



# HISTORIA

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2008

## March speaker will be local Sculptor Gregory Marra



Gregory Marra working on an  
“American Patriots in Bronze”

Gregory William Marra, a master sculptor, has dedicated his life towards the pursuit of classical historical statuary honored in the United States of America, and other countries. After receiving a B.F.A. at The University of Hartford, he studied in the Tirolean region of northern Italy. There he delved into the renaissance art of Tuscany and the history of Europe. Upon returning he extended his education to the masters degree level, where he received an M.F.A. at the New York Academy of Figurative Arts. Once again Marra decided it was time to return to the old world to compare his skills with the great masters of Europe. Living in Vienna he practiced his art and taught at Webster University, an International program next to the United Nations, living a total of 3 years in Austria and a year in Slovakia.

Marra came home with his beautiful supportive wife Jana who was pregnant with his first born. He also returned with a sense of patriotism for his country which is unparalleled by any one in his trade. While in Europe he battled to monumentalize historical figures that were not represented at all. The socialist system of Europe rendered the people who wanted the monuments powerless. Coming back to America he has found a wealth of historical figures that need to be monumentalized as well and a system which supports every citizen with the power to support their history.

From Washington’s crossing of the Delaware to David Christian, the youngest most decorated Vietnam Veteran, Marra has promised to raise the funds and sculpt the monuments in such masterful ways, as to truly honor the Heroism and Patriotism of his beloved America. Marra stated,

**“Every molecule in my body has been honed for this moment in which history has bestowed on me. This ordainment will be fulfilled with every pound of talent and determination I have within me.”**

Mr. Marra has sculptures in collections throughout the tri-state area and Europe. He also finished the first of his monuments Lt. John Prall from the 3<sup>rd</sup> hunterdon New Jersey regiment, and the overseer of Washington’s great crossing. Prall is seven feet tall with historically accurate details. Marra’s teaches sculpting at his gallery and studio in Lambertville, NJ. Join us for a presentation by Mr. Marra at our next historical society meeting on March 19th at the Northampton Township Library in Richboro.



## Historical Society Installs New Officers at the November Dinner Meeting

At our annual dinner meeting in November, professional archaeologist Vivian Braubitz (center) was elected as our new secretary, replacing Sylvia Amato, who has become a director in the society. Michael Tomkins our former treasurer and Jackie Liney, our current treasurer look on.

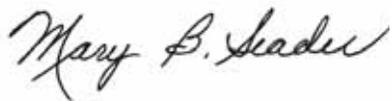
**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Dear Folks,**

Welcome back and welcome spring in a few weeks. It is probably my favorite season. In a few weeks my daughters and I will be attending the flower show. I always get many ideas, but our home is under a canopy of trees, so we stick to the old favorites. I hope you can all visit the flower show, and our local museums. There are some terrific exhibits.

I would like to welcome and congratulate our new society secretary, Vivian Braubitz, who was elected at our November meeting.

We have a speaker for our March meeting who I am sure you will enjoy. Gregory Marra will tell us about his work in creating sculptures of our local American Revolutionary War heroes. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on March 19 at the Northampton Township Library.



**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, reminisces, 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** - Roy and Gail Reinard
- Sponsor** - Elinor Crompton, Bud and Dotty Davis, Margaret and Lewis Hull, Nancy Turner
- Sustaining** - Jim and Larice Burt, Kathryn Ciaverelli, Childrens Cultural Center, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Jim and Joan Kinney, Richard Noe, Louis Leitenberger III, Janet and Kurt Nelson, Virginia Smith, Fred Stewart, Steven Rovner, Nancy Turner

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your Calendar**

**NTHS Meeting**

**Wednesday March 19th, 7 PM**

**Northampton Township Library**

7 PM refreshments, 7:30 PM meeting start

Gregory Marra, Sculptor

**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 March 1st, 2008 - 10:30 am-4:30 pm**

**Doll's Day Out**

The Mercer Museum's celebrated Doll's Day Out is back for its 13th year. This memorable community event includes a tea and doll fashion show, make-a-doll craft station, storytelling by Jane King, a log house visit, and shopping for the latest in doll fashions, hand-made by local craftspeople. Tickets are \$12 per person (\$10 for members). Space is limited. Pre-registration and payment are required. For information, and to purchase tickets, call 215-345-0210, ext. 123. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Mercer Museum front desk.

**Saturday April 12th, 2008 - 11am-Noon**

**Fonthill Park Walk**

Henry Mercer devoted a great deal of time and effort into shaping the land around Fonthill to match his interests and ideas. Take this one-hour guided tour through Fonthill Park and explore how Mercer remade his property. Adults and Seniors, \$7, youths (5-17) \$4, members \$5.

**Friday April 18th, 2008 - 6 pm - Spring Auction**

The Silent Auction begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception, catered by Memorable Affairs. The Live Auction, with auctioneer William Schutt, starts at 7:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$45/person (\$40/BCHS Members). To donate an item or service to the auction or to purchase tickets, call the Special Events Coordinator at 215-345-0210, ext. 132.

