



The Governor's Gossip

Winter 2008

Message from the President, Kathy Wilhelm

We at the GWHS would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of our dear friends and fellow history lovers. 2008 was a year of challenges and accomplishments here at our little historic park. The front steps at the Ralston-McKeen House were rebuilt by stonemason Rick Markovci. The brick patio at the rear of the Wolf Academy was expanded through the efforts of Eagle Scout candidate Joseph Light of Scout Troop 43 of Bath. Stirling Painting finished another room in the Ralston-McKeen House. This past summer our park was once again the site of a wedding. Our buildings and garden make a beautiful and unique setting for special events.

When we lost our regular funding for the Christmas House Tour, we found generous support among local businesses. Our sincere thanks go to The Home News, Linda M. Roth, CPA, Michelin-Cancelliere Iron Works, Inc., State Farm Insurance, Judith Ladonis, Miller Supply ACE Hardware, and Daniel G. Spengler, Attorney at Law. This April we will hold our 1st Antique and Garden Show. With antique room settings in the Ralston-McKeen House, dealers in the Wolf Academy, garden vendors, speakers and a vintage fashion show, this promises to be another memorable event.

Your membership renewal and attendance at our events enable us to continue the preservation and restoration of our historic buildings. We invite you to come visit us this year at one of our events and see how much fun history can be.

the Governor Wolf
Historical Society
presents
**ANTIQUES &
GARDEN SHOW**

Sat April 4 11am-6pm

4 pm Vintage Fashion Show

Sun April 5 11am-4pm

SPEAKERS:

- Noon "5 ways to increase your Home's Curb Appeal"
- 1 pm "A walk in the GWHS Herb and Pleasure Garden"
- 2 pm "How old is that Toy?"
- 3 pm "Timeless Kitchen Design for your Historic Home"

Admission \$5
good both days

35 select exhibitors, period room settings,
herb & pleasure garden, hearth cooking
& the school house cafe

6600 Jacksonville Rd Bath, PA 18014
www.govwolf.org 610-390-0555

(only 8 miles from the "Heart of the Valley" show, Bethlehem)

WE NEED MODELS for the fashion show. Any interested young ladies (or men) are asked to call 610-390-0555. Time commitment will be Sat Mar 28 12-3pm and Sat Apr 4 1-4pm. Channels 39 & 69 will be contacted for possible TV coverage.

HAVE OLD COOL CLOTHES? Bring them to the GW Park Sat Mar 21 9—noon. Colonial reproductions through the 70's—we need it. Accessories too!

GW-Bay! Have an antique laying around you want to get rid of? We're having a GWHS area at the Antique Show where you can move it. GWHS sells it and gets 25% and you get 75%. Items not sold must be picked up Sun night. Bring the items to the GW Park Sat Mar 21 9—noon and we'll approve and help price.

Call Kathy at 610-737-3000

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

Lehigh Engineering – for printing the newsletter.

Trish Mowen - obtaining a grant from Northampton Co. Department of Community and Economic Development, awarding us a \$3,500 grant



Special Thanks to our past GWHS Treasurer

Bruce Swan is honored with gifts for his outstanding service as treasurer of the society for 12 years.



A special and whole-hearted appreciation to all the Christmas House Tour volunteers, florists and especially our homeowners for 2008. WELL DONE!

Another huge "thank you" to the HOME NEWS in Bath for their outstanding coverage through articles and pictures before AND after the House Tour.

submitted by Jan Semmel

The votes have been counted: Viewers Choice Award for favorite floral decorations went to the Nazareth Area Garden Club at the home of *Harold and Barbara Snyder of Nazareth*

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 Spring newsletter must submit the information by the March 25th deadline.

An e-mail submission is preferred.

dheckman@lehighengineering.com 610-390-0720

Recipe Corner

APPLE BUTTER

(from Judy Dieter)

Makes 6 cups.

16-20 apples, any variety, Cortland preferred Core apples. Cook in 2c apple cider or apple juice.

Run through strainer to remove skins and any seeds. Make small batches at a time using:

2c strained applesauce

1c sugar

1t cinnamon

1/2 t cloves

1/2 t allspice

Put in pot, cook until desired thickness. Can in hot jelly jars as usual.



