



Pennsylvania Questers

Birthplace of Questers and a Nation

Vol. XXXIX
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Fall 2019

Ps & Qs—The Pennsylvania Questers Newsletter

Spring Conference 2019

Submitted by Lois Bell

Pennsylvania Questers hosted almost 400 members representing 63 of the 81 chapters at the 54th Annual Spring Conference on April 10, 2019. Special guests included **Doris Czarnecki**, President of New Jersey Questers and **Marilyn Kirlain**, Vice President of New Jersey Questers. Among the eleven past Presidents of PA Questers were **Joan LoCasale**, Past International President, and **Pam Todd**, past International 2nd Vice President.

The day began with training workshops for the new chapter officers led by President, **Ken Keiser**, Grant Chair, **BJ Ross**, Treasurer, **Marie Schneider** and 2nd Vice President, **Lois Bell**.

Dr. Donald Koones again presented an outstanding seminar. His topic this year was "The Tudor Dynasty and the Hampton Court Castle." Today, Hampton Court is the home of the Royal School of Needlework which works with the Royal Family and designers.

Kenneth Serfass's timely seminar portrayed Ulysses S. Grant and his friendship with President Lincoln. April marked the 150th Anniversary of Grant's first term.

Tom and Marianne Tucker discussed and performed music of the 18th century. Their repertoire was based on the traditions of England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and America.

Questers enjoyed a continental breakfast, and they purchased tickets for the raffle of the donated baskets and for the Opportunity Drawing which was for three restaurant gift cards. And, of course, everyone enjoyed searching for goodies at the Treasure Table.

President **Ken Keiser** opened the business meeting by installing three new officers: 2nd Vice President, **Vicki Sierchio**; Recording Secretary, **Donna Zebley**; and Treasurer, **Irene Dickinson**.

Moland House #1423 was awarded the certificate for Outstanding Yearbook.



L. to R.: I. Dickinson, V. Sierchio, D. Zebley, K. Keiser, President



Ulysses S. Grant (aka Ken Serfass), K. Keiser



Heritage #1 celebrates 70th Anniversary



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Dates to Remember:

2019–2020

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Fall Council Meeting
William Penn Inn

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Northeast Area Meeting
Pocono Mountains

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Western Area Meeting
Meredith Inn, Kittanning, PA

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Bess Bardens Luncheon
William Penn Inn

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Full Board Meeting
Giant Food Store–2nd Floor
Willow Grove, PA

January 1, 2020

Deadline for
State Grant Applications
Send to Grant Chair,
Mary Jane Woll

February 1, 2020

Deadline for Spring *P's & Q's*
Send articles to **Kathleen Gable**
P's & Q's Editor

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Full Board Meeting
Giant Food Store–2nd Floor
Willow Grove, PA

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

PA Questers Spring Conference
Presidential Caterers, Norriton, PA
8:30 A.M. Registration

May 1, 2020–May 3, 2020

International Convention
Broomfield, Colorado

May 20, 2020

Bess Bardens Luncheon
William Penn Inn

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Full Board Meeting and Luncheon
Doylestown Country Club

President's Message



Ken Keiser

The 69th International Convention held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Questers. The convention was a wonderful experience with good programs, tours and hospitality. The 2019 Founder's Award topic for this convention was: "Those Magnificent Hotels and the Railroads that Built Them." The award papers were recognized at the Annual Luncheon and **Natalie M. Macy**, Como #81, from Pennsylvania, won Third Place and received a very nice framed certificate. Congratulations! The award papers are available on the International Quester Website. You can download all the winning papers at: Questers1944.org - *Members>Resources>Founder's Award*.

The 2020 Founder's Award Topic is "Colorado: Mining, Architecture, Opera, Sugar Beet Farming." Mark your calendars for the 2020 International Convention to be held in Broomfield, Colorado, from May 1, through May 3, 2020. Further information about the upcoming convention will be in the *Quester Quarterly*.

A very big thank you to all the Questers who worked so hard to make the 54th Pennsylvania Annual Spring Conference a great success. There were workshops, seminars, anniversary awards, chapter program book awards, and an opportunity for everyone to mingle with other Questers. Next year, the Spring Conference will be held on Wednesday April 1, 2020. Please put the date on your calendar.

Joan Katzenbach is your new 1st Vice President and **Natalie Macy** will be heading the Membership Committee. Please give them your support as they work to find new members and to form new chapters.

