

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

FEBRUARY, 2009

Salute to *Men in Blue* on Feb. 10

Law enforcement subject of Community Program

Men in Blue, the Lansdale Historical Society's second Community Program of 2009, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

The program, narrated by Marti Drumheller, will describe law enforcement in the North Penn area from the early days of constables, state police and one-man local police departments that consisted of nothing more than a desk and chair.

The show will trace the evolution of police protection from early 20th century times up to the present, explaining how the size of these departments increased in size and use of technology as the region's population grew in recent decades.

The program will also include profiles of many of the chiefs who led these departments, the officers who served under them, and the support staffs that worked in the background. A number of former chiefs and officers will share their experiences as part of



FORMER MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP Police Chief Bruce Bailey stands guard at the Five Points intersection in this photograph published with a 1975 *Reporter* story on traffic congestion at the corner.

the show.

As usual, a video presentation by the society's photo archivist Steve Moyer, will accompany the show.

The Lansdale Parks and Recreation

Building is located at Seventh St. and Lansdale Ave. There is no admission charge, but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, call (215) 855-1872.

Reproduction equipment arrives

The society is one step closer to realizing the goal of digitizing our extensive newspaper collection.

Over the holidays the society purchased reproduction equipment and software from Atiz Inc. of Los Angeles, which is now being installed in a spare room in the Jenkins Homestead.

Unlike traditional scanners, the Atiz system uses a frame assembly topped by two Canon digital cameras that are aimed down at the subject matter which is placed on a V-shaped platform.

The platform includes a clear platen that clamps down on the pages, keeping them straight and flat to avoid distortion. The V-shape allows two pages to be photographed simultaneously. The clamping device also allows bound volumes to be copied without breaking the bindings.

The system is in use at various libraries, research centers and document preservation companies across the country. It offers a less-expensive alternative to microfilm-

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THE NEW Atiz reproduction equipment is now installed in the Jenkins Homestead.

Jenkins Master Bedroom draws raves

The Jenkins Master Bedroom made its debut to the community at the Fifth Annual Holiday History Tour in December.

The bedroom occupies the southwest corner of the Jenkins Homestead's second floor in a space that at one time housed the society's museum before it was taken over by library expansion in the 1990s.

While we are uncertain how the various rooms in the homestead while three generations of the Jenkins family lived there from 1770 to 1870, logic would suggest the southwest bedroom would have been the best choice for a master bedroom because of its panoramic view and its exposure to the sun (a real bonus in the winter).

The restoration was the most extensive of any done in the homestead so far. The work involved window repairs, repainting of the walls and trim, and repairs to the floor which was then refinished.

The room was then refurnished under the supervision of Anne Scheuring, who, along with Jane Walton, has overseen the five-year homestead renovation project. The new furnishings include items donated by members and friends of the society and local

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JUST OPENED FOR the Holiday History Tour in December, the Jenkins Master Bedroom was remodeled from top to bottom with new furnishings, a repaired and restained floor and freshly painted trim and walls.



THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD

Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

• 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

• **Hours:** Wednesdays, Noon to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, Noon to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

• **Telephone:** (215) 855-1872; (215) 393-8919 (fax).

• **E-mail:**
info@lansdalehistory.org

• Please send mail correspondence to 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

• **Website:**
www.lansdalehistory.org.

2009 election slated for Feb. 10

The following slate of officers has been nominated to serve the society from February, 2009 to February, 2010:

President, Richard D. Shearer; **First Vice President,** Annette Krimm; **Second Vice President,** Stephen Moyer; **Third Vice President,** Lawrence O'Malley; **Recording Secretary,** Janice Bennett; **Corresponding Secre-**

tary, Linda Evans; **Treasurer,** Anne Scheuring.

Trustees: Marti Drumheller, Clarence Kinsey, Pat Rieker, Richard Stricker, Raymond Walton. **Trustee Emeritus:** Jane Walton.

Additional nominations will be accepted from the membership prior to the society's Feb. 10 Community Program. A vote on the slate will follow.

Newspaper preservation to begin soon

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ing, which has been the archival standard for decades.

The equipment was purchased in part by a Pennsylvania state grant secured through the office of Rep. Robert Godshall (R-53rd). The remainder of the cost was underwritten by an anonymous society member.

After the equipment is tested and fine-tuned, several teams of society volunteers will begin the time-consuming task of copying approximately 60 percent of our collection of *Reporter* newspapers which are stored in bound volumes and boxes.

The system will also be used to copy oversized photographs, maps and other fragile

documents. All of the digitized images will be added to our computerized library.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to help with this project. If you can donate time on a weekly basis, please contact Dick Shearer or Steve Moyer at (215) 855-1872.

Dues reminder

Members are reminded that the renewal deadline for 2009 dues passed on January 31. Those who have not paid will be purged from the membership rolls during March.

If you are uncertain of your status, please call the society at (215) 855-1872. We'll check our records.

No Holiday History Tour in 2009

The annual Holiday History Tour is history – at least for this year.

Margie Booz, who chaired the Lansdale Holiday Committee (which is not directly affiliated with the society) announced in August that she was stepping down, at least for a year.

