



Volume 50 Number 2

June 2013

\$10

# TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY

## An Archaeological Investigation of the Joseph Lewis Site



## Then and Now: Northwestern Tredyffrin

## Trinity Remembers...



The *History Quarterly* is published four times a year by the

**Tredyffrin Easttown  
Historical Society**  
720 First Avenue  
Berwyn, PA 19312

A 501(c)(3) organization

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ISSN: 1938-5676

## From the Editors

Change is a constant and unavoidable factor in our world, and historians record and examine changes that have occurred over time. Change can happen gradually and almost unnoticeably but sometimes it is much more dramatic. The rate of change can seem quite rapid within the span of an individual's memory, and familiar scenes can suddenly become barely recognizable.

The long and often controversial path that led to the recent construction and opening of a complex highway interchange in the northwestern corner of Tredyffrin Township started years ago with the development of the Great Valley Corporate Center, bringing thousands of commuting workers to the area and adding an ever increasing amount of traffic to its roads. Proposals to add a new Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange at Route 29 to alleviate the traffic problems were met with legitimate concern for the negative impacts that might result, and for the inevitable changes that would definitely occur. Nearby Charlestown Township had successfully protected its pastoral charm and quality of life with careful zoning management for years, and resisted efforts to make the area even more susceptible to the pressures for development that often come with increased accessibility.



The relentless march of progress can be delayed but it is typically hard to stop, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission finally decided to add a "slip ramp" interchange limited to electronic tag holders only. While this initially sounded smaller in scope, the actual reality as constructed was a full interchange with an extensive set of multi-lane ramps and overpasses superimposed on the landscape. One of the unfortunate victims of this development plan was the historic Joseph Lewis house described in the article that follows. We have published an abridged version of the publication prepared for the Turnpike Commission, focusing on the property and its history and omitting the detailed archaeological studies that were part of the original document. The old house was lost during the construction of the interchange ramps, but fortunately the history of the site was well documented before it was destroyed.



In addition, we are pleased to include a review of the recently published "Trinity Remembers..." written by Society members Barbara and Herb Fry, and documenting the long history of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn.

# Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly

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#### Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: The Route 29 “Slip Ramp” overpass above Yellows Springs Road in the vicinity of the Joseph Lewis House site combined with a ghostly image of the now gone house itself (2013 ramp photo and composite image courtesy of John O. Senior, 2008 Joseph Lewis house photo courtesy of Mike Bertram).

Inside Cover: Opposite, the upper photo is another 2013 view of the ramps over Yellow Springs Road (Courtesy John O. Senior), and the lower photo is a 2008 view of the Joseph Lewis house (Courtesy of Mike Bertram).

Back Cover: Cedar Hollow looking NW, separated by 86 years. Above, taken by Aero Services Company in 1926, Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia. Below, taken in October 2012, Courtesy of Roger Thorne.

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Cedar Hollow looking NW  
1926 Aero Services Company photograph  
Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia



Cedar Hollow looking NW  
October 2012 Courtesy of Roger Thorne