



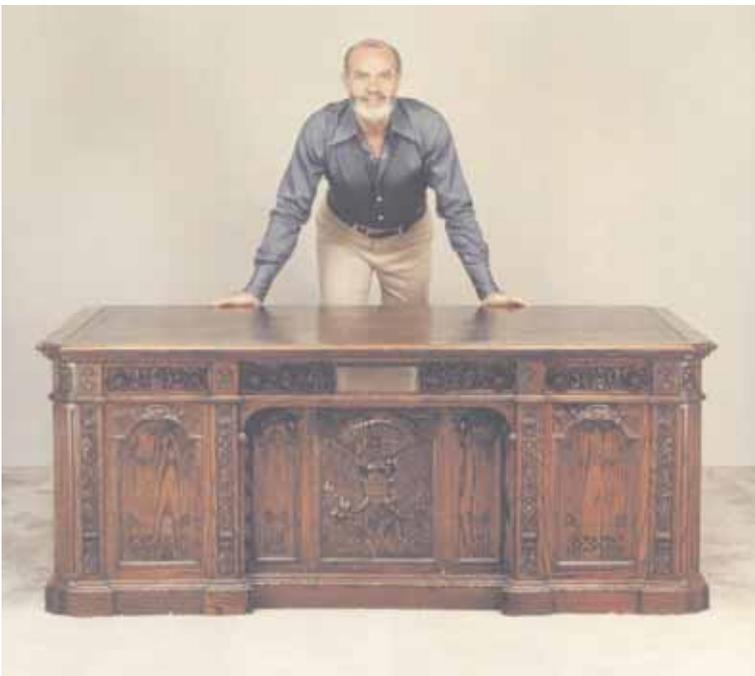
# HISTORIA

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2006

## September meeting will feature renowned artist-cabinet maker Robert Whitley



Bucks Counties Robert Whitley, a world renowned artist-cabinet maker, whose works include restorations of fine antiques, reproductions of others, and original, contemporary furniture will be the speaker at our September meeting. A 20th Century exponent of the American furniture-making heritage that began 200 years ago, Mr. Whitley follows his own family tradition for both his father and grandfather were cabinetmakers as well. While his talent has been honed by their experience, Mr. Whitley inherited more than woodworking expertise. Other legacies included a collection of 18th-Century tools, an extensive library, and a file of both restored and family-designed furniture patterns that, with Mr. Whitley's additions, now numbers over 4,000. His attention to quality begins with the selection of wood. He inherited an initial hardwood inventory from his father and has been adding to it since 1952. Today, he maintains one of the finest stocks of cabinet woods in the country. With the exception of mahogany, much of it is obtained locally. Cut to specification, the wood is air-weathered, then placed in heat-controlled storage rooms and seasoned. Under Mr. Whitley's skilled hands, the wood becomes fine dated-and-signed furniture. In addition to filling commissions for private clients, Mr. Whitley has restored or reproduced antiques for numerous historical societies and museums.

One of Mr. Whitley's more notable assignments was to re-create in oak the presidential desk (shown above) for the Kennedy Library in Boston. The original desk was presented to the American people by Queen Victoria during the Rutherford B. Hayes administration and was made from the timbers of the British vessel the Resolute. Other important commissions have included work for Independence Hall, the Dolley Madison house, Philadelphia's City Tavern, and the Valley Forge Historical Commission.

The meeting will be held for the first time in the new general meeting room of the Northampton Township Library starting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Please bring a friend.

### Welcome to Northampton Days 2006

We hope the new readers of the HISTORIA enjoy this issue. Please consider joining the society which helps to preserve the heritage of Northampton Township. Information on our meetings, membership, officers and our web page is listed on the last page of this publication. More than 50 issues of the HISTORIA and additional information is available at our web site:

[www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org)

**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome back to wondrous autumn. The summer is over, the beloved Grange Fair a memory. My children and grand children all enjoyed a happy time. The two year old went “ga ga” over the animals. No more catching lightning bugs and following toads as they hop into the weeds. Raking season is almost here.

Our September meeting will feature furniture artisan Robert Whitley. I had the pleasure of visiting his home/studio/museum. He and his wife were so welcoming. What a grand workshop and his furniture is outstanding. I am sure you will enjoy his presentation.

