



# The Governor's Gossip

Fall 2009

## Remembering Richard Nye....

*Our memories of Richard Nye run very deep at the GWHS. His stamp is visible on every part of this society.*



I met Richard Nye when I joined the Society in the early 80s. He was one of the first people to welcome new members, to make them feel at home, and to encourage them want to become a part of this group. His enthusiasm was contagious. Richard was present and active at every event and took part in every project. He was a hands-on kind of guy and he had a hand in everything from digging holes to paint analysis, from putting down floors to hearth cooking. He was our president when we acquired the parcel of land at the back of our buildings that at one time was a trailer park and now is truly a park. Richard always saw the possibilities for this society and its members.

Richard loved to dress the part of a colonial gentleman and he was in costume at most events, greeting people and showing off our most recent restorations. Richard had a deep love of history and as a descendent in the family of Governor George Wolf had a connection with this Society that most of us can never have. As our president for approximately 17 years, Richard became the public face of the GWHS and promoted our cause in almost every aspect of his life.

Richard was a good friend to many of us and we miss him still. Richard passed away in 2001 while working at the GWHS in preparation of the building of our garden. He was also an active member of the Valley Herb Guild (then the Ridge & Valley Unit of the Herb Guild of America) and it was decided that the garden would be named in his honor.

If Richard Nye were here today, I believe he would be pleased with how we have continued his mission and how the garden that now bears his name has grown.

*Kathy Wilhelm*

## 2009 CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

On December 4 and 5, the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual celebration of the tour will be held. Six private homes will be featured, a historic church, a one-room Borough Hall with jail cells, the Society's three buildings at the GWHS campus and the Siegfried Log Cabin in Bath. New and improved parking is available at the Log Cabin. A sampling of homes is as follows:



- \* A large, early 1790 stone home featuring a Tavern Room awaits your visit located in the charming village of Jacksonville.
- \* Chapman Borough - You will fall in love with this lovingly restored, 1855 slate block home steeped in history. Known as the *Ivy Castle* built by the founder of this unique village!
- \* A 1900 Victorian frame farmhouse with many original features including original pocket doors and built-in kitchen cupboard is ready to charm you!
- \* A well-admired, local home featuring exterior *and* interior stone walls and an open floor plan known as *The Old Stone House Winery* in Cherry Hill will have you wanting to see more.
- \* Three floors of Victorian splendor including a tin ceiling in the kitchen, restored floors, original trim and doors are part of this home in Nazareth.
- \* Rounding out this year's homes is a brick beauty with open floor plan and a beautiful, new Craftsman kitchen. An original ceiling fresco is sure to catch your attention in the living room.

Jump-start your holiday fun with our historic homes house tour and shop 'till you drop at our campus Craft Show. Also enjoy our annual hearth cooking and a fresh wreaths and swags sale. All proceeds benefit restoration at this historic campus.

Watch for additional information about this year's tour and private homes in the next Newsletter.

Submitted by *Jan Semmel*

## THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

*Lehigh Engineering* – for printing the newsletter.

**Robert Swan** - for his tireless efforts in mowing the grass all year at the GWHS campus. We all can relate what a challenge that was for this Summer!

*John Meixsell* of Stroudsburg for his generous donation of a tall clock and a corner Schrank from Northampton County, 4 Centennial Chairs, and a German lock. We have already placed the schrank in the Ralston-McKeen house. The clock and the chairs are temporarily housed in the Museum, but will be moved into the Ralston-McKeen house.

We are so pleased with our new acquisitions and cannot wait to see them all in their new home. The next time you are visiting the GWHS, please stop and take notice of these wonderful pieces.



**Siegfried Log Cabin**

**We are happy to announce that the parking lot for the Siegfried Log Cabin is complete!**

A macadam parking lot, walkway, steps and landscaping have been constructed this summer on the cabin lot. A.J. Trunzo of Bath was the site contractor for the improvements, GREAT JOB! Kudos to Judith Danko, Bath Borough Manager for acquiring grants to make this project happen.

