



HVERFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P.O. Box 825

Havertown, PA 19083

610-446-7988

Fall 1996

Penn Family Subject of Fall Meeting

Loretta Treese will present *The Storm Gathering: The Penn Family and the American Revolution* for the the Fall general meeting. Ms. Treese is the archivist at Bryn Mawr College and, in addition to her work on the Penn family and the American Revolution, has written about Valley Forge. Her talk will be from her book of the same title.

Refreshments and conversation will follow. Mark your calendar for 8:00 PM at Temple Lutheran Church at Brookline Boulevard and Earlington Road. Guests are welcome.

Commonwealth Speakers sponsored by the PA Humanities Council.



Colonial Living Consultant Susan Kratzipger at the Federal School May 1996.

Educational Programs Are A Great Success

The Margaret Johnston Summer Research Program, a hands-on work/study project conducted in June for Haverford High School seniors was a great success. A record twenty-four students participated in the week-long program, which introduced them to the workings of the Historical Society. They toured all of the major historic sites in the township. Students also performed major grounds and housekeeping chores at the Federal School and at Nitre Hall. They weeded and mulched the herb garden and created a large map of the herbs planted there. The map will be used in the fifth-grade Colonial Living Program. Several students worked long and hard to catalogue the costume collection and to enter accessions into the computer. *Continued on Page 2.*

Dues Reminder

The new membership directory will be ready for distribution to paid members at the October meeting. Check your mailing label for a green dot. It indicates that your 1996 dues are paid.

Wondering why HTHS needs your dues?
See *Where Do the Dues Go?* on Page 2.

**Happy 100th Birthday,
Manoa School
1896 - 1996**

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Educational Programs...

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Senior participants Courtney Kirschner, Stephanie Lavorgna, Nathaniel Miller, and Christopher Morris took the Tour Guide Class taught by Edith Cannon and have been volunteering as guides this summer and fall.

Education Consultant, Sue Kratzinger and her assistants began the 1996 Colonial Living Experience for township fifth graders on September 16th. The program continues into October. Always a favorite field trip, this year students may find themselves "in the movies". The HTHS sites will be videotaped and the videos will be available at Nitre Hall and the township library.

This is what Chatham Park fifth-grader Christopher Gladstone wrote for the *Chatham Park Gazette* last year.

The Fifth-Grade Colonial Living Experience by Chris Gladstone

The Fifth Grade classes went on a field trip to Lawrence Cabin and Nitre Hall located on Karakung Drive. The fifth-graders did things that kids did in colonial times, like churning butter, sawing wood, and making soap and candles. The difference is the kids at Lawrence Cabin did it differently than the kids at Nitre Hall. Nitre Hall was founded in the 1800's and Lawrence Cabin was founded in the 1700's. At Nitre Hall, they had a crank and a handle to churn the butter, while at Lawrence Cabin, they had a butter churn. We all made our own lunches and cookies. I know all the fifth-grade classes had a good time at both places. "I loved it," said Ms. Ramsey.

Where Do Our Dues Go?

Have you been wondering where your dues dollars go? Since it's time again to remit our dues, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves where the money goes.

Administration covers staffing of special programs, such as the Story Hour, and supplies.

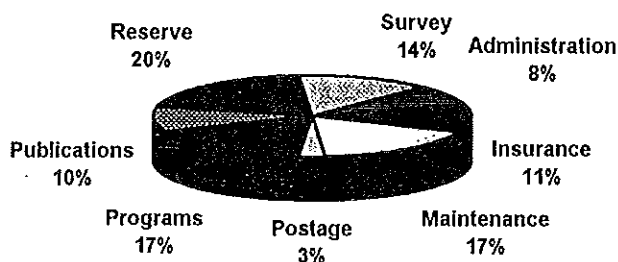
Insurance protects our artifacts.

Maintenance pays for cleaning the buildings.

Postage covers mailing the newsletters and meeting notices.

Programs includes stipends for speakers at membership meetings and refreshments after the meetings. The Educational programs are staffed by HTHS members, but the costs are paid by the the school district.

Publications includes printing not only this newsletter, but also the Membership Directory.



