



**May 2018**

### ***Treasures From Our Archive Room***



This is the *first* in a series of articles that will highlight some of the rare and more interesting items in our archive collection. The Historical Society's primary asset is our library collection that comprises more than 38,000 items. Part of our collection is housed in the Archive Room; these are the rare and extraordinary items that need special care and attention. We're proud of our heritage and are fortunate to have so many primary source materials that relate to Lower Merion and Narberth. We would like to share with you in this issue two of the items from our Archive Room.

### ***John Robert's Indenture and Bible***

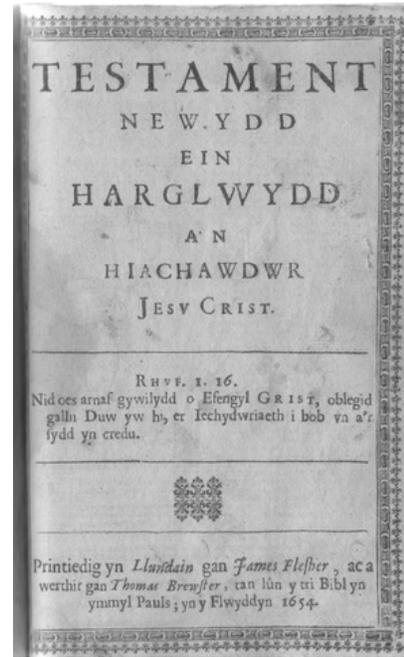


William Penn, a Quaker, had a vision for his new colony. He referred to this vision as the *Holy Experiment*; a secure and peaceable haven for all people of Europe who were persecuted simply for practicing their religious faith.

John Roberts (1648-1724) was a believer in Penn's vision. Shown above is the original vellum indenture (a formal legal and sealed contract) belonging to John Roberts (Maltster) from the parish of Llangian in the County of Carnarvon, Wales. John was a member of Richard Davies'

Land Patent (Company No. 7) and this indenture, dated July 30, 1682 is for his 150 acres in “Merion.” John arrived in Philadelphia on November 16, 1683 on the ship Morning Star. His 150 acres, a relatively long narrow strip of land, ran from the Schuylkill River along what became City Avenue to Conshohocken State Road. From this original parcel of land grew “Pencoyd Farms” which was the **first foothold** of what is today the Township of Lower Merion. He married Gainor Pugh (Ap Hugh) at Merion Meeting in 1684. He held the office as Justice of the Peace and was elected to the Provincial Assembly.

The image to the right is John’s personal bible...his prayer book published in 1654 in Welsh. This holy book traveled with John from his ancestral home in Wales, across the ocean to his new home here in Philadelphia, a safe haven that offered him the religious freedom he so wanted for himself and his family. Here, he could read this prayer book without fear of persecution.



A testament to William Penn’s vision, we are blessed to have these items in our collection.

### ***The Annual Plant Exchange***



Spring is here and it's time for The Friends of the Cynwyd Station Park to have their Annual Plant Exchange. It will be on Sunday, May 6th from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm to benefit the *Cynwyd Station Park* at 321 Conshohocken State Road in Bala Cynwyd. The Historical Society is the sponsor of this Township Park that is beautifully cared for by the [Friends of the Cynwyd Station Park](#).

The plant exchange will be in the Park by the *Turtle Island* tree sculpture. Trade your garden perennials, woody plants, veggie starts, and gently used garden supplies.

When the exchange is over, they will be planting the remaining flowers and shrubs in the Park. Bring your garden tools and help beautify the Park.



Sunday’s event is co-sponsored by the [Trail’s End Café at Cynwyd Station](#) that is located just next door at 375 Conshohocken State Road. Stop in the café and sample their menu.



# Merion Friends History Festival

## Saturday May 19, 2018



10 am - 3 pm  
615 MONTGOMERY  
AVE  
MERION, PA  
FREE!



[merionfriends.org/MerionFestival.htm](http://merionfriends.org/MerionFestival.htm)



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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.

