



HISTORIA

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1999

WILLIAM BERNHARD TO SPEAK ON MINIATURES AT OUR MARCH MEETING

Our March 24th meeting will feature a talk by Robert E. Bernhard, a collector and a creator of antique miniature furniture.

Bob was educated in the fine arts as a painter and was an interior designer for over 20 years. In the late 1960's someone gave him an old dollhouse and he wanted to fix it up for his niece. The only type of miniature furniture available then was plastic. So he began to experiment by making a Chippendale sofa, dimensioning it from one of full size. Bob took three or four thickness of shirt cardboard, soaked it until it was pliable, formed it, and let it dry. The technique worked and he was off on a hobby that in 1973 became his livelihood. He later went on to produce miniature wicker furniture. The styles are true to the New England cottages at the turn of the century. He has designed and produced such unusual pieces as a hall porter's chair, a high peacock style chair, an "S" shaped Tete-A-Tete chair, and an Opium chair with pullout footrest.



Over the years Bob taught classes all over the country and locally he was part of the speaker showcase at Cheltenham high school and he is also active in the Highlands Historical Society. He will be bringing antique child size chairs, Queen Ann chairs, chests, and numerous pieces of brass, silver and pottery to the meeting plus a water-color painting he did in 1949 of the mill in Holland. Members and guests are encouraged to bring any miniatures or old toys to the meeting.

APRIL BCCC PRESERVATION FORUM FEATURES A LECTURE BY DR. ROGER MOSS ON SELECTING HISTORIC PAINT COLORS

The center for Historic Preservation at the Bucks County Community College will present the sixteenth in a series of Preservation Forum Lectures on Saturday, April 17. The lecture "Selecting Paint Colors for Historic Buildings" will be given by Dr. Roger W. Moss, a nationally recognized preservationist, prolific author, executive director of the Athenaeum, and professor at the University of Pennsylvania. The registration fee is \$20. Information can be obtained by calling (215) 968-8286. Registration forms will be available at the Northampton Township Historical Society meeting on March 24th. Attendees are encouraged to bring a slide of their color problem. Dr. Moss will also be signing copies of his latest book, Historic Houses of Philadelphia.

LOOKING FOR SPRING HOUSES?

William Phyanstal, an instructor for the Historic Preservation at Bucks County Community College is looking for spring houses in the area to document and photograph for a research project he is working on. If you have one on your property or know of one he might document he can be reached at (215) 453-9264.

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NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our first HISTORIA and meeting of 1999. I am looking forward to serving you as president and I want to express my sincere appreciate to Doug Crompton for the outstanding job his has done for the organization during his prior terms as President.

The speaker for this month is Bob Bernhard, a superb miniature artist. I have admired his work for over twenty years. So many old treasures can be executed in miniature.

Northampton Township has lost so many old buildings and it would be wonderful to preserve some of them in miniature if we cannot in real life.

Our dear Doris D’Ardenne, the “Hostess with the Mostess”, is recovering from an automobile accident that left her bruised and her ankle severely broken. Doris is staying with her daughter in Indiana while she recovers. We wish her a speedy recovery!

I would also like to remind you to take a few minutes and renew your membership for 1999. Thank you for supporting the society.

See you at the March meeting and bring a friend!

Mary Seader

NORTHAMPTON PRESERVATION UPDATE

The Poli farm, formerly the Harkin’s chicken farm on the Northwest corner of Bristol and Jacksonville roads is to be developed. The historic house on the property is in jeopardy of demolition. The developers have been asked to preserve the structure but its final outcome is still in question. One of the supervisors was quoted in the Courier Times as saying the, “so called historic house.” Unfortunately it is these kind of comments that hurt our ability to preserve.

The “Herzog” property at “Herzog’s corner”, the bad curve on Busleton pike south of town is for sale. Developers could buy the property and again we need to be vigilant that the house be maintained. This house is on the register of historic places. This corner is slated for improvement by the state. There are three historic properties close to the curve.

The Spread Eagle move and the development of the overall property is moving very slow but hopefully is staying on-track.

Richboro Our Town

By “Va” Foster

Richboro is a town that has grown very fast. I hope we will never forget the history of it’s past. People worked very hard to build this town. Now I hope the younger generation will not let us down.

Richboro was a country village with unpaved roads. You would have seen teams of horses pulling heavy loads. The farmers took the produce down to the market. It was a day’s trip but it put money in their pocket.

The firehouse was the hub of social affairs. Where one could go and forget their cares. When you rode down the street you greeted each other. Everyone knew the families, sisters and brothers.

Do you know you neighbor today? I would dare to say, “No way.” We are all very busy and in a hurry. Let’s slow things down and don’t scurry.

Be polite when you drive down the street. To show a little kindness can’t be beat. Remember the past and look to the coming years. If you accomplish this there will be no need for tears.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24 - 7:30 PM - General Meeting
Northampton Township Historical Soc.

May 17 - 7:30 PM - Tribute to Helen Lamborn Saurman
Historical Society of Southampton

April 19 - 7:30 PM - General Meeting
Historical society of Southampton

May 26 - 7:30 PM General Meeting
Northampton Township Historical Society

Tribute to Miss Sally

By Betty Cornell Luff

“She couldn’t carry a tune no-how, but oh, how she tried to teach us to sing!” This was the first thought that entered the mind of one Northampton township senior citizen, when asked what she remembered most about her former teacher, Miss Sara E. Twining.

