



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

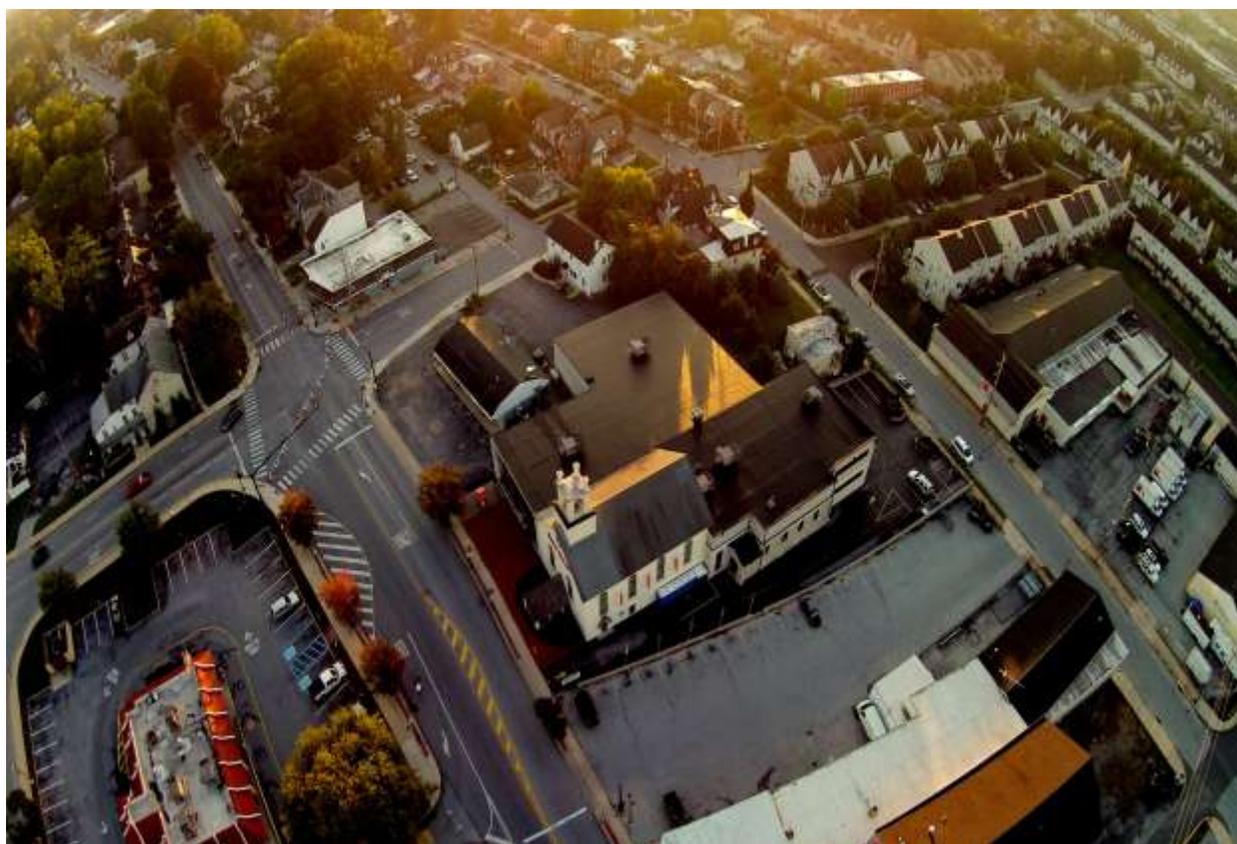
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 40

October 2, 2014

What Was This?



Tell us how the large, white building, with a bell tower on top, in the center of the aerial photo above was used during most of the 20th Century. The first person who identifies it correctly will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Help us save Ashbridge House; Please buy a restaurant raffle ticket

Time has taken its toll on Ashbridge House. We're not just talking about some wrinkles on the face of our 305-year-old headquarters that have begun to betray the 18th Century beauty located on Route 30 in East Caln.

