



Lower Merion
Historical Society

Milestones

Preserving Our Past for the Future

MARCH, 2006

Message From The President:

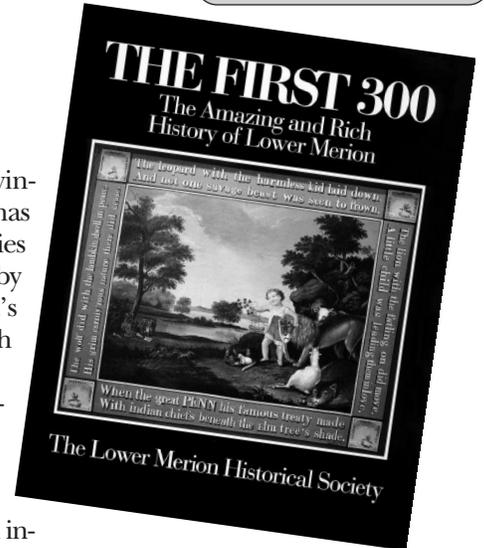
Our Book Goes International

I am happy to announce that “The First 300: The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion” is now available on the Society’s website LowerMerionHistory.org. In its entirety! This Lower Merion book, with its history, images, captions, remembrances, sidebars, etc. is now yours on your desktop computer. In addition, we made this electronic version user-friendly by making it available “full text searchable,” which means that all its parts are searchable, making the many facts and images easy to locate. Having our book available on our website adds high quality content to our service and certainly will increase usage of our electronic library.

In April, we will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the hard copy publication of “The First 300:....” This 284 page history book was authored by more than 85 notable

local experts and filled with over 800 vintage photos and lithographs. The book has been a success, with more than 3,800 copies sold, and has been much appreciated by the Lower Merion community. Now it’s time to share the Lower Merion story with our worldwide internet community.

We’ve also incorporated an online “order book” option that automatically connects readers to Diane Publishing Company, our book distributor, to place a book order and enter one’s credit card information. Please take a look at this electronic version and consider buying a hardcopy version for your family library. Remember, proceeds from the sale of this book are re-invested in the conservation of the archival documents in our collection. We hope that this new electronic version excites you as much as it does us! ☼



Award Winner! “The First 300...” has won the following awards: Preservation Initiative Award for Communication, from Preservation Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission; Award of Merit, from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums & Historical Organizations; and Initiative Award for Communications and Education, from the Lower Merion Historical Architectural Review Board.

PATV Update

Lower Merion & Narberth Public Access Television (PATV)

PATV is a community television channel being made available to the great institutions and residents of Lower Merion and Narberth. This channel is a volunteer endeavor with a Board of Directors made up of local community leaders and experts in tele-

vision production and non-profit management. The Lower Merion Historical Society supports the PATV channel as an additional tool to promote history and to reach a wider audience by going directly into people’s homes, with the potential of about 60,000 viewers. PATV will

give our Historical Society and all residents of Lower Merion and Narberth and its great institutions the use and training of studio and equipment. This will allow the community to manage its own channel with local programming about neighborhood activities and the many local organizations and volunteers. For more information, contact Irene McNeil at (610) 642-0499 or email glennil@comcast.net or visit the website LowerMerionPATV.org ☼



PATV Board of Directors, from left to right with title of Officers: Cynthia ‘Cindy’ Connors, Charles ‘Charley’ Paige, Kathryn ‘Kit’ Feldman, Perry Hamilton (Chairman), Irene McNeil (President & CEO), Margaret Chew Barringer, Lorraine ‘Lorrie’ (Yapczenski) DeSimone, Nevin Mann (Treasurer), Gillian Hurt (Secretary), Gerald ‘Jerry’ Francis (Vice Chairman)

We Gratefully Accept Donations

Our special collections continue to grow thanks to the generosity of the local community. During these past six months, the following groups/people have donated items related to our Lower Merion history:

Philip Bagley
Bob Bramson
Daughters of the American Revolution,
Merion - Dr. Rush
DAR 2-033-PA Chapter
Jeff Groff
Fred Haupt
Alice Hoffman
Ed Huth
Christine and Dick Jones
Mary Keim
Ronald Kuzemchak
Bob McCormick
Julia Murphy
Radnor Township Historical Society
Mimi Shapiro
Linda Slack
Sam Stryker
Joseph Stumpf, Jr.
Clare T. Sullivan
Charlie Timm
Grover Thompson
Anne and Bob Waterall

The Historical Society Thanks Our Corporate Sponsor:

The Bringhurst Funeral Home at West Laurel Hill Cemetery
225 Belmont Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 664-1591
Forever-Care.com

Our Neighbors, Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill Cemetery present...

