



HISTORIA

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

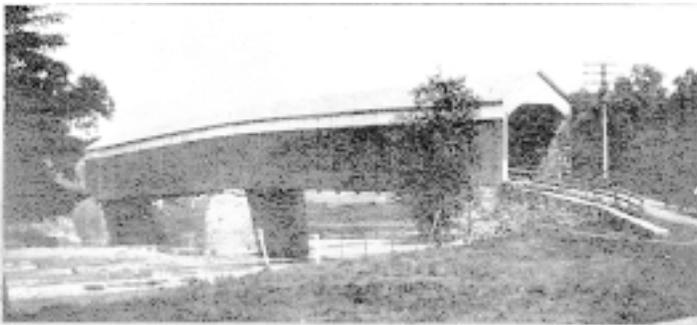
NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY, 1998

POSTCARDS OF BUCKS COUNTY AS PRINTED BY THE ARNOLD BROS. TO BE FEATURED AT OUR MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society will feature a talk by Betty Davis of Wrightstown on "Postcards of Bucks County" as printed by the Arnold Brothers.

Charles and Newton Arnold were noted for their postcards recording the history of Bucks County in pictures. Newton, born in Warminster Township on Hatboro road, became the station agent at the Grenoble railway station and later the Postmaster. Newton and Charles established a printing business in Rushland, which later moved to Northampton Township. Charles ran the business and Newton went on to be the stationmaster at the Roslyn train station. The brothers produced the BUCKS COUNTY VIEWS over a thirty-year period. Views include seven from Northampton Township; the Black Bear Hotel, Chain Bridge, Churchville Station, Dutch Reformed Church, Glimpse of Neshaminy, Grenoble Station and the White Bear Hotel. Ms. Davis was co-author of a book titled "Postcards of Bucks County as printed by the Arnold Bros." She will show the cards using a special projection system and give more details about the colorful history of the Arnold brothers.



23. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS
Arnold Bros., Printers, Rushland, Pa.

"CHAIN BRIDGE," ACROSS THE NESHAMINY.
This bridge was formerly built on piles, hence the name.



1. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS
Arnold Bros., Printers, Rushland, Pa.

GRENOBLE STATION AND POST OFFICE

Two of the many Bucks County Views produced by the Arnold Bros. Chain Bridge on Second St. Pike at the Neshaminy and Grenoble Station, west of Jacksonville Road. Neither structure exists today.

IN THIS ISSUE

- May Meeting - Arnold Bros. Postcards
- Luff tenement house report
- Northampton Open Space Ballot Question
- The Great Cyclone of 1885
- Upcoming Events

OPEN SPACE VOTE MAY 19

See page 6 for the latest information on the ballot referendum. Questions and answers and opposing points of view.

SOCIETY NEWS

Well spring is here but someone forgot the sun! Hopefully by the time we have our meeting we will be out of this mess.

Our paid membership numbers are the best they have been in quite a few years despite the fact that we recently dropped a number of members that have been unpaid since 1995. I would also like to thank those that have contributed more than the suggested amount. We appreciate your support!

This issue includes an article by Roe Blumenthal on the "Luff tenement house." Society members and Architectural Historian, Kathi Auerbach, toured the house before it was torn down. Kathi's report brings out some interesting facts about the house. The Society has the complete report and many pictures of the house inside and out before and during the demolition. I also have preserved some of the beams from the frame section, which confirm Kathi's estimate of the date.

Northampton has an open space ballot question to be decided at the election next Tuesday. I include a township provided fact sheet and the exact language of the ballot question. I am also including an opposing report. You should make a decision on this and cast your vote in the election. If you need more facts check the newspapers which will have stories on this preceding the election.

Betty Luff supplied me with a story on the Great Cyclone of 1885 that visited our township. She tracks the storm through many of the large farms that existed at the time. One thing is for sure - it caused a lot of damage - if the same storm were to happen today it would certainly cause much more due to the increase in population density.

