



## 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)

## Used Book Sale on October 27, 28 and 29

You'll find thousands of gently used books and CDs for sale at ridiculously low prices at the Historical Society's Used Book Sale on the weekend of October 27, 28, and 29 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters in the Ashbridge Square shopping center, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln.

The types of hard cover books and paperback/soft cover books and other items that will be on sale, include: History, Fiction, Young Adult, Politics, Philosophy, Art, Travel, Gardening, Religion, CDs and Maps.

The Book Sale will begin, **for members only**, from 7-9 PM on Friday, October 27. The Book Sale will be open to the public from 10 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, October 28, when you also can see a **bookbinding demonstration** by Ramon Townsend, master bookbinder. And from noon until 4 PM on Sunday, October 29, everyone will have an opportunity to **Meet Local Authors** Marion Piccolomini, Blair Thornburgh, Jim Sundman, Jay Worrall and Catherine Quillman, as well as buy books.

## What was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in early May 1965:

- Ken Sigle received the prestigious Robert Carl Award at the **DHS Sports banquet**. Sigle and Linda Davis received the Most Outstanding Boy and Girl Basketball Awards. Jay Rambo, who competed for the Whippets as a 95-pounder, was awarded the Most Outstanding Wrestler trophy. Rambo also was received the Coaches' Award. The St. Anthony's Lodge Awards to outstanding football players were presented to Ken Walls, a lineman, and Roy Nellius, back. And the Letterman's Club Outstanding All-Around Boy and Girls Athletes Awards were presented to Oscar Asparagus and Cindy Dellet.
- Elected as officers of the **Young Whippets Football Club** were Roger Patrizio, chairman; Frank Allen, general manager; Owen Story, treasurer; and Charles Dumont, secretary. Coaches for the next season were Herb Lee, assisted by Tom Miller, 110-pound team; Tom Woodward, 90-pound squad; and Phil Burns, the new 80-pound team.
- Paul Ballentine and Thomas Kier represented DHS in the **Plymouth Troubleshooting competition**. They were selected from the automobile mechanics class, taught by Harold Klinger.
- Elaine Cain was May Queen at **St. Joseph's Catholic School's** May procession. Her court was comprised of Janis Mento, Nancy Massucci, Catherine Nolan and Kathleen Pomento. Her attendants were Jean Snyder, Patricia Steidler, Beth Fornice and Kathleen DiOttavio.
- Local delegates at the **Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council's** annual meeting included Marie Merkel, Peg Charles, Norma Koth, Alice March and Lois Bell from the Downingtown area, and Mrs. John Frankenfield, Mrs. William Funk, Marion Mason, Doris Davey and Mrs. Charles Dixon, from the Glen Moore-Springton area.
- Officers elected to lead the **Marshallton School Parents League** were Terrance Shearn, president; Mrs. John Benner, vice president; Mrs. Nelson Ayoub, secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Whiteman, treasurer.

- New members of the Half Century Club, because they had been members of **Downingtown Methodist Church** for 50 years, included Mrs. Raymond Dennis, John Gray, Mrs. Helen McCombs, Mrs. Edith Miller, George Perry, Norman Tyson, Perry Tyson, William Vernon, Ellia Warren and Mrs. Harry McGill.
- New members of **Marshallton Methodist Church** were the Price Stevenson family, Kathy Dumont, Merrill Evans, Joseph Fell III, Joan Keeler, Colin Maropis, Nancy Russell, Daryl Sharp, Donald Wood, and Joan and Judith Yarnall.
- Officers by members of the **Lionville Elementary Home and School Association** were Mrs. Samuel Shaw, president; Earl Shaller, vice president; Mrs. Edwin Donlon, secretary; and Mrs. Howard Stimson, treasurer.
- **Hopewell Methodist Church's** new Christian Education building was dedicated. In the previous seven years, Hopewell's congregation had contributed \$87,000 to pay for the new building. And members of the committee responsible for plans to enlarge and renovate the church's sanctuary were Robert Piersol, John Bonham, Charles Ax, Robert Carmichael, Edward Plank, Charles Davis and Mrs. George Krapf.
- Officers elected to lead the **Future Farmers of America at DHS** in 1964-65 were William McClain, president; Paul Detwiler, vice president; Gary Hoxter, secretary; Jerry Madrigale, treasurer; Corbin Mendenhall, reporter; Thomas Stubbs, sentinel; and William Pyott, chaplain.
- Youngsters who learned ballroom dancing, taught by Louise Harrison, as members of the **Lionville Dance Assembly**, were Ricky Gilbert, Ford Greenleaf, Tony McQuail, Steve Behrndt, Paul Draper, Douglas Wilt, Tom McCurdy, Tom Isinger, Tom Shreiner, Robin Worthington, Bob Moore, Pat and Rosalie Herion, Ann Martin, Penny Renz, Jill Corneal, Cheryl Hartman, Katy Hallman, Nancy Sommer and Chris Schreier.

