



HISTORIA

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2003

LEARN ALL ABOUT OUTHOUSES AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING



In 1988 Dottie Booth snapped a photo of an old, dilapidated outhouse on family property in the Adirondacks to include in her family album. Her interest in these charming and rustic buildings grew, and she set out to document and preserve as many as she could. So many people were interested in outhouses, Dottie started a company, *Nature Calls, Ltd.*, to market outhouse-related products. Her work has raised public awareness of a rapidly disappearing part of the American landscape.

Dottie Booth was awarded the prestigious Crescent Moon Award in 1996, a prize given annually to the individual who has done the most to "preserve and promote, with dignity, the outhouse." In 1997, she was elected to the Outhouse Wall of Fame at the Outhouse Preservation Society Museum, becoming one of only three people in history to earn that honor. Before she became an outhouse expert, this grandmother was a high school English teacher in Abington, PA. She has raised four children, and currently lives in Jamison, but still spends her summers in the Adirondacks. *Nature Calls* is her first book.

PEARL BUCK HOUSE LUNCHEON AND TOUR Sunday, October 19, 2003

Northampton Township Historical Society invites you and your guests to a buffet luncheon and guided tour of the Pearl Buck House Historic Site and Museum on Sunday, October 19th. We will begin at noon with a Chinese buffet luncheon served in the Pearl Buck International Cultural Center.

Following the luncheon, we will enjoy a guided tour of Pearl Buck's home. Her Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes are on display in the 1835 stone farmhouse, as well as her collection of Chinese and Pennsylvania art. After the tour, everyone is invited to stroll the 60 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. The International Gift Shop will also be open.

The cost is \$20.00 for NTHS members and \$25.00 for non-members. Please invite your family and friends to join us for a special afternoon. Reservations must be made **by September 30th**

**Please turn to page 6 for
reservation form and directions**

Michael Tomkins Named to Northampton Township Historical Commission

NTHS Treasurer, Michael Tomkins, has been named as the newest member of the Northampton Township Historical Commission, effective August 2003.

Michael, president of his own *Tomkins Historical Research*, a historical research consulting business, has been participating in historical studies for over a decade. He believes "that every historic property has contributed in its own way to America's rich cultural history."

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

CONGRATULATIONS, Mike! We wish you an exciting and productive tenure in the Commission.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

This summer I had the opportunity to visit the newly opened National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. It was a fascinating experience, and I urge all of you to consider making a trip there to learn more about how our Constitution came to be and how it continues to work for us as U.S. Citizens.

In this issue of the HISTORIA you will find an article about the Bucks County Heritage Conservancy, which will inform you about the different services the organization provides. Recently, the conservancy collaborated with a media company to introduce a series about land preservation. Through amazing, cutting-edge technology, these webcasts can be viewed online. Be sure to visit both the LandSavers and Conservancy websites for a wealth of information regarding the preservation of land and historic sites.

We are still looking for recipes for inclusion in a NTNS Cookbook. A form is again included in this issue of HISTORIA. Please take a few minutes to jot down your favorite recipe(s), and forward them to Pat Komelasky.

Be sure to visit our booth at Northampton Days on Sunday, September 7th. Better yet, call or email one of the officers and volunteer your help to set up, tear down, or man the table for an hour or two.

I hope you have noticed and have been enjoying the beautiful plants at the Northampton Commons Park. Many of the annuals and hanging baskets were donated through the auspices of NTNS. The planting project won first place Professional Community in the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Bucks Beautiful contest. Appreciation is extended to Marie Gryn who is responsible for the project.

Thank you to Sylvia Amato who has graciously volunteered to be our secretary, replacing Linda Daly who served a year when we so desperately needed the services of a secretary.

Pat Komelasky is also working on a fall outing to the Pearl Buck House. We hope you will join us. Details are provided in this issue.

Congratulations to member Andrea Mangold who was honored as Northampton Township Citizen of the Month for July 2003.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our September 17th meeting. Come hear Dottie Booth talk about outhouses! Bring a friend!