Also our annual Fred M, Holzwarth dinner will be held on our November 15 meeting date at Spring Mill CC. Members can attend for \$5. Reservations are required by November 1. The form is included in this HISTORIA.

Historical Society member, Betty Luff, who contributes many articles to the HISTORIA, had a successful hip replacement in late August. We wish her a speedy recovery.

For those of you who received this newsletter at Northampton Days I would like to invite you to join us at our September meeting. Our meetings are always open to the public and free of charge. Of course, we would also like you to consider joining the society.



**Did you know?**

The NTHS web page has been updated. We will be adding more content in the future including financial reports and minutes from our meetings. The entire collection of HISTORIA’s (over 12 years) are available online and in color.

Check it out at:

[www.northamptontownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.northamptontownshiphistoricalsociety.org)

**Congratulations to the following NTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2006.**

- NTHS Circle - Doug Crompton
- Patron - Roy and Gail Reinard
- Sponsor - Elinor Crompton, Lois Ferguson, Margaret and Lewis Hull
- Sustaining - Jim and Larice Burt, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Jim and Joan Kinney, Richard Noe, Lois Leitenberger III, Virginia Smith, Fred Stewart, Maryanna and Jack Trembath

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mark your Calendar

**NTHS General Meeting  
Wednesday September 20 - 7:30 PM**

Robert Whitley, Furniture Artisan  
Northampton Library, Richboro, PA

**MERCER MUSEUM**

Pine and Ashland Streets, Doylestown, PA (215) 345-0210  
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. Noon-5, Tues. until 9  
Admission: \$6, \$5.50 seniors, \$2.50 Ages 6-17, Free to members and children under 6

**“Dolls from the Attic”**

Extended through December 31, 2006  
Mercer Museum

**Self-guided Tour: “Finding Franklin”**

Through December 31, 2006  
Mercer Museum

Extended Through Popular Demand!  
Children's Exhibit:

**"Animals on the Loose! A Mercer Menagerie"**

Museum Hours, Mercer Museum

Family Fun  
Grandparents' Day

**Sunday, September 10**

1-4 p.m., Fonthill Museum

25th Fall State Craft Festival  
**October 20, 21 & 22, 2006**

Friday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm,  
Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Tyler State Park, Richboro, PA

Cornell Pumpkin Festival  
**Saturday, October 14th**  
Churchville Nature Center

International Day Celebration  
Sunday, October 15 - 11 AM - 5 PM  
Bucks County Community College  
Fun for the whole family

Pumpkinfest  
**Saturday & Sunday, October 22-23, 2005**

rain or shine, 12 noon to 9 pm both days  
Moravian Pottery & Tile Works  
130 Swamp Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
Daily admission:  
\$5 adults, \$3 children

# Yesterday's Covered Bridges

By Betty Cornell Luff

Since at least half of Northampton Township is bordered by the Neshaminy Creek, travel to Newtown made it necessary to use the Spring Garden covered bridge or if you were using Twining Ford Road the Twining Ford covered bridge. Travel to Wrightstown required crossing either the Chain Bridge on Second Street pike or the bridge on Worthington Mill Road, both of which were covered.

I can't say I remember crossing the Chain Bridge when it was covered but Sam Bryan told that when he was young, he was paid to light the oil lamps on both ends at sun down and extinguish them at sunrise.

As a young girl, I do remember crossing the Spring Garden covered bridge since our family's regular Friday night outing was to travel to Newtown for our weekly shopping. Even after the new bridge was built, it was always a pleasure to look across at the old bridge until the storm of 1955 washed it downstream. It is recorded that on August 13, 1955 Connie dropped over six inches of rain and then five days later another storm, Diane, brought another three and one half inches. The supports for the old bridge are visible today to the south of the existing bridge which is currently being rebuilt.

In 1959, my Home Economics teacher, Ada Thut, accompanied four other students and I for a weekend to rough it at a cabin on Bryan's Island at Chain Bridge. On an afternoon walk, the group paused so I could photograph the Worthington Mill Covered Bridge. The bridge burned down in the 1950's, soon after it had been repaired after a cement truck had fallen through to the creek below.

