
The Corridor

Volume XXXIII, No. 3

Newsletter of the Old York Road Historical Society

Fall 2024

LECTURE SERIES

The Program Committee has arranged for the following presentations to be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the John Barnes Room of Abington Friends Meeting (520 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown). **Please note that only the November program will be accessible via Zoom.** The lecture series is sponsored by a grant from the Jenkintown Lyceum and all programs are offered free of charge.

October 9 – Cheltenham Township Police Department: The First Fifty Years. Society vice-president Tom Wieckowski will look at the early years of the Cheltenham Police department. From amateur night watchmen, horseback transport and whistles, to professional officers, autogiros and two-way radios, the department filled a void at the beginning of the twentieth century that we take for granted today. The police story reflects the larger backdrop of the development over a short period of time of all of our Old York Road communities as they transitioned from the vagaries of life in the colonial era of horses, dirt roads, farmlands and oil lamps to encompass the challenges of modern living in an era of automobiles, paved highways, suburbanization and electricity. The lecture is based on the sole article in the most recent issue of the *OYRHS Bulletin*. Copies of the bulletin will be on sale for \$10 and Tom will be happy to sign copies.

November 13 – Jenkintown. Marion Rosenbaum, co-author with the Society of the recently published book on the history of the borough of Jenkintown will speak about Jenkintown's 150 years as an independent municipality. She will touch on a number of the stories that did not make the book, including a look at some of the interesting people, among them the Newbolds and the Culvers. She will also discuss the story of the KKK coming to Jenkintown in the 1920s. Jenkintown is full of rich historical stories. If you have not already purchased a copy of the book, copies will be available following the presentation. Society members get their first copy for \$15, and all others are \$20. Sales support the Society's collections and Marion will be happy to sign books purchased.

- - FALL OUTINGS - -

Washington Crossing Historic Park

Sunday, October 27, 1:15 p.m.

Come join us for a tour of Washington Crossing Historic Park, the site where George Washington set off during the evening of Christmas Day 1776 to surprise and defeat the Hessian forces stationed in Trenton. We will view an introductory film that gives a brief overview of the ten crucial days following the crossing. After the video our guide will further explain the events that led to the crossing, the logistics and act of the crossing itself, and the battles that followed (1st and 2nd Trenton and Princeton). We will also see a replica of the Durham boats in which the men were taken across the Delaware River, and our guide will explain the impact of the ten crucial days on the course of the revolution as a whole. After the tour, we will visit the exhibit gallery that includes physical artifacts and a section that covers the medical situation during the encampment. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The bus will depart from the Jenkintown Library at 1:15 p.m. and we should return around 5:00. Please use the enclosed reservation form.

The Bryn Athyn Train Wreck

Saturday, December 7, 1:30 p.m.

Join the Society as it partners with the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust for this annual program observing the anniversary of the Bryn Athyn Train wreck, which occurred 103 years ago on December 5, 1921. This head-on collision of two trains along the Newtown railway line resulted in the deaths of 26 persons.

Railroad historian Larry Eastwood will give a presentation on the train wreck with a Q&A period to follow. At 2:45, the assembled will commence a walk to the crash site led by Society President David Rowland. Pre-registration is required by December 6 through the Pennypack Trust web site (www.pennypacktrust.org). Pennypack Trust and Old York Road Historical Society members are free; non-members \$10. This program will be held at the Trust's Visitors' Center.

Society Membership Information

Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership! The membership year is the same as the school year; the advanced year being used to denote the year on your mailing label. So, for the membership year that runs from the fall of 2024 to the summer of 2025, the date on your label should be "2025". Feel free to contact the Society at 215-886-8590 with any questions.

After 12 years of stable pricing, dues from Individual to Patron Plus levels are increasing a modest amount. We still consider your support through membership to be a wonderful value. As always, support at the Patron level or higher greatly enhances the work we are able to do.

Matching Gifts

Did you know that the Society is eligible to receive corporate matching gifts? Several members have doubled the impact of their gift by submitting paperwork to their company for this purpose. Check with your employer to see if the Society qualifies.

IRA Donations

For the past several years, many folks have taken the opportunity to donate their required minimum distribution (RMD) to charitable causes. The Society, as a 501(c)(3) organization, qualifies as a worthy cause for your IRA distribution.

Making a Bequest

Updating your will? Please consider including a bequest to the Society's general endowment fund in your will or estate plans. Your gift will help ensure a vibrant future for the Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are the officers and directors for the Society's 2024-2025 program year:

President: David Rowland
First Vice President: Thomas Wieckowski
Second Vice President: Edward Landau
Secretary: Eileen Koolpe
Treasurer: Michael Czerwonka, CPA

Directors: Leslie Bell, Bryan Havir, Maria Paula Mugnani, James Rubillo, Sharee Solow, and Stephanie Walsh.

Directors Emeriti: Martha McDonough, Joyce Root, Elizabeth Smith, and Mildred Wintz.

Donations to the Archives

The Society has received a number of significant donations since February including the following:

- A large number of area telephone books (15 linear feet), from Norman Marcus. (Note, we still are in search of phone books predating 1985).
- Records from the Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley and the Valley Club (that will be added to their existing collections) and ephemera from the Tinari Greenhouses, from Clementine Dix.
- Abington, Cheltenham and Glenside ephemera from Jeffrey Kenneth Kohn.
- A number of books and maps related to Cheltenham Township from the collection of the Society's late president Alexander Scott, from Walter Scott.
- A Caldwell & Company wall sconce from *Laverock Hill*, the Isaac T. Starr estate, from Edward C. Zwicker, III.
- Photographs and ephemera from Overlook Hills Boy Scout Troop 72 and Abington High School and Marching Band, from Alan Eickhoff.

An Event of Local Interest

Richard Wall Museum Open House, Sunday, October 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Richard Wall House Museum at 1 Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park. A number of area historical organizations, including the Society, will have tables at this event.

OLD YORK ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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215 - 886 - 8590

Archives Research Hours

Tuesdays, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

Society's Website

www.oyrhs.org

Society's E-mail Address

OldYorkRoadHistory@gmail.com