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APRIL 2019

**The Lower Merion Historical Society
70 Years of Service
(1949 – 2019)**

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers and Directors!



Scan Your Family Photos!



The Lower Merion Historical Society is offering a **FREE** beginner class where you can learn how to scan your photos to preserve them and make them easier to share with others.

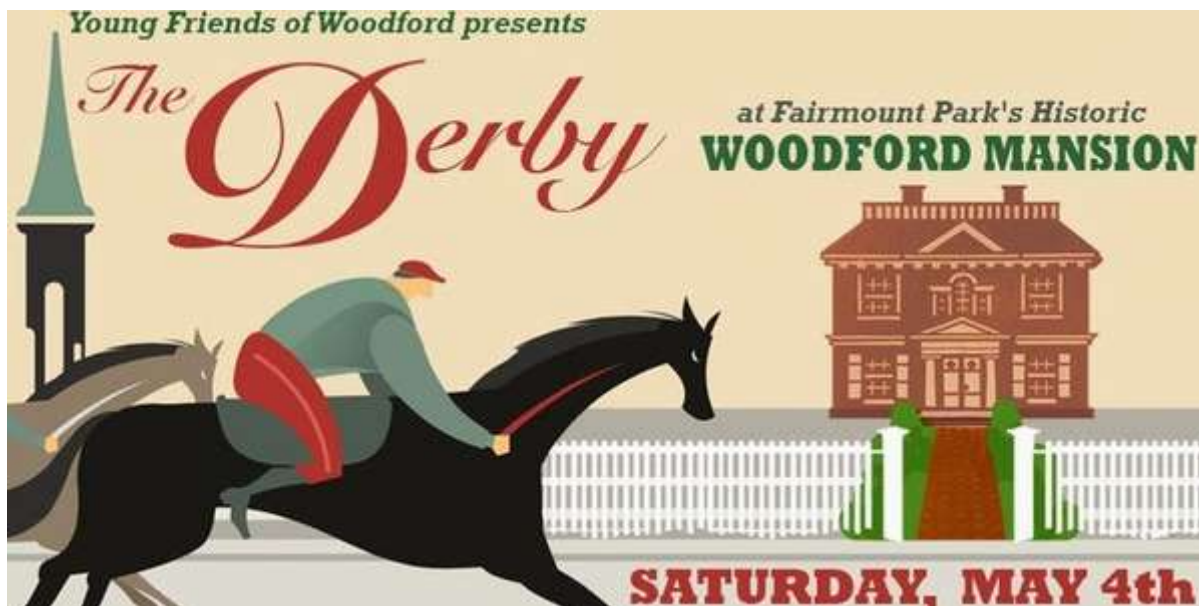
Join us at the Lower Merion Academy at 506 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bala Cynwyd on the second floor in the General Reference Room on
Wednesday, May 1st from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Bring about a dozen of your favorite old snapshots and Rachel Wolgemuth and Bill Cramer will guide you through the process. If you have a laptop computer, please bring it. If not, we'll have computers and scanners on hand.

Also bring a thumb drive, please.

Old photos of any kind are welcome, but we're especially interested in seeing photos that were taken in Lower Merion Township. Space is limited, so please email Bill Cramer at bill@wonderfulmachine.com to reserve your spot!

Derby Day at Woodford



Get out your fancy hats and trot over to Fairmount's Park Historic [Woodford Mansion](#) on **Saturday, May 4th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm** for our Kentucky Derby party, aka: *"Derby Day at Woodford."*

Just cross over the Strawberry Mansion Bridge and you have arrived! There will be pre-race TV coverage all afternoon to see who takes the crown. The race starts around 6:30 pm. Guests are encouraged to wear festive Derby attire!

