



The Herald

Autumn
2008



Mark the happenings of the Historic Langhorne Association

160 West Maple Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047

215.757.1888

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

http://hla.buxcom.net

HLA has 3 email addresses for communicating with us at our headquarters:

Contact email-

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

Archive email-

hlaarchives@verizon.net

Research email-

hlaresearch@verizon.net

OPEN HOURS

Wednesdays 10-12 pm

7-9 pm

Saturdays 10-12 pm

Or by appointment

Admission is Free



Board Members

Recently we have had three board members step down from their positions. Sally Marrington, Lynda Johnson and Beverlee Felkner. Fortunately they are continuing to assist us on various projects and events. On behalf of the entire board, I would like to thank each of them for their past service and look forward to working with them at Historic Langhorne Association in the future.

Won't you consider joining us? We are always looking for volunteers to welcome into our great association!

Jim Maier, President

Sign Painter Needed

The sign in front of our library is looking rather "historic" after many years exposed to the weather. We are looking for someone willing to take a couple of hours to sand, prime and paint. No lettering is involved as the letters are attached. Call, e-mail or stop by the building if you can help. *Remember, this is how Edward Hicks got his start!*

Think Dolls, Think Christmas

This year's theme at HLA for the 2008 Holiday House Tour on 11/20/08, is **DOLLS**. Old dolls; new dolls; big dolls; little dolls; porcelain, paper, plastic or wooden dolls; Barbie dolls; cute doll; not so cute dolls...you get the gist! PLEASE contact us if you are willing to loan a doll or two, and/or doll accessories (coach, furniture, house, etc.) for the day to help us create a fabulous and magical Christmas menagerie of dolls!



Our headquarters is located in The Anna Mary Williamson Library & Museum

The following articles were researched and written by member Charles Lauble.

Our lost old roads and lanes

Langhorne Ave. Built right after the railroad came in 1876 and went from Durham Road (Bellevue Ave. in Langhorne Manor) to real close just north of the R.R. bridge on Flowers Mill Road. Today it ends at Pine Street. Built because in that area of Flowers Mill Road was the Glen Lake Station, named that because Glen Lake was Mill Creek with a Dam to form it and operate the mill there with a mill race from it.

Flowers Mill Road went originally from what is now rte. 213 to Trenton Road and shows up on all the old maps and even on a 1952 aerial view we have of Middletown Township prior to Levittown being built. Also shortly after the railroad came here in 1876 a road from the Langhorne Station was built to Flowers Mill Road today a small part shows up as Le Grande Ave. in Pennel. Most of this road became the Lincoln Highway when it was relocated from Maple Ave. in Langhorne to South Langhorne in 1921.

Stoney Ford Road was originally from East Holland Road in Northampton Township to Durham Road and some of it now shows up as a lane going between the Neshaminy Middle School and the church to the south of it. This road still shows up on 1912 Bucks County road maps. The Sunny Hill one room school was built here at this intersection way back on the east side of Durham Road till it burned down, it being one of 4 Middletown one room schools. The others were Maple Point, Edge Hill, and Frosty Hollow.

Fulling Mill Road went originally from Woodbourne Road before Core Creek and crossed the creek by the original Fulling Mill which became a farming building on a stone arch bridge to near Newtown. Much of the original road is now under Lake Luxemborg in the park. Toll Gate Road came into it on the west side of it and old maps show the Toll Gate Road crossing Durham Road all the way to the Neshaminy Creek which isn't like today as it stops at rte. 413.

Unnamed and a few named Lanes were all over the area way back. North Flowers Mill Road shows up on all old maps, but years back it was called Porters Lane.

Mill a News Center

There was a small mill on the bank of the Neshaminy below the cut-off railroad arch, owned by Tunis Schwartz. It ran by water power from the stream that crosses down by the Arch Bridge; it was dammed back of "Paxson's Spa Woods." This dam was known as "Tunis Dam," and was the favorite skating place for the neighborhood, as on account of its shielded position, if once frozen over; it rarely broke up until spring, and was so shallow it was safe if it did. This was a "turning mill" at which wood and tool handles and barrel bungs were made. Schwartz was a tall, thin saturnine man, and always wore a mashed down plug hat, sprinkled with the dust from his work, and when he walked up daily to his dam on the creek to let the water on, you were reminded of a heron. Many times have I sat and watched his pieces of wood grow into shape, and listened to his quaint remarks. All of the mills of that time were run by large over shot wooden water wheels.

An excerpt on the history of time



While visiting Cape May, NJ over Labor Day weekend, I happened to visit the Emlen Physick Estate & Museum. For those who do not know, Emlen Physick was related to the prominent Philadelphia doctor, Philip Physick, said to be the 'father of American surgery'.

Emlen received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania at age 21, along with his inheritance. Emlen decided to retire at age 21 and become a gentleman farmer in Cape May. His home is a Victorian showcase, built by famed architect Frank Furness.

