



Jenkins Journal

Newsletter of the Lansdale Historical Society

December, 2020

Bill Henning to assume presidency

The Society will see a change at the top in 2021.

Bill Henning, Lansdale Borough Councilman and life-long resident of the town, has been selected as our next president beginning March 1. He will succeed Dick Shearer, who has held the position 18 of the last 20

years.

“It’s time for new blood,” said Shearer, who will remain on the Society’s Board of Trustees as second vice president and fill the newly-created position of Historian.

“I indicated last year that this would be my last term as president, and for

once I stuck to my guns. I’m at the age (75) where handling all of the responsibilities involved in the presidency are a little too much. The Society needs new ideas, new energy and a leader who can help us carry our mission going forward. Bill is the

(Continued on page 2)

Heebner thresher donated to Society

Thanks to the generosity of Ken and Carol Steigelman, the Society has been gifted with an original Heebner & Sons “Pennsylvania” thresher.

It had been stored in Ken’s recently demolished barn on Route 309 in Hilltown Township.

The Pennsylvania thresher was a centerpiece of the Heebner’s business, which in the late 1800s was the world’s largest manufacturer of horse-powered farm equipment. Heebner’s plant was located on South Broad Street at the railroad crossing, now the site of the Mr. Tire Auto Service Center.

This is an extremely important acquisition for us because the Heebner Agricultural Works and the Heebner family provided the jobs and community leadership Lansdale needed in its early years. It’s a treasure that belongs here where it was built.

In many cases, the Pennsylvania thresher was powered by a gasoline engine but it could be modified to use water, steam or horse power to run it. It could be set up to process wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, corn and almost anything else that might be grown on a farm.

As you can see, the thresher is in need of restoration which we hope to

(Continued on page 2)



A PENNSYLVANIA model thresher manufactured by the Heebner & Sons Agricultural Works is now in storage at Raymond Walton’s farm pending restoration.

Membership reminder: Time for 2021 dues

It’s that time of the year when we come to you, our loyal members, to submit your annual dues.

The year 2020 has been a tough one for all of us. The coronavirus pandemic took a big toll on the Society’s ac-

tivities since March when we had to cancel all of our outreach efforts, including our very popular Community Programs, presentations to schools, fraternal groups, retirement

(Continued on page 3)

Seigelmans' gift brings thresher back to Lansdale

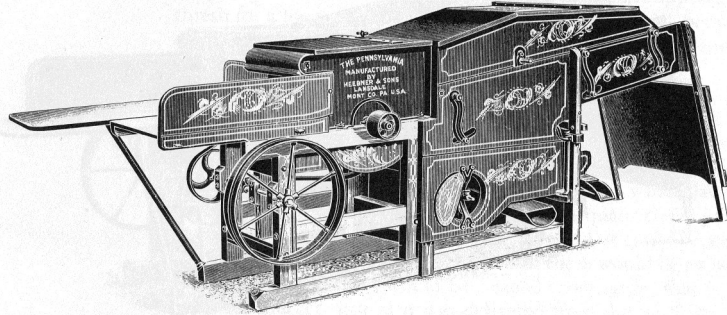
(Continued from page 1)

begin as soon as funds permit. In the near future we will launch a fund-raising campaign to make these repairs. Details will be provided in our next newsletter.

The thresher is in temporary storage now as we search for a permanent location in town to display it.

In addition to the Steigelmans, our thanks go out to Bill Henning (who coordinated the move), Harry Henning III, Walt Herbine, Trustee Emeritus Raymond Walton, Hartland Demolition and the crew from Bob's Automotive Clinic (for use of their roll-up truck).

HEEBNERS' "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER.



THE HEEBNER "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER AND CLEANER, as a plain barn-floor machine. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc. Weight, 1,050 lbs.

Bill Henning to assume presidency in 2021

(Continued from page 1)

perfect choice for that.”

Henning is perhaps best known for his association with his family's business, Henning's Model Trains, but he is active on many other community fronts, including Boy Scouts, Discover Lansdale, the Freight House Restoration Project, the Lansdale 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee and countless others.

(Columns from both Bill and Dick will appear in the next issue of the Jenkins Journal.)

