

Pennsylvania Questers

*Birthplace of Questers
and a Nation*

Ps & Qs—The Pennsylvania Questers Newsletter

President's Message

Welcome Friends! I hope this finds you well and rested, after enjoying some much-needed time together with friends and family over the summer! Happily, as I write this, life seems to be getting back to normal! With that thought in mind, I hope you have your calendars ready so you can start filling them in with fun, important Dates to Remember!

Our Annual Fall Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at the Wm. Penn Inn. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. We ask that Presidents please remember to bring two copies of your Chapter's Program Book and a copy of your completed Chapter survey. Looking ahead to 2022, our PA Spring Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, at Presidential Caterers. Registration and coffee will start at 8:30 A.M. Our International President, **Rosemary McPherson**, has already accepted our invitation to join us, so please plan to come and welcome her to Pennsylvania!

The 2022 Questers International Convention will be hosted by the beautiful state of Wisconsin, May 12–15th at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Their Founder's Award Topic is: "Northwood's Logging—Myths and Legends." Perhaps I can pique your curiosity by inviting you to explore some of the Tall Tales that circulated in logging camps around the wood stoves on cold winter nights? Please join me in learning more about Wisconsin's logging industry, fact and fiction, in the late 19th century!

In closing, on behalf of your PA State Board, I would like to thank our recently retired Officers for their service to PA Questers: **Vickie Sierchio**, 2nd Vice President, **Joan Katzenbach**, Recording Secretary and **Mary Jane Woll**, Grants Chairman. We want to warmly welcome **Barbara Weaver** as our new Recording Secretary; welcome back **Irene Dickinson**, who has generously agreed to another two-year term as our State Treasurer, and welcome **Lois Bell**, who has graciously stepped up to be our P&R Grants Chairman. The Board discussed, and has agreed to have a Program Committee as an alternative to a 2nd VP, as we were unable to fill the 2nd VP position. I look forward to a wonderful new year ahead with all of you! Let's make it the best year ever! Take good care, have fun, and be well!



Natalie Macy



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**Dates to Remember:
2021–2022**

October, 2021
Northeast Area Meeting–TBD

October, 2021
Western Area Meeting–TBD

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
Full Board Meeting–WG Giant**
2nd Floor: Coffee/Tea: 9:30 A.M.
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Executive Board Meeting
10:00 A.M.–Zoom

Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Deadline for Spring *P's and Q's*
Send Articles to **June Medal**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Full Board Meeting–WG Giant**
2nd Floor: Coffee/Tea 9:30 A.M.
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
Set-up for Spring Conference
Presidential Caterers,
Norriton, PA
10:00 A.M.–Starting Time

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Spring Conference
Presidential Caterers,
Norriton, PA
8:30 A.M. Registration & Coffee
8:00 A.M. Board Helpers/Baskets

May 12–15, 2022
Questers
International Convention
Pfister Hotel–Milwaukee, WI

Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Full Board Meeting & Luncheon
Doylestown Country Club
9:30 A.M. Sign-in
10:00 A.M. Meeting

**WG = Willow Grove Giant
2nd Floor Conference Room
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-784-1960



**Volunteers are needed for 2022-2024
State Board Officers:
The following State Officers positions
for 2022-2024**
**President
First Vice President
Corresponding Secretary**

**We are asking each chapter to help find individuals who
would be willing to serve as officers on the
PA State Board. Finding officers is KEY to the future of our
Pennsylvania Questers' organization.**

**If you have someone who would like to serve on
one of the many committees on the State Board,
please include their names also.**

**Please contact Ken Keiser, Nominating Chair,
with the suggestions at kwkeiser@comcast.net**

**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.

**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**

2020-2021 Chapter Yearbook and Program Invention Awards

Submitted by Vickie Sierchio, 2nd VP

Many thanks to the twelve PA Chapters who submitted their Year Books, and the three chapters who submitted their unique ways to conduct programs during the Covid 19 pandemic. While these chapters were able to document their programs, many more communicated that they would ad lib as the year went on or took a break for this year. Everyone said they were eagerly awaiting the new year and time together as Questers.

Congratulations to the following who received the Chapter Yearbook Awards:

Shaver Springs Most Historic Cover Museum Pieces
Neshamini Creekers..... Most Informative in the
Time of Covid Pandemic
Moland House..... Best Display of Grant Projects
Conestoga Best Pocket Size
Brown's Folly Unique What's in a Name

Honorable Mention in the Time of Covid Pandemic:

Benjamin Rush
John Craig's Tavern
Roscommon
Unami Creek
Fonthill

Congratulations to Falling Springs who won the "Program Invention Award in the Time of Covid." Their members shared favorite Historical Podcasts throughout the year.

QUESTER NEWS

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
856 Geranium Drive
Warrington, PA 18976
215 343 7484
medaljune@gmail.com

The deadline for the Spring Issue is February 1, 2022.

DID YOU KNOW???

Chapters do not have Bylaws anymore?

New Chapter Policies need to be adopted?

In 2020 the International Bylaws were revised and now the States and Chapters only have Policies!

Each Chapter President received a copy of the International Revised Bylaws and each Chapter President received information regarding adopting their new Policies.

Information about the fill-in-the-blanks for new Chapter Policies is in the International Website under Governance.

If you need help completing these new documents please contact:

Ruth Keiser, PA State Parliamentarian at
rekeiser@comcast.net

**44 PA Chapters
have completed their paperwork.**

IS YOUR CHAPTER ONE OF THEM???

In Memoriam

Joan Jenci
Spoke and Handle #693

June Russell
Whimsies #476

Loretta Zlock
Fonthill #254

Donald Page
Franklin Rockers #1458

Linda Schmierer
Queens Anne's Lace #8282

Freedom Valley #395

Mill Grove

Submitted by: Viki Turner

Freedom Valley Questers #395 toured the home of James John Audubon for their June meeting. Audubon was born in Haiti, raised in France and sent to America when he was 18 years old to avoid conscription in the army. His father owned the farm, Mill Grove, a property that had lead mines which Audubon's father hoped his son would manage to make a living. John, however, was much more interested in nature, and his drawings of birds became his legacy.

The house has been restored and contains many examples of his original illustrations as well as oil paintings and memorabilia.

In 1813, Samuel Wetherill bought the property. His family kept it until 1951 when the heirs turned the estate over to Montgomery County.

We enjoyed lunch at Chadwick's Restaurant in Audubon, PA.



Mill Grove

Damian House #754

Boileau Farmstead

Submitted by: Ruth Keiser

The Friends of Boileau received several grants from local Quester chapters and also the PA State Questers. Pictured here are representatives from Damian House, Fairwold, and Penn Legacy Questers. Damian House received a matching grant from PA Questers to restore the large picture window in the German kitchen on the first floor of the Farmhouse. Fairwold and Penn Legacy Chapters received a State Grant for the restoration of three dormer windows and the small north casement window facing the Carriage House on the third floor, and five windows on the second floor of the Farmhouse.

The Farmstead includes a Farmhouse, Carriage House, working Spring House and a PA Bank Barn. This Farmstead is located in Upper Moreland Township.



Round Meadow Run #126

Covered Bridges of Bucks County

Submitted by: Kathy Baker

Our group of Questers has been determined, as have others, to remain connected through the past difficult 16 months. Creative programs and meeting places have been located, and one beautiful May day, found Round Meadow Run Questers sitting with Fonthill Questers on a slope at New Britain's Covered Bridge Park, attentively listening to the chairman of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society. Bill Wilson delivered a most interesting detailed presentation of the origin and design of covered bridges in Bucks County and beyond. Who knew that PA has more covered bridges than any other state in our nation!

The first covered bridge in the U.S. was the "Permanent Bridge" built on Market Street in Philadelphia over the Schuylkill River in 1805. Timothy Peters, chairman of the bridge committee, determined that this bridge should be covered to protect the trusses (side walls) from rotting and extend the life of the bridge for decades... the birth of the wooden covered bridges. Mr. Wilson told many stories of how and where covered bridges in the 1800's came to be. Before the turn of the century, covered bridges (many across the Delaware) facilitated safe travel and economic growth in the Philadelphia area.

At one time there were 51 covered bridges in Bucks County; now only 12 remain. Some have succumbed to lack of maintenance, treacherous weather and floods, government road policies, and fire. More than one bridge has suffered damage, and has been reconstructed by Penn Dot. With the passing of time, covered bridges could not accommodate commercial vehicles, so were demolished and replaced with stronger, more effective structures. Since the 1950's, groups of concerned citizens from local to national levels, have formed organizations to save these historical landmarks. Bucks County Commissioners are among them, and the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society was established by local citizens to prevent demolition, after arson, of the Mood's Covered Bridge near Perkasio.

Our presenter had so much to show and share that he actually ran out of time, inviting us to follow the Covered Bridge brochure to tour the 91-mile circuit of historical covered bridges in Bucks County. The discussion for a fall Round Meadow Run excursion has already begun. We give a heartfelt thank you to Fonthill Questers for inviting us to share in this discovery and enjoy the picnic lunch they arranged in the park by the Pine Valley Covered Bridge.



John Craig's Tavern #1390

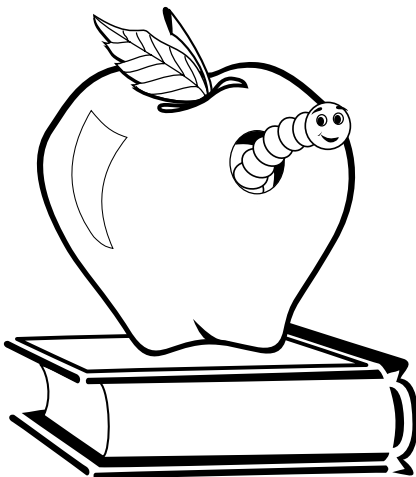
Historic Novels

Submitted by: Ann Hodge

In May, we met via Zoom. Our co-presidents, **Anna Medori** and **Norma Scott** asked us to discuss a historical novel that we had read and enjoyed. We had a really interesting variety of books and learned some history during the discussion of them. Some topics included the hunt for Lincoln's assassin, the lives of Titanic survivors, horseback libraries, cooking in WWII British kitchens, the history of New York, the impact of the Spanish Flu on Philadelphia and the effects of McCarthyism on the American arts. Now we have a great list for our summer reading!

The books discussed were: *Manhunt* by James Swanson, *Titanic Sisters* by Patricia Falvey, *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *Stella* by Takis Wurger, *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes, *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan, *The Orphan Collector* by Ellen Marie Wiseman, *New York* by Edward Rutherfurd, *My Dear Hamilton* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kaye, *Into the Wilderness* by Sarah Donati and *The Chelsea Girls* by Fiona Davis.

We hope you will enjoy some of these too!



Benjamin Rush # 1503

Double Blessing!

Submitted by Mildred Noonan

The Cowden Civil War Drum restoration has been completed, thanks to the efforts of Benjamin Rush Questers combined with a grant from Pennsylvania State Questers. The celebration of the return of the drum to the Historical Society of Frankford occurred during our July meeting with both Quester and HSF members present and included a drum cake just for the occasion! We are looking forward to the permanent display and lecture about the Cowden family that can now move forward.

Our Quester program, the exhibit on Early Photographers of the Frankford area, included a guided tour by **Susan Couvreur**, on both professional and amateur photographers from the mid 1800's to the mid 1900's. The exhibit displayed multiple works of individual, prominent professional photographers as well as those from the Frankford Camera Club. All exhibits were drawn from the HSF archives and examples of many forms of photography, cased photographs, and equipment, including the first commercial form of photography called Daguerreotype, (developed in France), help explain technological changes over the years. Glass slides are digitalized for viewing via computer.



From left: Lara Kaplan, Mildred Noonan, Bea Siliquini, Ruth Barberi, Leatrice Malac, Ruth Hansen, and Susan Couvreur.

Conestoga Questers #63

19th Century Ceramics

Submitted by: Robin Koslo-Stahl

This past spring Conestoga Questers "zoomed in" to hear Ellen Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator at Chester County History Center, as she discussed "Ceramics of the 19th Century." As we viewed photographs of the Museum's historic collections representing quirky redware, exquisite Tucker porcelain, and unique majolica, we learned how these ceramics were used, how they were made, and how they were designed, all within the county of Chester. From noting trademarks and symbols to the indigenous materials that were used, it created further interest with an actual tour of the CCHC galleries and a lunch that followed at a local restaurant in West Chester. For further information, go to www.chestercohistorical.org



**I've Heard it Said—
Quotes from Yearbooks:**

All the flowers of all tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

Good supervision is the art of giving people a shot in the arm without letting them feel the needle.

The best antiques are old friends.

Everyone loves to be around happy enthusiastic people, so be one!

Whatever your lot in life, build something on it.

Antiques—"A slice of good life."

Hope is like the sun, sometimes it shines, sometimes it goes under, but it never goes away.

Lay stepping stones—not stumbling blocks.

The world has too many cranks and not enough self starters.

You do not grow old—you become old by not growing.

An antique is: Something our grandparents used; then our mothers threw out. Now we spend hours searching for them to buy them back.

We are the sum of all those before us.

One gains wisdom from a backward glance.

Friends are the family you choose for yourself.

Pennypack #1386

Historic Sugartown

Submitted by: Ruth Keiser

Pennypack #1386 visited Historic Sugartown. This is a 19th century village in Malvern, PA. They toured the Carriage Museum, several houses, a general store and the barn for their first-time in person.



Questers Trivia

Red Tulips and Ceramic Elephant

In 1994, PA State President **Sandy Mikelberg**, received a call from docent Betty Sadler, a member of the Plymouth Meeting Chapter, at the Ft. Washington Historical Society. Betty explained that a representative from Howard Newton's frame shop brought in a painting to the Historical Society. The Newton framing shop was being sold and an oil painting had been brought in by a lady named Bess Bardens, but she died before they could frame it.

The frame shop decided to donate the painting to the Historical Society. Sunnyside Questers paid for the framing and **Sandy Mikelberg** delivered the framed painting to the Quester Headquarters where it is currently housed. "Red Tulips & Ceramic Elephant" was painted by Bess Bardens in 1950.

Neshamini Creekers #1460

Creative for Opportunity Drawing

Submitted by Gerri Morrison

Thanks to the wonderful ability to receive two vaccines, followed by weeks of personal caution, a perfect gathering was created by Neshamini Creekers Quester, **Phyllis Durr**. As the Chairperson for the PA Questers' Opportunity Drawing, Phyllis used her creativity and imagination to maximize the proximity of Questers in our community. She successfully planned a clever venue to determine the winners by inviting representatives of the three Heritage Creek chapters to meet on her deck. The end result was to have the drawing on April 6, the day before the PA State Zoom Spring Conference.

The participants who assembled included the co-presidents of the Moland House Questers #1423, **Rosemarie Arnold** and **Pat Clark**; the president of the Marquis Questers #1461, **Arlene Neisser**; and the president of the Neshamini Creekers Questers #1460, **Gerri Morrison**. The special guest, Joe Gable, joined the group to officially oversee the drawing to honor the memory of his wife, **Kathy Gable**, Marquis Questers.

The winners of a Gift Certificate to an Historic Restaurant of their choice included:

Third Prize \$75.00 value—Conestoga Questers #63

Second Prize \$100.00 value—**Joanne A. Yutzler**, Spring House Questers #1399

First Prize \$125.00 value—**Centa Logan**, Dark Valley Questers #222

Congratulations to this year's winners!

What's In a Name

Ann's Choice #1479

Early in 1700, Ann Dawson chose to marry Bartholomew Longstreth. He had fallen in love with her when he saw her helping her father, John Dawson, build the Crooked Billet Inn, Hatboro, PA. John Dawson was a hat maker and founded Hatboro in 1705.

Ann's Choice overlooks the Longstreth Homestead. This land has been reborn as a vibrant community of active persons as Ann's Choice in Warminster, PA.

Roscommon #1481

Roscommon was chosen as the name of this chapter because it was the name of the farm in Fayetteville, PA on which their community was built. It was owned by Adam Ross, an Irish settler, who gained ownership of the farm in 1773 through a grant from William Penn. Through the years fine hunting horses were raised there. Robert E. Lee purchased several mares, one of which bore his famous horse, Traveler.

continued on page 9



What's In a Name

(continued from page 8)

Featherbed Hill #501

Featherbed Hill is named for the legend that has a turn-of-the-century family moving its possessions—including a featherbed in an open wagon along Almshouse Road in Doylestown, PA. As the tale is told, when the wagon somehow toppled, feathers were strewn all over the slope of the road. They stuck in trees and bushes and blew in the wind. Consequently, the name, “Featherbed Hill” was bestowed to that historic area.

Washington Crossing #1483

Washington Crossing, the village where General George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River on that stormy Christmas night, remains on those banks. This is where Washington’s Crossing Historic Park is located, as well as McConkey’s Ferry Inn, an 18th century building, where Washington and his aides ate their Christmas dinner before the perilous crossing, remains as it was in 1776.

Every Christmas a reenactment is performed to remind our children and grandchildren about how hard and bravely Americans fought to obtain their independence.

Fonthill #254

Four-Month Overview

Submitted by: Ginny Clemens

Our Fonthill Questers are real troopers!

After a year of Covid-19, and with most of us vaccinated, we ventured out this past March to replicate our last meeting of a year ago in March 2020. Our breakfast meeting at Caleb’s American Kitchen in Lahaska was delicious and included a program about castles in the United States given by our Program Chairpersons, **Ginny Clemens** and **Karen Young**. It was especially interesting to learn that our very own Fonthill Castle in Doylestown was one of the castles listed in the top 11 incredible castles.

April’s meeting was lunch at the Continental Tavern in Yardley where the owner and our host, Nick Lyons, showed a video of the tavern and answered questions about the tavern’s fascinating hauntings and the Underground Railroad hidden in the basement. After lunch he gave us a little tour of some of the areas in the building where unusual sightings were experienced as well as the great number and variety of items that were found under the building during reconstruction.

Our May meeting found us at the Pine Valley Covered Bridge Park in New Britain sharing a joint program with Round Meadow Run Questers. Bill Wilson, Chairman of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society, gave a talk about our country’s unique bridges. Box lunches from Heavenly Ham and individual meetings by both groups followed this educational and entertaining experience. Adding to the day was absolutely beautiful weather.

We concluded our year in June with a guided walking tour of “Women in History,” given by **Kat Landis** at the Doylestown Cemetery. We finished off the day with a celebration of our 55th Anniversary at Omiza Restaurant in Doylestown followed by a short meeting. Oh, what a year it was!



*Seated (L to R) Joan Frame, Marsha Kelso, Pam Lahr, Ginny Clemens, Judy Volpe
Standing (L to R) Carolyn Miller, Jo Page, Karen Zegal, Chris Dowling, Mary Van Pelt, Eileen Shelly, Karen Fisher, Joan Lott, & Donna Zebley*



GRANDMA'S APRON

The principle use of grandma's apron was to protect the dress beneath. It was always at hand for removing hot pans from the oven. That sturdy old apron also came in handy for drying children's tears.

From the chicken coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden it carried red ripe tomatoes and other fresh vegetables for the evening meal. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring crisp apples for the wooden apple bowl or for making hot juicy apple pie.

When unexpected company came up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, grandma walked out onto the back porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for a hearty home cooked meal.

Grandma used her apron to set hot baked pies on the window sill to cool. Nowadays her granddaughters set theirs out to thaw.

It will be a long time before someone creates something that will replace that "old time apron" that served grandma in so many wonderful ways.

Pennsylvania State Organization of The Questers Pennsylvania State Executive Board and International Officers for 2021-2022

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TBD

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PA Questers Web Site:

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.

SPRING CONFERENCE BASKETS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022 PRESIDENTIAL CATERERS



- Baskets should be worth \$50 or more and weigh less than 20 pounds. In lieu of a basket donation, please send a check for \$75 to PA State Treasurer.
- Please attach two 3x5 index cards stating the theme, your Chapter's name and number, and your President's name and address. (So you can get a thank you from the winner!)