## 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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. Also, you'll find access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010 via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.htm](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.htm)

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

If you missed the October 12 Hist-O-Gram, you can access it via:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

## It's the Humphrey Marshall House in Marshallton



Matthew McCausland is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the illustration above as the Humphrey Marshall House, at 1407 Strasburg Road, at the intersection of Clayton Road on the west side of Marshallton. Built in 1773-74 and enlarged in 1801, with a locally quarried exterior, the Georgian-style house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1987. The property is now privately owned. Humphrey Marshall (1722-1801), an American botanist, who was best known for his 1788 publication, *Arbustum Americanum*, which was the first formal, scientific description of trees and shrubs in North America. For more info on the house, see: <https://npgallery.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/NHLS/Text/87002596.pdf>.

## What locals were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in early May 1950:

- The Downingtown Chamber of Commerce announced that it would begin using the **Log House** on East Lancaster Avenue, as its headquarters, after the Chamber had a heating system installed, purchased office equipment, and hired a secretary. The Chamber agreed to pay a nominal rental fee to the borough, owner of the historic property.

- The Chamber also was the sponsor of fourth annual **Miss Chester County pageant**, held in the DHS auditorium, which was won by Emily Longacre of Phoenixville. Members of the Downingtown Woman's Club were hostesses and chaperones for the 15 contestants, including Patricia Patterson of Downingtown. Also, members of the Junior Woman's Club, attired in evening gowns, were ushers for the sold-out program. To promote the competition, each contestant, accompanied by their mothers in the front seat, rode in convertibles in a day-long tour

of the county on the Saturday before the contest. The caravan was accompanied by a state police patrol car, Robert Romig's sound truck that provided announcements and music, and was escorted by a flyover of 22 private airplanes.

- Elected as officers of the Ladies Aid Society of **Windsor Baptist Church** in Upper Uwchlan were Mrs. Leroy Trego, president; Mrs. Walter Garvine, vice president; Mrs. Joseph Taylor, secretary; and Mrs. Oscar Darlington, treasurer.

- Dan Zittle, captain of the **Minquas Fire Co.**, noted in his report that the company's firefighters had to respond to 59 calls in April, and 18 of them were the result of field fires caused by careless people burning brush.

- The recently formed Downingtown area **Red Cross Blood Bank** initiated a campaign to sign up 2,000 pledges by people willing to donate a pint of blood. Divisional chairmen in the campaign were Mrs. Charles Bruton, professional; Mrs. John Miller, women's organizations; Mrs. Morris Jackson, house-to-house solicitations; Duer Smedley, men's organizations; William Allen, churches; Robert Piersol, industry; and J. J. Brownstein, merchants.

- Officers of the **DHS Music Association** were Mrs. James Stauffer, president; Mrs. Eugene Pollock, vice president; Mrs. Leo Hogg, secretary; and Mrs. B. Myers, treasurer.

- Senior **Girl Scouts from Marshallton**, who spent a weekend at Camp Tweedale, were Ann LeFevre, Millis Mershon, June Ellingsworth, Carlene Bausch, Betty and Sue Palmer, and Verna Hall.

- Janet Kriebel, who played the marimba and was accompanied by pianist Barbara Seibert, were part of the entertainment at the **Messiah Lutheran Church's** Mother-Daughter banquet.

