



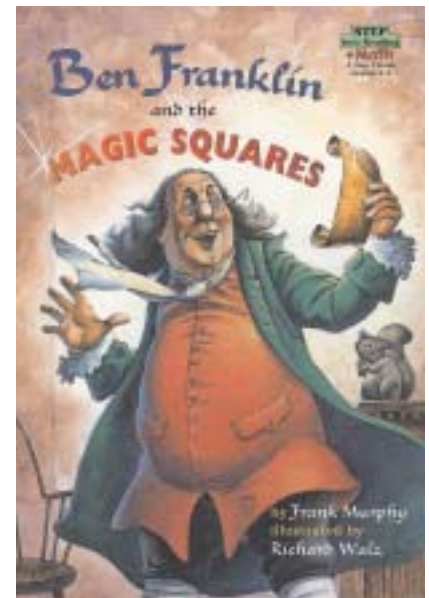
HISTORIA

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2001

AUTHOR FRANK MURPHY TO LEAD SOCIETY MEMBERS ON A MERRY CHASE OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA AT OUR NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING



JOIN US FOR DINNER AT 6 PM WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14th THE PROGRAM STARTS AT 7:30 PM

Local children's author, Frank Murphy, is a second grade teacher in the Council Rock School District. He was motivated to start writing when he noticed a huge void in children's literature regarding books for girls and female heroes. This led him to search for interesting stories about women in history and eventually expanded to include stories about all kinds of historical figures. He has found ideas for stories on coins, in buildings, and in old, dusty books.

He found the story that inspired *The Legend of the Teddy Bear* on the back of a postcard and chased after it for two and a half years, before locating enough information to write the legend. Frank lives in Warrington with his wife Debbie. When he isn't busy teaching or writing, he chases after his two sons, Griffin and Chase. . . yes, that's right, Chase! Autographed copies of his books *The Legend of the Teddy Bear* and *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares* will be available for sale after Frank's program.

We urge parents to bring their children to hear Frank Murphy talk about chasing ideas for his books. He is an enthralling, enthusiastic speaker who will be enjoyed immensely by both young and old. Children MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult. Non-members are invited to attend this interesting program free of charge. If you are joining us for dinner we ask you to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish to share. Dinner starts at 6 PM and the program at 7:30 PM.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

My husband and I have just returned from wandering the beautiful streets of Charleston, South Carolina. On our way home, we stopped at Cape Hatteras and walked the beach. He fished while I enjoyed the warm ocean breezes. It was a very peaceful and relaxing trip.

It's autumn now, and the leaves are a tapestry of color. Cool, crisp, and a time when I love cooking new dishes, fixing up our home, and enjoying the planet.

On November 12th we will be observing Veterans Day. Please remember those who have served and those who continue to serve in our armed forces.

I hope that many of you are able to view the moving of the Spread Eagle Inn.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our November dinner meeting. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year.



**LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE
SAVING THE 20TH CENTURY IN
BUCKS COUNTY**

by **Betty Luff**

Our president, Mary Seader, and I spent a most enjoyable day on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at the Mercer Museum Elkins Gallery.

All Bucks County's historical societies were invited to get together and exchange newsletters and set up displays. The purpose was to urge people to collect artifacts from our more recent past, Bucks County's 20th Century. Discussions and workshops on collecting and preservation issues were topics of the day.

Carol Kammen, Cornell University History professor, was a keynote speaker. She was so interesting Mary and I chose to sit in on one of her workshops.

I especially enjoyed chatting, over lunch, with three members from the Upper Makefield Historical Society. Many expressed the hope that this conference would become a yearly event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10, 11 - 9 AM - 3 PM

Spread Eagle Item Sale
Haist Barn - Hatboro and Pulinski Roads

November 14 - 6:00 PM

Northampton Township Historical Society
Dinner Meeting
Program: Children's Author, Frank Murphy

Around November 14 - Spread Eagle Move

November 29 - 7:30 PM

Committee for Historic Preservation
Township Building

**The Spread Eagle Inn
About to Take a Trip**

If you have driven through Richboro lately you can't help but notice that the Spread Eagle Inn is undergoing big changes in preparation for it's move later this month. The newer additions at the back were removed and huge steel beams and wheels will be positioned under it soon. The path to it's new location, only about 20 feet south and west, will be dug out and it will be "driven" onto its final resting place. Once there, a basement and foundation will be built under it. The expected move date is sometime during the week of our meeting, November 14th. This could slip a little depending on their progress. We have ordered tee shirts and we will be selling them the day of the move. Keep your eyes and ears open for the final move date and join us for the fun!

