



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2006

## The Richboro Methodist Episcopal Church

By Betty Cornell Luff

On October 22, 1857, members of a Presbyterian denomination under the leadership of Rev. Robert Morris of Newtown, purchased for \$300 from Sarah Leedom, one acre of land, "beginning at the southwest corner of the old Dutch Grave Wall, between Richborough and Addisville". On this land, they started building their church, the four walls and roof, but then abandoned the project.

On April 15, 1861, a deed of sale was executed between the trustees of this unfinished Presbyterian Church and the trustees of the Richborough Methodist Episcopalian congregation.

The dedicatory service of the Richboro Methodist Episcopal Church was held on September 19, 1861.

In a September 1914, church directory is a photo of Rev. Eugene B. Harshberger who was pastor at the Richboro Church and also served at the Penns Park Methodist Episcopal Church. In this directory is also a listing of members and their addresses, including my grandmother, Lena Weiss, Richboro, Pa, Eva Caffey, address, Tollgate, also Charles Schmerer, Tollgate, and Luella Krusen, Cemetery.

Please turn to page 5

## Fourth Annual Dinner to Honor Fred M. Holzwarth, Sr.

The November meeting of the Northampton Township historical Society will again honor Fred M. Holzwarth, Sr. As a gift to the society and a tribute to his father, Fred Holzwarth, Jr. donated money so that we may have annual dinners in honor of his father. This is our fourth annual dinner in tribute to Mr. Holzwarth. Fred also donated money and books to the Civil War Roundtable in Doylestown that was used to create a library honoring his father. The speaker for the dinner will be Bob Richards, a teaching colleague of Fred in the Philadelphia school district. Fred and Bob both served in the 108th Field Artillery Battalion and 28th PA Division Artillery. The dinner is by reservation only and the deadline will have passed as you read this but many have signed up and we expect it will be a wonderful evening.



**SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE NORTHAMPTON  
TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I never thought I'd be writing this 8900 miles from home but here I am in Auckland NZ. Tonight my feet hurt since my husband & I spent the entire day at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. One entire floor contains the history of the Maori people & those of the Caroline Islands, Solomon Islands & the different peoples that inhabit the Islands of the Pacific.

The Hall of Memories contain the exhibits from every war the New Zealanders have fought, the Wars between the Maori and the British and then on to the Boer Wars in South Africa, World War I and II, Korea & Vietnam. The walls on either side of The Scars on The Heart galleries list the names of those that have lost their lives for God and country.

Our journey continues as we leave for Christ Church in the South Island tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you at our dinner meeting in November at Spring Mill Country Club, and please remember all our Veterans on Veterans Day, November 11th.

Everyone have a great holiday season,



**Did you know?**

The entire collection of HISTORIA's (over 12 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, reminisces, 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 2006.**

- NTHS Circle - Doug Crompton
- Patron - Roy and Gail Reinard
- Sponsor - Elinor Crompton, Bud and Dotty Davis, Lois Ferguson, Margaret and Lewis Hull
- Sustaining - Jim and Larice Burt, Kathryn Ciaverelli, Childrens Cultural Center, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Jim and Joan Kinney, Richard Noe, Lois Leitenberger III, Janet and Kurt Nelson, Virginia Smith, Fred Stewart, Steven Rovner, Nancy Turner

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mark your Calendar

**NTHS Dinner Meeting  
Wednesday November 15, 6 PM**

Tribute to Fred M. Holzwarth  
Spring Mill CC, Ivyland, PA

**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

**"Dolls from the Attic"**

Extended through December 31, 2006  
Mercer Museum

**Self-guided Tour: "Finding Franklin"**

Through December 31, 2006  
Mercer Museum

Extended Through Popular Demand!  
Children's Exhibit:

**"Animals on the Loose! A Mercer Menagerie"**

Museum Hours, Mercer Museum

**Finding Franklin**

Self-guided Tour: "Finding Franklin"  
Through December 31, 2006

**Winter Wonderland: Holiday Decorations at Fonthill**

December 1 through January 2  
Regular Tours, Fonthill Museum

**Membership Appreciation Week**

Monday-Sunday, December 4-10  
10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Monday-Saturday  
12-4:45 p.m. Sunday  
Mercer Museum Shop

**Holiday Open Houses:**

Mercer and Michener Museums  
Tuesday, December 12  
7-9 p.m., Mercer Museum

**Fonthill Holiday Open House**

Saturday, December 16  
6:30-9:30 p.m. (Arrival Times: 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

