



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1999

## INNS OF BUCKS COUNTY Topic of May Historical Society Meeting



The May meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society will feature a talk on "The Inns of Bucks County", given by Terry A. McNealy. The presentation will include the Black Bear, White bear, Buck Hotel, Temperance House, Court Inn, Dublin Inn, King George, and many other forgotten Bucks County Inn's. Mr. McNealy served as the librarian of the Bucks County Historical Society for 23 years. During that time he managed several major acquisitions of historical materials at the library, including large collections of archives transferred from the Bucks County Courthouse. He has written or edited numerous publications published by the society on historical topics. He has also written for other publications such as the Bucks County Panorama and the Bucks County Town and Country Living Magazine. He continues to assist in the Spruance Library's efforts to document Bucks County history, and to write on various aspects of local history.

The meeting will start with at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Northampton Township Cultural/Senior Center, adjacent to the library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Visitors are always welcome. Please plan to join us for a great program.



Top to Bottom, Left to Right - Court Inn, Newtown;  
Dublin Inn; Temperance House,  
Newtown; Spread Eagle, Richboro

This is the 30th issue of the HISTORIA published by the Northampton Township Historical Society  
Back issues are available on the Internet at:

[www.crompton.com/bucks](http://www.crompton.com/bucks)

**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

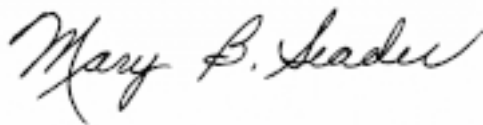
I just got back from a delightful lunch with Doris D’Ardenne. She looks wonderful and is getting around quite well with the walker, wheel chair, and her own two feet. She is as effervescent and optimistic as ever. She hopes to see everyone at the next meeting. She will be leaving for her granddaughter’s graduation at the end of the month.

During the last month my husband and I were able to meet with Bruce Townsend to discuss the fate of the stone building of the Richboro School. “Zoning wise” the property is still listed as institutional and not commercial. The zoning would need to be changed to accommodate its proposed use. Northampton Township is most concerned with the egress and access to this property. As of May 6<sup>th</sup> the status of the property had not changed.

I dashed off a letter to the President of Commerce Bank and he forwarded my letter to Mr. Michael Mathey. He is the Pennsylvania Marketing Manager for Commerce Bank. We have been playing phone tag for weeks – everyday we try to make contact but have not so far.

Matt Heist was kind enough to allow me to attend the Historical Commission meeting in April. The future of the stone school building was discussed with the commerce bank lawyer, Mr. Thomas Hecker. Commerce bank is aware of the sentiment of the community and the Historical Commission regarding the school.

Our next meeting, Wednesday, May 26, 1999 will feature Mr. Terry A. McNealy, a contributing writer for the Bucks County Town and Country Living magazine. He will be discussing the Inn’s of Bucks County. Please plan to attend our May meeting and bring a friend! See you there!



**MEMBERSHIP IS DUE!! CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF IT DOES NOT SHOW ‘99’ YOU ARE PAST DUE!**

**TYLER GARDEN RESTORATION**

As you may or may not be aware, the Historic Preservation Program at Bucks County Community College is beginning the restoration of the formal gardens behind Tyler Hall. It is our intention to revive these gardens to their 1930’s Colonial revival status. This will be accomplished by students in the Preservation program, volunteers and garden club members and will be ongoing until the completion of the project. These people will also maintain the site in future years. The original landscape plan is being utilized, and further research about the gardens is ongoing.

We would like to form a partnership with interested individuals or groups as the restored gardens will benefit and enhance the entire community. We welcome you to participate in any capacity. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kathi Knight at (215)968-8356 or the Historic Preservation Office at (215)968-8286/Fax: (215)968-8489.

Sincerely, Lyle L. Rosenberger  
 Director of the Historic Preservation Certificate Program

*“Gardening is a craft, a science and an art. To practice it well requires the enthusiasm of the true amateur, and the understanding of the student.”*

Louise Bush-Brown, James BushBrown, America’s Garden Book, 1952.



**Bob Berhard giving a talk on miniatures at our March meeting.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**May 29-30 - Tyler Park Spring Craft Fair**

**June 21- Historical society of Southampton  
 Summer social meeting**

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!  
 SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!!**

# THE MYSTERY OF THE TOMBSTONE

By Betty Luff

In Early February 1999 a tombstone was found just off of Tapeworm road in the northern part of the township. On it was inscribed "MARTHA wife of Jacob Krewson, Jr., died 1895 at age 75 years." Since Krossan, Krewson, and Krusen have always been well known family names in Northampton Township, I searched the local cemeteries but found no MARTHA.



