

History in the making



The Parry Mansion

The Newsletter of the New Hope Historical Society

54th Annual Meeting & Dinner set for November 14

Historical Society's annual meeting and dinner at Marsha Brown's Restaurant will feature tributes to Pamela Minford and Betty Chardon

Newsletter Highlights

- ANNUAL COACH TOUR SET FOR OCTOBER 3
- ARTISTS CONVERGED ON THE PARRY MANSION FOR PLEIN AIR CONTEST
- A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PROVIDES LOCAL STORY ON WAR OF 1812
- SPRING GARDEN PARTY ATTENDED BY 120 MEMBERS & GUESTS
- THE MONTAUK CLUB—A NEW MEMBER BENEFIT
- NEW HOPE HISTORY DAY PACKED THE PARRY MANSION
- CONNOR GAUVIN WINS THE 2012 FRANCIS CURLEY SCHOLARSHIP
- EARLY CONCEPT DRAWING OF BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE



Pamela Minford

Mark your calendar for November 14 at 6 PM for the New Hope Historical Society's 54th Annual Meeting and Dinner to be held at the popular Marsha Brown's Restaurant in New Hope. The evening will feature a special tribute to Pamela Minford, the entrepreneur who helped to put New Hope on the map as a tourist destination. The *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* once referred to Pamela Minford as "the Howard Hughes of New Hope." Pam was an early member of the New Hope Historical Society and a generous supporter of our mission. The Pamela Minford Foundation has sponsored our annual Garden Tour for the past three years, and funded the production of the publication, *New Hope, Pennsylvania: River Town Passages*, that had been written by our board member and past president, Roy Ziegler, for the Historical Society. The Foundation continues to support a variety of community causes.

Betty Chardon was a long-time member, supporter and avid volunteer for the Historical Society. She led the way in organizing our annual Garden Tour and volunteered her talent and services for many years. The Annual Garden Tour completed its nineteenth year this past summer. Eight hundred people from local communities and from neighboring states toured the six gardens. Betty passed away earlier this year and she is truly missed by our members. We will honor Betty for her wonderful support over the years.

The cocktail hour will begin at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 7 PM. Chef Caleb Letchner has planned a menu that is sure to please. It will include Surf and Turf, filet medallions and crab cake. Dinner will include wine. A special dessert will also be served. Reserve tickets at newhopehs.org.



Marsha Brown's Restaurant

**The New Hope
Historical Society**

Board of Directors

Ben Meadows

President

Robert Goodwin

Vice President

Jan Michael

Vice President

Bryce Sanders

Vice President

Dee Dee Bowman

Secretary

Barry Ziff

Treasurer

Directors

John Blady

Ernie Bowman

Leslie Crilley

Richard Gacek

JoAnn Goodwin

Edwin Hild

John Hover

Richard Latella

Ann Liebgold *

Carole Martin

John Mauro

Terry McNealy

Kevin Nakashima

Jeanne Robinson

Dee Rosenwald *

Claire Shaw, DMD

Thom Smyth

Lynn Stoner*

Patricia Whitman

George Yarnall

Roy Ziegler

From the Executive Director

History in the making

As the summer comes to a close, I am so thrilled at the prospect of autumn at our dear Parry Mansion. The Mansion has been buzzing with activity since early May, much of which was focused on the structure itself. The building was painstakingly repointed by DeGruchy Masonry Restoration. The craftsmen worked tirelessly for several weeks and the Mansion now looks magnificent. Check our Facebook page for before and after photos.



Deborah Lang

Following the repointing, all of the Mansion's windows were hand cleaned, inside and out, to the great appreciation of Anna Palachio, who assisted in the edulcorating of the interior. Our latest tours have been a great success; one weekend saw nearly 50 guests each day. Please do stop by for a tour. On another exciting note, our film, *The Father of New Hope*, premiered at the New Hope Film Festival in July to a lively audience. Greatest thanks to all those involved with the production of this educational piece. We are proud of our renovated neighbors across Main Street. I personally attended the opening night at the Bucks County Playhouse, and I hope that our membership will enjoy and support this great institution for years to come.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting.