Our meeting on May 20th will feature a very interesting talk on the Arnold Bros. Postcards, Views of Bucks County. It should be a great presentation. I hope to see you there. This is our last meeting until the fall so I wish you all a very nice summer!

Charles J. Coe

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 18** - Historical Society of Southampton
Antique Mortorcycles
Meeting - 7:30 PM 357-2086
- May 20** - Northampton Township Historical Society
7:30 PM
Speaker - Betty Davis - Arnold Bros.
- May 23** - Old School Baptist Meetinghouse
Services - 10:30AM - 2:00PM
- June 28** - Firefighting Day, Mercer Museum
Noon-4 PM
Also Firefighting display Jun 20 - July 5

Stephen G. Luff

Stephen G. Luff, 79, former owner-operator of a Bucks County food market, died April 1, 1998 at his home in Ormond Beach, Fla. Mr. Luff was born in Richboro and graduated from the former Richboro High School. At 19, he became an owner-operator of the Luff & Traub Market at Second Street Pike and Newtown-Richboro Road in Northampton Township, across from the historic Spread Eagle Inn. He sold the business and retired at 55, and about two years later moved to Ormond Beach. A gas station now occupies the market site. Mr. Luff had been a director of the Unity--Frankford Grocers Association, First National Bank & Trust Co. of Newtown, and the Langhorne Building & Loan Association. He was a Mason and a member of the Northampton Township Lions Club. His interests included woodworking, landscaping, crafts and deep sea fishing. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth Luff; daughters Lorraine Leighton, Eileen Shoemaker and Sharon Neamand; two sisters; and seven grandchildren. A memorial gathering was held in Richboro. Burial was private.

Eleanor Tomlinson

Eleanor "Ellie" Luff Tomlinson 88, of Feasterville, a retired elementary school teacher, died April 6, 1998 at Langhorne Gardens Nursing Center. For 22 years before her 1952 retirement, she taught at Penn Valley School in the Bensalem District. Mrs. Tomlinson was born in Richboro and graduated from the former Richboro High School in 1928. She was one of three students who returned to fulfill new standards when high school requirements were changed from three years' attendance to four. She received her degree in elementary education from what is now Temple University in 1930. In 1954, she moved to Feasterville where she was a member of Feasterville Community Reformed Church and served as a Girl Scout troop leader. She also belonged to the women's auxiliary of Soby Post 148 of the American Legion in Langhorne and to the Violet Tennis Club, which was organized in Southampton in 1900. Her husband of 37 years, Cheston G. Tomlinson, died in 1986. She is survived by a daughter Carolyn T. Doyle; a sister; two brothers, and three grandchildren. A viewing was held at the Campbell & Thomas Funeral Home 905 Second Street Pike (Route 232, at Old Bustleton Pike), Richboro. Mrs. Tomlinson was born and married on the property where the funeral home is located. She was born in a 1740 house, which is behind and attached to the funeral home and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Twin Trees. She was married under the "twin trees" on the grounds. She was buried at Union Cemetery, Almshouse Road and Temperance Lane, Richboro. The family suggests contributions to the Arthritis Foundation, Suite 1905, 117 S. 17th St., Philadelphia 19103, or to Feasterville Community Reformed Church, 15 W. Street Rd., Feasterville, Pa. 19053.

Documenting the Demolished Leedom Tenement House

By ROE DeLUCA BLUMENTHAL

It was a sight we've seen too often in Northampton Township: the little stone/frame house at the corner of Bustleton Pike and Upper Holland Road was quickly torn down late last year to make way for a modern new medical office building.

The house, vacant for many years, was listed for sale by the estate of Chalres William Strohmeir with the enticement that the property was zoned commercial.

On November 21, 1997, just before the house was demolished, the developer who acquired the property allowed the Northampton Township Historical Society to tour the house along with architectural historian Kathi Auerbach. Auerbach prepared a report on the architectural features of the house, which dated the house based on physical evidence. Following this visit, a student in Kathi's documentation course at Bucks County Community College, Mary Dieter, prepared a title search documenting the owners of the property. What follows is a description of the site based on their reports.



