



# The Acorn

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, PA

Vol. LXXII No. 3 - Summer 2018

## Black October: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Montgomery County and the Surrounding Area October 25, 2018, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for a presentation in our Making History Greater Series when Charles Kelly presents *Black October: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Montgomery County and the Surrounding Area*.

The 1918 flu pandemic affected over 500 million people around the world. Wonder why little was spoken about this worldwide plague? Join us for a discussion that will examine the effects of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic on the people of South-eastern Pennsylvania. The 1918 Flu Pandemic killed an estimated 74,000 Pennsylvanians, nearly 13,000 in Philadelphia alone. To prepare his lecture Kelly reviewed local newspaper accounts, numerous web sources, books, as well as publications and Pennsylvania Death Certificates for Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks, Berks, Delaware, Chester, and Lehigh Counties.

The Making History Greater series features scholars, authors, and historians who are currently working on telling new stories about the complexity of our region’s history. *Black October: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Montgomery County* will take place on Thursday, October 25, 2018. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a social gathering and light refreshments. The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm and last for about an hour with time for questions at the end. This program is free and open to the public.



### The Historical Society of Montgomery County

#### Visit Us

**Research Library - Archives  
Books & Gifts - Galleries**

1654 DeKalb Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

Monday and Thursday, 10am - 5pm  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 1pm - 8pm  
Saturday, 10am - 2pm

**Historic Montgomery  
Cemetery**

Located at the end of  
Hartranft Avenue in  
West Norriton Township, PA

Open from dawn to dusk.

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## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

**Saturday, August 18, 2018**

**6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Cemetery Walking Tour**  
*Symbols in the Cemetery*  
Presented by Tammy Schane

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Making History Greater Series**  
*History & Local Impact of the Schuylkill Canals*  
Presented by Marianne Hooper Furman

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, September 1, 2018**

**Monday, September 3, 2018**

**CLOSED**

We will be closed for the  
Labor Day Weekend.

**Tuesdays in September**

**6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
Workshop  
Introduction to Genealogy

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**  
**Cemetery Walking Tour**  
*The Culture of Death*  
Presented by Barry Rauhauser

### OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

**Monday, October 8, 2018**

**CLOSED**

We will be closed for the Columbus Day  
Weekend.

**Saturday, October 20, 2018**

**CLOSED**

We will be closed October 20, 2018 for our  
Strategic Planning Session.

**Thursday, October 2, 2018**

**7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Making History Greater Series**  
*Black October: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in  
Montgomery County and the Surrounding Area*  
Presented by Charles Kelly

## Our Mission

The Historical Society of Montgomery County's mission is to preserve, interpret and promote the history of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and to educate the public about the region's ongoing cultural story.

## Intermediate Genealogy Classes

**Tuesdays in September**

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

The Historical Society of Montgomery County's fall genealogy course will help you delve deeper into the past! Genealogist Rose Brown will present this four week workshop, Intermediate Genealogy, for those who want to go further into their genealogical research and learn more about the process of tracking down history.

Cost for the series is \$40 for non-members, \$10 for members. Call (610)272-0297 to register.

## Thank You !

Thank you to UGI Corporation / AmeriGas for  
sponsoring our 2018 exhibit,  
*Made in Montgomery County*



## Symbols in the Cemetery

### Walking Tour of Historic Montgomery Cemetery

August 18, 2018, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



The Historical Society of Montgomery County announces a special combination event on Saturday, August 18, 2018, that looks at the symbolic meanings of tombstones. The event will feature a walking tour of Historic Montgomery Cemetery that begins at 6:30 p.m. with stops that highlights some of the symbolic representations found on the cemetery's gravestones. This walking tour will be followed by light refreshments inside the Cemetery's gatehouse with a presentation from 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The presentation will be provided by historian Tammy Schane who will discuss many of the symbols found on tombstones throughout the region.

The early 19th century saw the birth of the rural garden cemetery, which began in Paris and spread to the United States by 1824. Tombstone memorials also experienced great change throughout the 19th century, as Americans thought about death in new, more emotional and evocative ways. Tombstone carvers were tasked with carving symbols that illustrated a softer, aesthetically pleasing, and more hopeful way of viewing death as not an endpoint, but rather a step on the path to a better and glorious afterlife where family would be reunited. Tammy Schane has photographed and studied 19th century tombstone carvings in Pennsylvania and surrounding states and will present the meanings behind them. These symbols were a language of sorts in their time and still speak to us today.

Tammy E. Schane holds a B.S. from Syracuse University in Journalism and History, and is currently pursuing a M.A. in Public History from LaSalle University.

She has worked for Heritage Conservancy in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, as the membership coordinator and lead docent of tours of historic Aldie Mansion. She currently volunteers as a tour guide at Doylestown Cemetery and has researched and written a tour about the site's 19th-century tombstone symbols and their meanings. She lectures on her research of 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries to historical societies and other groups, and in 2016, she published a book called, "Engraved: The Meanings Behind 19th-Century Tombstone Symbols."

Tickets for the event are \$15 and include the walking tour, refreshments, and presentation. Tickets are limited; to reserve a seat call 610-272-0297 to reserve your spot.

For information on this event or any of the Historical Society of Montgomery County's programs call 610-272-0297 or email: [contact@hsmcpa.org](mailto:contact@hsmcpa.org).



# Aha!!!

## From Our Blogs

by Nancy Sullivan, Archivist

If you've ever come into our library to do some family research or look up some local history you've probably used one of the several historical and biographical works by authors such as Milton Bean, Charles Hunsicker, and Moses Auge. This week's blog is about Moses Auge, author of *Lives of Eminent Dead and Biographical Notices of Prominent Living Citizens of Montgomery County, Pa.* As I've noted before, people in the past were not concerned with catchy book titles.

Auge was born in Delaware in 1811 and spent his youth in Chester County. He moved to Norristown after he married. He was a hatter by trade. The 1860 Norristown city directory lists him as:

*Auge, Moses, hats clothing and Editor, 178 Egypt Street*

"Egypt Street" is now Main Street. He edited two newspapers in Norristown, the *Republican* and the *True Witness*. Both papers were pro-temperance and anti-slavery.

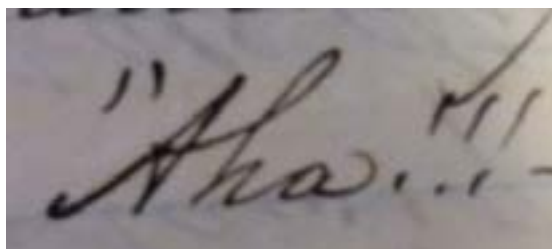
During his time editing the *Republican*, 1857-1862, Auge and his co-editor John H. Williams were both sued for libel by Henry L. Acker. We don't have a copy of the original paper, but luckily for us, the indictment reproduced the article, along with interjections of legalese:



The masthead of the *Republican* after Auge's time as editor.

Aha!!! Our old friend Acker (meaning the said Henry L. Acker) brother of the editor of the *Norristown Register*, late editor of the *Pottsville Democratic Standard*, and post-master at that place under Buchanan, was one day this week honored with a visit from the U. S. Marshall which functionary favored him with a free ride to Philadelphia to answer a charge of embezzling six thousand dollars (meaning six thousand dollars of the public monies of the United States of America received by him the said Henry

L. Acker as such postmaster) it perhaps be remembered by our readers, was some time ago, much troubled about some people long ears! We told him at the time, that, although not a very graceful appendage, they were not so apt to let their owners into trouble as were long fingers (meaning thereby that the said Henry L. Acker has then and there unlawfully appropriated money to himself which did not justly belong to him), and now, we suppose, he will believe we were about right. Virtuous Acker (meaning said Henry L. Acker) while he presided over the columns of the *Standard* who so horrified and indignant as he over the frauds and thefts of the government contractors and *Republican* office holders. Now how have the might fallen. Sic transit gloria mundi.





## The Culture of Death

### Walking Tour of Historic Montgomery Cemetery

September 22, 2018, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Nothing is certain except death and taxes. Culturally, however, the American way of death is anything but certain. Over time, popular funeral and burial rituals have changed dramatically as we have shifted our attitudes towards death.

This special tour of Historic Montgomery Cemetery on September 22, 2018, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, includes a walking tour of the cemetery followed by refreshments and a presentation in the Gatehouse that will examine how America's attitudes towards death have changed since early European settlement. The Historical Society's Executive Director, Barry Rauhauser, will illustrate how global patterns in culture affect the way we view aging and death and look at how some of America's historical events helped to create a unique American view on death and dying

With almost 6,000 known burials, Historic Montgomery Cemetery holds the remains of some of the most prominent citizens, veterans, and reformers in the county and nation. From five Civil War generals to many captains of industry, it tells the story of the nation through the lives it represents. The entrance to Montgomery Cemetery is at the end of Hartranft Avenue, off of West Main Street, Norristown. Parking during the event will be made available inside the Cemetery gates.

Tickets for the event are \$15 and include the walking tour, refreshments and presentation. Tickets are limited so call 610-272-0297 to purchase tickets for this event.



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## A History and Local Impact of the Schuylkill Canals

### Making History Greater Series

August 30, 2018, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us on August 30, 2018 when Marianne Hooper Furman presents *A History and Local Impact of the Schuylkill Canals* !

Built and opened in the 1820s, the Schuylkill Canal was a network of constructed waterways, pools, and locks along the Schuylkill River that significantly improved efficiency in transporting shipments (especially anthracite coal) between Pottsville and Philadelphia. It also served as a source of water power, and led to a manufacturing boom in many river towns. The canal's impact was felt throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania, including the King Of Prussia area. It survived in various forms for more than century, before shutting down during the Great Depression. While little evidence of this famous piece of American infrastructure exists today, some of the few remnants still visible happen to be near our area.

The Making History Greater series features scholars, authors, and historians who are currently working on telling new stories about the complexity of our region's history. *A History and Local Impact of the Schuylkill Canals* will take place on Thursday, August 30, 2018. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a social gathering and light refreshments. The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm and last for about an hour with time for questions at the end. This program is free and open to the public.

## New Additions to Our Collections

Book, Time and Memory by Joyce Munro, Gift of Joyce Munro  
Newsletters, Map, and Aerial Photo of Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Gift of Charles P. Stone  
Photographs, list of funeral expenses, death certificate, ephemera, Gift of Chris Stedman  
Book, Blue Star, Employee newsletter from Autocar (Ardmore, PA), Gift of P. Vincent Riley  
2 Boxes of Papers related to Adam Scheidt Brewery, Gift of Andrea and Bob Porter  
Transcription of John Jacob Scholl's Diary, Gift of Earlene W. O'Hare  
Deeds and Other Archival Papers, Gift of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area  
Advertising Matchbooks, Gift of Ed Ziegler  
Derby Hat Made by Tracey the Hatter, Gift of Janice Boyer  
Sewing Kit, Gift of Deb Lum  
Postcard, "Dam and Island on the Schuylkill", Gift of Jim Brazel  
Several Documents, Gift of Mennonite Heritage Center  
Framed Certificate for Montgomery County Agricultural Society, Gift of Raymond Knight, Jr.  
3 Books, Gift of Barry Rauhauser  
Photograph of Thomas Hovenden's home, Gift of David Doss  
4 Receipt Books by James Lukens, Gift of Dothory Reed  
Photograph of Thomas Cahill, Gift of Anonymous  
Photograph 1st grade class at Holstein St. School, Bridgeport, Gift of Alex Hall  
Book, Lincoln Assassination Conspirators, Gift of Joseph Garrera  
Norristown Operatic Society Materials, Gift of Franklin Earnest Jr.  
Hon. I. P. Wanger Trunk, Gift of Charles Miller  
Redware Plate and Jelly Jar with Lid, Gift of Margaret Suter

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## Thank You !

Thank you to Hilton Garden Inn Valley Forge, Homewood Suites Valley Forge and Hampton Inn & Suites Valley Forge for sponsoring our 2018 exhibit,  
*Made in Montgomery County*



The Historical Society of Montgomery County  
1654 DeKalb Street  
Norristown, PA 19401-5415

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On Display through February, 2019