



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2008

## Richard Noe presents his documentary production Farming Lifestyles, of the 1920s-40s in Northampton Township at our May historical society meeting

Society member, Richard Noe will present his documentary film "Farming Lifestyles, 1920s-40s" (Northampton Township) at our May meeting. He will detail how he used old film footage from Tyler Farms, Windsor Eveland's farm (Long Lane farm, Richboro) and Harry Gill's early film work to create the documentary film. Many older stills were also used to create this 20 minute film. Here are some notes on the production in Richard's own words:

Gaining access to the film footage took over 2 years. Betty Luff started me with some of Harry Gill's Archival footage, but not enough to make a film about farming or the lifestyles of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The McNabb family allowed me to copy their footage of Tyler's farm footage used for PR purposes during the 30s/40s. The many problems in changing film footage to digital format was the inability to keep the 24 frames per second rate of film to the 29 frame rate that it was copied to. Hence, the speeds of everyone (typical) in the movie appear a tad fast. Creating "stills" from the now copied VCR analog film to digital, required advanced computer software, which I had to learn during this period of completion.

Viewers will marvel at the manpower still needed despite "new" machinery upgrades from the horse and plow (and upper body strength) and the lack of safety standards for all equipment that maimed or killed many farm workers.

The changeover from horse and plow to total machinery use was slow, despite the usefulness of the machines is also noticed in the film. It took almost two generations to change from the use of the horse (which rarely broke down) to well running machinery. Horses are still used with machinery adapted for their use in many counties in central PA today with good efficiency, although massive bulk farming as done in the Midwest uses such large machines and tractors, that the horse has vanished due to the large crop demands rates and more acreage.

The film was sent to Hollywood for narration over dub by a voice over company, and seems to flow well with a slight audio track in the background. All footage was taken before the use of sound with film was invented.



Above is aerial view of Jamison farm, now Tapestry, below is Long Lane farm owned by Windsor Eveland, Newtown/Richboro Road, east of Richboro, 1930's.



Sadly, there was probably many more farms that took film footage or photos of their work, but never allowed it to be seen by a historical group or be copied, and has long vanished or languishes with growing decay in an attic today. This film is a treasure for Northampton Township History.

Several copies will be available for sale before and after the meeting.

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Folks,


It's spring and I usually write about planting and flowers and the sunshine filled days to come. This year I wanted to share with you all something I read when my husband and I visited the 8th Air Force Museum.

*"I was neither aggressive nor ambitious. I did not comprehend the consequences of war, nor did I have any particular vision of any thing, pay, career, or comfort."*

*In those days our primary motivator was patriotism"*

Ira E. O'Kennon Jr.  
8th Air Force

Please remember those who have fought and died for us this Memorial Day.



### Did you know?

The entire collection of HISTORIA's (over 14 years) are available online and in color. Check it out at:

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

We need your input! Please consider writing and submitting an article for the HISTORIA. Your stories, reminiscences, and photos about "Northampton the way it use to be" are always welcome. Contact the editor listed on the last page of this HISTORIA.

### Congratulations to the following NTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2007.

**NTHS Circle** - Doug Crompton, Lois Craven Ferguson  
**Patron** - Elinor Crompton, Roy and Gail Reinard  
**Sponsor** - Margaret and Lewis Hull, Nancy Turner, Kevin Kruse  
**Sustaining** - Charles and Muriel Briggs, Kathryn Ciaverelli, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Rena Goldhahn, Marion and Dallas Kane, Fred Stewart, Virginia Smith

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

### NTHS Meeting

**Wednesday May 21st, 7 PM**

**Northampton Township Library**

7 PM refreshments, 7:30 PM meeting start

Richard Noe, Farms of Northampton Township

### 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

### BUCKS COUNTY DESIGNER HOUSE & GARDENS - ends 5/30

3990 Mechanicsville Road , Buckingham, PA  
Contact: 215-345-2191

View the transformation designers and landscapers have fashioned at Hilltop Farm an estate of more than 18 acres with a three-story Greek revival manor dating back to the 1790s. The rooms overlook spectacular landscapes and feature ornate mantles, hardwood floors, and extensive moldings.

### TENTH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, June 1, Time: 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Sponsored by: Bedminster Land Conservancy

Contact: 215-795-2352 for tickets

Features 5 beautiful gardens in the Bedminster Township area, Master Gardeners, plants for sale, gourmet lunches, lectures at Linden Hill Nursery. Rain or shine. Tickets \$18 ea before tour; \$20 ea on day of the tour.

### Henry Mercer's Birthday Celebration

Tuesday June 24th, 2008 - 10 am-5 pm

Celebrate Henry Mercer's birthday with cake, lemonade and \$1 off admission. Call for tour times: 215-348-9461, ext. 10.

### Fonthill's Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

Friday July 4th, 2008 - Noon-5 pm

Experience "the good-old days" at an early 20th century July 4th celebration, featuring a decorated bike parade, town ball game (19th-century baseball), watermelon eating contest, free old-time games, live music and picnic foods. \$3 adults; (\$2 BCHS members); \$1; children (5-17). Under 5 free.

