



Milestones

Preserving Our Past for the Future

OCTOBER, 2004

Upcoming Program Highlights:

Forum on the Legacy of William Penn's Philosophy on Public Education

Saturday, October 16, 2004, 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Lower Merion Academy



William Penn at the Age of Fifty-Two

Open to the General Public, Free Admission - Light Refreshments Will Be Served

This Forum will address the philosophy of "A Virtuous Education." William Penn believed that a universal education was essential to the success of his Holy Experiment. All children - rich and poor, male and female, Quaker and Non-Quaker should have a public education.

Speakers:

Introductory Remarks:

What William Penn Thought

Alice Hoffman

Member of Merion Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Implementing William Penn's Vision: Jacob Jones and Merion Meeting

Gerald Francis

President, Lower Merion Historical Society

Quakers and Education:

Are Quaker Values Still Meaningful?

Thomas Hoopes

Dir. of Education, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Supporting the Ideals of the 18th Century in the 21st Century

PA State Senator Connie Williams

17th Senate District

Presentations will be followed by an open forum and public discussion.

The Architecture at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour

Sunday, November 14, 2004, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Open to the General Public, Free Admission - Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Established in 1869, West Laurel Hill Cemetery successfully incorporates the ideals of the rural cemetery movement, which are still evident in its architecture and magnificently maintained green spaces. In fact, because it is so true to its original design, it has been named on the National Register of Historic Places.

Come join Kimberley Andrews, our guide, for a one hour walking tour beginning at the Bringham Funeral Home, featuring such sites as the Chapel of Peace, Poth Mausoleum, Bell Tower, The Conservatory, Betz Mausoleum, Receiving Vault, the former footbridge to Ridge Avenue, Pencoyd and Manayunk, and other key attractions. This will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Poth Mausoleum



Welcome New Members

Steven Barsh
Pam Brown
William J. Cameron
Mary E. Connelly
Jeff Groff
Virginia Hart
Catherine C. Hodges

Susan Kessler
Alan Leibensperger
Leon Levine
Jules Merron
Marilyn Horey Gillingham Milletta
Marcia Mercedes Nunez-Salgado
Anna M. O'Hora & Richard W. Horton

Ann J. Paul
Michael S. Ramage
Republican Women of the Main Line
Sharon & David Taffet
Atsuko & William Titlow
Barbara & Paul Wilson

Recent Financial Contributors

(\$200 or more)

Gladwyne Builders and Developers, Inc.

Estate of Dorothy M. Sayen, Deceased

St. George's Chapter 13,
The Questors of Pennsylvania

Jay & Terry Snider Foundation

THANK YOU, YOUR SUPPORT
GUARANTEES OUR
CONTINUED SUCCESS IN
PROVIDING QUALITY
SERVICE TO YOUR
COMMUNITY

Message From the President

Our new headquarters at the Lower Merion Academy has met all of our expectations. The restoration and renovation of this Quaker schoolhouse was accomplished through the interest and dedication of our supporters and the local community. If you missed our April Open House and would like to visit this facility, please call our office and make an appointment. We would be most happy to give you a personal tour and show you around the site.

We have come a long way in just a few short years in securing the future of the Society. We have the goodwill of the Lower Merion community; we have our new expanded headquarters facil-

ity to better serve the general public; we have a professional volunteer organization; we have a superb special collection of materials; we have published an excellent book, *The First 300...*; and finally, we have an extremely popular website that serves a much wider audience.

These achievements are a reflection of the generosity of our members, volunteers and contributors. In this issue of Milestones, as well as every forthcoming issue, we will acknowledge these supporters. The building blocks of the Society are those special people who make up our membership and who volunteer their time. Thank You.

However, to guarantee the future

Website Update

LowerMerionHistory.org

Our website continues to be updated due to recent acquisitions to the general reference and vertical file collections. Also, we are about to complete the section dealing with Lower Merion Burial Records. When this special project is finished there will be more than 14,000 names in this database.

Our next project is the cataloging and indexing of our flat file collection of antique maps, indentures, posters and prints. These records, when completed will also be added to the website.

Recently we have updated the site with highlights from our Gift Shop, including our acclaimed publication *The First 300...* ✪

Society's Intergenerational Program Completes Its Eighth Year

Thanks to Ronnie Manlin, who first organized the program in 1996, and coordinator Lynne G. Kauffman, the Society's Intergenerational Interview Program continues to be a successful endeavor in teaching Lower Merion School District's 625 fourth graders about life in the past. The program is run during the month of May and is entitled "When We Were Kids!"

A Big Thank You To This Year's Volunteers:

Peggy Barclay
Rosemarie Cannon
Vivian Cherry
Lita Cohen, Esq.
Cynthia Vance Coleman
David S. Collingwood
Barbara Earle
Margot Flaks
Fran & Al Gebhart

Ted Goldsborough
Alison B. Graham
Elaine Hardenbergh
Emmy Hartley
Sylvester Haynie
Felicia Howard
Chris & Dick Jones
Bonnie Kauffman
Lynne G. Kauffman

Bee Smith Lees
Joan & Charlie Lentz
Farilyn Leopold
Barbara McElroy
William O'Brien
Joan C. Roberts
Margaret Semanko
Charles C. Timm
Alice & Jim Wiggins

LMHS Collection Highlight

1816 and Beyond

The Society's focus has always been the history of public education in Lower Merion. Our new Headquarters and Archive Center, the Lower Merion Academy, was the first schoolhouse built in this area in 1812. On permanent loan to the Society, the Lower Merion Academy Trustees have given us for safe keeping the Trustee Minute Book dating back to 1816. This document records the actions of the Trustees, who among



other duties, hired the Headmaster, established the length of the school year, decided what subjects were taught, and what curriculum was offered to the students.

