

**Oral History Committee Report
February 8, 2017**

Oral History Feb 2017

1. Headstones at Holly Pond Farm

Darcy: I checked with our informant who sent pictures of the headstones under the floorboards in the rental property at Holly Pond Farm, tracked the ownership to PNC Bank courtesy of the sales agent. I heard from the bank itself regarding access to the headstones. The property is currently under contract, and it will be up to the new owner to let us in and/or remove the floorboards for access. The bank assures me that the purchaser is aware of the headstones. All is currently on hold.

2. Columbus Oak project

Darcy: Interviewed Dave Benner on Monday, Feb 6 regarding the Columbus Oak. Great information, fun interview. Information will be used to create story for education programs with elementary school. A working draft of the story will be available for the spring Kindergarten visits in April. Sally Jagoe accompanied me to observe the interview.

3. Oral history interview questions

Darcy: The suggested list of general questions offered by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and presented in the Smithsonian Guide to Folklife and Oral History Interviewing is linked to our website but is difficult to find because the reader must know to look for them in the booklet. I contacted the Center and asked for printed copies of the booklet. However the Center does not have print copies. They did, however, send me a pdf of the question list which I would like to have linked directly to the website.

4. Workshops

Darcy: The committee is planning and preparing a three-session workshop on oral history and folklife fieldwork and field recordings. I would like to present this workshop on three consecutive Sunday afternoons March into April, or April into May, depending on scheduling for the Schoolhouse. The workshop will be based on the material in the Smithsonian Guide to Folklife and Oral History Interviewing and Folklife and Fieldwork: An Introduction to Cultural Documentation. Because we've been getting inquiries regarding field collecting from fledgling organizations I'd like to open our registration to other organizations as well.

5. Partnership with Bucks County Community College

On the recommendation of Noor Takiedine, Robert McEwan sent an introductory email to Samantha Gross, a history professor at the Bucks County Community College, with a proposal for obtaining student interns to assist with the Land Preservation project. Laura Kim assisted in the development of the short proposal.

On Feb 4, 2017, Laura Kim and Robert McEwan had a Facetime meeting with Samantha Gross, who informed us that she will be teaching a summer course on oral history and that her students may be interested in conducting an actual oral history exercise. While the initial conversation topic focused on land preservation, all three participants agreed that interested students should be able pursue other thematic areas, including but not limited to: 1) land preservation, 2) artists and/or musicians of Solebury, 3) Women's March attendees, 4) LGBT community and activism, 5) civil rights movement, 6) immigration to Solebury. Samantha also informed us that there may be opportunities for interested

students in other departments as well as honors students to engage in longer-term internships. Samantha stated that she will be reaching out to her colleagues and students and STHS will wait to hear from her.

Darcy Fair will be following up with Samantha in the next few weeks as Laura Kim will be on work travel.

6. Recording Women's March attendees on January 21, 2017

The Women's March was the largest one-day protest to ever occur in US history. Darcy Fair and Laura Kim (an attendee in Washington) propose a project in which Solebury resident attendees can be interviewed and recorded. Initial informal solicitations have shown that there is high interest among attendees to have their stories and experiences preserved.