

Solebury Chronicle



A newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

STHS Repeats History *A one-night only extravaganza*

The Solebury Township Historical Society is "Repeating" our wildly successful dinner fundraiser from 2003 to help us raise money towards our goal of \$45,000 needed to cover renovations to our Solebury jewel, the one-room schoolhouse.

Indulge in a wonderful evening of conviviality and great repast in gracious settings. Reserve early and meet us at the barn at Rolling Green Farm at 5:30 p.m. on **Saturday, September 21, 2013**. Enjoy cocktails, meet neighbors and at last discover where and with whom you will be dining. You will then head to one of eleven different homes where you will be the recipient of a gourmet meal prepared by Master Chef Ian Knauer.

Space is limited, so do not miss out. Visit our website to secure your reservations: soleburyhistory.org. Or call organizer John Touhey to arrange to pay by check, 215-297-9799.



Many thanks to our Patrons

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Chico's Peddler's Village *

* Shop at **chico's** at Peddler's Village between September 6 and 20, 2013, and Chico's will donate 10% of the amount of your purchase to the STHS when you mention either the Solebury Township Historical Society or the Repeats History dinner.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter
- Revolutionary War Tour
- Website update
- New books in Library
- Business Members
- Campaign for Schoolhouse repairs
- New members
- Thank yous
- Upcoming events
- Scholarship
- Hidden Collections Initiative

Don't Miss our Annual Picnic!

Fiesta Mexicana

No reservations necessary Sunday, August 25, 4-7 p.m. **Suggested donation \$5**
Home of Linda Kenyon
3015 Sugas Road, New Hope (park in Trinity Church parking lot)

We provide the burgers, sausages, hot dogs, buns, wine, beer, margaritas and music. Please bring your favorite covered dish—it does not need to be a Mexican dish.



History Quiz

What was the first major road in Solebury Township?

Presidents Message

What an exciting, busy year it has been. We are working on so many projects, plans and events that we are constantly busy and loving it. Repairs on the schoolhouse will commence soon, thanks to Robert McEwan; our website is being recreated, thanks to Beth Carrick and Mike Seifried; our Oral History project is being expanded by leaps and bounds, thanks to Jim Brown. Linda Kenyon is working to set up the picnic on August 25 at her house, and Melody Hunt and John Touhey are spearheading the fabulous dinner scheduled for September 21. If you haven't signed up, you should go to our website as you can now register and pay online.

In October, Jesse Crooks will be giving us another wonderful tour of the Solebury Friends cemetery. We learned so much last year – it was incredible. November brings us to the annual meeting, so if we miss you at any of the previous events, we will definitely hope to see you on November 17.

I think the most exciting news is that that Solebury Township Historical Society was invited to be a part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Small Collections initiative. Joan Fitting and Gwen Davis are moving this project forward.

As always, we can use as much help as our membership can offer. Beyond volunteering for our events, if you have a desire to be involved with the board, please call or email to let us know. We would welcome your help. As we continue to grow so does our need for additional support.

If you know someone that you feel would be a worthy recipient of the Honored Citizen award, please send us the details.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Donneta K Crane

Answer to Do You Know?



This is the house where Edward Redfield lived from 1898 until his death in 1965. Redfield is one of the most well-known of the PA Impressionists who lived and worked in the New Hope-Solebury area. Congratulations to Sally Drayer and Gail Keim for guessing the right answer within hours or receiving the Chronicle!



Solebury Township Historical Society
 Drawer 525
 Solebury, Pennsylvania 18963
 215-297-5091
www.soleburyhistory.org

