The Governor's Gossip

November 2026
v. 44, no. 4

Newsletter of the Governor Wolf Historical Society,
Owner of the Wolf Academy Historic Site, East Allen Township

Three Holiday Events in One Weekend

44th Annual House Tour
December 5, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.

The 44th edition of our famous Christmas House Tour will be a memorable one. The homes, all more than 120 years old, reflect different architectural styles. Each is now a warm, inviting dwellings through someone's creative vision and energy. The owners of these outstanding and unique homes invite you to visit this holiday season and celebrate the rich architecture and heritage of our area. Sketches and thumbnail descriptions are on page 4.

In addition, two museums, two 18th century buildings owned by the Society, and an almost 170 year old one room school are included on the tour.

Our theme this year is "Stars and Stripes." Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season and bring back memories of Christmas past as you look for our theme elements. Florists and garden clubs will again provide Christmas decorative accents both inside and out.

Advance Ticket Purchase Outlets

As a courtesy to our venders, please pay with exact cash or check.

Bath Drug Pharmacy, 310 S. Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014
S Seem Antiques, 100 S. Chestnut St., Bath, PA 18014
Snow Goose Gallery, 470 Main St., Bethlehem, PA 18018
Mycalyn Florals, 30 S. Main St., Nazareth, PA 18064
Miller Supply ACE Hardware, Rt. 329 & Savage Rd., Northampton, PA 18067

Advance purchase tickets go on sale on Saturday, November 14. Price is $30 in advance or $35 at the Monocacy School on tour day. As a bonus, the House Tour ticket includes admission to both days of the Holiday History Fest.

Not Available on Saturday? Want to See the Houses by Candlelight?
Join our Friday evening Patron Tour.
Information on page 4

Holiday History Fest — December 5 & 6

By Linda Kortz

Our annual Holiday History Fest on the Wolf Academy Historic Site offers two full days of incredible artisans and juried craftsmen demonstrating their creations. Stroll thought three warm historic buildings, watching, learning and discovering.



Photos by Barb Wiemann

Our hearth cooking ladies will demonstrate kitchen techniques, and offer samples of some of their creations. Civil War era ladies will offer you complimentary punch and a cookie treat in the parlor. Weavers, spinners, and embroidery artists will demonstrate traditional fiber arts. Watch a slate cutter. A blacksmith will demonstrate his traditional craft. Artisans will offer a variety of handmade items for sale - baskets, jewelry, wooden toys, birdhouses, walking sticks, organic soaps, sour dough bread, and more.

Crafts for adults are back and bigger than ever!! And, of course, kids will find fun crafts to make and take.

Have lunch in our cafe and visit our museum where you can learn about Pennsylvania's seventh governor, George Wolf, the father of public education in Pennsylvania. Public school teachers? This where it all began for George.



Hours are Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free for House Tour participants. For anyone not participating in the tour, admission is $6 for non-members and $5 for Society members (good for both days). Childen under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free.

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This newsletter is published four times a year (February, May, August and November) as a service to our members and the public by the Society. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor before the first day of the publication month. However the Society reserves the right to select and edit all content.

Monthly Meetings

The Society holds monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Monocacy School, located at our historic site, 6600 Jacksonville Road, Bath, PA 18014. All members and interested individuals are invited to attend.

Historic Site Rentals

The Governor Wolf Historical Society is ready to rent out our buildings and 3 1/2 acre grounds to host your next birthday party, baby shower, meeting, or even a small wedding. We currently rent out the historic 1785 Wolf Academy, the Monocacy School original room and meeting room, and the beautiful surrounding gardens. There is plenty of parking in our adjacent grassy meadow. For more information about rental opportunities, please contact Abby Spencer at s*pencerabby@yahoo.com* or 610-428-3975.

Important Newsletter Change
Make Sure We Have Your Email Address

The Gov. Wolf Historic Society has decided to issue its quarterly newspaper as a digital publication. This means that, starting in 2027, we will discontinue the printed newsletter and send the newsletter to your email address. Therefore, it is vital that we have your current email address. If you have not provided the Society with your email, please send your address to *gwhs1958@gmail.com.* The newsletter will also be posted on our web site.

The Society is implementing this change for several reasons. You will receive a full color newsletter. Without the mailing delay, you will receive news of Society events in a more timely fashion. The Society will save the costs of printing and postage, and our volunteers who prepare the newsletters for mailing can devote that time to other Society activities.

If you are a Society member and do not have access to email, please contact the Society so that we can make arrangements to provide a paper copy.

Become A Member
We Are An All Volunteer Society And Need Your Support

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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! Return this application 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.

Or go online at *www.govwolf.org* and join online.

Individual $25.00; Family $40.00;
Student $10.00
Restoration $75.00; Monocacy $100.00
Governor's Guild $200.00
Individual Lifetime $500.00
Senior Lifetime (62+years) $250.00

From Our President



Hello everyone!

