



PO Box 564
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www.springfieldhistory.org

MAY 2013

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The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

A Morris Arboretum History: *From Private Estate to Public Garden*

A Presentation by Mr. Robert Gutowski

Director, Public Programs – Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, May 16th, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Bethlehem Pike & East Mill Road in Flourtown, PA

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, located on Northwestern Avenue in Chestnut Hill, is an internationally known 92-acre historic landscape with beautiful gardens and architecture right in our own backyard. Their renowned collection of trees and plants from around the world are maintained and displayed in a setting that encourages learning, fun and relaxation. This spring, as in every season, the Arboretum offers events and tours for the public to enjoy. While many local residents have visited these gardens or support it as members, most know little about its creation, what it once looked like, or why it is here.

Join us as the Arboretum's Director of Public Programs, Bob Gutowski, shares his insights, images, and stories of the people, places, and times that shaped the Arboretum from the days of William Penn to today. Bob is a township resident and former STHS board member. He has over 25 years of service at the Arboretum where he established the Archive and History program. He is currently engaged with the Run of the Mill Volunteers, restoring the historic Springfield Mill to operating condition.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania began in 1887 as "Compton," the summer home of John and Lydia Morris, brother and sister. The I.P. Morris Company, an iron manufacturing firm founded



John and Lydia Morris in the Love Temple at Compton, 1909.



by their father and later run by John Morris, was a source of family wealth. The land the Morris family purchased in Chestnut Hill was barren, with poor soil that drained too quickly; but with diligent care they surrounded their home with a landscape and plant collection devoted to beauty and knowledge. John and Lydia Morris laid plans for a school and laboratory at Compton devoted to horticulture and botany. Through the stewardship and vision of the Quaker family, Compton became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in

1932. Listed on The National Register of Historic Places, it is an interdisciplinary resource center for the University, and is recognized as the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Please join us on May 16th to find out more about this historical landmark and garden. The program is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. Also, immediately following the presentation, we will be raffling off prizes generously donated by the Morris Arboretum, including a family membership. Light refreshments will be served.

To learn more about the arboretum visit www.morrisarboretum.org.

For more information call 215-233-4600

PLEASE NOTE:

Attendees to the May program are encouraged to bring a canned food item to donate to the First Presbyterian Church's neighborhood food pantry. Please help us to support this important cause.

President's Corner

History defines us as people, and as a community. We are the product of what came before – the people, the places, and the collective experiences. To forget our history condemns us to repeat the past, mistakes and all.

The Springfield Township Historical Society is the steward of the rich history that is unique to Springfield Township. That this history is preserved and accessible is a quality of life issue. To this end, we will be building on the work that has already been accomplished.

I consider myself privileged to work with the talented individuals that comprise the STHS Board of Directors and with all the other volunteers who contribute their time and energy to our archives, programs, and events. The bar was set quite high at our March program with the exceptional presentation on Laverock Farm by Ed Zwicker III and Ed Zwicker IV. We have more great programs and events planned for the foreseeable future. I am sure they will be both informative and entertaining.

One of our primary initiatives this year is to begin the process of digitizing our archival materials. Through high resolution scanning and digital photography, we will preserve the documents and photographs in our collection and make them more accessible to the community.

After being scanned or photographed, fragile items will not need to be handled as often. Scanning one-of-a-kind primary resources and items in deteriorating formats will not replace the originals. It will, however, preserve images of these items in a digital format for future use.

Digitization will also increase access to our collection when the images are made available through our website. This online access will benefit remote researchers and increase interest, awareness, and support for the Historical Society in the community.

To facilitate the archives digitization project, we will be reaching out to individuals, organizations, and other potential sources of funding. The funding will be used to acquire both hardware and software. We will also be looking to our Friends to volunteer their time and efforts. This is an ambitious, very worthwhile, undertaking for the Society and I look forward to sharing more details with you as we move forward.

