

# Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

MARCH, 2018

## Larry Stevens to Receive Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award At April Banquet

Larry Stevens, founder and president of the Hatfield Museum and History Society, has been named recipient of the 2018 Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award by the Lansdale Historical Society.

The award will be presented at our annual banquet, Tuesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m., at William Penn Inn, Gwynedd. More information on the banquet and a reservations form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stevens, a resident of Hatfield for more than 50 years, founded the museum and history society which serves both the borough and township, in 1991. He has served as president of the organization since then. During that time he has instituted a series of five community programs a year (now held at the Hatfield Firehouse), organized numerous memorabilia shows, and spearheaded efforts to preserve the borough's old jailhouse.

In addition, he is the author of three books, including *History of Hatfield Borough 1898-1998*, *A Walking Tour of Historic Hatfield*, and *the Hatfield Horror: The Story of the Great Hatfield Train Wreck of 1900*.

Stevens also manages the society's Facebook page, which features vintage photographs of the Hatfields along with descriptive matter that provides valuable context for the images.

"Larry's efforts to preserve Hatfield's history over so long a period makes him a natural choice to receive our Holl Award," said LHS President Dick Shearer. "Hatfield, like Lansdale, has grown a great deal in recent years and Larry has done a



Lawrence (Larry) G. Stevens

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## Baseball Comes to Lansdale



While the Phillies are in Florida preparing for the 2018 Major League season this month, LHS society member Ron Ziegler take us back to baseball's roots here in Lansdale at our March 13 community program.

Ziegler, a North Penn graduate and former athlete at the school will trace the National Pastime's early years in our town from the 1880s through the Roarin' Twenties, an era when the sound of bat hitting ball was embraced by the entire community.

It was a time when Lansdale's status as a regional retail and transportation center brought many of the best pro, semi-pro and amateur players here to perform before large, appreciative crowds. And it began years before baseball was introduced into our schools.

Ziegler's presentation will feature the early teams that carried the Lansdale name, some of the noteworthy players, the first ballfields, and tales of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering among the athletes, managers and local merchants who put up money to bring the best of the best here.

The show will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Lansdale Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are greatly appreciated.



THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD

### *Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center*

• 137 Jenkins Ave.  
Lansdale, PA 19446.

• **Hours:**  
Wednesdays: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon.

• **Telephone:**  
(215) 855-1872;  
(215) 393-8919

• **E-mail:**  
info@lansdalehistory.org

• *Please send mail correspondence  
to 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA  
19446.*

• **Website:**  
www.lansdalehistory.org

## Election of 2018-2019 New Officers & Trustees

New officers and trustees were elected at our January board meeting. Those who will be serving for the coming year (March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019) are as follows:

Dick Shearer-President and Administrator  
Clarence Kinsey-1st. Vice President & Ass't Administrator  
Pat Rieker-Second Vice President  
Steve Moyer-Third Vice President  
Chris Cooke-Fourth Vice President  
Janice Bennett-Secretary  
Anne Scheuring-Treasurer  
Trustees-Frank Krimm, Linda Evans, Ruth Madison, Marti Drumheller and Bill Henning

### Larry Stevens

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yeoman's job of chronicling and presenting local history in ways that make it interesting for all generations, for long-time residents as well as newcomers."

"Truth be known," Shearer said, "the idea of posting vintage photos on Facebook – which has netted more than 3 million hits for us – was inspired by Larry's use of social media for that purpose," Shearer added.

In addition to his contributions to the historical society, Stevens has been active in community affairs for many years. He is a life member of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company and served 25 years as a Hatfield borough councilman. He is employed as the executive director of the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce.

He and wife Debbie have two daughters and two grandchildren.

The Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award was established in 2004 to honor those in the North Penn Valley whose efforts to promote and preserve the region's rich heritage merit its community recognition.

### President's Notes

By DICK SHEARER

Hello again. It seems like only yesterday when I stepped down as president of the society but the calendar tells me two years have passed.

