



# The Herald

Spring  
2006

Hark the happenings of the Historic Langhorne Association

160 West Maple Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047

215.757.1888

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

http://hla.buxcom.net

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

HLA has 3 new email addresses for  
communicating with us at our head-  
quarters...add them to your contacts...

Contact email-

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

Archive email-

hlaarchives@verizon.net

Research email-

hlaresearch@verizon.net

## OPEN HOURS

**Wednesdays 10-12pm  
7-9pm**

**Saturdays 10-12pm**

**Or by appointment**

**Admission is Free**

## **ON DISPLAY AT HLA:**

### **A VIEW INSIDE THE LANGHORNE CARPET COMPANY**

An event update from Larry Langhans

Founded in 1930 by John T. Kommer and his son-in-law, Joseph K. MacKay, the Langhorne Carpet Company is a local landmark at the corner of Hulmeville Avenue and the Lincoln Highway in Pennel. Presently operated by the Morrow family, the fourth generation to run the business, it is one of only two companies remaining in the United States making woven goods. Yet, few local residents have seen the inside workings of the mill.

This past year, Lauren Edith Hansen, a photographer based in New York City, spent six months photographing the company, thanks to owner Bill Morrow. The results of her work, traditional black and white prints, shot with an old-fashioned view camera, and with medium format cameras, will be on display at HLA starting Saturday, April 8, with a reception at 2:00 pm. They will remain on display through Memorial Day. Stop by to see what is happening inside that long brick building on Hulmeville Avenue in Pennel.

## **Earn Money for HLA by Shopping at Redner's Markets**

### **'Redner's Save-A-Tape'**

By doing your grocery shopping at Redner's Market in Langhorne Square Center on Route 1 across from Lowe's and using their "Save-A-Tape-Program card", you can help HLA receive a check for 1% of the total receipts. (Excluding certain items.)

#### **Here's How It Works!**

Obtain a 1% Save-A-Tape-Program card from HLA or from the courtesy desk at Redner's Market. No registration or sign-up is necessary. When you checkout, present the card to the cashier who will scan the card. (This eliminates excluded items from the program such as tax, milk and tobacco products.)

Your receipt will show your regular total, and a total for the program.

Collect your tapes. When you have a number, drop them off at HLA (in the mail slot is fine), Judy's Corner or give them to an HLA Board member or mail them to HLA.

HLA will total the tapes, and when we have accumulated enough for a minimum of a \$50 rebate, we will submit the tapes to Redner's for redemption. It's that easy.

Your name is not registered with the card. Simply by shopping at Redner's and saving your tapes for HLA you can help us maintain the building and our programs. Every bit helps! **Thank you!**

*Historic Langhorne Association Proudly Hosts a  
Spring Tea to Benefit the Anna Mary Williamson Library*

Please join us in the Mezza Decca Tearoom of Bella Tori Restaurant, 321 S. Bellevue Avenue, Langhorne. This event offers an afternoon tea and private tour of Bella Tori.

The tea is on Sunday, May 7, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The menu includes:

Selection of elegant tea sandwiches

Fresh scones with jams and clotted cream

A tempting array of delicious desserts

And, an assortment of Tazo teas

Tickets are available at Historic Langhorne Association or Judy's Corner. Advance tickets, prior to March 25<sup>th</sup> - Donation \$27.00

Tickets purchased March 26 through April 29<sup>th</sup> - Donation \$30.00

Seating is limited to 50 - Don't miss this delightful event!

(Non-handicapped accessible)

**The Riddler**

**By Jim Maier**

**Q- In 1692, Bucks**

**County was divided up into five townships.**

**What were the five townships?**

**Q-What was the name of the first paving material used on Maple Ave?**

**A's in next newsletter**

***Langhorne Mystery Photograph Album Found in Florida***

*By Larry Langhans*

Last fall Mr. Brian Voge of Ocala Florida contacted Historic Langhorne Association about a photograph album that he had found following a hurricane. The album contained pictures of a family from the Langhorne area. He was unable to locate its owner in Florida and e-mailed us hoping we could find family members here. To date, we have been unable to find any relatives. Perhaps some of our members will recognize the names in the album so we can reunite the album with its family.

Dates in the album start in 1940 and continue through 1949. One of the first photographs was taken on Trenton Road looking east toward the intersection of Trenton and Durham Roads. Many of the photographs show a farm. Names on photos include "Ludwig's", and "Reese's" on Trenton Road, "Freed's", "Grand mom and Gail," "Grand mom Mehlman," "Anna & Nelse Harrington," "Diane Lawton, Patty Kelling," "Pin & Dot Moore," "Grand mom & Grand pop Ferrier," and "Uncle Bill - Langhorne, PA."

