## Some notes from the past: Salem Quarter News, Spring 1985

**Latest Lower Alloways Repairs**

Salem Quarterly Meeting’s appropriation of $2500 for needed repair work on our Lower Alloways Creek Meetinghouse has put the property committee well on its way to completing the work. Window framing and sills, brickwork, and the entrance support columns have been the major tasks.

The 230-year old Meetinghouse is certainly one of our most prized heritages of Quaker culture and character in South Jersey. Our investment in its preservation has been small. So very many people, Friends and non-Friends, as well as visitors, are in love with its simple beauty and meaningful history.

*- Bill Waddington.*

**Stewardship & Hancock’s Bridge**

In the years past a vision has been voiced by various Friends for Hancock’s Bridge Meetinghouse to become a retreat center for Salem Quarter. Several times it has been a gathering place for Quarter events, such as a called Meeting for Worship and a Young Friends Summer day.

Whenever a use is mentioned, the question is raised about water and bathrooms.

I suggest that we think creatively think about this gem we own, creatively and with vision. If we believe that this property could /should be viewed as an undeveloped asset for present and future Quaker activity in Salem Quarter, then surely we would easily solve the facilities problem by importing or installing them.

Let’s not continue to consign it to the category of unused meetinghouse with no resident meeting. Let’s do some brainstorming about its possibilities. I am fascinated by the thought that, as we share ideas with other PYM meetings on ways or reaching out to our own members and attenders, and as we extend a welcome to others who wish to be a part of the family of Friends, more and exciting uses for Hancock’s Bridge Meetinghouse will be conceived. Our maintaining this property is not simply to preserve an historic structure. We should see our stewardship as an investment for the future use of a growing Religious Society of Friends.

*- Judy Suplee*