



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENSALEM TWP

3211 Knights Road

P.O. BOX 1101 BENSALEM PA 19020

PHONE 215-639-6575

WEBSITE www.bensalemhistoricalsociety.com

NEWSLETTER FOR JAN. AND FEB. 2023

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy 2023.

This year we will be trying to do some new things and hope you will work with us to update our organization and building.

November Meeting

Joe Coleman introduced us to the early history of Hulmeville, our neighboring village.

He is a former High School History teacher and just published his new book about Hulmeville.

Did you know that Hulmeville is only 3/8th of a square mile in size? This small community is bounded by the Neshaminy Creek where many small mills were built back in the 1700's and were powered by the water from a dam. Among the mill's were a saw mill, grist mill, cotton mill, mill for rolling metal and another for making flaxseed oil. This area became known as "Milford" which was a combination of Mills and the "ford" crossing the creek. A post office and bank were also opened here.

One of the main families was that of John Hulme who moved there in 1796. John was a Justice of the Peace, member of the General Assembly and started the first bank in Bucks Co. and was still president when he died in 1819. The bank building still stands but its vault is now in the old Farmers Bank in Bristol.

During this time many of the people began to call the area Hulmeville and in 1872 it was incorporated with that name.

A large fire in 1829 burned most of the mills and caused the William Penn Fire Company to be founded in 1832. Several of the mills were rebuilt but because of another fire in 1881 they were lost again.

Since our time ran out we will complete the history of Hulmeville at the Jan. 8th meeting. (see the calendar on last page)

December Meeting

Member Jim Davis explained how he found a unique hobby that has turned into a business of cleaning and repairing tombstones.

Using 4 different types of organic cleaners he can change a stone from being black, moldy, not readable etc. into a beautiful white readable piece of history. Some stones can take hours to bring the words back, but a sense of satisfaction makes it worth the effort.

Thank you, Jim, for sharing your passion to help preserve someone's genealogy for themselves and the world.

IN MEMORY OF

On Oct. 11, 2022 Society member Carl Perri died. He and Sue have been members since 1995 and both volunteered for all our early events. We are sending our deepest sympathy to Sue and all the family.

On Nov. 7, 2022 long time member Arline Driscoll died. She and Ed worked hard for the Society and Ed was President for a few years. We send our deepest sympathy to their family.

ADDITIONS

Jean Mangin donated a commemorative plate labeled Bensalem Baptist Church

Gordon Larson donated 2 Bensalem High School programs from 1969 and 1992

Barbara Quinn donated the book "News of the Nation" newspaper Articles printed in 1975

Bensalem Alumni Assoc. donated 2 yearbooks (2021 and 2022)

FLEA MARKET

The final amounts for the Flea Markets are as follows:

July event \$1353.30 and Sept. event \$1290.05. Thanks to everyone who worked at these events.

SALEM HARBOR PROGRAM

Even though the day started out with a problem, the residents who attended seemed to enjoy the presentation of "Traveling the Pike" presented by Vicki MacDougall and Sally Sondesky.

MYSTERY PICTURE ANSWER

Since we didn't get any answers to our "Lost in Bensalem" picture in the last newsletter, we will give you the answer now. This statue is located at 3913 Bristol Pike. Driving north on the Pike, immediately after you go under the I95 bridge, look on the right side of the Pike to find it. Actually, it is easier to see if you are going south, it would be on the left just before the bridge.

SEARCHING FOR PICTURES ETC.

Old pictures of train stations & trolleys

Sarobia Gatehouse with the cats on the posts

Blue Hill Diner before the move

Penquin Flyer

Andalusia Drive In

Red Gables Mansion now Salem Harbor

Cornwells Skating Rink

Old Postcards and Maps

And anything you might have that we can photo a copy for our files

February Meeting

Just a note to mention that the Boone Farm is the new location for the African American Museum of Bucks County. Pat will tell us about the 21 owners that lived there.

Note from Joe Gavaghan

If you signed up to receive your newsletter in an E-mail form but didn't receive it that way or you wish to change from regular mail to E-mail, please contact him at 215-639-6522 or email him at Bubbajoe58@verizon.net.

REMINDER

Beginning in January Dues will be Due for 2023 unless you have already paid them. Single \$15 Family \$20 Business \$75

Also remember that in January, February and March our meetings will be held on the First Sunday of the Month at 2:00 pm

Note: we will not meet on Jan. 1st New Years Day

CALENDAR

Jan. 8th	“Continuing Hulmeville” By Joe Coleman	2:00 pm
Jan. 21st	Board Meeting	12:00 pm
Feb. 5th	“Boone Farm “ By Patricia Mervine..Story of the house and its families”	2:00 pm
Feb. 18th	Board Meeting	12:00 pm

THOUGHTS FOR 2023 :

The 2 most power filled words are..... I CAN

The most satisfying work.....HELPING OTHERS

The worlds most incredible computer.....THE BRAIN

The most beautiful attire.....SMILE

The most contagious spirit.....ENTHUSIASM

The Board