



***March 2024***

Welcome, Spring! Here is the latest from your Lower Merion Historical Society.

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### **Spotlight on Paige Bartello, Administrative Coordinator**



Meet Paige Bartello, our new Administrative Coordinator! Over the last month, Paige has begun helping our Wednesday open hours, streamlined admin tasks, and pinpointed key materials

for our collections—from historical documents to Society ephemera. Guided by President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough, she's now working with the Board to implement new cataloging systems to boost research accessibility and update our archives to best standards. This spring, Paige is looking forward to working on new programming, training volunteers on cataloging projects,

and accessioning the Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd collection. Paige will be attending the Collections Care Intensive Workshop hosted by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in March, as well as coordinating a week-long Instagram takeover with the National Council on Public History in April. We couldn't be happier to have Paige on board!



*Top - President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough reviews materials in the LMHS collections with Paige Bartello.*

*Bottom - President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough visited the Society to give a tour to Paige and the Board. Pictured are Paige Bartello, Susan and Ted Goldsborough, Erin Betley, and Jamie Singer.*

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## **Intern Presentations**

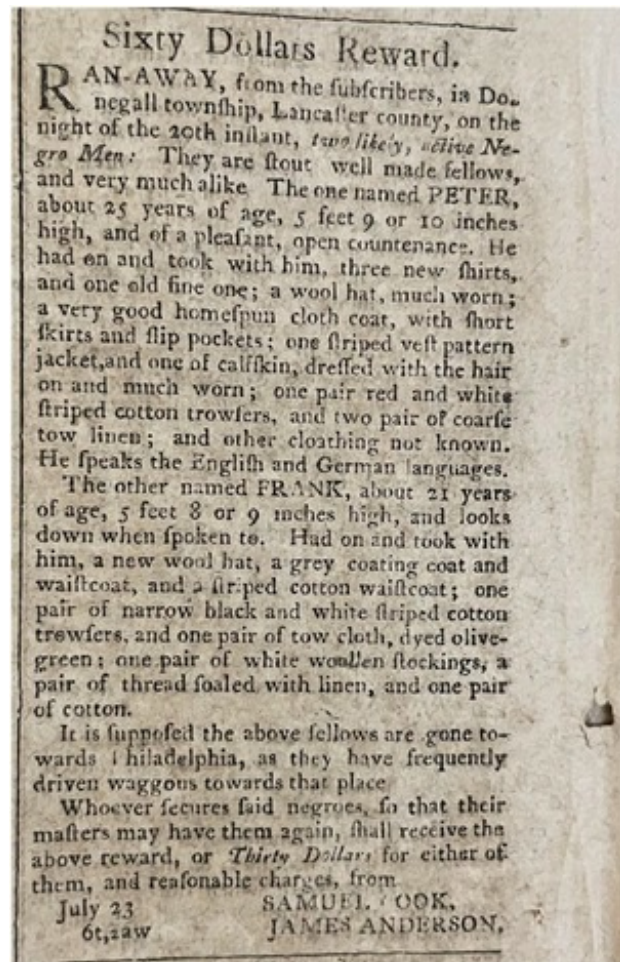
On the evening of February 20, the Society was proud to present a webinar by scholar Colin McCrossan titled "Learning About Slavery in the Greater Philadelphia Area." This event drew the interest of over 190 attendees, not only from our local area but also from as far south as Florida and as far west as Colorado! Throughout the presentation, Colin unveiled insights from his extensive research, collected in a comprehensive 237-page reader titled "Slavery in the Greater Philadelphia Area." This significant work, a culmination of

his summer 2023 internship with us, can be viewed [here](#). A recording of the presentation is also available on our [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) channels.