No, the house needs major re-pointing surgery. That's because the decades-old mortar, which bonds the stonework on the house's exterior walls, has deteriorated and rain water is leaking into the house. We started the re-pointing process several months ago, when the mortar of the 1850s summer kitchen addition was repaired. That repointing job was done by Paul's Pointing of Kennett Square, a masonry contractor which specializes in working on historic buildings. It cost \$3,600.

The next re-pointing operation will be on the house's east side wall. That job will cost \$16,000, and it must be done ASAP.

And that's why all the proceeds from our second annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle will be used to pay for re-pointing the east wall. The raffle winner will receive six \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,200, for meals at these six great local restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, and The Thorndale Inn.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House from 1-4 PM on Sundays. 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.

Downingtownt area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of September 1962:

The **Janward Apartments** were opened at 499 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtownt.

Plans to change to the zoning of a 32-acre tract on Lloyd Avenue in **Caln Township** from residential to industrial, in order to attract light industries to the area were withdrawn because of opposition from residents who lived nearby.

Reflective of the burgeoning suburban growth in the Downingtownt area, the **junior high school's enrollment** was 756 student, while senior high school had 554 students.

Leaders of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School Association** were Mrs. James Martin, president; Mrs. Robert MacDougal, vice president; Mrs. Carl Kopenhaver, secretary; Mrs. Preston Rishaw, treasurer; Mrs. William Spence, membership chairman; Mrs. Alan Dewees and Mrs. Emil Tkachick, program chairmen; Mrs. Robert Fetters and Mrs. Eldrow Reeves, ways and means co-chairmen; Mrs. Havard McCurdy and Mrs. Gilbert Cornog, hospitality co-chairmen; Thomas Trego, project chairman; Mrs. Thomas Gottier, transportation; Mrs. Calvin Wheatley, sunshine; and Mrs. James Wertz, publicity.

Officers of the Youth Fellowship group at **Glenmoore Methodist Church** were: Patty Pizii, president; Mary Jane Pizii, vice president; Ronald Hohl, secretary; Mary Ann Harple, treasurer; Nancy Harple, program chairman; and John Miller, publicity chairman.

Although the Whippets had a 13-0 lead in the second quarter, the **DHS football team** lost 26-13 in their season opener against Spring-Ford. Gordie Flowers' scored both Downingtown TDs, on long (53 and 74 yards) runs.

Officers of the **West Pikeland School PTA** were Mrs. John Henssler, president; Mrs. Harry Levering, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, recording secretary; Mrs. Harley Fink, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Knox, corresponding secretary.

Seen at the 60th reunion of the DHS Class of 1954



Seen at the recent, 60th reunion of the DHS Class of 1954 were, left to right: Marie Zittle Peazzoni, Louise Simpson Fisher, Rose Ann Pace Manetta, Martha Lowe Shanley and Ruth Moore Osborn. Twenty-four classmates and 19 spouses attended the reunion, which was held at the Whitford Country Club.

A delightful overnight at the Duling-Kurtz House

The write-up below was done by Karen and Ron Meacham, who won the first annual “A Taste of Chester County” restaurant raffle, conducted last fall by the Historical Society.

The Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn’s history starts with the original grant from William Penn to Richard Thomas in 1683. Thomas, the first settler in what is now West Whiteland Township, sold land parcels to gentlemen farmers. The Whitford Farm rose in importance when limestone and marble were discovered and quarries were developed. The land contained a grist mill, saw mill and an old stone house. George Hoopes purchased the property 1832, worked the quarries and mills, and sold products throughout the County. His son, Robert, kept the business flourishing until 1885 when the property was returned to the Thomas descendants and the land to farming. In 1905, a Thomas daughter, Martha, a very prominent cattle breeder, politician and suffragette inherited the property.

Today’s Duling-Kurtz House was named after Edith Duling Carr and Lena Kurtz Knauer, mothers of developers Raymond Carr and David Knauer, founders of the restaurant. With current proprietors Michael and Gertie Person, who were trained in Vienna, Austria, patrons are assured of excellent food and service at affordable prices.

