



# The Governor's Gossip

February 2024  
v. 42, no. 1

**Newsletter of the Governor Wolf Historical Society,  
Owner of the Wolf Academy Historic Site, East Allen Township**

## **Governor Wolf Historical Society and Chestnut Street Antique Shows, March 2 and 3!**

by Carol Bear

Mark March 2 and 3 on your calendar to attend two great primitive country shows. The Governor Wolf Historical Society Show celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> year and the Chestnut Street Show its 9<sup>th</sup> year. Rae Tamashausky, one of the dealers at the GWHS Show, says "Amazing historic site! Delicious lunch menu. Loved having fires in the fireplaces."

### **Ralston-McKeen House**



The unique feature about the Governor Wolf show is the period room settings that the dealers create in the restored 1795 Ralston-McKeen House. A cut-stone, center hall home, the Ralston McKeen House with six corner fireplaces is the perfect backdrop for 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century antiques.

### **Hearth Cooking**

An added bonus is the hearth cooking demonstrations, conducted by Society members using antique hearth cooking implements in the large

walk-in fireplace. Not sure what certain antique kitchen tools were meant for? This is the place to ask and see them in action. The ladies have also compiled and sell a small booklet of their favorite colonial recipes.

### **Wolf Academy and Monocacy School**

On the GWHS site there are two other historic buildings that will be filled with antiques dealers – the 1785 Wolf Academy, birthplace

of public education for all boys and girls in Pennsylvania, and the 1867 Monocacy School which also contains the Society's museum highlighting the accomplishments of George Wolf, the seventh governor of Pennsylvania

### **Appraisal Clinic**

On Sunday, the GWHS show will feature the popular appraisal clinic from 12-2 p.m. Attendees to the show may bring in a maximum of 2 items at a cost of \$5 each to have them verbally appraised by a veteran antiques dealer.

### **Monocacy School Café**

The Society will be selling delicious food, beverages, and snacks in our historic 1922 school room on Saturday and Sunday during the Antiques Show.

### **Hours and Admission**

The hours of the GWHS show are Saturday March 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday March 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost of admission is \$7, valid for both days (\$6 with an ad, a card, a printout of one from [www.govwolf.org](http://www.govwolf.org) or Facebook, or a stamp from the Chestnut Street Show). Parking is free. For additional information email [ckbh@ptd.net](mailto:ckbh@ptd.net) or call 610-390-0555.

### **Chestnut Street Antiques Show, March 2**

Just one and a half miles to the north of the GW Show is the Chestnut Street Show, located in Christ Church built in 1876. The main room of the show is Fellowship Hall, which has a tall, arched wooden ceiling. Homemade soup, BBQ, and fresh baked goodies will be offered in the Garden of Feedin' Café. Every building on Historic South Chestnut Street dates between 1799 and 1899. An added bonus is the three antiques shops on the block within walking distance.

This Show is SATURDAY ONLY March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. With this being a one-day show and the dealers setting up Saturday morning, you will be sure to find bargains here! Cost of admission is \$6 (\$5 with a card, a printout of one from Facebook, or a wrist band from the Governor Wolf Show). Parking is free. For additional information email [ddh1@ptd.net](mailto:ddh1@ptd.net) or call 610-390-3276.



Our events are funded in part with funding from the Hotel Tax Grant Program through the County of Northampton Department of Community & Economic Development.

**Governor Wolf Historical Society**

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**OFFICERS**

**President:** Kathy Wilhelm  
**Vice-President:** Robert Bysher  
**Recording Secretary:** Abby Spencer  
**Treasurer:** Norma Lopresti  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Annette Vliet

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Carol Bear Sharon Fournier  
Pat Grillo Lucienne Hosford  
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This newsletter is published four times a year (February, May, August and November) as a service to its members and the public by the Governor Wolf Historical Society. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor before the 1st of the publication month. However the Society reserves the right to select and edit all content.

*Monthly Meetings*

The Society holds monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Monocacy School, located at our historic site, 6600 Jacksonville Road, Bath, PA 18014. All members and interested individuals are invited to attend.

