



HISTORIA

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2003

JOIN US AT OUR MAY MEETING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION WITH ROBERT OGLE



Robert Ogle of Kintnersville, Bucks County, will join us at our May meeting to talk about historic preservation and why it is important. Robert is adjunct faculty and program development director of the Bucks County Community College Historic Preservation Program. At the University of Kentucky, he served as a research assistant at the Center for Historic Architecture and Preservation and is a candidate for a Masters in Historic Preservation.

In 2001 Robert received the Historic Preservation Award granted by BCCC, and in 2003, was recipient of the Albert and Associates Prize awarded by the University of Kentucky.

Currently, Bob and his wife Jennifer are restoring the 1830's era John Overpeck Farm on secluded Fire Line Rd. in Durham. This is the fifth house he has restored and preserved.

Bring a friend, and plan to join us for an interesting and informative evening on Wednesday May 21 at 7:30 PM.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT THE WILLET-KNIGHT HOUSE May 3 – 4, 2003

The first NTHS sponsored archaeological dig was held at the Willet-Knight House, Clyde Cobb's home in Feasterville, the weekend of May 3 and 4, 2003. After two rain cancellations last October, the weather was perfect!

Vivian Braubitz, professional archaeologist, and Mike Tomkins, historical researcher, both donated their time and expertise to create a marvelous weekend for all those who attended. Nine children arrived at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning to two prepared 5' x 5' excavation units, which had been laid out after the area had been probed. Initial probing indicated a strong possibility that we would find the foundation of a third building which once stood on the property.

Please turn to page 3

NTHS SPONSORS THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL PRESERVATION WEEK POSTER CONTEST

National Preservation Week was observed May 5-9, 2003. This year's theme was "Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside."

To support and celebrate historic preservation, the Historical Society offered its third annual Preservation Week Poster Contest to elementary age children living in Northampton Township.

Posters were selected that emphasized an historical and environmental perspective in preserving the essence of our cities, suburbs, and countryside. Awards will be presented to the winning students at our May 21st meeting

Jillian Mann of Hillcrest Elementary School won Division B (4th - 6th grade). Derik Insinger of Rolling Hills Elementary was the winner of Division A (K — 3rd grade). Second place was awarded to Taylor Flanagan of Hillcrest Elementary.

A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. George Komelasky for donating the prizes for this contest.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I have just had a very exciting and interesting weekend at Clyde Cobb's home, the Willet-Knight House in Feasterville. NTHS sponsored its first archaeological dig for area youngsters. We had nine boys and girls participating in the search for a lost foundation. Special thanks must be extended to Vivian Braubitz and Michael Tomkins who shared their expertise and donated their time to make this event a big success. We are grateful to Clyde for allowing us to use his beautiful property for this educational experience.

The first memorial dinner to be held in honor of Fred Holzwarth's father, Frederick M. Holzwarth, Sr., will be held at the Northampton Township Country Club on June 4th. Mark your calendars, and be sure to send in your reservation if you have not yet done so.

Because National Historic Preservation Week is celebrated in May, we need to think about preserving our environment as well as buildings. The Bucks County Planning Commission and the Bucks County Conservation District submitted a joint application to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry for sponsorship of the Forest Legacy Program. As a sponsor of this federally-funded program, Bucks County will promote the preservation of privately-owned forested property in special areas of the county. Ultimate preservation takes the form of conservation easement held by the county, much in the same manner as the Agricultural Land Preservation of municipal open space programs. Property owners wishing to participate in the federal program should contact sponsors for coordination with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry review board.

A reminder to share your favorite recipes with us for inclusion in a NTHS cookbook. A form is included in this issue of HISTORIA.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our May 21st meeting. Come hear Bob Ogle share his experiences with historic preservation. Don't forget to renew your membership for 2003!

Have a wonderful, relaxing, and healthy summer!

Debbie Glessner

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21 - 7:30 PM

Northampton Township Historical Society
General Meeting - Historic Preservation - Bob Ogle

June 4 - 6 PM

First Annual Fred Holtzworth Sr. Dinner
Northampton Country Club

Lectures at the

DAVID LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Free and open to the public Reservations required
215-493-6776 or dlar@dlar.org

May 29 (7:30 pm) Dr. Craig W. Horle

"Without Society, Amongst Barbarians: The Allen Family of Northampton and Philadelphia in the Revolution"

June 12 (7:30 pm) Prof. Judy L. VanBuskirk

"Gentlemen at War: Civility and Conflict in Revolutionary New York"

MERCER MUSEUM

Bucks County Historical Society Events

Bus Trip with the Friends of

The Bucks County Historical Society

Wednesday, June 11

Bus leaves the Mercer Museum parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Return by approximately 6:00 p.m. Join the Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society on guided tours of two cultural treasures in Delaware. . . Tickets are \$55 per person (\$50 BCHS members) and include transportation, lunch and admissions. Tickets are limited and available until May 22, 2003. For information, call 215-345-0210, ext. 15.