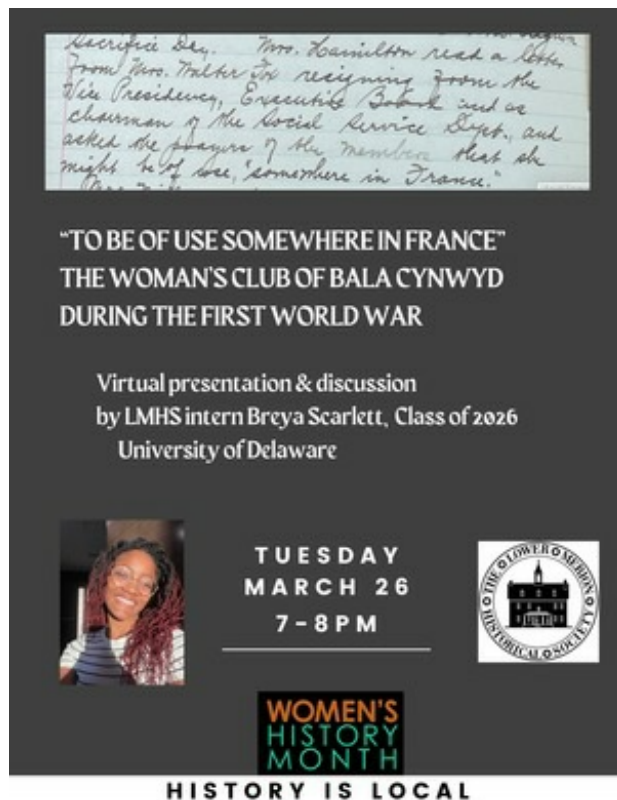
Colin's presentation spotlighted a significant piece from our collection—a 1793 advertisement from *Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser* calling for the return of Peter and Frank,

two formerly enslaved individuals. This inclusion exemplifies the reader's purpose: to shed light on the history of slavery in the Philadelphia region through accessible primary sources. The reader offers an introductory essay on the region's slavery history, an overview of the primary source types it encompasses, and the documents themselves, enriched with contextual analysis.

Colin McCrossan is a J.D candidate at Temple University Beasley School of Law who recently completed his Masters in History at Villanova University. He has widely shared his research about the history of slavery in the Philadelphia area with public audiences, including as the



Inaugural Scholar-in-Residence for the CommUNITY Breakfast Collaborative of the Main Line. His summer internship with the Lower Merion Historical Society was sponsored by the Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest.



We look forward to our next intern presentation by University of Delaware undergraduate Brea Scarlett, who studied the records of the Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd last summer. In her Women's History Month virtual presentation on March 26 at 7pm, she will discuss her research into the

earliest years of the club's 110-year history, including a look at the dynamic and inspiring work of the club, who was and who wasn't in the club, and how the membership reflected the social dynamics of the time. This event is free, but preregistration is required [here](#).

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### Partner Presentations

The Historical Society is partnering with the Lower Merion Library System for a virtual Women's History Month program on women in horticulture in the early 20th



century. On Tuesday March 19 at 7pm, renowned gardener, author, and historian Jenny Rose Carey will share her research into women's horticultural education, featuring the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women in Ambler, PA, the National Woman's Farm and Garden Association, and the Women's Land Army. Society Vice President Erin Betley will illuminate the hidden connections of these organizations to Lower Merion's WWI-era community war garden network. Please [click here](#) to register.

**Philadelphia Women in Horticulture in the Early 20th Century and Hidden Lower Merion Connections**

Join renowned gardener, historian, educator, and author Jenny Rose Carey for a presentation on how Philadelphia women led the way in creating opportunities for women's horticultural education and professional advancement in the early 20th century. Vice President of the Lower Merion Historical Society Erin Betley will spotlight local connections with these movements, including networks of WWI-era community war gardens and an early horticultural training school for women in Villanova.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Online via Zoom**

scan the QR code or go to [lmls.org](https://lmls.org) to register

**Jenny Rose Carey**  
Author, historian, gardener

**Erin Betley**  
Vice President  
Lower Merion Historical Society

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## Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars:

- **April 30** - 6:30pm - 8pm - Lower Merion Academy Building - Annual Meeting

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**Help Us Complete Our Collection!**



Do you have a Lower Merion or Harriton High School yearbook at home that you would be willing to donate to our collection? A list of the yearbooks we are missing can be [viewed here](#). If you have a yearbook to donate, please email us at [info@lowermerionhistory.org](mailto:info@lowermerionhistory.org).

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### **A Century Ago in Lower Merion**



**DID YOU KNOW?** The first Sunoco gas station in the United States was opened in 1920 right here in Ardmore!

You can still fill your gas tank at the same Ardmore location at the corner of Lancaster and Woodside Avenues.



*The first Sunoco location in Ardmore. Today, there are more than 5,800 Sunoco stations in the U.S.  
Credit: Sunoco LP*



*In the 1920s, J. Howard Pew, President of Sun Oil Company, lived in Ardmore in a mansion called Knollbrook. Perhaps this gas station location was chosen because it was less than a mile from his house?*

*Credit: The Pew Charitable Trusts*



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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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