I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing, and healthy summer!

Debbie Glessner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Northampton Days — September 7

21st Annual Tincum Park Antique Show September 6 and 7

40 dealers offering "country primitive" merchandise displayed in historic barn buildings. Rain or shine. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tincum Park, River Road (Route 32), Erwinna, PA. 215-489-5133 or (www.buckscounty.org).

NTNS General Meeting – September 17, 7:30 PM

2003 Doylestown Arts Festival

Get ready! This year's art festival will have over 150 vendors! Doylestown's largest festival of the year, brought to you by the Doylestown Business and Community Alliance, is scheduled for Saturday (10am-5pm) and Sunday (11am-5pm), September 27th and 28th. Like previous years, this festival offers wonderful artisans presenting their work for sale (crafts, photography, furniture, jewelry and more) plus great entertainment to fill the town's streets with beautiful tunes.

The Early American Life Antiques Show September 26, 27 and 28:

Presents period antiques, from 18th and 19th century Americana. More than 150 craftsmen, 225 exhibits, lectures and a special guest appearance. Fri. 6 to 9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$20 on Fri. and \$12 Sat. and Sun. Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. 717-796-2384 or visit (www.goodrichpromotions.com).

Bridesburg Sports Heritage - Bridesburg Heritage Center - October 6, 7-9 PM

Pearl S. Buck House Luncheon and Tour Sunday, October 19

Fall Lecture Schedule: DAVID LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Fall Lecture Series will focus on Women's History. The complete schedule will be published soon, but so far it includes Richard Ryerson, Academic Director of the David Library, lecturing on Abigail Adams and her daughter; Elaine Crane of Fordham University, on a notorious case of matricide in colonial Rhode Island; and Kathryn Clippinger, David Library fellow, on frontier women in colonial New York.

David Library lectures are free and open to the public. However, reservations are strongly recommended, as seating is limited. Please call (215) 493-6776, or e-mail dlar@dlar.org.

**BUCKS COUNTY
HERITAGE CONSERVANCY**
www.heritageconservancy.org

Mission: The Heritage Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our natural and historic heritage. Founded in 1958, it was concerned for the rapid loss of open space in Bucks County, which led to the formation of the Bucks County Park Foundation, known today as the Heritage Conservancy.

Since Northampton Township Historical Society counts historic preservation as one of its goals, we should be aware of and support the preservation of our natural resources as well. We are fortunate to have such an organization in Bucks County, the Heritage Conservancy.

In the late 1950's, land development appeared to be eroding the county's natural resources at an alarming rate, and places of historic significance were being lost in the name of progress. The Heritage Conservancy attempted to balance this growth by developing partnerships with private citizens, businesses, and government agencies in order to preserve the area's natural and historic heritage. These partnerships resulted in significant accomplishments, and today, Heritage Conservancy is recognized as a leader in land conservation and historic preservation.

The conservancy promotes preservation through a process of assessment, education, and implementation. Land conservation efforts support open space, natural resource protection, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat restoration. In the area of historic preservation, the conservancy supports adaptive reuse of historic structures and works to raise awareness of significant historic resources through education, acquisition, and historic designation.

Funds for the conservancy are generated many ways including private donations, foundation and government grants, contract services, and property stewardship programs. In recent years, a Planned Giving Program has been established to assist members with charitable gift planning while providing for the conservancy's long-term sustainability.

The conservancy offers a full range of services such as land planning and design, resource protection, community planning, geographic information systems, and forest stewardship plans.

In February of this year, the Heritage Conservancy announced its collaboration with GreenWorks Media Center to introduce the first-ever webcast series to educate communities and individuals about the "how-tos" of land conservation. The series can be viewed online at **WWW.LANDSAVERS.ORG**

Using state of the art webcast technology, LandSavers will produce eight shows. Topics to be covered will include: The True Costs of Sprawl, Creating Open Space Plans, Open Space Financing, Running and Open Space Campaign, and Understanding Conservation Easements.