In addition to the bridges that crossed the Neshaminy we also had a covered bridge in Holland which was dismantled in 1932. It crossed Mill Creek close to the Mill Race Inn.



**Spring Garden Mill bridge which crossed the Neshaminy south of the current bridge on Richboro-Newtown road. Destroyed in the flood of 1955.**



**Schofield bridge on Twiningford road crossing the Neshaminy, built in 1873, destroyed by fire in 1991, rebuilt in 1997. 183 feet long.**

**Photos continued on page 4**

### Covered Bridges



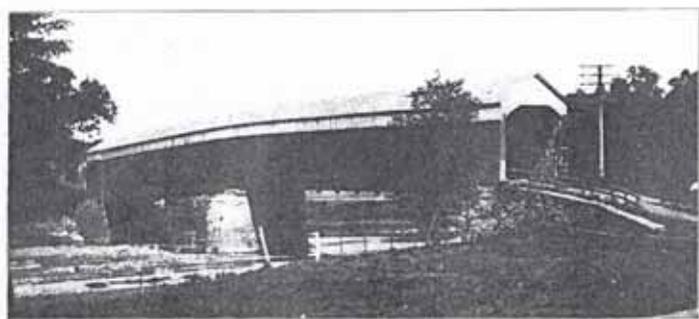
(left) - October 1939, Worthington Mill bridge, Newtown side, Majorie Wilson Shelmire, Mary Barcalow Begner, Miss Ada Thut, Eleanor Stroehmier, Mirian Gulden Matwiejczyk with dog. Taken by Elizabeth Cornell Luff.

(middle left) - Chain bridge at Second Street Pike, from Arnold Bros. Postcard.

(Right) - Holland covered bridge over Mill creek. Mill (later Mill Race Inn) on left.

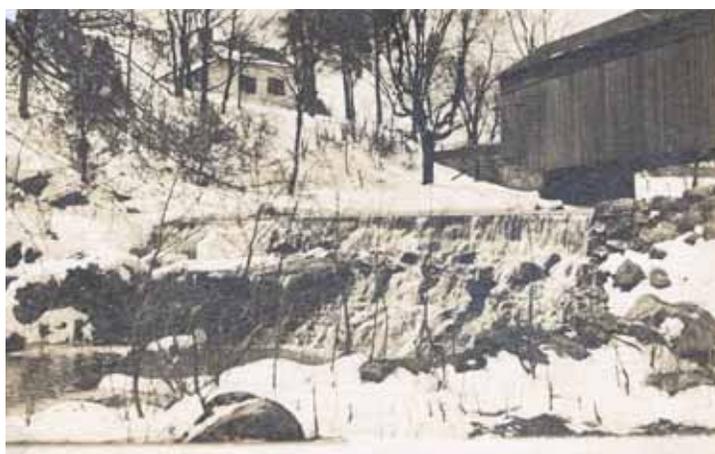
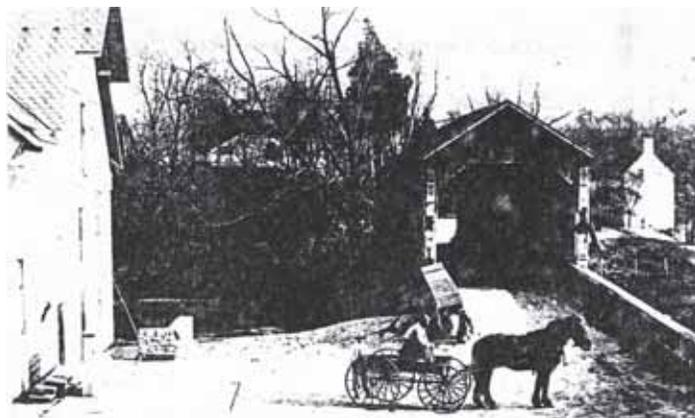
(Bottom left) - Holland covered bridge.

(Right) - Spring Garden Mill bridge sometime before 1955. The mill used the bridge for storage. Truck scales in left foreground.



23. BECKS COUNTY (P-4) FIFTHS. Arnold Bros., Printers, RadLant, Pa

"CHAIN BRIDGE." ACROSS THE NESHAMINY. This bridge was formerly hung on chains, hence the name.