**Town and Country Players**

Celebrating 61 years of community theater

"Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen

April 11,12,18,19,20m,25,26

**Save the Date! Sat/Sun May 10-11**

**Annual Mercer Folk Fest**

# As Life Evolves, The Past “Clings”

*By: Richard “Dick” Noe and George “Buzz” Noe*

As has been observed and referenced on more than one occasion, by more than one pundit: “The only constant in life is change”. So it has been and continues to be with the use of land in Northhampton Township. The Native Americans knew only unbounded forests and free running streams. As settlers arrived, it became endless acres of verdant farmland which, spawned by the post war “baby boom” in the 1950’s, has given way to endless rows of single family tract homes.

Thus, over the past fifty years, one by one, the traditional small farms, dating back to the 1800’s, have given way to the inexorable demand for residential real estate. Presently, there are approximately only six remaining properties in the township that retain sufficient acreage to allow for livestock or cultivation of a crop, and thus still considered to be a “Farm”. Even these remaining few have, for the most part, altered their original farmhouse dwellings with upgrades to accommodate more modern conveniences.

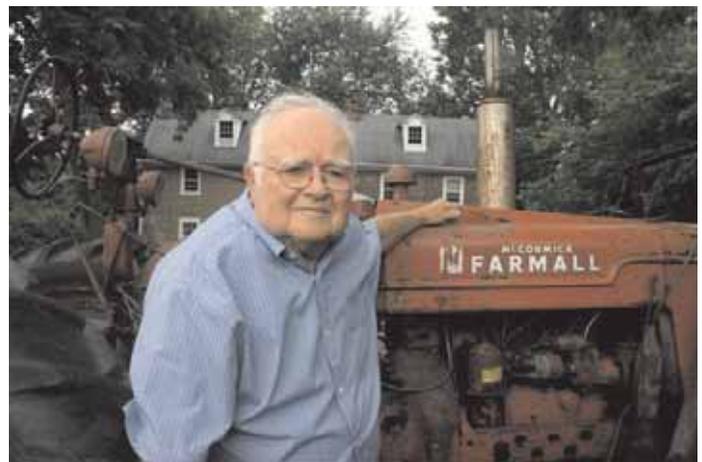


**A southwest view of the Locke farm**

How exciting it is, then, in this day and age, to discover one of these remaining farm properties untouched and unscathed by the surrounding urbanization. On St. Leonard’s Rd, just a few miles outside of Newtown, PA, there remains just such a treasure. It lies back from the road, almost concealed by trees and completely hidden from view during the leafy seasons. This bucolic oasis in the midst of numerous modern day housing tracts is a small farm belonging to a gentle and quiet former farmer of 70 years, Mr. Paul Locke.

Along with the slightly more than five remaining acres of land, the farm itself consists of several frame outbuildings, A corn crib, a 10 ft deep cold cellar, a large beamed barn,

and the real jewel: a circa 1850’s stone farmhouse with thick, solid stone walls, wide single boards floors and numerous winding staircases. There is also a number of surrounding original stonework walls, several of which are nicely preserved. The entire property serves as a fine example of the “era” in which it was built. Thus Paul Locke’s farm represents a “living museum”, allowing visitors to catch a glimpse of a pastoral lifestyle, which dates back to the mid-nineteenth century.



**Paul Locke poses on his antique Farmall tractor.**

Most of the farm’s construction was done by the original owner, Gerrardus Wynkoop, a Revolutionary war veteran. In fact, the Initials “GW” are still visible on the chimney stone, though the original date etched there has worn too thin to read. A farm map dated 1859 shows the entire farm & buildings as being completed, but judging from the buildings and the amount of work needed to reach that completion, one can assume a much earlier date for the actual construction; Perhaps 1850 or even earlier.

Over the next century and a half, a few changes were made to the original farmhouse in order to make it a more livable residence. Electric service has been added and the convenience of internal plumbing (though not to the upper floors). The three downstairs fireplaces have been closed off to increase heat retention, and an oil fired furnace has been installed in the basement along with baseboard heat registers to ward off the notorious Pennsylvania winters.

**Story continues on page 4**

### As Life Evolves.... From page 3

The eventual ownership of the property by the Locke's begins with the expansion of the Johnsville Naval Air Station during World War II. The government bought the Locke's four generation owned family farm on Jacksonville Rd in Warminster Township, forcing them to relocate. With the proceeds from the sale, Paul, His Mother, Mary Locke (a school teacher) and Aunt Helen Ritchie purchased the St. Leonards Rd. farm in the late 1940's, where Paul resumed the farming lifestyle he had learned as a child. He continued farming the land until the early 1980s, when the original 80-acre farm was subdivided for new homes.

Paul Locke today is a well-traveled man with several hobbies that include 3 well running antique tractors, a beautifully maintained 1966 Chevy pickup and numerous toy trains that he has tinkered with and enjoyed over many decades. Paul also is a Historical Society Member, and will happily attend future meetings to share some of his colorful history and discuss the past with anyone who is interested.

