



HISTORIA

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER, 1998

LEARN ABOUT QUILTS AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Richard Leedom and His Wives

By Virginia B. Geyer

Our September 30 meeting will feature a talk on quilts by Judy Roche of Solebury. Judy has been collecting and studying quilts since the early 1970's. She is a member of the American Quilt Study Group and a local quilt study group that meets in Montgomeryville. Judy has a wonderful workshop located in a converted summer kitchen behind her home. It has walls of sorted cloth material and reference books, and even an adjacent guest room for those who travel to study and research quilts. Judy will bring many quilts to the meeting for display. Members and guests are also encouraged to bring their quilts for identification and display. This promises to be a very special presentation. Please plan to attend

Richard Leedom, Jr. was the son of William, and the grandson of Richard Leedom Sr, of Southampton, Pa. Richard Sr. lived on the Philadelphia Rd (2nd St. Pike) across from the Old Baptist Church. Richard Jr. was raised on a farm nearby his grand-father. Members of family joined the Abington Friends Meeting some months before Richard Jr.'s birth in 1739. Imagine the surprise when, years later, he married "out of meeting" the widow, Sarah "Colley" (Cawley) of Northampton Township on May 13, 1762 at the Old Baptist Church in Southampton.

Who was Sarah Cawley? Sarah was the daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Twining of Newtown, Bucks County and was born in 1737. Nathaniel Twining died in 1750 without a will, so the estate was settled in the Orphans Court (file #122). His daughter, Sarah, received 73 pounds plus other monies from the division of her father's property. Sarah and her brother, Nathaniel, were minors, consequently guardians were appointed for them, while her two older brothers, Samuel and Benjamin, were of age to receive the property. Sarah's guardian was John Twining, perhaps an uncle.

Sarah Twining married in 1752 at age 15 to John Cawley, Jr. In the March term of the Orphans Court of 1752, John Cawley, Jr. presented a petition saying he had married the daughter of Nathaniel Twining and knew that the court had made distribution of Twining's estate and had appointed a guardian for Sarah. He wanted (1) a rendering of the accounts of the guardian, (2) that the present guardian should be discharged, and (3) himself appointed guardian in his place. Oddly enough, he didn't identify his wife or the guardian by name, so the court gave him a paper to be presented to the guardian to appear at the next court term to show his accounts.

In the September, 1752 term of the Orphans Court, Sarah Twining Cawley and her guardian, John Twining, arrived in



A square from a
Pennsylvania Tulip quilt



Carolina Lily quilt,
1860's



Delaware Valley quilt.
Signed and dated, 1840's



A square from the
Delaware Valley quilt
at left, 1840's

Please turn to page 3

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the fall Historical Society session. Our September meeting will feature a talk on quilts by Judy Roche of Solebury. I had the pleasure of visiting her quilt studio, which is in a summer kitchen house behind her home. She is a self-taught expert on quilts, and I know the talk will be very interesting. Judy extended the invitation for you to bring your quilts to the meeting for identification and discussion.

The Northampton Days celebration will be Sunday September 13. We plan to have a table with board members taking turns. I hope to see many of you there.

Looking forward to our November dinner meeting, we expect to have a talk on the Molland house in Warwick given by Warren Williams of the Warwick Historical Society.

The November meeting will also be our annual election. The offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary are open for nominations. Nominations will be taken at the meetings or can be given to Jean Gallagher. Nominations may be sent to her or you may reach her at 357-7833.

Mark your calendar for next year's Historical Society meetings. They are Wednesday March 31, May 26, Sept 29 and November 17.

See you at the September meeting!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 13** - Northampton Days - Richboro
- SEP 21** - Historical Society of Southampton Meeting 7:30 PM - 357-2086
- SEP 30** - Northampton Township Historical Society General Meeting 7:30 PM
- OCT 19** - Historical Society of Southampton Meeting 7:30 PM - 357-2086
- OCT 24** - Molland House, Warwick Reenactment of Washington Encampment
- NOV 18** - Northampton Township Historical Society Dinner Meeting - 6:30 PM

HISTORICAL QUIZ

By Dave Gauntt

First some modern history -

1. What is the Pennsylvania state tree?
2. What is the Pennsylvania state bird?
3. What is the Pennsylvania state animal?
4. What is the Pennsylvania state flower?
5. What is the Pennsylvania state fish?
6. What is the Pennsylvania state insect?
7. What is the Pennsylvania state dog?
8. What is the (unofficial) Pennsylvania state song?

