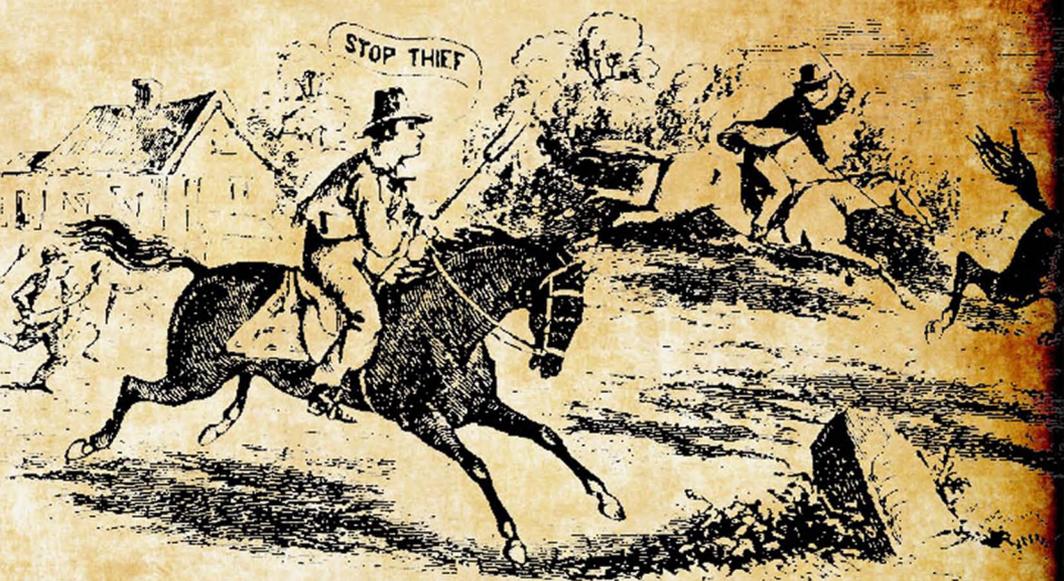


THE FIRST 200 YEARS:

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



“Let Horse Thieves Beware”



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

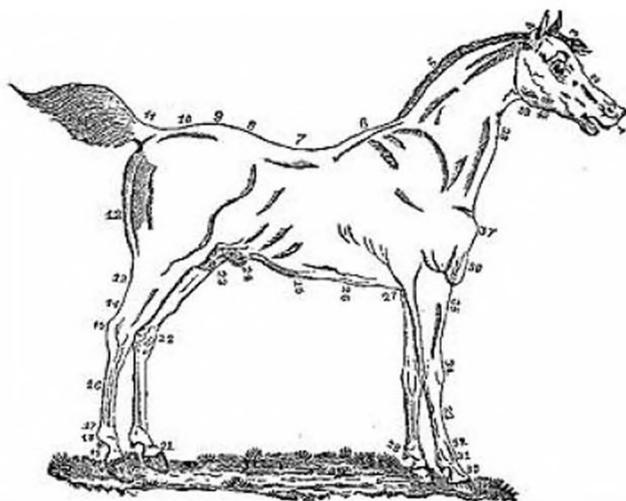
The official name is **The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses**. In one sense, the name says it all; but the background goes something like this:

The movement to establish a Horse Company in a community was widespread and began, in some instances, before the Revolutionary War. Despite early legislation by the Commonwealth and severe punishment if convicted, organized gangs of horse thieves roamed the countryside at will. In those days, law enforcement was the responsibility of the county sheriff or local constable.

The formation of a Horse Company seems to have been a spontaneous protective measure. Almost every rural community in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the adjoining states had a Horse Company. At one time, there were at least 21 Horse Companies in Montgomery County.

The horse was of supreme importance to all fortunate enough to possess one or more – and especially to every farmer. The farmer was not only dependent on his horse for mobility, but also for service in the field and on the farm. The needs of the horse came first – it received the best attention and care available.