First Vice President Clarence Kinsey will remain in that position, heading the photographic preservation effort and serving as administrative assistant to Henning.

Shearer will concentrate on local historic research, overseeing the

Society's Facebook page, and assisting with preparations for the Society's 50th anniversary in 2021 and the borough celebration in 2022.

Secretary Janice Bennett and Treasurer Anne Scheuring will remain in those positions for the coming year.

There is a change among the trustees where Frank Krimm will move to trustee emeritus status, joining

Raymond Walton. His place on the board will be filled by Marsha Alt-house, a volunteer researcher, program presenter and resident of Lower Gwynedd.

The remaining trustees –Chris Cooke, Marti Drumheller, Linda Evans, Ruth Madison, Steve Moyer and Pat Rieker – will return for another term.

Virus alert: Call first before visiting

Because of the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, the Society's hours of operation may change if conditions warrant.

We are currently open Wednesdays and Thursdays 11am-3pm,

and Saturdays 9:30am-noon. Tours of the Jenkins Homestead are available to groups of four or fewer. Masks are required.

We recommend you call us at (215) 855-1872 before stopping in.

Lansdale Historical Society

is a 501c3 registered non-profit organization.

137 Jenkins Avenue
Lansdale, PA 19446

Phone: (215) 855-1872

Email: info@lansdalehistory.org

Website: www.lansdalehistory.org

Facebook: Facebook/Lansdale Historical Society



The Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

are open to the public
Wednesdays-Thursdays 11 am-3 pm
Saturdays 9:30 am-noon.

(Masks required. Homestead tours limited to parties of four)

There is no charge for tours of the 1770 homestead. Charges may apply for research projects.

Register status sought for rail station



Society to underwrite cost of applications for 1903 depot

Without the railroad, Lansdale likely would not have developed into a flourishing borough and the centerpiece of the region. Yet, surprisingly, this fact has never received state or national recognition.

Difficult as it is to believe, our passenger station, which has seen millions of passengers pass through it, has never been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, an oversight the Society hopes to rectify in time for Lansdale's 150th anniversary celebration in 2022.

The board of trustees unanimously voted earlier this year to contract with Mid-Atlantic Historic Preservation Services to gather information and file the necessary paperwork with the state Historical Commission as the first step in applying for the National Register.

Mid-Atlantic is headed by David Kimmerly, recipient of the LHS Historical Achievement Award in 2015. He is a resident of Oak Park and was responsible for placing that development on the National Register some years ago.

The present station was constructed in 1903 when it became necessary to split the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad's passenger and freight operations into separate buildings. The present exterior appearance of the passenger station remains basically unchanged over

the decades although a major restoration project in the 1990s was needed to bring back the structure's original luster.

It remains one of the busiest stops on SEPTA's commuter network.

Lansdale's first station, likely built in the mid-1850s, wasn't much more than a trackside shelter. It was replaced in 1868 with a more substantial wooden structure that included an indoor passenger waiting room and

separate section to handle freight. It was torn down in a matter of days when the 1903 station was ready to open.

Kimmerly is also working with Discover Lansdale to file qualifying paperwork on the freight house in hopes of placing it on the National Register at a future date. The two stations cannot be considered in a combined application because they do not physically adjoin each other.

Dues essential to Society's efforts

(Continued from page 1)

communities and various other organizations.

The pandemic also forced us to close our research center to the public and discontinue public tours of the Jenkins Homestead for most of the year. Plans for major LHS presence at the annual Lansdale Founders Day events were also scuttled.

Fortunately, by imposing COVID safety precautions, we were able to continue a number of research projects conducted by our volunteers.

On the other hand, because of the cancellations, incoming revenue was minimal during 2020, forcing us to dip into our reserves to pay routine bills that didn't stop because of the virus.

That's why your dues are especially important this year. We hope to re-

sume some, if not all, of our outreach efforts during 2021. If we can cover our operational costs with membership renewals, we can direct other donations to outreach and special projects like the thresher restoration and the cost of applying for National Register status for the passenger station.

