

# Last chance to help us save our headquarters



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

*The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner*

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## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site, shown in the photo above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

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

## Local news originally published 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers which were published in May 1947.

The 97 **graduating seniors** from DHS went on a class trip by train to New York City and West Point.

Dr. Anthony Ricci, William Harris and Allen Hughes, representing the recently established **Downingtown Young Men's Association**, told Borough Council they were planning to conduct the annual Fourth of July celebration in Kerr Park. They also said they wanted a macadam basketball court to be installed in the park. Council both projects were under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

The Downingtown Lions Club arranged for a **DHS band concert** in the high school auditorium to be broadcast over Radio Station WDEL, Wilmington. A brass quartet, comprised of Raymond Kipp, Diane Kline, Nancy Walleigh and Robert Lillard, played "The Lord's Prayer" during the 30-minute concert.

Eighth grade pupils from **West Bradford School** who took a field trip to West Chester were Rosemary Laugdon, Lenore Dunn, Peggy Lied, Edward McCue, Nils Edwards, Robert Busby, Joseph Nichols, Martha Newman, Lillian Myers, Jane Romig, Raymond Fellenbaum, Freddy Martin, Peggy DiMatteo, Anna Mulroy and Peggy Gee.

George Proctor, who won the shot put with a 40-foot, 9-inch heave, was the sole Whippet to score a first in a **track meet** against West Chester High School.

Mrs. Herbert Ash, new president of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary**, made these committee appointments: Mrs. Nelson Dennis, Mrs. Richard Johnson, and Mrs. C.O. Brown, membership; Mrs. William Mittel, social service; Mrs. Shartle Brookover, Chester County Day; and Mrs. Robert Plank, horse show.

Participants in the program put on by students in the **Upper Uwchlan School District** included: Peggy, Johnny and Alice Trego, Penrose Styer, Mary Jane Huss, Sonnie and Nancy Mathias, Eddie Popjoy, Aletha Hershey, Anna Lammey and Diane Hoffman.

Children who were models in a fashion show put on at West Ward School by the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Bonnie Plank, Susie Norris, Jerry Ross, Virginia and Doris Law, Denny Williams, Ruth Moore, Billy Hoopes, Linda Hadfield, Laverne Moore, Bucky Rogers, Judie Allen and Mary Staneski. Members who modeled adult clothing were Dorothy McGowan, Mrs. Ogier Norris, Doris Eachus, Mrs. Nelson Norris, Mrs. W.I. Pollock, Betty Pollock, Mrs. Anthony Ricci, Mrs. Horace Miller Jr., Mrs. Harry Simmons, Marie Hertel, Mrs. Evelyn Frantz, Mrs. Vinton Smedley and Mrs. Penrose Davis.

Officers and committee chairmen of the Garden Class of the **Woman's Community Club of the Uwchlans** were Mrs. Daniel Bean, program; Mrs. George Benham, secretary; Mrs. Bertha McCardell, treasurer; Mrs. Ira Smedley, garden hints; and Mrs. Earl Leslie, publicity.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Charles Osborne, governor; Francis Francella, junior governor; Morris Seeds, prelate; William Warren, treasurer; George Crosley, trustee; James Dolan, secretary; Earl Lemmon, sergeant-at-arms; Marshall Nuse, inside guard; and Samuel Judd, outside guard.

**Woodland Products'** new sawmill on Boot Road has a 50 hp motor, the only electrically powered sawmill motor in Chester County.

**Trimble's Cabinet Shop** in Marshallton was producing white pine Adirondack and Pocono model lawn chairs.

# Access to the trailer for “The Blob”

We provided a bunch of info about the 1958 movie “The Blob,” which included several scenes at the Downingtown Diner on West Lancaster Avenue in the September 4, 2014 edition of the Hist-O-Gram.

You can find that info via:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/September%204%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/September%204%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

Now, those who never saw the film can access its trailer via:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdUsyXQ8Wrs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdUsyXQ8Wrs). The trailer provides scenes in the Downingtown Police Department, the Downingtown Diner, as well as the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

Perhaps you shouldn't watch the trailer while you're alone.

