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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



The Story of Slim, a Lineman in the Great Valley

**Commemorating The Main Line Airport:
Remembering 50 Years of Local Aviation**

**How a Story Develops: The Mary Severn Jones Diary
Research Techniques 1 & 2**

Prescribed Fires at Valley Forge Park



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From the Editors

In this issue, we begin with a fascinating article by Society member and former president Michael Morrison about his grandfather, Leslie White "Slim" Morrison, and the important role that he played in constructing the high-tension power lines that traverse the Great Valley. This article is based on Michael's presentation at the Society's public meeting in September 2016, and also touches upon the many connections between the Morrison family and various aspects of our local history.



The second article, by Society member and former president Roger Thorne, tells the remarkable story behind the October 2017 dedication of a new historic marker to commemorate the Main Line Airport. This was a very significant event for the Society, and for Roger, who has done extensive research and authored several substantial articles on the various aspects of the subject. After years of effort to realize this worthy goal, the dedication ceremony was a wonderful and well-attended culminating event that involved many people whose participation and contributions are sincerely appreciated.

We continue with several shorter pieces by Society members and dedicated contributors Mike Bertram and Heidi Sproat describing some of the "behind-the-scenes" research efforts and techniques that they employ in the course of their work.

We also recognize three important members of the community who have passed on recently. Joyce Post served as editor of the *History Quarterly* from 2003 through 2007, and made many significant and well-regarded contributions to the ongoing development of the publication, as well as researching and writing numerous authoritative articles. Dick Kurtz and Bill Fritz were exemplary members of the community and should serve as inspiration to those who follow.

A brief article about the recent prescribed fires held at Valley Forge National Historical Park concludes the issue. While fire was a naturally-occurring part of the environment before its suppression became common practice, the application of fire under controlled conditions is now being explored as a useful management technique in many locations. Nonetheless, it is dramatic to see the fields on fire, with ephemeral clouds of smoke blowing across the familiar landscape.

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: High tension power lines running southwest toward the hydroelectric plant at Conowingo Dam. Paoli, March 2018. *Photograph courtesy of © John O. Senior.*
- Back Cover: (UPPER LEFT) Linemen in work truck at construction site. *Photograph courtesy of Michael Morrison.*
(UPPER RIGHT) Main Line Airport historical marker, March 2018 (see page 27). *Photograph courtesy of © Roger D. Thorne.*
(UPPER RIGHT) High tension power line tower at sunset. March 2018 (see page 4). *Photograph courtesy of © John O. Senior.*
(LOWER) Field 6 at Valley Forge National Historical Park still smoking after prescribed fire, April 2018 (see page 39). *Photograph courtesy of © John O. Senior.*

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Silent Sentinel, March 2018 © Roger Thorne



Power transmission tower at sunset, Paoli, March 2018 © John O. Senior



Field 6 at Valley Forge National Historical Park still smoking after prescribed fire, April 2018. © John O. Senior