



The Herald

Fall
2014

Hark the happenings of the Historic Langhorne Association

160 West Maple Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047

215.757.1888

<http://www.historiclanghorne.org>



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HLA to Celebrate 125th Anniversary of Library Building

November 9, 2014, will mark the **125th anniversary** of the transfer of the newly-constructed library building to the **Langhorne Library Association** that occurred on **November 9, 1889**. The public library operated from this location until it moved to its current location at Pine St. and Flowers Ave. The building became the headquarters of the Historic Langhorne Association in 1977 where it now serves as a historical museum of local artifacts and an archive of local historical documents, as well as continuing to serve as a research library available to the public as provided in the Williamson will.

The original construction of the building was financed by a bequest from the will of Anna Mary Williamson. Following is an excerpt from the will:

I give and bequeath unto Pierson Mitchell and Robert Ivins, of the Borough of Langhorne, and J. Pemberton Hutchinson, of the Borough of Newtown, the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars, for the following purposes, That they will, as soon as reasonably practicable after my decease, purchase a suitable lot of land in the Borough of Langhorne, and proceed with convenient speed to erect thereon a substantial, commodious and appropriate building, for the establishment and maintenance of a public library therein. The building to be fitted up and furnished with the necessary and appropriate appliances for heating and lighting the same, and with the book-cases, shelving and furniture necessary, convenient and appropriate for the accommodation, preservation and use of the library to be established therein, and the lot to be enclosed with a substantial fence (T)he deed for the lot of land to be purchased by the said trustees, shall be made to and taken by them and their heirs, as trustees, and immediately upon the completion of the said building and improvements, they shall make, execute and deliver a deed for the said building and lot land, to the before named Langhorne Library Company and its successors forever, as a free gift from me, for the following purposes : First said Langhorne Library Company shall establish in said building, and thereafter keep up and maintain therein forever, a library of standard and useful books, for the use of all such persons residing within the limits or in the vicinity of the Borough of Langhorne as may desire to avail themselves thereof

Also in her will, Anna Mary Williamson set aside \$10,000 in trust for the benefit of the Langhorne Library Company, the Newtown Library Company and the Yardleyville Library Company. The earnings on these funds were available to the respective libraries for:

.... The purchase of books of a standard and useful character, and to the exclusion of the light, sensational, useless and pernicious publications of the day.... .

Although no longer in trust, a portion of these funds are still reflected as part of the Endowment funds for Historic Langhorne for the maintenance of its research library. We try not to purchase anything useless or pernicious.

HLA has copies of the diary of Robert Ivins, trustee and supervisor of construction for the building, that cover the one year period from the date of the purchase of the land through the completion of construction and transfer to the Langhorne Library Association as well as Mr. Ivins' actual account book for the project summarizing all of the material and labor purchases. Our thanks to Charles Edwards for providing access to these and other diaries of Mr. Ivins. Following are a few excerpts from the diaries:

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

HLA to Celebrate 125th Anniversary of Library Building (cont'd from page 1)

4/16/1888 (seventh day): I assisted J. Pemberton Hutchinson survey the lot purchased for the Williamson Library.

5/10/1888 (fifth day): In company with Pierson Mitchell and J. P. Hutchinson I inspected Library Buildings at Phila., West Chester, Germantown & Mt. Airy. This trip was in anticipation of the Building of a Library Building at Langhorne, as trustee of the will of Anna M. Williamson. We did not find a model that suited our needs; but we learned much that will be of use in planning for the one about to be erected.

5/25/1888 (sixth day): In company with P. Mitchell and J. P. Hutchinson visited Salem, N.J. to see the Tyler Library Building. We found the building well adapted for its purpose, Substantial, Commodious, etc.

11/9/1889 (Seventh day): **Very rainy. The trustees to erect the Library Building deeded it to the Library Association this evening. J. P. Hutchinson on behalf of the trustees made the presentation which was accepted in the name of the Association. Judge Richard Watson made an address, etc. We had been over a year in having the building completed. I have had the superintendence of the work from the beginning to the end, and occupied my time and gave me employment all this time - I did at times considerable labor, etc. The building grounds and out-fit for the building cost nearly \$12000; the sum left for the purpose. It is a very fine building 32 by 60 ft. with extensions of 6ft. On each side near the middle of the structure.**

11/11/1889 (second day): The old Library Books were moved into the new Library.

HLA is planning the following events to celebrate this anniversary:

Monday, October 27, 2014, 7:30 pm: HLA will present a program on the history of the Library building including exhibits of documents and photographs from our archives as well as a presentation on what was happening around the world in 1889, what books were being read and other interesting facts. The program is free and open to the public and, of course, will be held at the Library building, 160 W. Maple Ave. in Langhorne Borough. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, November 9, 2014: HLA will host a dinner commemorating the anniversary at Bella Tori at the Mansion. This will be an invitation-only event and invitations will be sent out later in September to members and other supporters.

The anniversary will also serve as HLA's theme for the Four Lanes End Garden tour to be held on November 20, 2014.

