



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1994

## CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND LEGENDS TO BE FEATURED AT COVERED DISH DINNER

The November meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society will again be our annual covered dish dinner. Dinner starts at 6 P.M. The meat dishes, beverages, and rolls will be supplied by the Society board members. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite vegetable, salad or dessert dish. Following the dinner meal we will have a presentation of "Christmas Customs and Legends" by Mrs. Edward Garra. Mrs. Garra has spent her life as a Horticultural consultant and is well known for her talks in that area. Her talk on Christmas will include it's history and how the celebration has changed throughout the years. We will have a business meeting to elect new board members for the positions of President and Treasurer. Final nominations will be taken for these positions We will also seek membership approval for the rescheduling of the Living Tree award ceremony, which will **not** be held in December as previously scheduled. This will be our last meeting and HISTORIA for 1994. By the time you get our next HISTORIA, in March, most of the winter will be over! Please try to attend and **bring a friend**.

**WISHING ALL OF OUR  
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS THE  
VERY BEST FOR THE  
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A  
VERY HAPPY 1995!**

## GEORGE ALSO SLEPT HERE

### Warwick's Niche in History

*Dave Gauntt, President,  
Warwick Township Historical Society*

The once sleepy little Township of Warwick boasts the third longest encampment in the Pennsylvania, of George Washington and his Army - 11,000 strong. This encampment extended into what is now Northampton Township, according to a Philadelphia Bulletin map published in 1967 (see map on page 6). It has been little noted, and less touted, for over two centuries (with the notable exception of a visit by Lafayette in 1825.) Although no battles were fought here, in the thirteen day period of the encampment there were significant and important occurrences.

Rampant development of Warwick Township in Bucks County has brought to light the contrast of the new and the old. As the old goes under the bulldozer, eradicating the former rural landscape, one ancient house, idle and rotting, gives but one clue to its former glory as headquarters of George Washington and his Continental troops- the historic plaque commemorating the encampment of Washington and his Army.

On July 25, 1777, Washington, located near Morristown, New Jersey, received word that the British fleet under General Howe had sailed with about 18,000 men. Howe's strict secrecy about the destination left it a mystery, even to some of his own officers. Washington first guessed that the British were headed up the Hudson to assist General Burgoyne in

*Please turn to page 2*

## GEORGE from page 1

cutting off New England from the southern colonies, but instead the fleet headed out to sea. Even though it seemed odd that the British would subject their troops to the rigors of a sea voyage when an overland march of about 100 miles would suffice, Washington then concluded Philadelphia was the target. The second choice of Charleston, South Carolina was highly likely, and if that were the case, Washington would be free to strike north against Burgoyne.

Washington marched to the Delaware River at what is now New Hope, where on the 30th of July a courier reported that the British fleet had been sighted off Delaware Bay. The next day Washington's troops were ferried across the river and marched down York Road toward Philadelphia. They camped one night at "The Crossroads," now Hartsville, in Bucks County, where Washington stayed at the widow Moland's house. The next day they marched into Philadelphia and camped. By the 8th of August the troops were creating terrible problems by fighting in the streets, taverns, and brothels. They were ripping up fence posts for firewood, and their latrines fouled the air creating "offensive smells" and were in general a "public nuisance". The citizenry was irate and asked Washington to leave, which suited him, since he wanted to be situated in a more strategic position to move north or south as Howe's destination dictated.

On the morning of August 10, he headed back toward Coryell's Ferry (New Hope) again. In the late afternoon, they stopped for dinner at the Crooked Billet tavern in Hatboro, topped off with a fine glass of Madiera wine, as was his custom. They then moved up York Road toward Coryell's Ferry. Upon reaching the Neshaminy Creek, a courier caught up with him and informed him the British Fleet had

been sighted off what is now Ocean City, Maryland. The Commander-in-Chief decided to camp again at the "Crossroads at Neshaminy," at the junction of York Road and Bristol Road in Bucks County. It was a day's ride from Philadelphia, it was open country, with a sparse but friendly, sympathetic population of Scotch-Irish. It had adequate water and bathing facilities in the Neshaminy Creek, and the nearby Moland house was the finest house in the neighborhood, being that of former County and Philadelphia lawyer, councilor and justice, John Moland. The Commander-in-Chief was always well quartered. (Interestingly, the daughters of John Moland were married to fairly high ranking British officers, so he may have chosen the only Tory household in the neighborhood as his headquarters.) With Washington were his aides, and among them, Alexander Hamilton, Charles Coatsworth Pinkney, John Laurens, and Robert Hanson Harrison. Most of these men were children of prominent Colonial patriots.

