



Solebury Chronicle

The Newsletter of Solebury Township Historical Society

You're invited to

Solebury Township Historical Society



2015 Dinner in Solebury
Saturday, September 26, 2015



Master chef Ian Knauer will be preparing our meal.

Cost: \$100.00/pp

- Kick-off at the home of Robert and Alexandra Ellison begins at 5:30 PM.
 Enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres.
 Discover where and with whom you will be dining.
- Follow your map to one of twelve homes. Dinner begins at 7:00 PM.
 Make your reservations early, seating is limited.
 Tell a friend.
 Please bring your host/hostess a bottle of wine to share

Proceeds to support the care and maintenance of our one-room schoolhouse

Reservations:

By phone: John Touhey, 215 297-9799

Via paypal @ www.soleburyhistory.org

Inside This Issue

- 2015 Dinner
- Presidents Letter
- Business Member Highlight
- First Graders
- Business Members
- Archives
- Aquetong Lake
- Grants
- New Treasurer
- Web Highlight
- Scholarships
- Painting Parties
- New members and renewals
- Upcoming Events
- Annual Picnic



Scenes from our 2013 Dinner

Solebury Township Historical Society

Drawer 525
Solebury, PA 18963
215-297-5091

Email: info@soleburyhistory.org
Website: www.soleburyhistory.org

Board of Directors

Stephanie Garomon, *President*
Robert McEwan, *Vice President*
Vicki DeHaven, *Treasurer*
Brian Booth, *Finance*
Judy Clarke, *Archive*
Gwen Davis, *Research*
Melody Hunt, *Development*
Marnie Newman-Leasure, *Education*
Charlotte Zanidakis, *Grants*

Consultants

Donneta Crane, *membership*
Beth Carrick, *web*
Jesse Crooks, *historian*

Mission

Our resources, the schoolhouse, archives and people, will work to educate and promote an appreciation of Solebury's history. The board and member volunteers will reach out to our township, county, state, and others by bringing together citizens in regular social and educational events as well by individually assisting those seeking family and local history information.

Do you know someone who you feel is worthy of being considered to receive the Honored Citizen of Solebury Award? Check our website or call 215-297- 5091 for a nomination form.

A Message from the President



Hello Society Members,

We are a little more than half way through a year of changes for the Society and as you can see we are now publishing the newsletter in color. Our website continues to grow with new additions being added weekly. I am always grateful to receive an e-mail or a phone call from someone who is doing historic research and has found our website extremely useful. Another huge change was the conversion of our accounting into the Quick-books program thanks to our brilliant Treasurer Vicki Lynn DeHaven. We can now receive detailed reports down to the penny and in the future, a new treasurer will be able to transition easily.

We have two exciting events coming up. Our annual picnic on August 30th will be held at a beautiful historic home in Solebury and our 2015 Dinner Fundraiser on September 26th. We would love to see you at both. The backbone of our organization are the individual and business members, volunteers, and those who so generously donate money. As president I have the task of reaching out to our community and neighboring communities for membership and volunteers. We have many areas that can fit your talents and interests while supporting this valuable and growing society. If you know of someone who would like to get involved or become a member ask them to contact us. There is great excitement and enthusiasm for our future plans. Become a part of them and make history matter.

Yours Truly,

Stephanie Garomon

Stephanie Garomon, President

Highlighting a Business Member

Principal, Adam D. Crews, PLS, has years of experience working with local companies, government agencies, and homeowners to provide accurate Land Surveying of all types. Including Thomas H. Crews, PLS, they bring more than 50 years of experience to every job they do. Crews Surveying, LLC, offers complete land surveying for any kind of residential, commercial, industrial and government job. Crews Surveying, LLC was the first firm in Bucks County to utilize GPS technology, which improved upon the company's capabilities and effectiveness, and continues to utilize the latest technologies to improve efficiency and value.

We welcome **Crews Surveying, LLC** to our family of Business Members.

1806 Deep Run Road, Suite B Pipersville, PA 18947
215-766-2477 www.crewssurveying.com

Education Committee Welcomes New Hope-Solebury First Grade Students

By Marnie Newman-Leasure

During the week of June 8, the Solebury Township Historical Society hosted the five, first grade classes of the New Hope-Solebury Lower Elementary School at the historic, stone one-room schoolhouse known in the 19th century at the Centre Hill School. The children walked over to the



school and were met by schoolmarm, Sally Jagoe, who greeted them by ringing the school bell. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Kindness Pledge and roll call, the students

split into three groups. They learned about the importance of penmanship during earlier times and practiced writing using different historic implements.



