm later took the tree down.



Brick mansion built in 1812 by Aaron Feaster

Raymond Lempa lived in a long lane off of Middle Holland Road in a large, long and narrow, twelve room stone house. A corner date stone that was recently uncovered reads, John Feaster 6/4/1764. I remember visiting the Lempa farm and being told that the many fence posts surrounding the pastures were made of granite and quarried from the Feaster land.



Rear view of brick house built by Aaron Feaster and where Caroline Hammond lived.

A back lane from the Lempa house took you to the home of Jutta Glass on Holland Road.



Tree believed to be 300 years old in front of the Feaster brick house. Map showing Feaster property in 1876.

Originally the properties of these four families had been in the possession of the wealthy and prosperous Feaster family, who according to the 1876 Northampton Township map owned a total of 231 acres. The majority of the Feaster land stayed in the family for seven generations.



Jutta Glass home on Holland Road. This house has been added onto many times in a peculiar way and has been for sale for many years.

Twining Village, home to many of our senior citizens, now occupies much of the original Feaster property.

See more pictures on page 5



Feaster Farmhouse 6/4/1764



The Lempa barn built by the Feaster family



Fall picture of barn on former Jutta Glass property.



Side and rear view of former Jutta Glass property.



Historical Society booth at Northampton Days 2008



Pat Komelasky hands literature to an attendee at Northampton Days 2008.



Saying Good-Bye to Jean Gallagher

We had a celebration of Jean Gallagher's many years of dedication to the Northampton Township historical Society at our May meeting. Jean, who had been a resident of Northampton since the late 1960's was moving to be close to her daughter in Sinking Spring, PA. The Quester group of which she is a member, came to celebrate the occasion. Pictured above are the Questers attending and a plaque presented to Jean by the Historical Society. Afterwards we had cake and celebrated. Jean is still an active member and will still be coming to our meetings when she can and plans to keep in touch with her old friends in the area. Jeans new address is 69 Connecticut Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19806. Her new phone number is (610) 670-1722. I am sure she would enjoy hearing from her old friends.





Looking South aerial view of downtown Richboro in the early 1930's. Road on the right is Second Street Pike, with cemetery in lower right. Bustleton Pike continues from the intersection at mid right to top of picture. The present day Library, Senior Center, and Junior High are now in the open fields of the old Luff farm, top left of photo.

Downtown Richboro

By Betty Cornell Luff

Above is an aerial view of the Milton Luff farm taken sometime in the early 1930's. The photo was donated to the historical archives by Jean Luff who was born in 1918. According to her this is the original barn which was struck by lightning in 1936. When the burnt barn was cleared away an old date stone, dated 1779, was found in the ruins.

This 80 acre farm had originally belonged to Franklin P. and Ella Raab Luff who were married in 1880. When their son, Milton and Lida Johnson were married in 1907, the farm was turned over to them. Franklin and Ella then moved to the house nearby which is now the home of the Courier Times on Richboro-Newtown Road.



The property has always been identified as "Twin Trees", as shown in the smaller photo, because of the two large trees to the south of the main house. It is now the Campbell-Thomas Funeral Home run by historical society member, Dianne Thomas, and her daughter.

Country Store

I was talking the other day
 To my friend whose eighty four
 And she was telling me about
 A time we had a country store

We could stand up at the counter
 And maybe chat a bit, then
 Order up lunch meat and bread
 Then go out front and sit

And when the snow flakes fell
 The pot belly stove sat there
 A place to warm out thoughts
 A time we didn't have a care

You see we all were friends
 Neighbors if you will
 With time to do some laughin, but
 Put our purchase on the bill

We didn't roam the aisles
 Of a giant super store
 Instead they brought the food to us
 And even asked if we want more

But it may be time for all of us
 To think about those days that past
 A time when we were best of friends
 With a future that would last

So lets put it in our mind
 Not to forget that Country Store
 And to be a better neighbor
 Yes let's never close that door



Luff and Traub Store
 Richboro, Penna.



The Yeasterville General Store, located at the N.E. corner of Street Rd. and Bustleton Pike, was built in 1838. The above picture was taken in the early 30's. John T. Ivins owned the store from 1919 until 1922, and at that time it was sold to Wilbert Merrick. The store continued in operation until 1957. It was torn down in 1960 to make way for an Exxon Service Station.

At the present time a big Drug store is at that location.



103. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS.
 Arnold Bros., Printers, Richland, Pa.

RICHBORO STORE AND POST OFFICE.
 W. E. Lubers, P. M., P. O. established 1830.



144. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS.
 Chas. R. Arnold, Pub., Tevland, Pa.

CHURCHVILLE STORE AND POST OFFICE.
 M. S. Heston, P. M.





NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

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HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** (refreshments 7PM), and include a featured speaker. For more information visit our web page or e-mail us at nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

Meeting Dates for 2008

November 19 Dinner Meeting 6 PM Spring Mill Manor

Check the NTHS website for 2009 meeting dates

Board Meetings 2008

Check the NTHS website for 2009 dates
7 PM - Call for location

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2009 (January 2009 to December 2009)

INDIVIDUAL - \$15	SENIOR - \$10	STUDENT - \$10	SPONSOR - \$100	PATRON - \$250 (5 year membership)
FAMILY - \$20	SUSTAINING - \$50		NTHS CIRCLE - \$500 or greater	(Life membership)

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: _____ Date: / / **2009** Membership Classification _____

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 welcome : _____

HISTORIA

*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY*



NOVEMBER 2008

*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 732
RICHBORO, PA 18954-0732*

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF IT DOES NOT
INDICATE '2009' YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED.**

**Next MEETING - Wednesday, November 19, 2008 - 6 PM
Fred Holzworth Dinner Meeting**