



**September 2010**

Hi Friend of the Historical Society,

This is the inaugural issue of our digital newsletter **Milestones**. We're going GREEN, switching from a paper copy to this online version. For our old and new friends, here is a recap of who we are and what we do for the community.

The Lower Merion Historical Society, located at the Lower Merion Academy, is an all-volunteer 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. For more than 60 years our volunteers have provided educational programs, made our extensive resources more accessible to the public, and promoted the preservation of historic treasures.

#### ***Books and Special Collection***

Our special library is comprised of over 3,200 books, indentures, letters, and objects, from seven distinct collections which have a connection with Philadelphia and the Main Line.

#### ***Main Line Atlases and Maps***

This Atlas collection includes 14 editions, with a total of 400 plates spanning a time frame from 1871 to 1961. Complimenting the atlases is our antique map collection, which records the development of the region from farmland to premier suburban community.

#### ***Lower Merion Burial Records***

The Society has researched and archived a virtual library of burial records from the region, some of which date back to 1695. Subsequent data from churches and private family records represent over 15,500 family names.

#### ***Pamphlets and Reprint Articles***

More than 18,000 items, from as far back as the 1700's, are available for study. Topics include religious institutions, local and family history, architecture, schools, taverns, businesses, communities, notable residents, railroads, crime, landmarks, obituaries, and almost anything one would desire to know about the community and its people.

#### ***Photograph Collection***

There is no better way to get a glimpse of our past than through the lens of a camera. The Society's collection of more than 9,000 images records the people and places of earlier times. This great resource helps us to appreciate the foundations on which our community was built.

#### ***Website***

Almost 50,000 items are indexed and available online at <http://www.LowerMerionHistory.org> - a free and informative electronic archive in a user-friendly format. About 14,000 visitors use our website each month.

#### ***Education and Outreach***

Society volunteers and partners are continuously striving to highlight history as a means of giving context to the occurrences of today. We are far more than just a library: The Society's many accomplishments include the restoration of the 1812 Lower Merion Academy building, which is now in active use as the Society's headquarters, and the publication of several books. Current projects include the eco-friendly restoration of the original 1890 Cynwyd Train Station, and the development of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. The trail is a 350-acre linear park comprised of public, private, and institutional lands that will offer recreational, economic, community-building and educational opportunities to Lower Merion and the region. It reclaims several notable historical sites, and will serve as one of the Society's "classrooms".

*The October edition will highlight the work that has been accomplished at the Cynwyd Train Station. Phase 1 of this construction project is coming to a close and we would like to share with you our success story.*

*Our book Lower Merion and Narberth will be published next month...details to follow.*

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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.

