



The Governor's Gossip

May 2023
v. 41, no. 2

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

Summer Institute of Colonial Arts ~ June 8, 9, 10, 2023

The Wolf Academy Historic Site is the heart of public education in Pennsylvania. It is here that George Wolf attended school and later taught, laying the foundation that resulted in his becoming the seventh Governor of Pennsylvania and the state's "Father of Public Education." With this heritage in mind, the Governor Wolf Historical Society is offering "make it and take it" hands-on classes of 18th and 19th century Colonial Arts presented by talented artisans. Many of the instructors have taught at Landis Valley, Historic Bethlehem, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (now Mennonite Life) and other locations. Classes will be held in the GWHS historic buildings and on the grounds. Lunch will be provided by members of the society. Classes are limited and **registration must be submitted by May 30. Registration form is on page 5.**

Thursday, June 8, 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Rustic Market Basket

Instructor Jane Moyer, weaving since 1997, is a member of Lehigh Valley Basket Weavers.

Students will weave a market basket start to finish. Kits will be provided with pieces cut to approximate length. Students should bring, if possible, a small towel and sharp scissors. Materials fee \$15. Maximum 6 students.

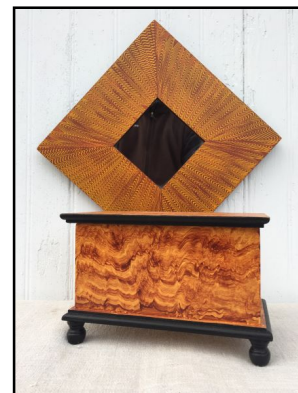


Thursday, June 8, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

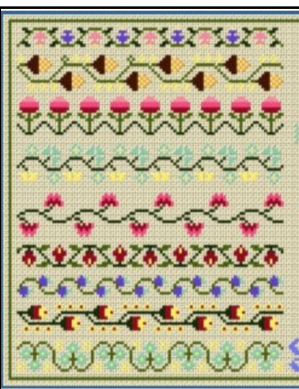
Grain (Fancy) Paint a Mirror and Bunfooted Box

Instructor Jim King has been teaching false graining for 10 years. He has a BA degree in art.

Learn the folk art of false graining or fancy painting using acrylic glazes. In the manner of 18th century Pennsylvania German folk artists, we will experiment using combs, cut cardboard and fingers to decorate softwood Pennsylvania German reproductions, a 10" x 10" mirror and a 7" x 5" x 4" bunfoot box. Experience not necessary. Materials fee \$65. Maximum 10 students.



Cross Stitch Sampler



Instructor Nena Asquith is president of the LV Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. Other members assisting will be Janice Meixell and Marie Keim.

Learn to create your own simple sampler in the sampler style used in large family homes and for teaching in girls' schools of the period. Lecture will provide details on Colonial samplers. Supplies will be provided. Students may bring a scissors and an embroidery hoop. Materials fee \$10. Maximum 10 students.

Maximum 10 students.



Transfer & Color Embroidery

Instructor Jo Evans has embroidered since she was a young child and has over 20 years of teaching experience. She has completed various embroidery stitches on multiple pieces.

Students will be shown how to stencil designs and choose colored floss to blend. T-towels will be provided to learn stitches. Jo teaches embroidery as a fun, relaxing art. Materials fee \$10. Maximum 5 students.

Continued on page 4.

Governor Wolf Historical Society

6600 Jacksonville Road
East Allen Township
Mail address: P.O. Box 134
Bath, PA 18014
Phone: 610-837-9015
Email: gwhs1958@gmail.com
Website: www.govwolf.org

OFFICERS

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Recording Secretary: Abby Spencer
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EDITOR

Barbara Wiemann
610-262-6977
blwiemann@gmail.com

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 found on page 5 of this newsletter.

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 Treasurer Kathy Wilhelm at 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

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 or 610-428-3975.

New Rental Space Available

The Society is excited to make another room in the Monocacy School available for rentals. The renovated original 1867 school room features large windows, a tile floor, new baseboards, updated lighting, electric heat, and new paint. The room is conveniently located next to the restrooms and has a door that opens onto the parking area and open field.



The room would be very suitable for children's birthday parties and crafting events. A yoga class is already renting the room and finds it perfectly suited to their activity.

Thank You

- To Linda Flory for donating a 1902 photo of the students and teacher of the Monocacy School standing in front of the Wolf Academy, See page 7
- To Marjorie Rehrig for donating a rope bed for the Ralston-McKeen House
- To Abby Spencer for coordinating two recent events— the building and grounds clean-up and the annual dinner
- To Bob Bysher for supplying a sound system and projector for the annual dinner
- To Linda Kortz for organizing the Celtic Tea and the Heidelberg Historical Society visit
- To Carol Bear for organizing the Antiques Show

From Our President



What a beautiful spring - lots of tree blossoms, vibrant flowers, lush green grass and numerous rainbows! The Governor Wolf site is looking fantastic as well! New paint on the Ralston McKeen House and Wolf Academy, realigned stone front steps, and cleaned up site and buildings. Already we have accomplished much in 2023 – a brand new web site and a delightful spring tea! And that's just the beginning! Look forward to the Summer Institute of Colonial Crafts, Magical History Tour, LV Passport to History, Summer Picnic, October Tea, and so much more. All a product of new and seasoned board members and dedicated members like YOU! Heartfelt thanks for your continued support!

Carol

In Memoriam: President Terri Sayago

Gov. Wolf Historical Society President Teresa A. Sayago died on April 4 after a brief illness. Elected President last December, Terri planned a busy and varied program of events for 2023. It will be a challenge to continue her vision for the Society.

Terri's involvement with GWHS began in 2019 when she and her husband Brian offered to include their home in the 2019 Christmas House Tour. She joined the Board of Directors in 2021 and made an immediate impact with her enthusiasm, dedication, and organizational skills. She could be counted on to volunteer to help with events and programs.

Due to COVID restrictions, the Society was facing a financial deficit. Terri pursued grant opportunities that significantly improved our balance sheet.



during her 15 years on the Board. Terri was instrumental in creating the Touch-A-Truck fundraiser, the library's largest fundraiser.

Terri valued family and family traditions. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Brian, their three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

Terri was a Society member only a few years, but her willingness to volunteer and lead had a big impact. She will be missed.

The Society will plant a memorial tree on our grounds in memory of Terri next spring.

I was impressed with her professionalism.
— Trish Mowen

She introduced me to the GWHS when I attended my first program. For that I will be forever grateful.
— Jackie Sellers

When Terri identified a project to improve our buildings, she deftly and efficiently organized Society members to tackle the project. For example, noticing that the wooden floors of the Academy and Monocacy meeting room needed refinishing, she researched options, ordered supplies, laid out a work

plan, organized work teams and directed the project from start to successful conclusion.

The Society was not Terri's first civic involvement. Terri taught English at Easton Area High School for 30 years. After retiring, she joined the Board of the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity, where she held the positions of president, vice-president and secretary

New Presidents for 2023-2024

At its April meeting, the Board of Directors elected two members to fill Terri's unexpired 2023-2024 presidential term. Carol Bear will serve as our president in 2023, with Kathy Wilhelm serving as vice-president. In 2024, they will exchange positions, with Kathy as president and Carol as vice-president.

The Society is truly grateful for Carol and Kathy's willingness to assume the presidential duties.

Caramel Pear Bites

One of Terri's plans for 2023 was to use the fruit from our pear trees in the Herb and Pleasure Garden to make a special pear treat. In tribute to Terri, here is her recipe.

- 1/2 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 1/2 cup diced pears in 1 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. each ginger and cinnamon
- Chopped pecans
- 10 caramels
- 3 T. heavy cream
- Sea salt flakes

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. On a lightly floured surface roll unfolded pastry into a 15"x 10" rectangle. Cut into 24 2 1/2 inch squares. Fit each square into a 1 3/4 inch muffin pan.

Stir pears, lemon juice, sugar, and spices. Spoon into the pastry-lined muffin tins. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake 15 minutes until pastry is golden.

Cool 5 minutes and remove from pans.

Heat and stir caramels and cream over low heat until melted. Drizzle over each Pear Bite and then sprinkle lightly with salt flakes. Serve immediately. Makes 24.

Enjoy and celebrate the life of Terri Sayago!

Summer Institute Classes *Continued from page 1*

Friday, June 9, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Blacksmithing Basics

Instructor Dave Mowen learned blacksmithing at Landis Valley. He will be assisted by other society members including Robert Swan and George Wilhelm.

