Purpose of the LTHS

To discover and preserve educational and illustrative collections of material, structures, and landmarks of the Longswamp Township area.

To maintain a museum and non-circulating historical library of the Longswamp Township area.

To preserve and record the history and culture of the Longswamp Township area.

LTHS Directors

Officers:
President – Christopher Stress
Vice President – Marie Maly
Secretary – Jerri Burket
Treasurer – Mike Radcliffe

Board:
Bill Anton
Eloise Long
Judith Murphy
Kevin Shoemaker
Ron Young
Fred Sheeler, Berks County Recorder of Deeds (honorary)
Mary Ann Lantz, Longswamp Township Supervisor (honorary)

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at (484) 504-9149

Email: LongswampHistory@gmail.com

Message from our President

Thank you so much for a wonderful year thus far. There seems to be so much interest in history these days- it’s wonderful.

Thanks to Tootie, Marie and Mike for putting together the PA Dutch (Deutch) dinner event. It was fantastic. Our guest speaker (Joshua Fink) as always was wonderful. It was remarkable how many attended—completely sold out! I’ve always noticed how a good meal brings people together. Several folks have asked if this will be annual event. It very well could be. Also—Vielen Dank to Janelle’s for hosting the event! Finally, thanks to our sponsors—Radcliffe’s, Buckingham Building, Tim Long and the rest.

Also we had a wonderful July 4th event at the Township building and set up to greet folks at the Township annual fireworks. Again, we had a wonderful response. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped, some in period costume.

We are trying to put a few road trips together still, please contact Bill if there’s interest!

Going forward we hope to see people at upcoming events, kindly see our website, the Township website or our Facebook page for more details. Or give us a call, contact information is within this newsletter.

I would like to wish everyone a happy summer, I know it’s been really hot this year, but soon it will be fall, and Bill and his team have some special events planned. I am looking forward to it.

We look forward to seeing you at some.

All the best,

Chris
**Upcoming Events**

*Mark your calendars now*

---

**Saturday, August 10**

8:30 to ?

**Battles at Boone: A Revolutionary War Encampment at the Daniel Boone Homestead**

This is an LTHS Road trip/carpool event leaving at 8:30 am from the Township Municipal Bldg. Everyone can enjoy this event at their leisure, or stay together with your friends from LTHS. The event will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm so feel free to leave for home whenever you want. **If interested, call Bill Anton at 610-641-1169 by Saturday, August 3rd.**

The event will include over 150 participants. We will be immersed in eighteenth century military and home life & witness firsthand the colonial hardships both on the battlefield and off. In the parade field, we will be able to tour the military camps and learn about the weaponry used during the American Revolution. They will feature two battle re-enactments: a small tactical at 10:30am and the grand battle re-enactment at 2pm. There will be an eighteenth century marketplace, similar to what would have followed the armies across the colonies. We will also tour an 18th century field hospital.

In the historic area, visitors can enjoy living history presentations and tours of the Boone House and Bertolet Log House. Children can try their hand at colonial toys and participate in the militia muster.

Admission for Battles at Boone is $10/Adults, $8/Seniors, & $6/Children. **No credit cards accepted for admission – cash or check only.** Food will be available for purchase on-site. Please no pets and no smoking.

---

**Saturday, September 14**

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Topton Mini Museum First Anniversary Celebration**

44 W. Keller Street, Topton

Join the Mini Museum of Topton in celebrating its first year. The museum showcases history of life in the borough in the areas of sports, education, business, industry, and civic affairs. Admission is free.

