



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

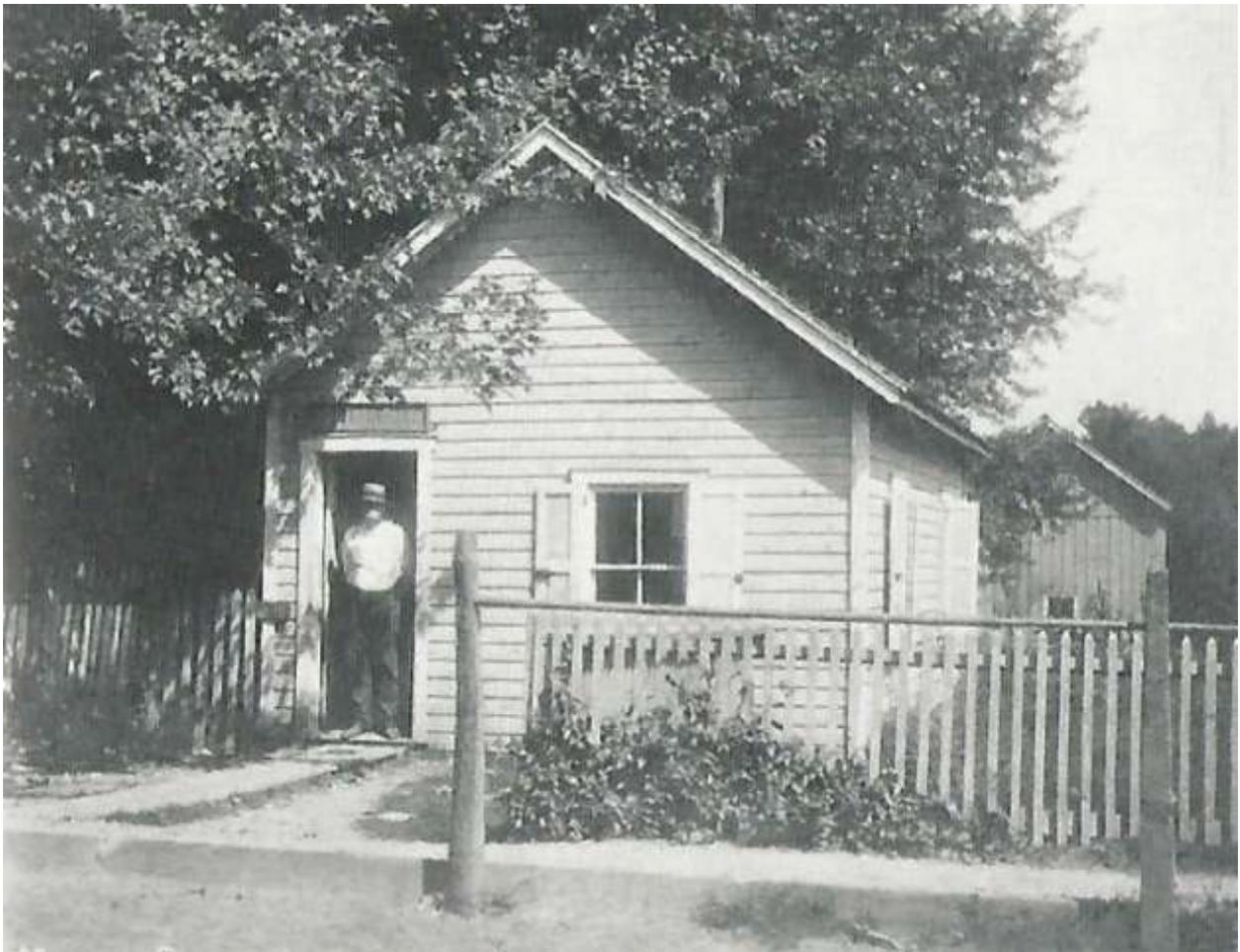
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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.

What locals were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items published in local newspapers in early October 1948:

- Among the teams honored at the **Downingtown Young Men's Association's** second annual sports banquet was the Glasstown baseball team, which won the Downingtown Community Baseball League. Members of the team were: manager Bubba Mattioni, Calvin Mingione, Albert Pizzi, John Travaglino, Charles Forte, Thomas Peazzoni, Jack Lyons, Anthony Mattioni, Joseph Forte, Peter Ippolito, Vincent Massimini, Butch DiBernardi, Albert Menna, Matthew Menna, and Dominic DiEugenio. Also, Joan Pollock and James Davis were recognized for winning events in the Junior Olympics in Philadelphia.

- Federal and state authorities raided a **huge still in the Glenmoore area**, which was operated by men from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Authorities said the still was capable of producing 2,500 gallons of 180-proof alcohol per day.

- Sixty youngsters were attending the three-year-old **Downingtown Friends School**, according to Dorothy Davis, principal. The classes included: nursery, kindergarten and first through third grades.

- William Barrett was awarded a gold medal from the Downingtown Rotary Club for being the **Downingtown Fire Department's** Outstanding Fireman the second consecutive year. And the **Minquas Fire Co.** opened its new lounge and recreation room on the second floor, which had been used as a gymnasium for several decades.

- Young people in the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, who earned advancements were: Gwen Hamer, Janet Wallace, Charles Long, David Taylor, Carl Ruth, Robert Lytle, Margaret Detwiler, Mary Drennan, Louise Shreiner, Peggy LaRose and Walter Trego

- Officers of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League** included Mrs. Earl Mercer, president; Mrs. Robert Fetters, vice president; Anna Lammey, secretary; and Mrs. David Finger, treasurer.

- The **DHS football team** won its second game by beating Upper Merion 13-0. The Whippets' first TD was scored by Bill Boggs, who ran 11 yards on a Statue of Liberty play. And Bill Davis tallied the second score on a two-yard plunge.

- More than 300 employees and their guests attended **Downingtown Paper Company's** dinner dance at the Columbus Center in Chester. The affair's costs were covered by the proceeds from the vending machines and concessions in the plant and the Papermakers Union.

- Plans for a **Downingtown Charity Ball**, to be held at the Chester Valley Golf and Country Club on Thanksgiving Eve, were unveiled. Proceeds from the event were to be used by the **Downingtown Christmas Committee** to buy gifts and food for needy, local families.

- Estelle Harrop of Glen Moore, a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, sang at a concert in the high school auditorium, which was sponsored by the **DHS Music Association**. Proceeds from the concert were used to defray the cost of the Mass Cathedral Chimes, which were installed on the Hammond organ in the auditorium. The organ had been purchased with donations from the community, in memory of the young men from the Downingtown area who had died while fighting in World War II. *Editor's note: Is that organ still in the auditorium of the STEM Academy, the former Junior-Senior High School?*

- Girls who were invested in **Girl Scout Troop 10, Marshallton**, included: Glenna Hurley, Dorothy and Nancy Ford, Jean Woodward, Verna and Sylvia Hall, Elsie Lambert, and Dorothy and Mary Esther Kelsall,

We need volunteers for Clip/Paste sessions

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 1 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, May 10. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

It was the original Downingtown Library



We were not surprised when no one correctly identified the building in the photo above, even though thousands of people drive through, or even OVER the site today. That's because it's the original Downingtown Library, and the little building was officially located at 229 East Lancaster Ave. in the borough. That means it was located smack dab in the middle of where Green Street intersects with the north side of East Lancaster Avenue today. That section of Green Street, adjacent to McDonald's, wasn't built until the late 1970s.

The library evolved from a private group, created ca. 1817, which was known as the Downingtown Society for the Acquisition of Normal Knowledge, to the formation several years later of the Downingtown Franklin Library Co. That private subscription library company operated out of a room in Jacob Edge's store at Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues in the borough, where the main branch of the DNBFirst Bank is now located.

In 1876, the Downingtown Library Co. was established as a stock company, and it paid \$5 a month to rent the building in the photo above. Jane Thomas was hired as the librarian; her salary was \$75 per year. And in 1913, the library bought the building at 330 E. Lancaster Ave., which was built in 1800 by Dr. William Todd and was the site of the Thomas Sisters Boarding School for Girls in the mid-19th Century. The school served as a station on the Underground Railroad. The library moved from that location in 2015, to a new facility at 122 Wallace Avenue.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary; and Carol Grigson, archivist. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton.

Brief but important

- According to editions of *The Downingtown Archive*, published in the winter of 1926-27, the **borough's School Board** had purchased a plot of land—251 feet wide and 140 deep—on West Lancaster Avenue. The land was to be the site of a **new junior-senior high school** “within a very few years,” because a new secondary school was an “absolute necessity.” The building was to be constructed across the street from the West Ward School, where students in grades 1-12 were being taught at the time. The land was purchased for \$7,500 from the West Chester Traction Co. (*Editor's note: A new junior-senior high school was not built until 1932. That building, which now is occupied by the STEM Academy, is on Manor Avenue in the borough.*)

Also, the high school's **Athletic Committee** planned to raise funds to pay for fencing to be installed around the athletic field, and decided to apply for membership in the recently established Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

And courses, offered at the high school for the first time in the second semester, included Ancient History, Commercial Geography, Penmanship and Spelling. Also at East Ward Elementary, about 30 female students had begun to take the new Manual Arts for Girls course, which was taught by an art teacher.

- Two readers offered interesting comments about Howard Caskey, DHS social studies teacher whose planned retirement in 1980, was featured in an article in the April 7 Hist-O-Gram.

Carol Sinex Schmidt, wrote: “I loved Mr. Caskey. I credit him with being a teacher who made us THINK. In Problems of Democracy (POD) class, he would pose a situation and ask for our opinion, but always taught us to back it up with why and welcomed all viewpoints. I can well imagine he was a great negotiator for the teachers.”

And **Dr. John Rogers**, who had been an English professor at Shippensburg University until he retired several years ago, wrote: “Mr. Caskey was a wonderful teacher and a fine man. I never realized when I was sitting in his eleventh grade American History class nearly sixty years ago all that he had accomplished, especially for teachers in the Downingtown Area School District.”

- **Dr. Bill King**, a retired dentist who lives in Arkansas, informs us that his 1946 DHS classmate, George Windolph, of Nordmont, PA, and his late wife, Irene, recently were recognized by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for donating an easement, which permanently removes 454 acres of the Windolph's land from development. The land is 40 miles east of Pennsylvania's elk range. King also noted in his email that Windolph had lettered in football and in track as a hurdler and quarter miler at DHS, and studied aeronautical engineering at Drexel Institute. He then was a helicopter designer for Piasecki Aircraft and later, at Boeing Aircraft in Delaware County, until he retired. King concluded by writing: “I have sent this to you just for information on a man who creatively gave much to our world and in so doing gives credence to the Downingtown school system as we knew it back in our younger years.”

Thanks Jeff



Jeff Stevens, Assistant Chief and past President of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co., is shown with the fire coat he wore as a firefighter back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which he donated to the Historical Society's archival collection. He also donated the firefighter's boots and parade dress pants and shirt he wore in the late 1970s; his DHS track team (1978-80) jacket, and the jacket given to the local baseball team he coached when it won the Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League championship in 1978.

Group Photo of the Week:



Found in the 1968 DHS yearbook, this photo shows the 1967-68 cheerleading squad. They included, left to right: first row, Ruthanne Cox, Laura Jackson, Linda Bird, Jeanne Keen and Sheila Moyer; second row, Chris, Jordan, Laura Booth and Donna Usher.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

Only One More Week Till Xmas.

AT PARKE'S



The Christmas Store

You Will Find The Best Gifts For Men & Boys!

There are more desirable and appropriate Gifts for Men and Boys in this Store than were ever dreamed of by those who have not yet availed themselves of its resources.

Handkerchiefs.....	25c to \$2.50	Raincoats.....	\$4.00 to \$20.00
Scotch Wool Mufflers.....	\$3.00	Silk Shirts.....	\$4.50 to \$7.50
Woven Silk Mufflers.....	\$2.00 to \$3.50	Madras Shirts.....	\$2.00 to \$4.50
Silk Neckwear.....	65c to \$2.50	Fajotas.....	\$1.00 to \$3.00
Belt Sets.....	\$1.50 to \$5.00	Suspender Sets.....	
Silver Belt Buckles.....	\$2.00 to \$3.50	Van Heusen Collars.....	35c and 50c
Gloves.....	\$1.50 to \$7.50	Bill Poles.....	\$1.50 to \$7.50
Wool Half Hoses.....	50c to \$2.00	Oxfords.....	\$4.50 to \$8.00
Bath Robes.....	\$6.00 to \$7.50	Four Button Aratics for Men and Boys.....	\$3.50 to \$4.50
Sheep Lined Coats.....	\$8.50 to \$12.00	Eagle Pull-Down Caps, for boys.....	75c to \$1.50
Wool Caps.....	75c to \$1.50	Underwear.....	\$1.00 up
Lumber Jacks.....	\$6.00 to \$7.50		
Sweaters, all kinds.....	\$2.50 to \$10.00		

Shop at Your Home Store Where You Get The Best For The Least Money. All Goods Put In Xmas Boxes Free of Charge.

114 East Lincoln Highway

Downingtown :

This ad was originally published in the December 16, 1926 edition of *The Archive*.

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'd like to receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

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.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or 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, the Lionville Youth Association, the 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.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Healthy Kids Day

The Greater Brandywine YMCA will sponsor a Healthy Kids Day at Kerr Park, Downingtown, from 11 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, April 30. For more details, see: www.ymcagbw.org/hkd.

Basket Bingo

There will be a Longaberger/Vera Bradley Basket Bingo at 1 PM, Sunday, May 1 at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown. Doors open at noon. Tickets are \$25; includes 20 regular games. Prizes include Filled Longaberger baskets & pottery and Vera Bradley items. Sponsored by Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds go to Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund. For tickets: Call Rochelle at 610-383-1114 or send an email to: dimatteo003@yahoo.com.

Pancake Breakfast

There will be an all-you-eat Pancake Breakfast from 6:30 AM to 1 PM on Sunday, May 1 at St. Joseph's Catholic School. You can buy tickets at the door. Adults, \$6; Children \$3.

All Wheels Consignment Sale

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission will have an All-Wheels Sale (bikes, skateboards, scooters, roller skates) at Kerr Park from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, May 14. For more details, see: <http://downingtownt.org/Documents/ParksRec%20Commission/AllWheelsEventPR2016.jpgee>.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lectures at 3:30 PM on the Sundays noted: **May 15**, Mathew Kalos will discuss what he's uncovered in his archaeological digs in Chester County, at the East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville.

Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade Committee will have a Kentucky Derby Nite at The Races at 6 PM on Saturday, May 7 at St. Anthony's Lodge on Church Street, Downingtown. Visit dtwonchristmas.com for tickets and more information. Tickets are \$25 per person and include "food and beer" and soda. There also will be raffles, 50/50, Lady with the Best Bonnet, Best Dressed Couple, and Gentleman with fanciest bowtie contests. Adults only. Must be 21 to attend.

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 30. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

Muzzy Run

The 10th annual Muzzy Run will be conducted Saturday morning, May 7 on the Struble Trail in Downingtown. Registration opens at 7 AM. The events will include the races: a 5K run, at 8 AM; a Kids' Fun Run at 9 AM; and a Fun Walk at 9:15 AM. Proceeds go to the Terry Muzzy Foundation. For more details, see: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/MuzzyRun>.

East Brandywine Golf Outing

The 5th annual East Brandywine Fire & Police Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 9. Sponsored by and held at Applecross Country Club. There are still available opportunities for sponsors. There also will be an auction and raffle opportunities. Additional information can be found at: www.ebfc49.org.

Flea Market/Craft & Antique Sale

Table space is available for a flea market/craft/antique sale from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 14 (rain date May 21) to be held on the front lawn of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. Call Joan at 610-384-9496 or Lois at 610-384-8153 for more information.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life will begin at 10 AM on Saturday, May 21 at Downingtown West High School. For more details, see: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=74705.

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

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.