



July 2018

Hi {FIRST_NAME|friend of the Historical Society},

July 4th - Americas Most Patriotic Holiday



How do we show our love of our country? Think of all the activities that take place on the Fourth: fireworks, family reunions, concerts, barbecues, picnics, parades, baseball games – you name it. All which show family togetherness and expressing love of country. No matter how you celebrate the Fourth, remember those less fortunate souls on the earth who don't have the American freedoms that we enjoy. We should hope that someday, everyone can have complete freedom. Therefore, enjoy the Fourth. [Enjoy our country. Let's sing out.](#)

God bless America

Land that I love

Stand beside her

And guide her

Through the night with the light from above

Treasures From Our Archives Room

This is the *second of a series* of articles that 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 one of these items from our Archive Room.





John Binns' Engraving of the Declaration of Independence, 1819

Few copies of the Declaration of Independence were circulated in 1776, but numerous ceremonial copies were published in the surge of patriotism following the War of 1812. Binns copied the signers' signatures, but added the seals of the 13 original states and portraits of George Washington, John Hancock and Thomas Jefferson.

The Binns broadside bears an engraved facsimile attestation to the accuracy of the document by John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State: "*I certify, that this is a Correct copy of the original Declaration of Independence, deposited at this Department; and that I have compared all the signatures with those of the original, and have found them Exact Imitations.* **Binns print remains the best decorative reproduction of the Declaration of Independence.**

Bala Cynwyd's Independence Day Celebration

The July 4th parade starts at 9:30am at the [Union Fire Association Engine House](#), the patriotic program starts at 10:30am at the *Bala Cynwyd Playground*, and the athletic events start at 11:00am.

Bring your blankets and beach chairs to the Park and enjoy a patriotic program including: inspirational and patriotic speakers, and recognition of our *Citizen of the Year* and our *Merchant of the Year*.



This years Merchant of the Year is the owner and operator of [Trails End Café](#), Tracy Katz. Located at the head of the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* and in the historic Cynwyd Train Station, [Trails End Café](#) creates a central place for neighbors -- bikers, runners, joggers, walkers, and commuters -- to meet, enjoy refreshments, and engage in conversation.

Carnival games, foot races, and the ever-popular egg toss will follow the ceremony. Come see our neighborhood children enjoy the pony rides, petting zoo, exotic animals, moon bounce, trackless train, bungee run, obstacle course, extreme rock wall, and carousel. And be sure to stop by the Lower Merion Historical Society's booth and say hello and learn about *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses*.

Bala Cynwyd Elementary School Bell



Built c.1888, the school was a stone structure on the southeastern corner of Union and Bala Avenues at 49 Bala Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. An addition was built in 1909 with a power plant added in 1916. The school bell was located in the tower of the building and was used to “call” the students to class. The school

was demolished c.1974 but the bell was rescued and put into storage. The bell was manufactured by the [McShane Bell Foundry](#) in Baltimore, Maryland in 1888 (stamped on the bell).



Thank you to Robert Schultz and his staff James Schriver, William Hopkins, Jason Salvato, Edward Stahl, Adrian McDonnel of the Operations Department of the Lower Merion School District for restoring the original Bala Elementary School Bell and putting it on display in front of the Lower Merion Academy Building for everyone to enjoy and to appreciate...what a wondrous gift.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 10th – 200th Anniversary Banquet of *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses* at [Evviva Restaurant](#) located at 1236 Montgomery Ave, Narberth.

Sunday, November 11th 2018 - 100th Anniversary of *Armistice Day* (today celebrated as *Veterans Day*) at the [Merion \(War\) Tribute House](#) located at 625 Hazelhurst

Avenue in Merion.

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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.



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