



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 18

May 1, 2014

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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Interesting local news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of May 1978.

“It seems as soon as people move into the country, they’ve got to have a dog and let it run loose,” commiserated **Uwchlan** supervisor Harry Rauch at a township meeting. Rauch made that observation after a group of Devon Drive residents complained about dogs running loose in their neighbor. And one resident claimed that Harry Shreiner, the township dog control officer, said he wouldn’t pick up an animal until the police picked it up first.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1512 Stouffs Road, West Bradford, \$57,520; 306 William Salesbury Drive, Uwchlan, \$78,500; 375 Revere Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$69,500; 417 Jefferson Avenue, \$39,900; 608 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$44,000; 6 Wyndham Court, East Brandywine, \$45,000.

Ruth Ann Gillooly was chairman of the **Uwchlan Hills School** Spring Fair. Also on the committee were Ann Antonius, Linda Moran, Nancy Gramling, Steve Barnett, Joan Lytle, Loretta Mongiello, Judy Whipple, Cheryl Gerry, Ruth DelVecchio, Edna Aharonian, Marilyn Dommell, Mary Lee Caggiano, Mary Brown, Becky Slossan, Mary Wychgel, Betty Kapanak, Jeanne Bousum, Donna Lindsay, Sandy Plaeger and Barbara Meier.

Gerald Ford, former U.S. president, spoke at a Republican fundraiser held at the **Downingtown Inn**.

Officers of the recently established **East Brandywine Township Historical Society** were John McCausland, president; Carol Schmidt, vice president; Hazel Miller, secretary; and Ruth Lammey, treasurer. Committee chairmen were Joy Tkachick, membership; and Esther Sideman, oral history.

The staff of the **St. James Nursery School** included Marjorie Myers, director, Julia DiRocco, Gail Veit, Shirley Woodward, Kristen McGuckin and Dora Cumens.

Newly opened restaurants in the borough were the **Spaghetti Bowl** in Downing Center, and the **Red Apple** at 56-58 W. Lancaster Ave.

The **Downingtown Lions Club’s** newly elected officers were Horace Schanley, president; John Canning, first vice president; David Swindin, second vice president; Fred Longenecker, third vice president; Bob Bowker, secretary; Robert Shoffner, treasurer; James Zaferes, tail twister; Bob Wagner, assistant tail twister; Mike Bem, lion tamer; James Ney, assistant lion tamer; Ted Jacobs, greeter; and Wallace Houston, chaplain.

Confirmed at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Howard Elmquist, John Kosatka, Jackie Stevens, Craig Davis, Doug Bullock, Fred Bradley, Doug Espenlaub, Michael Duffy and Patrick Borst.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Exton, celebrated its 150th anniversary at a dinner held at the Church Farm School. New vestry members were Paul Anders, Charles Bedford, John Bell, George Paulson and John Reynolds. New officers were Raymond Belcher, rector’s warden; Barbara Ramsey, accounting warden; William Hannum, treasurer; and Robert Peoples, property chairman.

Downingtown borough decided to spend part of its fourth federal Community Development grant, which totaled \$181,000, on the following projects: \$30,000 for a new heating system at the Minquas firehouse, \$3,000 for a new boiler at the Alert firehouse, and \$10,000 for paving and storm sewers on Viaduct Avenue.

Dave Franklin of Uwchlan, won the 4.5-mile mini-marathon, sponsored by the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Joint Recreation Board**, with a time of 25 minutes, 40 seconds.

Second and third place winners were Brian Smith of Thorndale and Shawn Urbine of Downingtown, respectively. Nancy Reardon placed first among the female runners.

Several **Lionville Junior High wrestlers** competed in a meet at Bucknell University. Tom Urban was named the junior division's outstanding wrestler, and Glen Koser, 105 pounds, and Pete TenHopen, 145 pounds, placed second in their weight classes

Volunteers who were honored for delivering lunches to senior citizens for the **Meals Together** program, conducted at Downingtown United Methodist Church, included: Anna McWilliams, Fran McAllister, Gertrude Woodward, Stella Smith, Gene Charles, Jean Steeley, Virginia Senn, Mabel Davis, Earl Woodward, Libby Carpenter, Pat Blyler, Dick Wolfe, Catherine Grivas, Sally Woodward and Florence Creamer.