Each child made his/her own tin lantern, discovering the art of tin punching and the importance of tin lanterns before electricity to protect candles from the wind. They also

played schoolyard games like jump rope, tug-of-war and hot potato with volunteer Linda Kenyon.



In 1756, Samuel Eastburn deeded a small tract at Upper York and Sugaan Road to the overse-

ers of the Buckingham Meeting for the establishment of a school. A stone school, known as Centre Hill School, was erected soon after, the first school in Solebury Township. In 1808, the operation of the school came under the leadership of the newly established Solebury Friends Meeting, the school continued to be called the Centre Hill School. In 1810, the school was rebuilt; it is believed the

original school burned. The school continued to be run by the local Quakers until 1870 when the school was transferred to Solebury Township; it was one of 13 elementary schools in the Township at the time. At the time of transfer, the school was rebuilt again; the existing school, therefore, dates to 1870. It is believed to be the oldest continuously occupied school site in the state of Pennsylvania.



Through its program, the Historical Society tried to emphasize the difference between school today and in the past as well as teach the children about Solebury Township history. It was an exciting week for the students and plans are already in place for a trip to the past next year in the fall.



History Quiz

What Solebury Community was originally named "Readings Ferry" in 1704?

Archivist's Making Great Progress

By Judy Clarke



Rita Flack and Marilyn Lanctot have been working with me to continue to archive collections big and small and the more of them we do, the better we get at it. The material from the New Hope Women's Club, donated by May Cosden, is archived and we have finished the Waring papers and publications by and about **Alston Waring**. We will start on the boxes of Waring photographs and try to archive them with some logical order. The archive system which we are using is simple, flexible and expandable. As we finish with a file or set of papers, we put them in the archive boxes and shelve them. Gwen Davis is doing a great job in adding to the scrap books of news and events in the area.

The story of the Honey Hollow Watershed

In 1939, the five property owners of the 650-acre Honey Hollow Watershed united to protect the viability of their farmland. Their efforts were aided by the Soil Conservation Service (US Department of Agriculture) in Upper Darby, PA. By 1941 terraces and diversion ditches were built to control runoff on steep slopes and hedges were planted to control erosion. Their

successful experiments in contour plowing and other soil and water conservation techniques served as examples for farmers around the country. This was the first agricultural area in a small watershed to show the benefits of soil, water, and wildlife conservation. Conservation education programs continue today through the Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center.

Included are the families of Forrest Crooks, Francis Fitting, **Alston Waring**, Samuel Hopps, and Charles Wendig. Their efforts to protect their farmland were recognized nationally in 1969 when the US Department of the Interior designated the watershed as a National Historic Landmark, the only agricultural landmark in the nation.

For more information, you can read the book The Story of Honey Hollow and the Origins of the Conservation Movement in Pennsylvania, written by P. Alston Waring, one of these

property owners is on our website, www.soleburyhistory.org

Alston and Beulah (Hurley) Waring were prominent citizens in Solebury Township from the late 1920s, when they purchased the farm that was later to become part of the Honey Hollow Watershed, through the 1970s. Before that, they had traveled extensively in Europe and Asia with Quaker service committees, often with the goal of improving agricultural practices in rural areas.. The archive was donated by their grand daughter, Priscilla Waring, in 2014, and includes family memorabilia and several publications by and about the Waring's.

For more information on these stories visit our website www.soleburyhistory.org

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
- Crews Surveying, LLC
- First National Bank & Trust Company of New-

- town
- Rockwood Wealth Management

Protector

- Eagle Diner
- Finkles Hardware
- Holly Hedge Estates

- Rago Art
- Tinsman Brothers Inc.
- Guardian**
- Delray Plus True Value
- Mancuso Show Management
- Nakashima Woodworker

History Quiz

Answer: Centre Bridge. The community took the name of Colonel John Reading who operated the town's first ferry from 1704 to 1711. A century later in 1811 the ferry ceased operation so the town was renamed Centre Bridge.

Recording history as it happens...The lake is no more!



2015-July 21 – Dam has been cut and creek is finding its path – DWS

Our web site now features an extensive review of Aquetong Lake's final days. In collaboration with Township Manager Dennis Carney, STHS set up a permanent "chapter" in our Collections section devoted to the lake. In future days residents and researchers will be able to understand

what was there and why an extensive park features the Aquetong Stream from the headwaters of the Great Spring. We could not have done this without the help of many people mentioned on the web site, but particular great thanks go to

Beth Carrick, the master behind the web posting, the map and details, and to our main photographer Don Schoenleber, who visited (and continues to visit) the lake throughout the last year to record the seasons, flora, fauna, dam deconstruction, and the emergence of the new stream head.

