

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of Camp Hill

Volume XXI, Number I

February 2024



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717-737-8522

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The President's Message



Greetings,

The following article is from Robert Crist's book "*Camp Hill History*", page 13.

My mother, Verna Sweger, worked on the fields of this farm in the 1920's. Bob's book is available to read at the Fredricksen Library.

On April 3, 1771, a Lancaster County man, Robert Whitehill (1735-1813) bought two warrants. One was for the 213 acres of Lot 2 E and the other for the 214 acres of Lot 17, which adjoined it to the west. Robert Whitehill came to stay. Within a month he paid in full for 2 E and began construction of the first stone house on the Manor (of Lowther), 1905 Market Street. It faced for years to the east on the future 19th Street, handier to a spring than if it had been erected on the north side of the Great Road and warmer than if it had faced north on the south side. On Lot 17, however, Whitehill delayed full payment until 1790. By that date he had served in the 1776 Provincial Assembly, the Constitutional Convention held later in that year, the Executive Council of the new State, and the 1787 convention to consider ratification of the proposed national constitution. Some of his pay for those various terms of public service must have gone for the purchase of the patent.

In all, six of the thirty-three plantations laid out in the Manor of Lowther figure in the history of the Borough of Camp Hill. Of the five patentees who bought the six farms, only one did not settle, Physick. Of the four settlers, Whitehill was a Scots-Irish Presbyterian and other three German "Church people". Sons of all four remained into the 19th century as farmers. The two thousand or more structures now to be found in Camp Hill rest on land that represents a division or subdivision of the six patented tracts.

-Wayne Yost

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Welcome and Thanks to our new and renewing members for 2023!

Welcome New Member:

David Nelson

Thanks to Renewing Members:

Mikhaila Adams, Sharon Fulton Beach-61, Bruce & Nancy Bigelow-66, Beverly Carmany-53, Dan Drawbaugh, Pat Eby-62, Doris Fitting-55, Jana Furst, Pam & Randy Gale, Cookie Grugan, Lois Hadd-41, Albert Holliday, Janet Kissinger, J Gary McDivitt-71, John Milakovic & Svetlana Yevtukh, John D Moore, Jean & Jim Riss, Xenia Royer, Patty Sprague, Carol Strait, Linda Wertz-68, Jeff Yost, William Zinkhan-57.

Thanks to Renewing Members that also sent a gift:

Mark Brown III, Jane Sage-56, Debra Wallet - gift in memory of Robert F Wallet class of 39.

Thanks to Supporting Members:

Joseph Heffron-69, Judy Messinger-58, Judith Patton
Joan & William Walters, Wayne & Judy Yost.

Membership Renewal Form is on Page 7.

If you have already renewed for 2024, give it to a friend. If you missed renewing for 2023, just send us your 2024 membership.

You can also receive the newsletter via email.
It will be in color.

Your address label will tell you the last year that your dues were paid. If the date is **red**, the dues are not current for 2024.

Please let me know if anyone has moved or has passed away. If they have moved and you know their address, please let me know and I will send their newsletters to the new address. If I just get a newsletter returned from the post office, often I can't send them a new one so, I just delete them from our roll of members. If you receive your newsletter by email, please inform me if you change it.

I am always in need of articles for the newsletter. I am not much of a researcher or writer which is needed for a history loving organization such as ours.

If you have anything that you would like to share, please send it to me either by email: patriciaeby@verizon.net or by mail 19 N 27th St, Camp Hill 17011.

Need a Gift Idea?

Purchase a membership for a friend, neighbor or a relative. It would be great for a former classmate or relative that lives out of the area.

A year's membership is only \$10. What a great gift at such a tiny price. Order it today.

Mark Your 2024 Calendars for the General Meetings.

March 7th - Soup & Sandwiches
Church of God History
May 9th - Soup & Sandwiches
August 1st - Picnic
November 7th - Pot-Luck



A New Texaco Service Station

FOR CAMP HILL AND VICINITY
Open under new management

By that, we mean New and Better Service, prompt, willing, efficient—the kind of service you have always wanted. We sell Texaco Clean, Clear, Golden Motor Oils and the New and Better Texaco Gasoline—high test at no extra price. Also High Pressure Lubrication. Try us once, you will come again

This Station will open Saturday, March 1, 1930

R. B. ROSS 20th and Market Streets
CAMP HILL, PA.

The Historical Society of Camp Hill Newsletter is produced several times a year. Articles or stories to be submitted for consideration should be either given to Pat Eby at Board or General Meetings or forwarded to Pat Eby, 19 N. 27th Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-379-8945, or patriciaeby@verizon.net. Suggestions and articles are always welcome. The newsletter is printed by Johnson Imaging of Camp Hill.

