



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

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

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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)

## What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the East Branch Citizen in the latter part of September 1981:

- The number of times the **Minquas Ambulance Corps** in Downingtown was called to transport someone to a hospital had increased from 300 calls in 1975 to more than 1,000 calls five years later. As a result, the Minquas—whose coverage area included the borough, East Caln, West Bradford, East Brandywine, the eastern end of Caln, and part of Glen Moore—was responding to more calls than any other ambulance service in Chester County. In fact, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps had to come into the Minquas coverage area 70 times in 1980 because the Downingtown-based service was responding to an earlier call. Although it's apparent that the Minquas needs a second ambulance, the ambulance corps had upgraded its service by increasing the number of its trained attendants to 30 volunteers, and 23 of them would soon be certified as emergency medical technicians.

- **Frank Sinex**, owner of the of Lyndell Country Store for many years, donated a half acre tract of land, fronting on Lyndell Road, to the Chester County Park System, to provide a parking area for users of the Struble Hiking and Biking Trail.

- The **Glen Moore Fire Company's** rescue squad was reorganized, to include these leaders: David Grandizio, Ed D'Allessandro, Marlene Miller, Eric Shoemaker, Earl "Chip" Cooke and Martha Weirick.

- The **DHS Music Parents Association** was planning several fundraisers—including selling McDonalds' coupons, hoagies and pies—to help defray the costs for the high school's concert band and concert choir to travel to Orlando, FL, to perform next spring at Disney World.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Golden Agers** group were Helen Watson, president; Blanche Dawson, vice president; Hazel Miller, secretary; and Dorothy Thomas, treasurer.

- Members of the **Downingtown American Legion Auxiliary**, who had been in the organization for at least 50 years, included: Mrs. Mary Banghart, Mrs. Chester Brown, Mrs. Walter Clavier, Mrs. Paul Dague, Mrs. Raymond Greenleaf, Mrs. Leo Hamilton, Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, Mrs. M. S. Meisel, Mrs. Ethel Moore, Mrs. Joseph Miller, Mrs. Hallan Usher, and Esther Williams.

- Although **DHS football team** coach Chic Chiccino claimed, "We have a heckuva way to go on defense, after beating Upper Darby 29-14 in the Whippets' season opener, he also cited the play of backs Keith Butcher and Brent Sweeney, tackles Chris Goerlitz and Drew Hamilton, and guards Lee Ellmaker and Mike Barrett.

- Whippet striker Song In Son scored a hat trick when the **DHS soccer squad** opened its 1981 campaign with a 3-1 victory over Coatesville. Coach Paul Hurley lauded the defensive efforts of Don Wix, Cliff Cheeks, John Borrer and Grant Angeny.

- The **DHS lacrosse team** beat Coatesville 4-0 in its first Ches-Mont League contest. The Whippet offense by Jen Gerlach's three goals and Lisa Lynch's two assists.

- Downingtown's Joanne Migliaccio led the **Whippet girls' cross-country team**, as DHS beat Coatesville 18-40. She was followed across the finish line by teammates Anne Borland, second; and Bernie Cremin, third.

- The **DHS girls' tennis team** kicked off its Ches-Mont season with a 6-1 win over Coatesville. The Whippets got a clean sweep in singles with victories by Jane Gerlach, Rochelle Buhr, Cindy Lichok and Gwen Holtan. The duos of Debbie Hartman-Sally McClure and Cathy Brandl-Lisa Cabott winners in doubles.
- Honored at the **East Brandywine Fire Company's** annual banquet were: Bev McCarty, Ron Rambo Jr., John Smalley, Tucker Thomas, John Smith, Alan Laird and Mike Whiteman.
- Dixie Gailey was named superintendent of the Sunday School at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown. Others on the staff were Betty Hayes, Sadie Greer, Terry Revucky, Nancy McCleary, Sandy Schaffer, Anne Byrne and Becki Dean.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 116 Lampeter Court, Uwchlan, \$57,300; 39 Ansley Drive, East Caln, \$94,990; 226 Brandywine Ave., Downingtown, \$58,500; 1435 Poorhouse Road, West Bradford, \$63,500; 3401 Fisherville Road, East Brandywine, \$79,000; 22 Lafayette Circle, Upper Uwchlan, \$139,900; 23 Stirrup Lane, West Pikeland, \$96,000.
- Overall winners in Downingtown **Cub Pack 23's Olympics**, held in Kerr Park, were Greg Morris and Jeff Zeiders. And winners of the obstacle course competition were Nathan Snyder, Don Zeiders and Sean Morris.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were: Anne Taylor, president; Brenda McDade, first vice president; Judy Bredickas, second vice president; Jo McAdoo, treasurer; Carolyn Leonard, corresponding secretary; and Marcia McQueen, recording secretary.
- Named the **Pennypacker Country Club swim team's** most valuable swimmers were: Debbie West, 8 and under girls; Rod Bell, 8 and under boys; Jody Shrum, 10 and under girls; Ed Paradise, 10 and under boys; Paula West, 12 and under girls; Rob Zwack, 12 and under boys; Betsy Klug, 14 and under girls; Gary Reinbrecht, 14 and under boys; Cathy Palski, 18 and under girls; and Greg Zwack, 18 and under boys.

