

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PROGRAMS

GENEALOGY/ SEPT. 8

Learn how to trace your family roots

Almost everyone talks about tracing their family roots but how many of us fear taking the first leap into the world of the past?

Quite a few from what we've heard from members and visitors to our research center.

With that in mind the Lansdale Historical Society will kick off its 2015-16 Community Program season with a change of pace from our usual fare.

"Who Are My Peeps? – Six Easy Steps to Starting Your Family History Research" will be the topic of our Tuesday, Sept. 8 show, 7:30 p.m., at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

The presenter will be Christine Roberts, founder and charter president of the Bucks County Genealogical Society, who will cut through the confusion of family



CHRISTINE ROBERTS

searches using her six simple steps, which include examination of basic genealogical records, documentation and examples from her own personal research.

In addition to her Bucks County

affiliation, Roberts serves on the First Families of Pennsylvania Committee of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. She is also a member of the National Genealogical Society, the New York Genealogical and Historical Society, the New England Historical and Biographical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

It's a great opportunity for members of the North Penn community - young and old - to begin your family search on the right foot with advice from an expert.

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

SATURDAY SEMINAR/ SEPT. 25

Step inside the doors of local businesses

The Lansdale Historical Society's first Saturday History Seminar of the 2015-2016 season will feature a photographic tour inside Lansdale businesses of the past.

Many of us are familiar with the exterior views of commercial buildings that played a role in the town's development over the decades. But what were they like inside? Who would you likely find there? And how much has time changed the various types of businesses that thrived here years ago?

Join Dick Shearer at the

Wissahickon Park Building, E. Main St. and Lakeview Dr., Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m. As always, there is no admission charge but we do appreciate donations.

The Saturday Seminar Series is an informal gathering of people who want to know more about local history and those who are new to the community who would like to ask questions about the basics of our past.

Please join us and bring along some friends. There is no need to call for reservations but be aware that the Wissahickon Park Building has a limited capacity.



TREMONT BARBER SHOP, 1936

COMMUNITY PROGRAM/ OCT. 13

Look into the life of historian Edward Mathews

It is next to impossible to describe Edward Mathews in a few simple paragraphs or limit his accomplishments to a short list. "E.M.", as he signed many of his works, was an historian who wrote in exhaustive detail about the people and happenings of our region during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of Mathews' death, society member Donald Lewis will describe "E.M.'s" unconventional life at our October 13 Community Program at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7:30 p.m.

Calling Mathews "unconventional" is actually an understatement. His life was complicated by a number of serious illnesses that dogged him through the years. He had strong likes and dislikes, especially when it came to people he encountered, yet he managed to gather the most complete collection of historical information during that time.



EDWARD MATHEWS

Although he tried many jobs, he was most successful at gathering news items for almost every weekly newspaper in the region. His diaries became reference sources for many historians who followed him.

Mathews traveled the

countryside by trolley and bicycle, settling for a time in Lansdale where he lived quietly in a back-alley room away from the bustle of Main Street.

Don Lewis has spent considerable time re-

searching the many facets of Mathews' life and writings. He has previously delved into other local topics including the origin of Lansdale's street names and the question of where Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock was really born.

Lansdale Historical Society

2015-16 COMMUNITY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8, 2015: **Who Are Your Peeps?**

Learn the best ways to trace your family roots with Christine Roberts, president and founder of the Bucks County Genealogical Society.

TUESDAY, OCT 13, 2015: **Edward Mathews, Montgomery County Historian**

Member Donald Lewis describes the life and accomplishments of Edward Mathews, the acclaimed Montgomery County historian of the late 19th century who spent his final years as a resident of Lansdale.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 2015: **History Trivia: Lansdale-Style**

Test your knowledge of North Penn area historical trivia from the 1920s to 2000. Dick Shearer serves up the questions.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 2015: Holiday Open House at the Jenkins Homestead with special features to ring in the season.

TUESDAY, JAN 12, 2016: **Then You Saw It, Now You Don't**

By popular request, we bring back this long-time favorite show with an all-new collection of "then and now" photographs.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 2016: **The Mystery Re-enactor**

Which historic figure will pay us a visit? Check in after New Year's Day to find out.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016: **Rewind: A Slice of Time**

Linda Evans revisits events and milestones from our not-too-distant past.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016: **Annual Banquet at William Penn Inn**

...featuring the presentation of the Edwin G. Holl Historical Achievement Award.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016: **The Photography of Geoffrey Patton**

A Reporter photographer since the 1970s, Geoff presents a collection of his most memorable work.

All programs with the exception of the Holiday Open House and Annual Banquet will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, Seventh St. and Lansdale Ave., at 7:30 p.m. No admission charge but donations are appreciated.