Fonthill's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration

Friday, July 4

Noon-5 p.m., Fonthill

Experience "the good-old-days" as Fonthill re-creates an early 20th century July Fourth Celebration. Festivities include a decorated bike parade, pony rides, a town ball game (19th century baseball), a watermelon eating contest and free old-time games. Enjoy live music, Phaydeaux's Fabulous Flying Flea Circus and debate a "woman's right to vote." Food available or bid on a picnic basket. Admission is \$3 adults (\$2 BCHS members), \$1 children ages 6-17 and free for those under 6.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG from page 1

Mike started the activity by first walking the children around the exterior of the house, pointing out features and giving a brief history of the property. Vivian then gave an explanation of archaeological basics, and taught the children how to read soil samples and keep excavation unit record sheets.

The children were then divided among the two sites and a midden heap. Because the top layers of a site are called the “occupation level,” it wasn’t long before excited cries were heard as the children uncovered shards of pottery, glass, and other types of artifacts. Artifacts were bagged and labeled according to the soil type. When the soil type changed, new bags were started for artifacts unearthed in that soil level. Mike and Vivian reminded all of us to take the soil down layer by layer, keeping the sites level. The reason for this was so that when we hit a new soil level, we could start a new record sheet.

The children regulated themselves and moved from job to job, site to site. Some dug, some screened, some dumped dirt, some kept records. By the end of the first day, we had located numerous pieces of glass and pottery, but no signs of the foundation. All were eagerly looking forward to returning on Sunday.

On Sunday, Mike and the children probed to see if we could pinpoint where we should focus our digging for the day, in hopes of uncovering the foundation of the third building.

Vivian asked for volunteers to start washing artifacts and explained that all artifacts found in a specific soil level must continue to be kept together. The washing proceeded all day, with every child taking a turn. Even then, not all the artifacts were cleaned.

Digging proceeded, and fewer artifacts were found since we had progressed below the “occupation level.” Two of the more interesting things uncovered on Sunday were a fork and a figurine of a female, minus the head.

After lunch, since we still had found no traces of the foundation, Mike and Vivian allowed the children to dig deeply and not focus so much in taking the soil down by layers. There was still no trace of the foundation. By 2:30 p.m. we had to start refilling the excavation sites. All was accomplished with the muscle power and enthusiasm of the participants, and Clyde said the property looked nicer when we finished than it did when we arrived.

The participants included Emily Brzozowski, Catherine Edwards, Amanda Supplee, and Brandon Vilsmeier from Hillcrest Elementary; Michael and Jennifer duBreuil from Wrightstown Elementary; Morgen Gregory from Trevoise; Abby Wassum and Alexandra Zubak from Newtown; and Sarah Tomkins from Holland.

NTHS has been invited by Clyde to organize another dig and continue to search for the foundation.



Amanda Supplee and Jen duBreui screen the dirt for artifacts.



Vivian explains arcaeology to the students.



Mike and Sarah Tompkns, Debbie Glessner, and Michael duBreui digging the occupation layer.

TWIN TREES

by Jean B. Luff

In 1779, a mansion and a stone barn were built by Richard Leedom, Sr. who owned and lived in Leedom's Tavern at that time. This tavern was later called the Black Bear Tavern, which was located at the corner of Second Street Pike and Bustleton Pike. This property is now owned and occupied by Davis Pontiac.

Besides the mansion and stone barn, there was also a wagon house, smoke house, grainery, and a relief station at the end of the walk. The house also served as a store and the town's first post office for many years. There was a water tank on top of the roof; water was pumped to the tank by a gasoline engine. The pullies to pump the water are still in the house.



It is not known when the two buttonwood trees were planted in the side yard or when the pair of horse chestnut trees were planted in the front yard. These trees gave the property the name Twin Trees.

My father had three brothers. One died young, leaving Horace and Alfred H. Their farms were all located within a block of Second Street Pike and Holland Rd. Mother's great-grandfather, Jacob Johnson, had a farm across the Newtown Road, which is now the Northampton Valley Golf Club.

It wasn't until after they were married that Mother realized how many Luffs there were. They lived in Ivyland, Wrightstown, Richboro, Newtown, Holland, and Churchville. All owned farms except for George who lived in Newtown.

About 1915, my father purchased a Republic truck which was used to pull the Richboro Fire Company's pumper. This eliminated having to use horses which Dad sometimes supplied.

By this time, two children had arrived, Eleanor and Horace. It was around the end of World War 1 (1918) that Herbert and I arrived at Twin Trees.

In the basement of the house was a cold cave where perishables were stored. Another interesting thing about the house was a set of steps in the attic, which led up to the roof. We called it an escape hatch. I remember that we kids would go down into the cellar to the cold cave and make up scary stories to send visiting friends dashing upstairs. The same thing would happen when we showed them the escape hatch in the attic.

One day in October, when Dad was coming home to Richboro from Newtown, he picked up a man walking along the road. Dad asked the man if he was looking for work, and he said he was. Since it was corn-husking time, Dad hired Frank. He stayed with us for twenty-one years, and he was never older than 39!