The objective of these Horse Companies was to put potential thieves on notice of the protection by the Company with broadsides and branding, and to pay for advertising in the event of the loss of a horse by theft. In such an event, the Company posse would go looking for the horse, and, in the event the horse could not be recovered, the Company would pay the owner some recompense based upon an appraisal by Company members or neighbors acquainted with the horse's value. In short, the Horse Company provided an early form of casualty insurance. In the 1850's these societies were at their height of service and added value to the cause to which they were dedicated. From Township records, the 1887 assessment recorded that there were 1,653 horses in Lower Merion.



"American Farrier, Containing a Minute Account of the Formation of Every Part of the Horse from the Extremity of the Head to the Hoof" by H.L. Barnum. Published by Uriah Hunt, Philadelphia, 1832, Page 9 illustration.

Formation of the Lower Merion Horse Company

The formation of the Lower Merion Horse Company can be traced back to Joseph Price, who was the fourth generation of this Quaker Price family to live in Lower Merion. He was one of Lower Merion's most important citizens...a real Renaissance man. A Historic Roadside Marker on Montgomery Avenue, near Meetinghouse Lane, in Narberth states:

Price House - 1803

Built by Joseph Price (1753-1828)

Quaker Farmer, Innkeeper, Undertaker, Militiaman, Saw
Mill Operator, Milestones Installer, Carpenter, Turnpike
Supervisor, Patriot,
Concerned Citizen and Diarist.

Joseph Price is best known for and through his Diary, which is primary source material...a window to our distant past. He began his diary when he was 35 years old, and the last entry was made three days before his death at age 75. This 40-year document (1789-1828) offers a treasure trove of details of Lower Merion life in that era and a testament to the varied skills and interests of this extraordinary man.

The origins of our Horse Company can be traced back to entries in Joseph Price's diary. On January 24, 1818, he wrote:

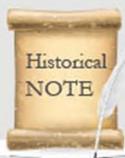
“...wind east, snowed and sleeted, covering the ground, misting and freezing all day...afternoon at Buck at forming Horse Company for apprehending horse thieves. Nineteen men met and appointed a committee of seven to draw up the rules...”



The Old Buck Inn was located on Lancaster Avenue where it intersected with Old Lancaster Road in Haverford

Less than two weeks later, on February 7, 1818, the official date of the formation of Lower Merion's Horse Company, the following entry appears:

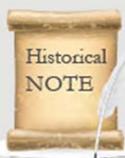
“...to home and then up to Buck to meet Horse Company for apprehending horse thieves, adopted the rules and choose officers. Jonathan Jones (President) and George F. Curwen (Treasurer, Secretary)...we paid 100 cents entrance and 25 cents expenses...”



Jonathan Jones – was a grandson of the first Jones who was the owner of the Owen House (also known as Penn Cottage) located on Montgomery Avenue in Wynnewood. Jonathan was a neighbor of Joseph Price who lived in what is today the Shortridge area. Jonathan built “Wynne Wood” in 1818.

George F. Curwen – A plantation owner in the Rosemont area often mentioned in Joseph Price’s diary.

This formation group included a number of Revolutionary War soldiers - Frederick Bicking, Blair McClenachen, Jonathan and Lloyd Jones, John Elliott, Joseph Price, Joseph Wilson, Jonathan Miller and others.



The Horse Company was founded as an outgrowth of The Agricultural Society, founded in 1785 in Philadelphia to provide farmers (a common occupation) the opportunity 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. Most of the Agricultural members were classified as “gentlemen”, not “farmers.” From the records, it appears The Agricultural Society featured oyster dinners, resulting in the Horse Company’s famous customary menu of yore. The annual dinner menu became fixed as a menu of “Oysters,” fried, raw and oyster stew, sometimes with scalloped oysters, and followed by turkey with oyster stuffing and trimmings.



The Naming of the Society

In one sense, the name says it all, but the background goes something like this: the name of the founding society was The Lower Merion and Haverford Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses. During the next 50 or so years, to best manage its affairs, and due to its extensive geographic coverage and a growing population, it was necessary for this original group to sub-divide its geographic boundaries.