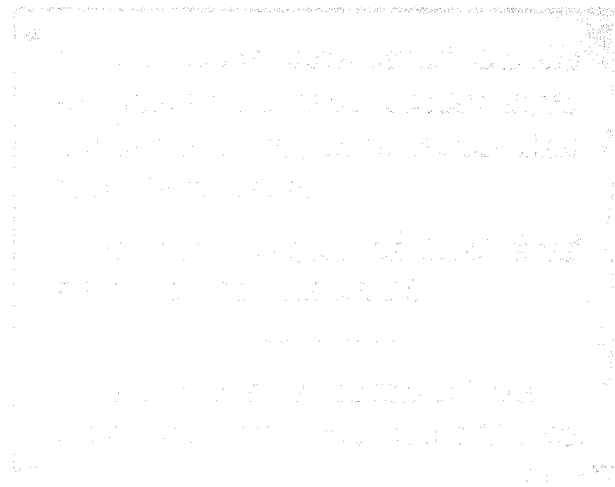
As a result of the mayhem created by his troops in Philadelphia, Washington issued orders from Moland House to all his officers that would establish strict conduct and hygiene standards for American troops until General Winfield Scott wrote the military manual in the mid-nineteenth century. These principles appeared in Washington's writings from his headquarters in Warwick's Moland House.

Joining Washington at this headquarters on August 19th was the young Marquis De Lafayette. Because of his immense fortune and connections as a personal friend of the King and Queen of France, Lafayette had been given the rank of General in the American Army, by an American envoy, Silas Deane, while in France. That didn't fly in this

*Please turn to page 4*



The Moland house as it appeared earlier this century and in far better repair than today.

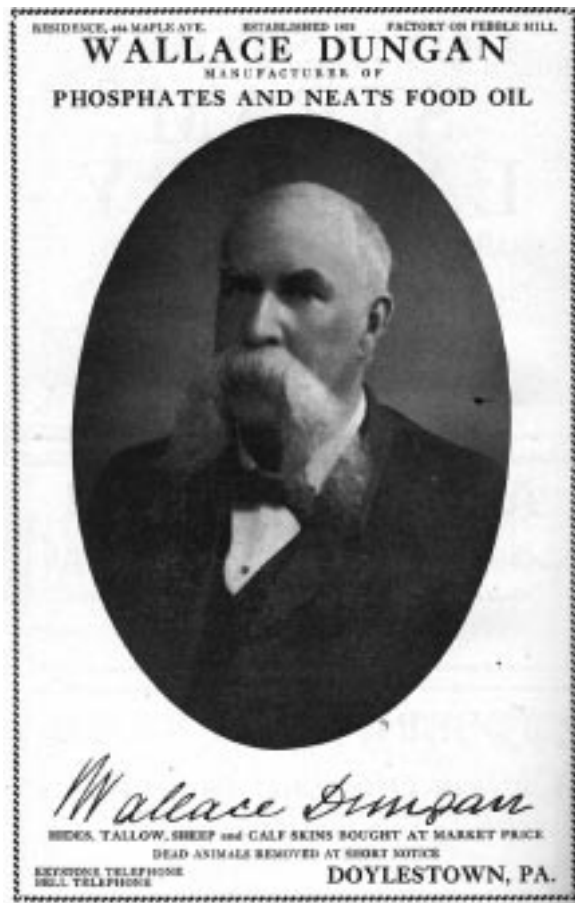


A plaque erected on the wall of the Moland house, seen as dark square in middle left of house picture at left.

## Member News

Adelaide Crompton and Eilene Zolotorofe are enrolled in the Historic Preservation degree course at Bucks County Community College. One of their courses this semester involves the hands on restoration of a spring house at the college.

Diane Amadio was appointed as chairperson of the ways and means committee at our September meeting. The committee will be in charge of organizing events to bolster our treasury in support of



### TELL A FRIEND!

Do you have a neighbor or friend who may be interested in our society? If so please invite them to one of our meetings. I would also like to see more articles from our members for the HISTORIA. Please dig through your old pictures and jot down some notes. I would love to put it together as an article. The pictures will be returned. Also information for the member news column, which gives tidbits on what is happening with our members. Contact me at the address shown in the list of officers.

## NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

The year end marks my last year as your President having served for two terms. I want to thank you all for your support during that time. I plan to take a much needed rest for a few months but I will remain on the board as a director, the usual progression after serving as President.

I am very happy with our new nominees and after the election of the new board at our November meeting I hope that you will give them your full support.

We decided at our October board meeting to postpone the December Living Tree Award meeting until the Spring. The living tree award has traditionally been held in December since it was started by Bob Crompton, our founding President. This time was selected to coincide with the birthday of our township but it has always been a very hard time to coordinate activities and to acquire the needed help. It would also be nice to be able to actually plant the tree and have some or all of the ceremony outside. So given membership approval at our November meeting we will set a date for it in the Spring of 1995.

Our November 16th meeting is our yearly covered dish supper and will start at 6 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert dish. The board and Society will supply the meats and everything else. Dorris D'Ardene, our social committee chairperson, will, as always, be doing a fine job preparing for our meal. Our speaker will be Mrs. Edward Garra, who will talk on "Christmas Legends and Customs".

Looking forward to seeing you on November 16th. If you have any question please feel free to phone me or any member of the board.

Again, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. The first meeting, to organize our Society, was held on September 27, 1973 and drew a crowd of nearly 150. From this meeting we formed our fine Society that has been a part of my life ever since. The Historical Society and it's members will always be very dear to me.

Sincerely,

*Jean P. Gallagher*

## GEORGE from page 2

country, but he was finally given a commission with the conditions of no pay, no command in action, and was not to be senior to other American officers. The day following this action, Lafayette told Washington to please give him a command as soon as he (Washington) thought he was ready. Lafayette accepted his commission while at the widow Moland's house and immediately wrote, his first document in English, to John Hancock, stating he was delighted to join the Army serving at his own expense and at last he felt like an American.

The next day, at Moland, Washington received a letter from Ben Franklin stating that the Marquis was, indeed, well connected in France and did know the King and Queen, and was very wealthy and was in a position to do us a great deal of good and above all to keep him out of harm's way, because his wife just had a child and we don't need this young French Marquis killed in our cause.

Washington knew, however, that Lafayette was itching for a fight. Washington sat down with Lafayette, in or near the Moland house, and had a conversation that Lafayette referred to for the rest of his life as "The Great Conversation." In it Washington said, in effect, that he was not in a position to give him a command yet, but he wanted him to "consider my headquarters your home while you are in our country. And I want you to look on me as your friend and your father." To Lafayette, this was the most decisive moment of his life. Lafayette had never known a father. Suddenly he felt no longer a stranger in a foreign land, but the adopted son of a national hero. He was heavily impressed. A very strong, close relationship that would last their entire lifetimes and "mould the character of one, and add warmth to the cold dignity of the other" started at the Moland house on the Neshaminy Creek what is now Warwick and a Western portion of Northampton townships.

With a letter of introduction from Ben Franklin, Count Pulaski and Baron DeKalb joined Washington at the Neshaminy encampment, on the 21st of August. Washington was not happy to receive another European nobleman looking for glory and demanding command with all the accouterments of royalty, and sent him back to Congress. Fortunately, Congress approved him because within the month, the Count was soon to become an instant General by saving Washington's life in battle.

On the 22nd of August, news that the British fleet was "high up in the Chesapeake" convinced Washington that Philadelphia was, indeed, the target and preparations

were made to move out. Howe's "strange route," as Washington called it, was caused by unfavorable winds driving his fleet south from Delaware Bay. At 4 A.M. on the 23rd, the Army started to move out carrying the "stars and stripes." Unfurled at Moland, in Warwick, it is said to be the first time American troops marched under that banner.

With Washington, on the way to meet the British at Brandywine, were Generals Stirling, Knox, Conway, Greene, Muhlenberg, Putnam, Stephen, Wayne, Maxwell, Weedon, Woodford, Scott, and Conway. With them also were future President, James Monroe, and future Chief Justice, John Marshall. Henry Lee remained behind, however, awaiting Court Martial, at the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church, for desertion. He was cleared.

Lafayette thought so much of Washington and this country that he had a trunkload of American soil poured on his casket when he was buried. In March 1994, a representative of the Warwick Township Historical Society presented a Betsy Ross type American flag to the French in Paris to be exchanged with the existing American flag flying at Lafayette's grave. An American flag has flown at Lafayette's grave since 1834 at the Marquis' request in his will.

