



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to: [Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## **Restaurant Raffle winner will receive 12 dinners worth \$250 each**

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is conducting a Restaurant Raffle. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and the lucky winner will receive vouchers for 12 dinners. Each voucher, which are transferrable, has a value of \$250 and a total value of \$3,000, to be spent at the participating restaurants. They include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Dilworthtown Inn, Duling-Kurtz, Eagle Tavern, Four Dogs Tavern, General Warren Inn, Grill at Fore, Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, Ship Inn, Thorndale Inn, and Yellow Springs Inn. In most cases, the vouchers aren't useable on weekends and don't cover alcoholic beverages.

Names of the winners will be drawn at a party for all ticket purchasers, which will begin at 4 PM Sunday, Oct. 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant. And consolation prizes—including a \$500 Wine Sampler, and two Bed & Breakfast stays, one night each for two—will be awarded at the drawing party, where light refreshments will be served.

Tickets, which cost \$75 each, can be purchased by calling: the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Darryl Ferron, president, 610-679-2425; or Carol Grigson, treasurer/archivist, 610-269-5413. You also can buy tickets by coming to Ashbridge House, between 1 PM and 4 PM on Sundays. Tickets are tax-deductible since the Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

If you need more information, send an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help maintain Ashbridge House, and preserve the historical materials, photos and artifacts in our archival collection.

## **More local news in October 1961**

Noted below are news items, originally published in local newspapers in the latter two weeks of October 1961

Gordy Flowers, Jim Bob Price, Ken Mills, Bill Flowers, Gene Williams and Bob Luminella scored touchdowns, as the **DHS football team** clobbered O.J. Roberts 52-26.

And Nancy Gindin, Paula Tweed and Carol Shisler scored goals as the **Whippet field hockey** squad beat Phoenixville 3-0.

Committee chairs for the fashion show, conducted by the **St. Anthony's Lodge Auxiliary**, were Mrs. Joseph Massucci, prizes; Mrs. Christopher Newton, decorations; Mrs. Ore Marino, entertainment; Mrs. Joseph Pannicelli, publicity; Mrs. Andrew DiAntonio, programs; Mrs. Edward DiLuigi, refreshments; and Mrs. Edward Tedeschi, tickets. Molly Taraschi assisted with decorations, and her daughter, Lucy, helped with the programs. Entertainment was provided by Jimmy Scamuffa on the accordion, and Anne Marie Yannascoli who played the piano and sang. Pianist Mrs. Frank Helm played background music during the fashion show.

Chef Pierre Carlier was preparing French cuisine for diners at **Downingtown's Swan Hotel.**, and family-style dinners were being served every Sunday.

DHS seniors who received commendation letters for their achievement in the **National Merit Scholarship** test were Joanna Pope, Neil Shields and Stephen Wilson. Also, Downingtown Junior High students William Davis and Edward Hildebeitel won awards for their mahogany bowls in the woodworking division of **American Industrial Arts Association** competition. Davis's bowl was chosen to represent Pennsylvania in an exhibit in Washington, DC.

Staff members of *The Scribe*, published by **Downingtown Junior High students**, included Kris Yeaworth, editor; Peggy Woodland, features editor; Donald Husted, sports editor; Fred Martin and Ethan Berry, art; Linda Pyle, business manager and Janet Strawsnyder, typist.

Possible locations of the planned elementary school in the **Upper Uwchlan-West Pikeland** area were: at the intersection of Route 401 and Byers Road, or on the Butler estate, also on Byers Road, behind the Windsor School.

**Girl Scout Troop 180**, Downingtown, had an overnight camp-out at Icedale. Girls who participated were Jennifer Bruton, Marvene Dennis, Elaine Geiger, Carol Reutter, Jean Shafran, Kathy Spence, Donna Usher, Judy Williams, Linda Walker, Carole Miller, Glenda Buckwalter, Dianne Forrest, Anna Smith and Ruth Weaver.

