



HISTORIA

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2004

JOIN US FOR IRISH DANCE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY



The Fitzpatrick Irish Dancers from Sellersville will entertain us at our St. Patrick's Day meeting on March 17th. Wear GREEN, and join us for a delightful and spirited evening.

Irish step dancing combines artistry, grace, and physical ability. It has followed the Irish and Irish missionaries wherever they traveled, including North America, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Africa.

It is believed that Irish dancing began with the Celtic peoples, also known as the Gaels, in the 3rd century BC. A major influence on Irish dance and culture was the advent of the Dance Masters around 1750. It was then that the term step dancing came into use, named after eight measures or bars of music, which are called a "step."

The Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dancing has offered instruction in Bucks County for 10 years.

PICTURESQUE, BUT HAZARDOUS SPRING GARDEN HILL

by Betty Cornell Luff

As a little girl, my sisters and I looked forward to our family's weekly Friday night shopping in Newtown. I vividly remember how relieved we always were when Dad's 1929 Oakland would slowly reach the top of Spring Garden Hill.

In the early 1950's, this hill was one of the most dangerous stretches of highway in Bucks County. This notorious hill, full of twists and bends, had been the scene of many accidents. There were six curves on the hill within four-tenths of a mile, no traffic lines, plus poor visibility.

Since the Northampton and Newtown schools had combined, forming the Council Rock Junior and Senior High School, Constable Jack Frey of Richboro arranged a meeting of school, county, and state officials.

It was pointed out that, while the right of way was 33 feet, there was one point between guard rails that was only eighteen feet wide. With a passing bus taking up sixteen of this, there was just barely room to squeeze through.

2004 BIRDHOUSE CONTEST National Preservation Week May 3-8, 2004

For the past three years, NTHS has sponsored a poster contest to recognize National Preservation Week, which is an outgrowth of the work done by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.

This year we are offering a Birdhouse Contest to emphasize the environmental aspect of preservation. The 2004 theme is "*New Frontiers in Preservation.*" It's more than just saving individual landmark buildings; it is about revitalizing business districts, inner-city neighborhoods, and protecting our irreplaceable historic, natural, and scenic landscapes and environment.

Two new age divisions have been added: Grades 7-8 and Senior Citizen (age 55 and up). Retired folks! Put on your creativity hats, and join the fun!

Detailed information is included on the registration form included in this issue.

Please turn to page 3

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! 2004 promises to be an exciting year for the Society.

The Board of Directors had a special meeting in January to review the newly revised bylaws. With the able guidance of lawyer Steve Rovner, we completed modifications to the entire document, which was voted on and passed unanimously at the last Board meeting. We are excited to present the new bylaws to you for your approval at the March 17th general meeting. On behalf of NTHS, I extend a grateful thank you to Steve Rovner and all the board members for making this process a smooth one.

Also in January we mailed membership reminders for 2004. If you have not already done so, be sure to send in your membership dues/renewals immediately, and consider contributing at one of the new higher levels. Your help in recruiting new members is always appreciated.

A special thank you to Pat Komelasky for assembling the NTHS Recipe Book, which will soon be available to us.

Vivian Braubitz and Michael Tomkins have generously offered to run another archaeological dig this May at Clyde Cobb's home in Feasterville. We will attempt to locate the lost foundation, which eluded us last year at the Willet-Knight home. I urge interested adults to join us and assist with the activity. Contact me by email if you wish to participate. Dglessner2@Comcast.net

This year, we are replacing our annual Preservation Week poster contest with a birdhouse contest. This year's theme is "*New Frontiers in Preservation*" With declining animal populations worldwide, we need to make every effort possible to create new homes and niches for animals displaced by encroaching human development. In an effort to create awareness and support thriving animal communities within our local bioregions and habitats, NTHS is sponsoring this contest. We even have a new division for senior citizens. Dust off your tools and plan to participate!

Don't forget the second annual Frederick M. Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial dinner. Another reason to join NTHS; it's FREE to members! Mark your calendars for June 1, 2004 at Northampton Valley Country Club.

I hope all of you will plan to come and join us on March 17th for a bit of Irish fun and celebration. Wear GREEN and come see the Fitzpatrick Irish Dancers.

"Top 'O the morning to all of you!"