*Membership*

The Governor Wolf Historical Society is an all volunteer organization dedicated to preserving local history. If you are not a member, we invite you to become a member and support our activities. A membership form is enclosed with the newsletter or join online at the Society's web page [www.govwolf.org](http://www.govwolf.org)

*We Need Your Email Address!*

Our full color electronic newsletter is available in your inbox before the printed black and white version is mailed. Updates about our events and activities are emailed between newsletters. To be added to our email distribution list, please send your email address to Kathy Wilhelm at [gwhs1958@gmail.com](mailto:gwhs1958@gmail.com). If you supplied the Society with your email, and you are not getting emails about upcoming activities and events, contact Kathy at the same email.

*Free Historic Site Tours*

The Society offers free tours of our three historic buildings, grounds and new museum on the third Saturday of each month, April through November, from 1-3 p.m. No reservations are needed.

Knowledgeable guides will discuss the history of each building, Gov. George Wolf, and provide details about items in the museum.

The Society is always willing to provide tours to individuals, families, school classes, youth groups, and social organizations at other times. To schedule a tour, call 610-837-9015 or email [gwhs1958@gmail.com](mailto:gwhs1958@gmail.com)

*Historic Site Rentals*

The Governor Wolf Historical Society is fully open and ready to rent out our buildings and 3 1/2 acre grounds to host your next birthday party, baby shower, meeting, or even a small wedding. We currently rent out the historic Wolf Academy and Monocacy School and the beautiful surrounding gardens. There is plenty of parking in the adjacent grassy meadow. For more information about rental opportunities, please contact Abby Spencer at [spencerabby@yahoo.com](mailto:spencerabby@yahoo.com) or 610-428-3975.

**Thank You!!**

- To **Ida and John Bromfield** of Breadfermented for donating all of their Saturday sales during the Holiday History Fest to GWHS.
- To **Joel Hoffner** for donating a copy of *Early Schoolhouses of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1747-1926* to the Society's research library. See page 5.
- To **Garry Hunsicker** of our neighbor Twin Maple Farms for plowing the Gov. Wolf driveways and parking lots. His efforts to keep our site open after inclement weather are greatly appreciated.
- To **Dave Mowen** for donating hanging file folders for the Society's archives and research collections.
- To **Brenda and Jeff Stoudt** of BJ's Tree Farm near Wind Gap for supplying the Society with large, beautiful trees in a variety of species at a fraction of the retail cost for our wreath workshops. Their trees saved our fundraising event.
- To the **Homeowners** who graciously opened their homes for our 2023 House Tour. Without their generosity, we could not offer a tour.
- To the **House Tour Sponsors** who support the Society and enable us to continue our restoration and education programs.

Save the Dates  
**Summer Institute of Colonial Arts**  
**June 7 and 8, 2024**  
**Passport to History Day**  
**July 20, 2024**  
 Check our May issue and web site for details

**Open House Tours**  
**April 20 and May 18 — 1 to 3 p.m.**  
**Free guided tours of the Society's**  
**3 historic buildings and museum.**  
**No reservations needed!**

## From Our President



Greetings friends,

As I take over the second half of Terri Sayago's term as president, I again reflect on what the GWHS lost when she passed away early last year. Terri's enthusiasm for the historical society ran the gamut from dreaming up new events to basic maintenance chores. She knew how to make things happen, and we miss what might have been under her presidency. Thanks are due to Carol Bear for taking over the first half of Terri's presidency last year.

A lot has changed over the last 42 years or so that I have been involved with the GWHS. We have added new events and continued our longest running event - the Christmas House Tour - all the while continuing the restoration and maintenance of our buildings, working on our grounds and outdoor projects, and updating our museum.

In March, we are excited to do a Colonial Dinner Theater with the Bachman Players performing an original historical play. Other events planned for this year are our popular Antiques Show in March, Spring and Autumn Teas, the Institute of Historic Crafts, a bus trip, wreath making classes, and our holiday events. You might even see me hearth cooking at the walk-in fireplace in the Ralston-McKeen House.

We hope you will consider joining us at our events, either as an attendee or a volunteer, or supporting us with your membership.

### Kathy

## New Officers and Directors for 2024

**Kathy Wilhelm** has been elected to serve as Society president in 2024. She is filling the second year of an unexpired term after the death of Terri Sayago. In 2023, Carol Bear stepped up to fill the remainder of the first year of Terri's term. **Robert Bysher** is our new vice president this year, succeeding Kathy who assumed the presidency.

**Norma Lopresti** is the Society's newly designated treasurer. Completing the officers are returning Recording Secretary **Abby Spencer** and Corresponding Secretary **Annette Vliet**.

