



March 2025

Cheers to Spring's Arrival!

Announcing a Significant Bequest

The Society recently received a bequest that with careful stewardship will significantly impact our organization's future for many years to come.

[Patricia Millar Burland](#) (1927-2021) was a dedicated and highly distinguished clinical social worker who maintained a private practice in her Bala Cynwyd home for over 50 years. Over a decade ago, she supported the Society's efforts to preserve the Cynwyd Station, and her extraordinary generosity speaks volumes about her commitment to preserving local history.



Spring News



Spring is always a time of growth and renewal, and for the Society, this takes the shape of new leadership and a newly redesigned website.

President Kate Jiggins (second from right) and Vice President Erin Betley (left) are completing their two-year terms, proud of the tremendous progress our Board has made in stabilizing

and strengthening this important 75-year-old organization. During our upcoming Annual Meeting, Kate and Erin will share their reflections on their tenure, including progress on the Society's governance and policy, collections management, finance, and development.

The capstone of our robust two years of work on communications and programming will be the launch of a redesigned website in late April 2025. Our website will retain all of its current content, while enhancing it to allow for easy navigation and interaction for our members and community through storytelling, research, and accessibility.

Upcoming Programs

Saturday, May 3 | 12 PM - 4 PM

For the third year in a row, we will host an informational table at NarbEarth Day in Narberth Park.

Sunday, May 4 | 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Save the date for our Annual Meeting! We look forward to updating you on our progress over the past year, and sharing our vision for the coming year under the guidance of President-Elect Linda Tasker and Vice President-Elect Scott Reynolds.

Future Events

Stay tuned for some exciting book talks this year, including Dr. Joe Lex, who will be publishing *All Bones Considered: 52 Laurel Hill Women*, featuring biographical sketches of 52 women of Laurel Hill East and Laurel Hill West in September 2025.

And in Case You Missed It...

Past and present converged at our inaugural Tintype Day on Sunday March 9! Over 60 people attended portrait sessions scheduled throughout the day, creating lasting keepsakes for their families, and we are confident that the image below is the first tintype taken of the Board of the Lower Merion

Historical Society.

Dating back to the early 1850s, tintype technology is a vintage style of photography that creates a sturdy and long-lasting image on a thin sheet of metal processed with different types of light-sensitive chemicals.

Photography for the event was provided by Dave Wilson from Victorian Photography Studio Gettysburg.

We loved sharing this technology with our community, and this event could not have happened without the impeccable work done by volunteer Sara Spector, who processed hundreds of photographs and created a display of early photographic technology using images from the Society's collection, under the guidance and mentorship of Administrative Coordinator Paige Bartello.



Display of historic photographs from the Society's collection, including tintypes (left). Lower Merion Historical Society Board and staff (top right). Board members Jamie Singer and Linda Tasker observe a freshly developed tintype photograph.

Board member Jim Bevlock represented the Society at Representative Mary Jo Daley's annual Veteran's Tribute Lunch on March 12. He spoke with numerous veterans and veteran advocates while showcasing materials from our collection and Board member Brad Upp and Jim Remsen's book *Back*

from Battle about their research on Gladwyne's rediscovered Civil War-era [Camp Discharge](#).

Historical Society Rewind

75 years ago, the Society convened in the auditorium of Ardmore Junior High School for their annual meeting. Although the Society was officially formed in 1949, the 1950 annual meeting was dubbed the founding meeting of the Society. At this meeting the LMHS constitution was adopted and the community was given the final opportunity to become founding members of the Society. Dr. Douglas Macfarlan gave a presentation on historic homes and the Revolution in Lower Merion, showcasing his drawings and maps of the area. Dr. Macfarlan's collection of original works is available at the Society for research, along with an [online gallery](#) of some of his work.

LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO ADOPT CONSTITUTION MONDAY NIGHT

On Monday night, April 24, the Lower Merion Historical Society will meet in the auditorium of the Ardmore Junior High School. Dr. Douglas Macfarlan, of Ardmore, will show his beautiful hand-drawn lantern slides of old homes and revolutionary maps of Lower Merion Township. This will, without doubt, be one of the most interesting and instructive historical lectures of local interest that has ever been given in our township.





Visit us online:

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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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The Lower Merion Historical Society
The Lower Merion Academy
P.O. Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004
US

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