HSCH is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Local Historical Societies

Please check their websites for their activities:

Mechanicsburg Museum Association

www.mechanicsburgmuseum.org 717-697-6088

2 W. Strawberry Alley, Mechanicsburg PA

Northern York County Historical &

Preservation Society

www.northernryorkhistorical.org 717-502-1440

35 Greenbriar Lane, Dillsburg PA 17019

Historic Harrisburg

www.historicharrisburg.com 717-233-4646

Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N 3rd St, Harrisburg

info@historicharrisburg.com

Adams County Historical Society

www.achs-pa.org 717-334-4723

368 Spring Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325

West Shore Historical Society

westshorehistoricalsociety.org

939 Kranzel Dr, Camp Hill PA 17011-0717

Shiremanstown Historical Society

www.s-townhs.org j_runk@comcast.net

4 Walnut Street, Shiremanstown, PA 17011

Cumberland County Historical Society

www.historicalsociety.com 717-249-7610

21 N Pitt St, Carlisle PA

Shippensburg Historical Society

www.shippensburghhistoricalsociety.org 717-532-6727

52 W King St, Shippensburg PA 17257

Historical Society of East Pennsboro

www.EPHistory.org 717-732-5801

PO Box 195, 410 Cherry Street, Enola, PA 17025

Society Updates

Renaming of the Camp Hill Post Office. Senator John Fetterman's office requested more information from us on our request to rename the post office to John Charles "Chuck" Traub Post Office. Wayne needs to get more information about Chuck from his sons.

Where are our Banners?

Have you missed the history-related banners that hung on the utility poles along Market Street for many summers?

Unfortunately, Camp Hill Borough Council put their annual appearance on hold waiting approval of a proposed street-scape. Meanwhile these banners are stored in a safe place until a decision is reached. Neighboring towns have banners of various designs hanging on utility poles.

Camp Hill's banners are unique because they are sponsored by graduating high school classes through the years. Each one includes a graphic of a house, building or event related to Camp Hill history. Doris Gulden Fitting and Marilyn Stoner Swartz managed this project.

Maybe the Camp Hill Borough Council would like to hear from the community about returning the banners to the poles as part of the streetscape?

Three Gables



If the print is too small, it says,
Three Gables Restaurant

Now completely refinished and refurbished, wishes to welcome you to its attractive new horse-shoe counter and new booths. Air-conditioned for your comfort. We offer the finest of foods at all hours. We specialize in Sea Foods. You'll enjoy our friendly atmosphere and service.



And across the street -
Palmer's Arco

After almost twenty years of genealogy research, to actually find who the original immigrant was in our maternal Westhafer family was an amazing accomplishment. If your family was like most families back in the day, when sitting down at your grandparents' dinner table and discussing the day's events (*in the days before everyone had a cell phone attached to their hand*), they never talked about *their* parents...*your* great-grandparents. If your parents were Republican and your aunts and uncles were Democrat, you debated the pros and cons of the politics of the day, all the while digging into your grandmother's famous chicken pot pie. And if men in the family had served in either World War I or II, possibly even in the Korean War or the Vietnam conflict, and survived to return home, they never wanted to speak about the horrors of war during their service. So as children, we never heard stories of who are ancestors were or what their lives were like in the course of history! With that in mind, my two sisters and I set out to find the answer. What follows is the story of the survival of Johann Valentine Westhoeffter/Westhafer (1703-1785) and his second wife, Anna Christina Soudreiter/Sandritter (1713-1773) our 6x great-grandparents.

LOVE AND UNITY - 1731

The plan for the *Love and Unity* was to set sail during the summer of 1731. My Westhoeffter ancestors left their home in Hohensachen, Germany in March for the first leg of the four-to-six-week journey via river barge down the Rhine River to Rotterdam. River progress was slow, and they were also required to pay tolls at thirty-six custom houses, and on occasion, they had to pay bribes for permission to leave certain regions. My Westhoeffters, Valentine, his first wife, Anna Margaretha Haalin, and one-year-old daughter, Anna Christina, reached Rotterdam in mid-April where they were met by other German emigrants.

