

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

AUGUST, 2013

LHS prepares for Founders Day

Society involved in events at 3 locations on August 24

The society is gearing up for the third annual Lansdale Founders Day celebration scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 24.

This year we will have a presence at three locations: the former Masonic Temple building (311 W. Main St.), the Santa's House pad just cross the tracks from the SEPTA station and at the Jenkins Complex.

The society will debut a new video, *A*

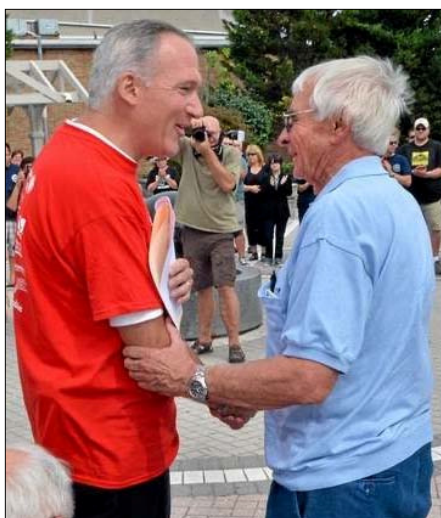
311 W. Main St.

Walking Tour of Downtown Lansdale, originally produced in 1982 by Allen and Inez Lincoln as a slide show in the days before personal computers.

It will be shown continuously at the 311 W. Main between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A new painting by Judith Boyles featuring the beloved Hotel Tremont will also be displayed for the first time at 311, and those attending will have a chance to win a free print of Judy's new work. More details on this appear on

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Lifetime Achievement Award

Long-time Lansdale Fire Chief Jay Daveler, right, was the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at Founders Day in 2012. Daveler is congratulated by police Sgt. Dean Miller. This year's recipient will be honored at Railroad Plaza.

A variety of activities will take place at the Jenkins Historic Complex from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Founders Day.

They include:

* **The story of the Jenkins Map Roller:**

A special display is being prepared on this device designed by Charles Jenkins, first cashier of the Lansdale National Bank. Jenkins' invention was awarded three patents and was used in many government buildings including the U.S. Capitol, as

The Jenkins Complex

well as the boardrooms of major industries and corporations. The display will include a salesman's sample, recently donated to the society (see related story inside).

***Shelly's Confection Shop booth** and other memorabilia from the popular Main Street spot.

***Portrait Gallery:** A display featuring oversized paintings and photographs from the society's archives. Some have never

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Narrated train trip to Souderton

SEPTA Rail Depot

volunteer "conductors" who will announce the important historic spots along the way. The society's Pat Rieker will serve as head "conductor" on the three excursions scheduled to leave Lansdale station at 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. Tickets will be on sale in advance at the www.DiscoverLansdale.org

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More volunteers needed to help with Founders Day

The society's commitment to Founders Day this year requires additional volunteers to man our three locations between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

To help for all or part of the day, please call Dick Shearer or Clarence Kinsey (215) 855-1872 by August 20.

New Boyles' painting features Tremont

Want a chance to bring memories of the Hotel Tremont into your home?

Show up at the society's downtown location on Founders Day, August 24, for a chance to win a free signed and numbered print of Judith Boyles' latest painting, a view of the beloved restaurant as most of us remember it.

The print will be on display at 311 W. Main St. (the old Masonic Hall) from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Judy will be on hand to take orders for the print and to preview a second Tremont painting, a view of the original Hotel Tremont as it appeared in 1910 with its original addition on the Broad Street side. This painting will be available for purchase this fall.

