



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

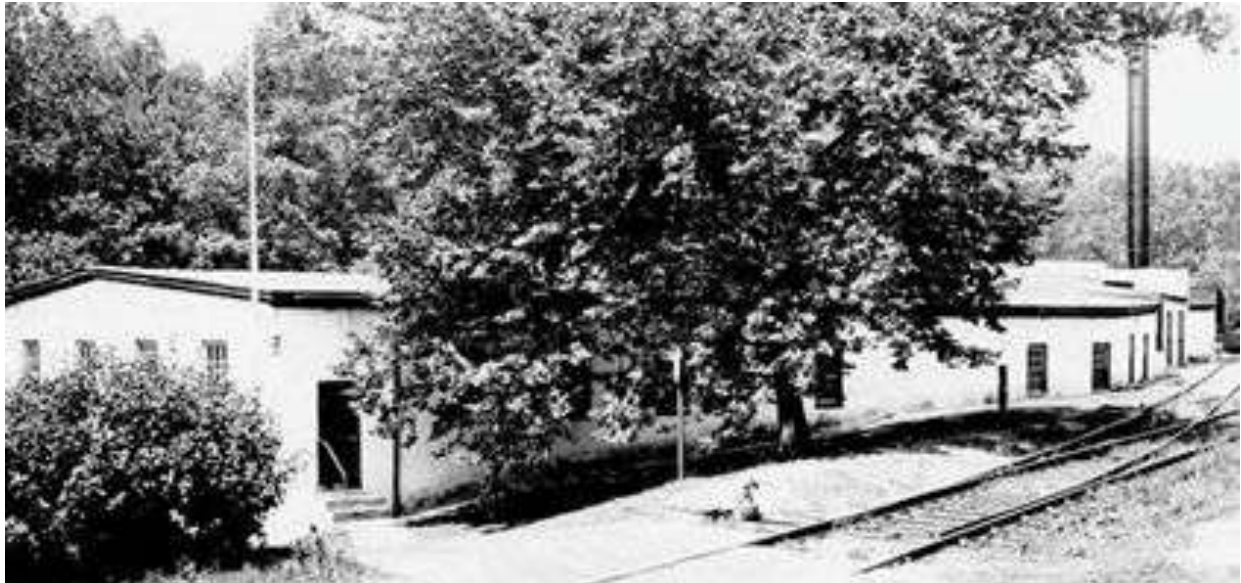
[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

*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](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in area newspapers in the latter part of May 1964:

- More than 750 employees and guests attended the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner-dance of the **Pepperidge Farms** operations in Downingtown. In 1949, the firm began producing bread in the plant on Chestnut Street; and in 1956, it started making cookies in the same building. In 1957, the firm began making frozen desserts in the Boot Road facility .
- **Central Presbyterian Church**, which had celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary a year earlier, announced that it had selected a 4-acre property on Uwchlan Avenue in Downingtown as the tentative site where it would build a new church. The unimproved property cost about \$500,000, according to Charles Seibert, chairman of the church's long-range planning committee.

- Youngsters who were confirmed at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Lois Dahlberg, Maia Fosberg, Thomas Isinger, Deborah Jameson and Sandra Payton. And those confirmed at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Stephen Behrndt, Mary Louise Blake, Dale Coover, Cheryl Miller, Brian Peterman, William Reichard, Thomas Shreiner, Robert Woodward and Robert Worthington.

- Members of Ever-Ready Circle of **Marshallton Methodist Church** celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Officers of the group were Mrs. Rollo Jordan, president; Mrs. Clyde Geisel, vice president; Mrs. Harry Wickersham, treasurer; and Mrs. Harold Robinson, secretary.

- The Washington Camp of the **Patriotic Order of Sons of America, Downingtown**, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Those who received 50-year membership pins were George Perry, Harvey and Clarence Happersett, and George Mercer.

- Members of the **DHS Class of 1949** who planned their 15<sup>th</sup> class reunion included: Rogers Bender, Marguerite Ciarlone Chicosky, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Lang, Busty Ruffini, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Capriotti, Thomas Kenny, Mrs. Mary Bowman Schaeffer, Mrs. Marie Grube Carpenter, Mrs. Mary Graden Norris, Mrs. Arvilla Reynolds Usher, Mrs. Eleanor Wando Singer and Mrs. Blanche Foreman.

- Elected as officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the West Bradford Fire Co.** were Mrs. Harold Trego, president; Mrs. Chester Mull, vice president; Lydia Bell, secretary; and Mrs. Robert Fowler, treasurer.

- Members of the safety patrol at **Marshallton School**, who were treated to a Phillies game at Connie Mack Stadium, were Twinkle Griggs, Kevin Macolley, Kent Bonam, Martin Orloski, Gayle Clark, Pat McGeehan, Linda Bateman, Linda Hurley and Robin Renzetti.