I suppose many of her students thought differently, but Miss Sally really must have loved children, especially small ones, because she chose to teach them for 60 of her 87 years. Most of these years were spent teaching in Northampton one-room schoolhouses, beginning with the Forest Grove School on Hatboro Road. She then transferred to the Groveland School, midway between Richboro and Newtown, but stayed about 30 years at Richboro School before going on to bigger schools such as Newtown and Fallsington. These were the years when a teacher also had to act as nurse when children were hurt on the playground, had to know how to keep the fire going in the winter time, and even did a little cleaning on the side.

Miss Sally was born on March 23, 1853, the fifth of seven children, to Amos H. and Mary Ridge Tomlinson Twining. Of Welsh descent, she was born on the old Twining homestead on Twiningford Road, above Richboro. This road was so named because if you wanted to cross the Neshaminy, you had to ford the creek at Twining’s place. This is how many roads in the area got their names, such as Sackettsford, which you forded at Rushland and Stoneyford, in the lower part of the township. (One Northampton old-timer insists that the latter road was named for the Story family, but somehow the spelling was changed over the years.) Miss Sally crossed the fields to the Groveland School for her elementary education and then she attended the Attleborough Academy in Langhorne,



also called the Bellevue Institute. After this she was educated at the State Normal School at Millersville. It is hard to imagine how far away Millersville must have seemed in those days and how courageous this young lady was to attend school so far away. Many women of her generation thought nothing of saddling a horse and riding it to their destination or driving a buggy but those who knew Miss Sally say she was deathly afraid of horses. If her father or brothers were not available to drive her, she walked everywhere she needed to go.

There was one particular dinner table at which Miss Sally was probably talked about more than any other, and that was in the Linford Cornell household.

There were 11 children and Miss Sally taught each and every one of them, even the daughter of the oldest. You can just imagine the little ones listening intently as the older ones told of Miss Sally’s threats to use the red-hot poker from the pot-bellied stove if they didn’t behave. And just imagine knowing that you were going to have that same teacher, not for just one year, as the children do today, but for eight consecutive years. Among the other families she taught were the Fridels, VanArtsdalens, Leedoms, Gills, Brudons, Lennons, Davis’, Rorers, etc.

There are still quite a few of her students living in the Richboro area and most agree she was quite a teacher. She sometimes taught as many as forty children ranging in age from six to sixteen, including first to eighth grades, and always happy to make room for one more. Many of her students remember Miss Sally writing the local news for the Newtown Enterprise and the Wycombe Herald. Much of the news she obtained from the children during class. One such news story was titled, “Sunday Tea at Richboro,” and read as follows: “Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Yeakel gave a five o’clock tea Sunday afternoon. The invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Luff, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Luff, Miss Annie Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gill, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lukens and Ruth Lukens, Mr. and Mrs. William Schiefer, Dr. G. W. and Mrs. Blaker, Mr. and Mrs. Fridel, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, Will Blair.”

Some recall how common it was for Miss Sally to change her clothes in the little cloak closet because her walking clothes would either be dusty, wet or muddy. When the weather was bad in the winter months she often stayed the week with the Gill family below Richboro.

Please turn to page 4

Miss Sally from page 3



**Miss Sally with her class at the Richboro School built in 1913.
In the second row from the front, fourth from the left is Rosana Slack!**

The Twining house looks very much the same today as it did when Miss Sally lived there. It is now within the boundaries of the Tyler State Park, as is the Twining Ford Bridge. Of all the many covered bridges that once spanned the long length of the Neshaminy Creek, this is the only one remaining. (since burned due to arson and replaced)

Miss Sally was a maiden lady, a truly dedicated teacher and a friend to all. She was a Friend in the true sense of the word. She was boarding with the Hageman family in Newtown at the time of her death in 1939 and was laid to rest in the Wrightstown Friends' Burial Grounds beside her brother John, and his wife, Mary Ellen.

More Miss Sally pictures on pages 5 and 6

Betty Luff won second prize in the Bucks County Panorama's Bicentennial contest for this article which originally appeared in the September 1976 issue.



Miss Sally's class in front of Richboro Methodist Church (1906). It was sold in the late 1920's to Davis Brothers and is now the Davis Ponitac showroom. The second girl in the third row from the front is Mrs. Solly.



Copy of a very old and faded picture of Miss Sally and her class in 1899.



The Twining house where Miss Sally was born.. Located on Twiningford Road in Tyler State Park.

RICHBORO YESTERDAY AND TODAY



The Black Bear Hotel that stood on the corner of Second Street Pike and Bustleton Pike was torn down by Jack Frey in the 1950's. The Frey's who had resided in the old hotel as their home replaced it with a rancher where Jack Frey lived until his death. It then served as a William Penn Savings branch and is now the Davis Pontiac used car office.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1999!

Check the mailing label on this HISTORIA. If it does not show "99" your membership is due.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

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

1999 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
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Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
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Social Committee	Doris D'Ardenne	968-5507
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Director	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Send articles to:	1269 2nd St Pike 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 1999

March 24	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 26	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Sept 29	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Nov 17	Dinner Meeting	6:30 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 1999 (January 1999 to December 1999)

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: _____ SINGLE: FAMILY:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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 : _____