

Published by The Lower Makefield Historical Society

## *LMHS Announces Three Fall Events*

Three events are planned by the Lower Makefield Historical Society this fall.

The first is set for Sunday afternoon, **September 17** at 3 pm. Historian and actress **Jo Ann Tufo** will portray Journalist Nellie Bly (1864-1922). A favorite originally from Philadelphia who now lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Jo Ann has portrayed the Pirate's Wife, Mrs. Lincoln, Deborah Read Franklin, and Rosie the Riveter for LMHS. The program will be held at the Yardley Community Center.

**Dr. Donald Koones** will present a lecture about Marjorie Merriweather Post on Sunday afternoon, **October 22**, 3 pm at the David Library. Call 215-493-6776 x100 or e-mail your reservations to [rsvp@dlar.org](mailto:rsvp@dlar.org)

These events are open to LMHS members and guests at no charge.

The final 2017 event, set for Sunday, **December 10**, is for members only. Member invitations for our Holiday Brunch held annually at the Old Library on Lake Afton will be mailed in November.

## *Visit Slate Hill Burying Ground October 28th*

The Lower Makefield Historic Commission is planning a tour of the Slate Hill cemetery, located at the corner of Mahlon Dirve and Yardley-Morrisville Road on Saturday, October 28, from 4 to 8 pm. The final tour will begin at 7:30; the cost is \$5 per person.

Possibly the oldest cemetery in Bucks County, Slate Hill Cemetery was created in three sections, each of which uniquely represents an era in Yardley-Makefield History and the shifting demographic of its residents.

Section One (the Thomas Janney Section) was established in 1690 on the slate pit hill donated to the Falls Monthly Meeting by Thomas Janney. The earliest gravestone in the Quaker section (continued on P. 2)

*The Slack Cemetery on Quarry Road is one of the last remaining Family Cemeteries in Bucks County. It holds the remains of the Slack family (who participated in the development of the agricultural legacy that established Bucks County) including Elizabeth Slack Marten & her husband Rev. Henry Marten who served the Newtown Presbyterian Church. The church tends the cemetery.*



## Slate Hill Burying Ground (continued from p. 1)

monuments Jonathan Sharp, son of Christopher Sharp, and is dated 1691.

Section Two (the Abel Janney Section) was established 31 years later (1721). It monuments the emerging class of self-made Yardleyville business owners such as Cormick Nickeson, numerous white survivors of the Civil War, and the increasing number of Irish immigrants such as Molly Downy who erected a special marker in a fenced "Catholic" partition.

The two Janney sections, sometimes together called "the Quaker Section," remained the principal burying ground for Quakers in the Yardley-Makefield area until about 1800. Based on some surviving documents, the National Park Service estimated that some 487 burials were made, of which 185 are marked.

Section Three (Public Burying Ground) which came to be called the Lower Makefield Public Burying Ground is on land donated in 1788 by Joshua Anderson. There are 96 marked graves in this section, including those of local tradesmen and servants as well as the graves of six members of the U.S. Army's "Colored" Troops and one African-American Navy landsman.

In 1990, the Falls Meeting deeded the Quaker sections to Lower Makefield Township and in 1992 the Burying Grounds were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 100 Years Ago . . .

*Day Scattergood's black mare, buggy, Buffalo robe & harness stolen from Lower Makefield Township were recovered in Newark, NJ.. A reward was paid by the Yardleyville Protective Company for Detecting Horsethieves and other Villains.*



## Carl LaVO Shares Bucks County Adventures

On June 11 in collaboration with the Artists of Yardley, *Visions of the Past & Present* featured art work focused on local sites with a Gallery Tour and Reception at the Patterson Farm on Mirror Lake Road.

Carl LaVO was the featured speaker and shared highlights from his book **Bucks County Adventures: From William Penn and George Washington to Neil Armstrong.**

A newsman for many years, LaVO shared stories of Bucks County history. Many were inspired by adventures with his family exploring Bucks County through the years.

LaVO's column has lots of fans, including LMHS Board member Sandra Nuzzolo, who organized the event at the Patterson Farm.

