



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

WVHS, Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

www.wvalleyhs.org

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Vol. 16, Issue 10

215-646-6541

Market Day at the 1895 Schoolhouse

May 6

8 a.m. to 2

See page 4 for details.



May WVHS meeting

May 8, 7 p.m.

Program: Alexander Hamilton:

Architect of the American Financial System
at the Blue Bell Library

Co-sponsored with Wiss. Valley Public Library

See page 3 for details.

Open House

May 21

Franklinville School and 1895 Schoolhouse

1 to 4 p.m.

Games and activities for children

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society - serving Ambler, Lower Gwynedd, and Whitpain

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Report on April Outing

First, we wish to thank Diane Dunning for inviting us to visit the Yost log cabin and the Haas house (which Diane and Tim have made into their very personal and delightful home). Thanks to them for their gracious hospitality - especially for sharing stories about the history of the properties and a delicious tea. Thanks to Becky Glover for the photos.



Before driving to the house, members parked in the Shady Grove Elementary parking lot and car-pooled. The following drive down Lewis Lane had several interesting sites.

Shady Grove Elementary started out as Shady Grove Junior High. It was built in 1957 on 26.7 acres. For eighteen years it operated as a junior high school - and at one point ran double sessions to accommodate all of the district's junior high students. In 1975 the two story wing was added. In the 1980s, the school was converted to a K through 5 school.



The original Shady Grove was a one-room school - much like Franklinville - built in 1855. The stone foundation is still visible as is the foundation of the well and outhouse. The land was purchased from Jacob and Sarah Rex. The building was vacant for a number of years before it was demolished in 1971. The land is part of Whitpain Township's Prophecy Creek Park. It was located at the top of the slight hill as one heads down Lewis Lane.



As one heads into a curve on Lewis Lane, the stone house straight ahead is Dawesfield. The barns are to the left and the springhouse is along Lewis just around the bend. The first parts of the house were built in 1736. It has been added onto several times. In all, there are 11 buildings in the complex. In 1777 Washington and his troops stopped in the area for several weeks on their way to Valley Forge. Washington, Marquis de Lafayette and Anthony Wayne stayed with Washington at Dawesfield. The area is called Camp Morris.

There are lots of historical by-ways in Whitpain, Lower Gwynedd, and Ambler. If you would like to nominate one, we'd be glad to feature it in the newsletter. Watch for other "Sunday driving" suggestions

History Lessons: Meet Alexander Hamilton



Monday, May 8 at 7 PM

**Wissahickon Valley Public Library at Blue Bell
650 Skippack Pike**

Join living biographer Gene Pisasale for a first-person portrayal of Hamilton. Trace his influential actions leading to American independence and the construction of a new government.

Say you'll be there! Sign-up in the binder in the library lobby or send an email to events@wvpl.org

Co-sponsored by
The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
www.wvalleyhs.org (215) 646-6541

**Watch
history
come
alive!**

**An
exciting
portrayal
of Alexander
Hamilton**

**History
buffs
welcome!**

wvpl.org
WISSAHICKON VALLEY PUBLIC
Library

650 Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
215-643-1320 www.wvpl.org

Mark Your Calendar

Rotary Pancake Breakfast - April 30 - 8 to 11:30 - Prophecy Creek Park

Market Day - May 6 - 8 to 2 p.m.

at the 1895 Schoolhouse. Watch for plant display on the front yard along with sales tables. Books on the front porch (drop off any donations on the front porch.) Baked goods will be available inside - along with hotdogs and drinks. If you are doing spring cleaning and find some "treasures", drop them off at the schoolhouse on Thursday, May 4 or call 215-646-6541 to arrange a drop off time. Call to volunteer a couple of hours. This is our big fund raiser of the year. Please join in.

Monday, May 8 - **WVHS Monthly meeting** - Blue Bell Library - 7 p.m. - see details on page 3

Saturday, May 20 - **Auto Show in Ambler**

Sunday, May 21 - **Open House** at Franklinville and 1895 Schoolhouse - 1 to 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 6 - **Quester group** visits Franklinville Schoolhouse

Monday, June 10 - **WVHS picnic** - details in June newsletter

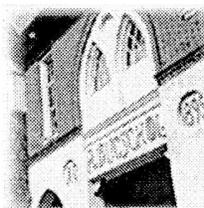
Some Short Notes

Upper Dublin Township officials continue discussing and debating the development of Lindenwold/St. Mary's estate. Last week's meeting focused on water management and on historic preservations. Watch for additional meetings.

Abolition Hall at the corner of Germantown Pike and Butler Pike in Plymouth/Whitemarsh is still endangered. The Hall was an active Underground Railroad site. There have been several articles in the Inquirer recently.

During their reorganization of the WVHS library, Joan Duxbury and Sally Zeller uncovered several binders of newsletters sent by women in Ambler's Presbyterian church to local military personal. The newsletter was called King's Daughters. They are a treasure trove of local history. If anyone has memories or connections with these letters, please contact us. The church has been very supportive. Watch for follow ups on this. And if you have any information, please let Joan or Sally know. Buck Amey has also been helpful with this project.

There will be several interesting craft shows at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center this summer.



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