



HISTORIA

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

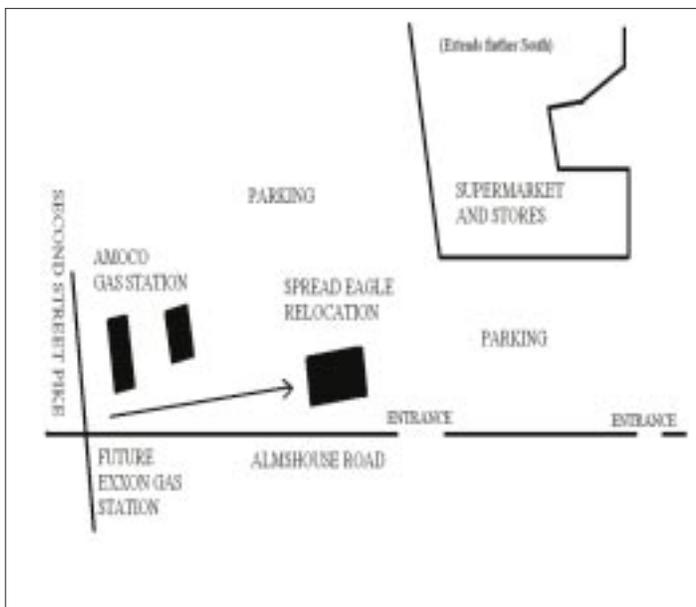
SEPTEMBER, 1997



COLONIAL HOUSEWIFERY Topic of September Meeting

Clarissa F. Dillon will speak on “Colonial Housewifery” at our September 24th meeting. Ms. Dillon has a Ph.D. in history from Bryn Mawr College. She will discuss many aspects of Colonial life for the lady of the house. Topics include hearth cooking, food preservation, dairying, domestic medicine, kitchen gardens, sewing, mending and needlework, carding and spinning, infancy and childhood and of course dusting and laundry. The talk will specifically look at English Colonist women that would have settled in Southeast Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware. Much of her research comes from diaries and letters and a manuscript cookbook, of an English Quaker, that has never been published. Ms. Dillon will dress in colonial clothing. Please join us for this very interesting and educational talk.

SPREAD EAGLE AN IRISH PUB? PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO RELOCATE THE INN



Our long battle to save the Spread Eagle has been rewarded. Amoco Oil has agreed to move the oldest part of the structure 300 feet West and 30 feet South of its present location (see map at left). This would put it just in front of the current Gusieppi's strip facing Almshouse Road. The current strips would be torn down to make way for the Amoco 'Split Second' station on the corner and a large shopping center with a supermarket behind the Spread Eagle. There would be plenty of parking behind the Spread. A local investor is looking into renovating the Inn and making it into an Irish Pub. We are hoping to have an Amoco representative and the investor at our September meeting.

THANK YOU to all of those who have supported this effort and made this day possible. Now just keep your fingers crossed that it will make the move which is scheduled for next Spring.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am saddened to announce the passing of two longtime members of our Society, Adolph Herzog and Vincent Luff. The Society and the community will miss both of you very much.

As many of you know by now it looks like the Spread Eagle will be moved by Amoco. Although this was in the local papers, I am surprised that many residents that I talk with are not aware that it will be saved. I am hoping to have Dave McDonald from Amoco present the new plan to us at the September or November meeting. Thank you for your support which made this possible. The petition and the meeting last January were key to showing Amoco and the local representatives that we truly care what happens to the Spread. It is not totally over yet however so please continue to "talk up" the preservation effort. Print sales have slowed somewhat over the summer. If you have not gotten your print as yet now is a good time. It would make a great holiday gift!

Northampton Days on September 14th was a great success for the Society. If you did not get to see our display we purchased a banner and exhibited both the Spread Eagle print and the Wynkoop print that we are presenting to the schools. Many people stopped by our table and we received quite a few membership applications on the spot. Thanks to board members Doris, Mary, John, Regina and Roe and a special thanks to Diane for organizing everything.

Roe has prepared a great booklet on Judge Henry Wynkoop, excerpts of which appear in this HISTORIA. We will have the booklet printed and they will be distributed to the schools with the Wynkoop paintings. The booklets will also be available for sale to the general public.

