



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2005

## CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAYS OF THE PAST AT OUR MAY MEETING

HOW MEMORIAL DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN THE 1920's and 1930 's



**Memorial to Past Veterans presented by Student Council President Charles Fromuth and unveiled after the 1928 Memorial Day parade. Edna Search Cornell poses at the memorial in 1933.**

**By Betty Cornell Luff**

On Wednesday evening, May 18, 2005, we will be viewing bits and pieces from many old 16mm movie rolls dating as early as 1926, which were taken by Harry Feaster Gill.. This meeting is being held at the North and Southampton Reformed Church, in Churchville.

Harry was born in 1887, the son of Jonathan Alva and Laura Feaster Gill. His mother was the daughter of Captain David and Mary Feaster of the well known family associated with the Feaster-Hageman Cemetery on Middle Holland Road. Harry took over his father's 108 acre farm on Bustleton Pike between Upper Holland Road and Lower Holland Road, now the Spring Valley Development. His former home was on Carmelita Drive.

Harry was Northampton's tax collector for many years and he is also remembered, along with his brother, J. Alva, as the founders of Gill Brothers, (oil and coal), a fixture in Churchville for many years.

We will see Richboro School's wonderful Memorial Day parades when every school child marched through town and brought bouquets of flowers from home to place on the graves at the Richboro Cemetery. This writer remembers when this was the first day every year to get out and wear our white shoes and dresses.

Retiring President of the Student Council, Charles Fromuth is seen in front of the old stone school presiding over a Memorial Day program and we see the unveiling of a gun which had been cemented and permanently fixed on the school's front lawn. It remained there for many years, as shown by accompanying picture with my sister posing on it.

We will see a parade coming down Second Street Pike from the North, this is the day they celebrated the opening of the new fire house at the intersection of Second Street Pike and Newtown--Richboro Rd. (around 1927).

**Continued on page 3**

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Folks,**

Our short winter's rest is over and spring is here. Spring is always the beginning of a new year for me.

I am really looking forward to our speaker this month given by member Richard Noe. The program is a video presentation of movies from the mid 1920's through the 1940's of Richboro and the surrounding area, taken by Harry Gill, a photographic enthusiast on 16mm film.

When I was a small child, I remember my mother's dad taking us to the [parade and fireworks display in a northern New Jersey town. It was a magical site seeing the fireworks and all the American flags.

This month I hope you all remember to vote and also to take a moment to remember all our armed forces – those that have served and are presently serving.

We are planning an Historical Society dinner or picnic for later this summer. As soon as we have more details we will make them available.

**I hope to see you at our May meeting**

*Mary B. Seader*

## RICHBORO SCHOOL REUNION 2005



The Richboro School reunion committee has set Friday, May 27, 2005 as the date for the next school reunion. This follows the two very successful reunions in May 2001 and again in May 2003. The call is going out to notify anyone who graduated or attended the old school between 1925 and 1955.

Those interested in attending should contact Emma Walker Worthington at 215-943-0108.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NTHS General Meeting  
Old Richboro Films  
Wednesday May 18 - 7:30 PM**

**Richboro School Reunion 2005  
Friday May 27, 2005  
Northampton Country Club**

**Contact:  
Emma Walker Worthington  
215-943-0108**

### MERCER MUSEUM

Pine and Ashland Streets, Doylestown, PA  
(215) 345-0210 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun.  
Noon-5, Tues. until 9 Admission: \$6, \$5.50  
seniors, \$2.50 Ages 6-17, Free to members  
and children under 6

Animals on the loose, A Mercer Menagerie  
Through December 31, 2005

Saturday / Sunday May 14 / 15  
32nd Annual Mercer Museum Folk Fest

Saturday / Sunday May 28 / 29  
Civil War Encampment - Mercer Museum grounds

May 1 through May 29  
Bucks County Designer House  
A pre-Revolutionary home  
For information call 215-345-2191

Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsman  
2005 Workshop Series at the  
Tyler Craft Center  
215-504-0650 [www.pacrafts.com](http://www.pacrafts.com)

Saturday June 25  
Churchville Nature Center Summer Stroll

## MEMORIAL DAYS OF THE PAST from page 1



**Harry Feaster Gill, born in 1887, and Ophelia Gaskill.  
They married in 1919.**

One film Harry entitled "The Churchville Club", which shows Churchville residents and business men who together purchased a large white farmhouse on Bustleton Pike where Gravel Hill Road begins. Known as the "Club House", where many organizations met in the 1920's, 30's and 40's, card-parties, dances and plays were held here.

A 1931 Northampton Farmer's Club film consists mostly of Richboro residents and farmers. The Gills had received an invitation to the 40th anniversary dinner to be held in the Richboro Firehouse on Feb. 18, 1931. The tickets were \$1.35, and Mr. Gill is wondering how many old timers will be there.