Board of Directors

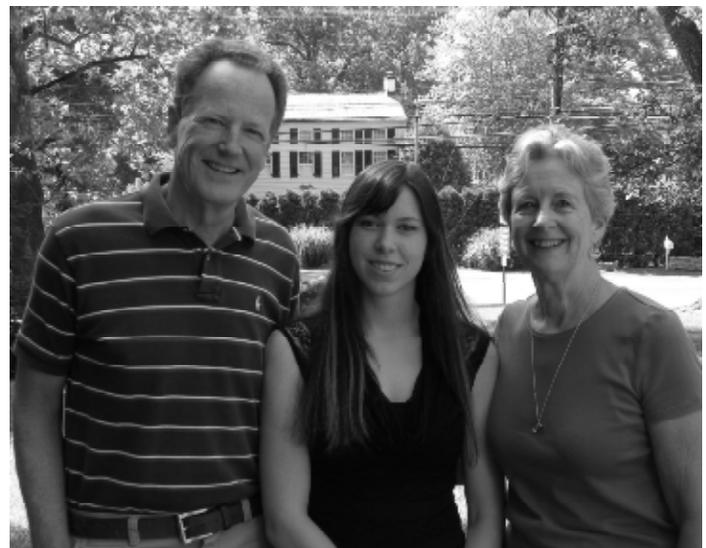
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2013 Scholarship Award

STHS was proud to select New Hope-Solebury High School Senior Larissa DePamphilis of Solebury to receive our 2013 Ned Harrington Scholarship. Larissa's high GPA, her solid performance in AP history and her active contributions to several volunteer organizations speak of a very mature young lady who will benefit from the \$1000 scholarship. Larissa will unfortunately be "lost" to history in the coming months as she will enroll at The College of New Jersey School of Engineering and specialize in Biomedical Engineering, but we trust her energy will continue to be devoted to good Solebury causes. Well done Larissa!



Robert McEwan, Larissa DePamphilis, Beth Carrick.

Tour of Revolutionary War Sites in New Hope-Solebury

This past June — 235 years after General George Washington's army marched through Solebury and crossed the Delaware in New Hope chasing General Sir Henry Clinton's British Army across New Jersey — members of STHS, New Hope Historical Society and Phillips' Mill Community Association gathered to learn about the historic locations and stories. June 20 saw a sell-out crowd of more than 100 people at Phillips' Mill to listen to local historian Terry McNealy and NHHS moderator, Roy Ziegler, talk about the trials and tribulations of Continental Army members surviving and fighting through extreme heat and cold on both the 1778 and 1776 marches. Many local sites from Bogart's Tavern to the Thompson-Neeley House were discussed, and questions ranging from local taxation to Malta Island were fielded.

Sunday, June 23, witnessed the type of heat wave Washington's encountered on their march through the area in 1778 (mid 90's!), but again, a sell-out crowd mounted three trolleys and toured key sites with stops along the way. Fortunately the trolley's air conditioning systems kept us all in good form as we enjoyed a visit to downtown New Hope and Coryell's Ferry on a summer Sunday afternoon. It was remarked that this day on a tourist weekend was akin to what the local population in 1778 of about 400 souls survived: a horde of 13,500 troops, with horses and wagons numbering in the hundreds, camping out on what is now ball fields of New Hope-Solebury High School and marching down through the middle of town in preparation for crossing the Delaware River.

Our tour group went on to see a number of sites in Solebury Township that played a role in the Revolutionary War including Rolling Green Farm, the Ingham House property and the Thompson Neeley House.

We look forward to offering more joint programs with these two organizations and perhaps repeating this very popular event next summer.



Some 90 guests boarded the air-conditioned trolleys to tour Revolutionary War sites in New Hope and Solebury.



Coryell's Ferry



Parry Mansion



Thompson-Neeley House



Phillips' Mill

Improving our Web Site

Because going to our web site is the easiest and most natural way to find out what you want to know about the Society, we are working on improving the site. Webmaster Mike Seifried is currently working on the new design, and members of the Society are helping to gather materials needed for the update. Mike is a freelance website developer based in Doylestown. While he has commercial clients in the Central Bucks area, much of his work is for non-profits, whose goals he supports. After retiring from a career in international marketing, Mike has found time to pursue his dual interests as a website designer and jazz musician, and he invites you to visit his website at tenormanmike.com. The Society thanks Mike for his work for us.