- Percy Raymond won the fourth annual **marbles championship**, co-sponsored by the Downingtown VFW Post and the Downingtown Young Men's Association, held in Kerr Park, according to chairman Ross Dague. Buddy White placed second, Pete Sarmiento came in third, and Jack Hughes was fourth.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown branch of the Junior Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** were Mrs. John Mercer, president; Mrs. Michael Mento, vice president; Mildred Sabellico, secretary; and Geraldine Swarner, treasurer.

- The three Downingtown **Cub Scouts**, who collected the largest number of coupons for the American Legion's Ladies Auxiliary, were: Denny Myers, first, who was awarded a baseball glove; Bobby McClure, second, who won a Little League baseball bat; and Jimmy Charles, third, who got a baseball.

- Leebert Chambers, chairman of the **Soap Box Derby**, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club, listed these specifications for entrants and their vehicles: Entrants must have a sponsor, be between ages 9 and 15, and the weight of each entrant plus their vehicle, could not weigh more than 250 pounds.

- Ground had been broken, near the Glen Moore Fire Co., for the new **Bell Telephone office**, where dial service would soon be introduced. And elected as officers of the Women's Christian Service group at Glen Moore Methodist Church were Elva Bare, president; Lillian Matlack, vice president; Romaine Garrett, secretary; and Lois Shrader, treasurer.

- **Lionville Cub Scouts**, who participated in a "County Fair" program at the monthly pack meeting, included: Billy Ellmore, a snake charmer; Albert Miller, a sword swallower; Glenn Lumis, an Indian medicine man; and Stephen Pope, a strong man.

- Singer-soloists in the **DHS Spring Concert** included Shirley Cumens, Shirley Kauffman, Patricia Patterson and Ronald Piersol. Also, Joan Lenhardt and Louise Bartelmo played organ selections.

Vintage Ad of the Week

# Grafted Thin-Shelled NUT TREES

There Should Be Some on Every Lawn and Farm

START A PLANTING THIS SPRING

Beautify Your Lawn With  
Georgeous Blooming **Flowering Cherries**

They Don't Take Much Room Nor Cost Much Money

We can also supply Scotch Pines, those hardy, fast growing Evergreens and medium-sized Red Pines. Stop and see us, or write for price sheet. Georgeous Pansies, 50c doz.

