



February 2016

Our Mission

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. In addition to all the good work that we normally do for the community, here is a partial list of special projects that we have earmarked for this coming year.

- * Assist the Township in adopting an ordinance to protect historic objects; such as our milestones, keystone markers, and historic street signs.
- * Assist the Township in updating their Historic Resource Inventory database.
- * Support Comprehensive Plan recommendations.
- * Support the concept of a Lower Merion Preservation Trust.
- * Collaborate with the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB), Historical Commission, and Lower Merion Conservancy on preservation initiatives.
- * Remain pro-active in preservation of historic sites; such as the Bala (Egyptian) Theater, and others.
- * Enhance our website with updates of new content such as: the index to the W. Robert Swartz Collection, the index to the Russell Byerley World War II Collection, the index to the Ardmore Jr. High School Collection, and so forth.



The Passing of Mary Keim



Mary Keim has died in Virginia in her late 90's. She was a resident of Narbrook Park, Narberth, for over 50 years; she and her husband Jonathan raised their daughter Joanna there.

"The Two Marys" were Mary Wood and Mary Keim. What a team they were as scholars, researchers, and archivists who acted as "the heart and soul of the Lower Merion Historical Society" when we were headquartered at Ashbridge House in Rosemont. Scores of visitors got to know the society through these friendly women.

Mary Keim transcribed the *Joseph Price Diary* (1789-1828), using a microfilm reader, the text of which she entered into a 1,211 page, typed manuscript, for which she was honored by the *Federation of Museums and Historic Organizations* in Harrisburg. This document is on our [website](#).



She served as secretary of the society, hosted meetings of our Board of Directors at her home, and participated in our Intergenerational Interview program where we interacted with 4th grade students in the public schools.

She was an intelligent, courteous, generous human being, ever willing to help.

May this dear soul rest in peace, Godspeed.

Recycling Our History



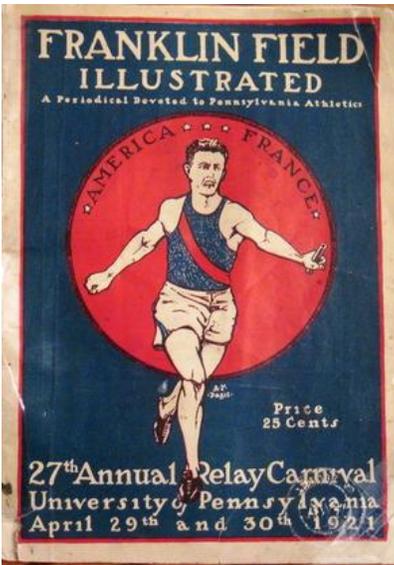
John R. Jones' *Glanrason Plantation* was a large well-detailed stone Queen Anne built sometime between 1851 and 1871. It was located at 715 Conshohocken State Road in Penn Valley which has recently been demolished to make way for two single family homes. We are saddened to see the house disappear from

our landscape, but after many years of neglect, the house was beyond revitalization and repair. The stone wall surrounding the property will remain and there was a *hitching post* in the front yard. The new owner, *Baker Street Partners Development*, offered this historic "object" to the Historical Society. We gladly accepted. On the right is a picture of the hitching post at

Glanrason and the picture on the left shows Ted Goldsborough (on the left) and Steve Olszewski of Baker Street Partners Development (on the right) installing the *hitching post* in front of the Lower Merion Academy. Thank you, Steve, for this donation.



Society Given Invaluable Track and Cross Country Memorabilia



For decades Art Hindle, a resident of Glen Mills, has donated to the Lower Merion Historical Society hundreds of official *Penn Relay and Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) State and District I* programs, and copies of old newspaper articles about track and other sports. As a result, we have an invaluable collection for researchers to use when studying track and cross-country. Art was inducted into the *Lower Merion Track & Field Hall of Fame* in 2014 as a Statistician. Thank you, Art, for making us among the best resources for information in these sports in this region.

Our past president, Ted Goldsborough, ran cross-country for three years in the mid-1950's at Lower Merion High School.

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.