**The Krewson Tombstone found by a contractor while digging on Tapeworm road**

I remembered a poem from the book "People, Places, and Things", by Janice S. Williams, published for the 1983 Tricentennial of Newtown Township. It was illustrated by Edith Berry. (*The poem "Go-between" can be found on page 4 of this HISTORIA*). I was able to find a James Krewson in Newtown, who had a wealth of information on the Krewson lineage and also has the Christopher Krewson chest that was found in Florence Herzog's attic. He had records of Martha Iliff, who came by prairie schooner with her mother when she was twelve years old from Zanesville, Ohio, who later married Jacob Krewson.

He told me that Jacob Krewson Sr. was born in 1797 and married Elizabeth Johnson. Their son, Jacob Jr. was born in 1822 and in 1846 married Martha. They were buried at Cheltenham Church Cemetery, but for some reason their bodies were moved to Lawnview Cemetery in 1919.

There are many Krewsons in the Rockledge area and I was lucky enough again to reach two great-great-grandchildren of Martha's, who told about the Krewson family owning a nursery/landscaping farm at Church and Cottman for three generations. They remember seeing for many years, as children, the monuments of Jacob, Martha, son James and his wife Elizabeth, leaning against the barn at this farm. Years later, the nursery farm was sold to be developed and this is when the stones disappeared. Apparently the bodies were moved but the family never got around to moving the monuments.

I am still waiting to hear if Martha's descendants would like to claim her stone and wonder if maybe there could still be three more Krewson stones to be uncovered on Tapeworm road.



**The "Poli" farm at Jacksonville and Bristol road is destined to become yet another retirement community. Late word is that the fate of the house is up in the air. Shortly after these pictures were taken the shutters were removed. An ominous sign? The house is "supposedly" historic... Says one of our historically sensitive supervisors!**

# GO-BETWEEN OF THE OLDE BLUE

'Twas at the sewing circle  
I first heard  
About the olde faded blue chest.  
It stood in an attic for years.  
Just an olde blue chest.  
I wasn't impressed  
Until we opened it  
And took a closer look or two...  
For then a secret hiding place  
Came into view.

Kruesen.... yes Krusen  
Was the name on the letters,  
One prominent in local history.  
I knew of a family by that name  
Who'd worked on their family tree,  
And all it's mystery.  
I thought that day of the family  
And wondered about a connection.  
As I mentioned it to my friend,  
I made a suggestion and found no objection.

So that how it came about,  
That I was the go-between  
When the secrets came out.  
Papaers and letters Found in the olde blue chest  
Were passed on you needn't doubt.  
Do we stop to think how difficult,  
Discouraging, time consuming is the search  
To discover names or dates in musty libraries,

Graveyards, or records of a Church?  
Yes I am happy to say I was the go-between,  
And the stories completed came out.  
The Civil War soldier added to the puzzle  
With incidents he told about.  
'Twas this man name Christopher who wrote  
(with love) to his dear Lib.  
He spoke of pay, children at home,  
How life became death  
As sabre pierced a rib

President Lincoln and Gen. McClellan too  
Saw Christopher as he appeared in review.  
On his cavalry horse he often rode  
Knee deep in mud,  
And swam the waters too.  
He encamped near Washington,  
His letter packets tell the tale  
Of happiness, homesickness,  
And ask Lib not to scold  
When next she sends him mail.

But now.....  
For the happy ending  
(I'll bet you never guessed).  
It's at the living Kruesen's home  
The olde blue chest now rests.  
And tucked away  
In that very secret place inside  
Are letters from a soldier

**The actual go-between was Florence Herzog. The chest was found in her Richboro home. It now abides in Newtown with Christopher's descendants.**



## OLD RICHBORO SCHOOL

**The developers were made aware that the community wants the old school saved but unless there is some real community outcry it is doubtful we will prevail!**

## CRAVEN HALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY THIRD ANNUAL ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL NIGHT

**Friday, June 11th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Bring treasures from your attic and have expert antique appraiser / auctioneer Barry S. Slosberg of the 4th generation Philadelphia firm Barry S. Slosberg Inc. orally appraise objects for \$6 each or 3 for \$15; limit 3 individual objects. A lecture simultaneously will be given on "Buying Antiques and Looking for Fakes" by local antique dealer and lecturer Lew Larson; lecture is open to all paid appraisal participants.

Craven Hall is located at Newtown and Street Roads in the former Village of Johnsville, Warminster Township. For information call (215) 675-4698. All proceeds benefit the preservation and resotration of the hisotric Craven Hall.



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PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

WEBSITE: <http://www.crompton.com/bucks> EMAIL: [nths@crompton.com](mailto:nths@crompton.com)

## 1999 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
Membership	Fred Holzwarth	357-4899
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
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

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 : \_\_\_\_\_