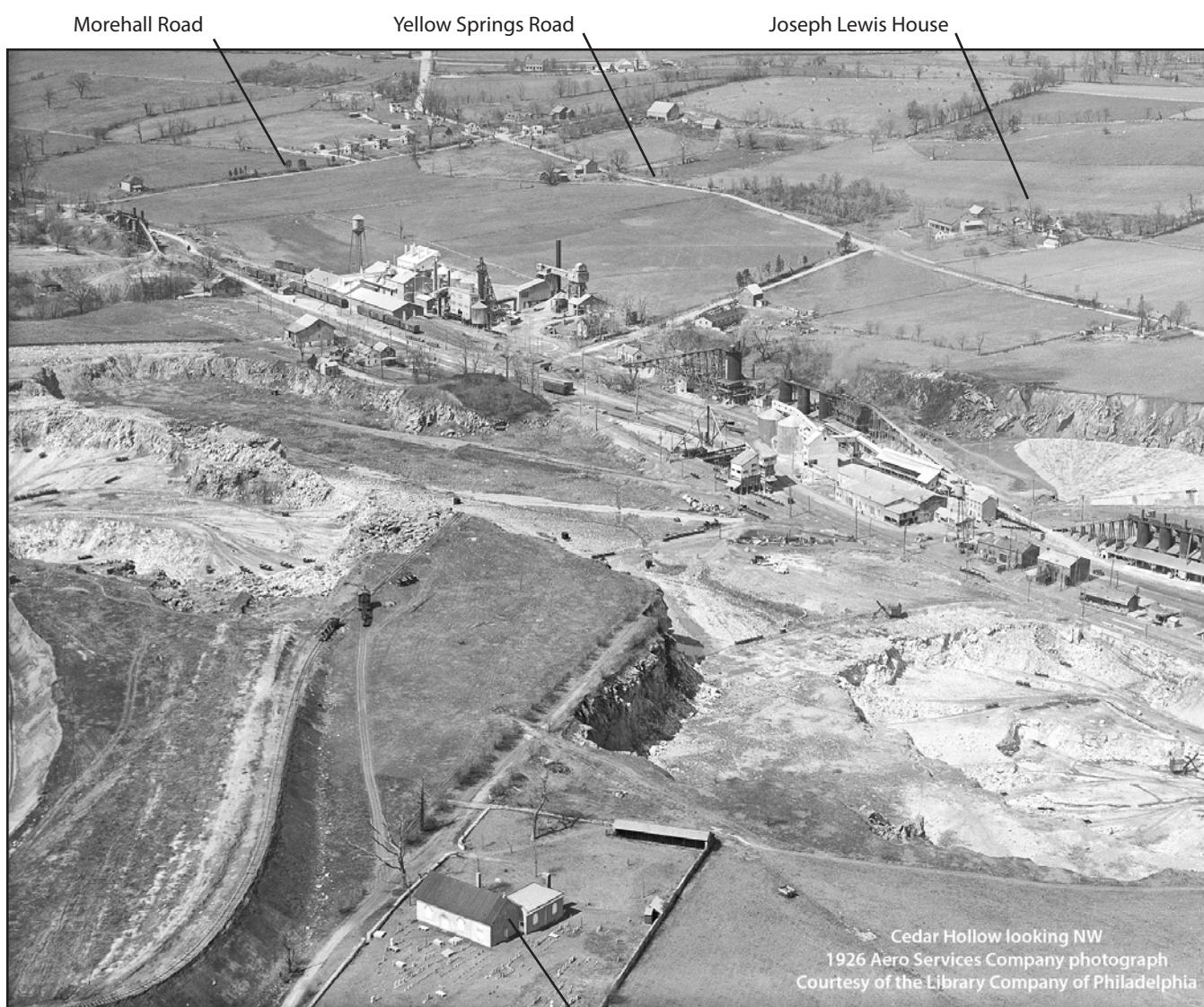


Then and Now

Northwestern Tredyffrin Township

Since the arrival of Welsh settlers in the late 17th century, the landscape has changed dramatically in the vicinity of the old villages of Cedar Hollow and Devault in northwestern Tredyffrin Township and adjacent East Whiteland and Charlestown Townships. Following the development that accompanied settlement by European immigrants, the first major change came with the excavation of large limestone quarries in the area. The continuing construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in the 1950s cut a swath through the region and created a new boundary to the north of historic Yellow Springs Road. In the aftermath of the Warner quarry operation, a large lake filled the abandoned pit and new corporate office buildings were constructed on its shores in place of the old lime kilns and industrial buildings.

Most recently another remarkable change came with the construction of the controversial and extensive Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange and its complex of ramps at Route 29. Recalling the simple pastoral setting visible as recently as the early 20th century, the area is now almost unrecognizable.



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

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

Historic St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley has been a watchful witness to these developments, standing on the very edge of the quarries and overlooking the valley where it has all taken place, but fortunately avoiding most of the adverse consequences. Less fortunate was the old Joseph Lewis house, replaced by interchange ramps during the construction.

For more background, you may want to refer to some of the following articles that have appeared in recent volumes of the Quarterly. To investigate further, the Search tool provided on the Society website can locate even more information.

Old Houses and History of Devault and Cedar Hollow by Sue Andrews, April 2000, *History Quarterly*, Volume 38 Number 2, pages 43–58

Great Valley Area Limestone Quarries by Joyce Post

Part 1 Howellville Quarries, Summer 2005, *History Quarterly*, Volume 42 Number 3, pages 95-103

Part 2 Cedar Hollow Quarries, Fall 2005, *History Quarterly*, Volume 42 Number 4, pages 117-133

Part 3 Valley Forge Quarries and Port Kennedy, Winter 2006, *History Quarterly*, Volume 43, Number 1, pages 10-26

Limestone Quarries and Iron Mines of the Eastern Great Valley by Ronald A. Sloto, June 2011, *History Quarterly*, Volume 48, Number 2, pages 34-49

Some Thoughts on Limestone and Lime Kilns in Chester Valley by Harlan Morrison, January 1999, *History Quarterly*, Volume 37 Number 1, pages 3–8

