



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

215-646-6541

Volume 16, Issue 2

P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

Oct. 2014

Our monthly meeting is scheduled for
Monday, October 13 at 7:30 p.m.
at the 1895 Schoolhouse.
Please join us and consider bringing a friend.

Revisiting Normandy After 70 Years

Member Herb Levy will tell of his return (at the invitation of the French government) to France 70 years after the Invasion of Normandy in 1944.

The *70 Trees for 70 Years* program welcomed veterans of the campaign back to France and gave them an opportunity to meet with French citizens - especially students.

Herb holds the French Legion d'honneur for his efforts during WWII.

Market Day - Oct. 11

This is a major money maker for the WVHS.

We will be selling books and baked goods and snacks.

Vendors sites are still available; call 215-646-6541.

Of course, volunteers are needed. Please consider contributing baked goods and/or volunteering a couple of hours - Friday afternoon set-up and/or Saturday. Call 215-646-6541

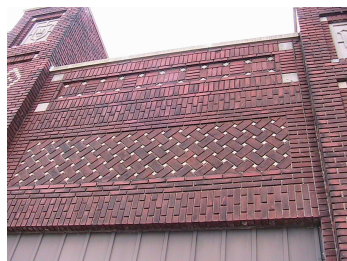
Wissahickon Valley Historical Society www.wvalleyhs.org info@wvalleyhs.org

Serving Lower Gwynedd, Ambler, and Whitpain

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Congratulations to Judy

Judy Baigis was the first to correctly identify the building detail in the September issue. It belongs to the Keasbey-Mattison garage on Butler Pike across from the post office. Plant



Ambler is working to establish a flower bed along Butler next to the garage - which now is a garage for rehabbing classic cars. Judy

will receive a set of 1895 Schoolhouse note cards.

This month: Can you identify where Old Bethlehem Pike is located in Lower Gwynedd? E-mail Pegathome6@yahoo.com with your answer.



Peg K. Shares Recipe - A Hit at Pot-luck

Fruit Galette -

For the Dough - 1 1/3 cups all purpose flour

1 Tbs. sugar 1 large egg heavy cream, as needed

1 stick unsalted butter (cut into big pieces)

2 tsp. lemon juice 1/2 tsp. grated lemon zest (optional)

For the Filling - 3 cups summer fruit of your choice (fall fruit slightly cooked should work as well) 1/2 cup sugar

pinch of salt juice and grated zest 3 or 4 tsp. cornstarch

Make the crust - pulse or mix flour, sugar, and salt. Lightly beat egg and add enough cream to make 1/3 cup. Cut butter into flour mixture - until butter is chick-pea sized. Mix in about 1/2 of egg mixture. Add lemon juice and zest. Flatten into disk. Chill for 2 hours or up to 3 days. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Roll dough to a 12-inch round. Place on baking sheet lined with parchment paper and chill.

Make the filling - Toss fruit with sugar (reserving a Tbs.), salt, lemon juice, zest, and cornstarch. Pile fruit on dough circle. Gently fold pastry over the fruit. Brush pastry with leftover egg and cream mixture. Sprinkle with sugar.

Bake - For 35 to 45 minutes until filling bubbles and crust is golden. Cool at least 20 minutes; serve at room temperature.

Stop by on Thursday Morning

There is lots to do as we catalogue new items as well as organize the library and maintain WVHS artifacts. All are welcome - 9:30 to noon. Call 215-542-7753 for details.

WVHS Takes Part In History Day

Thanks to Russ and Jean Bellavance, Bob Whittock, and Peg Johnston for putting together and working our table at History Day at Heckler Farms on September 20. There were many interesting tables and activities as well as many visitors to the WVHS table.

Reaching out to Schools

One of the Society's goals for this year is to establish stronger relationships with local schools. Some ideas are to offer In-service workshops to teachers, provide lessons for classes in their buildings, and increase visits to the 1895 Schoolhouse. Anyone with ideas and suggestions are encouraged to share them at the next meeting or by calling 215-646-6541.

Remembering Art Driedger

by Peg Johnston

Over the many years that Art Driedger lived in the area, he influenced many lives. I often encounter adults who remember him as a teacher - both at Wissahickon high school and in scouting as well as in adult classes. He inspired students to do real historical research and took numerous students on summer trips around the country. His student historians were instrumental in the Bicentennial celebrations in 1976 by sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with the community. Many adults remember the campfire talks in Art and Janice's backyard.

There is a wonderful celebration of Art's life in the September 14, 2014 edition of the Ambler Gazette and on the Shaeff-Myers Funeral Home website. I'll quote one line: "Arthur's life was exemplified by an exuberant joy of living and learning, and by tasks of loyalty and helping others to learn and to grow.

Our condolences to Arthur's family.

Tour of Centre Square (Centerville) School

Aric Datesman was a recent Thursday visitor to the 1895 Schoolhouse. He owns the building on Skippack Pike above DeKalb Pike that was, until almost 1920, the Centre Square or, earlier, Centerville School. He was seeking more information about the building. According to *Whitpain Township - A Tricentennial Reflection*, the school was built in 1825 on ground purchased by Rev. George Wack and Henry Hurst, trustees appointed by the school district.

Mr. Datesman invited several WVHS members to visit the house on September 24th. The building has been redone as a comfortable house with some lovely original features - including floors and stairs.



Visitors explored the basement and the workshed that was constructed and used by the Stong family who lived and worked in the buildings for many years.

On a tour of the home, he showed us the stone at right that he found while rehabing the building. Bob Whittock explained that in 1859, several area schools were rebuilt or replaced in response to a societal movement focusing on education.



The book also states that in 1888 a second story was added to the school at a cost of \$1296. It allowed the building to house two classrooms - one elementary and one secondary. It served as an area high school for the next seven years - until the more centrally located 1895 Schoolhouse was built.

The Schoolhouse served as a community center over the years - for a singing class, some government groups, as well as for church services when St. John's Church was being remodeled.

Thanks to Mr. Datesman for sharing his home with us and reminding us of some important local history.

Merger to be Celebrated on Nov. 16

The November WVHS/HSW meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16 at 1 p.m. the 1895 Schoolhouse. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the new library and honor the Questers as well as the Scouts (led by Walker Smith) who made it possible. It will also celebrate the merger of the two historical societies. To cap off the afternoon, members are invited to travel to the Franklinville School for its Open House. Details of the day will be presented in the November newsletter.

Save the Date - November 16



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