



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002
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****Meet and Greet****

Member Share

Monday, September 14
at the 1895 Schoolhouse - 7:30 p.m.



Members are encouraged to bring one item of interest
(doesn't need to be fancy or valuable - something with a
"short story" is perfect) and share it with the group.

Five minute limit, please.

Light refreshments and excellent conversation to follow.

Mark your Calendar

August 7 - First Friday in Ambler

August 13 - "An American Revolutionary War Overview - up to the 1777 Whitemarsh, Matson' Ford, Harriton Connection" presented by WVHS member James Magaziner. Harriton House, Bryn Mawr, 500 Harriton Road (just off Old Gulph Rd.) - Tour: 6:15 p.m., Presentation 7 p.m.

September 4 - First Friday in Ambler

September 14 - WVHS monthly meeting - see page 1

September 19 - Fall Festival/Revolutionary War Encampment at Evans-Mumbower Mill

September 19 - Coffeehouse: Mesothelioma Lecture, Calvary United Methodist Church, 16 E. Park Avenue, Ambler, 7 p.m.

September 20 - Open House at Franklinville School and the 1895 Schoolhouse

A Visit to Bethlehem, PA

by Peg Johnston

I was recently in Bethlehem for a memorial service - which was held at ArtFest which is on the Bethlehem Steel Plant site. The service was meaningful - especially as it honored a person who was important in the renewal of the site.

Afterwards, we walked the catwalk through the huge industrial site. The visitor center invited us back for a "steel-walker tour" of the site. On September 5, 12, 19 and



October 3, 10, 17, 24, visitors can join former steelworkers on a walk/talk tour. There are benches at regular intervals during the walk.

After 122 years of steelmaking and the employment of up to 165,000 people a year at its height, the country's number two steelmaker, Bethlehem made its last cast in Bethlehem on November 18, 1995.

The Steelworks' Archives was formed in 2001 to ensure that the legacy of the steelworks is preserved. The Smithsonian Institution is in the process of creating a museum in Bethlehem to celebrate the



industrial history of the country.

Bethlehem is an easy hour's drive from our area. Parking at the Steel-stacks is free. (Check web-site that you won't be there on a concert day.)

The Bethlehem's historic main street on the other side of the river has numerous local restaurants and interesting buildings.

Lindenwold Update

Upper Dublin Township board amended its comprehensive zoning ordinance last spring to allow the rezoning of specific properties. This resulted in plans for the development of Dr. Mattison's Lindenwold estate.



This fall the process will continue with developers presenting plans for preserving the historic assets of the property. Plans presented last spring included the intention to preserve the two carriage houses, the gates and walls of the estate, the castle, the large pond, the statuary gardens. Several other structures would also be preserved.

Initial plans called for 30 carriage houses, 54 townhomes, 40 condominiums, and 250 senior independent living apartments. It is now likely that a new plan would include 32 carriage houses, 72 townhouses, and 250 senior apartments.

Concerns that have been expressed at public meetings include traffic congestion, water run-off from impervious surfaces, and the lack of specific plans and a budget for preserving the

above mentioned historic features.

For updates on developments, check out ROSLE (Residents for Open Spaces at Lindenwold Estate) at www.lindenwoldestate.org.



Recent Donations

Thanks to Ethel Hutchinson for a very interesting addition to our school collection. The metal lunch box (shown at left) is from the 1930's and reminds us that tobacco was once considered healthy! Imagine sending a child's lunch to school in this box today. Ethel also donated an inkwell that is now on display at the Franklinville School.

Kevin Burke recently donated a Pennsylvania state flag that will soon be installed at the front of the classroom at the 1895 Schoolhouse. It complements nicely our US flag. The flag was used at the state capitol in Harrisburg. The state flag was authorized by the general assembly in 1799, but it was not standardized until 1907. It features the state motto - Virtue, Liberty, and Independence - as well as the state coat of arms. Thanks, Kevin

Mystery Site

Several members correctly identifies the location of the King-Betz grocery store on Lindenwold - just off Butler - in Ambler. Frank Russo remembers buying candy there. The store had a charge pad for regular customers and delivered in the Ambler area. A family lived in the accommodations on the second floor. The building is now The Antique Drummer and its windows are filled with interesting antiques.



This month's mystery site (at left) is no more, but its loss brought together those interested in preserving historic buildings in our community and is often mentioned to remind us all how quickly something can disappear.



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