This first sub-division occurred in May 1853, which divided the membership into two distinct and separate societies to be known as the Haverford and Radnor Society..., and the Lower Merion Society.... The first meeting of the Lower Merion Horse Company was held on June 4, 1853 and a new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The first officers of this group were:

President.....	John G. Henderson
Vice President.....	Levi Morris
Secretary.....	John M. Lindsay
Treasurer.....	Abraham Levering

The second sub-division occurred in November 1869, when the Lower Merion Society... divided into two companies. The Upper District called themselves The Middle Merion Society... and met at Ellis Ramsey's Green Tree Hotel. This society disbanded in 1926. The Lower District which retained the old name of The Lower Merion Society... continued to meet at the General Wayne Hotel. The first officers of this group were:

President.....	Charles Kugler
Vice President.....	Thomas G. Lodge
Secretary.....	J.H. Bevan
Treasurer.....	David Morgan



*The General
Wayne Hotel
located on
Montgomery
Avenue in
Merion,
c.1880*

Lower Merion has always been “horse country” and, by the 1870’s, the area was referred to as the “Main Line.” It had its share of blacksmith shops, livery stables, harness shops, and so forth. Horse shows, horse racing, foxhunting, and Bridlewild Trails were popular with the community; some examples were:

Bryn Mawr Hotel... An Afternoon at the Horse Show



Lower Merion has many equestrian traditions such as polo teams, horse shows, and hunt clubs. From 1896 to 1914, the Bryn Mawr Hotel hosted an annual horse show, which drew socialites from as far away as Boston.

Bryn Mawr Hound Show - The Master and His Pack



Some of the foxhounds that were entered in individual and pack classes shown in connection with the 1935 Bryn Mawr Horse Show.

Belmont Driving Park



This recreational facility became operational to the general public just in time for the opening of the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The Exposition was located in nearby Fairmount Park, only a short train ride to Elm Station (Narberth). The Driving Park was located on 72 acres along Meeting House Lane in what is now Merion Park and had a mile-long oval track, along with an additional half-mile track and a clubhouse. It was in active use from 1876 to 1924.

Wisconsin House



Located at the corner of Conshohocken State Road and Union Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. Around the bar, “trotter” enthusiasts, as distinguished from “pacers” (who gathered at the General Wayne Inn in Merion), toasted their favorites who raced around the mile oval at the Belmont Driving Park.

Parson's Blacksmith and Carriage Shop



Was a necessary fixture at the busy corner of Montgomery and Parsons Avenues in Bala Cynwyd. Luther Parsons was a community leader and involved in many civic associations; one such group was The Society for the Detection & Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses.

Member Benefits

Membership in the Horse Company came with the following 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.

In 1863 these benefits were expanded to include “Telegraph Expense” for the use of the “new fangled” device.



The turn of the 20th century, brought the era of the “automobile revolution.”

Horse lovers of the Society were disturbed by the new type of road that was being constructed in the Township - a road very desirable for motorists but too smooth for horses to travel safely. Around 1913 the benefits were again modified to include “Resistance to Automobiles and Macadam Roads.” In 1914 an effort was made to obtain and preserve suitable roads for horse drawn vehicles. But, the horse lost its battle with the horseless carriage.



Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore - Looking West to the Autocar Company Factory (c.1915)

Recovery of Stolen Horses

- The first occasion on which the new Horse Company paid for the recovery of a horse was November 10, 1855 when \$7.00 was paid to W.T. Boyd.
- 1861-1868 - three horses were stolen and their value paid by the Horse Company to Joshua Ashbridge, David Jones and Nehemiah Evans, while a fourth stolen horse was recovered and returned to John Wainwright.
- 1869-1899 - seven horses stolen and three recovered by action of the Horse Company. Two were never recovered and value was paid to the owners.
- 1911 - the last stolen horse...according to Horse Company Records...was from John Dunn. His bay horse, business wagon and a set of harness were stolen. Several months later, and after the Horse Company had paid Mr. Dunn, his horse was recovered. After an inspection of the horse, it was decided that the horse was worthless and no money was returned to the Horse Company.

