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MARCH 2019

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PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

History of Manufacturing in Philadelphia

Presented by Jack McCarthy

Author of *In the Cradle of Industry and Liberty in Philadelphia, a History of Manufacturing in Philadelphia*

Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church – Bethlehem Pike & East Mill Road in Flourtown, PA

In the early years of manufacturing in Philadelphia, industry was centered in Old City. It later spread out to other areas such as Kensington, Nicetown and Manuyunk sections of the city. Jack McCarthy, author of *In the Cradle of Industry and Liberty in Philadelphia, a History of Manufacturing in Philadelphia* and the guest speaker at the Springfield Township Historical Society's March 28 program, said that work was done in metalwork, chemicals and paint manufacturing. Work was also done in textiles and metalwork by shipbuilders and for locomotives. Manufacturing was broad-based in Philadelphia, whereas some industries were huge in some cities such as cars in Detroit and steel in Pittsburgh.

In his talk, McCarthy will follow the history of manufacturing from the city's founding in 1682 until the present. In the early years, work was done in shops, such as candle-making, shoe-making and blacksmithing. As the population and city grew, the scale and scope of manufacturing grew. Among the industries in which Philadelphia was strong was the pharmaceutical industry, according to McCarthy. It was the home of the first drug mill, established in the 1810s, was the site of many drugmakers and related industries, such as chemical manufacturing, research universities and hospitals. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Philadelphia was a power house. In the post-World War II area, it was less of a manufacturing city, he said.

McCarthy is an archivist and historian who specializes in music, business and industry, and



Northeast Philadelphia. In addition to his 2016 book, *In the Cradle of Industry and Liberty in Philadelphia, a History of Manufacturing*

in Philadelphia, he has written

numerous essays for the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. He curated the 2017–18 exhibit "Risk & Reward: Entrepreneurship and the Making of Philadelphia" for the Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia. He serves as consulting archivist for the Philadelphia Orchestra and Mann Music Center and directs a project for Jazz Bridge entitled "Documenting & Interpreting the Philly Jazz Legacy," funded by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

He plans to sell copies of his book, a publication of the Manufacturing Alliance of Philadelphia, at the program.

The Springfield Township Historical Society program is free and open to the public. Call 215-233-4600 or visit www.springfieldhistory.org for more information.

PLEASE NOTE:

Attendees to the March program are encouraged to bring a canned food item to donate to the First Presbyterian Church's neighborhood food pantry. Please help us to support this important cause.

President's Corner

As announced previously, the Historical Society is working with Springfield Township and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) to bring two large decorative urns, originally located at the Statesbury estate Whitmarsh Hall, back to the Township after 80 years. The actual date of the move is dependent on the PMA's West Entrance construction schedule. We are hoping the urns will be installed at the new Municipal Services Campus late this summer or early fall. In the meantime, significant progress has been made regarding our fundraising efforts and preparations for the move. Springfield Township has designed and already constructed two reinforced concrete footers for the urns, one on each side of the entrance to the Library on Hawthorne Lane.

In December, a fundraising event was held at the Wheel Pump Inn. I would like to thank Brian Quinn and his staff at BQ Basement Systems for hosting the event. I would also like to

thank our generous sponsors and contributors, including Image360, Dan Helwig Inc. Realtors, Kreilick Conservation, LLC, Chadds Ford Winery, Seedling and Sage, and Revolving Doors. The proceeds from this event, when combined with other funds from the Historical Society and other donations, will cover the costs associated with rigging and transporting the urns from PMA to the Township. Additional funds are needed for annual plantings and subsequent maintenance of the urns. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Visit the Society's website (www.springfieldhistory.org) for details.

Thank you for your continued support of the Springfield Township Historical Society. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on the Society's Board of Directors please contact me.

T. Scott Kreilick
President, Springfield Township Historical Society

Archives UPDATE

Throughout 2018, Springfield Township Historical Society received 24 gifts of personal papers, photographs, ephemera, and objects. Within the last few months these gifts have included:

- Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Vol XXXVIII No. 1
- Photographs of Springfield Township circa 1970-1990 used for publication from the Chestnut Hill Conservancy.
- Inquirer magazine, May 11, 2003 with article on the Black Horse Inn preservation efforts from Pam Callanan.
- Digital Springfield Township images brought in by Ed McLaughlin.

We are extremely thankful for all of our dedicated volunteers. They provided approximately 172.5 hours of service from September 1 – December 31.

