



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

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May 4, 2017

What & Where Was 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.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Phil Dague, president; Jim Sundman, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Lauren Fagan, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Dennis Walton and Jay Worrall. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of May 1981:

- Chester County's Parks and Recreation Department announced that it planned to turn the 300-acre **Springton Manor** estate in Wallace Township into a park and agricultural history museum. One of the manor's most prominent residents was Abraham McIlvaine, who, in 1836, built the farm's Federal-style mansion, which was under lease in 1981 to Vitae House, a service that treated recovering alcoholics. In the 1840s, McIlvaine served in Congress, where he became a close friend and close advisor to Abraham Lincoln. For more details about Springton Manor, see the National Register for Historic Places application:

www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H001585_01H.pdf.

- Jean Harrison was presented the Distinguished Service Award by the **DHS Alumni Association** at the organization's 94th annual banquet. The association's officers were Carl Valente, president; Donald Ash, first vice president; Steven Rosensweig, second vice president; Linda Brown, financial secretary; Debbie Garvey and Carol Brown, assistant financial secretaries; and Kathy McNevech, corresponding secretary.

- Members of **Cub Pack 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, who received an Outdoorsman badge for their camping experience, were Jason Hill, Jeff Himes, Jamie Mendenhall, Nathan Snyder, York Yang, Chris Mathern, Richard Huffman, Richard Wenzel, Eddie Schroeder, Robbie Fuchs, Chris Tyson, David Moore, Sammy Greer, Marc Warnick, Lenny Yowell, David Hunt, Don Zeiders and Mark Jenkins.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 19 New Hampshire Lane, West Bradford, \$62,795; 604 Highland Ave., Downingtown, \$56,960; 118 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$74,250; and 12 Gunning Lane, East Caln, \$65,500.

- Due to the 900 families who had joined in **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, Downingtown, since the mid-1970s, the parish was considering the expansion of its cemetery on Glenside Avenue in West Bradford. And new members of St. Joseph's parish council were Theresa Capriotti, Leonard Francella, Michael McDonald and Mae Swarner. Council officers were Dr. Joseph McCahon, president; Victor Taraschi, vice president; Paul Wood, recording secretary; and Alice March, corresponding secretary.

- The team of Nick Giunta and Dale Krapf won the **Lyndell Biathlon**, which included canoeing one mile across the lake at Marsh Creek State Park and running 1.5 miles. Also at the event, representatives of the recently formed Lyndell Town Watch group, including several women, beat a bunch of junior firefighters from the East Brandywine Fire Co.

- The **Downingtown Historical Society** won the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies Award at a meeting in Altoona. New officers of the local organization, who were introduced at the third annual dinner by Thomas Brookover, president, included: Rev. Wallace Houston, treasurer; Don Greenleaf, parliamentarian; Dorothea Parker, secretary; and directors Sarah Aumiller, Frances Ash, Marjorie Knowlton, Lois Fern, Dr. Richard Lehr, Joseph Crawford, James McGowan and Ray Waechter.

- Recently elected to the vestry at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were Sam Corliss, Nancy Dell, Tom Greenleaf, Margaret Lindeke and John Stockton.

- **Downingtown Junior High** students who attended the American Industrial Arts Association conference in Pittsburgh, included Joe Sciandra, Asit Upadhyay, Shane Rodgers and Louis Cipollini.

- Sunday School teachers at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, included Nancy Heydt, Amy Parkhurst, Wendy Bonaiuto, Sandy Rock, Karen Lammey, Donna Routzahn, Ruth Klein, Amy Miller, Erica Abrams, John Green, Sue Mortzfield, Gabrielle Deprie, Linda Ward, Elsa Green, David Aulenbach, David Rowe, Louise Mullings, Mary Aldworth, Steve Schmidt, Don Parkhurst, Tom and Dot Hrynkow, and Ed Miller.

