The clean-up and restoration of the ruins at the Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church on Bacton Hill road in Frazer, PA has kicked into high gear. There are many gravestones in the cemetery surrounding the building, although by the size of the property, it can be believed that there were others. The AME Church, established in 1832 grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. The cemetery includes gravestones of African Americans who took part in the Civil War. There have been many efforts over the years to preserve the church and cemetery. Under the direction of Nick Groch of the East Whiteland Historical Commission and Bertha Jackmon, the church historian for Mt. Zion AME Church in Devon, PA, ground-penetrating radar was performed by Jason Herrmann, Teaching Specialist for Digital Archaeology University of Pennsylvania Center for Analysis of Archaeological Materials. Jason and his team of students are employing this technology to locate the graves long lost in the cemetery of the church. As part of the ongoing efforts, tree removal on the site has been provided by Marios Tree and Landscaping. Stabilization of the building and a roadside plaque are future enhancements for the site. For more information on Marios Tree and Landscaping services visit: www.mariostreeandlandscapingllc.com.
AME Church Ruins Clean-up and Research Efforts

Photos: clockwise; Marios Tree Removal workers, Bertha Jackmon, the church historian for Mt. Zion AME Church in Devon, PA, University of PA archaeological team from left to right: Jackson Clark, Matthew Capps, Jason Herrmann, Luo Renren, Moriah McKenna, ground penetrating radar device.
One cannot under estimate the Malin family imprint on East Whiteland Township. Randal Malin was one of the first English Quakers to purchase land from William Penn in 1681, and for over three hundred years the Malins were religious leaders, civic-minded citizens, and stewards of the land that comprises our township today. The Malin family built many homes throughout the 18th and 19th century. In addition to Malin Hall, descendants of Randal Malin continued to live and prosper in the township. Some of their properties today are private residences and include, clockwise above: The Malin Tenant House/Peoples Light and Theater Company, The George Malin House/Three Bottles Tavern, 10 Winding Way, and Pleasant Hills Farm.

“For over two-hundred years, much of the land west of the Lancaster Turnpike to Mill Lane in East Whiteland Township was associated with one family, the Malins.”

Catherine C. Quillman, History of the Conestoga Turnpike, 1987
About the East Whiteland Historical Commission

The goal of the East Whiteland Township Historical Commission 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.

The Historical Commission has been instrumental in identifying historic properties and in spearheading efforts to protect the Township’s historic resources. Although many of these resources are located in developed areas, future development and change could continue to threaten the historical sites.

Integration of these structures into the community’s changing landscape is the key to preserving the historic resources.

Commission Members
Jeffrey Dore, Chair
Sylvia Baker
Nancy Dore
Nicholas Groch
Mark Keilbaugh
Rueben Garrett
Peter Spengeman, Secretary

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

Daniel P. Mannix

Township resident Daniel Pratt Mannix (October 27, 1911 – January 29, 1997) was an American writer, journalist, photographer, sideshow performer, stage magician, animal trainer, and filmmaker. His best-known works are the 1958 book *Those About to Die*, which remained in continuous print for three decades and became the basis for the Ridley Scott movie *Gladiator*; and the 1967 novel *The Fox and the Hound* which in 1981 was adapted into an animated film by Walt Disney Productions. His varied career included time spent as a sword swallower and fire eater in a traveling carnival sideshow where he performed under the stage name The Great Zadma. He was also at times a professional hunter, a collector of wildlife for zoos and circuses, and a bird trainer. The Mannix barn, (pictured above) is all that remains of the property in Bacton Hill. The property is now under development by a utility company.