The **Home and School Association** of Downingtown Elementary Schools decided to give a lectern to the new Beaver Creek School and give two trees in memory of the late John Carmichael, a school bus driver who died while en route to pick up students.

## **Glenmoore listed on National Register as Historic District**

Citizens of Wallace Township, responsible for the listing of the village of Glenmoore as a Historic District on the National Register, were honored at a program in Wagenseller Park on Saturday, September 21.

The village was designated as significant under Criterion C for architecture, according to Wise Preservation Planning LLC, Chester Springs, which was hired by the township to prepare the application for Historic District status.

The Glenmoore Historic District is located near the center of Wallace Township. It comprises the historic heart of the village, including 56 sites along Creek, Fairview, and Indiantown Roads. Its commercial core is centered at the intersection of Creek and Fairview Roads. Another cluster of commercial resources is located east of the intersection, along Fairview Road, according to Wise Preservation Planning's research.

Houses are primarily frame or stucco-over-masonry buildings, generally two or 2.5-stories tall. They are generally a conservative interpretation of the Queen Anne or Gothic Revival styles, with jigsaw detailing in the peaks of the gables and on the porches.

Based on Wise Preservation Planning's research, the origins of the village began with a cluster of buildings around a mill owned by James Moore. An 1847 map shows the grist mill and store, then operated by Henry Myers, near the intersection of Fairview and Creek Roads. Blacksmith and wheelwright shops were constructed nearby in the following decade.

The East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad (1860) spurred economic growth in the village. The village began to take shape in 1864, when James Moore subdivided his land holdings and created village lots along the roads.

As the village developed, it was known by various names before settling upon the name of Glenmoore. In addition to being called Rockdale on one map, the village was also called Moore's Town after James Moore. And in 1869, the Norwood Post Office opened in the general store, giving a third name. With the construction of the Glenmoore Hotel in 1870 and the adoption of the name—Glenmoore for the post office—the current name superseded earlier names. After that time, the village was sometimes called Glenmoore and sometimes Glen Moore.

Initially spearheaded by the late Jane Davidson, the township's Preservation Committee was composed of Sandy Brannan, chairman Russ Bransberg, Jamie DeJesus, Jane Delpaggio, Susan Giangulio, Shirley Grier, Sally Haegle, Scott Juenger, Doris Miller, Harold Miller, John Miller,

John Morley, Marian and David Neil, Shirley and John O'Brien, Betty Pike, Lorianne Reynolds, Martha Roeder, Janet Slovanic, Sally Ann Swavely and Harold Ziserman.

Brannan, archivist for the township's Historical Commission, was given special recognition for all her efforts on the project.

## Historic goodies sent by Caroline Ash

Downingtown native Caroline Ash, who now lives in Chicago, sent us a package, filled with historic goodies, which we'll be noting in coming Hist-O-Grams.

We'll start by citing two items related to social functions held at the Downingtown Opera House, which was built on the west side of Brandywine Avenue and opened in 1903. Both are small dance cards with fancy covers, which were used by a woman to record the names of the gentlemen with whom she intended to dance with at a formal ball.

The oldest card was for the Downingtown Assembly, which was held at the Opera House in 1905. It lists 18 dances, including two-steps, waltzes and caprices (dancing to a type of music that was described as a "free-form" and "lively"). Members of the Assembly Committee were Edgar Hutchison, Dr. John Zook Jr., Wilmer Biles, Benjamin Fernan and Kirk Smith.

The other card was for St. Valentines Dance held at the Opera House in 1906. The dance committee included William Mendenhall, Clarence Bicking, Corbin Hutchison and Charles McFadden.

Another interesting piece in Caroline's packet was a program for a minstrel held at the Roosevelt Theatre in 1928. Members of the Washington Camp, No. 338, of the Patriotic Sons of America (POSA) based in Downingtown, sponsored and conducted the minstrel. POSA officers at the time were William Barrett, president; and Frank Swarner and George Taylor, secretaries.