We have not raised the cost of dues. They still start at \$20 for individuals and, of course, we encourage you to donate at a higher level of giving. **Please fill out the membership form enclosed with this newsletter and return it by January 31.**

Also, please consider an end-of-the-year financial gift to the Society, as many of you have done it the past. Every dollar helps us preserve the North Penn area's past for future generations to enjoy.

All Lansdale Staunch in Support of "Community Christmas" Plans

Townfolk Give Unstintedly to Assure Borough-Wide Distribution of Yuletide Spirit—Monster Community Tree Will Be Illuminated Tomorrow Night

ENTIRE TOWN GIVES UNRESERVEDLY TO FUND

Women Put Aside Personal Xmas Duties to Assist Ex-Service Men in Making Christmas a Bit More "Christmasy" for Some

GIFTS GALORE at the REXALL STORE

You will find in our huge stock many things that will solve the gift problem. Call and inspect our display of

- Stationery
- Cameras
- Safety Razors
- Thermos Bottles
- Perfume
- Fountain Pens

Full line of Xmas Cards and Booklets.

FOR "HER" GIFT

Nothing you can give will convey as much tender thoughtfulness for "Her" pleasure as a box of candy. Of course the kiddies as well as mother and father will enjoy a box of



- Whitman's Sampler, \$1.50 a box.
- Whitman's Chocolate Covered Nuts, \$1.50 a box.
- Whitman's Superb Chocolates \$1.25 a box.
- Whitman's Fussy Chocolates \$1.50 a box.
- Whitman's Chocolate Covered Creams, \$1.25 a box.
- Whitman's Chocolate Covered Cherries, 79c a box.
- Whitman's Assorted Chocolates, 59c a box.

Give "Him" a Fountain Pen
"Lucky Curve" Parker Pens are among the best. We have them from \$2.50 to \$10.00.

Freeman's Pharmacy

The Rexall Store
400 West Main Street, Lansdale

Christmas in Lansdale 1920

Outline of "Community Christmas" Plans

- Christmas Eve—First lighting of "Community Christmas Tree" at Hotel Tremont lawn.
- Christmas Eve—Distribution of Christmas baskets in homes of the borough by women of Lansdale in conjunction with ex-service men.
- Christmas Morning (9 o'clock)—Exercises at "Community Tree", preceded by singing of carols on streets by chorus directed by Miss Ellen Geller.
- Christmas Morning (9:30 o'clock)—"Kiddies" given automobile ride. Start from Main and Broad streets.
- Christmas Week—"Community Tree" lighted nightly until New Year's.

"COMMUNITY TREE" EXERCISES

The following is the program for the exercises at 9 o'clock Christmas morning at the "Community Tree" on the Hotel Tremont lawn:

- Invocation—Rev. William H. Kauler.
- Christmas Carol—Directed by Miss Ellen Geller.
- Christmas Greetings—Dr. H. O. Williams.
- Carol—By Chorus.
- Memorial Remarks—Charles W. McGinnis.
- Gifts to "Kiddies"—Santa Claus.
- 9:30—"Kiddies" auto ride.

Gifts for every automobile owner

Something for the automobile makes an appropriate and thoroughly useful gift for every car owner. Stop in and talk it over with us.

- BUICK CARS
- REO SPEED WAGON (Commerical Truck)
- DAY-ELDER TRUCKS (Worm Gear)
- OVERLAND CARS
- Rex Tops for Buick Cars
- Anchor Tops for All Popular Models of Pleasure Cars

Dresher Motor Company

17 WEST MAIN STREET, LANSDALE



Footwear as Gifts

ARE ESPECIALLY ACCEPTABLE

Few gifts are more welcome than a pair of shoes or slippers. That boy will be delighted with a pair of rubber boots.

Our Line of Shoes for the Whole Family

is complete. If you do not know the size, get an old shoe and bring it to our store. If they do not fit the recipient, we will gladly exchange them.

A Merry Christmas for His Feet

If you are looking for a present for a man—young, old, or middle-aged, take it from us that you can give him nothing that will please him more than a selection from our stock of julets and house slippers. Comfort at home is the one thing that appeals most strongly to the male sex.

We have slippers for mother, too, and a wide selection of fancy footwear for the daughter.

Prettier things in footwear were never seen.