The tour was originally conceived by Margie as part of the borough-sponsored holiday celebration that would be held the first weekend of De-

ember each year. The events also included the tree lighting at Railroad Plaza on Friday night and the Tuba Concert on Sunday afternoon.

It was at Margie's suggestion that the historical society receive proceeds from the tour after expenses for the weekend were met. In five years, this represents \$25,000 that has been used to renovate and refurbish the Jenkins Homestead.

For personal reasons – those who know

how much work Margie has put into this project over the years – she is taking a well-deserved break, and the committee as a whole wants to take a deep breath in 2009.

So there will be no tour this year, but Margie is entertaining suggestions of alternative events that could be held on the first Saturday in December. And she doesn't rule out the possibility that the tour may be back in 2010.

Then and Now, Part 3 coming in March

There's no shortage of evidence that the North Penn Valley has changed considerably over the years.

The society will deliver more proof of this on Tuesday, March 10, with the third edition of *Then You Saw It, Now You Don't*, one of our most popular Community Programs.

The show will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, Seventh St. and Lansdale Ave.

Although this will be the third consecutive year for this program, the vast majority of photo images will be shown for the first time. They comprise a just a portion of the photographs donated to the society during 2008.

Most of the photos will be matched up with present-day views of the same scene, shot from the same location. In other cases, the audience will be asked to help us identify a few scenes that have us stumped.

The show will include numerous



HARD TO BELIEVE, but this was the Montgomeryville intersection in the early 1930s. No Mart. No Water Tower Square. Not even a traffic signal. And notice the open space. Chief Bailey (Page 1) would have been envious.

images that feature Montgomery Township's transition from a farming community to a business and residential center..

The program will be assembled and narrated by Steve Moyer and Dick Shearer.

The society always welcomes donations to our photo archives. For information on how to contribute old-time images or offer them to us for copying, please call (215) 855-1872.

Jenkins Homestead renovations to continue in 2009

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Questers chapters.

To date, three rooms have been remodeled as part of this project: The Elizabeth Jenkins Bedroom was opened in 2006 and the Children's Bedroom in 2007.

More changes are planned for this year. Pending the arrival of a \$10,000

state grant, the floor in the Keeping Room will be restored and refinished and the original 1770 staircase will repaired are reopened to the second floor.

Thanks to donations from society members, we are looking forward to the next stage of this project, which includes a, assessor's office similar to

one that may have been used by John Jenkins I, and a long overdue upgrade to the bathroom.

In addition to the homestead improvements, the society will looking ahead to the next major project – repairs to the spring house, which should begin sometime in 2010 or 2011.

Society News in Brief

Passing of Alberta Werner

Alberta Werner, a long-time member of the society died early last month. She was a resident of Brittany Pointe in Upper Gwynedd.

Alberta served as publicity chairperson during the society's formative years and was largely responsible for raising the community's awareness of our organization.

We extend our condolences to her family and thank them for choosing the society to receive donations in her memory.

Annual banquet reminder

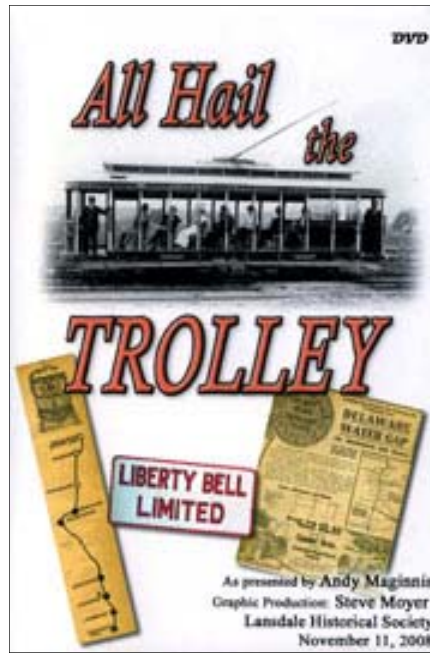
The society's annual banquet will be held Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. at William Penn Inn, Gwynedd.

The highlight of the banquet will be the presentation of the annual Edwin G. Holl Historical Achievement Award. Last year's recipient was former Lansdale Mayor Michael DiNunzio.

Please note the date change to April 21. In previous years, the banquet was

held on the second Tuesday in April.

More information and a reservations form will be included in a late March issue of the *Jenkins Journal*.



DVD prices increase

As announced earlier, the price of Community Program DVDs has been increased to \$18 or \$21 by mail. Rising production and postage costs forced the price hike.

We will continue to offer a discount for the purchase of four DVDs. The new pricing is \$55 at the research center or \$65 by mail.

A complete list of available DVDs can be found on the society's Website (www.lansdalehistory.org). The first two shows in the 2008-2009 Community Program series – *The Legacy of Dr. Frank Boston* and *All Hail the Trolley!* – are in stock and available for purchase.

Skippack newspapers donated

The Worcester Historical Society has donated a collection of *Montgomery Transcript* newspapers to the society.

The collection includes various issues published between the last 1920s and the early 1950s. *The Transcript* was printed weekly in Skippack for many years.

Lansdale Historical Society

137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446



The Jenkins Historic Complex