



# The Herald

Summer  
2008

Hark the happenings of the Historic Langhorne Association

160 West Maple Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047

215.757.1888

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

<http://hla.buxcom.net>

HLA has 3 new email addresses for communicating with us at our headquarters...add them to your contacts...

**Contact email-**

**HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net**

**Archive email-**

**hlaarchives@verizon.net**

**Research email-**

**hlaresearch@verizon.net**

**OPEN HOURS**

Mondays no summer hours

Wednesdays 10-12 pm

7-9 pm

Saturdays 10-12 pm

Or by appointment

**Admission is Free**

**The Anna Mary Williamson  
Library & Museum is on  
"Artists in the  
Garden" Tour**

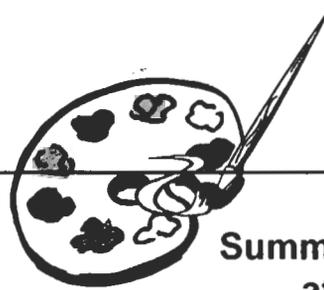
HLA will be on the "Artists in the Garden" Tour sponsored by the Langhorne Council for The Arts, Saturday, May 31, 2008, from noon until 4:00 pm, with a rain date of Sunday, June 1. The tour will feature 18 artists in 9 gardens in Langhorne Borough with a dozen musicians. HLA will host the artist Rachael Page. The Youth Orchestra Quartet will play at HLA from 1 - 2 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for youths 6 - 18. Those under 6 are free. Tickets are available at Judy's Corner on South Bellevue and at Langhorne Heritage Farm, 222 N. Green Street the day of the tour.

**Summer Hours at HLA**

Wednesday and Saturday mornings: 10 - noon,

Wednesday night 7 - 9 pm.

Charlie, Jean, Jim and Larry have been faithfully opening the Library Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for the past 6 years and are in need of time off. We will no longer be open Monday evenings during the summer and staffing during the other hours will be limited. We hope to return to expanded hours in the fall if more volunteers become available. We especially need people to greet visitors and help them with research or questions. To volunteer, call 215-757-1888 or e-mail us at [historiclanshorne1@verizon.com](mailto:historiclanshorne1@verizon.com).



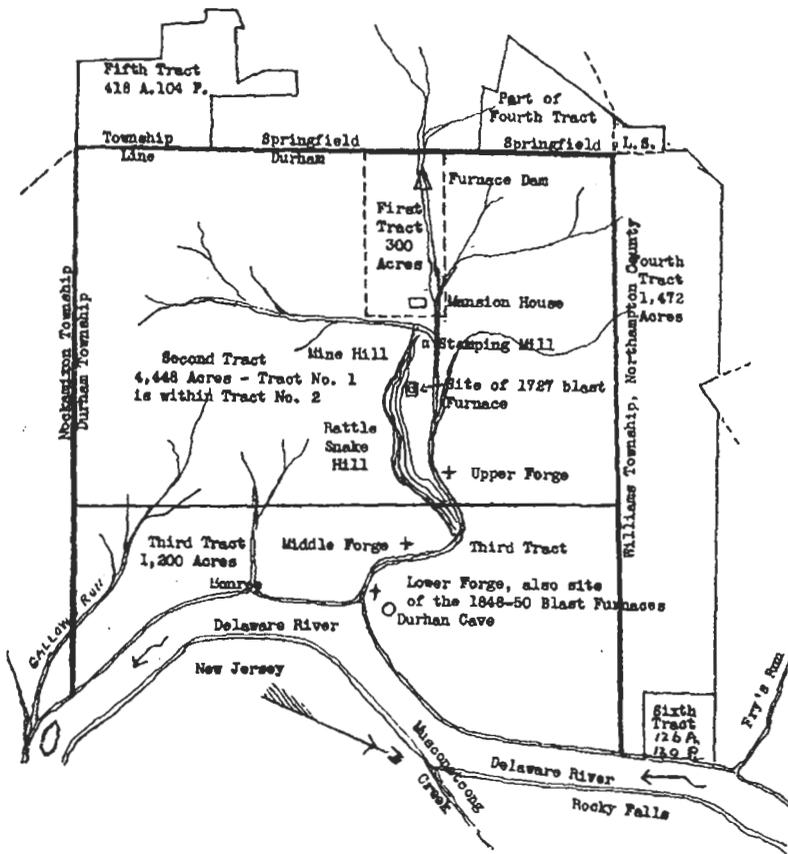
**Summer Art Exhibit  
at Historic  
Langhorne Library**

Several members of the Langhorne Council for the Arts will exhibit their work at our library during July and August. We are planning a Grand Open Friday evening, June 27<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit will be open during HLA's regular visiting hours. Our purpose in inviting the artists to HLA was to give them a place to display their work and to give more people the chance to visit the Historic Association. Be sure to stop by.

