

The Carversvillian

FALL 2019



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From the President

With fall, come colorful leaves and improvements and changes to Carversville. Two stone houses in the village on Aquetong Road that have been vacant and falling apart for so long, have come to life. There has been a lot of work on both and it won't be long before they are lived in again. From my window I have watched them change and am very excited at how beautiful they are beginning to look again.

The Carversville Kitchen has been busy making improvements and changes to their offerings. There have been so many activities, special meals, and creative programs that it has been a pleasure to watch. Joana, the Manager, has been wonderful in wanting to work with Carversvillians and HCS to make the store a vibrant part of the community.

These changes and improvement are good for our village and it remains the special place that it has always been.

Join us for the General Membership Meeting on November 18th

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Historic Carversville Society is Monday, November 18th at the Carversville Inn. Once again, Will and Denie Mathias will be our gracious hosts. The doors open at 6:30 pm for social hour with the meeting starting at 7:30pm. Enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors, meet new residents of the Village and get an update on the activities of your Society. It is also time to renew your membership per household. During the social hour, enjoy a glass of wine compliments of HCS as well as delicious appetizers from the Inn.

If you have never been before, we welcome your participation so that you can meet us and learn more about our HCS activities.

carversville.org

HCS Scholarship 2019 by Susan Hollander Whitman

Each year, the Historic Society presents at least one scholarship to a graduating senior from the New Hope-Solebury High School. Last spring we were happy to award the scholarship to 2 students, **Topher Taylor** and **Katherine Mardirossian**. This award is presented to a student or students going on for further education, who have shown civic involvement, historic concern and/or have been involved in community volunteer work. Each of them has shown the spirit of volunteerism and community involvement we are looking for.

Topher has been an enthusiastic and hard working Volunteer Junior Lieutenant Firefighter. His pride in saving someone and all he has learned while doing this work is obvious. Being awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community award along with a President's Volunteer Service award showed us it is obvious to others as well that he is a hard worker. He is well rounded as seen in sports activities including Football and Basketball and in the continuity shown in working at Village 2 for 3 years. He is currently a freshman attending Ohio University.

Katherine's ability to work hard and give back to the community despite enduring family struggles is admirable. Her impressive EMT training and volunteering with the New Hope- Lambertville Ambulance and Rescue Squad stands out. As a Junior Rotarian she showed enthusiasm and continuity, staying with her activities longer than required. Representing her class in student government showed her connection to the school, her classmates and the community. She is clearly well rounded with Soccer, Lacrosse and Track and Field along with theatre and music. She is motivated and hardworking and currently attending Penn State to become a nurse.

It is for these reasons that we are proud to be able to provide this scholarship to HS Seniors each year. You can directly support this at any time by giving a donation to be used specifically for this scholarship.

Films in the Field Recap by Marc Stiefel

One of the best-loved local summer traditions, Films in the Field, had another successful run in 2019. All 3 movies went off without so much as a cloud in the sky. We are pleased to share that all movies were very well attended, and so it seems that the next generation of Films in the Field is off and running. In July, viewers gathered under the moon and stars to watch the enthralling documentary Apollo 11 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. It was exciting for many to relive their memories of the moon landing, while some younger attendees got to experience it for the first time. The largest crowd of the summer came down in August to watch Finding Nemo, shown in memory of our friend and neighbor, Chris Stulpin. Finding Nemo was one of Chris' favorite movies and it isn't hard to see why. The themes of love and devotion meant a lot to Chris, and the Historic Carversville Society is grateful that we were able to show the movie to honor him and his family. Thanks to everyone who attended.

The August movie night was made even more special thanks to a special appearance by **Jules Pizza Truck**. For 2 hours the Pizza Truck was parked out in the Square serving up dinner to hungry moviegoers. Perhaps even better, ice cream pops for dessert were donated by **O Wow Cow** and given out to those with a sweet tooth, both young and old. Thank you to Scott from Jules Pizza and Maria from O Wow Cow for their support.

A huge thank you must also go out to Joana at **The Carversville Kitchen**, as well as her staff, for all of their help and support this summer. In June and July, The Kitchen was open for dinner and snacks prior to the movies. In August, Joana kept the store open herself to make sure people could access the bathroom and by a drink or snack if they needed. Her support was very generous, and we look forward to partnering with The Carversville Kitchen for Films in the Field again in the future.