Attendees enjoyed LaVO's stories about his adventures exploring Bucks County stories rooted 50, 100, 200, 300 years ago. He invited his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren to make an adventure visiting places described in his book.

Durham boats, family roots, the King's Highway, Ringing Rocks, the Delaware Canal, Coppernose Hill, Oscar Hammerstein II and more are explored with photos, drawings, and stories in LaVO's book.



## New Books Explore Five Mile Woods Preserve

The Five Mile Woods Preserve, located in southern Bucks County, is pleased to announce that two new books are being offered that explore the unique 295-acre natural area owned by Lower Makefield Township. The first book, entitled *The Five Mile Woods Preserve: A History*, is 410 pages in length, has more than 100 illustrations and retails for \$29.99 plus sales tax. It tells the story of the Preserve beginning with its geological past, through the efforts to create a nature preserve in 1979, and to the activities that led to the 35th anniversary of its opening last year. There is also a commemorative section of the book where Preserve stakeholders reflect on its history and its future.

The second book, entitled *Images of the Five Mile Woods Preserve*, is 218 pages in length and includes a collection of more than one hundred color images that reveal the remarkable beauty of the Woods. Subjects include herbaceous plants, fungi, shrubs, vines, trees, the Queen Anne Creek, people enjoying the Preserve and a chapter entitled Art in the Woods. It retails for \$54.99 plus sales tax.

The books can be purchased at the Preserve, from the Heritage Conservancy in Doylestown, the Lower Makefield Historical Society, area bookstores, and directly on-line. Only books purchased from the Preserve, Heritage Conservancy, and Lower Makefield Historical Society will be autographed and include a special bookmark. Both volumes can be purchased at a special book launch that will take place at the **Harvest Day** celebration in Yardley on **September 16**, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The author and photographers will be there to autograph books.

***In his book about the Preserve history, Osborne tells about early settlers like the Darks and Satterthwaites as well as about native Americans. Maps and documents about the southwestern corner of Lower Makefield Township tell how the Township road system developed, the effects of railroads, the effects and results of development. The book launch and a presentation by Osborne were featured last spring in a LMHS event – as part of our Laura Prickett Lecture Series - at the David Library of the American Revolution. (Contact Pat Müller at [pmüller@earthlink.net](mailto:pmüller@earthlink.net) to obtain a book from the LMHS.)***

The Five Mile Woods Preserve, is a remarkable place. Within its boundary is the longest remaining section of the Fall Line in Pennsylvania that has not been affected by the activities of man. The unique geological feature is the meeting place of two ancient geo- logic provinces, the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Plain. The Fall Line has shaped the development of our area and our nation in many ways. The Preserve is also home to rare plants and an oak-beech forest. Township visionaries have preserved the land for future generations. Visitors from the township and all over the region come to the Woods to hike, participate in programs, and volunteer to maintain it.



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## Message from LMHS President Pat Müller

Heartfelt thanks to the the founders and to all who have supported efforts of the Lower Makefield Historical Society since its founding in 1979. Leaders such as Ralph Thompson gave us incredible research into the history of the Township which Past President Kellee Blake, Karen Boyd and Pat Müller helped organize into our archives now housed in part with our historical library at the LMT Building on Edgewood Road.

More recently, Karen Boyd established our website at **www.lowermakefieldhistoricalsociety.com** and edited our newsletter for many years. We enjoy collaborating with the Lower Makefield Historical Commission, the Yardley Historical Association, the David Library of the American Revolution and others on programs to enrich our community.

Our goal continues to be to stimulate research and an appreciation of local history and culture in Lower Makefield and the greater Bucks County Areas.

We believe that our past and upcoming programs for 2017 promise to achieve this but are seeking volunteers with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to learn more about the history of Lower Makefield Township and lead in coming years. Contact us with suggestions and volunteer to help with an event or project. Call Pat at 215-806-2802, e-mail [pmueller@earthlink.net](mailto:pmueller@earthlink.net) or write c/o Box 228, Yardley, Pa. 19067.

Save these dates: Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, Oct  
22<sup>nd</sup>, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> & join us!