If you or anyone knows of these families, please contact us at 215-757-1888 or at [HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net](mailto:HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net).

Below—An advertisement researched by Charlie Lauble, dated 1817

**JOSEPH GILLINGHAM,**

**RESPECTFULLY acquaints his friends and the public, that he has commenced the business of**

***Fancy Windsor-Chair Making,***

**At the Shop formerly occupied by THOMAS KIRCHIN, in ATTLEBOROUGH, Bucks County —where he hopes by the quality of his work, and his exertions to give general satisfaction, to receive a share of the public patronage.**

**N. B. All orders thankfully received, and promptly attended to.**

**16w. 7 ATTLEBOROUGH, MAY 21.**

**Now showing at the Anna Mary Williamson  
Library & Museum**

Photo to the right is a sampling of a collection of African American artifacts currently on display at HLA from the Derry family. The Derry family has lived in Langhorne Borough for 5 generations. It is truly a unique and interesting family collection. Stop by before it leaves the museum.



## A Double Open House Memorial Day Celebration by Larry Langhans

For the past several years Historic Langhorne Association has held an open house on Memorial Day to coincide with Langhorne's parade when many area residents are in town. We have featured displays of historic items and photographs with an emphasis on previous Memorial Days and area veterans

This year in addition to having our library open, we have asked and received permission from the Langhorne Community Memorial Association to also have a display of historic patriotic material at the Langhorne Community House on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. In addition, representatives from Langhorne Manor, Pennel and Hulmeville will join us with their material.

So this year, either before or after the parade, stop HLA and the Richardson House to experience Langhorne history and visit with friends and neighbors.



1923 Langhorne High School Class

The Branson Knitter was invented by Samuel Robinson, of Langhorne, but was patented and manufactured by his father-in-law, James Branson, who came to Langhorne from Ohio in 1887. The knitter was a revolutionary departure from the old method and was the first machine to knit stockings, eliminating the seam. It came into universal use in the early 1880's and was eagerly sought for the country over, for use in this branch of the textile industry.

Samuel Robinson, about 1890, also patented a long-handled wire peach-picking basket, a very handy tool for picking peaches from the highest branches of a tree without damaging the fruit.

**Charlie Lauble has compiled a selection of historic trivia from the book, The Bucks County Historical Society, Copyright 1937, Volume 7, which is available to view in the Anna Mary Williamson Library & Museum.**

**SOAP** Mr. George S. Cliver, of Langhorne, patented the process and manufactured the celebrated 4-S soap, which sold very extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. The four S's stood for: success, scouring, sand and soap. This was a soft scouring soap that was on the market for forty years beginning in 1892.

*This is a reading and presentation before the Bucks Co. Historical Society in 1937 on the invention and mechanical progress in Bucks County*

### BATH TUBS IN AMERICA

The interesting story of the experience of one Adam Thompson with bath-tub bathing demonstrates man's ingenuity in another field. As the story goes, Mr. Thompson returned to his home from a trip abroad about the year 1842, and became interested in enlarging upon some of the ideas he had gathered during his travels. To this end he built a wooden bath-tub, patterned after one he had seen in London, that was large enough to hold and submerge his whole body. This innovation was seven feet long and four feet wide and was built in the attic of his home. Water was forced from the well through pipes and coils inside the chimney to a storage tank, also within the chimney, which helped warm the water. Water was drawn from the storage tank into the tub and another pipe drained the tub and emptied from the rear of the house into the yard below. His bathtub completed, Mr. Thompson, on Christmas Day, 1842, gave a bath-tub party and invited all his friends to his home for a good warm bath. The affair received a great deal of publicity and the newspapers forthwith descended on Mr. Thompson with a barrage of abuse and vilification. Doctors subscribed to the idea with great reluctance and fear, expressing their belief that this plan of bathing the entire-body would prove dangerous to the public health. Several States passed laws to discourage and even prohibit the use of bathtubs. In Virginia the owner of a bathtub was taxed \$30 per annum, and in Boston, between 1845-62, citizens were forbidden by law to take a bath except on the advice of a physician. The first bathtubs were made by digging out the center of a large log, very much as the dugout canoes were made; some of them were lined with lead to keep them from leaking. The water was heated on a stove and carried to the tub, after which it was bailed out. Modern bathtubs were slow in coming into use and did not appear very plentiful until after the introduction of municipal water works in 1850.

