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IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Corner
- 10th Annual Bus Trip
- Archives Update
- Wyndmoor Hose History Available
- Garden Tour A Success for Black Horse Inn

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WATER FOR THE CITY: A History of the Philadelphia Water Works



Philadelphia was the first city since ancient times (Rome) to take on water delivery as a municipal responsibility. Organized in 1799 and in operation by 1801, the history of the Philadelphia Water Department tells the story of America's love affair – and success – with technology and human ingenuity, its choice of industrial growth over environmental health during the 19th & early 20th centuries, and the realization, today, that there must be a balance between the two.

Please join us for an enjoyable night as STHS is proud to host a presentation by Mr. Edward Grusheski, General Manager of the Public Affairs Division of the Philadelphia Water Department. Mr. Grusheski's presentation focuses on the history of the Philadelphia Water Works and is rich in historic images.

Prior to his current position with PWD, Mr. Grusheski had served as a Museum educator at Boston Children's Museum, the New Jersey State Museum, Philadelphia's Civic Museum and Port of History Museum,

and was Director of PWD's Water Works Interpretive Center before taking this current position in the Department in 1999. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Fairmount Park Commission's Fund for the Water Works and is involved with numerous local tasks forces and committees. He is the President of the Oliver Evans Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology, and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

This promises to be an exciting and educational program on an interesting topic of Philadelphia history. The public is invited to attend, and there is no charge for admission. Reservations are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call 215-233- 4600.

Presented by Mr. Edward Grusheski

Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Bethlehem Pike & East Mill Road in Flourtown, PA

President's Corner

The other day I was reflecting back over the past four years in my role as President, and realized that one of the nicest benefits has been the people I've gotten to know along the way. I am frequently stopped by people in the township who want to know when the next Historical Society event is going to be held, how the Black Horse Inn is progressing, or when the next Springfield Township book is coming out. Seldom does the conversation end without the person telling me a story about their family or themselves growing up in Springfield, and then asking me a question or two about the township's history. I also get calls from people who invite me to their home to see artifacts they've uncovered in their yard, to view and donate old photographs, and always to share a story or two. On occasion I get letters from people as well, including some who have moved out of Springfield but stay in touch through past neighbors and family members.

I've encountered some very informative and entertaining storytellers these past four years, of note among them are Joseph Timoney (of Wyndmoor) and Bob Scott (of Flourtown), both of whom have long standing family roots in Springfield. Joseph recalled for me his years working for Penn Salt at Whitmarsh Hall, after Mrs. Stotesbury sold it. Talking to him was like taking a virtual tour of the mansion, shortly after its Gilded Age heyday. Bob shared stories of his father, Walter Scott, who worked at the Grand Casino in the White City Amusement Park at the turn of the 20th century. These are just a couple of examples of the many stories they've shared, not to mention pictures and artifacts they've donated.

I've also exchanged several letters with two particularly interesting men, Brother David (former Flourtown resident now residing in West Virginia) and Richard McCuen (of Flourtown). Brother David shared with me the stories of his youth in the 1940's, working at Sunnybrook Golf Club and visiting with Mary McCloskey to feed her horses behind the Black Horse Inn. Richard McCuen regaled me with stories from the early 1950's of his working for Bob Seka at the golf driving range on Bethlehem Pike. He drove a screened-in Jeep, which towed an attachment that picked up golf balls on the range, working seven evenings a week for \$18 a week. Many golfers took aim at the Jeep, scaring Richard when they hit the metal mesh!

Springfield Township is really a collection of tightly coupled neighborhoods, where families tend to remain for multiple generations, passing down their history from one generation to the next. I have been very privileged to be able to meet a number of these people and have them share with me the stories of their life growing up in the township. It is my hope to capture a lot of these stories in the next Historical Society published book, *Springfield Township – Then & Now*, in 2008. Please drop me a line at the Historical Society's mail address to share the stories and pictures of your life in Springfield, as well as that of your family, and with your permission they might just be immortalized in print for others to enjoy forever.

Keeping the past in the present,

Ed Zwicker

10th Annual Fall Bus Trip – 2007

SOLD OUT

New York City — Ellis Island — Statue of Liberty

The Springfield Township Historical Society's 10th annual fall bus trip was sold out by early July. On Saturday, September 29, 2007, our group will be touring the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Following this tour we will be traveling back to New Jersey to board the Circle Line Ferry for a short ride to Ellis Island and then on to the Statue of Liberty before returning to Liberty State Park for the ride home.

Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Upon arrival in Manhattan, we will visit the Lower East Side

Tenement Museum for a one hour tour. Our group will be divided into two tour groups: a "Piecing It Together Tour" and a "Getting By Tour." Following the tours, we will board the bus for a ride to Liberty State Park in New Jersey.

Ellis Island — Statue of Liberty

Upon arrival at Liberty State Park in NJ, we will have to go through a National Park Service security check (similar to airport security procedures) before boarding the ferry. The ferry's first stop is at Ellis Island. After completing the

tour of Ellis Island, we will board the ferry again for a short trip to the Statue of Liberty. A 45 minute Ranger Guided Tour of the grounds is available free of charge. Upon completion of the tour of the Statue of Liberty we will board the ferry back to Liberty Park, where our bus will be waiting to take us home. We will arrive back in Flourtown, approximately 8:00 pm.

