

Solebury Chronicle



A newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society

NEW— Winter Art Series **Painting with the Impression-sips!**

We're going to have fun, learn about some of the great artists of our area, and create our own masterpiece. The informal classes will be taught by talented local artists. Easels, art supplies and canvases will be included.

The purpose of this series, created by Board member Melody Hunt, is four fold: to highlight our Bucks County Impressionists as a way, in some cases, to introduce and in all cases, illuminate our rich artistic heritage; to raise funds to support our not-for-profit organization, and to just plain have fun.

We will host these get-togethers in our own historic schoolhouse each with a 20 person maximum. Local artists will present the material. Everyone will be able to keep his or her creation as a keepsake of the fun afternoon. BYOB and we'll have some tasty treats to go along with your beverage.

No Experience Necessary! Attend one, two or all three.

The classes will be held on the following Sunday afternoons, from 2:30 to 5 p.m.:

January 18
Moonlit Winter Scene inspired by George Sotter

February 15
Abstract work inspired by Ramstonev Co-operative Project

March 15
Spring Scene inspired by Fern Coppedge's *Red Bud Time*

Sponsorship opportunities are available.
For more information call 215-297-5091
or visit www.soleburyhistory.org.



Melody Hunt with painting inspired by Fern Coppedge's Red Bud Time



Winter scene inspired by George Sotter's Moonlight in Bucks County



Bent elbow inspired by Ramstomy Co-operative Project

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History Quiz

Of all the artists in what is known as the New Hope School, who was known for finishing his/her painting in one day?

Answer on page 4

President's Message

The STHS has had a great summer: I hope the same is true for you and your family. As our current renovations plans near completion, we find ourselves focusing on organizational goals. Thanks to **Robert McEwan, Judy Clarke, Marilyn Lanctot, Rita Flack, Gwen Davis and Dick Carlson**, our books, historic house files, family files, education records, maps and various collections are slowly becoming organized. And as this progresses, we are able to put a lot of this information on our website, thanks to our talented internet volunteers **Mike Seifried and Beth Carrick**. It is amazing to be able to easily point someone in the correct direction for the information they might be seeking.

THANKS TO...Our picnic was a roaring success this year due to **Linda Kenyon's** dedication and tireless work. The "old" games, Jacks, Pickup Sticks, and the colored chalk, really made it feel like "back to school." And, of course, to the many members that volunteered their services, we just can't thank you enough. (Please see the article and photos on page 3.) It truly is such a blessing to have so much help to make the event even more successful and more fun.

And so we slip into fall. It is my favorite season and we do have several events planned. October 4 is the Cuttalossa Walking Tour. **Will Rivinus will give us the fascinating history of the valley and Dave Benner** will enlighten us with facts about the trees and shrubs along the way. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 16. More details will follow. **Melody Hunt** has been working on some exciting new ideas for early next year (see front page), and of course we hope you will plan to join us as we bring in 2015 with our festive New Year's Brunch.

It has been a wonderful year, and we anticipate 2015 being even more exciting.

Donneta K Crane

Solebury Township Historical Society
Drawer 525

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215-297-5091

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2014 Board of Directors

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Joan Fitting

Sally Jagoe

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Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting. We'll get the business part of the evening out of the way as quickly as possible so everyone has plenty of time to enjoy scrumptious food, wine, great friends and some interactive fun.

Sunday, November 16, 2014

5 to 8 p.m.

Audubon Visitor Center

2877 Creamery Road

Solebury, PA

We ask that you bring a dish for 6 to share: hor d'oeuvres, salad, side dish or dessert.

If you'd like to help set up, set out or clean up please contact Linda Kenyon, 202-674-8547 or lindakenyon@verizon.net.

Many came “back to school” for the summer picnic

The grounds of our lovely historic schoolhouse were the venue for this year’s Summer Picnic. The theme was “Back to School: Recess” so we had some games ready.... but people were so happy to be there, catching up and meeting new people, that no one started jumping rope, throwing horse shoes or playing jacks or marbles. There was a little Hop Scotch and Pick up Sticks going on.

Our members raved about the wine, which was selected by Peter Gatto; home-made lemonade was a perfect treat.

So many members volunteered for the day. Gwen Davis and Jeanne Ozols signed people in and greeted them warmly, Trinity Church loaned us tables and chairs, which were transported and set up by a team that included Don Fitting, Brian Keyes with his truck, Marnie Leasure with a van and, Linda and Rachel Kenyon.

The setting at our schoolhouse looked very festive with Linda’s colorful tablecloths. Afterwards Claire Donohue insisted on washing all of them! And we were blessed with perfect weather.

