

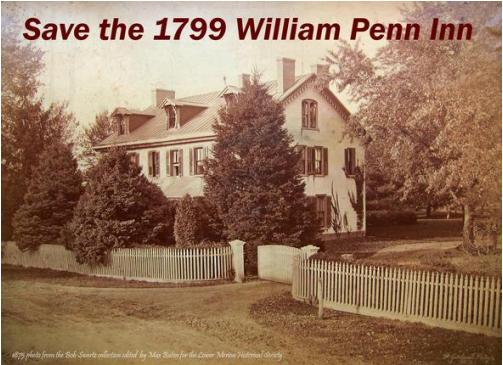


Lower
Merion
Historical Society

Milestones

Preserving Our Past for the Future

October 2014



1875 photo from the Bob Schwartz collection colorized by Max Berlin for the Lower Merion Historical Society

Update on the William Penn Inn

On September 8th, the *Subdivision Plan* that called for the demolition of the historic William Penn Inn, was tabled for 30 days in order that the developer could meet with Township staff to consider alternatives. The 30 day waiting period has expired and the *Subdivision Plan* has been placed on the agenda of the October 6th Planning Commission. We will keep you updated on the ongoing negotiations.

A related issue facing the Township today is...how can we best “*Preserve Our Past for the Future*”? Currently, an updated *Comprehensive Plan* is being drafted by the

Township. In the Land Use Committee, in their Preliminary Recommendation Report, in the Historic Preservation Chapter, they recommend to “utilize local philanthropic and private resources to develop a revolving fund, a collaboration of preservation-minded interests such as the Lower Merion Conservancy, the Township, and/or a *foundation* to be created, for the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. Once established, this program should be designed to be financially sustainable and free of government subsidy.”

Historic Preservation must be a priority in the Township’s new and improved *Comprehensive Plan*, then follow that Plan, and adequately fund the new Historic Preservation initiatives. Now is the time to seriously consider creating a “*Lower Merion Preservation Foundation*” to protect our “exceptional historic resources”

Historic Trail with Sadie Francis

**Sunday, October 19th from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
at the Cynwyd Train Station**

Always a pleasure, Sadie will host a quick tour of the historic, renovated 1890 *Cynwyd Train Station*, then take a field trip to check out the new signage at the trailhead there, and walk 1.5 miles down the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* to take a peek at the entrance to the Manayunk Bridge (checking on construction progress). At that point we will backtrack a bit to the beginning of a hiking trail which will lead us to some older rights-of-way, take in various historical sites, and traverse the Towpath Bridge across the Schuylkill River to the Manayunk Brewery: we’ll be getting to the Brewery by about 12:30pm. **Free!**



Haunted History: The True Ghost Stories of Lower Merion



**Wednesday, October 29th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
at the Cynwyd Station Park**

Just in time for Halloween, get introduced to Lower Merion's ghost community with Jerry Francis, President of the Lower Merion Historical Society's award-winning talk. With video and other media, will overview thirteen *notable* and *not so notable* residents, including the General Wayne Inn and its resident Wilhelm the Hessian soldier (winter of 1777), and the Miller's House of John Roberts II (1778). Admission is **Free**, but donations to the *Friends of Cynwyd Station Park* gladly accepted. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Planning for the Future

We are pleased to announce the formation of a *Strategic Planning Task Force*. This group is chaired by Ken Brier, Vice President of the Historical Society, along with Jerry Francis, John Hepp, Joanne Murray, and Carole Strickland. Ken commented that "the Society is the gate-keeper of Lower Merion's heritage and we must keep our history fresh and alive for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. We must continue to leverage our many assets, to maintain our financial stability as an organization, and most of all, to remain relevant to the communities of Lower Merion and Greater Philadelphia."



Of course, the Township has evolved since the Society's founding in 1949, and the organization has actively continued to evolve alongside the community it serves. Jerry Francis added that "our Strategic Planning Program brings new Board members and initiatives to the Society's agenda, adopting the slogan of *A New Year and New Beginnings for the Historical Society*."

Building Photographs - Preserving Today For Tomorrow's History

The October photo from our [Buildings web](#) shows part of our changing history:

This barn was on a estate that's been in the news lately. It was probably more than a century old when the photograph was taken. The car next to the barn is from the early 1940s. Where do you think the barn was? For the answer, look [here](#).



Click [here](#) to see the location of the barn and the historic home that the barn was connected with.

- ***Favorite Links***
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 - [Membership Information](#)
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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.