I look forward to serving as President of your Historical Society. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

T. Scott Kreilick

President, Springfield Township Historical Society

"HISTORY IS THE WITNESS THAT TESTIFIES TO THE PASSING OF TIME; IT ILLUMINATES REALITY, VITALIZES MEMORY, PROVIDES GUIDANCE IN DAILY LIFE AND BRINGS US TIDINGS OF ANTIQUITY."

Cicero (106 BC–43 BC)

STHS Archivist Sets High Goals for 2013

By Dorothy C. Nickelson

Whether it's preserving the past by documenting a township's history or herstory, archivists play a crucial role in helping an historical society to assess, collect, organize and provide access to valuable records and information that might otherwise have been lost to current and future generations of residents. But they do more than that. By organizing, cataloging, scanning and digitalizing photographs, deeds, maps, architectural blueprints and countless other important items and artifacts, archivists are the main point people for piecing together a township's story.

Family stories are what led STHS archivist **Alessandra Cartelli** to pursue a career as a librarian and to have a lifelong interest in history.

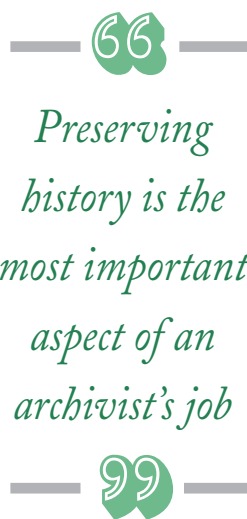
A native of our area, Alessandra was born in Chestnut Hill, attended Our Mother of Consolation grade school and Cardinal Dougherty High School. Alessandra's long and successful career as a librarian and researcher began after she was graduated from Temple University with B.A. in English. She later went on to earn an MSLS in Library Science from Villanova University.

She worked as a librarian in the reference departments of Temple University at the Ambler Campus, Villanova University's Falvey Library and St. Joseph University's Library. "I also worked as a supervisor in the research department of a corporate library," she says, adding that she served as a reference librarian at Mount St.

Joseph Library and at the Free Library of Springfield Township.

But it all started with those family stories. "As my sisters and I sat around the dinner table, I remember my mother telling us about her history growing up in the Friuli region of Italy where she was born," she says.

"She had such an interesting way of recounting the story of what life was like for her in Italy and how it changed when she immigrated to Chestnut Hill in 1940. She lived



to be 98 and told many stories as she had seen a great deal of history. I found the stories fascinating and realized the importance of preserving those stories, because the past can help us understand the present."

Architecture of the past was present all around Alessandra while growing up in Chestnut Hill – Drumm

Moir, Angelcot, Wissahickon Inn, Whitmarsh Hall – and they continue to interest her. "One of the collections at the STHS archive

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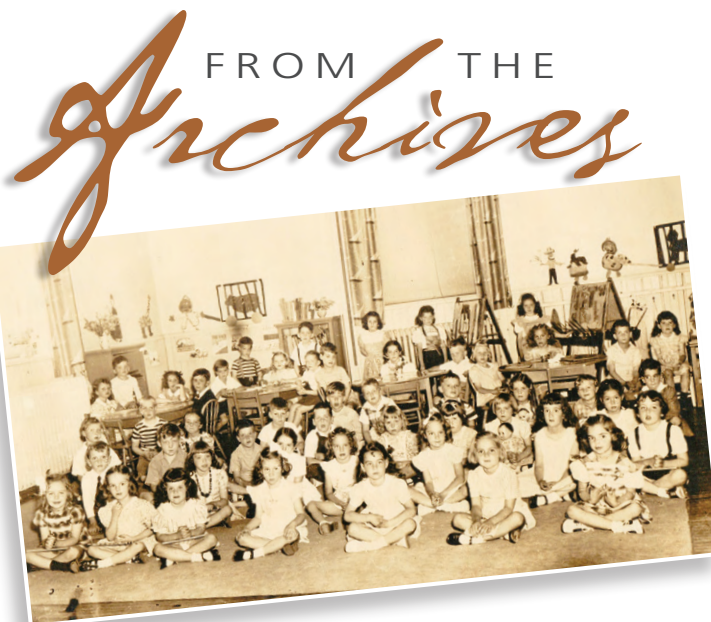
STHS Archivist... Continued

that interests me, in particular, is the Whitemarsh Hall collection," she says. "I remember seeing it before it was demolished and always found it intriguing that people go to Europe to see palaces and castles and we were unable to preserve one in our own backyard."

