



November 2007 Newsletter

**November
General
Membership
Meeting****Monday,
November 12, 2007
at 7:30 pm**

at the 1895 Schoolhouse

Happy Thanksgiving**... to you and your family!**

October was a very busy month for our Society as we prepared and hosted our annual Flea Market. The weather was chilly and sunny, and we were blessed with many patrons. Everything looked great. A big thank you to the **Flea Market Committee** for all their hours of preparation — our thanks to you! We'd also like to thank all those who donated their time to help sell our "wares", bake their goods, and support the vendors in drumming up a few sales. I'm sure we've added some funds to our coffers (I have not gotten a final accounting to report the numbers to you at this time) — but I know it was *successful*.

Our November membership meeting will be held on Monday, November 12th at 7:30 PM. Our program will be about General George G. Meade, U.S. Civil War General who had local connections in that his family summered at Whitpain's "Dawesfield" on Lewis Lane. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us this evening.

November brings the reopening of our museum. WVHS's Curator, **Emmy Simon**, and her committee, have worked hard to clean the space and reinstall the exhibits. New identification cards explain the objects that are displayed and everything looks great.

WVHS Business News: We must address the vacancies that have opened on the Board of Directors. In June, **Grace Pasco** resigned her position as Recording Secretary; in September both **Emmy Simon**, our Curator and **Judy Grubb**, our Newsletter chair, have resigned — they will complete their respective responsibilities through the end of 2007. We have missed **Bob Virkler**'s presence as our Librarian, and wish him good health. I have resigned as President, nearly five years ago! I will be asking for a Nominating Committee to be formed to fill all of these positions by January. It is very important that we fill these vacancies in order to keep the organization running smoothly. The dedicated members named above have held their positions for many years and in all fairness we need you, our members, to step up to the plate and take a position. The openings are President, Curator, Librarian, Newsletter Chair, and Recording Secretary.

** Editor's note: As of this writing, the position for Curator has been graciously filled by Peg Johnston, effective January 1, 2008.*

Peace! Sincerely,
Frank J. Russo, Jr., President

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
REMINDER!**

Membership Chairperson:
Mary Lou McFarland

Please remember to complete your membership renewal form and mail it to:

WVHS Membership
500 Trinity Place
Ambler, PA 19002-5836

Checks should be made payable to WVHS. If you have any questions, please call me at 215-542-9381.

WVHS TO HOST ANNUAL Holiday Dinner Party ~ Monday, December 10, 2007

“CHRISTMAS PAST” IS THIS YEAR’S THEME

We will host our Annual Holiday Dinner Party on Monday, December 10th at 6:00 PM. It will be held at the historic home of **Russ and Jean Bellavance** of Ambler. It is a family event, so everyone is invited. Mark your calendar. Our theme this year is “**Christmas Past**” with decorations from the Colonial period, Victorian period and the 1950’s. We will be passing sign-ups for your covered dish or dessert for the party at our November meeting. **Don’t miss it!**

FRESH CUTTING

Greens ~ Donations Needed for Holiday Party!

DON’T TRIM YOUR LANDSCAPE PLANTS YET!

The Society needs donations of fresh-cut greens, pine, spruce, fir, boxwood, holly, etc., for decorating. As the Bellavance’s have graciously opened up their home for this event, we offer to decorate their home with fresh-cut greens for the party. Please leave donations at the Bellavance’s home by **noon on Sunday, December 9th.**



JOSEPHINE SAWICKI SAYS, “A BIG VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!” To All Those Who Contributed to the Flea Market:

Grace Pasco, Emmy Simon, Peg and Jim Johnston, Bob and Mabel Whittock along with their daughter Sharon Brunner, Jerry Miklosh, Russ and Jean Bellavance, The Russo’s (Marie, Frank Sr. and Jr.), Joan Feliciani and Chris Feliciani, Bob and Toni Notoris, Art Driedger, Bill and Helen Missfeldt, Bob and Gloria Myers, Judy Grubb, Mary Ann Hoffman ... did we leave anybody out?? Please let us know so that we can thank you, too!