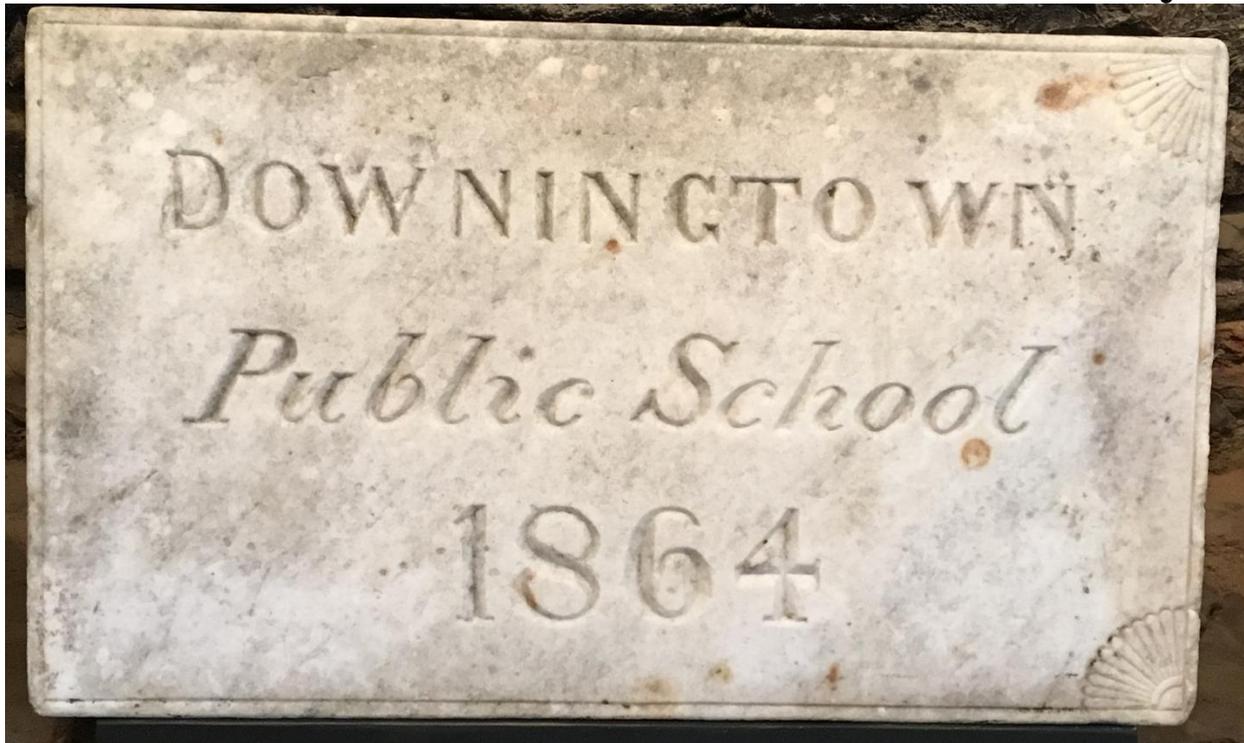
## Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

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.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html)

## Access to latest historic "Then & Now" photo sequences

You can see all of the "Then & Now" morphed photo sequences of local historic sites via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Then\\_and\\_Now.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Then_and_Now.html)

## It was located where East Ward School is today



Donna Ciarlone is a truly perceptive scholar because she's first person who correctly identified the location of the borough's first public school as the site where East Ward School is today, at the intersection of East Lancaster and Uwchlan Avenues in Downingtown.

