



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

“As the days get cooler and the leaves start to change, you should plan a visit to the Moland House grounds just to enjoy the change of seasons.” That was the first sentence of my last letter to the membership in the Fall Gazette. Little did I know exactly how much cooler it would really get and how the change in seasons would hammer us! Well now it is Spring, I think, maybe. Should we check with the groundhog? We probably won’t be able to find him because I think I heard he fled to exile in Crimea fleeing angry mobs while searching for a warmer climate. Perhaps he can find a job with Mr. Putin predicting an increasing chill of another sort.

But I digress from the real story. The Moland house came through the hard winter with flying colors, but the grounds are a different story. We lost many trees and branches that will require a huge effort by the Landscape Committee to clean up. But don’t worry. While we were setting up for the *SPRING* Tea, I overheard them making plans for the effort with their typical gusto! However, it’s not just the trees. You should see the job the snow plows did on the parking lot and some of the grassy areas! But, once again, *do not worry*, because in a couple of weeks the flowers will be coming up and the property will be beautiful again, thanks to these hard-working guys who would welcome your help. Although, I do remember a big April snow storm one Easter, a few years back.....

The winter takes its toll financially also, as operating expenses increase in proportion to the drop in temperature. I think it is important for members to have an understanding of how much it really costs to keep the Moland House going. Good examples this winter were the January and February electric bills. Brace yourselves. January was \$1200 and February was over \$1000 and that is to keep the house under 60. You know the old idea that old stone houses are so cozy in the winter and so cool in the summer? Balderdash. Part of the problem is that we have to pay the “small commercial” rate since nobody lives in the house, even though we are an all-volunteer tax-free charitable organization. Fortunately last year we changed to a different energy supplier or those costs would have been close to 10% higher.

Speaking of finances, I would like to thank Past President Ed Price for completing our Capital Reserve Plan. It was a lot of work and, as usual, Ed did an outstanding job. Because of this plan we have a better idea of how much money must be reserved in order to take care of major bills that surely will come in the future, including things like roof repairs and mechanical failures.

Please see our website - www.Moland.org and “friend us” on Facebook

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We are working on some needed improvements to the grounds in addition to landscaping. We have been exploring lighting options for the parking lot and feel that we will have that in place before the end of the summer. The plan is to have the fixtures be as discrete and minimal as possible and still provide a safe environment. Thanks to Debbie Dadey, Chet Davis and Ken Barlow for working to accomplish this.

Think warmer.

Dave Mullen
President

Another Successful Craft Show



Once again Gwyn Duffy and her crew transformed the Moland House into a vision of Spring for the annual Cabin Fever Craft Show and Sale. Little did she know she would have to fight the snow piled up from the plows on the front lawn! We thank our members and the community of craft enthusiasts for coming in droves to enjoy the Moland House and the products from Gwyn's army of crafters. This and the Farmhouse Christmas sale that starts on Black Friday and runs for a week are important fundraisers for the Historical Society, and if you read my President's Message about the electric bills, you know how important these events are.

Historic Warwick Pictures

Do you have historic pictures of Warwick Township that you'd be willing to share for a book about Warwick? Please bring them to an open house or email events@moland.org.

Spring Tea

Thanks to all the fabulous helpers who contributed to this year's Spring Tea.



The event wouldn't have been possible without the set-up muscle of Chet Davis, Bob Snyder, Dave Mullen, and Cal Uzelmeier. Additional set-up by Ed Price, Ken and Lorraine Barlow, Nancy Crowther, Nancy Elias, Marijane Mecking, Debbie Dadey, and Chaya Gayman made the day come together. Gene Blum of Drexelbrook Catering provided the food and the guests were raving about his brownies and scones. Speaker Cheryl Lewicki, of the Bucks County DAR, delighted us with tales of fashion and shoe history. She was kind enough to donate her time. Nancy Crowther, Michelle Lewicki, and Debbie Dadey donated raffle baskets. The Bucks County Children's Museum donated the prize for the prettiest shoes. Other shoe prizes were for the ugliest, oldest, silliest, and smallest.

