



*February 2015*

### ***2015 Will be a Good Year for Historic Preservation***



The January issue of our eNewsletter *Milestones* outlined some of the challenges and opportunities facing the Township and the Historical Society these coming months. Certainly this will be an exciting year because there is a momentum in the community to make historic preservation again a priority. The Historical Society, a committed group of volunteers, is poised and ready to take on these issues and speak out on **Preserving Our Past For The Future.**

The Historical Society remains focused and *true to our mission*. 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.

We need your financial support to make all this happen. If you are not already a member, we ask that you [become a member](#) because your support will allow us to continue our community-wide activities. We are a volunteer organization and it is people like you who believe in our work and who motivate us to keep Lower Merion a special place. Remember that membership dues are fully **tax deductible**.

If you have not been to the Lower Merion Academy, please visit us and see for yourself our volunteers at work.

### ***Cynwyd Train Station - We Are In The News***

*NewsWorks*, the online home of WHYY News and its network of journalism partners in Philadelphia, South Jersey and Delaware just published [a story about our station and the café](#).

Cynwyd Station is now the home of *Cynwyd Station Café and Tea Room*, a new independent small business operated by Sadie Francis, that combines a community center, gift and book shop, museum, tea room, and ice cream parlor.



Our efforts to revitalize the station is getting regional attention for a *job well done*.

## **Public Access Television for Lower Merion and Narberth**



Part of our mission is the education of the community and how our history plays an important part in the quality of life for the community. To support this objective, every year we offer a series of lectures and events, we published books; such as: *The First 300: The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion and Lower Merion and Narberth* and we have our website [LowerMerionHistory.org](http://LowerMerionHistory.org). The expansion of these efforts into *Public Access Television* is the next

logical step and is in keeping with our strategic plan.

Responding to a *Request for Proposal (RFP)* from the Township, the Historical Society submitted their proposal to become the Third Party Operator (TPO) and Public Access Channel Administrator for Comcast Xfinity Channel 99 and Verizon FiOS Channel 34.

In addition to the Historical Society's proposal, *Radnor Studio 21* and *Astera Film and Video* submitted their proposals for consideration. [Click here](#) for additional details. Currently, the Township's *Cable Television Advisory Committee* is reviewing the three proposals. Stay tuned for further updates.

### **Collection Highlights**

As a community, we are proud of our Quaker roots and are fortunate to have some of the primary source material that relates to the heritage Lower Merion. We would like to showcase two such items from our archive collection.

#### **John Roberts' Indenture**



Included in the collection of the Roberts' family papers is the original vellum indenture belonging to John Roberts from the parish of Llangian in the County of Carnarvon, Wales, for his 150 acres in *Merion* dated July 30, 1682, recorded on April 24, 1684, and witnessed by Rowland Jones, Ellis Morris, David Evan, Owen Lewis, Sr. and Jr., Evan Harry and Rowland Ellis. From this original parcel of land grew *Pencoyd Farms* which was the first foothold of what is today the Township of Lower Merion.

#### **The Quaker "Rules of Discipline"**

In our collection, we have a hand-written draft copy of the not-yet-published 1719 edition of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Rules of Discipline. These *rules* were *advices* for the behavior of American Quakers and were a compilation of guidelines covering every aspect of Quaker life--from individual *conduct and conversation* to proper management of meetings. The guidelines were periodically issued from 1682 through 1763 by the highest institutional authority of American Quakerism, the *Yearly Meeting*. Its purpose was to establish *Decency and comely Order in all our Meetings of Worship & Business, as well as orderly Walking, Honesty, & Plainness in the particular Members of our Society*. The illustration to the right shows a sample page prescribing the form of a *Certificate of Marriage*.



***Building Photographs - Preserving Today For Tomorrow's History***

The February photo from our [Buildings web](#) shows part of our changing history. Proposed as a gateway to Lower Merion, this road has been upgraded in grading, in demolitions, in building, in blasting. Here's what we can see today, starting with this gas station that the Township bought 9 years ago:



More photos of the gas station are [here](#). Replacing it is parking for the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* and the [new CVS Building](#) on Rock Hill Road. After looking at the CVS, click *Next Building* to see the 32 photos of 7 buildings [it replaced](#). Now the construction has moved along Rock Hill Road (which is open to traffic) to the "[thumb](#)" of rock that's being removed to make room for a new apartment house.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** We have made it quicker and easier to find the street and building that you want by upgrading the search feature on the *Building Photographs* page. Instead of scrolling through all the streets that start with R, for instance, just enter the first 3 letters of the street name in the box, such as *ROC*. Below the box, the street that you want will pop up, along with others; then select the street to send it up to the box and then click *Search* to see the results.

- ***Favorite Links***
  - [About Us](#)
- [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.