- The **DHS baseball squad** was tied for first place in the Ches-Mont League, after winning three games in a week. Bob Trauger, the Whippets' winning hurler, struck out eight Great Valley batters, and Mike Lynch hit a three-run homer and Butch Williams was three-for-four at the plate. The combination of scoring seven runs in the sixth inning, plus the one-hit pitching of Larry Protivnak resulted in an 11-0 win over West Chester East. And Trauger made it two consecutive one-hitters for Downingtown, and DHS banged out nine hits, as the Blue and Gold defeated Phoenixville 10-0.

- The **DHS softball team** won two of three contests, to lock the Whippets into a first place tie with Pottsgrove. Downingtown beat Great Valley 10-3, as Sherri Clayton got two hits and scored three runs, while hurler Laura Kulkis limited the Patriots to three hits. After Phoenixville upset DHS 3-2, Coach John Davidson's crew bounced back with a 3-0 whitewashing of Owen J. Roberts. Melinda Horne and Jenny Gerlach each knocked out two hits, and Kulkis notched another mound win.

- Renee Gallman set two records, as the **DHS girls' track team** finished 10th in the Ches-Mont championships, and the **Whippet boys' track squad** came in second in the C-M League meet, when Teddy Robinson (200 M) and Andy Rolen (800 M) both won a race.

In case you missed a Hist-O-Gram in April

You can access any of the Hist-O-Gram editions we published in April, in case you missed any of them, by clicking on:

April 6: www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/April%206%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 13: www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2013%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 20: www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2020%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 27: <http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2027%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>.

Remember these sweaters in the 1960s?



Musicians, as well as athletes, used to earn these types of sweaters at DHS back in the 1960s. Jeff Swisher, DHS Class of 1965, is posing in one of the sweaters, with a stylistic DHS music emblem sewn on it. They were awarded to DHS musicians who participated in the marching band for three years. Jeff recently donated the sweater to the Historical Society. If the sweater looks a little snug, that's because it was the one that was awarded to his wife, Cindy, a DHS classmate. Jeff donated his own special band sweater to the Historical Society as well.

(Editor's note: The Historical Society has heard that some former band musicians, have kept their uniforms. Just to ease your conscience, band alums are encouraged to donate the uniforms, which have been collecting dust in a closet for decades, to the Historical Society. We promise to take good care of the uniform and not tell a soul the names of those who failed to turn in their band uniform during their senior year at DHS.)

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.downingtowntonareahistoricalociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. Also on our website's home page is access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.

You also can find on the **right side of the home page of our website**, www.downingtowntonareahistoricalociety.org, access to:

1. **Hist-O-Gram Archives**, which provides access to every Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.
2. **Then and Now Videos**, which provide short video clips depicting how local sites have changed over the years.

What locals were talking about 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in May of 1956:

- Sam Matthews, class president, was elected burgess of Downingtown, when DHS seniors served as borough officials on **Youth Day**. Other seniors elected for the day were: Page Brown, fire chief; Don Mull, police chief; John Bousum, borough manager; James Walton, health officer; Carol Bruton, water superintendent; Harry Flinn, building inspector; and Philomena Di Berardinis, secretary to the borough manager. Elected to the school board were Linda Edelen, John Carmichael, Tom Brookover, Peggy McCausland and Peggy Watts.

- Joan Piersol and Irvin Rubincam received the **Outstanding Senior Awards** at the DHS Alumni Association's annual banquet. Mrs. Helen Eachus received the association's Distinguished Service Award.

- Mrs. Maxwell Meisel of Downingtown was elected to the board of the **Downingtown Visiting Nurses Association**.

- Members of the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** elected these officers: Margaret Miller, president; Louise Davis, vice president; Charlotte Davis, secretary; and Clarence Miles, treasurer.

- New officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Rev. Wallace Houston, president; Mylin Plank, first vice president; Elton Weikel, second vice president; Jason Dreibelbis, third vice president; Maurie Davis, secretary; and Rider Brandau, treasurer.

