



## 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 who correctly identifies the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com)

## Access to latest historic “Then & Now” photo sequences

You can see all of the “Then & Now” morphed photo sequences of local historic sites via YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B\\_uVb6lhZku7mw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B_uVb6lhZku7mw/videos)

# What was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of June 1965:

- Plans for the new **West Bradford Elementary School** on Broad Run Road were approved by the Joint Elementary School Board. Building the 720-pupil, 22-classroom facility was projected to cost \$1.3 million. And the Joint High School Board agreed to spend about \$30,000 on improving a 15-acre tract to be used for football practice, and playing surfaces for baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and field hockey practice and competitions.

- Chandler Cushman informed the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** that the American Viscose Division of FMC Corp. would open its plant on Boot Road by mid-September.

- A petition, signed by 25 Wallace Township residents, was presented at a supervisors' meeting at the Glen Moore fire hall. The petition requested that a "**qualified, professionally trained police officer**" be hired for full-time duty. They also claimed that Lloyd Johnson, current police chief, was "inadequately equipped to do the job" because he also was a part-time constable in West Nantmeal Township

- Recipients of the American Legion Award at the commencement exercises at **St. Joseph's Catholic School**, Downingtown, were Elaine Cain and John Cazzero. Gregory Valocchi and Patricia Morinelli received an award for the highest academic averages.

- Two one-room schools were auctioned off by the **Wallace Township School Board**. The Seminary School, built in 1832, on Little Conestoga Road was sold for \$10,500 to Albert Greenfield. And a "Mrs. Tatum" was the highest bidder--\$8,500—on the Lincoln School, built in 1867 in Little Conestoga Road. Members of the Wallace School Board at the auction were Roger Irely, Robert Mason, Robert Gabriel, Mrs. Rupert Roeder and Mrs. Harker Rhodes.

- Members of the track team, who were recognized as letter winners at the **DHS Spring Sports Assembly** included Jay Algier, Ron Donnon, Ray Campbell, Dan Hildebeitel, Glenn Archie and Eugene Prout. And members of the girls' tennis team who earned varsity letters were Carol French, Bernice Gauntlett and Cathy Cosenzo,

- **Junior High art students**, recognized for their individual exhibits, were Joan Poffenbarger, Anne Cawley, and Bob Hildebeitel, first; Kathy Black, Steve Long and Alfred Harman, second; and Donald DeGezelle, Philip Chilla, Terri Pollock, Bill Fennelly, Roger Nellius and Ann White, third.

- Captains for the **Downingtown-Chester Valley United Way** residential campaign included Mrs. William Bender, Wallace Township; Mrs. Ronald Culp, Upper Uwchlan; Mrs. Daniel Mooney, East Brandywine; Mrs. Ralph Erskine, Mrs. Daniel Hughes and Mrs. Robert Herion, Uwchlan; Mrs. Kenneth Frye, East Caln; Mrs. Victor Sarkissian, Caln; Mrs. Myron Caffey, West Bradford; and Mrs. Gilbert Hamm, Downingtown borough.

- Edward Thompson won the Marshallton School's second annual **Bike Drivers' Rodeo**. Serving as judges for the rodeo were Parents League members William James, Manley Case, William Flinn, Francis Wood, Earl Edwards and Wesley Walton.

- Confirmed at **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**, Lionville, were Mildred Blake, Barbara Jean Brumgard, Jill Corneal, Karen Mae Cummins, Richard Earl Faddis, John Hennsler, Richard Jackson, Clair Koser, Timothy Mackey, Joyce Mull, Norma Walters and Donald Willoughby.

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown chapter of the Women of the Moose** were Dorothy Rawson, senior regent; Katherine Tucker, graduate regent; Kay Bolenski, junior regent;

Sally Mayhew, chaplain; Eva Marsh, treasurer; Kathryn Lammey, secretary; Betty Long, guide; Betty Wolfe, assistant guide; Marie Norris, argus; and Mary Helm, pianist.

- Employees of **G.O. Carlson Inc.**, Thorndale, responsible for planning the company's annual picnic at Hershey Park were Robert Cozzone, Mary Thompson, Charles Nickle, James McConnell, Charles Thompson, William MacHenry, Lewis Laird, Anthony Perry, Thomas Stern, Daniel White and Gunnar Zorn.

- Officers elected by members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Edward Foreman, president; Mrs. Peter Riegel, first vice president; Theresa Sciarretta, second vice president; Mrs. William Davis, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert McClure, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. David Whittaker, treasurer.

- Officers of the Senior High Methodist Youth Fellowship group at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Linda Lammey, president; Douglas Mentzer, vice president; Linda Roberts, secretary; and Larry Davidson, treasurer. And officers of the Junior High MYF were Sandra Lammey, president; Bill Lyman, vice president; Lynn Bower, secretary; and Bruce Welsh, treasurer.

- The Lionville Fire Co. hosted a team from the Glenmoore Fire Co. in a “**donkey baseball**” game.

## You can still order Luminaria supplies

The holidays are fast approaching, and the Historical Society will again make it possible for people to be part of this Downingtown tradition by selling luminaria candles and bases. Orders can be made individually to the coordinator, Carol Grigson, at 610-269-5413 or via [dths1709@gmail.com](mailto:dths1709@gmail.com). Prices remain the same: 75 cents for each candle and bag, and 75 cents for each plastic base. First pickups of orders will be available at Ashbridge House, our headquarters next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30 in East Caln, on Saturday afternoon, December 2 and Sunday afternoon, December 3. Other pickup options will be announced in subsequent Hist-O-Grams. Call 610-269-5413 if you have any questions.

