



## 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)

# Book Sale is this weekend

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 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 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 the latter part of May 1965:

- The School Board decided to punish the nine seniors, who were suspended after they were caught **drinking alcoholic beverages** while on the class trip to New York City, by requiring each of them to write a 1,000-word report every afternoon for five days.
- Downingtown's Borough Council was pummeled by Joseph Mento, who lived on Highland Avenue, about the borough's failure to pursue **several cave-ins** at residential properties in the west end of the borough. And Joseph McFadden had sued the borough for negligence because he had to move out of his Highland Avenue home because it was sagging after a "wash-out" on December 24.
- Mrs. Ralph Baldwin was sworn in as the acting Postmaster of **Lionville's Post Office**, ending the possibility that the village's Post Office would be closed, or redesignated as a branch of the Exton Post Office.
- DHS commercial students, who earned **certificates for typing 40 words** per minute, included Daniel Yost, Oscar Asparagus, Robert Stephens and Susan Blake. Those who earned 30-words-a minute certificates were Edward Dazio, Thomas Mento, Dorothy Zittle, Ellen Morris, Francis Horsey, Nancy Harple and Peter Cortlessa.
- Elected as officers of the Mission Circle 1 at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle were Mrs. Charles Popjoy, president; Mrs. Ross Hershey, vice president; Mrs. Warren Supplee, secretary; Jeanette Stiteler, treasurer; Mrs. Oscar Darlington, communications; Mrs. Raymond McBride, White Cross and love gift; Helen Hoffman, Christian service; and Mrs. Clarence Rice, missionaries.
- Linda Sheesley and Kathryn Hallman won first and second place trophies, respectively, in a **spelling bee** at Downingtown Junior High.
- Newly-elected trustees at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Myron Caffey, president; James Hamilton, vice president; Douglas Barr, secretary; and Mrs. David Johnson,

treasurer. And the church's board included Rev. William Keller, chairman; John Cann, vice chairman; William Ludwick, secretary; Mrs. David Johnson, treasurer; and Mrs. Harry Wickersham, financial secretary.

- Norton Lownsbery was inducted as the new president of the **Downingtown Area Teachers Education Association**, succeeding Sally Northeimer. Other new officers were Joseph Creamer, second vice president Richard Thatcher, third vice president; Ted Maurer, secretary; and Leonard Arbuckle, treasurer.

- Deborah Vischer, a 16-year-old junior at DHS, was the first runner-up in the **first Chester County Junior Miss competition**. She also won the Miss Personality plaque.

- Elected as officers of the Women's Christian Service group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Mrs. Paul McCombs, president; Mrs. Walter Myers, vice president; Mrs. Lambert McGuckin, secretary; Mrs. Harvey Young, treasurer; Mrs. Richard Nelms, spiritual life; Mrs. Howard Adams and Mrs. Elmer Kohls, promotion; Mrs. Raymond Schollenbeger, programs; Mrs. George Wagner, Christian social relations; Mrs. Charles Ezra, campus ministry and Mrs. Norman Whiteside, supplies.

- Committee chairmen for the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan's Garden Class** Fall Flower Show included Mrs. Archambault, general chairman; Mrs. Joseph Hemphill, co-chairman; Mrs. Harry Ebert, schedule; Mrs. Garrett Brownback, staging; Mrs. Horace Phipps, entries; Mrs. Wade Hayhurst. Decorations; Mrs. Elroy Buttermann, hospitality; Mrs. Barry Buckley, judges; and Mrs. Eric Bittmann, junior exhibits.

- Judged as winners for their work in the **Downingtown Junior High Art Exhibit** were: ninth graders Joan Poffenbarger, first; Kathy Black, second; Donald Degezelle, third.

- Committee chairmen of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Auxiliary** were Mrs. Charles Huber, volunteer services; Mrs. Kurt Wandel, pinkies; Mrs. Raymond Greenleaf and Mrs. Richard Howell, Chester County Day; Mrs. Thomas Parke gift shop; Mrs. Robert Dean, visiting committee; Mrs. William Jobe, telephone; Mrs. Ralph Ralston and Mrs. Frank Peirson, ways and means; and Mrs. Donald Shields, cupboard.