## The Orangery is helping us save Ashbridge House

Many people have bought tickets for the Historical Society's restaurant raffle so the leaking stonework of the east wall of Ashbridge House, our headquarters, can be repaired. An additional reason why people have purchased raffle tickets is because they want to have an opportunity to have dinner at **The Orangery at Glen Isle**, one of the six local restaurants participating in the fundraiser.

Located at 130 South Lloyd Avenue, a short distance below West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, **The Orangery** has one seating for a fixed-price dinner, Thursday through Saturday nights, starting at 6:30. It closes at 9 PM during the winter months. The BYOB restaurant also is open for special events such as weddings, birthdays and anniversaries.

**The Orangery's** cuisine was inspired by the legendary recipes passed on to Chef Sabrina Lutz, a native of Toscana, Italy, by her “Nonna.” Tuscans are known for using the freshest of ingredients, cooked in simple ways, to bring out the natural flavors of food.

Sabrina's husband, Paul, built the intimately enclosed 40-seat sunporch, which serves as **The Orangery's** main dining room.

During the American Revolution, the restaurant was the site of the Original Ship Inn Tavern, which is now located in Exton. And **The Orangery's** history includes connections with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

For more information about **The Orangery** and each week's set menu, see:

[www.orangeryatglenisle.com/](http://www.orangeryatglenisle.com/), or call 484-401-5554.

The other restaurants participating in the raffle are: **The Thorndale Inn, Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, Kimberton Inn, and The General Warren Inne.**

Raffle tickets cost \$50 each. **Tickets can still be purchased from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, November 15 and from 1-3 PM on Sunday, November 16 at Ashbridge House, located next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.**

The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 16. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, go to:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org). Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

## **STEM Academy is PA's top school again**

The Downingtown Area School District's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Academy was the state's top school, based on Pennsylvania's new School Performance Profile, for the second consecutive year.

The performance profiles covered 2,947 public elementary and secondary schools, including all charter schools. They measure academic achievement, promotion and graduation rates, academic growth, and how well schools are closing the achievement gap.

The STEM Academy, whose score was 101.4 points for the second year, opened in the fall of 2011 and is the school district's third high school. DHS East's score was 97.3, and DHS West's was 94.1. And all three Downingtown high schools scored a perfect 100 points in several areas.

## **It's at 801 Marshall Road in Glenmoore**



Bonnie Radford of Wallace Township is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to identify the photo above. The house had been owned by the Albert Greenfield family since 1957. The farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is historically significant because it was the home of Edward Hunter, a 19th century leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) movement. The property is also significant as the home of the local economic leader John Cornog, who owned the nearby quarry, the township forge, and played a major role in the construction of a railroad.

Noted below is an article, entitled “When Mormonism thrived in the Glenmoore area,” which was part of the September 7, 2011 Hist-O-Gram.

*Wallace Township is a place where tranquility usually prevailed. However, there was controversy in that part of the Glen Moore area in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, when Mormons wanted to hold church services in the Wallace Seminary school house.*

*That momentary problem was settled by Edward Hunter, who had allowed the stone school house to be built on his 210-acre farm in 1830. He had supported construction of the school, with the caveat that any religious denomination could use it for worship on weekends.*

*The Mormon sect, officially called The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS), was founded by Joseph Smith in upstate New York in 1830. Nine years later, Mormon missionaries created a settlement in a section of the township that’s still known as Mormon Hollow.*

*And when Wallace officials and neighbors claimed the Mormons were “very dangerous people” and tried to ban the Mormons from conducting services in the school house, Hunter stepped in and threatened to shut down the school if the missionaries weren’t permitted to use the building.*

*The officials and other residents relented, the Mormon branch in Wallace thrived, and Joseph Smith preached there in 1840. Soon the branch had 200 members, and one of them was Hunter.*

*Hunter sold the farm in 1842 and led a contingent of Mormons from the Wallace branch to a large Mormon settlement in Nauvoo, IL. When the Mormons left Nauvoo in 1847, Hunter led a large wagon train in the cross-country migration to the Great Salt Lake. From 1851 until his death in 1883 at age 90, he was the Mormon’s presiding bishop, the church’s highest office. He served in that capacity longer than any other person in the history of the LDS Church. Reportedly, he had 55 wives, but 10 of them divorced him.*