The Leedom tenement house before it was torn down. The house was built in two stages, each part being two bays wide. The frame portion to the right was dated by architectural historian Kathi Auerbach to be the older of the two, built around 1800. The stone section was added between 1830 and 1850.

Kathi rated the overall condition and integrity of the house as “fair to good,” believing that “the property overall gives a good insight into the modest lifestyle of perhaps an artisan or tradesman, a simple house and wagon house located to take advantage of business garnered from two busy roads.”

Her report noted that “the house is built in two principal sections with an overall presentation of being two and one-half stories high, four bays wide (each section two bays) and one pile deep with a seamed metal gable roof and interior brick end chimneys in each gable. Its principal facade faces south to Upper Holland Road with the west gable end facing Bustleton Pike. The frame eastern half of the house is covered with asbestos shingles, the random fieldstone portion to the west is painted.”

Based on an exterior look at the house, one would assume that the stone section, closest to Bustleton Pike, preceded the frame section. Houses were usually built close to the road, and the western stone section was closest to Bustleton Pike. However, after entering the house and inspecting the architectural features, Kathi realized that this was not the case. She found that the frame section of the house revealed architectural features from the early 1800s, while the stone section clearly showed Greek Revival vernacular elements that were prevalent in the 1840s-1850s. She notes:

“From the brief inspection, and without benefit of archaeology, above and below ground, or historical research, the house seems to have evolved in the following chronology: The frame eastern half may precede the stone west half, the first being built circa 1800, the latter between 1830-50. Precise dating and construction evolution are conjectural as the finish material in the house is stylistically indistinctive and some features enigmatic. All interior doors are board and batten, hand planed with narrow beads on the boards, wide beads on the battens. In the frame half several doors have Norfolk latches, in the stone half they are later cast ones. All construction materials visible-i.e. floor joists, lath, roof rafters-have reciprocating (up and down) saw marks. This is especially interesting as the stone portion has architectural features, including the curved window reveals and stepped fireplace mantle, which were popular circa 1840-50, a time when the circular saw came into general use. It may simply indicate that the local saw mill had not yet updated to the circular saw.”

We now have physical estimates of the dates of the two sections. Turning to the title search, we can then determine who the owners were around these time periods as well as the possible builders of each section.

Please turn to page 4

LUFF TENEMENT HOUSE from page 3

Mary Dieter noted that the site was part of a 281-acre farm purchased on December 3, 1776 by Richard Leedom Sr. from Garret Vanhorn. Leedom, the wealthy innkeeper who owned the Black Bear Inn (demolished in the 1950s), built an upscale stone house across the street from the inn (currently owned by Diane and Scott Thomas).

On October 28, 1811, Leedom sold 44 perches of his property to his son and daughter-in-law, Richard Leedom Jr. and Sarah Twining Cawley Leedom. According to *The Leedom Family by Sara A.L. Eachus (Dorrance & Co., Inc., Bryn Mawr, Pa., 1982)*, a house was located on the property at this time, which appears to confirm that the house was built by 1811. However, Mary notes conflicting information: A map compiled by Virginia Geyer showing Northampton landowners in 1800 shows a house on the property, which she noted on the original Leedom transfer with a note that says "house built in 1814." While the information is conflicting, it still allows us to date the frame portion to between 1800 and 1814.



Architectural historian, Kathi Auerbach, points out evidence that the house probably had courting benches flanking the door on the north side of the stone.

Based on Kathi's report, the stone section of the house, dated to circa 1830-50 could have been built by one of following owners: Jacob Thomas (from 1828-1830); the widow Hannah Fenton and her children, George Logan, Maria Logan and Jane Logan Mason (from 1830-1842); Sarah Fenton, also a widow (1842-1844); wheelwright Isaac Eastburn (1844 to 1849) and Simon Praul (1849-1854). From 1854 to 1856, the property returns to the Leedom name before it is then sold to another wheelwright, Edmund Lefferts.