Our first change is already visible. As a convenience we are now able to accept payments on line, beginning with reservations for our "STHS Repeats History" dinner in September. If you haven't already reserved, go to www.soleburyhistory.org and click on **Upcoming Events**.

For those of you who use the web but have never thought about designing a site, the next time you visit the web think about all of the information that has to be put together to make a site work. For STHS, first we have decided what is important for our members—basic information about us to be put on the home page, directions to the schoolhouse, information about the schoolhouse and its restoration, what is in our research library, information about our Honored Citizens, etc. Now we are writing the material, gathering pictures where appropriate, and finding drawings and graphics. All of the pages must flow and be linked together, if appropriate. So far the document that details all of this is over 100 pages in Microsoft Word and growing.

We hope you will find our new site easy to use and helpful. We expect to have it completed in the fall and will announce when it is ready. In the meantime, our current site will remain available.

Seeking Nominations for Honored Citizens of Solebury

Do you know of someone who has made important contributions to the Solebury area? If so, please consider nominating that person for our annual Honored Citizens of Solebury award. Each year we give the award to a current citizen and one to a historic figure.

The process is simple. All we need is your name and contact information, the name of the nominee, and a paragraph or two stating why you feel this person is eligible. If you wish, a nomination form is available on our website, soleburyhistory.org.

Nominations should be received by November 1. The awards are presented at our annual New Year's Brunch on January 1.

New books enhance our Research Library

Many of our members and neighbors have been pleased with the help we have been able to give them in finding information about their properties and their families. However, sometimes these community members give back to us.

David and Marilou Stewart recently donated a complete and bound set of the *History of Bucks County* by W.W.H. Davis. These books are considered by many to be the foremost source of factual information about the growth of our beautiful county. What history buff hasn't turned to Davis to look up a name, a place or an event in the course of his/her research? The three volumes are beautifully bound and are a most valuable addition to our research library. Thank you so much, Dave and Marilou.

We also received a most interesting set of bound copies of the periodical *American History Illustrated*, published by The National Historical Society. These were donated by **John F. Hartzel**. There are a total of 14 volumes, each containing one year's editions of the magazine from 1966 to 1979 with articles ranging in subjects from the Civil War to the story of John Jacob Astor. Each article is beautifully illustrated with maps, drawings and old photographs. Even looking at the ads from over 40 years ago is amusing! I guarantee you will love browsing through them. Thank you so much, John.

Come visit us any Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. to see our new additions.

Joan S. Fitting, Archivist

SAVE the DATE

Sunday October 27: 12 to 1:30 p.m.

The Great Cemetery Tour of the Solebury Meetinghouse Cemetery Repeats in 2013!

Our thanks go to Jessie Crooks, local historian, for agreeing to lead his informative historical tour of the many famous and forgotten souls resting in The Meetinghouse Cemetery. Last year's tour was a very well attended success despite Super Storm Sandy descending upon us. The tour is being returned by popular demand. We know Jessie is adding new information to his talk based his research and on the many comments and questions at the initial tour. We look forward to seeing you there with your friends and family.

From the writings of Edwin (Ned) Harrington

When in the course of human events...

Washington took charge of a rag-tag army at Cambridge, and after many ups and downs of conflict, late autumn of 1776 found his weary forces retreating across New Jersey toward the Delaware.

During that same period, the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety was organizing militia, and the Bucks County Committee usually met at Bogart's Tavern in Buckingham. There was established Company C of the Fourth Battalion, Captains George Wall and John Lacey commanding. It first served during the hapless Canadian campaign of 1776, centered on Fort Mifflin.

Washington and his troops passed three times through Solebury Township during the Revolution: notably in December 1776, when his little army crossed the river at Coryell's Ferry (New Hope) and rested under an oak tree near York Road, before venturing to the redeeming victory at Trenton. The top brass stayed briefly at the Logan Inn, and just before the crossing Washington met with his staff at the Thompson-Neeley house⁽¹⁾. Captain James Moore died on Christmas day and is buried there. Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse was used as a hospital, and the good Friends had to convene elsewhere, reluctant to be concerned with the fray. Once more the troops passed through, in August 1777, seeking out Howe's forces that were aiming for Philadelphia; and the Americans then spent two weeks near Cross Roads (Hartsville), where Washington occupied the Moland house, before proceeding to Brandywine. And again in June 1778, marching from Valley Forge via York Road, toward the embroilment at Monmouth. One unknown soldier did not make it, and is said to be buried near the Paxson house in Aquetong. Otherwise, the war touched lightly upon Solebury Township.

From January to May 1778, renegade Quakers General John Lacey and Colonel Joseph Kirkbridge commanded the militia, defending against the British in Philadelphia. Twenty-eight of the soldiers were from Solebury Township, and eleven of those were from Quaker families – and would have been read out of Buckingham Meeting....

(1) In recent years research is unable to confirm that Washington ever visited the Thompson-Neely house.

History Quiz Answer

The first major road in the Township was Lower York Road between Lahaska and New Hope.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania Hidden Collections Initiative

The STHS is proud to announce that we have been invited to participate in Historical Society of Pennsylvania's (HSP) effort to identify and catalogue the small, hidden archival collections of smaller historical societies throughout the area.

The goal of the project is to visit the smaller repositories, survey and access the collections, and create a summary finding aid to each collection. The finding aid is publically available and is accessible in an online searchable database developed by the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSL) available at:

<http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/index.html>

Our archival materials have been surveyed, and within the next three to four months we will receive a report from HSP which will, among other items, include the following:

1. Categorize our materials into "collections"
 - Collection title, creator, dates, etc.
 - Background notes
 - Types of materials and subject/topic
 - Provenance
2. Assess our collections
 - Quality of Housing
 - Condition of material
 - Intellectual access (card catalogs, inventories, etc.)
 - Physical access (degree of organization)

Once we receive the report we will reorganize our materials in the format recommended by the report. It will then all be listed on our website. The HSP will have a link to the above website where our material will be available.

It is very exciting to be included in this project. It will expose both the STHS and the data we possess to an incredible number of researchers, students and the general public. Watch for further information about the completion of this project in a future newsletter.



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Update on Historic Schoolhouse Renovations

The steady return on our fund raising is allowing us to arrange for several much-needed renovations to the schoolhouse. The most urgently needed repair is to replace the roof. Our current roof is asbestos tiles which probably date from the 1950's. We have lined up our contractors and they should begin work in mid August, weather permitting. Several smaller jobs, including replacing the bulkhead door to the basement, plumbing to allow garden hose access, and electrical updates will follow as we move into fall. As more donations come in, we will have the windows and frames repaired and repainted.

Many thanks to those who have contributed and those who will contribute via our various fund raising efforts. STHS and the community are committed to keeping this historic gem in good repair, looking fine and more secure.

Our fund-raising campaign to finance necessary renovations to our historic one-room schoolhouse has gotten off to a great start thanks to many friends and neighbors who have made contributions. Over \$13,000 has been contributed to date and we acknowledge our deepest appreciation to the following:

GRADUATES

Elaine & Malcolm Crooks
Gayle Goodman & Jim Searing
The Haley Foundation

Edward R. Leydon
Tom & Amy Luccaro
Brenda Mackay
Peter & Camille Mancuso
Matt Marks

3RD GRADERS

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John & Sussan Eichert
Peter & Star Grover
Bill & Lois McKeeman
Stephen Raab

Robert McEwan
Chuck & Pearl Mintzer
Kevin Nakashima
Dorothy Downie & Robert Orrill
Rhoda & Daryl Renschler
Willis Rivinus

2ND GRADERS

Richard & Elizabeth Carrick
Peggy & Bill Hecht
Chee Jamison
Gail & Alan Keim
Frederick F. Lansill
Bill & Jane MacDowell
Kerrie D. MacPherson
Carol & Harry Rose
Pat Witlicki

Eric Sauter
Douglas & Charlynn Shapiro
Anne Stephano
Scott & Marjorie Sullivan
I.H. & Birgitta vonZelowitz
Ann Warren
Michael & Ruth Ann Wilson
Robert Beck & Doreen Wright
George M. Yerkes
Edward Zekas

