



HISTORIA

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2004

250th Anniversary Slide Show to be repeated 32 years later at our September meeting

By Betty Luff



November 17, 1972 was a special night in our township's 250th anniversary celebration. It was a banquet honoring those who lived in Northampton Township for 50 years or more. That evening 77 old-timers were assembled under one roof in the cafeteria of the old Council Rock High school on Newtown Road, They were treated to a chicken dinner and then a beautiful slide show in the auditorium presented by Ed Herzog. Mr. Herzog had spent many hours taking 117 slides of our oldest houses, barns (three of which have since disappeared) also bridges (some of which are not used today) and other bits of Northampton's history.

The program included Raymond Gilbert giving the invocation, and welcoming address, closing remarks by Robert Day and the slide program and script presented by Ed Herzog in the auditorium.

I was attending that night and it was just incredible to see such a gathering of old friends and neighbors that I had known since my early childhood, all in one room together. I was on the souvenir committee selling mugs, plates, maps, tiles, etc. It was an unforgettable evening. Farmers such as the Baker brothers, the Jamison brothers, Furman & Lillis Edwards, George and Edna Search, Horace and Elcie Cornell, Esther Weir, Warren Shafer, Harvey Stackhouse's, Betty Fridel Luff and sister Mary Fridel Luff, Ted, Cartie and Lida Luff,

Besides the old time farmers were Roy Davis and sister Rachel Feaster, Hannah Overholt, Harold Craven, Mrs. Harry Gill, and Hugh Douqherty, Sr. Of all the homes shown during the program, only four of the same homeowners remain today, they are the Solly, Rook, Crompton and the Gilbert families.

This unforgettable slide show will be repeated again at our Northampton Township Historical Society meeting on Wednesday evening, September 15, at the Northampton Township Library meeting room.



**Join us on Sunday
September 12th at
the Northampton
Day Celebration**

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**Dear Members:**

I hope all of you have enjoyed the warmer, brighter days of summer. I am always sad to see the darkness descending earlier as we move towards the autumn solstice.

This summer your Board of Directors finalized and voted to accept the job descriptions for all the officer and committee positions for the Society. Often when we approach members to volunteer their expertise and time, they ask what is expected of them. With the job descriptions now completed, the duties and responsibilities are clearly spelled out.

The archaeological dig was a big success. Many parents enthusiastically thanked NTHS for making this wonderful opportunity available to their children. Special thanks again to Clyde Cobb, Vivian Braubitz, and Michael Tomkins who made this experience come alive for the participants.

In July I was asked to accept a new position in Council Rock School District. After much deliberation I agreed to step into the role of Library-Media Coordinator for the district. In this capacity I will be overseeing approximately 40 library-media staff members and serving as their liaison with the administration, technology departments, curriculum areas, and the Intermediate Unit.

Because of the demands of this new position on top of my regular Hillcrest Elementary responsibilities, I will not be submitting my name for nomination to run for another two-year presidency term in November. In every organization there comes a time when term limits end and leadership changes. With this "changing of the guard" comes new perspectives and new forward-looking goals.

I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president these past two years. I have enjoyed the new friendships I've made and working with you to make NTHS a viable presence in the community. I offer a special thanks to the wonderful Board of Directors who has worked so hard and who have been so supportive.

Join us for our September meeting for a slide presentation on historic homes and sites given by our resident Northampton historian Betty Luff.

See you then!

Debbie Glessner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Northampton Day
September 12 - 10 AM - 5 PM

NTHS General Meeting
Slide show of Northampton Homes
Wednesday September 15 - 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

Museum Shop Sensational Stuff Sale
September 20-23

White House or Bust
A history of presidential campaigns
from broadsides to bumper stickers
October 15 - November 21

Ducks, Decoys, and the Delaware
Through January 3, 2005

Winter Wonderland at Fonthill
December 2 - January 4

Animals on the loose, A Mercer Menagerie
Through Jan 3, 2005

The Class of Thirteen - A Summer Reunion

By Betty Luff

I don't think anyone enjoys a reunion as much as I do. Whether it is a family reunion, the great big Richboro school Reunion or just my little "1942 class of fifteen" reunion.

I was invited in July to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Wilson to attend his 1939 Richboro School Reunion. Originally a class of thirteen, there were four girls and nine boys. As it often happened back then, two of the girls married classmates, they were Libby Kenderdine who married Walter Rook and Eleanor Fromuth who married Carlton Clayton.