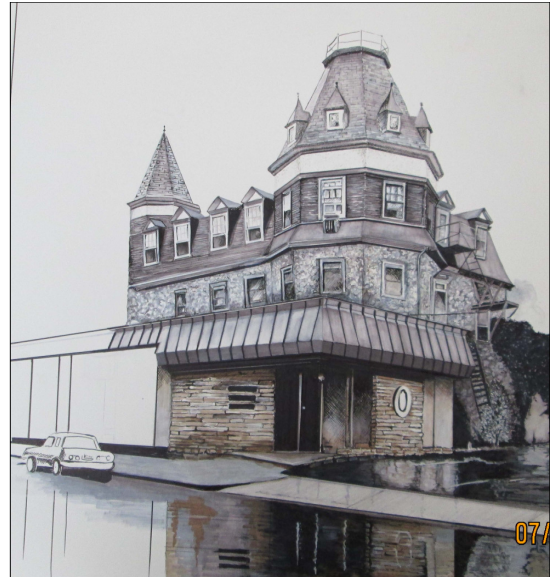
Those who attend her preview and

a showing of the society's latest DVD, *A Walking Tour of Downtown Lansdale*, will be invited to fill out a coupon to win the print. The drawing will take place the week of Aug. 26.

The Hotel Tremont was a favorite gathering spot in Lansdale for more than a century and its demolition in 1997 sparked a community outcry that is still heard today.

It is fondly remembered for its owners, Marcel and Catherine Winniger, and the many fine meals and good times local residents enjoyed there over the years.

Orders will also be taken for all three downtown Lansdale prints Judy Boyles has produced over the past two years: The P&R Railroad Station, the Lansdale Theatre and Sam Neiburg's Ladies and Gents Shop.



AN UNFINISHED version of Judith Boyles' view of the Tremont circa 1970.

Video, new painting to be displayed at 311

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this page.

Allen Lincoln, a former president of the society, organized the walking tour slide show. Inez (our first Historian) wrote the accompanying script which includes many seldom-told tales about Lansdale's past.

While both Allen and Inez have died, their slide show was given new life this summer by Clarence Kinsey and Steve Moyer, who digi-

tized the photos, and Pat Rieker who recorded Inez's text as a voice-over.

Jay Delp Productions is turning the 45-minute tour into a DVD that will be first shown on a continuous basis as part of the Founders Day festivities.

It will also be sale at the research center or by mail after August 24. Check our website (www.lansdalehistory.org) for more details in mid-August.

Rail excursion to Souderton will be narrated

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website or at the depot on Founders Day.

The society has reprinted the popular *Junction Town* booklet, which sold out during the past year. The 16-page booklet is a history of the

North Penn Railroad written by society President Dick Shearer. It sells for \$4 and will be available at a table located between the depot and Railroad Plaza and at the Jenkins Complex.

Jenkins Complex events

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been exhibited before.

***Clearance Sale:** One-day bargain prices on duplicate items from our collections including Centennial memorabilia, community histories, DVDs, watercolor paintings, newspaper supplements, Lansdale board games and much more. ***Homestead tours** including new items in the Jenkins Tax Assessor's Office.

Help us clean up on Aug. 18

Volunteers are needed Saturday, Aug. 18 from 9 a.m. until noon to help clean the Jenkins Complex buildings and grounds.

Most of the work will involve cleaning the interior of the buildings and doing some touch-up painting here and there.

If you can help, there's no need to call in advance but it would be appreciated.

We'll supply the cleaning materials.



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

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

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

Italian Heritage show opens program series

As summer winds down the society is preparing for its 2013-2014 Community Program series which debuts Tuesday, Sept. 10 with *Lansdale's Italian Heritage*, a show that's been under discussion for several years.

Steve Moyer, our program chairman, will host this look into the impact Lansdale's Italian-American population has had on the borough for more than a century.

The program will highlight this special group of residents who came to Lansdale to work on the railroad and in the town's factories, to open mom-and-pop stores and to integrate their special traditions into the community as a whole.

In our October 8 program, *Where Were You When JFK Died*, the emphasis will be on our audience. We will be encouraging folks to share stories of what they were doing when they heard the news that our President had been assassinated in Dallas.

For most of us in our 60s and 70s, this was our Pearl Harbor – the defining moment of our generation – and the details of Nov. 22, 1963, will remain with us forever. We will take this opportunity to record your recollections to help future generations understand what life was like in America on that dreaded day.

Dick Shearer will moderate the program.

