



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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We're going to try this one again



We were astounded when no one identified the historic site, shown above, when we originally used it as the “Where and What Is This?” photo in the March 13 Hist-O-Gram. So, we’re giving you another shot at identifying the photo, which was taken by Mike Dunn. The first person to correctly identify the site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, he or she will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, to be used at a local restaurant. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news items from 68 years ago

Noted below are news items about the Downingtown area, which were originally published in local newspapers in November 1946.

Want ads, placed by **Grocery Store Products**, specifically tried to employ “Downingtown Women” by offering them free transportation to the food processing plant in West Chester. Other

incentives included: wages of up to 65 cents an hour, free coffee in a lounge, and “free accident and sickness insurance.”

Members of **Mount Raymond UAME Church**, Downingtown, conducted a mortgage burning ceremony.

The **Downingtown Rotary Club** hosted four local vets and their “war brides.” They were: Mark Bareford and Aloise, from England; George Loomis and Henrietta, from Ireland; Francis Summers and Kathleen, from England; and Austin Dunn and Helen, from Scotland.

Leaders of the Ladies Aid Society at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Albert Moerman, president; Mrs. Frank Knauer, vice president; Dorothy Bransford, secretary; and Mrs. B.M. Hashinger, treasurer.

Members of the decorating committee for the Hi-Y Club at **Lionville Elementary School**, who put on a Halloween party were chairman Sam Forrester, Cora Smedley, Harry Dewees, Janet Wallace and Jack Witmer. Games were led by David Taylor, Sammy Supplee and Meredith Ruark. Judging costumes were Mrs. Elmer Ruth, Mrs. Dave Smedley and Mrs. George Ruark. Costume winners included Carl Ruth and Lionel Shaeffer, dressed as a bride and groom, prettiest; and Harry Dewees, ugliest and funniest.

Participants in the Young Adults Fellowship Group’s musical program at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Robert Lillard, trombone solos; contralto Marion Wollerton; violin solos by Dr. Charles Bruton; and piano duets by Geraldine Swarner and Betty Jane Miller.

Local residents were invited to a mid-day **Thanksgiving dinner** (\$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for kids) at the Odd Fellows Hall in Lionville.

Also, the **Tea House**, at 343 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, advertised its Thanksgiving dinner (roasted “Oaklands Farm” turkey or baked ham) for \$2.50.

Area residents were encouraged to work off some of their extra Thanksgiving calories at the semi-formal dance, sponsored by the **Downingtown Junior Auxiliary of the Memorial Hospital**, held at the Alert Fire Co.

And winners in the costume judging at the Halloween party at Uwchlan Township’s **Mount Airy School** were Theodore Graybill, funniest; Peggy Perkins, prettiest; Vivian Perkins, cutest; Henry Hine, ugliest; Bob Keeseey, craziest; and Charles Long, fattest.

Girl Scout Troop 10, sponsored a Hayseed Hop at the Marshallton School. Stan Johnson was the caller for square dancing, and Harry Palmer’s Orchestra played for “modern” dancing.

Members of the Crusader class at **St. Paul’s UCC Church**, Lionville, had a Halloween party. Decorations were handled by Mr. and Mrs. William Whitely and Mr. and Mrs. William Peterman. Judges Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Abel and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Devaney selected the following costume winners: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shaeffer, attired as a bride and groom, prettiest; Christine Shaeffer, whose skirt was made of corn husks, most original; Everett Wilson, funniest; and Elizabeth Cornwall, last guessed.

More than 5,000 fans, at the DHS stadium on Thanksgiving morning, watched the **DHS football team** upset undefeated Pottstown 26-12, as the Whippets avenged the “painting up” (allegedly by Pottstown rooters) of Downingtown Junior-Senior High’s exterior walls the night before the game. Dick Dague set up the first DHS touchdown when he intercepted a pass, and ran it back to the 16-yard line and then scored on a four-yard plunge. And in the second quarter, Dague tossed a 12-yard TD pass to George Proctor. Whippet quarterback Joe Capriotti sewed up the win when he ran for two touchdowns in the fourth period.

Information on Todd Stong, DHS Hall of Fame inductee

This is another article on a DHS graduate who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, which was recently established by the Downingtown Area School District and the Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association. The information is based on data noted on the nominations forms submitted to the selection committee.

The honorees will be inducted at the Alumni Association's 130th annual banquet at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 W. Church St., Downingtown, on Saturday evening, April 26. More information about the banquet can be provided by calling Caryn Menna at (610) 883-3917.

Tickets can be purchased via

www.downingtowntownalumni.org/Documents/DAHSAA_BanquetReservation%202014.pdf.

