

The Carversvillian

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2009

Carversville Art Sale

Last year's art sale was such a social success that we have decided to do it again. This time we've increased the event to **two days: The Carversville Art Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th at Guthrie's Barn.** Museum-quality painters, sculptors and crafters from the greater Delaware Valley will come together to present you with a plethora of fine art that you can purchase and enjoy in the comfort of your own home. We are confident that you will find "that perfect piece of art" at this sale! Those of you who attended last year will remember fine pastels and oil paintings, wonderful ceramics and jewelry, superb sculptures and coveted, creative pieces of furniture. This year there will be even more!

Guthrie's Barn, an historic former dairy farm in the heart of the village is a splendid country setting for our Art Sale during the Harvest Season. We heartily thank Robert Guthrie for extending us the invitation to use it once again. Light seasonal refreshments will be served during this two-day event and, if we need it, we'll heat the barn this year. Then you'll have no excuse! You'll have to stay longer and buy more!

On Saturday, October 17th, **W. Carl Burger, Emeritus Professor of Fine Arts, Kean University**, will give a watercolor painting demonstration during the afternoon. This painting will then be auctioned off shortly after its creation. Perhaps you will have the good fortune to own this original watercolor at the end of the day!

For further information, or to obtain an application to show your work at the Carversville Art Sale, please contact the Event Chair, Joe Santoro, at the number listed below.

The full support of the community will be greatly appreciated. Cash, checks, MasterCard® or VISA® will be accepted.



Visit our website at www.carversville.com

From the President . . .

*As the summer winds down and the Films in the Field come to an end, we are now planning our next very exciting event, **The Art Sale**. This will be its second year since having been revived last year. There are certain events that everyone has come to expect on a yearly basis and others that we are trying out, putting in, or taking out of the schedule. It is not hard to come up with ideas of things to do. It is hard to find volunteers to follow through and put on the event. Some, like the art sale, were around years ago and are being revived now because the interest seems to be there. Others, like square dancing or the Road Rally have come, gone, come back, disappeared again and may yet be back another time – who knows? It all depends on the support and involvement of the community.*

There continue to be misperceptions about what The Historic Carversville Society really is. We are a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the village and the village's history. Our second mission, stated in our charter is to promote community spirit. To do that we sponsor events throughout the year either to raise money to support our historic and educational projects or just have fun as a community. We work on projects such as Property Research (documenting the architectural histories of Carversville's houses), Oral Histories (interviewing and recording those members of our community who have lived here for decades), putting up Historic Markers to delineate the perimeters of the historic district, and many other village-related projects – all designed to keep Carversville as special and unique as it can be for as long as we can.

*We are an entirely separate from the Historic Architectural Review Board, which is an advisory board for Solebury Township. We do **not** review house plans and tell you what you may or may not do to your home. That is a township regulatory function, something far beyond any power that The Historic Carversville Society has!*

As I walk down Aquetong Road in the village, I am aware of households that are not members of HCS or involved in our activities. There is nothing to lose by participating, and helping out, reaping the benefits of being part of such an unusual community. We have stopped sending the newsletters to those former members who haven't paid their dues for many years. So, it is up to us who are members, and are reading this newsletter, to recruit our neighbors to get involved. If you want extra newsletters to give to someone, ask one of us.

Our General Membership meeting will be November 16th this year at the Inn (6:30pm social; 7:30pm meeting). We would very much like to recruit people who have moved in or those who have just not been involved. Please pass the word and we look forward to seeing you at all the events coming up this fall and for the rest of the year.

Susan Hollander Whitman, Co-President

Historic Carversville Society

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View from the Square

A wet summer has come to its end in the square. The Secret Garden, to which I am honorary grass steward, has been sponge-like due to the repeated deluges. I have been doing my best to keep up with the cutting demand but the water has nourished the lawn beyond my landscaping capability. There's always next summer. Let's hope it will be a drier one.

I have been lucky to sit down for the first of several interviews with Byron Quinby of Wismer Road. Mr. Quinby, 86, is an original Carversvillian. He was born in a house on Aquetong Road, which has long since disappeared, and spent much of his working career operating farms in the Village. Two in particular, the Guthrie Farm on Aquetong Road and the Buckman Farm on Sawmill Road, were once working dairy operations.