You will see glimpses of Lenhart's Barber Shop, Casper Moan's house, Odd Fellows Lodge, Addisville Church before the parsonage was built in 1928, the Methodist Church before Davis Pontiac remodeled it, Harry Benner's store, Spread Eagle Inn in 1920's, 232 and 332 intersection before old corner firehouse, Betz and Wendig butcher farms, views of the Chapel (now Ohev Shalom), "Fairview One--room School" on Bustleton Pike in Churchville, Carroll Bright, Fred Turner, Marion Davis with son Bud in her arms, Charles Boehm, Alfred and Charlie Luff, John Fleer on a fire truck, Ozzie and Rachel Feaster and Harry and Ophie Gill. We will see Neshaminy Farm residents Jack McNabb, John Hughes, and Frank and Marion Bellmeyer.

The original 16mm films were copied to video by Video Gold and now Richard Noe of "Yawnboy Films" in Feasterville has added music and sound to them which makes them much more enjoyable.

Many will be too young or too new to the township to know the people but it will be a memorable evening just to view the fashions, the hairdo's (before beauty shops), the automobiles and what it was like to live in Northampton Township in the "Good Old Days".

## MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR 2005

Please check your mailing label. If it does not show 2005 we have not received your dues for this year. Please renew now to continue your Historical Society membership and the HISTORIA newsletter. Your continued support of the society is greatly appreciated.

**MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES**  
**RICHBORO, PA.**  
**May 30th, 1928** **Standard Time**

**Memorial Day Committee**  
**HARRY E. BURGER, Chairman**  
Quartermaster, Sipler-Wells Post 927, V. F. W.

Secretary Treasurer  
**CHAS. H. BOEHM** **MRS. EVA CAFFEY**



12.30 P. M.—ASSEMBLY (at the old firehouse),  
 By North Penn Post, V. F. W., Bugle Corps  
**PARADE TO UNION CEMETERY**

1.15 P. M.—INVOCATION .....Rev. M. P. Luther  
Pastor Churchville Ref. Church

ORIGIN OF MEMORIAL DAY..Capt. John M. Rulon, G. A. R.  
 FORMAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES,  
By the Sipler-Wells Post, 927  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the  
 United States, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

**PARADE TO RICHBORO HIGH SCHOOL**

2.30 P. M.—ASSEMBLY.....By High School Bugle Corps  
 INVOCATION .....Rev. M. P. Luther  
 WELCOME .....George Riley,  
President of Student Council

PURPOSE OF DEDICATION.....Catherine Yerkes  
Vice President of Student Council

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL to Veterans of Past Wars  
 UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL  
 to Aviation and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL.....Charles Fromuth  
Retiring President of Student Council

OFFICIAL DEDICATION Harpur M. Tobin,  
Vice Commander in Chief  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Sipler-Wells Post 927, V.F.W. Arthur T. Morrissey,  
Commander Phila. County  
 Council V. F. W.  
 Commanded by

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMORIALS.....Dr. E. E. Pownall

GREETINGS.....  
Hon. William Ryan  
 Congressman Henry Watson  
 Henry A. James, Esq.  
 Prof. J. Harry Hoffman  
 Furman Edwards

BENEDICTION

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in Gen Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

To help reeducate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps.'"

**Congratulations to the following NTNS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2005.**

NTNS  
 Circle - Doug Crompton  
 Sponsor - Stanley and Dorthy Davis, Margaret and Lewis Hull  
 Sustaining - Kathy and Larry Belikoff, Catherine Ciaverelli, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Lois Leitenberger III, Virginia Smith, Childrens Cultural Center, Steven Rovner, Norman Turner



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

[www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org)

## 2005 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<b>President</b>	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net
<b>Membership</b>	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
<b>Ways and Means</b>	Vacant		
<b>Social Committee</b>	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com
<b>Director (Past Pres.)</b>	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
<b>Director</b>	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222	
<b>Director</b>	Christine Fluehr	215-579-4334	chris@fluehr.com
<b>Director</b>	Betty Luff	215-357-3767	
<b>HISTORIA Editor</b>	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 e-mail us at [nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page [www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

### Meeting Dates for 2005

May 18	General Meeting	7:30 PM
September 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 16	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM

### Board Meetings 2005

February 8, April 12,  
August 9, October 11  
7 PM - Call for location

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2005 (January 2005 to December 2005)

INDIVIDUAL - \$15    SENIOR - \$10    STUDENT - \$10    SPONSOR - \$100    PATRON - \$250 (5 year membership)  
FAMILY - \$20    SUSTAINING - \$50    NTHS CIRCLE - \$500 or greater (Life membership)

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Classification \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size [S] [M] [L] [EXL] - (Sponsor and higher)

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 welcome : \_\_\_\_\_