



# Warrington

Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2010

### The Mission of the Society:

- Locate, acquire, preserve and exhibit any and all articles, documents, photographs, papers, artifacts and other items of historic, cultural, educational value, which pertain to Warrington Township.
- Develop educational materials for use with schools/public and promote recognition of the history and development of Warrington Township.
- Restore and maintain 10 Folly Road/County Line Road School House for use as headquarters/museum/storage of Society.

The Warrington Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) qualified entity under the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions may be deducted for Federal Income Tax purposes.

P.O. BOX 706  
Warrington PA, 18976  
WarringtonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

### 2010 Officers:

Mary Doyle Roth, *President*  
Kenneth Samen, *Vice-President*

## Meetings

Starting October 11th the Historic Commission and Historical Society meetings will be held on the SECOND Monday of the month rather than the first. This will eliminate the problems we have with limited parking when there is another large meeting every other first Monday of the month. It will also help bypass several holidays. Everyone is welcome. The Commission business is conducted from 7:30 till about 8:00 and is immediately followed by the Society meeting.

## Membership

Our new members are: Donna Basinger, Alaska, for the Clymer family reunion, Fred Phelps Jr, Warrington, Fred Phelps III, California and Linda DuBree, California.

### Annual rates are:

Individual \$20.00, Individual Senior (60+) \$15.00, Individual Student \$15.00, Family \$35.00, Organizations \$50.00 and Businesses \$100.00.

Please let us know if you are able to help us in any area. We are open to all suggestions and help with anything that may interest you. The society can't grow without help from our members.

## Newsletter

We are mailing newsletters but would like to go back to emailing them to save time and money. Please let us know by sending an email to

warringtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com if you agree to receive future newsletters by email.



*Any member of the Warrington Historical Society can submit work to be published in the Newsletter. Personal stories, pictures, or history of the township should be submitted to our email address at: warringtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or mailed to the society at P.O. BOX 706, Warrington PA, 18976. It is the society's goal to produce this newsletter quarterly. But we can only do this with everyone's input.*

*This issue's publisher is Kathy Newcomb.*

# Feature History

## The Warrington Schoolhouse

(A.K.A. Warringtonville – Newville – Bristol Road School House)

Located at 2524 BRISTOL ROAD (50-27-6)

Compiled by Ken Samen

### PART ONE--

#### 1) Original property designated for use as a school:

a. An indenture dated April 6, 1765 first mentions a school house being in the vicinity of the Warringtonville/Newville area. *“Whereas the said Thomas Craig and Jane his wife, granted and confirmed to Hugh Barclay, James Barclay, John Craig, William Craig, Francis Jodon, Thomas Weir, Robert Stewart, and Joseph Hough, and to their heirs and assigns a certain lot of land, situated in the said Township of Warrington, and described as follows, to wit beginning at a stone set for a corner, thence by McDonald’s land north forty six degrees east, fourteen perches and thirteen links to a corner stone, thence by the said Thomas Craig’s other land, south eighty one degrees west fourteen perches and ten links to another stone for a corner, and south twenty six degrees east nine perches and four links to the place of beginning containing sixty one perches in trust forever, for the use of a school for the benefit of the neighbors.”*

b. In 1808, **Deed Book No. 38, Page No. 438**, (deed is incorrectly documented as book No. 38–page 238 in later deeds) describes the 1765 school property and structure as follows: *“On which lot a school house has been erected and used for many years and whereas the said school house is in a state of array and the*

*erection of a new one contemplated and the function of the existing school house being such as to render it inconvenient.”*

