



HISTORIA

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2002

EXPLORE MYSTERIOUS LABYRINTHS AT OUR MARCH MEETING



Mystery surrounds the historical use of the Labyrinth. For what purpose did our ancestors walk the winding paths of the ancient cross-cultural pattern? Why was this motional meditation practice forgotten for hundreds of years? How can its recent reappearance in churches, hospitals, schools, and retreat centers benefit us today? Learn the answers to these questions as well as how to draw the pattern of the 7 Circuit Celtic Labyrinth for your own use in “finger walking” the labyrinth.

Connie Fenty, a teacher in the Neshaminy School District, is the founder of “Your Nature Connection Seminars.” She has successfully presented workshops from coast to coast, focusing on personal, community, and planetary healing. Her community involvements include managing the Langhorne Community Gardens and serving on the Board of Directors for Langhorne Open Space. Plan to join us on March 20th at 7:30 PM for what promises to be a fascinating evening.

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED - RICHBORO'S SPREAD EAGLE INN TOUCHES DOWN AT NEW SITE

By Andrea Mangold
December 5, 2001

Keeping its stately bearing despite the crowd of bulldozers and moving equipment at its base, Richboro's landmark Spread Eagle Inn was moved 120 feet from the busy Almshouse Road-Second Street Pike intersection to its new location on December 5. With the Inn set back from the crossroads, much-needed traffic improvements can proceed, and Richboro retains the 187-year-old building many consider to be its heart.

The Inn was moved southwest of its original location over



The Spread Eagle Inn sits on its new site after the move. It was moved from the foreground about 120 feet southwest.

Please turn to page 3

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

Welcome Spring! I always experience a sense of awe at this time of year. As I hang out my wash, even near-sighted me can spot the crocus pushing up, and the new shoots coming forth.

A favorite outing will be the Philadelphia Flower Show with daughters and shopping bags in tow as we head home after a visit and fine dinner.

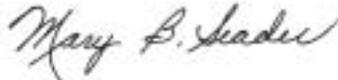
I would like to congratulate Doug Crompton for being selected as this year's *Living Tree Award* recipient. Doug has worked long and hard for Northampton Township to save our historical treasures.

Another big thank you to Sydell Gross for helping with the two-day Spread Eagle Barn Sale held November 10 and 11, 2001. Debbie Glessner also came to assist in our hour of need. The sale of Spread Eagle items amounted to \$331.00, and we also sold about \$300.00 worth of T-shirts.

Thanks also to Jay Russell for helping me plant the replacement tree given for Betty Luff's Living Tree Award.

Lastly, I want to thank Matt Haist for storing the Spread Eagle "stuff" in his barn. During the sale weekend, Matt was generous and gracious with his time, loading up goods and delivering items to the buyers.

Looking forward to seeing you in March.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to NTHS Members:

Our *HISTORIA* editor, Doug Crompton, asked me to write a brief message explaining my Relay phone system. Because I am hearing-impaired, I use the PA Relay service, which enables me to communicate effectively by phone. If you ever need to contact me and have access to a computer, email is the preferred method of communication. If not, then dial the PA Relay service at 800-654-5988. When the Relay operator answers, you will then give my phone number 215-357-2449. The operator will dial me directly and when I answer, will serve as an intermediary between us, typing what you are saying to me. We will be using Voice Carry Over, which will enable you to hear me speaking directly. If you have any questions while using the service, the Relay operator will be able to answer them.

As your Vice President, I will be arranging many of the programs for our meetings. I appreciate your input for ideas for future meetings. I think all of you will enjoy our March 20th speaker, Connie Fenty, who will involve us in the history and mystery of labyrinths. Please come and join us.

Just as "SPRING" is a time of *renewal*, we also want to remind all of you to ***RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS*** for 2002. We need you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 20 - 7:30 PM

Northampton Township Historical Society
General Meeting

Program: MYSTERIOUS LABYRINTHS

March 21 - 7:30 PM

David Library - 215-493-6776

Art of Protecting and Restoring Documents

April 5,12,19 10 AM

David Library

Antiques and Arts Seminar

Three Fridays in Spring - 215-968-1632

April 11 - 7:30 PM

Committee for Historic Preservation

Township Building

Check the web page for latest meeting dates

LABYRINTH FOUND

(walk to a center)

I came upon a labyrinth
in a quiet grove of green;
Laid in ragged circle –
rimmed with druid's stones.

Who made this round,
who left it here, to
lose its definition,
yet stay in recognition?

I stood – my eyes roaming
round its circled mark;
stopped – caught in its center,
like a pupil, fixed in blind eye.