In previous writings, I mused about the old Carver's Quarry located on Sawmill Road, home of rare Triassic fossils. I asked Mr. Quinby if he remembered the quarry and he said it was the site of area recreation. Back in those days, it served as a swimming spot, fishing hole and picnic grove. Mr. Quinby strung lights in the trees near the quarry and said that a volleyball net served locals on summer nights. Many a party was held there, secluded from the hustle-bustle of the big village. Today, the quarry sits idle, nestled quietly as it had been for a couple hundred million years before Carversville came to be.

School for Mr. Quinby was local, as he attended Carversville's school-house, now a private home, on Sawmill and Aquetong roads. High school was spent at Doylestown High School, located catty-corner to the present-day Bucks County Court House. Was he bused there? No. He car-pooled with Silvanus Kling, and several other locals, all of them chipping in for gas.

Mr. Quinby, who lives above the Paunacussing in one of Carversville's most interesting homes, has a plethora of stories about our village. I am in the process of videotaping our interviews and my goal is to play a synopsis of these talks for the annual meeting. In the meantime, my mind is racing with all the tidbits of his past that I want to share.

Paul Savage

Our Third Oral History

We are ecstatic to announce the near completion of our third oral history! Thanks to Paul Savage and his son Caleb we are now gathering the remembrances and thoughts of Byron Quinby, recorded for posterity. As many of you know, Mr. Quinby has lived in Carversville all of his life and he describes a village quite different from the one most of us are familiar with. We will add this oral history to those of Ned Harrington, Dick McGill and Eleanor Price. Rhonda Heffern completed Ned's, and Gary Granzow completed Dick and Eleanor's. Mr. McGill's consists of two separate parts: one reflecting on his life in Carversville and the other on his service during World War II. We plan to share these histories with you at the General Membership Meeting, where we'll have them playing on video. We are very thankful to both the interviewees and interviewers for giving of their time to preserve the history of our village from a personal perspective.

We continue to look for volunteers to complete additional oral history interviews with some of Carversville's other senior residents. Please contact a board member if you want to help.

Historic Carversville Society Scholarship

Each year, the Historic Carversville Society awards \$500 to a graduating senior from the New Hope-Solebury High School. This year we were able to add an additional \$150 to this amount, thanks to the generous donation from Lewis Baratz and Guy Glass. This award is presented to a student going on for further education, who has shown civic involvement, historic concern and/or has been involved in community volunteer work. Applications for the award are submitted through the New Hope-Solebury High School Guidance Department and are reviewed by the Historic Society each May.

The award this year was given to **Miles Greene**. Miles graduated in the top of the senior class. He was the president of the Student Council in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, and President of the Student Government during his senior year. His volunteerism involved events to raise money or awareness for organizations such as Amnesty International (tsunami victims), Alex's Lemonade Stand (cancer), Starbucks (newspaper recycling). He also participated in drives for canned goods for food banks and for items to send to our military forces, and helped with the New Directions Support Group for Bipolar Disorder. He represented New Hope-Solebury High School in various organizations: Student Forum, the District School Board, and New Hope-Solebury Cares (organization against drug abuse). In addition Miles was selected as a finalist in the Junior Rotarian Program. He was a tour guide/docent at the Parry Mansion Museum, which nicely brought together his interest in community volunteerism with his interest in local history. Miles has chosen to go to Boston University to major in pre-law or political science; with his exceptional background, enthusiasm and ability to engage others in his causes, I am sure he will meet with great success and will continue to be involved in various altruistic causes.

The HCS Scholarship is one of many projects that the Historic Carversville Society is proud to sponsor. You can directly support the scholarship fund at any time by giving a donation, indicating that it is to be used specifically for this scholarship.

My Old House, Revisited

(Amendment to The Crilley House, 3781 Aquetong Road in *The Carversvillian*, April 2009)

Once again, we are thrilled to know how closely our members read *The Carversvillian*. The following updates were sent to Sue Crilley by Robert Kling and Byron Quinby. We are grateful for their attentive reading.

