

# Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

NOVEMBER, 2014

## Nov. 11 show: *Images of Normandie*

As a tribute to military personnel past and present, the society will feature *Images of Normandie*, as the topic of its November 11 (Veterans Day) Community Program at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

Society Vice President Steve Moyer visited the D-Day landing site last summer and will present images he photographed during his travels to the French coast in late July, shortly after the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the famed landing of Allied troops.

It was on June 6, 1944 that the assault phase of Operation Overlord (Operation Neptune) was launched. The Allies landed 156,000 troops on the beaches of Normandie.

This marked the beginning of the liberation of Europe from fascism in the most destructive conflict in human history. This operation turned the tide of World War II against the Nazis, but the cost was high - more than 425,000 Allied and German troops were killed, wounded or went missing between June 6 and the end of August, 1944. More than 10,000 died on the beaches in that single day.

The program features images of the



THE BLUE SKIES AND RIPPLING WATERS OF UTAH BEACH 2014

beaches, the American and British cemeteries, Pegasus Bridge and various battlements as well as the French countryside nearby where townspeople continue to revere and honor those young men who were thrust into one of the most significant events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited and there is no admis-

sion charge although donations are appreciated.

The society hopes to have several D-Day survivors participate in the program. An invitation is extended to veterans of all wars to attend and be recognized for their service to the country.

The parks and recreation building is located at 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Lansdale Ave.

## Welcome the holidays at our open house

Before we know it the holidays will be coming at us full-steam.

To help get in the spirit of the season, the society will hold its annual Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 6, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Jenkins Homestead.

Specific features of this year's open house are still in the planning stages but expect new and different displays and activities that will be on view in both the

homestead and research center.

Details will be forthcoming in a few weeks and will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

**In the meantime we need to enlist your help:** A Saturday morning clean-up of the two buildings is scheduled for November 22 at 9 a.m. There is enough dusting, sweeping, moping,

etc. to keep a dozen or more volunteer busy for the entire morning. The more folks who show up, the quicker we finish the job. Just show up and lend a hand.

We will also need volunteers to serve as guides on the day of the tour. No previous experience is necessary, but please call Clarence Kinsey at the research center if you can help out on December 6.

## Nov. Saturday Morning Seminar features holidays of the past

The society's Saturday Morning History 101 Seminar Series will continue on November 29 with a look back at holidays and winters past in the North Penn Valley.

Dick Shearer will narrate a video presentation and share some stories about how the Christmas holidays were celebrated through the years. It will include shopping along Main Street, holiday ads from the past, the Mardi Gras Parade and the arrival of Santa by various modes of transportation.

We'll also talk about some of the memorable winter storms that brought everyday life to a standstill – at least for a few days.

The seminars are informal and those attending are encouraged to ask questions throughout the presentations. Long-time residents are certainly welcome to attend but we'd like you to encourage younger folks and newcomers to the area who don't remember the old times to join us as well.

The seminars are held at the Wissahickon Park Building, E. Main St. and Lakeview Dr. beginning at 9:30 a.m. There is no admission charge but because of limited seating reservations are necessary.

Call (215) 855-1872 before November 27 and leave your name, the number of persons attending and a call-back number in case it is needed.



**ICE STORMS** are nothing new. This turn of the 20th century photo shows what ice and wet snow did to these trees on North Broad Street across from the Music Hall block.

### 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 .

•**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).

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## All-new *Then and Now* photo show kicks off 2015 program schedule

Our January 13 Community Program will feature an all-new edition of our popular "Then and Now" series we're reviving after a two-year hiatus.

Steve Moyer, Clarence Kinsey and their cohorts are busy scanning new additions to our photo collection that are candidates for "then and now" comparison.

These match-ups provide us with side-by-side comparison of how the North Penn Valley landscape has changed over the years. This show will also give us a chance to feature some under-appreciated gems - photos that we skipped over in previous years

– that have come to our attention.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Lansdale Ave. As always, there's no admission charge and the public is invited – so bring along a non-member friend. Donations are appreciated.

**A reminder:** In the event of inclement weather, a postponement announcement will be made on WNPV-1440 during the afternoon of the show as well as on our website and Facebook page.

### Upcoming holiday closings

Because of the upcoming holiday season, the society will be closed on three Thursdays.

The homestead and research center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, Christmas, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1.



