

Jenkins Journal

Newsletter of the Lansdale Historical Society

January-March, 2023

Society awarded preservation grant

Funds earmarked for newspapers

By PAT RIEKER

With an eye to the future, the Lansdale Historical Society is making strides to preserve our area's history for future generations.

One of the most important archives entrusted to our care includes copies of *The Reporter* (*North Penn Reporter*, *Lansdale Reporter*) from its inaugural issue in 1870 until the present.

Part of the collection is already preserved on microfilm, but a significant number of issues exist only on paper. It's essential that these papers be preserved in a more permanent form.

To that end, we are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Historical and Archival Records Care Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The grant, in the amount of \$5,000, will be used to convert some of our newspaper records from delicate paper copies to microfilm.

Backstage Library Works of Bethlehem, will make the conversions this spring. This grant is an important first step in preserving all our paper

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THIS 1952 Reporter's ragged edges show the need to reproduce newspapers for archival purposes.

Papers will be available to all

By PAT RIEKER

One of the treasures of our historical archive is the entire collection of *The Reporter* (*Lansdale Reporter*, *North Penn Reporter*) from the first edition in 1870. Our goal is to make this archive accessible to all who would like to read it.

We have recently entered into an agreement with newspapers.com to publish our copies of *The Reporter* on their website. We have al-

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Bailey paintings given refreshing

Our collection of historical artifacts includes a number of paintings by local artists.

Four of these paintings garnered very little notice until recently. The paintings have been on display in the Jenkins Homestead for decades but

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'Survivor' tells her Titanic tale at Spring Tea

The Lansdale Historical Society will present its 12th annual Spring Tea on Saturday, April 22.

High tea will be served at 11 am at Lansdale Borough Hall, 1 Vine St. Lansdale's own Chef Chipper of AAA Caterers will serve the luncheon meal. Doors open at 10:30 am.

This year's program, *Tea Time on the Titanic*, will feature Alisa Dupuy who will act the part of a survivor of the ill-fated steamship. Ms. Dupuy, a retired school teacher and resident of Bucks County, is the owner of The Ladies of History Historical Productions. Founded in 2006, the company produces one-woman reenactments of the lives of notable women from different eras of history. Ms. Dupuy's productions have received critical acclaim as "hugely entertaining enactments."

We hope you'll join us, and bring a friend or two, for a delicious luncheon followed by an entertaining historical program. You'll also be eligible for a door prize, and be able to take a chance or two on some valuable gift baskets.

Tickets are still \$35, and must be purchased in advance at Lansdale Historical Society. For more information call (215) 855-1872.

Lansdale Historical Society

12th Annual Tea

Tea Time on the Titanic

Historical actor Alisa Dupuy will perform the role of a survivor of the ill-fated steamship.



Lansdale Borough Hall

One Vine Street - Lansdale, PA

Saturday - April 22, 2023 at 11:00am

*By Reservation only, from Lansdale Historical Society
137 Jenkins Ave, Lansdale - 215-855-1872*

Paintings by Lansdale artist restored by Steve Moyer

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they are small and easy to overlook. We recently discovered that the artist who painted this little artistic quartet is none other than Albert Rue Bailey, one of Lansdale's finest artists.

Those who attended our Founders' Day Art Show last August will remember our display of Bailey's works. Albert

Rue Bailey (1882-1951) was a native of Philadelphia. He later moved to Lansdale where he lived on East Fifth Street. He began his career as a commercial artist and sign painter, and later became a fine artist, creating both landscapes and still lifes in oils. Society Trustee Steve Moyer has painstakingly restored

the four small oil paintings in our collection. Steve's work revealed the vibrant colors and depth of field of these tiny treasures. The four Bailey paintings are on display in the upstairs hallway and in Elizabeth Jenkins' bedroom in the Jenkins Homestead. We hope you'll stop by to enjoy them.

- Pat Rieker

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 to 3 pm
Saturdays 9:30 am to noon.