A wonderful score of participants brought laughter and donations pouring into the Moland House. The raffle baskets alone brought in three hundred dollars of profit. That will certainly



help offset our enormous heating bill from this winter! If you didn't get to participate, but would like to help our fundraiser, feel free to send your contributions to Spring Tea 2014 WTHS P.O. Box 107 Jamison, PA. 18929.

Do you have a quilt that you'd like to display at our **2nd annual quilt show on July 27th**? We'd like all types to have a nice variety. Also, for 2015 we would like to have a Sampler Show. Do you have a new or historic sampler that you'd like to loan us for the day? Please email events@moland.org or leave a message at (215) 918-1754.

During the Neshaminy Encampment at the Moland House there were many notable men present. We will be highlighting some of those individuals in our Gazette. The first article is about Harry Lee.

Light Horse Harry Lee

By Ed Price



This story is based on a book written by Noel B. Gerson, published back in 1966. Captain Lee was at Moland during the 1777 encampment. He was in the Council of War with the generals and their aides along with a couple of other VIP's. Many Captains never had the opportunity to be on the grounds around the Moland House, let alone have a seat at the Council of War. We know that the Lee family was very close to other Virginia families including the Custis and Washington families.

Young Henry Lee had graduated from what is now Princeton University. On going home, he could not decide what he would pursue next. Henry began riding horses at the age of five and by the age of ten he was an excellent horseman. When he was twenty he thought he would be headed for a career in law and thus he made plans to travel to England to study. However, before he could make up his mind to leave, hostilities began to break out between the colonies and the British Government. He heard that a Virginia militia cavalry battalion was being formed. He joined, was promoted and asked for permission to form his own troop. He was assigned the 5th Troop and had the opportunity to select his own men, aging between sixteen and twenty-one. He tested them all and selected only the best. Since he came from wealth, he outfitted the troop in fine uniforms and equipment.

Patrick Henry was now the first Colonial Governor of Virginia. He had ordered that all militia remain in the state. The Continental Army had faced defeat in New York and was travelling south across New Jersey with the British Army hot on their heels. Patrick Henry then released the militia to leave the state. All five troops of Cavalry headed north. The 5th Troop was well ahead of the rest. A messenger was sent to have them wait. When Henry Lee realized what was happening, he pushed his Troop to increase their speed. When the Troop arrived in New Jersey, they found a depressed Continental Army. The Army had lost much and their food supply was nearly gone. Henry was not one to let dust settle on his Troop. He would not raid the local population for food, but the British Army had a supply train at its rear. Off he went with his troop of seventy and went around the army on its west flank. He found their supply train poorly guarded. Without any injury, the Troop brought back 21 wagons of food to the Continentals.

The next trip nearly equaled the first. The 5th Troop was successful in performing 15 such raids in all. Their successes made them famous with Continental Army soldiers. Orders came from the militia Colonel Theodore Bland that the Troop should go elsewhere. General Washington insisted that the Troop remain with the Continental Army. When the Colonel heard of what the 5th Troop had done, he renamed them the 1st Troop and let them stay with Washington. Henry was now given the name of Light Horse Harry Lee, and he continued to use his excellent instincts and his growing experience to beat the British at their game of war. The 1st Troop continued their successful forays into the spring of 1777, and once brought back a herd of cattle that the British had just purchased. He was still a Captain of a militia cavalry troop in August of 1777, and still riding with Washington's Continental Army. His great success in the field had earned him a high rank among officers and soldiers alike. He would later join the Army and become a General Officer. His son, Robert E. Lee, seems to have inherited his father's traits.

The Moland House – a bit of its history

By Bob Snyder



The Moland House has been here for about 264 years. Everyone who has had a tour of the House knows about the Moland Family but have you ever wondered about the other families that have lived in the house over all those years? This is the story of one of those families – the Graves family.

We are fortunate that Richard Latshaw Graves, who was a young teenager in 1942, is a member of the WTHS. He lives in California now and has graciously given us the family history and brought us up to date on the family situation as it exists to this date. I will try to tell their story as he told it to me.