Also on permanent loan, the Lower Merion School District has deposited the School Board Minutes Books for 1834 to 1913. These documents chronicle the genesis and early development of our

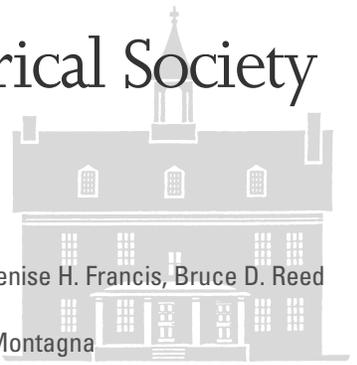
School District.

We now have in our collection these primary sources dealing with the first hundred years of public education in Lower Merion. These records allow us to study the decades of deliberations regarding these two important institutions. ✪



Each Issue of
Milestones Will
Showcase Part of
Our Collection

Lower Merion Historical Society



and the stability of the Society, we will need to increase our membership and encourage more volunteers to come forward. Also, more attention is required in order to reach our goals of expanding our educational programs, expanding our special collection, and enhancing our conservation techniques. Key positions, such as teachers, librarians and new leadership need to be filled.

The Society's Executive Board is studying these open issues and will be developing an action plan to address these concerns. We hope to begin implementing this plan early in the year 2005.

Sincerely,

Officers and Directors

(Effective September 2004)

Officers:

President

Gerald A. Francis

Vice President

Ross L. Mitchell

Treasurer

John B. Hagner

Corresponding Secretary

Betty Cannon

Recording Secretary

Barbara McElroy

Immediate Past President

Edmund L. Goldsborough

President Emeritus

W. Robert Swartz

Directors:

Class of 2005

George W. Broseman, Denise H. Francis, Bruce D. Reed

Class of 2006

Jack McGuire, Dennis Montagna

Class of 2007

Alison Graham, S. Hamill Horne, Joan Roberts

The Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the community since 1949. For more than 55 years, our volunteers have provided educational programs to the public. Thousands of students, residents and scholars have worked with the Society's extensive resources. The Historical Society is a vital force in preserving the rich history of the Lower Merion community.

Past Events

National Register Dedication



National Register Plaque

Speaker - Dr. Jamie P. Savedoff, Superintendent of Schools, at the unveiling of the National Register plaque April 18, 2004 Annual Meeting



Historic School Tour



In school-marm costume, Mary Courtney gave a tour of the 1797 Federal School on Darby Rd. in Haverford, PA on June 13, 2004. The event was held jointly by the Lower Merion Historical Society and the Haverford Township Historical Society.

We Gratefully Accept Donations

The Society accepts artifacts, books, photographs and art work for our collection. Items must be documented as having been made or used in the Township of Lower Merion or the Borough of Narberth. All items must document or illustrate our local history, be in good and original condition to permit their use for research or exhibition, and be sufficiently important to warrant the cost of conservation.

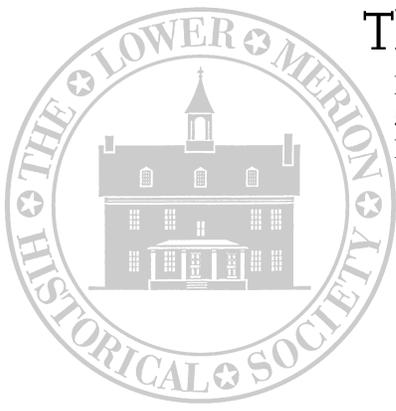
The Society benefits from donations of such items as World War II civil defense items, a wooden school-desk, an atlas page of Narberth from 1920, etc.

During the past twelve months, thirty people have donated or loaned us scores of items, which are now properly conserved and available to researchers. ☘

Once a year in Milestones, we plan to share the names of those who have donated/loaned items to the Society. We hope we haven't omitted any donors from this year's list. If so, please tell us so we may acknowledge their kindness in next year's list.

The Society sincerely thanks:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sue S. Althouse | Beverly Lovett |
| Col. Frank P. K. Barker, Jr. | Lower Merion School District |
| Ann Collins Bitler | Andrew Margolis |
| John E. Blair | Esther MacGregor |
| Philip Eidelson | Bob McCormick |
| Lori Felker | Edward M. Minshall |
| Jerry Francis | David J. Monteith |
| Janet Giersch | Michael S. Ramage |
| Ted Goldsborough | William O. Schwoebel, Jr. |
| Lillian & Stephen Greenberg | J. Clinton Stirk |
| Nancy & Fred Hansell | H. Don Taylor |
| William I. Homer | Township of Lower Merion |
| Marvin Karp | James M. Wiggins |
| Mary Keim | Barbara & Paul Wilson |
| Joanna Keim Lyckberg | J. William Winter |



The Lower Merion Historical Society

Lower Merion Academy
506 Bryn Mawr Ave., Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

LowerMerionHistory.org

The Lower Merion Historical Society

Location:

Lower Merion Academy
506 Bryn Mawr Ave., Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Contact:

Phone and Fax: 610-664-3216
E-mail: LMHistory@comcast.net

Library Hours:

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Saturday afternoons, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Also by appointment

Our Mission:

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to "Preserving Our Past For The Future." This is accomplished by stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.



LowerMerionHistory.org

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, October 16, 2004

Forum on the Legacy of William Penn's Philosophy on Public Education

Sunday, November 14, 2004

The Architecture at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour

April, 2005

Banquet and Annual Meeting
(members only)

May, 2005

The Aboretum at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour

June, 2005

Tour of Harriton Plantation who is celebrating their 300th Anniversary