The Board of Directors welcomes five new members—**Pat Grillo, Annette Lare, Norma Lopresti, Wayne Lopresti, and Melina Nye**. The full list of the Board of Directors is on page 2.



2024 officers Kathy Wilhelm, Abby Spencer, Annette Vliet, and Norma Lopresti. Missing is Robert Bysher.  
Photo by Barb Wiemann.

## National Register District Planning

By Carol Bear

The Society has formed a committee to investigate a possible Wolf Academy Settlement National Register District. Included would be the 1785 Wolf Academy and the homes of the early Scots-Irish settlers who helped build the Academy and whose children attended school at the Academy. Inclusion on the National Register, which is maintained by the National Park Service, is strictly honorary and does not impose restrictions or conditions. Members of the committee are Carol Bear, Abby Spencer, Lucienne Hosford and Barb Wiemann.



by Linda Kortz

Gather you teacups and friends! Our Spring Tea will be held Sunday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Our theme is "April Showers Bring May Flowers", and we will celebrate flowers while enjoying tea, pastries, and tea sandwiches. Wear a flower in your hair!

Come out for a fun afternoon, Learn how to arrange a colonial bouquet, and gather tips and tricks for your flower pots and gardens.

**Register Now!**

We always sell out, and we are now accepting reservations. Tickets are \$28. Call 610-905-0007 with your name and number of seats requested. If you are coming as a group, please have one person call with all names and pay the group total with one check. Reservations are made upon receipt of your check.

Register Now For This New Event

Colonial Dinner Theater
"John Adams and His Thoughts on Government"
Presented by the Bachmann Players

The GWHS is pleased to announce our first Dinner Theater!

Join the Bachman Players as they recreate the evening of September 20th, 1777, when John Adams dined at the Bachman Tavern in Easton on his way to Bethlehem. Adams will present his thoughts on how the new government should be structured, in a lively discussion with Thomas Paine, who will read from his pamphlet "Common Sense".

The Bachmann Players, under the direction of Christopher Black, is a group of locally based amateur historians and actors. Mining the area's rich colonial history, they use letters, diaries, and other sources to re-create the people and events of the 1700s so they can be experienced by a modern audience.

Dates and Times:

Wed., Mar 20, 6:30 p.m., Sat., Mar 23, 6:30 p.m., or Sun., Mar 24, 2:00 p.m.

Dinner, dessert, and beverage included. BYOB

Tickets \$60 members, \$65 non-members.

The beautiful candle-lit Ralston-McKeen House will be the setting for this event.

Seating is limited, reservations are required. All seating is assigned. If you have a group of people, please make sure everyone is accounted for on your reservation form so you can be seated together.



John Adams

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Date selected:

Wed., Mar 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Sat., Mar 23 \_\_\_\_\_ Sun., Mar 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

(tickets \$60 members, \$65 non-members)

Evenings:

Wed., Mar. 20 & Sat., Mar. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Matinee:

Sun., Mar. 24, 2:00 p.m.

For more info call 610-905-0007 or 610-837-9015 (leave message)

Checks made out to:

Governor Wolf Historical Society

PLEASE MAIL CHECK TO:

Linda Kortz
1091 Copella Rd.,
Bath, PA 18014

GWHS Awarded Hotel Tax Grant

The Society has been awarded a 2024 Hotel Tax Grant by the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development. The \$5,000 grant will help pay for an upgrade to the electric service in the Ralston-McKeen House. The building has minimal electrical outlets and no electric lights, making it difficult to offer programs. With this upgrade, the Society will be able to safely expand our use of the building and offer more public events.

Thank you to Lucienne Hosford and Sharon Fournier who wrote the grant application.

Annual Dinner and Program

The Gov. Wolf annual dinner and program will be held on May 17 in the historic Wolf Academy. The catered dinner at 6 p.m. will be followed by a local history program. Exact details are not available at press time, so check the Society's web site and Facebook for further information and registration information.

## 2023 Successful Holiday Events — Don't Miss Them in 2024!



The **Candlelight Concert** was a sell out event! The crowd enjoyed Seasons' presentation of Christmas music, some tunes with a Celtic twist. The sumptuous dessert spread was a hit with one and all. Thanks to **Kathy Wilhelm** for organizing the concert. Photo by Kathy Wilhelm.

Two pleased **Wreath Workshop** participants proudly display their creations. The classes were full and fun! Thanks to **Linda Kortz** for organizing the workshops. Photo by Linda Kortz.

The **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas House Tour** was fantastic! Five gorgeous historic houses were all decorated for Christmas. And one house even had an antique sleigh on the lawn. Save the date of December 7, 2024, for the 42<sup>nd</sup> tour – we already have some spectacular houses lined up for you! Thanks to **Carol Bear** for running this event. Photo by Carol Bear.



Three spinning women are busy with a traditional craft during the **Holiday History Fest**. Our historic site was filled with artisans who demonstrated their handi-craft, everything from fiber crafts, blacksmithing, and carving, to hearth cooking. Children and adults enjoyed the free historic crafts. Thank you to **Kathy Silfies** and **Sherri Gillette** for preparing delicious food and running the Monocacy Café, and to **Linda Kortz** for organizing this educational event. Photo by Barb Wiemann.

### Do You Recognize Me?



This photo from the Monocacy School is labeled 1955/1956 school year, Mr. Dech, 6th grade. The only identified students are Gary Ritter, 3rd in front row, and Edna Fenstermaker and Joanne Kish, 2nd and 5th in second row. Can you identify anyone? The class may include some 5th graders. If you can provide any information, email Barb Wiemann at [blwiemann@gmail.com](mailto:blwiemann@gmail.com). The Society is always happy to acquire photos from any township schools.

### New Historical Publication: *Early Schoolhouses of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1747-1926*

At our annual dinner last May, **Joel Hoffner** outlined the effort to document all of the early school buildings in Northampton County. That research resulted in identifying 418 schools which are chronicled in *Early Schoolhouses of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1747-1926*.

An extensive and informative discussion of county schools is followed by a chapter for each municipality. These chapters include an introduction, maps to locate the schools, vintage and current building photographs, and a chart with data about each school. A school name index and 468 source bibliography complete the 291 page book.



**Sample East Allen/Bath page.**

Joel has generously donated a copy to the Society's research library. Copies are also located in the Bethlehem Area and Easton Area Public Libraries.

Membership in the Governor Wolf Historical Society is by the calendar year! We are an all volunteer Society and need your support. Use this form or join online at [www.gov.wolf.org](http://www.gov.wolf.org)

**GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

You can help preserve our community's rich cultural Heritage. Become a member of the Governor Wolf Historical Society! Return this form with a check payable to Governor Wolf Historical Society. If family, please include all names. Mail to: Governor Wolf Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Bath PA 18014.

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$10.00  
Restoration \$75.00; Monocacy \$100.00  
Governor's Guild \$200.00  
Individual Lifetime \$500.00  
Senior Lifetime (62+years) \$250.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Upcoming Events*

**15th Annual Antiques Show — March 2 and 3 — see page 1**

**\*\*Colonial Dinner Theatre — March 20, 23, 24 — see page 4**

**\*\*Spring May Flowers Tea — April 21 — see page 3**

**\*\*Annual Dinner and Lecture — May 17 — see page 4**

**\*\*Bus Trip to Harrisburg — May 19 — see page 6 below**

**\*\*Reservations required; space is limited, sign up now**

**Spring Bus Trip to Harrisburg on May 19**

by Kathy Silfies

The Governor Wolf Historical Society is sponsoring a bus trip to Harrisburg on Sunday, May 19, 2024. The first stop will be the State



**Pennsylvania Senate Chamber**

Capitol where we will enjoy a 45 minute tour. The tour includes the Rotunda, Senate, House of Representatives and the State Supreme Court Room. Pennsylvania's Capitol, completed in 1906, is a Beaux Arts style building known for its murals, stained

glass windows, and sculptures, most of which have a Pennsylvania theme. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006.

The afternoon site visit and meal stop has not been confirmed at press time. The meal will be at your own expense. Check our web site or Facebook for this information.

Our 30 seat tour bus will leave from Palmerton at 9 a.m. sharp; everyone should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to check in. The bus is equipped with a restroom. Reservations are made on a first come basis and are non-refundable. Cost of \$40 includes bus transportation and Capitol Tour.

**GWHS Harrisburg Bus Trip Reservation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail reservation form and check to:**

**Kathy Silfies  
3740 Filbert Drive  
Danielsville, PA18038**

**Make checks payable to Kathy Silfies. Reservations are first come and are non-refundable.**