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SEPTEMBER 2018

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The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures

Presented by Nancy Moses

Author and Chair, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Thursday, September 6, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

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

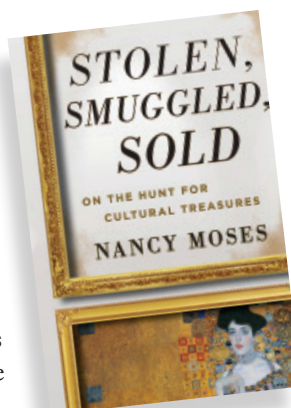
Who owns the world's cultural treasures – is it the artist, the society or the museum a work comes from? That is the premise of *Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures*, published in 2015 by Rowman & Littlefield – a book by Nancy Moses, who will speak at an upcoming Springfield Township Historical Society program.

"I look at the law from the perspective of history and ethical issues. The ethical issues are the most interesting – people with power vs. the powerless. It has happened with Native Americans and even little old ladies," said Nancy, pointing out that one chapter is about author Pearl Buck. When Pearl Buck was in her 70s, she developed a relationship with a young man who she put in charge of her foundation. "Her entourage was stunned. Did the young man take advantage of her? I am not sure," said Nancy. The manuscript for Buck's most famous book is in a safe owned by her oldest son rather than a library, Nancy said.

A writer who is the author of another book, *Lost in the Museum: Hidden Treasures and the Stories They Tell* (AltaMira Press 2008), Nancy was appointed by Governor Wolf as chair of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which works in partnership with others to preserve the Commonwealth's natural and cultural heritage as a steward, teacher and advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and the nation.

A resident of Philadelphia since 1976, she began her career as a Program Chief at the National Endowment for the Humanities and then went on to top management positions at WQED-Pittsburgh Public Broadcasting, the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Philadelphia Studies, and the City of Philadelphia. As an independent consultant, and through her firm, Collaborations, Inc., she has helped clients create heritage tourism entities and digital learning labs; launch international, environmental and civic initiatives; and establish new philanthropies.

Nancy plans to sell copies of her book at the program. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the historical society at 215-233-4600.



PLEASE NOTE:

Attendees to the September 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

The **Wheel Pump Inn** in Erdenheim was built about 1735 and was continually operated as an inn for more than 260 years. The village that surrounded the Inn was known as Wheel Pump, later Heydrick's Hollow, Heydrick's Dale, and finally Erdenheim. As the Inn is about 12 miles from the City of Philadelphia, the distance a carriage could travel in a day during colonial times, it became a popular stopping place for travelers coming out of the City on the road to Bethlehem.

In 2014, Brian Quinn of BQ Basement Systems acquired the property and began the process of restoring the building for use as the company's base of operations. The porch was rebuilt, the floors replaced, stone and brick repaired and repointed, and new HVAC, water, and electrical systems installed.

On June 28th 2018, BQ Basement Systems and the Springfield Township Historical Society came together to celebrate the restoration of the historic Wheel Pump Inn. The Open House was attended by more than a hundred guests and served as a fund-raiser for the Historical Society. Thank you to all of those who attended. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the event. In addition to Brian Quinn and the staff of BQ Basement Systems, Dan Helwig, Inc. Realtors and Kreilick Conservation, LLC provided financial support. The Page Brothers

of the Revolving Doors provided the evening's entertainment. Bob Brock donated and served a case of wine from Chaddsford Winery. Scoogi's Italian Kitchen and Karla's Kitchen provided the food. Greenberg's Bakery supplied the desserts. Acme donated paper products. Paul Csihas of Lafayette Hill Studios photographed the event. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors. Finally, thank you to the STHS Board members and volunteers who helped organize the event.

T. Scott Kreilick

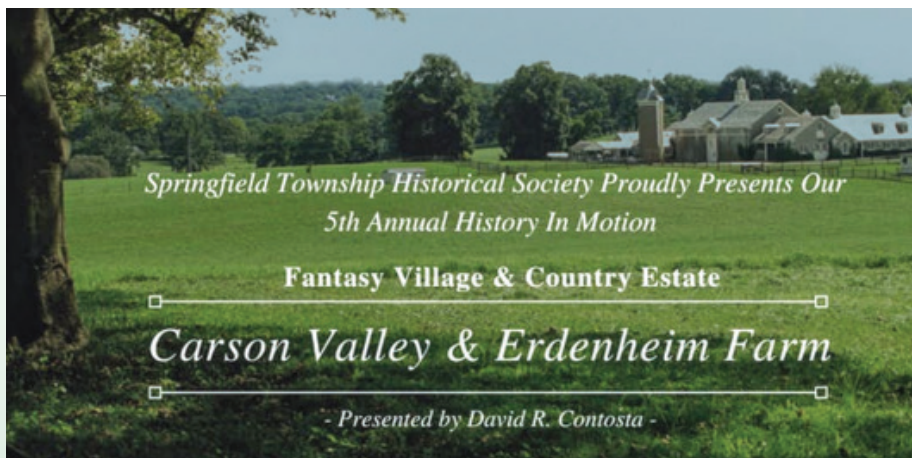
President, Springfield Township Historical Society



