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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



**Changes at Valley Forge National Historical Park
2013 and Beyond**

**A Beautiful Journey: The Life of the Main Line's
Mildred Miller Burruss**

Music and Memories: The Story of the Maple Grove Inn

Recent Additions to the Image Collection Database



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From the Editors

We welcome two new contributors in the pages of this issue.

Penny L. Washington contributed two well-researched and compelling articles that add substantially to our ongoing effort to document African American local history. Roger Thorne provided valuable assistance by digitizing the images and documents that Penny had collected, and associate editor Diana Senior meticulously transcribed the two articles from the original handwritten manuscripts. Working with the material Penny provided led to some intriguing discoveries and avenues for further research. Examples include the connections between the extended Burruss family and the Philander C. Knox Estate in Valley Forge, and the remarkable and still unfolding story of the Maple Grove Inn in Devon.

We also have an article on the changing face of Valley Forge National Historical Park adapted by editors John and Heidi from a 2013 Society meeting presentation by Superintendent **Kate Hammond**. During the subsequent two years, John took many photographs to document the progress made on a number of the proposed projects described in the presentation, and some of them are included to help illustrate the article. Also, on our website at www.tehistory.org/qswc/q5202/toc.html you can view some related supplemental content, including some informative footnotes.

In addition, we have an update from Heidi Sproat on the recent progress made in the ongoing Image Database project, and are pleased to include some representative images selected from the collections that were recently added to the database.

We were saddened by the tragic passing of Rob Lukens this past summer, and a remembrance may be found in this issue.



Knox Estate Greenhouse structure after the old broken glass and debris were cleaned out. This structure remains in place as part of the historic Knox Estate compound in VFNHP.

Courtesy of John O. Senior © 2015

Trash or Treasure?

It is not uncommon for us to hear from or about people who are in possession of some items that they may be uncertain how to value, but for which they would like to find a new home.

If you (or people you know) have photographs, drawings, maps, letters, documents, books, or other items of possible (or definite) historic interest that might be donated to the Society, please visit the Archives page of our website (<http://www.tehistory.org/archives.html>) and review our Collecting Policy, or contact us directly for more information. Email: archives@tehistory.org

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Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: Reconstructed huts in the Muhlenberg's Brigade area. October 2015. *Courtesy of John O. Senior © 2015*

Back Cover: UPPER: Social gathering of the Berwyn Thimble Club at the Maple Grove Inn, in Devon, sometime in the 1940s. Mildred Burruss may be seen in the middle of the back row, fifth from the right, with her husband Charles to her right. *Courtesy of Penny Washington.*

LOWER: Contemporary view of the building that formerly housed the Maple Grove Inn, located at 321 S. Valley Forge Road, Devon, and now occupied by The Prestige Group. October 2015. *Courtesy of John O. Senior © 2015*

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ABOVE: Social gathering of the Berwyn Thimble Club at the Maple Grove Inn in the 1940s. Mildred Burruss may be seen in the middle of the back row, fifth from the right, with her husband Charles to her right.

BELOW: Contemporary view of the building that formerly housed the Maple Grove Inn.

