



MASON-DIXON STARGAZER STONE

NEWLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2020

PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE NEWLIN TOWNSHIP AREA OF THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Executive Committee -- President: RoseLynn Malarek, Vice-President: Muriel George, Secretary: Diane McGowan,
Treasurer: Sandy Reber, Members: Kathy Conway, Bill McGowan, Kate Roby, Consultant: John O'Neal

President's Report

Greetings one and all, Happy New Year, and welcome to 2020. Before we delve into Newlin Historical Society's plans for this year, let's recap some of the Society's highlights of the past year. We held two General Meetings, one in April when local historian Ray McKay spoke on writing historical legacies, and one in November when Todd Babcock, noted authority on our own local luminaries, Mason and Dixon, presented an in-depth view of these famous surveyors during their extended stay in Newlin as they developed their now famous Mason/Dixon line. You can read all about Todd's presentation by going to our website, Newlintwphistory.org, clicking on Events, and reading the Minutes of the November General Meeting. Although Todd captivated those of us in the audience for 1 ½ hours, he has more to say on the subject, and we hope to have him back at a later date to inform and entertain us all.

We are very proud of our now expanded website. Thanks to our webmaster, Diane McGowan, the site has expanded with more information on our efforts in unfolding Newlin History. We have also expanded our Facebook page under the guidance of Sandy Reber. She is interested in posting any photos old or new of Newlin and environs and invites comments and suggestions on what we might include on our Facebook pages. Be sure to "friend" us.

This year is already unfolding as a busy and productive year for the Society. You may notice the Township bulletin board on Rte. 162 near the maintenance building will from time to time have information regarding the Society including our website and upcoming general meetings. We thank the Newlin Board of Supervisors for allowing us to post information on the board.

The Society's emphasis on Newlin history this year is centering around Revolutionary War activities in and around Newlin, most particularly, the events surrounding the Battle of the Brandywine. Newlin Historical Society member Bill McGowan is our representative to the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force whose mission is to preserve the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark. As you know, this pivotal battle of the Revolutionary War was fought on September 11, 1777 in and around Southern Chester County, and the Task Force is presently preparing for the 245th and then the 250th anniversary of the Battle of the Brandywine. Plans are afoot to have a self-guided tour of the Battlefield with plaques in the area communities indicating how the battle unfolded. While Newlin was not directly in the line of fire, foraging and plundering by British soldiers did impact Newlin landowners, and because of that, we are involved in the Task Force efforts. A little

known fact is that a Colonial militia was stationed in Newlin before the battle in a position called Point Lookout located somewhere near the top of Stargazer Rd which we are in the process of trying to pinpoint. Enjoy reading the article below by Bill McGowan about Newlin and the Battle of the Brandywine, and Kathy Conway's article on Point Lookout, both of which shed further light on Newlin's involvement in this epic battle.

Finally, we thank all of you who have supported the Newlin Historical Society and invite everyone to become involved with discovering and preserving Newlin history. Join, donate, share information. Your support is needed and most appreciated!

RoseLynn

DONORS

Stargazers - \$500.00

Jack Fischer

RoseLynn Malarek

Lenni Lenapes - \$250.00 - \$499.00

Jack Fischer

Brandywine - \$150.00-249.00

David H. Malarek

Laura Reilly and Dave Hartely

Friends – \$50.00- \$149.00

Elaine Hammond

Diane and Bill McGowan

Kristina O'Leary

Sandy Reber

Sean and Marissa Rowe

SPRING GENERAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2020 – KAO CAMPGROUND – 7:00 PM

We are pleased to announce that our spring General Meeting will feature Newlin Historical Society's Revolutionary War expert Bill McGowan, a Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactor for over 20 years, and who participated in the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of the Brandywine in 2017. Bill will present an insider's view of what is involved in being a re-enactor, will be in full militia uniform, and will display other Revolutionary uniforms. This is a rare opportunity to travel behind the scenes of historical re-enactments and learn how the re-enactors prepare and perform, enhance and impact our view of history. You won't want to miss it.

NEWLIN TOWNSHIP AND THE BATTLE OF THE BRANDYWINE

By Bill McGowan

By the time the English, their Hessian allies, and the Continental Armies, reached the Brandywine Valley and especially Newlin Township; they had been on campaign for many months. Without a dedicated source of supplies, both Armies resorted to foraging off the land.