---

**Sunday, September 15, 1:00 pm**

**Shamrock book gathering** (See Book Committee article for more information)
Sunday, September 22 – Starting at 2:00 pm  
(Allow a minimum of 2 hours for the tour.)
Musical Memories Museum Guided Tour
The Musical Memories Museum is the personal collection of Karl Scheffy. Its' main focus is on automated instruments (those that play themselves without needing to be pumped with pedals like a player piano).....many dating back to the 1800’s, some into the 1700’s. Karl started collecting instruments while in high school in the 1940’s. His collection outgrew his basement and is now located in a 3000 square foot addition to his home. He has over 55 instruments, 50 antique radios (from the 1920's to the 1950's), early televisions and many other items of interest (reed organs, pipe organs, melodians, etc.) The maximum number of attendees for this tour would be 20 people, so please give Bill Anton a call at 610-641-1169 to let him know if you plan to attend and to get directions to Karl's home. This tour is not appropriate for children.

This museum is not open to the public. This may be your only chance to see such a wonderful collection of these types of items in our area. There is no charge for this tour, but donations will be accepted for Animals in Distress – a no kill animal shelter, at Karl's request.

* * * *

Wednesday, October 16, 2013
7:00 pm at the Longswamp Township Building
General Membership Meeting
Presentation: Photographs of Longswamp Township
A presentation based upon the photographs submitted for the LTHS Calendar, discussion about their location and other information about their content. The photographers will be welcome to participate in the discussions about their photos.

* * * *

Wednesday, November 20th
The Lutheran Home at Topton, Henry Auditorium
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
The Human Side of the Civil War: The Men of the Pennsylvania 47th Infantry

We will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War by sharing the experiences of the men from Longswamp Township who served in Company K of the Pennsylvania 47th Infantry as well as a summary of the action the regiment saw, as told by the men of the 47th.

The event is open to the public. There is no charge to attend this event, but donations are appreciated.
What’s next from the Book Committee?

Of course, March 17\textsuperscript{th} would be a great day to release the Village of Shamrock book! And that’s exactly what the Book Committee is planning. To do that, we need to get busy writing and collecting. \textbf{There will be an information gathering afternoon at 1 p.m., Sunday, September 15 in the Longswamp Township Municipal Building.} We are hoping that residents and friends will scour their photo albums and attics and bring their artifacts and memories that afternoon. We will have scanners on hand and be able to scan and return the items.

Some topics we hope to address include:
- Hotel/Witwer Family and other owners
- Post Office/Fenstermacher Family
- Dairy
- School
- Church
- Cemetery/Veterans – Werley Family
- Pastor Bond/Parsonage
- Swartzentruber Family/Tomatoes
- Medical Center/Lions Club
- Railroad Stations
- Store

We are open to all suggestions but are limited by a reasonable amount of pages and printing costs. Contact Ellie Long, 610-682-0696, eloiselong@gmail.com, or any member of the Historical Society for more information.

There are Longsdale Books available – but the supply is limited. Our first printing of 200 books sold immediately. A second printing of 100 books also is going quickly. Response has been very favorable. We thank all who answered the call for memories and items to include.

Does this sign from the Shamrock Hotel still exist?
Longswamp township, Berks county, can boast of a second “Coal Oil Johnny,” in the person of a German named Wm. Grossman. But a very short time ago Grossman was a common laborer in the ore mines in that section, and occasionally tramped the country. Great was his surprise at the unexpected news of the death of a rich relative, by which he had fallen heir to a princely fortune. Those acquainted with the man say he received some time ago $15,000 in cash and a draft of $25,000, with prospects of more to come. But this good fortune seems to be more than Grossman can comprehend and his object seems to be to get rid of his money as soon as possible. A common tramp a few weeks ago, he is now the owner of seven horses, for which he has paid considerably more than they are worth, and he has a wife upon whom he fairly lavishes his wealth. He has been negotiating for the purchase of the Red Lion Hotel property, and also the hotel at Nuttletown, both in Longswamp township. Besides this he is very liberal with presents. As an illustration of his liberality, he was accosted the other day, while in conversation with a gentleman, by a female tramp with whom he occasionally associated in his poorer days. To get rid of her he took from his pocket a $1000 bill, and offered it to her if she would be quiet and leave. She of course accepted the offer.

