



The Governor's Gossip

November 2022
v. 40, no. 4

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

Two Great Events in One Weekend!

40th Annual House Tour - December 3

After a two year hiatus, our famous Christmas House Tour is back! Owners of nine outstanding buildings and homes will throw open their doors to welcome visitors to our 40th tour.

Our theme this year is "Christmas Dinner" and each home's dining room table will be festively set with china and accessories. Florists, garden clubs, and family will again provide Christmas decorations in eight of the buildings.

Advance purchase tickets go on sale on Saturday, November 12, at several local merchants; price is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the Monocacy School on tour day. As a bonus, the House Tour ticket includes admission to the Holiday History Fest.

Advance Ticket Purchase Outlets

As a courtesy to our vendors, please pay with exact cash or check.

Bath Drug Pharmacy, 310 S. Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014
S Seem Antiques & Artisans, 100 S. Chestnut St., Bath, PA 18014
Snow Goose Gallery, 470 Main St., Bethlehem, PA 18018
Mycalyn Florals, 30 S. Main St., Nazareth, PA 18064
Miller Supply ACE Hardware, Rt. 329 & Savage Rd., Northampton, PA 18067

Patron Tour Returns

Reviving a old tradition, the Society will offer a Friday night candlelight tour of five homes for anyone who cannot attend the Saturday tour or would prefer the special ambiance of an evening tour. Cost for this tour is \$40 for members and \$48 for non-members. At the conclusion of the tour, attendees will be treated to refreshments in the Ralston-McKeen House. See page 4 for details about patron tickets.

Houses on the Tour

All of the homes on the tour are at least 120 years old - and a handful of the buildings date from the 18th century. They represent various construction styles and materials, and have been lovingly restored and maintained by dedicated owners. Sketches and thumbnail descriptions are on page 4.

Holiday History Fest - December 3 & 4

by Linda Kortz

On December 3 and 4, our grounds will be brimming with many working, talented craftsmen and women. From fascinating historic skills to watch, to beautifully created items for your homes, and gifts to purchase, this event will kick off your holiday season.

Ralston-McKeen House

In the Ralston-McKeen House, you'll be greeted and welcomed into a decorated 1860s parlor and invited to taste a sample of Christmas. Just outside will be a Civil War winter camp, where re-enactors will roast chestnuts. In the kitchen wing, watch cooking over the coals in the walk-in fireplace, and purchase jellies, jams, breads, and smoked meats (perhaps there will be a sample!).

Spinners, weavers, and a lace maker will be busy in other rooms. Don't miss our antique arms expert who will exhibit and explain weapons from before the 1800s.

Wolf Academy

In the Wolf Academy, watch craftsmen make amazing wood pieces, including scroll saw artistry, hand made furniture and inlaid boxes, baskets, soaps, jewelry, and adorable pieces from old fabrics. A busy building!

(Continued on page 3)



Try making lace

Monocacy School Café

The Daily Grind is selling delicious food and beverages in our historic 1922 school room on Saturday and Sunday. Take a lunch and snacks with you as you tour the houses on Saturday, or eat in the café either day.

Governor Wolf Historical Society

6600 Jacksonville Road
East Allen Township

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Bath, PA 18014

Phone: 610-837-9015

Email: gwhs1958@gmail.com

Website: www.govwolf.org

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Corresponding Secretary: Annette Vliet

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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 by the 5th of the publication month, but 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.

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 with plenty of parking in the adjacent grassy meadow. If interested in an upcoming rental, please contact Abby Spencer at spencerabby@yahoo.com or 610-428-3975.

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

Calling All Members!!

Your help is needed

Our three buildings and the surrounding grounds need lots of routine upkeep – much more than 15 (aging) board members can handle. Volunteer assistance with routine housework and gardening would help greatly. If you are interested in being contacted from time to time about lending a hand, please email your name and email address to gwhs1958@gmail.com. In the subject line, write Volunteer Cleaning, Volunteer Gardening, or Volunteer Both.

Hope to see you at GWHS!

New Web Design Coming Soon

by Terri Sayago

GWHS will soon have a new website design to better meet the needs of web users, possibly by the end of November. This new design is the creation of GWHS member Robert Bysher of nastudios, which produces award-winning web design and digital media presentations.

The redesign is funded through the generosity of two sources. First, nastudios reduced its design fees by fifty percent. The remaining cost was paid through a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, whose mission is "to help communities across the United States celebrate their history and cultural heritage."

New functions on the website will include online ticket purchasing and donations, a directions page, a calendar of upcoming events and news feed reader, and virtual tours of the GWHS campus. The new site will also be easier to administer so information can be updated regularly. The website's address is still www.govwolf.org. Be sure to look for these exciting changes.

From Our President



I am so excited about the many initiatives the historical society has taken on! We have a new state-of-the-art website being designed, to be unveiled soon. We have weddings, yoga, and birthday parties on site. Our grant writing team has earned (yes, those grants are hard work!) several grants. Our buildings were pampered with stucco, sealant and paint. We packed the Academy with a fabulous, flower-themed tea party. The 2-day Holiday History Fest is back on Dec 3 and 4 with familiar and additional vendors. And the 40th Christmas House Tour is coming up

Dec. 3, complete with decorations by florists and garden clubs and the Friday Night Candlelite Tour. Yes, it's a great time to be a member! Thank you to everyone for all your support!

Carol Bear

Holiday History Fest (Continued from page 1)

Monocacy School

In the Monocacy building, children can create free arts and crafts to take home, play old time games, and decorate cookies (and eat them).

More crafters and a mat weaving demonstrator are located in the old school room.

Ann Power Museum

The Ann Power Museum will be open for you to learn about our namesake, Governor George Wolf, the Father of Public Education in Pennsylvania. Watch a video about a local boy who worked to improve our state's transportation system, economy, education and government in the mid 1800s. Try to write with a quill pen, see a display of early samplers, early textbooks, and more. Our historians will explain and answer your questions!

Admission Details

Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 for non-member adults, \$5 for members. Children over age 6 are \$3. Family with up to 5 children is \$15. Scout, home school, and youth groups are welcome; please call 610-905-0007 for prices.

Candlelight Christmas Concert Sunday December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Kick off your holidays with a festive musical evening in the candlelit Wolf Academy. We are pleased to present the Mount Laurel Brass. This group of talented, accomplished musicians will entertain you with selections that range from beautiful holiday classics to rollicking funny selections.



The Mount Laurel Brass in concert.

After the performance, enjoy our twenty foot long holiday dessert buffet with homemade treats and coffee, tea, and punch.

Tickets will be on sale at the Holiday History Festival on December 3 and 4, or call 610-837-9015 and leave a message. If not sold out, tickets may also be purchased the night of the concert. Cost is \$25 for a couple and \$15 single. Member discounts.

New Year's Eve Party

December- 31, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Ring in 2023 at the Society's New Year's Eve Party in the historic Wolf Academy. Pawnshop Bound will provide live music, playing classics to get you up and dancing the night away.

The candlelit Academy with linen covered tables will evoke a cheerful, festive mood. We will furnish ice, mixers, soft drinks, and a huge buffet with mini sandwiches, shrimp, charcuterie trays, fruits, appetizers, etc. Everyone will receive hats, noisemakers, and other fun things. BYOB.

Muffins, raised cakes, and donuts, along with coffee and tea will be served after midnight.

Call 610-905-0007 and leave a clear message and phone number for more information and reservations. This will sell out. Call soon. Donation is \$45 per person, \$40 for members.



Gov. Wolf Antiques Show

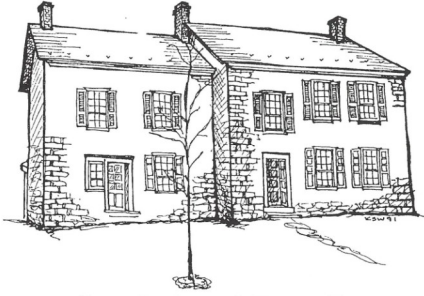
March 4 and 5, 2023

The 14th annual Governor Wolf Antiques Show, highlighting primitives and county, is on our calendar for March 4 and 5, 2023. All three buildings will be filled with approximately 25 dealers. Unique features of the show are the period room settings and hearth cooking demonstrations using antique kitchen implements.

Paired the same weekend as the 8th annual Chestnut Street Antiques Show in Bath, it's a weekend you'll want to mark on your calendar now!

For information email ckbh@ptd.net or call 610-390-0555..

2022 House Tour Homes



This stone home was built in two sections, the first about 1780 and the addition about 1810. Look for the painstakingly restored unique designs on the eight-panel doors, Federal fireplaces flanked by early chimney cupboards, original gray baseboard design in a bedroom, original peg-

boards for hanging clothes, and original sash with iron pins. The whole house and little guest house will be open.