Suddenly –
I am walking carefully,
feeling my way, stepping softly,
as in a sacred place
of arched, reaching spire,
the path dimly lined, through
leaf mold and quiet stones damp

Pulls me surely to the center;
my head bowed, my body
obeying each deliberate move.
Center reached, knees trembling,
I search the canopy above,
knowing this found circle,
meant to find me, to set
me free in wonder,
in holy awe!

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED *from page 1*

a period of about 4½ hours, rolled into place on wheeled dollies pulled by tractors. Inertia helped move the 360-ton building quickly, and by late afternoon it had been lowered onto wooden supports where it will remain until a new foundation is prepared.

About 150 people gathered to watch the move, many trading stories of old Richboro and discussing the engineering marvel they were witnessing. Holland resident Betty Luff reminisced about her wedding reception held at the Spread Eagle in 1943 and said, "I'm so happy we didn't lose [the Spread]...to me, it's a sentimental site for Northampton Township."

Township engineer Dave Connell said with the Inn moved, changes to the congested intersection of Routes 232 and 332 can begin. "We just applied to PennDOT for the permits to begin improvements," Connell stated, "and if all progresses normally, we can see the traffic project completed some time in the summer of 2002."

Northampton Township supervisor Peter Palestina was glad to see the move underway, stating, "Whether one was for or against saving the Spread Eagle, the intersection will be vastly improved." Palestina added, "Thanks to Toll Brothers and Hovnanian Builders the necessary funds were received so that the costs of moving the Inn were not forced on taxpayers." Earlier this year the building companies made donations totaling over \$550,000 to the township for historic preservation efforts, including the cost of moving the Spread Eagle and its exterior restoration.

Township officials, working with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority, are proceeding with the sale of the property to the Giamo Brothers. Tony Giamo, who operates nearby Guiseppe's Pizza, intends to renovate the interior and foresees "perhaps a Starbucks coffee shop on the first floor and professional rental space on the upper floor."

With a new look to the center of Richboro, one observer was pleased with the effort and said, "I am so glad the Township saved the Spread Eagle. It is a grand old building synonymous with Richboro, and after it's refurbished it will be a legacy the entire community can be proud of."

**"Reprinted with permission of
The Advance of Bucks County"**



**Top: Preparing for the move. The newer back and side were removed leaving the rectangular older structure.
Middle: Looking northeast as it comes towards its new home.
Bottom: Crowd watches from Second Street Pike.**



(Left) The Spread Eagle awaits its move. (Right-top) Looking east on Almshouse Road. The Spread stood roughly behind the middle telephone pole before the move. (Right-bottom) Where it once stood!



BARN SALE A SUCCESS

On November 10th and 11th, 2001, a beautiful fall weekend, the society had a barn sale of the remaining items from the Spread Eagle Inn. We raised \$331, and we also sold about \$300 worth of T-shirts. Thanks to Mary Seader, Sydell Gross and Debbie Glessner for your help!

CHANCE MEETING VIA THE INTERNET

by Betty Cornell Luff

In 2001, I served on a committee to help organize the Richboro School reunion, a successful event with over 200 attending. This committee of twelve was able to locate many old timers who came from Alaska, Canada, and from at least a dozen other states.

Many times I wondered about a dear friend and neighbor, Frank Lenhart. Where could he be, and how could we locate him? After all, we hadn't heard from many of our schoolmates in sixty years!

The news about the pending move of the Spread Eagle Inn traveled throughout the United States. Through the historical society web pages, Doug Crompton received several emails concerning our area, which he shared with me. In looking over these emails, I came across two from a Pamela Lenhart Conway. Here was my answer to a long unanswered question about Frank Lenhart.

I am now corresponding with Pamela, and she told me about her grandfather's barbershop being next door to the Spread Eagle Inn. She lived there with her grandparents, and went to Council Rock schools. We have been exchanging interesting tidbits about her Dad when I knew him. It's great to hear her stories about the family after we both married and lost contact with one another.

So, now I know Frank's story. He joined the Navy in 1944, married in 1945, settled in California, and had a daughter and three sons. He came back to Richboro when his Dad had a heart attack in 1956. John Lenhart died in 1957, and Frank brought his family back to live with his mother until 1960. After returning to California, Frank and his wife divorced in 1969, and he died in 1987 at the age of 62.

When I sent Pam a copy of the photo of her Dad and me in our scout uniforms, she wrote back and said that he had become a scout leader later in life.

When I was a kid, John Lenhart was a barber, clock repairman, and a fixer of lawnmowers – really a jack-of-all-trades. This was when a shave and a haircut cost only fifty cents.

