

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

January, 2018

January Program: Life is a Lark at Willow Grove Park

Our program for January will be a presentation by David Rowland of the Old York Road Historical Society on Willow Grove Amusement Park.

The "Park" was one of the finest in the country. It covered 130 acres and many of the rides were state-of-the-art. It was located just north of Philadelphia and was served by seven direct trolley lines from the various points of the city making access easy for Philadelphia area residents. It was one of the premier amusement parks in the country.

Willow Grove Park had many outstanding rides. Some of the most popular ones being the roller coasters, the carousels, the Ferris Wheel, the lake with its colored fountains at night and, for the youngsters, the Swan Boats. The casino served as a dining area.

The Music Pavilion had many top name performers including the John Philip Sousa Band, the New York Symphony Orchestra and Victor Herbert, each of which attracted huge crowds.

The program will be presented on Tuesday evening, January 9, 2018 at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7th Street and Lansdale Avenue in Lansdale at 7:30 P.M. Both members and non-members are invited to attend, and there is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.



Aerial View of Park



Casino—used for Dining



Holiday Open House Draws Many New Faces

Our December Holiday Open House was well received in the community and attendance of both members and non-members was very good. Those attending got to see the Homestead decked out for Christmas, were treated to music on our antique pump organ provided by David Furniss, Minister of Music at St. Johns United Church of Christ in Lansdale, and witnessed a candle making demonstration by Jennifer Burnley, the owner of Scent and Sip of Lansdale. We were fortunate this year to have many new faces at the open house with many questions about the Homestead and the local North Penn area.

Feb. 13 Program to Feature 3rd Annual Local Trivia Night

Get ready to put on your thinking cap and dust off your memory for the Society's third annual Local History Trivia Night to be held Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

Organize your own four-person team in advance or join one of the teams we assemble on the night of the show. Host Dick Shearer will fire trivia questions based on North Penn area history between the 1870s and the 1980s with an emphasis on more recent years. The number of teams participating will be determined by the number of volunteers who come forward.

A new feature this year will be video questions based on vintage photographs from our archives.

It's all in fun, of course. Members of the winning team get bragging rights for the rest of the year as well as a copy of an all-new publication that will be released by the society during 2018.

Come out, participate or show up to watch and enjoy some laughs. As always, there's no admission charge but donations are appreciated. The Parks and Rec building is located at 7th St. and Lansdale Ave.

Membership Renewal Period Ends January 31, 2018

The membership dues renewal period for 2018 for members of the Society is now in progress.

If you have already renewed, we thank you for your support. If not, the deadline for doing so is January 31, 2018. If you need a renewal form, please call the research center at 215 855-1872. Thank you.

2018 By-Laws Changes

Due to the change of the Society's officers for the 2018 year, it will be necessary to make some changes in our present By-Laws.

These proposed changes will be presented at the January 9, 2018 Community Program. They will be voted on at that time.



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.

Holidays at the Homestead



Photos by Steve Moyer



The Jenkins Family Comes to Pennsylvania

An Early Family History

By CLARENCE KINSEY JR.

The Jenkins Family of Gwynedd and neighboring townships is descended from Jenkin Jenkins, a Welshman, who came to this area about 1729. The family record in an old Welsh Bible which was formerly in the possession of John Jenkins of North Wales shows that Jenkin Jenkins was born in 1659 and died September 15, 1745 at the age of 86. Mary Jenkins, his wife, was born in 1690 and died November 27, 1764 at the age of 74 and their first son, John Jenkins was born on February 15, 1719, married Sarah Hawkesworth and he passed away in 1803. Other children of Jenkin Jenkins included Jenkin Jenkins, Jr. who married Mary Thomas, Mary Jenkins, unmarried, and Elizabeth Jenkins who was born in Hatfield Township and married John Hawkesworth. She died in April 22, 1812.

On November 17, 1730, Jenkin Jenkins purchased 350 acres of land from Joseph Tucker. This land was in what would later become Hatfield and Upper Gwynedd Townships, in Montgomery County, PA. We know that the land reached at least to the Cowpath Road and from the Montgomery Township line running to the road from Lansdale to Colmar (today's present Walnut Street).

Jenkin Jenkins settled on this land, and he was "of Hatfield" when he made his will in 1745, but we do not know the exact location of where he first settled in that township. In 1738 he had previously bought, from the proprietaries, the Penns, 357 acres of land on the Conestoga Creek in Earl Township, Lancaster County. These lands closely adjoined the Welsh settlers of Caernarvon and Brecknock Townships. As there were families with the name of Jenkins among them, it is likely that they may have been kinsman, and that Jenkin may have come over from Wales with some of those settlers—their arrival being about 1729 also.

John was the only son of Jenkin Jenkins that had a son who married and carried on the Jenkins family name. His brother Jenkin had no married son. John was a prominent and useful citizen and was assessor of Gwynedd Township as mentioned in the 1776

tax list. John inherited about 220 acres of his family's land that covered approximately the area between Line Street, Cowpath Road and Walnut Street to approximately the Upper Gwynedd Township line. He bought land in Gwynedd Township in 1746 that adjoined Lansdale and at that time built a log cabin on the site of the present Jenkins Homestead. The first part of the present homestead was added to the cabin in the 1770s as the family grew and needed a larger house. The Revolutionary War intervened and the second section of the house was completed about 1787 after the old log cabin was torn down.

John died in 1803 and had eight children: Levi, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, John Jenkins II, Anna and Jesse.

John Jenkins II then occupied the Homestead. He was born in 1742 in Hatfield Township and died in July 13, 1805. He and his wife, Elizabeth Walker Lukens had six children. Elizabeth was born in 1751 and died November 30, 1843. She lived in the "Mansion" for 67 years until her death. Their six children were John III, Edward, Owen, Jesse, Sarah and Elizabeth.

John Jenkins III occupied the Homestead next and it remained in the family until about 1871 when it was sold. John was born August 5, 1783 in Gwynedd Township and died October 5, 1880. He married Ann Todd, who was born September 28, 1784 and died August 18, 1865. He and his wife had six children: Naomi, Charles, Ann, Silas, John and Milton.

When the house was sold, the Jenkins family was no longer involved with the property. It had numerous residents over the years and eventually was converted into apartments. It was going to be torn down but, at the request of a group of Lansdale residents who formed the Lansdale Historical Society, it was purchased by the Borough and the society started the restoration of the property.

Remaining Tuesday Evening Programs

This month's Jenkins Journal has articles on both our January and February 2018 programs.

The remaining programs for our 2017-2018 year are as follows:

March 13, 2018 **Lansdale Baseball History** This program will be presented by Ronald Ziegler and will cover Non-school teams from the 1880s to the 1940s era and will include information on Lansdale's semi-professional team.

April 10, 2018 **Annual Awards Banquet** at the William Penn Inn with 6:00 P.M. Cocktails (Cash Bar) and 7 P.M. Dinner.

May 8, 2018 **Lansdale's Memorial Park History and Veterans Killed in Action** from World War I through the Vietnam conflict. This Memorial Day month's program will recognize those heroes from the past and will be presented by Marsha Althouse and Dick Shearer.

The March and May programs will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7th Street and Lansdale Avenue in Lansdale and begin at 7:30 P.M. All members and non-member are invited and there is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

In case of inclement weather, program cancellations will be announced on radio station WNPV, 1440 AM

Lansdale Historical Society 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA



The Jenkins Historic Complex

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