While it is difficult to determine when, during these years of ownership, the stone section may have been built, it is interesting to note that the cost of the property, while remaining the same amount of land, doubles in price between the 1830 sale to Hannah Fenton (for \$405) and the 1844 sale to Isaac Eastburn (for \$925). For each sale thereafter, the sale price rises at a slower pace. This would appear to date the stone section to between 1830 and 1844, though this is just conjecture on my part. Details of the appropriate deeds would have to be reviewed carefully for additional clues. During this time period, Mary noted that the house is listed as being "part of the message or tenement and plantation of Richard Leedom."

Kathi's report noted that the property's location would make it a perfect site for a tradesman and, as mentioned previously, two wheelwrights owned the property: Isaac Eastburn and Edmund Lefferts. On April 4, 1854, Simon and Rebecca Praul sold the property to Anderson Leedom and the property is listed as "houses, outhouses, stables, buildings, barns." (Could 'houses' mean the two sections of the house, or was there an additional house on the property?)

In her report, Kathi wrote that all that remained on this lot as of last year was the house, a stone-lined well to the south and a two-story frame wagon house to the east along Upper Holland Road.

Or does it? The earlier frame section has no basement or crawl space, but the stone section does. And, upon inspection of the basement, Kathi finds that:

"Most of the features in the basement correspond to the building above, namely the fireplace supports, however the east basement wall sits within the corresponding room space above on the first floor. This may suggest that it was the foundation wall for the west gable end of the frame section, however, it does not seem to be in the proper alignment for that either. Whether it supported the wall of an earlier building or fireplace has not yet been confirmed by any other architectural evidence." This could mean that an earlier building was located on the property around 1800.

As of 1828, three years after Richard Leedom Sr.'s death, the property is listed as being plus or minus two acres that were part of five pieces of land divided up by the sheriff after Richard Leedom Sr.'s death. According to Eachus' *The Leedom Family*, Leedom's second wife, Ann Carvers Lloyd Leedom, wanted money instead of the land and, after six years of court battles (as the family of a deceased son requested that the court include his family in any settlements), this property becomes Lot 1 of the five parcels of land.



A simple fireplace mantel and board-and-batten doors are located in the earlier, Federal portion of this vernacular tenement house.

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LUFF TENEMENT HOUSE from page 4



The wagon house, located on the east side of the main house off Upper Holland Road. Kathi did not inspect this structure closely but noted in the report that it appeared to be in good shape.

Her comments on the well and the wagon house were as follows:

“The stone lined well is located in the 'front yard' of the house, about in line with where the stone and frame sections join. It has no upper housing, just covered with a board. It has the appearance of having a wider diameter than most period hand dug wells. The two-story frame wagon house appears to have good integrity and condition. Its roof peak is in the same orientation as the house, with the wagon doors and hay doors above are located in both the west gable end facing the house and the south eave side along the road. This building was not closely inspected but appeared to have original strap hinges and was not significantly altered.”

Another interesting comment from Kathi was that on the north facade of the stone house, there was evidence of courting benches flanking both sides of the door. She noted that this feature is generally seen on 18th Century houses, citing the Tyler State Park Youth Hostel and on houses in Greenwich, N.J. as examples.

This workman's house, while seemingly indistinctive, had many interesting features that one does not see in a house today. As proof, swarms of people turned out for a sale of household items that took place on a Saturday before the house was torn down. Buyers swooped down on the property early in the morning to claim the numerous items in the house, including the fireplace mantels, andirons, kitchen gadgets, lighting fixtures and clawfoot tub in the upstairs bathroom. Hardware was said to be donated to the Northampton Township Historical Commission, and windows were given to Kathi's husband, John Pivarnik, a carpenter who specializes in restoring historic properties.

A few weeks later, the wrecking ball destroyed the property's remains, and another page was torn out of the physical history book of Northampton Township. Unfortunately for future generations, the township allowed yet another builder to destroy one more relic that tells the story of the people who once graced our historic community.