Now for some of the real stuff not well covered in your history books -

9. Where, when, (and who) was the first white settlement in Pennsylvania?
10. Where, when, (and who) was the first Fort in Pennsylvania?
11. When did William Penn establish his colony, Pennsylvania?
12. Penn's award of a New World tract was actually payment due to his deceased father. What was his father's name?
13. How long did Penn live in America?
14. How many of today's Bucks County Townships were covered in part by George Washington's 1777 Continental Army encampment?
15. What two railroad stations were still on the western border of Northampton Township in 1947?
16. In what church were (how many) lanterns hung to set Paul Revere riding into the night?
17. What was the name of Paul Revere's horse?
18. How many other riders rode the same mission that night?
19. Identify the spy that provided the information Paul carried.
20. What was the British objective that was being exposed?

Answers to Quiz:

1. Hemlock 2. Ruffed grouse 3. White-tailed deer 4. Mountain laurel 5. Brook trout 6. Firefly 7. Great Dane 8. Pennsylvania polka 9. The Swedes settled New Gothenborg in 1643, just south of the Schuylkill River. 10. The Dutch finished a fort, just north of the Schuylkill in 1645. 11. 1682 12. Admiral William Penn 13. Three years 14. Seven, including Northampton Township. 15. Traymore and Grenoble 16. Old North Church (2) 17. Brown Beauty 18. Sixty 19. The American wife of the British Commander General, Gates 20. The cannon stored at Concord, Mass. (The rider's message was timely and the British came up empty)

RICHARD LEEDOM AND HIS WIVES from page 1

court. John was ready to present the accounts of Sarah's estate, but Sarah presented a petition to keep her guardian, and noted some person or persons wanted to remove John Twining of "his trust of her estate." She wanted *nothing* to be changed. The Court agreed, permitting John Twining to remain her guardian, with no need to exhibit his accounts at that time.

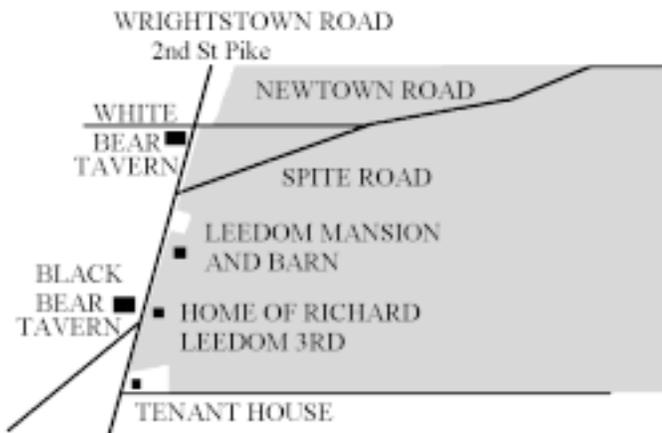
By 1759, John Cawley, Jr. had acquired the Black Bear Tavern at the inter-section of Bustleton and 2nd St. Pikes. He mortgaged it to David Twining for a security payment of 250 pounds. The next year, 1760, he died without a will. Sarah refused to be appointed administrator of the estate including the tavern, and requested her two brothers, Samuel and Benjamin Twining, to be co-administrators. It took several years to settle the estate, including a suit against David Twining brought by the father of the deceased. Eventually, the Court ordered a sheriff sale of the property in 1762, and, luckily, Sarah was the highest bidder. Shortly after regaining her property, she married Richard Leedom, Jr., and turned her tavern and property over to him.

transferred their membership to Wrightstown. The couple had eight children.

