

# Solebury Chronicle



*A newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society*

## Revolutionary War Lecture and Tour

Perhaps those fortunate enough to live in Bucks County take all its rich history for granted. Or, maybe, some of us just do not really know what happened here during the Revolutionary War. A program has been created that will help reacquaint us with the important role that Solebury and New Hope played in that war. Robert McEwan, Solebury Township Historical Society board member, Charlie Huchet, member of the Phillips' Mill Community Association, and Roy Ziegler, member of the New Hope Historical Society have joined together to produce an exciting, in-depth look at the activities that took place in Solebury and New Hope as about 2,400 troops of General Washington's army marched through the area to the famous crossing on Christmas night, 1776 and later when the entire Continental Army crossed at Coryell's Ferry, now New Hope, in June 1778 on their way from Valley Forge to the important Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey. The event will take place on the 235<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that crossing.

On **June 20** at 7 p.m. at the Phillips' Mill, Terry McNealy, historian, author, Secretary to the Board of Directors of the New Hope Historical Society and member of the Phillips' Mill Community Association, will present a discussion of the events and places in Solebury and New Hope that were so prominent in the conduct of the Revolutionary War.

On Sunday, **June 23** at 1 p.m. a Trolley Tour will visit 13 places that Mr. McNealy's presentation will highlight. The tour will leave

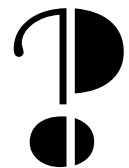


from Phillips' Mill and travel to Buckingham, where the first stop will be Bogart's Tavern, the headquarters of General Nathaniel Green, where he had given the order to gather the Durham boats for General Washington's crossing. The tour will travel along the Old York Road through Holicong, Lahaska, and Solebury, stopping at Rolling Green Farm, Paxson-Rhoads estate, the Ferry Landing in New Hope and the redoubts that had been constructed by Washington's army at what is now the site of the current New Hope Borough Hall. Then it will be on to the Thompson-Neely House for the final stop before the trolley returns to Phillips' Mill for a wine and cheese reception.

Tickets for the lecture on June 20 are \$10. Admission to the Trolley Tour on June 23 is \$35 and includes the reception. Advance registration is required due to limited space. One may register online ([phillipsmill.org/revolution](http://phillipsmill.org/revolution)) with a credit card or PayPal, or to pay by check call 215-862-3217.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## History Quiz

**What was the first name given to Solebury Village?**

*Answer on page 5*

## Presidents Message

Dear members; happy spring to all,

If you missed the open house, you missed a great opportunity to see the schoolhouse, meet the Board members, see the beautiful globes Jim Hill so kindly loaned to us, have Will Rivinus personally sign your copy of his newest book *Old Mills of New Hope-Solebury*, and just generally have a wonderful Sunday afternoon. We had approximately 70 people attend. We think it was our best open house ever, and we were very pleased that so many members were able to attend. Also, it was delightful to have such a large turnout of people who are not yet members. Hopefully they will soon be on our mail list!

We anticipate beginning reconstruction work on the schoolhouse shortly. You should have received an "Appeal" letter requesting (pleading for) your financial support of our effort. We are counting on the good people of Solebury to help us cover the necessary repairs to keep this jewel of Solebury in good physical condition and ensure it will last at least another 300 years.

As you read the newsletter, you will notice that your Society, along with the New Hope Historical Society and the Phillips' Mill Community Association (Robert McEwan, STHS board member, Charlie Huchet, PM and Roy Ziegler, NHHS) are presenting a wonderful Revolutionary War Lecture and Tour of New Hope/Solebury in June. Get your tickets for one or both events early.

Melody Hunt and John Touhey are organizing a fabulous dinner party to assist our fundraising efforts. This will be a remake of the 2003 dinner which was a spectacular success. This will definitely be a function you are not going to want to miss it.

We have several projects in the planning stages for which we are going to be requesting your services as volunteers. Believe me you will have plenty of choices, so please pick up the phone or get on line and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. The success of our events depends on your help. The more successful our events, the more new members join, the more events we can offer...and that is what keeps us going! So please sign up. When you're a valuable member of a team, the event will be even more enjoyable.

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Volunteers are not paid —  
not because they are worthless,  
but because they are priceless.

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- unknown

Thank you one and all for your continued support of the Solebury Township Historical Society.

