



HISTORIA

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1999

SCHERENSCHNITTE **Lecture and Workshop at September Meeting**

The Northampton Township Historical Society will kick-off the fall session with a workshop/lecture on Scherenschnitte at the September meeting. Scherenschnitte is the German word meaning scissors-cutting. Designs can be cut, using a scissors or a knife, from a single sheet of paper or from a folded paper to create a symmetrical design. The origin of this art form dates back to the 4th century in China, which was the first civilization to use paper. The early German settlers of Pennsylvania used scissors and paper to create lacy borders for their pantry shelves, valentines, love letters, birth, baptismal, and marriage certificates. Scissors-cutting, as a craft, is practiced in many cultures today.

Artist Marilyn Diener, a graduate of Kutztown University with a B.S. degree in art education, will give the talk. She taught art at the elementary level, and as a teacher found paper to be one of her favorite mediums. After seeing an exhibit of paper-cuttings, created by early German settlers from Berks and Lancaster counties in 1972, Marilyn researched and developed her own paper-cutting skills. In 1978 she received juried status from the Reading-Berks Craft Guild and in 1979 from the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. In 1982 and 1983 her work was featured in Colonial Homes and Woman's World Magazines. In 1991 Early American Life magazine selected her work to be included in their "Directory of the 200 Best Traditional Craftsmen." The artist's work reflects traditional folk art designs of the Pennsylvania Germans.

Attendees are encouraged to bring decoupage or old type embroidery scissors to try their hand at making Scherenschnitte.

The meeting will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 29th at the Northampton Township Cultural/Senior Center, adjacent to the library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Visitors are always welcome. Please plan to join us for a great program.

RICHBORO SCHOOL TIME CAPSULE OPENED

See story on page 3



**Betty Luff, Ginny Geyer, Marion Tomlinson,
Hannah Overholt, and Jean Gallagher
await the opening of the time capsule.**

**JOIN US AT
NORTHAMPTON DAYS
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19**



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 11, 1999 was supposed to have the Commerce bank / Richboro school and the Spread Eagle / Giamo development on the agenda but both were continued until September. Future meetings were scheduled for September 7 (planning) and September 22 and October 15. As the dates or agendas may change please contact the township or a board member for more info.

Thank you all for supporting this effort by coming to the supervisors meeting and collecting signatures for the petition. Saving the old stone school will be an uphill battle. The bank needs to be convinced that we are serious and that a significant number of residents would not use their facility if they do not make a sincere effort to preserve the old school.

When I last spoke with Steve Schwartz, of Amoco, it looked like the moving of the Spread Eagle was still favorable. The delay is because of the magnitude of the development and the re-zoning of a portion of the land. It is likely another year could go by before all is resolved.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on September 29, 1999. The speaker Marilyn Deiner, and will lecture and provide a hands-on workshop on Scherenschnitte, the German word for scissor-cutting. Please Bring a friend!



Doug Crompton Honored at Historical Society Dinner

On June 10, 1999 at a Historical Society dinner, Doug Crompton was honored for his service to the society and he received a proclamation letter from Roy Reinard for his dedication and service to the community.



Above, Ruth Smith, Muriel Briggs, Betty Luff, Doris D'Ardenne, Bill Smith and Florence Leedom, Attended the Dinner representing original members of the Historical Society.



Left, Doug Crompton shows certificate he received from Rep.Reinard.

Ruth Juncker Smith

The Society lost a wonderful and dedicated member when Ruth Smith, beloved wife of Bill Smith, passed away August 12, 1999 at Holy Redeemer Hospital. Ruth and her husband were original members of the Historical Society in 1973. She was born in St Louis, Missouri and was a graduate of the University of Missouri. She taught English and Journalism at Center High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ruth and Bill have lived in Churchville for 34 years. They have opened their house for many Historical Society tours throughout the years. She was intensely interested in history and she always gave her support to the Historical Society. Ruth also organized and was a past president of the Walking Purchase Questers Chaper #330.

Ruth is survived by her children, Dr. Viginia A. Smith-Sarezky and her husband Michael, of Wilton, Connecticut and William C. A. Smith and his wife Susan of Baldwin, NY, and four grandsons, Christopher, Daniel, Jonathan, and Billy.

Services were held at the Joseph Fluehr funeral home and interment was at Union Cemetery in Richboro. Contributions in her memory may be made to Holy Redeemer Hospital Foundation, 1616 Huntingdon Pike, Meadowbrook, PA 19046

Raymond P. Gallagher

Ray Gallagher, husband of Jean Gallagher, passed away on June 28th 1999 at the age of 86. Ray was a sergeant in the armed forces stationed in Iran for five years during World War II. He was the recipient in 1995 of a commemorative medal from the Russian government signed by Boris Yeltsen. He received the medal for his participation during the war as an expediter of rails in the Persian Gulf Command. After the war he worked for 30 years as a pressman at Fabricon Products in their Philadelphia division.

Jean and Ray were married for 44 years and have 6 children and 7 grandchildren. Funeral Mass was held July 1 at St. Vincent de Paul Church with interment in St. John Neumann Cemetery. Contributions may be made to St Vincent De Paul Church, Hatboro and Tanyard roads, Richboro, PA 18954

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 26 - Glen Foerd on the Delaware Old-Fashioned Country Fair
- Sept 29 - Northampton Historical Society General Metting - 7:30 PM
- Oct 1 - The David Library Start of fall lecture session Thomas Jefferson and the Indians
- Oct 3 - Warwick Historical Society 18th Century Colonial Dinner

Looking Back 43 Years

Richboro School Time Capsule Opened

By Betty Luff

My husband, Vince Luff, walked to the Fairview one-room school on Bustleton Pike in Churchville for the first year of his schooling. Then in 1927, a new four-room brick building was built next to the old 1913 stone school in Richboro. This was when most of the one-room schools closed. I started first grade in the new brick building in 1930 and Vince and I both graduated from Richboro High School. There were at least two additions to the brick building during our twelve years there. Our four children all attended Richboro and graduated from Council Rock High School and three of them still live in the C.R. area which means that six of our grandchildren are C.R. graduates with more to go.

In 1956, since Casey Farms, Richboro Manor and Churchville Manor developments were bringing in so many more children, it was necessary to add four more classrooms and a combination gym, auditorium and cafeteria. It was decided at this time to connect the older stone building and the brick building in the rear. This is when my three oldest children spoke about putting a time capsule in a large date stone over the main entrance where all of the buses loaded and unloaded.



Matt Heist opens the capsule as Marion Tomlinson and Hannah Overholt wait in anticipation.

Present when the time capsule was opened were two of the teachers who had taught second and third grades at the school for many years. Mrs. Hannah Overholt, 91 and Mrs. Marion Tomlinson, 92. Also present were Jane Overholt Schondelmeyer and Phyllis Luff Orrino. Both attended Richboro forty-three years ago. They shared laughs and memories of their fellow classmates signatures.



**Richboro
Elementary
Teachers
1940's**

Front Row

**Elinor Lawhorne
Barbara Detweiler
Marion Tomlinson**

Back Row

**Hannah Overholt
Lillian Bushby
Anna Burns
Ruth Hampsher**



Since the Commerce bank has purchased the entire school property, The Northampton Township Historical Commission was given permission to remove the date stone and on Thursday, July 23, 1999, at the home of our chairman, Matt Heist, the time capsule was opened. Inside were the listing of every elementary school child, a 1949 map, the 1957 school budget, a newspaper of the day describing the new addition, a magazine and a listing of the school board members and teachers. Among the names was Raymond O. Gilbert who served as school principle from 1929 until 1968.

At Right - Items found in Capsule and Jim Burt looks over items with Hannah and Marion.



Pleasant Plains Public School, c.1871



Students pose in 1906 at Pleasant Plains School

Teacher, Miss. Ella Bennet

Top center two students are Indian boys from Carlisle Indian School. They lived at Walter Scott's farm.

Story by Betty Luff

As early as 1819 there were one-room schoolhouses in Northampton Township. First through eight graders were in one room with one teacher. By 1871 there were nine of these schools scattered throughout the township. Each morning, two boys were assigned to fetch a pail of drinking water from a nearby pump and sometimes many students drank from the same cup. In the winter, an older student was often hired to start the fire in the stove late on Sunday night to begin warming the building after the weekend.

The Northampton Township Historical Commission has many photos of these early schools, many with as many as 25 students posing in them. The Pleasant Plains Public School was built in 1871 on the North side of New Road, east of Hatboro Road. It closed in 1928 and was sold in 1929. It is still in use as a home and has had many alterations over the years.

The new elementary school is being built across the street from this original school and the Northampton Historical Commission is asking the Council Rock School board to name it PLEASANT PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in honor of the original school.



Pleasant Plains School, located on the North side of New Road, east of Hatboro Road. Picture taken July 14, 1935. The school was built in 1871. The boy on the fence is Charles Stirzel.



Construction of the New (yet unnamed) elementary school is underway. It is located several hundred feet west of the old school on the South side of New Road.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

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

1999 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
Membership	Fred Holzwarth	357-4899
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
Social Committee	Doris D'Ardenne	968-5507
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Director	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547
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. Past issues of the HISTORIA are available at our web page.

Meeting Dates for 1999/2000

Sept 29	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Nov 17	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM
Mar 29, 2000	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 24, 2000	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Sept 22, 2000	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Nov 15, 2000	Dinner Meeting	6:30 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 1999 (January 1999 to December 1999)

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: _____ SINGLE: FAMILY

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 : _____