- William Barrett, veteran Downingtown trucking firm operator, was named the Outstanding Member of the Chester County branch of the **Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association**.

- Pole vaulter **Ogier Norris**, a member of the Penn State track team, competed in the Ohio Relays in Columbus.

- Officers of the **Glen Moore Improvement Society** were John Shrader, president; Wade Scott, vice president; Mrs. Ivan Barclay, secretary; and Mrs. Gilbert Houck, treasurer.

- Mrs. Frank Lenhardt retired as president of the Chester County Federation of Woman's Clubs. And Mrs. James Nelson was chairman of the luncheon and plant sale at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown.

Clip/Paste session on Sunday, May 7

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste session, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 7. The session, which involves clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

It's the Marshalton Inn in Marshalton



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who identified the site in the photo above as the Marshalton Inn. The building that houses the inn in the village of Marshalton in West Bradford Township was built in 1793. In 1804, the house was converted into an inn and tavern. Located 1300 Strasburg Road, it was especially popular with teamsters and drovers. Over the years, it has had 24 innkeepers and eight name changes. It has been operating under the name “Marshalton Inn” since 1965. The inn’s name is spelled with just one L because of a misspelling on a deed, and the error was never corrected. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. You can find more details on the inn at: www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H001572_01H.pdf.

How to trace your home’s history

If you’re seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf

Vintage Ad of the Week



**EVERYTHING
IDRY
CLEANED
JUST LIKE NEW!**

To have wardrobe and home rootlessly clean and in tune with bright spring days just ahead. Check up now on apparel, rugs, drapes and upholstery and consider the savings to be enjoyed by having us clean, dye or repair. Our service is a guaranteed service and our prices are consistently low. Do not delay but profit through having your work done now before the spring rush is on.

We collect and deliver
Phone 179-R

John K. Parke
Dry Cleaner
Wallace Ave. Downingtown

This ad was originally published in the March 27, 1931 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Memorial Day

There will be Memorial Day service at Marinelli Park on Chestnut Street, Downingtown, at noon on Sunday, May 28. And the Memorial Day parade will begin at Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania in the borough, at 10 AM on Monday, May 29, followed by a service at Kerr Park.

Movie Night in Kerr Park

Downingtown's Parks and Recreation Commission will host its first Movie Nite near the gazebo in Kerr Park at 8 PM on Saturday, May 20. The movie of the night is TROLLS! This is a free family-friendly event. The commission will provide popcorn while supplies last. Please bring refreshments, chairs and blankets for your family.

Relay for Life

The Central Chester County Relay for Life will be held from 10 AM Saturday, May 20 until 10 AM Sunday, May 21 at DHS West, 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more details, see: http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY17EC?fr_id=79649&pg=entry.

All Wheels Consignment Sale

The Downingtown Park and Recreation Commission will conduct a used bike consignment sale from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, May 13 in Kerr Park. People wanting to consign a bike for sale are welcome to drop it off beginning at 8 AM by the skate park. All recreation wheels are welcome to be dropped off. There is a \$100 price cap for consigning a bike. 25% of the proceeds of all sales will go the Park and Recreation Commission for future activities. There also will be a Bike Safety presentation, skateboarding exhibition and a DJ, plus games for the kids.

Grist Mill Demonstration

The Mill at Anselma will provide grinding demonstrations from 10 AM until 4 PNM on Saturday, May 13. Visitors will hear the rumble of the Colonial-era wooden gears, watch the power of the 16ft steel water wheel, and feel the corn meal as it pours out of the mill stones.

The Mill served its local agricultural community for nearly 300 years and is considered the most complete example of a Colonial-era custom grist mill in the United States. Restored and recognized as a National Historic Landmark, the Mill provides a powerful educational experience, allowing visitors to experience Pennsylvania's industrial and agricultural heritage through milling demonstrations, tours of the site and hands-on activities.

Admission to the Mill is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free. The Mill is located on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Rt. 113 in Chester Springs. For more information, contact the Mill at 610-827-1906, email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org.