I remind you to check your mailing label on this HISTORIA. If the date is earlier than '97' your membership has expired.

Our September meeting topic sounds very interesting. "Colonial Housewifery", covering all aspects of a woman's role in the colonial household. I hope to see you there.

We have set the date of November 8th as the Living Tree Award. Plans are underway for this and we will have more information at our September meeting.

Sincerely,



Adolph F. Herzog (1907-1997)

Adolph F. Herzog, a longtime Society member passed away on July 4, 1997 at the age of 90. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he was formerly of Upper Makefield Township, and resided at his farm on Bustleton Pike in Churchville for 35 years before moving to Pickering Manor in Newtown nearly eight years ago. For most of his life, Mr. Herzog had been employed as an Aeronautical Engineer and worked with Lavelle Aircraft, formerly in Newtown for 25 years where he was Chief Engineer and Treasurer. He received the Army-Navy "E" award for performance and production during WWII in July of 1945 and later worked and retired with Boeing Aircraft in Delaware Co. A member of the Addisville Reformed Church in Richboro and former member of its consistory, Mr. Herzog enjoyed nature and was an avid bird watcher and member of the Christmas Bird Count of the Audubon Society. He was also a member of the Neshaminy Valley Club, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and belonged to the Sullivan Co., Pa., Northampton Township Historical Society, Newtown Historical Association and the Bucks County Historical Society. The Herzog's were devoted supporters of the Society and it was only in the past few years, due to Mr. Herzog's failing health, that they were unable to attend our meetings. Our sincere sympathy goes to Florence. I hope you will join us as you are able at our meetings.

C. Vincent Luff (1922-1997)

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of **Vincent Luff**, husband of Betty Luff, a founding member of the Northampton Township Historical Society, on May 17 1997 at his home after a long battle with cancer.

Born in Northampton Township, Mr. Luff was a graduate of Richboro High School, Class of 1940. Working as a farmer, he farmed most of his life in Northampton Township. Then in 1968, Mr. Luff took a position with the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department until 1986, when he retired. A longtime member of the North and Southampton Reformed Church, Churchville and an active member of the Northampton Township Historical Society.

Son of the late Charles F. and Mary Fridel Luff, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Cornell Luff to whom he was married for 53 wonderful years; his son, Gerald V. Luff of Wycombe; his daughters and sons-in-law, Peggy & Gerald DeYoung of Newtown, Phyllis & Thomas Orrino of Ivyland, and Teresa & Daniel Pagnotta of Hamilton Township, NJ; a brother, J. Albert Luff of Churchville; a sister, Anna Carter of Lewis, IN; 11 grandchildren and one great grandson.

Reminisces of Life Fifty Years Ago on Bristol Road

By Margaret Hull

The old Carrell Homestead, Bristol Road, Northampton Township, Bucks County, PA descended from father to son from 1711 for over 200 years.

When we moved to the Carrell Homestead in November 1950 there was very little traffic on Bristol Road. Our first son, Arthur, was one year old.

Our driveway was loose stones which made it impossible to push our son's stroller with it's small wheels.

Shortly after we arrived my Mother discovered the farm house opposite Hatboro Road where the W.Raymond Finney family lived. They sold fresh eggs and had a daughter of baby sitting age.

To get to the Finney farm, I took an old wooden wheelbarrow and transported our son down our driveway and up Bristol Road to the Finney farm to get eggs and have a social visit. Only one or two cars would pass on the half mile trip up and back.

The Finney homestead had been purchased by James and Sarah Dungan Carrell in 1707. It was called the Opdyke house. Lot Bennett, husband of Mary Carrell had built the end of the house where the Finneys lived in 1810. The main house with a center hall was occupied by Mary Bennett Opdyke, an older generation than the Finneys. Behind their farm was the Brewster Aircraft Factory which manufactured fighter planes in the second World War. After the war, the Navy took over the area surrounding Hatboro Road at Bristol Road for developing the research center. They bought the Finney Farm and two other farms across Bristol Road on Hatboro Road to make the main runway safer for aircraft. The Finney farm was torn down in the early fifties. At the farm sale we bought a plow to dig furrows for asparagus.(There were thousands of asparagus seedlings on our property). Bill Finney at about age twelve came over and showed us how to use it. We pulled it with our tractor as we did not have a horse.