“My Dad, Russell Briggs Graves, was born in 1897 in Troy, Kansas, moving back to the Philadelphia area before WW1. During the war he served as an ambulance driver for the French participating in most of the major battles of that war. After the war he met my mother, Milicent Latshaw, who was born in Pottstown, PA. They married in 1921. They had 3 boys, Russell, John, myself and a girl Joanna.

Before moving to Bucks County the family lived in Drexel Hill. Dad was a partner in Renninger & Graves (blueprint and Photostat papers, production, engineering supplies, etc.)

Charlie Renninger, his partner, had a lovely old colonial place on the road about 2 miles west of Hartsville and was probably influential in my Dad buying the Moland homestead. There were other properties available at the time and in much better shape. But Dad was a Revolutionary War buff and knew well the history of the Moland property. He bought the property from the Robins family in the late 1930s. It sticks in my head that he paid \$13,000 for the homestead and 106 acres. Later he bought adjoining land reaching a total of about 300 acres. He spent about as much money bringing the place up to date as he had paid for it.

When Dad bought the homestead from Mr. Robins he was handed all of the deeds for the property going back to the Wm. Penn land grant. Mr. Robins made him promise to pass the deeds along to whomever subsequently had the property. The deeds really belonged in the Bucks County Historical archives – or today in the Warwick Township Historical archives. Unfortunately Dad passed all the old deeds along as promised. Who knows what became of them?

I used to look at them. The original grant was on a very heavy linen paper. Subsequent deeds up to about the 1840's-50's were on parchment that held up perfectly. One early deed included a survey by Mason & Dixon who did the survey for Pennsylvania's southern state line. The original land grant was for a very large property which, obviously, got carved up over the centuries.

The house was ready for the family and we occupied it in the spring of 1942. By that time the 2 older boys were either in the military or off in college so that only we 2 younger ones grew up there. We went to school in Hatboro-Horsham and had a teacher Mr. Warren Williams (President Emeritus of WTHS). Sadly, my mother died that winter. She didn't get to enjoy the place for very long. Dad was later remarried to a fine lady, Betty Clapp, and my sister Susan was born in 1947.

On summer evenings we often sat out on the lawn facing the creek. Also Dad allowed several Baptist ministers to baptize their people there. At the time most of the roads in the area, except York and Bristol Roads were unpaved. So, I rode by horse all over the countryside. Life was quite pleasant then before my brother and I went off to war.

Dad sold the house in 1950 when he merged the firm with the Bruning Corp., Manhattan and became CEO of the new group. Later he merged that company with the old Addressograph/Multigraph Co., was on the board and retired to Florida. He passed away in 1985.

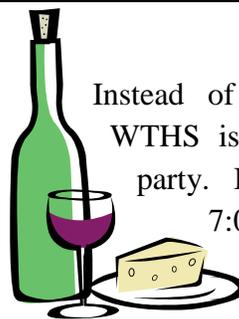
Dad's love for this area is demonstrated by the fact that by 1955 they had acquired "Windy Ridge" as a summer property just north of Moland. It had a beautiful view of the valley. I was a Correspondent then for Associated Press and was covering the Tropical Storm Dianna which devastated northeast Pa. I visited them when I was done and went down to view any damage done to the Moland property. The creek was a complete washout. A big old maple tree overhanging the creek was gone. I used to sit on the roots of that tree and fish for bass (never caught any) and sunfish (caught a lot of those). I also swam in front of the tree because there was a deep pool there. That was all washed out and the stream bed was altered radically."

Eight-Arch Bridge



The Society owns this historic bridge in Bridge Valley, just south of Sugarbottom Road in Warwick Township. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places. This past summer, a new Chairman of the Bridge Committee took over the site. We heard a great deal about the falling stone from part of the west façade of the bridge, and a special Facebook page was opened to draw attention to the condition of the bridge. The new team went to work and set up a safety fence with warning signs attached around the fallout area until funds can be raised to restore this section of the bridge. The two closed drains above this area were found, and one was opened. The other drain will be opened this spring. Weeds were taken down around the adjoining lot and the grass was mowed. The overflowing trash containers were emptied and loads of debris were removed from the area. A large pothole was filled and new stone was added to the parking lot. Bushes were trimmed and mulched. Wood logs were placed along the edge of the parking

