



# The Governor's Gossip

November 2023  
v. 41, 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!

### 41st Annual House Tour - December 2

The 41st edition of our famous Christmas House Tour will be held on December 2. Owners of nine outstanding and unique homes and buildings will throw open their doors to welcome visitors.

Our theme this year is "Christmas Bells." Look for a variety of bells — sleigh bells, school bells, dinner bells, handbells — that will bring back memories of Christmas past. Florists, garden clubs and family will again provide Christmas decorations in seven of the buildings.

#### 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

Advance purchase tickets go on sale on Saturday, November 11, at five 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.

#### Houses on the Tour

All of the homes on the tour are at least 150 years old - and a couple 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.

Information about the **Friday evening Patron Tour** is on page 4.

#### Monocacy School Café

The Society will be 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.

### Holiday History Fest - December 2 & 3 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The warm fireplaces in the 1795 stone Ralston-McKeen House will welcome you to a wide variety of juried demonstrators and artisans creating and selling beautiful and interesting items! This is not the typical craft show, but one that has a tilt toward history and hand-crafts for women, men and children.

All three buildings on our historic sites will be filled with demonstrators and exhibitors, ranging from fiber arts, to hand woven baskets, early firearms, 1800s antiques and a Civil War encampment, leather and forged metal crafts, hearth cooking, smoked meats, cheeses, jams and hand formed breads, to wood crafts and furniture, natural herbal soaps, and beautiful decor for your home. We have something for everyone!

#### Christmas Bells Display

In keeping with this year's Christmas Bells theme, the museum will feature a display of early bells, school bells and sleigh bells, etc., and their history. Do you know where the phrase, "We'll be there with bells on!", originated? Come in and find out!

#### Free Children's Crafts

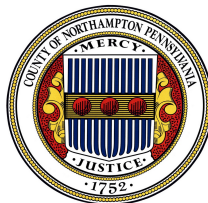
There will be free crafts for children, ages 5-95! Make a pine cone bird treat or a pierced tin item. Try your mind at some early skill thinking games or make a German Schultute - a folded paper decorative container to hold candies.

#### Basket Raffle

Don't forget to enter our free drawing for a chance to win a large gift basket or tickets to upcoming Society events.



(cont. on page 2)



The House Tour, Holiday History Fest, and Candlelight Christmas Concert are being funded in part with funding from the Hotel Tax Grant Program through the County of Northampton Department of Community & Economic Development.



## From Our President



It's time for the Christmas House Tour issue! 41 years, how time flies! Over the years, the tour has featured 295 historic homes. What a wonderful area we live in! This year, for the first time, the Bath Museum will be part of the tour. The museum underwent a huge transformation (under the direction of Linda Kortz, one of our board members) when it moved into the new borough building. Also included this year is one of the residences in the transformed old Presbyterian Church on Walnut Street. The excitement in Bath builds with a 5-block National Register District currently being considered by the National Park Service! Completing the slate of this year's house tour offerings is a reimagined barn, a gingerbread Victorian, and two classic stone homes. You won't want to miss this one! See you on the tour!

**Carol**

## Terri's Pear Conserve



Terri Sayago planned to use the pears in the Society's Herb and Pleasure Garden to make pear treats. To honor her memory, Carol Bear, Linda Kortz, and Lucienne Hosford teamed up to use an 18th century recipe to produce 23 jars of pear conserve (jam). The Society sold the conserve at the October tea. Photo by John Kortz.

## Museum Update

By Linda Kortz

The Society owns an original 1860 map of Northampton County that was in poor condition and improperly mounted. Deb Rice of Friendship Framing restored the 5 ft. by 5 ft. map and it is now hanging in the Monocacy School.

The map includes the location of homes and identifies owners.

Perhaps you can locate where your family lived, learned, worshipped or worked. There is so much interesting information about our county's early days on this historic display.

Funds for the restoration, and framing of this beautiful map were provided by Ann Power.



## New Shutters

## New Sign on Rt. 512



The Society has a new sign on the northwest corner of Rt. 512 and Jacksonville Road! The bright blue sign with gold lettering will help guide visitors to our historic site. Photo by Barb Wiemann.



As the finishing touch to the complete exterior painting of the Ralston-McKeen House, period shutters have been installed on the front and south side first floor windows.

## 2023 House Tour Homes



The owners completed the work on this 1832 rubble-style stone house themselves. Using dismantled barn boards, they built a barn to use as a workshop. Attic floorboards were used to

make a cabinet and sliding barn doors. A black walnut tree on the property was milled into lumber to produce the basket weave inlay pattern (3000 pieces) and the wide plank floor in the living area. The banquette in the dining area was made from oak studs from a dismantled wall.

Built about 1861, this Carpenter Gothic or Gothic Revival house was owned by generations of the same family until 2002. The owners spent a year renovating the interior. The house is framed with large hand-cut timbers joined with pegs and mortises. The original gingerbread roof details served as patterns to recreate new copies.