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is grateful to Joe McConaghy of West Bradford, for his recent gift of the date stone from Downingtown's first public school. The marble stone was installed at the brick, two-room school house that was built on the south side of Lancaster Pike in East Downingtown on a tract of land donated by John E. Parke. The school building was bought in 1876 by J. Hunter Wills who operated a general store there until it burned down. The original East Ward School was built on the former store property in 1923.

Somehow, the date stone was saved and it eventually made its way to Downingtown's Central School, built in 1909 on West Lancaster Avenue. That school became the West Ward Elementary School after the Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy) was constructed on Manor Avenue in 1933. We suspect the stone was stored at West Ward.

Fortunately, Joe's father, Joe McConaghy, Sr., who was part of the crew that razed West Ward in 1958, received permission to keep the stone. Otherwise, it probably would have ended up in a landfill. After being in his family for nearly 60 years, Joe graciously donated the stone to the Historical Society, where it is on display at the Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue in East Caln. If anybody remembers where the stone was kept at West Ward School, please send us an email via: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com)

## Paper mill celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1981

The Downingtown Paper Co., acquired in 1968 by Sonoco Products of Hartsville, SC, was celebrating the paperboard mill's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1881-1981) with an open house.

The largest of several paperboard firms in the Downingtown area, DOPACO evolved from the Frank Miller Paper Co., which leased George Kerr's former saw mill, one mile south of the borough's southern border, in East Caln Township, and started producing binding board there for book binderies in 1881. In 1887, Miller built a new mill on 14 acres he purchased in the borough, between Brandywine Creek and Brandywine Avenue. In addition to being closer to the railroad, which brought in raw materials and shipped the finished products, the new steam-powered facility increased its production to 10 tons of binding board a day within a year.

Miller continued to expand the facility with capital supplied by his brother-in-law, J. Gibson McIlvain, and within two years the operation included a new machine that was cranking out white-lined paperboard stock, used for folding box packaging of consumer products, and a 2-million gallon filter plant, which cleaned water taken from the Brandywine Creek, was added to the production process.

The company was incorporated as the Downingtown Paper Co. in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and McIlvain and his brother, Hugh, were appointed president and vice president, respectively, while Miller was named secretary-treasurer. Also, Andrew Brookover, who had many years of experience in the paperboard industry, was brought in as superintendent of the mill in 1906. As a result, the plant's daily production increased from 20 tons to 250 tons before Brookover retired in 1939. *Editor's note: The next installation on this series about the Downingtown Paper Mill will continue in the September 21 Hist-O-Gram.*

### Vintage Ad of the Week

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is with the greatest pleasure  
that I announce to my customer  
and friends my appointment as di-  
rect representative for Whippet Wil-  
lys and Willys Knight automobiles.

**W. S. HOLLINGER**

**GUTHRIESVILLE GARAGE**

Downingtown, Pa. R. F. D. No. 1

This ad was originally published in the November 7, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## Have you started packing those old books for the sale yet?

You know you want to tidy things up at home by getting rid of those gently used books, CDs and VDs that have been collecting dust for years. You'll have an incredible sense of accomplishment when you pack them up for the Downingtown Area Historical Society's Book Sale in October. You'll feel even better when you either bring them to Ashbridge House, our headquarters in the Ashbridge Square shopping center, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln, between 1-4 PM on Sundays. Or you can arrange to have someone from the Historical Society pick them up at your home or business by calling 610-269-1709 or by sending an email to: [dths1709@gmail.com](mailto:dths1709@gmail.com).

Types of paperback/soft cover books hard cover books we're looking for include: Children's, History, Non-Fiction and Biographies, Sets, Fiction, current Self-Help and Computer books.

## Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League all-star team in 1979 were, left to right: front row, Ken Dunn, assistant coach, Frank Piper, assistant coach, Dave Zynn, Dan Dougherty, Scott Fennelly, Tom Dooley, Bob Stevens, coach; second row, Ron Savastio, Penn Frey, Mike Lynch, Larry Lark, Jim Knapp, Brian Pomento; third row, Eric Presson, Mark Ciarlone, Greg Barrow, Joe Schmidt, Bill Snyder and Don Forbes. The photo was provided by Bob Stevens.