While visiting the museum, they featured an 'Object of the Month' which happened to be a mantle clock in the house. The following write-up about evolution of time and the clock. I thought it was quite interesting and something I have never given much thought to. I thought our members would find it interesting too. The following article was published by the Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts:

Before 1820, time was marked by the rising and the setting of the sun, the phases of the moon, and the cycles of hunger and sleep. The Almanac played an important role in keeping track of time by using a system of elaborate tables of astronomical, seasonal, and religious events.

By the mid-19th century, industrialization changed the focus of the country and Americans let the clock tell the time and regulate their lives. While they still looked to nature's rhythms to define time, the clock's measurement played a larger role. More and more people found themselves governed by the regularity and pace of the clock. Factories for example demanded that their workers arrive at a specific time. Failure to do so might mean getting docked pay. Although time was becoming increasingly more standardized, there were still some differences in time. Noon was marked when the sun was directly overhead of a town. Because the sun moves from east to west, a town a few miles east of another would mark noon first and be ahead of its neighbor by a few minutes. Thus, every town had a slightly different time that they considered to be standard.

With the growth of the railroad, time played a more significant role. It was imperative for train operators to agree on what time it was to avoid accidents. In 1853, for example, two trains were headed toward each other on a single track. Each conductor

thought that there was enough time to switch tracks before the approaching train was scheduled to pass through. Because each of the conductors was operating on a different time, the trains collided head on, killing fourteen passengers. As a result of the accident, the railroads decided to regulate time.

At noon on Sunday in November 1883, Standard Railway Time went into effect. Standard Railway Time replaced some 49 time zones with just five that stretched from coast to coast. Not everyone liked the new time. States like Georgia and Ohio and individual towns like Pittsburg and Louisville rejected standard time for years. Standard Railway Time became law in 1918 with the Standard Time Act.

As marking and measuring time became more important, home owners began keeping more timepieces in their homes. Displayed in prominent places on walls and mantles, clocks served as constant reminders of the passage of time. Pocket watches carried in a pocket, for a man, or pinned to a blouse, for a woman, marked the reality that time was inescapable and stood still for no one.



A picture of Mark and Leticia Arrington entertaining at the June Strawberry festival.

New life from a dead walnut tree

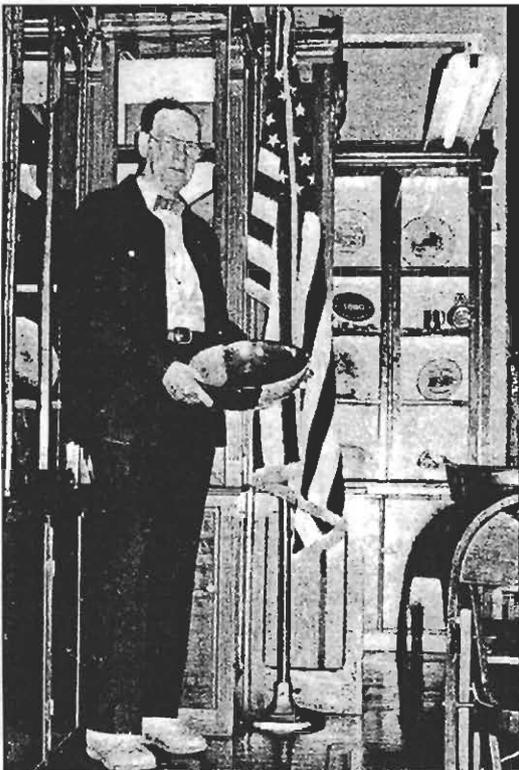
Thank you to Ruth Irwin who has donated a wooden bowl to Historic Langhorne Association to be used for our holiday raffle item to raise money for our historic building. The bowl was made from a walnut tree that was taken down in her yard. Ruth lives in center of Langhorne Borough. We managed to find information from *The Advance of Bucks County*, dated September 29, 1988, that will explain the history behind this unique bowl.

To start, the bowl was handcrafted by Palmer Sharpless, a teacher at George School who taught the skill of woodworking from 1946 to his retirement in 1984. His specialty is turning, using a lathe to make balusters and columns, and bowls crafted from one piece of wood. Ruth Irwin asked Palmer to cut down a big walnut tree in her yard. Palmer was hesitant at first since he felt the tree ought to be growing. He finally relented and he agreed to charge nothing for felling the tree but he would keep the wood for his own use at his workshop in Newtown. He planned to use the tree to make bowls.

Palmer recorded the operation and the evolution from tree to sculpture. He spent a week taking pictures as he went. He cut the tree into lengths, enough to make 39 bowls. As Palmer stated in the article, "Making a bowl is not as simple as it seems. The wood must sit about for a year until it dries and shrinks. You have to wax it completely to slow down the frying process." Palmer gave Ruth a small section of the wood so she could watch the drying process and later have a bowl of her own. Eventually, Palmer turned a bowl for Ruth from a section of the walnut tree. Today, thanks to Ruth Irwin's generosity, we have his bowl on display at our museum for anyone who wants to stop by and take a look at.

