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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



The Papal Weekend In Paoli

A Rare Re-Platforming Through Paoli

**Update on the 1930 Devon Fireworks Explosion Site
and the Westover Bird Sanctuary**

Trinity Presbyterian Pipe Organ Centennial Celebration

Grand Opening of Sullivan's Bridge

2016 Historic House Tour



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From the Editors

The historic visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia in late September 2015 required extraordinary preparations throughout the region, and the special role that Paoli played is well-documented in a story provided by frequent contributor Roger Thorne. While watching and photographing the diverse multitudes who gathered to ride the train that weekend, he observed the very unusual occurrence of the eastbound Amtrak *Keystone* train being redirected to the track along the westbound platform, and tells that story in a companion article.

Based on a presentation given at the May 2016 meeting of the Society, Heidi Sproat and Michele Hawk prepared an article that provides some additional images and information about the infamous Devon Fireworks Explosion, and also the creation of a new bird sanctuary in Westover Park on the site of the tragedy.

We were saddened to learn the passing of member Jean Dixon-Sullivan in February, and a remembrance may be found in this issue.

On the good news front, we are glad to report on the long-awaited grand opening of the new Sullivan's Bridge in Valley Forge Park. We also are pleased to report that the 2016 Historic House Tour held by the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust worked out quite well.

As we began our Fall season of meetings, the Society participated very successfully on three consecutive autumn Saturdays in outreach programs to increase community awareness of our local history, and a brief report on those efforts is also included.



TEHS exhibit tent at the 2016 Paoli Blues Fest, before the crowds arrived. *Courtesy of Roger Thorne*

Erratum for Volume 53 Number 1 (April 2016)

The caption for the upper image on the back cover of Vol. 53 No. 1 should read: "The estate barn of the John H. Dingee family's Fennerton farm, located in Paoli, just north of the railroad right-of-way, along East Central Avenue, between Fennerton Road and Bear Hill Road."

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: A joyful group of sisters and students from Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas, cross Lancaster Avenue on their way to the staging zones at Paoli station, Saturday, September 26th. *Courtesy of Roger D. Thorne*
- Back Cover: Aerial views of Sullivan's Bridge in Valley Forge National Historical Park.
UPPER: Looking Southwest. LOWER: Looking West. *Courtesy of Roger D. Thorne*

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Aerial Views of Sullivan's Bridge in Valley Forge National Historical Park

The new pedestrian and bicycle bridge connects the Schuylkill River Trail with the trail system in the park and beyond. Note also the new highway bridge construction adjacent to the existing Route 422 roadway.

ABOVE: Looking Southwest. BELOW: Looking West. *Photos courtesy of Roger Thorne © 2016*