In wanting to contribute toward preserving other historic sites, Alessandra volunteered at the Chestnut Hill Historical Society where she met Liz Jarvis who asked her to be a member of the STHS Board. "I served on the board for one year and wanted to do more. As a librarian, I had taken archival courses but never worked full time as an archivist. While the work has its similarities, the two jobs are really quite different. I look to the Chestnut Hill archives as a best practice and Liz is my wonderful mentor."

Alessandra has undertaken an important challenge for 2013; one that directly supports STHS' mission of preserving the history of Springfield Township and educating the general public about our history. Her goal is to inventory the entire collection at the archive to ensure that the material is all cataloged in Past Perfect software and readily accessible to researchers. What's more Alessandra is involved in a number of initiatives with cataloging only a part of her commitment.

"Preserving history is the most important aspect of an archivist's job," she concludes. "Springfield Township has a very rich history that needs to be preserved for future generations so that they can understand how past events shape and continue to influence their community."



Kindergarten class 1947-48, Wyndmoor School
(now known as Wyndhill Professional Center, Flourtown Avenue)

The Archives are OPEN to the Public

Tuesdays 7pm – 9pm
Wednesdays 11am – 1pm
Saturdays 9am – 12noon

For more information,
call
215-233-4600

March Program



PHOTO: DEB WILSON

An estimated 150 people attended the Springfield Township Historical Society program in March on "Laverock Farm – The Estate of Arthur Emlen Newbold Jr." Among the guests were Newbold family members Anna Coxe (Coxey) Toogood (far left), who is vice president of the historical society, and her aunt, Margaret Newbold (Marjorie) Pearson (third from left). They were welcomed by program presenters Ed Zwicker 3rd (second from left) and Ed Zwicker IV (far right), former president of the historical society.

BECOME A FRIEND OF STHS

The officers and directors of Springfield Township Historical Society invite you to become a member of our society as a FRIEND. As a Friend, you will help to support our mission of "Research, Preservation and Education," and you will receive:

- Four issues of our newsletter, "The Challenge."
- Discounts on programs and activities (bus trips, tours, etc.).
- Discounts on gift items such as books, maps, prints and tiles.
- Recognition of your contribution in our year-end issue of "The Challenge."

To sign up as a Friend, please visit our website: www.springfieldhistory.org or complete the form below and send it to: **Springfield Township Historical Society, PO Box 564, Flourtown, PA 19031**

☐ Check here if you do NOT want your name included for recognition in the newsletter.

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CITY _____ State _____ Zip _____

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NEWSLETTER OPTIONS:

☐ Emailed electronic newsletter *ONLY*

☐ Mailed printed newsletter *ONLY*

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FRIEND CATEGORY:

\$100+ William Penn

\$50 Penn's Manor of Springfield

\$15 Penn Oak

\$75 Maria Springett Penn

\$25 Friend of Penn

\$_____ Other amount

Archives UPDATE

VOLUNTEERS

We have two new volunteers, Barbara Coleman and Katie McGill.

Volunteer Ray Smith is starting to work on the *Community History Documentation Project*. He will type the handwritten entries and scan in the typed ones. Please send in your memoirs so that your family history in the community can be included and preserved in the archives.

Heather Killinger is almost finished cataloging the *Trumbauer and White and Allom Whitmarsh Hall blueprints*. We are looking into acquiring archival storage and then photographing the collection.

DONATIONS

We still need a step stool and coat rack. If anyone is Spring cleaning and would like to donate these, it will be greatly appreciated!

Reserve
the Date

Thurs., May 16, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

A Morris Arboretum History

A Presentation by
Mr. Robert Gutowski



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The Challenge
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