#### 2) Second property designated for use as a school:

In 1808, **Deed Book No. 38, Page No. 438**, describes the transfer of two properties, one where there was a school house, and the other where a school house was to be built. *“This Indenture made the third day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight between Jonathan Jones senior, of the Township of Gwynedd County of Montgomery and state of Pennsylvania yeoman and Jane his wife of the first part, Benjamin Hough Blacksmith, William C. Rogers Storekeeper, William McErwen, yeoman, Richard Hough, yeoman, all of the Township of Warwick County of Bucks and State aforesaid, and Jonathan Jones Junior of the Township of Warrington in the said County of Bucks, yeoman, Trustees. Jonathan Jones senior (owner of the adjacent land) who has therefore proposed to grant in exchange for the desired lot an equal quantity of land and in situations more appropriate and suitable for the use of*



Students pose in front of the Bristol Road School House circa 1920.

a school as aforesaid. Beginning at a corner in the middle of the Bristol road, being also a corner of land conveyed or about to be conveyed to the said Jonathan Jones Junior, and extending thence by the same, south forty four degrees west six perches to a corner stone, thence in a line parallel to the said road ten perches and seventeen one hundredth parts of a perch to a corner stone thence in a course parallel to the first mentioned line of this lot, six perches to a corner in the middle of said road, hence along the same, a northwestwardly direction, two perches and seventeen one hundredth parts of a perch to the place of beginning, containing sixty one perches of land, be it more or less together with the rights, liberties, and appurtenances to the same belonging. To have and to hold the said last described hereditaments and promises unto the said Benjamin Hough, William C. Rogers, William McEzwen, Richard Hough, and Jonathan Jones Junior, Trustees as aforesaid, and to the survivors and survivor of them and to the successor and successors of them to be appointed as herein after is mentioned, in trust forever for the sole and exclusive use of a school, for the benefit of the people residing, or who shall hereafter reside, in the neighborhood, so as to avail themselves of the advantages thereof; and to be appropriated to this use forever, and to no other use, or purpose whatsoever.

Received the day of the date of the above written Indenture of the therein named Benjamin Hough and other trustees of the second part one dollar in full of the consideration in money to newcoming as in the said Indenture mentions.

Jonathan Jones

Received the day of the date of the above written Indenture of the therein named Jonathan Jones senior one dollar in full of the consideration in money to us payable as in the said Indenture mentions.

Tho. Craig

In addition the 1808 deed goes on to define the development and configuration of a School Board. "Trustees, for the purposes aforesaid, shall and may be formed and continued in the following manner, to wit, where, and so after as, the said Trustees, or either of them shall die, resign, or move beyond the limits of the said Townships of Warwick and Warrington the remaining Trustees or Trustee shall and my appoint, by writing under hand and seal some suitable



Bristol Road School House circa 1960.

freeholder or freeholders, residing in the said last mentioned Townships or one of them, to supply the vacancy or vacancies thus made and failing such appointments, the Executors or Administrators of the last surviving Trustee shall and may in like manner appoint five freeholders residing as aforesaid, to succeed to the trust aforesaid, a succession of trustees shall be kept up forever."

### 3) Building of the new school house (1851):

(SBMM) April 14, 1851: "Resolve a new school house be built at Newville in place of the old one and that John Radcliff, Abraham Lawshe and William Stuckert be a committee to superintend the building of it and to be given out by public contract."

Advertisements were placed in local papers informing the public of the bidding process. "To Carpenters and Masons. The Board of School Directors of Warrington will meet at the school house near Newville, on Thursday, the first day of May, to receive proposals for building a School House; where the plain and specifications can be seen."

(SBMM) May 17, 1851: "Thence mechanics appeared and handed in their proposals. John Cozen to have the mason work at his proposal bid \$195.00 and Anthony Margarum to have the carpentry work at his proposal bid \$280.00. The building committee to enter into article of agreement with them and to see that the contracts are fulfilled."

(NPC) "Members of the Neshaminy Church united with some others under the leadership of William H. Stuckert,

*Charles Hamilton and Benjamin Hough, to erect a Hall over the school-house at Newville, in Warrington, in 1852. The part of the building for school purposes was erected by the Township, and the remaining expense, which was about \$600, was defrayed by the people of the neighborhood."*

**(SBMM)** November 8, 1851: *"David Trump was examined and accepted (to teach) for the Newville School...motion adjournment to meet in the new school room at Newville on Saturday the 21st at 1 o'clock."*

The Federal style, two story structure was built of area quarried red stone and covered with a white pebble textured stucco. The shutters and wood trim were blue/gray in color. The first floor, which housed the school room, had three windows on either side for light and ventilation.

There was an additional window on the back wall, centered above the teacher's platform. This window was later covered by a large blackboard on the inside and tin on the outside. On the interior, all the windows on the first floor were constructed with rounded plastered wells. The second floor, which housed the Neshaminy Warwick Church's meeting room, had four windows on either side for light and ventilation. There were two additional windows on the back wall. On the interior, all the windows on the second floor were constructed with a more formal in design than the first floor and had angled plastered wells. There were two windows within the stairwells on the first floor and two windows at the top of the stairwells.

• **Pennsylvania School Journal, Volume 5, 1856** (June) details impressions the building/school presented to visitors. *"The (Newville) house in which we met, although entirely destitute, last spring, of the paraphernalia essential to the well-being of a school, had in it, now, a full set of Pelton's outline maps, an outline map of Pennsylvania, Mitchell's new map of the United States, a new ten inch globe, a thermometer, cards for primary scholars, numeral frame, and other things, calculated to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge. These, with the exception of the United States map, were the property of the enterprising and indefatigable gentleman who had charge of the school."*



Bristol Road School House circa 2000.

• **Pennsylvania Public Schools Annual Report of the Superintendent for 1858**, that states that *"A school at Warringtonville, the best furnished in the county, has been supplied by the teacher. There are several others, in different parts of the county, which, to the extent furnished, have either been supplied by the teachers, or by subscriptions of the employer to the school."*

• Simon Overholt was teacher at this time per the school board meeting minutes in 1856-58.

• **Pennsylvania Public Schools Annual Report of the Superintendent for 1861** notes that the *"Warrington district has been favored with some energetic directors. The school at Warringtonville was taught, for several years, with decided ability, by the present County Superintendent, Simon S. Overholt; and the district has been, in a progressive condition."*

The next news letter will continue with **PART TWO:**

- Repairing the structure and roof of the school house.
- Becoming a two room school house.
- Electricity brought to the school house.
- School house closed and sold.

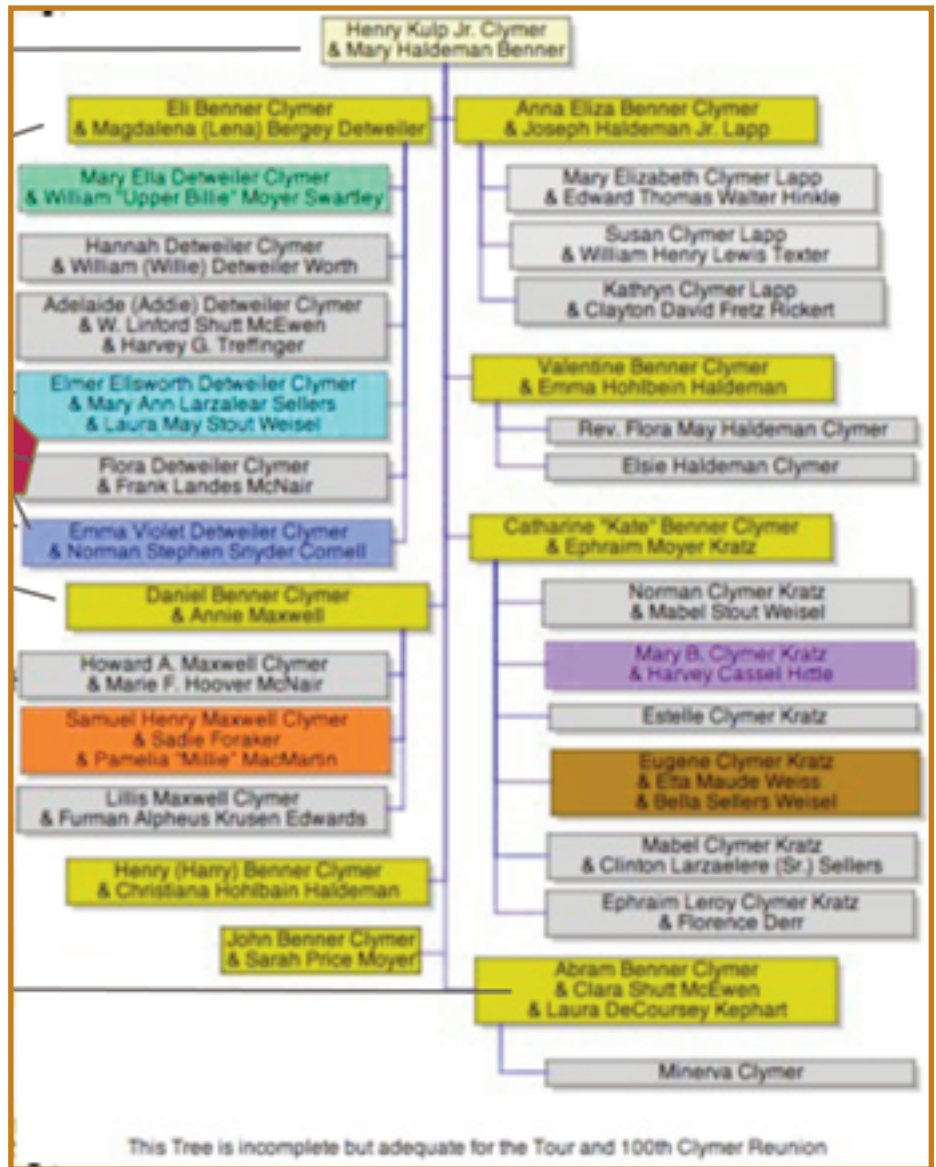
# Clymer 100th Family Reunion

The 100th Clymer family reunion was held this July.

*Submitted by Donna Basinger*

Their first reunion was held in 1910 at the Daniel Clymer farm which used to encompass the property at Lower State Road and Pickertown Road. The first event of the day was a driving tour of their ancestor's houses and schools and started at the above location. We've included in the newsletter information from the brochure on the Warrington part of the tour.

**Clymer Family Tree  
(incomplete)**



## School Tour

### County Line School 10 Folly Road

In 1840 I believe Mary Benner Clymer, our ancestor, met here with others to form the Eureka Church, now Pleasantville UCC Church. Mary Ella Clymer (Swartley) taught in this school before she married in 1886. Her father Eli was the School Director. Weirs, McKinstry's, and Dannehowers attended this school. Hannah Weir Simpson, mother of President Ulysses S. Grant, attended this school before moving to Ohio.

### Mill Creek School 3400 Pickertown Road

The Clymer Reunion met here in 1933 for the first time. The business meeting was held inside and Dorothy Clymer played the piano as everyone sang 'America'. 24 people at the 1933 Clymer Reunion attended the older one-room Mill Creek School and all had Flora Clymer (McNair) or Margaret McNair as a teacher. Clymer Reunions from 1945 thru 1952 were held at Mill Creek School. This 1927 two classroom schoolhouse is the 3rd school house on this site. The first school was the Grove

## Drive-By Tour

After visiting the first 2 schools enjoy ice tea at Alby & Joan Cornell's home. Notice the other places on the map as you "DRIVE-BY". We do not have permission this year to enter driveways and look at houses and barns. Please respect the privacy of the owners.