After his father died, Frank changed the barbershop into a bicycle shop, but then sold it when he returned to California.



(top) Frank Lenhart and Betty Cornell (Luff), in scout uniforms, pose in Richboro, 1940.

They lived across the street from each other

(bottom) C. 1940 - Marjorie Wilson posing by John Lenhart's barber pole. He also fixed clocks and lawnmowers. Building in rear became the township building and was used as that until 1975.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

DOUG CROMPTON TO RECEIVE 2002 LIVING TREE AWARD

The 2002 recipient of the Living Tree Award is Doug Crompton, for his tireless and devoted service to the Northampton Township Historical Society. Doug's name is best known in connection with the Spread Eagle Inn. He has been a catalyst in the saving of the Inn, often fighting alone against the powers that be to save one of the township's few remaining historic buildings.

However, Doug is also the founding editor of the NTHS newsletter, *Historia*, which he has published and mailed for 10 years.

He has served as vice president and president of NTHS, and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

Doug has served as chairperson of the "Committee for Historic Preservation," a committee that has not only fought for historic buildings, but has also brought new life to NTHS.

He has also been involved in promoting NTHS at all the Northampton Days' celebrations.

Doug has been an ongoing custodian of the NTHS web pages, which he designed and has kept current.

Lastly, he has been a superb archivist for local historical issues and action by assembling extensive scrapbooks of photographs, news clippings, and other related items.

The Living Tree Award ceremony will be held at a future date yet to be determined.

Congratulations to Doug Crompton!

THE X-SQUAD KICKS OFF ACTIVITIES

Northampton Township Historical Society's junior organization, *The X-Squad* kicked off its first activities for children in the area. Working through Northampton Township's Park and Recreation program, an elementary level X-Squad activity has been offered through the After-School Clubhouse program. NTHS arranged with Doylestown's Children's Cultural Center to offer "Architectural Fun and Games" at Hillcrest Elementary School in Holland. This workshop for grades 3 through 6 will expose the participants to the fascinating world of architecture.

Senior High school students looking for an opportunity to fulfill community service hours can volunteer to work for NTHS by digitalizing historical archives.

The X-Squad is sponsoring the annual *Preservation Week Poster Contest* this year. Details of this contest are included in this issue of the *Historia* (see page 8).

The X-Squad is a new organization for children and young adults, ages 9 and up. Activities are designed for those who have an active interest in community service, cultural heritage, and preservation of history and natural resources. Charter memberships of \$15.00 includes a tote containing an *X-Squad* t-shirt, a Horrible Histories book, notepad, and a one-year membership which includes a reduced fee for activities (a savings of over \$10.00).

For more information , please visit

***The X-Squad* webpage at :**

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org/xsquad

"OH SAY... HOIST YOUR FLAG!"

contributed by Debbie Glessner

With the recent surge in patriotism in response to terrorist attacks upon the United States, our American flag has become highly visible. Nearly all Americans accept the legend of Betsy Ross and the making of the first U. S. flag. Although it cannot be proven, this story has generally been accepted as fact since first acknowledged publicly in 1870. Few, however, are aware that Betsy Ross was not the only flag maker in the early days of our republic.

Flags, before 1840, when the sewing machine was introduced, were made by hand. Early flags of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century were classified either as a "ceremonial" standard or the utilitarian flag. The standard flags were highly ornate and often used by the Army or Militia of that era. The utilitarian flag was typically used on ships, at forts, and anywhere a flag display was needed.

Please turn to page 7

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

Flag from page 6

During the Revolutionary War, some of the recognized flag makers of Philadelphia were Margaret Manny, Cornelia Bridges, Elizabeth (Betsy) Ross, Anne King, Anne Ward, and Rebecca Young.

Rebecca Young’s daughter, Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill of Baltimore, and her granddaughter, Mrs. Caroline Purdy, were all important flag makers. Mary, assisted by her daughter Caroline Purdy and under contract to the U.S. Government in 1813, manufactured the flag that is now known as the “Star Spangled Banner.” This flag was used as the garrison flag of Fort McHenry during the British siege. The flag originally measured 30’ by 42’ and cost \$405.90. It contained 400 yards of 18 inch woolen bunting. The 15 stars were made of cotton, each measuring 2 feet in diameter. The blue union measured approximately 16’ by 20’ and had eight red, and seven white 2 foot wide stripes. The entire flag was hand sewn with linen thread.

Major George Amistead, who was presented with the flag after the War of 1812, commanded Fort McHenry during the siege, when Francis Scott Key penned our National Anthem. The flag bears his signature and the date of the bombardment. The flag was handed down over several generations and was finally given to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift on December 19, 1912.

