



D & H CANAL PROGRAM WELL RECEIVED

February's program about the history of the Delaware & Hudson Canal, presented by Nick Spinelli, was very interesting and generated many questions from those attending. Mr. Spinelli had researched the history of the canal when he worked for the National Park Service.

The photographs shown brought to light the difficulties faced by the construction of such a large undertaking as well as the conflict between the canal workers and the river timber rafters.



NICK SPINELLI, FEBRUARY'S PRESENTER

Those folks interested in seeing the canal, the tow-path, and the Roebling aquaduct in Lackawaxen should be sure to sign up for the History Bus Trip later in April. See details in this newsletter.

MARCH MEETING NEWS

"*HEMLOCK FARMS*" will be featured at the April meeting on Wednesday, April 20th at 1:00 pm.. Peter Talman, a resident of Hemlock Farms, will make the presentation. Mr Talman is serving on a committee that is looking into the history of the development of the complex.

A brief business meeting will follow the program, concluding with a social hour of refreshments and fellowship.

The public is cordially invited.

SPRING DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL'S MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1:00 PM

LOCAL HISTORY BUS TOUR: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

MAY'S MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1:00 PM

SPRING BUFFET AT SETTLERS' INN AND GUEST SPEAKER

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 27TH \$30 PER PERSON

CASH BAR 6:00 PM; BUFFET 7:00 PM, PROGRAM 7:45 PM

PYSANKY *No doubt most of us are familiar with the beautifully decorated eggs that appear around Easter that are known as pysanky. Here's some things you might not know, thanks to Wikipedia.*

.....Pysanky or Ukrainian Easter eggs are created by using a wax-resist (batik) method and the term applies only to those using traditional Ukrainian design. Many other Eastern European groups use the same methods. Raw eggs are used. Early



Ukrainians worshipped a sun-god, considered the source of all life, and the only creatures who could approach the sun-god were birds and it was natural that the eggs of these birds took on special significance. With the advent of Christianity, eggs became a symbol of the rebirth of man. There are several Easter legends that involve colored eggs..

Many superstitions were attached to pysanky. They were thought to protect households from catastrophe; they possessed magical qualities and there were strict rules about disposing of pysanky to avoid them getting into the hands of witches. Young girls would offer pysanky to a special young man, but they were careful to decorate both the top and bottom of the eggs to avoid the young man going bald. Only fertile eggs were used, preferably from a young hen, to avoid infertility.

Pysanky were made to be given to the family and respected outsiders. Each of the designs has a deep symbolic meaning. Each household created about sixty eggs; they were taken to church at Easter to be blessed and then given away to family and friends.

A bowl of eggs was always displayed in the family room to protect the family and home.

Wikipedia has much, much more to say about the traditions, the colors, the designs that were used. Visit the web if you wish to learn more.



LOCAL HISTORY BUS TRIP



LED BY TOM KENNEDY, local historian
in cooperation with WASD
Wednesday, April 27, 2011
departure 8:30 am
from WASD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
return 2:30 to INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL

LOCAL HISTORIC SITES ON TOUR : COST PER PERSON:
\$10.00

One-room Hemlock Hollow School,
DORFLINGER Museum
Gravity car in Hawley
PPL power plant complex
D & H towpath to Lackawaxen

gasoline for School District
remainder to benefit WHS

BAG LUNCH OR LUNCH IN HAWLEY
INFORMATION: TOM KENNEDY 226-

2011 ANNUAL SPRING BUFFET AT SETTLERS' INN

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 27TH COST: \$30.00/ PERSON

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY MAY 16TH

CHECKS PAYABLE TO "WHS"

ALL RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO NANCY
GUMBLE, PO BOX 303 TAFTON, PA 18464.

PROGRAM: HISTORY OF THE SETTLERS' INN AND FUTURE PROJECTS,
HOST: GRANT GENZLINGER

RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO NANCY GUMBLE, PO BOX 303, TAFTON, PA 18464

SPRING BUFFET RESERVATIONS MAY 27, 2011

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____ PAYMENT INCLUDED \$ _____

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE IN TO NANCY BY MAY 16TH TELEPHONE 570 226 6596

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE WILLIAMS HOUSE

The Williams House will once again be open on weekends this summer. If you would be interested in helping the Collections Committee by hosting one or more afternoons, call **Ann Wiedeman, Chair, 226-4453** to get more information. It's a fun time and you will learn a great deal about the collections as well

PURDYTOWN CEMETERY

With the onset of Spring (????), the Purdytown Cemetery Committee will once again continue the plans to restore the grounds. If you are interested in learning more and perhaps helping, contact **Jon Tandy, Chair**.



LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR THE WILLIAMS HOUSE

The Directors are planning to study the plans for the Williams House, examining the goals set forth in 2004 and projecting future improvements. This meeting is set for May when all Directors can be present. No actual date has been set. The Directors' meeting are open to the membership and the date will be announced.

2011 EARTH DAY APRIL 16

The PPL Environmental Learning Center is hosting the Annual Earth Day activities on Saturday, April 16th. Many Environmental groups are represented on this day; WHS, as a partner, also participates. The schedule, organized by Meg Welker of PPL, is filled with a variety of activities to interest everyone.

WHS will have a table and materials explaining our mission. We could use some help from volunteers who would meet and group those attending. If you would like to help, **call Audrey 226-3663**.

It is a wonderful day for children and grandchildren so come celebrate the Earth