Chester County was considered a breadbasket for food and storehouse for supplies necessary for soldiers for the Armies. The area was rich in flour, wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, pork, horses, neat cattle, sheep, hogs, wagons, carts, nails, leather goods, saddles, blankets, shoes, gunpowder, cloth and liquors. This area was so rich in that on April 21, 1777 the Board of War required an immediate inventory of all the items and more in the event of enemy incursion into the Valley.

As they passed through Newlin Township, the Crown Forces plundered farms and merchant shops and took what they needed, usually destroying the remainder. Richard Barnard, a Quaker, actively farmed the property along what is known as Route 842 since the early 1700's, his decedents still own and farm the land. Richard Barnard and the Hanna, Shields, Eckoff, and Stroud families estimated the cost of their lost inventory taken by the Crown Forces at 222 £ (5,000.00 in today's money).

The foraging parties of the Continental Army paid for the items it procured for the most part. According to later directives from the Board of War and/or the Committee of Safety, if the families did not cooperate, the foraging party was to use any means possible to obtain the items.

There was a large contingent of Quakers in Chester County. The Quakers were pacifist, believed in the Testimony of Peace, and abhorred all war. They did not officially take sides, even though some did. Apparently, neither Army totally trusted the Quakers. The Continental Congress passed a resolution on August 28, 1777, that said in part that if any member of the Society of People "Quakers" speaks out against the Revolution, they are to be arrested and confined. Both Armies targeted the Quakers during the raids for supplies in the Township.

The foraging by the Crown did not stop after the Battle. The English and Hessians continued raiding for supplies continued into December of 1777. Raids finally ended when Washington started to move part of his army from Valley Forge toward Philadelphia to get the attention of English and Hessians.

Washington established outposts to secure supply lines to Valley Forge and guard against enemy movements. Point Lookout was one of these outposts and the Chester County Militia garrisoned this outpost.

A BIG EVENT IN NEWLIN TOWNSHIP C. 1909

*By Kathleen Conway,
Member of the Newlin Historical Society, Chester County Historical Society, and the Chester County Daughters of the
American Revolution*

*"We will write thy story,
And keep the glory
As fair as of old
For a thousand years"
-- Bayard Taylor*

In Newlin Township along Star Gazer Rd, on June 25, 1909 a flag raising ceremony and placement of a marker documenting the history in the American Revolution were placed there on one of the highest point in Southern Chester County. The ceremony was conducted by Chester County Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in collaboration with the Chester County Historic Society and Newlin Township. The raising of this flag commemorated "Point Lookout". The marker inscribed, "Point Lookout, where sentries were placed by to protect supplies on the way to the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777-78. Marked by Chester County DAR.."

However, today no one can find the flagpole with its 11x15 flag nor the historic marker. The 50 foot flag pole mostly likely was made of wood. The area was private property owned by the Hayes family at the time of the 1909 ceremony.

The DAR members found chapter minutes from 1908 that addressed the business of the “Point Lookout” topic. Then local news clippings were found in the records of the DAR documenting the “Big Event in Newlin.” An exciting old photo and supplemental news articles from Chester County Historical Society were discovered. Attached are the records discovered so far.