There is no charge for tours of the homestead and research center but a fee may apply for research projects. Donations are always appreciated.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS RETURNING

Series opens February 7 with glimpses of Lansdale on film

The society resumes its Community Programs series Tuesday, February 7 with "Vintage Videos," filmed images of life in the North Penn area during the early and mid-20th century.

The show will feature a 1965 TV special produced by Channel 6 which highlights activities, personalities and scenes throughout Lansdale. It was part of a series of a 30-minute "Our Towns" programs narrated by newsman John Raleigh.

In addition, long-time Lansdale Theatre projectionist John Comfort pieced together a number silent film shorts that include a parade for returning World War I veterans in Kulpsville, autos being serviced at the Dresher Garage (now the Dresher Arcade), and Fairmount firemen responding to a call.

Also included will be a 1914 promotional film made for the Lehigh Valley Transit Co., the trolley line that ran from Philadelphia to Allentown. In it, a just-married couple goes on their honeymoon riding a trolley through the suburban countryside, including a trip down Lansdale's Main Street.

The program begins at 7 pm at Lansdale Borough Hall.

There is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

Bad weather?
In the event of inclement weather, call our answering machine (215) 855-1872, or check our Facebook page for news of postponements.



RACING DOWN MAIN STREET on their way to a fire are members of the Fairmount Company in this 1919 silent movie produced by former Lansdale Theatre projectionist John Comfort.

More shows set for March, May

MARCH: Dive into history

On Tuesday, March 14 our program is entitled "Deep Dive: Origins of Some Iconic Buildings". We'll be looking back at the origins of places such as the Tremont and Music Hall in Lansdale, Zieber's (West Point) Park, and the William Penn Inn. See pictures of the early days and learn the history behind our local favorites.

Bill Henning will also relate the history of Henning's Trains. All Community Programs are held at Lansdale Borough Hall at 7 pm.

MAY: Montco in Revolution

"Montgomery County in the Revolutionary War" is the topic of our May 11 program, featuring Michael Jesberger, historical reenactor, lecturer and tour guide.

He will be presenting an educational program about the common soldiers who fought in the American Revolution and the various incidents that took place in Montgomery County and the surrounding Philadelphia region.

(Please note that this program is on a Thursday.)

Don't forget us! Have you paid your dues?

Just in case you forgot, 2023 membership renewals are due now.

To those of you who paid promptly, we thank you. To those who haven't, you're delinquent (and we mean that in the nicest terms).

Seriously, annual dues are very important to us. Every dollar we receive goes toward meeting our operating costs. We have not

increased our membership fees which start at a very low \$20, but we encourage you to donate at a higher level. (\$25 per couple, \$40 for Patrons, \$55 for Sustaining). Lifetime memberships are available for those over age 55 at \$300 for singles and \$500 for a couple.

Pay in person at the Research Center or by mail at Lansdale Historical Society, 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.



SHEILA SCHIEDEL and Bill Henning are dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cratchet for the Holiday Open House.

Even Scrooge liked Open House

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was the theme for the society's annual Holiday Open House held Saturday, December 3.

More than 80 area residents turned out to see the Jenkins Homestead decorated in Victorian style with

members of the society dressed as characters from the Dickens tale.

A good time was had by all. Even our Ebenezer Scrooge (Dick Shearer) enjoyed the event and left without uttering a single "humbug".

Preservation grant coming

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copies of *The Reporter*. When the work is completed, we will be one step closer to our goal of submitting all our issues of *The Reporter* to newspapers.com for permanent searchable storage. We are grateful to our Trustee Emeritus, Ray Walton, for his generosity in providing additional funds to supplement the grant, allowing us to preserve more issues of the newspaper.

Newspapers will become searchable

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ready shipped our microfilm copies of issues from 1870-1896 to newspapers.com for publication, and they should soon be available to those who subscribe to their website.

Additional issues will be added in the near future. You will still be able to access all the issues of *The Reporter* at our research center without purchasing a subscription to newspapers.com.



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137 Jenkins Avenue
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