*Other people from the Wallace branch also headed for Nauvoo shortly after Hunter moved there. They included Jacob and Agnes Baum, the great, great, great uncle and aunt of John Miller, a retired Downingtown teacher and community leader in the Glen Moore area. John provided much information about the Baum family’s involvement with Mormonism.*

*They and their four children left their farm (located in an area that’s part of East Brandywine Township today) and headed west in 1841. Agnes’s father was so upset about his daughter joining the Mormon Church, he disinherited her.*

*The Baums spent several years in the Mormon settlement in Nauvoo, where they had a farm. After Joseph Smith was killed there and many other Mormons were persecuted by the Nauvoo locals, the Baums and most of the other LDS members headed west once again, in 1846. The Baums’ next stop was in Iowa, where Agnes died in 1846.*

*After Jacob remarried in 1850, the Baums journeyed to Salt Lake City, where he had a leadership role in the church’s early days. He died in 1883.*

*But the Baum family’s Mormon connection to Chester County continues to this day. That’s because Baum kept his seven-and-one-half-foot-tall clock, made in Chester County in 1794, throughout his westward travels, even though space was at a premium in their wagon.*

*And although the clock’s body and base were abandoned somewhere along the cross-country trek, new ones were made after the Baums arrived in Salt Lake City in 1852. The clock has been enshrined in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers’ museum in Salt Lake City museum since 1917, a year after Jacob’s and Agnes’s daughter, Elizabeth, died in Ephraim, UT. Elizabeth, who was born in Chester County in 1834, willed it to the museum.*

Most of the information on the Jacob Baum family was accessed from Ancestry.com. Sources of information on Edward Hunt include: a story by Catherine Quillman in the May 15, 2000 edition of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and an article by Mark E. Dixon, in the April 2008 issue of *Main Line Today*.

## **Who knows the rest of the lyrics to the DHS fight song?**

As noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, Donna Lang Kneisly of the high school's Alumni Association, informed us that several DHS grads are trying to recall the lyrics to the DHS fight song, which is often played after a touchdown is scored by the Whippet or Cougar football teams.

Well, Sheila "Hoot" Moyer, Class of 1969, who now lives in Chapel Hill, NC, has come to the aid of those DHS grads. Sorta.

Sheila recalls the lyrics below, but she acknowledges there's more to the fight song. Can anyone else help us? Please send us at least one more stanza via:

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

*Oh when the blue and gold men fall in line  
We're gonna win this game another time  
For DHS we yell we yell we yell  
And for the team we love so well we yell we yell  
We're gonna rush right through that forward line*

## **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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague and Phil Dague.*

## **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.
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Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.net](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.net), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Book Sale***

The Friends of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs, will host a book sale from 9:30 AM to 4 PM Saturday, November 15, and there will be a bag-of-books sale from 1-4 PM Sunday, November 16. For more on the sale, call 610-321-1700.

## ***Holiday Fair***

St Paul's United Church of Christ, at Worthington Road and Route 100 in Lionville, will host a Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, November 22. There will be baskets for auction, a bake table, lunch, white elephant items, pictures with Santa and a make-it, take-it room for children, plus some vendors selling items they made. The hospitality table will feature hot cider and doughnut holes, along with a basket which will be raffled off at the end of the fair.

## ***5K Road Race***

The DHS West cross-country team will host the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Chester County Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving, November 17. There also will be a 1-mile walk (kids' race). The race also will benefit the Cure4Cancer Foundation. The race will begin at 8 AM at DHS West. For more info, access: [www.chestercountyturkeytrot.com](http://www.chestercountyturkeytrot.com)

## ***Barry Rabin to speak***

Attorney Barry Rabin will talk about current events when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM Tuesday, November 18. The meeting will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting will be free and open to the public.

## ***Downingtown Library Programs & Activities***

The Film Forum is held at the library at 6:30 PM every second Tuesday of the month. Anyone who enjoys watching and discussing films is welcome to join. Incentives include occasional free movie passes and/or credit for movie rentals.

A Writer's Group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. The open forum for adults who are willing to share their writing and participate in critiques.

A Book Club meets at 6:30 PM on every fourth Tuesday. The discussion at the Nov. 25 session will be on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone*.

Call the library at 610-269-2741 for more info on any of these programs.

## ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

## ***Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://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 at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday 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).