## Society mourns the loss of former board member Diane Martin Davis

Diane Martin Davis of Ivyland went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, April 22, 2008, surrounded by friends and family after fighting a courageous two and a half year battle with cancer. Raised in Bucks County, she was the daughter of Diane Martin and the late Harry Martin. The cherished wife of William M. Davis, they resided in Ivyland, with her two beloved daughters, Grace Miriam Amadio and Hannah Elspeth Amadio.

She is also survived by a stepdaughter, Holly Davis, and her sons, Leon and Dimitri; her brother, Craig Martin and his wife, June, and their children, Jessica and Alex, who reside in Los Alamos, N.M. She was preceded in death by her beloved sister, Barbara Jean, who she truly cherished. Also surviving are her uncle, Trevor Spink and his wife, Ellen and their children, Tyler and Ashley; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Nancy and William Davis; and her sisters-in-law and their families.

Diane graduated from William Tennent High School and attended Bucks County Community College and Pennsylvania State University. She found a fulfilling career as a paralegal working at Hartzel and Bush. She was the former president of the Bucks County Paralegal Association and also was very active in the Northampton Township Historical Society and was responsible for securing the grant to refurbish the Churchville Train Station. After raising her family, she found her niche as a successful realtor working at Remax Centre in Warwick.

Her infectious smile and captivating laugh along with her zest for life made her a joy to be around. Sharing the warmth of home with family and friends was one of her greatest pleasures. Her positive attitude and exuberant personality brought joy to all who knew her. Diane and her husband, Bill, shared a love of nature, gardening and being outdoors enjoying the pool.

Happiest times were spent with her daughters as they enjoyed sharing their love for the beach and sailing. She loved playing golf and shared this passion with her father and then later with her father-in-law. She was overjoyed when sinking a hole-in-one on the 9th green of the "Fairway Golf Course" in Warrington in August 2006. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Diane's viewing was held on Monday, April 28, at Campbell and Thomas Funeral Home, 905 Second Street Pike (at Bustleton Pike), Richboro. A service was held the following day at Salem United Church of Christ, 186 E. Court St., Doylestown. Interment followed at Doylestown Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in Diane's name be made to Fox Chase Cancer Center, 333 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.



**Diane always dressed the part for Northampton Days. She posed here with the late Judge John Leedom and her daughter, Gracie in September 1997.**

**Below Diane poses at the Churchville train station after the completion of renovations in 2000. She managed to turn it into a masterpiece with minimal funds.**



*Diane served on the Northampton Township Historical Society board from the early 1990's until about 2004. She was a pleasure to work with and a tremendous asset to the society and the community. My first experience with Diane on the board was at the barn sales at Bill Blumhardt's in the early 1990's. We worked together on many projects including the Spread Eagle, the Churchville train station and the yearly Northampton days celebrations. We give our sincerest sympathy to Diane's family.*

## Society member and friend, Clyde Cobb passes



Clyde A. Cobb, 81, of Feasterville, Pa. died on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, at St. Mary Medical Center, Langhorne, PA. Born in wayside, NJ, Mr. Cobb was a resident of Feasterville since 1959. He graduated from Villanova University where he received his degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was the owner of Clark F. Gouran Company, a mechanical engineering firm in Hatboro, Pa., for 25 years before his retirement. He was a proud Navy veteran having served during War II. He was a member of Feasterville Fire Company where he received volunteer of the year award in 2005, and fireman of the in year in 1990. In addition, he was awarded service volunteer of PA Engineering Society in 1992. Other memberships included the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, the Historical Society of Lower Southampton where he served as president, American Society of Mechanical Engineering, and on both the Environmental and Safety committee of Lower Southampton Township. Mr. Cobb was a volunteer at Washington Crossing State Park where he took part in the Christmas reenactment from 1975 through 1985. In his leisure time, Clyde was an avid reader and enjoyed crossword puzzles. He will be sadly missed as a devoted father, grandfather and brother.

Son of the late Walter N. and Maime Jeanette Dangler Cobb, beloved husband of the late Helen D. Ebert Cobb, he is survived by his son, Bruce Cobb and his wife, Virginia, of Feasterville, Pa., his daughter, Sherry Lee Mize and her husband, Grant, of West Union, SC, and his brother, Walter S. Cobb of Wayside, NJ. He is also survived by his three grandchildren, Elizabeth Mize, Joseph T. Mize and Courtney Zelena. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Park, Feasterville. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made American Parkinson Association, John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD



**Back row, Charles McNabb, unidentified, Don Yates, John McDonough, Ed Diamon, Tom Nadeau; 2nd to back, Vince Luff, officer Bill Tomlinson, Connie Murphy, John Bilger, Leon Coleson, Norman Turner; 3rd from back, Don Norin (husband of Sandra Turner), Hans Hembreck, Howard Cramer, Bea Liberty, Robert Weir. Front row, George Mauer, unidentified, Hugh Dougherty, Harold Cramer.**

Not a day goes by that I'm not called inquiring about an old house or a family that lived in the area. Is it my age or because I spent my entire life in Northampton Township? It's a good feeling when you realize you have answered questions and are able to help.

The above photo, taken in 1967, is of a Christmas party, held in the bus garage, which Norman gave each year for his drivers. I have spent several months putting my thinking cap on and I managed to identify most of those in the photo.

I have written before about Norman Turner, who was well known in Richboro. He served on the Council Rock School Board, owned and operated a potato chip factory near the old Holland railroad stop, and in 1954 took over providing transportation for the entire Council Rock District. He purchased five buses from Russell Lownes and built a bus garage and ten shops, the first shopping center in Richboro. Ten years later, his original five buses grew to sixty.

Norman was a good friend to all and a wonderful boss, hiring many bus drivers, such as farmers who could fit their schedule around their less busy periods in the winter month. My husband, Vince worked for Norman after retiring from farming in the 1960's. Fred Hettler, who owned the Richboro swimming pool, worked as a bus driver for Norman in the winter months.

We would love to have photos of the interior of Fred Turners blacksmith shop which was dismantled by Norman in the 1970's. If anyone has information on this shop or additions to this story please let me know.

**Betty Cornell Luff**



**The Free Library of Northampton Township** *by Betty Cornell Luff*

At last our big, new, beautiful library is completed. Having lived over eighty years in the Northampton area, one can imagine the many changes I have seen.

Among the many photos I have acquired, my favorite is an aerial view of the Milton Luff farm. The large farm house is now the residence at the Campbell-Thomas funeral home in Richboro. In the photo you can see the Davis Pontiac showroom in the background which I remember as a Methodist Church. You can also see the Addisville Church and their former chapel across the street which is now the Ohev Shalom Synagogue. Behind Davis's is a smoke stack and George Rucker's greenhouses where Mallard Creek shopping center and the Richboro car wash are today.

But I guess because I am a former farmer's wife the cows grazing in the meadow is the most interesting part of the picture. This is where our new library and senior center are today with Township Road intersecting the field where the cows were grazing. All of the barns and outbuildings are long gone.

So many of the old building familiar to me in my earlier years have been replaced by stores or offices, like the Walker house where the Exxon gas station is today. The Harold Lightcap house was replaced by the First National Bank, the Henry Gill house is a beauty shop, the John Cornell home is Bash Barbershop, and the double truck garage with apartments above built by Bill and Morris Luff is now Munchies Pizza. The former homes of Pery Boyles and Russel Lownes are now offices. The Herbert Luff home is about the most original of many in Richboro and is now the Courier Times building.

I have written before about when I was a youngster. My daily errand each day was to walk to McMullens little farm for milk. Now it is McDonalds. What would the world do without McDonalds?

What changes I have seen. I know it is called progress but so sad when we "old-timers" see our farms disappearing also.



Library dedication at Northampton Days in September 2006, above first home was at the old Nike base, now the township recreation center.



Vince and Betty Luff farm as painted by Edith Berry after it was sold in 1966.

Only the house remains today.

## The Farmer

*Where would we be without the farm  
Now let me be discreet  
If it wasn't for the farmer  
The world just wouldn't eat.*

*You see the farmer rises in the morning  
While the world is sound asleep  
And takes care of all his livestock  
You see, he has chores to meet.*

*But to toil is nothing new  
For the farmer and his wife  
There are times when getting dirty  
Is their way of being nice.*

*But when the long days over  
With a weekend just ahead  
It's time to spend wit family  
It's time to break some bread.*

*So maybe all the rest of us  
Can learn a lesson here  
Of how to work, but be together  
And maybe smile or shed a tear.*

*If we could get into the farmer's shoes  
And live a simple life  
Perhaps we'll keep the family circle  
And be a team of men and wife.*

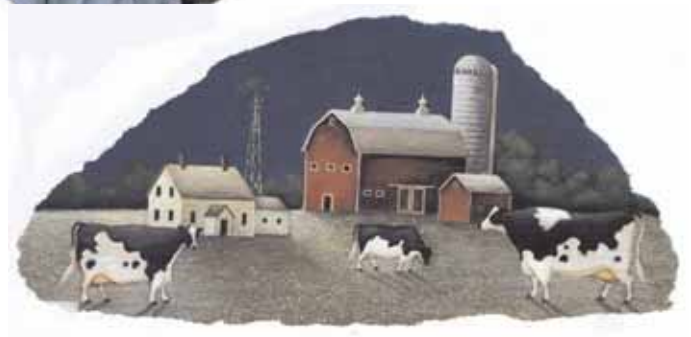
George Ivins, 2008



Vince Luff and son Jerry, 1945



Paul Locke, 2008





# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

## 2008 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@comcast.net
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Jackie Liney	215-858-8066	jackie@childrensculturalcenter.org
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<b>Ways and Means</b>	Vacant		
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HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** (refreshments 7PM), and include 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 [NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

### Meeting Dates for 2008

March 19	General Meeting	7 PM Library
May 21	General Meeting	7 PM Library
September 17	General Meeting	7 PM Library
November 19	Dinner Meeting	6 PM TBA

### Board Meetings 2008

February 12, April 8, August 12, October 14  
7 PM - Call for location

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2008 (January 2008 to December 2008)

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:     /     / **2008**      Membership Classification \_\_\_\_\_

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