The improvements will allow for better access to the site and utilization of the facility. Don't miss the opening of the Siegfried Log Cabin at the 2009 Governor Wolf Historical Society House Tour.



*The Governor's Gossip* is a quarterly publication.

**Darrin Heckman, Editor**

**Carol Bear-Heckman, Assistant Editor**

Any member wishing to submit an article for the Winter newsletter must submit the information by the November 15th deadline.

An e-mail submission is preferred.

[dheckman@lehighengineering.com](mailto:dheckman@lehighengineering.com) 610-390-0720

## Recipe Corner

### BERTRAM'S GRANDMOTHER'S WELSH COOKIES

(from Jan Semmel)

5 cups flour  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1 ¾ cups dermerara sugar  
1 ½ tsp. nutmeg  
1 cup softened butter  
3 beaten eggs plus enough milk to make 1 cup of liquid  
5 oz. currants

Preheat an iron fry pan to about 350 degrees; grease if necessary.

Mix dry ingredients with wooden spoon then blend in butter. Add liquid, blend then add currants. Roll out dough to 1/2" thick on floured surface; use a 2 ½" biscuit cutter. Fry until light brown on both sides.

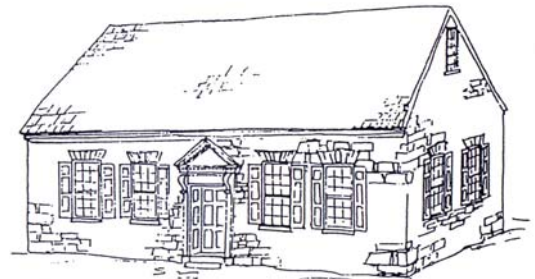
I have always made these delicious cookies in an iron frying pan over coals in an open hearth. Prepare fire then rake enough coals to the side which usually takes about one hour. Place pan on a trivet. Fry until light brown on both sides.

## WISH LIST

The Society is in need of the following items to help our events function more efficiently.

*Folding step stool, 3 or 4 steps  
Drip less white or ivory taper candles  
Old wooden chairs  
brooms . elec can opener  
50 cup or larger coffee maker  
ice bucket  
Florist wire*

If you are willing to donate any of the above items please contact the us at 610-837-9015



**Wolf Academy**

## RESTORATION PRESERVATION

As with any restoration, *several* projects are in progress at the GWHS campus:

- Thus far, five exterior window sills at the Ralston-McKeen House have been installed. Three additional sills require replacement in the near future.
- A decision on the railings for the landings, also at the Ralston-McKeen House, will be made shortly and, hopefully, will be in place before the 2009 Christmas House Tour in December.
- Sadly in May of this year, a damaging storm hit the GWHS campus and caused much damage! Very large branches damaged the roofs of the Wolf Academy and the Ralston-McKeen House. The Wolf Academy slate roof had just been replaced in December of 2007! All repairs and clean-up has been completed.

A big THANK YOU to all the Committee members for their efforts on these and on-going projects.

Submitted by *Dalton Semmel*

Meetings for the committee will be held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Workdays are scheduled at 9:00 am each Saturday following the monthly meeting, all are welcome.

### GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can help preserve our community's rich cultural heritage by becoming a member of the Governor Wolf Historical Society! Please return the following application below with a check payable to: Governor Wolf Historical Society. If family, please include all names. Mail to: Governor Wolf Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Bath PA 18014.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$10.00 FAMILY \$20.00 BUSINESS \$30.00  
STUDENT \$5.00 RESTORATION \$50.00

### LANDSCAPE FUND – LAND ACQUISITION

The Society needs your help to implement the major improvements planned for the GWHS Park.

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: Governor Wolf Historical Society. Mail to: Governor Wolf Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Bath PA 18014.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## The Valley Herb Guild

### HISTORY

In the beginning, a small group of gardeners banded together for the study of herbs. Those gardeners decided to share their passion for herbs with other like-minded friends and neighbors and formed the Ridge & Valley Unit of the Herb Society of America (HSA) in April of 2001.