Reserve is a fund set aside for future preservation of sites and for matching funds for some grants.

The *Survey* fund was allocated to cover the cost of the technical assessment required for the Challenge Grant Proposal for restoration work at Nitre Hall. See *Grant Proposal Submitted in June* on Page 3.

1797 - 1997

**The Federal School will
celebrate 200 years in '97.**

Nitre Hall Grant Proposal Submitted in June

Board member Renee Coffey submitted a proposal on June 17th to the Keystone Historical Preservation Grant Program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission. Three projects are outlined in the proposal.

The first project is to remove and replace the exterior stucco on Nitre Hall and to restore and paint the original exterior woodwork. This work is necessary to protect building structure and in that way protect the interior finishes. Research on historically accurate colors is also planned.

The second project involves conducting a subsurface investigation to identify and record any physical evidence of the original stucco and any missing architectural features. Currently, two doors on the second level lead nowhere. These features suggest the former existence of a second-level porch and stairs leading up to that level.

The third project would rebuild the retaining wall behind Nitre Hall, which leads to the bridge that provides handicap access.

Cost to complete the proposed projects is \$64,615. The grant program requires that fifty percent of the costs be raised locally.

On June 10th, Haverford Township approved appropriation of the matching funds, if the proposal is successful.

The project architect is John D. Milner and the Project Director is Renee Coffey. Professional engineer, Milton W. Rothbaum of Pennoni Associates, the township's engineering consulting firm is the co-director.

These features suggest the former existence of a second-level porch and stairs leading up to that level.

If successful, the project would begin sometime after February 1997 and would extend for 18 months. Results of the grant process will not be available before October, 1996.

Litzenberg Donation

Ancestors of Homer Litzenberg built the house that referred to as the "Hannum House" on Darby Road near Dartmouth Road. The Litzenbergs were coopers (for whom Coopertown was named).



Mr. Homer Litzenberg, who presented a lecture and slide presentation last November at "The Cooperage", home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark John, donated a bound copy of his family's history to the society. It is now in the library at Nitre Hall. The Haverford Township Historical Society and the family are interested in the possibility of rebuilding the structure, which is now in storage in Chester Heights.

Board Welcomes New Members

At the April 1996 Annual Meeting the membership elected Elaine Halberstadt, Cathy Siegl, and Dick Walker to serve two-year terms from April 1996 to April 1998. Millicent Phillips will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as the Programs Chair.

Do you like the look of the new HTHS Newsletter? Let us know. Cathy Siegl is bringing us into the 21st century with expertise gained as a librarian and technical writer.

Dates to Remember

⇒ **Saturday, October 5, 1996**
 Haverford Township Pride Day. Last year, volunteer board members opened our three sites for guided bus tours arranged by member Anne Ackerman. Betty Stafford and Betty Stellar staffed an information table at the Skatium. The day was such a hit with township residents that an encore is planned.

⇒ **Sundays in December**
 December 1, 8, and 15 are the dates for the Christmas Open House at Nitre Hall. The house will be decorated for the season and will be open from 1 to 4 PM. Guides are needed.



*Thank you,
 Dick & Marie Walker!*

Nitre Hall Now Open Tuesday Mornings

A new sign at the parking lot entrance posts hours and phone number (446-7988). For an appointment, call and leave a message.

⇒ **September 24 - October 24**
 HTHS President Carol Joseph is presenting a slide and lecture course on Haverford Township History for the Haverford Township Adult School. The class will meet on Tuesdays at the Middle School on Darby Road from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

⇒ **General Membership Meeting**

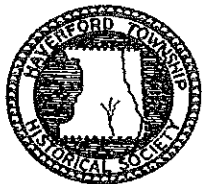
The Storm Gathering: The Penn Family and the American Revolution
 Speaker: Lorette Treese

8:00 PM

Thursday, October 17, 1996
 Temple Lutheran Church
 Earlington Rd and Brookline Blvd
 Havertown

162 - mailed or delivered to individuals
20 - copies for Carol Joseph's history of Township class
20 - copies for HAV. TWP DAY OCT 5

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 Historical Society
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