Unfortunately, we continue to lose members and chapters. Therefore, we all need to make a strong commitment to recruit new members in our local chapters.

I wish all Quester chapter members a very successful year.

New Officers Second Vice President Vickie Sierchio

Fairwold #1316

Vickie has enjoyed the activities and comradery of being a Quester since 2011. Vickie has served as Chapter President, Program Chair, Vice President of Bess Bardens, and has served on PA Quester Membership Committee. In "retirement," Tai Chi, water aerobics, gardening, and raising funds for needy children are her passions. Vickie and her husband, Dan, a Quester and a Civil War expert, love to travel across the United States to visit their three children.



Treasurer Irene Dickinson

Heritage #1

Irene has been a Quester since 1993, and has served in many capacities from her Chapter's President, Vice President and Treasurer, to always being willing to audit the Quester Board's books as well as answering questions from the Board regarding finances. Irene is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant by the State of Pennsylvania. Now retired, Irene and her husband are able to pursue their passion for traveling, as well as always attending the International Conference. Irene is a true believer in what Questers is all about—restoration and preservation.



Recording Secretary Donna Zebley

Fonthill #254

Donna has been a Quester since 2009, and has served as Corresponding Secretary, Program Chair, and President. Currently, Donna is serving a second term as President. The Questers organization has been a very positive part of her life and she looks forward to serving on the Board. Among her many talents, she is also an avid golfer and a Bridge player.



Bess Bardens Society Luncheon

May 21, 2019

Submitted by Vickie Sierchio

The Bess Bardens Society Spring Luncheon was held May 21, 2019, at the William Penn Inn with 74 members attending, including four new members. In the past year, we have gained eight new members. **June Medal** thanked **Vickie Sierchio** and **Joan Katzenbach** for their completed terms as Vice President and Secretary respectively and installed **Barbara Krempa** (Featherbed Hill #501) as Vice President. **Karen Goeckler** will be installed as President and **Joan Locasale** as Secretary at the October 23 meeting.

Caroline Golab, Ph.D., retired Professor, Thomas Jefferson University, presented the program: "Turn of the 20th Century Immigration to Philadelphia Area." She included a slide show of pictures and data to show the different ethnic groups that settled in Philadelphia and their predominant trades, and those who traveled through to other Pennsylvania areas and Midwest states to be employed in coal mining and steel production. Dr. Golab requested that her honorarium of \$100.00 be donated to the Quester Scholarship Fund.

Of course, lunch was delicious, and the awaited raffle drew three winners, each given a \$50 gift card for William Penn Inn.

The tentative program planned for the October 23, 2019, meeting is "Music from the Oscars" and for May 20, 2020: "Rosie the Riveter." Join us!



L. to R.: June Medal, speaker Caroline Golab PhD, Vickie Sierchio

2020 Questers International Convention

May 1, 2020–May 3, 2020

Omni Interlocken Resort

Broomfield, Colorado

Celebrate Purple Mountain Majesty

Check details in the

Fall and Winter Quester Quarterly

Grants and Fundraisers

Mary Jane Woll, Grants Chair

Please consider applying for either a State or International Grant to help with the Questers mission of preservation and restoration.

State Grants may be from \$50–\$1,000. International Grants may be up to \$5,000. All grant award amounts are subject to monies available for both State and International Grant applications. Grants will be awarded at the 2020 Spring Conference.

Grant applications and guidelines are currently available on the PA Quester's Website. All completed applications should be sent to **Mary Jane Woll**, Grant Chair, by January 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted at any time until that date. No preliminary application is needed. Please contact **Mary Jane Woll** if you have any questions. Be sure to check out the Grants Section of the website for suggestions of possible grant recipients.

International Grants are due by November 15, 2019. Please check the Quester's International Website for details and application.

Also, fundraiser request forms are on the PA Quester's Website if you are having a fundraiser that includes anyone outside of your specific chapter. It's fun to search and a joy to find. Hope to hear from you soon.

Treasure Table News 2019

Submitted by Dottie Brodsky, Co-Chair

The 2019 Treasure Table had many wonderful pieces of jewelry, glassware, collectables, paintings, luggage, holiday items, several scarves, and handbags. The Silent Auction had three items: a beautiful pewter coffee set, a handmade embroidered quilt and a Boyd's bear set. I made a photo album of our Treasures and the Questers who helped. The donated items were clean and most were priced as requested. It was a rewarding project because of the helping hands and the proceeds. We hope you will continue to look for quality items you no longer want and donate them for next year's Treasure Table on April 1, 2020.

Submitting to the PA Questers Website–

Christy Roach

When requesting an addition, correction, etc. on the website, please email me at Christy045@aol.com. and include "Quester Website" in the subject line.

Send an email attachment with JPEG formatted pictures, word processing document or PDF file.

If possible, be specific as to the page (CALENDAR, NEWS, MEMBER INFO, LINKS, etc.) for placement and/or the subpage.

Submission to Ps & Qs

1. Please submit your article by the deadline via email, if possible. Please send articles as attachments. If you do not have access to email, please type article. When sending Chapter News via email, include "Ps & Qs" **and your chapter name in the subject line.**
2. Please send articles as Word document attachments. Email pictures as attachments (jpeg format), not in the body of the email. Include captions describing pictures regardless of how they are submitted.
3. Include your phone number in case we have a question.
4. If you have an idea for an article, please feel free to call.
5. We will also be very happy to receive "letters to the editor" with your questions and/or comments.

Kathleen Gable
kathleengable1@gmail.com

The deadline for the Spring Issue
is February 1.

Chapters Celebrating Anniversaries 2019

70 years	1949	Heritage #1
60 years	1959	Mather's Mill #105
55 years	1964	Duffryn Mawr #184
50 years	1969	Fan-Back #392
50 years	1969	Freedom Valley #395
50 years	1969	Kit-Han-Ne #408
50 years	1969	Norriton #396
45 years	1974	Shaver's Spring #670
45 years	1974	Spoke and Handle #693
40 years	1979	Dames of Rocksville #900
15 years	2004	John Augustus Roebling #1422
10 years	2009	Ann's Choice #1479
10 years	2009	Roscommon #1481
10 years	2009	Washington's Crossing #1483
5 years	2014	Benjamin Rush #1503

Basket Donations for Spring Conference

- Ann's Choice #1479
- Benjamin Rush #1503
- Brown's Folly #1373
- Como #81
- Conestoga #63
- Country Collectors #1024
- Dames of Rocksville #900
- Damian House #754
- Doyle #1495
- Falling Spring #1435
- Featherbed Hill #501
- Fonthill #254
- Gaudy Dutch #270
- Hague's Mill #11
- Heritage #1
- John Craig's Tavern #1390
- Kings Path #435
- Kit-han-ne #408
- Lamplighter #117
- Lancaster Red Rose #1470
- Lingohocken #495
- Lydia Darragh #156
- Marquis #1461
- Mercer Mile #854
- Moland House #1423
- Museum Pieces #1413
- Neshamini Creekers #1460
- Norriton #396
- Peaceable Kingdom #1440
- Penn's Manor #84
- Pennsbury #550
- Pennypack #1386
- Pilgrim #237
- Round Meadow Run #126
- Salt Cellar #329
- Spoke and Handle #693
- Spring House #1399
- Steeplechasers #840
- Sullivan Trail #1138
- Sunnyside #17
- Unami Creek #1010
- Washington's Crossing #1383
- Whimsies #476
- Williamstadt #249
- Willow Springs #549
- Ye Olde Almshouse #466

Fonthill #254

Fond Memories of Horn & Hardart

Submitted by Karen J. Young

Fonthill #254 participated in a very unique end-of-the-year program and luncheon, which was based on the Horn and Hardart Automat, which opened in Philadelphia on June 12, 1902. When they entered, each member received a nickel. This was the original price of purchasing a cup of special French-pressed, roasted coffee that was the H & H trademark. Although the restaurants no longer exist, Program Co-Chairpersons **Ginny Ridley** and **Joan Frame** were able to purchase the Horn & Hardart blend online to serve at the meeting.

Ginny and Joan then provided an overview of the founders and the business before the group watched a *YouTube* video on the topic. The women were asked to pair up. Each pair selected a question from a basket. Reference books and printed handouts were provided. After everyone relayed their research, anyone who had a memory of visiting the Automat shared it.

The hostess and co-hostesses served a luncheon of Horn and Hardart staples: macaroni and cheese, baked beans, creamed spinach, and Salisbury steak. Rice pudding and chocolate chip cookies comprised the desserts. If coffee were the beverage of choice, the member would have to put her nickel in a glass dish. The sound of the coin hitting the glass was to approximate the sound of the nickel dropping in the slot at this historic dining institution.

In Memoriam

Carole Lee Bayberry #457	Judy King Nellie Bly #533
Fairinda Atkinson Blue Bell #82	Frederica Kaltenthaler Unami Creek #1010
Betty Gene Waters Blue Bell #82	Sylvia Lawrie Valley Forge #53
Clarissa Rhodes Lydia Darragh #156	Ginny Cooper Lingohocken #495
Peggy Wiesemann Moland House #1423	Gail Grob Peaceable Kingdom #1440
Mildred Wiggins Moland House #1423	Pat Higham Spoke and Handle #856

Chapters That Made Donations in Lieu of Baskets

- Brittany Belles #1405
- Fairwold #1316
- Freedom Valley #395
- Militia Hill #5
- Newtown Commoners #614
- Oak Lore #1023
- Penn Legacy #1137
- Penn's New Towne #500
- Quaker Bonnet #876
- Roscommon #1481
- Shavers Spring #670
- Tredyffrin #3
- Valley Forge #53

International Convention Windsor, Ontario 2019 Celebrating a Diamond Jubilee 1944-2019

Submitted by Kathleen Gable

Windsor, a city of 218,000, lies on the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway and is an international port. We saw ocean-going ships and lake freighters gently glide by our hotel window. Caesars Hotel lies on the riverfront of the Detroit River which separates Canada and the United States. Point Pelee National Park in Ontario is the southernmost point of land in Canada.

There are currently 611 Quester Chapters with 9,115 members. Iowa has the most chapters: 186; Pennsylvania is second with 75 chapters and 1225 members. There were 440 attendees from 24 states and two provinces. Twenty-nine Pennsylvania Questers attended the convention.

Arriving on Sunday allowed us to take two all-day tours and a very informative Armchair Tour, "Riding the Underground Railroad." Our first all-day tour, "The Pioneer Trail," took us through the heart of Essex County to the Lake Erie shoreline. After traveling the Wine Route, we visited the John R. Park Homestead. The magnificent Classical Revival home was built in 1842 and has received continued support from the Questers. We also visited the town of Kingsville.

Our second all-day tour, "Trains, Planes, and Automobiles," took us to Heritage Village and Transportation Museum which contains vehicles from an 1893 gas-powered Shamrock to a 1992 Dodge Viper. We also visited Canadian Historical Aircraft Museum, which contained many, many airplanes from the earliest through World War II. We learned about Operation Manna, which commenced on April 29, 1945, wherein British Bombers flew a total of 3,100 flights, dropping 11,000 tons of food to the starving Dutch. An additional 2,200 flights were made by the American Air Force which joined the operation on May 1, 1945.

There were five all-day tours on Monday and four all-day tours on Tuesday, as well as several half-day tours each day. Tours included "The French Connection," "All Aboard the Freedom Trail," "The Rumrunners," "Whiskey and Wheels" as well as "Tea at the Manor" at Willistead Manor. The tours were well received. There were also four interesting Bess Bardens Seminars. Something for everyone! The convention provided an opportunity to meet Questers from many states and provinces and to share ideas re programs, P&R projects, etc. Next year, join the Questers in Broomfield, Colorado for a rewarding and enriching experience.



Barb Krempa at Transportation Museum



PA Questers in Windsor



K. Keiser presenting Third Place International Founders Award to Natalie Macy

June Board Meeting and Luncheon 2019

Submitted by Kathleen Gable

Our End of Year Board Meeting and Luncheon was held on June 5, 2019, wherein our outgoing board members were thanked and our new board members were welcomed.

Also, **Natalie Macy**, Como #81, received the 2019 Third Place Founder's Award which was announced at the International Convention in Windsor. Congratulations to Natalie. The topic for the Founder's Award was "Those Magnificent Hotels and the Railroads that Build Them."



Current PA Quester Board

Doylestown Area Chapters Combined Luncheon

Submitted by Barbara Krempa, Featherbed Hill #501

The 48th Combined Luncheon of Doylestown Area Chapters brought 120 members of nine chapters together at the Doylestown Country Club. Our special guests included Ken Keiser, Pennsylvania President, his wife, Ruth, past state President and currently, Pennsylvania State Parliamentarian.