Shaping steel with heat and a hammer is fascinatingly like pushing around putty or clay. Iron starts out very hard, but with a bit of heat, it becomes plastic, to be flattened or stretched, twisted and bent into something needed. To make the created form useful, just let it cool back down and you have a very strong tool or utensil. In this introduction, each student will try the various processes the blacksmith uses to make things, and then go home with a practical and useful creation. Learn how to make a meat hook, a rat-tail, and maybe a twist on a portable forge, learning the basic "pushing metal around" and perhaps even "welding". Students are advised to wear a long sleeved shirt, jeans and shoes. Materials fee \$20. Maximum 8 students.



Rustic Fruit Bowl



Instructor Jane Moyer, weaving since 1997, is a member of Lehigh Valley Basket Weavers.

Students will weave the sides of the bowl. In the interest of time, the base will be started.

Students should bring, if possible, a small towel and sharp scissors. Materials fee \$15. Maximum 6 students.

Friday, June 9, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Paint a Fraktur and Frame

Instructors Jim King, 10 years teaching experience at Landis Valley and other sites, and Lynn Sommer, fraktur artist.

Hand paint a 6" x 8" traditional fraktur and grain paint a frame. Take it home ready for hanging. No experience necessary. Materials fee \$60. Maximum 10 students.



Surface Embroidery

Instructor Nena Asquith is president of the LV Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. Other members assisting will be Janice Meixell and Marie Keim.

Decorative traditional embroidery stitches, suitable for embellishing clothing, bags, or colonial pockets, will be taught. Stitches can include stem, outline, satin, lazy daisy, French knot, long and short, feather, etc. Supplies will be provided. Students should bring, if possible, imagination, openness and a smile. Materials fee \$10. Maximum 10 students.



dents

Saturday, June 10, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Beneficial Insects in the Garden

Instructor Suzanne Wainwright-Evans is a horticultural entomologist specializing in integrated pest management. Suzanne has been involved in the horticulture industry for more than 30 years with a primary focus on biological control and using pesticides properly. She teaches workshops and lectures professionally to industry groups, bringing her scientific as well as practical approach to learning. She is the owner of Buglady Consulting, now in business 23 years.

Learn about the beneficial insects and pollinators here in the Lehigh Valley. Attendees will also learn how to attract them into their garden. A presentation will be given showing images taken locally, and then there will be a release of beneficial insects. This presentation is a lecture and includes lunch and an ice cream social after the lecture.



In Search of 1816 Bath Map

Carol Bear is searching for the 1816 town lots map of Bath, PA. It was drawn by James Ralston. Asa McIlhane talks about it in his 1901 book *Bath and Its Environs*, and says he has a copy. The early Bath deeds in the Easton courthouse refer to the town lots by number. The Bath Museum has one of the town lot paper receipts. *The History of Northampton County, 1877*, states on p. 225 "In 1816, Bath was laid out as a village by James Ralston." Sometimes he is referred to as Col. Ralston. She has been in search of this map since she moved to Bath in 1977. Contact her at ckbh@ptd.net.

Registration form is located on page 5
Deadline is May 30!

Building and Grounds Clean-Up

Thanks to the efforts of 13 members of the Northampton Area High School football team, the Society's buildings and grounds have been spruced up. The young men provided the muscle power to haul junk from our attic and basements and deposit it in a dumpster. They also cleaned out our sheds and stacked firewood.

In our Governor's Grove, they hauled away old fence, lumber, cement blocks, telephone poles and other debris, and stacked our supply of bricks. They then raked the area, and replaced damaged rails in our fence.

Society members were impressed with the work ethic of the young men.



House and Academy Painting



Thanks to a Northampton County Hotel Tax grant, and the Society's

fund raising efforts, Stirling Painting and Renovations was hired to apply two coats of paint to the wooden trim, shutters, and windows of the Ralston-MeKeen House and Wolf Academy.



Summer Institute Registration Form

Class sizes are limited and registration must be complete by May 30. Classes not having 3 students by May 30 will be canceled and class fee will be refunded. You will be notified if the class is cancelled.

Class fee for each Thursday and Friday class is \$42 for GWHS members or \$52 for non-members. This fee includes lunch. Materials fees are paid directly to the instructor the day of the class.

