

CONGRATULATIONS EAST NOTTINGHAM

300 YEARS OLD!

1718 TO 2018 SPRING/SUMMER EDITION

WELCOME SPRING 2018 AND HAPPY 300th BIRTHDAY

I said last fall that we would focus on our township's history in this issue. I have given it a start but I would still like to hear from you with your township news and views. I have composed this to discuss some of our earlier milestones and events in East Nottingham. However, there is a whole lot of history that went on in the township that I have not covered. Believe me I haven't even scratched the surface.

Did you know about our mining history? How about truck manufacturing and several Blacksmiths and a few gun makers who lived and worked here throughout the last 300 years? Every stream had at least one mill located along their banks and today we can still see the remnants of their low head dams that were used to pond water in order to power their water wheels. There was also a major commercial pottery manufacturer that existed until the early 20th century. There were two major Indian paths that crossed through or very near our township. These regional paths, the Nanticoke and the Peach Bottom have resulted in some of our Pennsylvania highways, following their routes north. There were the famed chestnut trees that were here until the blight killed them in the early Twentieth Century. We had wagon makers and tool manufacturers. There were some unusual farms that were growing hydroponic vegetables and raising ducks.

All these are other stories that we hope you will hang around to read in future issues of the newsletter. Until then, we hope you read, enjoy, and maybe learn something you didn't know about our

THIS OUR HISTORY

WILLIAM PENN



As we've known, 2018 is the beginning of our 300th year as a township. Some bits of knowledge about East Nottingham are in order.

The "NOTTINGHAMS" are a series of thirty lots given to settlers as grants through William Penn. The boundaries of the lots and their next higher governmental organization was always in doubt until Mason and Dixon surveyed the boundary line between the lands of the Penn family (called "the forests of Penn" or

Pennsylvania) and the lands of the Calverts that became Maryland.

We know that in their meeting of November 1717 the separation of East and West Nottingham Townships was formalized and agreed to, based upon a Penn survey map of 1702. However, since anything governmental needed to be formalized and put in record at the Seat of Government of Chester County, which was located in today's West Chester Borough, such "formalization" did NOT take place until 1735. Imagine how long a horse and buggy would take to traverse the often impassable and dangerous roads between Oxford and West Chester.

So, in summary the townships split into two, East Nottingham and West Nottingham; a map of the townships was proposed, settling on the out -boundaries; township officers were named and voted on in the 1717 meeting. However, the existence of our township was not formalized by the county until 1735. To make things even more complicated, we didn't really know to which state we belonged. That whole boundary issue among three states wasn't settled until about 1768, after the Mason and Dixon survey was submitted and accepted by the Penns, the Calverts, the Crown, and the new state of Delaware, which until this time had been known as the "lower Counties of Pennsylvania".

OUR FIRST RESIDENTS



About 12,000 years ago, humans, briefly visited our area. They arrived from the West and Southwest. These people were the descendants

of the hardy few hundred that trekked across the Bering land bridge perhaps 18,000 years ago. These visitors were following the northward retreating continental ice sheet. This last "Ice Age", one that we call the Wisconsin Glacial Period, had already reached its southern terminus, about 250 miles and was retreating several feet per year. Still, the ice sheet was an imposing cold mass that affected the entire environment. Two miles thick, developing its own weather, this ice sheet caused our township's climate to be more like present day Arctic tundra and pine forests. It was humid and very cold. Soil cores taken in the 1960's of this area showed pollen makeup of what we call "Northern Boreal Forests", an

“Arctic Tundra”. These first visitors did form encampments, but they were far between each other.

Later, from 8500 years BC to 1000 years BC, between the “Archaic” and Woodland” cultural periods, the number of encampments grew and there was strong evidence of more permanent settlements in palisaded villages. These Woodland Cultures were the real “first Americans”. They became artists, excellent tool makers, agriculture experts, plant hybridizers and developers of a rather sophisticated culture with matriarchal governments.

The principal tribes of Native Americans were the Lenni Lenape (the Original People). Part of the Algonkian Nations, the Lenni Lenape (or as we called them, the DELAWARE), were composed of three subgroups or “sibs” (extended familial clans called Wolf, Turtle, and Turkey) wherein the marriage laws, making perfect genetic sense, dictated the requirement that each marriage aged couple be chosen from outside their own sib (So Wolf clan members could only marry Turtle or Turkey).

