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Laura E. Prickett Memorial Lecture

May 22, 2011



The day was a gift... It was a gift from Clarence Prickett and the Prickett Family who so selflessly shared their historic property, time, and talents; it was a gift from those who envisioned a vibrant historical society in Lower Makefield, as well as a spirited and hardworking event committee. Above all it was a gift from Laura Prickett to her family, friends, and community. Although the sun barely made its presence known on May 22, the first annual Laura E. Prickett Memorial Lecture was a bright success.

Not quite one hundred attendees made their way to the property, where they exchanged greetings with the Prickett Family and each other while enjoying the skilled musicianship of violinist Susan Colletti who set a beautiful tone for the day with strains of traditional and period tunes. Flower arrangements were crafted by Robert of Manor Lane, Yardley, and Dave Fleming of Shady Brook Farm not only graciously allowed attendees to park on the farm, he also permitted the committee to “borrow” trees, shrubs, and flowers to adorn the lecture tent.

The event began with a warm welcome from LMHS President Pat Miiller. Kellee Blake, Committee Chair, then introduced Wesley Greene, the 18th Century Garden Historian of Colonial Williamsburg. Greene was the committee’s first choice for this event, said Blake, as he represented two disciplines most dear to Laura Prickett—gardening and history. In full period costume Greene gave a lively and entertaining overview of the myriad tasks set before the colonial governor’s gardener, including the social mores that prompted them. His wit and palpable comfort in his role as an eighteenth century gardener made Greene a delightful teacher. After a thoughtful round of questions, Grace Godshalk concluded the lecture with words of thanks.

Lovely refreshments followed, including tea sandwiches, puff pastries, French meringues, chocolate covered strawberries, and all served with punch. Joyce Anderson skillfully and cheerfully guided the committee and volunteers through the preparation and sharing of the delicious treats. Guests also were encouraged to enjoy the Prickett property after the lecture and did so to the accompaniment of Sue Colletti’s violin.

Joyce Anderson, Kellee Blake (Chair), Grace Godshalk, Pat Miiller, Pat Kolle, and Salome Prickett formed this year’s Laura Prickett Memorial Lecture Committee. Plans for the 2012 lecture are in their preliminary stages. With *continued support* LMHS hopes to present a nationally recognized speaker in Mrs. Prickett’s honor each year.

Join LMHS Wednesday, September 21st, & Visit Historic Stenton Mansion

In 1699 James Logan, family patriarch, came to Philadelphia in the service of William Penn. Logan remained in Pennsylvania and spent the next fifty years serving in various capacities: agent for the Penn family; merchant; politician; justice; scientist and scholar. He was the leading political figure in Pennsylvania for many years.

Logan began building Stenton as a country house in the 1720’s. Although originally intended as a “plain, cheap farmer’s stone house” it evolved into a brick mansion in the early Georgian style – a striking piece of architecture noted for its symmetry, elegance, and simplicity of design. Records indicate that he commissioned pieces of fine furniture and collected a library of nearly 3,000 books. Logan’s library was one of the largest in the American colonies and is now part of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

LMHS members and guests will meet at 10 a.m. at the Park & Ride off Woodside Road. Following the visit the group will return to Yardley and have lunch at the Yardley Inn. Individuals will be responsible for the modest admission charge and lunch.

Stenton
The
Logan Family
Summer Home

The Makefield Monograph



From Entrée to Icon...

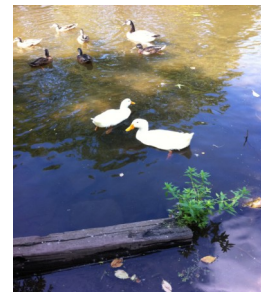
The Yardley Duck Story...



