

# Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

JANUARY, 2012

## Changing scene is January show

### *Then and Now Part Five* puts time stamp on region

The society's Community Program series will resume Tuesday, January 10 with our fifth edition of *Then You Saw It, Now You Don't*, an annual retrospective of how the North Penn region has changed over the past century.

Vice President Steve Moyer will present an all-new collection of vintage photographs matched up with current views of the same locations — in most cases captured from the same angle.

In some cases the scenes have changed considerably; in others, it appears that time stood still.

More than 600 images were included in the first four editions of this popular show. Thanks to new additions to our vintage photo collection, we have been able to assemble an all-new program each year since 2008.

As usual, the program will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, Seventh St. and Lansdale Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are appreciated. In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be made on WNPV 1440 Radio.



**FOR YEARS** the Masonic Temple housed Bartholomew's Men's Shop and Jean's Ladies' Wear. Today the building faces an uncertain fate after an unsuccessful attempt to establish a performing arts center there.



### Membership to vote on bylaws change, revised list of officers, trustees for 2012

Changes are coming to the society's lineup of officers and trustees for 2012.

First Vice President Annette Krimm is stepping down from that position but she has agreed to remain on the board as a trustee. In addition, Corresponding Secretary Linda Evans has decided not to seek re-election.

At its December 28 meeting, the board unanimously approved a new slate of officers and trustees that recommends promoting Clarence Kinsey from trustee

to first vice president. Annette Krimm would fill his vacated trustee slot.

President Dick Shearer recommended a change in the society's bylaws to combine the positions of recording secretary and corresponding secretary and add an additional trustee position which would be filled by Ruth Madison, a member of the society for a number of years and a weekly volunteer.

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## Coming in February: Photography by Bartholomew

Photography was among the most popular fads of the Victorian Age. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to have their picture taken or send a picture postcard to friends back home.

It became an emerging profession for young men who had an eye for a good shot and the expertise to work wonders in a darkroom.

One of the best in these parts was

John C. Bartholomew, whose stamp appeared on thousands of images during his half century of work in Lansdale.

Some of Bartholomew's photographs will be featured at the society's February 14 Community Program, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The show, *John C. Bartholomew, Photographer*,

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# IN BRIEF: Paper scanning help still needed

The society's newspaper project is clipping right along. We now have two new volunteers who can run the computer for the scanning and are looking to add an additional volunteer to each of them to position the papers for the actual photographing.

We can use one volunteer on either a Monday or Wednesday evening and another for Thursday afternoons. The actual digitizing process takes about two hours per session and the exact times that you work can be set by the individual volunteer teams.

If you would be interested in volunteering or would like more information, please

contact Clarence Kinsey at (215) 855-1872.

## Advise us of email addresses

The society has recently converted to a new software program which will enable us to

more accurately keep a file of our members, and in doing so, we have become more diligent in recording email addresses.

For those of you who are already in our database, you know that our webmaster peri-

odically sends email messages to advise you of upcoming programs, to make you aware of updates to our website, [www.lansdalehistory.org](http://www.lansdalehistory.org), and other items. If you have email and are not receiving these messages, we encourage you to send us a note, providing us with your email address.

## Tuesday hours offered

The society's research center now offers Tuesday hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a by-appointment-only basis.

Requests for Tuesday research time must be made by noon on the preceding Saturday either by phone (215) 855-1872 or email, [info@lansdalehistory.org](mailto:info@lansdalehistory.org).

We will respond with confirmation by no later than Monday, noon.

## Fire-damaged church was designed by Bean

Those in attendance at our November Community Program, *The Mystery of Architect Milton B. Bean*, are saddened to learn that one of his creations, Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield was heavily damaged by fire in the early morning hours of December 30.

On July 5, 1904, Grace's church council accepted Bean's plans for the original church building, the part most heavily damaged in the fire. The congregation began holding services in the church in the summer of 1905 and dedicated the building on Aug. 27. Total cost, according to Edward Bonkemper's *Hatfield History*, was \$6,200 for the lot and structure.

Throughout his career, Bean designed dozens of churches in eastern Pennsylvania, many of which are still standing.

## Feb. show to feature Bartholomew photographs

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is being assembled by Steve Moyer with the assistance of the Bartholomew family.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Bartholomew began his career as a photographer by operating a "portable studio" which moved from town to town between Wilkes-Barre and the North Penn area. He made regular stops in Quakertown, Perkasie, Sellersville, Souderton and Telford.

In 1891 he finally found a permanent home

for his business in Lansdale, first on Walnut Street and later in a frame building where the Wells Fargo parking lot on Courtland Street is now located.

