



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENSALEM TWP

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NEWSLETTER FOR JAN. AND FEB. 2022

Good news.....Ben the Turkey survived Thanksgiving. He was seen near the Society building on Nov.27th. Keep your eyes open for him under a snowdrift....

BRIDGES OVER THE POQUESSING - PART 1

On Nov. 4th, we learned a lot about some of the bridges of Bensalem that cross the Poquessing Creek. This creek has been the dividing line between Philadelphia and Bensalem since 1682.

Beginning in Trevose there are about 10 bridges until you get to Knights Road. Among them are a railroad only bridge, a foot bridge and some of them have already disappeared. Materials used in early bridges were stone, brick, concrete and one was made from a metal truck bed.

The earliest in this partial list was from 1805 (Byberry Bensalem Bridge) at the edge of Benjamin Rush Park, made of bricks, by a local man (Captain Nathaniel VanSant) who is buried in the Bensalem Presbyterian Graveyard.

This was the first part of Patty McCarthy's presentation. The balance of bridges to the Delaware River will be shown at the January 2nd Sunday meeting. Come out to find the total number of Bridges that crossed the Poquessing Creek.

THE LENAPE INDIANS

December 2nd was the day that we learned about the very early settlers in our area. Matt Bieleck shared his knowledge about the Lenape Indians who came here about 14,000 years ago after walking from Siberia, over the Bering Land bridge, across Alaska and Canada and finally down the U.S. to here. Hard to even imagine anyone walking all those miles.

These Indians were hunter, gatherers which means that they grew food, gathered herbs, fished the streams and hunted deer, etc. They were tall people (about 6 ft.) while the colonists were smaller (about 5'2"). The main food was called the "3 sisters" which was corn, beans, and squash. Herbs were also used for medicine.

In their society women were in charge.

When the "treaty of Easton" was signed in 1758 between the colonists and Indians, the Lenape were moved from our area to Ohio and they finally settled in Oklahoma. We can still find many Lenape names on a map such as Poquessing and Neshaminy. THANKS, Matt, for sharing this early Indian history with us.

NEW MEMBER

Marianne Gioffere

NEW ADDITIONS

Donation of a 1973 Lower Bucks County Cross Reference Directory by Gene DiGirolamo

Pat & Lloyd Polter donated a Harley Davidson Display & Photos in a 3' by 12" case from 1942

Dr. Stephanie Morris donated a copy of "Celebrating the Constitution- a Bicentennial Retrospective" and "Architectural Records- Arrangements"

Eric & Kathy Ludman donated a collection of Betz Labs photos in two albums and several loose photos of their trucks.

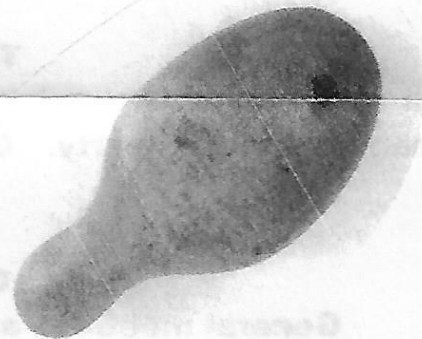
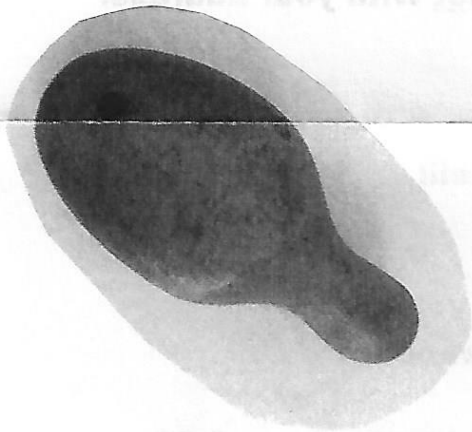
Linda Peasley & Bobbie Beck donated a 2 volume set of the history of "Montgomery County the Second Hundred Years" 1983

Tayle Smith-Jacobs donated several articles and photos of Growden

**Mansion and Lyle Justis along with 2 framed photo lights of
Growden Mansion.**

TEST YOUR MEMORY

What is this item that your Grandmother might have used long ago?



DUES ARE DUE FOR 2022

Single membership is \$15; Family is \$20 and Business \$75. These dues have not changed for many years and we hope you will continue to support this group.

IN MEMORY OF

Sadly, on October 20th a long time member, Betty Gibson, passed away. Betty graduated from Bensalem High School in 1946 and joined us in 2005. Betty was a very active volunteer at Cornwells United Methodist Church helping in the soup kitchen and with the flea markets. Our deepest sympathy to her family.

The members of the Society extend our deepest sympathy to Carol McCloskey and family upon the death of Bill McCloskey on Dec. 3rd. Carol is one of the founding members of this Society and co-author of the history books.

NEW IDEA

We are considering sending the bi-monthly newsletter to our members via email. To do this we need our members e-mail address which some have already provided. This is just a preliminary discussion with no decision made until sometime in 2022. If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter this way, please call Joe Gavaghan (215-639-6522) or email to Bubbajoe58@verizon.net with your address.

THANKS TO

Bob Johnson, Hank Arment, and Charles Satterfield for doing a Fall Cleanup of our property. Good Job well done!!!

CALENDAR

General meetings are on Sunday afternoons

Jan. 2nd	“Part 2 of Bridges over the Poquessing” By Patty McCarthy	2:00
Jan. 15th	Board Meeting	12:00
Feb. 6 th	Pa. Hist. Society Recovery Service Sharing some local finds	2:00
Feb.19th	Board Meeting	12:00

“LIFE’S TRAGEDY IS WE GET OLD TOO SOON AND WISE TOO LATE”
Quote from Benjamin Franklin

Wishing everyone a Healthy, Happy 2022.....Stay safe

