



KNAPP NOTES

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Look at Us Now!

Knapp Farm Getting Extreme Makeover

It was a busy spring and summer at the Kanpp Farm. Craftsman were busy both inside and out helping to restore the c.1750 fieldstone farmhouse with an eye toward insuring that this township landmark stands tall for years to come.

In the 4 years since MTHS acquired the house, our focus has been on stabilizing the infrastructure and rehabilitating the building's exterior. Work included removing and rebuilding the front porch, exposing and repointing the exterior fieldstone walls, replacing

windows, and installing new copper downspouts and a seamed and soldered copper roof on both the porch and the 1850s kitchen addition.

In March 2009, we contracted with Waldemar Sieradzki, (Walde's Home Improvement—the contractors who had previously done such a superb job on the porch) to begin the interior restoration. To date that work has involved gutting the kitchen addition and replacing the rotting floor; removing badly damaged plaster on the first and second floor ceiling and walls, replacing floor boards on the second floor; and resetting floor joists in the original 1750 section of the house.

In June, Horgan Brothers, Inc. installed an new red gravel driveway from the entrance off of Montclair Drive to the rear of the house. Additional parking spots and a wider

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One of four second floor bedrooms sports a gleaming new coat of plaster and restored windows, ceiling and floor.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Within the next few weeks, the first round of major interior work (new stairs, replastered walls, restored floors and ceilings, etc.) will be complete. When work resumes in 2010, the focus will shift to finishing (painting and furnishing) and fundraising. We will need a substantial amount of money to realize our vision for a Visitor's Center to be built utilizing timbers salvaged from the barn (see photos page 3). Once spring returns, we will continue exterior painting and landscape work. Currently, we are recruiting creative, fun-loving volunteers to assist with fundraising. If you are interested, please call Sue Gordon at 215-206-7145 or send an email to: susan.gordon10@verizon.net.

Save the Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009

Annual Holiday Open House at the Knapp Farm

Open to All - Details Inside

David Levin Joins Board

The Montgomery Township Historical Society is pleased to welcome David Levin, DO as a new member of our Board of Directors. David, who grew up in Montgomery County, received his medical degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed a radiology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a member of GVH Radiological Associates in Sellersville.



David first became involved in our Society while researching the history of an historic township property which he and his wife, Stephanie, now own. The Levins have one son, Max, age 2-1/2. David looks forward to working with MTHS to encourage more young families to become Society members.

MTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-10

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

Montgomery Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 678
Montgomeryville PA, 18936
Voice Mailbox: 215-361-1801

Same as it ever was ...

IN A JAM OVER TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer, May 10, 1990.

To anyone who has ever tried driving in Montgomery and Horsham Townships on any weekday between 4 and 5:30p.m., the problem is obvious.

It's no better on Cowpath Road or Routes 309 and 202.

Funnel all the cars, trucks, vans, Jeeps and motorcycles from those congested highways into one spot, and you have Montgomeryville's Five Points intersection: Not a fun place to be at rush hour.

On an average day in 1988, according to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's most recent report, almost 38,000 vehicles drove through Five Points on Route 309. That's almost double the 20,479 that went through the crossing six years earlier...

On May 31 (1990) Olpere (the township manager) will unveil to the North Penn Chamber of Commerce a traffic study that was prepared by a special township task force that was assembled to prioritize and attack local traffic problems. The "beauty" of the report, he said, is that most of the sites named in the study have already been improved.

"This isn't just another 'sit on the shelf' study," he said.

"It's an action report."...

The problem spots named included the intersections of Lower State and County Line Roads, North Wales and Horsham Roads, Richardson Road and Route 309, and Upper State Road and Routes 309/202. The entire corridor of Route 309 between Upper State Road and Five Points was also named. ...

Montgomery officials, juggling a crowd of development proposals, hear about traffic congestion concerns from residents every week....

"I remember before they built Montgomery Mall, the so-called traffic experts said not to worry about increased traffic on North Wales Road," said township Historical Society member Roy Rodriguez.

"I'm actually seeing Philadelphia as an attractive alternative," said John Seydow of Montgomeryville...

Editorial Comment: Despite 20 years of "studies" and discussion, and endless widenings and intersection improvements, traffic congestion in Montgomery Township is still one of our residents' greatest concerns. It remains to be seen if the new 202 Parkway, now under construction, will improve the situation. Let's cross our fingers and hope for the best!



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!



Knapp Barn Dismantled, Timbers Preserved

When the Knapp Farm was a working dairy farm, the large wood frame barn that stood on the north side of the property was an integral part of the farm's operation. But once the dairy operations ceased, and the surrounding farmland was developed, the deteriorating 1895 barn became an eyesore and a potential safety hazard. Because of its location so close to residential property lines, and the prohibitive cost of rehabilitating the deteriorating structure, MTHS board members concurred with township officials that the barn needed to be removed.

In April 2008, MTHS contracted with Hartland Restoration, Inc. to dismantle the barn and salvage the framework and floorboards. This timber will become the basis for a planned Visitors' Center on the property. The original concrete floor and cow stalls will be retained and used for demonstrations of life on the dairy farm. The framework is currently being stored on the floor of the old barn.



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Invitation to Membership: 2010

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	@ \$15 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	@ \$25 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	@ \$10 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	@ \$50 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	@ \$100 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	@ \$250 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	@ \$500 =	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	@ \$1000 =	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Additional Family Members _____

Additional Family Members _____

New member this year. _____ (date)
 Renewing Member

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____
 payable to **MTHS**
 P.O. Box 678
 Montgomeryville, PA 18936-0678

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.

Ring in the Season with MTHS

**Annual Holiday
Open House at
Knapp Farm
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009
1:00-4:00pm**

**House Tour &
Restoration Updates
Seasonal Refreshments**

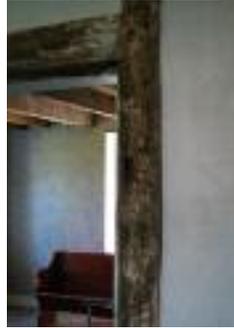
**Event is free and
Open to the Public**

**Call 215-699-7687 for
directions and additional
information.**

Extreme Makeover *cont.*

area to trun around were also created. In July, the Township Shade Commission replanted new London plane trees along the driveway. These replace a dozen plus older trees that were removed last year because they were diseased of dying.

All of this work will be on display during the Society's annual Holiday Open House on December 13. Hope you can join us.



Above: The "naked" parlor striped of flaking plaster and water damaged ceiling.
Left: Hand hewn timbers frame doorway and offer glimpse into newly restored parlor.

National Trust Launches Preservation Green Lab

More than 43% of the nation's carbon emissions come from the operation of buildings, which makes reusing and improving the energy efficiency of older and historic buildings an essential part of a sustainable future. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has launched Preservation Green Lab to develop protocols for integrating the recycling and retrofitting of older and historic buildings into city and state plans to reduce greenhouse gas emission. The goal is to

highlight the significant role that preservation can play in fighting climate change. The Preservation Green Lab will develop strategic policy options and demonstration projects to illustrate the ways in which public policy can promote building reuse, neighborhood reinvestment, and the greening of existing buildings.

For more information about historic preservation and sustainability, visit www.preservation-nation.org/green.

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P.O. Box 678
Montgomeryville, Pa 19136

