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December 2011

Cynwyd Train Station Has a New Look



*Bruce D. Reed, Vice-President of The Lower Merion Historical Society
and Alexander (Pete) Hoskins, President & CEO of West Laurel Hill Cemetery
on their inspection tour around the station.*



*Putting the final touches on the station are
Al Hodkinson, Dan Riddle and Jose A. Caballero*

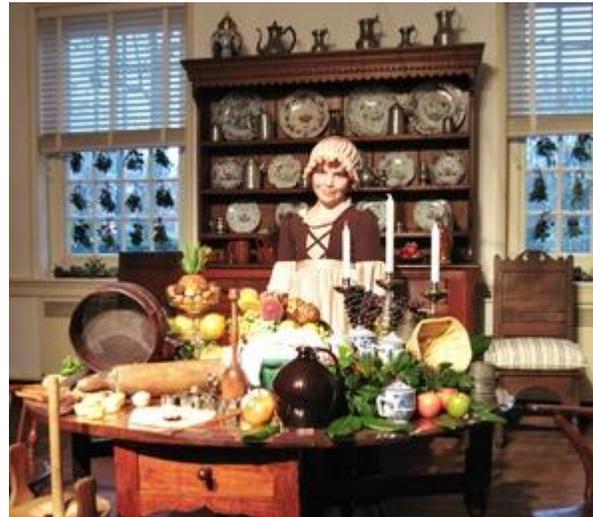
The revitalization of the Cynwyd Train Station has taken another step forward with the completion of the outside painting of this historic structure. This project was funded by a \$10,000 corporate donation from the West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

The next phase will begin early next year and will be funded by a \$350,000 Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grant that has been awarded to the Township of Lower Merion. Work should begin around March 2012 and conclude around July 2012. The scope of work is to extend the Cynwyd Heritage Trail from the *bumper* to the Cynwyd Train Station, add fencing to separate the active train line from the trail, and to build new ADA access ramps to the station platform.

[The next and final phase](#), to be done by the Historical Society, will include the installation of a rainwater harvesting system, rain gardens, and stormwater trenches.

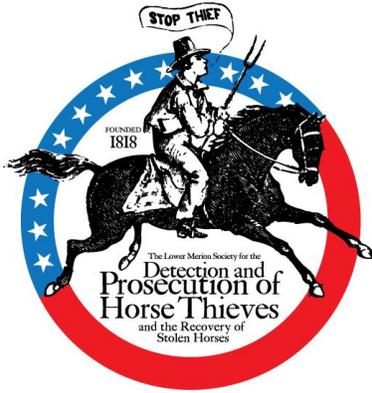
Holiday Tours of the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park

It is that time of year to get out and see some of our local treasures. Did you know that the Roberts family of Pencoyd were distant relatives of George Clymer (1739-1813) who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution? As a young man, Clymer spent his summer months at Woodford that is located in today's Fairmount Park (Woodford's dining room is pictured to the right with junior volunteer Madison Murray). This year, Woodford's theme is [Rebecca Franks' Holiday Party](#) which recreates an 18th century celebration hosted by the Tory belle and Woodford resident.



Come visit [Woodford](#) and the other historic houses of [Fairmount Park](#) ...you will be charmed by their beauty.

Let Horse Thieves Beware!



On November 12th *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses* held their 193rd Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Cynwyd Club. Founded in 1818, the purpose of this society is to honor man's greatest servant – THE HORSE, and to insure and to protect the horses of the membership from the nefarious enemies of

society known as *HORSE THIEVES*.

Charley Dorkey (on the left) being congratulated by G. Minshall Painter IV, President (on the right) for his more than 50 years of service to *The Lower Merion Horse Company*.



The Lower Merion Historical Society actively supports this ancient and honorable society. Anyone interested in more information or joining this society, mail your request to: *The Lower Merion Horse Company*, c/o Corresponding Secretary, 351 W. Signal Hill Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP)



HSP have received a grant from the Mellon Foundation for the *Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR)*. The goal of the project is to make better known and more accessible the important but often *hidden* archival collections in the many small historical organizations in the Philadelphia region. The Lower Merion Historical Society was one of the collections selected and has been recently surveyed by Michael Gubicza and Celia Caust-Ellenbogen from HSP. Check out the [HSP blog](#) and see what they think about our special library located at the Academy.

Building Photographs: To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History

Our December photo from www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/ is part of our history:



The W Robert Swartz collection includes this photo of a 1799 building in Wynnewood. Do you know who built it? What is it now? For the answers, click [here](#)



Our Board of Directors: Jerry Francis, Bruce Reed, Sam Adenbaum, Steve Selinger, Bobbie McElroy, Ted Goldsborough, Dennis Montagna, Joanne Murray, Anna O'Hora, Max Buten, Leon Levine, Sarah Perthes, Ken Brier, Sarah Francis, and Ross Mitchell would like to wish all of you a joyful and happy holiday season

Favorite Links

- [Lower Merion Historical Society's Website](#)
 - Our [Preserve America Website](#)
 - [Membership Information](#)
 - [Buy Our Books](#)

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This is accomplished by stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.