



HISTORIA

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2007

Learn how to preserve your valuable documents at our September meeting

Our September meeting will feature archivist Leslie Simon. Leslie Simon is the Archives Operations Director at the National Archives' Mid Atlantic Regional branch. Prior to joining NARA in late 2004, Leslie worked for over 18 years in the archives of CIGNA Corporation, a 200+ year old company founded in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. She finds that one of the most fulfilling aspects of the NARA position is uncovering and then telling the myriad of stories "hidden" in NARA's holdings. NARA's Mid Atlantic Region includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Leslie will be talking about, and demonstrating, basic preservation strategies and techniques that can be used at home and in an archive or library. She will show different materials - paper, photos, textiles, books, and artifacts - commonly found in both types of collections. There will be handouts on resources, including some supply catalogues. Come and see how the professionals preserve documents and put it to use on your valuable treasures. The meeting is Wednesday, September 19th at 7:30 PM. Arrive at 7 PM for refreshments.

5th Annual Fred M. Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner

Be sure to sign up for our dinner in November to be held at the Spring Mill Manor on Wednesday November 14th. This is on the opposite side of Jacksonville Road from where we held the dinner last year. You can't beat the price, \$5 for Historical Society members. The form is included in this copy of the HISTORIA. See you there!

Fourth Richboro School Reunion a Big Success

*Richboro we're for you, now and always,
Swiftly how swiftly, past our school days,
Soon we'll be leaving you, Richboro high,
Memories will linger, never to die.*

Richboro High School's alma mater, was sung to the tune of "Drifting and Dreaming" by 115 former students and graduates at their fourth reunion on Friday afternoon, May 25, 2007, at the Northampton Valley Country Club.

After much socializing and a great meal, the group was welcomed by Mistress of Ceremonies, Mrs. Ruth Osmond Wright of Yardley, class of 1942. After Mrs. Wright gave the dinner blessing, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Louis Leitenberger of Florida, class of 1940. Sharon Kimmel of Yardley sang "God Bless America" and provided music throughout the afternoon.

Story and Pictures continue on Page 3



**2007 Richboro School Reunion Committee
Thelma Walker Tanner, Anna Mae Fretz,
Emma Walker Worthington, Betty Luff Castro,
and Betty Cornell Luff.**

Welcome to Northampton Days 2007

We hope the new readers of the HISTORIA enjoy this issue. Please consider joining the society which helps to preserve the heritage of Northampton Township. Information on our meetings, membership, officers and our web page is listed on the last page of this publication. More than 50 issues of the HISTORIA and additional information is available at our web site:

NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back from our summer hiatus. Our September meeting will feature a very interesting talk on the proper way to archive your important documents. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

The form to sign up for the Fred Holzwarth dinner in November is included in this HISTORIA. The cost is only \$5 for current Historical Society members. A great deal even if you include the price of membership. See you there.

This is our annual Northampton Days edition and if you are reading this and you are not a member please consider joining our society. We have four meetings and newsletters each year. Information on becoming a member is on the last page of this HISTORIA.



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

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.

Membership Renewal for 2007 is due!

Please take a moment to check the mailing label which should read 2007 if your membership is up to date.

**Congratulations to our latest Life member,
Lois Craven Ferguson**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

**NTHS Meeting
Wednesday September 19th,
7:30 PM**

Archivist Leslie Simon
Arrive at 7 PM for refreshments.

**Childrens Cultural Center
International Day Celebration 2007**

October 14, 11 AM - 5 PM
Bucks County Community College, Newtown

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

Saturday September 15th, 2007 - Exhibit: Are We Dressed Yet? Accessories and the Stories They Tell - Ongoing

Monday September 17th, 2007 - 12:30 pm - Antique Purses and Handbags Nula Thanouser of Phoenixville, will share her extensive collection of antique purses and pocketbooks. The program is free and open to the public. Presented by the Friends of the BCHS.

Sunday September 30th, 2007 - 11 am - 4 pm - Colonial Foodways-Basic Open Hearth Cooking

Friday October 5th, 2007 - 7:30-11:30 pm - Savory Sampler. Join your friends and neighbors for the 29th annual Savory Sampler, Bucks County's premier food and wine tasting event.

Thursday October 11th, 2007 - 6:30 pm - Poe the Poet Author Daniel Hoffman will discuss Edgar Allen Poe's influence on world literature. Program includes a special tour of Fonthill that examines Poe's influence on Mercer's life and work.

Tuesday October 30th, 2007 - 7 pm - Haunted Bucks County: "Ghosts in the 'Ville" Join author Jeffrey A. Wargo, ("Ghosts in the 'Ville") as he shares haunted tales of ghosts, specters and things that go bump in the night. Children's craft: Make a Halloween mask. Free with museum admission.

Richboro School Reunion

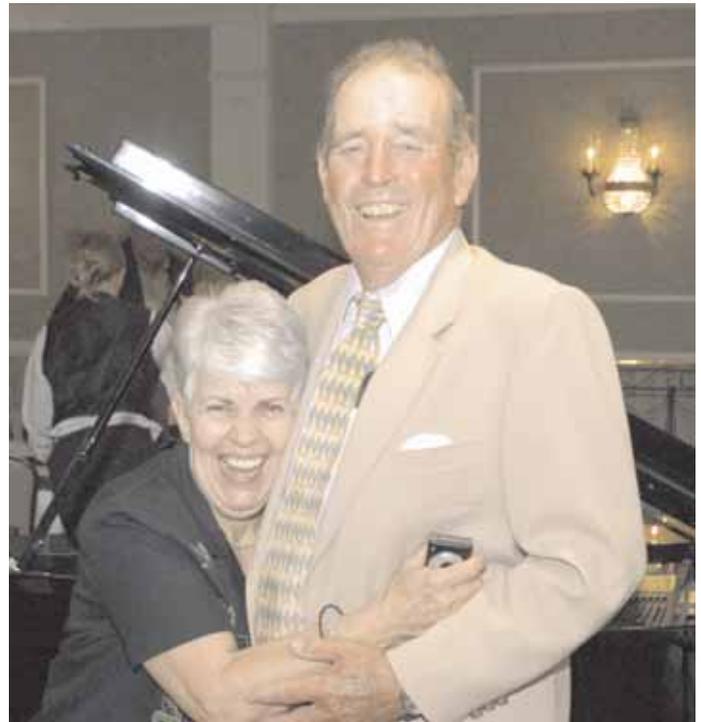
from page 1

Special recognition was extended to a few of the earliest graduates who attended. Ruth Opitz Crane, class of 1925; Raymond Gill, class of 1931; Cornell Gill, class of 1932; Evelyn Weir and Lindley Roberts, class of 1935; Dr. Carl Hoffman, class of 1936; Agnes Kelly, Jean Luff and Martha Mehler Hoffman, class of 1938, and from the class of 1939, Libby Kenderdine Rook, Wallace McNabb, John Edwards, and Dr. Cameron Wilson.

A guest of honor attending was Mrs. Dorine McGary of Yardley, whose parents were Dr. Charles Boehm, who was Richboro's principal from 1926-1929 and Miss Stauffer, a Richboro teacher during that period.

States represented were Virginia, Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, and New Jersey. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent reminiscing with old friends and classmates, all of whom were so happy to see that the old 1913 stone building was being preserved, although its future use is not yet known.

More information on the school and pictures of this and prior reunions can be viewed as a link from the NTHS website.



Dorris Weir Ladd, Ohio, daughter of Ester and Harold Weir, warmly greets Bob Solly, Ivyland.



Earliest class members, ladies; Agnes Kelly, 1938; Ruth Opitz Crane, 1925; Libby Kenderdine Rook, 1939; Jean Luff, 1938; seated, Martha Mehler Hoffman, 1938



Mrs. Dorine McGary, whose parents taught Ruth Opitz Crane, Class of 1925.

We regret the passing of three Richboro School Alumni since the reunion in May.

- Harold Bellmeyer 1930 - 2007**
- Ben Cornell 1923 - 2007**
- Jonathan Permar 1926 - 2007**



Earliest class members, men; Wallace McNabb, Cameron Wilson, 1939; Raymond Gill, 1931, John Edwards, 1939; Lindley Roberts, 1935; Carl Hoffman, 1936; seated Cornell Gill, 1932.

The next reunion is scheduled for May 22, 2009

The North and Southampton Reformed Church

By Betty Cornell Luff

I have been asked to serve on a Tri-centennial Planning Committee to help plan the North and Southampton Reformed Churches 300th anniversary in 2010.