These tribes peopled the Southeast Pennsylvania, most of New Jersey, Cecil County Maryland and New Castle County Delaware. Between the Woodland Culture till post contact (and dispersion by political fiat) roughly 1000BC to 1897AD, the Delaware Tribes became numerous to the extent that, 200 years after first contact and a kind of “benevolent lordship with periodic swindling” by the Penns, the Lenni Lenape gradually were pushed west to Ohio during the French and Indian War and further to Oklahoma and the “Indian Territories”. Today, we have very few original Lenni Lenape even left in this area. Those that still live in the mid-Atlantic, reside mostly in Northern New Jersey.

Occasional artifact finds from ancient villages and encampments are found and recorded by professional Archeologists. Stone implements and points of the various “Lithic cultures” (artifacts that can be identified by approximate dates due to typology), can be found in East Nottingham farm fields.

You can visit the township building and, in the meeting room, see some of our collection of Native American artifacts, and where they were found.

OUR LAST NATIVE AMERICAN RESIDENT



In the late 1700’s the Lenni Lenape began emigrating to the Ohio Valley and the greatest mass of the tribal members had already gone West before the close of the century. The Lenni Lenape later migrated to Oklahoma during the Jackson administration

during a sad period of our history that became known as “The Trail of Tears.”

The last of the Chester County Lenape tribe was a woman named Hannah Freeman (1730-1802). She was well known in the county and in southern New Jersey as “Indian Hannah”. Hannah had skills as she was a craftsperson who made and sold brooms and Indian baskets throughout Chester County and New Jersey. She lived the nomadic life of an itinerant sales person whose “route” was through the townships of Chester County where she travelled on foot with two dogs that pulled her travelling store so she could display and sell her wares. She was reportedly the common-law wife of Andrew Freeman, a Chester County farmer. Hannah did own common property passed through her tribal mother. This land eyed by the County for development and could not condemn it since it was held through William Penn’s pronouncements that “THE LAND BELONGED TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE UNTIL THE LAST ONE OF THEM ABANDONED IT”.

So, in a fashion similar to one of the more famous land swindles called the “Walking Purchase”, was organized by Robert Penn. Hannah lost her entitled land holdings, having been committed as indigent and “unable to serve herself”, to the new Chester County Poorhouse, built near Embreeville. She died in 1802 and was buried as the first person interred in the new Poorhouse Cemetery, where her grave can be seen today.

THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL



HOPEWELL ACADEMY

Hopewell was an important industrial village, located in ENT. It was organized (in concept) in 1809 when the Dickey Cotton Mill was founded and a number of employees were induced to locate their houses near the mill. In 1812 the mill was moved to nearby “Beantown”, less than a mile north of the original plant site. The new site, Hopewell, was so named for a stream location from which the Dickey Mill acquired power for the plant’s water wheel. In 1830 a post office was located in the village, as were some new businesses, such as, Hopewell Cotton Co., Dickey Cotton, The Dickey Wadding Co. Mill, Showalter’s Grain and Feed Mill, Three Smithies, a “downtown” with several provisionary stores and a general store. In addition to these there was a Presbyterian Church

and Parsonage, and the Hopewell Academy, as well as an elementary school.

In 1853 the village was established as a borough. However, at roughly the same time, various calamities began to overtake the town. Several mill fires caused production slow-downs in the good times. The Civil War took a toll on U.S. cotton mills. Several attempts by the Dickey Company to grow a cotton plant acclimatized to northern growing seasons and soil were tried. These failed miserably and, in the Post-Civil War period, many mills relocated south and Hopewell Borough shrunk. Until 1897 the Borough Council voted to have the Borough Charter annulled. In 1914, the annulment was completed and the Borough of Hopewell was no more. Thanks to citizen work, the Village site was declared a Commonwealth Historical site in 1996. A marker exists near Roneys Corner Road and Locust Street extension next to the elementary school.

Another nearby town, Mt Vernon, was located near Hopewell. It too contained a cotton mill which was similarly undergoing hard times between 1965 and the 1890's. Mt. Vernon's post office was closed in 1897 and that town disappeared also.