PHOTOS COURTESY OF:
LAFAYETTE HILL STUDIOS

All photos from the event can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://lafayettehillstudios.com/wheelpump-historicalsociety-bqbasementsystems>



Tickets are now on sale for the Springfield Township Historical Society's fifth annual History in Motion event, "Carson Valley & Erdenheim Farm: Fantasy Village & Country Estate" which will be held on Thursday, November 1, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Ambler Theater, 108 East Butler Ave., Ambler.

The Carson Valley School and Erdenheim Farm, once parts of a single property, are places of unparalleled beauty and serenity at the edge of Philadelphia. Speaker Dr. David Contosta will tell the story of how this unlikely pairing has been shaped and preserved over several centuries.

Contosta is Professor of History at Chestnut Hill College and a frequent speaker before civic and community groups. He is the author of more than 20 books, many of them about the Philadelphia region.

These include *Suburb in the City: Chestnut Hill Philadelphia*; *A Philadelphia Family: The Houstons and Woodwards of Chestnut Hill*; and *Metropolitan Paradise: Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley*, co-authored with Carol Franklin. Contosta has also written about Henry Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Charles Darwin. His most recent book is *America's Needless Wars*. In addition, he has lectured at universities in China and South Korea. At present he is working on a documentary film about the Wissahickon Valley.

A complimentary wine tasting will be provided by Chaddsford Winery.

Proceeds of History in Motion5 will benefit the Springfield Township Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to collect, preserve, and promote the history of Springfield Township.

Tickets are \$25 per person. To order tickets, go to the Springfield Township Historical Society website, www.springfieldhistory.org, and open the History in Motion link under the events tab. Tickets may also be purchased by sending a check, payable to the Springfield Township Historical Society, to the historical society at P.O. Box 564, Flourtown, PA 19031.

For more information, call the historical society at 215-233-4600.

Whose Head Is It, Anyway?

A statuary group prominently displayed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art is not quite what it seems, due to a little-known accident that occurred in Springfield Township 90 years ago.

Visitors to Gallery 288 (European Art) at the PMA will find two large works by French sculptor Claude Michel (also known as Clodion); both carry the title “Nymphs Holding Aloft a Platter Charged with Fruit” and were created circa 1785-1793 in Paris. Both had been owned by Edward T. Stotesbury of Wyndmoor, and were given to the Museum in 1938, in memory of Mr. Stotesbury, by his widow.

At the Stotesburys’ mansion, Whitemarsh Hall, each Clodion stood in the center of a Rotunda – circular rooms 35 feet in diameter, with domed ceilings and marble floors. These were highly-trafficked, as each rotunda interconnected four rooms or halls; the main hallway of the First Floor passed through both rotundas.

One day in the early summer of 1928, two members of the estate’s gardening staff were rushing to complete watering of the indoor plants on the first floor. Gardener Andy Lilley, carrying a tall ladder needed to reach the planters mounted just under the ceiling of the West Loggia, unfortunately hit the Clodion in the center of the West Rotunda, literally knocking the head off

of one of the two female figures. The Rotunda was immediately cordoned off, the shattered plaster pieces were swept up, and a repair plan was devised.

Thanks to a copy of a letter written on October 1, 1928 by Jane Law Lachlan, the Secretary to the Stotesburys, we learn that “Mr. Stotesbury put in hand at once the making of a new head for the figure, which has been done by Mr. Gréber in Paris and which I believe is coming over to America very soon.” In this case, she is referring to Henri-Léon Gréber, the father of Jacques Gréber, the landscape architect for Whitemarsh Hall (and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway). Miss Lachlan wrote the letter to the offices of Sir Joseph Duveen in New York City, asking them to identify “...the proper person to attach the new head to the figure.” Duveen Brothers replied with a recommendation that the Stotesburys hire Mr. Gustave Roncin of New York to effect the repair.

In the end, the work was done so expertly that the present-day casual observer cannot detect which of the two figures in this piece were damaged, nor tell which head was the work of Clodion, and which was instead Gréber’s copy of Clodion.