According to J.H.Battle's "*History of Bucks County*" he writes; The Reformed Church of North and Southampton dates its origin at a period which would seem to indicate that it is the oldest denominational organization in the county. Its recorded history begins May 20, 1710, when the church of Bensalem and Sammeny was organized, and on the following day Reverend Paulus Vanvleqc was confirmed it's first pastor. He appeared in Bucks County late in 1709 and resolved to bring Christian doctrine to the wilderness. There followed three zealous years of organizing and preaching at three churches, marrying 15 couples and baptizing 95 children.



Vanvleqc's local charge was the neighborhood of Feasterville, including the Dutch families within a radius of some miles. The church building, if any existed, was probably located in the south eastern part of Southampton. Through his labors he laid a firm foundation for the North and Southampton Reformed Church, of which I am a member eight generations later.

I also found in William W. H. Davis's "*History of Bucks County*", the following: "Since the soil was so inviting, Hollander settlers were flocking into North and Southampton Township (1686-1700)." Some names included the Dungsans, Cornells, Krewsons, VanArtsdalen, Hogelands, Finney, Bennetts, Barcalows, Baines, Lefferts, all mostly from Long Island. Among these was Gilliam Cornell who came to Northampton with a stream of Dutch settlers from

Flatbush, Long Island. He took up land in a fertile section called New Holland which today is still called Holland. He was followed soon after by Cornelius Cornell and family. His son, Gilliam Cornell gave the ground on which the church and graveyard are still today.

Many of North and Southampton residents today descend from this sturdy Low Dutch stock and as in my case, since starting out with but one Gilliam Cornell ancestor in the early 1700's, through intermarriage I am related to all of the above families. My grandmother was a Barcallow, my father was named for his Uncle John R. Banes and in doing family research, Lefferts, Hogeland, Bennett, VanArtsdalen and even VanDyke, who married Reverend Paulus Vanvleqc in 1711.

The first church building was originally located in what is now Bensalem. Then for a period of years, two places of worship were located at what is now Richboro and Feasterville. When both of these became run down a new meeting house was built in 1814 on our present site in what was then a very small crossroads hamlet known as Smoketown. It is a tribute to the influence of the church in this community that the village name was changed to Churchville.

There have been many ministers serving this church over the years and also many improvements such as stained glass windows installed in 1902 and a pipe organ installed in 1908, in 1912, electricity supplanted acetylene.

In 1941, our attractive church school and auditorium wing was added to the east side of the sanctuary. In 1958, our west wing, the all-purpose room was added, and in 1968, an addition was added to the front, and the sanctuary is again on the lower level with seating capacity increased by 200.



Houses by Sears

By Betty Cornell Luff

Sold by mail from 1908 to 1940, Sears homes have stood the test of time. If you are an owner of a Sears home, you own a piece of history. Of more than 100,000 built around the nation, probably some 10,000 kits were sold to Pennsylvanians in the first half of the century.



Betty and Vince Luff's Sears home at 65 Cornell Avenue in Churchville in 1949.

In the early 1900's the little village of Churchville began to see an increase in residents as nearby farmers began to retire and lead an easier life. It was about this time that William D. (Will) Cornell cut through a strip of his property along the Reading Railroad and so the little street was named Cornell Avenue.

I have written in past issues about the old Northampton houses that I have lived in but there was also a short period when I lived in a cozy little Sears and Roebuck house on Cornell Avenue in Churchville.

When I married in 1943, I moved into the old Pheasant Run farmhouse on Lower Holland Road with my husband's parents. After the children started arriving we desperately wanted a place of our own. For \$10,000 we purchased a lovely bungalow built by Leonard Emmert. He had built his own home on Cornell Avenue and realizing there was a need for additional homes there he built several more.

These pre-cut Sears and Roebuck homes were ordered from an illustrated catalog that displayed pictures and floor plans. They were delivered anywhere in the country that was served by a railroad. The buyer needed only a lot and foundation. Cornell Avenue's proximity to the Churchville train station made it an ideal location to erect these homes.

Richard Sears began selling watches by mail in 1886 and Alvah Roebuck soon joined him. In 1893 they chartered Sears, Roebuck and Company as a national mail order company. In 1908, since they were already selling doors, shingles, windows and nails, they added plans for houses.

Plans for garages, outhouses, farm building, twin houses, and apartment buildings were also available. When I read this I discovered that the plans for our particular bungalow had an optional bath. Thank goodness our included one.

However since it only included two bedrooms and our third child was on the way, it was soon decided that we would switch houses, so back to the farm we went and my mother-in-law enjoyed our cozy bungalow for many years.

No. C2009

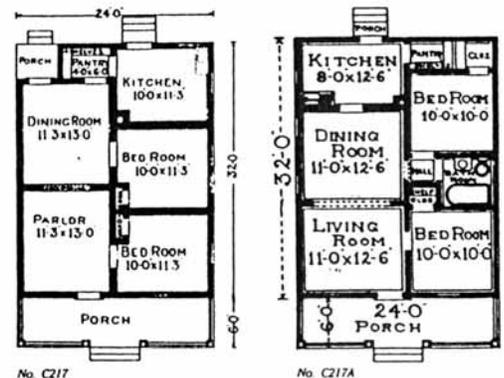


This tasty design of a bungalow is a winner for the price which we ask for all the materials required in its construction. Over 100 of these houses have been built. As will be seen by the floor plan, this house is quite convenient for the average family desiring to own a home for the smallest possible cost.

Details and features: Five rooms and one or no bath. Full-width front porch; exposed roof rafter tails; shed dormer in front; glazed front door. Two floor plans; cased opening between living and dining rooms.

Year and catalog numbers: 1917 (C2009, C2038, C217, C217A)

Price: \$599 to \$635



The Little Village

By George Ivins

*In the corner of our state
A little village sits,
And as cars drive swiftly by
Some don't know it exists.*

*It has a little country store
And homes that date way back,
A little country inn
And a broken railroad track.*

*And so I guess some wonder
What keeps this town alive,
What causes it to be a hub
And what give these folks their drive.*

*Well the answer is quite simple
Because a country church sits there,
Right dad in the middle
Of this busy thoro-fare.*

*You see it's been there many years
And it's like a lightning rod,
Because the folks that visit there
Are searching for their God.*

*Some are deeply troubled
And some come to reinforce,
But they all leave better off
Because they've had a change of course.*

*So if you pass this little village
And the church in old Churchville,
Stop in some Sunday morning
If just may fill your bill.*



BRUCKS COUNTY (PA.) TIME'S
Arnold Bros., Printers, Rushland, Pa.

CHURCHVILLE STATION.



STORE & POST OFFICE - CHURCHVILLE, PA.



North and Southampton Reformed Church, Churchville, Pa.

**The Northampton Township Historical Society cordially
invites you and your guests to the 5th Annual Fred M.
Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007
6-10 PM
Spring Mill Manor
181 Jacksonville Road
Ivyland, Pennsylvania 18974
215-675-6000**

CASH BAR

COST: Northampton Township Historical Society 2007 Member - \$5 per person

Members' dinners are compliments of the generous bequest of Fred Holzwarth
The \$5.00 charge is for maitre D, bartender, coat check, and gratuity
Guests, Family and Friends are all welcome at \$30.00 per person

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by November 1st, 2007
IMPORTANT – No reservations can be accepted after this date!

Please mail your reservations along with a check made out to "NTHS" to:

Pat Komelasky
42 Larch Circle
Holland, PA

Please include the following:

2007 Member Name _____ Phone number _____
Address _____

List names of NTHS members attending _____
_____ @ \$5 each = \$ _____

List names of non-members attending _____
_____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2007 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com
Vice President	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@comcast.net
Secretary	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.com
Treasurer	Jackie Liney	215-858-8066	jackie@childrensculturalcenter.org
Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
Ways and Means	Vacant		
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@comcast.net
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
Director	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222	
Director	Christine Fluehr	215-579-4334	chris@fluehr.com
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 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 Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

Meeting Dates for 2007

September 19 General Meeting 7:30 PM
 November 14 Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM Spring Mill Manor

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 : _____

HISTORIA

*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY*



SEPTEMBER 2007

*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 732
RICHBORO, PA 18954-0732*

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF IT DOES NOT
INDICATE '2007' YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED.**

**Next MEETING - Wednesday September 19, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Leslie Simon, Archivist - at the Library, Richboro**