

# Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

May, 2016

## Trio honored at annual banquet



Clarence Kinsey, left, with Raymond Walton

### Ray Walton latest recipient of Edwin Holl Award; President's Award given to Pat Rieker

Raymond Walton was honored as the recipient of the 2016 Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award at our annual April banquet held at the William Penn Inn.

His long time and continuing service to our organization by researching history primarily through our collection of old Reporter newspapers has provided us with a treasure trove of historical information over the years.

Future generations of Lansdale area residents will benefit from the time he spends at the microfilm machine finding stories for our volunteers to further document so that they will be recorded and available in the future.

*(President's Award story, page 2)*

### Research center renamed for long-time president

This year the Board of Trustees presented a special award to our past president of fourteen years, Richard Shearer.

While we certainly credit him with many of the important things that have happened over those years, his most significant single contribution to our society was the planning and renovation of the research center and making it operational.

The Board felt that this project has proven to be so important to our being able to document the North Penn area's important history for future generations that we have renamed the center in his honor. Henceforth it will be called the Richard Shearer Research Center and Library.



Richard Shearer

### Help identify mystery photographs

"Who? What? Where?" will be the subject of the society's final Saturday Seminar of the season on May 21, 9:30 a.m. at the Wissahickon Park building, E. Main St. and Lakeview Drive.

The discussion, hosted by Dick Shearer, will feature a series of unidentified vintage photographs from our archives. These intriguing images are the orphans of our collection that were donated over the years without any supporting information.

Come out and help us try to solve the mysteries.



## Sixth annual spring tea

The ladies of the society held their sixth annual spring tea on April 16th at the Village Teahouse in West Point. Eighty-two ladies attended the event making it the largest one we have held.

The speaker was Stacy Roth whose program described how tea was served in the 1700s.

Baskets of item donated by local businesses were



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.

chanced off and a drawing was held at the second seating for those lucky winners.

Pictures of the tea can be viewed at the research center along with a list of the names of those who won the baskets.

## Society featured on internet radio

Steve Moyer, our special projects vice president, did an in-depth interview on Buxmont Vibe about the Lansdale Historical Society recently that is available on their website.

If you would like to learn more about us, take a look at the site. It's full of interesting data.

Buxmont Vibe is a community-based internet radio network that can be accessed through its website, [www.buxmontvibe.com](http://www.buxmontvibe.com).

The goal of Lansdale-based Buxmont Vibe is to "highlight the myriad businesses, nonprofits, event and happenings that make up Bucks and Montgomery counties," according to the website.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on it, call Steve or one of our volunteers at the research center. Our phone number is 215 855-1872.

### AVAILABLE AT THE RESEARCH CENTER

Reporter newspapers: 1870 to present  
Local area obituaries  
Old and new photos, slides & digital pictures  
History library  
Area family genealogies

PLEASE VISIT US AND UTILIZE OUR  
LARGE COLLECTION  
OF INFORMATION

## Pat Rieker receives President's Award

Patricia Rieker was honored with the 2016 President's Award for her dedicated service to the society over the years.

The award was presented at our annual banquet in April.

Pat serves as one of our vice presidents and has been active in promoting local area history to school students, first as an elementary school teacher prior to her retirement.

She has continued to provide an untold number of school programs for students during her time with the society and is credited with developing our summer youth camp.



Clarence Kinsey with Patricia Rieker



# LHS Facebook page scores half-million hits

Dick Shearer started posting old and new pictures with captions from our extensive collection on Facebook last summer.

It has turned out to be one of our most successful means of presenting our area's past history.

He started out posting a picture every day or two and the reaction from the public was extremely good so that now a picture is posted every morning, usually between seven and eight o'clock.

So far, more than 520,000 "hits" have been recorded for the 228 postings put on between July 1 and April 15. In that time the average number of hits per posting has steadily increased to 2,594.

Responses and favorable comments have poured in from across the country, especially from former area residents who share their memories of the old home town.

Several interesting trends are developing. To date, the most popular posting by far was a photograph of a toilet-papered Lansdale intersection on a Mischief Night in the 1970s. More than 21,000 hits were recorded for that.

Trailing far behind at 12,000 hits was a photo of the Sumneytown Pike toll booth in Upper Gwynedd taken around 1907.

Across the board, eating places—whether it be the Hotel Trem-

ont, the R&S Diner, the Big Pixey or a dozen others—were the most popular category.

If you haven't seen our page yet, take a look next time you are on your computer and let us know what you think of the listings.

*Google Lansdale Historical Society/Facebook*

## Society's first trivia night spans 300 years of history

The society's May program was held on Tuesday May 10 and featured our first trivia night. Teams of five to six players completed for the honor of being named the most knowledgeable about the North Penn area's past history.

Dick Shearer served as host and emcee for the event which included questions covering area happenings from the 1700s up until the present.

The winning team members were Rose Chapman, Betty Lauman, Frank Krimm, Jennie Sperling, Kay Fiala and Pat Rieker.

Each of these winners will receive a copy of our new publication, "Back in Time III" when it is published for Lansdale Founders Day in August.

## History of star-crossed Tremont featured at borough hall museum

A new display featuring the history of the Hotel Tremont has been added to the society's museum at Lansdale Borough Hall.

The exhibit includes a background story and timeline describing the hotel's sometimes troubled past. Also on display are many photographs, menus and other items that rekindle memories of the beloved restaurant.

Two other displays featuring the railroad's importance to Lansdale and a look back at early 20th century Main Street remain on view for a limited time but will be replaced in the coming months.

The museum is open during the regular Borough Hall business hours (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) and on evenings when there are public meetings in council chambers.

**Look for  
next Journal  
in August**

## Banner campaign honors veterans

The Hometown Hero program is a partnership between Lansdale Borough and Anne H. Scheuring who initiated this event. Each individual banner is unique and honors a specific member of the armed forces including their picture (in uniform), branch of service and era of service. The program is non-political and non-partisan and is a living memorial to those soldiers from the Lansdale area who served their county.

The banners will be installed on the posts of the street lamps in Lansdale before Memorial Day each year to commemorate these men and women and will later be removed, stored and used again in coming years. The banners will be placed on the poles shortly and it is not too late to honor a loved one or friend this year.

Information on sponsoring a banner is available on our website, [www.lansdalehistory.org](http://www.lansdalehistory.org) or by calling Anne at 215-855-1743.

Thanks to all who have participated so far.



## The Lansdale Historical Society Presents:

**Campers will...**

**Play games**

**Sing songs**

**Churn butter**

**Cook over an open  
hearth**

**Make crafts**

**Tour the Jenkins  
homestead**

**...and more**

### **A Jenkins Farmstead Day**

A summer history camp for children entering Grades 3 through 6.

Tuesday, July 12  
9 AM - 3 PM



**Registration  
\$20 per child**

**Register early,  
Space is limited.**

**Registration forms  
available at...**

**Lansdale  
Historical Society  
137 Jenkins Ave  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
215-855-1872**

**Or online at  
[lansdalehistory.org](http://lansdalehistory.org)**

**REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED BY  
JUNE 15**

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



The Jenkins Historic Complex