

Merion Friends History Festival
615 Montgomery Ave., Merion, PA

Saturday May 20, 2017
(Rain or Shine)

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Open to the Public

Free Admission

We are excited to announce that ***Merion Friends Meeting*** has partnered with ***The Lower Merion Historical Society*** and ***The Lower Merion Conservancy*** to present a family-oriented festival focused on Lower Merion in the period 1820-1860, when horses were key to the local economy and Quakers played a significant role in the community.

Step into the year 1850 when you enter the campus of Merion Friends Meeting at 615 Montgomery Ave. in Merion on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn about the key role of horses in Lower Merion at this time and about the challenges to simplicity-loving Quakers presented by growing wealth. There will be re-enactors in period garb, a blacksmith demonstration, a quilt turning and period crafts and games for children. Visitors may also take tours of both the Meetinghouse, which dates to 1695, and the burying ground, oldest in the area. Hand-cut silhouettes and horse-drawn carriage rides will be available for a fee and visitors may purchase hot and cold food from the period.

In response to this year's *One Book, One Lower Merion* selection, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, and other popular media, there has been renewed interest in the journeys of enslaved people and the Underground Railroad. Festival exhibits will include Quakers' roles in the American abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad as well as the role of horses and carriages in Lower Merion then; and Quaker dress in the early nineteenth century.

For more information, go to <http://merionfriends.org/MerionFestival.htm>

