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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



**Voices from the Mount Pleasant Oral History Project
Perspectives on Local African American History**

Jesse and Mary Emily Highgate Hyselman

Witchcraft in England, New England, and Penn's World

2017 Members Excursion: Washington Memorial Chapel



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From the Editors

In this issue, we are presenting articles from several authors that complement our ongoing effort to document local African American history.

We start off with an article provided by Sharon Schwarze, Ph.D., professor emerita of philosophy and liberal studies at Cabrini University, adapted from a presentation that she made at the October 2015 meeting of the Society concerning a noteworthy project that she initiated while teaching. Sharon observed a problematic situation involving the long-term residents of the traditionally African American Mt. Pleasant neighborhood near the school, and the increasing population of students living there without much awareness of their contributions to the adverse changes affecting the area. Her innovative and effective solution was to engage students in an oral history project, and through the process of getting to know the stories that the residents had to share, the students became much better neighbors. Some transcriptions of those remarkable narratives were read aloud by various people in attendance at the Society meeting, and the result was quite affecting.

We are pleased to welcome back two previous authors for their second appearances in the *Quarterly*. Penny L. Washington has contributed three new articles on several subjects for this issue, one based on a presentation she made at the March 2016 Society meeting. Associate editor Diana Senior meticulously transcribed the three articles from the original handwritten manuscripts, and Roger Thorne provided some excellent photos of Second Baptist Church, as well as digitizing some material provided by Penny. Patricia Henry has provided an article documenting the well-researched family history of Jesse and Mary Emily Highgate Hyselman, successful mid-nineteenth-century African American residents of Tredyffrin Township.

On another subject, long-time member and recurring contributor Clarissa Dillon, Ph.D. has provided an article on seventeenth and eighteenth century witchcraft, adapted from her engaging presentation at the October 2016 meeting of the Society.

Finally, we look back at the popular and very educational Members Excursion to Washington Memorial Chapel in July 2017, as well as sharing some information about the Chapel's ongoing campaign to protect and preserve this priceless national treasure.



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: The Old Carr School and Mt. Pleasant Chapel (c. 1832). *Photograph courtesy of Sharon Schwarze.*
INSIDE: Dedication plaque at Washington Memorial Chapel. *Photograph courtesy of John O. Senior*
- Back Cover: UPPER: Knox Covered Bridge and Valley Creek Trail in winter 2015. *Photograph courtesy of Roger D. Thorne.*
LOWER: Knox Covered Bridge and Valley Creek Trail in autumn 2012. *Photograph courtesy of Roger D. Thorne.*

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Changing Seasons Along Valley Creek
Views of Knox Covered Bridge by Roger Thorne