Stephanie Garomon arranged flowers for the tables. The Mintzer grandchildren set out some games and decorations, and Chuck Mintzer kept two barbecue grills going with no breaks! There were None Such hamburgers, hot dogs and spicy and mild Italian sausages. Paul and Marilyn Lanctot were expert bartenders, Betsy Thomas and Marne Dietterich set the food out, which was plentiful and super delicious!

The clean-up crew was amazing: many thanks to Charlotte Zanidakis, Joan and Don Fitting, Lisa Gladden Keyes, Brian Keyes, Bill MacDowell and his truck, Claire and Jack Donohue, Pam Burrell, Peter Gatto, Linda and Rachel Kenyon, and Marnie Newman Leasure! Others pitched in so if your name isn’t here, please know that we are most grateful for your help.

Before the event Robert McEwan arranged to have the path lights installed, and he and Peter Gatto lined the path with stones; Donneta Crane and Elaine Crooks pulled weeds and dug out poison ivy, and Linda Kenyon cleaned inside the schoolhouse.

It was lots of fun working, playing and picnicking together.



The group just loves to eat, and desserts are a favorite!



Just setting up for hop scotch was a challenge!



The Solebury schoolhouse grounds were a lovely setting.



The Society's Archives and Library

Perhaps a good place to start describing what the Solebury Township Historical Society has to offer the researcher and the curious is to point out the difference between the archives and the library.

The archives, which are of primary importance and are much broader in scope than just print, contain materials unique to Solebury Township and nearby communities and include not just documents, letters, deeds, periodical and newspaper articles, tax, land and court records, pamphlets and books—unpublished, locally published or out-of-print—but maps, photographs and oral records of the old-timers and the newer residence recounting their experiences in this area. In other words, research sources that either cannot be found anywhere else or would be difficult to find.

The books in the library are, for the most part, commercially published and available outside Solebury Township. They are considered background, aids to research and are of secondary importance. There are three of us, me, Rita Flack and Marilyn Lanctot, who have been working mainly with these library books. Our first job has been to weed out books which did not support the archives. We asked the following questions: Is this book relevant to Solebury Township; is it commonly available elsewhere; will it help someone looking up family or property history; does it have information on local architecture, occupations, schools, ferries or other topics of interest? Once weeded out and reorganized, the bibliography for these books is being put on the Society's website.

We have also been working on the archives. Rita and Marilyn have organized, labeled and put into proper archival boxes the attendance records going back to 1926 for some of the township's one-room school houses. The Society has recently received several large collections, notably those of Will Rivinus, our well-known local historian and preservationist, and Alston Waring, who traveled the world before settling in Solebury Township and was instrumental in the protecting the Honey Hollow Watershed. Both collections have a wealth of original papers, letters, periodical articles, notes and photographs, which will be invaluable for research purposes once they have been inventoried, sorted out, organized and filed in proper archive sleeves and boxes. The final step is to make all the Society's resources available here in the school house and on our website.

In order to keep those of us who are working in various areas of the archives focused, the Society's directors are in the process of adopting a donation/acquisition/de-acquisition policy. Written guidelines will take the guess work out of how the collection of archives and books should develop in the future.

So stop in to the schoolhouse some Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 5 p.m. and see what we have to offer. Hope to see you soon.

Judy Clarke, STHS Librarian

P. Alston and Beulah Waring Archives Gift

Priscilla Waring, granddaughter of Alston and Beulah and daughter of Theodor and Barbara Waring, recently found herself moving and felt it was time to part with her family's remaining treasure trove of photos, magazine articles and information. Some years ago Priscilla graciously thought of and promised STHS that she would give it to us, and that day has come.

As many members know, Alston Waring of Honey Hollow was an active man in many fields. Of particular note is his involvement in, and his written history of, the Honey Hollow Watershed farmer's pioneering and successful conservation practices in the 1930s. The program was no small accomplishment. Solebury farmers lead the way for changes in farming across the country. They are widely recognized for their work and were made Solebury Honored Citizens in 2003.

Our archivists are combing through the information and preparing files to make it accessible to members and interested researchers. In addition we have recently posted Mr. Waring's book *The Story of Honey Hollow and the Origins of the Conservation Movement in Pennsylvania* on our website for those who want to catch up on farming techniques that are in world wide use today. In the not too distant future we hope to publish more of the Waring family's stories and accomplishments.

Many thanks to Priscilla for these valuable archives of our history.

Any member who wants to get involved in the Warings and other family archives is more than welcome to join the work every Wednesday afternoon between 3 to 5 p.m. All you need is an eye to read and enjoy the many stories and facts of Solebury's history!

History Quiz

Edward Redfield

Donneta Crane

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There's a wealth of information at soleburyhistory.org

Have you looked at the Society web site lately? It continues to get better. Our latest changes involve rearranging some of the items on the main menu to make them more accessible. In addition we are posting more information about our collections and adding maps. Of course, we still have information of interest to members and news about our events.