After Richard and Sarah Leedom were married one year, Richard took out a mortgage of 150 pounds, using the tavern as collateral. He and Sarah probably were living on the second floor or attic of the tavern, and perhaps needed to enlarge it for a growing family. The debt was paid by 1765. In the following years, there was growing unrest in the colonies. A Committee of Safety of Bucks County was organized, and from their minutes of 1774-1776, some meetings were held at the "house of Richard Leedom" in the Black Bear Tavern. It was there that it was decided to form "associations to improve themselves in the military art."



The original Vanhorn house built c. 1740's at left. The right window was the door. Richard Leedom added the larger, north side addition in 1779. The house was later in the Luff family and is now the home of Scott and Dianne Thomas.



Map showing the Leedom Farm 12/3/1776. The Black and White Bear Taverns are shown for reference. The gray area comprises the Leedom farm of 281 acres. It extended from Upper Holland road at the bottom to above Richboro-Newtown road (Shop-N-Bag shopping center) and from Second Street Pike to the East. The three areas in exception along Second Street Pike were owned by the Vanhorn's, Peter owning the lower and upper tracts and Benjamin owing the tract close to where the Addisville Church now stands.

Sarah Leedom joined the Wrightstown Meeting, but Richard remained a member of the Abington Meeting, and as children were born, they also became members of Abington Meeting. After 10 years, Richard and the children

Richard's name is on the rolls of the 4th Associators of Northampton Township, Aug. 10, 1775. He was disowned by the Quakers for taking up arms, but joined a group of 200 other disowned Quakers who called themselves "The Free Quakers" or "The Fighting Quakers." Their restored meeting house stands at 5th and Arch Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

In 1776, Leedom purchased from the estate of Barnard Vanhorn a farm of 281 acres located across the Philadelphia Rd. from the Black Bear Tavern. Its small house had one room on both first and second floors, with a circular stairway. The purchase of the farm did not include a five acre tract of ground on the northeast corner at Bustleton Pike and Upper Holland Rd. owned by Vanhorn's son, Peter. Only after Peter's death was Leedom able to buy the five acre tract in 1779. It was sold just as a tract of ground with no buildings recorded in the description.

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RICHARD LEEDOM AND HIS WIVES from page 3

Leedom built, (attached to the old home), a large house, considered by some to be the finest in Bucks County at that time. During the building, one incident caused excitement. One day when the first floor boards were being laid, the workmen went home for lunch, not realizing some wood shavings were smoldering. When the workers returned, the house was on fire. Today, one still can see a few charred joists in the basement. The builder was also a member of the Wrightstown Meeting. It was said in *Watson's Annals* that the expense would fall heavy on someone.



Stone sink drain of original Vanhorn house, c. 1740's

The American Revolution was in full swing when the Leedom house was finished. Sarah and other women of the neighborhood met in the Leedom house to make bandages for the troops. After the war, Sarah and Richard Jr. sold a small piece of land to their fifth son, Richard 3rd, who had married Margaret (unknown). A stone house was built nearby the family mansion and has a date stone, 1812, under the eave, in the north wall. Richard 3rd died in 1822 leaving no children; his father purchased back the ground and house for \$1700. Several years

ago yellow metal siding was installed on the stone walls of the house. This house is not to be confused with the one on Bustleton Pike and Upper Holland Rd., probably built by Richard Leedom as a tenant house (now razed).

Sarah Twining Leedom died in 1816 at the age of 79. Richard Jr. married two years later a widow, Ann Carver Lloyd. He died in 1825, and in his will he left her the house built for his son, but she refused it. She wanted money instead. Less than a year later, she married for a third time to Enos Morris but he died six years later. She married then to George Stuckert of Philadelphia

For many years Richard Jr. had been taxed as a tavern owner, grist and saw mill owner, and store owner. (In the inventory papers of Richard Jr.'s will is mentioned the store "behind

the kitchen"). He ran the grist mill at Bustleton Pike and Lower Holland Rd. and also was taxed as owner of a tannery at 2nd St Pike and Tanyard Rd. This property had been part of the tavern property of Sarah Cawley when she married Leedom, Jr. He sold it by 1819, after leasing it out for 57 years.