Prior to Flag Day, June 14, 1923, there were no federal or state regulations governing the display of the U.S. flag. The National Flag Conference adopted the National Flag Code on this date. Do YOU know these rules of proper flag display?

1.ON A POLE: With pole pointing upward or horizontally, the flag should hang freely, with the union (section with stars) at the top.

2.ON A WALL OR WINDOW: Hang it horizontally or vertically, with the union to the upper left of the viewers.

3.ON A CAR: A flag on a staff can be tied to an antenna or fixed to a fender or the chassis, preferably on the driver’s right.

4.AS JEWELRY: Properly worn only as a pin on the left lapel, near the heart.

5.ON CLOTHING: Properly worn only as a patch on uniforms of military personnel, firefighters, police officers, and members of patriotic organizations.

6.FROM A ROPE: If the rope hangs from a building, the union should be away from the building. If the flag is hung over a street, the union should be to the north on an east-west street, or to the east on a north-south street.

7.ON A CASKET: Place union at the head and over the deceased’s left shoulder. It should not be lowered into a grave or be allowed to touch the ground.

The X-Squad
Northampton Township Historical Society
2nd Annual Preservation Week
Poster Contest

X-SQUAD MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

Membership: \$5.00/yr.
Charter membership special — \$15.00

All posters must feature the following information:

- Theme: “Preserving the Spirit of Place”
- National Historic Preservation Week
- May 12 – 18, 2002
- Posters must emphasize the importance of celebrating America’s past to ensure its future.
- Poster size not to exceed 26 inches by 36 inches

All posters **MUST** include the following information **CLEARLY** on the **BACK** of the poster.

Student’s Name _____ Teacher’s name _____
 Address _____ Grade _____
 Phone number _____ Age _____
 School attended _____
 Division Entered _____

Divisions:
 Division A: Kindergarten to Grade 3
 Division B: Grade 4 to Grade 6

Open to all elementary age students in Northampton Township: Council Rock School District, private schools, and home-schoolers.

Submission Deadline: April 19, 2002
 Drop off: April 18 and 19 **ONLY**
 at Northampton Township
 Administration Bldg. 12 noon – 4pm

Prizes: First place (\$25), Second place (\$15), Third place (\$10) and Honorable Mention (\$5), plus gift certificates, and certificate of participation

- Judges: Larice Burt – Northampton Twp. stone artist
- Betty Luff – NTNS and Historical Commission member
- Dr. Art Friedman – N T Supervisor

TO BE JUDGED ON:

Originality, Neatness, Inclusion of required elements, and Impact.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ **State:** _____
Home phone number: _____
E-mail address: _____
Age (must be 9 years old by January 1st of the current year) : _____
Grade: _____
School: _____
Address: _____

All checks payable to NTNS
and mail to:

The X-SQUAD
Northampton Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 732
Richboro, PA. 18954

Parent signature:
Signature: _____
Date: _____

URGENTLY NEEDED! — NTNS SECRETARY

NTNS is still without a secretary, and desperately needs a volunteer for the position. If you are able to contribute your time and energy in the position of secretary, please call Mary Seader at 215-355-4467.

The post requires attendance at 4 board meetings and 4 general membership meetings annually, 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 secretary’s willingness to continue service.

PLEASE consider serving your organization in this capacity.



Old Richboro School, c. 1913, by Edith Berry

ANNOUNCING THE SECOND RICHBORO SCHOOL REUNION

The Richboro school reunion committee has set Friday May 23, 2003 as the date for the next school reunion. This follows the very successful reunion in May 2001. The call is going out to notify anyone who graduated or attended the old school between 1923 and 1953. Those interested in attending can contact Emma Walker Worthington at:

215-943-0108.



Newtown artist, Edith Berry, poses with her recent pen and ink drawing of the old Richboro School. She donated the original to the Historical Society, and it is currently on display in the Library's showcase. Mrs. Berry studied under Edgar Whitney, one of the foremost water colorists in the country. She has penned many scenes of Northampton Township, including "Historic Homes of Northampton Township" for the bicentennial celebration in 1976.



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2002 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| President | Mary Seader | 355-4467 |
| Vice President | Debbie Glessner | 357-2449 |
| | via relay 800-654-5988 | |
| Secretary | Vacant | |
| Treasurer | Michael Tomkins | 504-1998 |
| Membership | Fred Holzwarth | 357-4899 |
| Ways and Means | Diane Amadio | 355-6399 |
| Social Committee | Vacant | |
| 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. For more information visit our web page or email us at nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page.

Meeting Dates for 2001 - 2002

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| 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: \$ _____

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 welcomed : _____