Bartholomew's services were in demand until the time of his death in 1943.

As usual, there is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

Attendees can find additional parking in the lot at Lansdale Catholic High School.

## Members to vote on board, bylaws change

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As a result, the board would still be comprised of a total of 12 members.

The new board would be comprised of: Richard Shearer, president; Clarence Kinsey, first vice president; Stephen Moyer, second vice president; Lawrence O'Malley, third vice president; Janice Bennett, secretary, and Anne Scheuring, treasurer.

Trustees: Marti Drumheller, Annette Krimm, Ruth Madison, Pat Rieker, Richard Stricker, and

Raymond Walton.

The bylaws change will be voted on by the membership prior to the January 10 Community Program. At the same time the slate of board members will be announced and additional nominations will be entertained from the floor.

The membership will vote on the officers and board prior to the February 14 Community Program. Those elected will serve for one year from that date.



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. (Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment).

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

• **E-mail:** [info@lansdalehistory.org](mailto:info@lansdalehistory.org)

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

• **Website:** [www.lansdalehistory.org](http://www.lansdalehistory.org).

# March show: Look closely for *Sights Unseen*

Some people can't see the forest through the trees. Others spot the tiniest details and wonder why their friends can't do the same.

We'll test your eye for the little reminders from our area's past that have never quite gone away at our Tuesday March 13 Community Program. It's scheduled for the Lansdale Parks and Recreation building at 7:30 p.m.

*Sights Unseen* was originally the idea of retired Reporter photographer Willard Kriebel who introduced it to



**ANY SELF-RESPECTING** long-time Lansdalian should be able to locate this.

readers in the 1960s.

Our own Steve Moyer will do his version of *Sights Unseen* using a series of current photos that will remind us that some things are gone and not forgotten; others are forgotten but not gone – if we

look hard enough.

The photo with this story is a taste of what to expect. The name should be a giveaway, but when was the last time you noticed that those tiles are still here?

## Deadline approaches for membership renewals

A reminder to all members that the deadline for 2012 membership renewals is January 31. Your support through annual dues allows us to continue our mission of preserving the North Penn region's history for future generations.

While our basic membership remains a modest \$20 we encourage those who can

to consider renewing as patrons or sustaining members. The additional funds help us meet our ever-increasing operating expenses.

First-time members who joined the society after Oct. 1, 2011 are automatically renewed for 2012.

We ask that you complete the renewal

form below and return it with your check. It is important to have paper backup for our computerized records.

Finally, a word of special thanks to several Lifetime members who annually make a donation in lieu of dues. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.

**Lansdale Historical Society**

**Membership Application**

**Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK**

**INDIVIDUAL: Single \$20** \_\_\_\_\_ **Couple \$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **Patron \$40** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sustaining \$55** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business \$100** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFETIME: 55 or older (Single) \$300** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Couple) \$500** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't Mail Newsletter** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to: Lansdale Historical Society, 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446*

# Large turnout for holiday open house

More than 400 persons turned out December 3 for the society's holiday open house honoring the late Mayor Mike DiNunzio.

A steady stream of Mike's friends toured the Jenkins Homestead and the research center to view a representative sample of the many collectibles Mike amassed in his private museum and garage.

On hand to share memories were his children, Claire and Mike Jr. Mike Jr., with help from Steve Moyer, brought Mike's locally-famous fire truck and paddy wagon for the public to enjoy.

On display were some of his favorite things: clocks, paperweights, hammers, cobbler's tools, lanterns, model cars, his work aprons and motorcycle jacket, and even a James Brown "I Feel Good!" figurine. Also on display was a portrait of the mayor by his

successor, Andy Szekely.

And as an unexpected surprise, some of Mike's car collector friends showed up with their vintage vehicles.

The only thing missing was the man himself. He would have enjoyed the day.



**DAUGHTER** Claire and Mike Jr. pose with a portrait of Mayor Mike DiNunzio.

## Memorial donations for Mike total \$2,400

Donations to the society in memory of the late Mike DiNunzio totaled more than \$2,000, including contributions by his children, Michael Jr. and Claire, and their families.

An additional \$400 was contributed by visitors via donation jars on the day of the open house.

The society extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed and to the family for its assistance in making this event possible.

On an unrelated matter, we also want to convey our gratitude to the Kenneth Kratz Family Charitable Foundation for a \$2,000 year-end donation in support of the society's work.

The Kratz Foundation has provided financial assistance for a number of years and we greatly appreciate the organization's continued support.

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



The Jenkins Historic Complex