



The Governor's Gossip

Fall 2008

2008 Christmas House Tour



On December 5 and 6, the 28th Annual celebration of the tour will be held. Six private homes will be featured along with the Society's three buildings at the GWHS campus and the Siegfried Log Cabin in Bath. A sampling of homes is as follows:

Eric Quimby and Jo Evans, Bethlehem - This 1841 wood-framed, clap-board-sided home features beams, pegs and ladder from the original barn. Many antiques are family pieces.

Kim and Dennis Malavolta, Stockertown - You will fall in love with this lovingly restored c. 1752 stone home.

Barbara and Harold Snyder, Nazareth - This stone home features original walk-in

fireplace plus a large addition.

You will also enjoy the craft show, hearth cooking and a fresh wreaths and swags sale. This year's theme will be trains, both in the homes and at the Monocacy Schoolhouse Museum at the campus. Watch for additional information about this year's tour and private homes in the next Newsletter. Submitted by *Jan Semmel*

Keeping what we have

Remember the bit about the dog with the bone in his mouth, who looks into a pond, and sees a dog with another bone - - - and he's got to have it? I guess he wasn't smart enough to first lay the bone that he already had, up on the bank. As you remember, he lost what he had in a failed attempt to get more.

Tales of preservation disasters, or at least those of costly lessons learned, aren't so straight forward.

I know that this business of keeping what you have, in good order, is boringly practical and not at all at the top of the list with the young (and therefore not popular). I guess it is primarily the concern of folks retired.

However if you're interest is historical objects, (unless your passion is creating historical replicas, and not the preservation and restoration of Historical buildings and artifacts) then primarily it is what you now have, that you want to hold on to rather than see it melt away. After all, it is what you now have, that is more historical and carries the evidence of long ago methods, than the best effort of today's craftsmen to make a replica.

Many have seen the result of covering up an unsightly sign of deterioration (like a leaking radiator on rotting floor boards and joists) with something that looks clean and tidy (like a chunk of carpeting). This usually happens just prior to a big event. The carpeting keeps looking good, and you don't have to be reminded of the rot. Everyone's happy until the bill comes, having had to replace the timber that holds up the right end of your house.

A twenty cent piece of valve packing for that radiator would have avoided that \$5,300 replacement of sill timber, only if, those little preventative maintenance tasks had been at the top of the priority list, and not that deck on the back of the house.

We at Governor Wolf are replacing old elements of what we have, with replicas, at much too fast a pace. The reason is that we are allowing what we have, to deteriorate at much too fast a pace. There is a certain portion of our budget that should be dedicated to making the non-deteriorating (safe) interior portions of the buildings, 'look good'.

Our highest priority budget classification however, should be towards preserving what we have.

Our next Preservation Blurb will be a little more specific, and cover (in process) issues such as keeping the fresh water and dampness out of the woodwork, plaster and masonry, and accomplishing this with the least cost and energy consumption.

Submitted by *David Mowen*



Ralston-McKeen House

RESTORATION PRESERVATION

Submitted by Dalton Semmel

Several projects are in progress or will be completed by the end of the year at the GWHS campus:

- A new door was made for the well pit behind the Ralston-McKeen house.
- Stirling Painting is restoring the Southeast corner room on the second floor of the Ralston-McKeen house.
- Stirling Painting will also be replacing rotting windowsills on Ralston-McKeen this Fall.
- Also scheduled is the rebuilding of the steps and landings on the front of the Ralston-McKeen house. This project will be completed in October. Thanks to all the Committee members for their efforts on these projects. The Committee consists of Co-chairs Dave Mowen and Dalton Semmel, Trish Mowen, Kathy Wilhelm, Carol Bear-Heckman, Darrin Heckman, Eric Quimby, Bruce Swan and Bob Swan.

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.



Many Governor Wolf Historical Society members toured the historical cemetery on Rt. 329. The cemetery is noted as the oldest in Northampton County and badly in need of refurbishing. Donations and volunteers are being recruited. Please contact Peggy (Spengler) Moser at 610-837-1757 (H) or 610-984-4532 (C).

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 October 25th deadline.

An e-mail submission is preferred.

dheckman@lehighengineering.com 610-760-0640

Recipe Corner

APPLE CAKE

- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup nuts (optional)
- 2 2/3 cups of peeled, diced apples
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Blend ingredients, placing oil in pan first. Could mix ingredients in baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Enjoy!

(from Jo Evans's Recipe Box)

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

Lehigh Engineering – for printing the newsletter.

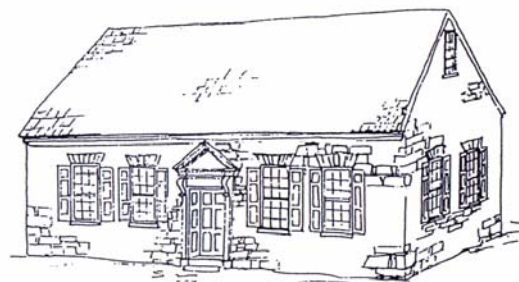
Greg Huber – for his presentation 'How old is your Historic Home'

WISH LIST

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

- Old small wooden tables*
- small 3 or 4 step ladder*
- Old wooden chairs . plastic buckets*
- brooms . elec can opener*
- 40gl trash bags*
- 50 cup or larger coffee maker . ice bucket*
- Christmas Ribbon*

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



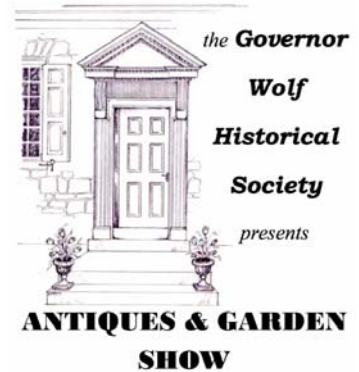
Wolf Academy

Antiques and Garden Show coming in 2009

Plans are well under way for the first annual antiques and garden show which will be held April 4 & 5 2009. It will be held at the Governor Wolf Historical Society's Park in all three historic buildings. This show will act as a companion show to the already established Heart of the Valley Show held at the Ice House in Bethlehem just 8 miles away. For additional information call Carol 610-390-0555

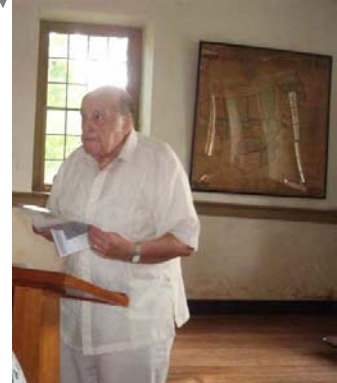
Antique Show Committee:

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



Wolf Family 100th Reunion

On Sunday Sept. 14th the 100th reunion of the Wolf Family descendants was held in the historic Wolf Academy. Camaraderie and history combined for the approximately 30 descendants who attended. A delightful speech was given by Raymond A. Wolff of New York City. His discussion of Governor George Wolf, the current work of genealogy, the sharing of family photos and his own personal journey to find his roots kept all enthralled. GWHS President Kathy Wilhelm welcomed the group and spoke about the Society and its connection to Gov. George Wolf and our ongoing restoration projects. At the reunion, a donation of 3 quilts was presented to the Society by Jean L. Miller. These were made by Mary Miller, who was her husband Leroy R. Miller's great-grandmother. Submitted by *Kathy Wilhelm*



"Raymond A. Wolff regales the audience with history of the Wolf family"

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 \$ _____

Meet Gene Allen

Born and raised in New York, Gene attended Dutchess County Community College and then transferred to Kutztown State Teachers College to major in art education. After his first job in the Bensalem School District, he moved to the Kutztown area where he spent the next 32 years in the East Penn School District. Outside of teaching in the public school system Gene was involved in many other activities: jewelry classes for adult education, private classes for elementary and high school students, art and music director for several high school musicals at Northwestern Lehigh and Southern Lehigh, window dresser, sign painter, and historic band box maker. (Gene has displayed and sold his band boxes and antiques for the past twenty plus years at the GWHS Christmas House Tour.)



"Gene Allen gives painting advice to student Brenda Zellner."

After retiring from public school he taught and supervised students at Kutztown University. Eight years later he left KU and to seriously pursue landscape painting. Carol Bear-Heckman, then the President of GWHS, asked if he would be interested in having a one-man show in the Ralston-McKeen house. He jumped at the opportunity and it was scheduled to coincide with the Society's garden tour. It was a huge success! That was four years ago. Since that time another artist, Mark Amey, a potter, has joined Gene. Next year plans are for a furniture maker, Dwayne Wendling, to be added for an even greater show.

Gene has also started adult painting classes in the Monocracy School House. This last spring four people attended a six-week landscape painting class: two first timers and two with some painting experience. The results were fantastic! Their works were also shown during Gene and Mark's opening reception. A new fall session has begun with 9 students in attendance. All talent and experience levels are welcomed. If you are interested in attending the Spring session, please watch the GWHS newsletter and website for information on dates and times. Call Gene at 610-285-6734 or write him at 5008 Golden Key Rd., Kempton PA 19529 for more information.