Memories of the Library:

We know that many of our members and friends have memories of the old library. If you would like to share any of these memories, we would be happy to include them during our programs. Please send us a note or an e-mail with your recollections or stop in during our open hours to share your stories or memories.



From a 1906 postcard



Recent photograph

Membership Update - 2014/15

Historic Langhorne wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and local businesses for their generous donations toward our 2014-15 membership year fund drive:

Business Benefactors: Dunn-Givnish Life Celebration Home
Business Donors: Masselle's Auto Body, Inc. K.E. Seifert, Inc.
Century Group: Jane Boyle Lou & Linda Procaccino
Patrons: Scott & Gigi Cowan Jean Candy Rounsavill
Andrea Lamberth & Richard White

Family and Individual memberships:

Vince & Anna Marie Della Vella Betty Ann Flis
Thomas & Kathleen Haggerty William & Nan Kent
Judith Madsen & Janet Doyle O. Lee Merrick III
Robert E. Wendig

Attached to this newsletter is our annual membership drive letter seeking renewals and new memberships for our membership year beginning September 1 and ending August 31, 2015. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please contact Jack Fulton with any membership questions.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Walter Bien to speak at September Program meeting

On **September 22, 2014 at 7:30 pm**, **Historic Langhorne** will feature **Langhorne resident** and **Drexel University Research Professor Walter F. Bien, PHD** who will speak about his work in the **New Jersey Pine Barrens**.

Dr. Bien is a Research Professor in the Department of Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science at Drexel and is Director of the Laboratory of Pinelands Research.

His research focuses on community ecology (New Jersey Pine Barrens), conservation biology, natural resource management, and restoration ecology.

The Laboratory of Pinelands Research (LPLR) was created in March 2002 as a result of a cooperative agreement between the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at Drexel University and the New Jersey Air National Guard (NJANG). The main purpose of the LPLR is to foster stewardship of the natural resources at the Warren Grove Gunnery Range in support of the NJANG Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. The LPLR works closely with the NJANG to provide valuable information for managing natural resources that comply with federal and state regulations and to evaluate mission effects on the regional Pine Barrens ecosystem.

For more information please visit the following websites:

**www.drexel.edu/bees/contact/facultyDirectory/Bien
www.pages.drexel.edu/~eno26/index.html**

The meeting will be held at our headquarters located in the Anna Mary Williamson Library building, 160 W. Maple Ave., in Langhorne Borough. It is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served following the program. The building has a lift at the back entrance for anyone needing assistance in entering.

HISTORIC LANGHORNE GHOST TOURS

Join us again this fall for our annual **Ghost Tours** through Langhorne Borough. The tours are approximately one-hour walking tours and begin at the Historic Langhorne Association's headquarters building.

Tours will run on **Friday and Saturday nights throughout October**. Please follow our website (historiclanshorne.org) for this year's tour schedule and further information on times, tour prices and advance ticket purchases. Our voicemail message will also provide tour information beginning in October. **Advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended** as tours tend to sell-out, particularly toward the end of October.

One special tour/program combination package will be offered this year on Saturday October 25th. **Keystone Spirit Seekers (KEYSS)**, a local paranormal group, will present a mini - Ghost Hunting 101 presentation and introduce actual evidence collected locally. Additionally, they will have a display of some of the actual equipment they use. A Ghost tour will follow immediately after the program. Advance purchase of tickets is required for this event. Information on the exact time for this tour and ticket prices will also be available on our website.

If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our team of tour guides or if you have any stories about ghosts in your home, please contact Jim Maier by calling the Association or sending an email.

Acknowledgements

Once again, Historic Langhorne wants to express our sincere thanks to **Jeff Defrehn at Defrehn Roofing Co.** for the contribution of labor and materials to repair significant winter damage to the slate roof and gutters on the Library building.

HLA's annual **Strawberry Festival** was held on June 8th. The good weather and delicious strawberries and an interesting assortment of music and vendors made for an enjoyable day for all who attended. Our thanks to Mark and Leticia Arrington and Ben Vogel (marimba) for their music and to our loyal group of volunteers for all of their hard work.

We also want to congratulate **Pat Mervine** and everyone at **Langhorne Council for the Arts** for another very successful series of Summer Lectures held at Anna Mary Williamson Library building. The wide variety of topics and excellent presenters combined for five very enjoyable Tuesday nights and we look forward to working with the Arts Council to host these again next summer.

Our thanks to former Board member, **Jean Nelson-Noble**, for her efforts in organizing another successful trip to the **Surflight Theater in Beach Haven, NJ** for its production of "**A Chorus Line**". **46 people attended** the lunch and show on August 28th.

The gardens at the Library are looking particularly good this summer thanks, in part, to better than normal summer weather, but mainly due to the work of a new volunteer. **Ernie Tkac**, a Langhorne resident, has been spending many hours keeping the gardens in top condition. Thanks, Ernie!



