

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

NOVEMBER, 2013

Nov. 12: Recounting past war efforts



“Remembering Those Who Served” will be the topic of the next Lansdale Historical Society Community Program, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

The program, narrated by Steve Moyer, will focus on the impact wars have had on the North Penn area and the sacrifices made not only by those in uniform but by residents on the home front who contributed in many ways through rationing, collection drives, victory gardens, war bonds and by working in military-related industries.

The show will also include a retrospective of area veterans’ organizations and their efforts to assist and honor returning service personnel who answered the call to duty.

A final segment will highlight the history of Lansdale’s Memorial Park from its inception after World War I through troubled times during the Depression when it was rescued from neglect and transformed into the public facility it is today.

The Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building is located at 7th St. and Lansdale Ave. There is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

History Saturdays coming in January

How good is your knowledge of Lansdale area history? Are you a newcomer trying to learn something about your new town? Have you lived around here most of your life and always wanted to ask questions about Lansdale’s past but never got around to it.

Here’s your chance. Beginning Saturday,

Jan. 25, the society will offer a series of monthly seminars to acquaint residents with the basics of local history. We call it *Lansdale History 101*, and the first session will focus on the arrival of the North Penn

(Continued on page 2)

Toys and more at Holiday Open House

Falling leaves and a nip in the air are not-so-subtle reminders that the holiday season is right around the corner.

That means the society’s holiday open house is only about a month away. This year’s event will take place Saturday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jenkins Historic Complex.

A committee headed by Treasurer Anne Scheuring is working on details of

the open house which will include a number of surprises this year. A special feature will be a vintage toy display in the research center museum that has been accumulated over the years by member Wayne Ransom of Hatfield Township.

For those who missed it on Founders Day, our Jenkins Map Roller will be on display along with details of its use

across the country.

In conjunction with the open house Anne is asking anyone who is willing to donate baby dolls to the society to call her at (215) 855-1743. The dolls need not be vintage. They will be used in permanent displays throughout the homestead.

More information on the open house will be available at our website later this month.

Searching out history

Students from A.M. Kulp and York Avenue elementary schools investigated gravesites at the Towamencin Schwenkfelder Cemetery during Halloween Day field trips to the 18th century burial ground.

Society board member Pat Rieker, below, led the search and explained the historical importance of the cemetery.



Help plan history camp for kids

As we look ahead to 2014, we are beginning to make plans for a History Camp for children.

The camp will include hands-on activities such as crafts, games, and household skills from bygone eras. The campers will learn about the first colonists who came to the Lansdale area and about the Native Americans they met when they arrived.

They'll also learn how the people who lived here used the natural resources available to them to meet their basic needs.

For the camp to be a success, many volunteers will be needed. Do you have a hobby or craft you would like to teach to a young person? Are you able to donate a few hours of your time to help children learn a hands-on skill? Would you like to be part of a team who will plan the history camp?

For more information or to volunteer, please call or e-mail Pat Rieker at (215) 368-0854, or pkrieker@verizon.net.

Lansdale Historical Society



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.

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History Saturdays at the homestead

Continued from page 1)

Railroad in 1856 and how it turned a farm into a thriving town.

The program will include an explanation of why a railroad junction was established at Lansdale, how the town got its name, the impact the railroad had on the surrounding country and much more. Dick Shearer and Clarence Kinsey will lead the discussion.

There is no charge for the seminar which will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Jenkins Homestead. The presentation including video, will last approximately an hour, leaving plenty of time for questions and answers, and tours of the buildings for those who

are first-time visitors.

The seminars will be geared to adults and teens. Advance registration is not necessary. A special history camp for children is also in the works (see above).

More information will be provided in a late December mailing and on our website and Facebook page.

Topics for future seminars are now being considered and will also be announced in late December.

Use the holiday season to spread the word to neighbors, friends – anyone who wants to know more about our town's history. More information: (215) 855-1872.

Boyles' work reflects 1900s Tremont

Just in time for holiday giving, artist Judith Boyles has released her latest painting of historic Lansdale, a 1907 view of the Hotel Tremont.

This painting of the beloved hotel shows it during its most glorious period - soon after the original addition was added to the former home of Isaac Heebner that was constructed in the late 1880s.