Palmer used all the material from the tree. He made more bowls and some "lawn deer" that sold for holiday decorations. One bowl he donated to a craft center in North Carolina to be auctioned off. The bowl was sold for \$275 at auction. The shavings he used for garden paths.

This bowl will be raffled off at HLA during the Four Lanes End Holiday House Tour on November 20 and until December 7, 2008. We will choose the winner at the Carol Sing-a-Long on 12/7/08. Be sure to take a chance or two on it when you come through our building.



Above right-A photo of the bowl that will be raffled off to benefit HLA. Photo left-Palmer Sharpless at a 1988 General Meeting at Historic Langhorne Association, where he showed slides of the tree-cutting process. Photo from *The Advance of Bucks County*

LOCAL HISTORY

Antique fire alarm from an engine wheel. Fallsington Fire Company



In Memory of a friend

A sad notice about our friend Ed Toland who passed away on August 7, 2008 in Langhorne. He was Treasurer for Historic Langhorne Association for eleven years. Ed was very active in the Langhorne community where he volunteered his accounting talents for many organizations. We shall miss him.

From the *Pennsylvania Gazette*:

February 23, 1758

FIVE POUNDS REWARD

Stolen on the 8th of this instant, November, from Gabriel Vanhorn of Bucks County, a dark grey mare, has neither brand nor ear mark, a natural pacer, about 14 hands high, five years old, has a long back with a low neck, and a large head and ears, and whitish on the withers, a switch tail, no shoes on, and has a discernable mark of the collar. Whoever takes up and secure the thief and mare, shall have reasonable charges, paid by Gabriel Vanhorn.

March 31, 1757

A Plantation, in the township of (Middletown) Bucks County, late the property of Thomas Biles, deceased, containing about 600 acres of land, near 400 acres cleared, 36 which is meadow; a good dwelling house, barns, stables, orchards. For terms, agree with Sarah Biles of Langhorne Biles, near the premises.

2008 Coming Attractions at Historic Langhorne Association

Monday, September 22, 7:30 pm

General Meeting

This month's presentation will be on Greenwood Dairies. Do you remember the Pig's Sundae? Join us for this interesting and entertaining program.

October 2008

Ghost Tours

The spirits are flying AGAIN! Check out our autumn haunting on the insert.

Monday, October 27, 7:30 pm

General Meeting

Presentation on Bella Tori

Saturday, October 25, 10 am to 3 pm

Harvest Day (Rain date 10/26)

A family day full of fun in downtown Langhorne Borough, sponsored by the Langhorne Borough Business Council

Thursdays, November 20, 11 am to 8 pm

2008 Holiday House Tour

Historic Langhorne Association will once again be part of the Four Lanes End annual Holiday House Tour. Our theme this year will be dolls. Be sure to stroll through and take a look at the magic we will have created!

Sunday, December 7,

Santa Visits the Old Library, 1 to 3 pm

Carol Sing-a-Long, 7:00 pm

A tradition for so many Langhorne families! Come one, come all and have your picture taken next to Santa in our wonderful building that embodies the spirit of the old Christmas times, and then later in the day, sing along to old holiday favorites!

January 1, 2009 Happy New Year!

BITS & PIECES

- Thank you to Marvin Strunk who graciously donated to HLA. Marvin was in from Illinois and visited our building to look for family history. We made him a CD with area history to take home with him.
- Thank you to Styers Orchards who generously donated the strawberries for our Strawberry Festival this past June.
- Chairs for our Publicity and Genealogy are needed! Would you consider becoming a volunteer for this great organization?
- Broadway At The Beach had a great turn out this year to see *The Producers* at Long Beach Island. Forty-one people attended. If you missed it, we'll catch you next summer.

THE MEMORY BOX

Do you have a memory of Langhorne that may no longer be there?

*This memory is from Evelyn Aicher
In the 1970's my daughters Lynn and Carol Ann,
looked forward to the annual Pet Show and Library
Book Fair held on the lawn of our historic building.
Every child received an award for their pet no matter
what it was, and all the books were only 10 or
25 cents.*

Historic Langhorne Association's 2008 Officers & Committee Members

President- Jim Maier

Vice President- Larry Langhans

Treasurer- Jack Fulton

Recording Secretary- Evelyn Aicher

Corresponding Secretary- Lynda Johnson

Technology- Charlie Lauble & Jim Maier

Artifacts- Evelyn Aicher & Ruth Irwin

Publicity- Open

Hostess- Nancy Pietsch

Archives- Larry Langhans & Jim Maier

HLA Gift Shop- E. Aicher & Judy Sloan

Finance- Jack Fulton

Genealogy- Open

Holiday House- Open

Library- Jean Noble

Membership- Jack Fulton

Newsletter- Sally Marrington

Oral History- Open

Programs-Open

Property- Charles Lauble

Sun Shine- Nancy Pietsch

Ways and Means- Jean Noble

Grant Advisor- Kathy Horwatt

House Plaques- Judy Sloan

Tea- Lynda Johnson

PICTURE YOUR NAME HERE & VOLUNTEER