

An Old White Oak

On Thursday afternoon, June 11, 2015, a Rick's Tree Service crew took down a large white oak tree located in the Devon Downs section of Easttown Township, at the south east corner of Watford Lane and Daventry Road (597 Watford Lane). After the Devon Downs subdivision was built in 1962, the tree stood within a few feet of the curb on Watford, leaning in a westerly direction over the street. Last year it appeared to be healthy, but it did not survive the severe winter of 2014–15.

The diameter of the tree stump at ground level, measured after the debris was hauled away, was 53 inches. Using a formula for estimating tree age published on page 23 of the book *Penn's Woods 1682–1982* by Halfred W. Wertz and M. Joy Callender, “for white oak multiply diameter ... by 5,” the approximate age of the tree was 265 years.

The “First Purchasers” of Easttown Township land from William Penn sold it off to land speculators. Eventually, a tract of about 100 acres (on both sides of what is today Waterloo Avenue running south down the hill out of Berwyn) was sold to Philip Davies in 1706. The old manor house at 659 Watford Lane in Devon Downs today proudly displays a sign at the curb, “Travelgwyn, 1706.” An age of 265 years for the old white oak would put the beginning of its growth within a few decades of the early settlement.

— Herb Fry (2015-08-19)



Thank You

The Society is an all-volunteer organization that relies on and appreciates the support of its members and friends. We are particularly grateful to members who join or renew at the Patron or Patron Plus (+) level, along with those who provide an extra contribution in addition to their annual dues, for their very important endorsement of our efforts to preserve, document, and share local history with the community. This list reflects special member contributions received as of 29 December 2015.

Patron Members

Suzanne Andrews
Rick Belber
Bo Bergqvist
Mike Bertram
James & Sharon Brazel
Jason Casterline
Lynne Dawson
Larry & Joyce DeYoung
Peggy Egertson
Steve & Raechal Finkelman
C. Herbert Fry
Dave Furman & Marianne Hooper
Pete & Judy Goodman
Bonnie & John Haughey
Adrian R. Isé & Rosemary Rodgers (+)
Glenna LaSalle Keene

William L. Keltz
Gretchen Kiernan
Peggy & Ken Kistler
Richard Kurtz
Tim & Karen Lander
Susan Lea
Steven & Charlotte Mark
J. Michael Morrison (+)
Loyd & Debbie Pakradooni (+)
Frances Pane
Ann & Al Plambeck
John P. Rosso
John O. Senior & Nancy Kimmons
Heidi & Ward Sproat
Roger & Carol Thorne
Meg Wiederseim (+)

Extra Gift Members

Robert Craig Conover
Judy & Luigi DiFillippo
Jeff & Diane Groff
Frederick & Marianne Hassold
Andrew Kese
Dennis Leeper
Angelo Meoli
William R. Spofford
Margery Stratton
Mary Jane Wallace

Organizational Patron Members

Devon Horse Show & Country Fair (+)
Easttown Township Historical
Commission (Anna Sicalides)
St. Peters Church in the Great Valley

The Society is grateful to our advertising sponsors who provide important support for production of the *History Quarterly*.

Please support our advertising sponsors