And, we can happily report that Mrs. Stotesbury, gracious to a fault, kept Andy Lilley on her gardening staff, even after this costly and embarrassing mistake.



Nymphs Holding Aloft a Platter Charged with Fruit by Claude Michel (also called Clodion), 1785-1793, Paris, France. Purchased by Edward T. Stotesbury from a French art dealer, this statuary group was the centerpiece of the West Rotunda at Whitemarsh Hall in Wyndmoor, and was later donated to the Philadelphia Museum of Art by Eva Stotesbury, in honor of her husband, after his death in May 1938.
Image Source: Philadelphia Museum of Art, <http://www.philamuseum.org/>

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FOR DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:
www.springfieldhistory.org

CALL FOR ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated group of volunteers are continuing to catalogue our collection. Our volunteers provide a valuable service to the historical society and are vital to carrying out our mission. If you like history and working with computers and have an hour or two to spare each week please contact the archives at **archives@springfieldhistory.org** or **215-233-4600**.

Historical Society Award Won by Makenna Lukens

The Springfield Township Historical Society Scholarship Award was presented to Makenna Lukens, a graduating senior at Springfield Township High School at a school assembly on June 12. The award is given to a graduating senior who plans to major in history, social studies or economics. Makenna, who lives in Erdenheim with her mother, Linda Reynolds, and her grandmother, Virginia Reynolds, plans to major in American studies at La Salle University.

"I love history. It is a passion of mine," said Makenna, who is interested in going into child advocacy law or constitutional law. "My dream job is to work for the ACLU."



Makenna has lived in the School District of Springfield Township her entire life. She attended Enfield Elementary School for four years and Erdenheim Elementary School for one year. Her class was the first graduating class after that school was rebuilt. She then attended Springfield Township Middle School and Springfield Township High School. In high school, she served on the student council for four years, including three at cabinet level and one as a representative. She and a group started a peer tutoring center, in which they tutored students in different subjects. Makenna tutored schoolmates in English and history.

She is a nursery volunteer at Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church and works at Robertson's of Chestnut Hill.

THEN *and* NOW

Written by Ray Smith



A photograph in the archives shows a house under construction in 1903 at the northeast corner of Bethlehem pike and Bells Mill Road. It is striking due to the very tall stone basement wall. The photograph was taken from where the township building was later built, in 1907.



Compared to a current photo, you'll notice that the bottom half of the wall has disappeared (that is a corner of the township building, on the right side of the current photo).

A look at an 1899 USGS topographical map leads us to the explanation. The corner of the property was a gully prior to construction, which we marked on the map with an "H". The builder graded this area after construction to get the best use of the land.



Archives UPDATE

Over the last few months, STHS has received into its holdings:

- Nine (9) 35mm slides of the demolition of Whitemarsh Hall, April 1980 from Robert Ferguson.
- A framed photograph of the Springfield Township High School Football Team, 1947 was brought in by John Cannon, who was co-captain of the team.
- Exterior Black Horse Inn Thermometer from James Mascaro.
- Community History recollection from Charles E. Dunleavy, Jr.

In addition,

- Staff/Volunteers aided Brandon Peterson of Christian Counseling and Education Foundation with research regarding "Falcondale" estate and received a copy of the related material Mr. Peterson obtained elsewhere for our records as well.

We are extremely thankful for all of our dedicated volunteers. In the last few months, they provided approximately of 71.75 hours of service.

- Ray Smith, Dulie Gray, Barbara

Coleman, and Steve Lester continue to sort organize, scan and catalog records in the Society's collection. Ed Zwicker III and Ed Zwicker IV staff the archives on Tuesday evenings, undertake extensive research, and assist with helping to expand our collection.

STHS has had several inquiries:

- A gentleman from Texas interested in the Whitemarsh Hall blueprints.
- Request for information on the weather events in the area during the operation of the Tank Car Corporation of America in Oreland.
- Police briefs from 2000-present.



If you are interested in volunteering, researching a topic, or have items you wish to donate to the Society, please email us at archives@springfieldhistory.org.

The Archives are **OPEN** to the Public

TUESDAYS 7pm – 9pm
WEDNESDAYS 1pm – 5pm
SATURDAYS 9am – 12noon

For more information, call 215-233-4600

La Loire et Le Loiret

Written by T. Scott Kreilick, President STHS

The sculptural group entitled *La Loire et Le Loiret* is located at 1207 Claridge Road in Wyndmoor, PA. The figures are allegorical representations of the longest river in France (La Loire) and a tributary (Le Loiret), respectively. The limestone sculpture was carved by the French artist Henri-Léon Gréber (1855-1941) in 1925 and placed in its current location by his son, Whitmarsh Hall's landscape architect Jacques Gréber (1882-1962).