Carlton served during World War II as a mechanic on C-47's in Washington D.C. and helped build the nuclear power plants at Peach Bottom.. After the war he became a local builder.

Walter and Libby Rook are still well known farmers, married sixty-one years. Along with their four sons, they are farming 2500 acres. Among the stories told that day, it was mentioned that Walter was born in the same bedroom in which his father had been born, and is still using that same room. What a story!

A classmate, Elinor Clarks, married Carlton's cousin, Stanley Clayton, she was employed by La Velle Aircraft.

Wallace McNabb piloted the plane in 1944 that dropped the last bomb on Tokyo. He was also a jet flight instructor for fifteen years. Then he was with a private airline "Flight Safety International" for six years. He later became a gym teacher and High School coach at Canandaiqua, New York.

Cameron Wilson graduated from Penn State and became a well known local vet, he married Edith Burrage, a music teacher with the Richboro school system. The Northampton Historical Society honored Wilson in 1995 by presenting him with the Living Tree Award. for his dedicated service to Northampton Township.

Morris Roberts was killed on a motorcycle when quite young.

Kathleen Gersch was employed at Fleet Wing, later becoming a telephone operator.

Ira Boyles enlisted before Pearl Harbor and was a chief yeoman at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked.

John Edwards joined the Army Air Force and flew B-2's in the western United .States. He became an electrician after his discharge.

Bob Rausch was killed in action in Italy.

Sam McKinney joined the Air Force and was an administrator in England, he later sold automobiles on Route One.

World War II transformed the boys into servicemen and the girls into defense plant workers, factory workers and office workers. Wages were as high as \$20 a week.

What an interesting afternoon, listening to what an important part this little class of thirteen from Richboro High School played in the future of our country.



1939 Class Pictures

Lilly Rook, Sam McKinney, Walt Rook, Carlton Clayton, Ira Boyles

Wally McNabb, John Edwards, Bob Roach, Kathleen Gersch, Eleanor Clark

Eleanor Fromuth, Morris Roberts, Cameron Wilson



Richboro School Class of 1939. Photographed in front of the school.

Front Row - Carlton Clayton, Cameron Wilson, Howard Jones*, Jack Weed*, Samuel McKinney, Tom Holowell*
Back Row - John Edwards, Wallace McNabb, Elinor Clarke, Eleanor Fromuth, Kathleen Gersh, Walter Rook, Ira Boyles
 * These students did not complete their schooling at Richboro High School. Elizabeth Kenderdine (not pictured) joined the class when a dividing line was changed moving her from the Langhorne to the Richboro school system.



Richboro School Reunion at Northampton Country Club May 2003

Those attending from the class of 1939

**Libby Kenderdine Rook
 Wallace McNabb
 John Edwards
 Cameron Wilson**

Second Annual Holzwarth Dinner held in June

The Northampton Township Historical Society held the 2nd Annual Frederick M. Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner on Tuesday, June 1st, 2004 at the Northampton Valley Country Club. The Members of the Society were treated to a four-course dinner compliments of the generous bequest of the late Fred Holzwarth. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the 69th PA Irish Volunteers- a Civil War Band. The Musical Band was made up of Civil War re-enactors dedicated to Historical Preservation. Many selections from their CD entitled "Rock of Erin" were enjoyed by the guests. The evening concluded with Debbie Glessner, President, wishing everyone an enjoyable summer!



Florence Leedom, Jean Gallagher, and Jackie Fletcher stop to pose for a picture at the Holzwarth dinner.



Tommy Ebaugh (at left) and Dylan Lutton (at right) excavating during the NTHS Sponsored archaeological dig at the Cobb residence. Debbie Glessner watches in the background.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT THE WILLET-KNIGHT HOUSE May 15-16, 2004

The second NTHS sponsored archaeological dig was again hosted by member Clyde Cobb at his home, the Willet-Knight House in Feasterville. Since we were not successful in locating the foundation of a third building last year, Clyde generously invited us to return and resume the search.

Vivian Braubitz, professional archaeologist, and Michael Tomkins, archaeologist and historical researcher, both donated their time and expertise to repeat a marvelous learning experience for those who attended. Eleven children arrived on Saturday morning to two prepared excavation units.