When the Navy took the Finney farm the compensation was not enough to buy another farm, so W.Raymond Finney moved to a development and went to work at Fischer and Porter in Hatboro.

Traffic has changed on Bristol Road and we have a paved driveway. Bill Finney has retired and has grandchildren.



The Carrell homestead as it appears today. The Hull's have resided here since 1950 making many improvements on the property. Mr. Hull has created a wonderful Blacksmith shop in one of the many outbuildings on the property.

**Did you get your Spread Eagle Print yet?
Copies are available at the Crafters
Gallery on Almshouse Road in Richboro.
There is a discount for Society members.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Roe Blumenthal, our Secretary, graduated from the Bucks County Community College certificate program in Historic Preservation. Roe's internship project was to photograph and architecturally document all of the houses along Bellevue Avenue in the Borough of Langhorne's Historic District.



Roe Blumenthal gives a presentation outlining her internship project at the graduation reception in May. The reception was given at the home of Historic Preservation Department Director, Lyle Rosenberger. Instructor, Kathy Auerback, looks on.

IS HISTORIC GARDENING FOR YOU?

By Dave Gauntt

Now that you've researched and examined your house to determine its age, you might be thinking of revamping the landscape, or the vegetable garden - perhaps instituting an historic garden. But what is meant by an historic garden? Are we talking about hanging gardens like those of ancient Babylon? Today's hanging baskets seem to derive from them. Or is it Egyptian gardens with terraced and irrigated rows?

Could it be the tree lined streets and public buildings of ancient Greece? The Greeks had house gardens in the rear of their houses to supply fragrant plants (flowers) to purify the air and ward off disease. They had flower boxes against walls with vines trained up behind them. Water was drained from the house roof to a retaining basin for watering the garden. When garden space was scarce, the Greeks devised rooftop gardens. They also decorated their gardens with statuary of the Gods and important people.

Perhaps the formal, symmetrical, architectural style of Rome, borrowed heavily from the Greeks, is your idea of real historical gardening. Gardening was already part of the Roman heritage but they carried the Grecian ideas further. Everyone had a garden of some sort - there were roof gardens as well as window boxes, and every available space was tilled for some planting. Rain water was guided from rooftops to storage pools for irrigation and for "water tricks." The tricks were triggered by such things as someone sitting on a bench and causing water to squirt out on them or causing a swirling pattern in a nearby pool. Shrub sculpture, or topiary, was borrowed from the Egyptians and developed into an art form. Large estates had gardeners who tended to these duties.

With the fall of Rome, the gardens all but disappeared but the concept was preserved in the monasteries by Monks who kept gardens for food and for medicinal purposes (herb gardens). The Monks developed new varieties of fruit and vegetables which are still extant today. Between the Monks of the Dark Ages and the returning Crusaders, Europe was introduced to new plants and later re-introduced to gardening through the farming practices of the Castle gardens. Crops were planted between the Castle and the moat or the city walls. The Renaissance returned gardening as an art. Explorers brought back all sorts of new plants, seeds, and tubers from all over the world, vastly increasing the possibilities.

Inventive Italians French, Germans, Spanish, Dutch and English each developed their own style and interpretations. The Dutch and German designs stressed the compact, efficient, and productive. The French maintained the Castle concept but on a grander scale. They developed the great vistas now identified with French landscaping, as well as water canals used both for irrigation and beauty. Italian designs stressed water and complicated designs, and if the vines wouldn't grow on shady walls, they painted vines in their place. The Spanish stressed the enclosed patio gardens and the English borrowed from all, but then went in a new direction, breaking the rigid rules of design.

Oriental influence was introduced by the English, Dutch, and French in the age of exploration. The Dutch and English were especially active in importing new plants from the Orient, like chrysanthemums and peonies, but more influential was the Far Eastern concept of a natural landscape that was adopted immediately by the English.

You can do any one or a combination of these garden types, but more likely what you have in mind when you think of historic gardening is the amalgam of Ancient, Oriental, and European styles that manifested in post Renaissance England. The English garden has had the most influence on this country since its inception. The free, open, asymmetrical, tree-bounded, semi-wild landscapes were developed with masses of color, green lawns, and perennial borders. This style allowed more freedom than the rest of European designs and lead ultimately to the modern free-style landscaping that began in 20th-century California. The importation of more tropical plants prompted another new feature in the English garden - the greenhouse. With it the English could extend their season and enjoy such out-of-place novelties as citrus trees.

