



Join us on
February 8
at the
Blue Bell Library

Program:

Meet Hannah Till

Valley Forge National Park Ranger Ajena Rogers shares a Living History presentation as Hannah Till, an African American woman who spent 6 1/2 years working as George Washington's cook. A Revolutionary War veteran, she purchased her freedom in 1780. This would be a great program for young people. Please consider bringing a guest to this lively presentation. The Blue Bell Library is located on Skippack Pike near the intersection with Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike.

**Honoring Our Roots
Art and Janice Driedger**

Art and Driedger have been WVHS members and active participants since the 1970's. After growing up in Philadelphia, Art returned from WWII and settled with Janice in Blue Bell in the 1940's where they built a house and raised their children. Art taught history at Wissahickon High School for years, and many students remember him as a favorite teacher. Art guided numerous students on summer tours across the country, and many of those students went on to be teachers. A scholarship is given each year in his name. He also taught adults in formal and informal venues. Many remember with pleasure talks around the firepit at the Driedger home.

Art has provided many interesting programs for our groups as well as other historical societies. Programs covered the Driedger's travels to Alaska and the American West as well as the history of W.W.II. and historic figures. He has always been willing to fill in when a last minute replacement speaker was needed.

Art and Janice has been inspirations and mentors to the next generation of historian. Thanks, Janice and Art.



At the January meeting Spring House Quester group #1399 presented a check to pay for restoration of a stained glass window presented to the Society by member Joe Schneider. The window is from Lindenwold Castle, the home of Dr. Mattison, on Bethlehem Pike. From left to right - Grace Renz, Quester president; Harriet Rowland and Margaret Cass, Quester grant committee members, and Russ Bellavance, WVHS President. See the Society's website for more photos.



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Mark your Calendar

Feb 8 - Monthly meeting - Meet Hannah Till - Blue Bell Library - 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 - Open House - 1895 Schoolhouse - 1 to 4 p.m.

Feb 22 - Board meeting - 7:30 p.m.

March 8 - Monthly meeting - Musical program of spirituals and patriotic songs - joint meeting with the Whitpain Historical Society at the Blue Bell Library - 7:30 p.m.

Looking ahead - May 16 - Open House to Celebrate WVHS's 35th Anniversary and listing of the 1895 Schoolhouse on the National Register of Historic Places - 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Reminder - The Schoolhouse is open each Thursday morning - 10 to 1.

News Briefs:

Volunteer Opportunities: The Society has openings for recording secretary, librarian, and newsletter editor. The recording secretary would attend board meetings and take notes. The library is organized but has numerous recent donations that need to be catalogued. There are several members who would work together with new volunteers on the newsletter. There are also opportunities to help with May 16th celebration. Call Russ Bellavance.

Recent Donations: Art Dreidger has donated copies of materials he used when teaching high school courses on local history. These will be added to our library collection which focuses on local and school history. He also donated copies of WWII political cartoons.

Schoolhouse Visitors: Quester group 158 visited the Schoolhouse on February 2 for their monthly meeting. A program on The Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women was shared.

Hope Lodge and Graeme Park - Check their websites for ways to support these local treasures.