East Whiteland and the Declaration of Independence.

The United States Declaration of Independence, formally The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, is the pronouncement adopted by the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1776.

According to history books, the Declaration of Independence was passed by the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776, and the first reading in public was in Philadelphia on July 4th. But that fact is open to debate. It seems the White Horse area was a hotbed of Whig activity in the days leading up to the Revolution. Persifor Frazer, a general storekeeper and farmer from White Horse Village, was a delegate at the Convention in Philadelphia that summer.

The day after the signing, Frazer rode back to White Horse with a copy of it in his pocket and read it to his fellow villagers, perhaps at the White Horse Inn. Thus, White Horse, not Philadelphia, may have been the site of the historic document’s first public reading.

Persifor Frazer became a leading 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.
Immaculata University is a Catholic, comprehensive, coeducational institution of higher education, founded by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1920, the institution was granted a college charter, making it the first Catholic college for women in the Philadelphia area. The two original dormitory-classroom structures are now part of a complex of 16 principal buildings.

In 1969, Immaculata introduced an evening program of continuing education for both men and women in response to the needs of the local community. A continuing education office opened in 1974 to provide special services for this population.

Considered to be the birthplace of modern college women’s basketball, Immaculata is home to the Mighty Macs, who won the first three national women’s college basketball championships in 1972, 1973, and 1974. The championship teams were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2014. The team is the subject of the feature film The Mighty Macs, which opened nationwide in 2011.

In 1983, three graduate programs were inaugurated, addressing the need for graduate education in psychology, nutrition education, and educational leadership and administration. In 1991, Immaculata’s Graduate Division added a master’s degree in music therapy and doctoral programs in clinical psychology and educational leadership and administration.

In 2002, Immaculata College received confirmation of university status and became known as Immaculata University.

In 2003, after in-depth studies, Immaculata University decided to welcome men into its traditional undergraduate college, beginning fall 2005. The University’s three-college structure now includes the College of Undergraduate Studies along with the College of Adult Professional Studies and the College of Graduate Studies.

Throughout all the change, growth, and challenges, the University has maintained its commitment to an education grounded in the charism of the IHM Sisters and the Catholic intellectual tradition. Today, Immaculata University offers more than 70 graduate and undergraduate programs, and its distinguished faculty serve a population of more than 2,500 students. Immaculata is located at 1145 West King Road, Immaculata Dr, PA 19345.

To learn more about Immaculata, visit: www.immaculata.edu.
Villa Maria Academy High School, a private Catholic college preparatory school for girls, is located in Malvern, Chester County, in Pennsylvania. Inspired by the charism of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for more than 140 years the school has empowered young women to lead lives of spiritual growth, intellectual inquiry and Christian service by providing an education that blends academic excellence with Christian values.

In 1924 the Sisters acquired the property of William A. Warner Jr. in Green Tree and in 1925 opened the doors of Villa Maria Academy High School. This estate was a replica in name and style of Sulgrave, the Washington ancestral home in England. The property included 123 acres, the mansion house, and its adjoining buildings. All were adapted to the purpose of the Academy. The school remains at this location.

Over the years, the 45-acre suburban campus has added several buildings, which house a cafeteria, library, auditorium, gymnasium, Langton Memorial Laboratory, biology laboratory, lecture hall, locker room, offices and classrooms he foundation of the academy dates to July, 1872. At that time, the Sisters transferred their mother house, novitiate, and boarding school from Reading to West Chester, PA. Occupying the property formerly owned by the Pennsylvania Military Academy, the school flourished in West Chester until 1914, when Villa Maria moved to Immaculata, PA.

Villa Maria Academy opened at Green Tree on May 5, 1925. Good Counsel Hall, completed in 1933, included dormitory, classroom, and library facilities. In 1935, an Activities Building with auditorium and gymnasium was opened. To learn more about Villa Maria, visit: www.vmahs.org.
The new township history book is available now for purchase at the East Whiteland Township building. Researched and written by Susan E. Evans and Theresa M. Schatz, this is a retelling of the facts as well as an historical narrative of the East Whiteland Township community in Chester County, PA. To purchase the book directly from the township for pick up, email Brittany Carosello at: bcarosello@eastwhiteland.org. The price of the book is $20. The book is also available for purchase online from the Masthof Press at: www.masthof.com.