“...Our Days As Of Old”

**Memorial Day Weekend
Special Meetings
Southampton
Old School Baptist Meetinghouse
May 23, 1998
10:30 AM
2:00 PM**

Special worship services will be held at the historic Southampton Old School Baptist Meetinghouse during Memorial Day weekend, on May 23, 1998. Observing centuries of biblical traditions in these communities, the meetings will consist primarily of a cappella singing (in which the whole congregation will be welcome to participate) and extemporaneous prayer and preaching.

A special invitation is extended to the public to attend these services. The Bible-based worship services will follow essentially the same format of those in the early days of the church - Christ centered, whole family-oriented simplicity.

OPEN SPACE BOND ISSUE

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION ON THE MAY 19TH NORTHAMPTON BALLOT

The following information was received from the Township Manager, Bruce Townsend. It reflects the supervisors' position on the open space plan, which is to vote YES. The Society presents this view and following it the view of the Democratic Party. In presenting this information I hope that you can arrive at a decision and vote in the primary. The question is not necessarily that we should preserve open space. I think we all agree that is a good thing, but how we should fund it? Should monies that apparently are already in reserve be used or should we have a tax increase?

I am writing to you today to alert you to an event that may be of interest to you and to the members of your group and/or association. The subject is the preservation of open space in Northampton Township and every voter in Northampton Township is going to have an opportunity to express their views on the subject in the upcoming primary to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 1998.

On February 28 of this year, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting the Board of Elections to place on the ballot the following question:

"Shall debt in the sum of Five Million (\$5,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of preserving open space within the Township by purchasing land or interests therein, or the rights to develop land, or some of each, be authorized to be incurred as debt approved by the electors?"

The Board of Supervisors has listened to residents and constituents express frustration in the slow but steady disappearance of the farms and open space that were such an aspect of living in Northampton Township. There still remains a significant area within the Township that can and may be developed. Various methods can and have been used to promote the preservation of open space through development controls and regulations, but the most effective method may be public ownership and/or public acquisition of development rights. Such an action must be discussed and decided upon by the voters.

The ballot question asks the voters of the Township of Northampton whether the Township should borrow up to \$5 Million to purchase land or interests in land, including the rights to improve and develop that land, in order to preserve open undeveloped land in the Township of Northampton. In addition to the proceeds of the borrowing, the Township expects to have funds available from Bucks County for the open space program in an amount currently estimated at approximately \$1 Million. The Township would use the money to do one or more of the following:

- 1. Finance the acquisition of open space** The Township would purchase undeveloped land from landowners in the township and would restrict the land from further development.
- 2. Acquire agricultural conservation easements:** The Township would purchase agricultural conservation easements or participate in State or County land preservation programs, which acquire agricultural conservation easements. An agricultural conservation easement prevents a landowner from developing his land but allows the landowner to retain his or her land and use it for farming and other agricultural purposes.
- 3. Acquire transferable development rights:** Under this option, a landowner would sell the development rights in a property to the Township. The landowner would retain the property, but once the development rights are sold, the property could not be developed.

A Vote of "YES" to the ballot question approves borrowing money for these purposes.

Related Issues, Facts and/or Questions:

1. Can the money raised from this bond issue be used for any purpose other than the acquisition of open space and/or development rights?

Answer: No. All money raised from this bond issue would be placed in a special reserve fund that can only be used for the purchase of land and/or development rights for preserving space or to pay off the costs of issuing the bonds.

2. Will the issuance of bonds for this purpose mean an increase in taxes?

Answer: Probably yes. It is expected that a \$5,000,000.00 bond issue will require the payment of \$385,000 annually over the next twenty years for bond retirement, interest and issuance costs. Although there continues to be incremental growth in the Township tax base, the Township Administration does not believe that such growth will be enough to offset this increased cost. Over time, it would be expected that these fixed costs would have less impact but it is likely that initially Northampton taxpayers could be expected to 'shoulder' an additional 3.5 mill increase in real estate taxes for the creation of this fund. This amounts to, by today's standards, \$31.71 to the average homeowner in Northampton Township.