Colonial English gardening mixed the rigid with the free, with clipped boxwood hedges, mazes, knot gardens and the like, together with informal perennial beds. These designs were mostly found in the larger southern plantations. A more simple, practical, unpretentious style could be found in Puritan New England, enclosed in the most prominent feature of Colonial gardening - the picket fence. In the middle states, Quaker, German and Dutch influence made itself apparent.

Boxwood hedges were prevalent in the Victorian age - the most influential time of the English garden. Mainstay perennials of that era were hollyhock (really a bi-annual), aster, sweet William, foxglove, bleeding heart, tiger lily, bluebells, peony, lupine, primrose, trillium, forget-me-not, iris, delphinium, and so many more. A little research will extend the list for you immensely.

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The Life and Times of Judge Henry Wynkoop

Excerpts from a booklet by Roe Blumenthal, NTHS

Northampton Township is fortunate that its most famous citizen, Henry Wynkoop, has been immortalized by well-known artist Rembrandt Peale in a portrait believed to have been painted around 1812. The Northampton Township Historical Society was given the original portrait as a gift by a great-great-granddaughter of Wynkoop.

To continue the memory of our most famous Revolutionary patriot, the Historical Society has made copies of the original oil painting on canvas and will present them to all schools in the township. As part of this “gift of history,” Roe Blumenthal, Secretary of the Historical Society, has written a booklet entitled, “The Life and Times of Judge Henry Wynkoop, Northampton Township’s Founding Father.” It is the Historical Society’s hope that with these gifts, our schools will continue to tell Judge Wynkoop’s story in history classes.

Here’s an excerpt from the booklet to whet your appetite in advance of the printing:

“Henry Wynkoop would see many changes before the beginning of the nineteenth century, for he was destined to survive into his eightieth year, living nearly half his life under the crown of England and participating in the most crucial events that created and molded a fledgling republic—five years of revolutionary war. Later he witnessed the administrations of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe.”

He was a man who held a number of judicial positions at the county, provincial and state levels, was a member of the Second Continental Congress, participated in the Pennsylvania Convention for ratifying the Constitution, and was a member of the first U.S. House of Representatives.

He was personally acquainted with George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

Yet Henry Wynkoop contributed most to the cause of liberty in this country by upholding the law as a Bucks County jurist.

The Wynkoop family’s motto was “Virtutem Hilaritate Colere,” which means “to adorn excellence with joyousness.” In a public career spanning half a century, the Judge (as he was commonly known) was appointed to numerous positions that clearly showed respect for his judicial acumen and his integrity.

Prof. Lyle L. Rosenberger of Bucks County Community College presented a paper on Judge Wynkoop to a joint meeting of the Bucks County Historical Society and the Northampton Township Historical Society in 1976. Besides writing the introductory quotation above, Rosenberger notes that Wynkoop’s career centered mainly on the county and local levels.

He began a long and distinguished career in the Bucks County courts, when he was appointed to grand jury duty in 1762, and six other times in his life, Wynkoop was appointed as a local justice of the peace where he gained valuable legal experience. While serving as a magistrate, he was made a lay associate judge in the circuit court as early as 1765, at the age of twenty-eight. Very few judges in the courts of Pennsylvania, prior to the Revolution, had any formal legal training. Men of integrity and distinction were selected from practicing justices of the peace to serve on the circuit court bench. Judge Henry Wynkoop’s knowledge of law was therefore largely self-taught, through careful reading of traditional British law and frequent application in the county quarter sessions court. Wynkoop’s tenure as Associate Judge spanned forty-seven years, with only one brief two-year break, thus giving rise to the affectionate title “Judge.”



NTHS President, Doug Crompton talks with Andy Zellers-Frederick, Vice President of the Warminster Township Historical Society in front of a print of Judge Henry Wynkoop at the home of Roe Blumenthal last April.

Though of Dutch descent, Henry Wynkoop was born nearly ninety years after the first ancestor came to the New World. In 1650, Cornelius Wynkoop sailed from Utrecht, Holland, and settled in Rensselaerwyck, near Albany, New York. Eleven years later, Cornelius married Maria Janse Langedyck and they had seven children. The fourth of their seven children, Gerret (born around 1667) founded the Pennsylvania branch of the family.