### 2657 Bristol Rd.

Home of Alby & Joan Cornell and Anna Cornell DeHart. Norman Cornell and Emma Violet Clymer Cornell bought this 1805 home from the Cadwalladers in 1945. Alby Cornell had a small airport and air taxi service on the farm. Anna DeHart now lives in the back apartment where her parents lived.

### OLD Warrington School & Gift Shop Bristol Rd.

This school is unaltered and you can see the original classrooms, unlike the County Line School and Mill Creek School. It is now very full of antiques and gifts.

Alby attended this school along with other Clymers. The interior of this building is similar to the original state of Mill Creek #2 and #3, and the County Line School.

### A: 3298 Bristol Rd.

Abe Clymer's House & Barn are on the southwest corner of the Bristol Road/Lower State Road intersection. Park across the street in the Coastal Gas Station and take a look. The 1914 Clymer Reunion was held here and a photo of Henry and Mary Clymer's children was taken in front of the barn. The photo is part of the slide presentation during the 2010 Reunion.

### C: Lower State Rd. & Bellflower Rd.

Across from the McNairs, on the south side of Lower State Road, is a new housing development off of Bellflower Rd. Norman and Emma Violet Clymer Cornell owned the farm where these houses stand. The Cornells hosted the 1918, 1928, 1938, & 1942 Clymer



Reunions. Norman “kept” the Warrington Post Office and store at the intersection of Bristol & Easton Rds. from 1929-1944.

### **D: Dan Clymer Farm**

#### **Lower State & Pickertown Rds.**

In 1910 Epraim Kratz instigated a Clymer Gathering and Daniel Clymer suggested it be held at his farm. We have one small photo taken by Ethel Swartley (Weir) of the bounteous dinner table. James D. Morrissey, owner of the Eureka Stone Quarry, now owns the land. Sam Clymer was born on the farm as well as Marvin and Beth’s father, Bruce. Dan Clymer hosted the 1910, 1926, & 1932 Clymer Reunions.

### **E: Eli Clymer Farm**

#### **Mill Creek Rd.**

Eli and Magdalena Detweiler Clymer had a farm house at the high point across from the Mill Creek School. Water was taken from Eli’s farm for use at the school. Others remember taking a buggy to school and parking it with Uncle Eli. Eli’s son Elmer took over the farm and sold it about 1950 to the Eureka Stone Quarry. Elmer & Laura Weisel Clymer hosted the 1916 Clymer Reunion.

### **F: 1090 Lower State Rd.**

Frank & Flora Clymer McNair lived at the end of the lane by the 1090 mailbox. The home, barn, and spring house is still there and looks very much like it did 100 years ago. The owner will be ready another year for visitors. Flora taught many Clymers, including Anna

Shown at right are the stipulations of Mary Ella Clymer’s teaching contract when she taught at the 10 Folly Rd “County Line” School house before she got married in 1886. Her parents Eli and Magdalena Clymer were very serious about education. Eli was the Warrington School Director. After their 8 children completed 8th grade at the County Line School, they encouraged and paid for their higher education. Mary attended the Doylestown Academy.

Cornell DeHart and Sam Clymer, in the one room Mill Creek School. Her daughter Frances also taught at the Mill Creek School. Flora was known for her amazing flower and vegetable gardens. The McNairs hosted the 1920 & 1940 Clymer Reunions.

### **H: Henry & Mary Clymer Home**

#### **Limekiln Pike, just north of Mill Creek Rd.**

Henry bought this home about 1840, after a few years of marriage. Until 1850 the home was listed in New Britain Township. The house was built in 1790. Henry died young. Henry’s son Eli eventually bought his father’s land and the John Grove farm, now owned by the Eureka Stone Quarry.

### **O: Howard & Marie Clymer Farm**

#### **County Line Rd.**

Howard’s barn is still standing near the new subdivision but the house has been replaced. Howard & Marie hosted the 1919 & 1934 Clymer Reunions. The 1934 Group Photo was taken to the right of the barn against the hill.

