

Solebury Chronicle

The Newsletter of the Solebury Township Historical Society



2019 Solebury New Year's Day Brunch

Holly Hedge Estate
6987 Upper York Road
New Hope, PA
Tuesday, January 1
12:00 - 2:30 PM
\$65.00 per person

12:00

Meet your neighbors over complimentary cider and cash bar

12:30

Brunch is served

1:30 – 2:30

Honored Citizens Award • Silent Auction winners announced • Raffle drawing

AMAZING RAFFLE

Support STHS Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Raffle prizes will include certificates at fine local restaurants, spas, shops, and more.

SILENT AUCTION

Be prepared to bid on some wonderful items.

MENU

Omelet Station • Steamship Round • Honey-Roasted Spiral Ham • Poached Salmon
• Salad Station • Cheeses • Assorted Breads • Delicious Desserts . . .and more!

Music by Bob Egan

FREE valet parking

To reserve your place and pay for the tickets, please click [here](https://soleburyhistory.org/events-2/solebury-new-years-brunch-2019/) or enter <https://soleburyhistory.org/events-2/solebury-new-years-brunch-2019/> in your browser window

Seasons Greetings from the President

Solebury Township Historical Society

Drawer 525
Solebury, Pa 18963
215-297-5091
info@soleburyhistory.org
www.soleburyhistory.org

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It is the holiday season, which we all look forward to every year. 'Tis the season to take a pause from our busy schedules to spend time with our loved ones, reflect on the year's activities and look towards the New Year. Our Solebury New Years Day Brunch at Holly Hedge Estate is fast approaching. It's a lovely STHS tradition when we can celebrate the New Year with friends and neighbors and present the Solebury Honored Citizen Award.

The education committee had completed a program with the NH-S first graders. The children were studying one-room schoolhouses with their teachers before taking a walk over to our building where they worked on several projects including cursive writing with ink and quill, making a lantern and ringing the old school bell. Thank you to the teachers and volunteers. The children always have a good time while learning about Solebury history.

Finally, after three consecutive two-year terms I am stepping down as president and passing the torch to Charlotte Zanidakis the current VP. I would like to thank everyone who supported STHS this year: members, our special event

sponsors, donors and attendees; and everyone who has supported and helped us in one way or the other. It has been my honor serving on the board of directors and working with a professional, dedicated and talented team of men and women.

Thank you all for helping us make a difference in our community as we cannot do it alone without your support. Have a wonderful holiday and may the peace & joy that this season brings be yours today and always.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Garomon

?

History Quiz

Who painted the famous picture of Washington Crossing the Delaware?

Answer on Page 7



The Business Members of the Solebury Township Historic Society help offset the cost of producing the newsletter and our events. These are local businesses and we urge your patronage. If you would like to become a Business Member or advertise in the Chronicle, please call 215-297-5091 and leave a message, or email us.

We are planning many events in 2019 and could use your help. If you wish to volunteer please contact us at 215-297-5091 or email us at info@soleburyhistory.org

News About #GivingTuesday

By Charlotte Zanidakis



AS OF DECEMBER 14, 2018, #GIVINGTUESDAY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$2,190 IN DONATIONS, INCLUDING A MATCHING GIFT FROM BOWMAN'S TAVERN. AND, DONATIONS ARE STILL ARRIVING TO THE SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE NED HARRINGTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

“Thoughts” from a New Board Member

By Craig Haney



A few years ago, when I was interviewing for a job in Solebury and thinking about calling this place home, I researched what most families would: how are the schools rated, job opportunities for spouses, housing prices, where to buy groceries, etc?

But it was really the Sense Of Place that I quickly realized made Solebury an area that I would be—and now am—glad to call home. The geography, the community suppers, the weekly paper, the regional theaters, greetings along the Canal, and meeting fourth-generation families as well as newcomers who spoke with the same enthusiasm for this place. Having majored in history, I noticed the historical markers, the historic photo at the end of each *Herald*, and the existence of Solebury Township Historical Society. All of this let me know that there was a strong sense of place here, a real community.

Today, across the country, it seems this feeling of not only *living in* a place but *belonging to* a place is threatened. So while STHS's mission is to document, preserve, and educate about our township's history, it's really doing a big part to preserve this sense of place.

But like a jar of preserves that we might put up in the summertime, these preserves—this *preservation* of our cultural heritage—is meant to be re-opened at later dates, both now and into the future. And like those summer preserves, they're meant for enjoyment but also needed for nourishment. This history, our culture nourishes us through thick and thin.

