



Built 1807
HELFRICH SPRINGS GRIST MILL
 Peter Grim built this substantial stone structure in 1807. A waterwheel powered by spring water turned massive burrstones used to process grain into flour and feed grown on local farms. Grim resided in the brick home at the northwest corner of Mickley Road. Reuben Helfrich purchased the mill in 1872 since then named Helfrich Springs Grist Mill. Milling ceased about 1930.



Whitehall Historical Preservation Society Newsletter

COMING EVENTS

March 27, 2024 – The Life of a Caboose – Gary Weaver--7:00 PM



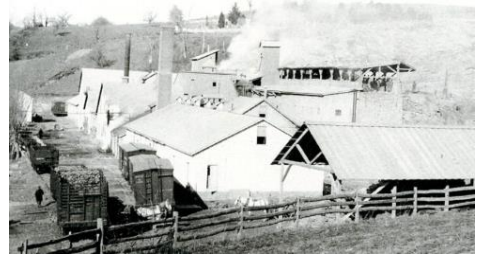
Gary Weaver, a lifelong resident of Whitehall Township, and member of WHPS, will share with us his first-hand experience of the acquisition and restoration of the caboose located at the IRT trailhead on the corner of N. Ruch and Chestnut Street in Stiles. Discover how this relic was transported to its present location and the efforts that were taken to refurbish it to its current condition.

April 20, 2024 – Giant in the Parkway – 10 AM – Walking Tour w/Karen Gensey

We will walk through time following the paths amongst the ruins of the Giant Portland Cement Company from its early beginnings known as Egypt Mills through its demise. The foundations tell the story of the progress of this great company that supplied construction cement for major projects that impacted the growth of American cities.

Amongst the ruins included in the tour are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Egypt's first firehouse | Giant Mill #1 & #2 |
| The company's baghouse | The company's laboratory |
| Pennsylvania Mill | The Central Mill |
| Columbia Mill | The company's quarry |



This tour is offered **FREE** to WHPS MEMBERS. For all others, we request a \$5.00 donation. The walk will take approximately 1.5 hours. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Reservations are a MUST. Limited group. Please call 610 776-7280 and leave your name and phone number. Further details and instructions will be provided when we return your call. A rain date is scheduled for April 27.

April 21, 2024 – How to Make your Garden Grow – 11 AM

Adjacent to the Peter Grim House (506 Mickley Rd., Whitehall) is a lovely and unique floral garden. This landscaping gem is the handiwork of Rob Williams, friend of WHPS. His dream has been to create a place of beauty and solace for everyone to enjoy. He has been working on this masterpiece over the past 12 years. Many of the trees, shrubs and plants have been propagated using stem cuttings.



Would you like to learn how to reproduce your favorite garden greens? Join us on April 21, at the Peter Grim House, at 11 am to do some horticultural breeding. All tools and supplies will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. Registration recommended by calling 610 776-7280, leave your name and phone number. Please dress for the weather.

April 24, 2024— Abraham Lincoln visits Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address — Michael Jesberger--7:00 PM

8 score and 1 year ago, at the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg Pennsylvania, President Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech which was to become the most-memorable dialogue in American History. Mr. Jesberger will discuss the personal side of President Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address. Learn of the many trials and tribulations the President was enduring with his family at this time. How the war was taking a toll on him. And discover how the Gettysburg Address affected Abraham's spiritual life and the American Civil War. A copy of the Gettysburg Address will be handed out to all those that attend.



May 18, 2024— Spring Flea Market— 8 AM to 1 PM

Come on out to our annual Spring Flea Market event. We average over 30 vendors for you to find your treasures for a great bargain. If you prefer to sell, rather than shop, spaces are available. To reserve your **12' x 20'** space for only **\$15** call 610 776-7280. If you become a **member** of the *Whitehall Historical Preservation Society* your reserved space is only **\$10**. If you choose not to reserve your space in advance and pay on the day of the flea market event, the fee is \$20. Location of the flea market is at **506 Mickley and Lehnert Road, Whitehall, PA 18052**, behind the Peter Grim House. If "flea markets" aren't your thing, stop in for lunch, refreshments will be available, including an array of homemade baked goods. **Tell a friend.** A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, May 19. We hope to see you there.



Homemade baked goods are needed to sell at our Spring Flea Market. We would appreciate your participation to help make this fundraiser a success. Items can be dropped off Friday between 11 am and 2 pm or Saturday after 7 am.

May 29, 2024— Tis well...the Life and Death of George Washington — Jeffery Finegan— 7:00 PM

Mr. Finegan, who is a collector of Washington's manuscripts and has written several books on our esteemed founding father, provides a fresh view into the life and legacy of Cornel George Washington. From his early development to the final 2 days of his life and funeral arrangements. Jeffery will also share stories of Washington's family history. Join us to gain new insights on this astute man.



June 26, 2024—Allentown State Hospital—Steven Royer—7:00 PM

To relieve the overcrowding of the state mental healthcare system, the Allentown State Hospital (ASH) was established. It opened its doors to receive patients in October of 1912 under the guidance of superintendent, Dr. Henry L. Klopp. Learn of the methods used to care for the patients and how they improved over time. Discover the many “firsts” introduced at ASH, one among those being the PERT process, created by a dedicated group of employees, which provided a safer method used when helping a patient in crisis.



July is Passport to History Month—Explore-Discover-Share

The Whitehall Historical Preservation Society is pleased to announce its participation in the 2024 Passport to History. Historical societies throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties and beyond, will be open during the month on various weekends and at various times. Log onto <https://LVHistory.org> for a schedule and map and get ready to explore, discover and share. Best of all—it is FREE of charge.



WHPS will be open:

July 13th and 20th--10 AM to 2 PM and **July 27th**—10 AM to 4 PM. The 153rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment will be on site July 27, performing drills, displaying camp life, telling stories and answering your questions about the Civil War. A variety of activities await you.

September 7, 2024—Fall Flea Market—8 AM to 1 PM

If you can't make our Spring Flea Market, join us in the fall. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Or check out our website www.whitehallhistoricalsociety.org for any updates.

Open House/Mill/Museum/Garden Schedule

1 PM to 3 PM---March 17, April 21, May 19, June 23, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

10 AM to 2 PM—July 13, 20

10 AM to 4 PM---July 27

Adjacent to the Grim House is a self-guided walk-through tour of our garden open throughout the year from dawn until dusk. The daffodils and forsythia bushes will be giving us pleasure in the spring; and be sure to check out the summer blossoms which is sure to be a delight. We also continue to be open for our speaker programs, July Passport to History and of course by appointment.

MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to all those that have renewed their 2024 membership with us. Your support is important to the success of this organization. I would like to welcome 3 new members to the Society—John Wheeler, Ronald Mordosky, and Dennis Haydt. If anyone is interested in becoming an active member to help with the planning and preparing of our activities and events contact Stephanie Tashner or Alice Lieberman at 610 776-7280. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.

If you have not had the opportunity to renewed your membership (as indicated on the address face of this newsletter) please consider mailing your check in today. If you misplaced your application, one can be downloaded from our website (Support/Membership), otherwise your name(s), address, telephone number, email information and membership level on a piece of paper will suffice. If you requested a membership card but did not receive one, please give a call 610 776-7280 or email whps@verizon.net to let us know.

Business Support—We are proud to have the following resources support our Society. Please patronize these local businesses that are members of the Whitehall Historical Preservation Society:

Jay Gilbert and Family of the Gilbert Funeral Home
Shari Noctor of RE/MAX Reality
Gilboy Ford

Overhead Doors
Spectrum Homes
Dun Rite Electrical Services

THIS AND THAT

President's Message

I hope that you and your families are doing well. I am looking forward to warmer weather and longer days. It is my anticipation that you will be able to join us for our speaker presentations and the many other programs and events we have planned throughout the year. Please share this information with your family and friends so they too can enjoy the festivities. Perhaps they may even consider becoming a WHPS member.