This home began life in the early 1800s as a pegged beam Pennsylvania bank barn and was converted into a dwelling in the 1980s. When the back deck that runs the length of the barn was rebuilt, the original rafters and large beams were removed and reused. The

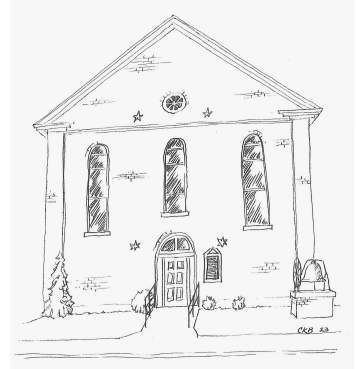
front wall was opened and rebuilt. The two story high living room has 16 inch plank floors and an open staircase.



Built in 1834, this spacious stone farmhouse overlooks 100 acres of meadows and farm land. The floors are original pine and reclaimed oak hard-

woods. The main kitchen and loft have oak timber framed beams with a tongue and groove cedar ceiling. The stairs and railings in the timber frame addition were rescued and restored from a church dating to the Civil War era. The working springhouse dates to 1761.

Built in 1870 as a Presbyterian Church, this brick building was converted into apartments in 2020. The original worship space was on the second floor and a third floor was created in the tall open space of the sanctuary. The ceiling was opened to reveal the original beams in the attic; some show blackened marks from a fire in the 1980s. A spiral staircase and new matching wood were added to showcase the space.



### Patron Tickets For Friday Night Tour

The Friday, December 1, candlelight 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 \$45 for members and \$55 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, Candlelight 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

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

#### Silver

Horwith Trucks Inc  
PO Box 7, Rt. 239, Northampton, PA 18067  
610-261-2220

#### Bronze

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

## Successful Events During Previous Quarter

### Jim Thorpe Trip

On August 11, Society members enjoyed a day in Jim Thorpe. The tour of St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church featured Tiffany stained glass windows, an Austin organ, and a ride in an original Otis elevator that was designed to hold a casket. The Mauch Chunk Museum and Cultural Center tour included an interesting video, a working model of the Switchback Railroad, and fascinating artifacts from the borough's history. Many thanks to **Kathy Silfies** for organizing a memorable field trip.



Photo by Barb Wiemann

Using a scale model, a docent at the Mauch Chunk Museum demonstrates the operation of the Switchback Railroad.

### Octoberfest Tea



Photo by Barb Wiemann

View of a portion of the dessert tables at the Tea.

A sell out crowd enjoyed the Octoberfest Tea in the Wolf Academy on October 1. Accordionist Henry Laurito of Nazareth set the tone as he entertained everyone with lively polka music. In addition to tea sandwiches, guests selected desserts from a sumptuous array of treats. Thank you to **Linda Kortz** who organized this event.

Check our website and Facebook posts for information about our next tea in spring 2024.

### Do You Recognize Me?



In this issue, we are highlighting a photo from the Monocacy School. The information with the black and white photo says that the teacher is Miss Omegene Fehnel and her 22 first grade students. The photo was taken by Anthony's Photo Service in Bethlehem and probably dates from about 1952.

Do you recognize any of these students? Can you verify the school year that the photo was taken and the grade level. Please contact Barb Wiemann at [blwiemann@gmail.com](mailto:blwiemann@gmail.com) with any information.

### Candlelight Christmas Concert December 10 at 7 p.m.

Kick off your holidays with a festive musical evening in the candlelit Wolf Academy. We are pleased to present Seasons, a talented quintet of siblings from the Harrisburg area, playing beloved traditional favorites and modern selections on Celtic harp, hammered dulcimer, and other instruments.

After the performance, enjoy our 20 foot long holiday dessert buffet with homemade treats and coffee, tea, and punch.

Tickets will be on sale at the Holiday History Fest on December 2 and 3, or email [kitkatw74@gmail.com](mailto:kitkatw74@gmail.com) for reservations. If not sold out, tickets may also be purchased the night of the concert. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers.



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!  
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 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

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

**December Events at GWHS**

*See page 1 for House Tour and Holiday History Fest  
and page 5 for Candlelight Concert*



*Christmas Wreath Workshop*

Friday, November 24 - 9-11 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.  
Saturday, November 25 - 9-11 a.m. OR 1-3 p.m.  
Sunday, November 26 - 1-3 p.m.

All supplies provided to make a 22 inch wreath: wreath form, assorted greens, pine cones, ribbons, bow. Sodas, coffee & tea.  
Bring clippers, glue gun, and any other décor you want to add to your wreath. Wine, cookies, snacks optional.  
The technique you will learn uses no difficult wiring of greens!

**\$35**  
per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Class date and time \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

All classes are limited to 20. **Space reserved with receipt of check.** List names at your table.  
For information, call or text 610-905-0007 and leave name, class choice, and number of attendees.

**Deadline to register is November 18.**

Make check payable to: GWHS Wreath Class and mail to  
GWHS, c/o Linda Kortz, 1091 Copella Rd., Bath, PA 18014