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## JUNE 2018

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# The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

## An Evening at the Wheel Pump

Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 6 to 9 p.m.

You have probably driven by the Wheel Pump Inn located at 529 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim, a thousand times. But now, an unusual opportunity to witness the rebirth and thoughtful restoration of one of the most prominent historic inns and its accessory buildings along Bethlehem Pike.

Built circa 1735 the village that sprung up around the inn was called Wheel Pump, later Heydrick's Hollow, Heydrick's Dale, and finally Erdenheim as we know it today. Erdenheim was a noted stopping place for travelers just outside Philadelphia and the Wheel Pump became the first of the historic inns to be built on the Pike.

Today, the current owner, Brian Quinn of BQ Basement Systems, has completed an amazing restoration of the main inn and original second floor bar, as well as the accessory buildings on the property.

Join us as the Springfield Township Historical Society and BQ Basement Systems hosts an evening of history, a reflection on historical images and artifacts. The owner and the architect who worked on the restoration will be on hand to share stories and point out unique features. You are also welcome to wander the property and take it all in on your own!

Acoustic performance by Revolving Doors featuring the Page Brothers, Greg & Chris (Spaj)



*This 1885 photo shows three horse and carriages and people can be seen standing on the first and second floor porches. (Photo courtesy of the Springfield Township Historical Society)*

Page, who will perform mostly works from musicians such as Neil Young, Cat Stevens and Simon and Garfunkel.

Food and refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by BQ Basement Systems, Springfield Township Historical Society, Kreilick Conservation, and Dan Helwig, Inc. Realtors. All proceeds for the event will go to the Springfield Township Historical Society.

Tickets are limited and are going fast. They are \$25 each and may be purchased online at <https://wheelpump.eventbrite.com>. Call the Historical Society at 215-233-4600 for more information.

**SOLD OUT!**

# BATTLE OF WHITEMARSH DRIVING TOUR

Everyday, countless commuters pass the hills of Whitemarsh where the Continental Army was encamped in late 1777 without having any idea of Washington's reasons for having been there. Just as many drive along old colonial highways of the area without any knowledge that thousands of General William Howe's troops traversed these roads to engage Washington's forces. Still others living in local neighborhoods have little awareness of the fighting that raged between Continental and British soldiers – right in their own backyards. Some in the region have heard of the Battle of Edge Hill, but few truly understand what happened, let alone the context of the fight. Overshadowed by and sandwiched between the Battle of Germantown and Valley Forge, the Battle of Whitemarsh (December 5-8, 1777) is a largely forgotten episode during the time of the British occupation of Philadelphia. Hopefully, this will soon change.

Last spring (2017), students of Phil-Mont Christian Academy in Erdenheim completed and produced an online driving tour of the Battle of Whitemarsh. The tour can be found at [BattleofWhitemarsh.weebly.com](http://BattleofWhitemarsh.weebly.com). The project, which was begun in May of 2016 by the 11th Grade AP US History class and completed the following May, was presented to a public audience at that time. Many people attended including members of the Springfield



*Hope Lodge – location of officer quarters during the Whitemarsh encampment, November/December, 1777.*

Township Historical Society. Wending its way through various sites of the encampment as well as Chestnut Hill, Wyndmoor, Germantown, Glenside, Ardsley, Upper Dublin and Elkins Park, the tour includes twelve stops starting and ending at Fort Hill. Each stop presents a full narrative of the events that took place over the days of the fighting while also providing the broader context of Howe's Philadelphia Campaign and the Whitemarsh Encampment. Much auxiliary material is provided including brief biographies of major personalities, important locations and related stories as well as technical information. The publication is thoroughly researched and includes a full bibliography that can be found in a printable digitized version on the website.