In May, all 156 (some claim the number was 150) families boarded the British ship *Love and Unity*, under the command of Captain Jacob Lobb, with the expectation of sailing to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They set sail, not for Philadelphia, but for Falmouth, England where they had to remain another four weeks taking on ship supplies. After having to pledge allegiance to the British ruler, Captain Lobb read the Transportation Rule in English to the passengers who were German and most likely never understood a word spoken. What the Rule required was that full payment in silver for the ocean journey would be required upon arrival in Philadelphia. The price of the trip was fifteen pounds silver (equivalent to \$4,347 in 2023 dollars).

Throughout all these weeks, each family had to provide food, shelter, and clothing for themselves. The ship did not sail for Philadelphia until 12 Jun 1731. The voyage was predicted to take six to eight weeks. My family had enough provisions to last that length of time; surely other families had the same. Bunks were fashioned on both sides of the ship. Straw mattresses were provided and often, two or more people were assigned to one bunk. There was no privacy. All occupied their bunk for sleeping, eating, recreation, birthing, and caring for sick and dying. Lice and fleas thrived and diseases of cholera,

typhoid, measles, chicken pox, and dysentery were prevalent. The passengers settled in for what they thought was going to be a voyage of six to eight weeks, but understanding that twelve weeks might be the maximum.

By week eight, all provisions brought onboard had run out, forcing all to subsist on contracted rations supplied by the captain. No official death records have been kept, but 86 passengers died during these weeks, likely from disease of epidemic magnitude, summer heat, dehydration or starvation. An autobiography written by the son of survivor, Johann Dietrich Jungmann, wrote that "twelve days after our departure, the captain assured us that we had covered half of our journey....After that it was calm, followed by a severe storm....Rats sold for one and a half shilling and a mouse for six pence, and they were our only food...People were dying and being tossed naked into the ocean....We were kicked, beaten and used....They were kept onboard for six days while in the harbor telling them we were Turks and not Christians....The ship sailed during the day, the rudder being tied at night...." The voyage was now in its fourteenth week, and it is mid-September.

On 27 Nov 1731, twenty-four weeks after leaving Falmouth, they sighted land near the coast of Martha's Vineyard. Valentine's first wife and child died at sea. With great fear that more would die from starvation and dehydration, the surviving 58 passengers, including my Valentine Westheber (*the way his surname was spelled on the ship's manifest*), were unable to convince the captain to put them on land to purchase provisions. Those remaining survivors rose up in mutiny. In searching the hold of the ship, they found their personal casks, barrels, kegs, and chests had been opened by the captain and crew and were empty. During the weeks the captain refused to put them on shore, another 15 died and were thrown naked into the ocean. Three weeks after Christmas, at week twenty-five, 48 remaining passengers were rescued by a sloop they believed sent to them by Almighty God. They could hardly stand and crawled off the ship.

To make matters even worse, the captain demanded they pay the whole freight of the living AND the dead, as if landed in Philadelphia. Without payment, jail time awaited those who survived the journey. The jailed passengers, with great help from friends in Philadelphia, brought charges of brutality and murder against Captain Lobb. There were three lawsuits filed in Boston, Massachusetts, and if you can imagine, the surviving passengers lost all three cases. The captain was never prosecuted.

With the help of the governor of Massachusetts and the governor of Pennsylvania, the record indicates that 13 named heads of households, including my Westhebers, departed Boston on 12 Apr 1732 on the ship *Norris*, Thomas Lloyd, Master, and finally arrived in Philadelphia on 15 May 1732.

Upon arriving in the City of Brotherly Love, and after days of much needed rest, good food, and personal hygiene, Valentine married his second wife, Anna Christina Soudreiter/Sandritter, who was also a survivor of the *Love and Unity*. (Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4)

Her parents were also onboard but had died on the voyage. They settled in Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, where they began their homestead and raised a family of four. Finally, six generations later led to our mother, Anne Mary (Westhafer) Fulton (1905-1994).

This incredible story was published in Benjamin Franklin's English newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Most of recorded history, regarding these early migrations to America, is centered on the voyage of the *Mayflower*. That's all you read about as a kid in history class. But what is amazing is that no one onboard the *Mayflower* had to endure what our ancestors endured on the *Love and Unity*. The *Mayflower* voyage took 66 days and only 5 died onboard. The *Love and Unity* took 180 days and 73 died onboard. Those who survived had strength, fortitude, endurance, and a determination never to give up which they passed down to their descendants...us!!

Submitted by:

Donna Fulton Boyles, Class of '55

Linda Fulton McKay, Class of '58 (now deceased)

Sharon Fulton Beach, Class of '61

Cumberland County Historical Society News



The Cumberland County Historical Society has launched a campaign to raise \$600,000 to replace the roof and make structural repairs to its headquarters at 21 N Pitt Street in downtown Carlisle.

Founded in 1874 as the Hamilton Library Association, the nonprofit organization is gearing up to celebrate its 150th anniversary. . .

The primary focus of the campaign is to replace the leaky metal roof that is original to the 1881 library building. . . Money from the campaign will also be used to stabilize the northwest corner of the original building, which has sustained water damage over the years, according to the historical society.

The campaign will also fund the replacement of the leaky roof over Todd Hall and to stabilize part of the floor of that addition, which has settled and cracked since its construction.

"We are committed to ensuring that our historic buildings receive the care they deserve," said Shawn Gladden, historical society executive director. "By addressing these

crucial infrastructure needs, we are making a promise to the community that, with their support, we will continue serving for another 150 years.", Gladden said. "We will reopen in February. We'll be preparing for our main reopening in April when we will open new exhibits for the 150th anniversary of the operation."

In the interim, the public could still contact the society to schedule research appointments at the library.

Over the years, leaks have caused seepage and water damage to the interior, said Michael Jean, director of the facilities. "You can see the stain marks. Some plaster work is peeling and blistering. With each rain, we have noticed some growth in those areas impacted by the moisture leaking through. Mowery (Construction) came in and did an inspection. They climbed up inside the roof and found some rot in the decking boards and rafters.

The seepage has yet to damage the paper document, photographs and artifacts in the archives and museum collection Gladden said. "One reason we need to take care of it now is it potentially could. We want to jump on this now so it doesn't become a bigger problem later." Jean said. One goal of the project will be to shore up the ground by injecting an epoxy into the voids in the soil. . .

The historical society must also address the water seepage issues that come with having hidden or covered storm gutters, a common architectural feature of late 19th century buildings in downtown Carlisle.

The complete article was written by Joseph Cress for The Sentinel. What is printed above is not the complete article.

Membership with Cumberland County Historical Society

In order to receive a reciprocal membership with Cumberland County Historical Society, go to this website:

www.historicalsociety.com/product/cumberland-county-reciprocal-membership/

Why join? \$20 Membership (normally \$45).

A Reciprocal Membership includes all the basic benefits of a CH HS membership.

Use of Archives & Library including use of Ancestry.com;

Copy of CCHS' program calendars, annual report and program mailings;

Copy of the Cumberland County History Journal;

10% off most gift shop purchases with 20% discount in Museum Shop on the second Saturday of each month;

Members only pricing on most events;

Discounts on walking and bus tours;

CCHS car decal;

Monthly 3-blasts;

Invitations to member only events, including receptions and behind the scenes tours;

Discounts for History Workshop labs, home-school programs and summer camps.

Our Town - continued from last newsletter.

The next block was a real mix of places, starting with Hiler's on the corner. He sold fountain treats made from Rakestraws Ice Cream - a local favorite. They also had the very best selection in penny candy that a kid ever saw. Moving down the block and there was Traub's Market. It was an old-fashioned grocery store that Mr. and Mrs. Traub operated in the face of moderate competition from other small stores. Jammed into that little building was a meat counter, canned goods and produce that were often displayed on the porch. Mr. Traub, a pencil perpetually behind his ear, did everything — cut meat, rang up customers, and helped his wife stock shelves. It is likely that Traub's Market and the Traubs themselves had not changed much since the day they opened the place. They knew every customer by name and like many other establishments, offered charge accounts to regular customers. When the Food Fair opened in town, Traub's went the way of too many other friendly local establishments - displaced by progress.

Just down the block, Sprengel's Appliances had a small store, sharing the property with Bill Coombs Barber Shop. Bill is the guy I describe in the "Flatop" story. Now just across the street, in my elementary school years, the Hill Theater was built and opened. I will never forget that child admission price of fourteen cents! Adult tickets were expensive at twenty-five cents. A man named Blosser was the manager, and it was he who gave our classmate, Hank Kramer a job as usher and ticket taker. Hank held that job all through high school. That theater was privy to some heavy petting and let's face it - until we could drive, there weren't many dark places to take a girl! The Hill is now gone, yet another place in my life, doomed by SuperMetroPlex theaters.

Right next door to the theater was the big, old brick house of the Lazarus family. They had two kids that I remember - Stokes, in the class of 1951 and Karonetta, that's right- that was her name. Why I remember it is probably because it was where I was, sitting on their little front lawn with some friends, when I learned of Hardy's father dying. Someone said that Hardy had pointed at a falling star, said to be a bad omen, just days before his dad died. The Lazarus home gave way to a Rea and Derrick Drug Store somewhere in 1951-52.