While the bus trip is currently sold out, we are maintaining a waiting list should we receive cancellations. *To be added to the list, please call Andy Logan 215-233-5992.*



Ed Zwicker (right), president of the Springfield Township Historical Society, welcomed guest speaker **Daniel Hoffman**, Ph.D., poet and retired English professor, to an historical society program on May 24. Hoffman shared his thoughts and read from his poetry book on Pennsylvania founder William Penn and his relationship with the Lenni Lenape people in the region. The program was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Archives Update

This column has mentioned our valuable volunteers in the past, but this month we want to highlight some of their recent projects.

Dulie Gray has been working on the thirteen (!) binders of information on Whitemarsh Hall and the Stotesbury family that Marie Kitto collected. These present a challenge because they are filled with both photos and clippings, making organization and cataloging more complicated. Dulie started at the beginning with construction photos and moved to interior views and finally through to the mansion's post Stotesbury days. She is currently wading through the notebook that holds correspondence, photos and articles about the Stotesbury extended family.

John Franz has been working to organize and catalog many of our genealogical records. We have colonial era census and tax records which need to be cataloged into our computer system so that researchers can search through them with ease. This task has been complicated by that fact that many of these records are handwritten – deciphering 18th century handwriting can be a challenge!

Nora Schwarz recently spent several hours assisting an author in Canada who is writing a book about Alice Ramsey, the first woman to drive an automobile cross country. Nora helped her explore the local connection, that Cadwalader “Carl” Kelsey, a Wyndmoor inventor and inveterate tinkerer encouraged Ramsey to undertake the cross country adventure. The Kelsey family lived in the home currently occupied by the Keystone Hospice.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers for their dedication and continued enthusiasm.

*Anyone interested in volunteering at the archives
is encouraged to call STHS at
215-233-4600*

Join the STHS

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I would like to become a member in the following category:

☐ Individual/Couple _____ \$20 ☐ Student _____ \$5

☐ Contributing* _____ \$40 ☐ Organization* _____ \$65

*These membership levels receive a 6" square commemorative trivet with a drawing of Whitemarsh Hall (the Stotesbury Estate) by local artist Sally Yates. *Exclusively ours.*

Please make your check payable to **STHS** and mail this form with check to **STHS, PO Box 564, Flourtown, PA 19031**

Wyndmoor Hose History Now Available

Wyndmoor Hose Company No. 1 recently released their centennial history, *Wyndmoor Hose Company, No. 1: 100 Years of the Fire Service in Wyndmoor*. Formally chartered on June 29, 1907, the all-volunteer group has battled more than 300 major blazes during its first century. The growth of the company from its meager beginnings to the well trained group of nearly fifty dedicated men and women who comprise Wyndmoor Hose today is charted in this well researched and informative retrospective. The narrative is complemented by exquisite photographs, maps and diagrams. Copies of the book are available at Wyndmoor Supply on Willow Grove Avenue and through the Wyndmoor Hose Company website, www.wyndmoorfireco.com.

Garden Tour a Success for Black Horse Inn

On Saturday, June 9th, the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike hosted a garden tour, proceeds from which benefitted the restoration of the Black Horse Inn. The event, which included seven local private gardens, concluded with a reception at the Carson Valley School. Local historian and author, David Contosta signed copies of his book, *Philadelphia's Progressive Orphanage*, while local garden photographer Rob Cardillo and award-winning author Adam Levine offered signed copies of their expansive garden chronicle, *A Guide to the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region*.

The garden tour raised nearly \$2,500 for the Black Horse Inn restoration effort. The Black Horse Inn project is being funded by donations from community members and through federal and state grants. So far, more than \$800,000 in grants and local contributions has been secured. Exterior renovations on the building should be completed this fall.

The Friends hope to make the garden tour an annual event for local garden enthusiasts.



BLACK HORSE INN



From left, garden tour attendee Larry Arrigale, Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike board member and tour volunteer Joan Dessureau, tour attendee Tom Keels and tour gardener- host Bob Gutowski, who is also Director of Public Programs at the Morris Arboretum.

Odds 'n' Ends

STHS member **Deborah Wilson** of Oreland found this early 20th century postcard showing an interior view of the Black Horse Inn and notified STHS of this rare find. Ms. Wilson acquired the postcard on behalf of STHS and we are pleased to include such an important item in our collection. →



Christopher Capone (right) received the Springfield Township Historical Society's first History Scholarship Award at the school's senior awards assembly in June from Charles Zwicker, vice president of the historical society. Capone plans to major in history at Ursinus College in the fall. The award is given to a graduating senior who plans to major in history or a related field and for scholastic achievement. The historical society established the award to recognize the importance of education about the township's past.

STHS board member **Barbara Coleman** with husband **Joe Coleman** riding in the Oreland 4th of July parade in their restored 1964 Land Rover adorned with STHS signage. *Photo courtesy of Richard Smith.* →



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*Reserve
the Date:*



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***WATER FOR THE CITY:
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