The project – researched, written and designed by the students – grew out of an annual

assignment given to the 11th Grade US History class – the Revolutionary War Site Project. All the 11th graders are required to choose a site relevant to the war in the Delaware Valley, research it, write a report and create a poster. In addition, each student is to visit the site in order to enhance his understanding of the engagement. A number of options for the students are available ranging from Brandywine to Monmouth. Whitemarsh is always included. Typically, since the assignment is given over the months of December and early January, the students visit their sites over the Christmas break. When we reconvene in early January, I always ask them about their visits. With the group that ultimately completed the driving tour project, there were two students who had chosen Whitemarsh. When I asked them about their visit they both expressed a bit of

disappointment – “there’s just not much out there.” I commiserated, but we moved on. Following the AP exam, it is always a question regarding how to fill up the final weeks of the school year. Picking up on the Whitemarsh sentiments expressed earlier in the year, I challenged the AP students to take on Whitemarsh – either through an initiative for signage or a driving tour. They chose the driving tour. We didn’t get much accomplished by the end of the year, so we picked up the project again in the fall. Over the course of the academic year, along with all the other responsibilities the students had, they completed the Whitemarsh project. The final product has been well received. A number of historical sites, libraries and historical societies have agreed to post the tour on their own websites including Springfield Township Historical Society. We are most grateful for the affirmation and encouragement.

Now that the project has been completed and made public (we may continue to tweak it over the years), it is our hope that a largely forgotten/overlooked episode of the American War for Independence – right here in our own backyard – will receive its due attention and understanding. Enjoy the tour and learn about the Battle of Whitemarsh!

**Tom Sorkness**  
*Philadelphia-Montgomery  
Christian Academy*

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

FOR DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:

**[www.springfieldhistory.org](http://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](mailto:archives@springfieldhistory.org) or 215-233-4600.



# President's Corner

On April 21st, I had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of a new storyboard at Philadelphia National Cemetery located at 6909 Limekiln Pike in Germantown. The storyboard is dedicated to the United States Colored Troops buried at the Cemetery, and who trained at nearby Camp William Penn. Of the almost 200,000 African American men who served in the Union Army and Navy, about 11,000 trained at Camp William Penn. The land on which the Camp was established was provided by Quaker abolitionist Lucretia Mott and her son-in-law Edward M. Davis and is located between what is now Cheltenham and Penrose Avenues just west of Old York Road.

Philadelphia National Cemetery was one of the original 14 National Cemeteries established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The immaculate 13-acre Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The new storyboard acknowledges the contributions of the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) during

the Civil War, the camps at which they trained, and their burials at Philadelphia National Cemetery. Flourtown resident Ed McLaughlin was instrumental in the development and placement of the storyboard. Ed spent several years researching the military and pension records of the hundreds of USC Troops buried at the Cemetery. It was Ed and WWII veteran Benjamin M. Berry who unveiled the storyboard. I was particularly moved during the reading of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's 1858 poem Bury Me in a Free Land. The final verse is:

*I ask no monument, proud and high,  
To arrest the gaze of the passers-by;  
All that my yearning spirit craves,  
Is bury me not in a land of slaves.*

T. Scott Kreilick

President, Springfield Township Historical Society



During the first quarter of this year we received the following six (6) new donations.

- One Hundred Years History of the Bachelors Barge Club 1853-1953. Written and compiled by Walter H. Pflaumer and George F. Joly, Jr. 1953. (Edward T. Stotesbury shown in photographs and listed in Officers and Members lists.) from the Old York Road Historical Society.
- Photocopies of the "Oreland Booster" newspaper January 1921 and 1922, and the 1928 Fourth of July Celebration poster, featuring the Community Brotherhood, Inc. from Bob Hibbert.
- Exhibition of Paintings and Works of Art From the Collection of the late Edward T. Stotesbury Catalog at the galleries of James St. L. O'Toole. April 23 - May 10, 1941 from Joanne Dhody.
- 1871 Whitmarsh and Springfield Township Atlas Plate (STHS Purchase by Ed Zwickler IV).
- Photograph of the Nelson Valve Co (Wyndmoor) from Betty McAllister. (See page 6.)
- WWII History Magazine article, "B-17 Radioman Thomas Fitzpatrick Helped Drop Bombs Over Enemy Territory From Foggia, Italy" By Kevin M. Hymel from the Chestnut Hill Conservancy and Historical Society.

## Archives UPDATE

We are extremely thankful for all of our dedicated volunteers. In the last few months, they provided approximately of 191.25 hours of service.

- Ray Smith continues to catalog the Library Catalog.
- Dulie Gray, Barbara Coleman, and Steve Lester continue to sort through and organize STHS records.

From January - April, STHS has had several inquiries.

- Archivist, Stephanie Walsh, assisted several patrons in researching a variety of topics, including the Oreland Mines, the Plymouth Branch of the Reading Railroad, the Wheel Pump Inn, Whitmarsh Hall, and the Bethesda Home, along with local residential requests.
- The Bucks County Historical Society requested as a loan, the 1951 promotional poster of the Whitmarsh Valley Hunt Races on the George D. Widener, Esq estate. The poster will be on view during their exhibit, Racing: A Need for Speed May 12 - September 9, 2018 at the Mercer Museum & Library and Fonthill Castle.

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](mailto:archives@springfieldhistory.org).



# Two Whitemarsh Hall Gardens Designed by Olmsted Brothers

It was long assumed that all of the gardens of E. T. Stotesbury's Whitemarsh Hall estate were the work of Jacques-Henri-Auguste Gréber, famed French architect and landscape designer, but recent research has proven this false. In fact, the first two gardens created on the property were instead designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm (Brookline, Massachusetts), the most influential U.S. landscape architecture firm of their time.

Correspondence in the Olmsted archives shows that they actively sought the contract to do the complete landscape design for the new estate early in 1915 – a full year before ground would be broken for the construction of the new mansion. During this time, the Stotesburys, who principally resided at 1925 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, were also using the former home of Mitchell Harrison on Cheltenham Road – a property acquired as part of the new estate lands – while Whitemarsh Hall itself was under construction. Eva Stotesbury renamed the Harrison house “Whitemarsh Lodge” but in later years it was known as “Greystone” – Jimmy Cromwell (Eva's youngest son) and his first wife, Delphine Dodge Cromwell would live at Greystone after their marriage in 1920.

In 1915, “Whitemarsh Lodge” did not have formal gardens, and Mrs. Stotesbury, later famous for her “al fresco” entertaining, needed them even for this temporary residence. In early 1916, the Stotesburys engaged the Olmsted firm to produce detailed topographical maps of the estate lands, and to design at least two gardens adjacent to Whitemarsh Lodge.

At the same time, Jacques Gréber was laboring in Paris on detailed plans for the entire 305-acre estate. Horace Trumbauer, who had worked with Gréber on the garden redesign for Lynnewood Hall in 1913, and

had employed him to produce the landscape design for Miramar in Newport, RI, must have been the impetus behind his selection for Whitemarsh Hall. Trumbauer and Gréber met with Eva Stotesbury at the estate site on Saturday, November 25, 1916, and reviewed the designs brought over from Paris. Eva was very impressed with his work, remarking “...the drive he has planned from Willow Grove Avenue has been especially adapted to command certain features. For instance, every turn

in the road is especially designed to bring into view certain beautiful developments which have been placed in particular locations for this purpose.” It was as a result of this visit that Eva dismissed the Olmsted firm and reconfirmed that Mr. Gréber would be solely responsible for the rest of the estate design, but asked that Olmsted complete the two gardens at Greystone, and promised to hire them to do the design for Bar Island in Bar Harbor, ME, in 1917 – a project

that was never executed. [Letter, Eva Stotesbury to Mr. Dawson, November 30, 1916]

One detail of the Olmsted design for the Rose Garden at Greystone is shown in this sketch, with the circular pool in the middle of the garden. Later known as the “Lapis Lazuli” pool, the Olmsted records show that the pool was lined with glazed blue and green tiles purchased from the Mercer Tile Company in Doylestown, PA. This shallow

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Above:  
“Sketch for Bird Pool in Rose Garden,”  
Olmsted Job #6181 Drawing #11, dated  
October 28, 1916. Courtesy of the National  
Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National  
Historic Site. Copyrighted materials,  
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Left:  
View west across the Rose Garden at  
Greystone. Photo taken May 1920 by Wil-  
liam R. Hellerman, for the George A. Fuller  
Corporation.



## Two Whitemarsh Hall Gardens CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pool – about four feet in diameter, but only a few inches deep – must have been remarkably colorful in the sunlight. The photo shows the same view, in May 1920, looking across the Rose Garden and through the latticework archway into the larger, western garden, also apparently designed by the Olmsted firm. These gardens were both completed before August

1918, when they were mentioned in newspaper articles describing a wedding held there.

Sadly, nothing remains of these wonderful gardens, which were destroyed when the Tyson Road and Delphine Road development was created, before 1955. The Rose Garden would have been closest to 1404 Delphine Road, in the present day.

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**The Archives are OPEN to the Public**

**TUESDAYS 7pm – 9pm**  
**WEDNESDAYS 1pm – 5pm**  
**SATURDAYS 9am – 12noon**

*For more information, call 215-233-4600*

# Spotlight on Springfield

## TONY'S PIZZA CITY, a Wyndmoor tradition since 1962

*Written by Katie Worrall*

Pizza, hoagies, cheesesteaks and other goodies have been sold by Tony's Pizza City in Wyndmoor since 1962. Tony Iaquinto, who, with his wife Marianne, now owns the business at 901 East Willow Grove Ave., said that his father, Tony, bought the business from a cousin, Louis Iaquinto, after moonlighting at the restaurant while working as a refrigeration mechanic at Thomas Jefferson Hospital.

Tony Iaquinto, Jr., who grew up and continues to live in Wyndmoor, attended Hartwell Lane School, Hillcrest Junior High School and Springfield Township High School before studying refrigeration at trade school. He and his family moved to Wyndmoor from the Logan section of Philadelphia in 1963. He worked at Tony's Pizza City all his life and took over in 2002. As a young man, he made boxes, wiped tables and grated cheese.

Tony's father retired in 1989 and Tony and his mother, Guilia, ran the business. She continues to work there one day a week. His parents met in Italy during a visit his father made there after World War II and where his mother was born in Vietri.

Family recipes are used for the dough for the pizza and the menus have been the same, serving pizza, hoagies, steaks and salads.

Tony has seen a lot of changes among the businesses in the Wyndmoor area. The restaurant, which neighbors the site of the former Wyndmoor Supply Company where a condominium complex will be built, has been in the same location since its founding. He recalls businesses such as Dettrey's Pharmacy, Val's bar, Dominic's barber shop, Atlantic Richfield service station and Paperman's.

"Business has been good, but with the construction, people don't realize I'm open," he said, "It's been good. I get people, their children and their grandchildren, they come back. I know everybody. I've seen them come and I've seen them go."

In addition to serving lunch and dinner, Tony's Pizza City works with area schools, including Springfield School District's Thespian Society; Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, where students order pizza and Tony's Pizza City does events; Growing Tree, a preschool in Erdenheim and Our Mother of Consolation School in Chestnut Hill, where he does a hot lunch program.

Tony's Pizza City is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays; 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fridays, and from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays. It is closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call 215-233-2122 or visit [www.tonypizzacity.com](http://www.tonypizzacity.com).



*Tony Iaquinto, who owns Tony's Pizza City in Wyndmoor, with his wife, Marianne.*

# STHS Receives Questers Donation

Pauline Holt, of Wyndmoor, presented two checks for \$250 to Springfield Township Historical Society president T. Scott Kreilick on behalf of the Teduyescung Chapter of Questers and the Pennsylvania Questers grants department. The funds will be used to fund additional shelving for the historical society archives at the Black Horse Inn in Flourtown. Questers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects for the benefit of today and tomorrow. Members seek to preserve and restore existing landmarks as well to educate the public.



Pauline Holt and Scott Kreilick

FROM THE

Archives

*This recent donation from Betty McAllister shows men at the Nelson Valve Co. which was once located at Mermaid Lane and Queen Street in Wyndmoor. Springfield Township Historical Society Collection 2018.*

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