Greeted warmly upon arrival at the Country Inn, we settled in the Mary Todd Lincoln room. At the restaurant, we were seated in an intimate dining room overlooking a beautiful garden. After our Lobster Bisque appetizer, we were treated to Caesar Salad, classically prepared at the table. The entrees of Pan Seared Colossal Crab Cakes and Lobster Crepes were elegantly presented and delicious. Our meal was topped off with a scrumptious, warm Apple Strudel and a decadent Cappuccino Ice Cream Truffle. The Inn offers a full complement of wine and liquor. The service was attentive and cordial.

A continental breakfast was part of our overnight package, thus completing our year-long dining experience as winners of the Historical Society’s first annual restaurant raffle. And what a delightful adventure it has been.

We want to thank the Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn for its kind donation to the Downingtown Historical Society’s “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser

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.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society’s Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, October 5. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the Downingtown area gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you’re invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old 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 convenience.

It was at the YMCA Camp in the mid-1950s



This is a mid-1950s photo of pre-teens participating in an arts and crafts class at Camp Castle, part of the YMCA camp complex in West Bradford Township, just south of the Downingtown border line. Carol Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site of the photo, which was provided by Ron Brackin.

Carol says she worked in the kitchen at the YMCA Camp, when she was a teenager, from the mid 1970's to the early 1980's, during the summer and on weekends at Camp Hilltop, which was open year round then. The other three camps in the YMCA complex were only open during the summer back then, recalls Carol. One of them was Ranch Camp, where the kids focused on riding horses, and they had a camp rodeo at the end of each two-week session.

When the Philadelphia YMCA formed the original camp in 1895, it was known as Dwight Farms because Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of farmland in West Bradford to the YMCA. According to a report published in 1897, "the expected patrons were young men who were poor and out-of-work, generally in despair and with no choice before them but beggary and crime," wrote Catherine Quillman in *Between the Brandywines: A History of West Bradford*. "The men would pay a small fee for the privilege of living along the Brandywine and building the grounds into a model camp."

Dwight Farms included a large fruit orchard and was later the site of an agricultural school run by the YMCA, according to Quillman. She also noted that a reporter claimed in 1910 that "the place is fitted up like a fashionable country club with tennis courts, an open air swimming pool, baseball diamonds, and facilities for all out and indoor sports."

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

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

Spaghetti Dinner

The Eagle-Glenmoore Lions Club will have a spaghetti dinner from 4-7:30 PM on Saturday, October 11 at the Mount Pickering Masonic Lodge at 218 Byers Road in Eagle. Tickets will be available at the door. Children under four are free. Proceeds will benefit the Diabetic Alert Dog Program, through the Canine Partners for Life. Diners are asked to bring donate a non-perishable food item for the Chester County Food Bank.

Fire Prevention Event

The Downingtown Fire Department will be hosting a Fire Prevention Event for the entire family from 11 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 4 on the Wallace Avenue parking lot of Kerr Park.

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.

Soccer Program

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Hickory Park, 351 Park Rd., Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning on Sept. 6. The free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We also need high school students to help out as one-on-one buddies -- no soccer experience necessary. For more info and to register, go to: www.geyasoccer.org.

Golf Tournament

Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club will have a golf tournament on Wednesday, October 15 at Downingtown Country Club. Registration is at 2:30 PM., and the shot-gun start is at 3 PM. Corporate Package (\$425) includes foursome for 9 holes (scramble play), cart, name on one tee box or green on course and at reception, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. *Individual Golf (\$85) includes 9 holes, cart, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. Hole Sponsor (\$100) includes name on one tee box or green on course. Cocktail Reception (\$30) includes appetizers and one hour open bar 5 PM to 7 PM. Register via Chamber website: www.dtrcc.com.*

2 Winners Will Get a Playhouse

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous.

Log House Dinner Raffle

Winner of the raffle will win a dinner for four at the Downingtown Log House on Lancaster Avenue. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. To purchase raffle tickets—\$50 each—call Ginny Pierce, 610-269-2750. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Senior Center's Harvest Hop on November 8.

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.

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.