Featuring

- A massive 16' x 20' big screen under the tent to watch a live broadcast of the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby.
- Live music from [River Bones Band](#) and other special guests
- Craft cocktails made by the folks at [Manatawny Still Works](#)
- Craft beer from aptly named [Workhorse Brewing Company](#)

- Mint juleps and other Derby drinks
- Spread of Southern fare from [Eatable Delights Catering](#)
- Urban cowboys from our neighborhood – [The Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club](#)
- *Philadelphia Police Mounted Patrol* and *The Belmont Stables*
- Hat judging contest
- Games and activities for all ages
- Special house tours highlighting horse-related antiques

Price

\$35 (online and at the gate)
Children ages 12 and under are **FREE!**

The party (and race!) is happening RAIN OR SHINE.
To purchase tickets and to view a map, visit [Eventbrite](#)

[The Lower Merion Historical Society](#) is a co-sponsor of this event along with our own [The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and the Recovery of Stolen Horses](#).

*Proceeds benefit the programs and preservation of Woodford Mansion,
a National Historic Landmark built in 1756.*

The Reading Railroad



Stop in at the Bala Cynwyd Library located at the corner of Old Lancaster Road and Highland Avenue on **Wednesday, May 15th at 7:30 pm.**

Founded in 1833, the *Philadelphia and Reading Railroad*, aka, *The Reading*, was one of the earliest public access railroads in the United States. The Main Line of the Reading Railroad runs the entire length of the river bordering Lower Merion. Thus, Lower Merion is unique in being home to two major main lines – *The Reading RR* and the *Pennsylvania RR*.

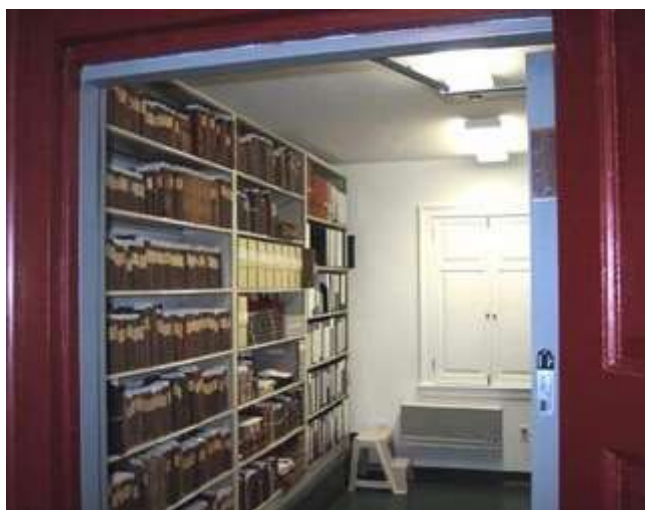
The History of *The Reading RR* is rarely discussed and scantily recorded in much of our history and yet as the largest business corporation of its time, and the largest railroad corporation at the height of the Age of Railways in the US, the history of the Reading and its influence on America is worthy of greater notice.

By learning more about the Reading, your knowledge and interest in local history, as well as American History, will be greatly enhanced.



This lecture and discussion will be led by Perry Hamilton, Secretary of *The Lower Merion Historical Society*. Perry, who is a lifelong resident of Lower Merion & Narberth, has been designated by *The Lower Merion Historical Society* to raise awareness of the Reading RR in our local history and develop a library of sources of this subject.

Treasures From Our Archive Room



This is the *sixth* of a series of articles that highlights some of the rare and more interesting items in our archive collection. The Historical Society's primary asset is our library collection that comprises more than 38,000 items. Part of our collection is housed in the Archive Room; these are the rare and extraordinary items that need special care and attention. We're proud of our heritage and are fortunate to have so many *primary source materials* that relate to Lower Merion and Narberth. We would like to share with you one of these items from our Archive Room.

Last month, we highlighted just two of our maps. This month, we want to show you some family photographs. Today, when genealogy, family history, and DNA results

are popular, as an added dimension, it makes this research more interesting to include images of your ancestors. It puts a face to a name and makes the family connection even more special. Below is a sample of some of our Lower Merion's family photographs.



Brown and Jenkins Families (1920s)



Zion Baptist Choir (1981)



Catharine Murray (1900)



Saunders Family (1949)



Miss Marker (1917)



Wentworth Farms (1912)





Percy & Elizabeth Clark (1904)



On Vacation, Hidden Inn, Colorado (1944)



McLean Family (1949)



Lippincott Family (1886)

Sign up for our workshop on May 1st and learn to “do it yourself”!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This is accomplished by stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.



KEEP IN TOUCH



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