



Wissahickon Valley

*historical society*

Ambler  
Lower Gwynedd  
Whitpain

[www.wvalleyhs.org](http://www.wvalleyhs.org)

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P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

Volume 16, Issue 3

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## Nov. 16 Meeting Open House at the 1895 Schoolhouse 2 to 4 p.m.

Social time and tours of the library and museum.  
Light refreshments will be served

Formal signing of the Merger Agreement between  
the **Wissahickon Valley Historical Society** and  
the **Historical Society of Whitpain** at 2:30.

The impending listing (after years of work by the HSW) of the  
Franklinville School on the  
National Register of Historical Places will be celebrated.

Library tour will honor **Walker Smith** (Eagle Scout)  
and **SpringHouse Questers** whose  
efforts made the library renovations possible.



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society [www.wvalleyhs.org](http://www.wvalleyhs.org) [info@wvalleyhs.org](mailto:info@wvalleyhs.org)  
Serving Whitpain, Ambler, and Lower Gwynedd  
Volume 16 Issue 3



## Thursday Morning at the 1895 Schoolhouse

Each Thursday from  
9:30 to noon various  
members meet at the 1895  
Schoolhouse and work on

tasks and share information. Clockwise from upper left:

**Krista Lewis** enters items from the Historical Society of Whitpain collection on the data base. (All items from HSW will be entered under the number 3000 and listed as coming from the HSW. They will be listed on the web-site.) **Dotty McDermott** sorts and labels photos. Many photos record the extensive work done by the HSW on Franklinville School. **Marie Goldkamp** organizes the HSW photos and records in file cabinets in



the WVHS museum and library. **Robert Battice** (working so quickly that he is a blur) sets up a display in the upstairs library. **Krista Lewis** instructs **Emmy Simon** (our archivist) and **Peg Diorio** on how to enter items onto the database. (Above) **Peg Diorio**



accession new items before they are stored or put on display.

**Robert Whittock** is a regular Thursday morning visitor. He serves as our local historian - answering questions and filling in facts - as well as helping with building issues.

The next project is to arrange books in the library. We also have a wonderful collection of children's

book that will be displayed on the first floor. They need to be accessioned.

Please consider joining us on a Thursday morning. Wear layers as it can be cool. All skills and interests are needed.





## Mark Your Calendar

**November 1 and 2** - Re-enactment at Hope Lodge

**November 4** - Election Day

**November 6** - Thursday, 2 p.m. - Charlie Moyer of Alderfer's will talk about what's hot and what's not in the antique market. Blue Bell Library, Skippack Pike.

**November 11** - Veterans' Day

**November 16** - Sunday at 2 p.m. - Open House and Celebration of the merger of the HSW and WVHS. 1895 Schoolhouse. This is the monthly meeting.

**November 24** - Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

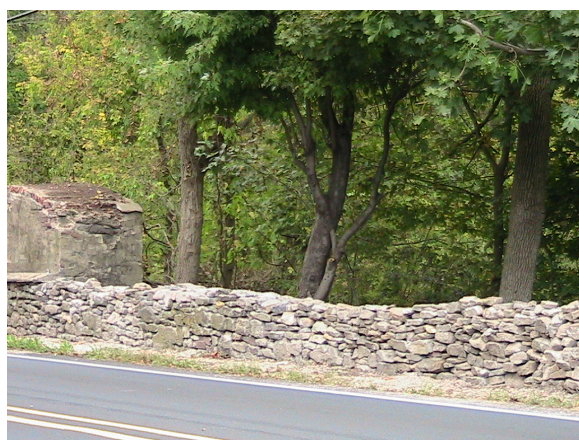
**December 7** - Members' Holiday Party, Bellavance Home, 2 p.m.

## Congratulations to Buck

**Buck Amey** was the first to correctly identify the location of Old Bethlehem Pike. It is a short road which connects off of Bethlehem Pike across from Giant in Spring House and runs behind the Lower Gwynedd Township Buildings. It dead ends back at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike, Norristown Rd., Sumneytown Pike, and Penllyn Pike. Lower Gwynedd Township Centennial Park is located on Old Bethlehem Pike. The Ingersoll house has been rehabbed by the Township and is located just off of Old Bethlehem Pike.

Correct answers also came from **Judy Baigis** and **Mike Fondots**. Mike mentioned that it is across from what was Jesses Motel. That would be a mystery spot for me!

This month: This stone wall was a pile of rubble this past summer. Over the course of a couple of weeks, a young woman carefully reassembled it. It was a labor of love and looks wonderful. It is, of course, along the Wissahickon Creek in Whitpain Township. What roadway does it border? And what building of historic interest is across the street?



## WVHS Hosts Pastors' Group

More than 20 members of the Pastors' of Colonial Churches of Montgomery County gathered at the 1895 Schoolhouse on Oct. 22 for their bi-annual meeting. WVHS President **Russ Bellavance** gave the program about the history of religious freedom under the Constitution and about the history of the WHS/WVHS.

Over coffee and pastries, the group shared news of events in their home churches and toured the schoolhouse. A couple of the delegates had local connections and shared stories of places and events of interest. (Watch for next month's story about the asparagus fields of Whitpain and the artifact of the endeavor we have in our collection.)

## Out-reach to Schools

A survey of local history was shared with Mrs. Swanger's third grade class at Blue Bell on October 6. Third grade curriculum emphasizes the cultural development of the area. This was an opportunity to follow the contributions of the LenniLenape, the early Swedish, Welsh, English, and German settlers, and the later arrival of the southern and eastern Europeans as well as African Americans.

The Shady Grove library will host a WVHS display on schools of the past in the coming month. The exhibit will include books, slates, a lunch pail, and other school items of the early 20th century.

## Best Wishes to Krista

by **John Simon**, Director, WVHS - Oct. 31, 2014

It all started in Sept. 2014 when the Society received an unsolicited e-mail from **Krista Lewis**. In this note, Krista explained her education in history and public history, and simply stated, "I'd very much like to lend a hand to the WVHS." Well, she decided to help us put our museum collection on a computer database. The Society had zero at the time. Krista, in consultation with me, screened, then chose the most appropriate software to do the job. The Society bought the database software Filemaker, a Mac laptop, camera, etc. Krista, without prior knowledge of Filemaker or the Mac operating system, personally set up the computer, software, and entered our collection with description, photos, and other detailed information into a database. Her work was not in isolation, rather she collaborated with and trained Emmy, Peg, and others involved in the WVHS museum. Krista then took this a step further, and helped redesign the WVHS website to better incorporated the museum collection online. Now, the museum collection with over 3000 items currently listed is accessible to the world on the web. Krista's accomplishment is significant and notable. She has shown great initiative, intelligence, and generosity of her time. Krista is young in his career, and she has accepted a position in Minnesota where she can pursue her interest in museum collections at the professional level. She will be missed by myself and many others in the Society, and we all wish her the best!



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