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The Devon Inn

Devon Inn and Lawn, Devon, Pa.



The Remarkable Story of A Long-Lost Treasure of the Victorian Era



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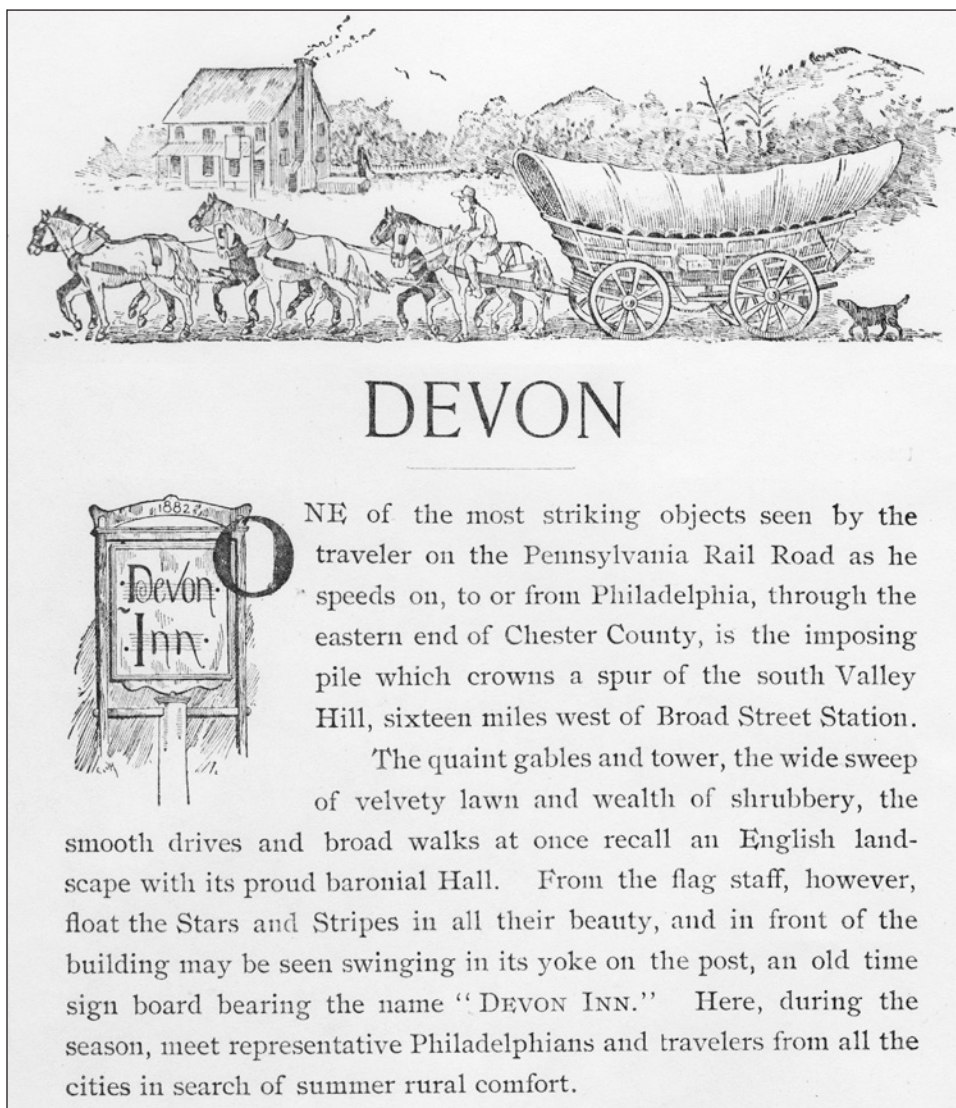
From the Team

The inspiration for this special issue of the *History Quarterly* devoted to the remarkable story of the Devon Inn comes from a number of sources, but none more important than the late J. Michael Morrison's strong interest in, and dedicated work on, the subject.

This project was challenging and rewarding, and we hope that readers will find the results as engaging as we did while working to bring it to completion, and continuing to discover new aspects of the still unfolding story.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people for their generous support and valuable contributions to this project: Greg Prichard, Marianne Hooper, Roger Thorne, Larry DeYoung, Mike Bertram, Heidi Sproat, Patty Morrison Volpi, Stephen DiAddezio, Lisa Ruch, Barbara & Jack Jacobsen, William Woys Weaver, Margaret Maxey (Historical Society of Pennsylvania), Ellen Endslo (Chester County Historical Society), and Tom Goldblum (Valley Forge Military Academy and College).



DEVON



NE of the most striking objects seen by the traveler on the Pennsylvania Rail Road as he speeds on, to or from Philadelphia, through the eastern end of Chester County, is the imposing pile which crowns a spur of the south Valley Hill, sixteen miles west of Broad Street Station.

The quaint gables and tower, the wide sweep of velvety lawn and wealth of shrubbery, the smooth drives and broad walks at once recall an English landscape with its proud baronial Hall. From the flag staff, however, float the Stars and Stripes in all their beauty, and in front of the building may be seen swinging in its yoke on the post, an old time sign board bearing the name "DEVON INN." Here, during the season, meet representative Philadelphians and travelers from all the cities in search of summer rural comfort.