The Heritage Conservancy continues to recognize the value and contributions of our natural and historic resources. Like water, air, and energy, our land is essential to our existence. It provides sustenance for humanity and all living things. Equally important is the preservation of our past — our historic environments. Saving our architectural and cultural heritage is a connection to knowing who we have been and what we may be.

CRANBERRY SALAD

contributed by Debbie Glessner

Ingredients:

2 small pkg cherry jello
2 cups hot water
1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
2 cups chopped celery
2 cups chopped walnuts or pecans
2 cups apples, finely chopped
1/4 cup sugar

Mix the jello, hot water and sugar. Allow it to sit and cool slightly while preparing the rest of the ingredients.

Add the cranberry sauce to the warm jello mix and work out the lumps.

Add the remaining ingredients to the jello mixture. Put into a 9 x 13 glass dish and refrigerate at least 8 hours.

Great for holiday dinners! Serves 6

Hints: 2 cups of canned crushed pineapple can be substituted for the apple — pour off the juice. Use a food processor to mince apples, celery, and nuts.

LAST CHANCE for recipes. Submission form on page 6.

SPRING GARDEN MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT DETERMINED ELIGIBLE TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

By Michael Tomkins

In 1998, Greiner, Inc., an historic preservation consulting firm, conducted an historic property identification and evaluation report in advance of the planned improvements to the Richboro Road (Route 332) Bridge, which spans the Neshaminy Creek. As a result of their studies it was determined that the Spring Garden Mill Historic District was potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official list of historic properties considered to possess national, state, or local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. In January 2003, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation concurred with Greiner's findings. The present project plans are to erect a new bridge to the north of the existing bridge, which will have no impact on the Spring Garden Mill Historic District's resources.



Spring Garden Sawmill around 1912. Photo Courtesy of Newtown Historic Association.

The District's resources are composed of the extant *circa*-1810 gristmill building (presently home to The Langhorne Players), the *circa*-1820 miller's house, the site of a former sawmill, and the archaeological remains of the milldam and raceways. Also included within the district are the remains of the stone bridge abutments and piers that supported the Spring Garden Mill covered bridge, formerly located immediately to the south of the existing bridge. The first covered bridge was erected here in 1815. Reconstructed several times after being destroyed by various floods, it stood until 1955. In 1939, Richboro-Newtown Road was realigned, and the present concrete bridge was constructed.

The Spring Garden Mill (gristmill) was constructed around 1810 by John Blaker, a mason by trade. In 1819, he sold the place to Richard Imlay who immediately turned the property over to Enos Morris. The property remained within the Morris family until 1836 when it was acquired by Aaron Feaster. An advertisement for the property in 1844 indicates that by this time a sawmill and a plaster mill had been added to the complex. The advertisement reads: "valuable mill and store house; consisting of a Merchant, Grist, Plaster and Sawmill with four run of stone, good order, full supply of water, large and convenient store house, a good dwelling and other outbuildings attached."



Spring Garden Mill (gristmill) around 1892. Photo Courtesy of The Langhorne Players.

Six years later, Feaster sold the mill property to William Buckman, who owned it for three years before selling it to Peter Phipps in 1858. Sometime around 1867, while still under the ownership of Phipps, the gristmill was destroyed by a fire, leaving only its four stone walls and gable standing. Phipps was unable to rebuild, and the mill property sat idle for the next ten years. In 1878, the property was acquired by Jonathan Knight who reconstructed the gristmill and restored the mill complex back to working order.

Please turn to page 5

SPRING GARDEN MILL from page 4

The mill property passed through the hands of a half-dozen more owners throughout the remainder of the 19th century. Owners included Mulligan, Perkins, Gillingham, McKenney, Cornell, and Conover. By 1918, the property was being operated under the name Listers Agricultural Chemical Works, an entity that appears to have been established by the Conover family. In 1919, Addison Conover sold the property to George F. Tyler. Tyler made further improvements to the gristmill building, and by 1930 it served as a feed and grain mill, and gas station. The sawmill appears to have been idle by this time. During the 1970s, the property became part of Tyler Park, and in 1976, the mill was leased to the Langhorne Players who renovated the building for their theater performances.