# Society receives Lansdale town sign

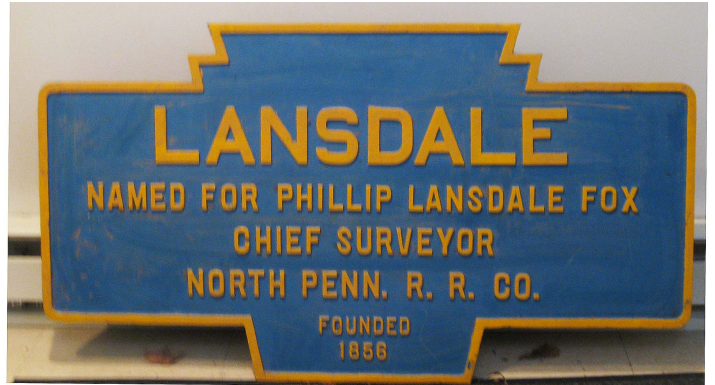
A subtle change is taking place along the roads leading into Lansdale.

The venerable Pennsylvania "keystone" signs that have been welcoming visitors to the borough for decades are being replaced as part of Lansdale's Wayfinding program.

The original keystone signs were part of the post-World War I effort to upgrade the highway system across the state. The goal was to bring some uniformity to road markers that identified towns, rivers, historic sites and other important points of interest.

According to the Keystone Marker Trust, thousands of these blue and yellow signs were erected between about 1918 and 1943, including the ones at the entrances to Lansdale.

Over the years, many of these cast iron markers were damaged or destroyed while other weathered to the point where they are no longer legible. Lansdale's original signs had aged to the point where they were replaced by alumi-



num markers during the 1980s.

Many communities removed or failed to repair their markers lowering the total still standing to less than a thousand. The Keystone Marker Trust is a non-profit organization formed several

*(Continued on page 4)*

## BACK IN TIME

**TALES OF THE  
NORTH PENN VALLEY'S  
HISTORIC PAST**



**A SELECTION OF STORIES FEATURING  
PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS THAT  
HELPED SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES**

BY DICK SHEARER, Lansdale Historical Society

## GIVE TALES OF OLDE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Looking for that special gift that gives hours of entertaining reading about the North Penn Valley?

Back in Time, new this year, contains 48 pages of short stories about people, places and events from the Lansdale area's past.

Pick up a copy -or two or three - while the supply lasts.

The cost: \$10 at the research center, \$12.50 by mail.

# Check out our website, submit market tapes

## Recent postings on our website

A number of new items have been posted on the LHS website ([www.lansdalehistory.org](http://www.lansdalehistory.org)) over the past few months. Be sure to check them out.

Among the latest *Back In Time* stories is one that details the local impact of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 on the North Penn region. Another relates the tale of "Peanut Jake" Fretz, a beloved local character who traveled the local

countryside nearly a century ago selling thousands of bags of peanuts while giving them free to children so they could spend their allowance money on something else.

There is also a new addition to our series, *Saving Historic Downtown Lansdale*. This latest installment features the Moyer Building, now home to Chantilly Floral Boutique.

We urge you to check the website for these stories and updated information on our programs and activities.

## Keystone town sign

(Continued from page 3)

years ago to revive interest in them and provide information on how to restore or replace them. For the first time in 70 years, brand-new signs are now being produced.

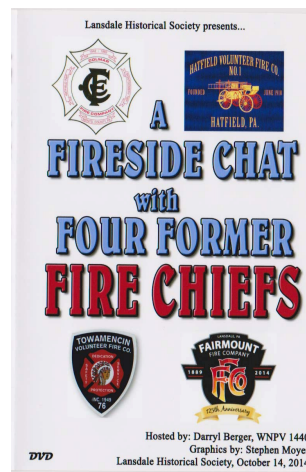
The marker seen on page 3 stood on West Main Street near Trinity Lutheran Church and is being entrusted to the society by Lansdale Borough. We're told its mates will be stored by the borough for possible reuse at a later time.

## Give us your Redner's register tapes

The society receives a cash donation from Redner's Markets when we submit register tapes turned in to us by customers who have signed up for the program.

The first step is to contact Clarence Kinsey at the research center for the proper registration procedure or you can approach him at any of our community programs.

Money received from the tapes adds up: over the years, the society has redeemed supermarket tapes for thousands of dollars.



## Fire Chiefs DVD is now on sale

The DVD of our October Community Program is now available. The cost: \$18 at the research center or \$21 by mail.

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



The Jenkins Historic Complex