



A Note from the President:

Great News Ahead!

Dear Members:
These are truly exciting times and you are a part of it. We need your help to keep up the momentum. There will be many opportunities for you to volunteer. Now that our building is preparing to be a national historic landmark, we will be seeking your help and expertise to serve on grant writing committees. Please volunteer on these important committees.

It is our hope that you will support our upcoming events. Begin by attending our October Membership Meeting. I hope to see you there.

**Sincerely,
Frank J. Russo, Jr.,
Acting President**

This Month's Program

"American Military History"

**Robert G. Clifton,
Guest Speaker**

The military history of the United States spans a period of less than two and a half centuries. Over the course of those years, the United States grew from an alliance of thirteen British colonies without a professional military, to the world's sole remaining military superpower as of 2006.

Until the Constitutional Convention, the military presence in what became known as the United States was organized by each U.S. state as a voluntary or conscripted militia. Since 1789, the United States Constitution has provided authority for the Congress to levy taxes and to raise a navy and national militia. Federal legislation eventually led to the modern nationalized system of military in the country. Historically, the amount of money the U.S. government spends on the military has often been a politically contentious issue.

October General Membership Meeting

**Monday,
October 9, 2006
7:30 PM**

at the 1895
Schoolhouse

October Hospitality
The Croke Family

As of 2006, the U.S. military consisted of an Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps under the command of the United States Department of Defense. There also is the United States Coast Guard, which is controlled by the Department of Homeland Security. In each of these branches of military, the President of the United States is the commander in chief of the armed forces. In addition, each state has a National Guard commanded by the state's governor and coordinated by the National Guard Bureau. The President of the United States has the authority during national emergencies to assume control of individual state National Guard units.



Pictured left to right: Lexington Minuteman representing militia minuteman John Parker;

Detail from *Washington and his Generals at Yorktown (c. 1781)* by Charles Willson Peale – Lafayette (far left) is at Washington's right, the Comte de Rochambeau to his immediate left.

"We have met the enemy and they are ours." Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory on Lake Erie in 1813 was an important turning point in the War of 1812. (Painting by William H. Powell, 1865)

September 2006 –
EXCITING NEWS...

**The 1895 Schoolhouse
Is On The Road To Being
Accepted To The
National Register**

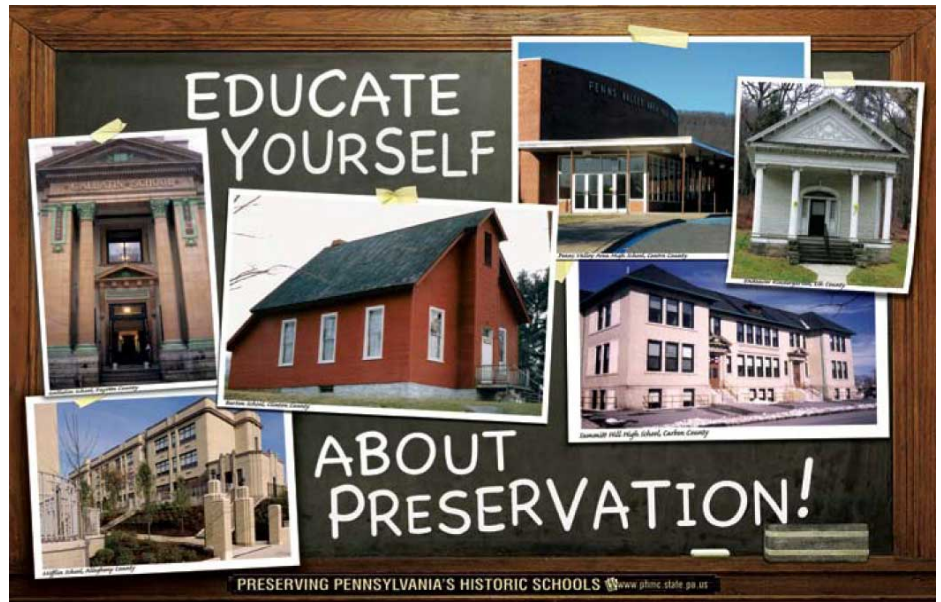
September 12, 2006 –
Harrisburg, PA – The
Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission
has unanimously approved
the application to sponsor
the **1895 Schoolhouse**
(our home!) on the
National Register of
Historic Places.

Many of our members –
including **Emmy Simon,**
John Simon, Herb Levy,
Bill Missfeldt, and Bob
Whittock – have been

involved in putting together
the nomination forms by way
of revisions, more revisions,
and even more tremendous
revisions. To them we owe
a debt of thanks from all our
membership.