Above left is a copy of the Linford R. Craven, 1908, postcard featuring *McCormick's Duck Farm*. The duck farm was located on Dolington Road, on land that was part of the original "Yardley Plantation," otherwise known as William Yardley's "Prospect Farm." The farm was owned by J.C. McCormick who resided at 55 West Afton Avenue. In the early 20th century, *McCormick's Yardley Duck Farm* was one of the largest duck farms in the country.

McCormick ducks or "Yardley Ducks" were shipped to restaurants and retail markets throughout the East Coast. In the 1920's & 1930's patrons of fashionable restaurants from Philadelphia to New York City and beyond could dine on a "Yardley Duck." The ducks were shipped from Roelof's Station in Yardley. The train tracks are visible on the Craven postcard.

In recent years the "Yardley Duck" has evolved and is now a beloved member of this community. The locals flock to Lake Afton to feed, photograph or simply watch the ducks and geese swim gracefully, even majestically, through the water. Its iconic image is symbolic of Yardley Borough.



The Calhoun Street Bridge is 150

The original 1,274-foot wooden bridge opened *July 1, 1861*.

This past July, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission announced that the current iron structure, their oldest existing span, the "City Bridge," had been officially opened to traffic on *October 20, 1884*.

The first day of crossings included 16 horse vehicles, seven one-horse vehicles and 175 pedestrians.

THE DELAWARE CANAL FESTIVAL

The recent Delaware Canal Festival was held on June 25, 2011. The weather was perfect and the event a delight. Activities began at noon along the towpath from Afton Avenue to College Avenue and continued until 5 p.m.

The afternoon began with nostalgic music enticing bikers, walkers, families and the inquisitive onto the towpath. At 1p.m. the Decorated Boat Parade kicked off the festivities, followed by the Great Canal Critter Race at 3p.m. In between events Elvis serenaded the crowd... when he wasn't chasing the ladies up and down the towpath. The crowd was good size. The folks were outgoing, friendly and obviously having a good time.

I look forward to Canal Day 2012!

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An array of Decorated Boats...



A Message from our President ~ Pat Miiller:

Last year was a good one for LMHS. We "re-grouped", re-located our historical collection to the Township Meeting Room with the support of the LMT Historical Commission, launched our web site (www.lowermakefieldhistoricalsociety.com), sponsored a variety of programs highlighted by the Laura Prickett Memorial Lecture at the Prickett Estate in May, and have 93 current individual and family members.

As we work on plans for the coming year, we invite you to **add at least one ingredient** to our recipes for 2011-2012. Renew your membership, if you have not already done so, and invite another person to join (forms are available on our website and will be available at our September 24th Harvest Day table.) Contribute a program idea or help at one upcoming event. Attend at least one event. I know that we live in a busy world, but if we each give at least one thing, we can produce another great menu for LMHS.

LOWER MAKEFIELD



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lower Makefield Historical Society

P.O. Box 228

Yardley, PA 19067

Lower Makefield Historical Society

2011—2012 Program Schedule



Wednesday, September 21st, AT 10 a.m. A ***Guided Tour of Stenton Mansion***, Philadelphia

The outing will conclude with lunch at the Yardley Inn

For Reservations please contact Bick Rimmey GBR2now@aol.com

Saturday, September 24th, AT 10 a.m. ***Harvest Day***, at Buttonwood Park, Yardley Borough

Monday, October 17th, AT 7:30 p.m. ***Willow Grove Park America's Summer Music Capitol From 1896—1927*** to be held at the Lower Makefield Township Building on Edgewood Road

Sunday, December 11th, AT Noon ***LMHS Holiday Brunch*** to be held at the Old Library on Lake Afton

April, Richard Hunter, Archaeologist from Hunter Research “***25 Years of Archaeology in Trenton***”
Check our website for the date, time and location of this program

Sunday, June 3rd, AT 3p.m. ***Lower Makefield Historical Society Annual Meeting*** to be held at the Old Library on Lake Afton

Please consult our website for more information <http://www.lowermakefieldhistoricalsociety.com>

Programs are Free of Charge and Open to the General Public