Please find some time to browse through the site and enjoy the photos, maps, and details of the changes. One hundred forty-five years of a landscape many assumed was permanent has begun a major change to a new life.

<http://soleburyhistory.org/on-line-exhibits/aquetong-spring-park/>



Aquetong Lake

Over a year of research and time consuming effort, the Grants Committee is smiling over the recent news.

The Solebury Township Historical Society Grants Committee was formed in the spring of 2014 with Committee chair **Charlotte Zanidakis**, to seek funds that will aid our growing event needs, preservation of archives/library, and maintain the schoolhouse facility - just to name a few ongoing projects.

Board members are always discovering new ideas to share with the community regarding archive preservation, events (including painting lessons while sipping some wine!), oral histo-

ries, educational programs (third graders loved the schoolhouse water foundation!), first graders going back in time, local history lectures, picnics/annual meetings, and environmental walks. These numerous activities require enhancements and amenities to the schoolhouse along with a need of technical equipment for the lectures and education programs.

Recently STHS received two awards:

The Norman Raab Foundation: STHS

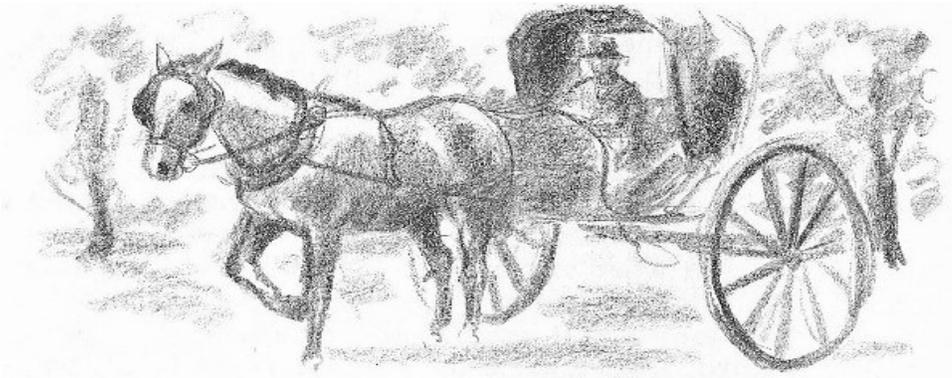
was selected to receive a discretionary grant from Norman Raab Foundation trustee Stephen Raab.

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) Philadelphia Stewardship Program, funded by the William Penn Foundation: STHS was awarded a Preservation Needs Assessment which includes a site visit to conduct the preservation assessment of our archives which are maintained by Archive Chair, Judy Clarke.



STHS welcomes Vicki Lynn DeHaven our new Treasurer and member of the Finance Committee.

In February Vicki Lynn DeHaven joined STHS to become the treasurer and executive board member. Vicki, a Doylestown Boro resident, comes with 35 years of accounting background and has had a bookkeeping service for the past 27 years. STHS now has been converted to QuickBooks and set up for budgets and proper accounting and reconciliations for monthly reporting that can integrate with all the committees and members. We are so pleased to have Vicki be a part of the Society.

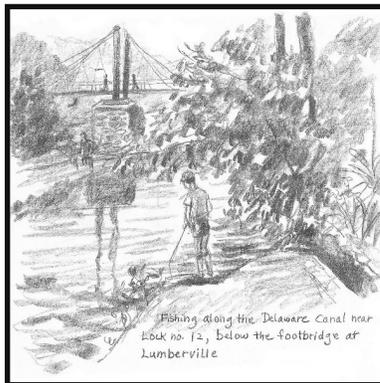


One of Phoebe Taylor's many drawings on our website

We are pleased to have on our website two cookbooks by author Phoebe Taylor published by **Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury** with recipes from her family and friends. The pencil illustrations in both books are priceless.

- *Country Recipes from Bucks County Old and New, 3d Edition*
- *More Country Recipes from Bucks County from Bucks County Old and New*

Bucks Cooks was an enormous gastronomic and fund-raising success when published in 1950 by the Women's Auxiliary of Trinity Chapel in Solebury. Parish members, iconic artists, personalities, and local residents all contributed recipes, art work, calligraphy, and time to make this and the second volume published in 1983 an overwhelming success selling 65,000 copies in a township of less than 7,500 homes! **Trinity Church is a neighbor of STHS in Solebury Village and the vestry has graciously granted us permission to include these two cookbooks on our website. Our thanks go to the vestry and members of the church.**



Phoebe Taylor was a multi-talented woman whose family had deep ties in Bucks County. Although she was raised in California, throughout her childhood she and her family visited the Holicong area where her grandmother and aunts lived. In 1960 she moved to Holicong where she raised her family and boarded her beloved horses. Her talents included drawing, illustrating, writing, painting, gardening, and horsemanship. During the later years of her life she self-published and sold a number of small books and very charming pamphlets that featured her writing and drawings. These works bring close the early 20th century farming and country life for which Bucks

Continued on page 7

STHS Education Committee awards scholarships to local high school seniors.