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Wynkoop from page 5

When Gerret moved his wife and nine children to Pennsylvania in 1717, they first settled in Moreland Township, Montgomery County (which at that time was part of Philadelphia County). In 1727 he moved to Northampton Township, acquiring 520 acres of land near the Neshaminy Creek. Two of Gerret and Hillelje's six sons, Gerrit and Nicholas, remained on the property and, in 1738, Gerret divided the property between them. He died nine years later in 1747.

Nicholas had one son, Henry Wynkoop, who was born on March 2, 1737. Henry took over his father's tract of land upon Nicholas' death in 1759.

The property, known as "Vredens Berg" and "Vredens Hof" (Dutch for "Green Valley" or "Green Court"), consisted of about 260 acres of farmland two miles west of Newtown along the Neshaminy Creek, including the property where Fleuhr Funeral Home is now located. The mansion house (located at the corners of Holland and Newtown-Richboro Road where Fleuhr Funeral Home is now located) was built by his father, Nicholas Wynkoop in 1739, two years after Henry was born. The house, though built of stone, was destroyed by fire in 1911



The Wynkoop home at the corner of Holland Road and route 332. It was destroyed by fire in 1911 and is now the site of the Fleuhr Funeral Home.

The house was considered an excellent example of early Colonial architecture. Historian George Lebegern, Jr., writes that, "The original home was large and imposing and commanded a magnificent view of the rolling countryside. Six large rooms and a center hall which ran from south to north dominated the ground floor of the nineteen room mansion. About fifty yards southwest of the house stood a spring house. Other outbuildings consisted of a blacksmith shop, a barn, a stone stable and quarters for the slaves who worked the land, groomed the horses, cooked the food and generally made life comfortable for the Wynkoop family."

Rembrandt Peale: The Artist Who Painted The Judge

Rembrandt, son of another great painter, Charles Willson Peale, is also a Northampton Township native. He was born on February 22, 1778, probably at the Vanartsdalen farm located near Pulinski Road between Jacksonville and Hatboro Roads. Charles, also a patriot, moved from Maryland to Philadelphia in 1776 and volunteered to fight for the cause of independence. He was made a captain in the Philadelphia militia of Associators and protected the city from capture by the British. With the enemy approaching, Peale moved his pregnant wife and family out of Philadelphia, settling on the farm near Richboro. It was there that young Rembrandt was born, named after the famous Dutch painter. (Three other brothers, also named after famous artists, Rubens, Titian Ramsay and Raphaele, also painted.)

Like his father, Rembrandt painted many portraits of George Washington. With his father as the connection, he is famous for being the youngest artist to paint the President (at the age of 17). He also captured many other famous Americans on canvas, including Thomas Jefferson, fellow portrait artist Gilbert Stuart and John Marshall, first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. The prolific artist produced about 1,200 paintings in sixty years, displayed in such places as Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Editor's Note: Some information for this article was obtained from Ginny Geyer's article, "Will the Real Mr. Vanartsdalen Please Stand Up", printed in the Fall 1976 issue of The Bucks County Historical Society Journal.

Did you know that the HISTORIA can be viewed on the Internet from anywhere in the world? If you have friends or relatives that would like to see or print the HISTORIA you don't need to send your copy! Just pass this address onto them - <http://www.resuba.com/bucks>

HISTORIC GARDENING from page 4

If you decide to pursue a garden with historic themes (perhaps to match the age of your house, or just a favorite period), first consider what Alexander Pope almost 300 years ago called "the genius of the place," what nature gave you to start with. Then plan to visit a botanical garden like Bartram Gardens in Philadelphia, Longwood Gardens in Delaware, or a large library or major book store. Pick up one or two of the books that deal extensively with your particular theme period - and go for it! I think you'll really be pleased. Then, invite the rest of us to come see it and share your enjoyment. Good Luck and good gardening!



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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	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.

Meeting Dates for 1997/98

September 24	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 8	Living Tree Award	3:00 PM
November 19	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM
March 25, 98	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 27, 98	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 1997 (January 1997 to December 1997)

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: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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STATE: _____

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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 : _____