Noted below are details on Todd Stong, Class of 1958's valedictorian, Achievement in Humanitarian and Military. According to the nomination form, submitted by a classmate, Jack McCombs. Stong's accomplishments included:

- Graduated in the top 10 percent of West Point's Class of 1962. Military service included deployment to South Korea and Vietnam. Earned bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in civil engineering, both in 1966. In 1973, he was assigned to the Defense Nuclear Agency in Washington, D.C., where he planned and managed underground nuclear tests. Earned a Ph.D. in 1975. In 1977, Stong received Creative Thinker Award at Army Command and Staff College. Served in Germany seven years, where he used his engineering expertise to develop projects that included both defense and ecological enhancements. Directed Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, 1985-88, and in 1988-90, was Chief Scientist of Army's SDI project, better known as President Reagan's "Star Wars" program. Col. Stong retired from the Army in 1990, after he received many decorations including: the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.
- As Chief Scientist for Coleman Research Corp. for six years, he developed and directed technology initiatives for the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.
- Retired from private sector in 1996, Dr. Stong has been a volunteer engineer in Third World countries, for more than 17 years, working on water supply and sanitation projects.

Divine dining at the Dilworthtown Inn

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen and Ron Meacham, who won the grand prize—dinner at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society this past fall.

The rain did not dampen our delightful dining experience at The Dilworthtown Inn, whose history dates back to 1758. The original homestead of James Dilworth evolved into a tavern in 1770, and was renamed several times before becoming The Dilworthtown Inn in 1821. Severely damaged in the Battle of the Brandywine, it recovered and remains an integral part of the village of Dilworthtown, south of West Chester. Through most of the 1900's, the Inn served as a private home and boarding house. It was restored in 1969 and reopened as the present restaurant in 1972.

Guests are seated throughout the Inn's three floors and fifteen dining areas. Each room, complete with fireplace and candlelight, provides a quiet, intimate and pleasant Colonial atmosphere. The Inn's wine cellar offers a wide variety of fine wines, with selections offered by the glass, or liqueurs to suit any taste. The Inn prides itself on serving only the freshest seafood and finest cuts of meats, which our entrée's delightfully confirmed. Our artfully prepared appetizers included escargot, oysters, calamari and lobster bisque. The salmon and sea bass

entrées were delicately prepared, and the filet mignon was mouthwatering. All came with well-proportioned vegetable sides. The dessert menu included a “to-die for” selection, and we can say the crème’ brulee and rhubarb/raspberry yogurt cheesecake were the perfect toppers. The staff was helpful from the moment we arrived. And our server, Jeff, who has been with the Inn for many years, was informative and delightful, providing efficient and non-intrusive service.

Reservations are highly recommended. If you want to know more about the restaurant and its menu, visit the website: www.dilworthtown.com.

We want to thank The Dilworthtown Inn for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society’s “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.

It’s at 375 North Ship Road, Exton



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as the Benjamin Jacobs House, circa 1790, which is posted on the National Register of Historic Places. For more details on the house, once part of the Church Farm School in West Whiteland, see: www.zillow.com/homedetails/375-N-Ship-Rd-Exton-PA-19341/2110592912_zpid/.

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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, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Citizen and Business of the Year Awards

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its Outstanding Citizen and Business of the Year Awards. Nominations must be submitted by Monday, April 7. For more details about the awards and nominations see:

<http://dtrcc.com/Citizen-Business%20of%20the%20Year.html>.

The awards will be presented at the Chamber's 69th annual dinner on Thursday, May 1, at the Downingtown Country Club. For tickets and additional info about the dinner, see:

[http://dtrcc.com/Documents/2014%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation%20\(1\).pdf](http://dtrcc.com/Documents/2014%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation%20(1).pdf).

Program on Watergate

The Old Caln Historical Society will host a program on Watergate, presented by Ross Kershey, former Coatesville Area High School history teacher, on Sunday, April 6, at the Caln Township Building, on Municipal Drive in Thorndale. The free program, which open to the public, will begin at 2 PM. Please use the rear entrance.

Drug Take-Back Day

On Saturday, April 26, from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Flea market

Spring Flea Market. 4-7 PM Friday, April 11 and 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday, April 12
Donations now being accepted. All proceeds benefit the Downingtown Library.

Also, Meditation for Creativity: 6:30 PM Monday, April 28. Program focuses on drawing inspiration from meditation.

For more info on these activities, call the library at 610-269-2741.

East Brandywine Baptist's history

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the history of East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 27.

Alert Fire Co. golf outing

The Alert Fire Co. will hold a golf outing on Monday, May 5, at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee for each golfer is \$100, which includes greens fee, cart, lunch, beverages on the course, awards dinner and five competitions. See www.alertgolfouting.org for registration and contest details.

Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, sponsors of the Halloween and Christmas parades, will have a "Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races" on Saturday, May 3 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors will open at 5:30 PM. Buffet begins at 6 PM. Horse racing will begin immediately following the actual Kentucky Derby. For more details, see: www.dtownchristmas.com.

Soccer for players with special needs

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's High 5 soccer program will be held at Fellowship Fields, 275 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning April 12. The free program is for players, between 5 and 19 years of age, who have special needs. For more info, go to: www.geyasoccer.org.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

Downingtown Farmers' Market

The Downingtown Farmers' Market will be open over the winter months on the following Thursdays: April 3 and 17, at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM. 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.

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