[The Chester Daily Times, Chester, PA, Tuesday, September 14, 1880, Page 4]

***

The people living at Rittenhouse Gap are jubilant over the resumption of work in the mine of the Hartzell Concentrating Company at that place. Every other ore mine in the neighborhood will soon be put in work. The wages are 90 cents for outside work, and $1 for underground work. The Edison ore crusher in use is the largest in the State. It takes a barrel and a half of the best lubricating oil a day to keep it in good running order. Dr. Hartzell, of this city, president of the company, says there is a great demand for ore.

[The Allentown Democrat, Allentown, PA, Wednesday, September 11, 1895, page 3]
**Pa. Dutch All-You-Can-Eat Buffet a Big Success**

Our June 30th buffet at the Janelle Restaurant and Catering Hall to benefit the LTHS was a sell-out success of mammoth proportions—which, coincidentally, is how a lot of attendees felt once all that dough and potatoes starting settling in!

The buffet included all the old favorites, including some that are rarely offered in a restaurant setting: chicken pot pie, boova schenkel, pig stomach, potato filling w/ gravy, corn pie, schnitz un knepp, dandelion with hot bacon dressing, chow chow, pepper cabbage, and rolls and butter; shoofly pie and funny cake for dessert and, of course, birch beer to wash it all down.

Net proceeds from tickets sales amounted to about $600; this money will be used to continue our work to record and preserve the historical past of Longswamp Township.

Before the meal began, historian and LTHS member Joshua Fink (right) gave an informative and enjoyable lecture about Pa. Dutch cuisine.

Thanks to Janelle’s proprietor Scott Gardner for hosting this wonderful event and for his continued support of the LTHS.

*Photos by Tootie Hellwig*
The Village of Longsdale Revealed: A Historical Review of the First Settled Area of Longswamp Township

History records that Phillip Bürger and his brother Samuel were the first white men to arrive in what is today Longswamp Township in an area that would become later known as Longsdale.

In June, following the general membership meeting, LTHS member Ellie Long took the audience on a tour of Longsdale using a combination of photographs and other historical objects of interest. Dr. Long, whose immigrating ancestor Jacob married one of Samuel Bürger’s daughters (she is his great-great-great-great-granddaughter), shared some of the many wonderful discoveries she made while gathering information and conducting research for our first publication, “The Village of Longsdale.”

Copies of the book (28 pp.) are available for sale while supplies last. To reserve your copy, provide us with your contact information (name, phone number) and the number of books you wish to purchase:

Phone: (484) 504-9149
Email: LongswampHistory@gmail.com
Purchase price is $13 for LTHS members; $15 for non-members.

Photo by Tootie Hellwig

2014 Calendar Photo Contest

The Longswamp Township Historical Society invites you to submit a “Longswamp Township moment.”

From among the entries, local photographers will select 13 photos for our 2014 Calendar.

Proceeds from calendar sales will help us continue our work to share and preserve the historical past of Longswamp Township. The contest runs through September 1st.

Pick up an entry form and contest rules at the photo machine inside the lobby of Radcliffe’s Great Valu, Mertztown. To request an online entry form, contact the Historical Society by email or phone.
Making Beautiful Music – Pennsylvania German Organ Building in Longswamp Township

Beginning in the early 1700’s, large numbers of people who were German Lutheran and Reformed began arriving in Pennsylvania. About ninety percent of the German inhabitants of Pennsylvania belonged to one of these two religions. It was common for Lutheran and Reformed congregations that were close to each other to share a building, forming union churches. We still see some of these in existence today. Because music was always an important part of worship the use of organs became an integral part of those congregations.