Best,
Deborah

Pointing of Parry Mansion stone done; up next: painting

Ernie Bowman



Beautifully restored Parry Mansion cornerstone

By now, I hope all of you have had the opportunity to visit the Parry Mansion and inspect the wonderful restoration that was done by DeGruchy Masonry on the Mansion's pointing. DeGruchy's skilled masons performed such an expert job that most people will have a hard time telling the original 230 year old pointing from the newly-restored pointing. Nicely done!!!

As all of you realize, maintaining the Mansion is a never-ending proposition. In the coming year or so, our goal is to restore the plaster on the kitchen wing, make the walk-in fireplace in the old kitchen safe for occasional use, and, of course, paint the Mansion and the picket fence using the original green color. This extensive work will be quite expensive. With current Federal and State guidelines in place, requiring certification for lead paint removal, we are no longer able to rely on our friendly neighborhood tradesmen to do the work.

Our Executive Director, Deborah Lang, is always searching for grants and awards we might use, but these almost all require matching funds. Susan Sandor has been successfully championing our cause as she solicits Garden Tour sponsorship. Jan Michael, and many other members of our Board have worked tirelessly to identify generous donors. I am always so impressed by their resourcefulness.

I can't emphasize enough how important the generosity and dedication of our members and benefactors are in ensuring that the Parry Mansion remain the pride of New Hope.

Annual Coach Tour returns with visit to Nemours Estate and Hagley museum in Wilmington, Delaware

Leslie Crilley



The Nemours Estate

The New Hope Historical Society will board the bus on Wednesday, October 3 for a delightful day in Wilmington, Delaware. Come join us as we tour two du Pont properties. The first is the Nemours Estate. The spectacular French Style mansion was built as a gift by Alfred I du Pont's for his second wife on 3,000 acres. It is complete with beautiful formal gardens. Although built in 1907, it was thoroughly modern for the time by incorporating the latest technology and many of du Pont's own inventions.

Our second feature will be the Hagley Museum. Going back in time, Hagley is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802. This example of early American industry includes restored mills, a workers' community, and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family. Exhibits and demonstrations showcase the connections between early industrial technology and early American history.



The Hagley Museum

For lunch, we will be dining at Krazy Kats at Montchanin Village. This is yet another historic location in the Brandywine valley.

Krazy Kats is known as much for its creative cuisine as for its whimsical décor. It features tiger-print chairs and portraits of military-garbed cats and dogs. The restaurant is housed in a renovated blacksmith shop. There are still hooks on the wall, and one of the original forges which is now the fire place. Montchanin Village was ranked as the World's Best Hotel for \$250 or less per night stay, and first among the top fifteen by Travel and Leisure in 2006. It is included on the National Register of Historic Places.



Krazy Kats at Montchanin Village

862-5523 / lynn5523@verizon.net.

The total cost for the bus trip is \$110. This includes admissions to all museums, the delicious luncheon and transportation. Space is limited for this special day. To make reservations, please contact Leslie Crilley at 215-862-5463 / lgrilley@comcast.net or Lynn Stoner 215-

The New Hope Historical Society's Annual Giving Fund drive helps us to continue to keep the Parry Mansion in the excellent condition it deserves. You will soon receive a request to participate. Please give as generously as you can. Thank you from the Development Committee.

Society hosts “Plein Air” artists at Parry Mansion



Crowds gathered on Saturday afternoon, July 28, to watch twenty artists from about a dozen states that converged on the Parry Mansion to capture their impressions in the “open air.”

When local gallery owner, Howard Cooperman, announced his plan to present a “Local Color Weekend” in New Hope, the Historical Society immediately invited him to use the Parry Mansion lawn for the site of one of the weekend’s events. Cooperman, who owns the Bucks County Fine Arts Gallery on West Bridge Street in New Hope was excited about the prospect. “That would be a terrific venue,” he responded.

