



## 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 in March 1980

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* 36 years ago:

- Some of the energy-cost savings incorporated into the plans, for the construction of two additions to the **Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School**, included: a dual boiler system, so a backup unit was available if one of the boilers broke down during cold weather months; and some of windows--which were in vogue in the 1950s when the school was built and heating oil was much cheaper--were to be covered.

- John Cropper was appointed to **East Brandywine's** board of supervisors, to fill the term of Winfield Burkey, who resigned because he was moving to East Lake, OH. And in **West Bradford**, Dr. Samuel Wagner was appointed to the board of supervisors, to complete the term of Stephen Hoyt, who resigned.
- Offerings in the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board's** guide for the spring of 1980 included: a tour of the Downingtown water plant on South Lloyd Avenue in the borough.
- Everett Harrington was appointed to the board at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown. Named to the property committee were Jeff Wendel, chairman, and Olin Siever, vice chairman.
- Coach Ellis "Pat" Brown's **Lionville Junior High** wrestling team had been undefeated for five consecutive seasons, winning 43 matches.
- Members of the Hammer & Sons team, which won the **West Bradford Youth Association's** basketball league, were Jack Hamilton, Adam O'Doherty, Beau and Sunny Hobbs, Chris, Kevin and Tom McCool, Paul Siever, Drew Bradley and Bill Russ.
- A 25-year-old, New Jersey woman was arrested in Freehold, NJ, for being one of the two people who reportedly robbed the Lionville branch, on Route 100, of the **Downingtown Savings and Loan Association** on March 13. And a 31-year-old male was the third suspect arrested in Philadelphia for robbing the **Brandywine Saving and Loan Association's Downingtown office** in September 1979.
- Enid Brown received the Citizen of the Year Award at the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** 35<sup>th</sup> annual banquet. And the two-year-old Downingtown Historical Society, received the Chamber's Special Award.
- The **First Baptist Church** basketball team held off a furious rally by **Central Presbyterian**, to win the Downingtown Junior Church League playoffs in a 55-53 squeaker. Dave Kucera and Ed Novak, with 20 and 18 points respectively, led the Baptists' scoring. Matt Mingione, 15 points, and Mark Kolar, 14, were the Presbyterians' top scorers.
- Citizens appointed to the **Downingtown School Board's** Budget Advisory Committee were: William Kuhlkin, Upper Uwchlan; Joseph Jacobs, Downingtown; Harold Hallman, West Pikeland; Jay Lammey, East Brandywine; John Rent, Wallace; Sue Ellen Katancik, Uwchlan; John Gauer, East Caln; Joseph Lewis, West Bradford; and Howard Charles, Downingtown.
- **Lionville Junior High School** students who had featured roles in the production of "EVENing Out" were Paula Yablonski, Mike DiPietropaolo, Todd Rosenlieb, Janice DeMucci, Frances Hoffman, Jaye Nunan, Linda Schwabenbauer, Sandy Puy, Carole Tottser, Diane Shivers, Paul Earle, Michele Buruschkin, Lisa Anklewich, Laura Sachuk, Kevin Copp and Eric Elvanian.

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

## Group Photo of the Week:



Regina Viscichini Martin sent us this photo of the DHS track team, which was published in the high school's 1942 yearbook. Members of the squad were, left to right: first row, Leonard Francella, Willie DeCarlo, Alfonso Travaglini, Erwin Reutter, Isaac Marinas, Lawrence Robinson; second row, Emerson Glauner, Robert Means, George Gregory, Richard Johnson, Vincent Petrella, Willier Collier; third row, Paul Moran, Bruce Bird, Jonathan Windle, Robert Esworthy, Fred McDermott, Oscar Asparagus; fourth row, Raymond Barrow (manager), Coach Kermit Montz, Carl Valente (manager).

## **News items originally published in local papers 68 years ago**

Noted below are items retrieved from papers published in early September 1948:

- New first graders at **Lionville Elementary School** included Marie Boyer, Nancy Shreiner, Sandra Meredith, Marie Abel, Joan Fisher, Joseph McClure, Eddie Matthews, Jackie Stine, Walter Supplee and Eddie Pringle. And members of the safety patrol at the school were: Capt, Cora Smedley, Esther Supplee, Carl Ruth, Harry Dewees, Marjorie Richard, Shirley Drennan and Richard Taylor.

- Emerson Glauner, Robert Trader W.H. Backenstose, Bruce Hashinger and Charles Broomell told members of the **Alert Fire Co.**, Downingtown, what they learned when they attended five days of classes at the Pennsylvania Firemen's School in Lewisburg, PA.

- **J. C. Geisel** took over the Gulf gas station at the west end of Marshallton.

- Officers elected to lead the Women's Missionary Society at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were: Mrs. Edwin Wagner, president; Mrs. Joseph Harvey, vice president; Mrs. Frank W. Smedley, secretary; Ola Johnson, financial secretary; and Mrs. Harold Peoples, treasurer.

- Members of the **Lionville chapter of the Odd Fellows**, who took more than 30 kids to see the Philadelphia Athletics play at Shibe Park, included: Sherman Kirkpatrick, George Thompson, Schuyler Rennard, Elmer Kochel, Horace Phipps and Warren Supplee.
- The **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club** stocked 37 full-grown cock pheasants in open lands within a 3-mile radius of the borough. The drops were made by Elmer Schruppf, James Summers, George Kacy and Elston Hillman.
- Officers of the **Whitford Club**, comprised of people who swam at the Blue Hole Quarry in West Whiteland, included: Mrs. William Ball, president; Joseph Huggins, vice president; James Wood, secretary; Theodore Griffith, treasurer; and directors Mrs. Thomas Parke, Mrs. John Young, Horace Thomas and Merwin Reese.
- By beating Kimberton in two semi-final games, Downingtown earned the right to play in a best-of-five championship series against Malvern for the **Chester County Baseball League** crown. In the first game against Kimberton, Downingtown's Bob Wolcott, who also was a pitcher for Princeton University, gave up only three hits and allowed only one walk. Downingtown scored both of its runs in the sixth frame, when Tony Mattioni's single brought in Charlie Forte, and Bob McCardell's singled in another run score, by Dom Ore. In the second semi-final, Charley Shreiner, who also pitched for the Temple Owls, limited Kimberton to three hits. Hits by Mattioni, Shreiner, "Rabbit" Brumgard, Bill Kellon and Dick Dague in the sixth inning enabled Downingtown to reach the finals by a 5-2 margin.