The sculpture is a copy of an earlier work by Corneille van Clève (1645-1732) which was commissioned by King Louis XIV in 1699 for placement at Château de Marly. About 1719, it was moved to the Tuileries Garden, along the Grand Allée. The original is now at the Musée du Louvre (*Figure 1*). A replica is in its place at the Tuileries Garden (*Figure 2*).

Prior to the carving of the marble sculpture, a plaster model was created for the King's approval. In 1700, Swedish architect Daniel Cronström made a drawing of the plaster model. The drawing, shown in *Figure 3*, is at the Swedish National Museum in Stockholm.¹

The artist Henri-Léon Gréber is known for his World War I Memorial (1924) in Beauvais, Oise, France; the formal gardens of the Clarence Mackay estate, Harbor Hill, on Long Island; and his copy

of Auguste Rodin's (1840-1917) *The Kiss* for the Rodin Museum in Philadelphia.

In 1917, landscape architect Jacques Gréber revised an earlier (1909) master plan by Horace Trumbauer, Clarence Zantinger, and Paul Philippe Cret for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. In 1926, Gréber collaborated with Cret on the design of the Rodin Museum. Earlier, in 1913, Gréber was enlisted by Joseph E. Widener to redesign the formal gardens of Lynnewood Hall in a French style. Gréber again collaborated with Trumbauer from 1916-1921 on the design of Whitmarsh Hall in Wyndmoor for Edward T. Stotesbury. It was here that Gréber placed *La Loire et Le Loiret* at the Plaza, along with other of his father's sculptures. *Figure 4* is a photo of the sculpture taken by Landscape Gardener Maurice Deschamps on January 5, 1938.

Kreilick Conservation, LLC of Oreland, PA was retained by Springfield Township to conserve the sculptural group. Work began on April 30th and concluded on May 18th, 2018.

At the beginning of the project, the limestone figures and pedestal were in poor condition. Significant detail had been lost due to weathering and human interaction. There



Figures 5 & 6 La Loire et Le Loiret before treatment.

are several carved elements missing. The surface was soiled and organic growth was evident. There have been previous repairs. The pointing mortar was deteriorated. Overall photos, before treatment, are shown in *Figures 5 & 6*.

Bio-soiling has caused grayish stains on the carving, and well-adhered black stains had developed in areas speckling the surface. Erosion has occurred and worn the surface of the carving uniformly, resulting in a rough and friable surface.

Biological growth was brushed from the sculpture using soft bristle brushes. Remaining moss growth was removed with plastic scrapers and brushed with stiff nylon brushes. A biocide was applied to the surface of the stone to further

reduce the biological growth.

After general biological cleaning, black circular biological deposits, and gray and black carbon crusts remained. These unsightly stains were removed through micro abrasion using calcium carbonate media.

Mortar joints were completely cleared of old pointing mortar in preparation for installing all new pointing mortar in the joints of the sculpture and the base. While all of the joints were clear of mortar, the limestone was consolidated to strengthen the stone and reduce friability of the surface. The joints were then repointed using a color-matched, lime-based pointing mortar.

The photo below shows *La Loire et Le Loiret* after conservation.



¹ "New Documents and Drawings Concerning Lost Statues from the Chateau of Marly" by Betsy Rosasco, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum Journal*, Volume 10, 1975, pp.79-96.

² Reproduced in *Whitmarsh Hall: The Estate of Edward T. Stotesbury* by Charles G. and Edward C. Zwicker, Arcadia Publishing (2004), page 79.



Figure 1
La Loire et Le Loiret by Corneille van Clève at Musée du Louvre.



Figure 2
Copy of La Loire et Le Loiret at Tuileries Garden.



Figure 3
Drawing (1700) by Daniel Cronström of La Loire et Le Loiret plaster model.



Figure 4
Copy of La Loire et Le Loiret by Henri-Léon Gréber at Whitmarsh Hall. 2

FROM THE *Archives*



Carson College school bus with unidentified students,
circa 1930s-1940s. David Contosta Collection,
Springfield Township Historical Society, 2011.43.50



The Historical Society is
on Facebook; find us at
***Springfield Township
Historical Society.***

Reserve the Date

Thurs., Sept. 6, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

***STOLEN, SMUGGLED, SOLD:
On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures***

Presented by Nancy Moses

***First Presbyterian Church
in Springfield***



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