The participating artists began painting scenes of New Hope on Thursday, and on Saturday, July 28, most of the thirty artists from around the country who had accepted invitations to the Local Color Weekend, converged on the Parry Mansion to participate in a “Quick Draw” contest. The artists were given two hours to complete a painting of the area around the Mansion. Crowds gathered throughout the afternoon to watch the competition, as the artists painted in the “Plein Air,” outdoors, and judging was held on site, immediately after the contest.

The winner was Keith Larsen, who magnificently cap-



Artist, Keith Larsen

tered the threatening storm clouds that hovered over the historic Aquetong Creek during parts of the afternoon.

A number of the paintings were purchased by several of the observers who had been dazzled by the spectacle of twenty artists painting merrily away around the Parry Mansion

grounds. “We were so fortunate to have so many talented artists on site to paint the Mansion and grounds,” said Deborah Lang, Executive Director of the Historical Society.



Deborah Lang with Howard Cooperman

A Message from the President

The Historical Society's event schedule was very busy during late spring and early summer. Many members and guests supported and enjoyed our Annual Speaker Series. Each lecture which occurred on the four Mondays in April was exciting, very informative and well attended. We had the wonderful opportunity to utilize extra screens and sound system in several adjacent rooms at the Mansion to accommodate 130 guests. Many thanks to our volunteer, Bob McCaskey, for all of his help with our sound system. Everything went off without a hitch, thanks to the planning and execution. Following closely in May was one of our most successful educational programs. In conjunction with New Hope-Solebury High School's Advanced Placement History Class under the leadership of Jon Gonsiewski, several students presented historical projects while dressed in period attire. Lots of interest was created resulting in excellent attendance by society members, tourists in town for the day and local residents. This year's theme was focused around the War of 1812 in celebration of the 200th anniversary.



Benjamin Meadows

The first Saturday in June always brings excitement and joy while visiting the six gardens on tour. Thanks to each garden owner for their commitment, time and generosity. This year's gardens were absolutely outstanding. Also, thanks to our many sponsors, media partners and volunteers and all who made this one of our most successful in attendance as well as revenue attainment.

On the second Monday in June, the Society, showed our appreciation to the garden owners, and sponsors by holding our Annual Garden Party on the lawn of the Parry Mansion. A wonderful selection of tapas presented by Chef Joseph Cummins along with very entertaining live music made for a very enjoyable evening. Throughout the summer in conjunction with the Borough's very popular Friday night Fireworks Show, we have been hosting "A View the Fireworks Evening from the lawn of the Mansion" This has been very popular and something that we can maybe build on for next season.

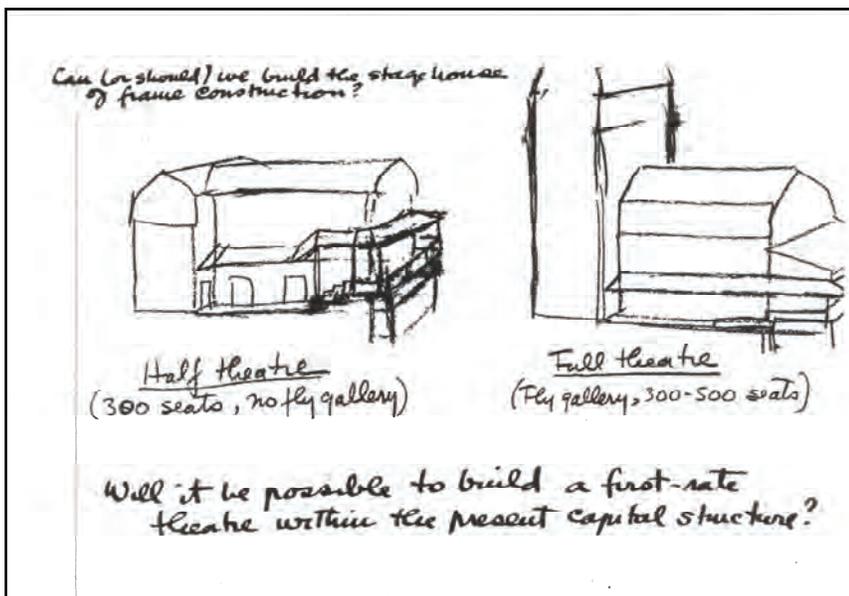
All of these events are discussed in more detail throughout this newsletter. For those who attended and participated, thank you very much. Please try and join us on all of our seasonal events. Our next event, the Annual Coach Tour is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2012. This exciting tour is going to the Dupont Nemours and Hagley Estates in Wilmington, Delaware. I hope to see you there!