Thank you for your support to save the inn!



The back of the Spread Eagle Inn, stripped of it's newer additions, awaits preparation for its move about 20 feet to the right and towards you in this picture.

LUFF FAMILY REUNIONS

Compiled by Betty Cornell Luff from actual minutes recorded in 1913 by Mrs. Lida Luff, and passed on to other secretaries for the 30 years that the Luff reunion was in existence. The record of minutes was safely kept by the last secretary, Mrs. Caroline Luff Dougherty.

I often say I'm glad I was born when I was. Today's children have so much more than we did, and yet they seem so bored. Can you imagine the children of today getting excited about a family reunion? I can remember counting the days until such an outing, deciding what to wear and being sure to have those white shoes polished.

I remember writing about the first Luff family reunion for the *Historia* last year. This reunion was held on one of the many farms, which have since disappeared. I was fortunate enough to have access to the secretary's book, which was handed down each year for thirty years, 1913 until 1942.

At the first reunion in 1913, Mr. George Luff of Newtown was elected to the President's chair, and Mrs. Lida Luff of Richboro, was secretary. The president appointed the following members to serve on the Entertainment Committee: Ruth Luff, Newtown; Helen Jamison, Richboro; and Mrs. Lynda Cornell, Holland.

The second Luff reunion was held in 1914 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Luff, now the *Bucks County Courier Times* building, and it is recorded that the day was another ideal one, cool breezes bringing much relief after the excessive heat of the previous week. Tables were arranged on the spacious porch and about seventy-five members were present and partook of a bountiful dinner.

After an hour of socializing, the members assembled for a brief business and literary session. The president called the meeting to order, and all joined in singing "America," after which the minutes were read, officers elected, bills presented" \$8.00 for ice cream, \$2.16 for printing and mailing of invitations. A collection was taken, and \$2.45 remained in the treasury.

Please turn to page 4



Luff reunion in 1931 on the steps of the old Richboro firehouse at 2nd Street Pike and Almshouse Road. This is now the site of the park on the corner.

LUFF REUNIONS *from page 3*



Luff reunion at the home of Ella Raab Luff, August 1937. Now the site of the *Courier Times* property, Township and Almshouse Roads, Richboro.

A phonograph selection was then enjoyed, which was followed by an "address of welcome" by Master Leonard Luff. Mrs. Frank Luff gave a brief history of the Luff family. Master Gerald Luff recited "The Watermillion," which was followed by another phonograph selection, "Wet Weather Talk." Miss Grace Luff gave a recitation entitled "Awful." A humorous reading entitled "Mrs. O'Toole and the Conductor" was given by Mrs. Russell Rittenhouse, after which the singing of "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" concluded the exercises.

The rest of the afternoon was pleasantly spent in games and sport, including a shooting match. After the evening lunch, the guests began to depart, thanking the hosts for a most enjoyable day.

The third Luff reunion was held at the William Jamison farm on Upper Holland Road. It was moved and seconded that the

following year each member of the families would be taxed 10 cents to defray all necessary expenses. A motion was made to dispense with ice-cream hereafter, as it taxed the members too heavily. However, it is recorded in the minutes of the 1916 reunion, that it was moved and seconded that ice-cream be served again at the following year's reunion. The bills presented at this reunion included \$1.50 for printing, \$1.25 for chairs, \$1.00 for dishes, and \$1.50 for help.

The 1917 reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Luff of Newtown. At about 10 o'clock in the morning, family members began to arrive, and soon 77 guests had registered. After the meeting and literary program, the male members took to their automobiles and enjoyed a shooting match on the banks of the Neshaminy. Both dinner and supper were served in the dining room, and all agreed that the members furnished a most appetizing repast.