Members of the cast included George Loughlin, Gordon Carpenter, William Shilladay, John LeFevre, Frank Swarner, Herbert Ash, Rea Swarner, George Walton, Charles Berstler, William Barrett, Percy Windle, Talbert Swarner, Horace Miller, Thomas Philips, Hathaway Frain, Robert Ax, George Taylor, Ross Keech and Perry Tyson.

And members of the orchestra were Mrs. Ralph Smith, violin; Amos Miley, director and cornet; Paul Keyler, trombone; Ralph Smith, clarinet; Edward Murray, drums; and William Saunders, piano.

The production was directed by Thomas Philips, and it was staged by Frank Swarner. Elmer Schrupf was responsible for the wardrobes and properties.

*Editor's Note: We're not sure when the Opera House was transformed into the Roosevelt Theatre. But according to Jane Davidson's "A History of Downingtown" crowds lined all the way to the intersection of Brandywine and Lancaster Avenues in 1919, when a movie entitled "The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin" was being shown there. It's possible that this new phenomenon, "moving pictures," and not the subject matter, attracted the crowd.*

## Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our free Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page.

We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## It's at 601 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as the office of Senior Financial Solutions Inc., which is located at 601 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough.

## **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 local non-profits**

## ***Free Community Concerts***

The Brandywine Area Community Choir, directed by Steve McFalls, will present a free concert at East Brandywine Baptist Church, 999 Horseshoe Pike, at 7 PM on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The concert is titled "An Evening with Gaither Gospel and a Stirring Salute to Our Patriots."

The gospel portion will include Gaither numbers and "spirited" spiritual music. The men's chorus will present several patriotic numbers, including the emotionally moving *Count the Costs* and a newly arranged version of our *National Anthem*. The entire chorus will finish the program with a rousing rendition of the Service Songs from each branch of our military, which will honor active-duty as well as military veterans in the audience. The concert will end with the powerful Wilhousky arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Combining patriotic and spiritual passion, this choir of 50+ members, representing over a dozen different churches, will entertain and inspire the audience with this evening of music. The East Brandywine concert will benefit One Run Together, a charity founded to assist families of cancer patients. Freewill offerings will be accepted in support of these charities at each concert.

## ***Programs at the Downingtown Library***

Pre-registration is required for the three programs listed below, which will be offered at the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. You can sign up by accessing <http://www.downintownlibrary.org/> or by calling 610-269-2741.

Tuesday, Oct 1, **Backyard Beekeeping** - Beekeepers Pat Doyle and Debra Pieri will walk program attendees through the adventures of backyard beekeeping. Program will include discussion, equipment, and a live observation hive. The program will be from 6-7:30 PM.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, **Making Sense of Medicare** - Presenter, Ellen Good, MSW, will speak about how Medicare works, managing your plan, cost issues, and how to maximize coverage. Program includes question/answer session. Program will be from 6:30-7:30pm.

Thursday, Oct. 10, **DAPI Ghost Report** - The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators' program will include a combination of photos, video, and electronic voice phenomenon of investigations held in the Downingtown area and at the library. The program will be from 6:30-7:30 PM.

## ***Operation Military Christmas Stocking***

Help send holiday spirit to our troops in Afghanistan. Suggested pocket-sized items to be dropped off on weekdays between 9 AM and 4 PM at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike or on Saturdays and Sundays at the Village Hardware, Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, BEFORE Friday, Oct. 11: games, chapstick, candy, and small game books (Sudoku, crosswords), nail clippers, Q-Tips, hand sanitizer, baby wipes in individual packs, individual dry soups, packets of individual-size hot and cold powdered drinks, nuts, Trail Mix, and trial-size men's deodorant, shampoo and body wash. No glass or aerosol items can be shipped. For more info, call the township at 610-269-8230.

## ***Downingtown Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market at Kerr Park is open from 3-7 PM every Thursday. 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.

There is plenty of parking in the Kerr Park lots, as well as in the Borough Hall parking lot.

## ***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)