The 1813 James Horner farmhouse is constructed of native limestone typical of early Scots-Irish homes. Look for the walk-in fireplace, bake oven, unusual floor layout, original corner Federal mantels, and original hardware, doors, and moldings. The first and second floors will be open.



This late 1700s home faces south to gather the sun's heat, while the northern rear is built into the hillside to retain the earth's warmth. Look for the exposed beams, original fireplace mantel in the primary bedroom, and the drawing of a Native American in another bedroom. All three floors will be open.



This brick and frame Free Classic Victorian was built in 1900. Look for the granite foundation, marble entry slabs, second floor turret, wrap around porch, and distinctive, unique interior features designed to showcase the architectural style of the house. The first and second floors will be open.

This stone center hall home, built about 1790, features five fireplaces and wide pine, plank floors. Look for original 12-over-8-pane windows, original milk paint woodwork and wall stenciling. The first and second floors will be open.



Patron Tickets For Friday Night Tour

The Friday, December 2, candlelite patron tour begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Society's Ralston-McKeen House. From there, tour participants caravan to the five open homes, following a pre-arranged schedule to visit each home. After touring the homes, everyone returns to the Ralston-McKeen House to enjoy refreshments.

The cost of the patron tour is \$40 for members and \$48 for non-members. Reservations are required. Send your name, phone number, email address, number of patron tickets, and a check made payable to "Gov. Wolf Historical Society" to Carol Bear, Candlelite Tour, 207 W. Northampton St., Bath PA 18014.

House Tour Sponsors

Platinum

Stofanak Custom Cabinetry
176 Nazareth Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18020
610-759-9311

Gold

A. A. Lapp & Associates, Inc.
16 S. Broad St., Nazareth, PA 18064 - 610-759-6858

Silver

Daily Grind
116 E. Main St., Bath, PA 18014 - 484-281-3314

Horwith Trucks, Inc.
Box 7, Northampton, PA 18067 - 610-261-2220

Terraform Engineering
One E. Broad St., Suite 330, Bethlehem, PA 18018
484-895-4632

Bronze

Brosky Insurance Agency, Inc.
1540 E. Race St., Allentown, PA 18014
610-264-3940

Miller Supply Ace Hardware
Rt. 329 & Savage Road, Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-4566

S. Seem Antiques and Artisans
100 S. Chestnut St., Bath, PA 18014 - 610-390-0403

Town and Country Restaurant
350 S. Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014 - 610-837-7220

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Friday, November 25 - 9-11 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.
 Saturday, November 26 - 9-11 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.
 Sunday, November 27 - 1-3 p.m.



Everything you need to create a beautiful, fresh holiday door wreath is provided — mixed greens, forms, florist bows to select from, and a variety of cones and other decorations. You may bring any decorations that you want to add. We provide coffee, tea, and soft drinks for you. Please feel free to bring cookies, snacks or wine for your group.

Everyone MUST bring clippers, hot glue gun and glue sticks, and an extension cord (or share with a friend).

\$30

Classes begin promptly! Classes are limited to 20! Space reserved with receipt of check.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____ t _____ No. Attending _____ (\$30. each)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Class date and time _____ Amount _____

**Reservations must be received by Saturday, November 19. Make check payable to: Gov. Wolf Historical Society.
 Mail to Gov. Wolf Historical Society, P.O. Box 314, Bath, Pa 18014
 Please call Linda @ 610-905-0007 with any questions.**

IF YOU ENJOY OUR WREATH MAKING CLASS, THEN JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER INSTITUTE OF COLONIAL CRAFTS ON JUNE 8 AND 9, 2023. HANDS ON "MAKE IT AND TAKE IT" CLASSES WILL TEACH 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY SKILLS SUCH AS FRAKTUR, REDWARE, BASKET MAKING, AND GRAIN PAINTING.

**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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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



The Governor's Gossip

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

Return Service Requested

November and December Events

Open House

Nov. 19—1-3 p.m.
Free guided tours of the Society's
3 historic buildings and museum
No reservations needed

Wreath Classes

Create your own decorative
holiday wreath
Nov. 25, 26, and 27
Registration required
Registration form with class details
on page 5

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR
Dec. 3 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Our 40th annual tour!

See page 1 and 4

Holiday History Festival

Family Event on Dec. 3 & 4
Demonstrators, Crafters,
Artisans in 3 Buildings
See page 1

Candlelight Christmas Concert in Wolf Academy

Featuring Mount Laurel Brass
Dec. 11 — 7 p.m.
See page 3

New Year's Eve Party

Dancing to Live Music
Dec. 31 — 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Reservations Required
See page 3