**AUTO TRIPS ABOUND HERE Philadelphia Press Tells of Fine Rides in Lower Bucks**  
**GOOD ROADS BOOM The Bucks County Gazette January 4, 1906**

### **OXFORD VALLEY.**

The little village of Oxford Valley is situated at the intersection of the roads leading from Bristol to Dolington, and from Attleborough to Trenton on the south side of Edge Hill. It is claimed that "Honey Hill," the original home of the Watson's, was on the site of the old village, or nearby, for it is well known that this section was originally settled by the Watson's, who owned a large tract of land around the little village, but nearly all of that name have long disappeared from the locality, and their broad acres have fallen into other hands.

The original name of Oxford is supposed to have been given from a primitive-looking ox on the tavern sign, and a bad ford over the creek that runs through the place. When the post office was established the hamlet was called Oxford Valley. The most prominent landmarks of the place are two old Homesteads, claimed to be over 175 years old, a public hall and an ancient mill.

This locality offers a special charm for the sightseeing tourist in its numerous mills of ancient date, many of them in picturesque ruin and others well preserved and still doing service. Not only the Oxford Valley Mill, but the many others in its immediate vicinity. The excellent water privileges along the Neshaminy led to the early erection of mills. There was a mill in this locality as early as 1703, its locality is not definitely known, although it is claimed that the ruins of the mill on the farm of Moses Knight, a mile below Attleborough, are the remains of it.

One of the old mills at Hulmeville, named the ancient settlement; its original name having been Millford, derived from mill-ford the Old mill and ford across the Neshaminy at this point.

### **HULMEVILLE.**

Hulmeville is the most interesting of this group of three historic villages. It was early famous as a temperance town and its industrial establishments. It is situated on the left bank of the Neshaminy, where the road from Trenton to Philadelphia intersects that from Newtown to Bristol. The principal part of the village is situated on high ground a little removed from the creek, and according to Holmes map the site of the village was covered by Penn's grant to Henry Paulin, Henry Paxson and William Carter. The name of Millford was changed to Hulmeville in honor of John Hulme, who settled here in 1795, and purchased the site of the village and a large tract adjoining with water power. A stone bridge was soon afterward built across the Neshaminy.

The ancient tavern of Hulmeville was long known as the temperance hotel of a temperance town. For years John Hulme would not allow a public house to be opened in the village, but entertained travelers at his own residence. When the growth of the town forced him to change his policy he built a tavern, but prohibited the opening of a bar. In Mrs. Quincy's journal is a flattering notice of this "man of affairs"; in ancient Hulmeville, as she and her husband were entertained at his home when Josiah Quincy was on his way from Boston to Washington to attend Congress. Mr. Hulme rose from poverty to wealth and influence by the force of his character.

The famous Langhorne landmarks are probably quite as interesting today as those associated with John Hulme. The fine old Langhorne mansion, once so celebrated, stood on the site of the dwelling of Charles Osborn, two miles above Hulmeville. The old road from Philadelphia to Trenton, crossing the Neshaminy just above Hulmeville, made a sweep around past the Langhorne mansion, and thence on to Trenton, by way of Attleborough. The mansion was built with two wings, and surrounded by extensive acres, and here Jeremiah Langhorne lived in almost regal state, surrounded by his extensive property and his numerous slaves. His father, Thomas Langhorne was a minister among Friends and came from Westmorland, England, with a certificate from the Kendall Monthly Meeting and settled in Middletown in 1684. He took up a large tract below Attleborough, running to Neshaminy. He died in 1687 and when the son, Jeremiah Langhorne came into possession of the property new lands were added, until he became noted as a man of mark and a large land owner, as well as chief Justice of the province. His homestead tract on the Durham road below Attleborough, contained eight hundred acres, and was known as Langhorne Park.

He also owned two thousand acres in Warwick and New Britain Townships, purchased of the Free Society of Traders, two thousand acres at Perkasio and a large tract on the Monockasy, now the Lehigh River, At the time of his death, in 1742, he made liberal provision for his numerous negroes many whom he had set free and directed houses to be built upon his Hulmeville estate for some of them, with fifty acres and stock allotted to them during their lives, but wisely specifying that all these negroes should work for their support. Fiddler Bill was the last of the Langhorne slaves to live to a great age, and die among the ruins of an old house on the estate. In 1794, four hundred and fifty two and a half acres of the park were sold to Henry Drinker, Samuel Smith and Thomas Fisher. The part unsold over two hundred and eighty five acres was called "Guinea." Later the farms of Charles Osmond, George Ambler, Caleb N. Taylor and others were included in the old park limits.