- On-going efforts by volunteers Ray Smith, Barbara Coleman, Ed and Muriel Zwicker, Ed Zwicker IV, Steve Lester, and Julie Lawson to sort organize, scan, catalog records in the Society's collection, as well as assist researchers, have made a significant contribution to the accessibility of the STHS holdings.
- We are also happy to welcome Jim Green as a new archival volunteer. Jim started in January and is assisting with updating photograph records in to the collection database software.



If you are interested in volunteering, researching a topic, or have items you wish to donate to the Society, please email us at archives@springfieldhistory.org.



The Historical Society is on Facebook; find us at ***Springfield Township Historical Society.***

**Become a Friend of
S T H S**

FOR DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:
www.springfieldhistory.org

CALL FOR *Archives
Volunteers*

Our dedicated group of volunteers are continuing to catalogue our collection. Our volunteers provide a valuable service to the historical society and are vital to carrying out our mission. If you like history and working with computers and have an hour or two to spare each week please contact the archives at **archives@springfieldhistory.org** or **215-233-4600**.

The Backwards Bungalow

When local Realtor Joshua McKnight drove over to tour his new sales listing on Paper Mill Road (a foreclosure), he was struck by something very odd... this home was the only one on the street that faced the wrong way (away from Paper Mill Road) – and no one seemed to know why!

Now listed as 1106 Paper Mill Road, this building has a rich history little known in the Township, today. It had been built circa 1900 by Mitchell Harrison, as part of his “Chestnut Hill Stock Farm and Kennels” along Paper Mill Road; Mr. Harrison lived nearby, on Cheltenham Road, in his estate, “Pennbrook.” The Bungalow faces southeast, because it was located on an internal network of roads, and only connected to Paper Mill Road across the street from the presentday Preston Road, not built until much later.

The house, at nearly 5,000 square feet on two levels, plus a full basement, is quite large, and appears to have originally been configured with servants’ quarters on the Second Floor accessed by a separate servants’ stairway, and a service porch/entrance on the north side of the building. It is unclear exactly what family originally resided there, but it was likely a senior employee of Mr. Harrison. The architect for this building has also not yet been identified, but a charming main stairhall has a curved design much reminiscent of prominent Philadelphia architect Wilson Eyre, although we have not yet found any records to substantiate this.

Shortly before 1910, Mr. Harrison began to tire of his equine and canine pursuits, and sold the Pennbrook estate, moving out of the state. Eventually, after passing through several hands, both Pennbrook and the former Chestnut Hill Stock Farm and Kennels were purchased by Edward T. Stotesbury, then accumulating parcels to form the 305 acre “Whitemarsh Hall” estate.

During the years of operation of Whitemarsh Hall, this home (called “the Bungalow” by the Stotesburys) served as the home of the Housekeeper of the mansion; in this case, “Housekeeper” was an executive position – the woman in charge of nearly all of the household staff, which she managed from an office in the Service Wing of the mansion. Mrs. Stotesbury only hired Housekeepers who were actually members of Philadelphia’s Social Register. From the formal opening of the mansion in

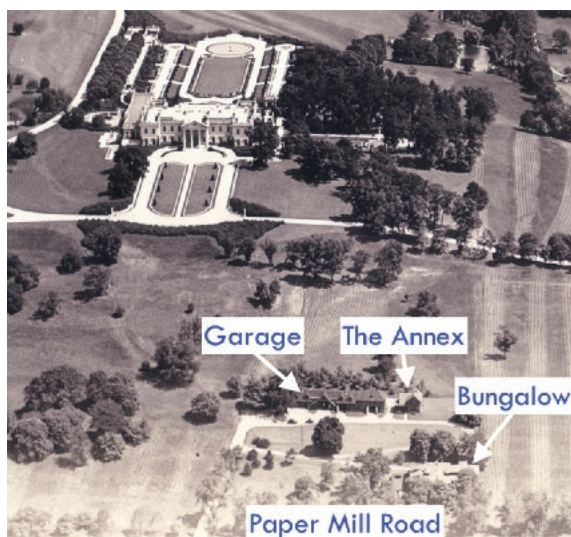


View looking West at the front (eastern side) of the Bungalow, taken in June 1930 by the Santa Maria family.



View looking West at the front of the Bungalow, taken in January 2019. Photo by Deborah Wilson.

October 1921 through early 1930, Miss Elizabeth Lea held the position; she was replaced in April 1930 by Miss Elena Santa Maria, who was Housekeeper until Whitemarsh Hall was closed in November 1938, after Mr. Stotesbury’s death.



Aerial view, to the southeast, from above Paper Mill Road, 1926. Cropped and annotated by R. Billig. Original photo credit: Whitemarsh Hall, estate of E. Stotesbury, ID 70_200_01662, J. Victor Dallin Aerial Survey collection (Accession 1970.200), Audiovisual Collections and Digital Initiatives Department, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE 19807.

From roughly June 1930 – November 1938, Elena Santa Maria lived in the Bungalow with her younger sister, Maquita. Thanks to an oral history interview of Maquita, conducted by Ed Zwicker IV on July 15, 2009, we have a clear understanding of how the two sisters lived in the quite-large house – including Maquita’s use of the large room on the Second Floor as an art studio, and how the home’s large kitchen was taken over by Mrs. Stotesbury’s personal laundress to do her private laundry, separate from the main estate laundry facilities, which were located in a building off Cheltenham Avenue. (The Santa Maria sisters were able to easily prepare meals in the Bungalow’s Butler’s Pantry, which connected between the Kitchen and Dining Room.)

After Whitemarsh Hall was closed in November 1938, Elena and Maquita Santa Maria moved to a new home that

they had just built at 155 Rex Avenue in Chestnut Hill, and together ran “The Hilltop Shop” on Chestnut Hill Avenue for many years thereafter. While all the other structures between Whitemarsh Hall and Paper Mill Road were promptly demolished, the new post-War housing development constructed along Paper Mill Road and Cheltenham Avenue, which added Stotesbury Avenue and Cromwell Road, carefully preserved the Bungalow for a new life.

<p>AUTHOR CONTACT INFORMATION:</p>	<p>Richard R. Billig Email: rrbillig@gmail.com Administrator, “Fans of Whitemarsh Hall” group on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/groups/WhitemarshHall/</p>
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MANUFACTURING IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

Written by Ray Smith

Over the years, Springfield Township has transitioned from a community of farms into the bedroom community of today. Our early commercial enterprises came about due to both our location and our abundant natural resources. In the 1700s, mills sprung up along our numerous streams to manufacture paper and to process grains grown on outlying farms. In the early 1800s, hotels and taverns were built to accommodate stage passengers and farmers traveling to and from the city. Mining came about due to the abundance of lime, iron ore, stone and good clay in our area. With the mines, came kilns and iron processing.

The building of railroads through Oreland and the Panhandle (1850s), Flourtown (1860s) and Wyndmoor (1890s) led to the many manufacturing companies that located here. We don't have space to provide a detailed history of manufacturing, but the following lists will give you an overview of the manufacturers active in your neighborhood. Stop in to the archives for more details on some of these companies or to share your knowledge about them.

ORELAND

Edge Hill Iron Works was built along the railroad in Oreland near Station Avenue in the late 1860s. They employed up to 250 workers until ceasing operations in the late 1890s.

Enfield Tile, at five points, manufactured decorative tile and pottery in the early 1900s. The archives has a variety of samples and catalogues from this company.

Tank Car Corporation of America, built and refurbished tank cars from the 1920s through the 1970s. It, unfortunately, is an EPA Superfund site.

Griffith Pottery House has been in operation here since 1951 and is active in the community.

ThermOmegaTech produced specialty valves from the 1980s until moving production to Warminster.

Acme Coppersmithing and Machine Co. produced chemical processing equipment in the 1930s and 40's. They were located on the north side of the Reading, where the Cheltenham school buses are now parking.

Chapel Hill Manufacturing Co. produces printing roller covers.

WYNDMOOR

Nelson Valve Company operated on Queen Street starting in 1909. The railroad station, at Queen and Ivy Hill road was then called "Nelmoor."

Keasby and Mattison, the Ambler asbestos company added operations in the Nelson Valve building, and the railroad station was then renamed "Asbestos."

Metlab purchased the old Nelson Valve property in 1938 and set up a heat treating and nitriding facility in 1/3rd of the facility, selling the rest of it to

Globe Hoist Co., a manufacturer of automotive lifts. Globe was purchased by Dresser in 1965 and ceased Wyndmoor operations. It is now owned by SVI.

Century Vault Company manufactured burial vaults and cinder blocks, on Mermaid lane near Queen Street from the late 1940s.

The following additional Wyndmoor companies show up on area maps from the dates shown:

Foote Mineral Company (1946)

Electronic Tube Works (1949)

A B Landis (1946)

C F Moore (1949)

White Chemical (1946)

Arch T Flower Steel Products (1949)

Milton Roy (1949)

National Crucible (1949)

General Screw Machine Products (1949)

Voltax Paint and Varnish Co. (1916)

In addition to manufacturing, Springfield Township had large flower growing operations in Wyndmoor during the first half of the 1900s. The Burton, Myers and Samtmann families were long associated with this business.

