



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2001

## MORE POSTCARDS OF BUCKS COUNTY TOPIC OF OUR MARCH MEETING

Betty Davis, a resident of Wrightstown Township, will give a presentation on Postcards of Bucks County at our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Betty made a great presentation to us a number of years ago and this will be a continuation of her earlier talk. Betty is a member of the Washington Crossing Card Collectors Club, and she has collected cards for over 50 years.

Betty is a member of the Wrightstown Township Historical Commission and co-author of The Postcards of Bucks County, as printed by the Arnold Brothers, published in 1980. She is also co-author of the History of Wrightstown Township, published in 1992. Plan to attend this excellent presentation at our March meeting.



103. BUCKS COUNTY (P.A.) 1918'S  
Arnold Bros., Printers, Richboro, Pa.

RICHBORO STORE AND POST OFFICE.  
W. E. Lakren, P. M. P. O. established 1830.



### SPREAD EAGLE HEADED TOWARDS RESTORATION !

After years of hard work by the Northampton Township Historical Society to save the Spread Eagle Inn, it looks like our efforts may finally pay off. Last month, Hovnanian Inc., a developer who will be building on the Ricklitis property off of Jacksonville road (HISTORIA November 1995), gave \$170,000 towards historic preservation in the township, \$25,000 of which is earmarked for the Spread Eagle Inn. On Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> it was announced that Toll Brothers, another prime developer in the township, would be donating \$400,000 to the Spread Eagle restoration effort.

A committee has been formed to publicize and raise additional funds and has been meeting every two weeks at the township building. We have also established a web page ([www.savethespreadeagle.com](http://www.savethespreadeagle.com)) where information on meetings and fund raising activities will be available. The Inn will be moved on its own property. An exact location has not yet been decided. Although a definite use has not yet been established, it is hoped that a retail activity, like a Starbucks would occupy the first floor, with offices on the second. If you would like to help in this effort please contact Mary or visit our web page and send us email. We need all the help we can get.

### RICHBORO SCHOOL LIKELY TO STAY

The public and the Northampton Township supervisors made it very clear to the developers of the Richboro School property at the March 14<sup>th</sup> supervisors meeting that they wanted the old school to remain and not be moved. The developer has applied for an extension and will likely submit another plan at a future date. It does appear though that the school will stay where it is and wait for a developer to utilize it in place. This along with the latest Spread Eagle developments and the façade easement, which the planning commission is working on, will go a long way to preserving what we have left in downtown Richboro. THANK YOU historical society members for your help and support throughout the years to make this happen! Making your voice heard does help!

**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

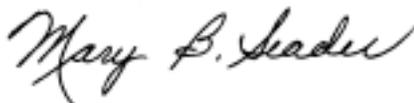
Dear Members,

Welcome back to our first meeting of 2001. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays with family, hearth, and home. I was able to make a few new recipes, but there wasn't enough time to finish projects or even make a dent in my stash of books. Maybe this year during spring break

One of the benefits of living in Bucks County is the opportunity to visit the Philadelphia Flower Show. This year three of my daughters and I trudged down for a quick run through, before the "storm of the century" unfurled its fury. – the storm that never delivered. Every year I check out the new flowers, the landscape ideas, and make lists of what I would like to put in. Since I live under 100 foot trees, our house usually sparkles with Hosta and Impatiens. The flower show gets you ready for the kaleidoscope of spring.

Since our last meeting the future of the Spread Eagle Inn has been the subject of quite a few township meetings. Several developers have donated substantial funds for its moving and refurbishing. The township is forming a preservation foundation, and a group of interested citizens have been meeting to find ways to bring in more funds. Several members of our society are members of this group. At our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Doug will give you an update.

**Please don't forget that your membership is due!! Bill will be at the meeting to renew your membership or use the renewal form at the back of this HISTORIA. THANK YOU!**



**RICHBORO SCHOOL REUNION**

Did you or your parents attend the old Richboro School between 1923 and 1946? If so you are invited to a grand reunion on Friday, May 25, 2001 from 12:30 to 5 PM, at the Northampton Valley Country Club. Over 200 invitations have been mailed, and we are hoping for a good attendance.

The last class to graduate from the Richboro High School was in 1946. After that the seventh graders and above went to the newly formed Council Rock High School. Students from later years are also invited to attend.

