



HISTORIA

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2005

Folk Art Doll Creator to be Featured at our September Meeting



Our speaker for the September Historical Society meeting will be Nancy Gibb, a designer and creator of early American Dolls. Named one of the top 200 craftsperson's in America by Early American Life magazine for her quality workmanship and fidelity to period design and construction techniques. Nancy creates the dolls in her Jericho Mountain studio and she exhibits and sells them at most all of the local festivals and craft shows. Nancy's Heritage Collection dolls measure eighteen to twenty-four inches tall and are made from high quality muslin which is needle sculpted. The form is then stiffened and sanded to create the smooth skin texture necessary for facial features. They are then painted and varnished to create the look of an antique cloth doll. The clothing is made of traditional cotton, linen, or wool and is faithful in design to the period. In addition to her Heritage Collection is the Farmhouse collection which is more primitive in style and dress. Come and hear a wonderful talk about the history of these dolls and how they are made. Our meeting will be on September 21st, 7:30 PM at the North and Southampton Church (our temporary meeting place until library renovations are complete) on Bristol road. All are welcome, please bring a friend. For more information please contact one of our board members, listed on the last page.

Welcome to Northampton Days 2005

If you are not a member of our Society please take a moment to read this newsletter. We invite you to our meetings and our web page: www.northamptontownshiphistoricalsociety.org Where additional information and back issues of this publication can be found. We encourage you to become a member of our society and help to preserve the heritage of Northampton Township. An application for membership can be found on the last page of this publication.



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Once again we approach autumn a favorite time of year. I enjoy the crispy air, glorious colors, and the crunching leaves under my feet just before I start raking them. Our grandchildren love to jump in the mountainous piles. We have lots of tall trees! It brings back memories of my own childhood visiting my grandparents in Bergen County, New Jersey. I hope you all had a splendid summer enjoying family and friends in our beautiful Bucks County.

Welcome to those of you who are reading this publication as a handout at Northampton Days. You are invited to our meetings and please check our web page. We would love to have you as a new member of our society.

Our September meeting will feature a wonderful presentation on Folk Art Dolls by Nancy Gibb. I am sure you will enjoy it. Children might enjoy it also and are certainly welcome.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



**HAPPY
AUTUMN**



Congratulations to the following NTTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2005.

- NTTHS Circle - Doug Crompton
- Sponsor - Stanley and Dorothy Davis, Margaret and Lewis Hull
- Sustaining - Kathy and Larry Belikoff, Catherine Ciaverelli, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Lois Leitenberger III, Virginia Smith, Childrens Cultural Center, Steven Rovner, Norman Turner

UPCOMING EVENTS

**NTTHS General Meeting
Folk Art Dolls
Wednesday September 21 - 7:30 PM**
North and Southampton Church
Churchville

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

Animals on the loose, A Mercer Menagerie
Through December 31, 2005

Haunted Bucks County
Monday September 19 - noon - 4 PM

Civil War Antiques Appraisal Day
Saturday September 24 - noon - 4 PM

Churchville Nature Center 40th Annual
Cornell Pumpkin Festival
Saturday, October 9 - 10 AM - 4 PM.
Rain Date: Sunday, October 10

Fall State Craft Festival
October 14, 15 & 16, 2005
Friday - Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM,
Sunday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Tyler State Park, Richboro, PA

Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsman
2005 Workshop Series at the
Tyler Craft Center
215-504-0650 www.pacrafts.com

Children's Cultural Center
International Day of Bucks County
Sunday, October 16th, 2005

Middletown Grange Fairgrounds
11:00 AM until 4:30 PM - FREE
\$5.00 Donation per car

Remembering my days at the red brick school

By Betty Cornell Luff

Oh, what memories I have when I look back at the many photos I have accumulated. In the November 1999 issue of the HISTORIA I wrote about Miss Thut (Toot) our Home Economics teacher in the 1930's and 40's at the Richboro School. This is when a beautiful addition was added to the rear of the brick building which was recently demolished. I can't tell now what the dimensions of this room were but it consisted of a kitchen, a dining room and four working areas each consisting of a stove, a sink, and drawers and cupboards that held all the utensils needed to teach the many high school girls home economics. There were also four ironing boards which folded into the wall. Each of the four stations had four stools that swung out beneath the drawers, also hidden were writing tables which could be pulled out beneath the four large counters. Miss Thut's training certainly was very useful and much appreciated. Beneath the Home Economics room there was a very large area which consisted of a shop and agricultural room..



Future Farmer's Dinner cooked and served at the old Richboro High School by the Home Economics class of 1939. Betty Cornell (Luff) in center standing behind Vince Luff. They married in 1943.

In 1939, the Home Economics girls prepared and served a full Course dinner for the future farmers. This particular night we were able to serve 12-15 future farmers and their fathers, their teacher and a speaker. At the time, Northampton Township consisted completely of farms and it was presumed that the girl students would all become farmer's wives, (this writer did marry the farmer I am standing behind in the picture at left.) I remember, having made a quilt as a young girl and we had room to setup the large quilting frames in this room. When we had time we would add a few stitches on it. Even a few guys and teachers did a stitch or two and I always wished I had asked all to add their initials.

When I last visited this school, both the large home economics room and the shop beneath had been divided into smaller classrooms. The brick building and the stone building had been joined. I have preserved a brick from this great building and each time I see it, so many memories keep flooding back even though it is long gone.

More pictures on page 4

SCHOOL BELL ACQUIRED

In June, the Historical Society acquired an early 20th century school bell similar to the one that would have been housed within the Cupola of the Richboro School. The Richboro School Bell appears to have been removed from the school many years ago. Why it was removed and its present location is unknown. Although the recently obtained bell is likely not the original bell from the school, plans are to have it restored and either installed or displayed within the school building following its renovations.

The acquired bell was manufactured by the C.S. Bell Company of Hillsborough, Ohio, a company that supplied many such bells to public buildings throughout the country. In fact, a similar bell was used within the former Feasterville School, which is presently on display at the Lower Southampton Library. Additional research will be conducted to determine its origins, the results of which will be presented in more detail in a later issue of the HISTORIA. If you have any information concerning the whereabouts of the original Richboro School Bell, we would definitely like to hear from you.



Richboro School before it was partially demolished and moved in 2003. The oldest (stone) building at the lower right was moved to the back of the property. The now demolished front brick structure to the left of the stone structure was the first addition followed by the long front to back structure at the far upper left. This is where the Home Economics and shop rooms were located. The lower level brick structure at the back was the final addition. This was attached to the stone building by a walkway.



Freshman Initiation 1941. Picture taken on the South side of school's brick building, demolished in 2001. Shops were behind large windows. Back row - Betty Cornell Luff, Harry Tomlinson, Marjorie Wilson Shelmire, Edward Luff, Jutta Glass Eisele, Walter Brudon, Doris Auckland Hartigan. Front row - Ruth Osmond Wright, Dorthy Diehl Drechsel.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2005 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com
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Director	Betty Luff	215-357-3767	
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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 e-mail 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 2005

September 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 16	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM

Board Meetings 2005

February 8, April 12,
August 9, October 11
7 PM - Call for location

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2005 (January 2005 to December 2005)

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: _____ Membership Classification _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

EMAIL: _____ Shirt Size [S] [M] [L] [EXL] - (Sponsor and higher)

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 : _____