The **Photos** section now appears under **Events**, since these photos are almost all from Society events. The **Old Postcard** section has been renamed and moved, as noted below. We are also adding a section called **Past Events** where photos from events in previous years will still be available.

Notice the new label **Research** on the menu bar. If you click on it you will see two choices. One is **Collections** that will open a page showing what is available in the schoolhouse for research. Most of these entries are lists that show what is in each collection. For example, the Society is the repository for some old school and tax records. The oldest school records are from 1921, the latest from 1967. There are a few from some of the one-room schools, but not every year or every grade is included. If someone you know attended school in this time period and you know the school, you can check to see if that year is included. (To dig deeper, you will have to visit the schoolhouse on Wednesday afternoon.) Under **Collections** is also where you can see the reports from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the group that surveyed our archives in 2013. This list on the **Collections** page will continue to grow as we compile and edit our records and receive more gifts from members.

The second choice under **Research** is **On-line Exhibits**. A click on this opens a submenu that offers many choices. You can see **Historic Maps** that you can zoom in on. Jesse Crooks has searched far and wide to find these maps. Jesse has also been scanning **Historic Photos**, and these will be available soon. Sally Grant Jagoe, former president of the Society, Joan Fitting, former Society archivist, and others have allowed us to scan their **Historic Postcard** collections and display them on the web. Will Rivinus gave all of his postcards to the Society and these have also been scanned and posted. In addition we are collecting **Historic Drawings** and sketches, many from old maps, to show what farms and houses in the Township looked like many years ago.

Another entry on this submenu is **Interactive Maps**. These maps show places of interest in the Township. Our first map shows the location of the early schools before the consolidation of schools and the opening of the "new" building in 1938. Only two of these old schools are no longer in existence, and many of the rest are private homes. A second map shows the Solebury locations that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Did you know that there are 15 in the township? More of these interactive maps will be coming soon, including those for our tours and walks.

We have moved the **Oral Histories** to this same submenu. Be sure to check them out. You can listen to varied people talking about their lives and their friends. Don't miss the interviews with Maude Cathers telling about the schools in the early 20th century, Edward Redfield telling about his life, or the canal workers telling about life on the Delaware Canal. Some of the tapes are 50 years old. The oral history project has been carried out jointly with the New Hope Historical Society.

Take a look at www.soleburyhistory.org. There is much to learn about our historic home area.

Can you help?

Ned Harrington's books need to be typed into a computer to put on our website. These booklets range from 3 to 35 pages of typing: can you help get these whimsical history tales posted to a larger audience?? Just do one! Many hands make light work – do it at home when you have a few minutes then email it to us.

We're looking for some items for the schoolhouse

We have plans to equip our schoolhouse to accommodate public educational programs. To accomplish this, we will need the following items:

1. Lectern: suitable to accommodate a speaker's laptop.
2. Large flat screen TV: We plan to mount this on the wall to project visuals to enhance our educational programs.

Donations that REALLY help – Many thanks . . .

Flat-drawer Map file

We are greatly indebted to **George Yarnall and his family** who gave this invaluable (for STHS Archivists and visitors) filing cabinet. The Yarnalls gave this in memory of their father, **Richard A. Yarnall**, who used it for many years in his architecture practice. Richard Yarnall's work files were donated to his Alma Mater, The University of Pennsylvania Architecture School. This gift is just in time to house the many recent additions to our archives including our map collection and numerous large photographs that benefit from the protective drawers which allow us all quick access. We are happy to put this fixture to work in memory of a long time STHS member and his family.

Stone edging work and outdoor path lighting

We are grateful to volunteer **Peter Gatto** and board member **Robert McEwan** who placed a stone edging along the side of the schoolhouse and to contractor **Brad Livezey** who installed the lighting. These lights are just in time for shorter days so path walkers will not stumble, or if they do, they will see where they are falling!

Chairs

As we work toward using the Schoolhouse more frequently for meetings and education programs, we have finally found some decent metal chairs. Thank you **Elaine and Malcolm Crooks** for the gift, which will serve many backsides for years to come. Special thanks to **Robert McEwan** who is laboriously removing some rust and repainting these chairs.

Books

We are being vigilant with books to assure we have space for what really pertains to Solebury Township. One area we do enjoy developing is books by residents who manage to mention and shed light on Solebury in days past. Some of the recent gifts:

Smile because it happened - James P. Melson from his daughter **Jane Melson Yates**, who assembled her father's memoirs. Our local auto emissions specialist, and past Solebury Schoolhouse student lived quite a life. The early part of his book sheds vibrant light on growing up in Solebury and life of a high school student in the post wars years.