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Luff Reunions *from page 4*

In 1918, the porch and lawn of the hostess, Mrs. John Tomlinson, were beautifully decorated with flags, potted plants, and flowers. This year 16 ½ quarts of ice-cream cost \$9.08.

In 1929, when Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Luff entertained at the Richboro Fire House, the minutes read as follows: “The morning passed quickly, and dinner was soon announced, to which everyone did justice. Two long tables were filled with the old and young generations,” according to Clara Luff, secretary. Aunt Clara’s minutes the following year read, “The morning did not look very assuring, but as the day passed along, old “sol” made his appearance so the guests could enjoy themselves.”

The 20th annual reunion of the Luff family was held in the form of a picnic at Bryan’s Island, with Mr. and Mrs. William Luff as hosts in 1932.

The 24th reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Luff in 1936. Miss Eleanor Luff, secretary wrote in the minutes, “The weather was unusually warm, despite Friday night’s heavy storm, and 58 relatives gathered for the day. Tables were set in the wagon house, and after dinner, the men pitched quoits and had a lively baseball game.”

1937 marked the 25th year or Silver Anniversary of the Luff reunion, and it was held at the home of Mrs. Ella Raab Luff. Tables were set in the wagon house, which was attractively decorated with blue and silver. Rev. Harold Klein and his family were guests.

The 30th and last Luff reunion was held at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Luff in Wrightstown in 1942. As always, over the many years, the meeting opened with the singing of “America,” and was adjourned with the family singing, “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds.” It was thought best the reunion be cancelled in 1943 because of gas rationing, and they were never continued again after World War II.



Postcards were sent out each year reminding family members of the reunion.

PROSE POEM – HOPE ALIVE

dedicated to Betty Luff

Schoolhouse – Standing
Square, sturdy, stone
tinged with brown of aging.

Yellow tape screaming
“Keep out!”
What crime has been committed?

Citizens become suddenly alert –
Are we to lose another vestige of our history? –
Becoming dust of demolition.

Meetings called; discussion
of possible plans
for preservation of a loved remnant.

Actions proposed:
Move the school to the back of the property
— a definite, unanimous, NO!
This building stands proud
almost daunting, in its elementary stark stone.
Walk inside – hear the echoes of children’s voices –
determined become the voices of protest

Would that change to a
caring – a cooperation –
a moving toward real community –
an amicable relationship

Hope coming alive!

Redesign the placement of buildings
use the school house as a *prime* attraction;
to become a standing legacy
for all who pass by.
A real *investment* in history,
As a *dividend* invaluable
between community and *commerce*.

The Return: Pride in Place
(let the renovation progress!)

by Dottie Glessner

**WISHING YOU ALL A
GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!
SEE YOU IN 2002!**

PRESENTING YOUR OFFICIERS FOR 2002

PRESIDENT – Mary B. Seader



Mary Seader has served as your president the past two years. Prior to that, she served as NTHS's vice president for two years. Community involvement is important to her, and she loves working with people. She has enjoyed seeing positive change come about through the efforts of the Historical Society.

Mary was born and raised in New York City. She is one of six children and has fond memories of spending her summers in the family's old farmhouse in Dingman's Ferry. She attended Queen's College and graduated from St. John's University in New York with a degree in elementary education.

She and her husband, Bob, have lived in the area for 28 years. Mary has always been active in the community and has taught CDC religious education classes, was involved with Richboro's 4-H organization for nine years, and served as vice-president and president of Richboro Elementary's PTO as well as their Ways and Means chairperson. She is also a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to Council Rock School District.

Mary looks forward to continuing to serve NTHS and welcomes the new officers aboard as the society takes new steps forward in its mission to emphasize the importance of preserving our past.

TREASURER – Michael Tomkins



Michael Tomkins, President of *Tomkins Historical Research*, a historical research consulting business, has been participating in historical studies for over a decade. Shortly after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the State University of New York in 1990, he settled in the Delaware Valley area. It was here that he honed his research skills while participating in an array of environmental impact studies throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Michael believes "that every

historic property has contributed in its own way to America's rich cultural history. Although not every property can be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it still deserves a certain degree of historical attention."