Recently, Paul gave a tour of his farm to Doug Crompton, Betty Luff, Mary Noe and myself. We were shown the many historical aspects of every building, and were delightfully regaled with Paul's witty anecdotes about farming in the 1950's which kept all of us spellbound by the minute. Several photos from our visit are presented with this article but they can't begin to show the multitude of artifacts we witnessed, nor can they be adequately described in just this one Historical Society newsletter story.

What remains just barely revealed here is one of the great treasures from our past history in Northampton Twp. My own plans include a more elaborate and in-depth slide show or DVD compilation of photos and video footage that will make for an enjoyable Society meeting at some time in the future. Mr. Jeff Marshall, noted Bucks County farm and barn expert, has also recently visited Paul's farm and his recorded comments during that visit will be shared with the Society at a future date.

One might indeed ask: how can such a treasure of our past township's history still "cling on" in such a fast paced changing world? The answer lies certainly, in part, within the person of Paul Locke himself. His fondness for the historical aspects of his property and lifestyle, has led him to preserve so much of it intact from the onrushing tide of "modernity". He thus has provided us an opportunity to study, learn about and celebrate this lasting link to our past. We thank you, Paul, for having that foresight and dedication. We can only hope, as we make every possible effort to ensure that this same dedication will be continued in the future by the Township's planners.

*Space only permits printing a few of the many fine photos that Richard has taken of the property. I plan to put a collection of Richard's and my photos of the Locke property on the NTHS website in the near future.*



**Winter scene of the barn looking South.**



**Author, Richard Noe, inspects a massive beam on the south side of the barn.**



**Remains of what was once an elaborate stone privy east of the Locke home.**



Pristine cold cellar located just to the south of the house.



Winter scene looking east towards the house  
Stone shed and wall in foreground.



Paul Locke rests a minute with his rake while giving us a tour of his property.



### Seven Generations of Luffs

Not many of us can show pictures of seven generations of our families. Betty Cornell Luff pictured as a child of about 3 or 4 on the left is with her mother, Margaret Weiss Cornell, age 40, her grandmother, Lena Frederick Weiss, age 58, and her great grandmother, Christia Schlafstein Frederick, age 94. At right, at her Living Tree Award ceremony in November 1997, she is pictured with her Daughter, Peggy Luff DeYoung, grandson, Robert Gerald DeYoung, and her great grandson, Robert Gerald DeYoung Jr.

## Holland, Pennsylvania

Composed by George Ivins

*If you were living on a farm  
Back in nineteen thirty-two (1932)  
You had horses, cows and chickens  
With lots of work to do.*

*There were stables to be cleaned  
And live stock to be fed,  
Of course just like a family  
And their needs for daily bread.*

*And so you went out in the field  
Cut down tall stalks of corn,  
Load up your model "T" Ford truck  
And you were Holland bourne.*

*You crossed the Old Mill Creek  
Thru the covered bridge right there,  
And on the right was Finney's Mill  
And just out front a stair.*

*So you backed your truck up to the stair  
And they ground your load of corn,  
You shopped a little at the store  
And you were back home bourne.*

*You see Holland was a tiny town  
With covered bridge and water fall,  
A general store, a place to fish  
Yes, Holland had it all.*

*You know they were delightful days  
When peace and quiet reigned,  
So thanks to the Finney's and to Holland  
For there is much that we have gained.*

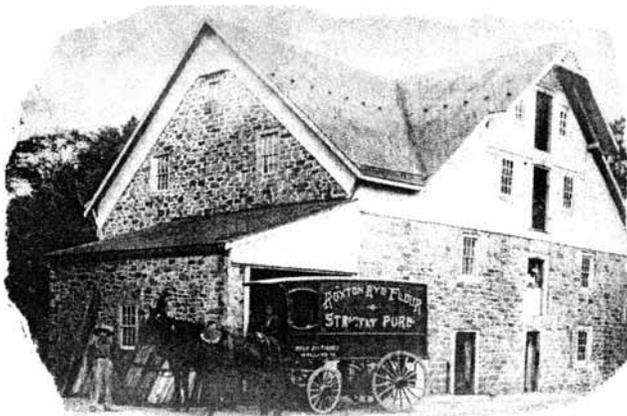
*Back then we had a time of peace  
And yes simplicity,  
And in the hectic world to-day  
That's good for all to see.*



Young Billy Finney, 1932, the Day the bridge was dismantled.



Bridge over Mill Creek  
Mill on left



Finney's Mill, later Mill Race restaurant, now closed



Lafayette Finney's store  
Now Johnny Apples's restaurant



# 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
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<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

March 19	General Meeting	7 PM Library
May 21	General Meeting	7 PM Library
September 17	General Meeting	7 PM Library
November 19	Dinner Meeting	6 PM TBA

### 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 : \_\_\_\_\_

# *HISTORIA*

*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY*



*MARCH 2008*

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*NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 732  
RICHBORO, PA 18954-0732*

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!  
PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF IT DOES NOT  
INDICATE '2008' YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED.**

**Next MEETING - Wednesday, March 19, 2008 - 7 PM  
Gregory Marra, Sculptor**