Submitted by *Kathy Wilhelm*

I am happy to announce the progress in reference to the Log Cabin Parking lot installation, sidewalk (from the parking lot to the door of the Log Cabin) and plantings. At this time the land development plans have been sent to Penn dot in reference to a highway occupancy permit and Met-Ed in reference to the relocation of the utility pole. We also have the project out to bid so we should have a contract in place within the next month or two. Our goal is to have the project completed in full in the spring of 2009! Our Solicitor's Stevens & Lee and our Engineer's Keller Consulting have donated their time and effort to accomplish the Land Development Plan. Kudos to them! And I have acquired several grants for the construction to be paid in full! We are all very excited to see this project come to fruition.

Thank you all for your support! **Judith A. Danko**



GARDEN TOUR

The 13th Annual Garden Tour was held on Saturday, June 14, and was a feast for the senses. Five private gardens were featured along with the wonderful Herb and Pleasure Garden at the GWHS campus and the Lehigh Township Historical Society Garden at Indian Trail Park, Pennsville.

The GWHS park also proved to be a lovely setting for the Landscape Art Show and Sale by Gene Allen and Pottery by Mark Amey. Private gardens included:

- Darrin and Carol Heckman, Walnutport, PA -

- Dalton and Jan Semmel, Whitehall, PA - George Rundle, Bath, PA - Art and Karen Benscoter, Walnutport, PA - Franklin and Cheryl Mummey, Walnutport, PA -

Submitted by *Jan Semmel*

Nazareth Area Garden Club Flower Show

Submitted by *Trish Mowen*

The Nazareth Area Garden Club presented their 6th annual flower show on Sept. 6th and 7th at the Governor Wolf Historical Society. The theme this year was "Gardens through the Years". Our floral designers took us from the ice age with "Ice" to ancient Egypt with "Valley of the Kings" through to the future with "Alien Planet". The show also featured horticulture specimens from Asters to Zinnias along with exotic houseplants. All entries were carefully selected and groomed by club members. The show has been hosted by the Historical Society for several years and is an educational event that's free of charge.



"Gail Faglioni, third from left, won Best of Show for her "Still Life" at the Nazareth Garden Club Annual Flower Show which was held at the GWHS park on the weekend of Sept. 6 &

The Governor Wolf Historical Society toured Keystone Cement Company with 20 in attendance on Tuesday, August 12th. Jeff Kaboly, resource recovery manager, graciously explained the operation of the plant on a guided bus tour.



For some time I pressed the idea for a Monocacy School grades 1-8 reunion at the Governor Wolf Historical Society Complex on School Road, Jacksonville.

Unknowingly, it was the first, and eventually the second this year. My friends and former pupils of Omegene Fehnel responded as a thunderbolt by contacting relatives and longtime friends. June 23, 2008 (18 attended) we lunched at an area restaurant much hilarity followed. Three buildings and herb garden were explored. In the old Ralston McKeen kitchen plus other rooms and halls resounded by stories of by-gone days. One person told a tale and immediately someone else would speak. Again, on Sept. 2, 2008, I asked (3 day notice) to form a 2nd reunion due to a Monocacy pupil visiting from Arizona. 14 attended, including 4 new people. I dedicate this to my teacher Omegene (fehnel) Knauss who married my uncle after both retired. She was a fantastic teacher and wonderful Aunt. These three her pupils: Samuel Stuck, Jr. brother, Eric Yocum son, Gayle Stuck niece. My gratitude to friends and especially GWHS for opening their doors so we could enjoy fellowship together and relive our past. Truly memorable events.

Sincerely, JoAnn (Stuck) Yocum



Siegfried Log Cabin

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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 14 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- October 18 Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM
- November 11 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- Guest speaker Tom Gettings, Wetlands Conservancy
"Lehigh River Preservation"
- November 15 Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM
- December 5 FRIDAY NIGHT Christmas House Tour 7:00 PM
- December 6 Christmas House Tour 00 PM
- December 9 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- December 13 Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM

The 2008 Governor Wolf Historical Society Officers

President	Katny Winneim	610-837-9049
Vice President	Jan Semmel	610-262-1103
Treasurer	Bruce Swan	610-838-8923
Recording Secretary	Julie Swan	610-838-8923
Corresponding Secretary	Jo Evans	610-266-0510



Governor Wolf Historical Society
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610-837-9015

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