To close, I must share with you a story from the final film this summer. As I got down to the Village early to set up the film equipment, a woman who I had never seen before took out a chair and sat down in the lot, 2 hours prior to the start of the movie. She was the only other person there for quite awhile, so I started talking to this very enthusiastic moviegoer. It turns out she had come up all the way from Philadelphia, a one hour drive, just to see Finding Nemo. What would motivate her to make such a trip, just to watch a movie that has been out for 16 years and can be watched on iTunes or Amazon for \$3.99? It turns out this woman had spent her summers near Carversville when she was younger and had amazing memories of Films in the Field from her childhood. She had been driving around the area the previous week when she pulled up to The Carversville Kitchen and saw the sign outside advertising the film that coming Monday. Her memories came flooding back, and she was so excited to see that the tradition has continued. She felt she just had to be there on that Monday night in August to relive a piece of her childhood. I can't wait to see whom I get to meet next summer, and I hope to see you all there!

It's time for the annual Pumpkin Carving in Carversville! Sunday, October 27th from 2-4 pm

In the meadow beyond the Carversville Inn

The beautiful fall weather is upon us. With that, there are many fun family activities throughout Bucks County. Our annual Pumpkin Carving has been a very popular activity and is growing each year. This is a great community event for Carversville and is fun for all ages. We provide the pumpkins, carving tools, markers, paints and tealight candles. This year, **The Carversville Kitchen** will be generously donating the fresh cider and donuts. Make sure that you wear clothing that can get messy!

In the event of inclement weather, the pumpkin carving will be set up in the loft above the Carversville Kitchen. We hope to see you there!



CAROLING IN THE SQUARE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

ONE OF THE LONGSTANDING CARVERSVILLE TRADITIONS WILL BE REKINDLED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND IN FRONT OF DR. HOWARD BARSHY'S OFFICE IN THE SQUARE.

WE'LL GATHER AT 6:00 PM, WARMED BY A CRACKLING BONFIRE, APPLE CIDER, AND THE COMPANY OF OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, TO GIVE NEW LIFE TO ALL OF THE OLD HOLIDAY FAVORITES, FROM RUDOLPH TO SILENT NIGHT, TO THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.

SANTA IS AGAIN EXPECTED WITH HIS FULL ARRAY OF CANDY CANES, THOUGH HOW HE'LL MAKE HIS APPEARANCE IS ALWAYS A MYSTERY.



My Old House by Leann Broad

This charming little village house at 3792 Aquetong Road (formerly called Carversville Road), appears to have been constructed in two sections. The first section c. 1859 which is the southern most section that faces Aquetong Road. In 1910 an additional room was added to the back on the east side, along with an addition of a porch attached to the new addition. Overall, the architecture style is a vernacular version of late Federal period architecture with early Victorian period features.

The history of this property, house and its various owners, originates as the estate of Thomas Carver, a prominent land owner in the village of Carversville, who would also become Carversville's first post master. At his death he owned 5 lots of about 8 acres total. After Carver died, William R. Evans, also a prominent citizen of Carversville, purchased the 8 acres from the Carver estate in 1854 for \$1,239.00.

In 1857, Evans subdivided about 51 perches from his 8 acre and sold it to Ruth Anna Allen in c. 1859 for the price of \$100. The land at the time of sale did not appear to have a house as it is described in the deed as unimproved and was only \$100. Ruth Anna Allen then married Alfred Knight, and after seven years, in 1866, sold the 51 perches plus an additional 49 perch lot to Asher Fell for \$2,700.

An interesting recent discovery of two wood plaques or boards found by current owners in the roof of the porch, indicates the house was actually built in 1858. The deed research, however, does not indicate the same date most likely because the actual sale from William Evans to Ruth Anna Allen was for unimproved land as previously mentioned. So it is possible that the actual sale of property was 1858 and that sometime between 1858 and 1859 construction of the house began. As deeds are not always accurate in those days, the plaque seems close enough.

On the same plaque it is written not only the date of construction but also the name of the carpenter, Tobias Helwig of Solebury, journeyman Joseph Lear of Rushland, November 9, 1858.

The other date board found in the roof is handwritten by carpenter and builder, William D. Hansel for work done for Jinks Watson, October 18, 1910 which coincides with the deed research for the addition to the original house in the back east side. Beyond the basic information, Hansel also leaves a lovely drawing of a dove stating "that morning was the first frost of the season".

In 1866, Alfred and Ruth Anna Knight sold the property to Asher Fell for \$2,700 which included a parcel of 49 perches and the original 51 perches. Asher Fell was a dentist born in Buckingham Township and set up an office in Carversville 1863. Asher was the trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Doylestown and was on the board of directors of the Doylestown and Buckingham turnpike commission. In 1878, Asher moved back to Doylestown with his wife Mary Ellen Mitchener, to be replaced over more than a century later by our very own present day, state-of-the-art dentist, Howard Barsky.

