

# The Devon Inn Story: Further Discoveries

In the sections that follow, you will find information and images that expand upon and complement the historical narrative (Goshorn) presented on the preceding pages. This supplemental information is organized into six broad categories:

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An engraving of the first Devon Inn (1882), a detail from the 1883 map. *Courtesy of Greg Prichard.*

## Devon Inn History Timeline

1877 – 1895	Gilded Age in the U.S.; Railroads were one of the major growth industries.	May 1910	Efforts are made to sell the Inn
1881 – 1882	Coffin and Altemus purchase nearly 500 acres along the Pennsylvania Railroad between Berwyn and Eagle	April 1912	Titanic sinks
September 1881	Announcement of a new village to be called “Devon”	March 1913	Devon Inn loses liquor license and closes at end of season
February 1882	Ground is broken for first Devon Inn	April 1914	Ellen Patten and her husband sell the Devon Inn to a syndicate; Inn remains closed
August 1882	First Devon Inn opens under Crump management	March 1917	The Inn is sold and the Devon Manor School for Girls opens there in October
December 1882	Foundation dug for new railroad station at Devon	1917 to 1919	World War I
August 1883	The first Devon Inn burns; Plans to rebuild begin immediately	1920 to 1929	Roaring 20s
May 1884	Second Devon Inn opens	April 1920	Devon Horse Show purchases Polo Grounds
September 1890	Earliest electric lighting at the Devon Inn	November 1923	Devon Manor School announces bankruptcy
1893 to 1897	Panic of 1893; Economic depression	January 1924	Devon Manor School property is sold at sheriff’s sale
January 1895	Lemuel Coffin dies unexpectedly	June 1926	Devon Park Hotel opens
January 1895	Miss M. E. Simmons becomes new manager	May 1928	Valley Forge Military Academy is established and announces it will open at Devon
1896 – 1916	Progressive Era, period of social activism and political reform	September 1928	Devon Park Hotel closes; Valley Forge Military Academy opens in the former Devon Inn
July 1896	First Devon Horse Show held at the Polo Grounds	January 1929	Fire destroys Valley Forge Military Academy (the former Inn building)
September 1896	Coffin, Altemus & Co. fails	1929 to 1941	The Great Depression
August 1898	Miss Simmons purchases the Inn and a large portion of the surrounding property	April 1930	The final standing wall collapses after the devastating Devon fireworks plant explosion
October, 1908	Ford Model T introduced	November 1939	Property is purchased by developer J. Robert Lenhart
January 1910	Miss Simmons passes away, and her sister Ellen Patten inherits the Inn	May 1940	Homes are offered for sale on the site of former Devon Inn