At the time, I felt it necessary to take a break after 14 years at the helm of this fine organization that never loses sight of its mission to preserve and protect the rich heritage of the North Penn Valley for future generations to enjoy.

Two years ago, I was, frankly, worn out and needed time off to complete long-overdue writing projects and to address long-delayed projects around the house. I am extremely grateful to Clarence Kinsey for filling the president's shoes during this time. During his two terms, he has done an exemplary job of bringing order to our archival protocols and streamlining our bookkeeping procedures in addition to guiding the LHS ship with a steady hand.

But Clarence made it clear he would serve as president for only two years – no more – and he stuck to his word. So, in

effect, what we've done is flipped titles for 2018. We have worked as a team for a number of years so we expect the change to be seamless. And one thing I learned from Clarence is to promise only one year at a time – no more long-term commitments.

One thing I will be stressing during the coming year is increased public participation. We need more members, especially younger members who can volunteer time to help us with our programs, research projects and maintenance of our buildings. We will also be putting renewed emphasis on our website and social media sites like Facebook to get out the word about our activities.

We will also begin planning for two important dates that are coming up in the near future: the society will mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 and Lansdale Borough will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation in 2022. Those events will be here before we know it.

Step up. Be involved. Help us spread the word about our town's unique history.

# Lansdale Historical Society

## Annual Banquet

Featuring the presentation of the Edwin G. Holl  
Historic Achievement Award to:

**Lawrence (Larry) G. Stevens**

**President, Hatfield Museum & History Society**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

**William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA**

**Cocktails, (Cash Bar) 6 P.M.: Dinner, 7 P.M.**

### Menu:

**Chicken Parmesan**

**Parmesan & Panko Crusted Lemon Sole**

**Roast Prime Rib of Beef au jus**

House Salad

Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes

Gingered Roasted Carrots

Apple Crumb Pie with sour cream custard topped with buttery cinnamon, brown sugar &  
walnut crumb

Rolls & Butter

Coffee & Tea

**\$38 Per Person – Chicken and Fish**

**\$47 Per Person – Prime Rib**

**Reservation Deadline April 3, 2018**

**See reservation form enclosed**

## Historical Information Available At the Research Center

Are you looking for information on Lansdale or the North Penn area?

We have local obituaries from the early 1900s to the present, most copies of the (North Penn) Reporter from 1870 to the present, an extensive photograph collection-old & new, business listings of Lansdale back to 1841, business and individual directories for our local area, year-books-all Lansdale and North Penn High Schools, most Lansdale Catholic, and many Christopher Dock High Schools plus some from Hatfield and Souderton High Schools, early area maps back to 1817 and much, much more.

Contact us at 215 855-1872 or visit us at 137 Jenkins Avenue in Lansdale. We are open on Wednesday and Thursdays from 11:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M. and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 A.M. to Noon.

**Lansdale Historical Society**  
137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446



The Jenkins Historic Complex

## Past President's Note

By the time you read this message I will no longer be president of the Lansdale Historical Society. It has been a pleasure to serve all of you over the last two years.

These years have been very busy for me but also very fulfilling. I enjoyed working with the members of the organization, the volunteers and the officers. Without the help of all of you I would not have been able to do some of the things that we have accomplished.

I want to thank all of you for your support, especially the volunteers, Trustees and Officers who made my job many times easier.

Dick Shearer will again be taking the helm of the organization and I know that you will give him the same support and help that you have given to me.

I'll still be serving as a vice president and I'll be doing most of my old jobs that time did not allow me to do over these last two years.

Again, a most sincere THANK YOU for letting me serve.

**Clarence**

(Submit with payment to the address below)

**Lansdale Historical Society Annual Awards Banquet**

Tuesday April 10, 2018

At

William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA

**Choice of Entrée  
(Chicken, Fish, Beef)**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Check and Reservation Form to  
Lansdale Historical Society  
137 Jenkins Avenue Lansdale, PA 19446**

**Reservation Deadline April 3, 2018**