In 1878, Asher Fell sold the Carversville house to Wilhelmina Cress and Matilda Adams which included only the 51 perch lot and the house for \$2,100. Wilhelmina Cress was the niece of Matilda Adams. Wilhelmina Cress later married Nicholas Haney. Wilhelmina was then known as Mina Haney.



Matilda Adams in an 1880 federal census was listed as 65 years old, occupation keeping house. Her niece was listed as 24 years old who's occupation was listed as millinery and dress maker.

Matilda Adams passed away in 1893 leaving the Carversville house to Mina Cress Haney, her niece. When Mina Cress Haney inherited the Carversville house she added 16 perches from the 49 perch lot to the 51 perches bringing the total size of the parcel, including the house to 67 perches.

Mina Cress Haney and her husband Nicholas owned the house until 1898 when they sold it back to a previous owner, Alfred Knight, the 67 perches with house for \$2,900. Alfred Knight owned the house until his death in 1902 when his executors sold the 67 perches and house to Jenks and Caroline Watson for \$1,500. It was the Watsons, who built the aforementioned addition and porch in the back east side of house.

Caroline Watson passed away in 1931 and her heirs sold the property to James and Florence Kling in 1932 for \$1.00. James and Florence Kling sold the property to their son Sylvanus B. Kling and his wife Elizabeth in 1947 for \$1.00. Sylvanus died and his wife Elizabeth remarried H. Byron Quincy. The Quincy's owned the property until 1971 when they sold it to Harry and Viola Jaffa in 1971 for \$38,000.

In 2008, Viola Jaffa, then widowed, sold her house to Leann and Todd Broad, the current owners, for \$350,000. The exterior of the house retains its original historical appearance. However, in 2016, the current owners opted to updated the interior of the house to accommodate a more modern lifestyle while maintaining some aspects of the original. The varied width wood floors have been restored to their original beauty. And the addition of 1910 has remained much the same with its stone fireplace and old wood beam ceiling. While the adjacent porch built at same time has changed some but still retains its original slate floor.

Many thanks to the Heritage Conservancy for allowing me to use their research in writing this article.



The Carversvillian

HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY
PO BOX 41, CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913



Pumpkin Carving

Sunday, October 27

Annual Meeting

Monday, November 18

Caroling in the Square

Sunday, December 22



Upcoming Events at **The Carversville Kitchen**

The Carversville Kitchen has been keeping us busy with their monthly events. October will be a fun month, kicking off with their Taqueria Night which takes place the first Monday of every month. Please check out the calendar of events below and if you'd like to find out more information about their upcoming events, stop in and sign-up for their email distribution list or follow The Carversville Kitchen on FaceBook and Instagram.

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS:

"Turn Up The Pink for Pine2Pink" The Kitchen has started what they hope to be an annual collaboration with Pine2Pink. **Keith Fenimore** is the creator and founder behind the Pine2Pink mission. The organization supports local breast cancer patients and is working to spread the word with the hope of doubling their fundraising goal. The Kitchen has decided to support by going **pink** for the month of October. They will turn their outside lights pink and also host a day event on the 19th where they will have music, food and fun to help raise awareness and support this cause. For the entire month of October we will be selling a bundle of a corned beef sandwich and pink lemonade drink to benefit Pine2Pink!! 100% of the proceeds of the sale of this bundle will go towards Pine2Pink. They invite the town of Carversville to join in on the initiative by not only coming out the day of their event but also, by turning their outside home lights pink! You can call Andrew at Doylestown Electric at 215-348-9074 to get pink bulbs at cost if you mention Pine2Pink OR go online to www.1800bulbs.com, they have pink bulbs at reasonable prices.

Plan ahead for **Thanksgiving** and check out their **Holiday Menu** to reserve your Turkey and side dishes, before their Chef's get booked up.

The Kitchen will also be supporting the local **Holiday Food Market** at the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company Hall as well supporting the **Holiday Festival of Foods** on behalf of the Carversville United Church of Christ by providing food for all their vendors!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 Taqueria Night/Special Menu Offering – \$18 for three tacos, two sides and dessert. Hours: 6-9pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 Meet and Greet Book signing for Jane Faraco author of *Survivor: One Woman's True Life Story of Hope*. The Kitchen will be hosting a Little Havana night in honor of Jane with passed hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 "Turn Up The Pink for Pine2Pink" Event

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 The Kitchen will be donating cider and donuts to the Historical Society's Pumpkin Carving Day.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2020

Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
Annual Membership	\$30.00
Plus tax deductible contribution	
Total enclosed	

Make check payable to HCS and mail to: Historic Carversville Society, PO Box 41, Carversville, PA 18913