The first page of *Devon and Its Historic Surroundings* by Julius Sachse (1892). The subtitle "Summer Rambles Over Hill and Dale" hints at the intent of the book as a well-illustrated guidebook for exploring the abundant historic resources in the Devon vicinity. The first two introductory paragraphs provide a vivid description of the Devon Inn at the height of its prominence as a Victorian-era destination resort. *Courtesy of TEHS Archives.* *

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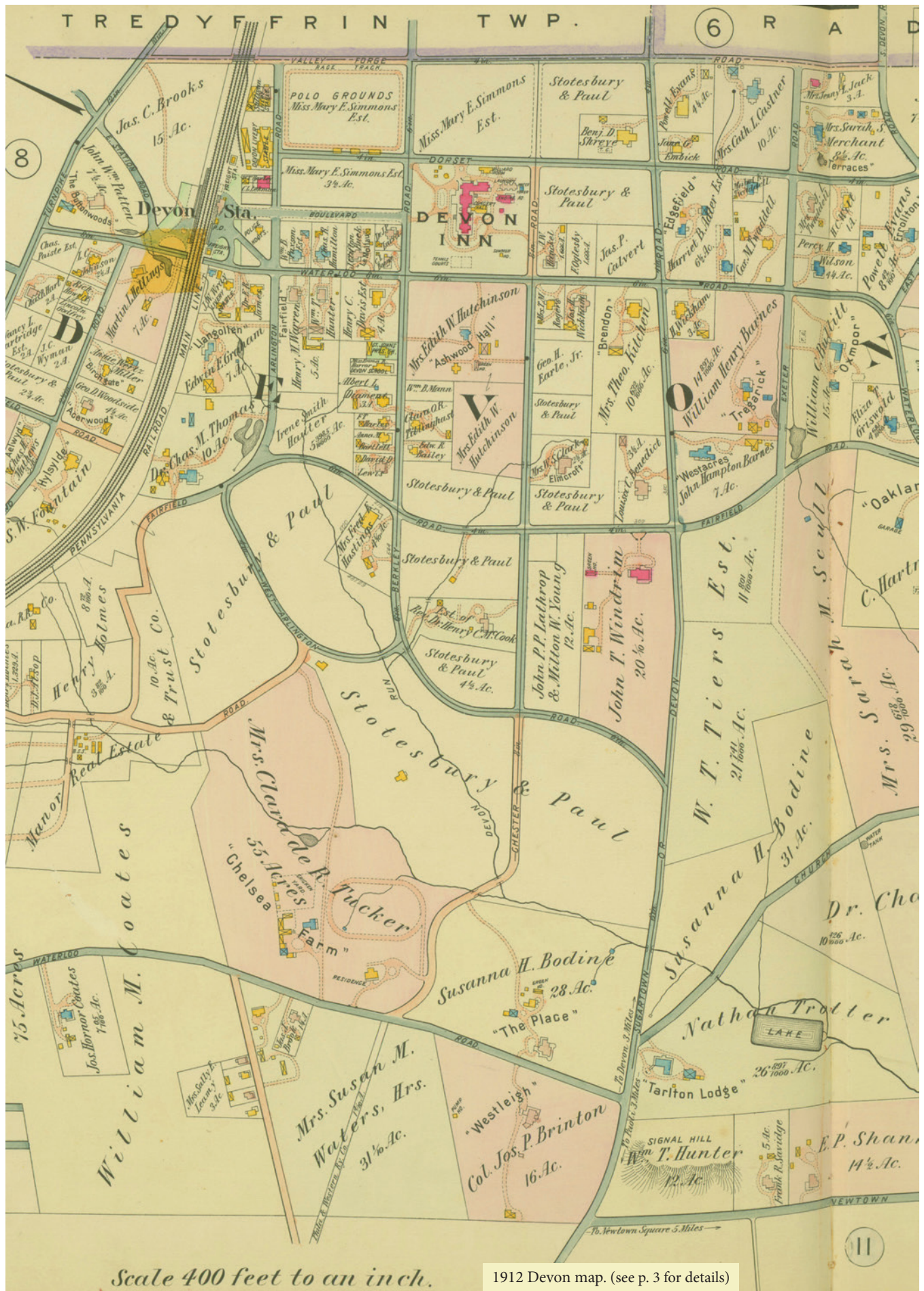
Supplemental Content related to subjects in this issue may be found on the Society's website at this URL: tehistory.org/qswc/q5504/toc.html. Several topics within this issue are marked with this symbol: * indicating that such additional content is available online. More may be added after print publication.

Cover Descriptions

- Front Cover: A hand-tinted photographic postcard image of the second Devon Inn, c. 1900, viewed from the southwest, looking toward the rear of the hotel. The Ballroom/ Concert Hall, added in 1893, may be seen projecting from the rear of the building. Note the color of the roof. In his November 19, 2017 presentation to TEHS, J. Michael Morrison remarked that the well-known Devon Horse Show blue color may have been adopted to blend with the appearance of the Inn's slate roof when the sun shone upon it. *Courtesy of TEHS Archives.*
- Inside Back Cover: 1912 Devon map. Section of Plate 10 of *Atlas of Properties on Main Line Pennsylvania Railroad from Devon to Downingtown and West Chester*, A.H. Mueller, Philadelphia, Pa. 1912. *Courtesy of Radnor Historical Society.*
- Back Cover: (UPPER) The first Devon Inn (1882), as shown in an engraving found in the upper left corner of the 1883 map. *Courtesy of Greg Prichard.*
 (MIDDLE) Detail from 1912 Devon map (see above).
 (LOWER) A view of the second Devon Inn. Because of the immature state of the landscaping, the date would seem to be quite early, perhaps 1884 or 1885. *Photograph courtesy of Stephen DiAddezio.*

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1912 Devon map. (see p. 3 for details)



Courtesy of Greg Prichard

The First Devon Inn



Courtesy of Radnor Historical Society

The Second Devon Inn



Courtesy of Stephen DiAddezio