Saturday, April 8, 2006
"R.M.S. Titanic – 94 Years Later:
Her Victims and Survivors"

Tour – Lecture – Dinner

Visit their burial sites and hear tales of their unique lives. See an informative presentation and re-live the final dinner served aboard the Titanic that fateful night.

\$25.00 Per Person – Tour Only
3:00pm – 7:00pm.

\$75.00 Per Person – Tour, Lecture, Dinner
3:00pm – 9:30pm (complete package).

For additional information and RSVP contact
Ann Cotton at (610) 668-8265 by March 31st.

Collection Highlights

We're proud of our heritage and are fortunate to have many primary source materials. For your enjoyment, here are two treasures selected from our archive collection.

Happy 300th Birthday Benjamin Franklin! (1706-2006)

If you are not able to visit the Franklin exhibit at Constitution Center, stop by the Academy and see our mini-exhibit of Ben's work.

In 1747, Franklin printed twenty-two items at his New Printing-Office near what is now Market Street. Three were government printings, two were private printings, and seventeen were ventures at his own risk. One of these ventures was James Burgh's 5th Edition of "Britain's Remembrancer."

This 47 page pamphlet was warning England against "luxury and irreligion." Burgh predicted that these "characteristic Vices of the Age" would bring Great Britain to the same melancholy end as Rome. Manners, he repeated in this political discussion on the eve of the American Revolution, were more important than laws in determining a people's fate. When commerce had led to luxury, and luxury to bribery and dissipation, the best of lawgivers could not long preserve freedom.



Philadelphia: Re-printed, and Sold by B. Franklin at the New Printing-Office near the Market.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Get Your "Porcupine's Gazette"!

From Joseph Price's 1798 Diary
"April 28 Wind S W & very warm Set off to town, went with Sary Ellis to Joshua Humphreys Below Swed[e]s Church, up to Eliots Dinner &c. &c. 7s6 boy 51/2 Paid Porcupine paper 3 Dollars 94 Cents..."

Yes, there are many entries in Joseph Price's Diary that tell that he was a frequent reader of this local newspaper. "The Porcupine's Gazette" was published every evening across the street from Christ Church at 2nd Street above Market in Philadelphia. In our newspaper collection, we have a Tuesday, August 8, 1797 edition which reports the events in Philadelphia, the nation's capitol during these last days of the Washington Administration. Many of the

stories report on the comings and goings of the various ships in the Port of Philadelphia, reviews on recently published books, advertisements for the return of run-away slaves, and the "lottery" where the proceeds were used for the construction of the Schuylkill River Canal. ★



A sample of the front page of this bi-lingual newspaper.

Park House Guide Study Day

Fairmount Park sits next to Lower Merion, and because of this close proximity, much of our histories overlap. Therefore, as part of their continuing education program, one day last December, thirty-five Philadelphia Museum of Art Park House Guides came to visit the Merion Meeting and the Academy and spent the day becoming more acquainted with Quaker beliefs and life styles.

The day started at the Quaker Meet-

inghouse with Alice Hoffman, who led a discussion and gave a tour dealing with the Merion Meetinghouse and their Burial Grounds. Alice serves as education coordinator of the Meeting. The group then visited the Academy building for a boxed lunch and an afternoon with Ann Bagley and Denise Francis, who gave a lecture on Quaker education and a tour of the Academy schoolhouse. It was a positive day for everyone with a good exchange of ideas and conversation. ★

Upcoming Events for Spring 2006

Treasures of Fairmount Park: The Summer Villas

Sunday, March 19, 2006, 2:00 to 4:00pm

The Lower Merion Academy, 506 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA

A one hour slide presentation by Ann Bagley and Denise Francis, both Philadelphia Museum of Art Park House Guides, will take you through seven historic homes which reflect the history of Philadelphia from 1747 to 1800.

Some of these country homes functioned as working farms, including productive dairies and orchards with extensive fields and game lands, while others provided an elegant, fashionable, and healthy summer retreat from Philadelphia's urban environment, heat, and periodic epidemics.

The Fairmount Park historic houses are preserved and maintained today by a number of private and civic organizations and the Philadelphia Museum of Art and provide visitors with a unique glimpse into Philadelphia's rich cultural history.