FLOURTOWN / ERDENHEIM

The Heydrick Family started manufacturing farm implements shortly after the civil war on land later occupied by White City and the High School. They produced one of the earliest lawn mowers.

Motson Graphics, Inc., located on Bethlehem pike north of Mill Road, is active, printing, painting, finishing and fabrication for client companies.



History in Motion **ENCORE PRESENTATION**



*A long view of
Erdenheim Farm
towards the
sheep barn,
by Paul Meyer*

Carson Valley & Erdenheim Farm: *Fantasy Village & Country Estate*

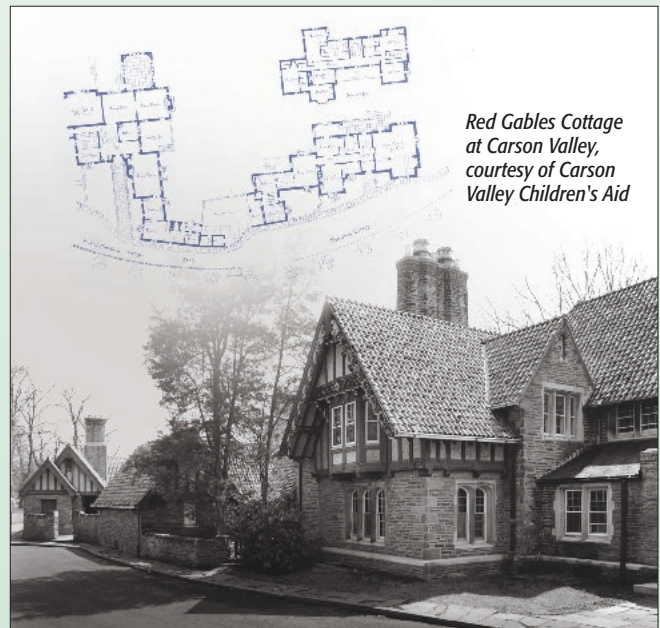
The Springfield Township Historical Society will present an encore presentation of its fifth History in Motion on *Carson Valley & Erdenheim Farm: Fantasy Village & Country Estate* on Thursday, April 18, at Commonwealth Chateau at Sugarloaf, 9220 Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Carson Valley School and Erdenheim Farm, once parts of a single property, are places of unparalleled beauty and serenity at the edge of a large city. Dr. David Contosta will tell the story of how this unlikely pairing has been shaped and preserved over several centuries.

Contosta is Professor of History at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia and a frequent speaker before civic and community groups. He is the author of more than twenty books, many of them about the Philadelphia region. These include *Suburb in the City: Chestnut Hill Philadelphia*; *A Philadelphia Family: The Houstons and Woodwards of Chestnut Hill*; and *Metropolitan Paradise: Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley*, co-authored with Carol Franklin. David has also written about Henry Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Charles Darwin. His most recent book is *America's Needless Wars*. In addition, he has lectured at universities in China and South Korea. At present David is working on a documentary film about the Wissahickon Valley.

Entry includes a complimentary Wine Tasting by Chaddsford Winery. All proceeds go to benefit the Springfield Township Historical Society and their efforts to bring the two Stotesbury Urns home to Springfield Township from the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

For more information, call the historical society at 215-233-4600.



*Red Gables Cottage
at Carson Valley,
courtesy of Carson
Valley Children's Aid*

PLACE:

The Commonwealth Chateau at SugarLoaf
9220 Germantown Ave., Phila., PA 19118

TIME: 7pm to 9:30pm

TICKETS: \$25 per person

Sign-up deadline is April 7 — Seating is limited to 150

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Visit www.springfieldhistory.org
OR

Send a check to the historical society at P.O. 564, Flourtown, PA 19031
(payable to the historical society)

The official registration and financial information of the Springfield Township Historical Society may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

FROM THE *Archives*



"Real-Photo" Postcard of the miniature railroad train with guests at the White City Amusement Park, about 1907-1912. The train ran beneath the Woodland Toboggan. Springfield Township Historical Society Collection 2001.2.103

The
Archives
are

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SATURDAYS 9am – 12noon

For more information, call 215-233-4600

Reserve the Date

Thurs., March 28, 2019 – 7PM

History of Manufacturing in Philadelphia

Presented by Jack McCarthy



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