Just across the street, was a large building that held the post office, a dentist named Enterline, some apartments and the gift shop. I was told that the name of the older lady that owned it was Snyder. When we kids wanted to buy a gift for Mom, it was generally where we went. During my card-collecting phase of childhood, it was where I stumbled on a double deck of playing cards with "Blueboy" on one deck and "Pinky" on the other. I parlayed that couple of bucks into a shoebox full of coveted cards that I shrewdly traded with friends in the neighborhood. Sounds silly, but in watching the Antiques Road Show, I think I may have had a bonanza if I had just kept that shoebox. As a hobby, Card Collecting is yet another thing that today's kids would never understand.

Right next door was a very large, white frame building that had been converted into a series of town houses, or row houses, as we knew them back then. Originally built back in the 1870's, as an orphans' home for Civil War soldiers, it was historic and mentioned in the meager tourist information for Camp Hill. Several of my friends lived there at one time or another, among them being Patty Becker, who set maturation records in seventh and eighth grade.

Now comes the heart of town - at least it was for us kids, because it was Fickel's Drug Store, covered in an earlier chapter of this collection. Right next door was a Five and Ten Cent Store; yet another term that is hard to explain to my grandkids. Not to depart from this tour, but that genre of stores was huge in our youth. Names like Woolworth, Murphy's, Grants, Kresge and many others were seen on store signs, always followed by "Five and Ten Cent Store." It is a sign of the economic times that bargains of that sort are now found in places called "Dollar Stores," a thousand percent cost increase and an inestimable deficit in fond memories. Upstairs, there was the School of Dance, run by Mrs. Weigle, mentioned in other chapters, namely concerning Barbie Holler and the backbend! The Shoeman family also had an apartment up there. They had three kids in the high school but I only remember Ben and Barbara, one of Doc Shopes twirlers.

Ernie something or other, the name escapes me, had the Camp Hill Hardware Store, just across the street from Fickel's. The building also housed the American Store, operated by the Miller family. The hardware was one of those old fashioned, dark and crowded emporiums of tools, hinges, nails, doorknobs and everything else a person might need for fixing or repairing. Ernie or one of his erstwhile helpers would guide customers through the maze, finding exactly what was needed in some bin, box or drawer. Compare that to today's home improvement centers, where everything is displayed in those impossible to open, plastic packages, and the help knows nothing about hardware.

Mr. Miller, who with his hardworking wife, ran the American Store, was a big man, who greeted every customer with a smile. They were the parents of my friend Jim, mentioned above, the one whose hirsute qualities earned him that name, "Ape." For as long as he lived, my grandfather bought all of our groceries from Mr. Miller. When, as a kid, I asked him why we did not shop at Food Fair, he said, "Because Art Miller knows my name and he is a friend!" In a nutshell, that was the way Camp Hill did business. People knew their friends and neighbors and that bond was important.

There was another grocer just down Market Street, across from the borough hall, but I can't think of the name. Covers, pronounced like clovers, rings a bell, but I'm not sure. They, like Traub's and Miller's, were a neighborhood store with a distinct and loyal following.

This interesting tale will be continued in the next edition of the newsletter. It is being reprinted with permission of Mr. Stender.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL

2145 Walnut Street, Camp Hill PA 17011
You can also mail your membership form and check to
19 N 27th St, Camp Hill PA 17011



Membership Application / Renewal for 2024

A 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

- Member \$10
- Family \$20
- Additional Gift _____
- I'd like to help at an event or with a project.
- Supporting \$50
- Life Member \$500

Please make checks payable to HSCH.

Name _____
Please Print Clearly

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Would you like to receive the Newsletter by email? Yes No
Did you graduate from Camp Hill High School? If so, what year? _____

*Thank you
for your
support.*



March 7, 2024 Soup and Sandwich Meeting 6:00

General Meeting is being held at the
First Church of God,
123 N 21st Street, Camp Hill
Please note the change of time and place.

Bring a neighbor and enjoy the company of your "historic" friends with a meal and program.

Learn about the history of the first church in Camp Hill from Paul Garrett.



All table settings and water will be provided.
Please bring your own sandwich, soup will be provided.

The event is free and open to the public.
No registration is required.

If you do not wish to eat with us, the program will start about 7:00.
You can just come for that. Parking is free.

Paul is a former science teacher, member of the
Camp Hill Class of 1962, several environmental organizations,
the Historical Society of Camp Hill,
and the congregation.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL
c/o 2145 Walnut Street
Camp Hill PA 17011

A 501(c)(3) organization

Dated Materials

Newsletter



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