Fee for the Saturday lecture is \$20 for GWHS members or \$28 for non-members. The fee includes lunch and an ice cream social.

Name _____ GWHS Member Y N

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Classes:	Date	Time	Name	Price

Make checks to: "GWHS, Summer Institute" TOTAL: _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Security Code (on back) _____ Zip Code of Billing Address _____ Signature _____

Mail to: GWHS Sum Inst c/o Carol Bear, 207 W. Northampton St, Bath PA 18014

Questions? Contact Carol at 610-390-0555 ckbh@ptd.net www.govwolf.org

Successful Events During Last Quarter

14th Annual Antiques Show



The 2023 Governor Wolf Historical Society Antiques Show was a huge success! More than 450 people, including shoppers from Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, patronized the show. As one of the dealers put it, "The volunteers, porters, food and hospitality are all exceptional." We are looking forward to another great show the first weekend in March, 2024!

Celtic Tea



A sell-out crowd filled the Wolf Academy, enjoyed music by Ha'Penny Bridge, and feasted on a sumptuous variety of treats. Our next tea will be a German Oktoberfest Tea on October 1.

Heidelberg Historical Society Group Tour



Photo by Annette Vliet

Contact the Society to schedule a tour for your group or troop.

Annual Dinner



45 members and guests dined on a meal by Get Fed Catering and learned about historical maps during an illustrated lecture by Joel Hoffner. Photo by Kathy Wilhelm.

**Membership in the Governor Wolf Historical Society is by the calendar year!
We are an all volunteer Society and need your support.
Now is the time to join for 2023!**

GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can help preserve our community's rich cultural heritage by becoming a member of the Governor Wolf Historical Society! Please return this application 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 _____

1902 Monocacy School Students



This 1902 photograph, donated to the Society by Linda Flory, is our oldest photo of any East Allen school. The students and teacher are from the one-room Monocacy School at Jacksonville and School roads. It shows the teacher, T. A. Fehnel, and 31 students in grades 1 thru 8 in front of the Allen Township Academy (now known as the Wolf Academy). As best as can be determined, the left sign reads: Monocacy School / Oct. 12 1902 / T. A. Fehnel / Teacher, and the right sign: Sev[enth] Gov[ernor] Wolf / Educated / Here.

Academy and School

The 1867 Monocacy School was built a couple hundred feet from the 1785 Wolf Academy, where George Wolf was a student and later a teacher. Wolf went on to become the seventh governor of Pennsylvania, 1829-1835, and is best known for signing the 1834 law establishing a system of free public education in the state; he is called the Father of Public Education in Pennsylvania.

After serving as an educational institution, the Academy was converted into a Presbyterian Church. In 1873, the building was sold to farmer Isaac Insley and was used as a barn and for storage. As evidenced in the photo, the building suffered from a lack of maintenance. It is interesting that the class photo was taken in front of the Academy instead of the well maintained brick Monocacy School which the students attended.

The photo has some very unusual aspects, because at this time, photos were very formal. The teacher is wearing a sweater, not a suit. Three boys are holding baseball bats (two boys are jointly holding a bat). In contrast, the nicely groomed girls, especially the older ones, are probably wearing their best clothing.

Teacher Fehnel

Teacher Thomas Alfred Fehnel was born in Moore Township in 1873. He married Alice Mary Schaeffer about 1894 and they had 3 children who died young in 1896, 1901, and Sept. 19, 1902, less than a month before the photo was taken. After teaching in rural county schools, in 1908 Fehnel became a letter carrier and postal clerk in Catasauqua for 30 years. He died in 1939 and is buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Mooretown.

Digital Enhancement

The wording on the two signs that the students are holding was not legible on the print. Bob Bysler used his technical skills and digitally enhanced the image so that we could read the signs. He also used several software programs to enhance the students faces

Redesigned Website Now Live

The Governor Wolf Historical Society is pleased to announce that our new website is now live! The new site, designed by na studios, can be located using www.govwolf.org or searching for Governor Wolf Historical Society

The site features many photos and new information. Sections of the site include background articles about the Society and a biography and video about the life of George Wolf. There are also photos and description of each of the Society's buildings. For anyone interested in renting the Academy or School, virtual tours enable users to see the features of each location.

