



## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENSALEM TWP**

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**NEWSLETTER FOR MAR. AND APR. 2023**

**A special THANK YOU to Mayor DiGirolamo and the Township for correcting the problem we had with our front walkways. Check them out when you visit our building.**

**Also please notice that the Growden Mansion sign is back up along the roadway by the house. Thanks, Township workers for repairing and erecting the sign.**

### **JANUARY MEETING**

**Joe Coleman came back to complete the history of our neighboring village of Hulmeville.**

**In part one we heard about several fires and floods that destroyed many of the industries. Now we know how the resourceful people of Hulmeville rebuilt their town and even added businesses since then.**

**The first bank building still stands at 2 Water Street. In 1855 a school house was built on Main Street followed by a high school in 1890. The area was growing and finally a newspaper (The Beacon) appeared to be followed by the Delaware Valley Advance. The last surviving mill "OKO Plush Mill was still thriving in the 1980's.**

**Most of us know of Johnson Hall which was built in 1871 and the next year the town was incorporated in 1872.**

**Instead of just driving thru Hulmeville, take time to go down Main St. or the smaller streets to see what part of historic Hulmeville still survives.**

**Thank you Joe for sharing this local history with us and good luck with the sale of your book.**

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

**At the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> to hear Pat Mervine talk about the Boone Farm families, every seat was taken and about 6 people had to stand. This was the largest turnout we have ever had.**

**The Boone Farm will be the new location of the African American Museum and is located on Route #413 in Langhorne.**

**This building is situated on Lenni Lenape Indian land and was built in the early 1700's with additions added over several years.**

**Among the families that owned this property are the following names – Kirk, Dungan, Saddler, Preston, Martin, Beatty, Comfort, Parry, Gillingham, Osmond, Laughead, Jackson, and lastly Boone.**

**If you are interested in more history of this house, we have several copies of Pat's book available at the office. Titled "Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History" the cost is \$20 with all the money going to the African American Museum of Bucks Co. PA.**

**Many Thanks to Pat for sharing her knowledge of this building and its history.**

## **IN MEMORY OF**

**On January 20<sup>th</sup> Dolores Tilley Geiges Hansen passed away at age 90. Both she and her husband Jack (who died in 2020) were early members of this Society and well known as Bensalem High School graduates. We are sending our deepest sympathy to the Geiges and Hansen families.**

**On January 29<sup>th</sup> Jack Maher passed away at his home in Virginia. Jack was an early member of our groups and was always interested in Bensalem's history. His short internet notes kept people interested in our history and he will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to all the Maher family.**



**On Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> we hosted the luncheon meeting of the Bensalem Business Association. This was a trial lunch time meeting of the group.**

**Thank you to the Albert W. Bader Foundation for their generous donation of \$2500 to help us preserve Bensalem's history.**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

**Linda Betz**

**Karen Jackson**

**Jimmy Hawkins**

**John Nelson**

#### **ADDITIONS**

**John Dignam donated a glass dish from Pennwalt Co. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Plus early photography items.**

**Susan Hopkins Lee donated an early deeds and photograph of 2624 Bristol  
Road**

#### **FLEA MARKET**

**The first Flea Market has been scheduled for May. Since our space is limited for items for the Society to sell, please do not bring anything until April.**

**Dates are May 13<sup>th</sup> with the raindate of May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please consider volunteering your time and efforts as this is the first fund raiser we have for this year.**

#### **CONCERTS**

**Over the summer months we will be selling the 50/50 tickets at the Wednesday Night Concerts for the Township. If these events turn out as well**

attended as in 2022, we will need 3 people for each of the 2 tables. Think about helping, enjoying the music and helping the Society. A sign up sheet will be available in May. The first Concert is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### REMINDER

2023 Dues are due by the end of March. \$15 Single; \$20 Family; \$75 Business.

If your dues are not received by 3/31 this is the last newsletter you will receive.

### CALENDAR

Mar. 5 (Sunday)	"Biddle Jackson Books" By Cordelia Frances Biddle	2:00 p.m.
Mar. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00
Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup> (Thurs.)	To be announced	7:00 p.m.
Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees, and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone"

STAY SAFE

*The Board*