

Help us save our 305-year-old headquarters



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 42

October 16, 2014

Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

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

Marshallton Methodist Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Before the church was built in 1828, an itinerant preacher conducted services in a barn, and later in a wheelwright shop in Marshallton. Original members of the church were Dr. Charles Parrish, Alice Ann Clayton, Moses Hiddleston (one of the carpenters who helped build the church), Joseph and Sarah Burton, Abraham Paulson, Thomas Gibbons, Carline Lewis, Hannah Jones, George Anders, Sarah Ferrell and Lydia Monks. In 1891, the church was remodeled, at a cost of \$4,262. Electric lighting replaced the church's gaslights in 1924. The original parsonage, used for Sunday School classes in later years, was built in 1877. Members of the sesquicentennial committee were Jayne Ellis, chairperson, Robert Ellis, Mildred Wickersham, Nancy Busby, Eleanor Roberts and Rev. Joseph Herr.

The Downingtown Rotary Club honored members of four local fire companies. Receiving **Outstanding Firemen Awards** were: Jerry Keen, Alert Fire Co.; Vince Panetti, Minquas Fire Co.; Ronald Rambo, East Brandywine Fire Co.; and Eric Shoemaker, Glenmoore Fire Co.

Officers of **Downingtown Junior High's** Student Council were Joe Sciandra, president; Jeanne Hessinger, vice president; Dana Jenkins, secretary; and Bill Mayo, treasurer.

Members of the newly-established **Downingtown Historical Society's** charter committee included James McGowan, Stanley Landis, Jane Street, Ray Waechter, Harry McDonald, Donald Greenleaf, Lois Fern and John O'Brien.

A hook-and-ladder play, featuring Gregg Jackson's lateral to the trailing Ricky Stonewall, worked for one TD. Otherwise, the **Whippet football squad** didn't have much success in the Homecoming game, played on a wet, sloppy field, as Boyertown beat DHS 26-8.

Several long-time employees were recognized by **Downingtown Borough Council**. They included: Lew Wilson, police chief, and Warren Showalter, superintendent of the water works, 30 years; Lt. Vernon "Zeke" Osborne, police department, 25 years. Those with 20 years of service were: Quindie Mento, payroll and billing clerk; Charles Lewis, maintenance; Lt. Frank Steidler, police detective; Harold Reifsnnyder, recently retired street crewman; and Bill Woodward, chief waterworks operator.

Recent **property transfers** included: West Bradford, 1322 Walnut Ridge Drive, \$57,900; East Brandywine, 8 Sussex Place, \$76,795; Caln, 3306 Summit Ave., \$49,900; Uwchlan, 716 Brainerd Road, \$92,500; Downingtown, 419 Washington Ave., \$40,000; East Caln, 303 Norwood Road, \$69,400.

Officers of the Luther League at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Karen Lammey, president; Amy Parkhurst, vice president; Eric Edwin, secretary; and Kim Clift, treasurer.

Woman's Club celebrates its 100th anniversary

The Downingtown Woman's Club recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centennial luncheon at the Whitford Country Club. Members of the anniversary committee were Cynthia Lyman, Susan McClure, Mary Alice Kottmeyer and Ruth Patterson.

Mrs. George Fisher, Jane Ringwalt and Susan Hoopes were the club's founding members. The first meeting was held in the Minquas Fire Co. parlor in 1914. Subsequently, meetings were

held at the Downingtown Library. The club's first officers were: Mrs. A.H. Standley, president; Mrs. Joseph Johnson, first vice president; Mrs. D. Edgar Hutchison, second vice president; Mrs. Roy Irwin, recording secretary; Maude Dixon, corresponding secretary; Mabel Stauffer, treasurer; Mrs. Theodore Hallman, Mrs. Howard Sides and Mrs. George Fisher, directors.

When members of the club participated in a straw vote on women's suffrage in 1915, the outcome was 17 in favor of women voting and 14 were opposed. In 1922, the clubhouse at 121 Manor Avenue was purchased. To meet expenses and pay the mortgage, fundraising efforts for many years included: card parties, bake sales and suppers.

Over the years, the club offered financial aid and hours of service to the: Coatesville Veterans Hospital, Embreeville State Hospital, Pocopson Home, Salvation Army, Needlework Guild, Red Cross, CARE program, U.S Olympics, Special Olympics, American Field Service Foreign Exchange Student program, and Downingtown's Log House.

