

Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

215-646-6541

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Pot-luck supper/get-together September 8, 6 p.m. at the 1895 Schoolhouse

Call Emmy Simon at 215-646-7731
to sign up and for details.



St. Mary/Lindenwold update: The public group (ROSLE) that seeks to find alternative uses (alternatives to a dense housing development) for the Mattison estate (St. Mary's/Lindenwold) in Ambler will meet at the Upper Dublin library on Tuesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

The Upper Dublin Planning Commission will meet on September 16 at 7 p.m. at the UD Township building. The castle and grounds are an important part of Ambler's history and should be preserved for future generations. It could offer a very special green space for Ambler/Upper Dublin.

The group's website is www.lindenoldestate.org.

They can also be reached on Facebook (Residents for Open Space at Lindenwold Estate).



Ideas for Fall Outings

Thanks to **Donna Hartman** for sharing a supplement from the Montgomery News that is full of suggestions for outings in Montgomery County. Featured in this issue is Norristown Farm Park. It can be accessed at 2500 Upper Farm Road as well as from Whitehall Road across from the Norristown High School.

Until 1975, the Norristown State Hospital patients worked the farm as part of their treatment. Many of the original building still stand and an extensive trail system exists for biking and hiking. There are also fishing and picnicking sites.

Fall programs include a Park in the Dark walk on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the park office parking lot (where there are some great apple trees!) and a Native American Day on Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m. at the picnic pavilions.

Call 610-270-0215 or visit www.montcopa.org/index for more details.

History Day - 2014

Montgomery County History Fair 2014 is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 at Heckler Plains Farmstead, 237 Landis Road, Harleysville.

Sponsored by the "Once Upon A Time in Montgomery County" Committee, the theme this year is Montgomery County in the Civil War. WVHS will participate with a table featuring items from our collection and information about our group.

Help is needed to assemble our display and to manage the table. Please contact **Russ Bellavance** if you would like to help. The Fair runs from 9:30 to 4:30 Admission is free.



WVHS to Host Colonial Churches Group

Rev. Robert Calvert and Bob Whittock coordinated a meeting of the Colonial Churches Group at the 1895 Schoolhouse for Oct. 22. The group consists of ministers from colonial churches from the suburban Philadelphia area. It includes our own Boehm and St. John Evangelical churches.

They will conduct their monthly meeting and tour our facility. If any members are interested in attending, please come on Oct. 22. at 10 a.m.

Condolences to the Wahl Family

Long time WVHS member **Bud (Charles T.) Wahl** passed away on August 9. Our thoughts are with his family - wife MaryJane, and children Elizabeth Kunsler, Jonathan, Mary Kathryn, and Kristina Glanzmann.

Bud was a powerful voice for Ambler as mayor and as an employee of Ambler Savings. He was often seen on Butler Pike and supported Ambler events and businesses. He was a good man and will be missed.

More on the Haywood Collection

Last month's newsletter described the recent donations of items from the Haywood family. Two of the items were diaries kept by Joseph Haywood while he lived and farmed from what is now Artman Home and surrounding areas.

He kept daily records of the weather and activities of the farm and family. The following are three excerpts:

August 28, 1884 - Fine. At Ambler with the pears in the morning. Expressed them to the city to W.Weber grocery and Spring Garden market. Men getting out potatoes.

September 6, 1884 - Fine. Carrie and I drove out in the afternoon. Men plowing and picking potatoes.

September 9, 1884 - Fine. Light rain before daybreak and much cooler. Annie Nealt and Mrs. English started from Camden to go to Sommerton, but getting on the wrong train were brought to Ambler. Willie and I drove them over to Sommerton in the afternoon.

The diaries are not hard to read and give a window on life in Ambler in the 1880s.

In the collection is also a photo of the Haywood house (Artman Home). Photos below show the two uses. They also demonstrate some of the issues of repurposing historic buildings.



Mark Your Calendar

September 6 - Wings/Wheels - open house and activities at Wings Field, 11 to 4.

September 8 - Pot-luck - Monthly meeting of the WVHS, 6 p.m. at the 1895 Schoolhouse. Please call Emmy Simon for details.

September 20 - History Day, Heckler Plains Farmstead (see details above)

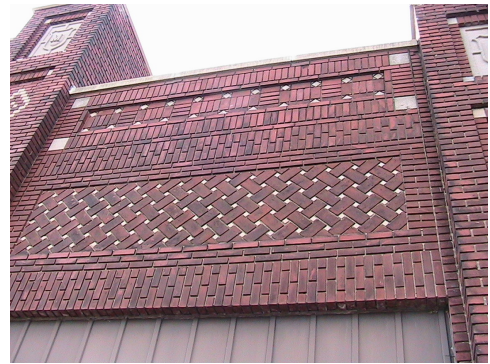
September 20 - Historical Society of Whitpain's fall antique and plant sale

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

October 13 - WVHS Monthly meeting - Program: Herb Levy will share stories of his return to France - 70 years after the Battle of Normandy.

Mystery Photo of the Month

Do you recognize this building front? Most of us drive past it regularly. Answer in next month's newsletter.



Thurs. a.m. at the Schoolhouse

Please stop by any Thursday morning between 9:30 and noon. There is always something going on - and a choice of activities.



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