Richard Leedom Jr. in his will of 1823, included a few maps showing parcels of property that were to be given to each of his children. To his grandson, Richard, son of Benjamin, he left the blacksmith and wheelright shops near the tavern, "and the log house over the road from the smith shop.....and 2 acres of land to join the log house from land I now live on." There is no map showing this inheritance, but one does wonder if this log house possibly could be the tenant house with 2 acres later sold to the Widow Hannah Fenton. After Richard's death in 1825, family dissensions forced the estate into Orphans Court, and new maps were made for the Court. When Richard purchased the property in 1779, there were no buildings on the five acre plot purchased from Peter Vanhorn estate. Thus, the tenant house sold to Hannah Fenton was built between 1780-1825.

After Richard's death, the Orphans Court awarded to his daughter, Rachel, and her husband, Jacob Thomas, 188+ acres of the farm, and the mansion and all buildings. In 1829, Jacob Thomas sold 2 acres with a tenant house to the widow, Hannah Fenton for \$405.

Rachel and Jacob Thomas were able to enjoy their new mansion but a short time before Jacob died in 1829, with many debts. Although Jacob Thomas hoped to save some of the property for his wife and children, it was not to be. In 1835, all the mansion property went to the auction block, and Richard Leedom Jr.'s dream house was no longer in the hands of the Leedom family.

Copyright applied for August 4, 1998

References:

Wrightstown Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Abington Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Copy of Marriage License of Rich. Leedom Jr. & Sarah "Colley" (Cawley)
 Will & Orphans Court record for Nathaniel Twining
 Orphans Court records of Sarah and John Twining Cawley, Jr.
 Grantee & Grantor Deeds for Rich Leedom Sr. & Jr.
 Grantee Deed for John Cawley, also his will
 Sheriff sales
 Committe of Safety of B.C. minutes
 Watson's Annals
 Deed to Richard Leedom 3rd.
 Will of Rich Leedom, Jr., & Orphans Court records, & tax records
 Will of Jacob Thomas
 Auction sale of home of Jacob Thomas
The Leedom Family by Sarah A. L. Eachus, 1982

REMEMBERING A CHURCHVILLE RESIDENT

By Betty Luff

There is an old house in Churchville, which like so many old homes has had many additions and alterations over the years. The original section of the home at 1285 Bristol Road is believed to have been built in the mid 1700's. The most unusual room is this part of the house was a smoke room on the third floor. The smoke from the fireplaces in the rooms below went to the fireplace on the third floor and hooks where the meat was hung to be smoked still hang in the heavy beams.

While doing research in Historic Churchville, I visited an interesting old-timer who was born in this house in 1909. Mr. Alfred Scott now resides at the Southampton Estates. He reminisced about how vital the Reading Railroad was to the residents of Churchville. It brought the mail, freight, fuel, and even summer boarders. His family rode the train into the city to visit doctors and dentists and to Newtown for banking, hardware, clothing and shoes. Alfred told of a train ride at age 11 to Newtown where he walked to the hardware store, purchased a sled, and rode



Common grave identifying nine victims of the tragic Bryn Athyn train wreck on December 5, 1921



Churchville Monument to those that served in World War I, 1914-1918

the next train back to Churchville, with the sled in the baggage car. His dad, Charles Scott, loved gardening and named his little eight-acre parcel "Sundial Farm." Houses are growing there now.

The most interesting story was how his dad had been responsible for moving a huge boulder, hauled down from Buckingham Mountain, for a memorial in Churchville. The memorial, standing at the corner of Bristol Road and Bustleton Pike, has the names of 55 veterans who served in the First World War, from 1914 to 1918.

Ironically, Charles Scott's name also appears on another marble memorial across the street in the North and Southampton Reformed Church cemetery. Buried in a common grave are the remains of the victims of the tragic Bryn Athyn train wreck of December 5, 1921. The fierce flames, which consumed some of the wooden coaches, made the remains unidentifiable. No family in Churchville was spared the feeling of great loss from this tragic accident. Charles Scott was only 45 years old, leaving a 12-year-old son, Alfred.



The Scott home in Churchville



D.C. Scott in his garden at his Churchville home, 1908

Ginny Geyer passes on the following corrections to a story by Mary Dieter in the May 1998 HISTORIA titled Luff Tenement House.