**Our headquarters is located in The Anna Mary Williamson  
Library & Museum**

## THE DURHAM IRON WORKS

6



MAP OF DURHAM IRON COMPANY'S REAL ESTATE

Showing location of furnaces, forges, stamping mill, mines, etc. Durham Township as organized in 1775 is shown within black lines, made up of three tracts containing by re-survey of 1773, 6,410 Acres, 123 Perches. The three tracts lying outside of the township, contain 2,101 Acres, 23 Perches, making an aggregate of 8,511 Acres, 123 Perches owned by the Durham Iron Company.

(Left) Durham Iron Works occupied and owned 8,511 acres and the first 300 acre tract was owned by Jeremiah Langhorne. Researched by Charles Lauble

## More Storage Capacity Becomes Available at HLA

Thanks to Kevin Deeny and his daughter, Jennifer, of K.C. Environmental Inc. in Langhorne, addition storage capacity has become available at HLA, especially for our archives. They have donated 3 shelving units, two letter size filing cabinets and a 5 drawer lateral filing unit which will facilitate the storage of our photograph collection. With an ever increasing number of donations to our archives, space was becoming a problem, so these items are greatly appreciated. K.C. Environmental is closing as Kevin and Jen explore new career paths. Jen, by the way, is on the Board of HLA and

## Donations To HLA Archives Continue to Come In

As mentioned in another article, donations to our collection continue to come in. In this issue we would like to thank the following people:

Alison Derry for a collection of material about the Bethlehem A.M.E. Church including a church bulletin Sunday, March 28, 1948 and anniversary booklets from 1979 and 1987.

Kevin Deeny for a collection of large aerial photographs of the Oxford Valley/Fairless Hills/Bristol area from 1965, 1980 and 1990.

Cynthia Transue Winter for a continuing donation of material from her parents' home, most recently including a mimeograph copy of a script for a play "David Finds Christmas" as "Retold by Mrs. Heckman's sixth grade class, December 1969." According to reliable sources, Mrs. Heckman's class was either at the old Pine Street School or the Cherry Street School in Langhorne in 1959. If anyone can tell us where her class actually was, please contact us. Also included in the material was a four page "Extra Firemen's Edition" of the Philadelphia Inquirer, Volume 1, No. 4, featuring the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company on the front page and announcing the arrival of the new 1959 pumper.

One of the more intriguing items from Cynthia was a sign dated January 2, 1872 announcing the closing of business of O. Jacoby & Company, Attleboro, PA., and its move to Philadelphia. Oscar Jacoby and his wife operated a store at 131 E. Maple Avenue and owned the house next door. Why the closing was announced is a mystery as even after Mr. Jacoby's death, his wife continued to operate the store in Langhorne well in the 1900s. Perhaps they changed their minds about moving! Our museum has a collection of "gifts" Mrs. Jacoby used to give her customers including commemorative plates and a rolling pin.

## The Anna Mary Williamson Library Celebrates 120 Years

This year marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of construction of the Langhorne Library, now the headquarters of Historic Langhorne Association. Upon her death at age 50 in 1886, Anna Mary Williamson left instructions in her will for her executors to spend \$12,000 to "purchase a suitable lot of land in the Borough of Langhorne . . . and proceed with convenient speed . . . to erect therein a substantial, commodious and appropriate building for the establishment and maintenance of a public library therein." On July 17, 1888, the construction of the library began with the digging of the cellar and on October 2, the corner stone was laid. By December 8, slaters began work on the roof and on January 7, 1889 the stove was put in the cellar. On May, 17, 1889 the library was wired for electricity and the electric lights were lit in the streets and a few of the homes in the Borough for the first time. In September, a brick walk around the grounds was finished and the iron fence installed. Finally, on November 1, 1889, the library was finished and the lights burning. The old library books were moved into the new building on November 20 and the old library building situated in the rear of the new one, on Hill Avenue, was sold for \$240.00 to the Women's Christian Temperance Union. \* In 1977, the new Pennwood Branch Library opened as the old building had become too small.

Anna Mary was born on her parents' farm near Oxford Valley. In 1882 she purchased property on the northwest corner of South Bellevue and Richardson Avenues, and build a home, now the First Federal of Bucks County Bank. One person who influenced her generosity was her wealthy uncle, Isaiah VanSant Williamson. Isaiah, a Philadelphia merchant and friend of John Wanamaker, founded the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades near Media, Pennsylvania. Anna Mary's estate was valued at almost \$94,000, a large sum at the time. In addition to funds for the Langhorne library, her will also provided money for the purchase of books for the Langhorne, Yardley and Newtown libraries, two thousand dollars to the Children's Country Week Association of Philadelphia, two thousand dollars to the Schofield Normal and Industrial School in Aiken, South Carolina, and five thousand dollars to the trustees of the School Fund of Middletown Preparative Meeting of Friends to support and promote the school.