Also in attendance were Joan LoCassale, past state President and International Executive Board President, and Karen Goeckler, past state President and currently, Doylestown Area Representative.

Tables were decorated with red, white and blue flowers, 13 star American flags and blue table clothes to complement our speaker, Alisa Dupuy, of The Ladies of History. As she portrayed Dolley Madison, Ms. Dupuy depicted Dolley, the wife of James Madison, fourth President of the United States, as his counselor and imaginative hostess. Although she enjoyed serving ice cream to her guests, she did not invent it!

As a surprise to all, General Washington also made an appearance, relaying the hardships of Valley Forge as the winter attacked the American forces who were without provisions.



L. to R: B. Krempa, R. Keiser, George Washington, K. Keiser, Dolley Madison, aka Alisa Dupuy

**Marquis Questers #1461
Presented Harriet Tubman**

Submitted by Mary Jane Woll; photo by Kathleen Gable

On May 9, Marquis #1461, along with the Moland House #1423 and Neshamini Creekers #1460, had the pleasure of facilitating a Joint Meeting where we were introduced to Harriet Tubman, portrayed by Millicent Sparks. Harriet Tubman was an American abolitionist and political activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved people, family and friends. She told the amazing story of how Harriet Tubman, originally named Araminta Ross, was born a slave on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She married a free black man, John Tubman, but they were not allowed to live together. She changed her name to Harriet (in honor of her mother) Tubman. She decided to run away from slavery and walked over 90 miles to Philadelphia where she could be free. Her husband did not come with her.

With much emotion and sadness, she told the story of how she worked hard and saved her money to be able to help slaves from the Eastern Shore to freedom of the North and to Canada. She became known as the greatest conductor of the "Underground Railroad" which was helped by many individuals and groups.

Harriet Tubman remarried a former slave named Nelson Davis. They adopted a little girl named Gertie and lived in New York where she was very instrumental in freeing many slaves. Harriet's story told of many hardships and injustices that she had to endure as well as the bravery necessary to be so successful in her mission for freedom. At the conclusion of her portrayal, Millicent responded in character to questions about Tubman. Millicent Sparks is a writer, producer, actor, and a member of a group called "Freedom Rising" who perform at The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.



*Harriet Tubman aka
Millicent Sparks*

Conestoga #63 Visits The Speaker's House

Submitted by Robin Koslo-Stahl

Who was the first signer of the Bill of the Rights, a speaker of the PA General Assembly, first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and member of the Continental Congress? If one guessed Frederick Muhlenberg, he/she knows his/her history. Situated in Trappe, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, the Speaker's House, home to Frederick Muhlenberg beginning in 1781, was a recent excursion of Conestoga this Spring organized by Cheryl Snyder.

The 18th century house, with both Germanic and Philadelphia influences, was headed for demolition in the early 2000's and saved by a group of local citizens through fundraising. With restoration started in 2012 and continuing today, again the work of passionate volunteers, the preservation project is an excellent example of keeping history alive. In addition to the Speaker's House, the property has additional structures including the Augustus Lutheran Church and the Henry Muhlenberg House, both open for tours.

Following our visit, we had a delightful lunch at a local restaurant and discussed our findings for the day. To learn more about this preservation project and information for touring the property, go to www.speakershouse.org.



Conestoga at the Speaker's House.

**Museum Pieces #1413, John Craig's Tavern
#1390, Brown's Folly #1373 Joint Program
Revolutionary Tea**

Submitted by Alyson Datz

On Tuesday, March 19, Legacy Oaks' three Questers groups, Museum Pieces, John Craig's Tavern, and Brown's Folly joined forces to host a program called "Revolutionary Tea." We were treated to a costumed presentation by Stacy Roth from the theater troupe "History on the Hoof." Stacy is an accomplished museum educator, actress, and singer. We enjoyed Roth's vast knowledge, her authentic costume and artifacts, and her delightful poems and songs.

We learned about the origin of tea in China, the processes used in the making of tea, how tea traveled from China to other countries, and the many customs that grew up around the serving and drinking of tea. Stacy placed a special emphasis on the many artifacts that were used by tea drinkers, and we had a chance to examine many items once used in now-abandoned traditions. In revolutionary times, the colonists also enjoyed tea drinking, but they were subjected to harsh taxes on tea by the British. As we know, this issue eventually led to the Boston Tea Party.

Stacy provided a myriad of fascinating anecdotes about tea-drinking and its story through the ages. Following her presentation, she answered a host of questions while we enjoyed tea and cookies. We all learned a great deal of information about an interesting topic of historic importance. Thanks to all our Questers groups for this joint presentation.



Questers with costumed Stacy Roth

Roscommon #1481 Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Submitted by Mary Lynne Von Waldick

Roscommon #1481 hosted a Tri-Chapter luncheon and induction of chapter officers at the historic Hickory Ridge Farm in Orrtanna, PA, May 16, 2019. All three chapters, Roscommon #1481, Falling Spring #1435, and Iron Forge #1462, of the Penn National Community in Fayetteville, PA, were together to celebrate and to have the honor of being inducted by our PA President, **Ken Keiser**.

Ken spoke of his connection to our nearby Gettysburg area, recalling his relative who fought in the Civil War and of a memento that is treasured by Ken and his family—a diary kept of the soldier's daily life while on the battlefield at Little Round Top. Ken's wife, Ruth, accompanied Ken and it was a pleasure to get to know her as well. Ruth's many years' experience as a Quester afforded us many great ideas for future programs.

May 16 was a memorable day shared with fellow Questers whose love of history continues to bring them together as Bess Bardens did 75 years ago.



Questers at Tri-County Luncheon (Roscommon #1481, Falling Spring #1435, Iron Forge #1462).



Dames of Rockville celebrating 40th Anniversary

Dames of Rockville #900 Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Submitted by Edie Hagman

Formal invitations were sent to members of the Dames of Rockville, #900 to attend our 40th Anniversary celebration at the lovely home of member **Kay Gerstle**, co-hosted by **Ginger Alexy** and **Edie Hagman**. Elegant silver and crystal adorned the table and our own Bess Bardens doll was the center piece at our delicious luncheon.

We reminisced with photos and mementos of fond memories of our past years together. We were honored with the presence of State President, **Ken Keiser** accompanied by his wife **Ruth Keiser**, the State Parliamentarian. Ken presented our chapter with a Certificate of Congratulations for 40 years.

Everyone left with an antique salt cellar representing that they are the "Salt of the Earth." Maybe this will be the start of their new collection.

We are all looking forward to many more years of Questing.

**Rittenhouse #252
Visits to Historic Sugartown**

Submitted by Marge Eberz, photo by Mary Jane Rees

In June, Rittenhouse #252 travelled to Malvern, PA, to enjoy a guided tour of the historically-restored buildings in Sugartown. We toured the General Store, an 1800 Quaker farmhouse, and a book bindery with bookbinding tools used in the 19th century. We concluded our tour in the Carriage Museum where we enjoyed our box lunch. This building had been the town's firehouse and now is the home to many old carriages and sleighs.

During the past year, our members participated in many varied activities and programs. We reminisced with our wedding albums, learned about the Cherry Literary Society, tested our knowledge on items of yesteryear, visited a Chinese Cultural Center, and Gwynedd Friends Meeting House. We are looking forward to more trips and activities in the coming year.



Rittenhouse at the Sugartown Carriage Museum.

**Freedom Valley #395 Visits
Stoneleigh**

Submitted by Viki Turner

Freedom Valley #395 visited Stoneleigh, the former Haas Estate, in Villanova. Stoneleigh is a place with deep roots, flowering trees, lauded landscape architecture, and community connections. Stoneleigh is undergoing a transition from a beloved family home to a public garden, rich with native plants so that everyone may be inspired to think in new ways about their own properties.

Freedom Valley enjoyed a wonderful tour of the grounds and house which are under the conservancy by Natural Lands Trust.



Freedom Valley visit to Stoneleigh.

**Washington's Crossing #1483
Visits Andalusia**

Submitted by Barbara Tiberio

On Thursday, May 9, Washington's Crossing #1483 enjoyed an informative escorted tour of Andalusia in Bensalem, PA.

The large country estate was first built in 1795 by John Craig, high on a wooded promontory overlooking the Delaware River. Just thirteen miles from Philadelphia, the estate was to be their summer home to escape the mosquito-borne disease of yellow fever that plagued the city in the summer months. Nicholas Biddle inherited the property in 1814 through marriage and transformed the home into the Greek Revival mansion that you see today. Biddle would become President of the Second Bank of the United States. Andalusia has been the country estate of the Craig and Biddle families for more than 200 years.

In 1966, the house, with its original furnishings and spectacular gardens, was placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.



Washington's Crossing visit to Andalusia.

CHAPTER NEWS



Kathryn McKenna
speaker, author of
"The Man About
Town"

Round Meadow Run #126 and Fonhill #254 Meet "The Man About Town"

Submitted by Kathy Baker

Kathryn McKenna received a warm welcome from Round Meadow Run and Fonhill gathered at Doylestown Country Club to experience the stories and the charm of the "Man About Town." W. Lester Trauch is remembered by many, including some Questers who shared personal stories.

Kathryn McKenna was given a challenge by the Doylestown Historical Society to expand their collection of Lester Trauch's "Man About Town" articles written during his 51 years as a reporter for the *Intelligencer*. What a project Kathryn had taken on! Two-and-a-half years of research and selecting from over 3,500 columns, ones worthy of being included in a book about Doylestown's colorful columnist, his life, and his stories. Kathryn's presentation included a fascinating video of the book project's progress, interesting interviews with people close to the reporter, and glimpses of the main character himself. Kathryn shared bits of Lester's writing and life. One most interesting article was about Dr. Henry Mercer's pajamas, the actual pair worn by Dr. Mercer (shared by Cory Amsler from Mercer Museum.) Another was Lester's relationship with Pearl Buck, and the interview Lester secured with her when she refused interviews with reporters from all other newspapers. Kathryn told of Lester's years in the Army in the South Pacific where he earned a bronze star, and how *Michener's Tales of the South Pacific* called up memories of his war years, and the Broadway production of *South Pacific* kindled his love for the theater, seen through Michener's writing.

As Kathryn described the creation of her book, clearly evident was her passion for the work and her heartfelt respect for the most "interesting, opinionated, boisterous beat reporter" who was an endearing presence in Doylestown. Through Lester's stories and his connections with so many notable personalities (from politicians to celebrities,) the history of our town and Bucks County has been preserved. Readers can savor Doylestown's rich history presented in a most appealing way in the pages of Kathryn McKenna's masterful work, *Man About Town*, recounting the life and times of the legendary Lester Trauch.

Neshamini Creekers #1460

Restoration of Historic Bucks County Deed Books

Submitted by Kathy Pelosi

On February 11, 2019, Neshamini Creekers #1460 met for their annual soup and salad luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the delicious selection of hot soups and assorted salads. Following lunch, Robin Robinson, Recorder of Deeds for Bucks County, presented a very enlightening Power Point description of the restoration of Bucks County Deed books. There are 700 historic books that date back to 1684 and signatures in these books include many historical figures including William Penn. Three hundred books have been restored with another 400 to be repaired. In addition to Deed Books, there are miscellaneous books that contain the records of the sale of livestock as well as the sale and emancipation of slaves from as early as 1788. Neshamini Creekers donated \$3,000 for the restoration of one very old book. The pages had been painstakingly restored by Kofile, a Vermont company that specializes in the restoration of historical and legal documents. The pages of the book are now protected from light and fingerprints in polyester sleeves and will last for another 500 years. A climate controlled storage facility which will hold 1400 volumes is being built in Bucks County.



Neshamini Creekers with Robin Robinson, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds.

**Pennsylvania State Organization of The Questers
Pennsylvania State Executive Board and International Officers for 2019-2020**

PRESIDENT

Kenton Keiser
Pennypack #1386
president@paquesters.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Viki Turner
Freedom Valley #395
correspondence@paquesters.org

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Beth Wipperman
Sandpipers #1501
president@questers1944.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Joan Katzenbach
Pilgrim #237
FirstVicePresident@paquesters.org

TREASURER

Irene Dickinson
Heritage #1
treasurer@paquesters.org

HEADQUARTERS

JoAnn Longo
Office Administrator
210 S. Quince St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-923-5183
questers210@questers1944.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Vickie Sierchio
Fairwold #1316
SecondVP@paquesters.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ruth Keiser
Damian House #754

RECORDING SECRETARY

Donna Zebley
Fonthill #254
recording@paquesters.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Phyllis Durr
Neshamini Creekers #1460

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Glen-Wynne #331

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Cheryl Snyder
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Our Mission

The Quester Mission is to educate by research and study of antiques; to promote education in the fields of historic preservation and restoration of artifacts; to donate funds for the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, and landmarks; to support The Quester International.