1. Richard Leedom of Northampton Twp. was Rich. Leedom Jr., not Sr. His grandfather, Richard Leedom Sr., lived on 2nd St Pike (the Phila. Rd) across the street from the Old Baptist Church in Southampton Twp (now Tamanend Park).
2. When Richard. Leedom Jr. built the “upscale stone house across the street from” the Black Bear Inn, it was built onto a small house already there when Leedom purchased the property.
3. Leedom, Jr. was married to the widow, Sarah Twining Cawley, owner of the Black Bear Tavern, and it was they who sold 44 perches of land, 1811, to their son, Richard, 3rd who was married to Margaret _____. It is this house that has date stone of 1812, and several years ago, the stone house had yellow metal siding placed on the walls. This house should not be confused with the little tenant house on the corner of Upper Holland Rd. and Bustleton Pike. Richard 3rd died in 1822, and his father purchased back the property for \$1700. It was this house that Richard Jr. tried to leave to his 2nd wife, but she refused and wanted money.
4. Because of conflict in the family, dividing the estate of Rich. Leedom Jr. was done by the Orphans Court, with 188 acres going to Rich. Jr.’s daughter, Rachel Thomas and husband, Jacob in 1828. He died the next year, 1829, deeply in debt, and by 1835, the property was sold at sheriff sale.
5. *Strohmier* is the way the name reads on deeds and by signature.

STOP AND SEE US AT NORTHAMPTON DAYS



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
IN RICHBORO**

UPDATE ON THE SPREAD EAGLE AND RELATED RICHBORO PROJECTS

The Spread Eagle project is moving slowly but is dependent on the overall plan for the Giamo tract at the corner of Second Street Pike and Almshouse Road. A petition has recently been started by Murray Battleman, manager of Shop-n-Bag in Richboro, opposing the re-zoning of part of the tract. A small portion of the land to be developed is zoned residential and needs to be re-zoned commercial for the project to continue.

The project will move the Spread Eagle 300 feet to the west and raze every other building now on the property, including the bank and the present Giuseppe’s strip. An Amoco gas station will be built on the corner. The bank will be rebuilt and a McCafferty supermarket and additional attached stores will be built at the back of the property.

The Historical Society is opposed to the petition because it puts in jeopardy the move of the Spread Eagle. If the plans were not approved and Amoco was to back out, it is unlikely we would be able to save the Spread unless it could remain where it is. We feel that the organization of a group, opposing the development should aim their efforts at improving the project as it now stands rather than outright opposing it. It is unlikely that this opposition will be successful, but I encourage you to attend the Planning Commission and Supervisor meetings regarding this and to support our position. The project will be an improvement for a now blighted property and, with the update of the intersection, will improve the traffic situation greatly. Opposing the rezoning will not stop the ultimate development of the property and what we get at a later date may be far worse than what is proposed now!



I also attended a Planning Commission meeting regarding the Richboro school property, shown above in an early picture. A New Jersey bank wants to develop the property. During that meeting, several commission members encouraged the developer’s representative to entertain the idea of saving the oldest part of the school and incorporating it into the overall plans. They agreed to investigate the possibility. We will hear more about this at future meetings.

Doug Crompton



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WEBSITE: <http://www.resuba.com/bucks> EMAIL: nths@crompton.com

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| HISTORIA Editor | Doug Crompton | 355-5307 |
| Send articles to: | 1269 2nd St Pike Richboro, PA 18954 | |

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.

Meeting Dates for 1998/99

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| September 30 | General Meeting | 7:30 PM |
| November 18 | Dinner Meeting | 6:30 PM |
| March 31 | General Meeting | 7:30 PM |
| May 26 | General Meeting | 7:30 PM |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| PATRON: | Extra support for the society | \$35.00 |
| FAMILY: | All members of one family | \$15.00 |
| SINGLE: | Adult individual membership | \$10.00 |
| SENIOR CITIZEN: | Age 65 years or older | \$5.00 |

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 1998 (January 1998 to December 1998)

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 in 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: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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 welcomed : _____