

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

FEBRUARY, 2017

Civil War Program Featured for February

Our February Tuesday evening program will feature a presentation by Russ Dodge, a longtime associate of the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery speaker's bureau.

He is very knowledgeable on Civil War/ Military history and the program will feature historical facts and stories about the Civil war in Philadelphia and the Montgomery County areas of Pennsylvania.

As usual, it will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7th St. and Lansdale Avenue in Lansdale.

Please note that the meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 21st**, which is the **THIRD** Tuesday of the month. It will start at 7:30 PM. There is no charge for the program but donations are welcome.



Laurel Hill Cemetery overlooking Schuylkill River

2017 Society Elections at February Meeting

Our annual election of officers and trustees will be held on February 21st at our Tuesday evening program meeting. All of our current trustees and officers are running for re-election.

Any additional nominations must be received by Clarence Kinsey at the Research Center by February 10, 2017 to be considered as candidates for offices. Nominations will NOT be taken from the floor on the night of the voting.

Those running include Clarence Kinsey, Jr. - President, Dick Shearer—Vice President, Steve Moyer – Vice President, Pat Rieker – Vice President, Chris Cooke – Vice President, Janice Bennett – Secretary, Anne Scheuring – Treasurer, and Trustees Linda Evans, Frank Krimm, Marti Drumheller, Ruth Madison and Bill Henning. The election will be the first order of business at this meeting.



William Penn Inn Delivery Truck Circa 1925

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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RESERVE THE DATE

The Society's annual April Awards Banquet where we honor the recipient of the Edwin G. Holl Historic Achievement Award will be held at the William Penn Inn on April 11th, 2017.

This is the crowning social event of the year for our group and has been enjoyed by our members over the years. If you have never attended, please consider joining us this year for cocktails (Cash Bar), dinner and the presentation of the various awards.

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Historical Society's membership renewal period ends on January 31st. We ask that those of you who have not renewed, please take a few moments to fill in your information on the membership application and mail it to us with your check by the end of the month.

The money we receive helps us defray the cost of maintaining our facilities on Jenkins Avenue and enables us to carry on our main goal of preserving our local area history and fulfilling requests for information about Lansdale and the surrounding area.

North Penn Area Trivia Night Returns

The Society's program for Tuesday evening, March 14th will be hosted by Dick Shearer.

We will feature our 2nd annual North Penn Trivia Night and the session will feature team competition with interesting questions about Lansdale and the local North Penn area. It will cover material from both early and more current time frames so that young and old alike will be able to participate.

Please plan to join us at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7:30 PM for a night of fun, test your local knowledge and learn some TRIVIAL information about our local area.

More information about the trivia contest will be available on our website after February 15th.

Honoring Hometown Heroes



The Hometown Heroes program that has resulted in the veterans banners on the poles of the Lansdale streets over the recent months is still going strong. Anne Scheuring has spearheaded this program as a way to honor those who have served in the military as well as those who have given their lives to protect our country. The banners have been taken down but, fear not, they will be re-installed next year before Memorial Day so that they will again be visible to all.

Lansdale Borough has approved a maximum total of 500 banners (They're running out of poles to place them on) but approximately 70 spaces are still available.

If you are interested in having a family member or friend displayed, please get your reservation form and check in to Anne now. You may contact her at 215 855-1743 or at heroes@verizon.net.



7th Annual Spring Tea Planned

The Ladies of the Lansdale Historical Society will hold their seventh annual Spring Tea on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The event will be held in the lobby of the Lansdale Borough Hall, 1 Vine Street in Lansdale starting at 11:AM. A full high tea will be served.

A special feature of the tea this year will be **"Step into Fashion"**, a fashion show with models wearing clothes provided by Soma Intimates, Chico's and White House/Black Market. There will be door prizes for all and baskets will be raffled off.

Reservations are required and can be obtained at the Society's Research Center at 137 Jenkins Ave. in Lansdale on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 AM to 4 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to Noon. The cost is \$35 per person (Cash or Checks only).

For additional information, contact Marti Drumheller at 267-649-7090 or the Society at 215-855-1872.

Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome volunteers to help with the variety of ways we preserve the history of the North Penn area. We will try to find something that will fit your interests and availability.

Some possibilities include research, working with and inventorying the artifact collection, marketing, leading tours and many others.

