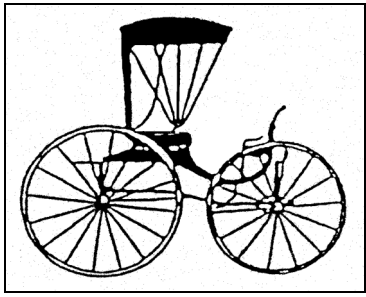


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "

Haddon Heights Historical Society



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 45 Number 2

April 2020

We meet on the third Monday of January*, April, July, and October - at 7:00pm in the Library

* January meeting will be held on the fourth Monday due to the Martin Luther King Holiday

APRIL 2020 MEETING : A VICTIM OF COVID19- Because of the prohibition on meetings as part of the Governor's "Stay At Home" program, the April 20th meeting of the Haddon Heights Historical Society was cancelled. As I write this edition of the Newsletter, I am at home after a long day of social distancing, working at my job in Human Resources for Jefferson Health. Today's heroes are those out there on the front lines, fighting this devastating invisible enemy! Let us not forget those others who are essential to keeping the stores supplied, the trash picked up, and delivering those online purchases to our doorstep! They, too, keep us going.



A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a Haddon Heights "Quarantine" Car Cruise. It was organized by a fellow car guy from Heights, and it involved 10 older and classic vehicles. Before you think this was a selfish gathering of guideline-ignoring crazy car nuts, let me explain the purpose. Sure, it was an opportunity for me to get my 1929 Model A Ford out of the garage, but we had a much larger goal. This "Cruise" was promoted on the Haddon Heights FaceBook page in advance of the gathering, so folks all around town knew we were coming. We met at the parking lot adjacent to the "Dell" and proceeded to slowly parade



down just about every block on every street in town. We honked and waved, spreading good feelings, hope and cheer. As we drove along, families greeted us with waves, smiles, and thanks... It was a great experience and a chance to "give back" to those neighbors who are stuck at home in our historic town, waiting out this terrible pandemic.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- Oscar Wilde said, "A flower blooms for its own joy." I also believe that flowers bloom for our joy, especially this spring. Please enjoy the beauty of spring as you take a solitary walk. Because our April meeting was cancelled, we are planning to present Diane's program at our October meeting. We are all going through difficult and uncharted times, making this a perfect time for virtual tours. Many museums, National Parks, historic buildings, and historic sites have fantastic virtual tours online. Just think how exciting it is to visit these places in our country and other countries. It is amazing to discover the many places you can visit without leaving your home!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have been working on family history as I experience the treasures my Mother has left me in her written words. This is a great time to call old friends and spread sunshine through the spoken word. Everyone please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing everyone in July. Elena

JANUARY MEETING: THE DON WALLACE HISTORICAL TOOL COLLECTION



On January 27th, our presenter Michael Underwood, curator of the Don Wallace Historical Tool collection at the Haddonfield Historical Society brought out many tools and implements for our enjoyment. He talked about the collection, which is available for viewing by appointment. Those in attendance had an opportunity to play his “What is it” guessing game. Several items went without a correct guess and no one scored close to 100%....



WHAT GOES AROUND... COMES AROUND: THE SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC OF 1918

Officials in Philadelphia knew what was coming their way. All through September 1918 they had seen reports coming out of Boston of a virulent, deadly influenza. In fact, the Philadelphia Bureau of Public Health had issued a bulletin about the so-called Spanish influenza as early as July 1918. Despite the prescience of some, Philadelphia’s health and city officials had failed to even list influenza as a reportable disease, placing the city’s population of nearly two million in grave danger.



Timing of the epidemic’s arrival in Philadelphia could not have been worse. Over 25% of the city’s doctors, and a larger percentage of its nurses, were lending their medical talents to the nation’s war efforts. At Philadelphia Hospital, 75% of medical and support staff were overseas. Such personnel shortages were an issue even before influenza hit; once it did, lack of adequate medical help contributed to influenza’s deadly impact.

Misinformation, and perhaps wishful thinking, added fuel to the influenza’s fire. While the Bureau of Health was issuing directives concerning public coughing, sneezing, and spitting, Dr. A.A. Cairns and Wil-

mer Krusen of the Department of Health and Charities were assuring the public the illness would not spread beyond military personnel. In late September, Dr. Paul Lewis, director of the Philips Institute of Philadelphia, aroused great hope by declaring he had identified the cause of this influenza: Pfeiffer’s bacillus. The confidence of the medical community quickly spilled over into the general population – with dire consequences.

On September 28th, 200,000 people gathered for a fourth Liberty Loan Drive. Funding the war effort and showing one’s patriotic colors took precedence over concern for public health. Just days after the parade, 635 new cases of influenza were reported. Two days later, the city was forced to admit epidemic conditions did indeed exist. Churches, schools, and theaters were ordered closed, along with all places of “public amusement.” Members of the press condemned the closings as a violation of common sense and personal freedom. Meanwhile, the ranks of the sick and dying continued to grow. By mid-October, their numbers ran into the hundreds of thousands. Hospitals quickly reached capacity. Church parish houses and state armories doubled as shelters for the sick.

Just as medical facilities were pushed to the brink, so too were medical personnel. Able-bodied doctors were summoned from retirement, while novice medical students were plucked from their studies to tend to the sick. Often, there was little they could do. By the third week in October the death toll in Philadelphia attributed to influenza had soared to over 4,500. Along with public horror over the intensifying epidemic came public outcries concerning some people’s attempts to line their pockets through the misery of others.



Certain undertakers raised prices by more than 500% as grieving families sought proper burials for their loved ones. Tales spread throughout the city of individuals being forced to pay \$15 to dig graves for tdeceased family members.

What to do with the growing piles of corpses became a question not just of common decency, but a matter of public health. Rotting cadavers often led to secondary infections. The city of Philadelphia was forced to appeal to the federal government to meet their need for embalmers. In an effort to combat this and other epidemic-related problems, the Philadelphia Council of National Defense mobilized a Bureau of Information. Special phone lines were designated for influenza-only questions. At one point, the Bell Telephone Company restricted calls of a non-



medical nature, owing in part to the depletion of their employee ranks due to flu.



On October 19, 1918, Dr. C. Y. White announced that he had developed a vaccine that would prevent Spanish influenza. In short order, over 10,000 complete series of inoculations were delivered to the Philadelphia Board of Health. Whether or not the so-called vaccine played

much of a role in loosening this strain of influenza’s grip on Philadelphia was a matter of much debate. Mortality and morbidity rates did fall after the vaccine was introduced, but some health officials maintained that the flu had already reached its peak and was waning anyway.

As November rolled around, Philadelphia, like the rest of the nation, turned its rapt attention to the armistice ending the Great War. Slowly life returned to normal. But few would, or could, forget the horrible toll exacted by the influenza of 1918, as the City of Brotherly Love lost nearly 13,000 of her citizens in a matter of weeks.

Thanks to the website– American Experience from PBS

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE BOARD- See page four of this newsletter for information about the openings on the Historical Society’s Committees. We need several people to lend a hand. No prior experience necessary. Reach out to the Editor or any Board Member for information or to volunteer.

LATEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERPRETIVE SIGN HONORS NOGUCHI SCULPTURE



Isamu Noguchi, 1904-1988, was a Japanese-American artist who felt most at home in New York City. “The Letter,” a WPA era sculpture was installed at the post office in Haddon Heights. The elegantly simple figure of a reclining woman writing a letter floats cloud-like above the grounded, wooden post office decor, reflecting her dreamy reverie as she writes what may be a love letter. The letter writer has a serene smile that suits the friendliness of the town-proud residents by an artist who loved creating work for the public to enjoy. The Historical Society has commissioned our latest interpretive historical sign describing this timeless sculpture, to be placed in front of the Post Office.

2020 Membership Application / Renewal– Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Type of Membership: _____ Single- \$10.00 _____ Household- \$15.00

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Haddon Heights Historical Society, in the amount of:\$ _____

Coming Events

July 20, 2020-Haddon Heights Historical Society
General Meeting 7:00pm- H.H. Library

October 19, 2020-Haddon Heights Historical Soci-
ety General Meeting 7:00pm- H.H. Library: Re-
scheduled Presentation

MEMBERSHIP DUES- Dues for 2020 are
now...due. Your "Paid Through YEAR" is printed
on your Newsletter label. Your dues help us keep
history alive. Only paid-up members will continue
to receive the HHHS Newsletter!

Those members who provide us an e-mail address,
will also receive an electronic color copy of each
edition of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

HEIGHTS NOTE CARDS- Note card packs
featuring pre-Revolutionary War homes in town.
Available at the Library. \$4.00 for a pack of 8.

CHECK OUR REVITALIZED WEBSITE-
Go have a look! www.hhhistorical.org

2020 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2018-2020)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2018-2020)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2018- 2020)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (2019- 2021)</u>	Lauren McBeath
<u>Trustees- (2019-2022)</u>	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams
	Peter Hill

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Gianna Hill
<u>Nominating Comm.-</u>	Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	Rose Fitzgerald
<u>Affairs-</u>	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Emma Erwin
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	VACANT
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Amy Schmidt

Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG
Mail correspondence- P.O. Box 118 Haddon Heights,
NJ 08035

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make History by Making us part of Your Legacy...

This is the first issue of my 26th year as your Editor. We have seen so much history in our town in that time. However, the Coronavirus has inserted itself in our world and will change history going forward. There are so many parallels to the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, that it seemed fitting to share that story with you all. Stay Healthy, Stay Safe! Thanks for listening all these years! Ken Funkhouser, Editor (26 yrs)

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