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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



The Plantation of William Penn's "Sylvania"

Pursuing a Revolutionary War Legend at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

The Legacy of C. Herbert Fry and Other Archive Gifts Received in 2018

Valley Forge Historical Marker Restored



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From the Editors

In August 2019, the Society's Special Member Excursion to the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about many less well-known aspects of Swedish history in early America. A report on that visit is included in this issue. Before our guided tour of the museum, we were introduced to historian Larry Ward, whose illustrated presentation included background information that helped to provide context for exploring the museum. We are pleased to publish his article about the "plantation" in early colonial Pennsylvania. The image on the cover depicts a related scene from English colonial history, while those on the back cover, and these first pages, provide some Swedish historical and cultural perspective.

Following up on previous articles and research about the Revolutionary War soldiers believed to have been buried in the cemetery at St. Peter's in the Great Valley, and the "Commemoration for the Fallen" ceremonies held there in 2007 and 2014, Roger Thorne's article reports on the scientific studies done on site in summer 2019, using ground-penetrating radar and other high-technology tools, in an attempt to answer some of the questions that remain.

In the aftermath of the very sad loss of our dear friend Herb Fry in August 2018, we were very pleased to receive a large collection of historical materials from his family. Society Archivist Cheryl Leibold's article describes many of the items included in this important and generous gift, as well as a few other interesting items.

Society Board Chairman Larry DeYoung generously volunteered to restore an artifact that dates back to the founding days of the Society's predecessor, the History Club, and his article provides some background on this worthy project and its subject.



The Dala Horse — a popular symbol of Sweden — is a traditional carved, painted wooden statue of a horse originating in the Swedish province of Dalarna (or Dalecarlia). In simpler times, a horse was a highly valued asset and companion in many Swedish households, and was considered to be a status symbol. The carved and painted wooden horses were often used as toys for children, but in modern times have become a symbol of Dalarna, as well as of Sweden in general. While quite varied in appearance, with distinguishing features reflecting the locality where they are produced, the most common style features a stoutly carved horse painted bright red with ornate details and a harness in white, green, yellow, and blue. A Dala horse is a traditional gift in Sweden for any kind of life celebration including weddings and graduations.
Photo courtesy of © John O. Senior

Trash or Treasure?

It is not uncommon for us to hear from or about people who are in possession of some items that they may be uncertain how to value, but for which they would like to find a new home.

If you (or people you know) have photographs, drawings, maps, letters, documents, books, or other items of possible (or definite) historic interest that might be donated to the Society, please visit the Archives page of our website (<http://www.tehistory.org/archives.html>) and review our Collecting Policy, or contact us directly for more information. Email: archives@tehistory.org

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"Aralia" — designed c. 1928 by Josef Frank, and produced c. 2010 by Svenskt Tenn, Stockholm, Sweden. Linen wall hanging on display in the Josef Frank Gallery in the American Swedish Historical Museum, courtesy of Svenskt Tenn. Josef Frank (1885-1967), an Austrian-born designer and architect, is a much-celebrated leading pioneer of Swedish Modern design. He emphasized comfort and informality, producing fanciful designs inspired by nature. His lavish use of bright, bold colors and floral patterns quickly became popular with a host of Swedish designers and clientele. Estrid Ericson (1894-1981) established her now-famous interior design company, Svenskt Tenn, in Stockholm during the 1920s. *Photo courtesy of © John O. Senior.*



Cover Descriptions

- Front Cover: *Penn's Treaty with the Indians, 1771-72*, oil on canvas by Benjamin West (1738-1820). Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Gift of Mrs. Sarah Harrison (The Joseph Harrison, Jr. Collection).
- Back Cover: (UPPER) Large ceiling mural in the entrance hall of the American Swedish Historical Museum, with the title "The Establishment of Civilization in the Delaware Valley, The Coming of the Swedes in March, 1638".
(LOWER) Tapestry in the Sven Gunnarsson and Jonas Nilsson New Sweden Gallery at the American Swedish Historical Museum. *Photographs courtesy of © John O. Senior.*

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Images from the American Swedish Historical Museum: (UPPER) Large ceiling mural in the entrance hall, titled "The Establishment of Civilization in the Delaware Valley, The Coming of the Swedes in March, 1638". (LOWER) Tapestry in the Gunnarsson and Nilsson New Sweden Gallery