- Scoutmaster Harry Rauch of **Boy Scout Troop 23** handed out these awards at a Court of Honor at Central Presbyterian Church: Thomas Hickey and John Nixdorf, two-year pins; Tony McQuail and Frank Bishop, one-year pins; John Marriott and John Weaver, Tenderfoot pins; Chuck Mitman, Palmer Raysor and Michael McCardell, Star awards; and Thomas Hickey, Eagle award.

- New officers of the Philathea Sunshine Class at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Alice Esworthy, president; Mrs. Theresa Crane, vice president; Elizabeth Mendenhall, secretary; and Mineola Jones treasurer.

- Elected as officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Philip Burns, president; Mrs. Thomas Woodward, vice president; Mrs. Robert Cozzone, recording secretary; Mrs. Joseph Massucci, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. George Dailey, treasurer.

- The **Downingtown branch of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** elected these officers: Mrs. Edward Towson, president; Mrs. Nicholas Alexander, vice president; Mrs. Donald Mitchell, treasurer; Mrs. Stanley Walters, financial secretary; and Mrs. Frank Sinex, corresponding secretary.

## It was the Buck Tavern in East Brandywine



Ed Hayes is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the former Buck Tavern on Route 322 in East Brandywine Township. It was built in 1799 by Samuel McFarlan and was operated as a tavern for nearly a century, according to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township*, the building was nearly destroyed by a fire in 1880, but it was rebuilt that same year. The nearby Buck School, built ca. 1860, was named after the tavern. But after the tavern "became somewhat unrespectable," the school was renamed the Harmony School, according to Paul. The building was converted into apartments in the 1970s, and one of the tenants in the 1980s was Ed Hayes.

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

If you missed the October 19 Hist-O-Gram, you can access it via:

[www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

# What locals were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of May 1950:

- **Pepperidge Farms Inc.** observed the first anniversary of its opening a plant in Downingtown by serving cake and ice cream to its 135 employees.
- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Morris Jackson, president; Dr. William Reed, first vice president; Leebert Chambers, second vice president; Irwin Pollock, third vice president; John Rogers, secretary; Joseph Matthewson, treasurer; Wilson Pollock, tail twister; Dr. Anthony Ricci, assistant tail twister; William McNamara, lion tamer; and Horace Miller, assistant lion tamer.
- Winners of the essay contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club**, were Bobby Hamilton, first; Peggy McCausland, second; and Kathleen D'Attilio, third.
- Officers of the **Marshallton School PTA** were Mrs. Ralph Wilson, president; Mrs. Norman, vice president; Mrs. Milton Durnall, treasurer; and Mrs. David Johnson, secretary.
- Installed as officers of the Christian Endeavor group at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle were Sarah May Popjoy, president; Walter Styer, vice president; Suzanne Popjoy, secretary; Mary Henley, treasurer; and Doris Hoffman, pianist.
- Elected as officers of the **West Pikeland PTA** were Mrs. Kenneth Hall, president; John Carmichael, vice president; Mrs. C. E. Platt, secretary; and Mrs. Nevin Meyer, treasurer.
- Standing committee chairmen of the **Ladies Auxiliary of St. Anthony's Lodge** were Mrs. Richard Ciarlone, finance; Mrs. Charles DiSante, publicity; Mrs. Anthony Viscichini, refreshments; Mrs. Orlando Marino, hostess; and Mary Mento, entertainment.
- Winners at the **Marshallton School's** pet show were Barbara Durnall's toy terrier, first; John Gaines' rabbit, second; and Marian McCardell's cat, third.
- Students of Mrs. Atlee Ney, who participated in a **piano recital** at West Ward School, included Linda Whiteman, Jeanne Ney, Jimmy Charles, Huston Mattson, Dorothy Fisher, Susie Norris and George Lowe.
- Fifth and sixth graders in the **Upper Uwchlan Township School District**, who starred in an operetta in Byers Hall, were Nancy Hope, Larry Reed and George Miller. Between acts, piano solos were played by Suzanne Robinson, Janet Hoffman and Joanne Quartucci.
- Committee chairmen at the **Marshallton Methodist Church** included Mrs. Merrill Cann, missionary; Mrs. Earl Spellman, spiritual life; Alice Shoemaker, supply; Mrs. Edward Ellingsworth, publications; and Mrs. Harry Wickersham, children's work.
- Dr. George Bousum, president of the **Downingtown Little League**, reported that 72 of the 168 boys, who tried out had played for one of the league's for teams—Pepperidge Farms, St. Anthony's, Odd Fellow and the VFW.
- First and second graders at **Indiantown School** in Glen Moore who sang a "health song" at an assembly were Jimmie Givins, Bobby Shingle, Vincent Myers, Joyce Davis, and Gladys and Donna McKinstry. And piano solos were played by Shirley Evans, Betty Cannella, Dolores Harple and Lillie Miller.
- Members of the **Lionville School Hi-Y** group elected these officers: Robert Peoples, president; Alice Smedley, vice president; Jerry Stinson, secretary; and Sam Matthews, treasurer.
- Winners in the high school division of the **Downingtown Woman's Club's Garden Class Flower Show** were Joan Lenhardt, first; Joyce Edwards, second; and Elizabeth Jenkins, third. And winners in the junior (under 12 years old) division were Charles Bruton, first; Robert Manning, second; and Gale Miller, third.