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 Cadwalader House is featuring a guessing game to identify post cards featuring special Pennsylvania sites. Prizes will be awarded for the most correctly identified photos. The Moore School is the original one room building where children can try on clothing replicas of the period and sit at historical desks. Authentic schoolbooks can be read and children can ring the school bell used to summon them not to be late. For additional information, call 610-280-9522.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of Downingtown Library's Spring Book Sale has switched into a BAG SALE mode. You can fill a paper grocery bag with novels, biographies, non-fiction, gardening, kids' books, movies, music, etc. for ONLY \$3. Hurry in for the best selection. All proceeds benefit the programs and services of the library.

Milford Mills, a Lost Village

Author and historian Catherine Quillman will speak about Milford Mills, a village that was “lost” with the creation of Marsh Creek State Park, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 21. The program will be conducted at the Park’s west boat launch area. In the event of bad weather, the program will be offered at the Township Building on Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

Basket Bingo

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Longaberger/Vera Bradley Basket Bingo, to be held on Sunday afternoon, May 7 at St. Anthony’s Lodge on West Church Street, Downingtown. All proceeds will go the Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Foundation. For more info, see www.downingtowntn.org/Documents/EVENT%20FLYERS/DTRCC_BasketBingo17.jpg

Fine Arts Festival

The Downingtown Fine Arts Festival will be held at 202 E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough, from 10 AM until 6 PM on Saturday, May 27 and from 10 AM until 5 PM on Sunday, May 28. The free festival is presented by David Oleski Events and the Downingtown Main Street Association, in partnership with the Borough of Downingtown. For more info on the festival, see: <http://downingtowntfinearts.com/aboutdfaf.html>.

History of Dowlin Forge

Susannah Brody will present a program on the History of Dowlin Forge at 2 PM on Sunday May 7, at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in Elverson. Susannah is a storyteller, historian and author of several books on local history. The free program is sponsored by the Friends of Hopewell Furnace.

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. Sickel St. Kennett Square). Meetings are free and all are welcome. Check www.lymepa.org for directions and program information.

Plant Sale

The Garden Class of The Woman’s Community Club of Uwchlan will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 6, from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 North Village Avenue, Exton. Come early for the best selection of member-grown perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Container gardens, gourd birdhouses, herbs, vegetables, annuals, and information on native gardening and pollinators are also offered. Proceeds from the sale benefit the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. For additional information, please call 610-363-9726.

Surprising Martha Washington

The Mill at Anselma will kick off its 2017 speaker series with a fascinating talk about Martha Washington on Thursday evening, May 4. Nancy K. Loane, Ed.D. will present a surprising take on our first “First Lady” at Bell Hall, Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. The event will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine & cheese reception, followed by Dr. Loane’s talk at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of the Mill at Anselma attend free of charge.

How Stars Work

Fronfield Crawford III, PhD. professor of Astronomy, who teaches experimental methods of astrophysics at Franklin & Marshall College, will explain the basics of stars, physical mechanism by which they shine, their lives, etc. at the West Caln Historical Society’s meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 16, in the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Alert’s Golf Outing

The Alert Fire Co. will have its fourth annual golf outing on Monday, May 8 at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee is \$110 for each golfer includes: registration and lunch starting at 11:30 AM, shotgun start at 1 PM, greens fees, cart, beverages on the course, awards dinner, various prizes and door prizes Proceeds benefit Alert Fire Co. For more info, see: <http://alertgolfouting.org/>.

Nite at the Races

Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas committee will hold a Nite at the Races fundraiser at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown, on Saturday, May 20. Doors open at 6 PM. Tickets are \$25 which includes food, beer & soda. Information about the event, how to buy tickets and horses can be found on the Christmas website at www.dtownchristmas.com or by calling Dianne at 484-678-6835. The Committee is hunting for raffle prizes and businesses to place ads in the event program. Deadline is May 10. Proceeds will go towards the 2017 Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas event.

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