Nicholas Damarodis is a graduating senior from New Hope-Solebury High School, an AP Scholar and Honor Roll student. Since elementary school, he has known he wanted to be a reporter. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, *The Lion's Tale*, as a junior and senior. A first generation college student, Nick plans to major in Journalism.

Kate Voynow, of Princeton, is a junior at Solebury School. The co-founder of the History Club, a discussion-based club that covers World and U.S. History topics, Kate believes history has opened many intellectual doors for her. She particularly likes the Pre-American Revolutionary Era and hopes to eventually become a history teacher.

Leah Hunt is a junior at Solebury School. She lives in Stockton and recently interned at the Primrose Creek Watershed Association where she researched and wrote about the Grover Farm on Phillips Mill Road and early Solebury Township farming history. She has always loved family history, as told to her by her father and grandmother and is grateful to live in an area with such a rich past and present culture.

The **#GivingTuesday** promotion enabled us to achieve our goal for our scholarship campaign. Many thanks to those who gave.

Please consider a DESK donation! STHS' recent week of "class day in a one room schoolhouse" for the community's first graders was a great success: the 4 old fashioned small desks were a major hit with all the children. We are looking to increase the number of desks to about 9. If you have one that you could donate, please email us or call Robert McEwan [215 479 4711](tel:215-479-4711) who will be pleased to pick it up.

The Brainchild of Development Chair

On a Sunday afternoon in January, February and March, Development Chair, **Melody Hunt** and her committee held STHS's first annual Impression-Sips BYOB painting party. As you can see from these pictures, there are many budding artists in Solebury!

We are looking forward to our second annual BYOB painting party in 2016.



Our Winter Impression-Sips 1, 2, & 3 Fundraiser at the Schoolhouse

Con't from page 6

County is rightfully famous.

Friends recall Phoebe Taylor's dedication to her Quaker life and her love of riding every day. Her love of horses and keen eye for detail comes across in her skillful drawings. STHS is pleased to present copies of her work that we have in hand. Many of the houses, farms, and scenes that are illustrated in the books remain the same today, but we benefit from seeing them through her eyes. In addition you can listen to her oral history recording on our website.



The four Atkinson girls and their mother Anne Atkinson

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ahern, Violet and Jack | Macey & Paul Savidge |
| Ammirati, Maureen | Marcus |
| Appleton, Wendy | Markey, Thomas O |
| Armagost, Jr. | Martin, David & Carole |
| Benner, David | McEwan, Robert & Maria |
| Bogen, Paul & Marianne | McGee, Nancy |
| Carr, Bob & Dotty | Melby, Rob & Bobbie |
| Carrick, Beth- | Melson, Sarah |
| Chiesa | Morrissey |
| Crews Surveying | Raabe, Dr Gerhard & Barbara |
| Gagner | Rivas |
| Goss, Dave | Sauter, Eric & Beth Olanoff |
| Griffith, Jacqui & David | Schmidt, Michael J & Elizabeth |
| Harvey, L Rhea | Spurr, Janice |
| Hoffman, Lynn | Stiefel |
| Johnson, Mary | Straton, Barbara |
| Keim Comley, Nancy | Sullivan |
| Linda Kenyon | Tinsman, Susan D |
| Kimmel | Topolin |
| Liebgold | Yarnall |
| Longcore, Meagan & D DiMicco | Yerkes, George & Judy |

Upcoming Events



Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 30 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
at the home of Wayne and Tracey Fowler
4223 Carversville-Wisner Road
Bring a side dish and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs,
sausages, and beverages provided by STHS
\$12.50 per person
No reservations necessary, pay at the door.



2015 Dinner in Solebury

Saturday, September 26 (See front page of newsletter)

Join our dynamic team

STHS offers many opportunities to become involved with this growing local organization. You will get to know some wonderful people while serving your community and having lots of fun. Do you enjoy giving parties? If so perhaps you'd like to become involved with one or more of the society's social or educational events. Do you like to write, or take photos? We could use that help also. Just call "president" Stephanie at 215-595-7402 to talk to her about the many ways you can fit into our organization.



Solebury Township Historical Society
Drawer 525
Solebury, PA 18963

PLACE
STAMP
HERE