Michael joined the Committee to Save the Spread Eagle Inn in February 2000. He is presently a member of the Northampton Township Historical Society's Committee for Historic Preservation, which was an outgrowth of the Spread Eagle Committee. He is currently assisting the committee with the nomination of the Spread Eagle Inn to the National Register.

Michael and his wife Clare have been residents of Northampton Township for the past three years. They have two daughters, Sarah (age 5) and Elizabeth (age 3), who enjoy visiting and participating in the many cultural events throughout Bucks County and the surrounding region.

VICE-PRESIDENT – Debbie Glessner



Debbie Glessner was raised in Shippensburg, PA. where she graduated from Shippensburg State College with a Bachelor's degree in English and Library Science, and a Master's in Communications. She has been a resident of Bucks County since 1970, and of Northampton Township since 1977. Debbie is a library-media specialist at Hillcrest Elementary in the Council Rock School District. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, reading, writing, photography, computer technology, having new adventures, laughing with her friends, and riding her horse, Lark.

Debbie joined NTHS in the fall of 2000. She has been active on the "Committee for Historic Preservation" since its inception in February 2001 and serves as transcribing and corresponding secretary for the committee. She spearheaded the formation of *The X-Squad*, a junior society being sponsored by NTHS (through Northampton Parks and Rec in 2002), for children who wish to explore local history and become involved in their communities. Debbie also participated on the NTHS planning committee for Northampton Days 2001 as well as co-organizing the 2001 National Preservation Week poster contest.

Debbie is eager to serve you as vice-president, believing that while NTHS is dedicated to stewardship in preserving the historical remnants in our community, the organization has an ongoing commitment to increase public awareness, reminding citizens that they have a civic duty to become involved in keeping historic icons alive as functional components of their community.

SECRETARY

As we go to press, the nomination for the position of secretary is still unfilled. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate must verify that the individual being nominated is willing to serve. Likewise, any member who is interested in volunteering his or her time and energy for the position of secretary, please call Mary Seader at 215-355-4467. The position requires attendance at 4 board meetings and 4 general membership meetings and recording minutes for those meetings. It also requires keeping a permanent record of all minutes as well as handling correspondence generated by action taken by the organization. The position is for one year, and is subject to renewal for two more one-year terms contingent on the candidate's willingness to continue service.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

WEBSITE: <http://www.crompton.com/bucks> EMAIL: nths@crompton.com

2001 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mary Seader	355-4467
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Vacant	
Membership	Fred Holzwarth	357-4899
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
Social Committee	Doris D'Ardenne	968-5507
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Director	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	Sydell Gross	322-5547
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Send articles to:	1269 2nd St Pike Richboro, PA 18954	

HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Cultural Center, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** with refreshments, general meeting, and a featured speaker. Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available at our web page.

Meeting Dates for 2001 - 2002

November 14	Dinner Meeting	6:00 PM
March 20	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 29	General Meeting	7:30 PM
Sept 25	General Meeting	7:30 PM
November 20	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

PATRON:	Extra support for the society	\$35.00
FAMILY:	All members of one family	\$15.00
SINGLE:	Adult individual membership	\$10.00
SENIOR CITIZEN:	Age 65 years or older	\$5.00

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2002 (January 2002 to December 2002)

Note - Applications received after October 31 will be credited for the following year.

This application is sent with all editions of the HISTORIA. Please check your mailing label for the expiration year.

Normal renewal time is in the first quarter of the year or when the March HISTORIA is received.

If your membership is current, please pass this application on to others who may be interested in our society.

Please consider a contribution of more than the minimum membership to help defray increasing society costs.

Send to : **Northampton Township Historical Society**
PO BOX 732
Richboro, PA 18954-0732

NAME: _____ SINGLE: FAMILY:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

May we count on you to serve on one of our committees ? : Y____ N____ MAYBE _____

Please give us your ideas for speakers at future meetings : _____

Would you be willing to write an article for the HISTORIA _____

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed : _____