



May 2011

Hi Friend of the Historical Society,

Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail

For four years now, it has been up to volunteers to care for and clear our beloved linear park. But on this past beautiful Thursday morning, May 5th [dozens gathered at the old Barmouth Station](#) for the official launch of Phase One of construction of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. We were surrounded by construction vehicles during the ceremony, and our own Jerry Francis and Bruce Reed were recognized for their substantial contribution to the project. Construction of the trail, which runs from the Cynwyd Train Station to the Manayunk Bridge and then curves to Belmont Avenue, is projected to be completed this fall. Visit www.cynwydheritagetrail.com for more photos and construction updates.



Hail to the Trail

Hosted by the Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (FOCHT), this festival event was held on Sunday, May 1st at the Cynwyd Station Park. The FOCHT had [free trolley rides to the lower part of the trail](#), live bluegrass music, free Ben & Jerry's ice cream, and many other activities for the community to enjoy.

Part of the afternoon's events were tours of the Cynwyd Train Station. Pictured is Steve Selinger giving a presentation about Vine Creek, the history of the area mills, and of the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.



A Visit to the Hagley Library

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail was once the right-of-way of the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad that dates back to the late 19th century. Our research team at the Society continues to investigate the history of this important artery of the PRR. Recently the team visited the [Hagley Museum and Library](#) in Wilmington, Delaware. Many documents were found that will be added to our library collection that documents the rich history of this industrial corridor. Pictured are Denise Francis, Christopher Baer (Assistant Curator, Manuscripts & Archives), Max Buten and Sarah Francis.



Ted's School Bus Tours



Ted Goldsborough has been giving free, two-hour, school bus tours to fourth graders in Lower Merion School District elementary schools for almost fifteen years. These tours focus on the history of the area, and along the way, they see such places as the Lower Merion Academy, the Philadelphia & Columbia Railway right-of-way, the ancient milestones, and a ride along Mill Creek Valley to see the ruins of some of the water powered mills. Ted recently hosted seven tours for the teachers and their students in three schools: Belmont Hills, Gladwyne, and Penn Valley.

Bryn Mawr 100, Then and Now

The Historical Society, in cooperation with the Lower Merion Conservancy and the Bryn Mawr 100 Committee is offering this illustrative lecture on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:00pm at The Residence, [The Baldwin School](#), 701 West Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr.

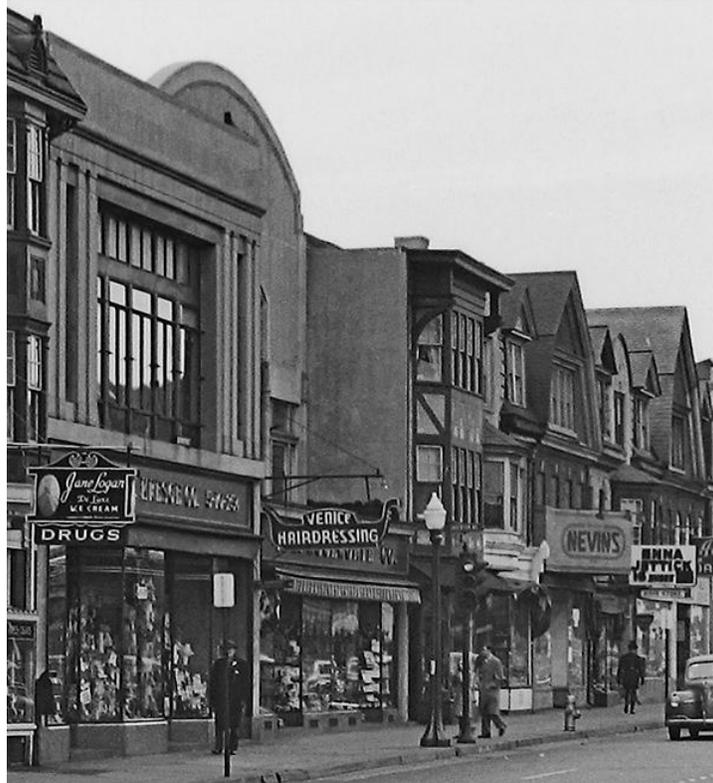


The centuries-long history of Bryn Mawr may still be seen and embraced in the many institutions that remain in the landscape. This illustrated lecture will focus on the noble members of the Bryn Mawr 100, a collection of institutions and businesses that are at least 100 years old. Welsh for great hill, Bryn Mawr takes its name from the 18th-century farm of Rowland Ellis. Now known as Harriton, this property includes the 307-year old [Harriton House](#), now open to the public. In the intervening years, Bryn Mawr has been called Humphreysville, boasted high-end summer resort hotels (such as the Bryn Mawr Hotel above, now The Residence at the Baldwin School), and welcomed the railroad known as the Main Line. By 1884, Bryn Mawr was the most populous town in Lower Merion—one of the first commuter suburbs. Churches, schools, a hospital and businesses were created to provide for the well-being of residents. In this illustrated lecture, you'll see historical images from the Lower Merion Historical Society, paired with photos of the same sites today. The juxtaposition forms a then and now collection tracing Bryn Mawr's history and growth. This lecture will be given by Bobbie McElroy, Bryn Mawr business owner and secretary of the Lower Merion Historical Society and Lori Salganicoff, Bryn Mawr business shopper and the Lower Merion Conservancy's historic preservation director.

Call the Conservancy at (610) 645-9030 for price information and to make a reservation.

Building Photographs - To preserve Today for tomorrow's history

Our May pictures are from www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/, where it is part of our future history:



The Township has given us the negatives used in the 1937 Comprehensive Plan. This *part* of a panoramic photo shows *some* of the Ardmere businesses on Lancaster Ave 74 years ago. The full photo [on our web](#) extends from Cricket Ave to the Autocar plant. You may remember some of the businesses, but I doubt you will know them all. Names on the signs are listed with the full photo. of the Ardmere businesses on Lancaster Ave 74 years ago.

For more panoramas of Lancaster Ave., click "This Building" on the same page.

The May issue will highlight Phase 3 construction and the storm water management issues and concerns at the Cynwyd Train Station

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.

