



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

215-646-6541

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August 2014

Welcome the new year of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society/ Historical Society of Whitpain!

A **pot-luck supper** plus
sharing of new donations,
touring the newly remodeled library and
a members' show and tell (details below*)
and, best of all, catching up on WVHS/HSW news and
friends.

**6 p.m., September 8
at the 1895 Schoolhouse.**

Please call Emmy Simon
215-646-7731
to sign up for the pot-luck.
Coffee/juices/sodas provided.

*Show and tell - attendees are encouraged to bring an
item of interest to share and explain in a minute or two.

Mark your Calendar

September 8 - Monthly meeting of WVHS

September 20 - Historical Society of Whitpain's fall antique and plant sale

September 20 - Montgomery County History Fair 2014 - Heckler Plains Farmstead, 237 Landis Road, Harleysville

October 11 - WVHS's annual market day/flea market - 8 to 2

Additions to the Haywood Collection

On a recent Monday, members of the Haywood family visited the 1895 Schoolhouse. The family has deep roots in the Ambler and Lower Gwynedd area. In the early 2000s, they donated several deeds and other documents with local interest to the WVHS. This time Sally Honston Haywood and daughter Holly Haywood Glasmann donated a deed box inscribed with Joseph Haywood and letters, will, and other documents from the family. There are also several farm journals from the Haywood estate whose house became the original building of the Artman Home. The Haywood estate extended from Mount Pleasant to Tennis.

The items had come down through Sally's husband, Jack Haywood's family. He was the great-grand son of the Joseph Haywood of the deed box. Some of the items belonged to C.W. Haywood; others were from Joseph C.W.'s son. Several of the letters are hand written and refer to both personal as well as national and local events - including the Civil War.

Joseph's son, C.W. II started a dairy Anasmead at the corner of Tennis and Welsh. It was named for his wife, Ann.

Sally Honston Haywood was accompanied by her sister Carol Sue Taylor and her husband John (Jack). Both Sally and Carol Sue grew up in the house next to the 1916 Schoolhouse on Skippack Pike. They remember attending Girl Scouts in the 1895 Schoolhouse and were confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church. They recognized Cora Koch in a 1922 photo and related that she had been their teacher in the 1950s!



In addition to the Haywood donation, Carol Sue's husband, John Taylor, brought a large aerial photo of the Keasbey-Mattison properties. The photo dates from the 1930s. It will be added to our Ambler collection.

The Haywood items and the photo will be on display at the September meeting. Transcribing the handwritten letters could make a fascinating project for someone who enjoys detailed work.

Seeking Info on Ambler Bottles

We recently received an e-mail seeking information about a clear bottle impressed with "D E Wolff s Drug Co
Ambler, PA USA"

Any information about this drug store or drug company would be appreciated.

Joe Schneider is also seeking information about a bottle marked "Royal Drug"

Suggested Day Trip

Peg Johnston

When the grandkids arrive from Texas each July, we head off on local adventures. Valley Forge, Wentz Farm, Morris Arboretum, Reading Terminal Market, and Peace Valley are regular destinations. This year we added Philadelphia City Hall - thanks to a suggestion from Peggy Diorio. We called ahead for reservations for the tour up to visit William Penn. (There is also a longer tour of the building itself; according to the very helpful receptionist, it wouldn't be appropriate for young children.)

We took the train to Suburban Station and walked over to City Hall. After checking in, we went up the elevator/escalator combination - right to the top. We found ourselves right beneath William Penn's huge feet and with a fantastic view in four directions.

Interestingly enough in the reception area there was a photo of two men atop William Penn's hat. The caption said that they were checking the seal on the metal. The kids, of course, thought it would be a great adventure to climb up there. When I mentioned this to a long time Ambler resident and former employee of AmChem, she remembered that AmChem chemists had taken samples first hand before suggesting treatments for the metal. AmChem, a long-time Ambler company, made special paints for use on metal.

A few fun facts about City Hall: 88 million brick were used in its construction, it is larger than the U.S. Capitol building, it has about 700 rooms, the total cost in 1901 was \$24.5 million, the building includes over 250 sculptures. The statue of William Penn was raised in sections on to the tower on November 28, 1894 after being displayed in the courtyard for a year and a half. He is the tallest statue on top of any building in the world with an arm length of 12.5 feet and a nose length of 18 inches.



Check Out Our Exhibit at the Blue Bell Library

This month the Wissahickon Public Library at Blue Bell is hosting the WVHS's exhibit featuring recently accessioned items in the museum's collection. These include school books donated by Peg Kregel, the Ambler air-raid siren from Joe Schneider, the Christening gown that belonged to local artist Nina Martino, and newspapers reporting significant events of the 20th century shared by Bonnie Schmid and her husband.

New, More Comfortable Chairs!

Thanks to the Women's Auxillary of the Centre Square Fire Department, we have newer, more comfortable and safer chairs for the the 1895 Schoolhouse. Come try them out on September 8th.

Watch for Membership Information

2014-15 membership information will be in the mail at the end of August. A list of programs and activities for this next year will be included. This past year records of the society's collection was put on the computer so that they are available on line. (Thanks, Krista!) Digitization of the collection has begun. This will make the collection even more accessible as well as safer. The society is committed to taking the best care of their collection and some of the archival materials need to be bought. Keeping the building heated in the winter is necessary for safety of the building as well as the collection. And, most important, the out reach to the community - especially the schools - in an on going effort. Please renew asap to support the historical society's continued success.



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