



Knapp Notes

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual MTHS General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 ♦ 7:00-9:00pm

Montgomery Township Community & Recreation Center
1001 Stump Road, North Wales, PA.

Daily Life of Soldiers in the American Civil War

guest speaker:
Historical Re-enactor Michael Jesberger



Ever wonder what a Civil War soldier's life was like on the march, in camp and in battle? Mike's informative presentation will focus on the equipment, weapons and personal items that a soldier might carry, and give attendees a better understanding of the role of the common soldier in America's bloodiest conflict.

Also: Updates on MTHS Activities & Election of New Board Members

**Open to the Public
Families with Students Welcome**

Information: 215-699-7687

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

MTHS is a grass-roots organization. Our primary funding sources are membership dues and donations. We rely on YOU to help us continue to do the important work of preserving local history for future generations. Please do your part and renew online at www.knappfarm.org today!

Spring Cleaning in the "Good" Old Days?

In 18th century America, spring cleaning—or the Grand Wash—was done in March or April. March was often the best time for dusting because it was getting warm enough to open windows and doors (but not warm enough for insects to be a problem), and the high winds could carry the dust out of the house.

First, all mattresses were hauled outside and ripped open. Feathers were washed and put into the sun to dry. Old straw was replaced with new. Chairs and tables and beds were taken outside and scoured with lye water. Chests were carried into the sunlight and the drawers taken out.

Everything in the house that hung on a wall or sat on the floor was removed. Then all the walls and ceilings were scrubbed with soapy water to remove a winter's worth of smoke and fireplace soot, and then washed again with lye or vinegar and hot water to counteract mold and fungus which caused sickness in so many households. Wood floors were covered with sand, and then scrubbed and rinsed by hand until clean and smooth.

The biggest laundry washing of the year was next. Every piece of clothing that had been worn, was washed. So were the blankets and any rugs the family might own. Every chest and drawer was emptied of its contents. Often a local housewife or widow hired herself out to stir lye water in a huge pot and beat the wet blankets, clothing, and rugs with a stick to get the dirt out. After being washed, these items were spread out on bushes or a drying frame.

The Grand Wash could last for six or seven days, if the soap-making day and laundry day were counted in. Thank goodness for Whirlpool!

PUMP IT UP!



MTHS would like to acknowledge and thank the **Questors Heritage #1 Chapter** and the **PA State Questors** for their generous grant, which we used to purchase an antique cast iron hand water well pump. This pump is now installed in front of the Knapp House at the same spot where the original one stood many years ago. The pump will certainly be an important educational tool for the younger generation, who may not realize that many years ago, kitchen or bathroom faucets (or bathrooms!) did not exist. If you wanted hot water for your bath, it had to be heated after pumping it into a bucket and bringing it inside. How fortunate we are today!

Meet the Candidates for Board of Directors (2017-19)

The board members listed below are seeking re-election for a two-year term; in addition, there is **1 more open position**. Any MTHS member who is interested in being nominated to the Board should contact Rich Roller at 215-699-7687.



Lisa Knapp Siegel - Current MTHS president, Lisa was born and raised in Montgomery Township. The daughter of the late C. Howard "Bud" Knapp, Jr, she

enjoyed countless hours growing up at the Knapp Farm, and provides the society with first-person descriptions, insights and understanding of Knapp Farm life and its history. Formerly a product manager with CSL Behring, and prior to that, a special education teacher, Lisa now devotes her time to several non-profit organizations. She lives in Lower Gwynedd Township with her husband Brian, has three grown children and two grandsons. She has been a board member since 2010.



Deborah Cummins - Deb moved to Montgomery Township in 1988, just one year after our society was founded. She joined MTHS in

1991, and was first elected to the board in 1995, and held the position of secretary for more than a decade. Deb is an experienced travel agent with a deep interest in American history. In 2003, she earned a certificate in Historic Preservation from Bucks County Community College. Debbie and her husband, Dick, have three grown children and four grandchildren.



David Levin, DO - David grew up in Montgomery County and has lived in a historic property in Montgomery Township since 2008 with his wife and two sons. He is a history buff and became

involved with the historical society in 2008 while researching his own property. David, a radiologist on staff at Grand View Hospital in Sellersville, is the past president of the Bucks County Medical Society. He also takes time from his busy professional and family life to manage the MTHS website, www.knappfarm.org, and administer the society's Facebook page.



Jesse Hurd - Long time township resident, Jesse lives with his wife, Joan, (also a board member) on one of the few remaining historic farm properties in the township. Jesse has been an active

MTHS board member for more than two decades. His interests include local history, researching deeds, visiting Cape May, and spending time with his grandchildren.



Ginny Bailey - Ginny has lived in Montgomery Township since she was 2 years old. She attended Montgomery Elementary School when it was in the building near 5

Points. Ginny's father was former Police Chief Bruce Bailey, the second full-time patrolman hired by the police department. She has watched the Township grow from a rural crossroads to the commercial and residential suburb it is today. Ginny works in the Montgomery Township Recreation Office, and was on the Township's 300th Anniversary Committee. She enjoys traveling, reading, knitting and spending time with her niece, Ellie.

MTHS 2017-18 Board of Directors

Lisa Knapp Siegel, President
David Levin, DO, VP
Joan Hurd, Treasurer
Richard Roller, Secretary
Ginny Bailey
Debbie Cummins
Susan Gordon
Jesse Hurd
Roy Rodriguez
Srinivas Srikti

Montgomery Township Historical Society

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SAVE THE
DATE!

What do you call a special fundraiser that combines
antiques' appraisal with wine tasting?

Treasures on the Vine
April 30, 2017 ✦ 1:00-4:00pm

STONE & KEY
CELLARS

435 Doylestown Road, Montgomeryville

Watch for your
information in the
mail, or visit
www.knappfarm.org
for details.