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Adopt-a-Schoolhouse Project

Adoption is easy. You don’t need to travel far, just to your favorite historical society building, the **1895 Schoolhouse!** Our Society’s Adopt-A-Project Program has been moving along with some success. Thanks to all of our members who have donated or volunteered their time to accomplish an item that needed attention in the Schoolhouse. I am adding the following to our list of “To Do’s”:

- > Repair and paint tinwork on Public School 1895 sign over the front door (costs \$500 plus time to paint)
- > Clean and repaint front door (costs of paint, donation of time)
- > Clean, prep and paint our Meeting Room (costs of supplies \$1,000 plus time)
- > Repair, prep and paint garage doors (costs of supplies \$200 plus time)

PLEASE NOTE: Shortly after our fall Flea Market, we were the victims of vandalism once again. This time, the culprits decided to throw projectiles through three of the Schoolhouse meeting room windows, and through one of the basement windows. Why? We don’t know, but this would be a great project to adopt (winter is right ‘round the corner!)

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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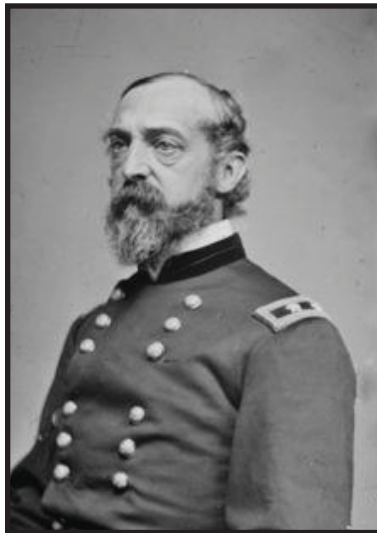
THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

Meet General Meade

Presented by: Anthony Waskie,
Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speaker

Come join us on an interesting lecture about George Gordon Meade (December 31, 1815 – November 6, 1872). Meade was a career U.S. Army officer and civil engineer involved in coastal construction, including several lighthouses. He fought with distinction in the Seminole War and Mexican-American War. During the American Civil War he served as a Union general, rising from command of a brigade to the Army of the Potomac. He is best known for defeating Confederate General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

In 1864–65, Meade continued to command the Army of the Potomac through the Overland Campaign, the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, and the Appomattox Campaign, but he was overshadowed by the direct supervision of the general in chief, Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant.



George Gordon Meade,
portrait by Mathew Brady
(Wikipedia photo credit)

This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The PHC inspires people to come together and share a life of learning. Since 1973, the PHC has provided resources that empower local groups to help their communities explore history, literature, the arts, and the ideas that shape the human experience.

Upcoming Events:

November 22
Thanksgiving Day

December 10
Holiday Party

January 14
Civilians in the Civil War:
Fighting the War on the Home Front

*Presented by Paula Gidjunis,
Civil War Expert*

February 11
Members Share:
Their Collections
and Expertise
*Presented by the Membership
of the WVHS*

March 11
History of Bethlehem
Baptist Church
in Penllyn
*Presented by Rev. Quann,
Pastor*

Traditional Celebrations

THANKSGIVING IN AMERICA

In the United States, certain kinds of food are traditionally served at Thanksgiving meals. *First and foremost*, turkey is usually the featured item on any Thanksgiving feast table (so much so that Thanksgiving is sometimes referred to as “Turkey Day”). Stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, maize, other fall vegetables, and pumpkin pie are commonly associated with Thanksgiving dinner. All of these primary dishes are actually native to the Americas or were introduced as a new food source to the Europeans when they arrived.



*The first Thanksgiving, painting by Jean Louis Gerome Ferris
(Reproduced from Wikipedia)*

Garage for Rent

Effective January 1, 2008

Please inquire if you or someone you know is interested in renting garage space. Reasonable rental fee. Contact the WVHS for more information.

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Calendar of Events ~ November 2007 and upcoming events!

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society

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| Mon., Nov. 12 | General Business Meeting 7:30 pm
<i>Lecture: Meet General Meade – Presented by Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speaker Anthony Waskie</i> |
| Mon., Nov. 26 | WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm |
| Mon., Dec. 10 | General Business Meeting/Holiday Covered Dish 6:00 pm
<i>Holiday Dinner Party at the home of Russ and Jean Bellavance</i> |
| Mon., Jan. 14 | General Business Meeting 7:30 pm
<i>Lecture: Civilians in the Civil War: Fight the War on the Home Front Presented by Paula Gidjunis, Civil War Expert</i> |
| Mon., Jan. 28 | WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm |
| Mon., Feb. 11 | General Business Meeting 7:30 pm
<i>Topic: Members Share: Their Collections and Expertise</i> |
| Mon., Feb. 25 | WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm |

*The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Newsletter is published once a month during the membership season.
General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, and are open to the public.*

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society • 799 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • 215.646.6541 • www.wvalleyhs.org



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 96
Ambler, PA 19002-0096