



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2008

## **In the Shadow of Independence Hall: Archaeological Discoveries from the National Constitution Center Site, Independence National Historic Park, Philadelphia**

The September meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society will feature a talk by Douglas B. Mooney about the discoveries from excavations at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Recent excavations have uncovered the best-preserved archaeological site ever found in the City of Philadelphia. Encompassing more than 115 historical house lots, these excavations have produced more than 1 million artifacts associated with the Colonial, Revolutionary War-era, and Nineteenth century inhabitants of the City. Additional finds include an intact prehistoric Native American campsite, objects used by eighteenth century free African American residents, as well as the remains of some 150 individuals from the Second Presbyterian Church Cemetery. This presentation will provide an overview of the archaeological investigations at this important site and discuss many of the most significant finds, including a number of items that represent "one-of-a-kind" discoveries never before found in the city.

Douglas Mooney is a Senior Archaeologist with the Archaeological and Historic Architecture Group of the URS Corporation (URS) located in Burlington, NJ, and was responsible for directing fieldwork at the National Constitution Center Site. Mr. Mooney has twenty years experience in archaeology and cultural resources management. He earned his Master's Degree in Anthropology from Pennsylvania State University and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from West Virginia University. Mr. Mooney has participated in the excavation of more than 150 sites throughout Pennsylvania and the surrounding States, and is the author of more than 60 technical archaeological reports and professional presentations. His experience encompasses prehistoric, historical, urban, and mortuary archaeology.



The National Constitution Center is a history museum on Independence Mall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, just two blocks from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. The museum teaches visitors the history and relevance of the United States Constitution through theatre, interactive exhibits, and hundreds of historic artifacts. The museum opened on July 4, 2004, and was designed by American architect Henry N. Cobb and museum design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The National Constitution Center is located within Independence National Historical Park.

The mission of the Constitution Center, as established in the Constitution Heritage Act of 1988, is to disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution among the American people. The main exhibit hall is circular and presents three concentric rings of exhibits: the outermost a chronology of Constitutional history featuring artifacts and original documents, the second ring of interactive exhibits based on the preamble to the Constitution, and the inner ring featuring "talk backs" and ways to participate in the Constitutional dialogue.

**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Folks,

It is with reluctance that once again I have to bid goodbye to summer.

We enjoyed the planting of flowers, having loads of company, the birth of an eighth granddaughter and a 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration.

It's so good living here enjoying the bounty of Solly's produce and our wonderful Grange Fair. Now I take the grandchildren there and feel very blessed.

Don't forget to fill out and send in the application in this HISTORIA for our November dinner. The deadline is BEFORE the publication of the next HISTORIA.

Have not gotten to read as much as I would like to but here is a quote from Winston Churchill.

*"How strange it is that the past is so little understood and so quickly forgotten. We live in the most thoughtless of ages. Everyday headlines and short views. I have tried to drag history up a little nearer to our own times in case it should be helpful in the present difficulties."*



**Did you know?**

The entire collection of HISTORIA's (over 14 years) are available online and in color. Check it out at:

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

We need your input! Please consider writing and submitting an article for the HISTORIA. Your stories, reminiscences, and photos about "Northampton the way it use to be" are always welcome. Contact the editor listed on the last page of this HISTORIA.

**Congratulations to the following NTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues in 2007.**

**NTHS Circle** - Doug Crompton, Lois Craven Ferguson  
**Patron** - Elinor Crompton, Roy and Gail Reinard

**Sponsor** - Margaret and Lewis Hull, Nancy Turner, Kevin Kruse

**Sustaining** - Charles and Muriel Briggs, Kathryn Ciaverelli, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Rena Goldhahn, Marion and Dallas Kane, Louis Leitenberger, Fred Stewart, Virginia Smith

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your Calendar**

**NTHS Meeting**

**Wednesday September 17, 7 PM**

**Northampton Township Library**

7 PM refreshments, 7:30 PM meeting starts

Douglas Mooney, "In the Shadow of Independence Hall"

**Childrens Cultural Center**

**International Days**

October 19 - 11 AM - 5 PM

Bucks County Community College

Newtown, 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

Saturday September 13th, 2008

Everyday Rhythms: A New Exhibit

Everyday Rhythms will trace the evolution of musical instruments using the Mercer Museum's collection of 19th-20th century artifacts.

The exhibit is free with museum admission.

Saturday September 13th, 2008 - 2-3 pm

Civil War Era Music

Join Commonwealth Speaker and musician Thomas Jolin as he discusses and performs music of the Civil War period.

Monday October 13th, 2008 - 1:30 pm

Columbus Day Tours

In observance of Columbus Day, this all-ages tour will focus on Henry Mercer's fascination with the European discovery of the "New World".

Visit rooms that are not a part of the regular tour and explore Mercer's use of the New World theme in his fascinating tiles.

Registration required, 215-348-9461, ext. 10. Regular admission

Tuesday October 28th, 2008 - 7-9 pm All That Remains:

A History of Cemeteries and Funeral Customs

Just in time for Halloween, join historian Bruce Stocking as he "unearths" the fascinating history of graveyards and funerary rituals,

from ancient Egypt through the nineteenth century. Registration required, call 215-345-0210, ext. 123. \$10/\$8 BCHS members.