*Donneta K Crane*



Solebury Township Historical Society  
Drawer 525  
Solebury, Pennsylvania 18963  
215-297-5091  
[www.soleburyhistory.org](http://www.soleburyhistory.org)

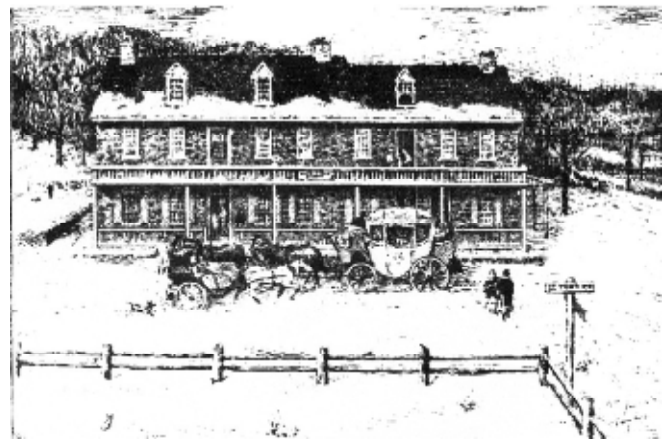
### Board of Directors

Donneta Crane, *President*  
Beth Carrick, *Vice President*  
Elaine Crooks, *Treasurer*  
Rayna Polsky, *Secretary*  
Jim Brown, *Oral History*  
Gwen Davis, *Research*  
Joan Fitting, *Archives*  
Melody Hunt, *Development*  
Linda Kenyon, *Events*  
Robert McEwan, *Education*

### Board emeritus

Sally Jagoe  
Franca Warden

## Do You Know?



This is Hard Times Tavern on Cuttalousa Road at River Road. It was so named because apparently business was very slow, at least until the opening of the Canal in 1834.

This drawing is by artist William Francis Taylor who converted it to a residence and lived there in 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Congratulations to Susanne Lowe who correctly identified the historic building.*

## Many visitors enjoyed our Annual Open House

Sunday April 14 was a beautiful day in Solebury and all the action was at our one-room Schoolhouse. More than 70 visitors packed the little building and overflowed to the front yard.

A number of our guests were interested in finding information on their historic homes or were looking for their family's history. Others came to get a close up look at some of the historic globes from the collection of Kathy Hausman and Jim Hill. Still more were excited to get a copy of *Old Mills of New Hope-Solebury*, and author Willis Rivinus was on hand to autograph the books. Some were seeing the schoolhouse for the first time and were interested in our research library.

A beautiful flowering cherry tree was planted in memory of Mary Jackson Powell, STHS Board member and supporter.

But most joined us to visit with their friends and neighbors and enjoy an array of delicious foods and drinks.

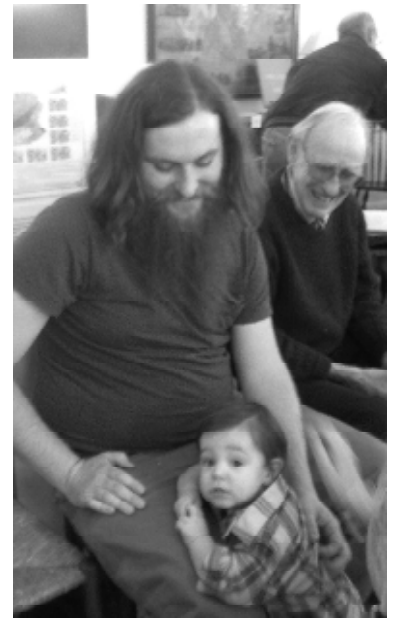
This is an annual event, so if you missed it this year, plan to join us in 2014. Of course you can always visit the schoolhouse on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. when our archivists are on hand to help in any way.



*Guests of all ages enjoy an afternoon at the Schoolhouse*



*Will Rivinus autographs a book for guest Betty Stagg.*



*Rev. Rick Vinson and Donneta Crane lead the tree dedication as many of the guests look on.*

## Volunteers Needed for big and small tasks!

The Solebury Township Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization. We have a small but dedicated Board of Directors, but we need your help to carry out our many tasks. Please consider giving some of your time and talent to the Society. You will not only be giving back to your community but will have fun doing so! Please look over the following list and contact the person responsible for the task to offer your help.

### Revolutionary War Lecture and Tour

June 20 and/or June 23

Organize and man sales and refreshment tables  
CONTACT: Robert McEwan, 215 479 4711  
Robertandmariamcewan@gmail.com

### Solebury Museum

Project management. Arranging for changing display; several a year.  
CONTACT: Robert McEwan, 215 479 4711  
Robertandmariamcewan@gmail.com

### Events

We need your ideas and your support for offering interesting and enjoyable events. Serve on the Committee or offer, for instance, to flip burgers at our annual picnic.  
Linda Kenyon, 215 297-5576  
lindakenyon@verizon.net

### Fund Raising endeavors - see article on right

As we embark on major renovations to the school-house, we have a renewed focus on raising the funds to do this work in an historically accurate way. Fund-raising events are being planned. We need your help with the planning and execution of these events.  
Melody Hunt, 215 297-5985  
hunttinsman@verizon.net

## "STHS Repeats History"

Ten years ago a fabulous dinner party took place throughout Solebury Township. Ten of the most esteemed historical property owners opened their doors to ten lucky diners each. A Master Chef created a wonderful meal and it was delivered to each home by a small army of volunteers.

The list of properties was a well kept secret. None of the 100 diners knew where he or she was going until the very last minute when the assignments were revealed at a lush cocktail reception held at a famous Solebury gathering spot, which was centrally located. Does that sound like fun? Does to me!

We are in luck. Solebury Township Historical Society is proud to announce that John Touhey, past president and one of the original planners of this gala fundraiser – knowing of our need to raise funds to preserve the schoolhouse – has volunteered to repeat history!

He has secured some very special historical properties whose owners have agreed to welcome us! He has acquired the services of Ian Knauer, Master Chef and author of *The Farm*, to direct all aspects of the reception and *boeuf bourguignon* dinner offering. The date is September 21, 2013. Now all we need is you!

People are already signing up to attend. Some of the same people are volunteering to help. The committees being formed are:

- (1) Patronage (securing patron support for reception and dinner cost)
- (2) Publicity/Ticket sales
- (3) Host/Hostess reception (June, 2013)
- (4) Setting Assistance
- (5) Dinner Prep (Helping at Culinary Center)
- (6) Dinner Delivery (including vessel pickups on Thursday)

Where can you fit in? This is going to be an historical event, a tremendous fundraising party that we'll still be talking about ten years from now! I hope you can be a part of it! Contact John Touhey, 215-297-9799, to offer to be a patron, to volunteer, or for further information.

Melody Hunt

## Save the date

### Halloween Walk

**Solebury Friends Meeting Cemetery Tour**

**Sunday October 27, 2013, 12 noon**

Jesse Crooks will lead us through the grave sites of the many illustrious, and interesting Solebury citizens resting at the Meeting house Graveyard. This well-attended 2012 tour is being called back by popular demand.

## Solebury Museum features Antique Globe and Planetariums

During March and April the Solebury Museum featured a display of Antique Globes from the collection of Kathy Hausman and Jim Hill. These fascinating Globes & Planetariums feature unique, special views reflecting the known world at the time of their manufacture. Country names (and borders) that no longer exist; views of the Universe in Astrological and Astronomy configuration; a 1" diameter miniature globe manufactured for the 19<sup>th</sup> century gentleman traveler's reference; a black-board Globe, totally blank and ready for students to be tested by drawing in the continents and countries known at the time (using chalk of course!) and many other oddities and curiosities.



*Society Education Chair Robert McEwan with Kathy Hausman*



*Some of the featured globes*

An Open House was held on Sunday, March 3.

The Solebury Museum is a program of the Historical Society and is housed at the Solebury Township Hall on Sugan Road.

## Website Updated

The Society has worked over the past few months to refresh the software behind our web site. We have made the switch recently to a new server and the software which will allow us to more easily manage our information and site presentation.

We would like to thank **Vladimir Petlakh** who we found via the Bucks County Community College Computer Science Club. He rewrote the software supporting our web site and was instrumental in the design. Vlad is now graduating from BCCC and is seeking work in the information technology field, specializing in networking technologies. Please reach out to Vlad if you have a job opening, as we can attest to his ability to stick with a job and work with our committee to achieve our multiple goals! You can reach Vlad at [vpetlakh@gmail.com](mailto:vpetlakh@gmail.com).

Vlad, MANY THANKS!!

*Robert McEwan*

## History Quiz

Solebury Village was first called Center Hill for its location on the hill near the center of the Township. The name Solebury Village came after 1883.

## Schoolhouse renovations Appeal update

Your Society has reached out to the entire Solebury community for donations to help defray the cost of necessary repairs to our one-room schoolhouse. Prior to the Society taking ownership from the School District, many years had passed without any upkeep to the exterior of this historic treasure. Most important, the building needs a new roof and replacement of rotted eaves. In addition the windows and frames are also in serious need of repair and repainting. The fact that the work needs to be done in an historically-correct fashion adds, of course, to the cost. This was the first place in the township that provided education, beginning in 1756. And it remains today the only surviving schoolhouse that has not been converted to other uses.

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*"This is possibly the most important building in the entire township."*

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As of the date this newsletter went to print, \_\_\_ residents of Solebury Township have donated a total of \$\_\_\_ to this campaign. We are most grateful for this outpouring of support from the community. But with repair estimates now above \$45,000.00, we need everyone to donate what they can to this important endeavor. Please send your check payable to STHS to PO Box 525, Solebury PA 18963 and mark "appeal" on your check.

Thank you in advance for your support. We expect to begin construction in the near future, so watch as your donations help to beautify and stabilize our township icon.

## Teachers learning about our Community

Each year the teachers at New Hope-Solebury are asked to learn about their community. The Society has participated in this extra-curricular education for a number of years by organizing topics, speakers, talk and walks. Sally Jagoe, past STHS president and long time Board member, developed this relationship, and we are happy to continue organizing local speakers and events.

On May 1 the History and Art teachers were treated to an afternoon tour of the Nakashima Woodworking studio and workshops. This is one of the Society's continuing efforts to align with the school's Community Engagement Committee's goal to involve the many resources in the township.

Many thanks to Mira Nakashima Yarnall, Kevin Nakashima and Soomi Amagasu for opening their doors to the teachers and the Society.

We are always looking for topics and places of possible interest to the teachers (history, science, art). Please contact us with your ideas.



*Mira Nakashima, third from left, leads the New Hope-Solebury Teachers on a tour of the George Nakashima Woodworking Studio*

### **Donneta Crane**

Realtor •

### **Addison Wolfe Real Estate**

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f 215.862.4290

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## With Gratitude . . .

Members are the backbone of our organization. We are deeply appreciative of the support of the residents listed below who have renewed their membership or joined the Society since the last newsletter.

Maureen Ammirati  
Gayle Berkery  
Mrs. M. Curtis Chianese  
Susan Fuerst  
Stephanie Garomon  
Todd Genty  
Nancy Heyrich  
Rustem & Ziz Husenaj  
Douglas & Wendy Kale  
Edward & Alexandra Leydon  
James and Nancy Lockhart  
Audrey and Bob Long  
David R. McShane  
Eleanor Miller  
Pamela Morrison  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ozols  
Natalie Hammill & Josh Perlsweig  
Nancy & Jerry Ruddle

Douglas & Charlynn Shapiro  
Solebury School  
Barbara Straton  
Helen Tai  
Janice Waldman  
Patsy Tinsman & Dick Wallace  
Don Wilson  
Edward Zekus  
Roy Ziegler

**New Business Member**  
Rockwood Wealth Management

Every effort has been made to publish a complete and accurate list of memberships received since the last newsletter (January) and up to about May 8, 2013. We regret if there are any omissions.

## Support our Business Members

We are most grateful for the support of the local business community and encourage you to patronize these fine businesses:

### Steward

Holly Hedge Estates/1740 House  
Joe & Amy Luccaro  
Rockwood Wealth Management

### Protector

Black Bass Hotel, Lumberville  
Tinsman Brothers Inc., Lumberville

### Guardian

Augenblick & Co. PC  
Delray Plus True Value  
Eagle Diner  
First Federal of Bucks County  
First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown  
Mancuso Show Management  
Nakashima Woodworkers  
New Hope Crushed Stone

## Many Thanks . . .

The generosity of so many folks help the Society throughout the year. We greatly appreciate the support of our friends and neighbors:

**Jim Hill and Kathy Hausman** for providing the display items for the Antique Globe exhibit at the Solebury Museum.

**Sally Jagoe and Robert McEwan** for organizing the Museum exhibit.


**Rev. Rick Vinson** (Trinity Solebury) for leading the blessing of the memorial tree for Mary Powell.

**Will Rivinus** for donating part of the proceeds from his newest book *Old Mills of New Hope-Solebury*.


**Vladimir Petlakh** for streamlining our website.

The **advertisers** in the *Solebury Chronicle* help offset the cost of producing the newsletter. These are local businesses, and we urge your patronage.


(Call 215-297-5091 or email [soleburyhistory@verizon.net](mailto:soleburyhistory@verizon.net) to place your ad in the next *Solebury Chronicle*.)



**YOU. FIRST.**

 **SOLEBURY INVESTMENT GROUP**  
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5256 Butler Court • Doylestown, PA 19340



**Solebury Township Historical Society**  
**Drawer 525**  
**Solebury, PA 18963**

## Do You Know?

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### Upcoming Events

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>June 20</b>      | <b>Revolutionary War Lecture, 7 p.m.</b>          |
| <b>June 23</b>      | <b>Revolutionary War Trolley Tour,<br/>1 p.m.</b> |
| <b>August 25</b>    | <b>Summer Picnic &amp; Historic Road Rally</b>    |
| <b>September 14</b> | <b>History Repeats Itself - Dinner Party</b>      |
| <b>October 27</b>   | <b>Solebury Friends Cemetery Tour<br/>Noon</b>    |

*STHS members will receive invitations to all events.*

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Do you know where this historic house is located in Solebury and what famous Bucks County impressionist painter lived here?

*Call 215-297-5091 or email your answer to  
[soleburyhistory@verizon.net](mailto:soleburyhistory@verizon.net). You may win a prize!*