



# Pennsylvania Questers

*Birthplace of Questers  
and a Nation*

## Ps & Qs—The Pennsylvania Questers Newsletter

### END OF AN ERA—BESS BARDENS SOCIETY

*Submitted by Joan Locasale*

As we all know, life is constantly changing. Some changes are pleasant and others are not. We, Pennsylvania Questers, are faced with a new unpleasant, but necessary, change. The Bess Bardens Society is officially disbanding. Over the last few years, it was difficult to find members who could fill the Officer positions and there has been a decline in attendance at the meetings.

Originally, the Society was organized with the intention of providing an extra perk to those who had served as a Chapter President. Luncheon meetings with Speakers were held twice a year. And, to that end, the goals were reached.

The first Bess Bardens Society meeting was held on June 2, 1993, at the Cock 'N Bull Restaurant in Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA. After a delicious luncheon, a brief meeting was conducted by President Marty Pearson. A tour of the Carousel Museum with a ride on the restored Carousel was included as the afternoon program.

There were many wonderful gatherings where Questers gathered, learned, and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow Questers. It was a wonderful era, and we can be grateful that we had those experiences.

### Enjoy the Memories!



Bess Bardens



### Inside:

President's Message.....	2
Vice President's Message .....	2
Submission to Ps & Qs.....	3
In Memoriam.....	3
Quester News.....	2-3
Chapter News.....	4-9
Word Search.....	10
Officers.....	11-12

## Dates to Remember: 2021

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

Full Board Meeting  
Virtual on ZOOM – 10:00 A.M.

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

Spring Conference –  
VIRTUAL SPRING GATHERING  
ON ZOOM – 10:00 A.M.  
Sign on at 9:45 A.M.

**May 13 – 16, 2021**

Questers International Conference  
VIRTUAL – Registration Required

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – TBD**

Full Board Meeting & Luncheon  
Doylestown Country Club  
9:30 A.M.

**Thursday, July 1, 2021**

Deadline for  
Fall P's and Q's articles

## President's Message



Natalie Macy

Welcome Friends! Thankfully, spring is coming and hopefully, this long "dark winter" of COVID-19 will soon be a thing of the past! We've all been very brave and patient, during this unprecedented health crisis, but now it's time to mark your calendars for some virtual fun! Wednesday, April 7, is our PA Spring Gathering which will be held on Zoom. Sign-on starts at 9:45 A.M. and the meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. We will have our business meeting, and then celebrate those chapters having anniversaries, with a special spotlight and history of our two 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chapters, Militia Hill & Hague's Mill! We will install our new PA State Officers, have our Chapter Program Book Awards, and Program Invention Awards, and then our Opportunity Drawing! After this, you can all sit back and enjoy an exciting program on "The Fabulous Fifties!"

Looking ahead to May, our Colorado Quester Friends have a wonderful three-day Virtual International Convention set for May 13–16! We can all travel west, safely, from the comfort of our own homes and learn about Colorado's beautiful "Purple Mountain Majesty"! Registration is required.

I wish you all good health and happiness in the months ahead and, hopefully, a return to safe, joy-filled Quester adventures! Take good care and be well, and please join us on April 7!

Natalie

## Vice President's Message



Gail Cathey

Greetings Fellow Questers

As we enter the Spring of 2021, all of the Pennsylvania Questers should pat themselves on the back for just hanging in there! We have mastered Zoom, brainstormed unique program ideas, attended some distant gatherings, held meetings around fire pits, did walking tours and just kept going through this pandemic. Keep this going for the beginning of the next Quester year starting in September.

Some chapters have suspended meetings, but they fully plan to swing into action at a future date.

Did you know in the early days of Questers everyone was required to write at least one study paper? If you have never written a study paper before, now is a good time. Then, share what you learned with your chapter and other Questers. The International Quester website ([questers1944.org](http://questers1944.org)) has study paper guidelines and a collection of study papers to view.

Begin to make lists of the places your chapter will want to visit, speakers you want to hear and collections and talks you want to share with each other post pandemic. Remember, this too shall pass!

## Submitting to the PA Questers Website—

Christy Roach

When requesting an addition, correction, etc. on the website, please email me at [Christy045@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Come Join The Team!

### Volunteers Needed:

**PA Questers is looking for  
A New Membership Chair...  
Co-Chairs Welcome!  
Help PA Questers To Grow!**

**For More Information, please contact**

**Natalie Macy:**

**[president@paquesters.org](mailto:president@paquesters.org)**



## Pennsylvania Chapter Anniversaries Spring Conference April 7, 2021

Chapter Name	Anniversary
Militia Hill #5	70
Hague's Mill #11	70
Valley Forge #53	65
Pilgrim #237	55
Williamstadt #249	55
Rittenhouse #252	55
Fonthill #254	55
Gaudy Dutch #270	55
Lingohocken #495	50
Penn's New Towne #500	50
Featherbed Hill #501	50
Queen Anne's Lace #828	45
Brown's Folly #1373	20

## Thank You! State Recording Secretary

Special shout out and thank you to **Joan Katzenbach** for her willingness to step up and step into the suddenly-vacated position of State Recording Secretary at a mere minute's notice! Joan's generosity and dedication to Questers is an example of what makes our organization great—teamwork! Thank you, Joan!

## Grants and Fundraisers

*Submitted by Mary Jane Woll*

WOW... 2020 is gone and thank goodness. Hopefully, 2021 will be brighter and bring some normalcy back to our lives along with Quester activities.

I hope that, going forward, all the wonderful Grants that the State Quester's have planned can be worked on and completed. The completion date for the PA 2020 State Grants is April 2021. All the completed documentation including signed receipts, descriptions, pictures, etc. need to be sent to **Mary Jane Woll**, 931 Hamilton Way, Warwick, PA., 18974, 215-674-4370, or [mjwo@verizon.net](mailto:mjwo@verizon.net). Please call or email me with any questions or problems regarding the completion of your Grant Projects.

And, it is never too early to think about fund-raisers or your next Grant. Fund-raisers that include outside people (hopefully soon) need to be approved.

Thank you for all the hard work that the Chapters have done. Please keep up the good work and remember that going forward Grant Applications will be due again by January 1, 2022. International Grant Applications will be due in November 2021. Guidelines, Applications, and Forms are on the Quester PA Website ([paquesters.org](http://paquesters.org)) or the Quester International website ([questers1944.org](http://questers1944.org)). Thank you all again for keeping the Quester's mission of Preservation and Restoration alive. Hope to see you all soon.

## 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.

June Medal  
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[medaljune@gmail.com](mailto:medaljune@gmail.com)

*The deadline for the Fall Issue  
is July 1, 2021.*

## QUESTER NEWS

## In Memoriam

**Sue Normoyle**  
Willow Springs #549

**Pat Sorber**  
Penn's Manor #84

**Ann Egner**  
Penn's Manor #84

**Carolynne Wolfe**  
Hague's Mill #11

**THE QUESTERS 71st International Convention  
COLORADO - "Purple Mountain Majesty"**

**May 13 - 16, 2021**

**Omni Interlocken Hotel, Broomfield, CO**

**Founder's Award Topic - 2021**

**"Women of the West"**

**Due March 1, 2021**



**Spoke and Handle #639**

**Washington Crossing State Park**

*Submitted by: Bonnie Long*

The Spoke and Handle Questers of Yardley, Pennsylvania, Chapter #693 held our meeting in Washington Crossing State Park. The chairs were placed six feet apart. We brought our lunch and had a very productive, fun meeting. Our plan is to have each member write a one-page report on whatever interests each of us have, and include a photo. We will then make up a booklet of our combined interests.





## Como #81 The Richard Wall House and Museum

*Submitted by Natalie M. Macy*

In October, our Como Crew enjoyed a trip back in time, to 1682, to learn about some of the early history of Cheltenham Township, the Richard Wall House & Museum, and the Wall and Shoemaker families. We toured the house and learned of the many additions and changes that have occurred to the structure over its 337-year history!

What was originally a two story 18' x 30' log cabin with one room up and one room down and a stone fireplace on 300 acres along the Tacony Creek, is now a three-story stone structure with basement, several rooms on each floor, indoor plumbing and electricity. Today, you're met by just a small "historic island of land" surrounded by busy, modern roads and a park. Originally built in 1683, the Wall House served as the first Meeting House of Friends in the area and also as a stop on the Underground Railway!

The Wall house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it is the oldest house in Pennsylvania with continual family occupation, (1682-1979). Its historical importance is largely due to "the early families who lived there, their significance in the community, and how their marriages for generations connected many prominent personalities in American history. In addition, their family enterprises were important in the growth and wealth of Cheltenham Township."

## Spring House #1399 Making an American Flag

*Submitted by Alicia Peale*

Recently, Spring House Questers #1399 enjoyed a program in our auditorium. There were 23 Questers attending and all were wearing masks. After the business meeting, program person, **Nancy Puhl**, introduced our member and presenter, **Nancy Elias**. It was so interesting that I thought I'd share a description of her program, submitted to me by Nancy. Notice Nancy in her costume that she wore when at the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.

## Making an American Flag for the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia

*Submitted by Nancy Elias*

Our American Flag was commissioned by George Washington, George Ross, and Robert Morris to be made by Betsy Ross in Philadelphia in 1776.

Flags wear out, and after many were made over the years, Nancy and her American Sewing Guild ladies were asked to make a new hand-sewn flag for the Betsy Ross House. The flag had to be made at the house and the ladies had to be dressed in Colonial garments. Being sewers, they whipped up their outfits with no problem.

Washington wanted a six-pointed star, but Betsy showed him a quick way to make a five-pointed star. The thread we used had to be waxed to make it water and weather proof. All of us used thimbles to push the needles through the material. The flag was dedicated on June 14, Flag Day, as a band played. Speeches were made and a group of people were sworn in as American citizens.



## Rittenhouse #252 Unforgettable Meeting

*Submitted by Marge Eberz*

A rainstorm was threatening the afternoon of Wednesday June 5, 2020, when the Rittenhouse Questers met at the home of **Mary Jane Rees**. While clouds darkened overhead, we socially distanced ourselves at Mary Jane's elegantly set table to enjoy our lunch, conversation and her light, colorful dessert.

After lunch, **Jan Messner** opened our meeting to discuss the finalizing of our programs for 2020-2021. While we were discussing various program possibilities, the winds blew, the rain beat against the windows and the electricity went off.

We quickly adjourned our meeting, and decided it was time to leave for home. *But*, no electricity meant no water and very limited bathroom facilities.

Fortunately, Mary Jane was prepared with many gallons of bottled water so we could all use the bathroom—Thank Heavens!

But now, little did we know, as we said goodbye and got in our cars to go home, that the adventure of the day was about to begin. We soon discovered as we drove toward Mill Road that a tree had fallen across the road and electric wires blocked our exit to Mill Road. We turned around to drive to Water Street Road and met more downed trees and electric wires. We turned around and went back to Mary Jane's house. After much discussion, **Ida Jane** called her husband John. John drove to Water Street Road and spoke with the home owner who volunteered to come up to Mary Jane's house in his Jeep. A solution had been found. We rode in the Jeep to his home. We carefully walked around fallen wires and fallen trees on his property to Water Street Road. At Water Street Road **John Heyser** picked us up in his Jeep and took people home, or to where they could be picked up by family members.

On Saturday, when the wires and trees had been cleared off the road, we were able to come back and get our cars. This is a meeting we will never forget!





## Round Meadow Run #126 "Revisits" the Pine Street Hotel

*Submitted by Kathy Baker*

Not long before the world turned upside down with a pandemic, Round Meadow Run Questers and Fonthill Questers gathered at Plumsteadville Inn for lunch and a most riveting presentation about a Doylestown landmark, delivered by one of our own delightful Questers, **Jean Stevens**. Many of you know Jean as a truly positive, energetic, entertaining Doylestown friend with enormous talents and extensive interests. Her sensitivity in relating to others and passion for her community's history led her to explore Doylestown's old prison, known at the time as the "Pine Street Hotel," and to deliver that story to her audience with great detail and humor.

The "Pine Street Hotel" at 138 South Pine Street was the fifth prison built in Bucks County. Warden John Case, who gave it the nickname, described it as a desirable hotel, and proved it to be a well-run "community." Under Quaker influence, the philosophy was that solitary confinement would not be punishment, but an opportunity to reflect on the past and return to a life of virtue. Thus, very small cells.

It was in 1884 that Addison Hutton was hired to design the prison, which was built in a T-shape, with control room in the center and men and women's cells in separate wings. The new prison opened that same year! Later accommodations for young people were added. The sally port, or arch, was used for carriages passing in and out, and the warden's home was above and on both sides of this passageway between the walls. (Today, administration offices.)

The prison's cells were originally built for one occupant. As the prison became more crowded with 4 or 5 in a cell, a new facility was built. On June 12, 1985, staff, officers, and prisoners (124 male/6 female), and all furniture were moved between the hours of 7:30 and 11:30 A.M. A quote from the Pine Street Hotel book—once a noisy operating prison,—"for the first time in 100 years, the jail was empty and silent."

The Bucks County Council for the Arts eventually decided on 138 South Pine Street as the perfect site for the long-desired art museum. In the beginning, James Michener had been involved with the art museum project and did donate considerable funds and his name to the new museum. The council saved the guard house and the Case house and preserved the arch, which you now might pass through, to the entrance of the celebrated Michener Art Museum against the old prison walls. "The walls now stand as a symbol of our past and a cradle protecting our legacy of art and knowledge." Bruce Katsiff, from the Pine Street Hotel by Lois R. Anderson, forward by James A. Michener.

Jean could have gone on for hours, but reluctantly left out much of the information that intrigued her, giving her audience ample time to share stories and memories of the old Doylestown jail, the "Pine Street Hotel." Fascinating!



*Jean Stevens*

## Conestoga Questers #63 Stoneleigh: Historic Mansion and Gardens

*Submitted by: Robin Koslo-Stahl*

Nestled in a lush, expansive setting in Villanova, Pennsylvania, is an historic Tutor Revival-styled mansion and Olmstead Brothers-designed garden (think design of Central Park, NYC and Blue Garden of Rhode Island) of the late John and Chara Haas, second generation Haas family of renowned co-founder of Rohm and Haas.

The Conestoga Questers took to the road this fall to view this magnificent estate, Stoneleigh, bequeathed to Natural Lands for preservation. As we toured along the pathways, gems to be seen included a pergola walkway, meadow vista, great lawn, mediation circular garden, pet cemetery, and pipe organ sculpture, along with many massive trees and assorted seasonal flowers. The mansion, currently housing the Organ Society Offices, was built in the early 1900's by Samuel Bodine, United Gas Improvement Company Head.

Following our visit, we gathered for our meeting and enjoyed lunch at Historic Waynesborough's outdoor tent with a view of the lovely great lawn and General Anthony Wayne's historic mansion while we reminisced at the beauty of Stoneleigh.



## Fonthill #254

### Fonthill Castle

*Submitted by: Ginny Clemens*

The East Bedroom at Fonthill Castle in Doylestown, PA, has been restored to some of its original splendor thanks to a generous gift from Fonthill Questers #254 and a grant from Pennsylvania State Questers. On October 6, 2020, the Bucks County Historical Society unveiled new reproduction window coverings in the room, once a guest bedroom in the former home of Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer.

"Walking into the room, visitors can truly imagine what spending a night in Fonthill as a guest of Dr. Mercer may have been like," said Cory Amsler, Vice President of Collections & Interpretation at the Bucks County Historical Society.

Fonthill was constructed between the years of 1908 and 1912 by Dr. Mercer who designed and oversaw the building of his imaginative structure. The mansion is built of hand-mixed, reinforced concrete and is lavishly embellished with decorative tiles throughout its 44 rooms, 32 stairwells and 18 fireplaces.

Now a museum, Fonthill Castle was designated a National Historical Place in 1972 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and in 1985, a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The original window coverings in the East Bedroom, purchased by Mercer in 1912, were Louis XIV revivals. The material for the new draperies was fabricated by Heirloom Tapestries in California and found by Kathy Appel who works with Hearth & Hedgerow Interior Design of Quakertown. She had undertaken a study of the original tapestries to find a similar pattern. The new draperies have a blue corduroy border and a colorful pattern of blues, browns, tans and terra cotta that perfectly match the colorful tiles in the room.

Visitors can schedule a tour to see Fonthill Castle and the East Bedroom's new draperies by visiting the museum's website at [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org).





## Immediate Past State President's Project

*Submitted by Ken Keiser*

Allan Sentman, President of Friends of Boileau and **Ken Keiser**, Immediate Past President of PA Questers met to present a check for the PA Questers President's Project for the restoration of the German Kitchen Hearth located in the farmhouse in Boileau Farmstead Park, Hatboro, PA. When the Friends of Boileau began restoration of the Hearth, the shadow of the brackets and shelf/mantle was revealed. They are looking to conserve the backboard and accompanying vertical boards considered original to the fireplace. The project will include fabrication of necessary carpentry to restore brackets/shelf and to conserve the backboard and accompanying vertical boards to the hearth.

This will involve removing paint, continuing research to find a profile of the brackets and shelf, and to secure a carpenter with experience in this type of restoration. The Friends of Boileau are eager to transform this German hearth and to realize this with full restoration and active use and educational interpretation for the public.



## Benjamin Rush #1503 Restoration of the Cowden Drum

*Submitted by Susan Couvreur & Mildred Noonan*

The drum was donated by the Cowden family to The Historical Society of Frankford, located in the lower Northeast of Philadelphia, in 1963—exactly 100 years after it was used in the Battle of Gettysburg. Documentation shows that it was used by William Cowden who was in his teens when he volunteered as a member of the band in the 114<sup>th</sup> Regiment during the Civil War. William Cowden returned to Frankford after the war, took a job with the Philadelphia Fire Department and spent the rest of his life there.

The drum was missing parts and in fair condition. Benjamin Rush Questers applied for and received a matching grant to begin the restoration of this important artifact. It was turned over to Lara Kaplan in July of 2020, and we can report that it has been thoroughly examined and cleaned. The missing parts are coming next. We look forward to seeing the permanent display and lecture at The Historical Society of Frankford about the Cowden family when the repairs are complete and the Society is again open to the public.



*Benjamin Rush Questers present Cowden Drum to The Historical Society of Frankford*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Questers Seek and Find

E	Q	R	E	S	T	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	C	QUESTERS
S	U	A	N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	R	O	HISTORY
N	E	S	R	E	K	A	E	P	S	C	H	E	L	CHAPTERS
O	S	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	H	S	E	L	FELLOWSHIP
I	T	E	H	C	O	E	I	W	O	A	G	N	E	COLLECTIONS
T	E	S	S	I	A	E	S	S	U	P	N	A	C	PRESERVATION
N	R	E	T	R	S	N	R	I	N	T	I	C	T	EDUCATION
E	S	A	N	R	E	T	T	I	C	E	T	T	I	GRANTS
V	O	R	A	S	I	I	O	I	L	R	E	O	O	RESTORATION
N	S	C	R	S	E	E	I	R	Q	S	E	R	N	CONVENTIONS
O	T	H	G	T	O	U	R	S	Y	U	M	S	S	SPEAKERS
C	L	E	P	I	H	S	W	O	L	L	E	F	A	REENACTORS
P	R	E	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	S	S	TOURS
E	I	I	E	N	T	D	S	S	E	T	S	R	S	RESEARCH



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## Pennsylvania State Organization of The Questers

### Pennsylvania State Executive Board and International Officers for 2020-2021

**PRESIDENT**

Natalie M. Macy  
president@paquesters.org  
Como #81

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Pilgrim #237

**TREASURER**

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Treasurer@paquesters.org  
Heritage #1

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Fairwold #1316

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Ruth Keiser  
Damian House #754

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Kenton Keiser  
Pennypack #1386

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Joan Katzenbach  
Recordingsecretary@paquesters.org  
Pilgrim #237

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### Incoming Pennsylvania State Board Members (June 2, 2021)

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Katherine Gerstle  
Dames of Rocksville #900

**TREASURER**

Irene Dickinson  
Heritage #1

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Barbara Weaver  
Lancaster Red Rose #1470

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### State Committee Chairs 2020-2021

**BESS BARDENS SOCIETY**

Karen Goeckler  
Glen-Wynne #331

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Kenton Keiser  
Pennypack #1386

**REGISTRATION**

Pam Lahr  
Fonthill #254

**FUND RAISING**

Jean Johnson  
Pilgrim #237

**OPPORTUNITY**

Phyllis Durr  
Neshamini Creekers #1460

**TREASURE TABLE**

Karen Zegel  
Fonthill #254

**HISTORIAN**

Marge Eberz  
Rittenhouse #252

**P & R GRANTS**

Mary Jane Woll  
Marquis #1461

**TRIBUTE ENVELOPES**

Donna Conville  
Country Collectors #1024

**MEMBERSHIP**

TBD

**P'S & Q'S EDITOR**

June H. Medal  
Featherbed Hill #501

**WEBSITE EDITOR**

Christy Roach  
Glen-Wynne #331

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## Area Representatives

### ***Abington and Glenside Area***

Marie Schneider  
Steeplechasers #840

### ***Newtown Area***

Margarita Pintimalli  
Peaceable Kingdom #1440

### ***Western Area***

N. Sue Bowser  
Kit-Han-Ne #408

### ***Bucks-Mont Area***

### ***Springhouse Area***

Gail Cathey  
Pilgrim #237

### ***Whitemarsh Area***

Gertrude Roman  
Como #81

### ***Doylestown Area***

Karen Goeckler  
Glen-Wynne #331

### ***Warminster, Warrington, Warwick Area***

**PA Questers Web Site:**  
***[www.PAQuesters.org](http://www.PAQuesters.org)***

**International Quester Web Site:**  
***<http://www.questers1944.org>***

## **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.*