



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

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P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

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WVHS/HSW May Outing

The Historical Society of Whitpain and Wissahickon Valley Historical Society will hold a joint meeting on
Wednesday, May 21 at 11 a.m.

We will meet at the **Farmers' Union Hall** which is the headquarters of the Worcester Historical Society. It is located at **2011 Valley Forge Road** in the village of Center Point which is before the village of Skippack on Rt. 73.

Go west on Skippack Pike and turn right at Valley Forge Road at the Exxon Station. It is the large white building next to the Exxon Station, on the left, after making the turn.

This 1898 building is a farm museum.

After touring the building, we will visit the **Indenhofen Farm House** built in 1725. The house is owned by the state but maintained by the Skippack Historical Society. The house and barn are located at the corner of Evansburg Road and Skippack Pike at Skippack.

Charlie Miller (who attended a recent WVHS meeting) is a board member of the Skippack Historical Society and will give a tour of both buildings.

There are many good restaurants in Skippack. Some members may choose to stay in the area for lunch.

Please call 215-542-7753 if you need a ride or can offer a ride.

St. Mary's/Lindenwold Estate Update by Mary Lou McFarland

- * There is a new group that has formed to promote preservation of the open space at St. Mary's. It is called Residents for Open Space at Lindenwold Estate (ROSLE). They are meeting every other Wednesday at the Upper Dublin Township building at 7 p.m. The next meeting is tomorrow, May 7. There will be many more meetings to come. (The minutes of the last meeting can be forwarded by contacting pegathome6@yahoo.com.) All are welcome to attend.
- * **Heritage Conservancy** has been contracted by Upper Dublin Township to consult on the project. Our President, Jeff Marshall, will be coordinating the work. HC will assess the proposal by the developers and provide recommendations to the Township regarding its impact on historic and open space resources based on the historic resources inventory that we recently completed. I am not sure how long this will take but will keep you posted as things progress.
- * Please continue to get involved, support preservation, and help to make this project a community asset. It is important to continue the momentum to promote preservation - so please attend the ROSLE meetings as much as possible. If you have any questions about the organization, please contact Tanya Semen at thofler@gmail.com.
- * Thanks for your interest and concern for this irreplaceable, wonderful, beautiful historic and open space resource.

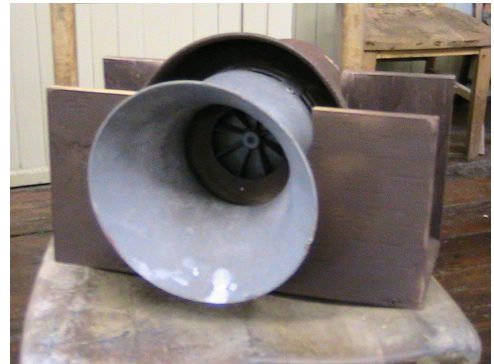


Thank you , Mary Lou.

Recent Donations

Ambler's WWII air raid siren

The air raid siren that had been on top of #1 W. Butler Ave. since WWII was recently donated to the WVHS by member **Joe Schneider**. The donation included the following memories of **Jim Reed** of Ambler. His father was the caretaker of this siren. He would test the siren once a week on the same day and time. Jim would accompany his father who would always bring a thermos of coffee. Jim, though young, was allowed to have some. The power cord hung down the rear of the building, but Jim did not know why. Joe remembers seeing this cord.



Air Raider wardens **Harry Leon Reed** (Jim's dad) 135 N. Main Street and **Joe Shoemaker**, Tennis Avenue would put a ladder to the roof every night and look for planes - making sure they were friendly.

Painting by Eleanor Valcovic



of Ambler Furniture Co./Old Fire House Fire

A framed, oil painting which records the Butler Street fire of March 1962 was recently donated by member **Joe Schneider**. Ambler Furniture had purchased the old fire house and turned it into show rooms on the first and second floor. The basement was used as a re-upholstery shop and storage for material and sheet flooring. The fire started in the heater room where sheet goods were stored. **Eleanor Valcovic's** husband, Dick was an active fire fighter. Ambler, Fort Washington, North Wales, and (perhaps) Flourtown fire companies fought this fire and Center Square Fire was on stand-by at the

Ambler station. The Second Alarmers provided coffee, donuts, and hot sandwiches to all personnel..

Next month:

Details about additional donations - tools connected with the Conard Auger Mill in Fort Washington from **Lloyd Conard** - will be featured.

The continuing research on a glass paper weight from the Blue Bell School which is dated 1918 and belongs to **Brian Adams**, grandson of Cecil Adams will be shared.

Thinking of next year:

With the library being reorganized, this is the perfect time for a new librarian. The job doesn't require library expertise; it does most often involve helping people find information about their families. If you are interested, please call **Russ Bellavance**.

Mark Your Calendar

May 10 - Attic and Plant sale at Boxwood House, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 12 - WVHS Board Meeting, 7:30 at Bellavance's.

May 18 - Open House at the 1895 Schoolhouse and at Franklinville School- 1 to 4 p.m.

May 21 - Joint Excursion for WVHS and HSW - see front page for details.

May 26 - Memorial Day - We'll be flying our flags...thanks to **Bob Whittock**.

June 5 - Strawberry Day at SpringHouse Estates. Thursday from 10 to 3 p.m. there will be a flea market, petting zoo, lunch, and strawberry treats at reasonable prices.

June 9 - Annual WVHS pot-luck picnic - details in next newsletter.

June 10 - Tea and scones at the Ambler Library - program: African Americans During the Civil War. Presented by **Paula Gidjunis**, Civil War Institute, Manor College. Tea and scones at 6:30, Program at 7.

June 15 - Hope Lodge will welcome visitors from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Friends of Hope Lodge will be open to the public on the third Sunday of each month.



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