We wish to thank **John**

Simon and Bob
Whittock, who traveled to
Harrisburg the day of the
hearing and then, at the
end of a long day, returned
with the good news.



**2006-2007 Membership
Renewal is Now Due ...**

Don't forget to mail in your
membership renewal. Checks
should be made payable to
WVHS and sent to me at:

500 Trinity Place
Ambler, PA 19002-5836

If you have any questions, please call me
at 215-542-9381. Thank you, in advance, for
your support of WVHS – we truly appreciate it!

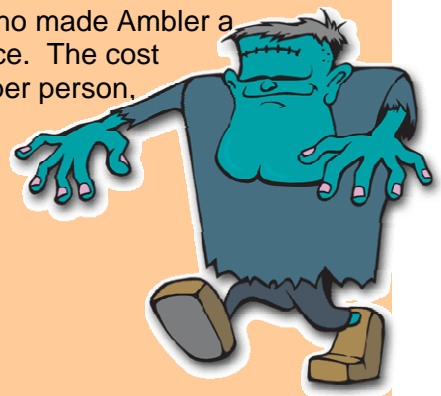
— **Mary Lou McFarland,**
Membership Chairman



**WVHS Halloween Ghost
Walk – October 22**

WVHS and Ambler Main Street
Program will host the **Ghost Walk of
Ambler** at 6:30 PM. The walk will
begin at the corner of Butler Avenue
and Cavalier Drive in Ambler.

This year's tour is called "Faces
and Places" and will focus on the
people who made Ambler a
great place. The cost
is \$5.00 per person,
\$3.00 for
children
under
the age
of 12.



Beginning at 8am – 3pm

Fall Flea Market ~ Saturday, October 14, 2006

WE'RE GEARING UP FOR A GREAT SALE!

Our annual flea market fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 14th. Here's your chance to give back to our Society – we need your help to make this a successful yearly event.



We continue to look for donations for our White Elephant table – clean out your attics, basements, and garages and donate your unwanted items for the sale. We are collecting household items, books, and collectibles, while antiques are most desirable.

Please contact **Josephine Sawicki** to make your donation. She can be reached at 610-277-8968.

DO I SMELL SOMETHING GOOD? We also could benefit from the sale of fresh baked goods for our Bake Table. Cookies, brownies, pies, breads, and more are sure to please the sweet tooth of our attendees. Please call **Russ and Jean Bellavance** to inform them of your baked donation, call 215-643-5048.



TABLES STILL AVAILABLE: If you are interested in renting a space or know of someone who will, please call **Bob Notoris** at 215-699-1288.

VOLUNTEERS: People, we need people!! Are you willing to work a couple of hours during the day of our fall flea market event? Please contact **Marie Russo** at 215-616-2661 to schedule the time you are available to assist.

Members' News...

Our Society mourns the loss of **Miss Frances Scheibner**. Frances was a long-term member who attended meetings faithfully and contributed her knowledge of the area freely. She lived in Forest Gardens in Ambler until illness made it necessary to move to continuing care. In her working years she served as secretary at the School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. She was 96 when she passed away on August 19, 2006.

We bid her farewell and thank her for her dedication to historic preservation.

Calling All Writers...

Remember, if you have any news you feel worthy to share with our members, you are welcome to place a small story in the monthly newsletter. Submissions are due the 4th Monday of the month (by 5pm). You may e-mail your story to vwhs_newsletter@yahoo.com, or send it via snail-mail to **Judy Grubb**.

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SERVING AMBLER • LOWER GWYNEDD • WHITPAIN COMMUNITIES



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Calendar of Events ~ *October 2006 and upcoming events!*

- Mon., Oct. 9 **General Business Meeting**.....7:30 PM
"American Military History"
- Sat., Oct. 14 **Fall Flea Market – at the 1895 Schoolhouse**.....8 AM-3 PM
- Sun., Oct. 22 **Halloween Ghost Walk**6:30 PM
- Mon., Oct. 23 *Board Meeting*7:00 PM
- Mon., Nov. 13..... **General Business Meeting**.....7:30 PM

**VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/wvhs>
 or e-mail us at: wvhs_newsletter@yahoo.com**

*The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Newsletter is published once a month during the membership season.
 General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, and are open to the public.*

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society is located at 799 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • 215.646.6541



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
 P.O. Box 96
 Ambler, PA 19002-0096



October 2006 Newsletter
 No tricks, just treats!