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# TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY

## Rediscovering Devon

Preserving History at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair



### Then and Now: Devon

## Promoting Chesterbrook Farm

## From the Editors



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The theme of this special issue — **Rediscovering Devon** — reflects the focus of the Society's ongoing collaborative relationship with the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair. The two organizations have been working closely together for the past few years with the preservation, organization, interpretation, and sharing of the long and rich history as a primary objective. More recently this effort has been joined by the Chester County Historical Society.

Over the decades, quite a number of significant and successful efforts have been made to document the history of Devon. Notable highlights include a number of published books and articles that have appeared in the *Quarterly* and other publications, but it has been a while since the subject has been revisited in depth.

Relatively recent technological advances such as digital image management and the vast and invaluable resources of the Internet, along with an increased recognition of the importance and also vulnerability of the growing body of historical information about this iconic institution, have once again brought the subject to the active attention of a growing number of interested and involved people.

The Society has shared and applied its expertise to several tasks, and the results are impressive. The growing collection of unique photographs that have been located, digitized, and protected, as well as made available for publication, is an essential part at the core of the effort. In addition, the collaboration has resulted in more of this important history being shared with the public.

This continuing effort will increasingly depend on shared knowledge that is spread throughout the community of people who make up the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, as well as their active participation in the process of recognizing, gathering, preserving, and interpreting the vast trove of historical treasures related to this great tradition, some of which is still to be found. As with all such endeavors, it is essential to recognize that as time moves on, opportunities and information can and will be lost, so it is important to take action sooner than later.

If you have information or assets (photographs, publications, documents, artifacts, or memorabilia) that you would like to share, please make contact with us. We can be reached by email at [dhscf@tehistory.org](mailto:dhscf@tehistory.org). You can also telephone the DHSCF office at 610-964-0550. We look forward to hearing from you.

In this special issue, we are pleased to be able to publish articles by a number of people centrally involved with this collaborative history effort. Dick Kurtz has been a long-term supporter of both organizations, and was actively involved in bringing us together. Roger Thorne led the way with his essential work on the photograph collection, and Bobbi Cowley joined the effort and has brought a considerable expertise to the projects we have undertaken. We are also pleased to include an article by Cheryl Leibold concerning historic Chesterbrook Farm that is not directly related to Devon, but shares common threads.

We hope that you find the issue to be enjoyable and informative. Please contact us with your feedback. We can be reached via email at [quarterly@tehistory.org](mailto:quarterly@tehistory.org).



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#### Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: 1927 Dallin Aerial Survey photograph, looking southwest over Devon. Note the line of cars approaching the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair on Lancaster Avenue. *Courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library.*

Inside Cover: Background image of The Devon Inn c. 1898, *Courtesy of Devon Horse Show and Country Fair.* Inset: TEHS logo displayed on the electronic scoreboard at the 2012 Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. *Courtesy of John O. Senior*

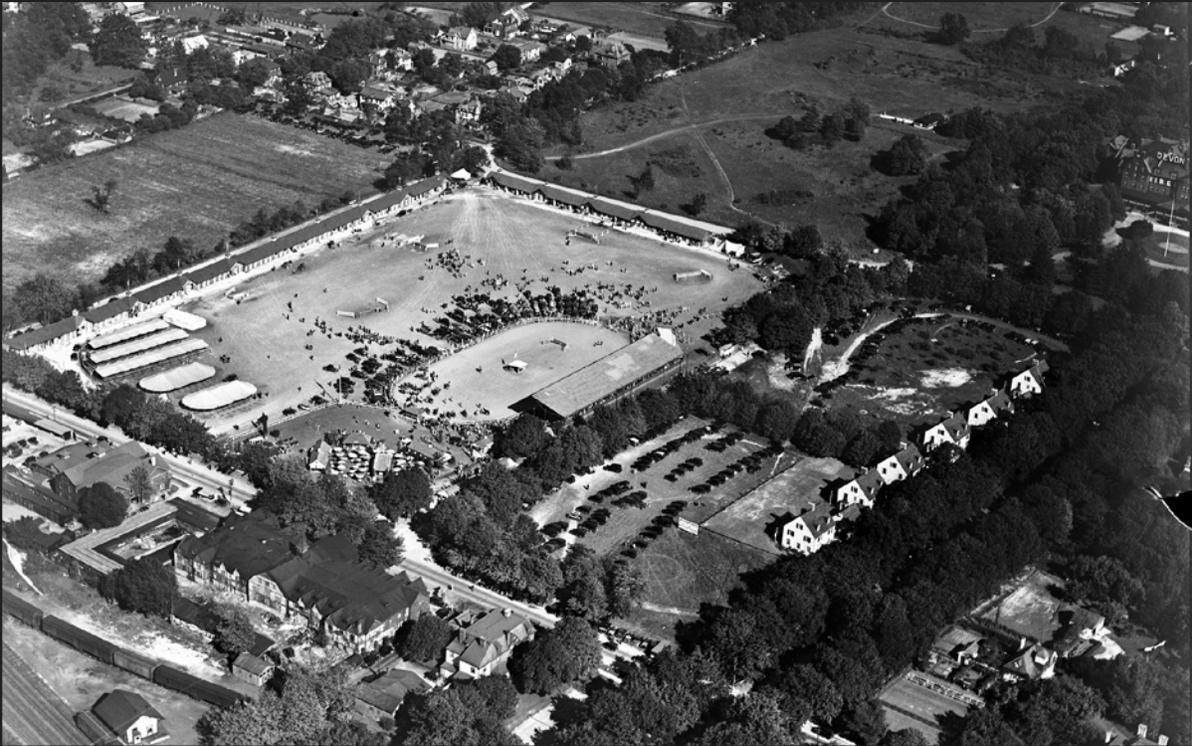
Back Cover: Devon, looking approximately southeast, separated by 81 years. Above, taken by Dallin Aerial Survey in 1928, *Courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library.* Below, taken in October 2009, *Courtesy of Roger D. Thorne.*

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# Rediscovering Devon

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1928 Aerial Survey photograph looking southeast across the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair



2009 aerial photograph looking east-southeast across the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair