

Well, another year has passed for the Aston Township Historical Society. Here is a summary of what has taken place during 2009. In February, the society started the adventure of working on a website with Aaron Neal, who has done work for Marple's historical society. Cody Lee of St. Joe's Troop 225 wants to do something at the one room school as his Eagle Scout project. Carol Fireng spoke about the history of Chester County at the general meeting. In March, Pat Smith and Paul Dougherty did a Power Point presentation for the Aston Lions Club. Pat Smith, Ruth Ross, and Karen Micka attended the Heritage Commission seminar about house museums. During May, Sheila Withelder and Pat Smith did a program at Pennell Elementary School for the schoolchildren. They brought some photos and artifacts, and the kids enjoyed it. One young boy knew a great deal and spoke in front of the class. The program for the general meeting was an informal "I Remember When" with audience participation. On June 7th, the society held an Open House at the Village Green one room school, and it was very well attended. Society member, Gary Ross, provided the music on his guitar and banjo.

July 12th was the second Open House at the one room school. Society member, Gary Ross, provided the music again. The society also acquired an old fashioned water pump for the one room school from Aston Township resident, Paul Titter. Nancy Webster presented a fascinating program in September. She spoke about the Brandywine Battlefield in honor of the battle that took place 9/11/1777. She also informed about the state's closure of it due to budget cuts, but it was to reopen with volunteers. However, there was to be nobody to do the maintenance on the buildings. The society is collaborating with other groups on a Civil War Program of events to be held 2011-2115. Karen Micka attended a feasibility study held during the September meeting of the Heritage Commission. The final Open House of the summer was held at the one room school with very few visitors. In early October, the historical room was open during the Aston Business Expo and Community Day event. 4 members of the township won the society's raffle of gift cards to Giant Supermarket. The scheduled one room school Open House that was set for October was cancelled due to bad weather.

Several items from the historical room were on display at the Aston Public Library. The November general meeting program was Alan Higgins from the Delaware County Planning Department. He talked about the importance of preserving older homes. The Village Green School was open one more time in 2009 for a Holiday Tea. This was an early Christmas event, and the weather was beautiful! There were a few visitors with society member, Gary Ross, providing the music.

At the end of December, Aston's Board of Commissioners voted to apply for a grant for some much needed improvements at the one room school. It will not be known until sometime in 2010 if the grant application will be approved.

It is now time to send in your membership dues for 2010. The dues are \$10 for single membership, \$20 for family membership, and \$50 for business or organization.

Please make checks payable to: **ASTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

They are to be mailed to: **RUTH M. ROSS** at:

**5 RED HILL ROAD
ASTON, PA 19014-1119**

Dues may also be brought down to the historical room at the Aston Community Center on Monday evenings between 6:30 pm and 8:30pm.

The next general meeting of the Aston Township Historical Society will be held:

THURSDAY 2/11 at 7 pm at the Aston Municipal Building (next to TD Bank). The scheduled program is to be an update about “Duffy’s Cut.” Dr. William Watson spoke to the society several years ago about the archaeological research being done concerning 57 Irish Immigrants who died of cholera in 1832 while helping to build the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad. This program will update on the findings since the last time he spoke to the society.

Ruth M. Ross

Secretary