The addition, seen to the left in this view, bordered the intersection of Main and Broad Streets. Because of construction flaws the new wing had to be demolished during the 1920s and replaced with a more contemporary addition that included Cuthbert's Pharmacy on street level and apartments upstairs.

For most area residents the Tremont was synonymous with good food prepared under the direction of owner Marcel Winniger and his wife, Catherine, who served as hostess.

As a tribute to them, Judy Boyles used artist's license to place them on the front porch even though their tenure at the Tremont didn't begin until the 1940s.

Earlier this year Judy released a 1970s view of the Tremont after the restaurant was expanded. (below).

To better appreciate the paintings, we suggest visiting our website, www.lansdalehistory.org, where this newsletter is published in color.

The 1907 Tremont painting is available in two sizes. An 18x24-inch giclee reproduction is priced at \$160, an 8x10-inch version is \$75.



Judith Boyles' Hotel Tremont painting reflects the early 1900s era.

The 1970s-era print is available in one size, 15x15-inches (matted to 20x20), for \$130. A portion of the proceeds benefits the society.

A complete selection of Judy's work, including her earlier historic Lansdale

paintings, can be found at her website, www.judithboylesfineart.com.

Orders can be placed at the society's research center or through either website. Prepaid orders must be received by December 1 for delivery before Christmas.

Want more Lansdale history? Check our website, Facebook

Over the past several years we've been encouraging members to regularly check our website, www.lansdalehistory.org, and to urge their neighbors and friends to do so as well.

The website is our primary mode of communicating with members and the public and to keep them advised of information regarding the society. Unlike the newsletter which is published 4-5 times a year, the website is updated several times a month.

The web offers many advantages. Feature stories about Lansdale history - part of the *Back In Time* and *Saving Historic Lansdale* series - are added on a

monthly basis. Information about upcoming programs and sale items is located there as well as current and past issues of the newsletter (with full-color photos). In addition, you can be added to our email "flash list", alerting you when new material is posted on the web.

The society is also stepping up its presence on Facebook starting immediately. Under the direction of Steve Moyer we will be posting numerous vintage photos of the North Penn area over the coming months and we will add to the collection on a regular basis. If you're a Facebook follower, please "like" us.



IN BRIEF: Homestead windows get a rehab

A big “thank you” goes out to Hambleton Builders Inc. of Hilltown for donating their services to repair two wood sashes on the second floor of the Jenkins Homestead.

After 243 years, a number of sashes and window sills on the second floor have been damaged by rot. The two in the Jenkins assessors’ office were in need of immediate attention. Others will be repaired on an as-needed basis.

Hambleton Builders has been involved in a number of historic restoration projects including repairs to the Independence Hall clock tower. Their efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated.

Needed: An 8mm projector

Does anyone have an 8mm movie projector in good condition that you would be willing to donate to the society?

Over the years several dozen reels of 8mm film have been given to the society but in most cases we have no idea what is on them. Before the film deteriorates, we would like to determine which reels are historically valuable so they can be converted to digital media.

If you have a projector you’re willing to give up, call Clarence Kinsey at (215) 855-1872.

Walking tour DVD on sale

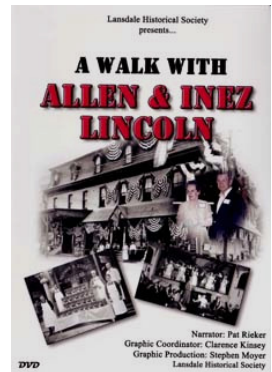
If you are looking for a holiday gift that rekindles memories of downtown Lansdale at its prime, may we suggest our DVD, *A Walk with Allen & Inez Lincoln*.

This 45-minute video, narrated by Pat Rieker, traces the history of downtown Lansdale businesses using the words of Inez Lincoln, the society’s long-time historian.

The format is a walking tour of downtown streets that was assembled by Inez and her husband, Allen, in the early 1980s. It was originally presented as a slide show but it was not until earlier this year that we located Inez’s script.

If someone on your list fondly recalls the days when Lansdale’s business district was the commercial hub of the region, this could be the gift for them.

The price is \$18 at the research center or \$21 by mail.



Lincolns' DVD now available

Our latest DVD, *A Walk with Allen and Inez Lincoln* is available for holiday giving. It is on sale at the research center for \$18, or \$21 by mail.

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



The Jenkins Historic Complex