Light refreshments will be served after the slide tour.

Members: no charge for the event.

Non-Members: \$10.00 per person, collected on the day of the event.

Reservations are not required, but please call us at (610) 664-3216 and let us know if you will be attending.

Banquet and Annual Meeting at the 'New' Tavern Restaurant

(MEMBERS ONLY) Thursday, April 20th, 2006, 6:00pm to 9:30pm

This will be an opportunity for our Membership to come together and share a special meal. Joining us will be John and Jan Haigis of "Past Times Present" who will be entertaining us with vocal selections from the Colonial Period. In addition, we'll have the election of Directors for the Class of 2009.

The 'New' Tavern Restaurant is located at 261 Montgomery Avenue (at the corner of Tregaron Road) in Bala Cynwyd. Once again, our neighbor and host for this event will be Nick Zarvalas. The menu and Reservation Form are inserted in this newsletter. Please have your Reservation Form to us no later than Monday,

April 17th. We're looking forward to a wonderful evening together with your presence. The cost will be the same as last year as will the fabulous menu. This was a sellout last April - we suggest that you reserve early!

Check out TheTavern-Restaurant.com for additional information.



Under the Society's By-Laws, additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor during at the Annual Meeting (Article IV,3)

Election of Directors for the Class of 2009

**The Lower Merion Historical Society
Report from the Nominating Committee
Ted Goldsborough, Chairperson**

**The Committee nominates the following Directors
for a three year term to constitute the Class of 2009**

Dennis Montagna • Charley Paige • Cigus Vanni

"Colonial Dinner" at the 1696 Thomas Massey House

Saturday, May 20, 2006, 5:30pm

Broomall (Lawrence Road at Springhouse Road)

Our host will be our friends and neighbors from the Haverford Township Historical Society.

The Thomas Massey House is a monument to the American dream - the home of an indentured servant who became a landowner, and like the American dream, the house has endured almost 300 years. The Thomas Massey House is one of the oldest English Quaker homes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is unique in that so much of the original has survived. The 1696 brick portion was built by Thomas Massey as an addition to an existing log house. In 1730 his son, Mordecai, replaced the log house with a stone house and kitchen. During the restoration, evidence of a walk-in-fireplace and beehive oven was discovered. These features have been reconstructed and are in use today.



Prepared in the beehive oven, the menu for the colonial dinner will be:

Spring onion soup	corn pudding
Herb-crusted chicken with ham in a wine grape sauce a la Hannah Glasse	Apple-brandy cake and lemon tarts
roast potatoes	<i>There will be cold cider and water to drink, but bring your own wine if you wish.</i>
green beans	

Check out Marple.net/Township/Massey.html for additional information.

Members: \$20.00 per person.

Non-Members: \$30.00 per person.

Limit is 30 people, so please RSVP no later than May 13th.

Make your check payable to "The Lower Merion Historical Society."

MASSEY HOUSE



The Lower Merion Historical Society

Lower Merion Academy
506 Bryn Mawr Ave., Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

LowerMerionHistory.org

Mark Your Calendar

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Treasures of Fairmount Park:
The Summer Villas

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Banquet and Annual Meeting (*Members only*)

Saturday, May 20, 2006

“Colonial Dinner” at the
1696 Thomas Massey House

The Lower Merion Historical Society

Location:

Lower Merion Academy
506 Bryn Mawr Ave., Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Contact:

Phone and Fax: 610-664-3216
E-mail: LMHistory@comcast.net

Library Hours:

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Saturday afternoons, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Also by appointment

Our Mission:

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.



LowerMerionHistory.org

Our Museum Gift Shop

When visiting the Lower Merion Academy, stop to see the items in our Museum Gift Shop.

The First 300: The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion (hardbound, 284 Pages, 800+ visuals)	\$44.95
Lower Merion Historical Society Bronze Paperweight (3” Diameter)	\$15.00
Lower Merion Academy Wooden Collectible (5” x 6”)	\$20.00
Lower Merion Academy Note Cards (5.5” x 4.25”, 10 per pack)	\$ 5.00
Lower Merion Academy Print (8.5” x 11” Suitable for Framing)	\$ 5.00
John Levering’s Map of the Township of Lower Merion, 1851 (unframed 23” x 29” reproduction)	\$ 5.00

Members automatically receive a 10% discount.