**HORSE THIEVES
BEWARE!**

ALL HORSES on these premises are
the property of
and under the protection of **THE LOWER MERION
SOCIETY FOR THE DETECTION AND
PROSECUTION OF HORSE THIEVES
AND RECOVERY OF STOLEN HORSES**
OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER. THIS SOCIETY HAS A
GREAT RECORD OF APPREHENSION AND RECOVERY.

Edward H. Swan President
Post in Stable

November 9, 1963

Pictured is the "Barn Sign" that was issued to new members.

The Society Dissolves?

As a means of travel, the automobile was rapidly replacing the horse. At the 1926 annual meeting, Horse Company members decided that the usefulness of the Company had passed and it was agreed to terminate the Company. Luther C. Parsons and Richard J. Hamilton refused to accept the vote. They called an annual meeting the following year and kept the Society going without loss of continuity.

Why is the Society Still in Existence?

Though no longer pursuing stolen horses The Lower Merion Horse Company still holds an annual meeting and get together in November, celebrating its continued existence. In addition

- It preserves a tradition of fellowship in the enjoyment of pure Americana and the history of Lower Merion, and
- It is a positive American tradition. A direct link with our forefathers and an honor to the horse.



Two Lower Merion Societies Become One

The agreement was signed and a celebratory toast was made by the two societies.

The Lower Merion Historical Society Inc., founded in 1949, is the foremost local institution dedicated to the conservation of Lower Merion history through its support and preservation of local educational, charitable, and social organizations and their history.

The Lower Merion Historical Society, Inc. and The Lower Merion Horse Company were desirous of combining their efforts in a collaborative and mutually beneficial affiliation. An “Affiliation Agreement” was signed on June 21, 2016 by The Lower Merion Horse Company in which it became an affiliated entity within The Lower Merion Historical Society.

~

The Horse Company’s New Mission for the Bi-Centennial Year and Thereafter

To preserve and uphold the traditions, values and heritage of the Lower Merion Horse Company with humor and grace. To create awareness in the community of the historical roots and missions of this organization and preserve its memory and goodwill. This organization brings neighborhoods together throughout Lower Merion and Narberth for vibrant social, learning, and historical engagement.

Lower Merion Society
For the Detection and Prevention of Horse Thieves

RECOVERY OF STOLEN HORSES

Organized 1853

Successor to Lower Merion and Haverford Society

Know All Men By These Presents

THAT *George W. Latch*

is a qualified and accepted Member with
 privilege of all benefits, protections, rewards
 and reimbursements.

Leathin G. Cassoway

President-Posse Captain

P. J. [unclear]

Secretary-Posse Organizer

Ardmore
 Dated *Atthensville, Penna.* November 8, 1947

"Let Horse Thieves Beware"

BENEFITS
 Recovery Reward \$10.00
 Thief Detection and
 Conviction Reward \$50.00
 Reward Notices
 Six (three Times)
 Philadelphia Papers
 Three (two Papers)
 New York and Baltimore
 100 Hand Bills
 Loss Indemnity up to \$150.00
 Telegraph Expense \$10.00
 Resistance to Automobiles
 and Macadam Roads

Pictured above is a certificate that
 was issued to new members of the
 Company.

Pictured on the right is the "Vigilan-
 te Blue Ribbon" that was awarded
 to those members with 25 years of
 service to the Company.



The following are copies of additional Lower Merion Horse Company memorabilia, ephemera, history and lore acquired prior to its affiliation with the Lower Merion Historical Society.

OFFICERS

Lower Merion, Society For the Recovery of Stolen Horses and the Detection of Thieves

(Other than the year 1818 our records start in 1870.)

The original Society was divided two times and records have not been found prior to 1856.

Presidents

1870 to 1879	Charles Kugler	1955 to 1972	Edward H. Snow
1879 to 1887	Joseph C. Pearce	1972 to 1989	Albert F. W. Vick, Jr.
1887 to 1896	Dr.. Samuel S. R. Smith	1989 to 1989	Charles L. Campbell
1896 to 1915	Josiah S. Pearce	1989 to 2005	F. Nicholas Imperato
1915 to 1955	Luther C. Parsons	2005 to date	G Minshall Painter IV

Vice Presidents

1870 to 1887	Dr. Thomas G. Lodge	1955 to 1964	William H. Supert
1887 to 1906	Enoch Enochs	1963 to 1971	Raymond T. Ohl
1906 to 1908	George W. Hansell	1971 to 1972	Leland W. Hovey
1908 to 1915	Luther C. Parsons	1972 to 1974	Dr. Edward L. McQuaid
1916 to 1918	George Grow	1974 to 1981	Edward L. McQuaid, Jr.
1918 to 1925	Patrick Reagan	1984 to 1989	Charles L. Campbell, III
1925 to 1939	W. Walter Latch	1989 to 1989	F. Nicholas Imperato
1939 to 1954	Charles G. Latch	1989 to 2005	George M. Painter, III
		2005 to 2015	Harvard C. Wood III

Treasurers

1870 to 1898	David Morgan	1961 to 1966	Guy L. Cornman
1898 to 1919	Charles J. Pryer	1966 to 1968	Andrew Sheard
1919 to 1933	Dr. Herbert A. Arnold	1968 to 1969	H. Stuart McMoran
1933 to 1935	Howard G. Kurtz	1969 to 1985	Roy Lipman
1935 to 1945	Dr. C.H. Arnold	1986 to 1989	Thomas OThompson, Jr.
1945 to 1961	William P. Landis	1989 to 1998	John J. Kelly III
		1998 to date	Roy P. Wolfe

Secretaries

1870 to 1873	J. H. Bevan	1909 to 1956	Richard J. Hamilton
1873 to 1886	Josiah S. Pearce	1971 to 1984	Charles L. Campbell, III
1886 to 1909	Paul J. Kugler	1984 to 2015	Robert C. Ball

New Officer Position Added 2009:

Corresponding Secretary

2009 to date Tamara Coulton Waters

~

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.

“THE TOAST TO THE HORSE”

offered at the Horse Company Dinner

“Here’s to that bunch of sentient nerves, with the heart of a woman, the eye of a gazelle, the courage of a gladiator and the blind obedience of a soldier, the companion of the desert plain; that turns the furrows in the spring so that all the world might take an abundant harvest; the sport of kings; that with blazing eye and distended nostril bears the bravest of our generals through carnage to renown; whose blood is one of the ingredients of the ink from which all history is written and who in black trappings pulls the greatest and humblest of us all to the newly-sodded threshold of Eternity.”

--Anonymous

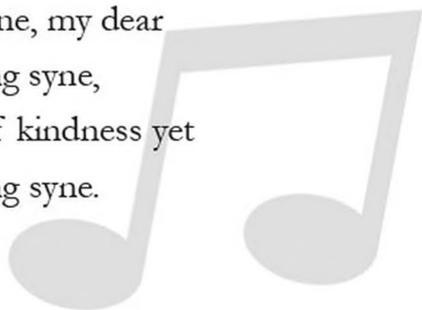
“Singing of AULD LANG SYNE”



Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang syne?

Refrain:

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For auld lang syne.



~

Over the years the Buck Inn and the General Wayne Hotel were replaced with other meeting locations that included: the Red Lion Inn (Ardmore), Masonic Hall (Ardmore), Athensville Hall (Ardmore), Ardmore Junior High School, Bala Cynwyd Middle School, Lower Merion Senior High School, Valley Forge Military Academy for its 175th Anniversary (Wayne), Philadelphia County Club (Gladwyne), Brittingham's Irish Pub (Lafayette Hill), The Cynwyd Club, and most recently The Levering Mill Tribute House.



One corner of the crowd of 550 "Horse Thieves" that jammed the Lower Merion High School cafeteria on November 9, 1968 for the annual oyster feast and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Horse Society.