So many exciting events are coming up this year! Our Crafts Social meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet fellow crafters and bring your projects and supplies! See page 6. Our Christmas Wreath Workshops will be held on Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. Everything you need to create a beautiful, fresh holiday door wreath is provided! Cost is $40.00 per person. See page 5.

Holiday History Fest begins on December 5 along with the 44th Annual Christmas House Tour. See page 1.

Our Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in the beautiful Wolf Academy. Tickets will be on sale during our Holiday History Fest. Price is $15 for Society members and $20 for non-members. See page 6.

I would also like to take a moment to honor former GWHS president Ann Power. Ann's generous contributions made it possible to create the museum that opened in December 2021. Ann passed away on September 24 this year at the age of 95. Her contributions to the Society will continue to effectively educate and serve our community for many years to come.

Bob Bysher

Ann Power 1930-2026

Annette S. Power. former Society president and benefactor, 95, died September 24 at Moravian Hall Square. Ann joined the Society after moving from New Jersey to Nazareth. She became an active member who joined the Board of Directors and regularly volunteered for events.

In 2011, when property south of the Society's historic buildings became available for purchase, Ann loaned the Society $140,000 to buy the land. This purchase transformed our historic site, enabling the Society to create open space and provide parking for our events. The Society made the last mortgage payment to Ann in September, just weeks before her death.

Ann served as vice president in 2012 and 2013 and as president from 2014-2016.

Ann was concerned that the Society lacked a professionally designed museum that clearly explained the life and contributions of local resident George Wolf, early public education, and the life of early East Allen residents. To enable the Society to install a museum that would meet this educational need, Ann donated $36,000 to the Society in 2021. The new museum opened in December 2021 and, in gratitude, the Society named the museum the Ann Power Historical Educational Center.

Ann's contributions to the Society will continue to allow the Society to effectively educate and serve our community for many years to come. Thank you, Ann!



Linda Kortz and Ann Power at the dedication of the Ann Power Historical Education Center. Photo by Annette Vliet.

Mortgage Paid!!

By Kathy Wilhelm

We are proud to announce that we have made the final payment on the $140,000 loan we took out for the last parcel of property that is now part of the Wolf Academy Historic Site, the home of the Governor Wolf Historical Society.

Land Purchases

The Wolf Academy Historic Site consists of five contiguous parcels that were patchworked together over the last 67 years, starting with the acquisition of the Wolf Academy in 1959 for $2,500. That was followed by the purchase of the Ralston-McKeen House in 1981 for $10,000, the transfer of the Monocacy School and its parking lot from the Northampton School District in 1994 for $1.00, and the purchase of the grove behind the Wolf Academy and the Ralston-McKeen House for $30,000 in 1999.

The Grassy Meadow

The last parcel purchased was the empty field to the south of our other buildings, purchased in 2011 for $140,000. There were many discussions about the purchase price, which was too high for a conventional bank loan at the time. Since the Society's beginning, we had used this field as overflow parking for every event we held. Early on, we tried to purchase that parcel from the owner at the time, but his family did not want him to sell. When the whole property went up for auction, it was sold to someone who wished to use it for his business. In the years that followed, we were allowed to continue using the field for parking, all the while trying to purchase the parcel.

Ann Power Loan

Finally in 2011, he agreed to sell this 1.5 acre parcel to us for the sum of $140,000. Since we couldn't get a conventional mortgage, we were in a quandary of how we would pay for it. Thankfully for us, Ann Power, one of our board members, offered to lend us the money for the purchase.

We are eternally grateful that Ann made this offer. Without this final parcel, we wouldn't be able to hold any large events that require the use of this parking lot.

2026 House Tour Houses



This mid 1700s stone farmhouse features an addition which blends in nicely with the original stone structure. The exterior stone wall of the original home is now a two story interior wall in the family room. The original stone fireplace is now part of the living room.

Built about 1850, this two story log farmhouse features hand hewn, mostly American Cestnut, logs. The owners stained and re-chinked the logs, refinished the original floors, and added a new roof and windows. The large fireplace chimney is located within the walls. The house has a stone foundation, small slate cold cellar, and nearby well.

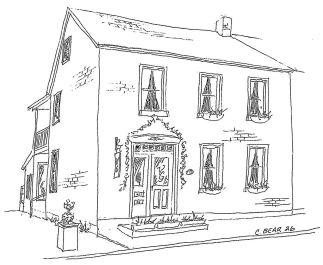




The oldest part of this rubble limestone house dates to 1797. It features a large walk-in fireplace and a staircase to the second floor. A larger more formal symmetrical Federal section was added in 1815. Made of native stone, it has a center hall design with four rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs.

This late 1800s Pennsylvania vernacular farmhouse was purchased "as is." The owners updated electrical and plumbing systems, installed a new slate roof, and refinished the hardwood floors. They preserved the original glass windows and as much plaster as possible. Look for the one piece curved staircase banister and multiple fireplaces. The property includes a three story bank barn and multiple outbuildings.