If anyone who ever attended the Richboro School is interested but did not receive an invitation, please contact Emma Walker Worthington, at 38 Sycamore Road, Levittown, PA, 215-943-0108.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 27**

How to find your immigrant ancestors home  
Mercer Museum course - 8:30 PM  
215-345-0210

**March 28**

Northampton Township Historical Society  
General Meeting - Post cards of Bucks  
County - 7:30 PM

**March 29 - April 11 - April 26**

Save the Spread Eagle Committee meetings  
Township building - 7:30 PM  
[www.savethespreadeagle.com](http://www.savethespreadeagle.com)

**March 31**

Early American Craft Demonstration  
Dog Sledding - Mercer Museum 2-4 PM

**March 31**

Behind the scenes at Fonhill. Explore the  
Back passages. 7-9 PM every 15 minutes  
215-348-9461 Ext. 10

**April 21 and 22**

Bucks County Hearth and Home Show  
BCCC, Newtown PA - 10 AM - 5 PM  
215-968-8469 - [www.bucks.edu/hearthome](http://www.bucks.edu/hearthome)

**April 28**

Spread Eagle Cleanup and Rally  
9 AM at the Spread Eagle

**Warwick Historical Society  
Encampment 2002**

Plans are underway for the celebration of the  
225th anniversary of the Campaign of 1777.  
Volunteers and participants are needed. For  
further information call 215-345-6439

# THE CORNELL CLAN

By Betty Cornell Luff

It is recorded that the first Dutch settler to arrive in this country was Gulliaume Cornele who purchased a plantation at Flatbush, Long Island in 1658. His grandson, Giliam, son of Pieter, came to Northampton Township with the stream of Dutch settlers who ventured south in the early 1700's in search of fertile land. In 1862, five generations later, Linford Fenton Cornell was born to Jesse and Esther Yerkes Fenton Cornell on a farm half way between Richboro and Churchville.

Since the Dutch Reformed Church played such an important part in the lives of these Holland Dutch families, we presume that probably Linford knew the Barcalow family all his life. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Banns Barcalow on December 23, 1885, most likely at her parent's farm on Stump Road, just below Churchville. Jacob's mother, Eleanor (Hogeland) Barcalow had inherited this farm from her family who were large landowners in the Feasterville area.



**Edith Berry print of the Tanyard Road house.**

Linford and Lizzie took up farming on Tanyard Road, near Richboro, renting the 86 acre homestead which his father had bought from Gillian Cornell, who purchased it in 1848 for \$5600. Linford's father, Jesse, had retired and lived in Churchville but on the way to a funeral in March 1895, he was run over by a milk wagon in Philadelphia. Linford purchased the farm from his stepmother for \$8200.

This is the farm where Linford and Lizzie raised all eleven of their children. When their son, Horace, married Elcie Bennett in 1921, they took over the farm where Horace lived his entire life, over 80 years.

Grandmother Cornell organized a family reunion each summer, combining the Barcalows and Cornells. As was her custom, the minister's family and the doctor's family were included. When the children married, they took turns holding the reunions at their farms until the 1930's, after which they were held at the Carson Simpson Grove on Davisville Road.

My father, John Banns Cornell, was born in 1889, the second of eleven children born to Linford and Lizzie Cornell on the Tanyard Road farm. Oh, how I wish I had been more inquisitive when I was younger; then I would have had many more stories to write about today. He did tell me a little about Miss Twining and the one room school, and that he only attended in winter months when he wasn't needed at home. The older children would tell stories about how strict Miss Twining was and the younger ones knew she would also be teaching them some day.



**Cornell homestead on Tanyard road, 1972, Elcie and Horace Cornell owners. Barn and Pond are no longer there.**

Dad also told about how hard it was to keep this many children in shoes. The town boys could never get over how he could walk in the rough cornfields bare-footed. One of my treasured photos is of my grandmother with her young ones all bare-footed, sitting on a flat wagon.

I have written a story about my childhood which I intend to hand down to my children, but my days were so much easier than my Dad's generation. Sometimes I feel the days of my parents were happier, even with the trials and struggles that their generation had to survive. I regret that more of their stories were not preserved.



**Elizabeth Barcalow Cornell and seven of her children - 1910  
Esther, Reba, Hogeland, Bess, Alice, Lilian, Linford.**



**Linford Fenton and Elizabeth Barcalow Cornell and family celebrating christening of daughter, Lilian Yerkes Cornell, 1908.**



**Cornell - Barcalow reunion at homestead on Tanyard road, 1913.**

**Back row, ninth from left, John Baines Cornell, age 24, Betty Luff's father, third from right, Jesse Cornell, age 27, the oldest. Second from back row, first on left, Horace Cornell, who was born and died in the Tanyard Road house. Seventh from left, Margaret Weiss Cornell, Betty Luff's mother. Third from back row, second from left, Elizabeth Emma Barcalow Cornell, age 49, Betty Luff's grandmother, Johns mother, with Linford in front, her youngest of eleven, age 4. Sixth and seventh from left, Isacc and Mariah Bennett. Front row, fourth from right, Elizabeth Banes Cornell, age 10 - now Bess Ivins, she will be the oldest attending the Richboro School reunion. She graduated in 1923.**



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

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

## 2000 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Janet O'Neill	355-2107
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. Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available at our web page.

### Meeting Dates for 2001

March 28	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 23	General Meeting	7:30 PM
September 26	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 14	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 2001 (January 2001 to December 2001)

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 : \_\_\_\_\_