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March 2014

New and Upgraded Website



Please click on www.lowermerionhistory.org and let us know what you think! Over the last year Richard Cardona (left) and Joanne Murray (center) have worked together to migrate the website from its old format over to WordPress. To accomplish this first phase of the redesign over 800 pages were created and 25,000 posts were imported. The second phase will be to move the photographic collections over and create a new method for importing future images. We are thankful that

Patrick Doyle, Sr. (right) and Max Buten who have volunteered to help us with this phase of the project. The third phase will be to add new collections onto the web. So stay tuned for our new podcast and web video section to be added with help from Lower Merion Township staff Josh Mackley and Mark Murray.

Sunday, April 27th - Save the Date

We are working out the many details and will announce the afternoon's agenda in next month's newsletter. Here is a brief preview; starting at 1:00pm, at the Cynwyd Train Station there will be the dedication of the trailhead and the unveiling of a memorial plaque recognizing the contributors to our *Cynwyd Station Revitalization Capital Campaign*. In addition, there will be the unveiling of the newly installed *Preserve America Signs* that are located in the Cynwyd Train Station and along the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail*, as well as the **2nd Annual Craft Fair and (Mostly) Native Plant Sale** hosted by the *Friends of the Cynwyd Station Park*.



Education of the Community



Lower Merion Township's Government Access Channel (LMTV) broadcasts on Comcast Cable Channel 7 and Verizon FiOS Channel 37. Any resident in Lower Merion and Narberth who subscribes to these providers can view LMTV. This month's show *Eye on Lower Merion: The Lower Merion Academy and the Historical Society* is a tour

hosted by Mark Murray and features Jerry Francis (President of the Lower Merion Historical Society).

This half-hour show will run throughout March on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30am and 10:30pm; and Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 5:30am and 5:30pm.

Collection Highlights

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

In 1747, Franklin printed twenty-two items at his New Printing-Office near what is now Market Street. Three were government printings, two were private printings, and seventeen were ventures at his own risk. One of these ventures was James Burgh's 5th Edition of "Britain's Remembrancer."



This 47 page pamphlet was warning England against "luxury and irreligion." Burgh predicted that these "characteristic Vices of the Age" would bring Great Britain to the same melancholy end as Rome. Manners, he repeated in this political discussion on the eve of the American Revolution, were more important than laws in determining a people's fate. When commerce had led to luxury, and luxury to bribery and dissipation, the best of lawgivers could not long preserve freedom.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Get Your "Porcupine's Gazette"!

From Joseph Price's 1798 Diary

April 28 Wind S W & very warm Set off to town, went with Sar y Ellis to Joshua Humphreys Below Swed[e]s Church, up to Eliots Dinner &c. &c. 7s6 boy 51/2 Paid Porcupine paper 3 Dollars 94 Cents..."

Yes, there are many entries in Joseph Price's Diary that tell that he was a frequent reader of this local newspaper. "The Porcupine's Gazette" was published every evening across the street from Christ Church at 2nd Street above Market in Philadelphia. In our newspaper collection, we have a Tuesday, August 8, 1797 edition which reports the events in Philadelphia, the nation's capitol during these last days of the Washington Administration. Many of the stories report on the comings and goings of the various ships in the Port of Philadelphia, reviews on recently published books, advertisements for the return of run-away slaves, and the "lottery" where the proceeds were used for the construction of the Schuylkill River Canal.

Favorite Links

- [Lower Merion Historical Society's 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.

