

Malvern Historical Commission - 2009 Wrap Up

The Historical Commission spent a lot of time this year on publicity, getting our name out there, letting people know we are here. Here are the main highlights of the past year:

- We participated in the Malvern Blooms, Fall Festival for the Arts, and Malvern Victorian Christmas events, sponsored by the Malvern Business and Professional Association.
- We developed a new walking tour brochure, which we feel will be current for some years to come.
- We co-hosted an event for the Chester County Historic Preservation Network with the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund on archeological digs on battlefields.
- We hosted an open house, which was not terribly successful, but we hope to try again.
- We know that we have been successful in letting people know we are here, because we are getting more visitors to the History Center and more people are bringing items to us. To that end, a few of us attended a workshop hosted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on accessing items into a collection. We have used that information to develop a system that we hope will help us to identify appropriate items to keep.
- Additionally, on the publicity front, Nancy Schmitt and Lynne Hockenbury were interviewed for Chester County Life magazine for an article on Malvern last spring
- Lynne Hockenbury provided a short presentation of Malvern's history using items from the History Center to two 2nd grade classes from St. Patrick School.
- We spent many additional hours checking our property files and creating a list of what is needed to complete them and numbering and cataloging the items that the Historical Commission has collected over the years. Both of these lists are not yet computerized, but we are now much more aware of what needs to be completed.
- We continue to transcribe the architectural descriptions from Jane Davidson and to develop historic ordinances for the Borough.
- We created magnets as an inexpensive item for the public to purchase. Due to an error in the printing process, we paid for 1 batch and received 2, allowing us to use the magnets as "giveaways" to entice people to attend the open house. The magnets have our email contact on them, and we hope that people will contact us in this way.
- We had 14 taped interviews of Borough residents from the 1970's and 1980's that we were concerned about losing due to age, so we had them transferred to CD by Emmett Robinson of King Street Recording. He now has 6 more tapes that were completed in the past 2 years by Joan Stackhouse.

- We are beginning to plan for the 125th Anniversary of Malvern (in 2014), and we discussed the possibility of creating a DVD to commemorate the occasion. We are still in the very early planning stages, and nothing has been definitely decided upon yet.
- Nancy Schmitt has been working on a new book. We are hoping to have that new book on Women of Malvern by the end of this year (2010) or early 2011. Nancy Schmitt has had the happy problem of finding more and more to research, which is what has caused the delay.

This summary was given by Lynne Hockenbury at the Borough Council meeting in January.