



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. 6, No. 11

March 12, 2015

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the purpose and location of the building in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

News items originally published 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of February 1963.

Continental Can Co., which had indicated a desire to move its plant in Devon to another site, was the first target of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** industrial task force, which was established to attract new industry to the Downingtown area. Chamber president Tom Roberts appointed Chandler Cushman, William Hayward, Ray Sheeler, and Kennard Porter to pursue the possibility of bringing the can firm to the Downingtown area.

Plans for an addition to the two-year-old Downingtown **High School** on Manor Avenue were approved by the County School Board. Members of the site committee for the addition were Warren Supplee, Mary Shoemaker, Edward Stouff, James Martin, Robert Gabriel, William Corey, Nevin Myer, Edward McCausland and Raymond Williams.

The interior of the **Downingtown Library** was painted; new lights and shelves were installed; and it was to begin being open on Saturday mornings, according to librarian Mrs. Malcolm Kirkpatrick.

After she scored highest in a test at DHS, **Barbara Warner** was selected to represent the high school in the Betty Crocker Search for the national American Homemaker of Tomorrow competition. And **Harold "Randy" Reeve**, DHS Student Council president, received the Citizenship Award from the Soroptomist Club of West Chester

Also, **DHS musicians**, who were chosen to play in the Southeastern District Band, were Ruth Anne Miller, Richard Seibert, Kenneth Matthews, Ralph Carson, Richard Walton and Berton Nordblum.

Donald Metz and Albert Merkle were appointed to the planning commission of **West Pikeland Township**. They replaced Charles Platt and Sam Acker. Other members of the commission were George Beechwood, Beverly Wheat and James Driscoll.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who survived a cold weekend (it was zero degrees on Sunday AM) at Camp Horseshoe, were Larry Amoriello, Douglas Barr, Ronald and Terry Cogan, Earl and Roger Edwards, Charles Fitzgerald, Dennis Giancola, Peter Griggs, David Hallman, Carl Hamilton, James Harkins, Carl Harper, Joseph and Kenneth Kirkner, Michael Macolley, Stephen Phillips, Michael Riggins, Stephen Schmieding, Raymond Townsend, Charles and Raymond Williams, Jack Enochs and Francis Wood.

Elected as officers of Downingtown Court 132, **Order of the Amaranth**, were Helen Buffington, royal matron, Elizabeth Gunkle, royal patron; Edna Bozette, associate matron; Amanda Dowlin, associate patron; Mary Yocum, secretary; Jessie Rodgers, treasurer; Dorothy Rodgers, conductress; Ethel Sturges, associate conductress; and trustees Marion Getty, Eleanor Detterline and Bertha McCardell.

Downingtown candidates, who were endorsed by the Republican Party, included: Elmer Schrupf and Raymond Williams, to be re-elected the Downingtown Elementary and Joint High School Boards; and Talbert Swarner, to be re-elected as auditor.

Marshallton Farms, a development of new, split-level houses along Route 162, was offering three models of homes, starting at \$14,990.

New members of **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Robert Brookover; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns; Mary Hulme; Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Myers and daughters Gina and Susan; Ralph Pearce; Mr. and Mrs. Yerkes Peoples, and daughters Katherine, Mary and Sara; Mrs. J. Schollenberger; Laverne Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Tipton; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Troup; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vogel; and Jane Ulsh.

Interesting tidbits gleaned from the Borough's 1958 annual report

Here's some interesting information retrieved from Downingtown Borough's annual report for 1958. Since the report was published in 1959, the year the borough celebrated its 100th anniversary, it included a lot of local history.

- When Downingtown was incorporated as a borough in 1859, its population was 761, and only 118 kids were enrolled in the borough's school system.
- The borough's population had increased to about 900 souls when the Civil War began in 1861, and 90 men from Downingtown served in the Union Army and Navy.
- The first gas lamps were installed here in 1876. And the borough briefly (1878-79) had one of the few female lamp lighters (Anne Smith) in America.
- When the first Police Chief, George Stuart, was hired in 1883, his salary was \$3 a month. Before then, constables had been paid a flat fee for each arrest. And shortly after Joseph Newlin was hired by the Police Department in 1929, he drove a motorcycle while on patrol. The first patrol car was not purchased until 1942.

Members of Borough Council in 1958 were: George Snyder, W.P. Canby, Earl Radcliffe, John Rogers, Armand Taraschi and Paul Walker. Other borough officials included: Creston Shoemaker, burgess (mayor); Walter Leland, borough manager; Joseph Newlin, police chief; Earl Stern, fire chief; Theodore Griffith, solicitor; George Aumiller, tax collector; Howard Baldwin, treasurer; Daniel Rothas, health officer; and Elmer Ralston, building inspector. The 40-page annual report was donated to the Historical Society by Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager.

What Downingtown people were talking about 97 years ago

Noted below are news items published by the *Downingtown Archive* in the spring of 1918.

Students who graduated from Guthriesville High School in June were Ella Elston, Mary McCausland and Marple Lewis.