We observed the working of the minds of four men in May 1936 when our barn was struck by lightning at 2 o'clock in the morning. One man went for the cows, another went for the horses, one went for the truck, and the fourth one went up into the barn for machinery. No one knew what the other was going to do. Many said they would never forget that night because the fire lit up the whole town of Richboro.

Jack Frey was the only constable in the township. I remember him standing at the bottom of our front yard every Saturday stopping the cars that didn't stop for the stop sign at the corner of Second Street Pike. It wasn't long before word was out to beware of that corner. Jack also built a machine shop next to the hotel where I spent two years working a spindle machine.

People today ask what we did for entertainment. We made our own entertainment. Families would get together for a social evening at the Farmer's Club. A group of young people who liked to ride horses put on a rodeo at the Harry Wilson Farm in 1944. This was a time when people couldn't go far because of gas rationing. Twin Trees Farm was not at a loss for a place to supply fun for the community, especially for the young people. In the back of our barn, there was a hill that was well occupied in the winter when it snowed. Not only was there sledding and skiing, there were also campfires for doggie roasts and evening hymn sings. I even remember one summer night when we had a square dance in our barn.

My parents belonged to the Violet Tennis Club, which formed in 1900 in Southampton. We have reunions three times a year.

During World War II, there were airplane watch stations around the area, and would go over to Newtown to spot planes.

One last event, which is a fitting close, was held in our side yard; it was my sister, Eleanor's wedding to Cheston Tomlinson.

Twin Trees is now the Campbell - Thomas Funeral Home.

Frederick W. Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute Dinner

The first annual tribute dinner in memory of Frederick W. Holzwarth, Sr., the father of former NTHS membership chairman, Fred Holzwarth, will be held at the Northampton Country Club on Wednesday, June 4th, 2003 at 6 PM.

An actor from Philadelphia's American Historical Theater will portray Abraham Lincoln in keeping with Fred's lifelong passion for the Civil War. The program will start during dessert and will run for approximately 1 hr.

All members are invited to join us free of charge for this enjoyable evening. A cash bar will be available.

Non-members are welcome for a charge of \$30.00 per person.

Be sure to send in your reservation to Pat Komelasky by May 20th.

Member's Name _____
Address _____

Number of Members Attending ____ (Free)
Names _____

Number of Guests attending (non-members)
@ \$30 per person _____
Names: _____

RSVP by May 20, 2003 to:

Pat Komelasky
42 Larch Circle, Holland, Pa. 18966
(215-355-0649)

ALMA T. PADE obituary

Longstanding NTHS member Alma Treichel Pade, age 85, passed away on April 15, 2003, at Attleboro Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Langhorne.

Alma was a former employee of Rohm and Haas and a charter member of Northampton Township Women's Club. She was married to the late Adolph Pade for 42 years.

Contributions in her memory can be made to Good Shepard Lutheran Church, Street and Churchville Rds. Southampton, PA. 18966.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! NORTHAMPTON DAYS COMMITTEE

NTHS will be sponsoring a booth at the annual Northampton Days celebration in Richboro on Sunday, September 14, 2003. We need members to volunteer both on the committee to plan the NTHS displays as well as to work at our booth. If you are interested, please sign up at the membership table at our May 21st meeting or call Mary Seader at 215-355-4467.

RICHBORO SCHOOL REUNION

A second grand reunion of the Richboro High School is being planned by the reunion committee. It will be held on Friday, May 23, 2003 at the Northampton Township Country Club. If you, or anyone you know attended the old 1913 stone school between 1923 and 1953, please make sure the committee has an address. Contact Emma Walker Worthington at 215-943-0108

SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION! SECRETARY NEEDED!

Due to her responsibilities as president of ASID, Linda Daly will not be able to serve as NTHS's secretary as of September 2003. Thank you, Linda, for your service this past year, and good luck to you as president of ASID.

We are sending out a call to our membership for an individual to serve as secretary. This requires attendance at four board meetings and four general membership meetings, and recording minutes for those meetings. It also requires keeping a permanent record of all minutes as well as handling correspondence generated by action taken by the organization. The position is for one year (November to November), and is subject to renewal for two more one-year terms contingent on the candidate's willingness to continue service.

PLEASE consider volunteering to help. NTHS needs you!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2003 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Debbie Glessner	215-357-2449	dglessner2@comcast.net	PA Relay 800-654-5988
Vice President	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	RJSTioga@cs.com	
Secretary	Linda Daly	215-598-3345	LJDalyasid@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net	
Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	215-355-6399	dianerealtor@enter.net	
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Director	Jean Gallagher	215-357-7833		
Director	Sydell Gross	215-322-5547		
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 2003

May 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM	Sept. 17	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 19		Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM		

Board Meetings will be held on August 19 and October 21. Members are welcome. Locations to be announced.

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 2003 (January 2003 to December 2003)

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: _____ SINGLE: FAMILY:

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 welcomed : _____