In May of that same year, the first meeting was held in the Wolf Academy of the Governor Wolf Historical Society. In exchange for a meeting place, the unit designed, installed, and maintains an herb and pleasure garden. The garden concept grew from a lavender display garden to a modified four-square herb garden surrounded by borders of shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs. Unique to the garden are the espaliered apple tree arbors and hedges. The garden reflects the 1785 to early 1800s time period of the historical society's buildings and park.



During the summer of 2008, the membership voted to form a new organization called the Valley Herb Guild and discontinued the affiliation with HSA. On September 12, 2009, the garden was officially dedicated in memory of Richard L. Nye, a former member of the guild and a long time president of the Governor Wolf Historical Society.

A plant auction is held every spring and the proceeds help fund the garden and programs. The auction, meetings, and programs are all open to the public while the popular workshops are by reservation only.

### PROGRAMS & PLANT STUDY

Programs and workshops are held at our monthly meetings. Some of those have included a promising plants program, antique roses, herbal soap making, herbal housekeeping products, herbs in the landscape, and herbs in the cottage garden. An annual holiday tea or dinner is held every December. Since its inception, the unit, now the guild, has decorated a home for the Governor Wolf Historical Society annual Christmas House Tour.

### CULINARY

The purpose of the culinary group is to expand the knowledge of culinary herbs with the preparation of recipes with an herbal twist. Members also create original recipes using herbs. This is a fun-loving group of foodies who enjoy tasting and discussing the results of their labors. Members of the group have created original herb and tea blends available for sale to the public. The herbs used in these blends come from members' gardens as well as from the Herb & Pleasure Garden. This group meets monthly at a private home, and all active members of the guild are invited to attend.

*Trish Mowen*



### Antiques Show coming in 2010

Plans for the 2nd Annual GWHS Antiques Show are underway. The dates are March 13&14 2010 aligning again with the prestigious "Heart of the Valley" antique show at the Ice House in Bethlehem. Many attendees last year enjoyed an exciting day of antiques by visiting both shows, only 8 miles apart.

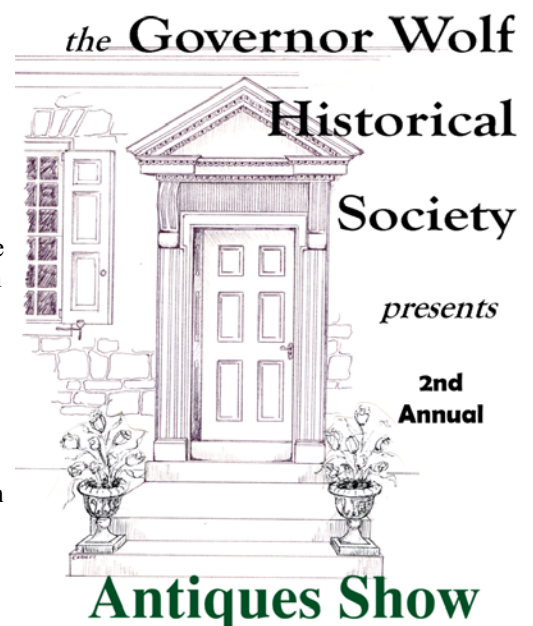
The GWHS Antiques Show will feature 30 quality antique dealers in three historic buildings at the Governor Wolf Historical Society's Park. Some of the highlights will be historic room settings, hearth cooking & sampling, a vintage fashion show and informative speakers. Jen & Allen George "the Daily Grind" in Bath will be back serving up delicious coffee, sandwiches & more in the Schoolhouse Café. Parking is fee, admission is \$6.00 (or \$5.00 with this article).

For additional information call Carol 610-390-0555

### Antique Show Committee:

**Carol Bear-Heckman, Darrin Heckman, Jo Evans, Jan Semmel, Dalton Semmel Ken Vliet, Annette Vliet, Barbara Schwarz, Kathy Wilhelm**

Submitted by *Carol Bear-Heckman*



## From the Museum ...

This is the first of an occasional series of articles that will showcase an item our Museum. Recently, as we were re-arranging the Museum, I had an opportunity to closely look at some of our photos. This 1908 photo of the original Monocacy School caught my eye. We are currently in the process of cleaning out the storage room in the Monocacy School building. The storage room is the original one room schoolhouse as seen in this early photo. Note the Ralston-McKeen house visible in the background with children frolicking in the snow. As you can see the original school was constructed of brick with a clapboard entrance.



