



THE HULMEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2025 Second Quarter

# TOWN CRIER

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April – May - June 2025

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## Improvements Coming to the HHS Town Crier

This Hulmeville Historical Society is going green and efficient! Beginning with the next edition of the newsletter we will primarily be sending the Town Crier by email. We have been sending almost 500 copies four times each year and the cost has become prohibitive. We will continue to send paper copies by mail to Hulmeville Historical Society members who request it. HHS members who would like to receive a hard copy should send a request to Joe Coleman at [jcole1052019@gmail.com](mailto:jcole1052019@gmail.com) or calling 267-261-2719 or you can send a request in the mail to 525 Lincoln Avenue Hulmeville, PA 19047. If you want a hard copy mailed to you but you are not currently a member of the Hulmeville Historical Society, please send your dues along with the completed form that is at the end of this newsletter to us and check the box that indicates you would like to have the newsletter mailed to you.

We are sending an email version of the edition of the Town Crier to everyone for whom we have an email address. If you do not receive that emailed version around the same time, you get this paper copy and you would like to receive the Town Crier in the future, please send your name and current email address to [jcole1052019@gmail.com](mailto:jcole1052019@gmail.com).

We hope you understand our decision to make this change in the way the Town Crier is distributed. By doing this, the historical society will have more money to use for the many projects and activities that we provide in the community.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS. ROBINSON! June Robinson turns 100 years old on April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Born Name: June Emily Comly

DOB: 4-24-1925

Born and raised and still at her home in: Hulmeville, PA

Married to: William Robinson for 45 years

Graduated: Rider College in 1945

Founding Member and longtime Secretary of the Hulmeville Historical Society.

Employment: June first worked at Leedom's Carpet Mill in Bristol when she was laid off from there and proceeded to collect unemployment, the gentleman working the unemployment office knew June's father and longtime Hulmeville Burgess/Mayor, Bing Comly, which helped her get a job at the Unemployment Office. Following that she worked at a law office in Bristol and then June

worked for 25 years with Sylvester and Keating in Penn del. She still talks about the many travel trips she took with her husband, William and her Sister Leona Dapp and Leona's husband Leroy Dapp. While the two husbands played golf, June and Leona were the perfect tourists. June and Leona were fortunate to travel the world, they have seen almost every country. She told us about the Ice Hotel they slept at, the great wall of China, visiting Russia and many more stories. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday June!



## Mark Your Calendar

**April – 24<sup>th</sup> June Robinson turns 100!**

**May – 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Johnson Hall Book talk on  
Slavery Friends and Freedom in Bucks**

**County By Pat Mervine and Joe Coleman - -**

**- 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade Flag**

**Ceremony at Memorial Park 2 PM**

**August 2nd – 4 PM Hulmeville Borough Family  
Fun Day and NNO**

**September 27 – Hulmeville Olde Towne Flea  
Market**

**October 3,4,10 and 11 Hulmeville Ghost Tours**

## Hulmeville Happenings

### SOUP OFF RESULTS

It was another great year for the Soup off. The tables were packed all afternoon at the Neshamony Methodist Church as our guests enjoyed the delicious soup and the companionship of neighbors. Thank you to all our soup makers, our soup tasters, Pastor VK and the Neshamony Methodist Church, and everyone who helped make our Soup Off a huge success!

### Congratulations to our winners!!

1st- Dorothy Omientowski

2nd- Lori Fuss

3rd- John Baran

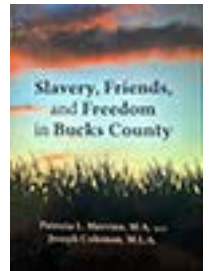
### Thank you OCI

Once again, Dean Casmirri and Lisa hosted the HHS fundraiser at the Old Colonial Inn. The staff worked tirelessly weaving through the tables in a packed house as the patrons enjoyed delicious food and drinks and good times. A portion of the proceeds from the evening along with money from gift basket raffles benefit the HHS so we can continue our efforts to build a strong community. There was a great turnout, and we thank Dean, Lisa and the staff and everyone who attended as well as all the local businesses who donated items for our raffle baskets.

## What's It Worth

Once again, our "What's It Worth" event saw every seat filled as expert appraiser Michael Invankovich, returned to appraise the valuable items that community members brought out. We want to thank Mike, his wife Sue and everyone who came out to make it an enjoyable evening which we hope to repeat next January.

**Slavery, Friends and  
Freedom in Bucks County**  
**Book Talk at Johnson Hall**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30- 8:30**



On May 15<sup>th</sup> the HHS will host a book talk at Johnson Hall focusing on the history of African Americans in Bucks County from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the Civil War. Authors Pat Mervine and Joe Coleman will review some of the highlights of this history with a special focus on Hulmeville. Their book, Slavery, Friends and Freedom will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to the African American Museum of Bucks County. Admission is free. Coffee and refreshments will be served. You may bring your own beer or wine if you'd like.