Recently baptized at **Windsor Baptist Church** were Georgette March, Cindy Montgomery, Robert Reeder, Nicholas Roman, Michael Shaw, Craig Styer and Ger Yang.

First communicants at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were Steven Byron, Robert Clark, Michael Dow, Robert Hausch, Tammy Meacham, Cheryl Schroeder, Steve Styer, Sherri Zelina and Nina Wells.

It's the former Hopewell School in East Brandywine



Peter Chim is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the former Hopewell School, at the intersection of Rock Raymond and Hopewell Roads in East Brandywine Township. The stone school was built for \$1,400 in 1868, according to Barbara Paul's *A History of Brandywine Township*. The first Hopewell School was a log structure, built in the early 19th Century. It was located across the road, on the property now occupied by Hopewell United Methodist Church. Both institutions were originally known as Batten's. James Batten organized the first Sunday School in the log school house and furnished the land on which the original Methodist meeting house was built. Hopewell was one of the five one-room schoolhouses (the others were Guthriesville, Lyndell, Buck and Bondsville) operated by the East Brandywine School District until the Brandywine-Wallace Jointure was established in 1959 and, subsequently, the Pickering-Brandywine Jointure was formed in 1961.



The photo above, of Hopewell School students during the 1923-24 school year, was sent to us by DHS grad George Bowman, who now lives in Billerica, MA.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday, May 4

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 4, when (we hope) scads of volunteers will participate in our monthly newspaper clipping and pasting session 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.

Fire at historic farm in Caln Township



Six area fire companies responded last Friday afternoon to fight a fire involving the crumbling remains of the stone barn on the former Valley Brook Farm, on Lloyd Avenue in Caln Township. The dairy farm, on the western border of the borough line, was owned for decades by William McClure Lloyd, who bought the property from Elhanan Zook in 1910. Lloyd, a Harvard graduate, gentleman farmer and stockbroker in Philadelphia, died in 1970. In 1967, he donated 30 acres of his land to Caln Township, which became Lloyd Park. In recent years, the property has been owned by the Philadelphia Catholic Archdiocese and is for sale. Although we know the original part of the farmhouse was built in 1757, we have no information on when the barn was constructed. Much of this family history was provided by the Old Caln Historical Society, which is going to have an open house at its headquarters at the Caln Meetinghouse, located at Route 340 and Caln Meetinghouse Road, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 4, and from 6:30-8 PM on Tuesday, May 6; Wednesday, May 7; and Thursday, May 8. Anyone who has information on the Lloyd family or the former Valley Brook Farm is encouraged to send it to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

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, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Dick Lehr, Mike Dunn and Phil Dague.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to send us information or make a comment, contact us at: Info@DowningtownAreaHistoricalSociety.org.

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

'Search for the Blob' bike ride

The Downingtown Main Street Association everyone to participate in a family-friendly, 9.3-mile bike ride through the Downingtown Area. Participants will meet at 8 AM on Saturday, May 10 at the parking lot of Victory Brewpub, 420 Acorn Lane, Downingtown. Following the ride, and even for those who don't ride, there will be a brunch and a showing of the film classic, *The Blob*, beginning at 10 AM. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for kids under 14. For more info, see <http://mrdowningtown.blogspot.com/>

Farmers Market changes

Starting May 1, the Downingtown Farmers Market will be held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo on Pennsylvania Avenue, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM,

Flower Sale

Marshallton United Methodist Church's Men's Flower Sale will begin Friday, May 9 and will continue through Wednesday, May 28. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

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, May 18.

Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts

Table space is available for a Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts sale to be held from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 10 on the grounds of the Old Caln Meetinghouse at Route 340 and Caln Meetinghouse Rd., Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. For more info, please call 610-384-8153.

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:

<http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/NATRFlyer.pdf>

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.

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