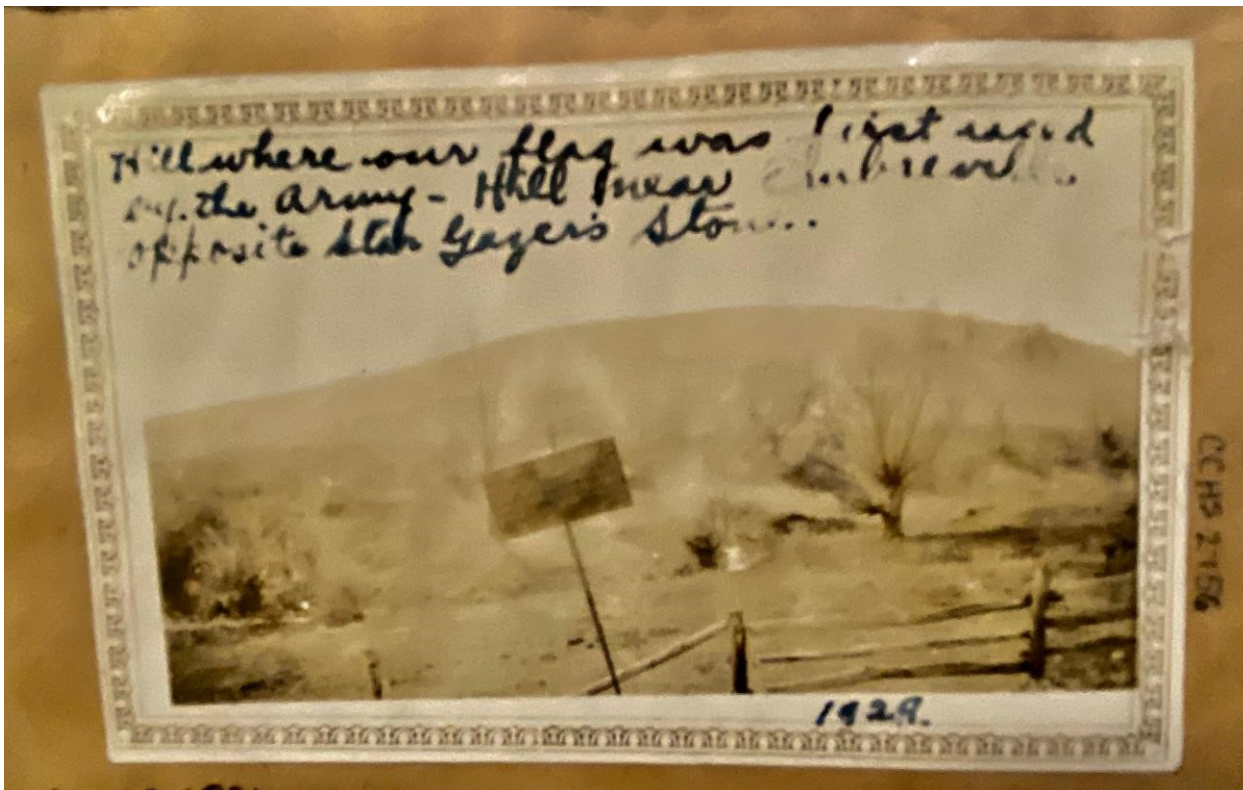
<https://www.evernote.com/shard/s489/client/snv?noteGuid=db4192fb-2c1a-48b4-8786-1b42a500ad90-eKey=90f60fe972f3a7827aef57b7c98af1f0&sn=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.evernote.com%2Fshard%2Fs489%2Fsh%2Fdb4192fb-2c1a-48b4-8786-1b42a500ad90%2F90f60fe972f3a7827aef57b7c98af1f0&title=Point%2BLookout>

“Beloved Brandywine around thy valleys and thy verdant dales,
Historic hills and loved ancestral farms, with joy and sweet content and deepest peace.”
---John Russell Hayes

“Hill where our flag was first raised by the army near Embreeville opposite Star Gazer’s Stone.” – Written on a 1928 photo.

*The first generation knows,
The second generation remembers,
The third generation forgot,
The fourth generation never knew.*

And so the goes the story of Point Lookout. Without the recent historic research of news clippings and the minutes from the DAR, no one would remember what happened on that hill top in Newlin so many years ago.



Restoration of Warli.

It was suggested Chester Co. Chapter furnish a marker for Point Lookout.

Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Loomis seconded it. ~~it was done~~
Mrs. Loomis reported on Point Lookout. The flag pole had been put in position and the flag was very handsome, measured 11 x 15. and in all the cost was \$16.⁵³ It was moved & seconded the bill be paid & carried.

Mrs. Rucker moved & Mrs. Hopke seconded and it was carried that a vote of thanks be given Mr. Wm M Hayes & family for entertaining members of Chester Co Chapter D. A. R. so beautifully.
It is noted, our next meeting at his home. We are indebted to Mrs. Loomis for the information from Mrs. Loomis.

~~Spelling and long prayer.~~
The minutes of last meeting was read and approved with one correction. Miss Stille gave us some information we had not known before, that Point Lookout upon which our flag pole was erected recently is the property of Mrs. Charles A. Hayes of Unionville and they were directed to write a note of thanks to Mrs. Hayes for her kindness in allowing us to place our flag pole there. J. C. Hayes