The Spring Garden Mill Historic District is considered significant in the general development and agricultural history of this area in Bucks County. In addition, the District is significant for its major contributions to the surrounding rural community as a vital agri-business and as a center of community life for over 150 years. It is considered an important example of a surviving mill complex. At this time the property has not been formally nominated to the National Register, but thanks to Greiner's detailed study, the undertaking could be accomplished with much less effort. Having the property listed on the National Register would certainly be an asset towards fostering the continued preservation of our Township's historic resources.



Spring Garden Mill Covered Bridge in 1932. Photo Courtesy of Newtown Historic Association.

ANDREA MANGOLD Northampton Township July 2003 Citizen of the Month

NTHS member, Andrea Mangold, was honored at the July 9th meeting of the Northampton Township Supervisors as the Citizen of the Month.

Andrea, who lives in Richboro, is a mother of four, a freelance reporter for The ADVANCE of Bucks County, and a member of Northampton Township's Historical Commission. She is currently serving as president of Richboro Middle School's Parent Teacher Organization.

At the request of parents to develop a community outreach project, Andrea came up with the idea to adopt a Marine Corps unit. The project was called Operation Richboro Reach-Out, and students of both Richboro Elementary and Richboro Middle School adopted the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, serving aboard the USS Nassau in the Persian Gulf.

The students collected personal items, wrote notes, and sent care packages to the Marines serving with the Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 772 and 263.

Representatives from the Willow Grove base came to visit the students prior to the shipment of the packages. Members of the unit responded to the students via a constant stream of emails.

The project has continued and expanded to three more Marine expeditionary units. The most recent contact has been with the USS Iwo Jima, which, at the time, was based in the Indian Ocean. The ship houses 2000 Marines and several thousand sailors.

The students have also sent letters to the most severely wounded service personnel at Bethesda Military Hospital who have no family to support them. Just before school ended in June, approximately 500 letters were mailed.

Congratulations, Andrea, on receiving this recognition for initiating a wonderful service project, which expands the learning horizons beyond the school walls.

RECIPE CARD (Last Call!)

Northampton Township Historical Society Recipe Book

Please share a favorite old recipe and bring it with you to our meeting, Email to gkomelasky@msn.com, or mail to:

Pat Komelasky
42 Larch Circle
Holland, PA 18966

Recipe Name: _____ **Serves:** _____

Contributed by: _____

Ingredients needed:

Preparation instructions:

Hints:

PEARL BUCK HOUSE LUNCHEON AND TOUR Directions and Reservation Form

Directions: Follow the PA 611 bypass North to the Dublin, PA Rt. 313 West. Follow Rt 313 West for 4.6 miles to the center of Dublin (Dublin Inn; this is the fourth light you encounter on PA 313). Turn left onto Maple Avenue and immediately bear right onto Dublin Road. Look for the Pearl S. Buck International sign 1.3 miles on your right.

Please plan to arrive by 11:45 so that we can start promptly at noon. Allow 35 minutes driving time from Richboro.

NTHS Member's Name _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

(members) @ \$20.00/person _____ total _____

(guests) @ \$25.00/person _____ total _____

Names of guests: _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail Reservations and payments to: NTHS Attn: Pat Komelasky, PO Box 732, Richboro, PA 18954
 For more information call Pat Komelasky at 215-355-0649. Reservations may also be made at our September meeting.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2003 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Debbie Glessner	215-357-2449	dglessner2@comcast.net	PA Relay 800-654-5988
Vice President	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	RJSTioga@cs.com	
Secretary	Sylvia Amato			
Treasurer	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net	
Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	215-355-6399	dianerealtor@enter.net	
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
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Director	Jean Gallagher	215-357-7833		
Director	Sydell Gross	215-322-5547		
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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 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 2003

Sept. 17 General Meeting 7:30 PM November 19 Dinner Meeting 6:30 PM

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 21. Members are welcome. Locations to be announced.

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 2003 (January 2003 to December 2003)

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 : _____