

Stories are told about:

Benjamin Franklin's visits to his daughter's home on the Delaware and to Growden Manor, the home of Joseph Galloway.

George Washington, John Hancock and John Adams stopping at several local inns.

The carefree days at Neshaminy Falls Park.

The shad in the Delaware River being so plentiful that you could rake them ashore.

Do you know about:

The ghosts and beautiful love story at Pen Ryn?

Joseph Galloway who was the most notorious Tory of the Revolution?

The milestone markers along Bristol Pike that date back to 1763?

The oldest continuously-meeting society in America that is located in Bensalem?

The notorious 1831 murder in Andalusia?

The Saint from Bensalem?

Bensalem Township is located in the southern corner of Bucks County. It is bounded on three sides by water (Delaware River, Neshaminy Creek, and Poquessing Creek) and by Lower Southampton on the fourth side. These boundaries have never changed since its organization in 1692.

The Lenni Lenape Indians were living along the Delaware River when the first settlers arrived. One of these settlers was Dunck Williams who operated a ferry from what is now the Neshaminy State Park to Beverly, New Jersey. Many early settlers were farmers.

Many questions have arisen concerning the name Bensalem. When the Township was formed the land of Joseph Growden was called "Salem". Between 1692-97 the prefix "Ben" was added. One historian suggested that it means "hill of peace" or "peaceful mound". Others believe it means "son of peace". The latter interpretation seems the most logical as Joseph Growden, who came to America about 1682, received a grant of 5000 acres from William Penn. Joseph called his estate the "Manor of Bensalem", probably in honor of Wm. Penn, a "son of peace".

One of the proudest moments for Bensalem, came on Christmas Night in 1776. General Cadwalader's troops crossed the Delaware River at Dunks Ferry in a pincer-like movement to deploy the British and Hessians from Washington's crossing for the Battle of Trenton.

Historical Society of Bensalem Township

P.O. Box 1101 Bensalem PA 19020

215 639-6575 • www.bensalemhistoricalsociety.com

*A Non-Profit, Non Political, Non Secretarian Organization
Funded Thru Membership Fees and Contributions*



BENSALEM

A Fascinating Past and a Promising Future



Historical Society of Bensalem
3211 Knights Road



The Historical Society of Bensalem Township was founded and incorporated in 1977 as a Pennsylvania Non-Profit Organization.

Our Purpose is to educate and foster an interest and appreciation in the historical heritage of Bensalem Township, Bucks Co. PA.

- to promote the preservation, acquisition and restoration of its lands and buildings that have historical significance
- to encourage research, study, and publication of writings
- to gather historical documents, memorabilia and artifacts

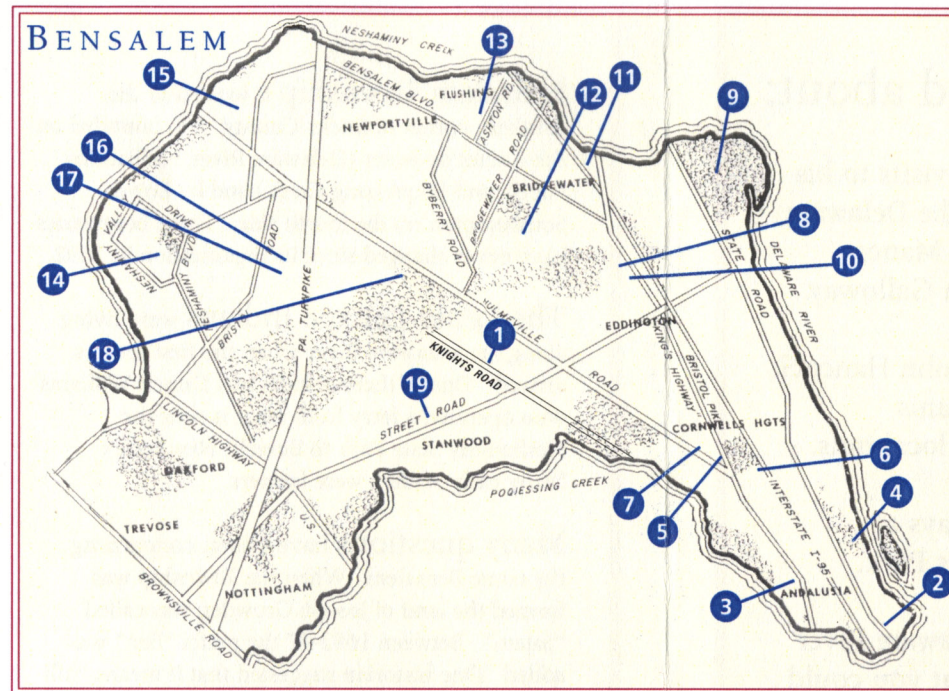
The Society has been given 58 original deeds, several old books and ledgers, dinnerware from the old Trappe Hotel, many maps of Bensalem, postcards, high school yearbooks and other memorabilia. During the past 30 years, photos have been taken and old ones found. Now we have 7 different presentations available for schools, clubs and meetings.

