



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. 8, No. 33

August 17, 2017

What and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: dahs19335@gmail.com

What locals were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in area newspapers in the early part of April 1950:

- Spontaneous singing of familiar tunes highlighted the 63rd annual banquet of the **DHS Alumni Association**, which attracted some 400 people. Robert Ax, spokesperson for Class of 1925, recalled the class trip to Washington, DC, when he and his classmates shook hands with President Calvin Coolidge. And Shirley Ann Schultz and Joseph Streamer received the association's awards for being the outstanding members of the Class of 1950. New officers of the association were Wilson Pollock, president; Donald White, vice president; May Jane Pawling, secretary; and Emily Lewis, financial secretary.
- Founding (1928) members—Robert Ash, Corbin Hutchison, Dr. George Bousum, Chandler Roberts and Joseph Miller—who were still actively involved with the **Downingtown Lions Club**, were honored by the club 22 years later. And honored for their 20 years membership in the club were Evans Miller, Dr. Harlan Sharp, and Theodore Griffith.
- Don White was named the first **Director of Athletics** at DHS. Previously, those duties were handled by the high school's principals. Howard Caskey, an assistant coach, took over as head coach of the football team, White's former position. Also, Ray DiSerafino, head coach of the junior high school team, was named an assistant coach of the Whippet football squad.
- **Mrs. George Aumiller**, 354 Washington Ave., Downingtown, earned the title of Cinderella for the day on the Cinderella Hour, a program broadcast by WCAU-TV in Philadelphia because she had answered the most questions correctly during the program. Her prize was a pair of boudoir lamps.
- Elected as officers of the WSCS group at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Mrs. Edwin Keenan, president; Mrs. Carl Spellman, vice president; Mrs. John Trimble, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Wickersham, treasurer. Committee chairpersons named were Mrs. Edwin Nichols, social relations, and Mrs. D. Ciaffoni, fellowship. And recitations were presented by these members of the church's Sunday School: Barbara Wallace, Susie McCue, Barbara Durnall, Sarah Miller, Florence and Mary Pierson, Joan Johnson, Jean Simmons, Beverly Spellman, Tommy Walsh and Nancy Shaw.
- The **DHS baseball team** was undefeated, as the Whippets beat Pottstown 4-1 in its Ches-Mont League opener, and recently crushed Phoenixville 17-9. Jack Helm's homer, with two on base, in the first inning paced the win over Pottstown, and Joe Forte went the distance on the Downingtown mound. Whippet pitcher Gordon Carpenter struck out 11 Phantom batters and Marvin Frederick and Ronald Hogg led the Downingtown offense with three hits each in the victory over Phoenixville.
- New officers of the **Downingtown VFW Post 845** were Arthur Harrison, commander; Edward Peterson, senior vice commander; Joseph Fennelly, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Francis Fennelly, chaplain; and trustees William Wilmot, Henry Thomas and James Fennelly. Elected as officers of the **VFW Post's Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. William Wilmot, president; Mrs. Daniel Massimini, senior vice president; Betty Fennelly, junior vice president; Mrs. Joseph Eby, treasurer; Mrs. Henry Thomas, chaplain; Mrs. James Echols, guard; Doris Colella, conductress; and trustees Mrs. Arthur Harrison and Mary Warren.

- Edward Dunmore, president of the **Downingtown Sportsmen Club** appointed these committee chairmen: James Dukeman, ways and means; Amos Summers, game restocking; and Michael Mento, fish restocking.
- An instrumental trio, comprised of Upper Uwchlan's Shirley Garvine, clarinet; Diane Hoffman, cornet; and Doris Hoffman, piano; performed on the Capitol Baker Children's Hour on **radio station WCOJ**.
- **Students of Marion Philips**, Problems of Democracy teacher at DHS, who presented their views in a panel discussion, included Patricia Patterson, Robert Burns, Louise Bartelmo, Jean Eckboldt, Joan Lenhardt, Elaine Russell, Leo Ciarlone, Richard Scrafford and Daniel Hayes.
- Re-elected as officers of the **Memorial Hospital Auxiliary's Downingtown branch** were Mrs. Morris Jackson, president; Mrs. William Reed, vice president; Mrs. Charles Bruton, secretary; Mrs. Donald White corresponding secretary; and Mrs. David Ross, treasurer.
- Members of the Junior Hi-Y group at **Lionville Elementary School**, who participated in a program on radio station WCOJ, were Kathleen Levengood, Margaret Detwiler, Alice Smedley, Meredith Ruark, Sam Matthews and Schuyler Rennard.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Parke Ensimering, governor; Charles Broomall, junior governor; Hugh Kyle, prelate; George Crosley, treasurer; and trustees William Algier and James Dolan.
- Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** elected these officers: Mrs. Arthur Anderson, president; Mrs. John Kaempher, first vice president; Mrs. John Hadfield, second vice president; Mrs. Horace Miller, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Neils Olson, recording secretary; and Mrs. George Dowlin, treasurer.
- **Senior Girl Scouts from Marshallton**, who were guests at Gay Nineties Party, hosted by Paoli scouts, included June Ellingsworth, Nancy Geisel, JoAnne Lefevre, Doris Cann and Sue Palmer. They were accompanied by their leaders, Dorothy Gray, and Mrs. Marshall Chambers.