3. What are the benefits of preserving open space and/or precluding development of the remaining open space?

Answer: There are probably many ways to answer this question. Let us focus on two answers. First -- advocates of open space would argue that many of the factors that led most of us to live in Northampton related to the benefits of a mixed-use community i.e., farming, residential, business, industrial, parks, etc. For several years now, there has been a slow but steady disappearance of farmland and open space in Northampton. Not only does this disappearance affect how we view our community but the consequent development helps to add more congestion to roads, public infrastructure (sewers and public water system) and our schools. The cost of this development may lead to the second benefit of preserving open space. Recent studies performed in the Central Bucks School District, Newtown Township and now in development may lead to the second benefit to Northampton Township, suggesting that it actually cost taxpayers more for property to be developed in residences than if it was to be preserved in open space. Recent estimates suggest that the average residence in Northampton Township actually costs taxpayers \$2,392.25 per year more in educational and Township services than the revenue which is derived from the average residence in taxes and user fees.

Please turn to page 8

THE GREAT CYCLONE OF 1885

As Researched by Betty Luff

There was just enough information (acreage and owners) in this Newtown Enterprise article to follow the path of the August 3, 1885 cyclone that ravaged Northampton Township. By referring to the 1876 atlas map, Betty Luff was able to track the path of the cyclone. They were called cyclones then but today we would have called this a tornado. The George Brown home, described as the old parsonage next to the railroad, off Bristol Road is now the home of Society members, John and Florence Leedom. The Richardson farm is the former Weir farm on Almshouse road. This article which is dated August 8, 1885 is being printed verbatim. It is funny to see how articles were written then. Lots of abbreviations and the grammar was less than perfect.

On Monday, Aug. 3, 1885 a cyclone occurred in lower Bucks Co. It went a distance a little over 10 miles and cut a path not more than 200 yds. wide. Began by striking a house in Southampton Twp., then struck a cemetery at Churchville, displacing some of the higher gravestones. Struck a frame house being erected by Harry Stack on Bristol Rd. The house and barn of John Fetter on the same side of the road, also frame, were next. The house was lifted and placed down at a different angle being split in 2 at the center. There was a sick lady inside who was unharmed.

The storm then crossed the Newtown railroad and hit the old parsonage of the church - a long old-fashioned heavy stone house which stands at a point near the RR. The property is owned by Geo. W. Brown, known by the cognomem as "Watty". The cyclone struck it, broke in the windows & tore off all of the roof timber and plates. Most of the household goods were whirled out of the house, and many lost & destroyed. A stove in the attic was carried 75 yds. An out kitchen was demolished, & a cook stove was blown out of it. The barn and outhouses were entirely demolished, leaving a perfect wreck.

Next was the barn of Lambert Cornell - it as a large frame bldg. Filled with hay and grain, wagons and farming equipment. It was blown up and away (Farm belongs to Isiah Delany).

Next struck was at W.H. Yerkes - his wagon house and barn. Crossing "New road" it tore up the woods on the corner of John Brown's farm, and destroyed barn and wagon house, and many chickens.

Crossed the Phila.-Richboro turnpike, destroying several telephone poles. Gilliam Cornell's farm (he's deceased) was next. The farm is occupied by Geo. Baner - storm destroyed barn, stone wall, 2 apple orchards. The corn in the filed was battered to ground, and its top and leaves torn off. A horse was killed.

The storm was now west of the village of Richboro where it hit the property of Wm. Richardson on Almshouse Rd. near the cemetery. The frame end of the stone house was destroyed, with furniture sent flying. His barn, stone wagon house, and hay wagon are gone. It then went over the farm of Thos. Worthington, striking stone house of Lewis Gomedinger, a German, unroofing it and destroying part of the walls.

