



MASON-DIXON STARGAZER STONE

NEWLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 2, no.4

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

Hello, Everyone,

Our April 15 open meeting at the KOA lodge, featuring the presentation on writing historical legacies by local historian Ray McKay, was enjoyed by many NHS members and guests. A shout out to Ray for his generous time and effort and to Gary and Lori Levesque for graciously allowing us to use the KOA lodge for our meeting free of charge. We are very appreciative of Ray, Lori, and Gary.

After Ray's presentation and before Q and A, we took a break for refreshments with time for participants to meet and greet one another and chat about subjects of mutual interest. The opportunity for residents to unite with a common interest and work on a common project is, we think, as valuable a function for the Society as is gathering our history. Sadly, we live in a divisive time with those at the highest level of society attempting to exploit our worse inclinations instead of encouraging our best, thus driving a wedge through the moral fabric of our society. The Newlin Historical Society reaches out across the community, without regard to politics or religion or ethnicity or anything else, to invite citizens to join in working together collegially and compatibly on historical projects benefitting the entire community now and for the future. If reason, justice, tolerance, generosity, and a belief in moral and ethical values are to be woven into the fabric of our civilization, it will begin in places like Newlin and with organizations like the Newlin Historical Society.

And now I must address another painful topic – money. We have been in existence barely a year, and we are already in the RED. Cheslen charged us rent and insurance for our first open meeting last November, which is why we no longer can meet there, and our expenses in setting up our website far exceeded our expectations and our bank account. Our only source of income to date is membership dues, and sadly, we haven't added any new members since our November meeting. If you believe what we are doing is of value and importance, please consider joining NHS and/or becoming a patron. Information on membership and donations is available at the end of the newsletter.

The immediate tasks before the NHS Executive Committee are to finish developing our website (a steep learning curve for all of us) and to prepare for our next two open meetings (We hope to add an informal gathering this summer.). If you are interested in joining the EC to help us pull this organization together or contribute articles for the newsletter or contribute historical information for the website or simply to ask questions or make comments, please contact me at roselynn831@gmail.com.

Our feature article in this issue of our newsletter is the fascinating history of Indian Deep Farm by Muriel George. Please enjoy!

Best Regards to All,

RoseLynn

INDIAN DEEP FARM

We, Chet and Muriel George, are lucky to be the current residents of Indian Deep Farm, which was established along the West Brandywine Creek in 1730, and has been a part of the history of Newlin Township and surrounding areas. The property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The farm (300 acres) was founded by Phillip Taylor, the elder, who was one of the mysterious deaths of healthy young men in 1732 (mentioned in Tolly Roby's article on the mysterious deaths in 1732). It immediately passed to his son, Philip Taylor, the younger, who farmed there until 1759. He sold the 300 acres to Humphry Marshal in April 1759, who immediately resold 201 acres of it to Thomas Buffington in May 1759. At that time the deed described the farm as having a messuage (house), orchards and outbuildings.

Recently, part of Newlin Township was included in the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site. It consists of an eastern slice of the township, less than a mile wide and included 3 farms, one of which was Indian Deep. This was the area Cornwallis's troops marched to Tremble's Ford in order to surround

Washington's Army, Thomas Buffington and family were living here at the time.

Thomas Buffington was also one of 30 Quaker families contributing to the support of Indian Hannah (Hannah Freeman), the last member of the Lenni Lenape tribe to reside here.

Indian Deep also played a part in the Underground Railroad. The farm belonged to the Meredith's from 1838 to 1864, and Isaac and Thomazine Meredith were active participants. Their home was on the main route of "underground travel" on the way to agents in West Vincent.

The Meredith's sold the farm to Robert B. Lamborn in 1864. He was a successful farmer and quite entrepreneurial. He started Lamborn Park on the Brandywine Creek, where he erected a dancing pavilion with attached dressing rooms. He provided boats to attract picnic and bathing parties. This endeavor was quite successful, so that he could afford to enclose the forebay and add a large dormer to the barn, which included the date of the improvement, 1877. He also enlarged the blacksmith shop by adding a second floor and again put the date of the improvement in the gable, 1877.

The Lamborn family moved to California in 1923 to grow grapes, and deeded it to a cousin, Jean Roberts, for a \$1. Her sons Paul and Norman inherited the farm in 1962, and in 1978, the farm was designated a "Century Farm" by the Chester County Commissioners, having been in the same family for over 100 years.

In 1994 Paul and Norman Roberts put the remaining 177 acres of the farm in the Brandywine Conservancy, dividing it into 7 lots. We bought the farmstead (Lot #1) with 22.46 acres and all remaining outbuildings in 1999 from their estate.

Muriel George was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Passaic, NJ. She graduated from Rutgers University with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry, and later received a MLS degree. After marriage to Chet, they lived in East Brunswick, NJ and Cream Ridge, NJ. Muriel worked as a research assistant for Rutgers Medical School and served as Director of Proprietary Information for ER Squibb (later Bristol Myers Squibb). She also served as President of the Allentown, NJ Library Board. She and Chet are farmers at heart, having raised three children on small farms along with horses and dogs. After their retirement, they moved to Newlin in 1999 where they enjoy living on the historic Indian Deep Farm and are still active in running a horse farm. She enjoys art, sewing, cooking, and history, and especially her 5 grandchildren. Muriel has been a member of the Marshallton Auxiliary for Chester County Hospital, served as vice-president and president of the Newlin Township Historical Committee, currently volunteers for Meals on Wheels (10 years' service), and is the Republican Committeewoman for Newlin Township. She is vice-president of the Newlin Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Check One One Year Individual --\$10.00 _____. One Year Household-- \$14.00 ____

 Three Years Individual -- \$28.00 _____. Three Years Household --
\$39.00_____

DONATION LEVELS

\$500.00 and Above – “Stargazer” -- Amount _____

\$250.00 to \$499.00 – “Lenni Lenape” – Amount _____

\$150.00 to \$249.00 – “Brandywine” – Amount _____

Up to \$149.00 – “Friend” – Amount

Name(s) exactly how you want them published in the newsletter and (eventually) website.

Make checks payable to NHS and send to: **Sandy Reber, Treasurer NHS – 1657
Embreeville Rd., Coatesville, 19320**