



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card, which is to be used at a local restaurant, from F.H. Swisher Plumbing and Heating.

Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news 36 years ago

The following news items were originally published in local papers in May 1977.

East Caln Township announced plans to move its headquarters to a new site. Since its township building will be razed so a parking lot for the **Tabas Hotel** (now Ashbridge Manor) on Route 30, East Caln will soon move to a building on 103 Garris Road, off Route 113.

Officers of the Hope-Twos group at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Sandy and Ron Ruth, president; Flora and Barry Hoch, vice president; Ann and Bruce Krum, secretary; and Charlotte and Don Hatt, treasurer.

Downingtown's council decided to have the recently installed **speed bumps** removed from Mary Street after several residents claimed their cars were damaged by the bumps, and sent repair bills to the borough.

Alice March of West Bradford was honored by the Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council for 13 years of distinguished service.

Women of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, who were responsible for the annual plant sale included RuthAnn Gillooly, Jane Greenleaf, Leslie Landis and Anne Buell.

Officers elected to lead the **Welcome Wagon Club of Downingtown** were Mrs. George Nicholson, president; Mrs. Edward Moore, first vice president; Mrs. Jack Rodgers, second vice president; Mrs. August Wacker, treasurer; Mrs. J.B. Hackenberry, secretary; and Mrs. Jack Moody, historian.

The **DHS 440-meter relay team**—comprised of Bill Wright, Ike Warnick, Joe Martin and Matt Mecray—set a school record (44.0 seconds) when competing at the Penn Relays.

Lauri Carcella hit a double and a triple and pitched a no-hitter as the DHS softball team beat Boyertown 6-0, and took sole possession of first place in the Ches-Mont League.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1514 Hillcrest Lane, West Bradford, \$50,275; 2 Pinewood Dr., Uwchlan, \$54,500; 341 Mary St., Downingtown, \$32,500; 6 Christina Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$56,449; 123 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$48,435.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 52, Cub Pack 152, and several Girl Scout units, all of West Bradford, participated in a **trash clean-up project**. Adult supervision was provided by Ken Trimble, John Pfeiffer, Dean Bowser, Florence Supplee, Barbara Lavin, Tom McGrady and Price Stevenson.

Bowlers who had the highest scores in the intramural program at **Downingtown Junior High** were Kim Piersol, Julie Sykora, Ruth Zimmerman, Joel Baldwin, J.P. Gorman and Ron Sheridan.

Officers elected by members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dick Byerly, president; Horace Shanely, first vice president; John Canning, second vice president; Lew Pyle, third vice president; David Swindin, secretary; and Dick Herbster, treasurer.

DHS students, named to the **Who's Who Among Vocational and Technical Students in America**, were Vincent Freas, Michael Madrigale, Eric Muzii, Jeff Gottier, Valerie Hilton, Martin Sorensen, James Williams, Robin Dunn, Debbie Shavor and Sue Steganius.

The Downingtown School decided to pursue the offer of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, to purchase several acres of land on the east side of Devon Drive, across from Lionville Junior High School.

Members of the Downingtown Recreation and Planning Commissions told the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board they were unanimously opposed to the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** occupying 122 Wallace Ave., an office building on the edge of Kerr Park.

Who was East Brandywine's Thomas Buchanan Read?



You may have heard of Thomas Buchanan Read, who was born in East Brandywine Township in 1822. He must have been important. Why else were postcards of his boyhood home on Corner Ketch-Lyndell Road, like the one above, so popular many years ago?

Well, now you can stop wondering, because Read's accomplishments as a poet and artist are part of the Civil War exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society. The exhibit includes the Historical Society's vast collection of Civil War artifacts, reflecting Chester County's role in the nation's bloodiest conflict.

And you can learn more about Read's achievements—his epic poem, *Sheridan's Ride*, "went viral" in 1864, dramatizing Gen. Philip Sheridan's famous ride that changed the course of a key Civil War battle—by accessing:

www.chestercohistorical.org/photoarchive/on-the-edge-of-battle-poetry-to-the-rescue/#respond.

The CCHS is located at 225 N. High St., West Chester. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30 AM. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 610-692-4800 or visit.

Click on <http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-1A1> for more information about Read.

Another Sears mail order house in the borough

Norman Rodgers built a Sears mail order house at 516 Washington Ave. in Downingtown in the early 1930s. He operated his clock and watch repair business there for many years, according to his granddaughter, Barbara Short Givler, who was raised in the house.

Newlyweds Joanne and Stan Landis, who now live in Macungie, PA, told us they bought the house at auction in 1967 for \$12,500. The Landises sold it in 1973 to Mrs. Lorraine Woods, who owned a deli at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street in Downingtown. And the LaRue family lived there in the 1980s. Brad and Renay Schoenfeld are the current owners of the property.

Benson's Chapel was forerunner of Hopewell Methodist



Pete Chim is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the only person to correctly identify this as a photo (provided by Dan Lindley) of remnants of a walled-in cemetery, which was part of Benson's Chapel, located on West Township Line Road off Route 100 in Upper Uwchlan Township. The congregation, organized by James Benson, was established in 1772. The chapel, a log building constructed in 1781, is believed to be the first house of worship built by Methodists in Pennsylvania. A 1774 map shows that there also was a nearby schoolhouse, which also may have been built by the Methodists. The chapel was part of the Chester Circuit, which was served by Methodist traveling preachers. The last worship services were held at the chapel in 1832.

While the chapel's congregation began to decline in the early 19th Century, several Methodists who had been founders of the chapel in Upper Uwchlan, including James Batten, began worshipping at Batten's Meeting House, a small log house built in 1805 in East Brandywine Township. In 1828, the name of Batten's group was changed to Hopewell, and that's why Benson's Chapel is considered the parent of Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Information noted above was extracted from: Susannah Brody's *Uwchlan Township, 300 Years Above the Valley*; an article, written by Joseph F. DiPaolo, entitled "Benson's Chapel ME Church, A Forgotten Landmark," in the *Journal of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church's Southeastern Pennsylvania Conference*, and click on <http://usgarchives.net/pa/chester/bensonschapel.htm>.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, May 5

You haven't been invited to a Cinco de Mayo party? You might have as much fun at our monthly clipping and pasting session, which will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, May 5** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure. Sombreros are optional.

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area ***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, 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 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.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org