



Spring 2010

KNAPP NOTES

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MTHS Receives MTIDA Grant



We are pleased to report that MTHS has received a \$5000 grant from the Montgomery Township Industrial Development Authority (MTIDA). A portion of the grant has already been used for new handrails on the porch at the Knapp Farm. An upgrade to the home's heating system is in the works.

Additionally, funds will be used to purchase and install an historic marker noting the Knapp Family's long involvement in Montgomery

Township, as well as the notable achievement of Florence Knapp who at one time was the oldest living person in the world.

We appreciate being recognized by MTIDA as a valuable community resource, and extend our thanks to the IDA board for their support.

In addition, the MTHS board has applied for a grant from the local chapter of the Questers. If we are successful, that money will be used to purchase a braided rug for the main room of the farmhouse.

Proposed wording for marker:

**KNAPP FARM
"GLENROY"
c. 1760**

**CONTINUOUSLY OCCUPIED BY THE KNAPP
FAMILY FROM 1835 UNTIL 2002.**

**HOME OF FLORENCE KNAPP, b 1873 WHO WAS
THE OLDEST LIVING PERSON IN THE WORLD AT
THE TIME OF HER DEATH IN 1988.**

**LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES, 1976.**

BOARD REORGANIZES, ELECTS OFFICERS

At the April meeting of the MTHS Board of Directors, the following individuals were elected to lead the society during the 2010-2011 membership year:

- President— Richard Roller
- Vice President—Kathy Sands
- Secretary—Debbie Cummins
- Treasurer—Joan Hurd



In December, MTHS board members gathered for a little holiday cheer at the Knapp Farm. Left to right: Anne Roller, Kathy Sands, Jesse Hurd, Sue Gordon, Rich Roller, Debbie Cummins

Let's Get Together!

Joint Meeting with the Lansdale Historical Society

When: **Tuesday, May 11**

Where: **Lansdale Parks & Recreation Building
660 Lansdale Avenue
Across the street from Lansdale Catholic High School**

For: **Montgomery Township: Community Crossroads**

A special program looking back at the history of our township hosted by LHS and featuring photos and memorabilia from their archives.

The program is **FREE**, open to the public and all MTHS members are cordially invited to attend. (Additional parking available on LCHS lot. Come early—seats fill up.)

Lisa Siegel Joins Board

The Montgomery Township Historical Society is pleased to welcome Lisa Siegel as a new member of our Board of Directors. We are especially happy to have Lisa join us because



Lisa and Aunt Ruth at the Holiday Open House

she represents the first member of the Knapp Family to sit on the board.

Lisa is the daughter of long-time MTHS members Bud Knapp (d.) and the niece of Ruth Knapp Oberholtzer. Lisa spent much of her childhood visiting the farm, and her recollections of family members and the farm itself are invaluable as we seek to preserve the spirit of this wonderful property.



Did You Know ... You can keep up with the Montgomery Township Historical Society on Facebook? Just visit www.Facebook.com and search for Knapp Farm - Montgomery Township. Accounts are free and fun. Become a FAN of Knapp Farm today!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

What's up next for the Knapp Farm Restoration Project?

- ▼ Major interior renovations to the house (plastering, flooring, stairway repairs) are largely complete. Next step: cosmetic upgrades. (Painting, lighting and furnishing).
- ▼ We are getting estimates on replacing the roof and rebuilding the chimney.
- ▼ Architect Joseph Zadlo gave the board a preliminary estimate of \$23,000 for constructing a foundation for a Visitor's Center. The board voted to table that expenditure at this time.
- ▼ The Township Shade Tree Commission is drawing up plans to naturalize the drainage basin near the spring-house. They will seed the area with plants native to this area.

MTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

Richard Roller, President
Kathy Sands, Vice President
Debbie Cummins, Secretary
Joan Hurd Treasurer
Sue Gordon
David Levin
Anne Roller
Lisa Siegel
Ginny Truman

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www.knappfarm.org

IT'S FUN TO BE A SOCIETY MEMBER

There is much more to accomplish, and MTHS has big plans for the future!

- ◆ Opening Knapp Farm as a community resource
- ◆ More educational programs
- ◆ Updating the township historic registry
- ◆ Social functions
- ◆ Research & genealogy
- ◆ Archives & oral histories
- ◆ Historic tours & festivals

Affordable membership rates: Please call 215-699-7687 or e-mail Rich Roller at richjroller@aol.com for complete information.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

MTHS is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. In accordance with PA law, a copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.