

Sewickley Valley Historical Society

Signals

XXXVII, Number 1

September 2009



Franklin Toker, by Heather Mull

Frank Lloyd Wright, E. J. Kaufmann & My Book on Fallingwater

A Lecture by Franklin Toker
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Edgeworth Club

Optional Cash Bar: 5:30 — Optional Dinner: 6:15
(see below for details)

Lecture: 7:30

The Sewickley Valley Historical Society is pleased to present Dr. Franklin Toker, who will speak about the remarkable collaboration between Frank Lloyd Wright and E. J. Kaufmann that made the creation of Fallingwater possible, as well as about the conflicts between those two titanic personalities that made it impossible for them to bring a single one of their other 20 projects to fruition. Dr. Toker will also recount his own adventures with the Kaufmanns and with Wright's disciples as he struggled to record the facts about the world's most famous private house in his 2003 book *Fallingwater Rising*.

A popular teacher and lecturer in urban history and the history of Medieval and American architecture at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Toker is a past president of the international Society of Architectural Historians and has published books as well as several dozen scholarly articles on topics ranging from Roman archaeology, Gothic architectural drawings, and

Renaissance architectural theory to the work of H. H. Richardson, Post-Modern architecture and American urban history.

Dr. Toker was born in Montreal. He earned degrees in Fine Arts from McGill University, Oberlin College and Harvard University. The first non-Italian to teach the history of art at the University of Florence, his best-known scholarly work was as director of the archaeological excavations below the Florence Duomo. His book *Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait* is now in its third printing.

Outside of his academic work, Prof. Toker is active in civic improvements in Pittsburgh and in architectural and urban preservation. He frequently lectures on architectural and urban topics to national and international audiences.

NOTE: Franklin Toker's latest book, *Pittsburgh: A New Portrait*, may be published by September 16. If so, it will be on sale at his talk, for \$34.95.

Dinner Menu

Mixed Green Salad with Berries, Pecans & Mandarin Oranges
Chicken Fontinella, Asparagus, Quartered Redskin Potatoes
Lemon & Key Lime Torte, Coffee/Tea

\$35/person

For dinner reservations, call Sewickley Valley Historical Society, 412-741-5315.

Checks should be made payable to Sewickley Valley Historical Society and mailed to SVHS, 200 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA 15143.

Deadline for dinner reservations & checks is Wednesday, September 9, 2009.

NOTE: You need not attend dinner to attend the lecture.

The mission of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society
is to promote interest in and to record, collect, preserve, and document the history of the Sewickley Valley.

Arthur Nevin & Walter McClintock, cont.

You will remember that the last three issues of *Signals* featured the story of Arthur Nevin's Indian opera, "Poia," and Nevin's relationship with Pittsburgher Walter McClintock (1870-1949), whose beautiful photographs of the Blackfeet were used to illustrate the *Signals* articles. The April and May issues included a transcription of Arthur Nevin's diary, written when he visited the Blackfeet reservation with McClintock in 1903.

In June, we received a phone call from Steven L. Grafe, Curator of American Indian Art at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, who was in the process of writing an extended article about the opera for *Montana Magazine* and was thrilled to find the transcribed journal on our website. Grafe has edited, with contributions from William E. Farr, Sherry L. Smith and Darrell Robes Kipp, a handsome volume entitled *Lanterns on the Prairie: The Blackfeet Photographs of Walter McClintock* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2009), which the Historical Society has purchased for its collection. The book, in addition to the McClintock photographs, contains an extensive account of the writing of the opera "Poia," which, according to Grafe, is pronounced "Py-ee!"



*Arthur Nevin, 1903, by Walter McClintock. The composer is standing in front of McClintock's small traveling tipi, painted to show the war and hunting exploits of a Blackfoot Indian, Big Eyes. The photograph is in the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University and is reproduced on page 8 of Steven L. Grafe's book, *Lanterns on the Prairie*.*

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SVHS Welcomes John Kroeck as President



Sewickley Valley Historical Society's new President, John Kroeck, is a lifetime resident of Pittsburgh, having lived at various times in Glenshaw, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, Mount Lebanon and the Mexican War Streets. A 1962 graduate of Shaler High School, he obtained a B. S. in Metallurgical Engineering from Grove City College in 1966 and an M.B.A. from Duquesne University in 1972. John worked for U. S. Steel, Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel and Westinghouse Electric during his 30-year engineering career. He became an antique dealer in 1996 and has since participated in hundreds of antique shows around the United States. He looks forward to his tenth show for Child Health at the Edgeworth Club in October.

Beginning in 1970, John restored four properties in the Mexican War Streets; he moved to Sewickley in 1984 to purchase and restore the Lark Inn, perhaps the oldest

surviving residence in the Sewickley Valley. He joined the Sewickley Valley Historical Society soon after. John lives with his wife, Sadie, and their sons, Lou and Ben, at the Lark Inn, which he recently enlarged with an 1810 log house addition. Daughter Jennifer, her husband, Sam, and two grandchildren live in Denver, Colorado.

John owns and manages two antique shows held annually at the Greensburg Country Club and at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, West Virginia. He is currently Chairman of the Edgeworth-Leetsdale Municipal Authority, which is undergoing an eight million dollar expansion. He is a 20-year board member and past president of The Harmonie Associates, now known as the Friends of Old Economy Village. John is also a member of the Decorative Arts Forum of the Carnegie Museum and the Sewickley Neighborhood Association.

Donations

In honor of Margaret Dury
The Sewickley Music Club

In honor of Mrs. Robert Neil's 100th Birthday
Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Miller, Jr.

In memory of Phyllis Keister Semple
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Casper
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin V. Clarke, Jr.
Katie & Tucker Gordon
Nancy K. Hansen
Mrs. Henry P. Sullivan

New Members

Maleet Gordon, Sewickley
Mr. William Herron, Lyndhurst, OH
Rick & Shan Jackson, Sewickley
Mr. Robert Wood, Ormond Beach, FL

In Memoriam

J. Gordon Price

Sewickley's
Harvest Festival
Saturday, September 12
10:00-5:00

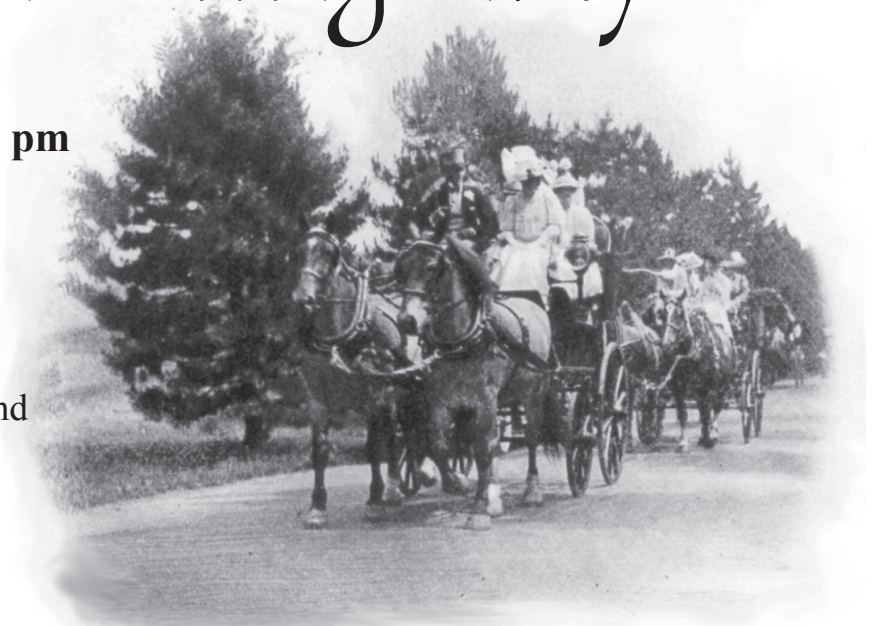
Visit the Sewickley Valley Historical Society's booth on Broad Street for items & information relating to the history of the Valley

The Annual Sewickley Heights History Center
Riding & Driving Party

Saturday, September 26, at 4 pm

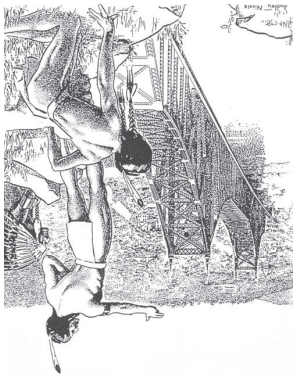
Antique Cars & Carriages
Jumping & Dressage
Equestrian Exhibitions
The Hunt & Hounds
Cocktails • Dinner • Swing Band

Special reduced donation
for SVHS members: \$60



Proceeds to benefit Sewickley Heights History Center
For further information, call 412-741-4487

Signals is designed and edited by Susan C. Holton. Visit our website, www.sewickleyhistory.org — e-mail us at sewickleyhistory@verizon.net — or call us at 412-741-5315. We're open 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or by appointment.



September 2009

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