In late 1798 the Reformed congregation at Longswamp obtained an organ built by John Krauss. John, his brother Andrew, and their parents were members of the Schwenkfelders who had migrated to Pennsylvania in 1733. John and Andrew began the family business of building organs which was to last for three generations into the 1900’s. Mr. Krauss' was the first pipe organ factory in the country. He was a self-taught artisan, and the degree of his rare skill may be readily imagined when it is understood that he was able to successfully construct both organs and pianos. His organs were said to be possessed of exceptional merit and were in good demand. The first instrument he ever made was what in the long ago was called a "melodeon," a treadle organ for parlor use.

The organ in the Longswamp Church cost 325 pounds. Joiner Phillip Altenderfer was paid 20 pounds for making the casework. The organ was examined on May 22, 1798 apparently by a committee from the church, and was moved there on May 25th. The organ was consecrated on June 17th. In 1852 when Longswamp Union Church tore down the building to build a new one, the organ was taken to Palm where George Krauss had a shop and it was rebuilt. It was installed in the new building in the rear gallery and was rebuilt again in 1902 by another Krauss, Edwin. It was given a new façade and all but that façade was discarded in 1944.

The total output of organs during the four generations of the Krauss family could have been as high as 70. Unfortunately, the survival rate of these instruments has been low. Many of them fell victim to changing tastes in the 19th and 20th centuries. An unusual “chest of drawers” organ located in the Historical Society of Berks County museum in Reading may be a Krauss organ. The organ came from the Levan homestead. The Levans operated a mill at Kroningersville, later known as Eagle Point, in Maxatawny Township. Apparently built in the 1820’s this organ shows workmanship that is very similar to that of the Krausses.

As with other arts, organ building among the Pennsylvania Germans eventually lost is identity and died out. While the Pennsylvania German organs and their builders failed to influence organ building in the rest of the country, many of the ideals of these builders and their German predecessors have been re-emphasized in modern American organ building.


Submitted by Betty Anton
Longswamp Founding Fathers
Heinrich Matthias Bullinger (Bollinger)

This series highlights the life and accomplishments of the 26 men who signed a petition presented to the justices of Berks County in 1761 that requested Longswamp be erected into a township.

Heinrich Bullinger (Henry Bollinger) was born in 1710 in Germany and came to America, alone it seems, aboard the Ship Winter Galley, which arrived from Rotterdam, Holland to Germantown on September 5, 1738. We don’t know when Heinrich arrived in Longswamp, but records show he left Longswamp in 1749 to return to Germany and, in 1752, returned to Longswamp with a wife (Elizabeth) and two young children. That two infants could survive the difficult voyage is a clear indicator that Heinrich was a man of considerable wealth, as records of these trans-Atlantic voyages indicate the cost of food and water aboard ship was very high. While living in Longswamp, the Bollinger brood grew to nine children.

Heinrich is listed among those who contributed to the completion of the first Longswamp church, which was built about 1748. Based on records of the first tax collection in 1759, Heinrich paid 8 pounds in taxes—significantly lower than the man charged the highest tax (20 pounds). It seems, however, that Heinrich had other plans for his money.

The Move to Louisiana Territory
Heinrich, now referred to as Henry, migrated from Longswamp in 1768 and acquired extensive land and also a mill in Tryon County, North Carolina. That mill became known as Bollinger’s Grist Mill on Bristol Creek, later changed to Bollinger’s Mill Creek. On the 18 November 1768, Henry bought 800 acres of land. A month earlier, he bought 600 acres from another seller. Henry would bring his family to North Carolina following his land purchases. There, he and his wife would have three additional children.

Henry died in 1794 in Lincoln County, North Carolina. Of Henry’s 12 children, only Heinrich Jr. remained in North Carolina; the others migrated to Missouri, lured by the promise of fertile lands and ample resources.

Submitted by Marie Maly
If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, please let us know and we will discontinue mailing it to you.

Longswamp Township Historical Society
PO Box 6010
Mertztown, PA 19539
Phone: (484) 504-9149
Email: LongswampHistory@gmail.com

We’re on the web!
http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Longswamp/Pages/HistoricalSociety.aspx

Like us on Facebook