Eagle Scout, Daniel Holub, has completed his project for the Whitehall Historical Preservation Society. It is in the “review” process by the Eagle Scout Board. Once that is finalized, we will commemorate this accomplishment with a Court of Honor Ceremony at the Helfrich Springs Grist Mill. Detailed information to follow.

Welcome New Board Members

I am happy to announce 3 new members to the Board of the Whitehall Historical Preservation Society. **Justin Poccia**—a life-long resident of Whitehall Township, working for a financial firm in the Allentown area, was looking to help serve his community through volunteering. **Mike Harakal**—A familiar name to us all. Soon after his retirement from the Mayorship, there was no hesitation when asked if he would like to join our group as a Board member. Mike and his wife Judy were two of the original founders of WHPS

and continued to be long time supporters. **Howard Lieberman**—Semi-retired from his consulting business, he is knowledgeable with grant writing and will be a great asset to the Society. His wife Alice, is our secretary. More detailed information about our new and current Board members will soon be updated on our website.

There are 2 remaining seats available on our Board if you had the inclination to become a more active member of the Society. Your time and talents are needed.

Two of our long time board members, **Louise Bolger** and **Sandra Todd** have decided to step down and make room for, as they say...."new blood". We wish to thank them both for their long-time dedication and support to the Society.

Community Event—Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Community Center

Whitehall Township is hosting an open house on March 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Whitehall High School auditorium, 3800 Mechanicsville Rd., Whitehall. The Township is in the process of developing a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which will look at existing conditions of the Township's facilities, public input, as well as local and regional recreation trends to help provide a plan for the next 10 years.



The Rec Center Feasibility Study will look at the potential of adding a community recreation center to the Township. Your thoughts and ideas will help drive the recommendations and strategies of the plan. I hope that you will join me to hear more about this endeavor. Please tell your neighbors.

I Grew up in Egypt, PA.....

Last year I had spoken to a gentleman by the name of Dr. Thomas Walter. He informed me that he is planning (along with his sister, Suzann Callinan) a reunion of sorts for anyone that "grew up in Egypt PA". The date is scheduled for September 28, 2024 to be held at Egypt Memorial Park from 12 noon to 6 pm. Dr. Walter had contacted the Historical Society looking for someone to provide a 30-minute lecture about the "History of Egypt" for this occasion. A Facebook page has been created by Ms. Callinan..... "I grew up in Egypt PA" to spark interest for the event and to share memories and photos for all to enjoy.



When I hear more information about the September 28th festivities I will be sure to pass it along to you.

Donations

The following donations were made to the Whitehall Historical Preservation Society:



An 1880 dome top steamer trunk, donated by a WHPS member, Nancy Scheirer.

A 1915 Cradle Roll Certificate of John B Freeman and 1930 Whitehall High School Diploma also of John B. Freeman donated by the Emmaus Historical Society.

Whitehall Historical Preservation Society

P. O. Box 39

Whitehall, Pa. 18052-0039

Visit us at whitehallhistoricalsociety.org

2024 WHPS Events Calendar

- March 27**—Life of a Caboose—Gary Weaver—7 PM
- April 20**—Giant in the Parkway/Walking Tour—Karen Gensey--10 AM
- April 21**—How to Make Your Garden Grow—Rob Williams--11AM
- April 24**-- Lincoln—Gettysburg Address Michael Jesberger—7 PM
- May 18**—Spring Flea Market—8 AM to 1 PM
- May 29**—Tis Well...the Life and Death of George Washington—Jeffery Finegan—7 PM
- July 13, 20, 27***—Passport to History-Open House and Mill--10 AM to 2 PM/4PM*
- September 7**—Fall Flea Market—8 AM to 1 PM
- October 4**—CASH BINGO—6:30 PM

Board of Directors

Stephanie Tashner—President,
Newsletter editor

Joseph Wilfinger--Vice President

Alice Lieberman—Secretary

Allen Handwerk—Treasurer

Ethel Gery—Event Support

Sharon Solderitch--Fundraising

Pat Matthews—Event Support

Terri Monroe--Membership

Mike Harakal

Howard Lieberman

Justin Poccia—Website/Marketing

Support Personnel

Karen Gensey—Historian

Bobby Miller—Caretaker