The Downingtown Canning Club began operations at the high school again, on July 1. Last summer, 49 women participated in the club's activities, and they produced 2,000 containers of canned vegetables—an average of 53 per day. They included 48 jars of jam which were turned over to the Emergency Aid for soldiers, and 60 jars of vegetables and jellies which were placed at the disposal of the Visiting Nurse Association. The club was part of a nation-wide effort to conserve food during World War I.

Varsity letters were earned by these members of the DHS girls' basketball team: Ruth Baker, Madelaine Rometsch, Anna Wharry, Margaret Yohn and Anna Townsley.

In another effort to produce food during the war years, a camp of the Chester Valley Woman's Land Army was established along Route 30 in West Whiteland. The dozens of "farmerettes"—attired in khaki uniforms and living in tents—apparently were staying on the grounds of Whitford Lodge while working on area farms.

A quartet of DHS track men—Wilmer Dolbey, John Francella, Harry Haines and Hathaway Frain—beat relay teams from much larger schools and came in second in the high school relays at the Penn Relays held at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

Capt. Scott Butler, DHS Alumni Hall of Fame inductee

Six DHS graduates will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131st annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing: <http://www.downingtowndalumni.org/banquet.html>.

Noted below is the information on one of the inductees, Captain Scott Butler, Class of 1984, who was selected for his accomplishments in the Military Achievement category. Capt. Butler has excelled in the U. S. Navy, since he was commissioned in 1988. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, he received his Navy wings in February 1990. His service to date includes efforts in Operation Desert Storm, USS Constellation Bounty Hunters, Operation Southern Watch (Iraq), Operation Restore Hope (Somalia), and Top Gun Graduate Honors. Captain Butler has served as a Legislative Fellow in the Office of Senator John McCain and then as the Operations Officer for the US Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. He then served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station in Sigonella, Italy, from June 2010 – May 2013. Currently, Capt. Butler serves as the Commandant of NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, where he commands a faculty and staff representing 24 different NATO and Partnership For Peace nations.

Information on each of the other inductees will be published in the next five Hist-O-Grams.

It's St. Paul's UCC Church in Lionville



Hilary Collins of Chester Springs is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as the apex of St. Paul's UCC Church in Lionville.

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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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, Phil Dague and Rahn Brackin.

Paid ads for businesses

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Lecture on Colonial Taverns

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a lecture on Colonial Taverns from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, March 15 at Beaver Creek Tavern, 1350 Bondsville Road, Downingtown. There is no cost but you are welcome to order from their menu and/or enjoy a leisurely dinner after the program. Beer historian Rich Wagner will be available to autograph and purchase his book "Philadelphia Beer: A Healthy History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty." He will present information on a time when the taverns were the place to get the news, and there were four taverns in East Brandywine Township. For more information: CarolSinex@gmail.com, 484 237-8071.

Harp Orchestra concert re-scheduled

The Brandywine Harp Orchestra will play in the Tel Hai Retirement Community's in the chapel at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 12. The orchestra consists of 15 harpists with seasoned skills and extensive musical backgrounds from Southeastern PA, DE and MD. The public is welcome to enjoy an evening with one of America's premier harp ensembles.

First Ladies of the United States

The Old Caln Historical Society will sponsor a program on the First Ladies of the United States, at 2 PM Sunday, March 22, at the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. The program will be presented by Barbara Felini, a retired West Chester School teacher of 42 years, who also presents programs for Learning in Retirement, OLLI, and retirement communities. The program is free and the public is invited. Parking is available. Please use the backdoor of the township building. For more information call, 610-383-4891.

Bus trip to Washington, DC

Phil Dague and the 97th PVI Civil War reenacting group are hosting a "Washington, DC on your own" bus trip on Sunday May 17, and the public is invited. Guests will meet at the Downingtown Library at 122 Wallace Ave. in Downingtown at 5:30 AM where they will board a Krapf luxury coach bus. Upon arrival in our nation's capital at 8 AM, you will be free to explore D.C. on your own. Washington will be bustling with activity on that spring day, including "The Grand Review 150th," a parade commemorating a parade that happened 150 years ago, marking the end of the Civil War. At 4:30 PM, we will start our return trip back to Downingtown, with a stop along the way for dinner (not included), arriving back home at 8:30 PM. It's a long day, but you can nap on the bus! The cost is \$40 per person. If you are interested, please e-mail Phil at PRD1961@gmail.com, or call (610)873-7059.

Registration for soccer players with special needs

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Fellowship Field #1, 241 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, from April 11 to May 30. This free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We need teens and adults to volunteer as "buddies" to work one-on-one with players. No soccer experience necessary -- just enthusiasm! For more info and to register, go to: www.geyasoccer.org

5K race for Downingtown Library

The Readers on the Run 5K race and a 1 Mile walk, plus a Kids Dash will be held on Green Street in Downingtown on Saturday morning, April 11. The races will benefit the Downingtown Library. For details and to register on line, go to: <http://library5k.secondwindtiming.com> or you can pick up a registration form at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue.

Point-to-Point Race

The 73rd running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point race will be held on Sunday, April 5 at the Brandywine Valley Association's Myrick Conservation Center, on Route 842, between Unionville and West Chester. Gates open at 10 AM. First race: 11:30 AM. General admission is \$20 per carload. For more info, see: www.brandywinewatershed.org/pointtopoint.

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.