Vintage Ad of the Week



*Shortcuts to  
Better Meals*

**FREE  
DEMONSTRATION  
ELECTRIC  
COOKING  
AND  
HOME FREEZING  
OF FOODS**

Trained home economists will show you how easy it is to cook electrically . . . how convenient a home freezer can be. Hints on economical preparation of meals . . . dependable food storage. See for yourself.

**MAY 4—2 P. M.  
DOWNTOWN DEPT. STORE  
122-24 East Lancaster Avenue  
Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was originally published in the May 2, 1965 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## Group Photo of the Week



The DHS Class of 1967 recently held its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at St. Anthony's Lodge. It was impossible to identify all the classmate accurately, but if you blow up this photo, you may recognize many of the 84 classmates who attended the reunion.

## 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

### *Red Cross Blood Drives*

The American Red Cross will accept donations of blood at the following local sites: 2-7 PM on Thursday, Nov. 2, at Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Road, Downingtown; 9 AM-2 PM, on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, 455 Boot Road, Downingtown; 7 AM-5 PM on Friday, Nov. 10, at Collegium Charter School, 535 James Hance Court, Exton; 2-7 PM on Thursday, Nov. 2 at Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike (Rte. 322), Glen Moore.

### *Mills & More Mills*

Dan Campbell, with over 30 years of experience in architecture and historic preservation, will present a slide show, out-lining techniques used in finding and documenting historic mills, including many that were in the East Brandywine area, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, November 19. The presentation, sponsored by the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will be held at the township building on Route 322 in Guthrieville.

### ***A Play About Ben Franklin's Sister, Jenny***

Local historian Gene Delaplane will narrate the play "Jenny," who was Ben Franklin's youngest and extremely poor sibling. Drawing on primary sources, the play focuses on the interaction between Benjamin and his sister who is considered his life-long confidant. The play plants an excellent portrait of the challenges of a woman's life during 18th Colonial America. The play will be presented at 7 PM by the West Caln Historical Society on Tuesday, November 21, in the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown (Coatesville for GPS). Everyone welcome, no charge. Meetings are free and open to the public

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

1,500 people are expected to participate in the Team CMMMD 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://teamcmmmd.org/project/this-runs-personal/>

### ***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)

### ***History of Northern Chester County***

On Thursday evening, November 2, The Mill at Anselma will host local author Catherine Quillman, who will introduce the audience to the history of the people and places of northern Chester County, a region distinctly different from the Quaker-dominated southern Chester County. Catherine, a former resident of "Ludwig's Corner," will show rare photographs from her collection and speak on a range of people, including the Bull family which included Levi Bull, who helped establish many of the area's Episcopal Churches. Her talk will also touch upon the contributions of the early Irish settlers, German tavern owners and the Welsh road-builders. More recent history will include the residents who lost their homes to eminent domain during the creation of Marsh Creek Lake in the late 1960s.

This event will be held in Bell Hall at Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. It will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine & cheese reception, followed by the evening's topic at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of The Mill at Anselma attend free of charge. Quillman was an arts journalist at the Philadelphia Inquirer. Her background in publications has included running her own greeting card company, Country Scenes, and her current work, publishing regional history books illustrated with old postcards and vintage photographs.

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).

### ***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)

### ***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).