THANK YOU FOR REDNERS TAPES

For over seven years HLA has been collecting and redeeming your grocery register receipts from **Redner's Market** on Route 1 in Langhorne for which we have now earned almost **\$2,500.00**. This money goes to help maintain our building and collections. We want to thank all those who have donated their tapes, including those individuals who mail or drop them off anonymously. **If you would like to take part in this program, ask for a Save-A-Tape card the next time you are in Redners.** You do not need to give your name or any other personal information.

PLEASE NOTE: HLA receives 1% from the portion now designated as "**Today's Contribution**" on the Redner's tape. We encourage you to continue to send in your Redner's tapes and ask only that you be sure that the "**Today's Contribution**" amount appears on each tape that you submit. Also, tapes cannot be more than 3 years old to qualify for redemption.

VOLUNTEERS

We have many projects in search of a volunteer such as updating our deed search files for houses in the borough, helping to improve our website, researching local topics or locating speakers for future meeting programs, helping to expand our membership rolls, developing ideas for periodic exhibitions of our artifacts collection and coordinating genealogy searches. In addition we are always looking for people willing to serve on our Board of Directors. Please stop in during our open hours or contact us by phone or email to discuss your interests and how you might be able to help this organization.

Historic Langhorne Association's Current Board & Committee Chairs

Board Members

Jim Maier, President
Larry Langhans, Vice President
Jack Fulton, Treasurer
Evelyn Aicher, Recording Secretary
Lynda Johnson, Corresponding Secretary
Judy Sloan
Chris Prokop Donna Thomas
Terri Little Lance Mervine

Committees

Technology – Jim Maier
Artifacts – Evelyn Aicher
Publicity –
Hostess –
Archives – Larry Langhans & Jim Maier
HLA Gift Shop – Evelyn Aicher & Judy Sloan
Finance – Jack Fulton
Genealogy –
Holiday House –
Library – Jean Noble
Membership – Jack Fulton
Newsletter – Jack Fulton
Oral History –
Programs -
Property –
Sunshine – Lynda Johnson
Ways and Means –
Grant Advisor – Kathy Horwatt
House Plaques -Judy Sloan
Tea – Lynda Johnson

Picture your name here and volunteer!

Coming Attractions at Historic Langhorne Association

Monday, Sept. 22, 2014, 7:30 pm - Program featuring Walt Bien discussing ecology of N.J. Pine Barrens. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

Monday, Oct. 27, 2014. 7:30 pm - Program celebrating 125th anniversary of the Langhorne Library. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS:

Farmer's Market: Tuesdays, 3 - 6:30 pm at Jesse Soby Post, sponsored by Langhorne Borough Business Assoc.

Olde Langhorne Harvest Day: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014, 10 am - to 3 pm, Maple and Bellevue Aves. Sponsored by Langhorne Borough Business Assoc.

OPEN HOURS

Wednesdays 10am - 12pm & 7 - 9pm

Saturdays 10am - 12pm

...Or by appointment

Admission is Free & Gift Shop Available

HLA has three email addresses for communicating with us at our headquarters.

General email-

HistoricLanghorne1@verizon.net

Archive email-

hlaarchives@verizon.net

Research email-

hlaresearch@verizon.net

W A N T E D

Old photographs, postcards, maps or documents of Langhorne and neighboring towns for our archives. You can either donate the items or we will scan and return them to you. Photos of houses, businesses, streets or events are sought along with event brochures, programs, yearbooks, etc. Call or email us if you would like to donate or loan an item for preservation.

Historic Langhorne Association Membership Information

All memberships include:

Quarterly Newsletter Notice of all special events and programs
10% discount on ALL Historic Langhorne Association merchandise
(Merchandise available at Association headquarters and Judy's Corner)

Membership options:

Individual	\$ 25.00	Business member	\$ 50.00
Family	\$ 30.00	Business donor	\$ 100.00
Patron	\$ 50.00	Business benefactor	\$ 250.00
Century Group	\$ 100.00	Business sponsor	\$ 500.00
Worthington Associate	\$ 500.00	Business patron	\$ 1,000.00
Williamson Lifetime	\$ 1,000.00		

Historic Langhorne Association is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

-----Kindly separate and return-----

Membership Year: September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015

Name: _____

Contact Name (for business members) _____

Email: _____

Please print clearly (only for event announcements and gift acknowledgement)

Address: _____ Apt. _____

_____ Phone: _____

Membership category: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

If your employer offers a matching gift program, please enclose applicable forms

Make checks payable to: Historic Langhorne Association
Mail to: 160 W. Maple Ave., Langhorne, PA 19047

Volunteer opportunities

Historic Langhorne Association is actively seeking members of the community to serve on the governing board of the organization or to participate in one of many committees (Artifacts, Archives, Finance, Fundraising, Genealogy, Library, Membership, Newsletter, Oral History, Programs, Property, or Publicity). If you have any interest in becoming involved in this organization, please stop in to our headquarters during open hours or contact us by telephone or email to discuss, or check the box below and a member of the Board will contact you.

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities _____