



Notes from the Ford

Spring 2016

What's New

Sbandi Family Donation



The Society would like to thank the Sbandi family for their generous donation of photos from the 1800s, an 1821 Bible owned by the Willson and Bullock families and an original Indenture document for the John Chads property. The "Release," dated February 5, 1723/4, states that Grace Stevenson, mother of John Chads, releases the 500 acres with all its rights to John. John had already inherited this land when his father died, as specified in Francis Chadsey's will, dated March 15, 1712. This document covers John in case any of Grace's heirs attempted to step in after her death and make claim to any of the assets stated in this document.

The story of the Sbandi acquisition goes back to the previous occupants of their home, Marie Bullock Nolan and Dennis Nolan. When the Sbandis purchased the property in 1983, it contained a c1700 log cabin, cistern and springhouse - all in very poor condition. Dennis Nolan had filled the cabin and main house with his collections, leaving most behind when he moved. The above items were discovered when the houses were cleared out.

The Bible has a sticker from J. Wilson, owner in the early 1800s, and the signature Elizabeth Bullock. She probably acquired the Bible from Wilson when the Bullock family (Bullock Road name-sake) took over ownership in the mid-1800s. The Bullock family owned the property until the 1983 sale to the Sbandi family. The Bible contained a variety of items pressed between the pages including flowers, an 1868 stock quote and a small piece of paper



with Preston C. Bullock's signatures dated March 31, 1885. Preston was Marie Bullock Nolan's grandfather.



Among the unidentified tintype and paper photos was one with Virginia V. Way written on the back. After research, Virginia was determined to be Marie's mother, having married Robert Bullock (son of Preston) in 1908. The photo was likely taken around 1900.

How the Bullocks came in possession of the John Chads Release is unknown, though perhaps one of the Bullocks was a lawyer or government official who had been holding it in trust for a client.

Today all that remains of the old log cabin is a stone wall, part of a section added to the cabin a century ago. At the Society, we are most grateful that someone saved a piece of its history!

Spring Cleaning and Renovations



If you stopped by the Society lately, you may have noticed the disarray. Fear not, as this is for a good cause. Thanks to recent grants, we are able to make some much-needed improvements. These include constructing a climate-controlled room in

the attic to store our collections (now in a small closet), building a permanent staircase to the attic and redesigning the office space. The new office layout will have the library room located where visitors can easily access our reference books, while the office staff will be in the back. Our hope is that all these changes will be completed by May 1st.

Did You Know - Memories of Days Gone By

Chadds Peak



1982 - Courtesy Scott McCutchen

In 1963, Richard and Marie Paciaroni started a small ski area to supplement their income as teachers. The Paciaronis raised their four children in the farm house and employed high school students and local people to work at the ski slope. Thousands of people, young and old, learned how to ski here. The ski area was sometimes referred to as "Chadds Pimple" since the slope was not much more than a hill.



1969 - Courtesy John Broom

Chadds Peak
In 1969



Chadds Peak
Today

After 20 years, the Paciaronis retired and sold the business to an Asian company that was interested in the ski area, but the business closed after only five years. The property sat idle for many years before being purchased by an investment company. Dewson renovated the barn for its headquarters, but the business never moved in. The site sits empty.



Abandoned Farm House

Christy's Restaurant & Corner



Routes 1 & 202
Crossroads
c1940s

Many changes have taken place in what was once known as "Christy's Corner." The above photo shows Christy's Restaurant in the upper corner (SW), Concord Country Club (NE) and a farm and Sinclair gas station in the other corners.

Theodore Christy was a poor immigrant from Greece who was given the name Christake by Ellis Island officials, who were known to Americanize foreign surnames. Christy was a 'rags to riches' story. After he borrowed to build the restaurant in 1929, it promptly went bust in the Great Depression. Immediately after bankruptcy, he repurchased the business, minus the debts, in his wife's name. The restaurant prospered, displaying a central fountain with exotic turtles and alligators swimming around.



c1930



1948

Christy's success was reflected in his impeccable attire and new cars. Sometime in the 1930s, Theodore Christake took on the restaurant name as his own. When he died in 1954, the business was left to a friend who ran it until the early 1960s. The property was sold to investors

who changed the name to Crossroads Restaurant and remodeled in a modern motif. The business quickly failed and was ultimately sold to Sunoco, which has had a gas station on the spot since 1969. All photos are courtesy Peter T. Christy.



1934 Postcard

Upcoming Events



Location: BBC Greenville
 4019 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19807
 302-655-3785



Over 60 vendors offering vintage, antique, garden and salvage items for sale at the CFHS Visitors Center. Cost is \$5 / person (CFHS members free).

Spring
Yard Sale

May 21
 8am - Noon

CFHS
 Visitors Center

TAVERN TALKS
 is located at the
 CFHS' Barns Brinton House
 (590 Baltimore Pike, next to Chadds Ford Winery)
 www.chaddsfordhistory.org
 610-388-7376



Admission:
 \$15 / Non-members
 \$10 / Members
 Tickets must be purchased in advance
 over the phone or online
 All attendees must be 21+

Beer for Breakfast!
 April 21 at 7pm



Digging Through Trash
 May 12 at 7pm



Herbs and Potions
 June 9 at 7pm



Our Society

Board of Directors	
Kendal Reynolds	President
Phyllis Recca	Vice President
Mark Trozzi	Treasurer
Paul Haldeman	Secretary
Peter Alois	
Susan Duerr	
John Gould	
Steve Liberace	
Deborah Love	
Kirk Reichard	
Ali Rhodes	
Pat and John Steel	

Staff	
Open Position	Executive Director
Allison Schell	Program Manager
Derek Larson	Office Manager

The Chadds Ford Historical Society is dedicated to preserving history, serving the community, and providing education. Its newsletter, "Notes from the Ford," is published quarterly.

Chadds Ford Historical Society

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 610-388-7376

info@chaddsfordhistory.org
 www.chaddsfordhistory.org

Open to the Public:
 Wed -Sat 10am - 4pm

Become a Volunteer!

We would love to have you join our dedicated team of volunteers! Opportunities exist for summer camp, office help, education programs and our annual events. If interested, email volunteer@chaddsfordhistory.org or call 610-388-7376.

**A big
 Thank You
 to all our
 volunteers.
 Join today
 and make a
 difference!**



Seeking Summer Interns!

We have two opportunities available for a Marketing/Event Intern and an Education Intern. This is a great opportunity for a college undergraduate or graduate student to get hands on experience in a not for profit museum setting. Experiences include implementing social media strategies, teaching summer camp, and coordinating logistics of major community events. The term of the internship is May – August and includes a completion stipend. Please email a cover letter and resume to info@chaddsfordhistory.org or call 610-388-7376 for more information. Application deadline is April 29th.



Summer Camps

Hands-On! History
 August 8 - 12
 8:45am - 2pm

American Girl Doll
 June 20 - 24
 July 25 - 29 (waiting list)
 8:45am - 2pm



Yard Sale Donation Drop-off April 9 from 11am - 1pm CFHS Visitors Center

We will be accepting donations of household items, jewelry, books, small furniture, antiques, artwork, etc. Please no paint, tv's, encyclopedias, baby items, exercise equipment, clothing or electrical items.