## The Hulmeville Historical Society Meetings

We meet at Borough Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00. The meetings are open to the public. (No scheduled meeting in July and December.) At each meeting we discuss the planning of upcoming events as well as some topic from Hulmeville History. Residents are also welcome to come with questions about Hulmeville history that we will try to answer. For updates on Hulmeville events follow us on Facebook. If you prefer to read the HHS Town Crier online or share it with friends and family, it is available on our website. [Hulmevillehistorical.org](http://Hulmevillehistorical.org).

## Cat's Meow

Our new Cat's Meow piece is the beautiful Neshamony United Methodist Church at 325 Main Street in a nighttime setting. Contact Mary Johnson at 215-757-8412 if you would like to purchase one. We also have earlier pieces still available.



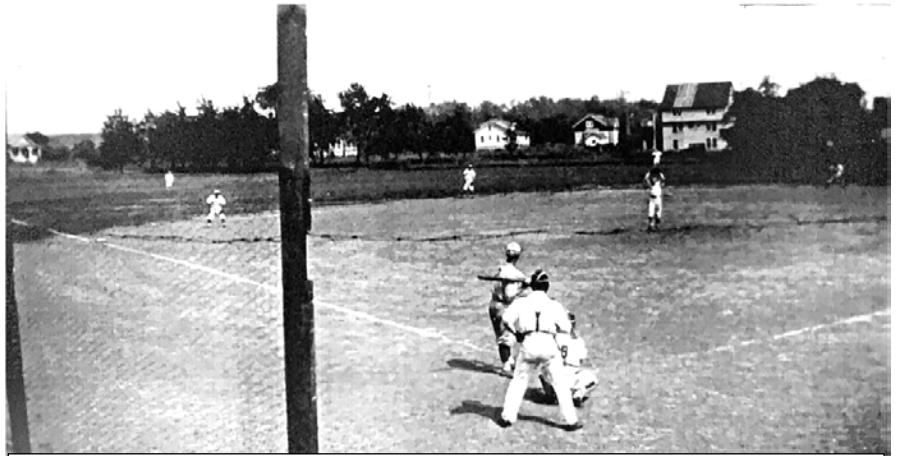
## A little bit of Hulmeville History – Hulmeville and Baseball

Spring is in the air and it's time for another year of baseball. Hulmeville had a long love affair with baseball in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Baseball was taking off across the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century. In the summer of 1874, the *Hulmeville Beacon* reported on this phenomenon coming to Lower Bucks County. "Base Ball – This athletic pleasure of our young men is quite the rage at the present time. The clubs bear the names of 'Schenck's' of Schenck's Station (Croydon), 'Keystone' of Hulmeville, 'Resolutes' of Attleboro (Langhorne) and 'Goldsmith' of Bristol. On Friday last the second game between the 'Schencks' and 'Keystones' was played. The game was a very exciting one and was won by the 'Schencks' by 13 runs— \_the score standing at 35—22. The game was drawn on account of a violent storm which passed over the section when the above score was reached." Imagine how many runs would have been scored if not for the storm. The Philadelphia Quakers formed in 1883 and changed their name to the Phillies in 1890.

By the 1890s local players were travelling to away games by using the trolley that came through town. According to a story in the *Hulmeville Borough Centennial* booklet, "... for an afternoon game the men would board the trolley in the morning, get off at the next tavern, spend a little time, board the next trolley to the next tavern and so on. These boys must have been pretty wild by game time." Despite this, the Hulmeville teams were very successful.

In 1927, the Hulmeville team had a record of 38-6 and won the league championship. The team played at a field that was created on Reetz avenue behind the wallpaper mill that was at Reetz and Main. Newspaper accounts reported that hundreds of fans regularly showed up at these games in the twenties and thirties with one game having 2,000 people in attendance. In 1933, the Boston Black Sox of the National Negro League came to Reetz Avenue to play the Hulmeville A.A. team.



Reetz Field on Reetz Avenue was the Hulmeville's homefield in the 1920s and 1930s. The houses in the background face Ford Avenue.

Some stars of the team from the 20s and 30s were Charles "Dutch" Afflerbach, Leon "Bing" Comly, George Bilger, and pitcher Howard Black. Black even went on to play professional baseball in the minor league for a short time. At the end of the 1936 season, *The Bristol Courier* announced that Bing Comly and Dutch Afflerbach were retiring after twenty-five years on the Hulmeville team: "'Bing' Comly and 'Dutch' Afflerbach, stalwarts on the Hulmeville baseball team for 25 years, have finally come to the conclusion that they can't go on like Tennyson's brook, forever... These two chaps have done much for baseball in the lower end of this county having played on many of Hulmeville's championship teams for more years than any other player with the possible exception of Howard Black... We salute you Bing and Dutch."

## **Hulmeville Historical Society Membership Form**

Annual membership runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

☐ \$12.00 Individual annual membership.

☐ \$24.00 annual membership

☐ \$50.00 Business annual membership

☐ \$500 Lifetime membership

☐ 75 Years and older free membership

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your form and check payable to:

Hulmeville Historical Society Inc.  
321 Main Street  
Hulmeville, PA 19047

☐ Please check here if you would like to receive a paper copy of the HHS Town Crier newsletter in the United States mail.

Please note United States mail delivery of the HHS Town Crier is only available to current members of the Hulmeville Historical Society.