Hope to see you at East Brandywine Community Day; please bring along used books for our Book Sale

The Downingtown Area Historical Society will have a booth at East Brandywine Community Day at East Brandywine Park from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, August 19.

We'll be collecting used books at the booth for our Book Sale, to be held this Fall. Types of books we're looking for include: Children's, History, Non-Fiction and Biographies, Fiction, current Self-Help and Computer books.

Used books that aren't acceptable for the Book Sale include: Textbooks, Old Self-Help Books, Water-Damaged Books, Books with hand-writing in them, Books with damaged or torn covers and Sets of books, encyclopedias.

You also can drop off used books between 1-4 PM on Sundays at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

When the borough's Log House was moved in 1988



Peter Chim is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as when the Log House, an architectural treasure in Downingtown for more than three centuries, was moved in 1988, to a higher location in Kerr Park—about 70 feet west and 22 feet back from East Lancaster Avenue—to protect it from vibration caused by heavy truck traffic and flooding since the building was 18 inches below the street level.

The Downingtown Historical Society raised more than \$105,000 to pay for the re-location project and subsequent restoration work; the borough government paid \$35,000 of the project's costs.

The building was privately owned by the Thomas Downing families from 1739 until 1940, when it was deeded to the borough. After restoration work was done by the borough in 1947, the building served as the headquarters of the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce from 1950 until 1988. In 1979, the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In a 1947 letter sent to borough officials, Dr. Kenneth Conant, architecture professor at Harvard, noted that the deteriorating log house was “one of the oldest buildings in Pennsylvania, not of masonry construction. It stands at, or near, the first rank in the whole development of our frontier architecture.”

For more info on the Log House, see:

www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Historic%20Commission/THE%20LOG%20HOUSE%20AND%20THE%20WAY%20IT%20WAS.pdf

What was happening here in April 1900

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers 117 years ago:

- John March, Mrs. Ellie Young, Charles Young, Isaac Miller and George Pim, and several other dairy farmers in the Marshallton area stopped sending their milk every day, via Walter Ingram's wagon, to the Charles Hires condensed milk plant in Malvern. That change occurred because they wouldn't accept the payment rate Hires had recently offered. Meanwhile, Hires had recently switched his root beer operation from producing a concentrated powder extract that was used to make root beer at home, to selling the soft drink in bottles.

- Graphite mines in West Pikeland were unusually busy. The Philadelphia Graphite Co. employed 40 men, who were working 12-hour shifts. And the Federal Graphite Co. was having a new macadam surface installed on the road to the mill, which was under construction. Within a 10-mile radius of Chester Springs and Byers, there were nine graphite mining operations in 1909.

Vintage Ad of the Week

PHILCO RADIOS

Screen Grid Plus—Balanced Unit Radio

Willard 13-Plate Batteries, \$8.95

Downingtown Battery & Ignition

HARRY T. GRIFFITH, Prop.

12 E. Lancaster Ave. Phone 210

BATTERIES RECHARGED

This ad was originally published in the January 9, 1931 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

In case you missed last week's Hist-O-Gram

You can access the August 10 issue of our Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2010%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Harmonica Band at DHS 76 years ago were, left to right: back row, M. Moschitta, M. Doto, E. Cozzone, V. Coover, A. DiArcangelo; front row, A. Ebord, M. Stern, F. Biondi, D. Cox. The band was organized to give the students a greater appreciation of the western cowboy music,” according to the high school’s 1941 *Cuckoo* (yearbook).

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, and 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.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. Also on the **right side of the home page of our website**, you’ll find access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.

Access to latest historic “Then & Now” photo sequences

You can see all of the “Then & Now” morphed photo sequences of local historic sites on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B_uVb6lhZku7mw

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Remembrance of 9/11 Attack

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville will commemorate the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City with several free events on September 11, 2017. The events include: from 8:30-10:30 AM, a program which marks the time of that day's horrific events with words from local dignitaries and music by the Lukens Band; from 10:30 AM to 4 PM, free admission to the museum's indoor exhibits and videos; 7 PM, the Lukens Band will lead a musical remembrance program.

Bus trip to Washington, DC

The Lukens Veterans Guild is sponsoring a bus trip on Tuesday, October 3 to Washington, DC. There will be a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol in the morning, followed by an opportunity to visit other sites on your own in the afternoon. The bus will stop for dinner at Lee's Landing in Port Deposit, MD, on the return trip. The bus leaves the Lukens Executive Building, 50 South First Avenue, Coatesville, at 6:45 AM and returns to Coatesville at 8:15 PM. Total cost per person is \$99. Deadline for registration and payment--to be sent to: Lukens Veterans Guild, c/o Sharon Tandarich, 50 South First Ave., Coatesville, PA 19320--is August 30. For more info on the trip, call Sharon Tandarich, 610-715-2993.