Debbie Glessner

UPCOMING EVENTS

**NTHS General Meeting
Fitzpatrick Irish Dancers
Wednesday March 17 - 7:30 PM**

Birdhouse Contest - deadline April 16

Archaeological dig - May 15/16

Annual Frederick M. Holzwarth Dinner - June 1

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

Upcoming Exhibit "Ducks, Decoys and the Delaware: A Regional Hunting Tradition" Opens April 17, 2004 This new exhibit will tell the story of wildfowl hunting along the lower Delaware River. The show will make connections between the natural history, social history and folk culture of the region, and give voice to the hunters, guides, decoy carvers and others whose lives were intimately linked to the river.

31st Annual Mercer Museum The Nationally-Acclaimed Festival of Early American Crafts

More than 100 Artisans Demonstrate & Sell Crafts * Children's Entertainment * Militia Encampment * Live Music * Full Picnic Fare Saturday & Sunday, May 8 & 9,

2004 David Library of the American Revolution Lecture Schedule

Thursday, March 18, 7:30 pm. Dennis Conrad, Editor of the Nathanael Greene Papers: We Have a Bloody Field, But Little Glory: The Battle of Hobkirk's Hill.

Thursday, April 15, 7:30 pm. Richard Patterson, Director, Old Barracks Museum: The First Vengeance of Heaven: The Saratoga Campaign of 1777.

David Library lectures are free and open to the public, but since seating is limited, you are encouraged to make reservations. Lectures take place in the Feinstone Conference Center, adjacent to the Library building, and are followed by a reception in the Rose Gallery. For reservations or additional information, please call (215) 493-6776, or e-mail dlar@dlar.org.

SPRING GARDEN HILL *from page 1*

Buses in the 1950's were then only traveling the hill eight times every school day, carrying a total of approximately 500 students. School officials felt the hill was a definite threat to the safety of these children, especially in wet weather and during winter months. Also, the Fox Chase to Newtown Reading Company buses were using this route six times daily. As a result of Mr. Frey's meeting, the hill was much improved.

There were very few housing developments in the early 1950's, but today, nearly every farm in Northampton Township has been developed. Population has exploded. Imagine if Mr. Frey had not had the foresight to do something about this treacherous hill, how difficult it would be to travel from Richboro to Newtown today. Can we imagine how many children are traveling this hill daily, especially since the new Council Rock High School - South has been built in the township.



Newspaper photos, approximately 1952, when Norman Turner was president of the Northampton Township School Board and Russell Lownes was operator of the Council Rock school buses. Turner took over the buses in 1954.

SECOND ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT THE WILLETT-KNIGHT HOUSE May 15-16, 2004

Because last year's archaeological dig was such a success, NTHS will again be offering this experience to local students. Mr. Clyde Cobb has again generously offered his property for the dig. We will continue to search for the foundation of a third building which used to exist on the grounds and was not located during last year's dig.

The dig will be led by Vivian Braubitz, professional archaeologist, and Mike Tomkins, of Tomkins Historical Research.

Interested students may enroll by completing the registration form included in this issue, and mailing the \$10.00 registration fee.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of the end of February our paid membership records for last year paid were as follows:

2004 - 70, 2003 - 56, 2002 - 9
2001 - 8, 2000 - 10, 1999 - 4

We also mail to a number of non-profits. Our total mailing is currently over 160 many of which are multiple family memberships.

The board has decided to drop all members in arrears before 2003. This will be your **last issue** of the HISTORIA if you do not renew. Membership is now due for 2004. Thank you to the 70 members who have renewed their memberships so far for this year. Please check the address label on this HISTORIA for the year after your name. If you are up to date it should read **2004**.

I would also like to acknowledge those who contributed at one of our higher levels. We thank you for your generosity.

Those of you who have sent in your 2004 dues will be receiving membership cards in the mail.

Please direct any membership changes or questions to Doug Crompton at 215-355-5307.

A FAMOUS NORTHAMPTON PAINTING

by Betty Cornell Luff

Much is written about Edward Hicks, the famous primitive painter. Records put his birth at April 4, 1780; yet the painting of the Twining Residence is dated 1787. This would make him a very good artist at the age of seven!

Edward was born at Four Lanes End, now Langhorne. After losing his mother at the age of eighteen months, he was raised by David and Elizabeth Twining of Newtown. When he was thirteen he apprenticed to the coach-making trade with William and Henry Tomlinson. Eventually, Hicks went into business for himself at the age of twenty, preferring coach and sign painting.