Ralston-McKeen House

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

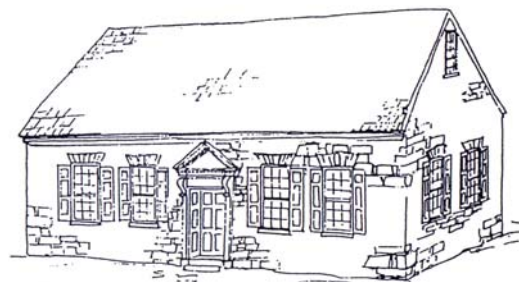
50 cup or larger coffee maker

ice bucket

Florist wire

FIRE WOOD

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



Wolf Academy

RESTORATION PRESERVATION

Things are looking up for our society's assets even as the news media is plumbing the depths of world despair. Governor Wolf Historical Society has had several *great* years of accomplishment; accomplishment that has served to insure the longevity of these historic examples of Lehigh Valley architecture. Our historical buildings are all heated, with modern, efficient heating systems, that keep the interiors and their contents free of the deteriorating effects of condensation and the destabilization of woodwork, ceilings and wall plaster. Work is continuing to specify a method of *Controlling* the heat or Dehumidification or Air Conditioning. This improved control will ***more economically*** achieve both our preservation goals and provide more comfortable accommodations for the fund raising activities of the society and better promote use of these facilities by the people of the Lehigh Valley.

Recent **Restoration news**, is that Newly laid fieldstone **Front Entrance Steps and Landings now** add to the structure's beauty, and to the safety of those visiting the Ralston McKean House. Local blacksmiths will be forging new railings to complement the entrances, and conform to the architectural style of this significant home's period in history.

Submitted by *David Mowen*

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 \$ _____

GWHS ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Sign up early for this great get-away and enjoy the trip!

- 9:15 AM AN ELITE COACH MINI BUS (WITH RESTROOM) WILL ARRIVE AT THE GWHS CAMPUS.
9:30 AM DEPART THE GWHS CAMPUS PROMPTLY FOR OUR FUN-FILLED DAY.
11:00 AM ARRIVE AT THE COLONIAL PA PLANTATION IN BEAUTIFUL RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK. INTERPRETERS IN CLOTHING TYPICAL OF THE PERIOD 1760-1790 WILL GUIDE US THROUGH STONE BUILDINGS, A KITCHEN GARDEN, PAST CROP FIELDS AND VIEW ENDANGERED DOMESTIC BREED LIVESTOCK.



- 12:30 PM LUNCH. BECAUSE MOST HISTORIC LANDMARKS DO NOT OFFER FOOD, WE WILL HAVE TO BROWN BAG IT.
2:15 PM ARRIVE AT THE MORGAN LOG HOUSE, C. 1700. BRING YOUR RACCOON HAT FOR THIS GUIDED TOUR OF DANIEL BOONE'S GRANDFATHER'S HOMESTEAD, WELSH QUAKER EDWARD MORGAN. NINETY PERCENT OF THE STRUCTURE IS ORIGINAL! WE WILL ENJOY ARCHITECTURE, FINE ANTIQUES, AND PERIOD GARDENS. A GIFT SHOP OFFERS LOCALLY MADE REDWARE, BOOKS, IRONWARE AND ORNAMENTS, TO NAME A FEW.



- 4:30 PM ARRIVE AT THE 1719 OLD MILL INN FOR A 4-COURSE BANQUET WHICH INCLUDES SOUP, SALAD, ENTRÉE, DESSERT AND NON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. THIS MOSTLY-ORIGINAL MILL WAS A PRIMARY STAGECOACH STOP BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK. THIS MILL PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
7:30 PM APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME BACK AT THE GWHS CAMPUS.



THE COST **\$80.00** PER PERSON FOR **CURRENT** GWHS MEMBERS AND **\$90.00** PER PERSON FOR **NON-MEMBERS**. THE PRICE INCLUDES YOUR BUS TICKET, FEES FOR MUSEUMS, DINNER AND ALL TAX AND GRATUITIES FOR THE ENTIRE DAY.

THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009, 9:00 P.M. IF YOU ARE MAILING A RESERVATION, PLEASE MAIL AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR, WHICH WOULD BE APRIL 21, 2009.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORTING THIS GREAT SOCIETY AND HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR EVENTS.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS, FOR CURRENT MEMBERS: _____, FOR NON-MEMBERS: _____
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

YOU MAY CALL JAN P. SEMMEL TO RESERVE, 610-262-1103, OR SEND YOUR RESERVATION BY APRIL 21, CHECK ONLY PAYABLE TO GOV. WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MAIL TO: MRS. JAN P. SEMMEL, 5567 ROOSEVELT ST., WHITEHALL, PA 18052

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP ON YOUR MAILING LABEL OF THIS NEWSLETTER. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS NOTED BY THE YEAR 2009. *THANK YOU.*

Guest speaker Tom Gettings, Wetlands Conservancy "Lehigh River Preservation" By Julie Swan



Those who attended the November Governor Wolf Historical Society board meeting were treated to a fascinating presentation by Tom Gettings of the Wildlands Conservancy about the Lehigh River watershed. The Lehigh River watershed starts in the Poconos and extends 103 miles, all the way to where the Lehigh joins the Delaware River in Easton. It is the second largest tributary of the Delaware. On the way, it passes through 10 different counties, but primarily through Monroe, Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton, and along the way, goes through the mountains at the gap at Palmerton and Slatington. Everyone lives in a watershed, Gettings explained; the Lehigh watershed is right next to the Schuylkill watershed, which runs through Berks County on its way to Philadelphia. The Lehigh drops 1,700 feet from its headwaters to the Palmerton/Slatington gap, including 800 feet through the Lehigh Gorge, but is much slower moving in the Lehigh

Valley, dropping just 360 more feet before it reaches the Delaware. He showed slides of some of the most picturesque spots along the Lehigh, including Lehigh Falls near Blakeslee, the Palisades, which can only be reached by boat, and the F.E. Walter Dam, a flood control dam which releases water for fishing and rafting. Twenty dams, with locks, were built along the Lehigh in the 1800s, but all but one of them were wiped out by a flood in 1862. The Lehigh Canal was used in those days to transport coal from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. Some 75-100 tons of coal were loaded in each canal boat and the boats operated nine months of the year, seven 16-hour days a week. Pennsylvania Dutch was the official language of the canal. Limestone was found while the canal was being dug, and this was the birth of the cement industry in the Lehigh Valley, Gettings said. All the cement used to build the Panama Canal came from Atlas Cement. With cement, coal and the beginnings of the iron and steel industry, the Lehigh watershed could accurately be called the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Farther south on the river were the Saucon Ironworks, the forerunner of Bethlehem Steel. Then, closer to Easton, is an area known as the drylands, where there is no surface water. There is a 100-acre island in the middle of the river, with a 10-acre lake on the island. The island was once the site of an amusement park. There were few permanent Lenni Lenape Indian settlements on the river, Gettings said; there were many more along the Delaware. The infamous Walking Purchase took place between the Lehigh and the Delaware, and because of chicanery on the part of the Europeans, they got about twice as much land from the purchase as the Indians expected to have to give them. The watershed is now popular for recreation, with several rafting companies operating on the river, and passive recreation such as parks and walking trails alongside it.

Fellow Gov Wolf Members,

We have a canoe trip planned with Wildlands Conservancy! The date is Saturday, August 15th with a rain date of Saturday, August 22nd. We will start an 8 mile trip at the Allentown Canal Park, stop at Sand Island, Bethlehem, for a bathroom break and lunch (we bring our own), and then continue to Wilson Avenue River Access near Freemansburg. There, a shuttle bus will drive us back to our vehicles.

Cost is \$35.00 per person via check either in advance or the day of the event. The trip takes approx. 4 to 5 hours. Closer to the date, confirmation materials will be mailed with directions to the park, liability forms, and a "what to bring" letter. Any questions or reservations please call Jo Evans 610-266-0510. Deadline for reservations is July 15, 2009.



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

- February 10 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
"Sacred Lenape Sites in Pennsylvania"
by Fred Werkheiser
- February 21 Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM
- March 10 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- March 14 Work Day @ Society 9:00 AM
- March 21 bring Vintage Fashions & Antiques for sale 9:00 AM
- March 28 Fashion Show dress rehearsal—noon
- April 4 & 5 ANTIQUES & GARDEN SHOW
- April 14 Monthly Society meeting 7:00 PM
- April 18 Work Day @ Society 9:00 PM
- May 1 Annual Dinner 6:30 P.M.
"Music, Dance and Instruments of the Pennsylvania Germans" by Keith Brintzenhoff

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



Governor Wolf Historical Society
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www.govwolf.org

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