



## Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 4, No. 49

December 5, 2013

## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant. Please send your responses to:

[Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Hot news in the Downingtown area in December 1977

Noted below are items that were originally published in local newspapers 36 years ago.

Demolition of a pre-1750 house on West Lancaster Avenue, next to the **Downingtown Moose Lodge**, was temporarily halted by the borough, after Helen Filoromo, a neighbor and chairperson of the Downingtown Historical Commission, claimed the work was being done without a permit. Moose officials said the demolition contractor failed to take care of the permit before he started tearing down the pre-Revolutionary War era house, so the Moose could increase the size of its parking area.

The **Downingtown Farmer's Market**, destroyed by a December 1976 fire, re-opened in time for the Christmas shoppers on the day after Thanksgiving.

The number of students who reside in the **Downingtown School District**, but attended a private or parochial school in the 1977-78 school year, rose to 755. That was an increase of 92 pupils (13 percent) over the previous school year.

Recent **property transfers** included: 2 Spruce Drive, West Bradford, \$88,500; 142 Brookfield Court, East Brandywine, \$51,143; 133 Lakeview Drive, Uwchlan, \$56,000; 404 Norwood Road, East Caln, \$89,900; 9 Surrey Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$59,500; 304 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, \$51,000.

Thirteen-year-old **Scott Farnum**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farnum, Downingtown, shot an eight-point buck near Marshallton.

**DHS football** players named to the All Ches-Mont team were Chris Celii, Craig Thompson, Al Schofield, John Chilla, Harry Valentino and Tony DiOttavio.

Those responsible for the Live Wires' Christmas party at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Louise Bruton, Annetta Schollenberger, Eleanor Algier, Elizabeth Carpenter, Helen McGill, Hazel Miller, Jean Steeley, Alverta Wagoner, and Beverly and Grace Woodward.

New officers of the Woman's Association at **Central Presbyterian Church** were Bette Smith, president; Vivian Piersol, vice president; Ann Pearson, nominating committee; Cindy Staggers, Ruth Circle; Melanie Brown, Sarah Circle; and Janet Schucker, Martha Circle.

Officers of the **Lionville Youth Association** were Paul Seymour, chairman; Don Wix, president; John Nagle, operational vice president; Phyllis Duckinfield, secretary; and Dorothy Foster, administrative commissioner.

Marian Mason and Jan Lewis were appointed to the **Wallace Township Park and Recreation Commission**.

**Robbie Kirkbride** of East Caln was named the top Cub Scout in Pennsylvania.

Officers of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were Richard Herbster of National Central Bank, president; Joseph Stauffer, Brandywine Savings and Loan, first vice president; and Jim Doran, Downingtown Savings and Loan, second vice president. Mike Doyle, Jefferson Bank, was the only newly elected director.

Officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co.** were Bill Tuting, president; Dennis Riggins, vice president; Pat Tuting, treasurer; Glen Schmidt, financial secretary; Jack Hines, fire chief; Mern Bedsworth, fire police captain; and Honey Johnson, president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

## Please support our Preserve and Protect Programs

Subscribers to our free, weekly Hist-O-Grams are requested to help the Downingtown Area Historical Society continue to conduct our **Preserve and Protect Programs**, which are spelled out below:

- **Restore and maintain Ashbridge House**, our 304-year-old headquarters. In 2013, we repaired the brick stairway leading to the patio, and installed a new window well in the basement.

- **Help local organizations.** We continue to provide a place for meetings of Downingtown area **Girl Scout** leaders, and helped Girl Scouts earn badges. And we did a program for the **Downingtown Woman's Club**. Also, we're going to help the Woman's Club celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.

• **Work on our archival collection.** Newspaper articles about local people are clipped and pasted on 14 x 9 cards by volunteers every week. They comprise the Family Files, which now include clippings on more than 8,000 people. Also, we continue to add to our on-line index, noting all the names in the Family Files, which can be accessed on our website. And we continue to clip and paste articles about local governments, schools, churches, clubs and teams

To help us continue to conduct our Preserve and Protect Programs next year, please send a tax-deductible donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society.

Kindly make out your check to the DAHS and send it to: P. O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. If you have any questions, please call 610-269-1709 or contact us via [info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org). Thank you for your support.

## Part II

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, is 175 years old**

*(Editor's Note: This is the second part of an article on the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, which was founded in 1838. Information in this installment was gleaned from "The History of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lionville, Pennsylvania, 1838," by Paul Schuler, and a supplemental history, covering 1988-2013, by Cheryl Baker. You can read the first part of the story by accessing:*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2028%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2028%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)).

Rev. George C. Myers became the pastor in 1964. By then, the church's membership totaled 244. Since additional classrooms and parking were needed, as the Lionville was evolving from a rural community to a suburb, expansion plans were pursued.

In 1966, the parsonage next to the church became the Parish House, where Sunday School classes were held, and a new parsonage was established at 102 Lori Circle in Exton. Also that year, a 750-pound bell, (memorializing Charles H. Martin Jr., who died in 1965 while serving with the Lionville Fire Co.) was installed on top of the church. In 1968, the Ursula Cotta Class, the Friendship Class and the Lutheran Church Women were merged into the Women of St. Paul's, and the Community Nursery School was founded.

And in 1969, the 14.3-acre Mitchell property, adjoining the church, was purchased for \$125,000. The property included an early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, stone barn, which was used by the Luther League and Boy Scouts in the 1970s. The farmhouse on that land became the parsonage, and the parsonage on Lori Circle was sold.

The congregation sponsored a refugee family of four people from Vietnam in 1975. In the ensuing years, more than 25 individuals--from Viet Nam, Laos and Poland--have been sponsored by the church.