My Best to you and your family,

Benjamin Meadows

The Archives Revealed

*By Wendy Gladston
Archivist*



An early concept drawing of the planned Bucks County Playhouse

The re-opening of the Bucks County Playhouse has brought new vitality and excitement to New Hope. I want to thank Ann Leibgold for her generous donation of the early Playhouse records. We now have greater insight to one of New Hope's brightest eras.

The drawing on the left shows some early concepts that had been considered by the founders. It was included in the minutes of one of the first meetings of the group that became the Bucks County Playhouse.

Mancuso Show Management sponsored New Hope History Day



New Hope-Solebury High School Students with exhibits

Photo by Gordon Nieburg

The eighth annual New Hope History Day was presented on Saturday, May 26, from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Parry Mansion in New Hope. The event is a cooperative effort between the New Hope Historical Society and the New Hope-Solebury High School.

A contribution from Mancuso Show Management helped to make the History Day celebration possible. “We are very grateful to Peter and David Mancuso for their support and generosity in sponsoring New Hope History Day,” noted Board Member, Roy Ziegler, Chair of the event. “This is the third consecutive year that Mancuso Show Management has sponsored our New Hope History Day. Their generous contributions have helped us

to obtain authentic period clothing for this event, and have helped to provide a true learning experience for the high school students,” he added

Students from Jon Gonsiewski’s Advanced Placement class prepared exhibits that commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of the War of 1812 and the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of New Hope as a borough. Old photographs of New Hope were displayed.

Throughout the afternoon the Parry Mansion was open for free tours to the public. It was estimated that more than two hundred visitors attended. A complimentary American flag was given to each visitor. As an added treat for the younger children, Elmo was on hand to greet them as they entered the Parry Mansion grounds.



Elmo greeted visitors to History Day

Connor Gauvin wins the 2012 Francis Curley Scholarship



Les Isbrandt, Edwin Hild, Jon Gonsiewski,

Connor Gauvin, Christina Lang & Ben Meadows

Connor Gauvin, senior at the New Hope-Solebury High School was selected to receive the Francis Curley Scholarship on the basis of his excellence in social studies and for his outstanding community achievements.

Connor will attend George Washington University where he plans to major in political science.

“His work in the Historical Society and in our community will be remembered as an excellent model of how one individual can make a lasting impact,” noted Ben Meadows, president of the New Hope Historical Society.

War of 1812: Jacob Brown

By Austin Botelho

On May 9, 1775 Jacob Jennings Brown was born into a wealthy family in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Brown was the son of Samuel and Abi Brown and the recipient of his middle name in honor of his relative Samuel Jennings, the deputy governor of West Jersey and general of Pennsylvania. He was raised a Quaker and would go on to graduate from the Quaker school of the University of Pennsylvania in 1790. Eight years later, he moved to upstate New York to teach at a school. In addition to being a school teacher, he also was pioneer and landowner who helped make the Black River open for settlement by creating roads and improving navigation. His influence in the Black River area grew as he expanded his establishment to encompass mills and a store. In 1802 he married Pamela Williams with whom he had four sons (three of which went on to have careers in the military) and five daughters.