lot to give it a rustic look. The old picnic bench is being rebuilt with new wood. Falling limbs have been removed from trees and the grounds. In the fall, leaves were removed from the bridge surface. There is a lot more work to be done, especially with the impact of a harsh winter on the landscape. If you wish to join the Bridge Committee members in their efforts to make the bridge and its little park a great place to visit and relax, please contact us. You may also leave a message on our Moland Facebook page at www.facebook.com/molandhouse or on the Eight-Arch Bridge Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/The-8-arch-Stone-Bridge-in-Warwick-Pa/614585075241026.



Instead of a membership picnic, the WTHS is having a wine and cheese party. It will be September 27th at 7:00 and it is free to all members. We look forward to chatting with you. George Washington is invited!

KEEP HISTORY ALIVE IN WARWICK TOWNSHIP!

The Warwick Township Historical Society has worked long and hard to save the Moland House from ruin! How many communities can boast of a 13 day encampment by Washington and 11,000 troops of the Continental Army? There is no place in the United States but the Moland House that can claim the site where the Marquis de Lafayette first assumed his duties as a Major General, and Washington met Count Casimir Pulaski for the first time! This house is a national treasure in your own back yard.



Each year we have a reenactment to celebrate Washington's August encampment and this year it will be held on August 16 with a rain date of August 23. In the past individuals and businesses have been kind enough to support our annual reenactment. We hope these Reenactment supporters, as well as new supporters, will sponsor us this year. The address of the Moland House is **1641 Old York Rd**, but please send all contributions to PO Box 107, Jamison, PA 18929. This is an important fundraiser for the Historical Society and all proceeds will go to deferring the cost of the reenactment and to support the Moland House.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Jo-Anne and Dave Mullen



Attractions will include:

- 5th Pennsylvania Regiment encampment
- 18th Century music
- Wool and flax spinning
- 18th Century woodworking
- Blacksmithing
- Cooper (barrel making)
- Puppet show
- 18th Century children's toys and games
- Outdoor cooking
- Sutlers
- Powder horn making
- Tours of the Historic Moland House

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Annual Reenactment August 16, Rain date August 23



Patron Form

Patrons will be acknowledged at the following levels:

General -- \$100.00 and up

Colonel--\$50.00

Major -- \$25.00

Captain -- \$15.00

All patrons will be acknowledged in the WTHS newsletter, on our website, www.Moland.org, and in the program for the day.

For \$50 or more your name or the name of your business will be placed on a star plaque which will be displayed at the event in addition to a listing in the program.

For \$100 or more your name or your business name will be placed on a George Washington plaque, which will be displayed at the event in addition to a listing in the program.

Please fill out the following form and return it by Aug. 1, 2014 to be included in the program.

Name or business name for listing _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Circle patron level. General Colonel Major Captain Lieutenant

Please make all checks payable to WTHS. Send your contribution to PO Box 107, Jamison, PA 18929 Attn: Reenactment.



UPCOMING EVENTS --- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Open House* --- 2nd and 4th Sunday 1 – 4 pm: Drop in for a tour.
- Board Meeting --- 2nd Wednesday evening every month 7:30 pm –
- July 4 – Picnic Day
- August 16 – Reenactment of the Neshaminy Encampment, August 23 – Reenactment Rain date

*Open House Special Events:

- **April 13** - SAR & DAR Family History Day
- **May 11** – Mother’s Day & Spring Photo Op
- **May 25** – Bring your own picnic (We have 2 new stationary charcoal grills.)
- **June 8** – Flag Day Ceremony
- **June 22** – Story & Music Festival-storytellers share stories for all ages
- **July 13** – Woodworking Exhibit
- **July 27** – Quilt Exhibit
- **August 10** – Treasure Hunt

Would you like a quick link to our website? Do you have a ‘smart’ phone? Just scan this QR code with a phone’s scanning app and you will be taken directly to the Moland House website.



Warwick Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 107
Jamison, PA 18929