# Roses are Red, Violets are Blue

By Betty Cornell Luff

Since I recently moved from six rooms to two one cannot imagine the kind of things I have found. Besides things that had belonged to my parents, I also found many memories of my two deceased sisters. Tucked away and long forgotten were three precious autograph albums. Of course, after 100 years, the album belonging to my mother, Margaret Atkinson Weiss, dated 1902, was in much worse condition than the two belonging to my sister, Edith Doan Cornell, with dates from 1927 and 1928. Edith graduated from Richboro High School in 1930.

Jan 18, 1928

Dear Edith,

May every blessing God  
can give,  
Bring peace around you  
while you live.

Your schoolmate  
Harry Davis.

7/3/28

Dear Edith:-

I wish you "Luck" &  
wish you "joy"  
I wish you - first a baby boy,  
and when it - his begins  
to - child to which you then  
a - baby girl.

SBD and

Richboro, Penna  
Jan. 18-1928

Edith,

When you and I were walking  
down the lane,  
You felt simple and I felt the same

Norman Turner

Do the youngsters today know what an autograph album is? Are they still popular?

What fun it has been to read how humorous yesterday's teenagers were. There was not one "roses are red, violets are blue" among the three books. That is the verse which was so popular when I was a teenager and attended the Richboro High School in the 1930 and 1940's. I hope that you can find some treasures like this in your attic!

## 42 Years ago in Richboro

*Presenting The Keys*



RICHBORO POST OFFICE's new location in Richboro Shopping Center was dedicated last Saturday. R. Norman Turner (right), owner of the building, hands the keys to Postmaster Joseph B. Luff. Looking on, left to right, are Harry Schmidt, Real Estate Officer of the U.S. Post Office Department; and Robert J. Brown, Postal Field Service Officer, who gave the address.

## Annual Fred M. Holzwarth Dinner and Tribute to be held in November

We are looking forward to our fourth annual tribute and dinner given to NTTHS members by Fred. Full information and registration form can be found on page 6.



Betty Luff, Edith Berry, and Muriel Briggs having a conversation at the 2005 Holzwarth Dinner.

**The Northampton Township Historical Society cordially  
invites you and your guests to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fred M.  
Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006  
6-10 PM  
Spring Mill County Club  
80 Jacksonville Road  
Ivyland, Pennsylvania 18974  
215-675-6000**

**CASH BAR**

**COST:** Northampton Township Historical Society 2006 Member - \$5 per person

Members' dinners are compliments of the generous bequest of Fred Holzwarth  
The \$5.00 charge is for maitre D, bartender, coat check, and gratuity  
Guests, Family and Friends are all welcome at \$30.00 per person

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
**IMPORTANT** – No reservations can be accepted after this date!

Please mail your reservations along with a check made out to "NTHS" to:

Pat Komelasky  
42 Larch Circle  
Holland, PA

Please include the following:

2006 Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

List names of NTHS members attending \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List names of non-members attending \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

[www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org)

## 2006 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<b>President</b>	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net
<b>Membership</b>	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
<b>Ways and Means</b>	Vacant		
<b>Social Committee</b>	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@comcast.net
<b>Director (Past Pres.)</b>	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com
<b>Director</b>	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222	
<b>Director</b>	Christine Fluehr	215-579-4334	chris@fluehr.com
<b>Director</b>	Betty Luff	215-357-3767	
<b>HISTORIA Editor</b>	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com

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. For more information visit our web page or e-mail us at [nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page [www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

### Meeting Dates for 2006

September 20      General Meeting      7:30 PM Northampton Library  
 November 15      Dinner Meeting      6:00 PM Holzwarth Tribute  
    Spring Mill CC

### Board Meetings 2006

October 11  
 7 PM - Call for location

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2006 (January 2006 to December 2006)

INDIVIDUAL - \$15    SENIOR - \$10    STUDENT - \$10    SPONSOR - \$100    PATRON - \$250 (5 year membership)  
 FAMILY - \$20    SUSTAINING - \$50    NTHS CIRCLE - \$500 or greater (Life membership)

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 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /2006      Membership Classification

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size [S] [M] [L] [EXL] - (Sponsor and higher)

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 welcome : \_\_\_\_\_