Other tabs lead visitors to our calendar of events, news, and rental and contact information. The new site also has provision for accepting memberships using Paypal or a credit card.

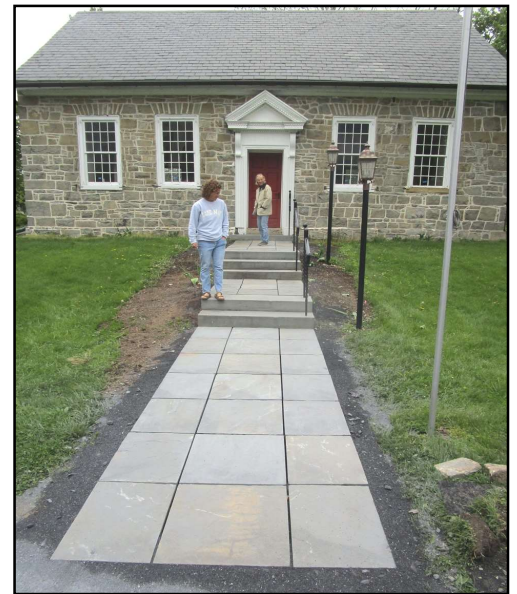
Our new website was funded through contributions by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and na studios.

50 Years Ago

To help pay for exterior restoration of the Academy, the Wolf Academy Restoration Society purchased 720 commemorative blue plates for \$645. The Society sold them for \$3.50 each. The Society still has some of these plates and uses them for dinner events.

New Walkway at Academy

Society members Abby Spencer and Carol Bear admire the new entrance walkway installed by stone mason Keith German at the Wolf Academy. This safety improvement was paid for using profits from our fund-raising events, such as the House Tour and Antiques Show. Note that the Academy shutters have been removed for painting.



Searching For Old School Photos

Local historian and researcher Joel Hoffner is compiling a book about the early (pre 1925) schools of Northampton County. There are approximately 370 of them and one page will be devoted to each school. Joel is searching for vintage photos of each building and information about the buildings. If you have any old photos or details that you could share, please contact Barb Wiemann at bwiemann@gmail.com or 610-262-6977.





The Governor's Gossip

GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 134
BATH, PA 18014

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

Lehigh Valley Passport to History Month Promotes Local History

Visit us on July 15



July is Passport to History Month! This event, which began in 2019 as a one-day activity, has proved very popular. Participating groups open their doors for tours, programs, and activities suitable for all ages; a complete schedule is on the Passport website www.lvhistory.org.

Gov. Wolf Historical Society will participate on Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Society will offer “hands-on to take home” activities, demonstrations, and tours. The event is free.

Local History Partnership

Lehigh Valley Passport to History is a partnership of more than 50 historic sites and resources in and around Lehigh and Northampton counties. Passport's website highlights year round historical activities, events, tours, and exhibitions throughout the Valley. Website visitors can sign up for Passport's email newsletter covering upcoming events, and view a selection of educational and virtual history videos.

Open House Dates

May 20, June 17, August 19 - 1 to 3 p.m.

Free guided tours of the Society's 3 historic buildings and museum

No reservations needed

Summer Institute of Colonial Arts—June 8, 9, 10

See pages 1, 4, and 5

Magical History Tour For School Students

The Society will host students from the Northampton Area School District on May 25 for an introduction to the life and accomplishments of George Wolf and tours of our historic buildings and museum. The Society is always eager to help students and adults understand our local history.

August Annual Trip

The Society is resuming our annual trips with a visit to historic Jim Thorpe in August. Among the tour highlights will be a tour of the 1861 Asa Packer Mansion. Other tour stops and information will be available this summer; check our website and Facebook for details.

Annual Picnic — August 19

Our annual picnic will be held August 19 from noon to 4 p.m. GWHS will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, all of the fixings, and non-alcoholic beverages. Attendees should bring a pot luck dish to share, lawn chairs and games, and may bring adult beverages if desired.

Save the Dates

For Fall and Winter Events!

October 1 — German Oktoberfest Tea

November 24 and 25 — Wreath Making Workshops

December 2 and 4 — Holiday History Fest

December 10 — Holiday Concert featuring Seasons

Complete details will be available in the August and November newsletters and on the Society's website.

Advance registration required for the Tea and Workshops.