Edward Hicks was a member of the Society of Friends and became a distinguished minister and most popular preacher. Edward liked to include animals and people in his primitive paintings. Early farmers were especially interested in fine cattle, so for his last painting in 1848, a year before his death, Edward chose to paint the prize-winning cattle of James C. Cornell of Holland. At the time of this painting, this historic 175 acre farm on Holland Road, was occupied by just ten people: Mr. Cornell, his wife, the former Judith Everett, and their eight children, all of which Edward Hicks included in the painting.

Many years ago, this writer interviewed Mrs. Ann Thompson of Holland, who was a granddaughter of Theodore Cornell, one of James' sons. Since this farm had been handed down in the Cornell family for seven generations, Mrs. Thompson remembered many stories told to her about life on the farm, including the painting of the picture.

In the large original, which is hanging in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., there is a young girl standing in the springhouse door. Mrs. Thompson identified her as her mother's aunt, Elizabeth Cornell, who later married Charles Knight. Joseph Cornell, Elizabeth's brother, is behind the plow. Her parents, as well as the other six children, are also in the painting.

The large stone house in the 1848 painting looks lovely and substantial. It was probably at least 100 years old when it was torn down in 1887 and replaced by a twenty-room Victorian mansion with a cupola on top. It had a gray marbled mantle in every room with registers from the furnace installed in every fireplace. Theodore (or Dorey) Cornell moved his family into the carriage house while the new home was being built.

Stories have been handed down about Theodore Cornell and his cousin, Adrien Cornell, who built the mansion on the "Villa Joseph Marie" property. One cousin was always trying to plant and harvest before the other, thus the cupola — so they could see across Holland Road!

Mrs. Thompson's uncle, J. Russell Cornell, sold the historic 175-acre farm in 1951 to the Ivins family. The large Victorian mansion served as a double house until the farm was purchased in 1964 to become "Windmill Village." The barn in the picture burned to the ground in 1965. The Victorian house nestles today amidst the many modern homes. Part of the carriage house, which one-day held the latest in carriages, still stands. The bridge in the painting is in the back yard of a neighbor's modern home. The present owners have lovingly preserved the springhouse.

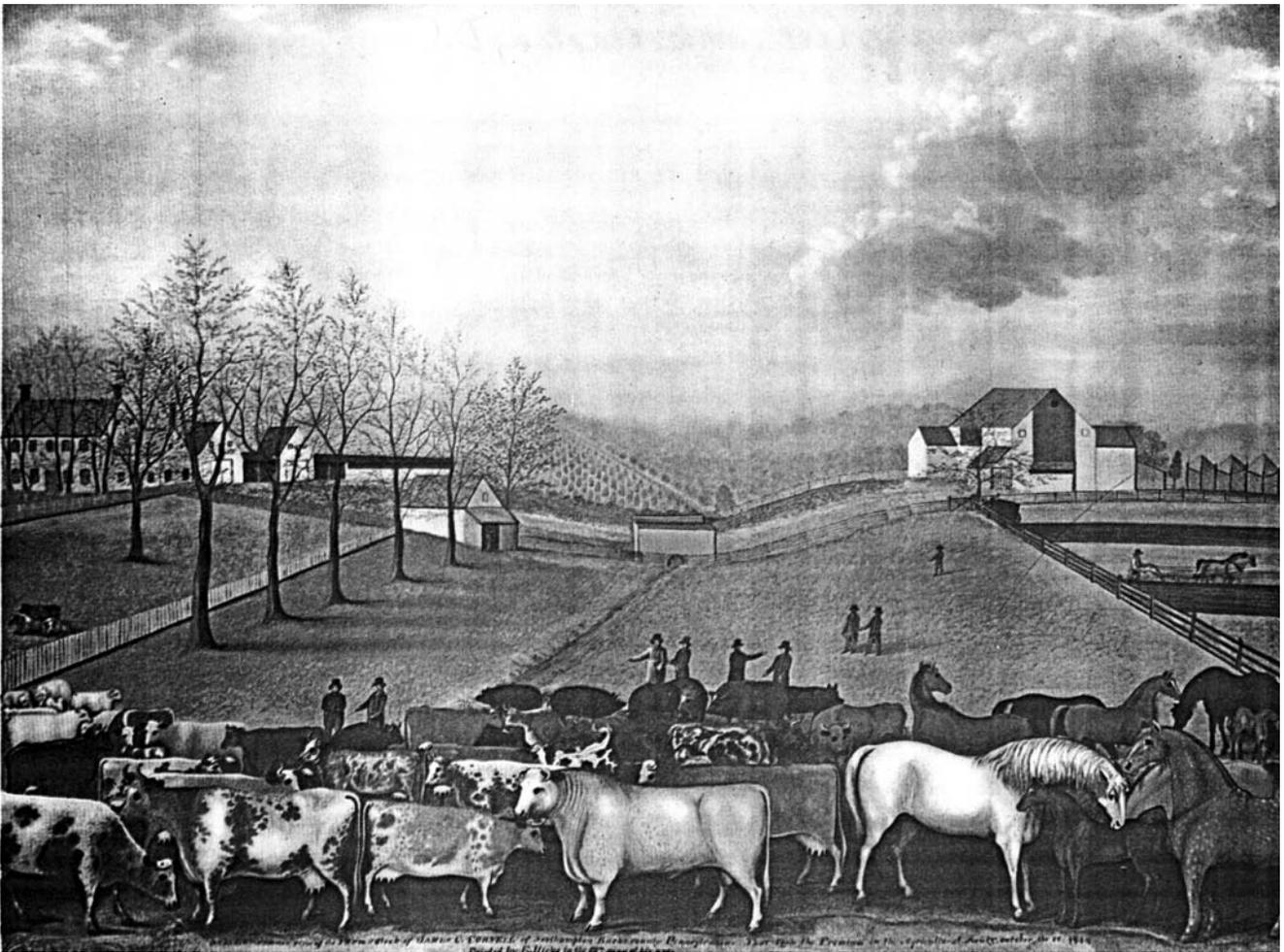
The changes that have taken place on this 175 acres of ground is typical of the fast growing pace and changing times in Northampton Township. When you stop, you realize that at the time of this painting, just ten people lived here — where hundreds of people now live today!