In 2007 from left to right: George M. Painter III Esq. (former Vice President), Gerald A. Francis (president, Lower Merion Historical Society), Bruce Cooper Gill (executive director, Harriton House), Roy Wolfe, Keeper of the Feed Bag (treasurer, holding branding iron), G. Minshall Painter IV, Grand Reinsman (president).

Contact Name and Address

**The Lower Merion Historical Society
Lower Merion Academy**

506 Bryn Mawr Avenue
P.O. Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

(610) 664-3216 (phone)

LMHistory@comcast.net (email)

LowerMerionHistory.org

~

“Confusion to All Horse Thieves”

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
Lower Merion Society
FOR THE
Recovery of Stolen Horses
AND
DETECTION OF THIEVES.

"THE NEWS" PRINT, BRYN MAWR, PENNA.
1887.

APPENDIX A

Constitution of the Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses.

Originally adopted 1818 – Revised November 9, 1974

Article I. This Society shall be termed the Lower Merion Society for the detection and prosecution of Horse Thieves, and Recovery of Stolen Horses.

II. Every person on becoming a member shall subscribe to these articles, and pay One Dollar entrance money.

III. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Treasurer and Secretary, who shall be elected annually on the last Saturday in February.

IV. The President shall take the chair at all meetings of the Society, and shall sign all orders on the Treasurer – It shall also be his duty to call a special meeting whenever three members may request it.

V. The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies belonging to the Society; shall pay all orders regularly drawn on him; and shall annually exhibit a fair statement of his accounts.

VI. The Secretary shall enroll the names of all the members; shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society, and shall advertise all stated meetings at least two weeks before the time appointed.

VII. The stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the last Saturday of February, May, August and November. The annual meeting to be in February, at the Buck; the others at any place to which the Society may adjourn.

VIII. Every member shall contribute to the funds of the Society, at each quarterly meeting, twenty-five cents. Any member neglecting to attend either a stated or special meeting, shall, unless a reasonable excuse be given, pay of fine of twelve cents and a half.

IX. All elections for members shall be by ballot; in which it shall be necessary, for the admission of any one, that two thirds of members present concur.

X. The Society shall be divided by the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, into two classes, who shall perform duty alternately, subject to the disposition of the member by whom they may be called into service. They shall go sixty miles in pursuit if necessary; and, upon good information, may proceed as much farther as they may deem proper. They shall receive one dollar and fifty cents per day, travelling expenses. If any extraordinary expense should be incurred it may be submitted to the society, and if judged reasonable, shall be refunded. Any member who shall not perform duty when called on, nor find a substitute approved both by the Class and person from whom a horse has been stolen, shall pay a fine of Five Dollars, unless the Society, upon good grounds, shall think proper to remit it.

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.

XII. A Reward of Twenty Dollars shall be given to any person who shall have apprehended, and furnished evidence for the conviction of a thief who may have stolen a horse from a member of the Society.

XIII. The expenses of the Society at their meetings shall not exceed twelve cents and a half for each member.

XIV. Any person may be excluded from this Society, by two thirds of the members convened, who may, in their opinion, have conducted himself in an improper manner.

XV. A majority shall have power to pass By-Laws; but nothing shall be done either to amend or render void any article of this constitution, without notice having been given at a previous stated meeting, and the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

Constitutional Amendments. Adopted November 14, 1959

Amendment I. Article I, Section II is changed to read: "Every person on becoming a member shall subscribe these articles and pay Two Dollar entrance money."

Amendment II. Article I, Section III is changed to read: "The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Associate Treasurer, who shall be elected annually at the annual meeting in November."

Amendment III. Article I, Section IV is changed to read: "The President shall take the chair at all meetings of the Society, and shall sign all orders on the Treasurer – It shall also be his duty to call a special meeting whenever necessary."

Amendment IV. Article 1, Section VI is changed to read: “The Secretary shall enroll the names of all the members; shall keep a record the proceedings of the Society; and shall advertise all stated meetings at least two weeks before the time appointed. These duties may be otherwise delegated by the President.”