**Vintage Ad of the Week:**



**Keep Cool**  
*D.N.*  
*6.5.1930* At the  
**Brandywine  
 Tea Room**

A. LEE MILLER, Prop.  
**GENUINE HOME COOKING**  
 FULL COURSE DINNER, A LA CARTE SERVICE

---

A new, modern Tea Room, sanitary in every respect.  
 We serve parties, lodges, etc., up to 50 people. A large  
 rest room for lounging.

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OPEN DAY AND NIGHT

103 BRANDYWINE AVE.                      DOWNINGTOWN, PA.  
 Phone 303-M

This ad appeared in the June 5, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown News*.

## It's West Strasburg Road in the center of Marshallton



Although many people thought the houses in the photo above were located on the north side of East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, John Carbo was the first of several people who recognized the locale as West Strasburg Road in the center of Marshallton in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

## Our Wish List

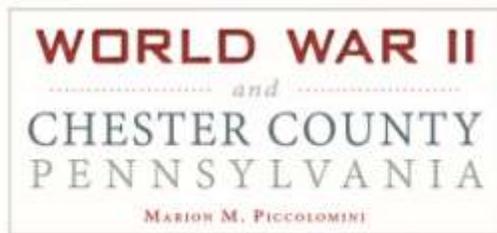
The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- 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](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Historical Society officer authors book on how Chester County residents reacted to World War II



Most American adults are familiar with details about the World War II era, from stories heard at home as well tales offered in movies and books. But we know little of what was happening on in Chester County during that period, or the impact the war had on local residents' lives.

Marion Piccolomini has helped to fill that void by authoring *World War II and Chester County Pennsylvania*. Published by History Press, Piccolomini's book provides insights on the extraordinary measures folks on the home front took to support the allied forces.

They include a West Chester man's development of a process to mass produce vitally needed penicillin, while a peaceful farm was transformed into the Army's bustling Valley Forge Hospital in 1943. Women entered labor positions at companies such as Lukens Steel, to meet production demands. And the Downingtown High School Alumni Association sent issues of its newsletters to local GIs stationed overseas and across America.

Overall, Piccolomini's book celebrates the resilience and perseverance of Chester County residents in the midst of total war.

A daughter of a World War II veteran, Piccolomini is secretary of the Downingtown Area Historical Society and a member of the West Nantmeal Historical Commission. After earning a master's degree in speech pathology at Penn State, she has worked in the medical, college and private practice fields.

You can purchase a copy of the book by calling (888) 313-2665 or sending an email to [sales@arcadiapublishing.com](mailto:sales@arcadiapublishing.com). Information on Piccolomini's local book signings will be noted in future Hist-O-Grams.

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

## Thanks Ruth



Ruth Schломann Morganto, DHS Class of 1982, is obviously proud that she was a member of the high school marching band, which won its first state championship in a 1981 cavalcade. Why else would she have saved that jacket shown above, which includes a patch noting that championship, as well as lettering on the back, indicating she was part of the band's Silk Corps. Ruth and her Mom, Mary Jo Schломann, also donated a 1979 recording of the DHS concert band and chorus, plus many of printed programs for DHS musicals in the 1980s.

This is the first DHS marching band artifact we have acquired for our archives, and we're sure there's lots more out there. So if there is any DHS marching band stuff taking up valuable room in your closets and you want to donate it to our archival collection, please contact us at: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***History of Boyd's Corner***

Richard (Dick) Dague, a historian and librarian, will talk about the History of Boyd's Corner (Sadsbury Twp.) and the Boyd Family, which settled in western Sadsbury Township in 1724. The first one was Rev. Adam Boyd, the first pastor of Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. The program, conducted by the West Caln Historical Society, will be offered at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 15 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. It will be free to all and all are welcome.

## ***Italian Dinner***

The Marshallton United Methodist Church Youth Group will host an Italian Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 12. There will be continuous seating. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children (5~12). A silent auction will be held during the dinner. Proceeds will go to assist the youth on their summer mission trips. Marshallton UMC is located at 1282 West Strasburg Road. For more information, contact the church at [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) or (610) 696-5247.

## ***Readers on the Run***

The Downingtown Library's Readers on the Run road races will be conducted on Green Street in the borough on Saturday, April 9. They will start at 8 AM with a 5K run, followed by a 1-mile race at 8:15, and then a 100-yard dash for kids at 9 AM. Entry fees for the 5K and Walk are \$25 before April 2 and \$30 on race day. The Kids' Dash costs \$10. To register online and for more info, access: [www.racemenu.com/readers](http://www.racemenu.com/readers).

## ***Oldies Dance Party***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

## ***World War II Weekend***

The Borough's Historic Commission will have a World War II Weekend in Kerr Park, Downingtown, from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. No rain date. The main event—military displays, encampments and vehicle displays—will open at 10 AM on Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults and kids over 12. WW II vets get in free. There will be a "USO Dance" at 7 PM on Saturday night. Tickets are \$5/person or \$8/couple..

## ***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/](http://www.alertgolfouting.org/).

## ***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).