Men of Notes - Don Walker from his daughter **Ann Liebgold** who assembled Don's musical memoirs and published them in 2013. If you like to learn about something new (Orchestration), enjoy the golden age of Broadway Musicals, and like to read about some of the icons of American music like Cole Porter, Richard Rogers, and Oscar Hammerstein, this is a very rewarding read. Of particular Solebury note is the close proximity of artists to each other, the travel in and out of NYC and Don's lively recounting about walking up Aquetong Road one snowy day to talk to show writers.

Ruminations in Search of Destiny - R. Ashbridge Yarnall from his son, **George Yarnall**. As this is a recent donation, we have yet to read it, but it is good to have this 'bookend' to go with the filing cabinet!

Photos

Will Rivinus added to the trove of documents he has shared with STHS by a passing along his "old" postcard collection. These cover Solebury, New Hope, The Canal and other Bucks County locations. The ones that are specific to Solebury and our area are already posted on our web site, merged with other Postcards collected over the years.

HELP!!

Who gave us wonderful photos of Centre Bridge and the "avidson House?" These were placed on our conference table one recent day but no one left us a note saying who donated them. One of the many great ones is the 1927 Centre Bridge one-room Schoolhouse, its teacher and students.



Do you know any of the students pictured above? Their teacher pictured on the left is Mrs. Pritchard.

Many thanks to all donors for their generous and thoughtful gifts.

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.

Penny and John Armagost, Jr.
Edward & Alexandra Leydon
Bill and Jane MacDowell
Janice Spurr
Barbara Gross
Peter Hambleton
Candace Jones & Stephen Phillips

Every effort has been made to publish a complete and accurate list of memberships received since the last newsletter (June) and up to about September 20, 2014. We regret if there are any omissions.

Membership is our most important source of income

You will soon be receiving a renewal letter for your 2015 Society membership. Upon renewing we will send your new Membership Card with all the benefits good through December 31, 2015.

May we ask you to respond promptly and as generously as possible? Membership is the Society's largest source of income. If you respond to our first request, there will be no need to spend the time and money to send a second or third request.

Please note that even if you paid your 2014 dues in recent months, you will be receiving a 2015 renewal letter this fall for 2015. This is because we are switching to a once a year renewal process, and we appreciate your understanding this one time. After you renew for 2015 we promise not to bother you again for membership until late fall of 2015.



YOU. FIRST.



Michael Scavullo, CSA • 215-794-3393
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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 info@soleburyhistory.com to place your ad in the next *Solebury Chronicle*.)

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

Addison Wolfe Real Estate
Bountiful Acres
First National Bank & Trust of Newtown
Rockwood Wealth Management

Protector

Black Bass Hotel
Eagle Diner
Finkels Hardware
Holly Hedge Estates
Rago Art
Tinsman Brothers Inc.

Guardian

Delray Plus True Value
First Federal of Bucks County
Mancuso Show Management
Nakashima Woodworkers

Highlighting a Business Member

(In each issue of the Chronicle we will highlight one of our business members.)

HollyHedge Estate is a premier destination for unique weddings and corporate retreats nestled in the heart of scenic Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This family-run, family-owned business has committed itself to preserving the rustic elegance and natural beauty of the historic farm and estate. The original 18th-century manor house and fieldstone out-buildings provide fifteen rustic, charming guest rooms.

Whether working with clients to craft their dream wedding or facilitating intimate corporate retreats, every effort is made to ensure good stewardship of the estate's history and the pristine land on which they are located. Holly Hedge's award-winning catering team works with local distributors and farmers to inspire delicious seasonal dishes, and they are committed to high-end service and top-end, restaurant quality fare to all occasions.

6987 Upper York Road, New Hope PA 18938
215-862-3136
www.hollyhedge.com



Solebury Township Historical Society
Drawer 525
Solebury, PA 18963

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 16, 5 to 8 p.m.

Society Annual Meeting / covered dish
supper at the Audubon Visitor Center
(see p.2)

2015

January 1, noon - 3 p.m.

New Year's Brunch
Holly Hedge Estates

January 18, 2:30 - 5 p.m. Art Series

Moonlit Winter Scene inspired by George Sotter

February 15, 2:30 - 5 p.m. Art Series

Abstract work inspired by Ramstonev
Co-operative Project

March 15, 2:30 - 5 p.m. Art Series

Spring Scene inspired by Fern Coppidge's
Red Bud Time

Visit soleburyhistory.org for details closer to the dates.
STHS members will receive invitations to all events.

Our Postcard Collection



Drive along Passapatanz Creek, near Black Bass Hotel, Summer Resort on Delaware River,
Lumberville, Bucks County, Pa., G. W. Wynkoop, Proprietor.

Dec-29-1907

Current location: Fleecydale Road, Lumberville