As costs related to maintaining the clubhouse continued to be prohibitive, members decided to sell it in 1989. However, the fruits of the property sale, plus two willed endowments, have enabled the club to provide, more than \$220,000 in educational and community grants to organizations such as the: Downingtown Library, Downingtown Area Historical Society, Good Neighbor Day, Meals on Wheels, Downingtown Senior Center, Brian's House, local fire companies, Association for the Blind, Brandywine YMCA, Bridge of Hope and Good Works.

Contributions of particular note in recent years have been scholarships worth a total of \$175,000 to graduating seniors from four local high schools, and \$15,000 toward the 1998 construction of the concert gazebo in Kerr Park.



The Woman's Club of Downingtown recently celebrated its 100th anniversary at a Centennial Luncheon at the Whitford Country Club. Current officers, pictured at the luncheon with Downingtown Mayor Josh Maxwell, are, left to right: Ruth Brookover, recording secretary; Cynthia Lyman, president; Carol Ann Jewitt, finance chairwoman; Jean Manning, vice president; and Marie Hill, treasurer.

St. Anthony's Restaurant is helping save Ashbridge House

The restaurant at St. Anthony's Lodge, at 259 W. Church St., Downingtown, is one of the six local restaurants that are helping the Historical Society pay to have the leaking stone walls of our 305-year-old headquarters re-mortared. And all the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for the re-pointing work.

St. Anthony's Restaurant is part of St. Anthony's Lodge, which was established by 40 Italian male immigrants in 1919. Most of the men and their families had settled in the Johnstown section of the borough, where they built the Lodge in 1929. The Lodge includes a second floor banquet hall, which can accommodate 180 people at private parties. Although it was named after St. Anthony of Padua, where many of the original members had come from, the club is often called the Italian Social Club.

The Lodge sponsors many local sports teams, supports local charities, and its swimming pool is the site of many team competitions.

The club also hosts the annual "Frog Party" which is attended by 1,000 men. The party was started in the 1930s by men from the Johnstown area, who cooked the frog legs they caught in the Brandywine Creek.

And although only males of Italian extraction can be beneficial members of the Lodge, the organization has a huge social membership and women play a major role in the club. Better yet, the restaurant always has been open to the public.

One of the women who is in a leadership role at the Lodge is Rose Mascherino Ciarlone, who has a four-generation connection with the restaurant, and now manages it. Rose started working at the restaurant when she was a 14-year-old bus girl, and she continued in that role until she was in her 20s. Her connection with the restaurant includes the days when her father, Louis "Rounnie" Mascherino, was a popular waiter who "tormented" restaurant customers.

Among the restaurant's unique attractions are its Ladies Night and the family-friendly, all-you-can-eat Pasta Nights on Thursdays.

The restaurant's hours are: 5-9 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and 3-8 PM on Sundays. Call 610-269-9039 to make a reservation. For more info, access: www.saintanthonyslodge.com/#.

Other restaurants participating in the raffle are: Amani's BYOB, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, and The Thorndale Inn. Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased by:

- Sending a check, made out to DAHS and mailed to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335;
- Buying them at Ashbridge House, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30, on Sundays from 1-4 PM;
- Buying them at one of the participating restaurants.

You also can order them by calling 610-269-1709 or sending an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

DHS Class of 1964's 50th reunion



The DHS Class of 1964 recently had its 50th reunion at St. Anthony's Lodge. Classmates who attended included: On the floor: John McGuckin; sitting in first row, Fern (Murray) Knight, Janet Hamilton, Velma Warren, Sally (Galt) Riddle, Chris (Kelly) Short, Tom Hill, James Jackson, Andy Harden, Flo (Tracey) Colby, Faye Miller, John Miller, David Landis; second row, standing: Mike Dorsey, Janine (Davis) Dorsey, David Manley, David Downing, Ken Matthews, Bob Lloyd, Jim Duca, Jack Moyer, Ralph Emery, Joan (Seeds) Beggs, Hilda (Casella) Nastase, Pricilla (Brown) Cumens, Joy (Emery) Fink, Beverly (Mitchell) Haas, Brenda (Wilkerson) Holland, Linda (Gabel) Levine, Dan Lee; third row, sitting: Rob Reyling, Mary Ellen (Crosby) Mull, Bonnie (Moore) Swartzentruber, Don Myer, Linda "Shrimp" (McElroy) Chappell, Barb (Hadfield) Myer, Linda (Baker) Piccole, Jan (Fetherolf) March, Mike Myers, Liz "Cookie" (Stewart) Raddi, Dianne (Curry) Tracey, Tom Haas, George Ciarlone; fourth row, standing, Jim May, Russell Dillow, Rich Staneski, Steve Wenzel, Larry Forrester, Tony Cozzone, Bob Poore, Margaret (Harrison) Helms, Lloyd Asparagus, Eileen (Smith) Lightcap, Judy (Ker) McWilliams, John Lauffer, Raymond Barry, Judi (Grubb) Supplee, Mike Pollack, Jack Supplee.