Whether you're someone new moving to Solebury, or a lifelong resident, that connection to place makes each one of us a richer, better-nourished person, a better citizen, a better neighbor. (I'm saying better.... not necessarily good) While we're hopefully becoming better versions of ourselves, we'll still have our spats and tribulations. But from a shared sense of place and from its shared stories, we'll continue to persevere and thrive.

A few years ago, the New York Times ran an OpEd titled *The Ties that Bind Us*. Dr. Marshall Duke at Emory University studied children through a “Do You Know?” series of questions about their families. The article states:

“The more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The “Do You Know?” scale turned out to be the best single predictor of children’s emotional health and happiness.”

And I'm convinced those same “Do You Know?” questions can apply to adults and our communities. And who better to help pose some questions, and answer some too, than the STHS, as an institution and also as individual members.

As a newer Solebury resident, I wanted to share two quick stories that highlight how individuals and an organization like STHS can lead to happiness—my happiness in this particular case—by providing context for such “Do You Know?” questions.

“Thoughts” cont’d

After accepting the job offer, we moved into a house on Upper York Road and within a few months I received a call from my wife one afternoon exclaiming, “You’ll never believe this, but the man who built our house is here!”

Sure enough, it was Mr. Fitting, whom longtime Solebury residents will know. He was almost 90 years old when we first met, and he had grown up on this land where we now are making a home. His mother taught in the schoolhouse that is now the historical society’s headquarters.

Meeting him, we had the opportunity to learn that his wife was also a teacher and he built the house’s bookcase for her, and the fireplace stones came out of the creek next to the house. We’ve had a few nice visits (even visiting them at Pine Run Retirement Community).

I understand that Mr Fitting doesn’t remember me at this point. But knowing who *he* is has enriched my life. That’s partly from meeting and visiting with him. But I also can’t fully express how grateful I am to have found his interview on the STHS website. In it, he talks of his school bus driver with a shotgun (on the bus!) during deer season just in case he saw the buck he couldn’t resist. Learning of Mr. Fitting’s connection to the wildlife around his home (where I now live, the work of his hands, his connection to Solebury and its residents – has sincerely enriched my connection to Solebury.

As a new member of the Oral History committee, I want to help the Society foster that connection for others, and to help spin a web of connections. And one of the society’s objectives (in the next few years) is to digitize as much as we can, to make these connections more readily available to all who are interested in the culture of Solebury.

At the end of our driveway, just up the road, stands the historical marker honoring the five families – including the Fitting family - who established the Honey Hollow Watershed Conservation Area back in the 1940s.

I came here to be a livestock farmer working on a diverse farm as part of Carversville Farm Foundation, which has a mission to grow ingredients to donate to soup kitchens to help feed those who need a good meal. But our mission also includes farming in a manner that fosters long-term stewardship of the land, what Mr. Fitting’s father, Francis, a dairyman, and his cooperating farmers called permanent agriculture in their time. Talk about the feeling of a place!

I had the opportunity to learn about their cooperative work easily because the Society has a pdf of P. Alston Waring’s book, *The Story of Honey Hollow* on our website.

Most of these farmers had also been newcomers to the Honey Hollow watershed area of Solebury Township seventy years before me. But with the help of individuals and the work of the STHS, their work, their words, the township itself inspire me today.



Come Visit the Schoolhouse

The schoolhouse is open to welcome visitors on Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Or by appointment. Plan to stop in for a visit.

A Visit to the Schoolhouse

The Education Committee of Solebury Township Historical Society (STHS) welcomed first graders from the New Hope-Solebury Lower Elementary School. Over the course



of four days, each of the four classes walked over to the one-room 1870 stone school house to learn and visualize similarities and differences between their current classroom environment.

Stove for heat, chalkboards not smart boards, every grade in the same room, George Washington on the wall.

As part of their history lesson, the students made a tin punched lantern, stamping patterns with nails and a hammer to

take home. They practiced their penmanship with ink and quill and played old-fashioned outdoor games. The end of their visit culminated with ringing the school bell! 🛎

Impression-Sips 2019 A Cure For **The Winter Blues!**

We are proud to announce that, by popular demand, The Impression-Sips will be back for a 2019 Winter Series season. This will be our 5th year! The late Sunday afternoon get-togethers celebrate the history of the Pennsylvania Impressionists while allowing all of the participants an outlet of fun and camaraderie. The dates of the BYOB painting parties will be January 27th, February 24th and March 24th from 2:00 to 5:00. Thanks again to loyal sponsors: Freeman's of Philadelphia and Tinsman Bros. of Lumberville for the easels, paints, canvases and brushes and Manoff's of Solebury for the apples, cider and cheeses.

This year we will be featuring all towpath paintings!

Check our website for registration details.