In spite of his opposition to war, in 1807, Brown began his military career by enrolling in the military and was commissioned as the captain of the 108th regiment of the New York Militia. His tenure with the military would last for another twenty one years. Two years following his enrollment, he was promoted to colonel. Originally, he was given a high ranking position because of his social status and political connections, however once he was in, he moved up the ranks due to merit. At the start of the War of 1812, Brown was the brigadier general in the New York militia, a rank in which he earned a year prior. He was assigned to organize defenses in the Great Lakes region where on May 29, 1813 at the Battle of Sackett's Harbor, he defeated the British. As a result of this brilliant show of his military genius, he was promoted to the brigadier general in the army as opposed to that of the militia. In the succeeding year, forces led by Brown captured Fort Erie in Ontario. With his successes came struggles. At the Battle of Lundy's Lane he was wounded twice in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. In his final battle, he lead American soldiers to victory at the Siege of Fort Erie.

His military successes led him to become a national hero and shot him to fame. On November 3, 1814, Congress awarded him with the Congressional Gold Medal making him only the twenty-fourth American to receive such an honor. Ensuing the war, the size of the army was reduced and by 1821 he was the only major general in service (he was appointed the commanding general by President James Monroe which was his position in 1821). After persevering through a stroke that year, he still proved to be a capable leader reorganizing the army to the form it remained in for the rest of the century. In addition to that, he advised the secretaries of war and the president on military strategies, advocated for two post-graduate military schools, and in 1822 created the General Recruiting Service, the first organization responsible for providing soldiers for the army.

On the sorrowful day of February 24, 1828, Jacob Brown passed away at the ripe age of 52. He was so highly thought of that on his funeral, marines carried his casket down Pennsylvania Avenue on their shoulders. Family, friends, military detachments, and government officials all made up the funeral attendants. He was so well respected at his death that the then president John Quincy Adams said "General Brown was one of the eminent men of this age and nation. Though bred a Quaker, he was a man of lofty and martial spirit, and in the late contributed perhaps more than any man to redeem and establish the military character of his country."

Works Cited

Morris, J.D. *Sword of the Border*. 2000 pp.54-55

Vandergriff, Donald, *Manning the Future Legions of the United States*, Praeger Security International, London, 2008

Editor's Note: Austin Botelho is a student at New Hope-Solebury High School. He prepared this essay in conjunction with the New Hope Historical Society's Annual History Day.

Spotlight on a New Member Benefit

Visitor Privileges at The Montauk Club in Park Slope – Brooklyn, New York



Membership in the New Hope Historical Society comes with *lots* of perks. You are familiar with Benjamin Parry Day, New Hope History Day and the Spirited Tea. Here's another member benefit added in 2012. The Montauk Club is a private social club in Brooklyn, New York. (Park Slope.) It was founded in 1889 after the economic boom following construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. Built in the Venetian Gothic style, it resembles the Doge's Palace on St. Mark's Square in Venice.

The Montauk Club in Brooklyn Historical Society members can use the club dining room and bar facilities on a reciprocal basis. Montauk Club members visiting New Hope may tour the Parry Mansion. The club is located at 25 Eighth Avenue in Brooklyn, adjacent to Grand Army Plaza. The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn Museum and Prospect Park are a short walk away. You can go any Wednesday through Friday, 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM (bar at 5, dinner at 6). Brunch Noon – 3:00 PM on Sunday. The building is also used as a film set (HBO's Boardwalk Empire, ABC's Person of Interest) and as a wedding venue.

Drive to the center of Brooklyn. Street parking available or take the IRT 7th Avenue Line (2,3,4 trains) to Grand Army Plaza. Club is on corner. Take the IND B line (B or F trains) to Seventh Avenue. Walk about two blocks to the Club.

Why Is The Montauk Club Interesting?