## Lots more info about borough's Log House

You can access a ton of interesting information about Downingtown's Log House in Natalie Smith's article in the *Chester County Press* via:

[www.chestercounty.com/2017/09/07/154286/the-downingtwn-log-house-more-than-300-years-and-counting](http://www.chestercounty.com/2017/09/07/154286/the-downingtwn-log-house-more-than-300-years-and-counting)

# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Food Truck Festival***

Chester County Library's 2nd annual Food Truck Festival will be held from 3 PM until 8 PM on Friday, September 15. There will be unique cuisines from over 22 food vendors while you enjoy live music and more! Due to the pipeline construction the Library had to relocate the festival to Main Street at Exton this year. The event will be held in the old Circuit City parking lot, across from the Movie Tavern. Please use the address 291 Indian Run Street, Exton, PA, for GPS directions.

## ***Downingtown FallFest***

The Downingtown FallFest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce—in partnership with the Downingtown Library, the Borough of Downingtown and Victory Brewery—will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 24 (rain date: Sunday, October 1) along Green Street and E. Pennsylvania Ave. See: <http://downingtownfallfest.com/> for details on booth space; Registration for space closes September 8.

## ***Cavalcade of Bands***

The Downingtown Music Parents Association will host a Cavalcade of Bands competition at Kottmeyer Stadium on the DHS West campus at 7: 15 PM on Saturday, September 30. Over a dozen high school marching bands will compete. Also, the Boston University and University of New Haven bands will execute college-level performances, as well. Tickets available at the gate: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, seniors and veterans. For more questions, contact: [mpa.concessions@gmail.com](mailto:mpa.concessions@gmail.com)

## ***Flea Market***

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co., 141 Wallace Ave., Downingtown, from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, September 30. If you need more info, contact: [minquaslax46@gmail.com](mailto:minquaslax46@gmail.com)

## ***DHS All-Alumni 5K***

The class of '97 presents the inaugural DHS All-Alumni 5K/1 mile Walk /Kids' Run at 9 AM on Saturday, October 14, on the campus of DHS West. Come and see how much your alma mater has changed, while reconnecting with old friends at this family-friendly event! Event details can be found here: <https://runsignup.com/dhsalumni5k>  
All proceeds from the race will be used for 3 scholarships, to be given out by the DHS Alumni Association to a student in each DASD high school.

## ***Library Love Fundraiser***

The Library Love fundraiser will be held from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 28, at the Downingtown Country Club. Proceeds from live auction bidding and raffles go to the Downingtown Library. Tickets are \$40. Contact [francine.dague@gamail.com](mailto:francine.dague@gamail.com) or [gwood1139@comcast.net](mailto:gwood1139@comcast.net) regarding auction item donations or sponsorship opportunities.

## ***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.

## ***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.

### ***Run/Walk For Life***

Chester County Women's Services (CCWS), a local nonprofit pregnancy care medical center, will hold its annual 5K Run/Walk For Life on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Kerr Park and Struble Trail in Downingtown. The event begins next to the Kerr Park playground, with the run/walk starting at 8 AM, followed by Family Fun Day from 9 - 11:30 AM. A children's soccer clinic and parachutes sponsored by United Sports, as well as a Kid's Run will provide entertainment for the young guests. Registration is available at [www.runsignup.com/CCWS](http://www.runsignup.com/CCWS). Register before Sept. 1 to get early bird pricing and a free T-shirt. Guests are encouraged to bring a baby item such as diapers, wipes, or clothing to donate to a local families in need.

### ***Mayor's 5K***

Downingtown Mayor Josh Maxwell is sponsoring a 5K "Run to End Gender-Based Violence" to be conducted on the Struble Trail, beginning at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 14. Proceeds from the race will be distributed to: the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, and the Crime Victims Center of Chester County. For more details on the run, see: [www.mayors5K.com](http://www.mayors5K.com)

### ***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.

### ***State Police History***

State Trooper Gonzales will talk about the History of the PA State Police Historical and Memorial Center at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on **Tuesday, September 19**. The meetings are held at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy, Wagontown, and are free and open to the public.

### ***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](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 in its monthly newsletter at: [www.downingtownsensiors.org/programs/newsletter/](http://www.downingtownsensiors.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. 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).