Additional ways to access our free Hist-O-Grams

Some people have had difficulty accessing their weekly Hist-O-Gram for a variety of mysterious reasons. However, you will **always find** the latest edition on the left side of the home page of our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/.

And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at:
www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html

Officers of the Downingtowntareahistorical 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.

It's at Hopewell Road and Route 282 in East Brandywine



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the house at 1199 Hopewell Road, at the intersection of Route 282 (Creek Road) in East Brandywine Township. The house was built in 1845.

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

Free ads for Non-Profits

Harvest Hop

The Downingtown Area Senior Center's annual Harvest Hop at the Ludwigs Corner Fire Hall from 7-11 PM Saturday, Nov. 8 will feature an Italian dinner, including wine (must be 21 to attend), from 7:30-9 PM. The event will include music, an auction and raffles. Tickets, \$40 each, can be bought by sending a check to: DASC, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Reservations also can be made by calling Sue at 610-269-3939 or via www.downingtowntareaseniorcenter.org.

Hope for Helm Fundraiser

Matt Helm is paralyzed from the waist down, due to a recent kayaking accident. Matt was born and raised in Downingtown, and is known as an exceptional person and a tremendous athlete. He and his wife, Lindsay Helm, live in Downingtown and had a new son, Hunter Helm, in August. The family faces a difficult financial situation in the coming months due to the medical expenses incurred from the accident. To help alleviate some of their worries, everyone is invited to the first annual Hope for Helm event, to be held from 6-10 PM on Saturday, November 15 at the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford.

There will be dinner and drinks, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. To purchase tickets to the event and for more info, see: www.hopeforhelm.com.

Annual Luncheon

The Old Caln Historical Society will have its annual luncheon at 1:30 PM on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Thorndale Inn. Reservations close on Oct. 24. Tickets are \$24 per person. Checks, made payable to OCHS, should be sent to: Doreen Jacoby, P.O. Box 72083, Thorndale, PA 19372.

Halloween Parade & 5K Dash of the Living Dead

Downingtown's Halloween Parade and the 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race both will be held at Saturday, Oct. 25.

The parade begins at 3 PM Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, and east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM, and they will need a number, distributed at the staging area, in order to be judged. They must be part of the parade to be judged. For more details, call 610-269-4203 or send an e-mail to: dtownhalloween@aol.com. The 5k Dash of the Living Dead road race, sponsored by the Downingtown Main Street Association, will begin at 2 PM, before the parade. There will be prizes for the fastest men and women, as well as winners for both genders in various age brackets. To register and for more details on the zombie-themed road race course see: www.runtheday.com/registration/race.

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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. The discussion on November 11 is "Cleopatra" (Liz Taylor version).

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 on Oct. 28 will be on Amanda Coplin's *The Child's Child*, and on Wilkey Collins' *The Moonstone* at the Nov. 25 session.

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

Family Fun Festival & Ghost Walk

Everyone is invited to the Fall Family Fun Festival and Ghost Walk, to be held from 5-8 PM Saturday, October 18 in Marshallton. The event, sponsored by the West Bradford Historical and Recreation Commissions, will include pumpkin and face painting, hayrides, and spellbinding stories told around a bonfire. Those who wish to help on the event as a volunteer should contact Mike Euler at 610-269-4174 or meuler@westbradford.org.

Roast Beef Dinner

As part of West Bradford's Family Fun Festival, Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have its annual Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM Saturday, October 18. Served family-style, the dinner will include roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom and beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children between 5 and 12. Dinners are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call 610-696-5247.

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. 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 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.