



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

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Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Paranormal Investigators will reveal info about ghostly residents at Ashbridge House this weekend

Haunted History at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters? Join members of Chester County Paranormal Investigators as they explain how they used modern paranormal equipment and techniques to discover some fun facts about life, in and around Ashbridge House. Hear about encounters with some ghostly residents of the house, who make their presence known in out-of-the-ordinary ways. Participate in an EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) session and have a chance to ask your own questions of the ghostly occupants of Ashbridge House.

The program includes a presentation of some of the evidence gathered from several investigations of the house and a hands-on demonstration of some of the equipment. You won't want to miss this opportunity to become involved in a bit of local Haunted History.

The Chester County Paranormal Investigators will make their presentations at 7 PM on Saturday, October 24 and at 2 PM on Sunday, October 25. Tickets, which cost \$10, can be purchased at the door before the two presentations at Ashbridge House, located in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center Square Shopping Center, next to the Chick Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln.

News published in local papers in November 1979

Noted below are items retrieved from area newspapers published 36 years ago:

- Downingtown councilman **Frank Manetta** said the rumors that he was a likely successor to Lew Wilson, borough police chief, were “ludicrous.” Mayor John Fiore had recently asked Wilson to retire, but Wilson said he had not made a decision to retire. Meanwhile, Manetta, who had served on the police force for several years, said, “My family and I got a chuckle out of it at first. But now I want it stopped. It’s not fair to Lew, to me, or to my family.”

- West Bradford resident Al Gerhard set a **world record for boomerang distance throwing** by tossing his self-made boomerang 123 yards and 1 foot.

- New members of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were Marrone’s Automotive, Gee Auto Parts, Progress Plumbing, Heating and Electric Co., Lillard Insurance, and Chester County Beauty Supplies.

- The Downingtown School District adopted a new policy on **administering medications and first aid** to students. The policy requires a written request from a parent or guardian for any type of medication.

- The **DHS football squad** beat O.J. Roberts 34-13, as quarterback Tom Quinn connected on pass plays to Brain Westmoreland and Dave Kucera that resulted in TDs. Ricke Stonewall scored his 13th touchdown on an 80-yard run, and Teddy Robinson tallied his fifth TD of the season. Fullback Glenn Davis finished Downingtown’s scoring by bulling his way across the goal line in the fourth quarter. Cited for their defensive play were Reese Hunt, nine tackles; Todd McNeil, eight tackles and a fumble recovery; and Ed Novak, who got his fifth interception of the season.

- Members of **Cub Pack 23**, who received one-year service pins, included Sammy Greer, Eddie Schroeder, Greg Hauptert, Steve Snyder, Larry Bronson, Jeff Steidler, Richard Wagner and Todd Roman.

- The **DHS field hockey team** finished its 12-5 season with a 2-1 win over Phoenixville. The Phantoms were up 1-0 when Barrie Benjamin’s goal knotted the score, and Tina Arcaro tallied the winning goal. Coach Sally Anderson said the Whippets’ improved record were the result of the outstanding efforts of Sue Widen, Donna Allison, Sue Daylor, Betty Tiller, Laura Roepe, Doreen Warihay, Linda Carroll and Debbie Klein. Players who were named to the all-Ches-Mont League team were Arcaro, Carroll and Warihay.

- Officers of the **DHS Music Parents Association** were Mitchell Mauger, president; Robert Nash, vice president; and Mary Jo Schloman, secretary; and Peg Yeoman, treasurer.

- DHS students who had recently **participated in exchange programs** and the foreign land they had visited, were: Kathy Parvensky, France; Mark Myers and Dan Cook, Spain; Ellen Jones, Mexico; and Rick Betres, Denmark.

- Recent **property transfers** included 93 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$89,900; 203 First Ave., Caln, \$47,000; 1298 W. Strasburg Road, West Bradford, \$75,200; 208 Spring Run Lane, Uwchlan, \$71,132; 501 Thomas Road, Downingtown, \$48,230; 97 Gloucester Court, East Brandywine, \$52,900; 8 Shore Line Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$85,000.

- Members of the DHS cross-country squad who made the **all-Ches-Mont League team** were Larry Williams and Rob Sanders.

Girl Scout leaders' CPR training at Ashbridge House



Area Girl Scout leaders attended a day-long CPR/First Aid certification class last Saturday at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters.

Officers of the Downtown 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, Rahn Brackin and Donna Capriotti.

What area residents were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from local papers published in early April 1948:

- The **Pickering Valley Railroad** was authorized to abandon the 6.7-mile line that ran between Kimberton and Byers. The line was built in 1871, to serve dairy farmers whose milk was transported on the Pickering Valley Railroad to Philadelphia. The line was especially important when it was used for freight and passenger service to the **Chester Springs Soldiers Orphan School**, which was founded in 1868 and closed in 1912. A huge amount of info about the Orphans School is available at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacheste/chester_sos_nwsart.htm.
- Charles Emery, supervisor of Downingtown Schools, was the chief bingo caller at the **DHS Music Association's** Game Night. However, when his voice became extremely hoarse, he had to be relieved by Paul Dowlin.
- The new club rooms being built in the former gymnasium (where the DHS boys' and girls' basketball teams had played home games for decades) at the **Minquas Fire Co.**, were expected to be ready for the Downingtown Fire Department's housing of two trucks and a huge parade on June 12.
- Officers elected to lead the **Downingtown branch of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** were: Mrs. Donald White, president; Mrs. William Reed, first vice president; Mrs. John Miller, second vice president; Mrs. Morse Garwood, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Moore, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Clifton Walton, treasurer.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** were: Mrs. Herbert Ash, president; Mrs. William Mittel, vice president; Mrs. George Grieb, secretary; and Mrs. Shartle Brookover, treasurer.
- The **Odd Fellows Lodge in Downingtown** elected the following officers: Allen Popjoy, junior past grand; Gilbert Cox, noble grand; Arthur Lowry, vice grand; Creston Shoemaker, assistant secretary; Paul Blend and Frank Laird, supporters, noble grand; Mark Shaw, warden; Roy Rimel, conductor; Allen Woodward, chaplain; Ernest Smedley, inside guardian; Theodore Griggs, inside guardian; John McCausland and Herbert Pritchard, supporters, vice grand; and Ralph Kinsey and Morris Stiefel, scene supporters.
- Installed as officers of the **Ladies Society at Messiah Lutheran, Downingtown**, were: Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Earl Shirck, vice president; Mrs. Leon Dickinson, secretary; and Mrs. Edward Murray, treasurer.
- The **Downingtown Moose Lodge** elected these officers: Francis Francella, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Hugh Kyle, prelate; James Dolan, secretary; William Warren, treasurer; and Joseph Katherman, trustee;
- Candidates initiated into **Downingtown's Washington Camp of the POSA** were: Ernest Smedley, Josiah Ashenfelter, Robert Hadfield, William Whiteman and Clifford Irons.

Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, and typing your 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.

Please help the Historical Society by supporting our Restaurant Raffle

The Historical Society's third annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle is bigger and better than ever, because those who buy a ticket will have an opportunity to win \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln Township. That means your continued support will enable us to continue re-pointing the house's leaking, exterior walls.

Those who generously supported last year's raffle allowed us to replace the crumbling mortar that bonded the stonework on the east side walls of the house, plus the exterior of the summer kitchen, which was built in the mid-19th Century.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these seven area restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House, which is next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Francine Dague, 610-306-2904; or by sending an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 15. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, including a disclaimer, go to: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

Ad published in May 22, 1947 issue of the *Daily Local News*

Fridays and Saturdays are
ALWAYS
Downingtown Days

**The only place in Central Chester County
where you can shop Saturday Night**

DLN
5-22-47

NOW

**In tune with the times, we are having
two big days of specially reduced prices—
Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24**

**Come to Downingtown
Shop at leisure after work**

**Free Parking Lot
on Wallace Avenue**

Johnson's Jewelry Store
Downingtown Dept. Store
Newberry's 5 and 10c Store
The Morris Store
Groff's News Agency
Kauffman's
G. H. Wagner, Grocer

Theo. M. Griffith & Sons, Hardware
Western Auto Associates
Wm. M. Mittel, Fairlawn Grocer
Murphy's Furniture Store
Romig Electronic Service Co.
J. W. Maxwell & Son
Di Luigi's Shoe Store

W. P. Canby & Son

It was Loller's Cigar Store and a general store



Both Jack Hines and John Carbo are truly perceptive scholars because they were the first persons to correctly identify the site in the above photo. Jack told us that it was Nelson Loller's Cigar Store in Marshallton when the photo was taken in the 1940s. And John knew that it was a general store operated many years earlier by Harry LeFevre, as shown in the postcard below.



Free Ads for Non-Profits

Art Film/Discussions

Art Professor Donna Usher will present a series of four Art Film/Discussions at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue, from 5:45-8 PM. The next session, on Wednesday, October 28, will be about "Maya Lin, A Strong, Clear Vision," a story about the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial created by a female, Asian, Yale architecture student. It also includes information on public statues created by Maya Lin. All the programs will be presented in the library's media room. For more details, contact Karen Smith at 610-269-2741 or e-mail Professor Usher at dusher@wcupa.edu.

Dash of the Living Dead

At 2 PM Saturday, Oct. 31 the **Dash of the Living Dead** road race down will be conducted on Pennsylvania Ave. to Aston Ave., through Kerr Park, and continue on the path into Johnsontown, then back to Kerr Park for the finish. The race, which is sponsored by Downingtown Main Street Association, will occur prior to Downingtown's Halloween Parade. Pre-Registration is \$35 (\$40 day of). The event includes Un-Dead After Party with a great spread from Downingtown restaurants, t-shirt, entertainment, and beer from Victory Brewing Co. Zombified runners will earn an extra beer for their extra effort. Get more details and register for the event, see: http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/34099.

Halloween Parade

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM Saturday, October 31. The parade route will be along Pennsylvania Avenue between Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., heading east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants in the parade must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM. Costumed participants will stage at Beaver Creek Elementary School and floats will stage at Grace Church at the corner of Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues. All participants will need a number in order to be judged. For more details, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN%202015.pdf>.

Candlelight Dinner

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: Vdiluigi@downingtowntown.org or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.

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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.