FARMERS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIOIDS



According to a recent article written in the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau newsletter the Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union are undertaking an effort to combat the opioid crisis that is hitting our rural communities particularly hard. The article quotes, "About 74 percent of farmers and farm workers surveyed reported that either they, someone they knew or a family member had struggled with opioid addiction...". The same survey reported that in rural and farm communities 71% of those responding believe that easier access to treatment and public education would be effective measures in dealing with this problem. The organizations have launched a website www.farmtownstrong.org to help communities deal with the crisis.

In 2017 according to data from government sources nine (9) people died from overdoses in the greater Oxford area. Countless others were saved by the Narcan (Naloxone) antidote used by EMS, police, and family members. Narcan is available over the counter at the pharmacy and training on how to use it is generally free of charge and available in our area. Watch the township website or social media for information on upcoming training sessions or contact the Medic 94 office or Union Fire Company Ambulance Division for more information. We'll also be providing more information in the future on how to dispose of unwanted prescriptions. You can drop them off anytime at the Oxford Borough Police Department. There is a secured container in the waiting room.

A nationwide hotline has been set up to help those in need find treatment and help families deal with this epidemic. Call **1-800-662-HELP** for help.

INVASIVE INSECT ALERT!

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY-AN ALERT FROM THE PA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



This invasive insect from China has been noted in Southeast Pa. It poses a threat to many tree species, especially fruit trees. It is a colorful adult insect. The females usually lay eggs on the "Tree of Heaven" which looks like a kind of Sumac but has a rather disagreeable odor. This provides us a clue as to the status of infestation in our area. The egg masses can be seen on the tree bark and appear as mud crusted masses of a grey brown color.

These insects are predicted to be a major problem with fruit trees and vegetable plants, like tomatoes, unless we can control them. Go and visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture "SPOTTED LANTERNFLY" web page. It contains pictures of the insect, the egg masses, the "TREE of HEAVEN", and systemic insecticide controls as well as organic controls. <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/plantindustry/spottedlanternfly/Documents/Spotted%20Lanternfly%20%20Prope%20rty/%20Management.Pdf>

TAX INFORMATION

East Nottingham residents pay three (3) sets of taxes. The School District Property Tax, the County Property Tax, and an Earned Income Tax. State Law required PA residents with earned income to file a local tax return even if your employer withholds the tax from payroll or even if you are not due a refund. If you don't have payroll withholding, work in Philadelphia, and/or have net profits, you are required to file a local earned income tax return. **Keystone Collections Group is our Earned Income Tax Collector. If you have questions please contact Keystone directly at 866-539-1100 or go to keystonecollects.com.**

DUMPSTER WEEKEND



April 20 from 7 am to 6 pm and April 21 from 7 am to 3 pm, at which time the dumpsters will be promptly removed, so don't wait until the last minute. Details of what items are and are not acceptable to be disposed of are on the township website and the Armstrong Cable Channel. Or call the township at 610-932-8494.

OXFORD AREA REC AUTHORITY

EVENTS AT SHELTON FIELD – 900 Locust St., Oxford

Oxford Pitch Hit and Run winner competes in Philadelphia



Cecilia Figueroa

PITCH, HIT, & RUN APRIL 7TH NOON – 4PM (Rain Date is April 8th)

Participation is free. Open to boys and girls 7 through 14. A parent must be in attendance (no drops offs). Birth Certificate needed. OARA is seeking sponsors.



THE GRAND OPENING OF THE DOG PARK IS ALSO MAY 19th

For information on any of these events, including sponsorship please email Chip Benke at chipskins@zoominternet.net

KIDS TO PARK DAY

MAY 19th FROM 9:30 – 12:30



DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Board of Supervisor meetings:

April 10	May 8	June 12
July 10	August 14	September 11
October 9	November 13	December 11

Regular Planning Commission meetings:

April 23	May 21	June 25
July 23	August 27	September 24
October 22	November 19	December 17

All meetings are held at 7pm in the Township Building.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday May 15, 2018.

East Nottingham Township
158 Election Road
Oxford, PA 19363
Tel: (610)932-9812



Visit Us on the Web
www.eastnottingham.org

Board of Supervisor meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month.

All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Township Building

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EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2018