And the Moland house? See for yourself - it rots threatened by vandals, the elements, and developers. But there is now a temporary "light at the end of the tunnel." As a result of a long and valiant effort by a small local contingent, the present administration has agreed to condemn the property for park purposes.

We have one year to secure the purchase price of the house and grounds - a preliminary estimate of \$3/4 million. Without those funds, the house will probably be lost. Assuming success in the quest for purchase funds, an equal amount will then be necessary for restoration. To these ends, we would be most appreciative of any help or suggestions anyone can give in acquisition, fund raising, or restoration expertise.

This encampment site has been called the second most important historical site in the County. It is certainly one of the top three. I'm sure you'll agree, the acquisition, restoration, and preservation of this site is a cause, not only of Warwick Township, but of the County, State, and Nation. Interested parties may drop us a line at "Warwick Township Historical Society, PO Box 107, Jamison, PA 18929-0107."



## HISTORIC DISTRICTS READY FOR TOWNSHIP APPROVAL IN WARWICK

Three historic districts have been drawn up, approved by the State Historical Commission, and passed through the Warwick Planning Commission. They will soon be presented to the Warwick Supervisors for their expected approval. Two are situated in and around Hartsville, the encampment area, and one is in the Rushland sector of the Township. An Historic Architectural Review Board and at least two more districts are planned. There are 2,573 townships in Pennsylvania, and only 61 have historic protection. Warwick will soon be the 62nd.

## EIGHT ARCH BRIDGE REPAIR DUE SOON

Approval is expected soon of a request for additional funding for Warwick's 190 year old Eight Arch Bridge. The bid spec for the original grant is still under review at Harrisburg and is expected to be returned by November. The original funds are to be used to "rehab" the downstream side of the bridge, and the additional funds will be used to resurface the porous roadway on, and leading to, the bridge. Work should begin in earnest next spring.

## WARWICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY GET "HOME"

The Warwick Township Historical Society may receive use of part of an historical building near the Eight Arch Bridge if the Township Supervisors' plans are not changed. An anticipated purchase of the house and grounds for Township use promises to benefit the Warwick Historical Commission and the Historical Society by setting aside a portion of the building for historical storage and other organizational uses.

Information from Dave Gauntt, Warwick Historical Society

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Heritage Conservancy

November 17 - 7:30 P.M.  
 Barns of Bucks County  
 Aldie Mansion

November 26,27 - 10 AM - 4 P.M.  
 December 3,4  
 Christmas House at Bolton Mansion

December 4 - 5 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
 Scottish Christmas at Aldie Mansion  
 Benefit dinner - call for tickets

December 6 - 5-8 P.M.  
 Community Night Open house  
 Aldie Mansion

### Mercer and Fonthill

November 18 - 5:30-8 P.M.  
 Yuletide Treats and Trees  
 Opening and gift auction  
 Mercer

November 26 - 11 AM - 1 P.M.  
 Cookbook Recipe Tasting  
 Mercer

December 11 - noon - 4 P.M.  
 Holiday Festivities for the family  
 Moravian Tile works

December 13 - 7-9 P.M.  
 Mercer Museum FREE holiday open house

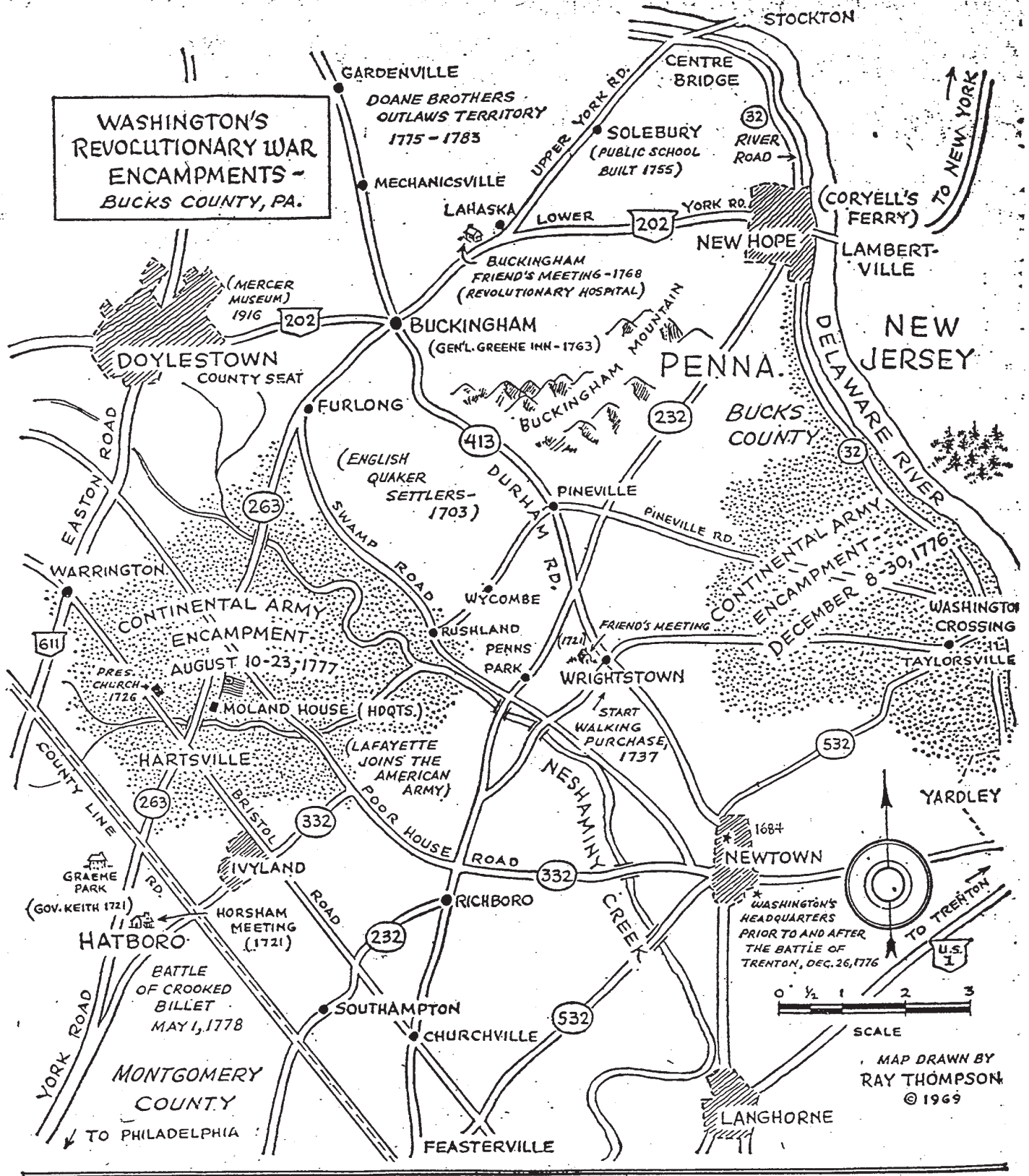
December 14-17 7-9 P.M.  
 Enchanting Holiday  
 Evening tours at Fonthill

### Lower Southampton Historical Society

November 21 - 7:30 P.M.  
 Pennsbury Manor talk and slides

December 19 - 6 P.M.  
 Annual Christmas covered dish  
 RSVP - 357-4784

**PLEASE NOTE - THE N.H.H.S. LIVING TREE AWARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER HAS BEEN POSTPONED**



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PO BOX 732, Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954-0732**

**1994 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

President	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Vice President	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Recording Secretary	Eileen Zolotorofe	598-3065
Treasurer	Florence Leedom	357-3121
Corresponding Sec.	Eleanor Ewing	860-5288
	Joanne Kerridge	355-2193
Director	Bill Blumhardt	357-3260
Director	Chris Fleuhr	355-8712
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
Social Committee	Dorris D'Ardene	968-5507
	Eileen McAdams	364-6924
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. Anyone is welcomed at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 P.M.** with refreshments, general meeting, and a featured speaker.

### Meeting Dates for 1994/95

November 16	Dinner Meeting - 6 P.M.	
	<b>Living Tree Award postponed until spring</b>	
March 22	General Meeting - 7:30 P.M.	
May 24	“ ” “	

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

PATRON:	Extra support for the society	\$25.00
FAMILY:	All members of one family	\$10.00
SINGLE:	Adult individual membership	\$5.00
SENIOR CITIZEN:	Age 65 years or older	\$2.00

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 1995 (January 1995 to December 1995)

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 records to make sure that you have not already paid for the current 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 onto 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 : \_\_\_\_\_