**Pre-Inventory Clearance Sale**

Tuesday-Sunday, December 26-31  
During Shop Hours, Mercer Museum Shop

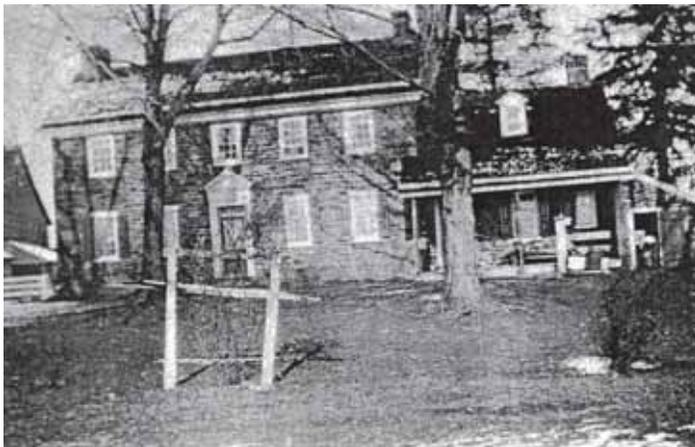
## My Third and Last House

### By Betty Cornell Luff

For the first 45 years of my life I was sure that I had lived in three of the oldest houses in Northampton Township. In the September 2001 issue of the "HISTORIA", I wrote about the home where I was born in "Highspire" north of Worthington Mill Road, with date stones 1743 and 1803. One was initialed J. C. and we often wondered if another John Cornell had built it (my father's name) but after much research, I found the builder's name was James Cummins. There was a difference between this house and the last house I lived in because upstairs you could not get from one level to the other. Apparently the bedroom over the kitchen was for the hired help and they could not enter the family's sleeping quarters. I was always glad that our last farmhouse had three steps and a door between levels as my son slept over the kitchen there.



**One of the earliest houses in Richboro, was originally one room on each of four levels, with addition added later. I was married here in 1943. Now the Barber shop.**



**First Farmhouse, then off of Worthington Mill road. Now part of the Highspire development.**

In another issue, May 2001, I wrote about an old house in Richboro where I lived from age ten until I married, which today is a barber shop. It had no date stone. It was purchased by the Gallaghers who opened up a candle shop. They researched its history and found that the original part of the house, all stone, was built about 1702 on land that had been granted by William Penn. to Thomas Groom in 1681.

The property had been reduced in size many times from its original 550 acres to its present half acre. It held 84 acres in 1836 when Enoch Addis lived in the house. In the beginning, the house consisted of a cellar--kitchen, main living room, a bedroom and an attic. A later frame addition made the home as our family knew it quite lovely. The Gallaghers uncovered a beautiful fireplace, which our family never knew existed.



**"The Old Luff Farmstead" in a painting by Edith Berry, 1966. View from north, entering from Lower Holland road. Now in the Pheasant Run development. The farm was 69 acres.**

I am now living in a modern home and I am back to Ivyland rural delivery which was also my address the first ten years of my life on 'Worthington Mill Road.

# EDITH WILSON 1919-2006



It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of a longtime Richboro resident and Society member, Edith Wilson on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Edith had a failing heart and had been in and out of the hospital in the last few months. She died peacefully at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Born Edith B. Burrage, 87 years ago in State College, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Wilson was a resident of Richboro for the past 64 years. Penn State University was a tradition with Edith's family her father was a Professor of French at the University and she was a graduate of Penn State University in 1941 with her degree in music. She was a member of the Alpha Omicron PI Sorority.



After graduation, Edith taught in the Maryland School System, before coming to Bucks County in 1942. She taught at the Richboro School and at the Newtown School from 1942 to 1948, and later at Newtown Friends School, Newtown. Edith loved music and singing. After coming to Richboro she became a member of the Addisville Reformed Church, immediately joined the choir, and started playing the organ, which she did for well over 35 years before she retired in the late 1980. She not only loved her church but also loved music. She was active with the Women's Guild, the Annual Bazaar and other church organizations as well as the Parent Teacher Association of the Richboro School where her children attended, but her real passion was being beside her husband in his veterinary practice in Richboro for over 61 years.

Edith is the daughter of the late Leslie M. and Sigrid Larson Burrage; she is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years Dr. Cameron S. Wilson VMD.; and her loving children Charles C. Wilson, D.M.D. of Richboro and Suzanne W. Carpp, BS, MS, of Richboro; and her granddaughter, Emilie Carpp of Chapel Hill, N.C. where she is attending the University of North Carolina.

There was a memorial service for Edith on Tuesday October 3, 2006 at the Addisville Reformed Church, Richboro. Interment was in Union Cemetery Richboro. Flowers or contributions in her memory can be made to Addisville Reformed Church, 905 Second St. Pike, Richboro, PA., 18954.



Edith Wilson with the Addisville Church Choir, front row second from left, and in a Christmas card, 1940's.

## Richboro Methodist Episcopal Church from page 1

Mary Davis Lobley who was born in 1921 recalls being in this church as a small child and still remembers the cushions on the pews.



**A class picture from 1906 or 1907, when the church was used as a school. Teacher is Miss Sally Twining. Horace Cornell is third boy from the left in the top row.**

The Richboro Methodist Episcopal Church existed for over fifty years until 1927 when the Davis brothers, Paul and Roy, purchased the building and used the downstairs for a showroom and garage with an apartment upstairs where Paul and his family lived. Davis Pontiac will celebrate 80 years at it's present location in 2007.



**Davis Pontiac early 1950's, with the former structure more visible than today.**

## Nominating Committee Announces Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee of the Northampton Township Historical Society met on Monday evening, October 16, 2006. The Nominating Committee Consisted of:

Vivian Braubitz, Dr. Art Friedman and Pat Komelasky

The Nominating Committee submits the following Candidates for Nomination:

### Officers and Terms:

President - Mary Seader (Term#2 - Nov.2006-08)

Vice-President - Pat Komelasky (Term#2 - Nov. 2006-08)

Treasurer - Jackie Liney (Term#1 - 2006-08)

### Directors and Terms

Director - Doug Crompton (Term#2 - Nov. 2006-08)

Director - Jean Gallagher (Term#2 - Nov. 2006-08)

Respectfully submitted,

2006 Nominating Committee

Pat Komelasky, Chairperson

Jackie Liney's resume will be available for viewing at the November dinner meeting. A vote will also take place for the above candidates at the meeting.

We would like to thank our current treasurer, Mike Tomkins. Mike has done an excellent job keeping our "money in order" and it has been a pleasure working with him. Mike has become very active in the Northampton Township Historic Commission and with the demand of his time between that, his work and his family, he has decided to not seek another term as treasurer. Good luck in your future endeavors.

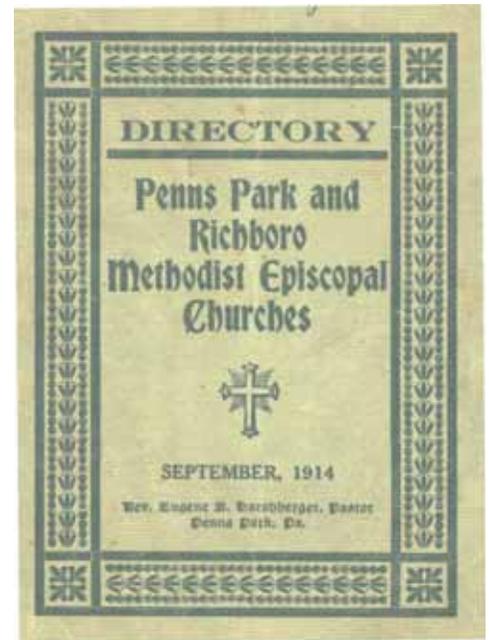
All other board members as listed in the back of the HISTORIA will continue in their current terms.

## HISTORIA - 10 Years Ago November, 1996

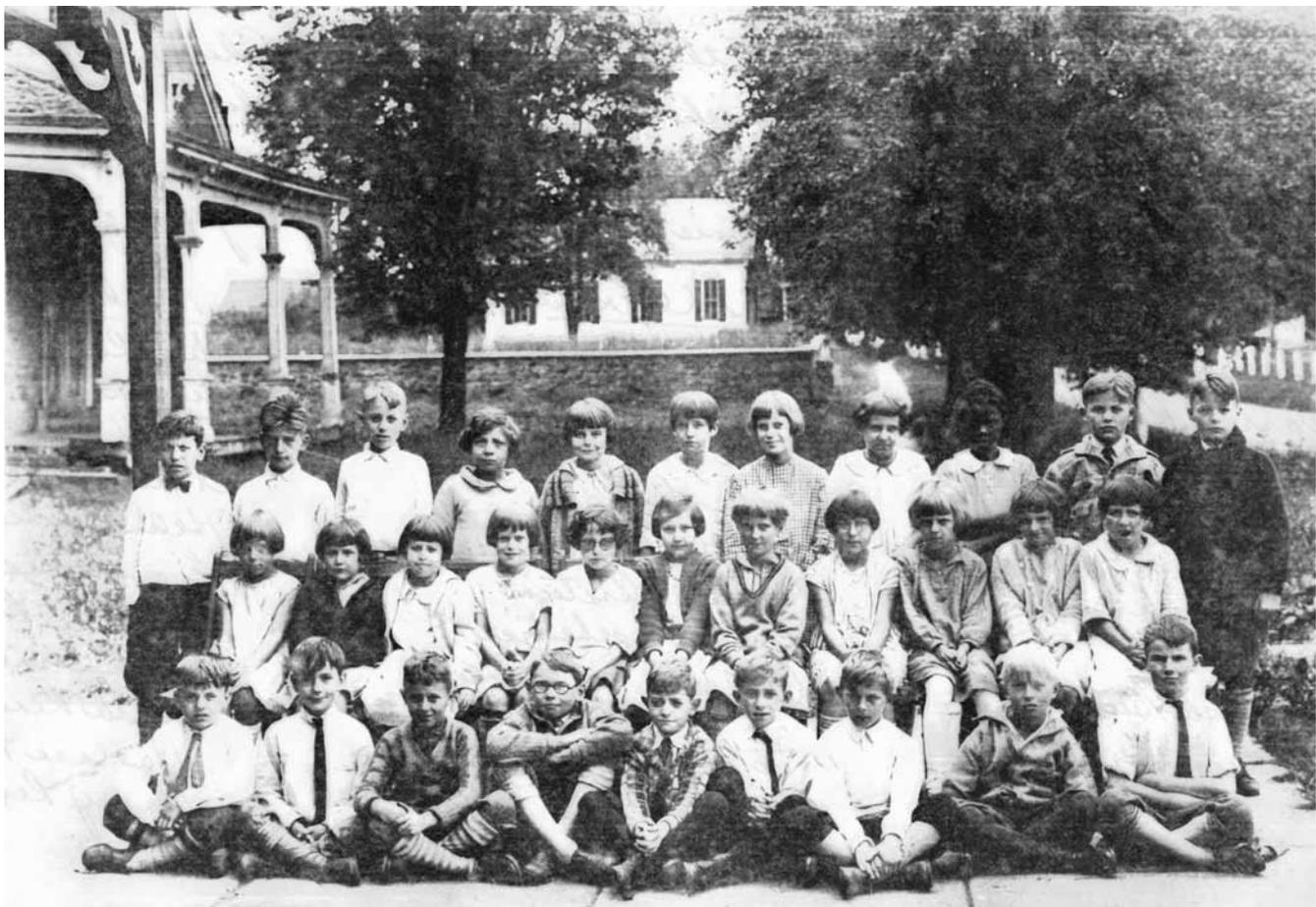
- The Weir Family holiday card of their farm on Almshouse Road, taken by Harvey Weir, appeared on the front cover, as it does in this issue.
- An introduction to the Michner Museum was our meeting topic.
- An obituary notice appeared for Jim Mclean.
- President, Doug Crompton, announced that Ranulph Bye was creating a painting of the Spread Eagle Inn, later to become the print we now sell..



Teacher, Miss Mary Finney with class, on the steps of the church in 1924. Top row, first at left, Charles Strohmeir, seventh from left, Raymond Gill.



September, 1914, church directory.



Picture of 3rd and 4th grade, 1926, in front of old Richboro School, later Dougherty Electric, then demolished, looking north with cemetery and Addisville Church chapel in the background and Richboro Methodist Episcopal Church in left background. Back row, third from left, Ted Wilson. On ground, fourth from left, Harold Search. A complete list of the known names in these pictures may be found in the NTHC archives.



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

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

## 2006 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
<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@comcast.net
<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 2006 / 2007

November 15, 2006	Dinner Meeting	6:00 PM	Holzwarth Tribute
March 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM	
May 16	General Meeting	7:30 PM	
September 19	General Meeting	7:30 PM	
November 14	Dinner Meeting	6:00 PM	

### Board Meetings 2007

February 7, April 11, August 8, October 10  
7 PM - Call for location

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2007 (January 2007 to December 2007)

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: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /2007    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 : \_\_\_\_\_