



# Pennsylvania Questers

*Birthplace of Questers  
and a Nation*

## Ps & Qs—The Pennsylvania Questers Newsletter

### President's Message

Welcome Friends! I hope this finds you warm and well and looking forward to a new year of Questers meetings and adventures! Although 2022 gave us a rough start with the arrival of Omicron, there are glimmers of hope as each week progresses. Please be assured that your Board continues to monitor guidance from the state and county, and planned accordingly with Presidential Caterers for today's Annual Spring Conference. We have great presenters lined up! We have our Opportunity Drawing, exciting raffle baskets, fun finds at the Treasure Table, and, as always, good food and fellowship! It's a day not to be missed!

Our International President, **Rosemary McPherson**, is in Philadelphia as our guest for this special event, so we hope you marked your calendars, masked up and are joining us for this spring celebration of our wonderful Organization!

On another exciting note, your Board has received some wonderful Grant requests from 18 of your fellow chapters which means that several local historic sites will be benefitting from their generosity, thereby helping to fulfill Our Questers Mission... "Great Questers Powering On!"

On behalf of your State Board, I wish you all good health and Happy Questing in 2022! I hope to see you soon.

Natalie



Natalie Macy

### Fall Council Meeting



Clarissa Harlowe Barton as portrayed by Patricia Trolilo

The Fall Council Meeting was held at the William Penn Inn on September 21 2021. Our featured speaker was Clara Barton (Clarissa Harlowe Barton) portrayed by Patricia Trolilo who has been interpreting history for 21 years.

Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield" was an American nurse who founded the American Red Cross in 1881 at the age of 59. Since nursing education was not then very formalized and she did not attend nursing school, she provided self-taught nursing care. She risked her life to bring supplies and support to soldiers in the field during the American Civil War.

Barton is noteworthy for doing humanitarian work and civil rights advocacy at a time before women had the right to vote. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973, and is remembered as one of the most honored women in American history.



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## Dates to Remember: 2022

### Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Full Board Meeting  
Giant Food Store  
Willow Grove, PA, 2nd Floor  
Coffee/Tea: 9:30 A.M.  
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

### Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Spring Conference Set-Up  
10:00 A.M.  
Presidential Caterers,  
Norriton, PA

### Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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

### May 12-15, 2022

Questers  
International Convention  
Pfister Hotel—Milwaukee, WI

### Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Full Board Meeting  
and Luncheon  
Franconia Heritage Restaurant  
Telford, PA  
9:30 A.M. Sign-in  
10:00 A.M. Meeting

## 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.



PA Quester Past State Presidents at the Fall Council Meeting pictured from left: Phyllis Durr, Jean Johnson, Ruth Keiser, Ken Keiser, Nancy Bergere, Joan LoCasale and Pamela Todd.

## PA Grants for 2022

### Submitted by Lois Bell, Grants Chair

Despite all the setbacks we have had with Covid-19, snow storms and even tornadoes, the PA Questers have presented the most amazing grants that will help restore and preserve our Historic Sites.

Eighteen Chapters will receive their PA Grant check at the Spring Conference on April 6. Each chapter will also present a matching check to their historic site. Projects must be completed in one year. PA Questers are anticipating supporting the projects in the amount of \$9,800. The projects are period-appropriate authentic reproductions to maintain the quality of historic sites. The projects vary from purchasing fabric for draperies and coverlets, items for hearth cooking, archival boxes to store historic quilts, restoration at an historic cemetery and railroad station, preservation via digitalization to computer use of 15 microfilms making this information easier to use for research, restoration of the 1884 County Line Schoolhouse, and enhancements to the exhibits at many Historic Sites.

The following sites are great field trips for PA Quester chapters—hope your chapter will visit some of them: Hatfield Museum, County Line Schoolhouse in Warrington, Fonthill Castle, Moland House, Hibernia Museum, Speakers House, Peter Wentz Farmstead, Historic Montgomery County Cemetery, Worcester Museum and Thomas R. Brendle Museum.

The chapters receiving grants are: Bayberry #457, Brown's Folly #1373, Dames of Rockville #900, Fonthill #254, Freedom Valley #395, Heritage #1, John Craig's Tavern #1390, Lingohocken #495, Lodwarrick #344, Marquis #1461, Mercer Mile #854, Moland House #1423, Neshamini Creekers #1460, Pilgrim #237, Rittenhouse #252, Round Meadow Run #126, Spring House #1399 and Ye Olde Almshouse #466.

Congratulations to the eighteen Chapters for their outstanding job!

## Have you seen the PA Questers Page on Facebook?

Using any search engine like Bing or Google,  
type in Facebook Pennsylvania Questers.  
That's it!

Find out what is happening. If you would like  
to contribute photos or notes  
to this Facebook page, please contact administrator,  
June Medal at [medaljune@gmail.com](mailto:medaljune@gmail.com)

## What's in a Name

### Pennsbury Questers #550

#### 50th Anniversary

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, built a beautiful manor house on the Delaware River in 1683 northeast of Philadelphia which he called "Pennsbury."

Pennsbury reflected the ideas of this great lawgiver. He loved the land and the soil and hired skilled gardeners from England and Scotland. In this large house that was full of servants, handsome furniture and good things for the dining table, he received many guests including native Americans. Unfortunately, after several happy years, financial difficulties forced the family to return to England in 1701, and the house fell into ruin.

Years later in 1939, this structure was rebuilt and under the administration of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is once again a beautiful manor home furnished in 17<sup>th</sup> century antiques, typical of those that Penn most likely owned. The grounds have numerous outbuildings that maintain it as a self-supporting plantation.

Activities are enjoyed the year 'round with special interest groups participating. We suggest that you visit Pennsbury Manor and take advantage of this pleasurable experience. We, the Pennsbury Questers, are proud that our charter members selected this name which is respected in our community.

### Willow Springs #549

#### 50th Anniversary

Many of the members of Willow Springs chapter live in the area of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. It was so named because the area "was watered with numerous small, unfailling streams." Willow trees also abounded in this area.

In 1784, a blacksmith from Germantown named George Rex bought 39 acres around the springs and developed a tavern and hotel called the Mineral Springs Inn. Here, there was a fine mineral spring and a spacious bath house which supplied mineral water for the accommodation of visitors. The hotel was in use until about 1940.

Industrialization and technological advances made mechanized rides and games possible. Willow Grove Park opened in 1896 with the slogan, "Life is a lark at Willow Grove Park." It remained one of the most popular amusement parks in the country until the 1950's when Disneyland and other theme parks began opening. John Philip Sousa and his band played at the park's music pavilion every year except one between 1901 and 1926.

We decided that it would be appropriate to incorporate the "willow" and the "springs" as the name of our chapter in 1972.

### 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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215 343 7484  
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**The deadline for the Fall Issue  
is July 1, 2022.**

### In Memoriam

**Caroline Rich Wilson**  
Lingohocken #495

**Judith Cole Comes**  
Round Meadow Run #126

**Sharon Lee Walsh**  
Featherbed Hill #501

**Mary P. Van Pelt**  
Fonthill #254

**Doris Felty Hallman**  
Gaudy Dutch #270

**Suzanne Vollmer**  
Quaker Bonnet #876

### Quester Banners Available For Photos

There are several banners available to promote the Questers Organization. They can be used for fund raiser events or photos at special historic sites that your group visits. They are available in various sizes. Help spread the word about the wonderful things accomplished by our Quester Chapters working on preservation and restoration of historic sites.

Lois Bell, PA Grant Chair  
Questions: 215 675 1940

**WHAT'S  
IN A  
NAME**

**Lydia Darragh #156  
60th Anniversary**

Lydia Darragh was a little-known Revolutionary War heroine. Born in 1729 in Dublin, Ireland, Lydia Barrington married family friend William Darragh in 1753. A few years later, the couple moved to America, settling in Philadelphia with its large Quaker community. The British General Harris, stationed nearby, placed his Adjutant General in their home as a lodger.

They were able to learn about British plans for a surprise attack on General George Washington and his Continental Army at Whitemarsh. Lydia was able to obtain a pass through the British lines for the excuse to get flour from a mill in Lower Frankford. Carrying a sack of

flour, she made a round trip of 32 miles on icy roads to get the information to General George Washington's forces.

The attack was repelled because the American forces met the British in a skirmish at Chestnut Hill, December 5, 1777. Preventing the British original attack gave the American forces the advantage.

Today, she is regarded as the first female American spy.



*Revolutionary War Patriot spy Lydia Darragh*

**Conestoga #63  
65th Anniversary**

Conestoga was the name of an Iroquoian Indian tribe in Pennsylvania, and the name of a village in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Conestoga Creek enters the Susquehanna from the east of Safe Harbor in Lancaster County.

The name Conestoga is derived from the Conestoga tribe's language which translates into "at the place of the immersed pole." Another meaning given by the Andastoeque tribe is "people of the cabin pole." This tribe was also known as Conestoga.

The Conestoga Valley of Lancaster County is known as the home of the Conestoga Wagon. These canvas-covered wooden wagons were the principal means of freight transportation from 1700 until 1850. The custom of driving on the right-hand side of the road originated with the Conestoga wagoner. Each horse was equipped with a set of bells. The expression, "I'll be there with bells on" is attributed to the Conestoga wagoner. It was customary for any wagoner who helped another in distress along a road to receive Conestoga bells from the wagoner he assisted as a reward. Thus, to arrive "with your bells on" meant a journey with no mishaps.

The Conestoga Wagon also gave its name to the stogie cigar. Drivers were called "stogies" as they used to carry the long, thin Pittsburgh manufactured cigars in their boots which became known as Conestogas. Later the name was shortened to stogies. Hence the expression "Pittsburgh Stogies."

**Nellie Bly #533  
50th Anniversary**

Nelly Bly, pen name for Elizabeth Cochrane, was born in 1864 in Cochrane's Mills, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, her father, Judge Michael Cochran, died when Elizabeth was only six years old. In 1885, Elizabeth wrote an angry letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch protesting an article that stated, "a women's place was in the home" signed, "little orphan girl". The editor was so impressed by her letter that she was hired as a columnist. Shortly after her first article was published, Elizabeth changed her name to "Nellie Bly" after a popular song.

She helped to support her family working for the Pittsburgh Dispatch and later for Joseph Pulitzer's New York World newspaper. She became known for her daring stunt reporting: patient for ten days in a New York asylum, factory worker and dealer in politics. Later reporting what she discovered. She challenged 80 Days Around the World, arriving back in 72 days in 1889. She recounted her adventures in her final book, *Around the World in 72 Days*.

At the age of 31, Elizabeth married manufacturer Robert Seamen. He died in 1904, and she took over his firm, the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company. She held the patent for the 55-gallon steel oil barrel in America.

In Europe during WW1 Nellie Bly became the first female correspondent. Her later years were spent in New York as an advocate for women and children. One colleague said it best, "the world was a better place because Nellie Bly had passed that way."



*American Journalist Nellie Bly*



**Pennsylvania Chapter Anniversaries  
Spring Conference April 6, 2022**

Chapter Name	Anniversary
Sunnyside #17	70
Conestoga #63	65
Lydia Darragh #156	60
Nellie Bly #533	50
Willow Springs #549	50
Pennsbury #550	50
Steeplechasers #840	45
Mercer Mile #854	45
Quaker Bonnet #876	45
Unami Creek #1010	40
Oak Lore #1023	40
Country Collectors #1024	40
Fairwold #1316	25
Pennypack #1386	20
John Craig's Tavern #1390	20
Springhouse #1399	20
Brittany Belles #1405	20
Neshaminy Creekers #1460	15
Marquis #1461	15

**Sunnyside #17**  
**70th Anniversary**  
**What's in a Name**

Sunnyside Academy was a private school located on the southeast corner of Butler Pike and Main Street in Ambler, PA. The Sunnyside School was established in 1869 by Elizabeth Knight (Ambler post-mistress from 1865-1870). It was originally located on the third floor of a general store and would eventually fill the entire building. Sarah, Cordelia, and Lavinia taught with their sister Elizabeth. Besides the three R's, the students were taught elocution, French, dancing, music and "manners."

In 1879, Elizabeth passed away, and the principalship was passed onto Sarah. Throughout her years as principal, 350 students were enrolled and 65 of them graduated. Sarah retired when the school closed its doors in 1904. A notable attendee was John H. Rex a representative from Montgomery County to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1903-1907.

Miss Sarah had a charming personality and highly intellectual mind. She enjoyed the companionship of good books and a large circle of friends in her later years. The greater number of whom recalled her as "Miss Sallie." The beloved school mistress is held as a treasured memory by silver-thatched residents.

**Conestoga Questers #63**  
**Visit to the Haas Family Mansion**  
**Submitted by Robin Koslo-Stahl**

On a glorious fall day, the Conestoga Questers returned to Stoneleigh for a much-anticipated tour of the Haas Family Mansion (closed during the pandemic when they toured the gardens in the prior year). Ethan Kauffman, Director of Stoneleigh, gave the group a VIP tour of this Tudor-revival gem and shared its history over the years. Originally acquired by Edmund Smith, executive of the PA Railroad, the initial structure was built in 1878 within a parcel of the Curwen Farm. Upon Smith's death, it was then acquired by Samuel Bodine, President of the United Gas Improvement Works, in 1899.

The former structure was torn down, footage expanded with plans by architects Everitt and Mead of Boston, and rebuilt to become an exquisite country home. Following Bodine's passing in the 1930's, Otto (co-founder of Rohm and Haas) and Phoebe Haas purchased the property, reducing the size of the structure through plans of architect, William Wayne. John Haas (son of Otto and Phoebe) and his wife, Chara, took ownership in 1964, raised five children, and later, in 1996, created a conservation easement with Natural Lands Trust. In 2013 Natural Lands Trust became the stewards of the property and the mansion became the home to the Organ Historical Society and its resident pipe organ.

As we toured and admired the fine millwork, expansive rooms, behind the scenes pipe organ in the basement, collection of player rolls, and an historical stained-glass window depicting the history of Stoneleigh, we marveled at the many passageways and doors leading to what seemed to be endless rooms.

We encourage other Quester chapters to see this lovely garden, which became public in 2018, and mansion in Villanova with a tour arranged by Natural Lands.



*Conestoga Questers gather at the entrance to Stoneleigh*

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Round Meadow Run #126

#### Langhorne Carpet Company

Submitted by Kathy Baker



President Bill Morrow, explaining the process of creating patterns for the loom to weave.

We had three navigators and one skillful driver headed to Langhorne Carpet Company in Penn del. Pulling into our destination we saw not one other Quester from Round Meadow Run. Clearly not our intended location. Further down the road we found our program chair directing traffic in the parking lot of a large brick building, telling each car that this may not be what you are expecting, but I promise you a great tour. It was indeed a large factory (not the showroom at our first stop.) Cavernous! And at times loud, with motors running and looms clanging. We were in awe, gazing up at what seemed like several stories at the giant looms weaving a multitude of colorful yarns.

Bill Morrow himself, president of Langhorne Carpet Company, greeted us to share the history of this family business and to show us the operation of the mill. Langhorne Carpet Company was established in 1930 with looms purchased from Henry Ford. The company's newsletter describes their business as "an artisanal mill that is among only a handful of authentic jacquard Wilton carpet weavers left in the world." Mr. Morrow described the narrow 27-inch carpet looms and showed us the 12-foot looms weaving carpets to be sold to high-end retailers and interior designers. These carpets decorate iconic and historical landmarks, homes and businesses around the world. Langhorne Carpet's national prominence can be attributed to their limitless designs, the quality of the wools they use to create running lines in stock, reproductions and custom weaves, and to their long-wearing "museum quality" carpets.

Bill's parting anecdote was the amazing tidbit about this company making the red carpet for the pope's visit to Philadelphia, and then subsequently donating it (worth thousands) to the church. We had watched mill workers loading the designs into the looms, the wool yarns working their way to create unique designs, and women painstakingly searching huge woven carpets with skillful fingers to detect and correct any imperfections. We had to tear ourselves away from the most interesting, informative education about our country's longest, continuously-operating Wilton carpet mill, to keep our lunch reservation at the historic Langhorne Hotel, a landmark with a story all its own. This day was another fabulous trip into our area's fascinating past industry, still alive today.

### Como #81

#### Mennonite Heritage Center

Submitted by Natalie Macy

Four members of Como #81 had a wonderful visit to the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville in January. We had a presentation on some of the beautiful handmade Mennonite family quilts in their collection. The presentation included photos of some of the quilt makers and recipients of lovely artifacts.

Afterwards, we toured this lovely museum and then enjoyed lunch at the historic Harleysville Hotel.



**Fonthill #254**

**The First 150 Days**

*Submitted by Pam Lahr*

Our Fonthill Questers started out strong with a full roster for the upcoming year with outings, speakers, and lunches set up by our program chairs, **Ginny Clemens** and **Karen Young**. In September, we visited the Biddle Mansion in Andalusia. It was very interesting with so many beautiful features. And then we enjoyed our BYO lunch and meeting on the porch overlooking the Delaware River. But soon things changed—Hurricane Ida had a different idea than what was planned for October—our outing to Philadelphia’s Boat House Row. We had a highly-informative discussion about being a Quaker, and the history of the Plumstead Meeting House, plus a discussion about the Bucks County outlaws, the infamous Doan Brothers. Our lunch and meeting were at the Plumsteadville Inn, circa 1751, which is always special.

And so, it goes. Our November Combined Luncheon, scheduled at the Doylestown Country Club, was cancelled due to Covid, but it did not keep this group down. Fonthill continued as planned at the Club and all our ladies did a short talk about their collections—so, so, interesting!

In December we travelled again to south Bucks County to visit the Bolton Mansion. It is a work in progress, and if any chapter is looking for a place to file for a grant, this place really could use the help. We enjoyed lunch at the historic Temperance House in Newtown which dates back to 1772. Our ladies were taken by the art on the wall by the famous artist Edward Hicks.

So now we’re looking forward to 2022 for so many reasons, but again our program was changed due to Covid. It is not going to get the best of us. There is always February!

**Featherbed Hill #501**

Featherbed Hill Questers visited Craven Hall Mansion and the John Fitch Steamboat Museum in Warminster PA.

Craven Hall is a mansion that sits on land that was deeded by William Penn in 1681. The home has a beautiful Georgian style of architecture with Greek Revival-style detailing. After a tour of the home, the group visited the John Fitch Museum located on the same grounds as the mansion. John Fitch invented the first Steamboat and the museum displays appropriate exhibits. During this outing, the Questers enjoyed both the beauty of early Architecture and the marvel of early inventions!



*Featherbed Hill Questers at Craven Hall Mansion*



*Fonthill Questers at the Biddle Mansion*

**Pilgrim #237**  
**The Origin and History of Wicker Furniture**  
*Submitted by Kip Malloy*

Though the term wicker comes from the Scandinavian term *vika*, meaning to bend, the use of pliable plant material in furniture can be documented as far back as ancient Egypt. Member **Elaine Curry** used a power point and examples of wicker furniture to explain the history and many uses of the material. Reeds, willow, bamboo, and rattan are some of the material used in the construction of wicker furniture, containers, mats, and other items that required a strong but light material. The material was woven on a wood frame to give it shape. The first wicker came to the new world on the Mayflower in 1620 as a baby's crib. Wicker became popular (and stylish) in the 1800's when machines were developed to make handling of the reed material easier and faster.

The Heywood-Wakefield company was the most prominent producer. Decorative qualities lent characteristics that help identify the Victorian furniture. Elaine used a family piece she had recently refinished to point out the Victorian characteristics that included a curved spiral design, spider web cane work and wooden bead trim. Many of us remembered baby strollers, and porch rockers of wicker in our families. What is sold today as wicker furniture is often a plastic resin on an aluminum frame.



**Lingohocken #495**  
**Cairnwood Estates**  
*Submitted by Sonja Marino*

Last October, Lingohocken Questers visited Cairnwood Estate in Bryn Athyn, PA; the vision of John and Gertrude Pitcairn. As cofounder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass, John Pitcairn's considerable fortune allowed him to build Cairnwood Estate in 1895.

The inspiration for the community of Bryn Athyn begins in 18<sup>th</sup> century Sweden. Emanuel Swedenborg, a renowned scientist and philosopher, published 25 volumes on a new approach to Christianity called, "the New Church". In 1874, John Pitcairn and three other members of the New Church in Philadelphia, began talking about moving their homes and schools out of the city to a healthier and more peaceful atmosphere in the countryside. It was motivated by a desire to create an environment where the New Church Christian principles could be carried out in a community of Church families and into their social life.

John Pitcairn remained in Cairnwood until his death in 1916. His eldest son Raymond Pitcairn and family lived in the Estate until 1939 when their new home, Glencairn, now a museum, was completed. Another residence, Cairncrest, was built by another son, Harold Pitcairn.

Following in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents, Gabriele Pitcairn Pendleton moved back into the Estate with her family. Upon the death of Raymond's wife, Mildred Glenn Pitcairn, in 1979, the Pitcairn family donated Cairnwood Estate and Glencairn to the Academy of the New Church. They are a National Historic Landmark.





**Pennypack #1386**  
**Boyertown Museum of Historical Vehicles**

*Submitted by Marge Eberz*

In September, Pennypack #1386 drove to Boyertown to have a guided tour of the Museum of Historical Vehicles. This museum is housed in the former home of the Boyertown Auto Body Works.

The museum's goal is to educate people about local road transportation. Almost all the cars, trucks, wagons and carriages were built in Pennsylvania. All the vehicles are kept shiny and polished by volunteers. The oldest vehicle is a sled from 1763.

Besides vehicles, a 1908 Pullman car, the Reading Diner, and a Sun Oil Gas Station are on display. There is also a collection of old oil cans. The huckster's wagon full of goods and the Freihofer's Bakery truck brought back many fond memories to our members.

Following the tour, the group enjoyed lunch at the Saville Diner before heading home. All agreed that this was a great trip.

**Spring House #1399**  
**Liberty Bell Electric Railway Route**  
*Submitted by Alicia Peale*

Spring House Questers kicked off their 2022 program year with "Ride the Liberty Bell Electric Railway Route from the Spring House Car Stop," presented by Quester member **Lew Hoy**.

The program handout included a map of the entire line from Allentown to Norristown and Philadelphia showing the spur to Spring House and Chestnut Hill. Along with the map were several photos of the Fort Side Inn, now MaGerk's Pub & Grill in Fort Washington, PA.

The slide program included photos of "interurban" trolleys and locations along the line with background information on the Lehigh Valley Transit Company. Lew included memories of his own experiences riding the line and learning its history.

We all remember our own lesson about the Liberty Bell being moved from Philadelphia to Allentown on the old Bethlehem Pike, hence the name "Liberty Bell Route."



*Lew Hoy, Spring House Program Presenter*



*Pennypack Questers in front of Husker's Wagon.*

## John Craig's Tavern #1390

Tyler Hall

Submitted by: Pat Vizza

On Tuesday, October 12, 2021, John Craig's Tavern Quester members toured Tyler Hall and its formal gardens in Newtown, Bucks County. It is presently located on the campus of Bucks County Community College. The site of the house was selected by the Tyler family for its historical significance (Indian Council Rock) and the heavily wooded area that lent to its seclusion. This beautiful 60-room mansion, built with stone from a nearby quarry and by Italian stone cutters brought from Europe, was modeled in the French-Norman architectural style. George F. Tyler, a banker and gentlemen farmer, along with his wife, Stella Elkins Tyler, granddaughter of William L. Elkins, for whom Elkins Park is named, authorized the design of the house in 1928. Actual construction began in 1930, while George Tyler continued to purchase farms surrounding the site of the mansion totaling 2,000 acres, becoming the largest landholder in Bucks County.

The mansion was completed in 1935 at the cost of \$1.3 million, comparable to \$30 million in our time today. Stella Elkins Tyler, having studied French culture, art, and music in France for two years, and then, traveling extensively in Europe and Egypt, brought her acquired knowledge and taste to the design of the mansion, its furnishings and its formal gardens. In 1933, she began the study of sculpture under Boris Blau and became an accomplished sculptor and painter. In 1935, she donated to Temple University a nine-acre estate in Elkins Park, which became the Stella Elkins Tyler School of Fine Arts with Mr. Blau as the Dean. In 1999, the restoration of the beautiful Tyler formal gardens began, bringing them back to their original design. It is maintained by a corps of volunteers dedicated to advancing the inherent beauty that Mrs. Tyler had once achieved.

These gardens with her beautiful sculptures, capture the artistic persona of Stella Elkins Tyler. In 1959, she had her art exhibited at the Woodmere Art Gallery Exhibition of Sculpture in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. She was an unusual and extraordinary woman of her time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our group was fortunate to have a knowledgeable tour guide in Lyle Rosenberger, who escorted us through Tyler Hall with its French scenic wallpaper and tapestries. The formal gardens, with their unusual pear trellises, foliage, sculptures, fountains, and artwork were a gem to behold.

We ended this lovely day with our meeting, lively conversation and a delicious lunch at Ristorante Denicola in Richboro.



John Craig's Tavern visit to Tyler Hall

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

**PRESIDENT**

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Como #81

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Heritage #1

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### State Committee Chairs 2021-2022

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Pilgrim #237

**OPPORTUNITY**

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**REGISTRATION**

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**TREASURE TABLE**

Karen Zegel  
Fonthill #254

**MEMBERSHIP**

TBD

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

June H. Medal  
Featherbed Hill #501

**TRIBUTE ENVELOPES**

Donna Conville  
Country Collectors #1024

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Kenton Keiser  
Pennypack #1386

## 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<sup>oo</sup>

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

### ***Springhouse Area***

Gail Cathey  
Pilgrim #237

### ***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.*



**A perfect item for The Questers Memorabilia Table at the Fall Council Meeting and in future Spring Conferences! What a nice remembrance from the past... I know I have more items telling about PA Questers' History... Let me search and loan them to Phyllis Durr at: 215-672-2716**