Prominent among other famous landowners in this section, whose names are still associated with the landmarks of Hulmeville, are Richard Davis, from Wales, who is said to have been the first surgeon in this part of the country; Richard Amer, from Berkshire, who located 250 acres on the Neshaminy below Hulmeville and Henry Paxson from Bycothouse, Oxfordshire, who located 500 acres on the Neshaminy above Hulmeville.

The bridge across the Neshaminy at Hulmeville, 125 feet long, was rebuilt after the freshet of 1865, and is said to be the highest bridge spanning that stream. Several roads concentrated at Hulmeville in early times. The old road from Philadelphia to New York by way of Kirkbride's Ferry on the Delaware passed through Hulmeville, crossing the Neshaminy at Galloway's ford, and Attleborough and Oxford Valley. In 1749 a road fifty feet wide and used as a stage road, was laid out from the Chicken's foot, half a mile above Fallsington, through Hulmeville and across Neshaminy to the Bristol Pike at Andalusia. It shortened the route between Philadelphia and New York about four miles.

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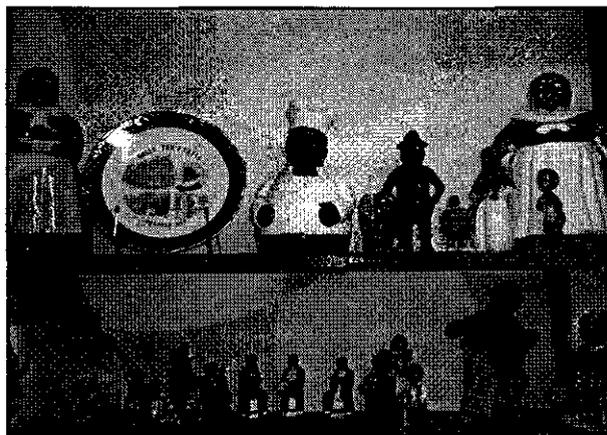
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***Fancy Windsor-Chair  
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**At the Shop formerly occupied by THOMAS KITCHIN, in ATTLEBOROUGH, Bucks County —where he hopes by the quality of his work, and his exertions to give general satisfaction, to receive a share of the public patronage.**

**N. B. All orders thankfully received, and promptly attended to.**

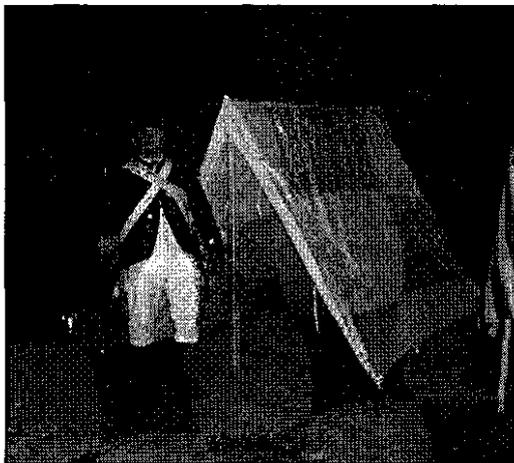
**I Gw. ¶ ATTLEBOROUGH, MAY 21.**



## BITS & PIECES

- Last issue's 'Riddler' question:  
How much did it cost to build the Langhorne train station which was built in 1881?  
Answer: \$2,693.00
- The lion's head will return to our antique gate in the front of our building...just thought you'd like to take a look...bet you didn't know it was gone!
- **WANTED: CHAIRPEOPLE & VOLUNTEERS**  
Apply in person, by phone, by snail mail or email. Requirements: a friendly nature and a sense of humor, cause HLA is fun!

Thank you to Mike Jesberger (right) who spoke at our last General Meeting about the life of a Revolutionary War soldier.



## **Historic Langhorne Association's 2006 Officers & Committee Members**

President- Jim Maier  
Vice President- Larry Langhans  
Treasurer- Jack Fulton  
Recording Secretary- Evelyn Aicher  
Corresponding Secretary- Lynda Johnson  
Technology- C. Lauble & Jim Maier  
Artifacts- Evelyn Aicher & Ruth Irwin  
Publicity- Diane Villano  
Hostess- Nancy Pietsch  
Archives- Larry Langhans & Jim Maier  
HLA Gift Shop- E. Aicher & Judy Sloan  
Finance- Jack Fulton  
Genealogy- Beverlee Felkner  
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 !**