Support our Business Members

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

Steward

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Joe & Amy Luccaro
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Protector

Black Bass Hotel, Lumberville
Tinsman Brothers Inc., Lumberville

Guardian

Augenblick & Co. PC
Delray Plus True Value
Eagle Diner
First Federal of Bucks County
FREEMAN'S AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS
Mancuso Show Management
George Nakashima Woodworkers, SA
New Hope Crushed Stone

1ST GRADERS

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Richard & Nancy Kimmel
Richard & Margaret Knoster

FRIENDS

Bruce Roush
Geoff & Lorraine Ridout
Annette Antolik
Marianne Bender
Barbara Donnelly
Donald T. Hornish
Wendy McGarry
Virginia & Zachary Obedin
Ted & Charlotte Zanidakis
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Peter Gatto & Pamela Burrell
Eugene & Wendy Gladston
Tim Hartman & Ron Swidor
David Dimicco & Meagan Longrose
David & Marilou Stewart
Marc Stiefel
Helene Pavlov & Harvey Zeichner

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.

Steven Cohen & Pamela Blake
 Paul & Marianne Bogen
 Margo & Harold Busund
 Richard Carlson
 Bob Carr
 Richard & Elizabeth Carrick
 Anna Burbank & David Cramer
 Jesse Crooks
 Forrest Crooks
 Marne Kies Dietterich
 Jack & Claire Donohue
 Ruth Campbell & Joseph Duffy
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 Geoffrey & Kathleen Fisher
 Joan & Don Fitting
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 Carolyn Fox
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 Phil Getty
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 Michael J. & Elizabeth Schmidt
 Jurgen Schweickhardt & John Bayma
 Beth & Bill Short
 Curt Shreiner & Denise Frost
 Faith & Gurney P. Sloan
 Jerry Steinbrink & Liz Smutko -
NEW MEMBER
 Mary L. Spencer - **NEW MEMBER**
 Janice Spurr
 David & Marilou Stewart
 Tim Hartman & Ron Swidor
 Susan D. Tinsman
 Anthony & Monica Ufolla - **NEW MEMBER**
 Patricia Whitman
 Robert Beck & Doreen Wright
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard A Yarnall

Every effort has been made to publish a complete and accurate list of memberships received since the last newsletter (May) and up to about August 12, 2013. We regret if there are any omissions.

Many Thanks . . .

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

David and Marilou Stewart for donating a complete bound set of *History of Bucks County* to our research library.

John Hartzel for donating a bound set of the periodical *American History Illustrated* to our research library.

Mike Seifried for donating his expertise to update our website.

Dick Carlson for the use of his barn at Rolling Green Farm for the STHS Repeats History reception.

John Touhey for conceiving of and leading the planning for the STHS Repeats History dinner.

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 to place your ad in the next *Solebury Chronicle*.)

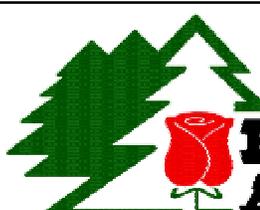
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Upcoming STHS Events

- August 25** Summer Picnic: 4-7 p.m.
Home of Linda Kenyon
- September 21** STHS Repeats History -
Gala Dinner Party
Get your tickets online at
soleburyhistory.org.
- October 27** Solebury Friends Cemetery
Tour: Noon
- November 17** Annual Meeting: Pot Luck
supper: 5-8 p.m.
- January 1, 2014** NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH
Holly Hedge Estates

STHS members receive invitations to all STHS events.

Related Community Events

- October 19** Trinity House Tour, featuring
historic houses in Solebury
and Upper Makefield
townships. 215-297-5135
-
-

Do You Know?



This is a street scene in Solebury Township in 1935. What road is this (it's now paved!) and what is the building in the picture (it's no longer there)?

Call 215-297-5091 or email your answer to
soleburyhistory@verizon.net. You may win a prize!