Anna Mary Williamson's gift remains one of the gems of Langhorne Borough and is admired by all who visit it. Historic Langhorne Association, in order to meet one of the terms of her will that the building always remain library, maintains a library as part of the museum.

\* Building notes from the diary of Robert Ivins, one of the trustees of the library building committee.

1888 to 2008

Happy Birthday Anna Mary Williamson Library and Muszum. You sure look good for being 120 years old!



### Handicapped Accessibility Project

As most of you are aware, Historic Langhorne Association has received a grant to modify the rear entrance on our building to permit the installation of a wheel chair lift. Currently our building is not handicapped accessible. Multiple designs were reviewed and discussed by our board members. In the end, we chose the least intrusive design. The new entrance will reuse our original steps and rear door. A new foundation will be constructed using the same red block used on our building. The existing step blocks will be reinstalled along side of a concrete pad for a wheel chair lift. The upper platform at the building floor level will be a dyed concrete to blend in with the building's colors. A black wrought iron railing will surround the platform. Richard Walker, an architect and also the President of Upper Makefield Historic Society, is working with us on this project.

This project has been back and forth between the architect and the grant administrator for some time now. Because of the funding sources, there are many guidelines which must be met. Our bid package that will be published has been scrutinized many times.

We were all set to proceed when recently I received a phone call from the grant administrator asking me to contact our local building inspector and inquire whether or not we would require an accessibility permit. This is a new state regulation which recently took effect. As of this writing we are awaiting word from Harrisburg regarding this new permit on our project. Once we get past this hurdle we should be clear to proceed with construction.

Jim Maier

## Membership Report

Historic Langhorne Association wishes to acknowledge the following businesses, individuals and groups for their membership contributions since our last newsletter:

**Corporate Donor:**    **Brother's Pizza**

**Century Group:**    **Scott and Ester McCleskey (new)**  
                              **Four Lanes End Garden Club**

Individual and Family members:

Neal and Beth McKenna      Kathy and Paul Horwatt

Thank you all for your support.

If you have not had the opportunity to renew for this year, it is never too late. Membership applications are available at our website or at the Library. Your support is very important to us.

If you have any questions about your membership, please call HLA and leave a message for me or send an e-mail message to me at the Association's address included in this newsletter.

Jack Fulton  
Membership Chairman

## Redner's Save-A-Tape Update

A thank you to everyone who has been bringing in their register tapes with the Save-A-Tape total from Redner's Market. We recently received a check from Redner's for \$89.85 and are now ready to send in another \$8200.00 of tape for a refund of \$82.00. This money helps keep HLA running and purchase supplies to protect our collections. If you do your grocery shopping at Redner's, be sure to obtain your Save-A-Tape card at the customer service window and present it when you check out. Your receipt will show the amount good for the program. Drop the tapes off at HLA or at Judy's Corner Framing Shop on South Bellevue Avenue and we will do the rest! A reminder that your tapes must have the Save-A-Tape total on them from using the card.

## What's New at the Gift Shop

Looking for a June wedding gift? A graduation or birthday present? Don't forget the Historic Langhorne Gift Shop. We have recently received a new shipment of Westerwald pottery with the Langhorne name on the items. There are coffee mugs, pitchers, jugs and more. How about an autographed copy of "Images of America: Bucks County," by Kathleen Zingaro Clark from the Arcadia Publishing series? Much of the work on the book was done with the help of our own Charlie Lauble and almost a third of the photographs are from the HLA archives. Or, how about an autographed copy of "Colonial Inns and Taverns of Bucks County" by Marie Murphy Dues? Again Charlie helped with this book and he and Historic Langhorne Association are mentioned in the acknowledgements by the author. The burgundy 48" x 72" burgundy colored Historic Langhorne throw is always popular, with picture scenes from around Langhorne. Great to send off to college with your student. All these items are available at the Historic Library or at Judy's Corner on South Bellevue Avenue in Langhorne.





### Memorial Day Antique Cars Entry

If you are interested in entering an antique or classic car in the Langhorne Memorial Day Parade, simply meet the day of the parade at the American Legion on the corner of South Bellevue and Richardson Avenues in Langhorne Borough. The parade starts by 9:00 AM so be sure to be there early for the line up..