Thus 6 barns were struck (John Fetter - a lot, Watty Brown - a small farm, Lambert Cornell - 74 acres, John Brown - 49 acres, Gillian Cornell - 86 acres, Wm. Richardson - 80 acres, with the best and largest barn) and 4 houses.



1876 Northampton Township

The path of the cyclone. Richboro town center is the area between Addisville and Richboro P.O. The storm entered the township at Bristol road near the railroad, traveling NNW just to the west of Richboro (Addisville) and finally crossing the Neshaminy just west of the Chain Bridge.

CYCLONE from page 3

It then hit John Winner's, then passed over county rd. with Merchants and bakers telegraph lines — all 22 wires were utterly destroyed. Played havoc with the woods of Mrs Sarah Gill, John Dungan's orchards and hog pens. Passed over 3 farms, then broke off the pine tress standing in front of Mordicai Pearson's house and carried them over the roof, breaking up the roof. Finally it crossed Nesh. Creek out of North. Twp.



SCENES OF THE RUINS AT CHURCHVILLE, BUCKS CO. PA.
AFTER THE CYCLONE, AUGUST 3, 1885. (PROPERTY OF A. S. GILLES, DOYLESTOWN, PA.)

**Scenes of the ruins at Churchville, Bucks County
After the cyclone, August 3, 1885
Photograph by B. Billian, Doylestown**



August 3, 1885 - A cyclone struck the house, breaking windows and tearing off the roof timbers. Household goods were whirled out of the house - the attic heating stove was found 75 yards away. This was the former church parsonage. The church had sold the property in 1873. Now the property of the Leedom's.

BOND ISSUE from page 6

4. How much ground is still left to be developed? Will \$5 to \$6 million be enough to have an impact?

Answer: The current Comprehensive Plan estimates that 15 to 20 percent of the Township still remains as underdeveloped. This means that, when fully developed, Northampton Township could experience further growth at a level of 1,000 to 2,000 more homes and as much as 5,000 more in population. With current real estate values, it is estimated that development rights of 200 to 300 units can be acquired with the bond proceeds and associated grant monies. This would have a significant impact on future growth in Northampton (as much as a 30% decrease in future residential growth).

5. Where in the Township will development rights and/or open space be acquired?

Answer: No sites have been set aside yet for acquisition for obvious reasons. At this time, it would be premature to identify sites prior to discussions with landowners or any certainty of funding. Any and all undeveloped properties are expected to be reviewed and analyzed with relation to the many natural amenities that may exist on each site. It would be the intent of the Board of Supervisors to maximize the impact of the acquisition with the most efficient use of the monies available.

Northampton Democrats reject Republican bond issue

After considering a presentation by Northampton Township manager, Bruce Townsend at the request of the Republican controlled Board of Supervisors, Northampton Democrats have condemned the Republican sponsored \$5 million open space referendum as misleading and an unnecessary additional tax liability on overburdened families.

The Democratic Party reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to preservation of the environment and open space. However, with a \$15 million surplus in Township coffers, the Democrats believe that an additional \$800,000 or \$40 per year tax liability on each household for the proposed bond issue is irresponsible. In its present form the bond issue referendum is misleading. It does not disclose the cost to taxpayers or the amount of space to be acquired and does not provide for a use of the open space. With a \$15 million surplus available, we could have both an open space policy and a reduction of the tax burden on our community rather than an increase.

The Democratic Party also expressed their objection to the use of the bond issues as a political funding tool for the Republican Party at taxpayer expense by awarding lucrative bond placement and legal fees to Republican friends and contributors at taxpayer expense. The supervisors oppose a policy of bond placement with the lowest bidder.

The Northampton Democrats urge voters to save open space but vote "NO" on the bond issue referendum on May 19th.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

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

1998 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Vice President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Secretary	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
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Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
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Director - Past Pres.	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	John Leedom	357-3121
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547
Director	Regina Tisone	860-9819
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 1998

May 20	General Meeting	7:30 PM
September 30	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 18	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 1998 (January 1998 to December 1998)

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: _____

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 : _____