The Northampton Township Historical Society wishes a speedy recovery to members Dottie Glessner and Bill Pollock, both recovering at home from broken legs, and Jim Burt currently at St Mary's hospital. Get well soon!

## Northampton Township's One Room Schools

By Betty Cornell Luff

As early as 1819, there were one room school houses in Northampton Township with first through eight grades in one room with one teacher. By 1871, there were eight of these schools scattered throughout the township.

Since the one in the town of Richboro was the most centrally located and a second floor was added and in 1896, a two year high school was started. This high school was located on what later became the Davis Pontiac property. First through sixth grades were on the first floor with Miss Sally Twining as the teacher and seventh through tenth grades were upstairs with Thomas Bock as the high school teacher and principal. This meant that if students wanted to continue their education beyond the eight grade they had to walk from all parts of the township.

Those living in the Churchville area attended the **Fairview** one room school on Bustleton Pike, today a private residence at 279 Bustleton Pike.



East Holland School, Buck and East Holland Road

The **Groveland** one room school still stands on Richboro-Newtown Road where it intersects with Holland Road.



The Rockville one room school, Holland Road

Those living in the Holland area walked to the **Rockville** one room school Holland road just up the road from Finney's store.

There was an **East Holland** one room school at Buck and East Holland Road. This school was erected about 1819, possibly of wood but was later replaced with a stone building in 1858.

**Forest Grove** one room school was built in 1838, on Hatboro Road. It served the residents living in the "bulltown" areas of the township.

The **Jacksonville** one room school, on Jacksonville road near Almshouse Road, was probably built after the school board acquired the property in 1857. It replaced an earlier building. Note the bell tower on the roof.



Forest Grove School, Hatboro Road

The **Pleasant Plains** one room school was on New Road near Hatboro Road.

All of these one room schools closed in 1913, when the then new and modern large stone school was built in Richboro (now moved to the back of the Commerce Bank property) and they are all now private residences.

**Please turn to page 4**

## Northampton's One Room School Houses

from Page 3



The Jacksonville School, near Jacksonville and Almshouse Road.

In doing family research, I was fortunate to find a photo of the 1898 class at Forest Grove School on Hatboro Road. A young Jesse Rubicam was responsible for teaching 25-30 children each day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades. He also had the responsibility of keeping the fire going in winter, acting as nurse when a child was hurt or became ill and the cleaning of the school.

Five of my husbands aunts and uncles are present in this picture. They are the children of James M. and Mary Slack Luff who had seven children. My father-in-law, Charles F. Luff was born in 1885 and had either quit school or was needed at home since he is not in the photo. A seventh child, Leonard, had not yet been born.

Below - 1898 Forest Grove School, Front row - Mabel Fox, Bessie Search, Alfred Luff, b. 1894, George Gill, Blanche Luff Lufferts, Elsie Luff Ettenger, b. 1893, Harold Slack, John Gill, Lacey?, Laura Krewson, Irene Douglas

Second Row - Linford Luff, b. 1890, Clyde Luff, b. 1889, Mabel Price, Anna Titus, Harry Richardson, George Search, Lilly Krewson, Flora Gill, Eva Krewson

Back Row - Abraham Fox, Amiie Quick, Allen Price, Henry Gill, Jesse Rubicam (teacher), Eva Willard Caffey, Lynda Luff Cornell 8th grade, b. 1884.



## The Antique House

I'm very old but beautiful  
 And I've been here many years  
 I've housed so many families  
 And I've seen their smiles and tears.

If you look at my exterior  
 It shows strength but beauty too  
 It shows the end result  
 Of what hard work can do.

But it's what's inside that counts  
 Because I've gone thru times of strife  
 And I've gone thru terrible winters  
 With cold and snow and ice.

But I've been there for each family  
 When they had no place to go  
 I've protected them and sheltered them  
 When there feelings were quite low.

But most of all I've sat here  
 Thru these many years  
 As a symbol of our countries strength  
 And a place to calm one's fears.

Yes I'm proud I made a contribution  
 To a world that moves to fast  
 So if you look at me and slow a bit  
 It may make your future last.

Yes I've set here all these years  
 As quiet as a mouse  
 But I've helped make this a better  
 world  
 And I'm just an ANTIQUE HOUSE.

**George Ivins**  
**May 2008**



Baust Home, 1806, Middle Holland Road



Bennett Search House "Hampton Hill" 1744  
 Second Street Pike, Richboro



Hip Roof House  
 Second Street Pike near Chain Bridge



David Krusen Home, 1850  
 Currently In jeopardy of demolition  
 191 Lower Holland Road

**The Northampton Township Historical Society cordially  
invites you and your guests to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fred M.  
Holzwarth, Sr. Tribute and Memorial Dinner**

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008  
6-10 PM  
Spring Mill Manor  
181 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 5th, 2008  
**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

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

## 2008 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>	Vivian Braubitz	215-322-0635	vyvyanb@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jackie Liney	215-858-8066	jackie@childrensculturalcenter.org
<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</b>	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.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 Library, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** (refreshments 7PM), and include 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 [NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

### Meeting Dates for 2008

September 17      General Meeting      7 PM Library  
 November 19      Dinner Meeting      6 PM Spring Mill Manor

### Board Meetings 2008

February 12, April 8, August 12, October 14  
 7 PM - Call for location

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2008 (January 2008 to December 2008)

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: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /2008      Membership Classification \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 : \_\_\_\_\_