Teri's Run

Teri's Run will be held on Friday evening, September 8, starting on Green Street in Downingtown. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM and the 5 K Run and 1.5-mile walk start at 7 PM. Pre-registration deadline is September 1. Refreshments will be served after the race. Raffle prizes and age group prizes donated by local supporters will be given away during the awards ceremony at 8 PM. Proceeds are donated to the [Delaware Valley chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation](#) and the [Scleroderma Research Foundation](#), and are earmarked for research. For more info and registration details, see: <http://www.terisrun.org/>

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, will have its 49th annual Bar-B-Que from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 19. Complete dinner for \$13; eat-in or take-out. Advance tickets can be purchased at the firehouse on any Wednesday evening.

More on Milford Mills

Due to popular demand, author and historian Catherine Quillman has been invited by the East Brandywine Township Historical Commission to give another presentation on "Milford Mills: the Lost Village" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27 at the Township Building on Route 322, Guthriesville.. The lecture is free and open to the public. The evening will include time-to-share stories, as well as early photos taken from Quillman's expanded book, *The Story of Milford Mills and The Marsh Creek Valley*. The author welcomes any photos that you might want to share such as those of other "lost" communities, including the former village of Eagle, Byers, Dorlan's Mills and Bondsville. Refreshments will be served.

Summer Movie in Caln

Caln Township's Parks and Recreation Board presents "Penguins of Madagascar" for the last of the annual summer movie series, starting at 6:30 PM on Friday, August 18. Also, enjoy inflatable attractions, a DJ, the playground and food trucks. Once the sun goes down, sit under the stars and enjoy free popcorn and a movie in the park. Movies kick off around 8:30 PM. Bring chairs and blankets.

Kids Day in East Caln

East Caln will be held in East Caln Park from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, September 16; rain date is Sunday, September 17. Fun activities include petting zoo, pony rides, sand art, moon bounce, rock climbing wall, face painting, police fingerprinting, music, free popcorn, cotton candy and water ice.

Community Day in Caln

The 11th annual Community Day, sponsored by Hatt's True Value Hardware and the Downingtown Library, will be held from 3-8:30 PM on Saturday, September 9. Events will include fireworks, music, vendors, food, a beer garden and activities such as a photo booth, mini golf course and knockerballs.

Community Day & Run For Parks

East Brandywine's Community Day will be held from 11 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, August 19 at the township's Community Park. New this year are: Kid's Fun Zone—moon bounces, climbing wall, bungee jumps, spider climb, giant swings and more. For \$20 all ages can enjoy a super time filled with exercise and fun all day. And the East Brandywine Cup will be back—An opportunity for a team of 8 can win \$500 for their non-profit charity. Fun challenging events such as Flick the Chicken, the Egg Toss, Corn Cobb Toss will keep you entertained. Other events and activities include an antique & classic car show, crafters, pony & hay rides, bingo, food and music.

At dark, the Fire Company will provide fireworks to end the evening. If you would like to be a part of this year's Community Day, contact Sandy Lammey at parkandrec@ebrandywine.org or Dave Summers at dsummers@ebrandywine.org or by leaving a message at the township office at 610-269-8230.

The fourth annual Run For Parks also will be held on Saturday, August 19. To register and for details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/calendar.aspx?EID=801.

Strikeouts for Katie

The fourth annual Strikeouts for Katie Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 26 on the Downingtown Little League field on Manor Avenue, Downingtown. Proceeds will be used for scholarships to active participants attending the Technical College High School-Brandywine Campus, cosmetology program, and to a graduating senior from DHS West girls' softball program, as well as being used for sponsoring numerous charity events. For more details, see: www.strikeoutforkatie.com.

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Mill at Anselma

The Mill at Anselma, on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, open for tours Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Visitors will learn how a mill was operated, see the 16 foot water wheel power Colonial-era gears and mill stones, and see and feel the final product as it flows from the stones. Admission to the Mill is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free. For more information, contact the Mill at 610-827-1906, email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org.

Log House Art & Craft Show

Downingtown's Historic Commission is looking for exhibitors who plan to sell original, hand-crafted items at the annual Art & Craft Show from 9 AM to 2 PM Saturday, September 9 at Kerr Park. For details, see: <http://downingtown.org/Documents/Log%20House%20Craft%20Show/2017/2017LOGHOUSEARTCRAFTSHOWAPP.pdf>

Senior Center programs & activities

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center in its monthly newsletter at: www.downingtownseniors.org/programs/newsletter/

Open Houses in Lionville

The Uwchlan Township Historical Commission will offer several open house events in the Lionville National Historic District on the first Sunday of the month, from April through November, at the John Cadwalader House and the Edith P. Moore School. Both are located on North Village Avenue and are staffed and open from 2 - 4 PM.

The Moore School is the original one room building where children can try on clothing replicas of the period and sit at historical desks. For more info, call 610-280-9522.

Lyme Disease

The Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, an education and support group for patients and caregivers who have been affected by Lyme Disease, meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Kennett Friends Meeting House on Route 82 (125 W. Sickle St. Kennett Square). Meetings are free and all are welcome. Check www.lymepa.org for directions and program information.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darc.info/. 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, <http://josephspeople.org/our-chapters/downingtown/>, 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: cheryl.spaulding@josephspeople.org.