## JOHN W. HERSHEY

Nut Tree Specialist

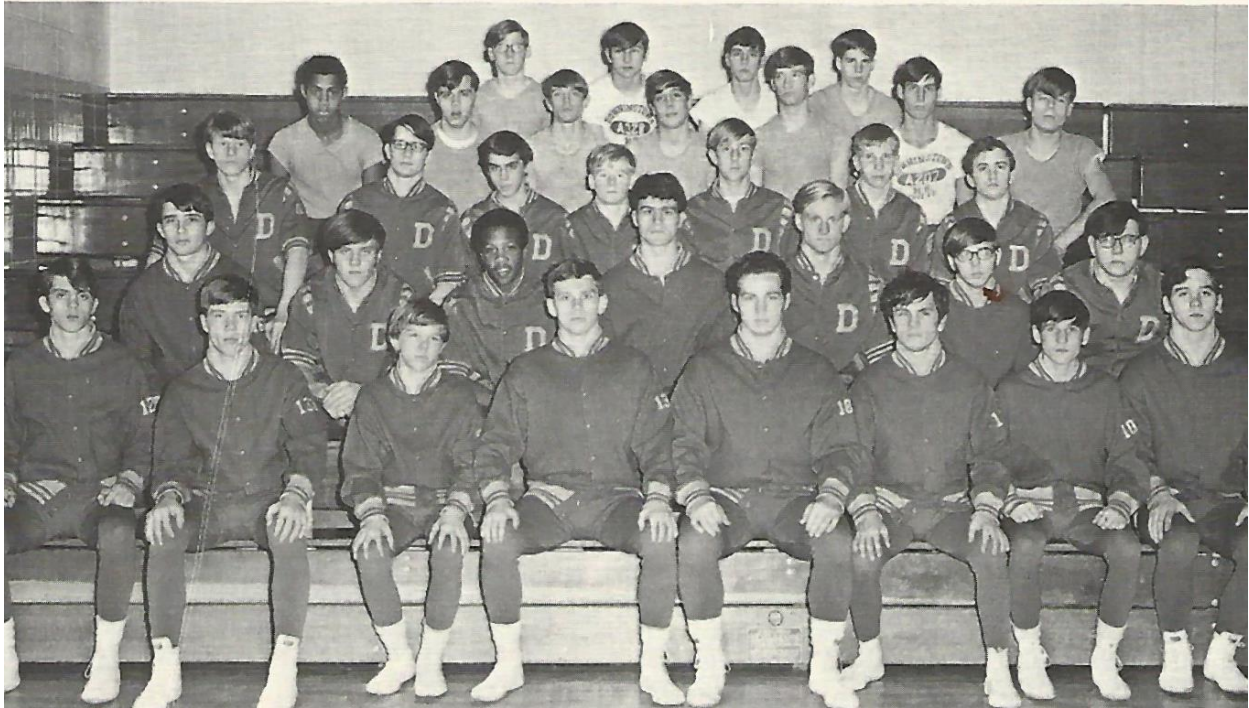
Phone 613-W

On Lincoln Highway

Downingtown

This ad was originally published in the May 1, 1931 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS wrestling team, which won the Ches-Mont League championship in 1970, included, left right: first row, S. Feters, C. Van Durme, B. Glisson, T. Miller, A. Wayman, B. Lambert, P. Harter; second row, D. Barnes, R. Williams, R. Lee, L. Patrizio, P. Givler, V. Cramer, A. J. Kiernan; third row, L. Long, J. Hone, H. Chicosky, D. Dougherty, P. Murphy, J. Casper, L Gearhart; fourth row, C. Hilton, D. Strauss, S. Wilkinson, J. Fries, W. Baxter, R. Kramer, J. Reaber; fifth row, T. Gillespie, B. Armstrong, B. Cain, B. Williamson.

## New site on how to trace your property's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on this revised site: [www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/35680](http://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/35680)

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Fall Craft Festival*

Simpson Meadows will present its Fall Craft Festival from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 21. The Festival will showcase local crafters as well as residents of Simpson Meadows. There also will be home baked goods, games all day and "Grandma's Attic" – our collection of gently used items. Lunch will be lunch served in the Garden View Café from 11:30-1:30. Proceeds benefit the Caring Friends Fund which helps residents in need.

### *Used Book Sale*

The Friends of the Downtown Library will hold their Fall Book Sale at the library, from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 20; from 9 AM-4 PM on Saturday, Oct. 21; and from 1-4 PM on Sunday, Oct. 22.

### ***This Run's Personal***

1,500 people are expected to participate in the Team CMMD Foundation's fourth annual 5K run and 1-mile walk over Downingtown's streets on Saturday morning, November 4, beginning at DHS West High School. Proceeds go to local cancer families. For more details, go to: <http://teamcmmd.org/project/this-runs-personal/>

### ***Christmas Care Package***

The annual Military Christmas Care Package Drive, for items to be sent to military personnel, ends on Monday, October 23. For a listing of items that can be included in the packages and local drop-off points, see: [www.downingtowntown.org/images/OpMilitaryChristmas2017.jpg](http://www.downingtowntown.org/images/OpMilitaryChristmas2017.jpg)

### ***Boo Bash***

The Downingtown **Parks & Rec Commission** is having a Halloween Boo Bash in Kerr Park, from 4-9 PM on Saturday, October 28. Festivities include a costume and pumpkin carving contest as well as a Halloween-themed double feature.

### ***Drug Take Back Event:***

You can drop off expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs at the Downingtown Borough Hall annex building from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 28, The DEA cannot accept liquids, or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200 or email [info@downingtowntown.org](mailto:info@downingtowntown.org)

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

The Mill at Anselma, Route. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, is 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](mailto:info@anselmamill.org), or visit [www.anselmamill.org](http://www.anselmamill.org).

### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

Marshallton Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have a Roast Beef Dinner (eat-in or take-out) from 4:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, October 21. Menu includes: roast beef, mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and a beverage. To order tickets, send an email to: [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) or call 610-696-5247. If ordered before October 17, tickets are \$13 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 5-12). Tickets bought at the door, are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

### ***Senior Center programs & activities***

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

***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).