Amendment V. Article I, Section VII is changed to read: “The stated meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Saturday in November at “THE BUCK,” or at such other place as the Officers of the Society shall adjourn the meeting.”

Amendment VI. Article I, Section VIII is changed to read: “Every member shall contribute to the funds of the Society, at each annual meeting, 300 cents (\$3.00). Any member neglecting to so contribute within one year shall be stricken from the rolls of the Society and shall forfeit all protections and benefits of the Society.”

Amendment VII. Article I, Section IX is changed to read: “All elections for members shall be by ballot; in which it shall be necessary, for the admission of any one, that two thirds of the members present concur. This rule may be by annual motion, substituted by a resolution to admit invited guests of the Society, with approval of the President.”

Amendment VIII. Article I, Section XIII is changed to read: “The expenses of the Society at their meetings shall not exceed twelve cents and a half for each member, unless the President and Officers and Stewards shall deem it necessary to exceed this sum, in which case they shall so declare themselves to the members.”

Amendment XV.

Nine members of the Society shall be chosen to serve as a Board of

Stewards to work with Officers of the Society in the arranging of the business affairs of the Society. The Stewards shall meet with the Officers of the Society at least once each year. They shall have an equal voice with the Officers in ordering the affairs of the Society.

Amendment XVI.

Three members for the Board of Stewards shall stand for election each year and each Steward shall serve for three years. The President may appoint a Steward to complete an unfinished term of office if a Steward resigns, or removes from the Society.

Amendment XVII.

BENEFITS

Whenever a horse shall have been stolen from any member of this Society, such member shall be and he is hereby authorized to offer a reward in the name of the Society of \$30.00 for the recovery of the horse and a further reward of \$50.00 for the detection and conviction of the thief which reward he shall be at liberty to publish six times in any four of the newspapers printed in the City or County of Philadelphia and three times in any two papers published in New York and Baltimore that he may think proper and he shall also be and he is hereby authorized to have 100 hand bills to be distributed in such manner as he may judge advisable. The above reward together with the expenses attending to the publishing and printing, and the further expense of prosecution when incurred shall be paid out of the funds of the Society.

In the event of a horse not being recovered after having been stolen at least one month, the owner of said horse is authorized to offer the opinions of two or more of his neighbors, to whom the horse is known, of his value, to the President, Treasurer and Secretary, and

that then the President after the value of said horse be determined – be authorized to draw upon the Treasurer, in favor of the owner, for said valuation, provided the sum to be paid does not exceed \$150.00. If a horse shall be recovered at any time subsequent to the payment by the Society of his full value, it shall be the duty of the owner immediately to notify the President, who shall, together with the owner, call upon three competent and disinterested men to value him, full value of which shall be paid by the owner within one month after the valuation, provided it does not exceed the sum received by him from the Society.

Amendment XVIII.

Membership shall be limited to Male American Citizens of Good Repute. To be a member a man shall have attained the age of eighteen years and be acceptable to the Officers, Stewards, and members of the Society.

Adopted in entirety November 9, 1974.

APPENDIX B

Select Bibliography of Items Available at
The Lower Merion Historical Society's Library

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Anonymous. "This Horse Has Been Stolen." A souvenir booklet from the Anniversary Dinner, 1952.

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Burris, Jane Keplinger. "Horse Companies in Montgomery County." A souvenir booklet from the 141st Anniversary Dinner, 1959.

Hamilton, Miss Emma F, "Brief History of the Lower Merion Society for the Detection & Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses." A souvenir booklet from the Anniversary Dinner, 1953.

Levering, John. Map of the Township of Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. With all the divisions of property, the number of acres, and owners names, the names of villages, roads, streams, factories, hotels & etc., 1851

Nugent, John M. "The Formation Years - Lower Merion Society for the Detection & Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses" 1950.

O'Loughlin, Kathy. "Old Thanksgiving Tradition: Annual Anti-Horse-Theft Society's Banquet" Main Line Times, November 22, 2012.

Pirro, J.F. "Vigilante Lore" Main Line Today, November 2007.

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© 2017 LMHS



“Confusion to All Horse Thieves!”