- The National Junior Honor Society's officers at **Downingtown Junior High School** were James Long, president; Lois Carson, vice president; Sandra Dollar, secretary; and David Corry, treasurer. And Coach Robert Diehl presented awards to the following members of the Junior High basketball team: Dave Robbins, Alan Novak, Tom Nurthern, James long, John Muzii, Willie vonHacht, Wayne Kofke, Doug Gindin, Donald Boggs, George Price and Val DiEuliis.

- Officers elected to lead the Fellowship Class at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Lionel Shaeffer, president; Edward Houck, vice president; Mrs. William Carlson, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Burns, treasurer; and Mrs. Robert Troupe, corresponding secretary.

- Members of the **Williamson Masonic Lodge**, Downingtown, who received 50-year pins were Joseph Miller, George Young and Edwin Wagner.

- **DHS students** Linda McCombs, Janet Strawsnyder and William Behrndt had their poetry manuscripts published in the National Anthology of High School Poetry.

- Mothers who were guests at a tea conducted by **Brownie Troop 83**, Downingtown, included: Mrs. Robert Cozzone, Mrs. Richard Dague, Mrs. Eugene Loftus, Mrs. Louis Mascherino, Mrs. James Romano, Mrs. George Dailey, Mrs. James Martini, Mrs. Edward Ziobro, Mrs. John Valentino, Mrs. Henry Sieracki, Mrs. Michael Mento, Mrs. Anthony Mattioni and Mrs. Herbert Kessel.

- Members of the PTA who were responsible for **Lionville Elementary School's** May Fair included Mrs. Ralph Just, Mrs. Dale Hartsell, Mrs. Eric Bittmann, Mrs. Earl Langford, Mrs. Carl Jensen, Mrs. Eugene Sowers, Mrs. Douglas Pagett, Mrs. Wilbur Fiske, Mrs. Richard Plank and Mrs. Howard Stimson.

- **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, celebrated paying off its \$30,000 mortgage on the parish hall by burning the documents connected with the loan.

- Using proceeds from a recent fashion show, the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** presented a \$1,000 check to the Tom Thumb Nursery School. Presentation of the check was handled by Mrs. George Kalbitzer and Mrs. Lawrence Jamieson, co-chairmen of the fashion show.
- Officers of the Ladies Philathea Sunshine Bible Class at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Grace Zynn, president; Alice Esworthy, vice president; Elizabeth Regener, secretary; Mineola Jones, treasurer; Mabel Yoder, social service; Elizabeth Mendenhall, service; and Myrtle Jefferis, devotional and secret service.
- Members of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, who planned the spring luncheon and plant sale, were: Mrs. Frederick Seibert, Mrs. Allen Powell, Mrs. Paul Powell, Mrs. Herbert Ash, Mrs. W.P. Canby, Mrs. Jacob Edge, Mrs. Ellis Brown, Mrs. Richard Osgood, Mrs. Beatrice Kerr, Mrs. James House, Mrs. Herman Kramm, Mrs. Robert Dean, Mrs. Park Plank, Mrs. Robert McIlvain, Mrs. Samuel Corliss, Mrs. Thomas Greenleaf and Mrs. Richard Worth.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 252 in Chester Springs**, who rode on the Freedom Valley Special train to the World's Fair in New York included: Cheryl Miller, Chris Schreirer, Joan DiEnna, Harriet Wentz, Susan Seel, Linda and Polly Quigley, Liz McIlvaine, Linda Dilworth, Beverly Whitson, Noreen Mahoney, Jane Banfield, Katie Hallman, Karen Souder and Debbie Ott.
- The **DHS baseball team** lost its final game of the season when Great Valley outlasted the Whippets in a 13-6 slugfest. Downingtown got a three-run rally off the Patriot's second hurler Paul "Butch" Hurley in sixth inning. But after loading the bases in the next frame, Coach Bob Boyer's squad ran out of steam, and finished the season with a 4-4 Ches-Mont League record.

## Missed any Hist-O-Grams published in May?

You can access any issue of the Hist-O-Grams published in May by clicking on the clicking on the coding noted below:

May 5, 2016: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%205%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%205%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

May 12, 2016: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2012%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2012%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

May 19, 2016: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2019%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2019%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

May 26, 2016: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2026%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/May%2026%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

And you can see all previous issues of our Hist-O-Gram by accessing [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

Vintage Ad of the Week

# SEND US YOUR WASHING!

NO NEED OF WASTING your strength and energy over a wash-tub — We'll take all that work off your hands — washing and ironing your soiled clothes and linens to a faultless nicety.

