



September 2012

## "Yesterday Was History! What Can We Do With It Today?"

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### Two Recent Gifts to the Community



A new landscape feature appearing along the [Cynwyd Heritage Trail](#) is West Laurel Hill's recent contribution. What is today called Barmouth Station was once the main entrance into the [West Laurel Hill Cemetery](#). Over the summer, work was completed on the construction of new stone walls, the installation of four large stone pillars, new wrought iron fencing and a main entrance gate that opens into the cemetery. West Laurel Hill invites the general public

to visit and to tour their 13 miles of trails on their 187-acre property. While on your visit, and not far from this entrance, be sure to see their [September 11, 2001 Memorial](#) (911) and also then look for the [Duffy's Cut 57 Memorial](#).

### Merion Lamp Post Restored and Installed at the Merion Tribute House

Another reminder of Lower Merion's heritage is the various artifacts that dot our landscape; such as, our milestones, keystone markers, and our historic street signs and street lamps. The earliest street



lamps date back to c1916 and were paid for and installed by the [Merion Civic Association](#) for their Merion community. Therefore, it seems appropriate, to mark the *Merion Civic Association's* upcoming centennial year, that they should re-introduce one of these original street lamps. In a collaborative effort, the *Merion Civic Association* started the ball rolling. They received technical assistance from the Township's HARB and Historical Commission, followed by the full support from the *Merion Community Association*. Recently, a restored post and a new lamp were installed on the grounds of the [Merion Tribute House](#). If you are in the area, drive up the main driveway and you will find it next to the porte cochère, on your right.



### **We Have Been Visited by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

The [Historical Society of Pennsylvania](#) (HSP) has been building a database of “*Hidden Collections*” to make them better known and more accessible. The team of Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza, supervised by Jack McCarthy, spent several days at the Academy last fall, finding, counting and measuring our various collections. They identified 25 noteworthy collections and then wrote a report on each one of them. Pictured is Max Buten of the Lower Merion Historical Society who carefully reviewed and edited HSP's reports for any errors of omission or commission.

Now HSP has incorporated these reports of our collections into the University of Pennsylvania's [Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries](#) (PACSL) list of Special Collections where they are easy to find: just search for Lower Merion. We're in the vanguard, to be followed by the collections of other organizations, so bookmark the site.

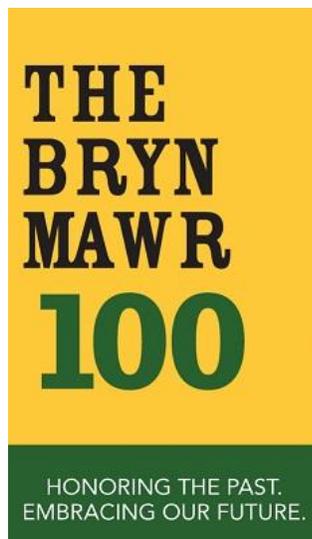
We are starting to build on their work by making a list of many other collections that we have in the Academy with the goal of making them better known. Indexing them will make these items easier to find. Among these are our voluminous collections dealing with our Lower Merion Public Schools; such as buildings, yearbooks, and sports. The Russell Byerley Collection of World War II correspondence and diaries is also included.

#### **Look For Us At:**

Representatives from the Historical Society will be participating at these three upcoming events;

[Bryn Mawr 100 – Honoring the Past: Embracing our Future](#)

It all takes place Saturday, September 8th beginning at 10:00am, in an around the



*Town Square*, otherwise known as Lower Merion Township's Lot 7, just off Lancaster Avenue in Bryn Mawr.

[Friends of Autocar Annual Truck Show And Banquet](#)

Takes place Saturday, September 22nd starting at 9:00am to late in the afternoon at the Goshen Fire Hall and grounds.

[Montgomery History Fair 2012: Now and Then](#)

Takes place Saturday, September 22nd 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe. Music, speakers, food, local historical organizations, and a historic trade village featuring time-honored crafts. Admission is Free.

**Building Photographs:  
To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History**

Our September photo from [www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/](http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/) is part of our history:



This fancy building from about 1910 is gone, nobody knows why. Today the site has an engraved sign, stone pillars supporting a new gate, an underground stream, and a broad path between two drives.

Click [here](#) to see how the area has changed, especially recently.

**SAVE THE DATE** - the October issue of Milestones will have a story about the Fall Festival...Celebrating the Gateway to the Trail that will be held at the Cynwyd Train Station on Sunday, October 28th.

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***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.

