



July 2014



As we celebrate our
Independence Day. From all
of us at the Historical
Society.

Happy Birthday America !!!



Lecture in the Park



When: Friday, July 18th at 6:00pm - Admission is FREE. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Where: in the Cynwyd Station Park (next to the Cynwyd Train Station on Conshohocken State Road) in front of the [Turtle Island tree sculpture](#).

Who: presenter is Jerry Francis

What: *The Lenape: the First Inhabitants of Lower Merion*

Outline: The talk is on the Native Americans



who called themselves *Lenape* or *The People* who first appeared in our area more than 12,000 years ago. They lived a nomadic life in small groupings as hunters and gatherers. We will trace their history and the development of their unique culture and way of life. The Lenapes were among the first to encounter the Dutch, Swedes, and English when the European powers begins to establish settlements in eastern North American in the 1600's. Collectively, the Lenape's history is our history because they had a direct impact on the early Welsh settlers. There will also be a display of Lenape artifacts and other items whose usage will be explained to help understand the Lenape way of life.

We Are Looking for "Sleeper" Stones - If You Have Any - Please Make a Donation

The growth of Lower Merion is centered around the development of the railroads. To recognize the importance of the railroad, the Historical Society, in collaboration with *The Friends of the Cynwyd Station Park*, are planning to add an exhibit highlighting the *Philadelphia & Columbia Railway: The Main Line of Public Works of the State of Pennsylvania*. This display will mark the approximate location of the right of way of the P&CRR (1834-1857) in Bala Cynwyd.



The display will be made up of original "sleeper" stones that were used as track supports for this railway. These discarded stones are scattered around Lower Merion. If you have one in your yard, would you consider donating it to our display? If you are not sure what one of these "sleeper" stones looks like, stop by the Township's Municipal Parking Lot on Ford Road in Bala Cynwyd. At this site, there is a *Bowman's Bridge Historical Marker* along with a row of "sleeper" stones that has been made into a retaining wall. They are large granite blocks, approximately 2 feet by 2 feet by 1 foot, with two distinctive round holes on the top.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the Historical Society at (610) 664-3216 and we will make arrangements for a pick-up and move it to the *Cynwyd Station Park*. Installation date is scheduled for the fall 2014. The display will be used as a backdrop for railroad lectures and other events in the park.

Building Photographs - Preserving Today for Tomorrow's History

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

When this ad was published, in 1924, Mr. Haubert's house was one side of a twin – with no livestock. Around 1977 the twin was replaced by an auto repair shop.



Now there's an attempt to make it into a parking lot, but 1344 people have signed a petition opposing the change. You can see the petition [here](#). *The Main Line Times* has a story [here](#), and Patch has a statement [here](#).

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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.