Sunday, January 27th — 2 to 5 pm

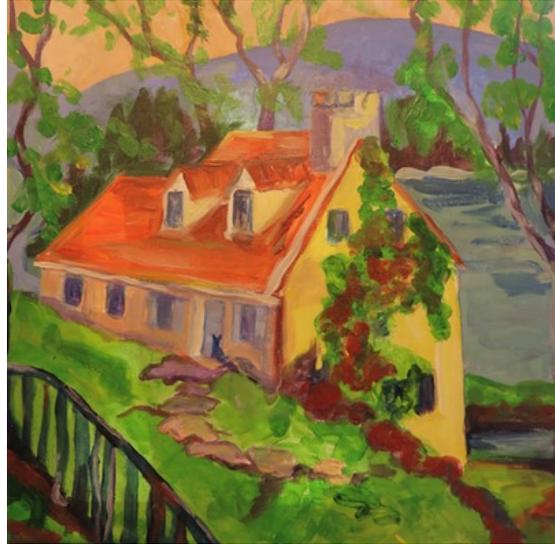
Inspired by Antonio Martino's "The Mist", this season's winter scene captures the mood of a misty winter morning along the towpath in one of everyone's favorite towns - Lumberville.



Impression-Sips 2019

Sunday, February 24th — 2 to 5 pm

This scene is inspired by Fern Coppedge's "Lumberville Cottage". Coppedge is known for her joyous use of color and her childlike strokes of genius. This painting is actually of her studio which was on the canal across the road from her home.



Sunday, March 24th — 2 to 5 pm

Our "Summer Towpath" is inspired by John Folinsbee's work of the same name. He was a prolific painter, sometimes doing several in a day and throwing the ones he didn't care for off the New Hope bridge! We love the loose style of his brush strokes. We think this view is close to Burgess Lea, north of Center Bridge.



**STHS are looking for volunteers to help
Do you have interest in any of the following areas?**

1. Membership
2. Fundraising
3. Open Board positions, as they occur

Students: consider devoting some of your Community Service hours to our non profit Historical Society

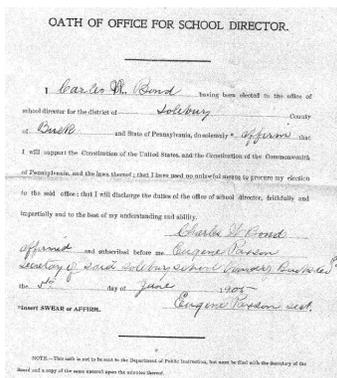
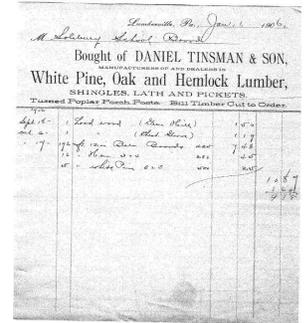
**To volunteer please e-mail: info@soleburyhistory.org
or call: Charlotte Zanidakis 215-297-5091**

Our Archivists 'Safeguards of the Past'

The Solebury Township Historical Society (STHS) has a hard-working team of dedicated, volunteer archivists: *Marilyn Lanctot, Pamela Surgey, Wendy Appleton, and Judy Clarke*. Judy gave us her impression of what she was expecting:

When I was asked if I wanted to be an archivist for the Solebury Township Historical Society, I conjured up a shadowy figure dressed in black robes seated in a dimly-lit stone vault silently searching through rare documents. My picture had an almost monastic quality about it which may have some validity seven hundred years ago, but no longer!

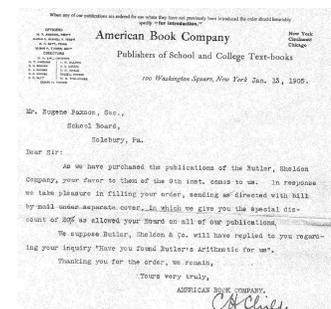
What the archivists at the STHS do is to sort through and organize the kinds of materials that could just as easily end up in the dumpster: old invoices, out-of-date insurance policies, letters, deeds, railroad timetables, diaries, often unidentified sepia photos and yellowing polaroid photos, as well as more formal records such as property tax ledgers, school board minutes, or by-laws of community organizations.



We work with the contents of manila envelopes and cardboard boxes which have come out of basements, attics and the backs of closets. Some items have been through fire and flood leaving pages with half washed away writing or spotted with mold. So why don't we just toss them in a dumpster instead of carefully unfolding, matching torn pieces, smoothing out, photocopying and preserving these messy, moldy, fragile bits and pieces of paper?