For more information send us an E-mail at lansdalehistory.org or call Clarence Kinsey at 215 855-1872

The Society is always looking for.....

- ◇ Photographs of Lansdale, Hatfield, North Wales and the surrounding townships. Old (pre-1900) photos are especially prized but pictures of any era are welcome.
- ◇ If you wish to donate them to the Society, we will be happy to add them to our collection. If you want to keep the originals, bring them in to the research center and we will scan them, add them to our digital picture files and return them to you. Pictures from your digital collection are also welcome.
- ◇ Artifacts from our area and surrounding townships. This can also include advertising items from local area businesses.
- ◇ Old telephone books and directories of our area (pre-1975).

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Family Historian Documents Genealogy of Jenkins Family



Ruth Madison

With Photos of Charles (Left) and Howard Jenkins



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.

•**Telephone:**

(215) 855-1872;
(215) 393-8919

•**E-mail:**

info@lansdalehistory.org

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

•**Website:**

www.lansdalehistory.org.



Saturday Morning Seminar *Getting Started With Your Family Research*

Saturday, April 1
9:00- 11:30 AM

Richard Shearer Research Center
and Library

137 Jenkins Avenue, Lansdale

Join our team of family researchers who will help you to begin to explore your family history. Whether you are just starting out or advanced, all are welcome. Participants will learn about resources available at our research center as well as online genealogy resources.

Please choose a branch of your family tree that you would like to know more about, and bring information you have already found.

Admission is free. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. Please call (215) 855-1872 by March 25 to register.

Visitors to the Jenkins Homestead often wonder about the lives of the families who lived in the historic home. Until recently, we knew little of the Jenkins family. They were surely farmers, and they were early members of Montgomery Baptist Church, where many of the Jenkins family are buried in the adjoining cemetery.

Lansdale Historical Society member Ruth Madison was curious to know “the rest of the story” about the Jenkinsees. She began with an Ancestry.com search of Jenkin Jenkins, the earliest member of the Jenkins family in this area. From his birth in Wales in the 17th century, Madison has traced the Jenkins family tree to the present day descendants.

Using a variety of resources, Madison discovered detailed information about a number of members of the Jenkins family. She found that the Jenkins family was well-to-do. The early residents of the Homestead traded in land. The crops they farmed were for their own use. Their interests and occupations were varied: Horace Jenkins ran a bowling alley at 305 W. Main Street, and Grant Jenkins installed the heating system at William Penn Inn. Leila Jenkins was a lawyer, and in 1902 became the second woman to be admitted to the bar in Montgomery County.

Madison’s interest in genealogy has spanned the past 26 years, in which time she has done extensive research on her own family tree. She still enjoys seeking out new information about her ancestors, as well as the Jenkins family.

She started out by searching online sites, such as Ancestry, Rootsweb, and Genealogy.com. Later, she found information in archived newspapers. She was surprised to find that out-of-state newspapers often contained more information about the family than local papers. Madison is grateful to other genealogical researchers who have passed along articles and documents they have found about the Jenkins family. Of particular note is the donation of about 80 Jenkins family photos which were donated to the society by May Jenkins Tussey.

Now, when visitors to the Homestead wonder about the lives of the Jenkins family, they may find a photo journal of the family in the Assessor’s Office. Thanks to Ruth Madison, we have a much more complete picture of Lansdale’s first family.

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For those who are conducting their own family research, our Research Center Library contains family histories of more than 75 area families.

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Our library archives also contain genealogical information on many Schwenkfelder families.

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Our Tree is No. 1 Again

For the second consecutive year, the Historical Society's entry in the annual Lansdale Christmas Tree Display captured the first place award.

A total of 26 trees were entered in this year's competition. They were viewed by more than 1,400 persons who were afforded the opportunity to vote for their favorite.

Sherwin Williams Paint Store, Fairmount Fire Company, Midland Atlantic Horse Rescue and Discover Lansdale were among the top vote-getters.

A special thank you goes out to Anne Scheuring and her team of tree-trimmers for their hard work and dedication to this annual project.

Photo by Bill Henning

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*****In the event of inclement weather, please tune in to WNPV radio 1440 AM on your dial after 2 P.M. for possible Tuesday night program cancellation news.

Lansdale Historical Society



The Jenkins Historic Complex