As a young boy in the 1930s, Byron Quinby lived in the Paxon house (now occupied by Laura and Ron Viehweger) across the street from the Crilley house. Byron remembers two front doors on our house but they were positioned side-by-side in the center of the façade, not at the corners (as I stated last April). Several houses in the village still retain this feature (Whitman's' at 3784 Aquetong Rd, for example). The purpose of the two entrances is thought to have been for everyday use on one side and to receive visitors more formally into the parlor on the other side. Some of these double-entrance houses were divided to accommodate two families at a later date. At least one house was divided to accommodate a family and a small business: MacDonald's' at the corner of Wismer and Carversville Roads housed a family on the left side and on the ground floor right side was a millinery shop with hats displayed in the bay window. However, according to both Bob Kling and Byron Quinby, it is doubtful that Frank Preston's small house (that is, my house) was ever intended for two families as I also reported last April. Indeed, it would have been cramped.

In 1919 when George Benner sold the Carversville Hotel to Sylvanus Barron, the Benners retired to the Preston house, leasing it from Rachel Preston (Frank's daughter); they lived in one half, and they provided a home in the other half for their housekeeper-cook Jennie Sine, who may have run the millinery shop in town. The kitchen of the Preston house was located in the basement and was accessible from both sides of the house; the separate entrances undoubtedly gave a sense of proprietorship and privacy to both parties. Charles Sine, who was Rachel Preston's cousin, took title to the house in 1930.

In 1943, Charles Sine's widow, Elizabeth, sold the house to David and Irene Weddle, along with Frank Preston's tin shop next door.¹ In the late 1940s the Weddles added the two-story section on the driveway side of the house where they installed an entrance foyer and small kitchen on the first floor and a bathroom upstairs. The original porch was removed from the front of the house, and a small window replaced the double entrances at the foot of the interior central staircase.

¹ Until the late 1960s, Frank Preston's traveling peddler's toolbox, made of blue-gray-painted wood, was still in the basement of the barn, where I now store flower pots and garden tools. The toolbox was hoisted onto a horse-drawn flatbed wagon when Frank traveled about the countryside selling and repairing tinware. The wagon's "double-tree," a wooden cross piece that secured the horses to the wagon, and some examples of Preston's tin handiwork, are now in the Robert Kling Collection. The Robert Kling Collection is a private collection, has lots of *Carversvilliana*, and we hope will be the subject of a future article in this newsletter.

Sue Crilley

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, November 16, 2009 is the date for our yearly **General Membership Meeting**. As usual, it will be held at The Carversville Inn. It is a great time to catch up with neighbors and hear about the activities and events the HCS has been involved in during the past year. We are also planning to have some special guests to share their perspectives on life in the village. **Noel Barrett** has agreed to speak at the General Meeting; he will talk about the change in format for movies at Films in the Field. And he'll also talk about the Antiques Road Show. **Paul Savage** will talk to us about his fascinating interviews with Byron Quinby for the HCS Oral Histories Project.

We hope you will come to the meeting and get to know those of us who serve on the HCS board. We are always interested in your input and ideas. Of course, we hope that you will consider volunteering in some capacity. The Historic Carversville Society survives because of the dedication of community members who chose to give back to their community.

The meeting starts at 6:30pm with a social hour. Spend some time getting to know your neighbors while enjoying the delicious food generously provided by Chef Will and Denie Mathias and wine provided by the Historic Carversville Society. The General Meeting begins at 7:30pm. It's your society! So come to the meeting and tell us what you think!



Caroling in the Square

Unbelievable as it may seem, Christmas is just around the corner. It is a special time here in Carversville, and we take great pleasure in hosting our songfest, Caroling in the Square, on the Sunday before Christmas. This year that will be **December 20th**. Please come by and join your neighbors in song, welcome Santa to the Village, and enjoy a cup of warm cider. We will provide you with songbooks if you provide us with your voices. It's truly a memorable event for all the children of the village, be they aged 5, 65 or 85! It has been a long, event-filled year; bring it to a close with this family event. See you there.

Carversville Day 2009 – A Great Success!

We were blessed with another beautiful, sunny, warm day for our annual village fair *aka*: Carversville Day! The week started with 5 days of rain but Bryce Long came to our rescue by pumping all the standing water away from Fleecydale Road in front of the Pet Parade area and out of The Secret Garden and Meadow. When I asked him on Friday (the day before Carversville Day) if it was possible to get rid of all that standing water, he answered with: “Sure it is!” I knew he had a busy schedule but he squeezed in my request during his lunch break, but it eventually took up most of his afternoon. That’s what Carversville Day and the village is all about. What a guy!

I took a chance and moved things around for the village fair (*risky I know!*). I increased the number of food vendors and crafters and the result was well received. The 5k participants had a great run in the morning and Kevin McGinley got the mood off to a swinging start with his Jazz Quartet. We were excited and honored to have the Maasai entertain our children with storytelling and dancing from their homeland.

