



# Warrington

Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2009

### 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

### 2009 Officers:

Mary Doyle Roth, *President*  
Kenneth Samen, *Vice-President*  
Joseph Wright, *Treasurer*

## NEWS:

We would like to thank those who have become the initial members of the Warrington Historical Society. Note that 2008 individual memberships have been extended to cover 2009. This is to thank our initial members for being so patient while we continue to organize. New members:

Stephen & Julia Bizon 2009 – Life Membership

Kevin Baker – 2009 member

Wendy Wirsch - 2009 member

### Arcadia Publishing – Series of America – Warrington:

Our book “Warrington” was made available for sale on February 16, 2009. Over 250 pictures were collected for the book. The price of the book is \$21.99. All proceeds will benefit the Society. Books are available 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday at the Township building, or by emailing the society or calling 215-343-9239. The books that we sell ourselves must be sold for \$21.99 but we can make over 40% profit. The books that are sold through other sources we will make 8%. Any ideas for soliciting orders are appreciated.

## Property News:

- 1201 Easton Rd built around 1900 directly across from Park Road is in the process of being demolished along with the 2 more modern houses on either side. All of these houses belonged to the Graf family.
- 3397 Limekiln Pike across from Woodlawn Ave is set to be demolished. Currently owned by Eureka Quarry it was built in 1855. There is a beautiful front stonewall.
- The Neshaminy Inn, located at 308 Easton Rd, was sold and will be demolished. This structure was built about 1850. Its history includes being a stagecoach stop and later the location of Supervisor meetings and voting.
- Once known as Harp’s Corner, the structure located at 3797 County Line Rd was built about 1860 and will be demolished once the Cemetery relocates their offices to newly built structures.
- The Penrose Property, located at 213 Easton Rd, is under agreement of sale. The status of the house on the property has not yet been determined. This house was built in 1749.

## Society elections were held on March 31, 2009 at the General Meeting (rescheduled from February 25, 2009).

Seven members were present at meeting for elections; the results are as follows:

President - Mary Doyle Roth

Vice- President - Kenneth Samen

Treasurer - Joseph Wright

Director of Communications -  
Kathy Newcomb

Elections for 2010 will be held in November 2009.

# Feature History

The County Line Schoolhouse is mentioned as early as 1751 when Ephraim Leech drew up a document that willed 1 acre of land at S.E. corner of his plantation joining County Line for Schoolhouse, forever. (*Documentation shows that he was in possession of the land. Filed 2 Mar 1747- William WALKER, Ephraim LEECH, William LEECH, John FULLERTON interest L80 with interest and yearly Quit Rent from 17 Jun 1746 Warrington, Bucks Co.*) Although it is not known exactly when the school was first constructed, the will was proven on November 30, 1751. It is conceivable to believe that it was made from logs, built around 1755. The upkeep of the school structure was a community task. In 1809, Margaret (wife of William) Thompson of Moorland Twp., Montgomery Co, had a will produced that stated "...Monies residue to Hiram McNeil for purpose of repairing Schoolhouse near County Line in Warrington Twp."

In the early 1800s, Hannah Simpson, future mother of the 18th President of the United States of America, Ulysses S. Grant, attended the school. She was a tuition student from Horsham Township as her family's farm was located off Limekiln Pike in Montgomery County.

On Sunday afternoons, visiting ministers would hold religious services at the schoolhouse. In the later part of Sept. 1840, meetings were held at this location to organize Warrington's first church, the German Reformed Church (Pleasantville United Church of Christ).

The Pennsylvania Common School Register for the County Line School has information about the demolition of the old schoolhouse and construction of a new schoolhouse. Much of the materials to build were given by the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church (located in Warwick) elders John McNair and Henry McKinstry; it being understood with the School Directors of the Township, that Sabbath-schools and meetings might be held in it in the future, as in the past, without hindrance. *Jun. 5, 1857: Tilghman A. Hoover, the teacher at the County Line School, entered in the register: "Spent part of the afternoon cleaning the house. Board of Directors met at the house to make arrangement for the building of a new house." Jun. 11, 1857: Hoover wrote: "Board of Directors and committee appointed by the patrons of the school met to prosecute the building of the new house." Oct. 7, 1857: Hoover wrote: "School closed on account of taking down house to build a new one." Feb. 15, 1858: Hoover wrote: "School recommenced the house partly finished having but one coat of mortar on the walls, the outside undashed. Mr. McKinstry and Mr. William Brady being present to assist in arranging desks and putting to right the house."*

The new schoolhouse was typical for the time with its entrance-facing south (Folly Rd), with a cedar shingle roof (which is still present below the tin roof), and a belfry atop the front door. The interior had a section partitioned off to serve as a cloakroom and storage area, while in the





until 1928 (at which time it was sold to the Schlecter family and became a private residence) when the larger (2 room) Mill Creek School on Pickertown Rd opened. As a home, it was first used as a summer residence. Later a second generation of Schlecters modified the building to be a year round two-story structure. A cement slab was laid to replace the wooden deck of the front porch, while several windows and a back door were added to the exterior. It is believed that at this time a full basement was dug and an exterior entrance to the cellar was placed the County Line side of the structure. The belfry was removed and

center of the main teaching area was a wood-burning stove for heat. Being that there was no means of water on the property, older male students fetched water from homes in the area. There is a stone privy located on the property. The stove, stovepipe, and center chimney that once heated the structure were removed and a brick chimney was added to the back corner. It is believed that there was only a crawl space under the school at this time as opposed to a cellar. There was a wooden shed addition located on the East Side of the structure for storage. Mary Ella Clymer taught school at County Line before she got married in 1886. Her teaching contract had the following stipulations: *You will not marry during the term of your contract. You are not to keep company with men. You must be home between the hours of 8 P.M. and 6 A.M. unless attending school functions. You may not ride in a carriage with any man unless he is your father or brother. You must wear at least two petticoats. To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: Scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water. Clean the blackboards at least one a day. Start the fire at 7 A.M. so the room will be warm by 8 A.M.*

In the early 1900s, a red metal roof was placed over the wood shingles, (the locals would know the school as Red Top College). Later a wooden porch with a metal roof was installed over the entire front of the schoolhouse. The building remained in operation as a school

the bell was loaned to the St. Joseph Church on Easton Rd. Later the bell would be returned to the Schlecter family. The bell has recently appeared at Warrington Day festivities for children to ring. Future plans are for the bell to top the restored schoolhouse again

In 1998, the township acquired the County Line School with the acre of land and has been vacant since. A tree located at the County Line School is a living symbol of Warrington Township's historic legacy. On Oct. 27, 1932, the tree was recognized as an authentic William Penn Pin Oak. The tree is estimated to be over 300 years old. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, children who attended the school played under its spreading limbs which span over 120 feet. Its trunk has a diameter of over 17 feet. In 1999 arborists inspected the tree, and recommendations were made for preserving it.

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*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](mailto: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.*