This brick colonial home features a marble date stone over the front door "C. Flick August 4, 1846." By 1860, Charles Haupt was manufacturing carriages and buggies here. The owner has removed "improvements" to reveal original wide plank floors, heart-pine stairs, brick and mortar construction, and a wooden ceiling in the bathroom. Note the bedroom transom window and the bubble glass kitchen window.

Patron Tickets For Friday Night Tour

The Friday, December 4, candlelight patron tour begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Society's Ralston-McKeen House. From there, tour participants caravan to the five open homes, following a pre-arranged schedule to visit each home. After touring the homes, everyone returns to the Ralston-McKeen House to enjoy refreshments.

The cost of the patron tour is $50 for members and $60 for non-members. Reservations are required. Send your name, phone number, email address, number of patron tickets, and a check made payable to "Gov. Wolf Historical Society" to Carol Bear, Candlelight Tour, 207 W. Northampton St., Bath PA 18014.

House Tour Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor

Stofanak Custom Cabinetry
176 Nazareth Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18020
610-759-9311

Gold Sponsor

A. A. Lapp & Associates, Inc.
16 S. Broad St., Box 171, Nazareth, PA 18064
610-759-6858

Bronze Sponsors

Monocacy Creek Antiques
116 East Main Street, Bath, PA 18014
484-934-2814

Red Wolf Bar and Grille
201W. Main St., Bath, PA 19104
484-281-3661

S. Seem Antiques
100 South Chestnut St., Bath, PA 18014
610-390-0403

Spengler Brown Law Offices
110 East Main St., Bath, PA 18014
610-837-7855

Please patronize our Sponsors

Upcoming Events



A Red Hat group enjoyed a tour of the Society's buildings and museum on Tuesday, September 8. Photo by Kathy Wilhelm.

Free Historic Site Tours

Nov. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Society offers free tours of our three historic buildings, grounds, and new museum on the third Saturday of each month, April through November, from 1-3 p.m. No reservations are needed.

Knowledgeable guides will discuss the history of each building, Gov. George Wolf, and provide details about items in the museum.

Request A Tour

The Society is always willing to provide tours to individuals, families, school classes, youth groups, and social organizations at other times. To schedule a tour, call 610-837-9015 or email *gwhs1958@gmai.com*



Annual Wreath Workshop Party

Friday, November 27 — #1. 9:00 a.m. — Noon.
— #2. 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Suaturday, November 28 — #3. 9:00 p.m. — Noon.
#4. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p. m.

All supplies provided to make a 22-inch wreath: wreath form, mixed greens, pine cones, and your choice of a large florist bow. Bring clippers, glue gun, and any other décor you want to add to your wreath. Wine, snacks optional. Coffee and tea provided. Please arrive on time. We start promptly.

$40 per person

Groups—Please list all names and pay with one check for group.

Name:_____Phone_____

Email:_____t_____Number Attending_____

Address_____City_____Zip_____

Class date and time _____Amount_____

Make check payable to GWHS. Add "Wreath Class" on memo line. **Space reserved with receipt of check**.
Information at *www.govwolf.org*
Call or text 610-905-0007 and leave phone number, name, class choice, and number in group.
Deadline to register is November 21.

GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 134
BATH, PA 18014

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events!!

Crafts Social -- 1st & 3rd Thursdays
See below

Open House Tour -- Nov. 21
See page 5

Wreath Classes -- Nov. 27 & 28
See page 5

44th Annual Christmas House Tour -- Dec. 5
Friday Candlelight Tour -- Dec. 4
See page 1 and 4

Holiday History Fest -- Dec. 5 & 6
See page 1

Holiday Candlelight Concert -- Dec. 13
See below

Craft Social Open to All 1st & 3rd Thursdays

By Carol Bear

Remember that half-finished knitted scarf in the spare bedroom? Or the art project you never finished? This is your chance! Join like-minded people in the meeting room at the Society and get it done! We meet twice a month, the first and third Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. All are welcome to attend and any craft is invited. Count on good conversation and great productivity. A $5 donation is appreciated to defray costs.

Christmas Candlelight Concert

December 13

Governor Wolf Historical Society's annual candlelight concert will be held Sunday December 13 at 7 p.m. in the historic 1785 Wolf Academy. The delightful evening is an inspiring way to kick off your holiday season. The evening includes a fabulous dessert buffet.

Seating is limited and advance purchase is recommended. Purchase tickets at the Society during the Holiday History Fest on December 5 and 6, or reserve tickets by phone 610-736-300 or email *gwhs1958@gmail.com*. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Price is $15 for Society members and $20 for non-members.

Save The Dates!!

18th Annual Antiques Show
March 6 & 7, 2027

Quality venders and room settings in our three historic buildings

Thank You

To Eric Himler and A.A. Lapp & Associates, Inc., Nazareth, for a generous monetary donation