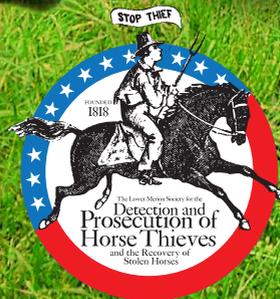




Our mascot *Steady* who lives at Harriton House in Bryn Mawr. He is named for Charles Thomson's favorite brown horse who lived and worked at Harriton House from the 1770's to the mid 1790's



## The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses



# LET HORSE THIEVES BEWARE!



### FORMATION OF THE LOWER MERION HORSE COMPANY

The official name is *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses*. In one sense, the name says it all, but the background goes something like this:

Before 1818, there were a number of *Agricultural Societies* in the Philadelphia area, which were groups, organized to allow farmers (a common occupation) to exchange the latest information and techniques regarding farming and animal husbandry. As a part of that common interest, there also arose an interest in providing for the protection of a farmer's horses. These animals were their means of transportation and *horsepower* for working their farms.



A *Vigilante Ribbon* is awarded to those members in recognition of 25 years of service to the society

## The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses

**Founded in 1818**, at the Old Buck Inn in Haverford, one outgrowth of a Philadelphia agricultural society (founded in 1785), was the Lower Merion group as named above which organized to offer to protect farmers' horses by paying for advertising in the event of the loss of a horse by theft, the organization of *posses* to go looking in search of the horse, and, in the event the horse could not be recovered, to pay the owner some recompense after the horse was appraised by other members of the Society or neighbors who were acquainted with the animal. In short, the *Horse Company* was an early form of insurance company.

# AIMS OF OUR ANCIENT AND HONORABLE SOCIETY

- ★ TO HONOR MAN'S GREATEST SERVANT – THE HORSE.
- ★ TO INSURE AND PROTECT THE HORSES OF THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE NEFARIOUS ENEMIES OF SOCIETY KNOWN AS *HORSE THIEVES*.
- ★ TO PRESERVE AN ANCIENT AMERICAN ORGANIZATION HANDED DOWN TO US BY OUR FOREFATHERS, HOPING THAT WE MAY IN TURN PASS IT ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, AS A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF THEIR AMERICAN HERITAGE.
- ★ TO ENJOY THE WARMTH AND FELLOWSHIP OF OUR FAMOUS OYSTER-TURKEY DINNER (ESTABLISHED 1818). TODAY WE ATTEND MANY DINNERS BUT OURS ENJOYS A FLAVOR SEASONED BY LONG YEARS OF CUSTOM THAT SETS IT APART FROM ALL OTHERS.
- ★ TO ENABLE ITS MEMBERS TO BE A PART OF AN UNUSUAL GROUP – WITHOUT BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN SHOWING UP ONCE A YEAR FOR A CONGENIAL EVENING WITH OLD FRIENDS.

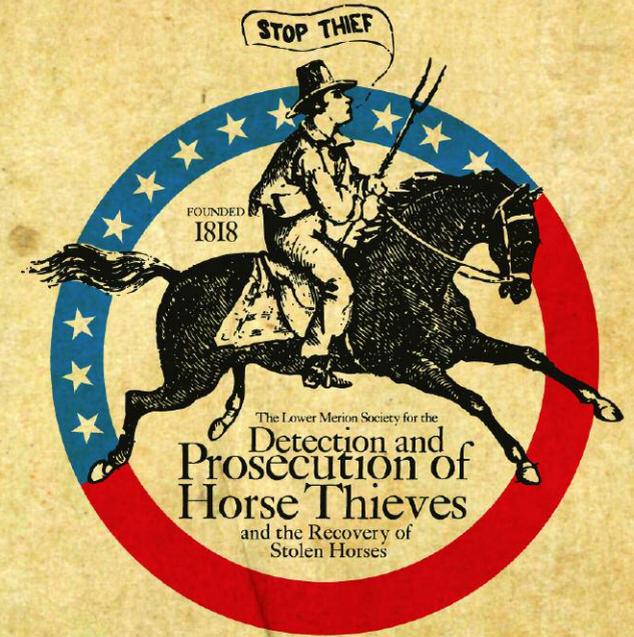


From the *Constitution, Article XI*.  
"A Brand containing the letters L.M. shall be procured, and kept by the Treasurer for the use of the members; but no one shall hold the same in his possession longer than twenty-four hours, under a penalty of twelve cents and a half for every day in which it shall be so retained."



Though no longer pursuing stolen horses *The Lower Merion Horse Company* still holds an annual meeting the second Saturday in November where we celebrate our continued existence with a meal following a menu served at early annual meetings.

The menu for the annual dinner became fixed as a menu of *Oysters Fried, Raw, and Oyster Stew*, sometimes with *Scalloped oysters* as well, followed by *turkey with oyster stuffing and trimmings*.



## Membership Benefits

- ★ A Recovery Award.
- ★ Thief Detection and Conviction Reward.
- ★ Circulation of Reward Notices by Hand Bills.
- ★ Advertising of a Reward in the Local and Regional Newspapers.
- ★ Loss Indemnity to the Owner for His Unrecovered Horse.
- ★ A Member Certificate, a Posse Assignment, a Barn Notice and a Booklet of our Constitution.

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership in this ancient society can be secured with your payment of \$20.00

Renewal membership is \$10.00 per calendar year

Make check payable to: Lower Merion Horse Company

Forward application and check to:  
Lower Merion Horse Company  
c/o Corresponding Secretary  
351 W. Signal Hill Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

WEBSITE: [www.lmhorsethieves.com](http://www.lmhorsethieves.com)

FACEBOOK PAGE: Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves



CONFUSION TO ALL HORSE THIEVES!