After 10 acres of the Mitchell property was sold in 1975, land on Devon Drive (across from DHS East High School) was bought so a new church might be built there. However, when Village Avenue was certified as an historic area, the congregation decided in 1977 to stay in Lionville and make the old stone barn the foundation for a new church building, and the Devon Drive property was sold.

In 1978, the historic barn was converted to a parish building, providing classrooms, nursery space, a social hall, a kitchen and an office, and an addition, to serve as the nave, was constructed. The new church was dedicated in 1979, and a second floor was added in 1985.

St. Paul's celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1988. The following year, a computer system was installed, and an adult theatre group was formed. And after 31 years of service, Rev. Myers retired in September 1995. .

The current pastor, Rev. Mark Singh-Hueter came on board in 2004, and a partnership with Muheza Lutheran Parish in Tanzania was established in 2005.

This past September, a building expansion plan was approved, with ground-breaking projected to be in a year or two.

As of January 2013, the congregation was comprised of 1,190 baptized members, from 353 households. Average weekly attendance at worship was 286.

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## **A great Christmas gift: A Historical Society membership**

Can't figure what to give someone for Christmas? How about a gift membership in the Downingtown Area Historical Society? Just complete the membership form, which can be accessed via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf).

## What Downingtown team did they play for?



Rena Francella recently donated this photo of a 1920 basketball team. The team has a Downingtown connection, because all of the players—Clyde “Benny” Hughes, George Davis and Dave Weiler in the front row; and Joe Hertle and Isadore Bloom in the rear—lived in the borough in the 1910-1920 era, according to the U.S. Census data. Although we suspect the letters Y and the C on their jerseys stood for “Youth Club,” we’re mystified about what the large letter P stood for. Can anyone clear this up? Please send your responses to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## **It's Stock Grange in the Romansville section of West Bradford**



Jack Law, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the building in the photo above as Stock Grange, which is located at 2000 Chestnut Lane in the Romansville section of West Bradford. The original section of the house was built in the 1740s. Among the country estate's owners over the past 273 years, Stock Grange was occupied by Gen. Richard Humpton, Revolutionary War hero, Dr. Charles Stone, and Claude Rains, movie star in the 1940s and 1950s.

## **Paid ads for businesses**

### ***Vance Usher, Registered Representative***

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.

2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation. Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.com](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Acoustic Show***

An Acoustics Show will be presented at 7 PM Thursday, December 5 in the auditorium of Downingtown West High School. The show will include musical acts by DHS West students, using only acoustic instruments and their voices.

A \$5 donation will be collected at the door, and proceeds from the show will be donated to Autism Speaks, a foundation which sponsors research and spreads awareness about autism.

The show will be sponsored by DHS West's National Art Honor Society (NAHS). The NAHS at DHS West conducts activities throughout the school year, including visits to St. Martha's Manor, a senior retirement facility for senior citizens, to brighten the residents' holidays; help organize DHS West art shows; visit the Downingtown School District's middle school and elementary schools to help with students' projects; and promote to art-related activities in the community.

Come out for a night full of live music, baked goods, and artwork to benefit Autism Speaks at the Downingtown West Acoustic Show.

## ***Downingtown Christmas Parade***

The Downingtown Christmas Parade will begin at 3 PM Saturday, December 14. The parade will start in the area of Beaver Creek Elementary School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Avenue and head south on Gable Avenue to Business Rt. 30. The parade will turn left and head east on Rt. 30, continuing to Whiteland Avenue/Rt. 113. (East Ward Elementary School) The parade will turn right onto Whiteland Avenue with the exception of those motorized vehicles that may want to continue down Rt. 30 to head home. All other units must continue down Whiteland Avenue. For more details about the parade, see: [www.dtownchristmas.com/ParadeInfo.html](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/ParadeInfo.html)

## ***Marshallton House Tour***

The Christmas in Marshallton House Tour will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, December 14. It will feature tours of 21 historic homes decorated for the holiday season and public areas, such as The Bradford Friends Meetinghouse and the Marshallton Inn, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Marshallton, which has been an active village since 1760, is located on Route 162 four miles west of West Chester.

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of tour. They can be purchased at Marshallton United Methodist Church on Strasburg Road in the village, or by accessing [www.marshalltonchurch.org](http://www.marshalltonchurch.org), or by calling 610-696-5247. Tickets will also be available and delivered upon request through the office of Kit Anstey, Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors, 610-836-2348 or [Kit@AnsteyTeam.com](mailto:Kit@AnsteyTeam.com). Additional ticket sale locations include Highland Orchard's Farmer's Market and the Holiday Cottage in Marshallton.

In addition to the house tour (no tour ticket required) Marshallton United Methodist Church will host a variety of events, including a luncheon served in Fellowship Hall, live music in the sanctuary, a country store and holiday cookie sale, and a gallery highlighting the work of local artists Dennis Park, David Katz, Sherry McVickar and Leander Fontaine.

Proceeds raised from this event will go to assist Marshallton United Methodist Church and its mission of providing support and resources for local families and community organizations.

## ***Downingtown Winter Market***

The Downingtown Winter Market will be at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM on Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19. There be NO Market on *December 26 or January 2*. All of the farmers and food artisans at the market must grow, raise or make what they sell – meriting its classification as a "producer only" market.

Consistent with the market's social mission, food drives will be held periodically to benefit the Lord's Pantry and other organizations in need of food donations. Additionally, market space will be made available to non-profit groups if their mission is similar to that of the market.

### ***Savings opportunities available at DARC***

Discount Movie Tickets: \$8, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com), or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net)