The Pet Parade had a terrific turnout with Noel Barrett and his able assistant Paul Savage officiating and handing out awards and blue ribbons to all. In my 18 years of enjoying this event, this was one of the longest parades ever. It seemed like every breed of dog known to man was represented, not to mention miniature ponies dressed in style. It was a truly a sight to behold.

This led right into an afternoon that was really smoking with David Stier’s Jazz Quartet along with many gourmet delights from the HCS grill to Hugh’s pulled pork, spicy shrimp to homemade crab cakes by Chef Will. The Live Arts Auction was a success thanks to the wonderful donations by many local artists and to Noel Barrett, who not only got everyone excited about the auction, but also corralled everyone to buy their raffle tickets up to the very last minute! All who participated walked away with smiling. I was pleased to see the participants in the “Carversville I Spy” show their enthusiasm again this year. It is wonderful to see families walking the neighborhood and filling out their answer sheets leading up to the day. A special thanks goes to Susan and Stanley Plotkin for sponsoring it this year.

The Cookie Contest was overflowing with wonderful sweet treats and included several new entrants. The children’s games had many a happy face with a hoola-hooping contest that couldn’t be beat. To top it all off the Watermelon Eating Contest had many enthusiastic participants vying for 1st place in each age category including a new category: Master’s Event. Congratulations to all the winners!

Thanks to all who volunteered and participated. Truly, it does take a village....

Kathy Stein, Carversville Day Chair

Films in the Field

What a wonderful thing this is! Real old-timey. Sitting on a blanket, or maybe even a high-tech lawn chair, sipping on a soda or something stronger, waiting for that sun to go on down, so the silver screen can light up! Carversville in the summer. Yeah.

This year we saw *Monsieur Hulot’s Holiday*, *Best In Show*, & *Unfaithfully Yours*, all chosen by our resident cinematic guru, Noel Barrett. They were well attended and, from what I understand, well critiqued! We want to thank Rhonda Heffern for overseeing Films in the Field, and we especially want to thank those intrepid volunteers who took it upon themselves to host the individual movies. Howard Barsky, Susan Whitman, and Rhonda (plus daughters Alex, Juliana, and Lizzie) cooked for you in June. Phyllis and Ken Haldeman sated your salivary glands in July, and Marnie and Tom Deitterich & Company closed out our season hosting August’s showing in the chilly air. Thanks Marnie for the delicious popcorn and warm beverages! Also new to the menu this year was the addition of Veggie Burgers. Now those looking for a non-meat alternative at the grill do not have to BYOB (Bring Your Own Burger)!

Next year we plan to extend our horizons in terms of what films are shown. Noel is going to discuss this at the General Membership Meeting on November 16th. Be sure to attend. Find out the latest news on how we’re going to improve this already fabulous experience – and be sure to put your two cents in too! Also, if you are interested in working the grill at one of next season’s shows, please see Rhonda Heffern or another Board Member.



It’s Pumpkin Carving Time!

EEWWWW! It’s time to get your hands all gooey ripping out the insides of a nice fat pumpkin! I know that doesn’t sound so nice, but just think about the magnificent, incredibly scary, perfectly crafted, carved pumpkin you are going to create once that plump orange gourd has given up its innards! Join us in the Meadow beyond the Inn for a couple of hours of CARVERsville Pumpkin Carving on Sunday, October 25th.

We’ll help you get it done. We will even provide the pumpkins – thanks to the generosity of *Nick Zelenovich and the HCS*. *Kathy Stein* and *Susan Plotkin* will be in attendance to help you gouge those gourds. Of course you can take your creation home, it would be pretty cool for our villagers to carve some truly awesome examples of Halloween art to decorate the Square as well. YOU could have your pumpkin placed in front of the Inn or the General Store or the Miller’s Store!

Carversville Pumpkin Patch: Sunday, October 25th,
2 to 5 p.m. Cider and doughnuts will be served.

The Carversvillian

The Historic Carversville Society

P. O. Box 41

Carversville, PA 18913

Carversville Pumpkin Carving Sunday, October 25th



(see article on page 5)

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17/18	Art Show
October 25	Pumpkin Carving
November 16	General Membership Meeting at The Carversville Inn
December 20	Caroling in the Square