Mike introduced the activity by giving the children a walking tour of the house and property. Vivian followed the tour with an archaeological orientation, covering basics such as reading soil samples and how to maintain excavation unit records.

The children were then divided between the two sites. Because the top layers of a site are called the "occupation level," the children quickly unearthed shards of pottery, glass, and small artifacts. Artifacts were bagged and labeled according to the soil layer where they were located. When the soil type changed, new bags were started for artifacts unearthed in that soil level. Vivian and Mike reminded the children to take the soil down in layers, keeping the sites level. The reason for this was so that when they hit a new soil level, a new record sheet could be started.

The children participated in all phases of the dig; some dug, some screened, some dumped dirt, some kept records, and some washed artifacts.

Digging proceeded on Sunday until late morning when the children were given permission to shovel deeply. Eventually, three of the boys began uncovering large rocks and rubble that made Vivian and Mike suspect that the foundation had been located. The boys were directed to continue digging deeply, and soon it was obvious that they had uncovered a section of wall about 2 1/2 feet below the surface. After photographs were taken, the excavation sites were back-filled quickly.

Before the children departed, each received a packet of archaeology materials and a certificate of participation in the 2004 archeological dig.

The young archaeologists were Jared Arbeter, Amanda Farese, Mike Hirthler, Steven Hannigan, Sarah Tomkins, and Bryanna McQueeney, all from Holland. From Langhorne were Dylan Lutton and Tommy Ebaugh. Also participating were Lindsay Gregory, Trevoise, Vicky Tomlinson, Warrington, and Bob Gieda from Wrightstown.

A special thank you is extended to Clyde Cobb, Vivian Braubitz, Mike Tomkins, and Debbie Glessner for making this a rewarding experience for all.

Special Note about Future NTHS Meetings

A new Northampton Township Senior Center will be dedicated on Sunday September 12th as part of the Northampton Day celebrations. Because of restrictions placed on us by the center we have decided to not have our meetings there in the future. Our September meeting will be at our past location, in the community room, at the library. Library construction, which will start in late September, will mean relocating our November dinner meeting to the Addisville Church in Richboro. It is likely that our spring meetings in 2005 will also be held at an alternate location to be announced. So don't forget - September at our normal place in the library and November at the Addisville Church.



The Jacksonville School on Jacksonville road, built in 1857, and the gambrel roof house (top) on Second Street Pike, former home of John Thompson, the first sheriff of Bucks County, are two of the many slides to be shown at the September NTHS meeting.

Membership Drive Assists Society

The society has benefited from the new membership levels that were instituted this year. Nine members have joined at the Sustaining level, Three at Sponsor, One at Patron, and One at NTHS Circle. These additional contributions will be used to advance the efforts of the Society in programs, education, and preservation issues. Ultimately we hope that we will receive funding to enable us to realize our dream of leasing or purchasing our own home for the Society.

We urge members of the Society and community to keep the organization in mind when making bequests. A NTHS Circle Plaque will be purchased and engraved to honor the founding members of NTHS as well as current members donating \$500 or more to become Life members. Our first NTHS Circle member is Doug Crompton. A special thank you is extended to Doug and all those who have donated above the normal membership amount to give extra support to the Society.

In all future issues of the HISTORIA, a Special Membership box will be run to recognize those members.

At publication time we had 106 members in good standing with 29 members that had not renewed their 2003 memberships. Please check your mailing label. If you are up to date it should read 2004. The November 2004 issue of the HISTORIA will be the last issue sent for those members not up to date.

Debbie Glessner

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

- NTHS - Doug Crompton
- Circle
- Patron - Margaret and Lewis Hull
- Sponsor - Elinor Crompton, Stanley and Dorthy Davis, Norman Turner
- Sustaining - Kathy and Larry Belikoff, Thersa Craven, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Deborah Glessner, Patricia and George Komelasky, Florence Leedom, Lois Leitenberger III, Virginia Smith, Michael LaVanga



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2004 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	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com	
Secretary	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.com	
Treasurer	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net	
Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Vacant			
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
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Director	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222		
Director	Betty Luff	215-357-3767		
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 2004

September 15	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 17	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM

Board Meetings 2004

October 12 - 7 PM
Call for location

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2004 (January 2004 to December 2004)

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: _____ 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 : _____