Edith Berry sketch of the Victorian home that Theodore Cornell built in 1887 to replace the stone farmhouse in the Hicks painting.



Mansion built by Adrien Cornell on 165 acres across the road from cousin Theodore Cornell. Now on Villa Joseph Marie property.



The Cornell Farm by Edward Hicks, 1848

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

On July 4th, 2003, the elegant National Constitution Center officially opened its doors to an estimated one million visitors per year. Located on the third block of Independence Mall, the Center will tell the story of the United States Constitution through more than 100 interactive and multimedia exhibits, photographs, sculpture, text, film, and artifacts.

The National Constitution Center was established by the Constitution Heritage Act of 1998. Passed by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan, the Act created the Center as an organization and established the building of the National Constitution Center as an important national goal.

Over the following years, the Center developed programs and honored Americans like Congressman John Lewis, former executive editor of the *Washington Post*, Benjamin C. Bradlee, and the late Ambassador Walter Annenberg, with the "We The People Award."

On September 14, 1998, the architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and the exhibit design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates were chosen as the design "dream team" for the 160,000 square foot Center. Architect Henry N. "Harry" Cobb has designed dozens of international projects including the recently completed and nationally acclaimed United States Courthouse in Boston. Appelbaum's interpretive museum design is at the core of the most important museums in recent history, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

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Constitution Center from page 5

On September 17, 2000, 213 years to the day the U. S. Constitution was signed, the National Constitution Center broke ground. President Bill Clinton presided over the official groundbreaking ceremonies which included the naturalization of 75 new American citizens. In honor of a \$10 million gift from the Annenberg Foundation, the interactive outreach wing of the Center is named the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach.

More information about the National Constitution Center can be found at their website www.constitutioncenter.org

Mission Statement

The National Constitution Center is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of, and appreciation for, the Constitution, its history, and its contemporary relevance, through an interactive, interpretive facility within Independence National History Park and a program of national outreach, so that We The People may better secure the Blessings Of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.



