



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler  
Lower Gwynedd  
Whitpain

Volume 10 Issue 2  
November 2008 Newsletter

## From The President's Desk -

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We are early this month with our meeting. It is part of our experiment in breaking out of the usual routines to help attract new members. The meeting will **NOT** be on the second Monday of November. Instead, it will be on **Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 in the afternoon at Boehm's Church**, which is on the corner of Penllyn – Blue Bell Pike and Boehm's Church Road. Our own Bob Whittock, a longtime member of the Church, will give us a history of the Church and its place in the community. This will be a fascinating program. It will be followed by refreshments (there are **some** traditions you don't mess with) at Boehm's. You are then invited to stay for a special Veterans Day service at Boehm's, followed by lighting candles on the graves of veterans in Boehm's historic graveyard. We hope to see you – and maybe a friend or neighbor – there on the 9th.

The annual Market Day was a grand success – a beautiful day, lots of comradeship and fun, good food and almost \$1400 raised. Many people worked hard at making it a success, starting with Frank Russo, Jr. as the committee chair, his parents Sonny and Marie, Bob Notoris, Josephine Sawicki, Jeannie Bellavance, Mabel and Bob Whittock, Bob and Gloria Myers, Bill and Helen Missfeldt, Donna Cogan, Peg Johnston, Art Driedger, Jerry Miklosh, Mary Lou McFarland, Grace Pasco and many others.

The October meeting was a real treat. It was a multimedia presentation of Peoples' Views of Ambler created by Mrs. Rachubinski's 4th grade enrichment class at Lower Gwynedd Elementary School in collaboration with Liz Gavry of the Highlands. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders had some multi-media assistance by students at the Wissahickon High School TV studio, but they did the bulk of the work including the narration. It was a fascinating mix of photographs, interviews and video shots, with appropriate music for all segments. Liz Gavry was there to explain the process, and one of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders (accompanied by her proud parents) was there as well. It is always a great delight to see what our young people are capable of achieving. All in all, a wonderful time.

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting. Russ Bellavance, President

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# Happy Thanksgiving

## **"THE FIRST THANKSGIVING" AT PLYMOUTH**

There are 2 (and only 2) primary sources  
for the events of autumn 1621 in Plymouth :  
Edward Winslow writing in *Mourt's Relation* and  
William Bradford writing in *Of Plymouth Plantation*

### **Edward Winslow, *Mourt's Relation* :**

**"our harvest being gotten in**, our governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a speciall manner rejoyce together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labours ; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoyt, with some ninetie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Captaine and others. And although it be not always so plentifull, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie."

### **In modern spelling**

**"our harvest being gotten in**, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

### **William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation* :**

#### **In the original 17th century spelling**

**"They begane now to gather in ye small harvest** they had, and to fitte up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health & strenght, and had all things in good plenty;

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fFor as some were thus imployed in affairs abroad, others were excersised in fishing, aboute codd, & bass, & other fish, of which yey tooke good store, of which every family had their portion. All ye somer ther was no want. And now begane to come in store of foule, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besids water foule, ther was great store of wild Turkeys, of which they tooke many, besids venison, &c. Besids, they had about a peck a meale a weeke to a person, or now since harvest, Indean corn to yt proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty hear to their freinds in England, which were not fained, but true reports."

**In modern spelling**

**"They began now to gather in the small harvest** they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports."

## **Wissahickon Valley Historical Society**

**Presents**

**History of**

**Boehm Church and Cemetery**

**At Boehm Church – Penllyn/Blue Bell Pike**

**Sunday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m.**

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Join us to learn about this historic church.

Followed by light refreshments

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The public is also invited to a short Veterans' Day Service at 5 p.m. which will include placing flags at the graves of the many veterans buried in the cemetery.

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