Welcome Message

Welcome to the second edition of the East Whiteland Township Historical Commission Newsletter. Our goal is to raise awareness of our township’s history and to encourage the preservation of our cultural character and the physical evidence of that history.

We encourage public participation in our efforts. You may contact the Historical Commission through the township website at: www.eastwhiteland.org

New History Book Available.

Researched and written by Susan A. Evans and Theresa M. Schatz. The book is available for purchase online from the Masthof Press at: www.masthof.com

Loch Aerie Mansion was designed by the famed architect, Addison Hutton and built for William E Lockwood in 1865. Lockwood was a Philadelphia businessman who made his fortune on linen paper shirt collars. The 6,552 square foot, four storied Italianate Gothic Revival mansion was built out of Pennsylvania blue marble and limestone. Loch Aerie is one of the stateliest structures in Chester County.

The property also included a water supply system, gas works and a small lake and fountain. The original tract consisted of 640 acres. This area became known as the village of Glenloch. Today, Loch Aerie has been fully renovated as a premier wedding and events venue. Learn more about Loch Aerie at: www.lochaeriemansion.com

Loch Aerie is located at 700 Lancaster Pike.

Duffy’s Cut is the name given to a stretch of railroad tracks about 30 miles west of Philadelphia, United States, originally built for the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad in the summer and fall of 1832. The line later became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad’s Main Line. Railroad contractor Philip Duffy hired 57 Irish immigrants to lay this line through the area’s densely wooded hills and ravines. The workers came to Philadelphia from the Ulster counties of Donegal, Tyrone and Londonderry to work in Pennsylvania’s nascent railroad industry. Less than two months after their arrival, all 57 are believed to have died during the second cholera pandemic. While most died of the disease, forensic evidence suggests that some may have been murdered, perhaps due to fear of contagion, as the pandemic spanned several continents and many years. The site is located in East Whiteland Township, Pennsylvania 1,500 feet northeast of the intersection of King Road and Sugartown Road.

Clockwise from left: Artifacts recovered from the Duffy’s Cut site dig. Book titled: Massacre at Duffy’s Cut by site project director William Watson and J. Francis Watson. Duffy’s Cut memorial at West Laurel Hill cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PA. April 1832 ad for the sailing of The John Stamp, from the Londonderry Sentinel, that would have been seen by the men and women of Duffy’s Cut.

For more information on Duffy’s Cut visit: https://duffyscutproject.com

Massacre at Duffy’s Cut book: https://www.amazon.com/Massacre-Duffys-Cut

The community of Frazer, PA, formerly known as Garrett’s Siding is named for Persifor Frazer (August 9, 1736 – April 24, 1792). Frazer became a leading regional political figure resisting the growing British power in the colonies. During the American Revolutionary War, in early 1776, he was elected as the captain of Company A, Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion and later was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania Line, both under General “Mad Anthony” Wayne. Frazer was captured at the Battle of Brandywine and held as a prisoner of war in the Walnut Street prison in Philadelphia until his parole. He was later appointed as a brigadier general in the Pennsylvania militia. After the war, he was active in Chester County political affairs until his death in 1792.

The old cemetery sits on a quiet, little used, road in East Whiteland Township. Across the road is the location of the first Amish meeting-house in America. The members of the local Amish community were unique in establishing a house of worship; a departure from the already century-old Amish tradition of worshiping in homes. The original structure was built around 1795 as a place of worship and a school for German speaking people of the area. It served in this capacity for nearly 100 years until raised by fire in 1895. The tombstones of its pioneer members lie scattered about the enclosed walls of the old graveyard.

Among the Amish buried here is Christian Zug/Zook Jr and his wife Magdalena; he became a minister and leader of the Valley community. There are other Amish family names, such as Coffman/Kauffman, Lapp, and Rickabaugh. The cemetery appears to have continued to be used as a burying ground until at least 1865 as evidenced by some of the death dates on the tombstones. The developer in conjunction with the historical commission and township authorities conducted an impact study of the cemetery and the result was the preservation and restoration of the property and the wall surrounding the cemetery.

Top: The cemetery today showing progress during the reconstruction of the wall. Bottom right: The wall before restoration.

How Frazer, PA Got its Name.

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Bottom left: The Nation Makers, by Howard Pyle (1853-1911), ca. 1903, Showing the patriots at the Battle of Brandywine. Courtesy Brandywine River Museum of Art.
The General Warren Inn

British America
The story of the General Warren can be followed through its name changes. Originally named for two British naval heroes, the “Sign of Admiral Vernon” was established in 1745 by George Aston to honor Edward “Old Grog” Vernon and re-named the “Sign of Admiral Warren” in 1746 for Sir Peter Warren, who commanded the naval forces in the attack on the French fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia.

American Revolution
Lord Cornwallis’s Division from Howe’s Army passed by on September 18, and near midnight on September 20, British forces under General Charles “No-flint” Grey paused here en route to the Battle of Paoli (1 mile south of this point) seeking information about General Anthony Wayne’s camp. Tavern keeper Peter Mather, reputedly a Loyalist, refused cooperation and was held captive at the tavern with other civilians during the battle; all were eventually released unharmed.

The Early 19th Century
For years the local post office, and at one time considered as a site for the seat of Chester County, it was renamed The General Warren Tavern in 1825 to honor Dr. Joseph Warren, who died at Bunker (Breed’s) Hill, Boston, in 1775, the first American general killed in the Revolution.

The Late 20th Century into the 21st Century
Starting in 1984, the current owners made great strides to return the inn to its 18th Century elegance paired with modern amenities. The upper floors were renovated into 8 suites, the addition of a private dining room and all-weather heated terrace for cocktail parties, outdoor dining and weddings were added. In 2005, the latest improvements included the Admiral Vernon Dining Room and the resurrection of The Warren Tavern, a spacious bar for dining and spirits, relocated to the original spot of the old tavern from the 19th Century. Today’s guest will find the perfect blend of old world charm, excellence in American cuisine, fine wines & spirits, attentive service and delightful overnight accommodations. For more information contact: www.generalwarren.com