Our November 12 program will focus on local veterans and the history of the veterans' organizations that have supported them over the years. More information on this program will be included in our next *Jenkins Journal*.

We've included the remainder of our Community Programs schedule for the season. We encourage you to clip and save it. The 2014 topics are subject to change and could be shuffled in the event of inclement weather.

Lansdale Historical Society

2013-2014 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10: *Lansdale's Italian Heritage*

Travel back in time to explore the traditions and neighborhoods of these long-time Lansdale residents.

TUESDAY, OCT. 8: *The Day JFK Died*

Local residents remember what they were doing when they learned of the President's death.

TUESDAY, NOV. 12: *Lansdale's Veterans Organizations*

Tales of local veterans and the organizations that have supported them over the years.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7:

Holiday Open House at the Jenkins Homestead

TUESDAY, JAN. 14: *Back Stories*

A collection of seldom-told tales that play a part in Lansdale's history.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11: *The Heebner Agricultural Works*

The history of the industry that put Lansdale on the map.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11: *Rewind 1945*

A retrospective of the year when FDR died and war was replaced by peace.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8:

Annual Banquet at William Penn Inn

TUESDAY, MAY 13: *Faith of Our Founders II*

The second installment of a series on the early churches that served Lansdale.

Community Programs are presented at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, 7th St. and Lansdale Ave. beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

Jenkins map roller donated to the society



TRYING TO MAKE SENSE of a Jenkins map roller salesman's sample donated to the society are volunteers Ray Walton, left, and Clarence Kinsey.

Sometimes the stars align correctly.

That was the case recently when Leanne Trathen of Sellersville emailed the society seeking information about a salesman's sample of a Jenkins map roller she recently purchased in Perkasio that she wanted to resell on eBay.

Leanne has already done her homework and discovered the map roller was invented by Charles Jenkins of Lansdale who received three patents for the device between 1887 and 1909. It turns out she knew more about it than we did.

The society has a longstanding

policy of not buying items directly if it can be avoided. We prefer that members make the purchase themselves and donate it to us if they see fit. In this case Leanne was asked if the item didn't sell – she had set a reserve on it – would she consider donating to us.

As soon as the auction closed without a buyer, she contacted President Dick Shearer saying that she had thought about our request and decided that yes, she wanted to give it to us. "It's the right place, the logical place for it to go".

Meanwhile, Clarence Kinsey remembered an unidentified item in the

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More news about the society

Scanner Day on Sept. 28

The society will hold its annual Scanner Day on Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. until noon at the research center.

We invite members and the public to bring in vintage photographs of the North Penn area that we can scan and add to our collection .

We are especially seeking photos of street scenes, community activities or businesses (interior and exterior) dating back from the 1970s.

Volunteers will be on hand to scan your photos while you wait (except for large quantities). The scanned photos will be returned to you and you will

receive a CD containing the digitized copies images as our thanks for sharing.

We invite your questions about Scanner Day at (215) 855-1872.

Old phone books sought

Cleaning out the attic can often yield unexpected treasures. The society is always looking for old telephone books, those relics that have been made obsolete by cell phones and unlisted numbers.

The phone books are especially valuable to our researchers who use them to verify residential and commercial addresses during given time periods. We are especially looking for phone books that predate 1970.

Jenkins map roller sample donated to the society

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homestead attic that looked like the photo that appeared on eBay. Turns out it was part of a salesman's sample given to the society by Robert Stuart, Jenkins' son-in-law, in 1990.

Ray Walton, who has a knack for fixing these things, is now using parts from

both samples to assemble a working model for Founders Day, where it will be on display along with a portrait of Jenkins, sales brochures about his map rollers and a list of customers.

So what was Charles Jenkins primary occupation? He was the first cashier of the Lansdale National Bank .



Classy ride for baby

Pete Fisher of Lower Salford, right, and his family recently donated this Civil War-era baby carriage to the society. For display in the homestead. Pete is seen trying to convince President Dick Shearer that he is too big to ride in it.

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



The Jenkins Historic Complex