Glimpses of our September 2003 Historical Society General Meeting

**WANTED:
Young Archaeologists to Dig for Lost Foundation
Children: ages 10 and up**

**Sponsored by Northampton Twp. Historical Society
May 15 and 16, 2004
(Rain dates: May 22 - 23)
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Willett-Knight House
1409 Bustleton Pike, Feasterville, PA**

This historic home is currently owned by Mr. Clyde Cobb. Research indicates that the house was built in 1748. It sits on two and a half acres, which is part of an original parcel of 500 acres that was purchased from William Penn by John Harding. The Bucks County atlases of 1876 and 1891 show that there were originally three buildings on the lot. There are now only two. The current garage was built on the winery foundation. Mr. Cobb has requested assistance in locating the foundation of the third building. Vivian Braubitz, a professional archaeologist, and Michael Tomkins, president of Tomkins Historical Research, will lead the dig.

REGISTRATION FORM

Fee: \$10.00 (Checks made payable to NTHS)

Mail to: Deborah Glessner, 234 New Rd. Churchville, PA. 18966

NO MORE THAN 10 PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REGISTERED!

DEADLINE: April 30, 2004

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: () _____ **Email:** _____

Age: _____ **School:** _____ **Grade:** _____

I grant my child permission to participate in the archaeological dig sponsored by NTHS and agree to hold harmless NTHS for bodily injury or loss of personal property that may occur during this activity. It is my understanding that the \$10.00 fee grants my child membership into NTHS and all rights thereof.

Parent signature: _____

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK
MAY 3 – 8, 2004
“New Frontiers in Preservation”
Northampton Township Historical Society
BIRDHOUSE CONTEST

With declining animal populations worldwide, we need to make every effort possible to create new homes and niches for animals displaced by encroaching human development. In an effort to create awareness and support thriving animal communities within our local bioregions and habitats, NTHS offers this contest.

Contestants are encouraged to submit creatively designed and decorated birdhouses, which *must be suitable for supporting the natural habitat of the birds*. In the spirit of preservation, *no toxic materials should be used in the building or decoration of the birdhouse*.

Pre-built birdhouses can be purchased from craft supply stores like Michael's for as little as \$4.99. For those who wish to build their own, there are many plans available on the internet, as well as pre-cut kits. There are no size restrictions.

All birdhouses must be “tagged” with the contestant’s name, address, phone number, and age. Students must also include their school, grade, and teacher’s name, and division entered.

Open to senior citizens and students living in Northampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Submission Deadline:

Friday, April 16, 2004

Drop off: April 16 ONLY at:

Northampton Township Administration Building
between 12 noon – 4 pm

Pick up at the NTHS meeting between 6-7:30 PM, May 19, Senior Center Community Room

Four divisions:

Division A:Kindergarten to Grade 3

Division B:Grade 4 to Grade 6

Division C:Grade 7 to Grade 8

Division D:Senior Citizen (age 55 and up)

Prizes:

First place (\$25), Second place (\$15). Third place (\$10) and Honorable Mention (\$5), plus gift certificates, and certificate of participation.

Judges:

Mike Borovicka - Churchville Nature Center

Sally Conyne — Audubon Society

Margaret and Lew Hull — NTHS Members

TO BE JUDGED ON:

Originality, Neatness, Inclusion of required elements, Suitability, and Impact.

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL FREDERICK M. HOLZWARTH DINNER

The Northampton Township Historical Society cordially invites you and your guests to the second annual Frederick M. Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner.

Tuesday, June 1, 2004
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Northampton Valley Country Club
Richboro, Pennsylvania
Cash Bar

COST: Northampton Township Historical Society members — FREE
Members' dinners are compliments of the generous bequest of Fred Holzwarth.

Guests and friends are welcome at \$30.00 per person.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by May 20, 2004

****IMPORTANT!! — No reservations will be accepted after this date!**

RSVP to: Pat Komelasky 42 Larch Circle Holland, PA 18966 215.355.0649

Member Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

___ Yes, the following members will attend. \$ Free

___ Yes, the following guests (non-members) will attend. \$ _____

___ Sorry, I am not able to attend.

TOTALS \$ _____



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2004 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Debbie Glessner	215-357-2449	dglessner2@comcast.net	PA Relay 800-654-5988
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Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	215-355-6399	dianeyourealtor@comcast.net	
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
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Director	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222		
Director	Betty Luff	215-357-3767		
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	

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 2004

March 17, May 19, September 15 General Meeting 7:30 PM
 November 17 Dinner Meeting 6:30 PM

Board Meetings 2004

April 13, August 10,
 October 12
 7 PM - Call for locations

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2004 (January 2004 to December 2004)

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: _____ 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 : _____