**Wet Wash, 15c for 25 lbs.**

**Rough Dry, 10c lb.**

**Washed and Ironed, 15c lb.**

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## Downingtown Laundry

A. P. GOETZ, Prop.

Phone — 51-W

Dsily Collections in Coatesville, West Chester & Downingtown

This ad was first published in the November 7, 1926 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## Want to help at our 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, June 5 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, June 14. 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's at 102-104 Bradford Avenue in the borough



Rose Woodward is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the houses at 102 and 104 Bradford Avenue in the Johnstontown section of the borough. A year before St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built down the street in 1852, the first Mass celebrated in Downingtown was said in the house (104) on the left, while it was owned by Irish immigrant Michael McFadden. Later that year, Mass was said once a month on the third floor of McFadden's Railroad Hotel, located where the Pennsylvania Railroad station was built. There was a store on the first floor of 104 Bradford Avenue, which was first operated by the Sbei family and then by the Capriotti family. Noteworthy: Woody Sbei, who grew up at 104 Bradford Avenue, will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. And former Downingtown Mayor Frank Manetta grew up at 102 Bradford Avenue.

## Group Photo of the Week



This photo, taken when the Minquas Fire Co. celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, shows former chiefs of the Downingtown Fire Department at the time. They were, left to right: Jerry Keen, Tom Lee, Gregg Nelms, Hallan Usher, Mike Miller and Steve Miller.

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

# Please help us fix the smokehouse

We have been sending Hist-O-Grams to friends, as well as members, of the Downingtown Area Historical Society for six years. And since many of the more than 900 of the subscribers who receive our Hist-O-Gram every week aren't official members of the Historical Society, we are asking you for some help.

As you can understand, our commitment to preserve and maintain Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, is a constant challenge. Currently, we have to make repairs to the small smokehouse, next to Ashbridge House on our property. It's a 19th Century structure that requires parts of the stone walls to be repointed and a cement floor has to be installed.

That's why we are asking you to show your appreciation for the free Hist-O-Gram, which arrives via the Internet at your home every Thursday, by sending us a tax-deductible donation.

**And if you can't make a donation, we will continue to send you our Hist-O-Gram, free-of charge, every week.**

To help us make repairs to the smokehouse, kindly complete the form below and mail it—with a check made out to "DAHS" —to: Downingtown Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. Or you can make an online donation via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Donate.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Donate.html).

Your generosity is most appreciated.

Parry Desmond, President  
Downingtown Area Historical Society

P.S. Have you noticed the two new sections—the Vintage Ad of the Week and the Group Photo of the Week—we've recently added to the Hist-O-Grams?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street, Town, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.

- **T-shirts whose artwork and lettering promote a Downingtown area event, business, team or organization.**
  - 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@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

## 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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *5K for Aidan K*

The fifth annual 5K for Aidan J Run/Walk for Heart-Safe Communities will begin at 9:15 AM on Saturday, June 20, on the Struble Trail, Downingtown. For details, see: [www.aidansheart.org/5k-for-aidan-j-runwalk-62015.html](http://www.aidansheart.org/5k-for-aidan-j-runwalk-62015.html).

### *Block Party for Playground*

There will be a Block Party and Barbecue from 4-7:30 PM on Saturday, June 4 at East Ward School, to raise funds for new playground equipment. Tickets are \$80 for a family of four or \$25 per person. For more details, see: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eclbs2yydb8cf32b&llr=qazex5cab>.

### *Mac & Cheese Cook-Off*

The Rotary Club of Thorndale-Downingtown will have its annual Chester County Mac & Cheese Cook-Off from noon to 4 PM on Sunday, June 5 at Kerr Park. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids (6-12). For more details, check: [www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-chester-county-mac-cheese-cookoff-tickets-21162657077](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-chester-county-mac-cheese-cookoff-tickets-21162657077).

### *On the Home Front During the American Revolution*

Susannah Brody will present a program "On the Homefront, Stories of the American Revolution" at the quarterly meeting of the Historical Society of Phoenixville Area at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, June 15 at the Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust Conference Center, 564 Nutt Road, Phoenixville. Ms. Brody will share stories of real people who lived in Southeastern PA at the time of the American Revolution. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting. All are welcome.



### ***History of Weaving Art***

Linda Beiler, historian, author, artist, educator, will talk about the "History of Weaving Art" when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 21. Beiler wrote *Wheat Weaving & Straw Art*, part of Stackpole Books' Heritage Crafts Today Series. The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown.

### ***Golf Outing & BBQ***

Supporters of the DHS West football team are sponsoring a golf outing, BBQ and silent auction at Whitford Country Club on Monday, June 20. For more info, see: [www.dwhsfootball.com/golf-outing-auction](http://www.dwhsfootball.com/golf-outing-auction).

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).