Because archives matter. These materials — though torn, water damaged, moldy and faded they may be—are unique and irreplaceable and vital to an understanding of a place's history. Archives give us the voice of the people. Although the more formal items such as tax records, school board minutes and deeds are part of Solebury's archives, it's the personal and informal information gleaned from the bits and pieces saved from the dumpster to make history come alive.

So we keep digging through the boxes and manila envelopes, unfolding old letters, matching torn invoices, copying yellowed newspaper articles, all with an eye to preserving some of the rich history of Solebury Township.



If this is something in which you'd like to get involved, please drop us a line and help us keep history alive for future generations.

Meet Our Newest Board Member



Carol Ann Della Penna joins the board as our Public Relations Committee Chair. Prior to relocating to her weekend home in Centre Bridge, Carol Ann resided in Manhattan for more than fourteen years where she enjoyed a thriving profession as an entertainment publicist. She launched the career of Italian crossover singer Andrea Bocelli, while also handling artists such as Luciano Pavarotti, John Barry and overseeing publicity campaigns for the *Gladiator* soundtrack and *Mamma Mia!* Original Broadway Cast Recording. As the Vice-President of Publicity at Sony Classical record label, Carol Ann represented artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, John Williams, Wynton Marsalis, Terrance Blanchard, and Kristin Chenoweth. Upon retiring from Sony and moving to Solebury Township, Carol Ann freelanced locally as the spokesperson for the Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce where she created Restaurant Week and introduced Friday Night Fireworks while also overseeing media for the New Hope Auto Show. More recently she is co-owner of the popular BYO eatery, Caleb's American Kitchen and spends time volunteering as an active parent at Buckingham Friends School.



Craig Haney you met earlier with his "Thoughts". He has been livestock manager at Carversville Farm Foundation since 2016. He grew up in Cooperstown, New York, where his mother's family had farmed for eight generations. After earning a degree in American History at the University of Michigan, Craig returned to Cooperstown to farm and teach at The Farmers Museum. In 1998 he founded Skate Creek Farm, where he developed his skills in modern grass-based, organic livestock production of poultry, pigs, sheep, goats and cattle. In 2004, he was recruited to establish the livestock program at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture on the Rockefeller Estate in Tarrytown, NY. After a dozen years overseeing the multi-species livestock program there, he came to Carversville Farm Foundation, where he raises a diversity of healthy animals in ecological practices, using nature as a model. Nearly 100% of Carversville Farm Foundation's harvests are donated to Philadelphia area families in need.

Alas, we've run out of space to present your author of this newsletter, Robert Ainey, so my photo and bio taken from the FBI's 'Most Wanted' poster in the New Hope Post Office will appear in the next edition.

Support our Business Members

Stewards

Addison Wolfe Real Estate
550 Union Square Dr
New Hope, PA 18938
215-862-5500

Crews Surveying, LLC
PO Box 360
New Hope, PA 18938
215-766-2477

Rockwood Wealth Management
6236 Lower York Road
New Hope, PA 18938
267 983 6400

Tinsman Brothers, Inc.
6632 Old Carversville Road
Lumberville, PA 18933
215 297 5100

Protectors

The Bank of Princeton
10 Bridge Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530
609 397 0333

Freeman's Auctions and Appraisals
1808 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215 563 9275

Holly Hedge Estates
6987 Upper York Road
New Hope, PA 18938
215 862 3136

Rago Arts and Auctions
333 North Main Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530
609 397 9374

Guardians

Bucks County Herald
PO Box 685
Lahaska, PA 18931
215 794 1096

George Nakashima Woodworker, S.A.
1847 Aquetong Road
New Hope, PA 18938
215 862 2272

History Quiz

Emanuel Leutze (American,
Schwäbisch Gmünd 1816–1868
Washington, D.C.)

The Historical Society is now accepting New Hope-Solebury & Solebury School High School seniors applications for the 2019 Ned Harrington Scholarship Award which will be awarded in May 2019. Please see our website or inquire with your school administration for additional information.



For Your Notes

Tell Us What You Like Or Do Not About The Newsletter

How Can We Make It Better And More Interesting For You?



Solebury Township Historical Society

Drawer 525

Solebury, PA 18963

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Support STHS with your Membership

Membership is our most important source of income. You will soon be receiving a renewal letter for your 2019 Society membership. Upon renewing we will send your new Membership Card with all the benefits good through December 31, 2019. 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.

Thank you for your generosity

Upcoming events

Jan 1st, 2019
12:00 to 2:30 p.m.
New Year's Day Brunch at
Holly Hedge Estate

Impression-Sips

Jan 27th, 2019
Feb 24th, 2019
Mar 24th, 2019
2 to 5 p.m.

Visit www.soleburyhistory.org
closer to the dates for more de-
tails.