In our Museum are a few photos of early student classes. These early photos document a time before the days of cars and school buses, when small rural schools fulfilled the community need for the education of its children. The school is referred to as the Irish Settlement School on some of these early photos.

At some time in the early 1900s, two more classrooms, modern restrooms, and an entrance hall were added to the school giving it the size we have today. These new classrooms were built of brick with very large windows and a wall of blackboards. In later years the entire building was covered with stucco.

Today one of these "new" classrooms is used as our Museum and the other is our meeting room. The original schoolhouse classroom is still in need of restoration. Our first step in accomplishing this is to organize and clear the room of its years of accumulated odds and ends. Once restored, this room will be used when needed for upcoming events.

## Submitted by Kathy Wilhelm

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### ***The Governor Wolf Historical Society will be hosting its 29th Annual Christmas House Tour on December 4 and 5.***

The society would be honored to have you as one of our sponsors for the Christmas House Tour. The tour features ten homes and historic sites from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century decorated for Christmas by florists, garden clubs and designers. Over 600 people attend the annual GWHS Christmas House Tour. The tour booklets, with their artwork and history, are becoming collector's items. The tour, our major source of income, funds the ongoing restoration of the Wolf Academy, the Ralston-McKeen House, the Siegfried Log Cabin, and the Monocacy School. As a Christmas House Tour sponsor, your name would be on the back cover of the Friday Candlelight Tour booklet and the Saturday Tour booklet. There will be no other commercial advertising in the booklets. There are 4 levels of sponsorship:

**Platinum: \$1000** or more includes GWHS stoneware crock, GWHS redware Christmas ornament, 4 Fri or Sat Christmas Tour tickets, 1 year *The Governor's Gossip* subscription, 1 year GWHS membership.

**Gold: \$500** or more includes GWHS redware Christmas ornament, 4 Fri or Sat Christmas Tour tickets, 1 year *The Governor's Gossip* subscription, 1 year GWHS membership.

**Silver: \$250** or more includes 4 Fri or Sat Christmas Tour tickets, 1 year *The Governor's Gossip* subscription, 1 year GWHS membership.

**Bronze: \$100** or more includes 2 Fri or Sat Christmas Tour tickets, 1 year *The Governor's Gossip* subscription, 1 year GWHS membership.

The GWHS views the tour, not just as a source of income, but as a positive force in building community pride and in preserving our heritage. Please respond by Oct 15 so that your name can be included in our tour booklet. We hope you will support this event.

Kathleen S. Wilhelm  
President, Governor Wolf Historical Society  
610-737-3000 (cell)

*Yes, I want to be a sponsor of the 29th Annual Christmas House Tour!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name to be used on booklet cover \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Check your preference: Sat tickets \_\_\_ Fri tickets \_\_\_

*Mail tax-deductible check, payable to "Gov. Wolf Hist. Society"*

*to GWHS Christmas Tour Sponsor, P.O. Box 134, Bath PA 18014*





**Siegfried Log Cabin**

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- October 13      Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- October 17      Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM
- November 10    Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- November 14    Work Day @ Society 9:00 AM
- December 4     Friday night candlelight Christmas House Tour
- December 5     Christmas House Tour 10am—4pm

**The Governor Wolf Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of local history through education as well as the preservation and restoration of historically significant structures.**

**Society meetings are held every Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM on the campus, and are open for all to attend.**

### **The 2008 Governor Wolf Historical Society Officers**

President	Kathy Wilhelm	610-837-9049
Vice President	Jan Semmel	610-262-1103
Treasurer	Dalton Semmel	610-262-1103
Recording Secretary	Julie Swan	610-838-8923
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Ellenberger	610-764-1083



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[www.govwolf.org](http://www.govwolf.org)

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### **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW**

If the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is not 2009, please renew your membership.