You think visiting a club that hosted US Presidents John F. Kennedy, Dwight Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Grover Cleveland and William McKinley (not all at the same time) is cool;

Does brunch with unlimited mimosas, Bloody Mary's or screwdrivers still exist? Yes. This didn't go out with the mood ring and the pet rock. Small added charge, but remember who's driving. Most Montauk Club members can walk home. You can't.

The 1890 US census reported Park Slope Brooklyn had the highest per capita income in the country. See how they lived.

Ever wonder what sort of private club 300 wealthy residence could build before the personal income tax was invented?

Can't believe you can find on street parking in Brooklyn? Go for brunch on Sundays. As an added benefit you don't need to feed the parking meter.

The Brooklyn Museum, Prospect Park Zoo, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Prospect Park are within walking distance.

Brooklyn has become the "hot borough" of New York.

See the Club in TV episodes. Remember the scenes. Stand in the same spot. Say the same lines.

Do you have family in Brooklyn? What a great place to take them from brunch or dinner.

Can't stand crowded bars? That's what the concept of a private club is all about.

Reservations are required. Just call the club at 1-718-638-0800. Identify yourself as a NHHS member. You are utilizing the reciprocal member benefit. Bring your membership card when you visit the club. You will need to show it when paying your bill. Please note that the club is strict about member's privacy and confidentiality. No Photographs may be taken inside the club.

Cheers!

Bryce Sanders

Annual Garden Party offered welcome relief from heat wave

Edwin Hild

The Annual Spring Garden Party was held on Monday June 11th. More than 120 members and garden tour sponsors were greeted at the gate by committee member Richard Gacek and board member, John Blady sporting trays of sangria setting the stage for the "Taste of Spain" tapas menu created by locally-famed chef, Joseph Cummins, of Helping Hand Concierge. Nancy Shill and Charlie Pellegrino of Fiddlesticks opened with Spanish songs on the Victorian porch accompanied by fiddle and guitar setting the stage for an evening enjoyed by all .



Once everyone was settled in, enjoying tastes of shrimp, chicken romesco, lemon garlic hummus, manchego cheese with olives and more sangria, President Ben Meadows then took to the stage to welcome the guests and thank the Garden Tour Sponsors and Garden Hosts for making the tour a success.

Standing in for George Yarnall, the chair for the 2012 Garden Tour, Edwin Hild honored Susan Sandor of Strenk Sandor Advertising for her brilliant work making this year's tour one of the most successful to date. Mayor Larry Keller then acted as auctioneer and most successfully prompted the bidding on three wonderful items. Donated by the Bucks County Playhouse was a \$100 gift certificate for their first show "A Grand Night for Singing. It sold for \$120.



Mayor Larry Keller, Ernie Bowman and Chef Thom Smyth at auction

Next came a wonderful impressionist painting titled, "Midwife, Lumberville," generously donated by the popular artist, Christopher Willett. The 30 x 28 inch oil on

canvas was hammered down at \$2,500.

And finally the highly anticipated "Dickens Dinner"--



Chris Willett with his work, "Midwife, Lumberville"



dinner for twelve by candlelight in the Parry Mansion, was highly contested as Mayor Keller bounced the bidding between numerous contenders with a hammer price of \$5,000 making the evening a tremendous success.



Chef Joseph Cummins

their sleeves to help including Ophelia Hurst, Chuck Tarr, & Sallie Ziff.

The Garden Tour Committee, Edwin Hild and Ernie Bowman, co-chairs, Dee Dee Bowman, Richard Gacek, and Thom Smyth, express our thanks to the members of the board who volunteered at the gate, and helped to set up and tear-down the event. Special thanks also go out to those volunteers who so generously and frequently roll up

New Hope Historical
Society
P O Box 41
New Hope, PA 18938



Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage

P A I D

Permit No. 45

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 3 Annual Coach Tour

November 14 Annual Meeting and Dinner

December 2 Holiday "Spirited" Tea

**December 8 and 9 Victorian Christmas at the
Mansion**

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN NOW AT newhopehs.org.