For the past several years the Society has sponsored Civil War Re-enactments at the Neshaminy State Park to educate the community. This event is free to the public.

The Society has published three books. "Traveling through Bensalem" in 1984 and "Bensalem II" in 2000. The first is a written history of the Township from 1692 through 1984. The second book is a pictorial history of many of the places, people and things mentioned in the first book. Book III "The Journey Continues" was published in 2008 and has been accepted into the Library of Congress.

We participate in the Bensalem Fall Festival, run trips and tours. We have also taken over the preservation of the Johnson Williamson Cemetery and Gibbs Cemetery.

In 2007 the Historical Society opened a museum, learning center, library and office at 3211 Knights Rd. Please call 215-639-6575 for hours.



- 1 Historical Society of Bensalem Township** - Office, museum, and learning center of the Society at 3211 Knights Road.
- 2 Andalusia** - Built in 1794 by John Craig. In 1811 Craig's daughter married Nicholas Biddle, President of the United States Bank.
- 3 King Library** - Built in 1882 by Dr. Charles King, physician and president of Bensalem's School Board. It is located next to the Church of the Redeemer which was built in 1890 with funds raised by Mrs. Charles Biddle.
- 4 Pen Ryn / Belle Voir** - Purchased about 1744 the former "Bickley Estate" is now a catering facility.
- 5 Milestones** - Bristol Pike (U.S. 13) originally the "Kings Path", laid on an Indian path in 1675. Finished in 1810 as the "King's Highway". The miles are marked by solid granite markers engraved with the mile number and a "T". Locations: #12 in front of the Colonial Shopping Center, #13 in front of St. Elizabeth's convent. #14 and #15 will be replaced in the future.
- 6 Saint Katharine Drexel Shrine** - Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, founded to help native Indians and Blacks. Listed on the National Historical Register.

- 7 Vandegrift Family Cemetery** - Laid out about 1776, it contains the graves of many early Bensalem residents.
- 8 Old Eddington School** - Two story, two room building erected in 1856. Still standing near Warner's Candy.
- 9 Neshaminy State Park** - Dunken Williams, Bensalem's earliest settler, established a river crossing known as "Dunks Ferry" in 1678. Here, the Dunk's Ferry Hotel was built before the Revolution. A monument marks Gen. Cadwalader's crossing here while Washington crossed at Trenton.
- 10 The Gibbs Cemetery** - Recently restored burying ground of the Richard Gibbs family. Dates back to 1795.
- 11 Allen Family Cemetery** - Memorial for Samuel Allen who established a farm here in 1682.
- 12 Bensalem African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church** - founded in 1820, One of the oldest African American churches in the country.
- 13 Johnson-Williamson Cemetery** - contains a memorial to Dunken Williams and many early family members.
- 14 Trevoze** - Land granted to Joseph Growden in 1681 by William Penn. The next generation saw Benjamin Franklin visiting Joseph Galloway who married Grace Growden in 1753.
- 15 Beechwood Cemetery** - earliest legible date is 1854. Buried here are Joseph Canby, Joseph Grundy, Samuel Faust and Cecelia Snyder.
- 16 Bensalem Presbyterian Church** - Founded in 1705, Nathaniel Van Zandt, Captain in the Revolutionary Army, is buried here.
- 17 Hermitage School** - Adjacent to the Bensalem Presbyterian Church and now their office. One room school erected in 1858. It was Bensalem's oldest non-public school.
- 18 Bensalem Methodist Church** - the old chapel was built in 1810, enlarged in 1853.
- 19 Bucks County Conference & Visitors Center** - 3207 Street Road, adjacent to Philadelphia Park/Casino.

The Society dues are \$15 single, \$20 family, and \$75 organization.
Join us and help preserve the fascinating past of Bensalem for future generations.

Contact the Society today.

www.bensalemhistoricalsociety.com phone: 215-639-6575 write: P.O. Box 1101, Bensalem PA 19020

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