**HISTORIC LANGHORNE ASSOCIATION**  
 160 West Maple Avenue  
 Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047  
 (215) 757-1888

**BROADWAY AT THE BEACH  
 THEATRE BUS TRIP  
 to  
 SURFLIGHT THEATER  
 Beach Haven, NJ  
 Thursday, June 26, 2008  
 THE PRODUCERS**

Leave: 8:00 AM, Langhorne Presbyterian Church Parking Lot  
 Arrive: 10 AM, Visit to Barnegat Lighthouse & Barnegat Inlet Walkway  
 Lunch: 11:30 AM, The PLANTATION, Harvey Cedars, LBI (see below for entree selections)  
 Show: 2:00 PM **THE PRODUCERS**  
 Return: 6:30 PM, Langhorne

**PRICE: \$70.00** includes  
 - Deluxe restroom-equipped coach  
 - Gratuities  
 - Luncheon at The Plantation, 7908 Long Beach Blvd., Harvey Cedars, NJ  
 - Show at SurfFlight Theatre, Beach & Engleside Aves., Beach Haven, NJ

\$20.00 non-refundable deposit due by May 1, 2007; final payment due by June 1, 2007  
 For information call Jean Noble, 215-757-3662

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon Choice (all entrees include Bread/Butter/Olive Oil, Dessert, and Beverage)

Soup & Half Turkey Salad Sandwich w/Grapes & Walnuts on Raisin Sourdough \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad w/Roasted peppers, Portabella Mushrooms & Croutons \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Salmon over Island Rice Pilaf, Corn Salad & Tomato Broth \_\_\_\_\_

Penne Pasta w/Grilled Chicken, Portabella Mushrooms, Roasted Peppers \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: Key Lime Pie or Ice Cream

Make checks payable to **Historic Langhorne Association** & return bottom portion with entrée selection

## 2008 Coming Attractions at

**Monday, May 26**

### Langhorne Memorial Day Parade

As usual our building will be open for the people who stroll by from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will have an ongoing slide presentation and lemonade for a quick refreshment. Welcome summer!

**Sunday, June 8, 3-7 pm**

### Annual Strawberry Festival

Come celebrate the local strawberry harvest and enjoy fresh strawberries on pound cake with vanilla ice cream. Fun, food, music and crafts for all ages!

Added attractions: A Barbershop Quartet will be

Performing along with Mark and Leticia Arrington who will perform 'classic country music'.

### Summer Ghost Tours

The spirits are flying even in the summer. Check out our summer hauntings on June 20, July 18, August 15. See insert for more details.

### HLA Open for LBBA Car Show June 21

Historic Langhorne Association will have special hours, Saturday, June 21 from 4 to 9 pm., for the Langhorne Borough Business Association's Car Show. The show was a smashing (No cars involved!) success last year with hundreds of people strolling Maple Avenue. Our library will be open with a slide show of photographs from our archives collection of cars and other forms of transportation from years ago, including photos of the Langhorne Speedway! Stop in and take a break from your walk on Maple Avenue.

**Thursday, June 26**

### Broadway at the Beach 'The Producers'

A bus trip to the SurfFlight Theater in Long Beach

Island to see this great stage play. \$70/ person includes play, lunch at The Plantation restaurant in Harvey Cedars, bus, and an added attraction: **a visit to the historic Barnegat Lighthouse for a stroll on their promenade for some fresh salt air and a great view of the ocean!** Limited to 50 people. (See insert in this newsletter)

## Marty McDonald Welcomed to HLA Board

Marty McDonald, a longtime HLA member and retired accountant, has been named to fill out the term of a Board member who resigned for personal reasons. Marty has been a faithful volunteer, coming in to work on Wednesday mornings and helping out at events such as the Holiday House Tour and Strawberry Festival. We look forward to having him share his experience as a Board member.

## THE MEMORY BOX

**Do you have a memory of Langhorne that may no longer be there?**

*This memory is from Dave Marrington Jr.*

When I lived in Levittown in the early 1960's I remember there used to be a 'humped back' bridge on Maple Ave. right as you entered the borough. (where Flowers Mill Road is today, near Genuardi's) I always liked driving over the bridge. I knew I was coming into Langhorne Borough when I crossed that bridge. It was kind of the dividing point between Levittown and Langhorne Borough.

## Historic Langhorne Association's 2008 Officers & Committee Members

President- Jim Maier

Vice President- Larry Langhans

Treasurer- Jack Fulton

Recording Secretary- Evelyn Aicher

Corresponding Secretary- Lynda Johnson

Technology- Charlie Lauble & Jim Maier

Artifacts- Evelyn Aicher & Ruth Irwin

Publicity- Joy Ward

Hostess- Nancy Pietsch

Archives- Larry Langhans & Jim Maier

HLA Gift Shop- E. Aicher & Judy Sloan

Finance- Jack Fulton

Genealogy- Beverlee Felkner

**Holiday House- Open**

Library- Jean Noble

Membership- Jack Fulton

Newsletter- Sally Marrington

**Oral History- Open**

**Programs-Open**

Property- Charles Lauble

Sun Shine- Nancy Pietsch

Ways and Means- Jean Noble

Grant Advisor- Kathy Horwatt

House Plaques- Judy Sloan

Tea- Lynda Johnson

**PICTURE YOUR NAME HERE & VOLUNTEER !**