Ask to see our slippers for the little folks.

THE MOST INTERESTING THING

about our line of footwear is the price. We bought early and through our advantageous connection with the wholesale markets we are able to offer you quality shoes at low prices.

OUR REPAIR DEPARTMENT

can be relied on for first-class work. If you repair your own shoes we will furnish you with the findings.

SAM FRUIT

WEST MAIN STREET

LANSDALE

The Christmas Store

SENSIBLE GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT AFTER CHRISTMAS PRICES

We are not waiting until after Christmas to reduce the prices of our superb line of wearing apparel for the whole family. You can buy your gifts at our store at

REAL ECONOMY PRICES

The time has arrived to select our gifts for our relatives and friends. Clothing has always been regarded as the most appropriate Christmas gift. In these Re-Adjustment days we should be careful to give gifts that will be useful. You will find that your Christmas gift fund will go further if you make your purchases at our store. We have not purchased a large lot of high-priced merchandise for the holiday season, but suggest that you buy from our regular stock of high-grade wearing apparel.

LUCKY PURCHASE SPECIALS

- We had the opportunity to make several real good purchases. They have arrived and here are the prices:
- Women's Almond Dress \$9.95
- Up-to-date styles, worth \$20.00.
- Attractive slip dress \$2.95
- Worth \$8.00 each.
- Coquette and Dressing Gown \$3.95
- Robe night, worth \$2.50 and \$1.50.
- Leather "Pine and Mixed Color" set \$9.50
- \$25.00 worth with large collar.
- Men's Blue Serge and Mixed Suite set \$15.00
- Ready made dress.
- Men's All-wool \$20.00 Overcoat at \$15.00
- All-wool and Overcoat \$8.95
- Ready made double.
- Men's \$10.00 Fur Coat \$3.95
- Lined and unlined.
- Men's \$10.00 Trousers shirt at \$1.50
- Many patterns, all sizes.
- Coquette and Jersey Wool dress \$1.50
- Ready made yellow.
- Men's Heavy Machine-made \$11.95
- Regular \$18.00 value.
- Ready made dress.

WE WILL BE GLAD TO CASH YOUR XMAS SAVINGS CLUB CHECKS

FREE CASHBACK TO LANSDALE ON PURCHASES OF \$10 OR OVER



STORE OPEN EVERY EVENING AND ALL DAY WEDNESDAY

OPENING OF TOYLAND

Santa Claus Has Arrived at the KEISER STORE, LANSDALE

He brought with him a plentiful supply of anything and everything to delight the children on Christmas morning. Toys are here in abundance. We had Old Santa to bring us a larger supply of toys than ever, and he did as we bid him

IN OUR TOYLAND

you will find games, drums, guns, mechanical toys, animals, rattles, and everything to make the little heart glad.

THOSE BEAUTIFUL DOLLS

are here galore. With eyes so bright, that close at night, and hair all curled in ringlets tight. Her smile, so gay, shows me the way to be real happy every day. There are dolls here for babies dear, his knobby they'll stand without a fear. Lands far away send dollies gay, come see them all in grand array.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

we have a large line of books. For a real gift to a child or friend or simply a remembrance, nothing can equal a book.

OUR STOCKS ARE NOW COMPLETE—COME EARLY AND GET GOOD SELECTIONS

KEISER'S VARIETY STORE

OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL XMAS

Main and Green Streets

Lansdale, Pa.

AFTER ALL—IT'S THE ORNAMENTS THAT MAKE A TREE

Trim your tree artistically with those bright, dazzling and scintillating Christmas tree ornaments—that sparkle and dance as they reflect the joy of Christmas—and the happiness of your Christmas is assured.

Our supply of tree ornaments is the largest in town—and the largest we've ever had, as well. Come and see them. Prices range from a few cents up.

CANDY FOR CHRISTMAS

We are ready now—with a large assortment of candy. Our standard, persistent effort has been rewarded. From the lower priced candies to the higher priced box candies you will find quality and goodness.

IN OUR VARIED STOCK

you will find many more articles suitable for gifts. If you do not visit the Variety Store while on your shopping tour, you will be acting against the best interests of your pocketbook.