## Is Santa Claus going to visit your house?

Make a \$100 donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society and you will receive an up-to-one-hour visit from good ole Santa Clause, better known as Phi Dague, the Historical Society's president, to homes or businesses in the Downingtown Area School District. If you make a minimum donation of \$100, Phil will be happy to put his red suit and visit YOUR house or business. Interested parties should e-mail Phil at [PRD1961@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRD1961@GMAIL.COM), and we'll work something out, schedule-wise. Visit dates include: November 25 and 26, and December 3, 10, 16 and 17.

## No one identified exactly where this is in Kerr Park



The date stone photo on the left is located on one of the pillars, shown in the photo on the right, is on the east side of the entrance stairway leading from East Lancaster Avenue into Kerr Park. The stairway was a Civil Works Administration Project, designed by Downingtown architect Gilbert McIlvain. We have no record of where the 1927 date stone was located before the stairway was built in 1934.

## If you missed last week's Hist-O-Gram

If you missed the November 2 Hist-O-Gram, you can access it by clicking on:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2023%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2023%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

## Clip Joint will be open on Sunday, December 3

The Historical Society's monthly Clip Joint session will be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 3, when you'll have an opportunity to help clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection. The session will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.



## Group Photo of the Week



These are some of the 3,000 runners and walkers, who participated in the 16th annual Chester County Turkey Trot 5K and clogged Manor Avenue for several blocks in Downingtown on Thanksgiving morning, as they waited for the race to begin. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Cure4Cam Childhood Cancer Foundation.

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Tree Lighting in E. Brandywine***

East Brandywine Township's Parks and Recreation Commission will have its 3rd annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Community Park from 3-5 PM on Sunday, Dec. 3. All are welcome to make ornaments (we'll have the supplies) and then help decorate the tree. Enjoy homemade cookies, hot chocolate, music and fun. Everyone who brings an item to donate to the Lord's Pantry will be entered in a lottery to be the person to "flip the switch" as we light the tree at 4:30 PM. Items needed by the Lord's Pantry are any nonperishable food item, hats, mittens or socks.

### ***Girls on the Run 5K***

The Chester County Girls on the Run 5K race will begin at 9 AM on Saturday, Dec. 2 at DHS West High School, 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. For details see: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/GOTRCC>

### ***Farmers Market***

Downingtown Farmer's Market will be located in Kerr Park every Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM.

### ***Good Neighbor Christmas Events***

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas events will include music, hot chocolate and cookies, and Santa Claus, who will arrive by firetruck. Santa also will be at the Log House in Kerr Park from 11 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, December 2. And beginning at 3 PM on Saturday, December 9, the Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will march down Lancaster Avenue to Whiteland Avenue (Route 113). For more details, see: <http://dtownchristmas.com/>

### ***Christmas in Marshallton***

As Christmas approaches, keep the Village of Marshallton in mind. At 8 AM on Saturday, December 2, the West Bradford Fire Co. will host Breakfast with Santa. And starting at 9 AM, the festivities continue at Marshallton United Methodist Church, where homemade cookies and crafts will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Also, at 11:30 AM, you can enjoy a free Community Soup and Sandwich lunch. Live music will be featured all morning in the church sanctuary. The day concludes at 4 PM with the Tree Lighting at Martin's Tavern.

### ***Mill at Anselma Events***

On Thursday evening, December 7, The Mill at Anselma will host a concert of holiday music featuring voice students enrolled with DoRayMi Lessons in Downingtown under the direction of Rosalind Hayes. This event will be held in the dining hall at Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. It will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine, cheese and Christmas cookie reception, followed by the concert at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of the Mill at Anselma attend free of charge. All proceeds benefit The Mill at Anselma's preservation and educational outreach.

And from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Friday, December 8, lanterns and luminaries will light the buildings of The Mill at Anselma, as this historic site opens to the public for special holiday tours. In addition to learning about the families that ran the mill since the 1700s and the evolution of milling technology, guests will enjoy hot cider, Christmas cookies and crafts for the children. Admission to these tours is free to all members of The Mill at Anselma.

Admission for non-members is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children 4 – 14. All children who bring in a non-perishable food item for the Chester County Food Bank will be admitted for free.

For more information, contact the Mill at Anselma at [610-827-1906](tel:610-827-1906), email [info@anselmamill.org](mailto:info@anselmamill.org), or visit [www.anselmamill.org](http://www.anselmamill.org).

### ***Community Luncheon***

Central Presbyterian Church, 100 W Uwchlan Ave, Downingtown, holds a monthly Community Luncheon from 11 AM until 1 PM on the first Thursday of each month, October through May. Their popular chili, chicken corn noodle, vegetable beef, and cream of potato soups are sold, along with sandwiches, salad platters, homemade desserts and beverages. Gluten-free options are available. For take-out service, call 610-269-1576 and ask for the kitchen. Bring a friend, meet a neighbor, or come alone and enjoy good food and fellowship.

### ***Senior Center Programs & Activities***

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center via: [www.downingtownseniors.org](http://www.downingtownseniors.org)

### ***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](http://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/](http://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.

### ***Library Newsletter***

You can sign up to get the Downingtown Library's newsletter via: <http://downingtownlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3a92a237c3786688e0e00b4de&id=8f7d079092>

### ***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](mailto:cheryl.spaulding@josephspeople.org).